General Communications

All members are encouraged to communicate their opinions and to drive CNI forward.
Share your ideas via:

- Facebook – Official news. World news. Announcements.
- Section Website – Official news.
- Google Groups – Ad hoc email, quick trip plans, rock or alpine, anything, any time. NZAC membership not required. Includes a calendar of upcoming events.
- Social Indoor Climbing – Stop by Extreme Edge Tuesday evening and don't forget to bring your NZAC club card for a discounted rate.
- Weekly Social Outdoor Climbing – Regular weekly climbing at crags close to Hamilton run every week.
- E-mail, text or call – For when you want to talk to a specific individual.

If you have had a great trip or a special idea you want to share, get some pictures and a story and send it to the Newsletter contact below.

Section Chairman	Mike Greer	chairperson@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 619 564
Snowcraft Coordinator	Ray Long	snowcraft@alpinecentral.org.nz	027 461 8336
Treasurer	Marcus Bai	treasurer@alpinecentral.org.nz	027 305 4533
Gear Hire	Dennis Sanders	gearhire@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 130 2245
Banff Coordinator	Marcus Daws	banff@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 262 7549
Newsletter	Mark Smith	newsletter@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 418 694
Social Media	Norbert Abel	website@alpinecentral.org.nz	022 185 7046
Committee	Lars Brabyn	larsb@waikato.ac.nz	07 855 8344

Events:

Monthly Meeting	
Date	2016-02-10
Time	19:30
Location	Good George 32A Somerset Street, Frankton, Hamilton 07 847 3223
Organiser	NZAC CNI
Other	Menu
Agenda	Intro course roundup, upcoming courses, whatever else you're interested in.

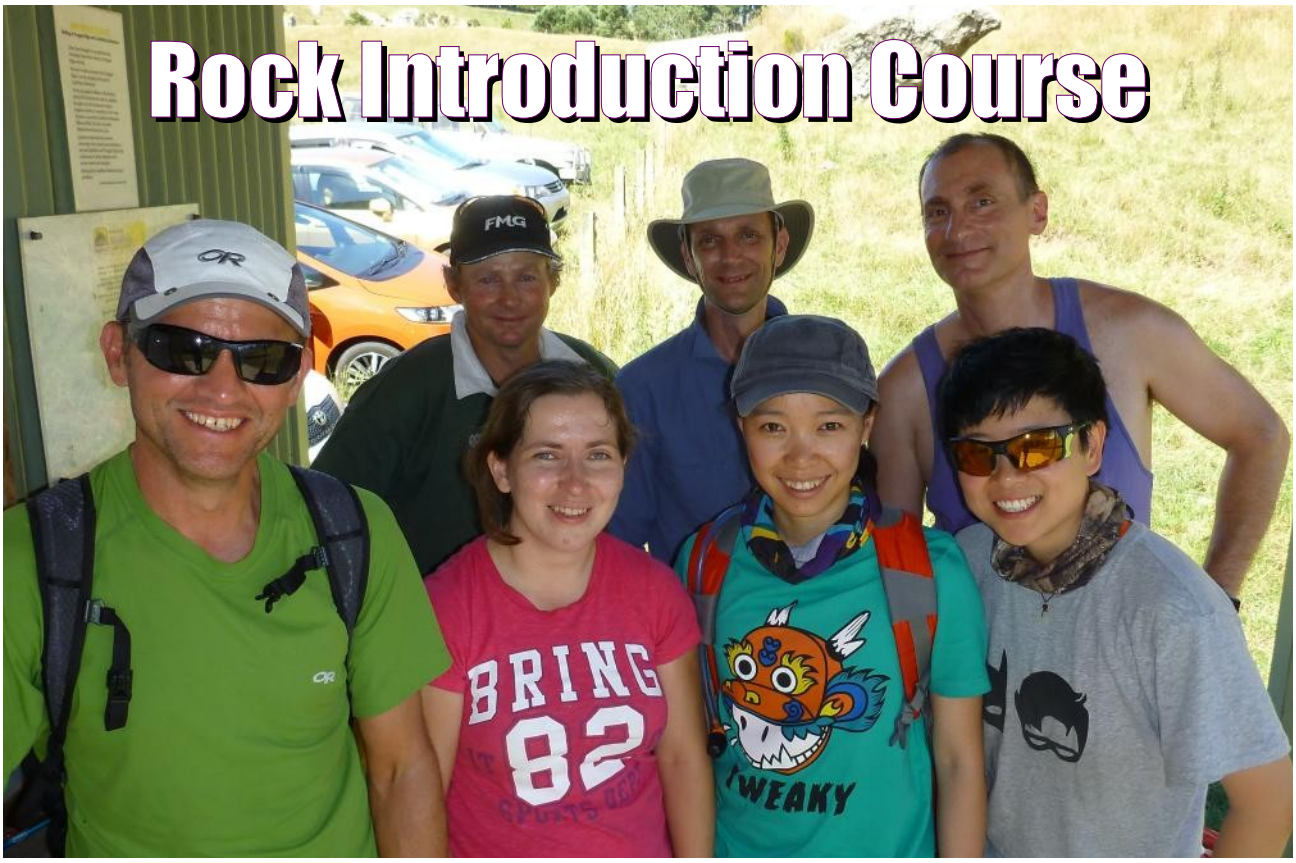
February Rock Trip	
Date	2016-02-20
Location	Waipapa Dam
Organiser	NZAC CNI
Reference	http://tinyurl.com/2016-02-20 http://www.freeclimb.co.nz/uploads/24379/pdfs/Waipapa.pdf
Our next monthly rock trip is scheduled for February 20th. Please follow the link above to let us know you're coming. Share a ride with another member and we'll pay fuel expenses to the crag.	

Shaw's Crag for Wednesday Night Climbing

Member Stephen Shaw owns and operates a 130HA dairy farm with his wife Jan just down the road from Froggatt. As it turns out, his property also houses several climbable cliffs. The climbs are all a work in progress with a number of them having been bolted securely.

He was nice enough to volunteer his property for a few of our Wednesday trips starting on December 16, 2015. It's a slight walk and absolutely requires prior permission/coordination with the Shaw's.

If you want to go check it out, he may be reached at 021 742 988 and be prepared to be told no. You have to work around his schedule, not the other way around.



As part of a AGM resolution, the CNI section will be having more emphasis on rock climbing including courses and trips. December we had the Mount Maunganui trip. January we held our first Rock Introduction course. The instructor selected was the very capable and organized Stephen Burrows. He was joined by Stephen Shaw, Mike Greer, and Mark Smith.

It was held at Castlerock Adventures at Wharepapa South local crag. Four attendees had good fun despite the blazing heat on this summer weekend. For our FB photo album, click here.

Skills learned included:

- climbing techniques
- equipment
- knots
- belaying
- rope management
- safety
- crag access
- rock etiquette
- terminology

Lead climbing was covered as a future topic and specifically as seconding. Instructors ran up a rope and had students clean it as seconds in a real world scenario they're were likely to encounter.

It was a pretty hot

weekend so we absconded up to the second tier. It was shady and the height afforded us a slight breeze which was gratefully accepted.

From The Desk of the General Manager

What a summer! The weather played the game – as much as it ever does in December and January. NZAC had a record number of participants on the various instruction courses held over summer, including the new Peak Performance courses. A great bunch of people enjoyed the climbing camp at Tukino Lodge on Mount Ruapehu. Right now, the NZAC Youth Rock Climbing Camp is hosting 18 keen youngsters in Golden Bay. I hope you had a chance to get out amongst it all and that the approaching settled weather (fingers crossed) provides many more opportunities. We've got a whole lot of things planned, come join!

Bouldergaine 5th March – Castle Hill

This crazy hybrid of bouldering and rogaining (an endurance form of orienteering) is a sport unique to the NZAC. Postponed in 2015 due to the fire at Flock Hill, it's back – don't miss out!

Full info – Register

Unwin Easter Rock Meet – 25th-28th March
This 4-day festival of rock climbing based at Unwin Lodge in Aoraki Mt. Cook is fast becoming one of the highlights of the year for aficionados of long rock routes. The rock meet is an opportunity for climbers to get together to climb, socialise, explore and enjoy the great outdoors, and will include all sorts and shapes and sizes of events both climbing and social.
Full Info – Register

Advanced Rock Skills Course – 25th-27th March
Attendees of the rock meet have the opportunity to join this three-day course designed for those who already have lead climbing experience, either indoors or outdoors. The course covers multi-pitch climbing, transitions, traditional gear and anchor placements.
Full Info – Register

Mountain Photography Workshop 24th – 28th March
Based at Aoraki Mt. Cook National, the NZAC Mountain Photography Workshop is aimed at already competent (beginner–intermediate level) DSLR/Mirrorless photographers who want to further their skills in landscape photography – particularly in an alpine environment. Part of the course will be based at Grand Plateau and the course includes flights in and out from Plateau Hut. This is your last chance to learn from celebrated author and photographer Mark Watson before he leaves the country for a 3-year adventure.
Full Info – Register

Ashtanga Yoga Workshop – 22nd-25th April
A holistic workshop from experienced yoga instructor and climber Andrew Trotter, suitable for all. Andrew is an experienced climber and the founder and head teacher of Yoga Sanga (Christchurch) and has been teaching regular Yoga workshops and classes since 2006.
Full Info – Register

NZAC Calendar – on sale
The best images for the annual NZAC Photocomp are re-produced in a stunning calendar each year. The 2016 version is available here at a special member's rate of $15. Make you friends and colleagues jealous by having one at work and another at home.

Volunteer of the Year award –Congratulations Al Walker
At the 2015 NZAC Annual General Meeting, The Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Al Walker. Al is a thoroughly deserving winner. He does a lot of maintenance work at Homer Hut, oversees the summer wardens at Homer hut and organises the Homer Winter Meet. In 2015 he project manged the installation of an enhanced solar power

system at Homer Hut and the new fresh water tanks. Both these projects have significantly improved the user experience of visitors to that incredibly popular destination. Congratulations, Al!

NZAC Life membership bestowed on three recipients
The NZAC Club Committee elected three new Life Members in November, upon the recommendation of a committee of the president and not less than three past presidents convened by the president. Life Membership of NZAC is an elite club within a club, comprising if individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to mountaineering or rock climbing or to NZAC. The three new Life Members are Don French, Keith Moffat and Ron McLeod. Profiles of each have been written for the latest issue of The Climber magazine, viewable **here.**

New Mattresses at Unwin and Porter Lodges
Thanks to some generous grants from the Mid & South Canterbury Community Trust and the Southern Trust, we have been able to replace all the mattresses in both Unwin Lodge at Aoraki Mount Cook and Porter Lodge at Fox Glacier village. Securing external funding allows NZAC to free up its own funds to pursue other projects, for example the publication of the new Aoraki Mount Cook and Backcountry ski guidebooks.

NZAC Travel Insurance- new provider, different fee structure
NZAC has offered comprehensive travel insurance since 2004. Up until now cover has been provided by ACE Insurance. Regrettably, ACE Insurance has terminated NZAC's master policy, as the total cost of claims under NZAC's policy has exceeded premium income. Allianz Global Assistance has stepped into that gap and a bespoke master policy has been created to cover rock climbing, mountaineering and other outdoor pursuits.

The new policy will have a simple three tier rating structure for worldwide travel (no differentiation between countries or regions). There will be a Low Risk cover (trekking below 5,000 metres), Mid Risk (rock climbing) and High Risk (mountaineering), with a good level of benefits. While it is certainly more expensive for most trips, we are still getting a lot of people signing up a policy prior to heading overseas.

2015 membership survey and NZAC strategic planning process
Thanks to all those who took the time to complete the 2015 membership survey in December. We got 692 responses – a very good sample of the ~3,500 members NZAC has. The results will be sent out to Sections and the various NZAC sub committees and will greatly assist decision making and planning.

2016 is not just the 125th anniversary of NZAC, it is also the start of our five year cycle of strategic planning. In the next few weeks, all members will be e-mailed a questionnaire relating to the formulation of a new strategic plan. Please take the time to consider your answers to the 'big-picture' questions. Your answers will guide the formulation of the 2016-21 NZAC strategic plan. A draft strategic plan will be written in the autumn and all NZAC members will be able to suggest amendments to it over winter. NZAC is your club, so please make an effort to guide its future.

Thanks for being part of a great club.

Since 1891,
Sam Newton
General Manager

http://us8.campaign-archive2.com/?u=23ea7cb21f4882cf3f0d4f15c&id=783589ef49&e=c28e014ecb