



# The Auckland Climber

February '09

[www.aucklandclimber.org.nz](http://www.aucklandclimber.org.nz)

*this month*

*What we did in our summer holidays*

*next month*

**Russian K2 ascent**

*Welcome* to February's edition of the NZAC Auckland Section's newsletter. The section runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips and courses throughout the year and new members are always welcome. The club generally meets on the first Monday of every month at St Luke's Community Centre, Remuera Rd, Newmarket at 7.15 pm, but check the newsletter for exceptions.

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#### *Climber Content*

Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for improving the newsletter? If so, drop us a line, we're keen to hear from you. Alternatively, we love getting submissions from members – whether they be Trip Reports, Items for Sale or rants. Just send your material to the editor by the 15th of the month

preceding. Call Suzanne Stickney on 845 1433 or email [suzstick@hotmail.com](mailto:suzstick@hotmail.com)

#### *Change of Address*

For any change of address, or to request to receive your newsletter by email (better for us and the environment!) contact: [subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:subscriptions@alpineclub.org.nz)  
NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland

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#### *This month's meeting:*

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## *What we did in our summer holidays*

### **Monday 2 February, 2009, St Lukes Church Hall, Remuera Road, 7.15pm**

All the photos! All the gossip! Come and find out who climbed what and where and be inspired. Just like at school after the holidays, you can stand up and tell the club what exciting adventures you got up to.

*We would love to hear from you if you went away over the summer. Please email [deryn@hyper.net.nz](mailto:deryn@hyper.net.nz) if you have a few pictures you would like to share with everyone.*

#### *Next month's meeting:*

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## **Russian K2 ascent**

### **Monday March 2, 2009, St Lukes Church Hall, Remuera Road, 7.15pm**

NZAC members Gena and Alex present a DVD of a Russian team's ascent of one of K2 one of the world's most notorious 8000 metre peaks.

In addition Cushla Anderson from Adventure Travel will be giving a short presentation on the company's guided trips to Nepal peaks scheduled for 2009.



## **Auckland News**

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### *Women's Commonwealth Antarctic Expedition – Go Charmaine Tate!*

Auckland section member Charmaine Tate has been shortlisted along with Melanie Money from the Wellington section to be part of a 2009 all women expedition to the south pole.

In December 2009, two teams of 4 women from across the Commonwealth will set off from opposite coasts of Antarctica to ski to the South Pole. The women will



*Cover pic: Jacqui Coleman "Sorry no climbing involved but a lot of lifting..."*

be pulling sledges containing all the food, fuel and equipment they will need for their journey. Camping in tents on the ice when they sleep, they will survive on lightweight dehydrated rations and melted snow. The teams will include women from the Republic of Cyprus, Ghana, India, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand and Jamaica.

Charmaine and Melanie will both be heading off to Norway's Hardangervidda this February for the final part of the selection process which will determine which of them will get a place on the expedition. The Hardangervidda at this time of year is a snow covered plateau where temperatures fall below -20 degrees centigrade and icy winds cause Antarctic-like blizzards. A perfect training ground for an Antarctic expedition.

You will be able to follow the progress of all the women involved via this expedition website [www.commonwealthexpedition.com](http://www.commonwealthexpedition.com)

### *Auckland Section Xmas Party*

Thanks to all who joined us for a sedate and wholly gentle Christmas bowls and petanque party in Devonport before Christmas:



Looking for a more challenging holiday adventure? Try these on for size...

#### **LUKLA TO GOKYO LAKES**

Independent lodge based trekking with expert guide and porters  
19 Days from \$2047 per person

#### **EVEREST BASE CAMP & ISLAND PEAK**

Small group, lodges & camping, trekking & non-technical climb  
22 Days from \$2745 per person (plus local payment)

#### **MERA PEAK**

Small group, fully inclusive & guided Everest Trek & Mera Peak Summit  
24 Days from \$5805 per person

Prices are based on a twin share basis, subject to availability and change without notice. All trips start and finish in Kathmandu, Nepal. International Airfares are additional. Call us for the detailed trip notes and earlybird discounts available for a limited time on some 2009 trips.

Tel 09-355-9095 or visit [adventuretravel.co.nz](http://adventuretravel.co.nz) for more info

*Adventure Travel*

Life. Time. Experience.

## Master Climbing Competition

Announcing the third annual Masters' Rock Climbing Day to be held in Auckland on Saturday 7 March 2009 at the Long Side of Mt Eden Quarry (Auckland Grammar school).

**Purpose:** To celebrate rock climbing and have a active/competitive party for bunch of nice people.

**Participants:** Everybody who has a climbing harness and rock shoes or can borrow some.

**Programme:** Will be announced later.

**Format:** There will be five age groups and each of them will have a subgroup for men and women and winners will be determined for each of the subgroups.

- Brats: 0-17 years old
- Kids: 18-39 years old
- Masters: 40-49 years old
- Grandmasters: 50-59 years old
- Old Bastards: 60+ years old

**Entry fee:** \$5 per participant (all entry fees will be used as prize fund)

**Entries:** Please fill out the following form and send it or pass it or fax it to Alexander Scherbakov before 7 March 2009. Address: 11 Laser Pl, Glenfield Ph/Fax: 09 441 3094, mob 021 160 9217, email: basknz@gmail.com.

**Venue:** Mt Eden (Auckland Grammar School) – long side

**Date:** Saturday 7 March 2009. Start at 11 am.

**Prizes:** Great prizes to be won!

This is a SOCIAL event for the whole family, so bring a picnic and your fans.

To determine the number of participants we would be grateful for your preliminary entry form.

### Entry form

Your name: .....

Address:.....

Phone:..... Email:.....

Person to contact in case of emergency:.....

**I am a** (tick one):

Brat  Kid  Master  Grandmaster  Old Bastard

**Payment Options** (tick one):

I have paid \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ (organiser's signature)  I will pay on the day

I am fully aware that rock climbing can be a dangerous activity and I am willing to take this risk and will be completely responsible for all my actions. I will not hold the organisers responsible for anything stupid that I do, and I promise to follow all instructions carefully.

*Organisers have the right to change or add to any of the rules described above without notice.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (participant's signature)

## For Sale

**The Rock House climbing gym, Mt Maunganui.** A great opportunity to own a fantastic climbing gym, hold manufacturing company and indoor mini golf in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Climbing, surfing and cafes all within a mile from the door. On site accommodation possible. Chances for an enthusiastic owner operator to make a good living. Plenty of opportunities to develop the business further. For more info contact Rob 021 864424

**2 pairs of Alpine boots** (both light weight boots and only worn once but too small + can email photos if wanted).

- Solomon semi rigid sole synthetic/plastics (yellow and black) size US 7.5 - \$230.00 (new approx \$650)

- Asolo plastics rigid sole (blue and black) size UK 6- \$240.00

Contact Boz karenb@tpp.ac.nz or 027 289 0274 (Wanaka)

# Trips

Do you have a new trip idea? Perhaps you missed one before and want a repeat? We can only run as many trips as there are organisers. Volunteer to lead just one trip this year and get to do it where, when and with who you want. You don't need to be the most proficient person on the trip, you are not a guide: it's about car-pooling, collating emergency details and forwarding information to the trip participants. Make your dream trip happen this winter, contact Richard ([reveritt@ihug.co.nz](mailto:reveritt@ihug.co.nz)) or Magnus ([hammarsal@hotmail.com](mailto:hammarsal@hotmail.com)). Also email us to obtain updates to this list. Trips marked with "organiser tba" means that we don't have a trips organised allocated and that trip can't go ahead until we find a volunteer to do so.... All suggestions for trips welcome!

## February 2009

### Rock Climbing in Whanganui Bay

Feb 6-8


Classic north island climbing. Probably the other contender for "the best trad climbing in the north island" with heaps of sport climbing thrown in too. What better way to spend Waitangi day and beyond. Camping right on Lake Taupo ensures plenty of options for relaxation if you get too trashed on the rock.

 TBA. In the meantime contact Magnus Hammarsal  [hammarsal@hotmail.com](mailto:hammarsal@hotmail.com)  021 31 44 22

### Black Stump MTB race, Hamilton

Feb 14

<http://www.blackstumpadventures.co.nz/>.

 Richard Everitt  [reveritt@ihug.co.nz](mailto:reveritt@ihug.co.nz)  021 519 736

### Sheridan Hills Working Bee

Feb 21-22

This is a joint working bee with the Central North Island section. There is a bit of work that needs doing at Sheridans; a bit of rebolting, gorse cutting and general tidying up of climbs and belay stances. Bryce has promised free accommodation and a BBQ Saturday night for willing helpers. We already have people with bolting skills lined up so no particular skills other than a willingness to help out is needed, so come along, meet a few new people and have fun.

 Magnus Hammarsal  [hammarsal@hotmail.com](mailto:hammarsal@hotmail.com)  021 31 44 22

### The Great Escape Race

Feb 21-22

Richard Everitt is looking at putting a team together for this casual adventure race. [www.thegreatescaprace.blogspot.com](http://www.thegreatescaprace.blogspot.com)

 Richard Everitt  [reveritt@iahug.co.nz](mailto:reveritt@iahug.co.nz)

### Adventure photography workshop

Feb 28-Mar 1


Marty will be running a workshop on tips and techniques for climbing photography at either Mt Eden Quarry or Wharepapa South. **Grand Prize 2008 Banff Mountain Photography Competition winner.** Photography portfolio - [www.martyblumen.com](http://www.martyblumen.com)

 Shiva  [shiva@martyblumen.com](mailto:shiva@martyblumen.com)

### The Kaweka Challenge

Feb 28-Mar 1

The Kaweka Challenge has been an annual event for 19 years in the Kaweka Forest Park, consisting of five running courses and one duathlon. <http://www.kawekachallenge.org.nz/home.htm> If you would like to join a team and car share, please contact Eoghan.




 Eoghan  [eoghanos32@hotmail.com](mailto:eoghanos32@hotmail.com)

## March 2009

### Masters Climbing Competition

Mar 7


Held at the Long Side of Mt Eden Quarry (Auckland Grammar school). \$5 entry. See article in this newsletter for more details.

 Alex Scherbakov  [basknz@gmail.com](mailto:basknz@gmail.com)  021 160 9217

### Hut Working Bee

Mar 14/15

We need to remove the wood and rubbish left from all the renovations and do a bit of a tidy up.

 Brad White  [Whitebradnzl@hotmail.com](mailto:Whitebradnzl@hotmail.com)  021 918 642

### Coleville Connection

Mar 14

An epic and wonderful mountain biking ride, and this year its killer hill has been removed. [www.colvilleconnection.co.nz](http://www.colvilleconnection.co.nz)




 TBA. In the meantime contact Magnus Hammarsal  [hammarsal@hotmail.com](mailto:hammarsal@hotmail.com)  021 31 44 22

## April 2009

### Hut Working Bee

Apr 17/18

A chance to make use of the long summer days to work on the hut before the snow comes.

 Brad White  [Whitebradnzl@hotmail.com](mailto:Whitebradnzl@hotmail.com)  021 918 642

# Summer in the Sun

## What we've been up to over the summer holidays

*Christina and Sean* had a day climbing Christa Dickson & I spent a day climbing down at Te Ananui in the coromandel just after Christmas. It would have to rate as the best place I have been climbing. Great location, nice / challenging climbs on good rock with amazing weather. What else could you ask for?

White sandy beaches, crystal clear warm blue water, stunning sea cliffs and deserted beaches – climbing in Thailand? No these pics are from a great days climbing at Te Ananui on the 27th Dec. Christa and I had a couple of free days and we decided it was time to going somewhere neither of us had climbed before. The plan was to check the access and climbing potential out with the view to a longer trip later in summer. We set up camp at the DOC camp site in Wentworth Valley (would recommend it) we set off exploring. Despite initially missing the turn off on to the metal road we eventually found the car park and headed down to the beach. The first beach was stunning but after scrambling around the rocks and through a tunnel we came to the main beach and it is amazing, the photo's don't do it justice. After looking around and checking the various cliffs and identifying a few routes we decided to start with Under the Influence (17) followed by an unnamed route to its right. Then it was time for a swim to cool off before having a go at the only bolted climb The Drilling Fields (19). At that point we realized that the tide had turned and was now running thru the tunnel. Time to quickly scramble back between swells and start the step walk up to the car park. Luckily the view was so good we could stop regularly to admire where we had just spent a great summers day.



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*Ian* spent Boxing Day in North West Scotland and a rare perfect clear, calm day in the mountains. This summit ridge on Stack Polly was a delight and easily do-able in the few hours of December daylight. Take note anyone heading this way: the cheap Ryanair flights to Inverness now place you only an hour away from some of the most scenic mountaineering Britain has to offer.



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**Rosemary** went to the climbing camp in the Matakaitaki Valley Spenser Mountains Nelson. Organised by Nelson/Marlborough section. After a welcome BBQ at base camp we split into groups and went off to climb some peaks. Matt, Jules and I, along with a few others, chose Mt Ella. It was a 4 hour scramble to the top and then 8 hours to traverse and abseil down onto a snow slope near our bivvy and bum slide home.

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## **Chad - 16 going on 18**

At Ti point there is a climb called Chad. Some climbs are a delight, Chad is horrible. In the Sound of Music there is a song where the charmingly sweet teenage girl sings "I am 16 going on 17". I think Chad is an evil goblin, 16 going on 18, with nasty blunt teeth, so he has to chew his food many times before swallowing.

We need to be clear from the start that I did not pick this one, Terry did. I did warn him that I had failed on it before, and that it was not much fun. But it is just a 16, so how hard can it be ?, right ?, yeah right.

At the quarry you need lots of small wires, but at Ti Point things are different, the cracks are fat and round, perfect for big hexes. So both of us have pulled out our hexes from dusty storage, and we added a few bigger cams to our rack to back them up.

Chad is a steep flary crack, almost an off width, with hardly any hand holds, what there is consists of fist jams, or wrists lock deep within the darkness. Terry started off well, he got off the ground and placed a good piece. Then heuffed and puffed up a bit more, and a bit more. *continued*



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## **2009 committee contacts**

### **Chairperson & Section Rep** – Deryn Williams

Phone: 441 3094  
email: deryn@hyper.net.nz

### **Treasurer & Section Rep** – Allan MacLachlan

Phone: 579 8009  
email: allan\_mac@xtra.co.nz

### **Secretary, Newsletter Editor & Events**

– Suzanne Stickney  
Phone: 486 2024  
email: suzstick@hotmail.com

### **Trips Organisers**

Richard Everitt  
Phone: 021 519 736  
email: reveritt@ihug.co.nz  
Magnus Hammarsal  
Phone: 021 314 422  
email: hammarsal@hotmail.com

### **Hut Managers** – Brad White (& Richard Knott)

Phone: 021 918642

### **Instruction & SnowCraft Organiser** – Chris Munro

Phone: 029 238 6230  
email: nzacsnowcraft@gmail.com

### **Meetings Organiser** – Matt Robertson

Phone: 362 1984  
email: matthewjvrobertson@hotmail.com

### **Vice-Chair & Membership** – John Salisbury

Phone: 834 6699  
email: jmsalisbury@googlemail.com

### **Librarian & Events Assistant** – Andrew Hinkes

### **Ruapehu Hut Bookings** – Margaret McMahon

Phone: National Office (03) 377 7595  
during office hours  
email: admin@alpineclub.org.nz

*from previous*

Then it got a bit desperate, he was searching for gear to plug in but it was all on his back, and the hand holds are deep within which limits how much you can move. A desperate cam is thrown in, TAKE / FALL !!, the cam pops, and he lands on the next piece which is a good hex. It takes a moment to recover, but he does, and carries on. He gets a bit higher, and sets another good hex to rest on. But he is worn out and after a good think he decides to come down to reassess.

Back on the ground it don't look any better. So I get the chance to finish it off. Lucky me. I struggle up to Terry's high point, wondering how he managed to get this far. And have a good rest on the rope. Where to now ?. I start to climb, getting above the gear does focus the mind, like,, I need more gear. So I slide in another cam and take a rest, and think about it some more. The fist jams have moved down to slippery wrist locks, there never seems much to stand on, it is all too sketchy, so move up, it must get easier somewhere,,, yeah right,, more resting on the gear. Finally I can see the end of it, but almost peel out as Chad gnaws on my wrist. Setting again I squeeze upwards looking for a real hold. Don't think about falling,, don't think about where the last piece of gear is,, try once more, squeeze and wiggle a little higher. Finally I get to a hold, and take the opportunity to slide in the big number 4 camalot, yes that feels better. I pull through to the upper blocks as the gulls go mad. Just 3 m away is a nest of Blackbacked gulls, mum and dad and two fat fluffy chicks. The parents are very aggressive, and it still a way to the belay. I whiz up to the bolts and set a long belay that gets me below the skyline. The gulls calm down, but mum still sits on her rocky pillar almost within reach, and fixes me with a steely stare until I leave.

So kids the lesson is, don't always believe the guidebook.

**David Ackery**

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