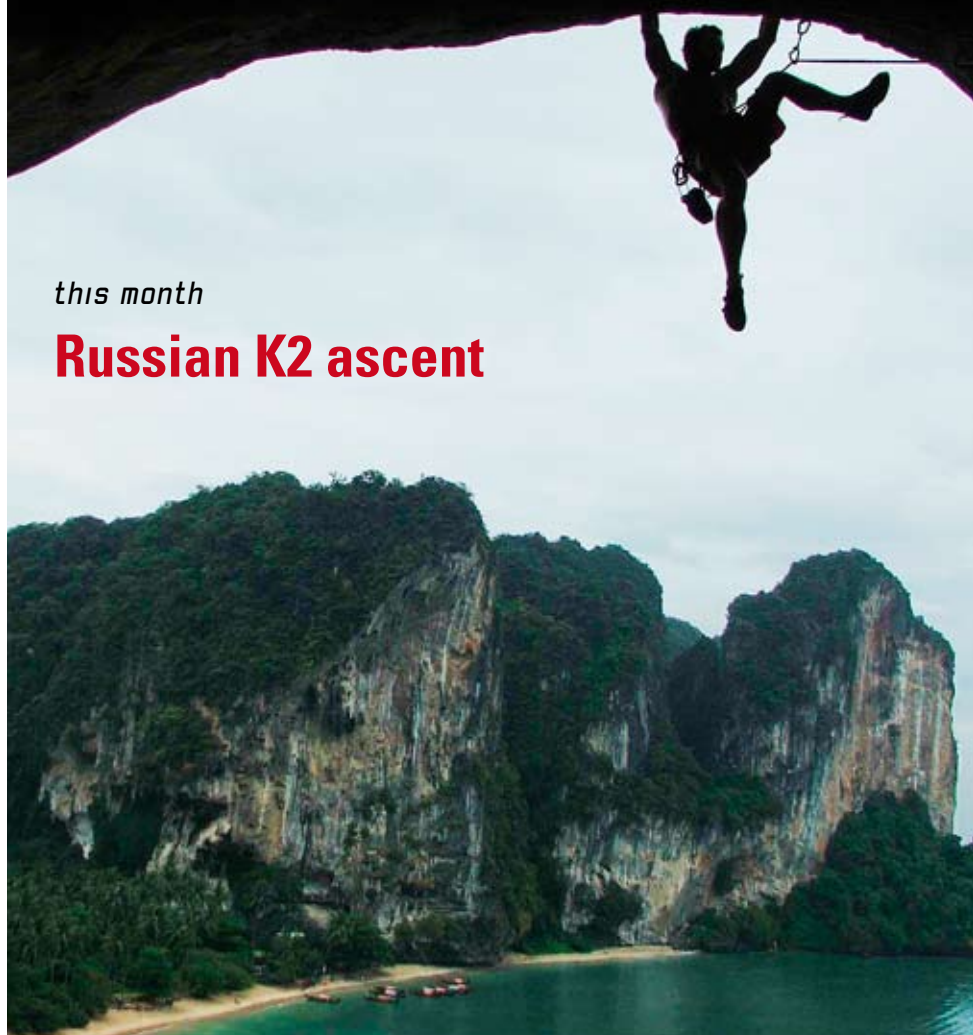




# The Auckland Climber

March '09

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



*this month*

**Russian K2 ascent**

*Welcome* to March'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

#### *This 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.

*Adventure Travel*  
Life. Time. Experience.



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.

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

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**Monday April 6, 2009, St Lukes Church Hall, Remuera Road, 7.15pm**

More info in next month's issue.

## *National News*

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#### *Changing your address?*

NZ Post have just launched "Change My Address" a service where you can save time and effort and tell many organisation's, including the New Zealand Alpine Club, your new address details. It's free and easy to use! Just go to [www.changemyaddress.co.nz](http://www.changemyaddress.co.nz)

#### *Seeking the whereabouts of...*

I am trying to track down the very few surviving members of the dog-sledging expedition in the central Transantarctic Mountains 1960/61. One person in particular Club members may be able to assist in finding the whereabouts of, is Neville Cooper. At the time he was an engineering student and NZ Alpine Club member. He also participated in the first NZ Alpine Club expedition to northern Victoria Land in Antarctica in the preceding summer of 1959/60. Any information gratefully received.

Please contact Malcolm Laird [malcolm.laird@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:malcolm.laird@canterbury.ac.nz) home 03 355 6581, or work 03 364 2770

*Cover pic: Callum Wallach on Burnt Offerings*

## Updates to Maps

The Topo50 Map Series Project section on the Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) website has been updated with new content including map production progress, examples of Topo50 digital images and detailed information on the various elements of a Topo50 map.



The Topo250 Map Series Project section has also been updated with new content. The combined Topo250 and Topo50 sheet index diagrams and sheet names are now available.

For more information, email Andrew Ferrel at [newmapseries@linz.govt.nz](mailto:newmapseries@linz.govt.nz).

## Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (FMC) Newsletters

In August 2008 the FMC began producing a monthly newsletter. These are now able to be viewed on the NZAC website under the INFO header – Federated Mountain Club – here: <http://alpineclub.org.nz/default/384>



## Expedition to Pumori

Expedition to climb the south-east ridge of Pumori planned for October this year, and we have space for 2 more competent climbers.

We will have the support of two NZMGA guides, (Tim O'Leary – Alpine Heliski and Woody – HIMEX) who will oversee some aspects of the climb such as rope fixing in the lower, ice-cliff prone section of the climb. However, this is a private expedition, not a guided climb, and climbers will be acting independently on the mountain. Interested climbers will need to have the competence to be self-sufficient on the terrain Pumori presents. I can discuss this with anyone individually.

Details and approximate costings are as follows:

Dates are ex Kathmandu 1st of October allow 30 days

**US \$10–12,000 per person**

### The above cost includes:

- 2x NZMG certified mountain guides
- 1. Equipment allowance, daily allowance & insurance for base camp staff (Sirdar, cook, kitchen boy and liaison officer )
- 2. Flights to transfer climbing members, staff, liaison officer and cargo of the climbing gear.
- 3. Food and fuel at the base camp
- 4. High altitude food and fuel
- 5. All camping equipment at the base camp such as, member tent, dining tent, kitchen tent, chairs, tables and high tents.
- 6. Ropes, snow bars, ice screws etc.
- 7. 2 x Climbing Sherpa support
- 8. Trek support for climbing members from Lukla – base camp – Lukla.
- 9. Porters to carry loads from Lukla – base camp – Lukla
- 10. Royalty/ peak permit fee

### The above cost does not include:

1. Personal accident insurance and emergency rescue operation.
2. Visa fee
3. Flight fare to and from Kathmandu.
4. Accommodation in Kathmandu before and after the expedition.
5. Other expenses of personal nature.

Any enquiries can be directed to me:

Contact: Andrew Evans

Email: [are1976@yahoo.com.au](mailto:are1976@yahoo.com.au)

Phone: 021 100 3423



# Emergency communication devices save lives:

## Upgrade to a 406 mhz distress beacon by 1 February



The Mountain Safety Council is urging those venturing into the outdoors to ensure they upgrade to a 406 MHz distress beacon immediately to ensure they can be helped out in an emergency.

Mountain Safety Council Outdoor Leader/Bush Programme Manager Chris Tews says that from February, the old 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz distress beacons become obsolete as the satellite system that supports them will cease to operate. Globally, all distress beacon signals will be transmitted and monitored on the 406 MHz frequency.

“The Mountain Safety Council strongly recommends all those venturing into the outdoors, including trampers, mountaineers and other adventurers on land, carry a 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon to alert rescue services in case of emergency,” says Mr Tews. Mr Tews says that recent examples over the last year demonstrate the importance of always carrying a personal locator beacon when venturing into the outdoors.

- A Palmerston North couple got into trouble tramping in the Taraua Ranges when the woman fell and was injured. The man had to walk out of the bush the next day and drive an hour to get cellphone reception before he was able to alert police.
- A woman who fractured her ankle on the third day of a five-day tramp used her emergency mountain radio to alert police and was rescued within two hours. To get cellphone coverage would have involved hours of walking.
- A party of six climbers were rescued after being stranded on the side of Aoraki Mt Cook in chest-deep snow and blizzard conditions. The climbers used their emergency locator beacons to alert rescue services and were found safe and well after being snowed in for 36 hours.

Mr Tews advises people to choose their 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacon wisely, bearing in mind the following guidelines.

### **I. Upgrade to a 406 MHz distress beacon**

Distress beacons operating on the 406 MHz frequency are the new standard for Personal Locator Beacons. From 1 February 2009, the signal from the old 121.5MHz and 243MHz beacons will no longer be monitored by satellite. This means if you need help in an emergency and try to use an old beacon to alert rescuers, the satellites will have no way of hearing you. The signal is already unreliable as there are fewer satellites monitoring the old frequencies.

Mountain Safety Council strongly cautions against using other commercial satellite tracking and messenger products available on the market as

distress beacons. Such products are not part of the international Search and Rescue emergency response system, which means there could be a delay or even no response to your alert. Choose a 406 MHz distress beacon instead.

### **2. Only use New Zealand-coded 406 MHz distress beacons**

Each country has an individual code to ensure the correct national rescue coordination centre is notified. New Zealand's country code is 512. When you purchase a 406 MHz distress beacon, make sure it is coded for New Zealand. If you buy one from overseas or over the Internet, it could be an expensive mistake. When it is activated the satellite may notify the wrong rescue centre which could mean a long, potentially life-threatening delay in your rescue.

### **3. Opt for distress beacons with built-in GPS**

Mountain Safety Council strongly recommends you use a Personal Locator Beacon with in-built GPS (global positioning system) as this dramatically improves its accuracy. With in-built GPS, your location can be identified by Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand on the first contact with a satellite. Without GPS it would require two satellites to pick up your beacon signal, to resolve the ambiguity of the satellite positions. The time between satellite passes varies greatly, ranging between 20 minutes and 4.5 hours.

### **4. Register your 406 MHz distress beacon**

406 MHz beacons are free to register and operate. Registered 406 MHz distress beacons are fully integrated into New Zealand's search and rescue response system. The signal is picked up by satellites and provides an accurate location. You can find out how to register at your 406 MHz beacon [www.beacons.org.nz](http://www.beacons.org.nz).

### **5. Dispose of your old beacon properly**

It is important to dispose of your old 121.5 or 243 MHz beacon properly. If you do not, it could still be accidentally activated, triggering a false alarm. There is also the risk that someone may assume one of the old beacons is a useful safety device. There are suppliers throughout New Zealand who can help you dispose of your old beacon safely. See [www.beacons.org.nz](http://www.beacons.org.nz) for contact details.

For more detailed information about 406 MHz beacons visit [www.beacons.org.nz](http://www.beacons.org.nz) or [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz) or contact: Chris Tews, Programme Manager Outdoor Leader & Bush, NZ Mountain Safety Council Phone: (04) 385-7162 ext 223

Email: [chris.tews@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:chris.tews@mountainsafety.org.nz)

# Auckland News

## Master Climbing Competition

Announcing the third annual Masters' Rock Climbing Day to be held in Auckland on Saturday 21 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 21 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 21 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)

## Quarry re-bolting project

The long-side of the Quarry has many old and worn bolts. Almost 20 years ago the then NZAC Auckland Section committee funded and undertook the installation of the chains and anchors at the top. These are now almost 20 years old and need inspecting and maybe replacement. Many of the climbs, have old rusty bolts and hangars that are an accident waiting to happen.

My proposal is to undertake the project in 3 parts.

**Part 1:**

- Seek approval from 1st ascensionists for re-bolting.
- Agree which bolts and mark new placement positions
- Remove or chop old bolts and reinstate rock. Place new 12mm stainless steel bolts alongside originals.

## Part 2:

- Remove at least 10 bolts from belays and chain anchors.
- Assess for corrosion and wear. Make decision to replace all anchors or not. A mechanical engineer will give an opinion.

## Part 3:

- Install additional anchors at the top of climbs
- Install access cables from top track of long-side down to the anchors on the most popular climbs.

## FAQ:

*We need to be assured that bolting will be done properly (i.e. correct method, correct tools/equipment, correct placement).* All bolting will be done according to the NZAC bolting policy, see <http://alpineclub.org.nz/default/314> for details.

*What do we tell members (or the public) what's going on?* We are planning to replace existing bolts only.

*Are you planning to replace bolts in the exact position they were in?* Yes...., or correct unhelpful placements? Only with written permission from first ascensionists.

*What kind of bolts will you use? Are they suitable for this environment?* 12mm stainless expansion bolts with NZAC supplied hangars. Install as per manufacturers instructions! Yes, ideal for the hard Quarry rock.

*Has the school been advised?* Yes

*How will the project proceed?* When the NZAC advances some funds (\$500 has been requested initially), the Project will be piecemeal. Each route will be abseiled, bolt removed or cut and rock reinstated. New hole alongside, bolt installed, tested, commissioned. We intend to start week of 23rd Feb. and slowly work through the climbs beginning with the most popular.

*Who will be removing and installing the bolts?* A team has been assembled for Part 1. They are Ray Hollingsworth, Andrew Somervell, Michael Welson, John Salisbury, Magnus and Peter Cammell. Michael and I will keep an inventory of each bolt replaced

**The project is being co-ordinated by Peter Cammell. Please email any questions or concerns to him at [alpinist@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alpinist@xtra.co.nz)**

# 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!

## March 2009

### *Rock climbing at Mt Eden Quarry – Short Side*

*Mar 11*




An intro evening for climbers new and not so new to the delights of climbing at Mt Eden quarry. The short side is ideal for climbers new to the quarry with plenty of top roping opportunities or for more experienced climbers who are looking to get back into climbing, practicing their pro placements etc.

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

### *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

### *Masters Climbing Competition*

*Mar 21*

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

## 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

## Trip report

# Summer in Thailand

Callum Wallach spent the summer over in Railay, Thailand with some friends. Beautiful beaches, hot weather and wonderful food.

*Buzz Russell taking the easy way down ;)*



*A deep water game of 'follow the leader' on the sea cliffs of Poda island, just to the southwest of the Railay peninsula Buzz Russell, Callum Wallach and Bevan Triebels Hadler.*



*Callum climbing onto the stalactite (and not wanting to get off) on the 4th pitch of the multipitch classic 'Humanality' way above Tonsai beach. 6b*

*Callum getting spanked on the crux of the first pitch of Burnt Offerings on the fire wall at Tonsai. 7a+. Tonsai beach is way back there in the background.*



## Sheridan Hills Working Bee Report

Well the grand working bee at Sheridans turned out to consist of only three participants (Magnus and Chie from Auckland and Kevin from the CNI section), nevertheless, a fair bit of work got done. Rather than heading straight for Sheridans we went to Waipapa first. At least one leader had already been pulled off the wall by his belayer falling into a hole, so we figured it was time it got filled in. The hole was caused by a slip along the belay ledge at the Millenium Wall, between Millenium Madness (18) and Dog's Breakfast (18). Further along the main cliff another belay platform was levelled and enlarged as well, while we were at it. The belay stances between Finger of Fate (17) and Scavenger (24) are now a little more comfortable.

We then headed to Sheridan Hills and continued digging at Chunderosa Buttress to improve the belay stances below Hebe (17) and School Bus Route (19). On the Sunday we continued cleaning up Hebe by cutting down the gorse and scrubbing of lichen and other growth along the route. Gorse and bushes were also cleared from the top of Hannah Louise (18) and Curly Mop (20) and finally Horus (15) was given a bit of a scrub down.

There is still plenty more to do at Sheridan Hills. With a bit more cleaning and bolts with hangers some routes would undoubtedly see more traffic. Go and have a look; grab a rope, some gear and why not a wire brush, while you're at it!



*Chunderosa. Pic: climb.co.nz*

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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

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Magnus Hammersal

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

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

Phone: National Office (03) 377 7595  
during office hours

email: admin@alpineclub.org.nz