



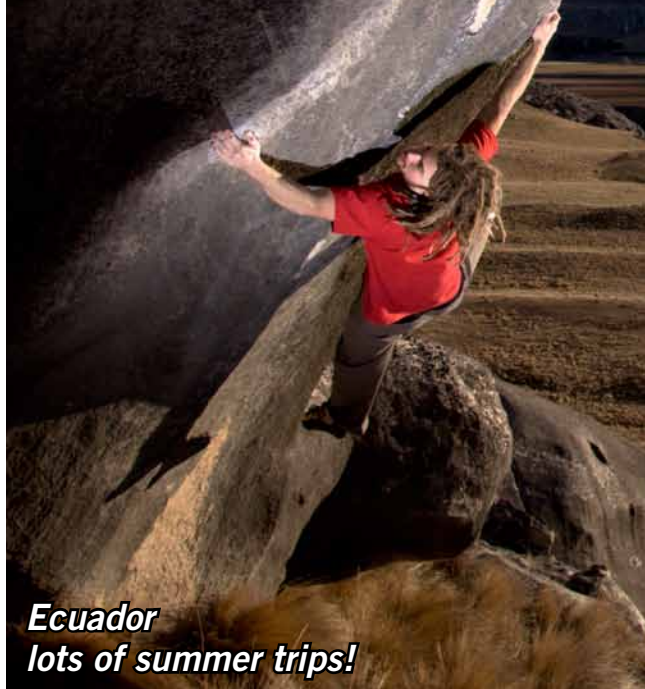
# The Auckland Climber

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

February 2010

## **BOULDERING HEAVYWEIGHTS**

COMING TO AUCKLAND



*Ecuador  
lots of summer trips!*



Photos: Derek Thatcher

Summer trip reports

# **Mt Cook - Plateau Hut**

**Welcome** to the February 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. From now on the club meets on the **second Monday of every month at Cardona Speights Ale House, on Normanby Rd, Mt Eden - Meeting starts at 8pm.**

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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. Contact Ant Stead by emailing: newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **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  
NZAC Auckland Section, PO Box 3036, Auckland

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

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#### **Summer holiday trips!**

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 over summer. If you have digital photos, all the better. Contact Toby if you have some pics to show on toby.johnston@xtra.co.nz or for more info.

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

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**Craig Jeffries** - a mountaineer with many winter first ascents in the Mt Cook / Westland area, and a keen rock climber. His adventures will entertain the climber in us all.

## **BOULDERING**

The Auckland section of the NZAC is bringing **Derek Thatcher** and **Zac Orme**, two high profile climbers to Auckland for a bouldering day on Saturday 20th March 2010 at the Mt Eden Quarry. Derek and Zac are crazy mad boulderers based in the South Island, Both are living on the sharp end, pushing the grades (30+, V10+) and lifting the level of bouldering in NZ. Come and climb with them, and check out the new Mt Eden bouldering guide that is currently being updated with new problems for the day. **This will be a biggest bouldering day of the year!**

**MT Eden Quarry - Long Side**  
Saturday 20th March 2010 - from 10am  
Boulder comp - prizes - giveaways -  
Many other top climbers will be there  
too, but you gotta be there to scope it  
all out

**Boulder comp - prizes - giveaways - Boulder guide on the day - Heaps more.....**

# National News

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## ***New Zealand Alpine Journal***

The National Office wishes to advise that the price for an annual Journal Subscription will increase this year by \$5. This price increase will not affect membership fees, only Journal subscribers.

The 2010 Journal will increase in price for individual sales to \$25 members, \$35 non members, plus p&p. The current 2009 edition is still available for sale at the old price and can be purchased via our online shopping here:

<http://alpineclub.org.nz/product/new-zealand-alpine-journal>

## ***Important notice for members re hut fees***

It has been brought to our attention that two South Island guiding companies have been charging NZAC members non-member rates for their hut fees when travelling with a guided party.

The excuse given was that they, in turn, paid NZAC the full non-member rate. I have looked at payments received from both the companies named and this is definitely not the case. NZAC only receive either the member or non-member rates depending on a person's membership status. When booking with a guiding company we suggest that members make sure they advise them of their NZAC status to ensure they are only charged the NZAC rate for use of the Club's huts, or for DOC's alpine huts.

Please be advised that no active New Zealand Alpine Club member should be told they have to pay non-member rates and if asked, should refuse to do so. If they find they have no option but to pay the higher amount, they should inform the Club as soon as possible so that we can contact the company involved to request an immediate refund of the overpaid amount.

Should any other members also experience overcharging we would appreciate hearing from you.

**Contact Margaret McMahon: [margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)**



Colin Todd Hut - Mt Aspiring National Park

Photo: Anthony Stead

## ***For Sale -***

### ***Pair of DMM Ice Axes***

The DMM Fly has become infamous for its balance and precision. The hammer and adze are well featured for mixed climbing. 50cm.

The axes are in good condition.

**Contact Iain Lea (Christchurch)**  
[iain.lea1@googlemail.com](mailto:iain.lea1@googlemail.com)

## ***House Sitter Available***

An excellent house minder is looking for accommodation in Auckland. She is very tidy, clean and loves gardening and pets, and knows all about plumbing. Many climbers go off for a couple of month adventures, and this might be the perfect place to offer oneself, or ones friends, up as a house sitter/pet minder. **Contact Fiona Dalzell - [fdalzell@f2s.com](mailto:fdalzell@f2s.com)**

## ***Westland Tai Poutini National Park Reunion 26-28 March 2010***

Celebrations are to be held in the Franz Josef and Fox Glacier region from 26 - 28 March 2010 to celebrate 50 years of the development of the Park and the people who have played a significant role in its protection, development and the enjoyment. Check out [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

# *National News Cont...*

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## **Ecuador**

We are climbing in the Ecuador this April for a month. There is an open invitation for up to four other climbers to come and join our climbs. This is on a shared cost basis. Annie and I live in Ecuador (about on the beach!) and are planning to spend a month climbing from about 18 April. We are looking at renting and apartment and being based out of Quito.

Climbs in Ecuador range from non technical to technical. Objectives would be an acclimatisation trek (Quil followed by say four peaks from the following (depending on conditions, and abilities)

- El Altar (5319m - technically difficult and remote),
- Ilinizas (Norte (5126m) and Sur (5248m)- both reasonably easy,
- Cayambe (5790) a little technical,
- Cotopaxi (5897), and
- Chimborazo (6310).
- Sangay (5230) - remote - may also be on the list if not active.

Quito is a nice base - as its at 2800m, has all the delights of a Andean city to recover from days of climbing and camping, and also has access via teleferico to trails up to 4600m (so great for acclimatisation) We speak some Spanish - after three years I should speak more! - which should help our small group for organisation logistics. Some climbing experience is needed - but you don't need to be a gun climber! Just friendly, and understanding that not everything works to Swiss (or NZ) precision in Latin America!

My email is warwickwhite@yahoo.co.nz  
All the best to all, Warwick (Waz) and Annie

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## **2009/10 Committee & Contacts**

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### **Chairperson & Chief Instructor** – Chris Munro

Phone: 029 2386230  
email: chairperson@aucklandclimber.co.nz

### **Vice-Chair & Membership** – Christa Dickson

email: vicechairperson@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Treasurer** – Sean Wright

email: treasurer@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Secretary** – Gerald Lanning

email: secretary@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Newsletter Editor** – Anthony Stead

email: newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Events** – Suzanne Stickney

Phone: 021 412 001  
email: suzstick@hotmail.com

### **Trips** – Magnus Hammarsal

Phone: 021 314 422  
email: trips@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Hut Manager & Gear Organiser** – Brad White

Phone: 021 918642  
email: hut@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Meetings** – Peter Cammell

Phone: 0274 905218  
email: meetings@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Hire Gear** – Cormac Flynn

email: gear@aucklandclimber.org.nz

### **Website** – Deryn Williams

email: webmaster@aucklandclimber.org.nz

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

Phone: National Office: (03) 377 7595  
During office hours  
email: admin@alpineclub.org.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 Magnus (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!

*Alpine climbing is dangerous! You need to have the appropriate skill for any trip that you wish to attend.*

**Beginner** means someone who is at least a current SnowCraft student, and is competent with the skills covered on the course to that date.

**Intermediate** would be proficient in all the basic alpine skills taught on the course.

**Advanced** would have already gained further alpine experience and is comfortable on alpine grade 2+ climbs.

You may need to assure the organiser that you have the appropriate skill level before they let you attend. The best way to do this is to attend the monthly Monday night meeting, introduce yourself to the organiser and tell them what skills and experience you have. This is not just for your safety but for the safety of others on the trip.

## FEBRUARY

**Beginners Rock Climbing - Mt Eden Quarry** *From 5pm - February 10*



A beginner's climbing evening at the short side of the quarry

**Level** *Beginner*

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

**High Alpine Skills Course - ALMOST FULL** *February 1-5*

Based at Mt Cook; NZAC members' with Basic Instruction Course (snowcraft) or instructed in a trainee capacity. Instructors will be qualified NZMGA Mountain Guides. The cost \$600. Additionally, participants will provide their own transport and food and pay their accommodation at Unwin Hut.

 Pat Deavoll  [pat@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:pat@alpineclub.org.nz) 03 377 7595

**National Boulder Series (NBS) Round 1** *February 13*



Round one of the National Boulder series is being held at 'The Airstrip' in Waitomo. Check out [www.nbs.org.nz](http://www.nbs.org.nz) for all the details. *All Auckland climbers should be there!*

**National Boulder Series (NBS) Round 2** *February 20*

Round two of the National Boulder series is being held at Baring Head, Wellington South Coast. Check out [www.nbs.org.nz](http://www.nbs.org.nz) for all the details.

**Rock Climbing - Wharepapa - Central North Island** *February 20 - 21*

A weekend of climbing around Wharepapa, sampling a couple of different crags in the region. Sheridans? Waipapa? Froggat? All to be decided on the day.

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

## MARCH

**National Boulder Series (NBS) Round 3** *March 6*



Round three of the National Boulder series is being held at Jardines, Queenstown. Check out [www.nbs.org.nz](http://www.nbs.org.nz) for all the details.

**National Boulder Series (NBS) Round 4** *March 13*

The Final round of the National Boulder series is being held at Spittle Hill Farm, Castle Hill Basin. Check out [www.nbs.org.nz](http://www.nbs.org.nz) for all the details.

**Rock Climbing - Kawakawa Bay, Lake Taupo** *March 13 -14*

The "new" bay on lake Taupo. Camp by the crag and there is a 1.5 hour walk in so bring your big pack. Alternatively boat transport can be arranged. There are both trad and sports routes at Kawakawa and some stunning long lines with great views over the lake.

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

# 'Fill ya boots' at Plateau Hut

By Chris Munro - December 2009



Sunrise from the East Face of Dampier

The problem with climbing from Auckland is getting there. Sure, flights are cheap to the South Island but you've still got to get to the mountain. Public transport can get you there but you use up precious days waiting for buses. Here's my bright idea: Ask the Canterbury section's trip officer for a Christchurch contact to find a climbing partner: You get someone on the end of the rope, plus accommodation in Christchurch if needed and just need to share petrol costs there & back.

First step: find out the email for the Canterbury section's trips person. Pat Pendergrast's name came up in the newsletter from the NZAC Canterbury section so I flicked her an email. What I didn't realise was that I had emailed the wrong Pat. Pat Deavoll from the National Office replied saying I'd emailed her instead but she'd be keen to climb with me if that was OK. Er, yes, climbing with one of NZ's top climbers would be OK.

Fast forward to December 26. I get off the plane and Pat tells me there's a flight booked out of Mt Cook tomorrow morning 1st thing to Plateau Hut so we're driving to Unwin straight away. It's my first time to this side. You can't beat a chopper flight for giving you a sense of the environment.

Climbing at Cook is all about weather windows. We had our first one straight away: Lay tracks to the South Ridge of Dixon that afternoon then up at 3am next morning for the climb. The South ridge consists of a short face climb to obtain the ridge then a couple of pitches of rock then staying on the snow covered ridgeline till you top out. Pat was happy to lead all the technical sections

and went up the first rock pitch. Three meters up from the bottom is the crux and gets described as 'interesting' to 'desperate' depending how good your rock climbing is. The sloping chimney had no cracks or holds on its lower side and Pat managed a delicate 'wiggle' to get past it. I could get no further and had to 'aid' it with my prussicks. Not a great confidence boost on your first climb! A little breathlessly I summited and enjoyed the view.

The descent was down the easier East ridge but the rising temperatures made it a bit mushy underfoot.

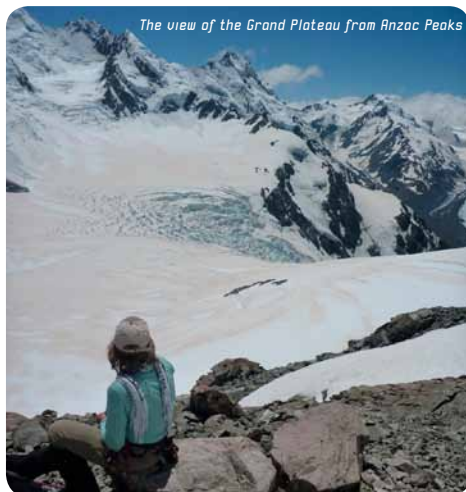
Pat conducted a little research in the hut book and discovered how little this hut gets used by independent climbers. In the seven days we had there only a handful were there under their own steam and most of them foreigners with the vast majority guided parties. Apart from Pat and myself there was only 1 other kiwi climber (not a guide) the whole time. Where are all the kiwi climbers? Isn't this the high season for climbing? The other interesting fact was the complete absence of entries from April until November in the hut book. Not only are we coming less often but never in winter. Maybe kiwi climbing is going soft (me included)?

A rest day followed Dixon. The next weather window was forecast as good in the morning, bad in the afternoon. There aren't many short climbs to do from Plateau so we decided to climb the rock on Anzac Peaks from Cinerama Col. Not really a climb but more of a pleasant scramble for three and a half pitches then abseiling over the

'schrund to get back onto the plateau to be back to the hut early afternoon.

My goal for the trip was to climb Cook via the East Ridge. This involves climbing the East Ridge to Middle Peak and traversing the 'highest mile' to High Peak on Cook & descending the Linda glacier. To do it you need a long spell of settled weather (15-20 hours) to avoid an Inglis-Doole style epic on the summit ridge. That never came. Instead we opted for an ice line on the East face of Dampier. Four pitches of nice mixed/ice before the severe gale wind forecast came in.

A few guided parties made it up Cook that day via the Linda. Guided climbing seems to be a bitter/sweet experience to me. The glossy brochures promise a summit experience with an experienced guide - as long as you have a high level of fitness. But what invariably happens is clients over-estimate their fitness & experience for this climb. I saw very disappointed climbers whose guides decided they weren't up to it physically and pulled the plug on their \$4,800 dream. Then there's the type-A personalities who convince their guides that they're up for it - against the better judgement of the guide - and results in a marathon effort from client & guide to get a result. Watching this dynamic play out gave me a glimpse of what this relationship is like for Everest aspirants in books like 'Dark Summit' which I read at Plateau.



We only had a few days before I had to be back in Auckland and Pat back to work and the forecast was worsening - no weather windows for the next few days. I pulled the plug on my East Ridge dream - for the moment. We used every bit of good weather we had and I climbed routes I would never have attempted without Pat so I left feeling I had accomplished a lot - 'Filled my boots'.

### *High Alpine Skills Course - two places have become available!*

Due to cancellations, two places have become available on the High Alpine Skills Course to run February 1-5. The course is for those who have some alpine climbing experience and is based at Mt Cook. Check out [www.alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz) for more details or contact:

Pat on 03 337 7595 or email: [pat@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:pat@alpineclub.org.nz) - BE QUICK!

### *2010 National Bouldering Series*

Waitomo: 13th February 2010 - Baring Head: 20th February 2010 -  
Jardines: 6th March 2010 - Spittle Hill: 13th March, 2010

Auckland climbers - See you at Waitomo! This is a great day out for anyone who has wanted to boulder on *real rock*, there's a huge range of problems from super easy to totally impossible. The 'Air Strip', in 'tomo is one of the top boulder spots in the North Island and is well worth the drive.

Entry fees are only \$15, or \$10 for students with ID and NZAC members, \$5 for 12 and under. You get a BBO, drink and the chance to win cool prizes from Bivouac, Cactus, TOTA, Metolius and La Sportiva. Check out [www.nbs.org.nz](http://www.nbs.org.nz) for driving directions and all the details. Look forward to seeing you there!

### **NBS 2010 Men's T-shirt**



National Bouldering Series 2010, organic cotton T-shirts (red only). Made in New Zealand by iconic manufacturer Chalky Digits. Men's and Women's available in three sizes each. Limited stock available, so be in quick.

Price: \$45.00 (Member: \$35.00)  
Get 'em at: [alpineclub.org.nz](http://alpineclub.org.nz)

# More stuff for sale!

## **Mountain Hardwear Womens Conduit Soft Shell Jacket (brand new)**

- Sky Blue and Chocolate Brown (looks great);
- Fleece lined (inc collar);
- Pit Zips; Zip-off hood and zip-off waist powder cuff thing; Internal pockets
- Two outside pockets;

This is a beautiful jacket, perfect for skiing or winter climbing. Would look good around town, or a great travel jacket to a winter country. Its brand new. Owned for a year but never had the use for it.

**Womens medium \$300.00**

## **Black Diamond Sabre Tooth Crampons**

Have been used a fair bit but still plenty of life in them. A great general mountaineering crampon that will also climb ice.

**Standard size (not large) \$125**

## **Grivel Rambo Ice climbing Crampons**

Had lots of use but still plenty of life in these. Great for someone getting into ice climbing. **Standard size (not large) \$50.**

## **Womans Phantom Odeg Sleeping bag**

Light four-season bag. This snug mummy cut bag is insulated with 800-fill down, built from Superlight 15 denier fabric and tuck-stitched for durability. Extra insulation in the torso and footbox accommodates a woman's thermal needs in colder conditions.

Check out [www.mountainhardwear.com](http://www.mountainhardwear.com)

Had little use, a great bag, very compact and warm. Suits someone no taller than 168cm. Sells for US\$475 in the USA.

**Selling for NZ\$400.**

**Contact Pat Deavoll**

**Email [pdeavoll@hotmail.com](mailto:pdeavoll@hotmail.com) or 021 216 1386.**



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NZ Alpine Club Auckland Section Newsletter  
PO Box 3036,  
Auckland 1015  
New Zealand