



The
**Auckland
Climber**

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

September '10

this month
Ultralight
backpacking

next month
**Marmolada to
Ombigaichang**



Welcome to the September 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 meets on the second Monday of every month at Cardrona Speights Ale House, on Normanby Rd, Mt Eden – Meeting starts at 8pm.

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

This month's meeting:

Monday September 13, 8pm, Cardrona Speights Ale House, Mt Eden.

Ultralight backpacking

with Stu Bilby

Stu used to carry too much gear. One day it dawned on him that even if he changed everything in his pack to titanium and carbon fibre it would still be heavy. That led to a journey that has seen his pack weight drop from over 30 kg to less than 3 kg in the last 8 years. He has made several multi-month lightweight trips across remote western Nepal carrying less than 5 kg.

He will explain:

- why you would want to reduce your pack weight
- how to do it safely
- ultralight tents and shelter
- tricks for going light
- ultralight on a budget
- why a 25 litre pack is all you need



Next month's meeting:

Monday October 11, 8pm, Cardrona Speights Ale House, Mt Eden.

Marmolada to Ombigaichang

Big wall climbing DOUBLE HEADER

with ROB ADDIS

Rob will speak about two trips he took last year – 4 big wall climbs in the Dolomites (such as the 1000m South Face of Marmolada) AND in and out of Nepalese expeditions (such as the south west face of Ombigaichang – featured in recent winter edition of climber mag).



National News

Ed Hillary adventure 1974

An old Ed Hillary doco has become available on New Zealand On Screen.

It's an epic expedition to climb Fiordland's Kaipo Wall for the first time, in 1974. They're the first group to raft the Hollyford rapids, and in part two Murray Jones and Graeme Dingle attack the imposing 1000m face – straight up. The awesome cinematography really captures the old school thrill of adventure.

People can watch the film online (for free) at <http://www.nzonscreen.com/title/the-adventure-world-of-sir-edmund-hillary-1974/series>

The movie can also legally be embedded into websites, etc (there's a tab on the right-hand, lower part of the page). NZ On Screen is a publicly-funded project aiming to make NZ film and TV more accessible on the internet.

Glenmore Sports offer to NZ Alpine Club

Glenmore Sports would very much like to extend an offer of a 25% discount to the general NZAC membership for Glenmore Sports and the TSL Snowshoe product range. TSL Snowshoes are ideal for moving around on the mountain, particularly when facing the hike up or down to/from the lodge at Whakapapa. They are also a fantastic alternative activity for when the mountain is closed or when the legs need a rest from the skiing. TSL also produces Ski Trekking Poles, Ski Backpacks, Snow Boots and various other "snowshoeing" related accessories.

For more info contact: Glenmore Sports: glenmoresports@xtra.co.nz, Tel: 021 995 166 / 021 995 134. Website: www.tsloutdoor.com

Special Book Offer

Feeling for daylight: the photographs of Jack Adamson by Rhian Gallagher

Alpine Club members are offered free postage within New Zealand to anyone ordering the book from us and quoting they are an Alpine Club member or saw the offer in the magazine. 180pp, hardback with dust jacket. RRP: \$44.95.

To order, contact: South Canterbury Museum, PO Box 522, Timaru 7910. Ph: (03) 687 7212

Email: museum@timdc.govt.nz Website: www.timaru.govt.nz/museum

NZAC Guidebook pricing review & specials

Due to the upcoming rise in GST and a timely, individual look at the sales history of each of our publications, we have reviewed our guidebook prices. However, we want to give members a chance to purchase some of the books about to increase in price, still at their current rates. Also check out reduced prices on some titles. Go to the website for more info.

Online store: http://alpineclub.org.nz/product?filter0=**ALL**

Tongariro Guidebook – misprint special

We have some misprinted copies of this guidebook that we are offering at a special price. A photocopy of the missing pages (112-128) will be included. Price: \$10.00. To find out more go to the website: <http://alpineclub.org.nz/product/tongariro-misprint-special>

NZAC Hut Bookings

Members please note that bookings for Arthur's Pass, Ruapehu and Porter Lodge are handled through the National Office in Christchurch. These huts all have a keypad and the office holds the codes for these. Please DO NOT contact section members looking for the code numbers.

The office is manned Monday-Friday until 5pm. Call Margaret in the first instance for bookings +64 (0)3 377 7595, or email margaret@alpineclub.org.nz

Westland National Park Hut Radio installation

New radios are being installed in Pioneer, Centennial, Almer and Chancellor huts. By using the pre-programmed channels, hut users will be able to contact helicopter companies based in Franz Josef or Fox Glacier directly. This will be a much more effective way for climbers

and skiers to alert pilots to clearing weather or to warn them about sudden cloud masses surrounding the landing sites.

The channels are:

F1: DOC

F2: Fox/Franz Heliservices

F3: Glacier Helicopters

F4: The Helicopter Line

Looking for mountain climbers to interview

A social science research project entitled "Kiwi Climbers and the New Zealand Mountains" will inquire into the relationship between climbers and nature in New Zealand. We are particularly interested in the appeal of the New Zealand mountains and bush to New Zealand climbers and would like to better understand climbers' views on the New Zealand mountains. Therefore, we are looking for both experienced and new climbers who are willing to be interviewed. Ideally, interviews will take place in the week from September 20th to 26th, 2010. Alternative arrangements are possible. The interviews will take around an hour. In compensation for your time we can offer you a cinema voucher.

This research project complies with all of the ethical requirements of the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich. All the data will be treated as confidential. The researchers, Professor Dr. Eveline Dürr and Dr. Gordon Winder, will be happy to hear from you. You can contact us by email to arrange an interview: Gordon.Winder@carsoncenter.lmu.de

Local News

Auckland Section AGM

The NZAC Auckland section AGM was held on Monday August 10th 2010 at Cardrona Speights Ale House, Normanby Rd, Mt Eden.

1) Each committee member gave a run down of their portfolio for the year:

Chris Munro – Section Chair

Chris Munro – Chief Instructor

Ant Stead – Newsletter & Website

Magnus Hammarsal – Trips

Peter Cammell – Meetings

Suzanne Stickney – Events

Sean Wright – Treasurer

Issues of note:

Chairman: Much discussion this year has been around the funding of Unwin hut and the shape of the loan from the section to national for this. More emphasis on youth and rock events was a key platform this year.

Instruction: In response to the new framework for club instruction, we have made a few changes to the SnowCraft course. Have run an avalanche awareness course and hoping to run ice climbing & back country skiing clinics in association with RAL guides in the future.

Meetings: Peter Cammell took on this role to improve the quality of speakers and has arranged some notable climbers over the course of the year.

Financials: Due to the loaning of \$30,000 from the sections reserves, our income has been reduced. Banff made a healthy profit.

Events: Stephen Venables & Banff a sellout. Looking forward to the possibility of Chris Bonnington coming out on a speaking tour.

2) Committee for 2010 nominated, seconded and welcomed

Chris Munro – Auckland Section Chair and Chief Instructor

Magnus Hammarsal – Trips
Toby Johnston – Meetings
Christa Dickson – Membership and Vice Chair
Suzanne Stickney – Secretary & Events
Sean Wright – Treasurer
Brad White – Hut Maintenance
Charis Wong – Events
David Baddeley – Newly elected

THE DICK SEDDON TROPHY
Auckland Climber of the year
Email your nominations to:
secretary@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Stepped down:

Gerald Lanning

Peter Cammell (Peter is no longer looking after meetings but remains on the committee of every section in his role as club president)

3) Points raised in 'any other business'

Peter Cammell expressed the club's sorrow for the death of Paul McLaughlan on the Wellington Section Alpine Instruction Course and held a minute's silence in memory of him.

Turoa Avalanche Awareness Courses

RAL have 3 Avalanche Awareness Courses coming up at Turoa, on the 10th & 11th August, the 28th & 29th August, and the 9th & 10th September, priced at \$100 per person.

For more info: email Elaine at: info.turoa@mtruapehu.com

DDI: 06 385 8456 Ext 5670

for sale

SCARPA Cumbre size 41 summer and winter mountaineering boots – almost new.

Contact jeanjeani@gmail.com or 021-0488-698.

LA SPORTIVA Trango S EVO yellow size 42, UK 8, USA male 9, Lady 10. new, not yet been climbed in. Contact jeanjeani@gmail.com or 021-0488-698.

climbing partners

Just wanted to put a notice out to see if there was any interested in climbers interested in climbing Mt Aspiring and surrounding peaks at the end of September. Contact: Mark Thomas. Email: mark_thomas_11@hotmail.com

Jon Muir

Those of us who made it along to hear Jon Muir talk were treated to something special. Although Jon confesses to being 'out of his comfort zone' talking in a lecture theatre (his comfort zone is in extreme environments around the world), his talk and documentary were compelling viewing. Truly one of the great adventurers of our time, tackling deserts, the Poles & 8000m peaks in his career. Jon constantly seeks adventure. I can't wait to see where his travels take him next. *Ed.*



2010/11 committee & contacts

Chairperson & Chief Instructor

Chris Munro
email: chairperson@aucklandclimber.co.nz

Vice-Chair & Membership

Christa Dickson
email: vicechairperson@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Treasurer

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Brad White
email: hut@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Meetings

Toby Johnston
email: meetings@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Hire Gear

Cormac Flynn
email: gear@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Ruapehu Hut Bookings – Margaret McMahon

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

TELEMARX NZAC SKI week

Seen those ads about South Island Backcountry ski courses and shuddered at the expense or wondered how you could get up to the required skiing standard in time to do next year's? Here's a special instruction offer for North Island NZAC folk.

Get the chance to enjoy a midweek Ski week based out of a comfortable Ohakune house – mmm hot showers, real beds and a kitchen!

Lessons are with the same experienced instructor, each morning and afternoon, learning how to telemark ski or improve your tele style.

We're using the Turoa lifts and ski field, to maximise learning opportunities on piste – no need to carry big packs or hike for hours.

When? September 13th to 16th, 2010. Option for October 11-14th also. It's a Monday to Thursday (with Friday 17th as a back-up day, if an earlier day was closed).

Likely costs per person. Includes:

- 4 days of instruction (usually \$450 just for one day!)
 - Accommodation (4, 5 or more nights – flexible)
 - Lift Tickets (4 days – usually \$86 per day)
 - Telemark Equipment Rental (4 days)
- Indicative \$700 for the week** (but a lot less if you have a season pass or your own gear etc)
(Based on a minimum of 4 people, maximum 6).

Tele rental gear available from Ossies' Ski Chalets in Ohakune. Contact them now to reserve your boot size and get a special rate for the course. Phone (06) 385-8088. Email: info@ossies-ohakune.co.nz

You can expect individual attention as well as group clinics during the week and lots of fun on the snow. I'd love to hear from you if you're at all interested.

Contact Ann Louise Mitcalfe, email amitcalfe@hotmail.com or txt (021) 215-2219.

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.

Grading Levels:

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.

September

Plateau Summit Trip

Sept 4-5

March up to the NZAC hut on Friday night ... and keep on marching by it. Minimise the trudging during daylight hours and maximise the climbing by camping out up on the summit plateau for the weekend. Bag all the peaks or tackle some climbs on Cathedral Rocks, Tahurangi and Tukino. Date is tentative and dependent on some fine weather.

Level *Intermediate*

 Cormac Flynn  c.flynn@auckland.ac.nz

Girdlestone Peak Ruapehu – Take 2!

Sept 11-12

Camp out on the Wahianoa beneath Girdlestone and pick off some climbs on its southern aspects. Some great routes from Grade 1-2+. Plenty of options from this base. Date is tentative and dependent on some fine weather.

Level *Intermediate*

 Cormac Flynn  c.flynn@auckland.ac.nz

Telemark Skiing Course 1

Sept 13-16

The course aims to provide quality professional instruction, individually tailored, for the best price for NZAC members who want to learn to telemark ski. Duration: 4 day mid week course (Mon to Thurs). Cost: (Indicative) \$700 (see ad in the newsletter for more info).

Level *Beginner*

 Ann Louise Mitcalfe  amitcalfe@hotmail.com

SnowCraft Course Weekend 3

Sept 25-26

Final Weekend for those on the SnowCraft Course.

Level *Beginner*

 Chris Munro  instruction@aucklandclimber.org.nz

October

Telemark Skiing Course 2

Oct 11-14

The course aims to provide quality professional instruction, individually tailored, for the best price for NZAC members who want to learn to telemark ski. Duration: 4 day mid week course (Mon to Thurs). Cost: (Indicative) \$700 (see ad in the newsletter for more info).

Level *Beginner*

 Ann Louise Mitcalfe  amitcalfe@hotmail.com

Pics from the Avalanche Awareness Course



Top: Digging out the 'victim'.
Right: Terrain assessment with our AARL instructor.



Pics from SnowCraft Weekend II

Right: "This is a snow-stake"
Below right: Headtorch glow from the snowcaves
Below: Walking into the mist

