



The Auckland Climber

October 2010

www.aucklandclimber.org.nz

SNOWCRAFT 2010



**Marmolada to
Ombigaichang
- Rob Addis**



Welcome to the **October 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. Socialise with other members from 7pm.**

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: 11 October 2010 8pm

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).

Remember that you're more than welcome to join many of the members from 7pm for dinner or drinks at Cardrona, Much better than sitting in traffic on our way home just to come back for the meeting. See you there.



Next month's meeting:

Monday November 15, 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
- Ultralight tents and shelter
- Ultralight on a budget
- How to do it safely
- Tricks for going light
- Why a 25 litre pack is all you need

National News

Castle Rock Reserve - Earthquake Update Sept 30th

The City Council is endeavouring to get castle Rock Reserve open again to the public. A close inspection of the headscarp was carried out with a geotech engineer yesterday.

As a result of these observations the Council plan to get all the loose rock removed by hand i.e contractors abseil down and simply kick/throw off loose unstable rock. If it is felt that more work is required, and more "pressure" needed, they may use a helicopter with a monsoon bucket to "clean it out".

They also plan to engage John Entwisle to abseil all the major climbs and inspect them for any defects that may have resulted from the quake.

Kahukura tracks crosses beneath the headscarp and to re-build this track they need to feel confident that the rock fall hazard above has been minimised. The rock slide looks and feels stable, although it might fluidise and move down-slope if we get significant rain.

It is expected that this inspection and rock clearing work will start after the Schools Holidays.

The composting toilet is badly damaged. The Council are getting engineering and building advice at the moment. It is a priority to get this building repaired.

As there has been another 4.5 shake this morning, the Council would like to take this opportunity to remind people that climbing is not recommended in this area and that Britten Crag is still closed.

THE DICK SEDDON TROPHY

Auckland Climber of the year

Email your nominations to:

secretary@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Pre-alpine Instruction Course - Mt Arapiles, Australia

23 Oct 2010 (All day) - 24 Oct 2010 (All day)

After the success of last year's trip NZAC Australia Section is again running the Pre-Alpine Instruction Course on the weekend of the 23/24 Oct at Mt Arapiles. This trip is a collaboration between NZAC Australia Section and Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) and is open to members of both organisations. The course will be run by myself (NZAC Aus Sect Committee Member and MUMC Mountaineering Convenor) and Stuart Hollaway (member of New Zealand Mountain Guides Association).

TEMP AUCKLAND QUARRY CLOSED

Auckland Boys Grammar School has closed the Long Side of the Quarry after a big rock fell off in the vicinity of Nutcracker groove on Saturday.

They have a geotech engineer having a look at it.

Check www.aucklandclimber.org.nz for news as it eventuates.



National News

Subscriptions increase from 1 Oct 2010

In May the Government announced in the 2010 budget –including the increase to the GST rate. NZAC are impacted by any change like this. Hence CCM resolved at it's 16 May meeting that the full member subscription rate will rise. From 1 October 2010 will therefore be:

Full members	\$105
Students & Under 25yrs	\$70
Seniors (over 65yrs)	\$70
Veteran (35yrs+ club membership)	\$50

Additional members: half of the applicable rate
The rise in GST means NZAC has also revised it's publications prices and confirmed that all hut fees will remain unchanged. Any questions – just contact the team at National office.

Old school movie of Mt Aspiring.

Check it out.

<http://alpineclub.org.nz/hut/aspiring/history>

Stolen gear

Hi guys,

My car was stolen with all our contents in it from the Bruce Road car park.
It has turned out the last 2 wks there has been a blitz of 4 stolen vehicles 16 broken into vehicles.

Obviously RAL are looking at this issue now. If you see any climbing or skiing gear for sale which looks a bit dodgy contact.

Richard Knott - 027348 6657

TRAVEL INSURANCE – Hunting Feedback

After two recent requests from members applying for travel insurance that included hunting overseas, we would like to ask for some feedback on this activity.

As it is not currently covered under the travel insurance policy, the insurer has asked us to contact members for more information, so that they can look at the possibility of having cover for it available in the future.

"If we could get the number of members who have current hunting / gun licenses to provide some data around the number of trips they

took that included hunting and what type of hunting was carried out this would be useful!"

Please let me know if you have participated in hunting overseas (even if you found cover with another insurer), or intend to in the future. Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz

Nominations are open for the 2010 CMC NZ Mountaineer of the Year.

The criteria are as follows:

1. A sustained period of hard climbing both in NZ and overseas
2. A significant ascent/new route in the calendar year - 2010
3. Contribution to climbing community in NZ ie route development, rebolting crags, running courses, writing guidebooks, work with clubs etc.

If you would like to nominate somebody, then please email moylen9@yahoo.com

This award is normally presented in February the following year i.e. 2011. Nominations will close at the end of November 2010.

Canterbury Westland Guide book

The long-awaited 'The Canterbury Westland Alps' guidebook is due to be printed very soon and released for sale in about a month's time.

We are going to take backorders to speed up delivery when the guide becomes available, as it will be a busy time for us with the 2011 NZAC Alpine Calendar coming out around the same time.

Members price \$25 (non members \$35), plus the usual for postage within NZ of \$4 first copy and \$2 per copy thereafter. Please send payment with your order.

Payment can be made with Visa or MasterCard, or if within NZ you can send a cheque, or pay with internet banking 03 0502 0607822 00 (sorry only Visa/MasterCard accepted for overseas payments)
www.alpineclub.org.nz

Upcoming 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 can be dangerous! You need to have the appropriate skill for any trip that you wish to attend.

Beginner: Someone who is at least a current SnowCraft student, and is competent with the skills covered on the course.

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.

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.

Level Beginner

 Ann Louise Mitcalfe  amitcalfe@hotmail.com

New Member / Beginner Rock Climbing. Mt Eden Quarry - Short Side

Oct 13

Just joined the club, or just getting into climbing and want to meet like minded people, come along to the Mt Eden Quarry - Shortside. Climb on REAL rock.

 Magnus Hammarsal  hammarsal@hotmail.com Phone 021 31 44 22

Mt Taranaki - Labour Weekend

Oct 23,24,25

Three days on Mt Taranaki over Labour weekend. This is a great trip for all, staying at the Tahrangi Lodge, which has showers, heaters, full kitchen. Mt Taranaki has lots of different routes for all different skills, last year the club trip summited twice and even did some rock climbing. Not to be missed - esp all new snowcrafters!

 David Baddely  d.baddeley@auckland.ac.nz

NOVEMBER

Rock climbing at Castle Rock - Wharepapa South

Nov 13

Join us for a day climbing at Castle Rock in the Central Waikato. Lots of climbing for all levels.

 Christa Dickson  vicechairperson@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Auckland Section Meeting

8pm Nov 15

Ultra light weight travel - with Stu Bilby

The club meets on the second Monday of every month at Cardona Speights Ale House, on Normanby Rd, Mt Eden - Meeting starts at 8pm.

New Member / Beginner Rock Climbing. Mt Eden Quarry - Short Side

Oct 17

Just joined the club, or just getting into climbing and want to meet like minded people, come along to the Mt Eden Quarry - Shortside. Climb on REAL rock.

 Magnus Hammarsal  hammarsal@hotmail.com Phone 021 31 44 22

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

Sean Wright
email: treasurer@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Secretary

Suzanne Stickney
email: secretary@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

Anthony Stead
email: newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Events

Charis Wong
email: events@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Trips

Magnus Hammarsal
email: trips@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Hut Manager & Gear Organiser

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**

Local News

Backcountry Avalanche Course

There is a back country avalanche course taking place on Mt Ruapehu over the 12th to 15th October, provided by Turoa Ski Patrol, in conjunction with the Mountain Safety council.

The Back country course leads on from the avalanche awareness course and is designed to provide the basic avalanche skills to for independent backcountry travel.

The cost is \$500 and includes lift passes

as required and a copy of Avalanche awareness in the NZ backcountry by Penny Goddard. Participants receive a certificate of completion after attending all four days.

For bookings contact
Turoa Customer services info.turoa@mtruapehu.com or phone 06 385 8456.

For more information visit www.mtruapehu.com/winter/Backcountry_avalanchecourse/ or contact Craig Martella on 0272744047

Got some photo's or a trip report of an adventure/course you've been on with the club, please let us know. We can put your trip report and/or some photo's in this newsletter and on the website. It brings the club to life, and inspires us all.

Get involved! It is YOUR club! Email: newsletter@aucklandclimber.org.nz

Snowcraft 2010

- Chris Munro

The first weekend in October marked the final installment of this year's Auckland section alpine instruction course, SnowCraft 2010. As per usual, the weather played it's hand: the first two weekends were pretty subdued affairs where students braved the wind to learn crampon & ice axe skills on weekend one, then snow caving & avalanche awareness in white-out & sleet conditions on weekend two. But that didn't dampen their enthusiasm which was rewarded by glorious weather on weekend 3, which itself was postponed a week from it's original date due to an atrocious weather & avalanche forecast. Finally the sun shone and all the groups managed to get in summit or two along with some steep snow climbing & pitching practice.

The final evening at the hut is the graduation dinner where everyone gets into the spirit of the occasion with fancy dress and some 'Chateau Cardboard' to loosen the limbs for the classic table-traverse and a new game of pickup-the-winebox-with-your-teeth-with-only-your-feet-touching-the-ground introduced by welcomed gate crasher Paul Whitfield. The table traverse saw a few 'ascents' but the harder longitudinal variation beat off all comers. The winebox game showcased some exceptional flexibility especially from our older instructors. The box is progressively cut down in height until only the flat card of the base remained. Student Aaron the only one to pickup this sliver, beating off the favoured females in this test of human flex.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the course is meeting such a great bunch of people. This year proved no different and we were entertained by, amongst others, Lawrence's childhood tales of using the neighbours daughter as test pilot on some ill-fated fast moving inventions and Issac's general observations on life (or anything for that matter). The students consisted of a number of internationals from England, Scotland, Ireland & Lithuania joining in with locals all of who were hoping to get some skills to enjoy New Zealand's mountains.

A great thanks to all for sharing their enthusiasm for the outdoors and a special thanks to our great and dedicated instructors who display great teaching skills and when required, great patience. Hopefully we will see each other again in the hills.

If you are interested in the NZAC Auckland Section Snowcraft course 2011, please register your interest with our chief instructor Chris Munro - chairperson@aucklandclimber.co.nz



Snow Craft Weekend III

Magnus moving under the table during the table taverse at NZAC Hut >>



∇ NZAC members are a strange bunch!



Jes showcasing his exceptional flexibility during the "winebox game" >>



You can check out all the photos from this years snowcraft course and previous ones too, by visiting our website.
www.aucklandclimber.org.nz or
picasaweb.google.com/aucklandclimber