



New Zealand Alpine Club  
Canterbury/Westland Section  
PO Box 1700, Christchurch 8140

# New Zealand Alpine Club Canterbury – Westland Section **October 2010 Newsletter**



## **October Section Meeting – Thursday 14 October**

**Guest Speakers:** Tim Church, Yvonne Pfluger and Andrei Van Dusschoten

Tim, Yvonne and Andrei will talk about their recent expeditions to Nepal and China.

**Venue: Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, off Madras St** – We are 95% certain that the meeting will be held here. But any changes to the venue, due to the recent earthquake, will be posted on the Alpine Club Website <http://alpineclub.org.nz/> (Sorry for any inconvenience).

# News

## Jon Muir Talk – Thursday 2 September

Following on from Stephen Venables last year and Bruce Normand earlier this year the New Zealand Alpine club was once again very fortunate to host an outstanding international guest speaker.

My early impressions of Jon were reading about him from his climbing days in the 1980s at Arapiles where he had a reputation for being both bold and a very strong climber, regularly soloing up to grade 25!

Jon gave an entertaining, compassionate and humorous lecture to 315 people at the Hotel Grand Chancellor on Thursday 2 September.

The first half of his presentation he gave a brief insight into how it all started for him. Then we were lucky enough (again for some!) to watch 'Alone across Australia', a remarkable journey of the first unsupported, solo crossing of Australia (2500 km in 128 days!). This featured 6 years ago at the Banff mountain film festival. It has since gone on to win dozens of awards and has been voted amongst the top 20 adventure movies of all time (Jon makes Bear Grylls look like a complete muppet!).

After the intermission Jon spoke about and showed a PowerPoint presentation of his various adventures from the 1980s through to 2009. From his early days rock-climbing he progressed to mountaineering in New Zealand, Europe and the Himalayas. One of his first Himalayan peaks was the west buttress of Changabang where the average age of the party was just 22. Climbs of Shivling, Everest, The Matterhorn and others followed; from here Jon changed to desert and polar exploration as well as kayaking adventures around Australia.

To sum it all up, we were extremely lucky to have a true all round adventurer, probably the greatest since Reinhold Messner, speaking in New Zealand.

Cheers to Pat Deavoll from national office for arranging for Jon to come to New Zealand, to Geoff Gabites who did a fantastic job as MC, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Canterbury/Westland Members who helped out and finally to all the people who supported the Event.

We look forward to next year's international guest speaker

## Summer Climbing Camp

Information and registration details are now available for the camp on: <http://alpineclub.org.nz/default/377>

Also please see further details below.

# Upcoming Events

## October Meeting – Thursday 14 October

### Guest Speakers: Tim Church, Yvonne Pfluger and Andrei Van Dusschoten

On Thursday 14 October Tim, Yvonne and Andrei will talk about their recent expeditions to Nepal and China. In April, they travelled to eastern Nepal to complete a high altitude trek from Tumlingtar to Lukla, via the 'Ice Cols' route between Makalu Base Camp and the Everest region. Following this they spent May in Sichuan, Western China; an area where there have been many notable climbs by New Zealanders. In the Daxue Shan Range they first attempted Little Konka (5928m) and then went on to successfully climb Dogonomba (5962m).

## **November Meeting – Thursday 11 November**

### **Guest Speaker: Paul Hersey**

'Ever wanted to put up a new climb, but not quite sure how to go about it? Paul Hersey will discuss the options and pitfalls of trying to find and then climb new alpine routes in this country. New routes don't just have to be for elite alpinists. Hundreds of opportunities exist in our mountains for moderate grade climbers to go for their own slice of mountaineering history. This is a practical discussion, covering issues like geography, research, finding a suitable line, various approaches and gear options.'

### **NZAC Annual General Meeting and Debate**

This will be on October 15th in the YMCA conference room. The debate will be on "whether to rename the South Ridge of Aoraki Mt Cook the Hillary Ridge". Come along and voice your opinion loudly. Further details to follow in next months newsletter.

### **NZAC Summer Camp 2 – 9 January 2011**

The 2011 NZAC Summer Camp will be hosted by the Canterbury/Westland Section at the Broken River Skifield Lodges. Broken River was chosen because it is an ideal base for numerous climbing, tramping, bouldering and mountain biking options. The peaks of Arthurs Pass are only 30 minutes away with Mts Rolleston, Murchison, Franklin and Harper being worthy objectives. Tramping in the area includes the Cass-Lagoon, Casey-Binser, Minga-Deception, Edwards-Otehake and numerous other half, day and multi day options. The Craigieburn ranges will be right at our doorstep and the Torlesse range only 15 minutes away. Castle Hill Basin offers world class bouldering and rockclimbing only 10 minutes away. There is also plenty of options for mountain biking to suit all levels. Basically we feel by hosting the camp at Broken River, not only will it provide greater opportunities for the broad range of people who attend, it will also give us more comfortable options with shelter, power and water if the weather is unfavourable.

We plan to have an opening night BBQ with guest speakers and will provide entertainment during the week for those who chose to stay on the field.

At this stage we are looking for a Camp Manager/s for the 8 days so if you are interested please let us know. This would be an ideal position for a couple or family who don't need to leave the camp but enjoy the people and surroundings; provide support where needed and help with the everyday running of the camp. All applicants will be considered but an outdoors knowledge and enthusiasm to meet people from all over the world would be a distinct advantage. Please contact Clayton if you are keen or have any questions in regards to the camp on [claytongarbes@hotmail.com](mailto:claytongarbes@hotmail.com)

### **Future Trips and Courses**

20/21 November - Mt Somers Rock-climbing.

27 November - Rock Two

4/5 December - Mt Cook Base camp Weekend

Further details of these will follow in subsequent newsletters.

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# Trips and Courses

## Castle Hill Climbing Saturday 9 October

A day at this stunning location. Bouldering problems or climbs to suit all levels and abilities. Approximate fuel costs of \$15 to \$20 plus small fee to hire boulder mats. Please contact Matt Wilkinson on [blowuppress@googlemail.com](mailto:blowuppress@googlemail.com) or **0226576521** no later than Thursday 7 October to express an interest.

## Dunedin Rockclimbing Weekend 16 /17 October.

A popular trip from 6 months ago repeated! Leaving town Friday afternoon or evening at the earliest possible time as it is a 4 to 5 hour drive. Climbing at Longbeach and Mihiwaka so 'Trad' Climbing experience essential or a pre-arranged climbing partner who can lead for you. This is NOT a beginners trip. Approximate fuel costs of \$40 plus accommodation costs at Dunedin Holiday Park. Names by Monday 11 October at the latest.

Please contact **Clayton** on **0274461562 / 9607647** evenings or [claytongarbes@hotmail.com](mailto:claytongarbes@hotmail.com) to express an interest.

## Mt Adams Saturday 23 October - Monday 25 October (Labour Weekend)

Take advantage of the long weekend to 'bag' this Impressive west coast peak! You will need to have a high level of pack and all-round fitness plus ice axe and crampon skills. Leave town Fri night or possibly early Sat morning at the leaders discretion. This will involve a high camp above the bushline so bivvy/camping gear and water will be needed to be carried. The trip is likely to consist of two long days and a short one to finish the climb, depending on conditions and weather. Approx fuel costs of \$50 to \$60. Please contact **Charlie Catt** on [cmcatt@ihug.co.nz](mailto:cmcatt@ihug.co.nz) or **3329472** no later than Monday 18 October to express an interest.

## Mid Week Rock Climbing

From October the midweek climbing will shift to outside as daylight savings kicks in. The climbing will be run on a 'roster' basis and Clayton will send out an email at the start of the week to let members know who is running it. If you are not on the email contact list and would like to be then please contact **Clayton** on **0274461562/9607646** (evenings until 9.30pm) or [claytongarbes@hotmail.com](mailto:claytongarbes@hotmail.com) The climbing will be at different crags on a Wednesday evening with the decision to where, decided mid-afternoon once the person in charge sees what the weather is doing.

All welcome from beginners to experts. The club will provide ropes and equipment to set top ropes up or you can lead climb if you are experienced. A charge of \$2 per person, per night for those either without or not using their own rope. Those climbing will be required to provide their own harness, shoes, belay device and Helmet (Compulsory on Club nights).

Alternative evenings/days can be arranged amongst members to suit by using the contact list but you need to be 'self-sufficient' if arranged other days for climbing.

## Mid Week Mountaineering

Contact Pat Prendergast on Sunday or Monday each week to check out what is planned. Email [pat@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:pat@slingshot.co.nz) or **phone 337 0079**.

## **Beginners Introduction to Outdoor rock climbing (Rock 1). Tuesday 26 September (Evening) and Saturday 30 October (All day)**

This is an introduction to climbing outdoors for those who have not climbed before or are keen to move out of the gym onto natural rock.

The course will be run on the Port Hills.

Topics covered will include; Movement and balance, Top roping, Belaying and Anchor building.

Cost **\$30**

All applicants must be NZAC members.

This course is a one day course but an evening session will be held prior to cover some techniques to help make the most of the time on the rock.

Bring your own harness, helmet (UIAA approved) and belay device & karabiner.

The club has limited numbers of the above available for use on the course if necessary.

Contact **Matt Vandenberg** on [alpinematt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alpinematt@xtra.co.nz)

## **Advanced Alpine Skills Course**

At the end of last year's High Alpine Skills Courses, some people asked the possibility of a 'follow-up' course to further develop their skills. The NZAC is offering those HASC participants from 2009, who have been actively climbing throughout the year and have an excellent level of fitness, the opportunity to take part in a six day "Advanced Alpine Skills Course" at Plateau Hut with a fully qualified NZMGA guide.

The course will be "flying-in, walking-out." The dates for the course are: **Sat 18 - Thurs 23 December**. Participants would be expected to arrive at Mt Cook on the afternoon of **Fri 17 December**.

The cost of the course is: NZ\$1250

\*\*This will cover: instruction fees, a helicopter flight, Plateau hut fees and administration costs. It does not cover hut fees for Unwin Hut before or after the course. Participants will be responsible for sourcing their own equipment and will bring their own food.

Contact: [pat@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:pat@alpineclub.org.nz)

## **WHACK'n`DANGLE The Coast. 12-14 November (Show Weekend)**

Our most Popular club trip with three days Ice climbing at Fox Glacier.

Head over Friday afternoon/evening as soon as possible as a 5.5 to 6 hr drive. Some cars will leave at lunchtime. We will be based at N.Z.A.C Porter Lodge.

No ice climbing experience necessary but a MINIMUM requirement is that you must be a N.Z.A.C Member, have used ice axe and crampons before and know how to belay.

Moderate to good fitness will help but at the end of the day as long as you are Enthusiastic to give it a go then you are welcome!

We have the Lodge already booked and numbers will be limited. A \$50 deposit will be required NO LATER than 10 days before to secure your spot as there is always a reserve list of up to 6 people who miss out!

Costs of \$60 for fuel, \$15 per night hut fees and gear hire costs if required (The club can provide boots, crampons, technical tools, helmets and ropes at a cheaper price than the shops!). You will need to provide your own harness, belay device etc. Anything you are not sure of please contact **Clayton**.

This is a great social event with potluck dinner on both of the nights to keep costs down. Approx costs with gear hire, fuel (if you dont have a car) and hut fees of \$150 to \$160 (A Bargain!).

Names and deposit required by Tuesday 2 November. Please contact **Clayton** on **0274461562/9607646** (evenings until 9.30pm) or [claytongarbes@hotmail.com](mailto:claytongarbes@hotmail.com)

## NZAC High Alpine Skills Course, Mt Cook

This is for those NZAC members' who have participated on a Basic Instruction Course or instructed in a trainee capacity.

The course will run for six days from **January 30th – February 4th** and will be based at Mt Cook. Instructors will be qualified NZMGA Mountain Guides.

The course will be based on foot, rather than utilising helicopter or fixed wing access.

It will also be 'bivvy' based rather than 'hut' based. This means it is important participants have a good level of fitness.

The cost of the course is \$875. Additionally, participants will provide their own transport and food and pay their accommodation at Unwin.

If you are interested in the participating on this course, contact: [instruction@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:instruction@alpineclub.org.nz) or ph. **03 337 7595**

### List of Upcoming Trips and Courses

Saturday 9 October	Castle Hill Climbing
Weekend 16 / 17 October	Dunedin Climbing
23 – 25 October (Labour Weekend)	Mt Adams
Tuesday 26 (Evening) & Saturday 30 October	Rock 1

## Notices

### 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](mailto:Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)

### Climbing Women Photos

As part of the upcoming centenary celebration of Freda Du Faur's historic climb of Aoraki Mt Cook, Carla Braun-Elwert is putting together a collection of images of women climbing. These will be displayed on a big screen at the celebrations at Mt Cook on December 4, 2010. If you would like to contribute images towards this collection, please email them to [fredaphotos@gmail.com](mailto:fredaphotos@gmail.com) Images need to be of mountaineering or rock climbing, and must feature women. Historic photos of women climbing will be very welcome.

### Alpine Club Courses

The Alpine Club is running several courses in the coming months. Full details can be found at <http://alpineclub.org.nz/default/24>

A summary is here:

- **Freda Du Faur Mountain Skills for Women Course.** Course already full but a waitlist is being compiled.
- **Advanced High Alpine Skills Course.** For those on the High Alpine Skills Courses last summer.

## **Volunteer Wardens for Mueller Hut Wanted**

The Department of Conservation is seeking volunteer wardens for Mueller Hut, between December and the end of April. Responsibilities include checking trampers in, responding to the 7pm radio call, as well as cleaning the kitchen and toilet. There is plenty of time each day to explore the area. There is no cost to warden at Mueller Hut and accommodation can be provided before and/or after your stay at Mueller in Aoraki/Mount Cook village. Please contact **Catherine Warren** at [cwarren@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cwarren@doc.govt.nz) or **03 435 1186** if you are interested or would like more information.

## **Nominations 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](mailto: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.

## **Subscription Increase from 1 October 2010**

The NZAC CCM resolved at the 16 May meeting that the full member subscription rate will rise to \$105, to match the upcoming GST rise to 15 percent. The full schedule of membership rates from 1 October 2010 will therefore be:

Full Members	\$105
Students & Under 25 years old	\$70
Seniors (over 65 years old)	\$70
Veteran (35 years of club membership)	\$50
Additional Members	half of the applicable rate

The NZAC has also revised it's publications prices (more info to come), and confirmed that all hut fees will remain unchanged.

## **N.Z.A.C Summer Camp Help Required.**

The Canterbury/Westland section is seeking help to run a successful camp from 2 to 8 January at Broken River Ski field.

The camp cannot run on itself and the following is required.

1. Camp Manager(s) for the week. This could be split between people or a couple or family group. Enthusiasm, people and organisational skills required as well as an knowledge of the outdoors.
2. The use of two four wheel drives for opening day and closing day to transport goods up to the lodges.
3. A person to deal with opening day registrations as guests arrive and to allocate them with lodges and bunkrooms.
4. People to help with the opening and closing nights' Bar-B-Que and clean up. This involves preparing food and cooking it.

As you can see we require approximately 6 people for the opening day on the 2nd and the same for closing day on the 9th. Ideally on the evening of the 1st we will need people to go up to broken river to help set up as well.

If you can help in anyway, even for a few days then please contact **Clayton** on [claytongarbes@hotmail.com](mailto:claytongarbes@hotmail.com) or **0274461562/9607646**[evenings].

The camp is run on a voluntary basis and will be a great way to meet people from other sections as well as from around the world.

## **Kura Tawhiti / Castle Hill restoration day Sunday 17 October**

DOC will be holding another planting day on October 17 at Kura Tawhiti / Castle Hill and would like to invite members of the climbing community to come along and join in. Starting with a 9am-12.30 planting session, and breaking for cultural and biodiversity tours between 12.30 - 1.30. This will be followed with some more planting until about 2.30. You will need to bring lunch, water, sun hat, sun screen and good boots. Also gloves and a good planting spade would be handy if you have them. In the case of bad weather please ring the DOC Visitor Centre in Arthur's Pass on **03 3189211** for cancellation information. Contact **Morgan Cox** on **03 3189087** **Sarah Ensor** on **313 0837** if you have any questions.

## **Congratulations – 6-month membership extension winner**

The first winner of our free 6-month membership extension is Australian Club member, Simon Locke. Congratulations to Simon, a member of 6 years standing, we value your continued support of our Club.

Members are reminded that this is an on-going prize offer and the October renewals are coming up. To be in with a chance to win this prize, please get your renewals paid within the first two weeks of October.

## **Publication Price Review**

Nine of our publications will increase in member price (Castle Hill, Darran Mountains, Dunedin Rock, Mt Aspiring-3rd ed, Mt Cook, NZ Backcountry Skiing, Rock Deluxe, South Island Rock, Wanaka Rock-2010 ed) For the rest we will be absorbing the GST rise, apart from eight items that have dropped in price for members:

1. Alpine Journal 2009 - \$10.00
2. Barron Saddle-Mt Brewster guidebook \$20.00
3. Mt Aspiring Guidebook (2nd edition only) \$10.00
4. National Bouldering Series 2010 – Chalky Digits t-shirts women's size 8 (5 only) and 10 (2 only) - \$20.00 ea
5. Photo Competition Posters from 2002-2008 – a selection of \*4\* posters for \$10
6. Taranaki guidebook \$10.00
7. Wanaka Rock 2005 edition \$24.50
8. Wellington Rock guidebook \$20.00

### **Other Sale Items**

- Ebenezer Teichelmann (biography) by Bob McKerrow - \$30.00
- Whanganui Rock – 2 for \$45.00 or 3 for \$60.00
- Misprinted guidebooks:  
<https://alpineclub.org.nz/publications/aoraki/mount-cook>  
<http://alpineclub.org.nz/product/tongariro-misprint-special>

### **New Items**

- New Publication: Pushing His Luck by Jakob Lauper (new translation by Hillary Low) member/wholesale \$30.00 or \$40.00 rrp + p&p
- New Stock Just Arrived: 10mm Metolius hangers members \$5.00 or non-members \$6.50 + p&p

Orders can be placed online or by email, fax, post or telephone. Online payments can be made with Visa or MasterCard and by NZ bank transfer. Overseas orders are also possible, but please contact the office first, to confirm postage.

Online store: [http://alpineclub.org.nz/product?filter0=\\*\\*ALL\\*\\*](http://alpineclub.org.nz/product?filter0=**ALL**)

Specials here: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/product?filter0=44>

## Equipment Hire

Please note that the Canterbury / Westland Section have the following to hire to members on Club Trips and Instruction:

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Plastic Boots
- Transceivers, Probes and Shovels

These will be available at very competitive rates but are only available for Club Members to hire on Club Trips and Instruction.

For Boots, Axes and Crampons please contact **Clayton** on **0274461562** or **9607646** and for Transceivers, Probes and Shovels please contact **Matt** on **3445015**.

## Visitor from Alaska Seeking Ski Partners in October

Scott Fennell is arriving for his first trip to New Zealand in October, and is interested in finding skiing partners for his trip. He plans to fly into the hut system near Mount Cook for approximately 20 days. He is 28, and expresses that he has no strong preferences in partners relating to age, gender, language, or ethnicity. However he states that he would like to find other "snow sliders" (meaning skiers or split-boarders), as opposed to a pure climbing party.

If you are interested please contact him on [scofennell@gmail.com](mailto:scofennell@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz)

## Feeling for Daylight: travelling exhibition

The exhibition Feeling for Daylight: The Jack Adamson collection, featuring a rare and unique collection of glass plate photographs has been showing at the South Canterbury Museum since July. It is now being offered as a travelling exhibition.

The photographs take viewers on a stunning photographic journey around the Southern Alps and early settler communities on the eastern and western side of the mountains. A hundred years away from rescue helicopters you can see early mountaineers doing daredevil moves at time when the Southern Alps were far more isolated than they are today.

The photographs are also featured in the book "Feeling for Daylight" which is available for sale in your retail spaces (RRP \$44.95, trade \$27.00). Hosts of the exhibition may also be offered sale or return terms.

Please contact **Philip Howe** on [philip.howe@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:philip.howe@timdc.govt.nz) or **03-6877212** if you would like any further information. The exhibition will be available from mid October 2010

## Centenary of Freda Du Faur's Historic Climb of Aoraki Mt Cook

There will be a celebration of the event at Mt Cook Village on December 4th. This will involve lots of food, guest speakers and open discussion. Please watch the website for details.

## **CMC Meeting Thursday 21 October**

Come along to the Pioneer Lounge, upstairs at Pioneer Stadium, Lyttelton St, Christchurch to hear Sally Carter and Tony Burnell talk about developments on the ice at Queenstown. Drinks and nibbles from 7.30pm with the talk beginning at 8pm.

**Venue: Pioneer Lounge, upstairs at Pioneer Stadium, Lyttelton St.**

## **Remembrance weekend for Austin Brookes 16/17 October**

**Venue: Homer Hut**

Please bring any slides of climbs with Austin that you may have. We will have a copy of the speakers at Austin's funeral. We Plan to have a pot luck tea on Saturday night and weather permitting we may get a climb in. Please phone **Ron McLeod** if interested on **03 2176727**

# **Classified Advertisements**

## **Equipment Wanted**

If any members have boots (especially sizes 7 – 9) they could either donate or sell at a good price to the committee, it would be greatly appreciated. We are looking at having enough gear to use for our winter courses for those members who don't own their own. Anything would be considered as we can't afford to buy everything brand new! Please contact **Clayton Garbes** on **0274 461 562** or [claytongarbes@hotmail.com](mailto:claytongarbes@hotmail.com) Clayton is especially keen on smaller boots – the gear collection needs more of these.

Also if members are looking at upgrading their avalanche transceivers and selling their old ones please contact **Matt Vandenberg** on **3445015** or [alpinematt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alpinematt@xtra.co.nz)

**Note:** Classified ads only run in the newsletter once unless the editor receives an email asking for the ad to run again.

**Advertising Rates:** Classified ad (max. 50 words or 5 lines plain text) free for NZAC members or \$15 for non-members.

## **SCARPA Cumbre Boots for Sale**

Size 41 summer and winter mountaineering boots - almost new.

Please contact **Jean Kenney** on [jeanjeani@gmail.com](mailto:jeanjeani@gmail.com) or **021 0488 698**.

## **La Sportiva Trango S Evo yellow Boots**

Size 42, UK 8, USA male 9, Lady 10. new, not yet been climbed in. Please contact **Jean Kenney** on [jeanjeani@gmail.com](mailto:jeanjeani@gmail.com) or **021 0488 698**.

# Trip Reports

## Rome Ridge to Avalanche Peak - The Tale of two trips (Part One).

A Total of 14 members met up at Arthurs Pass Lodge on Saturday night, anticipating a good day out on Sunday with a favourable forecast.

A decision was made sat night to split into two groups of seven with one party (The B Team!), going up Avalanche Peak and across. The second party (The A Team!) starting from Rome Ridge and across from that direction.

Important decisions had to be made who was to go on what team. That was made perfectly clear when the old dog's, Catt and Garbes, formed one team then there was a rush of the first 5 to join them! Those who were too slow to sign with team A were left to join with Matt V's 'Band of Brothers'!

Sunday morning we planned to be walking by 7am, but just to give the B Team a better chance, one of the A team generously left his crampons back at the Lodge; this gave the opposition a much needed headstart! So we were away by 7.30am up coral track and after an hour we were out of the bushline. It took another half an hour onto the ridge where we could see that B team were already struggling with the scorching pace trying set by the A team; as by now they were several thousand feet below us!

Crampons were on, anticipating some good snow conditions but alas it was not to be! A real mixture was encountered from knee deep slush, crust and the odd good bit of snow from time to time.

Never the less we made good progress in spring like conditions and weather with stunning views all around us.

By the time we got to the main buttress connecting the ridge back towards Avalanche peak we realised that the round trip was not going to happen today. We could see the B team struggling and hear them whimpering across the valley and our regular hourly radio schedules confirmed our worse fears....they had run out of champagne!

From here we left our packs and decided to go for a wander along towards the gap and see what was happening. Well I can tell you, there were lots of avalanches happening! Bealey face had two impressive crown walls, lower Bealey valley had plenty of debris. Lots of surface fracturing was occurring all over the show and just 10 metres below us was a very recent large size one avalanche.

That was enough to convince us that our decision to turn around was a good one, no complaints from the A Team at all as we had had a good day out. So we retraced our steps, keeping in radio contact with the B Team, who had by now had an air drop of champagne and were able to continue the 10000ft descent back to the valley floor!

Cheers everyone for a grand old day out.

The A Team - Charlie Catt, Stephanie Das, Bryan MacDonald, Ben Lucas, Charles Etherington, Adam Humphries, Clayton Garbes.



## Avalanche Peak to Rome Ridge - The view from the other side

As has already been written, important decisions had to be made about who's team to join; either the 'A team of sorts' or the 'Better team'.

The A team, intent on using automotive transportation to attain altitude above our Arthurs Pass accommodation. But the B team decided to brave up and bust our butts by beginning straight from the bunkhouse. After a morning stroll through the village many of the team, especially the leader, were beginning to think they had lost the start of Scott's track. Scott's track located, all that was left to do was grind out the meters all the while wondering how the other team was doing. Once at the bush line we stopped, for what must have been at least half an hour, to see if we could catch sight of the A team, but to no avail, they were still in the trees.

The weather turned on a perfect day, a surfboard and some waves would not have gone amiss, except that we were at 1300 meters and the snow was rapidly turning to mush. Turns were taken to see who had the magic divining powers to find the elusive stable snow, but unfortunately none of us were worthy with us all sinking to our knees on a regular basis.

Eventually the 'A team' was spotted on the opposite ridge and a quick radio chat informed us that they were finding similar conditions.

The summit of Avalanche Peak was reached in good time and finally we found some snow worthy of putting on crampons. Some solid down climbing on front points into the south basin led to some ankle flexing traversing back across to the west ridge of Avalanche. Again we were on a sun drenched slope and again we were up to our knees in slush. The decision was quickly made that this was weather more suited to sun bathing and to go on would be folly.

Lunchtime was called, with hot latté and a wonderful view of the south face of Rolleston, who needed to walk anymore?

To make sure that we weren't going to have to wait too long for the 'A team', some practice and revision of snow anchors was held, with some really strong anchors being built despite the soft snow conditions.

For a change of scene we opted to descend via the Avalanche creek track which fortunately took us straight back to the hut. The 'A team' eventually turned up at the hut just as we were about to launch a search party. Which is just as well otherwise they might have had to write a serious trip report instead of one filled with half truths and cheap gibes aimed at the 'Better team', besides they had the cars after all!

Matt



## **New Zealand Alpine Club National Office (The Home of Mountaineering)**

Street Address	Unit 6, 6 Raycroft Street, Opawa, Christchurch
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### **Canterbury – Westland Section Postal Address:**

**PO Box 1700 Christchurch 8140**

### **Newsletter Contributions**

Please email contributions to [cwnews@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:cwnews@alpineclub.org.nz)

Next deadline: 18 October 2010







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# NZAC Canterbury – Westland Section Events October 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Castle Hill Climbing	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> NZAC AGM and Debate	<b>16 / 17</b> Dunedin Rock Climbing DOC Kura Tawhiti / Castle Hill restoration day (Sunday 17)	
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23 / 24</b> Mt Adams trip	
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Rock 1 – Evening Session	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Rock 1	<b>31</b>