



Nelson Marlborough Section Newsletter

December 2011

Next Section Evening

Wednesday 21st March, with the possibility of a BBQ in late February to kick things off.

Instructors Needed

Instructors and Assistant Instructors are needed for next years Snow Craft Course. There have been some changes to the club requirements for instructors, so please contact Jerome Waldron for details on this.

Newsletter Delivery

If you are currently receiving the newsletter by standard mail and could receive it by email, please let me know at gerard.mayes@xtra.co.nz

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Trip Report

Brian Renwick and others took advantage of the snow conditions to indulge in a few ski-touring trips. First off, Brian Renwick had a trip to Balloon and Mt Peel during the July Christchurch blizzard - cold and windy, but superb conditions and scenery. Next up in late September Bob Chittenden, Brian Renwick and Bob Dickenson made a day trip to Flagtop. Again good conditions and a great ski down to Kea Hut. This was followed up with another trip by Brian and Bob C to Balloon and Mt Peel.

Not so much snow this time, and weather not so good, but still a reasonable ski and of course good exercise (maybe too much!). Then another trip by Brian and Bob C up Flagtop on 7 October. Still plenty of snow, and all lifts could have run at Mt Robert if they were there. They counted about 8 snowcaves near the Lodges, evidently the work of NMIT. This time they pushed onwards close to Julius Summit and another great run back to Kea Hut for a brew up, to find the door had been forced open. Thankfully no signs of vandalism inside. On the way down the ridge above Robert Lodges they passed Barry James and Bruce Gilkison skinning up after a late start. Great to see others also making the most of the extended snow conditions. Cheers, Brian Renwick

Section Trips.

If you have any thoughts on a TRIP LIST, PLEASE MAKE CONTACT WITH A COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Newsletter Content

If you have trip reports, news items, gear to sell, trips you want to list, or any other items please send them through by emailing me.

If you are having difficulty reading this email please follow this link to view it online;

<http://alpineclub.org.nz/section/nelson-marlborough>

National Office News

General Manager Required for NZAC

<http://alpineclub.org.nz/notice/new-nzac-general-manager-wanted>

Banff 2012 trailer is out!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHDGv1RR2v4&feature=share>

The 6-month NZAC membership extension winner for November is Raymond Willett of Southland Section

A message from Brad Baston - "Travelling to Gulmarg, Indian Kashmir next January for the winter for backcountry ski opportunities. Am going independently at the moment, if anyone is wanting ski partners or know of people going would appreciate hooking up with some people or discussing some options.

bradbaston@yahoo.com"

Several new items for sale + p&mp:

Alpine Guides Technical Manual (\$25) <http://alpineclub.org.nz/product/alpine-guides-technical-manual-2011>

Beyond the Plains DVD (\$20) <http://alpineclub.org.nz/product/beyond-the-plains-dvd>

Himalayan Hospitals (\$40) <https://alpineclub.org.nz/product/himalayan-hospitals>

Sublime Climbs (\$65 - Australian rock climbing) <https://alpineclub.org.nz/product/sublime-climbs>

Coming soon.... NZAC 2012 calendar and Pat Deavoll's new book 'Wind From a Distant Summit'

Bill Denz bio – Bold Beyond Belief in stock.

National Climbing Camp

Registrations are open for this year's Climbing Camp to be held at Mount Cook. For more information and to register see the NZAC website <https://alpineclub.org.nz/event/annual-climbing-camp>

NZAC National Instruction Courses Summer 2011/12: Now Full

NZAC BOLTING COURSE

21– 22 January 2012

Information In Brief – For full info visit website

<http://www.nzalpine.wellington.net.nz/2011/11/nzac-bolting-course-at-whanganui-bay-2/>

Welcome to this bolting course brought to you by the NZAC as part of the Whanganui Bay NZ Rock Festival.

This course will focus on the practical techniques required to place bolts into ignimbrite rock using modern fixing technology.

In brief the course will cover:

- aspects of route creation, from conception to completion
- bolting technology, bolt types, fixing methods
- placement of anchors, bolt positioning
- environmental and ethical issues

The course will consist of a theoretical session and demonstration of bolting techniques. After the close of the course we will split into working parties to undertake some practical work in the re-bolting of various climbs and anchor points around the Bay. If anyone has a new route in mind then we can have a look at doing this also.

Venue

Where: Whanganui Bay, SW shore Lake Taupo
- NZTM E 1837282 N 5703587 Map BG35 Tihoi
- NZMG E 2747373 N 6265210 Map T18 Kuratau
When: 21 - 22 January 2012

Costs

The course has been fully subsidised by the NZAC so the only costs are for attendance at the Whanganui Bay NZ Rock Festival.

NZAC Travel insurance information to members

Travel insurance is a must have before you head overseas, even if just to Australia. However, too many members are leaving it to the last minute to organise. Whilst NZAC will do all it can to issue you with a travel insurance certificate before you leave, that can be difficult to do when the member is undertaking an intrepid journey involving any of the higher risk activities, or has a pre-existing medical condition. Please help us to help you by allowing at least 10 days before travelling so that your insurance can be properly issued prior to departure.

Because of increasing numbers making late applications, the NZAC Executive believes it has become necessary to impose a \$50 surcharge on applications made within 5 days of travel abroad. We don't like doing this, but hope it will prompt members to apply for their insurance much earlier than at present.

We would encourage everyone travelling abroad to purchase travel insurance at the time they pay for airline and/or overseas accommodation costs. Once your insurance has been paid for, the Loss of Deposits section of the policy becomes effective prior to the date of departure. That means if an unforeseen circumstance occurs (as defined in the policy), causing you to cancel or change your itinerary, such losses will be insured, subject to the policy excess. However, members need to be mindful of the fact that you cannot claim for loss of deposits, cancellation or curtailment, if the cause of the loss was known prior to paying for the policy.

A recent example of a member caught out by an event that occurred after purchasing their policy, was the Puyehue Cordon Caulle volcanic eruption in Chile, June 2011, which caused massive disruption to travellers flying in and out of South America. Two of our members were delayed leaving NZ, and could not get to Cusco in time to undertake their guided walk of the Inca trail. In order to catch up to their tour party for the remainder of their South American journey, they re-booked airline flights at the last minute - Auckland/Los Angeles/Lima, which was insured under the policy in this instance. They also incurred significant loss of pre paid deposits (original airfares, accommodation and Machu Picchu walk), plus other additional costs. The final cost of their claim came to around NZ\$15,500 net of excess. Such events are not isolated occurrences, and it just goes to show how important it is to have travel insurance in effect from the time bookings are made and paid for.

The NZAC policy covers not only ordinary leisure travel but can be extended to include cover for trekking (14 days or more), skiing including back country stuff, rock climbing and mountaineering. Journeys of up to 12 months can be rated by NZAC, with longer periods considered on application. Also, expeditions involving Blue Water sailing can be insured on application, and if travelling to Antarctica, a special Antarctic clause will be applied to the policy.

NZAC has many intrepid members who visit countries that are experiencing civil war and unrest. ACE cannot stop you from travelling to any country you choose, and if you get sick or some other unforeseen loss or damage happens, you will be insured. However, losses resulting from war (whether declared or not), invasion or civil war will be excluded.

We often get asked to insure a member for a high risk activity such as rock or mountain climbing, but find they have already purchased travel insurance for the rest of their journey. ACE Insurance will not allow us to issue cover in such circumstances. As a rule of thumb, it is not good practice to have two insurances covering the same risk, and members are advised to only have one policy, that being with NZAC covering both standard leisure travel and the high risk pursuits. However, for mountain climbs above 7,000 metres, although ACE will not provide insurance for loss or injury above that height, please still come to NZAC for a quote. We can point you in the direction of another source where evacuation and/or medical costs can be insured, with ACE providing the rest of the travel insurance at a reduced premium. Because ACE is fully aware of what this other company provides, there is no overlap of cover.

Another common request is to ask for specific cover for a period in the middle of a journey. No can do. Cover needs to start from the day a member leaves home in NZ (not the international airport in NZ), and continue through to the day they arrive back to their home address. This situation is similar to asking for insurance after having left NZ. In most cases the answer will be no.

Sometimes, members leave NZ on an extended OE, and it is permitted to take travel insurance from the date a member leaves their home, to a future date that will allow the member time to organise insurance at the destination country. For example, a person heading to London on a one way ticket can purchase travel insurance with NZAC through to the UK, and for say a month, or several months even, beyond arrival date. That is OK.

With the northern hemisphere ski season approaching, we have fielded several enquiries from members wanting insurance in locations where they will be working as ski instructors, ski patrollers or in another on mountain position. In such circumstances, the employer will usually provide insurance for the employee during the course of their contract to work. However, when skiing or boarding outside of work hours, it is important to have NZAC travel insurance to protect you when off duty. It also provides protection for sickness, and for possessions that may be stolen and so on.

In other situations where a member has travelled abroad on a working holiday, if working in a white collar job for example, there is unlikely to be any insurance in place for personal injury, and the NZAC policy will cover members in

such situations. However, policy Section 7, Personal Liability, will exclude cover under this section whilst in the course of employment or under a contract of work.

For an NZAC club member who has been residing overseas but is returning home permanently, not just for a holiday, NZAC can insure for the return trip home. This would also include any side trips along the way. For example, spending several weeks touring before arrival back home in NZ is fine.

Sometimes we get asked to extend a policy because of a change in plans. Provided NZAC is advised prior to the expiry date of your certificate, ACE generally grants approval, and your certificate would be endorsed upon payment of an extra premium. Also, even if you have a return ticket to NZ, a member can take out cover for a period beyond the date of a return ticket, in the expectation of extending their stay abroad.

It sometimes happens that a person returns to NZ much earlier than expected. Provided NZAC is provided with a copy of the member's airline boarding pass, a refund of the unused travel insurance will be calculated, subject to the retention of 22.5% of the unused premium. Also, no refund of the service charge will be made.

ACE has been insuring the NZAC travel scheme for more than 6 years now, and many members have sent in testimonials to say how pleased they were at the service and settlements offered. All claims are handled by Peter Garrett at Alpine Risk Management Ltd, who also provides the interface between NZAC and ACE Insurance. ACE is also flexible and willing to consider increases in some of the policy sub limits, such as for bicycles, or overall luggage limit. Just ask us at NZAC and we will get a quick response from ACE via Peter at Alpine Risk Management.

The NZAC travel insurance scheme is for the benefit of members, and we urge any of you heading overseas to look to NZAC for their travel insurance. We even have a specific Loss of Deposit cover for NZ residents undertaking a climbing course in NZ, with NZAC or with a professional mountain guiding company. Ask us for details if you intend undertaking a course or climb within NZ.