

North Otago Section NZAC
P.O.Box 191
Oamaru

February 2011 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Climbing in Spain with pictures by Alicia and Antonio

When: Wednesday 2nd March.

Time: 7.30pm

Where: Murray Judges residence behind the doctors surgery at 11 Arun Street, Oamaru.

Last Section Meeting: the Xmas BBQ was enjoyed by a large group in fine weather for once!

Climbing News:

Jeremy Smit reports; *I've climbed these peaks: Mt Pisgah, Mt Nobbler, Mt St Cuthbert, Kakanui Peak, Mt Ida, Mt St Bathans, Mt Bitterness and Mt Sutton since the last newsletter. I have now climbed all 18 named peaks over 1500m between Waimate, Palmerston, and Omarama. If you see a stag running around wearing an outdoor jacket near Mt Nobbler, **Steven Fletcher** would like it back. I also went on an ill fated trip to Mt Aspiring... but we were shown some lovely hospitality by some alpine club friends in Wanaka who later met us on the track and lead us up the garden path."*

John Hamilton teamed up with **Alicia Guerra, Antonio Santos, George Armstrong** and **Tuhi Mueller** on an ascent of the Nuns Veil 2750m from Gorilla Stream.

George Armstrong and one other later visited French Ridge Hut in Mt Aspiring National Park He reports a successful end to the year with the accomplishment of being the last person to climb Mt French in 2010 and the first person to climb Mt Avalanche in 2011. These were done with **James Harrison** from the Otago Section NZAC. He also had good times climbing at Long Beach and the Tombstones in Wanaka.

Antonio and Alicia, Jeremy, Nick and David Shearer walked in and camped on Bevan Col. An attempt on Aspiring was abandoned when rain arrived earlier than forecast. Those who stayed up late were rewarded with an amazing sunset. A hasty retreat was made down the Matukituki. Wet slabs, multiple abseils and deep river crossings added to the adventure on this trip.

Antonio and Alicia sent in the following report:

MT COOK AREA

27-28/11/10: Nun's Veil (2750m) via Gorilla Stream. With John, Tuhi, and George.

OTAGO

2/12/10: rock-climbing in Mt. Horrible.

4-5/12/2010: cycling and tramping in Ahuriri Valley. With Jeremy.

17-19/12/10: Rees- Dart track. With Jeremy.

25/1/10: Bevan Col (Aspiring Mt Aspiring). With Nick, David, Jeremy.

15/1/11: Rock-climbing in Wye Creek (Queenstown)

17/1/11: Rock-climbing in Queenstown Hill

CANTERBURY

25- 26/12/10: Cass- Lagoon Saddles track (Arthur's Pass NP)

31/1/10: Fyfe Peak (Kaikoura)

FIORDLAND

8-9/1/11: Gertrude- Adelaide Saddles route via Barrier Knob and Gifford's Crack

10/1/11: Mitre Peak

WEST COAST

19/1/11: Jackson Bay- Stafford Bay track

20-22/1/11: Copland Pass track

Hugh Wood has been botanising at Awakino.

Paul Olsen and Peter Illingworth attempted Tutoko from Turners Bivi, enjoying the chance to visit Turners Pass.

Murray Judge's old petrol drill has packed up. He has a new one and is all set to try it out on some smooth Darrans granite this month.

Rob Connolly has discovered the joys of mountaineering by 4WD and mountain bike. He has been exploring the Otehake Recreation Area and local hills with family. He has also been rock climbing at Doctors Point

Murchison Hut Work Party

A work party at Murchison is planned towards the end of this summer. It is provisionally planned for the week 7-13th March 2011.

We need someone keen to lead this work party, & 2 or 3 other capable helpers.

Would anybody in the North Otago Section be keen to take this on? Contact Ollie Phn: +64 (0)3 377 7595

Have you seen the alpine rock wren (*Xenicus gilviventris*) on your travels?

I am
PhD research
Reports of any
anywhere in
would be
Rock wren are
almost no tail,
calls and often
They are poor
usually found
fields, open
scrub in open

**Please send
grid or map
to:**



conducting my
on rock wren.
recent sightings
the South Island
kindly appreciated.
small (10 cm) with
very high pitched
bob up and down.
fliers and are
amongst boulder
scree and low
alpine areas.

**details (location,
ref, No. of birds)**

Kerry Weston
Department of Zoology, University of Otago
Email: kerry-anne.weston@otago.ac.nz

For Sale

Pair of climbing boots for sale. Worn about 3 times. Boreal semi-rigid sole. Size 10 1/2 (45).
\$50.00

Please phone Peter Millar 03 3558333

Congratulations – 6-month membership extension winner

The January winner of our free 6-month membership extension is Warren Smith of CW Section (10yr member. Congratulations to Warren, we value your continued support of our Club. Members are reminded that this is an ongoing prize offer and the February 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 February.

National Route Database for New Zealand

Rock climbers may want to check out this up and coming awesome website...
<http://climbnz.org.nz/>

Climbing Wall News

The Oamaru wall at the Waitaki Recreation Centre is open for climbing Tuesday evening 8-9.30pm and Thursday afternoon 5-6.30pm.

Unwin Hut Closure

The planned Unwin Hut upgrade commences soon The last day of business for Unwin will be Fri 25 March 2011, so closure will run from Sat 26 March to the end of September 2011

In The Wake of Worsley Expedition - Fundraising



Wake of Worsley:

A women's expedition to commemorate New Zealander Frank Worsley's epic journey across the Southern Ocean and the traverse of South Georgia in 1916.

The first all-women team to cross South Georgia Island in Worsley's path. To support the Wake of Worsley you can purchase: In The Wake of Worsley 2011 Calendar

Frank Hurley 1885-1962, was an Australian, and the official photographer on Shackleton's expedition. His beautiful black & white images reside in the archives of the National Library of Australia. Hurley was unique in that he often took his own images and over-painted features and people. In this way the photographer was a chronicler beyond straight images.

Very kindly 9 Wanaka-based businesses have sponsored us to purchase the right to reproduce 14 of these images. The Wake of Worsley expedition has produced a simple calendar for 2011, with a Frank Hurley image for each month, and the sponsors' names are on each page. These calendars cost \$17.50 including standard postage within New Zealand. All proceeds from the calendars go towards funding our expedition.

Further information about our expedition, details of the team members, a time line of our journey, and the progress of our planning and preparation are available if you would like to know more: lydia@lydiabraley.com or 027 306 9891

Tomatsu Nakamura to visit Christchurch

World renowned Japanese mountaineer and explorer Tomatsu Nakamura will be speaking in Christchurch on the 21st May, in conjunction with the CCM. Nakamura is the leading authority on the eastern areas of Tibet, home to the largest number of unclimbed peaks in the world. During his 28 expeditions over 17 years he has mapped this region extensively and made available information that has inspired climbers from all over the world to visit the area. Watch the NZAC website for details.

2011 Banff Mountain Film Festival

Plans for the 2011 Banff Mountain Film Festival Tour are coming together with most sections having settled on a date for their screening.

To date, screenings are:

- Wellington: 10th and 12th may
- Taranaki: 20th May
- Nelson: 21st May
- Auckland: 24th May
- Dunedin: 1st June
- Christchurch: 10th and 12th June.
- Hamilton: to be confirmed.
- Taupo (new!): to be confirmed

The Banff section on the NZAC website will be updated shortly. Watch if for details of times and films.

Volunteer field assistants wanted for rock wren (*Xenicus gilviventris*) research



Keen, fit and experienced outdoors people are required from now through until April 2011 to assist with rock wren field work throughout the South Island from Kahurangi to Fiordland. Food and accommodation will be provided. No previous bird experience required, though mist netting experience would be good. Must be able to move confidently through boulder fields and sub-alpine terrain in (sometimes rapid) pursuit of rock wren.

If able to help, please email kerry-anne.weston@otago.ac.nz

From The Newsletter Editor: Please email or phone your climbing, outdoor, mountain-related news to the Editor: Nick Shearer, shearer@es.co.nz ph 03 4345946