

North Otago Section New Zealand Alpine Club
Newsletter
August 2009

Next Meeting: The AGM Wednesday 26th August 2009, 7-30pm. All welcome.

Where: Murray Judge's residence at 11 Arun Street, Oamaru.

Guest Speaker/Topic: Petzl Collection of Climbing and Adventure films. Please turn up for this meeting and seriously consider helping with running the Section affairs.

Last meeting: Various trip reports and photos from Arapiles, summer climbs, and Japan.

Climbing News:

Local members have been skiing, and snow boarding and very little else. The avalanche conditions have been the most unpredictable for years and have kept us all away from the back country.

Chairman Hugh has been to Scotland.

Elcho Hut Work Party

12 People in 3 vehicles attended this year's work party, which took place on the weekend of the winter solstice. Great works were carried out, and a great party was had. The long-drop toilet was relocated on a newly dug hole. Wood was cut, and a new sign was fixed to the outside.

Hire Gear:

4 new Black Diamond ice axes: \$5/day members, \$10/day non-members. These axes are brand new. 3 different lengths.

4 sets of avalanche safety gear including a transceiver, snow shovel and avalanche probe. \$5/day members, \$10/day non-members for the set.

Contact Nick Shearer 03 434 5956 shearer@es.co.nz or Rob Connolly 021 894 427 vertventures@gmail.com

The Climbing Wall

A work party in May extended the wall sideways by another 3 metres or so. The extension features a small overhang, a slab, and a belay ledge. It will now be possible to teach belaying from the top of a climb, and abseil set-up.

The wall is located at the Waitaki Recreation Centre and is open to all Tuesday nights 8-9.30pm and Thursday 5-6.30pm.

Photo Competition Awards

Our most grateful thanks to sculptor Andrew Lyons and Club members Paul Corwin and Sally Widdowson for donating a new Photo Competition award.

The carving of our native Kea was sculpted to replace the long-lost Dorflinger Award and is aptly named in memory of Erica Beuzenberg who had an interest in nature photography.

While winners' names will be engraved on the award, it has been decided to retain this and other Photo Competition awards on permanent display in our National Reference Library.

This now leaves us only one award/trophy short, a replacement for the missing Guide Alack Challenge Cup. This award is for the most outstanding mountaineering photograph as judged by a mountaineer. It would be an opportune time to have an award named after Sir Edmund Hillary perhaps? Something to consider and if you would like to donate an award to fill this position, or perhaps sponsor one, please contact Margaret at the National Office and let her know. Thank you Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz

FREE Rock Climbing PDF Downloads

Downloads are now available on the NZAC website here:

<http://alpineclub.org.nz/product?filter0=59> Access via the online shopping site under 'Downloads'. While downloads are free, we are asking people to consider making a donation to assist in covering any associated costs. Currently available: Mangaraho, Tokatoka and Ti Point – Northland; Sawyers Crag – Mt Cook and Mt Maunganui – Tauranga. The old Northern Rock guidebook is being revised and uploaded in sections first and will be followed by Auckland (Mt Eden) Quarry.

WANTED: Garden Equipment

Can anyone help with a few, good condition, general garden tools for use at Arthur's Pass Lodge. We have an onsite warden at present, keen to do a bit of tidying up. Contact Ollie@alpineclub.org.nz

Proposed Rafting/Climbing Trip

Raft the Clarence River then Climb Mount Tapuaenuku with professional guide from Peel forest Grant Southey. 8-14 persons required, 4 nights and five days. All transport and great food supplied. Approximately \$1000 per person. If you are interested please contact Geoff McCrostie. 03 688 6967

Vertical Ventures

Local member Rob Connolly has started a new company "Vertical Ventures". He is planning to offer his skills as a qualified outdoor instructor to the general public looking for organised and safe adventure especially courses on rock climbing and indoor climbing. This would suit individuals, private groups, company groups, church groups, or educational establishments. Rob also hires out new mountain bikes.

Please ring Rob if you need further details 021 894 427, vertventures@gmail.com

The Scarpa Craigieburner ski mountaineering race

The Scarpa Craigieburner ski mountaineering race will be taking place this year on the 5th of September at Craigieburn Valley Ski Area. As the oldest race of its kind in New Zealand it is certainly unique. Competitors will have the chance to use the lifts or their own steam to race around the mountain. It is essentially a day's ski touring or club field skiing condensed into about 1-2 hours. The event has a really good vibe as only you could get at a club skifield in New Zealand.

The event offers

- An opportunity to perfect the use of ski touring equipment and learn new efficiencies to take into the backcountry.
- An opportunity to meet like minded people.

We're again lucky to have awesome support from Scarpa, Marmot and Craigieburn Valley. Scarpa have generously offered two pairs of Scarpa ski boots for prizes. As they say you have to be into win so we hope to see you all there on the 5th of September. The ski boots will be given away as spot prizes. So all the more reason to turn up and ski quite quickly (up and down).

The race will be kicking off at 10am. We'll be up there from 8.30am taking registrations. We'll have a few beers and laugh about the day later on in Koroheke Lodge.

If you have any questions about the event check the blog, www.craigieburner09.blogspot.com. The blog will be updated with information, course details and entry information closer to the event.

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