

# **North Otago Section NZAC**

**Newsletter December 2009**

**Next Meeting: Christmas Bar-B-Q at Elephant Rocks**

**When: 6pm Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Bring: some BBQ food, drink, climbing gear.**

## **Climbing News**

Rob Connolly writes about Mt Tutoko: "We were aware that the weather was not great and so were not surprised that we did not get up it. No problems getting to Turners Bivi, which was full of snow. Not nice as we were in a snow storm. Friday was rubbish so we sat in bed all day. It did not freeze over night and we woke up to rain and thick cloud on Saturday. So down we went, our first Fiordland experience! There is tons of unconsolidated snow up there so knee deep and above. Horrid really. Great clear day on Sunday so we went up to Gertrude Saddle before setting off home. The freezing level

went up to 3000m so we were glad we were not on Tutoko swimming in the snow."

Rob went on to climb Aoraki/Mt Cook in early December. He ascended the Hooker Face from Empress Hut, traversed the High Peak and descended the Linda Glacier to Plateau Hut.

Hugh Wood has been climbing and botanizing on Mt Milne

2 carloads of climbers including John Hamilton, Jeremy Smit and Murray Judge had a great day rock climbing at Mt Horrible in early November.

John Hamilton and Rob Connolly climbed Lindis Peak with mountain bikes. Next day they climbed a few routes near The Diamond at Wanaka.

Nick and David Shearer climbed Single Cone in the Remarkables in a 5 hour return trip from the ski area car park.

## **Commonwealth Women's Antarctic Expedition**

The replacement NZ team member is Kylie Wakelin of the NZAC North Otago Section. View the recent training held in NZ and catch up with the latest news here:  
<http://www.kasperskycommonwealthexpedition.com/progress/index.cfm>

## **NEW MEMBER DISCOUNT – RAMSET**

Ramset are now offering NZAC members a 65% discount on 10 and 12mm stainless steel tru-bolts at all their stores, nationwide.

To view a list of outlets please visit their website:

[http://www.ramset.co.nz/trade\\_centres.html](http://www.ramset.co.nz/trade_centres.html)

## **The End of Term Climbing Competition**

The North Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club held its annual "End of Term" Climbing Competition on Tuesday night (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009). The event, held at the Waitaki Recreation Centre Climbing Wall, attracted 17 entrants who were divided up in to teams. Points were awarded for climbing nine bouldering "problems" and one "speed" climb. Un-roped climbers on the lower bouldering problems can fall or jump off the climb on to strategically placed floor mats. Points are awarded on the higher, and roped, speed climb for reaching half-way or full completion, and it is timed. Very few climbers managed to complete all the problems, and there were some great struggles with gravity ending with spectacular falls on the mats.

The winning team consisted of Jamie Searle, Tuhi Mueller, Jeremy Smit and Tim Turner. Tim Turner also won the speed climbing section.

The annual competition, now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, had spot prizes donated by local business's Spelean NZ Ltd, Vertical Ventures, Lumino the Dentists, and the North Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club.

## **High Alpine Skills Course = February 7-11th 2010**

The New Zealand Alpine Club is running a High Alpine Skills Course for those NZAC members' who have participated on a Basic Instruction Course or instructed in a trainee capacity.

The course will run for five days from February 7 – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and will be based at Mt Cook. Instructors will be qualified NZMGA Mountain Guides.

The 'chief' guide will be Ray Button.

The course will cover the topics:

- Snow skills- use of crampons and ice-axe
- Glacier travel and crevasse rescue
- Pitched climbing on rock and snow
- Soft snow anchors
- Rock anchors
- Basic ice-screw anchors
- Route assessment and avalanche evaluation
- Basic navigation
- Alpine bivvying/ camping
- Basic weather assessment

The course is aimed at those who want to advance their skills and become more self sufficient as climbers. 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 will keep the cost low and hopefully instil a 'walk-in' ethic in the participants. However, it does mean it is important participants have a good level of fitness.

The cost of the course is \$600. 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 Pat at National Office [pat@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:pat@alpineclub.org.nz) 03 337 7595

## **Climbing Partners Wanted**

I am a climber from Colorado in the USA (American Alpine Club member), and will be traveling in the South Island from mid-Nov until the end of January. I'm looking for partners for trad rock and alpine climbs during that time. I have experience climbing in the Himalayas, Cordillera Blanca, Swiss Alps, Alaska, and throughout the western USA. I have climbed Mt. Aspiring, Mt. Talbot (in the Darrans), as well as a bunch of rock routes in the Remarkables during a visit in 2000. I'm 46 and have been climbing since 1994. I'll have my own camper van and am bringing most of my toys, including alpine tools and pro, as well as a full rock rack.

I'm more interested in sharing "quality" climbs with good mates than in simply climbing hard -- if you or anyone you know might be interested please send me an email. I will be loosely based out of Geraldine and Wanaka during most of my time in NZ. I'd love to hook up with some folks with good local knowledge. I can return the favor for any climbers looking to visit Colorado one day!

Cheers, Mike Sullivan Ph 027- 288-2860 email zarmot@yahoo.com

## **Camp Matukituki Valley - 2nd Jan - 9th Jan 2010**

Just a quick note to remind you all about registration for 2010 Alpine Climbing Camp in the Matukituki Valley. Otago section will be hosting it this year and we look forward to welcoming you there. We anticipate that it will be a very popular camp given its great location and huge range of climbing options. There is some fantastic climbing in the area there are the easy peaks of Plunket Dome, Islington Dome, Liverpool, Tyndal and Ansted which are accessible from Cascade Saddle. There are many climbs accessible from Colin Todd and French Ridge huts of varying levels of difficulty including Mt Aspiring, Mt French and Mt Avalanche.

Tramping in the area includes, Cascade Saddle, Rees Saddle and trips to the French Ridge and Liverpool Huts. If you are on your own and we will facilitate finding other people with similar abilities and aspirations for you to climb with.

We really want to encourage members of varying abilities to come and enjoy the fantastic setting; you don't need to be an expert or 'hard as nails' to have a great time at the Climbing Camp. Social climbing is a very worthwhile activity too! The camp will be at the campsite next to Aspiring Hut – the venue could not be better.

We would like to encourage early registration as we anticipate that interest will be high and we shall have to limit numbers at just over 100 due to site factors, so please follow the link below to find the registration form.

For more information follow this link to the NZAC webpage  
<http://alpineclub.org.nz/default/377>

Hope to see as many as possible in Jan 2010

Regards, 2010 Climbing Camp Organising Committee

**For Sale:** SCARPA Cumbre size 41 summer and winter mountaineering boots - almost new. Check out the specs at <http://www.scarpa.co.uk/Products/Product.asp?ProductId=43>  
Contact Jean in Lake Hawea [jeanjeani@gmail.com](mailto:jeanjeani@gmail.com) or 021-0488-698.

**Wanted** – 2008 NZAC Alpine Journals

Dave Bamford (Wellington) would like to purchase a couple of 2008 NZAC Journals for some family friends of Sir Ed's family.  
If you are able to assist, please contact him on [dave@trcnz.com](mailto:dave@trcnz.com), or phone: 04 568 6088.

**Wanted - Ice Axes** I'm looking for a Black Diamond Cobra Hammer - old model, (pre 2008), and a Simond Barracuda from the 1980's. Contact me on 021 117 7845 or [garykinsey@yahoo.com](mailto:garykinsey@yahoo.com). The Barracuda can be in absolutely any condition, I will still be interested.

**Last Minute Christmas Presents**

If the silly season has you feeling a bit stretched, and even the thought of buying Christmas presents seems a bit daunting, then look no further!  
NZAC has plenty of great gift ideas for that special climber or alpine enthusiast in your life, so over the next couple of weeks we'll be sending all our members a couple of emails to remind you of what we have to offer. First up, here's the calendar...

**NZAC Alpine Calendar 2010**

This is the first truly bona fide, 100% genuine New Zealand Alpine Club calendar, printed using winning images from the Club's 2009 Photo Competition. Casting all modesty aside, we think you'll struggle to find a better collection of alpine and climbing images anywhere on the face of the earth, all of which came from you – our members. So support your club & get yourself a treat.

Due to very limited stock, this is initially not being loaded for online sales to give members the chance to get in first. Cost is \$25 for members (\$30 non members). Postage \$2 within NZ, \$2.50 to Australia, or \$3.00 rest of world – each. Please email [Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:Margaret@alpineclub.org.nz) to order your copy now.

P.S. from Margaret re Annual Journal mailing

If you have a change of address that you haven't yet notified me about, please do so now as I'm about to send off the mailing list for this year's Alpine Journal -

**National Bouldering Series**

Dates are now confirmed for the NZAC National Bouldering Series for 2010. They are:

Waitomo- February 13<sup>th</sup>

Baring Head- February 20<sup>th</sup>

Jardines- March 6<sup>th</sup>

Spittle Hill- March 13<sup>th</sup>

Prizes totally \$6000 to be won, so drag that bouldering mat out of the back bedroom and start training!

## **NEW EDITION GUIDEBOOK**

A pre-Christmas notice to let you know that the new 3<sup>rd</sup> edition - Mount Aspiring Region a guide for mountaineers by Allan Uren and John Cocks is now available. Published in November 2009 to celebrate the centenary of the first ascent of Mt Aspiring. Member price \$30 gst inc (RRP \$40 gst inc) – more details and a link to place online orders here: <http://alpineclub.org.nz/product/the-aspiring-region-southern-alps-guide>

The special that is running on the last (2<sup>nd</sup>) edition, will continue until limited stock runs out.

To remind you, that special is:

Two Mt Aspiring (2<sup>nd</sup> edition reprints) for the price of one

Or

Purchase either the Mt Cook, or Darran's guides and get a Mt Aspiring (2<sup>nd</sup> edition reprint) for only \$10 extra.

Post and packaging extra

Merry Christmas from  
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## **Bruce Norman: K2 without O2**

Bruce Norman can normally be found putting up technical new routes on the world's least known high mountains. However, in 2007 he climbed K2, making him the only Scotsman to ever do so. With partners Don Bowie and Chris Warner, his team was pushed off its new route attempt by objective danger and ended up on the normal route, making an oxygen-less ascent of the world's second highest mountain.

In Christchurch on January 21<sup>st</sup>, Bruce will give an account of suffering, selfishness, success and sacrifice...or more specifically of teamwork, storms, rescue, egotism, incompetence and death in the highest places, as well as giving his own acidic take on the 8000m scene and the death-zone myth.

It's not often a climber of Bruce's profile and ability visits New Zealand so take this opportunity to hear him speak.

- Where: The Baptist Church, cnr Madras St and Oxford Tce, Christchurch.
- When: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 7.30pm.
- Cost: \$5.00

## **Creative Writing Competition**

The next issue of The Climber is our 70<sup>th</sup>, and to celebrate we are announcing a creative writing contest open to all readers of the magazine. There is a total \$1500 prize pool on offer courtesy of Macpac and the NZCA, and the winning entries will be published in the magazine. Stories can be either fiction or non-fiction, but an additional award will be given to the best pure fiction piece we receive.

Criteria and entry details

- 1500 word maximum.
- Topic should be about climbing, or associated with climbing and must be set in New Zealand.
- Entries should be emailed to: [creativewriting@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:creativewriting@alpineclub.org.nz) as a MS Word, RTF or Text file attachment, or via post on CD to Creative Writing, PO Box 786, Christchurch.
- Deadline for entries is Monday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Prizes include high performance clothing from Macpac, signed copies of Paul Hersey's books, "Where the Mountains Throw Their Dice" and "High Misadventure," a signed copy of Colin Monteath's "Under the Sheltering Sky" and a copy of the new NZAC "Mt Aspiring Region Guide for Mountaineers."

## **Subject: NZAC Member - Gear Stolen**

"M partner and I have just joined the club. Sadly we have had some of our climbing gear stolen this weekend in Panmure outside Extreme Edge Gym. If you could spread the details of our equipment so if it does surface there might be a chance of us getting it back. There was A grey and black DMM rope bag A purple single rope (well used) A pair of black Evolv Defy climbing boots (UK 7.5) A pair of purple and grey 5:10 Anastazi LV climbing boots (UK 5) 2 ATC's (one silver with blue tape, one gold) with HMS's (one with blue tape) A black with blue design Wild Country Helix harness (Small) and 2 Chalkbags, one grey boreal one with orange prussic cord and one white cordery Moon with a black strap. Many thanks, fingers crossed we get our stuff back. Joe and Sherelle Mobile 021 162 7437"

**Pot Pal**—basically a billie bag that can be used as an oven mitt, New ethical outdoor environmental Australian Camping company called Soul Trampers have newly released the Product PotPal™. View the website for all info: [www.soultrampers.com](http://www.soultrampers.com) 30% discount for 3 or more. Go to exclusive discount page: [www.soultrampers.com/NZtrampingclubs](http://www.soultrampers.com/NZtrampingclubs)

Please send climbing news to the Newsletter Editor:

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