



# NZ ALPINE CLUB

## Nelson Marlborough

**NEXT SECTION MEETING:** MAR 15 2017 7:30PM

**VENUE:** NELSON HOSPITAL SEMINAR  
CAMPUS, WAIMEA ROAD

# SUMMER REPORT

## In This Issue

CLICK HEADINGS BELOW

- NZ ALPINE CLUB ONLINE SHOP
- NZ ALPINE CLUB WEBSITE
- NATIONAL OFFICE NEWS
- CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
- CONTACT THE COMMITTEE
- SECTION TRIPS
- TRIP REPORTS



# Chairperson's Report

Hi All,

Thought I would write a final 2016 note for the newsletter to wish all N/M members a happy Christmas and New Year.

Again, an active year for the section, the committee in particular. To summarise this year at section level:

- BANFF, another full house
- Full trip program, including ski touring, although the weather this year has been less cooperative only possible thanks to trip leaders
- Although a short season, great Marlborough ice climbing was to be had
- All women trip that went well and attracted keen interest bodes well for next year
- Fully subscribed snow craft course
- Having the club president speaking at the free house Yurt
- An engaged committee with two new additions Glen Aspin and Rueben Mc Cormack

At national level it's fair to say the club is creaking a bit under the pressure of servicing an ever growing membership, not helped by the recent resignations of two GMs and the events coordinator, all adding to the strain on the NO staff.

Thanks to the great work of Geoff Gabites (chairman of the executive committee) acting as GM and Penny's great leadership (non-paid volunteers I should add) steering the ship through the choppy patch, things are settling down. The club has appointed a new GM Karen Tait and Simon Middlemass is acting as the club's events and instruction coordinator.

I attended the November CCM and despite the unexpected issues already mentioned, it was business as usual. The new strategic plan is well underway. ●The trip and instruction procedures have had a recent review, ●a steering committee lead by Eric Bradshaw has been formed to continue the development of the website and associated climb NZ site, ●the accommodation committee reports that due to big 2015/16 tourist season hut use is high therefore revenue has also increased, ●hut maintenance is on track, ●The Access committee has been reformed lead by Shane Orchard, ●financially the club is in sound shape but remains reliant on BANFF returns as the major income source apart from membership fees, ● John Palmer has been elected "President elect"

One final item regarding the National office, the club is on the look out for a new club treasurer due the upcoming retirement of Gillian Crombie. Given modern technology potentially the role could potentially work for a non-Christchurch based person if you have the time and skills Penny would be keen to hear from you. Finally I hope everyone has a great summer and has plans for an adventure or two ,the committee will be back on deck in March in the meantime hopefully I will bump into some of you in the hills merry Christmas everyone. Cheers Jerome

# High Altitude Skills Course

## BY FRANK SAXTON

I attended this course run by the New Zealand Alpine Club, 20th to the 25th of November. The course follows the format of four or five other consecutive courses. They start on Sunday morning and finish on Friday afternoon.

The preceding few weeks before my dates, much fresh snow fell at upper levels, so the conditions were more like winter (with avalanche risk), than the more compacted crisper conditions one would expect in November.

I arrived at Unwin Lodge Mt Cook Saturday afternoon and met a number of the other students. Sunday morning after breakfast we all got to meet the two instructors and the other students who arrived Sunday morning. There were seven male students, Two blokes from Australia, members of the New Zealand Alpine club Australian Section. Another came from Fairley and joined the Alpine club so he could come on the course, another from Christchurch, another from Wellington. Myself and Robin



Barraclough from the Nelson section. Our two instructors were Paul Rodgers and Anne Keeling. Both are experienced and well-known within climbing the community. The first thing we did was to have our gear inspected. I came to the course with little experience of rope work or glacial travel. A lot of my gear I got from an old bloke who had giving up climbing some time ago. They were a bit alarmed that I turned up with bad gear and little experience and 64 years old. But by lending me some of their gear and me buying some prussic cord and slings from the local Mt Cook shop I juggled together sufficient for the course. We were hoping to fly into the head of the Tasman glacier that afternoon. We went to the Hooker bridge and did some crevasse exercises before getting our stuff together and going to

the airport but the helicopter was not flying that day.

We went and did some rock climbing in our mountain boots just to show how they operated on rock i.e. different to the soft rock shoes. I think a good preparation for this course is to do rock climbing and even inside wall climbing as it's all good experience of rope handling and harnesses. Using a climbing rope hanging from the Apex of Unwin Hut we practised climbing with prussics out of a crevasse.

We all had avalanche transceivers and wore them while on snow. We practiced hiding and then finding them outside Unwin Lodge. Monday afternoon, we had a short flight into the head of Gorillia Stream and set up camp. Four of us went off with Anna up a side creek to a snow lead where we practiced self arrest and then snow stake placements. The others put in a boot track up onto the the Nuns Veil glacier in preparation for the next day.

On Tuesday morning we got up at



4 a.m. away at 5 to climb up onto the glacier and on towards Nuns Veil. It was windy and the last bit is a steep exposed snow face. We were roped up for glacier travel for most of this journey. The weather was fine but with strong NW winds and only 2 people went on to the top of Nuns Veil. One of them being Carl. He was an experienced climber with a most comprehensive set of modern kit and Anna Keeling. We got back down to the tents by mid afternoon and the rest the day we lay around resting. That night was windy and some people didn't sleep very well. The next morning we walked down valley for a couple of hours and met the helicopter there to fly back to the airport. That afternoon I went with Anna Keeling and a couple of others and did some rock climbing using fixed anchors in a borrowed pair of rock climbing shoes from Paul Rogers. I surprised myself in being able to clamber up places I thought I wouldn't be able to. I did belaying and abseiling, rope handling and anchor making. The next day, which was Thursday, four of us students, and Anna walked up to top of the Ridge above Sealy tarns on the way to Mueller hut. There we found some snow on a steep slope that would justify using crampons for the first time and here we did pitching from Snow stakes and then crevasse rescue practice from a snow anchor before walking all the way back down. It was a big day and we got a lot done on what was really a poor week of weather and snow environment. The next day being Friday, in steady rain, we spent the morning talking about gear. The knowledge of the instructors is invaluable and all the nuances of the various styles of gear and their application to particular situations. One of the recommendations was, if you don't have good mentor do not take much notice of what salespersons in shops say, (especially Australian shops it seems), but instead do your research on line..

In summary my course comprised 7 students with a



wide range of ability and gear. I kept my end up and learnt heaps. There was great camaraderie. The instructors quickly identified where each of us was at and tailored the activities to maximize each of our learnings. I think the course is a superb opportunity to get high quality training and on average you're going to get better weather than we did and might even find some use for an ice screw or two!.. There is every chance that come next year I will go on the course again. It is a brilliant cost-effective learning environment and something the Alpine Club can be

proud of providing for its members. Thank you to Jerome for your encouragement to me to attend, and the club for the \$400 grant.

Frank Saxton

# Upcoming Trips

TBD	A Summer Trip - Jan -Feb for a week Head of the Douglas perhaps	John Price jpandfi201@gmail.com

# Angelus Ridge from Hopeless



## Committee

Jerome Waldron, Chairman & Marl Rep, 03 572 9214 jjwaldron@xtra.co.nz	Ben Winnubst, Trips Coordinator 548 7357 benand@clear.net.nz
Phil Doole, Secretary & Gear 544 5281 The.dooles@xtra.co.nz	Liz Roberts keeweess@xtra.co.nz
Bruce Davies, Meetings, 547 2620 daviesrobin@yahoo.com	Brandon Kay, Facebook brandon.fleur@xtra.co.nz
John Price jpandfi201@gmail.com	Pete Wilkie, Treasurer petewilkie@ihug.co.nz
Gerard Mayes, Newsletter 547 9488 gerard.mayes@xtra.co.nz	Glen Aspin aspojay@gmail.com
Reuben McCormack mccormackreuben@gmail.com	

## Follow Us On FaceBook

No Need to be a Facebook User

Click the button



Club News can now be found on the website. There are news items and trip reports from all over the country. Click the button below to go there now!



We have a new discount code for 20% off a new title from Potton and Burton - details:



### Club Donations

We have a link online where members can donate online, but it is in the shop and so not easy to find. The funds are all still the same: Members can also use our bank account 03 0502 0607822 00, or send in a cheque (NZ only though).

