

Vertigo

No 830 August 2019



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

Wellington Section Monthly Bulletin

www.facebook.com/nzacwellington Twitter [@NZACWellington](https://twitter.com/NZACWellington)

A climber enjoys dawn from Fantham's Peak, Mt Taranaki [More here](#)

Chair's Report

August 2019

This month I thought I'd take a different tack and move away from climate change as it doesn't seem to be much of an issue for that many members. We haven't got time to worry about climate change, we have jobs, kids, bills and social media posts to deal with. Instead, I thought I would focus on the insidious nature of bureaucracy. Now who is interested in that?

As organisations expand they generally feel they need to become more bureaucratic. Successful bureaucracies tend to have one thing in common: a clear mission. Failure becomes almost inevitable when an organisation loses sight of its reason for being, or the mission and objectives get diluted by extraneous concerns.

Bureaucracies are about rules, not results. Of course they can play an important role in achieving results. To do this they need to address the result as opposed to a process or simply an output. When they provide guidelines and standardised procedures that can produce uniformity in relevant goods or services, and when appropriately used, they can lead to fair treatment and potentially a more direct road to outcomes. However, when people adhere strictly to a bureaucratic code, without critical analysis, without thinking about the broader implications, and neglecting the overriding mission and goals, it can eventually kill the organisation. The Alpine Club is no exception. As Worksafe's data clearly show, and recent news reports have highlighted, in spite of introducing more regulations and bureaucratic requirements back in 2016, injury and death has gone up.

Inappropriate and / or unnecessary bureaucratic processes do more than suck up time. They can actively strangle an organisation to the point of killing it. The beginnings of this can be seen in the NZAC. For a community that places a premium on its time outdoors, the increasing requirements for documentation, as well as an appetite among some for more paperwork, not only hasn't improved health and safety, it is potentially driving away those that would prefer to apply best practice rather than spend their time reporting on it - not that everyone applies best practice. And those that don't are unlikely to change their behaviour by filling out more forms. In fact, they are more likely to look for shortcuts and workarounds. As with many bureaucracies, we are taking a paper based accountability approach where completing the paperwork becomes the measure of success as opposed to whether or not the desired outcome is achieved. For those bureaucrats who don't have a clear understanding of what their organisation is trying to achieve, it's much easier to justify their policies and their existence on the basis of how many forms are completed rather than ask the much more important question - am I contributing to achieving the organisation's goal. For the Wellington section, this can be summed up as 'more people climbing safely'.

Of course, injuries or a death in your party won't achieve this goal. If you need to fill out a form in order to decide if you should go climbing, you probably shouldn't be going climbing. On the other hand, if filling out forms takes up more time and effort than people are prepared to put in, maybe less of us will go climbing. Now there's an idea. Let's tie up our volunteers in so much paperwork that they have no time to climb. It would probably improve our health and safety statistics. It would also kill off the club. But that may not happen if sections find ways around the rules. As we are already seeing, rather than comply with the paperwork, we aren't running trips anymore. We are holding 'meets' instead. Meets attract less liability and less paperwork because health and safety responsibilities primarily remain with the individuals who turn up to them. Does this make it safer? Probably not, but there is less bureaucracy so it's all good - not really.

According to Peter Drucker, it only takes about twenty minutes for a bureaucracy to take hold. About the same amount of time it takes to die in an avalanche if you're really lucky. For the majority it's only a few minutes.

Any comments on what you like or don't like - send an email to wellington@alpineclub.org.nz or tweet us @NZACWellington.

Simon

From the editor

Well, we've given climate change a reasonable airing. I'm thinking a lot more about my carbon imprint and trying to do more little things like recycling more, clicking the carbon offset option when booking AirNZ flights, and so on. Now I'll get out my trip report drum again and beat that for a while. Come on folks - share the joy, enrich our winters, broaden our alpine experiences ...

Peter

Simon Williamson
Chair: NZAC Wellington

Section News

All Section night talks are held at The Third Eye, Tuatara Brewery, level 2, 30 Arthur Street, from 6pm. With prior arrangement, also a good place to collect or return hired climbing gear. If you would like to make a presentation at a future Section night, or have a suggestion about someone else to present, please let Peter know - occasionalclimber@gmail.com.

September Section night

Tues 17th Sep, James Warren will present some challenging ascents in 2018 of some of New Zealand's biggest mountains. We will also cover off our AGM formalities.

Section nights beyond September

Tues 22nd Oct, Simon Williamson, Eric Duggan and Stacey Wong will present tips on how to lead alpine trips.

Tues 19th Nov, Penny Webster will take us through her recent climb of Mt Everest.

There are no section nights in December or January because we're too busy climbing.

Tues 18th February 2019, climbing and pizzas at Hangdogs TBC.

Tues 24th March, Paul Maxim will present his recent climbing in the European Alps, including Mont Blanc.

Discounted PLBs

skippersmate.co.nz offers a 5% discount to all NZAC members for NZ purchases of PLBs. Two brands are on offer - KT1 SA2G and McMurdo Fast Find 220 (not always in stock). To use the discount, the coupon code on the website is **NZAC05** and the owner, Peter, asks you to send a copy of your membership card to peter@cooeebay.com

Letters

Human response to climate change

Whenever there has been large scale climate change there's been mass migration. We are beginning to experience the most profound climate change ever experienced by people, so we should expect a lot of human migration. How might that affect us?

Responses to climate change are more complex now than historically (partly due to technology) and are hard to quantify. However, the timing of responses is more predictable, as extreme weather events will become more severe and common over the next decade or so, much more quickly than background global warming.

New Zealand is promoted as a wonderful place, so we can expect lots of people wanting to move here. These might initially be mainly Australians (free entry, no quotas), avoiding heat waves, fires and water restrictions. And welcome to them! Other countries of similar size to New Zealand cope well with populations of 10s of millions, but such a transition for us over a few decades would be tough.

Growth can be fine but only if we expect it and prepare well for it - if it's manageable.

If you accept both history and climate change then it follows that any scenario modelling for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resource demands must include rapid population growth or it will be dangerously misleading. Projecting past trends as we used to do is dumb: it's blind to an accelerating human response to climate change. Increased demands for fresh water, food, housing, energy etc, are likely to cause pragmatic human and political responses and these will put pressure on the wilderness and recreation areas NZAC members and others use.

My point is we should prepare now for major population growth and the associated demands on our land and resources while preserving within reason what we can regarding the environment and recreation. Otherwise we might find ourselves in the "What just happened?" faction.

Brad Field

Section News

Gear Hire

The Section has gear for hire: avalanche transceivers, ice axes, shovels, stakes, hammers, helmets, crampons, probes, PLBs, ice hammers (entry level). Each item costs \$5 per week with the exception of PLBs – PLBs are free but require a deposit of \$50 refundable on return.

To hire gear please fill in the form [here](#). You can find out more from [Genevieve](#).

Some advance notice, especially over the Christmas period, is appreciated as gear is in higher demand and often needs to be retrieved from the gear store. To collect or return your gear liaise with Genevieve.

Accommodation on Mt Ruapehu

Our snowcraft courses for the past few years have been run out of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club lodge on Whakapapa. We're always made to feel welcome and the lodge is well situated a short walk from the top of the Bruce Road. Membership to the club is extremely reasonable - \$35 per year or \$50 for a family membership. Members stay at the lodge for \$36 a night including food. If you're looking for somewhere to base yourself for your winter pursuits or rock-climbing over the summer months go to www.mtsc.org.nz/joining.php to find out more about joining the club.

Ice clusters on a Teahouse window at Lobuje, Khumbu, Nepal, with Nuptse behind. Photo: Edwin Laurenson



Notices

NZAC instruction courses

Click for more details [Ice Climbing](#) [Ski Touring](#) (and the new guide [here](#)) [High Alpine Skills](#)

New opening date for the Paparoa Track

Was end September, now 1 December. More [here](#).

FMC Expedition Scholarships - now open until 20 September

There is one round of Expedition Scholarships annually (applications closing 20 September 2019). The maximum scholarship available is \$1,000. To apply, read the full [Expedition Scholarship Criteria](#) then fill out an [Expedition Scholarship application form](#) and email it, along with the supporting information, to eo@fmc.org.nz by 20 September 2019.

Backcountry Trust Administrator (part-time, 12-month contract commencing Sept 2019)

The Backcountry Trust funds and facilitates the volunteer-led maintenance and upgrade of huts and tracks on public conservation land. It is an independent entity with ongoing funding from DOC.

BCT seeks a self-motivated and efficient administration contractor for the growing activities of the Trust.

Work remotely from home opportunity, approx. 20 hours per week. [Click for full details](#).

2019-2020 UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour launch. More [here](#).

2019 International Climbers' Meet, Yosemite Valley

The American Alpine Club is now taking applications for the 12th annual International Climbers' Meet to be held in Yosemite Valley during the week of Oct 13th - Oct 19th, 2019. More [here](#).

FREE to a good home

A collection of NZAC Alpine Journals back to 1956, plus some other books.

Contact Brian McGlinchy, Ph 04 4 934 8035, 021 323 474, brimcg@actrix.gen.nz

Flying Over the Himalaya: peak identification by Tamotsu Nakamura

Ideal for expedition planners. To order contact ibd@kinokuniya.co.jp – 8000 yen (approx. NZD\$110) ISBN: 978-4-7795-1360-2

NZAC – surplus books for sale

A further secondhand book listing has just gone up on the NZAC TradeMe account. This time books have been selectively paired up with similar interest titles. [Check it out here](#)

There are also other discounted titles. Login online for member rates and [check it out here](#).

More NZAC member discounts

10% discounts: Air Charter Karamea; Packrafting Queenstown and Mountain [here](#).

The North Face – 15% instore (Auckland, Christchurch, Queenstown) [here](#).

New films available [here](#)

The Mueller and Tasman Glaciers 1929 with commentary by Frank Drewitt.

Alpine Guides Reunion held at the Hermitage, Mt Cook 10-11 November 1981.

Fun In The Mountains

[Click](#) for Ngā Taonga historical ski and mountain footage from the 20s-30s.

Ohau – Landsborough Guidebook - Request for information

An Ohau-Landsborough guidebook will replace the Barron Saddle – Mt Brewster guidebook (2002) in spring 2020. Over 100 new climbs have been completed in the region since 2002. Many of those have been listed on climbnz. Please send information on new climbs, corrections and updates to:

j.m.thornton@live.com; rosscullen.kiwi@gmail.com; nina.dickerhof@gmail.com

Coming Trips, Courses, Events

All our planned South Island trips come with the added bonus that rental vehicle costs for Wellington Section members are covered by the Section.

If you're uncertain about the skill level required with any of the trips, would like to register your interest or to find out more, email us at wellington@alpineclub.org.nz.

Also, please contact us if you're keen to run a trip yourself – the Committee can help with advertising and logistics.

When	What and where
23rd-25th August 6th-8th September	Snowcraft 2019 - waitlist only Intermediate/Advanced course - Whakapapa Post-course trip - Nelson Lakes Alpine Leaders Derek Cheng and Naomi Seow To find out more contact Derek - derekcheng.nz@gmail.com
4th-6th October	North Island Ski Touring Meet Run by Auckland Section. Accomodation TASC Lodge, Tukino. Registration and full details here
25th-28th October (Labour Weekend)	Mt Ruapehu Alpine Leader Simon Williamson. Ruapehu Hut 25th, camp on Plateau 26/27, descend/return to Wellington 28th. To register interest contact Simon crisisresponse@googlemail.com , 021 054 7684
16-18 November	Mt Somers Trad Climbing Leader Jenny Cossey. To register interest jennycossey1@gmail.com
28 November - 1 December	Payne's Ford Sport Climbing Leader Stacey Wong and Margot Meuleman. 28 Nov fly to Nelson, drive to Hangdog Camp, 29/30 Nov climb, 1 Dec climb then return to Wellington. To register interest contact Stacey staceycolleena@gmail.com



The Matterhorn, Swiss Alps. Photo: Guy Dubuis



Katelyn Merrett prepares to transition from rock to ice on M5 Californication, Haffner Creek, Banff National Park, Canada. Photo Derek Cheng, Jan 2016

Trip Reports

Thin and hard

A winter climb of the south face of Mount Taranaki, July 2019

Words and pictures Peter Laurenson



It was insidious - a gradual tensing and focusing as I climbed higher. The morning was clear and calm, but the hardness of the mountain's surface barely yielded to my crampon points. Forget about self arresting. Today the usually straightforward south face of Mount Taranaki was definitely a no slip zone.

Here, inside the crater, heading for the main summit out of picture left. The Shark's Tooth looms in swirling cloud

As my climbing buddies Shaun Barnett, Darryn Pegram and I geared up earlier at the Dawson Falls visitor centre carpark, it was already apparent in the predawn gloom that the snowline on the mountain was high for July. 'Thin conditions' was how some were describing it – a situation consistent with reports across the country of unseasonably low snowfall.

This would be my tenth climb of Mount Taranaki and the fifth via Fantham's Peak, my favourite route. Being a Saturday, we'd gotten away early in the hope that we'd beat other weekend climbers, also taking advantage of the fine weather window, to sleeping spots in 12 bunk Syme Hut.

Despite being over a thousand metres above the carpark, the hut is very accessible. It only takes three hours to reach, with most of the impressively scenic climb above the tree line.

In the conditions we encountered though, the steepest section, 300 or so vertical metres beneath Fantham's Peak, demanded care and respect.

Despite earlier spotting a head torch high on the mountain, we were the first to the hut. A group of eight Taranaki SAR volunteers were hot on our heels, but they didn't plan to stay overnight. As it turned out, my concerns about a flood of weekend warriors was unfounded. We three had Syme to ourselves from early afternoon on. For me, Syme is one of the brightest gems of our extensive backcountry hut system. Perched at 1,950 metres, near the northern edge of Fantham's Peak, it commands perhaps the best view anywhere of the top 600 metres of the mountain. This is particularly so at dawn on clear mornings when the sun, rising in the east, paints everything in view purple, then mauve, then deep red, fiery orange and finally golden yellow as the sun breaches the distant horizon, taking its place next to Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu.

A gem it is, but a cold one. In such a spot there is no fuel for a wood burner. I've been at Syme before when the entire hut was thickly encased in rime ice – so much so that I cramponed up one of the outrageously ice encrusted weather stabiliser cables on to the roof.

That time we had to make a considered guess about where the door was and start hacking with our axes. This time the hut was only partially coated. It still had its magnificent, ghostly west-end formations in place, but the east facing split door was mostly clear. We climbed in via the free swinging top half of the door and later, with a bit of toil, I was able to free the bottom half of hard ice, permitting normal entry and exit.

Though the morning had been beautifully clear, by late morning clouds were billowing up and over the summit. We debated whether or not there was any point going for the summit that afternoon, or if it would be better and safer to have a crack at dawn next morning. About 1pm just enough swirling light above encouraged us back in to our crampons.

We had our harnesses on and carried a rope, snow stakes and ice screws. The SAR boys had told us to leave the snow stakes behind due to the hardness of the surface – ‘You’ll never bash them in mate!’ We knew they were probably right but took them anyhow. Actually, apart from a tense 20 or so metre front point to breach the crater rim, the surface was slightly more forgiving up high than it had been on the steepest section beneath Fantham’s Peak in the morning. The warmth of the day probably helped a bit.

Free of exposure up in the crater, we relaxed, strolling through a fantastic rime encrusted world. Cloud constantly swirled, making photography tricky, but adding to the otherworldly atmosphere. After a 20 minute spell on the main summit, waiting for clearances in the cloud, we had to get going down again to make sure we reached the hut before nightfall.

Back at the hut in time for sunset, Shaun and I in particular felt the joy of the hills, as we took shot after shot in lovely light. Next morning was even better. If you’re a photographer, a Syme Hut dawn should be on your bucket list.

We were in no hurry to descend, but Darryn had to get back to the Auckland rat race that afternoon, so we set off down about mid morning. At the junction where the Fantham’s Peak trail meets the Upper Lake Dive trail, we bid Darryn farewell and began a sometimes quite iced up traverse westward around to Lake Dive. Down at 900 metres beside the Lake tranquil conditions rewarded us with mirror perfect reflections of the southern side of Mount Taranaki. We enjoyed another peaceful evening, with Lake Dive Hut to ourselves. Next morning the weather was still fine as we made our up and down way around the rugged base of the mountain, back to the carpark.



Looking north and east from the southern edge of Fantham's Peak to Mt Taranaki, at sunrise
The shadow of Mt Taranaki is far left



The south side of Mt Taranaki, reflected on Lake Dive. Fantham's Peak is closest
For more captioned images and a route map
www.occasionalclimber.co.nz



Section Contacts

Powered by volunteers

We're always thankful for volunteers and members stepping forward to help the section run smoothly. A lot goes on to keep our club going, virtually all powered by volunteers. On the back page is our "Club on a page" summary. It gives an at a glance description of all the things we do, how and why. Feel free to print a copy and pass it on to anyone who might be interested in becoming a member or volunteer. And if you'd like to learn more about how you could get involved, please email us at wellington@alpineclub.org.nz.

Role	Name	Contact
Chair person	Simon Williamson	021 054 7684
Treasurer	Carolyn Ellis	021 574 287
Secretary	Stacey Wong	staceycolleena@gmail.com
Gear custodian	Genevieve Luketina	gluketina@hotmail.com
Trip co-ordinator	Eric Duggan	021 350 161
Section nights, Vertigo, Banff	Peter Laurenson	021 446 725
Club liaison	Keith Munro	keithm@mtgelab.co.nz
General Committee, Photo comp	Guy Dubuis	guy.dubuis@gmail.com
General Committee	Rosie Percival	calicoanne@gmail.com
General Committee, Reel Rock	Naomi Seow	naomiseow@gmail.com
General Committee	Derek Cheng	derekcheng.nz@gmail.com
General Committee	Scott Harper	scott.harper@hotmail.co.nz
Patron	John Nankervis	
Rock drill overseer	Jeremy Tries	027 555 5893



www.facebook.com/nzacwellington

Twitter @NZACWellington

FERGS KAYAKS INDOOR CLIMBING & BOULDERING

ALPINE CLUB MEMBERS CLIMB ANYTIME FOR \$12

ALSO HIRE: KAYAKS | SUPS | ROLLERBLADES | BIKES

Shed 6, Queens Wharf, Wellington | 04 499 8898 | fergskayaks.co.nz

HANGDOG
Indoor Rock Climbing Centre

2 new routes every week*
8 new boulders every week*

Keep climbing fresh at
hangdog.co.nz

* On average. Climbing competitions can interrupt our schedule.

MORTGAGELAB

IT'S EASY TO CHECK YOUR KIWISAVER

Just a 20 minute discussion can:

- Make sure you are investing your funds correctly
- How socially responsible investing can still be a great investment
- Ensure you're receiving the maximum tax benefits from the government

At least one socially responsible growth fund has returned over **10% p.a.** over the past 3 years.
*Annual returns after fees as at 30th April 2019.

No charge for my service.
Just give me a call or send me an email to discuss.

Keith Munro
Registered Financial Adviser
027 654 6568
keithm@mtgelab.co.nz

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Any advice is class advice. A disclosure statement is free upon request.

Our club on a page

WELLINGTON SECTION



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB



WHAT WE DO

FOR MEMBERS

Facilities

- * Huts
- * Gear
- * Library
- * Discounts

Training

- * Level 1- 3 winter skills
- * Summer rock
- * Instructors

Climbing trips

- * Section
- * National
- * International

FOR MEMBERS AND WIDER PUBLIC

Publications

- * Website
- * Social media
- * Vertigo
- * Guide books

Events

- * Banff mountain film festival
- * Reel Rock
- * Photo comp

Networking

- * Section nights
- * Conferences and meetings
- * Lobbying

HOW WE DO IT

Organise, encourage, support, enable

Inform, entertain, promote

OUR RESOURCES

Volunteer time and capabilities, income from events and gear hire, national office support, sponsorship

WHY WE DO IT

Connecting & developing more climbing & mountaineering people, knowledge, skills & experience, thereby ...

... building lifelong friendships

... protecting and improving access to alpine places

... sustaining and growing climbing and mountaineering achievement

... enhancing alpine safety

... building appreciation, enjoyment and protection of alpine places

Image and diagram Peter Laurensen www.occasionalclimber.co.nz