

NZ ALPINE CLUB

NELSON MARLBOROUGH
NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2019

Committee

Brandon Kay - Chairman, BSCC co-ordinator braknn007@gmail.com	Quinn Hornblow - Section Council Rep quinn.hornblow@gmail.com
Glen Aspin - Facebook aspojay@gmail.com	Liz Roberts - Secretary keeweess@xtra.co.nz
Bruce Davies - Club meetings daviesrobin@yahoo.com	Jerome Waldron - Marlborough Rep jjwaldron@xtra.co.nz
Joshua Knox - Newsletter, BANFF joshknox@yahoo.com	Liam Sullivan - Club Gear, Loans and Treasurer liam_sullivan@yahoo.com
Reuben McCormack - BANFF Co-ordinator mccormackreuben@gmail.com	Russell Adams Bannff - FaceBook r.a.guns.70@gmail.com
Morgan Puklowski - BANFF morgan.puklowski@gmail.com	

Follow Us On
FaceBook

No Need to be a
Facebook User
Click the button



Nelson Section

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!



CLUB NEWS

Section Gear Hire

The Nelson section gear (ice axes, avo gear, locater beacon etc) is available to all section members. Contact Liam Sullivan
liam_sullivan@yahoo.com

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).



Chairman's Spot

Hello all and welcome to December's newsletter. Our final newsletter of the year and DECADE! Yup that's right, next year we'll be seeing things in 2020.

I can't quite believe Christmas is upon us, but at the same time I am welcoming the warmer weather now and am ready to enjoy the seasons festivities, which for me normally includes a spot of rock climbing and beach/river time, although with recent knee surgery I may have to be a bit quieter this Christmas and let my daughter have all the fun developing her taste for climbing.



I do believe with the countries unsettled weather lately, there has been recordings of nearly ten metres of fresh snow dumped down south in recent weeks with the weather bomb that swept up the country. Speaking of weather/environmental issues, some of you may have also seen images of discoloured snow slopes down in the southern alps. This has been attributed to the smoke/ash drift from the terrible bush fires over in Sydney. I'm hoping our summer season isn't a replica of last years dry and tinder period. A bit of periodic rainfall will be gratefully welcome I would think.

It's been a reasonably quite end to the year for the section, with no real further club trips been completed since the end of October. Well, there was originally a planned trip for down south to Elie de Beaumont, which the weather thwarted. The trip was revised into a

private trip to Mt Rolleston for Jerome and Reuben, which unravelled a bit of drama and surprise as the pair made their way up Rome Ridge... more to follow further on in the newsletter.

We have held a couple of good section evenings of late, with Nathan Dahlberg's November talk on his most recent trip to the Himalaya's, a large crowd puller and pleaser. Thanks again Nathan, for sharing your amazing experiences and sights with us all.



The committee also approved earlier this year, a monetary grant to Morgan Puklowski (current committee member), who applied for the grant to attend a NZAC High Alpine Skills Course a few weeks ago. It sounds like reasonably challenging weather conditions accompanied the course, and Morgan has kindly put together a bit of summary of her time and experience from it, which you can read about shortly.

One last point to note before I close out, is the excellent achievement and honour that was awarded to club/section and now Life Member - Phil Doole, at last month's NZAC AGM held in Christchurch. A big shout out to Phil. You'll see a further note on this from Jerome further down.

Ok folks, that's it from me and the committee for 2019. I want to quickly thank the committee for their help and commitment that they have provided to the section, club and all you members this year. We'll be taking a break and reconvening around March/April 2020, where we'll look to plan the year ahead. Rumour has it, that there may be an early club trip taking place in March or April, so keep an eye out for details on this further on as well...

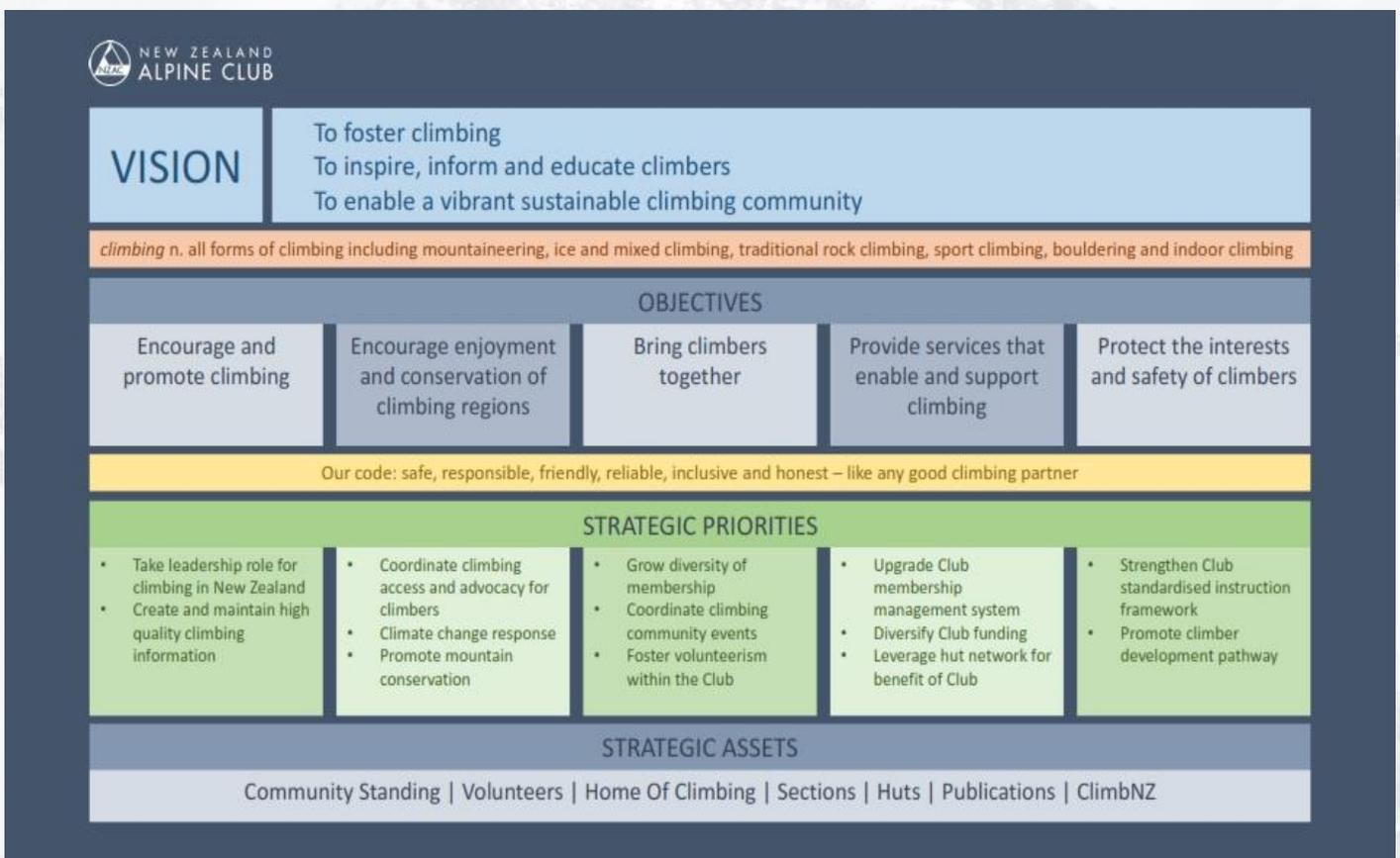
Regards and safe travels over the summer.

Brandon

NZAC Strategic Planning

Looking ahead to the future, the NZAC Board is currently working on a strategic plan for the next five years. The Board is looking for comment from members on the draft Strategic Overview it has produced and which you can find below in the newsletter. Members are invited to review this draft overview and provide any comments or feedback to Ross Cullen (local section member and NZAC Board member).

Ross.Cullen@lincoln.ac.nz



Life Member

Congratulations to Nelson/Marlborough member Phil Doole who was recently awarded life membership to the NZAC. Phil's nomination was in recognition of his great contribution to the club over many years. From being the club president from 2007 to 2009 and spearheading along with others the initial production and implementation of a strategic plan. This modernised club governance and assets, no doubt inspiring the continued strong growth the club is currently enjoying today. Although Phil recently retired from the local committee, he was a highly valued and respected member, serving as section secretary and leader of the annual BANFF fundraiser for many years. Personally I really appreciated his experience and advice regarding national governance issues when I was the section CCM rep. He was never shy to ask the tough questions. So again, congratulations Phil, a well deserved honour.

Jerome Waldron



Up Coming Trips

The Nelson/Marlborough section goes on holiday over the summer, and we have no club trips planned for the summer season, however there is talk about a couple of trips in March/April 2020.

- A summer alpine rock climbing trip to Granity Pass area where there is easier graded (15-20) multi pitch climbs on great rock.
- A trip into the twins. This is a great late summer trip in the tussocks and rock of the twins area.

These will be added to the Facebook page and emailed out at a later date, if they go ahead. So keep your eyes open for those in late February.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt Rolleston - Reuben McCormack

Jerome & I had planned on flying into Tasman Saddle Hut at the end of October and having a crack at Mt Elie de Beaumont. However, the weather was off, so we headed for Arthur's Pass instead. After an easy drive down to the club hut in the village, we did a short bush walk and were astounded by the number of mice running around due to the beech forest masting. The Bealey Hotel reckon they are catching 50-100 per day!

The next day we set off at 6am and walked up to Temple Basin Skified. Then climbed up to Temple Peak (1913m). The conditions were perfect and we kicked steps up a nice gully to the top, and had great views of nearby Phipps Peak, Mt Rolleston, Goat Pass and back down to the village. We then ridge hopped, climbed and scrambled along to the popular summit of Blimmet, and then bombed back down to the village & had a chilled-out afternoon.

We were anticipating even better weather the next day. But little did we know.....

We set off the next morning at 4am on the Coral Track and broke out of the trees and onto Rome Ridge to see the sunrise. Once on the snow, it was evident it was going to be a warm day, as the snow was very soft. Four other climbers were ahead of us, so it was very nice following in their steps, thank you very much. All was ticking along nicely until we got to 'the gap'.

One of the climbers ahead, leaned over the ridge and yelled back down to us 'I've lost Lauren'. She had fallen from the rocks above and slid off several hundred metres down into the Bealey Valley. We all feared the worst and kicked into rescue mode. A beacon was activated and an hour later the Greymouth Rescue heli arrived. Two others were rappelling down into the valley. But the heli got to Lauren first. Amazingly she was alive, just a bit battered and bruised, and was flown off to Christchurch. We then requested another heli to retrieve her climbing partner off the ridge. Several hours later he was lifted off by the flash new \$14m Christchurch rescue heli in 'auto hover' mode. Jerome and I then decided we had lost too much time, and snow conditions were too poor to continue and hitched a heli ride back down to the village as well. A bit cheeky maybe, but a good safe call. We had gotten to 2100m, just below the low peak. Next time Mt Rolli... next time.

We met up with the other climbers back at the Alpine Club hut, then had a good debrief of the days events at the pub in town. Some good learning points came out of that. And the age old 'to rope up or not rope up' was debated. As always you must watch your step in the mountains and always consider the 'what if's'. Thanks to Jerome for leading the way. It sure wasn't what we planned for, but an adventure none-the-less.



High Alpine Skills Course Nov 19 – 24 - Morgan Puklowski

Driving into Aoraki National Park we were welcomed by a wall of sleet, cloud and wind. This equated to spending the first morning of the course indoors getting to know the team of Evan, Brendan and Daniel and guide Tim Robertson, while assessing each individual piece of gear and comparing what everyone had brought along. Luckily there was no “my ice screw’s bigger than yours” talk, though I did happen to have the largest, thanks to borrowing off a fellow club member. But there was a bit of “what museum did you steal that from?” and some Macgyvering of such items to get them to work a little better. We then got to play in the rafters of Unwin lodge as we practiced our glacier coils and rope prusiking, up and down as we each pretended to fall in a crevasse and be suspended from the ceiling.

The next day there was a break in the rain, so over to Sebastopol Bluffs we went. After a few snow melt, knee deep, creek crossings we got to some rock for trad anchor building practice and learning what rock not to put pitons in, before it was time to head to Mt Cook airport to catch our 2pm flight, heading north into the hills. Estimated at the time to be the lucky last flight of the day as the clouds dropped down the Tasman Glacier and the rain splattered the windscreen.

Plateau Hut at 2200m on the Grand Plateau, perched above the Hochstetter Glacier and just under Aoraki/Mt Cook, has some pretty nice views. In soft wet snow, some 30km winds and sleet we went for an afternoon wander just out past the hut to where we got to dig some deep T slot snow anchors before it was time for a hot drink, goal setting, trip planning, and gear packing for the following day. The weather decided to not play ball and instead of heading over to the ridge between 2452m and Mt Dixon we got as far as a little slope before the summit of Glacier Dome to anchor up and practice lead, snow anchors and belaying. This was made much more exciting with no verbal and minimal visual contact, post-holing snow and estimated winds of 70km/hr and gusts of 100km/hr. A lot of lessons were learnt that morning.

The rest of that day and the next morning was spent inside, taking over the kitchen floor with all our rope and crevasse rescue systems. With only a quick crevasse rescue practice on the same small slope made more entertaining as we tried to pull a partner off the bank before they could hold the pretend fall. That afternoon we were out back to the lowlands, thanks to a very skilled pilot, who snuck us out in-between gusts that were picking a fully packed helicopter off the snow. That afternoon we were back through the creeks to Sebastopol for some trad climbing in our mountaineering boots. The next day we swapped the big boots for our rock shoes and climbed Red Arete a 93m multi pitch with some great views of Mt Cook village. All of my personal goals for anchor systems and crevasse rescue systems had been well covered as well as most of the team goals, even though some were not in the relative settings it was all great to learn. Some trip bonuses included navigation practice to a couple of old grave sites (not as exciting was getting well acquainted with matagouri and pig fern while in shorts) and attending a couple of climbing and guiding presentations held by Paul Rogers on the last two evenings of our stay.

Thank you to the NZAC for providing this course and to the Nelson Marlborough section for the grant to assist with some of the costs. The HASC was a great next step up from the basic snow craft course and to develop more efficient techniques for those getting into mountaineering.

