

NZAC

Nelson-Marlborough Section Newsletter

2022| Issue 1
May

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Definitely time we had a Section newsletter to browse, see what is coming up, learn what is happening in the local climbing scene, check what opportunities there are to get involved in climbing.

Your photo could be here

Good photos need exposure, and your photograph could be on the front page of the N-M Section newsletter. The chocolate fish this month goes to Ross who photographed Bruce Davies cruising on some impressive granite boulders. Is granite good for climbing on? Check out the report later in this newsletter.



Mount Hope granite boulders

2022 Banff Film Festival

banffmountainfestival.ca/tour

BANFF CENTRE

MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR



The World's Best Mountain Films

 NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

   

Basecamp, Denali National Park, Alaska
© Christian Pondella

Annesbrook Church - Nelson
10th - 11th June, 7:00pm
Visit www.banff.nz to book tickets

Tickets: \$20 NZAC members,
\$25 General Admission,
\$40 Double Screening,
\$20 Youth/ under 18



Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival is one of the largest and most prestigious mountain festivals in the world! Hot on the heels of the Festival that is held every fall in beautiful Banff, Alberta, the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour hits the road. With stops planned in about 550 communities and more than 40 countries across the globe, the World Tour celebrates amazing achievements in outdoor storytelling and filmmaking worldwide!

Traveling to remote vistas, analyzing topical environmental issues, and bringing audiences up-close and personal with adrenaline-packed action sports the World Tour is an exhilarating and provocative exploration of the mountain world.

Be moved. Be inspired. Don't miss out. Reserve your tickets today. For more information visit banff.nz.

This stop on the world tour is presented by the [New Zealand Alpine Club Nelson - Marlborough Section](#) and is a fundraiser for the [New Zealand Alpine Club](#).

PROGRAMME

There are two programmes, [Red](#) and [Blue](#). All screenings start at 7.00pm. You can show your ticket digitally on your phone, or print your ticket. If you're an NZAC member please bring your membership card.

COVID-19

If you're sick please stay home and [request a refund](#), we will refund your ticket.

Depending on which stage of the traffic light system we are in there may be more or less restrictions than at present and we will be obeying all government and venue rules / instructions.

If recommended at the alert level on the night our volunteers will wear masks and we will scan you in physically distanced.

Should COVID-19 affect our ability to screen the World Tour we will postpone or refund tickets. For more questions please check out our [FAQ](#).

Ben Winnubst

A quick reminder of the get together to celebrate Ben Winnubst's contribution to the Section will be held on Saturday 14 May. The gathering will be at 11am at Kerr bay, Lake Rotoiti. It would be great if everyone who wishes to attend would bring a plate of food to share and your own beverages. This will of course be weather dependent, and we will postpone if necessary to a later date. Partners and family welcome. Cheers!



Chairperson's Pitch

Hi all.

If you're anything like me you're waiting patiently for the first snow for the year. Our members have been out and about over the summer and I encourage you all to use the social media pages to share your adventures.

On a more operational note I'm putting out the call for more volunteers. We are short a Secretary, Newsletter Editor and having more Trip Leaders means we can run more trips. These are all easy roles and take about 2-3 hours per month. Anyone interested in any form of volunteering should reach out to me or any of the committee members listed on the national website.

For now the newsletter will be taking a simpler form to reduce workload on Josh. Josh also runs the Banff film festival so his contribution has been a huge part of the club for the last few years.

There are great benefits to volunteering such as funded training and courses. You don't have to be an expert climber to contribute and it's the best way to maximise the value of your membership.

Last but not least I would like to acknowledge the passing of Ben Winnubst. Ben contributed a huge amount to the club and was awarded life membership. Ben introduced me to my first big mountain when I was a teenager and was pivotal in many other climbers journeys.

See you out there.

Russell Adams - Nelson & Marlborough Chairman

Upcoming Course and Trips

Basic Snow Craft Course (BSCC). 26-28 August 2022.

Rainbow Ski field and St Arnaud

- Learn how to tramp and climb safely in snow
- Suitable for beginners and those with some tramping or snow experience

Course overview

The course is aimed at inexperienced club members wishing to learn the skills necessary to travel above the bush line on non-technical easy to moderate snowy terrain safely thus gaining the skills to participate on section trips.

Curriculum

Course theme; *learning and building skills + sound risk management = enjoyable and satisfying alpine adventures*

- Travel on snow with and without crampons
- Step cutting and climbing techniques
- Self-arrest techniques

- Terrain awareness and route finding
- Basic avalanche and rescue technique and equipment use.
- Weather and Trip management
- Clothing and equipment management
- A summit day on day 2 to consolidate day one's learning (weather and conditions permitting)

Instruction and course format

The course will be held at Rainbow Ski field on the weekend of the 26th to the 28nd August. If there is enough demand we will hold a second course on 2nd - 4th September.

Course Format

Friday evening 26th August

- Introductions
- Course outline
- Clothing and personal equipment Issue equipment
- Groups and gear fitting

Saturday 27st August

- Up to ski field for practical day
- Aim to be back at St Arnaud by 4pm
- Short evening talks covering; weather; navigation; avalanche forecasts

Sunday 28nd August

- Back up to ski field to consolidate skills learned on day one
- Back to St Arnaud by 3pm
- Issue certificates & return gear

Instructors

- Glen Aspin (Course Oversight & Programme Lead)
- Jerome Waldron, Reuben McCormack & Gerard Mayes, Russell Adams (Lead Instructors)
- Morgan Puklowski, Josh Knox (Assistant Instructors)

Students

- Please email Glen for information and application forms. aspojay@gmail.com
- 8 maximum on course. Maybe second course on 2nd – 4th Sept if numbers allow.

Venue / Accommodation / Transport

- Rainbow Ski Field;
- Accommodation; Red Deer Lodge (Backpackers)
- Transport; fully legal fit for purpose (4wd + chains) private vehicles with licensed drivers

[NM Section Trip Information](#)

Every winter we try to run some club trips, we believe this should be the main focus of the section as encouraging people to get out and about in our back yard mountains is one of our core values.

Here is some information for those new to our trip scene.

Trips will be graded to help you determine suitability (see below)

Please initially contact trip leaders via email. This allows the leader to gauge numbers and abilities, and you will also gain a lot more information about the trip.

Within a month from the start of a trip, the leaders will email out application forms and gear lists

Try to indicate interest well before the trip start date. Enquiries and/or applications the week of the trip may not be accepted.

Please be flexible regarding date changes. Mountains and weather combined with people don't always run in perfect sync, we will often try to have a plan B especially for the 3 day trips.

Trip participants need to be club members and have completed a Basic Snow Craft Course (BSCC) or equivalent. Or can show sufficient mountaineering skills and experience.

Depending on the availability of a co-leader we will try to accommodate beginners on most trips. Ask the trip leader and be honest about your ability and fitness.

Trips are not guided but we work hard to run safe well organised trips. However participants must be responsible for their own safety, well-being, and turn up well prepared.

And Remember - No matter what the level, the best climbers are those having the most fun!

Trip grading is as follows:

This provides participants with a quick way to gauge if this trip will be suitable for them. A meet may have a range of trips so giving a range would be useful (i.e. 2-3).

<p>1 Novice – little or no experience of the activity required and limited knowledge of the area</p>	<p>2 Intermediate – suitable for someone who has done a relevant course recently and/or has a few years experience. Has limited or some knowledge of the area</p>	<p>3 Advanced – suitable for people who have many recognised years experience &/or recognised qualifications and are familiar with the area.</p>
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NM Section 2022 Trips List

Moon light trip to Lake Angelus. Friday 17th June - Sunday 19th June.

Walking the Robert ridge via(full-moon) moonlight is such an exhilarating experience .

Leaving the Robert carpark 7pm Friday night we walk to the relax shelter for a warm drink and dinner and prepare ourselves for the 5 hr walk to Lake Angelus hut .A good level of fitness required as stops will be few and short ,trust me it will be chilly .Plan to arrive at the hut about 1am . Saturday for Those that are keen will have the option to climb Mt Angelus returning to enjoy and relax the afternoon away at the hut. (Make room in your pack for a favourite snack and maybe a tipples for the evening). Sunday we will return via the ridge and hopefully see what we missed in the dark previously.

Organisers Jerome Waldron and Bruce Davies

Scotts Knob (Trip leaders trip) 30/31 July

From Greggs Hut. This will suit those beginner and experienced trip leaders keen to start or resume leading section trips again. Expect me to use this trip as an exemplar which will include participant application forms, safety and risk management applying the trip plan in the field and general discussions on current club trip management procedures and how to make them work in practice all while having a decent day on an interesting mountain . We will meet Saturday afternoon and over-night at Greggs Hut with an early start climb and return home Sunday early evening. Running a successful section trip can be very satisfying and doesn't have to be particularly hard work. So come and find out what its' all about .
Organiser – Jerome Waldron

Mt Franklin – Late July/early August

At 2340m Mt Franklin is the highest peak in Nelson Lakes and requires a long approach. You need to be fit enough to make the 8.5 hr walk to the Blue Lake Hut, climb next day, and 8.5hr walk out the day after. This trip is a 3- 4 day outing so take some time off and have a crack at bagging this one. The climbing itself is not very technical, though winter conditions will add some spice, so you will need to be confident with ice axe and crampons, comfortable in Avalanche terrain, and flexible for a good weather forecast and possible mid week trip
GRADE: 2 (Grade 1 if not climbing)

Contact Russell Adams (r.a.guns.70@gmail.com) if you are keen and for more information.

Island Gully: 6-7 August. Trip leader – Glen Aspin

Island Gully is our local water ice climbing area (frozen waterfalls). This is a trip for experienced climbers only, who have been on steep water ice before. You will need ice climbing gear, and know how to use ropes etc in an alpine environment. Ice climbing is inherently dangerous so numbers will be small and the trip will be dependent on weather, road and ice conditions. We will try to run this trip this year, but no promises!.

GRADE 3+

BSCC follow up trip. 24-25 September.

This is a trip specifically for the BSCC participants to get out and use their new skills for real. Objective to be confirmed but could be Scotts Knob, Mt Arthur, Mt Angelus, Mt Paske, or another local peak.

GRADE 1

Mt McRae or Mt Arthur. 15th October

This is a day trip and an easy adventure to two of our most accessible peaks, hopefully ending the day with pizza and a drink at a bar somewhere. Contact Russell (r.a.guns.70@gmail.com) for more info.

NM Section Gear Hire

The Nelson/Marlborough section has mountaineering gear that we loan out to members. It's free to use but see the T & C's below.

Available Gear:

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Helmets
- 2 pairs of snowshoes
- 1 pair of technical ice tools

- Several sets of avalanche gear (Transceiver, Shovel, Probe)
- PLB
- Bothy Bags.

The Fine Print

If you borrow the gear then;

- You are responsible for the gear, if you break or lose it, then you replace it.
- First in first served, so don't leave it until the last minute.
- Email Liam requesting the gear (liam_sullivan@yahoo.com) and try to give him at least one weeks' notice.
- Return the gear in good working order and clean.
- Normal wear and tear is expected and encouraged, but if you notice something is worn/broken/bent/not working properly, then please notify Liam so we can fix it.
- Avo Transceiver batteries are included, but you should provide your own new ones for your own safety as we cannot guarantee how much voltage is left in the batteries.

Ellis Basin Hut Renovation

There are at least 1100 backcountry huts in New Zealand and they all need maintenance at times. New Zealand's environment and weather can be brutal – many alpine huts only last about 30 years before deterioration means they have to be replaced or undergo major renovations. At mid-altitudes many huts were built during the 1970s by the New Zealand Forest Service or New Zealand Wildlife Service to support feral animal control and wildlife management. Those huts are now fifty or more years old and many are being repaired and upgraded by teams of volunteers with funding channeled by the Backcountry Trust. Last week Bruce Davies and Ross Cullen together with Greg Pickford, Nev West and Peter Slotemaker – a licensed builder – completed a major upgrade to Ellis Basin Hut.

The hut is situated near the head of Ellis River with The Twins, Winter Peak and Mt Arthur overlooking the upper basin. Grid/NZTM2000 coordinates: E1573624, N5434798.



The hut first received attention during April 2021 when a new benchtop was installed and soil and rock under the hut were removed to allow air to circulate, avoid deterioration of the wooden piles and bearers. Greg Pickford observed after the 2021 renovations that cavers use the hut and were keen to see it improved by addition of 1.5m x 3.365m foyer where they could hang gear to dry and by addition of a new log burner. Those ideas were discussed with Tom Young and DOC Motueka office staff and the Nelson Speleological Group offered to contribute funding for a new log burner. An application was then made to Backcountry Trust and it was approved for a 2022 project at the hut.



The 2022 renovation project took five days to complete and required three helicopter flights in with building material, tools, food and people. The old steel chimney was cut free, pulled over with a climbing rope and Z-pully and a concrete

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pad poured for the new Wagener Stovetop. A new flue was built to replace the old chimney, lined with mini iron and the woodburner installed, flue assembled, connected and stayed to the roof. Soil and rocks were excavated for the new foyer, holes dug, piles placed in concrete, bearers attached, decking screwed down, framing built, gable end built, rafters attached, exterior cladding and interior lining attached. Polycarbonate sheets on the roof provide natural light in the foyer.

We lit the woodburner on our last night, completed last bits of fixing, tidied up and flew out on Saturday 7 May. About 260 hours of volunteer work were provided preparing for and completing the renovations. The simplest way to access the hut on foot is via the track beginning at Flora carpark, up to Winter Peak and descend the Ellis Basin Route. There is a marked trail from Ellis Basin hut climbing west through the beech forest, passing some cave entrances, and on towards The Twins.

Mount Hope granite boulders

Is granite good for climbing on? We all have heard of and hundreds of New Zealand climbers have visited and climbed up the towering granite cliffs at Yosemite, perhaps lulling many people, including me into thinking that 'granite' means 'great rock for climbing'.

As Wikipedia explains ... 'granite is a coarse-grained intrusive igneous rock composed mostly of quartz, alkali feldspar and plagioclase. It forms from magma with a high content of silica and alkali metal oxides that slowly cools and solidifies underground. It is common in igneous intrusions which range in size from dikes only a few centimeters across to batholiths exposed over hundreds of square kilometers.'

Granite is often revered by climbers, for its steepness, soundness, crack systems, and friction; think Yosemite, Mont Blanc massif, The Bugaboos, parts of the Karakoram, Patagonian spires. Mt Changabang recently climbed by three members of the [New Zealand Alpine Team](#) is comprised of leucogranite. In New Zealand there is quite a bit of granite in the South Island with the Darran Mountains region best known amongst climbers. The Darrans provides some outstanding climbing on the grano-diorite crags and peaks. In contrast, the granite found in the Tasman District, Separation Point granite is notorious for being highly erodible. A swathe of intrusive granite extends south through Mount Hope where a hundred or so dinosaur-shaped boulders are exposed at 1200m altitude. Bruce, Pip and Ross went for a look in April and Ross took along his rock shoes and chalk bag hoping to find some good climbing on the granite.



Access is on a well-marked track which begins at Boulder Stream just north of Kawitiri Junction, ascends steeply through forest until breaking out into tussock at about 1000m. Most of the granite boulders are found 1km north of Mt Hope and a bit of scrub scrabbling is needed to reach the crest at 1264m. Almost all of the boulders we looked at have granular surfaces, zero cracks or other features to use as holds. I did not take my rock shoes out of my pack. Go and have a look, see if you can find surfaces to scramble up.

The Gravity Well - Nelsons bouldering gym

After a long wait since the closing of Vertical Limits, Nelson has finally got its own wall.

If you haven't already been, check it out at 37 Whakatu Lane, off Whakatu Square, they are a friendly bunch and there's grades to suite all abilities.

The big sell for me, being someone that's got to the age that I no longer want to fall or jump from a few meters up, no matter how thick the crash-mat! Is that, from half-way up there's always some big jug handles (they are not part of any of the colour coded climbs) within reach for when gravity starts to get the better of you. The same holds make down climbing from the top a breeze.

You can just pop in for a look, but if you intend to climb, then it's probably best to visit their web site first, gravitywell.co.nz to register and sign their waver.

Bruce Davies

N-M Section Committee

Russell Adams – Chairman, Social Media r.a.guns.70@gmail.com	Liam Sullivan – Treasurer, Club Gear liam_sullivan@yahoo.com
Glen Aspin – Social Media aspojay@gmail.com	Josh Knox – BANFF Coordinator joshknox@yahoo.com
Bruce Davies – Club Meetings daviesrobin@yahoo.com	Jerome Waldron – Marlborough Rep jjwaldron@xtra.co.nz

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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 News

Can now be found on the website.
There are news items and trip reports from all over the country.

Click [HERE](#) to go there now!

Club Donations

We have a link online where members can [DONATE](#)

Members can also use our bank account 03 0502 0607822 00.

Click [HERE](#)