

NZAC

Nelson-Marlborough Section Newsletter

2022| Issue 2
July

Contents

A mid-winter 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.

Upcoming events

Instruction

Your photo could be here

courses/trips

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 Jim Armstrong who photographed the group enjoying the day en route to Angelus Hut. Check out the report later in this newsletter.

Gear Hire

Climbing news

Get involved

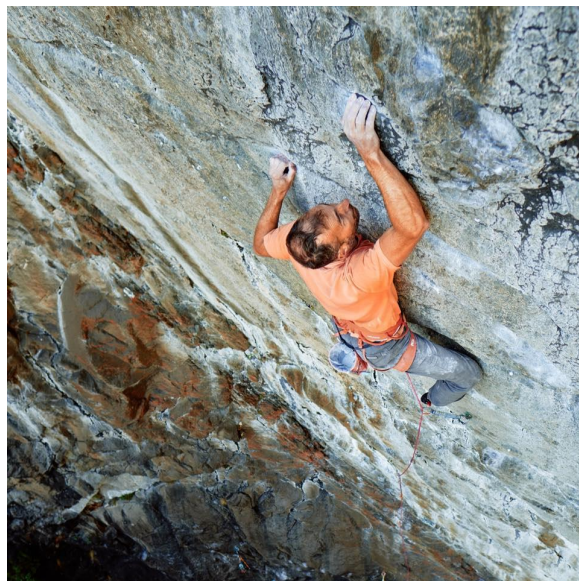


Mount Angelus trip enthusiasts, Jerome Waldron, Caroline McCarthy, Jim Armstrong, Hoss Kouhestani and Bruce Davies.. Photo by Jim Armstrong.

7 July N-M Section meeting

John Palmer is Chairperson of Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust (ACAT), Past President of New Zealand Alpine Club, guidebook author (North Island Rock Deluxe), host of the esteemed podcast PowerBand <https://www.powerbandpodcast.com/> outstanding rock climber, witty raconteur, trout angler. He will be the speaker at our July meeting. 7pm, Thursday 7 July at the Honest Lawyer.

John will focus his talk on Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust – how ACAT got started, where is at now, what ACAT are doing and where ACAT is aiming to reach.



it

2022 Banff Film Festival



The Banff Mountain Film Festival 2022 was a great success, attracted two full houses of 450 attendees at Nelson-Marlborough screenings.

The 2022 films provided a fine selection of outdoor achievements, storytelling and filmmaking covering base jumping, skiing, mountain biking, rock climbing, wilderness travel, environmental issues and plenty more.

This stop on the Banff World Tour 2022 was another successful fundraiser for the New Zealand Alpine Club, with many venues selling out every screening.

Locally, Banff shows allow the N-M section to earn funds to support gear purchases, support attendance on instruction courses.

Angelus mid-Winter Trip Report

The Angelus mid winter trip went ahead on 23rd June, after a weeks postponement due to the big dump of snow that looks as if it might have set us up for a good winter.

Those making the night time trek along Robert Ridge were Jerome Waldron, Caroline McCarthy, Jim Armstrong, Hoss Kouhestani and Bruce Davies.

With a 7pm start from Robert Ridge carpark, we were at the Relax Shelter within the hour. We had thought that all that fresh snow the previous week might not have consolidated enough and we all elected to take snow shoes. However, once out of the bush it was obvious that there had been quite a bit of freeze/thaw going on and with the night being clear and starry the snow was hard and crunchy.

After a hot drink and a clothing adjustment we donned crampons as well, not really necessary at that point, but it seemed a better option than waiting until we did need them, when the wind might well have got up.

Apart from a short section of ridge above Relax hut that had been blown clear of snow, there was a really good covering the whole way to Angelus. Mostly good cramponing, with occasional areas where the crust broke through to softer snow beneath. No problem navigating in the dark as there was a clear trail to follow the whole way and with virtually no wind it was a cruisy walk in, arriving at the empty hut about 1.00am.

The following morning the cloud was almost down to the hut and it had warmed up considerably. With the forecast for rain the following day, we decided against an ascent of Angelus and after a slow start, headed back along Robert Ridge. Crampons again but with a tendency for balling up. With no moon the previous night we didn't really have any views, apart from turning our head torches off and looking at the stars, and with the cloud down no views again. On reaching the long traverse below Julius Summit we opted to follow the ridge up to spot height 1813, the highest point of Robert Ridge.

With the softer conditions some of us gave our snow shoes a go, more to justify having carried them, rather than through any real need.

Arriving back at the carpark at 5pm we were well pleased with our trip.

Bruce Davies

Chairperson's Pitch

Hi all.

What an awesome early season snow dump! Along with the snow has come the beginning of the Avalanche forecasting season. So keep an eye on Matt's forecasts for the Nelson Lakes.

Well done to our Banff team for another successful weekend and thanks to everyone who came along.

Trips are well underway for the winter so check in with trip leaders if you'd like to attend. There's a lot of thought and effort that goes into running a safe and enjoyable club trip so thanks to our trip leaders.

See you out there.

Russell Adams - Nelson & Marlborough Chairman

Upcoming Dates

Section Evening With Brian Alder - 10th August

Section AGM - 21st September

Upcoming Courses and Trips

Basic Snow Craft Course (BSCC). 26-28 August & 3-4 September 2022

Both courses are well subscribed. Keep an eye out on Facebook and the Newsletter in early 2023 for next year's courses.

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)

Course Format

Friday evening:

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

Saturday:

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:

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, Hamish Brown, Forest Paynter (Assistant Instructors)

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>
--	---	--

NM Section 2022 Trips List

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

Grade 2

Mt Franklin – Early August or Mid September

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

Grade: 2

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+

Snow camping + Mt Technical, Lewis Pass tops. 10-11 September

A great trip if you're confident on crampons but new to winter camping. From Lewis pass head up onto the tops and camp on Saturday, then up Mt Technical and back to the cars on Sunday. Don't be shy - email Hamish at hamishbrownnz@gmail.com for more info.

Grade 2-3

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 Adams 2208m, September. Trip Leader Sebastian Head

A fine weekend trip on the West Coast. Commence south of Hari Hari, easy scramble up to campsite, then snow plod/crampon onto a snowy summit. Terrific views to Main Divide – south east, and west to Tasman Sea.

For more information email sebasatian.head@gmail.com

Mt McRae or Mt Arthur. 15th October

Did a snowcraft course a few years ago and need a refresher? Or looking to socialise with a range of climbers? This is a day trip and an easy adventure to one of 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.

Cupola and Hopeless 3 day trip October – 22- 24th

Two for the price of one!

No plans for Labour Weekend? Then come for a walk up to Cupola hut.

The plan is to climb Cupola on Sunday, then Hopeless via the couloir on Monday descending down into Hopeless Creek and back to the lake. A good level of fitness is required and a high confidence on steep terrain with some exposure.

Don't be shy get in contact - email Hamish at hamishbrownnz@gmail.com for more info.

Grade 2-3

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.

N-M Section Committee

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

Follow Us On Facebook

No need to be a Facebook User

Click [HERE](#) 

Section Gear Hire

The Nelson section gear (ice axes, avo gear, locator 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](#)