

# NZAC

# Nelson-Marlborough Section Newsletter

2022| Issue 4  
September

*Contents* A spring Section newsletter to browse, see what is coming up, learn what is happening in the local climbing scene, check what opportunities there

*Upcoming events* are to get involved in climbing.

*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

*Gear Hire* to Mike Rutledge who photographed Brandon Kay on Kahu Peak.

*Climbing news*

*Get involved*



Brandon Kay on the summit of Kahu Peak. Photo by Mike Rutledge.

## 20 September AGM and Alastair McDowell. 7.30pm at Honest Lawyer

Our Annual General Meeting will be held first before we hear Alastair McDowell talk on his recent expedition with Hamish Fleming, climbing all 24 3000m peaks in a continuous 31 day push. Alastair was inspired by the human-powered enchainments completed in Europe.



Their transalpine journey, from west coast jungle to high-alpine summits, traverses some of New Zealand's most dramatic landscapes. With the clock ticking down, fatigue mounting and storms arriving, how do they find enough time, weather windows and energy to complete the project before their time, weather and luck ran out?

We will be amongst the first audiences to see the movie **Enchainment** by Nick Kowalski at the Nelson Marlborough section meeting. Alastair is an excellent speaker as well as an outstanding climber, and this promises to be a great evening.

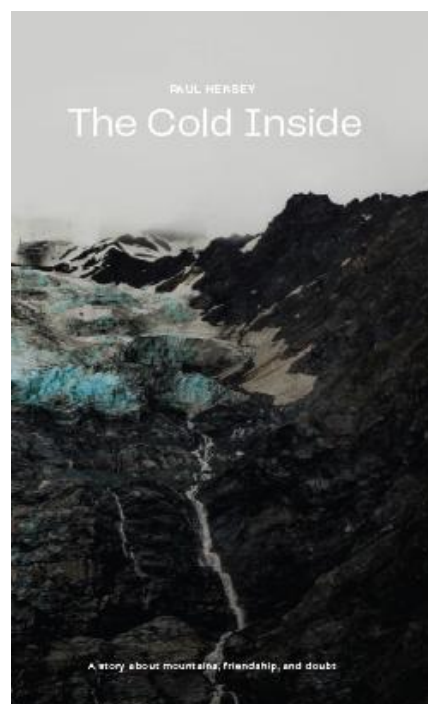
## Paul Hersey. 7.30pm, 25 October, Honest Lawyer.

Paul Hersey will be the speaker at our October meeting. Paul is a talented all-rounder – climber, surfer, author are some of his activities. Paul will talk on "**Books, Mates and Trips**".

Come and celebrate a local launch of Dunedin author and climber Paul Hersey's latest book (his eight), **The Cold Inside**. A large portion of the book is about Paul's mate Jamie Vinton-Boot, and then how Jamie's death affected Paul's motivation to climb afterwards.

Paul will also talk about a new guidebook he and wife Shelley are working on for NZAC, **Scrambles and snow climbs. 100 of the best climbs in Aotearoa**. Paul will comment on the importance of Grade 1 and 2 climbs in any mountaineer's apprenticeship.

Copies of **The Cold Inside** will be available for \$30 cash on the night.



on

## 15 November NM meeting. 7.30pm, Honest Lawyer

Peter Laurenson will be our speaker in November. Peter is well known as editor of FMC **Backcountry** magazine and author of the award-winning 2022 book **Khumbu - pathways to kinship**. Peter is an accomplished photographer and regularly wins awards in NZAC (and other) photographic competitions. Peter is about to relocate from Wellington to Richmond so

take this chance to welcome him at the November Nelson Marlborough section meeting.



Peter will publish a 2023 calendar on the Tararua Range and his talk in November will highlight some of the superb trips and scenery on that range.

### *Peter on Mitre Peak, Tararua Range*

Peter has completed 35 trips in the range over the past 25 years. You can see many of his photos at his website:

<https://www.occasionalclimber.co.nz/browse-images-2/new-zealand-north-island/tararua-ranges/>

## Brian Alder and The Tour Te Waipounamu.

Thank you to Brian Alder for his terrific talk at our August meeting. His talk provided a fine overview of this challenging Kiwi bikepacking race. Strength from gym work, understanding the nutrition needs of your body, planning and resilience are all essential to complete the race. The 1300km route covers an incredible diversity of the South Island's landscape, well captured in photos and the movie trailer (*South. The Tour Te Waipounamu Story*) that Brian screened. Brian described the race as an opportunity for adventure, a chance to challenge yourself with a seemingly impossible task and to discover who you are and what you are capable of. The Tour Te Waipounamu will next occur in 2024 – sufficient time to get fit and well-prepared.

## Chairman's Pitch

Hi All and apologies for the late newsletter.

I hope everyone managed the rough weather alright. Unfortunately it came with a massive loss of snowpack all round the country but especially in our region. This meant a lot of cancelled or rearranged trips. Personally I had to cancel my Mt Franklin trip again! However with no way to get to work in Marlborough I took some time off and waited out the weather, eventually managing a successful ski touring trip on the Franz Josef neve.

It would be great to see lots of you at the AGM and Alistars talk on the 20th. Our AGMs are always pretty painless affairs. If you've got skills or ideas to share we'd love to hear them or have your help on the committee.

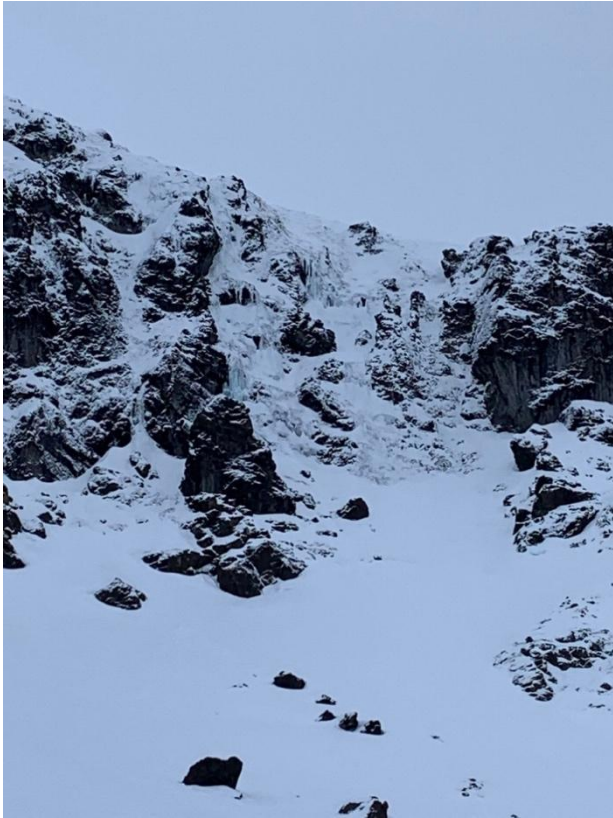
See you out there - Russell Adams, Nelson/Marlborough Chairman.





## Trip Report – Island Gully (30 July). Glen Aspin reports

This trip filled up quickly but with 2 weeks to go we had a broken shoulder, Covid, and family commitments knocked out three of the four participants. So on a very average weather forecast, myself and Josh decided to roll the dice and have a look. Saturday morning was cold and clear with a good freeze (sweeeet!) when we left the hut for the 3 hour walk up to the “Big Red” water ice crag. There was a lot of snow around, more than any other year but we did spy some vertical ice poking out from under the snow. Reaching the crag we stopped for food and



to gear up when it started to snow lightly..... Five minutes later visibility was about 100m and it was piking down! The spindrift was pouring over the crag, so we finished the flask of tea, turned around and walked back to the hut!

Sometimes you just gotta pay your dues! It was good to stretch the legs and there is something magical about walking in snow. The drive out was very scenic with first tracks in the snow all the way to Rainbow Skifield – about 1.5hrs of driving.

### Basic Snow Craft Course – August, September

This year we had two courses, with 8 students on each course. Everything was looking great with heaps of snow, then the rain started.....”the season went from hero to zero in 3 days” Words from Tom the manager of Rainbow Ski field summed up the devastating effect of a massive rain event. The field was closed but luckily we were allowed access to run our BSCC.



**On Aug 27 (First course)** we arrived at Rainbow ski field to fine sunny weather and firm snow conditions, perfect for teaching snow skills. Everyone got stuck in kicking steps, using an ice axe, self arresting, cramponing, using avalanche transceivers, learning about the alpine environment and how to move through it. After a superb night at the Red Deer Lodge with a bit more learning thrown in we headed up on Sunday for a shot at Mt McRae. Another primo day saw us on top with lots more learning and a great view of the surrounding peaks. Then it was



back down to the cars for the drive back to base, a quick repack and debrief then back home with tired legs but stoked with a great snow craft weekend.



**Sept 3rd (Second course)** dawned overcast and windy, but after heavy rain overnight it had gone southerly and was starting to clear. We got up to Rainbow in claggy conditions, but thankfully no rain. Snow conditions were soft and perfect for teaching, once again everyone got stuck in and made the most of the day, even experiencing the benefits of a bothy bag in windy side blowing sleet. We got back to Red Deer lodge and dried all the gear out in front of the massive fire. Sunday was cloudy but on reaching Rainbow the temp was -2 and everything was frozen solid, yeehaaa!.

Perfect cramponing and clear weather saw us up on the summit, however we didn't hang around as the very strong southerly wind was buffeting us pretty hard! Back on the sheltered side we enjoyed filling out the day training on the frozen slopes.

Big thanks to all the students for being so awesome. The courses went smoothly and we really enjoyed showing you all what gives us a kick in the mountains. And thank you to the Instructors, a great team with a ton of experience to operate two fun, safe, and educational courses in a challenging environment.

Cheers, Glen Aspin, BSCC Co-Ordinator

## Upcoming Course and Trips

### 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 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).



**1 Novice** – little or no experience of the activity required and limited knowledge of the area



**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



**3 Advanced** – suitable for people who have many recognised years experience &/or recognised qualifications and are familiar with the area.

## NM Section 2022 Trips List

### 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. Angelus Hut and Peak. Contact Glen Grade 1  
aspojay@gmail.com

### Mt Adams 2208m. September. Trip Leader - Seb 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 Seb  
sebastian.head@gmail.com

### Mt Arthur. 16th October - **Date change**

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 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](mailto:r.a.guns.70@gmail.com)) for more info.

### Cupola and Hopeless 3 day trip October – 22- 24th – **This trip is full!**

## NZAC National High Alpine Skills Courses

Spaces available on this summer's High Alpine Skills Courses:

- 15th - 20th November,
- 22nd - 27th November
- 29th - 4th December
- 6th - 11th December

<https://alpineclub.org.nz/courses>

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

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### 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](mailto: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](#)