



NZAC Nelson Marlborough Section News

April 2023

Words from the Summit

Hi All.

The next couple of months should provide bustling activity for the section with trip leaders planning winter season trips, the BSCC and Banff film festival dates being confirmed soon and other important winter events to add to your calendars.

With several snowfalls over March, some of which has stuck around, it was interesting to read about the shift from La Nina to El Nino triggered by a powerful "Westerly Wind Burst". March was the coldest since 2009 and Southerly weather patterns are expected to continue throughout the winter. Combined with potential for high levels of precipitation, it could be a rare, great winter for skiing and ice climbing. However that will come with a high avalanche potential so keep an eye out for Matt's avalanche course this winter or look at doing a 4 day backcountry course if you really want to take your skills to the next level.

A big goal this year is to bring club nights into a consistent pattern: the 3rd Wednesday of every month. This is dependent on having a range of speakers available so if you or someone you know has a great trip, skill or wisdom to share, then please make contact with Peter Laurensen (occasionalclimber@gmail.com) our new section evenings coordinator, or someone from the committee. I also would like to thank Bruce Davies for his work in this role over the last few years and his ongoing support of Peter and the Section.

Keep tuned for a busy winter.

Russell Adams - Nelson/Marlborough Section Chairman

Celebrating a Sterling Rebuild of Aspiring Hut



Rebuilt Aspiring Hut sports a sheltered sundeck

The rebuilt Aspiring Hut was officially opened in brilliant weather on Friday 31 March. Former Club President Chas Tanner cut the ribbon. Nelson Marlborough Section Member, NZAC Board and Tupiki Trustee Ross Cullen, and N/M member Rob Mitchell joined the celebration. Approximately 70 Club members friends, builders and DoC representatives attended the event.

The hut has been rebuilt to meet modern earthquake standards and provides upgraded accommodation for members and visitors. Cost of the project was approximately \$1.2 million with contributions coming from club members, the Back Country Trust via Kaimahi for Nature Fund, Tūpiki Trust, Otago Community Trust, FMC Forest and Mountain Trust, New Zealand Community Trust, and the Aotearoa Gaming Trust.

Trumpet Fanfare! Next Section Evening.

Wednesday 19 April

7.30pm at the Honest Lawyer Pub, Stoke, Nelson

Come and hear Brian Renwick tell of his climb of Acongagua in the Argentinian Andes.

Brian is an active climber of “moderately” technical routes, including first ascent of Mitre Peak south face with Mike Berry, and a variation start (straight up the Empress Icefall with Bruce Fortnum) of Mt Cook’s Hooker Face. His last serious climb was a 250m rock route, l’Ecureuil grade 23, in Verdon Gorge, France, in 1982 with Australian hotshot John Fantini. He’s climbed plenty of trampers’ peaks since 1982.

In 2019 Brian’s son Gray invited him to climb Aconcagua “before he ‘became too old and decrepit’”. Learn about their acclimatization in the Cordon del Plata Provincial Park, culminating in an ascent of Cerro Plata 5942m. And their climb of Aconcagua via the ‘back door’ Ameghino Route.



Gray Renwick Celebrates on the Aconcagua Summit

Let Hamish Know Your 2023 Trip and Course Ambitions

Hamish Brown is assembling the 2023 section trips programme.

If you have trips you are keen to do, or want to know what courses are running, Hamish will be pleased to help you.

Contact details:

hamishbrownnz@gmail.com or phone 027 418 3124

Newsletter Contributions Welcome!

Contributions from members are welcome:

Tall tales of epic trips, gear, book, video and film recommendations

Contact:

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