

# NZAC Nelson Marlborough Newsletter

March 2023

## Words from the Summit

### Next Section Evening

Thursday the 23rd March at the Honest Lawyer Pub

Come one, Come all!

Vince Scully will talk about his about his polar expeditions.



Photo of Vince Scully's yacht "Northanger" at a polar hut.

## Trips and Courses

**Summer trip, Mt Arthur and the Twins, 18/19th March**

Come join me on a weekend trip up Mt Arthur and the Twins, Camping in the Ellis Basin. All welcome

Email [hamishbrownnz@gmail.com](mailto:hamishbrownnz@gmail.com) for more information

**Trip ideas and Leaders wanted!**

Anyone Willing to lead an Autumn Trip?

Ideas for club weekend or day trips are invited.

Contact Trips Coordinator: Hamish Brown: <hamishbrownnz@gmail.com >

**Winter and Spring Trips**

Glen Aspin advises that details will be advertised in April-May.

**Snowcraft Course in August.**

The Section will run a basic snowcraft course again this year, in late August

Dates and details will be advertised in April/May

## Banff is Coming!

Nelson Marlborough Section will be organising screenings of specially selected films from the Banff International Film Festival in mid 2023.

Standby for details on dates and bookings

## Alpine Cruises and Conquests

### Living the Dream

Peter Laurenson



In December last year my partner Cathy and I moved down from Wellington to our new home in Richmond. At 110 metres above sea level it commands a great view west to the Arthur Range. Each morning from my spot in bed the Twins beckon me.

Tying up loose ends as we settle into our new home has held me captive until a two-day window Mon 24/Tues 25 Feb just couldn't be ignored. Moving down here was a premeditated shift to the home of many forest and national parks – I've been down here a fair bit before now, and know what an awesome part of the world this is – but I still couldn't contain my joy as I pulled into the Flora Saddle car park not much more than an hour from my front door – already at 940 metres and just an hour up the most civilised of trails from the tops. So much for all those near sea level starts, clambering up steep, muddy, rooty, 1,000 metre ascents to reach the Tararua tops.

I cracked the sixty barrier last year and sadly my left knee hasn't fared so well over those years. I'm scheduled for a knee replacement in mid March. Wandering up the trail to Mt Arthur reassured me that having the operation is timely. While not looking forward to the op, I know I'll love the renewed freedom to move once my rehab work has been done. A night on top of Mt Arthur might be its last earthly mission before being replaced by some new technology.

My take on the forecast was fair weather deteriorating about mid next day. Therefore my plan was to drop down the narrow rock spur heading northeast from the summit, joining the route over to Gordans Pyramid, to make a nice round trip out. The views on the way up and from Winter Peak presented quite a pronounced round-off at the far end of the spur, so once on top of Mt Arthur about 4pm, with time to kill before sunset, I went packless down the spur to check it out. At the 1,600 metre contour some reassuring cairns indicated that my intended route should be fine.

Back up on top, comfortably nestled in the tussock just below the summit, the weather took an unexpected turn. What had been a lovely cooling breeze became a constant buffet. Then cloud build up on the ranges further west broke through, engulfing me. Hmm, there goes the sunset. But no. As the sun sank closer to the horizon it burst through, highlighting fast moving strands of cloud as they whipped past me – pig in warm mud scenario for a photographer.

Hunkered down in the tussock over night I stayed relatively dry and warm. The night sky came out in its full glory for a few hours, before persistent clag pushed in sometime after midnight. By pre-dawn the wind was up to hazardous strength, ruling out the narrow route down the spur – more unfinished business. Any hope of a sunrise was also gone, so I got booted off Mt Arthur as soon as it was light enough at 6.45am.

Back home again at 11.30am – summit to armchair in less than five hours. I'd say that's livin' the dream. But if you're a local reading this, then you already knew that didn't you.



## Venturing into the Ellis Basin

Ross Cullen

Bruce Davies, Greg Pickford and Ross Cullen have just returned from a three-day trip to Ellis Hut. We walked in and back from Flora carpark with some blustery weather on top both days. The six bunk hut is sited in Ellis Basin south of Mount Arthur and below The Twins. It has been significantly upgraded during visits all funded by Backcountry Trust. A new bench and shelves were added two years ago, then an enclosed verandah and new wood burner constructed and installed by a team of five in 2022. On our most recent trip we applied exterior paint.

The hut is a good starting point for a traverse of The Twins. A dedicated volunteer has recently placed trail markers and a noticeboard in the hut with photographs of routes to and across The Twins.

There is a lot of classy looking rock on the slope below Mt Arthur that could provide some excellent bouldering and rock climbing.



Photos: Ross descending into Ellis Basin. Plentiful rock

## Introducing an Ozzie Chick to Kiwi Mountains

Maddi and Maree Holland

A steep incline from the start saw three gals huffing and puffing the 4 hour climb to Granity Pass Hut on Mount Owen. There we were introduced to the potent smells of the kiwi long drop that comes with the \$1M toilet view. We dumped our packs at the hut after a refuel, then headed to the summit. The contrast of the grey tones of the rock and sky were stunning with the remarkable scenery of native bush, rocky paths, grassy tops mingled with the crisp mountain air. We celebrated conquering the summit at the top, (with no wind, 360 degree views, and a few spits of rain) with a red and a cheeseboard. You can't describe the feeling of standing on the highest peak in the Kahurangi National Park overlooking the mountain ranges – it feels like you are on top of the world!. Comments from the party:

**Maddi** – Everyone should do this overnighiter. Yes it is an awakening of the leg muscles. But that feeling of conquering the summit and staying in a kiwi outback hut is unbeatable.

**Alkera (Ozzie Chick)** – I can't believe I climbed for 6 hours. I conquered the mountain and stayed in a kiwi hut. What an experience. I want to do more and explore more in NZ. .... I will be back.

**Maree** – What an incredible backyard I have. So good to experience this with my daughter and her friend. And see them buzzing at the top.... And the hut beats the \$30 campsite I paid for in Brisbane which consisted of a patch of mud in the rainforest To finish the trip, we blew the tyre on the gravel road and had to self-teach ourselves how to change it.



## Lesson Learnt!

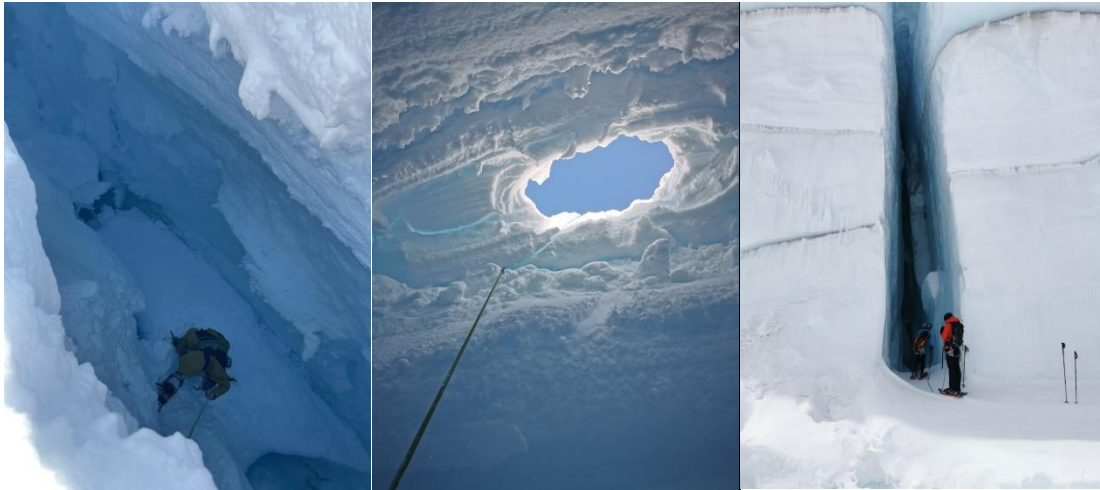
Hamish Brown

Recently I took the opportunity to join in on a Wellington Section trip to climb Elie De Beaumont and explore the upper Tasman Glacier. While we did not get up Elie due to conditions, we did have a great time climbing on some of the peaks that surround Tasman Saddle Hut.

A lesson that I would like to share is the importance of never getting complacent while traveling around glaciated terrain!

After a full day spent climbing, I and two others were making our way back towards the hut. I knew that I was coming close to the crossing of the bergschrund. I could see the footprints from the morning where it had been crossed. So... so in my mind I was safe to do the same. What I did not consider, was the sun that had been softening up the snow all day long!

Next step, all I could see was white as the snow bridge gave way underneath me. I fell a few meters landing on a ledge at the same time as the rope caught me. After an anchor was built and I prussiked back up. Trying to get over the ledge was a bit of a struggle but with a hand from Sam I was back on safe ground. I will store that lesson for the next time I am on a glacier!



### Laptop and Data Projector Need a New Home!

Old, but working, laptop and data projector available.

In exchange for donation to the N/M Section funds.

The laptop is a Lenovo Thinkpad, running Windows 7 and is at least 12 years old. It works fine but the battery no longer holds a charge.

The data projector is a Dell 2300 MP, works and again is about 12 years old.

Both of these were purchased by the section for use on section evenings. However the projector only has vga input and the resolution/quality is poor compared to hdmi projectors and has not been used for several years.

If you are interested,

Please contact Bruce Davies

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## Your Next Newsletter!

Contributions of news and comment from club members are welcome!

Contact

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