

NZAC NELSON MARLBOROUGH SECTION NEWS

September 2023



Ski touring on Mt McRae, Saint Arnaud Range.
Starring Caitlin Palmer (Committee and Nelson Ski Shop guru) and Jamie Whitford.

Chairmans Pitch

This month, Newsletter Editor Rob suggested that I share a bit about ski touring in the *Top of the South*. Ski touring is a great way to move around efficiently in the mountains and can be partnered with climbing or enjoyed in its own sporting category.

It's been great to see so many of our local members out touring this season despite the limited snowpack. The Saint Arnaud Range from Rainbow Ski Field provides very easy access and a good range of terrain to travel through and ski. The Robert Ridge is ever popular and was once the home of a ski club. In the depths of the Nelson Lakes, Molesworth, Rainbow and Kaikouras there is a wealth of hills and slopes waiting to be explored by ski.

I have also started a ski shop to support snow sports in the Top of the South www.nelsonskishop.com. Discounts are available for members. Just get in touch.

Avalanche safety has been a key issue this year. There has been a widespread "persistent slab" problem around the country, with many large avalanches including some in the Nelson Lakes Backcountry. Thankfully this seems to be resolving gradually as spring moves in. I've dug my few pits this year and snow science and safety really can be intriguing as you learn more about it. Remember to exercise caution in the hills and use the resources available to us such as the avalanche advisory and courses run both locally and by the club in Arthurs Pass.

The AGM will be run in October alongside the section evening on the 18th. We keep this short and sweet. This is the good time to let us know what you'd like to see happen to your club, put your hand up to volunteer, and to acknowledge those that make our section run. A section report will come out with the next newsletter. See you out there!

Russell Adams - Section Chairman

Section Meetings

Nelson Marlborough NZAC Photo Competition.

In early August the Section held its first section photo competition in recent years. The event was managed most professionally by Peter Laurenson His showing of entries at the August Section Meeting was enjoyed by a good crowd of NZAC members and friends. Visitors commented on Peter's well structured and fair judging. All appreciated his concise observations on technique, and encouragement to enter in the next competition in 2024.

And now a word from His Honour.

Our first crack at running a Section photo competition went well, with 18 members collectively entering 117 images. There was an eclectic mix of alpine shots across five categories (there were no youth entries). Thank you to all those willing to give it a go and well done on fielding lots of enjoyable alpine images. Congratulations to the winners and runners-up. And thanks to our prize donors, Kiwi Persian Rug Co, Potton & Burton, Bunnings, Top Zone Bench Tops, Torpedo7. Below are our winners for 2023.

Convenor & Judge, Peter Laurenson.

Place Winners



Alpine Activity

Winner

Logan Olausen: Tunnel Vision, Mt Franklin, Jul 2023

Runner-up

Bruce Davies: Snow Bridge Analysis, Greenland Ice Cap, May 2015



Alpine Landscape

L. Winner & Peoples' Choice Overall Winner

Roger Bates: Climbers on the Brenva Ridge, Mont Blanc, France, July 1969

R. Runner-up Rob Mitchell: Annapurna Sanctuary



Alpine Nature

L. Winner

Bruce Davies: Peregrine Falcon, Mt Dundas, Greenland, Aug 2015

R. Runner-up

Logan Olausen: Lone Ranger, Ball Hut, Aoraki, Nov 2022



Rock Climbing

L. Winner

Marina Comeskey: Kachoong, the sound ankles make when you fall out of the heel hook, Arapilles, Mar 2023

R. Runner-up

Kam Yoong: The Crux, Paynes Ford, Feb 2023



L. Mountain & Climbing Culture

L. Winner

Garry Bayley: Head office, Lyell Hut, Rakaia, 2018

R. Runner-up

Bruce Davies: Aren't DOC huts great! Mt Arthur, Aug 201

Club Nights Coming Up!

Wednesday 20th September

7.30pm The Honest Lawyer, Stoke, Nelson

Don Bogie. Alpine Rescue and Risk Management in the NZ Mountains

Don will talk about his time at Aoraki doing alpine rescue work, including how to get the most strength out of snow anchors. For eight years, Don was leader of the with the Alpine Rescue Team at Aoraki Mt Cook. Don recently retired from DOC after 44 years. Career highlights include being part of the Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation, DOC Manager at Nelson Lakes, Franz Josef and Tongariro and DOC's Principal Advisor Visitor Risk.



Photos. (Left) Inglis-Doole rescue from the Middle Peak of Mt Cook.
(Right) An Alpine Rescue Team on the summit of Aguilles Rouge.

Wednesday 18th October

7.30pm The Honest Lawyer, Stoke, Nelson

Pete Cammell, a past NZAC President, will describe his climb of La Perouse from the west. This a significant achievement. His 24th NZ 3000m peak.

Bonus feature: Russell Adams will chair the 2023 Nelson Marlborough Section AGM. Come prepared to hear Russell's report for the year and help plan for 2024.

Latest Trip Report

Manakau 2023.

Manakau 2,608 metres, is the highest peak of the Seaward Kaikoura Range.

With heavy snowfall earlier in the week and an email from the trip leader expressing doubt about reaching the summit, 9 participants pulled out of the trip. leaving a more manageable party of 7.

Having camped overnight at Puhupuhi campground, we started up the Hapuku River and reached the bottom of Surveyor Spur at around lunch time. Sobering to find we had no salami and cheese.

Battling on, the bush presented few issues. Taking Stace Saddle was easy enough. For a grade 1+, Surveyor Spur held a few surprises in steepness but we made good time up to camp at about 2000m.



The next morning 5 climbers set off in darkness to seek the main ridge. There was some tricky navigation in the dark but the sunrise views paid dividends.

The main ridge consisted mostly of easy travel with one steeper section and a few twists here and there. Fortunately snow that fell earlier in the week lay in thick loose drifts where we needed to pass the gendarmes.



At about 2420m altitude and just under 700m distance from the summit, the wind was picking up so we turned back. Time for some proper mountaineering! We staggered back along the upper Surveyor Spur getting lashed with spindrift. Luckily our tents were still there when we got back to our camp. After packing up, the wind got even stronger. Leaning far to windward and staggering about. Very gingerly we made our way down the steeper section for 200m or so where, luckily, we were sheltered.

Before reaching the next gentle gradient one of our party fell, lost their axe attempting to self-arrest, and slid 400m downhill at a quick pace. We made good time to the patient. Fortunately they were "only" very sore and very shaken. Because there remained more

steep snow below and the distance back to the cars was still significant, a rescue helicopter was called. Once the patient was safely aboard the helicopter we carried on, and made it back to the cars a little after 7pm.

Trip Lessons:

1. Footwork. Footwork. **Footwork!**
0. Assign someone to patient care. The patient was getting cold and could have been better managed if someone is dedicated to that job.
0. Secure your tents properly, even if it's calm when you make camp. It might not be later.
0. Make sure you can melt heaps of water. Hot water in fierce spindrift is like gold.
0. Quality down jackets are another form of gold. You may unexpectedly stand around a lot.
0. Don't forget your salami and cheese and leave it in the work fridge like me!

Neil Seaman

How to Get Into More White and Pointy Stuff.

2023 N/M Section Trips and Courses

Coordinator : Hamish Brown

Email: hamishbrownnz@gmail.com

Phone: 027 418 3124

September

9/10th Basic Snowcraft Course

16/17 Peel Range Traverse Grade 1+

A walk up the beautiful Cobb Valley to camp at Round Lake. Then an early start to traverse the Peel Range back to the carpark, climbing as many of the four peaks as possible on the way. A good level of fitness required.

Contact: Forrest. forrestpaynter@gmail.com

14th-21st Temple Basin. Ski and Climb Week.

We have a great opportunity to join Wellington section members at Temple Basin for a week in the mountains. Pack you skis and crampons!

Contact Hamish. hamishbrownnz@gmail.com

16/17th Basic Snowcraft Course. Follow up Trip.

Just completed your basic snow craft course and now wanting to put some of those skills into practice, Join Russell for a great weekend.

Contact Russell. r.a.guns.70@gmail.com

23/24th Lees Creek

Ben Winnubst Memorial Trip. The spirit of the trip has always been to remember Ben and his love of the mountains.

Unfortunately due to lambing, Rainbow Station is not allowing us access to Rainbow River. This was unexpected as it has not been an issue in the past. Climbing Kehu from the other side is a big ask for a weekend trip, so this option has been replaced.

Our new trip plan is Lees Creek, camping up valley from the hut at point 1144.

Hamish plans to head in on Friday afternoon, Jerome will walk in Saturday morning. This gives an option of a walk in to the campsite on Friday night like me, or a nice walk in the morning after a coffee on Saturday. It will be a great trip to have all of us camping together on Saturday night. Being a short walk in allows room for some wine! We can bag a peak on Sunday if legs allow

If you are still keen to join us, please email and let us know if you plan to come in on Friday or Saturday.

Contacts: Hamish hamishbrownnz@gmail.com

Jerome. jjwaldron@xtra.co.nz

October

13/15th Mt Adams A fine weekend trip on the West Coast. Commence south of Hari Hari, Easy scramble up to a campsite, then snow plod/crampon onto a snowy summit. Terrific views to Main Divide – south east, and west to Tasman Sea.

Contact: Seb. sebastian.head@gmail.com.

20/21/22nd Mt Hopeless/ Mt Cupola Combo. Grade 2-3

No plans for your long weekend, come join us on a trip to climb Hopeless and Cupola from Cupola Hut. Experience on steep exposed terrain is essential.

Contact Hamish. hamishbrownnz@gmail.com

November

Faerie Queen and Gloriana - Dates to be confirmed.
Join us on two classic Spencer mountains peaks.
Contact Liam. liam_sullivan@yahoo.com

Mountain News Breaks

Rescue Helicopter Donation

The Section has agreed to a \$1000 donation to the Nelson Marlborough Helicopter Rescue Trust. This is in line with the Section's donations over several years. The **Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter** makes over 500 rescue missions annually in the **Nelson**, Tasman, Marlborough and Buller regions. Occasionally section members have been known to benefit from on their services.

Huts

Something is cooking on club accommodation. Watch out for smoke signals from Headquarters....

Suggestions for New Section Activities

Section Evening Convenor Peter Laurenson welcomes tips for future Section evenings and social activities. See Peter at almost any Section evening, or contact him by:

Email: occasionalclimber@gmail.com

Phone: 021 446 725.

Share Your Ideas and Adventures With Section Members

Contributions for the Section Newsletter are always appreciated.

- o Epic, interesting or unusual trips in NZ or overseas.
- o Satisfying climbs and new routes.
- o Amazing alpine photos.
- o Gear recommendations.
- o Letters to the editor, Praise or concerns.
- o Views on conservation and national park management.
- o Book, video and film discoveries.
- o Contact: Rob Mitchell

Email: mitchl28@gmail.com

Phone: 0274 764 824

| Nelson Marlborough NZAC Section Committee 2023 | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
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