

October 2023

## **Chairmans Pitch**

### **2022-23 Annual Report for the Nelson Marlborough Section**

Section membership: 2022 NM - 210      2023 NM - 230  
National NZAC membership: 2022 NZAC - 4058    2023 NZAC – 4367

A big welcome to all new members and those who continue to participate in Club activities. Our section membership has risen since last year which reflects the growth in the Club as a whole. 230 section members puts us just above our pre Covid high point. This is great in general but I think it points to two main factors. We are retaining new members who come through the BSCC and climbers are moving to the Top of The South to enjoy the lifestyle on offer here. While the snowpack has been slim for the most of the winter, the climbing is far from over with the spring season just kicking off. Over the year there have been many section members out and about, from overseas excursions to local trips. Notable has been the ice climbing season with some keen climbers out on ice crags many weekends. Some new ice discoveries in remote head basins have been reported.

#### **Banff**

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is the main annual fundraiser for the NZAC. Two successful screenings were held in Nelson this year. Thanks to Josh Knox and Neil Seaman for making this happen, as well as all those who volunteered on the two nights. I'd be interested in seeing a Banff screening in the Marlborough region next year too. Josh will be stepping down from the Banff role for 2024 but is looking forward to coaching our new Banff Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer to run this, get in touch. We have a supportive and experienced team to show you the ropes.

#### **Instruction**

Two Basic Snowcraft Courses have been run recently. Both with reasonable conditions and well attended. Thanks to all the instructors who make the courses possible. Special thanks to Glen Aspin who has coordinated the courses for a number of years. We have had a large waiting list for the last two years and women are now forming the larger part of applicants and participants. I'd like to see an additional or third BSCC run next winter. Vicky Shelling and Maree Holland attended instructor development and avalanche education courses this year. It has been so good to see young, enthusiastic ladies picking up important roles in the club. If anyone would like to train as an instructor or you are already up to scratch with your fundamental mountaineering skills, then please make yourself known. It's a fun and rewarding job to take new climbers out in the hills for a weekend.

#### **Trips**

This year we saw more trips with more people. A good variety of trips have been run although most of them in short weather windows. Despite this, a number of valiant attempts didn't quite hit the intended summits. Trips aren't quite over for the year with a couple of trips such as Mt Adams, Gloriana Peak and a summer rock trip all on the cards before Christmas.

This year, we encountered our first significant incident on a Section trip. Accidents do happen and this is where our trip leaders and the effort they go to, to mitigate risks, shine through.

Thanks to those who lead trips year after year. This year we also saw a few new trip leaders step up which is always great. We always need more trip leaders, especially those interested in running easy social trips. There's club support for those who want to develop their leadership skills through training courses.

Also thanks to Hamish Brown for his role as Trips Coordinator. Hamish took on the role last year and established new systems that enabled trip leaders to get their paperwork done with less hassle. He is taking a break from the role so we are looking for a new Trip Coordinator. Anyone with a head for organisation and enthusiasm for getting people out in the hills should find this role a breeze

## **Section Evenings**

2023 has seen a return to regular section evenings on the third Wednesday of every month. This is thanks to Peter Laurenson who brings a wealth of knowledge from the Wellington Section and has been excellent at organising engaging speakers. Peter also ran the sections first photo competition which had a higher rate of participation than some larger sections. So big ups to Peter and our members for getting into it.

If you or someone you know would like to speak at a section evening then contact Peter via: [occasionalclimber@gmail.com](mailto:occasionalclimber@gmail.com)

## **Media and Communications**

This year Forrest Paynter has been keeping an eye on our social media and Rob Mitchell editing the newsletter. Judging by the applicants for trips and courses, and the turnout at section evenings they are doing a good job of putting us out there. If you're passionate about social media or design then I know that both guys in these roles would love a helping hand.

## **Committee/AGM**

This year our committee has grown significantly and I am very grateful to have such a great team to make the Section tick. Over the last couple of years we have done a great job of modernizing and increasing the club's gear that we use to run the BSCC and lend out to members. We have also continued donations to the Rescue Helicopter, supported national club projects and made a substantial donation to Rainbow Ski Field in appreciation of the access they grant for the Club. We will be opening all positions for nominations and electing new committee members at this year's AGM. We also accept a number of members without defined roles into the committee. Nominations can be made on the night or at any time to [nmchairperson@gmail.com](mailto:nmchairperson@gmail.com). We do our best to keep the AGM brief and get onto what promises to be a great presentation from Pete Cammell.

## **Russell Adams - Section Chairman**

### **Section Committee Roles Up for Election**

Chairman\*  
Secretary\*  
Treasurer\*  
Gear Quartermaster\*  
Banff Coordinator\*  
BSCC Coordinator\*  
Section Evening Coordinator\*  
Newsletter Editor\*  
Section Council Rep  
Marlborough Rep  
Facebook/Social media\*  
**Proposed new roles**  
Instruction Coordinator\*  
Marlborough Banff Coordinator\*

## **September Section Meeting**

At our well attended September meeting at the Honest Lawyer, Don Bogie gave a fascinating talk on his experiences pioneering some brilliant new routes including the North Face of Aspiring, before describing his work as alpine safety and rescue team leader at Aoraki Mt Cook. As a finale he discussed the science of best practice snow stake use. Great presentation. Thanks Don!

## **Next Meeting – With a Bonus Double Feature!**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**7.30pm The Honest Lawyer, Stoke, Nelson**

### **Section Annual General Meeting**

Section Chair Russell Adams will steer the 2023 Nelson Marlborough Section AGM.

Reread and digest Russell's annual report for the Section (above), and be prepared to discuss how to the Section could develop in 2024.

This year Russell would like to see each of our committee roles properly elected.

It has been many years since this was done.

### **Special Guest Speaker and Auckland Climber Pete Cammell**

Pete Cammell, a past NZAC President, will describe his climb of La Perouse from the west coast.

This a significant achievement. His 24<sup>th</sup> NZ 3000m peak. No doubt there will be stories from other climbs too!



L. Teetering across slabs of polished glass

R. Thank God we are off the magic carpet of snow!      Photos Pete Cammell

## **Trip Reports**

### **Nelson Marlborough Section Basic Snow Skills Courses**

Our 2023 Basic Snow Craft Courses were held at the start of September this year. We ran 2 courses with 10 participants each course over two weekends.



For the first course, conditions were perfect, blue skies, no wind, firm conditions and lunch breaks next to an igloo! Everyone had a great time learning how to move in the mountains ending up at a stunning lunch spot on Sunday afternoon.

Well done to all the participants, it was great to see you all cramponing well and moving efficiently and confidently by the end of the course. I look forward to seeing you on club trips and in the mountains soon.

The second course had a mixed bag of conditions. Great weather on Saturday for learning snow skills, cramponing, self arresting and transceiver work. Sunday was a bit overcast and damp, but this was good for navigation and route finding. Lunch in the Bothy Bags highlighted how a simple shelter in crap conditions can make things considerably more comfortable!



A big thank you to all the instructors for volunteering their time. Thanks too, to the Rainbow Skifield team who are awesome to deal with. We couldn't hold our courses without their ready assistance.  
**Glen Aspin**

### **Stormy Time on Mt Arthur**

On a stormy September Sunday four recent BSCC participants and an instructor headed up towards the Mt Arthur Hut.



A text from one concerned participant late in the evening inspired me to throw my chainsaw in the back of the vehicle. Shortly after this came in handy dealing with a large Macrocarpa tree that had fallen across the gravel road, with a frustrated local trying to head down into Motueka. It was quickly tidied up and dragged to the side of the road with the Landcruiser. Next stop, Kahurangi National Park.

We set off up towards the hut, buddy checking for any stray pack straps and oddly attached equipment. Once at the hut we put on wet weather gear and wandered up onto the ridge. With winds around 80km/h and forecast to climb to 120km/h, we discovered that a stable stance and balanced pace apply not only to snow travel but also on tussock ridges in extreme winds. We forged on as far as we were comfortable and experienced what it's like to not be able to talk to each other within a couple of metres before returning to the hut.

Unfortunately we didn't get much of a break from the weather man. However the participants definitely cemented the idea that when the going gets tough, that it always pays to go back to basics. A strong stance, balance and rhythm - the climber's mantra.

An A+ for a sense of adventure for all participants.

**Russell Adams**

## **Trips for the Upwardly Mobile**

Coordinator: Hamish Brown

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

Phone: 027 418 3124

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:liam_sullivan@yahoo.com)

## **Talks and Ideas for New Section Activities**

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

Email: [occasionalclimber@gmail.com](mailto:occasionalclimber@gmail.com)

Phone: 021 446 725.

## **Share Your Ideas and Adventures Through the Newsletter**

Rob Mitchell, you inquisitive Newsletter Editor, always appreciates new copy..

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

Email: [rmitchl28@gmail.com](mailto:rmitchl28@gmail.com)

Phone: 0274 764 824

<b>Nelson Marlborough NZAC Section Committee 2023</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Russell Adams	Chairman	r.a.guns.70@gmail.com	022 097 6336
Glen Aspin	Snowcraft Co-ordinator.	aspojay@gmail.com	---
Hamish Brown	Trip Co-ordinator	hamishbrownnz@gmail.com	027 418 3124
Ross Cullen	Board Member	ross.Cullen@lincoln.ac.nz	021 294 6819
Bruce Davies	Section Evenings	daviesrobin@yahoo.com	021 238 3733
Seb Head	Trip Leader	sebastian.head@gmail.com	027 357 0050
Maree Holland	Secretary	mareeholland9@gmail.com	027 333 6947
Brandon Kay		braknn007@gmail.com	
Josh Knox	Banff co-ordinator	joshknox@yahoo.com	021 169 9905
Hoss Kouhestani		olympicfun@xtra.co.nz	027 408 6191
Peter Laurenson	Section Evenings	occasionalclimber@gmail.com	021 446 725
Reuben McCormack		mccormackreuben@gmail.com	---
Rob Mitchell	Newsletter	rmitchl28@gmail.com	0274764824
Forrest Paynter	Social Media, Trips	forrestpaynter@gmail.com	---
Neil Seaman		neilseaman79@gmail.com	---
Vicky Shelling	First Aid	vashelling@gmail.com	027 542 3533
Liam Sullivan	Treasurer, Gear	liam_sullivan@yahoo.com	021 144 3792
Jerome Waldron	Marlborough Rep	jjwaldron@xtra.co.nz	027 572 9214

**You could be part of the team in 2024!**  
**Think of how you could contribute.**  
**Talk to one of the team.**  
**Come to the AGM.**