

February 2024



Russell Adams "Frankie Goes To Hollywood" 16 - Rhinoceros Wall, Paynes Ford

Chairman's Pitch

Happy New Years and welcome to 2024 everyone.

Unfortunately I've been taking a break from any pack carrying or big falls over the summer due to injury. However, I have seen plenty of members at the crags of Paynes Ford and Pohara this summer and kept myself inspired on some easier (and shadier) climbs.

Traditionally our Section has been rather inactive from November to March. However last year I ran our first club rock trip in Golden Bay and went over to Marlborough to catch up with members over there. Our first section evening is organised already with Andy Caruthers speaking on the 20th March.

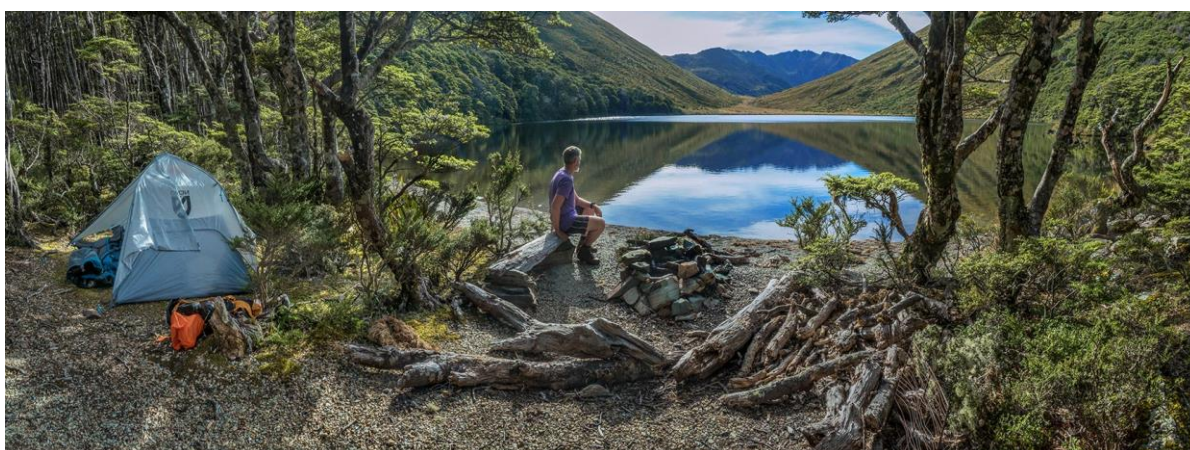
The committee will be getting together for their first meeting soon and planning the year's activities. We've seen great growth in numbers and participation over the last couple of years. This year our focus will be on finding the recipe that makes the Club work for all of us. There are many aspects to running NZAC. Trips, facilities, courses, events, funding, and taking on projects outside of our direct interests. Most importantly these activities are about community. So if you're a hut or track user, have climbed on some nice, shiny (or rusty, rattly) bolts, or you've been on a course or trip in the last year, have a think about how you can give back to the Club and others.

Bolting is often done out of people's own pockets and courses run at cost recovery. DOC and the Backcountry Trust can struggle for funding at times.

However more often than not, it is a shortage of people power and hands on the ground rather than money that hinders projects great and small in our mountains, valleys, crags and club meeting places.

Russell Adams
Section Chair

Inspiration



Images from a summer exploration of Diamond Lake from Peter Laurensen.

Section Meetings

March

Wednesday 20 March. At The Honest Lawyer, Stoke. 7.30pm

Tararua SK. A film produced by Andy Carruthers, Chair of the NZAC Wellington Section and keen trail runner, in association with Hans Weston. Officially selected for the 2023 NZ Mountain Film Festival in Wanaka, this is an exhilarating account of an end-to-end traverse of the rugged Tararua Range.

April

Wednesday 17 April. At The Honest Lawyer, Stoke. 7.30pm

Otago Based mountaineer and writer, Paul Hersey will speak about his latest book, 100 of the best NZ climbs for occasional mountaineers.

Summer reading discovery

Extract from *Land Uplifted High* by John Pascoe. Whitcombe and Tombs. 1952.Pp 64-65

A Prodigious Mountain - First Ascent of Tapuaenuku

Tapuaenuku was described as, a *Prodigious Mountain* by James Cook in his 1770 Journal of a Circumnavigation of New Zealand. The meaning of the Maori name is obscure. Local farmers (and climbers) know it as *Tappy*.

"This is the story published in the Wellington Spectator of 24 November 1849, at a time when mountaineering in Europe was in its infancy. Edward John Eyre was the leader of the party. He was famous as an explorer of Australia and he was in New Zealand as a Lieutenant Governor under (Sir George) Grey. In the course of buying Maori land he found release from official duties, and we may be sure that the man who faced death by starvation in the deserts of Western Australia felt restless in Wellington. He was joined by W.J. Hamilton, known as a survey officer on HMS Acheron which was in New Zealand waters to chart coastline and harbours. These two adventurous men had Maori guides who took them from the Wairau in Marlborough to the Awatere Valley. When they reached a leading spur at 6000 feet, Hamilton realised the climb was hazardous without proper gear and that, from a survey point of view, the risk of ascent was not worthwhile. Eyre however, took four of the Maoris to do what he could. This was in November 1849 and the spring snow was still soft and treacherous. Though the Spectator account overstated the difficulties, they were considerable to men not trained or equipped for such work. The sides of the mountain particularly towards the summit, are not in fact "broken into almost perpendicular precipices of several hundred feet in height divided from each other by narrow projecting ledges of rock", as the newspaper recorded. Nevertheless the ascent of thirteen hours was indeed a laborious one. In the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, Dr G.H. Scholefield notes that Eyre claims to have reached the summit himself, but W.G McClymont, the leading authority on New Zealand exploration, considers that the party turned back because of failing light when within 15 minutes of the top.

In the ascent, wrote the newspaper account, "William Hoeta, a native of the district, unfortunately missed his footing, and fell down one of the precipices we have described, and from the force and the height of the fall, bounding over the projecting ledge of rock, was precipitated to the bottom of the abyss a height of at least 1600 feet." Further, the Lieutenant Governor had a very narrow escape having lost his footing, but fortunately he saved himself by thrusting his staff into the snow and clinging to it until he could regain his feet." Another Maori slipped, but saved himself. Eyre must have realised that snow frozen by evening was unsafe, so the party had a night out and continued the descent next morning. In his history of Marlborough Province, AD McIntosh refers to further ascents of Tuaeenuku in 1864, 1874, 1876, and 1883, but the mountain did not become popular until the Tararua Club made many trips there. The first was in 1920, with more in the 1930s, and today it is standard fare for Easter."

We Welcome Member Suggestions for Talks and Activities

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

Email: occasionalclimber@gmail.com

Phone: 021 446 725.

Interesting News, Stories to Share?

Newsletter editor Rob Mitchell is always ready to publish items from Section members.

- Interesting trips
- Epic climbs
- Amazing alpine photos.
- Gear recommendations.
- Letters that explain personal views on alpine issues, conservation or national park management.
- Book, video and film discoveries.

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NZAC Nelson Marlborough Section Committee 2024

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