

NZAC NELSON MARLBOROUGH SECTION NEWS

March 2025



Peter Laurenson had perfect weather to visit the Thousand Acre Plateau area to climb The Needle and Mt Misery.

Featured in this Issue:

- Peter Laurenson's first Pitch.
- Section Meeting programme
- Bruce Davies presentation in April
- Local Access Advocacy

The Chairmans Pitch

Kia ora

Here begins my first pitch as Section Chairman.

To start, I acknowledge again the great years of work Russell Adams did for us as Chair. He set a high bar which I'll try to live up to. Russell is now free to devote full attention to our winter snow craft courses and instructor training, so he'll still be involved right at the heart of our club's activities. Thanks again Russell.

Our first Committee meeting is set for 19 March, preceding our first Section evening of the year at the Honest Lawyer. We have a full agenda to get through. Our Section evening programme is in good shape. There are only one or two committee spots left to fill at present. Ross Cullen has kindly agreed to take over Section evening coordination.

Our meeting programme for the year is as follows:

Wed 19 Mar 2025 Andy Buchanan: A view to a climb

Wed 16 Apr 2025 Pam Henson: Adventuring in Karakaorum

Wed 21 May 2025 Jim Petersen: NZAC National outgoing President - reflections

Wed 18 Jun 2025 Pat Deavoll: International expedition climber

Wed 16 Jul 2025 Graham Langton: Against the Odds - Early women mountaineers in NZ
Wed 20 Aug 2025 Bruce Davies: Annual photo competition
Wed 17 Sep 2025 Still open – ideas welcomed by Ross
Wed 15 Oct 2025 Peter Laurenson: my new book – Aotearoa Light
Wed 19 Nov 2025 Paul Rogers: Mountain guide.

In addition, Bruce Davies has kindly agreed to take on our annual photo competition coordination this year. We are keen to see a much bigger member; whether it's from an old-school camera or a fancy smart phone, while you're out there doing cool stuff in the hills, why not capture and share it through our photo comp!

I hope you've been enjoying some good trips over this summer season. I'm happy to report that I'm pretty stoked with my own trips. My partner and I moved to Richmond partly (for me, mainly) because there's so much magnificent alpine terrain around here. Having 'officially' reached autumn, here are my season highlights.

Bruce Davies and I climbed Xenicus Peak in November. Despite a good forecast, an expected squall greeted us on the summit.



In December I went alone up to Thousand Acres and Hundred Acre Plateau, climbing The Haystack for dawn and then tagging The Needle and Mt Misery – what an unforgettable landscape! (Check out the Peter's selfie on p1)

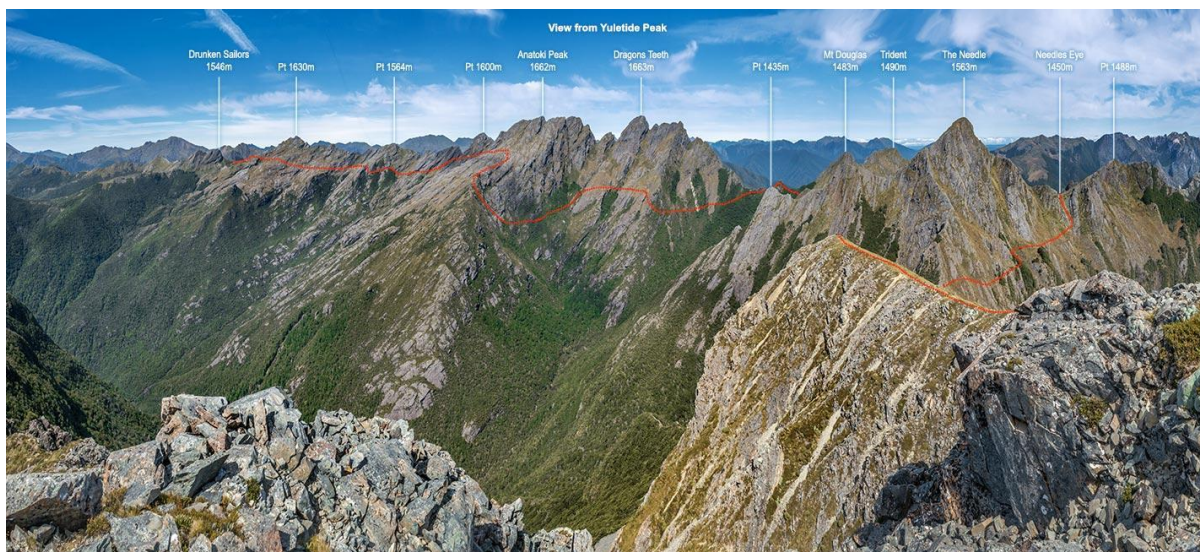
Jim Davidson gave me an early Christmas present, leading me up my third 3000er – The Minarets overlooking the Tasman Glacier.



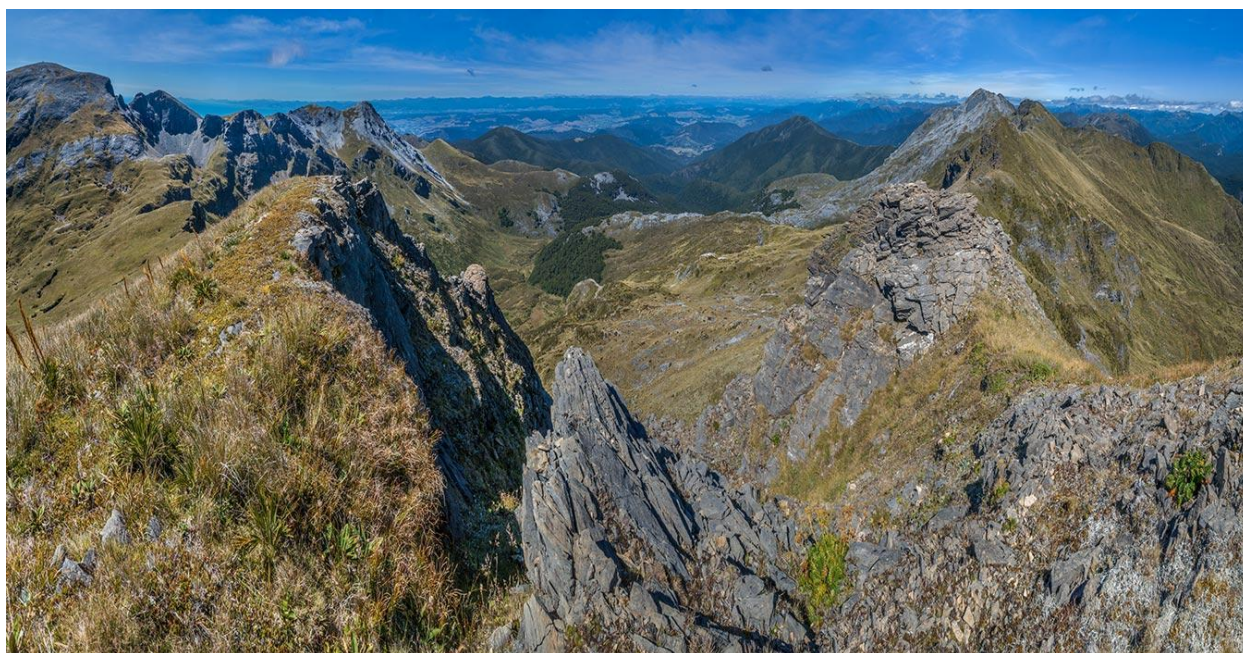
After some North Island weight gaining in Wellington over Christmas, we returned to paradise in early January. Since moving to Richmond I've been walking the Arthur Range skyline I enjoy from our home, so in January with Bruce, set off to plug another part of it – from above John Reid Hut along to Cowin Spur. We bivvied on Gomorrhah.



In February I joined two Wellington Section members, Andy Carruthers and Mary McBride, to tackle the Dragons Teeth high route, coming in over Yuletide. That landscape lived up to its reputation – fantastic.



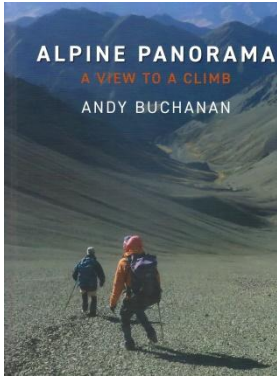
And most recently I plugged another stretch of my skyline – the three high points between Mt Arthur and North Twin. Just another day in paradise.



See you at the Honest Laswyer, on Wednesday Evening, 19 March!

Peter Laurenson
Nelson Marlborough Section Chair

Lock in the Dates for these Club Meetings



Alpine Panorama. A talk by Andy Buchanan Wednesday 19 March 2025 7.00pm The Honest Lawyer, Stoke

On a clear morning, Christchurch residents have an awesome view across the Canterbury plains to the peaks of the Southern Alps. The view changes dramatically from summer to winter depending on the weather.

Andy Buchanan's self-imposed retirement challenge was to climb all 133 named peaks on a hand-drawn panorama sketch published in the Christchurch Press over 50 years ago. The panorama extends from Mt Peel and Fox Peak in the south, to Tapuaenuku and Manukau in the north, including Canterbury foothills and many peaks in the Southern Alps as far away as Mt Cook and Mt Rolleston.

Andy has climbed all these peaks, and has written a book about the views, the mountains, their history and the climbs. His talk will give more information on the panorama, the peaks, and the book, describing successes and failures along the way, with many friends.

Andy is a semi-retired structural engineer. He taught civil engineering at the University of Canterbury for many years.

Wednesday 16 April. 7.00pm The Honest Lawyer, Stoke. Adventures in Karakoram

Pam Henson, committed environmentalist, experienced trapper, caver and kayaker, will discuss her experiences over six seasons as an English teacher in Shimshal, a remote village in the foothills of the Karakoram Range in northern Pakistan. There is a postscript too: a long term commitment to helping local youth.

Bruce Davies takes Centre Stage at the Nelson Tramping Club

Bruce entertained NZAC members with his a rich collection of tales about his inspirational adventures in Greenland and Antarctic last year.

If you would like a reprise, Bruce will be speaking the Nelson Tramping Club on 14th April. Any interested Alpine Club members are very welcome to attend.

Nelson Tramping Club meets at theTahunanui Community Hub,
55 Muritai St, Tahunanui.

A pre meeting cuppa is available from7.30pm

You can visit the NTC website at: <https://live.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz/>

Local Tramping Club Advocacy

Application to Close Public Access to Hira Forest

Nelson, Motueka, Waimea and Marlborough Tramping clubs, the Outdoor Access Commission and Nelson City Council were represented in the Treasury Hearing in Nelson on 11 February. Treasury officials heard the case for closure of long standing public access easements (PAEs) in the Hira Forest, from the owners, Ngati Koata. The company claims closure is needed because of increased harvesting frequencies and the need to assure public health and safety. The tramping clubs, OAC and the NCC Mayor the Hon Dr Nick Smith opposed the application for closure, citing the traditional recreational rights needed to be protected and access for public recreation by future generations should be guaranteed. The clubs also stated that company signage stating that company permits were required for use of the PAEs was arguably illegal. The decision of the hearing commissioner is expected in March and it is hoped that a negotiated solution will be reached.

Mt Richmond Forest Park Public Easement Access

Following correspondence between local tramping clubs and Forestry Company OneFortyOne, and stakeholder meetings in Nelson and Blenheim in late 2024, there has been an improvement in the number of PAEs open for recreational access to Mt Richmond Forest Park. Discussions are continuing. If you are contemplating a trip into MRFP remember to check the availability of access on both the OFO and DOC websites.

Contribute Your Ideas for Member Social Activities

Convenor, Ross Cullen, will welcome suggestions for future Section evenings and social activities.

What have you Climbed or Explored Recently?

Newsletter Editor, Rob Mitchell is always welcomes contributions.

- News with an alpine twist
- Your last great trip!
- Wow factor alpine photos.
- Alpine issues or concerns.
- Gear, book and video recommendations.

Copy deadline: 25th of each month.

Send your contributions to:

Email: rmitchl28@gmail.com

Phone: 027 476 4824