

# Mount Maunganui Climb Trip

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The nz-cni-climbers group gets together weekly for climbing. This year, we're gonna do a monthly weekend trip throughout the summer. Most of the trips planned for the summer will be overnight trips on the first weekend of the month.

Saturday, 2012-11-03 found, myself, Norbert, and Jasmin jammed into my car on our way to The Mount. We car pooled from Hamilton for this vacation. We met up with Mark at The Mount as he has a fantastic flat facing the ocean.



METS was calling for rain in the afternoon so once we arrived we decided to get right into it before the rain arrived. I have to say, METS was right on the money. The first port of call was Moturiki Island (Leisure Island). We each got several climbs in on the sea wall there. It is a jumble of fantastic rocks each more far out than the other. The sea carved that side of the island into all kinds of fantastic shapes. We spent some quality time on Saturday finding ways up the rocks there.



Jasmin, Norbert, and I all took turns testing out the stainless steel bolting on the sea wall. It all looked pretty good and the climbing was good fun. We all found something to suit our needs. Heck, just scrambling over the sea rocks was good fun.

The rain held off, but only for so long. In our excitement to get up on the rocks, we waited too long. It started raining and things were starting to get pretty wet.

I had left up some equipment on the wall for the next member of our party, but we all decided that wasn't such a great idea in the rain and in the wind that had picked up considerably. Oh, and I forgot to mention the tide was coming in. We were above the high tide level, but the sea was frothed up by the wind and spitting some water in the process. Turns out that the rocks get quite a bit more slippery when they get wet too.

There was only one top anchor that looked like it could use some tender loving care. Two beautiful stainless steel anchors were wired to a D-ring for a belay. I was a bit self-conscious about the state of the rust for the wires though. I ran the rope through the stainless anchors, but once I got the bottom I realized that the now wet rope wouldn't run through them. Oh well.



An abseil station was setup at the top to retrieve the equipment and the rope that wouldn't budget and it was put to use. As soon as I cleared the cover of the trees it was really wet! Besides the weather, everything was easy and in short notice, all the equipment was retrieved and I was back under cover of the forest on the island. Naturally, the rain let off and it started clearing after that. Ahh... this is the stuff memories are made of. What a fantastic time!



The campground facilities were quite nice as well they should be for the \$40/per campsite we paid for it. Hot showers, gas BBQ pit, paved roads, washing machines, kitchen, and toilets to name a few amenities. There was also that fantastic view of the ocean! That price included two people. Each additional adult was another \$20. We set up two tents in our space.

After the weather calmed down a bit, we setup the tents, dried off a bit, we had a beer, and some nice hot BBQ food in our gut all was wonderful again.

The campground offers a 30% discount on the hot salt water pools, but we decided to go up to the top of the Maunganui and watch the sunset. Unfortunately, we didn't make it in time, but the weather was fantastic by then and the views were spectacular. Serendipity! It turns out that it was close enough to Guy Fawkes day and on a weekend to see quite a bit of fireworks that evening. I had the tripod and a couple of long exposures yielded some nice results.





The wind that evening was something to remember. The tents were shaking up quite a bit. You could hear the wind shaking the trees, getting closer and closer, and finally it seemed like the tent pegs were getting a good workout. Otherwise, it was a fabulous night on the beach.

Dawn came the next morning about the same time as the sun. I managed an early morning walk along the beach and got some nice sunrise photos.

After a pleasant breakkie, it was time to see about The Mount herself. It was a short hike up the hill and then which to choose. There was no threatening rain clouds on the horizon. It was severe clear every which way you could look. Sail boats dotted the ocean in front of us. Fishing and container vessels plied their sea lanes. Numerous joggers and walkers were taking advantage of this wonderful area.





We all climbed until we were either tired, scraped up, or both and it was good.

Afterwards it was decided that a nice dip in the ocean was called for. It was plenty cold. Personally, I voted for the salt water hot pools for my tired muscles, but I went with the crowd on this one.



The next trip is coming up on the weekend starting Saturday, 2012-12-01 to Kawakawa Bay. I'm told that it can be warm there in the summer so this sounds like the right time to go. Some reliable intel tells me there is a complete, easily passable trail all the way to the rocks which is more than adequate for a mountain bike. I've never biked to a crag before so it'll be a new one on me.

Now, all I need to do is to figure out how to pack all my crap into two pannier bags and a backpack. I think I'll need to take a more careful look at what I need to bring with me!

