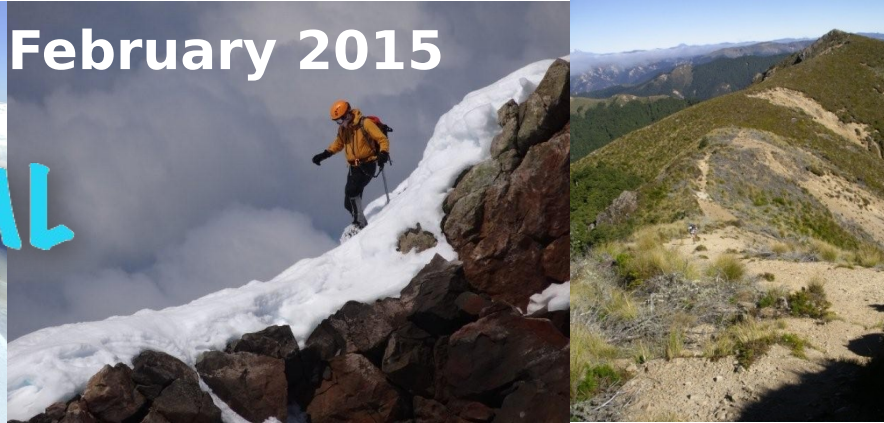




February 2015



General Communications

All members are encouraged to communicate their opinions and to drive CNI forward. Share your ideas via:

- [Facebook](#) – Official news. World news. Announcements.
- [Section Website](#) – Official news.
- [Google Groups](#) – Ad hoc email, quick trip plans, rock or alpine, anything, any time. NZAC membership not required. Includes a [calendar](#) of upcoming events.
- Social Indoor Climbing – For those into Rock and are close to Hamilton, stop by [Extreme Edge](#) Tuesday evening and you'll most likely run into club members as it is a regular event. Don't forget to bring your NZAC club card for a discounted rate.
- After Work Rock Climbing – Send an email via the Google Groups email list and invite yourself to the semi-regular weekly after work climbing events.
- E-mail, text or call – For when you want to talk to a specific individual.

If you have had a great trip or a special idea you want to share, get some pictures and a story and send it to the Newsletter contact below.

Section Chairman	Mike Greer	chairperson@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 619 564
Snowcraft Coordinator	Ray Long	snowcraft@alpinecentral.org.nz	027 461 8336
Treasurer	Marcus Bai	treasurer@alpinecentral.org.nz	027 305 4533
Secretary	Scott Robertson	secretary@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 221 8448
Gear Hire	Dennis Sanders	gearhire@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 130 2245
Banff Coordinator	Marcus Daws	banff@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 262 7549
Newsletter	Mark Smith	newsletter@alpinecentral.org.nz	021 418 694
Social Media	Norbert Abel	website@alpinecentral.org.nz	022 185 7046
Committee	Cliff Ellery	c.ellery@nda.co.nz	027 455 3256
Committee	Lars Brabyn	larsb@waikato.ac.nz	07 855 8344

Upcoming Events

- This months CNI meeting is Wednesday March 11 at 1930. As always, the venue is the scrumptious [Good George](#), 07 847 3223, 32A Somerset Street, Frankton, Hamilton. Click for [Menu](#) or [Directions](#).



New Zealand Alpine Club Central North Island Newsletter

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- Australian Section Annual Climbing Meet 2015. The Australian section committee would like to invite every member of the NZAC to our newly revamped "Australian Section Annual Climbing Meet" for 2015. The 2015 meet is going to be held at the famous "Arapiles" climbing mecca in the Victorian countryside. Avoid the crowds by climbing in June and a bonus this time of year is that you are allowed to have open camp fires. So grab your trad rack and come and climb any of the thousands of routes at every grade. Free BBQ. Cost: \$10 per night p/p camping fee. All NZAC members are welcome, RSVP by 2015-03-31.

Date 2015-06-29 – 2015-07-05
Location Mt Arapiles, Victoria Australia
Organiser Australian Section NZAC
Contact Terry Cole <australia@alpineclub.org.nz>
0455 255 662
URL [https://alpineclub.org.nz/system/files/Annual Climbing Meet 2015.pdf](https://alpineclub.org.nz/system/files/Annual%20Climbing%20Meet%202015.pdf)

- BMC International Summer Climbing Meet - The BMC is pleased to announce that next year's BMC International Summer Climbing Meet will be located in the majestic Llanberis Pass of North Wales which has some of the best traditional climbing in Britain. You are invited to put forward two representatives from your country to attend this event. Preference will be given to people who have not attended a BMC International Meet before.

Date 2015-05-10 – 2015-05-17
Location North Wales, Olanberis Pass
Organiser British Mountaineering Council
URL <https://alpineclub.org.nz/event/2015/05/10/bmc-international-summer-climbing-meet>

Featured Story



Pirongia Falls

by Marcus Bai

This story is a reprint. The coordinates of the falls are: S 37° 57.970 E 175° 02.640

Just when I thought I'd seen everything up there, this was certainly news to me. There's no waterfall marked on any topos, and even DOC didn't know about it.

So when a new geocache (of all things - thanks Zorgon!) popped up with the details, this sounded just too good to be true and I couldn't wait to get out there quick enough. Dennis was equally surprised to hear of this discovery, so he put his hand up to join me.

We parked at Kaniwhaniwha, and after checking out the caves on the way, we carried on up the Bell track. I was planning on going into the bush higher up the track from the clearing originally, but the supplejack was beginning to get a little intimidating up there. As there used to be a hut back at the clearing, I thought there may be the remains of a track linking that to the waterfall from there (I was wrong). After returning to the clearing, it looked relatively open anyway, so we jumped in at that point.

We very soon met our nemesis never-the-less of the inevitable supplejack, plus a sprinkling of bush lawyer and bastard grass just to keep us entertained. The traverse we were aiming for proved too slow, so we ended up just going for the stream and then bashing our way up from there.. Not a lot easier, and next time I think I would try going in a little higher up the Bell track first and try to cut a more direct line through the supplejack fortress from there. Take care you don't come out at the top of the falls though - it looks a very steep scramble down to the bottom from up there.

The falls were absolutely stunning - much better than I expected. This really is a gem, and the effort to get in and out of here again is well worth

it. Just make sure you're up for a bit of good old fashioned off-track travel to get there. A lovely spot for a family picnic ;)

After the bush bash in, we thought the stream bash out would be relatively easy. Not so - still pretty hard going and we found it quicker to bush bash alongside for much of it instead.

We rejoined the track at NZ's tallest native - a 66.5m high Kahikatea - which was a bonus. This, combined with the caves on the way in made a nice loop to do - highly recommended for anyone looking for something a little more adventurous. It took us about 8 hours all up to do the 20km circuit.

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Buy or Sell Gear (<http://climber.co.nz/forum/buy-sell>)



Lost and Found (<http://climber.co.nz/forum/lost-and-found-gear>)

The Climber has a forum for lost and found gear.

Club Discounts

- New Zealand's Wilderness Heritage by Les Molloy and Craig Potton. NZAC members 20% discount until 2015-02-28. See here for details:
<https://alpineclub.org.nz/news/2014/new-zealands-wilderness-heritage-20-member-discount>
- A new member discount offer from Top Gear. Top Gear operates a specialized Auckland store which is located at 215 Rosedale Road, Albany, Auckland 0632. Telephone 07 415 8145. Email: info@top-gear.co.nz. They offer members 10% discount off their prices. Show your card in-store or order online using the discount code on the members' only page:
<https://alpineclub.org.nz/membership/members-only>
- Cactus offers a 10% discount (excluding discounted and promotional items). In store at 90 Fitzgerald Avenue, Christchurch use your NZAC card. Members can also apply online to become pro-team members for online discounts (<http://www.cactusoutdoor.co.nz/pro-team-pricing/>). Cactus also donates a percentage of sales profit to NZAC for the club's Expedition Fund. We thank them for this ongoing extra support.
<http://www.cactusequipment.co.nz/>

From HQ

- Kawakawa Bay Fire Restrictions ([DOC media release](#))
New fire restrictions have been put in place at Kawakawa Bay following an increase in use of the popular bay west of Kinloch on Lake Taupo.

New signs erected at the lake edge by the Department of Conservation prohibit any form of fire in the bay: that means no open fires, no camp fires, and no fireworks. Only controlled gas cookers are permitted.
- Banff Mountain Film Festival – 2015 bigger and better
We are pleased to announce that NZAC will be showing a record 20 screenings of the Banff Mountain Film Festival in 2015. This includes Tauranga and Invercargill, where the NZAC will be hosting screenings for the first time. We are also establishing separate, stand-alone Banff website. Screenings are in May and June, keep an eye out for ticket details as they inevitably sell out. Check out a [sneak preview](#).
- NZAC National Camp 2015 – Tukino
Around 30 people made their way to Tukino Lodge in the first week of January to enjoy all that this spectacular alpine area has to offer. Several first ascents were made on the various crags, the nearby summits of Ruapehu were bagged and there was even a day spent searching for historical plane wreckage.

[Tukino Lodge](#) is a fantastic place to spend some time on Mount Ruapehu – summer or winter. There are a couple of [working bees](#) planned at Tukino on the last weekends of March and April, let [Don French](#) know if you can help out!

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- Youth Rock Camp 2015 – Waikato 17-24 January 2015

The inaugural Youth Rock Camp was held in 2013 in Wanaka, followed by Christchurch in January 2014. For the first time it went to the North Island, climbing at crags around the Waikato and based at Bryce's.

Eleven talented young climbers attended from all over New Zealand, under the tutelage of some great volunteer instructors led by NZAC Life Member John Entwistle. It is great to see the youngsters convert their extraordinary talent for indoor climbing into the outdoor realm. Past attendees of the NZAC Youth Rock Camp are achieving some great things on various crags around NZ – great to see. Thanks also to Erica Gatland and Nathan Kelly for instructing at the camp, and all the parent helpers.

- South Island Rock Deluxe Guidebook

This book has been out of print for several years and its return has been keenly anticipated. At 500 pages, it is brimming with routes – including Wanaka, Paynes Ford and post-quake Christchurch climbing. Ivan Vostinar and Kate Sinclair spent a good deal of time tripping around the Island, updating the route information and taking photographs. So the routes, especially the moderate ones, have been thoroughly 'road-tested'. [NZAC members](#) can get it for 25% of RRP.

- Unwin Easter Rock Meet – Aoraki Mount Cook

This 4-day [festival of rock climbing](#) based at Unwin Lodge in Aoraki Mt. Cook is fast becoming one of the highlights of the year for aficionados of long rock routes. The rock meet is an opportunity for climbers to get together to climb, socialise, explore and enjoy the great outdoors.

The [Sebastopol Bluffs](#) have [79 routes](#) established up to 165m high and are unparalleled in NZ for honing your multi-pitch rock techniques. For those who want to move into multi-pitch climbing, rock instructor Dave Brash will be delivering a two day course at the bluffs during the meet.

- [Rock Meet Info](#) – Multi-Pitch and Transitions Course Info. [Registration](#). [Application Form](#).

- National Indoor Bouldering Series

NZAC is once again organising this series, with competitions being held in Christchurch (May 23rd), Wellington (June 27th), Hamilton (August 1st) and Auckland (Sept 12th). The NiBS is a fun, all-abilities series of bouldering events held at climbing walls around New Zealand every year. Entry is just \$15, and there are thousands of dollars of awesome category and spot prizes from our generous sponsors ChalkyDigits, Uprising and Bivouac/Outdoor to give away. Check out <http://www.nbs.org.nz/>.

- Yoga Workshop – Anzac Weekend at Unwin Lodge

Experienced yoga instructor and climber Andrew Trotter will be leading a three-day Ashtanga Yoga workshop at Unwin Lodge, suitable for all. [Workshop Info](#), or [Register](#).

- Access to The Remarkables denied by NZSki

With very little consultation with, or consideration for climbers, NZSki has locked the access road to the Remarkables Conservation Area – a hugely popular destination for recreationalists. NZAC spokesman for the Queenstown area Erik Bradshaw has been doing some great work to bring this issue to light and has some success in getting some media attention [here](#) and [here](#). NZAC has dispatched a [Media Release](#) and written to the Minister of Conservation, Otago Conservation Board and the Queenstown DoC Office.

Both FMC and NZAC have engaged in productive dialogue with NZSki around some solutions and we hope that NZSki will soon satisfy its moral and legal obligations to provide year-round public access. Local Queenstown climbers have organised an online petition that you can [sign](#).

- Taranaki Guidebook from 1996 requested

I am bibliophile and sometimes climber looking to buy a good condition copy of the book "A climbers guide to Taranaki" by Ross Eden, John Edge, and Chris Prudden, (1996). My phone number is 03 688 1182. Thank you – Graeme Clarke <graemebc@hotmail.com>.

- Refuse Recovery Strategy - Whakapapa and Turoa Ski Areas 2015

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts: Those clubs which have lodges on the ski areas or in surrounding

communities are representative of our larger and more active mountain user groups. The attached [letter](#) is to inform you of our refuse recovery program and invite your club to get involved in this important role on the mountain.

- Mt Ruapehu Electra crash of 1948 - looking for contacts

[Sarah Boddy](#) (04 386 4440 / 021 127 2121) is a researcher with Screentime NZ who are producing a second series of [Descent from Disaster](#). One of the episodes is about the Electra 1948 Crash. In a nutshell this docc honours the work done by the different people involved. Gordon Snow Mace was key and Sarah is trying to find any descendants of his who might be able to talk through his work in 1948. Any hints would be most appreciated. Thank you.

- Memorial service for Simon Bell

It was with great sadness that the climbing community made the realisation that Simon Bell had been missing for some weeks and has in all likelihood passed away. Simon was an enthusiastic member of the Wellington Section of NZAC and very capable climber. Pursuing the NZAC 100 peaks list, he had completed over 60 of the required ascents in fine style. Loraine Johns has written a moving [tribute](#) to Simon and asked that it be posted on the NZAC website here. Simon's parents have asked for the following message to be conveyed:

Dear Friends of Simon,

Simon was lucky to have many loyal friends.

We invite you all to a gathering of Simon's family and friends at 3pm on Sat 21 Feb at Lake Hawea Holiday Park.

Should you wish to make a weekend of it, there are plenty of campsites, or you can sleep under the marquee.

If you can come we look forward to meeting you in person. If not, please accept our thanks for your contribution to the life of our son.

Colin and Jeni Bell <colinandjenibell@clear.net.nz>

On behalf of all NZAC members, I express our condolences to Simon's family and friends. Our thoughts are with you, as we remember our own losses to this great sport.

Thanks for being part of a great club.

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Quick Reference

Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/alpinecentral
Section Website	http://www.alpinecentral.org.nz/
Google Groups	http://tiny.cc/nz-cni-climbers http://goo.gl/dr4hw7
Google Calendar	http://goo.gl/UEJxS0
Buy/Sell Forum	http://climber.co.nz/forum/buy-sell
Lost and Found Forum	http://climber.co.nz/forum/lost-and-found-gear
Mangaokewa Restoration Project	http://goo.gl/sPVY07
Wanaka Rock	https://alpineclub.org.nz/product/wanaka-rock/2014
Expedition Fund	https://alpineclub.org.nz/expedition-fund/reports/grants/history
Nth Island Rock Deluxe	https://alpineclub.org.nz/product/rock-deluxe-north
NZAC Calendar	https://alpineclub.org.nz/product/nzac-alpine-calendar-2015
Cactus Discounts	http://www.cactusoutdoor.co.nz/pro-team-pricing/
Member Discounts	https://alpineclub.org.nz/membership/members-only
NZ Wilderness Heritage Discount	https://alpineclub.org.nz/news/2014/new-zealands-wilderness-heritage-20-member-discount
Unwin Rock Festival	https://alpineclub.org.nz/unwin-easter-rock-meet-3-6-april-2015
Rock Meet	https://alpineclub.org.nz/system/files/2015_MPTRC_Information.pdf
Remarkables/NZSki	http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK1502/S00074/remarkables-road-closure-angers-outdoor-enthusiasts.htm
National Indoor Bouldering	http://www.nbs.org.nz/
Yoga Workshop	https://alpineclub.org.nz/system/files/2015_Unwin_Ashtanga_Yoga_Workshop_Information.pdf