



# ALPINE CENTRAL

November 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 – Stop by [Extreme Edge](#) Tuesday evening and don't forget to bring your NZAC club card for a discounted rate.
- Weekly Social Outdoor Climbing – Regular weekly climbing at crags close to Hamilton run every week.
- 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	<a href="mailto:chairperson@alpinecentral.org.nz">chairperson@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	021 619 564
Snowcraft Coordinator	Ray Long	<a href="mailto:snowcraft@alpinecentral.org.nz">snowcraft@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	027 461 8336
Treasurer	Marcus Bai	<a href="mailto:treasurer@alpinecentral.org.nz">treasurer@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	027 305 4533
Secretary	Scott Robertson	<a href="mailto:secretary@alpinecentral.org.nz">secretary@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	021 221 8448
Gear Hire	Dennis Sanders	<a href="mailto:gearhire@alpinecentral.org.nz">gearhire@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	021 130 2245
Banff Coordinator	Marcus Daws	<a href="mailto:banff@alpinecentral.org.nz">banff@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	021 262 7549
Newsletter	Mark Smith	<a href="mailto:newsletter@alpinecentral.org.nz">newsletter@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	021 418 694
Social Media	Norbert Abel	<a href="mailto:website@alpinecentral.org.nz">website@alpinecentral.org.nz</a>	022 185 7046
Committee	Cliff Ellery	<a href="mailto:c.ellery@nda.co.nz">c.ellery@nda.co.nz</a>	027 455 3256
Committee	Lars Brabyn	<a href="mailto:larsb@waikato.ac.nz">larsb@waikato.ac.nz</a>	07 855 8344



# New Zealand Alpine Club Central North Island Newsletter

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### Events:

#### Monthly Meeting

Date	2016-01-13
Time	19:30
Location	<a href="#">Good George</a> <a href="#">32A Somerset Street, Frankton, Hamilton</a> 07 847 3223
Organiser	NZAC CNI
Other	<a href="#">Menu</a>
Agenda	Upcoming courses.



#### Introduction to Rock Climbing Course

Date	2016-01-23 through 2016-01-24
Time	10:00 (arrive)
Location	Castlerock
Organiser	NZAC CNI Mark Smith 021 418 694
Notes	You must be pre-registered and an NZAC member to participate.
<p>This course is a basic introduction to climbing including common knots, belaying, safety, access, equipment, climbing techniques, etiquette, and so forth. If you're not sure of any of the above, register and be safe out there.</p>	

#### National Climbing Camp

Date	2016-01-04 through 2016-01-10
Location	Tukino, Mt Ruapehu
Organiser	NZAC
Notes	You must be pre-registered and an NZAC member to participate.
Reference	<a href="http://alpineclub.org.nz/single-event/?event_id=2092930">http://alpineclub.org.nz/single-event/?event_id=2092930</a>
<p>The Climbing camp is being jointly hosted by the North Island sections with support from the Tukino Alpine Sports Club (TASC). The camp is an opportunity for climbers to get together to climb mountains, rocks, socialise, explore and enjoy the great outdoors. Some people will choose to use the camp as a base for day walks while others will venture into the surrounding mountains or further afield (e.g. Whanganui Bay, Tongariro Crossing) for multi-day adventures. Non climbing family members are welcome as well as members of overseas alpine clubs.</p>	

#### BMC International Winter Climbing Meet

Date	2016-01-24 through 2016-01-31
Location	Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore, Scotland
Organiser	<a href="mailto:becky@thebmc.co.uk">Becky McGovern &lt;becky@thebmc.co.uk&gt;</a>
Reference	<a href="https://webforms.thebmc.co.uk/events/bmc-international-meets/federation-application-form-bmc-international-winter-climbing-meet-20">https://webforms.thebmc.co.uk/events/bmc-international-meets/federation-application-form-bmc-international-winter-climbing-meet-20</a>
<p>The BMC is pleased to announce that next year's BMC International Winter Climbing Meet will be located in the Cairngorms (Scotland) which has some of the finest winter climbing in Britain. Your federation is invited to put forward two experienced winter climbers from your country. Preference will be given to climbers who have not attended a BMC International Meet before. Please note that if the meet is oversubscribed, places will be reduced to one per country. Please complete the <a href="#">online application form</a> by 2015-10-19. Becky McGovern will contact all applying Federations by email by 27 October. Please do not make any bookings (flights, trains etc) until you have had confirmation from the BMC. The BMC International Meets are truly memorable events and we hope your federation will be able to take part.</p>	

# Rock Climbing Introduction

January 23-24  
\$75

Wharepapa South  
(about 50km South of Hamilton)



**NZ Alpine Club**

Mark @ 021 418 694  
nzac-cni-admin@googlegroups.com  
<http://tinyurl.com/2016-01-23>

Instructional course includes climbing equipment (not shoes) and crag entrance fees. Shoes available for an additional fee. Food and transportation is **not** included. Ride share is encouraged and will be facilitated as possible, but there is no guarantee of this. You must be an NZAC member: <http://tinyurl.com/NZAC-JOIN>. Spaces are limited. Contact as shown for detailed information. See you at the crag!

## **The People's Glorious Ascent of Taranaki**

*Kent Hutchins*



Hot on the heels of The People's Glorious Second (Successful) Go at Ngauruhoe a trip to Taranaki entered the planning stages. After the usual postponement due to weather (if there's one common theme from all advice offered re. Taranaki, it's 'mess with her at your peril') a brief window opened up on the morning of Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> – not good timing on such short notice, but those of us who could wangle a day off (myself and Simon) were there with bells on.

The walk up to Tahurangi Lodge (thanks must go to the TAC who were very flexible with moving our booking to suit the forecast) didn't bode well – showers turned to sleet, strong winds and very limited visibility. The lodge is very palatial however, and even has an excellent stock of old Reader's Digests – the ones with the super gory medical stories that make such excellent bedtime reading. Alarms set for 4AM, we retired for the night and hoped for the best.

What a difference a night makes – at 4AM I took a bleary look out the window to see Taranaki looming above with not a cloud in the sky and no wind whatsoever. Breakfast down, gear on, out the door at 5AM.

No sooner had we started up Hongi's Valley than we encountered icy drifts across the track and out came the crampons. We gained the first staircase, ditched the crampons, then put 'em on again half an hour later. At this stage the sun was beginning to rise over the Central Plateau and we took a short break to enjoy the incredible view as the dawn skies were painted orange, red and a thousand shades of deep blue. Magic!

The ascent continued up the classic Northern route with straightforward zigzagging over nice firm snow and ice. We picked our way up The Lizard until around 2300m, then dropped over in to Crater Valley. As this stage the climbing got a little more technical, with rock hard sastrugi requiring a decent amount of front pointing, particularly as we neared the crater valley entrance. A little 'two axe action just because we can' may have also been deployed. This was mainly Simon's idea.

Calves burning (well, mine were..) we gained the crater valley and topped out at 8.30AM. Out came the stove and we enjoyed a nice cup of Jed's in a sheltered spot just below the true summit. At this stage a bitterly cold Southerly was getting up and bringing low cloud – after the obligatory summit hero shots, we thought it prudent to start heading down.

Softening snow on descent meant caution was required, and by the time we reached the bottom of The Lizard whiteout conditions had set in. We were both thankful for our early start, as we were two of only a small number of climbers to summit that day, later starters were now being turned back by the conditions. We

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were back at the Lodge in time for lunch, and a leisurely stroll down to the car park (except for Simon, who semi jogged down, some of it backwards).

All in all, a challenging and rewarding climb, and an excellent day out. Pencil yourself in for next year!





The first monthly trip of the season was to Mount Maunganui right next to the port city of Tauranga. "The Mount," as it is traditionally known is an idyllic vacation spot with beautiful

beaches, splashing waves, surfing and other fun beach activities, shops, scenic vistas, heated saltwater pools for overworked muscles, camping, all

overlooked by an ancient volcano crossed by excellent pathways. It is fairly nearby to Hamilton (about 1.5h) with plenty of facilities, easy no fee access, and excellent mobile coverage. In addition to all that, it is an excellent climbing crag.

Right next to it is Moturiki Island. There is a land bridge to get to it, so access is easy peasy. Climbing is quite limited there and it's slightly more difficult to get to, but you are rewarded with some fantastic sea sculpted rocks. It's really very pretty.

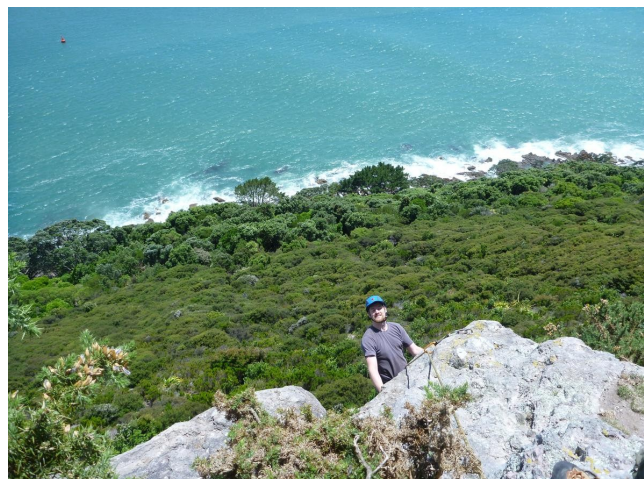
Sadly, this trip we could not do those rocks. There were some nesting gulls and they were very stressed out by our arrival. They were swooping and screaming the entire time we were there. As it turns out they had good reason as we could see their hatchlings.

While we were there, our youngest climber, Luise, daughter of Norbert, was itching to get on some rocks so we played around on some nearby rocks away from the gulls.



After that, we made our way up the mount. Climb the stairs up and when the path splits, go to the right. Only about 100 meters past that is the first set of sport bolted routes on the left called Cables Wall. The scenery just on the path is fantastic, spreading out towards the Pacific Ocean. Matakana Island is clearly visible guarding the inlet towards the port of Tauranga. A steady parade of laden barges going back and forth through it. The view from the top of the climb is that much nicer!

I setup a top belay station and thoroughly enjoyed myself in the sun and wind and the view. We made short work of the three climbs on that wall each of us taking turns on the climb.





After Cables Wall, we decided to hit Warratah Wall Left. A sweet climb called Cold Fusion (15) or perhaps Fatboy (16) was simple and far easier giving and giving with hand holds, but the rewards was tackling some very aesthetically pleasing rocks with overhangs, separate boulders and different styles required. At this point, a small crowd stopped by to cheer on Luise which she appreciated.

Norbert and his daughter having sated their climbing appetites departed. Alex and I were left to our own devices. I was not feeling terribly strong yet, but

there were definitely a few more climbs that I could hear drawing me towards them.

There was a steep overhanging start on the same wall that I could hear calling me. I decided to give it a go. Not terribly hard, but the rewards were fine.

Alex and I poked around a bit more, but at the end, I think it was a good way to round out the day. For my part, I am still weary about hurting myself again. I could feel my arms and shoulders in a good way so I reckoned it was a good place to finish the day.

## Upcoming Monthly Meets



Missed this monthly meet? Don't worry, there will be another coming up soon. The upcoming month of January will be a Rock Introduction course. I will be at the crag that entire weekend, but more or less helping out with the instruction. You're more than welcome to climb there as well. It will be at Castlerock in [Wharepapa South](#). Let me (Mark Smith - see contact list on front page) know as there is a \$7 crag access fee which will need to be sorted.

After that I'm pretty sure the following month of February will be Waipapa Dam which rated high in the last survey. The final date is not selected yet. There are a couple of favorites that we don't get to very often which I definitely want to hit up. They include the truly epic Whakapapa Gorge at Ruapehu, Castlerock of the Coromandel.

Another one that was brought up at the recent monthly meeting, Taranaki. The 'naki would need some good planning as all the climbs are high up. It sounds difficult, but my salivary glands are working overtime thinking about it right now.

As a reminder, these monthly meets are for NZAC members only. Get your membership in order otherwise you cannot participate!



As always, announcements will be in this newsletter, but for up to the minute decisions and feedback use our Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/NZAC-CNI-FB>) and please please use the email list setup exactly for this purpose ([nz-cni-climbers@googlegroups.com](mailto:nz-cni-climbers@googlegroups.com)).

### 2015 NZAC CNI AGM

The 2015 AGM took place on November 11. We got together and did some deep thoughts. Pizza, beer, wine, chips and good conversations. A sweet way to spend the evening. Participants included Michael Greer, Lars Brabyn, Marcus Bai, Marcus Daws, and Mark Smith. The venue was at the Ruakura Research Centre building at Tetrapak.

The conversation included more emphasis on Rock Climbing. A motion was made to make the monthly trips into NZAC trips. We also decided upon setting up some rock climbing instructional courses. You can look forward to some of these coming up this year and the following year.

As a result of the AGM, weekly rock climbing meets will begin again for the summer. The normal email address will be utilized: [nz-cni-climbers@googlegroups.com](mailto:nz-cni-climbers@googlegroups.com). NZAC membership is not required. Just send an email and go. Pretty straight forward.

In addition, monthly climbing meets will be instituted. NZAC membership **is** required for these (<http://tinyurl.com/NZAC-JOIN>).

Following the meeting, we instituted a survey in which choices were given for the location of our first monthly trip. It was decided by the group to go Mount Maunganui. The trip date is Sunday December 6. We have three loads of climbers going and the weather is looking good. Keep an eye out for these on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/alpinecentral/) ([facebook.com/alpinecentral/](https://www.facebook.com/alpinecentral/)), the communication email [nz-cni-climbers@googlegroups.com](mailto:nz-cni-climbers@googlegroups.com), the [calendar](http://goo.gl/UEJxS0) (<http://goo.gl/UEJxS0>), or our newsletters.

### Upcoming Courses

A survey was given to decide what the preference for the first course. It was a close call, but it was definitely leaning towards a beginner rock instruction course. The other choices were Lead climbing and a trad placement course. These others will be tackled, but later. The beginner course has been worked out. The details so far are January 23-24 at Castlerock, Wharepapa South. An instructor, dinner plans, and lodging have been organized.

The price was set at the low low price of \$75 to make it as accessible as possible. Extra beginner courses may become available if the course is sold out.



**Notices:**

- **Help with Identification**

The Mountain Club of South Africa has received an enquiry from a local lady who some years ago bought at auction in Cape Town a plaque, 8 cm. in diameter, with no provenance.

The style of dress of the climbers suggests an English or New Zealand, rather than South African, origin, perhaps of the 1960s or before. And the rucsac is a Bergan or Karrimor of that era.

Please can your Club archivist and other members identify the date and story behind the plaque? Any ideas will be gratefully received.

Best wishes from the sunny Cape.  
Stephen Craven.  
+27 21 6744338.



- **Special Christmas Discounts**

Two short-term discount offers for NZAC members until 31 Dec 2015. Potton and Burton offering 20% discount and free freight within NZ on the following: Great Walks of New Zealand by Craig Potton and New Zealand Backcountry Cooking by Paul and Rebecca Garland. See the NZAC member benefits page for how to obtain your discount: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/benefits-of-membership>

- **NZAC Web Page Issues**

As I understand there are some issues with the [Alpine Club](#) web page. Please be patient, these are known and are being corrected as quickly as possible.

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### From The Desk of the General Manager

Dear NZAC Member,

I hope you all had a great long weekend and managed to get out into the hills. The skiing season really held on and there is still a decent amount of snow around up high. It should be a good summer.

The staff here at NZAC, as well as some volunteers, have been working full tilt on a major upgrade to our websites and a new easier-to-use membership system. Please note that in the first two weeks of November NZAC staff will be almost completely immersed in the final stage of this project, so our response times to e-mails and other enquiries will be longer than usual. Thanks in advance for your patience!



### **Family Memberships**

With the new system we will be launching NZAC Family Memberships – up to 2 adults and up to 5 U18s living at the same address for just \$160! All will have full member privileges and those currently with Primary & Secondary member discounts will be upgraded free of charge. You'll get an email prior to the change happening.

### **Membership Discounts**

A big feature of the new website will be greater visibility and ease of access to the myriad of discounts and deals that NZAC membership entitles us. They are too numerous to mention here but examples include discounted ski field tickets, discounts at outdoor and online retailers, discounts at indoor climbing gyms.....the list goes on. If you know of any organisation that might like to join the illustrious company of our current partners, let them know that now would be a really good time to [get in touch](#) and get on board.

### **The 2015 Outdoors Awards**

It was an excellent night for NZAC at the [2015 Outdoor Awards](#) in Wellington on Thursday. NZAC Executive Chair Geoff Gabites won both the Volunteer Award and the Supreme Award for his outstanding contribution to the Outdoor sector in New Zealand. Geoff is a deserving recipient, as someone who has given of himself to NZAC and the wider climbing community over many, many years. Congratulations, Geoff.

NZAC itself won the Organisational Excellence Award, which is a fantastic honour for the Club. The judges were looking for an organisation that has significantly improved outdoor recreation outcomes for New Zealanders through their policies, procedures and culture. The judges concluded that NZAC is a “well run, financially stable and fit for purpose organisation that demonstrates excellence in their field.” Flattering indeed.

Accepting the unexpected award on the Clubs behalf, I mumbled out a few off the cuff remarks that alluded to how lucky NZAC is to have such a fantastic history to build upon and such great volunteers to do the building. Congratulations to **ALL** NZAC members.

### **Summer Instruction Courses**

A couple of cancellations have meant that there is one space available on the following High Alpine Skills Courses: 15-20 November, 22-27 November, 6-11 Dec (2 spaces)

[Course info](#) – [Register](#)

### **National Climbing Camp**

Following a fantastic camp last summer, the 2016 NZAC National Climbing Camp is headed back to Tukino Lodge on Mt. Ruapehu from the 4th-10th January. The Climbing camp is being jointly hosted by the North Island sections with support from the Tukino Alpine Sports Club (TASC). NZAC members and family, and overseas alpine club members are all welcome.

[Camp info](#) – [Register your interest](#)

### **NZAC Photography Workshop- registrations open**

Always popular, the NZAC Photography workshop is back in Summer 2015. Aimed at already competent photographers who want to further their skills in landscape photography – particularly in an alpine environment – it will be led by experienced climber and professional photographer [Mark Watson](#). Four days at Unwin Lodge, capturing the grandeur of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park under the tutelage of a world-class photographer – what could be better? There are still a few spaces left, but be quick. Registrations [here](#) .

### **NZAC Calendar – on sale**

The best images for the annual NZAC Photocomp are re-produced in a stunning calendar each year. The 2016 version is available [here](#) at a special member's rate of \$15. Grab one for your work or home, then grab another couple for Christmas presents for difficult to-buy-for friends and family.

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### **Sustainable Summits Conference**

#### **Sustainable Summits Conference Website**

In association with the New Zealand Department of Conservation, NZAC will host a 4-day international conference on sustainability in the mountains at Aoraki Mount Cook National Park from the 7th to 10th August 2016. The conference will focus on practical solutions in terms of adapting to a changing mountain environment, responding to changing visitor patterns and behaviour and preserving mountains for the enjoyment of future generations.

It follows the successful international Sustainable Summits Conference in Colorado, USA, in 2014. We have already secured world-class keynote speakers including: Sir Tipene O'Regan, Dawa Steven Sherpa, Simon Cox and Lou Sanson. Registrations for the conference will open on February 1st, 2016.

Direct enquiries and a register of interest are facilitated at the conference [website](#) or by [email](#)

### **Homer Hut – 50 year anniversary**

It was a good catch up and chance to meet new friends for the 30-odd members who attended the Homer Hut 50 year anniversary over Labour Weekend. Numerous climbing legends and stalwarts of the Southland Section enjoyed the good weather. NZAC President John Cocks, Southland Section Chair Pete O'Neill, FMC President Robin McNeill and DoC Deputy Director General (and 70's era climbing bad-ass) Merv English were amongst the attendees at the BBQ. And of course, Al Walker was there to encourage them all to come along to the 2016 Winter Meet! For 50 years, Homer Hut has made climbing in the Darrans much, much more feasible than it would have otherwise been. In turn, it has fostered massive advances in NZ climbing, across the disciplines of Alpine Rock, Ice Climbing, Scottish Mixed and even high-end Sport Climbing in the Cleddau Valley. Homer Hut has made a huge contribution to climbing in NZ over the last 50 years, so we look forward to the next 50.

### **Annual Report – AGM – a new President**

[The NZAC 2014/15 Annual Report is available here](#). It gives the reader an impression of the huge breadth and depth of NZAC functions.

Financially, it was a good year for NZAC. A healthy operating surplus allowed us to invest significant amounts into Capital Expenditure projects. A lot of that can be attributed to the successful sourcing of external project funding, in the form of grants. Whilst it is always great to get external funding, I think it is really important to only fund Capital Expenditure projects via grants. We don't want to get the Club into a position by which it is reliant on external funding for day-to-day operational expenditure. I have come across several organisations who have succumbed to that folly and struggled when the funding dries up.

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of NZAC will be held in Christchurch at 7pm on Friday November 20th, at the YMCA on Hereford St. Any member may nominate a candidate for the positions of Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and the Executive, Accommodation and Publications Conveners. The role of Publications Convener is currently vacant. At the AGM, [Penny Brothers](#), will assume her two year term as NZAC President and [John Cocks](#) will step down into a one year term as outgoing President.

### **Volunteer of the Year award – nominations required**

As we all know, NZAC is largely driven and made successful by dozens and dozens of hard-working and skilled volunteers. The scope and depth of work carried out by volunteers for the club is extraordinary. We are extremely lucky to have such fantastic people contribute across a variety of areas. If you have brushed up against someone volunteering for NZAC and think they deserve some recognition (they ALL do), please knock up a quick email and send it to [office@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:office@alpineclub.org.nz). The [Volunteer of the Year](#) will be awarded at the AGM.

Thanks for being part of a great club.

Since 1891,  
Sam Newton  
General Manager

<http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=23ea7cb21f4882cf3f0d4f15c&id=e9b63b57c1&e=c28e014ecb>