

A wide-angle photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. In the foreground, two hikers are standing on a snow-covered slope, looking towards the distance. They are wearing winter gear, including jackets, hats, and backpacks. The background shows a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a clear sky. The overall scene is bright and serene.

NZ ALPINE CLUB

NELSON/MARLBOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

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Section Gear Hire

The Nelson section gear (ice axes, avo gear, locater beacon etc) is available to all section members.

Contact Liam Sullivan
liam_sullivan@yahoo.com

Club News

Can now be found on the website.
There are news items and trip reports from all over the country.

Click [HERE](#) to go there now!

Club Donations

We have a link online where members can [DONATE](#)

Members can also use our bank account 03 0502 0607822 00, or send in a cheque (NZ only).

Chairman's Report

Looking back on our last newsletter edition in June, we welcomed functioning at Level 1 (Covid speak) and the start of winter! While it has been 3 months, and I now have a new 10-week year old little boy, time has certainly flown by and its pretty clear that we have farewelled winter and are deep in what felt like an early spring! Oh yeah, and we went back to Level 2.... thanks Auckland.

You might be saying what winter because we were certainly let off lightly this year. This of course is not ideal when you wait all year for wintery mountainous conditions and especially for the keen skiers out there. Poor old Rainbow has been up against it all season and doing their best, but it's been a really mixed bag of weather for them with less than adequate snow dumps to give them a great season. But that's mother nature and so all we can do now, is to start thinking ahead to next winter with any uncompleted objectives from this season, ready and waiting to be ticked off. In saying that though it hasn't been all doom and gloom, and I have seen plenty of active members making this most of good days and weather when the window of opportunities have been present.

I noted in my last report that I had planned on not getting out this winter due to the new addition to my family, however with things going pretty well at home, I managed to escape briefly (permission slip received 😊) for my annual Angelus trip, albeit delayed from our usual June dates due to Covid, with my mate and his year 13 P.E. school group from Rangiora. While it's been 13 years running, I never get tired of the trip, as every year the scenery, varying conditions and the expressions of amazement on the kids' faces, reminds me how lucky we are especially having this on our door steps. To give you an idea of just how close it is, I soloed out by myself on Saturday morning (I had to get back to town for another engagement). Waking just after 6am at Angelus Hut and feeling spritely after enjoying a full night's sleep for the first time in a few months, I set out for a high paced ridge walkout at 7.15am. With minimal stops except for a few quick yarns to a few of the Nelson and Marlborough Tramping Club members who were heading into Angelus for the night, I was back at the top carpark just before 10am and back home to Appleby and through the front door at 11.15am, with the lawns mowed just before lunch. To go from the one extreme to the other in the space of 4 hours amazes me and is what makes living in the top of the south so good! The photo below is why I keep going back. This year, to see the skyline on fire as the sun set on a frozen snow-covered Lake Angelus.



While each year on the trip is never the same, this year was no different, although I am still trying to figure out whether it was for good or less so reasons this time round. You see, I have never dived to much in to the 1080 debate and I won't be drawn in on this occasion either, but a few days before

our trip, a 36,000 hectare drop had occurred between the St Arnaud and Travers Ranges. The bright little green pellets accompanied us from the start of the carpark, along the lake to Lakehead hut, up the Hukere Stream in the morning and all the way to Angelus Hut, and again on the ridge on the way out. I think the thing that was most confronting about it for me, was the sign that said 'avoid taking water from the valley streams and rivers', something that I always do and always love being able to do. While we hear about the positives and negatives from 1080, having a personal encounter with it, affecting something so precious and simple as drinking water, has got me thinking about it. Even though waterways are supposed to be safe 72 hours after a drop, filling your drink bottle while staring at pellets on the ground meters away, left me uneasy. I'm still processing this experience and it certainly has left me with a different memory to the ones I usually take away from these trips. Nonetheless, we didn't lose any kids, so a successful trip yet again and I look forward to next year's already!

As I mentioned earlier, we are back operating at Level 2 since Covid re-emerged in the NZ community. It hasn't caused too much upset for our local section activities just yet which is fortunate, but could still do for Banff, which is scheduled for mid-October, if we aren't back at Level 1 in time, so fingers crossed.

The Basic Snow Craft Course was successfully run in early August this year and probably just in time, as a week later it would have likely been cancelled due to a lack of snow. The follow up trip to Scott's knob has taken place this weekend as well and several students managed to get along to this and consolidate their skills learnt from the course. Thanks to the team involved in the course this year - Jerome, Glen, Reuben and Russell and to Glen and Gerard for hosting the follow up trip.

We have a couple of great section evenings lined up to close out the year, with the sections AGM scheduled for the end of this month with what is sure to be an amazing evening with local club member Romain taking us through his ski descent of the east face of Mt Cook! Then at the end of October and one not to miss – Gabby Degagne and her Ski Mountaineering Expedition to the Southern Patagonian Ice Field via Kayak! See more details further on.

Well that's it from me again. Enjoy the rest of the newsletter, the spring weather and we hope to see as many of you as we can at the upcoming section evenings, and don't be shy to put your hand up when we call for new committee members at the AGM 😊.

Cheers
Brandon.

Section News



BANFF is a go!

After a lot of uncertainty on a global scale, we are stoked to announce that the Banff Film Festival will be going ahead.

October 9th and 10th - Annesbrook Church.

Two nights of epic movies, each night highlighting different films and adventures.

Tickets on sale now from Eventbrite. Note that we need to be at Covid Level 1 for this event to proceed.

www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/banff-mountain-film-festival-world-tour-nelson-2020-tickets-114997667118

Club Trips

September 19 – 20 2020

Ski touring trip – very weather dependant!

Bust out the skins and join us for a ski touring trip some time in September. Date will be announced closer to the time and will depend on how the season goes. We will go to the Mt Robert area where you can find steep little chutes, gully's and wide-open bowls with lots of terrain to explore. You will need to have average ski touring ability, avalanche safety gear and know how to use it.

More details to be announced closer to the time, but contact Liz (keeweese@xtra.co.nz) to register your interest.

Club nights

30th September - AGM & Guest Speaker - Romain Sacchetti

7pm sharp at The Honest Lawyer

Romain is a Nelson based NZAC member who originally comes from France. Last year he skied the east face of Mt Cook.

He will be giving a presentation on a perspective of a climber from abroad on NZ alpine climbing. From a wish to project, where he started, lessons learnt and mistakes made. And how to make climbing one or more big NZ peaks a project out of a dream that many share. All this while managing everyday life, balancing climbing time and money, and having a lot of fun on the way!

This will be an interesting presentation with lots of good photos/videos and some good laughs.

28th October – Gabby Degagne

7pm sharp at The Honest Lawyer

NZAC Trip Report: Seeking Balance Finding Adventure Patagonia

Ski Mountaineering Expedition to the Southern Patagonian Ice Field via Kayak

<https://alpineclub.org.nz/parkside/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Seeking-Balance-Finding-Adventure-Patagonia-2019-.pdf>

Trip Reports

BSCC

A great BSCC 2020.

We had an awesome crew this year, 13 keen participants of all ages. Unfortunately the weather was not so great and the snow was lacking, but we still got out both days, learnt a lot and had some fun. Navigation was interesting at times, particularly as the instructors let the participants make all the decisions on route finding and traveling as a group.

Thanks to all the BSCC 2020 members, it was a pleasure working with such a great bunch of people.

Looking forward to seeing you all out in the hills in the future.

