



Newsletter of the
West Coast Alpine Club

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After two weeks of fine, hot, sunny weather on The Coast, I finally found a rainy day for the newsletter [and after a couple more, I finally found time to put it together — Jase]. Summer weather has induced a great deal of activity amongst club members.

MOUNTAINEERING:

In December, Warren Smith made a successful ascent of Mt Lendenfeld, Josh Hudson made an attempt on the Sheila Face of Mt Cook, while Jack attempted to climb Mt Evans from the County Glacier. Meanwhile, Jason flew past hanging out the door of an aeroplane seeing if he could snap any pictures of any club members climbing in the Southern Alps.

MOUNTAIN BIKING:

In the January Messenger, Adele, Michelle Reihana, Rachel Berry and Sarah Wild were seen heli-biking Kirwans Track.

CAVING:

Caving has had a deep popularity amongst club members this summer. Karen, Aaron and Adelle all went to the

annual Bulmer exploration trip, while Sarah Wild & Emerson Wyman joined Nita Smith for a cave training weekend on Takaka Hill with Heidi Godfrey. Aaron and I have been involved with separate cave exploration trips to Mt Arthur; meanwhile, Paul Caffyn has been leading an ongoing exploration of the Cave Creek master system.

OVERSEAS:

Jason Blair and Brittany Jenkins reported dry, dry powder skiing in BC and Montana. Chris Oates has been busy in Australia, climbing any rock he can lay his hands on, while using low powered environmentally friendly motorbikes for access.

OTHER:

Congratulation to club members Adele and Aaron Gillespie, who were married by Lake Brunner in early December. The happy couple arrived to the ceremony in good style - by Waka.

The Club was recently given \$1200 by the West Coast Community Trust to be used for training and qualifying Climbing Wall Facilitators

ED

After



Club Hut Working Bee

On the 8th-9th December club members were galvanised into action when a call was put out to spruce up the club hut. Scraping, scribing, sawing, skiving. Caulking, sanding painting, jiving. Over 20 people turned up to help. Thanks for that, the value of this work is significant. Long time hut user Rob reckons that the hut no longer smells musty for the first time ever!



Mt Lucretia & Lewis Tops Ice cream

» *Di Hooper*

With the party consisting of 25% WCAC, Di Hooper, Joan Hamilton, Pete Lusk and Muriel Donald all took advantage of a weather window in mid January to climb Mt Lucretia on the Lewis Pass Tops. There had recently been an unseasonable snow dump and the tops were still wearing it. We camped by a tarn, and climbed Mt Lucretia the next day in shelterless heat. Stopping by snow patches for an icecream or two and swimming in one of the tarns was necessary to cool down. Icecream recipes as follows: Take one plastic jar add three heaped scoops of snow, add milk powder, and raro - shake and voila



Joan Hamilton with Mt Technical in the background

a fruit smoothie of your choice (depending on the raro flavour.)
Or take three heaped scoops of

snow, add milk powder and two heaps of drinking chocolate for a choccy icecream.



High camp on one of the tarns nearer to Lucretia

Boxing Day on Mt Brown

» by *Tim Mora*



Christmas Day is over and Boxing day dawns overcast but not raining so my daughter and I spontaneously decide to climb Mt Brown. After some rapid packing and a quick drive to Lake Kanieri we're on the track. The track is pretty good at the start but more of a trail where you are guided by the permalot markers and thousands of feet that have trod before you. It quickly turns into a moderately steep hill climb all in fairly damp bush with little views. It was a bit of a challenge but nice to finally break out into scrub near the top and then tussock not too far before the hut. The views from up top were great, which really made the trip. There were 360 degree views to the



sea, down to the lake, up and down the coast, and overlooking the valleys. The hut is pretty good too. Well done those who took on the challenge of making this hut possible. We had a quiet night and with cell phone coverage were able to post photos to facebook from the tops.

Rebekah was unwell the next day and I had to carry her pack back down the mountain. Exhausting but I kept thinking I must be losing calories galore. Quick stop in Hoki for food and cold drinks and then home to unpack. Another hut ticked off.

Young Coast Alpinist Claims First West Coast Summit

» *Chris Manuel*

The window of opportunity was with us for the attempt on Mt George, with the threat of a substantial Nor'wester on the way if our route was not managed well. Base camp was established with relative ease at Rapahoe Beach Camp in the shelter of the flax right next to the beach. This was going to be a sea

to summit attempt! Caden had been training at altitude prior to the ascent, using Wanaka's Mt Iron. Further training included a spot of rock climbing to prepare for the final gully and summit tower on the precipitous Mt George. The day dawned fine, but the clouds were hanging ominously over Mt Davie suggesting that the day may not go entirely to plan. Breaking the first

'bushline' to the 'house site' was a breeze for the young athlete, but the middle section of scrub - at a perfect height to hit Caden in the face on every step - led to the first and only thought of retreat. Once at the rock faces, and replenished with a muesli bar, Caden was fired for the summit assault and pushed through the gully to the final ridge. The oxygen depletion was offset by the smell of ozone from the heat hazed sea below and our aspiring alpinist conquered his first West Coast summit in fine form. Upon reaching the summit Caden was heard to say "what is a trig point" as well as "where is my drink bottle", but he did think that the effort was worth it. The descent was rapid, driven by the desire for lunch and to meet up with friends at base camp. A fun trip on a great short local peak.



ED: It appears that there may be some competition for the youngest WCAC member up Mt George. In the past month, year old Simone Hudson Shinnamon made a fast ascent of the peak via the standard route in good style on her dad's back.

Pre Christmas at the Metro Cave

» *Mary Trayes*

Despite the usual rush around before Christmas, nine people managed to get themselves organised for a trip to the Metro Cave on Saturday, December 15th. Being an easy trip it provided a chance for a catchup with friends - ideal for both the 'oldies' and 'youngies' in the group.

After some rainy weather it was good to see a fine day as we drove up the Coast Road to Charleston. Here we met up with Kim and her two older boys (they live in Westport), at the road end at 10am. From here we proceeded to have a leisurely day, strolling along the Nile River railway line, across the Nile River suspension bridge, and on up the track to the cave. Once there it was gear on, quick snack, a check of our lights and away we went with Karen opening the gate and leading the party.

The map of the Metro Cave was done many years ago and is consequently not as well done as more recent ones, so it took Karen a few moments at times to work out just where we were. But it was all good practice and not really a worry because being on the main tourist loop there was no chance of becoming lost. It was however a good chance for Mary to point out the cairns marking other passages leading off the main route, which cavers are allowed to venture into if they get an 'off-piste' six-person permit. The main tourist loop, and the streamway leading from it out to the Nile River, are also utilised by Nor'West Adventures who have a DOC concession to use the

cave for commercial tours.

We made the usual side trips to the front and back parts of the beautifully decorated 'Hall of Refugees' and down to where the cave rafters start. They float out of the cave on rubber tubes to look at the glow-worms before heading on down Scallop Passage and out to the Main or Big Entrance for a spot of lunch. As usual the view outward was spectacular - actually better than usual as the little waterfall was doing its 'thing' really well - causing lots of camera clicking.

After lunch we made a side trip into the overflow passages, where Ananui Creek backs up when it's been raining hard, to look at the glow-worms (a few there but not as good as last time for Mary). Then we backtracked via our previous route up and over the great pile of breakdown rock in the Big Chamber back, down Scallop Passage, and up the little ladder to the Conference Walk. Once the kids spotted the White Line Passage, with its line of stalactites along the joint plane in the roof, they knew we weren't far from the Triclops Entrance where we'd entered the cave. Suddenly we were back in the sun and after Karen had locked the gate, and people had put away their caving gear, we began the pleasant walk back out to the road-end, which we reached about 4pm.

Those along were Kim Thomas and sons Alastair (5) and Jeremy (8), Susi Thompson, Rob Danford, Yvonne Clarke (Susi's mum), Denise Mayes, Karen Grant and Mary Trayes. Kim is



Denise Mayes, Yvonne Clarke and Karen Grant in the "Conference Walk" passage, Metro Cave

a former WCAC President now living in Westport. To get a DOC permit to visit the Metro as described, the party must have two NZ Speleological Society members (cavers) as leaders. On the day people filling this role were Mary and Karen with Kim also being an NZSS member. A number of other WCAC members are also cavers and NZSS members (i.e. able to get permits for caves like Babylon, Hollywood and the Metro).

Dennisiston & other Westport Mountain biking

» *John Burrell*

On Friday, 14 September, Peter, Ryan Moreland and I drove up to Westport, and stayed at the Westport Motor Camp. On Saturday morning we thought we'd brave the rough weather and drove up to Dennisiston in the light drizzle. Actually, we had a good time, without much rain. It was great going around the different mountain bike tracks. They're all in good order and it was good fun. In the afternoon, the weather really set in and we were forced to call it quits. We went back to Westport and spent the rest of the day looking around the town and keeping warm. On Sunday the weather was perfect, and we headed up to Ngakawau to bike the Charming Creek walkway. We did the whole trip, with no problems; a full circuit. I must say, they've done it up really nicely. When we got back to the carpark in the mid-afternoon, we decided that we'd done pretty well, and left it at that. It was a great trip. We must do it again sometime.



Kim sorting Alastair's camera with Jeremy looking on Yvonne, Susi and Denise and in the background.

Naked eel in Cave Creek

» *Paul Caffyn*

A very successful cave diving expedition was carried out on 10th February, in the Naked Eel resurgence of Cave Creek. Warren Smith and Leon Dalziel were the two divers, supported by Paul Caffyn, Les Wright, Chris Oates and Mark.

Unfortunately the giant eel which guards the resurgence was still there, three years after it was first observed. When Paul was taking underwater photos of the eel, it made a savage attack on the camera, fortunately missing fingers but making off with the camera (see cover photo).

On his third dive, Warren was out 35m on the dive line, however the passage was dropping down. The passage was some 3 - 4 metres high, and awaits a further diving expedition. Leon filmed his dive but there was too much algae or fine sediment in the swift flowing water for good visibility.



From left, Paul Caffyn with Warren Smith, and Leon Dalziel returning from his dive into the Naked Eel Resurgence, Cave Creek

↑ *Les Wright*

Inland Pack Track

» *by Tim Mora*

I'm enjoying getting Stewart Nimmo out into the bush and had often thought the Inland Pack track was a great photographers walk so Stew, myself and two others hit the track Sunday after church. The one thing you have to

remember with a photographer is his gear weights twice yours and the journey takes twice as long because of all the photo stops. Starting from the Punakaiki end we made our way to Bullock Creek where we put up tents and had tea. Stew and I went for a swim in Bullock Creek, which was moderately cold but we eased

ourselves in. Lot's of yelling seemed to alleviate the shock of cold water hitting the skin a little. That night I tried out my new Exped down filled mattress. I'm in love I decide the next morning.

This day is the one I was looking forward to the most. The journey took us up and over to Fossil Creek and then hours of crisscrossing streams to Fox River. The bush lined, tanin stained Fossil Creek is a photographers dream as is the Karst canyoned Dilemma Stream.

Three of us waited for an hour at the junction of Dilemma and Fossil for Stew to catch up. In the end I went off to find him. Besides the scenery, there



Camp at the Ballroom Overhang



Some of the team en route up Fox River

are a number of places on this trip where you watch whole side streams disappear underground, huge volumes of water feeding , Cave Creek and other underground water systems. , Finally after turning up Fox River, Robert and I arrived and set up camp at the Ball Room overhang. Tents up, clothes drying, fire going, but where are Stew and Barbara? Taking Photos? Lost? In trouble? Surely they hadn't missed the two DOC signs and large geological feature on their right when walking up the river? Off we go to search for them, almost as far back as the junction. Not there. Not responding to calls. As unlikely as it seems they must have missed the turn-off to the Ballroom so up stream we go where after a few river bends we meet them coming back.



Stunning scenery of the Inland Pack Track

Lot's of laughs and ribbing follow and a good night at the Ballroom overhang. The next day out to the cars and back

home. A great trip and hopefully many great photos for Stewart.



Spot the WCAC member - Mt Evans from the air just after Jack's attempt



Brittany flies through the trees at Revelstoke, in the BC Interior

New Boots Editor – Aaron Gillespie

After a year or so of compiling the club newsletter with help from Jason (layout) and Jonny (proofreading), I am handing over this responsibility to Aaron Gillespie. Aaron has a strong portfolio of newsletter articles and is warmly welcomed the Boots publishing team. Please email any future newsletter articles or photos to: aaronoutside@hotmail.com.



The party runs into the night after Aaron and Adele's wedding



Boots is the semi-regular newsletter of the West Coast Alpine Club. You can contact us by email: admin@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

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WEST COAST ALPINE CLUB INFORMATION SHEET 2011 - 12

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Subs due: Adult: \$30 School Student: \$15 Family: \$35 Newsletter Only: \$15

Club Hut - Arthur's Pass

The club maintains a 13 bunk hut in the Arthur's Pass Village. The key code for the front door is available from committee members as asterisked above. The Hut is available to members and approved non-members (e.g. former members, friends and other tramping clubs etc). To ensure fair use of the hut for all, those wishing to stay longer than 5 nights must get permission from a club officer first.

General hut use is on a 'first come first served basis,' but note that Club Snowcraft Course weekends have priority use. It is also possible to book the hut for your exclusive use by applying to the Committee in advance and paying a deposit. This is then advertised to all members. General users can use the Club E-Group to let others know they intend to use the hut (see below).

A fire warden must be appointed for the duration of your stay (as per our Fire Permit) and any problems at the Hut, e.g. with plumbing, should be reported promptly to a committee member. Before leaving Hut users should organise the method of fee payment, sign the Hut Log Book, and ensure the Hut is secure. For more information see the latest Hut Information Sheet and/or read the notices at the Hut.

Hut Fees/night:

Members:	\$8 per for adults and \$4 for school children
Non Members:	\$16 per for adults and \$8 for school children

Hut fees should be paid promptly in one of three ways

- Put money in Hut Box (with names of those who stayed and when)
- Mail your payment to the WCAC Treasurer at PO Box 136 Greymouth, 7840
- Pay by direct credit to the Club Account at ASB Greymouth. Account No. 12 3168 0044967 02

Club Gear Hire

The gear is located at Jonny Horrox's home, 15 Dowling Street, Paroa. Email jh@wrc.govt.nz OR 'phone 03 762 6132. Hire equipment includes ice axes, crampons, harnesses, helmets at great prices. Good value for beginners. Adequate notice is appreciated but last minute gear hiring is fine, anytime, providing you can track him down.

Club E-Group

If you wish to send a message to other members via the Clubs Email Group List, please email your message to either the Secretary or Club Captain and put 'Circulate WCAC' in the Subject Line. Messages can include letting others know you intend to use the Club Hut, trip details, changes to trips, news items etc.