



Newsletter of the  
West Coast Alpine Club

# Skiing, skiing, skiing

The rapidly diminishing club hut firewood stocks indicate that WCAC members have been hitting the slopes regularly. There has been almost one car of club members (with skis) driving to Arthurs Pass every weekend this winter. Aaron and Adelle, have been making the most of the available snow with consistent weekend skiing and even a full week based at the club hut. They have been loyal to Temple Basin and have also carved some creative turns on Avalanche Peak and Mount Bealey.

September the 12th - Possibly the most epic day of skiing ever. Lis and Jack met Nita and

others at Broken River Ski field for a stunning bluebird day with fresh, dry powder for one and all. Derek Parsons (Cape Foulwind Publican and long time shredder) said: "This is the best day of skiing I have had in 42 years." Lis made good use of her brand new snowshoes with a social walk up the field. Aaron, Adelle and Jason skied at Craigieburn and reported that it was "the driest, lightest powder that they had seen in NZ for many years"

Rachel and Michelle had an enjoyable 4 days skiing in Wanaka. Their electronic passes clocked up 22,000m of vertical skiing at Treble Cone and Cardrona. And

this didn't include their heli-skiing trip up the Matukituki Valley, which included 8 long runs.



A lone skier hike way out wide from Craigieburn Skifield ↑ Jason Blair

# Heli-Biking the Heaphy

» Fran Cohen

In mid September I heli-biked the Heaphy Track with friends Annie and Erin. The flight from Karamea to Tasman was a fantastic trip with great views of the track. While riding the grade 3-4 track, we endured a continuous series of terrain challenges. The first section is a 12.5km uphill grunt to the brand new Perry Saddle Hut. From here it was mostly

downhill. We had thrills and spills and many bruises as a result. It was great fun.

We met several groups riding and walking, including a group from Greymouth who heli-biked it and rode through in one day. Our group had a leisurely trip taking in all the sights to complete the adventure in three days, staying at Saxon and Heaphy Hut.

There is a new hut being built at Heaphy River mouth, due to open within a month. Construction has started on a new swing bridge near Lewis Hut. However, at present you have to ford the Lewis River. The biking season is now finished so it is walking only until next winter. Next year's season is the last of a three year trial.



*Whats been happening?  
Skiing for sure. Mountain biking has also been a popular activity amongst club members this winter. The Heaphy Track has been ridden a few times and night riding club trips have been undertaken on No Name Road and the new cycleway behind Kumara. On August 1st Josh and Anu welcomed the newest and youngest club member, Simone, into the world. As yet she hasn't been on any club trips.*

ED



# Classic Alpine Line - Rome Ridge

» Robert Bruce

After gazing at the classic Rome Ridge line up Mt Rolleston for sometime Ari and I decided to give it a crack on a glorious Saturday morning. We left at 4.15am from Coral Track carpark and after the steep bush section arrived on the ridge just before sunrise.

Snow conditions were perfect and the dawn sky produced some amazing hues. We cranked along the ridge and dropped off just before the gap on the Crow Valley side. We came back up into the



gap and rounded a short exposed section on the right before working hard for the rest of the way to Low Peak.

There were stunning views from the top and it was good to see Temple Basin from afar! We descended via the Otira Slide which was starting to bake. We noticed some recent avalanche activity coming from the Philistine ridge line. Reached the carpark at 11am and got picked up by Gundy and Chrissy who kindly took me back to the van. Stoked about the trip and ready for more.

The last pic is from the weekend - we tried Mt. Franklin and got to the summit ridge but ferocious winds and blowing snow made us turn back down.



## Gina Bosselman Memorial Drill

With great enthusiasm and support from club members at this years AGM, the committee

approved the purchase of a new community rock drill. The purpose of The Gina Bosselman

Memorial Drill is to develop the sport of rock climbing on the West Coast. The drill has already been put to good use. Jason, with assistance from Jack and Chris put a new route up on the Knee Cow Wall in Punakaiki. This new climb, called "Set Menu, Eh?", is a slightly overhanging 25m long route [Grade 23]. To find this route and others around the Punakaiki area visit [climbnz.org.nz](http://climbnz.org.nz). The Drill is available to anyone skilled in the art of equipping a climbing route with bolt protection. If you wish to use the drill please contact Jack.



Jase & Chris on the first ascent of Set Menu, Eh?

↑ Leon Dalziel

# A Walk in the Arctic

» *Craig McIntosh*

In July and August, Rachel and I were lucky enough to visit Iceland and Greenland. It goes without saying that we had a very enjoyable holiday; we saw some amazing scenery and had some great experiences. Here's a brief report on one of the places we visited:

In early August we visited Ilulissat, a beautiful town in north western Greenland. Ilulissat is located at 69°N (above the Arctic Circle) and is the only area of the Arctic currently awarded World Heritage status. The Kalaallisut name for the town's translates as iceberg and it's easy to see why (more on that later). With a population of 4500 people the town is the 3rd largest in Greenland with fishing being the major industry. The town buildings are brightly coloured, which adds an air of interest and welcome colour in the depths of winter. A large population of Greenland Sled Dogs are kept on the town's limits. The dogs are working dogs pure and simple and spend the summer chained up gaining strength and energy for the upcoming sledding season (winter). Judging by the look some gave us I'm sure they were thinking "hmmm, tasty tourists, come closer, go on, I dare you to".

The nearby glacier, Sermeq Kujalleq, has the honour of being the world's fastest glacier, moving at speeds of up to 25 metre per day - it's the reason the town is so well known. The mouth of the fjord is a shallow choke point that keeps the large icebergs that have calved off the glaciers restricted to the bay (Disko Bay) resulting



in an iceberg traffic jam of mammoth proportions. It's thought that the iceberg that sank the Titanic originated from the Ilulissat area.

Prior to arriving in Ilulissat we had spent three days languishing in Greenland's modern and vibrant capital city of Nuuk, where wind, rain and fog had kept us from exploring the great outdoors. As luck would have it the weather improved after we travelled north and we were allowed to enjoy the next three and a half days in and around the ice fjord area. An important thing to remember

about Greenland is that roads are almost nonexistent, travel is restricted to foot, boat (ask Paul Caffyn) or air. There are a few tracks near town so we decided to head off for a walk and were rewarded with one of the most scenic walks I think we've ever been on.

We walked the blue track in an anticlockwise direction (see map) starting at the old heliport. From the track head the track heads south south west over swampy heath land, and to protect the delicate landscape, the initial kilometre or so of track consisted of a board walk





finishing at a small headland overlooking the ice fjord. The headland also overlooked a protected prehistoric area containing evidence of Inuit settlement. The track then headed east over bedrock and we were provided with stunningly eerie views of an iceberg filled bay draped with fog. As the day progressed and warmed up, the sea fog lifted giving us an ever changing vista. The combination of changing views and lifting fog ensured a slow pace and plenty of photos.

After leaving the coast the track continued up to a small lake before heading up Kløften/ Qoororsuaq/The Cleft. The Cleft is a gully cut into the bedrock, if you look google maps you can see that there is a regional wide series of features in the bedrock. The Cleft became deceptively steep, well not West Coast steep, but steep enough to raise a sweat. It continued up and over a hill from where you had views over the town and the bay beyond. The final 50 metres of track dodged between Sled Dog kennels, complete with fluffy puppies.

Our walk had us continuing into town for a rewarding bite to eat at a very

trendy looking bakery. Sadly we had to leave Greenland and head back to Iceland the next day but not before we had time to walk the yellow track. To me the whole trip is on the top list of things we've experienced. Global warming is a contentious issue to some people - it appears that the Arctic is experiencing

warmer temperatures. Interestingly the first European settlers (the Vikings) had even warmer temperatures in Greenland than we have today and there are now migratory birds appearing in Greenland for which the Inuit have no words in their language for.





*Mt Franklin, a good spring objective?*

↑ Robert Bruce



*The Waimak under snow from Cornishman's Rise*

↑ Robert Bruce



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

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# WEST COAST ALPINE CLUB INFORMATION SHEET 2011 - 12

www.westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

<b>COMMITTEE</b>			
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<b>Committee Member</b>	Frith Dollimore	027 753 4880 (Cell)	frithdollimore@gmail.com

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:**

<b>Members:</b>	\$8 per for adults and \$4 for school children
<b>Non Members:</b>	\$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.