

## welcome

Last issue we raised our ratings considerably with tales of sex and violence. In this issue we hope to raise them further as we report on hot issues relating to history in the making, drug abuse and we farewell the world famous in Fox Glacier, Rosie the Rooster.

On October 1, 2005, after 31 years at the helm, Mike and Carrol Browne passed Alpine Guides (Westland) Ltd over to a new company Alpine Guides Fox Glacier with a majority shareholding owned by Adrian Januskiewicz and Wayne Boyd. Mike and Carrol Browne retain a shareholding in the new

company. Adrian is the new General Manager. This is the history in the making bit. Their potted histories follow and that is where the pot comes in.

Also we are sad to report that Rosie the Rooster departed this mortal coil. He attacked one person too many – this time the boss, who felt by that time the joke about the attack chicken had worn thin and Rosie was best in the service of St Peter, who must surely need some help at the pearly gates.



RIP Rosie

## OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW or alpine guides history gets potted

Long, long time ago – around the time that the earth's crust was cooling, 20 year old Mike Browne rode into town on his great horse Ben and thought "this is a nice little town, I think I will live here".

Fate was on his side. Strolling past the Fox Hotel in his woolly climbing jodhpurs, holey jersey "Moses" (Moses was a black sheep his mother knitted from) and his knee high socks of many colours, he ran into his old friend Bishop Pyatt of Christchurch, who was enjoying a cup of tea with the doyen of Fox Glacier and world famous manager of the Fox Hotel, Mary Kerr.

Both of these old folks, in their early fifties at the time, were undeterred by the young man's dreadlocks (yes, son Pete, he owned no comb), saw at once by the F.A.R.T. badge he was wearing that this young man had a civic conscience and so they asked him to join them for a cuppa.

Before long the founder of the Fox Alpine Rescue Team was a great friend of "Aunty" Mary and soon after that, he was her glacier guide, because of course in the world wide mountain tradition, the mountain guides were employed by the hotel.

Soon after that, Mike's friend Gavin Wills flew into town in his Piper Cub, on his normal flight path from Mt Cook village to Fox Glacier (which went over Mt Cook and under the Fox River bridge, to the airstrip in Dixon's paddock down the road).

Soon these two fine young men were scheming with Mary. Before long, they came up with a guiding company and so Alpine Guides (Westland) Ltd was born.

In those days a great deal of effort went into business planning and Mike spent a lot of time getting his "helicopter view" of the business from the front passenger's seat of Alex Miller's Mt Cook Airline's skiplane. Its not true to say that he didn't ever take people up the glacier. Those that might malign him would say that if he wasn't in Alex's skiplane, or out climbing one of the high peaks, he was out on the farm with Laurie Williams. He did however take someone up the glacier in the first year of operation and they loved the trip.

A great string of happy, hippy looking types passed through the company in those days. Hours and hours were spent dreaming of re-creating the old guiding traditions and peaks climbed, or yet to be climbed. Before he knew it Mike Browne's interests had moved far beyond the F.A.R.T.

No one was more surprised than he was when he turned around and found a bustling and thriving business with a staff of 50 plus (and a smattering of other real estate and businesses), a handsome large building on the main street of town from which the business runs, housing for 45 people, three attractive retail outlets in Fox and Franz, a shareholding in the boutique hotel Te Weheka Inn,

a small farm – not to mention a beautiful wife and two handsome sons.

Then one day Adrian Januskiewicz rode into town, with a name like that you don't need a horse with a lot of character. He took one look at Alpine Guides and thought – hmmm. "I think I would like that little business" and so he bought it, just like that. One day Mike Browne will recover and the staff will learn how to spell Adrian's name.

So 31 years later we all move over knowing that with Adrian at the helm we will all live happily ever after.

**Carrol Browne**  
(the beautiful wife mentioned earlier, also the mother of the two handsome sons).



Mike & his horse Ben



Mary Kerr & Mike



Patrick, Mike, Carrol & Pete

## and now introducing the new kid on the block...



Adrian Januskiewicz grew up in Wellington but has spent most of his adult life in Auckland. He studied law and practiced as a lawyer for 7 years. He then moved to the corporate world and worked for Carter Holt Harvey for 7 years, before joining Shotover Jet as the Chief Executive Officer 4 years ago.

Adrian is engaged to be married to Sally Vidulich in April next year. Like Adrian, Sally also grew up in Wellington. After school she completed a hospitality degree. She has since worked in hospitality, the computer industry and more recently, tourism. Sally moved to Queenstown 4 years ago, working in operational roles on both the Milford and Hollyford Tracks and in sales roles with nzski.com and AJ Hackett.

They are both very excited about their move to Fox Glacier and ownership of the Alpine Guides business.

Mike's first Business Card



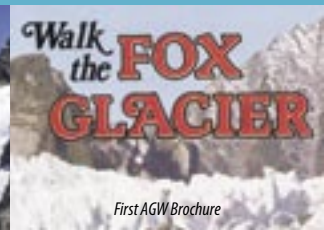
Original Bootroom



Staff of the late 80's



Dave McNutty



First AGW Brochure

# THE FOX VIEW

## ALPINE GUIDES FOX GLACIER

### ever on to greater heights or guides training 05/06

October was training month for returning guides. We're all so highly trained now that we can jump through flaming hoops and balance beach balls on our noses.

The first lot of guides' training was held on 17-19 October and was a major expedition. Brian, Arlo, JR and Pete ascended the mighty south face of Chancellor Dome, under the aegis of Marius and Ben, and accompanied by Adrian and Sally, who were getting their first experience of the glitz and glamour of guided Chancellor trips. Pete did his best impression of a human avalanche by hurtling down to the snow landing site with the contents of his pack spraying everywhere.

The second group comprised Cornelia, Jimmy, Natalie, Graham, Matt and Martin, who were kept in line by Abel and Marius. This group bivvied out underneath the sheer rock face of the "Pyramid Buttress", where they were attacked by giant killer alpine wetas. The following day they undertook a Grand Traverse of Chancellor Dome, surprising a herd of ten thar (who were horrified at the sight of Martin running towards them waving his camera).

The senior guides' training this year involved a crossing of Copland Pass. Marius, Ben, Kerie, Fiona, Jeff, Karen and Grant, accompanied by their shadow Gary Dickson, flew to Mt Cook in style with Air Safaris and ran back over the Copland to soak in the hot pools. Allan and Rodger wandered up to Welcome Flat to meet them with extra bottles of wine (medicinal of course!). This group examined the intricacies of snow anchors and the delights of the Hooker Glacier moraine wall.

### following in the russell crowe tradition

Yet again, guides from Fox Glacier are achieving international TV stardom. On 8 October, Ben, Cornelia and Matt went along as guides and safety crew for a scenic helicopter extravaganza focusing on the Chancellor Heli-Trek for Australia's Channel 7 "Sydney Weekender" programme.

The film shoot was arranged for the 7 October, but as there was torrential rain, hail and snow that day, there were some very anxious faces among the TV crew. However, the next day dawned clear and the mountains and the glacier were covered with a fresh fall of snow. Lee and Todd from Glacier Southern Lakes Helicopters flew us up and down the valley, getting some fantastic shots and (we suspect) having a lot of fun too.

The mountains turned on the charm for us, with light snow flurries through the blazing sunshine, and plenty of lovely ice caves to impress the crew.

The presenter of the show was Mike Whitney, whom you will probably know as the presenter of "Who Dares Wins". This of course prompted us all to start every sentence with "I'll give you feefy dollars..."

For seven minutes of finished product to be broadcast, the shoot required about 500 e-mails between Becs and the producers, not to mention nearly three hours of flight time and ten applications of sunscreen for everyone concerned. However, it must have all been worth it in the end, because the producers said in an email recently that they were "just thrilled with what we got," and that Becs had "a level of initiative and get-up-and-go that I wish everyone had". In fact, "working with people like that on the day of the shoot is what makes all the difference between an OK shoot and an unbelievably fantastic shoot".

So, another successful TV appearance by Alpine Guides. Channel 7 is going to send us copies of the finished product after it airs on 10 December, so we can see how good we look, and see how much of Mike Whitney's in depth interview with Ben will be shown! Watch this space for further guest appearances on the silver screen by our team of superstars!

### not just your average classroom!

Leading clients on mountaineering trips and courses into the Southern Alps of New Zealand has long been a tradition at Alpine Guides. This Summer season, we have stepped it up a notch with the introduction of 2 new courses and the addition of long time glacier guide Abel Roche qualifying as an aspirant mountaineering guide, joining our other key aspirant guide; Andy Fullerton.

In the tradition established by Andy, Abel is already receiving rave reviews! The following is a quote from 3 clients who recently undertook our very popular 8 day Alpine Ascents Course...

"Glenn, Archie and I have just completed the eight day course with Abel and we wanted to express our sincere thanks to you and especially Abel for making it such an outstanding outdoor adventure experience. We learnt plenty, achieved plenty and had an altogether intensely rewarding and enjoyable time. Glenn and I both have experience as Leaders of outdoor adventures (albeit a long time ago), so we speak with some authority in complimenting Abel; he is a most capable and completely professional leader and instructor. I would feel very comfortable returning to attack bigger climbs in Abel's company." Roger Cull.

Check out the mountaineering pages on our website [www.foxguides.co.nz](http://www.foxguides.co.nz).



Guiding Team 05/06

Back row: Matt, Grant, Malcolm, Ben, Roger, Steve, Dennis, Graham,  
Middle Row: Jeff, Cornelia, Mike T, Martin, Karen, Natalie, Pete B, Nigel R, Brian  
First Row: Kerie, Passang, Andy T, Fiona, JR, Becky, Marius  
Absent: Gill, Jimmy, Arlo, Malin, Jeremy, Pete W, Tamra, Amanda

### and the winner is...



Suzie Matson, has had two very big projects to deliver on this year and in fairly tight time frames. The winner by a good length was beautiful daughter Isabella and if the Flights Gallery website is half as good looking, and receives the same rave reviews as she has, it will be a great success.

Isabella went live on 31 October at 6.6 lbs and [www.flightsgallery.co.nz](http://www.flightsgallery.co.nz) will follow suit by Christmas 2005. Well done

Suzie and also needing mention are webmaster Arthur Redditt, who has the patience of St Francis, Ulrich Waltherth who did his best in a short time to pass on some of his considerable photographic skills to Suzie and Patricia and Suzie's Doris (Sales) team who covered shifts to accommodate the website work. Becs is one mean rosterer so if you need help Jack (Isabella's father) get in touch with Becs.

Check out the Flights site, plenty of eye candy for those who love beautiful things.



Sales Team 05/06

Back row: Brooke, Danielle, Anna, Stephanie, Clare  
Middle Row: Tajou, Mary, Karen W, Krissy, Patricia, Stella, Rachel, Tiana, Becs  
Front Row: Karen P, Sally, Joan, Jude, Anita, Carrol, Karen J  
Absent: Henrike



Red & Orange Buses



Ray & Johnny in the Fox valley, early 80's



Early merchandising



Tricky glacier access



Early TRENZ with James Scott

# way back in the mists of time

We have over the years collected up a few people who, if you scratch off the surface, probably suffer from something really serious as they have hung out with Alpine Guides for far more years than it is safe to do. For that we thank them and we would like to acknowledge some of the people who have gone before and given many years of challenging advice and loyal service and so helped the company on its way. . .

### Peter & Elizabeth MacCormack

- Trish & Annie – Guide on the Franz Josef Glacier for 35 years. Peter generously shared with Mike his great knowledge of all things guiding and Trish and Annie shared their chops. Many a good laugh was held around their table while enjoying the odd gin, Elizabeth's roast dinners and stories of past and present times. They continue to share their enormous love of the area with everyone they encounter.



Pete & Elizabeth MacCormack

**Ray Wardrop** – Enthusiastic red headed Australian who was a great support and help when the monumental (for us) decision was made to build the current building.



Ray & Johnny

**Jude Johnson** – 19 years service starting in 1985. Jude started as someone to help with the baking at The Hobnail Café now and then. Before long every bus driver from Kaitaia to Bluff who called into the café was in love with her and naming their first born after her. If you ever run into a young man called Jude you will know why. Jude is now at AGFG's The Glacier Shop at Franz.



Jude Johnson

**Hilary Cave** – on and off for 12 years starting in 1985. Our first Lead Guide and Ops Coordinator rolled into one who helped navigate the first big growth spurt of numbers on the glacier. Created the original Ops Manual thus enshrining our high standards for glacier guiding. Hills is famous for her ability to get away with saying things the rest of us couldn't possibly get away with saying and for her dives through windows at staff parties, in her frock.



Hilary, Rob & Tony

**Di Swinburn** – 8 years in retail starting in 1994. Also on board through those big growth years and for the creation of The Glacier Shop and Flights Gallery (originally Flights of Fancy) at Franz. Fondly remembered for lots of fun stories (sorry Swinburn family but you are very entertaining, especially Grandad) and for helping out the Brownes' with boy care and dog care. Luckily Di was unaware that "any other reasonable task" in her job description need not necessarily mean accompanying Brownes' dog to become a father.



Krissy, Di S, Kimmy, Lynda & Sue

**Chris Jillett** – 12 years on and off – arrived in 1985 as a fit young law student, charmed us with his personality and guitar playing and went on to become one of New Zealand's great high guides. He was



Chris & Donna

instrumental in creating the Glacier Guides credential through the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association. Chris died in an avalanche in India in 1998 leaving behind a legacy of high guiding standards and many sad people.

**Ed Nepia** – 12 years on and off – starting in 1986. Full of irreverent and intelligent humour. A great story teller and diplomat who for reasons unknown had the occasional bust up in the Fox Hotel. Along with Hills and Chris was instrumental in creating the Glacier Guides credential and helping us set high glacier guiding standards in place. Also helped set us on the road to greatly improved marketing. Narrowly escaped death when struck on the head with an ice axe by his wife (accidentally they say).



Ed Nepia & Group

**Donna Field** – 12 years on and off – starting in 1986. Passionate horse woman, lead company horse breaker and devoted dog lover. A staunch environmentalist who loved the glacier and the mountains and kept us all up to the mark. Also instrumental in creating the Glacier Guides credential.

**Kevin Baker** – 8 years – from the late 80's master of figures and superb sea kayaker who on his days off startled fishermen up and down the coast by sneaking up on them beyond the twelve mile zone.



Kevin Baker

**Rob Kirkwood** – 9 years from 1994 Shocked off a high voltage pylon in Twizel and into Fox Glacier. He followed Hills as Lead Guide and consolidated guides training programs. No trout was safe from this happy hooker.

**Paula Marshall** – 6 years- from 1997. Our first full time Guiding Operations Coordinator. Knocked the rapid growth phase into shape with great systems and procedures and a marvelous can do attitude.



Paula & Carrol

**Di McLachlan** - for at least a decade – Could turn her hand to everything from scones to step cutting. A loyal AGWer and enormous contributor to the Fox Glacier volunteer ambulance service.



James, Di M & Colin

**Colin and Sue Peterson aka Papa and Momma Smurf** – gamely embraced Alpine Guides after 8 years running the local garage. Delighted in the comings and goings of a swarm of young people and enjoyed them all.

**Kimmy Nolan** – 8 years from 1997. Stalwart member of the Franz retail team and enjoyed by all for her zany off the wall humour. With indomitable good nature survived a lot of change and business growth.

**Gary Dickson** – as a young lad was an Alpine Guides glacier guide back in the bad old days in the late 80's when business was tough and the glacier access tougher. Gary went on to become a highly successful fully certified IFMGA mountain and ski guide. He maintains an interest in the company running most of the NZMGA glacier guide assessment courses.



Gary Dickson

**Mike Mahoney** – around before the conception of Alpine Guides and long time family friend of the Brownes'. Has shared more borderline exploits with Mike Browne than any sane person would, including climbing in 1977 to the South Col in the first NZ alpine style (Sherpaless, sorry Passang our on staff Sherpa ) attempt on Mount Everest. On his trips home to NZ from his parishes in the north east of Brazil he has cranked up the company IT standards and repaired all things unrepairable.



Mike Mahoney

**Ulrich Walthert** – who has so generously shared his wonderful photography with us.



Ulrich Walthert

**Johnny McNutt** – casual guide from the age of 7 unless something more exciting was going on in town, at 10 wrote our first employment contract to cover his boot dubbing and sock washing job. Dux of Duntroon military academy in Australia. In 2000 Johnny was killed by friendly fire while serving with the NZ SAS in Kuwait.

### And now spotlighting the present crew –

This year's staff are a delightful bunch and we would like to make special mention of the current management team Krissy, Becs, Kerie, Marius, Ben, Fiona, Joan, Karen (our housing guru) and all staff at Alpine Guides who have made the transition from the old broom to the new very seamless. A finer bunch of people you could not want to meet. We are very proud of our connection with you all and we are really looking forward to watching Alpine Guides grow from strength to strength with one very classy team.



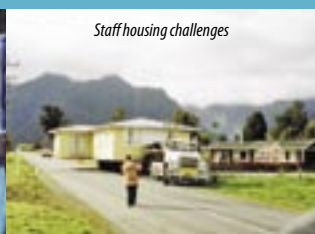
Management Team 05/06  
Back row: Ben, Sally, Adrian, Becs, Carrol, Mike, Joan  
Front row: Kerie, Krissy, Marius, Fiona



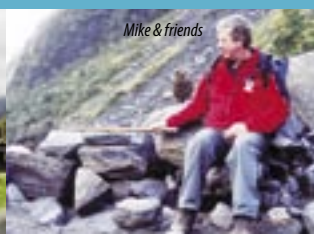
Receiving ITOC Award 2001



Delwyn & Kingsley



Staff housing challenges



Mike & Friends



Annual Xmas party 2003

# THE FOX VIEW

## ALPINE GUIDES FOX GLACIER



### behind the scenes . . .

You know how they always say that you can judge the standards of a place by the state of their toilets and to that we add the functioning of their vacuum cleaners. Have you ever stopped to think what goes on behind the scenes to protect these symbols of the high standards that Alpine Guides is well known for?

Here we let you in on a few home secrets of what goes on behind closed doors at Alpine Guides . . . The Housing Manager goes the extra mile and cleans so hard, she is forced to strip down to her under garments. The Appliance Manager hosts "The Annual Roger Show" and scares staff into never sucking animate objects up their vacuum cleaners.

We hope you find our toilets are very clean and if you ever want to call by to see our vacuums or toilets please do - ask for Roger or Karen (we promise she will be fully clothed)!

### . . . so long, farewell, and wiedersein adieu . . .

We are grateful to all of the people who have trusted us with their clients and those who have supplied us with their services and product over the years. It has been our great pleasure to work with you.

Thank you to all of the people who have worked with us at Alpine Guides and who, over the years, have given us their minds and their bodies and a great deal of their spirit. You have made Alpine Guides what it is. In the words of the Qualmark Assessor . . . "This business is a finely tuned and fully functioning example of a professional adventure tourism operation. A credit to yourselves in what you have built up Carrol and Mike and your enterprise is a credit to the tourism industry".

We would like to also thank our sons Patrick and Pete for their patience. Alpine Guides was a pretty dominating force in their childhoods. Also thanks to our parents and siblings for their help and support over the good and not so good years.

And finally to the Fox Glacier; we never cease to be thrilled by this wonderful force of nature. We knew it was time to move over when we started thinking of her as a person and we heard her talking to us and worse yet we started replying. She is a mighty thing and she has looked after a lot of people and given many the best experience of their lives.

Adrian, Sally, Wayne and Anne, thanks for a great negotiation. We are confident that Alpine Guides is in good hands and we are glad we remain part of the company and will share its future with you and the staff.

Here is to the next 31 years!

From Mike and Carrol



## welcome to new staff

The start of the summer season has seen the return of some old faces and we warmly welcome the following new faces

. . .

- Clare Atkinson
- Amanda Christophers
- Anita Davis
- Brooke Gardiner
- Rachel Gaston
- Becky Goodsell
- Dennis Haskell
- Jeremy Holiday
- Tiana Homes
- Chia-Jung Lu (Stella)
- Tamra Olsen
- Malcolm Richards
- Passang Sherpa
- Andy Tindall
- Mike Tomlinson
- Taju Ullrich
- Henrike VanBen Diwkkenber
- Peter Wilson
- Karen Wylie

We hope that you enjoy your time at Alpine Guides and in Fox Glacier.



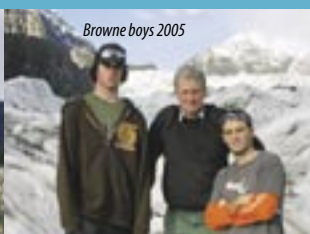
We wish you all a safe and happy festive season and all the best for 2006

ALPINE GUIDES  
FOX GLACIER

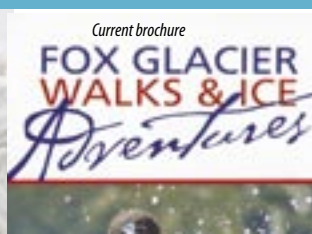
PO Box 38, Fox Glacier, New Zealand  
Ph +64 3 751 0825 • Fax +64 3 751 0857  
email [info@foxguides.co.nz](mailto:info@foxguides.co.nz)  
[www.foxguides.co.nz](http://www.foxguides.co.nz)



Current AGFG building



Browne boys 2005



Current brochure



Fox Glacier 2005



Adrian's business card