KESTER BROWN

New Zealand 2009-10

This report covers developments in the New Zealand mountains from July 2009 to December 2010.

The Darran Mountains, in Fiordland National Park, have continued to attract much attention from those interested in exploring new climbing terrain.

During the winter of 2009, Allan Uren, Ron Dempster and Max Gough climbed a three-pitch ice and mixed line in the **Macpherson Cirque** which they named *The Celtic Connection* and invested with a technical grade of 7, a first for the Darrans. The winter of 2010 also saw some climbing activity, with one new route being established, this time by Matthias Kerkmann and Alejandro Mora Munos. The route, dubbed *Reunion Invernal,* was established over two days and takes a striking line on the upper wall of Crosscut in **Cirque Creek.**

In between the two previously mentioned events, the Darran Mountains were graced with a summer that included numerous high pressure weather systems, during which the alpine rock climbers came out to play. In the **Lake Terror** region, Nick Flyvberg and Tony Burnell climbed a 255m, grade 23 route on the wall that rises directly from the lake; they used an inflatable raft to access *Terrabilita.* Next, the pair added a third route to the north wall of Mt Terror. They named their second new climb *Terra Firma,* and graded it 21.

Over in the **Central Darrans,** Richard Turner, Richard Thomson and Bruce Dowrick occupied themselves with two new rock routes: *Parallel Lines* (22, 6 pitches) is on the north-west flank of **Karetai** and *Nature Identical Dave* (22, 4 pitches) is on the south face of **Te Wera.**

On **Moirs Mate,** Nick Cradock, Murray Ball and Dave Shotwell opened *Lucky Strike,* a seven-pitch grade 20 climb that is quickly becoming the most popular route in the Darrans, probably due to the amenable nature of the bolting, the quality of the stone and the ease of access.

For the more traditionally inclined, a major new route was completed on the north face of **Mt Grave.** Rob Frost, Andrei van Dusschoten and Guy McKinnon climbed the North Rib over two days, encountering loose rock, big commitment, a forced bivvi and some real adventure.

Heading east now, over the main divide to the **Wakatipu Region,** and back to the winter of 2009, five new alpine mixed lines were established on the west face of the **Telecom Tower,** in the **Remarkables Range.** Tony Burnell, Aaron Ford and Sally Ford climbed *Saturday Morning Special* (M3/4) and *Equinox* (M5+), and Sally and Tony climbed *Number One*



185. Tony Burnell abseiling into the upper section of *Terrabilita* (23), Lake Terror, Darran Mountains. *(Nick Flyvberg)*

Gulley (M3). Dave Bolger and Greg Larkin added *Growling Dog* (M5) and Rupert Gardiner and Niall Mueller contributed *State of the Nation* (M5). During the same period, Mike Rowe and Andrew Finnigan completed a new route that tackles the full west face of the **Remarkables**, it's called *Shooting the Breeze,* is 1700m long and is graded at MC4.

The following winter saw Ben Dare frequenting new terrain on the shady side of **Single Cone.** Ben soloed the first ascent of *Fire in the Sky* (M6) on the west face before teaming up with Steve Leake to open *Stairway to Methven* (M5), on the south face. But those routes may have just been a warm-up for



186. Sally Ford on the first ascent of *Equinox*, Telecom Tower, Wakatipu Region. *(Tony Burnell)*

Ben, as he subsequently soloed a major new line on the south face of **Mt Earnslaw**: *Right Next Door to Hell* is 1750m long and graded at WI4+ M4.

Over in the north branch of the **Routeburn Valley,** Andrew Finnigan and Julian Webster found a real gem on the west buttress of **Mt Somnus.** Their climb, *Mid-Winter Christmas,* is 9 pitches of mostly moderate water-ice, with brief crux sections of grade WI3+ and M5 terrain. Ben Dare had spent some time solo on Earnslaw the summer prior to his winter climb; he established a new route on the west face that he graded III/3.

The biggest hills in New Zealand saw an increase in new route activity in the period covered by this report. In **Tai Poutini Westland National Park,** the winter of '09 saw an ice line added to the south-west face of the West Peak of **Mt Haast**: *Swimming with Sharks* (III/4) came courtesy of Jono Clarke and Matt Quirke. The climb must have been a good one, as Jono went back the next winter with Jamie Vinton-Boot to add *Talula Does the Hula from Hawaii* (III/5+), further to the right on the same face. Nearby, and just a couple of weeks later, Allan Uren, Penny Goddard and Dave Williams added an alternative left-hand finish *to The Vision* on **Conway Peak.** Continuing with his variation theme, Allan Uren teamed up with Ben Dare and veered left on *Lust for Life,* on the south face of **Barnicoat,** to create an alternative to that route.

The 09/10 summer at **Aoraki Mount Cook National Park** saw a new route completed on **Aoraki Mt Cook** itself by Lachie Currie and Stuart Holloway. *Resolution* (MC6) consists of great rock and is in a fantastic position on the left side of the Bowie Buttress.

And finally, in July 2010, Kieran Parsons and David Manning made the first ascent of the S. Face of **Mt Travers** in **Nelson Lakes National Park.**

ANTONIO GÓMEZ BOHÓRQUEZ

Peru 2008-9

Translated by Paul Knott

This report documents new routes and significant repeats in the Cordilleras Blanca and Huayhuash, Peru, between June 2008 and September 2009, plus climbs in the Cordilleras Vilcanota and Jatún Chacua in the dry season of 2009.

To write it, I have analysed, challenged and synthesised data from the *American Alpine Journal,* Andes Info archives and personal communications with Anthony Barton, Hugo Sifuentes, Koky Castañeda, Richard Hidalgo, Silvia Vidal and Vicente Bárcena.

CORDILLERA BLANCA 2008

Cerro Huaytapallana II or Central, East Summit (c5025m)

On 19 July, Britons Anthony Barton, Jim Sykes and Oliver Metherell reached the head of the Huaytapallana gorge, also called Quebrada Rajururi. That day, they climbed seven long pitches on the west side of this peak on excellent rock and crossed to the north-west ridge for another long pitch until they reached an impasse in the form of a long rocky gendarme. They then made three rappels to the bottom of the face and, although they had finished at the ridge, named the route *Copout* (560m, 10 pitches, TD+ E1 5a or 5.9 R/X).

Five days later, Barton and Metherell climbed to the col that separates peaks Huaytapallana I and II, where they found an 'enormous wedged block to the right of a large tower'. They reached the top of the block by a narrow chimney to gain the eastern ridge. Having passed the crux they followed the ridge, which they found 'delightful, exposed, and airy but not too difficult'. On the East Summit (somewhat lower than the main) they found no evidence of previous ascents. They named this route *Last Exit*, 375m, 7 pitches, TD E1 5a or 5.9R. After down-climbing to a large terrace, they made four rappels to reach the bottom of the face just left of the descent from their previous climb.

Huascarán Norte (6654m) to Triángulo Este (c6150m)

From 23-30 July, Catalan (Spanish) Silvia Vidal and Swiss Youri Cappis carried food and equipment up the Quebrada (ravine) Anqosh to an advanced base camp (c5500m) and fixed 200m of rope. They then climbed capsule style. As Cappis was inexperienced in big-wall climbing, Vidal led all the pitches. They set up C1 at end of the 5th pitch (c5500m), C2 at the 10th (c5750m) and C3 at the 14th. On 9 August, after 18 days on the