

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



187. 'Triángulo del Huascarán Norte'. Silvia Vidal's line on Corominas/Baró's photo. *(Andes Info collection)*

wall, they reached the apex of the eastern rock triangle (c6150m). They had intended to reach the summit of Nevado Huascarán Norte (6654m), but gave up. Adverse weather conditions forced them to rappel from that apex down the ascent route, which they named *Entre Boires* (*Between Mists*): starts at about 5350m; 800m vertical; 970m long; A3/F6a+, 80º.

Chopicalqui (6354m) to SE ridge (c6000m)
On 26 June, Matic Obid, Pavel Ferjancic, Jernej Arcon, Vladimir Makarovic and Mitja Glescic ascended by the Quebrada Ulta to the east face of Chopicalqui and camped at about 5000m. On 28th, they left at 2am and reached the base of the face three hours later. They climbed about 100m of 50º – left of the route of *Johnson-Pohmajevich* (1988) – followed by another 100m of rock on the left side of a small couloir. Afterwards they climbed 350m (50º-70º), trending left, and 50m of mixed to reach the SE ridge. The Slovenians were planning to follow this ridge – climbed by Clarbrough and Wayatt in 1969 – to reach the summit, but stopped at this point (c6000m) due to deep snow, and descended. They named this climb *Burros Eslovenos*: 600m with general difficulty M5 50º -70º

Nevado Ulta (5875m) to eastern ridge (c5800m)
On 16 July, Basque (Spanish) Aritza Monasterio and Slovenian Viktor Mlinar departed from a small bridge (c3885m) between Ulta Passage and the village of Pompey, and went up the Quebrada Cancaracá Grande to a moraine camp (c4625m) at the foot of the glacier south of Nevado Ulta. The next day they crossed the crevassed glacier and camped at 5110m next to a rock pillar. On 18th at 5am they started on the south face. They passed two bergschrunds, a 60º slope, a pitch of 80º, and icefalls of 90º-95º to reach the eastern ridge at about 5800m. The climb ended here, because the rest of the ridge to the summit looked very dangerous. They made eight rappels with 60m x7mm ropes. They named the route *Andinista-Rifnik*: 650m, MD+/ED VI/4+.

Hatun Ulloc (Ulloc Grande, c4420m)
In late July, Americans Dave Anderson and Brady Robinson camped in the Quebrada Ishinca. They spent several days going up and down the 'gully' right of Hatun Ulloc to reach the top of the third prow (c4420m). From here, they abseiled and removed vegetation to prepare the cracks for subsequent free climbing, and placed a protection bolt in what could become pitch 13. They returned to the camp with the idea of repeating the ascent of Crill and Gallagher, to complete it with the five pitches that were missing up to the third prow. (This ascent in 2004 ended at the first of the three prows of the peak [see *AJ* 2005, p342 and *AJ* 2006 pp320-321]; in 2005 Wood and Wellman continued to the second and estimated that they were about 60m below the third.) Anderson and Robinson fixed three rope lengths and then, when the weather allowed, continued a further 14 pitches to the top (c4420m) with free climbing, although they pre-protected the key roof pitch of Crill-Gallagher. They named the full route *Astroman of Peru*, maximum difficulty 5.11c in pitch 13. *Correction: in AJ 2006 p320, where it says c4800, read c4420m.*

CORDILLERA HUAYHUASH 2008
Puscanturpa Chiquita (5066m)
From 10-13 July, Slovaks Vlado Linek and Patrik Barjak climbed on the north side of **Puscanturpa Sur** (see *AJ* 2006 p324) on a small tower called 'Puscanturpa Chiquita'. Their route, *Burro Loco* (Crazy Donkey), has seven pitches (UIAA 6+, 8-, 8-, 4, 5, 8, 2) and 300m. They placed 11 belay bolts and seven in the pitches, and used fixed ropes. Future climbers will require large Camalots on the third pitch and will have to rappel the route, unless they decide to rappel to the col behind the needle and open a way to the nearest snow-capped summit.

CORDILLERA VILCANOTA 2008
Nevado Tinqui or Tinki (5450m)
The claimed 4 October ascent of 'Nevado Pucapunta (5490m)' by the Peruvian aspirant guides Raúl Laveriano, Willy Alvarado, Beto Pinto, Claudio Lliuya and Steven Fuentes was, without doubt, the Nevado Tinqui (5450m) as seen in route line photographs published by different specialised media. The future guides reached the base of the S face, climbed trending right for 120m on packed névé and another 240m of hard ice to

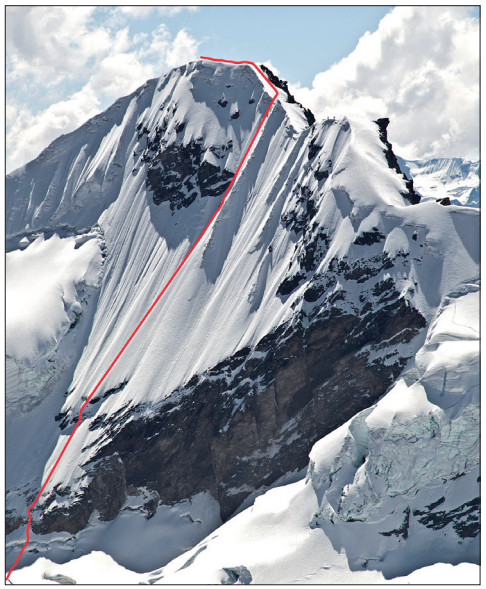


188. From left to right, Nevado Tinki (5450m), Caracol (5619m), Concha del Caracol (5630m) and Pachanta (5727m) *(Antonio Gómez Bohórquez)*

reach the gully right of the upper rock band and hence the snowy SE arête, which led (by its right side) to the summit. They graded the climb at TD, 65º and called it *Magno Camones*. They descended the SE ridge to reach the col of Nevado Caracol and descended diagonally to the south glacier.

This mountain became known outside of Peru thanks to a photo by Piero Ghiglione published in *Mountain World* in 1953, plates 50-51, with the caption: 'Unnamed 19,600ft between Ausangate and Cayangate ...'. The same picture by the Italian explorer is between pages 30-33 of his book, *Nelle Andes of South Peru,* 1953. Günter Hauser's book, *Ihr Herren Berge* (1959), between pages 80-81 and 95-97, shows the as yet unnamed summit (5450m on the attached map) to the left (E) of Nevado Caracol (5619m). This last picture is expanded in *Mountain World* (English) and *Berge der Welt* (Germany), 1958/59, Photo 24. Also, the sketch map of Cronk and Wortis in *Alpine Journal* 1959, p.40, includes the peak in question, but without a height or name. *Le Ande,* by Mario Fantin, p.4, records the name and altitude of each of the three neighbouring peaks east of this summit: Caracol (5619m), Concha de Caracol (5630m), and Pachanta (5727m). The latter is named 'Nevado Puca Punta' (no elevation given) on ING Peru sheet 28-t Ocongate, which points to the NNE of the Paso del Campa and the SSW end of 'Nevado Collque Cruz'!

The same occurs in the sketch (trekking topo) Cordillera Vilcanota, Tinqui-Auzangate, drawn by Healey and printed by South American Explorer Club in 1985. The toponymy of the sheet 28-t – like the sketch based on it – is consistent with common usage and leads to confusion because **a)** it appears that the three peaks receive the same name as one (Puca Punta)



189. Nevado Tinki of the Cordillera Vilcanota with the Peruvian line. Photo taken from the summit of Nevado Campa I on 20 July 2008. *(Antonio Gómez Bohórquez)*

located SSW of these glaciers and several summits to the south, **b)** calls Nevado Cayangate 'Nevado Collpa Ananta' (6110m), and **c)** names 'Nevado Collque Cruz' a series of peaks located between Nevado Puca Punta and Nevado Collpa Ananta, when in fact the real Collque Cruz is 8km NE of Nevado Cayangate. This can be seen by comparing, for example, sheet 28-t Ocongate with the topo of Wilkinson and Rubens published in *Alpine Journal* 2005, p48. Note that the bottom left of this sketch indicates (with no height or name), E of the three summits, the peak in question. This peak was named 'Tinki' (5450m) by the German expedition that climbed it in 1966, perhaps in honour of the Tinqui hacienda on the approach to base camp. This first ascent by several members of the Akademische Alpenverein München was noted in *AAJ* 1967, p396: 'On June 16 we made the first ascent of Tinki (17,881 feet), which lies just east of Caracol'. The ascent of the S face in 1980 is also recorded in *AAJ* 1981 p230: 'On July 21 [Rainer] Bassler and I [Herbert Weinzierle, Deutscher Alpenverein] made a new route on the Nevado Tinki (5450m, 17,881 feet), the direct south face, which averaged 60° and was 70° near the top'. Therefore, when we know the exact line of the latter route, or other later routes not recorded in the literature, we will know whether the ascent by the Peruvian mountaineers is the first, a variation or a repeat.

Nevado Campa II (5611m)

The 4 October ascent of 'Nevado Qampa (5500m)' by aspirant guides Johan Zárate and Alberto Hung probably corresponds to Campa II (5611m) on the Hauser map cited above. The Campa peaks, also called Kampa, Q'ampa and Jampa in various publications, are named 'Nevado María Huamantilla' on ING Peru sheet 28-t Ocongate. The two Peruvian climbers left from a base camp (c4600m) next to 'Alcacocha' (lagoon) at 2.45am. They reported ascending via the north-west side between peaks 5300m and 5390m and by the north-west ridge to reach the summit of Campa at 9.05am. Recall the routes mentioned by Bernard Amy – in *AAJ* 1971, pp411-412, and in *La Montagne et Alpinisme,* No84, October 1971, pp131-138 – whose group climbed in July 1970 by the NW slope to the

summits of Campa I (5485m), Campacito (5390m) and Campa II (5611m). But if the Peruvian pair 'climbed the south-west face and the long ridge to the summit' – as published *AAJ* 2009, p182– then their route runs between the peaks 5260m and 5450m reported by Hauser and follows the NE ridge to the summit of 5611m. In any case, the pair estimated that they climbed 150m of III 65° between those peaks to reach the ridge, and named the route *YAS Gael*.

Mariposa (5818m)
Named 'Nevado María Huamantilla o Chilenita' (5808m) on ING Peru sheet 28-t, this summit was climbed on 4 October by three pairs of Peruvian aspirant guides by different lines up the north slope. Melesio Escolástico and Marco Lliuya (who died later on Huascarán) graded their climb TD III 80°; Darío Alva and Flavio Mandura graded theirs TD V 80º; Miguel Gamarra and Willy Huamán graded theirs TD V 60º. The lines of these three climbs are drawn in *AAJ* 2009, p182, in a picture for which the caption notes 'no other routes are thought to exist on this face'. In relation to this comment, and to which of these Peruvian climbs may be new, recall that Herbert Oberhofer, of the Akademische Alpenverein München, reported in *AAJ* 1967 p396: '[..] the same day [June 26th] making [with K. Winkler] the second ascent of Mariposa (19,089 feet) by a new route, the north ridge'.
With such a brief explanation, it is hard to know which ridge the German alpinist referred to because the summit Mariposa does not have a north ridge as such according to the Hauser map. From the summit one ridge goes down to the north-west and another to the north-east to join a pronounced col to Peak 5630m south-east of Ausangate Chico (5700m). The latter summit was climbed in 1970 by Christian Choquet and Bernard Amy, who recorded this ascent in *La Montagne et Alpinisme,* No. 84, October 1971, and in *AAJ* 1971, p412: 'Chico (5700m or 18,701 feet) traversed from west to east with a bivouac, followed by the ascent of Mariposa (5818m or 19,089 feet) on July 14 and 15'. *AAJ* 1975, p171 recorded the next ascent, by German climbers in 1974: 'Mariposa (19,056 feet) via north face by Vogl, Volkl, Konnerth, Forster on August 28'. Also *AAJ* 1979, p246 reported another ascent of the face: '[... Carl] Heller, [Terry] Moore and I [Robert Rockwell] climbed Mariposa (19,090 feet), a sustained climb up the north face culminating in 1200 feet of 45' to 60' snow and ice.'

CORDILLERA BLANCA 2009
Urus Central (5495m)
On 16 October, Beto Pinto and Eric Albino Lliuya, students on a Peruvian (AGMP) mountain guides course, left a moraine field (c4600m) in the Quebrada Ishinca at about 6am, and climbed the S face by a possible new 360m route they called *El vuelo del Inca* (*Flight of the Inca*), MD+, 6a, II, M5, 70º-90º. They reached the summit about 12.30 and descended by three rappels and by down-climbing the E ridge.

Ranrapalca (6162m)
On 27 August, Eloy Máximo Salazar Obregón (guide), Octavio Salazar Obregon (aspirant) and Eric Albino Lliuya departed at 11pm from a moraine field (c4800m) in the middle of the Quebrada (gorge) Cojup (Qojup) and ascended the glacier to the S. Shortly after midnight on 28th they crossed two bergschrunds and climbed the S face in lightweight style. They found soft snow (50º-60º), mixed terrain, hard snow, ice, an overhanging area (90º-95º), and finally a couloir (80º) to the SW ridge. They followed this ridge and reached the summit at 6.30pm. They descended first by the NE ridge, then on the E face with two (maybe three) rappels and down-climbing to the col Ranrapalca-Ishinca. From here they reached the moraine camp around 4pm. They estimated that this route is 850m, difficulty ED, 50°-90°/95° and named it *La paliza del Ranrapalca* (*The beating of Ranrapalca*). It remains to be determined whether it is new route, a variant to the SW ridge, or coincides with the line taken by Nicholas Jaeger (TD 750m) in seven hours (bergschrund-summit) on 13 June 1977.

Pucaraju (5346m)
On 26 July, in the Yanamarey massif, Americans Nate Farr and Marcus Donaldson climbed 300m on the S face to the N ridge only. The climb *Game of Kings* (TD+, WI4, M6, 5.8) is to the right of the 1995 *Meynet-Cordier* line. They descended the ridge to the next gully, where they rappelled to the base of the S face.

CORDILLERA HUAYHUASH 2009
Puscanturpa Norte (5652m)
From 27-29 June, from the head of the Quebrada Huanacpatay (Huanacupatay), Basque climbers Mikel Bonilla and Aitor Avendaño opened a 10-pitch variation on the SW face to reach the French route *Macanacota* (Arrisani-Faure-Paurrage, 2000), after which it took five long pitches to reach the top. In the photo with the route line reported by Bonilla and Avendaño it appears that two of these pitches (the last two) are from the other French route opened between May and June 2000 by Daudet, Lombard and Baudry (see *AAJ* 2001 p284). The Basque climbers named this route *Barne Sua* (French 7c+ and 6c obl), which is about 750m up this rocky summit, and descended by rapelling the line of *Macanacota*.

Cordillera Jatún Chacua
From 21 July to 1 August, Basques Koldo Zubimendi, Koldo Rodríguez, Gaizka Barrutia, José María Garcés, Gorka Olabarrieta, Iker Iriondo and Vicente Bárcena departed the town of Oyón for Pucayacu. From here, after a two-day approach, they camped in a plain called Hualmay by the locals and Pistag on sheet 22-j Oyón of ING Peru. This base camp (c4400m) is one km E of the Jatunpata lagoon. They ascended seven peaks of the Cordillera Jatún Chacua, located south of the Cordillera Raura, north of the Cordillera de la Viuda and between the E and S chain of summits called



190. Nevados Cuchpanga NW (5195m) left and NE (5203m) right. Iriondo-Olabarrieta-Zubimendi, red line. Rodríguez-Barrutia and Bárcena-Garcés, blue line. *(Bárcena coll.)*

'Cordillera Rumi Cruz' on this map sheet. All ascents were one-day returns to base camp. The climbs are summarised below in chronological order using names that the explorers gave the peaks and summits and the GPS altitudes they recorded.

Cuchpanga NW 5195m and NE 5203m
Cerro Cuchpanga (5154m) on sheet 22-j of the Peruvian ING lies NE of the Pistag lagoon, S of Huisi Huaganan (5158m) and N of Tuganga Machay (5030m). On 21 July, after 5pm, seven climbers circled the N side of the Pistag lagoon and entered the adjacent valley to the E. They reached the glacier at about 8.30 and, divided into three ropes, crossed to stand under the S face of Cuchpanga NE.

The rope of Iriondo-Olabarrieta-Zubimendi then ascended the snow slope directly and the couloir above (65°) to reach the NW top and traverse to the NE. Due to the unstable snow set off by this trio, roped pairs Rodríguez-Barrutia and Bárcena-Garcés crossed to the right (E) and ascended the adjacent couloir. They reached the two peaks, and all descended toward the NW ridge. Two séracs let loose, and they turned to the W, finding traces of their ascent down on the moraine.

Chacua Grande 5094m
Named 'Cerro Chacua Grande' (without height data), this lies NE of the Pistag lagoon on sheet 22-j of the ING Peru. The seven Basques left base camp on 23 July at 7am, arrived at 9am at the base of the S ridge and climbed it in three hours. The ridge had little difficulty (only two steps



191. Nevado Chacua Grande from the east. *(Bárcena coll.)*

of UIAA IV+ or V-), but plenty of loose rock. From the top they down-climbed the ridge as far as a gully descending SE and, where this ended, found a way down to the E. They then found a suitable abseil anchor which allowed them to lose 40m, then a traverse S led to the scree by which they descended to the base of the S ridge.

Pistag Machay 4951m
Without name or number, this summit is NNW of the Pistag lagoon on ING Peru sheet 22-j. On 24 July, Zubimendi, Barrutia, Iriondo and Bárcena climbed easily up rock, always seeking the ridge that rises from S to N and near the top came to an area exposed to the E. They reached an altitude measured by GPS at 4951m with a 4m margin of error.

Huisi Huaganán 5158m
The summit named 'Cerro Huaganán' (no altitude given) is NNE of the Pistag lagoon and E of Totoracocha on ING Peru sheet 22-j. On 25 July at 8am, Zubimendi and Bárcena went ahead of the rest of the group for approximately two hours along a route they spotted the previous day from Pistag Machay. They tried to gain the N ridge from the SW, but a vertiginous section forced them to retreat. The rest of the group joined them and all climbed more to the north-east, to try to gain the ridge higher up. They then came to a gully which ascended almost parallel to the ridge. Iriondo and Barrutia continued the ascent to the N, gained the ridge, and were the first to reach the 5158m summit. Meanwhile Olabarrieta, Zubimendi and Vicente progressed up the gully. This turned into a rock wall on the E

face, which they climbed by a succession of dihedral, terraces and cracks to 100m below the summit, completing the most exposed pitch of the route. After this, a series of terraces led to the summit. Here they joined their companions in descent of the N ridge.

Conchamarca Machay 4960m
This is P 4922m situated S of Pistag lagoon and SW of the Huatay (Huatay-cocha) lagoons on ING Peru sheet 22-j. On 27 July, Garcés, Zubimendi, Olabarrieta, Barrutia and Bárcena set off to the S looking for high valleys to the north of 'Cordillera Callejón' on the Peruvian map. They reached a col SE of the Conchamarca (possibly Cochamarca) lagoon and E of Cerro Yanamachay. They continued south and ascended the N ridge of the twin rocky peaks (north 4947m and south 4960m) 4922m and unnamed on the above map. For this reason, they proposed to ING Peru the name Conchamarca Machay taken from the largest lake at the foot of these peaks. They descended to the north-west to skirt the W and N edges of the lake and hence to base camp.

Ashcac Oriental 5204m
This is P 5165m on ING Peru sheet 22-j. On 28 July, the seven approached it by Hualmay along the E and N of Pistag Machay. From the col north of Pistag they descended to the Cuchpanga lagoon and continued N, entering the gully that divides and forms the spurs of Ashcac Occidental (Western) and Oriental (Eastern). They climbed a gully with rock, talus and snow, which climbs in its final part to smooth, rounded boulders and to the SW of the glacier snout. They divided into three ropes to cross the glacier, climbed the S slope, and at the steepest point of the climb, overcame a crack. They reached the summit at 11.15 am and descended by the same route.

Tuganga Machay 5030m
This lies NNE of the Pistag lagoon and S of Cuchpanga on ING Peru sheet 22-j. On 1 August at 7.15am, Barrutia, Olabarrieta, Iriondo, Zubimendi and Bárcena left by the road they had taken as far as Cuchpanga. They then turned SE at the northern end of the Pistag lagoon and, at another point SE of this, turned NE to reach the foot of the S ridge. They climbed with little difficulty (UIAA III+) without using the rope and reached the W summit, recorded by GPS at 5030m with a 4m margin of error. They did not continue to the E summit of similar altitude, because this would have meant an abseil to the ridge connecting the summits with overhanging climbing on one side and snow to the S. They down-climbed their ascent ridge, descended to the S shore of the Pistag lake and returned to base camp.

MARCELO SCANU

Argentine Andes 2009-10

NORTHERN ARGENTINE ANDES

The 6029m volcano **Volcán Salín**, Salta, was first ascended by pre-Columbian Indians. Hans-Martin Schmitt from Germany and Adrian Germishuizen from South Africa climbed it on 20 May 2009, opening a new route on its NE face. This is the 5th overall modern ascent, the first being by Argentineans Sergio Bossini and Carlos Mas in 1960.

The west glacier of **Pissis** is the largest in the region, with an area of 40km^2, and before 2009 had not been ascended in its entirety. It can only be reached after a difficult 200km off-road ride. The only previous attempt was in 1994 by Mexicans who reached a point NW of the highest point. In March 2009, a team directed by Guillermo Almaraz erected base camp at 5000m (27° 43' 04.5" S, 68° 54' 00.8" W) in the valley that gives access to the glacier. The team was completed with Eduardo Namur, Daniel Pontín and Nicolás Pantaleón. The ascent continued by a penitentes-covered valley to a camp at 5600m beside the glacier (27° 44' 03.1" S, 68° 51' 40.8" W). Next day they traversed the 7km glacier, camping at 5950m near the ridge used by the Polish on the 1937 first ascent (27° 44' 48.3" S, 68° 48' 45.5" W). The final summit bid was made by Almaraz, Pantaleón and Namur ascending the snowed face to reach the ridge that is the last part of the Polish route. They continued via the W face of minor summit Gendarmería Nacional (6675m) to reach the main summit just past midday on 14 March. The group used the latest unofficial height measurement, 6795m; the official figure is 6882m.

Cerro La Coipa (5050m) is an elegant triangular summit on the access to Pissis. It has been known by this name (a kind of mineral) from long ago and appears on ancient maps. The Instituto Geográfico Militar Argentino marks as La Coipa a nearby summit some 100m higher that isn't well seen from the slopes. The locals point to the 5050m summit as the real La Coipa. On 23 November 2009, Jose Luis Querlico and Marcelo Scanu erected a base camp at 4150m its eastern slopes. On 27 November Scanu left alone from base camp at 7.45am taking the south-east ridge, and summited in windy weather at 2.45pm, completing the first ascent of this summit. There were no traces of other ascents. At 4.15pm he was back at camp and by 5.30pm the team was back in Fiambalá at 1500m.

Argentines Andrés Martínez Infante, Fernando Arranz, Guillermo Bianchi and Glauco Muratti made the first ascent of the virgin summit **Gram Bicentenario** (5785m), which may be an old volcano, west of Volcán Pissis near the Argentine-Chilean border. They travelled to base