

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

Pro Climb

Climbing Services for Forestry, Arboriculture and Vegetation Management

Hello Everyone!

New Zealand Rocks!

Nicky Ward-Allen is the world record holder in the woman's secured footlock event and James Kilpatrick is the world record holder in the men's secured footlock event. Adding to this Chrissy Spence is the 2011 ISA International Tree Climbing Championships winner in the women's division - Scott Forest is the 2011 ISA International Tree Climbing Championships winner in the men's division.

The only thing left to say:

Well done!



Save the Date: Climbing Workshops!

Wellington **3-7 October**

Three days of
Climbing 0:

**Introduction to
Tree Climbing
(3 day)**

Climbing 2:
**Advanced Tree
Climbing**

Techniques (1 day)

Climbing SRT
Access:

**Introduction to
SRT Access
(Single Rope
Technique) (1 day)**

Auckland **19-23**

Three days of
Climbing 0:

**Introduction to
Tree Climbing
(3 day)**

Climbing 2:
**Advanced Tree
Climbing**

Techniques (1 day)

Climbing SRT
Access:

**Introduction to
SRT Access
(Single Rope
Technique) (1 day)**

General News

Hackfalls Arboretum Working Bee/Arbor Camp 12-13 November 2011

This November it's time to pack up the climbing gear, camping stuff and the family and head up to the Hackfalls arboretum. The Hackfalls arboretum needs a hand with some tree work, so what a great opportunity to get together for a good cause.

We thought it would be nice to combine the work with some knowledge sharing.

- Using the hitch climber to its full potential
- SRT Access
- Dynamic climbing with modern friction hitches.

Friday: Setting up and arrival.

Saturday: Work bee with integrated workshops.

Sunday: Work bee with integrated workshops and departure

Basic camping facilities will be provided as well as a social BBQ Saturday night. The rest of the weekend is self-catering.

For more information contact:

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2011 Tree Climbing Competitions REGIONAL COMPETITION DATES

New Zealand Arboricultural Association is running a series of Regional Tree Climbing Competitions (TCCs) - held across New Zealand.

South Island Region

Venue: Christchurch – Burnside Park, Christchurch

Date: 3 September Registration:
Pre-registration is essential.

Waikato/BOP Region

Venue: Hamilton- venue to be confirmed

Date: 17 September 2011

Registration: Pre-registration is essential.

Wellington Region

Venue: Wellington – venue to be confirmed

Date: 1 October 2011

Registration: Pre-registration is essential.

For more information visit:

<http://nzarbor.org.nz/?p=2276>



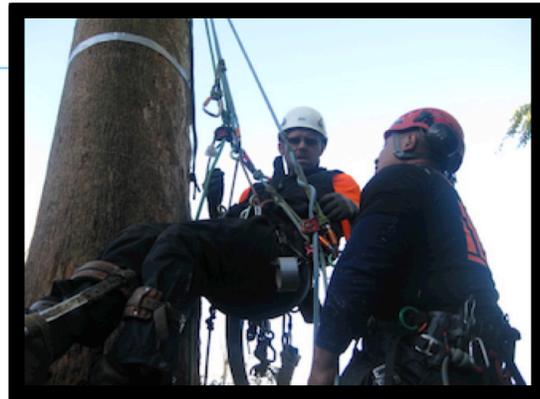
Ascending the Giants

The winner of the Leave No Trace Award: Adventure Film Festival, Portland arborists Will Koomjian and Brian French captured their journey to locate a new Oregon State Sitka Spruce champion, after the demise of the Klotchy Creek Spruce, an Oregon landmark, on film. Koomjian and French combined beautiful cinematography and modern tree climbing techniques to capture their journey as they take their viewers along with them on an amazing tree top journey.

This film is a definite must see!

Visit: [Ascending the Giants](#)

Training



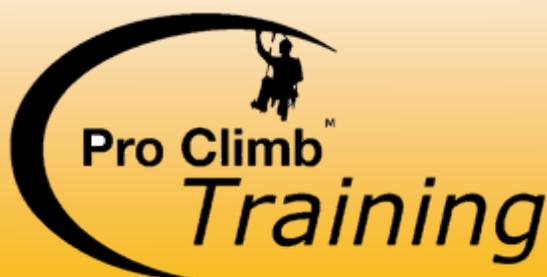
Aerial Rescue Training

The training will help to understand how people react in emergency situation as well as understand how to master them efficiently.

- **AR 1 - Self rescue and Basic rescue**
- **AR 2 - Complex aerial rescues**
- **AR 3 - Assisted aerial rescues**

For more information visit
www.proclimb.co.nz
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or on 0210504351

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Article

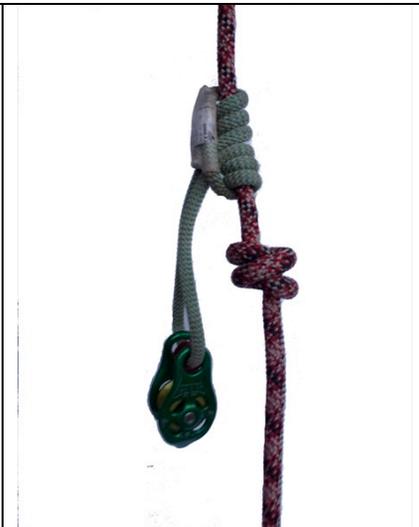
The Hitch Climber - a tool for beginners and expert climbers?

The other day I received a call from a scientist who wanted to learn tree climbing techniques to access and move around safely in the tree canopy. Since we had no public workshops running at the time we agreed on a one on one training session, giving me the opportunity to design a custom made course for the needs of a canopy researcher. After consulting with a few colleagues I decided to use the technique known as adjustable fales crotch combined with the Hitch Climber (HC) climbing system.

These two techniques combined offer a safe and efficient climbing style for beginners as well as for advanced climbers.

What I am referring to as an adjustable fales crotch access system is also dealt with in Jeff Jepson's book *The Tree Climber's Companion*. A rope (semi static 10-11mm kernmantle rope) is installed through a sufficiently strong tree crotch using a throw line. The double rope climbing system is then attached to the end of the rope via a pulley. It is recommended to avoid karabiners as connectors at this point. The karabiner cannot be monitored and could accidentally open when rubbing against a branch.

Please see below safe attachment variations for the pulley to the single line.

		
<p>DMM Pinto Rig</p>	<p>DMM Pinto Rig on a prussic / Stopper knot</p>	<p>ISC single prussic pulley / 4.5t secured shackle</p>

The pulley with the climbing system attached is hoisted up into the tree just below the anchoring crotch. The access rope can now be installed and secured with a base anchor system. The base anchor system should be configured in a way that in an emergency the climber can be lowered to the ground. There are several different base anchor systems and to name and show them here would go too far. The general principle applies to all of them. It uses a friction device to control the load (e.g. figure eight) and a backup system (e.g. prussic) in case the belaying person does a mistake or needs to leave the belaying rope to attend to a matter, the climber does not crash out of the tree.



The climbing system / access system is now installed and the climber can start accessing the tree via the double rope system. Here the Hitch Climber (HC) allows the climber to use a traditional body thrusting motion (O rig setup), the more advanced foot locking method (standard HC configuration), or a combination of both. Once the climber has accessed the tree she/he can work out of the adjustable falls crotch anchor or install a double rope climbing system. We do recommend using a second climbing system to ensure that an access system is available for an aerial rescue in an emergency situation.

Now that we have reached the tree canopy the HC can show its full potential. The HC will allow the climber to use multiple anchor points without using the rope tail (V Rig system) and so prevent having a rope loop beneath the climber that can catch on obstacles or which can get caught by falling debris. Rope redirecting points (RRP) can be installed in a manner that will not increase the forces on the RRP over one time the climber's weight. The HC also allows for multiple options for using a three to one mechanical advantage system while climbing. This mechanical advantage system can minimize the energy consumption and body wear of the climber as well as allowing for better balance and slack management when returning from a limb walk.

While many of these techniques could as well be used with more traditional climbing setups, the HC can guarantee an optimal loading of all components in the climbing system by preventing side loading or nose loading of the connectors.

Tree climbing beginners and experts all encounter the same problems when climbing in the tree canopy. The only difference is that beginners encounter the problems earlier on a limb walk or in smaller trees and more experienced climbers further out on the limb or in larger trees. The solutions are almost always the same - rope redirects, second anchor point, and advanced slack management systems.

The HC is not without reason the number one choice for experienced tree climbers in NZ and we at Pro Climb are going to make it our number one choice for training beginners. We believe in introducing novice climbers to more ergonomic, efficient and safe climbing systems from the start, promises higher productivity and quality workmanship from an early stage.

References:

If you would like to read more about the Hitch Climber you can find the *Hitch Climbers Guide to The Canopy* on the [treemagineers website](#). If you would like to read more about adjustable falls crotches you can buy Jeff Jepson's book *The Tree Climbers Companion* at your local tree climbing gear supplier or follow the arborist forums [treebuzz.com](#) and [arbtalk.co.uk](#).

PRO CLIMB RIGGING BOLLARD



WWL: 1000KG
Max Rope Diameter: 35 mm

The Pro ClimB Rigging Bollard (PCRB) is a friction device used in tree work for lowering tree sections like branches and trunk wood.

Loads should not exceed 1000kg. The PCRB is designed with a safety factor of 5:1, in line with international user standards. To allow the user to use their preferred rope type, we have designed the PCRB with an enlarged drum of 140mm in diameter. This allows the use of ropes that are up to 35mm in diameter without going under a 4:1 bend ratio. The enlarged drum guarantees that all rope diameters and types will run smoothly around it in all rigging situations. The enlarged drum also cools faster due to the greater surface area.

New Zealand retailer: [Treetools](#)
Australian retailer: [Atraes](#)

Picture of the Season



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Pro Climb:

The newsletter's purpose is to keep you up to date with Pro Climb workshops, arb events, and interesting articles about rigging and tree climbing. It will be published every 10 weeks.

If you don't want to receive the Pro Climb newsletter, please send an email directly to andreas@proclimb.co.nz subject: unsubscribe