



**January 2011**

Hello everyone and a happy new year!

This is the first Pro Climb Newsletter. Its purpose is to keep you up to date with Pro Climb workshops, arb events, and interesting articles about rigging and tree climbing. The newsletter comes out every 10 weeks.

We have worked hard to offer a wide range of arboricultural climbing and rigging workshops in 2011. Our website has received a new design with detailed information on workshops and training programs. We have added an online booking system for your convenience and we can now offer ISA CEUs for the most workshops.

The new year is just around the corner and it is going to be a busy one.

The Pakaraka Tree Climbing Gathering starts the year off on the 13th and 14th of January with workshops and a special type of climbing competition.

Matt Glenn is celebrating his move to Oz with a fancy dress TCC in Auckland on the 29th of January. Matt is well known for his fantastic work climb set-ups and Sunday master challenges.

The Taranaki Open is a new NZAA event organised by Nicky Ward-Allen and Neal Harding. It is a weekend all about trees and climbing big things.

Walking Tour: Friday 4th February 2011

Tree Climb: Saturday 5th February 2011

Mountain Climb: Sunday 6th February 2011

### **Dates to remember in 2011:**

Pakaraka Tree Climbers Gathering	13-14 January
Fancy Dress Tree Climbing Competition-Auckland	29 January
The Taranaki Open	4-6 February
Auckland TCC	12 March
Asian South Pacific TCC in Singapore	17-19 June
ITCC in Sydney	23-27 July
Arbor Camp in Australia	28-31 July
Christchurch TCC	3 September
Hamilton TCC	17 September
Wellington TCC	1 October

You can find more event details on our website.

### **Climbing and Rigging Weeks 2011**

In the next six months Pro Climb is offering climbing and rigging workshop weeks in 8 major business centres on the North and South Island.

A climbing week contains each of the 1 day climbing workshops listed below, and additional

workshops such as Aerial Rescue Training or Introduction to Modern Tree Gear are available upon request.

The rigging workshops are offered as one or two day seminars. Day one of the workshop will cover all topics in theory and the learning will be supported with practical demonstrations. Day 2 (optional) will allow the participants to use this new knowledge while dismantling a tree under supervision, and to learn the little extra tricks of the trade that can only be taught in a practical exercise.

All of the workshops listed below help mastering the body of knowledge required for the ISA Certified Arborist and Certified Climber Specialist exam.

Workshops (Climbing Week)	Workshops (Rigging Week)
Climbing 0: Introduction to Tree Climbing CEU value: 6	Rigging 1: Introduction to Tree Rigging CEU value: 6-10
Climbing 1: Introduction to Modern Tree Climbing CEU value: 6	Rigging 3: Sky and Speed Lines for Tree Dismantling and Material Transport CEU value: 6-10
Climbing 2: Advanced Tree Climbing Techniques CEU value: 6	Rigging 2: Advanced Tree Dismantling and Rigging Techniques CEU value: 6-10
Climbing SRT: Introduction to SRT Access (Single Rope Technique) CEU value: 6	

	Auckland	Hamilton	Hastings	Palmerston North
Climbing Week	09.-13.05.2011	02.-06.05.2010	28.02-04.03.2011	07.-11.02.2011
Rigging Week	22.-25.02.2011	11.-15.07.2011	16.-20.05.2011	27.06.-01.07.2011
	Wellington	Nelson	Christchurch	Dunedin
Climbing Week	23.-27.05.2011	-----	-----	-----
Rigging Week	04.-08.07.2011	21.-25.03.2011	28.03.-01.04.2011	04.-08.04.2011

**Booking essential! Space is limited.**

For more information visit our website or contact Andreas (Rossy) directly.  
andreas@proclimb.co.nz or Call 021 05 04 351

### **A Cambium Saver is an Annoying Thing.....**

by Andreas Ross, in: Tree Matters, 2009, 11/4

"A cambium saver is an annoying thing. It always gets stuck when you try to retrieve it out of the tree and then you have to climb up again." This is the most common reason I have heard of fellow arborists for not using a cambium saver. I prefer to use the term cambium saver (CS) instead of friction saver because it is technically not possible to save friction. We can reduce friction with modern CSs (like the rope guide) but not all CSs reduce the friction for the climber (e.g. leather rope cover bent in a horse shoe form). I believe using a CS is not only good practice but should be expected from all arborists. When we climb a tree for any reason (except felling it of course) we should try to do as little damage to the tree as possible. Using a CS is vital to achieve this goal.

But I must agree that retrieving a CS can be a bit tricky at times.

So here are a few tips how to set and retrieve a CS with hopefully a bit more luck. The most important thing when setting your CS from in the tree is that the chosen spot must be cleaned of

all little stumps and twigs (water shoots) that could get in the way. Also have a good look at the side where the CS will drop down in the process of the retrieval and remove all little stumps and twigs that it could catch on. This "cleaning" may take a minute but it will save you time when retrieving your CS.

While placing your CS it is good practice to simulate its retrieval. To do so, pull at the CS in the direction it will be retrieved and check if it moves easily through the crotch or if the pulley releases well. Just check any function your CS should perform. If it does not retrieve look for the problem and eliminate it, even if this means that you have to look for a different spot to place your CS. Also you should make sure that you come out of the tree in a relatively straight line so that you can flick your rope from the ground and hence manipulate the CS out of the fork. A not retrievable CS is annoying, time consuming, and therefore money wasting.

The most common CS is made out of one big and one small aluminium or steel ring, connected by a piece of webbing that is normally 900-1200mm long. The easiest way of retrieving the CS is to tie a knot (half hitch) in the end of the rope. The knot should be placed so that the tail of the rope is not more and not less than 50mm long. This will prevent the rope tail to jam between the rings but it will be long enough to stop the knot from "rolling" off the end. If you are fortunate enough to have a spliced eye on your rope end, it is best to use a little locking karabiner or chain link to retrieve your CS.

Don't use a snap karabiner, this tends to find a way of opening and hooking up to the most impossible things. To prevent the CS from falling to the ground and getting damaged (especially when you are using expensive kit, like the rope guide, or when there is a hard surface under the tree) just throw your throw line over a branch below the anchor point. You can then hook your topline with a karabiner to your rope. When you now pull out your CS it will catch on the karabiner attached to the throw line, and this will prevent the CS from hitting the ground hard.

The same method is used when your CS gets stuck up on your anchor point. Throw a throw line over a point higher than your anchor point. Then tie a karabiner to your throw line and hook it to the retrieving strand of your rope. When you now pull on your throw line, the karabiner will slide up the rope to your CS and lift your CS out of the stuck position. While using this method it is important that your throw line follows the line of your rope.

All these techniques take time to practise, so start with smaller trees to get used to the way this techniques work before you use it on the big ones.

Tree climbing is a physically and mentally exhausting job and any little trick to make our lives easier can give our body a few more years of enjoying this very special and challenging work.

Have fun and climb safe!

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