

10th AUGUST

We were woken again at 7.00am and by 9.00am we were doing the duffel shuffle up the mountain.. we were getting two cable cars and then one of the dodgy single seater chairlifts to "barrel land" where we would be spending the next few nights. We formed a daisy chain to pass the huge bags between us, i was trying to figure out the part of the chain that required the least work but it was all pretty strenuous! We arrived at the barrels by midday and they are exactly as they are pronounced - old silver and red rusting barrels. Its a fairly panoramic view from here, noticeably cooler and a distinct aroma of urine! The six of us are settling into our barrel, all very cosy.

we had lunch in the mess barrel, for every meal they add dill which is one of the few things i completely hate! We sat next to Tom Milne and 2 of his clients at lunch, they had just made the summit - i was most envious! The climbing community is so small, Tom had met Andronico, Misail and co down in Antarctica in 2002 whilst at Patriot Hills.

After lunch we went on an acclimatisation hike to 4,200 metres which is the highest Lisa Benetar has been. The weather varies from sun to big black clouds bringing with them small hail stones which were painfully pelting us in the face. Sissel is the most organised in terms of gear and equipment - i have the heaviest bag and am always the least prepared, ive received a lecture from Luis about what i bring to Vinson already.