



THE CLIMBER

CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

Thanks for your interest in contributing to The Climber magazine. This document aims to explain a bit more about the kind of content we like to run, and explains a few specifics about how we like to receive this content. Following these guidelines will make the editing and production process smoother at our end, and gives your article or photos a greater chance of appearing in our pages.

The Climber is a high quality magazine that aims to represent the climbing experience, NZAC activities and the sport of climbing in New Zealand. It's published quarterly by the New Zealand Alpine Club, and edited and produced from our national office in Christchurch.

Our focus lies with representing activity by New Zealanders and club members, both in New Zealand and overseas. Overall, we aim to keep a Kiwi slant on the magazine: cover, contents and gallery shots are generally of NZ locations (or New Zealanders), and the bulk of the content is NZ-oriented.

The scope of the magazine primarily includes mountaineering, rock climbing and bouldering with occasional stories on transalpine tramping and back country skiing.

The magazine aims to run informative and entertaining content backed up with strong photography.

When thinking about submitting content to The Climber, please think about how it might fit with the following sections and departments of the magazine.

FEATURES

Feature Stories, photo essays, exposés

1500-3000 words.

Space in magazine: 6–10 pages

Features make the bulk of the magazine and we are always on the look out for quality content. Features need to be well written with a good story tying them together. Straight trip reports seldom make good feature stories, we look for stories with a strong theme or hook, an interesting narrative and good story-telling.

Features should be backed up with good quality photography, sidebar (fact file) material and captions. If you have a great story, but are short on photos, please get in touch as we can seek photos from other sources.

We love photo essays too—but make sure you supply extended captions and an engaging intro.

REGULAR DEPARTMENTS

Pushing the Envelope (letters).

Up to 300 words, max

Letters are invited, and The Climber welcomes discussion around topical issues. Keep your points concise and clear.

News

150–500 words

We love news: it keeps the mag relevant and helps us to convey the trends and changes of our sport, as well as recording our climbing history as it happens. We report climbing activity (new routes, significant repeats, free ascents, first female ascents) as well as access and event info and current issues. Please contact the editor if you have a news story you'd like to submit.

People

1000–1500 words

Space in magazine: 1–2 pages.

Clear, focussed articles (or Q&As) on New Zealanders and NZAC members who are making a difference or who have an interesting story. Please include a good introduction, and talk with the editor first about your ideas.

Destinations

1000–1500 words

Space in magazine: 2–4 pages.

Destinations type pieces are mini-features on overseas areas, and usually comprise of an intro and short narrative or story, along with a detailed fact-file of essential info. Good photos are essential, but can be sourced from elsewhere if you don't have good photos to back up an otherwise strong article.

Classic Climbs

600–1200 words

We are always on the lookout for articles that focus on New Zealand's classics: it can be a rock climb, an alpine route, a ski-tour or a boulder problem. A topo and 1–3 good photos are essential, though these can be sourced if need be.

Technique

Up to 800 words (plus photos)

Space in magazine: 1–2 pages.

Got a hot tip that you are keen to share? We like clearly written (and proven) hot tips to run in the mag, backed up with a good photo or illustration.

Books and Film

500 words

Space in magazine: Half a page

Just read an awesome book? Seen a film that got you inspired? Reviews are always perused by our readers and we like to help keep the community informed of literature and films that are relevant and topical. If you'd like to review something, please get in touch. Don't forget to include RRP and publisher details.

Stuff you need

250 – 500 words

Space in magazine: Quarter to half a page

Reviews of recent or recommended products are always welcome in The Climber, but please get in touch with us first. Reviews should be informative, and objective, and include a rating out of 5. Please include RRP and importer or stockist details.

Miscellanea

Up to 1500 words

We welcome short articles relating to the areas of environment, creative writing, opinion pieces and other entertaining or informative pieces of writing.



HOW TO SUBMIT

Text

Before starting to write or compile material for an article it's best of you get in touch with the editor first. Get in touch, send us your pitch (maybe include a couple of photos and an intro to the article), and we'll give you feedback as to how we see it fitting with the magazine. We may have suggestions, or be able to help you develop an idea further. Make sure you have a strong intro, and think of a title if you can.

Photos

When you are ready to submit your story, make a careful edit of the best shots you have to go with it and send it all together on a CD. You can also submit via e-mail, but if there are more than 6 photos they must be low res (<250k ea). We'll ask you for the hi-res shots once we've made our edit. We do not accept submissions of more than 20 photos—so please don't send us a CD with all the photos from your latest trip on it, they are much too time consuming for us to edit.

Captions

Captions are essential to a good feature, and for any other photos we receive. Your submission will get more attention if the shots are clearly captioned.

As much effort should go into captioning your photos as it does to your main text: think about what the photos say and how they relate to the story. Good captions make features much more informative and more interesting to browse.

- Either include the captions in a Word or RTF file, or embed them in the file via the EXIF Description field (Photoshop: File Info). If exporting from Lightroom, the caption should sit in the Caption field.

A few words about words

- Keep your writing clear and concise. Generally it's best to avoid long sentences and paragraphs. Longer stories work

well if they are broken into 2–4 main sections.

- Be consistent with tenses.
- Be consistent with punctuation, naming people and places, and with style. Contact the editor for a copy of our style guide.
- Check your facts and your spellings of foreign peaks and places.
- Read and re-read your article to get it as polished as you can—we hate time consuming edits! It's always good to get a second opinion from a friend to help you tweak it to its best before sending.
- send your article as a Word or RTF file – we do not accept any other formats.

Keeping the contributor involved

Once you have submitted a story, and we have agreed to run it, we'll usually give it an initial edit (sometimes this is simply correcting style), and then return it to you for approval. Once the text is agreed on we commence layout. When the layout is completed, with captions and photos in, we send it to you as a PDF, for your final comments or approval.

BASIC STYLE FOR THE CLIMBER

- UK spellings only
- Mt, not Mount
- 3 am, not 3:00 am
- WG Grave, not W.G. Grave
- Aoraki Mt Cook, not Aoraki/Mount Cook
- Per cent, not percent or %
- 1970s, not 1970's
- metres in full, unless in brackets after a peak's name, i.e Mt Aspiring (3033m).
- Numerals should be spelt from 1–10, and numerals used for others.

PHOTOS

The Climber loves photography. It isn't a mag without it, and we like to run the best shots we can get our hands on in every issue. Each photo chosen is thoughtfully selected, based on the photo's merits, technical attributes, relevance, originality and overall impact.

We accept slides and digital images.

Slides

We prefer to scan slides ourselves (we get drumscans done), so please send the originals to us clearly labelled.

Digital Images

We prefer digital images that are shot with dSLRs and good lenses. For the cover, gallery shots, and anything reproduced large this is essential, and images generally need to be at least 10 megapixels. Images from digital point and shoot cameras are also accepted, but often have limitations in the size they can be reproduced to.

- Always edit your photos thoroughly: look at the kind of shots we run and see how yours compare. Don't include shots that are out of focus, or overexposed—we won't use them.
- We recommend that you capture your images in RAW format, as this allows the best post processing and reproduction, however when passing your images on to us we prefer to receive RGB TIFF files (Adobe RGB 1998 profile). If time is short, JPEG files (maximum quality) can be accepted.
- Keep post processing of your shots to a minimum (white balance, exposure, tonal adjustments, colour balance).

SUBMISSION ENQUIRIES

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