

## JACK EDE

Born in 1917, and brought up in Linwood, Christchurch, Jack grew up in a time of austerity and developed the typically Kiwi skills of making do, while still going about life with purpose and joy.

His father as a musterer and one of his teachers started him on the road to a life in the outdoors.

His health suffered in the influenza epidemic in 1918, and later in various jobs in the depression in very poor working conditions. But Jack countered this by taking to many sports, and building a stamina and fitness that were to set him up as a climber of formidable strength.

He became a very keen swimmer, and participated and served in the swimming club for many years. He joined the Scouts and from a young age was tackling the hills and passes in the Arthur's Pass region. Again he served on many roles in the scouts through the years. He was heavily involved in the Harrier club, again giving time generously. And of course biking was the transport of the day, and as in everything else, Jack did nothing by halves.

Gradually his tramping became more adventurous, and the CMC and Jack found each other. This was an important day for the club.

As an example of his commitment, when Jack walked the Milford track in the Christmas holiday of 1938-39, he first rode his pushbike from Temuka, through the McKenzie country, Wanaka and over the Crown range to Queenstown. THEN he tramped the Greenstone track, did the Milford track, and finally rode back to Oamaru from Lumsden.

When in the mountains, Jack carried incredible loads, and was known for always being the one to turn to when you needed something unusual. He once pulled out an egg-beater half way up Mt Aspiring, while digging into his pack for something else. He was also seen heading up the Waimak with a cast iron stove protruding from his pack.

Recommended reading on some of Jack's climbing:

- Mitre Peak with Edgar Williams recorded in the 10<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Mountaineer, 1940-41.
- Elie de Beaumont with Moor and Barford, 12<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Mountaineer, 1942-43.
- Tutoko with Rodda, Ellis, Longbottom, 20<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Mountaineer, 1950-51
- Pembroke, with Pane and Robinson, 26<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Mountaineer, 1956-57
- Snow Caving in NZ, 26<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Mountaineer, 1956-57
- Lion Peak, Milford with Crawford, Holdsworth and Hearfield, 28<sup>th</sup> Canterbury Mountaineer, 1958-59

These accounts tell of a very hardy, capable and tenacious climber.

The legacy that Jack has left mountaineering is not only that he completed eight first ascents, did so many climbs and adventures, but he went the extra mile to share them with everyone in his writings. He has written *Mountain Men of Milford* and *I've lived Another Year*, plus written many articles for the CMC Mountaineer and the Alpine Journal.

His writings are excellent reading, with many humorous anecdotes that paint a vivid picture of a person who loved life and shared his joy and skills with many others. Whatever Jack became involved in, he always ended up the quiet force that helped, inspired and led others. Jack gave similarly to all of the sports he was involved in, making his contribution an epic amount across all his interests.

He led many initiatives in training young people in safety in the mountains, receiving recognition from the Mountain Safety Council. He received the QSM from the governor general for his work in the Scout movement.

Jack served on the CMC committee from 1959 – 1967, and was CMC patron for the year 2007-8. We are all indebted to Jack for the positive impact he has had on so many.

