

# New Zealand Alpine Club

## Rock Climbing Access Framework

December 2017

### 1. Framework purpose

NZAC aims to establish and maintain positive and sustainable relationships between landowners, route developers, climbers and other land users to ensure ongoing access to rock climbing in New Zealand. Through this framework and supporting documentation, NZAC aims to inform all stakeholders of their role in relation to rock climbing access, encourage them to manage their impact on each other and to ensure minimal environmental impact and the highest level of safety.

### 2. Stakeholders:

The key stakeholders for rock climbing areas are:

**Climbers** – people who climb or carry out climbing-related activities for recreation at rock climbing areas

**Route Developers** – people who establish rock climbs at rock climbing areas.

**Landowners** – people who own and/or manage the land on which rock climbing areas are located.

**Other Land Users** – people who use land on or near rock climbing areas for recreation (eg. mountain bikers, trampers, cavers, etc)

### 3. Landowners:

#### Who are Landowners?

In New Zealand, rock climbing areas exist on land owned and/or managed by private owners, corporations, regional and district councils and government departments (eg. Department of Conservation).

#### Why are Landowners important?

Sustainable rock climbing area development and use cannot happen without Landowner support.

#### Why should Landowners allow rock climbing on their land?

Rock climbing is an activity where the Climber aims to climb up or across a rock face or feature using only their physical strength and skill. It is a global sport that has been practiced as a distinct athletic activity since the late 1800s.

Rock climbing is a positive form of recreation. Advancements in climbing equipment, fall protection and climbing techniques make modern rock climbing a relative safe adventure sport, similar to mountain-biking or skiing in terms of recreational values and risks.

#### What can Landowners expect if they allow rock climbing on their land?

With permission, Landowners can expect both Route Developers and Climbers to access any rock climbing areas on their land and to carry out route development and climbing activities.

#### Are Landowners responsible for Route Developers and Climbers on their land?

Detailed information about rock climbing for Landowner is contained in the NZAC Landowner Guideline.

### 4. Route Developers:

#### Who are Route Developers?

Route Developers are individuals, typically acting privately or as part of a climbing club, who seek to establish and/or maintain rock climbs. That process will typically involve:

- Installation and maintenance of fixed anchors
- Removal of loose rock or other cliff hazards
- Removal of lichen and other vegetation on a rock climb
- Other 'crag care' activities such as maintenance of tracks, toilets and signage

#### Why do Route Developers install fixed anchors?

Fixed anchors are a form of fall protection that allow many types of rock to be climbed safely. Fixed anchors are used globally for rock climbing. The NZAC Bolting Philosophy & Standards aim to ensure that Developers follow current good practice when installing fixed anchors.

#### Who pays for development?

Route Developers typically bear all costs associated with their rock climb development activities. NZAC and some other climbing clubs do subsidise some development through grants and donations.

#### Who regulates Route Developers?

There are no regulations governing development of rock climbs. However, NZAC encourages all Route Developers to abide by its Bolting Philosophy & Standards documentation, which records current good practice for such activities.



## 5. Climbers:

### Who are Climbers?

Climbers come from all over New Zealand and the world. Rock climbing tourism is an increasingly common activity in New Zealand.

### Who regulates Climbers?

Recreational rock climbing is not regulated. It is a fundamental climbing tenet that every Climber is responsible for their own actions and safety at all times. NZAC encourages all Climbers to:

- Comply with all access rules and the NZAC Crag Code of Conduct
- Acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to climb safely
- Encourage other Climbers to do likewise

## 6. List of Resources:

Key supporting documentation:

- NZAC Landowner Guideline (for Landowners)
- NZAC Bolting Philosophy & Standards (for Route Developers)
- NZAC Crag Code of Conduct (for Climbers)