

TARANAKI SECTION



NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

SUMMER 2023
SECTION NEWSLETTER

📷: Greg and Harrison Larkin on Warwick Castle. CALLAN MCALLISTER

TOP TEN CHALLENGE

After the reading the most recent NZAC Alpine Journal article regarding the top 100 rock climbs in New Zealand, one couldn't help but ponder what a local list would look like. More specifically:

What are the top 10 best summer rock climbs on Mt Taranaki?

Local rock master Dave Bolger has rolled up his sleeves and joined in on the debate, putting together an ultimate new-school tick list of Taranaki's best 10 rock climbs.

Can anyone complete this mega list?

Route Name	Grade
· <i>Le Climb</i>	20
· <i>Friend</i>	18+
· <i>Nose of Humphries</i>	15
· <i>Planet Hemp</i>	18
· <i>To the Batpole</i>	21/22
· <i>Snotgobbler</i>	16
· <i>Coming Home</i>	18
· <i>Master Grasshopper</i>	23
· <i>Terminal Dive</i>	24
· <i>Space Invader</i>	20

TARANAKI SECTION UPDATE

Welcome to the summer installment of the NZAC Taranaki Section newsletter, which looks to inform the reader of what our small but active section has been up to over the recent summer months.

Our 2022 Annual General Meeting was held on the 13th of December at Mike's Brewery. A petit but dedicated caucus turned up to participate in the evening, which also doubled as the chairman's shout. We can report that our section is in a great position, with some small growth in our membership.

There have been some changes to the section committee, notably Phill Davies stepping down as section chair. We would like to thank Phill for his effort organising numerous Banff film festivals, and climbing meets over the last few years, but most importantly his enthusiasm to keep our section alive. He will continue to be involved with the section with his new role on the committee.

Proceeding Phill as chairman is Fletcher Miles, who has recently returned back to the region after four years away. Passionate about Taranaki mountaineering and driven to climb regularly on the mouna, he is excited at the opportunity to steer our section.

The rest of the committee is unchanged as Dave Bolger remains vice chair, Mark Hall treasurer/secretary, with Juliet Larkin and Ange Hampton comprising the committee. Together we are excited to grow our section and represent climbing in our region. Moving forward, we will aim to increase our newsletter output to once per season.

We recently hosted our 2023 Taranaki Climbing Meet, based out of Manganui lodge. This successful weekend highlighted the importance of keeping our diverse membership connected. We are lucky to have a rich knowledge of Taranaki and New Zealand mountaineering within our section, and this rock meet was a fantastic occasion for people to come together and enjoy the alpine environment.

From a climbing perspective, the dismal and underwhelming winter of 2022 enabled an early start to the summer climbing season. Our members have been regularly getting out and about cragging, scrambling, and mountaineering. Many trips having been made to areas such as Wharepapa South, Waitomo, but also the South Island. One great mountaineering achievement was Conrad Bolger (13) making an ascent of the NE ridge of Single Cone on the Remarkables, with his Dad.

As we move into Autumn and the days begin to get shorter, there will no doubt be a rush of people looking to make the most of the remaining local rock season at our great crags. Simultaneously, you can be rest assured that the region's competition climbers will be training hard for their upcoming season. Take care and enjoy!!

COMPETITION CLIMBING

In August 2022, young section member Harrison Larkin (15) attended the World Youth Climbing Championships in Dallas, Texas, USA, with the New Zealand youth climbing team. The Taranaki Section supported Harrison with his fantastic efforts by contributing \$350 towards his travel costs. Trip report below:

Dear NZAC Taranaki Section,

I was fortunate to attend the World Youth Climbing Champs in Texas last August and super stoked to compete at my first international competition representing New Zealand.

A big thank you to NZAC Taranaki branch for your sponsorship, which along with other sponsors and support from family and friends helped get me to the event.

I was very pleased with my result of 39th in the under 16 (Youth B) Lead category. I really enjoyed the competition climbs which were 15 metres high, although I made an unfortunate foot slip on the first route, leaving me feeling like I had more to give.

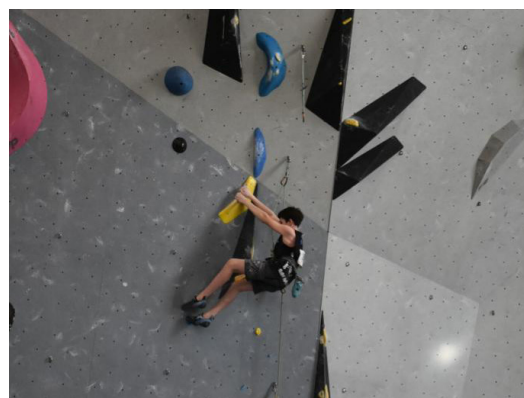
However, it was a fantastic experience. I definitely grew as an athlete, got to climb with some amazing people on excellent walls, and enjoyed being part of a fantastic team. I got to meet lots of new people from other countries and learned loads of new things.

I'm now focusing on training hard for the upcoming 2023 Climbing New Zealand season.

Harrison



📷: Ascent of Single Cone NE Ridge
CHRIS PRUDDEN



📷: Harrison Larkin representing New Zealand. JULIET LARKIN

KEEP OUR CRAGS OPEN

Support ACAT (Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust) to keep our local crags open. Check out their website for information on how to get involved and donate.



<https://www.facebook.com/AotearoaClimbingAccess>



GIVING IT A CRACK

I took a punt going along to the NZAC Taranaki section climbing meet, by myself without knowing anyone there. It was my also my first time on Taranaki Maunga, and first time climbing in a trad environment.

Everyone was super friendly and welcoming, and even helped me out when I realised I'd forgotten my harness (The one thing I actually needed!!) The crack climbing at Warwick's castle was another new experience for me that had me power yelling all the way up, and doing part of the traverse on top of Warwick's was also a highlight.

Overall it was an awesome experience with some great new connections, so I guess my punt paid off!

Thanks Team Taranaki for having me!! - Zoe (Visiting from Wanganui)

Mount Taranaki CLIMBING MEET 2023





📷: 2022 South Island climbing grant recipients. STEPHEN RITSON

NZAC TARANAKI SECTION CLIMBING GRANT

Congratulations to Stephen Ritson (Geordie) and Dave Bolger who have received the 2022 NZAC Taranaki Section South Island climbing grant. Heading south at the beginning of March, their main goal is to climb alpine rock routes in and around Mt Huxley (Huxley Valley) or Bruce Peak. However given the right forecast, there have been rumours they may even end up in the Darran's or Mt Cook area!!

As two of the biggest contributors to Taranaki mountaineering instruction, and we wish them all the best with their trip and look forward to reading their trip report in the next section newsletter.

MEMBER TRIPS

Have you been on any exciting trips into the mountains or on the rock that are worthy of a write up? Contact the committee to feature in the next installment of the NZAC Taranaki Section newsletter. As a relatively small section, we enjoy hearing about our member's reports of successful (or unsuccessful) ventures into the mountains or ticks at the crag 🧗.

COMMITTEE


Chairman:	Fletcher Miles	027 753 2288
Vice - Chairman:	Dave Bolger	027 558 2691
Secretary/Treasurer:	Mark Hall	06 758 8787
Committee:	Juliet Larkin	027 707 8774
Committee:	Ange Hampton	
Committee:	Phill Davies	022 687 2453

LATEST NZAC UPDATES

Check out the New Zealand Alpine Club website for all latest updates, news, reviews and benefits.

 <https://alpineclub.org.nz/>

Also be sure to follow our local NZAC Taranaki Section Facebook Page.

 <https://www.facebook.com/nzactaranaki>



📷: Callan McAllister cruising up *Imported Talent* (18) at the Red Slabs. FLETCHER MILES