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NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB



6 Apr, 2023

Kia ora,

Welcome to the April Newsletter for the NZAC.

Our Club has just celebrated the massive achievement of completing the comprehensive refurbishment of Aspiring Hut, in the beautiful Matukituki Valley.

The finished Hut is stunning and designed with sensitivity to acknowledge the original Hut and surrounding landscape. It is a testimony to the generosity and perseverance of a large number of people.

From the initial discussions and designs through to the final compliance paperwork, the project has been supported by a dedicated team of NZAC staff and volunteers, contractors, donors and funders and friends of the Club.

I would like to make a special acknowledgement of the work of volunteers John Cocks, Derek Crombie and Gillian Crombie who have lived and breathed this project for the last couple of years. We are extremely grateful to your contributions.

I also acknowledge General Manager Karen Leacock, thank you for your hard work, behind the scenes, making the complicated process as smooth as possible to enable completion of the Hut.

There are so many people, whose goodwill, creativity and generosity have contributed to the superb quality of the finished Hut. Thank you.

I hope that all involved look on Aspiring Hut as a legacy you have gifted to future generations to enjoy in the Matukituki Valley.

Ngā mihi nui/ many thanks

Members will be packing for their Easter weekend adventures. However, if the weather window closes there is plenty to catch up on in this newsletter if you are at a loose end.

You can take the time to complete the NZAC annual member survey or you can plan your attendance at a future event: NiBs or a Banff Mountain Film Festival screening. Alternatively, you could enrol in a winter instruction course. Whatever the weather I wish you the best for your Autumn adventures.

Before I close, I would like to welcome Gregg Beisly to the NZAC team as our National Instructor. Kia ora Gregg.

Kia pai tō mūtunga wiki/ Have a great weekend.

Clare Kearney

Photo credit: The newly refurbished Aspiring Hut by Tom Hoyle

Club News



Aspiring Hut Reopens For Easter

After a significant project to rebuild Aspiring Hut and ensure it remains standing for many years into the future, the hut is officially open again. The new hut looks fantastic and is sure to be popular with trampers, climbers

and other visitors to the beautiful West Matukituki valley, in Mt Aspiring National Park.

The new hut has kept the original stone walls in a nod to its history, but otherwise is a completely modern build with a solar power system (funded by Aotearoa Gaming Trust), gas cookers and a wood stove (funded by Mitre10).

The hut is co-managed by DOC and NZAC, with four bunks bookable through the [NZAC website](#), while the remaining 28 are bookable through [DOC](#). If an NZAC member wishes to book at the member rate, but the four NZAC allocated bunks are already booked for that night, members may contact the Aspiring Visitor Centre directly and book one of the other bunks manually.

This has been a massive project for the Club, demanding a lot of support both from our volunteer network and funders. Huge thanks to Derek and Gillian Crombie, John Cocks, Rob Brown at Backcountry Trust, Stu and Heather Thorne, Karl Boomsma and his team of builders, Red Gecko Architects, PTL Consultants, Randall Aspinall and family, and everyone else who has contributed to this project.

Project Funders-Backcountry Trust via Kaimahi for Nature fund, Tūpiki Trust, Otago Community Trust, FMC Forest and Mountain Trust, New Zealand Community Trust (windows), Aotearoa Gaming Trust (solar), Mitre10 (fire), Templeton Engineering (hearth and flue engraved metalwork). NZAC and individual funding-Terry Crippen bequest to the NZAC, NZAC Sections and reserves, Michael and Kate Sidey, Crombie Family, Peter Squires.

You can read through the rest of our article on the rebuild [here](#).

Photo credit: Tom Hoyle - attendees at the Aspiring Hut reopening March 31st

Get Involved



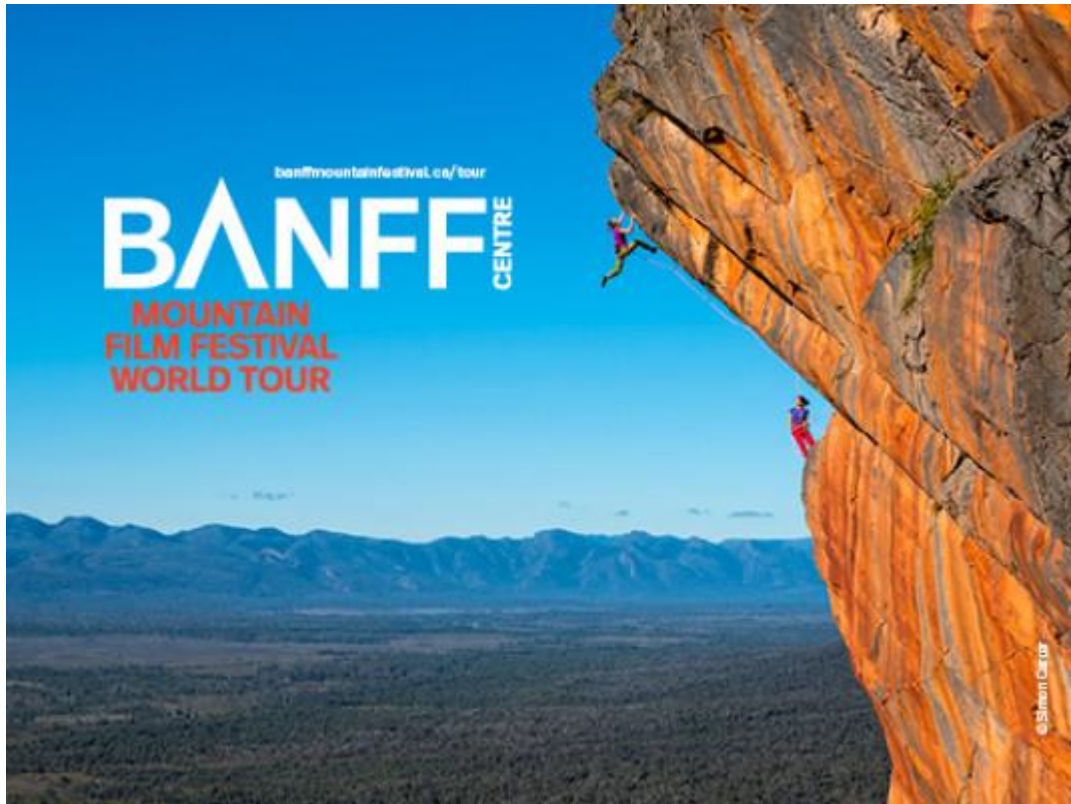
Ice Courses

Our most popular Leading on Technical Ice Courses are coming back for July/August 2023!

These courses are designed for intermediate mountaineers who are looking to take on more challenging technical ice climbs. It is a good progression from the NZAC Intermediate Snowcraft Course or a High Alpine Skills Course.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for LTIC.

Backcountry Avalanche and Intro to Backcountry Ski courses will be added to our website soon.



BANFF Mountain Film Festival 2023

The [New Zealand Alpine Club](#) is once again bringing the [Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour](#) to Aotearoa, with screenings set to take at various locations across the country in May and June. Our [Banff NZ](#) website has been updated with the full schedule of [screening dates, locations and ticket links](#). There is also a great set of [film trailers](#) now online to browse through.

As you might know, the Banff Mountain Film festival serves a dual purpose of bringing the world's best mountain films to numerous in-person locations across the country while also serving as a fundraiser for a wide range of development programmes for members of our NZ mountain community. We are delighted to be partnering with the following national level sponsors for this year's festival; [Mountain Safety Council \(Plan My Walk\)](#), [La Sportiva](#) and [Cycle Journeys](#). A huge thankyou to each of them for their valuable support.



It's Annual Survey Time!

We use the annual survey to track how we are doing and to gain feedback from members about the direction of the Club. It is used by the Board and GM to help determine the direction for the year ahead. By completing the survey you not only contribute your ideas and opinions, but could also win a

\$150 voucher from Macpac! To enter, complete the survey by April 20th and leave your email address at the end.

Summary results will be available on the website later in the year. Click [here](#) to complete the survey.



National Indoor Bouldering Series (NiBS) 2023

Another great community event that's almost here is the [National Indoor Bouldering Series](#), with the first competition just a few weeks away in [Dunedin](#) (20th May). From there the series will move on to [Wellington](#) (24-25th June), [Auckland](#) (5th August) and finally [Christchurch](#) (2nd September). These are fun, participation-based climbing events for all abilities and are an incredible spectacle to watch in person. More detail event information can be found [here](#), and registration pages can be found on each of the 4 location links above. Enter now for the opportunity to take home great prizes from sponsors [The North Face](#), [Uprising Industries](#), [Bivouac Outdoor](#) and [La Sportiva](#).

Community



Not Set In Stone by Dave Vass is now available for purchase in our webshop by clicking [here](#).

Not Set in Stone is a brave, compelling book, that not only eloquently describes the passion of a mountain life, but the consequences of when it goes wrong, and how he has had to come to terms with a completely different existence. Dave Vass is a talented writer, and this book will take a unique and important place in New Zealand's outdoor literature.
