



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

Australia Section Inc. Reg. No A0047513N

CHAIR REPORT

JULY 2023

2023 AGM – management committee elections

The 2023 AGM was held on 12 July 2023 via an online platform.

As per club rules, all committee positions were declared vacant and new elections were held.

Your 2023 committee is as follows:

Chair: Mike Pryjma (NSW)

Vice-Chair: Warwick Williams (NSW)

Secretary: Bruce Spry (NSW)

Treasurer: Brent McNiel (NSW)

Newsletter Editor: Gareth Bowen (ACT)

Events Coordinator: no nominations

Safety Coordinator: no nominations

My sincere thanks to all those committee members who continued to support the Section throughout the year, and those who have re-nominated again this year.

The Chair Report 2022/2023

The following report from the Chair was presented to members at the 2023 AGM:

“During the 2022/23 financial year the Section has seen some good signs of recovering from the COVID slump during and immediately after the pandemic with enhanced levels of engagement with members. The Section remains in a solid financial position with the capacity to undertake a variety of programs.

Membership – the club as a whole has returned to almost pre-COVID levels at about 4400 members (compared to 4500), with Australia Section now boasting 370 members (pre-COVID it was 550 and slumped to 280 during the pandemic). This is a good recovery and is symptomatic of Aussies returning to overseas travel to NZ. It also assists in keeping the Section financially viable.

Details about Australia Section can be found at <https://alpineclub.org.nz/region/australia/>

Annual events program – the 2022/2023 program featured the Section’s usual offerings of a mix of winter alpine meets as well as rock climbing and canyoning trips. Unfortunately, the year was subject to above average rainfall as part of the La Niña weather pattern and this resulted in a

number of event cancellations. We are expecting a more productive event outcome during 2023/2024 as we transition into an El Nino weather pattern.

The annual events program is at the centre of the Section's member engagement strategy and has resulted in an increase in membership.

Member engagement – increased levels of member engagement was observed across most of our communication platforms.

Membership of the Section's public Facebook group has been growing steadily and now sits at about 320 – this includes both NZAC members and non-members.

A number of online member presentations were featured during the year, but attendance levels were below expectation.

As membership increases, so does the interest in the various events organised by the Section.

The Section's newsletter "Australis" remains a popular read for members.

Take-up of the Section's mountaineering training subsidy of \$200 for members (with at least 12 months membership) to undertake an approved training course within Australia or NZ was poor.

Management committee - During the year the following changes took place in the Section's committee membership:

Outgoing committee members – Charles Freer (Event Coordinator) ACT

Incoming committee members – Brent McNiel (Treasurer) NSW

Two committee positions remain vacant:

1. Events Coordinator
2. Safety Coordinator

These roles are very important and are currently being performed by other committee members.

Members interested in helping the Section in these roles please contact me at:

australia.chair@alpineclub.org.nz

Incoming event coordinators:

1. Craig George (ACT)
2. Evan McMahon (NSW)

Both convenors have considerable experience in a range of activities that are relevant to members and we look forward to seeing a mix of events offered by them as regular features of the annual events program.

Club-wide issues

1. **Aspiring Hut** - a once-in-a-lifetime refurbishment of Aspiring Hut in the Matukituki Valley has recently been completed with an expenditure of some NZD\$1.2M. All Sections contributed to this cost through donations from their own working account funds. Australia Section also contributed in this way.. Whilst the refurbishment only meant a very modest increase in hut capacity, it has set the hut up for the next generation. It's important to note that revenue from this hut is used to support the Club's other alpine huts in the area. Hopefully the Club's priority will now turn to supporting the network of alpine huts.
2. **Board elections** – four positions (50% of board) on the NZAC board have become vacant. These are selected by member vote and all members should have received an email from NZAC outlining the process and including the voting link. Voting deadline is 24 July 2023. I urge members to utilise their democratic right to cast a vote.

My sincere thanks to all members and committee members who have previously supported the Section as well as those who continued to support the Section throughout the year. Committee work can be challenging, but rewarding at the same time and helps the Section provide a variety of services and benefits to all members.

I encourage members willing to take on a leadership role within the Section to contact me for more information.

In conclusion, the 2022/23 year was a very encouraging year with a gradual, but significant increase in member engagement, and this has set us up on the right trajectory for greater achievements.

With your help & cooperation, I look forward to consolidating the gains made during the last 12 months as we move into the 2023/24 financial year. There is still much work to be done and a great many things to look forward to.

Keep safe in the mountains".

Mike Pryjma
Chair, Australia Section

Events Program 2023/2024

NZAC - Australia Section - Event Program - 2023							
NOTE: To join these events you must be a current member of NZAC							
Date	Event	Type	Grade	Max no	Location	Convenor	Convenor contact
29-30 April	Rock Climbing - Mt York	Meet	All levels	N/A	Blue Mts	Mike Pryjma	mike.pryjma@gmail.com
13-14 May	Rock climb- Sweet Dreams & Shandy	Trip	Rock 14	6	Blue Mountains	Mike Pryjma	mike.pryjma@gmail.com
27-28 May 2023	Rock climb- Sweet Dreams & Shandy	Trip	Rock 14	6	Blue Mountains	Mike Pryjma	mike.pryjma@gmail.com
15-18 July 2023	Mountaineering/Ski - Blue Lake	Meet	All levels	10	Blue Lake	Craig George	Craig.George@hotmail.com
26-28 Aug	Mountaineering - Blue Lake	Meet	All levels	16	Blue Lake		
2-4 Sep	Mountaineering - Blue Lake	Meet	All levels	16	Blue Lake	Mike Pryjma	mike.pryjma@gmail.com
16-18 Sep	Mountaineering - Blue Lake	Meet	All levels	16	Blue Lake		
7-9 Oct	Mountaineering - Club Lake	Meet	All levels	16	Club Lake Kosi NP	Mike Pryjma	mike.pryjma@gmail.com
late Oct	Warrumbungles rock climb	Trip	Rock 14	6	Warrumbungles NP	Mike Pryjma	mike.pryjma@gmail.com
Date updated - 15 July 2023							
EVENT STATUS							
New Listing							
EVENT Cancelled							
Open for registration							
Trip Full							
Pending confirmation							
No Convenor assigned							
Registration closed							
Event completed							
For further details about the trip contact the Events Coordinator - australia.events@alpineclub.org.nz							
For 'trips' (as opposed to 'meets') participants will have to meet specific prerequisite skill/knowledge requirements							
This program will be updated on a as needed basis & updates will be periodically sent to members							

Members interested in these events should contact the Events Coordinator for further details (australia.events@alpineclub.org.nz)

Other activities will continue to be added to this list and the program will be uploaded to our webpage and posted on our Facebook Group.

Members wishing to contribute to any of the activities listed – trip convenor, online presenter or to make suggestions on suitable topics, please contact our Events Coordinator on australia.events@alpineclub.org.nz.

Management Committee vacancies

The roles of Safety Coordinator and Events Coordinator are currently vacant. These roles are very important as they are responsible for putting together the annual events program. This is a priority function for members.

Members interested in making a positive contribution to the running of the Section are invited to take on these important management role as part of the committee — for more information or to nominate please contact me at australia.chair@alpineclub.org.nz

Mike Pryjma
Chair, Australia Section