



4 Oct, 2023

This is the first email from incoming Club President Jim Petersen, it is a bumper issue across all club activities, so please take the time to read through everything that is happening.

Kia ora,

I have been a member of the board of the club, and its predecessor, the club committee, since 2017. I think we have the most concurrent projects on the go now that we have ever managed. You will read about these below. Each of these activities adds to what the club provides members, strengthens our resilience and organisational capability and provides more ways for you to get the most from your time on the crags and mountains of Aotearoa.

This signifies a period of momentum for the club which empowers our resolve to meet the challenges of enjoying our wilderness, while protecting it. You have as many or as few parts to play in the life of the club as you wish. Access the tools and facilities and trips available to you. Volunteer on a section project, or instruct new members so they may get the best from their climbing activities and develop as climbers, or just get together with other members and hang out. Every member I have met has inspired my climbing and I'm sure you will find the same.

Our ability to do these things is testament to the organisational leadership of your General Manager, Karen Leacock, and her team, which as you will read below, welcomes the return of an absent friend and talented team member. No, I'm not going to tell you who it is. You have to keep reading to find out.

Where we are today is the result of Karen and the team's work and the forethought and governance of our board. I'm excited to welcome three new board members and thank Clare for her thoughtful leadership. Clare has shown me that it is us, we, the people who are the most important asset we have. While I can't replicate Clare's way of helping everyone bring their best to our work, it is a lesson I take from my time working on her board and is something I seek to continue during my term as President.

I'll see you out there.

Jim

**Photo: 2023 Overall and Alpine Landscape Winner - Derek Cheng. A halo of sunset gold wraps itself around the summit of Mt Fitzroy in Patagonia, Argentina.**

## Club News



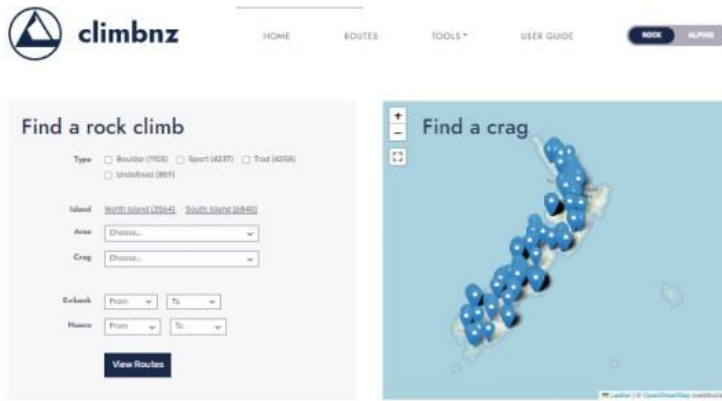
### New President and Board Members

As of the start of October, Jim Petersen took up the role of NZAC President. You can read more about Jim and his background [here](#). We thank outgoing President, Clare Kearney, who has been a pillar for the Club through her tenure. In particular, her governance expertise, collaborative nature and calm demeanour have ensured that the Club has thrived through her time. We also welcome Lisa Donning and Don Bogie to the Board, and appreciate the continued service of Ross Cullen and Myles Perry. For more on the Board you can read their profiles [here](#). We thank Yvonne Pfluger and Peter Hillary for all their mahi during their tenures.



### Porter Lodge Land Purchase

We are pleased to announce that the Club has successfully purchased the land at Porter Lodge, which has been leased from the Sullivan family since the lodge was built in 1984. This secures a strategic Club asset and allows us to plan for its future use. This is a major achievement for the Club, which has been in the pipeline for some time, but which we have not been able to share. We thank John Wild for his work in negotiating the transaction and providing advice to the Club. We also thank the generous support of the Tupiki Trust which provided funding alongside the NZAC Club Development Fund. Most of all, we wish to thank the Sullivan family for their ongoing goodwill and support for the NZAC.



## ClimbnZ Upgrade Launch 4th October

[ClimbnZ.org.nz](http://ClimbnZ.org.nz) was launched in 2010 as an online repository for New Zealand climbing information. Guidebook and community-sourced information has been added over the years and it is now home to over 12,800 routes across mountains and crags.

An essential upgrade to a newer version of the Drupal platform necessitated some investment in development work from NZAC, with a mind to also making the site more mobile-friendly. The club made the decision to redesign the site and add some new features at the same time. Funding for this work was generously supported by Tūpiki Trust.

That development work is now at a point where we can re-launch the site in its new form, today, the 4 October. A competition will start today and run through to Monday 9th October with some prizes up for grabs, keep an eye out for how to enter when the site goes live. There is still a further stage of development planned, to add some more new features, but we're excited to show the work done so far.

We're also grateful to the Wānaka Climbing Club for supporting ClimbnZ and agreeing to add their local climbing information. This will appear in the new version of the site alongside route climbing information for Whanganui Bay for the first time.



## NZAC Hut Fee Changes & Booking System Additions

We have held off for as long as we can, however, from 1st November we are introducing new hut fees to some of the NZAC hut network and adding some of the popular huts onto the booking system.

We are also currently undergoing a revamp of the booking system which will be rolled out in due course.

You can read what the changes are on our website [here](#).

As booking system changes are made we will let you know.



## Welcome to our Event Coordinator

As Jim mentioned in his welcome above a familiar face is returning. Ashlee Peeters is back in the seat of Event Coordinator after the departure of Jackson Griffith. A big thank you to Jackson for all his work in the event space during his time in the role.

Since last working with the Club Ashlee has spent her time climbing... mountains of laundry! Jokes aside, when the time permits she has been sharing her love of the outdoors with her 4yr old twins and 9 month old baby; enjoying the family ski and rock climbing adventures on offer around their home in Central Otago. Ashlee is excited to be back organising events for the Club and working alongside the dedicated Club volunteers that make it all happen.

## Get Involved



## Something New is on the Horizon for 2024!

### SAVE THE DATE

When: Friday 22nd March - Sunday 24th March 2024

Where: Wānaka

Who: Rock Climbers

Keep an eye on future newsletters, our web site and socials for more info.

**Image credit: Tom Hoyle - Marc Lesaicherre at Te Papa, Wānaka**



## Club AGM

Come join us to celebrate the 2022/2023 year at our Annual General Meeting. We will discuss the year that was, and give a little insight into what is coming up. Of course, this is also a great chance to ask questions and tell us what you think!

Date: Friday, 27th October, 2023

Time: 7 pm

Venue: Burnside Rugby Club rooms, 342 Avonhead Road, Ilam

More information and a link to join online will come closer to the meeting.



## Avalanche Awareness 3rd Edition

In a season of avalanche activity around the motu (country), the 3rd edition of Avalanche Awareness in Aotearoa New Zealand is a timely addition to our guidebook range. You can get your copy [here](#).

Thank you to Penny Goddard for all her mahi (work) over the last 12 months to get the guide updated.

We are working on some videos to show what the edits are, keep an eye out for them.

## Community



### **NZAC Tūpiki Trust Grant Applications Under Review**

The NZAC Tūpiki Trust has just completed their third round of grant applications, and the Trustees are carefully working through each of the 19 requests, totalling almost half a million dollars. While some smaller projects have already been decided, and applicants informed, others are taking a little longer to ensure that support and the level provided will result in lasting benefit to climbing in Aotearoa. The NZAC Tūpiki Trustees are working to have the process completed within a couple of weeks, and will send you their own newsletter, listing successful applications and updates from some current projects where good progress is occurring.



### **Kawakawa Bay Guidelines for Camping**

Excited for a weekend away at Kawakawa Bay? Who wouldn't be! But remember it's crucial that we behave respectfully, leave no trace, and keep climbing access open.

The campsite and many of the cliffs are on DOC or Iwi land, with Iwi co-governance, and there is no formally established agreement for camping or climbing activities. That means we need to be careful about our impact, to avoid any issues.

Click [here](#) for some tips from ACAT on getting it right when visiting Kawakawa Bay.

Photo credit: Michael Donovan



### **Sky Castle Is Open!**

Sky Castle crag is open as lambing season has now finished.

Remember to drive slow on Makomako Road. This is a quiet area of local farmers and families - respect is key.

Photo credit: Allan Carpenter