



# The South Canterbury Climber

November 2023

ALPINE TRIPS  
ROCK CLIMBING TRIPS  
NZAC NEWS



**We're joining forces with North Otago Section for our  
monthly meeting.**

**Come along!.. Details inside.**



**Welcome** to the **November edition** of the NZAC South Canterbury Section's newsletter. The section runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips and courses throughout the year and new members are always welcome.

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### **Climber Content**

Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for improving the newsletter? If so, drop us a line, we're keen to hear from you. Alternatively, we love getting

submissions from members – whether they be Trip Reports, Items for sale or rants. Just send your material to the editor by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding. Contact Kelly Cooney via email: [kelly@wildfiresolutions.co.nz](mailto:kelly@wildfiresolutions.co.nz)

## **Monthly Meeting – PLEASE NOTE – Location change and one week earlier...**

**We're joining with North Otago Section for this meeting.**

Speaker: **Nick Shearer**  
Title: **Adventures in the Dolomites, Italy**

**When: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm**  
**Venue: North Otago Search and Rescue Rooms, 1 Severn Street**



The plan is to take a minivan down. Departure will be from Aorangi Park Stadium Carpark between the stadium and the netball courts at 6pm. Please contact Roger Brown on 03 686 0977 to confirm your seat.

Our meetings are held from February through to November.

***Come & be inspired!***

### **Speakers**

Your Committee welcomes ideas of topics and speakers. Please send them in ASAP to any Committee Member, we look forward to receiving them! Do not be shy to offer yourself (Contacts at bottom of Newsletter).

### **Bouldering/ Climbing**

We currently have access to the ARA bouldering wall Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in coming along, then please contact Kelly 0212437381. We will be starting outdoor climbing soon at Spur Road.

## Mount Cook Take 2!..

Written by Kate Jeafferson

Two weeks after our first attempt at summiting Aoraki Mt Cook, Syd and I headed back, with a revised plan and another sack full of energy. A night at Unwin then a shared heli-ride with 3 keen young men from Wellington on Saturday morning. With sizable packs we skinned our way up the Linda, snow conditions were great. Our first taste of excitement came as I was belaying Syd down over a crevasse bridge.... a chunk of ice fell off the bottom of the Bowie ridge, hurtling a wave of debris in our direction, anchor out and I was off, with an instruction to Syd to RUN, Syd followed only because he was connected to the rope I was running with, in his usual cool way, Syd informed me that the avalanche wouldn't have reached us. We kept a wary eye on the ice hanging under Graham as we made our way up around Teichelmanns Corner, with many small rumblings of ice fall keeping us moving in the

general up direction. We made a comfortable camp mid-afternoon and settled back to relax for the rest of the afternoon. Nature kept us entertained with a sizable piece of ice falling from Graham at 4.20 pm, it certainly gave the ice cliff a tidy up, completely filled the valley and covered our tracks, pleased we were watching from our tent.

3.20 am we were off, the trip up the Linda was fantastic, great easy cramponing, far nicer than our previous attempt, two other parties were heading in the same direction, plus the 3 Wellingtonians

coming up Zurbriggen, a bit off a

bottleneck up Bryces Gully, Syd and I

got to the bolts first which meant no waiting, a nice position to be in. The Summit Rocks proved to be nice climbing, one party turned back one pitch in, due to inexperience of a younger member of the team. The Boys from Wellington turned back at the top of the Summit Rocks, they felt that they weren't carrying enough water and really had expended a large portion of their energy getting up to the ridge. We carried on up alongside 4 young people from The Czech Republic, now living in Queenston, they were experienced climbers, but we couldn't help but notice that one member of the team appeared unwell and was struggling to continue climbing, we left them at The Chandelier and continued up the Ice Cap, conditions were perfect, our ice screw anchors were ideal and cramponing was good, we continued to pitch the entire time due to variable ice/snow conditions. Syd and I summited at 2.45 pm, with a brief celebration and awe inspiring absorb of the view, we headed back down all the while wondering why the Czech team were still waiting below the Chandelier, as we were making our way down the Cap a black rescue helicopter arrived, circling and looking...at about 20 meters away from the 4 of them, I was advised to put an ice screw in and hunker down, the chopper was coming in for a rescue, a man was lowered, then the chopper headed off, the climbing team got a gentle barratation for putting everyone at risk and were told in no uncertain terms that they would only take the sick climber. The chopper came back and the sick climber was winched up and off they went, leaving us and the 3 remaining climbers in the quiet.

The 3 boys commenced V thread making, Syd and I continued to leapfrog down the Cap, at one point as I was anchored and belaying Syd, I noticed their rope going past me with a simple knot in the end, there was no way it was going to slip through their ice hole, Syd anchored himself and I climbed up to undo their knot, getting back to our decent with their rope continuing past me, it then got stuck in a rock crack, another helping hand. Once we hit the Summit Rocks we were on the move, lovely abseils and time to admire the extraordinarily beautiful sunset we were being treated to. The evening was perfect with mild temperatures and no wind. The walk down the Linda Shelf was sweet with a nice track to follow with dark settled in. We got back to our tent at 11.00 pm, very happy to snuggle into our sleeping bags. Up and off in the morning to meet our 10.00 am flight out, the ski out was not as



Kate Jeafferson & Syd Woods on the summit of Mount Cook

enjoyable as the previous trip with a rough icy surface and a lot of rubble from the ice fall off Graham, nothing could wipe the smile off my face as the glow of yesterday was still shining brightly in my brain. We got back to the hut at 9.20, organised our gear and joined the Wellingtonians for the flight out. On our return to Unwin, the lovely Pip made us a celebratory Summit Cake, much to celebrate. All of my thanks and admiration goes to Syd, a summit at the young age of 70 is incredible, I would like to know what the grandest age is for summiting. I felt very humbled that we were successful, that big mountain can decide with the shrug of a shoulder whether we live or die in our attempts to fulfill our dreams.

From Syd - Thank you, Kate, for an excellent account of our successful climb of Cook. A huge thanks for being my climbing partner, your strength and calmness in the mountains always makes for a special experience. Especially special for me to have summited again after 49 years!!

### **Library – Books Available**

Did you know that the Section has a number of Alpine related library books available? Available from our Gary Brehaut's house. Please ring first to arrange a time, Cell: 027 497 8952.

### **FMC Bulletins**

Rob Moffat has the FMC bulletins which come out quarterly, these used to be sent out with the climber. They will be available at the section evenings, but if you can't attend the meeting, then you can contact Syd Woods and we will work out a system to get them to you.

### **For Hire**

The section has ice axes, crampons, snow shovels, avalanche transceivers, snowshoes, snow stakes and now, a second Personal Locator Beacon for hire. Contact Gary Brehaut, Cell: 027 497 8952.

Keep up to date with the latest local news, photos and events by connecting with us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/groups/NZACsouthcanterbury](http://www.facebook.com/groups/NZACsouthcanterbury)



## ***National News***

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### **John Cocks and Derek Crombie Volunteer of the Year 2023**

The 2023 Volunteer of the Year award acknowledges the supreme commitment of two Club volunteers with a combined total of 75 years of membership. John Cocks and Derek Crombie devoted their year to the completion of the Aspiring Hut renovation.

Their contribution cannot be overstated, especially over the past year. Aspiring Hut has been a huge project for the Club, a \$1.3million build, managing a tricky worksite and build, within a National Park concession, and coordinating the mahi of a number of contractors, donors, and volunteers. During the past year, Derek has worked nearly full time on this project and John, at least half time, whilst holding down a day job. Both spent nearly every day working on some part of this.

Prior to this year their contributions have been sustained and significant. Both have been managing the Aspiring Agreement with DOC requiring regular meetings and emails to ensure the operational contract runs well.

John has provided his professional services on water engineering free to the Club for many years. He was involved in the set up of the project, producing the procurement, health and safety, compliance and regulatory documents to get the project underway.

Derek with his background in civil engineering and project management became the project manager for the build. He liaised with contractors, problem solved when necessary and managed much of the internal communications. During the build phase Derek made frequent site visits, often taking morning tea. Both men worked closely with Karen Leacock, and they reported to the NZAC Board.

While there have been a huge number of people involved in making this a successful project, the good will and generous contribution has been fostered by the Derek and John's management. Aspiring Hut has been a nationally important project, designed to secure NZAC assets in the Matukituki Valley for future generations of not just NZAC Club members, but other outdoor enthusiasts.

The Club thanks you both for your service.

## ***Upcoming Trips***

<b><i>Trips</i></b>	<b><i>When</i></b>	<b><i>Contact</i></b>
Mount Potts - This is a day trip to get us fit for the mount Hooker trip. Leaving Timaru at 5am, need ice axe and crampons.	Weekend of the 18/19 <sup>th</sup> November	Mark Easton
Mount Hooker. Flying in from GlenTanner	December	Syd Woods
Island Peak, Nepal trip.	April 2024	Geoff McCrostie
Any ideas?	...Well, let us know!	Committee

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