





NEW ZEALAND  
ALPINE CLUB

Australia Section Inc. Reg. No A0047513N

# CHAIR REPORT

## DECEMBER 2023

I hope everyone had a joyous and safe Xmas with family and friends.  
May 2024 be even more joyous and exciting with many new outdoor adventures.

All the best for 2024 from the Section management committee.

### **2023 in reflection**

As 2023 comes to an end, it's an opportune time to reflect on the Section's activities throughout the year. The Section has increased its membership base to about 375, still well short of pre-covid level of 550. Our Facebook presence has grown strongly throughout the year and now stands at 465 – remembering that this forum is open to non-members as well.

A number of successful trips/meets were organised throughout the year, many were run, but some fell foul to inclement weather forecast. Nevertheless, quite a few members participated in these events.

A number of new Event Convenors came on board and this will be evident in the expanded events program for 2024. Additional convenors are eagerly sought.

### **Annual events program 2024**

Below is a preliminary draft of events proposed for 2024. Member input is needed to focus our attention on those activities that are sought by members.

Therefore, we encourage members to provide feedback on the following:

1. The types of activities you would like to see on the annual program.
2. Your recommendations for the locations/venues for such activities

Help us make the 2024 program bigger and better by providing some feedback.

[Australia.chair@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:Australia.chair@alpineclub.org.nz)

Members interested in these events should contact the Events Coordinator for further details, or if one is not assigned, the Events Coordinator on [australia.events@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:australia.events@alpineclub.org.nz).

This program will be updated on a regular basis.

<b>NZAC - Australia Section - Event Program - 2024</b>							
<b>NOTE: To join these events you must be a current member of NZAC</b>							
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Max no</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Convenor</b> <b>Convenor contact</b>
6 Feb 2024	Claustral Canyon	Trip	Advanced	6	1	Mt Tomah Blue Mts	
16-19 Feb 2024	Hannels Spur Walk (extra days for contingency)	Trip	High fitness	4	2	Kosciuszko NP	Brent McNeil loubrent@bigpond.net.au
March 2024	Rock Climbing Meet	Meet	All levels	No limit	2	Blue Mountains	
6th April 2024	Short Leaning Ridge (exposed scramble + hike)	Trip	5 - High Fitness	8	1	Mt Barney - SW of Brisbane	Ryan Siacci ryansiacci@hotmail.com
1-2 June 2024	Frog Buttress Climbing Meet	Meet	All levels	No limit	2	Mt French - SW of Brisbane	Ryan Siacci ryansiacci@hotmail.com
Aug 2024	Blue Lake Mountaineering Meet	Meet	All levels	16	4	Kosciuszko NP	
Sept 2024	Blue Lake Mountaineering Meet	Meet	All levels	16	4	Kosciuszko NP	
21-22 Sept 2024	Mt Rosea Climbing Meet	Meet	All levels	No limit	2	Grampians - West Victoria	Ryan Siacci ryansiacci@hotmail.com
<b>Date updated - 5 Jan 2024</b>							
<b>EVENT STATUS</b>							
New/amended 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 - <a href="mailto:australia.events@alpineclub.org.nz">australia.events@alpineclub.org.nz</a>							
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							

## Event Convenor opportunities

One of the factors limiting our annual Events Program is the lack of Section approved convenors to organise and run the events.

We encourage experienced members who wish to lead some trips or organised meets to contact the committee. This represents a rewarding experience and provides a valuable service to the Section.

We understand that many are unfamiliar with the role and responsibilities of an Event Convenor, and others would find it a bit daunting to take on such a role. It's a bit like 'fear of the unknown'. So, if there's enough interest, the plan is to hold a Event Convenor evening information session via Zoom in which we'll go through all responsibilities and functions of the role together with an in depth discussion of the documentation that is required. The mystery will all be explained.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in such a discussion – [australia.chair@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:australia.chair@alpineclub.org.nz)

## Online presentations

Further presentations are proposed in 2024 and members are invited to share their adventures by putting one of these presentations on. It doesn't have to be a corporate quality presentation, nor does it have to be a 'first ascent' or similar, just make it interesting and informative. Members will appreciate you taking the time to make a presentation.

Please let me know if you can assist in this way.

## Training Opportunities

Training is the cornerstone of the knowledge and skill base within our club. The Section has previously provided advice to members about cost effective training both in Australia & NZ – including both volunteer-based as well as professional training. Whilst it is unknown how many

members took the opportunity to up-skill in this way, it has been disappointing that very few members have availed themselves of the \$200 training subsidy offered by the Section for such training.

During 2024, the Section is planning to further develop training opportunities for Section members. We propose to develop some specific and tailored training specifically for Australian members. We are currently in discussions with a NZ based professional guide who has offered to consider putting together some training packages including both rock and mountaineering. This guide will be based in Australia for a few months as well, so training could be either in NZ or Australia.

To help develop these, feedback is required from members:

1. An indication of numbers who might be interested in such training
2. Type of training – rock or mountaineering
3. Level of training required – beginner, intermediate, advanced, or special purpose?
4. Preferred location of such training

Please make an effort to provide feedback as we need some direction from members to make this work. Further details will be provided if this proposal gets up.

## **Management committee vacancies**

Two committee positions remain vacant since the last AGM in July 2023:

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](mailto:australia.chair@alpineclub.org.nz)

My sincere thanks to all members and committee members who have 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.

Keep safe in the mountains.

**Mike Pryjma**  
**Chair, Australia Section**