



4 Sep, 2024

Kia ora,

Last newsletter I was doing a snow dance in my crampons on the front lawn - to the delight of my neighbours. Now, as of writing this on the official first day of spring, my local boulder gym has about as much good firm snow as my local mountains. The club fields in the Craigieburn Range and at Arthur's Pass are a skier's paradise - not something I can get ice tools and some front points into.

I'm just not looking hard enough, or far enough from home. The high alps have received a lot of snow and are giving climbers ample opportunities for adventure. An acquaintance of mine has decided this is the year for them to knock off work for a few months to climb up high down south.

Luckily the gyms are open and recently hosted the biggest ever National Indoor Bouldering Series. You'll know how much fun they are if you have been part of the competition or just spectated. If you have done neither, you are missing a treat. Thank you to Sefton - Lead Volunteer, Ashlee, - NZAC Events Coordinator and the team of volunteers at the events, for making these so successful.

I want to extend a warm welcome to new members. If you joined in preparation for a snowcraft or avalanche course, I hope our instructors inspired you to get out again this season to consolidate your skills. Don't hesitate to reach back out to them for ideas for missions in your area - they love helping you grow as a climber just as much as they love teaching you. Many are volunteers, all are appreciated for their work.

You may in years to come attempt something audacious and bold, as the recipients of this year's Bill Denz award. Read on to find out what earned them the gong. More importantly get out there amongst it. As one of my climbing tutors reminded me, everyone has their own Everest. Go climb yours this season.

Kia pai to wā.

Jim

Photo: Nat Warbuton Youth Winner in the NZAC Photographic Competition 2023

## Club News



### AGM Save The Date

The 2024 New Zealand Alpine Club AGM will be on Friday 1st November at the Cashmere Club starting at 7pm.

A Teams link, agenda and associated papers will be sent out ahead of the date.

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### Rules Update

Like all other Clubs around the country, as an Incorporated Society we have to update and re-register our rules by 2026. This process is well underway with the Board approving the latest draft rules be sent to a lawyer for consultation. Following successful completion of the legal opinion the rules will be circulated to Sections and members prior to voting at the AGM.



### French Ridge Hut Live on DOC Booking Website

French Ridge Hut is now bookable via the DOC website [here](#).

To get member rates, please ensure your member details are loaded into your login with DOC.

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## Get Involved

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### 2024 NiBS Round-Up

The 2024 NZAC NiBS (National Indoor Bouldering Series) wrapped up in epic style, marking it as the biggest climbing series New Zealand has ever seen!

A big shoutout to Zane Bray for putting together an amazing event report that captures all the highlights. Check it out [here](#).

A huge thanks to this year's gyms [Boulder Co Auckland](#) [Uprising Boulder Co. Hamilton](#) [FaultlineClimbing](#)

Thanks to the series sponsors:

[Bivouac Outdoor](#) [La Sportiva New Zealand](#) [@Climb Craft](#) [The North Face - Australia & New Zealand](#)

Thanks to [The Lion Foundation](#)

Image by Jess Blyth/Faultline: Oskar Wolff in the final at Faultline Gym

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## Bill Denz Award Recipients 2024

This years recipients of the Bill Denz Award are Will Rowntree, Sam Smoothy & Jimmi Ryan for their first ski descent of Malte Brun East Face, with an ascent of the Sth face via the Zig Zag route in October 2023.

Showing vision, innovation, boldness and an adventurous spirit in true Denz style this trio knocked off the 6th highest peak in Aotearoa!

A presentation of the award and talk by Will, Sam & Jimmi will take place in Queenstown in November. More details to come soon!

Thank you to our judges, Penny Webster, Jane Morris, Tom Hoyle, Simon Middlemass & Geoff Gabites.



## NZAC Photographic Competition 2024 Closed

Thank you to everyone who put in an entry to this year's photographic competition.

Judging will commence soon, and the winners announced, keep an eye on our socials and website.

We will have a 2025 Calendar made up of photo comp entries available for purchase soon as well.

A huge thank you to the sponsors of this year's event [The North Face](#), [MSR](#), [Pottin & Burton](#), [Further Faster](#), [Beringia](#), [Alpine Recreation](#), [Black Diamond](#) and judges [Simon Waterhouse](#), [Mark Watson](#) & [Dennis Radermacher](#)

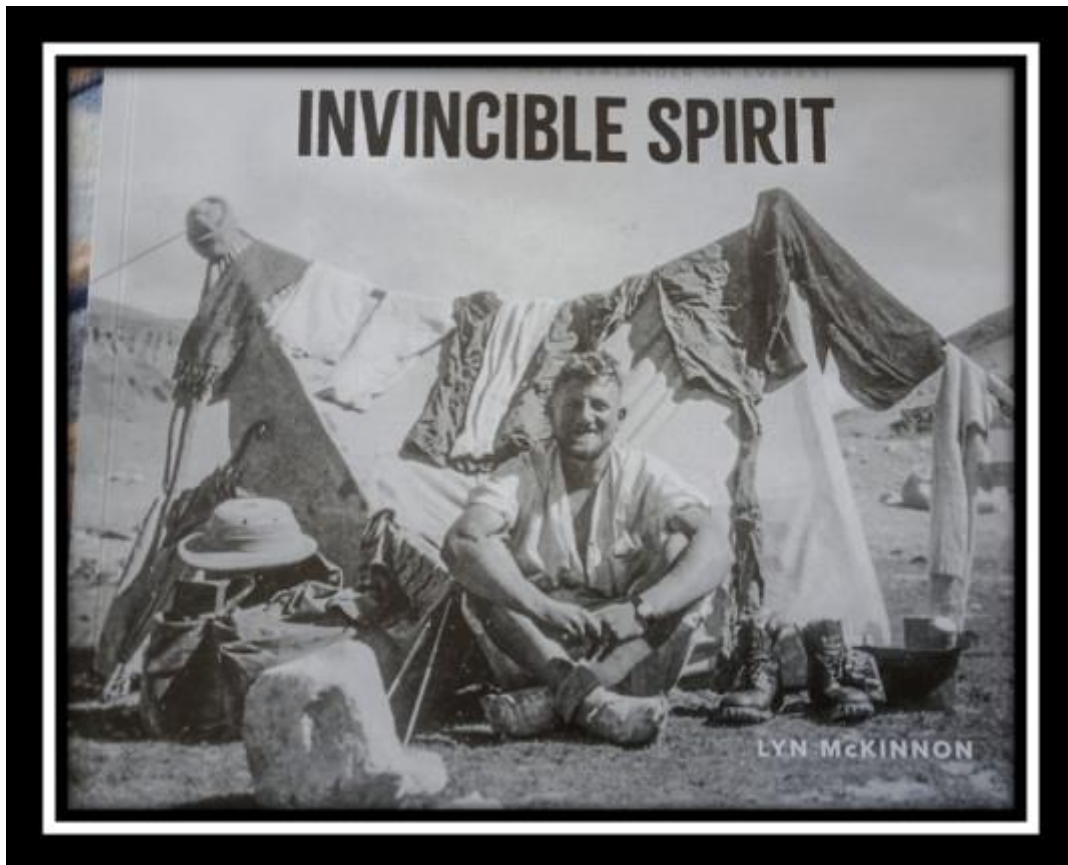


## Community

### Tūpiki Trust Update

The Tūpiki Trust's impact on climbing in Aotearoa continues to grow, thanks to the generous donations which make their mahi possible. Applications for their latest Grants Round closed this week, with 15 organisations putting forward their projects for consideration, asking for over \$600,000 in financial support. Over the next few weeks, the Tūpiki Trust Board will carefully review each application to judge its long-term value to climbing or the climbing environment and will let the applicants know of their decisions as quickly as possible. The Trust will publicly announce their decisions in their Summer Newsletter – expected out in early November, along with their Annual Report for 2023-24, and these will be posted on their website [www.tupikitrust.org.nz](http://www.tupikitrust.org.nz). Their next Grants Round is open now – and closes in March 2025, so if you have a project worthy of consideration for funding or would like to contribute to the Trust as a donor, their website has all the details.

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### **Invincible Spirit by Lyn McKinnon**

Dan Bryant was the first New Zealander to climb on Everest. That's nearly 100 years ago, and today many alpinists have never heard of him.

Dan Bryant with Rod Syme was the first to climb the Syme Ridge of Mt Tasman, and the first with Lud Mahan to climb the east ridge of Aoraki/Mt

Cook, still a formidable task.

There are records of all sorts. But these hark back to a spell-binding time when snows and ridges and glaciers and plateaus were virgin territory. Dan Bryant was there. For some of us, he still is.

Read all about him, and his incredible commitment before he lost his life at 52, not to a mountain or an avalanche or a crevasse, but to a ridiculously simple motor car accident.

Invincible Spirit is published with the assistance of the NZAC D.O.W Hall Fund and the Tūpiki Trust.

You can buy a copy of the book via our NZAC web shop [here](#).



### **FMC August 2024 Backcountry Online Edition**

In this edition we remember FMC legend Shaun Barnett, and you'll also find some great articles on the Fast-track Approvals Bill, hydro power generation as well as hike-and-fly paragliding, plus all the regular columns.

[Read it here](#)

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Don't forget to catch up on all our other news, reviews and info on our website [here](#).

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