



3 Oct, 2024

Kia ora,

As anyone who reads the New Zealand Alpine Journal will know (and I hope that everyone reads that fantastic publication), much of the time of the General Manager is spent working on our hut toilet network. Ahem, I mean our hut network. It is a busy portfolio of work and particularly now there are many logs on the fire, I mean many projects on the go. I thought I'd provide a short round-up here.

Hut bookings – we had quite a bit of feedback with people concerned about French Ridge becoming bookable. It has been great to hear everyone's views of what the limitations of the system may be. The common theme is that it may reduce flexibility of trips due to the hut being booked out by non-mountaineers. While we have had (anecdotal) trouble with overcrowding at French Ridge, it has mostly been through the summer months, outside of the traditional mountaineering season. We look forward to seeing the data for the bookings through the season, and hearing from people who may have problems, so we can adjust the system going forward. It will also assist with fee compliance which we think has been a problem.

New booking and commerce platform – we will shortly be releasing our updated hut booking and e-commerce platform. The look and feel will be similar to the main NZAC website, and it should provide a much better user experience for members and the public – no more death spirals when trying to login! Please let us know if you find any teething problems when it goes live.

Base hut audit and futures – Ollie Clifton, a committed member and former NZAC staffer, has been undertaking an 'audit' of our base lodge assets, to inform the Board on possible future strategy for these assets. This includes planning for major capital projects and thinking about the way that we promote and utilise these assets. The Board will consider the report in November.

Tūpiki Trust funding – we are thrilled to receive support from the Tūpiki Trust for remedial structural work planned for Centennial Hut Toilet in February, and the next stages of the Alpine Waste project. Their continued commitment to the NZAC kaupapa is appreciated.

Many Sections have also been completing work parties on their respective huts. However, it is up to all of us to love our huts and ensure we can keep them running into the future. Please, pay your huts fees, leave the hut tidy and let us know if there are any problems.

Karen

Photo: Ruari Macfarlane - Go Time - winner of the Alpine Activity and Overall Winner of the 2024 NZAC Photographic Competition

Club News

AGM Notice

Come join us to celebrate the 2023/2024 year at our Annual General Meeting. We will discuss the year that was and give a little insight into what is coming up. We will also present the new NZAC rules, which we are required to register prior to 2026. Of course, this is also a great change to ask questions and tell us what you think about any aspect of the Club.

The details:

- Friday, 1st November 2024
- 7pm
- At Cashmere Club, 88 Hunter Terrace, Christchurch

A link will be sent out closer to the time for those that can't attend in person.

New Club Rules

The Board have completed their work on the draft rules, which are now with an independent lawyer for assessment. Once the necessary amendments have been made to ensure we are complying with the new Act, these rules will be circulated to members. We expect this to happen in mid-October. There will be a period of consultation, and a presentation and discussion of the proposed rules at the AGM. The final motion for Club members to approve the rules will be completed by online voting once the Board is satisfied with consultation and feedback. We envisage this will be prior to the end of the year. For any questions on the process or changes, please contact the [General Manager](#) or [President](#).



Unwin Lodge Managers

It is with sadness that we announce that Pip and Simon will be completing their tenure at Unwin lodge in June. Therefore, the hunt is on for their replacements!

A fantastic lifestyle opportunity, the position requires you to become kaitiaki of our most important asset, Unwin Lodge. Providing excellent experiences for members and other guests, you will be personable, aligned to NZAC values, and have a problem-solving attitude. Attention to detail and work ethic are also needed to ensure smooth management

of bookings and finances and that the lodge and grounds are kept spick and span. This is a contract position for 2 years in the first instance, and is a lifestyle choice, not a get rich quick scheme.

If you would relish the chance to live and work in the beautiful Aoraki Mt Cook National Park, please get in touch.

Get Involved



Crag Fest Contractor 2025

After the success of our first edition of Crag Fest, we are on the hunt for a contractor to support the 2025 event. A part-time position over 5 months, the contractor is responsible for the organisation and implementation of the event. Ideally you will be a Wānaka climbing local, but we will also consider other locations, especially if they are close by. You will have great people skills, attention to detail, and the flexibility to work with volunteers, sponsors and paid staff to ensure the success of

the event. If this sounds like you, please get in touch to find out more. All inquiries before October 21st please after which an appointment will be made.



Watch Now: Book Launch; Tititea Aspiring And The Otago Alps

The NZAC *Tititea Aspiring and the Otago Alps Guidebook* launch, was held on September 5th, 2024, at Ground Up Brewing, Wanaka. We extend our gratitude to Clare Kearney for her wonderful MCing, the authors, and our guest speakers for their interesting presentations.

If you couldn't make it to the event, don't worry! We've got you covered with a recording of the launch. Click [here](#) for an update on the launch and link to the recording.



Bill Denz Award Presentation Night

Join us for an unmissable evening celebrating the recipients of the 2024 Bill Denz Award for their first ski descent of Malte Brun East Face 2024 Bill Denz Award.

With a talk from Will, Sam & Jim providing an overview of the descent and challenges faced during the trip. They will also touch on the other descents they have done as part of Sam's 24 Project.

The event will be at The World Bar, Queenstown on the 28th of November.

Put a reminder in your calendar, more information will come closer to the date.

NZAC Photographic Competition 2024 Winners



Congratulations to all the winners in this year's photo comp. The stunning images that will be showcased in our New Zealand Alpine Calendar 2025. Available for preorder [here](#).

All the winning images, runner up images and judges' comments are available for viewing on our website [here](#).

Thanks to our sponsors [The North Face](#), [MSR](#), [Pottin & Burton](#), [Further Faster](#), [Beringia](#), [Alpine Recreation](#), [Black Diamond](#) and judges [Simon Waterhouse](#), [Mark Watson](#) & [Dennis Radermacher](#)



Member Research Opportunity - Share Your Insights with NZAC

The New Zealand Alpine Club is conducting a research project. The goal is to better understand what is important to our members and how we can improve the overall member experience. Reshmi Pal, a researcher from the University of Canterbury, is working with us on this project. She has been with the club for a few months and will be conducting interviews with members.

The interviews will take approximately 20-30 minutes. Your input will help us identify areas for improvement and enhance the NZAC community. If you would like to participate in an interview, please reply to research@alpineclub.org.nz to express your interest. Reshmi will then contact you to arrange a convenient time.

We will also send out a survey in the coming weeks to gather additional feedback. Your participation, whether through an interview, the survey, or both, will help shape the future of NZAC and improve the member experience.

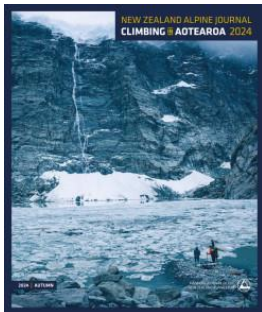
We appreciate your time and insights and look forward to hearing from you.

Name: Reshmi Pal

Education: MBA Researcher, University of Canterbury

Current Role: Consulting project with the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC), focusing on member retention and enhancing member experience.

Career Objective: To drive organizational growth and success by developing innovative strategies with a focus on sustainability and long-term impact.



NZAJ - Call For Your Stories And Pictures

We're well into the production period for the 2024 spring [New Zealand Alpine Journal](#). As always, we welcome contributions from the climbing and wider mountain community.

If you've never contributed to the Journal before, make this the issue you do! This is the best way to ensure that this long-running record of the New Zealand climbing community accurately reflects the climbers of today.

To read more on how you can contribute click [here](#)

Community



Mountain Safety Council - Special Avalanche Warning Issued

Following [multiple, serious avalanche incidents](#) last week, [NZ Mountain Safety Council](#) (MSC) urged backcountry snow enthusiasts to exercise extreme caution and to remind backcountry enthusiasts not to allow good weather and excitement of fresh snow to hinder good decision making.

To read the warning and access additional information from MSC click [here](#).

Our NZAC Avalanche Awareness in Aotearoa New Zealand guidebook is available for purchase [here](#) and our Three-Part Series on Keeping Warm and Avoiding Hypothermia in the Mountains can be read on our website [here](#).



Mangorewa Gorge

Mangorewa Gorge progress update

ACAT has been working closely with climbers, Rotorua Climbing Club, DOC, Tapuika iwi, and the Outdoor Access Commission over the past year, and we are now seeing signs of progress.

To read more click [here](#).

Photo-Chris Hailey via The Crag licensed under CC-NCSA- Chris Hailey on Restricted Access at



ACAT Intervenes in White Island case to address landowner liability concerns

The Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust (ACAT) will represent the interests of climbers and the outdoor recreation community in the upcoming High Court appeal by Whakaari Management Ltd.

ACAT is joining the proceedings as a third party to advocate for a judgment that goes some way to allaying landowners' liability concerns regarding climber access. Such concerns tend to create a chilling effect on recreational access to private land. Access to the outdoors for recreation is Aotearoa's heritage and we want to safeguard its future for generations to come.

To read more click [here](#).

Image: Tourists on Whakaari/White Island in April 2019. Photo Kimberley Collins, licensed under CCBY-SA



Love Our Huts Campaign Update - FMC

This November, we're rallying to show some love to our incredible network of backcountry huts – and we need your help! Thanks to the many Alpine Club members who have already signed up – for those who haven't yet, now's the perfect time to get involved.

It's easy: register at fmc.org.nz/loveourhuts, choose a hut, and visit during November to give it a quick spring clean. Sweep, wipe the windows, do a health check, and do a hut-book survey of who's been using it. You'll be helping ensure these huts are ready for future generations of climbers and trampers.

Keen to learn more? [Check out NZAC member Mick Abbott's interview with Kathryn Ryan on RNZ](#). So, whether it's an old favourite or a new discovery, grab your mates, head out, and let's show some love this November!

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

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