



5 Feb, 2025

### **Kia ora**

Summer climbing is on! I have heard of plenty of adventures already and have had one or two myself. The wardens are reporting lots of activity good times at Homer and Arthur's Pass lodges. [Read board member Lisa Donning's report](#) on her stay at Homer while climbing in the Darrans on the website. I wardened at Arthur's Pass and met members and made new friends from around the world. Many were stopping in for a night or two while on the Te Araroa trail.

Are you planning or executing a mission that stretches you to your limits? Doing something that extends what we think is possible in the mountains? This kind of adventurous spirit is recognised with the [Bill Denz Award](#). Think about telling us your story - or the story of your friend's adventures. Your adventures will inspire us all and could net you a prestigious 2025 Bill Denz gong!

The office team is back and busy, filling loads of orders for our great guidebooks, planning events and working with our stakeholders. This newsletter will catch you up with all this activity.

I'm off to introduce a couple of Canadian friends to the New Zealand Southern Alps backcountry, then am heading down to [Wānaka Cragfest](#) in March. I'm looking forward to catching up with all of you who can make it.

Until then,

Mā te wā,

**Jim Petersen**

President

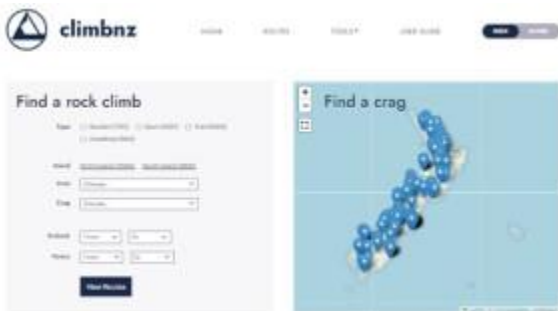
**Photo: Nat Warburton winner of the Youth Photographic Category 2023**

## Club News



The link to the NZAJ Archive has been updated. If you have the old one saved please [update to this one](#).

This resource is perfect for researchers, climbing history buffs and families chasing those passed on tales of long ago exploits in the mountains.



### ClimbNZ News

The number of users accessing [climbNZ.org.nz](https://climbNZ.org.nz) is up by nearly a quarter over the last year. That shows the improvements to the site are making a difference. More changes are coming this year, with a focus on specific benefits for Club members. Kicking that off later this month, you'll start to log in using NZAC member details.

**Volunteers needed!** Alpine climbing area information needs updating with new access and route details. If you'd like to contribute to that, please contact publications editor Tom Hoyle at [tom@alpineclub.org.nz](mailto:tom@alpineclub.org.nz)

## Get Involved



### Wānaka Crag Fest 2025!

After a successful launch last year, Wānaka Crag Fest is back and bigger than before! This collaborative event between the Wānaka Climbing Club and New Zealand Alpine Club is designed to unite climbers, build community, advance climbing skills, and promote sustainability across an action-packed weekend. With a full schedule of clinics, social events, and community activities, there's something for climbers of all levels.

This year, Wānaka Crag Fest offers more tickets, new clinics for a wider range of skills, focus on youth/family accessibility. Also, non-climbing activities like yoga, cold water immersion, slacklining and acroyoga.

Social events to bring the community together on Friday and Saturday nights.

Sustainability is at the heart of Crag Fest. In partnership with the Wānaka Climbing Club, we're hosting a sustainability working bee on Saturday afternoon, giving attendees the chance to earn their dinner by giving back to the local crags.

Crag Fest runs from **14-16 March 2025**. For tickets and more information, visit <https://alpineclub.org.nz/event/wanaka-crag-fest-2025>

A huge thank you to our Fest Partners **Scarpa, Black Diamond, Petzl, and Mad Rock** with additional support from Fest Supporters **Bivouac, Further Faster, Wānaka Mountain Guides, and La Sportiva** for helping make this event possible.



## NZAC NiBS 2025

### Dates and locations confirmed!

Round 1 - 10 & 11th May - Resistance, Dunedin  
Round 2 - 14 & 15th June - Uprising, Christchurch  
Round 3 - 19 & 20th July - Northern Rocks, Auckland  
Round 4 - 23 & 24th Aug - Faultline, Wellington

Details at <https://www.nibs.nz/>

For all rounds we will introduce a new format in 2025 with the youth and caregivers' session moving from 9:30am on Saturday to 9:00am on Sunday, making room for the four Saturday sessions open to all other participants.

One of the key points of feedback from our survey this year was managing busy sessions, and this step will allow the series to continue to grow while keeping it as fun as possible for everyone.

There is also a review of the current registration, scoring and branding, with a new system being trialled and fresh new looks being explored.

Stay tuned for some exciting details to come!



## Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour 2025

Alpine Club Section Committees are busy planning their 2025 screenings of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour! We are excited to share confirmed dates on our Banff NZ website [here](#).

Ticket and programme details will be shared soon.

As the Clubs, biggest fundraising event, we look forward to watching some of the world's best mountain films with you!



## Bill Denz Award 2025

Nomination requests for the 2025 Bill Denz Award are still a few months away, but now is the time to be thinking about those epics you or your adventurous mates have been doing over summer.

Denz was one of Aotearoa New Zealand's greatest ever climbers and a world class mountaineer. People who knew him still have stories to tell and he has become a legend to a new legion of climbers and mountaineers.

Our Bill Denz Award focuses on some of Denz's attributes including boldness, vision, innovation and resilience.

Our recipients so far have all shown they are worthy of the Award and continue to be bold with their exploits.



## NZAC Member Support

The Club is always grateful for the generous support of members. There are five different funds you can donate to, and they impact different parts of the club and members.

The [Club Hut Fund](#) supports hut maintenance like sewerage upgrades, window repairs, and all the miscellaneous repairs that keep our huts warm, cosy and dry up to helping with the full refurbishment of Aspiring Hut. Late last year we had a donation that resulted in new mattresses being purchased for Ruapehu Hut (you can help the Auckland Section get them up to the hut in March when they have a [weekend work party](#)).

The [General Purposes Fund](#) covers a wide range of club activities. Supporting volunteer training and expenses so they can run courses like Basic Snowcraft, trapping projects, administration of events like NiBS and [CragFest](#).

It also helps support the office to advocate on the club's behalf like submissions on National Park Management Plans, Stewardship Land Conservation Law Reforms etc.

If you would like to donate to these funds or any of the others you can do so [here](#).

## Community



### DOC Consultations

DOC is currently consulting on two sets of proposals to change the way conservation land is managed. One consultation refers to concession management and the other contains proposals around streamlining planning and exploring charging for access to some conservation land. Submissions for both close on 28th February. The full consultations can be accessed [here](#) and a useful comment on the submissions from FMC is [here](#).



## Southern Faces: Celebrating 50 Years of Climbing in Ōtepoti Dunedin

Save the date! The NZ Alpine Club Otago Section meeting on March 5 will be the launch of *Southern Faces*, the third-ever climbing guidebook for Ōtepoti Dunedin—arriving after a 25-year wait since the last guidebook! This beautifully designed book by Riley Smith celebrates the last five decades of local climbing and the immense growth of the scene since the previous guide, *Dunedin Rock* (2000).

This is a fantastic opportunity to check out some of the stunning photos and route descriptions from your favourite crags. There will also be a Q&A session with Riley, so you can learn more about the guidebook and hear about the development of this extensive project.

The guide costs \$50. For event details, visit the [Otago Section Facebook page](#).

Can't make it, but want to make sure you get a copy? [Register your details here](#).



### NZAC Tūpiki Trust Update

The NZAC Tūpiki Trust has two important updates for NZAC members. Their latest Newsletter has just been posted to their website at [www.tupikitrust.org.nz](http://www.tupikitrust.org.nz) and it reports a few project updates, has an advert for an added role as Trustee on their Board, and updates the info you will need if you are thinking of applying for a grant from them. Just email them on [admin@tupikitrust.org.nz](mailto:admin@tupikitrust.org.nz) if you'd like to be added to their newsletter email list.

If you are looking to fund a mountaineering or mountain environment project this year, you will need to be quick. Applications for the next Grants Round close on 1 March 2025, so you'll need to read their important background information and fully complete your application before then. The next round is not until September 25. Everything you need to know is on their website at [www.tupikitrust.org.nz](http://www.tupikitrust.org.nz)

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

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