

UPRISING

NEWSLETTER FOR CANTERBURY WESTLAND SECTION OF NZAC



MARCH 2025

REEL ROCK WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH

Canterbury Westland
Section Evening

Reel Rock 19
Middleton Grange School
Wednesday 26 March

Doors open: 7pm
Movie starts: 7:30pm

Everyone is welcome, you don't
need to be an NZAC member to
attend.

*REEL ROCK19 replaces our
usual section talk this month.*

LINKS TO 'CW SECTION'

Remember to 'Like' our Facebook
& Instagram pages so you can be
kept up to date on Monthly meetings,
talks, events, trips, courses and lots
more. Share your trip photos and
inspire others. And check out our
section website for more information.



<http://canterburywestlandalpineclub.org.nz>



Future Section Evenings. Save these dates...



THURS 10 APRIL - CHRIS AND TONI
THURS 8 MAY - PAT DEAVOLL
JUNE IS BANFF!

THE NORTH FACE PRESENTS

REEL ROCK 19

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND TOUR
PRESENTED BY

Black Diamond YETI



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SCAN FOR TICKETS



GIVE BACK TO YOUR CLUB

JOIN THE CW SECTION COMMITTEE!

CURRENT VACANCIES BELOW

MIDWEEK CLIMBING COORDINATOR

We're looking for someone to get involved in coordinating the Midweek Climbing sessions. You don't need to be an instructor or a guide, just someone with a passion for bringing people together and some knowledge of local crags. Organisers do not provide any guiding or instruction and individuals within the group are responsible for their own safety whilst taking part in climbing activities. If you're keen to get involved we would love to hear from you.

TRIP COORDINATOR

Are you passionate about the outdoors and looking for a way to give back to the community? We are seeking a volunteer trips coordinator to help organise our trips for members. As the trip coordinator you will be responsible for coordinating a variety of trips into the mountains. You will work with club members

to determine trip locations and ensure that all safety protocols are complete before the trip. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with a vibrant community and help others explore the stunning landscapes of Canterbury Westland region.

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPERSTAR

Are you a social media superstar? We need help with our social media pages, Facebook & Instagram. Everything will be created and uploaded for you. We just need someone with the know-how to share these posts, like & share the retailers' posts who support our community, maintain settings in the background, plus anything else you can think of. This is so our followers get the best experience possible. Help our section from the comfort of your chair!

If you have time to do this on your phone or computer, even for just a few minutes each day, we would love to hear from you.

CLUB SECRETARY

The Secretary role involves taking the minutes at the committee meeting and typing them up and sending out the agenda for the next committee meeting. This role involves being at committee meetings once a month. First Monday of the month usually and generally only take an hour! Cover can happen for you on sporadic occasions. The role is small and doesn't involve too much, you can get involved as much as you like with other events and activities.

Committee members meet once a month on a Monday

Please contact me at cw.chairperson@gmail.com if you are interested in either of these roles.



Our next meeting is 3 March, 6pm at the Library/NZAC headquarters. Unit 6/6 Raycroft St, Waltham.

PROFILER

GET TO KNOW OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS
& AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Zak Jones. Committee

Hi I'm Zak Jones

I am a keen outdoor person who has been skiing, tramping and running ever since my university days where i joined the officer training cadets and got involved in all they had to offer. I kept up my activity post uni completing various events across the UK such as the UK three peaks, Keswick to Barrow race and a guided trip to Mt Toukbal in Morocco.

Having arrived in New Zealand February 2024 I was lucky enough to get on the Auckland Sections basic snowcraft course and really enjoyed my time on the mountains even if there was a lack of snow.

Now in Christchurch I am aiming to develop along the NZAC courses and get stuck into some gnarlier stuff. I am still very much learning my craft in climbing and mountaineering, but looking forward to some adventurous missions with the club alongside adventure and multi-sport events in the region. While I dont have much experience of mountaineering my first visit to Mt Ruapehu and the glacier was amazing and I loved the, alien to me, landscape of the alpine.

Having joined the committee as the Winter Instruction Coordinator I am keen to give back to the club and share benefits I have recently enjoyed on my course. As my experience and knowledge grows I am excited to see what mountains I can get to and support the club in new ways.



If you would like to join our committee or give back to the club in any way please send an email to cw.chairperson@gmail.com

TRIP REPORT: THE PYRAMID

LEAD BY SAM WHITE. 22 FEBRUARY 2025

This is a fun summer route on varied terrain including a steep bush ascent, ridge traverse with epic views, a fun scree descent, and returning via the picturesque Sudden Valley.

Eight of us assembled at Hawdon Shelter for a quick safety briefing and then set off across the river for a hot and humid steep ascent up a vague track through the bush. It was a relief to reach the bushline and a bit of cooling breeze. Another half hour of climbing, we were on the summit for lunch. Some careful footwork was in order as we traversed along the ridge on some of Arthur's Pass finest "weetbix" before an epic scree run into Sudden Valley. A couple of hours of enjoyable amble down the valley saw us back at the shelter.

Thanks to Alasdair, Caroline, Erin, Kelsie, Josh, Zak, and Rich for coming along and I hope to see you all out in the hills again soon.

Sam White

PHOTOS

1. VIEW FROM ABOVE THE BUSHLINE ON THE ASCENT
2. THE TEAM ON THE SUMMIT
3. DESCENDING THE SCREE
4. SUDDEN VALLEY



We were honoured to host Nic Low as our speaker at the February section evening and had an impressive turnout of over 150. Nic is a writer and arts organiser of Ngāi Tahu and European descent. He whakapapas to Ōraka-Aparima at the bottom of the South Island. In his book *Uprising* (originally published in 2021) he details nine walking expeditions into the Ngāi Tahu history of Kā Tiritiri-o-te-moana, New Zealand's Southern Alps.

Nic talked about the genesis of *Uprising* – having been involved with an arts project in Melbourne around people, place and history – and experiencing a calling to return to his home - Te Wai Pounamu and reconnect with his Ngāi Tahu heritage. On arrival back in Aotearoa he contacted the Ngai Tahu archivist to start his research for the book project and was pointed towards a website Kā Huru Manu – The Ngāi Tahu Atlas (kahurumanu.co.nz). Nic was amazed at the number of places names across Kā Tiritiri-o-te-moana and the thousands of kilometres of documented traditional trails that connect them. It started to dawn on him that his planned timeframe for the *Uprising* Project was out the window.

In his talk Nic discussed two of the journeys in some detail. Firstly a journey from Anita bay, Piopiotahi (Milford Sound) where the party collected the unique Pounamu (Tangawai) found in this special place, to Low's ancestral marae, Ōraka (Colac bay, Southland). Secondly a journey over Noti Hinetamatea (Copland Pass) where Low talked about the research he had done around showing that

his Ngāi Tahu ancestors, did indeed venture above the snowline. Nic also touched on a journey in the book to Te Tarahaka o Kaimatau (Arthur's Pass) travelling mostly across private land (i.e. trespassing) visiting Mahinga kai (food sites) of his ancestors. Visiting such sites was one of the reasons Ngāi Tahu travelled to the mountains. Through colonisation and primarily Kemp's Deed – promising much and delivering little to Tangata Whenua - much of the traditional high-country land became inaccessible to the iwi. Nic left us with the challenge of researching the history and reflecting on it as we travel through these special places.

Low is the consummate storyteller, befitting of his Ngāi Tahu ancestry. Nic spanned the divide between the, lets face it, largely Pākehā mountain recreationalists and Māori beautifully. I highly recommend *Uprising* – it gave me a new appreciation of the history and traditions of many of the journeys I have made over the years through Kā Tiritiri-o-te Moana. A copy of *Uprising* is held in the section library and available for members to borrow.

As I rarely review the section evenings, I do want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great work Caitlin Erickson (our section evening coordinator), with support from the ever-present John Roper-Lindsay, does in arranging these events every month. The interesting speakers she arranges, along with the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones pre and post talk, is a valuable part of our section activities.





APRIL SECTION TALK **Toni Torepe & Chris North**

Bridging The Gap Between Climbers And Mana Whenua

This talk dives into a research project trying to bridge the gap between climbers and Mana Whenua. First, we explore how the Arowhenua whānau perceive Aoraki and mountaineering activities. We reveal Arowhenua perspectives on our highest peak and how they feel about mountaineers being up there climbing. Next, we break down a survey of mountaineers that reveals some differences among four types of climbers, especially when it comes to climbing attitudes and handling human waste. Finally, we use the tuakana-teina (older sibling-younger sibling) framework to show how spending time together can lead to mutual learning and better understanding between Arowhenua whānau and mountaineers.

Toni is a senior lecturer and Māori academic in the Faculty of Education at UC with tribal affiliations across the Ngāi Tahu region. She identifies Arowhenua as her whānau home. Growing up in a small South Canterbury town, she was raised in a multigenerational household with her grandparents, who shaped her identity, worldview, and confidence as a bicultural and bilingual woman. Toni successfully navigated an

education system that did not always recognise her ways of knowing and being, an experience she knows is not shared by all Māori. This understanding has inspired her career in both education and research where she aims to make positive contributions to Māori advancement. In this research, Toni worked closely with her Arowhenua whānau to gain a better understanding of different ways that Arowhenua feel about Aoraki, and mountaineers. She was also a participant in the knowledge exchange week between mountaineers and Arowhenua whānau.

Chris North is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health at UC and teaches and researches in the areas of outdoor education practices, environmental education and initial teacher education. In his free time, Chris has been a keen climber and mountaineer and loved the outdoors. This project sits well alongside his research and personal interests because it is trying to improve environmental outcomes in mountain environments and also to find ways to connect well with Mana Whenua.

CHRIS NORTH

Journey Through the Gardens of Ice: A Traverse of the Garden of Eden and Garden of Allah Ice Plateaus

Situated in the Southern Alps at the head of the Rangitata River, the Garden of Eden and Garden of Allah Ice Plateaus had occupied my thoughts for months. Their evocative names, coupled with their location in a protected Wilderness Area, made them an irresistible objective.

The challenges of aligning; weather, skilled and experienced companions, and enough flexibility for an extended trip seemed daunting. However, sharing the idea paid off when my friend Neil mentioned that his mountaineering companion, Ju, was visiting in November, and the Gardens were on his list of potential adventures. With Sam recruited, we gathered to finalize our plans; determine the route, and required gear, and splitting the logistical tasks. Neil and Ju planned to pack raft out from McCoy Hut, whilst Sam and I decided to walk out.

As the forecasted weather window took shape, three stable days before a deteriorating system, then another two-day break before severe wind and rain, we made our decision. Given the tight timeframe and unpredictable weather, we opted for a helicopter drop-off from Mesopotamia Station to the edge of the Adams Wilderness Area.

Photo of Colin Campbell Moraine

Glacier Lakes

On a Friday morning in mid-November, we gathered for our final gear check before heading out for a trip of potentially eight days.

Arriving at Mesopotamia Station, it was clear that Malcolm, the owner, was busy ferrying hunting parties into the surrounding valleys. With a laugh, he called himself the local Uber driver.

Late in the afternoon, Ju and Neil's pack rafts had been dropped off at McCoy Hut and we had been deposited into the barren, grey moraine basin near the glacier lakes at the head of the Frances River, just shy of the Wilderness Area boundary.

Avalanches rumbled unseen from the southern slopes of Mt Tyndall and Snowy Peak. By now time had ticked on and we realized that if we headed up to Perth Col this afternoon we were racing the daylight to find a suitable and safe campsite. We decided to camp at the lakes.

We woke to a fine morning with the sun starting to light the very tops of the peaks around us. We set off up the Colin Campbell moraine, gradually ascending towards Perth Col.



Photo: Looking back from near Perth Col towards the Glacier Lakes

The Garden of Eden

In one section, a long plume of old avalanche debris was strewn down the slope. Step-plugging our way up, we roped up just before the col, pausing to take in the breathtaking views behind us.

Once we crossed Perth Col, we were rewarded with an incredible panorama—rugged peaks crowning the valley, the Perth River far below, and the dense West Coast bush beyond.

A sidle led us onto the Garden of Eden, where swirling clouds briefly parted to reveal Guardian Peak rising above. Snow lay thick across the John Pascoe Range, its summits—Newton Peak and Mt Tyndall—heavy with late spring snow.

Set up for glacier travel, we descended the gentle expanse of the Garden of Eden towards Adams Col, the sun making the plateau gleam.

The transition through the rocky corridor and steep slope into the basin below the Icefall Outlook was like stepping through a doorway—from the open clarity of the Garden of Eden into a whiteout, where careful navigation became essential. Picking our way down and through the misty basin, we located a safe, elevated campsite, avoiding potential rockfall and avalanche zones. As the evening settled in, we dug out a platform for our tents and prepared for the night.



Photo: The Garden of Eden, heading to Adams Col

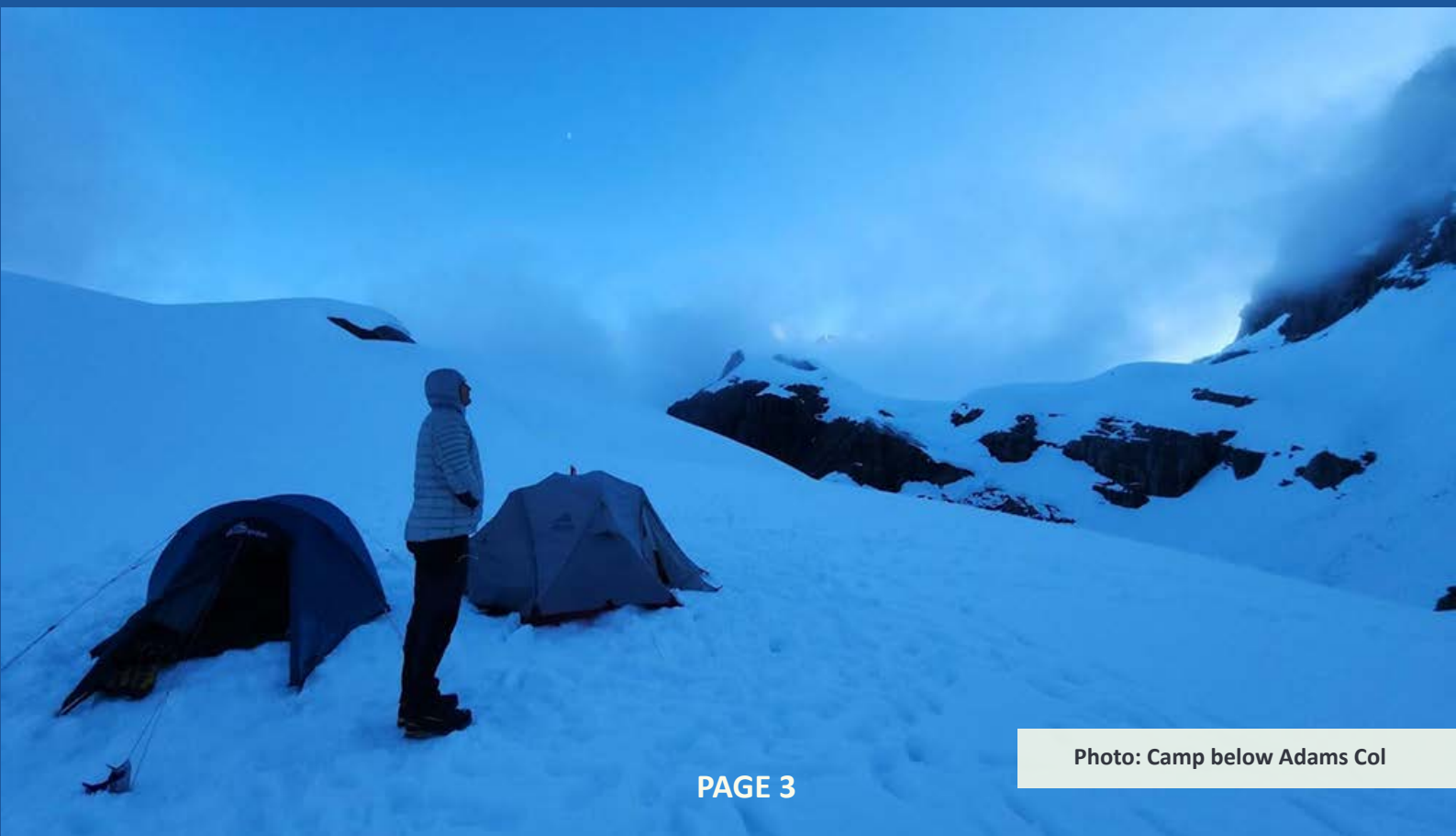


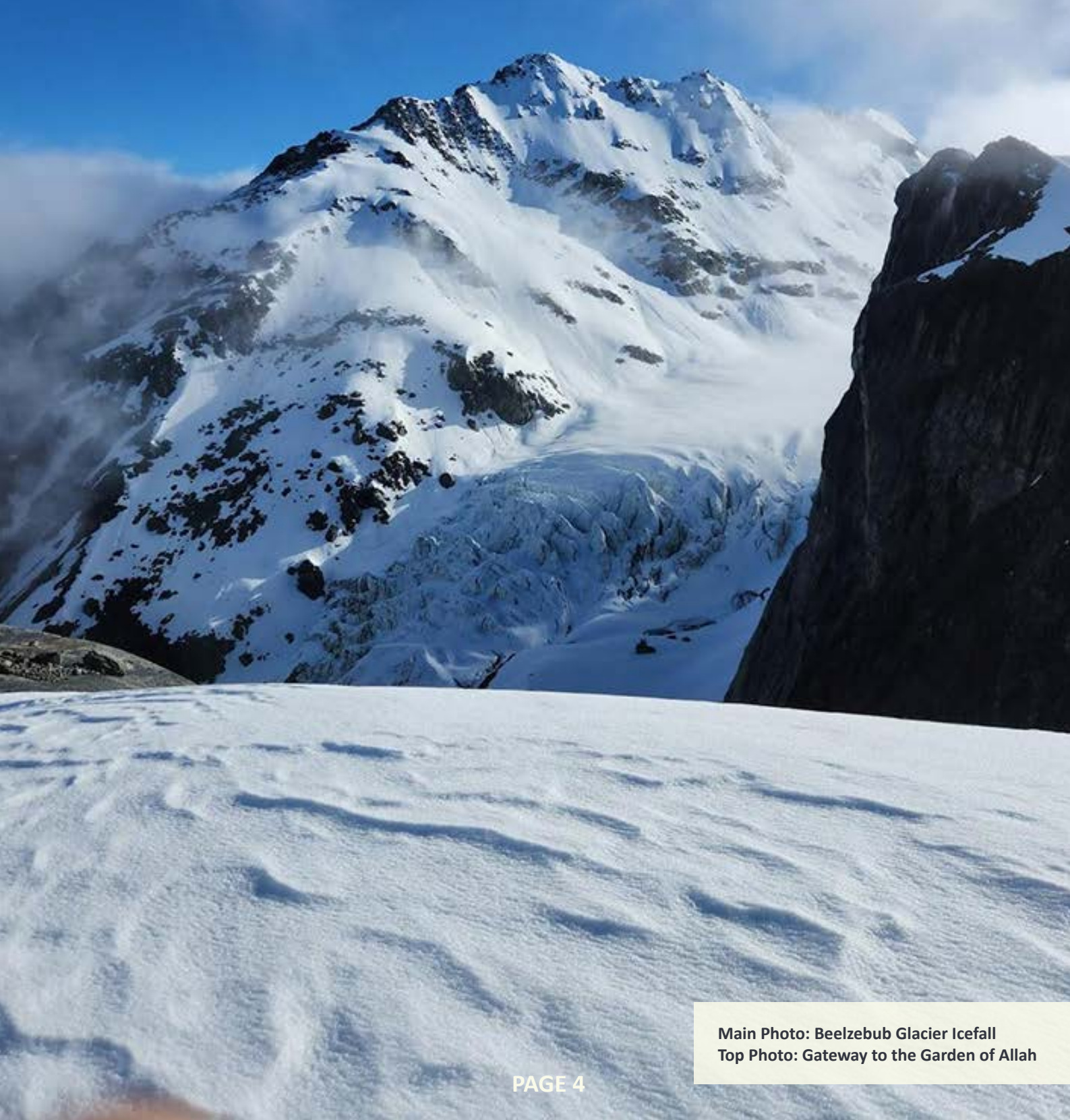
Photo: Camp below Adams Col

Traversing the Garden of Allah

Morning brought improved visibility, and our Garmin InReach forecast suggested that the incoming weather system was weakening.

First thing, we walked up to the Icefall Outlook and viewed the Beelzebub Glacier Icefall; a hint of the Adams River was glimpsed through swirling "West Coast Jungle Mist"

Roped up we headed up out of the snow basin and entered into the Garden of Allah.



Main Photo: Beelzebub Glacier Icefall
Top Photo: Gateway to the Garden of Allah



The views were not with us for most of today as we walked following a compass bearing. We could see a few meters around our party and the occasional glimpse of rock to our right gave us an indication that we were passing the northern side of the John Pascoe Range. Alas, the rock climb “The Tears Of Allah” was not to be seen today.

A suggested campsite near Snowy Peak for a potential ascent was dismissed as horizontal rain and howling wind forced us to seek more sheltered ground. While leading, I unexpectedly plunged into a snow-covered crevasse—thankfully, my pack wedged me at shoulder depth as the rope pulled taut. I was grateful that all my gear was secured to my harness, so I avoided losing anything to the beautiful cerulean blue depths below. A bit of wriggling and careful unhooking of a trouser-snagged crampon allowed me to squirm free, and we pressed on.

The rest of the journey up and over The Garden of Allah passed incident-free, and we were rewarded when we began our descent towards the Lambert Glacier, with the wind dropping and skies clearing for short periods. Views of the ice plateau, glaciers, and surrounding peaks lifted our spirits.

Soon the jungle mist returned and careful navigation took us through the rocky terrain, ascending a steep snowy slope to our proposed campsite. Just as we finished setting up camp, the clouds lifted entirely, revealing a spectacular reward for our efforts: back up The Garden of Allah where we had journeyed; over to Satan Saddle; Across to Mt Lambert; Mt Stoddart; and the sprawling glaciers leading down towards the Lambert River Valley. A lone black-backed gull circled overhead, though we had no fish and chips to offer.



Main Photo: Exploring the Depths
Photo to right: Our camp on Lambert Glacier

Descent via the Frances Glacier

Dawn broke with clear skies. Continuing upward we gained Lambert Col where we found a previous campsite with low rock walls, perched on the divide between the Lambert and Frances Glaciers.

Seeking a safe descent route, we spent time scouting before locating a steep snow gully that was hidden behind a huge snow hillock. Given the crevassed slope below, we belayed two pitches with our 50m rope before reaching the Frances Glacier.





Photo: The Final Descent

The final descent was not without excitement. The lower glacier turned into a bowling alley, with loose rocks hurtling down the slopes above. We hurried through and reached the glacier lakes, weary but satisfied. A grassy campsite awaited us and signs of life other than ourselves; more black-backed gulls, and a large nursery web spider.

The walk down the Francis River was very enjoyable and we passed a couple of areas where camping would have been very pleasant. We made our way true river right to the point where we needed to cross to get to McCoy Hut. We carefully selected our line, recalling Malcolm's words: 'Watch out for the Frances River—it bites'.

Just as we removed wet socks and were indulging in slightly sweaty cheese, Malcolm's chopper appeared. He was dropping off hunters and offered Sam and myself a backflight. We took the opportunity and enjoyed a stunning aerial tour over Mt Johnstone, Musterers Col, and the Lawrence Valley before collecting another hunter and returning to Mesopotamia Station.

Meanwhile, Neil and Ju had a night in McCoy Hut and then struck out on the Clyde River. They had quite the adventure as the river was running high, providing them with further fuel for tales over a pint.



Photo: A Well Equipped Hut

This was a truly unforgettable journey with fantastic companions. Huge thanks to Malcolm and Sue at Mesopotamia Station for their generosity, knowledge, and 'Uber services.'

For those planning a similar trip, Malcolm and Sue Prouting at Mesopotamia Station can be reached at 03 696 3738.

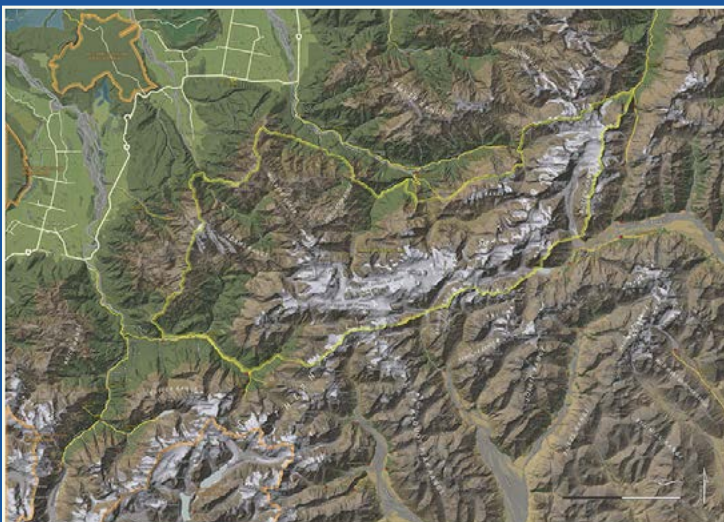
Alternative access is through crossing Erewhon Station, permission must be obtained from Erewhon Station by calling (as of January 2025) Tim Butcher 03 303 9094. PDF map of the Adams Wilderness Area by Geographx. These maps were funded by FMC and are available for use under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Sharealike licence.

To help preserve the pristine environment of our Wilderness Areas, poo pots are available from NZAC.

Article and Photos by Nicky Edwards

* For Geographx click [here](#)

* For NZAC poo pots click [here](#)



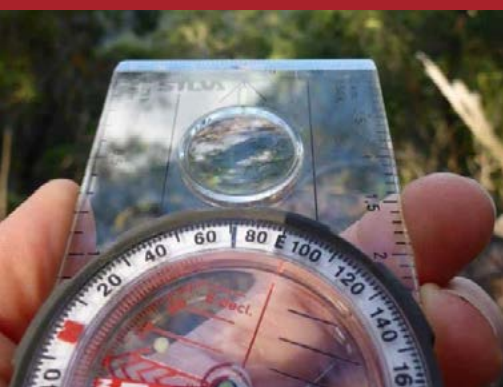
Upcoming **COURSES** for NZAC members



TRAD ANCHORS & ROPE RESCUE COURSE 5 & 6 April 2025

A course designed to upskill and refresh on the finer points of trad climbing anchors and placements and basic rope rescue skills needed in a multi-pitch environment. Topics: Multi-directional trad anchors and trad placements, transfer the belay, release a top loaded belay (escape the belay), tandem abseil, simple hoist, troubleshooting.

[Click here for full details & to sign up](#)



BASIC NAVIGATION COURSE Sunday 6 April 2025

This is a one-day basic navigation course open to NZAC members and part of the NZAC Snowcraft & Mountaineering Pathway. For more information on what will be taught check out the [Basic Navigation Course Outline](#)

[Click here for full details & to sign up](#)

Information Links

Click on a circle to get the full information that you require.



Monthly Section Talks

[CLICK HERE](#)

Our Section talks are held each month, usually on the second Thursday. Everyone is welcome and you don't need to be an NZAC member to attend.



Midweek Mountaineering

[CLICK HERE](#)

The midweek group are mainly fairly mature mountaineers who still manage to plod up a few peaks, usually on Wednesdays, depending on the weather.



Midweek Rock Climbing

[CLICK HERE](#)

Join our midweek crew for a variety of local climbing opportunities year-round. Whether you're up for a quick indoor session post-work or eager to hit the hills for some outdoor rock action, we've got you covered.



Section Library

[CLICK HERE](#)

Did you know that the Canterbury Westland Section has it's own, very extensive Library with both books and DVDs? You just need to be an NZAC member to be able to borrow.



Gear Hire

[CLICK HERE](#)

NZAC members can hire gear on behalf of non-members on the same trip they are attending with the knowledge that the NZAC member is responsible for any loss or damage.



Bealey Spur Trapline

[CLICK HERE](#)

The section helped to establish this trapline and has serviced it since 2020. For your safety and instruction on how to service the trapline, you must attend one of the training days, which are held from time to time. It's a rewarding day out helping to remove introduced predators and assist our native wildlife to thrive.



Section Meets

[CLICK HERE](#)

Section Meets are hosted by & on behalf of current members of the CW Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club. You don't need to be a current member of the NZAC to participate but the safety is the responsibility of each individual. These are not guided meets, nor do they involve any instructional training or tuition of any kind.



Section Trips

[CLICK HERE](#)

Trips are hosted by & on behalf of current members of the CW Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club. You need to be a current member of the NZAC to participate. Participants will need to be totally self-sufficient in the environment and have the skills, experience and judgement to undertake alpine and related mountaineering activities consistent with the level of experience required, independently and safely.



Becoming a Trip Leader

[CLICK HERE](#)

A club trip is a great way to spend time with like-minded people, share some adventures and give back to the outdoor community. Most trips involve moderate to intermediate mountaineering but they can include anything from tramping and rock climbing to mountaineering objectives. The trip leader is not a professional guide or instructor, as a trip leader you organise and lead the group only.



Section Courses

[CLICK HERE](#)

The club runs instruction courses covering rock, snow, avalanche awareness and navigation. These courses are for NZAC members only, you must have an in date membership to sign up for a course.



Arthur's Pass Lodge

[CLICK HERE](#)

In the heart of Arthurs Pass National Park, this warm little lodge provides a great base for exploring the surrounding mountains with peaks suitable for beginners to advanced climbers alike.



Newsletters Past & Present

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Sign up to have our monthly newsletters delivered to you by email. You can also read past newsletters on our website.



Member Discounts

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One of the benefits of being an NZAC member is discounts from all the wonderful retailers you will find by clicking on this link. Please support them as they support us.

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