



10 Mar, 2025

Kia ora,

It's finally here... after thousands of volunteer hours and nearly 20 years since the previous guidebook, next week the new *Darran Mountains Rock* book lands. We couldn't be more excited!

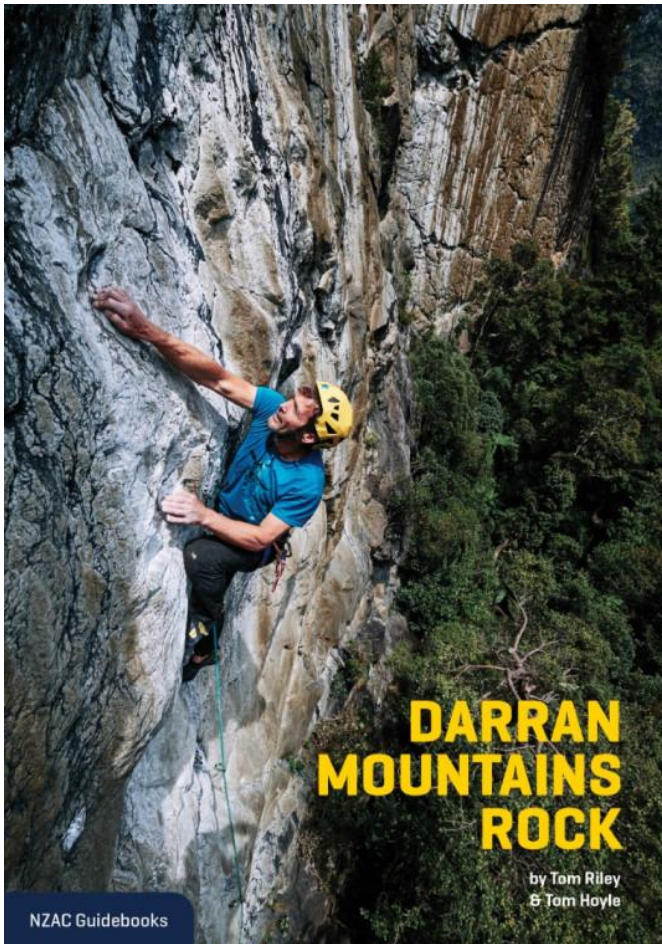
Although we often profile the books themselves, many people would not know the work that goes into the production of books, largely by volunteers from our community. The author (Tom Riley) is a volunteer, receiving a very small payment but dedicating hundreds of hours and travel kilometres to their task. The author is supported by our Editor, Tom Hoyle, who undertakes this work as part of his position with the NZAC but also dedicates many of his own hours to hunting down information, taking pictures and talking to the many characters who contribute to our route network. For this book in particular Tom Hoyle has dedicated a large number of volunteer hours. The photos are from Club members, also volunteers, and the route descriptions are checked by a large team of volunteers. With the development work happening in this area, routes were added the week before the book went to print. It's likely that things have already changed, and ClimbNZ will be able to keep you up to date.

But for everything else Darran rock related, please support this book when it comes out next week. And thank your local Fiordland climbing guru next time you see them - it's very likely they contributed some mahi to this book.

Hope everyone is enjoying the start of Autumn,
Karen

Photo: Fynn Marno-Simpson Rock Climbing Photo Entry 2024 - Sorting it Out

Club News



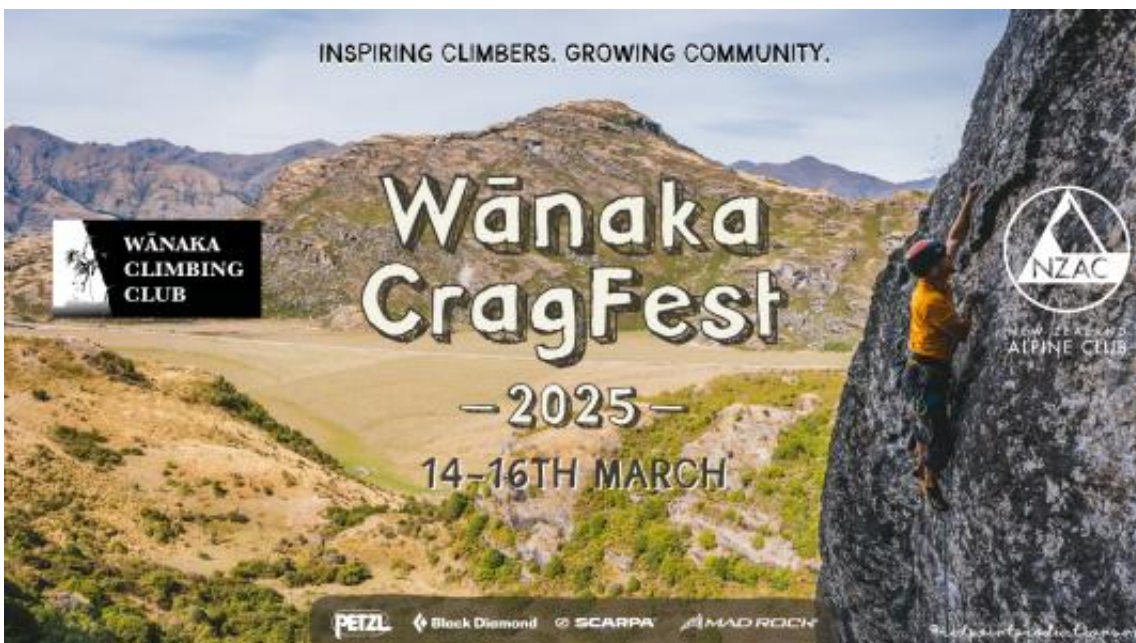
New Edition - Darran Mountains Rock Guide

We're proud to release *Darran Mountains Rock*, a summer rock climbing guide to the Darran Mountains region of Fiordland National Park. It is nearly 20 years since NZAC's previous guide to the area was released in 2006. That book is so old that it is entirely black and white and makes no mention of the undiscovered Little Babylon! This new guide concentrates on updating the areas of greatest activity since that book was issued and has all the latest route information for roadside crags like Babylon, Chasm Crag and Shotwell Slabs. It also covers the newer multi-pitch climbing in areas like Copper Point, the Airport Wall and the Charismatic Wall, as well as perennial alpine rock destinations like Moir's Mate and Barrier Knob. The climbing further away from the road and more adventurous than the classic North Buttress of Sabre Peak will be included in a future adventure climbing volume, but this guide already packs in more climbing than there are good weather days in Fiordland, with over 350 routes spread across 35 crags.

The book will be available to purchase in our web shop next week and ready to send at the end of the

week. Keep an eye on our social media pages for buying info and the link.

Get Involved



Wānaka Crag Fest 2025!

We are excited to say Wānaka Crag Fest is NEXT WEEK! We have had a huge interest in the event this year with sold out Full Fest passes. It's not too late to join the waitlist. Should any tickets come available we will notify those on the waitlist. 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.

Crag Fest runs from **14-16 March 2025**. For 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. Thanks to our Clinic Sponsors **Aspiring Guides, Basecamp Adventures and Wanaka Mountain Guides** for sharing their expert knowledge and skills.



NZAC NiBS 2025

Celebrating 15 years of the NZAC National Indoor Bouldering Series!

Registrations are open now so get amongst NZ's biggest annual social bouldering competition! As the series expands, we need to evolve to keep NiBS as exciting and engaging as ever. And so, 2025 will bring the most significant update to the event format and rules since its inception. For more details please read [the Rules and Event Info here](#).

NZ Alpine Club members will still receive \$10 off entry by entering the discount code on the registration form. The code is NZAC25NiBS and can also be found when logged in on the NZAC site [here](#).

- **10 & 11th May - Resistance, Dunedin**
- **14 & 15th June, Christchurch, Uprising**
- **19 & 20th July, Auckland, Northern Rocks**
- **23 & 24rd Aug, Wellington, Faultline**

We are stoked to have [The North Face](#), [La Sportiva](#), [Climb Craft](#) and [Bivouac Outdoor](#) back supporting the NZAC National Indoor Bouldering Series. Every entry has the chance to win some awesome prizes from them!

Lastly a big thank you to Erin, at [Concept of the Good](#), for our rocking new branding and website.



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 this month.

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



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 [Bolting Fund Grant](#) supports the development of climbing in New Zealand, maintenance of climbing areas in New Zealand, and access to New Zealand's climbing areas.

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](#).

**Image: Stu Duncan bolting new extension to Vass-Judge, Phils Bivvy slabs, Lake Adelaide (Feb 2025)
Image credits: Sooji Clarkson.**

The NZAC Bolting Fund supplied some funds to help with this project



Southern Faces: Celebrating 50 Years of Climbing in Ōtepoti Dunedin

After the successful launch of Southern Faces on Wednesday night in Dunedin, we now have copies available in our web shop [Southern Faces](#).

The guide costs \$45.00 for members when you are logged in to the webshop.

Riley also spoke on RNZ, this week, about the popularity of climbing. You can listen here [RNZ with Riley Smith](#)

Community



NZAC Tūpiki Trust Update

As this newsletter goes out to you, the NZAC Tūpiki Trust Board is preparing to consider almost \$500,000 of applications for 14 projects during their March 25 Grants round. Each one of these projects has the potential to add to climbing in Aotearoa or to the care of our climbing areas. Once this Grants round is complete, it's likely that Tūpiki Trust will have invested nearly \$3,000,000 into our sport, thanks to the very generous support of climbers like you. If you'd like to know more about the Trust, or join their quarterly Newsletter mail list to get all the info on these grants, check out their website at www.tupikitrust.org.nz or email them at admin@tupikitrust.org.nz



ACAT News -

High Court overturns Whakaari landowner's conviction

The Court's decision has far-reaching implications for climbing and other recreational access on private land. It may help to resolve many of the issues climbers have faced in recent years.

Read more [here](#)

For more on what ACAT has been up to click on the links below

[Incremental Progress at Mangorewa Gorge](#)

[ACATS submission on proposed access charges for conservative land](#)

[ACATS submission on DOCs modernising conservation management proposals](#)

Antarctica NZ Scott Base 2025 Staff Wanted



Antarctica New Zealand is the Crown Entity that manages Scott Base, New Zealand's research station in Antarctica. We proudly ensure Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are valued, protected and understood. Our role is to support world-leading science and environmental protection and share why it is important with New Zealanders. To do this, we have passionate teams based at Scott Base and in Christchurch.

Applications for roles at Scott Base for the upcoming season are now open. We are looking for a range of skill sets, including a number of field-based roles requiring outdoor, mountain, safety, climbing, guiding, traverse, remote location type experience. Please head to our website and check out how you could support our team for 6-12 months in Antarctica!

Apply [Careers | Antarctica New Zealand](#)

Info people@antarcticanz.co.nz



North Island Otago Polytech Avalanche ARM5 Course

Some members in the North Island may be interested in professional level avalanche training being held there for the first time in 3 years. The Otago Polytechnic Avalanche Risk Management Level 5 course is scheduled to be held at Whakapapa on the 4-10 October.

More info available here: [OP ARM L5 INFO](#)

Enrolments can be done on-line or by contacting Barbara Emmitt on 08007659276



FMC Update

February was busy.

We were advocating for free access to our National Parks and for public participation in conservation decision-making as well as looking into making Backcountry magazine better.

Read what we've been up to and what we are doing to protect the wild places and support the outdoor community in our latest Newsletter.

<https://fmc.org.nz/what-we-do/publications/fmc-newsletters/>

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

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You are receiving this email as a member of the NZAC

Our mailing address is:

New Zealand Alpine Club

Unit 6, 6 Raycroft Street

Waltham

Christchurch, Canterbury 8023

New Zealand

