



4 Apr, 2025

Kia ora

Autumn, last of the summer rock climbing. Time to dig around in the gear box to find the crampons.

Now is also time to celebrate something big in climbing access!

ACAT joined an appeal in the High Court to successfully overturn a case brought by WorkSafe against the landowner of Whakaari White island.

Why is this legal precedent important?

It is important because it is a demonstration that citizen-funded advocacy can make the case law that changes landowner liability for recreation activities for the better - for landowners and climbers. It is a demonstration that your voice – in the form of contributions to fund the work of ACAT – has power.

Our club supported the founding of ACAT to do this kind of work. I encourage you to be part of ACAT's work in your area by adding your mahi at the crag, your voice to share good news like this, and your financial support to make these things for the good of climbing – and society – possible.

I'm also celebrating another edition of Wānaka Cragfest. I had a blast, climbing with friends I only see there and extending my climbing skills again. The weather was even better than last year too!

It is also time to prepare for the big winter activities of the club, like the Banff Film Festival World Tour screenings (welcome to the screening family, Hokitika!), NIBS, and all the local winter instruction courses and the specialist high alpine courses too!

Your board and GM are working on strategic initiatives, and this is board election year. Think about who you want to represent you at the board table.

I hope I see you on the crags and mountains this autumn.

Mā te wā,

Jim

President

Image: Eugene Yeo - Honours in Alpine Activity Category Photographic Comp 2024

Club News

New Membership Prices and categories	Price
Full	\$130
Under 26 (combining U18 and 19-25)	\$85
Senior	\$95
35 Year Veteran	\$75
Household	\$205
Senior Household	\$145
NZAJSubscription	\$50
Overseas postage levy	\$25

Membership Price Increases

We are proud we have managed to keep our subscription prices unchanged for nine years. During that time however, our costs have significantly increased, and we are now in a position where we must lift subscriptions so we can continue to deliver all our services to you.

We are keeping the increases as low as we can. It is also important that the club continues to regularly review our subscriptions to ensure they are appropriate to maintain value for members and financial sustainability of the club

We will introduce the new prices for membership renewals from 8 April 2025.

Membership Survey



It's the last chance to have your say in this year's Membership Survey.

Please complete our 10-minute survey [here](#) to let us know what you think we are doing well and what we could improve. We use the information to inform our annual and strategic planning - both happening at the moment.

Complete the survey by **April 11th**, and you'll be entered to win a \$150 Macpac voucher! Just leave your email address where requested at the end of the survey.

We will publish the results a bit later in the year.



Climbing New Zealand collab with NZAC

Late last year, Climbing New Zealand approached us to investigate how the two organisations might be able to work more closely together. We are going to be talking with them to investigate whether there might be areas where the two organisations could collaborate. Currently the management of the two organisations are exploring what this could involve, to bring any proposals to the governance of the two organisations for consideration. If you have any thoughts

or opinions on this work, please don't hesitate in contacting the General Manager or a Board member. We will let you know more as this progresses.



2025 is a Board Election Year

Election nominations won't open until June, but now is the time to start talking to people who you would like to see on the Club Board.

For information about the Board and the role, you can click [here](#).

Get Involved



National Winter Courses are up on our website

Backcountry Avalanche - is designed to build upon the knowledge learned through an Avalanche Awareness course or similar.

Leading on Technical Ice & Women's Leading on Technical Ice - is designed for fit mountaineers who are able to look after themselves on 35-degree snow slopes, confidently leading traditional rock climbs, have good rope management skills and experience of camping in snow.

Glacier Ski Course - is designed for strong intermediate (or better) skiers with experience skiing in steep slackcountry/backcountry terrain and with excellent aerobic fitness wanting to learn the core skills to safely ski on glaciated terrain. This is not a 'learn to ski' course.

High Alpine Skills & Walk In/Out High Alpine Skills - is designed for enthusiastic intermediate mountaineers who are looking to learn the skills to travel safely on glaciated terrain and lead climbs on New Zealand's high alpine peaks.

For more information and to register click [here](#).



Crag Fest 2025 Wrap-Up!

What a weekend! Crag Fest 2025 brought together **145 climbers** from across Aotearoa, with participants ranging from first-time outdoor climbers to seasoned pros. We had **sold-out clinics**, a **sustainability project with 150 trees planted**, and a buzzing social atmosphere thanks to our highly rated social events. Thank you to everyone who replied to the survey; prizes and results will be released within the next week.

Some quick stats:

- **Regional turnouts:** Ōtākou/Otago (45.1%), Waitaha/Canterbury (20.2%), Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington (13.3%)
- **Sold out 3 weeks in advance with nearly 100 people on the waitlist**
- **80 volunteers** helped plant 150 trees at Rabbit Pond, Glendhu Station
- **Gender split:** 50% women, 47.1% men, 2.9% other
- **Age brackets:** 13-17 (1.4%), 18-24 (13.8%), 25-39 (80%), 40-59 (20.7%), 60+ (2.1%)
- **Clinic attendance:** 41.2% attended a clinic, 90% want to attend one next year

A **video recap and photos** are coming soon, and a **more detailed event report** will be published in the next **New Zealand Alpine Journal (NZAJ)**. A massive thank you to all our **attendees, instructors, volunteers, and the WCC & NZAC teams, especially Inka Vogt and Ashlee Peeters** —this event wouldn't have been possible without you!

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.

See you at Crag Fest 2026!



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

Tickets are now on sale for Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour!

Ticket and programme details are available [here](#).

You can buy tickets [here](#).

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

Community



ACAT Update -

Whakaari White Island case a turning point for recreational access

A recent High Court decision agreed with ACAT's submissions, meaning the outdoor recreation community can reassure most landowners they take on no risk of liability if they permit public access.

The High Court's decision in *Whakaari Management Ltd (WML) v WorkSafe* relieves landowners of liability concerns around recreational activities and natural

hazards. This is a significant win for recreational access. Read the article [here](#).

Government commits to health and safety law reform in win for outdoor recreation access

Climbing access win!

We're stoked to share some big news: the government has announced plans to reform New Zealand's Health and Safety at Work Act — and it's a game changer for climbing access.

For years, liability concerns have made some landowners reluctant to allow climbing on their land. These changes will give landowners more confidence to keep crags open (or even reopen ones we've lost), without the fear of being held responsible if something goes wrong.

This win comes after years of hard mahi — legal advocacy, behind-the-scenes lobbying, and coalition building led by ACAT, backed by an incredible community of partner orgs and supporters like you. Read more [here](#).

Bowentown rusty anchors replaced with council and mana whenua approval

Local climbers, with support from ACAT and the Kimi Worrell Fund, have revamped this seaside crag and developed relationships with the key stakeholders. Read further on our [website](#).



NZAC Tūpiki Trust - Grants Announced Soon

The Tūpiki Trust Board members are in the final stages of considering twelve applications received for grants in March 2025. These ranged from a simple request for a contribution to a bolting project through to funding for a complex analysis of an organisation's future climbing support facilities, and everything in between. In total the applicants asked for almost \$475,000 from the Tūpiki Trust to help organisations, community groups and individuals deliver well over \$750,000 in projects to the climbing community in Aotearoa. The Tūpiki Trust will be announcing the grant results in their newsletter due out later this month. If you'd like to be added to the Tūpiki Trust's mailing list to keep up-to-date with their projects, or would like to make grant, donation or bequest to help them carry on their work, just email admin@tupikitrust.org.nz and they'll be in touch.



FMC News

Backcountry Magazine

Links to the last two issues of Backcountry Magazine below. The latest issue has just been published.

[FMC Backcountry March 2025](#)

[FMC Backcountry November 2024](#)

FMC Members continue to receive a 20% discount on DOC Backcountry Passes

Great news! FMC members will continue to receive a 20% discount on the DOC Backcountry Hut Pass until 30 June 2030.

Although this discount isn't as much as in previous years, it is the maximum that DOC will grant under its new Discount Policy. We also share members' disappointment that DOC won't extend this discount to campsite passes despite our persistent advocacy on this.

OENZ Online Weather Course - Club member discount offer

As a special promotion, and one our club members may find valuable, is the OENZ online weather course. As tramping and alpine enthusiasts, understanding weather patterns can significantly enhance the safety and enjoyment of your outdoor adventures. Our upcoming beginners weather course dives deep into essential topics over four engaging sessions held online via Zoom every Tuesday night from 7 pm to 9 pm.

Here's a brief overview of what the course covers:

- Global Weather Dynamics
- Air Pressure, Temperature, and Humidity
- Weather Forecasting Techniques
- Understanding New Zealand's Unique Climate
- Practical Skills for Predicting Field Changes

This course is designed to equip participants with practical knowledge that they can apply directly to their outdoor experiences, making it perfect for anyone who spends time in the wilderness.

We run this course twice a year, with our next course starting on **June 3rd**. We are offering a 10% discount for all club members. To claim this discount, members can book on our website and select the option to pay via invoice. They will need to supply us with a copy of their club membership to qualify for the discount.

You can read more about the course on the OENZ website: <https://www.oenz.co.nz/home/courses-overview/weather-course/>

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

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