

NZ ALPINE CLUB - AUCKLAND SECTION NEWSLETTER



June 2026

Kia ora koutou,

Winter is coming, and with it one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year for the Auckland Section. One of the club's biggest events and fundraisers, Banff, kicks off this evening. Thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets, volunteered their time, or encouraged friends and family to come along. It all makes a real difference.

A special thank you to Jacqui, who has led the organisation of Banff this year. Pulling off an event of this size takes an enormous amount of work and coordination, and we're all incredibly grateful for the many hours she has put in behind the scenes. Thank you, Jacqui.

I'd also like to thank Connor Newman for an excellent Section Night presentation on his climb of Lotus Flower Tower. The number of questions from members afterwards was a real reflection of how engaging and inspiring the presentation was. Just a reminder that there is no Section Night this month due to Banff, but we'll be back in July.

We're now well into the course season. On Saturday, 32 participants joined us for the Basic Snowcraft theory day, kicking off this year's course. We also have a First Aid course in Auckland this weekend with spots still available, followed by our Navigation course the following weekend, instructor development courses, and Intermediate Snowcraft.

We also have a great range of winter meets coming up. Make sure you're registered on HelloClub so you don't miss out. Keep an eye on your inbox and WhatsApp for updates, and remember that all the links can be found on the Auckland Section page of the New Zealand Alpine Club website.

Ngā mihi,
Chris
Auckland Section Chair



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 Tickets on sale now

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 33 screenings

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ALPINE CLUB

Paul Zizka



BANFF 2026 Starts THIS WEEK!

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is one of the biggest fundraisers for the club nationally - and we need your help to ensure it's as successful as possible!

Here are two ways you could get involved:

- Volunteer to help out on one or more of the nights (you'll get to stay and watch the films for free too!). Register your interest for the sessions on Hello Club in the June Calendar.
- **Bring your friends along to a screening**

Money raised pays for our huts, instruction, gear and all other things NZAC

Meets

It's time to get excited about our upcoming Alpine meets! **To attend, simply register with HelloClub and sign up.**

Alpine:

- North Island Ice & Mixed Meet: 25-26 July
- Tongariro Meet: 22-23 August
- Ladies Meet: 29-30 August
- Whakapapa Meet: 5-6 September
- Turoa Meet: 12-13 September
- Ski Touring & Mountaineering Meet: 19-20 September
- Taranaki Meet: 26-27 September

Have you gained experience in the last year and need your alpine level reviewed, so you can attend higher grade meets? Please email us!

Climbing nights

We're looking at starting formalised weekly climbing nights at the local gyms. We're looking for people that frequently climb at Extreme Edge, Birkenhead Leisure Centre and Vertical Adventures who would be keen to help out occasionally. In return we'll pay for two climbing sessions, one for that night, and another for you to enjoy in your own time.

Email us at nzacaucklandsection@gmail.com if you're keen!

Section Nights

Grey Lynn RSA 6.30pm

Thanks to everyone who attended this week's May Section Night!

We were joined by club member Connor Newman to hear about his Lotus Flower Tower climb.



June - No Section Night due to Banff

July 13th - Speaker TBC

HelloClub

HelloClub is now the hub for all things Auckland NZAC. Here you'll find all our upcoming courses, events and instruction, a directory of members to help find your new adventure buddies, gear hire and more. You can also save emergency contacts, dietary needs, and climbing experience - no more entering the same details for every event! It syncs to our calendar and frees up volunteer hours so we can focus on delivering more for the section.

If you haven't registered yet, we'd love you to jump on. It only takes a few minutes, and all info is on the Auckland section page.

This page is now our single source of truth for Events, Meets, Trips, and Instruction. While there is no app (yet) you can add to your Home Screen as a Web App by clicking the Share symbol next to the URL and find 'Add to Home Screen' option. On Android use the three-dot menu and click 'Add to Home Screen'

Member Updates!

We'd love to share more stories of your adventures in these newsletters. If you're happy to share an update and some photos, send us an email, or post on the Whatsapp Community or tag us on social media.

Maungarei Springs Open Day - Andy Baird

Shout out to AURAC and everyone who attended the MS Open Day!

It was fantastic to see people who came along to previous open days returning—this time as volunteers and participants on the open ropes. Everyone brought great energy, was incredibly supportive, and offered valuable encouragement to those with less experience.

It's been nine years since this work began, and the progress is remarkable—from gorse-covered slopes to flourishing kōwhai, muehlenbeckia, and more. A huge thanks to everyone for your ongoing effort and support!



Finding Climbing in Indonesia – What You Don't See Online - Vivek Naidu

I went to Indonesia earlier this year with a loose plan to dive, travel, and, if I was lucky, find some climbing along the way. I've been to Indo many times before and knew they are strong speed climbers but I never ever thought of climbing there. Before I left, I did what most of us would do: searched online. Facebook groups, Instagram, TheCrag. Aside from a few guided tours in Bali, there was almost nothing, no real route information, no obvious communities, no clear way in. It felt like climbing just... wasn't there.

That changed the moment I stopped looking online and started wandering in person.

In Bali, I found a handful of bouldering gyms, small, tucked-away spaces, but full of energy and very strong climbers. The movement and setting felt every bit as good as back home. Still, it all felt a bit disconnected from the outdoor scene I was hoping to find. It wasn't until I reached Manado in North Sulawesi that things really shifted. One evening, with no expectations, I followed a random pin on Google Maps to an outdoor wall in a place called God Bless Park. The walk took me through a maze of minivan cafés and a buzzing night crowd, and then suddenly, there it was: a lit-up outdoor climbing wall, and a full youth team training beneath it.



I introduced myself and met their coach, Jufri, who welcomed me in like I'd been there before. The next thing I knew, I was tying in for what they called a "warm-up", a 6c+ that felt anything but a warmup. The kids were effortlessly climbing routes 7c+, and their training was on another level: six days a week, preparing for national competitions, even using laser pointers to change routes mid-climb. It was humbling, a little confronting, and honestly pretty inspiring.

Over the next couple of days, talking with Jufri and local route setter Upik in my broken Bahasa, I realised just how much exists beneath the surface. Across Indonesia, there are established climbing communities under Federasi PanjatTebing Indonesia (FPTI), along with sport crags, trad lines, and multi-pitch routes, many with dozens of climbs. The catch? Almost none of it is properly documented online. If you don't already know where to look or who to ask you'd never know it's there.



Lombok told a similar story. Another vague map pin, another outdoor wall, and another group of incredibly strong climbers training quietly in the background. I met a young speed climber named Irma, who mentioned a personal best of 7.20 seconds, faster than what we currently see at the top end in New Zealand. Around them, there were families, kids, and beginners all sharing the space. It wasn't just high performance, it was a genuine, open community.

What stayed with me most from this trip wasn't just the climbing, it was how hidden it all is. Indonesia isn't lacking climbing; it's just not visible in the way we're used to. You have to step outside the apps and websites, wander a bit, start conversations, and trust that something might be there. When it is, you're often met with warmth, generosity, and a completely different perspective on what a climbing community can look like.

I'll definitely be heading back and this time with a bit more direction, and a lot more curiosity. If anyone's thinking about heading over and wants to find climbing beyond the usual channels, feel free to reach out. I'm more than happy to share what I've learned.

The Minarets, West Face - Vitalii & Angelica Shevchenko

Kia ora everyone,

We're Vitalii and Angelica, an Auckland-based couple who fell in love with the mountains and decided to see how far we could go.

Back in 2017, we attended a NZAC Auckland Section meeting where Ant Stead and Peter Cammell were presenting a pathway to becoming mountaineers. We walked into that meeting as curious hikers and left inspired by the possibilities the mountains could offer. Looking back, that evening was the beginning of everything.

We've just put together a Silent Climbing video of an ascent of The Minarets, one of the more intermediate-friendly 3000ers in the Southern Alps. Looking back, it was one of the most satisfying climbs we've done so far—not because it was the hardest, but because it felt like many of those years of learning were finally starting to pay off as we moved confidently across glaciers and up long, sustained snow slopes.

If our videos prove anything, it's that you don't have to be an elite athlete or professional climber to experience some incredible adventures that Aotearoa has to offer.

