



CANTERBURY WESTLAND SECTION NEWSLETTER

JULY

2026

UPRISING

YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE OUTDOORS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR
- UPCOMING EVENTS

2 July

July section talk

June/July

Winter warm-up
series

Sun 5 July

Mount Pleasant
Work party

3 August

Committee meeting
All welcome

August

Snowcraft Courses

Photo credit Adam Humphries. Mt Cheeseman Trip 2025

**Click on dates for more information*

Margaret Clark

1935 - 2026

Margaret Clark (91) - 68 years a member of the New Zealand Alpine Club and the Peninsula Tramping Club. Rest in Peace.

We are saddened to inform you that New Zealand Alpine Club Life Member Margaret Clark passed away last month in Christchurch. Margaret joined the club in 1958, a total of 68.5 continuous years membership.

Below is the proposal for Margaret's Life Membership, proposed by Geoff Gabites, seconded by Lydia Bradey in 2016.

There are few more female climbers more deserving of NZAC Life Membership than Margaret Clark. She has been an inspiration to many and in particular a strong role model for some of our most successful female climbers. In her biography, Lydia Bradey talks of falling under the tutelage of Margaret and husband Jim, first through the Peninsula Tramping Club and later through the NZAC. "...They took care of me and the evenings in their company were entertaining and happy." Lydia went on to climb Mt Aspiring with Margaret providing an early highlight in her climbing career.

Margaret was a strong advocate for clubs and was a member of both tramping clubs and the NZAC and presumably the CMC – if just to throw stones at their position on female membership. It is a surprise then to find so little about her in the NZAC publications. She did become the C/W section representation on the Club Committee for the three years 1969 – 1970. Margaret has been a member of the NZAC since January 1958 – a total of 58 years. The ClimbNZ route database records Margaret as having first ascents of the Northwest Buttress of Mt Madeline in the Darrans (1958) and the South Ridge of North Peak in the Jollie Range (1970).

Her climbing career goes back further than my research has been able but she followed a gradual progression from tramping the high alpine tramps into mountaineering. She has endured and this has allowed her to move through generations of female mountaineers, successively acting as a mentor and role model.

Her early expedition aspirations started with an all-female expedition to Mt McKinley in 1970. Margaret climbed the peak with her friend Faye Kerr and 3 others. At a time of a growing woman's liberation movement, she remarked "I hadn't heard of women's lib, because no-one told me I wasn't liberated".

In 1975 she and Faye co-lead a NZ-Indian expedition to Hardeol 7151 in India where tragically kiwi climbers



Jill Tremain and Vicki Thompson plus 2 Indian female team members perished in an avalanche.

In 1992 she organised an overseas expedition as part of the promotion of the Women's Climbing organisation. This trip took 8 women into the Indian Himalayas again to attempt Nanda Banar, close to the Inner Line. Due to heavy crevasse terrain, the peak was abandoned – but subsequently a nearby prohibited peak was climbed by the team. This may account for the absence of any write up of that trip in the NZAC literature.

Margaret has turned her mountaineering focus towards encouraging others to explore overseas and establishing YETI (Youth Expedition to India) she provided the means to encourage youth to explore and travel overseas. This later converted to a small specialist trekking company called Tikanga Treks which became Margaret's means of 'commercialising' her overseas activities.

On reflection, Margaret Clark provided – and continues to provide - a bridge between the past generations of climbers and youth. She has done that for several generations of climbers and her role in encouraging female participation in the outdoors has been outstanding. She has never stopped pursuing her mountain interests. On her 80th birthday undertook to complete 80 challenges - one for each year of her life. The word "challenge" meant one of: 6 hours tramping, 40 km biking, 600 m hill ascent and so on.

I am delighted to propose Margaret for Life Membership – well aware that I have only touched the surface of her contribution to the outdoors and the NZ Alpine Club.

July 2026 Section Talk

Thursday 2 July 2026

Canterbury Westland
Section Talk

The Cashmere Club
50 Colombo Street
Sydenham

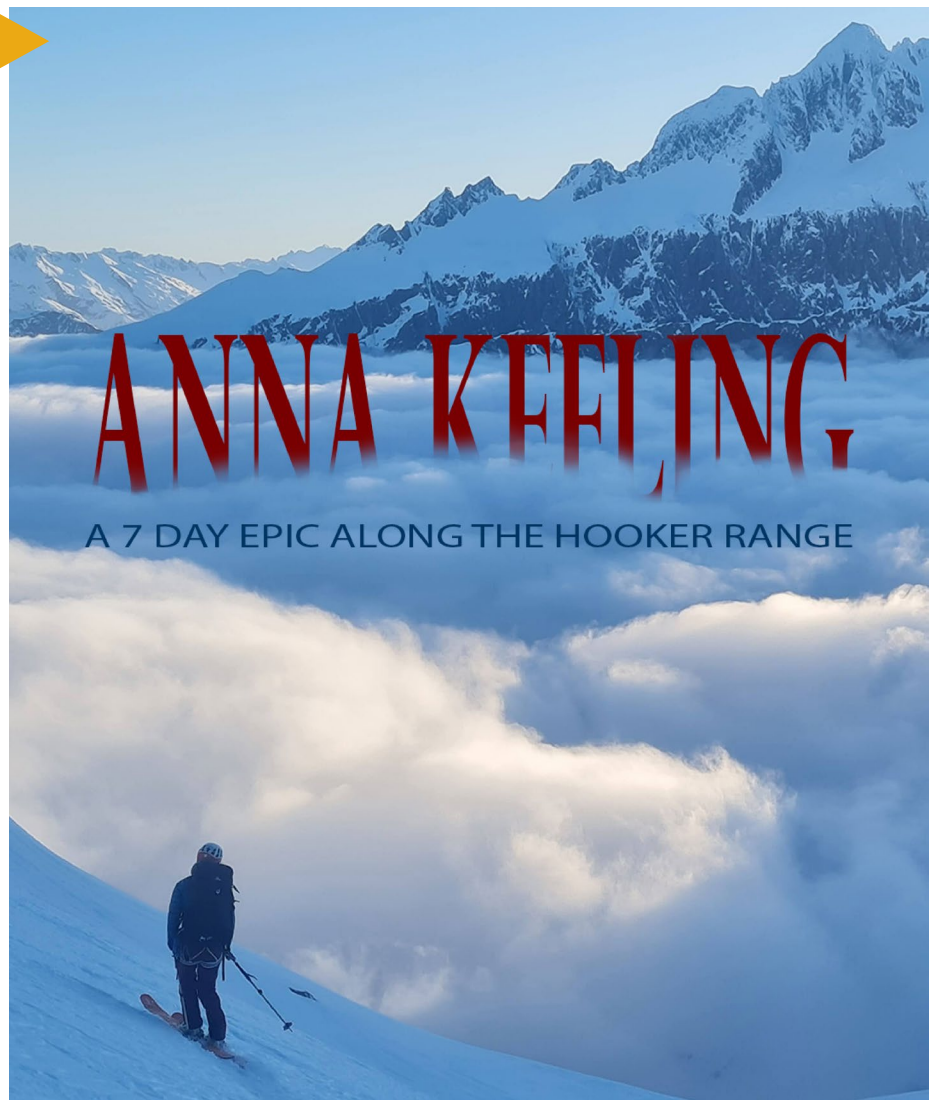
Thursday 2 July
Door opens at 7pm
Talk starts at 7:30pm

If you want to purchase an alcoholic drink from the bar, you must show a Guest pass. You can pick one of these up inside the room we meet in where they'll be on a table near the door.

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

FUTURE SECTION TALKS

- 6 August Yvonne Pflüger
(Transalpine trips to Snow-drift range)

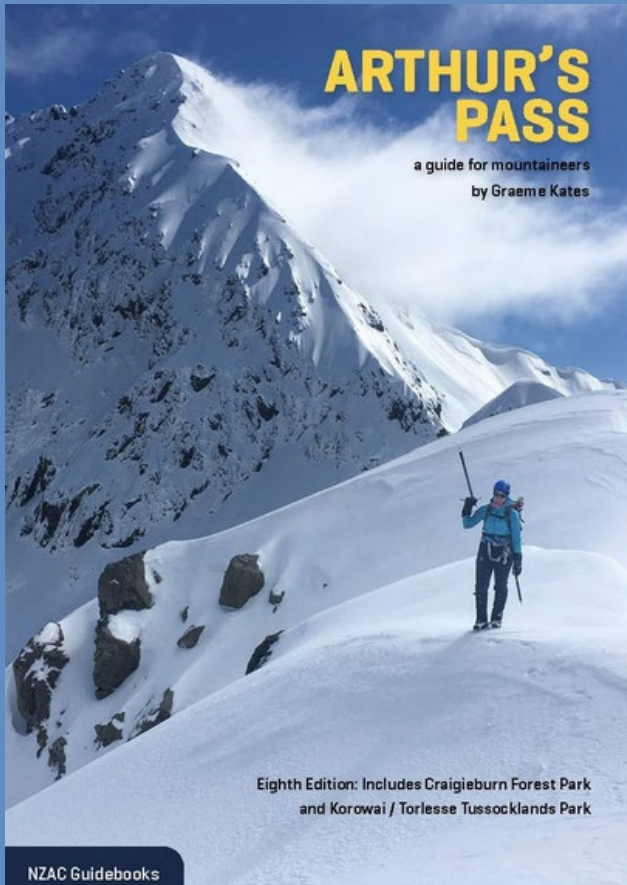


Come along to a talk by Anna Keeling about a truly out-there unique ski-mountaineering trip from Mt. Cook to the Paringa River on the West Coast. The team (Anna was accompanied by slightly younger legends Ruari Macfarlane and Troy Forsyth) skied, skinned, cramponed and battled some of the remotest high terrain in NZ.

If you've got any interest in ski-touring, mountaineering, remote NZ glaciers and peaks, you won't want to miss this talk, as it's a true full-on adventure carried out by some very talented alpinists.

Anna Keeling is a renowned IFMGA mountain ski-guide, who also trains and examines future guides in both NZ and US. She divides her time between Castle Hill and Utah, so has stacked up a frightening number of consecutive winters. In the NZ winter she guides and runs avalanche courses, and no-one knows the back bowls skiing in the Craigieburns like Anna. She owns her own guiding company (Anna Keeling Guiding) and is currently president of the NZ Mountain Guides Association.

Climbing community Honoured



NZAC are thrilled to see that three members of the climbing community have been awarded in the King's Birthday Honours lists.

Graeme Kates received the King's Service Medal for services to conservation and the community. Graeme Kates has edited seven editions of the Arthur's Pass guidebook, including the latest NZAC edition. He famously knows every rock, peak and valley in the Arthur's Pass region, and has seen it in all seasons. Graeme worked for DOC at Arthur's Pass for many years and since retiring has set up the Arthurs Pass wiki. <https://www.arthurspass.com/index.php>

Mervyn English has been admitted as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to governance and the community. The name Merv English is well-known to New Zealand climbers through his many first ascents, especially prominent in the Darrans region in the '70s-'80s.

Dr Kenneth Woodford has been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to agriculture and agribusiness. Known in climbing circles as Keith Woodford, or 'Woody', he was an active climber in the '70s and led the 1977 NZAC Everest trip.

Congratulations to all those awarded and thanks for your contributions to the community.



The Kea Conservation Trust invites you to an online kea kōrero supported by the New Zealand Alpine Club.

Come along for an informal presentation and chat to learn more about these unique species, and how you can get involved with citizen science.

Enjoy the backcountry and help us, help Kea!

Key event information:

- This is a FREE event.
- Monday 27th July
- 7.00pm - 8pm
- The meeting will take place on Zoom, so you can sign up from anywhere. You will be sent out a Zoom link on the day of the event to join.
- Members and non NZAC members welcome.

Click [here](#) to register

Work party July 2026

Mount Pleasant Sun 5 July 11am

Mt Pleasant 'left' work party. Sunday 5 July 11am. Everyone welcome!

We are looking to tidy up Mt Pleasant left crag as despite the earthquake damage on the left it still has a decent dash of good trad routes in the 17 to 24 range. It also gets the winter sun.

Meeting at Longridge Drive (the usual carpark for Britten crag)

Bring a spade and a saw or loppers if you have these.
Gardening gloves also useful.

We intend to plant 60 or more native trees in amongst the gorse patch and cut and paste the gorse along the base of the crag. (We will provide the gel). The main job though is the tree planting which should pay dividends in years to come.

Any questions contact
Grant Piper at
grant.piper66@gmail.com

WINTER

Warmup Series!

JUNE AND JULY 2026



WINTER WARMUP SERIES

Looking to get out of town, build fitness, and connect with other club members? Join our series of day trips across June and July —designed to get you into the hills and ticking off some solid elevation.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Day hikes to accessible peaks (think Mt Bealey, Avalanche Peak, Castle Hill, Enys, Cloudsley and more)
- A relaxed, social vibe with a focus on fitness and elevation
- Trips led every couple of weekends by experienced members

HOW IT WORKS:

- Sign up once to join the email list
- No fixed schedule—trips confirmed 3–4 days in advance based on weather
- Each trip is first in, first served when details go out

Whether you're building your hill fitness or just keen for a good day out with great people, this is an easy way to get involved and explore some classic local terrain.

Keen? Jump on the email list and be ready to go when the next trip drops.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Winter Warmup Trip Report

Trip report by Angus Glassenbury

Trip: 28/06/26 Mt. Cloudsley via long spur

On the 28th June a crack team of 9 NZAC Canterbury Westland members lead by Adam Humphries met at the start of the Hog's back behind Castle Hill village, with the goal of warming up the legs on Mt Cloudsley (2107 meters) via long spur.

The morning clag fell thick on the basin, and after a brief exchange of names we set off up the track bearing west towards the base of long spur a tick after 07:30AM. Rising gradually above the tree-line revealed a regrettably bare faced Cloudsley, having missed or lost much of the recent snow on the range.

An uneventful quad workout followed as we gradually ascended above the tussock and into the sea of scree, with a magnificent view of the clag blanketing the basin below, slowly burning off at the edges. Jim quipped that the crampons were being taken for a walk, and this line hung in the pleasantly still air of the morning.

Just before noon we hit the final ramparts of the spur, where the terrain steepened and scree gave way to a slightly more engaging broad snowy ridge - this is where helmets and axes were donned, and the team safely ascended to summit.





A long summit lunch in low-moderate wind allowed the team to soak in a panoramic view of southern Alps poking out between layers of cloud. The descent was a brisk masterclass in scree surfing lead by Adam, followed by a muddy trudge back through the hogs back track which had previously been more solid in the early morning frost.

A quick detour to get more miles on the legs by some members of the team created a staggered finish, and we made our separate ways back to Ōtautahi clocking in a leisurely 7 hours car to car.

Mount Cloudsley photos: Adam Humphries



May Section Talk Review

Review by Lisa Donning



Section Talk Review: Argentina & Chile with Andy, Kate, Greg, and Jean

What an evening! The May section talk was one of those nights that reminded us why we love this club — informative, entertaining, and thoroughly good fun.

The team behind the trip to Argentina and Chile clearly had as much fun presenting as they did travelling. One speaker took to the stage in full game show host regalia, mic in hand, interviewing the others with all the flair the role demands. The highlight of the props department? A leaf blower repurposed as a wind machine, giving the audience a very literal taste of the relentless Patagonian winds the group had battled. It was that kind of evening.

Adding a wonderful local flavour to the night was Fernando, a friend of the team and proud Argentine, who joined them on stage in traditional dress to share a little about his home country and field questions from the audience.

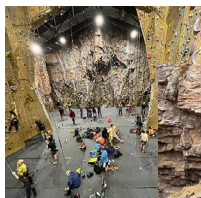
The talk opened with some honest reflection on goal setting. The team had originally set out with ambitions for some notable firsts, but somewhere along the way — perhaps wisely — the objectives shifted. The new goal: go to South America and have a really good time. By all accounts, mission accomplished.

We were treated to photos of their campsite nestled at the foot of the mountains, a map showing the breadth of their travels across Argentina and Chile, and plenty of tales from their time on the hill — because there was a lot of climbing.

As the trip wound down, the group split. Kate and Andy headed off for more climbing, because apparently the mountains weren't done with them yet. Greg and Jean, showing perhaps greater wisdom, went north in search of warmth — and found it, along with horses to ride and, if memory serves, a wine region or two to explore.

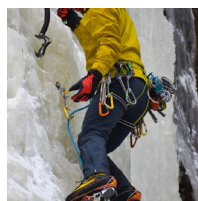
A fantastic evening — many thanks to Andy, Kate, Greg, and Jean (and Fernando!) for sharing it with us.

Club details in brief



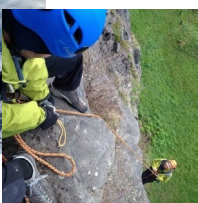
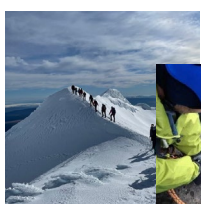
Midweek Climbing

Join our midweek climbing crew for a variety of local climbing opportunities year-round. Indoors during winter and outdoors in the summer. You can join the Whatsapp group to receive regular WhatsApp messages detailing sessions.



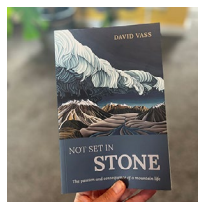
Gear Hire

The section has a range of winter gear for hire. 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.



Summer & Winter Courses

A wide range of courses are run through the year. No matter what level you are at there is something for everyone. Sport to Trad climbing in the summer. Snow courses in the winter.



Library

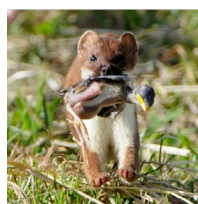
The section has a vast selection of books and dvds available to borrow. You must have a current NZAC membership card.



Trips and Meets

Trips are hosted by & on behalf of current members of the CW Section of NZAC. You need to be a current member of the NZAC to participate.

Meets are open to everyone & are a great way to find out if you would like to become a NZAC member.



Trapline

Did you know that the club look after the Bealey Spur trapline? If this is something you think you might like to get involved with you can visit our website for further details.

For information on any of the above plus much more visit our website

[HERE](#)



CANTERBURY WESTLAND SECTION OF NZAC

YOUR COMMUNITY IN THE OUTDOORS

ROCK CLIMBING COURSES

SNOW SKILL COURSES

SECTION TRIPS & MEETS

INSPIRING MONTHLY TALKS

