
President's Report 2022



APRIL 2022

Climbing New Zealand

Authored by: Richard Waldin

Climbing New Zealand AGM 2022

President Report

This report covers the period up to early April 2022, it therefore does not include all events in the 2021/22 climbing season.

The last 12 months have continued to be a challenge for everyone. Sport has been impacted again and again through various phases and government responses to Covid-19. I would like to particularly acknowledge the impact on those in the Northern regions who have borne the brunt of the restrictions, and this resulted in climbers unable to compete. The other major impact was the loss, for a second year, of two really important opportunities for our Youth with both AIMS Games and National Secondary Schools Championships cancelled.

The other significant impact of covid restrictions has been the limiting or loss of access to gaming charities funding to support our events.

International events were completely off our menu in 2021.

For everyone involved in the event organization it has been a challenge and I personally have found the year mentally draining.

Despite the challenges we have things to celebrate.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and welcome our newest club, the Fiordland Climbing Club. Having followed the fundraising and development of their new facility over the last 2 years it was great to welcome some of their climbers to the Queenstown Youth bouldering event and more recently welcome them as a new CNZ club.

Secondly, we have had a significant uplift in sponsorship in the last 12 months. La Sportiva have come onboard as our National Championship series naming sponsor for a 3 year period. A big thanks to the team at Mountain Adventures for bringing this new

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agreement to us and in having the confidence in us to support the La Sportiva brand through our events. This is a significant uplift for us and provides some financial confidence as we negotiate out of covid and look to see how we can reinvest back into the sport based on our Strategic Plan goals and activities.

We were also very pleased to have RAB continue as a sponsor of our events. I really want to acknowledge the support that RAB has provided to Climbing New Zealand over the last few years as a platinum sponsor, and staying with us this year. They continue to be so supportive and generous with donations of product at our events. The North Face also continues to be a long term sponsor, and we are grateful for your continued commitment. Finally, we welcomed Black Diamond as a new sponsor for the 2021/22 season. It is great to have them with us and we look forward to building our relationship.

This is a full house of sponsors for our event programme. I wish to acknowledge Chris Gatland for his work over several years to help make this happen.

With the initial two year SkySport Next broadcasting deal ending at the end of 2021, we are looking forward to some new broadcasting arrangements for the Sport going forward and we hope to see an announcement on some of this in the coming weeks.

The other major news and achievement in the last 12 months has been the establishment of a Speed Climbing Development Squad with the focus on getting an athlete or athletes to the Paris 2024 or Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. Very much the brainchild of Rob Moore, we have seen the squad and programme established, which then attracted the attention of HPSNZ and through their aspirational sport pathway resulted in some funding for the programme. Congratulations to Rob on this significant achievement.

On to our National events in 2021. We managed to get our Championship season underway with the Youth and Masters Bouldering Championships in Queenstown in late October. This was CNZ's first event in Queenstown at the Basecamp Adventure

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Centre, and our first event in the South Island since 2016! We had to proceed with this event without athletes from Auckland and the Waikato due to covid restrictions. It was not an easy decision but we felt that it was important to get events happening and athletes climbing again. The event was well supported with over 90 competitors. The gym was a great venue for this event. Huge thanks to Loz and the team from Basecamp Adventures for hosting us and to Chris and the Wanaka Cliffhangers club members for supporting the event. Pete Lofthouse was challenged by covid to bring a setting team together. To help manage the setting workload a change to the setting approach was implemented for qualifiers, with graduated adjustments to each block as they set for each grade, which worked very well.

In mid-December we held our Open Bouldering Championships (delayed from September due to covid-19) at the Uprising gym in Christchurch. Another first, being hosted at Uprising and another change to the route-setting approach with the Uprising team providing the core of the setters with Pete Lofthouse overseeing as head setter.

It was a successful event and enjoyed by all. Erica Gatland and Tom Waldin were crowned champions for 2021/22. Thanks to Sefton and Callum for supporting and hosting the event at Uprising.

Our most recent event was our Speed Championships held at Blake Park, Mount Maunganui in early February 2022. Being a standalone event and with covid-19 numbers on the rise again, the event attracted a smaller field this year. However, the climbing made up for it. New national records were set in the Youth D male and female categories and new Youth A and Open male records were broken by Julian David with a new best time of 8.748 seconds. Julian David and Sarah Tetzlaff were crowned our Speed Champions for 2021/22. A big thanks to BOPSCA for making their facility available and for hosting and supporting the event.

Across all the events, a big thanks to Shane Death our POJ, Dion Clapperton our CNZ Rep and head judges Matt Darnbrough and Kim David.

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Thanks must go to Peter Lofthouse and Rob Moore for leading the selection processes. A big thanks to Ian Hallam who has been the CNZ appointed selection convener for the last 2 years. Ian is stepping down from this role. Ian has set up some great systems to support the selection process which can otherwise be complex to manage, so there is a great base for our new convener who will need to be appointed shortly.

At the grassroots I want to acknowledge those who have continued to provide events last year and in particular, I want to shout out to the work of Auckland Sport Climbing Club and their associations who established and ran the Auckland College Series of climbing events.

As the end to covid restrictions have emerged, international events have come back into sight. Australian Youth Nationals, World Youth Champs, Oceania Champs are all now scheduled and we are now rushing to be organized for these.

We also have Open athletes heading away to compete in the World University Climbing Championships (4 athletes), Two athletes are also looking to compete in World Cups in Europe and Rachel Maia is set to compete in 3 Para-climbing World Cups. Our speed programme athletes will also head to World Cups in Asia later in the year.

The attendance at a University Climbing Championships is a first for New Zealand athletes and we hope to see this happen more regularly with this event scheduled every two years.

I really look forward to seeing our athletes compete in these events throughout 2022.

Last week Chris Warburton and I presented an updated draft of the CNZ Strategic Plan to the committee and clubs. We got some great feedback to assist us with finalizing the document. Further clarity on the purpose and vision is required. Priority actions identified within the plan were event planning and support, route-setter development, coaching framework to support our athletes and organizational maturity and resilience.

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Thanks to all those in the community who commented on the first draft which helped to guide its further development.

We have progressed with a new draft constitution that still needs some finalizing as we wait for new legislation to be passed through parliament. Thanks to Mike Birchler for his many hours that have gone into this document to date.

We also implemented a revised membership model from mid-2021 as we looked to redistribute some of the membership costs and provide pathways for new clubs to join CNZ. With covid impacts and delays we have not completed a full year under the new model. After the full year we will review the model to see if the outcomes have met our original objectives.

To the CNZ Committee, thank you for everything you do to support Climbing New Zealand and ultimately support our athletes. On the committee thank you for supporting each other and supporting me in my role.

I would like to thank Sarah Tetzlaff and Ian Hallam who I know are stepping down from their CNZ roles at this year's AGM.

I want to also acknowledge those outside of the committee who contribute significantly, including Conor Boyd (website and roaming photographer), Chris Gatland (Sponsorship), Lisia Grocott (PIKI Support), David Sanders (Oceania Council Rep), and Sarah Hay (Oceania Council Rep, Stream Services planning and social media support).

To our clubs and communities, thank you for supporting our sport and for all of you who have volunteered your time at events, thank you, we can not do this without you all.

To our athletes, we look forward to providing or supporting more opportunities for great climbing events and experiences soon.

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