On route with the false summit. Tupungato to the left. *(Mauro Schmiedt)*

the Arroyo la Olla followed by the Arroyo Negro. They descended the Río Tunuyán on the return. Camp 2 was erected at 3920m and the group split in two. Gómez and Ferri ascended a virgin 5039m peak, calling it Cerro Bautismo. Schmiedt and Cavassa erected two more camps, the final one being camp 4 (S33º 29' 19.52" W 69º 42' 06.11"). On 20 November they departed at 6:30am, reaching the summit at 1:55pm by a variant of the Japanese route (north-west ridge) and on the summit found a cairn with an ice axe left by the 1984 expedition. On descent they reached their camp at 7:30pm.

Correction: In last year's *Notes* I wrote about a first ascent of the Argentine face of Olivares del Límite (6220m), an enormous glaciated massif lying along the Argentine province of San Juan and the border with Chile. While there had been no record of ascents from Argentina, we now know that there had been some previous ascents because Glauco Muratti had left a record in the summit book. In some areas of Argentina, and in the Andes in general, there is still relatively little information regarding climbing activity.

KESTER BROWN

New Zealand

New Zealanders were productive in the mountains again in 2014. Fiordland proved a popular venue, with much of the new route activity taking place in the Darran Mountains. A few notable ascents have also been recorded in the Mt Aspiring and Aoraki Mt Cook national parks.

Fiordland

The south face of Mt Suter, at the head of Falls Creek, fell at the hands of Ben Dare and Stephen Skelton. The pair climbed a grand couloir of ice that cleaves the imposing face from base to summit before enduring a cold bivouac and long descent.

The NZAC Southland Section Darrans Winter Climbing Meet happened again, and was a success again. Jaz Morris, Allan Uren and Al Walker sent the *Tunnel of Love* on the Tunnel Bluffs. Reg Measures and Kieran Parsons got sucked into *The Vortex* (5, 10p), also on the Tunnel Bluffs. Karl Greasley, Olivia Barron and Niall McLean did a new line left of *Double Vision* called *Ptero-vision.* Mike Buchanan and Jaz Morris wrapped up proceedings with a nifty little two-pitch line in the same vicinity as the aforementioned routes.

In February, Ben Dare and Daniel Joll did their second new route on the south face of Marian Peak; *Mater Dei* is grade 20 and 1000m long. Ben and Daniel also completed a variation to the original line on the south face of East Twin in March. Danilo Hegg, Max Olsen, Peter Wilson and James Thornton completed the first crossing from Mackay Creek into the Transit via a steep climb on the eastern side of the cirque at the head of the valley. In March, Stephen Skelton and Allan Uren ventured onto the south face of Barrier Peak and completed a new rock route. Sticking to the traditional naming convention for the face, they titled their climb the *Uren/Skelton* (19, 5–6p).

On 27–30 March, Guy McKinnon completed the first solo of the Kaipo Wall via the *Range Rover Route,* finding some real adventure along the way.

On 22–24 November 2013 Stanley Mulvany, Paula Macfarlane and Reece Mackenzie made the first ascent of the South Ridge of Mills Peak. Stanley, Paula and Reece also ventured onto Mitre Peak in winter to make the possible first winter ascent; it may be that Mike Berry previously climbed Mitre in winter.

In February, Kester Brown and Stephen Skelton got up *The Little Hard Climb* (I, 22, 4p) on the west side of the Petit Dur, and *Russian Gas Pedal Direct* (III, 20, 8p) on the west face of Taiaroa. Greg Jack, Troy Mattingley and Jean Tompkins got *Chumped* (I, 21, 3p), which is also on the west side

Ben Dare approaching another sustained vertical section of ice on the first ascent of the south face of Mount Suter, Earl Mountains, Fiordland. *(Stephen Skelton)*

of the Petit Dur, before they went *Up the Guts* (I, 22, 5p), on the north face of the Rothorn. Greg, Troy and Kester also claimed they were *Over the Rain Bro* (II, 19, 6p), on the first pillar of the south-east ridge of Tuhawaiki.

In February and March 2014, Georg Pollinger and Anton (Toni) Baumgartner, both from Germany, made first ascents of the following routes in Fiordland: *Headbanger* (18, 6p), on the first pillar of the south-east ridge of Mt Tuhawaiki; *Golden Octopus* (Ungraded, 9+p), on the second pillar of the south-east ridge of Mt Tuhawaiki; *Rising High* (20/21, 8p), on the east face of Karetai Peak; *Reise durch den Wahnsinn* (Ungraded, 10p), on the south face of Mt Makere; *The Blast* (21, 4p), on the Diamond Face of Moir's Mate; *Marder der Lüfte* (16, 5p), on the west face of Adelaide Peak; and *Infinite Sky* (Ungraded, 9p), on Gento Peak (Pk1705), in the Bowen valley.

Late additions to the Central Darrans include first ascents of *Kilroy Wuz Ere* (II, 21, by Richard Thomson, Dave Vass and Rich Turner) and *Brothers in Arms* (II, 22, by James Spiers and Rich Turner) on the north-west face of Nga Mokopuna (a pinnacled peak between Te Wera and Karetai). Zac Orme and Troy Mattingley put up *Yeah, Nah, Dur* (I, 24) on the east face of the Mighty Dur, and *Mr Mercedes* (I, 19) on the north-west side of the Rothorn, both in Te Puoho Basin. Finally, on the first buttress of the south-east ridge of Tuhawaiki, above Rainbow Lake, Kieran Parsons and Mike Buchanan managed to *Weigh a Pie* (II, 19).

Mt Aspiring National Park

Guy McKinnon pulled off the climb of the millennium when he completed the long-awaited second winter ascent of the east face of Popes Nose, in impeccable style. Notably, Guy walked in and out via the West Matukituki, climbed solo *and* attempted to link the east face into the north-east face of Mt Aspiring. Guy was also active in the park in the preceding autumn. On 9 March he achieved the first solo (and third overall) ascent of the east face of Fastness Peak, following approximately the line of the *Dickson/Sveticic Route.* Erik Bradshaw had also been occupied with Fastness, making the first ascent of the south face of the peak in early February.

In September 2013, Alexis Belton and Jaz Morris climbed six pitches of compact, snow-covered schist on the first ascent of a new route on the south face of Glengyle Peak, taking the central gully. In early September 2014, Ben Dare and Daniel Joll found a new line on the right-hand side of the south face of Mt Aspiring; they climbed 12 pitches, the hardest of which was grade M4, to produce *Shooting Star.* Ben was in the same area back in June, climbing some good ice-cragging-style routes on the south-west side of Mt French with Stephen Skelton.

Southern Lakes

On the Remarkables, new ice and mixed routes were made aplenty. On the south face of Single Cone Ben Dare and Danny Murphy climbed *Eclipse* (M6+, WI2, 125m)—a large corner of ice and then rock. Ben Dare, Stephen Skelton and Adam Carlson climbed *The Principal's Daughter* (M5+,

The south face of Mt Aspiring (top) and the east face of Popes Nose (right) from the ridge between the Avalanche and Hood glaciers, Mt Aspiring National Park. This photo was taken by Guy McKinnon the day before he climbed the east face of Popes Nose. *(Guy McKInnon)*

4p) on the Telecom Tower in thin early season conditions. Stephen joined forces later in the season with Graham Johnson to claim *Naturalisation* (20, M6, 7p) on the west face of Double Cone.

A slew of new routes were completed during the frenzy of the annual Remarkables Ice and Mixed Festival. Those who did the hardest climbs were rewarded with swag and glory, the honours went to Jono Clarke and Diane Drayton this year for *Boys Don't Cry* (M6+) and *Bad Corner* (M4) respectively. Freddy Varengo won the Osprey Packs Double to Single Cone Traverse Race.

On 11 January, Ben Dare ascended the previously unclimbed North-east Buttress (15/16, 700m) of Somnus. On 25 January, Adam Carlson and Ben Dare made the first ascent of the East Face (MC3,14/15) of F-Knob, opposite Emily Peak from Emily Pass, near the Routeburn valley. In early March, Martin Hawes and Derek Chinn climbed a new grade 16-ish route on the west face of Emily Peak, in the Humboldt Mountains.

Aoraki Mount Cook area

In early December 2013, Ben Dare soloed the first ascent of a line left of *Runts in Paradise* on the south face of Nazomi. Also in December 2013 Kieran Parsons and Rob Frost approached the upper Landsborough via the Karangarua valley and proceeded to do the first ascent of the massive North-west Ridge of Mt Burns. The pair descended the Mueller to Mount Cook village. Not long after, on 11 January, Guy McKinnon soloed a new link-up on the south face of Mt Hicks. *Dance Commander* (MC4+) is an accessible but engaging route and is not as relentlessly steep as the other climbs on the face.

In August, Chris Elliot and Lee Mackintosh climbed a new ice line on the 19th called *Natural Selection* (IV); the route climbs on the south side of the buttress that forms the toe of the west ridge of Mt Darwin. On the 28th, Steve Eastwood and Taichiro Naka made the first winter ascent of the north-west face of Douglas Peak.

Other areas

During the NZAC Arthur's Pass Winter Climbing Meet, Sarwan Chand and Jack Grinsted climbed a new route up a 150m couloir on Mt Speight's north-east ridge; their route is called *Camp Mum* and is grade MC3/4. Ben Dare made the first winter ascent of the south-east face (MC5, 450m, WI4-, M4) of Ferintosh Peak in the Ben Ohau Range on 8 July. Steve Harris and Pete Harris ticked off the first ascent of the west face of Lyttle Peak on the Navigator Range; their route is called *The Architect* (MC4-, 16, 500m).