

## Hilaree O'Neill



Hilaree O'Neill (USA) was introduced to the world of big mountain skiing and climbing while living in Chamonix, France, for five years. Her mountain adventures led *Outside Magazine* to name Hilaree one of the most adventurous women in the world of sports. Hilaree has repeatedly made a mark in the Himalayas. In 2005, she climbed the 8,000-metre peak Cho Oyu in Tibet and made the second female ski descent without oxygen. In 2012, Hilaree became the first woman to climb consecutive 8,000-metre peaks in a single day – Everest and its neighbour, Lhotse. In 2015, Hilaree attempted another Himalayan giant, Makalu, which was named by *Outside Magazine* as one of the “Most Badass Adventures of 2015”. Hilaree has entered the record books for high-altitude innovation and prowess. Between expeditions, Hilaree spends her time as a mother, adventuring with her two sons, ages six and eight. Her writing has been published in *National Geographic Adventure*, *National Geographic's "The Call of Everest"*, the *Ski Journal*, *Outside Magazine Online*, the *Outdoor Journal*, and several other publications.

## Paul Pritchard



Paul Pritchard (AUS) was a cutting-edge rock climber and mountaineer; adventuring in the Himalaya, Karakoram, Patagonia, Baffin Island, the Pamirs, and the European Alps. He has published three books – two of which have won the Boardman/Tasker Award and one was the Banff Mountain Book competition Grand Prize winner. During a 1998 world mountaineering trip, Paul acquired a brain injury when a boulder fell on his head whilst climbing the Totem Pole in Tasmania. The accident resulted in hemiplegia and he lost the power of speech for many months. Since his accident, Paul has continued to lead a challenging life: climbing Kilimanjaro, lead climbing, and in 2011 he tri-cycled across Tibet to Everest Base Camp. He successfully climbed the Totem Pole again in April 2016.

## Harry Vandervlist



Harry Vandervlist edited *Jon Whyte: Mind Over Mountains, Selected and Collected Poems* in 2000. He publishes magazine articles and scholarly writing on mountain literature, which he also teaches in the English Department at the University of Calgary. Over the past ten years he has taught several mountain literature courses which bring university students to the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival, and has often served as a panelist and moderator at Festival events. His reviews and essays have appeared in the *Globe and Mail*, *Quill and Quire*, *AlbertaViews*, *Avenue*, and *Swerve* (where his mock expedition journal “The MacLeod Trail Expedition” won a Western Magazine Award).