
Homer Hut

New Zealand Alpine Club Hut Information Sheet

How do I get there?

Homer hut is located before the eastern (Te Anau) side Homer Tunnel entrance, at a place called Homer Forks. The sign post to look out for is actually 'Gertrude Valley' and the 'Gertrude Saddle Track'.



There is car access almost to the hut depending on the weather, the state of the river and the condition of the short access road. If in doubt, park in the sign posted carpark on the road side of the dry river bed.

What is there to do?

The prime purpose for Homer Hut is to provide ready access to the Darran Mountains, New Zealand's premier alpine rock climbing area. Unlike most of New Zealand, the rock here is granite, which allows rock climbing of unsurpassed quality on crags and buttresses.

As well as rock climbing routes, mountaineering face and ridge climbs to the peaks are also to be found here. The mountaineering routes range from those suitable for novices to some of the most demanding found in New Zealand. In winter, the ice walls and frozen waterfalls to be found in the Darrans provide some of the most challenging ice climbing in New Zealand.

There are a limited number of walking tracks in the Upper Hollyford. The track to Gertrude Saddle, a popular destination for tourists, walkers and trampers, starts from outside Homer Hut.

In recent years advanced New Zealand and overseas white-water kayakers have started to run the Hollyford River.

What are the facilities like?

The hut has two bunkrooms, with a total of 30 bunks available. There are mattresses provided but no blankets, and there is no heating in these rooms.

The main living room has some large windows looking out to the mountains, a log burner, and a simple kitchen area with some cups, plates and cutlery. There are gas cooking facilities provided and during summer indoor running water.

The two toilets are located near the hut and are simple 'long drop' style. There are no shower facilities for hut users.

There is camping allowed within the area adjacent to the hut.



How do I get access?

The hut is always open with no key required, and places are simply filled on a first come, first served basis. It is unusual for the hut to be full, though this can happen sometimes in the height of summer and no guarantee of a place can ever be made.

The small end room of the hut is the warden's quarters and is not open to the public.



What does it cost?

Currently the fees for the hut are set at NZAC members \$15 and non members \$25.

Remember that for kids up to ten years old there is no charge at all, and 11-17 year olds are \$5 member's children, \$15 non member's children.

Hut fees are usually collected by the resident warden during the summer months.

During winter, or when there is no warden on site fees can either be dropped into the fee collection box at the lodge just inside the door to the main room, or posted in using one the payment sheets and freepost envelopes provided, or even just call the National Office and take care of it over the phone.

The hut is owned and run by the New Zealand Alpine Club and all hut fees (and more besides) is spent directly on the maintenance and operation of the hut.

How do I clean up afterwards?

There is nobody to tidy up after you. Please leave the hut as you would like to find it, and always try to do a little extra if possible. The main items are to wash and put away all dishes, and sweep the floors of the main room and bunkrooms. Do not leave any perishable food items behind.

Reporting any maintenance items needed on the lodge to the National Office is a huge help to us - if we don't know what's broken there is no way for us to organise to have it fixed.

How can I make my stay better?

Don't forget to bring your own toilet paper.

Firewood is often difficult to obtain or wet and so if visiting in the colder months then take a bag of firewood and some kindling from home to use in the log burner and keep warm.

Who built the lodge?

Homer Hut was built in the early 1960's by members of the Southland Section of NZAC, and opened in 1965. It underwent major refurbishment during the summer of 2005/2006.



Got another Question?

For further information contact us at:

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