

Otago Climber

NEWSLETTER OF THE OTAGO SECTION NZAC

February 2012



*Nina Dickerhof looking into the Waitototo from the summit of Glacier Dome
Photo: James Thornton*

Otago Climber

Newsletter of the Otago Section, New Zealand Alpine Club

February 2012

Please keep the news flowing to otago.climber@gmail.com by the 20th of the month, so we can all read what you've been up to. Thanks!

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Section Meetings - Otago University Staff Club, 7.30pm

Wednesday, 1 February 2012

Paul Maxim, author of the very recently published Bill Denz biography.

Wednesday, 7 March 2012

Bring your own slides and tell us all about your summer adventures.

Trips

February 25-26: Homer Hut, Darran Mountains. Contact Keith Moffat, 027 664 4037 moffat.k@ihug.co.nz

March 17-18: Mt Glenisla, or some nearby peak in the Hopkins. Contact Danilo Hegg, 03 473 0183, danilo_hegg@hotmail.com

Rock climbing evenings

Are held on Tuesday from 5:30pm onwards. Meet on corner of Anzac Ave and Union St. Participants require basic equipment and the skills to use it safely. For further information contact James Harrison, miny_jimmi@actrix.co.nz, 027 4643797, or Chris Henry, cahenry@clear.net.nz

Rambles and Ramblings

The start of summer 2011/2012 has been one of the best we've had in years, with unusually good weather, and still plenty of snow up high for some excellent climbing conditions. I'm sure lots of you have been busy climbing – so busy in fact that you haven't had any time to write it up for the newsletter – but you've still got time to send me an account of your adventures for the March edition.

A great long spell of settled weather coincided with the New Year holiday, allowing for some exciting missions into rarely visited places:

Christchurch based OSONZAC member **Geoff Spearpoint** teamed up with fellow Cantabrians **Rob Frost, Claire Gibb, Tim Church** and **Yvonne Pfluger** to complete the first traverse of the **Selbourne Range**, from the coast to the Dispute Lakes. The capable party took 6 ½ days to cover the 25 or so km of ridge-tops. Travel was often slow on rugged terrain, with numerous recces required, which may explain why this traverse had to wait such a long time.

Dunedin climber **Max Olsen** was the recipient of the first Expedition Scholarship under FMC's new Young Adults Scholarship Scheme. Max was joined by **George O'Sullivan** and **Tom McKellar** on a trip across the steep mountains west of the Milford Track. The party set off up Diamond Creek, climbing out of the head of the valley via a new line, allegedly easier and less daunting than the one previous existing route out of the head cirque, climbed some 30+ years ago by Rhys Buckingham. Max then soloed up the **Lady of the Snows**, while Tom and George settled for the more approachable pt 1811m. The whole party descended to the outlet of **Lake Moreton**, then climbed over pt 1549m and forged a route into the **Transit River**, concluding the trip at Anita Bay. The exploration of a practical route from Lake Moreton to the Transit River had been the main objective of the expedition, since Moir's Guide South states that, "considering the vertical nature of the Transit Cirque, a practical route may not exist". Well done Max, you couldn't have sent the FMC scholarship off to a better start.

Also over New Year, **James Thornton, Nina Dickerhof** and **Danilo Hegg** paddled across Milford Sound, then climbed out of the head of Sinbad Gully through some abominable scrub and onto the **Llawrenny Peaks**. They found the tin left by previous ascent parties in the summit cairn, although the note is no longer readable. The trio then descended to the south and walked around Lake Terror, perched 1000m vertical above Poseidon Creek, to complete a rare ascent of **Terror Peak**. The summit pyramid was scaled via the unclimbed south face, which offered three pitches of steep climbing

on solid granite and moss.

James and Nina tackled this trip after only one day's rest since their previous excursion, an 8-day circumnavigation of Mt Aspiring via **Ruth Ridge** and the **Volta**, Therma, Bonar, Maud Francis and Avalanche Glaciers.



Terror Peak and Lake Terror from the Llawrenny Peaks. Photo D Hegg



bivouac/outdoor

COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

171 George Street. Phone: 477 3679.

15% Discount
to Otago Section members

Come into the store with your NZAC ID to obtain your 15% discount of any purchase at any time.

Discount is off RRP, not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discounts.

More on the Milford Dart Tunnel

Nick Cutfield has e-mailed to remind us that submissions on the Milford Dart Tunnel are due on February 20th.

Here is a link to some fast facts about the tunnel, publicized by the Glenorchy community group:

<http://www.glenorchycommunity.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/THE-TUNNEL-FAST-FACTS.pdf>

And here is a set of instructions on how to write a submission on the tunnel:

Where do I address it?

Director General Southland Conservancy Office

Postal Address:

P O Box 743

Invercargill 9840

Robyn Roberts

Email: southlandconcessions@doc.govt.nz

invercargill@doc.govt.nz

Phone +64 3 211 2400

Fax +64 3 214 4486

How should I begin it?

Include a brief description of yourself. If you have experience, or expertise that relates to the content of your submission, include this information. (e.g. —I have been operating a commercial transport business for x years taking people to x locations in the park, or, —I have been visiting x area of Mt. Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks over x years, or —I am an engineer/ecologist who has been involved with x types of projects in the past.). It's fine to write of your personal feeling and experience of the Routeburn in particular, as this is very relevant to an application coming from our side of the tunnel. If you've helped out with the DOC bat counts or mohua work in the past, make sure to mention that, too.

Who can submit?

You can submit both as an individual and on behalf of your business, especially if you feel this will affect your business.

Members of a family can submit collectively or as individuals. Remember, the more submissions the better, so if you have time and energy to write separate submissions, those will count more heavily.

State your position

Make sure to say clearly you are for or against and then afterwards use some key points to explain why. If you can refer to specifics and page numbers from the Officer's Report: Intention to Grant a Concession. Dart Passage. Milford Dart, Ltd. all the better.

Remember that the Director General can only respond to concerns within the parameters of this report. While we all have greater concerns on this subject (which we will have an opportunity to voice if this goes to the resource consent phase) your submission will be best heard if you stay within the bounds of what it is she can address. Unfortunately, this does not consider affects on the Glenorchy Road or the buses passing through our community. However, you can reference that while the report does not consider the Routeburn road to be among its 'matters of relevance' you do consider it to be relevant and can comment on the effects on the Routeburn Road.

State that you would like to be heard at the hearings.

The greater the number of people who are willing to speak at the hearings can only serve to benefit us, and to slow the process considerably as well. If enough of us request to be heard they may have to organize a hearing in Glenorchy.

Need help in putting together your submission?

Option 1: A generic application is available on the glenorchycommunity.co.nz website called "Open Submission." Feel free to download that and modify it to suit yourself.

Option 2: Amanda, Leslie, and the School Board of Trustees (thanks, Corrine!) have put up some examples of their own submissions on the website. Feel free to borrow ideas from theirs, but try to keep it in your own language. The more individualized the submissions are, the more likely they are to be read with seriousness.

Option 3: Members of the Tunnel Action Group have offered to help out one-on-one either as readers/editors or just to talk it all through. Give a call to Kate, Steve, or Amanda if you'd like their help.

Kate Scott: 442-9908

Steve Hewland: 442-7713

Amanda Hasselman: 442-9942

Deadlines: Submissions *MUST* be received by February 20, 2012

You can email your submission if you're running late and follow it up with a hard copy, too. Just make sure to get it in on time or your voice won't be heard.

Make sure your voice is heard! If we can change the Director General's view at this stage we won't have to go on to the resource consent level and do this all over again.

Moir's Guide North – request for route information

MOIR'S GUIDE NORTH, the Otago Alps, a tramping and transalpine guide is virtually out of print and being updated. The NZ Alpine Club plans to reprint it sometime in mid 2012.

Moirs covers the area between the Routeburn Track and Mt Cook National Park on both sides of the Main Divide. The seventh edition is being revised, and will be slightly bigger to include some of the land that has come into DOC through tenure review etc. But this will be a revision rather than a complete new edition.

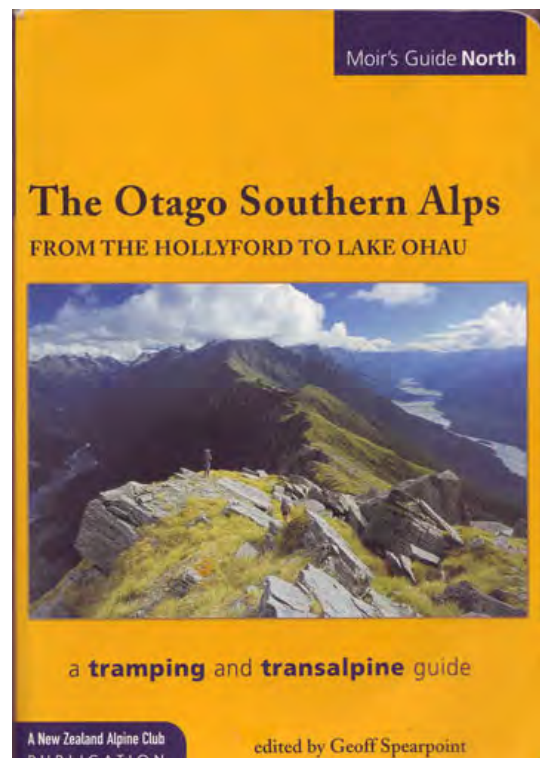
We are looking for updated information throughout the region from now until March 2012. Sooner is better. Both of us can be approached with info about any of the region, but Danilo is concentrating on the region east of the Main Divide and Geoff is concentrating on areas to the west. If you have information that would help in this process, please e-mail Danilo at danilo_hegg@hotmail.com, or Geoff at geoffspearpoint@clear.net.nz

We are interested in comments on off track routes you have used in the guide, track conditions and facility changes, times, access info including phone numbers or e-mail addresses and names, anything you think is relevant. Then we will compare it with what everyone else says! Moirs has always been a backcountry collaboration, and we want it to continue that way. We plan to spend time checking things out in the back country ourselves too of course.

All feedback greatly appreciated.

Geoff Spearpoint and Danilo Hegg

Otago Climber



Mt Earnslaw guidebook project

The Queenstown Climbing Club is preparing the 2nd edition of Queenstown Rock, Ice and Mixed and this time we will be including a full guide to the routes on the Mt Earnslaw massif. This includes routes on:

West and East peaks of Earnslaw, Pluto, O'Leary, Turret Head, Sir William

Whether you have sent an old classic or a brand spanking new line, we need updates. For each climb you can tell us about, we need to hear:

Date of ascent.

Which line/variant did you climb? Description and/or photo with line marked in would be great.

How hard is the route? Give us an idea of the hardest technical climbing (rock or WI grades) or use a technical grade from 1 to 7 (Mt Cook grades).

How conditions affected the difficulty e.g. the West to East peak traverse is very different winter/summer.

We are also compiling a database of ascents in the Humboldt, Richardson, Barrier, Forbes ranges - in short the Dart/Rees catchment. Whether you have sent hard lines on Somnus, rock lines in the Richardsons or remote mountaineering routes where glacial conditions can be critical - all information will help us to write a detailed and up-to-date guidebook.

Please send information to nzmikedunn@gmail.com

You can also contact the club through our website <http://www.queenstownclimbing.com>

Note: If you would like a copy of the 1st edition of Queenstown Rock, Ice and Mixed grab one soon before they are all sold out. While the 2nd edition will be a significant update, we will no longer be including many crags on private land e.g. Queenstown Hill crags like Upper Tier and Hospitality Wall. The guidebook is available at outdoor shops in Queenstown and the NZAC website.

Remarkables Ice and Mixed Festival

The inaugural Remarkables Ice & Mixed Festival will be held at Queenstown August 16th -19th August.

Bringing together the top winter alpine climbers in NZ as a means of advancing and promoting modern mixed climbing. Showcasing the new and

existing route potential on NZ's most accessible multipitch winter training area. Sharing local knowledge and forming new climbing partnerships. All festival attendees will receive the latest guide for the Remarkables. This will have over 30 unclimbed routes and detailed information on more than 150 possible summer and winter climbs.

For further details and info on how to register, visit:

<http://www.iceandmixedfestival.co.nz>

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Remarkables-Ice-Mixed-Festival/130651843714800>

Ramblings from Unwin Lodge

How about Jane Morris soloing the Caroline, Ewan Patterson, Marty Schmidt and Wolfgang Maier also climbing it on the same day? How about 17 people topping out on Aoraki/Mt Cook one Saturday? And how about two very successful NZAC climbing courses?

That is just a wee snippet of climbing news going on in the Park during November. The weather has been settled on occasions for some great climbing.....encouraging many Aussie section members to pour over the ditch and enjoy the mountains.

I have to mention the school groups. Not only are they a very healthy source of income, but the education these kids receive by living in the mountains for a few days is invaluable, and hopefully their experiences will lead them to love the mountains and join NZAC.

What a thrill then when Mt Aspiring College from Wanaka stayed at the Lodge when Peter Hillary was here. Peter talked to the group for a short time and they were riveted to his every word. I hasten to add other Lodge users were also thrilled to hear him make his impromptu talk. Thanks Peter, and thanks for signing 25 or so autographs!

Now this job I have is pretty cool actually. So when a couple of ladies rang me and said they wanted to come to Unwin and do some body painting, I personally declined. I immediately put them in touch with someone else! Anyway to cut a long story short, these girls were incredibly talented and body painted two guys as old day mountaineers. You can see some images on the Unwin Lodge web site. Take note one of the artists is a club member!

The Lodge is functioning well, proving out the architectural design. A

teething problem with the septic tank has created a smell at times but we think we are on top of the problem.

We continue to get favourable comments from visiting mountaineers like Brent Bishop, one of America's top climbers. We are expecting he will be back at Unwin next year.

Visitors to the lodge will note we are trialling a booking system. If, where ever possible, visitors to the lodge can ring to say they are coming it will make our job a lot easier, as at times we have been overflowing and even had to turn people away.

The upcoming year at Unwin is going to be exciting and we hope to see more club members making use of this fantastic facility.

Chas Tanner

<http://alpineclub.org.nz/hut/unwin/blog>

Mature Mountaineers Meetings – Speakers Needed

The NZAC hold Mature Mountaineers afternoons in the Christchurch National Office up to four times a year. The meetings are designed around members aged 65 years and over, to give them a chance to meet in the daytime and talk over past exploits with their fellow climbers. We are seeing speakers so that we can continue providing these get-togethers through 2012, (slides and images welcome). Please contact Ollie@alpineclub.org.nz if you are interested. Your offer would be greatly appreciated, thank you.

NZAC 6-month membership extension winner

Winner for December was – Dave Kidd (Central North Island)

Winner for January is – Robert Goldsmith (Overseas)

Missing Boots – Unwin Lodge, Mt Cook

These boots have gone missing from the rear of Unwin Lodge, some time during the period 18-21 December, 2011. They are size EU 42/43, UK 8, and still in very good nick.

If you know of their whereabouts, please contact Markus Milne 021 482 150, or Chas Tanner 03 435 1100 / 027 817 6860



For Sale

Meindl Engadin MFS Full Leather Boot! NO GORETEX.

Size UK12 EU47 (seems to be a little narrower than the Meindl Island Pro)

Length of the insole is roughly 31cm and the width is about 9.9cm

They are NEW, just tried to wear them in a couple of hours at work, but they are just too narrow for my feet. I am after \$480 for these. Email Jonathan Braun at brajo386@student.otago.ac.nz if interested.



Tiffany Ann Stephens on the Remarkables Grand Traverse. Photo Jaz Morris

New Zealand Alpine Club

Otago Section Committee 2011-12

P O Box 407, Dunedin

Newsletter email to otago.climber@gmail.com

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Paul Prince	Chairman, CCM Rep	03 4730166 027 4714416	paulprince@xtra.co.nz
Russell Pearse	Secretary	021 2486671	Russell.Pearse@oceanagold.com
Lindsay Smith	Treasurer	03 4761933	Lindsay@plumtree.net.nz
Keith Moffat	Equipment	03 4738903 027 6644037	moffat.k@ihug.co.nz
Alec Mitchell	Basic Instruction	027 2896147	Alec.D.Mitchell@nz.mwhglobal.com
Jaz Morris	Speakers	027 4069173	jaz.n.morris@gmail.com
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Martin Curtis	Wanaka Rep	03 4438152	martincurtis@clear.net.nz
Peter Wilson	FMC Rep	021 1513486	petergwilson@gmail.com

Transceiver and Snow Shovel Hire Scheme

The Otago Section has an excellent supply of transceivers for hire – and each comes with a free snow shovel. Members pay only \$5 per day rental. Book through R&R Sport, Dunedin

A few transceivers, shovels and probes are also available for OSONZAC members based in Wanaka. Contact Martin Curtis (e-mail and phone above)