

# The Otago Climber

*April 2017*

Riley Smith sends "Doubtful Thomas", Twin Cracks,  
Sebastopol Bluffs





NEW ZEALAND  
ALPINE CLUB

# *The Otago Climber*

*The monthly newsletter of the  
Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club*



**April 2017**

## **Meetings**

*1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month, Staff Club, University of Otago (Leith St).*

### **Wednesday 5 April**

Drs John and Sue Heydon will give a talk called "Medicine and aid in the Mt Everest region of Nepal". John is a medical doctor, who is the Doctor/Occupational Physician for the University of Otago, and also works as a GP in Mosgiel. Sue is a historian and researches in Nepal. She works as Senior Lecturer in the School of Pharmacy at the University. Between 1996 and 1998 they, together with their children, Emma, Edward and Christopher, spent 2 1/2 years as the volunteers at Kunde Hospital near Mt Everest, which was built by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1966. The talk will cover the early years of the Himalayan Trust in Nepal and about their time in Kunde. They have also lived and worked in England, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and rural Northland

### **Wednesday 3 May**

We are in the final stages of confirming our guest speaker for May.

### **30 May & 1 June**

Banff Film Festival booked for these dates in 2017. More details in the Newsletter.

### **Wednesday 14 June**

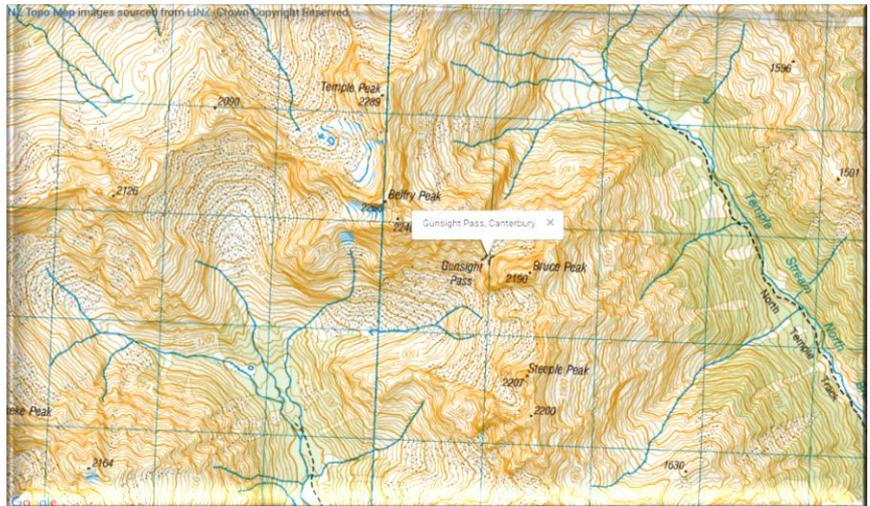
NZAC President Penny Brothers will talk on her extensive climbing career. More details in next Newsletter but please note date change to the **second** Wednesday only for **June**.

## **Trips**

### **Gunsight Pass -May 6 & 7 May;**

Ed Ivison is organising a club trip from the North Temple to the South Temple over Gunsight Pass on the weekend of May 6/7.

If you would like to book for this trip or need more information, email Ed on [ed.ivison24@gmail.com](mailto:ed.ivison24@gmail.com)



### **Mature Mountaineers Meet?**

Attention all mature mountaineers in the Otago Section, that is people over 60 years old. Is there an appetite among you to meet socially, informally and occasionally, say 3 or 4 times a year in Dunedin, to share tall stories and show the odd lantern slide of daring deeds from days past whilst sipping on a single malt or even a cup of tea? To gauge interest, Chas Tanner has offered to coordinate responses. If there are the numbers to get it off the ground, he will be in touch with you.

Hurry... 'time waits for no man' If you are a "mature Mountaineer" then contact Chas on [ctan@clear.net.nz](mailto:ctan@clear.net.nz)

### **Update on the Future of Otago Section library**

For many years the Otago Section has stored its library at the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Clubrooms in South Dunedin. Made up of a wide range of books and magazines, the Section's library is not huge but does contain some wonderful historic climbing books along with copies of common magazines and NZAC Journals.

For the last five years, the Section has held its monthly meetings at the University Staff Club, so members no longer visit the library regularly. That means that it is many years since someone actually borrowed a book, and it seems a shame to have this climbing material locked away unused.

The committee would like to see the books read more frequently and are looking at options to help achieve that. Should we try and donate the library to the Hocken, should we make it available to members who want to add to their own climbing libraries, should we put the whole thing on TradeMe or is there another option we haven't thought of?

Before the Section committee makes any decisions about the future of the library, we are keen to hear the thoughts of our members. If you have a suggestion we should consider, please email your thoughts to [otago.climber@gmail.com](mailto:otago.climber@gmail.com)



# NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

## Mt Brown Trip Report – Keith Moffat

With a big high hanging over the South Island it was great not to be studying the weather reports up to the last minute to decide if the trip would proceed.

Our party of seven set off up Bush Stream in the Ben Ohau range about 1.30 pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. A short way up Bush Stream we headed up a ridge that lead to a fantastic camp site at Lagoon Basin (1550m).

The route involved some bush and sub alpine scrub bashing, but was well worth the effort. On Sunday morning, we were greeted with one of those special mornings when you are bathed in sunshine while the rest of the world below is under a blanket of cloud.



*Lagoon Basin*



*Ket, Stephanie, Kieran Philp and Keith en route to Lagoon Basin (Photo Gerrard Liddell)*

We followed the ridge line to a point at about 2100 m that looked like it linked to Mt Brown via a ridge traverse but when we got there the ridge was much too difficult to attempt but we spotted an easy route that involved a decent and traverse to the summit. After agreeing on a turn-around time, five of the party headed for the summit while two decided they were satisfied and would begin a leisurely decent. After some rock hopping and scrambling we got to summit at about 1pm.

After having lunch and soaking up the view we headed for home. It was a great trip with good weather and good company that was enjoyed by all. Trip members were Keith Moffat (Trip Leader), Gerrard Liddell, Kieran Stenson, Philip Somerville, Laimonis Kavalieris, Stephanie Colenbrander and Ket Hazledine.



*Stephanie, Kieran, Philip and Ket on the summit of Mt Brown*

### **Banff Film Festival – save the date**

We can confirm that the dates for the Dunedin screenings of the Banff Mountain Film Festival are 30 May and 1 June.

As with last year, there will be different films on each night, and we will have a mix of allocated seating (upstairs) and general admission (stalls).



### **Trip Report: Sebastopol Bluffs – Lindsay Smith.**

There was a great deal of interest in the Section's rock climbing trip to Sebastopol Bluffs at the end of February and 14 of us headed to Unwin Lodge on the Friday, so as to make the most of Saturday's good forecast.

The Geologists, Martina, Matteo and Kat left Dunedin early and carefully inspected several rocks round the Cook Village on Friday, thereby justifying their travel as a field trip. But the rest of us left after school or work on Friday and although we arrived at Unwin quite late, Simon made us very welcome.



*Sian, Riley, Ryan, Kat, Matteo, Martina, Michael, Lesley, Mark, Pam, Lindsay, Shelagh. Kyla - photographer*

After a brief discussion over breakfast, we headed up to Red Arête Area to get as much multi-pitch time as possible before it got too hot and windy. Although everyone was at least an intermediate level rock climber, many on the trip had only limited multi-pitch experience and were looking forward to the entry level multi-pitch opportunities that Sebastopol offers.

By mid-morning the three main routes were chocka with climbers, with teams of three on most ropes. The Geologists headed up 'Let's Go Bushwalking', Pam, Lesley, Mark and Michael started on 'Shark Attack', and Steph and Ryan tested their skills on Red Arête. All three climbs were completed multiple times with several teams going on to complete the Mako extension to Shark Attack.

Huge thanks to Shelagh and Ryan for their guidance during the day and it was great to see them patiently passing on their skills in rope handling, route planning and safety to those with less experience of multi-pitch climbing. With plenty of bolts and belay points for each of the three pitches on the three main climbs, Red Arête is a great crag for newer climbers to stretch their skills on a scenic route high above the thousands of tourists on the road below.



*Matteo does his Alex Honnold impressions while Going Bushwalking – Photo Ryan Thomas*

By mid-afternoon, the temperature soared into the early 30s, making climbing quite challenging and so the team retired to Unwin for a late lunch. Conscious that the forecast for Sunday was for rain by mid-

afternoon, and inspired by a photo and rave review in the guidebook, Riley persuaded a group to head off to the ten bolted climbs on Orange Wall, late Saturday afternoon. What they didn't read quite as carefully was the description of the route to the crag. Three of the group ended up turning turned back well before the Wall, beaten by the "over-hanging tussock and matagouri approach". They swore the approach went at about Grade 21, but they may have exaggerated a bit. Those that did make it to Orange Wall agreed with the guidebook's assessment of the climbs and quality of rock, staying late, arriving at Unwin in time for a hot shower and dinner just before dark.



Sunday dawned clear and beautiful, and after breakfast everyone headed back to the crags; this time teams separated to their own chosen targets. After climbing Sian's first multi-pitch route, (Red Arête), Riley and her tested their trad skills on the Crucifix Wall and Twin Cracks. Meanwhile, Martina, Matteo and Kat had similar success on the Kingfisher Slabs whilst Mark and Lesley enjoyed the "quality" rock on the Lunar Wall.



*Stephanie seconds Ryan up pitch four of Shark Attack – Photo Ryan Thomas*

By mid-afternoon everyone was back at Unwin ready to pack and head home and a quick count suggested that over 50 different climbs had been "ticked off" over the very successful weekend. And the Sunday rain? Didn't meet that until we were almost back in Dunedin!

### Richard's rack could be yours

Richard McElligott was an enthusiastic, Dunedin Tuesday-night rock climber, with a long history of climbing and mountaineering in New Zealand and England. When he passed away last year, his partner wanted his extensive climbing rack go to a good home and she asked the Otago Section to find a suitable recipient for this marvellous gift. As shown in the photo below, this is an extensive rack and includes a harness and climbing pack. All equipment is in excellent condition, but it is used and the winner of the rack will be responsible for making their own decision about its condition.



Prior to coming to Dunedin, Richard was a great stalwart of the London Mountaineering Club; one of those who devoted endless hours to administration to permit the enjoyment of others. He was an excellent climber and successfully climbed sixty "E" trad. routes (Grade 17 in NZ) in his sixtieth year, perhaps an inspiration to whoever is selected as the new owner of his rack.



The Otago Section has decided on a simple application process. If you would like to be considered as owner of Richard's rack, please complete all sections of the form below and return it to the Otago Section no later than 30 April.

The application is open to all current members of the Otago Section of the NZ Alpine Club. The Section Committee will consider all applications at their May meeting and make a final decision based on our opinion of who will get the most benefit from Richard's rack.

### Application for Richard's Rack

Name	
Email	
Phone	
NZAC Membership number	
Please explain why you should receive Richard's rack. . . . .	

## Sequoia Schmidt

Here's a chance to join author, entrepreneur and adventurer Sequoia Schmidt in New Zealand as she cycles the length of the country on a book tour of her autobiography: *Journey of Heart; A Sojourn to K2*. She will be in Queenstown Lakes District Library: Tuesday 11th April, 2017 – 5pm-7pm and the Dunedin City Library: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 – 5.30-7.30pm.

It has been ten years since Sequoia returned to her homeland, New Zealand. This will be Sequoia's first time to return since her famed mountaineering father, Marty Schmidt, and her 25-year-old brother Denali Schmidt, were killed in an avalanche on the mountain, K2.

Now, four years after their deaths, Sequoia is a published author of the award-winning book *Journey of Heart; A Sojourn to K2*.



Sequoia will bring her writing with her as she cycles the entire length across the country stopping in nine cities to sign and perform readings from her non-fiction account.

Adventure runs strong in her family, and during this book tour, Sequoia hopes to experience new, inspiring and thrilling adventures that Aotearoa and its people have to offer. The plan is one bike, nine cities and four adventure sports to be accomplished on this trip to New Zealand titled: *Returning Home – The Adventure Book Tour*.

## Remarkables Ice and Mixed Climbing Festival

The annual Remarkables Ice and Mixed Climbing Festival, sponsored by NZAC, is on again the 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> August and more info on the event can be found at [www.iceandmixedfestival.co.nz](http://www.iceandmixedfestival.co.nz)

In previous years various NZAC sections have coordinated an annual section trip to the event and if you're keen on an Otago Section trip just email us at [Otago.climber@gmail.com](mailto:Otago.climber@gmail.com) and the organisers will put us in contact with other sections that have shown interest.

They try to get the various sections staying together to help members get to know each other a bit more. Usually this has been at the Frankton Motor Camp



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

### **Section Sponsorship Grants available**

This year the Otago Section are again calling for applications for three, personal sponsorships for 2017. We expect to contribute around \$500 per grant but could go higher for something spectacular! The rules are simple: the winning sponsorships must contribute to climbing in the Otago Region and the project must have wider benefits – not just for the individual concerned but also for the wider climbing community.

In recent years, we have funded Alpine Training for a climber who went on to lead section trips, helped fund a trip to Nepal in return for on-going contribution to the Section and funded a young rock climber's winter training costs; he has gone on to develop and run a youth training programme attracting new climbers to the section. Your project could be next. Send us an email to [otago.climber@gmail.com](mailto:otago.climber@gmail.com) and tell us about your personal project; who's involved, what it will cost and how your sponsorship will benefit both you and the section.

### **Notices from NZAC headquarters**

#### **Hut and Tracks Fund: FMC advise applications are now open**

In a big vote of confidence the Outdoor Recreation Consortium was recently granted its 3rd year of funding, another \$400,000 will go to backcountry projects led by volunteers, bringing the total to \$1.6 million.

Applications for the next round of funding are now open, and close on April the 14th. Think about what you might like to contribute to our hut and track network, and if you need advice call your local DOC Office or FMC Executive Officer Jamie Stewart, 027 7674064. If there is one defining feeling from the over 100 projects we have supported to date, it's that every individual or club involved is left immensely satisfied and fulfilled with what they have been able to contribute.

Please find Application Forms, Guidelines and further information to assist in your project planning on the Huts and Tracks website: Click here. <http://bit.ly/2kBUd71>

#### **MISSING, OR STRAYED – PORTER LODGE LOG BOOK**

The old Porter Lodge log book has recently gone missing from the lodge. It was there only recently, but missing when a replacement new book was taken in. Anyone with it, or who may know its whereabouts, please send in to Margaret at NZAC, PO Box 786, ChCh 8140, thanks. All NZAC hut log books are indexed first at the National Office and then entered into the NZAC Hocken Collection, so we don't want it ending up lost in some other collection, or accidentally thrown away.

#### **Research Project: Rock Climbing Injuries**

Sam Terry has completed his research project on rock climbing injuries towards his bachelor of sport and exercise at SIT. Please view his published results for your information on our website:

<https://alpineclub.org.nz/research-project-rock-climbing-injuries/>

#### **NZAC 2017 Calendar and 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Clothing – Sale**

The remaining stock of our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary clothing and the NZAC's 2017 Photographic Comp Calendar are now on sale. Please see the club's online store for details on remaining clothing sizes/colours and to purchase: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/online-shop/>



### **New stock available on the Alpine Club online store**

'The Sharp End of a Short Rope – forty years of the NZ Mountain Guides Association' – Graham Langton.  
\$35 <https://alpineclub.org.nz/product/the-sharp-end-of-a-short-rope/>

### **Gear Hire move**

Our eight sets of avalanche equipment and eight sets of snowshoes are now available for rent from the new Hunting and Fishing shop, now at 141 Crawford Street, in Dunedin. The new shop is open seven days till 5.30 weekdays, 5pm Saturday and 4pm Sunday. More details at [www.huntingandfishing.co.nz](http://www.huntingandfishing.co.nz).

The rental costs are \$5 per day for an avalanche set of transceiver, probe and shovel and \$5 per day for snowshoes for all Alpine Club members. You MUST show your current membership card to receive that rate. Not a member, or don't have your card? Then the fee is \$10 per day and you will be required to pay a \$20 deposit.

If you have any issues with the gear or rentals, please contact me or any of the committee and we will sort things out. Please don't hassle the staff at Hunting and Fishing as they are doing us a huge favour by running the rental scheme for us. Cheers, Lindsay Smith, 0274048911.

### **PLB Hire – free for NZAC members**

We have two PLBs available for hire, and this service is free for current NZAC members. Contact Keith Moffat [moffat.k172@gmail.com](mailto:moffat.k172@gmail.com) or 027 664 4037 a few days in advance if you want to hire a PLB. \$5 per day for non-members.

### **OSONZAC Committee 2016-2017**

Chairman, CCM rep. – Jaz Morris (phone 027 406 9173 or email [jaz.n.morris@gmail.com](mailto:jaz.n.morris@gmail.com))

Treasurer, Equipment Manager – Keith Moffat

Secretary – Lindsay Smith

Trips, Banff Film Festival – Danilo Hegg

Instruction – Heather Rhodes

Newsletter Editor – Ben Mitchell

Rock Climbing Coordinator – Riley Smith

New committee members - James Waetford

Tanja de Wilde

Chris Tipper

### **Contact information**

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/osonzac>