

Otago CLIMBER



August 2016

MEETINGS

Contents

Page 2- Meetings

Page 3- Upcoming Trips

Page 4- News

Page 7- Trip Report

Page 9- Events

Section Meetings Otago University Staff Club, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, 3 August 2016

Please note: our scheduled speaker had a last minute conflict, and will present at the September meeting instead. Stepping deftly into his place this month is Ryan Taylor, who will discuss his expedition with Elliot Smith to ski the Pamir Mountains in Tajikistan, a land of rolling pastures and high mountains that mark the centre of the ancient Silk Road. From a mud hut at 3200m the pair attempted to converse with the locals, drank a lot of tea and skied above 5000m. After an abnormally warm winter, Ryan and Elliot were stoked to find good stability, epic skiing terrain and a fantastic cultural experience.

WEDNESDAY, 7 September 2016

Annual General Meeting + What's Bivy Flying? As always, we will keep the AGM portion of the meeting short and sharp and get to the fun stuff quickly. Keen to get involved in the Otago Section? Let us know at otago.climber@gmail.com. Duties are light and there are always chocolate biscuits at the committee meetings.

RESCHEDULED from August: Alex Tups will talk about his cross-country paragliding trips in Aspiring and the Southern Alps (and maybe some of his European adventures too), and tell us more about this new twist on a sport that's really taking off. (See what I did there?)

WEDNESDAY, 5 October 2016

Speaker to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, 2 November 2016

Christchurch's Caroline Bellamy will tell us about her 18-day trip up the Wilkin and over into the Te Naihi, Waiatoto, Haast Range to Colin Todd and out via the Matukituki.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Mount Toby - 20th-21st August

Take a weekend trip to Mt Toby (2222m), a non-technical mountain in the Two Thumb Range at the head of Lake Tekapo. The trip will be in and out from the end of Lilybank Rd, camping at 1800m in the head-basin of Second Waterfall Stream. The trip is suitable for beginners, although you will need to be equipped for camping in snow and cold weather. We are planning to walk on snowshoes, which are available for hire from the Section; there is potential for a group to join in with skis. Contact Danilo at danilo_hegg@hotmail.com

Ski Touring, Old Man Range - 28th or 29th August (day TBD by conditions)

Rescheduled! Join us for a day trip ski tour to the mellow slopes of the Old Man Range in Central Otago. We will pick the Saturday or the Sunday when the weather forecast comes out. Contact Matteo at zuccotn@gmail.com.

Snow Craft, Remarkables Ski Field - 17th-18th September

This popular course is back for 2016. The cost is \$150, which includes use of ice axe, crampons, snowcraft manual, avalanche transceiver (etc.) + accommodation (does not include transport or food). Contact Jaz to sign up or ask questions: jaz.n.morris@gmail.com

NEWS

IT Committee Members Wanted

The New Zealand Alpine Club is putting together a crew of volunteer members with an expertise in all things IT (including web-based activities) who are keen to pitch in. Sound like you? Contact margaret@alpineclub.org.nz

Our gear has a new home! And soon some new stock!

After a year sleeping in garages and cars, the Section's hire equipment has finally found a home.

The eight sets of avalanche equipment and eight sets of snowshoes are now available for rent from the **Hunting and Fishing** shop at 922 George Street in Dunedin. The shop is open from 8 to 5.30 on Monday to Friday and from 9am to 4pm on Saturday. The shop is not open on Sundays.

The rental costs haven't changed - \$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.

Now that we have a reliable and accessible home for the gear, the Committee has decided to invest some of this year's Banff surplus in four more sets of avalanche gear and we are currently identifying the best technology before making a purchase.

Use the gear if you are heading out over winter and be safe out there.

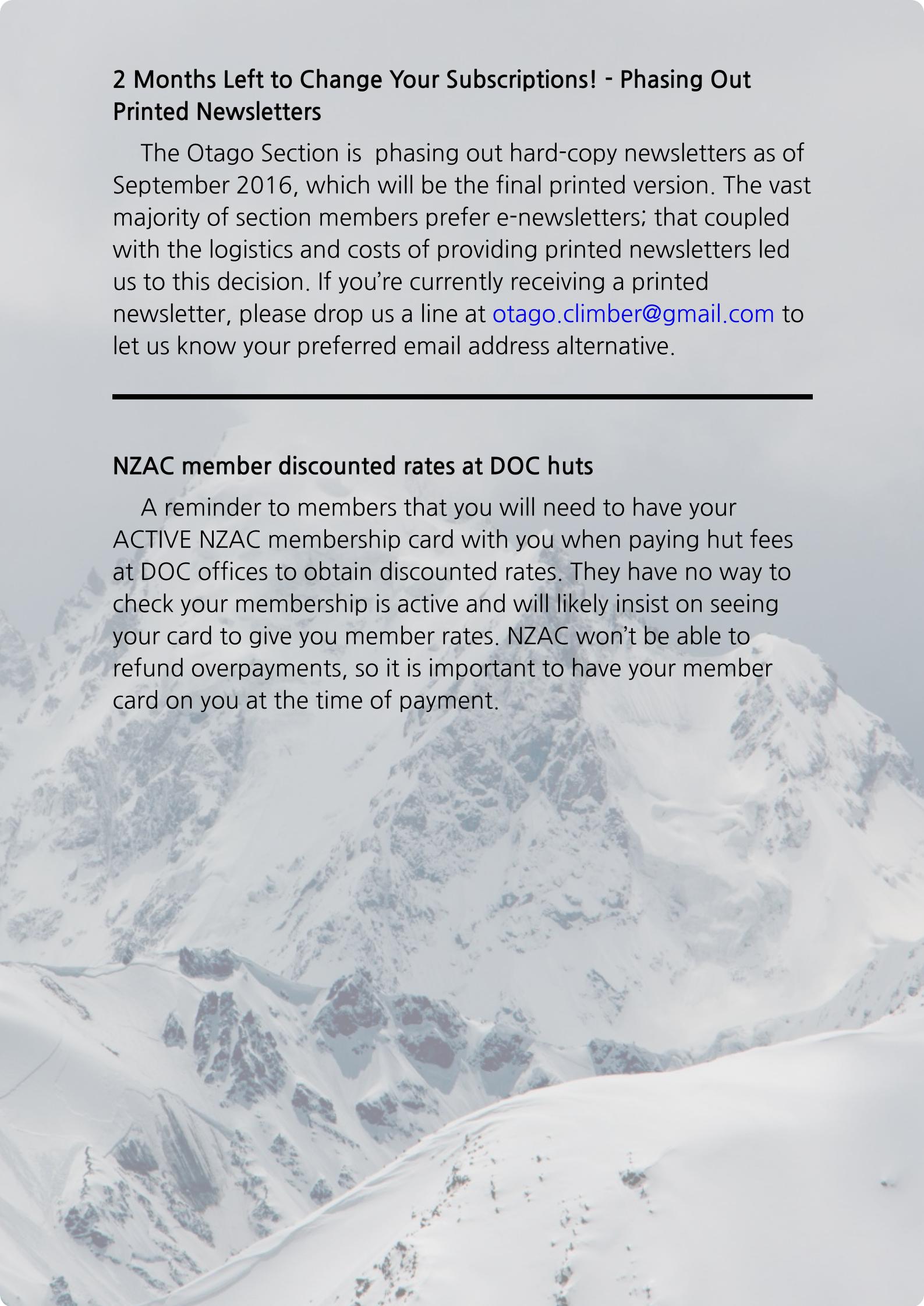
- Lindsay: 027 404 8911

2 Months Left to Change Your Subscriptions! - Phasing Out Printed Newsletters

The Otago Section is phasing out hard-copy newsletters as of September 2016, which will be the final printed version. The vast majority of section members prefer e-newsletters; that coupled with the logistics and costs of providing printed newsletters led us to this decision. If you're currently receiving a printed newsletter, please drop us a line at otago.climber@gmail.com to let us know your preferred email address alternative.

NZAC member discounted rates at DOC huts

A reminder to members that you will need to have your ACTIVE NZAC membership card with you when paying hut fees at DOC offices to obtain discounted rates. They have no way to check your membership is active and will likely insist on seeing your card to give you member rates. NZAC won't be able to refund overpayments, so it is important to have your member card on you at the time of payment.



Scholarships!

FMC Youth Scholarships

The Federated Mountain Clubs' competitive scholarship scheme for young adults under the age of 30 is now open. The scholarships are intended to promote tramping to younger generations and to explore ways of assisting clubs to attract younger members.

Grants are available for up to \$1000 for the September 2016 round, and can be used to assist the recipient in leading a multi-day expedition of five or more nights' duration within mainland New Zealand or its offshore islands. As mentioned above, the recipient must be under 30 years of age at the time of application, and be either a member of a club affiliated with FMC (e.g. tramping or mountaineering/alpine club, university tramping club); or be a member of an organisation associated with FMC (e.g. school, polytechnic, MSC Branch); or be an Individual Supporter of FMC.

Applications must be received by 15 September 2016. For a full list of selection criteria and an application form, please go to <http://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>

Simon Bell Memorial Scholarship

FMC is also offering the first Simon Bell Memorial Scholarship in 2016, with a closing date of 15 September 2016. The maximum scholarship available is \$1000. The scholarship uses the same criteria as the FMC Youth Scholarship as mentioned above, but is open to adventurers of any age, recognising that there is adventure within us all.

For a full list of selection criteria and an application form, please go to <http://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>

TRIP REPORT

A White Christmas

This year the Section celebrated the winter solstice with a return to Awakino, New Zealand's premier ski resort, according to their committee.

It's hard to argue with their logic: where else do you get central heating in the bunkroom, hot showers, electric lights and stoves and a spa pool? And unlike many other ski fields this year, Awakino actually had some snow on 18 June when we went.

Saturday saw the usual straggle of climbers arrive throughout the afternoon and then launch into preparing their culinary delights for the shared Christmas Dinner that evening. As the sun set and the fire fought off the evening chill, Steve produced a three litre pot of mulled wine to begin the Christmas festivities. Entrees of smoked trout and salmon steaks were followed by a huge range of dishes, right through to Christmas tarts and mini-steamed puddings.



Juliet and Hannah on the ridge line above the ski field.

That evening after dinner and Secret Santa gifts were shared, several of the party warmed tired limbs in the heated spa outside the lodge door. Their soak may have lasted longer but an attempt to add light to the festivities didn't end well when a glow stick broke in the pool, coating the party goers with a thin film of foul smelling, glittery oil. But with bad weather threatening and challenging climbing organised for the next day, it was a relatively early end the celebrations.

Sunday morning saw the party split into a range of objectives. The Awakino crew set off to repair a radio repeater station on a nearby ridge, a task that they had not completed on Saturday due to gale force winds. Riley and Troy were determined to ski and back-packed their skis to the top of the field achieving one good run for their three hours of climbing.

Danilo, Juliette and Hannah chose an art appreciation climb, heading to the high point on the field's head wall armed with cameras and art materials. The rest of the post-Christmas party of Keith, Joanne, Steve, Gerald, Polly and Jack chose the 2000 metre Kohurau as their objective and had a most enjoyable day in brilliant sunshine above the valley-filling fog. All six "summitted" successfully and the whole crew were back at the hut mid-afternoon to begin the drive home.

Once again a most enjoyable mid-winter Christmas thanks to the hospitality and facilities offered by Awakino Ski Resort. -
Lindsay Smith

Events

Avalanche Awareness Evening - 24 August, Bivouac Outdoor Dunedin, 7pm

Bivouac Outdoor is hosting an Avalanche Awareness Evening at their George Street store in Dunedin. The talk will be presented by a New Zealand alpine and avalanche safety expert, who will help you understand the destructive power of avalanches, when and why they happen, and how you can safely have fun in the mountains and avoid danger.

The cost is \$5 per person; all proceeds go to the Himalayan Trust.





Ski touring to Nicholson Hut in the Old Man Range (credit to Matteo Scoz)