



Meetings

1st Wednesday of the Month, Staff Club, University of Otago (Leith St).

Wednesday 7 December

'Classic climbs and first ascents in Peru' – **Jaz Morris** will discuss the recent and very successful Expedition Climbers Club/New Zealand Alpine Team trip to the Cordillera Blanca of Peru.

Wednesday 4 January 2017 – No meeting

Wednesday 1 February

Show and Tell – bring slides or videos from your adventures over the summer.

Wednesday 1 March

'The Summit of her Ambition' – author **Anne McLeod** is visiting from Australia to share stories from her recent biography of the late Marie Byles. Ms Byles was a pioneering mountaineer and conservationist who made a number of exceptional explorations in New Zealand in the earlier part of last century. She was a climber thoroughly deserving of acclaim and Anne's book is a fitting tribute to an inspirational early mountaineer.

Wednesday 5 April

'Ski Rhapsody – A Ski Mountaineering Traverse' – **Richard O'Neill-Dean**. Richard recently completed an exceptional ski-traverse from Mt Acland to the Tasman, the Walter/Elie de Beaumont Col and down the Times Glacier – a variant on the classic 'Symphony on Skis.'

This is our last newsletter until February 2017 – the OSONZAC committee wishes you a happy new year and good luck for your summer climbs!

Trips

11 December – Climbing trip to Mihiwaka. For more info, email Lindsay lindsay@plumtree.net.nz

4-11 February – National Climbing Camp, Top Forks Hut, Wilkin Valley. See later in this newsletter.

Trip Report: Ocean Peak

Following on from a successful Snowcraft Course earlier in the year, instructors Danilo Hegg and Jaz Morris led a 'post-Snowcraft' trip to Ocean Peak, climbing its western flanks via Lake Mackenzie. A last-minute car-breakdown and cold easterly snowfall saw the trip's party diminished and location changed completely (from a now snow-plastered Eyre Peak). Nico Cogan, Lil Clearwater, and Ryan Taylor were all too happy to seek sunnier weather in Fiordland and climbed Ocean Peak in perfect weather and snow conditions before a brief (and rather cold) swim in Lake Mackenzie.



Lil Clearwater and Ryan Taylor near the summit of Ocean Peak, with the Hollyford River and the Darrans Mountains behind. Photo: Jaz Morris

Trip Report: Turner Peak

To go or not to go????? Third time to postpone or...?

Keith decided to take the plunge, do the drive and risk the dodgy forecast. The Makarora was fordable which was a great start and soon we were carefully ducking through electric fences and heading up the Wilkin pushed by a gusty southerly. While it was a lot more scenic than the Waimakariri, it is still a massively wide valley and it was a pity the jet boats were too far away to be flagged down. However, it was a great chance to yak and get to know each other. We lunched on a green grassy terrace close to the invitingly open gut slicing up through the beech to the bush line. Keith's short cut through the bush popped us out neatly just where the gut opened out and from there we chased Geoff. The steep-sided gut had been scraped off by avalanches and in a few spots made for edgy travel with little vegetation to hang onto.

A couple of hours later we clambered up the remnant avalanche debris and searched for a flattish area for our crew on the tussock shelf. An agreeable area was located and a variety of sleeping arrangements were set up. Heather opted for a bivy bag, Andy had his lightweight tent which Gina quickly recognised

as having tons of room for her as well, while Keith and Jeff occupied yellow coffin tents. Geoff and I opted for the suburbs nearby.

The weather elicited some hope for a summit. We could see it, which was a reasonable start despite the 90% cloud cover pushing over all the other peaks. Splashes of sunlight fell on us and the wind had dropped. We should have appreciated these pleasant conditions more. Things were to get worse...



Camp on Turner Peak. Photo: Neil Sloan

A yelp in the morning from the CBD woke me to dawn. It had rained overnight and the cloud level was only marginally above our encampment. Geoff and I thought it prudent to spend another hour asleep but were shamed by the rapid movement of headlamps across the way. Within an hour we had hidden our gear from the pair of reticent keas and were stomping off up through tussock into the murk. I slunk along at the back wondering what the point was. Tussock gave way to soft, breakable-crust snow and we revolved around at the front making holes for the remainder of the group to wallow into. Wrapped tightly in cloud the scenery remained hidden. Then bright sunlight! We had our shadows back! Hope was born of popping out of the clag with blue sky above and summits spiking through the ice cap-like cloud top. Faces lit up with excitement and a sense of purpose was clear. Very quickly the gloom fell over us however and we stomped on up that white slope inside that cloying white envelope. Black rocks appeared mysteriously distant - or maybe quite close; the slope had become steeper and an ice axe was thought to be prudent and next minute we were off that endless white slope and on a ridge. Big excitement. The altimeter numbers indicated an imminent summit or a misreading piece of technology. Light snow driven by a light northerly saw us approaching a pile of rocks which we cautiously thought might be the summit cairn. The ridge sloped down and we unanimously decided e'd made it. First summit for Heather for a long while and a satisfying step in her recovery. But we all felt pleased to at least get to the top after all the effort.



Turner Peak summit (almost certainly). Photo: Neil Sloan

Food, photos and, chilling down quickly, it was time to go. This should have been a fabulous view point peak but not today. The snow was abysmally deep by now but fortunately bum sliding was feasible in places and soon enough we were back lunching at camp below cloud line. The video continued to rewind as we headed off down the avalanche gut. Some decided to make additional footage for the descent, from inside the bush but soon we all reunited back at our grassy lunch spot from the day before. All that remained was the three hour wander back down valley to the cars in late afternoon sun. Despite any negativity which may be gleaned from the above, it was a very enjoyable trip. Despite the lack of views!

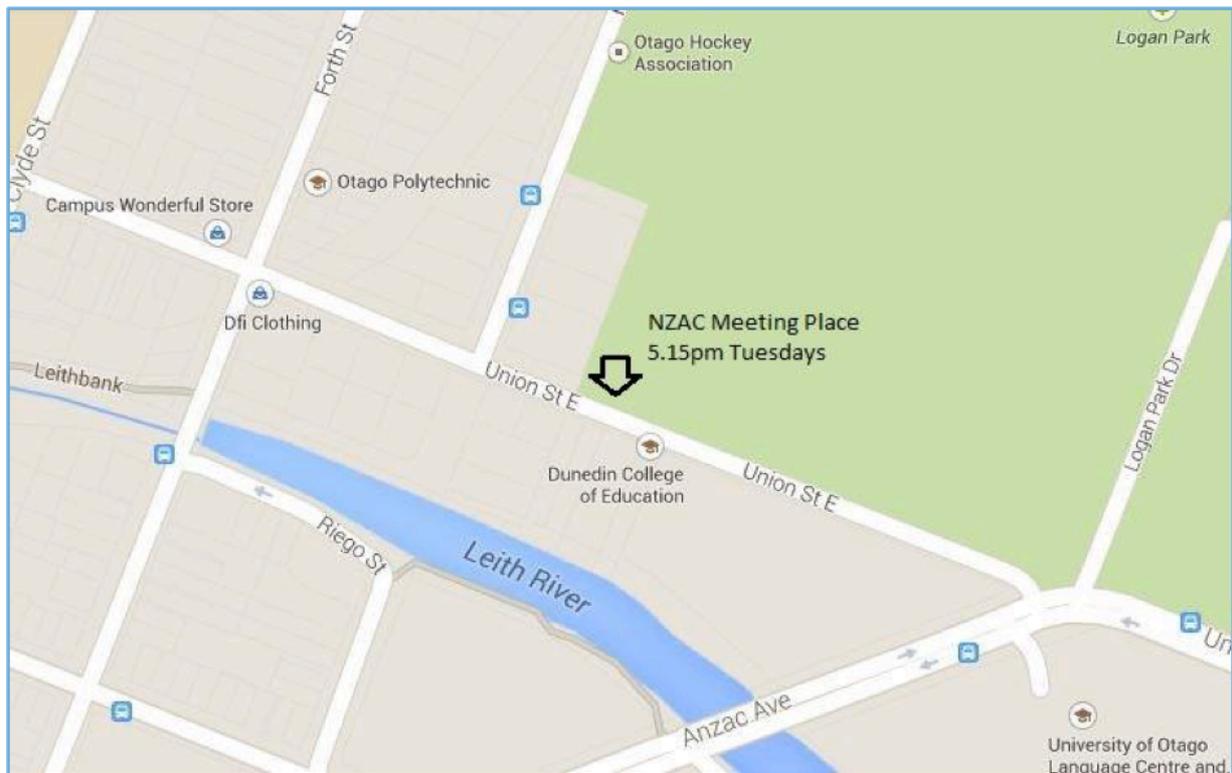
From the Wanaka based contingent, it was just great to actually have an Alpine Club trip to make up for what is not happening in the apparently still-born Central Otago section.

Trip members: Keith Moffat (organiser) Gina Andrews, Jeff Cleugh, Jeff Collie, Andy Pohl, Heather Rhodes and Neil Sloan (writer)

Tuesday Night Rock Climbing

Back for 2016-2017 – same time, same place. Meet at Logan Park opposite the Teachers College at 5.15pm for a 5.30 departure (to whatever local crag the group chooses) with a group of friendly local climbers. Tuesday climbing is open to all climbers (non-NZAC members are welcome!) who are keen to socialise and meet new people, or perhaps get a belay on some new climbs.

Gear is available for hire to use on the night (free for members). Contact Lindsay Smith for more information at 0274048911. Please note the purpose of the evenings is not for instruction – while experienced climbers are always on hand for advice, beginners should bring a competent friend to show them the ropes (as it were).



Tuesday rock climbing meeting location.

National Climbing Camp - Top Forks Hut, Wilkin Valley, Feb 2017

The Otago Section will be hosting the 2017 National Climbing Camp from 4-11 February, based at Top Forks Hut in the Wilkin Valley. Top Forks is in a stunning alpine environment and there are several peaks within striking distance of the hut, many of them grade 1 climbs. Campers are expected to be self-contained with their own tent, cooking equipment fuel and food. We will have access to the hut but not exclusive use. The small registration fee (\$30) will cover basic communal facilities such as a tarp shelter, dish-washing facilities, toilet tent, thermette and a mountain radio. The camp is suitable for climbers of all levels of experience but you must be an NZAC member to attend. If you do not have a climbing partner at the camp we will arrange for you to team up with other climbers.

It is a 12 hour walk from Makarora to Top Forks so people attending the camp are encouraged to consider travel by helicopter from Makarora or jet boat access via Kerin Forks Hut, although this is still a 6 hour walk to Top Forks. Registration is limited to 40 people. Please register by completing the [Registration Form](#) and send it to narina@alpineclub.org.nz or contact Keith Moffat: 03 473-8903; 027 664 4037; Moffat.k172@gmail.com

AGM/CCM and 125th Anniversary Dinner Report

Section Chair Jaz Morris attended the NZAC Annual General Meeting in Christchurch and attended the twice-yearly Central Committee Meeting on behalf of the Otago Section. The AGM farewelled and thanked the Club's long serving Secretary George Edwards and Treasurer Gillian Crombie, as well as noting the contribution of volunteers and Home of Mountaineering staff in keeping the NZAC running during a turbulent year with two General Manager resignations and a less-than-satisfactory website upgrade (again). In better news, the club now owns the HOM freehold and is now paying off loans made by generous members who supported the redevelopment of Unwin Lodge. AGM minutes: <http://alpineclub.org.nz/parkside/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/AGM-2016-Minutes-FINAL.pdf>

At the CCM meeting (a sort of board meeting for NZAC) the new GM Karen Tait was welcomed (and thrown in the deep end) during a busy meeting. CCM initiated a review of NZAC governance (to be chaired by President-Elect John Palmer), a review of the Banff Film Festival, as well as making positive developments on guidebook distribution (to be managed now by Potton-Burton Publishing as well as HOM), an extension of the working life of the ClimbNZ website (while a decision about any major upgrade is made), and an improvement to the flexibility of finding instructors for NZAC volunteer-led instruction courses. Otago Section continues to be a thorn in the side of CCM and the minutes show our continual push for better strategic thinking and consolidation of the Club's many areas of operation. We are very happy with the election of JP ("the sort of anti-establishment candidate Otago can support") as incoming President and wish current club President Penny Brothers and all the HOM staff a very successful 2017.

This year, as you will know, the club held its 125th anniversary. With an excellent meal and stellar organisation (and decoration) by the Canterbury/Westland Section the Club celebrated in style last month at the Papanui Bowls club. For some reason the Otago Chairman was roped into MC-ing the evening, which saw a series of great talks by Pete Cammel, Margaret Clark and Otago's own Dave Ellis. With a good crowd in attendance the Club's next 125 years look bright!

Grants available

Got a great climbing project? Short of funds? We might have the answer. We are calling for funding applications from anyone who has a climbing project that would benefit from a cash injection. We expect to contribute around \$500 per project but could go higher for something spectacular! The rules are simple: The project must contribute to climbing in the Otago Region and the project must have wide benefits – not be for individuals.

In recent years we have funded bolting and rebolting projects throughout Otago, contributed to hut repair and historic hut renovations, and helped with the development of new crags. Your project could be next. Send us an email to otago.climber@gmail.com and tell us about your project: who's involved, what it will cost and who will benefit.

Notices from NZAC headquarters

Life Insurance

We are pleased to be able to provide a life insurance policy to our members that covers mountaineering and climbing. Thanks to Peter Garrett of Alpine Risk Management, a voluntary group policy has been brokered which is underwritten by Sovereign Insurance. Sovereign is prepared to underwrite life/trauma/accidental death cover worldwide for members who engage in mountaineering, and will discount standard life premium rates by 10%.

For those interested in obtaining life insurance, please email pbgarrett@xtra.co.nz. When emailing Peter, please let him know your full name, date of birth, contact phone number(s) and best time of day to call. He will then arrange for a Sovereign Authorised Financial Adviser to get in touch with you. Each policy issued will vary between customers depending on what options are chosen.

ORC Fund - Erceg Hut Project

A team of 5 volunteers, led by NZAC member Hayden Cox, has just completed a repaint and maintenance work project on Erceg Hut. This was achieved with the aid of Outdoor Recreational

Consortium funding (applied through NZAC) and DOC Twizel support, via their arrangement with Dulux, for the paint. <https://alpineclub.org.nz/orc-grant-erceg-hut-painting-and-maintenance-project/>



Martin Curtis and the new windows at Cascade Hut. Photo: supplied

Cascade Hut Window Replacement

Another success story from Martin Curtis and Bob White at Cascade Hut. With the help of ORC, NZAC and personal funding a combined window replacement and re-lining project was started recently. The new windows are now all in place, with the bunkroom lining to be done at the end of summer. The windows were built and brought down by Bob all the way from Gisborne and in keeping with the hut's historic nature were constructed to look the same, but with treated timber to extend their life. We greatly appreciate the work of these two dedicated volunteers, whose efforts have been vital to the survival of Cascade Hut.

Sales/other

Sale on NZAC guidebooks: login using your NZAC account at <https://alpineclub.org.nz/product-category/guidebooks/> for Xmas guidebook deals.

We are at the end of our NZAC 125th Anniversary branded stock – t-shirts, jackets and special-edition playing cards, so your last chance to purchase these unique gifts. <https://alpineclub.org.nz/product-category/125anniversaryproducts/>

Sherwood Yoga in Queenstown is now offering a 10% discount on pilates and yoga classes for NZAC memberships.

Gear Hire

Our 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 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 - now free for NZAC members

We have two PLBs available for hire, and have decided to make this service free for current NZAC members. Contact Keith Moffat 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)

Treasurer, Equipment Manager - Keith Moffat

Secretary - Emma Kluge

Speakers - Polly Camber

Trips, Banff Film Festival - Danilo Hegg

Instruction - Heather Rhodes

Newsletter Editor - Ben Mitchell

Jr. Climbing Coordinator - Riley Smith

Sr. Climbing Coordinator (AKA Tuesday night climbing) - Lindsay Smith

No printed newsletters

If you know an OSONZAC member who isn't getting newsletters online yet, then encourage them to pass their email address on to Margaret at HQ margaret@alpineclub.org.nz.

Contact information

Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club
c/o 172 Gladstone Rd, Dalmore, Dunedin 9016

Email: otago.climber@gmail.com

Web: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/region/otago/>

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



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB



Ascending Turner Peak in the whiteout. Photo: Neil Sloan



Descending the western side of Ocean Peak. Photo: Jaz Morris