

The Otago Climber

February 2017



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

Sian Meffan on 'Headbanger's Arête,' Wanaka.



Meetings

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

Wednesday 1 February

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

Wednesday 1 March

Unfortunately **Anne McLeod's** talk has been cancelled.

In her place, **Richard O'Neill Dean** has agreed to bring his talk 1 month forward: 'Ski Rhapsody – A Ski Mountaineering Traverse.' Richard recently completed what he says is "best to describe as a ski mountaineering traverse separate from the excellent and classic Symphony on Skis... a traverse that links the Godley Valley to the West Coast." Those who remember his talk some years ago about a ski 'Prelude' from the Rangitata to the Godley will be interested to see the continuation of Richard's adventures.

Trips

24-26 February – Sebastapol Bluffs. The Tuesday night rock climbing team are planning a trip over the weekend on 25-26 February. This is an outstanding crag with a good mix of grades close to Mt Cook Village. We have booked accommodation at Unwin Lodge and will drive up after work on Friday to give two full days of climbing. Anyone interested in the trip should contact Lindsay on lindsay@plumtree.net.nz.

18-19 March – Mt Brown. Prolific trip leader Keith Moffat is back, fresh from organising the NZAC Annual Climbing Camp with a trip to the Ben Ohau Range from Bush Stream. Mt Brown is a grade 1, easy climb ("I think" – Keith).

25 March – 'El Cap Day.' Those of you who cragged round Dunedin late last century will remember the popular El Cap days, competitive top roping with a chance to push personal limits and win fabulous prizes. For those who don't remember or weren't yet born, the El Cap day saw about 10 top ropes placed across a wide range of climbs at Long Beach. Climbers then competed throughout the day to see who could complete the most climbs – and prizes worth thousands of dollars were awarded to the winners.

Perhaps our memory of the prizes needs an 'alternative fact' check, but the days were great fun and a very popular way for climbers to try some of Long Beach's more unusual, challenging or less popular climbs. The day finished with a barbeque and light refreshments as part of the prize-giving.

Well, the El Cap Day is back this year on Saturday, 25 March. The committee will publish more details and entry form next month but in the meantime, write the date in your diary.

Trip Report: Wanaka Rock Climbing – Riley Smith

I got the text from Ryan on a delightful Dunedin summer Thursday asking if I wanted to come for a drive to Wanaka for the weekend, to climb rock that doesn't crumble when you look at it. The plan was to head up there early Saturday morning then 'climb until our fingers bleed,' camp in the Albert Town DOC campsite, and then rinse and repeat for the Sunday. We then got hold of two other young climbers from Dunedin, Sian and Millie, and there we all were – four climbers in a valley floor full of top-notch climbing!

We started off on the main face at Hospital Flat, with everyone sending 'Straight up the Face' route which sits at grade 18; we were all psyched to be climbing such quality rock! We then headed over to the infamous 'Headbangers Arête' (grade 17), a climb that heads up an almost 90-degree arête with superb side pull moves the whole way up. After bagging a couple more climbs on the Main Face, we had lunch and scoped out our next crag, the Tombstone. Unfortunately, we ended up taking a wrong turn and wading through thick bush lawyer; after our wee detour we finally emerged at the block, covered in cuts and scratches.

No trip to Wanaka is complete without an ascent of 'The Crack' (17), an iconic trad crack climb that snakes up the middle of the Tombstone with a range of spectacular views, decent exposure, interesting moves and even good gear placement! Ryan and I both led it which was a rad achievement for me, as I only went to my first trad course in December (thanks Heather and Hugh for your excellent tuition). Sian and Ryan then sent a couple of the other sport 17s on the other side while Millie and I tried our luck on 'Disco Inferno' - a stunning overhanging arête that's located on the back side of the Tombstone. I was stoked to get it on my first attempt however Millie succumbed to the pump in her arms this time (more about this later). The weather had been relatively good up until we got to the Tombstone, when some ominous looking clouds started rolling down the valley. We decided to pack up for the day and head into Wanaka for a Red Star burger. After refuelling our muscles, we drove to the Albert Town DOC campsite (fortunately, being 15 – it only costs \$3.50 for me for the night compared to \$20 each for the others!)

Sunday started off with a much-needed coffee and a chat of our options for the day ahead. We decided to try out a crag called 'The Bakehouse' first. After ducking through the electric fence, we arrived at The Bakehouse and realized that it really does live up to its name! With the early morning sun on our back, we set out climbing. Sian and Millie started on a crimpy, black-stained 18 while Ryan and I started on a 19, which was later lead by Sian making it the hardest climb she's sent so far. Unfortunately, I can't tell you the names of them because in my wee Wanaka Rock 2005 – the Bakehouse doesn't exist! After getting baked (in the sun) we stumbled back to the Tombstone to let Millie send Disco Inferno. After a few breakdowns, falls and cuts in her fingers – Millie finally send her first 20 sport climb! I didn't want to waste the opportunity – so I had a try at a climb that's also on the backside of the Tombstone called 'Pitch Black' which is another overhanging arête that goes up the opposite side of the block. According to my 2005 guidebook – it goes at grade 21. Somehow, I scrambled my way up the arête with a few falls and then reached the top, stoked! After further inspection of the new guidebook, Pitch Black is now a 22, this was a definite highlight of the trip for me!

After lunch, we walked to our last crag – The Cutting. This an awesome crag that is pretty much all vertical face climbing, located about 75m above Hospital Flat on the ‘Kai Whaka Pai’ side. Everyone was starting to get sore arms here, but we still bagged the “mega classic” called ‘Happy Fat Men’ that goes at 18 and ‘The Whole Enchilada’ – 19. This was probably my favourite climb over the whole weekend as there were some pretty interesting moves over a big roof, and looking down to the valley floor made your fingers grab the wall just that little bit tighter. Stoked with the onsite!

Overall we had a superb weekend with reasonable weather and brilliant rock! Millie sent her first 20, Sian sent her first 19, Ryan smashed an onsite on ‘The Crack’ and I was happy to send my first 22! Thanks very much to Ryan for putting up with 3 kiwi teenagers for the weekend – couldn’t have done it without you!

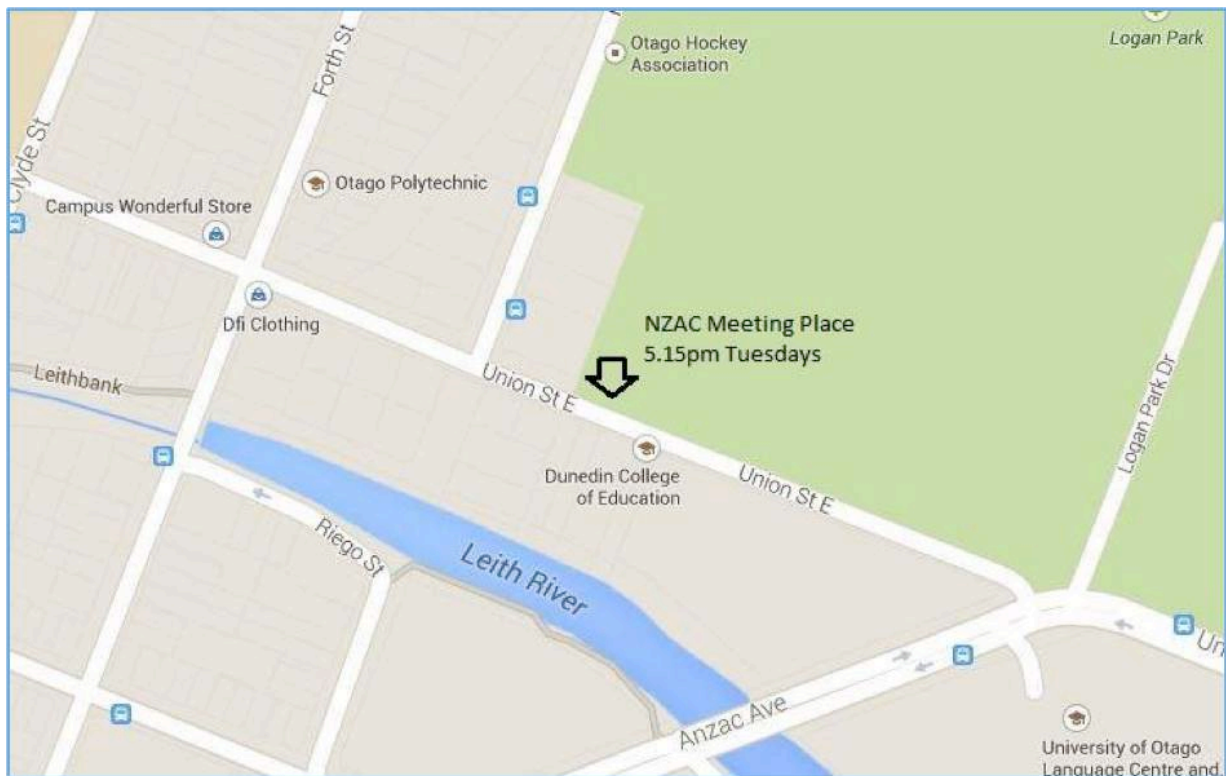


Ryan Thomas on ‘The Crack.’ Photo: Riley Smith

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.

On-line survey

In the near future, the Otago Section will email you a link to an online survey; your chance to tell the section your ideas and to give the Committee direction as to where you would like us to go. Are you interested in advanced instruction, should the section offer more scholarships, do you want to see Elephant Rocks bolted? [not a real suggestion – *Editor*] This will be your chance to have your say, so watch your email inbox for details.

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 funding 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.

We've recently put \$1000 towards supporting Steve Carr's rebolting and route development efforts around Dunedin. Cheers Steve!



Christchurch teen crusher Jarrod Alexander cruising 'Xerxes' (grade 30) at Little Babylon recently. Last year during the Canterbury/Westland visit to Long Beach, Jarrod got the on-sight of local classic Crime and Punishment (23) – what will go down this year? Nautilus (30) at Long Beach is on Jarrod's list – are there any Dunedin climbers in the same league? Come along and do us proud... Photo: Jaz Morris

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).

Canterbury-Westland Section Long Beach trip

Fast becoming an annual tradition, Clayton Garbes and the team from Christchurch are visiting Long Beach for the weekend 11-12 March. It's always a social weekend and all are welcome.

Notices from NZAC headquarters

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 125th Anniversary Clothing – Sale

The remaining stock of our 125th 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/>

Discounts

Peak Safety now offers a discount to NZAC members. <https://alpineclub.org.nz/company/peak-safety/>

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.



Riley Smith on 'The Big Enchilada' (left) and Millie Bray on 'Disco Inferno'.

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 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 – VACANT

Trips, Banff Film Festival – Danilo Hegg

Instruction – Heather Rhodes

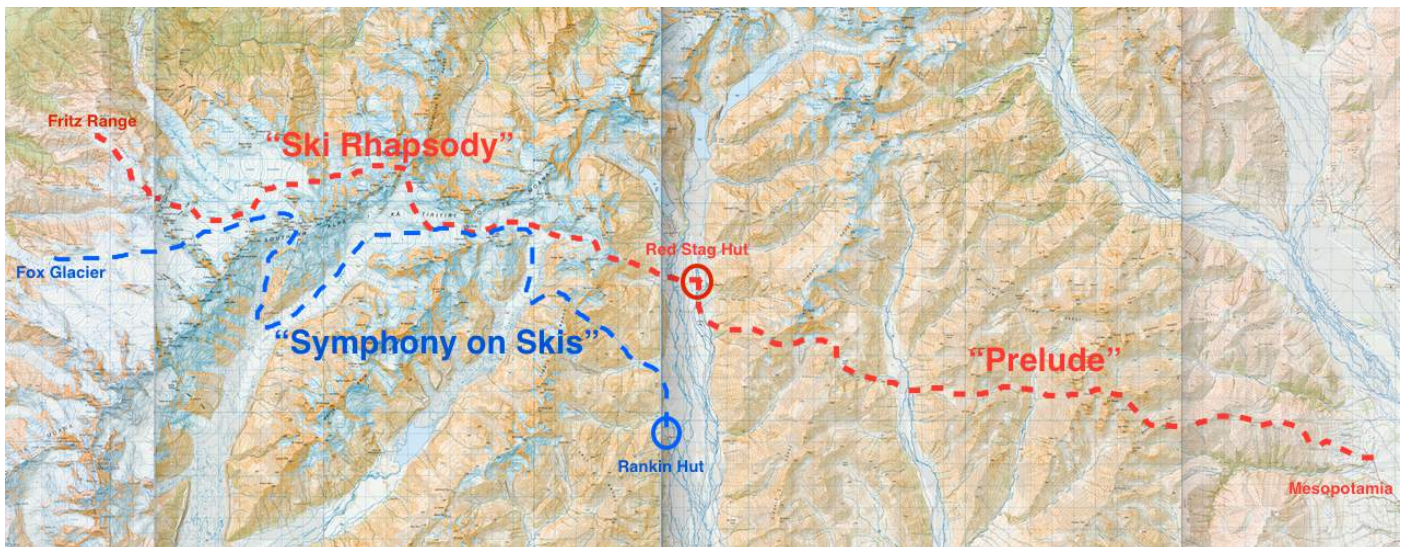
Newsletter Editor – Ben Mitchell

Jr. Climbing Coordinator – Riley Smith

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

We need you!

The OSONZAC Committee is looking a little slim at the moment. Regardless if you're in the "size doesn't matter" or the "bigger is better" camp, we'd appreciate anyone interested in helping out with running the committee. Vacancies include our meeting speaker's organiser and Secretary (or swap a job with an incumbent) and our monthly meetings at the Duke of Wellington are a casual affair over a beer and gossip. Talk to any committee member at a meeting or Tuesday rock climbing if you think you can help.



Richard O'Neill-Dean's 'Ski Rhapsody' – come along in March to hear all about it.

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>