



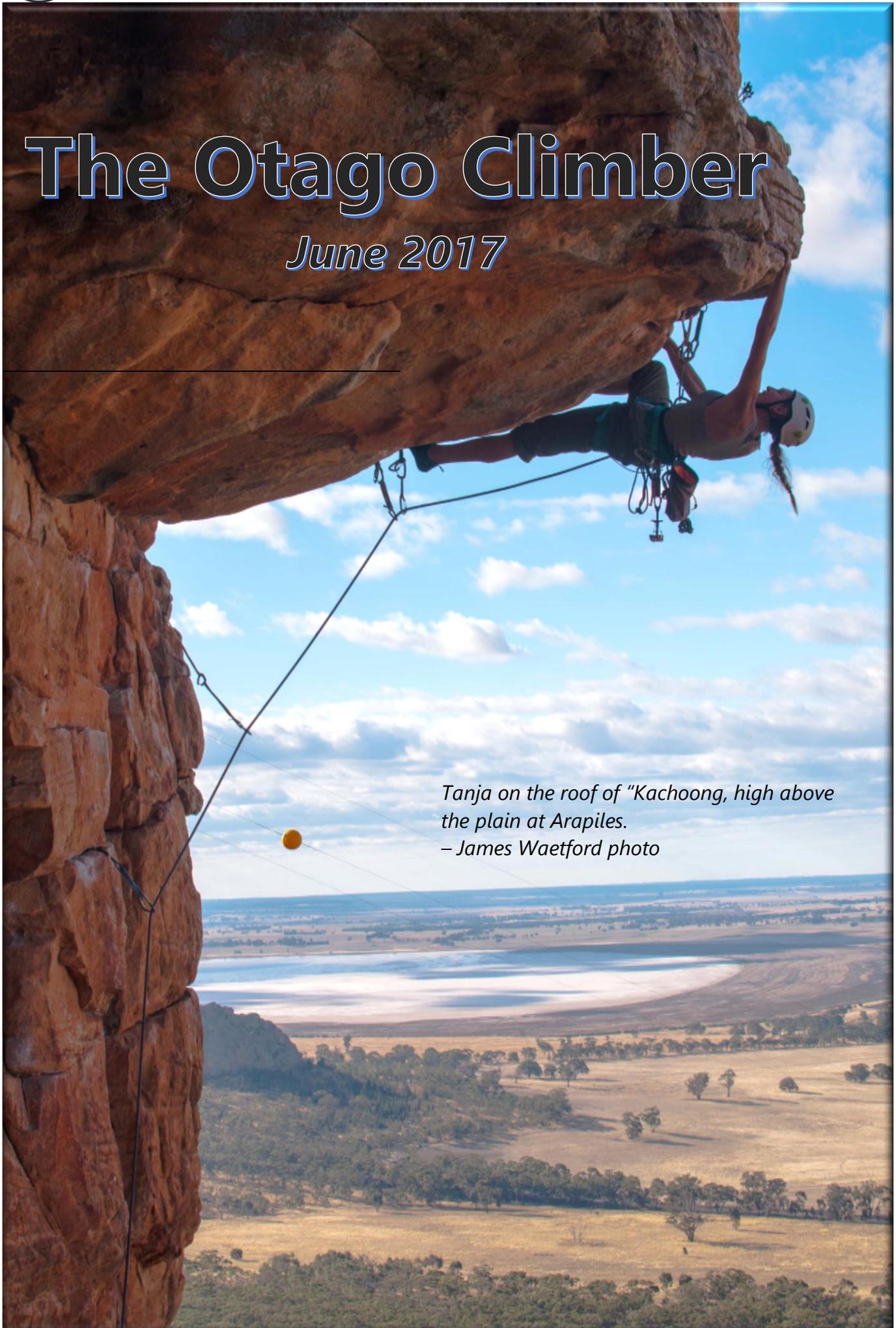
NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

The Otago Climber

June 2017

*Tanja on the roof of "Kachoong, high above
the plain at Arapiles.*

– James Waetford photo





The Otago Climber

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

June 2017

Meetings

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

Tuesday, 30 May & Thursday, 1 June

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

Wednesday 14 June

Current NZAC President Penny Brothers will talk on her extensive climbing career. Please note date change to the **second** Wednesday only for **June**.

Wednesday, 5 July

Incoming NZAC President John Palmer will be our guest speaker.

Trips, Training and Turkey

This year the Sections' **Mid-winter Christmas** meet will be held in conjunction with Southland Section at Homer Hut – **24-25 June**. If you are keen to eat turkey, celebrate the winter solstice and even get some climbing done, then read on later in the newsletter. Contact Keith by email – moffat.k172@gmail.com for details or to book a place



Big Hut tramp, 28-29 July. Riley Smith is leading a winter trip to Big Hut on the Rock and Pillar range behind Middlemarch. Great opportunity to revisit the section's historic early ski field or to try out the section's snow shoes. Contact Riley by email – rileychallis@gmail.com for details or to book a place.

2017 Snowcraft Course will be held 4 – 6 August and there are details in the newsletter on page 3. This course is always very popular, so we suggest you book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Heather by email – heathermayrhodes@gmail.com for details or to book a place

Eyre Mountains; 25 – 27 August. Danilo has begun the early planning for a trip to the Eyre Mountains. This trip will be ideal for those who are new to mountaineering, especially those who have just completed the Snowcraft Course. Contact Danilo by email danilo.hegg@hotmail.com for details or to book a place

Banff Film Festival nearly here



Ticket sales are now well underway for this year's Dunedin screenings of the Banff Mountain Film Festival on Tuesday, 30 May and Thursday, 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). For more information, or to make a booking, head to: http://www.regenttheatre.co.nz/show_event/banff-mountain-film-festival-2/

Mid-winter Christmas Party at Homer Hut this year

This year's mid-winter club trip is to be held in conjunction with the Southland Section at Homer Hut on the Milford Road. Merrymakers will leave Dunedin early Saturday morning on 24 June, sharing transport and aiming to arrive at the hut early afternoon, when the traditional mid-winter Christmas festivities will begin.

Those joining the trip are expected to bring a contribution to a pot-luck Christmas dinner – turkey, roast lamb or tofu with mint sauce for vegetarians. Christmas decorations, fresh flowers for the table and a piano for the after-dinner sing-along would also be appreciated. Egg nog, mulled wine and port are recommended, as is a \$5 gift for a secret Santa. You will need to bring a gas cooker and \$20 members hut fee. On the Sunday 25th, those who are able can undertake a huge range of optional, vaguely mountaineering type activities. Depending on the weather and avalanche risk that weekend, you can have your choice of rock climbing, tramping, mountaineering, ice climbing or driving to Milford for a flat white.



If you'd like to join this traditional Otago Section trip, contact Otago Section coordinator Keith Moffat on email – moffat.k172@gmail.com. Homer is a mid-sized hut and unless you are happy to camp, early bookings are recommended.

Annual Snowcraft Course Planned

Otago Section's popular Snowcraft Course will be held from 4 – 6 August this year, based at the Remarkables Ski-field. The course is planned to give new mountaineers the basic skills they need to get started in the mountains and an appreciation of risks and challenges involved in this wonderful sport. Skills covered include ice axe and crampon use, avalanche avoidance and rescue, camping, and navigation.



2014 NZAC snowcraft course

Reasonable fitness, but no prior snow experience, is required. Once the course has been completed, new climbers will be able to join the Section on appropriate club trips, such as the one Danilo is organising to the Eyre Mountains.

The course costs \$150, which covers gear rental (axe, crampons, helmet, avalanche transceiver, shovel, probe), accommodation in Frankton for Friday and Saturday nights, and the latest snowcraft manual. Climbers will need to provide their own food, clothing and boots suitable for crampons but the instructors can help with advice as to what is OK.

The section is fortunate to have experienced mountaineers Heather Rhodes, Jaz Morris and Raluca Ana available to teach this year, and those who sign-up can be sure that they will have a fun weekend learning the skills they need to get started in the mountains. If you are interested, contact Heather by email – heathermayrhodes@gmail.com for details or to book one of the 12 places on this year's course.

Update on the Future of Otago Section library

Thanks to all of you who commented on the options for the future of the section library – your ideas, comments and suggestions were considered at our May Committee meeting, and a two-stage solution has been agreed.

As you may know, 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 borrowed a book, and it seems a shame to have this climbing material locked away unused.

And those of you who did send a submission clearly agreed that we should find a way to make these books more accessible but there was no agreement how that could be achieved. Some of the books and magazines are important, or rare, and the Committee felt these should remain widely available. We are currently identifying these and they will be offered first to NZAC's Home of Mountaineering in Christchurch or to the Hocken Library in Dunedin. Once we have dealt with these books and magazine, we will give a bit more thought what to do with the more general list remaining and the options could be an arrangement with OTMC, an offer to the Hocken or more general disposal. We'll keep you informed of progress before we do anything final.

Section Trip Report –

Gunsight Pass – *by Ed Ivison, trip leader, photos Jerry Provaznik*

On the 6th and 7th May I led a team of 6 over Gunsight Pass in the Barrier Range. The week before the trip the weather looked as though it would scupper the plans with heavy rain, snow and gale force winds. Although as the weekend approached it appeared we would get a good weather window so the trip pressed ahead.

On the Saturday morning I think we had early start (8:30 am) although I was told that this really isn't early! We set off at pace to cover the 6km of relatively flat terrain up the Temple Stream North, only to find a few minutes later that we were on Temple Stream South! I like to think of this as a warm up before we started the actual trip, but the team were not convinced and put it down to my poor navigation skills.



As we headed up the gully on to the pass we were expecting snow and ice, although we only came across this about 50m from the top as the gradient levelled off. After a rather enjoyable scramble up on to the pass we were rewarded with clear skies and a stunning view of Mt Cook to the north. The sun was out and with virtually no wind we took an extended lunch break taking in the scenery.

Sadly, we had to leave the views behind us and set off to find a place to camp for the night. As the route down was south facing we encountered significantly more snow. After a little test, it felt a bit 'crispy' so we broke out the crampons and ice axe and set off. In hind sight, we probably didn't need the ice gear but it was nice to use the kit we had taken and get a km or so using crampons.

The planned campsite was at the confluence of streams leading in to Temple Stream South, but as we got there it seemed a little 'bumpy' so we held out for something a little better further downstream. Thankfully we did find somewhere better and set up camp. As night fell we were graced with a stunning star display but this was short-lived as an almost full moon rose which was so bright it dimmed the stars. The following morning it was a pleasure to see that the weather was still fine although bitterly cold. This

of course meant we also had the pleasure of donning frozen boots.

Within about 200m of camp we had a river crossing to do, it wasn't big, deep or that challenging but that didn't stop me from falling over, getting drenched through, and requiring a swift change of clothes.

The 10km back to the car part didn't take long and we were off the mountain by 12. The previous night's discussions

about a pint in Ohau lodge on the drive out had nothing to do with the swift pace that we took on!



Almost a section trip – by *Lindsay Smith*

Not quite ready to finish rock climbing for the summer, six from the Otago section and one from Christchurch headed across the ditch in April to experience Dunedin's most westerly crag – Arapiles. Three and a half hours flying to Melbourne and about the same time driving brought us to Horsham to stock up with supplies before the final 25km drive to the Pines Camping Ground at the foot of the crag.

From a distance, Arapiles looks like a low island rising from a flat sea of wheat stubble and it isn't until you're quite close that you can gauge the scale of the crag. Imagine sitting in Otago Harbour looking back at the city; the length of the crag is the same as from High Street on your left to Leith Valley on your right and the vertical height of 250m is close to the rise from town to Roslyn. According to the guide book there are over 2,000 recognised climbs, the best 1,200 of which are listed in excellent detail with very clear pictures and amusing, though often sparse beta.



Jaz, Riley, Tanja, Pete, James and Meg

The Saturday before Easter was travel day and once we arrived early afternoon, the team of, Tanja, James, and Meg, (who were there for two weeks) and Jaz, Pete, Riley and I (only one week) spent the day making the camp comfortable and erecting a large fly as the cooking/meeting area before heading out to explore the first few climbs which could be seen from the camp. That day there were a few other climbers in the camp, which is well set up with toilets, rubbish bins and dishwashing facilities for \$5/night. But by Good Friday the place was packed and there were rumoured to be 500 dirtbags looking for something to climb that day. For those who haven't been before, Arapiles is a Trad. Crag and although the occasional bolt has been placed, if you are into sport climbing I suggest you head to the Grampians – about 100km back towards Melbourne.



Author Lindsay soloing a Grade 3! at Bushranger Bluff.

But what Arapiles does have is literally something for everyone. From the Bushranger Bluffs with tons of grade 3 to 10 beginner climbs to an almost endless list of starred, multi-pitch projects in the 20s and beyond.

It's also worth mentioning the Arapiles grading system, which although supposed to be the same as NZ, often appears to bear little relationship to the grades we would expect here. I mean, who's ever heard of a near vertical, 120 metre climb graded a 5! And of course there is the world's most photographed climb, Kachoong, a grade 21 roof problem high above the plain but in clear view of those sitting on the Photographer's Ledge".

The Otago team certainly made the most of the time they had, climbing from dawn to dusk – and even beyond. Mid-week one it was a full moon and the team, with a few hangers-on, soloed the 120 metre Tiptoe Ridge by the light of the Aussie moon – which of course is much bigger and brighter than our version. A full day was spent in an assault on Kachoong, with each of the team managing to top out on this classic by day's end. Another day the team focused on the King Rat Gully and the shorter, but much more technically challenging climbs in that area. Throughout the week that I was there the team ticked off over 50 climbs in the guide book, leaving 1150 to be done next year. If you'd like more details, check out this excellent website www.chockstone.org/Arapiles/Arapiles.htm



Meg starts up Kachoong 21, James on belay and Jaz on the Photographer's Ledge.

Official Section Trip for 2018?

At the Section's Club night recently there was quite some interest in an official Section Trip to Arapiles in 2018 and we'd love to hear from you if you are keen to go. A rough plan would see us flying out from Christchurch on Saturday, 20 April 2018 and taking rental car/van to camp at the Pines, returning on Sunday 27 April so as to miss the Easter rush while getting the last of the autumn weather. Given our experience this year we would expect the total cost – travel, accommodation, food and excellent Australian red wine (\$4.50 for four litres) – to be less than \$1,000. If you are interested just email Lindsay lindsay@plumtree.net.nz and we will start more detailed planning.

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.

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 or 027 664 4037 a few days in advance if you want to hire a PLB. \$5 per day for non-members.

Leo Houlding to headline NZ Mountain Film and Book Festival 2017

The 15th NZ Mountain Film and Book Festival will run from 30 June to 9 July in Wanaka, Cromwell and Queenstown. The event will host international and NZ speakers, a world-class line up of films, and a broad range of literary events all honouring adventurous sports and lifestyles.

World famous climber Leo Houlding (UK) headlines the programme of speakers in 2017. The most widely recognised and articulate climber of his generation he will speak about his most ambitious and challenging expedition to date, the first ascent of Ulvetanna's remarkable, mile long north east ridge. The festival programme will be announced when tickets go on sale on 1 June. The 2017 festival begins in Wanaka on Friday 30 June and in Queenstown on Thursday 6 July.

- Film Festival Wanaka 30 June to 4 July
- Film Festival Cromwell 5 July
- Film & Book Festival Queenstown 6 to 8 July
- Book Festival Wanaka 7 to 9 July

More details can be found online at mountainfilm.nz

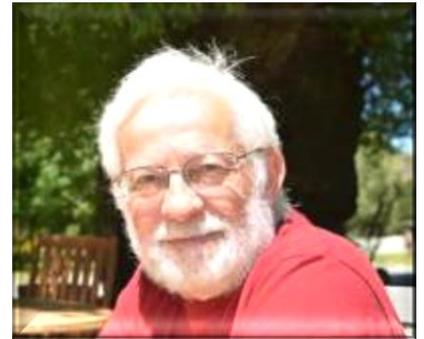
Remarkables Ice and Mixed Climbing Festival

The annual Remarkables Ice and Mixed Climbing Festival, sponsored by NZAC, is on again the 17th – 20th August and more info on the event can be found at 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 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

Richard's rack goes to Kayla Dods!

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.

At the Section Committee meeting recently Richard's partner Marian Hobbs and the committee agreed that five applications which met the competition's requirements were equally compelling and it was decided



to

select a winner by pulling a name from a hat. And Kayla was the lucky winner. Kayla is currently taking a break from climbing in Dunedin to visit Nepal and Japan and we will present her with the rack at a Section evening when she returns.

As shown in the photo, this is an extensive rack and includes a harness and climbing pack.

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 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.



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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 –	Lindsay Smith
Trips, Banff Film Festival –	Danilo Hegg
Instruction –	Heather Rhodes
Newsletter Editor –	Ben Mitchell
Rock Climbing Coordinator –	Riley Smith
Committee members -	James Waetford
	Tanja de Wilde
	Chris Tipper

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