

The Otago Climber

April 2019

Lynn Hill is to be the guest speaker at this year's 17th NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival in Wanaka. Details page 6.



The Otago Climber

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

April 2019

Club Night

Wednesday, 3 April 2019

University of Otago Staff Club, 7.30pm



This month's guest speaker is FMC President Peter Wilson.

Local legend, climbing, tramping and skiing enthusiast and acclaimed Nissan Navara test pilot, Peter will explain the role of the Federated Mountain Clubs in the New Zealand Outdoor Community, and he'll outline FMC's current projects and challenges. Great chance to catch up on what's happening and to share your views on the important issues we are facing.

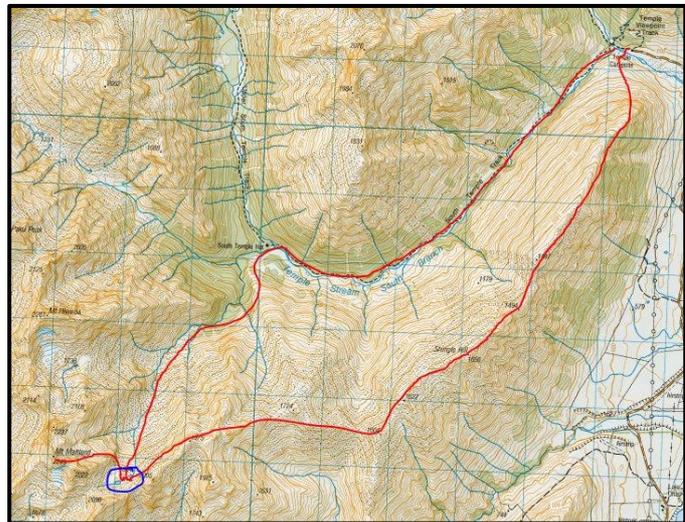
Trips and events calendar

Tuesday Climbing ends, Tuesday 2 April. As daylight savings end on Sunday, 7 April, next Tuesday will be our last outing for this summer season. Huge thanks to everyone who made this weekly event such a success and we look forward to seeing you again next season. But don't hang up your shoes just yet – Eve is looking to run winter section trips to Oamaru – where there is an actual climbing wall! Watch the newsletter and Facebook for more details. www.facebook.com/osonzac

Wednesday, 3 April 2019. FMC President **Peter Wilson** will bring us up to date on the key issues and will be keen to get your input into the major projects they are working on.

Mt Maitland, 5 – 7 April

Ryan Thomas is leading a trip to climb Mount Maitland in the Ruataniwha Conservation Park near Lake Ohau and accessed via the south branch of Temple Stream. It should be an easy climb (grade 1) up scree slopes to the top. We will access the climb by walking down the [South Temple Track](#) on Saturday morning then climbing up to a pair of tarns located on the shoulder of Mount Maitland. On Sunday, we will ascend the mountain and then walk out along the ridge leading north-east from the tarns.



This trip is weather dependent and may be rescheduled in the event of poor conditions.

See <https://www.osonzac.org.nz/EventDetails.php?id=7> for more information and to sign up.

Trip to Top Heavy, 3 – 4 May Keith Moffat will be taking a trip to Topheavy on the weekend 3-4 May, weather permitting. This trip should be a scramble, but we could have some early season snow. It will require a good level of fitness. The plan is to leave Dunedin on the Friday evening, with that night's accommodation yet to be decided. On Saturday we will head up the track to Brewster Hut then around to a bivi site on the Brewster Glacier close to Topheavy. On Sunday we will climb Topheavy and return to the carpark via Warden Spur so you will need to carry your full pack to the top. Keith Moffat is leading this trip, contact him at moffat.k172@gmail.com and he will send you a link to the enrolment form. For more information call Keith on 473-8903 or 027 6644037.

Double Club Night. Wednesday, 8 May. One week later than usual – and at a new venue – the May Club night will feature Nick Allen, who's determination and new lifestyle has seen him return to mountaineering despite being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

Following Nick's presentation, the Section will begin its **book sale**; an opportunity for climbers to buy great climbing books and magazines for a fraction of their value. **See story page 6** of the newsletter.

Kura Tāwhiti/Castle Hill Bouldering Trip

Section Trip report from Eve O'Brien

An excited group of climbers met at Eve's house around 5pm on Friday, 8 March to take on the challenge of trying to squeeze 9 people, piles of 'glamping' gear, climbing kit and 5 boulder mats into 3 reasonably small cars. Kudos to our packing team and drivers who made it work somehow and we were off! The 5 ½ hour drive was just long enough to ensure that we were all stoked to make it to the sweet little DOC campsite at Mistletoe Flat and settle into our tents for the night...some later than others (I'm pretty sure Eva, Susi and Peihua took it as a personal challenge to try and stop at every town along the way).

Saturday dawned fresh and crisp with the promise of a sunny day among world class boulders getting the team pumped and frothing with excitement. After a relaxed breakfast and meeting the mother and daughter crew who joined us from Oamaru for the weekend, we drove the 10 minutes back down the highway to the main Kura Tāwhiti/Castle Hill car park. The challenge of the area is deciding where to start among the endless array of fascinating rock formations. One group didn't make it far down the path before finding an interesting area of boulders



Happy campers at the Mistletoe Flat shelter



Eve spotting Kyle; V4 Nosebleed

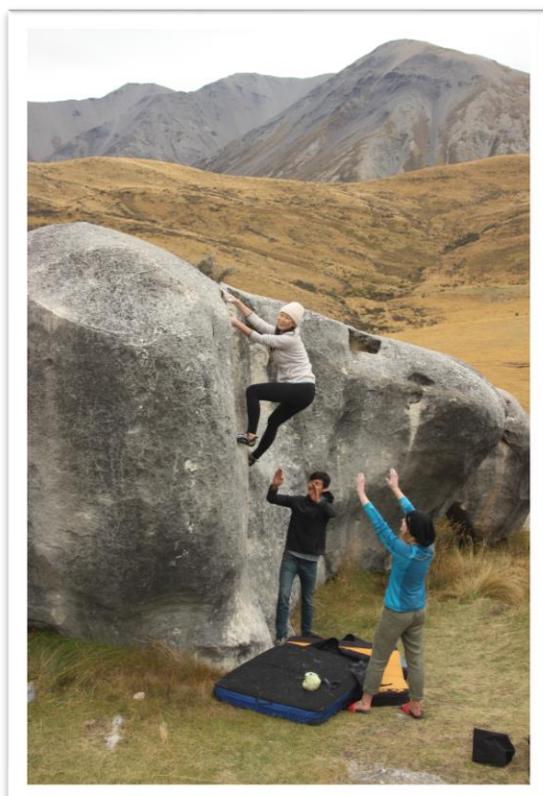
to explore at Spittle Hill while the rest of us wandered over to Rambandit Gully at the far side of Quantum Field to start off with some slabby bolted routes in the morning sunshine. Around lunchtime, the groups met up again to share some kai and build the communal bouldering stoke. Although the bolted routes were fun, it was the bouldering that definitely stole the show with grades and styles for everyone from slabby faces and layback cracks to off-width slots and overhanging compression problems. The rest of the day was spent wandering from one formation to another looking for sweet problems along with a fair amount of relaxing in the shade while watching others sweat it out in the afternoon sunshine...ah the life of a boulderer...I could get used to this! It was hard to leave with 'just one more go' being the catch phrase as the group gathered around to 'spot' those keen people trying some of the scary high problems at Spittle Hill. When tired muscles and hungry stomachs forced the group back to the campsite, we saw a great team effort produce a feed of very tasty burgers followed by a round of Happy Birthday and cake for Kimberley from Oamaru who turned 12 this weekend.



The group bouldering at the Submarine Boulder

With cooler weather on Sunday morning promising good friction, the team packed up the campsite and headed back to the basin as the unfinished Saturday projects beckoned. With a long drive ahead that

afternoon, we tried to fit in as much climbing as possible so the group again spread out and explored a variety of areas. My personal favourite moment was watching Kyle and Mathijs grapple with a weird short mantle in the middle of Quantum Field that seemed to require a heel hook to bring the body horizontal onto a wee ledge with the boulderer's head and shoulders crammed into a hole in the rock before composing oneself for a delicate stand-up move to finish the top out. The echoes of slight claustrophobia as you balance sideways with head stuck in the rock hole trying to figure out the next move was definitely worth a laugh for the spotter! Meeting the rest of the group back at the car park around 1pm it seems everyone had found something to challenge and stretch them with many making a list of projects to come back and finish in the future.

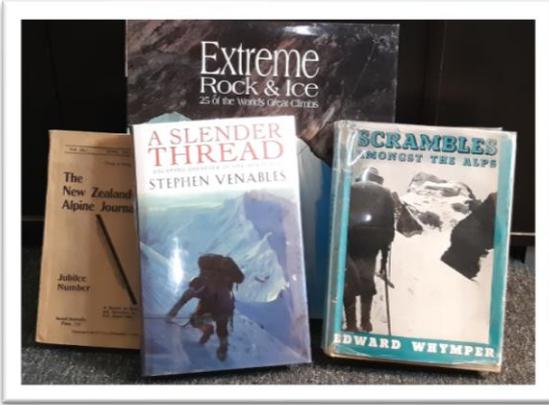


Peihua sends V3

Thanks team for bringing the stoke and making it such a fun time. Special thanks to our drivers who kept us safe on the roads. All in all a great weekend at an awesome location that is at once stunning, challenging and beautiful while also being super accessible for climbers of any experience or grade level. We will be back!

Book sale opportunity . . .

Over the years the Otago Section has built up an impressive library of over 400 books – but no one reads them as they are hidden away in the cupboard at the OTMC Clubrooms.



After looking at all the options, the Section Committee has decided to sell the library to members at the Section Club Night on **8 May at the OTMC Clubrooms in Young St, South Dunedin**– following Nick Allen’s talk.

The books and magazine will be priced at \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10 - cash and carry sales only. While you are browsing your selection and catching up with your friends, complimentary refreshments will be available. More info in the next newsletter – but book your diary now.

Lynn Hill to Visit Otago!

The 17th NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival in Wanaka and Queenstown (28 June to 6 July) will host a wide range of shows in 2019. The event will once again include talks, films, workshops and readings and showcase the top entries from the Adventure Filmmaking and Mountain Book competitions. The event is a celebration of adventurous sports and lifestyles presented for climbers, adventurers, film and book enthusiasts, and armchair adventurers.

Keynote speakers for 2019 will include inspirational adventurers from within NZ and around the world and features well known American climber Lynn Hill. The core of the Festival continues to be the international adventure film competition submissions. The programme includes 50-60 of the finalists; the content of which includes adventure sports such as base jumping, mountaineering, climbing, ski, snowboarding, kayaking, surfing, mountain biking; to the more sublime foreign cultures, remote travel and environmental issues.



Iconic American climber Lynn Hill - a speaker at this year's festival

2019 is the fifth year the event has included Mountain Book and Literature events. The Mountain Book and Literature programme will be incorporated into the main programme and include author readings, storytelling and more. The Festival will include an Art Exhibition and community Avalanche Awareness lecture, Adventure Film School and Adventure Writing School. Festivalgoers will enjoy live music, the massive adventure Trade Show, and a silent auction to raise funds for the NZ Mountain Film Festival Grant Scheme. The free Youth Programme aims to inspire youth into the outdoors. More details and ticket sales at www.mountainfilm.nz

Bringing Long Beach sand to Wanaka

Ryan Thomas' report and pics from the recent section trip to Wanaka

Tired of sandy Dunedin crags, eleven of us set out at various times for the crimpy schist climbing of Hospital Flat near Wanaka. Seven of us met up at the Albert Town Campground on Friday night, and we somehow all managed to arrive at roughly the same time. After a leisurely breakfast on Saturday morning, we met up with the rest of our group at Hospital Flat.



Karena on Headbanger's Arete

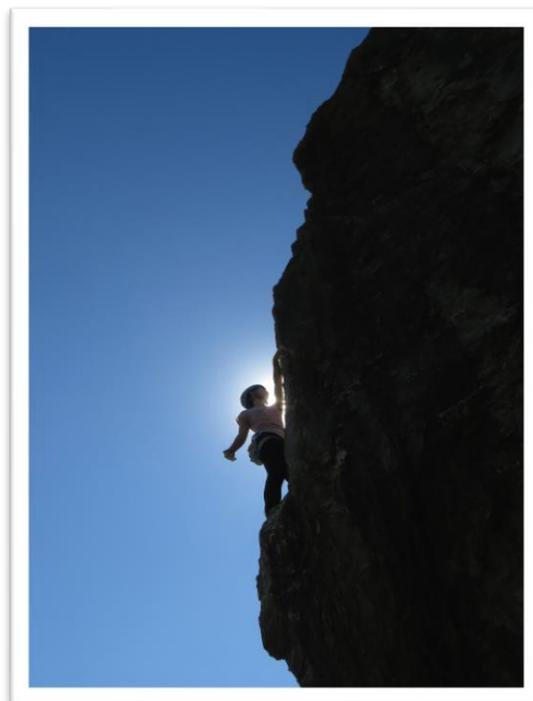
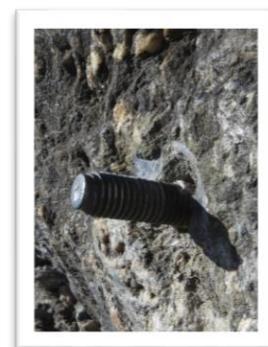
Most of our group had not climbed at Wanaka before, so we started out at the Main Cliff. This is a good place for people new to Wanaka because it has a few easy climbs, a few harder ones, and nearly all of them can be accessed from the top if you need to set up a top-rope anchor. While others were busy setting up some climbs on the right-hand side of the cliff, where the easier routes live, Alex and I tried our hand at *Headbanger's Arete* - the classic climb of the wall. Or so it used to be.

Imagine our surprise when we discovered that all of the hangers (save one) had been removed from the climbs on both sides of the arete! The bolts themselves are still present, but don't be fooled into thinking (like I did) that you can hang a wire on them: the typical fall from the crux move would result in the wire being pulled off of the bolt and you hitting

the ground. We heard via a group of passing climbers that the bolts had been removed by the first ascensionist because he had climbed it originally as a trad climb.

If you're going to do this, good luck! As of now, it is safe for most people only as a top-rope climb. Access the anchor for *Headbanger's Arete* by abseiling from the anchor for *Wasted on the Wing*. The other classic of the cliff, a grade 14 trad climb called the *Big Corner* with stellar protection, saw several lead and top-rope ascents.

It quickly got quite hot at the Main Cliff, so after lunch we all moved over to the Bakehouse which, like a bakery, is only hot in the morning. In the afternoon it sits in the shade and is quite a pleasant temperature. There are a couple of easy (14 and under) climbs at the far left and a trio of very interesting grade 17 climbs in the middle.



Peihua completes the crux - Living on the Edge



Eve body-jamming on The Crack

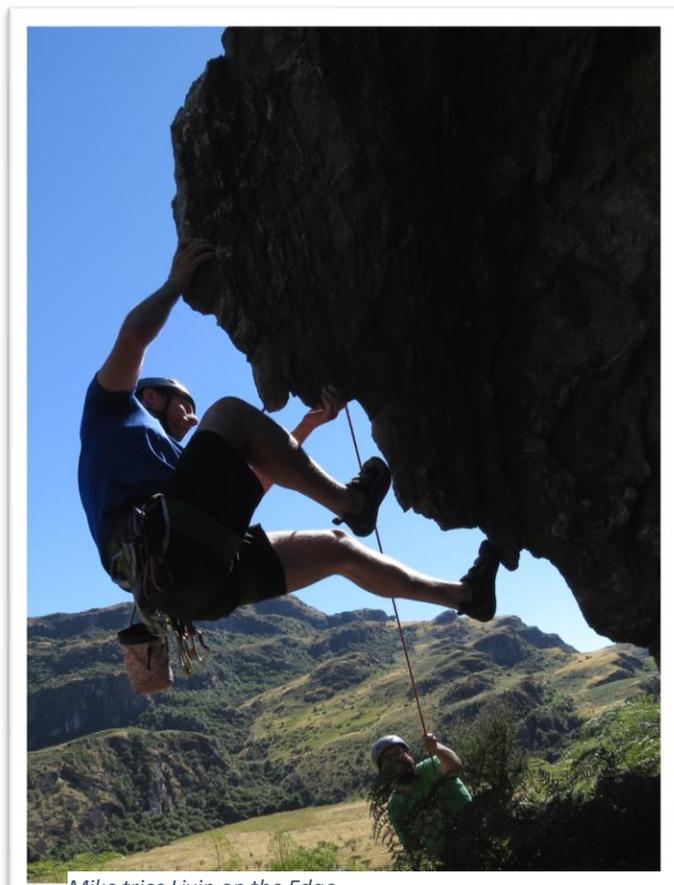
One of these climbs involves a rather brawny-looking move over a roof, but it's not actually as bad as it looks. While there, we ran into a member from the Southland section of the NZAC and a group from the OUTC - clearly it was the weekend for club trips!

We stopped climbing at about 5 pm, and headed back to Wanaka. It was still hot out, as Central usually is, so we stopped at Glendhu Bay for a quick swim. Dinner was had by all at the world-famous-in-New Zealand Red Star, although no one was brave enough to try out the chicken waffle monstrosity on offer. I can't imagine why not...

The next morning, we went to the Tombstone, which is the obvious huge block overlooking Hospital Flat. The Tombstone has numerous climbs at grades 17+, with one spectacular crack climb aptly named *The Crack*. There are also a grade 10 and a grade 12 nearby on different blocks where people can warm up. Due to all faces of the Tombstone being open, you can climb on different orientations of the same Otago schist which makes for an interesting experience.

On the left side of the Tombstone, the climb *Lincoln Blondes have All the Fun* is a crimpy, sustained face climb up edges that try and dump you off to the left. *The Crack*, meanwhile, has those same crimps oriented vertically, so you have to employ your (possibly non-existent) crack climbing techniques to get to the top. Protection on *The Crack* is fantastic, as long as you don't do what I did and forget that you still have your number 3 cam on your harness. Save that one for the top! Peihua led the most memorable climb of the day, a new grade 20 called *Livin' on the Edge* on the right side of the main face of the Tombstone, whose crux move at the bottom required exceptional balance and tenacity.

Eventually, it got too hot to climb much more, and after a day and a half of crimpy climbs our fingertips were pretty much worn out. So we packed up, walked out, and stopped at Glendhu Bay again for a warmer swim in the heat of the afternoon before heading home.



Mike tries Livin on the Edge

A climate change plea from Troy Forsyth,

NZAC member, Skier and general outdoor enthusiast.

I recently completed one of the NZAC Glacier Skiing courses with Nick Craddock based on The Grand Plateau. This trip was my first time ever even turning off State Highway 8 onto Highway 80 towards Mt Cook Village. It was an eye-opening experience and I now better understand the challenges faced in the new Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan. It was my first time using a helicopter as transport for recreation in the mountains; for myself a method of transport I have conflicting feelings about.

Parts of this letter have been written from Auckland & Vancouver International Airports as well as HI Hostels in Calgary and now Banff; where I am working as a patroller at Sunshine Village this (northern hemisphere) winter. Again a conflicting choice of job location. When in New Zealand I work at (the grand) Temple Basin Ski Area. I will not pretend that my choices do not have their own significant climate consequences associated with them. Which begins to bring me to the point of this letter.

I'm sure you are well aware of the impacts climate change is already causing. Glaciers and permanent snowfields are receding. Access into glaciated areas is becoming harder and harder. In the ski mountaineering world, the words "last descent" are becoming increasingly common. As sad as this is and again as I'm sure you are aware the impacts on recreational users are fairly trivial. There are much more serious consequences for populations worldwide.

If you have not heard of [Protect Our Winters](#) (often referred to as POW), I would like to introduce you. POW was founded by professional snowboarder Jeremy Jones in 2007, to mobilize the snowsports community (and now more broadly the outdoor community) on climate action. It now has 10 international chapters spread across North America, Europe and Australasia and over 130,000 supporters. A [New Zealand chapter of POW](#) has just started. We hope to represent and mobilize the New Zealand outdoor community in positive climate action. So far we have focused on education and community-based activism, creating and having a presence at local [events](#) and chipping away at larger continuous [projects](#). This letter is intended to be another little part we can play, a little bit of good I hope that we can do together.

We would love for you to join forces with us at POW NZ. We are pretty new to this ourselves but are passionate and with good intent. Really, we just want to see positive climate action. So let's plant the seed. I'm sure many of your community are aching to help. Sharing a short blurb about us with your members and how they can be involved would be amazing. (I am happy to write something up for this!). We have a goal to reach 200 members by the end of this year. You can join us [here](#). There is lots of good to be done and I am happy to discuss more about what we may be able to do together or even what you can do if you don't want to be involved with us.

It seems there are many reasons people aren't urgently taking action on climate change. I'm going to end this letter with a couple of quotes that have at least helped me with this challenge. I know I've written a lot here and I know how easy it will be to glaze over these by this point.. so please bear with me:

"Action does not require perfection. If we all have to be absolved of the totality of our climate sins before taking a step forward, then we will be permanently on this status quo path of a rapidly changing climate. If we don't take action ourselves, no one else will." - Cody Townsend (for a little context on this quote click [here](#)).

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before beginning to improve the world." **Anne Frank**

Kindest of regards,
Troy Forsyth

New Section Website for easy trip booking

Sign-up now to get fast and simple trip information, booking and info.

Just a reminder to section members that the Otago section has introduced a new trip planning system at our section website www.ozonzac.org.nz. On the website, you can organize and join section events and events organized privately by members, and you can subscribe to email notifications when certain types of events (rock climbing, mountaineering, etc.) are posted to the site. Our aim with this site is to increase the number of trips organized by the section and improve our members' ability to connect with each other. To sign up for an account, please visit <https://www.ozonzac.org.nz/SigningUp.php>. Non-members are also welcome. **For those who have already signed up:** please check your email preferences. The default setting is that you will receive **no** notifications. A number of people have requested accounts but not changed their email settings from the default.

Process for PLB hire

The Otago Section has two PLBs for Section members to use when heading outdoors. Rental is free for NZAC members but \$5 per day for non-members. So that we can track the rentals, and respond if something goes wrong, the Section has created an online booking form at <https://goo.gl/forms/TQJrhMZxacHf30qP2>

When the form is completed online the results are automatically loaded into a spreadsheet in the Section's Google Drive, so we have a record of your rental and planned trip details. All that you do then is to arrange to collect a unit from either Keith Moffat Moffat.k172@gmail.com or Riley Smith rileychallis@gmail.com. Further contact details in the newsletter.

Section Safety Gear Rental

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.



Members are welcome to collect gear on Friday and return Monday and two day's rental will apply. If you wish to make other arrangements, please contact Keith or any of the committee and we will sort things out **BEFORE** you go into the shop. If you have any issues with the gear or rentals, 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



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