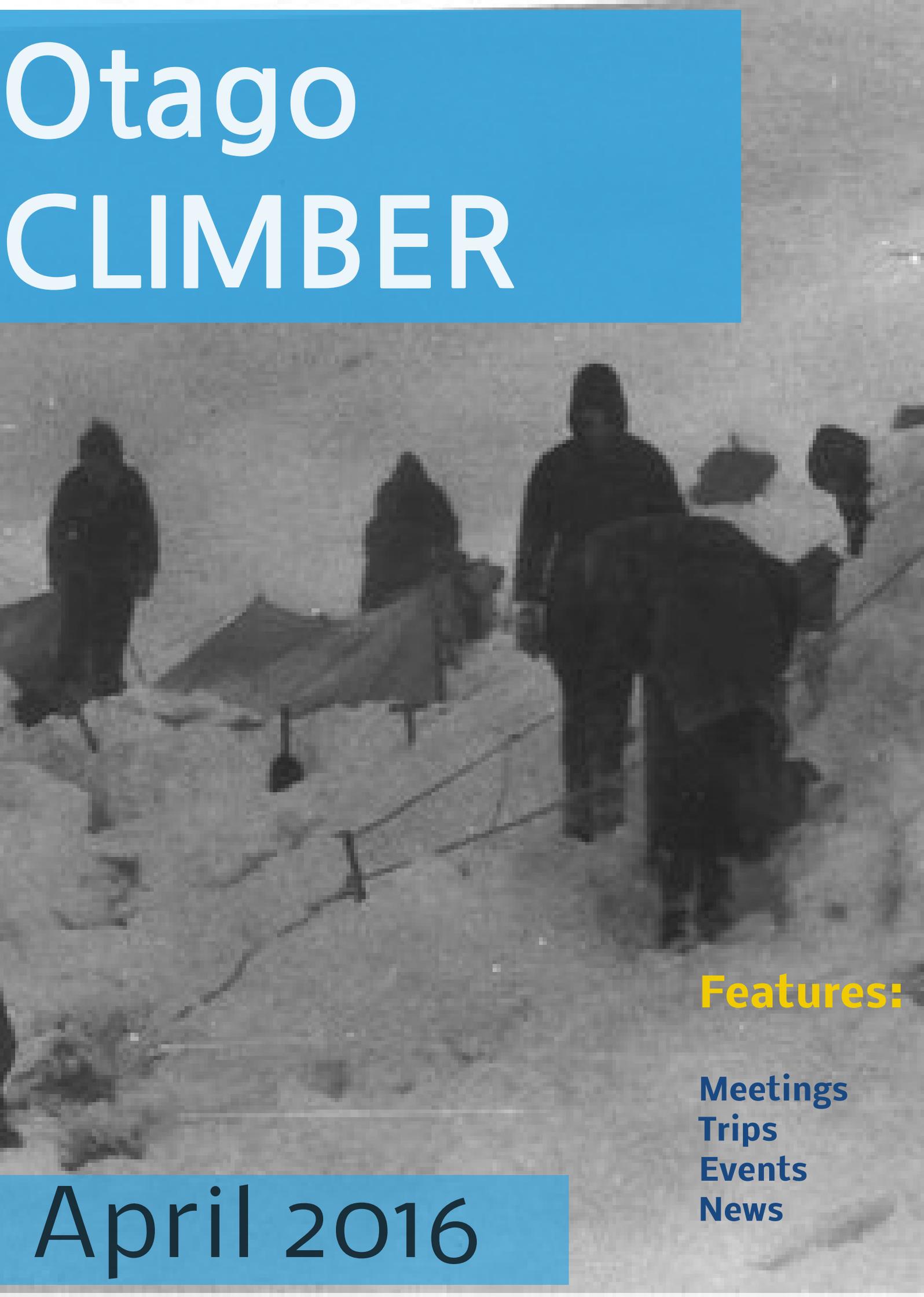


Otago CLIMBER



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April 2016

MEETINGS

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Section Meetings Otago University Staff Club, 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, 6 April 2016

Join us for a talk by Dean Hall, the 42nd Kiwi to summit the world's highest peak, who was on the mountain during the "Everest Brawl" of 2013.

WEDNESDAY, 4 May 2016

Rescheduled! Our guest speaker will be Tom McTavish, one of the three adventurers selected for the Antarctic Heritage Trust's 2015 Inspiring Explorers Expedition, a ski-touring trip repeating Shackleton's crossing of the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia from King Haakon Bay to Stromness to mark the centenary of the original crossing.

WEDNESDAY, 1st June 2016

Speaker to be announced.

UPCOMING TRIPS/EVENTS

Day Trip to Elephant Rocks - 10 April

Come climb the limestone formations in Duntroon! Elephant Rocks make for a great climbing day trip from Dunedin and an excellent next step for those attending our Tuesday night climbs. Lindsay Smith is organizing this one - reach him at challispoint@xtra.co.nz or via text at 027 404 8911 to sign up.

Trip Leaders Wanted!

Keen to lead a section trip but not sure how???

The committee is looking for members interested in becoming a trip leader for the OSONZAC in the mountains for summer, winter and shoulder season including climbing and mountaineering. We'll have a chat about what your needs might be around safety and other training, and can provide support and instruction as appropriate.

Get in touch via email to otago.climber@gmail.com or contact any of our committee members to get ready for next summer.

TRIPS

Blast From the Past

Kakanui in the 60s by Pete Strang

The Kakanuis on the Pigroot were one of the places where the Otago Section and the Otago University Mountaineering and Tramping Club went on winter trips as it was reasonably close to Dunedin and saved the long drive over very rough corrugated gravel roads all the way to Mt Cook or Homer. In the early 60's snow caving was taking off and you had to practise somewhere! We would leave on a Friday night, and drive through to the high point of the Pigroot in a rental truck with a tarpaulin over it with a couple of hired Kombi "buses" as well. We would sleep out and head off the next morning into a crackling frost or inclement mist and rain and sometimes snow.

These photos hide some seriousness and learning points for those of us who were running the trip and that was "officially" yours truly. It was a shambles as I was a bit gung ho and being involved in lectures all week I did not screen people enough and there some real novices turned up. Someone else had said it was ok for them to come...and it wasn't. As it was we survived, but Richard Stewart, Ken Tumlinson and I beat a retreat after we were sure everyone was secure up on the summit [1528 metres] thinking we might need to be in contact with SAR for reinforcements if the weather got worse. We came up again very early the next morning and were in a position to help some very exhausted people get fed properly, get warm gear on, break camp, dig themselves out, and help carry the frozen tents, wet sleeping bags and people's gear down into the valley and back to the road. Hypothermia and exposure was something that climbers were just becoming aware of and indeed it was the beginning of some research which was published some years later in the New Zealand Medical Journal.

Other people who will not forget this trip were Graham Bishop, Richard Evans and George Edwards, who were real power houses in helping to sort people out up on the hill. Subsequent trips have been going up on ski in winter in perfect weather with my brother Jim, snowcaving on top and ski touring out to Pisgah further along the range. This was part of gaining his Adventurer badge in Scouts! The next trip was with my son Tim and we were caught in a blizzard but bivvied intentionally. It was a bit of an epic getting out the next day in very deep snow lying over the top of matagouri. We went up again some months later in perfect spring weather, kicking steps in perfect and firm snow after we left the tussocks behind.

The Kakanuis were where I learnt the now forgotten art of heating rocks in a fire (yes, we lit fires then!), wrapping them in an old towel or flour bag and putting them in your sleeping bag for warmth. They were usually biffed out in the early hours into a crackling frost.



NEWS

Save the Date - National Climbing Camp Coming to Otago

Otago will host the NZAC's National Climbing Camp in 2017, which is scheduled for Waitangi Weekend, 4-6 February 2017.

A club tradition since 1931, national climbing camps are an opportunity for members and their guests to get together to climb, socialise, explore and enjoy the great outdoors. Non-climbing family members are welcome at the camp and members of overseas alpine clubs are especially welcome to attend.

A final location and more details will be determined in the coming months, and will be announced in this newsletter as well as the NZAC website.

Safety First- EPIRB HIRE

The Otago Section has two GME Accusat emergency locator beacons to hire.

For members, a weekend hire is free with pick up on Friday and return on Monday. For other periods the cost is \$2 per 24 hours from pickup to return, with the first two days free.

For non-members the hire cost is \$5 per 24 hours from pickup until return.

You will be required to complete a hire agreement that includes details of where you are going and how many people are in your party. Should you activate a beacon you will be responsible for the cost of replacing the batteries.

You can collect the beacons from committee member Keith Moffat at his home, 172 Gladstone Rd, Dalmore, Dunedin or from his work at 60 Tennyson St. Please give at least 24 hours notice wherever possible. Home 03 474 8903, Mobile 027 6644 037 e-mail moffat.k172@gmail.com

Current Gear Rental Scenario

The inventory of Otago Section rental gear is still 'temporarily' housed with committee members until we arrange for a retail location to manage doling out our equipment. We are limiting rental to large groups only (5+, excluding PLB hire). As a reminder available gear is as follows:

- Nine avalanche transceivers
- Nine snow shovels
- Nine probes
- Nine sets of snowshoes
- Two Personal Locator Beacons

If your group of five or more is interested in renting, please contact Lindsay at 027 404 8911.



Rob Roy South West Face. Photo: Jaz Morris

Consultation Regarding Casey Hut

Federated Mountain Clubs is seeking your input on the fate of Casey Hut in Arthur's Pass National Park, which burned down in October of last year. DOC has provisionally decided not to replace the hut but has agreed to consider public feedback prior to making a final decision. FMC is gathering this feedback and submitting it to DOC at the end of April. Have your say here:

<http://goo.gl/forms/BKzLENoCEJ>

Banff Tickets on Sale From 6 April!

Tickets for both of this year's screenings of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will officially go on sale at our April 6th meeting! Come join us to hear Dean Hall speak and pick up some choice seats for Banff!

Once again we will be hosting two separate programmes with no repeat films between the two screenings, which will be held:

Wednesday, 25 May & Friday, 27 May, 7:30pm both nights

As in other years, Alpine Club members receive discounted tickets - \$12 for members per night or \$20 if you purchase tickets for both Wednesday and Friday nights together. This year we are splitting the seats: upstairs will be assigned seating, downstairs will be general admission.

Tickets will be available from the Regent Theatre box office in Dunedin beginning on 7 April.

SAYING SO LONG...

... To our PO Box

It's the end of an era! The Otago Section has decided to embrace the digital age and give up its PO Box. In the unlikely event that you were intending to send something to us through the post, please redirect your efforts to otago.climber@gmail.com



On the top of New Zealand. Photo: Jaz Morris