

The Otago Climber

December 2018

*Eve busts a move on Eligible, Shaky Bridge, Alexandra.
Ryan Thomas' trip report and more pics page 4.*

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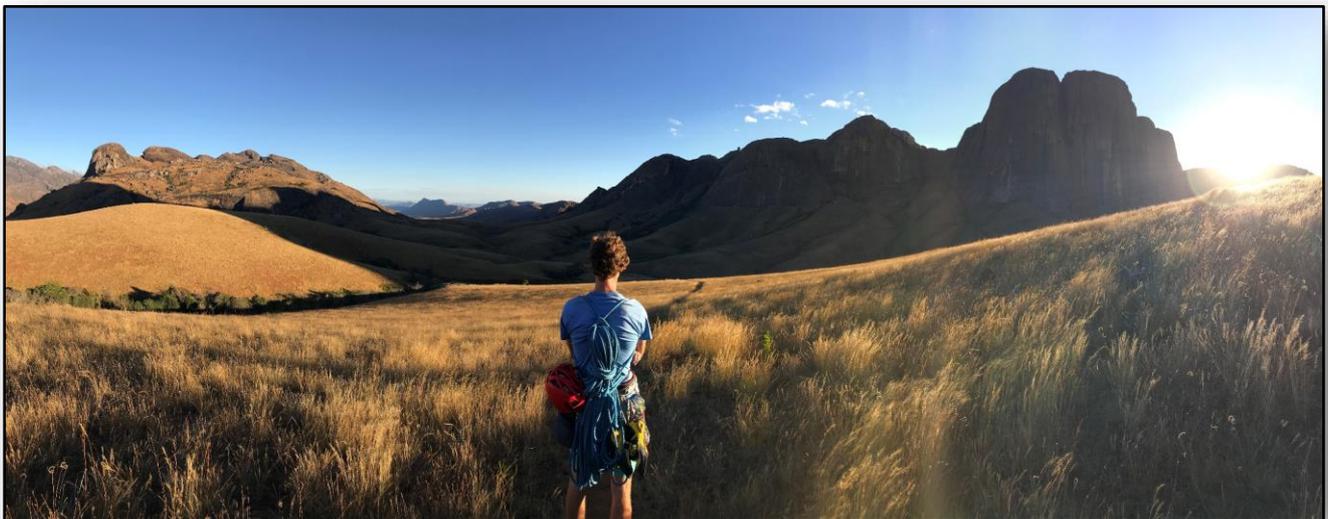
*The monthly newsletter of the
Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club*

December 2018

Club Night

Wednesday, 5 December 2018

University of Otago Staff Club, 7.30pm



Earlier this year Jono Squire and Julia Christie spent 6 months traveling around the world rock climbing.

A real highlight of the trip was going to Madagascar, where they spent three weeks climbing and exploring the Tsaranoro valley. 800m high walls of unbroken rock, beautiful slab and face climbing, impeccable weather, lemurs, and somewhat complicated logistics made for an unforgettable climbing and traveling experience. At Section Club night this month, Jono and Julia will share some of their favourite climbs, useful beta, and lots of pictures. .

Trips and events calendar

Jono Squire, Section Club Night 5 December.

Jono and Julia are back after 6 months rock climbing round the world. Join them on their travels at the last meeting for 2018.

Wednesday, 2 January – Happy New Year. No Club night in January.

Wednesday, 6 February 2019. Our first Section Club night for 2019 will be the traditional “Show and Tell”. This is your opportunity to bring a few pics over your adventures from the holiday period.

New Section Website for easy trip booking

Sign-up now to get fast and simple trip information and bookings.

Here is our solution to organizing trips! Ryan from our committee has created a website where we can all post our trips to, so that people who aren't on Facebook, or trips that don't line up with the newsletter, can be seen by all. We want you to participate in, and lead more trips!

To enrol into the website(www.ozonzac.org.nz) it is very simple... just follow these instructions:<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17TfFNyKFmugV3ehNrwbvBeXDVohYc5jt/view?usp=sharing>

“A long Day in the Hills!” Jane Peak Trip Report

Philip Somerville's report and pics from a recent club trip

Sometimes it's worth heading out on a marginal forecast – even if after that your goal remains unaccomplished. So it was the Jane Peak (Eyre Mountains) club trip.

The forecast for the early November climb was dire, and the call to postpone was easy.

More difficult was the decision for the next available date, the month's last weekend.

The seven originally going dwindled to four and then two. Peter Bromley and I decided to ignore Dunedin's big wet and focus on the fact that inland and south any rain was unlikely to be heavy.

We tramped to a beauty of a campsite above a lake still rising with melting snow feeds. The Gorge Burn itself was running swift and could only be crossed with care. By the time we slogged up to the Jane Peak ridge on the Sunday morning, the tops were clagged, while the only precipitation was the occasional light sprinkling.



Not to mist an opportunity, we scrambled, waded and worked our way towards the peak, retreating four hours and 45 minutes after our lakeside departure. Jane Peak, still 450m horizontal and 100m vertical distant somewhere in the murk, would have to wait for another day. Our turn around time was looming fast and the hardest part of the climb lay

ahead.

The deep, soft snow and the poor visibility had got the better of us. But we were left with the satisfaction of giving it our best, the appreciation of wonderful views to about 1850m and the enjoyment of a remote weekend in a beautiful corner of NZ. Sure, the weather was not perfect. Sure, we failed to climb grade 1 Jane Peak. But not for a minute did we regret our choice to go ahead and give it a crack.



“Wetter-than-expected” rock climbing in Central Otago

Ryan Thomas’ report and pics from a recent club trip

Over four years in Dunedin, and I still hadn’t been climbing in Central Otago. Sure, I’ve been to Wanaka and Queenstown, but I hadn’t actually climbed near Alexandra or Cromwell. In retrospect, this was a regrettable oversight. There is some excellent climbing on high quality Otago schist, and if you haven’t been I highly recommend a trip!

We five (Eve, Lorena, Pepijn, Alex, and myself) left Dunedin early on Saturday morning and arrived at the Roxburgh Gorge crag around 10 am in full view of a raging torrent of water coming through the dam’s spillway due to the recent heavy rains. We were expecting more people, but a few pulled out at the last minute over concerns about the weather. The reality was that the weather for the weekend was amazing: clear, sunny, but not overly hot. Perfect climbing weather. The recent rains, however, did put a bit of a damper on our plans, as much of the rock was wetter than expected. Case-in-point: the small crag at Roxburgh dam was still slightly wet, and, as it still has a fair amount of lichen on it, a wee bit slippery. We elected to put it off until Sunday afternoon, at which time we expected it to have dried over the weekend.

Instead, we headed to the Shaky Bridge Crag in Alexandra as the rock there is, in general, more exposed to the morning sun. The shady parts of this crag were still seeping from the earlier rain, but there are some good, sunny walls in the area.



Lorena nears the top of Squeaky Tendons, Alexandra.

We warmed up (figuratively and literally) on a very easy wall before tackling a couple of harder climbs off to the left (*Ledgeline* and *Eligible*). After a very civilized lunch, with tea, at Eve's grandfather's house right next to the crag, we continued our climbing on the "right-side" of the crag. *Tall Poppy Disease* offers interesting crimpy, slabby climbing on a lovely arête, while *Squeaky Tendons* and *Whiney Eyeballs* in the gully proper required steeper, brawnier moves.

Eve's father graciously provided lodging and food at his orchard just outside of Alexandra. On Sunday, we drove out to the Bendigo Crag on the shores of Lake Dunstan. This crag is not listed on Climb NZ, so if you're interested in checking it out, it is the rock face next to the boat launch at the Bendigo Picnic area.

There are 7-8 sport climbs, with two easy climbs on the right (about grade 14), two slightly harder climbs (about 16-17) just to the left, 2-3 hard climbs (>20) in the middle of the face, and one hard climb on the far left which climbs up into a small bowl, which is probably a 19 or a 20.



Eve discovering the lack of holds on the left-most climb at Bendigo – beware!

The crag itself is shaded in the early-ish morning, making it a good summer location especially with the lake right there. Added bonuses are being able to belay from camp chairs and the rare Australasian crested grebes floating in the lake. Again, we found that there was still a fair amount of seepage on the rock, which made the easy climbs rather interesting to lead, but there was still quite a lot of friction. We climbed the four easiest climbs on the right and top-roped the hard one on the left. Beware the finish on that one!

We had originally planned on going to the Bannockburn crag, but by the time we left Bendigo it was already 2 pm. Instead, we drove back to the Roxburgh Dam crag, where we finished up our trip with a couple of easier, slabby climbs on the now-dry rock. These are



well bolted climbs, and would be ideal for anyone who wants to practice leading on high-quality slab.

Keep in mind, though, that the right-hand climbs are about 30 m long, so you will want a 60 m rope. Also, the right-hand climbs seem to lack proper abseiling anchors: only hangers were present, not abseil rings. I left a steel quick-link up there to facilitate abseiling, but it might be worth bringing another one along to add to the anchor.

A special thanks to Eve for organizing this superb trip!

Pepijn and Lorena leading on easy slab at Shaky Bridge

Global Rock and Ice Climbing Festivals: All in one place...

The UIAA has recently launched a global calendar for international ice climbing competitions and rock and ice climbing festivals, for events organised by the UIAA, its member federations and partners or entirely independent meetings. This new UIAA calendar is designed to provide climbers with details about events taking place near them, or near where they may be travelling.

<https://www.theuiaa.org/ice-climbing/global-rock-and-ice-climbing-competitions-and-festivals-all-in-one-place/>

Homer Hut Helpers . . .

Over three weekends in November, a volunteer team of eleven held a work party at Homer Hut.

The first weekend was spent on cleaning down the inside of the Common Room, then polyurethane was used to re-coat the walls, ceiling and shelves. The window surrounds were undercoated, seats and doors prepped and painted. The dry wood was stacked in the shed and the fire extinguishers removed for their annual service. They also managed to prep and paint the outside front and end walls on the outside of the hut.

The following weekend a load of cut wood was delivered, along with a delivery of coal. The Common Room was put back to rights with a new shelf added for extra plastic food bins. Lampshades were fitted.

The serviced extinguishers were reinstalled, while the empty gas cylinders were taken out for exchange. The photos

were removed from the hut to be refurbished due to staining on their frames. On the last weekend, the remaining tasks were completed: return to the hut of full gas cylinders, door closers fitted to the bunk rooms and some extra cutlery was brought in.

Our sincere thanks go to Ron McLeod, Al Walker, Carl Johnstone, Hugh Rowe, Neil Couley, Alan McGee, Ant Leathart, Maree Wilkins, Kate Hugeveen, Holly Walter and Sarah O'Neill for their hard work. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our volunteers in keeping our huts maintained for the benefit of all members.



Homer Hut's sparkling Common Room – thanks to all who helped on the working bees. Photo Ron McLeod.

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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