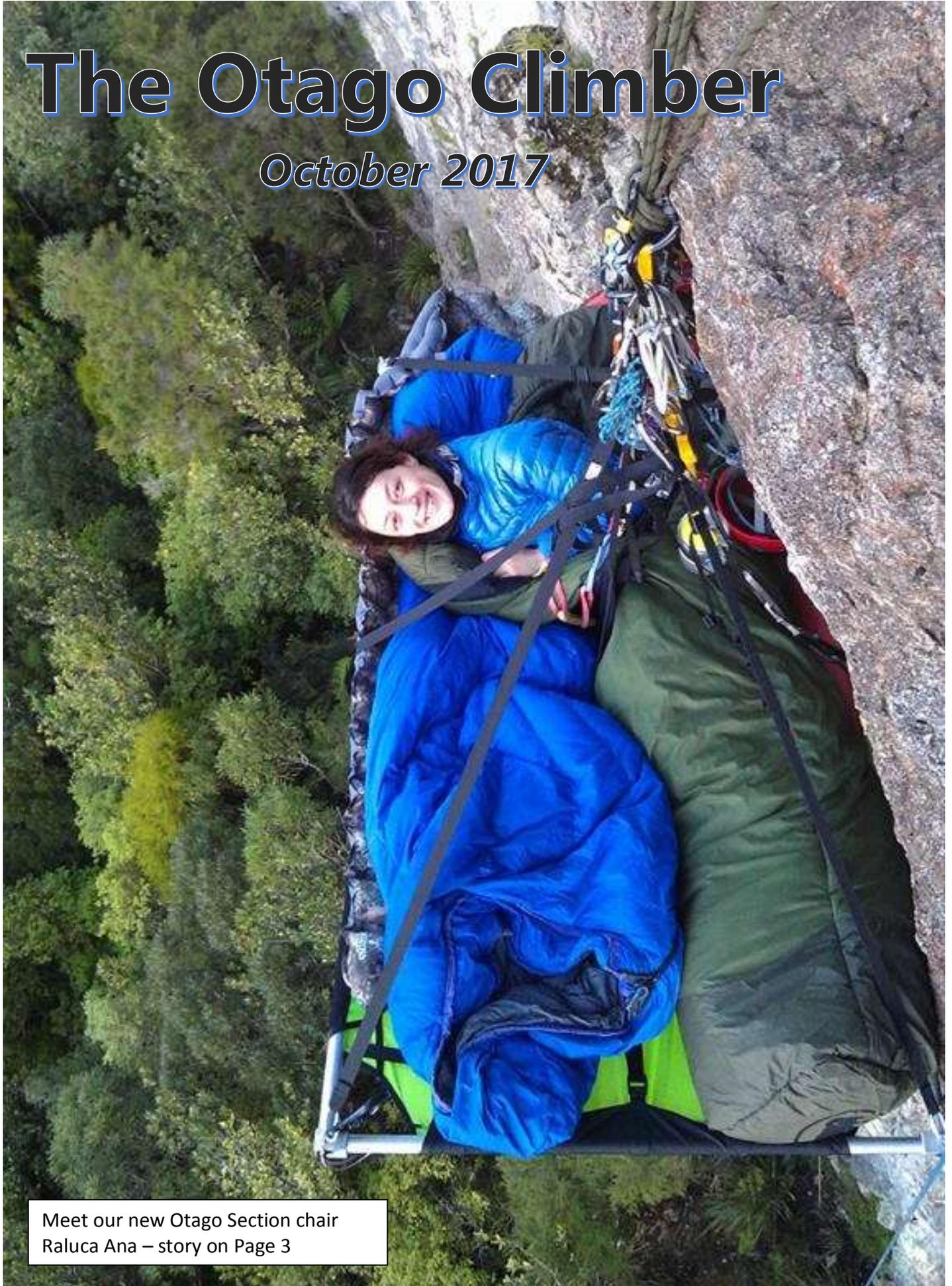


The Otago Climber

October 2017



Meet our new Otago Section chair
Raluca Ana – story on Page 3



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

The Otago Climber

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



October 2017

Meetings

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

Wednesday, 4 October

Newly elected Section Committee member Aidan Braid was one of a group of high school students who were selected to join the Sir Peter Blake Trust voyage to the Sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands, one of the most remote and biodiverse spots on the planet.



Wednesday, 1 November

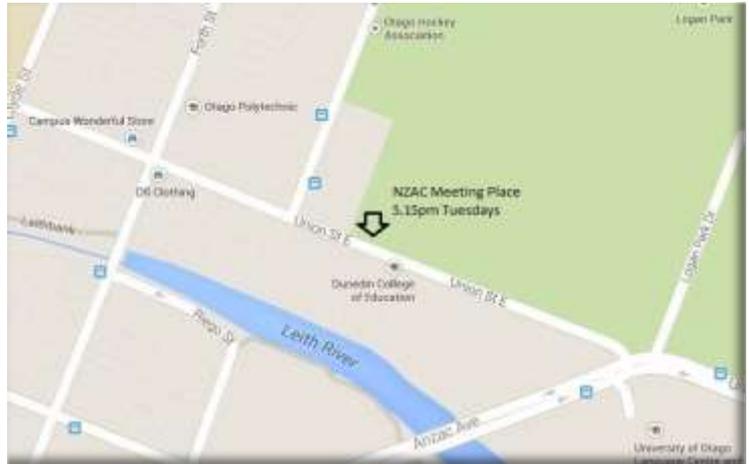
Exactly a year after heading off, Allan Brent and Lydia McLean will give a talk about their four-month traverse of the South Island from Cape Farewell to Foveaux Strait via the Southern Alps.

Trips and Training

Tuesday Climbing starts next week

The ever popular Tuesday Night Rock Climbing will begin again for this summer on Tuesday, 3 October. As usual, we will meet alongside Logan Park at about 5.15pm, to coordinate transport. Given the flooding at Mapoutahi and recent rockfall at Cutting Crag, it is likely that the first few weeks will see climbing at Long Beach or the Port Chalmers Quarry.

This Sunday, 1 October, we will have a Crag Day afternoon to tidy Long Beach – remove rubbish, loose rock, weeds and as much sand as possible. We're aiming to start at 1pm, but will meet at the usual place at 12.30 – to coordinate transport for anyone needing a ride.



This year, without getting too much red tape wrapped round our climbing, we are also going to start a check-in system so we do have basic contact details for those climbing each week, particularly where climbers are not members or are not known to us. As well as giving us basic safety information, it will allow us to better understand who is coming each week and what they want from the section.

This year we are investigating a range of Section courses to encourage new climbers to develop skills and safe climbing practices. These will be advertised in the Newsletter and on Facebook. For weekly updates, keep watching NZAC – Otago Section on Facebook. www.facebook.com/osonzac

Meet our new Section Chair

You know the old saying about missing the AGM and finding yourself on the committee? Well, that is how our new Section Chair Raluca Ana found herself heading our committee. Although relatively new to Dunedin, Raluca has had a lifetime's experience in the outdoors, beginning as a small child growing up in Transylvania. They were tough times in Communist Romania and for a young Raluca, escape from the grind of daily life came from bike rides to the crags, mountains and caves nearby.



Raluca came to New Zealand four years ago and held a range of jobs, including manager of Auckland rock climbing centre Extreme Edge. In Dunedin, she uses her fluency in seven languages to operate an international translation service – which does give her time for her passion for the outdoors.

And the cover photo? Taken on the 3 pitch Buck Rock in the Coromandel – testing the gear for a friend about to head to Yosemite.

Trip Report – James Peak. *Story – Riley Smith, Photos Keith Moffat.*

The weekend started off with me persuading mum that Aidan is a good driver, even though the homemade racing stripes down his car made her think otherwise... (turns out that his friends did it while he was asleep). After picking up the others, typical story, we left Dunedin at 8:15am with the car crammed full of five people and five packs. The destination was Kingston, where we would have lunch and meet up with the rest of the people on the trip. Our plan was to walk from Loch Linnhe station up to about 1600m where we would camp before going for the summit of James Peak the next morning.



We started walking at about half twelve, stopping for drinks and gummy snakes, admiring the stunning views back to Lake Wakitipu, and cutting (8) wilding pine saplings down with ice axes. After a couple of hours, we reached the snow line and began sinking over knee deep into wet slush. It was time to don the snowshoes. This was a first for a few of the party, but within no time they had it mastered and we were charging up the hill towards the plateau where we would camp.

After pitching the five tents, a variety of dinners were cooked and we settled in for the night. This is when Aidan, the legend, pulled out a litre of Scrumpy along with a cheesecake mix and kiwi fruit that he began to prepare as if it was normal to bring this kind of thing up a bloody mountain! After a long night of flapping tents and crying Kea, we set off to bag the summit. The snow was hard and crunchy (unfortunately this was temporary) enough to stick our crampons on, making sideling so much easier than it was going to be in snow shoes!

We followed the ridge for about three-ish hours while the wind grew very quickly in strength until near the top, where it was a mission to walk in a straight line! We made the summit at around 9:30 (or 10:30 - this daylight saving thing really messed me up!), got a quick photo, and then retreated back down before we were blown off the mountain! Due to it being election weekend, I brought a TOP flag all the way to get a photo with it on the summit. Sadly, as soon as I got it out of my pack, the mother of all wind gusts came through and the flag ripped straight off the stick. We watched it get smaller and smaller as it gracefully fluttered into the network of hills and valleys below. Gutted, I got a picture with the flag stick instead, hoping to Photoshop the rest in later.

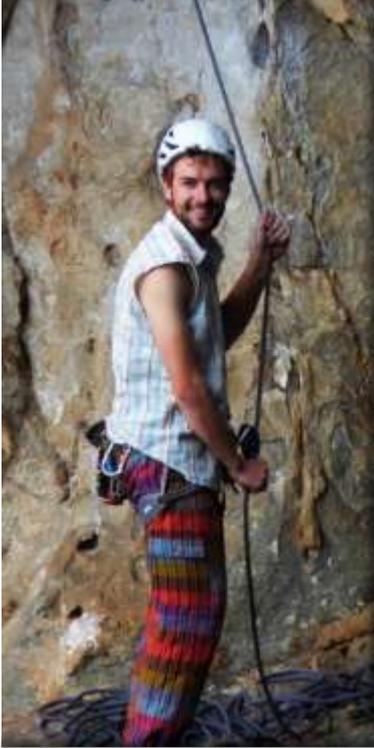


As we walked back along the ridge, the wind continued to get progressively stronger. Eventually when we got back to near where the cars were parked, it was creating mini water spout like formations on the lake and becoming hard for us to stand! We made it back to the car at about 5:30pm, where we had the rest of the cheesecake for afternoon tea before heading back home. What a neat weekend!

Trip Members: Aidan, Danilo, Keith, Jeff, Sophie, Steph, Phil, Peter and Riley

Chairman's Report: OSONZAC, 2016-2017

It has been my pleasure to be Chairman of OSONZAC over the past two years, as our Section is blessed with an outstandingly friendly and generous committee of like-minded mountain folk, and a host of keen and enthusiastic members. I'd open a can of worms singling out names, but suffice it to say our newsletter, finances, instruction, and rock climbing activities are all in a very healthy state, thanks to the hard work of our committee. It's tough work drinking beer and talking mountain gossip at our Duke of Wellington pub committee meetings, but someone has to do it.



In the past year we have managed to run about a trip a month, or occasionally slightly more. In addition, our weekly Tuesday rock climbing has become more popular than we can handle, and our rock climbing and snowcraft courses have been well-received and successful in attracting new members to our club.

We ran another successful Banff film festival to promote NZAC, provide a great night out for Dunedin, and (if we are honest) recharge the coffers. It's a testament to the growing popularity of previously niche outdoors activities that the annual Banff screenings have practically become a Dunedin institution, with 2000 in attendance across both nights, which seems to be a fairly steady year-to-year number. Between Banff and our dutiful treasurer, the Section is flush and able to support bolting and training scholarships for our members.

Thanks to a generous donation by Marian Hobbs we were also able to sponsor a lucky rock climber with the comprehensive rack of gear left by the late Richard McElligot, and from a pool of outstanding all-female applicants Kayla Dods was the lucky winner.

Our monthly meetings have been well-attended, with a diverse range of speakers on topics ranging from Kyrgyzstan skiing to polar yachting. Our monthly newsletter is professional-looking, informative, and interesting - more than can be said of the club's Chairperson!

In sum 2016-2017 has largely been steady-as-she goes and the Section is perhaps fortunate that my personal over-commitment has limited any ability I might have otherwise had to extemporaneously shake things up at the Section level. That said, although I'm resigning the post of Chairperson I'd like to remain on the national NZAC committee (known as CCM). Some victories I can claim are the introduction of a strategic review of Banff, and the holding of membership fees for students against a 5% rise elsewhere. I wish to maintain Otago's reputation as a thorn in the side of CCM, constantly challenging the status quo, questioning random budget expenditure, and holding the line against any creeping bureaucratisation of the club's activities. To flesh that statement out would involve a four-hour AGM speech, which you don't want, and actually HQ is doing a great job at delivering wide-ranging services to members under new management, and with significant turnover of staff.

Whether you join us to join trips, use our huts, go to bouldering competitions, come to these monthly meetings, read the Climber magazine, or simply to buy cheap guidebooks, I hope you too are proud to be a member of NZAC. So I'd like to simply conclude by thanking you for your involvement with us, to thank our committee for their hard work, and to wish you and them all the best for another year.

See you in the hills. - Jaz Morris

Trip Leaders Wanted

The Otago Section is always keen to encourage members to become Trip Leaders and would love to hear from you if you are interested in leading Section Trips; mountaineering, ski-touring or rock climbing.

We would expect you to be reasonably experienced but can offer a huge range of formal and informal training and support to ensure you have everything you need to make leadership enjoyable and safe. The Section can offer payment for everything from your First Aid Certificate through to Instructor Development weekends run by professional guides for the NZAC.

But most importantly we offer the support of the Section Committee, most of whom are experienced Trip Leaders themselves. New Trip Leaders would usually be mentored by one of our more experienced leaders until both feel of you comfortable about you leading a trip yourself. And full training and support is available with trip planning, risk management documentation and extensive NZAC online resources.

If trip leadership interests you, just email the Section Committee at otago.climber@gmail.com and one of the team will be in touch to discuss the next steps with you.



Photo please . . .

Heading to Aspiring Hut soon? We have a request! We recently got a phone call from Leo Mangos, a stalwart member of OSONZAC some decades ago. Now in his 80s, Leo is putting together some memoirs and is **trying to get a copy of a photo he believes is (or was) hanging above the fireplace in Aspiring Hut**. Apparently it shows him and Al Duffy, LB Johnson, and perhaps one of the Graham brothers.

Leo climbed extensively in the West Matukituki back in the '50s, including the first ascent of the 'Headlong virgin' (NZAJ 1958), and was involved with the retrieval of materials and build of the original Colin Todd Hut. Apparently (this was new to me) there was a stuff-up with the rations air drop, and the volunteers (5 of them) on the Shipowner Ridge had to make do for four days with a single box of wine biscuits between them. I think they did it tougher back then. If anyone is heading that way, could you please take a photo of the photo (if it's there - if in doubt just take photos of any photos there!), and send it to jaz.n.morris@gmail.com. We would really appreciate it and will pass it on to Leo.

Your chance to star. . .

MSC are putting together a series of videos on Alpine Tramping at various 'hot spots' where they are getting a large number of accidents around the country. They are looking for volunteers to help with input into the messaging, and then a few people to act as 'tramping models' during the filming process. This is a project that the MSC is very excited to be working on as our insights show that this is a high-risk area where many injuries and SAR are occurring. If you'd like to be involved, email otago.climber@gmail.com for more details or email MSC's Loic Lassueur, Alpine Partnerships Advisor loic.lassueur@mountainsafety.org.nz

Murchison Hut - closed

Following advice from GNS, the NZAC have had to close Murchison Hut. Satellite imagery analysed by the University of Otago Surveying Department shows significant movement of the hut over the last ten years, and the recent opening of fissures above and directly below the hut, affecting the stability of the slope. Until the snow melts and further investigation takes place the hut is closed. Once we have more information, we will be discussing options with DOC and the NZAC accommodation committee. Opinions and suggestions can be sent to the office.

Volunteer Award for Otago's John Cocks

The outstanding efforts of New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) volunteers were recognised at New Zealand Recreation Association Outdoor Awards, held in Wellington recently. NZAC volunteers and programmes scooped three of the six categories. NZAC was awarded the Visitor Solutions Outstanding Event Award for the Sustainable Summits Conference 2016 and the YMCA Outstanding Programme Award for the NZAC National Youth Camp.



Otago Section's John Cocks took out the NZAC Outstanding Volunteer Award, highlighting his substantial contribution to the organisation and outdoors community over a 40-year period. NZAC General Manager, Karen Tait says "The winning of these awards is an excellent achievement for NZAC, which directly highlights the depth and commitment of our volunteers."

John Cocks has made an outstanding contribution in many roles at NZAC, including as a past President. He has served for long periods on both the national Recreational Advocacy Committee and the Accommodation Committee, and played an important part in the rebuild of the club's flagship Unwin lodge at Aoraki Mount Cook.

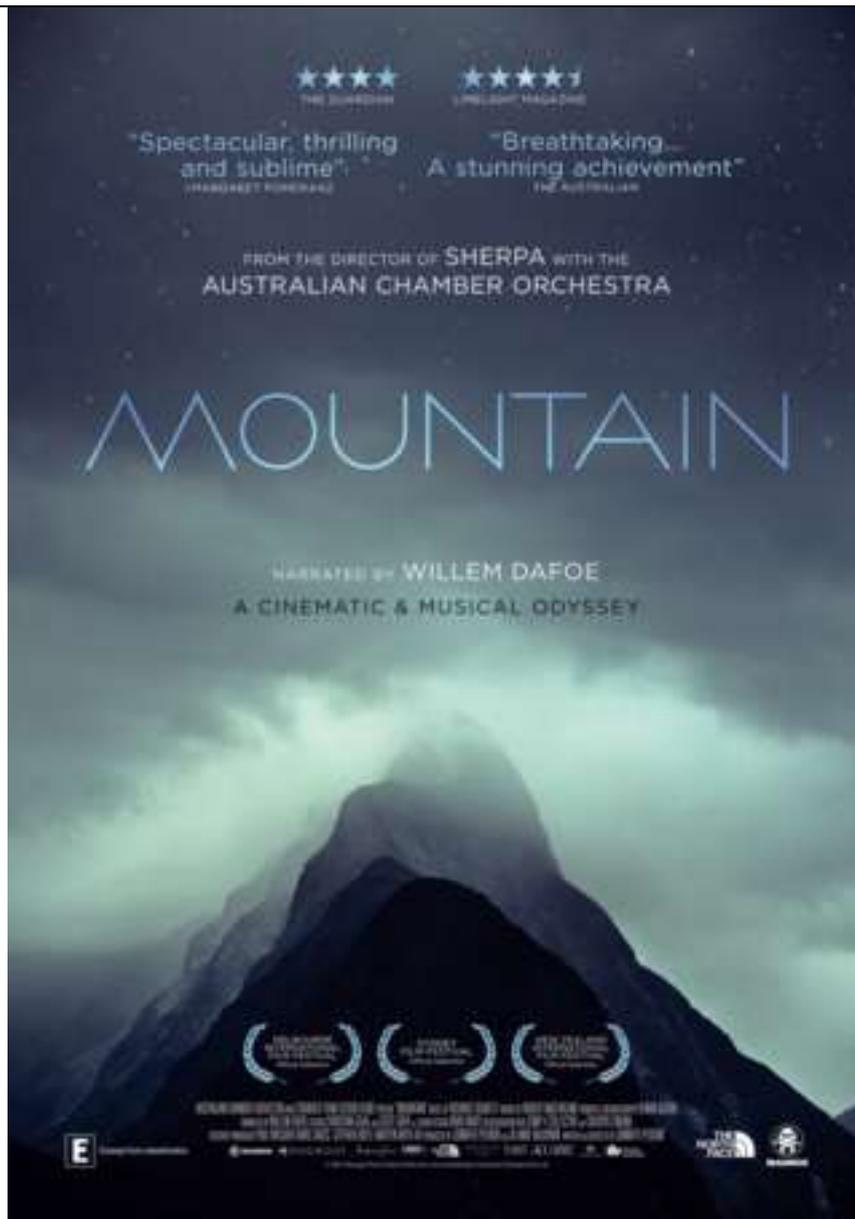
Section Safety Gear Rental

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 me 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. Cheers, Lindsay, 0274048911





After its debut screening at the NZ International Film Festival, the spectacular film MOUNTAIN will return to the big screen from October 5. View the trailer here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxTWMOAHOil

MOUNTAIN is a unique cinematic and musical collaboration: an epic odyssey through the Earth's most awesome landscapes, showing the spellbinding force of high places - and their ongoing power to shape our lives and our dreams.

For local screening times check out the Rialto Theatre's website or go to the film's website <https://www.flicks.co.nz/movie/mountain/> for more information.

#MountainsMatter video contest

Win a trip to Rome to see your video shown at the International Mountain Day concert! To bring attention to the plight of mountains for International Mountain Day (11 December), we are asking you to make a one-minute video on the theme of 'Mountains under pressure: climate, hunger, migration' for the #MountainsMatter video contest.

Two winners will receive a trip to Rome to attend the International Mountain Day concert on 11 December. The winning videos will be shown at the concert. The deadline for entries is **20 October 2017**.

More information: www.fao.org/international-mountain-day/video-contest/en/





NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

OSONZAC CRAG CARE

Long Beach **2017**

Sunday, 1st October

Help tidy up our crags for the coming summer months! Bring your mates, rope, and gardening gear to help make the beach climbable again!

IF INTERESTED, E-mail us at:

otagoclimber@gmail.com

2017-18 Otago Section Committee			
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Trips, Banff Film Festival	Danilo Hegg		danilo_hegg@hotmail.com
Instruction	Heather Rhodes	027 258 6534	heathermayrhodes@gmail.com
Rock climbing coordinator	Riley Smith		rileychallis@gmail.com
Club Night Speakers	Chris Tipper		
CCM Representative	Jaz Morris	027 406 9173	jaz.n.morris@gmail.com
	Aidan Braid	021 1165 799	aidanbraid@gmail.com
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