

The Otago Climber

September 2018



Riley Smith's ski descent from Black Peak, his "best day skiing ever", on the recent Section Trip. Story page 4. Photo: Graeme Male

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

September 2018

Club Night & AGM

Wednesday, 5 September 2018

University of Otago Staff Club, 7.30pm

Our September speaker will be Crystal Brindle, an all-around ranger for the Department of Conservation, a passionate landscape photographer, an avid tramper, and a keen trail runner who is committed to immersing herself in New Zealand's greatest landscapes and sharing the wonder she finds in the natural world.

After five seasons of work with the Department of Conservation, Crystal has experienced life in the hills as a hut warden, biodiversity ranger, and most recently as a research assistant in alpine Fiordland.

Each season and every new role teaches unique skills and further develops Crystal's intimate connection with the land and everything that lives within it.

Crystal will talk about what it's like to live the lifestyle of a ranger in the remote backcountry and what she has learned from a summer spent high in the mountains of Fiordland seeking an endangered alpine species: the iconic and tenacious rock wren.



PS: The meeting is also the Section's AGM.

Trips and events calendar

Section AGM, Wednesday, 5 September

This month's meeting will also be the Section's AGM and a copy of this year's reports are included in this newsletter on Pages 7 & 8. It would be great to have a big crowd along to hear Crystal and perhaps you might like to consider joining the Section Committee to help out. If you'd like more information, just email the Section Committee at otago.climber@gmail.com

Voting Time for Rule Change . . .

By now all NZAC members will have received an email asking you to vote on the Club's proposed governance changes. You can vote at any time between 27 August 2018 and 7 September 2018 – but please don't leave it till the last minute and please vote.

Crag Care Day, Saturday, 8 September

Eve O'Brien has organised a Crag Care Day to help prepare for this summer season rock climbing. More details, page 6 of this newsletter.

NZAC Unwin Lodge 'Food for The Outdoors', 29-30th September.

Spend Saturday and Sunday gaining new ideas, recipes and top tips for eating delicious food while out adventuring. Full story and booking details on page 10.

Tuesday night Rock Climbing begins 2 October

Summer is almost here; time to get the rock shoes out ready for this season's Tuesday Night Climbing. For more details, see story on page 6.

Mt Dick, 6 – 7 October

Danilo is leading trip to climb Mt Dick in the Eyre Mountains. This is a straightforward peak and should be ideal for those who have just completed this year's Snowcraft Course. For more information, or to book your place on this trip, email Danilo on danilo_hegg@hotmail.com

Jane Peak, 3-4 November

Early notice that Phil Somerville will be taking a trip to Jane Peak, the highest point in the Eyre Mountains, early in November. Phil's e-mail address is psomer39@gmail.com if you'd like more info.

Historic Huts and Helisking . . .

The Section's August trip report from Riley Smith

The six of us (Phil Somerville, Graeme Male, Shona Mackie, Dave Chandler, trip-leader Keith Moffat and I) met at the carpark for the scheelite mine loop walks just out of Glenorchy, and after a quick detour to buy sunglasses, we set off for McIntosh Hut at about 10:30am. We made our way up the lovely switchbacks through the farm then descended into Buckler Burn for an icy stream crossing, which wasn't that bad on such a warm sunny day. We continued up past



Phil, Keith, Graeme, Shona and Dave arrive at the snowed-in McIntosh Hut... Riley Smith pic.

McIntyre's Hut, lungs full of smelly air from the large herds of wild goats nearby.

I had carried my skins and skis up the hill and decided to get them out on the ridge. Of course the snow thinned out and I ended up cross country tussock skinning for a few sections before the snow came back. As soon as we hit the ridge we got a great view of Temple Peak, and the helicopter shuttling skiers up and down. Shortly after, we arrived at a rather buried McIntosh Hut.

It took the six of us around half an hour to get into the hut, due to having to dig out the whole veranda just to get to the front door. After a warm cuppa in the sun, I headed up on skins to have a go at Mt McIntosh, which turned out to be a very pleasant ski, with great snow and views. However, a bit of a suspect looking cornice with some nasty cracks made me turn around early about 10 meters from the summit.

The sky stayed clear overnight and although the temperature plummeted, the powder never froze for those on crampons (great for my skiing though!). At around first light we set off for the summit of Black Peak, traversing at the same height as the hut to gain the ridge that eventually drops down to the shoulder of Black Peak.

From there we plugged our way straight up the face, steadily increasing in steepness until close to the top where it levelled off. There is actually a false summit, where we ended up and sensibly decided that



Graeme working hard to access their bed for the night.

there was no real desire to traverse a sketchy ridge to climb the extra 5 or so meters, so we got our photos from where we were.

What came next for me, was the best half hour of skiing in my life. I followed our up tracks down the steep rocky top section which eventually opened up into pristine wide bowls and deep powder. The others followed the sort of NE ridge down until roughly the same height as the hut where they started traversing. As I was down 300 or so meters in a few minutes, I chucked my skins

back on and headed back up the others, for another line in paradise.

It went like this for a few runs, until we turned back and made our way back to McIntosh Hut for lunch and a cuppa in the sunshine. The rest of the afternoon was spent relaxing in the sun watching helicopters buzz up Buckler Burn (for sight seeing or dropping off skiers we



*Phil, Riley, Shona, Graeme and Dave summit Black Peak.
Keith Moffat photo*

were assuming), until eventually it was time to head for the car park. Thanks to Keith for organising another excellent Section trip.

Tuesday Climbing starts soon

The ever-popular Tuesday Night Rock Climbing will begin again for this summer on Tuesday, 2 October, though it does appear that, just like last year, the far eastern end of Mapoutahi may only be suitable for deep water soloing for a few weeks yet.

Once again, 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 so that, as a preference, first-time climbers to Tuesday evenings will have had a chance to learn the basics before they come out. We also plan to offer courses for the more experienced intermediate climbers; especially those keen to learn trad. climbing skills.



Without getting too much red tape wrapped round our climbing, we are going to continue with the check-in system we started last year, 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. For weekly updates, keep watching NZAC – Otago Section on Facebook. www.facebook.com/osonzac

Complaining about the state of your local crag?

Then come and be part of the Mapoutahi Crag Clean-Up day on Saturday 8th September. We plan to meet at the usual place alongside Logan Park at 9am to co-ordinate transport and to be at the main Mapoutahi carpark at 9:30am with the aim of spending 2 - 3 hours clearing pathways to access the many climbs along this crag. DO NOT be tempted to drive passed the carpark at the end of the road – the tracks eats 4WDs at present.

We will also do a rubbish pick-up in the area if time permits. Bring garden gloves, pruning tools, rubbish bags and woollsacks for carting clippings if you have them. Also, feel free to bring your climbing gear and some lunch because we will aim to climb in the afternoon if weather permits.

Any questions or if you need a ride then contact Eve on 0276423211 or at eve.j.obrien@gmail.com It would be great if you could email or text to let Eve know you are coming, just in case the day is postponed or the venue moved.

Section Chair Report, 2017-2018

For the last few months I have had the opportunity to Chair the Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club, after Raluca Ana's urgent return to Europe for family and business reasons. Raluca brought a whole new approach to the club, especially with rock climbing, thanks to her commercial rock-climbing management experience and we greatly appreciate her contribution during the time she was with us.



I would also like to thank the members of the Section Committee for their support and encouragement and for their dedication to climbing in this area. In my short time as Chair, I have been able to see just how much work they do to keep this section ticking over. They organise speakers for the Club nights, run Tuesday night climbing, oversee and teach at the Section, make it possible for novice climbers to attend professional courses for low prices, lead and organise monthly trips to crags, mountains and ski-touring ranges, and lastly, meeting once a month to drink beer at the Duke of Wellington, which is particularly hard work! One more person I would like to personally thank is Steve Carr, a local climber who does a huge amount of work for the Dunedin climbing scene.

The Committee members ran another hugely successful Banff Mountain Film Festival, with two screenings at the Regent (Dunedin still holds the record for the largest screening outside North America!). While this year's profit may have been down a bit on last year, this one event gives the Section and wider NZAC a huge cash injection and the ability to fund and support members and events at a local and national level. This year we have also been able to support the upgrade to the historic Leaning Lodge Hut, contribute to the Southland Section's excellent stoat trapping programme and help with the setup of the Dunedin high school rock climbing club.

Your Committee also represents the Section on various national committees and special interest groups so that we can be sure that your views are heard where-ever important decisions are being made. And there are not many more important issues than the new rules which have been suggested to change how the Club is managed and organised. Please read the material you have been emailed from John and Karen, make your decision on what is best for the Club, and vote online well before the 7 September deadline.

This year has seen steady progress at the Section level. We have successfully run a wide range of trips to crags and mountains throughout the region, giving new and experienced climbers a chance to enjoy the hills and each other's company. We have had an excellent range of speakers at our Club nights over the year, who have given us interesting trip ideas and told great stories of adventure. We have built up a large group of active volunteers who have offered lots of time to help grow and develop the very successful Tuesday climbing.

The Committee has also watched with interest and some worry the growing issue with access to places we have always thought of as open for us to use. I am sure we will talk about this much more in the year ahead, but each of us can play our part by keeping good relationships with landowners, respecting their land and property and not taking access for granted. To close, thanks very much to everyone who has helped me, and the club out over these past few months, the popularity of our wee club seems to be on the rise – just look at the numbers at our section club nights! To our members, enjoy the awesome season of climbing coming up, and make the most of the awesome country we call home!

See you at the crag!

Riley Smith

Otago Section Chair 2018

Section Finance Report

Thanks to Keith Moffat, Section Treasurer, for this year's Annual Finance Report. Remember, the AGM is on Wednesday, 5 September, at 7.30pm, Otago University Staff Club. Be great to see you there.

NZ Alpine Club - Otago Section	
Income and Expenditure 1/7/2017 to 31/7/2018	
ANZ Cheque Account Opening Balance 1/7/2017	\$ 32,343.03
Income	
Events Income	\$ 16,697.02
Equipment Income	\$ 1,195.00
Instruction Income	\$ 60.00
Interest	\$ 15.27
Total	\$ 17,967.29
Expenditure	
Library	\$ 276.00
Rock Climbing Academy sponsorship	\$ 1,000.00
Donations	\$ 3,000.00
Section Nights Expenditure	\$ 2,379.10
Instruction Expenditure	\$ 2,482.15
Events Expenditure	\$ 11,752.42
Total	\$ 20,889.67
Net Surplus/Deficit	-\$ 2,922.38
ANZ Cheque Account Closing Balance @ 31/7/2018	\$ 29,420.65
Debtors	
NZAC HQ Banff Screening Fee	\$ 3,840.20
NZAC HQ Share of Banff Profit	\$ 4,023.50
Total	\$ 7,863.70
Available Funds	\$ 21,556.95
<p>The Section finances are still in a healthy state even though there was a net deficit for the year. The Section elected not to uplift the section levy contributions from NZAC HQ. Banff film festival profits continue to fund the section but this year this income was \$2828 less than in 2017 due to reduced income and increased expenses. \$2000 was donated for Leaning lodge upgrade and \$1000 to Southland Section for stoat traps.</p>	
Keith Moffat - Treasurer	

Banff Funds helping the next generation

Have you ever wondered what the Otago Section does with the profits from the Banff Film Festival? Well here's one example of how we're using the money to ensure that the next generation of climbers is being developed.

Earlier this year, Tim Bartholomew, a local qualified climbing instructor, came to the NZAC Otago section with an idea to start a high school climbing group. For those that don't know him, Tim is the owner of 'Dunedin Climbing Ltd'- the local climbing company started by Dave Brash in



1998. Tim's idea was to start the group to encourage young climbers to develop their skills, something that is hard to do in Dunedin because we don't have a large commercial wall (such as 'The Rocc' in Christchurch).

With the backing of the Otago Section, Tim was able to keep the cost for the students to a reasonable level, and began the group at the start of Term Two this year, meeting every Wednesday evening at the Logan Park High School. During each session, the group focuses on technique, strength and endurance, as well as rope management, knots, belaying, exercises and even about the history of climbing and famous climbers. The progression the 10 students have made with Tim's guidance in just a few weeks is outstanding and the enthusiasm is so high that they will be training two nights a week as from next term.

The group is very excited to get outdoors this summer, which they do four weekends a term - with plans to do trips to Wanaka and Queenstown to try out new and exciting crags. Thanks to Tim and Banff, the next generation of climbers in Dunedin is in good hands!

NZAC Unwin Lodge ‘Food for The Outdoors’, 29-30th September.

Spend Saturday and Sunday with Emily and Frankie, the girls from Local Dehy, gaining new ideas, recipes and top tips for eating delicious food whilst out adventuring. This will include interactive cooking classes, demonstrations, and nutritional information sessions where we will explore vegetarian food ideas for breakfast, lunch and dinner from lightweight to gourmet. Included in the cost:

- All Workshops.
- One-night accommodation at NZAC Unwin Lodge: 29th Sept. You will need to bring your own bedding.
- Food! We will supply the ingredients needed for one dinner, one breakfast, one lunch, and snacks.

NZAC Member: \$155.00 Non-members: \$175.00

More details and the course info pack here:

<https://alpineclub.org.nz/parkside/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NZAC-Unwin-Food-for-the-Outdoors-Event-Info-2018.pdf>

Register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/KddeNX9tTXmCWh4X2> or check the Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/462804610902420/>

New Avalanche website now open. . . .

The NZ Avalanche Advisory has now launched their new website. Have a look at the new look and feel at <https://avalanche.net.nz/>



New 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

Applications for the 2018 FMC Expedition Scholarships are now open.

FMC is proud to offer Youth Scholarships (age under 30) for the eighth year running, and the Simon Bell Memorial Scholarship (no age restrictions) for the third consecutive year. To enquire email our Executive Officer at eo@fmc.org.nz. Applications close on Friday 14 September 2018.

Nominations are open for the NZAC Volunteer of the Year 2018

NZAC Volunteer of the Year (VOTY) is awarded at each AGM. Individuals and Sections nominate an NZAC volunteer that they think have done great work over the course of the previous year. Please complete the online nomination form no later than Monday 1st October 2018: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/the-nzac/heritage/volunteer-of-the-year-award/>

NZAC High Alpine Skills course registration open

Our highly sought after High Alpine Skills courses for the summer of 2018/19 registrations are now open. These courses are for members who have taken part in an Intermediate Snowcraft Course with the NZAC or similar organisation, and have embedded their skills with further alpine climbing trips. If you are wanting to upskill and get into the big mountains of Aoraki Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini National Parks, these courses are a fantastic gateway to increase your knowledge and skills. They fill up fast so be in quick to secure your place. More info: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/about-courses/hasc/>

Editorial comment *repeated*....

For almost as long as I have been involved with the Alpine Club, there have been discussions about how the club is run – some positive and some less so. At last, the NZAC has formally reviewed the question of how members guide their Club and the review team have developed a range of suggestions to meet the challenges ahead. Now it's your turn to have an input into this discussion.

If you want to have your say about how the Alpine Club is organised and operated in the years ahead, NOW is the time to spend a few minutes reading and understanding important changes being suggested.

Last month you would have received an email from our General Manager Karen giving you an outline of the review which has been completed and links to the detailed information behind the changes being proposed. PLEASE – click on the link and read the material. <https://alpineclub.org.nz/governance-vote/>

If you're really busy, and just want to get to the heart of the discussion, try this summary document which explains the issues and answers key questions you might have. https://alpineclub.org.nz/parkside/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NZAC_Governance-Summary-and-QA_July-2018.pdf

Last week you will have received another email, with the link allowing you to vote on the proposed changes, so now is the time to act. Remember, because of the Club's voting rules, if you don't vote you will be effectively voting NO to the changes. This is an important decision point for the Alpine Club and your actions will make a difference to the future, even if you don't bother to vote. Please take a few minutes to be informed, so that you can vote effectively in August.

Lindsay Smith
Otago Section Newsletter Editor

2017-18 Otago Section Committee			
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