Who is this course for?
The NZAC Intermediate Snowcraft course is designed for NZAC Basic Mountaineers (or those with an equivalent skill set) who are looking to gain additional skills to travel safely in alpine terrain where straightforward steep snow and ice is encountered, and where abseiling on descent could be required.

Prior to attending this course* participants must have Tramping experience, undertaken personal trips on Mount Cook Grade 1+ terrain, be a NZAC Novice Mountaineer (or equivalent skill set) and have the fitness to enjoy multiple full days (7 hours) in the mountain environment.

Course Outcomes*
- An ability to plan trips into the alpine environment
- An ability to locate and interpret a range of weather forecasts, avalanche forecasts, and other relevant information
- An ability to identify simple features on a map and a basic ability to relocate using the map and terrain features
- An awareness of basic physical training principles applicable to the mountain environment

Syllabus

Preparing for the alpine environment
- Clothing/equipment
- Trip planning resources (avalanche forecasts/weather forecasts/guidebooks)
- Weather
- Navigation
- Physical training

Being and moving in the alpine environment
- Use of two ice axes, for daggering and piolet traction on moderately steep snow
- The use of crampons on steeper terrain
- Building basic snow or rock bollard anchors
- Pitched climbing on simple terrain
- Single-pitch abseiling with the use of prussic
- Identification of the safest and most efficient route for travel on moderate alpine terrain

Changing Circumstances
- Building basic snow anchors: horizontal/vertical mid clip snowstake, vertical top-clip snowstake, ice axe belay, snow bollard, abseiling off rock bollards
- Use of basic climbing calls
- Techniques for comfortable and unplanned camping in snow, and emergency shelters (snow shelters/bothy bag)

Course Overview
Duration: 2/3 Days
Season: July - September
Location: Various mountainous locations across New Zealand
Course Tutors: NZAC Section Snowcraft Instructors or Professional Instructors with NZOIA Alpine 2 (or equivalent qualifications)
Ratio: 1-4
Cost: Set by NZAC Section
Progression: Backcountry Avalanche Course, Intermediate Navigation Course

*Course outcomes may vary dependant on participant ability and course conditions. This is a guideline, individuals must assess their own ability after a course.