

OTAGO
CLIMBER

March 2020
NEWSLETTER OF THE OTAGO SECTION NZAC



Eve showing us how it's done at Hulk Hogan
Photo: Ryan Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Nights

Club Nights are held at the University of Otago Staff Club, Union St. at 7:30pm, usually on the first Wednesday of every month.

Have you been somewhere interesting this summer? Do you have someone you'd like to hear from? Suggestions for speakers are always welcome! [Contact us](#)

March Club Night, Wednesday 4 March 2020

Are you a bit sore after the summer's adventures? This month's guest speaker is Steven August, a Dunedin physiotherapist discussing the care and maintenance of the climber and trapper. With thirty years experience in treating patients, and fifty years' experience in hauling a pack through New Zealand bush, Steve is well positioned to give a few pointers!

Steve will be talking about his experience as a physiotherapist and in developing treatments that actually work for climbers and trappers: the serious outdoorsy types have muscles and ligaments that are just too strong for regular physio. Steve will cover preventative care, stretches (including why we should stretch), cramps, blisters, and some first aid tips that just may help you get safely out of the bush. Plus: Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness and why soaking in hot water with beer or wine is good for it. Ask about your own problems, and bring along your own tips or suggestions!



Upcoming Club Nights

1 April, Graeme Hall will be talking about his ski trip over New Years: The Last Degree to the South Pole.

Women's Adventure Film Tour 2020, 5 March 2020

A collection of award-winning short films celebrating inspiring women doing extraordinary things in the name of adventure. This year's playlist includes World Champion ultra trail runner Anna Frost, Olympic skier Janina Kuzma and mountaineer Penny Brothers as well as women in climbing, cliff diving, paragliding, mountain biking and more. Tickets through the Rialto.

Intro to Rock Climbing Course, 7 March 2020

One day course introducing new climbing to the sport, including basic skills of belaying and climbing on top rope. This will enable you to join in with Tuesday Night climbing meet and some beginner climbing trips. Sign up [online](#)

Sport Lead Climbing Course, 7-8 March 2020

Extend your climbing skills and get the skills and knowledge necessary for lead climbing. Either for those new to the sport or in need of a refresher! This is amazing value for a professional course, particularly for members (\$90/day for members, \$120 for non members). More info and sign up [online](#)

National Mountain Workshop Weekend, 21-22 March 2020, Unwin Lodge

Procrastinators of the club unite! As of writing this there is still one space left on the Multipitch Climbing Workshop and two spaces on the Mountain Navigation Workshop. This is a great opportunity to develop skills with a great group of like-minded people! www.alpineclub.org.nz/courses

Ladies Trip: Copland Track/Welcome Flat, 2-5 April 2020

Join some fierce females on a relaxing ladies-only tramp to Welcome Flat Hut. We'll hike, soak and relax in nature with good company! More details and sign up on the [OSONZAC website](#).

Flockfest, 25-27 April 2020

New Zealand's biggest outdoor bouldering festival: a rad bouldering competition for all abilities. Lots of prizes to be won, suss out all the beta, and learn to care for the boulders in this unique environment. Limited entries: don't miss out! Check out their website [here](#)

Midwinter Christmas, 20-21 June 2020

Occurring properly over midwinter this year: festivities will be held at Homer Hut (Assuming it reopens). Mark your calendar, details TBA.

Upcoming Winter Courses Announced

All the national courses for winter 2020 are now live. These include [Intro to Backcountry Skiing](#), [Women's Backcountry Skiing](#), [Glacier Skiing](#), [Leading on Technical Ice](#), and [Backcountry Avalanche Course](#). Basic and Intermediate Snowcraft, as well as Avalanche Awareness Course will also be announced soon.

Banff Mountain Film Festival, Thursday 4 June 2020

Back this year for one night only. Pencil this one in, and stay tuned for details: schedule of films to be announced.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

When	What
Every Tuesday, 5:15pm	Tuesday night rock climbing Meet beside Logan Park. Weather dependent (check our Facebook page for updates)
4 March 2020 7:30pm	Club Night Steve August on Care and Maintenance of the Climber and Trampler
5 March 2020 6:00 – 8:00pm	Women's Adventure Film Tour, 2020 Rialto Cinema, Dunedin
7 March 2020 9:00am-late afternoon	Intro Rock Climbing Course Basics of climbing, belaying, and top roping
7-8 March 2020	Sport Lead Climbing Course Learn to lead sport climbing
21-22 March 2020	National Mountain Workshop Weekend Develop your mountain skills at a series of workshops held at Unwin Lodge www.alpineclub.org.nz/courses
1 April 2020 7:30pm	Club Night Graeme Hall on The Last Degree to the South Pole
2-5 April 2020	Ladies Trip: Copland Track/Welcome Flat Details and sign up on the OSONZAC website
25-27 April 2020	Flockfest New Zealand's biggest outdoor bouldering festival!
4 June 2020	Banff Mountain Film Festival
20-21 June 2020	Midwinter Christmas at Homer Hut Mark the calendar, Details TBA
End July/Begin. August (course info for details)	Leading on Technical Ice Course Flexible Course Dates, Wye Creek, Remarkables

1-3 August 2020	Women's Back Country Ski Skills Course Mr Cheeseman, Craigieburn Range
21-24 August 2020	Intro to Backcountry Skiing Course
27-30 August 2020	Backcountry Avalanche Course NZAC Lodge, Arthur's Pass National Park
September/October (course info for details)	Glacier Skiing Course Aoraki Mr Cook National Park



Hey there, Kiwi!

Want to get more involved in the club?

Your current chairperson (Ryan Thomas) and myself (the newsletter editor) are moving to Australia in May for a new job.

If you're interested in joining the section committee, standing in as chairperson, or editing this newsletter, please contact the club.

Join an amazing a group of people who are super excited about Otago climbing!

Mount Alaska

By Julia Hunn



Sunrise on Mt Alaska
Photo: Alex Weller

Soon after we signed up for an easy mountaineering trip to Erebus and Xenicus, over a metre of rain fell in Fiordland and the Routeburn track was closed. Ryan, our trip leader, was quick to come up with plan B – climb Mount Larkins via Mount Alaska, near Glenorchy.

As we drove through Queenstown on Saturday morning, rain was bucketing down and we wondered if we would get to climb at all, but the sun thankfully reappeared as we arrived at the carpark. Upon meeting the group I realised everyone was in the same boat – mostly trampers with hopes to practice some alpine skills.

We hiked up for a few hours in the hot sun, stopping to look at Jean Hut, a historic mining hut held down by huge stones hanging from the roof. We set up camp near the tiny Heather Jock hut and with the knowledge we were planning to rise at 4.30am, I was zipped into my bivvy bag and asleep by 9pm.

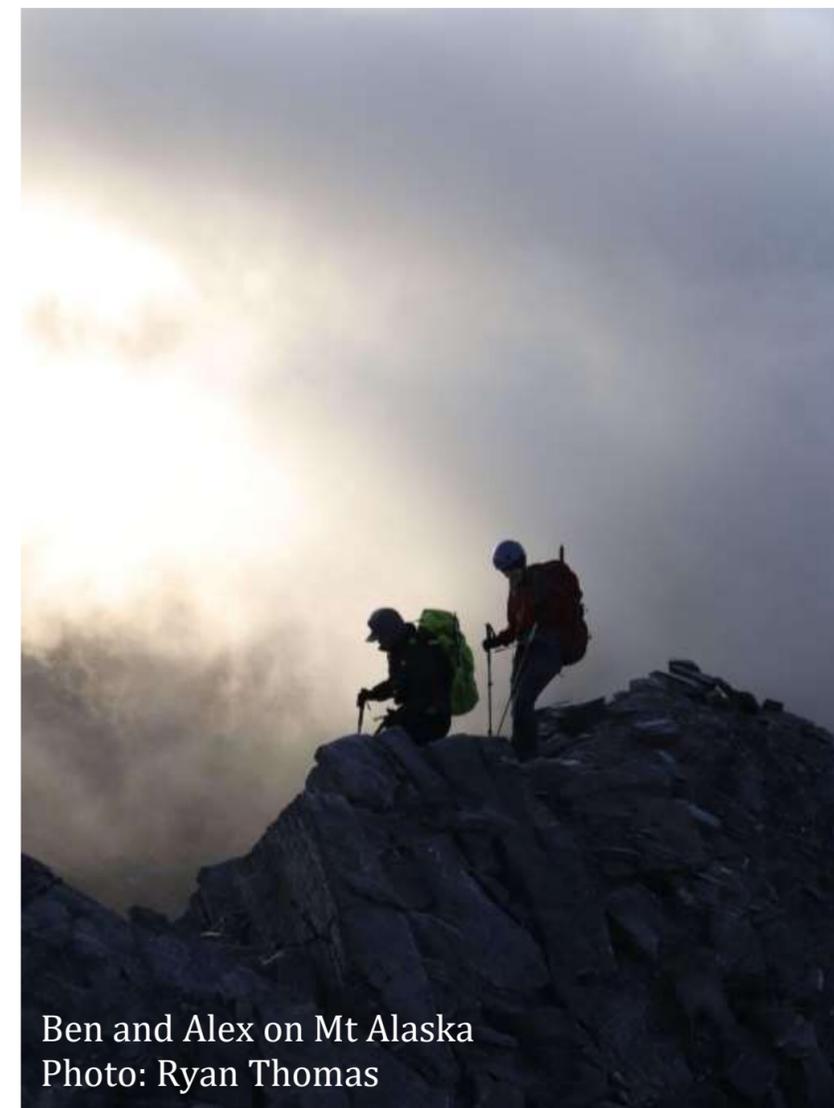
We were greeted by a ridiculously cold and frosty morning. Leaving our camp behind, we climbed up at a fair pace, reaching the top of Mount Alaska as the sky turned pink. We stopped to take in the brilliant views over the Rees and Dart valleys and Mount Earnslaw. The plan from here was to make our way along the

ridge to Mount Larkins, so we put our helmets on and attempted to walk along the northern edge of the ridge on the scree.

It quickly became pretty sketchy as the scree was frozen solid – I’ll admit that I slid over on my backside more than once and I wasn’t the only one. Our leaders decided to bring us back to the top of the ridge, where we sheltered from the icy wind as they assessed the dangers and sized us up for our level of competence.

After a bit of discussion they decided it was probably too risky to carry on, so we turned back. We were back at camp by 9.30am and after another hot sunny hike back to the carpark (with a few more historic huts along the way) we had plenty of time for a beer in Glenorchy.

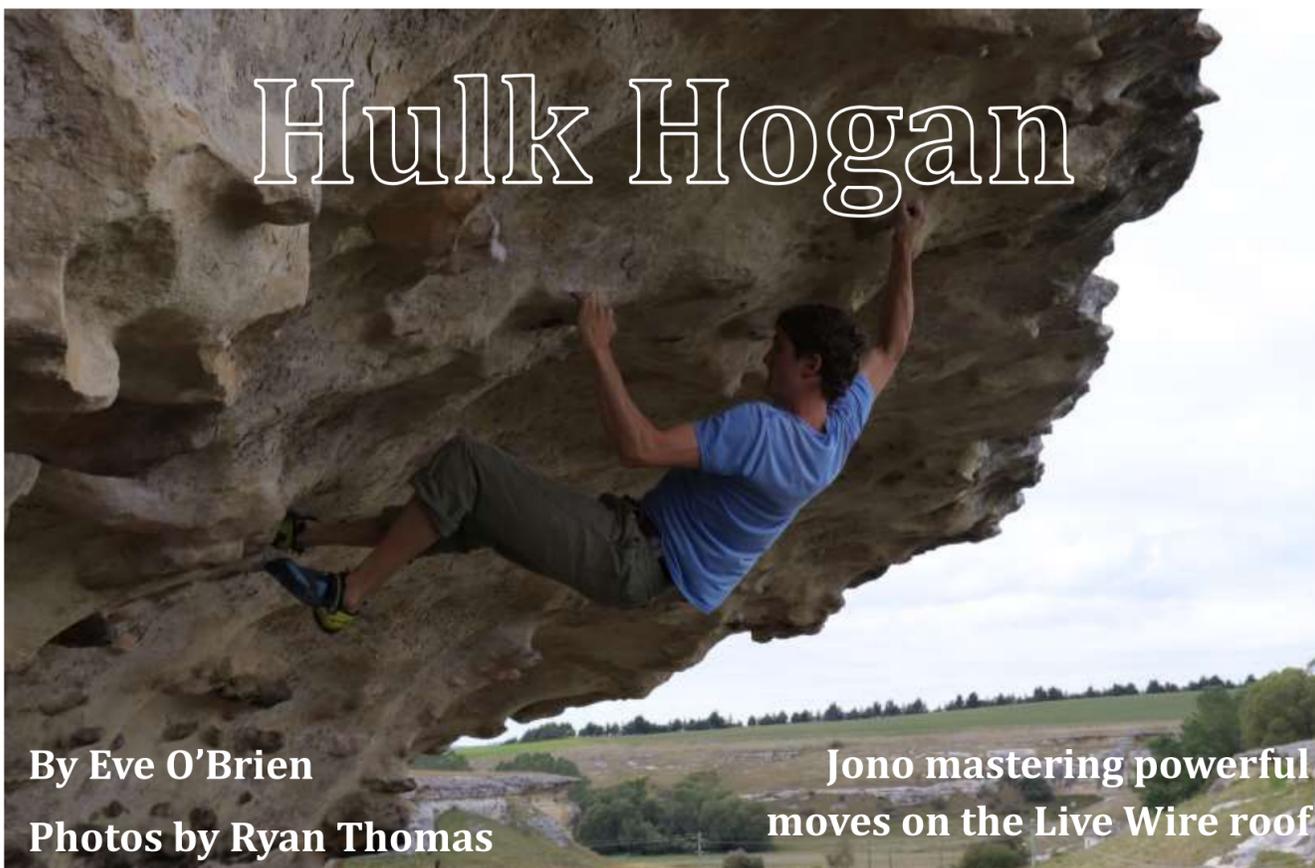
While we didn’t get to use our mountaineering skills, we still had a fun and interesting trip and learned a good lesson in safety!



Ben and Alex on Mt Alaska
Photo: Ryan Thomas



Ben, Janelle, Alex, Daniel and Julia on Mount Alaska
Photo: Ryan Thomas



Hulk Hogan

By Eve O'Brien

Photos by Ryan Thomas

Jono mastering powerful moves on the Live Wire roof

The day dawned cloudy and somewhat ominous in Dunedin and a number of our group of 7 expressed distrust at the weather forecast promising sunny skies for North Otago. Our crew included one completely new to bouldering, some climbers turned boulderer for the day, and a few experienced boulders keen to pit themselves against the powerful problems at Hulk Hogan. I convinced the group to stop at Beano's Bakery, Waikouaiti to try one of the tastier custard squares in the South Island and thus fueled for the day we drove towards Oamaru before heading inland to the bouldering area.

The Hulk Hogan bouldering area is just a few minutes drive from the better known Elephant Rocks but the style of bouldering is completely different. Composed of a band of limestone overhangs situated right next to the Island Cliff - Duntroon Road, it has a range of problems that challenge one to move horizontally instead of vertically. Some careful spotting is required on a few problems that take the climber up and out towards the road.

Arriving at the bouldering area around 10:30am, we meet up with Hulk Hogan local legend Andy Milne. Involved with development in the area since it's early days, Andy generously came along for the day to offer local advice, give coaching tips and share his passion for the quality of bouldering to be found here. His recommendations were invaluable in giving a progression of problems to try

that would suit the needs of the group and tips on how to get the most out of the area while staying safe. Everyone found some problems to push themselves but all also experienced moments of success after the mental challenge of the final overhanging edge moves was conquered!

The grey day gave way to stunning sunshine as the day wore on, and the angle of the limestone shelf provided some much needed shade when things started to warm up. Due to the steep nature of the problems, by 3pm our muscles were ready for respite and so we followed Andy's great local beta to the swimming hole by Danseys Pass Holiday Park. What better way to finish a great day of bouldering than with a refreshing dip in a surprisingly warm river with gorgeous big rock swimming pools!

Massive thanks to Andy Milne for the coaching, local beta and great company! We will be back.

Some tips for this area include taking a reasonable number of boulder mats and spotters if trying the higher overhanging problems, stay off the top of the cliff to keep the farmer happy (top out by touching the top edge and then dropping carefully down on a mat), use toilets down the road at Elephant Rocks and take your swimming gear to make the most of the swimming hole (just ask the camp staff politely for permission to walk through the campground to the river).



Susi getting some beta from local expert Andy Milne

SECTION NEWS & NOTICES

Second-hand Books for Sale

There are a number of second-hand mountaineering books available through the National office. This list has recently been updated with new titles: check it out online at <https://alpineclub.org.nz/product/secondhand-books-for-sale/>

Guide Books Available

The Section has an up-to-date set of guidebooks available to members. Priority goes to trip leaders, however these are available to all members. Contact us to arrange use.

Aoraki Tai Poutini, *Rob Frost, 4th ed., 2018*

Backcountry Ski-Touring in New Zealand, *Shane Orchard, 1st ed., 2018*

Barron Saddle – Mount Brewster, *Ross Cullen, 2nd ed., 2002*

Mount Aspiring Region, *Allan Uren and Mark Watson, 4th ed., 2016*

The Otago Southern Alps, *Danilo Hegg & Geoff Spearpoint, 8th ed., 2013*

Queenstown Rock Ice & Boulders, *Guillaume Charton, 3rd ed., 2018*

Rock Deluxe, *Ivan Vostiner and Kate Sinclair, 2nd ed., 2015*

Wanaka Rock, *7th ed., 2014*

Section Trip Information

Trip Sign Up

Interested in going on Section Trips? [Sign up](#) to our section website and subscribe to receive email notifications when new trips are posted. Members and non-members welcome.

Please note that default settings will not give any notifications: if you want to receive notices about trips you need to set your email preferences.

Trip Leaders Wanted!

We're looking for keen people to volunteer to become section trip leaders. Club trips can be as low-key or go-getter as you want them to be: if you're thinking about going somewhere, chances are somebody else in the Club is interested as well. Why not share the experience?

Leading a trip is not as daunting as it sounds. Anyone can become a section trip leader as long as they are known to be competent and capable in the mountains.

If you're interested in becoming a trip leader, contact us at otago.climber@gmail.com and we'll help guide you through the process.



BANFF CENTRE
MOUNTAIN
FILM FESTIVAL
WORLD TOUR
DUNEDIN

4th June
Regent Theatre
Banff.co.nz

 NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

Gear for Hire

PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons)

The Otago Section has two PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons) for use by Section members. Rental is free for NZAC members and \$5 per day for non-members.

Fill out the [online booking form](#), then contact Keith Moffat or Eve O'Brien to arrange to collect a unit (contact info in Section Contacts).

Avalanche Equipment and Snowshoes

Available for rent from Hunting and Fishing, Dunedin (141 Crawford Street).

Rental for members is \$5 per day for an avalanche set (transceiver, probe and shovel), and \$5 per day for snowshoes. You MUST show your current membership card to receive that rate. Fees for non members are \$10 per day with a \$20 deposit. Members are welcome to collect gear on Friday and return Monday and two day's rental will apply.

If you have any issues with the gear or rentals, please contact the Section. Hunting and Fishing are doing us a huge favour running the rentals: please don't hassle the staff!

SECTION CONTACTS

2019-20 Otago Section Committee		
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Trips, Banff Film Festival	Danilo Hegg	danilo_hegg@hotmail.com 027 339 2688
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/osonzac>
Trip info & booking: www.osonzac.org.nz

DISCOUNT PAGE

If you're anything like me, you may be vaguely aware that membership in the Alpine Club gets you discounts from various retailers. I thought I'd highlight some of these.

For some of these you'll need your NZAC Card, for others you'll need your FMC Card.

Check the [NZAC Website](#) for a full discount list and details.

Gear/Clothing

Note that most of these discounts are off the regularly priced gear only, and that a lot of gear will have a better discount when it goes on regular sale. Just saying retailers.

	Aspiring Safety 10% off In-store and online, wide variety of climbing gear and snow/ice tools
	Bivouac 10% off This one seems variable – ask at the till and you may get more
	Cactus Outdoor 10% off In-store and online, a range of clothing/gear, made in New Zealand
	Campsaver 20% off Online – an American discount outdoor gear company. Bad news: min purchase of \$500 for free NZ shipping. Good news: some of their gear is heavily discounted.
	Climbing Equipment NZ 25% off Rock climbing and mountaineering gear, free freight orders over \$20
	Crocs 20% off You, too, can be amazingly cool!

	Earth Sea Sky 15% off Free freight in NZ
	Further Faster 15% off Online or in-store (ChCh)
	Gearshop 10% off Phone orders, online outdoor gear retailer
	GoNative 10% off Wellington based with ready to eat food (not freeze dried) and energy fruit bars
	Good Rotating – Up to 10% Bicycle Shop Bicycles, packrafting, accessories in Wanaka. Sale and rent.
	Kai Carrier 25% off Entire pouch range. Reusable pouches and packaging to make your backcountry trips waste free
	Koaro Packrafts \$50 off Discount off any new packraft, Christchurch Company
	Macpac 30%/15% off 30% off Macpac branded gear, 15% off everything else
	Monster Merinos 10% off Kids merino clothing built to last
	North Face 15% off In-store (Qtown and ChCh)
	Outfitters 10% off Extensive range of global outdoor adventure brands
	Small Planet 10% off Gear, clothing and equipment in Queenstown

Other Services

	Peak Safety 15% off Courses and medical supplies
	Packrafting Queenstown 10% off Courses, rentals, and guided trips. Rentals can be couriered anywhere in NZ
	Twin Needle Repairs 10% off Gear repairs including packs, tents, sleeping bags, tents, rainwear clothing

Travel/Experiences

	DOC Annual Backcountry Hut Pass 30% off Show your hut pass and NZAC Card and get 10% off Great Walk fees
	Real Journeys 10% off Cruises in Milford or Doubtful Sounds, TSS Earnslaw
	Stewart Island Experience 10% off Ferry services (we tested this: includes ferry to/from Oban)
	Whale Watch Kaikoura 50% off Whale watching tours between 1 st May and 31 st October. Makes it reasonably affordable!