

UPCOMING EVENTS

Club Nights

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

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

September Club Night, Wednesday 2 August 2020

This year's Annual General Meeting for the Otago Section will be going ahead under (presumably) Level 2 guidelines.

Following the AGM, NZAC President Lindsay Smith will speak to the question: what is the outcome when today's legislation and bureaucratic requirements clash with the 70 years of NZAC history at Aspiring Hut? Part talk, part feedback opportunity, Lindsay is keen to brief members on the background of similar tensions across other Club activities; from the shutting of climbing crags, to the changes to publications and the training framework which has been introduced to the NZAC.



Aspiring Hut, with views up the valley to Mt Barff

October Club Night, Wednesday 7 October 2020

Dave Vass will talk about "all things Darrens" including beta on access, things still unclimbed, and a general discussion on current issues. Looks like we're all stuck in NZ this summer: time for some home grown inspiration!

November Club Night, Wednesday 4 November 2020

Gabby Degagne will talk about her experience as Expedition Coordinator for her Team that last year completed a Ski Mountaineering Expedition to the Southern Patagonian Ice Field via kayak.

Introductory Snowcraft Course

5-6 September 2020

ONE SPACE LEFT. Held in the Remarkables, this course covers basic elements of moving safely in snowy terrain including clothing and equipment, weather, avalanche avoidance, route selection, moving with and without crampons, and ice-axe use.

Includes a preparatory evening in Dunedin on 1 September, travelling after work on the fourth. Cost \$260. Contact Heather Rhodes for info:

heathermayrhodes@gmail.com

Banff Mountain Film Festival, 24 September 2020

New Zealand is the only country in the world this year currently planning to host the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Tickets are available through the Regent Theatre ([link here](#)) or at the Section Club Night: \$15.00 for NZAC members, \$19.50 General Admission.

In the event of cancellation due to restrictions on the size of gatherings, all ticket holders will be automatically refunded, including associated ticket fees.

This is a major fundraiser for both the section and the national club, so please spread the word!

Beginner Rock Climbing Course, 26 September 2020

Aimed at anyone who wants to build basic climbing skills before joining our Tuesday social climbing night. This course will be run at Logan Park gym in the event of wet weather. Price \$40pp. See NZAC Otago FB page or email the section for sign-up form.

Lead Climbing Course, 26 – 27 September 2020

Perfect for those looking to learn safe techniques or increase confidence in leading, either to start lead climbing at Tuesday social meets or to build skills for upcoming summer adventures. Must have solid basic climbing skills. A great stepping stone for those who may have attended indoor lead climbing session but not lead climbed outdoors recently. All participants must also be available for the wet weather postponement date of 10-11 October. Price \$200 pp. See NZAC Otago FB page or email the section for sign-up form.

Tuesday Night Climbing resumes 29 September 2020

The only good part about losing an hour of sleep the weekend before is having climbing to look forward to! See [our website](#) for details. We're going to go ahead and assume that Covid caution will be necessary – you will need to [pre-register](#), and we'll be keeping weekly sign up records for contact tracing. Keep an eye on FB for latest details or contact the section.

TRIPS AND EVENTS

When	What
2 September 2020 7:30 pm	Club Night Section annual meeting, Lindsay Smith on Aspiring Hut and other questions
5-6 September 2020	Introductory Snowcraft Course Held in the Remarkables, covering basic elements of moving through snowy terrain
24 September 2020	Banff Mountain Film Festival One night only at the Regent Theatre
26 September 2020	Beginner Rock Climbing Course \$40pp, see FB or email the section for sign up
26-27 September 2020	Lead Climbing Course \$200pp, see FB or email the section for sign up
29 September 2020 Meet 5:15 pm	Tuesday Night Climbing resumes Meet alongside Logan Park, see website for details
7 October 2020 7:30 pm	Club Night Dave Vass on all things Darrans
4 November 2020 7:30 pm	Club Night Gabby Degagne on ski mountaineering in Patagonia

SECTION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The upcoming September Club Night is also the Otago Section's Annual General Meeting. This is an excellent opportunity for people who are interested in helping to run their local section to step into some leadership roles.

While new members are welcome on the committee at any time, the AGM is where we hold an election for the positions of Chairperson and Treasurer. Any section member can run for either position, and no formal declaration is needed beforehand. You can just show up on the night (Wednesday 2 September 2020) and declare your interest in holding the position.

This year we are looking for someone to take over the position of Chairperson. Our current chairman, Ryan Thomas, was supposed to have left New Zealand permanently in April for Australia but is currently being kept here by travel restrictions. When those restrictions will be lifted is anyone's guess, and it would be best for the section to have a chairperson who can commit to remaining in that role for a year or more.

The role of chairperson boils down to leading and setting agendas for section committee meetings, coordinating tasks among committee members, corresponding with stakeholders, and meeting with representatives from other sections and the national office on common matters for the club. The typical time commitment is no more than one evening per week. It's a great opportunity to develop leadership and organisational skills, and as chairperson you get to contribute to the current and future direction of your local section.

We look forward to seeing you next week!



The snow is pretty sparse this year!
Brewster Hut, 15 August
Photo: Alex Weller

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It's been an interesting year as Chairperson for the OSONZAC. While the year started out in excellent form, with a number of trips and courses, it all ground to a halt in March with the arrival of Covid-19 into New Zealand. Section activity stopped pretty much instantly, and it's been a bit of a slow return to normal.

Like many businesses and organisations in New Zealand, one of the major casualties of the global pandemic has been the finances of both our section and the club at large. Most notably, the section was unable to run a screening of the Banff Mountain Film Festival at our normal time in June. Banff is our major fundraiser for the year, and the money that it brings in helps to pay for section nights, replacement of gear, and subsidises courses for members. While we have rescheduled our screening of Banff for 24 September, it can only go ahead if the Covid-19 alert level in Dunedin drops to level 1. Here's hoping that it does!

In addition to the impact of not being able to run Banff, the NZAC suffered from the strict conditions of lockdown. Broadly speaking, no money came into the club, and therefore the club couldn't pay its bills. Headquarters asked sections to contribute as much money as they could to the club's coffers so that they didn't have to take out a loan to keep the lights on, and the Otago Section transferred half of our available funds to HQ. This left us with enough to float Banff and keep us going for a year, but the committee will be keeping a tight rein on spending until things are back to normal.

In less gloomy news, we continue to run trips and organise courses for our members as time and conditions permit. We've had a range of trips organised this past year, from an easy ramble up the Routeburn, to a bouldering day at Hulk Hogan, to a weekend ski trip to the Two Thumbs Range near Lake Tekapo. Our social Tuesday climbing nights in the summer continue to be very popular, and we are planning a number of courses to help people get the skills they need to climb safely and confidently. We are always looking for volunteers to help run club trips, so if you are looking for a way to contribute to the local section I encourage you to get in touch with the committee about becoming a trip leader.

If you are interested in joining the section committee, the position of Chairperson is open. Even if you're new to the club, I encourage you to think about standing for the position at our AGM.

See you in the hills.

Ryan Thomas, Otago Section Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

NZ Alpine Club - Otago Section

Income and Expenditure 1/7/2019 to 31/6/2020

ANZ Cheque Account Opening Balance 1/7/2019 \$ 12,141.02

Income

Events Income	\$ 12,060.47
Donations	\$ 94.50
Equipment Income	\$ 1,160.00
Section Levies	\$ 1,537.04
Instruction Income	\$ 490.00
Interest	\$ 12.72
Total	\$ 15,354.73

Expenditure

Library	\$ -
Instruction Expenditure	\$ 4,909.00
Equipment	\$ -
Bolting	\$ 1,500.00
Donations	\$ 200.00
Section Nights Expenditure	\$ 1,139.50
Miscellaneous	\$ 712.72
Events Expenditure	\$ 3,939.12
HQ Covid Support	\$ 7,000.00
Admin	\$ -
Tax (On Interest)	\$ 4.20
Total	\$ 19,404.54

Net Surplus/Deficit -\$ 4,049.81
ANZ Cheque Account Closing Balance @ 31/6/2020 \$ 8,091.21

Creditors

Total	\$ -
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Debtors

Total	\$ -
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Available Funds - Bank Bal @31/6/2020 + creditors - Debtors \$ 8,091.21

The Section funds are still OK but we have had another year where expenditure has exceeded income due to a reduction in Banff profit. We supported the National Office with a \$7K donation due to the Covid crisis.

Keith Moffat - Treasurer

Queenstown Skiing & Avalanche Awareness Weekend



Trip Summary, by Eve O'Brien

Over the weekend of 7-9 August, a group of six drove to Queenstown for a day of skiing and a day attending an Avalanche Awareness course run by Basecamp Adventures.

The group of five avalanche course members and Jane, who joined us for Saturday skiing, set off at various times on Friday afternoon meeting later at Pinewood Lodge in Queenstown. All hoped for plenty of snow overnight. It was not to be! With only 1-2cm of fresh snow, the snow machines were going full blast at Coronet Peak on Saturday, which was a little unpleasant on an otherwise sunny mountain day.

Dave, Mathjis and I hadn't skied much before and wanted to hone our skills, so we signed up for the beginner lesson series. Jane, Maria and Julia had gone out a bit earlier in the morning and reported a busy tally of runs by the time we all met up for lunch at Coronet Peak. After catching up over lunch, it was back to the lessons or the big slopes.

Saturday evening saw a mad rush to grab some dinner before heading to our theory lesson at the Basecamp Adventures climbing gym in Frankton. We spent a solid evening working through the avalanche awareness course material from

the NZ Mountain Safety Council resources (available for free [online](#)) along with personal input from our guide, Jamie.

Sunday saw us back at Basecamp Adventures to pick up snowshoes and avalanche gear before Jamie drove us up to the Remarkables ski field. At the ski field we went over the avalanche and weather forecast as well as terrain/route information for the day, and we checked in with ski patrol. This was a key learning time in itself as we were guided through the necessary planning process to stay safe in the day ahead. We were also given tips on handy tools and apps to make this process easier.

Next, we snowshoed up to the Lake Alta area, discussing potential avalanche terrain and route choices along the way. From our base near Lake Alta, we spent a good portion of the day practising both individual and group avalanche rescue techniques. Our instructor, Jamie, was great at encouraging the group to have a go first and then learn together from the scenario before running a second attempt. He was also brutally honest about the need for speed and a systematic, efficient approach if a rescue was to be successful. This portion of the day, experiencing the hard work it takes to successfully carry out a rescue, definitely reminded us of how important it is to avoid being part of an avalanche in the first place.

We finished off the day with a look at the snow profiles and various snowpack tests before heading back to base. The day was a valuable learning opportunity despite the challenge of minimal material for our instructor to work with given the lack of deep snow or significant obvious avalanche hazards around the area.

And now I hand over to the rest of our team to share their experiences of the weekend...



Mathjis at Coronet Peak with the snow machines at full blast!

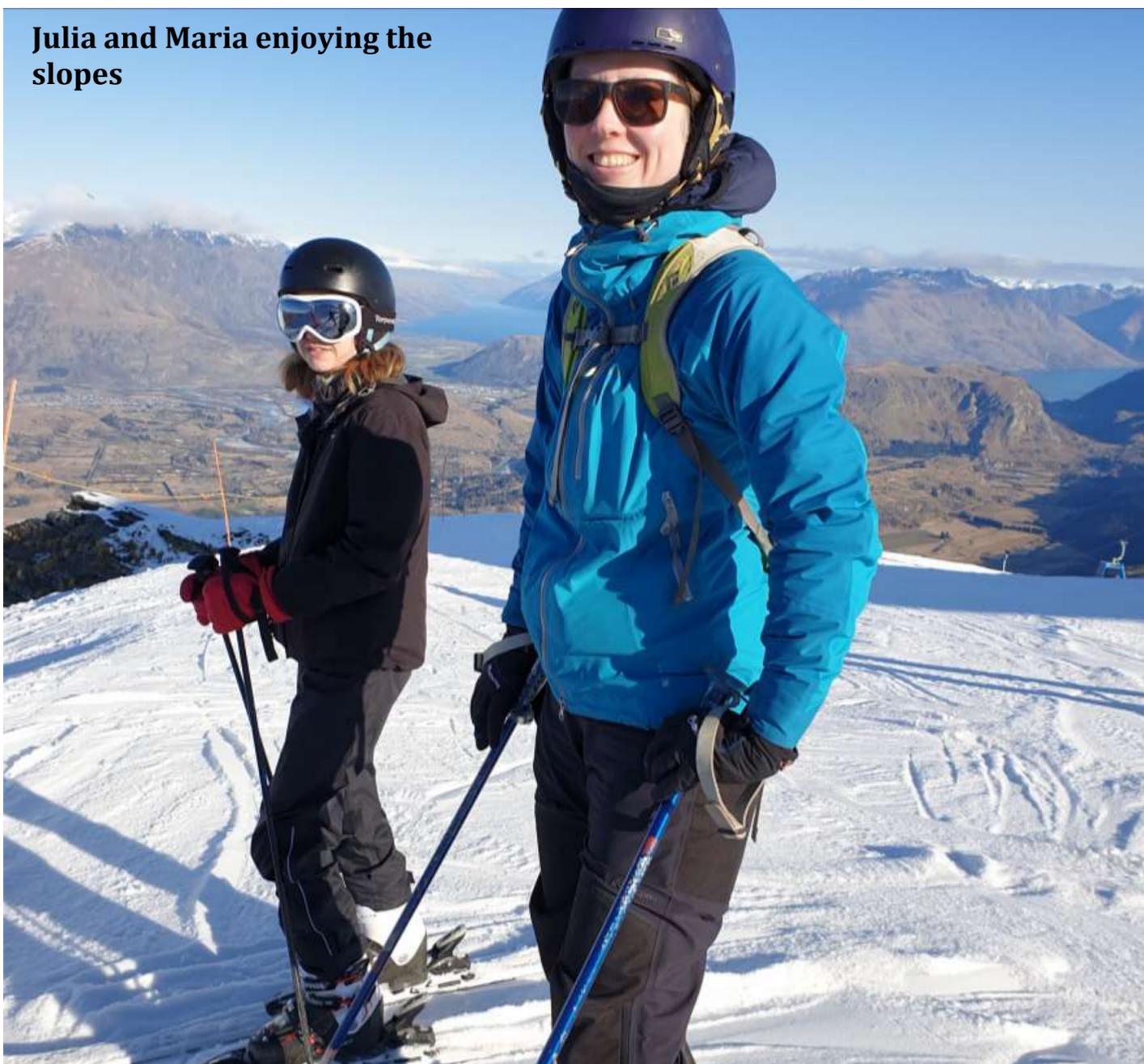
Maria Larcombe

What was your main reason for participating in the avalanche course? I have done a bit of backcountry skiing and was keen to refresh my avalanche skills

Can you tell us about what you've learned from the weekend? The multi-burial was the best part for me - learning how to search for multiple people at the same time and work as a team.

Would you recommend the avalanche course to others? Why? Who? Yes - it would be great either if you are completely new to being in avalanche terrain, or want a refresher.

Funny moments of the trip? Probably when I was searching for a 'buried' person, but it turned out to be one of my teammates whose transceiver had switched back to send mode.



Julia and Maria enjoying the slopes

Highlight of your weekend? Why? I really enjoyed mixing the weekend with a day skiing. It was great being with a really good guide and group.

What do you plan to do with the skills you've learned? Any trips on the horizons or future training? Well, the snow could improve a bit this year! But I heard about going to the backcountry terrain to ski over the back of the Remarkables on this trip, and I would be keen to do that! Also going to Kirtleburn Hut on the Pisa Range.

Dave Sun

What was your main reason for participating in the avalanche course?

I moved to Dunedin about 7 years ago, and started to get involved in a variety of outdoor activities since then. I'm trying to upgrade my skill step by step, yet snow/ice experience is still one of my biggest shortage. I'm now thinking of taking some relative course, so I can get some experience on that.

Can you tell us about what you've learned from the weekend?

The course was covered from how to check avalanche forecast information to how to identify avalanche terrain/condition, then finally avalanche search/rescue. I have learned it is really important to check avalanche information in the planned area before departure, and do not go if you feel it is not safe. Also, you need to make a careful judgement based on the current situation after identifying an avalanche terrain, see if it is worth taking the risk. Finally, avalanche rescue is a combination of physical, mental, and teamwork! You need to be careful (but fast) on every movement, every decision, and even every word you say when you are trying to save your buried partner(s).

Would you recommend the avalanche course to others? Why? Who?

Yes, I would recommend the course to all the people who want to be involved in an avalanche risk adventure. Life is precious, and you only live once! I especially want people who will go out with me to have such knowledge, as I want to be saved by my fellows if I get buried in an avalanche accident as much as I want to save other people.

Highlight of your weekend? Why?

It is probably not relevant, but my highlight of the weekend was actually the Coronet Peak ski trip on Saturday. It is my second time skiing and it is the first time I actually learned how to ski.

What do you plan to do with the skills you've learned? Any trips on the horizons or future training? I'm thinking of taking some snow/ice involved mountaineer trip during the coming summer (I'm keen for Mt French or similar levelled one).

Mathijs van de Ven

What was your main reason for participating in the avalanche course?

Coming from the Netherlands I didn't grow up around mountains. I like to be informed when I enter the backcountry so this course seemed like a good preparation!

Can you tell us about what you've learned from the weekend? I learned a lot about assessing the avalanche risk in different types of terrain. The multi-burial exercise was a great exercise as well and a little bit of a reality check. It showed how important it is for a group to be well prepared and coordinated if an avalanche were to happen. And this can only be achieved by training and practice.

Would you recommend the avalanche course to others? Why? Who? I would recommend the course to anyone that is keen to access the backcountry in winter. Especially if, like me, you are not from a country with mountains, where you don't often get exposed to avalanche risk.

Highlight of your weekend? The Thai food place in Frankton with fresh veggies from Oamaru. Amazing curries, lots of mixed up orders but all with a big smile and great service. *[Ed Note: I could make a comment about how Mathijs' highlight on a skills weekend was food, but finding good food is a skill and this sounds like a delicious recommendation]*

What do you plan to do with the skills you've learned? Any trips on the horizons or future training? I plan to lift my ski-game this year and try some backcountry skiing next season. In the meantime, the skills will be useful for any winter tramping or mountaineering.



Practicing Avalanche Rescue

MOUNTAIN ECHOES

Gleanings from Facebook, Insta, and word of mouth. Doing my best to give credit where credit is due: if you have a note to share contact otago.climber@gmail.com

A Pisa Information Day was held recently to discuss ski touring the range and to share information about how to safely access it. A summary is available [online](#)

Snow line had crept up to 1700m as of a couple weeks ago. Perhaps the perpetual mist we've had in Dunedin lately will have the benefit of pushing it down a bit more.

A first ascent was recently made on arguably the best named crag in New Zealand: Bruce Dowrick, Llewellyn Murdoch, and Jon Sedon ascended "The Big Fish" (multipitch, grade: 24-28) on Boaty McBoatFace in Milford Sound. (FB, Bruce Dowrick)

Looked like good snow again earlier this month up the Bonar and on the Quarterdeck. Who knows if that still stands. (Phillipë S Menoita, FB)

Some "modernising" has been done down at Doctor's Point on Coalition Crag: bolts repositioned and one added on the lower section of Poseidon Adventure (18), and Roaring Forties (20) is now fully sport, with two bolts added. (Dunedin Climbing, FB)

The Southland Section is running a couple of conservation trips to Homer for trapping: scheduled for 17-18 October and April-May 2021. Awesome work! Contact stanleymulvany@gmail.com and CP 0210422640 if interested in joining (I'm sure they'd let us help) (SSNZAC FB)

A flock of over a dozen (mostly juvenile) kea put on a show up at Brewster Hut this month. What I wouldn't give to know what sort of mischief that force of nature gets up to on a daily basis. Guard your tents!



banffmountainfestival.ca

BANFF CENTRE

MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

The World's
Best Mountain
Films

www.banff.nz

24th September 2020 - 7.30 pm

Regent Theatre - Dunedin

NEW ZEALAND

NEWS & NOTICES

Aspiring Hut

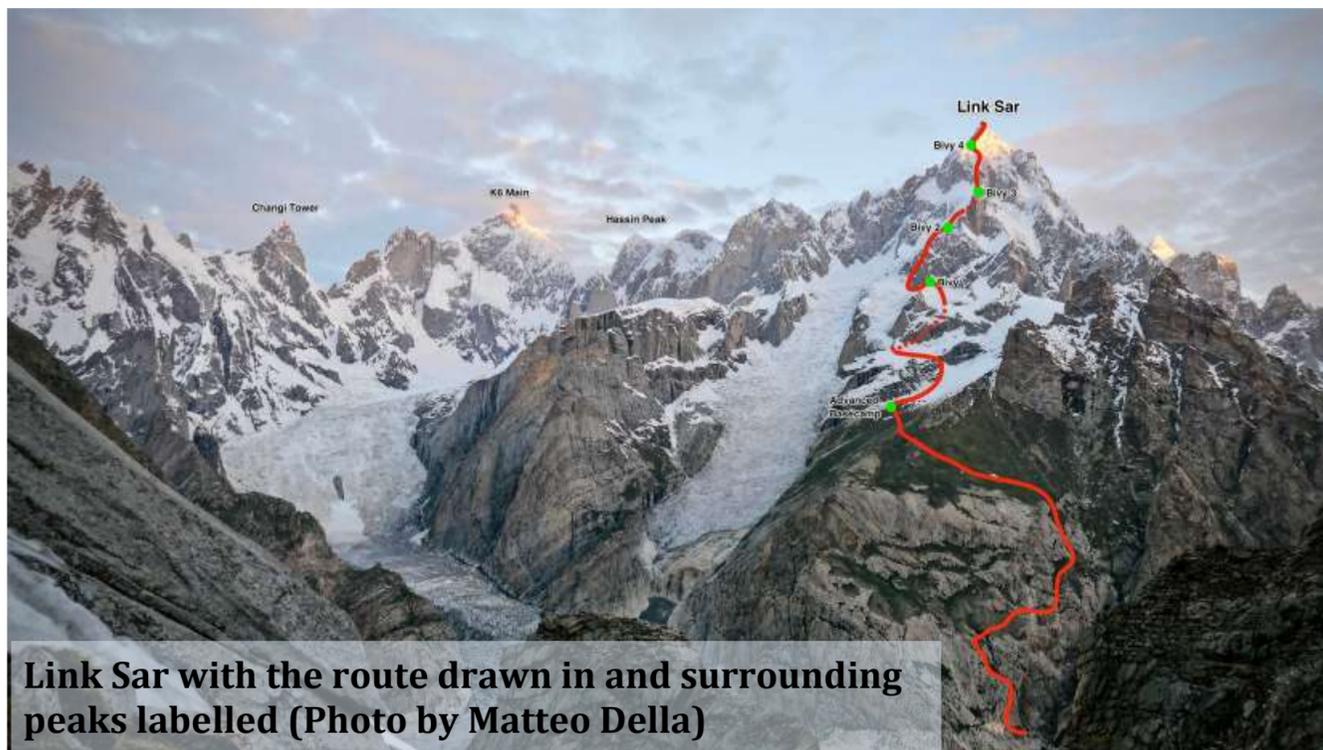
Your feedback is needed to help make decisions about the hut's future!

Aspiring Hut is in need of substantial upgrade work to meet building code requirements for earthquake strength and to repair deteriorating timber piles and floor beams. But before the Club moves to the next stage of planning, we would like your thoughts, suggestions and feedback. Comments and feedback will be accepted at any time during the process.

More information, including details on how to submit your comments, can be found here: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/aspiring-hut-upgrade-feedback-wanted/>

Congrats to ex-Dunedin Climber Graham Zimmerman!

Graham Zimmerman, Steve Swenson, Chris Wright and Mark Richey have recently been awarded the Piolet d'Or (the equivalent of a gold medal in alpinism) for their first ascent last year of Link Sar (7041m) in the Central Pakistani Karakoram via its 3400m Southeast face. The first ascent of this peak has been a highly sought-after prize for the climbing community, and involved what Swenson calls, "one of the most complex and difficult routes I have ever climbed."



Link Sar with the route drawn in and surrounding peaks labelled (Photo by Matteo Della)

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

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 Ryan Thomas 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!

A couple of juvenile kea up to their usual squabbling
 Photo: Alex Weller



SECTION CONTACTS

2019-20 Otago Section Committee		
Chair	Ryan Thomas	Ryan.j.thomas1@gmail.com 027 311 5723
Treasurer, Equipment	Keith Moffat	Moffat.k172@gmail.com 027 664 4037
Secretary, Rock climbing	Eve O'Brien	eve.j.obrien@gmail.com 027 642 3211
Trips, Banff Film Festival	Danilo Hegg	danilo_hegg@hotmail.com 027 339 2688
Instruction	Heather Rhodes	heathermayrhodes@gmail.com 027 258 6534
Newsletter	Alex Weller	alexhweller@gmail.com 027 604 1711
Committee members	Jono Squire	jonosquire@icloud.com 021 0326 218
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 Web: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/region/otago/>
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/osonzac>
 Trip info & booking: www.osonzac.org.nz

DISCOUNT PAGE

Kiwi businesses such as these are going to need all the help they can get in the next year or so! For some of these discounts 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



Climbing Equipment NZ 25% off

Rock climbing and mountaineering gear, free freight orders over \$20



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



Twin Needle Repairs 10% off

Gear repairs including packs, tents, sleeping bags, tents, rainwear clothing

Travel/Experiences



Snow Farm 20% off

Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, bookable huts and more. Two for one prices on hut bookings!



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 1st May and 31st October. Makes it reasonably affordable!