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August 2020
NEWSLETTER OF THE OTAGO SECTION NZAC



Climbing the gully up from Black Lake on
the way to Gertrude Saddle
Photo: Keith Moffat.

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](#)

August Club Night, Wednesday 5 August 2020

Simon Noble is a section member living in Dunedin. As well as climbing a bit, Simon is a keen off-road cyclist who has joined the growing 'bike packing' trend. Bike packing is long-distance, self-sufficient cycling in natural or semi-back country environments. It's kinda like tramping on wheels and while it involves a lot of road riding, these are preferably remote and quiet. Bike packing is a bit like cycle touring but with much less gear! Trips can be long day trips or multi-thousand kilometre journeys, and more and more designated routes and events are emerging around the world. Simon will describe bike packing and its emergence, as well as reporting on his experience in the 3000km Tour Aotearoa.



Upcoming Club Nights

Wednesday 2 September 2020: This is our annual general meeting with nominations and voting for the section's chairperson and secretary. Members are encouraged to attend. Following the official business, Alpine Club president Lindsay Smith will be giving a talk about the general position of the club, particularly in response to the pandemic. Questions encouraged and welcomed!

Technical Climbing Skills Training Logan Park School, Weeknights 6-9pm

August 17 – Anchors/Rigging, General Q & A

August 18 & 25 – Rock Rescue Skills

Build or refresh your technical climbing skills with practical hands on learning. Topics will be adapted to participants' goals and will be suitable for a range of experience levels. \$45 per night. For more information and to express interest,

<https://forms.gle/8AsmNDsFX71BSw1G7>

Introductory Snowcraft Course

5-6 September 2020

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. As we are currently operating under the policy of having courses pay for themselves, maximum cost per person will be \$320. The more people sign up, though, the cheaper we can make it. Minimum of four people, maximum of eight. 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 \$15.00 for NZAC members, \$19.50 General Admission. At the Regent Theatre.

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

TRIPS AND EVENTS

When	What
5 August 2020 7:30 pm	Club Night Simon Noble on bike packing and the Tour Aotearoa
17 August 2020 6:00-9:00 pm	Technical Climbing Skills Training Night Anchors/Rigging, General Q&A
18 & 25 August 2020 6:00-9:00 pm	Technical Climbing Skills Training Night Rock Rescue Skills
2 September 2020 7:30 pm	Club Night Section annual meeting, Lindsay Smith on operations of the national club.
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

SECTION NEWS

Annual General Meeting

September is coming around again and with it 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 night (Wednesday 2 September 2020) and declare your interest in holding the position. That being said, advance notice is always appreciated and if you are interested in holding either position, we can notify members via the newsletter.

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 in September!



Approaching Rex Simpson Hut
Photo: David Shearer

TRIP REPORTS

Mid-winter Christmas at Homer Hut

By Keith Moffat



Climbing up from Black Lake
Photo Alex Weller

This year's annual OSONZAC mid-winter Christmas trip was delayed a week from the weekend closest to the shortest day to be sure we were in COVID Level 1 rules, so we could have more than ten people in a hut and no requirement for social distancing.

We shared the celebration with the Southland Section, and it was held at Homer Hut. The Dunedin crew of eight drove down on Friday night and we were lucky with good driving conditions. The eight Southlanders all came through on Saturday.

On Saturday it was an alpine 9am start to head up to Barrier Knob via Gertrude Saddle. It is a few years since I have been up there and was surprised by the amount of signage warning of Hazards. Some research when I got home indicated that six people had died on the route in the last 15 years, and a Coroner's report blamed DoC's lack of signs and track markers for a tourist's death. Apparently during the summer there can be up to 180 people a day doing the route and car parking can be an issue. The real culprit is social media.

The snow was not deep and there was a lot of iced up rock to cross to get to Black Lake, which was not very black having frozen. The frozen lake provided a short cut to an exit gully that provided some interesting climbing. We had lunch at Gertrude Saddle while soaking up the view down to Milford Sound. We pushed onto Barrier Knob and when we got there it looked like bad weather was going to close in with a few flakes of snow falling. We decided it was best not to linger and headed down. However, the weather held and we all arrived back safe and dry ready for some good food and company.

We all gathered around the Austin Brooks memorial table to enjoy our potluck meal and it was amazing how balanced the offerings were. The secret Santa gifts had to be second hand or homemade. The option to swap your gift if you fancied someone else's provided some entertainment with a roll of salami changing hands about five times.

On Sunday morning Ron McLeod had a list of maintenance tasks for us that included chopping wood, some earth works on the access track and moving a couple of posts. When I discovered the assigned posts had been set in concrete I gave up on that task. We headed home about mid-day to arrive back in Dunedin at a civilised hour with our batteries recharged.



**Juliet, Keith and Phil
descending to Gertrude Saddle
from Barrier Knob
Photo Ryan Thomas**



**Mount Talbot overlooking Gertrude Saddle
Photo: Ryan Thomas**

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

Josh has been removing macrocarpa trees that were destroying the top of the Pinnacle at Long Beach. (FB, Dunedin Climbing)

A wave of excitement passed through Dunedin climbers at the beginning of the month. Ruari Macfarlane has developed two pitch routes on a sea cliff below the Chasm. Word is these are “adventurous” (FB, Dunedin Climbing)

Ice climbing conditions up Wye Creek, as of earlier this week: Right hand side is very thin but 4-5 climbable lines. Left side the WI2 stuff looks okay. Steeper routes are thin. (Llewellyn Murdoch on NC Alpine Club FB)

As of July last week, the Quarterdeck of Mt Aspiring was well filled. Strong winds and lots of snow getting blown about. (Bia Boucinhas on NZ Alpine Club FB)

Skiing up in the Two Thumbs Range at Rex Simpson Hut last weekend was ‘okay’.

A couple big rocks came off Lost in Translation at Pompeii a few weeks ago, narrowly missing the belayer. Keep your helmets on and stay alert!

A very vibrant debate emerged on Facebook at the end of June about changing offensive route names. Now curious, I looked up Dunedin route names. Conclusions: there are many good names Level Three Lockdown, Long Beach, Pompeii; Voyage of the Dawn Treader, Main Cliff right side; Never Again, Main cliff right side. Could live without others: Pamela Anderson, Long Beach Caves; Smug with Semen, Long Beach, Dragon’s Lair; Call me Wanker, Long Beach Main Wall; Winona’s Big Brown Beaver, Mapoutahi

Karena Garrett lost a small pink pendant up near Jubilee Hut a couple of weeks ago. Given the mud and pigs she knows chances of finding it are slim, but she remains hopeful.

The track down Rosella Ridge in the Silver Peaks is surprisingly well maintained. Thanks to whomever put in the elbow grease: much appreciated!



banffmountainfestival.ca

BANFF CENTRE

**MOUNTAIN
FILM FESTIVAL
WORLD TOUR**

NZAC
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

Request for News and Information

We (Nick Shearer and Neil Sloan) are working on a new edition of the Mount Aspiring Region guidebook, expanded to include the Forbes Ranges.

The four major blocks of peaks we aim to comprehensively cover are:

1. Humboldt Mountains – Barrier Range – Snowdrift Range - Bryneira Range - Waipara Range – Dart Glacier Peaks.
2. Forbes Mountains – Richardson Mountains – Rees Valley head.
3. Matukituki Valley Peaks
4. Wilkin / Siberia peaks and peaks around to Haast Pass.

If you have been in these areas and can provide updated information, we want to hear from you. If there are climbers out there looking for a challenge and wanting to explore less-visited alpine areas on a fact-finding mission, we can help by providing a list of peaks that need revisiting.

Some of the things we are looking for include:

- High resolution colour photographs

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!

SECTION CONTACTS

2019-20 Otago Section Committee		
Chair	Ryan Thomas	Ryan.j.thomas1@gmail.com 027 311 5723
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Email: otago.climber@gmail.com

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!