



CENTRAL OTAGO NEWS LINE



Newsletter of the Central Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club - September 2020 (14)

As I write this, a club trip, Snow Camping 101 is in full swing. The participants will be setting up their tents and campsite for the night near Lake Alta at the Remarkables. Fresh from attending one of the Sections' two Basic Snowcraft courses held in August, all seem to have found that lure of the mountains. Looking to further their learning to enable future adventures into the alpine.

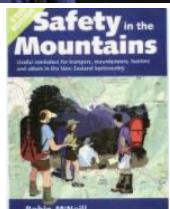


The New Zealand and World Premiere of the 2020 Banff Mountain Film Festival is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th at the Queenstown Memorial Centre. With current Covid Level 2 restrictions in place, we await the Government announcement on Monday 14th. All updates regarding Banff will be on our section Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/874257782646579/>

SECTION AGM & GUEST SPEAKER — MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

In the meantime, another date to put in your diary is the Section Annual General Meeting (AGM), with special guest speaker Robin McNeill.

Robin is a keen tramer, occasional hunter and mountaineer, long-time member of the New Zealand Alpine Club and the Southland Tramping Club. He is a strong advocate for conservation values and was awarded a MNZM for services to conservation in 2017. He is on the board of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission. During his time as President of Federated Mountain Clubs, he helped form the New Zealand Outdoor Recreation Consortium, which maintains public huts and tracks on conservation land. He is editor of the authoritative Fiordland tramping guidebook, Moir's Guide South and for rewriting the best-selling Safety in the Mountains. Not to mention columnist for "Uncle Jackos" in the FMC bulletin.



A break enroute to Telecom Tower – looking towards Single Cone. Basic Snowcraft course #1 - Photo: Tammy Langton

CHAIRPERSONS MUSINGS

Well, it seems to be a winter of 2 halves – a cracking winter before the school holidays, then spring, and now we are back to winter. I hope people have been managing to get out and enjoy the snow while it is here.

We were lucky enough to be able to run a couple of Basic Snowcraft Courses up at the Remarks this last month. Eighteen keen people, who moved from being unsure about this new medium – snow - to being in the position to plan and execute their own trips above the bush line. It is such a pleasure to see people progressing in such a short space of time and makes the volunteer work to get these going all the more worthwhile. So, a big thanks to the attendees for all their effort, questions, and smiles, and a massive thanks to Bridg, our Course Manager for all the work behind the scenes and on the day. It was great to see one of the groups connect and plan some trips for the future. Job done!

AGM and Speakers night – Monday – 19th October @ The Sherwood – 6.30pm for drinks and catch up, 7pm for AGM, 7.30 for our speaker – put it in your diary! A short AGM followed by a talk by Robin McNeill, Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit, expert on all thing's conservation, world famous author of Moirs Guide South and many other things. This should be a great evening, and we look forward to seeing you there! More details will be posted on our Facebook Group, so keep an eye out!

Help us to help you!! - we are running with a committee of 7 right now, and are looking for more volunteers, to help with trips, events, and all sorts of other things we would love to do for our members. If you have some skills you think would be useful to us, please contact us at cosnzac@gmail.com – we would love to hear from you! Many hands make light work...

CENTRAL OTAGO SECTION 2020 – CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September - BANFF Mountain Film Festival – Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th –

Memorial Centre, Queenstown – check our Facebook page for updates

Beta over Beers – 29th– Rhyme & Reason, Wanaka 7-9pm

October - AGM & Speaker – 19th – 7.00pm

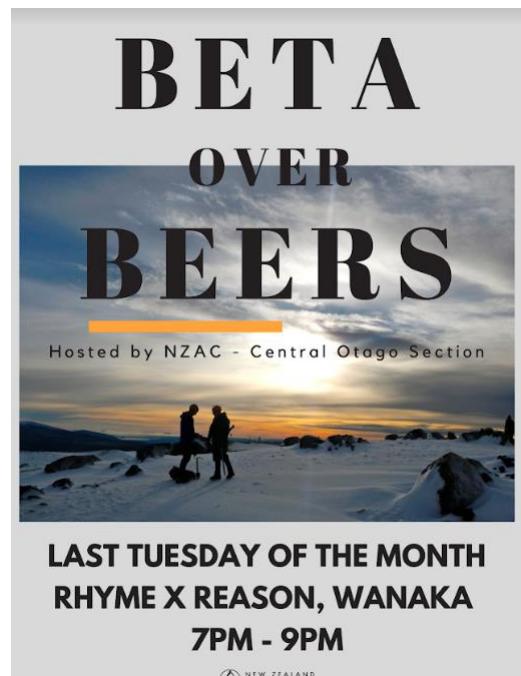
Sherwood Queenstown

Spring trip (date TBC)

To keep up with local goings on, check out our Facebook Group –

New Zealand Alpine Club – Central Otago Section –

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/874257782646579/>



TRIP REPORT - BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSE #1 – 8TH-9TH AUGUST

by Elise Blundell

When the mountains set you free, but reaching the glistening snow line (without skis) marks the limit of your outdoor skills, you can only dream of strolling along snow covered ridges and feel envious of other people's picturesque peak poses.



Enter Bridg, Nigel and Wendy and the 8th/9th of August Basic Snow Craft Course! For most of us it was our first-time using crampons and ice axes, and half of us were also new to avalanche gear and transceivers.

We started up the slope on Saturday morning from the Remarkables cafe, dodging skiers and gingerly walking with outstretched arms for balance - trying not to be the first to slip over in front of everyone. From then until 4pm Sunday it was a stream of non-stop knowledge from our

three experienced and energetic instructors. We learnt how to walk on snow without crampons, how to put crampons on and walk in them, to use an ice axe and about conserving energy to try to avoid breaking a sweat. We practiced self-arrests, finding transceivers, using a probe, and step cutting. With great enthusiasm we also learnt that Nalgene water bottles make great hotties in your sleeping bag!



The course ended on a high by reaching the Telecom Tower above lake Alta, finding our own routes in groups, and identifying potential hazards along the way. With the tips of our crampons to the sky, we safely descended with confidence to practice our new skills on small ridges and peaks.



But of course, freedom comes with responsibility. We were reminded that we now have enough skills to get out there and practice, but with unchecked eagerness and zero experience we are in a dangerous position! But if we prepare properly, check the weather and avalanche risk, make sure our packs and feet are tidy with no straps hanging out, walk like cowgirls and boys with our crampons on, remember 'Tony Knows' (Toe-Knee-Nose parallel) while walking down hill, and never put anything on the snow unsecured (R.I.P sunblock), then we are capable of ascending above the cool white freedom of the snow line.



It is so awesome to have made new mates that are at the same skill level to practice what we have learnt with. Thank you to all the attendees for being so encouraging, and a huge thanks again to Wendy, Bridg and Nigel and CONZAC for providing such an affordable and quality course. See you in the peaks!

Photo credits: Sam, Andrew, Tammy, Janelle



NZAC – CENTRAL OTAGO SECTION GEAR HIRE



GEAR HIRE CONDITIONS

- To hire gear and organise pick up/drop off, email or text Wendy (Queenstown) or Myrthe (Wanaka) with gear needed and dates
- Minimum hire is 2 days, weekend hire needs to be arranged by Thursday, no last-minute calls during the weekend please
- When hiring the Avalanche set (transceiver, shovel, probe), please supply your own 1 x AA alkaline non-rechargeable battery
- Gear is hired with the expectation that it will be returned clean and tidy, if gear is lost or damaged, replacement cost will be charged
- Gear can be reserved in advance by paying in full via bank transfer

If you have issues with gear or the rental, email cosnzac@gmail.com.

NON-MEMBER GEAR HIRE CONDITIONS

NZAC Members may hire on behalf of non-members joining the same trip with the knowledge that the NZAC member is responsible for any loss or damage. The non-member pays non-member prices.

PLEASE NOTE

The NZAC – Central Otago Section is not responsible for providing any technical advice regarding the fitting or use of the gear hired; this is solely the responsibility of the renter.

GEAR AVAILABLE

Avalanche set:
transceiver, shovel, probe
Walking ice axes
Crampons
Helmets

Members price:
\$10/day - Avalanche set
\$5/day - any other item

Non-members
renting via a member:
\$20/day - Avalanche set
\$10/day - any other item

Payable on pickup
No refunds

Current NZAC
Membership card
required at pick up

Gear pick up & drop off

Queenstown contact:

Email or text Wendy
cosnzac@gmail.com
021-1634687

Wanaka contact:

Email or text Myrthe
m.r.braam@gmail.com
022-3195941

MESSAGES FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

Request for news and information – New edition of the Mt Aspiring/Tititea and the Otago Alpine Regions Guidebook

We (Nick Shearer and Neil Sloan) are working on a new edition of the Mount Aspiring Region guidebook. This new edition will be expanded to include guides to 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
- information such as errors and omissions in the current (2016) edition
- suggestions for improvements to the current edition
- Changes to existing routes, access, and huts
- New routes

Please contact the authors directly:

Nick Shearer nicholastshearer@gmail.com
Phone 021 023 42436

Neil Sloan mckeesloan@gmail.com
Phone 027 338 5560 or 03 443 1041

Central Otago Section Committee 2020

Chairperson	Wendy Johnston	Instruction Coordinator	Bridg Janse
Secretary	Bill Malone	Trips Coordinator	Wendy Johnston
Treasurer	Beatrice Diller	Newsletter	Bridg Janse
Banff & heaps of other stuff	Nigel Lloyd	Heaps of other stuff	Fabienne Mareel Ronnie Baker
Events	Yvonne Pflüger		

Section Contact Information for the Central Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club

Email contact: cosnzac@gmail.com

Web: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/region/central-otago/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/874257782646579/>

Central Otago NZAC Member Discounts

Queenstown Stores		Wanaka Stores
Small Planet 	Outside Sports 	The North Face

Show your NZAC membership card to receive discount and support local retailers

NZAC Member Discounts

Remember these retailers support NZAC not only by offering discounts to members, but some companies, such as Cactus and Split'N2 donate annually to the NZAC's Club Hut and Expedition Funds.

 GO NATIVE www.gonativeworld.com 10% discount to NZAC members online	 ASPIRING Aspiring Safety 10% discount to NZAC members – in-store and online
 Monster Merinos Quality merino kids clothing www.monstermerinos.co.nz	For our members as FMC affiliates. Monster Merinos – 10% with details here: https://alpineclub.org.nz/company/monster-merinos/
 Air Charter Karamea 10% discount to NZAC members	 Packrafting Queenstown 10% discount to NZAC members
 Cactus Outdoor 10% discount in-store for NZAC members	 Split'N2.com 10% discount online to NZAC members
 Outdoor E Store 10% discount to NZAC members	 Climbing Equipment NZ 25% off RRP for NZAC members
 Climbing Anchors 12.5% discount in-store and online to NZAC members	 outdoor action OUTDOOR ACTION 15% discount in store and online to NZAC members
 Further Faster 15% off total purchase to NZAC members	 Cross Country Rentals 10% discount to NZAC members
 PEAK <small>SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT</small> PEAK SAFETY	Peak Safety 15% off courses and medical supplies for NZAC members
 macpac	30% Macpac NZAC members; 15% non Macpac NZAC members
 Department of Conservation <i>Te Papa Atawhai</i> 30% off DOC Annual Backcountry Hut Pass	 Basecamp Adventures Queenstown Indoor climbing \$22.00 NZAC Adult member