

06

JUNE EDITION 2021

OTAGO CLIMBER



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SO YOU WANNA BE A MOUNTAINEER?

NEW GUIDEBOOK

COURSES

**Mt Elliot and Mt Wilmur from MacKinnon Pass, Milford Track, on the last weekend of May.
Photo D Hegg**

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

CLUB NIGHTS

OTAGO ALPINE CLUB MEETING
2ND JUNE 7:30PM

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

OTAGO UNI STAFF CLUB ROOMS

It is about time we had a wee bit of a show and tell event so for the June club meeting we are doing just that but with a bit of twist! We are asking you to bring along a piece of climbing/mountaineering equipment from back in the day and present a short 5minute talk about what the heck it is and your best memory of using it. Free drink for the craziest story and most unusual item as voted by the committee.

Our speakers have been so popular that recently we have stayed beyond our allocated finish time of 9pm. In future we will be starting the talk at 7:45 so be prompt not to miss anything.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Midwinter Christmas trip to Brewster Hut 19th-20th June, 2021

For those wanting to celebrate mid-winter in the snow we are running a trip to Brewster Hut on the weekend of 19-20th June. We plan to drive to road end on the Saturday morning and walk into the hut in the afternoon. The hut sleeps 12 and we may have to share with others. The number of people on the trip is limited to 15.

You can register on the section trip management web application <https://www.osonzac.org.nz/>

We will have a potluck evening meal and a Secret Santa. On Sunday morning you can climb Mt Armstrong before heading for home in the afternoon. For more information call Keith Moffat on 0276644037 or e-mail Moffat.k172@gmail.com



Old Man Range - Ski touring, Saturday 3 July 2021

A ski-touring trip to Nicholson hut. The tour is easy and requires a moderate level of fitness and off piste ski ability. Back-up day will be Sunday the 4th if the weather looks more favorable.

Party size is limited to 7

You can register on the section trip management web application <https://www.osonzac.org.nz/>

For more information email Matteo Scoz zuccotn@gmail.com



UPCOMING TRIPS

2022 National Climbing Camp, Elcho Hut, 15th-22nd January

The Otago Section will be organising the NZAC 2022 National Climbing Camp to be held at Elcho Hut the week of 15th-22nd January. The 12 bunk Elcho Hut is a fantastic base for a climbing camp with many peaks in the vicinity. The plan is for people going into the camp to walk in with a couple of 4WD vehicles to carry food in, Campers will be expected to walk out. The number of people attending the camp will be limited to 30 so early registration is recommended. We will let you know when registrations are open. If you have a suitable 4WD vehicle that you would be prepared to take up the Hopkins on the 15th January please contact the camp organiser Keith Moffat at Moffat.k172@gmail.com.



BANFF 2021

The Regent Theatre was fully packed for our 2021 screening of the Banff Film Festival World Tour. Thank you to Dunedin's outdoor community for your continued support of the event, and to sponsors MacPac, La Sportiva, Double Vision Brewing and Uprising Industries for your help making the event possible. The income generated by the Banff Film Festival is essential to support many of our club's activities, including crag care and maintenance, and the replacement of safety equipment that is available to everyone for rental at Hunting and Fishing, 141 Crawford Street.

TRIP REPORTS

Wanaka Climbing Trip Report, April 2021

By Bryony Hitchcock

The forecast was variable for the weekend but the trip went on regardless with optimism that we would still have fun even if the climbing was rained off. We made the most of the afternoon after most of us arrived at Hospital flat around lunch time and headed to Main Cliff to set up some climbs. We had a group of mixed experience, so some members of the group had a good opportunity to practice leading sports and trad climbs and others could hone their new skills on the rock after the top ropes were set up. Headbangers arete was a fun but nerve-wracking climb for me and the Big Corner offered a new style of climbing for some, with a few struggles to get up the last couple of metres to the anchor. Everyone managed to get in a decent few climbs in with a short stint at The Tombstone to finish off the afternoon.



We made it back to the campsite just before dark to set up camp, some opting for the minimal effort option of sleeping in the car which I think may have been later regretted. One poor soul couldn't move in their car without setting off the alarm ... Then a hunt for dinner in town was embarked upon which involved walking through most of the town with no luck so we settled on the first place that could fit us and enjoyed a pub dinner with a few pints.



There was talk of heading up Roys Peak for sunrise but this adventure seemed to be rained off or slept through? The first of the rain for the day arrived just after 06:30 and after a leisurely breakfast at camp we sheltered from the rain by piling into Joe and Charlie's awning. We left camp just as the rain arrived again...



SA bit of rain couldn't keep us down so a walk up Mt Iron was in order. Complete with a game of how many physicists can you fit on the podium at the top!



After a quick puzzle and coffee warm up break at puzzling world, resulting in a bit of frustration for some who couldn't figure out even one of the 100,000 solutions apparently available to solve the puzzle, we headed out to check if the crags had dried enough. Unfortunately, the rock was still a bit wet so more views were taken in of Diamond lake and Wanaka viewpoint for lunch.



The whole crew regrouped at Riverside, Motatapu Valley, to smash out some routes for a couple of hours while the sun was still shining. Once the sun disappeared around the corner the wind picked up a bit resulting in some chilly times for the belayers. We called it a day and headed back to camp for an alfresco dinner.

A hardcore group stayed for Sunday night hoping for a clear window in the morning for some more climbing. We all piled into Joe and Charlie's awning again for a discussion of all things British humour, as the majority of the remaining attendees were from Blighty. There was an in-depth discussion of the various iterations of "The Office" for example and a surprising group knowledge of Harry Potter on display.

We awoke to frosty tents and clear skies but with darkness over the mountains getting closer. We decided to hedge our bets and stop in for a climb at Alexandra on the way back to Dunedin but we arrived at the same time as the rain ☹️ and with no free spots in the café for lunch, a short walk to the giant clock in a sunny weather window rounded off our visit before the final leg back to Dunedin.

A personal highlight for me was pushing through the fear to carry on to the next bolt when it seemed so far away after chickening out on a couple of routes previously. And my first mini fall on lead which I have been avoiding and stopping me from trying moves that are frustratingly easy once on top rope! I'm sure we've all been there...

It was a relaxed trip with good company, views and climbs. Big thanks to Susi and Mike for organising!



So you wanna be a mountaineer?



by Mhairi-Bronté Duncan

Maybe you've seen a photo of someone on Instagram waving their ice axe victoriously atop a mountain and you've gotten majorly jealous that their photo is cooler than your tramping pic (well you're not wrong there) so you've madly started googling mountaineering videos on YouTube getting motivated for your next adventure only to have watched touching the void and it dawns on you that the likely hood of serious injury or death is rather high if you're not well prepared....

Well, friend admitting you don't know what you are doing is the first step to saving your ass in a blizzard because now you've got a chance to prepare properly for it! Every newsletter I will share the wisdom of experienced mountaineers from what they wish they knew when they started to basic gear must-haves (check out the discount section in the back of the newsletter to get you mitts on some great deals!) Because like you, I am a wannabe mountaineer trying to make sense of all the random jargon people use like crampons, ice axes, and poop bags

So for starters check yourself before you wreck yourself! Do you have a good fitness base? It is easy to daydream of standing on top of a mountain with perfectly brushed hair after seeing a photo on Instagram but if you're not used to walking uphill you might want have to make do with Photoshopping yourself at the top of the ski lift

According to Mt Cook Alpine Guides for a beginner a good fitness test is:

- 5-8km moderate-paced jog without stopping
- 300m elevation hike in less than 1 hour carrying 12kg
- Most importantly able to carry a pack for 8-10 hours a day

If you have a good base fitness (tramp/run etc) The next step is enrolling in a Snowcraft Course. My first experience of a snow craft course was in the sand dunes of Sandfly bay ... We didn't have the ability to go to the mountains so instead, I was taught how to put my crampons on safely and how to walk along the dunes 'snow' (much to the amusement of onlooking tourists) I even learned how to self-arrest with an ice axe down a dune (I do not recommend this unless you like the taste of sand!). Surprisingly this experience didn't put me off wanting to do more alpine (this time in real snow) Thankfully a basic snow course was part of the Otago Polytechnic's Outdoor Pursuits certificate, which I then built on with a NZOIA snowcraft course at Remarkables Ski Field.

The essentials covered in any good snow craft course:

- Crampons
What the heck they are, how to not stab yourself (they are super spiky!)
How to attach them to your boots and how to walk like a real cowboy so you don't rip your pants!
- Ice Axes
Figuring out the correct length for a walking ice axe (yes there are different types)
Safely attaching them to your pack, walking/climbing and cutting steps with the axe.
The best skill i of course the self-arrest with an ice axe (exceptionally fun to learn but you also don't ever want to have to use this skill but it is vital to have just in case you need it).
- Transceiver
What is it?
How it works
You will get to participate in an exercise to search and locate a missing person (usually a transceiver been buried in the snow in a bag, so don't worry getting buried alive isn't part of the course)
- Trip planning
Reading the weather
Reading a map
Basic avalanche awareness (where to walk to avoid avalanche areas)

Here is a list of the following organizations who offer credible snow craft courses

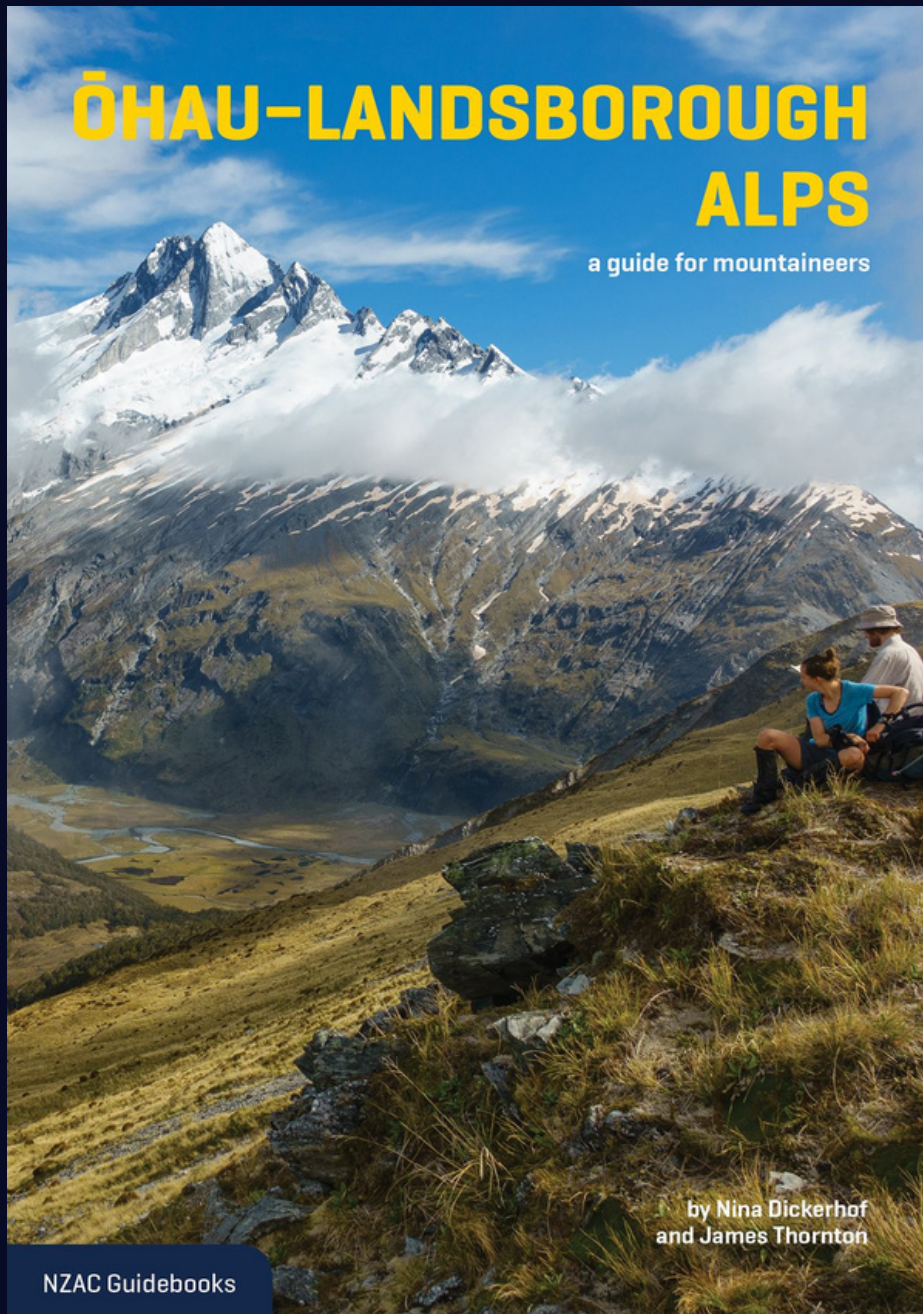
- Otago Alpine Club (advertise on the website when a group course is being held)
- NZAC (check out their website for details)
- NZOIA – often requires participants in Snow Craft Courses when they are assessing new instructors (watch out on their fb page and website)
- OUTC (check out their Facebook page)
- Canterbury Mountaineering Club (check out their website)



NEW GUIDEBOOK

Ōhau–Landsborough Alps - A guide for mountaineers

New Zealand Alpine Club has now published the new Ōhau–Landsborough Alps guidebook. This 216-page guidebook covers an expanded area over the previous edition (Barron Saddle to Mt Brewster, 2002), as well as being completely updated in our new, full colour layout.



Guidebook editors Nina Dickerhof and James Thornton are well-travelled in the region covered by the guide and have paid exceptionally close attention in the preparation of climbing information contained in the book.

You can read more about the new guidebook on the [NZAC's website](#).

The guidebook can be purchased [online here](#). Remember to log in to claim your NZAC member discount.

NZAC INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE COURSE

5th – 8th JULY



Photo: Keith Munro



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

South Island Course

LOCATION: Arthurs Pass National Park

ACCOMODATION: Arthurs Pass Lodge

COURSE FEES: \$575 (INC GUIDING, COURSE RESOURCES, ACCOMMODATION)

Who is this course for?

This Backcountry Avalanche course, designed by the Mountain Safety Council is for climbers and mountaineers to further develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of avalanches and how to avoid them. It is the perfect course for those regularly traveling in snow-covered alpine terrain. The full course outline can be seen here:

<https://alpineclub.org.nz/sites/default/files/2021-01/NZAC-Backcountry-Avalanche-Course.pdf>

This course is designed to build upon the knowledge learned through an Avalanche Awareness course or similar.

Participants should be competent in all of the course outcomes from the NZAC's Basic Snowcraft Course (<https://alpineclub.org.nz/sites/default/files/2021-01/NZAC-Basic-Snowcraft.pdf>) and have and have attended an Avalanche Awareness or similar course in the last 5 years.

Please do not apply if you are not competent in the course outcomes from the NZAC Avalanche Awareness Course and the course outcomes from the NZAC Basic Snowcraft Course.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIPQLSFD-O80GIWNELOIUAXXTMEWADGUKJ4YOYWEODH_BG2WWG5EGA/VIEWFORM)

[HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/E/1FAIPQLSFD-O80GIWNELOIUAXXTMEWADGUKJ4YOYWEODH_BG2WWG5EGA/VIEWFORM](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIPQLSFD-O80GIWNELOIUAXXTMEWADGUKJ4YOYWEODH_BG2WWG5EGA/VIEWFORM)

GEAR HIRE

SAFETY FIRST

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 Moffatt 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 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 on 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!

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 Vostinar and Kate Sinclair, 2nd ed., 2015*

Wanaka Rock, *7th ed., 2014*

DISCOUNTS

CHECK THE NZAC WEBSITE FOR A FULL DISCOUNT LIST AND DETAILS

NZAC OR FMC MEMEBERS ONLY

10% OFF



DISCOUNTS

CHECK THE NZAC WEBSITE FOR A FULL DISCOUNT LIST AND DETAILS

FOR SOME OF THESE DISCOUNTS YOU'LL NEED YOUR NZAC CARD, FOR OTHERS YOU'LL NEED YOUR FMC CARD.



15% OFF

In store & online

NZAC for more details

DISCOUNTS

CHECK THE NZAC WEBSITE FOR A FULL DISCOUNT LIST AND DETAILS

FOR SOME OF THESE DISCOUNTS YOU'LL NEED YOUR NZAC CARD, FOR OTHERS YOU'LL NEED YOUR FMC CARD.



30% OFF



SNOW FARM

20% OFF

WANAKA NEW ZEALAND

DISCOUNTS

CHECK THE NZAC WEBSITE FOR A FULL DISCOUNT LIST AND DETAILS

FOR SOME OF THESE DISCOUNTS YOU'LL NEED YOUR NZAC CARD, FOR OTHERS YOU'LL NEED YOUR FMC CARD.

Good Rotations



OTAGO SECTION COMMITTEE

Committee member meeting second Wednesday each month. We are always looking for more volunteers to share the load of section leadership. Please get in touch if you'd like to come along to a committee meeting.

Chair	Riley Smith	rileychallis@gmail.com 027 222 8731
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
Committee members	Jono Squire	jonosquire@icloud.com 021 0326 218
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	Juliet Meldrum	jmeldrum@doctors.org.uk
	Mhairi-Bronte Duncan	mhairibronteduncan@gmail.com 022 081 5379

OTAGO SECTION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

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Email: otagoclimber@gmail.com

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/osonzac>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/otago.climber/>

Trip info & booking: www.osonzac.org.nz