

**05**

MAY EDITION 2021

# OTAGO CLIMBER



**CLUB NIGHTS**

**BANFF FILM FESTIVAL**

**UPCOMING TRIPS**

**TRIP REPORTS**

**COURSES**

**Mitchell and Mathijs taking on  
the columns at Orange Wall,  
Mt. Somers this Easter.**

# 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
	Alastair Campbell	alastair.campbell@obhs.school.nz 021 149 6636
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OTAGO SECTION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

C/o 172 Gladstone Road, Dalmore, Dunedin 9016

Email: [otagoclimber@gmail.com](mailto:otagoclimber@gmail.com)

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

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

Trip info & booking: [www.osonzac.org.nz](http://www.osonzac.org.nz)

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

# CLUB NIGHTS

**5th May 2021 7:30pm**

Otago University Staff Club  
Rooms Union Street

## The New Zealand Alpine Kids Team

The New Zealand Alpine Kids are a team of four (Maddy Whittaker, Tom Hadley, Torea Scott Fyfe and Conor Vaessen) with an average age of 22, who traversed the Southern Alps from Arthurs Pass to Fiordland over 3 months in the summer that's just been. Their route was different to past traverses of the Southern Alps, pioneering some new terrain, particularly in the Mt. Cook region. Come and hear them share their stories from spending 36 hours in a tent in the high alpine in a severe storm, to the immense joy of crossing massive ice plateaus in bluebird conditions, to unexpectedly bush bashing through the night on the West Coast.

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.

**BANFF** CENTRE  
MOUNTAIN  
FILM FESTIVAL  
WORLD TOUR  
NEW ZEALAND

# BANFF 2021

Wednesday 26th of May 2021

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The Otago Section has 50 tickets to sell directly to members for the Banff screening on 26th May. The only way you can obtain these tickets is to complete the Google form via this link <https://forms.gle/hEAWQ3t5KD2CDBtF9> and deposit the required payment in the Otago Section bank account.

You can collect your tickets at the 5th May club night or have them posted. The tickets will be distributed on a first in first served basis. If you pay for tickets but we have sold out you will be refunded if your bank account details are provided on the form.

If you miss out on these tickets then you can purchase your Banff tickets at the Regent Theatre office or online at [https://nz.patronbase.com/\\_RegentTheatre/Productions/BANF/Performances](https://nz.patronbase.com/_RegentTheatre/Productions/BANF/Performances)

# UPCOMING TRIPS

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

The Otago Section will be organising the NZAC 2022 National Climbing Camp to be held at Elco Hut the week of 15th-22nd January. The 12 bunk Elco 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](mailto:Moffat.k172@gmail.com).



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## 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](mailto:Moffat.k172@gmail.com)



# REPORTS

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## **Dunedin Adventures Climbing Club 2021 Update**

*The Otago Section has committed to contribute \$500 per term for 2021 to subsidise and support this venture to encourage young people into climbing which is largely a labour of love for Dunedin Adventures.*

*See letter below from Tim of Dunedin Adventures.*

Kia Ora,

The club currently has 10 participants ranging from yr 10-13 and consists of 6 girls and 4 boys. They are all progressing well with everyone now leading on bolts and dabbling in a bit of trad. Attendance is excellent for the Wednesday nights - this being many of their weekly highlight.

Last year we did a trip to Christchurch for the South Island Secondary School (although all bar us come from Christchurch schools) climbing comp at the YMCA where 4 of the girls participated and won their category. As well as this we also had a contingent who went to both South Island Nibs (chch, QT) and also did really well for their age categories.

This year we plan on going to the SISS and South Island Nibs. Two of the members are also very keen to go to the North Island Nibs also which I hope to make happen.

I also strive to do (at least 2) away trips - generally to Wanaka. We have a trip planned for the final weekend of the up and coming school holidays where 8 members are wishing to attend.

For the future, I am hoping that with Resistance opening up more awareness and interest will be generated leading to a few more kids joining up with the club. Ideally we would have up to 15 kids. I am also trowing the idea around my head of starting up a junior climbing club that would be on Wednesdays 5-6 at LPHS and have 1 outdoor trip each term - but this has not begun yet, watch this space.

That's about all from us at the moment, looking forward to seeing how all the kids go at the up and coming competitions!

As always, thank you very much for your continued support, it means a great deal to have your backing.

Kā kite anō

Tim Bartholomew

Director

DUNEDIN ADVENTURES

# Sebastopol

## Or: How I learned To Embrace Terror And Love The Bath Mat

By Thomas Cairncross

When a new climber first sets hand, finger, or foot onto their first climb whether it's plastic, rocky or tree-like, we all feel the same elation that follows newfound elevation. As we get better, we climb higher and harder. That first spark of achievement becomes the flame of passion, fuelling the personal drive to push, to send, to stride home with sore fingers. We learn techniques, etiquette, for safety and our ideal climbing form. What about the mental side of things, how many of us consider the fears overlooked and forgotten in our personal endeavours. It is necessary to confront fear, to see true danger and to deal with it.

March 20th Saturday, Aoraki National Park. 10 Climbers wake up, the young at heart with wide-eyed enthusiasm; the sedate with caffeinated assistance. Pairing up to face the swarms of friendly, face-landing bugs. Soaking in an eden of alpinism, yet staying in the shallow end. With a lodge rendezvous set, the pairs choose walls and begin their play. Soon to navigate along dry riverbeds, through prickly bastard plants, and up loose stone cascades.

Standing at a cozy belay station, 70 odd meters above the start of the climb and rappelling our way back down. To the alpinist this is child's play, to the lowland bungalow-dweller such as myself, this is panic fodder. Climbing up was brilliant, mind and body are soaking in new experiences, constantly moving to keep up with the flow of the route. As we wait for a clear path to rappel however, the free mind starts to see danger in everything, worrying about the smallest inconveniences and snowballing them out of proportion. What happens if I drop something, what if I slip...The mental spiral of paranoia kept in check by rock for me to cling onto and the cool persons around, smiling, unfazed by the height or by self-conjured dangers. This is my standout memory of the classic Red Arete, by day.

A short mission to the Kingfisher slabs, the goal of the day, Keep Left Arete. After watching it being done, and with gear placed, I attempted it. Trying to clip, I did slip. With visions of past lives before my eyes and imagined horrors being swept away with the actions of a diligent belay. Hanging on the wall, reconsidering life with desires for level ground and a cup of tea. But before that, the terror tax must be paid, the climb must be finished.



The author on Red Arete

Sunday supper, a sumptuous family dinner with the Sebastopol group. During desert (consisting of maple roasted pistachios & peaches, handmade apple tart, rage whipped cream and a rather welcome sticky date pudding with butterscotch sauce) following a brief conversation on irrational fears, an expedition was quickly planned. A night ascent of Red Arete.



Volunteering, a group of four set off into the night. With the plan being that leaders would use head-torches and those seconding would only use them in a pinch. The climb began. After some slight navigational confusion as to which bolts to follow, I was surprised to learn that Red Arete was a slab climb, something I had overlooked in the daylight. Secure, on belay, the rising figure in the dark overtakes, turning on light as he does. Time to second. Lights off, with fingers finding pockets of shadow on the night shaded wall. The last of a crescent moon had disappeared before the second pitch began, now was time to climb on borrowed starlight. Noticing a lack of quickdraws to clean and the occasional glint of a lonely bolt, after what felt like a 10 - 15 meter runout, the reassuring feel of a quickdraw to unclip restored my sanity and faith. Our climbing bicker-banter soon brought out giggling from the heavens as the leading pair on the pitch above were enjoying our commentary.



Fear and climbing go hand in hand. The expansive fear that is terror is what allows us to challenge ourselves. Only by being challenged will we grow as individuals and climbers. Trying to turn terror into a constructive force can be a tricky one, as it isn't easy to rationalize the irrational fears that hold us back. Fear without reason will hold us back; a distraction from sending and from safety. Instead I propose investing the restrictive horror into something mundane, something unlikely to pop up in climbing or alpine environments. Something so terribly placid and mysterious, like the humble bathmat.

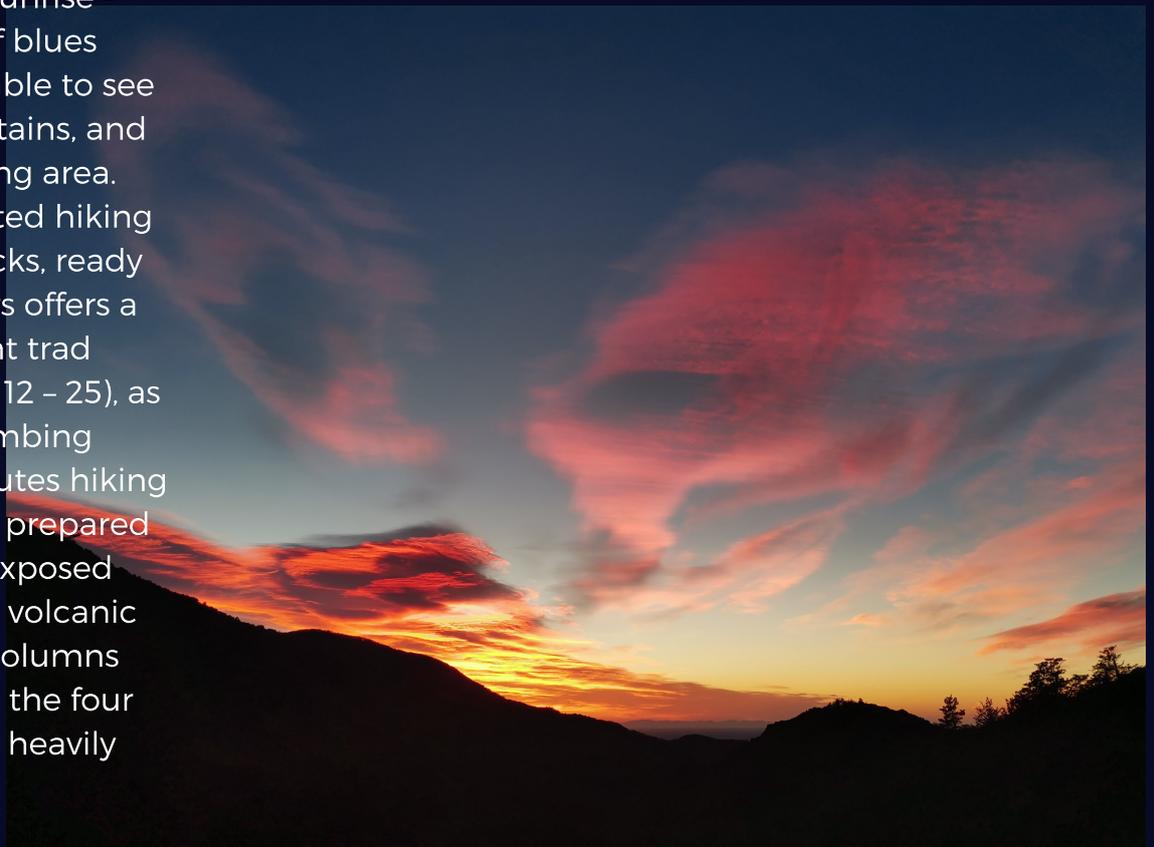


# Trad Climbing at Mt. Somers



The long Easter weekend offered an ideal opportunity to satisfy our thirst for adventure and to explore a less accessible, though beautiful climbing area – Mt Somers. The original plan to head out on Thursday evening was suspended due to a very rainy forecast (which became reality) for most of Friday. Instead, seven keen climbers (see Fig. 1) started from Dunedin on Friday morning. Sadly, number eight (Lorenzo) had to pull out at the last minute – especially tragic as he had been training squats for the rough hike to the hut. The first half of the group arrived at lunchtime at the Sharplin Falls carpark, and started hiking to the Pinnacles hut in light rain, though heavily packed (not only with schnaps and too much food, but also trad climbing gear and tents). After three hours hiking with little view besides of thick clouds, the first half arrived at the Pinnacles hut. The rest of the group joined later in the evening, after having successfully completed the mission of assessing all public toilets on the drive (Palmerston got a high rating). While all of us settled in for a warm dinner at the fireplace, part of the group had to leave the fully booked hut, and sought refuge in their tents, enjoying the company of an extraordinary fat possum.

The next morning the group was spoiled by a beautiful sunrise - welcoming a day full of blues skies. Finally, we were able to see the surrounding mountains, and importantly the climbing area. Excited, the group started hiking up to the climbing cracks, ready to get sandy. Mt Somers offers a large variety of excellent trad climbing routes (grade 12 - 25), as well as some sports climbing routes in 30-to-60-minutes hiking distance to the hut (be prepared for steep ascents and exposed walking). The extensive volcanic formations of rhyolite columns impressed all of us and the four geologists in our group heavily discussed their origin.





The group started off with some easier trad climbing routes at the Meat Grinder Wall. The increasingly gusty afternoon was spent at the Christian Principles Wall, where everyone found some problems to push themselves on, as well as the option to drink in the stunning views. In the late afternoon, some familiar Dunedin faces (Tim, Kat and Aviq) unexpectedly joined us. Moreover, we made friends with two humourful climbers from Wanaka (Michal and Basiel, a Czech and a Belgian climber).

The weekend provided us with a mixed bag of weather. With wind gusts up to 100km/h we decided to spend the second climbing day at the better sheltered Orange Wall. Mhairi, paired up with Eve, got stoked on her first multi pitch. In the meantime, Deni and Mitchell impressed us with their climbing skills on some of the harder and longer routes. Jane decided for a relaxed hut day with some leisure walking and reading. Moreover, she kept the DOC warden, who complained about cabin fever, company. The DOC warden, a volunteer in his twenties, had just started his first shift, and seemed slightly overwhelmed with his responsibilities.

Mhairi cruises up some neat lines at the Meat Grinder Wall





Our evenings were filled with the preparation and indulgence of delicious meals, lots of laughing and with tastings of Eve's berry flavoured schnaps (distilled by Eve's flatmate). Eve (as if she had known) was in particular need of a drink as we had tried our best to get rid of her on several occasions. First, she was run over by Jane who slipped on the steep down climb to the hut. The next day, while climbing a challenging sports route, she was hit by Susi's rope that had been blown off several meters in the gusty winds (sorry Eve!). Nevertheless, I would like to mention the extremely good group spirit that made this weekend a very special one.

Monday, and with it the last day of our trip, came surprisingly fast. Mitchell and Deni stayed to climb "Uno" - a sustained 21- three-star-climb at the Orange wall, while the rest of us started hiking back to the car park. Hot from the hike in temperatures above 20°C, we all used the opportunity for a quick dip in the river (sandflies!) before settling for a relaxing lunch at a nearby café. We drove back to Dunedin in heavy traffic (you do not want be on the wrong side of these one lane bridges on Easter...), and arrived back in Dunedin in the early evening.

Massive thanks to Mathijs (Grandpa) for the great trip organisation, Eve (Grandma) for lots of tasty snacks, and everyone for great company and many laughs! Also, thanks to Lorenzo for the trad rack and his hut booking.



Fig.1: From left: Eve (Grandma), Deni, Susi, Jane, Mathijs (Grandpa), Mhairi, Mitchell (Indiana Jones). Can you guess the sorting pattern?

NZAC INSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE COURSE

5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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*

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WANAKA NEW ZEALAND

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# Good Rotations

