



CENTRAL OTAGO NEWS LINE



NZAC - CENTRAL OTAGO SECTION NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2021

The cold and dark mornings of late are a clear sign that summer is well and truly over. We hope you have been able to make the most of it, whether you have been busy with cragging, multipitch climbing or tramping and mountaineering. The Central Otago Section is looking back on two successful trips that were held over summer, including Mt Larkins in November and the Valley of the Trolls in March.

Luckily, there is lots more to look forward to, as this newsletter is full of upcoming events which will take place over the next couple of months. We hope to see you at one of these events!



BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour returns to Queenstown, on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 April at the Queenstown Memorial Centre. As usual, we have two awesome programmes screening over two nights (with different films each night) and 2021 is actually the 10th year we have been screening the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour in Queenstown, so that's a great milestone! The events are always a great time and a good way to catch up with friends, meet people and get inspired for winter, but it is also the major fundraiser for both the Central Otago Section and the NZAC National Office. To make it even more enticing, we have discounted ticket deals (\$20) for members but make sure you get in quick as we expect to sell out! Visit the [Facebook event](#) for more info.

MAJOR PEAK TRIP – 17-18 APRIL

Join Wendy and Yvonne for our Autumn Club Trip to Major Peak! This is a seldom-visited peak in the Glenorchy area and the trip will be good for members with a high level of fitness and used to backcountry travel. All off track, through tussock and speargrass (we think!) with a great rocky summit. It will be a big day on the first day with 1700m of ascent and a high camp. If you are interested, please have a look at our [registration document](#) for more information. We're looking forward to it!

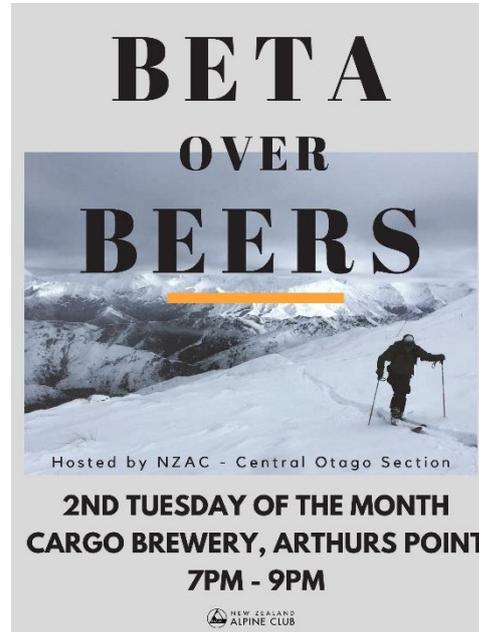
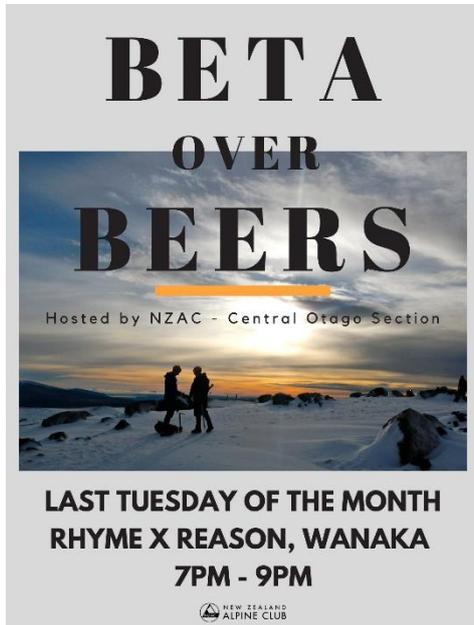


BETA OVER BEERS

Beta over Beers is back this winter, and not just in Wanaka but also in Queenstown! Join our casual meet-ups for climbers, mountaineers and ski-tourers and meet like-minded people. Discuss the latest conditions in the mountains, find a buddy for your next adventure, or get some inspiration for future trips.

Wanaka – Last Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm, Rhyme & Reason Brewery, Wanaka. [Join the Facebook event.](#)

Queenstown – Second Tuesday of the month, 7-9pm. Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point. [Join the Facebook event.](#)



WINTER COURSES DATES

We are excited to give you some dates for your diary – registration documents for these courses will be up in June, but we have had some enquiries already, so check out the dates for all our winter courses below!

BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSE

Basic Snowcraft Course 01 – 19th (evening), 21st and 22nd August

Basic Snowcraft Course 02 – 2nd (evening) 4th and 5th September

For a detailed syllabus with experience needed and course outcomes, go to alpineclub.org.nz/sites/default/files/2021-01/NZAC-Basic-Snowcraft.pdf

INTERMEDIATE SNOWCRAFT COURSE

Intermediate Snowcraft Course 01 – 26th (evening), 28th and 29th August

Intermediate Snowcraft Course 02 – 9th, 11th and 12th September

For a detailed syllabus with experience needed and course outcomes, go to alpineclub.org.nz/sites/default/files/2021-01/NZAC-Intermediate-Snowcraft.pdf

CREVASSE RESCUE REFRESHER

The NZAC Crevasse Rescue Refresher Workshop course is designed for people who already have experience travelling in glaciated terrain. The purpose of the course is to refresh skills, not teach them from scratch.

Crevasse Rescue Refresher Workshop 01 – 25th September

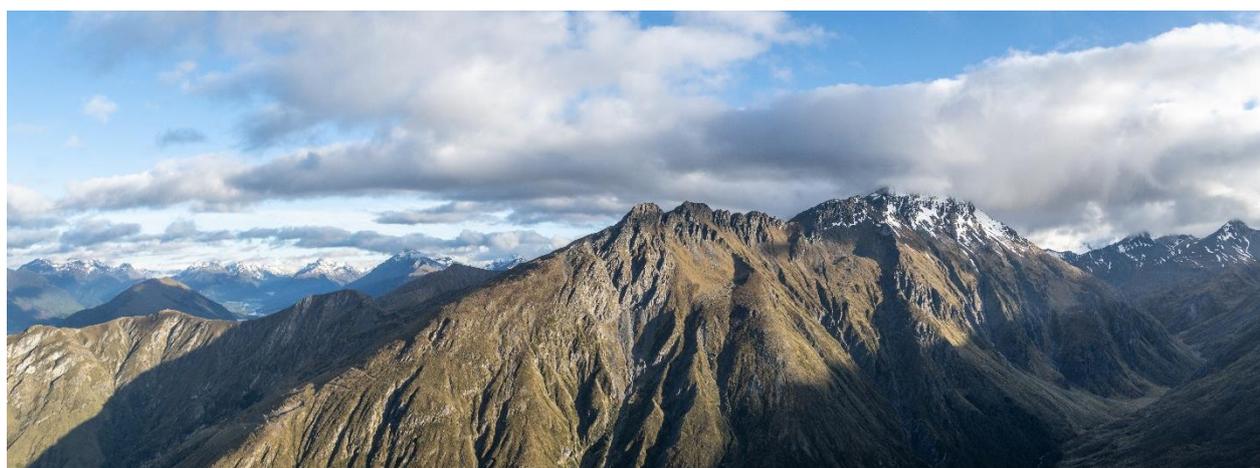
Crevasse Rescue Refresher Workshop 02 – 26th September



CENTRAL OTAGO SECTION 2021 – CALENDAR OF EVENTS

13 April	Beta over Beers Queenstown, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point, 7-9pm	More info
17-18 April	Autumn Club Trip: Major Peak	More info
28-29 April	BANFF Mountain Film Festival, Memorial Centre, Queenstown, 7pm	More info
11 May	Beta over Beers Queenstown, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point, 7-9pm	More info
25 May	Beta over Beers Wanaka, Rhyme X Reason Brewery, Wanaka, 7-9pm	More info
8 June	Beta over Beers Queenstown, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point, 7-9pm	More info
22 June	Speaker night: Steve Skelton, 'Skytramping: adventuring through airy spaces', Sherwood Hotel, 7-9pm	
29 June	Beta over Beers Wanaka, Rhyme X Reason Brewery, Wanaka, 7-9pm	More info
13 July	Beta over Beers Queenstown, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point, 7-9pm	More info
27 July	Beta over Beers Wanaka, Rhyme X Reason Brewery, Wanaka, 7-9pm	More info
10 August	Beta over Beers Queenstown, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point, 7-9pm	More info
21-22 August	Basic Snowcraft Course 01	
28-29 August	Intermediate Snowcraft Course 01	
31 August	Beta over Beers Wanaka, Rhyme X Reason Brewery, Wanaka, 7-9pm	More info
4-5 September	Basic Snowcraft Course 02	
11-12 September	Intermediate Snowcraft Course 02	
25 September	Crevasse Rescue Refresher Workshop	
26 September	Crevasse Rescue Refresher Workshop	

To keep up with all of our events, check out our Facebook Group [New Zealand Alpine Club – Central Otago Section](#).



TRIP REPORT – MOUNT LARKINS – 28 & 29 NOVEMBER



Late November, the Central Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine club completed a group trip to Mount Larkins. The group of 11, led by Tony and Katerina, met at the One Mile car park at the start of the Queenstown-Glenorchy road at 6:30am and headed for the Mount Judah recreation car park.

From there, we headed towards Heather Jock hut with the intention of stopping for a quick food break before starting on the approach to Kelly's hut. Unfortunately, our group leader Tony was suffering from a knee injury due to a recent fall off his bike and once Heather Jock hut was reached, he decided to stay put at the hut and save the summit for another day.

Although morning conditions were beautiful blue skies and sun, the wind from the west appeared to be bringing cloud and precipitation with it. With this in mind, and due to the fact that the group was making decent progress we decided to make camp at Heather Jock Hut, lighten our packs, and head for the summit of Mount Larkins that afternoon. The group set up their tents and pushed on continuing to make good progress. After circumventing Mount Alaska, we made it to Kelly's Hut with fantastic framed views of Lake Wakatipu and of Mount Larkins set ahead of us. The group had a short break at the hut and headed towards the summit.

By this stage, the winds had picked up significantly as predicted and the clouds were rolling in. Snow patches were few and far between on the approach however a big thanks to our group member Simon who lead the way on our only significant snow patch and cut steps for the group. Team player!



With just some small patches of loose scree to deal with, the summit was quickly approaching; however, with the added exposure the winds were feeling significantly stronger. With the summit agonisingly close, the decision was made that the winds were too strong to reach the exposed summit and we turned back.

On the way back to Heather Jock Hut, the precipitation finally started to fall but we were all happy to find it falling as snow. Back at the hut, most group members crammed into the hut to eat an early dinner accompanied by plenty of chocolate and Margie's amazing dilutable mulled wine.



The next morning we were greeted with beautiful blue skies and amazing views of Mount Earnslaw. The walk back to the car park was a very pleasant two and a half hour downhill stroll with panoramic views ahead of us. The group made it back to the cars at 10:30am giving us enough time to enjoy a team coffee back in Glenorchy.

Thanks to everyone who attended! Thanks to Kat and Sam for leading the way and keeping the group safe and on track and Tony, thank you for organising this trip, as well as for your great stories and excellent venison jerky.

TRIP REPORT – VALLEY OF THE TROLLS – 6 & 7 MARCH

Back in January, we planned a NZAC trip to the Valley of the Trolls, but the weather had other ideas and we had to postpone the trip due to heavy rain and high winds. We rebooked for early March, and as the forecast in the few days before the trip deteriorated, we did a little bit of trip organisation shuffling, poured over some topo maps, discussed options A-F and then decided 'that's it, we're still going!'



We had a great crew of NZAC members (from Central Otago, Southland and Otago) who were all of the same 'to hell with the weather' mindset and the Valley of the Trolls definitely did not disappoint! Atmospheric to say the least, we had a little bit of everything; rain, sun, snow, and thankfully very little wind.

We decided to leave later on the Saturday than originally planned, to avoid the worst of the rain in the morning. We also changed our plan from camping at Lake Wilson to camping at Routeburn Flats, making Sunday a bigger day with the plan of travelling fast and light without our overnight gear.

We hiked to Routeburn Flats in the rain, getting to know each other along the way and feeling grateful for the easy walk to a warm hut and campsite. That evening, we collectively looked at the map and discussed our options for the next day with the group. We unanimously decided that a loop along the western edge of Lake Harris and up to Lake Wilson for a bit of an explore, with the potential for finding an alternate descent, appealed to all of us.

On Sunday morning, we set off at 6am under head torches. It was a mild, still morning as we wove our way around the edge of the Lake Harris towards the vertical-looking gully we planned to ascend to Lake Wilson. The goat track made for interesting walking and even after a day of heavy rain, the marsh section of the route was better than we had anticipated.

Ascending the gully involved a couple of slightly more committing rock scrambles, but nothing that our group was uncomfortable with and we made good progress up to Lake Wilson where we had a snack and tea stop. As we gazed across Lake Wilson, fingers of snow-laden clouds rolled over and down the opposite peaks and swept across the lake towards us. It was in this moment that we expected a Troll to appear.



We decided that we had time to head up to high point 1578m with the intention of descending the true left of the marked creek back in to the valley. This involved some fun navigation around granite slabs, rocky guts and across some snow covered sections of snow grass. We were very happy to encounter a couple of pairs of rock wren who were perched on boulders and bobbing with delight whilst checking out these colourful visitors to their valley.

During our hike, the clouds were intermittently broken, revealing glimpses of Mt Erebus and Mt Xenicus and allowing shafts of sunlight to illuminate stunning sections of rock and adding another dimension to the awesome folded landscape. We rejoined the main Routeburn Track to see many hikers on guided or independent journeys, feeling a little smug and extremely privileged to have been able to explore this very special area so close to the main trail.

Although we didn't get to camp at Lake Wilson, we were really happy that we took a wee gamble with the weather and it paid off by rewarding us with a fantastic weekend in the mountains with good people - old friends and new.

Group: Myrthe Braam, Ronnie Baker, Ben Nicolson, Adam Matzke, Hayley Landreth, Jayne Richards, Fiona Rowley

Trip report by Ronnie Baker



NZAC – CENTRAL OTAGO SECTION GEAR HIRE



GEAR HIRE CONDITIONS

- To hire gear and organise pick up/drop off, fill in the form at tiny.cc/gearhire
- 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 booking
No refunds

Current NZAC
Membership card
required at pick up

Gear pick up & drop off

Queenstown contact:

Wendy
cosnzac@gmail.com

Wanaka contact:

Myrthe
m.r.braam@gmail.com

MESSAGES FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

CALL FOR HUT AND TRACK PHOTOS

I (Marli Wingens) am reaching out on behalf of the NZ Mountain Safety Council as we are almost done developing our new trip-planning tool, Plan My Walk (screenshot attached or check out the live Beta version here). We are looking for photos of every single track and hut in New Zealand. These will be used in the app on each individual track page.

If you or anyone in your network has photos of tracks that you are willing to share with us, please let me know or send to design@mountainsafety.org.nz with the track name and your name to credit the photo (we will build the crediting function in the final version). All photos with people in them would need the permission from those people. Landscape with people in it are preferable.

If you have any questions about the app/tool, please get in touch.

Marli Wingens | Project Coordinator NZ Mountain Safety Council | Marli.Wingens@mountainsafety.org.nz

NZAC NATIONAL INDOOR BOULDERING SERIES 2021

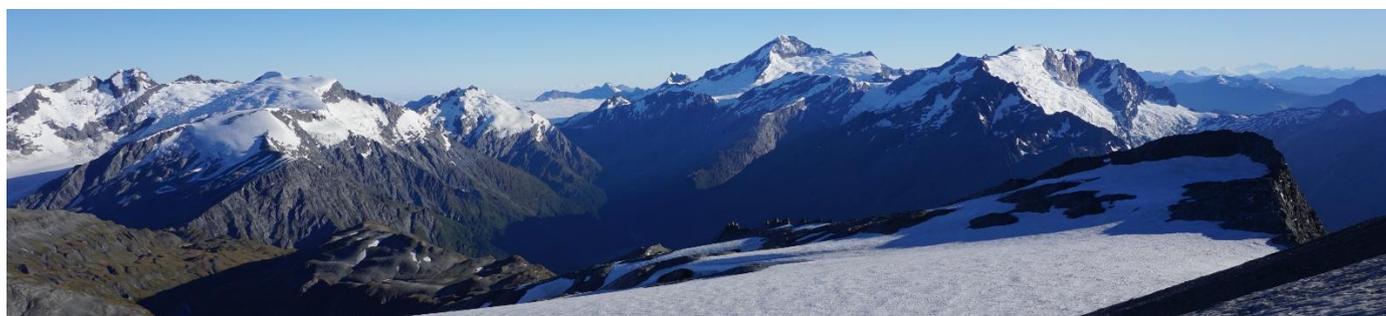
Have you signed up for NIBS 2021? Join in New Zealand's largest climbing competition. This all ability event is the perfect opportunity to test out your skills, compete amongst your friends or just have a great day out. Registrations are now open. See you there!

Wellington – 22nd May – nibs.nz/event/nibs-2021-round-1-wellington

Christchurch – 12th June – nibs.nz/event/nibs-2021-round-2-christchurch

Dunedin – 3rd July – nibs.nz/event/nibs-2021-round-3-dunedin

Auckland – 7th August – nibs.nz/event/nibs-2021-round-4-auckland



Central Otago Section Committee 2021

Chairperson & Trips coordinator	Wendy Johnston	Instruction Coordinator	Bridg Janse
Secretary & Newsletter	Myrthe Braam	Events	Yvonne Pflüger
Treasurer	Beatrice Diller	Other	Ronnie Baker
Banff & other events	Nigel Lloyd		Tony Jenner

Section Contact Information

Email	cosnzac@gmail.com
Facebook	www.facebook.com/groups/874257782646579
Web	www.alpineclub.org.nz/region/central-otago

Central Otago NZAC Member Discounts

 <p>Small Planet</p>	 <p>Outside Sports</p>	 <p>The North Face</p>	 <p>MT Outdoors</p>
 <p>Go Native</p>	<p>Go Native 10% discount to NZAC members online</p>		 <p>Aspiring Safety</p>
 <p>Air Charter Karamea</p>	<p>Air Charter Karamea 10% discount to NZAC members</p>		 <p>Packrafting Queenstown</p>
 <p>Cactus Outdoor</p>	<p>Cactus Outdoor 10% discount in-store for NZAC members</p>		 <p>Split'N2.com</p>
 <p>Outdoor E Store</p>	<p>Outdoor E Store 10% discount to NZAC members</p>		 <p>Climbing Equipment NZ</p>
 <p>Climbing Anchors</p>	<p>Climbing Anchors 12.5% discount in-store and online to NZAC members</p>		 <p>Outdoor Action</p>
 <p>Further Faster</p>	<p>Further Faster 15% off total purchase to NZAC members</p>		 <p>Cross Country Rentals</p>
 <p>Peak Safety</p>	<p>Peak Safety 15% off courses and medical supplies for NZAC members</p>		 <p>Outfitters</p>
 <p>Macpac</p>	<p>Macpac 30% off Macpac brand, 15% off non Macpac</p>		 <p>Basecamp Adventures</p>
 <p>Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai</p>	<p>30% off DOC Annual Backcountry Hut Pass</p>		
 <p>Twin Needles – 10% NZAC discount on outdoor clothing & equipment repairs</p>	<p>Christchurch ph (03)3943444</p>		
 <p>Monster Merinos</p>	<p>Monster Merinos 10% off for our members as FMC affiliates</p>		 <p>Sherwood Yoga and Wellbeing</p>

For a complete listing of current discounts available to NZAC members, check out the NZ Alpine Club website: alpineclub.org.nz/membership-benefits/member-discounts