

CENTRAL OTAGO NEWS LINE

Newsletter of the Central Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club



And just like that winter has arrived! The ski resorts will open in a matter of weeks and I'm sure many of you are waiting for the backcountry to 'open' as well.

While we're waiting for more snow, there is plenty to do in the meantime to keep busy. On June 22, we will have a Speaker Night with Steve Skelton, who will talk about the amazing Central Darran Mountains skyline traverse he did last summer. We are also preparing for our fourth Full Moon trip, which will take place on Monday 26 July.

Of course we would love to see you at our monthly Beta over Beers nights, which are held on the second Tuesday of the month in Queenstown and each last Tuesday of the month in Wanaka.

IN BRIEF:

- Speaker night
- Full Moon trip
- Beta over Beers
- Trip report
- Gear rental
- Winter courses
- Get involved

UPCOMING EVENTS

What's happening over the next two months?

SKYTRAMPING: ADVENTURING THROUGH AIRY SPACES

Join us for a Speaker Night with Queenstown mountaineer Steve Skelton. Steve will provide us with an entertaining account, with accompanying photos and film, of the amazing Central Darran Mountains skyline traverse that he undertook this summer.

Tuesday 22 June at the Sherwood, drinks from 6.30pm, Steve's talk will start 7pm. Click here for the [Facebook event](#).



AUTUMN CLUB TRIP

Join us for our annual Full Moon Members Trip to Mt Dewar on the evening of Monday 26 July. It's a 2-3 hour return trip, hopefully under the light of an almost full moon. Bring your own thermos with a hot drink and plenty of warm gear.

Keep an eye on our Facebook group, where we will post the sign up form over the next few weeks!



UPCOMING EVENTS

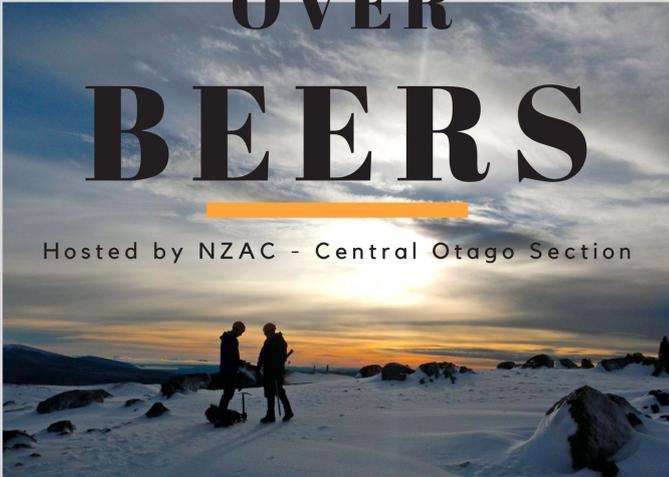
What's happening over the next two months?

BETA

OVER

BEERS

Hosted by NZAC - Central Otago Section



**LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
RHYME X REASON, WANAKA
7PM - 9PM**

BETA OVER BEERS WANAKA

Beta over Beers is back this winter! 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.

Tuesdays 29 June, 27 July, 31 August, 7-9pm, Rhyme & Reason Brewery, Wanaka. Click here for the [Facebook event](#).

BETA OVER BEERS QUEENSTOWN

This winter, Beta over Beers will also be held 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.

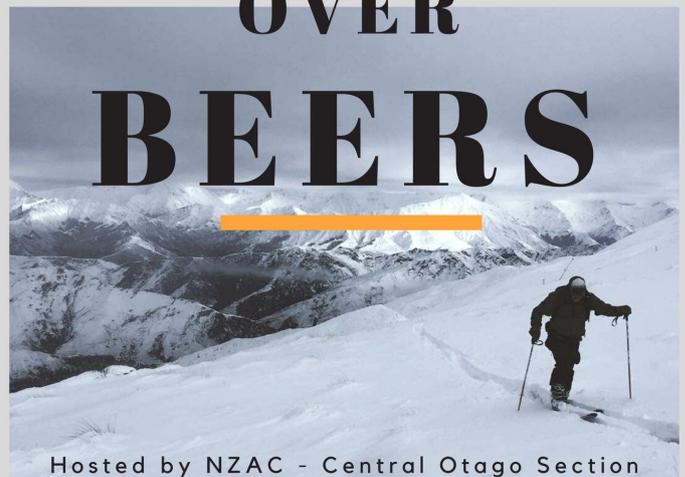
Tuesdays 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 7-9pm. Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point. Click here for the [Facebook event](#).

BETA

OVER

BEERS

Hosted by NZAC - Central Otago Section



**2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
CARGO BREWERY, ARTHURS POINT
7PM - 9PM**



WINTER INSTRUCTION COURSES

NZAC BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSES

Course 1: 19th (evening), 21st and 22nd Aug **Course 2:** 2nd (evening), 4th and 5th Sep

For experienced trampers and those with a passion for the outdoors who are looking to gain additional skills to travel safely in alpine terrain where snow and ice is often encountered.

Register here, \$150 per person, max 8 people per course.

NZAC INTERMEDIATE SNOWCRAFT COURSES

Course 1: 26th (evening), 28th and 29th Aug **Course 2:** 9th (evening), 11th and 12th Sep

For those who have completed a NZAC Basic Snowcraft course or similar, have had personal experience on Alpine grade 1 and 1+ mountains, and are looking to go into steeper terrain, where they need to learn snow anchoring and travelling techniques.

Register here, \$350 per person, max 4 people per course.

NZAC CREVASSE RESCUE REFRESHER WORKSHOP

Course 1: 25th September

Course 2: 26th September

For those who already have experience travelling in glaciated terrain and have previously learnt and practise crevasse rescue systems. You would have the skills of an NZAC Intermediate Mountaineer and can travel with ice axe, crampons, can self- arrest, and have good rope skills. The purpose of the course is to refresh skills, not teach them from scratch.

Register here, \$150 per person, max 4 people per course.



Trip Report - Wye Creek to Lake Alta

WRITTEN BY MARK & KRISTEN

What started as an overnight trip to Major Peak evolved with the weather forecast into a day trip to tackle the Queens Drive, which looked like an amazing introduction to the delights of the Queenstown mountain scene for a couple who is new to this area. By Friday, the forecast had evolved again and the decision was made to avoid the fresh snow that now dusted the boulder fields under Double & Single Cone. The new plan was to tackle the Wye Creek route from the Kingston Road, up the Wye Valley and over the saddle to Lake Alta.

After a spot of logistical car shuffling, the main group headed up the Wye Creek track, gaining altitude quickly beside the pipeline. From the head of the pipeline, we stayed on the true right of the creek and made our way up the gully through the beech forest, sneaking glimpses of the snow dusted peaks further up the valley through the occasional gap in the trees. By the time we reached the end of the track proper and were debating whether to shed our boots to ford the creek, the shuttlers (thanks Yvonne & Heidi) had caught us up and joined the group. At this point, the gradient reduced, and the beech forest gave way to an open tussock covered valley. My initial impression was that this should be fairly easy going, but I was about to find out that “tussock bashing”, or stumbling through waist-high tussock with the occasional crotch high spear grass without definable trail, is not exactly easy.



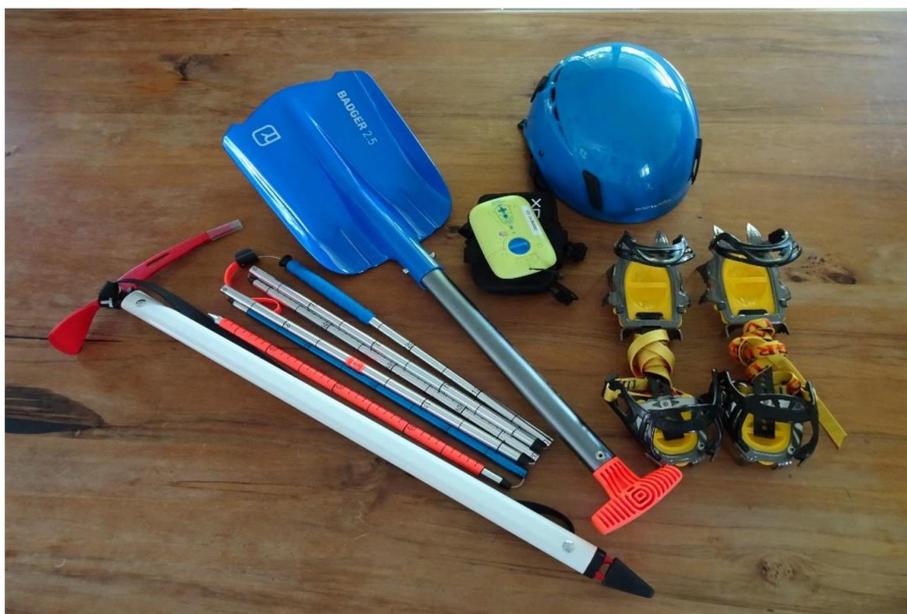
We bashed our way up the valley under the buttresses of the east face of the Remarkables, past some impressive cascades. Stopped for lunch near the head of the valley where Wendy surprised Heidi with her toffee pop birthday cake, topped with candles and a team effort singing Happy Birthday! After another 20 minutes wading through the tussock, we reached the head of the valley and climbed up beside a spectacular 200m cascade to an alpine meadow dotted with large tarns, covered in a few inches of fresh snow.



From here we could see straight up to the boulder fields on the south side of Double Cone where we would have been if we'd taken the Queens Drive route. The wind was whipping around the peak and plumes of snow were streaming off the sides of the mountain so probably a good call to save that one for another day. The next stretch up to the saddle was a little tricky with a 150m scramble over snow covered boulders with plenty of opportunities to lose a leg down a hole. From the saddle, the views north over Lake Alta, Lake Hayes and the snow-capped mountains beyond felt like a fine end to a great day.



The views north over Lake Alta, Lake Hayes and the snow-capped mountains beyond felt like a fine end to a great day.



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

CENTRAL OTAGO SECTION - EVENTS 2021

8 June	Beta over Beers Queenstown, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point, 7-9pm	More Info
22 June	Speaker night with Steve Skelton, Sherwood Hotel, 7-9pm	More Info
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
26 July	Full Moon Trip, Mt Dewar, Queenstown	More Info TBC
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	More Info
28-29 August	Intermediate Snowcraft Course 01	More Info
31 August	Beta over Beers Wanaka, Rhyme X Reason Brewery, Wanaka, 7-9pm	More Info
4-5 September	Basic Snowcraft Course 02	More Info
11-12 September	Intermediate Snowcraft Course 02	More Info
25 September	Crevasse Rescue Refresher Workshop	More Info
26 September	Crevasse Rescue Refresher Workshop	More Info

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



Central Otago Section Committee

Chairperson & Trips coordinator - Wendy Johnston

Instruction Coordinator - Bridg Janse

Secretary & Newsletter - Myrthe Braam

Events - Yvonne Pflüger

Treasurer - Beatrice Diller

Banff & other events - Nigel Lloyd

Other - Ronnie Baker, Tony Jenner

Section Contact Information

Email - cosnzac@gmail.com

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/874257782646579

Web - www.alpineclub.org.nz/region/central-otago

NZAC Member Discounts

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

Get involved!

We are looking for keen people who are interested in giving back to the Club and would like to join our committee! If you have the time and skills we might be able to use, please get in touch! Available tasks include event organisation and pulling these newsletters together.

We are also looking for more trip co-leaders. A club trip is a great way to meet like-minded people and go on adventures. Trips range from tramping, rock climbing to mountaineering. Each trip will have a trip leader plus a co-leader, which is a great way to get more familiar with leading trips!

To find out more, contact Wendy at cosnzac@gmail.com.