

CENTRAL OTAGO NEWS LINE

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



In a blink of an eye, it seems winter draws to an end. Unfortunately, a shorter season than most, and the best powder went mostly untouched during lockdown. However, the days are lighter for longer and spring has begun, so there's more to look forward to: tramping, mountaineering, climbing, and spring ski touring.

Beta over Beers is continuing in Queenstown every second Tuesday of the month, it will be great to continue seeing everyone. We had great success with speaker Steve Skelton, in both Wanaka and Queenstown, he delivered some great inspiration for others to be out in the mountains.

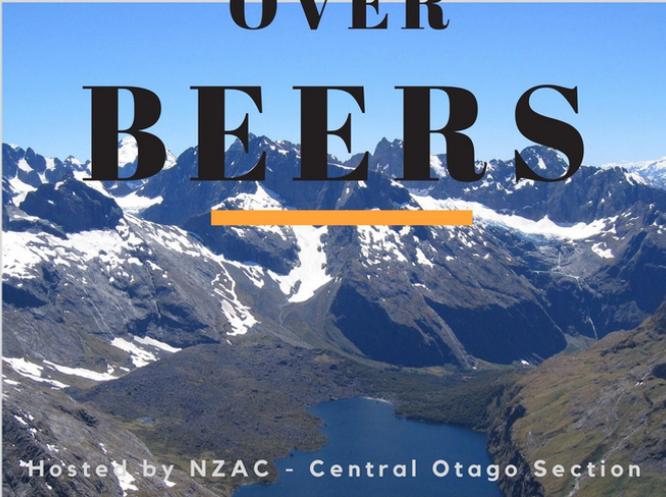
IN BRIEF:

- Upcoming events
- Winter courses report
- Trip report
- Gear rental
- Get involved

UPCOMING EVENTS

What's happening over the next two months?

BETA OVER BEERS



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

BETA OVER BEERS QUEENSTOWN

We are excited to say that Tony is going to continue Beta over Beers at Cargo Gantleys until Christmas. What a legend! So, you can now firmly put the second Tuesday of the month into your diary for the next three months and we'd love to see you all there!

9 November, 14 December, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point. Click here for the [Facebook event](#).

BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSE

We've now fixed the new dates of 30th, 31st October and 6th, 7th November for our third attempt at the Basic Snowcraft course – fingers crossed for everything to line up for us!



WINTER COURSES REPORT



Intermediate Snowcraft

WRITTEN BY WENDY

After lots of juggling, toing and froing we managed to get a couple of Intermediate Snowcraft Courses happening this winter. A massive thanks to Chris Prudden, who was super flexible with his availability for instruction, and of course to the participants who made things work within their own schedules. The weather wasn't perfect all the time, as it is in the mountains, and gave people a good opportunity to make sure their gear was up for it! We hope you all get lots of opportunities to use your new skills this spring and summer!





Crevasse Rescue Refresher

WRITTEN BY ALEX

My partner Rich and I were pretty gutted at missing a 'powder day' of skiing but nevertheless were looking forward to seeing what we could learn and add to our limited knowledge of crevasse rescuing. We met up with other course member Bryce and our Instructor Chris at the base of the Remarkables. Introductions were made and poor Bryce, being an American Snowboarder, stoically took the brunt of a lot of banter on the car ride up which set the tone for the rest of the day.

After a kit shake down and a refresher of knots and pulley systems, we set off up the ski field in search of a suitable 'Crevasse'. I should note at this point how useful it was to have practiced what we already know of crevasse rescues and being super familiar with all the knots and systems (thanks Wendy for encouraging that). Bryce had clearly done his homework too and it meant as a group we could breeze through a lot of the basic stuff and have more time to practice. Just before getting to Lake Alta, we came across a creek with a snowdrift leading into it and a convenient 10ft drop in which to practice some rescues. We roped up for glacier travel and prepared for an 'incident'! I volunteered to be the rescuer first so Rich walked on ahead... I was ready... but then I kind of expected Rich to gently lower himself into the hole... but no.



He just walked right off the edge! ... 'I wanted it to be realistic for you' he said. Well despite being caught a wee bit off guard I managed to arrest the fall before he hit the deck. Good to know. Bryce also did an exceptional 'walk into a crevasse' act later that was caught on camera (Photo 1). I then went through the process of stabilising the fall and set about building my anchor. Chris was great, allowing me to get stuck in and chipping in if I missed something. Previously I had only learnt a basic 3:1 system but we covered various assisted and unassisted versions. I, and I think Rich especially, was happy to know that I can get Rich out of a hole unassisted if he were unconscious (he did make an exceptional dead weight too (Photo 2). We took turns being the casualty and rescuer and practiced various systems. One thing I enjoyed about Chris' instruction was that he didn't have a 'my way or the highway' attitude.



If you did something that was safe and it worked, then that's OK. What I also love about these courses is learning the little, simple tricks of the trade that make our own methods and systems more efficient. It could be something as simple as a faster way of tying a knot, a more efficient way to hold your carabiner (clip and flick!) or having your prussik already attached to your rope. Things that people like Chris, who have spent their lives in the mountains are so efficient at. It has also highlighted to me the importance of getting out and meeting different people in the mountains, sharing knowledge and debating different methods in our quest to become more efficient and safer mountaineers. Thanks to the Alpine Club and Chris for a fantastic course and a super fun day out.



Trip Report: Mount St Bathans

WRITTEN BY BEN

October has brought its uncertain spring like weather reports with it this year, so an original trip plan to head up Jane Peak was changed based on a dodgy weather report, to a trip the St. Bathans area, with a promise of a bit more sunshine. And a lot of sunshine was to be had, sunburns as proof, at least on my face!

After meeting in St Bathans, a group of 6, led by Sabrina and Tortoise, exchanged pleasantries and loaded up gear and headed down the gravel road into the Oteake conservation area early Saturday morning.

We put the vehicles in park at the start of a steep 4 wheel track and got going straight up the vehicle track. The hills looked so gentle when driving the pig route back and forth to Dunedin but they definitely had me huffing after a steep start and there were a few sweaty faces heading up the hills.

Our plan was to do a loop going up one spurred track as far as the 4 wheel track would take us and then navigate the tops to the summit of Mt St Bathans, and then hopefully camp on or near the summit, before looping down another spur back to the vehicles. After rolling false summit after summit, tussock finally gave in to rock and small boulders, and soon glimpses of snow appeared until we were punching our way along the top.



What we thought would be a cloudy day turned out to be a stunner and we were gifted an excellent panorama of the Main Divide. Pretty stunning to be able to see from Aspiring to Cook.

The flat ridgelines made for good travel along the tops and we even had an old farmers fence to guide us along the ridge should we get too far from it. A strong wind coming over the ridge had us all wondering the viability of setting up camp up there so a wander down the lee side and we found a great sheltered spot with plenty of snow along a rocky catchment with a great view into the valley below.



For most of us it was our first snow camping experience, and the enthusiasm that went into building platforms was only made better by the sunshine and a promise of some mulled wine and chocolate. Unfortunately soon after setting up and eating dinner, the wind found us and we had to retreat to our tents.

Pretty stunning to be able to see from Aspiring to Cook!

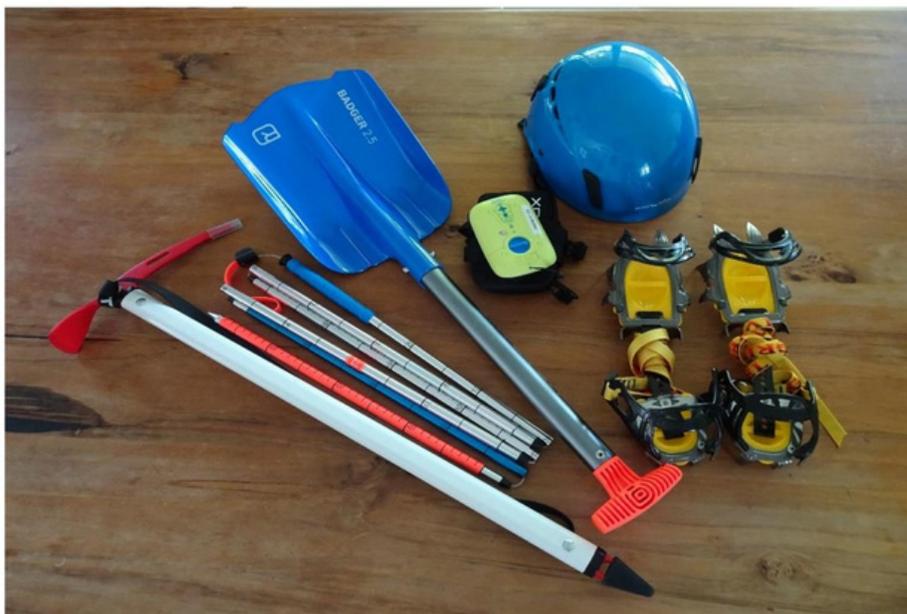
The next day brought a beauty of a sunrise and we soon packed up and started bagging it up the hill and across the tops again. Blessed again with our same view of the alps, many picture stops were taken. Soon enough we were off the snow and the crampons had to be packed away. With another 4 wheel track to follow travel became a bit monotonous and we were all trying to figure out how much there was to go. Plodding along we finally came down into the valley along the Manuherika river and stopped for a break at boundary creek hut.



After some motivational chocolate, ill admit I was thinking not long to go, couple of hours surely! Well a couple plus a couple more and maybe one more was had along with 11 river crossings and the rest of our motivational chocolate. Some great banter was had, a few sunburns (mostly me, thanks Tortoise for sorting me), at least a blister or 2 each, and a rumor of a 25km journey on day 2 was floating around but I don't think any of us wanted to believe it but our feet definitely could! Another great weekend out in the hills!

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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

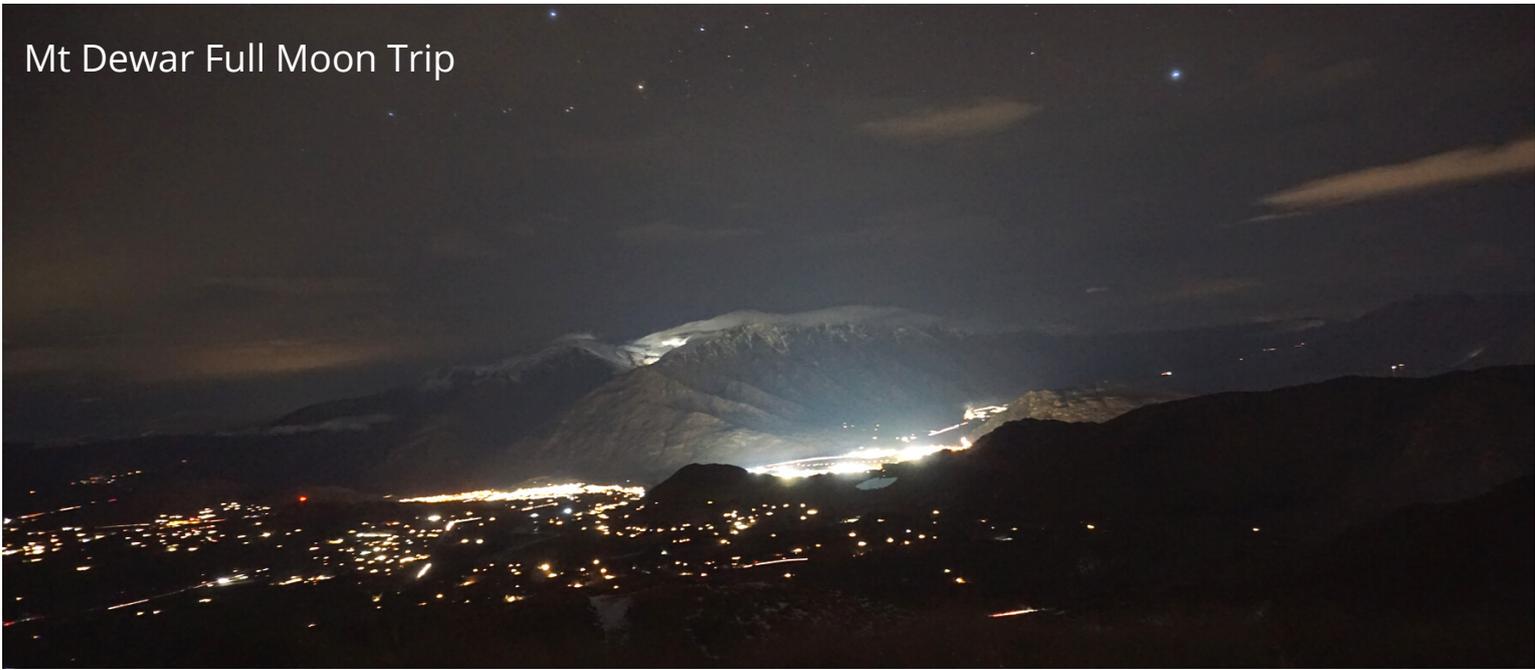
Queenstown contact:

Wendy
cosnzac@gmail.com

Wanaka contact:

Myrthe
m.r.braam@gmail.com

Mt Dewar Full Moon Trip



Central Otago Section Committee

Chairperson & Trips coordinator - Wendy Johnston

Newsletter - Melissa Emma and Sabrina Poulin

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've got many positions available, and we are looking for people to help out. It's a great way of giving back to the club, getting involved and meeting some new people!

Take a look at the opportunities on the following page!

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

GETTING INVOLVED

We've got the following positions looking for people to help out. It's a great way of giving back to the club, getting involved, and meeting some new people! It helps us do what we all want for the section – lots of instruction, events, and trips!

Gear Rental Wanaka – Unfortunately, Myrthe is moving away, so we are looking for someone to take over the job of gear rental in Wanaka. It's been really well received over there, so we are keen to keep it happening! This is a pretty easy way of getting involved with the club. A little bit of admin, using a Google form, then you get the chance to meet your fellow club members!

Gear Rental Queenstown – We're looking for someone who lives centrally who can take over the Queenstown rentals.

Secretary – Stepping into Myrthe's shoes again – this is mainly taking minutes at meetings. As ever, Myrthe has a great template set up, this is another easy job for someone to pick up!

Trip Co-ordinator – If you are keen to be more hands-on, and co-ordinate the running of club trips, then we are keen to hear from you!

Instruction Co-ordinator – Unfortunately, Bridg is stepping down from this after 4 years. We have a pretty good system set up for coordinating instruction, using both volunteer and professional instructors.

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



PROTECT OUR WINTERS

Everyone who enjoys playing outside in our beautiful mountains, forests and rivers cares about clean air, water and a stable climate. We see the impacts of climate change as our glaciers recede, the snowlines rise, and our trails get washed away. The outdoor community is concerned about climate change but often individuals don't know what to do about it. As world-leading alpinist Graham Zimmer says "we can either speak up and be imperfect climate advocates, or we can sit back and watch the world burn".

Protect Our Winters (POW) Aotearoa connects the outdoor community to take climate action. POW helps passionate outdoors people and businesses to be effective climate advocates through social events and campaigns throughout the year. To find out more, become a member, or volunteer, head to protectourwinters.nz or @protectourwintersnz on social media. We all need winter, and winter needs us.