

CENTRAL OTAGO NEWS LINE

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



Happy New Year! We hope everyone has been out on adventures enjoying the amazing weather we've been having in Central Otago. We have been busy scheduling events for 2022 for everyone and here's a preview of what's to come.

The first meet this year will be taking place in Glendhu Bay near Wanaka, on the 26th and 27th February. Come along and meet other members and organize your own adventures whether it's climbing, tramping, or water activities your choice.

We are organising speakers to come in the winter months to chat about their epic trips and create inspiration for us all and preparations are taking place for our big event the Banff film festival; making sure we can have an amazing screening and meet the covid regulations at the same time.

We are also on the lookout for a Wanaka-based volunteer to host Beta over Beers this winter. The event runs once a month and is a casual meet-up in a brewery. Please contact cosnzac@gmail.com if you are interested.

IN BRIEF:

- Upcoming events
- Spring 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 between April & September 2022. What a legend! So, you can now firmly put the second Tuesday of the month into your diary from April and we'd love to see you all there!

12 April, 10 May, 14 June, Cargo Brewery, Arthurs Point.

Keen to host the Beta over Beers in Wanaka? Contact us at cosnzac@gmail.com.

GLENDHU BAY MEETUP WEEKEND

We've now fixed the dates of 26th-27th of February for a summer COSNZAC meetup in Glendhu Bay near Wanaka.

Come hike, bike or climb, then spend Saturday night at [Glendhu Bay Motor Camp](#), and exchange adventure stories around the BBQ with other members (bring your own food & drinks).

To participate: fill the [Google Form](#) & call the campsite to secure your spot and pay the camp fee (\$20/pp). Bring your vaccine pass. Members and their partners / family will have priority to start.



[SIGN UP HERE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

What's happening over the next two months?



BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL 2022

We're already getting ready for the next edition of our favorite movie event of the year: the [Banff Mountain Film Festival!](#)

Save the date: Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th May at Queenstown Memorial Centre. Join us for some pizza and drinks from 6pm Thursday.

Tickets will be fully refundable. Keep an eye on the NZAC Facebook page to know when tickets become available and don't forget to use your NZAC discount!



Remarkables Wye Creek Rock Wren Project

WRITTEN BY PHIL GREEN

Last week the Queenstown climbing Club marked off a major milestone with the completion of a predator trapping line from Lake Whakatipu, up the North Branch of Wye Creek to Wye Saddle and just under Single Cone. It probably sounds trite, but the project was only made possible because of some generous donations and hard volunteer yakka.

A big thanks to the NZAC Central Otago Section, Central Lakes Trust and Community Trust South for generous grants and support, and the hundreds volunteer hours planning the build and trapping line, building the Double DOC 200 Kea proof traps, hauling traps up the valley and over Wye Saddle and eventually finishing off the job with the use of Heliworks.



At times the project just seemed too daunting, but then there were times we had a lot of laughs and felt the friendships formed carried us through. The Arrowtown Menzshed also proved invaluable with their space and tools, although I'm not sure what some of the older blokes initially made of us – Guillaume and his two boys, a roll call of internationals with South America well represented, Cam Bulot the French connection who always seemed to rope in an extra supporter and plenty of others to share the work.



However, this is just the foundation and the beginning, we now need some dedicated, fit volunteers to check the traps. If we get enough volunteers, it may be just a matter of a day's trapping 2 or 3 times a year!

All training will be provided so if you are keen get in touch with either Wendy Johnston, NZAC – cosnzac@gmail.com or Phil Green, QCC - queenstownclimbing@gmail.com and we can give you some details.

SPRING COURSES REPORT



Basic Snowcraft

WRITTEN BY IAN STRATON

Having recently moved to New Zealand I have found myself hankering to get out into the back country, however coming from the UK I was very aware that the landscape and associated hazards were well outside my experience, so I joined the Alpine Club and waited for the announcement of Winter Skills Courses.

When the announcement came there was a Basic Snowcraft course early in September, perfect! Snow would be good still and there would be time to put the new skills to use after the course! So I signed up, I got on with the preparation requirements of the online avalanche course and gathering required equipment.

Then COVID hit, and the course was postponed due to level 3 restrictions being in place at the time. However, the crew at NZAC got busy rescheduling and a new date was set for the weekend of the 25th / 26th of September.

All the course students gathered at the Wakatipu High School for lots of great information from the coaches, a few giggles, and a lot of excitement for the weekend. Maybe not... Severe and persistent thunderstorms across the region led to the second postponement. Were we ever to get the course done?

More furious diary checking led to the group being split across three weekends with myself and Mellissa forming the last of the three, with Chris Pruden as our instructor, on the 6th & 7th of November.



Saturday dawned clear and sunny so we met up at the Remarkables skifield car park and set off. The first exercises consisted of learning how to self-arrest a slip on the snow.

And “The World’s Worst Trust Exercise” in which Chris held us by the ankles (while we lay on our backs, head down the slope) and then let go! Turns out using proper technique stops you much faster than flailing around randomly! With the basic self-arrest work done we set off up towards Lake Alta where we encountered deeper snow so learnt about fitting and using crampons.

Once Chris was happy we started climbing towards Wye Dome, wondering as we went how it was that Chris didn’t “posthole” when we did following his footsteps! I think we concluded he must have some elf in his heritage. Having summited Wye Dome we descended back to the skifield carpark without incident.

Day two stayed clear so Chris led us to the “Lake Alta Hilton” rock bivvy where we geared up with crampons and ice axes to practise walking on steep



slopes before we climbed the “Alta Red” ski slope. Despite having skied this slope many times I found the exposure quite nerve-wracking as we ascended higher up the slope, very aware that a slip could lead to a significant fall, and worse, having to climb back up!

Once clear of the initial slope we removed our spikes before Chris led us up the ridge to summit “Telcom Tower”. We had an epic catalog pose battle for the summit pictures! We then descended into Shadow Basin pausing on the way to cut steps across a snow patch rather than get the crampons out again (would be less work to put the crampons on, but that is the part of the point of the lesson!) Returning to the car we reflected on a great couple of days in the mountains. The main lessons learned (in addition to the syllabus):

1. Step cutting is hard work
2. Don’t forget your gloves
3. Don’t forget your gaiters
4. Apply more sunscreen!

Thanks to:

The NZAC for organising the course (and reorganising it!)
Chris Pruden for being a great instructor and a very reassuring presence in the mountains.



Trip Report: Garden of Allah

WRITTEN BY SABRINA

Last year, my partner and I celebrated the New Year in style, perched high above Blue Lake, somewhere on the way down from Moss Pass. That was the middle of a 7-day hiking trip in Nelson Lakes National Parks. Having completed an intermediate mountaineering course, a backcountry avalanche awareness course and successfully bagged a few peaks the previous winter, we were more than ready to step it up a notch. The only issue was our lack of big glacier experience. But the solution came with the addition of a third member, Steve, who was willing to take us along for what would become an epic

New Zealand adventure in the Adams Wilderness, to the Garden of Allah.

Hours of map reading, browsing trip reports, monitoring weather predictions and dehydrating kilos of food made December disappear in a flash. Suddenly, Christmas was over, and we were at Erewhon Station, fitting our heavy backpacks after two days of rain and waiting for the Clyde river to recede. We started up the Clyde, crossing 3 times to avoid bluffs, each crossing spicier than the last. Ten hours later, we crossed the McCoy and collapsed, wet and exhausted, in the hut. The following day wouldn't be easier: the McCoy was narrower, and far from flat, broken by rapids every few metres, making each crossing quite nerve-wracking. We even had to use the rope and trad gear to set up a zipline for our packs, and a line to help us cross. We ended up setting camp at the foot of the McCoy glacier, not as far as we wanted to, but relieved to trade water for snow.



A glorious morning saw us meandering up the glacier to emerge on McCoy Col for breath-taking views of the Lyell Glacier and the lake below. We negotiated the spicy traverse under Mt Nicholson by setting up a t-slot anchor... and avoiding looking down at all cost! An extended lunch break sadly costed us the last of the good weather: clouds rolled in from behind, the wind rose, and soon enough we knew we had to find camp before the obvious storm rolled in. Being on a saddle was not the best position: but the path ahead would only lead to more exposure. We found a flat spot with rocks on one side and proceeded to build what we thought was a sound wall of snow and rock, then settled for a sleepless night in the raging wind and rain.



Luckily our tent coped well (thanks Nemo!) and we headed up under Rangitata Col and Malcolm Col as soon as we could see... but the break didn't last long, and we were soon navigating a total whiteout, using solely map and compass. Tort did incredibly well, and as we came down under Malcolm Col the clouds cleared, creating a surreal rolling effect over the ranges, as if an unknown entity was welcoming us into the mythic Garden of Allah. Behind us, we could see the path taken in the whiteout, zigzagging between crevasses and bluffs as if we had had perfect visibility. Impressive! We popped over Lambert Col around mid-day on our fourth day. What a panorama awaited us!

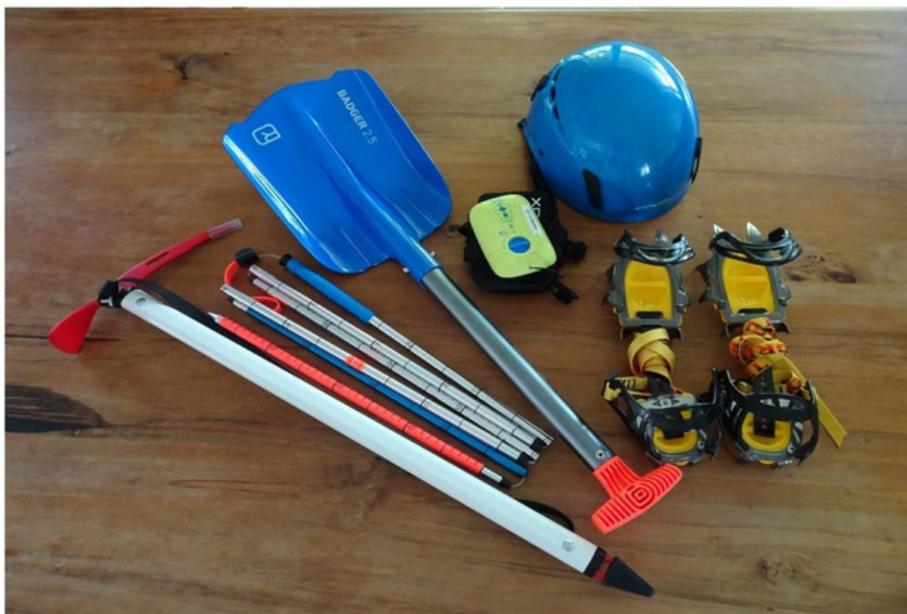
Extensive views of the Lambert Glacier and the Garden of Allah left us breathless, and we all ran up the hill to get some more. We got our first views of Mt Lambert and the endless expanses of snow below – we could even see the West Coast! Camp was set up into a convenient sheltered bowl of snow, and we all watched the sunset as a lone seagull flew above our heads.

With three days left, we decided to abandon the idea of crossing both the Garden of Allah and the Garden of Eden: the boys' recognition mission the day before had taught us the snow was wet, and travel slow. Instead, we left our extra weight at our idyllic camp on Lambert Col and headed for a day of exploring, and even (almost) summited Mt Tyndall (2517m). The "weetbix" rock of the last 5m didnt hold too much appeal.....



The time to pack up and head home had arrived, even though we could have spent an extra few days in that snowy paradise. Sadly, our weather report had showed us the window was closing, and we didn't want to risk being stuck. So down the Frances Glacier we went, hurrying our way to avoid obvious rockfall zones. The beautiful lakes at the head of the Frances and Campbell glaciers allowed for a refreshing break in the sun, before our final leg to McCoy Hut. On day 7 we got back to the car, having re-done our first day in half the time thanks to the more civilised level of the Clyde. Celebratory drinks and pizza at Mt Potts Lodge concluded this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, with us already thinking about what would be next.





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

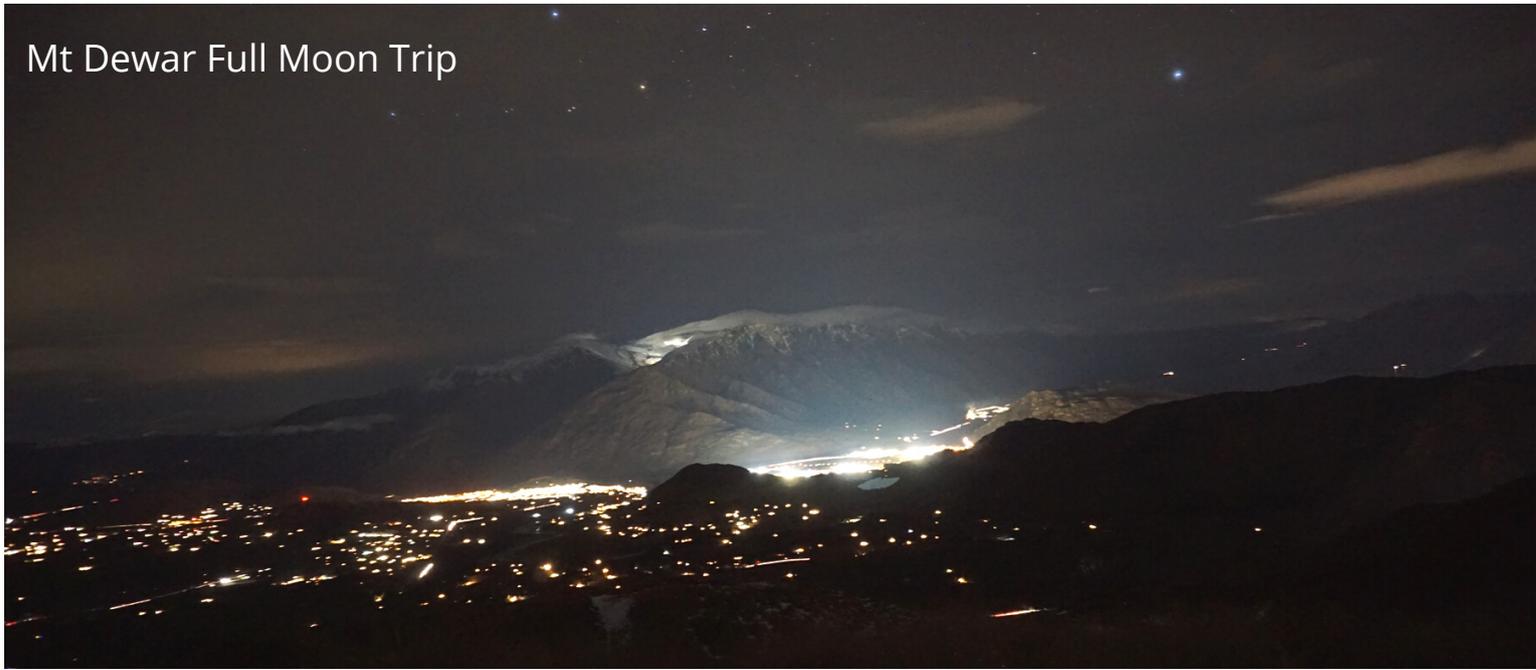
Queenstown contact:

Wendy
cosnzac@gmail.com

Wanaka contact:

Melissa
Melaucht@hotmail.com

Mt Dewar Full Moon Trip



Central Otago Section Committee

Chairperson & Trips coordinator - Wendy Johnston

Newsletter - Melissa Laucht 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 Queenstown – We're looking for someone who lives centrally who can take over the Queenstown rentals.

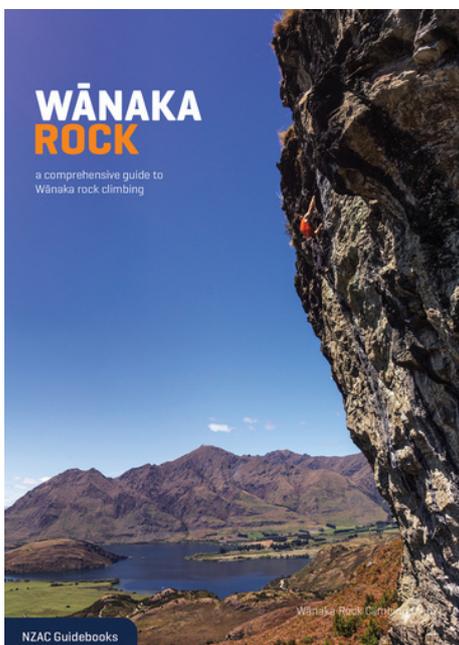
Trip Co-ordinator – If you are keen to be more hands-on, and co-ordinate the running of club trips, then we are keen to hear from you!

Instruction Co-ordinator – We have a pretty good system set up for coordinating instruction, using both volunteer and professional instructors.

Beta over Beers - We are looking for someone to host Beta Over Beers in Wanaka: the event takes place once a month at a brewery, to allow people to meet new partners and exchange about their latest adventures!

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

NEW WANAKA ROCK GUIDE



The new edition of Wanaka Rock is out!

This new 2021 edition contains all the routes and crags developed since the 2014 edition, such as the return of Jimmy Cliff, plus corrections and access changes.

[Get your copy now!](#)