AUGUST EDITION 2022

# OTAGO CLIMBER

*Big Hut Snowshoe Trip, check out the trip report!*
*Photo - Katie Gray*

**FEATURES:**

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# SEPTEMBER SECTION MEETING

**Wednesday 7th September**
**7.30pm**
**University Staff Club**

**AGM and talk on outdoor first aid**

This meeting is our AGM and following that we will have a not too serious talk on outdoor first aid by Paul Donovan. Paul is a Red Cross first aid instructor but has been wildlife cameraman filming in the back and beyond including Antarctica.
There will be an opportunity for anyone share their experience of accidents in the mountains and to pass on any valuable lessons they learnt.

We will be back to the University Staff Club for our September meeting.
Please consider joining the section committee! A diverse and energetic committee is the key to having a club that will meet the needs of the members. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please e-mail Keith at **moffat.k172@gmail.com**

# NEWS

## OSONZAC Annual Report 2021-22

It has been a difficult year for the club with all the Covid disruptions, but we have still been able to put together a reasonable program of activities. We managed six section evenings and a successful Banff Mountain film festival. Key speakers were Nick Shearer, Pete Strang, Rose Pearson and Dave Brash. We ran a successful photographic competition in August.

The summer Tuesday evenings rock climbing were popular and a big thank you to Eve O'Brien and other helpers for organising and supervising these evenings.

Successful trips were made to Mt Wakefield (Dec), Elcho Climbing Camp (Jan), Sentinel Peak (Feb), Elephant Rocks (March), Sebastopol Bluffs (April).

We renewed five sets of our rental snowshoes prior to the 2022 winter. We did not manage to run any alpine instruction courses, but several rock-climbing courses were organised using Tim Bartholomew of Dunedin Adventures. We have also supported Tim's climbing club for teenagers.

I would like to thank the committee Danilo Hegg, Eve O'Brien, Juliet Meldrum, Hylton Briscoe, Flora Yu, Riley Smith, and John Goulstone for their work. We have got into the routine of having on-line committee meetings which has meant I can stay home by the fire, but I miss having a pint at the Duke of Wellington.

- Keith Moffat, OSONZAC Chair

## Otago and Central Otago Sections to Merge

The Otago Central Section have decided to merge back with the Otago Section. The merger process should be completed by the end of September. It is envisaged some Otago Central people will join the Otago committee and with our pooled resources will be able to deliver more activities to our members. With this merger the Otago Section will be the second largest NZAC section.

# PHOTO COMP RESULTS

Thankyou to all the people who entered the OSONZAC photo competition and thankyou to our Judge Paul Donovan. Paul gave some gave some useful tips and especially how phots could be enhanced by cropping.  The winning photos are shown below.

**Above Bush Line with Human Element**

- First - Eugene Yeo

- Second - Karl Toppler

- Third - Alex Tups

# PHOTO COMP RESULTS

## Above the Bush Line with no Human Element

- First - Keith Moffat

- Third - Philip Somerville

- Second - Eugene Yeo

## Below the Bush Line with Human Element

- First - Ben Nicolson

- Second - Ben Nicolson

# PHOTO COMP RESULTS

## Below the Bush Line no Human Element

- First - Juliet Meldrum

## Nature Flora & Fauna

- First - Juliet Meldrum

- Second - Pat Hyland

# UPCOMING TRIPS

## Mt Dick 29-30th October

Mt Dick is a grade 1 climb but will require a good level of fitness and a high camp. The trip leader is Ben Nicolson. To register for the trip visit **https://www.osonzac.org.nz/**
For information contact ben at **bnicolson91@gmail.com**

For trip report on a 2018 Section trip to Mt Dick go to **https://alpineclub.org.nz/parkside/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Otago-Climber-Nov-2018.pdf**

# UPCOMING TRIPS

## Jane Peak 8-9th October

Jane Peak (2022m) is the highest peak in the Eyre Mountains. This trip is ideal for beginners, but you must know how to use crampons and an ice axe and have a good level of fitness.
The plan is to drive to the road end on Saturday morning and walk up the Gorge Burn to a campsite by a small lake. On Sunday we will complete the climb and return to Dunedin.
You can register for the trip on the OSONZAC website here
**https://www.osonzac.org.nz/**
If you have any questions, contact the trip leader Phil Somerville at
**psomer39@gmail.com**

*Jane Peak from road end looking up Gorge Burn*

# BIG HUT TRIP REPORT

**Big Hut Snowshoe Trip (20 - 21st August, 2022) - By Eve O'Brien**

With tales of 'loads of snow as high as the hut roof' ringing in our ears and satellite images from last week showing snow well down the mountainside, our party of four from Dunedin (Katie, Duncan, Sarah and Eve) drove on Saturday morning to meet Daniel from Palmerston in Middlemarch at a civilized hour of 9:30am. A bit of disappointment prevailed as we saw on driving closer to the Rock and Pillar range that due to the warm winds and sunny days of the previous week, most of the snow had melted back to the very tops of the range. Maybe the snowshoes should be left in the car? But No! The group were all looking forward to a snowshoe adventure so we decided to take them anyway and hope to find some snow over the back of the range for the afternoon day walk. A steady climb of 1000m for 2.5 hours up the Glencreag Track with a few stops to admire the view and catch our breath, brought us to Big Hut in time for lunch and a hot cup of tea. Enjoying the sunshine streaming into the little kitchen, we still couldn't escape the fact that it was pretty chilly. All were glad to have brought plenty of warm layers and some (myself included) a second sleeping bag to ward off the cold in a hut that generally seems to be described as the coldest hut people have stayed in.

Revived with hot drinks, lightening our loads to small day packs and donning our snowshoes we set off to explore the range. After a cloudy morning and a foreboding forecast, the afternoon cleared to lovely sunshine and we enjoyed clear views across to the Oteake Conservation area, Dunstan Mountains and even beyond to the peaks flanking Alexandra. We wandered up the hill behind the hut to Summit Rock and along to the North East, spotting the OTMC Leaning Lodge from the ridgeline before looping around to some nice snow slopes on the Western side. Then a leisurely trundle back to the hut just in time for more hot drinks and a late afternoon game of table tennis before the light faded.

# TRIP REPORT – CONTINUED

As we enjoyed a leisurely pre-dinner snack of tasty cheese and crackers courtesy of Sarah and Duncan while waiting for our nachos to reheat in the 'non-ultra light' large kitchen pot that the hearty Daniel produced from his pack, we were joined in the hut by a group of uni students who had also decided to visit the hut for a short mission away from town. Our dinner of gourmet nachos with added avocado, sour cream and cheese did seem to beat their fried sausages and onions but they definitely won in the alcoholic beverages department. The priorities of age gave us a laugh!

Later that evening, we retired to the freezing bunk room with an assortment of hot water bottles to keep away the chill...apart from Katie who was so confident in her cosy double sleeping bag set up that she took a bottle of snow to bed to thaw for drinking in the morning.

Next morning everyone seemed to have been suitably well prepared for the cold temperatures, the double sleeping bag or hot water bottle trick worked a treat! A relaxed breakfast followed before we finally packed up and headed off around 10am. As we'd done a nice afternoon walk the day before and the wind was whipping freshly falling snow around the tops quite strongly, the whole party decided to head back to the car rather than do another day walk from the hut in the morning.

In no time, we were below the wind zone, clouds gradually parted, layers were stripped off and the sunshine finally appeared...as we arrived at the car. As often seems to be the case, the weather clears once you reach the car, leaving you looking longingly at the nice snowy tops. However, everyone seemed to enjoy taking the snowshoes for a spin, meeting new people, sharing adventure stories and getting out on an accessible 'close to home' adventure. That is the awesome thing about club trips which give you the opportunity to meet other like-minded adventurers as well as exploring new places.

# BIG HUT TRIP PHOTOS

- Katie Gray

- Duncan Grant

- Katie Gray

# BIG HUT TRIP PHOTOS

Eve O'Brien -

Katie Gray -

Sarah Stephen -

# Upcoming Courses

## Basic Snow Instruction Course
## 1st - 2nd October

We are organising a basic snowcraft course based in Queenstown 1-2nd October. The course is suitable for experienced tampers 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.

We are still preparing the final details, but you can register your interest with **Juliet Meldrum** at **jmeldrum@doctors.org.uk** and you will be sent links to course information and the registration form when it is ready.

## NZAC Winter Courses

Also check out the courses run by the NZAC national office, including:

- High Alpine Skills Course
- Leading on Technical Ice Course
- Glacier Ski Course
- Backcountry Ski Courses

More information is available at
**https://alpineclub.org.nz/courses**

# OUTDOOR FIRST AID – EOI

Every wondered what to do if you encounter an emergency situation at the crag or in the mountains? We are exploring options for a subsidised Outdoor First Aid course for our members.

Please fill out the Expression of Interest form to help us know how to plan a course that best meets the needs of our local climbing community (*filling out the form won't commit you to the course...it's just initial market research*)

**https://forms.gle/FYZs2UBzXGBCcNrBA**

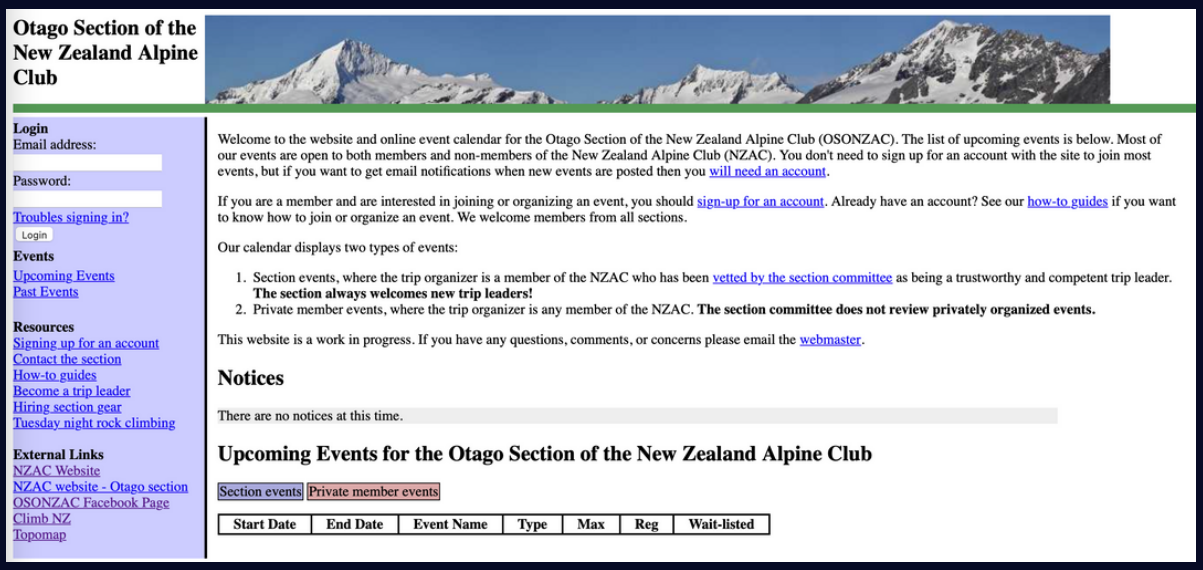
# FMC SCHOLARSHIP

## 2022 FMC Expedition Scholarship and Training Grant applications are open

*Descending above Black Lake. Photo (c) Sharon Jackson.*
*Expedition supported by a 2021 FMC Youth Expedition Scholarship*

FMC is proud to offer youth expedition scholarships for the 12th year running, and the Simon Bell Memorial scholarship for the seventh consecutive year.
For information on how to apply, and to check your eligibility criteria, see the FMC website.
A poster to promote the scholarships can also be downloaded from the FMC website.
The FMC are also offering training grants for the third year running, to support FMC clubs by making training opportunities more accessible.
Applications for both expedition scholarships and training grants close by the end of the day on **Thursday 15 September 2022**.
For any queries, e-mail the FMC executive officer at **eo@fmc.org.nz.**

# OSONZAC WEBSITE



**Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club**

**Login**
Email address:

Password:

Troubles signing in?

Login

**Events**
Upcoming Events
Past Events

**Resources**
Signing up for an account
Contact the section
How-to guides
Become a trip leader
Hiring section gear
Tuesday night rock climbing

**External Links**
NZAC Website
NZAC website - Otago section
OSONZAC Facebook Page
Climb NZ
Topomap

Welcome to the website and online event calendar for the Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club (OSONZAC). The list of upcoming events is below. Most of our events are open to both members and non-members of the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC). You don't need to sign up for an account with the site to join most events, but if you want to get email notifications when new events are posted then you will need an account.

If you are a member and are interested in joining or organizing an event, you should sign-up for an account. Already have an account? See our how-to guides if you want to know how to join or organize an event. We welcome members from all sections.

Our calendar displays two types of events:

1. Section events, where the trip organizer is a member of the NZAC who has been vetted by the section committee as being a trustworthy and competent trip leader. **The section always welcomes new trip leaders!**
2. Private member events, where the trip organizer is any member of the NZAC. **The section committee does not review privately organized events.**

This website is a work in progress. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please email the webmaster.

**Notices**

There are no notices at this time.

**Upcoming Events for the Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club**

Section events | Private member events

| Start Date | End Date | Event Name | Type | Max | Reg | Wait-listed |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Club Trips are frequently listed on the OSONZAC website, make sure you have your account registered in order to be notified of any new trips.

You can access the website at
**https://www.osonzac.org.nz**

# New Guidebook

## Mt Aspiring/Tititea and Otago Alpine Regions

The year is slipping into autumn and we hope that spring and summer have been productive for you in the wonderful and varied Otago Alps. As always, we are on the lookout for updated information regarding summits and access routes. Plus of course any new routes that have been pioneered. Snow routes turn to rock routes as the seasons turn and as climate change has its way. Hearing of specifics is really appreciated. Please don't be shy, let us know where you have been - straightforward or difficult routes - and allow us to pick your brains and add to the knowledge store. Your reports are integral to us being able to present an invaluable picture of the region as it is today with the publication of this new guide book.Thanks!

Contact:

Nick Shearer for the Matukituki Valley peaks: nicholastshearer@gmail.com / 021 0234 2436

Neil Sloan for the Wakatipu Catchment plus the Wilkin Valley peaks northward to Haast Pass: mckeesloan@gmail.com / 03 443 1041 / 027 338 5560.

South Face of Mt Earnslaw from Turret Head. *Photo: Neil Sloan*

# 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 (141Crawford 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 dya 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 wiht 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*

# DISCOUNTS

CHECK THE NZAC WEBSITE FOR A FULL DISCOUNT LIST AND DETAILS

NZAC OR FMC MEMBERS ONLY *10% OFF*

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MADE IN NEW ZEALAND

GEARSHOP

monster merino
kids clothing company

THE NORTH FACE

# 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: Keith Moffat
moffat.k172@gmail.com
027 664 4037

Secretary, Rock climbing: Eve O'Brien
eve.j.obrien@gmail.com
027 642 3211

Treasurer: Danilo Hegg
danilo_hegg@hotmail.com
027 339 2688

Banff Film Festival: Danilo Hegg and Flora Yu

Newsletter: Hylton Briscoe hyltonbriscoe@gmail.com

Equipment: Juliet Meldrum: jmeldrum@doctors.org.uk and Keith Moffat

General Committee Members:
Riley Smith
rileychallis@gmail.com
027 222 8731)
John Goulstone
Mhairi-Bronte Duncan
Eilish Fitzgerald


OTAGO SECTION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

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Web: https://alpineclub.org.nz/region/otago
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/osonzac
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/otago.climber/
Trip info & booking: www.osonzac.org.nz