

OTAGO CLIMBER

MARCH EDITION 2023

Newsletter of the Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club



Pat Hyland on Barrier Knob March 23

BANFF FILM FESTIVAL

UPCOMING TRIPS

TRIP REPORTS

COURSES



Dunedin: Weds, 24th May at the Regent Theatre

Tickets will be on Sale at the Regent box office from Monday 3rd April. Cost is \$15 for members and Students, \$25 for general public plus a \$3 booking fee. You can also book on line via the Regent website using the link below but the booking fee for on-line purchases is \$5.

We have a limited number of tickets to sell directly to members which will not incur a booking fee. We will have tickets at our 5th of April section meeting. Please bring cash.

Link to purchase Dunedin Tickets

https://nz.patronbase.com/_RegentTheatre/Productions/B23/Performances

Note that downstairs (Stalls) is general admission and upstairs (Circle) is allocated seats.

Queenstown: Weds and Thurs, 3-4th May

Tickets must be purchased on line via this link <https://www.banff.nz/> The Wednesday and Thursday screenings are different. Cost is \$20 for members and \$30 for the public plus a booking fee.

SECTION NIGHTS

Held at Otago University Staff Club

Wednesday 5th April 7.30pm

Liam Pyott

Liam first got excited about the mountains while on a tramping trip with his mate Mason in the St James Range. Fast forward a few years and he went on his first ice-climbing trip to Wye Creek with a guy that he barely knew, Cam. "This trip was hard and we knew nothing. I didn't have the right gear and our attitude was let's just go and try". As is often the case, he was hooked after that.

Now a mentee on the New Zealand Alpine Team, Liam was lucky enough to go to Canada for this year's NZAT ice climbing trip. The goals of the trip were to learn to climb steep ice with a pack on comfortably, and learn to manage climbing in cold weather. Liam will share some of the things that he learnt while climbing in Canada, as well as share some stories and pictures of recent climbing back home in New Zealand



BANFF TICKETS FOR SALE AT THIS MEETING - BRING CASH

Wednesday 3rd May 7.30pm

Paul Hersy

Trips Mates and Books



Come and listen to Dunedin author and climber Paul Hersey talk about mountaineering and his latest book, 'The Cold Inside'. A large portion of the book is about Paul's climbing mate Jamie Vinton-Boot, and then how Jamie's death affected Paul's motivation to keep climbing. Paul will also talk about a new guidebook he and his partner Shelley are working on for NZAC, and the importance of Grade 1 and 2 climbs in any mountaineer's apprenticeship. A few copies of 'The Cold Inside' will be available on the night for \$30 cash.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Celebrate Matariki at Aspiring Hut – 14-16th July, 2023



We have Aspiring Hut booked out for the club for the Matariki weekend. So, mark this in your calendar as it will be an opportunity to check out the million dollar upgrade and spend some quality time in the mountains with good company.

The plan is for people to travel and walk into Aspiring Hut on the Friday and for there to be a shared pot luck meal together on Friday night. On Saturday people can explore the valley or just read a book by the fire. On Sunday we will walk out and travel home. It is about a 2 to 2.5 hr walk into Aspiring Hut from the road end.

Below is a link to a registration form;
<https://forms.gle/uCor6xPaDo2y1w4SA>

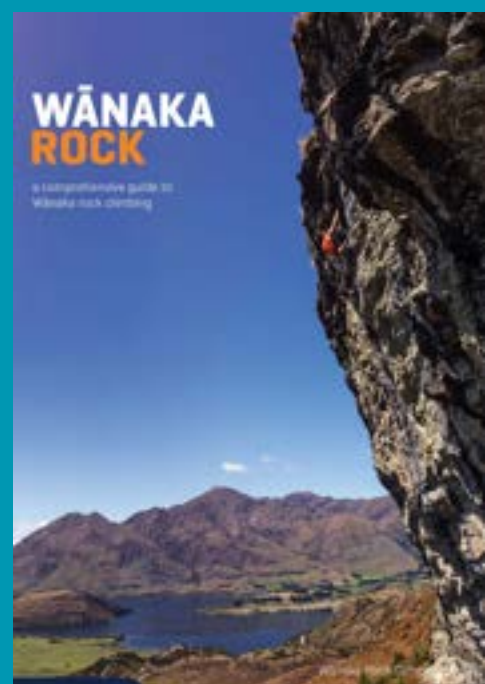
This trip will be opened up to all NZAC members so enroll early if you want to be sure of getting a spot.

WANAKA ROCK CLIMBING - 29-30TH APRIL

Wanaka is a fantastic climbing destination with a variety of different crags and a huge number of climbing routes of all grades. These are predominantly sport routes although there are a small number of trad routes too. For those who have recently completed a lead climbing course, Wanaka provides the perfect place to build on your leading climbing skills - but please note that this is not an instructional course and climbers must either have completed a lead climbing course or be experienced in lead sport climbing. Depending on the numbers attending and the experience/ability level of attendees we may split into more than one group so that climbers can visit different areas that suit their respective skill levels. The plan is for attendees to stay at the Glendhu Bay Motorcamp. (www.glendhubaymotorcamp.co.nz) - I am planning to tent (\$20 per adult) but other options are available. Attendees from Dunedin will drive up after work on Friday and stay Friday and Saturday night (April 29-30), before returning to Dunedin late afternoon on Sunday 23rd. Central based attendees may wish to meet up with us on Saturday morning. Note that many Wanaka climbs are accessed by crossing farmland - the Wanaka Rock Club has negotiated access to these with farmers and the following rules must be observed - no fires no dogs and no rubbish. Cross fences at the stiles and leave gates as you find them. Note that there are also lambing restrictions in place in some areas from August to October.

The trip organizer is Rob McLaren and you can register for the trip via the OSONZAC website here:

<https://www.osonzac.org.nz/EventDetails.php?id=75>



TRIP REPORT

TE KIEKIE/MT SOMERS ROCK CLIMBING TRIP 17-20 March 2023 by Rob McLaren

The prospects for this trip did not look promising to start with – 2 weeks before the trip there were still only 2 people signed up (trip leader Eve and myself!) and the weather was also looking a bit iffy.

However, Eve managed to rustle up another couple of climbers from Central Otago (Graham and Lyn), while I encouraged Molly (over as part of her Physio studies from Sweden) to join me from Dunedin.

We all met up at the carpark by start of the track on Friday afternoon and set off uphill with packs weighed down by kilos of climbing gear.

We did have some showers on the way up to the Pinnacles Hut, but the forecast high winds never materialised. We set up camp beside the hut and although a few more heavy showers came through overnight, Saturday dawned clear and sunny. Looking across from the Pinnacles Hut to Mt Somers the rising sun lit up an enticing array of climbing options, from bands of imposing rhyolite columns high up on the mountainside to the rounded Pinnacles themselves, emerging from the lower slopes like giant rock sculptures.

We started with a hike up to the Meatgrinder wall, carefully watched by a circling pair of Kārearea/NZ falcons. This is one of the furthest and highest crags to reach (about 1 ½ hours) but makes a good starting point with a lot of well protected moderate grade trad climbs to warm up on, as well as stunning views back down across the Pinnacles to the hut and east across the Canterbury plains. After a morning at the Meatgrinder we then descended a short way to the nearby Christian Principles crag, disturbing a few basking skinks in the process. This crag has some longer routes, including The Staircase (16), a 30m climb following twin cracks with great gear and exciting airy moves up over a roof near the top and Bring Back The Cain (15), a beautiful crack climb with some committing moves for the grade



LOOKING UP FROM THE BASE OF THE FORTRESS, MOLLY (LEFT) AND EVE (RIGHT) LEADING



ROB REACHING FOR A JUG WHILE CLIMBING ON THE CHRISTIAAN PRINCIPLES WALL (PICTURE TAKEN BY EVE O'BRIEN)

Day 2 saw us heading to the Orange Wall – which has some of the best rock and some stunning trad and bolted lines on it. I hopped on one of the few easier lines - Orange Roughy (16) – a sustained 32m climb that follows the arete of a large Rhyolite column on fantastic textured rock. This route has one star in the Rock Deluxe guide but I'd give it at least two (the guide also indicates this route is mixed trad and bolted but this is out of date - it is now fully bolted so that you can follow the route without straying into the crack to the right). Meanwhile Graham led up the neighbouring Red Herring (16) trad route.

The Orange Wall was beginning to get a little crowded by this point so we headed to the neighbouring Fortress crag – this has some stunning long, multi-pitch lines on beautifully curving rhyolite columns. Both Climbz and the Rock deluxe guide are a bit out of date for this area. The columns form nice low angled slabs at the base of this crag and these have now been bolted and provide additional initial pitches for routes in this area (where previously you had to scramble higher up the cliff to start) and I would say these probably go at around grade 12/13. These also provide secure bolted belays for the subsequent pitches of more technical climbing.

e – leading up an airy and sustained Grade 20 second pitch with quite spaced bolts.

Returning to the hut, we expected to have to rush off to catch the others only to discover that Graham and Lyn had become somewhat geographically misplaced on their return journey from the Pinnacles and had only reached the hut not long before us (with the help of some shouted directions and arm-waving from Eve!). The weather began to turn to showers again as we all walked back out so we had timed our weather window perfectly for climbing.

This was my first time climbing at Mt Somers and it's now my new favourite climbing destination – I definitely intend to return! For those who haven't been yet it is well worth the effort. A big thankyou to Eve for organising the trip and to everyone for their great company on this trip.



Graham (left) and Eve (right) climbing on the Meatgrinder wall



Graham seconding up Banana Split (20), the Fortress (Picture taken by Molly Fondelius)

COURSES 2023

- NZAC Basic Snowcraft Instruction Course
- NZAC Intermediate Snowcraft Instruction Course

Late August/early September in Queenstown area.
Exact venue and dates TBC.

If you are interested in signing up or want more information keep an eye on the newsletter or email otago.climber@gmail.com

FREE PLB

The Otago Section has a GME PLB with an expired battery that is free to a good home. If you request GME to replace the battery of this unit they will send you a new smaller later model PLB (MT610G) for \$229. The MT610G normally retails for \$499.

If you would our old unit please contact Keith at moffat.k172@gmail.com



We will have copies of Pete Strang's Book "Mountain Dreaming" for sale at the April Section meeting and after that it can be purchased at the Resistance Climbing Gym. Cost is \$20 for NZAC members.



DESIGN STUDENT RILEY SMITH, TŪPIKI TRUSTEE LINDSAY SMITH AND AUTHOR PETE STRANG

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 (141 Crawford 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 day 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 with 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*

OTAGO SECTION COMMITTEE

Committee member meeting is held online via video call on the 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.

Section Committee Members

Keith Moffat (Chairman) | Moffat.k172@gmail.com 027-6644037

Danilo Hegg (Treasurer) | Danilo_Hegg@hotmail.com

Eve O'Brien | eve.j.obrien@gmail.com

Juliet Meldrum | jmeldrum@doctors.org.uk

Ben Mitchell | Benmitchell737@gmail.com

Sabrina Poulin | Sabrina.poulin@hotmail.com (Central Rep)

Riley Smith | Rileychallis@gmail.com

Hylton Briscoe | hyltonbriscoe@gmail.com

John Goulstone | johngoul200@gmail.com

Section Contact Information

C/o 172 Gladstone Road, Dalmore, Dunedin 9016

Email: otago.climber@gmail.com

Web: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/region/otago>

DISCOUNTS

There are many suppliers that offer discounts to NZAC Members. Click on the link below to access the list.

[HTTPS://ALPINECLUB.ORG.NZ/MEMBER-DISCOUNTS](https://alpineclub.org.nz/member-discounts)