

MAY 2023

OTAGO CLIMBER

Newsletter of the Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club



IN BRIEF:

- Courses
- Upcoming Events
- Upcoming Trips
- Trip Report
- Gear rental
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INTERMEDIATE SNOWCRAFT COURSES

Our beginner Snowcraft Courses are full - but we still have space on the Intermediate courses:

Course 1: 2nd & 3rd September (Pre-Course Evening – 29th (Dunedin) OR 31st August (Queenstown))

Course 2: 5th & 6th September (Pre-Course Evening – 29th (Dunedin) OR 31st August (Queenstown))

Course 3: 9th & 10th September (Pre-Course Evening – 29th (Dunedin) OR 31st August (Queenstown))

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.

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

REGISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

What's happening over the next two months?



SECTION NIGHTS OTAGO UNIVERSITY STAFF CLUB WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 7.30PM

Come and listen to Martin Curtis, who has been climbing since his teen years in the UK mountains. He joined the NZ Alpine Club in 1996 and his main ascents include Mt Cook via the Grand Traverse, Mt Sefton, Mt Tasman and Ellie de Beaumont.

He first visited Bhutan in 2004. He fell immediately in love with the country and its people, and has since returned a further 8 times, doing most of the standard high-altitude trekking routes, including the famed "Snowman Trek" as well as several naturalist trips to the unvisited eastern part of this wonderful country.

BETA OVER BEERS

Beta over Beers is a regular social night hosted by the New Zealand Alpine Club for mountaineers, ski tourers and climbers. Join us for drinks 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. All welcome.

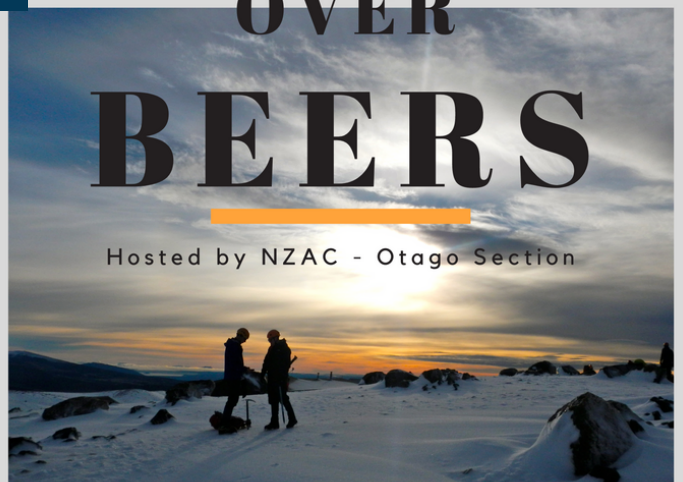
Where? Cargo Gantleys, Arthurs Point

When: 7-9pm, second Tuesday of the month

Check out the [Facebook Event](#).

BETA OVER BEERS

Hosted by NZAC - Otago Section



13TH JUNE
CARGO GANTLEYS, ARTHURS POINT,
QUEENSTOWN
7PM - 9PM

UPCOMING TRIPS

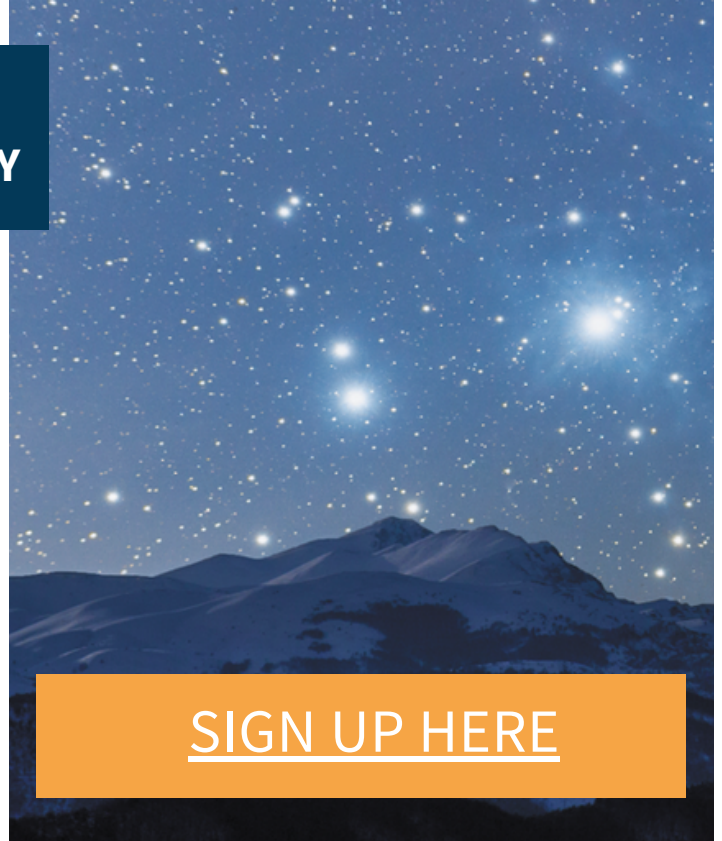
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CELEBRATE MATARIKI AT ASPIRING HUT – 14-16TH JULY

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 Friday and for there to be a shared potluck 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 2.5hr walk into Aspiring Hut from the road end.

This trip will be opened up to all NZAC members so enroll early if you want to be sure of getting a spot. Your family is welcome to come with you even if they are not members.



[SIGN UP HERE](#)



SECTION NIGHTS OTAGO UNIVERSITY STAFF CLUB 1ST WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH 7.30PM

- Wed 5th July - Jaz Morris on a recent climbing trip in Patagonia
- Wed 2nd August - Dr. Richard Stephenson on Walking to South Pole

TRIP REPORT



LOVERS LEAP CLIMBING TRIP

WRITTEN BY RILEY SMITH

Here are a quick couple of field notes from a recent adventure...

With a large high pressure system forecast to hover above the South Island for the weekend, the plan was to escape Resistance Climbing gym and mission to Lovers Leap. Coffees digesting, the 5 of us squeezed into Ben's car and made for Sandymount. The stoke was very high when descending the treacherous grassy paddocks, but we had to keep focus on the climbing ahead. We followed a rough path down the left side of the prominent ridge above the crag, which revealed a jaw dropping first glimpse of the place.

A track along the foot of the cliff led to an ideal basecamp for the day where we were greeted by a large pod of dolphins splashing past out to sea. Finally racked up and tied in, it was time to try out one of Dunedin's most impressive crags!

Here's some short rambles about the routes we climbed:

'Crying Time Again'. A fantastic grade 18* that is one of my new local favourites that ascends steep twin cracks which offer bomber protection. It was a great first taste of the Leap for the three members of the group who had never been.





Triple Treat', -19*. Its name comes from the three pillars that the climb gently traverses, each providing a welcome rest and shake out before tackling the next. Really good gear and moves, and a scary atmosphere - worth the star.

'Al's Jam Crack' - 20* Which as the name suggests, consists of two stonking cracks broken up by a ledge in the middle. If only it went the whole way up. I was very glad to be on top rope for this one after coming unstuck several times!

Side Effect' - 22** Weaves up an aesthetic corner with two aretes jutting down either side, producing stemming, laybacks, and other exciting moves. 5 bolts protect the more blank upper section, relieving some pressure, yet the steepness, exposure and roar of the ocean below had me huffing and puffing at the top!

If you are thinking of heading here, you should. The columns provoke really interesting movements, the protection is usually bomber, and the atmosphere created by the wild South Coast setting is unforgettable. Be very aware however that this crag is no joke, rockfall and loose rock are frequent, as well as many other risks whether exposure or weather. Despite my ravings about the quality climbs, some of the anchors are due to be serviced so climb at your own risk. Wear a helmet, appropriate footwear, climb with caution and you are sure to have a fun time.

ClimbNZ, Dunedin Rock, and Rock Deluxe South both have more details for Climbing [here](#).



GEAR HIRE

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

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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/otago.climber/>

Trip info & booking: www.osonzac.org.nz

Get involved!

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.

To find out more, contact us at
otago.climber@gmail.com

NZAC DISCOUNTS

NZAC members get up
to 50% off selected
shops & activities.

**Click here for more
details**