



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

November 2023

North Otago Section Newsletter

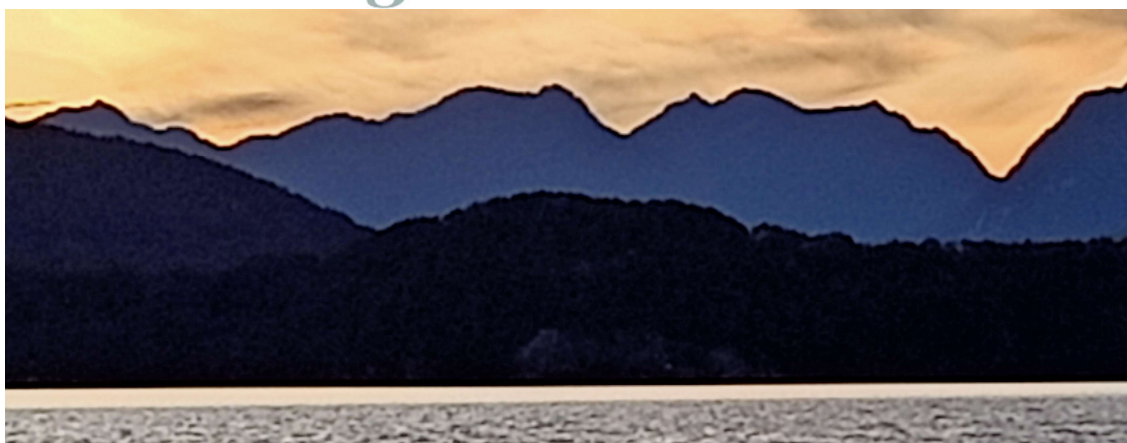


Photo: Sunset over Lake Manapouri

SECTION NEWS

AGM and Quarterly
Meeting – 15th November
at SAR rooms, Oamaru,
7:30pm onwards

WAITAKI CLIMBING WALL

**Club nights at the
climbing wall** are Tuesday
8:00 -9:30pm and Thursday
5:00-6:30pm.

Christmas BBQ at Elephant Rocks

Date still to be confirmed,
keep an eye on our
Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/northotagonzac](https://www.facebook.com/groups/northotagonzac)

WHO'S BEEN WHERE, DOING WHAT

Nick Shearer - A European Holiday

Dara and I visited Ireland, Northern Italy, Slovenia, France, England and North Wales. We walked, climbed and explored some of the mountain regions in all these countries. Dara and I climbed Ireland's holiest mountain, Crough Patrick, 764m. A modest achievement from a mountaineering point of view, but very interesting. Some pilgrims climb it in bare feet.

In the Dolomites, I climbed a couple of via ferrata routes, with our friend David Pugh from the UK. The first was a short route from Corvara, taking the gondola and chairlift to an alpine plateau close to the start of a via ferrata on Piz Lech, 2916m. The following day, from the Rifugio Dibona, we climbed a more difficult via ferrata route taking us to the top of Tofana de Rozes at 3225m.

Making the most of what turned out to be an amazing spell of weather, we all trekked the 6-day Alta Via 1 Northern Section. This lovely alpine excursion curves its way through the heart of the Dolomites, and makes the most of the network of excellent rifugios. These commodious refuges are more like hotels than huts. One even had its own microbrewery – the highest in Europe! Dara and I went on to explore the southern valleys of the Ecrins National Park in France.



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While driving through North Wales we teamed up with a large group of our UK climbing friends at Llanberis. Dave P and I climbed a rock route "Hope" on the Idwal Slabs, while Dara scrambled up Y Garn, the 10th highest peak in Wales, from the Devils Kitchen. The next day Dara and I scrambled over Moel Eilio. This horseshoe walk from Llanberis ascends the pleasant ridge and summits of Foel Gron and Foel Goch.



Arabba Dibrona, Italy



Idwal Slabs, North Wales



Jim Anderson on a winter ascent of the Remarkables

On the 25th of July I drove to Queenstown and stayed at the Top 10 Holiday park. Arjan joined me later that evening as he had cows to milk.



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We left early in the morning for the Remarkables Ski field and managed to beat the rush up the road.

We walked up to Lake Alta and had a chat to a ski patroller who said they were letting off some avalanche bombs that morning.

Carrying on up the 'safe' walkers route up the ridge behind the lake we were about two thirds of the way up before we heard explosions echoing around the basin and watched the patrollers skiing along chucking the bombs onto any suspect slopes. It seemed like a pretty satisfying job even though there were no avalanches that day.

As we plodded along the ridge leading to Single Cone we started being over taken by cross country skiers. These included a friendly guy who stopped to dig an avalanche pit and gave us some interesting tips about the tests he was doing and the way these were recorded and also a 'king of the mountain' type who stopped for a whinge about walkers ruining the slopes for skiing. Judging by the way he kept taking his skis off ever time it got slightly steep I think his skills were the main issue not our footsteps.

We carried on up the ridge to a steep frozen gully just before the summit of single cone and watched The King blast back down the mountain through the most likely looking avalanche terrain he could spot. Nothing let go though so the first skier could have probably skipped digging his pit and perhaps just watched and dug The King out of a slide if he needed too.

The steepish pitch up the frozen gully was fun and I placed a few runners and set up a natural anchor at the top. We then made one more pitch along the very windy ridge to the summit rocks.

Coming back down we encountered a couple of guides and their clients, the first of which was digging out a nice and solid looking fixed anchor right next to where I had placed my own gear. Luckily they were happy for us to set our rope up on this and rappel down out of their way. They even gave us a good tip on how to position the rappel to get all the way down in one 30 abseil.

From there it was an easy plod back down the hill to the carpark and home.

Ian Davison – A Nostalgia trip back to Scotland

Whilst back in the UK visiting relatives I manage to escape to Scotland for a ten day trip in the mountains reliving memories from my teens, 20's and 30's.

I met up with our good friends Nick and Chris at the Red Squirrel campsite in Glencoe. The weather wasn't great but we still managed a couple of dampish days on the Aonach Eagach ridge and Buchaille Etive Mor. The cold wind put us off doing any of the good scrambling or climbing but it was still good to be back on what used to be home ground. The Clachaig Inn still served a good pint, well quite a few actually.



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From Glencoe we moved up to Sligachan on Skye. There we had three good days scrambling around both ends of the classic Cuillin Ridge. The roads and campsites are much busier these days but the hills did not seem much busier than 30 years ago.

After Skye, the plan was to go to Glen Nevis and finish on the Ben (Ben Nevis) by one of the routes on the North Face. But on arriving in Glen Nevis, the number of people on the tourist path put us off so we settled on the Ring of Steall. This is a circuit of about 5 Munros at the top of Glen Nevis. The guidebooks now recommend a different route from where we used to go. So following memories, the ridge was a lot quieter than if we had followed the guidebook.

After leaving my friends to continue their holiday in Scotland, I headed back to Glasgow and took my sister and nephew up the Cobbler. Whilst not a high mountain, it is quite spectacular with three rocky summits. The North Peak brought back good memories of the many rock climbs that I had done on this peak in the past.

Good memories of the past.



Buchaille Etive Mor as the rain comes in.



Coir a' Ghrunnda and Sgurr Alasdair, Skye



Sgurr Nan Gilleann and Am Basteir, Skye



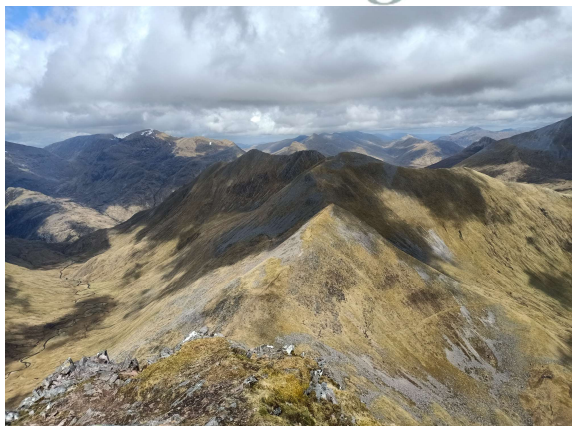
The Basteir Tooth, Skye



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The Ring of Steall, Glen Nevis



The North Peak of the Cobbler

A Note from NZAC headquarters

Mountaineers, human waste, Aoraki and Cultural Values Research

This project explores current human waste management of mountaineers who climb in the higher mountains around Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. We are asking you to complete a survey to examine motivations and current practices of mountaineers in terms of human waste disposal, the barriers to recommended Leave-No-Trace practices, and knowledge of Māori values.

Who should participate? - Mountaineers: we use a broad definition of mountaineering as travel and / or climbing on snow, ice and rock in alpine areas.

We are asking mountaineers (over 18 years of age) and who have mountaineered in Aotearoa New Zealand to participate in this research.

Who is involved? - The study is being conducted by an interdisciplinary team led by University of Canterbury alongside Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua and funded by the Tūpiki Trust, University of Canterbury, the New Zealand Alpine Club and Leave No Trace New Zealand.

Here is a link to that survey. Have your say!

https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6heluC6dgWOrwCa

I attach a QR code which will take you directly to the survey. I also attach the information invitation to take part.





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CLUB EQUIPMENT

Equipment available to hire by section members: 2 avalanche transceivers, 2 PLBs, ice axes, shovel, avalanche probes, 1 bouldering mat.

Conditions of Hire

1. Only members can hire gear. They can hire gear for others in their party who are non-members.
2. Free hire for members; non-members in the party pay a hire fee.
3. The hirer is responsible for the return of the gear.
4. If not returned the hirer is responsible for the cost of the replacement item.
5. All details must be filled out in the hire book.
6. If hiring PLBs please text details of the trip to either John 021 203 4914. Ian 021 144 9409, or Dara 0274 370 860. This is essential for prompt Search and Rescue initiation.

Hire fees per day:

Ice axe \$5

Shovel/probe/ avalanche transceiver \$10

PLB \$5

Boulder mat \$5

Please pay either cash to John, Ian or Dara or pay directly into the club bank account:

03 0937 0199696 01

Please use your phone to take a photo of the bank details so you will remember to return the gear and pay if necessary. Tick the items off in the hire book when returned.