

MARCH 2024

OTAGO CLIMBER

Newsletter of the Otago Section of the New Zealand Alpine Club



Enroute to Mt Liverpool summit - Noah Burbank March 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

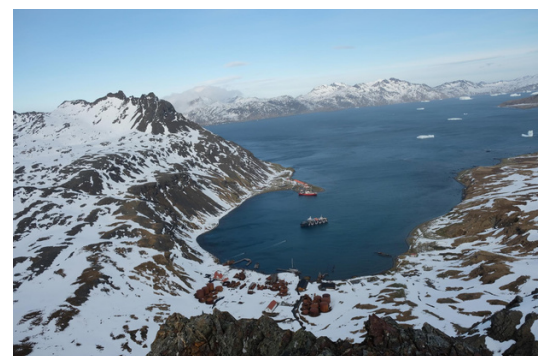
Lily Green - Section Night-April 3 2024, 7:30pm University Staff Club

South Georgia Island

"Do you know where that is? If you don't, come and find out! And if you do know, have you been? I will be telling my story about my time on South Georgia Island. This will involve chats about penguins, elephant seals, icebergs, glaciers, decision making, perseverance and what's next..."

Back in 2023, local Ōtepoti climber Lily Green got the chance to join a team of 22 young New Zealanders on an expedition to South Georgia Island. The Antarctic Heritage Trust organised the journey to honour the centenary year of Shackleton's final expedition (the 'Quest') which journeyed to South Georgia and marked the end of the heroic-era of Antarctic exploration.

Come and join us at the University of Otago Staff Club at 7:30pm on Wednesday the 3rd of April! Drinks and nibbles are available from the bar. Everyone is welcome!



Future Section nights

1st May – John Goulstone talking about a recent trip to Nepal to trek the Dhaulagiri circuit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sign up to our trip tool website to get instant email updates when trip details are confirmed.

All trip details and sign-ups will available closer to the time on our website

<https://www.osonzac.org.nz/>

3/4/24 April Club Night - Lily Green

Expedition to South Georgia Island

(TRIP) Sebastopol Bluffs - April 5-7

Leader - Eve O'Brien

Multipitch rockclimbing, both sport and trad

Based at Unwin Hut

1/5/24 May Club Night - John Goulstone

Dhaulagiri circuit

Otago Section of
the New Zealand
Alpine Club



Login

Email address:

Password:

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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](#)

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](#)

SNOWCRAFT 2024

Winter Snowcraft Co-ordinator required.

We are looking for someone passionate about upskilling our members by providing Snowcraft Courses. You will work with our current Snowcraft Co-ordinator this year, with the aim of taking over in 2025.

This is a really rewarding co-ordination job, you get to know lots of local guides and our budding mountaineers! Good administration and communication skills are required. We have set up good systems, and you'll be fully trained ready for next year. Please contact Wendy on wendyjohnstonnz@gmail.com if you are interested and want to know more.



Trip report

Mt. Liverpool Trip Report - Take Two

By Shannah Rhynard-Geil

The first attempt at Waitangi Weekend was cancelled due to weather therefore a subsequent time was found to have another go at climbing Mt. Liverpool via Cascade Saddle and Plunket Dome.

Day 1:

The day started early, with sojourners coming from Dunedin and Queenstown. Meeting in Cromwell, we all stopped for a leisurely coffee and scroll...of course working on our much needed calories in preparation for the climb to come. Once the Dunedin cohort made contact, we continued on to pick up another member of the fellowship in Wanaka and made it to Raspberry carpark around 11am. Despite our good intentions, we had a bit of a late start up the Matukituki Valley towards Mt. Aspiring Hut. The day was sunny and the blue water absolutely glorious, making for a fine stroll. At the hut, we all fed and watered ourselves (again) before beginning the climb up Cascade Saddle. We had good chats amongst the group as we meandered our way through the bush, some of us cursing the roots and high steps, others discussing the impending forecasted wind. We learned from Ian that granola bars dipped in chocolate Betty's icing were great energy boosts. As we crested the bush line, we could feel a little bit of breeze but the views encouraged us to continue on up with Mt. Aspiring looking across at us from the other side of the valley. Despite the climb, we all made it to the top of the ridge and descended to the Cascade Saddle campsite where we quickly made camp for what was to be a blustery night, however Kea free. Emry enjoyed magnificent views of the starry sky at one point when his tent fly partially detached in one particularly strong gust.



Close encounter - Photo Tomas Uher



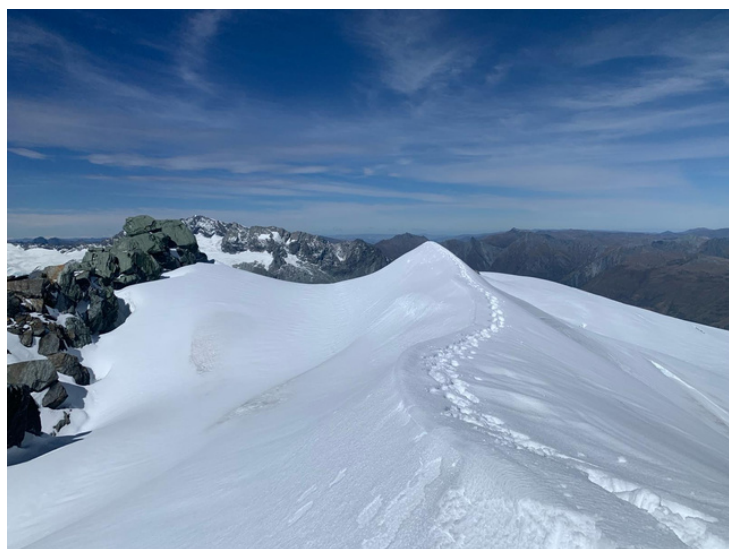
Camping with Mt Tyndall behind - Photo Noah Burbank

Day 2:

We rose early to find all our apparel and kit where we left it, most of us cosy in our cocoons. Around 6:30 the wind died down and we reluctantly poked our heads out of the tents to clear sky, slightly sleep deprived. The summit was on!

As breakfast was served, and our goods hidden from pesky kea, ice axes and crampons were at the ready in our packs. We started by heading to Cascade Saddle and followed a small, well hidden path towards Plunket Dome. A few of us were quite novice in our snowcraft skills, so it took us a little longer than expected to crampon up and climb Plunket Dome, cross a snow field, and begin the traverse through the crevasses, learning a little about glacier travel. The crevasses were quite obvious (most of them). We split into three groups with Nick at the lead, mazing his way through any potential hazards.

The ridge was a bit icy, causing a few heart flutters, but we successfully all summited, pausing for some more snacks (of course) and photos. The sun was shining, smiles were seen all around, and the feeling of success was freeing. Due to our late start and slow movement across the snow, we were aware we could only pause a moment before beginning the decent. The way down seemed faster, and we were feeling a little more confident in our crampon, John Wayne walk. The snow had changed dramatically from morning and was much more slushy as we headed back to camp mid afternoon. Once down Plunket Dome, those of us who were a little quicker on our feet made our way back to camp to set up tents and start dinner. On the way down, we ran into two other trampers who, the night before, had seen 20 kea at their campsite! Three kea had spotted us as we quickly moved across Cascade Saddle and were hovering around the trampers setting up camp. We wished them well and carried on. By 7:30 we were all back at camp, eating dinner, and well ready for a good sleep in our cosy tents. I'm not sure any of us would have heard kea stealing things in the night, and we were fortunate they ignored us.



Leave on ly footprints - Photo Shannah Rhynard-Geil



Summit of Mt Liverpool - Photo Noah Burbank



Glacier Travel - Photo Flora Yu

Day 3:

A little more eager to make our way back to the car to avoid impending bad weather, we “hustled” to eat breakfast and pack up camp to begin the steep descent down to the Matukituki Valley. Once on the move, the group broke into two main sections. The descent was straight forward enough, but hard on the knees, especially after the elevation from the previous two days, so it was careful and slow going. The second group, believing in travelling in comfort and the importance of food and good snacking paused near a creek along the path for a nice coffee break, complete with ginger nuts, Betty’s icing, and a handful of spinach. The groups met at Aspiring Hut a little after lunch. Knowing both groups were safe and sound, we all carried on across the blissfully flat valley floor to Raspberry carpark, where we quickly released our feet from the confines of our smelly boots, and sat together for our final group powow and photo. After saying our goodbyes, we split into our original teams and began the trip home. Some of us stopped for a quick dip in Lake Wanaka before eating a massive dinner at Big Fig. You can tell what is important to this author- good views and good food.

I always feel extremely lucky to adventure with more experienced mountaineers and the Alpine Club is a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills in a safe(r) environment. Time in the mountains always reminds me that I know very little, there is always something else to learn, more practical skills to perfect, and reading and watching Youtube videos doesn’t make up for experience (although are nice resources to supplement). The more I learn, the more I’m aware of how much there is to learn. I feel pretty lucky to live in New Zealand and have all this beauty on our doorstep.

Group members - Shannah, Noah, Nora, Emry, Tomas, Flora, Kirsten, Lucile, Nick, Ian and John



Governors Ridge leading to Plunket Dome, with Islington Dome and Mt Liverpool in behind. Photo by Kirsten Simonsen

Trip report for the Wānaka Crag Fest.

By Juliet Meldrum

I attended the very first Wānaka Crag Fest held from 15th to 17th March. It was organised jointly by the NZAC and Wānaka Climbing Club. There were “supported” climbing sessions where people who were less familiar with Wānaka or who may have needed a top rope setting up were “shown the ropes”. Rob MacLaren and Eve O’Brien helped out with these together with helpers from the local climbing community. There were also instructional courses held throughout the weekend on crag rescue, anchor building, intro to trad climbing or intro to sport leading. These were very popular, some with waiting lists. I attended the “crag rescue” course which was led by Gregg Beisly and “Stevo” Stevens. This was really eye opening and I can’t quite believe that I have been doing multipitch routes without this knowledge! We covered how to lower your second using the lead strand direct (LSD) when using a belay device in guide mode and how to escape the system to retrieve your belay device and also how to haul your second effectively. All skills I hope not to have to use, but good to know.

On the Friday evening there was a quiz and prize draw held at Ground Up where the beers have names like “crux”- it’s owned by some climbing folk. We also had chats from Edwin Sheppard from ACAT (Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust) who are working tirelessly to keep our crags accessible. I learned that the commonest reasons for access being withdrawn are: 1) not requesting permission from the landowner, 2) leaving gates open, 3) pooing - not in toilets!!!! 4) bringing the dog when it’s not allowed, 5) not engaging with the landowner if they come and chat to you. So- there you have it—avoid these things, it’s not just a North Island problem!

On the Saturday there was more climbing in the morning, followed by a working bee building/ improving the track up the hill from Hospital Flats past the Crackhouse. This was actually really good fun- carrying buckets of gravel is a great antidote to climbing (antagonist muscle work out). Then the reward of a free beer and burger at Velo in the evening enhanced the good feelings. There was an awesome band and more prizes.

On the Sunday there was a morning yoga session with the serene view over Lake Wānaka from Glendhu Bay campground, followed by more climbing. On a warmer and sunnier day than the Saturday. All in all it was great to meet all 5 of the ways to wellbeing: be active, learn, connect, take notice and give- as mentioned by our President Jim Petersen. It was really well organised and well supported by the industry too and I even got one of the spot prizes.



Main Cliff



Tombstone

Rescue Clinic



Banff Film Festival

15th May AND 19th May

We are holding 2 nights this year held at a NEW VENUE of St David's Lecture Theatre at the University of Otago.

Don't worry we've tested the seats and they are comfortable and there won't be an exam at the end.

There will be a different programme for each of these nights so you can enjoy both of them. Further details re ticket sales to come in future newsletters.

MOUNTAINS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

***CLIMBING 52 PEAKS OVER 1000M HIGH
FOR THE NZ MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION***



**SCAN
ME**



GEAR HIRE DUNEDIN

PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons)

The Otago Section has one PLBs based in Dunedin for use by Otago Section members. Fill out the online booking form [here](#) then contact Keith Moffat to arrange to collect a unit via moffat.k172@gmail.com

Avalanche Equipment and Snowshoes

Available for rent from Hunting and Fishing, Dunedin (141 Crawford Street).

Snowshoe rental is \$5 per day for members and \$10 per day for non-members.

Avalanche equipment rental is \$10 per day for members and \$20 per day for non-members. Members are welcome to collect the gear on Friday and return on Monday and two day's rental will apply. If you have any issues with rental gear please contact the Section or Keith Moffat as the Hunting and Fishing team are doing us a huge favour running the rentals; please don't hassle the staff!!

Guidebooks....we have a small selection available in Dunedin for members to borrow. Contact Keith Moffat (same email as above) to arrange pick up.

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*

GEAR HIRE CENTRAL OTAGO



NZAC – QUEENSTOWN, WANAKA GEAR HIRE



GEAR HIRE CONDITIONS

- To hire gear and organise pick up/drop off, fill in the form at <https://tiny.cc/gearhire>. You MUST email Chris (Wanaka) or Bryce (Queenstown) to let them know you have requested gear. They will respond with payment and pick-up arrangements.
- Minimum hire is 2 days.
- 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
- All gear must be paid for on booking.

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 knowing that the NZAC member is responsible for any loss or damage. The non-member pays non-member prices.

PLEASE NOTE

The NZAC is not responsible for providing any technical advice regarding the fitting or use of the gear hired; this is solely the renter's responsibility.

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 prior to pickup
No refunds

Current NZAC
Membership card
required at pick up
\$100 bond required in
cash

Gear pick up & drop off

Queenstown contact:

Email Bryce @
bawood13@gmail.com

Wanaka contact:

Email Chris @
chris.hogan@gjgardner.co.nz



Otago Section Committee

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/osonzac>

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