



The South Canterbury Climber

May 2024

ALPINE TRIPS
ROCK CLIMBING TRIPS
NZAC NEWS



**Have you got a trip idea?
Let us know!.. Contact details inside.**

Welcome to the **May edition** of the NZAC South Canterbury Section's newsletter.

The section runs a variety of alpine, climbing and other trips and courses throughout the year and new members are always welcome.

Climber Content

Is there anything you would like to see in the newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for improving the newsletter? If so, drop us a line, we're keen to hear from you. Alternatively, we love getting

submissions from members – whether they be Trip Reports, Items for sale or rants. Just send your material to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding. Contact Kelly Cooney via email: kellymuirden@gmail.com

Monthly Meeting – Thursday 23rd May, 7.30pm

Speaker: Milan Brodina

Title: Bike packing Trans Ecuador



Local Banff Film Festival

Banff will screen in Timaru on the 15th June this year. We will be screening the Aoraki program.

You can find out more information and make your booking here...

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/banff-centre-mountain-film-festival-world-tour-timaru-tickets-859232556707?aff=webbanffnz>



Library – Books Available

Did you know that the Section has a number of Alpine related library books available? Available from our Gary Brehaut's house. Please ring first to arrange a time, Cell: 027 497 8952.

FMC Bulletins

Rob Moffat has the FMC bulletins which come out quarterly, these used to be sent out with the climber. They will be available at the section evenings, but if you can't attend the meeting, then you can contact Syd Woods and we will work out a system to get them to you.

For Hire

The section has ice axes, crampons, snow shovels, avalanche transceivers, snowshoes, snow stakes and now, a second Personal Locator Beacon for hire. Contact Gary Brehaut, Cell: 027 497 8952.

Keep up to date with the latest local news, photos and events by connecting with us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/groups/NZACsouthcanterbury



McKenzie Peak 13 & 14th May

Our trip started off with a mountain bike ride in to Lester Baikie's hut before navigating our way through wilding pines , to follow a tussock ridge and side into the Mckenzie stream .

A good bivvy spot was found before dark and we prepared for a long cold night. Come the morning and our water bottles had not frozen so the night can't have been cold at all.

In the pre dawn torch light , we had a what the f is that moment . Some night sky phenomenon ? , a comet ? No , another bloody mass satellite launch.

We were on top quite early , with cloud building in the West and an eye watering , nose running type of breeze blowing. We looked down on Irishman Stream. A tributary of the Dobson Valley .Our view to the West was partially hidden by cloud , but we could still see a lot of wild , steep country.

A pair of Kea greeted us at the top and gave us a good display of their under wings . A great photo opportunity , but the camera and fingers were too cold so let the opportunity pass.

We beat a hasty retreat from the valley , but not for reasons of bad weather . Corin had a dinner date in Christchurch. We were grateful for the mountain bikes as the last few kms flew by and would have been a boring drag to walk.

A beautiful area of open spaces and ski touring potential.

Party Syd Woods, Steve McHaffie , Corin Miller , Geoff McCrostie and Andrew Steven



Paradise Valley 20 – 21 April

As its name would suggest , this is a beautiful wee valley that drains into the Hopkins . Andrew Steven , Steve McHaffie and Geoff McCrostie ventured in here for a look .

There is a large lump of rock at the head of the valley which did not appeal to us as an objective , so we scrambled up a handy ridge to get some views. We looked down into the North Huxley and looked across to Broderick Pass and Mount Strauchon . We could also see Mount Hooker over in the Landsborough. Mount Hooker is a large mountain.

I have had thoughts about accessing the Hunter Valley from the North Huxley , but from this view point , it doesn't seem a great idea.

There was birdlife in the bush , kea were heard and we had a fly past from a falcon . Only two deer seen and little sign of Thar.

This is a good handy place for a visit . We left Timaru around 9:30 in the morning and got to a good campsite above the bush before dark , with no rushing around . It helps that you can drive reasonably close to where you start , by ascending a long , bush clad ridge.





National News

Winter courses available now!

The registrations for the national winter courses are now open. Learn new skills or brush up on some that have been stagnating with our range of options - Backcountry Avalanche, Ice Climbing, Backcountry Ski, Glacier Ski and High Alpine Skills courses. There is even an ice climbing course just for the women! Check out the dates and options here: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/courses>

Upcoming Trips

<i>Trips</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Ben-Ohau Range: Depends on which valley and peak people are may be interested in climbing. Please let us know.	11 th -12 th May	Syd Woods
Any ideas?	...Well, let us know!	Committee

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