

## North Otago Section Newsletter



Photo: Mt Sutton

### SECTION NEWS

Next Quarterly Meeting -  
14th August 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.

### CLIMBING GUIDES

#### **New Alpine Guide for Tititea /Aspiring**

Have you got your copy of the new Aspiring Guide co-written by our own Nick Shearer? Follow the link below:

<https://alpineclub.org.nz/event/book-launch-tititea-aspiring-and-otago-alps>

#### **Dunedin Rock**

The new guide book for our favourite crags at Long Beach and Drs Point is still being developed. There is a request on Facebook (Between a Rock and a Hard Place (Dunedin) from Riley Smith for photos.

### WHO'S BEEN WHERE, DOING WHAT

#### **Elcho Hut Re-nailing**

Thirteen volunteers helped in this years' annual Elcho Hut work party. The trip up the Hopkins Valley to the hut was easy in fine weather and with low river levels.

The plan was to replace all the lead head nails on the hut exterior with steel screws, and also the ridge flashing which had lead edges. We managed to get all the work done before dark, including the nails on the loo. Some of the crew cut firewood and restocked the wood shed. We are grateful to the BCT who provided a grant towards the nail replacement, and to Dave Liddell from Placemakers who arranged the steel screws to be donated, and provided building expertise for the ridge flashing replacement.

The hut is in good condition and is well used by climbers, trampers, hunters and 4-wheel drivers. A summer work party will be required to repaint the hut, relocate the toilet, replace the fire bricks in the log burner, and replace the axe (stolen again!).



The team outside of the re-nailed hut

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The team using their climbing skills to remove and replace the nails

### Jon Bielby - Winter refresher at Awakino

Using the newly created NZAC North Otago Section WhatsApp group, plans were made to dust off the winter gear and head to Awakino for a day exploring the basin around the ski-field. Ian kindly drove and collected Meghan, Jon and Izzy for the drive to Kurow. and early on Sunday First snow of the season was as expected – post-holey and hard going in places up the gully from the lodge. Jon finding post-holes that everybody else managed to avoid thanks to extra weight and heavy footed ‘technique’ without walking poles.

Once up above the day lodge and ski area we looked for a spot for practicing self-arresting, but the snow cover wasn’t enough on the steeper areas we could see. The wind was also picking up and making it not as fun as it could be, so we sidled around to the tow-rope and prepared for a bum-slide down to the day lodge. Coffee and biscuits in the porch of the day lodge before more sliding and glissading down the gully until the snow ran out.

Reminded us what a great local resource we have there and hoping to go back for a winter weekend later in the season.



It took a while to go up the snow but a quick descent

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Nick Shearer – Overnight Biv on Mt Horrible



Glen Creek Reserve on the way up Mt Horrible, looking over the Haka Valley towards the Hunter Hills

### Ian Davison – The Pinnacle

The forecast was too good to miss, so I drove up on a Monday evening and parked the van near Lake Middleton. The next morning was glorious with no clouds or wind and some snow on the tops. Parking at the Glen Mary Ski Club, I headed up towards Sawyers Creek. Avoiding the forest at the entrance to the valley I went straight up the end of the ridge between Swayers and Parsons. Although steep this gave reasonably easy going across frozen ground the top of the ridge. The views opened up very quickly and were superb looking up Dobson Valley to Sefton and Aoraki.

It was pleasant walking along the ridge until near the junction with the ridge coming down from Mt Sutton. The last couple of hundred metres became more interesting with a short gnarly section and a short narrow gully onto the top. I was in snow with a good icy coating strong enough to bear my weight and giving a nice bite for the crampons, except for the gully which was thigh deep but stable.

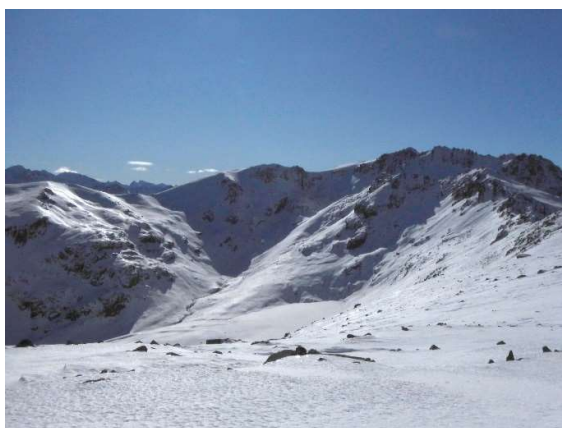
The views from the top of the ridge, marked as Pinnacle 1817m on the map, was superb with all the Divide being clear. Dumb-Bell lake below me was completely frozen. A short



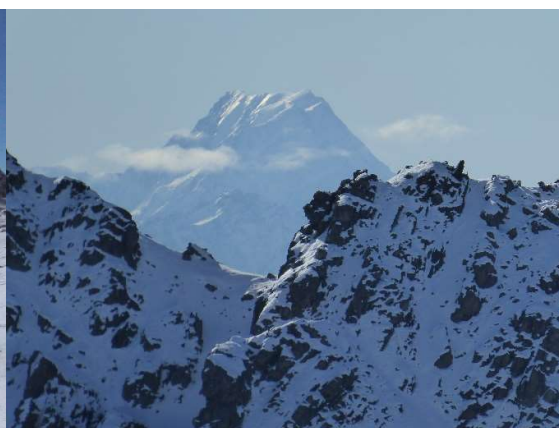
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walk along the main ridge led me to the top of Sawyers Creek where an easy descent on frozen snow and ground led me back down the valley to the tree line. There are a few occasional cairns marking a vague route around the north side of the forest towards the entrance/exit of the valley. Unfortunately, you end up having to go through the trees, which is hard going due to the amount of old wind-blown trees in the last half kilometre. Then back out into the sun again final views up Dobson to Aoraki.

A great day with no one else around.



Mt Sutton a frozen Dumb-bell lake



Aoraki from the Pinnacle



Looking down the ridge I came up



Views over Lake Ohau

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Mt Milne, Hakataramea



Early season snow dusting. Nick, Ian and Tearnach enjoyed a pleasant tramp up Mt Milne. The views from the top were excellent although a biting cold wind meant that we didn't tarry long on the top.

### 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:



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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.