

OTAGO CLIMBER

New Zealand Alpine Club - Otago Section Newsletter

August 2024

Section Night and AGM

Come and share some yarns, kai, and hear about this amazing trip!

In January 2023 Ruari Macfarlane and Gavin Lang - inspired by a footloose Dave Vass article from over twenty years earlier and informed by pioneering shorter traverses by Steve Skelton, Craig Jeffries, Gemma Wilson and Kyle Walter - set off from the Lake Marion carpark with no stove, no rope, two days food and the goal of reaching Martins Bay by sticking to along the crest of the Darran Mountains.



Luckily they weren't complete fools and had that kind of stuff (you know; ropes and whatnot) stashed further along.

Unfortunately, Gavin had to bow out after two days, just after the bounty was reached. Ruari continued, reaching Martins Bay on day 11, then on a whim returning via the Otago Alps, stumbling back to the car on day 19. Ironically, many people were instrumental to this sometimes lonely but special Darrans and Otago Alps Appreciation Loop.

A slideshow will be accompanied by excerpt readings (verbatim) of meandering notes chronicling the inner and outer journeys.

Yummy dinner and snack options are available, as well as a great selection of cold drinks!

**The Dish Cafe - Petridish, (Stafford St, Ōtepoti)
Wednesday 4th September 7-9pm.
Visit our facebook event for more details!**

[RSVP through this link to our Facebook event!](#)

We are always keen for fresh faces on the committee! Volunteering for the club is a great opportunity for engaging more with our rock, ice and mountain climbing community!



An excellent turn out to our August Meeting. Thanks to Ronnie Richards for sharing such an amazing tale of adventure! Ronnie even supported his talk with a slide projector - a first for some of the younger people!

SPANTIK EXPEDITION

Local Dunedin Climber, David Gwynne Jones will talk about a not-so-local expedition for our October meeting!



David Gwynne Jones will talk about a recent expedition to Spantik (7027m) in the Karakoram Himalaya, in Baltistan.

The famous Golden pillar on the NW face was first climbed in 1987 by Victor Saunders and George Fowler. The 8km long SE ridge is billed as the most straightforward 7000m peak in Pakistan and guided by a number of companies. It is approached by a 3 day walk along the Chogolungma glacier. The whole area is remote and undeveloped with few tourists, basic villages, hot temperatures, very dry valleys, huge glaciers and spectacular mountains.

Very different to Nepal, the trip was a fascinating adventure culturally, geographically and the challenges of expedition style high altitude mountaineering.

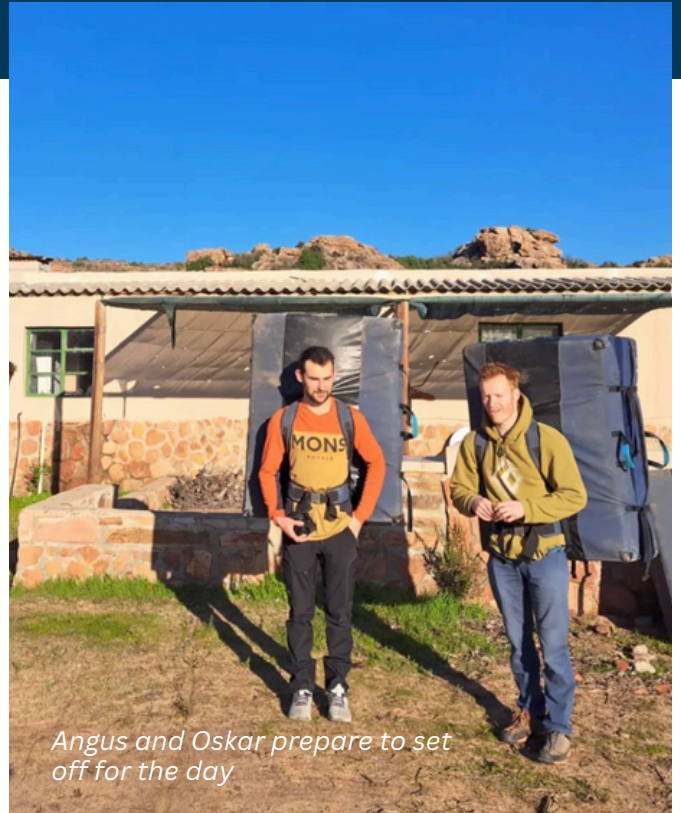
**The Dish Cafe - Petridish, (Stafford St, Ōtepoti)
Wednesday 2nd October, 7-9pm.
Facebook event to come.**

TRIP REPORT

Angus Kirk (co-owner of the Resistance Climbing Gym), Morgan Phillipson and Oskar Wolf recently embarked on a mission to world class bouldering destination, Rocklands, in South Africa.



Crag locals - Morgan and Angus encounter a troop of Baboons!



Angus and Oskar prepare to set off for the day

Rocklands, nestled in the Cederberg Mountains of South Africa, is a premier destination for climbing enthusiasts from around the globe. Renowned for its stunning natural beauty and exceptional rock formations, this bouldering haven offers a diverse range of challenges, from iconic sandstone boulders to technical problems that test both skill and endurance. The area's unique landscape provides a breathtaking backdrop for climbers, blending rugged terrain with picturesque views.

Oskar writes: “It was easily the most successful bouldering trip of my life. Having prepared for this trip for around half a year it felt pretty good to be able to execute when the time came. The focus of the trip was to try as many of the most classic double-digit [V graded] boulders the area has to offer - and the quality was not over-hyped. After just over 2 weeks of bouldering I had climbed 41 stellar V10-V13 boulder problems (plus some easier and just as stellar ones).

Feels really good to come back from a first trip having done so many good boulders and psyched to try some harder stuff when I return! Hopefully Covid stays away for that next trip though.”

You can follow Oskar on [Instagram](#) to stay updated!



El Corazon V13

“So psyched to climb this perfect line in just a session. 4th day on wasn't ideal but somehow made it work with the worst skin I've had. Well needed rest day today and then back into it tomorrow.”



Leap of Faith V11

“Fingers are a bit sore after this one, so some jumps between jugs tomorrow is well needed.”

Oskar is supported by:
Reignite Physio (Duncan Randall)
Southern Approach NZ
Black Diamond Equipment
& Scarpa Climb

Eve O'Brien also led a great club snowshoeing trip in the Kopuwai range. Members reported some exciting wintery conditions! Write up and images to come!

MOUNTAIN DREAMING

Peter Strang recently printed a second edition!



Words by Riley Smith

No sporting community is more closely attached to literature than climbers, who have been deeply connected with writing route observations, tales of misadventure, tragedy, and heroic expeditions since the inception of the sport. It seems that the age of digital technology threatens to snuff out this fire, and although new climbing literature is still being produced, much of it rests inside a screen which is often not the medium that it deserves.

MOUNTAIN DREAMING

Peter Strang recently printed a second edition!

I had met Peter Strang a number of times in previous years, but only got to know him properly after his talk to around 30 climbers at the Otago Section alpine club meeting in December, 2022. Pete, a retired veteran climber in his 80's, has spent a great deal of his life in high, cold and remote places as well as having a career in medicine. Pete has made notable ascents of many mountains within Aotearoa and also around the world, including an Antarctic expedition to Mt Herschel (3335m) with his friend and climbing partner Sir Edmand Hillary in 1967.

Throughout these many adventures, Pete documented his thoughts and feelings down in the form of poetry, which he read to us at the meeting. The poetry truly captured the room, and when he said "I think I will leave it there, I don't want anyone to fall asleep", everyone howled at him for more. It was immediately clear that Pete's writing had to be documented for a wider audience to enjoy, whether family, friends, climbers, or strangers. While working towards a bachelors degree in communication design at the time, I was psyched (and possibly naive) enough to approach him about the idea.



Please email me if you are interested in purchasing a copy, I'm not sure if there many available so get in quick:

rileychallis@gmail.com

RECENT FUNDING

After successful Banff seasons in both Duffers and Qtown, we've got a bit of money currently. Here is where some of the money has been sent so far:



Lovers Leap Rebolting Project:

A group of keen and experienced local climbers have nearly completed a full upgrade of the anchor ring bolts at Lovers Leap on the Otago Peninsula! A total of 33 anchor stations! The group, dubbed the “Lovers Leap Appreciation Society” (LLAS) have put in a serious amount of hours into this project, which will hopefully be completed over the coming weeks. We were stoked to donate the final \$260 required for the last lot of new hardware after Ben Mitchell [pictured above on the right] requested for funding.

Thank you Ben, and to the rest of LLAS for your hard work, the future of Dunedin climbing is in good hands! With the addition of Lovers Leap in the new guidebook, set to come out in the next few months, it looks like the leap may come back into the spotlight! Some of the volunteers are listed below:

Alec McCallum, Angus Kirk, Ben Mitchell, Conor Vaessen, Dani Nicolson, David Macdonald, David Sheppard, Emma de Lange, Eugene Yeo, Fran Che, Gabriel Rawcliffe, Hovey Dickson, James Benjamin, Jonathan Squire, Liam Pyott, Maddy Whittaker, Marnix Buonajuti, Matias Lotitto, Michael John Norman, Oskar Wolff, Owyn Aitken, Phoebe Kenderdine, Riley Smith, Robert Chow, Ruari Macfarlane, Sam Bosshard, Steve Carr, Stuart Duncan, Thomas Bauer, Tobin Armstrong, Tom Hadley

Gear Update!

We have purchased six new Black Diamond Recon X Transceivers to replace our aging Tracker Units. We have reduced the number avalanche kits in Dunedin from 8 to 6. We charge \$10 per day and they are available from Hunting and Fishing Dunedin. The new units are easy to use and here is a link to their operating instructions:



[<Link to Black Diamond Transceiver Manual>](#)

We have also replaced the straps on the older grey snowshoes. We now provided bungy cords to keep the sets together.



Members of the Snowcraft 1 clinic at the Remarkables Ice and Mixed Festival practicing avalanche rescue. Rs

We're still wondering if members have any ideas for spending some of it!



*Thomas
Bauer on
Maximum
Pseudo
Likelihood at
Lovers Leap
[photo by
Gabe
Rawcliffe]*

Please get in touch with one of the committee members with an outline of your idea and an estimate of the anticipated costs. Remember too, that we're happy to pay speakers to drive between Dunedin and the lakes region, so if you like the sound of one of the Dunedin speakers and want to see them closer to home, then let us know!

GEAR HIRE - DUNEDIN

PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons): The Otago Section has one PLB 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 \$10 per day for members and \$15 per day for non-members. **Avalanche equipment rental** is \$10 per day for members and \$20 per day for nonmembers. Members are welcome to collect the gear on Friday and return on Monday and two day's rental will apply.

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

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



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 pickup
\$100 bond required in
cash

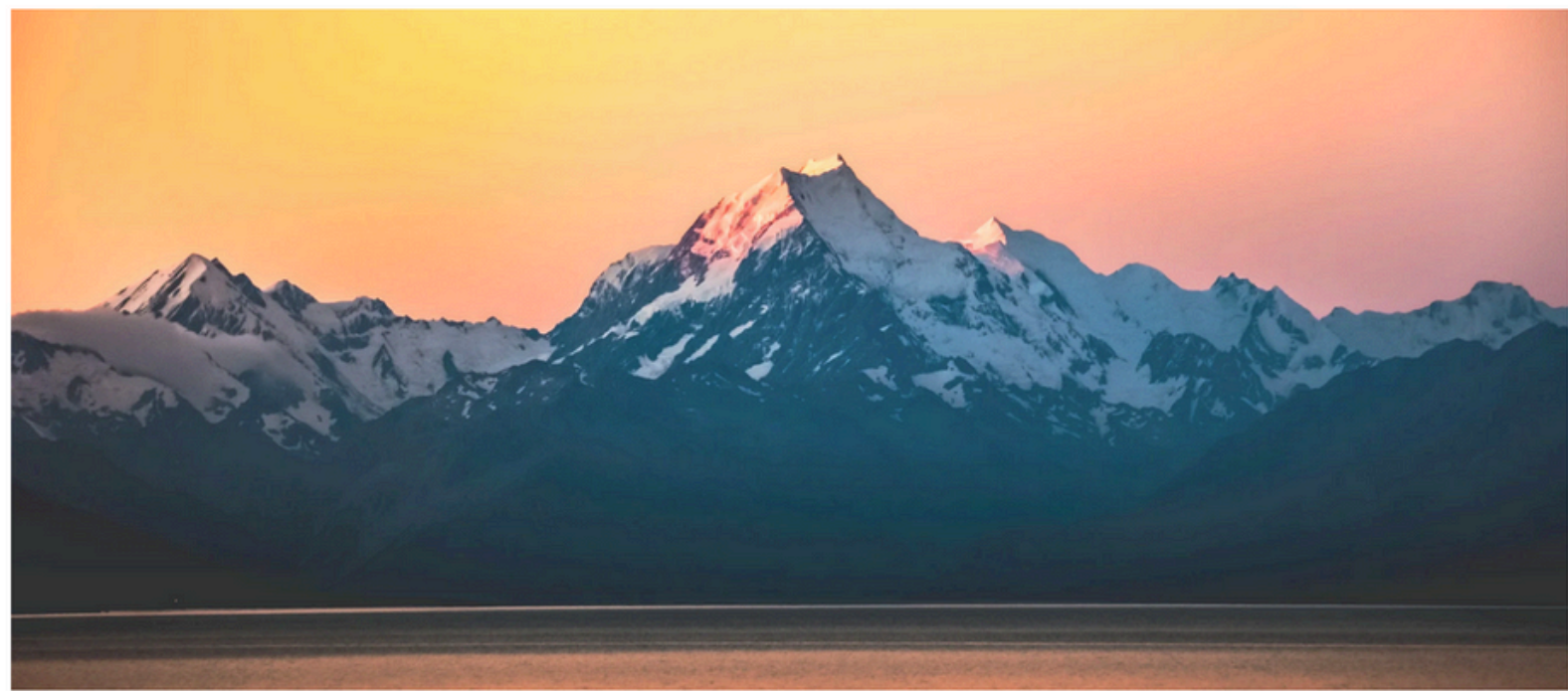
Gear pick up & drop off

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