

OTAGO CLIMBER

New Zealand Alpine Club - Otago Section Newsletter

March 2025

April Section Night Rob Frost on Transalpine Tramping

Wednesday, April 9 | 7:30pm | Matheson Room, Knox Church Dunedin



Rob Frost will give a wide-ranging talk that should appeal to anyone wishing to understand more about what "transalpine tramping" actually means, anyone who has ever reflected on different types of risk in the mountains (and attitudes towards risk), anyone who wants to know how to find a safe climbing partner, or anyone who wants the latest beta on a newly discovered route to the Volta Glacier! These topics will be woven together through anecdotes from some of Rob's recent (and not so recent) mountain experiences.

Important: For the rest of the year our meetings will be held in the Matheson Room at Knox Church, Dunedin (between George Street and Pitt Street). The venue is located behind the church. Please note that parking is not available on the church grounds, so drivers will need to find nearby street parking.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MT SHRIMPTON: APRIL 12-13



An ascent of Mt Shrimpton from Makarora. Saturday morning head up the Mt Shrimpton track, and make way to the tarns at around 1700m to set up camp. Sunday morning, an attempt to the summit of Mt Shrimpton, before heading back down to the car.

Reasonable fitness is required, as we will be climbing >1400m elevation on Saturday.

An alternative route, depending on group size and wishes, is to head up from Cameron Flat along the Cameron track, then aim for the ridge and find a nice camp spot. Next day follow the ridge to Mt Shrimpton, and drop down to the Shrimpton track. This would make for 2 slightly longer and harder days.

Trip organizers: Jildou van der Werf

Sign up [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS



📍 [Rialto Cinemas](#), 11 Moray Place, Dunedin

📅 Wednesday 2 April 2025 7:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

BANFF CENTRE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL - DUNEDIN



The Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival is one of the world's leading mountain festivals, showcasing adventure, exploration, cultural and environmental stories. In New Zealand, the World Tour presents a curated selection of the best films from the festival. Enjoy over two hours of thought-provoking films from the world's top mountain filmmakers.

Join us in mid-May for the screening of two exciting programmes from one of the largest and most prestigious mountain festivals in the world, right here in Dunedin.

Dates and Programme

- Wednesday 14th May, 7pm - [Ruapehu Programme](#)
- Tuesday 20th May, 7pm - [Tasman Programme](#)

Location:

St David Complex- Otago University, Saint David Street, Dunedin North

Ticket Information

- General Admission: \$25.00 each
- NZAC members / Student / Under 18yrs / Cold Card Holders : \$18.00 each

Be sure to purchase your tickets online [here](#), as events tend to sell out quickly.

The St. David Café at the venue offers a selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, along with snacks, available for purchase before and during the screening.

TRIP REPORT

SEBASTOPOL SOJOURN

Otago Anniversary and the annual trip to Sebastopol Bluffs. Thank you to Eve O'Brien for organising and leading the trip. We had a group from Central Otago and a small group from Dunedin descend on Unwin hut for the long weekend. The non workers of the group arrived early on Friday and ascended Red Arete thankfully negating the need for an after dark ascent. Thank you Graham and Lyn.



Lyn on Red Arete - Red Wall



Mae on Red Arete - Red Wall

Saturday saw the groups split. Rob, Graham and John heading to Orange Wall and Eve, Mae and Alex going off to Red Wall while Lyn went for a walk up to Sealy Tarns.

The ascent to get to the bottom of Orange Wall is steep and has sections of fixed rope. There is also some loose rock in the gully, especially near the top so caution is advised. The walk in is countered by the climbing at Orange Wall being generally very good. Rob, Graham and John all led Freshly Squeezed (17) before Rob ventured onto Bitter Sweet (19) which Graham and John seconded. Rob was then psyched to try Orange Man (21) on the centre right of the wall. Good climbing on solid rock led to a pull through an overhang after which the rock quality deteriorated as did the climbing. On being lowered Rob found out that the route description length of the route at 30 metres was a good 10m out! A little inventiveness later and Rob was lowered to the ground while John was boosted up the climb. This did necessitate a lower then an abseil off a bolt on the descent.

Eve, Mae and Alex went off to Red Wall for ascents of Red Arete and Shark Attack (first pitch). Everyone met up again at Unwin Lodge for a very pleasant potluck dinner.

Sunday had a bit of rain in the forecast however we still got out for a climb – mostly easily accessed climbs at Twin Cracks and the Crucifix areas. Twin crack (17) was a popular trad route and the mixed route Balls (19) to the left also proved popular. Eve did some trad route with a crux off the ground that Graham helped her with. Doesn't have a name and best left that way.

The afternoon was spent inside enjoying a bit of down time although Eve went for a run and Lyn went to Red Tarns to flesh out their day. A BBQ dinner was had in the evening. Once again too much food – lucky John had not read the instructions about the BBQ or else he would have compounded the problem.

Leaving day saw a lot of cleaning going on while we waited for the sun to come out. Which it eventually did. The parties were split again with Rob and John going to Kingfisher Wall and Eve, Alex, Mae, Graham and Lyn heading to Red Wall. Rob did all the leading so John could enjoy a bit of cruisy seconding. Rob led Old Soldiers Never Die, Conservation Crack (trad) and the Clean Hands. Eve, Alex, Mae, Graham and Lyn headed to Red Wall again and did a variety of routes such as Bush Walking, Something Fishy, Mako and Shark Attack. Everyone then headed back to Unwin Hut for a late lunch before heading home.

Thanks to everyone that came along. Mostly a Central Otago outing this time.

Unwin is a great place to hang out and enjoy the ambience, go climbing or do a bit of walking, never mind climbing the local nearby hills.

John Goulstone



Graham on Balls -
Twin Cracks area



Rob on Bitter Sweet - Orange
Wall



Graham on Freshly
Squeezed - Orange Wall

MARCH SECTION MEETING RECAP: SOUTHERN FACES GUIDEBOOK LAUNCH



On the 5th of March, Riley Smith launched the new Ōtepoti Dunedin climbing guidebook, *Southern Faces*. Over 200 people came to the launch event at the Otago Polytech Hub (also where the book was created!). More than just celebrating the book's completion, the launch was about celebrating the community.

Even better, the event raised funds for Dunedin's Halo Project. Climbing topo posters and stickers made specifically for the launch were sold, with all proceeds going to the Halo Project—thanks to the generous support of [Wildlab.org.nz](https://wildlab.org.nz), who covered the printing costs. Around \$1,500 was raised!

It was amazing to see climbers come together like this—it hadn't really happened in a long time. Alongside book sales and the Halo fundraiser, Maeve Handley, a local painter and art school student, exhibited and sold beautiful landscape paintings of Dunedin's crags and climbing areas. She nearly sold out of her originals and also sold a stack of digital prints—so awesome!

Since then, it's been a whirlwind of restocking retailers and shipping copies around the motu for Riley.

Thanks to all who came along and supported the project over the past couple of years. You can purchase the guidebook through the following link:

<https://wildlabaotearoa.myshopify.com/>

WANTED: PROJECTOR & SCREEN

We are on the lookout for a second-hand projector and projector screen to use for our section meetings, with a budget of \$500. If you have one gathering dust at home or know someone who is retiring or selling their equipment, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch at otago.climber@gmail.com.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED - ORGANISING BANFF IN QUEENSTOWN

The Central Otago Section is looking for volunteers who might be able to help out with the screening of the BMFF in Queenstown, in particular with some marketing/promo/socials prior to the event. They are also looking for a few helpers on the day & nights too. If you are able to help out, please contact Nigel Llyod on nigel@hadleys.co.nz

WANTED – PERSON WITH 4WD TO ASSIST WITH INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS AT CASCADE HUT IN THE MATUKITUKI VALLEY

We are installing a solar panel and lights at Cascade Hut sometime late April early May. We need a person with a 4WD to transport people and equipment from the road end and is prepared to stay a night at Cascade Hut.

It would be great if someone in Wanaka or elsewhere could help with this.

Contact Keith Moffat at Moffat.k172@gmail.com or call on 0276644037

FREE TO A GOOD HOME - OLD ALPINE CLUB JOURNALS



1948 to 1963, 1935, 1937, 1940
and reprint of 1892 - 1894

Contact Keith Moffat at
Moffat.k172@gmail.com or
call on 0276644037

NEW BOOK RELEASE FROM LEANING LODGE TRUST

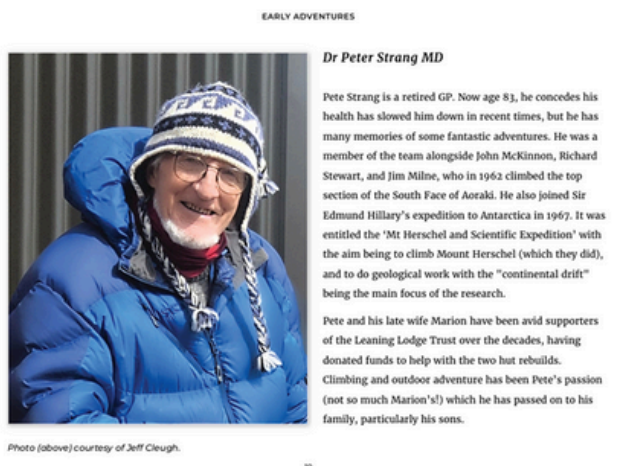
The Leaning Lodge Trust is thrilled to announce the upcoming release of a new book about the iconic Leaning Lodge. This publication spans 70 A4 pages and each chapter has interviews with people who have been involved with the Leaning Lodge in one way or another, including a contribution from Pete Strang, and photos. The contents page, the cover page, and a page with photos taken during the OSC era are below.

If you would like to get your hands on a copy of this book, you can contact John Cocks, the Chair of the Leaning Lodge Trust, at john@johncocks.co.nz. The cost is expected to be \$40 per copy.



Contents

- 5. Foreword
- 6. Preface
- 11. Chapter One - Early Adventures
- 24. Chapter Two - Ecological Discoveries
- 38. Chapter Three - Current Day Activities
- 48. Chapter Four - Farming the Rock and Pillars
- 53. Chapter Five - The Rebuild
- 70. Acknowledgements



GET INVOLVED JOIN OUR COMMITTEE!

Are you passionate about the outdoors and looking for a way to contribute to our club? We are looking for new volunteers to join our committee! The commitment is minimal (just one Zoom meeting per month on a Wednesday night) and you don't need to be based in Dunedin to get involved.

Other Ways to Get Involved

Not keen on joining the committee but still want to contribute? We are always looking for people to help organise:

- [Club trips](#): Plan and lead adventures for fellow members
- [Tuesday social climbing nights](#): Help coordinate the social climbing sessions.
- [Help organising lead climbing courses](#) - currently high demand for more courses!

If you're interested, reach out via email or speak to one of our committee members at a meeting.

We can find a role that suits your interests and availability. It is up to you to decide how much time you would like to commit!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

INTRODUCING THE COMMITTEE

Susi, originally from Germany, moved to New Zealand in 2018 to pursue a PhD. Shortly after arriving she joined the New Zealand Alpine Club, where she was introduced to tramping, mountaineering and rock climbing through various skill courses and social events. She is now working as a Teaching Fellow in Physics at Otago University. Susi is passionate about rock climbing and exploring the outdoors with her family—husband Leo and baby Tobi. Susi edits the monthly Otago Section NZAC newsletter.

Each month we will introduce one of our lovely committee members so you can get to know the faces behind the team.



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.

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.

The following books are available:

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 - QUEENSTOWN, WANAKA

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 is 2 days
- When hiring the avalanche set (transceiver, shovel, probe), please supply your own 1xAA 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, message conzac@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 the non-member prices.

PLEASE NOTE:

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

GEAR AVAILABLE

Avalanche set:
transceiver, shovel, probe
Walking ice axes
crampons
helmets

Member 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 pick-up
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

Riley Smith (chairperson) |
Rileychallis@gmail.com
Keith Moffat | Moffat.k172@gmail.com
Eve O'Brien | eve.j.obrien@gmail.com
Juliet Meldrum | jmeldrum@doctors.org.uk
Heather Rhodes | heathermayrhodes@gmail.com
John Goulstone | johngoul200@gmail.com
Simon Noble | simonoble@icloud.com
Susanne Otto | susi92otto@gmail.com

Section Contact Information

C/o 172 Gladstone Road, Dalmore, Dunedin 9016

Email: otago.climber@gmail.com
Web: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/region/otago>
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 (currently via zoom).

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