

OTAGO CLIMBER

New Zealand Alpine Club - Otago Section Newsletter

June 2026

Dunedin Section Evening

Guest Speaker: Owyn Aitken



**WEDNESDAY
JULY 1ST**



**MATHESON ROOM, KNOX
CHURCH DUNEDIN**



7:30 PM



Cochamó is a remote valley in Chile surrounded by fantastic granite big walls and multipitch rock climbs. Owyn will share some stories from a month spent there with six other kiwis back in January 2026. He'll also chat about some tips for planning a trip to what he believes is one of the more accessible "expedition-style" destinations.

BETA OVER BEERS - WĀNAKA



**SECOND WEDNESDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**



**GROUND UP
BREWERY, WĀNAKA**



7:00 PM

NEXT EVENT: WEDNESDAY JULY 8TH

Wānaka based mountain goers, looking for a chance to meet new adventure buddies and enjoy a great evening? Join us every month for **Beta Over Beers!** It's the perfect chance to meet some new people and, swap stories from your mountain adventures. Most months, we also have a guest speaker come along to share stories or advice, and get us inspired for the month ahead!

This event is run through NZAC, and everyone is welcome, whether you're a member or not, so come along, we'd love to see you there!



*We are always looking for new speakers. If you or anyone you know wants to come along as a guest speaker, please email Danielle:
danielleorrcummings@gmail.com*

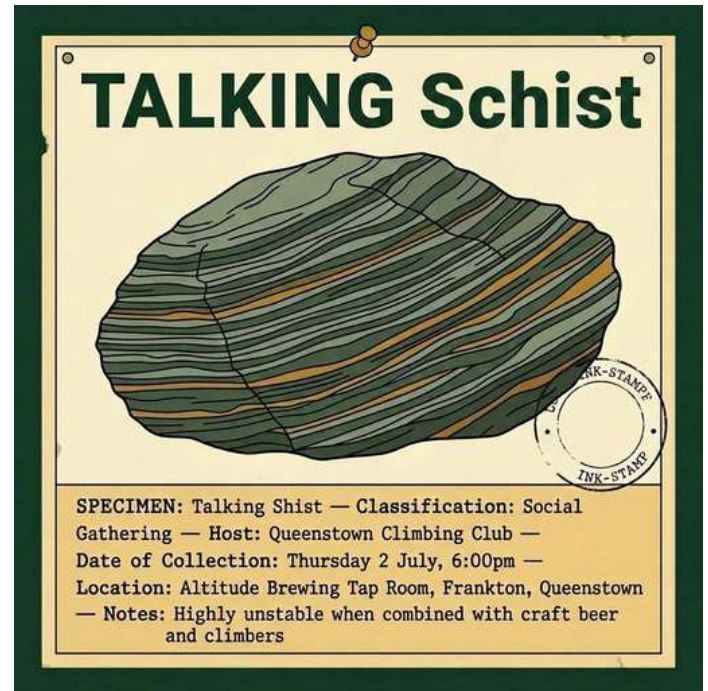
**Snacks and giveaways
provided by our partners:**



QUEENSTOWN CLIMBING CLUB - TALKING SCHIST

The Queenstown Climbing Club are running a social event at Altitude Brewing on July 2nd 6:00pm. Come along to talk schist between like minded climbers, mountaineers, ski tourers, snow kitters ...you name it!!

More details can be found on the Facebook event [HERE](#)



NZ CLIMBER MAGAZINES FOR SALE

NZ Climber magazines free to a good home

Most issues of NZAC quarterly mag from Summer 1997 (#22) to Autumn 2020 (#111)

Photos and history galore



Contact:

Nigel Perry: tnperrynz@gmail.com 021 1488535



NEW ZEALAND
ALPINE CLUB

JULY 10TH - 12TH

MATARIKI WORKING BEE AT ASPIRING HUT WITH THE OTAGO SECTION OF NZAC!



ASPIRING HUT



CASCADE HUT

Roll up your sleeves and give back to the huts we love!

- Weekend working bee in the West Matukituki Valley
- Light building work, cleaning & general maintenance at Aspiring and Cascade Huts
- Potluck dinner on Saturday to celebrate Matariki
- A chance to connect with club members and make a lasting impression on the huts that serve so many adventurers!

SIGN UP NOW!

HEAD TO [OSONZAC.ORG.NZ](https://osonzac.org.nz) OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

Please note that only those who have completed the registration form on the OSONZAC website will be considered for this trip.

Questions? Email eve.j.obrien@gmail.com



A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora climbers

Hope you're all having a good winter - feels like it has just got started in Dunners. There's loads going on at the moment, with sold-out snowcraft courses, Resistance hosting the National Indoor Bouldering Series this weekend (in its new premises), climbers getting together in the mountain towns and a working bee-cum-Matariki trip coming up at Aspiring and Cascade huts. The Banff online programme - Tūtoko - will be available for most of July and there's the NZ Mountain Film and Book Festival (Wānaka, Q'town and online).

Right now I think we should all be concerned about the Government's proposed amendment of the Conservation Act. Yes, it is 39 years old but then the very point of the conservation estate is that it is meant to last in perpetuity. It is held aside from development and effectively not a place where private enterprise is permitted - a bit of tourism yes, but certainly not mass tourism, or consumptive or transformative activities like mining or dairying.

The legislation that establishes our public conservation areas has always had the protection of them as its primary purpose, both for their own merit and so that people might take from them the only things you can take without modifying them: joy, inspiration and wellness. The Government now proposes changing the law so that, among other things:

- The main purposes of DOC would "recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other...resources managed by the Department, and to enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable..." This is a completely new concept and "the greatest extent possible" will put huge pressure on DOC to permit activities that are currently barely imaginable.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

- *Public consultation is reduced with more decision making shifting into the hands of ministers. The processes in place currently are slow and dense but they give a voice to the public and to nature that will be lost.*
- *For as much as 60% of the estate, some form of disposal (sale, exchange or leasing for grazing) becomes easier...and much more likely given the (above) addition of an economic purpose to DOC's mandate.*

I urge you to make a submission on this law change. It's pretty easy ([click here](#)) and you don't have to say much - you can simply say you're opposed. Some links are included below to give you some idea of what is proposed and the arguments against it.

Have a nice month - enjoy the long shadows and long nights, and good times in nature.

*Simon,
Section Chairman*

From Federated Mountain Club, From your club, From Forest and Bird



"Economic activity "to the greatest extent practicable"

It would be wrong to suggest the Government actually intends to flick off 60% of the Conservation Estate and these maps are arguably a bit alarming, but...



UPDATE ON 2026 WINTER SNOWCRAFT COURSES

**Thank you to everyone who has signed up to join us for a
Snowcraft course this winter!**

Applications are now closed. If you missed the registration cut off, please email us at **otago.climber@gmail.com** to add your name to the waitlist!



BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSES

For experienced trampers and those with a passion for the outdoors who are looking to gain additional skills to travel safely in alpine terrain where snow and ice is often encountered.

Course BSC1: Sat-Sun 25-26 July

(Pre-Course Theory Evening – Thursday 23 July, Qtn)

Course BSC2: Tues-Wed 28-29 July

(shared Pre-Course Theory Evening - Thursday 23 July, Qtn)

\$325 per person.

WAITLIST NOW OPEN!

Email the section to join the waitlist: **otago.climber@gmail.com**

2026 WINTER SNOWCRAFT COURSES



INTERMEDIATE SNOWCRAFT COURSES

For those who have completed an NZAC Basic Snowcraft course or similar, have had personal experience on Alpine grade 1 and 1+ mountains, and are looking to go into steeper terrain, where they need to learn snow anchoring and travelling techniques.

Course ISC1: Sat-Sun 8-9 August

(Pre-course theory evening – Thurs, 6th Aug, Qtn)

Course ISC2: Tues-Wed 11-12 August

(shared pre-course theory evening - Thurs 6th Aug, Qtn)

\$425 per person. *max 4 people, minimum 3 people, per course.*

WAITLIST NOW OPEN!

Email the section to join the waitlist: **otago.climber@gmail.com**

GEAR HIRE - QUEENSTOWN & WĀNAKA

GEAR HIRE CONDITIONS

- To hire gear and organise pick up & drop off, fill in the form [here](#).
- You must then email Chris (Wānaka) 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 otago.climber@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 at
bawood13@gmail.com

Wānaka contact

Email Danielle at
danielleorrcummings@gmail.com

SNOWSHOE HIRE - ALEXANDRA

Snowshoes

We have four pairs of snowshoes available for rent in Alexandra. Snowshoe rental is \$5 per day for members and \$10 per day for non-members. If you are interested, please contact Eve O'Brien by email at eve.j.obrien@gmail.com.

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 John Goulstone to arrange to collect. johnngoul200@gmail.com



Avalanche Equipment & 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. If you have any issues with rental gear please contact the section directly, as the Hunting and Fishing team are doing us a favour by running the rentals; please don't hassle the staff!!

Guidebooks

We have a small selection available in Dunedin for members to borrow. Contact the section (otago.climber@gmail.com) 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

Wānaka Rock, 7th ed., 2014

WANT TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE?

If you're interested in joining the committee, please get in touch and tell us a bit about yourself and why you're keen to be a member. We meet monthly on Zoom, typically on the third Wednesday of the month. Regular attendance is necessary.

Email: otago.climber@gmail.com



Photo by Michael Beckmann

CONTACT INFORMATION



Section Contact Information

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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

NZAC DISCOUNTS

NZAC members get up to 50% off selected shops & activities

Click [here](#) for more details

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