



Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club
P.O. BOX 1120 DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

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OFFICE BEARERS

1984 - 85



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<u>Secretary</u>	Ross Cocker	45-995
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<u>Hon. Solicitor</u>	John Hamel	774-101

Dear Folks

Welcome to 1985. I can authoritatively say (reliably informed by Huey) that it's going to be a great year. Firstly, this is the NEW LOOK BULLETIN with the 'no hassle' printing process. Please let your Committee members know what you think of it - in terms of format, clarity, typing and printing.

From now on, contribution deadline is on the LAST THURSDAY of each month. Post to Miriam, 42 Signal Hill Road, or see myself or Don Greer at the Club. The Bulletin goes for printing the following first Tuesday of the month, and the bulletin workparty is on the SECOND THURSDAY of each month at 6.30 p.m. at the Clubrooms - got all that?

deadline for articles - last Thursday of the month

printing - first Tuesday of the month

bulletin workparty - second Thursday of the month

at 6.30 p.m., Clubrooms. (It takes about an hour and is guaranteed good company, freebies, riotous entertainment, mystery prizes and a chance to meet your dream partner! See you there)

So your bulletin will now regularly arrive in the middle of each month folks.

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O.T.M.C. TRIP PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY

10	Club Picnic Pipikaretu Beach	Jan Hudson	877-163
17	Taieri Mouth (Family Group)	Lyall Campbell	710-545
17	Silver Stream (E)	Rodger James	878-366
16-17	Bushcraft I Tirohanga	Bushcraft Directors	
24	Silverpeaks (E-M)	Joan Schoon	45-772
23-24	Bushcraft 11 Silverpeaks	David Barnes	738-223

MARCH

3	Rocky Ridge, ABC)		
	Jubilee, Green) (F-FE)	Doug Forrester	876-416
2- 3	Wangaloa (Family Group)	Marie McDonald	63-101
	Kaitangata Camp Out		
2- 3	Joint Clubs Wanaka Area	Paul Olsen	738-223
		David Barnes	
10	Maungatua (E-M)	Martin Connell	54-374
9-10	Bushcraft 111 Ohau	Spencer Walker	772-011
17	Silverpeaks (Family Group)	Bob Stables	(89) 5317
17	Swampy Track (E)	Heather Spence	738-306

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EASTER TRIP: This is to STEWART ISLAND. With the price rise of the return ferry fare to \$64.00, there have been comments that this trip may be too expensive.

A 20 minute return air flight from Invercargill costs \$81.00 return - \$75.50, if in a group of five. Think about it, and comment please.

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SOCIAL PROGRAMME: This is being taken over by Jan Hudson, who will shortly have a list out of Thursday night activities. Sounds like there are some good schemes afoot.

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FELICITY FERRET'S LETTERS & COMMENT COLUMN:

Dear Ed (responding to last Dec's Bulletin letter)

Much as I hate to be a 'wet blanket', the idea of the Club having a bar would be a disaster, for these reasons:

- legal snags (contrary to popular belief, the ticket system is illegal).
- some poor sod would end up cleaning up after the last of the late night revellers.
- there would be technical difficulties in supplying draught Speights.

Yours in inebriation

David J Barnes

Ed's comment - "Pity"

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It's goodbye to SUE DUDUNSKI, who is off to Palmerston North. Also to ANDREW POWELL who is off to see the world, and ALISTER METHERELL who is away for three months in Nepal. Happy travels to all of you.

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OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUP REPORT

SILVERPEAKS: The group wants to take several major initiatives to push the Reserve proposals, which are in the pipeline this year. Firstly, we want to organise a clubnight on 28 February, aimed to educate members about the reserve proposals, and to promote discussion, and assist the Committee to arrive at a policy. (See social programme for further details.)

OLDFODOR RECREATION GROUP REPORT (Cont)

GREENSTONE ROAD: A submission will be made to the Lakes County Council indicating that the Club is not in favour of any of their options for roads between Queenstown and Milford Sound.

HOOKER - LANDSBOROUGH: The Management Plan for this area is to be discussed at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY 27 FEBRUARY, at BRUCE MASON'S place - 9 Chapman Street, Wakari. Meetings are open to all Club members, and others by arrangement with the convenor.

Ross Davies - Convenor
25/1/85

Phone: 728-723

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FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUB NEWS

Bruce Mason is to now be employed full time by F.M.C. to undertake Pastoral Lease Research. Previously, Bruce had been doing this on a part-time grant.

Upgrading of Walkways. There has been an upgrading of Walkways so that they can be serviced by vehicles. Lands and Survey have developed a Walkway on Flagstaff to walk standard, then passed it over to the City Council who maintain the Walkway with machinery. Bruce Mason raised concern that this is a New Zealand-wide trend. Dunedin clubs are meeting the Dunedin City Council on this issue shortly. Bruce is to draft a letter to the Walkway Commission. An article is to be prepared for the F.M.C. Bulletin, outlining wider implications of these measures.

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BALCLUTHA GROUP

A meeting of the newly formed Balclutha group, held on the evening of 22 January, was attended by some 23 people, plus five from the O.T.M.C. - Jenny Greene, Kathy Woodrow, Mike Floate, Ross Cocker and Don Greer. The meeting decided on full financial membership of the O.T.M.C. for each of the individual members, whilst at the same time retaining the autonomy of a distinct Balclutha Tramping Group.

It is planned to hold monthly meetings (3rd Monday) and attend, from time to time, the O.T.M.C. Thursday night meetings. Also to send a representative through to O.T.M.C. Committee meetings and appoint a liason person for weekend trip arrangements, etc.

We of the O.T.M.C. are delighted to welcome you to the Club; you are assured of a warm greeting on Thursday nights and we look forward to tramping with you all.

Welcome and regards,

Don Greer

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BALCLUTHA TRAMPING CLUB writes ...

Dear Editor

The Balclutha Club held its second meeting on 22 January 1985. Around 25 people attended. So far, about 70 people have showed an interest in the Club, so there is a great interest around this area.

We decided at the meeting to become a sub-branch of the O.T.M.C. However, there are some who want us to organise some weekends away just as our own group, so that we can get to know one another. Your newly elected Committee are looking at this idea, and hope to have something by the next meeting - which, DON'T FORGET, is on the 18 FEBRUARY 1985, at 7.30 p.m. Watch the paper for the place!

Two weekends before Christmas we set off on our first weekend tramp at Tautukua. About 27 people attended and the weather was kind to us, except for our barbecue tea. Either we are fitter than we thought, or the all-day tramp on Saturday wasn't too hard, as we all enjoyed a vigorous game of soccer along the beach in the evening. Special thanks to Mark Crawford and Marna Dunn for acting as guides, however, some members felt that Mark should be recommended for Bushcraft!!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the O.T.M.C. for their support in forming the Club, and to the people who have travelled down to Balclutha for our meetings. Your talks have been very informative, and are greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you again at our next meeting, and likewise, we will be sending members from Balclutha to your meetings.

Now a note for inspiration to our Club. At our last meeting, you were a bit slack at coming forward with ideas. Please remember that this is a new Club, so you have to put in what you want out of it. You have a Committee eager to begin, so please bring your ideas to the next meeting. At our next meeting we should, hopefully, be able to show you everything you need to take in a pack for a tramp. So don't forget to come and bring along a friend.

Final note to those who have the O.T.M.C. Trip Programmes - if there are any tramps you would like to do in February, phone Stuart Edens (82-501) for information.

See you all on 18 FEBRUARY.

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LINDA WELSH, who is from the North Island, and is staying in Balclutha until the end of February, would like to go on a moderate grade tramp into Fiordland before she heads North again.

Anyone interested in forming a party, contact Linda at Balclutha - Phone 82-765.

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TRIP REPORTS

FALLS CREEK A BIT : 18 - 20 January

When we started out from the Marion Corner picnic shelter at 7.00 a.m. on Saturday morning, it wasn't actually raining. This was to be a rare occurrence. We went up Falls Creek a bit, by which stage it was raining, and so we turned around and walked down Falls Creek. It looked quite a nice spot really. More of a Falls River, if you ask me! We walked down the Hollyford Road a bit, and up the Pass Creek Track to Howden Hut. The Pass Creek Track is a lovely, steady climb, and the mosses do look nice in the rain. Howden Hut is quite the thing for a wet Saturday afternoon, and so we passed the time stoking the fire and keeping it warm.

Sunday was still wet, so we stoked the fire some more. John and Trevor went for a dash to Earland Falls for a shower and still the rain fell. It actually stopped at about 2.00 p.m., so we had a dry trip out to the road, just in time before the rain started again. Oh well

Ross Davies, for Gaye Davies, Trevor Payton and John Digham.

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BARRON SADDLE

From Muellor Hut we wandered over snow and down scree to the old Muellor Hut site. Old rusty bed wires, bits of stoves and old pots are scattered about, with some relics hidden under rocks, which makes this area something of a historic site. We pick our way down the marine wall and over glacial moraine to the medial moraine, which gives good going. Slowly the weather intensifies, and we stop at regular intervals to pull on more clothing. At the point where we rope up, the wind drops, giving us a welcome break. I lead on up, keeping a wary eye on the slots and tell-tale depressions in the snow. Finally we can dispense with the rope and can sidle off towards the hut. After battling through the strong wind, it is nice to see our goal in front of us. Steve surges ahead and makes it in time to hear the forecast.

Three o'clock in the afternoon - a small niche among rocks provides shelter for our lunch stop. We have trudged the Sladden Glacier and climbed up a slope of sugary snow. It is time to step out now. A belay around a block, and Steve moves up the broken rock to a tricky bit, surmounted with some struggling (and adrenalin!!). Steve brings me up, and we are there. The summit of Sealy has some rocks and a flattish snow ridge, with a broader platform and cairn slightly to the east. In short, everything you could want in a summit. The view is extensive - Mounts Hopkins, McKerrow and the Black Tower to the southwest, and Lakes Ohau and Pukaki to the south. Northwards, Mount Cook dominates all, with Mount Hicks its offside and Perouse standing prominent. It is difficult to describe the view - take a trip there and view it for yourself!!

We struggle into the hut at 9.00 p.m., exhausted, and are plied with tea from two Park staff. Thirty minutes later the storm hits.

The hut has been battered by rain, wind, hail and snow for three days; today we must walk out. We had tried yesterday, but stinging hail and winds strong enough to blow the rope out in a wide arc from person to person, and nearly blow us over, drove all four of us back.

BARRON SADDLE (Cont)

Barron Saddle can be a bleak place; we looked at the Three Johns' hut site and were amazed at its exposed position. It was only five metres from a huge gully leading into the Dobson. One could only ponder the plight of the poor souls on that fateful night the hut was blown away. With these thoughts, Steve and I began our journey through the new snow.

For Steve, Jon and Mike, who really made it good.

The President
Armchair Climbers' Club

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McKENZIE'S HUT DAY TRIP : 9 December

There was an easterly drizzle as six of us left the Clubrooms at 9.00 a.m., and it was no better when we picked up two others at Outram, together with four small sacks of coal and two of cones for the hut. These went on the back of John's Landrover. But above West Taieri, the cloud lifted and stayed high for the rest of the day, with a few brief glimpses of sun. Peter's car took four of us to Ivan Keast's house on Rocklands Station to tell them what we were doing, and then on to the Sutton Stream where we waited a few minutes for the Landrover. Then it was up on to the end of the Rock and Pillars and around the back where most of us had our first view of the lake formed by damming the Great Moss Swamp at its exit on the Loganburn.

At Howell's Hut, the ford on McHardies Creek has been well remade and was easy for both vehicles to cross, so we took them to the second fence past there. While six of us set off up the ridge, expecting to take an hour to the hut, John and Isobel took the Landrover along the road and up the track past McPhee's Rock, planning to come down the ridge above the hut. In fact we took only 35 minutes to the hut - the tussock was low after a recent burn - and so had time to go up the ridge to meet the Landrover and help lift the second fence for them to come over and get right to the hut door.

The hut book shows it is so little used that we reckon the fuel there now, should last 100 years!! After eating our lunch round a corner out of the breeze and resting for a while, we separated into two parties. Four in the Landrover retraced their track to put up the two fences and go home via the Styx and Ranfurly, while we other four walked down to the car. A rock with a long nose pointing east on a ridge between the hut and the road, visible from both, is a good landmark to guide folk to the hut which is not visible till you get quite near. It's a neat stone hut, quite weatherproof, with three good bunks and a small stove.

Peter Egan; George and Rosemary Goodyear; Isobel Smith;
Jim, John, Christopher and Ian Sime.

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HOLLYFORD WEEKEND : 19 - 21 January

The forecast was for a southerly change and clearing weather, but it never happened. As soon as we started from the Divide Shelter on Saturday morning, the clouds came down and the rain started. We called briefly at Howden Hut, then headed past Lake Howden, across the head of the Greenstone Valley above Lake McKellar, and up the valley wall into the head of the Caples. Poles marked the way across the open saddle. The infant Caples roared down beside us as we made our way through the scrub and down into the bush. Crossing the Caples was no trouble, and we were at the Upper Caples Hut before 2.00 p.m. After lunch, in light rain, I walked up Kay Creek (opposite the hut over a bridge) for two hours to the Forks, probably quite near to the four o'clock hut, but the crossing to it wasn't on.

Back at the hut we shared the 20 bunks with four others - three of them from the Wakatipu Tramping Club.

In the morning, after all night rain, we headed back upstream, realising all water would be high. A pole crossing of the Caples was necessary, but quite safe. We lunched at Howden where we met members of one other D.T.M.C. party, and were out at the Divide early, but the van was there before us. The sun shone most of the way home from Gore. Dunedin had had a fine weekend!, and we had had a satisfying tramp.

Ian Sime; Graham Grant; Dave Levick;
Alison McPherson; Kathy Woodrow.

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WANTED

Tramping Club Librarian wanted
to look after our book collection.
A job that really needs someone
with energy and enthusiasm.

If interested, see a Committee
Member.

