

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

BULLETIN

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JUNE 1985

PRESIDENT:

DON GREER PC-8043

VICE-PRESIDENT:

GABRIELLE OSWALD 772-010

SECRETARY:

ROSS COCKER 45-995

EDITOR:

MIRIAM VOLLWEILER 737-636

SKI BUSINESS



The O.T.M.C. meets socially in our Clubrooms, 261 Stuart Street

every THURSDAY at 7.30 p.m.

All welcome - 30c at the door please.

Hello folks

This may be the death knell of your editor, who is currently preparing a statement to Committee re funding of the new Bulletin and revised plans for Outdoors. A discussion document will be in the July bulletin, so you masses out there can have your say. How about some more contributions of trip reports?? Happy tramping.

Regards

Miriam V.

Miriam Vollweiler

- oooOooo -



NOW SHOWING!!

O.T.M.C. TRIP PROGRAMME

JUNE

16:	Parakeet Ridge (M-F) "Bushbashing and lots of fun."	Dave Barnes	738-223
22-23:	Hypothermia Workshop	<i>- to yet be confirmed. Contact Chris Noel.</i>	
23:	South Waikouaiti River (M-F)	Spen Walker	771-813
29-30:	Training Weekend for Snowcraft Instructors (Please refer to article in this bulletin)	Ewan Paterson	772-010

JULY

7:	Easy Trip to Lower Taieri River	Ross Davies	(72) 8723
14:	Jubilee (M)	Janice Fitzpatrick	771-516
13-14:	Herbert Forest (All) "Apparently there's a rumour that this is also a gourmet trip including a meal at the Mill House Restaurant - should be a chance for a good beer up!"	Mike Float	(89) 5349
20-21:	Snow One	Spen Walker	772-010
21:	Silverpeaks (M)	Graham Johnson	36-837
28:	<u>the mystery</u> Trip (F)	Bruce McKinley	761-460
27-28:	Downhill Ski Instruction, Cardrona (All)	Alister Metherall	63-215

AUGUST

4:	Evansdale Glen (E)	Mike Float	(89) 5349
11:	Rocky Ridge (M)	Anthony Pettinger	879-440
11-17:	Ski Week - Cheeseman	Greg Harman	

STOP PRESS.

- 3 -

Look out for the A.G.M. on 29 AUGUST and the annual O.T.M.C. Dinner on 31 AUGUST.

(Please note change of date for SNOW ONE from original trip card programme.)

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IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME...

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

from your Queen Street Social Snoop - Jan Hudson

JUNE

- 6: Mountaineering Talk
- 13: Ski Talk
- 20: History of Photography - Ewan Paterson
- 27: B.Y.O. (Slides, that is!)

JULY

- 4: Trip to Observatory, with a talk on the Night Sky
- 11: Stewart Island Revisited - a look back at Easter Slides (B.Y.O.)
- 18: Ron Keen from Lands and Survey - talking on
- 25: Alister, Janet and Michelle - talking on their overseas experience.

AUGUST

- 1: Club Cooking Competition
- 9: Cycle Touring Talk
- 15: B.Y.O.
- 22: Club Chinese Auction

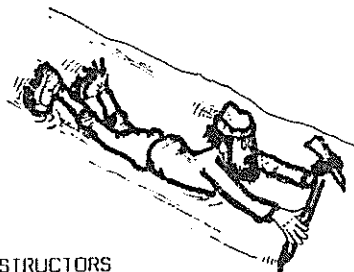
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WE NEED BASIC MOUNTAINCRAFT INSTRUCTORS

This year we once again have a full programme of MOUNTAINCRAFT INSTRUCTION within the Club, and to ensure that these courses are organised and run efficiently, and with minimum hassle, we need sensible, reasonably competent people to teach BASIC MOUNTAINCRAFT to beginners. This means teaching walking on steep snow with an ice axe, self-arresting, and step-cutting. So, if you have a reasonable amount of experience, have been a party leader, and are willing to instruct beginners, then PLEASE let me know. We are looking for a van load (12 people) for 29-30 JUNE - destination yet to be decided. (SNOW ONE is on 20-21 JULY)

Please contact me as soon as possible
if you are keen - WE NEED YOU!!

Ewan Paterson - Phone: 772-010



ENGAGEMENTS

METHERELL - GREEN.
Margaret and Albie Green
(Dunedin), together with
Alison and Alan Methereil
(Rangiora), have much
pleasure in announcing the
engagement of Michelle and
Alister.

BRADFORD'S HOLLYWOOD

Looks like the Matrimonial Section of the Club has been very active. Congratulations to Michelle and Alister from all at the O.T.M.C.

Also, congratulations to another newly engaged couple - Julie Cadzow and Eric Lord.

A "GET WELL" to John Bevin, who sustained fractures after a fall while on the Hump Range area. Also, a "WELL DONE" to O.T.M.C. members who carried out first aid procedures in their usual excellently competent fashion.

- oooOooo -

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bradford

I wish to protest at the demise of the Club's Annual Debate. What a bunch of rude, poorly-prepared people who proceeded to make idiots of themselves. Couldn't the Club Debate be used as a venue for sensibly exploring topical issues relating to tramping?

Signed: Disgusted

Dear Disgusted

As a member of the Club debacle/debate, all I can say is - why the hell didn't you volunteer to go in it? Personally, I thought Ewan, Henri, Jan and myself were brilliantly witty!

Signed: Miriam

LETTER OF THE MONTH.

Dear Miriam

We are writing to congratulate you on the high standard of the May Bulletin. Being postal members now, we rely on the Bulletin for our contact with the Club, and have been very impressed with it lately. I even sat down and read it from cover to cover, which would have been a bit of an effort in the past. So congratulations - not only is it well laid out, but it is very interesting too.

Members of the O.T.M.C. whom we still know, may be interested that we now live in Rotorua. We have bought our own home here, so will probably settle here for some time.

If any members of the Club are passing through, they are welcome to drop us a line - we live at 18 Coster Place, Phone: (073) 84190. We have a spare bedroom, and there are plenty of tramps to do in the area.

Best wishes.

Signed: Peter, Ann and Deborah McKeller

Peter + Ann and Deborah

Dear Bradford

"Bugs" has got the wrong idea about what constitutes a non-profit organisation. A non-profit organisation is one where the individual members do not stand to make a profit, personally. In other words, it doesn't pay a dividend the way a company does. It does not mean that it has to lose money, or barely keep it's head above water.

... ..

Any profit that we do make on trips - and recent trips have been making profits like \$8.00 - is set off against any losses that other trips make. And in the end, what do we make? Total profits on trips for a year of around \$500.00 a year, don't amount to much! When you think of 20 trips with 20 people in a year, that's 400 trip fares, so \$500.00 means there has been only a slender margin allowed for any unforeseen contingencies. So I think the \$5.00 limit should stay as is.

On another topic, I think the \$2.00 surcharge on trips should be increased. It's been \$2.00 since I joined the Club (when Matukituki trip fares were \$14.00), and it was worth your while to pay your subs. These days, unless you do bulk trips, you're better off paying the surcharge. So I reckon the surcharge should be at least \$3.00 or 10%, whichever is greater. Whaddya reckon??

Signed: David Barnes
(Scribe & Stirrer!)

Dear Bradford

"Bugs" is a well chosen non-de-plume for someone who wants to whinge, but also wants to remain anonymous - such people really do BUG me!!!

There is, however, implicit in "Bugs" letter, a complaint which perhaps calls for an explanation from the committee. I would suggest that "Bugs" should come out of the wood-work in order to get an answer.

Yours sincerely

Signed: Mike Float

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C L A S S I F I E D S

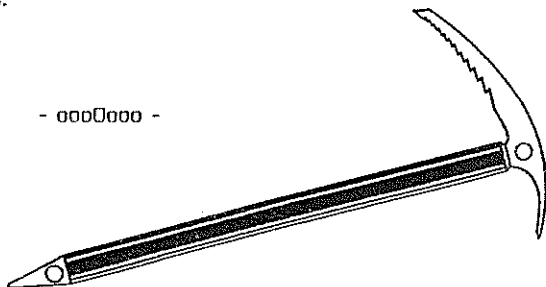
For Sale: One pair size 9 Frames Green Tramping Boots - brand new, never been worn - \$55.00. Apply MIKE SMITH - 776-895 or 284 Stuart Street.

Found: One Brown Jersey - left in my car (yellow Hillman Hunter) on day trip. Phone STEVE CATHRO - 878-684 or collect jersey from Clubrooms.

Wanted: Please start cleaning out your unwanted junk, etc., for the Club Chinese Auction on 22 AUGUST.

For Sale: Salamon SX 80 Ski Boots - size 345 (8½ shoe) - mint condition. \$270.00 o.n.o. Phone: 67-709 - evenings.

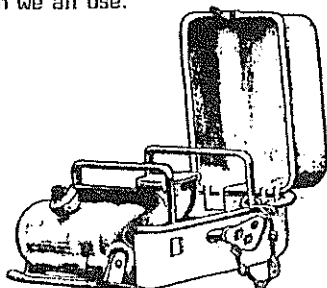
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CAMP STOVE FUEL

Have you ever been sold cleaning fluid when you asked for white spirits? Then don't ask for white spirits!! This term is now obsolete when describing stove fuel. Now, every oil company has it's own brand name for this fuel which we all use.

<u>Name of Oil Company</u>	<u>Brand Name of Fuel</u>
SHELL	SHELLITE
B.P.	BRISTOLITE
EUROPA	CLEAR GAS
MOBIL	PEGASOL AA
CALT EX	CALLITE



Probably the best way to avoid misunderstanding is to ensure that you are getting the correct fuel from a particular petrol station, and then only buy from that station. Also, tell the pump attendant that you want to use it in a portable stove. It's not much fun to arrive at the start of your tramp and find that you've been given the wrong stuff - but TWICE in the same weekend is hilarious (looking back!!) - ask Doug Forrester!!!

- oooOooo -

GOOD QUALITY COLOUR SLIDES WANTED

Bruce Mason would like to hear from anyone with slides of the following areas and activities for use in F.M.C.'s OTAGO RECREATION PLAN, which is to be published shortly. All care taken.

Rocky Ridge & The Gap	Dunstons
Maungatua Range	Pisas
River Crossing - Taieri	Lammerlaws
Kakanui	Upper Shotover - Lochnagar
Mt Domett	Heliskiing at Treble Cone/Coronet
St Marys Range	Skiing at Treble Cone/Coronet
Hawkdun/Ice Climbing on Mt Ida	Skippers Canyon
Lindis Pass	Rafting in Shotover
Ahuriri	Hector Mountains
St Bathans Range	Walkway users on Flagstaff
Hunter Valley	West Wanaka - Albert Burn
Climbing, bush tramping & camping in Matukituki/Wilkin/Rees	Lake Alta, Double Cone, Wye, Face of Remarkables

Landscapes, landforms, vegetation, people doing things, are what is wanted - all in the one slide if possible!!

If you think that you can help, please phone BRUCE MASON - 67-509.

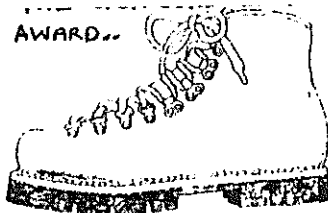
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Sick jokes

(Dave Barnes personal, unique, monthly contribution ...)

George VI was visiting a field hospital during World War II. He came across a young Australian soldier with severe injuries, and seeking to comfort the lad, he said, "Young man, you didn't come in here to die", and the Aussie said, "No mate, I came in yester-die."

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Cross Country Skiing



Nordic or cross country ski-ing (x/c ski-ing) has been around a long time in Europe, pre-dating 'alpine' or downhill ski-ing by about 5,000 years!

With growing popularity in New Zealand of downhill ski-ing during the last 50 years, the major emphasis of recreational ski-ing has been the development of defined 'fields' of snow with mechanical lifts and visitor services. A ski industry is now well established with off-field accommodation, entertainment and transportation. New Zealand is very much a part of international ski tourism. Non-professional enthusiasts remain at club fields, but sophistication and creature comforts are increasingly regarded as basic requirements.

... ..

Partly in response to increasing slope congestion and the 'high-tech' approach to downhill ski-ing, and partly due to better availability of equipment, there has been an increasing awareness of, and activity in off-field ski-ing. Ski touring and mountaineering have of course been practised by a number of devotees ever since climbers first visited our mountains, but their activities have largely been confined to steep and challenging terrain. During the last 10 years an additional emphasis has developed towards x/c ski-ing, particularly in Otago and South Canterbury. Broad range crests and upper valley floors, country long considered too gentle and boring for ski-ing, are being traversed by largely self-taught x/c'ers who prefer their lightweight equipment to cumbersome alpine gear.

EQUIPMENT

Among the uninitiated x/c ski-ing is often confused with alpine ski touring. However, both the techniques of forward propulsion and the equipment are different.

Alpine touring bindings have elaborate mechanisms to allow the heel to lift, thus permitting a walking motion. However, the skis are only designed to glide downhill, therefore 'skins' of artificial fur need to be fixed along the soles to permit uphill climbing. These have to be removed and bindings adjusted for downhill ski-ing. Weight of equipment was not a major consideration when wooden skis and leather boots were available, but now heavy synthetic products have replaced them, with little equipment available that is specifically designed for high performance downhill ski-ing, with adaptations to permit uphill climbing.

In contrast x/c equipment is equally suited to uphill, level and downhill ski-ing. What permits such versatility are ski soles that provide positive grip when stationary and weighted, and glide when in motion. Alterating grip and glide is provided by waxes matched to localised snow conditions, or by steps, scales, or inlaid mohair strips, and more recently by 'multigrade' soles which change their adhesive properties with changing snow conditions. Despite many innovations, the ideal gripper and glider is yet to be discovered.

A diagonal stride technique provides fluid motion, gliding a few metres with each step, assisted by upper body propulsion through alternative pole-plants. Considerable distances can be covered quickly, although energy expenditure can be high if you make a race of it.

The skis have a pronounced camber to assist forward propulsion. In New Zealand they should be metal-edged to cope with hard snow conditions. Light boots are used, these being fixed to the skis by the toe only - generally by a clamping three-pin binding. Lightness and mobility are the characteristics of x/c ski-ing. No stopping for adjustments between uphill and downhill.

CONDITIONS

Compared to Europe, North America and Australia, x/c ski-ing in New Zealand has been a late starter. This has largely been due to general absence of 'obvious' gentle to rolling country with reliable snow cover. This terrain restraint precludes mass popularity occurring on the same scale as overseas.

Outside of Otago and South Canterbury there is only localised terrain suitable for x/c ski-ing. In Canterbury some small outliers from the main alps are used, as well as some South Canterbury valley heads and adjacent range crests. The rest is predominantly the domain of the ski mountaineer. One guiding business in Canterbury has been successful in operating regular scheduled services due to the selection of areas sheltered from the worst of the prevailing weather. Of localised importance in x/c ski-ing on the Hermitage and lower Tasman flats during winter.

In Otago the scope for x/c ski-ing is considerably greater, but is limited by climatic hazards and snow conditions of the very exposed range crests. The rolling and partly dissected tops in Northern Southland, North and Central Otago, have a usable snow cover for five months of the year, but high winds and absence of shelter make them extremely hazardous for anyone without alpine clothing and experience. Snow conditions can vary rapidly between wind-packed powder, breakable crust, sheet ice and sustrugi.

On the crest of the Old Man Range the average annual wind speed has been recorded at 20km per hour - six times greater than what might be expected in Alexandra at the foot of the range. A communications tower on the crest was recently toppled by a particularly vigorous gust. Cloud obscures the crest 60 per cent of the time. Not the best destination for the unprepared!!

On the adjacent Pisa Range one x/c ski venture has been discontinued and the other has not operated on a regular basis. Unreliability of operation due to adverse weather has been a major factor. Other exploratory commercial ventures in other areas have occurred using ski planes and helicopters, but these tend to be very intermittent. The writer has found that generally only one trip in three that actually leaves home is particularly successful, and more are abandoned before they start after consultation with the Meteorological Office.

The attributes required of the individual are skills of snow shelter and survival, navigation over 'featureless' terrain, as well as the rudiments of ski technique. When conditions are right, however, nothing could be better.

There are few conveniently placed huts and no bush to shelter in. For anything but a short day trip from one of the few road-ends near the snow line, full overnight survival gear must be carried. Climbing 2-4000 feet on foot to where the snow starts is normal.

Snow conditions tend to be more consistent from late August through September, although ski-ing is usually possible from late June to mid-October.

WHERE TO SKI

All of the Central Otago ranges have suitable terrain along their crests, ranging in height from 4500 to 7000 feet.

In South Canterbury there are the Kirkliston, Ben More, Ohau and Two Thumb Ranges, and further north the Torlesse and Big Ben Ranges. Some map interpretation and local observation would result in further possibilities.

Few of these areas are available as of right for public recreation. Although some of the tops are retired from grazing, most remain in pastoral leases. Wherever possible consents should be sought from lessees, especially for the use of huts. Local knowledge can be of considerable assistance when planning a trip. Most Otago mountain clubs have enthusiastic x/c skiers in their memberships and some have scheduled trips open to other club members. Equipment can be hired in Dunedin and at Cardrona, the latter ski-field providing x/c instruction. A good range of equipment is usually stocked by Dunedin and Christchurch mountain shops.

TRENDS

The relatively recent availability of sturdy equipment suitable for New Zealand conditions, plus increasing proficiency among home-grown x/c skiers may result in greater activity in alpine areas previously the exclusive domain of the ski mountaineers.

Another trend which is developing from the example of expert skiers from overseas is x/c downhill. This is a combination of the best telemark and downhill techniques with downhill designed x/c skis, providing spectacular, high-speed ski-ing among the mogols.

Due to terrain and climate restraints, it is unlikely that x/c ski-ing will catch on in New Zealand as a widely popular recreation. The participation developing among the mountain fraternity is steadily increasing and will continue to grow, especially in Otago and Canterbury as a natural extension of other mountain activities.

Bruce Mason
(F.M.C. Bulletin No. 78 - June 1984)



OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUP

NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE, 7.30 p.m. at BRUCE MASON'S,
9 Chapman Street, Wakari.

All Club members welcome, but non-regular attenders, please contact ROSS DAVIES - PC 8723, prior to meeting.

TRIP FARES

With increasing petrol costs and other forms of inflation, trip fares have been steadily increasing and we are aware that some Club members may be finding it increasingly difficult to go on as many trips as they would like. Some explanation of how the trip fare system works may help the understanding, if not the actual expense.

Some years ago it was deliberate policy to make at least 12% profit on all Club trips. When I took over the office of Chief Guide and Transport Officer, I enquired about current policy and learned that it was to break even - no profit and no loss. So that is what we aim to do.

However, in order to break even it is necessary to make an accurate estimate of costs before the trip goes. That is difficult, because it is not possible to know, for example, how many people will be on the trip, the exact mileage, the cost of the bus driver's accommodation and meals, call-out fees for after-hours petrol, and the exact amount of petrol used. Because it is not possible to estimate such costs exactly beforehand, the agreed "Transport Guidelines" state that trip fares should carry a 10% loading for vans and a 15% loading for hired buses. Even these loadings do not always cover costs - as for example, when a van carries less than 11 people, or when we have to pay a bus driver's expensive accommodation at Milford, but they do usually come pretty close to the real costs.

Ideally, we should aim to balance fares and costs on every trip, but in practice this rarely happens. The occasional small profits compensate for the occasional unforeseen losses. Losses have to be made up, but members should be protected from excessive profits and that's where the refunds come in.

When trip fares were \$10.00 - \$15.00, the refund level was set at \$2.50, but unfortunately, with inflation, trip fares are now nearer \$20.00 - \$30.00. If the refund level was still only \$2.50, it would not cover the occasional unforeseen losses - unless the loading on the actual trip fare was also increased. So to compensate for inflation - and incidentally, to help reduce the treasurer's work load - the refund level is now \$5.00.

In practice, we have not done too badly this year in estimating trip fares - and keeping them as low as possible - because we have neither made any large profits or losses, and the small profits have paid for a loss on the Milford trip. Consequently, there have been very few refunds, and we hope that most members are satisfied with the present arrangements.

Mike Float
Chief Guide & Transport Officer

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SAFARI INTO THE NEPALESE JUNGLE

Having spent the last month going up and down the hills of the Everest region, Barry and I thought it was time for a change. So, at 6.30 a.m. we said goodbye to the others, in their various states of health in Pokhara (they must have been keen to see us go - they even got up to see us off!!), and set off in search of Bengali tigers and rhinoceri.

Two buses and one oxcart later, two very hot and weary bods arrived at Suraha, the nearest village outside the National Park of Chitwan. We decided to squeeze all the activities within the park into one day as you have to pay a park fee of \$NZ8.00 per day. So at 5.00 a.m. the next day, the fearless (?) explorers headed off into the park jungle, along with their intrepid 14 year old guide, Krishna. The first obstacle was crossing the river - we spent about half an hour trying to pull a boat out of the mud, but ended up crossing it in great kiwi style, albeit a little faster due to the mention of the word "crocodile"!!

A few minutes later we made acquaintance with our first rhinoceros. He decided he didn't want his photo taken and charged towards us - we decided not to pursue the potential friendship, and ran in the opposite direction!!

The adrenalin was fairly flowing as we moved further into the jungle. We saw more rhinoceri, climbing trees to view them in relative safety. We also saw wild boar, deer, elephants, peacocks and the spoor of a Bengali tiger. Barry was disappointed not to see one, but I was quite happy to avoid a face to face confrontation!

At about 4.00 p.m. we set off for the Park Headquarters once more. Soon we were on top of an elephant with a driver and ambling off into the jungle. While the rhinoceri hadn't liked the smell of humans in the morning, they were quite happy for the elephants to come very close, so we got excellent view of all the animals. I could have even coped with spotting a tiger, but they are few and far between.

All in all, it was a great day. It's well worth spending a couple of days there if you're passing between Pokhara and Katmandu. There are always guided tours organised, but it's much cheaper to do it by yourself. Next day we moved on to Katmandu en route for Bangladesh, but that's another story ...

Janet G for Barry W



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BALCLUTHA REPORT

It's very hard to write a report on Balclutha's progress when a total of eight people have bothered to turn out to the last two meetings!! My thanks to those who made the effort.

The Balclutha Camera Club have invited us to their meeting for a talk on photography. They asked us to bring along our cameras, and they would explain each camera to us. Due to lack of attendance at our meeting, this was cancelled. We were arranging a day tramp in the Collins for the Monday of Queen's Birthday weekend, however, due to lack of attendance at our meeting, this was cancelled.

For the last two meetings, St John instructors have attended with well prepared talks and demonstrations, however, due to a lack of attendance at our meeting, this was a waste of time.

The Club has been asked to provide a display on tramping gear and photographs of tramps for this year's Telethon, however, due to lack of support at our meeting, this was cancelled.

This report may seem repetitious. We appear to have plenty of activities, except they are all being cancelled, due to lack of support. Everyone knows what day the meetings are held. You all know who the committee are, so you can offer suggestions. Short of physically dragging you all along, I don't know what else I can do.

Unless more than four turn up at the next meeting, or at least phone me with an apology, I will be folding the Club up, and thank you all for wasting my time.

NEXT MEETING - 17 JUNE at the usual venue. Any apologies, please phone me - 58-185.

Jayne McIntosh - President

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D.T.M.C. COMMITTEE NEWS

An extra committee meeting was held to discuss grading of day trips. Concern has been expressed regarding the lack of clarity in trip grading. Resulting from this meeting, new grading specifications will be issued in the next trip card. Also updated on the new trip card will be a revised clothing and gear list.

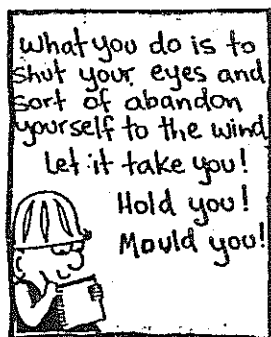
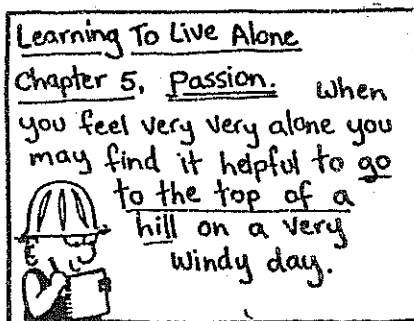
Discussion was held about the need for day trips to cater for newcomers. Considerable debate was held over this issue, and it will be put to the Club members for further discussion at the A.G.M.

"Welcome to Club" booklets have been printed and will be available soon.

New trip card on the way with an exciting programme.

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The Benefits of Day Tramping ...



JULY BULLETIN

Closing date for contributions: 27 JUNE.

Bulletin Workparty: 11 JULY - 6.30 p.m. at the Clubrooms.