

BUSHCRAFT 1987 – A RUNNING REPORT *OTMC Bulletin, March 1987, (Page 10)*

So far so good, except for the double booking at the clubrooms on the final evening meeting. An apology to Bushcrafters and club members for the mix-up and to the Alpine Club for delaying their talk. It was good to see that some Bushcrafters could get to club on Thursday to hear Bruce and Ken.

The response to Bushcraft '87 from the public has been good with 51 people enrolling, of whom 14 are school pupils. 7 sponsorships were offered (3 from the Alexander McMillan Trust, 1 from Nancy Munro, 2 from East Dunedin Rotary Club and 1 from Trustbank Otago) which were divided among the eligible people.

Last year's successful format with three evening meetings, Tirohanga weekend and Silver Peaks weekend was followed again this year. Tirohanga was blessed with the only fine weekend in February - hiring a church camp has some excellent fringe benefits! The barn dance on Saturday night was a great success, with some Bushcrafters 'dead anting' and 'elephant walking' until one in the morning. Sunday's map and compass exercise was most enjoyable - we may not have found all the markers, but we got plenty of mushrooms.

The Silver Peaks weekend looked like a good weekend to stay in bed. Leaving town Saturday morning it was still raining and we were almost envying those people with stomach bugs who had to drop out. People were generally well equipped, though, and most groups had no problem getting their trips done. One person was unfortunate enough to come down with the lurgy on Saturday night, but had had the foresight to have both a doctor and nurse in the party! The trip leader walked out to the nearest farmhouse and the runholder, Mr Perriam, very generously took the party out in his landrover.

The weather cleared on Saturday night and we got good views from the main ridges. The parties leaving via Green Hut found a hungry dog lying in wait for their spare food, and ended up by taking it back to the SPCA. He got picked up there by the owner, who had left the family pet with a friend while going on honeymoon, and the friend took the dog pig hunting and lost it!

The river crossing day trip attracted over 30 people. The Taieri was up, so instead of crossing we used our mutual support methods to walk in to chest height and back out again. Most people also tried pack flotation, and then we had lunch and dried out in the warm sun.

The Fiordland weekend is coming up next with a full busload of Bushcrafters and OTMCers, so I'll sign off now and go and arrange the weather for us.

Spencer Walker

Bushcraft 1987 Coordinator