

THE ORIGINAL TRAMPARAMA *OTMC Bulletin, March 1987, (Page 9)*

"A great round trip" we all agreed at the meeting to arrange Tramparama. Up the new Leith Saddle Walkway, across Swampy and back down the Burns Track.

Settled! A couple of weekends before, we realised no one had actually checked it out, so keen for an easy wander minus the bluffy horrors of Xmas Pam, Wayne, Alister and Michelle met for lunch, gathered up Andrew fresh home from the Streets of London Town and Michelle's Dad, a "retired* trumper of days gone by.

After meeting a fine collection of Dunedin who's who entrants in the parking area we finally made it on the track. The gradient is gentle, the bush left natural and so far no gravel, just old fashioned mud. Great views from the tussocky tops before we arrived at the Post Office building for a gourmets afternoon tea, Just Juice, chocolate, Moros and home baking etc... must be getting luxurious in our old ages. Now the real business. How to get these bods on to the Burns Track without getting them lost. Round the road, down the fence line then drop off into the saddle. At this point our neat formation collapsed with Albie and Pam on the saddle below while the rest floundered in head height flax and undergrowth. Now most of us had legs well hardened from Xmas trips but Andrew's fresh from England were reintroduced to gorse, lawyer and Spaniard in the space of a few minutes. Meanwhile our "retired" member plunged off over the horizon in search of the elusive Burns Track. We knew where we wanted to go but a slasher or two would have come in handy. Great for a Bushcraft party but kiddies on Tramparama??? What relief to reach bush line we thought and escape the gorse. But alas there was still the hook grass!! Us puttee-less people edged our way gingerly down the track holding day-packs in front of our legs!

Home to tea a little later than anticipated and a few phone calls to Peter and Chris to let them know the Tramparama round trip was up the new Leith Saddle walkway and down the Pineapple track.

P.S. For the real trampers amongst you it's still a worthwhile day trip -in o'trou.