

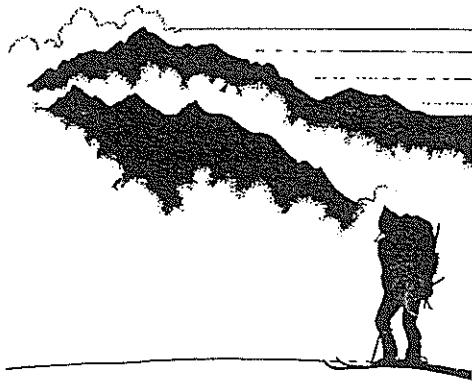
Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club
P.O. BOX 1120 DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

Registered at P.O.H.Q. Wellington for Transmission by Post as a Magazine.

July 89...

Cross Country Skiing



The Ultimate way to travel!

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| PRESIDENT | COMMITTEE.... | |
| VICE PRESIDENT | David Peacock | 779-855 |
| SECRETARY | Heather Robertson | 877-519 |
| TREASURER | Ian Sime | 36-185 |
| CHIEF GUIDE | Mark Hanger | 739-149 |
| MEMBERSHIP SEC. | Antony Pettinger | 737-924 |
| SOCIAL SEC. | Michelle Williams | 737-603 |
| EDITOR | Doug Forrester | 876-416 |
| DAY TRIP CONVENOR | Sue Harding | 738-659 |
| GEAR HIRE | Debbie Williams | 737-814 |
| | Simon Thomas | 741-444 |

TRIP'S LIST

TRIP LIST 9th JULY TO 6th AUGUST

July 9th; Mystery Trip (M) Kathy Woodow 894-893
Meet at the Clubrooms at 9.00am and find out where Kathy is heading.

July 16th; Homestead- ABC- Jubilee Hut. (M-F) Peter Mason
775-237

This trip will be an enjoyable round trip visiting the above landmarks in the Silverpeaks. This trip is a fitter day trip and will involve 6-8 hours tramping.

July 23rd Burns Track David Barnes 44-492
This trip is entitled "Where the hell is the Burns Track" The Burns Track leads (use to?) from the Leith Saddle on the Motorway to Hightop and David is now going to make an attempt on rediscovering it. Why not come along and travel to the peaks by an old (or new) route.

Snow one - Basic snowcraft
There has been a change in weekends for this weekend. Instead of it occurring on the 22-23rd July it will now be held on 5-6 August in conjunction with the Winter Routeburn. The instruction will probably take place up behind Lake Harris.
Snow one will teach people how to walk on snow, use of iceaxe and crampons and safety aspects such as self-arresting. Graham Hopkins (MSC) will be instruction, hopefully with the help of some OTMC members.

Trip list closes 27th July.
Important note. Course fee will be slightly higher than those just going tramping on the Routeburn trip.


July 30th Mt Watkin (E) Ian Sime 36-185
An easy trip to an area that is virtually unknown to a lot of people - departs clubrooms at 9.00am.

July 29-30th; X/C Skiing Instruction (M) Bruce Mason 878-048
with plenty of snow around lately, there will be a lot of people thinking of skiing. Why not try cross country skiing? This weekend is the first this year to teach the art of skiing. Those intending to go on this trip should come to club on July 13th to find out what clothing and equipment is required, otherwise, give Bruce a call.

August 6th; Mystery trip (M) Mary Hewinson 770200
This is sure to be a fun trip with a hard case lady.....

August 5-6th; Winter Routeburn (M-C) Stu Mathieson 34-359
Once again the club is running a trip to the Routeburn in the tourist 'off season'. This trip usually has heaps of people on it. If you've been there in summer, then you must go in the winter, for it is so different. There is also an option to do some snowcraft. Look above.
List closes 27th July.

Presidential doodles

by 



Well winter is surely upon us with the snow bringing some merriment and excitement to the town. But the Club's activities carry on unabated with still the usual enthusiasm.

Once again, we have come to the end of another financial year with a healthy bank balance. We have not had a volunteer to audit the books and so, for the moment, that is being deferred. All of us on the Committee are a little uncomfortable about this arrangement because of the amount of money that the Club possesses but we are reluctant to employ an external Auditor because of cost. There is, of course, no suggestion of any irregularities but simply for peace-of-mind, we would have liked the books checked. What do you think?

It is impossible to talk about the Club's finances without thinking about buying our own Clubrooms. A group of us have just been looking at a very attractive property on Rattray Street (adjacent to the Brewery!) and if anything further develops, I trust David Barnes, our Clubrooms Subcommittee Convenor, will keep us all informed.

Many of you will know that in the past I have discussed Club membership, particularly as a barometer of the Club's vitality. Now as subs are due, I am particularly interested to see how many of the Bushcrafties from last year (1988) will pay up again. I know that quite a few joined, taking advantage of our special discount, but a number seem to have drifted away: is this the case? The proof of the pudding will appear in the Membership Secretary's invoice book.

It may still seem a little while away, but this Bulletin contains a Nomination Form for the next Committee. Doesn't time fly! Some people have already expressed interest in a few positions but there are still some to be filled. Admittedly, I know that some acts are hard to follow, i.e. Doug Forrester as Social Secretary, but I am sure that we have a rich vein of talent out there. In particular, some of the newer members who have been around for say a year, could make a valuable contribution to the Club. Most of the work on the Committee is not arduous and it gives you a chance to really get into the Club and see a lot of the activity that is otherwise hidden. I know myself that I am sometimes surprised at the diverse discussions at Committee Meetings. So why don't you give it a go and, as a Special Bonus, you'll have your name on the front of the Trip Card and your photo on the wall! Admit it, it's irresistible!

Now that the Trip Card has been mentioned, do members think that it should cover the Club year i.e. September to August? The reasons for asking are, firstly, that it always seems funny to have the names of the outgoing Committee on the Card for the latter part of the year. Secondly, the Chief Guide may of course change at the AGM and it would seem more reasonable for the trip period to coincide with their tenure. Finally, the Club seems to be in a bit of a doldrums over the Christmas period and it always seems that there is a little confusion at that time of year. If the first Trip Card ran from September to February, it would seem so much neater. Any ideas?

What would you do if two distinguished gentlemen invited you to go up to Christchurch with them for the weekend? Well, we accepted the invitation and found ourselves attending the FMC Annual General Meeting. The AGM was held in Christchurch this year. They change the venue each year to give club members from different areas the opportunity to go.

Federated Mountain Clubs? That's a body representing tramping, mountaineering, hunting and some skiing clubs throughout New Zealand. The OTHC is one of the clubs in this federation, and full members of the OTHC pay an FMC levy as part of their sub each year. In return, we get the FMC bulletin four times a year, and our FMC executive committee keeping an eye on recreational and conservation issues that affect us.

We left Dunedin at the usual time of Friday 6pm, fish and chips in Timaru, and by turning right instead of left at the Mt Cook turnoff we eventually reached Christchurch.

We roughed it on the floor of Dave and Pat Henson's living room overnight, then breakfast and (back in the car) followed Dave to the Aldersgate conference centre in central Christchurch. It turned out to be a cold draughty hall, and I wished I had worn my long johns!

First up was the official meeting. Dave Crawford, the President, led a discussion of the Annual Report and events of the past year. What events?

- the Minister of Conservation (Woolaston) not being in Cabinet. This shows that conservation is not seen as important to the present government, though Mr Woolaston says it gives him more time to deal with conservation issues.

- hut tickets- this gave FMC more feedback from members than any other issue this year. Some people believe that huts should be free, being already paid for by taxes. Alternatives to the ticket system are season passes, or even entry fees to National Parks. There need to be other ways to pay, especially for those who don't use huts often. DOC needs to educate hut users.

- Wilderness areas. Tasman and Raukumara Wilderness areas were gazetted last year. This coming year the Landsborough may be, and there will be discussion on the Paparoa, Pegasus and Kaimanawa proposals.

- Resource Management Law Reform- this reform could be devastating, as many land use decisions will be delegated to regional level. We may need to organise FMC regionally in order to deal with regional issues. We do not know to what extent central government will set guidelines and performance standards. The implications are enormous. Suppose it were the Westland County Council that made decisions on logging of West Coast forests?

- Protected Natural Areas Review- this is a rationalisation of National Park, reserve and conservation area legislation. FMC has made sure that the 'wilderness area' concept has been retained.

- DOC reorganisation- meant to be happening on Jan 1st next year. This will lead to regional bodies, with a smaller head office. Walkways and forest park advisory committees will go out of existence.

- Review of FMC structure. FMC is a voluntary organisation with quite a strong political voice. It works to promote outdoor recreation, and the management of conservation areas to retain natural areas to recreate in. There will be further consultation with clubs in the forthcoming year to obtain their views on the FMC structure.

- FMC bulletin- the editor, Arnold Heine, would like feedback from club members about the FMC bulletin. What do you like or dislike, and what topics would you like covered? Would you like the FMC book order service continued or expanded?

The annual accounts were adopted and the annual report was received. Then it was time for election of officers.

The way FMC works is that the President, North and South Island Vice-Presidents (two from each island), Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually. There were just enough nominations to fill all these positions, so they were declared elected. Mike Floate and Janet Girvan (ex-OTHC) are both Vice-Presidents this year.

The executive consists of ten people serving two year terms, and five are elected each year. There were only two nominations, which leaves three vacancies to be filled by co-option. FMC writes to club committees each year to ask for nominations. Your OTHC committee, knowing that we had Mike to represent us, didn't think to nominate anyone else as well!

Dave Crawford said that FMC, like any other voluntary organisation, relies on people coming through from member clubs and getting involved. Is it a lack of publicity by FMC? Are people afraid of the amount of work? (New exec members aren't thrown in the deep end without help their first year). Or have all the battles been won?

Dave said he enjoys the time he spends doing FMC work. Because he enjoys tramping, climbing and skiing, and wants to see his children enjoy it too, he has a big commitment to the objectives of FMC. If you get a lot out of the NZ backcountry, how about giving something back?

All in all, a very well run AGM, with lots of contributions from the floor.

Morning tea, and then the speaker. Bob McKerrow turned out to be yet another ex-OTMC bod. He has spent several years running the Arapaipa Outdoor Recreation Centre near Levin. This takes groups of disadvantaged youths (young hoons, in other words) on 10 day courses, doing tramping, climbing and canoeing. The most popular activities are those like white-water canoeing, which provide 'quick thrills'.

The course leaders are 'surrogate parents' to the youths. Each group includes social workers, who get to know the young men and women on the course, and can later guide them into clubs etc back in the community.

Lunch was served by the Christchurch Over Forties Club. We quickly learnt that there was no need to be shy- anyone you talked to was a trumper (surprise!), and you can easily pass an hour or two comparing notes on tramping routes, equipment, food and gossip.

In the afternoon we split up for the workshops on the FMC review, commercial recreation, wilderness areas, the proposed Land Act, Resource Management Law Reform, the Protected Natural Areas review, walkways update.

Each workshop chairperson had prepared a discussion paper, and the group worked their way through it. In each workshop, the participants ranged from experts down to people who didn't know a thing about the topic but wanted to learn. A few months listening to the discussions in this Clubs Outdoor Recreation subcommittee is enough to let you understand what they're talking about. I was pleased to see that many people in each workshop contributed to the discussion. Speaking up isn't such a problem in a small group, and we were all trampers so it was a friendly atmosphere.

Each workshop's ideas were read out to the whole meeting, and that was the end of the official meeting.

The annual dinner was held in the Christchurch Town Hall, complete with a before-dinner speaker. Slept on the Henson's living room floor again, and noticed snow on the Port Hills in the morning. We didn't join in the Sunday trips that had been organised, but instead went for a walk in Hagley Park and drove home.

I recommend the experience to you all, the next time the FMC AGM is held close to Dunedin!

PS - any questions or suggestions about FMC? Phone our FMC rep, Mike Floate ph 739780.

Jane Bruce for Mike Floate, Bruce Mason & Spen Walker.

CONGRATULATIONS
to Gaylene Waite and Iain
Middleton (Wellington) on
the birth of their second
daughter Eleanor Athena,
on Thursday 15th June.



NOTE TO DAY TRIP LEADERS.

There is now an intentions box on the front of the clubrooms, in behind the OTMC sign where leaders can (and will) now put the names & phone numbers of people on trips and their intentions. If people are late out, this list will be the clubs means of knowing who is on the trip, so details have to be correct. Every day trip leader must follow this procedure due to the interests of safety.

HOMER AREA-WAITANGI WEEKEND.

Two van loads headed away to Homer Hut on Friday. We arrived at the hut at about 1am after an uneventful trip. In the morning we had a rather late start as we tried to decide what the weather was going to inflict upon us. Eventually we set off up the valley in cloudy, showery weather. We planned to climb up to Gertrude Saddle and then on to Barrier Knob. We arrived at the Saddle at about 3pm and stopped for lunch. We had time for about a 10 minute snooze in the sun before the rain pelted down. As it showed no signs of letting up we decided the best course of action was retreat!

Sunday was grotty so it was spent as a pit day. However Monday dawned brilliantly fine and we decided to take a trip up to Lake Marion. About an hour and a half we saw the Lake. It looked so nice, so a few of the brave ones had a swim. A very relaxing weekend!

Sue Levick for Dave Levick, Tim Thomas and Wayne Redmond.



ARRIVAL DEERFLY VALLEY TRIP
1975-1976

PARTY : ARTHUR BLONDELL MICHELLE WILLIAMS MARY HENNINGSON
(NOVICES) SHARON STELLAIR-NEWMAN & (MYSELF) LINDSEY ATCHEL

We left in the vans from the club as usual. With a fish & chip stop in Oamaru, then onto the Ahuriri Valley. The valley seemed to go on for miles (37 km). We arrived at Canyon Creek at about 11-30, pitched our tent beside the van. Our intrepid leader Arthur and Mary decided the back of the van looked more comfortable than the tent. Mary loaned me her puffer pad, one of them could be next on my christmas list.

The morning was crisp and clear. We had our first view of this little hill that Arthur wanted us to climb. I thought full frontal was women with no clothes on, not going straight up the front of a mountain. The morning was spent mostly out of breath climbing this little hill. As we climbed higher and higher the tussock changed to rock and the views of the valley below became more magnificent. Lunch was had at about 5,800 ft being cooled by the wind off the surrounding peaks. Time for a few photos then off down the other side. First off barrelling down a rock scree GREAT STUFF. Then on to a rock face where Sharon and I had our first go at rock climbing down to the valley below. The next hour or so was spent rock hopping over boulders until we reached the grass flat of the Dingle Valley. Then on at a fast pace behind Michelle down the valley. At about 6-00 We decided it was about time to find a camp spot. After a bit of a look about We found a good spot beside some beech trees.

Now if anyones looking for a cook for a tramping trip Marys the one for them. We finished off our 3 course meal with a chocolate fondue with fresh strawberries (beats cheese cake hands down).

One thing Arthur said in the morning was "I don't like going where there are tracks" THATS FOR REAL. So on with another one of Arthurs full frontals. As we climbed higher the ridge became sharper, as Arthur says there's only one way to go UP. In some places the ridge was less than a metre wide with rock screens on both sides. Real knee knocking stuff. We had lunch in another cold spot, looking down on Birchwood Station along way below.

Michelle managed to find some sort of stock track sidelino around the ridge. Mr & Mrs Mountain Goat (Arthur & Michelle) must have started running every time they got out of sight. As every time I looked down they seemed to be about a ridge ahead. The views on the way down made all the puffing worth wile. The last 500ft was spent on my backside sliding down the steep tussock trying to dodoe the metagouris.

Back at Birchwood Station, Sharon said "If someone had shown me the photos I've taken, at the club. I would have said thats for you Mountaineers not me"

Thanks to Arthur, Michelle and Mary.

From now on valley walkings going to be a bit boring.



You will all be aware that in all areas of the New Zealand their progress and maximise t As part of this process, we a the standard of performance e

GUIDE TO PERFORMANCE APP

| Performance Factors | Far Exceeds Requirements | Superior Performance | |
|---------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Stupidity | Will solo climb any mountain by any route. | Carries all that heavy climbing gear everywhere. | Keep on # |
| Enthusiasm | View? No time to stop for a view! | If there's time to tramp, there's time to stop. | If t ther |
| Rivercrossing | Walks on water. | Walks in water. | |
| Nutrition | Eats anything that moves slower than walking pace. | Eats anything as long as someone else cooks it. | Ea |
| Speed | Is faster than Dave Crax. | Is as fast as Dave Crax. | Not |
| Routefinding | Knows route from clubrooms to pub by heart. | Can locate best takeaways in town. | C ki |
| Communication | Talks to Huey. | Talks to President. | T: |
| Leadership | Is the shepherd of their flock. | Loses the occasional sheep. | |
| Initiative | Leaps tall trees at a single bound. | Must take running start to leap tall trees. | Ce |

e present economic climate
 may have had to evaluate
 r cost-effectiveness.
 proud to present a guide to
 ted from an OTMC trumper....

AISAL OF A TRAMPER

| Requirements | Needs Some Improvement | Does Not Meet Requirements |
|--|---|---|
| going away tramping old, muddy weekends. | Day trips, and only in fine weather. | Prefers Milford walk (guided). |
| g's time to stop, time to sit down. | If there's time to sit, there's time to lie down. | If there's time to lie down, there's time to take out your pit and go to sleep. |
| ls in water. | Avoids water. | Passes water. |
| uesli bars and urs bars | Eats brown rice and raw vegetables. | Forgot to bring the food. |
| ast as Dave Craw. | Would you believe a slow Dave Craw? | Is sick of being compared with Dave Craw. |
| alk Routeburn t getting lost. | Follows feet and trusts that track will reappear. | Never gets lost, just geographically embarrassed |
| to themselves. | Argues with themselves. | Loses argument. |
| ks sheepish. | Follows sheep. | Smells like a sheep. |
| nly leap over rt trees. | Crashes into trees when attempting to jump. | Cannot recognise a tree at all, let alone jump. |

BEN RUDD'S RESTORATION

We are all glad that, after years of effort, the Ben Rudd's pine plantation has finally been logged.

The income from the trees has been put into a separate account by the committee to be used for restoration.

Some of the problems which will have to be dealt with over the next few years are:

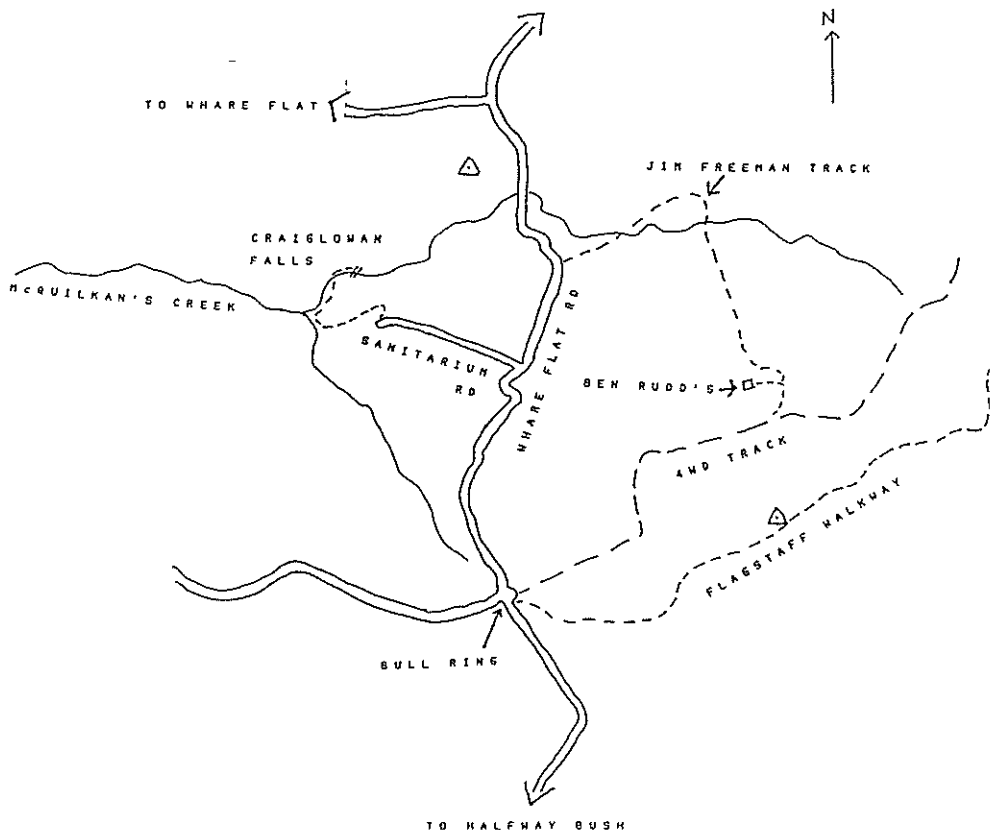
- felling and removal of the remainder of the pines.
- control of gorse, broom and wilding trees.
- skid site restoration.
- revegetation of the plantation area.

It will take time, money and effort, but we hope that eventually we can restore Ben Rudd's to a natural state compatible with the adjoining Flagstaff Scenic Reserve.

An informal working group is being formed to organise a management strategy for Ben Rudd's.

The committee invites any club member who is interested in being involved in this working group, or who has any ideas or suggestions, to contact Jane Bruce ph 730-257.

TO SWAMPY



JIM FREEMAN TRACK- CRAIGLOWAN FALLS

Are you suffering from midwinter blues? Why not dash out for the afternoon and try this new track that the Over Thirties Club opened on June 4th 1989?

Craiglowan Falls used to be a common destination for day trips. In the last few years only a few diehards (like David Barnes) have known their location. The Over Thirties decided it was time to remedy this situation.

The track is dedicated to the memory of Jim Freeman, a life member of the OTMC who died on 5th August 1987. Jim was a keen tramper and track-cutter all his life, and formed the OTC in 1973 to keep the initials of the Otago Tramping Club alive.

We parked our car at the Bull Ring carpark, and walked up the road- now metalled, courtesy of the environmentally-unconscious DCC, as far as the Flagstaff Reserve boundary. We took the Ben Rudd's track, which at one place used to pass through the edge of the pine plantation. Now that the plantation has been logged, you have to climb over trees which the contractor felled over the track and didn't remove.

A sign with a commemorative plaque has been placed at the beginning of the Jim Freeman track. The track passes Ben Rudd's spring, and then takes you downhill following the yellow and blue plastic ribbons.

The route chosen is scenic rather than direct, so it crosses a stream- note the rhododendrons- turns and sidles back through the bush. You may be lucky enough to see the odd pigeon and parakeet. The track takes about half an hour and finishes at the Whare Flat Road. There is no roadside marker at this bottom end.

Turn left and go up the road about 200 yards to Sanitarium Road. This isn't signposted, but you can't miss it- it is a wide and very muddy logging road with a gate across it. Definitely gumbot country.

The Craiglowan track starts from where the pine trees finish, at the very end of Sanitarium Road. The beginning deliberately isn't marked, but you will see bootprints leading off to the true right. White cloth markers, and skid marks in the mud, lead down to a gravelly little stream. Look for the huge totara on the opposite bank.

You stay on the true right until you reach the confluence with Craiglowan creek, then follow up the true left bank of this stream. Nice ferns and astelias! Take a bit of care clambering over the boulders- Steve Amies (OTC) broke his leg here on the day the track was officially opened! The track crosses to the true right, and 20 yards further on you'll find Craiglowan Falls. They're about 15 feet high; not spectacular, but worth visiting.

You can extend your trip by bushbashing up or down the creek of your choice to get out. We wimps went back up Sanitarium Road and walked up Whare Flat Road back to the carpark, which gave us a round trip of about two and a half hours. Warm and muddy, and not a trace of midwinter blues left!
Jane Bruce for Paul and Sue Clark and Spen Walker.

HOOKER VALLEY, APRIL 8-9

What a great trip! The food was excellent, (always museli-Y...K.) the weather was superb, it rained the first day... Clouds to the valley floor. Nice people also, (they actually pinched our whiskey bottle and exchanged the contents for cold coffee mixed with cold soup and leftover dishwashing water.) This was then offered to Doug. You should have heard his warm thanks for the drink..."You bloody b...ds, you!!! His face was movie quality!

But seriously, it was really a great trip. The second day, Sunday, was full of sweat and sunshine. We climbed or rather crawled up to the Copland shelter in less than 2hrs (1hr and 59 minutes 59.99999sec.) Mark (named J90 for his qualities in locating big rocks in the mountains and throwing them onto innocent glaciers, had a lot of fun in improving the shape of Hooker Valley and Doug showed us great leadership to find the way to the Copland shelter. Somehow, the shelter had moved its location compared to previous years and we arrived much earlier than planned. This gave us plenty of time to enjoy Mt. Cook and the valley. Some crazy German fellow took 101 pictures of Mt. Cook, Typical tourist, camera under his coat- looked like a pregnant woman according to some female expert in the group. Others took only a few pictures less.

The track was wild enough to scare the hell out of a sidewalk-trained city person- we had to cross a few gullies hanging to nearly loose rocks, but thanks to the scouts this was really enjoyable. The only problem was that after all that slippery fun a waterfall blocked our access to the glacier. That of course did not stop J90 from going on the glacier, throwing rocks and leaving his sandshovel as a souvenir for the next boy. The Saturday night in the Hooker hut was also very educational, Intellectual mindgames, (for example; travelling to Mars without socks but with a jellyfish, some people still have nightmares about this) or some strange couple trying to make love without waking up everybody. (not OTMC members). And the food was really not bad, chicken a'la kart, with rice, beans and soup and plenty of excellent bread and cheese supplied by a professional baker. But the best was the absolutely pink Mt. Cook on Saturday night.

TRIP RATING: Very good and just right for a moderately fit to fit person.

Party led by Doug Forrester however author and party members names not supplied.

WOODSMEN'S ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

SECTION 9: ETHICS.

QUESTION 1.

YOU ARE LOST IN THE FOREST AT NIGHT. TEMPERATURES ARE BELOW FREEZING AND YOU HAVE ONLY LIGHT CLOTHING. BUT YOU DO HAVE MATCHES AND COULD LIGHT A FIRE TO KEEP WARM. HOWEVER BY DOING SO YOU WOULD RISK BURNING DOWN THE WHOLE FOREST.

WOULD YOU: (a) LIGHT A FIRE AND SAVE YOURSELF BUT RISK DESTROYING THE ENTIRE FOREST?

OR (b) NOT LIGHT A FIRE AND RISK FREEZING TO DEATH?

OR (c) OTHER? (IF SO STATE WHAT.) (5 MARKS)



© 1988 [unclear]

(c) State Fire Insurance.



Central Otago Hills

Change of address

Bruce Mason
C/-181 Surrey Street

Phone 878-048

Hot dry dusty air
Shimmers on blue sky
Earth hard and golden
Smell of bruised thyme
And heat rising, hard, bright edged.

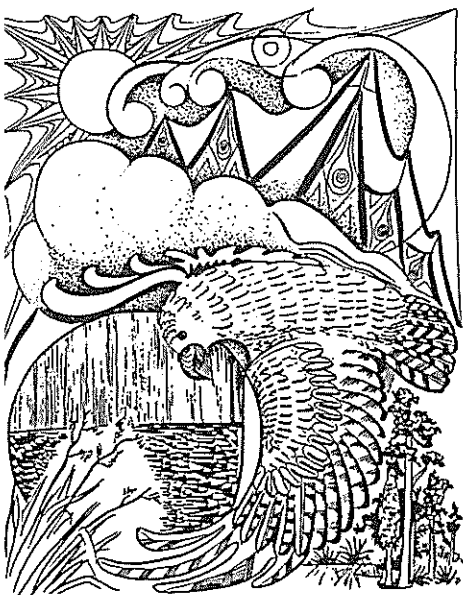
Stunted thorns stand stiffly, bravely
Yet offer no protection
From the hard relentless light.

In this world of bright silence
Only rabbits move,
Running from the muted footstep
And the hard hawk,
As it circles in slow sweeps
A stiff bronze image
Consumed in blue.

I reach a high broken rock
And watch the world fold away
beneath,
Brass hills, their sides scored
by water,
But none remains
Only dry ridges crumbling,
Blown into dust,
Swirling shapes, baked
bone-hard by the sun.

And the heat rising, hard, bright-edged.

Rosemary Goodyear 1987.



A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR....

The AGM will soon be here and we have quite a few committee positions to fill. Like our president I feel that some of the newer members should have a go. Do'nt say you would'nt know what to do as you are only new to the club. I for one was on the committee after only 3-4 months of being a member. It's your club so why not help the club to run smoothly by becoming a committee member. A nomination form is featured in this bulletin so there is no excuse.

Thanks Sue....

URGENT: Anyone know of a qualified person who might be persuaded to audit our accounts? Any ideas to the President immediately please.

KOHURAU (Hundred Mists)

We had wanted to go and see the new Esquilent bivy. By Thursday night it was clear that putting a white paper bag over your head and standing in a refrigerator for the day would be more profitable. Our bad weather alternative was Kohurau and Mount Domet in drought stricken North Otago. The St Mary range is only two and half hours driving from Dunedin so we arrived in Kurow before closing time. In one of Kurows pubs we found the farm manager for Awakino and we also rang Spring Hills Station to confirm access. We had an early night at the fork of the east and west branch of the Awakino. Rather than cramming into the tents, Fiona (not the tallest person I know) slept in the back of a Honda Civic and claimed it was comfortable. She could be the first and possibly the last person to do so.

In the morning it was cool enough to make the long grind up the ridge pleasant. The view steadily improved out down the Waitaki with its jumble of islands and channels to the sea. There were shafts of sunlight to the Hakataramea Valley. Rain showers kept blowing in from the west. The vegetation gradually changed up the ridge as we gained height. From the ploughed farm land in the bottom of the valley to high tussocks and oversown grasses, to shorter tussocks and finally scree and rock fields. By 1700 metres the vegetation was really hammered. There were small patches of snow in sheltered gullies but otherwise the top looked like the face of the moon. In places the rock expanse has strange vegetable blobs and rock alignments. We obtained a good view of the Awakino Ski Field. There were occasional sounds coming up from the valley as somebody was tinkering in one of the buildings. To the south the Mt Buster gold diggings were clearly visible as a light golden area against the dark gloom of the surrounding hills. The weather was steadily closing in and restricting the view.

Kohurau is surprisingly high at 2010 metres and is shaped like a buttock with a 100 metre pimple. Unlike Domet you could easily push your grandmother in a wheelchair onto the rounded top. Someone has made a low rock-walled shelter just off the summit but it was clearly a mad place to attempt to camp for the night.

The descent into Hut Creek was frustratingly slow over the ankle twisting rock terrain. Wind and rain lashed through the holes in my coat. It didn't help that Marie had had to change into her running shoes because her boots had started to pinch her tendon. This was despite having stuck a milk bottle into the boots for three days to try and reshape them. In a hopeful fashion we camped in the top of Hut Creek so that we could go on to Mount Domet on Sunday. For some time I have tried to convince David there was enough room in his Olympus tent to sleep three. I thought sharing his tent with Fiona and Marie would convince him of this but the grumblings in the morning proved otherwise. Mist, iced up tussocks, cold drizzle, Sunday morning in drought stricken North Otago. Kicking an iced covered tussock with resulting crash and tinkle of ice is very satisfying. Winter does make these hills a far more interesting place to be.

The previous cursing at the scar of the four wheel drive track was quickly replaced by the realisation that we could walk out by lunchtime using the track. It was quick and there was no chance of getting lost in the freezing fog. I was even back in town early enough to summon up the energy to go and see the Return of the Killer Tomatoes and Lust in the Dust on Sunday night at the Film Festival. All in all a good weekend.

Antony Hamel

for Michael Hamel, David McFarlane, Marie Drury, and Fiona Mcleod

OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)

OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE 1989/90

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on THURSDAY 31 AUGUST at 7.30pm.

I wish to nominate

for the position of

Proposed by

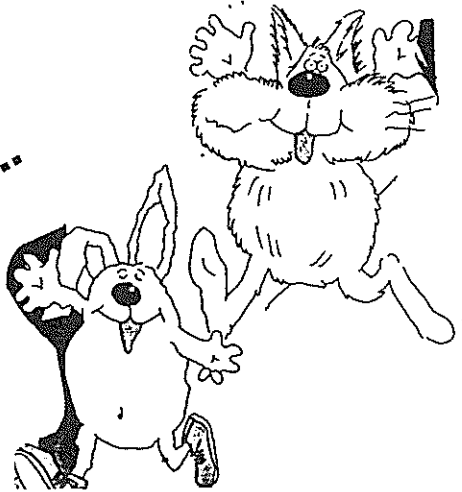
Seconded by

Signature of Nominee

This nomination form to be in the hands of the Club Secretary, Ian Sime
or posted to the Secretary, OTMC, P.O. Box 1120 Dunedin,

no later than 17 August 1989

SOCIAL PROGRAMME....



THE SOCIAL SCENE.

July 13th;

Bruce Mason gives his annual talk on cross-country skiing, whats involved, equipment and where to go. A good introduction for beginners. This is Bruces' pet subject, I'm not into Xcountry skiing myself but come along and Bruce will show you how to melt down some mutton fat and apply it. (I use to do it myself, with my sledges on the tussock when I was a wee boy and go, man did we go.) Bruce will also describe the value of wax on skis and he'll melt down a candle and on it goes. It'll be a good night.

July 20th;

The Big Auction?? with David Barnes. We'll sell anything. (to anyone) Lets all show that we can also fund raise for worth while causes. You'll get plenty of laughs as well. But remember we need goods to sell! Ring me.

July 27th;

B.Y.O. We love to see where you've been, Easter- Queens B., slides. So dig them out and see you there.

August 3rd;

Discussion night. A.G.M. is August 31st so this night is arranged to give members the opportunity to get support for things they want changed. David Barnes is going to open discussion on "Ben Rudds". Also up for discussion is "Are we stand offish to newcomers". I'm on the topic " Committee Members". Hope there will be lots of other topics.

August 10th;

Snow caving (sleeping in the Fridge.) Lots of fun and pretty important to know how, eh Ed?

August 17th;

N.Z. Weather and Avalanches with Dr Blair Fitzharris. We sure don't know enough about this subject.

August 24th;

Chris Pearson speaks on tranping and climbing in S.W. USA; How I learnt to quit worrying and love the "bomb" Chris gets around, so come along and enjoy his experiences in Yankee Land.