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

OTMC BULLETIN

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

FEBRUARY 1990

BULLETIN NO. 485

OTMC MARATHON

The Grand Traverse Of The Silverpeaks

9 February

PRESIDENT	Stuart Mathieson	534-359
VICE PRESIDENT	Rhonda Robinson	738-142
SECRETARY	Mark Planner	763-988
TREASURER	Teresa Wasilewska	741-315
CHIEF GUIDE	Antony Pettinger	737-924
EDITOR	Debbie Pettinger	737-924
MEMBERSHIP SEC.	Ian Sime	536-185
SOCIAL SEC.	Elspeth Gold	551-245
GEAR HIRE	Russell Godfrey	557-205

TRIP LIST

FEBRUARY 4 SHANGRI LA (M) DOUG FORRESTER 876-416

Who could resist the day trip to Shangri La, at the back door step of Dunedin with our irrestible Doug Forrester. Take out those boots and enjoy the rist official daytrip of the New Decade.
Be at the club rooms by 9-00 am and don't forget lunch.

FEBRAURY 10 (SAT) OTMC MARATHON (FE) ANTONY PETTINGER 737-924

This is a trip only for the Experienced and Fit members of the club. Sign the trip list and have a chat to the leader, Antony. This trip follows a route of 55 km around the Silverpeaks. What better way to see them in one day. Check points have been arranged so if you don't think you can make it then you can stop and get a lift back to Dunedin. Don't forget all participants must speak to Antony before signing list.

FEBRUARY 11 MYSTREY TRIP BRUCE MASON 761-544

Bruce has been in the club a while and of course knows the arears the club hasn't been to for a while. Bruce is keeping the actual whereabouts of this trip a secret but it certainly promises to be a good one.
Turn up at the clubrooms at 9-00 am and all will be revealed.

FEBRUARY 17-18 BUSHCRAFT (TIROHANGA)
24-25 BUSHCRAFT (SILVERPEAKS)

These weekends will not have day trips as all available members will be needed for Bushcraft. For further information please see further on in the Bulletin.

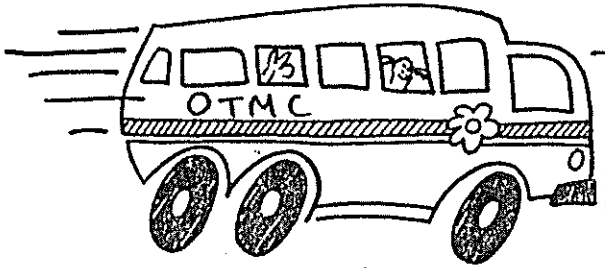
MARCH 4 BUSHCRAFT RIVERCROSSING DAY TRIP ROSS COCKER 545-995

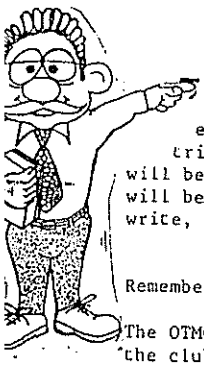
For all new and not so new people to tramping the knowledge of rivers, how to cross and when to cross is invaluable. This is an excellent chance to brush up on it all and also to help out at bushcraft. Who knows if the day turns out good a barbeque may even be held.

MARCH 10-11 BUSHCRAFT OPTIONAL WEEKEND ARTHUR BLONDELL 897-633
OHAU AREA

While this trip is part of the Bushcraft course all club members are encouraged to go. There is plenty of scope for this area and there will also be plenty of people to see and enjoy the area with. Further information is further on in the bulletin.

HAPPY TRAMPING FOR 1990 - HOPE THIS YEAR PROVES TO BE AS GOOD AS THE LAST!!



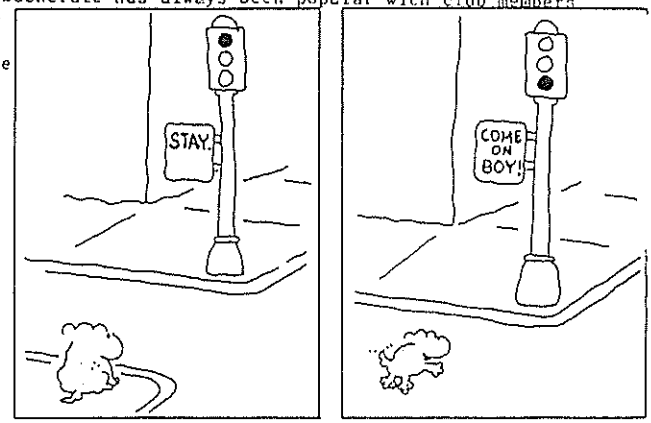


EDITOR'S DIARY

welcome back to another promising year of tramping. I hope that everything you intended doing got done and all those long Christmas trips were exceptionally enjoyable. I am sure that heaps of trip reports will be written and handed in to the Bulletin because I know that everyone will be most interested in what you did. For those unsure of how much to write, here are some guidelines: For daytrips ½ typed page
weekend trips 1-1½ typed pages
long weekend trips 1-2 typed pages.
Remember these are just a guideline. All tripsreports, gratefully received.

The OTMC has a log of plans for this year and to start these off there, was the club picnic at Trotters Gorge which was enjoyed by all who attended. Further details on the fun had can be found further on in the Bulletin. The club marathon will be run again this year on February 10 and from what I hear there will be a lot of people involved with participants and people manning the various checkpoints. If you are interested in either one of these options, then please let our ever friendly chief guide Antony Pettinger know.

Don't forget to let Ross Cocker know if you are interested in helping out on Bushcraft. He needs people that are experienced in teaching and also people who are completely new to it. Bushcraft has always been popular with club members donating alot of their time to help people learn about saftey in the outdoors. The club has a pretty good record on this one and 1990 will be no different.



The Easter social will be run again this year and Elspeth is hoping for a great turnout. If you're the social type then keep this date free.

All in all the new year looks to be a good one. If you have anything you'd like to be brought to the attention of other club members then please let me know.

HAPPY TRAMPING FOR 1990.

Debbie

.....Editor.

This is your bulletin and to make it interesting I need lots of trip reports, Letters to the Editor, Recipes, Crosswords or plain gossip. If you have anything to contribute please hand it to either Debbie or Antony Pettinger at Thursday Club nights or post to 'The Editor' OTMC PO Box 1120 Dunedin. The aim of the Bulletin is to keep members informed on what is or has happened in the club.

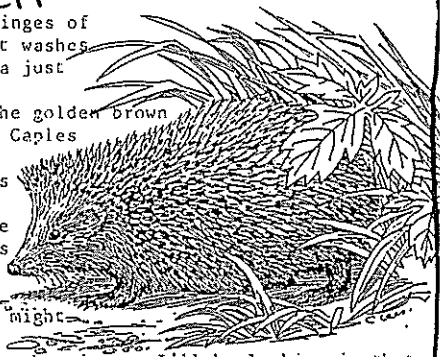
THE TREASURER'S BLACK LIST

As promised in last months Bulletin the Treaser Teresa Wasilewska, was going to publish all the names of outstanding trip fares. As a result, many people paid. HOWEVER one name remains.

B LAW FIORDLAND WEEKEND

If this is you then you had better pay the Treasurer NOW!!

GREENSTONE/CAPLES WEEKEND 24-25 MARCH



A really Top Notch area for this one. On the fringes of Fiordland so we wont get that Fiordland crap that washes out all the enthusiasm (better trow in that parka just incase).
Starts at majestic lake Wakatipu and then into the golden brown valley floor of the Greenstone, or how about the Caples 'park-like' grassy clearings, tongues of beech forest down to the valley floors. Fishing, 3 kgs are pretty common so chuck in the fishing line. Lots of scope for Easy, Medium or Fit trips. The Fit can do the round trip and the FE nutters (yes there is a few of them) we'll send them down Steele Creek and over the Ailsa mountains, that should keep them quiet on the journey home. You might meet up with Mick Hutchins and his 3 pack horses transporting coal, perhaps scrounge a ride across the rivers, I'll be looking in that direction myself. I used to get the Chief Guide but his girlfriend(whoops, wife) goes a bit funny on that one.
So there it is! See you on the Greenstone/Caples circuit.

(Hey C.G. what a great story, I haven't even been in the area)

LEADER ..... Doug Forrester

NEW MEMBERS

A BIG HELLO TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS. HERE'S HOPING THERE WILL BE MANY HAPPY YEARS TRAMPING WITH THE OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB.

Jill Buckingham	49 Corstorphine	876-76
Bruce Farthurst & Julie Clark	42 Selwyn Street	739-03
Mike Hamel	1 McGregor Street	739-35
David Palmer	2 A Fox Street Port Chalmers	728-99

OUTDOOR FIRST AID COURSE - WAIORA

November 17 -19

Details of course material are deliberately vague for the 'benefit' of future students however....

.ix OTMC members arrived at Waiora Scout Camp at about 7-00 pm on Friday complete with a bright red penguin kite - essential for First Aid.

After being reasured by instructor Doug Third that we would work hard all weekend, the 21 students were split into three teams of seven, and each team was then given a 10ft wall on the confidence coarse to get over.

After a quick night cap members retired to their hut and talked the night away discussing who had previously slept with who and training wood pigeons to pick up human scent for the purposes of SAR.

Saturday started a little earlier than expected at 7-45 am with the most life like First Aid exercise I'd ever seen. In fact it took maybe 15 minutes to realise the incident was actually genuine. We were taken down to the river where two boyscouts had fallen down a 10-15 m, almost vertical bank onto a flat bank at the bottom, about the size of a sofa - very lucky. On the way down they also disloged a rock onto the fathers head causing two gashes. To cut a long story short Dad walked back, one lad with a cut and bruised back was carried across the river by Doug and the other boy was treated for back and leg injuries and then strechered shoulder-high across the river by Doug, scout leaders and OTMC members. An ambulance took them all back to Dunedin. Then it was breakfast time for us.

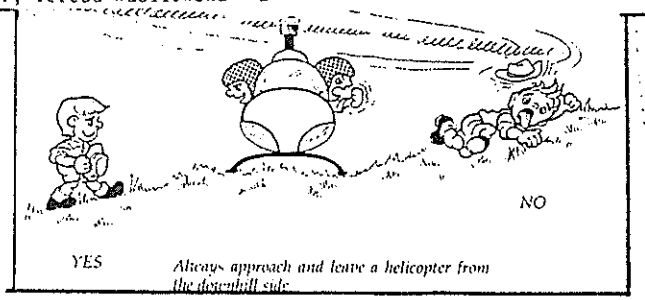
Saturday's instruction consisted of the usual CPR stuff, injury treatment in the form of a relay race, and an all-in wresling with a view to achieving a fireman's lift.

Tea consisted of mushroom paté and biscuits, vege-slops à la Pettinger and assorted cakes for dessert - all very nice. Saturday ended with a wee SAREX which basically involved tramping up a steep hill, doing a bit of First Aid at the top, being mucked about in the dark for two hours then evacuating a casualty down the same steep hill only to kick her off the strecher at the bottom.

Sunday morning saw a conclusion of our instruction on fractures, limb 'immobilization' and the like. After lunch major incidents were conceived and performed by each team in turn, with another team acting as First Aiders. This was a very worthwhile exercise with only two casualties lost, one fatality (which couldn't be helped) and one particularly uncooperative person who was allowed to wander off into the bush never to be seen again.

Weather OK Company EXCELLENT!!

Present were:- Anabel Boyes, Yvonne Greer, Ian McElhinney, David Peacock, Richard Pettinger, Teresa Wasilewska - -



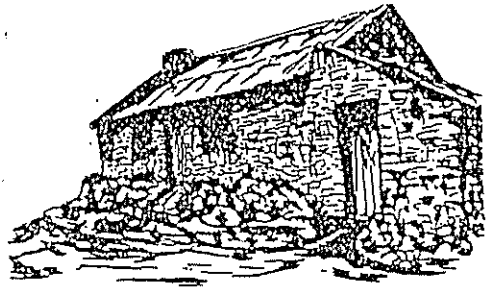
Always approach and leave a helicopter from the downhill side

MACETOWN- Labour Day Weekend 21-23 October 1989

We set off expecting doom, gloom and two cold fronts over the weekend.

Camped as usual by the riverbank in Arrowtown. It wasn't raining the next morning, so we took the Big Hill track. This is the original miner's packtrack into Macetown, and consequently has a very comfortable gradient.

Lunch at Needham's cottage, the schoolmaster's restored house. The daffodils are beautiful, still the original strain.



NEEDHAM'S COTTAGE

We strolled down the main street of Macetown, being educated from Mike's guidebook. The bakehouse has been restored and the butcher's shop has a concrete floor (business must have been good), but the other houses are just sites surrounded by trees.

Past Macetown we went up the Rich Burn to the Anderson Battery, erected 1906, and a rundown on the gold extraction process. We could see the remains of the water race on the cliff above the battery. We went further up the old pack track, which is still in good condition except for a few slips, and up Sylvia Creek. We set up camp on three separate sites within visiting distance. Our tent was beside the All Nations battery, so we trust the tent floor kept out the mercury vapours!

After cups of tea we went exploring up Sylvia Creek. There's a smithy with remains of bellows, supports for an aerial tramway, and an explosives storage tunnel. The most modern relic (1975) is the remains of a Cessna, which flew up the valley, unable to gain height, until it crashed into the cliffs at the end and burst into flame. All on board died.

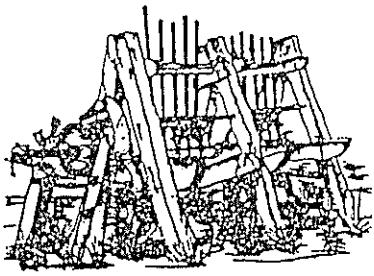
On Sunday the tops were clagged in, so we decided to start in the valley and get onto the tops if it cleared later.
A few minutes up the Rich Burn we stopped at the Homeward Bound battery. This battery was originally used in Waipori and carried into Macetown in 1910.

We scrambled up the line of the aeriel tramway which fed the batte as far as the mine shaft. The huge amount of mullock, or wast roc. thrown from the mine made a handy flat place to rest. It started raining, and we headed back down a zig-zag pack track to the main valley.

We stopped for lunch in a modern hut at Sawyer's Gully. There is the remains of a boiler here- they must have carried in coal to feed it- and a 30-foot water wheel. The last battery on the site was the 36-stamp Premier. Now it is labelled "No Fossicking"... something to mention to Teresa Fossickalewska!

We admired a large tub which used to hold potassium cyanide, the reefs were often contaminated with iron pyrites, which combines with mercury more easily than gold. In these cases, the miners used cyanide to extract gold from the powdered ore. Macetown wouldn't have been pleasant, what with mining waste everywhere, muddy streams, mercury and cyanide in the water!

Further up valley there's a tramway, quartz hopper, mine shafts, house remains. Also a modern sculpture (handcrafted slate slabs with metal coils between them and a ceramic insulator on top) which we think must have been a heat dissipation unit for an electric generator. Back to the tents for a nap before tea.



STAMPING BATTERY

Fine again on Monday. The 4WD road down the Arrow is interesting to walk- once. There are neat stacks of boulders where Chinese miners reworked the tailings. The gorge is quite impressive- must have been hard work to build the road through in the 1880's. Luckily we didn't get too many trailbikes. For the last 20 minutes we left the road and followed a delightful high level track to Arrowtown. The tacky souvenirs and Japanese and American tourists make it hard to spot the icecream shops. We survived Arrowtown, but not the van fumes on the way back!

Macetown tour parties: Bruce Mason (native guide), Eric, Mike Floate, Megan Park, Jane Bruce, Spen Walker, Darcy Espie, Gilbert Mingam, Mike Hamel. A great trip!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Madam Editor

During one of the club nights I overheard a young lady called Rhonda volunteering to lead a weekend club trip, I think that is absolutely terrific!! Well done Rhonda and according to the grape vine five other competent young ladies have agreed to lead a weekend club trip, also a plug for the female sector and a nice break through for the club.

We have had the Year of the Dragon, Monkey, Chicken,etc so perhaps 1990 will be the Year of the Female, very nice thought don't you think Madam Editor.

Kind Regards

THE PHANTOM

Couldn't agree more, it is great that so many are keen to lead the club to better places. Ed -

40 TIPS

FOR DOING IT RIGHT

For those new to Tramping or those who are not sure if they are Doing It Right!

1 Always tramp with yellow shorts and a purple pack NB: Must clash colourwise

2 Slippers are a must on all tramps ie: home comforts

3 Do not be first when plo ding foot steps in the snow, leave that for the inexperienced

4 When crossing rivers always wait to see how everyone else does it - may be there is an easier way.

5 Macpac is out - Fairydown is in.

6 Bright pink gaiters are fashéonable

7 Never offer to buy the food for a weekend - who buys usually cooks!

8 Always insist on buying the food for a weekend trip as you can always buy what you like

9 Always chose the first place when putting up the tent - no bumps in bed.

10 Poofta pads are the new wave in carrymats.

11 If close-sell foam carrymats are taken these must be scratched and/or ripped.

12 Old worn out gear is better than brand new gear.

13 Dacron sleeping bags take up more room in the pack therefore less party gear can be carried.

14 Four man tents are Cosier for two but roomer for four.

15 Red long johns are the In Thing ie: Superman style.

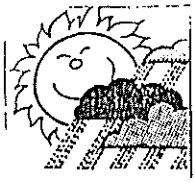
16 Yellow PVC parkas are the past while Goretex is now.

17 Only Alp Sports Bivy Bags are trendy for those who intend to do it right.

18 Always sit in the back of vans as the front is NOT for the fashionable tramper.

19 The top of mountains and passes give a really buzz while valleys only give stiff necks.

20 Glacier glasses (those with leather sides) are a must for all trampers wishing to Do It Right.



21 Odd sox are the only way to travel - preferably with holes.

22 Wool balaclava's are more fashionable than polyprop. ones.

23 Green Frames Boots are not what you want if you are Doing It Right.

24 Let the stronger members of your party carry ropes.

25 A hired ice-axe is definitely a no-no - Red with a white stip curling around it is In.

26 For those with flair wear a bright orange, long sleaved shirt with paisley dots

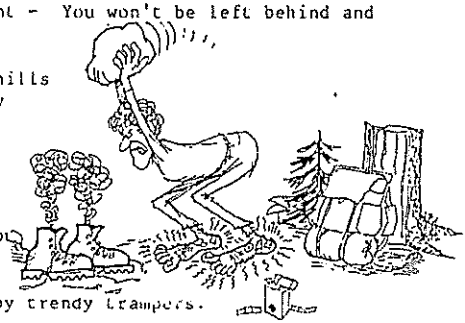
27 Sweat bands are only for those with a complex on whether they are Doing It Right or not.

28 Cameras are always carried however instamatics are definately out.

29 Hats are optional on tramps however an Andy Capp type hat is best.

30 When going up hill always stay in front - You won't be left behind and everyone will think you are fit.

31 Always stay at the back when going up hills so no-one will know how slow you really are.



32 Never admit you're lost - Just geographically embarrassed.

33 You know you're Doing It Right when you can use a map and compass.

34 A map and compass are always carried by trendy trampers.

35 A clean shaven face is trendy on the 8th day of a 10 day trip.

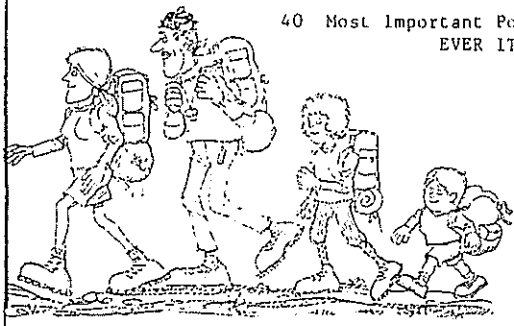
36 Hut tickets tied to the outside of packs show that you prefer a Hut to a tent.

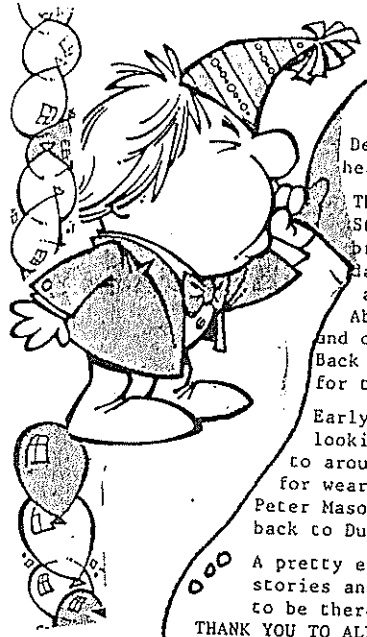
37 To have dry feet at the end of a tramp is luxury.

38 Stories of frozen boots and frozen laces are the In thing - only if you have personally experienced it.

39 To have no blisters after a hard tramp is best, one is acceptable two is alright but more is definately OUT.

40 Most Important Point of All - ENJOY YOUR TRAMP WHERE EVER IT MAY GO!!!





THE OTMC X-MAS PARTY

December 9 dawned bright and sunny, 31 intrepid trampers headed to Hindon Station for a weekend of wild abandon.

The barbeque tea was put on by Don and Leila from Hindon Station and it was superb, enough food leaft over for breakfast. The music was turned up and whether it was dancing inside or sitting under the stars gossiping outside a good time was had by all.

About 2 am and someone, still not known, suggested and off down to the river for a midnight splash. Back to bed and a hot drink before settling in for the night.

Early next morning Darcy was the first up looking for breakfast and then others managed to arouse themselves, some - looking a bit worse for wear. A search was successful in finding Peter Masons missing glasses and then off back to Dunedin.

A pretty eventful weekend with lots of stories and gossip but I suppose you had to be there to appreciate it.

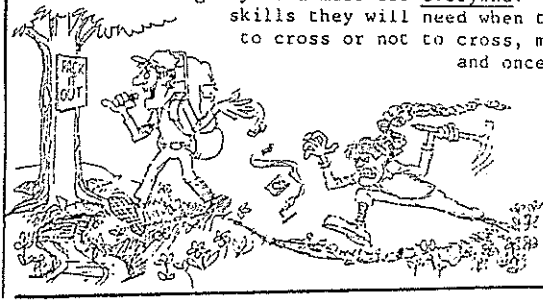
THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED!!

BUSHCRAFT 1990

Bushcraft 1990 startes13 February and this year is going to be one of the best. Posters are slowly going up all over the city and if you have a corner dairy that could use one, then Debbie Pettinger will be glad to give you one.

Most of the instruction goes on at Tirohanga and this is where we need most of our instructors. If you would like to meet a lot of new people and maybe even tramp with them then sign up on the helpers list. Even if you have never instructed before then this is an excellent chance to be showen yourself. We need people to train for next year , and the year after course. People will be needed at all times so if you can't make the whole weekend but you can make one day then see either Antony Pettinger or Ross Cocker. At Tirohanga people will be taught all about the map and compass, (may be you need to brush up on this one), firelighting, tent and fly pitching as well as all the new primuses out will be on display and people will also be shown how to do and use each. If you have a primus or tent you wouldn't mind lending then again see Antony. The Silverpeaks weekend will see many keen people with new knowledge attack the Silverpeaks and again club members will be needed to be leaders for these parties.

The rivercrossing day is a must for <u>everyone</u>. While we are teaching new people all the skills they will need when the time comes to make the decision to cross or not to cross, members are also encouraged to come along and once again brush up on those life saving skills.



Who knows you may even enjoy teaching people. Bushcraft is where everyone gets a chance to help and enjoy it.

NARDOO V - 26/11/1989

What excitement, a good forecast for a change "light southerlies, cloudy conditions continuing through to Monday". Off to Clubrooms, 13 people in 3 cars took 1¼ hours to drive the 72 Kms to Trig U (2000ft) at the south eastern corner of the Nardoo Scientific Reserve. Pleasant tramping following a water race for ½ hour into a 5 hectare pocket of remnant silver beech forest. Thru this, up the ridge on the true right of the Nardoo Stream above the beech climbing up the tussocky southeastern slopes of the Lammerlaw Range to reach Trigs G G No2 (3200ft) on the top of the Nardoo for lunch in deep tussock at 1.00 pm. Pleasant views of gently rolling tussock covered hills around Devil Stream catchment which is a tributary of Deep Stream. ½hour to Little Peak (3000ft), cameras clicking at Walrus Rock, a natural archway of schist over a mont-like tarn. This rock and other man-made cairns in the Reserve were used extensively for route-finding by goldminers travelling between Dunedin and Gabriels Gully. It was because miners were travelling thru this area at that time that gold was discovered in 1861 at what became the Waipori Goldfield. The lower reaches of the Nardoo Stream were intensively worked and relics of this goldmining era are found throughout the reserve. 1½ hours easy walking down a 4WD track on the southern boundary of the reserve brought us back to the cars. Good conditions for tramping, pity about the haze in the distance which obscured much of the distant hills. Back at the Clubrooms by 4.30 pm. Nardoo is nardone again.

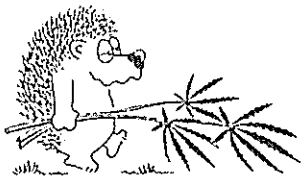
Ross Cocker for David Barnes, Peter Barnes, Doug Forrester, Mary Clark, Yvonne King, Ken King, Rhonda Robinson, Annabel Boyes, Megan Park, Stephen Cathro, Ken Mason and Ian McIlroy.

TROTTERS GORGE PICNIC 28 Jan

This year the club picnic was held at Trotters Gorge on 28 January A few of the enthaustic arrived on Saturday Afternoon and after setting up the tents a volleyball game was started. Doug Forrester was most upset when he threw his hat in the water while trying to rescue the ball.

A barbeque tea was started then into the hut to enjoy an open fire. While we were contemplating what the weather would do people started to arrive. And did they arrive, in total approx. 44 people arrived at the OUTC hut to enjoy the brilliant weather and barbeque(thanks must go to Lindsay and Judy Aitcheson on the kind lend of it). An excellent volleyball game was continued most of the afternoon while many other members had a catch up of how everybodies holidays went. The children enjoyed the water, and they proved very handy when the ball happened to go in that direction.

It was a good weekend and I must say that it was pleasing to see many members of the club who are now slowly becoming less active with the enjoyment of new babies



NICHOLL'S CREEK 19th November 1989

In spite of the forecast for snow to 500m, six people turn up at the clubrooms. We drive up Leith Valley and park at the first bridge, just past Islay St.

There's a locked gate across a road, and a sign saying "Water Reserve- Keep Out". We climb over the fence using the stile that's provided. A few minutes up the road there's a sign pointing to the Nicholl's Falls track. Being hardy trampers we go up the stream instead. We pass the town water intake, and then go through a pretty little gorge, about 8 feet wide and 40 feet high.

About 10 minutes up the stream we come to Nicholl's Falls. They're about forty feet high, a sheer drop over a mossy cliff. This is the largest of several volcanic dykes across the valley, which being hard rock have stayed there and formed waterfalls. These falls were quite famous for many years, and were one of the Dunedin tourist sights. In fact, during the South Seas Exhibition of 1925 there was even a teahouse nearby for visitors to refresh themselves!

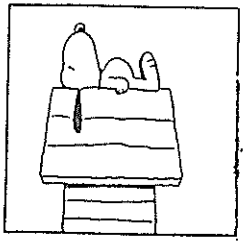
We go back a short way on the track, climb up the bank and sidle around to get into the stream higher up. Quite a nasty steep scramble, and I think we'll look around for a better route next time!

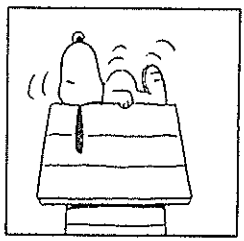
It starts to rain, and as we continue up the creek things get wetter and slimier. We come to three more waterfalls, and have to clamber out of the creek to get around them. After the third one we decide things are getting too slippery and we will take the easy way out.

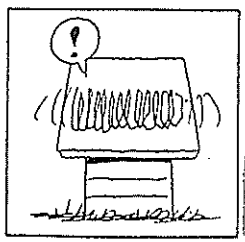
We head straight up on the true right of the creek, which soon takes us to an open grassy area. A bit more climbing, and we are at the scrub just below the Pineapple track.

About 2 minutes further on we hit the Pineapple Track, so it's easy walking back to the cars, and lunch at home away from the wind and rain.

Mary Clark, Heather Clark, Steve Cathro, Anton Fitchett, Spen Walker, Jane Bruce.







OTMC Hot Gossip

The M in OTMC must certainly be changed to Maternity.

Congratulations must go to Pania & Ross Flamack on the birth of their bundle of joy in November last year.

Richard & Tracey Pettinger are expecting a wee baby in July and we trust that the tramping will not stop before then.

Chris Pearson & Kathy Woodrow also welcomed a wonderful baby girl named Rose Alicia into their lives on 29 December 1989.

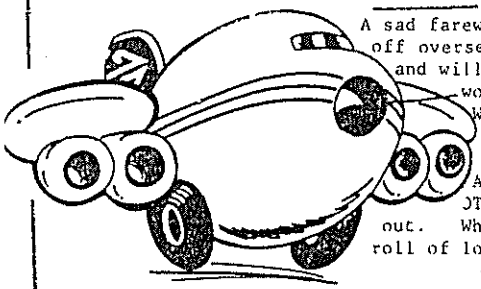
Dave Armstrong and Irene Pow have much pleasure also with the birth of their beautiful daughter on the first day of the new decade

Another couple who are thrilled with the birth of a lovely baby daughter are Bill and Glenys Needs on 8 January 1990.

Rumor has it that one Committee member left to shower at West Arm Manapouri so quickly that others had to rescue her (monogrammed) underwear for her????

Who was the Club member who managed to leave Ahuriri on time despite locking the keys in the boot of the car. And please, NO ONE is to tell Michael Fay's wife how he drives her car when he borrows it for the weekend.

It must also be pointed out to the chauvanists of the club (not pointing the finger at D.F.) That the Ahuirui weekend was organised by an all star FEMALE team(who of course are quite prepared to give credit also to the male climbing team) and they managed to leave EARLY!!



A sad farewell goes to Graham & Alison Johnston as they head off overseas . Both have been in the club a while and will leave many friends behind but will take many wonderful memories with them. We wish both all the best in their new life overseas.

A phone call may not be very far off for one OTMC member. The police have a full scale search out. Who was that masked tramper who unwittingly took a roll of loo paper from the police station one morning?

HAS EVERYONE SEEN THE BUSHCRAFT '90 WINDOWS IN THE GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUILDING AND WESTPAC BANK WINDOWS DONT FORGET BUSHCRAFT STARTS THIS MONTH!!

NEWS FLASH!!!!!!! A further report on the travels of MICHELLE WILLIAMS!!!

The latest news on the extra-ordinary travels of this amazing OTMC member is that she is safely in Kashmir, India. She was right in the middle of unrest with a number of locals being shot. She has been Elephant riding and enjoyed it very much, she has been scared out of her wits by various animals, squashed on transport to various cities and frozen most of her body while out tramping in the mountains. She has not forgotten her friends in the OTMC and sends her best wishes to everyone for the New Year.

ASPIRING REVISITED

Well here we go again, could it be this time, I wondered, the fifth attempt so surely. Friday 3 November and we were away on a good forecast, Andrew, Chris and myself. We took on a load of Chips at Wanaka, as that seems to be the in thing. 6-45 pm and we were at the car park, on went the 32 kg of pack, YUK By 9-00 pm we were under the stars at Shovel Flat an it's looking good. Earlish start at 7-00 pm when on went the 32 kg pack again. We were at Scotts Biv at 9-00 am and we had a quick look inside, little did we know what was in store for us lucky fellow's. Dean Maxwell had put me right on how to avoid the slabs above the waterfall. The trick is to look for a cairn on your right and follow a cairned route just below the ridge, there is quite a good footing but not always obvious. It is much safer than traversing the slabs. Bevan Col was a great place for luch at 1-15 pm, with a beaut day Chris was rightfully impressed with Aspiring in all it's glory. The Adrenalin was running on 50/50 by now, Yep this is it.

We roped up for the Bonar 1hr 20 mins from Bevan Col to Colin Todd and what a relief as we shed the 32 kg Pack. That night we had a big depate as to starting time in the morning. I think this Andrew falla might like his bed, a few trips with that Blondell fella would soon change. Anyway with a bit of slyness the alarm accidently goes off at 3-45 am. A clear morning and slight westerlies. We roped up and out the hut by 5-00 am, the adrenalin had increased by now to 75/25. After 1½ hr slog to the foot of the ramp and we had perfect snow conditions, with a ton of it. The scrund at the start of the ramp required a large step,. last time in November we climbed down into it and picked a track across it, then another climb back out. Into the pack went the rope and out came the second ice axe. By now the adrenaling was running fast and straight. We were away flat out like a lizard drinking. There was a bit of swirling cloud on the top so there won't be a view.

On the top at 9-20 am, Great Going!! It was a bit cold, but a great feeling to finally be there. A couple of photos and we started to descend out of the cloud where the North West Ridge levels off. We started talking of lunch in the hut and a sleep in the afternoon. This all sounded pretty good to me. We descended down the ramp in reverse and with a click of the fingers we were in a white out. We couldn't even see our footprints below our feet, and then we realised that we were heading off course. Andrew decided that it was time for a snowcave, things certainly were not looking rosy now and with not much gear or food I wondered if this was going to be a very long night. Our digging utensils consisted of an ice axe and my 2 litre plastic water bottle with the end cut out. By 3-00 in the afternoon the hole started to look almost livable but at 3-30 pm suddenly and briefly a gap appears in the white out and we see where we are, then it was gone, just as quickly.

By 4-00 pm it clears and the relief was great, however it was very steep getting back on course but we are away. It was around 7-00 pm when we finally arrived at the hut with the snow now very soft and hard going. Chris was relieved to see us and it was a quick decission to be away first thing in the morning to complete a good trip. We opened the door next morning to a complete white out. What a buggar. Then the storm hit us about 8-00 am it was a hut day. Tuesday morning is real rough and by 1-00 pm the decision is made to go for it. We had to compass across the Bonar to Bevan Col with Andrew in charge, we could see nothing and he is spot on. The howling wind and rain kept up through the Col and track through the slabs was a bit tricky so Andrew absailed us down a rope length and then he picks his way down. We are now at the crossing spot above the waterfall and it is screaming. Onceagain we are there? Where? In the shit!

We find a couple of rough bivy rocks and a bite to eat was all we had to prepare us for the rough night ahead. Unfortunately Andrew and Chris's rock is not too good and they have a very miserable night while I managed to reamin dry. In the morning the river level is still the same but by lunch time Andrew is helping us to get across, and a very risky crossing it was down to Scotts Biv and then lower down to have a look at the crossing but not a show. It was back up to Scotts Biv in very rain and three very wet trampers spent two miserable nights there. Andrew and Chris with wet sleeping bags did not have much fun in it but at least our food was Okay. They were very long nights with andrew being especially cold at night as his sleeping bag was a sodden mass. Thursday and Chris was studing the map. He decided we could bush-bash down the true left from Scotts Biv to the bridge across the Matukituki (French Ridge). Friday morning and we are extreamly glad to be rid of Scotts Biv with the stream running through it.

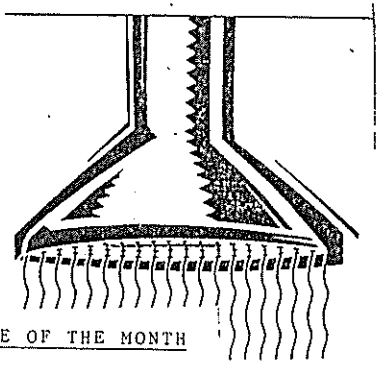
Two hours was all it took to get us to the bridge and still it was raining but we are now feeling much more secure. Radio contact at Aspiring hut relieves every one.

Suming up I was away with two jolly nice guys.
Andrew, a great leader, strong, confident, made good decisions.
Chris, ever so cautious.
Thanks Andrew for getting me to the top. Hey guys that was quite a trip.

The Mountain A beautiful peak.
The ramp is steep in places and a no mistake area. Once the North West Ridge is reached it is a steady climb to the top with good footing.
But it is a bit of a hassle getting to it and ba again.

We took eight days food and two litres of fuel. We used all the fuel and had one meal left.

Doug Forrester for Andrew Powell and Chris Pearson.

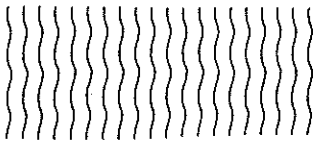


QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Huxley-Hopkins Weekend 2-3 December 1989
Weather was very, very wet.

Antony Pettinger: "Well we're nearly home and hosed"

Neville Mulholland: "Don't know about home but certainly hosed!"



Sitting, huddled together beside a rock,
With almost no gear, no food but one
camera and perfect exposure conditions -
I sometimes question my sanity.

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF A WEEKEND SPENT IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE HUXLEY RIVER AND IT'S TRIBUTARIES, SOUTH CANTERBURY INCLUDING A REPORT ON THE PREVAILING WEATHER CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED THERE IN.

Rained when we came,
rained when we went.
Not much to do,
so we stayed in the tent.

trip report by Ian McIlroy

(Ed - this must be the fastest trip report written. It was handed to me on the bus on the way home from the Huxley-Hopkins trip)

WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON WHAT'

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

MARCH 1 - NEVILLE PEAT - THE ECENTRIC KIWI

A talk about our native bird by a very enteraining speaker. The floor is open after the talk for any questions about Nevilles exploits. I am sure you all will enjoy this bit as much as me.

MARCH 8 DON GREER - SILENT MOVIES

Back by popular demand (some one even requested it) .
Don has some old silent tramping movies which are great entertainment and although these were last shown a few years back, those already seen them will no doubt enjoy them again.

MARCH 15 NOEL GOLTON from the Otago Rock & Mineral Club

The motto for this one is " what we pick up is what you walk over".
Find out the enjoyment of filling your pack with rocks and how enjoyable a tramp is when you take the time to study the landscape around you.

MARCH 22 INFORMAL

Lets use this night to make a special effort to welcome all the new faces from Bushcraft. We could have some informal what I did in the holiday speeches. The odd moan could also arise. Use your immagination.

MARCH 29 BOB ENTWHISTLE - PHOTOGRAPHY

What makes and breaks a good photo? How to take a good photo.
Bring a long some of your samples for some constuctive critism.
If you wish to remain anonymus then of course. Make this an evening of learning about your photos. Remeber the better your tramping photo's then the more people will appreciate and enjoy them.

WANTED Male traveling campion to explore South America in 1991.
The world is out there and if you want to see it then come with me.
Jill Buckingham 876-768

FOUND in Canyon Creek one Swis Army Knife. If you can describe it then see Theresa Wasilewska.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE - committee

During the past financial year the club has made a surplus on club trips of around $500-00. The committee feel that this should be spent on something rather than placed in an existing account.

Therefore the committee proposes donating around $250-00 to Louise Sutherland (Louise talked one club night late last year). Louise supports a mobile medical clinic in the Amazon.

If you have any feelings on this then please let a committee member know or write a letter to the editor expressing your feelings.