

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

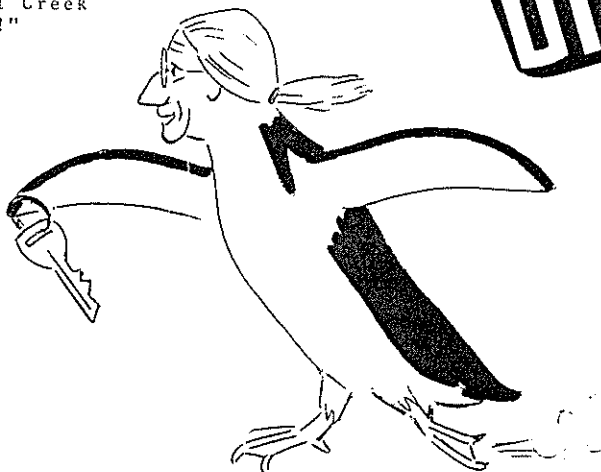
BULLETIN

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

FEBRUARY 1991
BULLETIN NO. 495

Ninety
One

"Look, I have the Steel Creek
hut keys - let's elope!"



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VICE PRESIDENT	Rhonda Robinson	473-8142
SECRETARY	Eric Lord	454-4043
TREASURER	Christine Cocks	473-8329
CHIEF GUIDE	David Barnes	454-4492
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& TRAINING OFFICER	Antony Pettinger	473-7924
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MEMBERSHIP SEC.	Ian Sime	453-6185
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GEAR HIRE	Sharon St Clair-Newman	476-3918

THE OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB
MEETS EVERY THURSDAY
7:30 PM
AT 3 YOUNG STREET
(clubrooms)

TRIP LIST

FEBRUARY 10

WORK PARTY

Richard Pettinger 4879-488

This work-party will be at Ben Rudd's. A large group of people will be required.

FEBRUARY 16-17

BUSHCRAFT - TIROHANGA

Elspeth Gold 479-2022

All members welcome to help.

FEBRUARY 23-24

BUSHCRAFT- SILVERPEAKS

Lindsay Aitcheson 471-0020

Lindsay still requires some party leaders for this trip.

MARCH 3

BUSHCRAFT - RIVER CROSSING

Antony Pettinger 473-7924

An important part of the Bushcraft course and a chance for Club members to brush up on river crossing skills.

MARCH 9-10

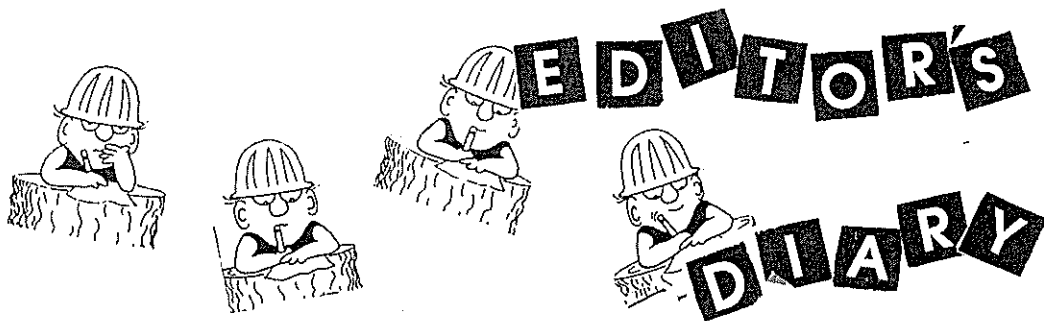
BUSHCRAFT - OPTIONAL WEEKEND - OHAU AREA

Arthur Blondell
489-7633

An area well worth visiting, with plenty for all to do.



BUSHCRAFT FIRELIGHTING INSTRUCTION



EDITOR'S DIARY

Happy New Year and Welcome back to the Bulletin for 1991.

Bushcraft is now upon us. Everyone involved with the course has been working overtime, to ensure that everything runs smoothly. More volunteers are always welcome to help, so see Antony or Elspeth if you are available.

The Bulletin is a fairly "hefty" one this month. However it does raise an important issue in the Club, ie- Life Membership. The Committee feel that before any guidelines or recommendations to future committees can be made we need the views of the Club Members. Please make your opinions known so that Committee can accurately follow the wishes of the members. I can print your letters in the Bulletin, anonymously if need be.

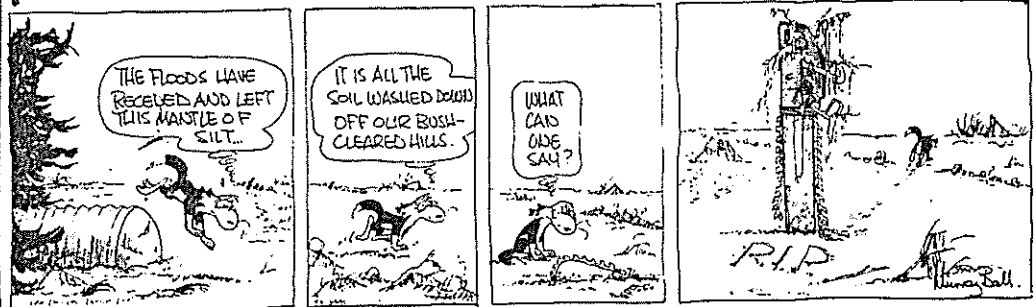
We also have a work-party to Ben Rudd's this weekend. Richard needs a big crowd of helpers for the day pulling out honeysuckle. It would be nice to go up there in 10 or even 20 years time and see a big stand of native trees growing in the area. Your help now will move us closer to this final objective.

Don't forget to read the proposals to update the objects of the FMC Constitution, let Mike know if you have any comments.

I'm hoping to devote most of the next Bulletin to Bushcraft trip reports etc. However, please write me some trip reports from all those Christmas trips and I'll get them into the April Bulletin.

See you next month.....

Sue.



SECRETARY'S CORNER



Welcome to the New Year. Good news to start the year came from DOC Nelson who advised us that an amendment to the Nelson Lakes National Park management plan to allow a wider use of aircraft within the park has been rejected. Notices of approval to operate guided fishing tours in the Dingle Burn Valley and guided horse treks in the Motatapu, Arrow and Hunter Valleys have been received from the Office of Crown Lands. Two companies, North West Nelson Trampers Service and Tourist Transport, have sent information on transport options in the Nelson district for those of you intending to tramp in the area. Their brochures are on the back wall.

Two new newsletters have arrived on the scene. A FMC newsletter has been resurrected by Stephen Fuller, the National Recreation Coordinator. Copies of this newsletter have been left in the Clubrooms, but please return them for other people to read. Points to note from this newsletter are firstly that issues regarding the Resource Management Law Reform have been highlighted with advice on what you can do about them. Secondly Stephen has asked to borrow slides of outdoor activities for display purposes which he will copy and send back to you. The other newsletter came from the New Zealand Conservation Authority and they are requesting ideas about a name for their newsletter. This newsletter has been passed on to Stu Mathieson, convener of the Outdoor Recreation Group.

Don't forget to get your entry in for the DOC coastal and marine photo competition - see the big blue posters for details.

Cheers,
Eric.

OUTDOORS 88-89

In Outdoors 88-89 we suggested that you support the advertisers, many of whom have supported the Club frequently and generously over the years. However, in the case of R&R Sports (formerly Recycled Recreation) we wish to withdraw our endorsement as they have refused to honour their commitment and pay their account.

Anne-Marie and David Barnes (editors)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership, as the term is generally understood, describes a very special honour bestowed by a club, or whatever, upon a member in recognition of exceptional service(s) or benefit(s) performed in that club's interest by that person.

It is recognized as being the highest honour that an amateur organisation is able to bestow, with perhaps the exception of the office of Patron. It follows of course that such an honour is, or should be, only sparingly awarded. Consequently, Life Membership in most organisations is limited at any given time to but a few persons. To do otherwise tends to diminish the value and standing of the office.

Presently the OTMC has 15 Life Members (as per 1988-89 Outdoors). It is arguable that the criteria thus far applied in awarding Life Membership has not always been really appropriate. I suggest in fact, that, if all of the previously used criteria was and always had been uniformly applied, that then the present OTMC Life Membership list would be very much longer than it actually now is. In point of fact, the criteria appears to have been somewhat arbitrarily applied.

Inevitably then, the position arises where persons of equal merit are not even considered. I do not though suggest that we should have more Life Members, quite the contrary. At the risk of copping a good deal of flack for saying so, I believe that we have too many now. If one supports the philosophical notion that holds that the conferring of honours such as Life Membership is an appropriate and proper way to recognize high service, then it surely follows that such an award should be made in favour only of those, the value of whose service is so obvious to all, as to be virtually unarguable.

I seriously suggest that such has not always been the case with the OTMC. Four Life Memberships have been bestowed whilst I've been in the Club. In each case I have, at the time, felt that I had not then been a Club member for long enough to be able to properly judge or comment upon the appropriateness of that nomination. In such a situation one tends to be guided by the opinions of longer serving members. Importantly, this is the situation that many, perhaps even most, Club members would feel themselves to be in. The normal assumption is that a given nominee has performed long and or meritorious service previous to oneself having joined the Club and so one tends to take a very passive or neutral position. However, having now been a Club member for some 14 years, I no longer feel any such constraint and should go on to say that in my opinion no particular member has, during that time, performed such exceptional service as to merit nominations for Life Membership. This is course is not to suggest that many members over the years have not given good, faithful and lasting service to the Club. Many members of course have, and it is upon the ongoing efforts of such people that any club relies.

The OTMC has been well served by a succession of able and enthusiastic members and so thrives accordingly. This though, is surely service freely and willingly given, it is service that falls within the normal range of Club activities and invariably carries its own measure of general recognition and personal reward. Is this then not enough? Well, I for one feel that it should be.

In 1985 a Club sub-Committee was formed to consider the whole question of Life Membership. A quite comprehensive report was presented to the General Committee, but for whatever reason, wasn't much acted upon. A pity, this, as it presented a good deal of information and contained a good range of possible options. I think that it deserves still to be more fully considered. One suggestion made by that report that particularly appeals to me is Option 6, which suggests that an amount of money should be set aside on the election of a Life Member and placed in a special account for the purpose of funding that person's Life Membership. Such a requirement would demand of members that very careful consideration be given before Life Membership was conferred as it requires, of that present membership, that they be so convinced of a nominee's worth that they are prepared to accept the responsibility of the ongoing funding rather than merely passing that cost on to future members. I feel that such a mechanism would prove to be more or less self-governing and would help to provide a more effective and much less arbitrary situation procedure than has been the case in the past.

Don Greer.

Life Membership of OTMC

Our Constitution has sections on Honorary Members and Life Members:

6. Honorary Members The Committee may elect any person with his consent to be an honorary member of the Club, entitling him to all the privileges of membership without payment of the annual subscription; such election to be for a period as the Committee may decide and to be made on the unanimous vote of those present and voting at the meeting of the Committee.

7. Life Members On the recommendation of the Committee, any person who has rendered special services to the Club or to the furtherance of its objects may be elected a Life Member at any general meeting of the Club and shall thereafter be entitled to all the privileges of membership without payment of the annual subscription. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be necessary for such election.

These sections are straight forward and I believe give us all the options we need. Amending them would complicate the situation and make decisions more difficult.

Currently we have 12 Life Members. One reason put forward for not electing any others now is that 12 is too many. But compared with our total membership of 226 this is just 5%

The cost to the Club in lost subs is also given as a reason for not electing more Life Members now. Apart from the fact that Life Members are elected because of their special services to the Club, which probably far outweigh financially the subs foregone; only 3 Life Members are fully active now, with another 3 occasionally involved. So we are losing \$120, or at the outside \$240 this year, out of total subscriptions of around \$1000, hardly a significant amount.

My suggestion is that if we believe one or two current members have rendered special services to the Club, we should elect them Life Members.

The proposal that we should also highlight the work done by present and past life members seems sound. Very few of us can have any real idea of what they have done. Showing it could be an inspiration to us.

Don Greer. Membership Secretary.

PAPAROA'S CHRISTMAS TRIP

We set off for the West Coast early on Boxing day, with plans to arrive at the Blackball Pub at 6pm to meet Mike and Mary. Despite an inadvertent tour around Lake Brunner, we arrived on schedule.

We stayed the night at the Blackball Hilton, which has been converted into a Back-Packers Lodge. (Everyone has probably heard Dave waxing lyrical about the place at some stage.)

The next morning we packed up enormous quantities of food and drove to Anderson's Flat. It took quite a while to do a "car shuffle" so that we had a car at the other end of the track. As a consequence we didn't start tramping until about 11:30.

The plans were to tramp up the Moonlight Valley, head up to the tops and join up with the Croesus Track and arrive out not far from Blackball. After an easy walk up a very well graded track, passing huge piles of hand stacked tailings, we arrived at Meikles Hut, where we spent the night.

It required incredible amounts of discussion and arbitration at the highest levels to fit the six of us on the floor of the hut for the night. Apart from Don suddenly remembering the name of a plant he had been trying to recall all day and yelling it out just as we were all almost asleep, it was a peaceful night.

The 29th turned into a fine and sunny day and we proceeded to the tops, with the pack track ending not very from the hut and becoming steeper and more like a "real" tramping track. A pretty tarn and lovely view of the Grey River enticed us to stop and set up camp. This turned out to be not one of the better decisions we made.

About 7pm the weather changed for the worse and remained the same in the morning. The fact that more and more water was squeezing through the floor of the tent galvanised us into action. What followed was a fairly challenging few hours. We were following a compass bearing all the way as visibility was very poor and trusted that we would meet up with the Croesus Track further along the range. We were all thoroughly soaked by the time we arrived at the Top Hut on the Croesus Track and we rapidly converted the hut to something akin to a Chinese Laundry.

We stayed for another day with the hut gradually filling up. A couple of goldminers shared the hut most of the time and Rhonda's party arrived later as well.

The rest of the trip was uneventful and we had a pleasant day fossicking around at Garden Gully looking at the old Battery Site and making our way out to the road.

We spent the night at Blackball again and participated in a considerable amount of imbibing of alcoholic beverages and revelry.

The next trip planned was to go up the Fox River and walk the Inland Pack Track. The first day we walked up to the Ballroom Overhang arriving just ahead of some light rain. The overhang is big enough to pitch several dozen tents, have a fire and be totally oblivious of the weather.

Don was very concerned about the possibility of rocks falling off the ceiling of the overhang and was very worried when Mary told him that a teaspoonful of dust had fallen onto the tent while he was away.

The next day we delved into Welsh Creek, a very narrow gorge but very magical. We also had a wander further up the Fox River.

Don went looking for goats as we had heard them bleating. Dave remarked that they had most likely smelt us already! We spent the rest of the day lolling about and swimming.

The following day we packed up and headed up Dilemma Creek. We dawdled up the Gorge stopping for frequent photos until we reached the junction of Dilemma and Fossil Creeks. The route follows up Fossil Creek, branching off inland. The track hereafter is extremely muddy and it took us quite a while to reach Brorari River where we made camp for the night.

DoC are in the processes of gravelling this grovel, so it may improve in the future.

I knew it would be the last chance for a swim in the morning, so I braved the waters. Mike said he was keen for a swim, but piked out when the morning came. Perhaps he doesn't really float? (groan).

It was a short walk out to the road through more gorge country. I think we were all reluctant to finish the trip and we spent quite a while throwing stones about. Mary awakened some sort of primal urge in Don with her musical rocks which caused him to start dancing around.

The tramping ended soon after and we headed down the Coast by car to Ross for the night. We stayed with Mike and Muriel the night after in Tarras and were home in Dunedin the next day.

A really enjoyable trip with good company and plenty of bad puns (courtesy of Don). Many thanks to Mike and Muriel for squeezing the lot of us in for the night.

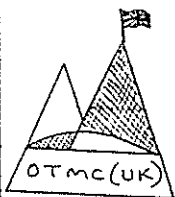
Dave Levick, Mary Hewinson, Mike Floate, Don (a pun/song for every occasion) and Yvonne Greer and Sue Levick (scribe).

THE MOUNTAIN SAFETY COMMITTEE PROPOSED ADVANCED BUSHCRAFT COURSE

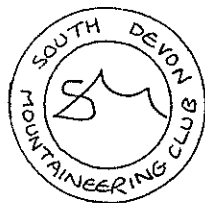
This course would be for people who have done a basic bushcraft course, have (or intend to get) a 1st aid certificate, & have at least 2 years tramping experience. The objective is to teach advanced bushcraft & pass-hopping knowledge & skills which will enable participants to plan & lead a party safely, & under any weather conditions, from one valley system to another (ie Alpine pass crossing).

There will be 5 evening sessions covering planning for the known, planning for the unknown, skills needed such as navigation, mountain radio procedures, avalanche awareness, & survival skills, followed by a 4 day trip to put into practice everything learnt.

If you would be interested in such a course, hopefully to be run winter, please contact Rhonda Robinson (ph 473-81422).



OTMC (UK) NEW YEAR TRIP
(in conjunction with SDMC)



Two thirds of the OTMC(UK) turned up for this trip to the South Hams of Devon, they were Ali Carpenter and myself. Twenty people would eventually take part in this four day trip, with the emphasis definitely on the social aspect.

DAY 1 Saturday 29th Dec 1990

Ten people fronted up on day one and, after settling in at the Stokenham Centre, we spent a pleasant evening at the Church House Inn, Stokenham for a pint or two.

DAY 2 Sunday 30th Dec 1990

The gales had kept some awake during the night but we awoke to a bright sunny sky. Today's walk took the 10 of us from East Portlemouth, around the beautiful coast path to Prawle Point. The colours are amazing at this time of the year with yellow gorse flowers against brown scrub and grey rock.

The weather was very windy (it usually is here) and one of the few showers forced us to take shelter for lunch in the Providence Inn at East Prawle.

After being strombound in the pub for what seemed like ages, we returned to the cars via county roads with fine views of Dartmoor to the north.

After tea at the centre we retired once more to the Church House Inn.

DAY 3 Monday 31st Dec 1990

Day 3 started with thunder and lightning but this soon cleared and, as the cyclists set off on mountain bikes, two walking parties set off - one towards Slapton and our party of four by car to Start Point.

From the car park Jackie, Sue, Chantal and myself headed south to Peartree Point where sunlight combined with thunder clouds and high cliffs created a fantastic scene. From here we followed the cliffs round to see the "new" lighthouse and the ruins of the old one which fell in a recent storm.

Jackie returned to the car whilst Sue, Chantal and I made our way to Hallsands where a path leads down to the ruined old village. The village was a victim of the regular storms which batter this coastline and of mismanagement of the beach which previously had given protection from the sea.

From Hallsands it was over to Beesands where we met Jackie in the Cricket Inn, a good old English Pub where the landlord is a real hard case.

After leaving the pub we fossicked towards Trocros, returning to Stokenham about teatime to get ready for the New Year's Eve party.

By 19:30 our pheasants were cooked and, after toasting the Queen (of England) and numerous absent friends, we tucked into our garlic bread and soup and the feast began.

Our meal was followed by dancing and some very silly games, such as couples spoon-feeding each other potato chips whilst blindfolded.

After the usual midnight revelry, it was a good old sing-song including "Now is the Hour" performed by Ali. The party continued till the chairman could no longer play his guitar.

DAY 4 Tuesday 1st Jan 1991

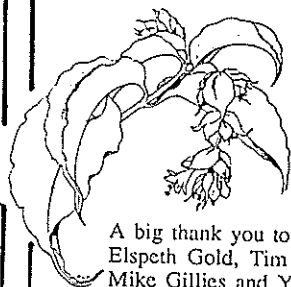
Next year we had just a wee short walk round Slapton, with lunch at the Tower Inn at Slapton (I didn't want to go Elspeth, they made me!).

After lunch people dispersed to all four corners of the county.

This was a great four days and I can assure any OTMC(NZ) members passing this way, you'll feel right at home with these fellow trampers - as long as you're not teetotal!

Ian McElhinney (overseas liaison officer), for Ali Carpenter of Waihola and 18 members of the SDMC.

Ian has sent us some photos and a map of the area which I will put on the wall at the Club. - Ed.



Himalayan Honeysuckle
(Exotic)

BEN RUDDS * and to Tracy, Jonette Service
+ Vincent

A big thank you to the following for helping to fell and sell Christmas trees in December: Elspeth Gold, Tim Moore, Arthur Blondell, Alan Hanson, Doug Forrester, Peter Mason, Mike Gillies and Yvonne Greer.* It was a pleasant day on Saturday and we poisoned the stumps of all the trees (Douglas fir) we cut. The Club made \$130 from the sales. Many buyers were pleased that the trees were "real Christmas trees" not *Pinus radiata* thinnings. Douglas fir certainly smell and look more like Christmas!

What's next for Ben Rudds? By the time you read this, the contractor would most probably be finished felling the trees that were in clumps and which can be removed for firewood, starting soon. However, before we cause ANY MORE soil disturbance by pulling out firewood, etc., we need to have a revegetation programme ready to go. This is best done in autumn for woody species. We'll need help, and seedlings and manuka slash etc, at that time. Look out for more news.

Right now, though, we need people for pulling out Himalayan honeysuckle seedlings. Some of these are about knee high now, but they pull out readily. If YOU are in the area, allow a little time to have a go at them. Please be careful not to damage any native vegetation, especially the thousands of broadleaf seedlings that are coming up. It does my heart good to see the broadleaf and *pseudopanax* all over the place. We can win the battle against the weeds!! Look out for the next organised workparty, folks. (PS there are some nice "weeds" up by the shelter, just ripe for the picking now: gooseberry, blackcurrant and raspberry.)

Richard P.

We lost a party member before leaving the Club rooms. Teresa was missing. We overcame our initial impulse to leave her, when we realised she had some food and a tent. Dennis Kemp went for her, listened to the old "car wouldn't start" story, and chauffeured her to rejoin the van at Waihola.

We stopped at the East Gore garage to refuel, before going to the pie cart. Dennis, Teresa, and I decided to walk on through Gore, and were hanging over the railing of the Mataura bridge, (Dennis looking for trout, and Teresa looking for a swimming hole) when Tim Moore came running. Teresa realised she had the van key. Picture if you can, a man and woman racing toward each other across the Mataura bridge; the woman with an outstretched arm offering a key. Dennis wondered how passing motorists would interpret the scene.

Further to this, the Club is running a contest to give this drawing (see front) a caption; the winner to get an unguided trip up the Steel Creek on an adequately wet weekend. To give you ideas here are 3 entries.

"Look, I have the Steel Creek hut keys - let's elope."

"Keep the house keys and mortgage you swine, sob, sob, I'm going back to my mother."

"What an awful drawing - she's much more attractive." written in Polish.

We got to the Divide late to find the shelter occupied; decided we would try the Hollyford junction shelter, but the shelter had gone! so back to tent at the Divide.

During Saturday we tramped up to Howden, McKellar, and down the Greenstone in overcast conditions to light rain which became heavy toward evening. While lunching by the Greenstone we did some research on sandfly repellants. A suitable pair of female legs were chosen, one coated with Dimp and the other with a mixture of Dimethylphylate, Dettol, and baby cream. Though Pam's potion sounds toxic and eats plastic, one sandfly defied it, compared to nil for Dimp; but Dean's hairy legs seemed most effective.

Late in the day, with the rain getting heavier, we left Mike patching up skin on his feet at the THC hut, while we checked accommodation at Kid Greenstone; - bulging and steaming full of European backpackers. Back to Mike and THC where we scattered ourselves and packs over the verandah giving it an authentic tramp appearance, peered in through windows at white laundered pillows and drying rooms, did some sums on the cost of a night's stay, and quickly decided it was on up to Steel Creek hut, where a good fire and meal were enjoyed.

Moir's allows 10 hours from Steel Creek hut over to Caples and out to the road. It was fine at 5 a.m. so we decided to go for it

over the Caples way. We were 45 minutes late leaving but made up an hour on Moir's time to the top of the saddle, getting up there to see the view just as the weather closed in and began snowing lightly. While going down to the Caples, Pam and Teresa went much of the way on their bums, practicing self arresting amongst the beech - it's steep. Dean and 2 packs were out at the road before 4 p.m., and the rest of the party weren't much later, which wasn't a bad effort considering the weather and Mike's lameness.

Queenstown was our tea stop. OTMCers were eating at an outdoors table in the Mall. My travelling home clothes were travelling home in the wrong van, from the Divide. After the wet weekend I was looking particularly dishevelled, complete with striped long-johns and bare feet. Around us were the jet-set tourists, windows full of stuffed sheep, and travel placards showing mountains in eternal sunshine. One of the more resplendent window shoppers staring hard straight at me said "Just looking, and won't touch."

Pam Cocker (leader), Teresa Wasilewska, Dean Peterson, Mike Gillies and John Galloway (writer and Queenstown's untouchable).

OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUP

There will be a meeting of the O.R.G. on the 26th (Tuesday) Feb. The meeting will be held at the Club-rooms starting at 7:30 pm.

FROM YOUR SOCIAL SECRETARY

I would to thank all those that helped with the Christmas social and also to those that attended. We had a great evening including a hot NW breeze. The success was also to the wide range of members, and their families, that attended especially having toddlers to the night-owls.

Sunday was the club picnic and after much avoidance of the word "barbeque" the weather stayed fine. We transfered beaches from Murdering to Purakanui as the NE had a bite to it. After a yummy barbequed lunch we had a good chat in the sun while our El-president-o and master Mason had a dip in the sea (or did they?).

As Easter is soon after Bushcraft I have decided not to have a pre-Easter social. So if you want to barndance why not join the bushcrafter's - February 16th at 8.00pm at Tirahonga. ✕

In regards to another social being organised I would like to know if members want one and if so I'm keen to hear suggestions etc. I'm looking for suggestions for a May to July social programme and would appreciate names of speakers or fellow club members volunteering.

*NB: If you are coming out to Tirahonga, please do bring a plate, but don't bring any alcohol. See you there!

Objects of the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.)

Listed below are the present and proposed changes to the Objects of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of which you are a member. Please read through them carefully and send any suggestions for alterations to Mike Floate before the end of February.

These are the current objects of the FMC constitution.

- (a) The promotion of climbing, mountaineering, skiing, tramping, hunting and winter sports in the mountains of New Zealand and overseas and of the better knowledge of those mountains through literature, art and science.
- (b) The conservation of all mountainous districts in New Zealand and the promotion of sound management of every kind of recreation and sport connected with mountains in the interest of those actively involved in such recreation and sport and the public generally and to take such action or otherwise as may be necessary to carry out these objects and to maintain in perpetuity the quality of the environment necessarily implied by these objects.
- (c) To constitute a national association of mountain clubs in New Zealand.
- (d) To invest, control, and dispose of the funds and property of the Federation and to raise money for the purpose of the Federation upon the security of its property.
- (e) To maintain effective liaison with clubs.

These are the proposals to update these objects to better represent the activities of the Federation Executive and of member clubs. These proposals are in part a result of comments made by responders to the FMC review questionnaire. The objects could read:

- (a) To constitute a national association of outdoor clubs in New Zealand.
- (b) To promote tramping, climbing, skiing, hunting and walking in the mountains, natural lands, waters and countryside of New Zealand and the better knowledge of these areas through literature, art and science.
- (c) To protect and maintain the legal right of access to all public lands and provide for access to areas of high recreation value where no legal right of access exists.
- (d) The conservation of mountains, natural lands, and waters in New Zealand and the promotion of sound management of every kind of recreation and sport connected with these areas in the interests of those actively involved in such recreation and sport and the public generally and to take such action or otherwise as may be necessary to carry out these objects and to maintain in perpetuity the quality of the environment necessarily implied by these objects.
- (e) To provide effective liaison with all members of the Federation.
- (f) To invest, control, and dispose of the funds and property of the Federation and to raise money for the purpose of the Federation upon the security of its property.

Mike will appreciate your comments.

YOUR VIEWS

Dear Editor

On the subject of OTMC tactics, I would like to make my feelings known.

Yes, I agree that the OTMC should be presented favourably to OWNERS of PRIVATE land. But I also think it is up to organised groups like the OTMC to DEFEND PUBLIC access to PUBLIC land where this is threatened.

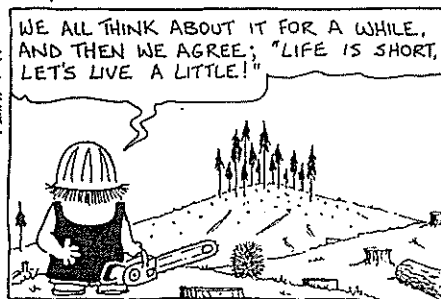
There is strength in numbers and if the OTMC doesn't stand up for the public good, who else will?

Furthermore, it seems to me that the people we are "upsetting" already consider trampers to be a nuisance; that's why they want to restrict access. So what's to be lost, really?

Are the friendly landowners the same people that wish to deny public access to public land? I think not.

Remember, we're not picking fights, we're only fighting back when picked on!

Ian McElhinney.



OTMC Hot Gossip

Many a club member has never to Ben Rudd's. One of these thought he might like a Christmas tree for his family. Imagine his embarrassment when he had to admit to never finding the trees on Flagstaff.

Anne S was invited out after club one night by a distinguished gentleman. Could this mean romance in the club, or did he have other thoughts on his mind?

LADIES BEWARE of how you hold (or don't hold) your glass when drinking. For further details contact Paul Bingham.

A sad farewell to Geraldine DeSouza who flew back to England in December. She became active in the club after Bushcraft last year and made many friends on club trips. Come back and see us all soon.

Who in the club fancies herself as a lumberjack, after bowling a few trees at Ben Rudd's? Perhaps she would just fancy a lumberjack?



What sort of kinky threat did Don Greer use to get a lolly from Sanda in FTC? Needless to say Don received a lolly "quick smart" from Santa.

Don



When taking John Galloway on a trip, be sure to check that he has his specs with him. It's hard to read a map, let alone a compass without them!

John also had some trouble with his alarm clock before the Kakanui's trip. This meant he had to pop in and out of bed all night to check the time in the kitchen! He must be keen.

Did Don Greer start 1991 the same way he finished 1990?

Congratulations must go to Rhonda Robinson and Dennis Price, who are engaged. All the very best for the future.

The "OTMC TEAM" had a wee bit of trouble in the first yacht race at Macandrew Bay. It's hard to sail a boat which is full of water!

Paul Bingham is very reluctant to appear in this column yet again. Was it something to do with New Year's Eve spent in Blackball? Perhaps it was to do with the water-bed? or maybe the salamis? or was it just the young lady he was "looking After"????



Goodbye

HAT'S ON WHAT'S ON WHAT'S



SOCIAL PROGRAMME

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The programme for the next few weeks....

- Feb 7 **Northern Olivines** - by Dave Levick
Trip Card Discussion - David Barnes needs suggestions and leaders.
- Feb 14 **The Head of the Dart from various approaches** - a Ken Mason collection, to include some past and present photography.
- Feb 21 **Tramping in the Southern Region of N.Z.** - popular tramping areas in the lower South Island including: Mt Cook, Ohau, Matukituki, Routeburn and Kepler.
- Feb 28 Free night - time for a chat and show some bushcraft photos.
- Mar 7 **Early climbing in the Derran Mountains** - By Assoc. Prof. Philip Haughton.
- Mar 14 **Basic Instruction on Photography and Cameras** - ideas for tramping photography by Laurie Weston of the Dunedin Camera Club. Do take note because Laurie will be back to judge our annual photo/slide competition.

Kind regards Julie

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We now have a cooker available for hire, see Sharon St Clair- Newman for details.

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