

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)

P.O. BOX 1120

DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

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

MAY 1991

BULLETIN NO. 498



Where was the stove? Under the 18 inches of snow that had fallen overnight.

PRESIDENT	Elsbeth Cold	453-0644
VICE PRESIDENT	Rhonda Robinson	473-8142
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TREASURER	Christine Cocks	473-8329
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THE OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MEETS EVERY THURSDAY
7:30PM

AT 3 YOUNG STREET

TRIP LIST

MAY 18-19

PEEL FOREST

Ross Cocker 454-5995

A laid-back weekend in the South Canterbury foothills. Most parties will do two one-day trips from a base camp.

MAY 19

ORGAN PIPES (E)

Peter O'Driscoll 453-0593

An ideal trip for beginners (and for those who aren't overly energetic on a Sunday morning.)

MAY 26

AKATORE - CRYSTALLS BEACH (E-M)

A trip in the Otago Coast Forest area.

JUNE 1-3

TAKITIMUS (M-FE)

Ken Mason 476-2494

Those who know the Takis well rave over them as a trip venue. Come along and find out why.

JUNE 9

YELLOW RIDGE - GAP RIDGE

Les Smith 489-7343

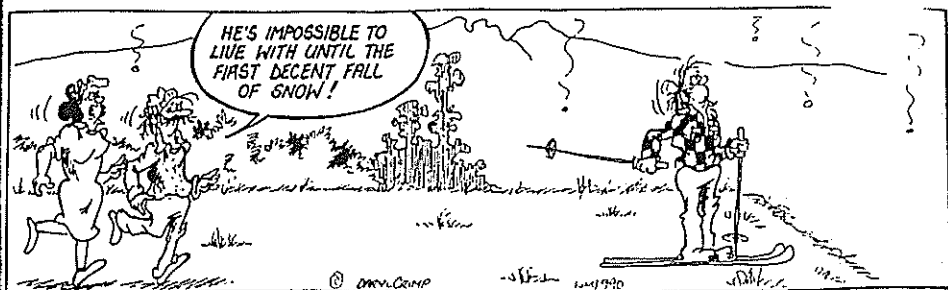
An old favourite round trip in the Silver Peaks.

JUNE 15-16

MOTURAU MID-WINTER BASH (E??)

Elsbeth Gold 453-0644

One and a half hours flat tramping, then party, party, party. The Prez will be leading this one from the front. (We may be able to arrange some real tramping for those so inclined.)



Sound familiar??



EDITOR'S DIARY

Well, this month's Bulletin is a case of better late than never. Apologies to those of you who have been anxiously scanning the mail-box. My excuse is that the Chemistry Dept at the University kept me in late last Thursday night. However, it's all plain sailing for a while now as I'm on holliday for a few weeks (phew!)

I was really pleased with the positive response from everyone with trip reports and all the other contributions. I've even saved one or two things for the next Bulletin. I'm expecting some trip reports from the Milford Trip. Apparently there was also some very interesting events at the Clinton Hut, stay tuned.

Eric gave us a good talk about Australia recently. Lots of dramatic landscapes all taken in genuine 40°C heat. Fortunately we were able to enjoy the scenery without the heat!! Last week's talk by Bruce Calder was at the opposite extreme of climate, in Antarctica. My source (ie Dave) tells me it was an excellent talk.

There are quite a few new members this month. Each Club night sees a several new faces, so welcome to new members.

There are some good trips coming up soon; I'm going to believe Ken's assurances about the 'sunny Takitimus' and sign up. The mid-winter Bash sounds like a 'not to be missed' trip. Do you think the Takitimus trip will get me fit enough??

The dull and dreary days of Winter are fast approaching, but take heart and think of your next trip away to the hills. Even if it does mean thawing out your socks with your feet each morning!

SEARCH AND RESCUE

We were called out in April for the group who were overdue at Powder Creek. Thanks to Neil George, John Cox and Bruce Mason who went out at midnight, and to the other 18 or so who went to the Police Station at 7:30am and drank coffee.

Apologies to the spouses, flatmates etc, who answered the phones - and to the wrong number, who had never heard of John C and doesn't know who I am!

The story that Trevor Pullar was amongst the missing turned out to be incorrect, but had come from the Search Advisor.

Have you changed your flat, job or phone number? Please let me know a.s.a.p., as the call-out list needs to be up-to-date.

Anyone who's not on the SAR List but would like to be, get in touch with me. It's not restricted to guns - any competent trampler of "M" fitness or above qualifies.

David Barnes - SAR Officer - Ph 454-4492

SECRETARY'S CORNER



Giddyay everyone, I didn't get to write anything last month due to holidaying in the North Island so there is a lot to catch up. Your faithful Committee has been busy passing the motions. In March, the Committee agreed to pledge \$300 to the Waikaia Bush Road Appeal, the feeling being we should help since the outcome of this issue has a direct effect on Club activities. Due to a lot of interest shown by members Sharon was given the go ahead to buy a dehydrator for Gear Hire. In April, 11 new members were accepted, the Club Auction proceeds are to be split 50% to the photographic archives that Ken Mason is assembling and 50% to the Waikaia Bush road pledge, Dave Levick was appointed as acting Outdoor Recreation Group Convener and Mike Floate has been nominated for the FMC Executive.

The correspondence has been fairly quiet with only two major items of interest arriving recently, i.e. the DCC Annual Draft Plan and the DOC questionnaire on Marine Reserves around the Southern Coasts for comment. Deadlines for submissions on these topics close very soon so if you want to have a say on anything related to these you can send in your own submission or contact Dave Levick of the Outdoor Recreation Group. The Club, on behalf of members, sends a lot of submissions, relating to issues like DOC concession applications or draft management plans, to protect the values of tramping in the outdoors (e.g. access, peacefulness, scenery). For those who take these values for granted many hours are spent by a few to maintain them. So keep an eye out on the public notices and if you come across a burning issue that may affect our Club's activities go along to a meeting of the Outdoor Recreation Group.

Several copies of the March issue of FMC News were left in the Clubrooms. If you have finished reading them please put them back in the Clubrooms for others to read. I have a letter from Jill Buckingham in Chile for those interested in finding out what she is doing.

Cheers,
Eric.



FIRST AID WEEKEND - WAIORA

By 7pm on Friday night, 18 of us had gathered at the Waiora Scout Camp for a First Aid Weekend organized by Theresa Wasilewska. We found ourselves a bunk each then on down to the Hall for a 2 hour introductory session.

An early start of 8am at the Hall the next morning with a busy day ahead with promises of all sorts of horrible things happening. We learnt the ABC (Airways, Breathing and Circulation) and the CPR method then had plenty of practical experience throughout the day. We also learnt about bandages and sprains. Later on in the day we had to go out and find and bring back two injured people. One was a stretcher case and the other needed assistance to walk. A stretcher was made out of 2 manuka poles and rope with karri-mats for comfort. The patient was well supported and looked and felt comfortable. We then had turns at carrying the stretcher down banks, along streams and the road until we came to a rather wide deep hole in the creek. A raft had to be assembled with packs to float the patient across. This was done quite successfully. Everyone ended up wet and cold, but a hot shower soon lifted spirits.

After tea we talked about the exercise and learnt a lot about what we did and didn't do. A session on hypothermia and giardia before supper. Some of us managed to keep awake and have some fun while others were off to bed to prepare for another busy day.

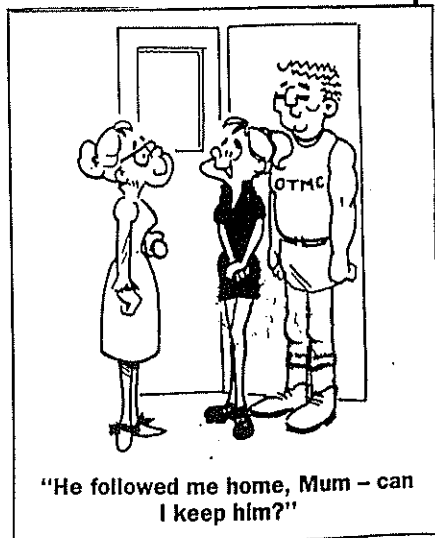
Sunday we learnt about burns, shock, patient care and much more. After lunch we had the usual trampers troubles such as ankles, knees etc, with some good advice on that. We also had 3 groups who acted out 3 different scenarios - a helicopter crash, falling down a cliff and river crossing where people had been swept away. A useful participating and also watching/learning exercise.

The weekend was very worthwhile and we all learnt such a lot. Many thanks must go to our outstanding instructor, Doug Third. I hope this encourages others to take part in any course offered in the future.

V A N S

We have successfully negotiated with Rhodes to keep what was a \$3 per person price rise down to \$1 per person. Also, three and four day trips will be the same price as two day ones.

The new vans are roomier and smoother, and the 2.4 litre engines deliver power across a wider range of revs - a big improvement.



The forecast was for mainly coastal showers, and strengthening cold SW winds, as 9 of us set off in two cars at 9 am. Mervyn McDonald, manager of Rocklands Station had said we should have 4WD vehicles on the top section of the Old Dunstan Road, but when none was available, Bruce Mason advised that we should be OK without them. This advice proved correct. Some patches were slightly soft, but none gave us any trouble.

It took us a bare hour to reach Rocklands and find a new low concrete bridge over Deep Stream, replacing the previous old high narrow wooden one. The side track off the Old Dunstan Road to Howells Hut was firm so we took time to look at this hut. The door was open and the window out. The bunks were still there but the place looked neglected. John James tells us they don't use it for farm work any more. The front of the garage next door has been built in and 4 spring mattresses laid out on a temporary chipboard floor. Perhaps people fishing in the Great Moss Lake use the 2 buildings as a base.

We parked at the second fence past there, headed up the fenceline and then across the slope to the right towards a rock with an obvious "nose" on its right. From that ridge we saw first the stone stable and then McKenzie's hut itself, tucked in behind two rock masses. The hut was in the same good order as last time we were there in December 1984. The 4 bags of coal and 2 of pine cones we took in by landrover then seemed not to have been touched. Good to know there is fuel there if it is ever needed. The stable had been reroofed and cleared of junk. In '84 it was just 4 rock walls with rubbish inside. Colin McKenzie who originally restored the main hut, told me the McGhie family from Company Bay had done this work.

When I rang Logan McGhie, he told me he used to be an OTMC member, but moved out of town and didn't get round to rejoining when he came back. But he's never stopped tramping, so we could see him again at the Club. He thought the stable had been too good a building to just let go, so that's why he's restored it.

The hut and stable are on land now owned by Wellington businessmen, but managed by Mark Kensington phone 03 4643 830. He said he used it just recently during a muster, and asked if we saw any sheep round it. He was pleased to know we hadn't seen one.

Conditions were overcast with a light cool breeze for our lunch. Then rather than just walk out the way we had come in, we headed up the ridge above the hut to meet the grass track coming up from the Dunstan Road just below McPhee's Rock. While we were at this high point for the day, some cloud came down briefly, giving us a small taste of what it might be like with limited visibility. It took us about an hour to walk back down the track and along the road to the cars.

Jane Ashman. Wendy Bond. Ruth Chisman. Juliet Clark. Tony Cooper. Jonette Service. Jill Stokes. Ian Sime.

FOR SALE: (at last) 2 Lazy boys - brand new, for half the retail price.
Ph David Barnes 454-4492

MOUNTAIN SAFETY COMMITTEE

What is it? : regional groups of people with expertise to offer in the field of promoting safety in the outdoors. Although we're called the Mountain safety committee, we're concerned with all outdoor activities - tramping, skiing, hunting, etc - people from all these different areas attend our monthly meetings, along with representatives from the scouts, guides, the probationary service, & anyone else interested in safety in the outdoors.

What we do: is provide experienced tutors to give information & teach skills to groups of people just starting out, to make sure their safety standards are high. We give lessons on specific topics - such as avoiding hypothermia or rivercrossing skills - or run courses covering all aspects of outdoor safety, similar to the OTMC's Bushcraft course (the Bushcraft course often uses our instructors). The Duke of Edinburgh award & the Firearms safetycourse use our tutors, as do many schools when teaching such skills as abseiling. All trampers should make our excellent 1st Aid course a must!

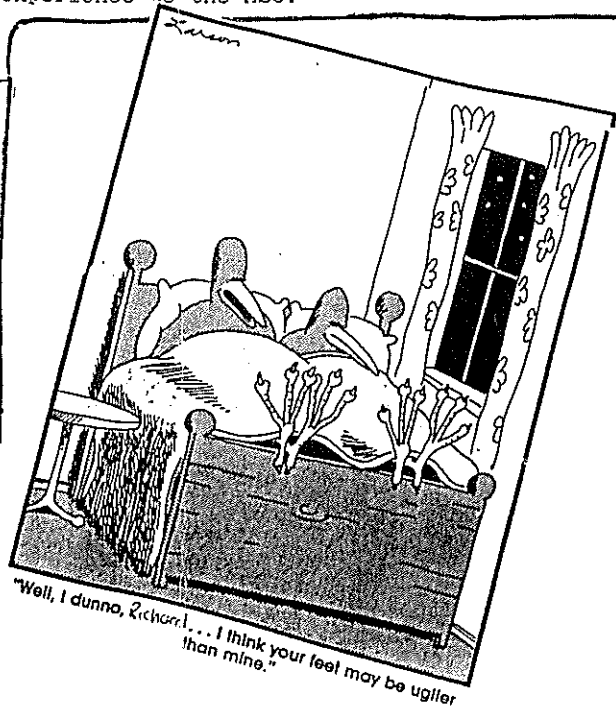
There are also a wide range of publications available - manuals on 1st Aid, Bushcraft, Mountaineering, Abseiling, pamphlets on hypothermia, what food & clothing to take tramping, what to do if you get lost, etc, & videos on most subjects.

There are compasses & cookers for hire, & we can advise on the purchasing of any outdoors gear.

How to use us: for any information, instruction or gear, phone our local administration officer Ian Sime 453-6185, or ask Ian or myself at any clubnight. Videos can be hired from the Wilderness Shop, & the publications can be found around most retail places associated with tramping or at the OTMC rooms.

If you have good basic tramping skills & like to impart knowledge, you could become an assistant MSC instructor. There are many training courses - learning how to teach as well as improving your skills. We all learnt from experienced trampers - why not offer your experience to the MSC.

Rhonda Robinson
OTMC rep on the MSC



MACETOWN - TRAMPING DE LUXE

Have you ever noticed when you're tramping that the weather is never quite perfect? It's usually a bit too hot on the trail and a bit too cold when you stop; or it rains just at the wrong time; or the colours of nature are never quite right and you wish you'd left it for a fortnight or been here last week.

Well, at the Macetown weekend I really believe we achieved the impossible - perfect weather, perfect autumn tonings as only Central can put them on; the river, hills and mountains looking their very best and an overall leader who even provided a guidebook!!

As an added bonus we, in the van, had a brand new Toyota, first time out which ran very sweetly indeed.

A pick-up at East Taieri and another at Waitahuna and the usual stop for "greasies" at Roxburgh and we found the campsite in the Arrowtown Domain "by guess and by God", pitched our tents in the dark and settled down for the night. Admittedly it was a bit cold in the night, but I guess you can't blame anyone else if you leave all your warm clothes at the bottom of your pack out under a tree!!

Muesli, milk and a hot brew and we were packs-up and off up the Arrow River at about 8.20, for the first experience of what was to be two days of perfect weather. There was much to see, the pack was riding nicely as it does first thing and the guidebook was working well. When we finally, after mid-morning, had to get our feet wet the river water was a cool balm to the feet. It was a bit difficult to follow "Bushcraft" advice and "go with the flow" when you're going up river and it got a bit tiring after the fifteenth time but at least the water wasn't much over ankle depth.

Lunch at the site of the old "Mt Soho" homestead and we found our way into Macetown about 2:00pm; left our packs under a bush and explored the area until about 5:00. seeing Andersons Battery and going up the Rich Burn as far as the "Homeward Bound", before going back and seeking a campsite.

All 17 of us camped on the river flat so the sandflies didn't have too far to travel from one party to the next.

There followed the usual table de hote dinner... pre-dinner drinks, cream of tomato soup, steak & kidney stew with mixed veges and rice, cheesecake and cream, and Irish coffee. By candlelight of course.

A social evening around the campfire and so to bed with all the warm clothes inside the tent this time, which was just as well for we woke up to a hard frost.

Breakfast, and although we were an E-M party, we decided to tackle the Big Hill track on the way home. Even there the weather was perfect; a cool breeze cooled our backs as we toiled up the gully, and wasn't too cold for lunch on the saddle while we took in the great view.

Afternoon saw us down the track in partial shadow with all that wonderful view in front, and back to Arrowtown to find that there was even an ice-cream shop at the road-end!

A great weekend, thanks Mike.

Hugh Dickson, for Jonette Service and Ruth Homer.

PONDERING GIARDIA

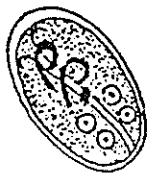
In Glenorchy over Easter, I read a series of notices in which the Park staff described conditions in the three main valleys in the area: the Dart, Greenstone and Routeburn. Among the info, it turns out that giardia is found in the first two, but not in the Routeburn. This surprised me. We have been told that it's the international travellers, especially those who go to the less hygienic parts of the world, (and soldiers returning from North Africa, incidentally, decades ago) who have brought the bugs to our clean green land. The Routeburn gets more of those unhygienic backpacker types than the other two valleys. So, what's going on here? I can think of two possible reasons for the difference.

But, before we consider them, here's some background. New Zealand was the last place on temperate/tropical earth where one could safely drink the water without treating, boiling or filtering it. People who visit any other part of these regions cannot simply drink from natural water, even high up in unpeopled alpine areas. Travellers are told not to risk it because giardia (and other lurgies perhaps) permanently infest any water where mammals (or birds?) are found. These creatures apparently carry giardia; those that haven't already died of it, have it. Every place on earth except NZ (and Antarctica) has had plenty of filthy high-country mammals. It has therefore been a great joy to travel in NZ and relax about the water. Now it is here. And, if what we hear in Asia about *birds* carrying it is true, it is conceivable that our great friends, the kea, could be taking it, even now, into the very highest catchments... People living in high regions maintain that once a catchment has giardia it's there forever (because of birds, thar, chamois, bears, yaks, goats, sheep, *they themselves*, -you name it). And it will soon be in adjacent catchments.

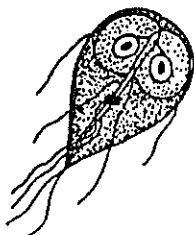
Presumably, at the head of the Lake and right through to our most pristine areas, deer, hares, possums, mustelids, rats as well as humans are carrying giardia to *all* our waters. All those valleys would get their share of giardia, and NZ would be just like everywhere else.

The first possible reason why the Routeburn is the one of the three that is so far found to be free of giardia is that it is the international traveller that carries it, but, despite huge numbers visiting the Routeburn, the toilets are so well constructed and close enough together that people are not caught short between them, and giardia does not reach the waters. But, would you expect the contamination of the Dart and Greenstone to have been so significantly different? It is the 'more adventurous traveller' who walks tracks other than the Routeburn, and there are far fewer of them than the more typical Routeburn-only type. Is it *this* type who is infecting the waters of the Dart and Greenstone? The same more adventurous type, when they do visit the Routeburn, can often be seen at the moderately high-use campsite in the North Branch, just beyond the limits of the no camping zone that exists along the track. There is no toilet there. Presumably, these filthy tourists will bring giardia to the Routeburn. But, why haven't they already? And, for that matter, why haven't the introduced mammals common to all three valleys (including keas, which I have seen eat used loo paper that was improperly buried!) brought it there??

The second thing I can think of that *might* account for the difference between the valleys is the presence of grazing animals in the Dart and Greenstone. There are lots. They wade in the rivers. There are none in the Routeburn. Their presence provides the only obvious significant difference between the ways the valleys are managed. Is it something we should consider??



R W Pettinger



FAMILY TRAMPING GROUP TRIP
SUNDAY 17TH MARCH

So, what are these young families doing that makes them drop out of sight? Mainly its going to bed when we can, because we have to get up when we have to! Lots of "streetwalking" with the pram, front and back-packing on the Peninsula tracks, Signal Hill, Flaggy etc.

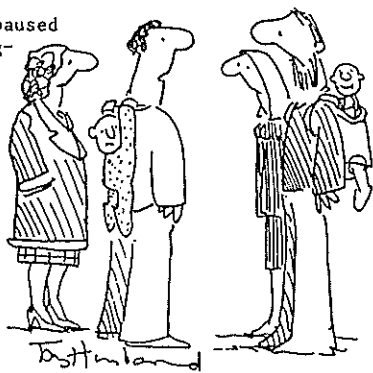
Years ago, sp,e Club families started the Family Tramping Group, which runs easy-ish trips on lthe third Sunday of each month. So we drove out to Seacliff for the 11am start. Most people were around middle-age, some old trampers and others non-trampers, and were most welcoming to us.

We walked through the Truby King Reserve, the "Enchanted Forest", and got onto the old Seacliff Asylum farm. A cobbled farm road sidled up the hillside with marvellous views of Purakanui, Heywards Point and Taiaroa Heads behind.

The pace was comfortable, and the group paused frequently to make sure that no-one straggled too much - very reassuring when we had a loud 6 month-old and an independent 2 year old who insisted on getting out and walking some of the way.

Great views of Karitane and Kilmog from the ridge, then lunch. Afterwards we squashed behind the crowd down to Maori Point, (that's Waikouaiti 24/035). This volcanic plug apparently wasn't a pa site but has been a quarry.

The wind got up, so on with the pack cover for the return journey. Parka nylon, with a zip and hood at the top, after the prototype by Barbara Buchanan (another trumper with children). Both young men fell asleep, Andrew managing to stay asleep even when John leapt a fence with the back-pack still on! We were soon onto Russell Road and back to the cars by 3pm.



*"That reminds me - the strap
broke on ours. I must get it repaired."*

The trip was just the right length for us, and we'll be out with the FTG Group again (infant willing and weather permitting). Phone Dave McArthur 481-1478 for planned trips.

Jane Bruce for Spen and Russell Walker, John and Andrew Pohl and 30 others.

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

August 8 O.R.M.C. Clubrooms

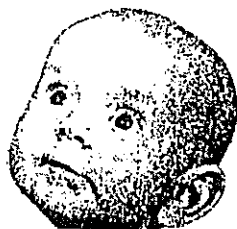
Bring those useless unwanted items.

Time to bag, bottle, bake and bid!

Proceeds to the photographic archives
and the **Waikaia Bush Road** appeal.

[illegible]

~~Hot Cross~~



Congratulations to some members who are re-affirming their membership of The Otago Tramping and Maternity Club with second children.

to Dave McLean and Jenny Winter - a baby girl called Lydia

to Kathy Woodrow and Chris Pearson a baby boy

Who thought "she's at Arthur's" meant Arthurs Pass? And who was 'she'?

Welcome to new members

Wendy Bond, Kay and Justin Calder, James Driscoll, Ruth Homer, Trevor and Kathleen McDonald, Chris and Hilary McLaren, Malcolm and Shirley McQueen, Jennifer Mitchell. Ken Powell, Judy Smith and Brian Spratt!!!!

CONGRATULATIONS also to Rosemary Goodyear and Danny Wood married recently.





SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The programme for the next few weeks....

May 16 A Scott Base Winter Over - Bruce Calder recalls his 12 months down on the ice.

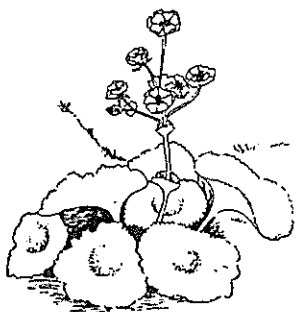
May 23 "The Mighty Milford" - Slides and video of the tramp of the year. Bring your own photos, slides and stories.

May 30 NZ's Sub-Antartic Islands - Ross & Pam Cocker to show us slides of their recent cruise.

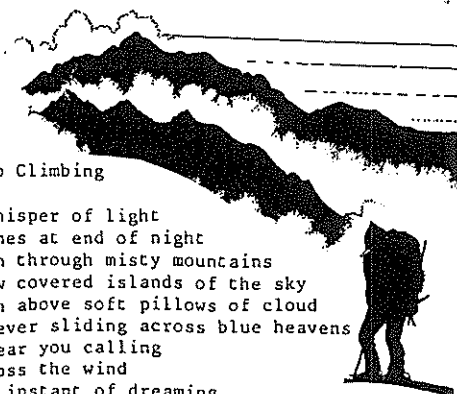
June 6 And now for something completely different - Anne Schmack and Elspeth Gold to entertain. A laugh or two is guaranteed.

June 13 Pubs and Pub Life & Dunedin's Gold Rush Days - Historian Roy Hargreaves will tell us about an important part of Dunedin's past.

Kind regards Julie



Ranunculus lyallii



Solo Climbing

A whisper of light
shines at end of night
Down through misty mountains
snow covered islands of the sky
High above soft pillows of cloud
forever sliding across blue heavens
I hear you calling
across the wind
the instant of dreaming
before the dream flies
Though we are not mortal angels
I hear music and silence
gently playing, finding peace
In your heart.

Mike Gillies