

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

JULY 1991
BULLETIN NO. 500



Winter

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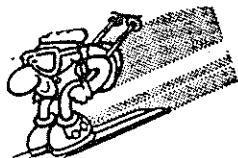
THE OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MEETS EVERY THURSDAY
7:30PM

AT 3 YOUNG STREET

TRIP LIST

- JULY 7 EVANSDALE - RONGOMAI (E-M) Stuart Mathieson 453-4359
A below bush-line trip - ideal even on the bleakest winters day.
- JULY 13-14 MAKARORA - MT BREWSTER (ALL) Lindsay Aitcheson 471-0020
Winter climbing or valley tramping (with huts!!). List closes July 4th.
- JULY 14 POSSUM HUT (E) Anne Schmack 489-3350
Without a doubt, the quaintest hut in the Peaks.
- JULY 21 THE GAP (M) Dean Petersen 455-0991
Trip will probably be via the rarely visited but very scenic northern approach.
- JULY 27-28 CROSS COUNTRY SKI INTRODUCTION (M) Dave Levick 473-8427
Your chance to be in on what's shaping up to be a great XC ski season from the beginning. This will probably involve two day-trips from a motor camp base, so that you can learn to ski without a pack on. Intending participants should attend the talk on July 18th.
- JULY 28 SILVER PEAKS (M) Tim Moore 455-7060
For those not skiing, or if there's no snow.
- AUGUST 4 NORTH WAIKOUAITI HEADWATERS (M) Bruce Newton 454-2557
Who says that day trips never go anywhere new?
- AUGUST 10-11 WINTER ROUTEBURN (ALL) Michael Fay 482-2806
An annual favourite - a chance to get above bush-line in the snow without worrying about tents. Plenty of other options if you do want to camp, including Mt Erebus and the North Routeburn.
- AUGUST 11 BOULDER BEACH (E) Sue Levick 473-4827
Last chance to visit Boulder Beach before they close it for penguin breeding.
- AUGUST 17-18 XC SKI - OLD WOMAN RANGE (M-FE) Chris Pearson 473-0441
One of the best XC Ski locations with a great little hut to stay in. Ideal follow-up to the introductory trip.
- AUGUST 24-25 SNOW SHELTERS - OLD MAN RANGE (M) Richard Pettinger 487-9488
Everyone should try snow-caving at least once - it's a great experience. It's also an essential skill for anyone taking up XC skiing or climbing. There will be an instruction talk on August 15th.
- COMING UP: XC SKI WEEK AUG 31 - SEPT 8
- SNOWCRAFT COURSE OCTOBER 5 - 6





EDITOR'S DIARY

Well, even though it's the depths of winter there's still plenty going on around the Club, even heaps of tramping. Don't miss the Annual Dinner (see below for details), this promises to be a good meal. Make the effort, polish up your tiara or press your tails and get along.

We had an excellent talk recently by Ray Hargreaves about the early history of Dunedin. Apparently in those days the state of the polluted water encouraged the early settlers to get some clean water in the form of alcohol! One of the interesting facts about early Dunedin.

Last we had an interesting set of slides from Markus Milne and Kate Brown-Milne from their honey-moon trip in Tasmania. Real trampers go tramping on their honey-moon!

Last week we had an interesting trip through time with Dan Callison. He had a large selection of packs through the ages. Although he couldn't solve Hugh's colour coordination problems.

If you're away on the Cross Country Introduction Weekend this month, keep the 18th free. Dave will go through all the essentials and answer questions.

Please try and get your contributions in to me for the next Bulletin early. It is much easier to put together a good Bulletin if you do. Please try and get things to me on or before the 1st of August.

Till next month.....

Sue



ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, August 31

Bagdad Cafe (Licenced)

\$30per head (excluding drinks and coffee)

Numbers attending, along with money required NOW!



QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEND TAKITIMUS

We had a quick trip to our destination: the end of the road at the Aparima. Unknowingly we were dropped off just near a hut so we had a sheltered night as it was slightly wet and windy. (Mark, Mary-Anne and Nick slept out in a tent, the pikers in our party slept inside.)

In the morning the weather appeared slightly more promising and we set off down the rest of the road as a joint party with Ken's party.

After about an hour we arrived at the Aparima hut. Ken's party decided to push on a bit further, we decided that we had gone far enough. However we weren't really that slack. We unpacked most of our gear and took a day trip up the Aparima. We were heading for the forka, but didn't quite make it. The weather had been slowly getting worse all day, with frequent snow showers. As we were nearly back at the hut, the snow really came down in huge flakes. We grabbed big heaps of firewood and attached it to our packs and hurried inside. We were glad we had made sure we would be in a hut that night.

Mark was itching for a snow-fight, but Mary-Anne was not amused and there were no other takers.

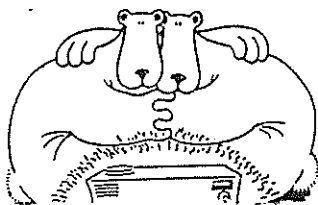
The Aparima hut is nice, but there is one draw-back; the fire place. We tried many different techniques of stoking it with wood, which helped pass the time, but didn't do our lungs any good. The best technique in the end turned out to be - throw on a big pile of wood, then open all the windows and door and all evacuate outside until the worst of the smoke had died down! Even though it was cold we all enjoyed seeing the bush transformed into a fairy landscape. My first time in the snow in the bush!

Sunday was clear weather, so we headed on up the valley. We tried to keep to high ground to avoid extensive bogs on the way. Eventually we had to do a bit of bog hopping. This made for a fairly tiring day. Our Camp that night was at the edge of the bush where the track leads over to the Princhester.

We had a pleasant evening sitting around a fire and awoke in the morning to a crackling frost, as most of the snow was still lying on the ground.

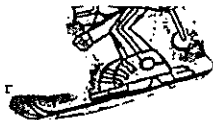
In the morning we left the bog and headed into the bush. It was a short walk upwards to a low pass. We managed to glimpse Lake Manapouri from the top through the bush. Not long afterwards we arrived at the hut. Mary-Anne was heard to say "is that it???". After lunch we had a quick jaunt up the hill behind the hut and had some great views of the surrounding country-side. We just had time for quick brew and the rest of the parties arrived from the Kepler and we were on our way. We were back in town by about 7.00pm!!! Is this a record?

My thanks to a great party.....Sue Levick for Mick, Dave L, Mark and Mary-Anne.



CROSS COUNTRY SKI CAMP

Southern Hector Mountains
31 st August up to 8th September



Open to all X/C skiers novice to expert, but you must have equipment and clothing to the satisfaction of the trip leader. Trip grade M-F. If you haven't cross country skied before, you need to go on one of the Club's instruction weekends first.

It is planned to climb on foot from Kingston, with a week's provisions on your back, to a base camp at snowline at the 'Black Rocks'. This site should provide shelter, lots of sunshine, water and level camp sites, probably on snow. Late afternoon skiing on sun-drenched slopes and all that!

There will be a range of daily tours in interesting terrain suitable for all proficiencies of skier. Individual instruction will be provided as required. This is a great chance to make that big breakthrough into the joys of overland travel on skis. LOTS of enthusiasm assured.

The trip list closes on Thursday 22 August or sooner. Numbers may be limited.

For further info contact Bruce Mason (03) 476 1544.



FLAGSTAFF & SWAMPY 30/6/91

Five of us, including a new arrival from Britain still under the influence of jet-lag, dragged ourselves out of bed on a very icy but sunny morning. Julie finally decided that morning to walk the Flagstaff/Swampy track. The Bullring at the start of the Pineapple track was a frozen block of ice and a light layer of snow from the previous day covered the track. It was a brisk stroll up to the top of Flagstaff to show Liliias the landmarks around Dunedin and to let her know that conditions were not too bad. We carried on into the cold wind towards Swampy watching the icicles on the tussock glisten in the sun. We reached as far as the microwave tower for a view of Blueskin Bay then we headed back to Flagstaff to have lunch at the Ben Rudd shelter. The sun was pouring into the shelter and we explained to Liliias the vagaries of the weather in this part of the world and gave her a taste of the pepper tree.

Continuing the mystery theme of this day walk we decided to walk down Freeman's Track since four of us had never been on it. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise as it was a lovely nature trail to show Liliias a small part of our native (and not so native) vegetation as well as a wood pigeon. A short walk up the road had us back at the still frozen Bullring by 2.30pm. A most pleasant Sunday stroll was enjoyed by all.

Eric Lord for Julie Lord, Michael Hamel, Mary Clark & Liliias Alison.

SECRETARY'S CORNER



Howdy folks, I got caught out by the early printing of the last Bulletin so two months to catch up on again. On Committee business, the O.T.M.C.'s view on public accessways was reaffirmed in response to the possible closure of access to the Sunnybrae Track and reads as:

"The O.T.M.C. opposes the closure of rights of way and public roads on or adjacent to private land and the O.T.M.C. may support the closure of rights of way and public roads on or adjacent to public land where public access is guaranteed."

Nearly \$1,000 has been spent on repairs and alterations to the Big Hut in the Rock & Pillars recently. This money has come from the Hut Building & Repair Fund. Many thanks to Peter & Bruce Mason, Mike Gillies and others for their efforts to create a more habitable environment in the Big Hut.

The membership form is to have an additional sentence to encourage new members to take part in work parties [This applies to all members!]. Work parties are seen as a community responsibility, the emphasis is on fun and often are the best way to get to know members who you do not normally get a chance to tramp with.

New mugs and a few extra chairs have appeared to overcome a shortage of seats and decent cups on Club nights. The O.T.M.C. is to match contributions from Club members \$ for \$, up to \$100, for the Mt. Aspiring mountain radio appeal.

From the correspondence file, The Ministry of Forestry are having a Trees and Forests Week from August 8-14th and the Hokonui Tramping Club are having their 25th Jubilee on 31/8-1/9/91. The Wanaka Mountain Safety & SAR Group are having a Skier's Back Country and Survival Skills Course on 13-14th July and Learn to Ski for \$15 is available at most major ski fields. See me or the notice board for details. For those looking for new gear, brochures have appeared from Macpac and Bivouac.

DOC Southland have informed us that the Kepler Track huts will become Category III huts next winter as it is uneconomical for them to supply coal to these huts during the off season.

The Club bought two copies of the Mt. Aspiring National Park draft management plan. Dave Levick, convener of ORG has these draft plans and is keen for help from others to write a submission. The MANP is a very important tramping area for us so it is crucial that our views are heard.*

The Otago Peninsula Public Access Working Party released their draft plan for comments, submissions due by 19th July. Elspeth is now on the Working Party as a recreational representative so give her all the support she needs.

Cheers,
Eric.

* Next meeting : ORG 16/7/91 7:30 Clubrooms
Get involved!

KEPLER TRACK

The Club and some members have recently expressed their concern to DoC at the winter hut fee and fuel supply policy on the Kepler Track. The policy which was not widely publicised, was that coal would be rationed at 10 bags per month for Iris Burn and Luxmore Huts, and that the huts would be category 2 huts. Our objections were;

- that it was wrong to charge \$8 when the month's coal had run out.
- that the coal was not being made available at the start of each month. (Which DoC said it would be).
- that coal usage could be expected to be higher at Luxmore than Iris Burn due to higher usage and higher altitude.
- that people who were expecting fuel to be supplied were gathering wood when they found there was no coal.

DoC have now conceded that the system isn't working, and that from the end of June coal will be unrestricted. They correctly point out that one person can use as much coal as forty people, that coal usage is higher in winter and that more people dodge their hut fee responsibilities when there is no warden. Next year there will be no fuel and people will have to be prepared for winter conditions. Hopefully they will be sufficiently prepared (and forewarned of the situation) to not need to chop down trees. The hut will be category 3 (ie \$4).



CLUB T-SHIRTS

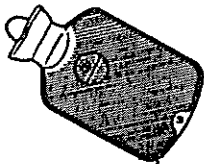
(3rd Edition)

White with Club logo on front (pocket size).

Choice of: Light T-shirt	\$12.00
Heavy T-shirt	\$17.00
Cotton Knit Polo Shirt	\$23.00
Cotton Polo Shirt	\$20.00

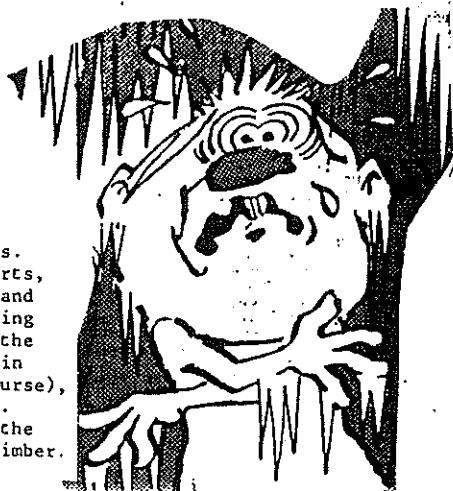
Sizes: S, M, L, XL

Orders with money to David Barnes by August 8th.



POLAR PLUNGE

No less than 11 OTMC members turned up for this crazy event. The OTMC Team; Elspeth Gold, Bruce Newton, Peter O'Driscoll, and David Barnes. Wearing boots, packs, long johns and Club t-shirts, ignored the raving hordes racing into the surf and strode in purposefully in their best river-crossing mutual support technique. A great advert for the "warm when wet" properties of polyprop. Also in were the Penguin Team; Teresa Wasilewska (of course), Arthur Blondell, Molly Maguire and Mark Planner. And what appeared to be the hospital branch of the OTMC; Mary-Ann Spence, Mark Spittal and Chris Kimber. Thanks to the Supporters.





ME - LEAD A PARTY ???

A GUIDE FOR NEW PARTY LEADERS ON WEEKEND TRIPS

"Hi. I want you to lead a party this weekend." Many people panic when they hear those words for the first time. But it's not that bad, and the trip leader wouldn't be asking you if he/she didn't think you could do it. How much responsibility you personally will have to take depends mainly on the composition of the party. With a very experienced party the "leader" is often just the one delegated to make the phone calls. But with a comparatively inexperienced party you will be responsible for the safety and enjoyment of your party.

ORGANIZING A ROUTE Ideally the route should be a consensus of the wishes of the whole party. In practice some of the party may have no idea of the options. Sometimes you'll have a fair idea of where you would like to go. Discuss the possibilities with the trip leader, other party member, the Chief guide, or club members who have been in the area. Consult guide books (e.g. Moir's) and maps (check how current the information is). Remember that the route has to be within the capabilities of all of the party. Plan alternative routes for bad weather or other delays.

GEAR & FOOD The party leader is responsible for obtaining the tent or fly, billies, primus, maps and information about the route. If you don't own something necessary, maybe one of your party members does. Tent, flies and primuses can be hired from the club (and the costs split amongst the members). If you're stuck, consult the trip leader. With food you have three choices - do it yourself, delegate it to another party member, or have each partymember bring a specific meal or meals. Make sure those you delegate to know enough about bush cookery to do something practical.

Stay tuned next month for PRE-TRIP PHONE CALLS, EN ROUTE, PROBLEMS and what to do AFTER THE TRIP (apart from sink into a hot bath!)

CAMPING IN THE SNOW

Sounds impressive? Well, at Mavora Lakes at the tail end of June there was a dash of snow on the ground and weighing down the beech tree branches in a most Christmas card-like manner. To us thin blooded ex-Northlanders it was a rather chilly, but most worthwhile weekend.

With Friday's foul weather forecast, we were not too surprised to see snow falling as we drove along the Mavora Lakes road. The white van crew beat the black van to the best camp-sites and once the tents were up we discovered we were actually beside the lake (give or take a beech tree or two). The snow had now stopped and we stood at the lakeshore absorbing the magic of the scene with the moon on the snow.

At a leisurely hour on Saturday bodies emerged from tents and the day got under way - and what a day! The weather was perfect and the scenery magnificent so a day trip above bush-line was the order of the day for most. We two tagged along with Mark and Co and headed round the western side of the small lake and then up, aiming for a bare spur. By the time this was gained, circulation was well and truly restored and we continued upwards, with stops to admire the view. We reached a trig point to discover Paul's party plus "snow person" in residence and could see the "guns" heading off for higher things - ie, some real snow camping.



We headed back the same route with the occasional flurry of snow falling and arrived at a chilly camp about 4:30. The picnic table was the centre of culinary concoctions but with ice underfoot we preferred the warmth(?) of our candle-powered fire. Watches were frequently consulted to see if one could decently say it was bedtime and 8pm was about the limit of our endurance.

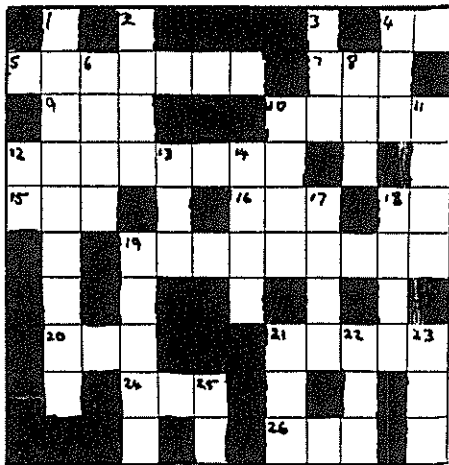
12 hours plus later, warmth was sacrificed for food and the lengthy process of packing up and putting on frozen boots began. While the others went on up the eastern side of the valley into more snow, we opted for a cruise down the Mararoa River (on foot) mainly to check it out for kayaking potential. This it certainly has - in excess for novices like us, but would be a very attractive river to paddle.

The hut dwellers, the high party and us met up and congregated in a handily sited half round barn (which Arthur attempted to lower the roof level of) to wait for our transport.

Thanks Paul - a great weekend.

Kay and Justin Calder

This crossword should give you
some training before the Quiz night.
Devised by none other than the Quiz Master.



ACROSS

4. Top grade
5. Olivine peak
7. Avian clown
10. _____ Col
12. South Westland river
15. Transport
16. Insect
18. Mahapoutai _____
19. Aspiring peak
20. By way of
21. Silver _____
24. _____ Lomond
26. Summit

DOWN

1. Scott's ship
2. Billy contents
3. Snow travel method
4. Near and _____
6. Done on a parapente
8. Ever (poetic)
10. Foot _____
11. Term of office for committee
12. Apline Club
13. Bush accommodation
14. Apline pond
17. Blister prevention
18. Mountain
19. Flat rocks
21. Sleeping bag
22. Swits _____
23. Our Southern opposite members
25. National Park

See Back Page for
solutions.

AGM 1991

Thursday August 29th

The most important event of the year is coming up next month. This is your chance to be involved in the running of Club affairs by becoming a Committee member. All Committee positions are up for grabs. Known vacancies are Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Social Secretary and Vice President. Those of you with an interest in joining the hot competition for Committee are most welcome to interrogate existing Committee members on the functions of their respective positions. Nominations for Committee positions are requested by 15th August, 1991 on the nomination forms available from the Secretary.

Any motion concerning rules or finance needs to be given in writing to the Secretary 14 clear days before the AGM.

HOT Gossip

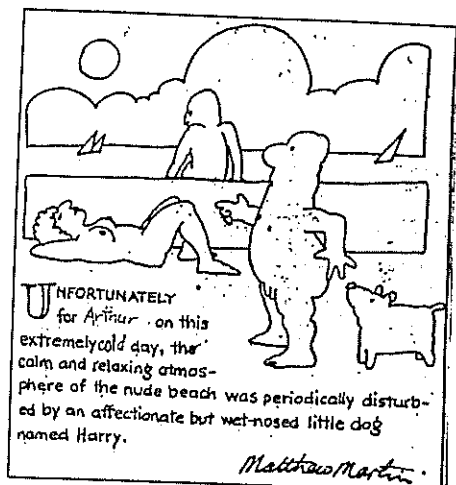


The latest headwear
for the up-to-the-
minute crammer.

The weather was cold in Naseby a few weeks ago, as Chris Ehrhardt found to his cost. I've heard of frozen boots, socks, etc, but motel doors frozen shut??? It's original.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Lars Nielson and Molly Maguire who have recently joined the Club. Welcome!@@!!



AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

August 8th, O.T.M.C. Clubrooms

Bring those useful unwanted items
either on the night or give to Julie Lord prior to the AUCTION.

Time to bag, bottle, bake and bid!

Proceeds to the Photographic Archives and the
Waikaia Bush Road Appeal.

David, our auctioneer, is prepared to sell items on behalf of members as long as a reserve price is set, see David if you require more information.

WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON WHAT'S

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The programme for the next few weeks....

- July 4 MacPac Wilderness - Dan Callison, from Christchurch, will be demonstrating the 1991 winter clothing and latest equipment.
- July 11 Photography and Natural History of New Zealand - Nic Bishop, well known author and photographer of natural history, shall treat us with some of his experiences.
- July 18 Cross Country Skiing - a slide show and talk to encourage members to give it a go.
- July 25 Quiz - Dave Barnes is out to test our intellect.
Following the quiz Dave will be discussing the next trip card, suggestions please.
- Aug 1 Tramping with a Paddle - Les Coxhead is going to show us slides on a past-time of his.
- Aug 8 AUCTION - an OTMC annual event.

Kind regards Julie

CROSS WORD SOLUTIONS

Across

- 4. FE
- 5. Destiny
- 7. Kea
- 10. Fiery
- 12. Arawhata
- 15. Car
- 16. Ant
- 18. Pa
- 19. Stargazer
- 20. Via
- 21. Peaks
- 24. Ben
- 26. Top

Down

- 1. Terra Nova
- 2. Stew
- 3. Ski
- 4. For
- 6. Soar
- 8. E'er
- 10. Fang
- 11. Year
- 11. Year
- 12. AC
- 13. Hut
- 14. Tarn
- 17. Tape
- 18. Peak
- 19. Slabs
- 21. Pit
- 22. Alp
- 23. STC
- 25. NP

Awaking Love

Whisker to whisker
nights with you will always linger
the touch and stoke
from your gentle fingers
to be with you
on a long summer night
as you gently whisper
such sweet delights
and tease me with
your fire-light
kisses

12 April '91.....Mike Gillies

