



Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club

P.O. BOX 1120 DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

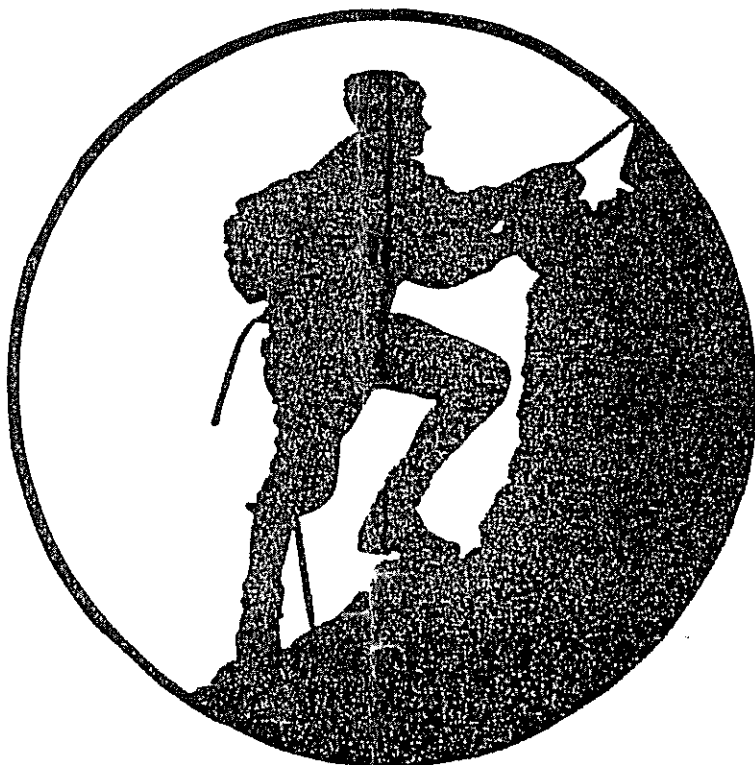
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THE OTAGO TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MEETS SOCIALLY EVERY THURSDAY

7:30 pm

AT 3 YOUNG STREET (Clubrooms)



1992-93 OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT	Antony Pettinger	473-7924
VICE PRESIDENT	Peter Mason	473-7636
SECRETARY	Sue Levick	473-8427
TREASURER	Eric Lord	454-4043
CHIEF GUIDE	Rhonda Robinson	473-8142
EDITOR	Debbie Pettinger	473-7924
MEMBERSHIP SEC.	Dean Petersen	473-0648
GEAR HIRE		
SOCIAL SEC	Neville Mulholland	479-1061

TRIP LIST

- SEPTEMBER 12-13 XC SKIING (M-FE)
MARK PLANNER 473-7414
Destination yet to be decided-suitable for intermediate to to advanced skiers
- SEPTEMBER 12 SILVERPEAKS BY MOONLIGHT (ALL)
ERIC LORD 454-4043
This day trip leaves 14 hours earlier than normal, ie: 7pm (return about 3 am) Bring your supper, full moon guaranteed.
- SEPTEMBER 19-20 MAVORA LAKES (ALL)
ANTONY PETTINGER 473-7924
Just in case you thought all our winter trips were ski and snow orientated - a real tramping trip!
Guaranteed to be the Trip of the Year! A must for all.
- SEPTEMBER 20 BEN RUDD'S REVEGETATION
RICHARD PETTINGER 487-9488
Spring has sprung - so have the weeds on Ben Rudds: many hands make light work - come and spend a pleasant day pulling weeds and watching Peter and Antony attempt to dig a long drop through solid rock. Bring friends, a picnic!!
- SEPTEMBER 26-27 XC Ski REMARKABLES (F-FE) Advanced
BRUCE MASON 476-1544
With all the skiing practise so far this winter, all you gun skiers will be ready to take on anything Bruce can throw at you!!
- SEPTEMBER 27 SILVERPEAKS (M)
TREVOR McDONALD 476-3333
Give you "get fit for summer tramping" programme a boost with this one.
- OCTOBER 4 FIRST AID REFRESHER
TERESA WASILEWSKA 489-7633
Now, is it head up or feet up for shock - what about internal injuries !?
How many years ago did you do your first aid course? Time for a refresher!
- OCTOBER 10-11 SNOWCRAFT COURSE (M-FE)
ARTHUR BLONDELL 489-7633
Learn the basics of snow travel, including ice-axe and crampon techniques. Destination will depend on snow conditions (Mt Cargill?) Numbers may be limited by the availability of instructors. Priority will be given to club members.
- COMING UP OCTOBER 18 POLICE SAREX
LABOUR WEEKEND CHIAI

Editors Ramblings



The AGM has now been and gone, left in it's wake is a new committee, ready to take on the many issues that will undoubtedly arise throughout the year. After some initial concern, it was pleasing to see that a full committee was elected, with myself as your humble editor. Undoubtedly I will be adding a bit of my own personality and enthusiasm to the job but I hope the bulk of contributions will come from the wider membership. I think the Bulletin should be a forum for your views, so if you have anything you want raised then please send in a letter and I will be more than happy to print it and most other contributions you may wish to make. By the same token, if you feel you can't write for whatever reason, then let me know and I can raise it in my "Editors Ramblings"

Once again Ben Rudds revegetation programme was raised at the AGM and Richard Pettinger advised that the club is currently organising a work party for 20 September, to clear some weeds and will require many keen and able bodied workers to help. This is an ongoing project and will require many hours of work. As always the work is usually carried out by a dedicated few and the committee are keen to see as many people involved with the clubs property as possible. The more that help on this work party and the ones in the future the quicker things will happen. If you are keen and want to help then contact Richard Pettinger ph 487-9488 and volunteer your services.



I hope you enjoy this Bulletin and till next time.

. See you out tramping
DEBBIE PETTINGER

New National Park?

New Zealand could have a new national park!

Discussion paper on the future status of the Northwest South Island area were released at the beginning of August.

DOC is currently investigating whether the natural values of the area, or parts of it should be given greater protection through national park status.

More than 500,000ha are under discussion, stretching from Farewell Spit to the Little Wanganui, Matiri and Mt Owen areas.

The area contains more than half of New Zealand's 2270 native plant species including 67 species which are found nowhere else.

Native bird species in the area include the great spotted kiwi, blue duck and rock wren.

New Zealand's largest cave spider is found in caves in the areas and one of the least known of New Zealand's giant wetas is living in grasslands in the area.

Northwest South island is criss-crossed with more than 570km of walks, tracks and routes including the Heaphy and Wangapeka tracks.

DOC is calling for public submissions on the proposal to be included in its report to the New Zealand Conservation authority. Submissions close on October 31, 1992.



This is only a proposal but with plenty of support and submissions supporting this proposal this new national park could become a reality.

Some Thoughts on DoC and Tourism

It is my belief that the Department of Conservation should receive NO INCOME from concessionaire use of the conservation estate. They should be funded exclusively from the public purse, to reflect the public good value of conserving the estate for all of the present community, with full regard to the requirements of future generations. Tourism ventures (and commercial film makers) should be charged concession fees, regardless of the tenure of the land they use, but should pay a premium for using the best land (highest of all, prohibitively perhaps, for using Wilderness Areas, then next highest for use of remote parts of the conservation estate, fragile areas etc, and so on). Fees should reflect the likely impact on the environment and other users.

I believe, in fact, that the fees should go to a tourism promotion, administration and regulating body. Such a body, with public funding if this is considered necessary, will act as a "tourism broker" as well as spending appropriately to ensure that the impacts of the ventures are avoided, remedied or mitigated. They will adhere to the principles embodied in Director-General of Conservation Bill Mansfield's "Imperative for Professionalism", but apply it to lands of all tenures, and direct tourism to the land with the appropriate carrying capacity for the particular type of venture.

The Department of Conservation, as long as it was funded adequately, would then be free to focus entirely on monitoring tourism's impacts, using the community as its eyes and ears. The community has a pivotal role in monitoring the state of the environment, as long as they know exactly what is expected to be going on. And they are particularly efficient if they feel personally, directly affected.

For example, the intention of the first draft of the Otago Conservancy's "*Strategy for Decisions on Aircraft Landings. Otago Lakes area crown land*" was to use the affected public as watchdogs. A major criticism of the strategy from aircraft operators, resisting any form of restriction on their commercial activities, was that it was too regulatory and could not be policed by an already overstretched DoC.

As long as users know when and where to expect landings to occur, (ie, what effect the policies are supposed to achieve) they would act as DoC's police (the eyes and ears) on the spot. Any operator who is seen to breach the aircraft landings strategy would be reported for free by anglers, climbers, skiers or trampers if they recognised their traditional use being compromised by the miscreant.

If such community involvement was fostered and used, DoC could then get on with ensuring that the whole community is satisfied that the entire conservation estate (with its spectrum of parks and reserves) is being managed acceptably.

I don't have to tell you that there is a strong perception among groups of backcountry users in the lower South Island, that Mount Aspiring National Park is critically important. We recognise that:

- Mt Cook, Westland and Fiordland National Parks are the places to go for adventure tourism of the type that uses commercial operators, but;
- for the type of rugged alpine recreational experience that appeals more to the independent user, who seeks to escape commercialism (including aircraft in particular), and find a sense of sanctuary and peace, Mount Aspiring National Park is the last place left in New Zealand.

A Department of Conservation that focuses exclusively on sustaining its land resource and meeting the needs of the total community (including those Park users who do not wish to use (or see) commercial operations, or pay in any other way for access) would be a stronger, more cohesive, more objective and more focused body. It should not have to make its own way financially from sources that exploit the conservation estate, and impacts on other users.

Richard Pettinger

Winter Routeburn (Social!)

We set off from Dunedin in a torrential downpour with the words of friends and workmates ringing in our ears ... "You're going where?! - You're tramping!! - In this!?! - You're MAD!!" However it wasn't long before the rain eased and by the time we passed through Roxburgh the roads were actually dry and the sky starry. We stopped at the Gobble 'n Go in Alexandra and did just that; made a brief stop for petrol in Queenstown and pressed on. As we headed up the edge of Lake Wakitipu toward Glenorchy the snowline crept lower and lower on the surrounding hills - gleaming coldly in the moonlight. We arrived at the Routeburn Shelter around 1AM to find the floor littered with bodies in multicoloured bags. We joined them fairly quickly.

We were all roused by an early riser at about 8 AM and gathered in our various parties to breakfast and set off up the valley - Destination Falls Hut. There was a light cloud cover but it wasn't cold and I think we all enjoyed the walk up to Flats Hut through fairly open beech forest which allowed occasional glimpses of beautiful green pools in the river, towering bluffs, and snowclad peaks. There was quite a bit of snow on the track going up the valley and some of us found crossing bridges laden with 6" of snow an interesting experience! We rested briefly at Flats Hut - fortified ourselves well with chocolate and started the slog up to Falls Hut. The tree canopy was laden with more snow than it could handle and on a fairly regular basis we would hear a gentle rustle followed by a loud whump as some got down. We found out quite early on that it paid not to be underneath any of this - the snow goes down your neck - more stimulating than a cold shower! Most of the canopy snow was melting steadily so we climbed in a slow drip shower. As we gained more height the track was covered more thickly with snow but most of it was soft and made for easy walking. We arrived at 2pm to find the hut warmed by a well fed pot belly stove - so we dried off and had lunch. David headed off with the others in search of Lake Harris, and Leanne and I did some serious snowball fight training and a bit of tobogganing. Our leader supervised from the hut where she had a good view out of the window (to be fair, she was recovering from a vicious virus attack over the preceding week).

Everyone literally descended on the hut at around 5pm and after much menu discussion there was a rush for the kitchen. We dined on the usual soup, followed by Gado Gado (foreign fodder) followed by Boozy fruit with cream and chocolate fudge sauce - and so retired with potbellies to the warmth of the stove. A magnificent moon rose over the mountains, lighting up the valley and reflecting off the snow. We spent the evening playing cards, telling tall tales and questionable jokes and imbibing the odd drop of spirit. One of our number was kind enough to give the verandah the old slip 'n slide test on the way to bed - it passed!

The next day dawned frosty and fantastically clear. Our bunkroom was awakened by a birdlike beeping from a Bingham timepiece at 7.15am. Breakfast was a gourmet delight with the aroma in the kitchen being a delightful mix ranging from museli and fruit to croissants, tomato, bacon and eggs and mushrooms! A fairly leisurely start was made - the climbing "hardies" setting off for a second onslaught on hapless Lake Harris (we're not sure what the final summit reading was in the centre) while those of us opting for a more relaxed weekend sat in the warm sunlight on the verandah and delayed our departure until 10am.

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The descent to Flats Hut was much more interesting than the ascent. The previous day's mushy packed snow had frozen solid - often without any footholds in it. Most people coped with this on their feet, some of us developed an effective bumslide movement, but we all arrived safely at Flats Hut at around 1130 am. We spent an hour and a half sunbathing on the snow on the banks of the Routeburn only disturbed by the odd snowball and a few sandflies (now deceased) with no direct hits. David caught up with us for lunch and we set off for the Shelter. A pleasant walk in the afternoon sun saw us there by the assigned 3.30pm - and by 4pm we had changed and packed the vans. First stop Queenstown for a snack attack stop (For those collecting - MacDonalds there have the Batman series toys in - at time of writing Dunedin McD's Dont!) We had a very musical trip home and arrived back to Dunedin (in good though perhaps fading voice) to find that it still hadn't stopped raining!!!
Moral:- If its raining in Dunedin and you're thinking about getting out to look for blue skies and fresh horizons, don't hesitate JUST DO IT!

Suzanne Mackay for Elspeth Gold, Leanne Bell, and David Jackson.

This article was found in the December 1934 Outdoors(then published quarterly) and maybe it still holds some truth today.

TRAGEDY NARROWLY AVERTED

The danger of going tramping alone has been demonstrated by the experience of a trampler caught in an exceedingly heavy rain storm in the vicinity of "The Clump". The rain was so heavy that it was impossible to see more than a few yards in any direction, so he took shelter by crawling into a hollow log which was in the vicinity. Safe from the fury of the elements he lay in the log for some time until the storm had abated sufficiently for him to venture forth and resume his journey to McQuilkan's, where he had hoped to have tea. A difficulty arose, however, for he soon discovered that whilst he had been sheltering in the log the rain had caused it to shrink to such an extent that he was firmly wedged inside and unable to move. This was a serious catastrophe, for nobody was likely to pass his prison for some days, or possibly weeks, and having no food within reach he was in danger of starving to death before a search party could find him.

It is usual when death stares you in the face to spend your last moments thinking over the events of your life, and, fortunately for the hero of our tale, he was no exception to the rule, for, as he lay wedged in his prison, the whole of the events of his past flashed before him. He thought of his home and friends, his work and play. The happy days he had spent with the Otago Tramping club crossed his mind, and then he remembered that he had not paid his subscription to the club for the current season. This made him feel so small that he was able to crawl out of the log easily and proceed on his way, badly shaken by his unenviable experience. Being late he was required to pay the full subscription but if you pay yours at once you will be in time to get the 25 per cent rebate for prompt payment.

Although it was written nearly 60 years ago, the moral of the story remains the same. If you haven't paid your subs, then do so!! Please pay either the membership secretary or treasurer. Both can be found near the door on club nights or post to the club (P O Box 1120, Dunedin)

If you have paid then I hope you enjoyed the story, and have many happy tramps.

P.S. Please note the 25 per cent rebate on subscriptions no longer applies.

TIDBIT'S

CONGRATULATIONS to Anne-marie and David Barnes on the birth of a beautiful baby daughter. Best wishes from all of us.

Michelle Williams is off again, on another overseas experience. She will be heading overseas at the end of this month and we, at the OTMC wish her all the best and request that she keep in touch.

Don't get those hankies out yet, she plans to be back early next year.



The owner of the local fish shop changed his order with the local newsagent from one morning newspaper each day to two papers.

It was holiday season and business was BOOMING!!

GOOD NEWS!!! Mr Marshall (Minister of Conservation) has relented. Instead of 1000 runners on the Milford Marathon, only 400 will be allowed to compete. A definite improvement on original numbers.

Eric Lord battled on bravely after dislocating his shoulder at the volleyball game the other Tuesday night. He not only replace his shoulder in it's socket but continued to play single armed, golly what a guy!!

Talking of volleyball, the club currently has a team of social volleyball players. Rumor has it however that it is strictly social and with no wins under it's belt as yet. Keep up the GOOD work guys.

big thank you must also go to. Bayfield High School, the school used Big Hut on the Rock and Pillar's for three a school trip and the payment of hut fees. It is hut being used. Thanks!

or four days on good to see the

Did You Know?

The Club's conservation and access group (ORG) are having their next meeting on 23 September 1992 at 428 Pinehill Road at 7-30 pm.

This group is interested in retaining access to many areas in New Zealand. With out the time spent on writing submissions by the dedicated few many of our treasured tramping areas would be lost. If you are interested in helping then please come along, Dave Levick will be more than happy to hear from you. He can be contacted on ph 473-8427 at home.

WANTED - Person or persons interested in doing any of the following walks, preferably after mid-November please phone Violet Hennessy, 453-4127 evenings or weekends.

Any trips to the Kepler, Rees Valley, Greenstone or Holyford.

This is your Bulletin and to make it interesting I need lots of Trip reports, Letters to the Editor, Recipes or even a bit of gossip every now and then. 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.



- Social Programme -



Social Programme

- 3-Sep-92 Winter Survival Skills (Anthony & Richard Pettinger). A must for those attending Snowcraft weekend.
- 10-Sep-92 Tramps and Trips in the Indian Himalaya. Margaret Clarke.
- 17-Sep-92 Rockclimbing - an introduction. Andy Beecroft
- 24-Sep-92 Kepler Track BYO: slides, photos & anecdotes. Queen's Birthday weekend review (revue??)
- 1-Oct-92 Travels in Turkey. Ivan McLachlan. recently returned from a trip around Turkey.
- 8-Oct-92 A view of South America - Les Coxhead

Still Upcoming:

Immediate Past President's Panto!!!!

Pat O'D.

Retiring Social Secretary

PS: Many thanks to all those whose attendance made Thursday Evenings the success they were over the last year, and especially to those members, and others, who gave us the benefit of their time and expertise.

WOODSMEN'S ANNUAL SUITABILITY TEST.

QUESTION 2:

IMAGINE THAT A TREE YOU ARE FELLING FALLS THE WRONG WAY, TRAPPING YOUR LOWER BODY BENEATH ITS MASSIVE WEIGHT. YOU KNOW THAT THE CHANCES OF GETTING HELP ARE NIL AND THAT IT MAY BE YEARS BEFORE YOUR SKELETAL REMAINS ARE DISCOVERED. HOWEVER YOUR UPPER BODY IS FREE AND YOU ARE ABLE TO LEAVE A NOTE FOR POSTERITY. WHAT WOULD YOU WRITE?

© SUTHER SWELL



The tree did it.



DID YOU KNOW That within the Mt Aspiring National Park, no person shall obstruct, disturb or interfere with any other person in the use of or enjoyment of the park, or use foul, abusive, indecent or obscene language, or be intoxicated, noisy, or riotous, or in any way misbehave.

The above by-law as printed in April 1981 Bulletin, effectively prohibits the use of the park by OIMC members. Just remember next time you are in the park you may be infringing the by-laws. Happy Tramping