



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

NOVEMBER 1992
BULLETIN NO. 515

• THE OTAGO TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB •

MEETS SOCIALLY EVERY THURSDAY

7:30 pm

AT 3 YOUNG STREET (Clubrooms)

145 METRES OF ROPE AND
YOU'RE FINDING FAULT
WITH THIS LITTLE BIT ?



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	Neville Mulholland	479-1061
SOCIAL SEC.		

TRIP LIST

NOVEMBER 8

TRACK WORK PARTY (ALL)

PETER MASON 4737-636

Based at Yellow Hut - come and do your bit for the track making side of things.

NOVEMBER 15

SILVERPEAKS (M)

JUSTIN & KAY CALDER 4761-235

Another chance to lose yourselves in the hills (intellectually not physically!!) without having to travel far to get there.

NOVEMBER 21-22 MT COOK (ALL)

PETER O'DRISCOLL 4530-593

Everything from fossicking to climbing, depending on snow conditions at the time. Great views and great company are combined on this trip.

NOVEMBER 22

ROCK AND PILLARS (M)

IAN SIME 4536-185

Join Ian on a trip to an area usually used for cross country skiing. The Club owns two huts on the range, and here is your opportunity to visit them in Summer.

NOVEMBER 28

OTMC SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE (M)

DAVID BARNES 4536-185

(NOTE THAT THIS A SATURDAY)

Half a day exercise just for Club members. Especially suitable for those who haven't been on a SAREX before.

NOVEMBER 29

TAIERI ISLAND/GORGE

MIKE FLOATE 4739-780

Webbed feet necessary for this one. The Taieri is not often visited on club trips and now is a great time. Some where with a bit of a difference.

COMING UP

DECEMBER 5-6

COMBINED CLUB TRIPS - KEA BASIN/REES VALLEY

WANTED

DOES ANYONE WANT TO TAKE A DAY TRIP ON DECEMBER 6 ? PLEASE LET RHONDA KNOW

EDITORS RAMBLING

Another month gone by and with it, another Bulletin. This Bulletin, however is a bit different, because it is the first to be completed on the Club's new computer. The AGM authorised the committee to buy one and this is the result. A Macintosh, which, for complete beginners is excellent. I am sorry however that there is not many pictures in this Bulletin but I am still learning and deadlines did not allow me to experiment with pictures, etc. Next time maybe.

I hope that everyone has kept the weekend of 12-13 December free as mentioned in last months Bulletin. This weekend is the clubs annual Christmas Party and it should be a good weekend. The map below is to show you how to get there (so no excuses). As it is not far from Dunedin, you can either come for the the day, night or stay for the whole weekend. Plenty of space to sunbathe or play volley ball/cricket etc. A definite fun weekend for the whole family is guaranteed. The weather has already been ordered so clear skies will be the order for the weekend. Bring the family, friends, flatmates - everyone is welcome.

I look forward to seeing you there

DEBBIE PETTINGER.



**Have some
serious fun!**

4 TRIBUTE TO GARTH VARCOE

This eulogy was contributed by long time club member Len Davies

Garth

I was checking the notes of the tramp up the Routeburn in 1962/63 only last night. This morning I hear on Radio Pacific's News how you were killed in Antarctica.

After reading in today's OTMC Bulletin about tramping in the '60's I remembered you were one of the active, friendly ones. On the Routeburn bus you were wondering how scouts from Benmore Hydro's Otematata village could know all the songs in the OTC songbook. It took you a while to work out who I was but what a friendship that sparked off. You on your way home from the Olivenes and our troop on our way after mapping that lake by Lake Wilson, under Mt. Erebus, New Zealand, found by N E Valley Rovers after seeing the same sardine tin that Bruce Campbell saw on the other side of the ridge.

When I last saw you in Lower Hutt with the Lighthouse Service in the 1970's you were still leading an active life. Then the other co-incidence I was being trained to do maintenance on Otago Lighthouses including Nugget Point. Garth I still remember and value the friendships made in the OTMC.

My condolences to your wife and children.

(X) GARTH VARCOE WRITTEN 14/10/92
(X) TO THE SCOUT SIGN FOR GONE HOME)
LEN DAVIES

1940'S TRAMPING
CLUB RULE ON GREEN HUTS WALL
ALL SWEARING FORBIDDEN
NOT THAT WE CARE A DAMN
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE "HELL"
BEFORE STRANGERS

SEE YOU IN THE HILLS SOME TIME
LEN DAVIES

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, P O Box 1120 Dunedin. The aim of the Bulletin is to keep members informed on what is or has happened in the Club.

SNOWCRAFT - 10-11 Oct. 92

An early start on Saturday morning saw 16 keen and able people heading off to the Awakino skifield (not far from Kurow) . A trudge up the hill and we arrived at the Hut for lunch to find not only electricity but a phone as well.

On with the overtrou and parka's and off we headed to a good looking slop off the main skifield to practise our self arresting techniques (or lack of them as the case may be). The snow was a bit soft but Dennis Price still managed to get the speed record with Ken Powell a close second on distance. Fiona Buchanan unsurprisingly got more than her fair share of snow balls. As time went on and it started to cool down, we headed up to the ridge and along to a wee peak. Some were a bit cold and headed back to the hut while the rest of us carried on. It was good to reach the top although Teresa refused to stand on the top (Something to do with Arthur saying "I told you, you would like it!").

It was a great slide glissading (good word for bum sliding) from the top down, a few were keen to trudge the 200 m back up just to come down. Back at the hut and everyone was out to impress with their gourmet delights. Elspeth and Fiona would have to take the most impressive dessert prize with a Brandy/Gingernut Thomas the Tank Engine dessert. A good nights rest was interrupted twice by the phone ringing and next morning dawned clear. Unfortunately the overnight temperature was very warm and the snow was still soft. This, however, did not dampen our enthusiasm and we set off to, what looked like another small peak. Once there, our small peak was only part of another ridge and on we went. The wind was quite strong and made things a bit cold, we still managed to get in a bit of self-arresting practice. We continued around till we met up with yesterdays slide and away we went again. Great fun!! Lunch was at the bottom, in the sun and out of the wind. Back to the hut and pack up before heading down the hill to the vans. Elspeth, Fiona Debbie and myself took the easy way down, glissading right to the end of the snow. Certainly the topping off to an excellent weekend.

Although the snow was a bit soft and all that was anticipated could not be done, I feel the weekend was well worth while and enjoyed by everyone.

ANTONY PETTINGER

An elderly parish priest was tending his garden near a convent when a passerby stopped to enquire after the priests much loved roses. "Not bad", said the priest,"But they suffer from a disease peculiar to this area known as Black Death!"

What on earth is that?" asked the passerby, eager to increase his gardening knowledge.

"Nuns with scissors!!"

PUBLIC ACCESS NEW ZEALAND

Public Access New Zealand is a national campaign to counter an increasing barrage of privatisation pressures on Crown Lands. It's goals are (A). The preservation and improvement of public access to public lands and waters and through the countryside in general and (B) The retention in Crown ownership and control of all publicly owned lands with value for public recreation and/or conservation, all inland and coastal waters, and recreational resources therein. Immediate threats to public access from privatisation or commercial interests extend to the whole conservation estate (5M ha), the pastoral high country (2.9M ha) and the Queens chain around the shores of rivers, lakes and the sea. This is almost 30% of New Zealand. It is the campaigns intention to act as a catalyst and focus for all groups and individuals interested in public access. PANZ intends maintaining momentum through to the general election next year. They will keep supporters fully informed on issues as they arise and will attempt to pre-empt threats before they materialise by creating public awareness and campaigning for areas in need of greater protection. The OTMC is a subscribing supporter of this very important campaign, and as issues arise we will keep clubmembers informed through the likes of the Bulletin. The time to act is now.

TRAMPING -1984

(This article was first published in the August 1955 Outdoors)

(With apologies to George Orwell - an extract from some work in progress)

Scene is a Trampcontrolpost in Norwestotago - Xmas 1984.

(The large room is divided into two sections by a plate glass partition. At the Public Counter persons in tramping rig are queuing up to have permits checked for entry to the Mautukituki Valley. The staff are, for the most part, civil servants on holiday leave.)

Civserv to Trampler: "I see by your trampermit you are from the Norisland, three years experience in the Tararua Ranges and an Easter trip to the Kaikouras. Your application to tramp here seems to have gone astray at Centcontrol. You'll have to make an emergency application, and then we'll see what we can do for you. I don't like this endorsement for overloading all the same!"

(Tramper spends twenty minutes or more laboriously filling in details of party, party gear, equipment, food, reason why he chose this valley, day by day programme to be sketched in on map of valley provided, was grandmother a tramper? etc. All this with a scratchy pen on paper little better than blotting paper.)

Much later in the same day.

Civserv: "Centcontrol said you may proceed; the Ernie Smith's out - as you should know by now it's only for people with clean permits."

Tramper: "But they said back home....." (Glass slides quickly and loudly closed on his face.)

Three days later.

On the other side of the glass partition more civservs (are perhaps old trampers) keep a close watch through the telescreens, plotting each party's progress from fixed camp to fixed camp as it picked up the cameras set at half mile intervals on all tracks. From time to time short notes are jotted down regarding behaviour, river crossing techniques, pace etc. These reports will be sent to Cent control for passing on to Clubs, Police, Coroners, M.I.5 etc.

Outside the building the helicopter pilots laze in the sunshine. So far this season has been a quiet one - there have been days recently when they have not been called out at all. Obviously the permit system is working well, and better than in the first few years when clubs were given the right to issue permits on an honour basis. Only 15 fatalities in the valley so far this season, and four of those were on one rope that went off the Southwest ridge. Not bad at all, considering that applications to tramp and climb had totalled 783, of which 135 were declined and 43 restricted to the valley floor. And what was more - not one tourist had been lost in the last three years, although some still objected to the high cost involved in having to hire one guide for each tourist. But lunch in a real snowcave was still an attraction, even with stews often half cooked and the rice and raisins positively gluey.....

'Cassandra)

The Editor of the 1955 Outdoors said this about this article:

"Cassandra's dip into the future is, we hope more fantastic than prop prophetic; for his glimpse of tramping in 1984 is a depressing one"

(You never know do you . Ed)

BUSHCRAFT 1993

As you will be aware, the Bushcraft is set to run again next February and March. A lot of pre course planning has taken place, and I now ask anyone who is keen to participate on the leadership, instructing and helping side of things to think about specific areas you would like to be involved in. Also required are volunteers to assist with pre course planning such as advertising, sponsorship. Remember the ground work has been done, and it gets easier each year. Anything you can do to spread the word about the course will be appreciated. Anyone wanting to help - Please contact '93 Course Director, Antony Pettinger, on 4737-924. Lets make this course the best yet!!.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

As of 20 October 1992 my records show that the following people have not renewed their subscriptions for this year. These people are:

Graham Bagley	Cathy Berryman
Bevan Blackmore & Henri Rawlings	Geoff Brookes
Trevor Chew	Ella Chaney
Yvonne Cook	Ruth Chisman
Clare Cushen	Brynley Crosado
Blair Donkin	Ross & Gaye Davies
Micheal Fay	Neil Duncan
Kaye French	Pat Finnie
Neil George	Ian Fulcher
Bill Houston	Bruce Glasier
Dennis Kemp	Mary Keenan
Graeme Loh	Chris Kimber & Megan Watkins
Anne McCarthy	Stu Mathieson
Margaret Middlemiss	Malcolm & Shirley McQueen
Neville Mulholland	Tim & Jill Moore
Megan Park	Fiona Munroe
Barbara Pettinger	David Peacock & Pam Bardsley
Rusty Rawlings	Dave & Libby Pickard
David Saunders	Graham Rowe
Greg Simpson	Anne Schmack
Mark Spittal & Mary-Anne Spence	Catherine Soper
Cathy Todd	Geoffrey Stewart
Joanne Vaughan	Sarah Stratton
Heather Walton	Nicki Trevathan
Ian Young	Spen Walker & Jane Bruce
	John Warburton

If you are on the above list and believe you should not be as you have actually paid your subs, please come and see me on Thursday night or ring me during the evening. Otherwise if you appear on this list you have one month left to pay your subs or your membership will expire on 1 December in accordance with rule 12 of the Constitution. If you wish to remain in the club, your membership may be paid to the Treasurer, Eric Lord or myself on a Thursday night or send to "Membership Secretary"

P O Box 1120
DUNEDIN

Dean Petersen
Membership Secretary
Ph. 4730-648

snowcaving

SEPTEMBER 5-6

We left Dunedin at 6-45 am Saturday morning and it didn't take long to get to The Old Man Range. We managed to get a good distance up the hill till the mud won and it was on with the boots. The mist rolled in and we continued up the hill, following the footprints in front. By accident we found the gully in the mist and the conditions seemed perfect.

The five groups found their own area and as the mist closed in we started to dig. Antony left John and I, too go and find water. The snow wasn't too hard and we made good digging. Once the tunnel was completed and the room started, Antony reappeared from the mist. Now that the wet, cold part had been done Antony took his turn. As time went by, the weather started to become gradually colder and a small snow storm started. This made all the more determined to finish quickly and eventually we were pulling in our gear at about 4-30.

Things were pretty cold and it wasn't long till we were in bed and making tea inside our cave, as it was snowing reasonably hard outside. There isn't much to do in a snowcave once tea has been and gone, so it was an early night.

The morning dawned, brilliantly fine and sunny. An exploration of everyone's caves and the immediate vicinity in the early morning sun and then a leisurely lunch. The afternoon was spent trying to build a igloo (with a spiral staircase of course) but this proved a bit elusive. Three-quarters finished and we flagged it away. The snow wasn't sticking and our hands were very cold. It was a quick trip down to the van and back to Dunedin.

An excellent cave and great company. Thanks guys!
Debbie Pettinger for Antony Pettinger and John Cox.

SOME FACTS ON GIARDIA

DID YOU KNOW?

- # Giardia has been in New Zealand, at least since World War II, possibly before.
- # Giardia is present in water throughout New Zealand and in wild and domestic animal populations.
- # It is possible to have giardia without knowing it and a carrier can transfer the disease to others through poor personal hygiene.
- # Tramping trips will not normally be affected by contracting giardia as it takes 10 days from ingestion of the cysts for symptoms to occur.
- # A person is more likely to contract giardia from pets and farm animals through poor hygiene, than from drinking mountain hut or stream water.
- # You're more likely to contract stomach illness from other bowel bacteria in untreated drinking water than catch giardia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

5 OCTOBER 199

DEAR EDITOR

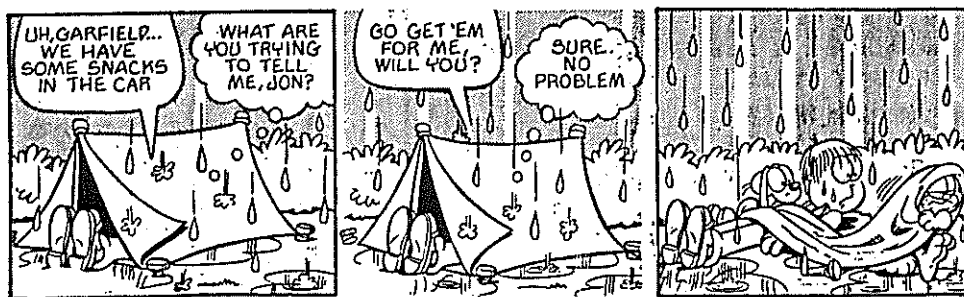
Rhonda and I spent yesterday teaching Outdoor First Aid to 5 people (Yes, that is f-i-v-e).

Although I am confident they benefited from the day, I am surprised at the low attendance numbers. Should we be delighted that so many members are confident in their First Aid capabilities - or worried that we might require car while tramping with people who always rely on someone else to know?

As a club, we should promote all aspects of safety in the outdoors - and an appropriate level of First aid knowledge has to be part of it. As individuals, we owe it to each other to maintain that knowledge as necessary for the area where we tramp.

Are we really an irresponsible membership? or was the draw of that football (rugby? soccer?) game in the afternoon too much for those of you who have expressed interest? Please open the Bulletin for comments for the need and timing of another day - I am not sufficiently masochistic to want to have to tell someone else how to immobilise my broken bones or handle my hypothermia confusion by withholding my mighty dram!!!!

TERESA



OF INTEREST TO YOU!

On the back wall of the Clubrooms is a large selection of publications, ie newsletters and magazines from other clubs and organisations with an interest in the hills and tramping areas of New Zealand. Amongst these are some interesting ones that are well worth taking the time to look at.

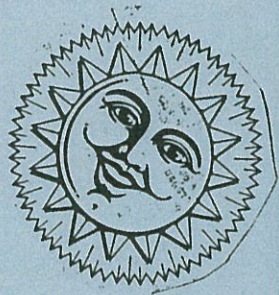
For instance did you know that we are a member of Forest and Bird and the Yellow-eyed penguin Trust, which both send us regular newsletters along with a lot of other tramping club in New Zealand.

Don't let this valuable area go to waste, take the time to have a browse.

TIDBITS

What can Fiona, Debbie, Elspeth and Antony do as a foursome, on snow , sliding on their bums??!?

Make a train of course!



A reluctant tramping wife, in pouring rain to her husband. "Tell me again how much fun we are having, I keep forgetting".

If you are having problems with your camera, see Fiona. She has become a bit of an expert.

First rule - always check that there is a film in your camera.

WANTED TO BORROW!!

A Copy of "The Ascent of Rumdoodle"

(Neither the OTMC library nor the Public Library appear to have copies)

Please call David Barnes 4544-492 if you can help.

1993 OUTDOORS

Since the last Bulletin we've had a good response for typists, now what we would like is some keen person(s) to obtain advertising to pay for the publication. Also needed are Trip reports, (Club or private, and especially area's the Club doesn't visit so often), Poems, short stories or recipes, all relating to the outdoors. It is our aim to have the magazine ready for publication around April/May next year. Any offers to the President, Antony Pettinger.

NEXT BULLETIN DEADLINE - CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE EDITION OF THE BULLETIN ARE REQUIRED BY THE 3RD DECEMBER, WITH THE BULLETIN COMING OUT THE FOLLOWING WEEK. PLEASE HAND TO DEBBIE OR ANTONY PETTINGER AT CLUB OR POST TO "THE EDITOR" PO BOX 1120, DUNEDIN.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- OCTOBER 29** **KEN MASON - KIWI CONSERVATION CORPS**
Come and see how our children are working, learning and having fun, and at the same time learning about conservation and how to look after the environment.
- NOVEMBER 5** **ROB SOULSBY - ROYAL FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY**
A chance to see what the RFBPS is all about, and see what role they play in conservation issues.
- NOVEMBER 12** **JILL BUCKINGHAM - SOUTH AMERICA PART 2**
Jill recently showed part one of her South America travels and it was very interesting. Come along and see what she has in store for us in part 2. Apparently the Andes feature highly in this part.
- NOVEMBER 19** **IRENE DAWSON - ECOLOGICAL TRAVEL ADVENTURE IN BORNEO & MALAYSIA**
Irene runs ecological trips and tours throughout both Malaysia and Borneo, and it sounds like she has some very interesting stories to tell.
- NOVEMBER 26** **NEVILLE PEAT - THE FALCON AND THE LARK**
Neville is going to talk about his new book called "The Falcon and the Lark" as well as talking a bit about falcons.
- DECEMBER 3** **BYO SLIDES - CROSS COUNTRY SKIING, ETC**
Bring your XC skiing, snow caving and snowcraft slides and tell us about the trips you have been on recently.
- DECEMBER 10** **PRE XMAS BBQ/BYO CLUBROOMS**
Start the wind down to Christmas early, bring some barby food and drinks or whatever and relax. Have a chat in good company.

WANTED: ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN SOMEWHERE SPECIAL OR HAS A FAVOURITE SUBJECT/TOPIC OR ANYONE WHO KNOWS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN SOMEWHERE SPECIAL OR HAS A FAVOURITE SUBJECT/TOPIC WHO WOULD LIKE TO COME AND SHARE IT WITH US ON A CLUB NIGHT.

IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CLUB SOCIAL PROGRAMME THEN PLEASE CONTACT NEVILLE MULHOLLAND ph. 4791-061