

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping
and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.**

**The OTMTC meets socially at 3 Young Street
every Thursday - doors open at 7.30pm,
programme begins at 8.00pm.**

4 August

Ralph Allen, president of the Orokanui Trust, will tell us about the Trust and his role in it.

11 August

Antoin Arcand will tell us of his adventures while cycling across Canada

18 August

Emily and David Cooper are in the business of making silk products - something of interest to trampers who use silk sleeping bag liners and gloves

25 August

OTMTC Annual General Meeting - nominations and notices of motion close 11 August. See page 3 of the July Bulletin for further details, and **BE THERE!**

1 September

BYO - Snowcraft, Mt Cook, Tomahawk and Boulder Beach - bring your photos along to show at club

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. Please contact Fiona Webster (Social Convenor) at "fionaw@tekotago.ac.nz", or 487 8176 if you can help.

**Visit us on the Internet at:
www.otmct.co.nz**

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

As you will be aware August marks the end of the committee year so I thought now would be a good time to reflect on what has happened within the OTMC over the past 12 months.

Club membership is now at the highest it's been for many years, which is great to see after the declining membership in the 1990's. A significant number of members continue to flow through from our Bushcraft course which is very positive. Additionally, we are finding some older members rejoining and participating fully in our club activities

Club property has been discussed widely over the past year, with the main discussion being centered on Leaning Lodge. The OTMC has decided to no longer maintain Yellow Hut due to its state. It has been suggested we sell the hut with the by-line 'backpacker's accommodation with thousand dollar views'. I'm not sure how successful we would be! On a more serious subject it is encouraging to hear that DoC are planning to build a replacement for Jubilee in their 2006/7 financial year. Although it hasn't been discussed, it is likely that Jubilee Hut would be physically removed then, which may be an OTMC responsibility. Clubroom maintenance has been ongoing, with both Peter Mason and Ray McAliece contributing. The clubrooms are the club's main asset and this is where our maintenance efforts will be directed in future.

Tramping, of course, remains our primary reason for existence and trips have been well supported and enjoyed throughout the year. We still endeavor to run a day trip every Sunday (apart from holiday periods) and these have been well supported. Weekend trips have been very successful, although the weather could have been kinder on some trips. Read the full details in the upcoming annual report.

Our weekly Thursday night meetings continue to be very fulfilling with a wide range of speakers on the programme. Highlights have included Jay Piggot's multimedia talk on Alaska, Gary and Heather's two quizzes and Rob Lawrence's trip to the Olivines.

Of course, none of this would be possible if it wasn't for the great work put in by our Committee. We are very lucky to have such a stable group of members working away at their various roles, and their efforts mean the OTMC runs like clockwork. I would like to personally thank the entire committee for the time and effort they have given to the OTMC over the past year.

Regards,
Antony Pettinger

OTMC QUIZ NIGHT

Recently the annual quiz night was held. It is the third time Heather and I have been asked to do the quiz (a hard act to follow as David Barnes ran the quiz nights very successfully before us). We thoroughly enjoy doing the quiz and like to try and do something different each year.

About 20 – 25 people showed up, which is about usual for the quiz, and we got them to split into five teams. The night started with an “I Am Dunedin” round and we were very pleased that all teams knew what was at 200 Rattray Street (Speights Brewery!!). It was soon evident that Team Rehash and The Absolutelys were vying for top spot at 38 each by the end of the third round, and 20 points clear of Team Us. Some interesting answers began to come out as the sugar levels from the lollypops were clearly affecting some minds. Dr J S Pemberton apparently concocted viagra, porridge and baked beans rather than Coca Cola, and Chris Carter opened Macaulay Hut, not Helen Clark as suggested by the Stooges.

Couch Potato trivia evened up the teams with Team Stiefenbaum making a late charge, but it was too little too late with the Absolutelys taking the victory with a 98.5 score (although Ian Sime’s behaviour in the Up In The Hills round was questionable).

Well, it was a great night and we hope all involved enjoyed it as much as Heather and I. We will leave you with a question which no team could answer:-

Which animal appears on the National flag of Sir Lanka? And no, it is not a water buffalo, elephant, snake, tiger or lizard but..... a lion

Gary Dawe

Flagstaff Family Day Walk

On Sunday 10th July we went on the family daytrip up Flagstaff. It was a cold morning and we set off up the hill at a brisk pace. It was a clear day so we could enjoy the views. Once we got up to the top, we headed down the other side quickly because it was cold and a little windy. We followed the track to where it joins the 4x4 track. It was muddy and there were lots of icy puddles on this track where we had fun breaking the ice. We followed the track back to the car. We were tired and happy to have completed the walk.

By Jade Pettinger (9 years) for Dylan, Debbie, Ken and Wendy.

PIZZA NIGHT

Filadelfios

7.30pm 13 August

Pizza, wedges and
garlic bread for \$13

RSVP Fiona

ph 487 8176

fionaw@tekotago.ac.nz



Congratulations to **Fee & Paul Gray** on the birth of **Matthew Thomas**, who arrived on 9 June weighing in at 9 lb (and getting bigger by the day!)

For months there had not been a callout for land search volunteers, so Teresa and I have had it easy. Then last Sunday at lunchtime there was a call for searchers to go to the north end of the Kilmog to help look for a person who had probably been in a car which had crashed. The drunk driver was not sure, but believed he had a passenger who may have wandered off dazed, so the Police asked for help to locate him.

There was no answer from Teresa's phone, so I prepared to contact people on our volunteer list. But while I was speaking with the police search contact, she got a message. The supposed passenger had been seen in a taxi travelling from Dunedin to Palmerston as it passed the crash scene, and was identified as the missing person.

Then two days later, on Tuesday 12 July about midday, my SAR pager beeped wanting land searchers to assemble at the Police Station. I rang the station, but the buzz I got was the one that indicates *this number is no longer connected*. How long was it since I had last rung them? So I looked up the phone book for the current number, explained who I was, and was referred to the Search Controller - none other than David Barnes. He explained that an Israeli tramper was overdue in the Silverpeaks. His car was still at the track end but there was no sign of him, and he was due home the previous day. A First Response group had been called out, but they wanted other searchers who had Track and Clue training to assemble as a backup and be prepared to spend the night out in the stormy and cold weather of the Peaks. So I rang Teresa. She knew the situation because her husband, Arthur, was the First Response Leader this month, and was already out. We went through our lists, noting the people we thought would be most appropriate for the job. Then she had another important job to do till 1.10 pm, and I had an appointment at 1.30 pm, so we arranged that I would start ringing, and she would take over later.

The first person I rang had his family coming home from the UK that afternoon. The second was busy at work and could not really leave. The third one was also involved in work he couldn't leave, but if people were still needed late in the afternoon, he could help. Number 4 was at lunch; could I ring back after 1pm? Same for number 5. Number 6 was OK! He could be ready in an hour. Number 7 was at lunch but his receptionist would get him to ring when he returned. There was no reply from #8's home; he works all over the place and I didn't have a cellphone number. #9 had shifted from his previous work. #10 would be available after 4pm. #11's wife answered; I could ring again after 6pm.

It was now 1.10 pm so I rang Teresa. I gave her the vital parts of the information I had, and she prepared to ring the remaining few people we had nominated. Then both our pagers beeped. **STAND DOWN!**

It turned out the guy had spent an extra night at Jubilee Hut because of the conditions, and had been met by Arthur and his team not far in from his car. Teresa agreed to ring the person who had been ready to search, and I was able to keep my 1.30 pm appointment!

Ian Sime

Trip Reports

What a treat we've got for you this month, even some poetry! My thanks to all the people who responded so rapidly to my plea for trip reports and articles.....

BALL PASS, 4-5 MARCH

A group of us decided to cross Ball Pass as part of the club trip, leaving Dunedin early on the Friday with the aim of camping that night in the Caroline Hut vicinity and crossing over to the Hooker on the Saturday. So, come 9am on Friday, a party of eight departed Dunedin for Mt. Cook. Clear skies all the way bode well weather-wise, and early afternoon saw us signing in and checking conditions at DoC in Mt. Cook Village. The forecast was for very strong winds around 1000m, not quite so windy at 2000m (Ball Pass is 2121m) with a deterioration in the weather during Saturday. To us that was good enough, hopefully we would have crossed Ball Pass before the front came through.

As we had 4WD vehicles we managed to drive to the very end of the Ball Road, just past Husky Flat and about 1000m directly below Caroline Hut. Clear skies afforded great views of the surrounding mountains and Tasman Glacier as we headed off for Ball Shelter. Here we met two people who had just crossed Ball Pass from the Hooker and they were very enthusiastic about the crossing. By this stage it was about 4.30pm, so we had about three and a half hours of useable light remaining – better get going!

From Ball Shelter the route heads further up the Tasman to a point where you head west and climb up to Ball Ridge, rather than climbing the ridge from the corner near Ball Glacier. Once on the ridge the route is very well defined and is really just a scramble between rocks. Of course, you are constantly rewarded by the view of the surrounding mountains, including the Caroline Face and Mt. Cook high above the Ball Glacier.

There are not too many spots on the ridge where you can camp, funnily enough, but there is a great spot near point 1824m that allowed us to pitch our two tent flies. To some it may seem odd to be spending the night in a tent fly above 1800m, but this evening was perfect. In fact, bivvying out was even better. We arrived at the campsite at dusk, and were very quickly treated to a spectacular sunset over Lake Pukaki. We had had a decent lunch in Twizel, and had planned a light dinner at this campsite, requiring no cooking. We found that this worked very well for us and saved time, weight and effort. We planned to be away at first light if we could due to the forecast, so an early night was had.

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Saturday morning dawned clear in the east, but there was significant cloud growth in the west. We could see Ball Pass clearly in the distance, but Mt. Cook was now shrouded in cloud, not to be seen again during the weekend. We headed away in a weak sun towards Caroline Hut – from point 1824m this is a rock scramble, with the size of the rocks increasing as we got closer to the hut. As Caroline Hut is about the same height as our campsite this section was more or less level.

After a quick chat with two guides at Caroline Hut we headed onwards again towards the pass. The weather was definitely changing for the worse but we judged we would have enough time to cross the pass as long as we didn't hang around too long. The route from Caroline Hut takes a decidedly steeper turn as the buttress directly behind the hut is climbed. Looking back down gave some neat views of the hut with the grey Tasman Glacier a kilometre below. After climbing the buttress and a short sidle, the first of the snow was reached. Before too long we were at the point where you drop down onto the top of the Ball Glacier - time to put on the crampons for the traverse across the top of the glacier and onto the pass. The snow/ice was certainly very firm, and although not steep it was not somewhere you would want to slip – the glacier seemed to go for miles. It was here it started to rain. The route got a wee bit steeper as we approached the pass, but very soon we were on the gravel scree and on Ball Pass. Due to the weather the celebrations and antics we had planned for the pass did not happen so after a couple of photos it was downwards towards the Hooker.

The first part of the descent was very steep, possibly the steepest of the trip, but was clear of snow. Soon we were back on the snow, which again was hard but not particularly steep. After skirting around the end of a fairly significant crevasse we were off the snow. Rain was falling steadily as we took off the crampons and headed to the ridge where we would drop from to gain access to the Playing Field. We were aware of the need to maintain as much height as possible on this section, but we still ended up climbing – in fact one section here was the most hair-raising of the trip. In hindsight, with better conditions an easier route wouldn't be hard to find.

Over the ridge and down to the Playing Field was straight-forward enough, but a head for heights is required in places, as well as sure footing. A quick bite at the Playing Field sufficed for lunch before we headed down the steep gut that leads to the Hooker. We went down in teams of two to reduce the risk of dislodged rocks hitting someone below. After a couple of tumbles in the gut we were safely on the Hooker valley floor.

We had planned to camp on the alluvial fan at the foot of the gut, with Peter and Sue Stevenson coming in to join us. The weather deterred us pretty smartly, especially as we only had the two flies. A quick wander down the Hooker saw us totally drenched in the increasing rain and at around 5pm we were at the shelter in the camping ground, where Pete and Sue had the magical billy on. After changing and retrieving the vehicles we decided that the weekend had been very successful, nothing more would be achieved so we should go home, which we did, arriving back in Dunedin around midnight.

The Ball Pass crossover is a great trip and highly recommended. It is also a very

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serious crossing and should never be undertaken lightly. The club was very careful in the lead up to this trip about what sort of ability people had to have to participate in the crossing. It requires a good sense of route-finding, as it is an unmarked route, and a head for heights as well as experience in traveling steep, rough terrain is required. Alpine and snowcraft skills are essential at any time of year. As Chief Guide I would do nothing differently in the lead-up to a future trip to Ball Pass.

The quote of the weekend undoubtedly goes to George, who was quite pleased to back in Dunedin in time to attend church on Sunday as 'he had just been to hell and back'. I'm not quite sure what he meant, as this was a particularly satisfying trip!

Something that affected every one of us was the triple fatality on Bass Pass 3 days later. It was very hard for us to comprehend what had happened in an area that we considered no more or no less dangerous than anywhere else on the crossover. It certainly hit home quite hard the risk involved in this crossing.

Thanks team for a great trip. A special thanks to Pete and Sue for their support.

Antony P for Debbie Pettinger, Ann and Chris Burton, George Kemmett (Ann's Dad), Dave Chambers, Barry Atkinson and Ralph Harvey.

Old Railway Track to the Maniototo

The immense lilac storm just after dawn is a hive
of mating and
hatching and growing wings,
fluttery white butterflies blown about
descending on trees and fields in a shoal,
snow crystals balancing the scales of morning
at highest point of the rail trail,
while a crop of cyclists
with twenty-one speeds to choose from,
plenty of elbow room,
bowls downhill like buxom apples let loose,
all crisp ecstatic yells and flaming cheeks,
towards Wedderburn's ex goods shed,
a tin cave to whistle up a wind blast,
in a highland skirl of bladders
and bone beat on stretched skin drum,
as flurries of sheep clatter;
and goldenness of grass out of crusty mud,
that sunshine burns its way through to at last,
spreads from the remembering ribbon of gravel
and the bike spokes' windmilling thrum.

Written by David Eggleton after cycling the Rail Trail with his sister Fieke Neuman on Anzac Weekend

So, Deb...how long **does** it take to hitch a ride from the Divide to Te Anau?



Well, third time lucky and the Routeburn Cross-over has finally happened (two previous occasions were delayed due to snow and my reputation was in tatters [ok, what reputation?]). Allan and Matt kindly drove the third minibus to The Divide on Friday night and (mostly) happy trampers got changed by the minibus lights in the pouring rain. The last person left me after about 30 minutes and I settled down to sleep on the back seat of the minibus (there are some advantages in being vertically challenged). Peter the possum was in residence in the shelter and I didn't fancy sleeping with him.

At some stage a big gust of wind hit the minibus waking me up, so I thought I'll move the bus to the other side of the shelter. Turned the key and nothing...not even a click...ok, back to bed...

The first vehicle driving from Te Anau to Milford woke me just before 6 am. I knew it would be some time before a car/campervan traveled from Milford to Te Anau, so I amused myself by brewing coffee (there's a surprise), standing on the road in the rain (with no rain-jacket and jeans on - ack!), and counting cars....and camper vans...and tourist buses, all heading the wrong way. Five vehicles pulled into the shelter, three asked if I was ok, none had jump leads, and one wanted to roll me down the hill (umm, **in** the minibus). 67 vehicles (and about 3 hours later) a car came from Milford and I jumped in front of it, much to the occupants surprise. Two very nice American ladies from Boston drove me to Te Anau Downs, where I thawed out in front of the log burner in the backpackers - wonderful people

After an hour or so the AA arrived, we got the van going, and I left the Divide at about 1 pm heading for Alex. A beautiful if windy drive, and several hours later saw me sitting in a spa drinking beer [thanks guys :-)]

Sunday morning 7.30 am time to leave...no visibility and ice on the windscreen...ok leave at 9 am instead

Routeburn road end - cold at the carpark, but sunny at the shelter. Good to see folk arriving, and that everyone was ok.

Cheers to Allan and Matt for doing the driving.

Debs Carr for Routeburn Crossover, 14-15 May



MACAULAY RIVER

25 -26 JUNE

My first task for this trip was to pick up a van. I knew Anthony had booked a 12 seater, but had only a hunch it would probably be the new model. They handed me the keys and said, "It's that one." First task, "Where is the hand brake?". ("It's like they were in the seventies", was the answer). Then out into the 5 pm traffic with this huge van and a gear stick poking out of the dash board. By the time I had got home, picked up my pack and arrived at the club rooms, I was getting used to finding the gear stick and not hitting the curb when turning left.

Everyone was on time at the club so we left promptly. Just after 9pm we arrived at Omarama to pick up Zena who had emailed me the directions to her house, "It's the one with the white fence". (Next time you're out walking, Zena, count the white fences in your street!) Friday night we stayed at the Tekapo Camp New Lodge, and I think from now on the camp manager will give better instructions to those who will be arriving late at night .

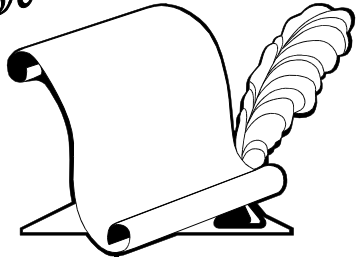
Saturday morning was a short drive to the end of Lily Bank Road and the start of our walk up the Macaulay River. The valley is a very large open river flat and there is not a single hill between the road end and the trust hut about 3.5 to 4 hours up the valley. By the time we reached the hut the weather was starting to change with a definite chill in the wind. Some climbed the mountain behind the hut or explored the valley opposite. Others stayed out of the cold and kept the fire going in the great log burner in the hut.

On Sunday we rose to a slight covering of snow, and after a long breakfast headed back down the valley to explore some side creeks before arriving at the van and driving home.

Macaulay Hut is a great place to visit, but instead of wasting a weekend walking in and out it would be a great place to 4WD in as there is some great tramping once in there. Many of the peaks are well over 2000m and are quite climbable for the average trumper.

Allan Perry

Letters to The Editor



Dear Editor,

I'd like to dispel a myth that was repeated in the last Bulletin. We're not the only club that meets weekly. There are at least 4 other, plus some of the university clubs meet weekly in term time. When I found myself overnighthing in Lower Hutt for work recently, this was useful information. Rather than spend the night in my hotel room enjoying what Pink Floyd describe as "13 channels of s..t on the TV to choose from", I wandered along to the Hutt Valley TC (the one that pipped us for 3rd oldest club in the country) & enjoyed company and a talk that made me feel I was at Young St. I have a list of all affiliated FMC clubs, stating when and where they meet. If anyone wants to look up a club on their travels, call me and I'll give you the details.

David Barnes

Dear OTMC Bulletin Editor,

There's no doubt OTMC is a wonderful club. After all, it has the indefatigable Fiona as Social Secretary (sic), is a hotbed of FMC activity through the efforts of David Barnes and Rob Mitchell, and has a very fine clubroom which I've visited. So there was no need for Wolfgang Gerber falsely to claim (at the May Youth Expo in Dunedin, as reported in your July Bulletin) that OTMC is the only NZ tramping club meeting weekly. According to the FMC list these others do too: Christchurch TC, Hutt valley TC, Rotorua T & Skiing C, Tararua TC and Wellington T & MC. Happy tramping, and keep warm !

John Rhodes (South Wairarapa TC, Wellington T & MC)

Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

After the negative tone to the past two Chief Guide comments, I'm delighted to report that the past two trips have run exactly as they should – no one pulled out of either, and we have made great progress in regard to paying for the trip before departure. I thank everyone for their efforts thus far and ask that it continues. We are a tramping club who enjoy getting out into the hills, let's not make running trips a drag for the leaders and committee.

Weekend trips continue to be enjoyed by all who participate on them and the recent trip to the Kepler Track was no exception. Although some may view a trip to the Kepler in Winter a throwaway trip it still proved very enjoyable, especially so for some participants along for the first time. Conditions were great – the weather as good as you would probably get on the Kepler and the company A1. It was a trip that proves that the social and tramping side of the club combines very nicely. Everyone went home with their ambitions fulfilled and a smile on their face. That is what this club is about.

Although it's only coming into August I'm always on the lookout for suggestions for upcoming trips. I'm currently working on the Summer 2005/06 trip programme – so if there is somewhere you would like the OTMC to visit, let me know. Unfortunately we appear to be reluctant to visit a new area, which is a shame because we have endless options available to us. Advances in transport and roading over the years have brought many areas into the range of a 2 day trip, increasing our opportunities. Now is a good time to pore over those maps (or CD Rom) and come up with suggestions for different trips – otherwise you will be stuck with trips to places I want to go. Don't say you haven't been warned!

Antony Pettinger

Snowcraft 2005
(organised by Matt Corbett, 487 6595)

Information Evening - date to be advised - covering clothing and gear (including fitting of crampons), alpine weather, alpine safety and routefinding. You must attend this evening if you intend going on the weekend course.

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Practical Weekend - August 20-21

This weekend is the basic introduction to snow skills, and no previous experience on snow is required. These skills are useful even if you never intend to climb a mountain, because most of us will at some time have to move safely over sloping snow, even if we are only crossing a pass between two valleys. Topics to be covered will include walking safely on snow, the use of ice axes and crampons, and self arresting (stopping yourself safely should you fall and start sliding on snow).

The location of the weekend is yet to be decided, based on snow conditions at the time.

Please remember to attend the information evening as much of the information and planning will be covered at that time. Course cost is yet to be decided, based on the final destination decision.

Mavora Lakes E/C grades + Mountain Bike Options 3-4 September Alan Thomson 455 7878

The Mavora Lakes are a very popular family camping area over the Christmas period, but for this trip we will be sticking to mostly the valleys on the western side of the lakes. There is a good round trip via the Whitestone and the head of the Kiwiburn which can be taken. The saddle between the Whitestone and the Kiwiburn is quite low, at only about 50 metres higher than Kiwiburn Hut. The lower Whitestone is quite open and wide, but the upper reaches are really nice, with more bush and a more confined river.

Popular trips in this area have included traverses of Mt Cerberus, but in September this may be out of reach due to snow conditions. The ridge leading to it may be OK though, and in good weather offers some great views over the lakes and into the Eyre mountains.

The Mararoa Valley, which heads north towards the Greenstone Valley is much more open than the Kiwiburn, and doesn't generally appeal to trampers - mountain bikes would be the way to travel up this valley to either Careys Bay hut or Boundary Hut. So there are quite a number of options to choose from.

We intend to stay at Hikuraki Lodge (sleeps 22) in the Mararoa Valley on Friday night, cost is \$17.00 per person on top of the trip cost.

Trip list closes on the 25th August.(the night of the AGM)

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Ahuriri Conservation Park / Canyon Creek (M-C)

September 17/18

Matt Corbett 487 6595

Canyon Creek has been a favourite haunt for many club members over the years - this trip will be the first time the OTMC has visited the area since it has become a conservation park administered by DoC, and it is now possible to drive about six km further in towards Canyon Creek. From the now infamous locked gate it is about a 20 minute walk to the Canyon Creek picnic area. From here it is easy to access the impressive canyon, and head further up Canyon Creek to the rock biv under Mt. Barth.

An alternate trip is to head further up the Ahuriri from the locked gate, with Top Hut being about six hours from the gate. There are plenty of good camping sites en-route. Two more options are to climb onto and wander along the tops between the Ahuriri and the Dingle or explore Snowy Creek (which can be used to cross to the Maitland). The trip list closes on September 8.

Committee Members 2004-2005

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Greg Powell	454 4828
Secretary	Jenni Wright	454 5061
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Imm. Past Pres	Terry Casey	454 4592
Chief Guide/Transport	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Ian Sime	453 6185
Gear Hire	Greg Powell	454 4828
Daytrip Convenor	Cathy McKersey	455 0994
Funding	Greg Powell	454 4828
Publicity/Library	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Social Convenor	Fiona Webster	487 8176
Clubrooms Officer	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Bushcraft	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Committee	Sandra de Vries	473 7224
Committee	Peter Mason	455 7074
(outside committee)		
Bulletin Editor	Robyn Bell	488 2420
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Contact	Teresa Wasilewska	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the September Bulletin, deadline is 11/8/05, publication 25/8/05. You can submit material on floppy disc (PC not Mac please); email 'rbell@pooka.otago.ac.nz' or 'rebell@paradise.net.nz'; or post to Robyn Bell, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

Leishman Falls (M) 31 July

Come along on this short trip which is used by some as a training trip. The route comprises a mixture of bush, flat sections, one short steep hill and return via a well defined track through the Chalkies. We should be back by 3pm and if it's fine we'll be rewarded with some good views.

Ron Minnema 453 0829

Burns Saddle & Beyond (MF) 7 August

We'll start at the top of the Northern Motorway and head through the Burns Saddle to Hightop, then drop down Eucalypt Spur to Possum Hut (lunch?). From there, it's a short grunt to the ridge off Green Hill, and a sidle to the Green Hut site before returning to Hightop. Energy and weather will determine whether we return to Burns Saddle before detouring down Rustlers' Ridge, or gain a bit more height and head up to Swampy Summit and down Swampy Spur.

David Barnes 454 4492

(Note:- This trip has both Burns Saddle and Rustler's Ridge in it's itinerary, like Alan's 17 July one, but this time takes a longer loop and has an MF rating. So don't let the similar title put you off - it's bound to be quite different to the July trip! Ed.)

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Taieri River Track (E/M)
14 August

This is a change of venue from the trip card due to the temporary closure of Picnic Gully track. We will walk along the Taieri River Track through to John Bull Flat for lunch and return, taking approx four hours. We may decide on the day to do a key swap and walk through to the Taieri ferry end.

Leader Cathy McKersey ph 455 0994

Tomahawk / Boulder Beach (M)
21 August

Meet at the club rooms at 9 am, then drive to Tomahawk Lagoon and park. We go behind Smailes Beach, up the Karetai Road, over the hill and steeply down to Boulder Beach where there is a chance of seeing penguins. Then it's a climb up the Buskin Track to Highcliff Road and walk back along it towards Dunedin until we reach the War Memorial. We then go back down the Tomahawk Track to the lagoon where there are often a wide range of wild birds. The walk is along formed tracks and roads and has some spectacular viewpoints, taking about 4-5 hours.

Bill Wilson 477 2282

Yellow Hut/The Gap (M)
28 August

We start at the tunnels track, descend to the Waikouaiti River, then up through the bush to Yellow Hut, which is on the bush line. We should get great views over Blueskin Bay from the hut. We continue along the ridgeline until we reach The Gap, at a height of 870 metres. The ridge is above the bush line so we should get good views of the Silver Peaks and out to sea. We return by the same route and should be back at the club rooms by 4 pm. Boots and gaiters are recommended. Carpool cost \$7

Contact: Ralph Harvey 453 4330.