

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

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

4 May

David Paulin will show some historic OTMC footage, so come along and see what helped to make us the club we are today.

11 May

Michael Foley talks about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, along the West Coast of the USA.

18 May

Dr Ian Jamieson from the University of Otago will talk about the survival of the rare South Island saddleback and the current conservation projects to save them.

25 May

BYO - Easter trips, day walks, long tramps or short walks - come to club with the evidence and tell all.

1 June

Queens birthday, so no club night. Enjoy your long weekend, whether you're off to Rees Valley & 25 Mile Creek, some other jaunt, or just staying home.

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.

With Easter now behind us it is time to start thinking of trips to be undertaken over the winter months. A perusal of the winter trip programme included with the last Bulletin shows that many of the trips are geared for winter conditions, but this still does not preclude those with the desire to explore beyond a hut or valley limit, often with some spectacular results.

Another project that the committee is hoping to complete over the upcoming winter months is the refurbishment of the clubroom, which is our major asset. Terry Casey has carried out a preliminary inspection of the exterior of the clubrooms, including the roof, and he reports that the building is in sound condition. The one area of concern is the south concrete block wall, which appears to be letting in a small amount of water. This will be sealed and repainted.

We have also been discussing the interior of the clubrooms. We have done little to the appearance since we opened the clubrooms back in 1990 and we feel that the inside would benefit from a spruce up. The OTMC has been very fortunate in receiving significant financial grants from SBS (Southland Building Society) for the betterment of the OTMC. The committee has decided to use some of this money in replacing the imperial map collection on the walls with an updated metric set, incorporating some of the more recent national park and great walk series of maps. Before we do this we intend to repaint the inside of the rooms with a much lighter colour than the current dark green and add a rustic red colour for any trim. (This will be a similar colour scheme to the newer DoC huts, which have a pleasing appearance particularly on a darker day). The orange carpet has seen better days and we are seriously looking at replacing this with a much more neutral colour. A trial was conducted on one of the curtains to see if they could be washed but its total disintegration will see these being replaced.

As always, we are interested in any feedback members may have on these proposals. The clubrooms are our focal point, and we need to update/refurbish them from time to time. Financially, the club is able to fund any expenditure from current funding.

Finally, a big thank you to Dave Chambers and BP for replacing some of the older wooden chairs with some new padded ones – come along one night for a test run!

‘Til next month,
Antony Pettinger

Membership

13 folk, mainly Bushcraftees, have applied for membership this month, and should have it confirmed at the Committee meeting on 1 May.

Faye Brock	25 Hilton Rd, Dn	454 6995
Allison Coveney	312 North Rd, Dn	021 738 0065
Michael Foley	16 Norman St, Dn	454 2544
John Kaiser	Box 94, Waitati	482 1399
Kaylip Khoo	26 Heriot Row, Dn	471 9499
Lynley McCristell	22A Alva St, Dn	477 4968
Diana Munster	19 Oakland St, Dn	454 4200
Judith Puchert	50C Hargest Cres, Dn	455 9027
Sandra Rogers	22 Birchfield Ave, Dn	473 0527
Steffan Rolfe	5 Agnes St, Dn	453 3265
Trish Saunders	2 Hawea St, Dn	471 0802
Andrea Todd	22 Larkworthy St, Dn	455 4705
Angelica Treschl	124 Doctors Pt Rd, Waitati	482 2538

It's a great thrill to have so many new people on board!

Stuart Mathieson now has only a cellphone, 027 507 9166

Hikaru Shirai has moved to 44 Rockside Rd phone 467 9068.

Ian Sime

∨
∨ I picked up a copy of SnowCave Inn by Ged Maybury at the club- ∨
∨ the other day (only \$12) and found it a quick, easy and fun ∨
∨ read. The sentences are short and snappy and the story chill- ∨
∨ ingly real. I'm not surprised the Mountain Safety Council has ∨
∨ endorsed the book or that Sir Edmund Hillary agreed to write the ∨
∨ foreword. It is, indeed, a cautionary tale, with minor mistakes ∨
∨ mounting toward disaster. My son, James (17), has also gal- ∨
∨ loped through the book. He can't believe that, just before closed- ∨
∨ cell foam mats were commonly available, the young trampers ∨
∨ had to lug lilos around to sleep on the snow. ∨

∨
∨ Philip Somerville ∨



10 reasons to buy an OTMC cap

1. They come in 2 great colours - navy blue and forrest green, and both come with OTMC logo.
2. They look good.
3. They keep the sun out of your eyes.
4. They keep long hair off your face.
5. They keep the rain off your head.
6. They protect hair-free heads from sun and wind burn.
7. They keep your head warm when there is a chill in the air.
8. They are light weight and fit easily in your pack when not in use.
9. They support and promote your club
10. Only \$18 from OTMC

Buy an OTMC cap before 1 August 06 and be in the draw to win an angle pack full of Allen's lollies (care of Allen's Confectionery)

REUNION

The Hokonui Tramping Club 40th Reunion 28th-29th October 2006.

Present and Past members most welcome.

Contact: The Secretary-Margaret Hughes,
P.O.Box 106,
Gore 9700.

Ph/Fax (03)2087053.

email crhughes@ispnz.co.nz

FINALLY

The final draft of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan has now got through the list DoC stage and is with the Southland Conservation Board for sign off (which should be a formality). The gestation of this document makes elephants seem quick! My initial notes on the first draft were made (appropriately while in Te Anau) over Christmas 2002.

The Club's submission ran to over 3600 words, reflecting how important this park is to us. The good news is that there have been many favourable outcomes. The big one is that the Caples Gondola, which would have traversed the park from McKellar Saddle to Lake Gunn, appears to be dead in the water. A late attempt by the developers to get the corridor reclassified as an 'Amenity Area' displayed either a lack of appreciation for the scale and type of activity normally conducted in such an area (e.g. Milford Hotel) or an arrogance that beggars belief. This proposal was a serious attack both on key tramping areas that this club and its members use regularly and on National Park values.

Other highlights include:

- Limited tramping allowed in the Takahe area. Limited to 2 parties a week, and effectively limited to a route from South Fiord to Middle Fiord. Plan your trip now!
- No further High Use tracks to be developed. This "would not improve the range of opportunities provided and may impact upon other values and recreation opportunities present".
- No competitive events on the Milford Track. (We just asked for them to be limited to the on-season).
- One competitive event a year on the Routeburn, to be held in the 3rd week of April. The appropriateness of the event will be reconsidered if unacceptable effects on track users is shown.
- Helicopter landings at Port Craig & Okaka limited to pack transfer,

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not passengers. (We asked for a 10am - 3pm landing window in summer to be extended to all year).

- Mountain bikes allowed on Percy Saddle. (No concessions).
- Shallow Bay & Back Valley huts to remain.

Air operators at Milford have been given 5 years to mitigate the Pearl Harbour effect or the Department will step in.

The final draft is on the DoC website, or I have a CD version you can borrow. Overall, I think we can be satisfied with the outcome of this process.

David Barnes

Conservation and Recreation Advocacy Officer

TRAMPING

SHORTS



Made a flying visit through Dunedin, sorry, no time to look anyone up. However my brother Donald and I did a walk in the Silver Peaks. It was the first time in the peaks for me since the 75th Anniversary (1998) and a lot longer for Donald. Our first mistake was to go along Yellow Ridge. We went in the old way, not knowing about the new

track via the tunnels. It is very over grown once you leave the farmland and get into the reserve. Thick manuka and gorse. If anyone is masochistic enough to repeat this in the next couple of weeks and finds a blue and black MacPac fleece top in there, I would be grateful of its return.

Got to Yellow Hut. It is a bit of a disgrace really. We had great times in that hut in the past, but does anyone use it now? There was an old rotting mattress in there which made it unpleasant. Maybe that hut has done its dash and should be removed.

Went on up to Rocky Ridge and up to the peaks. This was very nostalgic as a southerly squall moved in and lashed our legs with cold hori-

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zontal rain as we scurried across the Silver peaks and down to the Green Hut site. The regrowth up there is extraordinary, even since 1998. I wonder if I will be under bush canopy next time I get up there?

Great track out from the Green Hut site and now very sheltered with bush all around. Out to shelter at Preston Lovatt's place on Double Hill Rd, dry clothes and back to Christchurch last night.

Peter McKellar



Donald at Yellow Hut just to prove we got there.

Trip Reports

MT HIKURANGI

Monday 13 March '06

An FMC meeting in Gisborne provided an opportunity to head for the hills in a different part of the country, and saw 9 of us (including fellow OTMCer Rob Mitchell) heading for Mt Hikurangi, inland from Ruatoria. Being able to take 4WDs to 1200m didn't feel like cheating, as the route was up a fairly uninteresting farm track, but only having to walk for 15 minutes to the hut did. The mountain is sacred to Ngati Porou, and the carpark is the site of some amazing sculptures erected by them for the (year-early) Millennium celebrations. The figures appear to be modern takes on traditional Maori designs, and represent Maui and his whanau.

After lunch, although the prospects of a view were slim, we decided to head for the summit. A steep burst up a regenerating slip led to a patch of goblin forest, which is always so much more impressive on a misty day. From there, the route sidles around the northern side of the peak. Rising winds and falling temperatures led to some talk of piking, but once we reached the gut leading to the summit ridge there was no turning back. A couple of hundred metres of airy goat track along the ridge, with a very inconveniently placed Spaniard to duck past, led the 6 of us to the trig, about two hours from the hut. At 1752m, we were making a detailed inspection of the interior of the North Island's fifth highest cloud.

As we descended the gut, the swirling clouds parted briefly to provide an extensive view of the waves of forested ridges of the Raukumara Wilderness Area. A quick thought was given to returning to the summit, but I think we would have been disappointed, as the clearance didn't amount to much.

The night in the hut was marked by great cuisine, and the highest concentration of Aveo-sleep anti-snoring devices I've ever seen. Some thought had been given to a very early start to return to the summit for sunrise (the first on the mainland – if you accept the North Island as 'mainland'), but it was obvious that the weather wouldn't favour that. A check was made at 6:30 to see if it was worth getting up for a consolation prize of sunrise at the hut, but the report was 8/8 cloud. So we had an early return to the vehicles, removing a lot of bottles (not ours) and leaving an FMC Bulletin.

David Barnes

Green Lake

4th & 5th March '06

After listening to Pete say for the last two years that he would like to go to Green Lake and then have the trip cancelled a couple of times we are finally on our way. It's Friday night and it's been raining all day, it's still raining and I'm thinking "Why can't we cancel again!" but no we have to go. It's not 'til we start heading inland that it finally clears and Pete's saying "told you it's going to be a good week end" and I'm thinking "Yeah, right!". Well he was right, weather wise anyway.

We started out Saturday morning at a fast pace (for me and my short legs) up a steep pitch, straight into the bush, through some bogs, stumbling over some logs and tripping over tree roots. Up and down we went. Up, down; up, down. Occasionally there was a break in the bush so we sometimes got a view and a nice spot of sunshine.

The plan was to have lunch at the saddle. At two o'clock we hadn't reached the saddle so we stopped for lunch anyway at a nice spot where we could look out over Lake Monawai. Shortly after restarting we broke out of the bush and followed a poled route to the saddle where we stopped again to admire the view. Everyone around me saying "Now isn't this worth it?" and I'm once again thinking "Yeah, right!".

After a well earned break we started the descent, straight back into the bush, tripping over more tree roots and clambering over more logs. No bogs in this area. Time was getting on and we could now see the lake's edge. We went to have a look to see if it would be easier to tramp around the edge of the lake, but instead we found a nice campsite. After pitching our tents and having our tea Barry disappeared for five minutes. When he reappeared he was carrying a birthday cake alight with candles. Thankfully, he also thought to carry in a bottle of bubbles to toast Ann's birthday. It was a great night with great company and even the weather was great. We all sat beside our campfire and watched the sun go down.

Question:- $24 + 24 + 3 = \text{Ann's age} + \text{some}??!!$

The next morning I thought "Shit!.....got to get back out.....another day filled with ups and downs, bogs, logs and tree roots.....**Bugger!!!**"

After three week of reflections, 'It wasn't all bad?' "Yeah, right!"

Sue, Reluctant/Revoltng Spouse

For Sale - Pack and boots!

THE EGLINGTON TRIP

March 25th – 26th 2006

Well, Bushcraft 2006 is over for this poor little Australian and my legs don't know what to do with themselves.

After the Silver Peaks I could take on anything. Little did I know the Silver peaks were nothing! The elective trip to Eglington was amazing fun and also a lot of hard work for these uneducated Aussie legs. But thanks to the patience and skills of our excellent leaders we all had a fantastic time, climbing and stumbling (mostly on my part) through the scrub, up hills, and over a lot of moss. My immediate team was Kerryn and Faye, but we were also lucky to be accompanied by Antony and Ann's teams and also (Rambo) Barry.

The Eglington Valley tramp, (near Milford Sound), was a two day tramp up Cascade Creek to the Livingstone Range, then up/down to the Key Summit, along the Routeburn Track, and ended at the Divide (where you are not supposed to camp).

On the Friday night everyone going for the weekend met at the club rooms at 6 pm and we headed off to all our various destinations. We stopped off on the way for some tasty fish and chips which were nice and greasy, and then made it to the "non official" camp site at about 11:30pm.

We woke up early and had breakfast, then at about 8am we all hopped in the vans and headed to our specific dropoff points. We were originally going to head up Mistake Creek, but thanks to Kerryn's keen decision making, he changed his mind and we headed up Cascade Creek with the rest of the gang. Here is where this little Australian had her first taste of a river crossing (I couldn't make it to the other weekend). This was a lot of fun, apparently it wasn't very deep, but it did get up passed my knees at one stage which was enough for me.

After a couple of hours of wet feet we started up into the bush which was fairly up hill - not the Devil's Staircase, but it was still steep. I had a little bit of a fall, but thanks to a really strong rope and fast-thinking Antony; I was hauled onto steadier ground, with a nice bruise in the shape of a hand to show for it. All was good, lesson one: take your pack off if the climb looks too hard, and listen to your team. I quickly got over that little mishap thanks to a mouth full of Ann's milk bottles, and we started up again ...up up up up up up! I have forgotten how far up we went but it was pretty much uphill all day for about 9 hours (we did have half an hour for lunch). After lunch I discovered that walking over moss wasn't my most favourite

thing, and also Boulder mine fields are a great thing to avoid. Lots of “thank you”s to Kerryn and Barry for guiding us through that one, (and taking this poor little Aussie’s pack for me). So after that ordeal we decided to make camp in the valley where it was really, really, really cold. It was so cold we all went to bed at 7 pm, and when we woke up some people had frost on their packs, socks and boot laces. I was sensible, (I know, amazing isn’t it?!!) and put my pack and boots inside the fly with me, and I wrapped my boots in a plastic garbage bag. Fay’s socks were so frosted she had to put her socks around the hot billy to melt them so she could put her socks on. It was crazy cold.

After a quick breakfast we started up the valley and along the ridge towards the saddle, where we met another group from another tramping club, so we had a bit of a chat with them to see what the conditions were like and then we moved on.

The weather was amazing (for both days) - blue, blue sky with just a wisp of cloud wandering along the horizon, and thanks to this we had fantastic views with many a great photo opportunity. It seemed like the mountains on the skyline went on forever, with snow-capped peaks and lakes dotted everywhere.

We stopped to have lunch beside one of the lakes, and after lunch it was pretty much downhill all the way, which wasn’t much fun for the knees. However, this little Aussie learnt quickly that if you walk in a zig zag pattern it isn’t that bad. The only difficult thing now was trying not to think about how high up you were.

After about three hours of up, down, up, down, we stopped for afternoon tea and a few photos at the junction where the trampers track meets the tourist (Routeburn) track. It was easy as pie from there on, taking about 45 minutes to get down to The Divide where the bus was meeting us, and then we were out of there (on time), getting our tummies ready for more greasy fish and chips.

The trip was over, and with loving thoughts of a hot shower and a nice soft pillow, I wasn’t too sad that it was, but proud that I had finished something I never thought I could do in a million years. Thank you to everyone that made this trip possible and fun. It was excellent, and even though a few naughty words did escape my lips at times, I think I can truly say that this little Aussie is well and truly on her way to a tramping addiction.

Allison Coveney

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

The combined OTMC / Bushcraft 2006 trip to the West Eglinton valley enjoyed the highest number of people on one trip for quite some time (over 40) and people, weather and location made for a very memorable trip. I was with the parties that travelled from Cascade Creek up onto the Livingstone Range and along to Key Summit. Perfect conditions made this trip very special, made more so by sharing the experience with many from the Bushcraft course. For them this was a challenging trip but I'm sure they will remember the experience for a long time yet. My thanks to everyone on this trip for not making my job as trip leader too stressful.

Other club trips in early April appear to have enjoyed fine weather – I'm glad some people missed out on rain, sunny Nelson Lakes certainly had its fair share!

May 20-21
Ahuriri Conservation Park (All)
(Leader to be confirmed)

(Note: Allan Perry is unable to lead this trip, so if you can help please contact Antony a.s.a.p.)

Canyon Creek has been a favourite haunt for many club members over the years - this trip will be the second time the OTMC has visited the area since it has become a conservation park. With DoC now managing this area it is possible to drive about 6km 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 6 hours from the gate. There are plenty of good camping sites en-route. Two more options would be to climb

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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).
Trip list will close on May 11.

June 3-5 (Queens Birthday)
Rees Valley/Twenty Five Mile Creek (M/C)
Kerryn Woods 467 5136

Come and join Kerryn for his first time out as a weekend trip leader to the Rees Valley at the head of Lake Wakatipu. The option on the trip card is the round trip of the Rees and back down Twenty Five Mile Creek via Twenty Five Mile Saddle (1545m), although this will depend on the snow level on the saddle at the time.

Another option, again allowing for conditions over the slightly lower Rees Saddle, is the Rees/Dart circuit. This has the benefit of huts, but for the second day you will probably need to skip the new Dart Hut and travel from Shelter Rock to Daleys Flat to complete the trip in three days.

A third option is to camp in the vicinity of Twenty Five Mile Hut (or stay in it!) and day trip towards Shelter Rock, Kea Basin and Twenty Five Mile Creek.

Trip list will close on May 25.

June 24-25
Day Trips from Aspiring Hut (All)
Peter Stevenson 454 4148

This is a theme borrowed from Dave Chambers, who organised the previous well-supported trips to Mt. Cook. This year we have chosen Aspiring Hut in the West Matukituki to use as a base (yes, this does mean we will not be driving to the door of the hut!). From here there is a choice of five 'daytrips' that could be undertaken:

Shotover Saddle (1554m) will probably have snow below the saddle, but good views available all the way as there is no bush to climb through.

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Rob Roy Glacier is a popular trip from the road-end, for this trip you could detour up here either on the inward or outward journey.

Cascade Saddle (1525m) gives the best view of Mt. Aspiring. To get to the saddle in winter requires alpine skills and equipment, but you can still get great views from above the bushline.

Liverpool Biv (around 1100m) is a short but steep grunt from the head of Pearl Flat.

French Ridge is another steep ascent from the valley floor, but great views out of the bush.

Remember that this trip is in winter and winter snow conditions are to be expected. If you plan to venture into the snowline you will be expected to have the appropriate training and equipment to traverse these areas safely.

This trip will close on June 15.

Committee Members 2005-2006

President	Antony Pettinger	473	7924
Vice President	Barry Atkinson	487	7820
Secretary	Heather Deason	467	2252
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476	2360
Imm. Past Pres	Terry Casey	454	4592
Chief Guide/Bushcraft	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	Terry Casey	454	4592
Committee	Allan Perry	453	5875
Committee	Dave Chambers	454	3857
Committee	Alan Thomson	455	7878
(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 June Bulletin, deadline is 12/5/06, publication 25/5/06. You can submit material on floppy disc (PC not Mac please); email 'rbell@pooka.otago.ac.nz' or 'rebell@xtra.co.nz'; or post to Robyn Bell, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

Mt Hyde / Taieri Aquaduct (M)

30 April

This trip will start from Taioma Road with a stroll through the forest and then a wee drop (quite steep) down to the Aquaduct. Then maybe a climb up Mount Hyde, or a walk upstream to practise your river crossing technique near where Mullocky Creek joins the Taieri. This an ideal trip for those who don't know what an aquaduct looks like, or who want to find out what contour lines close together on a map really mean.

Contact: Alan Thomson 455 787

ABC Cave / Bendoran / The Gap / Mt Misery (M)

7 May

Meet at the clubrooms at 9 am and drive to Bendoran at the end of Blucher Rd inland from Waikouaiti. Walk along farm tracks to near the Gap, then turn southwards through beech forest to the ABC Caves. Climb up behind the caves and along the ridge to The Gap. Return to Bendoran and shortly before reaching the road end, climb up onto Mt Misery.

Excellent views, undulating ridge walking. Back around 4 – 5 pm.
Cost \$10.

Leader: Bill Wilson 477 2282

Rustlers Ridge (M)

14 May

This is the same trip that Gavin MacArthur took in April, so I will just

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use the same description. We drive to the carpark at Pigeon Flat, then walk along the pipeline track through some lovely forested areas. After climbing up Rustlers Ridge and along the tops with some spectacular views of the Silverpeaks (weather permitting), we will return via Swampy Summit and the boardwalk. So come along and enjoy the day, making sure you are prepared for changeable weather.

Gavin turned on a beautiful mild sunny day and a fairly dry track. I may do the same, or I may add a light fall of snow and some bracing breezes. The walk should take approx. 4 hours.

Leader: Jonette Service 454 2323

Mt Cargill / Grahams Bush (E) 21 May

Meet at clubrooms 9am. Drive to Bethunes Gully, will arrange to leave a vehicle at the Grahams Bush end. Up hill to Mt Cargill, hopefully nice views over the city and peninsula. Stop at Buttars Peak for lunch then continue past the Organ Pipes and onto Mt Cargill Road and down into Grahams Bush. Trip is about 4 hours, can be very muddy at Grahams Bush.

Leader: Jill McAliece 455 6740

Alexandra Mountain Bike Sortie 28 May

A couple of suggested options for mountain biking trips around Alexandra are; Mountain Bike Heaven which offers 3 to 4 hours of various grades rides close to Alexandra. Alternatively, the Omeo Gully - Prospect Hill circuit in the Fraser River area may be an option for fit riders. Please ring me if you intend to come. (Note the 8 am start.)

Leader: Pete Stevenson 454 4148