

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

788 December 2017



*Ashburton Lakes trip, Labour Weekend
On The Carriageway, Cameron Valley
Tomas Sobek*

December-January Trips & Events

Blue Mountain Traverse	Skyline Traverse	
Teal Bay Hut - Lake Hauroko	Wheels Over Water (Cycling)	
Devil's Staircase	Catlins Xmas Social	Catlins River Walk
Pineapple Track - Flagstaff - Ben Rudd's		
Death Valley and Scott Creek	Jubilee Hut	
Five Passes	East of Flagstaff	

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1120, Dunedin

www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/groups/otmcnz otmc@ihug.co.nz

Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin

Doors open 7:30 for 8pm start, all welcome

OTMC Ben Rudd's Property - Where to Now?

Ben Rudd's – an Asset or a Liability?

Asset:

Over the seventy years (since 1946) that the Club has owned Ben Rudd's not only club members but many members of the community have taken the opportunity to visit this haven of peace and tranquillity. In fact tramping club members in the past have found the property to be the ideal place to seek solitude or to introduce their friends and young family members to the joys of tramping – no permission for access required.

Ben Rudd's property has had many favourable comments written in the visitors book at the shelter by the more than 400 people who visit the property over a twelve month period.

The property has also been monitored by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust since 2003 and their local agent and national office have been so impressed by how the property has been managed since then that



The Hermit of Flagstaff. Happy in his carefully-tended garden, Mr Ben Rudd, known as the 'Hermit of Flagstaff' spent his days in comparative solitude.

this year, they donated over \$2,000 worth of gloves, loppers, pruning saws, some herbicide and a back pack sprayer in recognition of what has been achieved.

With Ben Rudd's being in such close proximity to the city it seems as though many people regard it as the valuable asset that it is. Should we take the risk of losing it forever?

Liability:

The revenue from the harvested pine tree plantation that had been set aside to restore the property has been retained and has largely kept up with inflation since the appointment of the Ben Rudd Management Trust. This means that Ben Rudd's is not a financial liability. This fund and donations from the "Friends of Ben Rudd's" has been used to finance some of the work that has taken place on Ben Rudd's. The main concern seems to be in dealing with noxious weeds. However both Trust members and the QE II National Trust have observed that with the growth of regenerating native bush, this liability, whilst it might never disappear, has certainly reduced since 2003.

Conclusion:

Given that club members have had the opportunity to enjoy being part owners of a 45 hectare piece of paradise and with society in general putting more value on retaining and in fact trying to protect our native bush and native species do we want to be the generation responsible for breaking the OTMC's proud tradition of looking after Ben Rudd's for the benefit of future generations.

Like Antony, we also look forward to reading and hearing from OTMC members, as owners of Ben Rudd's property, on what their visions and opinions might be for its future management.

Ben Rudd Management Trust

OTMC Bank Account

The OTMC bank account with ASB is ... **12-3150-0311684-00**

Please include your name and the reason for the payment when using internet banking (which is the preferred option). Non-members must pay for trips when signing the trip list, members should pay before departure.

Vehicle suppliers/drivers will normally not pay the trip fee and will be reimbursed fuel costs later (check with the trip leader or Treasurer Rodger if in doubt).

Gear Hire

OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire. Hire charge \$5 for up to a week, then \$5 per week. See or phone Joe Bretherton 473 8784

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Cookers & Billies
- Packs
- Tent/Flys
- Personal Locator Beacons
- Climbing Helmets
- Avalanche Probes and Transceivers

Your Committee

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Ben Rudd Trust and		
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Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome Holly Han Hui Yang as a new member to the OTMC.

Sadly we farewell Isabelle Gensberger, Paul Bishop, Sophie Carty and Fiona Turnbull, who have resigned.

There are currently 225 members of the OTMC.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

21-23rd October (Labour weekend) Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail

A Personal Diary of the Alps to Ocean Labour Weekend trip (by R. Clarkson esq.)

Dear Diary

A2O Day 1: Man that was a long drive up last night. It's amazing how many different ideas there were to put the bikes on the trailer but front wheels off seemed to work. Must have been 1am before we were setting up camp. I see this trip's popular with the ladies. Haven't seen sandflies this bad since Lake Rotoroa. Now first things first, where's the longdrop – there isn't one, oh well better go find a bush and dig a hole...why thank you Mr Rabbit, saved me a bit of work there, I think its unoccupied, but not for long!



There's drama. Tina's lost a nut, her front nut to be precise and a bike without a front nut is about as much use as a unicycle with an awkward seating arrangement. Still at least she didn't lose her biscuit. Bit of wind cycling up to Tasman point but what a pleasure coming back to camp with the wind from behind. Thinking of behinds so far so good. Back to the campsite and is it my imagination or is that rabbit glaring at me?

Stumbled across a conversation amongst the ladies about bike seat design and how a hole in the seat took pressure off the front bum. Interesting. Actually come to think of it my gel seats got a hole in it and my manginas feeling pretty good.

Time to cycle down the side of the lake while Kathy drives the Van with Carolyn and Tina on board in search of a nut in Twizel. Chris had cycled away much earlier so the Van caught up with Chris down the lake. There's drama. All I can say is that greater love hath no man that he should give up his nut for another and that Tina was most grateful to receive Chris's nut. The van continued towards Twizel without drama... or so they thought.

Ahh cycling with the wind at your back is easy, hmmm looks like rain to the south... wind change dammit, 50km of head wind to go, woohoo. Nice lunch at the side of the lake and then time to get back on the bike....hmmm, theres something going on 'down there', a certain amount of discomfort and the bumps and corrugations aren't helping. Somewhere along the way Rose noticed a tyre at the side of the road. Man imagine losing a tyre up here in the middle of nowhere, glad it isn't ours.

Finally we've arrived at the bottom of the lake and met up with the van which had been into Twizel, dropped Chris and Carolyn off and come back. Think I'll have a turn at driving as a bit of a rest. Tina, now all nutterd up, was chomping at the bit to cycle and off she races. Now where's that van key? There's drama. Tina's must still have the van key. While Maria gives chase think I'll sit down by the lake and take in the scenery. God this is a beautiful country. Maria comes back after half hour and off I drive to the next meeting spot at the Salmon shop on the other side of the lake. The cyclists arrive. Ralph looks at the trailer, then looks at the other side, then comes back to the first side. There's drama. Now I'm not very technically minded but apparently, according to Ralph, every axle should have a tyre at the end of it and one of ours didn't. Is this a problem I ask, Ralph just looks at me. Note to self: Probably time I brushed up on the road code.

I think I'll be the one to tell Maria about the trailer as requires a bit of tact and has to be done just so. Job well done, Donald would be proud. Maria calls out the AA and waits for the trailer to be towed, while I drive the

van into Twizel and the rest cycle. A couple of hours later the trailer and Maria are in Twizel too and apparently it's going to be really helpful if we could find the tyre. We thought the best place to start looking was the pub, but after a couple of hours searching there was no sign of it. Mandie and Maria stay a little longer just to be doubly sure.

A2O Day 2: Five of us go in the van back up the side of the lake looking for this errant tyre. Close to Braemar station Rose spots it, oh hooray ☐. Driving back to Twizel Maria called the Garage. There's drama. The Garage asks a question about the tyre and Maria replies with something like "I'm a woman and therefore don't know". There's howls of protest from the militant feminists on board. I'm thinking of asking if any of the 'girls can do anything' brigade actually knows the answer but I think this might be a good time to stay silent. Thankfully the garage could cut new grooves in the axle and reattach the tyre and everything was good again by 11am. Chris catches a bus back to Dunedin so he can go bike shopping on Monday

Back on the bike and there's definitely something going on down there. Did someone sneak into my tent and insert a rubiks cube while I slept? Still stiff upper lip and all that, just carry on. The winds changed westerly and blowing a sideonish headwind. Blown off road a couple of times. That looks like Carolyn's bike on the ute that just passed me...that's cheating! (Why didn't I think of hitching)

Onto our next campsite at Lake Middleton. Think I'll have a quick dip in the lake along with a few of the others. All dry again and clean clothes on. Time to be sociable, wonder what the ladies are talking about over there... a conversation on the pros and cons of various bra brands. Interesting. Note to self: Actually the moobs have been getting a bit bouncy on the bumps, must see if there's some form of support device available, needs to be masculine though.

Fantastic meal, Karen's self saucing chocolate pud cooked from scratch was an unexpected treat. Off to bed. Woken up - my god, what was that howl of pain and anguish coming from Ralphs tent in the middle of the night. Is that person with the rubiks cube

fetish at it again? Remains a mystery as he's got no memory of it the next morning.

A2O Day 3: Team talk before heading off. There's melodrama. Some biscuits have gone missing and I broke my favourite jandals of 20 years, but no ones offering me a shoulder to cry on. Cruel. Hopped on the bikes and set off. Note to self: Make an appointment with proctologist when I'm back home.

I must admit I was dubious about Simon's 10 speed over the semi rough track but he handled it well. Bit of rain around but not too bad really. The uphill wasn't too steep so managed to ride all the way up and then a big downhill to Omarama. Met a particularly angry magpie so we jousted about 7 times but we both kept just missing.

Day 4. Back at home and reflecting back, what a great trip. Sure there were some problems but focusing on the positives, 75% of the trailer wheels stayed on for the entire trip, that's a solid B+ at Uni, and an even more impressive 91% of bikes were not run over by the van, and my back bums feeling a lot better. Why did I volunteer to write the trip report, better get on with it now. Note to self: Must remember not to come across as a sexist pig and also remember to thank Maria for admirably coping with whatever drama the trip threw her way....Writers block again eh Rodge.

21-23rd October (Labour weekend)

Hakaterere area

(Lake Clearwater and Mt Cameron)

There was a cycling trip this weekend but I wanted to have a look at the Hakaterere Conservation Park. This is inland from Mt Somers, a bit far to go for a 2-day weekend, so the 3-day weekend in October seemed to be ideal. Just 3 of us went: Tomas Sobek was heading for the Cameron Hut, whilst Lucy and I were to do Day Trips.

A 3-hour drive took us to Grumpy's Holiday Park just beyond Geraldine. We stayed in a cabin but there's plenty of room for tents. I didn't want to drive up the Clearwater road in the dark! Saturday morning was an hour's drive to drop Tomas at the foot of the Mt Cameron track, then Lucy and I went round to Lake Clearwater.

First: a look at the campsite. (I'd decided

beforehand that I didn't want to use a tent – strong winds and possible rain – so I'd booked in at the Mt Somers Holiday Park). Quite a few campervans etc and the small tent area was a bit boggy. The 'recreation room' was locked so the evenings might have been a bit miserable confined to tents! But then Lucy and I set out to tackle Mt Guy, 1400m. An easy lake-edge walk took us to the bottom of the track but from then on it was up & up & up! You know how when you go uphill, there are usually a few flattish bits? Not on Mt Guy: it is relentlessly up! Lucy managed to encourage me to get up $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way, but then I gave up – too steep and also a bit slippery with loose scree. And cold in the wind. We went back down, and then drove to Mt Sunday, a bit further along the road. Mt Sunday is easy-peasy and a tourist spot (parts of Lord of the Rings were filmed there). Great views. 14+km walking that day, and then Lucy and I drove back to Mt Somers.



Head of Cameron Valley : Tomas Sobek

Sunday: Lucy and I headed out to Lake Emily. If you are going there, don't take the mountain biking route as it is 3 times the distance of the tramping route. Lake Emily was a disappointment (too swampy to get near) but we got onto a ridge and looked out onto a valley. We couldn't quite see it, but the Manuka Hut is at the end, and it seems to me that it would be a good spot for a 2-day weekend tramp. Possibly a 2-car swap-keys-at-the-hut sort of a trip. Lucy and I were buffeted by wind all morning – seemed just as bad on the return journey – but we found some sheltered tussock for lunch. Of interest during this walk: quite a few other trampers (some doing the Te Araroa trail) and also one man with his dog! The area is a conservation park but the track crosses a sheep station and dogs are not allowed. We saw other trampers telling

him off but he seemed totally unconcerned by their words!

After lunch, a stop at Lake Heron (small camping area there) with a very short walk (did I mention that the wind was strong and cold?) before Lucy and I went to the Mt Cameron track. We took our water bottles and headed up the track. Fairly good track for the first 5km which is as far as we went. Tomas says that nearing the hut the track is



Cameron Hut : Tomas Sobek

not so well marked and care is needed. Back to the car: 15.5km walking for Lucy and me that day. Tomas was down by about 4pm – he'd got to the Cameron Hut and had even gone higher up to the glacier – and we all returned to Mt Somers for the night. Monday morning, we headed for home, stopping for a 2-hour walk near the Orari Gorge. The McLeod Stream walk is very muddy! And therefore very slippery! And it was drizzling too so we were glad to get back to the car drive home.

My thanks to my companions Lucy Jones and Tomas Sobek.

Footnote: the Hakatere area is only about 4 hours drive from Dunedin (think: Woolshed Creek campsite before the Mt Somers track) and should perhaps be explored again by OTMC. There's trips and tracks to suit the laziest to the fittest!

28th October: Ben Rudd's Workparty

We were thrilled to have received top quality equipment; loppers, saws, gloves, herbicide and a big back pack sprayer. These things were donated to us by the QEII trust – Weedbusters. We all met at the Bull Ring and Robin Thomas handed over all the shiny new equipment.

We were now equipped for the Work Party day. A large crowd gathered at the Bull Ring on a beautiful sunny day. We all headed up the fire-break track. Alan brought his 4WD, with the gear, a couple of workers and very importantly the cake on board. Once we arrived everyone grabbed their



*Tracy, Ken, Sue, Glenys, Richard, Bill
photo by Sue Williams*

weapons of choice and disappeared into the tussocks. Much of the area needs no work with just the occasional broom or gorse poking up.

Lunch-time saw us all having some birthday cake courtesy of Bronwen. Some recruits left and some more arrived and some of us made a concerted effort against one large patch of gorse. With that knocked off, so did we. Back to the skid site to relax in the sun, drink the beer, eat the cake. Life is good!

A big thank you to everyone who came up; 18 in total. Some for many hours and some for as much as they could spare. It all counts.

29th Oct: Green/Rocky/Yellow Ridges

Tomas Sobek, was a trip planner and fine weather co-ordinator, but was unfortunately indisposed on the day. However a capable "stand-in" was found in Antony Pettinger, who aptly kept the following under control. James Lang, Mark Stephenson, Dave Bunn, Tim Russell, Ken Taylor, Lucy Jug, Andrew McConnell, Louise O'Callaghan, Kira Lazero, Alan Hanson [scribe].

The usual start was made at the Mountain Road car park, after having ferried cars to the end the Tunnels Track. A break for

morning tea, in glorious sunshine, at the Green Hut site, then up to Pulpit rock. The views were magnificent, but Blueskin Bay was under fog. A promise of a lunch stop at "the trig" (Silver Peak) spurred us on, with no intention of a side trip to the Painted Forest. The turn-off to the trig saw a deterioration of the track to the trig, with the promised lunch and photo stop. It was a bit of a scrabble back to the Rocky Ridge track, and then good time was made, passing the drop down to the Hermits Cave, after which the track became a little more overgrown with short scrub, but still good, abet some ups and downs, (why the construction team did not "cut & fill" to reduce the down then climb up sections one does not know). The view of "the Gap" had loomed up, We were at the junction of the Yellow Ridge track, (our route down). The undulating continued, but good time was made to the Philip J. Cox Memorial Hut, where clematis was in full bloom. After the old Yellow Hut site only the dreaded rope nearer the South Branch of



Below trig 1047 looking NE : Alan Hanson

the Waikouaiti River and the climb back to the Mountain Road were to come. Both successfully sorted and with a short car shuffle, homeward bound.

Great trip, some great views, and thank you all. Alan Hanson.

5th November: Kayaking - Taieri Mouth To Henley

I dusted off my kayak and met up with Rodger and Geraldine near the Henley bridge. We headed down to the car-park at the start of the Millennium Track and got ready to set off. Rodger and Geraldine each had inflatable kayaks to blow up. However,

it was very quick and by the time I had my plastic kayak down to the water, they were ready to go. The river was very quiet, with plenty of spoon-bills fishing the shallows. We were quickly down to the Taieri Mouth bridge. I went down and had a look at the fishing boats and then we set off for the return trip. Slightly more effort required as the tide was still going out. Rodger and I spent a bit of time trying to get spoon bill photos and we stopped for an early lunch at Bull Creek. There were a few more boats around by now, water-skiing and fishing. The weather prediction came true and we were pelted with hail for a while, followed up with a dose of rain. We pressed on and we were back to the cars early afternoon.

Sue Williams for Rodger and Geraldine



Sue, Geraldine, Rodger : photo by Sue

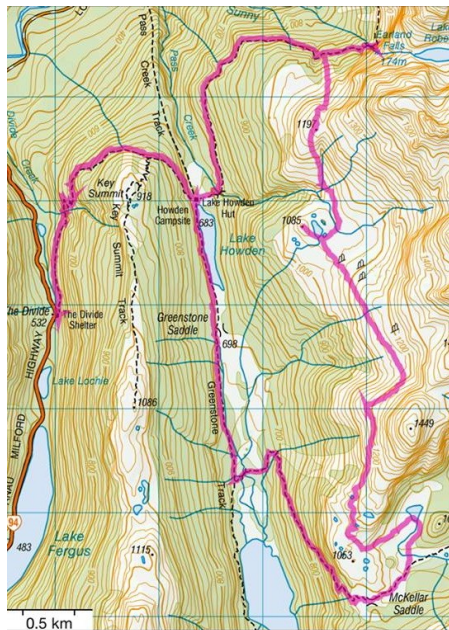
11-12th November: McKellar Tops

A full van and several cars brought 19 keen trampers over to the Milford road's huge Cascade Creek camp site on Friday evening, and a pleasant night was spent camped under the trees.

We awoke to blue skies (and a little bit of mist), and it wasn't long before we were convoying up to the Divide, where at the car park a curious Kea gave the rubber window seals of the rental van a taste test before moving on to other parked cars. We were soon heading up the



Gregory Slui



Routeburn to Howden hut, and along the way I dropped pack to shoot up Key Summit to check out the snow conditions on the McKellar Tops. The snow looked patchy on the flanks of Peak 1449 and so I decided we would stick to the original plan of traversing the ridge line.

Reuniting at Howden hut, we headed down the Greenstone to the junction of the Caples track, and then climbed the Caples onto sunny McKellar Saddle for lunch. Soon we were across the saddle and left the track to visit the unnamed lake at the head of the Caples River. After a quick look at the lake we headed west, climbing up onto the main tarn dotted ridge line north of McKellar Saddle. At about 1100m we left the ridge and sidled northwards along a series of tussocky ledges and ridges, passing tarns and scenic camp sites, with a magnificent view along the Greenstone to Lake Howden and beyond to the Livingstone and Darran Mountains. From the northwest ridge of Peak 1449 we swung northeast through some snowy scrub



Gregory Slui

before descending down onto the open rolling tops which stretch beyond Pass Creek. North of 1449 there was a decent covering of snow on the tussock, but it was soft and rapidly melting in the warm sun so it was straight forward travel across the tops and down to the large snow free tarn beside Point 1085. Here, at the southern end of the large tarn and surrounded by numerous smaller tarns, we made camp, and filled in the sunny evening by climbing Point 1085 for 360 degree views, and cooking tea, a highlight of which being Michaels flatbread pizzas!

Sunday dawned overcast with misty cloud blowing through our campsite, so we packed in a hurry and were soon heading north past the southern tributary of Pass Creek. We dropped down into the eastern tributary and creek bashed up the northern tributary to a point where we could climb out of the stream and onto the open tops. It was then up and up onto Point 1197 where the photographers got to interrupt a Kea's morning routine and we could admire the view down the Hollyford. Descending northwards down tussock slopes we soon pushed through a short, thick, belt of alpine scrub before descending down through the bush to the Routeburn Track. Having not descended off the tops this way before, it was a relief that the descent was bluff-free and quite straight forward. We popped up to Earland Falls which was only 5 minutes up the track from where we had emerged from the bush, and then dropped down the Routeburn to have lunch back at Howden hut. A couple of folk went up Key Summit on the walk out but most of us were content with what we had seen from the tops.

The last bit of excitement for the trip was wondering whether the van would make it back to Te Anau. On the trip in on Friday the fuel light had come on after we had gone through Te Anau. It was the longest 65km I have ever been on, but we did it, pulling into the forecourt of the Caltex in Te Anau probably running on nothing but fumes! Whew!

A big thanks to everyone who came a long on my first go at leading a club trip, and a big thank you to Peter and Michael for driving the van. Ian Billinghamurst for Greg Slui, Trisha Geraets, Murray Hyslop, Peter Boeckhout, Tania McMillan, Andrew McConnell, Rose Colhoun, Tina Anderson, Michael Stott, Maria Hamelink, Andrea Hudson, Nathan McCauley, Rodger Clarkson, Michaela Day,

Sue Williams, Barry Walker, Sharon and Joe Bretherton.



Campsite between Tarns : Ian Billinghamurst



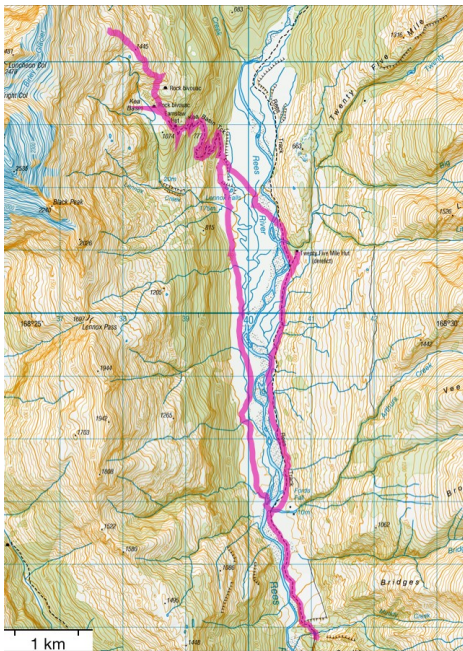
Boardwalk : Rodger Clarkson



Mt Christina and Tarn : Ian Billinghamurst



Up and Over : Barry Walker



25-26th November: Kea Basin

The trip to Kea Basin didn't have quite the auspicious start we were hoping for after Andrew accidentally hit Michael with his car arriving at the clubrooms but fortunately no lasting damage resulted and we were away at the usual time before arriving at the Muddy Creek road end at 2330.

Everyone was packed and ready to roll by 0800 on a brilliant, clear Saturday morning. We made our way along the valley floor (crossing a knee deep Rees river) dodging boggy sections and electric fences and reaching the start of the marked track which took us past the historic Earnslaw hut. A quick refill of water by the hut (and an accidental shower under the waterfall) and we made our campsite in the middle of Kea Basin by 1300.

After finishing off lunch and pitching all of our tents, half of our merry band had enough energy left over to have a crack at making the snow line of Mt Earnslaw. 6 of us eventually made it after 90 minutes of climbing along a steep and unmarked but nonetheless obvious path. A few photos, a quick rest and a bit of snow stuffed into a pack for dinner drinks and we made our way back down to camp where the others had

been busy exploring the many waterfalls coming off the snow and glacier surrounding the basin. The weather had started to turn for the worse by now and a few showers were roaming the hills so dinner was cooked and wolfed down before the worst of it hit. A short fireside chat under the nearest rock bivvy by some of the group and it was off to bed.

The next morning the clouds had parted, turning the morning into a scorcher. Lunch was had where 25 mile hut once stood, followed by a quick dip in the frigid Rees for the braver members of the party. We made the carpark by 1400 and looked forward to a quick drink at the Glenorchy pub (and a couple of extra stops for pies and ice-cream).

All was going to plan until we got to Roxburgh where the heavens had opened. We hoped to find a way down the true right of the Clutha but the rural postie informed us the water was over head height further up the road. No matter, we'll cross over the Roxburgh Dam and go down the road on the true left of the river? Wrong. We got almost to Miller's flat where we discovered the reservoir had burst and sent a torrent of water over this road too, taking out fences and power polls along the way. What really rubbed salt in the wound though, was finding out Roger and his two passengers had made it out not 10 minutes before. The only option left was to head back to Alexandra and drive back to Dunedin via the Pig Route. Fortunately that was trouble free and we finally made it back to the clubrooms almost 9 hours after leaving the Kea Basin carpark.

Thank you very much to Richard for leading the trip and getting us all home safely after a very long drive. Richard & Alex Forbes for Rodger Clarkson, Rose Colhoun, Michael Stott, Andrew McConnell, Michaela Day, Wayne Hodgkinson, Sharen Rutherford, Will Sweetman, Christine & Steve Hopkins, Mark Stephenson, Andrea Hudson, Barry Walker, Tania McMillan, Nathan McCauley.





Rees X-ing Tania, Rose, Andrea : Barry Walker



Lennox Falls X-ing : Rodger Clarkson

December-January Day Walks

Club Saturday & Sunday Trip List for the month (day tramps and events)

*Unless otherwise stated day trips leave from the club rooms on Saturday/Sunday at 9am
If the weather is in doubt give the trip leader a phone call to check.*

Sun 3rd December: Skyline Traverse (M) \$5 Debbie Pettinger 473 7924

Join us for a wander along the northern Dunedin Skyline from the Bullring to Mt Cargill Road below the Organ Pipes, including the summits of Flagstaff, Swampy Summit and Mt. Cargill.

The tracks themselves are very diverse, ranging from wide well benched tracks to tracks with mud and tree roots. The trip should take between 7 and 8 hours, and provides many magnificent views.

Sat 9th December: Cycling Saturday: Wheels Over Water, Again! \$5 Jane Cloete 467 2328

We did this trip (clockwise) in the cold weather. This time I hope it will be warmer - and we'll go anticlockwise. Meet at the Clubrooms at 9am, cycle to Portobello to get there by 10:30. Water Taxi from Portobello to Port Chalmers - cost \$8-\$10, depends on the numbers. Then some choices to be made: Straight back home? Lunch at the café in Port C, or perhaps at Carey's Bay?

Then home OR an extended trip out to

Aramoana? THE CHOICE WILL BE YOURS! It doesn't matter if we all choose to do something different when we get to Port.

Phone Jane Cloete 467-2328 if you think you'd like to come (I'll have to confirm numbers a day or two beforehand)

Sun 17th Dec: Catlins River Walk (M) \$20 Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961

OK Xmas just around the corner so this is the final day walk for the year.

The plan is to meet at the clubrooms at an earlier time of 8.00am so that we can meet the Social Xmas Group (who will already be in the area) at 9.30 at the start of the River Walk.

We will be starting at the Tawanui end and heading up the track for approx. 2.5 hours and having lunch at the nice spot that Rodger has told me about and then heading back the way we came. Should be back in town by 5pm.

Looking at the info on line I see that many of the silver beech trees host the native mistletoe *Peraxilla colensoi* so sort of fitting for Xmas.

Sun 21st January:

Jubilee Hut and back in a day

(F) \$8 Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961

The trip has an earlier start time of 8.00am and is for fitter walkers as this will be a good 7-8 hour walk. We will start with a car shuttle when we arrive to place a car at the exit for later in the day when we are all thankful that we didn't opt for the road walk back.

We are heading to Jubilee hut for lunch and will head up the Possum Hut Route track and along Yellow Ridge to Jubilee Hut. After a lunch break we will then carry on via Yellow Ridge past the ABC Caves and then past Philip Cox Hut up to the road.

Sun 28th January: East of Flagstaff

**(E) \$5 Chris Handley, (03) 464-0199
or 021 024 27749**

This will be similar to the trip that I led in February 2017 but may be extended. I hope that I will introduce you to some lesser known (and possibly even unknown, at least to some of you), paths on the eastern flanks of the Flagstaff Ridge. Most of the tramp will be on formed, but not necessarily benched paths. Expect to walk for about 3 to 4 hours, plus stops for morning tea and lunch.

The main party will leave from the club rooms at 9:00, but for those of you who live further north, meet us at the Booth Road car park (start of the Pineapple Track). Please phone me if you intend to start there so that I can add you to the meet sheet.

December-January Weekends

Club Trip List for the month (weekend overnight tramps and events)

You must pre-register on the Trip List at the club rooms (or contact the leader direct) before the closing date (normally two weeks before the trip start). Members must pay before departure, non-members upon registering. Vehicle providers may be exempt from the fee (check with the leader). Trip organisational details will follow by email.

*You are responsible for your gear and medical / first-aid needs (also see Gear Hire).
(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required.*

**9-10th December: Lake Hauroko -
Teal Bay Hut
(F) \$55 Sarah Chisnall (027 327 0327)**

Lake Hauroko lurks down in the bottom of the south, tucked away behind Tuatapere. The name Hauroko means 'The Sloughing of the Wind', and along with a local transport boat named 'Te Namu' (sandfly), gives one an indication of the nature of the area. It is however a stunning, beautiful place.

We will travel down Friday evening and stay somewhere in the Tuatapere area (yet to be determined) to allow for an early-ish start the next morning.

Starting from the boat launching carpark area, most people catch the boat across the lake to begin the Dusky Track. However, on Saturday morning we will be following the shoreline south to the far end of South

Beach, over a small headland and continue along to the end of a secluded beach. This will be the last opportunity to fill up with water before climbing up onto a ridgeline which we will be following for roughly 7kms as it heads south. We then descend directly down a spur to pop out at Teal Bay Hut (12 bunks), sitting on the southern end of Lake Hauroko, approximately 2kms from the lake outlet.

This will be a FIT (F) trip as it will be a reasonably long and hard-ish day of 8-10 hours walking and sandfly swatting, with very limited access to water along the way.

On Sunday we can return the same way back to the car, although there is a possible option to follow an alternate route over the Hump Track (not to be confused with the Hump Ridge Track) to eventually come out at Te Waewae Bay and onto Rarakau Carpark (also a long hard-ish day of

approximately 9 hours). This alternate route would be dependent on being able to arrange suitable transport logistics due to the distance between track ends.

Trip list closes on 30 November. If you are keen, sign-up and pack your insect repellent...

**16-17th December: Catlins
Club Christmas Trip
(E) Rodger Clarkson 473 6053**

This year we're going to the Catlins for our club Xmas social trip. Staying at the Forest and Bird Lodge in the Lenz Reserve. This Lodge sleeps 16 + Camping. Sign up sheet is in the clubrooms. Choose to come down on the Fri 15th for 2 nights or Sat 16th for 1 night. Cost is \$20/night for Adults and \$5/night for Children. There are no planned activities for Fri and Sat so you are free to visit any of the attractions that the Catlins has on offer or just relax at the lodge. On Saturday night we'll have a Pot Luck Xmas dinner and Secret Santa. On Sunday we'll aim to meet up with the Daytrip to do the Catlins River Walk starting from Tawanui around 9:30. Private Transport (Carpool).

**20-21st January: Death Valley and
Scott Creek
(M-F) \$55 Ian Billingham
021 279 7881, yarmoss@yahoo.co.nz**

The southern Humboldt Mountains stretch from Emily Peak above the Routeburn, to the mouth of the Greenstone River. Unlike their northern counterparts, the southern Humboldts are readily accessible to trampers thanks to several valleys which cut into them. Scott Creek is one such valley that climbs from the Route Burn road to a broad, rolling, alpine saddle. On the south side of the saddle Kay Creek drops away down into the Caples valley. Death Valley is an offshoot of Kay Creek, a high pass giving access to its valley head sits above the Scott/Kay Saddle. By combining these three valleys a small weekend loop can be achieved, taking in some of the stunning scenery of the Humboldt Mountains.

On Friday we head across to Queenstown and then the Route Burn road to camp at the Lake Sylvan Campsite. On Saturday we start at the Scott Creek car park and climb the Scott Creek track to bush line. From here we climb to the south up onto the Scott/Kay saddle, pausing along the way to visit Point 1344 for views over Scott Creek and the Dart. From the saddle we swing westwards to climb to the higher pass overlooking Death Valley before descending to make camp at the large tarn ("Lake Death") at the head of Death Creek.

On Sunday we creek bash down Death Creek and follow an animal trail down through the scrub belt and open beech forest to reach Kay Creek where we can visit the historic Kay Creek hut. We now head up Kay Creek to eventually climb up out of the mini cirque at the head of the valley and back onto the Scott/Kay Saddle. If there's time on the way out we can check out the alpine wetland at Scott Basin overlooking Scott Creek.

Trip cost: \$55 for OTMC members, \$68 for non OTMC members. Please note there is an additional cost of \$13 for staying at the Lake Sylvan Campsite.

The western side of the pass into Death Valley can hold snow well into summer so for this reason ice axes are required.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to ask. Contact me via email, phone, or the OTMC Facebook page to sign up, there will be no sign up sheet in the club rooms. Trip list closes 11th January 2018.

**27th Jan-4th Feb: Five Passes
(F) Pvt Antony Pettinger 473-7924**

The classic Five Pass trip is a well-known multi-day trip in the headwaters of Lake Wakatipu. The trip traverses the Beans Burn and Rock Burn valleys, and visits Fohn Lakes on the fringe of the Olivine Wilderness area. Obviously, the trip include five passes – these are Fohn Saddle (Beans Burn to Olivine River), Fiery Col (Olivine River to Upper Olivine River), Cow

Saddle (Upper Olivine River to Hidden Falls), Park Pass (Hidden Falls to Rock Burn) and Sugarloaf Pass (Rock Burn to Route Burn).

The trip is mainly untracked (there is a track in the Beans Burn, and lower down in the Rock Burn) and there are no huts, just three bivy rocks. The whole area is a fantastic tramping area, and the Five Pass trip is on most trampers 'bucket list'.

The trip will run between January 27th (Sat) and February 3rd or 4th, (Sat / Sun) 2018.

The trip is not technical, although you should be able to safely travel on steepish snow (this is late season, and there may still be snow on the southern faces of Fohn Saddle & Fiery Col).

I am aiming to take 6-7 days to complete the trip, but dates can be locked in nearer the time. The Fohn Lakes / Sunset Peak area is one of the highlights of the trip, so it is worth spending a couple of nights here.

In 2010 I split the group of 16 into two lots of 8 (2 parties of 4 each) to minimise our impact on the area – I would do the same again if we had the same numbers.

If you are interested in joining this trip, please email me at antony.pettinger@gmail.com, or sign the list at the clubrooms. I plan to close the list in early December to allow plans to be made over new year.

Antony Pettinger

Dec-Jan Thursday Meetings

Thursday Club Social Meetings at the Club Rooms 3 Young Street, South Dunedin

*Members, non-members, visitors , all are welcome to these social events.
Doors open at 7:30 for an 8 pm start*

7 December BYO

This is one last opportunity to show your photos of your recent tramping trips. It would be great to see a range of photos from OTMC tramping trips that you have been on over the year. Please bring them along on a USB stick to show at club. This is the last night at the club rooms for 2017.

14 December BBQ at Woodhaugh

Bring the family and join us for a BBQ at Woodhaugh, anytime from 6pm onwards. Bring something to cook on the BBQ and your chair or picnic blanket to sit on. This is the final OTMC Thursday night for the year.

18 January, First night for 2018

Welcome to the 2018 tramping year. This is an informal night where we can meet and chat about tramping trips completed over the Christmas/New Year and plan upcoming trips.

25 January, Packrafting down the Hollyford – Phillip Somerville

Packrafting is a bit like tramping but with a difference. Phillip will share his experience of packrafting down the Hollyford including a side trip of climbing Barrier Knob.

1 February, BYO

We would love to see photos of your tramping trips over the Christmas/New Year period. Bring your photos along on a USB stick to show at club.

A letter to the OTMC Bulletin Editor from Tracy and Richard Pettinger

Thank you to all those who came to Richard's talk on a recent Thursday Club Night. We both want to add a few points, to what he said.

We all know how clubs like the OTMC throw people into close enduring friendships. We met in such a club in England, following a peculiar premonition Richard received at the OTMC in the days immediately before his mother died.

Close enduring friendships can arise after being together and sharing a fabulous moment like watching a sunrise from Flagstaff or a higher summit. Possibly even stronger connections can arise from suffering hardship together and the privilege of survival in a storm, or coping together after finding your hut burnt down, or digging a snowcave in difficult conditions, or even the simple gestures that Richard described: the care given to him at the age of 15 when he broke his wrist near Lake McKenzie on one of his first ever OTC trips, or earlier that year, the moment when Arne Cleland helped him on Bushcraft 69 as he stumbled a bit crossing the Glacier Burn. Strangers rallying around to help, the sudden feel of a strong arm coming into yours; - the assured mutual support in moments like these is acutely illustrative of what a tramping or climbing club can do, which few other clubs a youngster might join can provide. In what other club do you have to get a tent up or finish your accommodation before dark or the storm sets in, in order to survive the night? And in a situation where, without mutual objectives being agreed and worked on, a miserable night, even death, could ensue?

As Richard hinted, he was at a critical point in his life when he arrived at the OTMC, to a welcome of kindness, camaraderie, crazy humour and almost a loving care. His parents' two work colleagues Bruce Campbell, who was pushing, and Dick Brasier who was pulling him in, saved him from a pretty precarious situation, with demons in his life that, as it happens, turned themselves into pure gold security and safety through the spirit of the OTC in 1969.

who are in the same boat as you unwittingly put you on the right course. Circumstances can lead to increased awareness and self-esteem. Not only on trips, but in working parties where you share a common objective of track cutting or clearing, maintaining a mountain hut - all positive things you can do together for fellow and future trampers.

Richard knew the OTC was a sanctuary from life's troubles and demons, and there you could focus on positive challenges that were more real in terms of human aspiration. Richard described the lovely spirit of Linda Mercier, with whom he had the privilege to share a weekend in the West Matukituki. Her brief time with the OTC is acknowledged by her family, marked by the seat in a restful, contemplative spot under Bruce Campbell's beech trees, which have been nourished by his ashes, behind the shelter at Ben Rudd's. Richard knows very well from his acquaintances with such people, including Lori Meyer in the 80s, that sometimes, some of the most beautiful lives hang by a delicate thread.

Clubs like the OTMC can help these people. They provide a place of support and companionship for lonely people, divorcees, widows whose children have left town. Older people, too, not only youngsters like Richard was, who sometimes were there only because they had no car to get into the hills and so appreciated the club with its truck or buses and vans organised.

Whether walking together in contemplative silence, sharing a joke, solving problems around an evening campsite, or working together cutting a track, repairing a hut or clearing a patch of gorse, we grow together, and together we grow.

This Club has saved lives and sanity. For several it has been an environment for peace and sanctuary. We would like to think all members feel friendships that endure and that we always have each other and places of security to visit. Places like the campsite on Shovel Flat, or closer to home, like Leaning Lodge. For this and other reasons, we will always see Ben Rudd's "hermitage" as our Place for Peace.

Tracy and Richard Pettinger

Bushcraft 2018

The OTMC Bushcraft course for 2018 starts on February 13. This popular course is a great way to learn the basic tramping skills suitable for New Zealand – it is also a good way to brush up on your tramping skills.

The course format will be the same as 2017, and will include 4 evening sessions in our clubrooms, a navigation day on Flagstaff and a river safety day. The course will culminate in a trip to the Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve – this can be either a Saturday or Sunday day trip, or an overnight experience.

Topics to be covered include clothing, footwear, weather, food, equipment and trip preparation. Evening two and the navigation day will focus both on map reading and compass use.

The course cost is \$30 per person (transport for the navigation day, river safety day and Silver Peaks will be by car-pooling, and food for the Silver Peaks is additional). All participants will be members of the OTMC for the duration of the course. Following completion of the course, the club will be offering a 50% discount for the first year's membership to the OTMC (with the Bulletin delivered electronically).

More information and application forms are available at the clubrooms, or on our website (otmc.co.nz)

Contact Antony for more info 473 7924
antony.pettinger@gmail.com

December 2017 - January 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	DECEMBER			1	2	3 Complete Skyline Traverse Debbie P 473 7924
					Blue Mountain Traverse Jan Burch 027 455 4559	
4 Cmtte	5	6	7 BYO photos	8	9 Wheels Over Water Cycling with Jane 467 2328	10 Top of Devil's Staircase with Peter B 021 0236 2535
					Teal Bay Hut - Lake Hauroko with Sarah Chisnall 467 2812	
11	12	13	14 BBQ at Woodhaugh from 6pm	15	16	17 Catlins River Walk 8 AM Sharen R 027 229 1961
					Catlins Club Xmas Social with Rodger 473 6053	
	JANUARY					14 Pineapple- Flagstaff- Ben Rudd's with Peter B 021 0236 2535
15 Cmtte	16	17	18 Informal first club night of 2018	19	20	21 Jubilee Hut in a day 8 AM with Sharen R 027 229 1961
					Death Valley & Scott Creek with Ian Billinghamurst 021 279 7881	
22	23	24	25 Packrafting down the Hollyford with Phil Somerville	26	27	28 East of Flagstaff with Chris H 03 464 0199
					Five Passes with Antony P 473 7924 --> 4 February	