The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc #827 January 2023

Lake Wilson/Mt Erebus Trip. Photo credit: Wendel Broek..

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 Sharen if in doubt).

Gear Hire

OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire.
NO hire charge for members for the first week!
See or phone our Gear Hire Committee member.

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Cookers & Billies
- Packs
- Tent/Flys
- Climbing Helmets

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Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin Doors open 7:30 for 8pm start, all welcome
Sign up to our email list: https://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc

Trip Report – OTMC Christmas Trip, 28 Dec 2022 – 4 Jan 2023

28 December – the Furnace

7 of us signed up for this trip and like the best trips we returned as friends. We arrived in Makarora for our 1:30pm jet boat trip up to Kerin Forks with only time to quickly get changed and get down to the river. It was a really warm day, so it was the best fun, flying up the river. Fun always ends too soon and we were at Kerin Forks about ½ an hour later. Kerin Forks hut is about 1km away, so we shouldered up our packs (weighing from about 14kg to around 24kg) and made it to the hut verandah. We waited a while, but it wasn't getting any cooler, so we set off for Jumboland Flats to camp for the night. DoC had advised that there were deadfalls on the track and that was definitely true. That and the heat (maybe 28 degrees) made for slow travel. The track is mainly through beech forest and we saw occasional mistletoe along the way as it's flowering just now.

We made camp at Jumboland with plans to head up to Top Forks Hut the next day. There was some rain forecast, so we hoped that a night in the hut would keep us dry. The views at Top Forks Hut are stunning – Mt Betsy Jane (named after explorer Charlie Douglas' dog), Mount Pollux and Mount Castor.

29 December – Top Forks Hut - "Relaxing" Day Trips

Lake Diane. Photo Credit: Rodger Clarkson.

We continued up the Wilkin river. Some decided to ascend 100m in the middle of the valley, for their own peverse reasons. The others had a pleasant stroll up the river flats. We arrived and took possession of the smaller of the two huts. It was good to get the heavy packs off and dry out our tents. We went in search of Lake Diana and Lake Lucidus. The warm weather meant the side streams were reasonably high due to snow melt, so had a good chance to practice linking up and crossing together.

30 December – Top Forks Hut – Lake Castilia

We set off for another day of light packs. Up the same track, at the top we had a small search for the best place to cross the river that drains Lake Castilia. Then it was a long haul up through some delightful shrubs until finally reaching the lake in the early afternoon. The weather was overcast and cooler, so no-one was leaping in. We made our way back down and some went back up to Lucidus and three of us had a swim in Lake Diana (warm enough even for me).

31 December – Waterfall Flat – Happy New Year

We planned to spend the next two days camping here and make a day trip up to Mt Twilight. We arrived after lunch and most of the group explored the valley, checking out the waterfalls and a couple of ice caves. I had a siesta in my tent and was nearly boiled alive. Later we all had a few small drinks and Rodger declared New Year at 9:30. We wished each other Happy New Year and hit the tents. We had visits from kea both nights, the first night they got away with Sharon's sock, never to be seen again. As dawn broke kea made a bid for Rodger's shoe, they tossed that one back. Even kea have limits!

1 January – Mt Twighlight 2127m – a Highlight

Another fine day, so in the morning we set off for the summit of Mt Twighlight. The route was fairly obvious. Very steep at the start, dragging ourselves up using tussocks and shrubs. The gradient eased off and it was just a matter of making our way up. We were near the top at about 11am. The cloud was coming and going, so we only had glimpses of Mt Aspiring. Most went back down, but a party of three, after going down quite a way decided to climb up again and try to get to the top. Wendel and Sharon made it to within 50m of the top and I stopped about 2050m.

2 January - Return to Top Forks Hut – Satan's breath

We had an explore of the valley in the morning and Rodger ventured under the big waterfall below Rabbit Pass. Our tents were dry when we returned and we packed up and re-traced our steps to Top Forks Hut.That was “code” for grovelled along for what seemed like an eternity through the hot scratchy scrub. Could be exaggerating here, but we were glad to finally get back into the bush.

3 January – Top Forks to Kieran Forks Hut – We travelled back through the bush, the deadfalls were still there, but light packs and down-hill travel made it seem a whole lot easier.

4 January – Jet boat to Makarora – We had a relaxing morning, some lay around the hut, others went for an explore and some wading around in the Wilkin. The river is quite deep in places apparently. We had another fun trip back down the river and suddenly the trip was over. We had plans to get ice-creams in Makarora but sadly the shop was shut. However our car went straight to Hawea to satisfy the craving.

Entertainments:

Bananagrams, cards, a planking competition and a recreation of the movie Snakes on a Plane with lollies. Mostly we went to bed early..probably a good thing.

Sue Williams for Rodger Clarkson, Saskia Bronstring, Steffan Rolfe, Wendel Broek, Sharon Campbell and Tomas Sobek.

Thanks to Rodger for organizing and everyone else for such good company.

JANUARY 2023

7 (Saturday) (100 Trips 020) Campbells Road to Bethunes Gully (return via North, Watts and Abbeyhill Roads) E Debbie Pettinger
OTMC Centennial Trip 20 : 18/12/2022 -- 7/1/2023
This was planned as a short circuit around NE valley /Pine Hill as a variation on where our club's forebears travelled in the 1930's .
Our trip route, starting at Campbell and Pine Hill Rd junction used the paper road extension of Campbell Rd to access Bethunes Gully, then down to North Rd and using Watts Rd and its paper road extension to return to Pine Hill.

The trip had an inauspicious start on 18/12 with the weather gods producing rain/drizzle and mist around the Dunedin hills, truly a day for the local ducks. Thus a sensible decision by leader Debbie Pettinger was made to delay the walk.
For our 2nd attempt on Saturday 7/1, again the day dawned with mist with some drizzle but this soon dissipated and morphed into a pleasant cloudy day, just right for walking.

The 11 am start saw 22 people gather at the corner of Campbell's Rd and Pine Hill Rd for the walk. The timing being good to allow for all those pesky Saturday morning jobs that must be done, or for others, a long lie in and time for a coffee or two.
We set off up Campbell Rd which soon changed to a farm track and then into a somewhat wet and slippery bush track that dropped down to intersect the popular Bethunes Gully - Mt Cargill track. All this being quite legal with us having kept to both real and paper roads.
We stopped for lunch in the picnic area before continuing out of Bethunes Gully, down Norwood St to North Rd. Along the way some of the party deviated to inspect alterations to Roger C's house he had underway, catching the party up later.
We turned into and up Watts Rd, which also changed into a paper Rd linking to Abbeyhill Rd, a real road in Pine hill. Then it was a short walk to Campbell's Rd and down to the cars and the end of the walk.
It was a good trip with convivial company, well-conceived by Antony.
Thank you Debbie, the leader and her assistants; Antony and Jade a good walk indeed.

Trip participants – Mark Stephenson, Emily Gee, Tina Anderson, Raewyn and Lawrence Pratley, Ash Flintoff, Mike Klenetson, Ruth Thomas, Sandra Divett, Helen Jones, Rodger Clarkson, Lucy Oats and Emilie Oats jnr, James Hardisty and William Hardisty jnr, Tracy and Richard Pettinger, Peter and Leonie Loeber

8 (Sunday) (100 Trips 022) Kaikorai to Whare Flat (on foot) F Antony Pettinger

Trip 022 Kaikorai to Whare Flat on foot was an absolute success. 6 sole worn club members and our to be new member Rob, walked over 30km from paths, to gravel roads, on mountains bike tracks through pines, the water catchment reserves of silverstream, Whare Flat school house, pine plantation roads and also got our feet wet in a few streams, including Rob jumping into the water race tunnel!
Thanks to Antony and Debbie Pettinger for Leading along with Tina, Ivan and Mark S for a wonderful day out, great day with great people.

Mad Happy Hikers. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

14-16 (Weekend) (100 Trips 023) Routeburn - Lake Wilson (3 Day Trip) M-FE Sharen Rutherford

Lake Wilson and Mt Erebus

Leader: Sharen Rutherford
Participants: Allan, David, Elke, Emma, Garry, Lindsay, Lucy, Mark, Molley, Rodger, Saskia, Sharon ,Sue, Wendel and Zoey

View on the way to Routeburn Falls Hut, looking into the valley of the Routeburn North Branch. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek.

The trip started with a nice drive to the Lake Sylvan Campground on the Friday.
The following morning, we all convened at the start of the Routeburn track to start our adventure. The weather was pretty good, and everybody was eager to get moving.

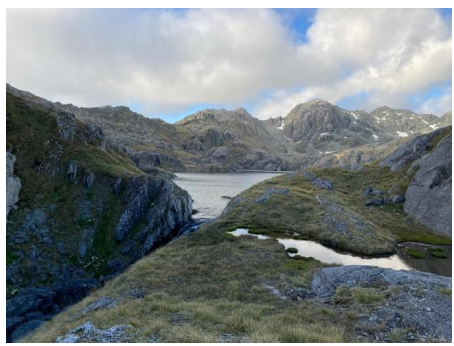
After a lunch break at Routeburn Falls Hut, we pressed on towards the shelter at Harris Saddle. Reaching Lake Harris gave us a first glance of our destination: the Valley of the Trolls.

(Left) Looking back towards Routeburn Falls Hut. (Right) Lake Harris with the Valley of the Trolls in the background. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek.

There was however still some time left, so a small group of us decided to go up Conical Hill, to enjoy the view (it was a beautiful day after all). We weren't disappointed by this little side trip. The views were amazing, and we could see all the way to Martins Bay and had a good view on Mt Erebus.

(Top) View from Conical Hill with the ocean at Martins Bay in the background. (Below) Mt Erebus seen from Conical Hill. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek.

After this we went back down and joined the rest of the group in the Valley of the Trolls where we set up camp. After dinner a couple of us decided to have a nice evening walk to explore the route to Lake Wilson.



(Left) Looking down on our camp in the Valley of the Trolls. (Right) The outlet of Lake Wilson. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek.

The following day we all went up to Lake Wilson for a daytrip in that area

Climbing up towards Lake Wilson. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek.

At lake Wilson the group spilt up, with one group exploring around the lake and the other one going to the summit of Mt Erebus. Climbing up towards Mt Erebus the landscape gradually changed, less and less vegetation was visible, and more and more patches of snow appeared.

Snow patches on the slope of Mt Erebus. (Looking west). Photo Credit: Wendel Broek.

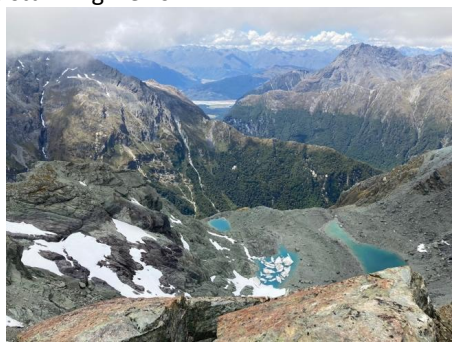
The higher we got, the thicker the snow became and the more colorful the rock became.

(Left) The snow gets thicker. (Right) Beautiful rock colors and interesting vein shapes. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek.

From our lunch spot we had a stunning view over the Routeburn North Branch and a little lake with icebergs.

(Previous Page)View from our lunch spot. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

After lunch we continued our way up traversing more snow fields and climbing over rocks until we reached the top, with more stunning views.



(Left) Crossing more snow. (Right) View towards the south east from the summit. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

After a short photo moment, it was time to start our descend.

(Left) Lake Wilson seen from the summit. (Right) Descending the summit.

When we were near Lake Wilson, we came across the other group, who told us there was an ice cave nearby. With day light left in the day, we obviously had to have a look at it. After visiting the ice cave, we continued our way around the lake.

(Left) View from the ice cave. (Right) On the northwest corner of Lake Wilson. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

We had seen there was another smaller lake to the west of Lake Wilson and went to have a look at it. Unfortunately, by the time we got there, some low cloud came in and obscured everything.

(Left) The lake west of Lake Wilson). (Right) Looking towards the east over Lake Wilson. The ice cave can be seen in the background.Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

Therefore, we went back to camp, but on our way down we got a little treat: a couple of Rock Wrens were hanging out on the slope above the camp.

Rock Wren. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

The next day we broke up camp and went back to the Routeburn track. The day started really nice, but there was rain in the forecast.

(Left) Looking back towards the Valley of the Trolls from the Routeburn track. (Right) It looks like there are some showers nearby. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

We had lunch at Routeburn Flat Hut, where it started to rain. While we were there, we witnessed some nice helicopter operations.

Helicopter operations at Routeburn Flat Hut. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

Luckily the rain didn't persist and after lunch, the sun was out again. Because of this some people decided to take a refreshing dip.

Swimming spot. Photo Credit: Wendel Broek

15 (Sunday) (100 Trips 024) Victory Beach & Pyramids E Alan Thomson
Trip #24 - Victory Beach - 15 January 2023

17 of us assembled at the Clubrooms on Sunday morning, all of us keen to make the most of another beautiful summer day and explore Victory Beach. We quickly sorted ourselves into cars and headed down the harbour towards Portobello, admiring the stunning views our city has to offer. Before long we had arrived at our destination! Piling out of the cars we applied sunblock, donned sunhats and tied shoelaces ready to go.

It was just over a kilometre from the carpark to the pyramids, traversing some paddocks on a 4wd track. The track was flat and in a straight line and would have made for a dull walk if it were not for the delightful company. Arriving at the pyramids, it was time for a team photo before heading off to explore the cave at the bottom of the small pyramid. The cave was interesting as we could see clear examples of columnar basalt, the same type of rock as the Organ Pipes.

To the pyramids! Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

After consulting with our leader Alan, it was decided that we would take the scenic way to the beach. The loop around the reserve is a bit of a self-guided tour, with numbered markers along the way which tell you some information about the area. We enjoyed learning some facts and observing the work that has been done by the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust to create a safe habitat for these endangered wildlife. A highlight was seeing some trees that Jade had helped plant at school in 2004, nearly 20 years ago!

After close to an hour of exploring the reserve underneath the beating hot sun, we arrived at the edge of the sand dunes. Making our way down to Victory Beach, we were delighted to see we had the beach to ourselves (minus a few sea lions). The beach was absolutely stunning - crystal clear water that sparkled in the sun and a wide expanse of white sand as far as the eye could see. Some of us took the opportunity to shed our shoes and feel the cool water swirling over our toes, providing some much needed refreshment.

We began our trek to the south end of the beach, keeping our distance from the sea lions dotted around the shoreline sunbathing. One sea lion was a bit curious and came over to see what we were up to, forcing us to make a hasty retreat before he settled down again and we could continue on our mission.

Beach walks. Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

Near the south end of the beach we spotted the remains of the SS Victory, which ran aground in 1861, en route from Port Chalmers to Melbourne. Fortunately no lives were lost due to the proximity of the beach, however as the ship was embedded in 6-7 feet of sand it was unable to be salvaged and thus became the namesake of Victory Beach.

Rounding the end of the beach we reached Papanui Inlet and were pleased to find a sheltered spot out of the wind for lunch. Just as we were settling in, an inquisitive sea lion was spotted playing in the calm waters of the inlet before popping up to

have a look at us. Upon deciding we weren't a threat, the sea lion plopped back in the water and continued his play time - not a bad idea on such a hot day!

Lunch was quickly consumed before we packed up and made our way alongside the inlet, keeping a careful eye on the playful sea lion in case he decided to make another appearance. All was well and we plugged our way through ankle deep sand, admiring the expansive views of Papanui Inlet, Mt. Charles, Harbour Cone and even all the way across the city to Mt. Cargill.

We soon arrived at a farm track, relieved to be trading in the soft sand and the relentless sun for firm ground and some shade provided by the trees. The track was dotted with sheep huddling under any shade they could find. Arriving at the road, we geared ourselves up for the final kilometre or so along the dusty gravel road back to the cars.

Thanks Alan for leading the trip and putting on such good weather!

Jade Pettinger for Antony & Debbie Pettinger, Alan Thomson, Lucy Jones, Amy Witter, Kath Graham, Ricky Kim, Raewyn & Laurence Prattley, Gerry Sannum, Mike Klemston, Robyn West, Maree MacRae, Richard & Tracy Pettinger and Tina Anderson

Compulsory team photo. Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

Report #2
Victory Beach and the Pyramids
Guest written by Amy Witter, Visitor to Dunedin

On Sunday, January 15, 2023, I had the distinct pleasure of joining the OTMC on trip #24 to Victory Beach and the Pyramids. As a new transplant to Dunedin, I was a bit nervous about joining a hiking group that obviously has such a long and storied history, as I learned from perusing the website. I mentioned to my landlord when I visited Dunedin last winter that I loved to hike, and what better place to come in the world to do that than New Zealand? He convinced me that I should join the Facebook group for OTMC, so on my first day in Dunedin, I asked for permission to join the FB group, which I received immediately. As I began to read the website, I was enthusiastic about the 100-trips-for-100-years program. It struck me as such a brilliant idea to get people out hiking. In the U.S. I am often alone with my dog on the trails near where I live, so participating in hiking as a social activity was a new experience as well.

Suns out and so are we!
Photo Credit: Amy Witter

My journey to the clubhouse was another adventure as I learned to get an Uber in NZ. My morning driver was a former cameraman who traveled the world, often in war zones, and told me about the time he was shot in the Cambodian jungle. He wished me the best on my first hike in NZ, and off I went to join the group.
By 9:00 am, everyone gathered outside the clubhouse, and we split up into groups to carpool to the trailhead. I would estimate there were maybe 20 people, led by our group leader, Mr. Alan Thomson. We started out on the trek around 10:00 am under bright sunny skies with a good headwind. We traversed a grassy plain and stopped to see the cave, before continuing onto the path past the Pyramids and the cabbage trees Jade planted as a student. I also saw how NZ controls for invasive predators, with numerous stoat traps filled with hedgehogs. As we walked my nervousness gave way to calm as more and more friendly walkers introduced themselves. As a child who grew up near the ocean, I was really excited to see the

beach. While some people find peace in the mountains, I have always found mine near the ocean. I'm reminded of many happy memories when I see and hear waves and smell the ocean. As we continued down the beach, we saw several sea lions sunning themselves and the wreck of the Victory poking out of the water at the end of the beach. As we turned inward to Papanui Inlet, where we stopped to eat lunch, we were met by a large male sea lion looking around and swimming in the water. We sat for a while, chatting, and enjoying the beautiful weather and company. A game I play with myself is to try and see how many people's names I can remember to make them stick in my mind. Thus far, I met Lucy, Alan, Debbie, Jade, Marie, Lawrence, Anthony, Ricki, Robin, and Mike by lunchtime.

After lunch, we followed the inshore loop of Papanui Inlet i back to where the cars were parked. On the way, we saw many sheep, and I have yet to identify many shorebirds. On our journey home, we enjoyed ice cream from the Portobello store and reflected on the busy comings and goings in Portobello. A line that Alan mentioned at lunch stuck with me. It was something along the lines of "We hiking types tend to sort ourselves out." And I feel like I understood exactly what he meant. Hiking is a way of life; you either get it or you don't.

Lovely Marie gave me a ride home, and I told my daughter what a great day I had with the OTMC. Thank you for making my first hiking experience in NZ so amazing! I look forward to more hiking in the future.

Bathing seal. Photo Credit: Amy Witter.

21 (Saturday) (100 Trips 025) Mt Cargill & Organ Pipes (from Bethunes Gully)
E Sharen Rutherford

Kapukataumahaka/Mt Cargill has featured in over 150 OTMC trips with the first recorded club trip dating from 1924 so it seemed appropriated to have this as one of the 100 trips. Despite the relative short distance traveled there is still a significant height gain of around 400m from Bethunes Gully to the top of Mt Cargill. Maybe it is the prominence of Mt Cargill on the city skyline, maybe it was the warm, sunny day or maybe people felt like they needed a walk but whatever the reason, a good turnout of 12 people arrived at Bethunes Gully for the start of this shorter 100 trips day walk.

The wide, gravel track starts from the carpark and follows Lindsay Creek for a short distance before crossing a bridge over the creek. The track then begins to wind it's

way up hill though pine plantation where there are a number of mountain bike trails through the pine trees, however we stuck to the main walking trail and continued past where David Bethune had built a brick kiln and sawmill in the 1870's. There is very little to see today apart from a stand of large macrocarpa trees. After leaving the pine plantation and moving into the native bush, we briefly stopped at the first view point of Mt Cargill.

Team talk. Photo Credit: Antony Pettinger.

From here the track continues to wind up through the native bush towards the top of Mt Cargill. The track is wide enough for two people to walk side by side and everyone seemed to naturally break into groups of two or three chatting as we climbed higher. Time and distance seemed to pass very quickly and we reached the junction to the organ pipes where we took the pathway that continued up to the top of Mt Cargill and the transmitter. The views of the city, harbour and Blueskin Bay are always spectacular from the top.

This was a good spot for a break and we took the time to replenish ourselves with a drink and a snack while taking in the city views. Often it can be windy on top of Mt Cargill but today was reasonably calm with only a slight breeze. The next part of our walk saw us returned down all the steps to the Organ Pipe track junction where we followed the track for only a short distance before turning off to climb Buttars Peak. The city views from Buttars Peak are even more spectacular than those from

top of Kapukataumahaka/Mt Cargill. The rock formations on Buttars Peak are excellent examples of columnar jointed basalt and are easy to scramble over making it well worth a visit.

Buttars Peak and beyond! Photo Credit: Antony Pettinger.

We crossed over the top of Buttars Peak and rejoined the Organ Pipes track for a short stroll across the ridge to the Organ Pipes where we took another break to enjoy the views and marvel at the 'pipes'. No doubt the organ pipes would have been more spectacular during those early club trips, the columnar basalt tors are still an impressive sight

This was officially our turn around point and we retraced our steps back along the track to the Mt Cargill junction and down the main track back to Bethunes Gully. The downward journey gave us a chance to mix and chat again, this time with different people to what we had walked up the hill with.

Debbie Pettinger for Sharen Rutherford, Chris & Charlotte Handley, Trevor Deaker, Leonie Loeber, John Kaiser, Ruth Thomas, Dave Bunn, Amy Witter, Alan Thomson, and Antony Pettinger

22 (Sunday) (100 Trips 026) Leith Saddle - Burns Track - Swampy Ridge - Mountain Road - Red Hut Site - Rongomai - Evansdale M Antony Pettinger

On a fine Sunday 10 of us after a wee wait for a car shuffle left the car park at the bottom of Leith Saddle & headed off along Waitati Valley Rd with the sun on our back & a gentle Zepher keeping us cool.
We followed the old pipeline till we came to the Burns track & headed on up to the junction of Rustlers Ridge where we stopped for morning tea. Once this was completed, we continued on the Burns track till we came to Swampy Ridge track where we turned left & headed towards Hightop & The Clump. When we arrived at Hightop we stopped for lunch with magnificent views of the Silverpeaks. We sat down and enjoyed our lunch & remembered good times walking the Silverpeaks. Leaving Hightop we bush bashed for about 15min till we came to the Green Hut track turned right & headed to Semple Rd.
Here we started 5km of really boring gravel road in the sun with the only positive about this bit was that we were on a closed road with no cars & the trees had recently been felled so we had some good views out over Double Hill & Blueskin Bay.
Thankfully we arrived at the start of the Rongomai Track which descended down steeply in places to Careys Creek this was an interesting track with steep drop offs either side & native bush on the right & a pine forest on the left side.
At the bottom of the Rongomai we joined the Careys creek track & it started to rain some stopped to put on raincoats & the rain then stopped & little while later we stopped & off came the raincoats & guess what it started to rain again but with bush cover we pushed on to Evensdale Glen & our awaiting ride home.

On behalf of Anthony, Debbie, Mandy, Mark, Joe, Sharon, Rob, Sandra, Jill & myself Ash we had a very enjoyable trip of around 19Km taking just under 6h walking time.

Regards

Ash Flintoff

28 (Saturday) (100 Trips 027) Brighton via Green Island Beach E Gayle Somerville

The day was warm and sunny with only a light breeze which was a good sign for our mission to walk along the beach from Blackhead to Brighton. With one and a half hours to low tide there was plenty of beach for the 9 of us to walk along. The walk of 7km each way was very pleasant in the sun and with a tail wind on the journey to Brighton making for an enjoyable walk where we saw a sea lion and only a handful of people walking their dogs. The dogs looked to be having a lot of fun chasing balls and sticks in the water. We passed the Waldronville estuary without even noticing as there was no water flowing down the estuary. The further we walked

down the beach the more sand was exposed by the retreating tide and there was plenty of opportunity to walk with different people which made the 1.5 hour walk to Brighton pass quickly.

Dunedin Days. Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

Once we reached the end of the beach, we found a large rock to sit and replenish the energy with a drink and some snacks in the sun while we contemplated the walk back. We were all a bit jealous of Laurence and his cinnamon scroll but he wasn't keen to share so we contented ourselves with our own horde of lollies. The second part of our journey was the return to Blackhead, however this time we had the wind in our faces. This made for some lovely patterns in the blowing sand and with the tide out we looked to have a massive beach all to ourselves. The bulk of Blackhead kept beckoning us on and before we knew it, we had passed the Waldronville estuary again and were back in amongst the dog walkers again. Once at Blackhead, it was a final scramble over the rocks and up to the cars. The beautiful weather meant this had been an enjoyable 14km beach walk with great company.

Debbie Pettinger for Gayle Somerville, Trevor Barlow, Ruth Tomas, Tina Anderson, Laurence Prattley, Janine Bruce, Jade Pettinger and Antony Pettinger

29 (Sunday) (100 Trips 028) Gold Miners Direct - River Track - Phil Cox Hut - Yellow Spur - Tunnels Track M Antony Pettinger & Arthur Blondell

The group: Antony, Debbie, Jade/Lindsay, Tina, Lucy, Wayne, Tony, Wendel, Arthur, Sandy, Stefan, Tracy, Richard, Ash, David, Penny and Clare.

This trip was and absolute honour to be on as we were led by the river track designer, Arthur Blondell. 18 of us set off down miners direct on a beautiful morning This track is beautifully made but the River track is something else. I remember doing it as a route and we clambered up hills and slipped down the other side then fought our way through flax and tall grasses. We now meandered our way along the side of the hills on a beatifully benched track. Arthur stopped here and there to comment on how things had been done and where the track used to go. Morning tea was called at the base of one of the tracks heading up Rosella ridge.

The benched track goes onto the old track with only about 200metres to go where it comes out at what I know as the painted rocks, where the miners once sluiced for gold, Arthur says it is the most beautiful spot on the track! I agree! It was then all uphill for lunch at Phil Cox hut where we collapsed in any shady spot we could find. After lunch Debbie produced a perfectly preserved chocolate cake (how did you do it?) and we celebrated Arthur with it. It was then down the hill to the river and up the infamous tunnels track home. It was great to share this track with so many good people, thank you again Arthur for your commitment in providing access for all who love to walk in our beautiful wild places and for the signs you have put in.

As a reminder you must pre-register on the Weekend Trip Lists 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 (non-members pay $13 more than the members fee shown below.Vehicle providers may be exempt from the fee (check with the leader).Trip organizational 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)it required.

Note from the editor

The 100 year OTMC anniversary trips are finally here!
Get yourself on a trip to be a part of our great history

We will be running close to monthly bulletins during this time so please **email your trip reports** for the next issue to caitlinr007@gmail.com **within a week after the trip**. This is due to the shear volume of reports.

The trip leader does not have to write the report so put your hand up to take some load off their shoulders! If you include a photo or two, please note appropriate captions (names of people pictured, names of land features, etc.)

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTE!

Our Club - the Highlights

Celebrating everything and everyone OTMC. Send your favourite hiking photos to the editor. I may even choose it as the front cover!

Rivercrossing action! Photo Credit: Steffan Rolfe.