The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 829 March 2023

Upcoming Trips & Events

✶ WEEKENDS ✶

✶ Routeburn / Rockburn Area ✶ Macetown In Autumn ✶

✶ SUNDAYS & SATURDAYS ✶

✶Gardens - Cleghorn Street - Signal Hill - Gardens ✶Tomahawk Lagoon ✶Racemans & Raingauge Tracks ✶ Jubilee Hut & Return ✶ Town Belt (with Wild Dunedin) ✶ Yellow Ridge / The Gap - ABC Cave ✶ Rongomai / Honeycomb Circuit ✶

Obligatory Photo a top Mt Charles. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger.

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

Your Committee

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Get in touch

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otmcnz@gmail.com
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

March 2023

4 (Saturday) (100 Trips 035) Mt Charles / Poatiri E Antony Pettinger

Mt Charles. 408m. Highest point on the Peninsula. A mountain fit to be named for a King. We started off from the Papanui Inlet side and followed farm tracks up the North-Western Face. We reached the top in good time for 360 degree views, but shortly thereafter sought shelter in the adjoining goblin forest for an early lunch as a storm blew through. We headed back to the cars by 1pm for what was a short, but scenery packed trip under brooding skies.

Thanks to Antony for leading another one of the Centenary trips, and the Clearwater's for allowing access across their property.

Rodger Clarkson for Antony Pettinger, Debbie Pettinger, Debbie Guthrie, Mike Klemetson, Annie Couper, Lindsay Aitcheson, Jade Pettinger, Olwyn Burns and Megan La Hood

5 (Sunday) (100 Trips 036) Mt Watkin / Hikaroroa E Debbie Pettinger

5/3/23

It was a dull day in Dunedin, with the promise of better weather on the other side of the Kilmog. Having sorted out who was in the tramping group and who was in the group about to do a training run for the 3 peaks, 8 of us jumped in the cars and drove to Mt Watkin (Hikararoa) where we started heading upwards.

There is no formed track here, and the initial grass and tussock soon gave way to taller tussocks, matagouri, gorse, increasing specimens of giant speargrass and other spiky things. Pushing through this we came to the boulders, a little slippery from the rain but giving us a route to the top. 3 of the group managed to go to the wrong top, but soon caught up with the others who were at the trig; clearly at the correct top. Here the altimeter read 611 m, and there were amazing 360 degree views of the surrounding countryside.

The obligatory photo and snack stop completed, it was time for the descent. There is no clear way down, and although we all started off heading in the same direction, (the descent punctuated with vocalisations as we found more specimens of giant speargrass), some of us found easier ways down than others.

For future reference, heading along the ridge and finding the tussock was the quickest. Another group headed for more boulders, having not had enough of them earlier, and rock-hopped their way to the others. A further group found another way

to the road and simply joined the rest on the way back to the cars. So at no point were there more than 3 people missing!
Thanks to Debbie Pettinger for leading an enjoyable morning out, with a fun group, both sides of Mt Watkin conquered, brilliant views and no rain.
Sandy for Debbie and Antony, Leonie, Lucy, Debbie 2, Amy and Anne.

11 (Saturday) (100 Trips 037) Saddle Hill (summit) E Antony Pettinger
Trip #37 - Saddle Hill 11 March 2023

Today's trip to Saddle Hill/Makamaka was special for a number of reasons. One being that it is a prominent landmark seen from many parts of Dunedin, another that it is privately owned land with permission needed and finally, that there have been over 60 club trips to Saddle Hill in the past 100 years. Being another beautiful, sunny Dunedin day meant that 23 people gathered at the club rooms with high hopes of spectacular views from Saddle Hill/Makamaka. After the short drive to Saddle Hill/Makamaka we met up with the land owner whose grandfather had lead a club day trip to the area nearly 30 years ago and he was to be our 'guide' for the walk. In order to make it more of a 'round' trip, we walked back down Saddle Hill Road for a short distance and turned off to walk through a farm paddock where a bag of mushrooms and a few four leaf clovers were collected before the real business of climbing up the hill began.

After crossing the paddock, we went through a gate into the cool of a native bush reserve. From the gate the track zig zagged up the hill under the shade of the mature fushia trees to the chorus of native birds. The gradient wasn't overly steep making it easy to chat while walking.Once at the top of the reserve, we went through another gate into a farm paddock where we were rewarded where the views really opened out from Black Head Beach down to the Catlins.

We spent some time here drinking in the fantastic views and were hesitant to leave this wonderful spot but the top was calling. The track lead us around the base of the top of the hill where we had more spectacular views, this time looking towards the city and Mosgiel from an angle not often seen. The streets of Fairfield and Green Island with the dividing motorway were laid out in front of us.

The final push saw us clamber over a rocky section to reach the trig at the top of Saddle Hill/Makamaka. This was the perfect place to sit for a snack and admire the views over the Taieri Plains that were stretched endlessly in front of us. We could see the hills that we had climbed last weekend – Mt Charles and Mt Watkin and also where we were headed on tomorrow's day trip into the Silver Peaks for 7 summits.

Photo Above: Compulsory team photo. Photo Credit: Antony Pettinger.
Photo Below: Our beautiful city from the saddle. Photo Credit: Antony Pettinger.

After the compulsory team photo at the top, we were reluctant to leave such a magical place but time was getting on and we started the final downhill section which took us along an old farm track that zig zaged down to the landowners house

and back to the cars. Despite being a shorter day of 4.5 km it was a memorable trip with lots of stopping time for amazing views in all directions.

Debbie Pettinger for Sharon Miller, Steffan Rolfe, Annie Coyer, Spen Walker, Jane Bruce, Hannah Johnson, Rodger Clarkson, Chris & Charlotte Handley, Sandra Hoetz, Rebecca Armstrong, Deb Guthrie, Emily Gee, Peter & Leonie Loeber, Richard & Tracy Pettinger, Philip & Shona Somerville, Mike Priestnall, Xander Bairstow and Antony Pettinger.

12 (Sunday) (100 Trips 038) Seven Summits - The High Points Of The Silver Peaks (named hills and points above 700m) M Rob Seeley

For this tramp we were to meet at Woodhaugh at 9am but little did we know that about 50 other people were to meet here also. This caused great concern for some of us OTMC trampers as we approached our meeting spot and saw many extremely fit looking "trampers" wearing running gear, light packs and jogging on the spot, looking raring to go. How could those of us in our boots and carrying tramping packs possibly keep up with them?You can imagine our great relief when Antony enlightened us that those who looked as though they were going to run the tracks were in fact going to do so, but not in the Silver Peaks. Instead they were participants in the 3 Peak Mountain Race Orientation Run No2, which goes over the Flagstaff, Swampy, Mt Cargill area. Thank goodness! So just 14 of us drove north to the Silver Peaks.

As we were getting ready to start our climb up the Green Ridge Track, leader Rob reminded us of the seven peaks we were to climb: Hightop (531m), Greengage (588m), Green Hill (639), Pulpit Rock (760), Highpoint (700+m), Silver Peak (777), and Trig Point (767). Rob also pointed out that most have tracks up them or require a short traverse off-tracks. But little did he know the challenge that Hightop would present!

We soon reached where the track to Hightop used to be signposted and, as we expected a short there and back route, we dumped our rucksacks before setting off following leader Rob. What a job he must have had fighting his way through gorse and other prickly shrubs! He made it easier for us who followed, but we still had our bush-bashing battles; however, the 360 deg views from this first summit made it all worth while. Also, we could see that we were going have fine clear weather for the rest of our day. Our descent was as much a battle as the ascent as we took a different route down and had to walk back up to where we had left our packs. With such a splendid view from Hightop, one wonders why this track has not been maintained as it is still shown on maps.

The steep climbs up to the summits of Greengage and Green Hill were made

Green hill on the left, swampy on the right. Photo Credit: Antony Pettinger.

easier by the well formed tracks and we had our well deserved drinks and nibbles break on the summit of Green Hill, again enjoying expansive views. On our descent from here, instead of going down the track back to the junction with Green Ridge Track, we decided to take a short cut and do a quick descent down the steep tussock slope above the track, with Rob leading, of course. For some of us it was a bum slide and we were glad that tussock clumps are strong enough to hold a human's weight when they grab hold of it!

We were now facing the long slog up to Pulpit Rock; but, energized by our drinks and nibbles we all made our way to its base. We were now at the 700 metre plus section of our expedition and some of us (who shall remain nameless) were beginning to feel the altitude. Nevertheless, after again dumping our packs, we all climbed up to the 760m summit of Pulpit Rock, waved to our friends in Mosgiel before descending and continuing on to our next climb, the unmarked Highpoint between Pulpit and Silver Peak. We were now at No5, so well over half-way in our summit climbs. No5 was another steep, trackless ascent but thankfully relatively short. However, some (who shall again remain nameless) decided to abstain from this summit and waited patiently whilst those who did the climb, then had to bumslide back down.

We now headed along the undulating track to the two final and highest summits, Silver Peak (777m) and the Trig Point (767m). We climbed Silver Peak first where we lunched overlooking the track down to the Devil's Staircase and Jubilee Hut beyond. There was also some discussion as to whether the Trig Point is actually higher than Silver Peak as an optical illusion certainly makes it appear so. Well, we'd soon find out as this was our next and final summit.

This where we learnt the reality of the tramping maxim “what goes down must go back up” as we first came down off Silver Peak and then climbed up to the Trig Point summit. From here you can see that the Silver Peak summit is 10 metres higher; that is, if you don't climb the trig point itself! Seriously though, the views are wonderful with both sea and hills in the distance and more Silver Peaks tracks to consider for a future tramp, such as the Rocky Ridge and Yellow Ridge tracks to The Gap. But we weren't going any further – we were heading home!

We may have climbed our last summit but we had many undulations to deal with and steep descents can be hard when you have tired limbs. One of the observations made as we returned passing Pulpit Rock was what new name could be given to it if and when the “pulpit” fell off the north face. We had afternoon drinks and nibbles at the Green Hut site before heading off for the final hour down (with some ups!) the Green Ridge track. When we reached the junction with Swampy Ridge track, Tony suggested that we make it “Eight Summits” by climbing up to Swampy Summit. He was most disappointed when no-one took him up on this challenge (Yeah, right! Just kidding!)

We reached the Semple Rd carpark at 4.45pm, seven hours almost to the minute since we left, which would explain why some of us (who again shall remain nameless) were quite tired! Nevertheless, we all thoroughly enjoyed the tramp and felt that climbing the Seven Silver Peak Summits was an achievement. Our thanks must go to Rob for his leadership, especially for bushbashing tracks for his followers when this was needed. Thanks again, Rob!

Tony Timperley for: Rob Seeley (Leader), Deb G, Sandra H, Antony and Debbie P, Lynley McA, Sandra D, Rebecca A, Sharon M, Hedley T, Maree MacR, Anne C, Wayne B,

18-20 (3 Day Weekend) (100 Trips 039) Fiordland Weekend (East Eglinton to Hollyford options) (Otago Anniversary 3-Days) All Wayne Hodgkinson

Fiordland - Livingston Range 18/03/2023
Lynley McArley, Clare Noates, Holly Yang, and I caught up with the rest of OTMC, Wayne Hodgkinson as leader then off to the Divide car park.
A pretty good day weather wise, 9am we head to Key Summit, a wee slog. Then an offer from the young fit Brad Wilson and Wendel Broek to lighten my pack. Too proud to accept and thanked them for the offer. Then up and on, and I thought this is the start. Not much further, off with my pack and had 2 items out, then another 2 things out to lighten my load thank you so very much Brad and Wendel.
Toward the Livingston Range (Bloody Hell) I could see in the far distance the Highest Peak we needed to get to the top before heading down to the hut. We had all day and not dark till late.

This was no Meander along the tops. The dark peak slightly to the right under the cloud in the far, far distance is where we are heading.

There are no markers, I see the Peak we need to get to, away and beyond and follow Ya nose as best you can, it is just to choose the best way along the tops, which is undulating, like along, then up and down and along and up and down.
For myself I struggled on the up hills of which I always have. My pack looked heavy and after kind offer from Sharon Campbell, I downloaded in front of all on the tramp club, my book I intended to read in the hut and wine in a plastic bottle Oh Boy! how bad was I.

Tents on the top of the Livingstone Range. Photo Credit: Jon Bull.

(Main Divide Pinot Noir 2019) However, I intended to celebrate at the hut. I know they would have enjoyed the wine on the top.
3.30 – 4 pm I had to decide whether to stay on the tops in a tent with the other group or go on to the hut, which was still an up and over and down the ridge toward the hut. I said I am going with the girls in my group to the hut.

Getting up to near the top was a challenge as all the hills were for me but that was the last one. Then across the rock, gravel face to the top and it was reassuring that Brad and Wendel were in front heading down the ridge.

However, Lynley had warned that going down was a good couple of hours away, and not easy going which looking back was good to hear. I was focused on not just going down a ridge, as I could see it was a lot more challenging than I could have imagined, and that was the same for rest of my group.
Once we got to the rock cliff it was nice to see Brad and Wendel away over on the other side of where we still had to head down further to the hut.
Because actually! Us women had to become.
(Bloody Mountain goats!)

To the far left of the photo is where we came down. Photo Credit Sandra.

Going down it was mammoth zig zag down a share Rock Face with tussock in between which Holly and I found good to slid on the tussock, only short or this would not end up good with your pack on your back. It was a long way down a

share kind of slope so for us little and sure is the safe way to go or you would and in disaster. Keep Ya Head together and get to the bottom safe.

Then along more rock on the lower slope and across and along to the other side. Brad and Stefan were on the slope for ages as the made a large rock arrow of where to head over to the track toward the McKeller hut.
Down to a marked track which still was hard to battle down with tree roots and gravel gauged crevasses however there was a track to follow still a long, long way down to Mc Keller Hut
After a 9am start we arrive at the hut near 7pm what a mammoth day for all of us and so glad to get to the hut.
The next day had a heavy rain warning for the Monday, we had no hesitation to get out on Sunday that was an easy, pleasant 4 hour walk along Lake McKellar and Lake Howden then up and over to the Divide carpark of which was full of cars.
On refection I hated the trip on Saturday, horrible so hard but you could not give up.

However, as I write this and reflect on the great achievement and the comradeship of the girls and Brad and Wendel and we did that huge walk.
(I think Yip we did that, so Bloody Awesome).
So, thank you for an experience I will not forget and to Wayne Hodgkinson for organising. So long as Ya stays together is Key, I am now so Proud of doing what we did. Although I would surely not want to do that again.
Thank you, Team, because I could not have done that without you.
Over and Out
Sandra Divett

19 (Sunday) (100 Trips 040) Harbour Cone E Debbie Guthrie
This trip was led by Deb Guthrie and we were fortunate to have yet another Dunner Stunner. There were barely any clouds, and hardly any wind. The drive out to Portobello was spectacular, as the harbour was very calm and picturesque.

We parked the vehicles near Camp Street which we then walked up. That certainly got our circulation going! Where Camp Street ended, we followed a track, narrow in places, until we got to the bottom of Camp Road, which led us to the entrance of the Hereweka conservation area. We had a short break before making our way towards Hereweka/Harbour Cone. Once at the top we had a relaxed lunch and were treated to 360° views.

Deb Guthrie said that she had always wanted to investigate a rough and little used route which descends in a NNE direction from the summit. Those who were game followed her, the rest went down by the normal route. This route was straightforward because of an abundance of trees and rocks to hold on to! When we emerged from the bush we turned right and contoured around Hereweka/Harbour Cone. (Turning left looked equally do-able.) The contour route was 'interesting'. We were all pleased that we had taken this, to us, unknown route. Once the two groups had met up we headed down the regular route that leads to Bacon Street, Portobello.

A really excellent trip which ended up perhaps being E/M. Thanks to Deb for leading it, Antony for putting it on the list of 100 Trips for 100 Years, and to everyone on the trip.

Written by Charlotte Handley, for and on behalf of

Deb Guthrie, Leonie and Peter Loeber, Trevor Barlow, Ricky Kim, Lucy Jones, Ruth Thomas, Antony and Debbie Pettinger, Annie Cooper, Sharon Miller, Sue Johnston, Chris Handley, and Sandra Hoelz.

25 (Saturday) (100 Trips 041) Beatties Beach, Fairy Grotto & Seal Point E Antony Pettinger

Well there were 7 walkers for this short trip on a Saturday morning, which was a nice change. Anthony, Debbie and Jade, and Charlotte, Leonie and a new walker Ellen Murray and myself. We drove towards Sandfly beach and turned off down Braidwood Road. Walked from there down towards Boulder Beach, then left along the top of the cliffs towards Seal point. this route is actually around the farm on that road. There was a track, of more a trail through the metre high grass. This walk is from the club archives of fifty years ago, The track has been walked since then, but not very often. The First gully we crossed was filled with Hebe which we pushed through and over, following our fearless leader. The next inlet revealed the surprise of a small hide on the edge of the precipitous spur.

We continued on over the next spur, following the farm fence, to discover the fairy grotto, with the waves washing the kelp in the outer of the gully. Climbing down into the base was not attempted, and we continued on the seal point. Here there was a male guarding his harem of females and pups running about on the rocks. They were quite well camouflaged against the rocks, hiding in plain sight. Return via the same route with a lunch stop completed a pleasant morning walk of 5.5 km approx. The rain held off, so that was a bonus. A detour to the beach was considered briefly on the return, but as the tide was in, the sand would have been covered with water this was decided against. A pleasant Saturday walk in all Thankyou Anthony for leading.

Very pretty coastline, so close to home as well.

26 (Sunday) (100 Trips 042) Heyward Point (from Aramoana) Gordon Tocher

A sunny morning and 11 of us gathered to head off to Aramoana. Those present were Maree MacRae, Tracy Pettinger, Richard Pettinger, Antony Pettinger, Debbie Pettinger, Sharon Miller, Lucy Jones, Sandra Hoelz, Steffan Rolfe and Debbie Guthrie.

The walk began near the pine trees by the Bull Ring, a collapsed sea cave from years gone by. We walked up to the right of this up a steep dirt track. The slope got steeper as we climbed pasture to a lookout north facing with Aramoana mole to our right, the beach and surfers below.

After a short break we headed back away from the edge through some more pines, then natives down a steepish grassy track to an expansive tussocky outcrop of

Heywards Point. From here we could see vertically down ta cliff to a sheltered bay. Some lot us lying down gazing over the edge at black baby seal pups sunbathing, as a sea lion dived and resurfaced in the kelp.

There were relics of a rusty winch which could have been used in the past to pull supplies up, possibly for the trig point. Lunch was had here in the sun with views to the Silver Peaks in the distance, Long Beach with Purekanui around the corner to the left.

Once back up to the top Gordon directed us through farmland, with an “electric fence insulator” at hand should it be needed. Stories of the settlement of Aramoana in the early days abounded. An albatross was spotted flying above. Massive puff balls were on the tops. Mushrooms were gathered. We headed over to Te Ngaru quarry once used by outgoing ships to carry ballast for their return trips. Barking farm dogs greeted us as we neared the road to walk back to where we began.

Wildlife watchers. Photo Credit: Steffan Rolfe

Upcoming Trips

OTC / OTMC Centenary - 100 Trips for 100 Years
Celebrating 100 Years of Tramping and Mountaineering - 1923/2023

April 2023

2 (Sunday) (100 Trips 043) Gardens - Cleghorn Street - Signal Hill - Gardens (circuit) M Ash Flintoff 03 476 6313

7-10 (Easter) (100 Trips 044) Routeburn / Rockburn Area (Easter 4-Days) M +

8 (Saturday) (100 Trips 045) Tomahawk Lagoon (Peg 41) E

9 (Sunday) (100 Trips 046) Racemans & Raingauge Tracks (circuit) M Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545

16 (Sunday) (100 Trips 047) Jubilee Hut & Return M-F Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545

22 (Saturday) (100 Trips 048) Town Belt (with Wild Dunedin) E Antony Hamel 021 709 722

23 (Sunday) (100 Trips 049) Gabriel's Gully / Otago Dam E Jade Pettinger 027 344 7034

25 (Tuesday) (100 Trips 050) Yellow Ridge / The Gap - ABC Cave (ANZAC Day Trip) M-F Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924

29-30 (Weekend) (100 Trips 051) Macetown In Autumn All Rodger Clarkson 021 0268 2778

30 Sunday) (100 Trips 052) Rongomai / Honeycomb Circuit EM Tony Timperley 03 473 7257 Woodhaugh, 9am $6

http://otmc.co.nz/tripcard.html

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!

Silver Peaks Seven summits trip. Photo Credit Antony Pettinger.