The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 830 April 2023

Upcoming Trips & Events

✶ WEEKENDS ✶

✶Rees Valley ✶

✶ SUNDAYS & SATURDAYS ✶

✶ Smaills Beach & Highcliff ✶Nardoo Scientific Reserve ✶ Buskin - Highcliff & Paradise Tracks, including Boulder Beach ✶ McNally Track ✶ Hermits Cave (Silver Peaks) ✶ Pine Hill Road - Leith Valley Road (via Cowan Road, Three Peaks, Cloud Forest Track) ✶

Heading back down Yellow Ridge towards Phil Cox Hut: Photo Credit Anthony 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

President/Centenary/Website + media enquires	Antony Pettinger	(03) 473 7924	antony.pettinger@gmail.com
Secretary	Debbie Pettinger	(03) 473 7924	debspettinger@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson		rodger.clarkson@xtra.co.nz
Chief Guide	Wayne Hodgkinson	03 473 0950	wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz
Membership Secretary	Ivan Mason		ivan.mason@gmail.com
Bulletin Editor	Caitlin Robertson	0274891153	caitlinr007@gmail.com
Daytrip Convener	Mark Stephenson	027 6151870	markstephenson@xtra.co.nz
Thursday Night Planner	Tracy Pettinger	(03) 487 9488	Tracy@pettinger.nz
Weekly Updates	Tina Anderson		Tina.Anderson@asb.co.nz
Clubrooms Maintenance	Dave Bunn	029 779 7006	

Get in touch

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, 3 Young Street, Dunedin
http://otmc.co.nz https://facebook.com/groups/otmcnz
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

Leaning Lodge re-build progress

Significant progress has been made of late with the hut re-build and, as it now stands, it is completely enclosed, exterior clad with all windows and door in place. Work is about to commence (weather dependant) on the entrance deck, underfloor insulation, followed by (or in conjunction with, if the weather determines) the interior lining and lastly the installation of the bunks and kitchen. Solar lighting and a few other nice features will provide for an extremely comfortable and modern base for the Rock and Pillar activities we hope to see expanded upon down the line.

A huge amount of work has been done by a few dedicated souls (specifically on the build Dave Bunn, Dave McLean, Phillip Lindsay, John Cocks and Don Hawinkels) who have spent many hours over many days to make such great progress, and continue to do so in the hope of beating the winter weather and seeing completion maybe before the snow stalls the build, let's hope so!

Perhaps the most exciting events of the build include the helicopter assisted pour of about 7.5 tonne of concrete footings, the 800kg fly-up of the steel frame, and seeing an almost completed steel clad, roof on and windows in enclosed and near completed hut, all within the space of a bit over one month!

We recognize the efforts of many through design, engineering, logistics, fund raising, transporting, support in all manners of way that has got us to this point, congratulations are due a lot of people, involved club members, contractors and general volunteers, well done one and all. We look forward now to the grand opening!

Photo above, left to right: Heli-concrete-1, Heli-concrete-2. Photo Credit: Barry Walker.

Steel Framing. Photo Credit: Barry Walker

Cladded Hut. Photo Credit: Barry Walker

March

Trip Report #2
Fiordland trip over Otago Anniversary W/E Sat 18/3/23 – Mon 20/3/23

This trip had quite a long winded startup. Initially there was interest in the following trips – U Pass, Divide to McKellar Hut via Livingstone Range, Cascade Creek to McKellar Hut vicinity via Livingstone Range, and Day Trips round the area. This was curtailed due to pullouts, and a looming forecast of heavy rain on Friday which would cause difficulty crossing creeks. By Friday afternoon the initial 23 people were whittled down to 15, consisting of 4 parties totaling 12, all starting from the Divide, heading southwards along the Livingstone Range and back to the cars via McKellar Hut. There were also 3 people doing Day Trips as Independents with their own transport.

Photo Left: Rodger Clarkson and Sharon Campell on the Livingstone Range

After overnighting at DOC's Cascade Creek campsite, 2 groups met up and before we headed off to the Divide were met by Sandra's group who had stayed in greater comfort in Te Anau. The typical autumn day started with a chilly breeze, but clear blue sky. We soon warmed up as we headed up to The Key. From here a good track continued to the Lake Marian Lookout, before becoming a bit more intermittent as we continued along the undulating tops initially in scrub, but after a while we were finding our own way in open country of tussocks, alpine meadow, and rock interspersed with plenty of tarns. It was a lovely day, clear but chilly, with unfolding views to the left over the Greenstone & Lake McKellar, and to the right over the Eglinton Valley and Lakes Fergus and Gunn. A pair of prominent fault lines could be seen running

southwards along the Livingstone range. We took a lunch break in the sun near some tarns, before continuing our steady climb.
We stopped near Point 1361 beside a tarn at the base of the last hill to camp. Brad & Wendel continued onwards aiming for McKellar Hut, followed by Sandra's group. It must have been several years since I had used my Microlight tent as I found the pole elastic had broken. After some fluffing about, I decided it was necessary to pull the cord out and duct tape the pieces together to get them to slide into the tubes. Eventually I was last of the 6 people in 5 tents to be set up. A very convivial session of cooking and eating and chatting etc including a toast to Sandra's red wine.
Well, there was still a chilly breeze, so we were all in our pits by 7:30!

Photo Left: taking in the views! Photo left: Solidiers in the fog. Photo Credit: Rodger Clarkson.

Getting up during the night I found we were surrounded by a thick fog, so did not venture too far from the tent. I was hoping it would clear by morning. Daylight came with cloud on the tops but mostly clear which was a relief. We were away soon after 9am and headed up the hill. As it got foggy near the top we reverted to map and compass and Rodger's GPS. The whole trip up until now was following the range to the south, about the peak 1543m we found a prominent ridge to our left (east) until it merged into a broad steep slope to the east. Catching occasional glimpses of the saddle below we stopped for a break in the almost shelter behind a big rock, allowing Nathan a chance to patch up his cut leg after a stumble on the rocks. The saddle separating Cascade Creek to the south, and Duck Creek to the north, is very broad and wet. We had briefly thought might have been an ok campsite, turned out to be windy and wet underfoot. Continuing eastwards we skirted around a rock/bluff finding a prominent rock cairn, and started our descent northwards down a goat track on the spur to the true right of Duck creek. Again reasonably steep in places, but it lead us down through the bush, past an old axe blaze, and on to

McKellar Hut around 1 ish for lunch and a welcome break. The Hut Warden updated us on the forecast – heavy rain for 12 hours or so starting around midnight. With thoughts of camping at Greenstone Saddle diminishing we continued up the Greenstone Track past Lake McKellar. When we got there we found a nice big clear space with a toilet, the only thing lacking was a fierce desire to camp in the rain! So we wimped out and the 3 day weekend morphed into 2 days. We continued on to the Howden Hut site where we found a new shelter being built, and on to The Divide where it had started to rain, and drove home! Rodger's group showed a bit more gumption and camped at one of the DOC campsites, before returning on the Monday.

It was a great trip, made that way by the people and the countryside, and the overall good weather. It would be rotten in clug all the way! Apologies to those who found it a bit harder than expected, and thanks to those who helped out.

Many thanks to everyone for making it such a good trip: Nathan Dawson, Jonathan Bull, Rodger Clarkson, Sue Williams, Sharon Campbell, Sandra Divett, Lynley McArley, Clare Noakes, Holly Yang and the thwarted U Pass refugees of Wendel Broek & Brad Wilson. Special thanks as always go to the drivers Nathan, Rodger, and Sandra for getting everyone there and back in good nick. The 3 independent trampers Olwyn Burns, and Murray Hyslop with his daughter also managed to get away for various trips on the weekend.

Wayne Hodgkinson

April 2023

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

On Sunday 2nd April, 11 meet outside the gardens at 9am everyone but Tina got the time right due to daylight saving ending she had a bit of time to kill. We then headed off up North Rd on a fine sunny morning but by the time we got to Normanby it had started to cloud over. Still, we continue to head on up North Rd & when we turned into Gleghorn St we knew rain wasn't far away. We stopped under the shelter of some large trees had morning tea & put wet weather gear on as we watched a ship heading up the harbour as it clouded over & could see it no more.

We then started to head up the Cleghorn track as the wind & rain got worse, but the uphill section kept us warm. At the top we had no views but thankfully the rain had stopped we headed on down the track past the telecommunications building to Signal Hill Rd where we turned up hill till, we came to the lookout.

Some moist clouds. Photo Credit: Stefan Rolfe.

We had lunch at the lookout without anything to look out for but by the time we were leaving the cloud started rolling away & giving us some good views over Dunedin. Stefan then led us down the Telco track which is a track in the bike park that heads straight down to Logan Park High School it was steep slippery but fun. As we got to the car park the drizzle started again & we regrouped under some trees again before heading off down Butts Rd & Dundas St looking a little sodden till we came to the entrance to the gardens & a short stroll through there till we were back to the main gate where we started. Even with the damp weather it was still a very enjoyable trip & well worth going on.

Thanks to Anthony & Debbie 1, Debbie 2 (Guthrie), Stefan Rolfe, Laurence Prattley, Lucy Jones, Tina Anderson, Leonie Loeber, Sandra Divett, and Maree for the company on this trip. Regards Ash.

7-10 (Easter) (100 Trips 044) Routeburn / Rockburn Area (Easter 4-Days) M + Phillip Somerville
3 ½ Passes via Lake Nerine

Team: Philip Somerville (leader), Wendel, Elke, Esther, Michael and Mark.

We'll all long remember Good Friday and the North Routeburn after trials aplenty that day. The rest of our Easter escapade engendered further interest, beauty and challenges.

We set off from the Routeburn road end on Thursday evening. Turning right at the Routeburn Flats Hut, we crossed the burn and walked 500m into the North Routeburn valley to camp. After a cold, clear night, we woke to a rime of frost on the tents. The weather continued clear which was just as well – Friday had challenges in store.

The valley provided many stream crossings and boulder fields to keep us alert. At one point, we clambered up a gorgy river section instead of via the conventional route. Towards the upper reaches of the valley, we encountered a large rocky hill and discussed which way to go round. We went left but one member, who was a little ahead, struck off right.

Relaxing for lunch before climbing up to Lake Nerine. We are looking down Hidden Falls Creek. The Darren Mountains, including Mts Madeline and Tutoko are beyond the Hollyford Valley. Photo Credit: Phillip Somerville.

The left route proved tricky. We saw cairns but then lost them. Mark led up a steep incline that became steeper. Going up was slow and difficult; to descend the way we'd come looked much worse, if not dangerous. Finally, we scrambled over a wet

slippery rock and, thankfully, gained an easy slope with surer footing. From there, we five followed occasional cairns up the valley over boulders and scree.

But where was our sixth? We had lost at least an hour in clambering; surely he would be ahead of us.

The five of us made it to North Col in the late afternoon. No sign of the sixth. We looked back, as we had been doing but still no sign of him. We descended together and made a lumpy camp.

A plan was hatched. We set off the PLB. It was now dark so all we could do was use head torches to look around. Cresting a ridge, we were relieved to see an answering light well below us. It was too dark to go further. Soon the helicopter arrived, the crew assessed our missing team member and found him unharmed. He decided to walk out the next day while we five continued our mission.

Dropping into Lake Nerine. Photo Credit: Phillip Somerville.

The next morning, we climbed to North Col once more. Then down from the col and up again to Lake Nerine. Beautiful clear water and the weather continued dry and cold. Nobody was brave enough to swim. From there, we climbed a steep saddle via a rocky gut and camped on the shore of an un-named tarn (it's not on the map). A cool night again but a breeze saved us from frost.

On Sunday we rounded the lake that is on the map and made the infamous traverse across the snow grass. Due to previous reports, this was approached with some trepidation but it is so well-trodden now that there is a visible footpath. It's steep country, however, and would be unforgiving of any error.

At Park Pass, Phil and Wendel climbed up to look at the Park Glacier while the rest of us had a break and descended slowly into the Rockburn Valley, past an impressive rock bivvy.

Phil and Wendel soon caught us up and we wandered down through tussock, into bush and then flats of tall grass and more bush. On a short detour to the impressive hilltop "rock garden", we met three kea, before finally making Theatre Flat to camp. It was dark again, so no sandflies! Yay!

We thought the hard work was all over but… wrong again – Sugarloaf Pass involved a testing steep climb and slow descent riddled with roots and mud. At least there was a track. We lunched at the pass as the clouds cleared and the sun came out to make it a great end (almost) to the trip. At the Routeburn car park, the five of us found our sixth. It was well met and there was many a tale to tell.

We called it 3 ½ passes instead of 3 because we climbed up to North Col twice!

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

Ten of us gathered at the clubrooms on Saturday afternoon for what was to be the first OTMC day trip during Easter weekend in at least 50 years. Heartened by the good numbers for a long weekend, we set out for Tomahawk Lagoon ready to conquer the Peg 41 track.

The Peg-41 track (goes froThe Peg-41 track (goes from Tomahawk Lagoon to the Soldier's Monument).

On arrival at Tomahawk Lagoon, we took a few minutes to admire the bird life before setting off. The beginning of the track winds its way through the bush on the edge of the lagoon before a sudden, steep climb out of the bush and into farm paddocks. As soon as we clambered over the rickety stile and emerged onto the expansive grassy paddocks, the views began to open up in front of us. The white sands and glistening blue ocean of Tomahawk and Smails Beach spread out in front of us.

Despite the cool wind, layers were soon being shed as the climb up the Peg 41 track was steady. We fell into a single file line as we skirted the edge of a paddock. This piece required some concentration as the paddock had an electric fence running up the side of it and all it would have taken was a slight misstep to end up electrocuted! Thankfully we were all careful and made it to the top unharmed.

Climbing over another stile, we had now joined onto the Soldiers Monument track that comes up from Highcliff Road. As we got closer to our destination, the wind seemed to increase. Once we arrived at the base of the monument, we soon found it was difficult to stand as the wind buffeted us. Some brave souls ventured up onto the monument, while the other more sensible ones found a perch out of the wind to have a snack.

Those of us who went up onto the monument had our breath taken away by the wind, and had to hang onto any loose clothing (even our glasses) as the wind threatened to take them away. It was a bit of a comedy show watching people try to walk around the monument as they struggled against the wind. The handrail was crushed in a death grip as it felt as if all it would take was one extra-strong gust and we would have been airborne. The view down the Otago Harbour was incredible, with not a cloud in the sky. Standing up there with the wind barreling through your hair is certainly one way to feel alive.

It's safe to say we didn't hang around the top for too long - just long enough to devour some chocolate eggs (well it was Easter!) and take a quick team photo. Our intrepid leader decided that instead of walking back the same way, we would make the trip and loop and head down Centre Road. We headed down the steep track towards Highcliff Road, pleased to be leaving the wind behind as we dropped down below the summit.

It was single file again once we were on Highcliff Road to avoid becoming roadkill as we made the 500m or so journey to Centre Road. The road stretched out in a seemingly endless line in front of us, but as we chit chatted our way downhill we were surprised at how quickly the time went. We lamented that the best views were hidden behind trees or farm paddocks and were unable to be seen from the road.

Before we knew it we were rounding the corner back to Tomahawk Lagoon. We had made good time with a total trip time of around 2 hours, which no doubt would have been longer had the wind not been so strong. Although on the shorter side, it was a perfect way to spend a sunny Saturday afternoon.

Jade Pettinger for Chris & Charlotte Handley, Laurence Prattley, Mike Klemeston, Deb Guthrie, Ash Flintoff, Ruth Thomas, Debbie & Antony Pettinger

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

It was a blustery day when we set off from the club rooms, a heavy wind from the East, and a bit chilly too. We were glad to be headed for the shelter of the Whare Flat valley.

As always, feet wet first on this track, unless you take the long way round. Most of us just picked our way across the wee ford.

Onto the Racemans track, sheltered and beautiful, dappled sunlight and a lot of birdsong, perhaps the winds up above made the birds come down low. The track is in good condition.

We went up to the top Weir, and then back tracked about 5 mins to the North Coal track. Grunter! This wee track has plenty of up up and more up. Some gorgeous views from the clearings near the top too. Again, this track is in good condition and well marked.

After a break for for lunch at Q Trig, we started along the Steve Aimes track. It was very sheltered given the high winds we could hear around us. Once we got down abit, we struck the very steep descent, almost easier to just slide down. But we could have used the McCraes Weir track, which forks off from Steve Aimes. Both are about the same distance. The McCraes track goes onto the Tunnels track, which is also another good add on for this circuit.

We all enjoyed a good 5.5 hours walking and it was great to see the area so well used.

Walking in this group was, Sharon, Lawrence P, Sandra, Debbie G, Antony and Deb Pettinger.

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

Another amazing trip into the Silverpeaks, home of our local wild adventures. On this latest and greatest adventure saw three newbies join us along with members of the North Otago Tramping club!

We put them to the test. With our fearless trip Leader Debbie G driving us up into the hills. We admired the amazing views as we toured the tops before introducing our new friends to the Devil's Staircase. As she was as tricky as I remember - but not the extra prickly gorse to add to fun. None the less a successful decent to the floor where the ground had been torn up by the local pigs! We trudge through boot deep mud where the pigs had played.

Jubilee hut, basking in the sun, we found a patch of grass untouched by the pigs to have our lunch feast and along the deck. We made a visit to the old site of Jubilee and then made the return journey. Down and up the Devil's Staircase in a day - won't be doing that again soon. You think down is rough, but up can be just as tough!

We all made it, up and then down, back to the cars. Thanks for another adventure!

Caitlin Robertson, on behalf of Debbie Guthrie, Laurence Prattley, Maree Macrae, Leonie Loeber, Anthony and Debbie Pettinger, Hugo Busby, Helen Emerson, Sandra Hoelz, Lynda Langly, Andrew McConnell aka Sossie, Colin Wollstein, Millie Sweeney and Bess Allan. Apologies if I couldn't spell your names correctly.

Lunch at Jubilee Hut. Photo Credit: Caitlin Robertson.

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

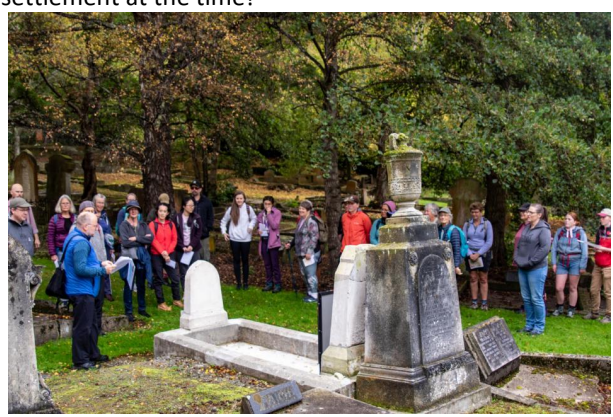
Trip #48 - Town Belt (with Wild Dunedin) - 22 April 2023

Today's trip was the largest we have had on the 100 Trips programme so far, with over 40 people in attendance! The OTMC led a trip through Dunedin's town belt in conjunction with Wild Dunedin as part of the annual Festival of Nature, which saw more than two dozen non-members join us for the traverse from the Southern Cemetery to Woodhaugh Gardens.

It was a perfect autumn morning - clear and crisp with not a breath of wind. After checking everyone off the list and giving the necessary health and safety talk, we set off through the Southern Cemetery. This trip was ably led by the knowledgeable and entertaining Antony Hamel and it soon became evident we were in for a fun trip.

We began on a slightly morbid note as we took a detour to check out Antony's favourite graves in the Southern Cemetery, however it was fascinating to hear the tragic stories.

One grave was that of the Campbell family, who, in 1863, were on the last stretch of their three month voyage from London to Dunedin for Rev. Thomas Campbell to take up his role as the first rector of the Dunedin High School (now Otago Boys High School) when the ship they were travelling on, the Yarra, collided with a paddle boat off Sawyers Bay and sank. 13 people drowned that day, including Rev Campbell, his wife Marian and their five young children. As they were immigrants they had no family in Dunedin, however in true southern style the city embraced them and 2000 people turned out for the funeral procession - nearly the whole population of the new Dunedin settlement at the time!



Ex grave of Duncan Boyce (English recipient of the Victoria Cross), re-interred at Anderson Bay cemetery. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

After exiting the cemetery, we had the slog up Eglinton Road to Unity Park ahead of us, which thankfully passed quickly as we chatted away to both new and old friends. We regrouped at Unity Park and heard the story of Admiral Byrd who is immortalised in a statue overlooking the city. Admiral Richard Byrd was an American naval officer and explorer who has caused controversy with his claims that he was the first to reach the North Pole by air in 1926. After receiving the Medal of Honour for his feat, doubts were raised as to whether he actually reached the North Pole or not and to this day historians still cannot agree to whether his claims are true or not.

We headed cross-country from here through the town belt, the damp autumn leaves on the ground turned out to be quite the hazard as they made the footpath slippery underfoot. We are incredibly lucky in Dunedin to have such a large green space in the heart of the city. The Dunedin Town Belt is one of only three Victorian town belts in the world and provides the city with over 200 hectares of native bush. It was originally conceived when the settlement of Dunedin was being planned in the 1840s in Scotland with the idea of having a divide between the city centre and the suburbs.

Unity Park. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

Our guided tour continued through several more notable places such as Queens View and the beautiful Olveston House. After meandering along Queens Drive, we arrived at our final point of interest, Prospect Park. At Prospect Park, we paid our respects to the late Ben Rudd, with whom the OTC forged a strong relationship and eventually purchased his property on the hills of Flagstaff which the club still manages to this day. Antony Hamel read a poem written by Charles Brasch titled Ben Rudd aloud and with feeling.

From here we headed down the Bullock Track to Woodhaugh Gardens and headed our separate ways - some had rides organised, some headed back to the start point by bus and some walked along the main street of Dunedin back to the Southern Cemetery. Five of us opted to walk along George and Princes Streets. Even though the terrain was flat, having to dodge pedestrians and wait for the pesky green man at the road crossings slowed us down considerably.

It took us around 30 minutes to walk from Woodhaugh Gardens to the Oval, and to our surprise, we met some fellow OTMC members getting off a bus at the same time we were walking past. They blamed it on having to transit through the bus hub, however it just goes to show that walking can be a very time-efficient way to get from A to B!

A great turn out with 13 OTMC members and 31 members of the public in attendance. Huge thanks to our very knowledgeable and entertaining leader Antony Hamel for the fascinating guided tour through the Town Belt.

Jade Pettinger for Antony Hamel, Antony and Debbie Pettinger, Debbie Guthrie, Alan Thomson, Steffan Rolfe, Jane Cloete, Lindsay Aitcheson, Leonie Loeber, Maree MacRae, Mike Klemeston and Ruth Thomas

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

Gabriel's Gully and Otago Dam Track, 23 April 2023
This trip was a little bit like a book, all the chapters contributing to a great story.

The morning was cool when we arrived in Lawrence, but come mid-afternoon; it was a very pleasant 23°.

We parked the cars at Otago Dam and set of. The track started at the western end of Grays Dam meandering through beech forest and over a number of stream crossings. What we did notice as we went along was the amazing diversity of fungi

which made a good talking point as we passed and several photos taken. The autumn leaves along the track made a nice soft surface to walk on.
We had morning tea at the dam and a team photo was taken and then we headed back along the track. It seemed to take no time at all to get back to the cars, where we had our lunch.

Compulsory team photo! Photo Credit: Leonie Loeber.

After lunch the cars were moved to the area near the interpretation panel for the next chapter along the Gabriel's Gully Loop Track. We stopped and had a look at the site where the raceman's cottage was. Jane noticed that some of the bulbs which will provide a lovely display of colour later in the year were poking through the ground. At Pollards Dam it was another team photo of us all throwing the leaves in the air and a look at the interpretation panel. The leaves on the ground made a lovely golden carpet again. From Pollard's Dam, it was along the track again and another stop at the interpretation panel at the North of Ireland Battery site (and another team photo). From there we continued along the track and we got caught in a 'leaf shower', it was very pretty watching the falling leaves.

Lucy admiring the carpet of leaves. Photo Credit: Leonie Loeber.

It was a great day out and thank you to Jade for leading a great trip everybody else for your company.

Leonie Loeber for Jade Pettinger, Antony, Debbie and Dylan Pettinger, Debbie Guthrie, Jane Cloete, Lucy Jones, Ellen Murray, Peter Loeber

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

Trip 50 of 100 Trips for 100 years (half way!!!)
Anzac Day 2023
Yellow Ridge, The Gap, ABC Cave
Having walked into Jubilee Hut 1½ weeks ago I was keen to tramp up Yellow Ridge , The Gap, and to ABC Cave. I wasn't disappointed. Our group of 12 people of varying fitness included 5 newbies. All were made to feel welcome.
Antony and Debbie Pettinger, Maree MacRae, Helen Emerson, Deb Guthrie, Penny Allan, Bridie Allan, Lucy and Rose Broughton, Joe and Sharon Bretherton, Rodger Clarkson

The start of the track was down an old forestry vehicle track through pine forest which was very steep and long (on the return trip it took us 25 minutes to walk back up to the cars!!!)
Yellow Ridge allowed for great views in places. There were places where gorse has encroached onto the track. Rodger with his loppers was on gorse clearing duty. For those of us who had long pants navigating the gorse was tolerable.
We deviated up to The Gap which is visible from around Silver Peaks and also from the State Highway. There were magnificent views of the surrounding ridges and valleys.
The next stop was ABC Cave named after Alan, Bruce and Colin who identified it in the late 1960's. The cave is big and set up with a sleeping platform. It was a very cool place to have our lunch.
The trip took us 7½ hours from start to finish (45 minutes less than the Jubilee trip)
Thanks Antony for leading another successful trip.
Cheers Maree
25 April 2023

The Trig, north side of the GAP. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

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

A convoy of cars left Dunedin meeting once at our favourite Kebab store in Alexandra. Then a second time at Rodger's Sister's place in Arrowtown who let us camp on her lawn for the night. Bonfire, marshmallows and a few tents huddle under the sparse trees.

We woke to an inconvenient power cut in the morning which but Rodger's favourite sister sorted the generator. Crisis averted.

After reaching are parking spot in Arrowtown, with a short detour to the local bakery, and we were off, the Easy group taking the river track. The medium and fit groups going over the hill. And of course within a few hundred meters we were headed up hill. The ground dry underfoot, wide and well used tracks with plenty of native plantings along the banks.

Walking back down from Brow Peak. Photo Credit: Rodger Clarkson.

A small lunch break at the Big Hill Saddle, the two team split, the medium to take on the top of Bill Hill, the fit group looking at Brow Peak.

Heading off with the fit crew we bounced along the trail chatting to passers by, and their four legged companions. Rodger doing suburply well after just recovering from Covid. Someone said the “S” word, and sure enough the spanyards came out!
After climbing, and climbing, and climbing we reached the top. Taking in the amazing view of Queenstown, Arrowtown, Lake Hayes, Kelvin Heights and more. Macetown and hills surrounding were just spectcular from the tops. A cold wind blowing in from afar, ski fields to our left and right, trees glowing in their autumn colours with mountains dominating the horizon on all sides.

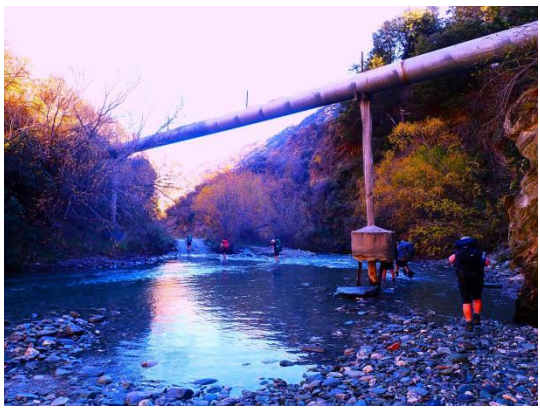
After much to short a time we had to head off in order to get to camp before darkness consume the sky. We pottered down the hill and further down off the saddle, and of course someone had said the “M” word, so Matagouri appeared. Stabbed again. Down the hill further we reached 8 mile hut. Our first mining permit site too.

Soon enough we hit the river, some dance all about to stop getting their boots wet, some trudged straight through. Everyone made it to Macetown, some a little damper than others!

After setting up camp, everyone settled in the chat around a few stoves, sipping away bottomless mulled wine (thanks Tina) and lively chat. Rodger and Steffan attempting to teach how to find the Southern Cross and how to use it t guide the way. None the less to say, finding the cross was enough for me. But a cloudless sky and cold night surrounded us.
Not as cold as our first night in Arrowtown much I think the tents took all of the frost! Ice glimmer over the tents who were out in the open.

Sunrise over Macetown. Photo Credit. Caitlin Robertson.

A short morning had us motoring along in the cold, feet frozen in our boots, not help by walking through the ice cold water gushing down the river. Soon enough we past the first half or river crossing and into the sun! That's about the time more and more 4 WD came shuffling past. Busy track this one, cyclists, runners, walkers and all.
We visited the water intake for Arrowtown and followed the pipe down the canyon. It was under foot, then beside you, then suddenly gone. Across the river and over head again!
A few more shallow river crossing and we were back at the cars. A side trip to the local shops to feed some hungry bellies and recaffienate for the drive home.
Photo Left: Stefan crossing the red bridge. Photo Credit Caitlin Robertson
I delightful trip. Thank you very much Rodger and all for another amazing adventure in our big backyard!
Caitlin Robertson on behalf of, Rodger Clarkson, Tina Anderson, Debbie Guthrie, Sharon Campbell, Stefan Rolfe, Rebecca Armstrong, Andrew Nicols, Mark Stephenson, Saskia Bronstring, Maree Mcrae and Sandra Divett.



The Arrowtown raw water pipeline. Photo Credit: Stefan Rolfe.

30 Sunday) (100 Trips 052) Rongomai / Honeycomb Circuit EM Tony Timperley

As 14 hardy OTMC souls readied themselves at the Evansdale carpark for Trip #52, Leader Tony had a worried look on his face as he noticed the bared shanks of a number of his compatriots. Six weeks earlier he had done a recce of this route and had found that sections of the Carey's Creek track were overhung by nasty, thorny blackberries. The fruit may have been nice but the spiky thorns were certainly not! At the Thursday club night, therefore, Tony advised potential participants to wear at least knee-high gaiters to protect their lower limbs.

So, as the group set off, being leader, he anticipated have to thrash his way through clumps of overhanging thorny blackberries; but, as the group progressed it became obvious that the track had been recently cleared and all overhanging vegetation thrown back off the track. Indeed, sections of it looked as though someone had used a lawnmower to widen the track! By the time we reached the Honeycomb/Rongomai junction the worst some of us suffered were wet feet from the numerous crossings of Carey's Creek.

After energising drinks and nibbles we proceeded further up Carey's Creek towards the start of the Honeycomb track. Just as we approached this junction, those of us leading the group were given a fright. In front of us a yellow “Proceed No Further – Logging in Progress” tape was stretched across the track. However, as we came up to the tape we saw that it was stretched across just the continuation of the Carey's Creek track to Black Gully Dam and that we would be free to continue up the Honeycomb which climbed steeply off to the right.

And it is steep! Nevertheless, we all reached its highest point and contoured round the long undulating section to the junction with the old nature trail which leads across to the Rongomai track. Here in this clearing we had our lunches and then our revitalised group set forth again to tackle further steep undulations across the so-called “nature trail”. Not only did we have to tramp up and down many times, but we also had to negotiate two large trees which had recently fallen across the track, However, these were no problem to our revitalised group, partly thanks to Rob who removed many branches, making our having to go either over or under much easier.

The start of the descent of Rongomai is gradual, but gets steeper lower down, Fortunately. however, there are many slim tree-trunks you can get hold of to help you get down. We all reached the bottom of the track without incident and after crossing Carey's Creek yet again, we had returned to the Honeycomb/Rongomai junction. (Note: Rongmai is easier to descend than Honeycomb, so it is recommended that you do this circuit clockwise.)

Following our afternoon drinks and nibbles break, again re-energised we set off on the return journey back along the Carey's Creek track, appreciating the magnificent track clearing work done by the Green Hut Group; but also trying to keep our feet dry as we criss-crossed the creek. We arrived back at the cars after 4 hours of great tramping over varied terrain and done in perfect weather.
Tony Timperley for, and with thanks to: Antony and Debbie, Rob, Leonie, Garth, Helen (Emerson), Sandra, Jona, Helen (Jones), Barry Walker, Mepan, Tracy and Richard.

Historic mactown
HISTORIC MACETOWN and the OTMC CONNECTION

Late 1975, I was given instructions to define the boundaries of one of the first of the historic mining areas that were to form the basis for the (then) Otago Goldfields Park. Early in 1976, together with the first Goldfields Park Ranger, Bruce Mason (then an OTMC member) we walked the proposed boundaries of the Rich Burn area, making practical changes where necessary. Then, between 19 January 1976 and 30 November of the same year, all survey work was completed in three small stages, dictated by some appalling weather. Plenty of rain, snow on occasions and frequent strong winds that threatened to demolish our tent.

On 24 November, while my field assistant had driven out to Arrowtown to pick up some supplies, I decided to see if I could find the old graves and remains of the Catholic Church shown on Surveyor E.H. Wilmot's 1878 town plan. I'd already located the remains of four of Wilmot's original pegs at both the cemetery and church site, so I felt both the graves and the church's foundations should be found relatively easy.

Compass and pacing were all that was needed and it was not long before I actually walked into an elongated depression, of the size I would have expected a grave to have been dug. The clincher was another depression nearby, with remains of timber fencing lying in the tussock. The third grave proved elusive.

Walking back down the terrace, I decided to have a look at finding some trace of the old Catholic Church as I already knew where the boundaries of the Church's section were. Shuffling through the low tussock, my boots hit a large, flat, rectangular rock. There were also other rocks of similar size and shape, and by blindly finding others by "feel", I soon realised I was walking a small rectangle. The rocks had to be the foundations of the original church. And even though it was a very small rectangle, so was the shape of the building shown on Wilmot's plan.

Nothing was done to protect these historic sites for the next 30 years, until 12 March 2007, when I returned to Macetown with DOC Ranger Stu Hardie, a ground penetrating radar and, unbeknown to me, a team from TV1 that DOC had organised. The ground penetrating radar quickly located Wilmot's three grave sites, but then came a surprise. The radar turned up a small grave, obviously a child's.

An interview with me was shown on TV1's news the following evening. Shortly afterwards, DOC received an email from a Timaru couple, who wrote that the smallest grave most likely belonged to Emily Croad, who was just two years old when she died in July 1871. As no other small grave was located by the radar, it is safe to assume it was Emily's grave we found. The family would have had to bury her in the Macetown Cemetery, as there was no road from Arrowtown in 1871, and the route over Big Hill would have been deep in snow.

Ron Keen, Life Member

The Interview

Ground Penetrating Radar

View of the Cemetery from Macetown

Macetown from the Cemetery

Upcoming Trips

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

MAY 2023

6 (Saturday) (100 Trips 053) Smaills Beach & Highcliff (Karetai Track) E Deb Guthrie

7 (Sunday) (100 Trips 054) Nardoo Scientific Reserve M Antony Hamel

13-14 (Weekend) (100 Trips 055) Rees Valley All Richard Forbes

14 (Sunday) (100 Trips 056) McNally Track E Alan Thomson

20 (Saturday) (100 Trips 057) Buskin - Highcliff & Paradise Tracks, including Boulder Beach M Tony Timperley

21 (Sunday) (100 Trips 058) Hermits Cave (Silver Peaks) M-F Lindsay Aitcheson

28 (Sunday) (100 Trips 059) Pine Hill Road - Leith Valley Road (via Cowan Road, Three Peaks, Cloud Forest Track) M Antony Pettinger

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

Hi everyone!

As you all know the AGM is coming up. This is great time to step forwards and lend a hand with the behind the scenes of the club.

We are a great bunch of hikers and keen to have some fresh faces on the committee this coming year.

We have plenty of roles available, so please come talk to us!

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!

ABC Cave, named by three Otago Tramping Club members (Alan, Bruce & Colin) who climbed on the local rock tors in the late 1960s. Photo Credit Antony Pettinger.