The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 833 July 2023

Trips & Events

✶ *WEEKENDS* ✶
✶ Port Craig ✶
✶ *SUNDAYS & SATURDAYS* ✶
✶ Orokonui Creek & Eco-Santuary Fence ✶ Abbots Hill Loop ✶ Government Track ✶
Gold Miners Direct - Possum Hut - Green Hut Site ✶ Sandymount ✶
Flagstaff Tracks ✶ Maungatua ✶ Lake Whare - Possum Busters - Swine Spur ✶
Outram Glen - Lee Stream ✶

Hiking out of Port Craig. Photo Credit: Helen Emerson

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

July 2023

1 (Saturday) (100 Trips 067) Orokonui Creek & Eco-Santuary Fence E-M Tina Anderson

When I arrived at Woodhaugh on Saturday morning, I don't think I quite realised what I had gotten myself in for. The plan for Trip #067 was to circumnavigate the fence surrounding the Orokonui Ecosanctuary - sounds simple enough, right? Unbeknownst to me (and many others on the trip), we would be faced with some of the steepest terrain encountered on the 100 trips so far…

The walk started off easy enough, a gentle stroll from the carpark at the Orokonui Lagoon to the base of the Ecosanctuary. Along the way we passed through many gates, a sign that we were entering the predator free zone managed by the Halo Project. On arrival at the fence we were greeted by two curious Takehē, who reside at the bottom of the Ecosanctuary. Takehē are an incredibly special bird - they were thought to be extinct for nearly 50 years before they were re-discovered deep in the Murchison Mountains in 1948. Since then, conservation efforts have seen their population increase to approximately 400 birds nationwide, and they are slowly being reintroduced into the wild. Takehē are classed as endangered, and are incredibly vulnerable to stoats and other predators - just one reason why the kaupapa and mahi of Predator Free Dunedin is so vital to protecting and preserving our taonga.

After much marvelling at the Takehē it was time to begin the climb. We opted to head left in a clockwise direction, as our leader Tina assured us it was much better to go up the steep section rather than down it. We were immediately greeted by a short but steep climb, which was made trickier by the thick loose gravel. It was like walking on scree - two steps forward and one back. Having tackled the first steep section, the track then immediately headed back downhill. Although we were dismayed to be losing the height we had just gained, we carried on happily chatting to those around us.

What we saw after rounding the next corner stopped us in our tracks and jaws dropped as we processed the sight in front us. Quite possibly one of the steepest tracks I have ever seen stretched out in front us as far as the eye could see. It was very quickly agreed that where we were standing was a good place for morning tea,

but really we all wanted a chance to refuel and guzzle some sugar to prepare us for the relentless climb in front of us.

Fence Line. Photo Credit: Tina Anderson.

After mucking around handing out lollies and taking silly team photos, we realised we could no longer procrastinate. Gritting our teeth, we put our heads down and started walking. The excited chatter from before was replaced with heavy breathing, no one was wasting any energy on talking. Looking back was not for the faint-hearted as it appeared to be nearly a straight drop down to the bottom.

Thankfully it wasn't long until the ground beneath our feet started levelling off and we were able to catch our breath. From hare, it was a gentle climb around to the entrance to the Ecosanctuary on Blueskin Road. We were treated to spectacular views in all directions on this stretch, from the distinctive ridgeline that makes up the backbone of the Silver Peaks on one side, to Harbour Cone and Sandymount on the Otago Peninsula on the other.

Some people treated themselves to a hot lunch inside the cafe at Orokonui - a rare treat on a tramping trip - while others opted to explore the area a bit and enjoy their kai al fresco. Did you know there is a flax plantation, otherwise known as a Pā-Harakeke at Orokonui Ecosanctuary? This is home to over 100 different varieties of harakeke (flax), which the public are welcome to harvest for weaving etc. provided appropriate tikanga is followed.

After lunch, it was a quick trip downhill towards the lagoon. This side was certainly not as steep, making it a very pleasant walk. The views over Blueskin Bay were gorgeous, and those of us with a keen eye enjoyed the light rays peeking through the clouds which made for a good picture. We made a brief stop to say hello to the

Takehē before heading towards the cars, keen to get out of the biting cold wind and home safe before the forecasted snow arrived later that evening.

2 (Sunday) (100 Trips 068) Abbots Hill Loop (Friends Hill Rd - Flower St - North Taieri Rd - Abbots Hill Road - Dalziel Road) M Antony Pettinger

With snow on the hills and ice on the streets, it was a no surprise that only a handful of people were brave (or mad) enough to attempt today's trip. Starting at Sunnyvale we slipped and slid our way along Main Road and then Flower Street before starting our climb up the hill. Once we reached the end of Flower Street, we left the houses behind and crossed a stile to wander through the farmers paddock while sticking to the paper road. It was during this part of the journey that we started to encounter snow on the ground but the workout of walking uphill kept us warm.

Once across the paddocks we were onto Chain Hills Road where we really got to experience the snow with a blizzard of fat, fluffy snow flakes coming out of the sky. It was about this time that we took the opportunity to duck under some low branches of a couple of large trees to shelter from the blizzard and enjoy a snack break. After the worst of the blizzard had passed,we emerged from our sheltered oasis to a winter wonderland covered in a white blanket. We followed Chain Hills Road to the end, then crossed another stile to continue along the Chain Hills Track following what, at first, appeared the obvious route but a layer of snow had covered the track making route finding a little difficult until a marker pole was spied and we were on our way again. The views really started to open out behind us along this stretch of track with Mosgiel on our left, Green Island/Abbotsford on our right and Saddle Hill/Makamaka directly behind us.

From the Chain Hills Track we emerged onto Friends Hill Road which is another paper road and goes all the way to the top, climbing to 400m and Halfway Bush Road. The gradient up the track is steady and we took our time, stopping often to admire the snow covered views behind us. The snow became thicker with each step higher and the odd small snow flurry added to the experience but the climb uphill kept us warm. We reached a patch of pine trees that had created a sheltered spot on the track and paused for a lunch break out of the snow. Lunch was a reasonably hurried affair as we cooled down quickly now that we had stopped walking and the sky looked to be getting darker with another blizzard threatening. Back on the upward journey and we soon warmed again with the top of the hill beckoning us on.

The Dunedin Cold Snap. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

There was a cold wind at the top of the hill so again, we didn't linger long and after congratulating ourselves for getting this far and knowing it was all downhill from here, we followed the Brinsdon Road track that connects up with Dalziel Road. It was here we got hit by the full force of the blizzard as we were buffeted by head winds and horizontal snow before reaching the shelter of a line of huge trees where we were able to stop to catch our breath and shake most of the snow off. From the tree tunnel the road drops steeply down to the next paper road, Abbots Hill track but first we had to dodge a surprisingly large amount of traffic that were on a joy ride to see how deep the snow on the hill suburbs was. The limited visibility from the blizzard and dodging the joy riders made this the most dangerous section of the walk but by listening out for the traffic and keeping to the edge of the road, we made it safely to Abbots Hill track.

The Abbots Hill track proved to be the worst section of the day as the lower we dropped, the snow turned to rain and with the track being muddy and overgrown we put our heads down and continued downhill as fast as we could manage while staying upright. It was during this descent that I began thinking about the different parts of the days walk - from icy streets, into snow covered paddocks, onto snowy roads and tracks before the wind and falling snow arrived and now the rain. It had been a day of many parts and through it all I had remained warm and dry with my layers of clothing and only now were my feet starting to get wet as all the days

moisture had started to soak through. After dropping 100m down the Abbots Hill track we were on the sealed part of the road and it was an easy walk down to North Taieri Road and back to Sunnyvale just as the rain really started to pelt down. In total we walked 17 km over 5 hours with 450m height gain.

Debbie Pettinger for Laurence Prattley, Helen Emerson, Lucy Jones, Jade Pettinger and Antony Pettinger

9 (Sunday) (100 Trips 069) Gold Miners Direct - Possum Hut - Green Hut Site (return via Green Ridge) E Sharon Bretherton

Trip Grade: Easy
Distance: 7.3km
Duration: 3 ½ hours – including breaks
Leader: Sharon Bretherton
Participants: Joe Bretherton, Mandie Lungley, Antony Pettinger, Debbie Pettinger, Rodger Clarkson, Mark Stephenson, Jade Pettinger and Saskia Bronstring.

The trip is a circuit which starts from the main car park area on Semple Road, taking the Gold Miners Direct track which is directly behind the Doc Silver Peaks sign. The track descends reasonably steeply down a ridge to the South Waikouaiti River.

The track to Possum Hut is signposted and easy going.

Right Photo. Possum hut.

After the hut, the track climbs quite steeply to connect with the main track to Pulpit Rock (Possum Hut Route). A left turn at the junction takes you to the old Green Hut site and along the Green Ridge back to the start.

NB: If the weather is a bit 'dodgy' but you're still needing to get out for a walk, this trip is an option as you are sheltered from any exposure you would experience on the ridges.

14-16 (3 Day Weekend) (100 Trips 070) Port Craig (Matariki 3-Day) All
Laurence Prattley

Having driven down to Rarakau Lodge on the south coast in heavy rain the night before, it was a relief to see clear skies and snow-capped peaks when we stepped outside in the morning. Eleven of us set off at 8.30am and did a quick head count of other cars and people in the car park to work out how full the hut might be. We will be walking along the South Coast track to Port Craig to stay in the DOC School Hut for two nights, heading further west on day 2 to explore the old tramway and viaducts built in the 1920s for the Port Craig sawmilling operations.

After about an hour of pleasant bush walking, we reached the coast and headed onto the beach for the first time, enjoying the wide-open expanse of the beach and the view up to the snow-capped peaks of the Hump Ridge. There are four swing bridges on this section of the track, two only allowing one person at a time, which slowed progress somewhat. Some beach walking was possible, although the tide meant we couldn't shorten our route with more. We passed the turn-off for the (currently closed) Hump Ridge track after a couple of hours and noted that the track improvement works to upgrade the Hump Ridge to 'Great Walk' status are yet to be completed on the coast track sections!

After about 3 hours along the coast and forest, we turned inland at Breakneck Creek and into the forest for the remainder of the day. This is beautiful forest within the Fiordland National Park, with plenty of South Island robin and fantails, very cheekily swooping around us on the track. There's young and regenerating rimu and punga, and sections of beech forest to enjoy. It's a good 3-4 hours of walking through this section of the track, so plenty of time to enjoy the forest, birdlife and streams.

Beach and forest on the way to Port Craig. Photo credit: Helen Emerson

Arriving at the school hut we secured sleeping spots for the next 2 nights (a triple-decker bunk platform housed most of us, plus a couple of double bunks, making for a cosy hut), and after refreshments many took the opportunity to explore the area. There's plenty to see at the remains of the Port Craig settlement and the old wharf and beach, with views across at Stewart Island and Hector's dolphins in the bay. We were joined in the hut by 4 others, including one who may have been successfully recruited to join the OTMC – so we can't have been too bad as fellow hut-guests.

Day 2

We set off shortly after sunrise up the old tramway towards the four historic viaducts - Sand Hill, Percy Burn, Edwin Burn and Francis Burn. The tramway sleepers are still in place and also the old bolts, which provided an additional trip hazard to be navigated. The track is considerably muddy in places, and the sleepers act as little dams keeping the water contained between them in places. If your stride matches

the sleepers, all good, you could attempt to keep your boots dry(ish). As decisions later in the day would determine, that was a fool's errand ….

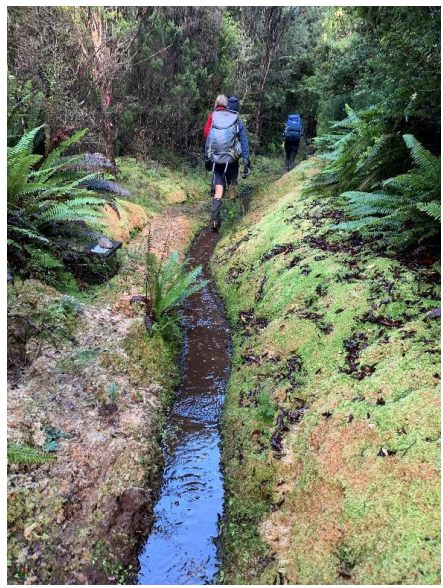
And so we reached the first viaduct of the day - Sand Hill viaduct. Pausing to take photos, to chat with another tramper coming out and grab a few snacks, somehow items were also dispatched overboard …. Mark's glove down one bank of the gully followed swiftly by Gordon's pack on the other side. The viaduct is 17m high and 59m long, to give you a sense of the size of the gully Mark had to navigate to retrieve his glove, which could be seen nestled in the branch of a tree. It was an impressive effort, scrambling down the gully, crossing the river and plucking his glove from its position nestled in the branches of a tree. Luckily Gordon's pack hadn't fallen quite so far, and in the end, everything was retrieved.

Left: Looking over the edge of the viaduct to watch Mark retrieve his glove from Sand Hill viaduct.
Right: Percy Burn viaduct. Photo credit: Helen Emerson

The next viaduct is at Percy Burn, with a 125m long and 35m high viaduct and a hut, which is currently not bookable as its being used by workers on the Hump Ridge Great Walk track improvements. The viaduct is impressive today - and took an impressive amount of resource to construct in the mid-1920s. It took 26 men a full year to build, and it bankrupt the Invercargill-based builders. You get great views walking across and given this one is twice the height of the first viaduct, great care was taken not to throw anything over. Just in case, Annise took the 'alternative route', a track down the gully with a small footbridge at the bottom, without any difficulty only to get to the top of the track on the other side to find a 'track closed' sign. Presumably to scare off anyone thinking of throwing things off the bridge.

The Hump Ridge track leaves the South Coast track just after the third viaduct of the day – the Edwin Burn viaduct. At 22m high and 50m long it's impressive enough, but having ticked off 3 out of 4 viaducts, with plenty of light left in the day, we had the bright idea of continuing the (estimated) 1.5km to the 4th and final viaduct. This

section turned out to be somewhat wet and muddy. Any remaining dry feet in our party were sacrificed in the bid for completeness of the viaduct visits. This section of the track between was quickly named '3km Burn' (Track Burn having already been taken, rudely, by an actual named river in the area) as we were essentially walking through a stream as the track narrowed to a cutting just nicely the width of one's boots and filled with gently running water. Gone, also, were any bridges crossing little gullies, and in its place some rope (yes, 'Rope Burn') to help with the slippery slopes.



Left: Old tramway track – a huge effort must have gone into making these deep cuttings through the forest.
Right: '3km Burn' – the track between Edwin Burn and Francis Burn viaducts. Photo credit: Helen Emerson

At Francis Burn viaduct one group turned back to have lunch at the Percy Burn hut, while a second group carried on to see how close to the Wairaurahiri hut they could get before an agreed turnaround time to ensure a return to Port Craig in daylight. They got to within a couple of km, leaving two of our hut-mates from the night before to carry on as per their plan to overnight at Wairaurahiri hut.

Day 3

Strong winds and rain overnight, including an impressive thunderstorm, had necessitated middle-of-the-night repairs to rattling doors and windows in the School Hut. But by morning the worst of the rain had cleared and Matariki could be seen just before dawn, and we set off from the hut at sunrise. We were rewarded with beautiful light coming through the forest. You'd think an in-out walk makes for a less-interesting day 3, but the homeward journey was just as enjoyable. The beach provided its own interest, as tide was coming in which made for some fun wave dodging (some were clearly better at this than others!).

Left: leaving Port Craig at sunrise. Photo credit: Helen Emerson

Lunch was eaten on the beach, enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the area, with a general reluctance to complete the return journey (or was it just a reluctance to tackle the long flight of steps that are the final challenge of the tramp?).

We observed the noticeable changes in the quality of the track in various parts. There's still a fair amount to do for DOC to get it up to Great Walk standards, and although the well-groomed sections made for easy walking, some of the fun of tree root and mud puddle dodging was missed in the final stages of the track out.

We were off the track at 3pm, in good time to relax briefly at Rarakau Lodge before getting in the cars back to Dunedin. We had covered a thoroughly enjoyable 65+km over the three days. Thanks for the great company on a 'great walk', and many thanks to Laurence for leading us for the weekend.

Helen Emerson on behalf of Laurence and Raewyn Prattley, Steffan Rolfe, Rebecca Armstrong, Annise Boothroyd, Mark Stephenson, Michael Priestnall, Gordon Tocher, Lucy Jones, Andrew Nichols.

15 (Saturday) (100 Trips 071) Sandymount E Jade Pettinger

The day started with pretty good weather, and it just got better and better as the day went on. We met at the Club Rooms and then car pooled to the car park at the end of Sandymount Road. We admired the harbour as we were heading off to the start of the hike. It was one of those days when the water was mirror smooth and golden. Quite fabulous. The trip involved some car shuttle organisation, which meant that we did not need to walk along any roads. Yay!

Gorgeous views. Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

We started the hike by going through the dramatic avenue of massive macrocarpas, and then past the historic wool shed. Soon after that we went across pastures and down towards the relatively recently constructed lookout. Jade announced that this is one of her favourite spots and that we should have morning tea there. It certainly is a fabulous spot with great views across Allan's Beach, Hoopers Inlet, and the West Harbour. We then continued along to the Chasm.

The sun was low and we were amused to see the shadows of our lower halves projected very close and large whilst the shadows of our top halves, were tiny and were way across on the far rock face (right). We then hiked to the summit of Sandymount, from where we had fabulous 360° views. From there we continued along the track to Sandfly Bay. There were a couple

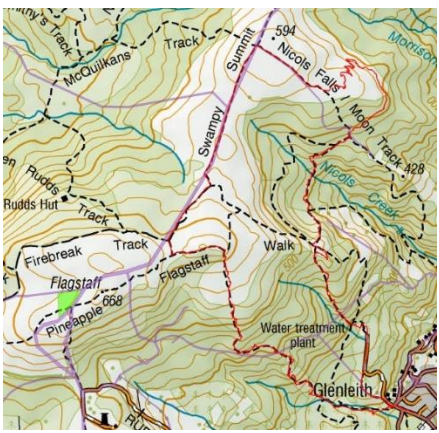
of sea lions very near the track, and many more very large ones on Sandfly Bay Beach. We gave them a wide berth and found a safe spot for lunch. We had a great view of a group of about 7 sea lions which were taking turns to assert their dominance over one another. We then headed off along the beach towards the sand hills that many of us can remember being much more difficult to ascend than they now are. The route has been made much more environmentally sustainable. Thank you to Jade for leading this really wonderful trip. We had great company, scenery, and weather and also saw some wild life.
Written by Charlotte Handley on behalf of Debbie, Anthony and Dylan Pettinger, Annie Yohannan, Chris Handley, Mike Klemetson, Ruth Thomas, Tom Kirk, and Helen Jones.

16 (Sunday) (100 Trips 072) Flagstaff Tracks (avoiding the Walkway) M
Debbie Pettinger

OTMC members: Debbie, Antony & Jade Pettinger, Helen Jones, Leanie Loeber, Ricky Kim, Charlotte & Chris Handley, Jane Ward, Jessica Caroll, Garth Miline and Peter George

It was a good day out, even though there was a bit of drizzle early in the morning, a bit of wind at the top with cold wind and quite a few muddy places in between. 12 trampers enjoyed the middle of winter Sunday walk around the tracks of Flagstaff on 16th July 2023.

Course: Booth road car park -> Davies Track -> Fire break -> Moon track -> Peppertree track and Pineapple track -> Back to Booth road car park



The Route. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

Sunday morning there was a bit of drizzle early in the morning, but around 8 am it seemed clear and hopefully no more rain. At the Woodhaugh meeting place there were 10 people and two others (Charlotte & Chris) joined at the Booth road car park which is the walk starting point. Walk starts from Drummond street. Passing the McGouns Track, there is a side track to Davies Track. Personally I tried to find Davies Track before for a few times but it wasn't successful because it was overgrown in summer. Once I thought I got there but it was coming back to Drummond street. However, this time we got into Davies track easily.

It was quite muddy at many places and there were lots of wild pig signs. Also drizzle was back and getting a bit more. We decided to stop & pull out rain gears but soon after most of us got rain gears on, the rain was gone. Once we were into the open tussocks area, it was a morning tea break. Wind was a bit cold and the ground was a bit wet, but there were beautiful views and it was a quite nice Sunday morning.

Team shots. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

After the morning tea, we went up a bit more and turned left onto the Flagstaff Walkway for about 10 min then turned right to go to the Fire Break Track. From the starting of the Fire Break we walked until the entrance of Moon Track. Moon track is quite narrow and muddy, then it turns into a very gentle walk/cycle path. Then we had lunch at one open area with rocks and views.

After lunch, walking down the biking track was very easy and relaxing. Also, from time to time the sun came up and there was no wind in that place. We felt it was a bit cosy and warm from time to time. After a 20-30 min walk there was a side track and we were not following the biking track any more. This area is more wet &

muddy and there were some small streams to cross.. One of the members fell into the stream with his backpack and got wet.

Finally we got back to the Pineapple track. Leader Debbie was happy we could get back to the Pineapple track, because it was her original plan and there were many choices to go left or right. We had a chance to look at the Pineapple Point and Antony talked about some sort of history and recent job done in that area. After that, some people wanted to walk down the old Pineapple Track and some people wanted to walk down a gentle way. We joined back near the water facility. Then we went back to the car park.

by Ricky Kim

23 (Sunday) (100 Trips 073) Grahams Bush M Antony Pettinger

It had to happen - the weather gods have been so good to us with the #100 trips and waking up to rain had to happen. There has been the odd trip with some rain threatening but nothing like the rain forecast for today's trip - the only surprise was that it had taken to trip #73 for it to happen. Originally trip #73 was going to Maungatua but with a 600m climb into the open tops on a day with rain overnight and steady rain in the morning, increasing to heavy in the afternoon meant today was not the day for Maungatua so onto Plan B. Grahams Bush from Sawyers Bay is always a good backup plan on a wet day as it is sheltered and in the bush all the way. Starting at the end of Hall Road in Sawyers Bay, the Grahams Bush track follows a paper road until the reserve.

Paper Road. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

Once off the paper road and onto the track, it is a steady climb along a well benched track. There are a few muddy patches but nothing that couldn't be avoided. The

track initially climbs gently through native bush with the large gnarly, papery bark of the fushia tree often overhanging the track. Once past the first crossing of Thompson's Creek which, despite the persistent rain, is an easy step across, the track gradient starts to increase. We stopped at the large Rimu that guards the trail long enough to marvel at it's size and give it a hug before continuing on. After the second creek crossing the track turns sharply to the right. It was here that we stopped for a quick snack and drink break before tackling the increasing slope for the final push to climb 160m to Mt Cargill Road.

Unsurprisingly we emerged onto the road from the bush into the mist and made the decision that there was no point in going any higher. Thankfully it was only misty and the rain had so far stayed away. We stopped for a brief rest before turning our thoughts to descending back the way we had come. As often happens, the return journey down the track seemed to go quickly. There are a number of large punga along the track with their large fronds protecting the track from the worst of the weather and we had the compulsory 'hug' a Rimu stop before reaching Hall Road in Sawyers Bay again. The weather hadn't improved at all during our walk but at least it hadn't gotten any worse (which it did later in the afternoon). A good walk 2.5 hour walk over 8.2km and gaining 300m in height.

29 (Saturday) (100 Trips 074) Lake Whare - Possum Busters - Swine Spur (circuit)
M Tony Timperley

Trip #74 - Lake Whare - Possum Busters - Swine Spur - 29 July 2023

Anyone travelling past Woodhaugh Gardens early on Saturday morning must have thought we were mad! 10 trampers gathered in near zero temperatures, many in shorts and bare legs despite the thick layer of ice covering the nearby cars. The closer it got to 9am, the more time seemed to slow down as our feet were slowly turning into frozen lumps inside our boots. Hopping from foot to foot and jogging on the spot did little to alleviate the pain so it was a relief when it was finally time to depart.

Today's trip was a circuit linking up many of the lesser-known tracks on Flagstaff's northern side, and would require top-notch navigational skills to ensure we stayed on the planned route. The one thing we weren't entirely sure about was where exactly the track started, so we found ourselves wandering along the road looking for a way into the seemingly impenetrable bush. We shouldn't have worried as 200m or so up from the cars was a large sign which read "Lake Whare Track" which we couldn't miss.

We opted to head in a clockwise direction, which meant about 5 minutes after we set off we arrived at Lake Whare - a lake so small it doesn't appear on the topo map! The winter sun was quite low in the sky and was hitting the lake in such a way it was almost blinding to look at. Our attempts to circumnavigate the lake were short lived, making it less than 100m before being turned around by a dense wall of bush. Tucked away in the bush was a long-forgotten lean-to shelter, which was slowly being claimed by nature.

Lower section of Swine Spur Track. Photo Credit: Anthony Pettinger.

The lower section of the Swine Spur track was muddy and boggy, a sign that we were well and truly in the depths of winter. Many of the tracks on the northern flanks of Flagstaff are well-maintained, which was evidenced by a series of bridges over the worst of the bog - some quite official looking whilst others consisted of some strategically placed sticks that acted as a makeshift boardwalk. The sound of boots squelching through the saturated ground accompanied us as we meandered along the flat.

It wasn't long before we traded in the idyllic meadows of the flat with the steep, grovely, muddy climb through the bush. We took our time on this section, making sure we had a good footing with each step to avoid tumbling downwards. We seemed to barely get going before we popped out at a small clearing, giving us clear views over Mosgiel and Maungatua, and inland to the Rock and Pillars which had a fresh dusting of snow on the distant tops. Having spent most of the morning in the bush, it was a unanimous decision that this would be the perfect place to have morning tea.

From here the Swine Spur track continues upwards towards Swampy Summit, however as that wasn't our destination today we branched off onto the Possum Busters track. Sideling eastwards, this was a very pleasant section of track as it was more open than Swine Spur, providing occasional glimpses of the distant hills. We had a few side streams to negotiate, which thankfully were minor enough that our feet stayed nice and dry inside our boots.

Aside from the odd muddy section, we enjoyed an uneventful hour or so chatting away to each other as we had the track to ourselves. It is places like this that remind you of just how lucky we are to have such a wide variety of tracks on our doorstep in Dunedin, and to be able to enjoy them without being swamped by hordes of people.

We stopped at a small clearing at the Porkies / Smithy's Track junction for an early lunch, before carrying on the Smithy's Track towards the road. The journey out to the cars was not as straightforward as we first thought, as we had some steep sections of track to contend with. Some of the uphill sections had us scrambling up on all fours, clinging onto any handhold we could find to haul ourselves up. Once at the top we were greeted by a rope anchored into the hillside to aid in the descent on steep, loose dirt. After we had conquered the hill, we had one last obstacle to overcome - a narrow path snaking around the edge of a small cliff. Not for the faint-hearted, we carefully picked our way around making sure we remained upright and on the track.

All of a sudden, we rounded a corner and just about fell onto the road! We had no idea it was so close, and were a little sad that the trip was over as it was such an enjoyable circuit through an ever-changing landscape.

Thanks to Tony T for leading such an enjoyable trip!

Jade Pettinger for Tony Timperley, Antony & Debbie Pettinger, Deb Guthrie, Helen Jones, Tina Anderson, Leonie Loeber, Jessica Carroll and Kristy McNeill

30 (Sunday) (100 Trips 075) Outram Glen - Lee Stream E
Ash Flintoff

Sunday morning at 9:00 AM saw 15 trampers carpool from the club rooms and meet at the Outram Glen parking area. The plan was to complete an in-and-out day walk on the Department of Conservation's Outram Glen to Lee Stream Walk. The path was generally well maintained in the largely medium-density forest following the Taieri River round to the confluence of Lee Stream. There were spots of mud and a couple of washed-out sections, a few steeper portions allowed us to warm up with a low starting temperature not helped being in the shade for most of the way. The weather was otherwise quite pleasant with few clouds and only a light wind. The team photo was near the end on a beach, and lunch was had at Lee Stream. The return trip seemed to be a little quicker, allowing members to be back at the club

rooms around 2:00 PM. There was no wildlife spotted or misadventures resulting in quite a pedestrian but pleasant outing.

Mike Klemetson for Laurence Prattley, Debbie Guthrie, Ruth Thomas, Leonie Loeber, Barbara McCabe, Susan Dunn, Tom Kirk, Holly Yang, Jade Pettinger, Lindsay Aitcheson, Rebecca Armstrong, Kirsty McNeill, Debbie Pettinger and Antony Pettinger

Pineapple Point

Pineapple Point was a well-frequented lookout point alongside the current Pineapple Track and is referenced in tramping reports that pre-date the club, as well as being mentioned as a resting place during the climb of Flagstaff on the OTC's inaugural trip on September 1, 1923. Early reports talk of Pineapple Point having wonderful views of the city and was a good place to stop and eat pineapple. As Dunedin is too far south to grow pineapple, local Green Grocer (Oscar Balk, OTC first president) imported tins of pineapple and these were enjoyed while resting at the point with the empty tins being left on the fence posts as markers, hence the name Pineapple Track and Pineapple Point.

Having been up the Pineapple Track many times over the years and never having seen Pineapple Point, we decided it was time to 'rediscover' it. Having done some research we had an idea where it might be and once we had reached the site it was easy to see why the point was no longer a lookout as the view was nonexistent with broom having grown over the point obscuring all views.

A plan was hatched to bring Pineapple Point back to it's former glory in time for the 100 year anniversary of the OTC's first official club trip. Discussion was entered into with the Dunedin City Council and a plan was agreed to clear the broom from the point and permission was given to install a seat at the site. The first club work party was in August 2022 where we cleared about half the site of broom to bring the view back. A few hours work of cutting broom and dragging it out of the way by a handful of people proved that it was a worthwhile task and the view was restored to Pineapple Point.

On 22 July, a group of 10 came back to install the seat and remove the remaining broom from the point. It was a real team effort to get all the materials to the site, which is about 30 minutes up the Pineapple Track. Thankfully another group lead by Steffan Rolfe had carried the 40kg of cement in and with the seat in four parts plus about 10L of water to mix the concrete and tools to clear the broom, our progress up the track looked a little like a pilgrimage.

Once at Pineapple Point, those that knew about putting the seat together and concreting it into place were left to get onto with it while the other 7 turned their attention to the broom. Armed with pruning saws and loppers, no time was lost in attacking the broom. The broom is old and the trunks took quite some effort to cut through but the reward of seeing the view return kept the enthusiasm high. A few of the group spent their time dragging the cut broom away and

throwing it on the pile of old, dead broom from last year. It was heartening to see the huge pile from nearly a year ago had compacted and started to rot so we reused the same pile and watched as the pile of cut broom grew higher,

While most of us were kept warm sawing or dragging broom away, a hardy few were left in the wind on the top of the point to dig the holes for the concrete and reassemble the seat. Progress seemed to go quickly, although the cold temperatures meant the concrete took longer than hoped to dry. After about three hours of work, everyone was well pleased with their efforts and were very happy with the end result of a lovely, well made, wooden seat on Pineapple Point with the view of Dunedin City spreading out in front. The seat is now in place and the broom cleared leaving Pineapple Point ready for the official opening on 1 September 2023 which marks exactly 100 years of the first Otago Tramping Club trip.

Debbie Pettinger for Gordon Tocher, Phillip Somerville, Chris Handley, Charlotte Handley, Richard Forbes, Dylan Pettinger, Jade Pettinger, Antony Pettinger and Kent

Seat Mobilization Force.

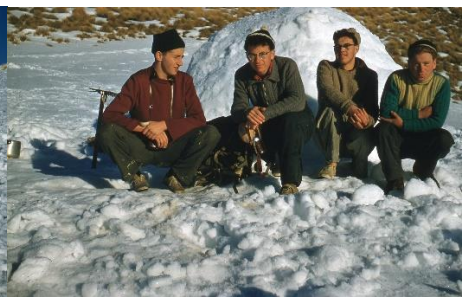
Pineapple Point Seat installation.

Blast from the past:

Around 1958 - 1961 the Club ran an igloo building trip to the Kakanui Mtns. Conditions were an ideal minus 2 degrees, ideal for cementing the ice-blocks together. Our team of four was the only one to complete a livable igloo (warm inside), while others kept watching us and, as a result, didn't complete theirs. Had to throw a fly over the missing roof. Bruce Campbell was with a group and took the photos which he submitted to the Evening Star. the story was published in the "Star Sports" the following weekend. Bruce also did a fair bit of research and believed we were the first igloo-builders in NZ. This would have probably been because of the need to have the right depth of snow as well as the ideal temperature for sawing the blocks and getting them to freeze in place.

Ron Keen

Left to Right, the team is Bob Cunningham (OTC), Ron Keen (OTC), Geoff ? (OTC) and Ron Abbott friend of RJK.



Upcoming Trips

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

August 2023

5-6 (Weekend) (100 Trips 076) Winter Routeburn (Falls Side) All Rodger Clarkson

6 (Sunday) (100 Trips 077) Spiers Road - Ross Bush Track E-M Antony Pettinger

12 (Saturday) (100 Trips 078) Head of Race (Whare Flat) E Debbie Pettinger

13 (Sunday) (100 Trips 079) All Day On The Peninsula M Antony Pettinger

19-20 (Weekend) (100 Trips 080) Day Trips from Mt Cook (Unwin Lodge) All Mark Stephenson

20 (Sunday) (100 Trips 081) Midday Trip to Ben Rudd's (OTMC tribute to the Family Tramping Group) E Leonie Loeber

23 (Wednesday) (100 Trips 082) Annual Dinner - OTMC's Actual Centenary n/a Debbie Pettinger

26 (Saturday) (100 Trips 084) Flagstaff - Swampy - Swine Spur M Ash Flintoff

27 (Sunday) (100 Trips 085) The Catlins (short trips) E Jade Pettinger
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
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!

Thanks for all your amazing reports. They have all been wonderful to read and immerse myself in all your adventures. As your Bulletin Editor of 3 years, I thank you all for the wonderful memories and plan to make many more in the year ahead. Caitlin.
I congratulate Helen for stepping into the role as the latest and greatest Bulletin Editor.
helenemerson@yahoo.com

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!

The team photo at McLean Falls. Photo Credit Jade Pettinger.