The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc #835 September 2023

Trips & Events

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Day trips from Mt Cook (Unwin Lodge) ✶ Mt Somers

✶ SUNDAYS & SATURDAYS ✶

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Pineapple Point at night. 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 for fuel costs later (check with the trip leader or Treasurer Amy 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!

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

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Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, all welcome
Sign up to our email list: https://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc

September 2023

1-3 (Weekend) (100 Trips 080) Day Trips from Mt Cook (Unwin Lodge), ALL, Mark Stephenson

Journey of a Thousand Stairs

With the trip cancelled once due to bad weather we dropped from around 17 trampers to only 6 for a trip to the Mt Cook area. Staying at the amazing Alpine Club Unwin Lodge from Friday night through to Sunday, we were very happy having hot showers, ovens, cutlery and even a toaster on hand. Our 10-person bunkroom also had possibly the best view in the building looking directly out to Mount Cook.

Saturday started with the sun shining. Trevor and Leanne walking into Hooker Lake and Mark, Rodger, Emma and Garry climbing up to Red Tarns and onwards to the summit of Sebastapol at 1468 meters. Some scrambling up the steep sections and a small amount of snow on top which required mini spikes for those that had them.

Plenty of pictures taken by everyone of the view back to Lake Pukaki, Tasman Valley and Mt Cook before the decent with some people being very quick on the scree slope descent.

A quick coffee and something to eat at the carpark shelter then off to walk into Hooker Lake. Massive crowds of tourists coming and going on the track and the lake shore was full of people admiring the famous view, which was just like the brochure. Slight detour on the return trip via the restored Hooker Hut. This is well worth the detour to see this 1910 hut that was fully restored in 2020-21.

Relaxing walk out then an amazing potluck tea back at Unwin Lodge.

Sunday morning started with the same split with Trevor and Leanne going up to Red Tarns and the other four heading up to Sealy Tarns. 2200 stairs later we are greeted with a completely frozen tarn. Rodger did his best Disney on Ice display and everyone spent some time taking numerous photos of Mt Cook and Mt Sefton with plenty of noise from avalanches to add to the atmosphere. Mueller Hut must have been full the night before because there were lots of people walking and skiing down from past us while we were there.

After a bite to eat it was onto the 2200 step descent back to the carpark. We decided to visit The Hermitage for $7 coffees and to look at what a $12 pie looks like. Rodger bucked the trend with a very flash milkshake that had actual pieces of cake on it!

With this massive amount of opulence for a tramping trip behind us we headed for a quiet walk into the Tasman Lake and were amazed at the size and quantity of large ice bergs floating, I can see a kayaking trip around the lake being booked in the near future. Another hundred photos later we headed back to Unwin Lodge for a coffee and debrief with the other group before heading home.

A wonderfully relaxing weekend of small trips with perfect weather all weekend.

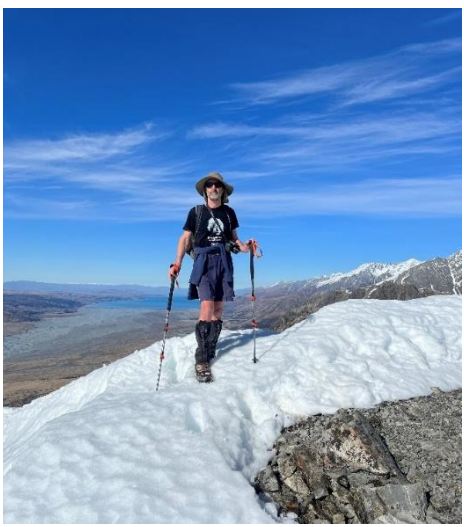


Photo credits: Emma and Garry Power

Emma Power, on behalf of Trevor and Leanne Barlow, Mark Stephenson, Rodger Clarkson, and Garry Power

1 (Friday) (100 Trips 086) Ross Bush Track to Pineapple Point – Unveiling of Pineapple Point Lookout (100 Years exactly since the inaugural OTC trip), E, Antony Pettinger

September 1, 1923, was the day the Otago Tramping Club set out for its first tramp, with a Saturday afternoon walk to Flagstaff via the Ross Bush Track and Pineapple Point. 100 years ago, around 50 foundation members joined the trip, and the day was reported as ‘most exhilarating’. To mark the 100th anniversary of that first tramping trip, a group set out at 1pm, taking the Ross Bush Track (also known as the 'old pineapple track') while a few others went up the more traditional Pineapple Track route.

Our trip started at Booth Road car park and was straight into a 100m climb to the water treatment station and this is where our path diverged from those going via the 'new' Pineapple Track. The Ross Bush Track (also known as the 'old' Pineapple Track) heads into the native podocarp forest directly behind the water treatment station and goes almost in a straight line for a short distance till it crosses the McGowan Track and from here the work really began. The track climbs steeply another 160m up through the native forest on a narrow track that climbs over tree roots and rocks while winding its way ever upwards, pushing through ferns and under the twisted, papery branches of the fuchsia, eventually popping out of the bush, almost at Pineapple Point around 40 minutes after starting.

The new seat at the clearing at Pineapple Point. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

We met up with the group who had gone up the 'new' Pineapple Track along with a number of others who had headed up the hill earlier in the day with the intention of gathering at Pineapple Point for the official opening of the seat and lookout at 2pm. All up there were 20 of us gathered at Pineapple Point for a short speech by Antony, who gave a brief overview of the significance of this place in, not just the club's but also the wider city's history along with the significance of the date in the OTMC history.

The unveiling party. Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

Over 100 years ago Pineapple Point, being about halfway, had been a popular stopping place on the way up the hill to Flagstaff where people had stopped for a rest, and where tins of pineapple had been consumed before pushing on further up the hill. The empty pineapple tins were placed on the top of the old fence posts marking the route to the top. Sadly, the point had been lost to an infestation of broom over the past 50 or so years and it was through a number of club work parties during the past year, clearing the invasive broom that had brought the stunning city and harbour views back.

There were club members from different eras of the club present to mark this special date with some people who joined earlier this year, up to some that had joined in the 1960's and covering every decade in between. As seemed fitting, tinned pineapple

and pineapple lumps were consumed while admiring the view, chatting and reminiscing before making our way back down the Pineapple Track.

The installation of the seat and lookout would not have been possible without Antony who has dedicated countless hours since the idea was conceived in 2019 and has seen it through to its completion. Pineapple Point is sure to become a wonderful asset to our city and will be enjoyed by generations to come. The OTMC gift to the city even made it into an article in the Otago Daily Times.

3 (Sunday) (100 Trips 087) Nicols Creek – Peppertree Track - Pineapple Point – Ross Bush Track, E-M, Antony Pettinger

Ten of us set off at the later start time of 10am, so that we would reach Pineapple Point at 'a good time for lunch'. We were to take a circuit up Nicols Creek to the Falls, then up part of the Moon Track to the 'vague route only' track (as per Antony Hamel's guide) to the Pineapple Track and Pineapple Point. We'd then return via the main track and Islay St to the cars parked at the start of the Nicols Creek track.

It was a cloudy start to the day - and it stayed that way all day. Once up high enough we were in the misty cloud, and although we didn't have any views all day, the mist added to the atmosphere of the walk and the beautiful bush.

We set off up the Nichols Falls track from Malvern St and paused for a few photos at the falls. Beautiful ferns and fuchsia, and mosses on the rocks and ground, make this bush feel so lush. Perhaps the misty air added to it. The Moon Track criss-crosses with the mountain bike tracks, giving lots of options for wider paths (and the risk of meeting a fast down-hill biker) and narrower tracks, but not to be missed are the large rocks and trees about halfway from Nichols Falls to the track turn-off. In this weather it felt like real Tolkien country.

Then we set off to cross over to the Pineapple Track on a track none of the party had been on, the upper and flatter of two tracks that could join a path between the Moon Track and Pineapple Point. And what a track! Although 'vague' it was not too hard to follow, just a little narrow and gnarly; slippery in places requiring some nimble scrambling and sliding, and a couple of moments of 'don't be putting this in the trip report!'

The bush is beautiful - the track is so narrow that the ferns cover the path almost completely in places, with lichens and mosses galore. Truly magical. And maybe a little trickier in places for keeping on two feet - but well worth the extra effort and muddy feet and trousers at the end.

The atmospheric rocks and trees on the Moon Track. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

And right on time for a fashionably late lunch, we arrived at Pineapple Point at around 1.20pm. There was some discussion that our late arrival might have coincided with the lifting of the cloud, but no such luck, and there remained very little view to be seen. It was a good thing the official opening of Pineapple Point was 48 hours earlier in much better weather.

After lunch we returned to Leith valley via the main Pineapple Track (enough tree-root scrambling and sliding has been done for the day, so it was agreed that the old Pineapple Track could wait for another day), enjoying the wide track to pick up pace and resume conversations. Back to the cars at around 2.30pm, making for an enjoyable outing on a lesser-used track.

Helen Emerson, on behalf of Ruth Thomas, Jessica Carroll, Lucy Jones, Tracey Skelton, Heather Taylor, Leonie Loeber, Jade Pettinger, Debbie and Antony Pettinger

9-10 (Weekend) (100 Trips 088) Mt Somers (3 day option), ALL, Caitlin Robertson and Andrew McConnell

Gathering the crew for another epic adventure with the double trouble team leaders, Andrew and Caitlin.

Heading off from the clubrooms 6pm sharp we cruised off. We were fed and happy to reach the Mt Somers Holiday grounds by 10:30pm. Good solid accommodation and facilities for the cost.

The following morning, the team were keen beans to hit the road. We gazed up at the snowcapped mountains we would be climbing into. She was looking pretty snowy still! We parked up at the Woolshed carpark and scooted up the track. A few off us pacing out the uphill (there was a lot of uphill at the start! And somehow, I didn't remember that much!).

Woolshed stream on the left. Morgan Stream on the right. Photo credit: Caitlin Robertson

We had a glorious day of sunshine of views, we passed the mine and into the rolling hills. Our team split into 2, one going up the hill, the other cruising the road track. Scampering up the rocky hill track led to higher views, and into the deep canyon grooved in the mountains beside us. Waterfalls, rapids and pools swirled below.

We met back up with our team at the woolshed Creek Hut for a quick bite. We marched on, again more of the uphill! Now a wide track, enough for a 4 wheeled drive to pass through. We walked as far as the watercaves and lead the team in, some extremely deep – and bloody cold - pools in there!

We scampered over a shallow stream and into the shrub on the other side, navigating up the steep sides, up and into spaniard country, Morgan stream. We dotted along, sidling to avoid the possible bogs below. Navigating tussock, spaniard and the odd bit of matagouri but relatively unhindered down the stream. We made camp on a perfectly flat patch of grass within an old, rusted wire fence.

Had lunch and made plans on which was the best route up onto the tops. It was easily decided that the best place to climb was right beside us and the groups began their ascent. The fit crew went ahead and made their way across the tops onto the Mount Winterslow range. They could see the vast views and into the Old Man Range. Not quite to Mt Winterslow but they were satisfied with traversing the range. Intermittent wind kept the bugs away sporadically. Otherwise, another campsite full of natter around a few cookers and in good company.

Photo credits: Wendel Broek

The morning brought warmth and purple pink skies, along with a few laughs. Wendel's tent became the centre of attention. Appears all the wind and use over time had finally jiggled the pole out of its thread.

It was a cruisy morning and relaxing walk back out, taking to low land near the stream instead, and no bog was found as all the grass had been pushed over by snow. Easy enough to walk on. We checked out the nearby pool and swing bridge on the way out, very impressed with a perfectly perched rock above the deep blue pool.

We could see and feel the change in weather from the west, as our fluffy clouds were disappearing, and rain loomed in the far away mountains. We got back without a drip or drop on us. A quick stop at the local café for a Fairlie pie and coffee and we were back on the road home. Thanks for another marvelous adventure.

Caitlin Robertson on behalf of Andrew McConnell, Emma and Garry Power, Wendel Broek, Kristy McNeill and Mark Stephenson

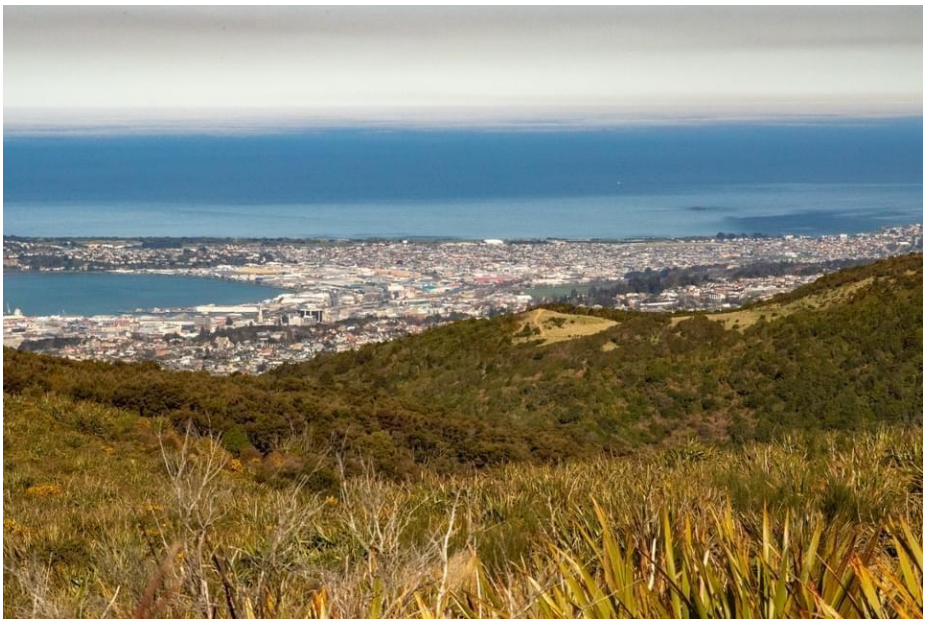
9 (Saturday) (100 Trips 089) Nicols Creek – Powerline Track – Morrisons Burn, E, Antony Pettinger

While the trip today was over part of last weekend's route, the weather was a complete contrast – from last weekend's mist with no views to stunning blue skies and spectacular views galore! Seven of us set off from the Nicols Creek car park with the first 1.5km being a road walk up Leith Valley Road to the Morrison Burn track. After passing through the gate, the Morrison Burn track follows a maintenance road for a short distance before turning off onto a track through the native bush. The track winds its way uphill, over tree roots and through the odd muddy section, under gnarly fuchsia trees, through ferns and beneath the giant fern leaves of the punga. After about half an hour we emerged out of the bush onto the Powerline track, which as the name suggests, follows a row of powerlines to the top. The higher we climbed, the more the views opened out behind with the vegetation started to change to flax.

Taking our time, we continued uphill climbing 600m from the car park to the top of Swamp Summit where we stopped for a breather and take in the views. Deciding that it was too early in the day to head back down, we took a detour over the top of Swampy Summit. First, we followed the gravel road to the Flight Radar or UFO as it is commonly referred to. From here we could see into the Silver Peaks, up the coast to Karitane and inland to the Rock and Pillars. The panoramic views really are spectacular from here. Next, we took the detour through the tussock to the Swampy Lagoons. There is no track to the lagoons and the ground under foot was mostly sphagnum moss so was very wet. The trick was to try and judge which bits would sink and which would bear your weight - we each had our own method with varying degrees of success. There are a number of small lagoons and a couple of larger ones and we arrived at the larger one with mostly dry feet. The colours in the lagoons is breathtaking with the calm, black water of the lagoon perfectly reflecting the browns, greens, yellows and oranges of the surrounding tussock.

Left: Team photo at the Swampy tarns/lagoons. Right: From Swampy summit towards the Lammerlaws and Rock and Pillars. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

We each found a dry spot for lunch and enjoyed the beauty of the place while munching on our sandwiches. After lunch, we were faced with the problem of finding the track again so we made our way through the wet, springy moss, tussock and low scrub as best we could to the track which we followed down Swampy Summit to the Moon Track. The top part of the Moon Track passes through the tussock, beside an old fence and onto the mountain bike track which zig zags down the hill, winding through the large rock tors before passing into the native bush. At bush line, we diverted off the mountain bike track, onto the walking track which takes a much more direct route down the hill. The walking track crosses the bike track regularly so care is needed to stick to the walking track. Despite having seen a number of mountain bikers setting off early in the day, we saw or heard no one on either the walking or biking track. The Moon Track initially drops 300m to a lovely vantage point where we stopped for a short break to take in the stunning views of the city.



Pineapple Point can be seen clearly from the Moon Track. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

Then it was down another 200m back to the cars, passing Nicols Falls where we stopped in the cool of the gorge to catch our breath. The final push saw us back at the car 6 hours and 16.2km's after starting and no wonder we were feeling a little tired, after having climbed/descended nearly 800m.

Debbie Pettinger for Helen Emerson, Ash Flintoff, Heather MacDonald, Rebecca Armstrong, Deb Guthrie and Antony Pettinger

10 (Sunday) (100 Trips 090) Trotters Gorge, E, Alan Thomson

The first OTC trip to Trotters Gorge was in 1930 where they traveled by train to the closest station, however with no train available today, twelve people took the easier option of a one-hour car drive to Trotters Gorge. The plan was for two short walks with each following a different tributary of Trotters Creek. The first walk was around the Trotters Gorge Loop Track which takes around 1.5 hours with the track entering the native podocarp bush at the southern end of the picnic area and follows the creek past impressive river sculptured cliffs and caves. Leaving the creek, the track climbs 100m through broadleaf forest to the ridge where we made the short detour to the bluffs which are hard, rough rocks with fossils visible. These ancient sedimentary rocks are very old and were deposited during the period when Zealandia was still separating from Gondwana. We scrambled up onto the bluffs and were rewarded with views that looked out to the coast and further into the gorge itself, seeing the wonderful exposed rock formations that are the result of ancient braided rivers that deposited sediment en masse as the river flowed to the sea.

We found a nice spot for a morning tea break before heading down the other side of the ridge, through native kanuka forest back to the gorge which we followed back to the picnic ground at the start. Being too early for lunch we continued on our walk, first crossing the creek and following a narrow path through a rock tunnel and along beside Trotters Creek where we marveled at the clear water. This would be a magic spot during summer with so many perfect swimming holes, each surrounded by the lush, green bush.

Trotters Creek. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

After crossing the creek several times, although none were difficult crossings with the creek being so low, we reached the Otago University Tramping Club's hut where we stopped for an early lunch. This hut and large flat area in front of it has been popular for OTMC socials and picnics over the years, particularly with the deep swimming hole right out the front of the hut. Sadly today, the swimming hole is no more as it has been filled with gravel as the result of numerous floods over the years, despite this, the hut is still a nice place to visit, and we made use of the deck for lunch. After eating, we headed further up the creek, crossing a couple more times before climbing a small hill to a rocky outcrop where some of us ventured out onto the rocky promontory for more great views. From this vantage point we were able to see more of the wonderful rock bluffs that had been carved out many millennia ago. The wilding pines and gorse are getting a good foothold on the cliffs, and it will only be a few more years before the impressive rock bluffs are lost behind a wall of trees. From this vantage point we were able to look down onto the track that we walked along before climbing up onto the rocky bluff.

Lunch stop at the Otago University Tramping Club's hut. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

Knowing that others were waiting on us, we scrambled back along the rocky shoulder to the safety of the trees and clambered back down to the track where we able to look up to where we had been standing earlier. It is impressive to see the sheer rock cliffs that we had been standing on and very happy to be back on firm ground, although it is sad to see the wilding pines taking over. Once back at the bottom of the

cliff it was a fast 40-minute walk back along the side of Trotters Creek with its numerous crossings before we caught up with the tail end of the group just as they were arriving back at the picnic area. It had been a fun day with two short walks that had only whetted our appetite to come back and explore the area a bit more.

Debbie Pettinger for Deb Guthrie, Rob Seeley, Alan Thomson, Lucy Jones, Leonie Loeber, Peter Loeber, Helen Jones, Holly Yang, Heather Taylor, Paulette George and Antony Pettinger

16 (Saturday) (100 Trips 091) Mt Grand (via Frasers Bush), E, Debbie Pettinger

This short afternoon walk was based on a trip from 100 years ago where 35 club members walked from Burnside to the Southern Reservoir then over paddocks to Mt Grand Reservoir and back to Kaikorai via Frasers Gully. Despite the forecast for afternoon showers, 11 of us turned up at Frasers Gully enthusiastic for an afternoon's walk. The sky was overcast but the temperature was warm, and we wasted no time in tackling the Fraser's Gully track which starts off wide and flat walking alongside the Kaikorai Stream. This area is popular with dog walkers and today was no exception as we passed a number of dogs and their owners along the way. As the track climbs the 140m to Dalziel Road, it narrows significantly, being wide enough for only one person at a time, although it stays dry underfoot with no mud in sight. We reached Dalziel Road before we knew it and the walk along Dalziel Road took no time as we reached Mt Grand reservoir 45 minutes after leaving the cars at Fraser Gully.

Team photo. Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

We had a quick drink and wondered if we would be able to circumnavigate the reservoir but then spied a locked gate blocking our access, so we elected to return back to the cars. The return journey saw us taking an alternative route, down the other side of the Kaikorai Stream. The track follows the contour as it wanders around behind the houses of Brockville before reaching an open area that has recently been replanted in native bush and this marked the start of the descent down to the creek.

Once at the bottom of the hill, we crossed the Kaikorai Stream at a dry ford, so we were able to keep dry feet and then it was a short walk back to the cars, only 1.5 hours after leaving and 6.2km distance and not a drop of rain in sight.

Debbie Pettinger for Antony Pettinger, Jade Pettinger, Helen Jones, Sandy Webb, Lyn McArley, Ash Flintoff, Amy Chiles Telfer, Ruth Thomas, Heather MacDonald, Heather Taylor

17 (Sunday) (100 Trips 092) Normanby – near Waitati – Waitati Valley – Leith Road, F, Antony Pettinger

Four intrepid trampers met at 7am at Gardens Corner. The rain, which had been heavy overnight, magically stopped as we started our adventure. We were on a mission to recreate the 'best day so far' trip of our OTC forebears, as reported by Miss L Tweedie.

Otago Tramping Club - Miss L. Tweedie Diaries - 1923

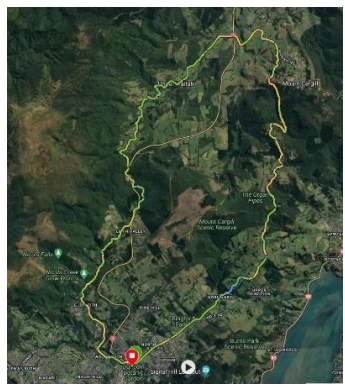
September 30, 1923: Upper Junction to Waitati - Sullivans Dam - Duke St
Meet: Gardens Corner at 9am

"Met at Gardens at 9am. Walked to Normanby and took the short cut to the Upper Junction then along the Main Road to Waitati. 1210pm. Went up to crib and cooked dinner. Had bacon and eggs, pineapple and cream, sandwiches, cakes and biscuits and tea, then sat out on verandah to recover.

Left Saratoga 4.30pm and started along Leith Valley Road. Had one spell for about 10 mins and reached Sullivans Dam at 6.45pm. Ate some egg sandwiches and had a drink then left again at 7pm. Lovely tramp down to Duke St in the cool of the evening. Arrived there 8.15pm. A good tramp of about 26 mile.

Glorious day and all had a very enjoyable tramp.

Unofficial tramp
5 members
The best day so far"



Left: Miss Tweedie's trip report. Right: our route

We set off at the earlier time to avoid the Sunday traffic on Mt Cargill Road and enjoyed looking into the houses and gardens along North Road as we walked and talked. The benefit of road walking is not having to watch or think about where you are putting your feet, so plenty of opportunity to look about. We followed Norwood Street passed Forrester Park and the entrance to Bethunes Gully, stopping to take

jackets off before the climb to Upper Junction. The wind picked up here, so jackets back on, as we stopped briefly to pay our respects at the war memorial.

From there it is largely level for a good distance along Mt Cargill Road and it was breezy and drizzly enough to keep us focused on the task, although still able to admire the views down the peninsula that are normally observed at driving speed along here. Passing the entrance to the Organ Pipes track we stopped for a snack and a time-check (not quite 9am, making good progress), and on around the road, then winding down through really rather nice native bush to approach the intersection with Shortcut Road and Blueskin Rd. Before we knew it, we were on Donalds Hill Road and crossing State Highway 1. Time for lunch, surely? Wait, it was only 10.30am. We're making great progress, indeed!

Mid-morning being a little too early to stop, we pushed on a little further up Waitati Valley Road and stopped at the bridge over the Waitati River to refuel before the long and steady climb up. Heads down, conversation dialled up, we set off up the road towards our next crossing of SH1 and on to Sullivans Dam. There's not too much traffic on that road, so when a car sidles up alongside, and a voice from within calls out 'anyone for a cup of tea?', you know you are in luck! I wonder if they've also bought pineapple and cream? (I am rather hoping not ….). So, with a plan to take Rebecca up on her offer of a picnic at Sullivans Dam, she drove on to park and walk back down to meet us for the last hour up the hill, and our pace picked up again.

View towards Blueskin Bay from Waitati Valley Road. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

Crossing SH1 at the crest of the hill by the entrance to the Leith Saddle walkway it was just a short walk down to Sullivans Dam, where cups of tea and delicious nut slice were eagerly consumed.

Leaving Sullivans Dam at 1pm, Rebecca accompanied us on the walk down Leith Valley Road and we reached the Gardens Corner at 2.30pm. Not bad timing, comparing ourselves to Miss Tweedie and her companions 100 years ago. The distance was 32.7km, and we took 6.5 hours walking time. There's some satisfaction in knowing you've walked to Waitati (almost) and back. And if our members 100 years ago could do it (and seemingly, did it fairly regularly) it's good to know that we can, too.

Helen Emerson for Antony Pettinger, Debbie Pettinger, Laurence Prattley, and a special guest appearance by Rebecca Armstrong (with the picnic).

23 (Saturday) (100 Trips 091) Ross Bush Track – Ben Rudd's (OTC first encounter with Ben Rudd, 100 Years to the day), E, Tracy Pettinger

This Day Trip numbered 91. A hundred years before it, the Club first came across the landowner, Ben Rudd, that mighty little man, who wielded a shot gun at that time. We weren't hoping to see his ghost… but, maybe he was smiling down upon us, the respectful new owners of his home?

There was a party of 15 altogether, but we split at the start into a car-full to drive to start from Booth Road, while the others walked from Woodhaugh Gardens at the George Street entrance. It turned out we would be collecting company as we went.

The route followed up the Ross Bush/original Pineapple Track as the OTC had done 100 years ago, to where we all met up at Pineapple Point. Here, Debbie produced a bag of Pineapple Lumps to share, just to keep the flavour of the theme. I'm not sure pineapple lumps had been invented 100 years ago. They had the real thing - albeit in the new-fangled tins.

After appropriate photography, we walked up and over to the shelter at Ben Rudd's hut site for lunch, via the Firebreak that runs from the Bullring to Swampy. Some of us explored the Simes' Beech Walk, a pathway that needs more traffic to stomp it in place. It was raining on and off the whole day, but 15 of us could fit into the shelter without having to sit on each other's knees.

Leonie had made a beautiful cake to celebrate the occasion and we all certainly enjoyed that, while listening to Ricky Kim performing a couple of tunes on his flute. Thank you both for making it a special, memorable time. As Richard said, if Ben had

heard such lovely music when first encountering the trampers, he might have said "you people are welcome anytime". (Well, maybe not…, but Leonie's cake just might have worked…)

At Pineapple Point (left) and Ben Rudd's (right). Photo credits: Jade Pettinger and Antony Pettinger

One of the early OTC trips was piped over the hills of Flagstaff. I'm sure that would have drawn some interest from those below in those Dunedin suburbs! Thank you, Ricky, for not playing bagpipes.

The return trip was much the same except, as the tracks were a little muddy and slippery, we went down the new Pineapple Track. I thought "What a nice sunny bunch to spend a dull day with". Thanks for the opportunity to lead you.

Tracy Pettinger for Richard, Antony, Debbie and Jade Pettinger, Mike Scott, Leonie Loeber, Chris Valentine, Ricky Kim, Susan Dunn, Tina Anderson, Ruth Thomas, David and Penny McArthur and Helen Jones. It was lovely to see Saskia Bronstring on this walk.

24 (Sunday) (100 Trips 094) Hightop – Greengage – Raingauge – Swampy Ridge, M-F, Antony Pettinger

Six hardy souls: Anthony Pettinger, Debbie Pettinger, Heather McDonald, Ash Flintoff, Mark Stephenson, Jade Pettinger, set off on the easy walk from Mountain Road to the Green Hut site where we had an early morning smoko.

Then we backtracked a little and diverted to the Greengage Track, the sign for which is not visible from the main track. It starts off going uphill but do not be fooled. The gentle downhill with views leads you down, and steeper down through lovely bush, then even steeper and steeper till you end up on a rope down a mudslide.

Lovely stream at the bottom, then basically the same kind of thing the other side. But up, steep at first and slippy, then becoming gentler, out of the bush past the lonesome pine.

Left: looking towards Mosgiel from the hight point of Greengage track. Right: Swampy Ridge. Photo credits: Antony Pettinger.

Then the mud began. We took the shortcut through Cowpat Grove, then onto the sloppy Swampy Track, with mutant wild cows hiding in the scrub. Then back to Hightop and out to the cars.

I wanted to go another round it was so much fun, but nobody else would bite… No hoyle, man! (… writes Mark Stephenson)

28 (Thursday) (100 Trips 095) Nicols Creek to Pineapple Point night walk, E, Debbie Pettinger

The trip tonight was a change from our usual day trip as 12 people gathered at the Nicols Falls car park at 7.30pm for a moonlight walk. We headed up the wide Nicols Falls track for about 7 minutes to the gorge which is popular for glow worm viewing. The damp air from the creek and the narrow, fern covered walls of the gorge are a haven for glow worms. Sadly, we were a little early as it was still too light for the glow worms so we ventured into the gorge further, keeping dry feet as we crossed the creek and spent 15 minutes eagerly watching the gorge walls, waiting for the mysterious glow worms to reveal themselves in the gathering gloom. From the gorge we retraced our steps a few metres back down the track before turning off onto the track that wound its way up hill, through the bush to Pineapple Point

Those that had the foresight to bring head torches turned them on and up the hill we continued, stopping every so often to keep the party together and ensure that no one wandered off at any of the track junctions that we passed. On up the hill we went, through a grassy clearing and back into the bush, scaring a pig happily rooting in the

undergrowth until we came along and off along the track it raced, disappearing into the dark once it reached the end of the light from our torches. After about an hour of magical walking by torchlight where our focus was as far as our torches would light or, for those without a torch, the pair of feet directly in front of us, we emerged out of the bush onto the Pineapple Track and made the short detour to Pineapple Point where we were rewarded with wonderful views of the city by night. The lookout at Pineapple Point is the perfect place for the lookout with the lights of the city strung out before us and the full moon overhead.

Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

We spent some time here, admiring the view before the cold wind drove us down the Pineapple Track into the shelter of the trees. Not wanting the night to end too quickly, we took the McGouns Track, continuing our walk through the native bush, lit by our head torches. Once back to the road, it was an easy 1km road walk back to the cars. Everyone agreed that it had been a fun 2 hour, 6.5km walk in the moonlight and one they would happily repeat.

Debbie Pettinger for Laurence Prattley, Raewyn Prattley, Philip van zijl, Tina Anderson, Rodger Clarkson, Megan Lahood, Ash Flintoff, Michael Priestnall, Barbara, Jade Pettinger & Antony Pettinger

30 (Saturday) (100 Trips 083) Work Party – installation of Pineapple Point signage.

As trip #83 snow caving had been cancelled, a replacement trip was planned as a work party for the installation of the Pineapple Point signs ready for the Centenary in three weeks' time. Club work parties date back to 1927, when the OTC held a working bee on the Ferguson's Creek Track. Since then, over 220 'official' workdays have been held, along with many informal days spent by members working on various tracks and huts. The variety of club work parties is quite varied, ranging from Flagstaff and the Silver Peaks right through to Treble Cone, Routeburn, Fiordland and Esquilant Bivvy. This work party involved carrying the Pineapple Point posts and sign up the Pineapple Track and install them onsite. Earlier in the week the four of us had already made a couple of trips up the Pineapple Track, carrying the posts and sign up to make it easier on the day.

The day dawned cold with snow on the hills and rain on the roof, but four hardy souls had made the commitment to be there, and they were not to be deterred, arriving at Booth Road at 8am in light rain. The tools and remaining sign were divided up amongst the group with Antony and Jade taking all the tools and heading straight up the Pineapple Track so that they could begin work assembling the large Pineapple Point sign and digging the holes for the posts. This left Debbie and Dylan to carry the remaining post, which was also the heaviest of all the posts, up the hill. The heavy post with signs attached was too heavy for one person to carry so a rope was tied around the post with a hand hold for two people meaning that Dylan and Debbie had to walk in tandem, carrying the post between them 300m up the hill to Pineapple Point. Needless to say, there were a number of stops to rest and change sides for the post carriers, but they eventually arrived onsite to find that Antony and Jade had made great progress in assembling the sign.

Photo credit: Dylan Pettinger

Despite the falling snow, it wasn't cold and the effort of carrying things up to Pineapple Point had warmed everyone up and once the sign had been fully assembled it was time to dig the post holes. Surprisingly there were very few rocks and the digging went fast with the large sign being installed relatively quickly despite the falling snow. Once the large sign had been put in place, our attention turned to the post with the small signs attached. A suitable site was chosen, and the hole dug, only to discover a large rock that was impossible to move so a new position for the sign was chosen and digging commenced again. This time there were only a few smaller rocks to excavate for the post to be at the right height.

Photo credit: Dylan Pettinger

During the digging of the post holes for the smaller sign, a cold wind picked up and those not digging kept warm by cutting some of the broom back from the track up to the point. By the time the post had been put in place, it was surprising to see most of the snow had melted but the wind was very cold, and we wasted no time in picking up all the tools and heading down the track to the cars and home for a warm shower.

Debbie Pettinger for Antony, Jade and Dylan Pettinger

Upcoming Trips

In next month's bulletin, October 2023, read all about the Club's trips:

DAY TRIPS
Sandymount to Smaills ✶ Opoho Creek and Signal Hill ✶ Ship at Anchor ✶ Ross Creek ✶ Mt Kettle/Mihiwaka area 5 summits ✶ Pineapple Point✶ Flagstaff and Ben Rudd's ✶ Silver Peaks Tops ✶

For the next day and weekend trips see:

OTMC Sept 2023 to Oct 2024 Trip Programme

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

Trip reports of the OTMC anniversary trips are nearing an end. History has been made – and it will continue to be made beyond the Centenary!

We will continue to publish monthly bulletins during 2023 so please email your trip reports for the next issue to **helenemerson@yahoo.com within a week after the trip**.

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!