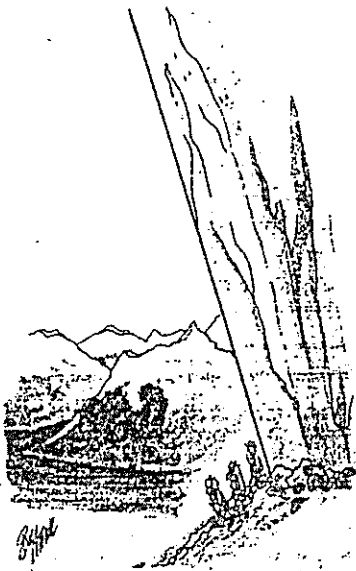


Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club
P.O. BOX 1120 DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

Registered at P.O.H.Q. Wellington for Transmission by Post as a Magazine

November 1987



“OK, guys, it’s going to be a little tougher
from here on up.”

PRESIDENT	Spen Walker	737657
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ian Sime	36-185
SECRETARY	Bill Robertson	877519
TREASURER	Jane Bruce	737657
CHIEF GUIDE	Antony Pettinger	879440
MEMBERSHIP SEC.	Mary Hewinson	770200
SOCIAL SEC.	Mary Hewinson	770200
EDITOR	David Peacock	779855
DAY TRIP CONV.	Philip Jenkins	882861
SAR	Stu Mathieson	34-359

*inside: a first-timer
records his impressions*

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

Well, I must begin by apologising to all the contributors whose work has not appeared in this issue. Due to University exams, I have deliberately kept the size of this issue down but I promise to include all the outstanding articles in the next Bulletin.

I am pleased to say that I have had some feedback following last month's editorial. The main concerns are my proposals to have a "business" meeting every two months and the axing of the married subscription.

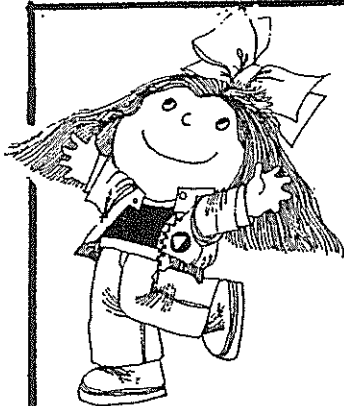
Regarding the meetings, I still think that we should "give it a go". Okay, if no-one turns up, we'll have to abandon the idea but surely there's no harm in trying. Further some of the more vocal critics attend very few meetings anyway so for them, the exercise is academic anyway.

Their second objection is more substantial and deserves a fuller reply. I still stick by my proposal to axe married subs but, perhaps, there is room for a "Family" subscription for those with young children. Fair enough, parents of young families do have extra costs and may have difficulties in actively participating in Club functions. However for those couples, including some in de facto relationships, without children, it seems to me to be manifestly unfair that purely by virtue of their conjugal relationship, they should get a substantial reduction in subscription. Contrary to what some people suggest, the Club is principally a tramping Club and not a dating/marriage bureaux. Is it fair to the single, separated, divorced members of the Club to have such a discriminatory category?

I do note, however, that one correspondent comments on the effective cost of the Bulletin to them as married, inactive members i.e. $\$42/12 = \3.50 per issue. I agree that, on that basis, it is a substantial sum for this publication. I will leave it to others to argue with their economic argument but, as Editor, I am very concerned that people think that they are getting their money's worth with the Bulletin. So what do you want? It is understandable that Postal and other inactive members may feel left out and that the Bulletin is an incestuous inward-looking publication. I agree, this flimsy magazine should be a forum to discuss issues of wider import to the tramping world. So, let's do it.

And now, I will suggest that the Club only has meetings once every two weeks as once a week does seem like overkill. Further, we are soon to be confronted with the harsh realities of the new economic order i.e. rent-paying. I suggest that if people look at the probable economics of our future plight, they will give such a proposal due consideration. **KEEP WRITING!**





Tracy says "Gudday" to

Bill Houston, 39 Falkland St., 772-863

Anne-marie M Barnes

May you have tremendous tramping with
the Club. Welcome!

Trip Report by Graham Hopkins

NORTH-SOUTH TEMPLE
SEPTEMBER 12 & 13

The Ohau area has always been a favourite of mine, one of my first trips with the Club was to the South Temple. I had therefore looked forward to revisiting the area for some time.

On Friday night, the omens were all bad - rain, one van misplaced and a late start. However the ride up was the most luxurious I've had with the Club (thanks Bill!).

Saturday was overcast and showery but with patches of blue sky. We decided to make a dash up the North Temple and down the South the following day. (The other 2 parties making the opposite trip).

An hour and half from the picnic ground saw us at the North Temple hut. The snow was quite low in the valley and the tops were obscured by misty cloud. We stopped for lunch at the bottom of the pass about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour from the hut.

It was quite a grunt getting up the pass, the snow being waist deep in places with a lot of avalanche debris heaped up here and there. We took turns plugging steps with plenty of rest stops. Every now and then, we would hear a rumble and a small avalanche would come down the cliffs alongside the pass. The final part was quite icy which I found easier going than the earlier deep snow. We reached the top of the pass at about 3-15 and, after the obligatory photo stop, bounded down the other side to meet the other two parties slogging it up from the South Temple. Our party pitched tent in view of the pass and spent the rest of the day in our sleeping bags. We watched one party go over the top and then had a pleasant meal.

The next morning we watched Dave's party going over the pass while

having breakfast followed by a pleasant walk down the valley (except for the sandflies).

An hour or so from the South Temple hut we had lunch and then back to the picnic ground. The weather broke just as we were loading the vehicles but I, for one, didn't mind as our party was travelling in comfort again. It was, in fact, the perfect end to a perfect trip which just goes to show that you shouldn't take any notice of omens!

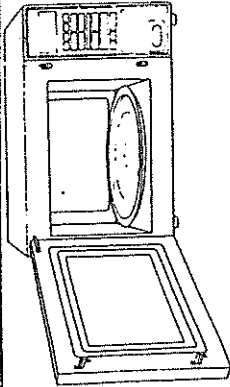
Graham Hopkins for Bill Allcock, Antony Pettinger and Debbie Williams.



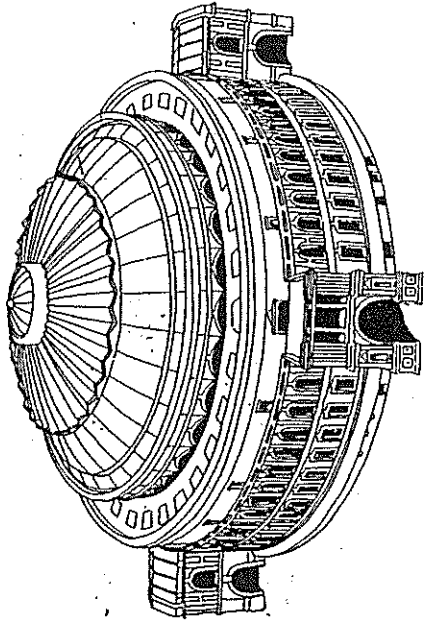
Trip Programme

- 15 Nov. end to end traverse Maungatuas (M) MIKE FLOATE (739-780)
Travel along the tops of the Maungatuas and enjoy spectacular views of the Taieri and surroundings.
- 22 Nov. Fraser Gully (M) PETER MASON (775-237)
This obscure part of New Zealand is situated in the Hindon area. Peter will show you where & also some interesting history of the place.
- 29 Nov. TRAMPARAMA COMMITTEE
This is going to be the OTMC's contribution to the National Parks Centennial. Club members will be showing the general public what tramping is all about. Also we may be taking a socially-disadvantaged group out for a tramp. We hope there'll be a lot of support for this event.
- 6 Dec. No day trip - any offers? Ring Antony P. (879-440)
- 5/6 Dec. Skippers/Mt Aurum (ALL) PETER MASON (775-237)
Last w/e trip for the year. The area is part of the Shotover River catchment. Skippers Creek was once a major gold-mining area with a lot of equipment still on site. Come with Peter and he will take you back a century.
- 13 Dec. Blackhead (E) JOHN POHL
Close to Dunedin but rarely visited. Come and see the distinctive rock features and other delights.

In the latest Auckland Tramping Club magazine, the donation of a microwave to one of their "huts" was announced. Anyone wishing to donate a microwave, dishwasher, waterbed etc for Green Hut, please contact the Committee.



Bronwyn Perriam of Silverpeaks Station has advised the Club that their shearer's quarters are now available for hire by prior arrangement. Rates are \$10 a night for adults, \$5 per child and \$25 for a family. Bronwyn can be contacted on Mossiel 3497. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

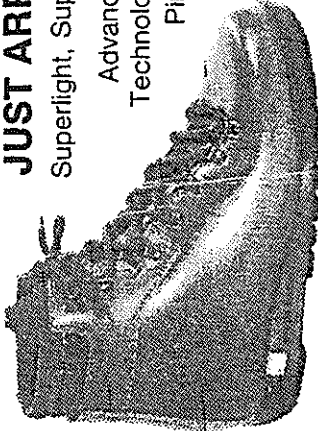


ASOLO

THE ULTIMATE IN HIKERS FOOTWEAR
JUST ARRIVED

Superlight, Superstrong

Advanced Italian
Technology Using
Pirelli Soles



SPECIAL
 SUPER SCOUT: \$478 \$156.80
 HORIZON K: \$189.00 \$169.70
 HORIZON S: \$222.00 \$196.00

WILDERNESS
 MOUNTAINEERING • SKIING • RAFTING SHOP
 101 STUART ST., DUNEDIN TELEPHONE 773-679

One of our friends has gone

It is always an unpleasant task to have to include an obituary and, unfortunately, one is called for now. I never met Jim Freeman and I regret that and I hope that he will accept the following verse as both my greetings and farewell to him.

Death, thy servant, is at my door. He has crossed the unknown sea and brought thy call to my home.

The night is dark and my heart is fearful - yet I will take up the lamp, open my gates and bow to him my welcome. It is thy messenger who stands at my door.

I will worship him with folded hands, and with tears. I will worship him placing at his feet the treasure of my heart.

He will go back with his errand done, leaving a dark shadow on my morning; and in my desolate home only my forlorn self will remain as my last offering to thee.

Tagore, from gitanjali, LXXXVI

Stanley James Freeman

Jim died quietly on 5th August following a heart attack several days earlier. With his death, the Club lost one of its most active life members and many of us a good friend.

While still a newcomer to the tramping world, I acquired Jim as one of my first tutors. Although I was at that age that often resents advice from one's elders, I cannot recall a single occasion where a word from Jim seemed out of place. He had that rare knack of speaking more as a friend than a teacher so his "Watch your step there" or "This is a better way of burning porridge" never caused resentment. In this way, Jim guided many young folk to a lifelong interest in the hills.

In the early 1960's, a large Club party - Jim included - was successful in climbing Mt Aeolus. I can still remember the look on his face as we sat on the summit rocks. It was the look of a man who was at peace both with himself and his environment. It was then that I realised that tramping was more than just "heads down and away we go".

As an example, a significant aspect of Jim's tramping was the long, tireless hours he put in track clearing. Seldom was a slasher far from his hand! Much of the reason why the Ben Rudd site has remained relatively tidy was due to Jim's efforts.



His third major contribution occurred some twenty years ago. At a time when the OTMC was over-endowed with youth, anyone over 30 was deemed "past it". Jim saw the need for some outlet to cater for the interests of the "oldies" and, as result, the Over-30's Club was formed.

Up to a few weeks before his death, Jim still went walking - only now it was around Dunedin's streets with, as often as not, his beloved grand-daughters in tow.

Jim's philosophy on tramping - and perhaps on life itself - is best summed up in the opening lines of Paul Powell's poem, "Bivouac".

"There is an endless substance in the hills,
Three limitless dimensions, and the fourth's the mind,
Death's but the bridge to infinite adventuring ..."

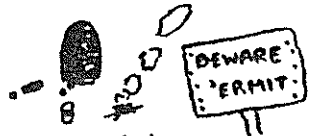
To Mrs Freeman, Ed, Bryan and Louise, we thank you for having had the privilege of sharing in Jim's life.

Ron Keen

Trip Report by Bill Robertson



HERMIT'S CAVE DAYTRIP
OCTOBER 5TH



Most club members seem to know roughly where the Hermit's cave is but have never actually found it. That is still the case as there was only 5 people on this trip.

The day started off nice and warm but about the time we got to Green Hut the clouds rolled over. There were lots of people about but no one else went along Rocky Ridge.

The Hermit's Cave is near the bottom of a series of large rock bluffs on the western side of the high point of Rocky Ridge (about 45 mins from the track to Jubilee). We went down the south side of the bluffs but it is probably better to follow the track for a few more yards, go between two large rocks, and then drop down the north side of the bluffs.

The cave is a comfortable size for about four but I wouldn't like to be in it during a sbuwesterly storm. We had to eat our lunch at the cave to give us the strength to scramble up to Rocky Ridge. While eating our lunch, we enjoyed a good view of people struggling up the Devil's Staircase directly across the gully.

On the way out, the leader suffered the embarassment of struggling to keep up with his party - too much of a good time on our recent holiday, perhaps. We took about 3 hours each way which included going up Silverpeak No 2 on the way home.

Arthur Blondell, Lois Mead, Philip Jenkins, Heather & Bill Robertson. (and the 'ermit)



SUBSCRIPTIONS



Have YOU paid yours yet??? How am I going to finance my exotic erotic holiday abroad unless you pay your dues?

BE WARNED!!

The Membership Secretary is after you!



Letters to the ~~idiot~~

editor



Sir, If your editorial in the October Bulletin was designed to provoke response it has been successful. Some of the arrogant and erroneous statements in that editorial require comment. Since we are sure there are more poison pens in the club than ours, we will restrict our main comments to the question of abolishing Married Subscriptions.

We have been members of the Otago Tramping and Married Club for many years. We tramped at first, then, of course, got married. One of the main reasons was the prospect of saving substantial sums of money each year on OTMC subs by having a "married" subscription. If the married subscription is abolished, more and more people will "live in sin" rather than marry, as there would be no incentive for marriage.

On a (slightly) more serious note, we should point out that the majority of "married" members are not active club trampers, but like to retain a link with the club that fostered their marriage. Since we have no immediate plans to marry again, there is very little point in remaining members other than to retain that link. We are sure most other "married" members would agree with that too. Hence by abolishing the "married" subscription, the club stands to lose either (a) a small sum of money as one partner resigns or (b) a large sum of money as both partners resign.

It may seem advantageous for many members to rid the club of us old fuddy-duddies, however in the economic climate of "user-pays", it is to the Club's benefit to have a few people foolish enough to pay over \$40.00 a year to receive Bulletins which chat inanely about people they have never met or heard of. This financial argument is so strong, in fact, that those fuddy-duddies should probably be tolerated and humoured just a little bit anyway.

From our point of view, our sub buys us about 12 Bulletins, at \$3.50 each, or about 30cents a page. Hence we would appreciate a refund of 60cents, being the cost to us of your editorial which we don't want, thanks very much.

Best wishes for future Bulletins. Keep up the stirring, it is good to be provoked every now and then.

Karen and David Craw

P.S. 1) We support non-member surcharges (they were probably the main reason we joined in the first place). Club members should have priority on trips.

2) Club politics are unmitigatingly boring to all members other than the Committee members (and in fact to many Committee members, which is why we left Committee). Don't frighten people away in droves every couple of months!

3) Trips for new members: Isn't that called "Bushcraft"?

Sir, Dear "obviously single" Editor. Congratulations on a thought-provoking spiel last month even if you got it all wrong.

I'm not a regular club night attender for several reasons. Primarily I feel weekly meetings with speakers each week results in poor quality/calibre speakers night after night. Dragging half the day-to-day running of the Club (i.e. Committee business) out for a business meeting 1 meeting in 8 would further denigrate this quality. They would be the most boring of all. The lack of nominations for committee each year means that most club members are: i) - apathetic or have already done their turn; ii) - not interested in such business; iii) - happy with way club is going. I do not feel there is a need to go to whole of active club every other month - a bit like a Government having 6 referendums a year and all gathering at David Lange's penthouse.

Second objection. I'm married and I like married subs, and no, it's not just because they're cheaper. (Only mercenary Editors would dare to get "married" to other mercenary Committee members just to qualify for a cheaper subscription). Rather most married couples are now less active in club due to sprouting next-generation trampers or propping up the world's financial institutions. Between them they maybe do as much with the club as each did previously. In all likelihood there are a number who stay members out of sentimental reasons - was it the club that got the couple together? - rather than anything else. If each had to pay full subscription, I'm sure many would resign. I know at least one of us would have, particularly as Associate Membership is not open to city dwellers.

Axng married subscriptions would then act against your other topic - increasing the club membership. On this matter is the Club ailing? Membership has been about the same for year after year and I have not seen a sharp decline latterly. So why all the worry?

Mark Hanger

P.S. Are you and Mary really getting married just for cheaper subs? (No - that wasn't the reason but now you mention it Ed)

Report from a first time tramper to other beginners

Trip Report by John Galloway

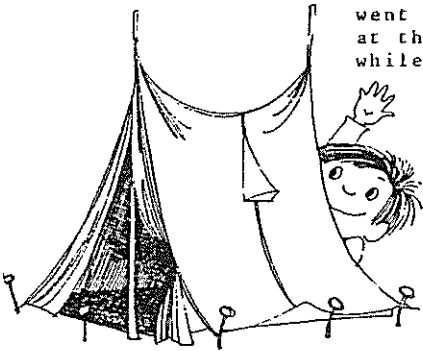
LENNOX PASS DOUBLE CROSSING
OCTOBER 24-25

Friday 23 October was a splendid day, still warm when I was picked up by OTMC near Waihola, but the windscreen wipers were going at Queenstown on our way to Earnslaw.

What am I doing here; around midnight in the rain, with 2 people I don't know much about and a tent I know a lot less about?; when I could have spent the evening sleeping in my lazy-boy in front of the TV with \$40 trip fee still in my pocket!

Next morning, Bill and Heather Robertson and I, with packs aboard headed up the east side of Earnslawburn valley along a well-marked track through the beech. By early afternoon we were two-thirds of the way up the valley and beyond the bush. A secluded yet majestic valley terminated abruptly by the south face of Mount Earnslaw and its impressive glacier. The thundering crashing ice and snow is spectacular by day and eerie at night.

All around are myriads of waterfalls. We went on to a moraine to take a closer look at the Gilkinson Falls and the avalanches while a kea took a close look at us.



The upper end of the Earnslawburn valley is indeed a unique campsite.

I never believed that people could fly unaided by an aeroplane or at least a hang-glider, but when I took my pack off on Saturday I just about became airborne.

That was one of the good things about each evening; the other was the meals. Soup, followed by tasty billy cook-ups of mince, rice-risotto, carrots, onions, cauli and to finish, sponge, apricots and whipped cream - yes, whipped cream. Delicious food, Heather!

Day two, and we were on our way up to Lennox Pass. About 300 metres from the top, I discovered why I was carrying the gadget looking like a combination crow-bar, adze, pick and bottle-opener. Bill gave me a crash course on walking in snow with an ice-axe. I don't think I did it very well but having one of those things strapped to your pack lifts one's status and ego - in my case, quite undeservedly.

At the top, we "wowed" at the view, took the photos, and were just beginning to reward ourselves with a snack when the mountain weather's sadistic humour sent a hail shower.

But the view was magnificent; up the Rees to the pass, across

to the Richardson Mts, particularly Lochnagar; 25 Mile Creek and the two Devil Creeks opposite.

And so down to the Lennox Stream.

Now our story is that we found it such an easy amble over Lennox Pass that we decided to go back over to fill-in the weekend. However, as a reader of the "Bulletin", you are about to learn the true story - that we "chickened out" at Lennox Stream.

Some of the Club's mountain goats told us the "Lennox Stream crossing is 200 metres above the falls". "Well" you say, "that's simple, surely!".

But "crossing" to them doesn't mean a swing-bridge, with steps and a handrail on the approaches. With the spring thaw of that weekend, the Lennox was a very generous "stream". And "the falls"? which falls? Depending on your minimum specifications for "falls", there are 6 to 10 falls from where the Lennox emerges from a huge flow of snow and ice below the glacier, until its final majestic plunge into the Rees Valley. The big one can't be seen from the true right side.

For a new-chum tramper, with an ample pack, no rope, on the wrong side of 50, my trying to cross the Lennox ~~Stream~~ Canyon would only benefit the Superannuation Fund by their having one less potential claimant.

We spent sunday afternoon (plus an hour's Daylight Saving Time) unsuccessfully looking for the "crossing" before setting up camp and brooding over this frustration.

A message to fellow-beginners:- If you ever leave home with a pack on your back you must, must, must take one of those excellent Lands & Survey 1:50000 detailed contour maps. Besides being useful for interpreting the view, they were essential in our predicament. Contours are incredibly accurate and with careful study, and good eyesight, you can plot routes or, as in our case, eliminate them.

There was no alternative but to go back over the top.

Next morning (Monday) after 4 hours sweating and groaning, we were back on the pass again. Magnificently clear right through to Aspiring. Two hours down the other side was relatively easy following our upward tracks in the snow. I'd done so many crazy things this weekend, why not another? So took a quick waterfall shower before we forged on down the valley.

As we re-entered the bush in the Earnslawburn valley we should have been boarding the van in the Rees. But, when we hit the road about 4 hours late, would you believe it, an OTMC van was still waiting for us.

Given careful nursing and recuperation during the next 3 or 4 weeks, I hope to be foolhardy enough to put my name on either the Ahuriri or Mavora trip list with "M" grade well underlined,

"M" meaning "medium fit" not "madly masochistic" - you could have fooled me!

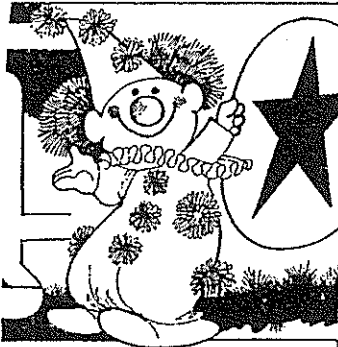
It's been a wonderful experience joining that crazy illogical brand of people who, after enduring the five B's of tramping: being bushed, bluffed, bruised, blistered and absolutely buggered, say, with total sincerity "Had a fantastic time".

Thanks a million, Bill and Heather, for a great introduction to tramping and a special thanks too to Barry Wybrow and the climbers who waited and looked for us. In the mountains, you've got great mates!

Social Calendar



- NOVEMBER 19: Cooking Competition (see last Bulletin for details)
- *DECEMBER 10: Bring your own slides. All those slides from Labour weekend and other recent trips.
- *NOVEMBER 26: "Paparaoas" slides - "what to look forward to for Christmas". Graham Loh.
- *DECEMBER 3: "Orienteering" - how to read a map and get buggered at the same time.
- DECEMBER 17: "barbeque at Brighton" - enjoy the wind (who's?), surf and sun. Bring yer togs!!



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

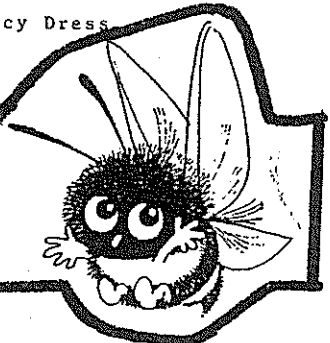
Weekend of December 12th and 13th - Keep it free!!!

Hooper's Inlet BYOG Barbeque facilities

Please bring small Chrissie present

Theme: Christmas Fancy Dress

***NOTE THESE DATES**



Another future
tramper, we hope!

CONGRATULATIONS

To Bill & Glenys Needs, a son, Andrew Stuart.