

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

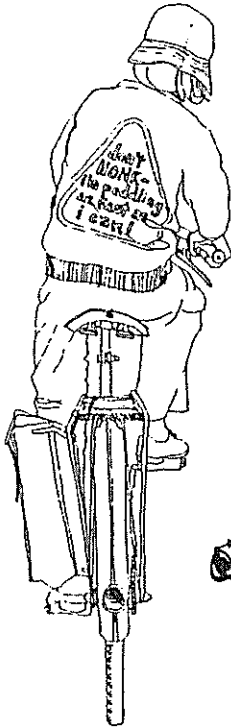
BULLETIN

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February 1988

That
cycling
trip!

OTMC



PRESIDENT	Spen Walker	737657
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SOCIAL SEC.	Mary Hewinson	770200
EDITOR	David Peacock	779855
DAY TRIP CONV.	Philip Jenkins	882861
SAR	Stu Mathieson	34-359

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

On re-reading some of the recent trip reports, it does seem that they have become rather too "chatty". There is little description of the tracks or routes; few hints to the unwary and a veritable dearth of imaginative prose reflecting the splendour and beauty of our land. I appreciate that few of us are literary giants but neither are we midgets and I ask that future contributors please make some attempt to give relevant and appropriate route details and, occasionally, allow your pens to soar with the eagles and paint a picture worthy of this magnificent country.

I must admit that I am a little disappointed in how little I see of the older and/or less active members. One sees the same faces at the clubrooms every week and, although most of them are not unpleasant, it would be a welcome change to see some of the "old-timers" and chat with them. It does appear to me that the 'Over Thirties Club' and the 'Family Tramping Group' have almost become separate entities divorced from the OTMC and I think that this is unfortunate. The Club is all the members and not just the active ones.

There is another aspect of the Club's organisation that niggles me (I'm really having a good whinge this month!) and that is the 'Party' system on club trips. I can appreciate the necessity of splitting the group into smaller parties but this has an unfortunate side-effect and that is that party leaders rarely tramp with each other. For the last four trips that I've been on, I've been a Party Leader and there's a few people in the Club that I'd like to tramp with but they are always Party Leaders too. And so, I never get to tramp with them. I suspect that similar reasons lead many people to start going on private trips where they can freely choose their party members and routes. It is a difficult dilemma, I know, and perhaps one possible way of alleviating the problem would be to have a Club trip every, say, three months that is only open to members and, preferably, those who frequently lead parties. Club trips do not have to always be open to all the membership and interested non-members (i.e. 'FE' trips aren't now). Let us have a 'Party Leaders' Trip every once in a while.

I am pleased that we seem to have a steady stream of new faces at the clubrooms, there is the interest out there and, perhaps, with just a little effort, we could really attract people. I know that Bushcraft is very popular this year (probably much due to Barry Wybrow's enthusiasm and hard work) and it is a good introduction to tramping and the Club. It is an ideal opportunity for members to make themselves known to interested outsiders and to share some of their fondness and enthusiasm for the outdoors. Bushcraft is one of the most important events of the year for the Club and it deserves our full support. Barry's our man!!



A pleasant but uneventful trip on a scorching, calm day. 24km and half an hour to the Glen picnic ground. A 45min stroll, mainly through long grass, up Carey's Creek to the foot of the Rongomai Ridge. Short steepish climb to the spur, then easier going to where the Interpretive Walk links Rongomai with Honeycomb Ridge. A cool, well-formed walk around the valley basin in varied native bush, with some of the trees labelled, to lunch at the stream 2 minutes before the Honeycomb track. Delightfully cool sitting on the wooden bridge in the shade. Then more or less level for quite a way, before a very steep but well stepped drop back to Carey's Creek. Track downstream mainly in beautiful bush beside the creek to the Rongomai junction. 6 hours away from the car, taken quietly with lots of rests.

Sandy Gordon, Evan Ley, Chris Rodley and Ian Sime.

BUSHCRAFT

May be greatly over-subscribed, which is good news in one way but very awkward in that some people may have to be turned away. However, Barry and this team will do their best. Anyway, you're all invited to the Barn Dance at Tirohanga on Saturday, 20th February - see you there! Also, any member is welcome to attend the Bushcraft River Crossing course on Sunday, 6th March. Be warned, you may get wet!

Bushcraft is a big event for the club and let's hope it will be a great success.

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MEMBERSHIP DETAIL CHANGES


New Phone Number: David & Anne-Marie Barnes, 25 McKerrow Street, Dunedin. Ph 44-492.

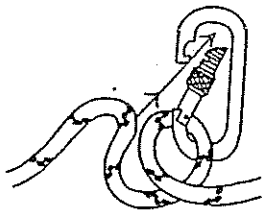
New Addresses: Spen Walker & Jane Bruce, 207 Signal Hill Road, Dunedin. Ph 730-257
Rod Dixon, 27 Aintree Street, Bishopdale, ChCh 5
Dave & Karen Crow, 'Pinewoods', Greenacre Street, MacAndrew Bay. Ph 761-277

WOODSMEN'S ANNUAL EXAMINATION SECTION 6: PUBLIC RELATIONS:

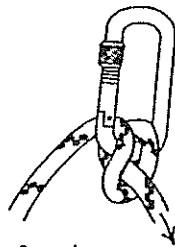
QUESTION 2. YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ESCORT AN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP ON A TOUR OF A SELECTIVE LOGGING OPERATION IN AN INDIGENOUS FOREST. BEFORE COMMENCING YOUR TOUR YOU GIVE THEM A SHORT TALK OUTLINING SOME OF THE ENVIRONMENTALLY POSITIVE ASPECTS OF SELECTIVE LOGGING. WHAT WOULD YOU NEED TO COVER AT THIS PRELIMINARY STAGE TO ENSURE THEY WILL APPRECIATE THE LONG-TERM BENEFITS OF SELECTIVE LOGGING?

 © BUNTON SAUER (20 MARKS)

 Their eyes.



ROCKCLIMBING
by
SIMON THOMAS



Ever since the rockclimbing instruction course last October, a group of us keen bods have spent as much time as we can down at Long Beach practising our climbing techniques.

The enthusiasm and determination I feel for the sport (which is shared by many others) would not have been made possible without the instructors, like John Pohl, who assisted me with my first climbs; John Robinson and Gary Nixon, who showed me the various knots and secure fastenings. I also firmly believe that my enthusiasm and interest into the more technical side of climbing have been nurtured under the guidance of Andy Beecroft, to whom I owe profound thanks. His patience, motivation and good advice have helped me a great deal in some of my most frustrating moments rockclimbing. I am sure that I also speak for the many others whom he has helped and with whom he has shared his knowledge and wisdom. He is a great teacher.



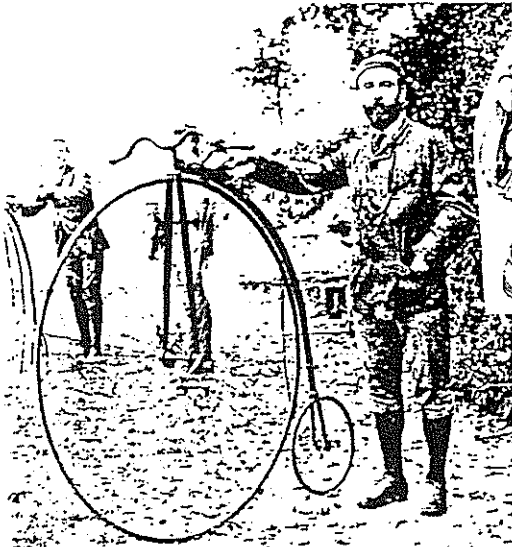
More recently, I have become more interested in the more technical side of climbing, leading and seconding climbs, a rather dramatic change from top-roping. Having to put in protection as you ascend is a much more complicated process. Not only do you have to consider the problem of your next move, you also have to consider where to place your wedges (jammuts) to protect you in the event of a fall. When it's your own safety that's at stake, and your own responsibility, one takes particular care to ensure that everything is OK.

One gains a great sense of achievement after leading a climb and getting to the top in one piece. This is probably why some climbers get bored with top roping and find their greater rewards in leading climbs.



You may think that rockclimbing sounds very risky but, although some risk is inevitable, with sound technique it can be made very safe and become a very enjoyable sport and social event.

So, if rockclimbing sounds like your idea of fun, come on down to Long Beach on a Wednesday night or on a weekend and give it a go - you may really enjoy it!!



DOUG 'Never had a puncture in my life' FORRESTER



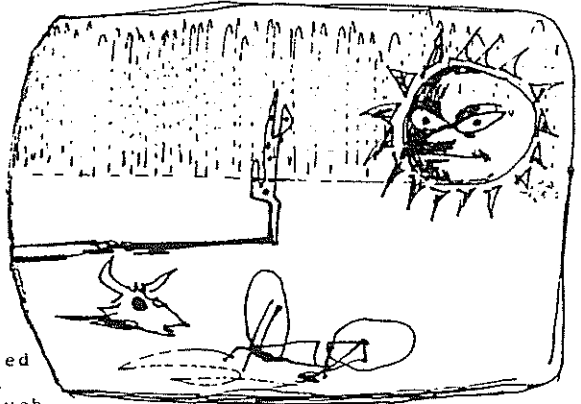
Get on yer bike

Visiting Young Tai

The day dawned hot. As I walked up to the top of the old Mt Cargill Road, I was soon caught up by 13 energetic cyclists. After a short rest, it was a fast easy ride down to Watati and a bumpy road to Evansdale where we had a refreshing water fight started by ... guess who. From there it was a slow ride up to the top of Karitane Hill which gave us a superb view of the coast. A speedy ride down to Karitane and on to Waikouaiti with a short break before a hot but enjoyable ride to Palmerston, a stop for a mammoth icecream and lunch at the park for all. The rest of the day was easy with a flat ride to Camp Armstrong stopping at a crib just passed the camp. The heat was terrific so a cool swim at the crib was greatly appreciated, followed by a photo stop (everyone certainly got to know that piece of road well!). Next stop was Dunback only 5 minutes down the road, while sittin outside, the shop owner opened his doors early and so once again, it was icecreams all round. Only 2km further and we were at our destination - Wain's Town!

After a refreshing swim, we had a great BBQ thanks to the male chefs and a quiet drink by the fire.

Next morning, we were greeted by clear blue sky and not a sign of wind. Amazingly enough, no sore muscles! It was a fast ride back to Palmerston and, after a short rest, back to Waikouaiti. A short visit to Graham Hopkin's before it was onto the beach at Karitane. Afterwards a hard, slow ride back up Karitane Hill to the lookout and then down to Evansdale for lunch.



"The heat was terrific"

Before the hard slog up the old Mt Cargill Road, a short dip in the Watati school pool. On arriving at the lookout, it was unanimously decided that the ride up was easier than first thought. From there, a pleasant road back to town; total riding time about 3½ hours. A pleasant soothing spa and a pot-luck stirfry BBQ was enjoyed by all at Sue's place.

Thanks to Doug and Marie for a well-organised and enjoyable trip. I know I can't wait for the next trip and I know that the others feel the same.

Debbie and Michelle Williams for the twelve other happy cyclists.

* * * * *

CYCLE TRIPS ARE 'IN'
30 - 31 January

Doug was determined to turn on great weather for the weekend of his cycle trip so he invited me along - of course Huey obliged with a scorcher of a weekend.

14 of us gathered on our machines of varying ages and conditions (The machines or the people? - Ed) at the Gardens. This was to be a luxury trip with all our gear being loaded on to the Forrester trailer with Marie at the helm. There's nothing like a grunt to start so it was first gear up Mt Cargill road. Sweat soon poured freely and we all wondered what the hell we were doing here although some didn't find it much of a problem and Antony, Michelle, Chris, Susan and Geoff were soon in a breakaway group. It was with relief that the top was reached and, after a rest, it was high speed down to Waitati. We then encountered an evil, very rough and rocky stretch of road where reconstruction was taking place - no problems for a mountain bike! Chris got the first puncture of the trip. The rest of us gathered at Evansdale and filled in the time with water fights started by Susan and terrorising a local kid on her wee BMX - she wasn't keen on swapping.



Punch, 1889

Another grunt over the coast road up to Seacliff. The lookout over Karitane was worth the stop before another 'speed' section down to Karitane and on to Waikouaiti.

Although it was meant to be a leisurely pace between Waikouaiti and Palmerston, very good time was made on this section - it may have been due to the desire for icecreams! The flavours, however, left something to be desired - rhubarb and custard! Wot next?

A leisurely lunch was enjoyed at Palmerston before heading to Dunback

Tour d'East Otago

The following is the Official Prize List for the cycling weekend to Dunback on 30th and 31st January 1988.

sponsored prizes:

The POPULAR MECHANICS AWARD to Chris Pearson for a puncture and a broken gear cable.

The ELIOT GOBLIT COOKING PRIZE to Doug Forrester for his efforts with his gas powered barbeque wok.

The MINERAL DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AWARD to Heather Robertson for dropping half the vegetables in the gravel.

The TIP-TOP PRIZE shared by Michelle Williams and Sue Harding for causing an icecream shortage in Palmerston.

Main List:

HANDICAPPERS PRIZE for the most self-imposed hardships to Bill Provan for use of a mountain bike on a long-distance road trip, and for stirring so much that the rest of the party was forced to throw him into both the Shag River and the sea at Karitane.

CONSERVATION PRIZE to Jack Spruyt of the Waikouaiti dairy for his efforts in discouraging visitors to the area.

GANNET PRIZE to Simon Thomas for making sure that there were no leftovers. (Previous title holder, Bill Provan, showed poor form by having to be prompted to finish a cheesecake).

BEST/WORST JOKE PRIZE to Doug Forrester for his dog biscuit and zebra jokes (Needless to say, neither are printable (Just try me - Ed)).

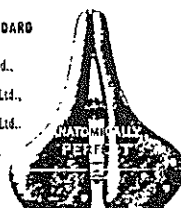
HARE AND TORTOISE AWARD to Chris Pearson for starting most stages at the back of the field and finishing at the front.

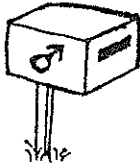
****FIRST PRIZE**** \$\$\$\$\$FIRST PRIZE\$\$\$\$\$ #####FIRST PRIZE####

FIRST PRIZE to Doug and Marie Forrester, with mascot Jodi, the wonder dog, for organising a terrific weekend, for carrying all our gear by car, for the great swimming spots and even arranging the great, top weather.

1st Prize

THE
“PATTISSON”
 HYGIENIC cycle SADDLE

ADOPTED AS STANDARD HUNBER & CO., Ltd. ELSWICK CYCLE CO., Ltd. SWIFT CYCLE CO., Ltd. JOHN GRIFFITHS CYCLE CORPORATION, Ltd. ENG. EN.		REMOVES THE ONE GREAT DRAWBACK OF CYCLING. VIZ. Perineal Pressure AND LACK COMFORT, HEALTH, AND EASE.
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Have your say!

Dear Sir, A rather belated two-cents-worth about Married Couple subscriptions, in full support of the Craws and Mark Hanger but taking their line of argument a stage further. Having been generally "clubby" for 30 years or more (rowing, squash, tennis, golf, social, chess, etc as well as tramping), we have learnt to appreciate the value of clubs to communities as well as to the clubs' individual members. We regard clubs as "good things" which ought to be fostered, we are deeply grateful for all the pleasure and benefit that we have derived from them, and we are willing to put back into them now more than we might appear to be getting out.

Even if we don't tramp much with other OTMC members, we nevertheless value the work which fitter, keener members than us do on the tracks and facilities available to us. We know the OTMC contributes valuably to the national outlook and way of life in respect of the country-side and wild places with which we fully concur. We also know how easy it would be for that contribution to flage if the club were to become weak.

Every club has a base level of 'fixed' expenses which has to be incurred, and met, irrespective of the number of members and active participants. The higher the number of members, the lower the share of that fixed cost which each has to bear, so the more affordable the club becomes for its non-affluent members. Others older than us subsidised out membership of clubs when we were still within that non-affluent class, and now it is our turn to do it, as best we can, for the next generation.

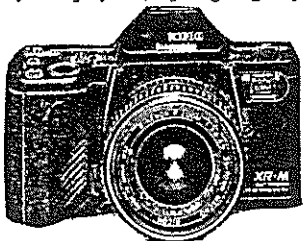
For all these reasons, we are happy to remain members (albeit scarcely visible), to continue providing financial support, and to accept without a murmur subscription-rate increases proportional to other membership categories as the purchasing power of money declines. But it shouldn't take more than a moment's reflection to realize that even 'rhubarb rhubarb' altruism, paternalism or whatever else one wants to call it, has its limits. The sensible person doesn't even squeeze the goose that lays the golden eggs, much less contemplate killing it.

Roger and Jennifer Gonin

=====

Dear Sir, MY FIRST EXPERIENCE OF PHOTO-COMP IN THE TRAMPING CLUB. I was asked along with all the other members at several meetings to submit photos and slides for this great event - the Tramping Club Photo Competition. I duly rushed home and gathered up all my photos and put aside those that I considered worth displaying, mounted them and arrived at the next meeting to hand them over. I waited in anticipation for this great event, or should I say 'non-event'!! You can imagine the astonishment I felt on arrival.

Where were all those photos we have come to view? there were five photos set up. Oh well, I thought, at least one of them is mine, maybe all the good stuff is in the slides. The slides were duly shown but, again, just a few but those that were shown were obviously enjoyed, judging by the sounds of appreciation coming from the floor. The judge picked the winners, gave his views and a lot of useful hints on photography in the field which was most helpful. My pictures were duly returned and that was that.



However, I did make enquiries as to what had happened to all the other photos and was told that there was not enough room to display them. WHAT A POOR EXCUSE! for all those folk that went to so much trouble to submit their work only to be told that there was no room, here was the one chance for others to view and admire their work and pass comment. In all other photo comps I have seen, all the material submitted has been shown with the winners' having prominence. So why not have a real show and let the public have a viewing? I suggest that the comp be held in late January and those that contribute have some kind of showing at the Dunedin Summer Festival. We could approach the City Council for a venue. This would both promote and create interest with the public on the attractions of the great outdoors. I have viewed slides at the slide evenings and the odd photo that someone brings along and there is obviously a lot of talent in the club so let's see it.

I received the December Bulletin, Ed, and it was great reading but I did notice with interest the winners of the photo comp and I congratulate them. If, dear Ed, one of mine was amongst the five chosen, how come I did not get a mention?!?!?!?!?!?

Your ever so upset Keith Roberts

(The Editor comments:- Apparently, there was a mix-up with the entries, photos not being clearly marked and, unfortunately, yours was incorrectly identified - I have received an apology on your behalf from the Social Secretary for any distress that may have been caused. The list of winners in the December Bulletin was simply a copy of that supplied to me and your name had, obviously, been omitted. Your suggestion of a public showing of slides and photos is an interesting one and is worth considering if the entries are of sufficient quality. The club simply does not have sufficient display boards to display all the entries at the moment. Perhaps the interested and keen photographers amongst us could get themselves together and arrange a future public display.

I have also been told that on the Photo Comp night, many people arrived late, the discussion started late and the meeting finished late. Sure, we all have other commitments but, occasionally, a little punctuality and courtesy, especially with visiting speakers, would be appreciated.

Finally, my name is "David", not "Ed"!)



WORLD HERITAGE FORESTS IN DANGER



Included with this Bulletin is a request for submissions to support National Park Status for South Westland. Unfortunately, the Newsletter arrived too late for posting earlier and the final date for submissions will have passed by the time most of you read this. However, we have still included the information sheet to spread the word and publicise this very important conservation issue.

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NEW CLUBROOMS

The Otago Polytechnic has indicated a temporary reprieve for our Clubrooms and we may have a decent chance to get somewhere else. So, breathe a little easier and you can put those tents away.

The CHRISTMAS BBQ at Brighton on December 17th was held in torrential rain and all present were swept away on a tide of goodwill and floodwater. Finally, as Bruce Mason arrived 2 hours late, we retired to Bill & Heather Robertsons place for drinks. We didn't have to go anywhere near the sea for a good swim!! A great night.

Ask those who've been....

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Social Calendar

- FEBRUARY 18 - Quizz: reveal all you know (or don't) about just about anything.
- FEBRUARY 25 - BYO Slides, let's see what you've been up to recently.
- MARCH 3 - Chris Pearson: "Climbing in Darkest Africa" (I thought Africa was bright and sunny?)
- MARCH 10 - Sue Harding on her recent trip to Nepal.
- MARCH 17 - "The Olivines" Barry Wybrow spouting off about his Christmas trip and making us all feel jealous.



SUPPORT
SEARCH & RESCUE
GET LOST!

Seen on Sue Harding's car!

Best wishes

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO
Dave Levick and Sue Williams
Rachel Noble and Neil George
Doug Pagel and Dot Brown
ON THEIR RECENT ENGAGEMENTS.
May your love grow!

