

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

JUNE 1990

BULLETIN NO. 489



"Marie, have you seen my bulletin"

PRESIDENT	Stuart Mathieson	534-359
VICE PRESIDENT	Rhonda Robinson	738-142
SECRETARY	Mark Planner	763-988
TREASURER	Teresa Wasilewska	543-886
CHIEF GUIDE	Antony Pettinger	737-924
EDITOR	Debbie Pettinger	737-924
MEMBERSHIP SEC	Ian Sime	536-185
SOCIAL SEC.	Elspeth Gold	551-245
GEAR HIRE	Russell Godfrey	557-205

THE OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

meets every Thursday

at 7-00 pm at

3 Young Street, St Kilda
(clubrooms)

TRIP LIST

PLEASE NOTE ALL CLUB TRIPS NOW LEAVE OUTSIDE THE OTMC CLUBROOMS - 3 YOUNG STREET

JUNE 17 ALLANS BEACH/MT CHARLES (M) Bruce Newton 542-547

A good chance to get some fresh sea air into you, and then puff your way up Mt Charles for a great view.
Trip leaves clubrooms at 9-00am

JUNE 24 MT HIGHLAY (M) Peter Mason 557-074

Another P.M. special, although leaving at the more civilised time of 9-00am. I doubt if many people know where Mt Highlay is, so why not come along for a very interesting trip.

JUNE 30 MAUTUKITUKI RIVER (M-C) Sharon St Clair-Newman 763-918

Wrap up warm for this trip, right into the heart of Mt Aspiring National Park. This trip caters for moderate parties to the climbers. Both the East and West branches are options and people can be dropped off as required. There may be some snow around so adequate clothing and equipment will be necessary. If you are a new comer, please discuss trip with Sharon or the Chief Guide before signing trip list. (which is now at the back of the clubrooms.
Trip closes 21 June 1990

JULY 1 WORK PARTY

This work party is still under construction.
Come to club for more details.

JULY 7-8 MID WINTER WINE & DINE - TROTTERS GEORGE Debbie Pettinger 737-924

See further on for details. Promises to be a great weekend for all.

JULY 9 TROTTERS GORGE

This trip will leave from Trotters Gorge following the Wine & Dine.
Trip will leave at 10-00 am and will follow around the area.

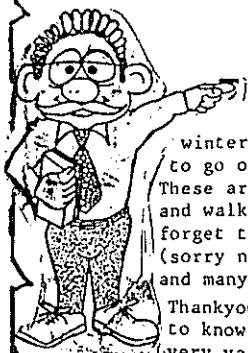
JULY 14-15 HERBERT FOREST Elspeth Gold 551245

This will be a slightly different weekend trip. It will consist of two day trips from a base camp and will have Saturday night dinner at The Mill House. Discuss other possibilities with Elspeth she is open for any other suggestions.
Trip List closes 5 July 1990

TRIP LEADERS REQUIRED - Experienced Snow caver for Snow Two.
and also to lead Lake Manupouri/Titorora weekend. Should you be interested then please contact the Chief Guide Antony Pettinger 737-924

An elderly parish priest was tending his garden near a convent when a passerby stopped to enquire after the priest's much loved roses. "Not bad", said the priest. "But they suffer from a disease peculiar to this area, known as black death". "What on earth is that?" asked the passerby anxious to increase his gardening knowledge.
"Nuns with scissors!!"

EDITOR'S DIARY



It's June already and we're halfway through the year!. Winter tramping is here it is time to get out those ski's, crampons and winter wooly gear. All those new to winter tramping are strongly advised to go on the club Snowcraft courses if they intend tramping in the snow. These are excellent for beginners as they teach the basics in crampons, and walking in the snow. Check the trip card for when these are and don't forget the snow caving course as well. Excellent value for new and old (sorry not-so-new) trampers. Most members have been on at least one course and many go back again because they enjoyed it so much.

Thankyou to all the letters of reply I got to last months rave. It is nice to know that people actually do read what I have to say. They put across very valid points however I have not changed my mind that it is not fair to expect leaders to lead Easy trips all the time. I have taken parties to Upper Caples hut and back out again for a weekend and while I enjoyed it I certainly felt I had wasted a weekend out. This does not mean I will not lead an easy party again but I don't think it is right that people should lead them time and time again. This then leads to people pushing their parties. When I say pushing, I do not mean they intentionally go away for the weekend knowing they will be pushing people. Each time a trip leaves the clubrooms there is always one or more people in the van who is relatively unknown to chief guide, trip leader and party leader. That then makes it very difficult to establish whether E-M is closer to an M or E grade. Then of course there will always be the problem of lack of leaders to lead the easier parties. I accept that a leader will have to lead an easy party once or twice a year but that does not seem to be the case. Leaders are being asked most times, and this is not the fault of trip leaders. It is basically because there is no other leaders prepared to lead easy trips and if asked to often people will look to private trips. So again I suggest that we have member only trips with grades of M-FE say twice or three times a year. It will offer a solution to some leaders. What do people think of this idea? Is it worth a try? or will we leave gradings of E-F of all trips? Because this grade certainly has a very big range of grades for people to put down.

And now for a more comforting topic. The clubrooms are now complete and ready for us. A big thankyou for all the time put in by Peter Mason. He certainly has put in a lot of time and effort into it and I have lost count of the number of trips to the tip he has made. Chris Wild has also been a big help with all the electrical work that needed to be done and of course thankyou to all those that helped Peter with the beam that needed to go up and other bits and pieces that need doing before we could move in. Don't be shy and call in one Thursday night to see our new home. It is something we can all be proud of.

I'd best sign off for now and if you think of anything interesting that you would like a bit of feed back about then let me know and I will see what I can do. Don't stop those letters flowing into me, I am always interested in what you, as members have to say.

Debbie

.....Editor



April 28-29

After leaving Chris and his party by the roadside in the pouring rain, we drove directly to the picnic shelter, where SOME people managed to get inside, with mattresses and without even getting wet!! Three other residents never stirred - we were such a quiet bunch! - but got a rude shock in the morning when they awoke and saw, through their alcoholic haze, the shelter overrun with 17 OTMC members!

Mike was the first to boil the billy, Dean proved his worth by bribing the Treasurer with an early morning cuppa in her sleeping bag, Madam VP used her position to organize a van trip to the toilets! (yes, it was STILL raining!) Having had my sensible suggestion (to stay based at the shelter and do a day trip to the Hermitage) shot down in flames, I was bullied by my chauvanist party up to Mueller Hut, the equivalent of 620 flights of stairs, along with the rest of the parties. The track has had considerable work done on it recently, with gravel and steps in the lower half. As we got higher, the rain became sleet, the track a stream of melted snow (and I thought this would be a dry feet weekend!) . Above the scree slope, the track skirts around the shoulder and was exposed and cold for the final 20 mins through snow, following footsteps and cairns, until we squelched into the hut.

Seventeen sodden trampers had arrived by lunchtime (Gortex rules OK - my parka had kept two patches dry which is more than anyone else could claim) and we had a fine example of hut etiquette as we warmed, whiled and widdled away the afternoon before round-robin cooking and consuming of gastronomic delights. Rhonda was offered interesting exchanges for her digestive biscuits, Ross once again had brought his tarts ... 'nnovative footwear was photographed, while it was decided that two plastic bags were preferable to one, but the newspaper padding was better than jumper strapped around both feet. Trips to the long drop (beware! wind gusts from below!) became more frequent after numerous hot drinks and it was decided that the male anatomy has definite advantages in cold windy weather!!!

Muller Hut is very exposed and has no fire and poor ventilation - cooker fumes necessitated opening the door even more frequently than was necessary to let those with Woolworths bladders in and out! Several people wisely retired to warm up, some very cold after the trip up, and we were reminded how easy it is to be caught out, thinking this is such a short trip and with a hut at the top. Take plenty of clothers (or else a cuddly party member) Paul failed to find anyone to help hold down his tent in the snow and had to settle for the loan of a pofta pad and the kitchen bench for the night - we have it on excellent authority that this mountain man is going to buy a pofta pad, (how the mighty have fallen!) He woke us all at 7 am to tell Doug that there was no point in waking up to head for the Annett (sighs of relief from Rhonda) while Perer acted as 'long drop lookout' regulating the 'flow' to and from the loo (and making sure no one was blown over the edge) We discovered umpteen different ways to cook porridge - but Doug prefers MUESLI!!! Shortly after, we dribbled out of the hut and back down to the shelter all 620 flights below!

Quote of the weekend "It really is clearing now" Doug F who was proved right at 4 pm Sunday as we drove around the lake.

Chief consumer "I'll have some/eat it/take one/finish it off" Neville M
Child of the weekend who followed the Americans into the lift in the Hermitage, then played with the buttons to up and down (in the lift) Ross C

Smile of the weekend "I've just had a first class pee, in a flush toilet, AND washed my hads with WARM water afterwards!...." John (PS this was NOT at Mueller Hut)
Galloping Gourmet for bringing gherkins Dennis P Special thanks also to Patsy Galloway for once again doing John's catering for his party. One of these days we'll have to teach John how to cook!

Conservation Prize for a kea imitation that sounded like a lovesick juvenile bird with laryngitis, but kept them away from our packs Darcy E

Disappointment of the weekend "That I didn't get my swim" Teresa W

Survival Awards For maintaining their sanity on their first OTMC trip Suzanne, Dean and Carol

Stirling moss award for avoiding a maniac driver on London street en route back to the clubrooms - many thanks to Doug who got a special massage afterwards!!! We were glad you were at the wheel.

BE WARNED!!!: Rumours of unusual behaviour in the back of Doug's van on the way home are 100% true!!! We are petitioning the Chief Guide to limit van numbers to ten maximum to allow for TOTAL BODY MASSAGE as an integral part of every club trip. Front seat passengers will receive treatment on arrival at the clubrooms. So what if we were all still stiff on Wednesday ??? It was worth it!!

Teresa Wasilewska for all those on the Mt Cook weekend.

THE GREAT 1990 MANIOTO TAVERN TREK

WHY ??? JUST BECAUSE IT'S THERE.

COST = \$ 25.

INCLUDES BUS HIRE, LARGE SNACK IN RANFURLY AND TEA IN OTUREHUA
FOOD = FISH/SAUSAGES AND CHIPS.

ORGANISED BY ELSPETH GOLD Ph 551245.

LEAVES NEWTONS COACHWAYS MELBOURNE ST 12 MIDDAY SAT 30 JUNE⁷¹

PAY IN ADVANCE, ALL MONEY TO ME BY JUNE 24. REFUNDS ONCE YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST ONLY WITH A DOCTORS CERTIFICATE.

SO WHERE ARE WE GOING ???

1. WAIKAUAI GOLDEN FLEECE HOTEL.
2. STANLEYS TAVERN- MACREAS FLAT.
3. LIONS HOTEL- RANFURLY. SNACK SERVED HERE.
4. NASEBY- 2 PUBS.
5. WEDDERBURN TAVERN.
6. OTUREHUA HOTEL. TEA SERVED HERE.
7. WHITE HORSE HOTEL- BECKS.
8. LAUDER TAVERN.
9. CHATTO CREEK.

BACK TO DUNEDIN. ALL WELCOME AT 68 GROVE ST ST KILDA FOR COFFEE
AFTERWARDS.

BACK TO DUNEDIN APROX 1am SUNDAY.

LIMITED TO 48 PEOPLE. FIRST IN BASIS. SO FOR THE EXPERIENCE OF A
LIFETIME SIGN UP.

ALL WELCOME
SIGN UP NOW.

TO ENABLE US TO IDENTIFY EACH OTHER PLEASE WEAR A HAT!!!

WANTED WANTED WANTED ... WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED
one day pack K 2 or similar, anything considered
Phone Stephen Cathro ph 542-591

PRE EASTER SOCIAL

THOSE WHO WENT (30 IN TOTAL) REALLY ENJOYED IT. NEARLY ALL MADE THE EFFORT TO DRESS UP. IT WAS HARD TO PICK WHO LOOKED THE BEST. SUE AND DAVE LEVICK MUST GET A MENTION FOR THE TRENDIEST COUPLE. PETER MASON EVEN WENT AS FAR AS WEARING SPECS FROM THE ERA; LINDSAY AITCHESON LOOKED TRULY STUNNING, AND DEBBIE WHAT CAN I SAY!!!

THE BAND WERE SLOW TO START BUT ONCE THEY WOUND UP THE MUSIC WAS FIRST RATE. THE FORRESTORS PUT US ALL TO SHAME ON THE DANCE FLOOR.

BUT IF THOSE THAT COULDN'T BE BOTHERED COMING WERE INTERESTED THEN THEY REALLY SHOULD HAVE MADE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND. IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS EXPENSIVE OR OUT OF THE WAY.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DID COME. YOUR EFFORT WAS TRULY APPRECIATED.

ELSPETH



SOCIAL ??? WHAT SOCIAL ???

I WAS DISAPPOINTED (PUTTING IT MILDLY) THAT MORE PEOPLE DIDN'T GET OFF THEIR BUTTS AND COME TO THE PRE EASTER SOCIAL.

ALOT OF EFFORT WAS PUT INTO ORGANIZING IT AND ALOT OF CLUB MONEY HAD TO BE USED TO UNDERWRITE THE LOSE.

SO WHAT IS THE STORY WHY DIDN'T THE MAJORITY OF CLUB MEMBERS BOTHER TO COME ? WAS IT THE TIMING, THE COST, THE ORGANIZATION OR IS THERE NO LONGER A NEED FOR THESE TYPE OF FUNCTIONS IN THE CLUB? ??? I WOULD APPRECIATE SOME COMMENTS.

THE SOCIAL SECRETARIES JOB TAKES ENOUGH TIME ORGANIZING THURSDAY MEETINGS (WHICH I REALLY ENJOY DOING), WITHOUT WASTING MY TIME KNOCKING MYSELF OUT ORGANIZING WEEKEND SOCIAL EVENTS THAT THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS AREN'T INTERESTED IN. SO TEAM THIS WAS THE LAST SOCIAL I ORGANIZE, THE ANNUAL DINNER IN SEPTEMBER IS THE NEXT ON THE ACTION PACKED SOCIAL CALENDER. ANYONE INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING IT TALK TO A COMMITTEE MEMBER. I FOR ONE WILL DEFINATELY ATTEND IT. COMMENTS MORE THAN WELCOME LETS GET THE SOCIAL SCENE SORTED OUT SO THE NEXT PERSON ORGANIZING IT KNOWS WHERE THEY STAND. WHAT DO YOU WANT , IF ANYTHING.



SAR UPDATE: The list is more or less complete, and copies are in the hands of the five callout people and the Police. In addition to the main list of 45 people, we've now got a list of 20 people keen to go on the main list once they have trained. A SAREX (Search And Rescue Exercise) will probably be held in July. If I haven't spoken to you about SAR recently it's probably because I couldn't hold of you. It is never too late to volunteer - I'm a phone call away. If your home or work phone number changes, please contact me.

David Barnes ph 544-492

Greetings life forms* (* In case the possum, sheep R&P wetas or certain club members read this)
 Let me tell you a tail. No, not a tail or men's shirts but a tale of heroic club members. So, pull up your sock and sit down. I'll sing you a song.
 (tune "The Grand Old Duke of York").

The tramping club of this town has 150 (wo)men,
 And when they're up the R&P's, they're up,
 And when they're down, they're down,
 And when they're only half way up
 Bloody old Mason has broken down!!

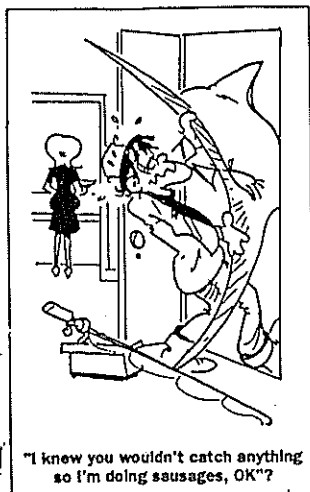
No, no seriously folks, While the rest of you were
 sneaking furtive glances of snow clad Flagstaff from
 the warmth of your beds, 6 of us had a glorious, sunny,
 nest to windless day on the Rock & Pillar Range.

Our route:- Bottom (Stone) Hut - 6 Mile Creek Ridge -
 Leaning Lodge - past Castle Rock - Summit Rock - Big
 (top) Hut - the poled route - Bottom Hut.

The views were panoramic, the snow dry (not enough for
 X/C skiing), the temperatures mild, the company
 congenial, three lunch stops were had and Neville
 conscientiously performed his role as a mobile, general
 purpose snowball target.

At Summit Rock we encountered the dozen strong summit
 assault party of the Baa Baa Alpine Club. Big Hut had
 a resident non-member possum. As there has been no
 attempt to pay hut fees we suggest the committee send
 a letter. However be diplomatic; nothing too heavy.
 Remember that the last non-paying possum took her life in the water tank.

Scribe (an old R&P fan) Ken Mason for 5 new R&P fans; Ian McElhinney, Kate Branson,
 Neville Mulholland, Tracey Linberry, Dean Peterson.



THE CLUB

OTMC, to be or not to be
 Members and new comers alike
 Same interests initially
 Ingenuous to the marvels of such a club
 Tramping and mountaineering in ones own time

Achieved, and have had goals to reach
 In accordance with weather permitting

While time to spare, other activities
 Social and the like
 Keep the Club running with all delight
 Right I say
 Club is ever so bright
 When people are involved
 With enthusiasm and delight
 Club satisfaction
 OK!

Darcy Espie 3-5-90

TAKE TIME

Take time to think
 it is the source of power
 Take time to play, it is the
 secret of perpetual power
 Take time to read, it is
 the foundation of wisdom
 Take time to pray, it is the
 greatest power on earth
 Take time to love and be loved
 it is a god given privilege
 Take time to be friendly
 it is the road to happiness
 Take time to laugh
 it is the music of the soul
 Take time to give, it is too
 short a day to be selfish

MY VIEW OF THE MARATHON.

Put simply, my view was 6 bums disappearing into the morning darkness; most of them not to be seen by me again that day. But that's too short a story for the Bulletin so I will tell you more.

The alarm clock had gone off at 2-55 a.m., and I was just about to kill it when I remembered "the marathon 10/2/90", that event trampers look forward to like catching mumps, a court summons, and Mother-in-law coming to stay, all on the same day. I breakfasted and motored to the Leith Valley end of the Pineapple Track. Seven madmen lined up for Peter Mason to photo with the aid of a flash and street lights - the only time I can recall managing a smile that day!! At 4-30 a.m. our "Longest Day" began; supplemented with a bit of the preceeding night.

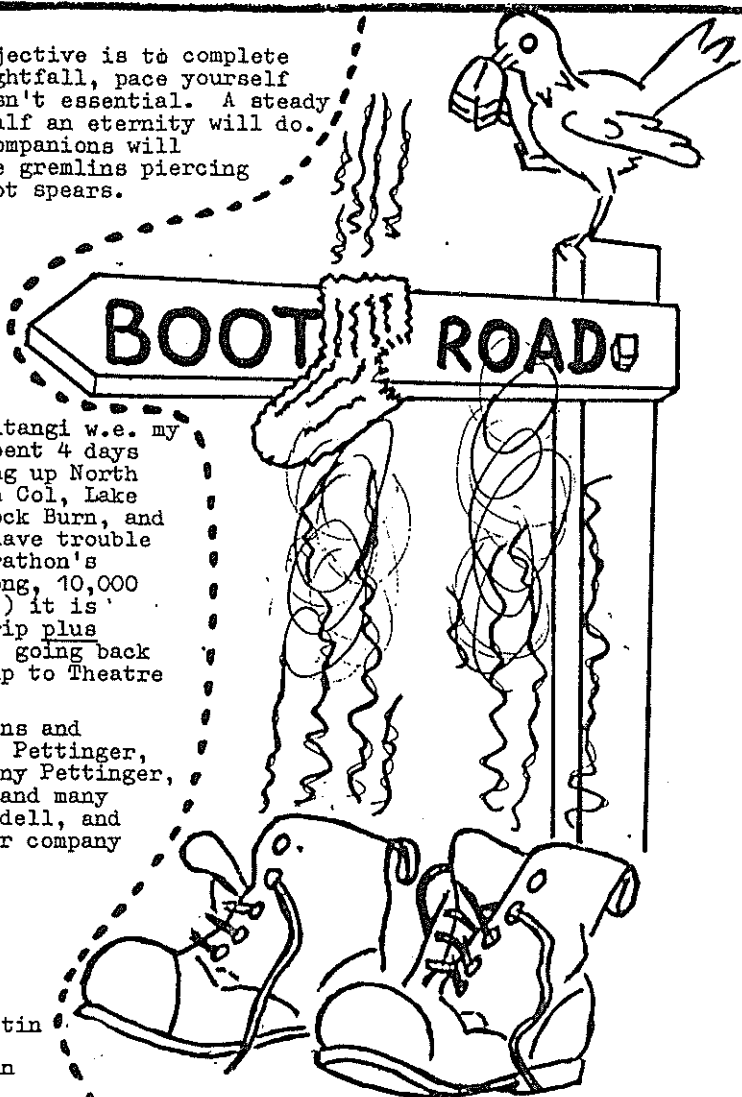
I stumbled over the Pineapple Track in the mirk in 75 minutes, only to be told the leaders were 27 minutes ahead. 7 km. of Whare Flat downhill road was a relief; a quick bite at 7 a.m. before charging up Powder Hill; some confusion in the fog before we got on to the road next Silver Peaks Station. The road going was so good that we overshot our next turn off, but it was not easily seen, as what had been a bulldozed fenceline 2 years ago is now all gorse and in another couple of years marathons will have to carry gorse slashers. A 10 o'clock sandwich by stockyards and a ford on Mt Allan; over the ridge to Poplar Hut where we signed in about 2½ hours behind the pacemakers; then up a long slog to the top of Mt John (the cloud and coolness made it bearable) before descending to the Mt John Hut where a note said "R.P. & D.F. 9-30 a.m. OTMC Marathon 10/2/90", and with suitable humiliation I added "Arthur, Mark, & John 12-13 p.m.!!" I sat by the hut munching a sandwich, museing; envious of the speed and stamina of the albino Kenians Richard P. and Doug F.; and with a growing empathy towards the 2 Faulkland Islanders in the 10,000 meters (I held the same position in the field and should also have stayed at home shearing sheep).

Then away below us by Christmas Creek we saw trampers. If they were R.P., D.F., A.P., and R.G. they had changed down about 10 gears, or each broken a leg! At last we had found trampers we could actually overtake - Ian Sime and friends. Ian's jibeing query to Arthur as to what he had been doing all morning, stung him into storming up the ridge towards The Gap, leaving Mark and me struggling. It was only a bit of indecision in the fog that enabled us to regroup.

We arrived at Mason's Tea Rooms at The Gap at 2-45. A tent (looking suspiciously like a first aid post), rocks festooned with balloons and a flag, a billy of tea, biscuits, and mine host resplendent in longjohns - a great sight, unfortunately not seen by more people. My plan was to hitch a ride back to town on Peter's Toyota 4x4, but he had foiled that by hiding it miles away in the fog. In fact he hid his ute so well he had great difficulty finding it himself, he told me later. So it was back home via Rocky Ridge, Pulpit Rock. Green Hut site (where a drink was kindly left), Hightop, and Swampy to Booth Rd..

One tramper I know likes to recall the "highs" and "lows" of each day. Taking my boots off at Booth Road would certainly be the very highest point: and the low? That would have to be all the rest of the day - all 16 hours 43 minutes tramping! Yes, we took 16 hours 43 minutes, finishing 5th equal (which is the same as last, but sounds much better). Simply completing a marathon is quite a challenge; and spending 16½ hours watching Arthur's form disappearing into the fog, knowing that if I don't keep up, I will spend the next few days lost in the Silver Peaks without tent or food, is added incentive!

If your only objective is to complete the course before nightfall, pace yourself as breakneck speed isn't essential. A steady pace sustained for half an eternity will do. Also tramping with companions will distract you from the gremlins piercing your legs with red hot spears.



The previous Waitangi w.e. my tramping party had spent 4 days ambling and fossicking up North Routeburn, over North Col, Lake Nereen, Park Pass, Rock Burn, and Sugar Loaf. If you have trouble comprehending the marathon's dimensions (55 km. long, 10,000 ft. ascent and decent) it is equivalent to this trip plus turning at Routeburn, going back over Sugar Loaf and up to Theatre Flat.

My congratulations and admiration to Richard Pettinger, Doug Forrester, Anthony Pettinger, and Russell Godfrey, and many thanks to Arthur Blondell, and Mark Planner for their company and navigation.

John S.

P.S. Would those who don't like silly pictures in the Bulletin please cut along the dotted line with a can opener or ice axe!



This is your Bulletin and to make it interesting I need lots of Trip Reports, Letters to the Editor, Recipes, Crosswords or plain gossip. If you have anything to contribute please hand it to either Debbie or Antony Pettinger at Thursday Club nights or post to 'The Editor' OTMC P O Box 1120 Dunedin. The aim of the Bulletin is to keep members informed on what is or has happened in the club.

THE TREASURER is most upset. Her job is a difficult one as it is and made more so by people who do not pay their trip fares before the trip leaves. As a result the following people have been cancelled as bad debts.

Sandy Gordon
Graham Bagley

Joanne Bruce
Bruce Law.

Should this be you, you had better pay up NOW!!

And also a gentle reminder from the Chief Guide. Please ascertain the fitness level of all new trampers on weekend trips. It is also necessary to check that they know what sort of gear is expected to be taken. Remember that most of these people may have tramped overseas and not know New Zealand's weather. Check first and maybe stop an uncomfortable trip for someone in your party.

As a result of the problems recently experienced on club trips with the regard to fitness levels of new members and being unable to cater for their easier grades a sub-committee has been formed to look at possible guidelines for future trips. As editor I will publish the findings and solutions that will arise from this.

MIDWINTER WINE & DINE 7-8 July

The Annual OTMC Mid Winter Wine & Dine has always been well supported but this year promises to be better than ever.

Trotters Gorge is the venue and the OUTC hut is the place. Plenty of room to sleep in the hut and plenty of space outside to pitch a tent.

A trip list is in the club rooms and this is to gauge how much support will be given. If you intend taking a car and have some spare seats, please mark this on the trip list so those who do not have any transport can ask. A small charge of \$5-00 per person is requested and this will cover hut fees and batteries for the stereo. Bring a plate for either dinner or desert and some tapes for the stereo and of course any liquid refreshments you may require.

If you turn up early enough a game of volleyball will be started and if this is to energetic then of course there is always the winter sun bathing. A warm fire will be kept going in the hut most of the night.

As this is a formal occasion a tie or dress must worn, if this rule is not adhered to, no food will be given the the offenders.

This night is looking to be enjoyable, to say the least. Be there early and don't forget to sign the trip list. We will party all night long!!

BE THERE OR BE BORED the choice is yours.



5-6 MAY

For the last two years I carried with me in the UK a photograph of myself sat in a chair carved in the bough of a felled tree on the banks of the Catlins River. This was one of my constant reminders of Godzone and also that one day I would return!

So it was that on the 5 May 1990, with the song of a solitary Bell bird echoing across the morning mist that I approached that same chair with a sense of achievement, homecoming and a lump in my throat. Anyway, enough of that, what about the trip?



After arriving at Tawanui on Friday evening, tents were pitched and a fire lit in one of the fireplaces provided. The party arranged themselves in front of the blaze and talked the night away between chocolate thins and sips of mulled wine. Our party of four were last to retire and spent a blissful night in the back of the van. This proved a wee bit intimate for some but quite cosy for others.

Saturday started with a stroll to the aforementioned chair. From there the track follows the Catlins River westward through beautiful Beech forest with humongous Tree-ferns, the odd Rimu and other assorted flora. The track is good and follows the river right through to the Wisp camping area. It passes through unbroken bush which I find quite awe-inspiring and just a wee bit romantic.

All were fully capable of walking the track but it is deceptively harder than it looks on a map. Obviously though, one of our party wasn't fooled; she took enough scroggin to feed an elephant!! The first two parties to reach the Wisp carried on towards Calliope Saddle via Thisbe Creek. Ours and Don Greer's party camped at the Wisp and this proved a good decision, as campsites in the bush were few and poor.

As for our fly, it was strung up about ten yards from the water tap and toilets, between an improvised pole and the litter bin. The site was level and as comfortable as! Lamb and bean chilly was for tea followed by a mish-mash of chocolate sponge pud, mousse, fruit salad and cream for dessert. The day had been fine and with a light rain we retired to "Wisp Lodge" at about 20-30.

The light rain greeted us for breakfast at about 07-30 but did nothing to dampen our spirits after a good night's sleep. The four of us set off up Thisbe Creek with one pack between us. About 1 hour into the bush we found the other two parties coming out. They had left their campsites a good hour before and hadn't reached Calliope Saddle the day before. On the strength of this we joined the others and went back to the Wisp for an early lunch. This consisted of bread, cracked pepper biscuits, cheese, etc - beauty!!!

The return to Tawanui was better still with the forest literally dripping with character after the night's rain. Waiting at the vehicles for the last out, we passed the time with a brew and bickies. Anne produced a Hacky Sack but was sadly disappointed when we couldn't match her enthusiasm. By 16-30 all were present and we set off in the convoy, returning via Kaka Point to view Elspeth's pink house.

To sum up I would like to say

The weather was ideal. The tramping was great. The food was hot. The company was what made the weekend so pleasurable, it was excellent!!

Ian McElhinney for Cathy Berryman, Elspeth Gold, Anne Schmack and Tane, the god of the forest and birds.

ANYONE FOR A PANTOMIME/ VARIETY SHOW



DOES ANYONE REMEMBER THE PANTOMIME FROM A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO???
HAS ANYONE STILL GOT A COPY OF THE SCRIPT???
DO WE WANT ANOTHER ONE IN THE NEAR FUTURE???
THINK ABOUT IT THE LAST ONE WAS HEAPS OF FUN TO HELP ORGANIZE,
ACT IN AND WATCH.
I'LL ORGANISE IT (I'M A SUCKER FOR PUNISHMENT) ONLY IF PEOPLE SHOW SOME
ENTHUSIASM AND INTEREST AND VOLUNTEER TO HELP.
I'M CABABLE OF CHURNING OUT A ROUGH SCRIPT IF SOMEONE CAN POINT ME IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION, GIVE ME SOME INSPIRATION SO TO SPEAK. ALL I NEED IS A
WORKABLE THEME OR INCIDENT THAT EVERY ONE CAN RELATE TO. THIS WILL BE USED
TO BASE THE SCRIPT ON. A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS THEN REFINE THE SCRIPT AND HEY
PRESTO WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A PANTOMIME.
THE LAST ONE WAS BASED ON A FOOD FETISH, IS THERE ANY FETISHES AROUND AT
THE MOMENT (BESIDES BUMS).
PERHAPS WE COULD HAVE A VARIETY SHOW INSTEAD OF A PANTOMIME, I CAN WHISTLE
OUT A PRETTY GOOD TUNE ON A SPEIGHTS BOTTLE.

A BIT OF FEEDBACK PLEASE. NO INTEREST NO SHOW.
JUST WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET YOU PEOPLE MOTIVATED COME ON SHOW A BIT OF
GUTS AND INDIVIDUALITY.

ELSPETH 551245.

CHRISTMAS TRIP - OPERATION RAIN

26 December Simon and myself met in Arthurs Pass and since the 4WD nearly got blown off the road the three pass trip was out even before we met Annabel, so Greymouth was the end result of the day for replanning trips.

Day two saw us heading for Paparoa Park, the tourist bit was in for the day and we spent the night in the cave 400 metres north of the pan cakes. It was hard but dry, "This is really back to basics!" Day three was spent walking into the pack horse track three hours to the forks of the river. Sadly the water looked like Simon's strong cup of tea that morning and was up to and over our shorts. Need I say any more?! From here it was two hours following a track and not leaving it for fear of falling down hundreds of Shink holes. A pleasant change for an hour as we headed over remote farmland, never-the-less it was rather wet under foot. We tried crossing the Bullock river only to be turned back, so we turned back and headed for a cave about an hour back down the track. It was a bit of fun finding it as the rain was coming down very heavily by now. A wet dinner with heads under a Biv Rock and watching the stream coming out of the normally dry cave was our after dinner entertainment.

We had a visitor later in the evening who suggested our mere three metres above the river would be flooded that night, a nice chap who was studying water systems in the area, he showed us back to a wool shed and a warm night was had. Thanks must go, of course, to a bottle of Port. We followed a dirt road from here out, unfortunately there was a little water on it. Starting at only knee level then to Bra level then to Chin level for me, Annabel tried floating on her pack and thus it worked. "oh" to be tall like Simon, easy walking out.

Summary : This area has heaps of potential in the dry.

Good pick of company on this trip.

Paul Bingham for Annabel Boyes and Simon Underwood.

COOKING COMPETITION

Pam and Doung managed to stamp quite a bit of individuality on this competition. Thank you for organising above and beyond the call of duty. Theresa and Peter also featured as officials on the evening and their enthusiasm rubbed off on all. Dishes to tantalize the taste buds, bribery and hilarity reined. (you had to be there!!)

Everyone received some sort of a prize. The dishes ranged from mulled wine (guess who) to an exotic two course affair with all the trimmings.

WINNERS OF THE 1990 COOKING COMPETITION WERE.....

BEST TRAMPING MEAL Bruce Newton - Indian Curry

BEST GOURMET MEAL - Rhonda Robinson - Tacos salad and Chocolate and vanilla mousse in brandy baskets.

Entrants were -

David and Anne Marie Barnes - Hot fruit salad

Ian Sime - The true tramping breakfast

Ross Cocker - Caramel Dumplings

Elspeth Gold - Mulled Wine

The main prizes were FREE 1991 Club membership so Congratulations to Bruce and Rhonda your membership cards are in the post.

MOST FUN I'VE HAD IN AGES THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED, COOKED OR ATE.

AN DTML COOKING RELIPE :

Ross' Caramel Dumplings



Well the Cooking Competition has been and gone and what a good night it was too!! Here is one of a number of recipes, that I hope to publish, that were entered. This one is by Ross Cocker.

Sauce: Into one Billy put $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups Water, 1oz butter stir until boiling, and drop in tablespoons of dough and cook slowly for 15-20 mins.

Dough: $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour and $\frac{1}{4}$ TSPN salt in Basin. Rub in 1oz Butter, add $\frac{1}{3}$ cup sugar $1\frac{1}{2}$ TSPN baking powder, 1TSPN vinilla. Mix all together with $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk to make a soft dough.

DELICIOUS SERVED WITH CREAM.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

We have a complaint to make regarding the time taken each club night for administrative matters.

The time taken seems to be growing longer and longer, with several talks from guest speakers not starting until after 8-30 pm. Surely this is a bit rude (not to mention off-putting) to speakers to have to wait until numerous people have up-dated all the OTMC general business. We feel that perhaps it is time to make some changes.

Would it be possible to start meetings at 7-30 pm? Perhaps the announcements, etc could be held over until the end of the talk. Possibly the length of the time spent could also be shortened. This may even solve the problem of lots of people having to leave halfway through a talk.

Yours faithfully
Dave and Sue Levick.

Dear Ed

If Thursday night meetings started at 8 o'clock (like they are supposed too) I could spend more time in bed (which I enjoy). It would also prevent some of our invited guests sitting around looking bored and bemused for so long, and provide more time at the pub for those so inclined.

David B.

ED - "I agree with you entirely. Some of the talks are starting very late. I have also noticed this and that most meetings don't actually start until after 8-15 pm. Perhaps the committee should investigate the feasibility of possible changes. My suggestion would be to start at 8-00 sharp or even 7-45 pm with club business taking half an hour at the most.

Rest assured I will certainly bring this up at the next committee meeting but in the meantime some more feedback would be appreciated."

Dear Editor

So the old problem of easy parties, leaders and parties being pushed has surfaced again. One major problem is short memories. Many of those doing Medium and Fit trips forget that two, four or even ten years ago they were doing Easy trips themselves. It doesn't take very many easy trips to give most new trampers the fitness, experience and confidence to tackle something harder. But it only takes one or two bad experiences to put them off tramping. I hope that won't happen in this club.

I have seen people start tramping with this club at the stage where a weekend trip to Routeburn Falls was a major undertaking and progress to the Olivines or Mt Aspiring. I have seen others quite content to remain doing low key trips, I hope the OTMC will continue to cater for both categories. I have also seen a club where a small core of members did trips that would have Arthur B staggering and no-one else was catered for. That club didn't have the ongoing flow of new members, becoming active that makes our club a great organisation to belong to. Anyone who joined and couldn't hack an FE trip can still join in.

So we should cast our memories back to the days when we had to stop for five rests before Green Hut, to when taking off the pack gave a sensation flight, to when Harris Saddle gave a major achievement and Milford Track was a great wilderness experience. Then we should look at our newer members and realise where we have come from, and where they may go with our help and encouragement.

Yours faithfully
David Barnes.

Dear Editor

As a newcomer to tramping and the Tramping club, I am a bit apprehensive about my fitness and ability to cope. "No problem", I am told "That's whay the trips are graded". On looking at the grades, I see that Easy means suitable for beginners, 0-4 hours and Medioum means 4-6 hours, experience not essential - sounds great!! E-M should do me, 4-5 hours. But then I hear of other new comers being 'persuaded' to up their grades of E-M, and M parties walking from 8-30 am - 7 pm; and of leaders pushing people to achieve objectives that the leaders feel are rewarding.

So I ask these questions:

- Have the grades changed?
- Do the leaders take into account the desires, gradings, experience and fitness of the parties or just of themselves?
- Is you club being honest when it says it caters for all levels, or does it desire to be an elitist group of high speed mountain goats?

Yours in anticipation of Tramping
an enthusiastic Beginner.

OTMC Hot Gossip

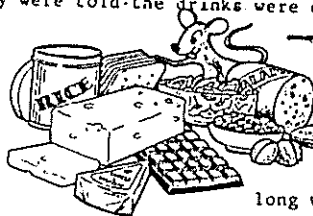
Congratulations from the OTMC goes to Bruce and Heather Newton on the arrival of a beautiful daughter (Claire) on May 8. We know she will bring as much joy as your other children.

What is this we hear?? An aspiring tennis player, ex tramper, turning to the pro scene in Middlemarch. And no wife was in sight! Could it be true??

How much does a tramper really know about alcohol?? Not much when Doug (no names mentioned) was about to drink a bottle of soya sauce. The reason "The top of the bottle felt right" Really Doug how could you??

Everyone knows the Mason brothers are notorious for their skiing antics. One is reputed to have spent more on his nose than his car, after some of the more herioc diversions. Maybe in the future he will take it more slowly.

Hear about the 50 Irishmen having a drink on the roof of the pub? They were told the drinks were on the house!!!Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha



Julie Lord was faced with a REAL delima; Eric or the cat! for three whole days at Queensbirthday Weekend. Should she go tramping with Eric or stay home and keep the cat company. I'm glad to say this story has a happy but sad ending. Eric won and the poo cat has now accepted the fact it will spend a very cold long weekend.

Another couple welcome a georgeous daughter into the world. Congratulations to Doug & Dot Pagel. Hannah may even be a future a Tramper one day.

Who did Ian McE say "Will you share the moonlight with me?" too. Could this be a future romance or did Ian have something different on his mind. Guess we will never know.

Why does Russell Godfrey keep his Batman suit in the wardrobe? Ask him yourself and find out why!!!

WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON WHAT'S

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

JUNE 21

OFFICIAL CLUBROOMS OPENING

Ceremony performed by Gordon & Marie McDonald, Life members. Details in this Bulletin. Followed by a wine & Cheese evening. Clubrooms open at 7-00 pm.

JUNE 28

BYO

Bring out those pictures of the last few tramps. Always an interesting night.

JUNE 5

ANNUAL AUCTION

David Barnes has agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies. Come along and compete for all sorts of wild and wonderful items. Remember that to make the auction successful we need heaps of old, used and possibly useless objects to auction.

Charity this year ----- Yellow Eyed Penguins.

JUNE 12

RICHARD PETTINGER - CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Stunning slides on New Zealand's closest country. Should be interesting for all those who have been there, done that, and ofcourse all others.

JULY 19

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The photography workshop showed how much talent there is in the club. You gotta be in to win!!! and there are several photographic outlets sponsoring prizes so definitely be in.

CATEGORIES ----

Best winter shot

Best tramping shot

Personality shot (people)

Landscape

General

OFFICIAL OPENING OF O.T.M.C. CLUBROOMS

3 YOUNG ST ST KILDA 7:30 pm
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING IS ; CLUBROOMS WILL BE UNLOCKED AT 7-00pm PLEASE ASSEMBLE INSIDE BEFORE 7-30 pm

STU MATHESON, OUR CURRENT PRESIDENT WILL START THE EVENING WITH A SPEECH AT 7-45 pm.

GORDON AND MARIE McDONALD, LIFE MEMBERS WILL PERFORM THE OPENING CEREMONY. THIS WILL ENTAIL AN UNVEILING AND A SPEECH.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A WINE AND CHEESE EVENING. WHILE THE CLUB WILL BE PROVIDING WINE AND CHEESE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A PLATE OR BOTTLE.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE 21st