

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

# BULLETIN

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OCTOBER 1990  
BULLETIN NO. 492

*IT'S  
THE  
NEW  
COMMITTEE!*



THE OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
MEETS EVERY THURSDAY

AT 7-30 PM

AT 3 YOUNG STREET  
(clubrooms)

PRESIDENT	Elspeth Gold	479-2022
VICE PRESIDENT	Rhonda Robinson	473-8142
SECRETARY	Eric Lord	454-4043
TREASURER	Christine Cocks	473-8329
CHIEF GUIDE	David Barnes	454-4492
DAY TRIP CONVENOR		
& TRAINING OFFICER	Antony Pettinger	473-7924
EDITOR	Sue Levick	4738-427
MEMBERSHIP SEC.	Ian Sime	453-6185
SOCIAL SEC.	Julie Lord	454-4043
GEAR HIRE	Sharon St Clair-Newman	476-3918

# TRIP LIST

The new card is enclosed with this bulletin. Some of the great trips coming up include:

OCTOBER 14                      JUBILEE HUT WORK PARTY                      Peter Mason 473-7636

"Jube" has suffered a bit of damage over the Winter, so we need some keen workers.

LABOUR WEEKEND                      LAKE MONOWAI (M FE)                      Eric Lord 454-4043  
OCTOBER 20-22

Great tramping in Southern Fiordland - trips to Green Lake, Borland Valleys, Hunter Mountains and more.

OCTOBER 28                      SEARCH & RESCUE EXERCISE- SAREX (M)                      David Barnes 454-4492

An introductory day for those interested in joining our SAR list. We'll also need a few experienced searchers to help show the way.

NOVEMBER 4                      SILVER PEAKS (M)                      Doug Forrester 487-6416

Get up amongst the tussocks in the club's "spiritual home".

NOVEMBER 11                      WORK PARTY (M)                      Peter Mason 473-7636

A good opportunity for all those who didn't get out on last month's work party.

NOVEMBER 10-11                      MAVORA LAKES/EYRE MOUNTAINS (ALL)                      Sue Harding 457-0532

Something for everyone here, from low level bush trips, to pass hopping epics.

NOVEMBER 17-18                      CATLINS COAST - PURAKAUNUI BAY (M)                      Peter Mason 473-7636

A trip that doesn't involve six hours in a van and multi-thousand foot ascents, but does guarantee some really pleasant tramping.

NOVEMBER 18                      ROCK & PILLARS DAY TRIP (M)                      Eric Lord 454-4043

After Ken's recent talk, this trip should attract dozens of people.

NOTE: 8AM START

NOVEMBER 24-25                      CAPLES/GREENSTONE/ROUTE BURN THROUGH TRIP (ALL)                      David Barnes 454-4492

We're sending one van to Kinloch and the other to the Divide, the intention being to have parties crossing from one to the other. Apart from the chance to do one of the three "tourist tracks", possibilities include Emily Pass and some really epic multi-pass trips for the FE brigade.  
NOTE: Strictly limited to 24 people.

XMAS TRIP

This year's Christmas Trip is heading to the Paparoa's. It's a really unique tramping area and is highly recommended.



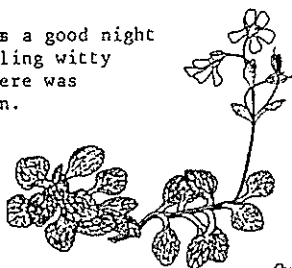
# EDITORS DIARY

Hi,

I'll be your new editor for the next 12 months. It has been a while since the last bulletin, so plenty has happened in the club since then. The main event being the election of the new committee. Elspeth Gold has burst into print with a personal profile, hopefully I can persuade the rest of the committee to also put pen to paper so those who don't know us can find out all about us.

The Annual Dinner at the beginning of September was a good night enjoyed by all. There were plenty of people feeling witty and amusing, and various speeches were made. There was even some verse composed in honour of the occasion.

The Special General Meeting has been and gone, with the accounts being approved. There was quite a lot of discussion at this meeting regarding the Waikaia Bush Road, which is at present closed. There were various viewpoints expressed about the role the club should take in this matter. If you are interested in this issue, or other similar issues, see Stuart Mathieson who is running the Outdoor Recreation Group. I would also be keen to print letters from anyone who wants to make their opinions known through the Bulletin.



*Ourisia*

The new trip list is enclosed with this Bulletin with heaps of different trips coming up. It might be time to get your boots out of the cupboard and head away for some Spring tramping.

Don't forget to bring along all your aluminium cans for recycling. This could be the easiest way to fundraise ever invented - all you have to do is drink more beer.

I'll be expecting floods of trip reports, letters, drawings, poems, gossip (any new fetishes developing?) etc, etc. I'll print anything (well almost anything!).

Until next month

*Sue Lewick*

EDITOR

NOTICE: Would the person who's got the set of keys for the clubrooms and shed that we send out on the vans please return them to David Barnes.

#### OUTDOORS PHOTOS

If you submitted photos for inclusion in Outdoors 88-89 and would like them back, please contact Anne-Marie and David Barnes

# TREASURER'S REPORT

I apologise for the tardiness of this report and hope that the new treasurer won't make me pay a late fee!!



Over the last year, the benefits of meeting people (and taking their money!) have far outweighed the monthly panic when reconciliation is due. Thank you all for your patience and humour.

It has been an eventful year financially, with 345 payments and 496 receipts, handling the sum of almost \$82,000. I considered it a special privilege to be co-signee on the cheque for the purchase of the Clubrooms (although other cheques made me wish for a shorter surname!) Several investments, kept on short term, were called in for the purchase, which was easily attained within existing Club funds. Money from the sale of Ben Ruuds trees was untouched and continues to accrue interest.

We now have a wonderful asset in our Clubrooms but must be aware that finance readily available for donations, legal fees or conservation issues may need to be more carefully planned in future. We do have tax exemption for interest on our remaining investments, and a rates rebate on the Clubrooms, but having had a very comfortable financial 'cushion' from accounts now closed, we will have to watch our cash flow more carefully. All trips are run on a break-even basis and membership fees, raised this year to cover increased PMC and bulletin costs, are also set on a non-profit basis. What we must all realize is that our most valuable asset is the membership itself, with ideas, interest and vitality to do anything we put our minds to. This has been well demonstrated by the generous donation of maps for the McDonald map wall, Peter Mason's 'slave trade' for work parties at the Clubrooms, and pledges for the Waikata Bush ad appeal which are already over \$1000.

It will only remain, what are we aiming for by the year 2000???? We, the membership, will achieve whatever we set our minds to!



TEN DAYS IN FIORDLAND 21 - 30 August '90

Leaving Dunedin at 13:30 we arrived in Milton at 14:10 for tea and biscuits with my Aunt Mary. Before leaving town a quick stop at Mitchell Bain Motors where my cousin, David gave the car a quick tune up. Then the trip began.

We arrived at Te Anau at about 17:30 and dropped in to see a friend of a friend who then offered to put us up for the night - thanks, Liz!

Next day, we looked at the weather and decided to head north first. So after telling DOC of our intentions, we set off towards the Divide Shelter. As a point of interest, we asked them if there had been any vehicle break-ins recently. They assured us our car would be quite safe, as that sort of thing was very rare. An interesting view when you realise 4 vehicles were broken into at Route Burn Shelter just a few weeks earlier!

We left the Divide in ideal weather and reached MacKenzie Hut on the Routeburn Track in the official time. We both found our fitness surprisingly lacking and the numerous fallen trees across the track made us stop to ~~rest~~ look at the views more often. And what views you get from this track; from Mt Christina right down to Martins Bay via the Hollyford Valley.

Next day we set off towards Harris Saddle but above the bushline the snow was quite hard and icy and the track exposed in places. After a couple of hours snow was falling so we returned to MacKenzie Hut for lunch, then descended in better weather to Howden Hut/

The gale force winds and rain which had been forecast for these few days never did materialise, so on Friday we went back up to Key Summit taking day packs south along the ridge for still more great views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Having achieved our aim of great views, weather and walking so early in the trip we rewarded ourselves with several Taranua biscuits - wicked!

We returned to the Divide at about 14:00 and drove down to Milford Sound for a tiki - tour and a proper wash, courtesy of the THC.

Suitably refreshed and with a clean change of clothes on, we set off back up to Homer Hut with our washed laundry hung out to dry - dangling from the back windows of the car!

Talking to two Tasmanians, Adam and John, that night we were told the snow below Gertrude Saddle was ideal. So, next day, off we went at 09:30. By 10:00 we had found the embarrassingly obvious path up the valley. As we left the valley floor we found the snow to be just as promised, not too soft, not too hard, and by about 11:00 we found Adam and John doing a wee bit of ice-climbing below Black Lake. The ice wasn't so good so they joined us and all four reached Gertrude Saddle about an hour or so later. At the top we climbed over a wee cornice about chest high and suddenly there was the view of Milford Sound spread out before us. For anyone who has been lucky enough to see this view, you'll know what I mean when I describe it as breathtaking. If you're not one of the lucky ones, then all I can suggest is that you go and see it - it really is fantastic!

After about 2½ hours we dragged ourselves away and started down, some faster than others, and some on plastic bags. There was a succession of avalanches from Barrier Peak as we went down, but all out of harms way.

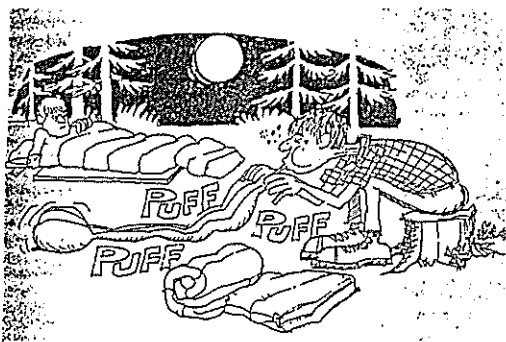
On Sunday, we returned to Te Anau. This was meant to be a rest day, but after a shower at Liz's place and making arrangements to fix the smashed windscreen received en route, we decided we didn't like rest.

Liz's flatmate, Juliette, dropped us off at the Te Anau control gates at 13:30 and after a humongous climb up hill, we reached Luxmore Hut on the Kepler Track at about 17:00. Although this is a bit of a grunt, the bush is quite interesting with many varieties of native plants and trees.

We shared Luxmore Hut that night with two jokers from Timaru. Next morning the cloud was down obscuring the much sought-after views so we decided to hang on for a day, as blue skies had been ordered for Tuesday. The Cantabrians were much less fussy and set off into the mist. The cloud lifted a wee bit later on, so I had a day trip to Mt Luxmore and Penny to the caves near the Hut. We also filled in time with a Hacky-Sack and a Penny whistle.

Our patience was rewarded next morning with an orgasmic sunrise and by 08:30 we were away! The track itself is good enough to push a wheelchair along - apart from where it's covered in snow. This makes for fast walking even if the gradients do not.

After about an hours climb you reach the summit of Mt Luxmore at 1471m and the views are breathtaking - yes, there's that word again! The good thing about the Kepler Track is not just the fantastic views, but the fact that they're sustained throughout the alpine section which hovers around 1400m all day. We reckoned we could see Mt Cook, Mt Aspiring, The Takitimus, Invercargill and Saddle Hill!



We positively wallowed in the sunshine and scenery, including a brew-up at Hanging Valley Shelter, and eight hours after starting, we descended, grudgingly, below bushline on the side of Hanging Valley. This descent down to Iris Burn Hut is really unforgiving on weak knees. We reached Iris Burn Hut about 17:00 and yet again had the hut to ourselves.

Wednesday arrived with a crisp, cold frost and after breakfast we wandered up to the Iris Burn Waterfall - about 15 minutes.

The walk down Iris Burn is easy and varied. There's interesting bush and "the Big Slip" of 1984. We arrived at Moturau Hut at about 14:30. Moturau means "many islands" and is the true Maori name for Lake Manapouri.

This is really is an idyllic spot and after tea when the sun had set, the sandflies had gone and the moon was up, we sat on the beach next to an open fire and counted the stars, and watched the ripples on the lake reflect the moonlight. A very fitting last night in a Fiordland that had shown us its best.

Our last day we walked out through some interesting and varied bush along the Waiau river valley.

Oddly enough, this walk should have been the easiest and flattest, but was surprisingly hard going. We were both quite exhausted arriving back in Te Anau and our feet were killing us - But did we care? Of course not - what a great ten days! Thanks, Penny!

Penny (not bad for a teacher) Excell  
Ian (not bad for a beginner) McElhinney

Notes; In ten days in cold, wet, crowded Fiordland, we shared huts on 3 nights, saw no one on the tracks and had perfect weather. Two words of advice:-  
Take an ice-axe on the Kepler Track and  
Don't buy your beer at Milford Sound.

#### XMAS TRIP -

#### PAPAROA'S NATIONAL PARK

This trip will leave Dunedin on the 26th Dec for approximately 10 days, in private cars. There is a range of possible trips.

The Paparoa's are on the West Coast between Westport and Greymouth. The National Park is close to the "Pancake rocks" which most of you probably know of. It is limestone country, with towering bluffs, beautiful rivers and is littered with historical sites from gold-mining days.

We've been keen to get back for a couple of years now, (since the last trip). So don't miss out!

New Year's Eve Celebrations will be at the "Bilton", in Blackball.

Sue & David Levick 4738-427



## SECRETARY'S CORNER



Giddyay I'm Eric your Secretary for the next 12 months. It is my intention to keep you informed, through the pages of this well read Bulletin, about what is going on around and about the OTMC. So the news for this month is:

### 1. Routeburn Trip 3-5/8/90

Queenstown Police wrote to say they searched an address in Balfour to which the suspect vehicle was located. However no missing items were found and pending any further information the file has been "inactivated". The Dept. of Conservation has also written regarding this trip and would like the payment of hut fees from those of you who stayed at the Routeburn Falls hut.

### 2 Wildling Exotic Trees

FMC has requested on behalf of the Min. of Forestry information on the location and types of wildling exotic trees in the Canterbury high country from the Lindis Pass to the Lewis Pass and Jacks Pass. This includes gorse and broom areas. Please send information to me giving your name and phone number, species/type of tree(s) and NZMSI map reference and I'll send the details to FMC.

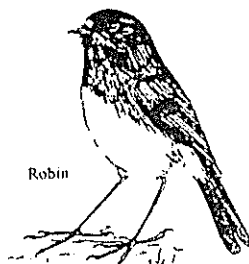
### 3. Register of problems associated with mountain bikes

Mountain bikes have become very popular and already there have been cases of "near misses" between bikers and walkers. I'm willing to compile a register of problems you may encounter with inconsiderate mountain bike riders be it head-on contact or damage done to tracks. Please send details on place, time and a description on what happened.

### 4. Forest Management Plan

The Ministry of Forests has sent a draft policy for public comment regarding the management of indigenous and plantation forests. Their intention is to develop a long term philosophy for forest management and public submissions need to be in by 19 November.

Cheers,  
Eric Lord





## OPERATION SWALE

10.30 pm Saturday 23 June David Barnes phoned to split SAR List in half, 16 volunteers needed for standby only, 4 needed for Recce Party to be at Police Station 7.15 am Sunday. Within half an hour we had the 16 volunteers; congratulations to David for his recent update of our SAR List.

A friend had reported Mr Swale overdue; he had left Outram township to walk up Taieri River to the aquaduct below Mt Hyde and was due out 7.30 pm. AREC set up a repeater on Mt Hyde and a base at Outram Glen for communications and soon after first light the Recce Party was under way, an hour later we had arranged for the 4WD Club to drive a further Recce Party of 4 to Lee Stream bridge on George King Memorial Drive but before they could come in our first Recce Party located Mr Swale about 300m upstream from the Lee Stream/Taieri River confluence at 10.20 am and the search was officially closed down at 1.00 pm. Mr Swale was fit and well equipped for a night out which had been his original intention; our Recce Party was unable to convince him that he was lost and needed help. All due to a genuine misunderstanding because he had not made his intentions clear. We should all learn a lesson from this.

Because of other priorities the Police were unable to assist with this search which involved a total of 30 volunteers from OTMC (17) AREC (3) 4WD Owners Club (3) SAR Advisors etc (3) St Johns (2) and Landowners (2).

We (OTMC) were pleased to have all of these volunteers we called out and those placed on standby, however, a serious problem could have arisen around Sunday lunch-time. When the search was called off and Spen Walker phoned to stand everyone down, of the remaining 8 he had not contacted that day he could not get in touch with 6 !!! If the search had developed further in scale, and those people were needed,..... Please, SAR volunteers, if you make yourself available for standby, do just that; it is imperative that you remain near a phone or, let the person who phoned you know where you can be contacted.

Ross Cocker, Asst Field Controller for Chas Forsyth, Field Controller and the SAR Advisors.



The promised SAREX is on for the weekend after Labour weekend. It will be a one day event. We'll need some experienced searchers to help too.

If your phone number changes by other than just the addition of a single digit next month, let me know. Don't forget the work phone number.

David Barnes (Ph 54 4492).

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A small working group has been set up by the Committee to look into all aspects of the present system for electing Life Members.

At present there are minimal guidelines in our Constitution. Your opinions and comments would be welcomed, to enable the group to gauge feeling within the Club as to the direction for election of Life Members.

Contact :        Elspeth Gold  
                 Eric Lord  
                 or Richard Pettinger

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Christmas is only round the corner and I would like your suggestions for a Pre-Christmas Social. One idea already suggested would be to have a barbeque tea and overnight accomodation in South Otago. If you have any ideas or comments to make, see Julie Lord. If we are going to have a Social it would be good to have it well-supported, which requires some input from YOU,

Julie

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### PERSONAL PROFILE    ELSPETH GOLD

I JOINED THE CLUB WITH BUSHCRAFT 87. TRAMPED EXTENSIVELY IN 87/88 THEN HEADED OFF ON THE GREAT OVERSEAS TAVERN TREK, ARRIVING BACK JUST IN TIME FOR THE 89 AGM.

APART FROM TRAMPING MY SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES INCLUDE---  
PHOTOGRAPHY.

STRIVING TO REACH THE ULTIMATE STATE OF SOLIENCE BY ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE SPEIGHTS BREWERY.

SPENDING AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE AT KAKA POINT.  
TRAVELLING, TALKING ABOUT TRAVELLING AND PLANNING THE NEXT OVERSEAS TRIP.

MY AMBITIONS ARE--- TO EVENTUALLY REACH THE ULTIMATE STATE OF SOLIENCE (IT TAKES ALOT OF PRACTICE).  
TO BE KEPT IN THE MANNER TO WHICH I COULD BECOME ACCUSTOMED.  
TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO SPEND EVERY WINTER IN A TROPICAL COUNTRY.  
TO LEARN THE SAXOPHONE.  
TO MAKE AN IMPACT BY STAMPING SOME INDIVIDUALITY ON EVERYTHING I DO.  
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE CLUB IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

Cheers.  
Elspeth.

# OTMC Hot Gossip



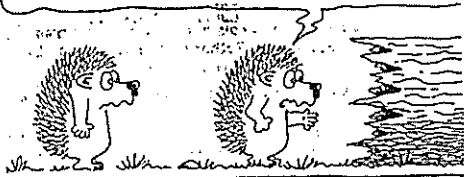
Congratulations to Pam Bardsley and David Peacock on the arrival of their new baby, Holly.

It seems that Yvonne Greer has a hidden talent for the Highland Fling, Stu Mathieson (even in traditional dress) couldn't quite match the style!

It's goodbye to Ian McElhinney as he heads back to England very soon. All the best until you are back in Otago again. Meantime, Ian is part of the UK Branch of the OTMC.

There isn't a hut book at Christmas Flat in the Karangarua, so tradition and practicality dictate that trampers write their intentions on scraps of paper and stuff them in the wire netting lining the roof. There's a photo of this on the title page of Mark Pickering's "The Hills". Prominent in the photo are the names of four OTMC members. Barry Wybrow, Matt Sillars, Andrew Powell, and Miriam Vollweiler - you're famous at last!

WELL I REALLY WANT TO CAMP IN THE  
HOLLOW LOG! YOU'RE JUST  
SAYING THERE ARE WETAS IN THERE!  
CAUSE YOU'RE SCARED OF THE DARK!



NO I'M NOT! THERE REALLY  
ARE WETAS IN THERE.....



I'VE SEEN THEIR  
ANTLERS!



# WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON WHAT'S

## SOCIAL PROGRAMME

### SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Giddyday to you all, I'm Julie and I am your new-found Social Secretary. Well I've managed to rack my brains and do some begging and guess what I have put a programme together, for three months anyway. BUT I still need lots of suggestions for next year!!!

So the programme for the next few weeks....

Oct 4 Dave McArthur ]  
 Lyall Campbell ] From the **Family Group** to talk about their  
 Marie McDonald ] activites and show us slides of  
 various trips.

Oct 11 Andrew Sutherland from **Dunedin Recycle**  
 Recycling - a new and alternative recipe to waste disposal.

Oct 18 **Spot the Location** quiz night formulated by Irvin Lard.

Oct 25 **What Trampers see around them.** A talk by Bruce McKinlay on  
 wildlife and vegetation.

Nov 1 Prof. Alan Mark from the Otago University's Botany Department to  
 talk on  
**Otago's Rich and Varied Vegetation.**

Nov 8 **Mt Cook National Park** - climbing and highlights by Ewen Cadzow.

See you all there.

