

# OTMC Bulletin

**Bulletin Number 682, March 2008**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping  
and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.**

**The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street  
every Thursday - doors open at 7.30pm,  
programme begins at 8.00pm.**

## **6 March**

Phil Somerville & Wayne Hodgkinson take us to the Landsborough, travelling over Broderick and Elcho Passes.

## **13 March**

BYO. Time to show those photos from Te Panui, Earnslaw Burn and U Pass.

## **20 March**

No club night due to the Easter holiday

## **27 March**

Peter, Matt, Chris, Ann, Debbie and Antony showing us around the Five Passes in January.

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. Please contact Antony Pettinger (President) at "apett@es.co.nz", or 473 7924 if you can help.

**Visit us on the Internet at:  
[www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)**

# PRESIDENT'S PIECE

The OTMC is now well into the new year with the first three weekend trips completed, as well as the normal weekly meetings and Sunday outings. The committee have held their first meeting for the year and one of the important tasks to be undertaken is the completion of the Skyline Track. The enclosed notice outlines the reason why the club is in this position. The committee is now charged with completing our obligation to the Dunedin City Council and finishing the track to a point where the DCC will take ownership and carry out ongoing maintenance. The Skyline Track is seen as the completion of a network of tracks along the northern Dunedin skyline from Whare Flat Rd (Bullring) to Sawyers Bay via Flagstaff, Swampy and Mt. Cargill. The section we call the Skyline Track is from Sullivans Dam to Mt. Cargill.

The OTMC has undertaken to complete the section from Sullivans Dam to the powerlines to a standard suitable for the general public. A significant amount of structure (boardwalk) is required to alleviate the muddy sections. To complete this work the committee are relying on voluntary assistance from members and friends of the club. It is hoped the bulk of the work can be completed before the winter. We are going to be holding a workparty every Wednesday evening (effective immediately) for as long as conditions allow. We are not setting a start time as the earlier people can be on site the more we can achieve. We will also try and hold some workparties on the weekends. The tasks we have is the pre-fabrication of sections of boardwalk in Dunedin, transporting to site, carrying to the required location and installation. There will also be some minor track work / vegetation cutting required. Matt Corbett has offered to co-ordinate the work parties. Please ring Matt at 487 6595 if you are able to assist with the completion of this project.

The remaining section of the skyline track from the powerlines to Mt. Cargill will remain to a tramping standard track at this stage. There is a possibility the section from Pigeon Rock to Mt. Cargill will be diverted through the adjacent pine forest, which is more in keeping with the skyline concept. The Escarpment Track may be kept open by some keen people, but the OTMC will accept the decision of the DCC regarding the final location of the uppermost section. It is hoped that the track up to the lookout, originally part of the Skyline project, will be maintained as a tramping track as this point offers the best views on the city side of the track.

If anyone has any queries regarding the Skyline Track in general please direct them to Antony (473 7924).

Antony Pettinger  
President.

# Membership

Two new members have joined us this month: Gene Dyett, 49 Nelson St, 455 7465; and Will Sweetman, 2 Bacon St, Broad Bay, 478 0882. We welcome these two experienced outdoorsmen!

Ian Sime

Membership Secretary



## WANTED: DAY TRIP LEADERS



It's that time of year when I'm looking for leaders (and trips) for the Winter Daytrip programme. Ideally it's great for potential leaders to have a destination in mind, but I can help you pick something suitable, and we have guidelines for people who have not led trips before. Trip ideas for new or less visited places are also most welcome from anyone. This winter I'd also like to have a few extra Saturday trips for people that Sunday doesn't suit, so please contact me now, and help make the day trip programme a success.



Roy Ward (Day Trip Convenor)



473-9518 or royward@physics.otago.ac.nz



## HAVE YOU SEEN A ROBIN?

Shirley McQueen would like to hear from anyone who has seen native robins in the Silver Peaks over the past 20 years. This does not include the Silverstream catchment or Flagstaff. Please contact her either by email or phone (4746944 work, 4535543 home).

# TREVON MASON

13/1/61 – 16/2/08

Those from Taieri Mouth who knew Trevor Mason said for him to come to the club was a huge step. That's because he was shy and kept to himself until he built up trust. But Trevor (47) thrived on challenging himself in the mountains and made his bold move to join Bushcraft 2006. He soon came to revel in the company of others who shared his passion, becoming a regular on club weekend and day trips.

Trevor, a self-employed fitter and turner, was sturdy and stoic, independent and conscientious, loyal and sensitive. As he came to know you, stories began emerging of an extraordinary tramping past. He followed the footsteps of his hero, 1860's explorer and miner A.J. Barrington, into inhospitable country north and west of Lake Wakatipu. And he undertook several Fiordland epics, again solo. Once he slashed his Achilles tendon and crawled on his hands and knees for two days before finding a hunting party and rescue. On another occasion he used tent pegs in each hand to help him up a snow slope.

A good day for Trevor was 10 to 12 hours in rough terrain regardless of the weather. Social and soft trips frustrated him, and he carried enormous weights. The ice axe and crampons he built in his workshop for my trip last August were unbelievably heavy and built to last. The ice axe looks more like a medieval weapon of war. He always carried his own tent but no cooker because trips were for tramping, not for wasting time and effort on hot drinks and hot food. Fish cakes were his staple.

Trevor had been training assiduously for the Marathon and was, in his self-effacing way, excited by the prospect, enjoying our tough, hot, preliminary Waitangi Day trek over tricky parts of the course.

While seeking to push himself, Trevor was careful and thorough. That fateful morning he was carrying a GPS, a locator beacon and a bivvy bag (in case he was caught overnight). What makes his accident even more unbelievable is that he was with Roy Ward, by nature cautious and thorough, and two others who are experienced trampers and climbers. The group was already making plans to cross the Silverstream via a bridge

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and to abandon much of the route because of the threat of two streams in the Hindon direction.

Roy managed to persuade Trevor to lead a Silverpeaks day trip late last year. Typically, it was “fitness essential” and, typically, Trevor prepared thoroughly in advance, walking the route in both directions. Impressively too, Trevor insisted everyone keep together when some of the party were struggling, even though this meant the trip became shorter than he would have preferred.

Trevor, in his relatively short time with the club, touched many members with his love for the hills and dedication to tramping, including those he quietly encouraged to take on tougher challenges. For his part, Trevor derived much joy and satisfaction from club companionship.

Philip Somerville



# Trip Reports

## **Aoraki/Mt Cook in Summer 19-20 January**

Mueller Hut was our destination. We left the clubs rooms at 6 pm and after a four hour ride we camped for the night at the White Horse camping ground near the Mt Cook Village. Saturday morning we woke up to a perfect day, sunny with not a cloud in the sky.

Jane and Elizabeth set out about 8:30 am and the four-person Mt Cook Range party shortly afterwards. The last of the Hut group began the walk about 9:30 am after having to wait for the DoC office to open and lodge intentions and pay for the use of hut facilities.

The tramp to Mueller Hut is a 5.2 km long track and includes a 1000 m climb to the hut located at 1800 m on the Sealy Range. We walked at an easy pace with lots of well-deserved breaks to enjoy the magnificent views and the sunshine. The first section of the track to the Sealy Tarns was steep and stepped. The next section was across tussock and alpine scrub, then across a boulder field and up a scree slope to the ridge line.

The adage of the tortoise and the hare proved true for Jean? and Elizabeth, who expected to be the slowest of our group. But they arrived at the hut hours before the rest due to taking only short stops.

Alex ??? was also on the hill that day with his paragliding colleague Zino. Alex trudged up the hill to the ridgeline (1740 m) with us; his bag containing his overnight gear, glider and parachute weighed 30kg! The paraglider was made from very lightweight fabric and a small tear in the hem caused the first launch to be aborted. Various members produced needle and thread and Kathryn used her skills to repair the problem.

A small crowd had gathered and watched in awe as Alex walked into the wind, jiggled the threads connecting him to the wing and magically floated

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off in the direction of Mt. Cook. He covered quite a distance in a short time and soon became a very small dot in the distance. About 20 minutes later fluctuating wind caused a minor wing collapse. Alex swooped passed the ridgeline and headed off in search of thermals, but he did not find any and landed beside the road between Mt. Cook Village and the White Horse campground. Being a keen lad, he packed up his gear and walked back up the hill again (without the paraglider) to sleep in the Mueller Hut.

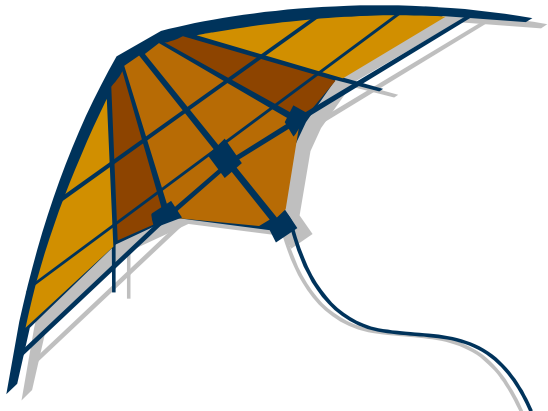
From the ridgeline the track to Mueller Hut was across less steep but very rocky ground. Gordon, Will and Michael decided to climb Mt Ollivier (1933 m), and returned to where the others had found a grassy camp site amongst the rocks. The area gave 360 degree spectacular views of glaciers, ice cliffs, and mountain peaks including Aoraki. Small avalanches could be heard and sometimes seen on the mountains. The papparazzi snapped away at the beautiful sunset and views.

The next morning we woke up to another beautiful day, packed up and descended the track in three groups. There was much laughter on the descent when Will received a text from his girlfriend who was concerned that he was warm enough, we were absolutely roasting, taking every opportunity for shade and not long after meet a lady ascending the track in a bikini !. Keeping warm was not a problem.

We assembled in the Mt Cook village, hung around the visitor centre, partook in a few refreshments, then headed home. Big thanks to Sandra for organising a wonderful trip.

Michael Firmin & Gordon Tocher for :-

Sandra de Vries, Antony Pettinger, Ann Burton, Dean Gillett, Sue Barnaby, Jane Cloete, Wilbert Stockman, Kathryn Jeyes, Will Sweetman and Elizabeth.



# Centre of Te Papanui Conquered

At 4:16 pm on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008 the centre of Te Papanui was conquered. A flag raised, toasts drunk, geo cache lodged and heroic photos taken. The expedition came about from my desire to explore Te Papanui, a vast expanse of rolling tussock land. However I was unable to find a destination so I therefore created one by obtaining from DoC the coordinates of the centre of Te Papanui (2258999, 5495430). Finding the centre of an irregular object is quite complex. It is the mathematical equivalent of making a cardboard cut out of the reserve and then balancing it on the head of a pin.

The Te Papanui conservation park was opened in March 2003 so the area has been grazed until relatively recently. A large part of the park is also the Deep Stream and Deep Creek water catchment for Dunedin City. The deep tussock and mosses create a giant sponge that soaks up moisture and results in a reliable run off.

We parked at the locked gate at the top of Eldorado Track. Eldorado Track has become a major gravel road as a result of Trust Power building a small hydro scheme in the area. A reservoir, canals and power houses have been built to generate power from the Deep Stream water that is diverted into Lake Mahinerangi. Eldorado Track will get even further use if the Trust Power wind farm proceeds.

From the locked gate we took the access road to the Trust Power Deep Stream intake and then headed due west over the tussock lands. Terrain alternates between areas of easy going sparse tussock (presumably still recovering from grazing and burning), wading through denser areas of larger tussock and plodding through basins of spongy mosses. Navigation relied on GPS as there are no features such as high points or rock tors to use as landmarks. Just before the centre point we found a great camping site in a gully. It had a level, dry moss bank to pitch the tents on and had running water.

After the ceremony at the centre point Phil and Corvin went on an evening

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visit to the site of the former mountain huts that were four km to the north. The next morning we woke to fog and it took careful navigation to get to Ship at Anchor where we found another geo cache. After visiting Moodies Workings we were back at the cars mid afternoon. An historic trip to an interesting area.

Antony Hamel for Michael Hamel, Matthew Sole, Joe Sole, David McFarlane, Phil Sommerville, Corvin Lemke, Kathryn Jayes.

## **CONSERVATION BOARD NOMINATIONS 2008**

The Minister of Conservation has recently advised that he is seeking nominations of suitable people for appointment to NZ's 14 regional conservation boards. Appointments are for a 3 year term commencing 1 September 2008. Fifty four members have terms expiring on 31 August 2008.

As well as suitable personal or professional qualifications and conservation experience, appointees will need to have the time and energy to commit to the role. The next 3 years will see many conservation boards reviewing conservation management strategies or national park management plans. This work involves a lot of reading and consideration of views of the public.

It is important to note that members do not represent those who nominate them. Boards are intended to be representative of the community as a whole and their duty as a board member is to discharge the functions of the board.

Would Clubs please circulate this information around their members and encourage them to give consideration to suitable candidates for the boards. More information on the boards and the process can be obtained from Department of Conservation Conservancy Offices or:

Katrina Edwards Phone: 04 471 3289 email: [kedwards@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kedwards@doc.govt.nz)  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) Go to 'Getting involved', 'NZ Conservation Authority and Boards'

Nominations close on 10 March 2008.

Dear OTMCers,

I was an OTMC member from about 2002 until last year, when I (more or less) left New Zealand. And of course I miss the New Zealand mountains and the OTMC trips a lot - and apart from that there were lots of wonderful sidetrips with Terry Duffield as well (if you read this, Terry, I'm sorry we didn't realize the big Fiordland thing. But who knows when I'll be back again...). I thought you might like to hear a bit about other outdoor things I've done since. The main thing I did last year was a roundtrip of Australia by bicycle. This took five months. I started in Brisbane, in July, where I also finished, in December. There's an English weblog, which may not be very interesting as it is partly written for computer science people who enjoy the sprinkling with academic riddles, but the picture gallery of the trip may be nice:

<http://www.cs.otago.ac.nz/staffpriv/hans/stories/uaf/test3.html>.

The big difference between large parts of Australia and New Zealand is that it's flat. So getting round goes a lot quicker, kilometerwise. It is also a lot bigger and there are up to 300 km stretches of road from one house to the next one, without water. This is mainly in the North. By far the most beautiful part as seen from the road is the Kimberley. There you find the typical red rocks. Camping on the roadside can be problematic as the soil is so compact that you can't get your pegs in the ground. I never carry a hammer because when the surface is impenetrable there are always rocks around to be used as hammers. But not in this case. Just a completely flat, dry, rockhard surface, no rocks. One does not really need a tent to stay warm but the idea of snakes creeping up on me did not appeal. By the end of August the temperature rose to about 40°C so I was glad to get down to Perth and the famous Nullarbor Plain. Where it rained. Anyway, see my weblog and the photos for the rest.

In December and January I did my bit of tramping, but in the French Pyrenees. The main difference from New Zealand is that you can do a nice hike, then have a coffee or another drink, then continue, have another drink, etc. very luxurious. This year (as more or less all of the last ten years, I was told...) there was hardly any snow, so you could hike up to 2000 m as if it were summer. At that stage you still need mini-crampons because the remaining snow (that had been fallen early December) was hard as ice and difficult and somewhat dangerous to walk on when on a ridge. Hiking is very popular in France and you meet whole families over several generations on a typical day-trip - on a nice day.

There was a frantic crowd trying to practice skiing on the few remaining circuits that were maintained by shoveling all the remaining snow on that path

and then flattening it. I did some cross-country skiing but this was a strange experience as, because of that procedure, only the track is snow but the remaining countryside bare mountainside.

And right now I'm in Holland. With my iceskates. Unfortunately, the last ice-skating tour was held in 1997. There are now long-distance iceskating rinks (4 km rounds) for those who want to iceskate. I can't help thinking of all the energy they have to burn to keep those going, thus making the climate even hotter than it already is. So I guess the chance of future iceskating in Holland is pretty slim.

Well, so much for a cynical ending! I wish you all great tramping this year, and I hope to be back again in New Zealand at some stage.

Cheers, Hans van Ditmarsch

# Triplist

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

The first three trips for 2008 have all been completely different. The Mt. Cook (In Summer) trip was definitely that – a very settled weekend saw some very hot temperatures on the Mueller and Mt. Cook Range. The recent fire at Glentanner provided a disappointing haze over Lake Pukaki but it was still a very enjoyable trip. The trip to Mt. Domet didn't happen, instead a party of five headed for the headwaters of the northern Mavora Lake to be entertained by some adept driving skills, courtesy of Ray. A trip that this club has never seen the like of before was to the 'true' centre of Te Papanui Conservation Park. Trip leader Antony Hamel needed to provide a real reason for a weekend trip to these tussocklands, hence the crusade to conquer the centre. There has been certainly something for everyone so far this year.

It is that time of year again when the upcoming trip programme is being compiled. The next trip card will cover the period from May to the end of October. While there are already some trips in place (Port Craig @ Queens Birthday and the Rail Trail @ Labour weekend) now is a good

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time to speak up if you have somewhere in mind. Based on previous years the winter trips benefit by heading to areas that have huts, and we are always looking for trips that are different from the usual Routeburn or Kepler trips. Contact Antony if you have any ideas.

**March 21/25 (Easter)**  
**Headwaters of Lake Ohau (M/C)**  
**Antony Pettinger 473 7924**

The Hopkins roadend now finishes some 8 km shorter than it used to, which means that two-day trips to the Hopkins are not quite so enjoyable, due to the extra walking required to get to Monument Hut. With this in mind I thought it would be a good idea to run the 2008 Easter trip to Ohau. The final destinations will depend on who is going but here are some ideas. Visit the head of the Hopkins itself. I have been reliably told the head of the Hopkins is impressive, but unreachable in a weekend. With 4-5 days it will be possible to visit the head and spend some time exploring the area. Another option for a fitter experienced party is the Elcho Pass / Landsborough / Broderick Pass round trip. Phil and Wayne did this trip over the Christmas break and can provide helpful pointers.

Still being early in the year it would be possible to do a multi-pass trip like South Huxley/Ahuriri/South Temple/Maitland/Dumb Bell Lake/Ohau Range. If time permitted it could be possible to add 'Gunsight Pass', the North/South Temple crossing.

Finally, you can base yourself and do several shorter trips to places like Broderick Hut/Pass, South Huxley, Dasler Pinnacles or the Elcho Valley. More information available at club. Trip list closes March 13.

**April 12/13**  
**Ben Ohau Range (All)**  
**Peter Stevenson 454 4148**

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The club hasn't had a lot of success in running trips to the Ben Ohau area with low numbers in the past. Indeed, it has been a long time since this writer has visited the area, but amongst the mist and rain I can recall an area not dissimilar to the neighbouring Ohau Valleys, with prominent bush-free tops and numerous scree slopes. Due to the time of year trips will probably be limited to valley ones, with an opportunity to gain the ridge tops for the impressive views over Lake Pukaki. The crossover trips are probably better suited to times of the year with more daylight hours. The two valleys most likely to be visited on this trip are Whale Stream or Duncan Stream (via Boundary Stream?) to the lake shown on the map. From the latter it should be possible to scramble up to several smaller lakes at around 1800 m.

This trip will close on April 3.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE: Milford Track (May 2-5)**

After a break of five years the OTMC is running a trip over the Milford Track again. There appears to be plenty of interest out there for this trip so here is what I am planning for this trip.

I have chosen the first weekend in May to avoid the severe overcrowding encountered in 2003. We are leaving Dunedin on the Thursday night and staying at the Te Anau camping ground. Friday morning will see us taken to Te Anau Downs and across the lake to the start of the Milford Track near Glade House. The first day is a leisurely walk to Clinton Forks Hut for the night. We will then stay at Mintaro and Dumpling Huts before meeting the boat at Sandfly Point on the Monday afternoon. A bus will take us back to Te Anau from where we will drive home on Monday evening. I had considered missing out Clinton Forks but with the logistics of a large group combined with the short daylight hours I have decided it would be wise to just plan on getting to Clinton Forks. Likewise for a Dore Pass option.

An indicative cost of the trip is \$150.00 for the Te Anau to Te Anau transport (bus/boat/boat/bus). Additionally the huts are \$10 per person per

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night (3 nights required) or annual hut pass. Food parties and transport from Dunedin will be arranged as for any other club trip (using private transport). This a great opportunity for OTMC people to enjoy what is called the finest walk in the world (which is a subjective description). I haven't decided if we will set a limit for the trip but it is primarily being run for the OTMC and associates, hence the 'OTMC Only' listed on the trip card. You will need Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May off work for this trip. More details will be available next month, but the trip list is in the club-rooms now. Contact Antony for more information (473-7924).

Antony Pettinger  
Chief Guide

### Committee Members 2007-2008

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Greg Powell	454 4828
Secretary	Jill McAliece	455 6740
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Imm. Past Pres	Terry Casey	454 4592
Chief Guide/Transport	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Ian Sime	453 6185
Gear Hire	Matt Corbett	487 6595
and	Dave Chambers	454 3857
Daytrip Convenor	Roy Ward	473 9518
Funding	Greg Powell	454 4828
Library	Kathryn Jeyes	455 2473
Clubrooms Officer	Terry Casey	454 4592
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Publicity	Tony Timperley	473 7257
	Ralph Harvey	453 4330
(outside committee)		
Social Convenor	<i>Position vacant</i>	
Bulletin Editor	Robyn MacKay	488 2420
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Contact	Teresa Wasilewska	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the April Bulletin, deadline is 14/03/08, publication 27/03/08. You can submit material by email to "rebell@xtra.co.nz"; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Robyn MacKay, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

# DAYTRIPS

## **Circumnavigation of the Orokonui Fence (E) 16 March**

The 9 km fence that encloses the Orokonui Ecosanctuary was closed off in July 2007. Currently the old Orokonui DoC reserve is closed while pests are being eradicated, but it is possible to walk around the fence and marvel at what is being planned. We will leave our cars at the main top gate where the visitor centre will later be built, near the junction of Blueskin and Moponui Roads. There is one steep section at the northern end of the fence but in general the 3 to 4 hour walk is very easy as it follows the wide, gravelled perimeter track. There is plenty to see: great views, named fence posts and rosellas; with kiwi, tuatara and takahe to dream about. The Orokonui website can be found at: [www.oroikonui.org.nz](http://www.oroikonui.org.nz)

Leader: Fieke Neuman 471 9981

## **Taieri River Trip (Walk/Swim) (M/F)**

In the first edition of From Sea to Silver Peaks the time given from the Wingatui Viaduct to Lee Stream was 3 to 5 hours. This was a wild guess and is wrong but nobody complained. In the second edition the time was changed to a more realistic 5 hours but still gave the directions as “scramble along the western bank”. This was another guess and is wrong. I had tried to do the trip but ran out of time.

Eventually in 2005 I did the trip but discovered that it was far better to travel down the river than grovel around in the bush. The DoC reserve on the river banks has been fenced and pest destruction work has resulted in a dense manuka forest. Travel time along the river banks are in the order of 800 metres per hour while travel down the river bed is much quicker but involves a lot of fording and some swimming through deep pools.

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The best season to do this trip is in summer when the river is low (below 5 cumecs) and warm (temperatures can be over 20 degrees). The ORC website shows current river flows. Total travel time is about 6 hours. We will leave a car at Outram Glen and start from the locked gate in Mullocky Gully on the Mt Allan road. Be prepared to get very wet. Trip cost \$6.

Leader: Antony Hamel 453 5240

**Easter  
23 March**

There is no daytrip due to the Easter holiday. Enjoy your break, whether out in the hills, at home, or holidaying elsewhere. (Our sympathies if you have to work, hopefully you'll get penal rates!)

**Raingauge Spur / Steve Amies Track (M)  
30 March**

This walk is in native bush on the western side of Swampy. We drive to Whare Flat and walk along the Racemans Track following an old water race which was part of the Dunedin water supply. When the race ends at a weir, we turn up Raingauge Spur, go steeply up a rough track for about an hour and a half and come out high on the Swampy Road near the elbow. There are good views out to the south and west here. We turn off the road again near Trig Q, and go down the Steve Amies track to Racemans and back to Whare Flat. Cost \$4.

Leader: Jonette Service 454 2323