

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 685, June 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.**

5 June

Paul Hersey will talk about his book "Where the mountains throw their dice", which is about risk in the hills and mountains. He will have some copies for sale at a discounted price.

12 June

Garth Johnson will tell us what's happening at Fairydawn, and about their new Macpac range. This talk is rescheduled from 8th May.

19 June

Peter Strang climbed Mt Hirshell in the Antarctic with Ed Hillary. He tells us about the climb, and stories about Sir Ed.

26 June

Bring your own photos and stories about your latest trips in the hills.

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. If you can help please contact

Tony Timperley (phone 473 7257, email cathy.tony.t@actrix.co.nz) or Ralph Harvey (phone 453 4544, email ralphh@ihug.co.nz)

**Visit us on the Internet at:
www.otmc.co.nz**

PRESIDENT'S PEECE

Winter is certainly here, with the recent trip to the Milford Track being rather cold, despite the brilliant blue skies. The trip itself had 26 people on it, and will no doubt be the largest OTMC trip of the year. The weather across the lake and onto Clinton Hut was damp (satisfyingly appropriate for the Milford) but from then on the weather improved, with severe frosts and fresh snow over McKinnon Pass. The track itself is full of history, but each time the OTMC do this trip it's nice to remember, and thank the Otago Tramping Club members of 1965, who over Easter, became the first 'freedom walkers' over the Milford. Prior to this your only opportunity to visit this diverse and intriguing landscape was via the government sanctioned guided walk. Although the Milford remains one of the most regulated walks in the world, it is nice to know the OTMC has played a significant part in allowing self-sufficient parties to enjoy this spectacular environment.

The OTMC has long had a respected voice in access and environmental issues, and any time now we have the opportunity to comment on the draft management plan for one of our favourite National Parks – Mt. Aspiring. Early meetings have looked at, amongst other things, air access to Bevan Col (Mt. Aspiring itself) and the Siberia Valley. The OTMC will be making a full submission on the whole plan, and to be representative of the opinion of the club we would like your feedback on issues like air access. Are you happy with the current restrictions on flights within the park? Should operators be forced to operate at certain times of the day? Should the number of allowed flights be increased? There will be many other topics that will require comment and I urge all members to keep an eye on the Bulletin, OTMC email list, FMC Bulletin or even the ODT and think about the values you think the MANP should have. David Barnes will be compiling our submission and any comments should be passed to him (see committee list for contact details).

Finally, it is with much sadness the OTMC note the death of Barbara Calvert in late April. Barbara and Dick Calvert are the local couple who donated the majority of the money used for the construction of the Skyline Track, completing the vision of A.H. Reed for a walkway along the length of the northern Dunedin Skyline. Without the generous donations by both Barbara and Dick Calvert, and Evelyn and Bob Entwistle, this link would not be nearing completion now.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

A quiet month; no-one has joined or resigned, but these three have moved:

Fieke Neuman, to 15A Durham St, 453 4899;

Ken Powell, to 80G Argyle St, Mosgiel, 489 4337;

and Aaron Whitehead, to 106 Anderson Rd, Wanaka, 03 443 2847.

Ian Sime

Membership Secretary

The Club has made a submission on the Walking Access Bill. While the new legislation and the Walking Access Commission have potential to bring significant benefits to trampers, the proposal is not without imperfections. Although creating and administering walkways is just one of many functions proposed for the Commission, it is the one where the most legislative ink is used, and thus the one that needed the most comment.

A major area of concern relates to walkways on public land and unformed public roads. Concerns have been raised that walkway status can impose restrictions on the use of public land that would not otherwise exist. This is because walkway status primarily increases the rights of the public over private land and, as a trade-off, we accept those rights (on private land) as being slightly less than we have on most public land. In doing so, its one-size-fits-all approach means it can be seen as diminishing rights over public land. To remove concerns about this, we think it is essential that the Bill explicitly state that no reduction in rights over public land is intended.

There are many cases where there is no, or limited, practical legal access to public conservation land. This often arises from the land coming under Crown control in an era where public recreational access was not a consideration, e.g. retirement for soil and water conservation purposes. Examples in the Club's patch exist in the Takitimu Mountains and the Kakanui Mountains. We have suggested that references to securing access to rivers, lakes and the coast in the bill be broadened to include securing access to public conservation land.

David Barnes, Conservation & Recreation Advocacy Officer

For Sale

*Most of you will recall Doug Forrester who passed away last year.....
on his wife Marie's behalf we are looking for new homes for Doug's
tramping gear. The new owner of these items can be assured that they
were well cared for and no doubt travelled many miles with Doug over
some very interesting country.*

Books: Titles & Authors as below

<i>Heritage – The Parks of the People – David Thom</i>	\$20
<i>Beautiful NZ – Errol Braithwaite</i>	\$20
<i>NZ and Its People – Errol Braithwaite</i>	\$10
<i>Edmund Hillary – The Life of a Legend – Pat Booth</i>	\$20
<i>Graeme Dingle – Dangerous Journeys – Pat Booth</i>	\$15
<i>Rimo Mountain on the Silk Road – Peter Hillary</i>	\$15
<i>Shadows of the Hill – D G Jardine</i>	\$ 5

**If you are interested in anything, or require further information
please call:**

Ralph	03 453 4330	or	021 128 2061
Sharon	03 476 3903	or	021 223 7910

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Tramping Gear:

Crampons	Two pair	\$ 30 each
Packs	Two Fairydown	\$ 30 (Old Terra Nova) \$175 (As New Terra Nova)
Daypack		\$15
Snow Goggles	Baruffaldi	\$Offers (As new)
Ice Axe	North Wall Hammer	\$40
Tent	Minaret 2 person	\$300 (As new)
Sleeping Mat	Therm-o-rest Full length	\$70 (UltraLite As new)
Sleeping Bag	Fairydown L/weight 90% down 10% feather	\$100 (As new)
	Snugpak Softie L/weight	\$30
Bivvie Bag	Macpac Gortex	\$75 (Sm-Med)
Gaiters	Canvas/cordura	\$20
Stuff sac	Nylon	\$5
Compression Sac	Nylon with straps	\$10
Overmitts	Heavy nylon waterproof	\$15
Silk Liner	In Bag	\$25 (As new)
Billie	Aluminium small	\$5
Helmet	Climbing	\$20 (Ex Aspiring!)
Harness	Climbing	\$Offers
Cookers	Coleman	\$50 (Goes well)
	Handy	\$5 (Historical)
Headlamp	Black Diamond 4 led	\$50 (As new)
Snow stake	Aluminium	\$5
Seal Skin Socks	Black Size 9 (ish)	\$30
Parkas	Blue (Japara) (L)	\$25
	Green (Heavy Nylon) (L)	\$5 Well worn
Socks x 4 pair	Heavy Wool	\$Offers
Shorts	Red (Polyester)	\$5 As new
Gloves & Hat	Polypropylene	\$10
Bike Shorts	Black (M) with padded seat	\$30 As new
Cycle top	Nike Bright yellow	\$20
Boots	Hitec Leather Size UK10	\$100 Never worn
Compass	Silva	\$15

Trip Reports

Hollyford Hobbles

(continued)

.....But, being the hard mountain man that he is, he stoically accepted that he was going to have to do this tramp in his running shoes. Trying to keep up with the now light-footed Wayne soon had some of us getting wetter inside our parkas than out, so it was not long before we used taking them off as an excuse for a breather. This also gave us the startling sight of Wolfgang stripped down to his macho black singlet. (*Stop, enough!!! Ed.*)

After a side trip to Hidden Falls we called in at the hut of the same name to rest and have lunch. By now it was fine and sunny, and this gave us the opportunity to dry out by seating our steaming bodies on the veranda. The sandflies soon sniffed us out but these did not cause as much alarm as the very large bumble bees which seemed to want to explore our ears, the inside of gaiters (whilst being worn), and burrow under any blue garment. As we were about to set off for Alabaster Hut, our leader's group arrived and she, seeing we were all refreshed and invigorated, gave us permission to continue, whilst we left them to deal with the bumble bees and sandflies. The new Alabaster Hut is light and airy with 20 bunks, one each for each of us "van" group members, and plenty floor space should it be needed for sleeping. Despite this, some hardy souls decided to sleep out by the side of the lake – after all, they had lugged their tents in so why not make use of them. This turned out to be fortunate for three middle-aged women and a fit young man who arrived later, as they found vacant bunks. The question of who was going to vacate a bunk for Leader Ann when she arrived was answered when she and Antony arrived, minus their packs. They had decided to stay at Hidden Falls Hut, but had just come to check that we were all well, which we were, before returning there for a worry-free night's

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sleep. Despite being leaderless for another night, the van groups also had a worry-free night's sleep.

Sunday dawned fine, but the ageing demographic of our groups made itself apparent again when a check before leaving revealed that someone had not packed his "man-bag", the contents of which greatly intrigued the elderly female hut warden. (We found the owner but he shall remain anonymous!)

The return tramp provided great views of the Darrans through breaks in the bush. The highest point of this part of the Hollyford is a mere 168 metres, yet despite this most of us began to suffer sore feet and aching legs. This we agreed was most probably due to the lack of variation in the terrain which meant that one used the same walking action, which was more like marching than tramping.

Whilst we were resting our feet and legs, Kathryn provided the gallant males another opportunity to come to her rescue by falling down a bank and disappearing into the undergrowth. Their immediate response was, as they continued to munch their muesli bars, "Oh look, Kathryn's fallen off the track. (munch, munch)." However, being the independent woman that she is, the indefatigable Kathryn managed to extricate herself with dignity and then cheerfully took photos of the muesli munching males.

As we hobbled the last few metres to the road-end, we were met by Leader Ann and her group who had only walked from Hidden Falls hut. She countered our protestations by claiming she had got blistered feet the night before when coming to check on our welfare. This ploy gained our sympathy as we remembered the Trip Leader's Motto: "Forward trampers, have no fear, I will lead you from the rear!"

Tony Timperley for the nineteen others of the "van" groups, and Ann Burton and her "4WD" group.

Postscript: Wayne got his boots back. The leader's group retrieved them from the shelter.

Orbell's Cave

(or, "What a lot of bull!")

6 April

On Sunday, a dozen hardy souls turned up, despite the forecast being for a southerly change and showers to arrive at midday. As the whole of the walk is in open country and some of it along open ridge tops, we were hoping there would not be too many showers.

After surviving the white-knuckle drive along the narrow and winding Blucher Road, we set off walking in cool but fine weather, with patches of blue sky showing through the clouds. Without a chance to warm up, we were straight into a steady climb to about 500m before the track levelled off along a ridge. By this time everyone had discarded their top layer as we ambled along admiring the expansive views westward over the Taieri Ridge to the Strath-Taieri Plain and the Rock and Pillars beyond.

We then began the long descent down a zig-zagging track to Three O'clock Stream. About half way down Leader Tony, in deep conversation with Jill, (he has to blame someone!), missed a zag and misled the group along a sheep track until it went where sheep can go but humans cannot. Back on track, and after a further long descent, we finally reached the stream bed, disturbed a large flock of geese, before taking a short break and ruminating on the old tramper's adage of "What goes down, must have to go back up again." That "up" was yet to come.

Fortunately, however, the next stage was an easy stroll along the Three O'clock Stream flats until we reached the Orbell's Creek valley, into which we turned and headed upstream. Orbell's Cave itself is further up the valley than indicated on the map and is in fact two caves side by side. As this was to be the lunch stop we crossed the creek and climbed up to the caves. We soon found that the caves had been frequented by sheep and so had to pick our seating spots with care. There were some remarks about the possible composting quality of the layers of droppings that made up the cave floors. There were also signs of human habitation with a wire line across one cave, with enamel mugs and other utensils hanging from one end.

By this time of the day (1pm) the sky was sunny and blue as we took our

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lunches in the shadow of the cave entrance overhang. Our munching was watched from below in the valley by a group of cattle we had “herded” in front of us, (why don’t they just move to one side?) and we were treated to the flight of a native falcon. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, so, after some procrastination, we dropped back down to the valley, re-crossed the creek, and began the long climb out up the side opposite the caves. After numerous stops to catch our breath and let our stomachs settle, (why do we always have steep climbs immediately after lunch?), the track mercifully gave some respite by levelling out before the next climb.

We were following the fenceline but had to turn right through a gate just a short way ahead. Blocking the gate was a large “cow” with a calf. We had seen other such pairings earlier on the tramp but they had moved respectfully out of our way. This the calf did but its “mother” faced us with its legs placed firmly apart. Tony, as leader, suddenly found himself at the front of the group and felt numerous hands on his back pushing him forward. “Don’t let it think your hesitating,” said an encouraging voice from behind. Dashing fellow that he is, Tony stepped forward, and gave his famous impression of one of the three musketeers by pointing his walking pole at the “cow” and shouting “Shoo, shoo!” Initially the “cow” stood its ground with its head lowered, but then gave a snort, shook its head, turned side on, and disdainfully loped off down the hill. It was then that Tony and the rest of the group saw that the appendages dangling between the legs of the beast were not those of a cow!

After setting a world record for opening a gate, getting 12 people through and closing it again, the group continued the return ascent (again with numerous “breathers”) before contouring round back to where we had parked the cars. As we neared the end of the tramp we noticed that the skies had darkened and that there was a feel of rain in the air. Mercifully, however, it held off until we were changed and in our cars, (who has the direct line to Huey?), and as he drove slowly back along Blucher Rd, Tony reflected how lucky he was that it wasn’t raining when the group encountered the “cow”. He wears a red parka.

Tony Timperley for: Jill McAliece, Roy Ward, Alan and Kerry Scurr, Gavin McArthur, Rob Seeley, Michael Firmin, Bernadette Thompson, Lesley Norris, Wilbert Stockman, and Fiona Sanggang.

Lake Roxburgh

8 December 2007

The Lake Roxburgh trip in December 2007 was great. When we left we loaded up Ray's boat with some gear. Then we set off. It was a hot day. We walked for about half an hour, then wandered down to the Clutha River to cool down. It was a long walk to Doctors Point - about 4 hours. When we got there we jumped into the Clutha River. It was over our heads but we enjoyed the swim. It was so hot we had to put the drinks in the water to keep them cool. After that we started the BBQ. It was a yummy BBQ. Then Wolfgang and Wilbert got out their guitars and played some songs, we all sang along. About 9pm we went to bed. We slept under the stars. We got up before the sun had risen. We had breakfast, and then most of the people set off on the walk out. Dylan and I were lucky to get a boat ride out. We waited for a while then we got in the boat. It was super fun jet-boating up the Clutha River. It took about 10 minutes. Most people were already out. They only took three hours to get out. We collected our gear and then started on the drive home. We loved it.

By Jade and Dylan Pettinger.



Mararoa Valley

2 February

This trip was intended to be a repeat of the 2006 trip to Mt Domet, but hunting in that area, meant a late rethink and the decision to walk up the Mararoa Valley instead.

A group of five, set off in Ray & Jill McAliece's 4x4 driving past the Mavora Lakes (the location of several scenes in "Lord of the Rings" - Parth Galen at the end of the first film and Fangorn Forest in the second). Once past the North Lake, the 4WD track got progressively rougher, and Ray's language increasingly colourful. Having been assured by a fisherman in Carey's Hut that the track was passable, we continued until a few hundred metres short of Boundary Hut, and with the light failing, the vehicle bellied out in a deeply rutted section.

The first task on a foggy morning therefore, was to dig out the vehicle. We managed it after a couple of false starts, just as the fog began to lift, promising a beautiful day. Crossing the river, we followed the track up the valley, along a terrace elevated above the valley floor, with views over Alan's (Thomson) Mountains to the east. Although the going was easy, the sun was hot and we made plenty of drink stops. Shortly before 2 pm, our leader's repeated claim that Taipo Hut was just around the corner, finally proved true. After lunch, members of the Otago Sunbathing & Snoozing Club did their usual stuff. Suitably refreshed, we made individual sorties up the ridge behind the hut (Will) or along the terrace, following the track toward Greenstone Hut (Alan, Jonnette). We enjoyed a convivial evening with a solo European walker who arrived after a long walk from McKeller Hut on the Greenstone.

In the morning we had a fairly leisurely walk out in cooler, but still sunny conditions. Ray had no trouble driving us out, and we were back to Dunedin in good time. Several weeks after the walk, Jill heard from an Auckland based tramper who had picked up Will's camera by the river below Taipo Hut three or four days later, and had done some impressive detective

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work using the hut book and the photos on the camera to track down the owner. The camera was returned just in time for the South Temple trip in April.

Will Sweetman - for Alan Thomson, Ray & Jill McAliece and Jonnette Service

A Polish man moved to the USA and married an American girl, although his English was far from perfect they got along very well. One day he rushed into a lawyer's office and asked him if he could arrange a divorce for him. The lawyer said that getting a divorce would depend on the circumstances and asked him the following questions:

Q: Have you any grounds?

A: Yes an acre and half and nice little home.

Q: No I mean what is the foundation of this case?

A: It made of concrete.

Q: I don't think you understand ... does either of you have a real grudge?

A: No we have carport and not need one.

Q: I mean, what are your relations like?

A: All my relations still in Poland.

Q: Is there any infidelity in your marriage?

A: We have hi-fidelity stereo and good DVD player.

Q: Does your wife beat you up?

A: No I always up before her.

Q: Is your wife a nagger?

A: No she white.

Q: Why do you want this divorce?

A: She going to kill me.

Q: What makes you think that?

A: I got proof.

Q: What kind of proof?

A: She going to poison me. She buy a bottle at drugstore and put on shelf in bathroom. I can read and it say, "Polish Remover".

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

June 21 – 22

Daleys Flat Hut (Dart River) (All)

Jill McAliece 455 6740

It seems a lot of people head from Chinamans Bluff in the dark and miss the first section of the Dart Valley. This trip will give the opportunity to tramp from Chinamans Bluff to Sandy Bluff and on to the 12 bunk Daleys Flat Hut in the daylight. This 13km trip won't take all day, so there will be time to explore further up the Dart. Past Quinns Flat is the impressive Cattle Flat, which, whilst being huge, is anything but flat. With the probability of early arrival back at Chinamans Bluff there may be an opportunity to visit near-by Diamond Lake.

Trip list closes: June 12

July 5 - 6

Aspiring Hut (West Matukituki) (All)

Greg Powell 454 4828

This trip will be based at Aspiring Hut in the West Matukituki. The opinion from those that have done this trip in winter before is that it is much warmer to walk into the hut rather than camp at Raspberry Flat. From there is a choice of five 'daytrips' that could be undertaken:

*Shotover Saddle (1554m) may have snow below the saddle but good views available all the way as there is no bush to climb through

*Rob Roy Glacier is a popular trip from the road-end, for this trip you could detour up here either on the inward or outward journey.

*Cascade Saddle (1525m) gives the best view of Mt. Aspiring. To get to

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the saddle in winter requires alpine skills and equipment, but you can still get great views from above the bushline.

*Liverpool Biv (around 1100m) is a short but steep grunt from the head of Pearl Flat.

*French Ridge is another steep ascent from the valley floor, but great views out of the bush.

Remember that this trip is in winter and winter snow conditions are to be expected. If you plan to venture into the snowline you will be expected to have the appropriate training and equipment to traverse these areas safely. Additionally, Aspiring Hut is an Alpine Club hut so you DoC annual hut pass will be no use.

Trip list closes: June 26

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
Social Convenors	Tony Timperley	473 7257
	Ralph Harvey	453 4544
(outside committee)		
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 July Bulletin, deadline is 13/06/08, publication 26/06/08. 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

Mt Watkin/ Hikaroroa (M)

8 June

Mt Watkin is the distinctive, bell-shaped, hill that lies inland from Kari-tane. A good walk can be made in its vicinity taking in the splendid Waikouaiti River and its gorge, superb native forest plus the basalt cone of the mountain itself, home to hexagonal rocks and unusual flora. Be prepared for a modicum of bush-bashing and river crossing.

On my last trip, one fine windless day in June, Ross Davies brewed up for the whole party on the top. He is particularly welcome.

Rob Seeley 472 7646

The Three Silver Peaks (E/M)

15 June

Many people have tramped in the Silver Peaks, yet have never climbed any of them. Here is your chance - there are three!

After parking the cars on Semple Road, we will tramp up Green Ridge to the Green Hut site and after morning tea will continue to Pulpit Rock and the summit above it which is Silver Peak 2 at 760 metres. We will then continue on to Silver Peak 3 at 767 metres, which most trampers by-pass when they turn on to the Rocky Ridge route. Finally we will conquer Silver Peak 1 at 777 metres, so don't forget your cameras to record this momentous event for posterity.

After lunch, if you have a further appetite for exploration, we could descend into the Painted Forest, have a rummage around before clambering up the other side of the valley and heading home back down Green Ridge. Car pool cost: \$6

Leader: Tony Timperley 473 7257

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Mt Charles (M)

22 June

We set off from the clubrooms and pull in at the side of Hoopers Inlet on the peninsula. The route takes us on a fairly straightforward climb - described in 'From Sea to Silver Peaks' as "short but exhilarating", up to the highest point on the peninsula for some spectacular views across Dunedin, towards Palmerston and down the coast to the Nuggets. From experience it can be windy on the top so warm gear will be essential at this time of year. Depending on the party and the weather we may take the option of descending back the way we came or taking a round trip towards the Cape Saunders lighthouse and back to the area behind Allens Beach (and along Allens Beach if time allows). Expect to be out walking around 5-6 hours. Trip cost \$5.

Leader: Kathryn Jeyes 455 2473

Berwick Forest (M)

29 June

An exotic and indigenous forest tramp from the Woolshed at Berwick to a picnic area on Waipori River. There will be a bit of up and down. Up to Prentice Road, down to Meggat Burn, up to Shaw Road and then down to Waipori River for lunch before the return journey.

Leader: Alan Thomson 455 7878

