Bulletin Number 686, July 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.

3 July

Do you know what a Fairy Prion is? No? Well come and be enlightened by Graeme Loh from DOC, who will talk on this and other wildlife protection issues.

10 July

Joseph Donelly was in an 18-strong University of Otago research team doing physiology studies, sometimes on themselves, at the Pyramid laboratory near Base Camp Everest, the highest laboratory in the world.

17 July

Many rivers in the Southern Alps used to flow in different directions, and some of the passes used to be lower than they are now. Dave Craw will explain why.

24 July

Bronwen Strang spent 16 months in Japan teaching English. She will tell us about some of the tramps she did in the Japanese hills.

31 July

Bring your own pictures to show us.

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



Several years ago a noticeable dip in club activity led the OTMC to develop a 'strategic plan', with the intention to pull the club out of a rut. Following the adoption of the plan there was a notable increase in activity across all areas of the club, despite not all ideas contained in the strategic plan actually happening. There was comment at the time that the fall in activity and general interest within the club was cyclic, and it now appears that the OTMC is heading that way again. The annual report, due to be circulated in August will show a fall in membership of around 40 members, whilst average attendance on weekend trips has fallen by 4 to around 11.5 persons per trip. If you take out the more popular trips (Milford and Lake Roxburgh, which had 26 people each) the number will be even lower.

Rather than the club sit around talking about the problem I would like to see some innovative ideas to combat the decline introduced. The strategic plan is probably a good starting point, but if a lot of initiatives contained within it aren't acted on then it remains only a bit of paper with some nice ideas written on it. As I see it, there are two issues we need to address to make the OTMC continue to be the vibrant club it deserves to be. The first is targeting club activity to match the desires of all club members. Every six months members are asked what trips they would like to see happen, and in the main, there is very little response, leaving the weekend trip programme in particular to the whim of the Chief Guide. I guess the reluctance can come from people fearing they will be asked to lead the trip, when all the committee is after is guidance in where to take the club tramping. The gist here is that if there is something the club isn't doing, and you think it should – then please let us know. Also, if there is something we are doing that makes you unhappy, equally we would like to know.

The other problem I see is one that is not unique to the OTMC, but rather all outdoor clubs seem to be affected by it, and that is attracting new people to our club. We have made some great advancements by having a committee role for publicity (again) — what we need now is some innovative ideas. We have a new brochure, which has been distributed around the town since February, but we still need to find other ways to make the club more visible. We can't just sit around waiting for people to turn up — we need to get out and actively promote the club. Bushcraft has always been a way that generates publicity for the club in a positive way, and the effect of not holding Bushcraft 2008 is starting to show. The club has not turned its back on Bushcraft — in fact I'm 99% certain that there will be Bushcraft 2009 in some form. It will require the workload shared around more as those that have run the course in the past few years just cannot continue (hence the non-appearance of BC2008) but I'm am determined to do something, as I still see public education to be one of the more important roles clubs should have. This will require an up-skilling in bushcraft skills amongst our members, and this will be happening prior to the summer tramping season.

The OTMC is a great club, but we have to stop dwelling on the past and present, and focus on what we all want from the club in the future. I know I have asked for feedback on various issues many times, but this is a topic that will benefit the committee by having many different people expressing their views. Avenues available for members to discuss the future of the club is to write to this Bulletin, write to the committee, attend a committee meeting (2nd Monday of each month – contact Jill McAliece for details) or save your thoughts for the upcoming AGM, on August 28.

Antony Pettinger President

Membership

This month we welcome Darryl Wood, 191 Carroll St, 027 350 8894, who is renewing his membership after a year's break; and Peter Woods, 107 Doctors Pt Rd, Waitati, 027 495 8827.

Aaron Whitehead, who has been living in Wanaka for some time, has resigned; and Allison Coveney has moved to 4/38 Begg St.

Roy Ward is off to the USA again, so from now until he returns at the end of August, the best way to contact him is at "roy@moonshadowtech.com"

Ian Sime Membership Secretary

Silver Peaks gates

An additional gate has been put on the Mountain Road. Because the road does not follow the legal road, City Forests Ltd is within its rights doing this. The new gate is at a point about 400m N of the "Hunters' Access" route to Possum Hut, GR 153929. The existing gates near Rongomai Ridge and south of the access to Gap Ridge remain.

The club has arranged to have three keys for the gates. We are required to keep these under tight control. If you lose or don't return a key, you are liable for a \$500 fee. If you want a key, contact:

Antony Pettinger, 4737924, 027 661873 otmc@ihug.co.nz (Pick-up location: Pine Hill)

Roy Ward, 4739518 royward770@actrix.co.nz after the end of August 08

(Pick-up location: Opoho or Otago University)

David Barnes, 4544492h, 4719813w, mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz (Pick-up location Waverley or Moray Place)

Rob Mitchell was elected President of FMC at the weekend (in the 1st contested election for that job in over 10 years). Rob is the 1st OTMC member to be FMC President since Janet Girvan in 1989. His association with OTMC goes back to the 60s, when he was committee member.

Well done, Rob!

Trip Reports Routeburn In One Day 1st December 2007

It was 4.37 a.m. when the first Kea started to screech. By 5 a.m. all its whanau had joined in and we knew there was to be no more sleep so why not rise and shine and get this day started. After a quick breakfast and tidy up, it was count down to a 6 a.m. start leaving Ray and Jill to ferry the van around to Glenorchy.

Dawn had hardly broken by the time Howden Hut was reached where we encountered some early risers. Asked at what hour we left the Divide, looks of amazement changed to disbelief when told, we were headed to the Routeburn road-end by end of day. We started to meet the first of many groups heading out to the Divide at about 9.30 as we neared McKenzie

(Continued on page 5)

Hut. After a quick snack then attention to feet troubles, it was into the hard slog up the zigzag above Lake McKenzie, which was dispatched in no time (made *so* much easier with just a day pack). By this stage the low cloud was lifting allowing views down to Lake McKerrow from the Hollyford Face. We began to encounter the second wave of trekkers, mostly young females, as we approached the Harris Saddle

A DoC sign stating the track to Conical Hill was closed due to dangerous snow conditions prevented our planned trek up the hill for lunch with a view. Lunch however was spent bathing in sunshine behind the Shelter with a few bubbles celebrating another year of great tramps. After a couple of hours "Team Leader" announced we should be on our way. It was hard to get started again for it was such an enjoyable time sitting out in the sun reminiscing over the past year, sharing all the little stories and generally just having a good laugh. So on our way again. We reached Falls Hut where another quick break was taken and, of course, for Bruce to scrounge hot water for yet another cup of white tea. (Don't ask, but it's something to do with antioxidants and free radicals). Carrying on we met up with our drivers Ray and Jill along with Mike Brettell at the Routeburn crossing swing-bridge where we all walked the final leg together arriving at the Routeburn at about 4:30 pm. Onto the Glenorchy camping ground where we all freshen up with a hot shower then lazed in the sun with snacks and more bubbles before heading out for dinner.

A most enjoyable weekend was had by all. Our minds look forward to a similar event next year, but not so sure our bodies do.

Sue and Pete for Antony, Debbie, Chris, Ann, Ralph, Bruce, Ken, and Gordon and special thanks to our drivers Jill and Ray. (Average age of group, 50 years.)



Gunsight Pass / North to South Temple Anzac Weekend, 24 – 26 April

The crispness of the air in Omarama augured well for this trip. Ralph, the honourable leader, and Bronwen arrived at the Temple Shelter to a roaring fire prepared by the other 3 of the party, Michael and Andrew Prince and Will Sweetman. However the fire and the shelter was really all we shared as they had other plans – Mt Maitland, and we were heading up the North Temple and down the South over Gunsight Pass. They didn't even share the cold when the fire died down, as they were on camp stretchers – very different to a concrete floor.

Next morning, not early, we said goodbye after 10 minutes walk. We headed up the North branch of the Temple and they up the South. After a good hour we came out where the North Temple Hut is still shown to be on the map; well, on the other side of the stream, but it is there no longer. We looked up to an impressive circ with new snow and frost clinging to its southerly side. Rabbiters Peak dominates. This is said to be straight forward up the ridge, not quite so easy from the head of the valley. Also impressive was the avalanche/wind fall of the trees, similar of course causing the loss of the hut way back.

At this point we were confused, concerned, entranced by a friendly little dog that bounded up to us, but we were relieved to then see it's owner - a mountain runner, who literally, no sweat, ran past us. He must have been up, over Gunsight Pass and down and out almost by the time we got to the top!

The gut to the pass looked steep and it was, from the north side. But it wasn't awesome, it had been put forward as a medium grade and it fitted that. It was a matter of just grinding upwards. We learnt fairly early on to keep to the gully and in one place Bronwen's arm muscles didn't serve her very well with a full pack on, so that following Ralph was not an option. After negotiating the gully and being passed by a couple of young things, sensibly complete with helmets, we came to an odd section of hard scree which hugged the perimeter rock wall. This was easy to negotiate and sat-

(Continued on page 7)

isfying, using good finger holds all the way to assist. Ralph overtook one of the youngies on this section, but suffered for it by needing to wait at the top in the growing cold. Time was in danger of becoming an issue, but a photo of Mt Cook from the pass was essential. The view on the other side was impressive too, up to the saddle in the Barrier Range leading over into the Ahuriri.

The only disappointment of the trip however, was a scree slope that looked magnificent and as though it would be jumped down in 20 minutes or so. In fact it didn't move underfoot, so it was a matter of picking our way down with some concern about the length of day – it was now 3.30 - 4 pm. For those of you who do this in future, stay in the middle of the valley at the bottom end. This will bring you out onto the rocks of the stream that flows into the South Temple which is where you want to go. We rectified our short sojourn to the left (we were sick of rocks), and followed the stream down to pleasant little flats where we camped along with the two mentioned earlier.

Bronwen proved how easy it is to be warm in a medium weight sleeping bag on a frosty night. On your top half leave your jersey on plus your extra polyprop; put your legs, already in their long johns, into the body of your polar fleece and down into the arms and pull it up as though a skirt; put your feet into the sleeves of your puffer jacket....then try to get into your bag! However the problem comes that the temperature goes up too far and slowly it has to be shed again, but at least you are warm in the morning! Which Ralph wasn't. Ah well, he has had good teaching. The frost was crispy followed by a fabulous day. We meandered down the valley with early lunch at the new/shifted/refurbished (?) South Temple Hut, checking that the others had passed through the day before on their way to climb Mt Maitland and smelling other people's bacon and eggs cooking for lunch. It was certainly a different hut to the one that was nearly a statistic in the flood of the mid 90's.

Being back early (like a whole day) and expecting the weather to turn bad, we explored the hill above the carpark, worth it for the view down Lake Ohau, and then pottered back to Dunedin. A very satisfying weekend. We look forward to the report from the Maitland guys.

Bronwen for Ralph.

Meant to be: Hunters / South Waikouaiti / Walkers Rd In fact was: No-Name Ridge, Possum Hut, Green Hut site, Eucalypt Spur and back up No-Name Ridge

4 May

Well, what a good day! I was introduced to two tracks new to me, when I arrogantly thought I knew most of them. I think because of the temperature, I was the only one who turned up for Bill Wilson's trip, so we decided one car made more sense and to change the route a bit. We ended up changing it a lot and having a grand day.

We parked at the usual spot on Mountain Rd at the Semple Rd end, and headed up the track for five minutes. Off we struck, up right at first and then down a "refurbished" old track – down No-Name Ridge. (Anyone able to supply the name?) In only half an hour we had joined with Eucalypt Spur Track and were having a bite to eat at the bottom of the spur.

On and up past Possum Hut we went; Bill asked, "Do you know Greengage Spur?" "Where...? What...?" So up to Green Hut site we went, which was covered in snow and very cold; past this and when almost onto the ridge back to the car, again we struck up right. I love new tracks so I was very happy. I was even being introduced to it by the maker of it, for Bill spent eight days last year cutting and marking it. At one point the snow on the gorse deceived even Bill, but following lunch, at a grand spot looking down the spur to Silverstream, he rectified the confusion with some more markers.

We just looked, on this trip. If you want to explore it, go on the Club trip on October the 12th, which I believe has been mistakenly called Racemans / Raingauge / Pulpit Rock / Powder Ridge, in the Trip Programme: Winter 2008. Replace the word Raingauge by Greengage and imagine leaving Silverstream when some distance past the top weir, to go up a spur on its true righthand side and you'll get the idea.

We returned back down the track towards the road, but before reaching it dove down left, down Eucalypt Spur in order to retrace our steps back up No-Name Ridge to apprehend my wayward balaclava which had taken leave of me. Mission accomplished, we were back at the Club in town by

(Continued on page 9)

20 to 3pm having had an excellent day and were firmly of the belief that our weather – cold - had been much better than Dunedin's – wet and cold.

Thanks Bill, from Bronwen Strang.

POSSUM RIDGE AND (NOT) ROSELLA RIDGE MAY 25

I arrived early for what was not the best choice of days for a first walk with some of the club members. Overcast with low clouds obscuring the hill-tops. Four of us met at the clubrooms and decided that we would at least go up Possum Ridge. Unless the cloud lifted it would be a damp wander along Rosella Ridge without any view. Fieke had also managed to get two others interested by the shorter alternate walk and would pick them up on the way.

The short sharp track down from the fire break off Mountain Road was extra slippery today. Once down it was fairly straightforward. The various states of the tent in Possum Hut were discussed over a snack, as was the game of geocaching*. I enjoy recording my walks on my GPS to see where I went and to share with others, the primary reason for getting it. Having a cache to hunt as well is a bonus but rare this far from conveniences. This time the only one near was one of my own. There are a few caches out in the hills and tracks around Dunedin now, giving more people a reason to get out for a good walk. After the walk up from Possum Hut we paused at the Green Hut site for lunch.

As it was still early and everyone was familiar with the walk along Green Ridge people were happy to add an extra couple of kms of going down simply to go up as it would be on track new to some. It was decided to go down Bluegum Ridge then back up an unnamed but good track that turns off Bluegum about 4/5 of the way down, crosses to climb up the

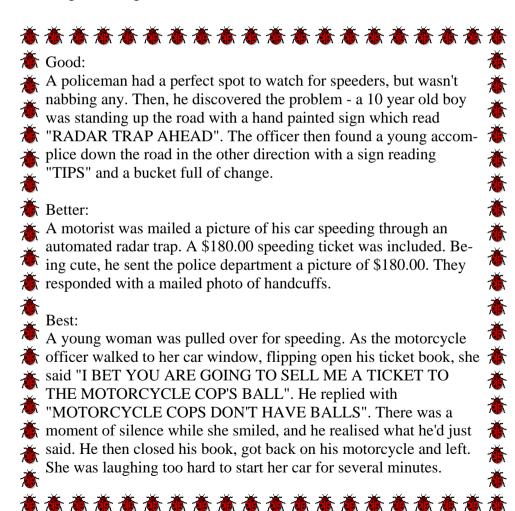
(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

neighbouring spur and rejoins the Green Ridge track 300m from its car park. A quick wander along the road from there to the cars bought an end to a most enjoyable four hours, thanks Fieke. Thanks to everyone else for the great company.

Peter George for Fieke Neuman, Ron Minema, Antony Mabon, Dianna Munster and Roy Ward.

*www.geocaching.com



Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

After the excitement of the trip to the Milford Track in early May numbers on weekend trips have been low, but the enthusiasm of those participating remains high. It is normal for trip numbers to drop in line with the thermometer, but winter can provide some of the best days for tramping, cool temperatures and long evenings aside. The majority of the trips on the winter card have a hut option, but as always, there are other options available to parties who want to do something different.

One note of concern to me is the increasing reports of members dissatisfaction delivered to the committee via another party. Sometimes we are receiving information third hand (or more). If anyone is not satisfied with the way club trips are run, or any of the decisions made by those in charge then I urge you to discuss them via the appropriate channels – i.e the trip leader, day trip convener or Chief Guide. Club trips are run by a well-thought-out set of rules, one being that the trip and party leaders have the authority to make decisions that they believe are correct at the time. If any issue appears on a trip that needs follow-up then let us know.

Everyone knows only too well that the cost of fuel is on the rise, and it is inevitable that the club will have to increase the cost of weekend trips in the near future. Trips are continually being analysed to ensure we are as close to breaking even as possible. There hasn't been a van trip since the Ben Ohau trip in April (as I write this) so it will be interesting to see how the trip to Daley's Flat performs financially. It is also more important now to ensure that we fill the vans (either 10 or 12 per van), rather than have empty seats. To this end we will be actively enforcing the club policy on late withdrawals (as stated on each trip list and on the trip card).

(Continued on page 12)

Mt Armstrong (Third One Now) (M-C) August 2-3 Philip Somerville 473-8862

Yes, this is the third consecutive August attempt Philip is making on reaching the 2174m Mt. Armstrong, located slightly south of the higher Mt. Brewster, not far from the Main Divide. The previous two attempts had been thwarted by unsuitable weather and the participants enjoyed alternate trips. The feeling is that this year will be the one where everything will come together and the trip to conquer Armstrong will succeed. It is a 1000m climb to the new Brewster Hut, which can comfortably house 10-12 people. It is likely the remaining 700m or so to the summit will require iceaxe, crampon and self arrest skills. The view from the top will be impressive, as you ponder the route up Brewster whilst gazing at the beauty of Aspiring to the south-west. For those that aren't peak-baggers the trip to Brewster Hut is well worthwhile, as the hut is above bushline and offers great views (again snowcraft skills will probably be needed to get to the hut).

Trip list closes July 24

STOP PRESS: Due to Philip's unfortunate accident, he is unable to lead this trip on this date. There will definitely be a trip running, but the leader (and possibly destination) will be different.

Winter Routeburn / Lake McKenzie (All) 16~17 August Wolfgang 453 1155

We'll be walking in to Howden Hut (3/4 to 1 hour) on Friday night and if the conditions are good a side trip up to Key Summit is a must. (It also can be quite romantic in the moonlight.)

The walk on Saturday morning to Lake McKenzie will take 3 to 4 hours at

(Continued on page 13)

the most. Along the way the scenery will be wonderful including views of the upper Hollyford Valley, the Earland Falls and, of course, the "Orchard". Many Photo opportunities will be there. Once at McKenzie Hut there are numerous walks, from an easy stroll visiting Split Rock and exploring the upper valley, to a walk up the zig zag, past the memorial, and up to the start of the Hollyford Face, Here you will see some awesome views of the McKenzie Basin, the Darren Mountains and the lower Hollyford Valley. For the fit ones Ocean Peak awaits you. (Snow skills essential). Care must be taken at all times as the track can be very icy in places. My annual quiz night will start about 8 pm with yummy prizes and this year's theme is to wear as much "black" as possible. There will also be a prize for the best decorated table. (Bribes will be accepted!)

This trip is for everyone, from climbers to people who just want to have a cruisy trip, especially mothers coming back from child-bearing duties (eh Ed;-). See you there!

Trip list closes 7th August.

(Editor's note: Be wary of Wolfie under a full moon!!!)

OTMC Traditional Snowcaving Weekend (incorporating iceaxe/crampons if required). August 30-31 (I) Matt Corbett 487-6595

It was something of an OTMC tradition to go snowcaving every year, usually to the Old Man Range above Shingle Creek. This year we are reinventing the wheel, and returning to our roots. There is a serious reason for this trip- if you plan to tramp over the winter months, or indeed anytime in snow, then you should know how to construct a snow-shelter of some sort. It can be hard to believe, but snow has a good insulating property to it, and can be your best chance of escaping hypothermia as a snow shelter allows you to escape the dreaded wind-chill. Generally we will separate into parties of 3 or 4, and each team will spend the best part of

(Continued on page 14)

Saturday building a shelter. More than likely this will be a traditional snow cave, excavated from one or two access holes, or a 'Snigloo', where the cave itself is dug out of the drift, and then the front wall rebuilt. An igloo could be possible, but when Doug F and I tried we found it impossible to angle the walls enough and we ended up with a snow tower and couldn't reach the top to put the roof on. Once your shelter is built you then get to spend the night in it – a good test for your gear. It is actually quite surprising just how insulating a good cave can be – you won't even know about that blizzard outside! Sunday is a time to practice snowcraft skills, or just having fun sliding down the slopes.

Trip list closes August 21

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	lan 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 August Bulletin, deadline is 18/7/08, publication 31/7/08. You can submit material by email to "rebell@xtra.co.nz"; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Robyn Mac-Kay, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.



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

All Day on the Peninsula (M) March 2

Many people think that, from a tramping perspective, the Otago Peninsula is really only good for Sunday afternoon strolls. But with some cunning planning and a small amount of road walking, we can fill in a day that will encompass a long loop from Turnbull Bay to Macandrew Bay via Hoopers Inlet, Sandymount and Sandfly Bay. There's more uphill than a Maungatua traverse, but there is also an opportunity for icecreams when the cars are retrieved at the end of the day. Bring plenty of water, as there's none en route.

Leader: David Barnes 454 4492

Heyward Point Plus (E) 13 July

This trip varies from the standard DOC track by the inclusion of local farmland. Our exact route is dependant on weather. Assemble at the clubrooms at 9am, bring plenty of warm, windproof clothing and a camera or binoculars.

See stunning views of the coastline and Otago Harbour, plus maybe the curvature of the earth, sharks swimming of the beach, the Te Ngaru quarry and a collapsed sea cave.

You will be able to learn about the history of the area during the trip from historic photos and maps. Approximate trip time 5 hours. Carpool cost \$5.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

There is the option of after trip visits to the Aramoana Salt Marsh Boardwalk or the Gordon Johnston Arboretum

Leader: Gordon Tocher 472 7440. Anyone bringing a car please advise to assist transport planning. Phone for directions if you wish to meet at Aramoana without going to the clubrooms first.

Nuggets (E) 20 July

A short walk from the carpark to the lighthouse, with spectacular coastal views both north (to the Otago Peninsula) and south. We could see seals, sea lions, titi and hoiho. Binoculars recommended. Then back to Kaka Point for a 30 minute bush walk, before warming up in The Point Cafe and Bar. If time allows we could return to Balclutha by the old Catlins Main Road from Romahapa. Carpool cost is \$15.

Leader: Ian Sime 453 6185

Swampy Summit / Pineapple Track (M) 27 July

Start at Leith Saddle and go up many steps of board walk to Swampy Summit. Head to the Bullring and rejoin the Pineapple Track back to the start. If the weather is too cold and blustery we could go through the bush track at Evansdale Glen. \$4 pp petroleum.

Leader: Wilbert Stokman 488 4688

Mt. Kettle / Mihiwaka (M) 3 August

We leave the clubrooms at 9 am and drive to a carpark on the Purakanui Rd. above Port Chalmers. We then walk up a forestry road to a reservoir and then climb Mt. Kettle. From there we tramp up to the summit of Mihiwaka and take in the harbour views, then back to the road and carpark. Car pool cost \$5.

Leader: Gavin MacArthur 455 0027