

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 687, August 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.**

7 August

All trampers have suffered from blisters and maybe other foot problems. Richard van Plateringen, podiatrist, will talk about foot care and suggest ways to prevent foot trouble when tramping.

14 August

Noeline and Jim Glass travelled to Vietnam, going to Hanoi, north to the Chinese border, through the central coast, on to Saigon, and finished with a trip up the Mekong river.

21 August

Adrian and Jenny Chamberlain cycled from Malta to Norway, through lots of countries and some water in the way. Which countries did they cycle through? Find out at their talk.

28 August

Annual General Meeting. Your chance to have your say on things you do or don't like about the club, and vote in the new club committee.

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 4330, email ralphh@ihug.co.nz)

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August is an important month for the OTMC, for that is when we review the year that has been and hold our Annual General Meeting. The 85th AGM of the OTMC will be held on August 28, and it provides the ideal outlet for members to express their views on any topic pertaining to the club. It is true that recent AGMs have been brief and to the point, unlike some meetings from earlier times. I think this is a continuation of increasing outside interests rather than a lack of concern for club matters, and is seen in most other areas of club activity. Although the club is in good heart, club activity and membership has declined markedly over the past 12 months – the AGM is the right place to discuss this, amongst other topics.

We are also seeking nominations for the OTMC Committee – the committee has been pretty stable with low turn-over for the past few years – but we welcome anyone who is interested in contributing to the running of the club. Nominations can be made for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chief Guide or one of the seven committee positions. It is from the committee members that positions like membership secretary, day trips, social convenor and bulletin editor are generally allocated. Nomination forms are available at the clubrooms, and need to be with Jill McAliece by August 14. As with most clubs, the majority of the running of the club is carried out by a relatively few members. If being on the committee is not for you, then the club provides many opportunities to contribute to the club. Leadership of trips is an obvious one, but there are plenty more, like clubrooms maintenance/cleaning or just volunteering to drive a van on a weekend trip. The committee look forward to a good attendance at the AGM.

A topic that will be discussed at the AGM is that of Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). You may recall that the club investigated buying one/some a few years ago. The idea was shelved due to club liability being unclear in case of equipment failure, and the imminent change in technology. Dave Chambers has raised the topic again and the committee have discussed it briefly. Current generation PLBs now incorporate GPS technology to more accurately pinpoint the location of an activated device. There is a school of thought that by relying on technology such as this we

are taking greater risks because we ‘know’ that help is only a push of a button away. My thoughts are that we should not stand in the way of technology in the hills, but we must not forget the tried-and-true methods that electronics are replacing. For example, I am an advocate of GPS for navigation, but remain confident in the use of a map and compass. The Police and DoC have often been quoted in the media about the lack of a PLB in recent searches – is their use going to become mandatory? A competent party of four, properly trained in bushcraft and who stick together, has long been the safest way to tramp – does this need to change? The question for the club will be ‘is it irresponsible for the OTMC not to provide PLBs on all club trips, or should it remain personal choice’. If the club elects to use PLBs on club trips then there will be further questions, like ‘do we equip each party’ etc. I look forward to members comments on this issue at the AGM.

Antony Pettinger
President.

Membership

We are sorry to say farewell to Barry Atkinson, Kate Barnard, Richard & Camilla Bennett, Beth Ryden and Judy Wilson.

Peter Vollweiler’s postal address has changed to Box 15014, Waihola; and Mike Brettell has moved to 20 McMillan Rd, Arthurs Pt, Queenstown, 442 5402.

Those renewing their membership this year will find that not everyone has the same coloured membership card. Normally we get a new batch printed each year, with a new colour. But each year we have a few left over so that now there seem to be enough for a year without a reprint.

Ian Sime
Membership Secretary

Intentions Book - Old Man Range

Central Otago Recreational Users' Forum will soon install an intentions book on Symes Road. One of the main motivations for having it was to reduce user conflicts ie: if you are skiing and you know the snow mobiles are in a particular area, you have the option of heading in a different direction - and vice versa, we hope.

It is not a primary safety system. You still need to leave intentions with someone in the hills. However, it will be useful if you are reported overdue.

A. G. M.

8 p.m. , 28 AUGUST

3 YOUNG ST

BE THERE!

Trip Reports

Luxmore

16 June 2007

The mist covered the lower hills when we woke in Te Anau but the luxury of a hot shower soon had us out of bed. It wasn't long before we hoisted our packs and headed over the control gates in the swirling mist. It was a pleasant walk to Brod Bay with glimpses of the lake through the trees and mist.

As we climbed higher we left the mist behind and came across snow sprinkling the track from the bluffs. It was here that we started to get a taste of the panorama to come, looking out over the tops of trees with mountains in the distance and the lake covered in fog. Once out of the trees the snow became much deeper and we were grateful for those who had done the hard work for us by plugging steps. It was at bush line that we stopped for lunch and spent time enjoying the glorious views. Sitting in the sun, looking down on Te Anau hidden in the fog with the tops of the mountains surrounding the fiords poking through the mist was magic. This is what makes all the hard work of the climb worthwhile.

There was no heat in the sun so we did not linger long as the cold drove us onto Luxmore Hut. The snow was about halfway up our calves as we followed the trail of steps in the snow, being careful not to wander off the boardwalk where the snow was thigh deep.

Luxmore Hut was a welcome haven and it didn't take long to warm up with the fire going. By this time it was mid afternoon. A keen group left their packs at the hut and pushed on towards Mt Luxmore for more spectacular views. The rest of us wandered around to the caves. It was a mission to keep in the steps already plugged for us, getting out of step and falling in nearly to your waist was the cause for much hilarity – unfortunately Ray would not stay down long enough for me to take a photo. The icicles hanging from the rocks were impressive and made this short journey well worthwhile. The big kids amongst us could not resist throwing a few

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snowballs at the unsuspecting. Back at the hut and we changed into warm clothes before settling in for the night. It was dark by the time the Mt Luxmore conquerors returned to boast of their success. The nights are long in winter and a warm fire with pleasant company makes for a very enjoyable evening.

The morning dawned another beautiful clear day; some of us were up to see a magnificent sun rise while others were content to be told about it afterwards. It was a leisurely pack up with those that had not visited the caves the previous day taking the time to see them while others set off down the hill and back into the mist. The track proved to be very icy in the trees with the trampled snow having frozen. We ended up walking in the gutters to be able to keep on our feet. We had a lunch stop at Brod Bay before the wander back to the car park.

Thank you to my party of Wendy-Anne and Andrew for helping make this a very enjoyable and relaxing weekend away. The views were magnificent, the company superb, the food sumptuous and the weather perfect.

Debbie Pettinger.

Ahuriri / South Temple Crossover

25 – 27 April

Andrew, Will and Mike drove up past Lake Ohau to sleep Thursday night at the Temple Shelter where we had the overnight company of Ralph and Bronwyn. The next day dawned blue and calm and R and B headed off to do the North/South Temple circuit while we headed up the South Temple. One and a half hours later we had a break at the hut before beginning the

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task of finding a route up an unnamed creek that heads South towards Mt Maitland. Going by the snippets of track the route had obviously been used many times in the past but was now quite overgrown with dense bands of young beech filling the valley floor. While it was great to see the regeneration, dead branches in the understory made travel slow and tricky. We opted to skirt above the forest for much of the way before plunging through to some grassy flats and eventually getting above the treeline on the valley floor. The day was still young (2.30pm) but we decided to camp near the trees and have a cosy fire for the night! We did a reccy and thought we had a plan for the next day.

Saturday dawned blue and calm again – perfect weather for going up onto the tops! While having breakfast we were joined by two seasoned trampers from Oamaru who had stayed the night at South Temple Hut and had left at 5.30am. They too were heading for Mt Maitland and we had a good chat with them to find out this was their 6th attempt and they had finally identified a route up. Just as well we had met up with them as we would have needed more attempts if we had tried our original plan! We dropped the tents at the bottom of a gully and headed up the sunny side through rocky outcrops, dried up waterfalls and tussock meadows – did I say how good the weather was!! While struggling up we were amazed to see six thar run across near vertical slopes to cover in five minutes what was taking us two hours! We ended up going up some large scree slopes to gain the narrow ridge line which we followed along to Mt Maitland at 2249m. The view was magnificent from Cook and Tasman in the North to Aspiring in the South-West. It was a Hillary-moment for all of us!

We scanned Sunday's intended route and decided there were too many technical climbs beyond our abilities and resources so decided to head down to South Temple Hut for the night. We discovered why scree is so hard to get up – because it is so cool to come down with all of us doing a fair bit of 'downhill screeing'. We got there just on dusk to find six other hardy trampers settled in and were soon joined by three others. It was a cosy night!

Sunday's threat of rain never eventuated but kept us moving all day. We left the hut (700m) and headed up Shingle Hill (1656m). It was a real slog, especially when we got back onto the scree, but the eventual views down

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into Maitland Stream and across Lake Ohau were superb! It was a fairly straightforward walk along the tops until we plunged down another long scree slope to meet up with the South Temple track. It had taken us five hours to get 45 minutes from the hut but it felt good! A quick stroll saw us back at the carpark and heading back to Dunners.

With a rare average age of 28 we were Will Sweetman, and Andrew and Mike Prince and we felt we had pushed our boundaries and challenged our bodies and succeeded.

Bull Creek to Akatore

May 11

It was a foul weather report; it was foul weather en route in the car – but Trevor would have approved. And in fact it got better all day. Numbers were convenient – only five, so we managed with just two cars, leaving one at Akatore and all going on to Bull Creek in the other. The sea wasn't pretty, the air wasn't warm, my memory is of a day in black and white, but it was great to be out and being blown back up the coast. Thank goodness we weren't going from north to south! The birds wheeled and we were introduced to Gavin's poem:

The common cormorant or shag lays its eggs in a paper bag.
The reason, you will see no doubt, is to keep the lightening out,
But what these unobservant birds have failed to see
Is that groups of bears with buns, are looking for bags to keep
in the crumbs.

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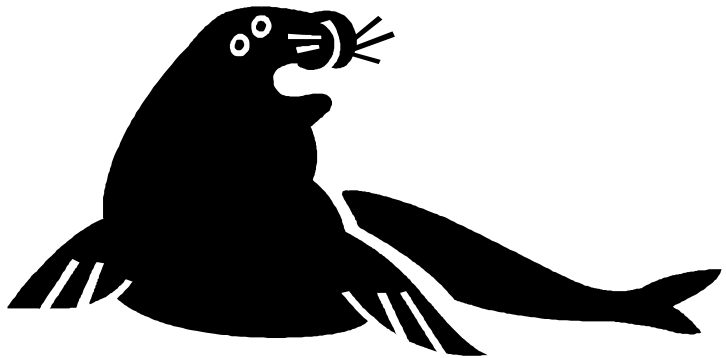
Mmmm..... we looked unsuccessfully for bears, but certainly a stropky young sealion was around and expressed his displeasure at Gavin and Rob when they attempted to get past. They had to move fast! Some seals chose to head to the sea when they saw us, others just turned over. Our walk was a mix of rock scrambling, platform walking, short beach travel and sometimes being up on paddocks, either grassed or turnipped.

We had lunch on Watson's Beach before Quion Point. This Point is part of family legend for me, because my dad, in the 50s and 60s, was Doc from Lookout Point to Quion Point. I remember him talking of tending to fishermen in distress; he never mentioned the seals.

Then the beautiful shape of Akatore Beach was right in front of us and we had come to the end of the trip. We had joined up the coastal section for the Club, from Cook's Rock on Chrystalls Beach to the Taieri River. Yes, Trevor would have approved.

While two went back to get the second car from Bull Creek, the others cooked and ate cockles that had been collected from the Akatore Estuary. They had began to cool down by the time the cars returned, but at least they didn't need the tarpaulin brought to keep them dry if necessary; the weather had improved significantly. A successful day for all:

Bernadette Thompson, Anthony Mabon, Gavin MacArthur, Rob Seeley and Bronwen Strang.



The Wild Magic of Port Craig Queens Birthday Weekend

"The timber town that pushed boundaries". We started the trip in fog all the way to Bluecliffs Beach car park. We set up camp at Rarakau, the main starting point of the track. Saturday morning saw more fog, but clearing. A good breakfast and off we set, a track along the wild cliffs led us to our first swing bridge, then following the track to 'Track Burn'. Landrovers can take you this far to save you walking along the beach, if you wish to use this service.

This part of the track saw towering rimu, wild coastal views, then onto Flat Creek, the turn-off point for those wishing to do the Hump Ridge Track. Shortly after was a new swing bridge that somebody just had to give the bounce test, which it passed. Lunch stop was at Breakneck Creek, just after two magic beach walks with private camp spots and reefs at low tide which make your own private swimming pools. Then on to Mussel Beach and Port Craig Village, bird life a plenty with bird song after bird song. The school house was to be our home for the next three days. The rest of the afternoon was spent checking out the Port Craig Heritage Trail. At first glance it is hard to believe that this site was once crowded with buildings and the activity of a timber milling operation. There were relics everywhere and, with a bit of imagination, the smell of hot engine oil, fresh cut timber and the deafening clamour of working machinery. 1916 was when it all started, John Craig and Daniel Reese foresaw high production levels through innovative technology. Sadly they under-estimated the cost of working in such an isolated, rugged environment and the volumes of timber. The approaching great depression saw the decision to close Port Craig in 1928.

Every facet of the enterprise, from logging to shipping, presented daunting challenges, each overcome by resourcefulness, ingenuity and determination. That legacy continues to inspire those who explore the viaducts, . tramways and relics of Port Craig. A warm hut, plenty of food and card games saw the end of the day.

A not-too-late start to Sunday was needed, but who needs alarm clocks when bang on 7.20am the Fiordland Express came roaring through with a shake, rattle and roll?!!! (Earthquake 4.5) So with that wake up call it was time for breakfast and off to the spectacular viaducts, Percy Burn, Edwin Sandhill and Francis Burn. The track was mostly the old tramline itself, 14.6km long, and the construction of the viaducts was more in keeping with a main trunk railway line rather than a bush tramway. But they were needed because of the size and weight of the Lidgerwood hauler which pulled the log wagons to the mill. An awesome day with side trips as well. It was just brilliant to finish the day, there was heaps of food to share and another round of cards. What a day!

Monday saw us homeward bound. On the way, if you were lucky, you could see Hector's dolphins and seals just off the Port Craig's old wharf. Once again coastal panoramas, alpine views, rock pools, sandy beaches, sandstone outcrops. The area is rich in the history of the Maori and European cultures. Too much history to write about but well worth a visit to Port Craig if you have a spare long weekend.

Footnote - 'Fred and Myrtle' who owned the famous Paua House at Bluff met and worked at Port Craig for a short while. They were both 18 at the time and shortly after got married.

Recommended reading - "Viaducts against the sky" by Warren Bird

Written by Gene for - Matt, Kathryn, Roy, Ralf, Bronwyn and Daniel.
Thanks to Kathryn and Gene for the use of their own cars

Stone Hill and Purehurehu Point Sunday 8 July

The day dawned with one of the heaviest frosts of the year, and I was wondering if some of the group might have problems getting to the clubrooms. However after a few phone calls it was arranged to pick several folk up on the drive to Waipuna Bay.

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The freezing temperatures ensured there was no dallying, eleven intrepid trampers set off from the shore of Otago Harbour up the slopes of Stone Hill in a quest for sunlight, the award for the most hardy goes to Gavin being the only one to show up in shorts. There was no breeze and the ground gave good traction as all the boggy areas were frozen. After a couple of stops to remove layers of clothing the party duly arrived at the snow-covered peak of Stone Hill (294m). We basked in the very welcome sunshine and took in the vista of the Peninsula and a mirror-flat harbour, the view extended all the way to Dunedin.

A short amble across the ridge bought us to the Heyward Point Rd and a comfortable descent beside Jennings Creek to Purehurehu Point for lunch. Just before reaching Kaikai Beach there is a very well appointed cave used by the Lewis Family of Deborah Bay for generations. The cave has a couple of bunks, table, cupboards etc and the remains of a door and window. Lunch gave a chance to explore Kaikai Beach and the rocky base of Purehurehu Point, not to mention plenty of practice at pronouncing Purehurehu. The return journey took a slightly different route scaling Purehurehu Point for a view of Murdering Beach and up the ridge, while trying to avoid the attention of the cattle in the paddock, to the abandoned concrete homestead of Harrisons Farm. Apart from the lack of a floor, the building is in remarkably good order considering its age.

Our good deed for the day was to assist the farmer muster his sheep from the top paddock of Stone Hill down to Aramoana Road. This entailed scrambling through trees atop Stone Hill to get to one corner of the paddock, then fanning out to sweep the sheep to the gate diagonally opposite. There was a slight breeze and we were now in the shade, the ground was still frozen and it is obvious why sheep have such thick fleeces. Eleven OTMC members played sheepdog so well that the farmer later declared it to be the quickest muster of that paddock ever.

All in all a very enjoyable day in the great outdoors in the middle of winter, rewarded by stunning views made clearer by the crisp frost, so don't hibernate – get out and enjoy yourselves.

Gordon Tocher for Rob Seeley, Jonette Service, Teresa Gutteridge, Annette Winter, Lucy Jones, Roy Ward, Gavin MacArthur, Bronwen Strang, Trevor Mason and Janet Barclay.

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

Day Trips from Omarama (All)

September 13-14

Ann Burton 476 2360

Peter Stevenson 454 4148

There are plenty of day trips available in the Omarama / Twizel areas, some newly created as result of tenure reviews. One of the suggestions on the trip card is that of Ben Ohau. Located at the very foot of the Ben Ohau Range at the tip of Lake Ohau, the view from the top promises to be outstanding. DoC give a return time of 4-5 hours for the tracked section to 1370m. A further untracked 152m will see you on the summit. Given the height is 1522m (a full 1002m above Lake Ohau) then an iceaxe at least will be required.

The other suggested trip on the trip card is to the Benmore Range. Access has been negotiated via the Glenbrook tenure review, and heads up the western side of the range from Wairepo Arm. While it would be nice to reach Benmore Peak (1894m) time may be against us. It will certainly be interesting to see the larger arm of Lake Benmore to the east on this, the first OTMC trip here that we are aware of.

There are other options available (with less hill climbing) – choices will depend on conditions and who joins this trip.

Trip list closes 4 September.

There was a time when words were used beautifully. These glorious insults are from an era when cleverness with words was still valued, before a great portion of the English language was boiled down to four-letter words!

* The exchange between Churchill and Lady Astor: She said, "If you were my husband, I'd give you poison," and he said, "If you were my wife, I'd take it."

* Gladstone, a member of Parliament, to Benjamin Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." "That depends, sir," said Disraeli, "On whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

* "He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

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 4330
(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 September Bulletin, deadline is 15/8/08, publication 28/8/08. 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. 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

Puketapu / Matanaka (E) **10 August**

How many times have you driven through Palmerston and thought, “I must climb that hill one day and visit the monument on the top?” Well now’s your chance. Leave the clubrooms at 9am on Sunday morning, drive to Palmerston, climb that hill, and have lunch. Then on the way home stop at Matanaka and visit the old whaling settlement where there are some great old buildings to look through with a bit of history as well. Carpool cost \$10 pp

Leader: Jill McAliece 455 6740

Rongomai / Honeycomb (M) **17 August**

This is a good loop track that takes you back to the car without any tedious road walking. Meet at the clubrooms, we'll leave soon after 9 am and car pool to Evansdale Glen at the bottom of the Kilmog. We start walking up Carey's Creek to the start of a 300 metre climb up Rongomai Ridge to

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Mountain Road, where we can admire the view before returning down Honeycomb Track on an adjoining spur. Should be up to 5 hours, dress warmly. Please bring \$6 for drivers.

Leader: Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

Possum Busters (E/M)
24 August

We set off from the clubrooms at 9 am and head to the bullring carpark. From the carpark we will follow the firebreak road to the Ben Rudd hut site. We then proceed down to the valley floor and pick up Possum Busters Track, which will eventually lead us to Swampy Summit. From there we will return back to the bullring via Flagstaff. If the weather is fine we should get some good views of the surrounding countryside. Car pool cost \$4.

Leader: Gavin MacArthur 455 0027

McNally Track (E)
31 August

From the clubrooms we drive to Milton, meeting opposite the Tokomairiro High School, then travel in convoy to the McNally Track, which is named after a local policeman who would regularly hike it.

The track climbs to a height of about 350m, but we can take our time and the view at the top of Milton and the surrounding land is well worth it. Walking time is about three hours at most. It is quite do-able in walking shoes but be prepared for exposure to cold winds. Trip cost \$12.

Leader: Janet Barclay 489 2598