

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 691, December, 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.

4 December

Bryan Fitzgerald, Macpac shop manager, shows us some equipment and tells us about the new Macpac owners plans for their shops. We will be auctioning a day pack, with money from the auction donated to the club.

11 December

Barbeque at Woodhaugh gardens. See page 3 for details.

18 December

B.Y.O. Show your photos of the Twain Twack, North/South Temple in a day, or U Pass that you didn't go on etc.

18 January

B.Y.O. Some of you will have been to some great places over Christmas, there should plenty of pictures to show.

22 January

Leave the clubrooms at 6pm sharp, walk up Nichols Creek -Moonlight track to Swampy track, back down the Pineapple Track. Bring a torch in case we are late back.

29 January

Adrian & Jenny Chamberlain will tell us about their cycling trip in Japan. If it is as good as their talk on cycling from Malta to Norway, it will be a great night.

5 February

No club night, Waitangi day Friday

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

Why did we join the OTMC? The reasons are varied, from family connections to love of the hills, from increasing your tramping skills to finding a partner. These are just some I can think of. But whatever the motive we are all members of this great club. My reason for joining was simple: the group I used to tramp with lost interest, I love the outdoors and my children were not too happy with me tramping alone. I was told to ring this bloke called Richard at the ORC and after quarter of an hours chat I decided this club was for me. My first weekend trip as a member was the infamous Matukituki trip back in January 1995, when the expected front brought down enough rain to delay 2 parties by 18 hours and we arrived home on Monday at 5 pm. What a start! Since that time I have been on some memorable trips and have made a lot of interesting tramping “buddies”. With all this enjoyment I thought to myself, “I want to put something back into the OTMC”, so I started to lead day trips, then to a weekend food party leader, and finally I had the confidence to lead weekend trips. Mainly in winter, mainly social, with a quiz, plus other trips. 14 trips in 9 years to be exact, and some people do many more. So what kind of member are you? Looking at the last two triplists (12 months) I noticed the following: The committee/ex committee have lead 18 weekend trips and 3 have been lead by members. One name appears 8, yes 8! times, and we all know who that is, don’t we! To put it in a nutshell the committee are leading the majority of the trips. This phenomena is not a new one but it goes to show how committed the committee are. I know it can seem a daunting task to some people to lead a weekend trip, but it’s not. My second trip had 45 people and we had a bus for the first time since April 1994. I nearly freaked out but our Chief Guide helped me sort it out and a great trip ensued. In fact 2 marriages resulted from it! There is information on our website that you can download to plan your trip. Easy, eh! And of course the Chief Guide, committee members and club members are only too happy to give guidance. So why don’t you give it a go. Sort out the area, research it, and go for it. Believe me it’s rewarding.

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe Happy New Year. Take care and we’ll catch up with you all in 2009. See you in the Hills.

Wolfgang

.....WHERE FOLK “CHEW THE FAT”

Membership

This has been the quietest month I can remember, but then my memory is not always that good!

Sandra Francis has moved across the street to 77 Stafford St, ph 027 4776 316; Shirley McQueen's e-mail address is now shirleymcq@clear.net.nz; and Colette Nicholson now has a landline 4792 449, and a cell phone 021 1588 789.

Claire Stocks, a first year Occupational Therapy student from Queenstown, who had to do a research project for her course, chose to use OTMC membership as her topic. She arranged to attend our meeting last week and was able to persuade most of those present to fill out a questionnaire. When the paper is completed she will provide a copy for us. As well as being of interest, it may also be of use to us.

The new tripcard has now been distributed to outdoor shops around the city centre, as well as to the Visitor Centre, Events Centre, Library and Citizens Advice Bureau.

Ian Sime

Membership Secretary





25 Mile Hut (Rees Valley)



The OTMC has been contacted by the owners of Rees Valley Station about the future of 25 Mile Hut in the Rees Valley. Older members will know that the club has been responsible for the management of this hut for many years. My understanding is that OTMC are free to manage it as a club hut until we no longer need it, when it will revert to the owners of the property (and hut), Rees Valley Station. Mrs. Scott is asking our intention for the future. We have two options; one is retaining the status quo, which means we will need to carry out extensive (and costly) maintenance on the hut now. The second option is to return the hut to Rees Valley Station, ending our association with the hut.



In the early 1990's the committee made an arrangement with the Hok-onui Club, where they carried out some work and we paid for materials. Since then no work has been undertaken by the OTMC. There is an occasional sum of monies received by DoC (and forwarded to us) as hut fees by people using the hut, but nowhere near enough to carry out any meaningful work at the hut.



The current committee discussed this at the November meeting, and while we have been appreciative of the use of the hut, we now feel it lies outside the interests of the OTMC. Our consultation with members has confirmed the committee view that it is time to return the hut to Rees Valley Station. As 25 Mile Hut is a private hut, located on private land, the club will not be seeking any conditions regarding the future of the hut – this is something for the owners to decide on.



The committee has now notified Rees Valley Station of our decision, as well as DoC, who receive numerous enquiries regarding hut use on our behalf. This ends a long OTC/OTMC history of hut ownership, which started with the club building Green Peak Hut in 1933 (and removed 20 years ago in 1988). The two Rock and Pillar huts are now owned by trusts solely committed to their ongoing survival. The club passed ownership of Jubilee Hut and Yellow Hut in the Silver Peaks to DoC in 2007. Jubilee Hut has been replaced by a new 10-bunk hut. Yellow Hut has been due for removal, but I'm not sure what the current situation is. Other huts have come and gone, and aside from the clubrooms, the only structure the club now owns is the Ben Rudd Shelter (managed via the BR Trust). Club huts played an important role in many tramping clubs, but with the evolution of the Forest Service and DoC they have been superseded in most cases by DoC facilities.



Trip Reports

LAKE MACKENZIE, IRIS BURN, MOTORAU HUT TRIP AUGUST 16/17

The idea was to end up at Lake MacKenzie Hut, on the western end of the Routeburn, but snow midweek soon put an end to our plans. Thanks must go to Ron M. for the regular updates of the condition of the Road to Milford, and when the news came through that the road was closed at Knobs Flat, I made the decision to go to the Iris Burn Hut on the Kepler Track. When I arrived at the club people already realised the Iris Burn was the place to go because of the high volume of snow that had fallen, a low altitude hut was the only option.

Another snow bearing front was due that night for the lower South Island so an interesting trip was in store, and if we got into trouble Derek was there with his 4WD.

As we had tea in Gore the rain turned torrential, and I thought to myself here we b****y go, however once we were back on the road the weather cleared up. "Hoorah!"

We signed in at Te Anau and in no time we were on the track to our beds at Motorau Hut. Once there, we spoiled a romantic night for two foreign trampers, who informed us of a slip 1.5 hours up the Iris Burn, so the trip was renamed right there and then to "Day walks from Motorau Hut." As this was a social trip nobody seemed to mind.

Saturday saw groups explore the local area, and some even checked out where the slip had occurred. Those who ventured past it ended up quite muddy but it was a wise call not to go further as a group. The sun even popped out for a while which raised our spirits. When we arrived back the fit ones replenished the hut's firewood store. Well done.

Then three schoolgirls arrived from Invercargill. They were on a Duke of Edinburgh trip and I just had to ask them, "Shouldn't there be a teacher with you?" To which the 6th former replied, "I am their Teacher". She Qualified as a teacher two years ago. Oh boy!, and they talk about policemen looking young nowadays!!!

The festivities started about 4 pm with everybody dressing in the "Black" theme, and black balloons, tablecloths, serviettes and candles also appeared. A really

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

great effort by all. After a yummy tea the Quiz was a quiet affair this year, mainly because Ray wasn't there. A big thanks goes to Jill for being my lovely assistant, not an easy job, just ask some of my previous ones: Fiona W, Robyn McK (the cute Ed), Jenny W, Anne B, Barry A and Brenda. The eventual winners were The B Team ably led by our Locksmith, Alan("There is no such thing as a locked lock") Thomson.

On Sunday we walked out in brilliant sunshine via Shallow Bay Hut, then a late lunch in Te Anau and home at a reasonable time. A big thanks go to the food party leaders Alan Th, Marina H, Jill Mc and Derek M.

Wolfgang for Peter Fineran Wilburt Stokman, Margaret Ryan, David Mackie, Alan Thomson, Peter George, Adriene Dearnley, Jill McAliece, Antony Mabon, Colette Nicholson, Sandra Francis, Brent Vink, Derek Mycock, Luzy Kelly, Gene Dyet, Korvin Lemke, Marina Hanger, Dave Chambers, Matt Corbett, Constanze Sheppach, and Ron Minema.

Found: 1 pink torch. just give me a call to arrange pick up.

Unexplored Silver Peaks 5 October

The forecast was for clear cool weather. Seven of us were keen to explore, so we decided on a location and off we went to Whare Flat. None of us had completely explored Powder Creek, and most of us had never heard or cared about it. So, we went there.

The stream was clear and cool, and the gorge lovely, but the water was a bit too tall sometimes. All good cool fun. We passed the bottom of the Angel's Staircase, and then went beyond our lovely route of two years earlier. This time, we found all the creek junctions, and found one creek, Little Mossy, to be quite nice-looking. So, we went there.

We arrived at the top forks not long after lunch and some interesting bluff scrambling, and then went straight up and up on the apex of the ridge to Long Ridge. I thought the ridge a bit unrelentingly tough, and decided an appropriate name might be the Bishop's Passage; the back variety. Tracy, Antony and Peter forged

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

a path through the scrub, and it was reassuring to hear their happy banter up ahead. They bashed a good bush, and wayed a good path, and soon we broke through the scrubline to the road, now getting ridiculously overgrown. We chose to turn right and headed in the warm afternoon sunshine over the top of Powder Ridge, then had a very pleasant descent to the clear cool crossing of Powder Creek.

On our way down, Julie announced she had lost her Lekki pole, somewhere before lunch. A quick check of the photos taken revealed it was with her in Silverstream, but not with her as we dropped into the gorge of Powder Creek. It was a brief sidetrip on the way home to retrieve it. (You could tell where the seven of us had been, such was the vigorosity of our earlier pathwaying.)

A quick skip down the road and we were heading home. It took us seven hours or so of walking, a bit longer than planned, but it was so enjoyable nobody seemed to care.

Richard Pettinger, for Julie Nailard, Peter George, Antony Mabon, Wayne Hodgkinson, Sebastian Clar and Tracy Pettinger

Racemans, Greengauge, Pulpit Rock, Powder Ridge & Powder Creek Tracks

Sunday 11 October

The day dawned clear and calm, a perfect day for a nice long walk in the hinterland. Six keen trampers arrived at the Whare Flat carpark and setoff for a smorgasbord of tracks in the area.

The initial section beside the Silverstream lead us to Racemans Track following the disused municipal water race through manuka forest. It was pleasantly cool as the day was clearly going to be hot. The track is wide, well maintained and benched in places. Living up to his reputation, Bill Wilson set a cracking pace in keeping with the distance we had to cover.

Bill has been leading an active retirement, one of his hobbies is creating interesting places to go walking. The next section of our travels was the recently cleared route referred to as Greengauge. This links areas close to the Rainguage Track and the track leading to the site of the former Green Hut. Working on his own

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Bill has resurrected a long overgrown route, which is a most impressive effort and should give many people pleasure in years to come. The area is mixed low forest varying from quite open to places with a lush under storey. There are many large kanuka trees, including quite a few windfalls which most of us wished were sitting in our backyards as firewood. The route follows a contour for it's early section, then drops down to Silverstream, followed by a short steep section up to a spur running off the track to the Green Hut site.

Lunch was taken at 1 pm in an open area of the spur, then about half an hour later we were into titri scrub and the blazing sun. This section of the route is less open and contains a spot of bushbashing with the first gorse encountered for the day. Just as well we were eased into the yellow peril in a minor way so the later encounters were not such a shock. By 2.30 pm we had reached the old Green Hut site for a short break.

While heading to Pulpit Rock we passed a couple of former OTMC club members from years gone by. Dick Frazier and Logan McGhie had popped over to see the new Jubilee Hut and had a quick chat on their way home.

We passed underneath Pulpit Rock at 3.15 pm and turned down Long Ridge Track. This was the farthest point from the vehicles, which gave rise to some questions as to whether our planned exit time of 6pm was achievable. Yet again Bill set off at a pace to see us out on time, progress was slowed only by the need to avoid the man-eating ruts on the track (up to 1½ metres deep) and thick gorse and broom – where is a herd of goats when you need them? We emerged from the gorse patches with rather less blood than we entered, safe in the knowledge that Jonette will never go missing in such circumstances - the yelps will always pinpoint her whereabouts.

None of us know how Bill knew where to leave Long Ridge Road and strike uphill to the fenceline to access the route leading to Powder Ridge Track, but we are glad he did. It was now 4 pm so we were not too far off schedule.

Powder Ridge Track is in rather good order and a pleasant way to get back down to the Silverstream Valley floor. It was good to be out of the sun again and into the forest. Progress was swift with a couple of sustenance stops seeing us intersect Powder Creek Track about 5.30 pm for the easy if somewhat muddy walk back to the 4WD track up the valley floor. We made it back to the vehicles about five minutes after six, tired and a little footsore after over 20 km and about 8½ hours walk.

I had not met Laurie Kennedy before, but it was clear from conversation that he is a rather experienced tramper. A couple of days later Ian Sime informed me just how experienced - Laurie edited an edition of Moirs some years ago, which just goes to show that you meet some very interesting folk on OTMC trips!

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

A big THANK YOU to Bill for leading us and clearing the track through beautiful terrain, yet another excellent day in the great outdoors. If you plan to follow in our footsteps take plenty of water as you are away from watercourses for most of the day.

Gordon Tocher for Jonette Service, Bill Wilson, Laurie Kennedy, Michael Firmin and Tony Timperley.

TABLELANDS, KAHURANGI NATIONAL PARK

9 – 11 NOVEMBER

An hour earlier, my brother-in-law Peter and I had stood at the Flora carpark, noting the snow on the shelter roof and fact that we couldn't see Mt Arthur. We could have made a call then and headed down the Flora. Instead, we'd headed up through increasing amounts of snow to the Mt Arthur Hut – stopping en route to stalk a weka family with our cameras – and then popped up above bushline to be confronted with the obvious: lots of soft snow and near-zero visibility meant the route over Gordon's Pyramid wasn't very practical, and the detour to the Mt Arthur summit was totally impractical. So we headed over a knob and dropped down to 99-year old Flora Hut for lunch.

From there, the track – an old packhorse road – follows Flora Stream to where it becomes Takaka River. On the way, we met a couple of ornithologists who gave us a good steer on where to look for a pair of whio that they'd seen. Sure enough, ten minutes later we were exercising our zoom lenses as we watched the ducks playing around in the stream.

Our next stop was Gridiron Gulch, home of the two famed rock shelters. The first is a three-bunk hut built under the rock so that the rock provides one half of the a-frame roof. The second, five minutes down the track, is a more conventional rock biv, albeit a bit more upmarket than some, with a wooden sleeping platform and mattresses at the top of a four metre ladder.

Carrying on down the valley, we came to a track junction, with one branch dropping down to cross the nascent Takaka River, while ours headed round a bend and into the Balloon Creek tributary. A gradual ascent eventually brought us out into an open area labelled the Salisbury Clear. Parkas reappeared at this point. Soon, a track junction gave us the choice of 15 minutes to Salisbury Lodge or an hour

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

and a half to Balloon Hut, higher on the Tablelands. We'd heard from several people that Balloon was a nice hut, with the subtext being that Salisbury wasn't, but an hour and a half of up hill at that time had little appeal. In the event, Salisbury Lodge proved to be quite pleasant, with gas cookers, a gas heater and a really impressive solar-powered composting dunny.

It rained all night. The view of Gordon's Pyramid was intermittent. Monday meant decision time. Having missed out on Mt Arthur, we really wanted the option of going out that way. That meant carrying on to Balloon Hut, along the ridge above the Cobb Reservoir and down into the Takaka was no longer possible. We plumped for a quiet morning in the hut followed by an afternoon trip up past Balloon Hut. This took us up gentle slopes, past the turn off to Leslie-Karamea Track, which connects with Wangapeka Track, and past some hints of the karst topography that is a feature of nearby Mt Arthur. Balloon Hut is in a nice spot near bushline. We pushed on from there to a point overlooking Lake Peel, a cirque lake that we would have passed had we stuck to Plan A, before returning to the hut. Just before Salisbury, we detoured to have a look at Dry Rock Shelter. It wasn't – dry, that is. The mattresses on the wooden platform were damp, as most of the other flat ground that ostensibly was under cover.

Back at the hut, we were cooking tea when a guided group of eight turned up. The firm usually uses Dry Rock Shelter, but had decided that conditions favoured a hut. We could confirm the wisdom of their choice. We also established that twenty four bunk Salisbury Hut would be pretty crowded with that number in residence. Ten was fine.

Tuesday dawned with more of the same. We figured we might as well take the tops route out rather than retrace our steps. The ascent of the Pyramid was a steady grind. Once out of the bush, visibility was poor but it wasn't actually raining, so a fleece sufficed rather than a parka. The top was really only identifiable by a more ornate marker pole, although the descent after it confirmed it had actually been the top. The route then meanders along a ridge before entering an area pocked with sink holes. Many were half filled with snow, and we contemplated what it would have been like two days before, when a complete filling of snow would have made many of them dangerously invisible. One last climb brought us to 1565 m on the Mt Arthur track. Decision time. The cloud was still shrouding the higher tops, and we knew that the scree slope that had to be traversed would be laden with soft snow. I had a plane to catch, so turn around time was in an hour, and the top takes an hour on a good day. It didn't stack up, so we headed down to the hut, noting just how much snow had disappeared, then retraced the first part of the trip to the car. A nice trip to an area I'm keen to see again.

David Barnes

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

With our final weekend trips for 2008 imminent it is now time to plan ahead for the summer trips in early 2009. Although there are no 'new to the OTMC' destinations there are plenty of options on most of the trips to cater for all grades of tramp. We start next year with a summer trip to Makarora (a rarity for us) followed by a 3-day trip to Craigieburn Forest Park. Dumb-bell Lake, on the Ohau Range, is an excellent destination in February, although there may be issues with access via the Maitland. We attempted Jane Peak in November 2001 and were defeated by a dump of snow on the Saturday – hopefully the return trip next March will see us on top of the Eyre Mountains. We are running the Easter '09 trip to Skippers after the past couple of Easter trips to more traditional tramping areas failed to gain much interest. As always, there is something on the programme for all.

Makarora Region in summer (All)

24 – 25 January

Jill McAliece 455 6740

On the original draft of the trip card this tramp was set down for the Wills Valley, but it has now been expanded to offer the entire of region of Makarora to trampers. The Chief Guide regards the Makarora area as the best tramping area available, with many options. The most popular trip in the area is the Wilkin/Young circuit, but this is a big ask for two days. Here are a few options to think about over the Christmas break:

Wills Valley – this tributary of the Haast Valley is accessed from the Gate of Haast. An impressive gorge leads to a wide open valley and there

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

should be time to explore the falls above Wills Hut.

Brewster Hut / Mt. Armstrong – the winter trip was cancelled in 2008, this weekend would be an ideal time to climb to one of the great viewpoints in the area.

Makarora Valley – the upper Makarora is often used as part of the circuit to the Hunter and Wills, but is a pleasant valley in summer.

Mt Shrimpton – is a 2000 m peak behind the village. This is long day trip, or exploration can be made further along the McKerrow Range.

Young Valley – this will be open to the public again following the formation of the lake in the north branch. Trips to the newish South Young Hut or the lake are possible.

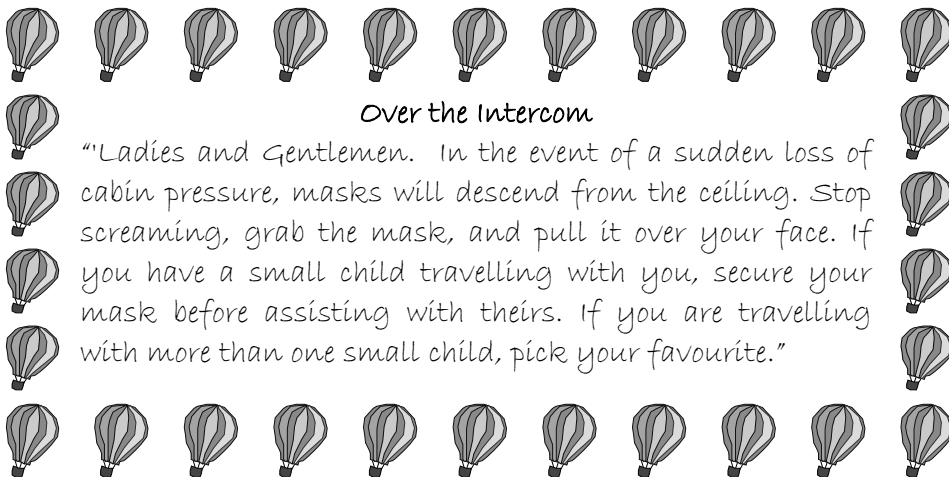
This trip will close on 15 January, the first club night of 2009. The list is available at club now, or you can call Jill to book your place.

6 – 8 February
Craigieburn Forest Park (All)
Antony Pettinger 473 7924

The relatively dry Craigieburn Range is home to the Cass / Lagoon Saddle, a popular 2-3 day trip. This trip would be a good option for 3 days, with the extra time allowing time to explore further from the track, perhaps climbing either Craigieburn Range or Black Range to gain extensive views. There are other options from the ski-fields that give access to the Craigieburn Range, and from there high-level access to the Cass –Lagoon Saddle.

Given the closeness to Arthurs Pass NP, there may be an opportunity to visit this area which is under-utilised area by the club. Options include the Edwards / Hawdon circuit, Carrington Hut, or a crossover from the Arthurs Pass village to Crow Hut via Avalanche Peak.

Further information will be available at club in the new year. The trip list closes 29th January.



Over the Intercom

"Ladies and Gentlemen. In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child travelling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are travelling with more than one small child, pick your favourite."

Committee Members 2008-2009

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
	Ralph Harvey	453 4330
Daytrip Convenor	Roy Ward	473 9518
Funding	Greg Powell	454 4828
Library	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Clubrooms Officer	Terry Casey	454 4592
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Publicity & Social Conven.	Tony Timperley	473 7257
	Ralph Harvey	453 4330
SAR Committee Liaison	Marina Hanger	476 2013
(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 January/February Bulletin, deadline is 23/1/09, publication 29/1/09. 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

Sea to Summit Bushbash (M) 30 November

See the November Bulletin for details of this trip led by Gordon Tocher.

Signal Hill Exploration II (E – M) 6 December (Saturday)

This is the continuation and intended completion of the tramp from the 24th of February, but we have ordered a cooler day than 28 degrees this time! It will be a short Saturday tramp, meeting at 9 am at the clubrooms and driving up Signal Hill to where the Cleghorn St track meets Signal Hill Rd. We go up past the transmitters on Signal Hill, then down a “rudimentary” track through Stephenson's Reserve to St Leonards. After a short time street-walking, we head up through private land and Burns Reserve to be back at the cars between 1 and 2 pm. Bring \$4 for transport and lunch even though the day is short.

Leader: Bronwen Strang 473 1610

Mt John Hut - Jubilee Hut (M-F) 7 December

The plan is to head up to Pulpit Rock from Hightop, then around Mt Allan to the rarely visited Mt John Hut. From there, we'll head up Christmas Creek to Jubilee Hut before staggering up Raboh* Ridge and having a look at Dark Horse Hut. Then we retrace our route from Pulpit Rock to the cars. As always, expect all weathers in the Silver Peaks, and bring plenty of water, as the only potable supply is around Jubilee Hut.

(* = Ridge At Back Of Hut! ;-)

Leader: David Barnes 454 4492

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Sandfly Bay / Sandymount (E)
14 December

Meet at the Clubrooms for a 9 am departure. Then off to Sandfly Bay car park and from there down the sand dunes to the beach (beware of the seals). Very early into the trip you have the option of walking bare feet across the sand. From the sea you climb a sand hill to approx 100m. Then climb the rest of the hill up and sidle through grass paddocks to Lovers Leap and the Chasm. Here we have options for lunch. The return route is back the same way, easier going down the sand hill with a steep drop at the end. Return to the club rooms about 3.30/4 pm.

Leader: Michael Firmin 454 4168

Possum Ridge / Rosella Ridge (M/F)
21 December

Second time lucky for this trip, being the Solstice and all. We leave the cars at Mountain Road then drop down to the South Branch of Waikouaiti River before heading along to Possum Hut via the "Gold Possum Pics" plaque. There is a bit of an up-hill grunt behind Possum Hut but there are great views once you reach the bush-line on Green Hill. Rosella Ridge is a sharp ridge that branches off to the right about halfway up the Pulpit Rock track. The route passes some interesting rock formations and presumably there is a possibility of seeing rosellae. Towards the end of the ridge there is a side-track to the right that heads down to the South Branch. We cross the river several times while heading upstream to the locate the old forestry road that will bring us back up to the cars. Phewsh! Expect to spend 6 to 8 hours out tramping, so pack plenty of four-season gear, including a torch just in case. Carpool costs \$6.

Leader: Fieke Neuman 473-7535

Chalkies Loop (E)
18 January

This is a good trip for those who would like to try out tramping in the new year, or want to start relatively gently after Christmas. The Chalkies is named for the colour of the sandstone cliffs on the side of Powder Hill. The track is a relatively

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

short (approx three hour) walk that climbs up one spur of Powder Hill (about 400 metres of climbing, but there's no hurry), then down an adjacent ridge. The bottom is unmetalled road, but the rest of it is a good bush walk that gives way to tussock at the top, where a short detour to get to the top of Powder Hill gives some really good views. Carpool cost \$4.

Leader: Roy Ward 473 9518

Ship at Anchor (M/F)
25 January

We will leave from the Eldorado Road and head past Deep Stream and some of the water races connecting the stream to Dunedin. It is then a fairly steady climb up to the Lammermoor plateau and Ship at Anchor, where there are great views to the east and across Te Papanui Conservation Park before we descend back to the cars. There is limited access to water on the climb, and little shade or shelter on the trip so be prepared for all eventualities.

Leader: Kathryn Jeyes 455 2473

Tavora Reserve/ Bobby's Head (E)
1 February

This new coastal reserve developed by the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust is just south of Palmerston and seaward from Goodwood. A walk through coastal wetlands, which are being replanted with native trees and shrubs, emerges on the beach. A short but steep ascent then brings you to the cliff tops with magnificent coastal views and you may see a few seals basking on the rocks below.

A stroll north across paddocks brings us to Yellow-Eyed Penguin hides and with a bit of luck we may see a penguin or two. The full walk will take no more than three hours, giving time for pottering around on the beach, should you wish. A post-walk coffee and goodies at De-Railed in Palmerston would round off this leisurely walk very nicely. Cost - \$5 to the driver.

Note: As this is just a short walk, you may want to leave from the clubhouse at 10am instead of the usual 9am. If you are going on this trip please ring me to discuss the departure time.

Leader: Tony Timperley: 473 7257.