

# OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 692, Jan/Feb, 2009

## **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 February**

Bruce Bernasconi's brother, who flies US planes to Antarctica, will tell us of his experiences doing this, and also show us a DVD. (See page 6 for details.)

### **12 February**

Colette Nicholson tramped in the Kahurangi National Park in January. She will show us a selection of the 500 photos of her trip.

### **19 February**

Tony Timperley will convince us that there is more to walking on the Banks Peninsula than the commercial tracks. He's convinced that the area behind Diamond Harbour is good enough for a club weekend trip.

### **26 February**

B.Y.O. - there are bound to be some good photos of the latest club trips.

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](mailto:cathy.tony.t@actrix.co.nz)) or Ralph Harvey (phone 453 4330, email [ralphh@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ralphh@ihug.co.nz))

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

I walk in the door at the OTMC clubrooms in Young St for the first time. Relief!!! A familiar face. Ian Sime as membership secretary gives a warm and friendly welcome, along with some current OTMC information.

I move on in. Look around. One or two faces in the room are familiar. Those there are mostly standing around talking in groups. There's talk of recent trips, with bursts of laughter and a bit of general ribbing going on. There's still 10 minutes until the meeting starts. Feeling a bit uncomfortable..... Don't really know anyone enough to go and join in with any groups. What to do?.... Looks like there's some good information on the notice board. I absorb myself in that.

The meeting starts. Everyone is welcomed. Those of us who are there for the first time are introduced - much appreciated. Upcoming trips are profiled. It's "Bring Your Own" night - a good insight into OTMC trips. Meeting is over. People talk in groups again. I make conversation with one or two. First time coming along to something like this can be hard, I tell myself.

How many new people to the OTMC feel like this? How many people decide not to come back a second time? How can we as OTMC members more warmly welcome new faces? How can we ensure their first experiences of the OTMC is a really positive one and that they will want to come back again (and again...)?

I think as club members we all need to take responsibility for welcoming new people, but perhaps as a club the OTMC could instigate a few initiatives to ensure that this does in fact happen all the time.

Some ideas of things we could do (some may already be happening):

- Have one or two OTMC members at each meeting whose role it is to "Meet & Greet" new people. This could involve introducing them to the president and a few other people at the meeting. "Meet & Greet" roles could be outside committee and on a rostered basis - say monthly or 6 monthly.

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- ♦ Extend the membership secretary's introduction of new people to the meeting to include a chance for those people to say a few words about themselves if they would like to.
- ♦ Give a complimentary copy of the Bulletin and the current trip card.
- ♦ Get each new person's contact phone number and email address.
- ♦ Make contact with them during the following week, preferably by phone, to answer any questions, give further information, etc. This could be part of the "Meet & Greet" role.
- ♦ As a further welcome, include in each month's Bulletin, the names of new people to meetings during the past month.
- ♦ Find out what it is that new people are seeking in coming along to the tramping club.

You may have other thoughts and suggestions too. **Make them known!** Let's see if together we can make this a club that people really want to belong to.

Marina Hanger

## *Membership*

This month is even quieter than last month! All we have is a few changes of address:

Ross Davies now lives in a motorhome! Send mail c/o NZMCA #31848, Box 72147, Papakura, 2244; Ph 027 6114977.

Jenny Lowe & Chris Wells have also moved overseas, to c/o Puketapu General Store, Dartmoor Rd, RD6 Napier, Phones 027 4811755 & 027 4811765.

Ian Sime,  
Membership Secretary

The OTMC congratulates Mike Floate for being awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the New Year Honours. Mike has been a member of the OTMC since the early 1980's, and while not so active with the club now, Mike played an important role within the club for many years. After serving as OTMC Chief Guide in 1985 and President in 1986 Mike has devoted a lot of time and energy to protecting and fostering conservation and access for outdoor people, through the OTMC and the FMC. Mike has also dedicated much time to Mountain Safety, the Otago Goldfields and as a Guardian of Lake Wanaka amongst other interests. It is for a combination of all these roles that Mike has been honoured.



Mike writes in a note to me: "The inspiration for much of my MSC and FMC work was due to early experiences with the OTMC and in particular my first tramp with the Club over 'The Hump Ridge' on Queens Birthday Weekend 1983 in a party with Alister Metherell, Michelle Green, Irene Pow and Colin Harris. The support I received on that occasion made me realise what a great non-competitive, environmentally awakening, and socially important activity tramping is, and how important it can be in character building. That statement, of course, takes for granted the recreational pleasure we all derive from our tramping trips. There is something special about people making cheesecake in a hut at about 1000 m on the Hump Ridge and then putting it out to cool in the snow. Those experiences were responsible for my determination to give something back to outdoor recreation in NZ. Now it is satisfying to find that the giving, among other things, has been recognised in the award of the QSM."

Mike also tells me that one of the proudest moments of his life was when he gave a vote of thanks to Sir Edmund Hillary when Sir Ed spoke to the OTMC, on the very day the Nelson Mandela was freed. Given that coincidence, Mike was able to refer to the importance of political, environmental and social freedoms. What a night!

Well done Mike – your QSM is well deserved and we are all proud of you (and it was nice to reminisce about those long-ago 1980's)

Antony Pettinger  
President

## AN EXTRA DAY-WALK

But if combined with Gerber Wolfgang's "Gabriel's Gully" walk on Sunday it could almost be considered an overnight tramp! If you like a good long walk/tramp, you might enjoy a social weekend in April. (And yes, you'll still have time to get to Gabriel's Gully on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April):

Jane Cloete is organising a day-tramp along the tops of the Blue Mountains (Tapanui), and then staying at Black Gully camp to celebrate her \*60<sup>th</sup> birthday, and the birthdays of a few other folk who were born early April.

### **A good long walk and a pot-luck dinner!**

We will assemble at Black Gully Motor Camp on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> evening. (Take your own evening meal or perhaps call in at the Beaumont Hotel for a bite to eat en route). Sort out your own transport.

The Black Gully camp is set in native bush at the base of the Blue Mountains, off SH90, about 10 km east of Tapanui or 25 km west of Raes Junction. (140 km from Dunedin).

There are a very few, very basic, huts/cabins. Good, large kitchen and dining building. Hot showers, plenty of toilets. Use of the huts is free for this weekend but bring your tent if you have one. The huts will be allocated with the proviso that the older folk get the bunks in preference to the young guns! You'll need sleeping bags/crockery/cutlery etc at the very least.

OR if you wish, you can travel to the Black Gully Camp early on Saturday morning.

Saturday morning, we car pool to Tapanui and go to the Whisky Gully car-park. Tramp up WG (1.5 – 2 hours), along the Blue Mountain tops for 4 hours – fantastic views – and then down Black Gully to the motorcamp. Total of 6 – 8 hours walking. One or two cars then drive back to Tapanui to collect 'car pool' vehicles.

**OR**, if you wish, you can just do a shorter walk up either WG and/or BG (which we will do if the weather on the tops looks really nasty)

**OR**, if you wish, you can just miss any walk and come to Black Gully for the dinner!

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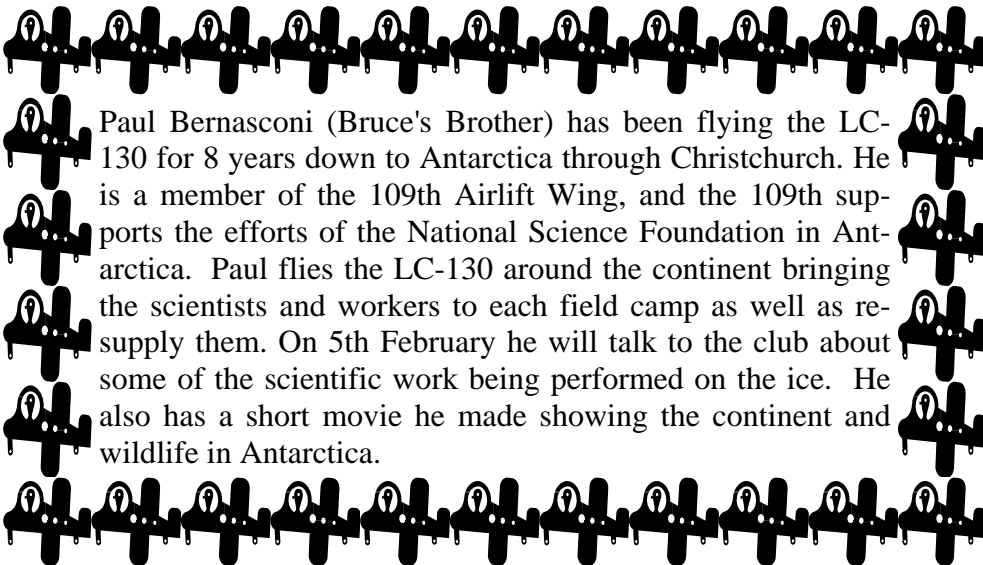
Saturday evening – DINNER. Pot luck, but Jane will provide cake, thank-you. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided, bring your own alcoholic drinks as you wish.

Sunday morning – Either meet Wolfgang at Gabriels Gully for another day-tramp, or just head off home.

RSVP rough numbers by end of February and more definite numbers by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please indicate if you want a bunk in a hut or can bring a tent.

\*Your *presence* very much appreciated – *presents* returned with “Thanks but no Thanks”

[j.cloete@xtra.co.nz](mailto:j.cloete@xtra.co.nz) or phone 467-2328 (answerphone)



Paul Bernasconi (Bruce's Brother) has been flying the LC-130 for 8 years down to Antarctica through Christchurch. He is a member of the 109th Airlift Wing, and the 109th supports the efforts of the National Science Foundation in Antarctica. Paul flies the LC-130 around the continent bringing the scientists and workers to each field camp as well as re-supply them. On 5th February he will talk to the club about some of the scientific work being performed on the ice. He also has a short movie he made showing the continent and wildlife in Antarctica.

# Trip Reports

## Spiers Rd to Booth Rd

### 9 November

Spiers Road – Flagstaff Summit – Ben Rudd’s Hut site – Bruce Campbell Rhododendron Dell – back to Booth Rd via Davies Track.

Eight people turned up at the clubrooms in promising weather. A quick discussion to organise which car might go where, and we were off to Half-way Bush, from where one car was dropped around to Booth Road. At Spiers Road, we were pleased to see our ninth person waiting. “That’s not Marina,” I thought, “it’s Ken Powell.” If we had thought about it faster, Ken’s car could have been positioned at the other end, to save shuffling at the finish of the trip. Never mind. We were on auto-pilot.

As on every such trip before, I decided that “next time” I would bring loppers and a pruning saw to keep the track through the gorse open. This time we talked about the history of the area a bit more as we waited for the last folk to push their way through. The white marker posts are in places not so easy to see. One or two are right out of the ground.

It was all very pleasant, and a relaxed pace soon saw us in a light shower as we neared the summit. From here we found a good way to go to the firebreak track and on to the skid site. The track to the shelter is now nicely cut back, but there is a bit of broom in disturbed ground around the shelter. The Mercier Seat is being invaded by broom, which, if not attended to, may soon obscure the seat from below. I weeded some of it out while we were eating our sandwiches.

Everyone went down to the rhodies, which were at their best flowering yet seen on this annual day trip. The bamboo was in its first flush, just looking for spraying. We found one variety of rhodie (just one specimen tree) is seeding around the place. It’s easy to pull out the seedlings, but we will need to kill that parent tree. It would not be a good look if these exotics

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spread into the catchment from our land, given we have a huge problem with weed trees spreading onto *our land* from neighbours. Lots of pine trees are coming up through the canopy, as well as up on the Scenic Reserve. Potentially there's a few hundred dollars worth of Christmas trees. That's quite a resource sitting there for free. Could the OTMC and the Ben Rudd's Trust do a Christmas tree fundraiser and split the proceeds?

Someone has shot the Bruce Campbell plaque. I wondered if the ricochet bothered the marksman.

The Davies track is very easy to follow now. Still, it is much more interesting walking than the Pineapple Track. No litter and not such a constant gradient. Holly is invading the track lower down. There's still lots of four-leafed clovers by the track!

It was a great trip, once again. Ken said he was very pleased with himself. That made my day to hear that. All were home by 4 pm. Thanks, Maree, for bringing your car.

Richard Pettinger for Glennis Salmon, Roy Ward, Adrienne Dearnley, Peter George, Maree MacRae, Gavin MacArthur, Julie Neilard and Ken Powell.

## ***CLASSIC SILVER PEAKS PROVES PROFITABLE FOR TRJP LEADER 16 November***

Four of the usual suspects met outside the clubrooms to prepare to tackle the 10 hour Classic Silver Peaks' tramp. The weather was fine and warm, but with high cloud; however, a southerly change with rain was forecast for late afternoon. With this in mind, we decided to leave a car at the Green Ridge track entrance in case we had to bail out and in the other car we went on to Tunnels Track.

On arrival, we synchronized our watches to 10.02 hrs and began to descend the Tunnels Track. As we descended and descended it began to occur to a couple of us that at the end of a hard day we would have to ascend and as-

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ced this same track. In any case, after crossing the Waikouaiti South Branch, we were soon into some grunty climbing and, being fresh, reached Yellow Hut within the hour.

After some cooling drinks and signing the hut book we were soon on our way and into the open tussock. The weather did not show any signs of worsening, with patches of blue sky beginning to show through the high cloud. When we reached the top of Yellow Ridge we decided to by-pass The Gap and, courtesy of a side-track known only to Roy, went straight to ABC Cave. As we reached the cave at 13.02 hrs precisely we decided to have a full lunch stop, but decided against taking full advantage of the luxury facilities provided: camp stool, bed headboard, hashish bong (broken), etc.

Fully refreshed, we headed out of the cave valley and over to Jubilee Hut. It was on this stretch that Leader Wayne had the first of his profitable finds – a new white cap with mesh side panels. The timing of this find was fortuitous as the sun had begun to shine and Wayne had not brought a hat. We decided to also by-pass Jubilee Hut because a) we had had lunch just an hour previously; b) we could fill our water bottles in the stream; and c) it is too far to climb up to when Devil's Staircase is to follow.

As we began our ascent of the aforementioned, the skies cleared fully and the sun beat down on our backs as we realized the origin of its name: not just because of its steepness; but because of the hellish temperatures that trampers have to endure when they climb Devil's Staircase on a sunny afternoon. However, for Wayne there was relief as it was here that he made his second profitable find: a flashy analogue face stop-watch with a metal band – and it was in working order! Following this find Tony, Michael and Roy each grappled to be the one in front but by the time we reached Rocky Ridge (at precisely 16.02 hrs) Wayne had re-asserted his leadership; which was just as well for him as halfway along the ridge he made a double find – a gortex parka and an Aussie-style hat! Again, the weather changed to allow him to try out his new find, this time a brief shower passed over the ridge.

As we progressed further along Rocky Ridge, those in shorts began to feel the exposed skin between shorts and gaiters becoming extremely tender. This was the result of having to walk through small manuka shrubs about half to one metre high growing densely right up to the track. It was like having one's legs scrubbed with wire brushes. Perhaps they should be called manuka "scrubs" rather than just "shrubs"! Lucky Roy was wearing longs

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and whereas he had been feeling the heat earlier, he now appreciated the benefit of protected legs. (Note: Tony last walked along Rocky Ridge 20 years ago when, on a visit from Auckland, he tramped the Green Ridge, Rocky Ridge, Gap Ridge route, coming out onto Steep Hill Road. On the Rocky Ridge section he does not remember having his legs scrubbed raw and he would remember as he did not own a pair of gaiters then. What he remembers is open tussock which “caressed” his legs (sigh!) so he wonders if the manuka has become established in just the last decade or so.)

We reached the Rocky Ridge – Yellow Ridge Junction at precisely 18.02 hrs and after a final stop to refuel, we set off on the final leg back down Yellow Ridge which we had ascended eight hours earlier. With just a brief stop at Yellow Hut to sign out in the hut book, we carried on descending on ever wearying legs, re-crossed the Waikouaiti South Branch to reach - oh no! – the steep ascent of Tunnels Track. What a way to end a 10 hour day of hard tramping!

Roy wisely took a rest before tackling the seemingly endless and ever-steepening uphill grind and so eventually emerged first onto the road; and when all four reached the car and checked our watches – guess what the time was? You’ve got it – 20.02 hrs precisely! We kid you not – a tramp of exactly 10 hrs to the minute. (The intermediate times may not have been “00.02 precisely” as stated, but they were each about 5mins either way, which was surprising.) We all had a sense of achievement at what we had accomplished; but agreed that next time we would start and finish at Green Ridge, which would have a much more pleasant downhill ending. In any case doing the Classic Silver Peaks Route clockwise (from Silver Peak 777 m) is a different experience from doing it anti-clockwise. Don’t you agree?

Tony Timperley for: Wayne Hodgkinson (Leader), Michael Firmin, and Roy Ward.

Postscript: Wayne intends to try and locate the owners of the items he found, particularly the watch and parka, by advertising in the “Lost and Found” columns of the ODT. By the time you read this, either there could be some trampers who are very grateful to Wayne, or he did indeed have a very “profitable” tramp.

## **Tararua Peaks**

### **Nov 21 – 23**

Shaun Barnett had been promising me a Tararua trip for ages. He missed the last one he organised – some lame excuse about his wife having a baby that week – but I still got to Mt Holdsworth in the teeth of a Wellington gale. This time, a conveniently timed conference in Wellington had us again plotting to get to the Tararua Peaks. As the weekend approached, the weather was looking dodgy, and plans morphed from ‘tops trip on the west’ to ‘tops trip on the east’ to ‘bush trip on the east’.

After scrounging a cup of tea to wash down our chips from erstwhile FMC Bulletin editor John Rhodes in Greytown, we made our way to the carpark by the Waiohine River. A new eight-at-a-time swingbridge spans the gorge at a height of some 35 metres and is the main gateway to the eastern Tararuas. From there, our route was solidly uphill, gaining 300 m in the bush before losing most of it as we dropped into the Tikauauheren catchment. Our destination was the Tararua Tramping Club’s Cone Hut, one of the most character-filled huts in the range. Built in 1946 of totara slabs, it was restored some years ago and is in really tidy order. The loo even has a name – the Punga House of Poo-ey.

*By David Barnes, to be continued.....*



*Shaun Barnett on “Cone”*

# Trip list

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**February 21-22**  
**Dumb-bell Lake (Ohau Range) (All)**  
**Gordon Tocher 472 7440**

February is an excellent time to visit the Ohau Range, with the longer day-light hours allowing more time on the tops. This trip is planned to visit Dumb-bell Lake, situated on the eastern side of the Ohau Range, in the Maitland catchment. Public access is available from Parsons Creek, where a marginal strip leads across terraces to reach Freehold Creek. A marked track, then the route up Freehold Creek leads past small tarns to the tops of the Ohau Range at 1800 m (note: this is a 1300 m from lake level). A short descent leads to the lake, and numerous camp sites can be found with care. Sunday provides an opportunity to explore the Ohau Range, which features good travel along the tops. High points are Pinnacle (1817m) and Mt. Sutton just over 2000 m. A bit further to the south is Ohau Peak itself at 1916 m. Return to Parsons Creek can be made via Freehold Creek, or possibly Sawyers or Parsons Creek. Another option is to descend through the ski-field.

Accessing Dumb-bell Lake via the Maitland makes for a great through-trip, but requires permission to cross private property. Trip list will close 12 February.

**March 7-8**  
**Jane Peak / Eyre Mountains (All)**  
**Matt Corbett 487 6595**

The last serious attempt by the OTMC to reach the top of Jane Peak was thwarted by snow in November 2001, but that trip has provided us with a

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good idea of the best way to reach the top in a weekend.

We turn away from the South Mavora Lake and head up to the Gorge Burn. There is a lakelet about 3 hours in which is where we will camp (above the high-tide mark, this time!). If time is on our side we may attempt the 2022 m Jane Peak in the afternoon, making the most of the daylight in early March. If this doesn't happen then an early start on Sunday will see us headed for the tops.

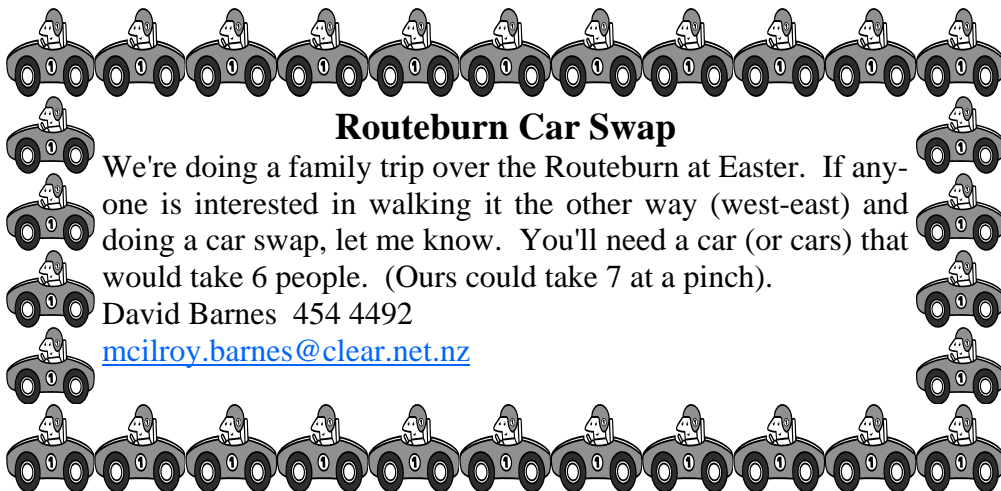
The western side of the Eyre Mountains has a lot less bush – once we are at the campsite we are out of the bush (which has been a complaint on the Five Rivers side). Trip list will close 26 February.

**March 14/-5**  
**East Matukituki (All)**  
**Antony Pettinger 473 7924**

This trip is planned as the practical tramp for Bushcraft 2009, but it is also a club trip and open to all. The East Matukituki is visited less frequently than the west, but offers some great trips. It is particularly suited to people with less experience.

For a weekend trip there are two main options. The first is to tramp into Junction Flat, and then on to Aspiring Flat (sometimes called Kitchener Flats). There are good campsites here (preferable to the well-known Rock Of Ages Biv). There should be sufficient time remaining to explore either the Turnbull Thomson Falls or head into the Rainbow Stream.

The second option is to head towards the Albertburn Saddle, and perhaps Dragonfly (2165 m). Even if Dragonfly cannot be reached, the views improve the higher you climb from the bush-line. Trip list will close 5 March.



## Routeburn Car Swap

We're doing a family trip over the Routeburn at Easter. If anyone is interested in walking it the other way (west-east) and doing a car swap, let me know. You'll need a car (or cars) that would take 6 people. (Ours could take 7 at a pinch).

David Barnes 454 4492

[mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz](mailto:mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz)

## 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 March Bulletin, deadline is 13/2/09, publication 26/2/09. 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

## **Rustlers Ridge (E/M) 8 February**

We drive to the carpark at Pigeon Flat, then walk along the pipeline track through some lovely forested areas. After climbing up Rustlers Ridge and along the tops with some spectacular views of the Silverpeaks (weather permitting), we will return via Swampy Summit and the boardwalk. So come along and enjoy the day, making sure you're prepared for changeable weather. The walk should take approx. 4 hours.

Leader: Gavin MacArthur 455 0027

## **Sinclair Wetlands / Taieri Historical Park (E) 15 February**

Meet at the Clubrooms at 10am. (*Note later start.*) From the clubrooms we head south on SH1 to the Sinclair Wetlands, which are well signposted. There is a gold coin donation to enter the Wetlands, with the option of viewing a video together with a cuppa and informative talk for \$5 per person, before exploring the 6 km of easy walking tracks.

From here we drive to Outram Glen and another short walk to our lunch spot at Whare Creek. The Taieri Historical Park and Vintage Machinery Club are both open between 2 – 4 pm with gold coin donations. We can explore to our heart's content before heading back to the Glen for a swim, or to McArthur's for a real fruit icecream - why not both?!!

Leader: Janet Barclay 489 2598

## **OTMC Silverpeaks Marathon (FE) 14 February (Saturday)**

The Silverpeaks "Marathon" offers a real challenge for those who are like to test ourselves. There is a 65 km full option (start time 4:30 am), and a 35 km

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half option (usual start time 6:30 am). Contact me for course details, and I'm still negotiating with Wenita for access to the Mount Allan forest.

It is expected that people doing this will have adequate fitness, equipment, experience, and good knowledge of the route (I can assist with this last part beforehand). It is preferred for people to go in small groups rather than alone.

The Marathon often gets excellent support from volunteers, who help make the event go smoothly and safely - it is something of a tradition to have support people at the start, the Hightop turn-off, and The Gap - and I'm calling for volunteers for this year. If you are interested in helping out at a checkpoint (which could be quite a pleasant day trip), I would welcome hearing from you. Unlike other day trips it is important to know in advance who is doing the trip, so you **MUST** let me know by at least the Thursday before if you are interested.

Organiser: Roy Ward, 473-9518, [royward770@actrix.ac.nz](mailto:royward770@actrix.ac.nz)

### **A Day On The Rail Trail (Cycle) 22 February**

The Middlemarch end of the rail trail is only a 1 hour drive from Dunedin and the plan is to cycle Middlemarch to Hyde or Daisybank return. This is a great section of the trail, lots of bridges, a tunnel and good coffee and carrot cake at Hyde. Bikes can be hired from Cycle Surgery Middlemarch office at \$35 a day plus panniers at \$5 so you do not even need to have a bike. Good to arrange this beforehand so they can have the right bike set up and waiting for you. This is a great introduction to the trail and may motivate some to have a go at the whole thing.

Leader: Antony Hamel 453 5240

### **Nichols Creek/Morrisons Burn. (E/M) 1 March**

We take a trip up the south side of Nichols Creek and detour into the bush to view an interesting part of the upper creek that many may not have seen. We continue up to Swampy Ridge Track to the Trig then down into the Morrison Burn. Allow 4 hrs. \$4

Leader: Ran Turner 473 8652