

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 695, May, 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.**

7 May

David Barnes & Rob Mitchell talk about their FMC work, including the Mt. Aspiring management plan and how it affects the OTMC. Any opinions for the OTMC submission are also welcome.

14 May

Jane Cloete will tell us about her three weeks in Kazakhstan, 10 days at the Asia Pacific orienteering championships, travelling around for a week, and a week camping.

21 May

Marina Hangar takes blind people on adventure activities, and will tell us about a three day canoeing trip on the Wanganui river.

28 May

. No club night on Queens Birthday weekend.

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**

First Tramp November 2001

My brothers Kevin and Peter had been tramping together for some time and decided that it was about time for me to join them, so along with Pete's youngest son, Jonathan, we set off to the Makarora region to do the Young/Wilkin circuit. Spent the first night at Makarora and the boys had a great laugh at what I had in my pack - well I had no idea! - so we left a few bits behind and lightened the load a lot. Next morning we crossed the river and I had dry boots thanks to Pete, who lent me a pair of boat shoes for the crossing. We headed up Young Valley into the murk and it just continued raining for the rest of the day, didn't see anything of the scenery but mud and rain. After a wet lunch we crossed the slip and headed up South Branch, it was all a blur after that, I can remember some board walks and steep slopes, boy was I so glad to see that hut! I was wet, cold and mildly hypothermic, it's amazing what a hot toddy can do and with hot food as well I was feeling much better, dry clothes and then off to bed. That night the wind and rain increased, with thunder and lightning it was an amazing show, very hard to get to the toilet the next morning though, had to crawl to stop from being blown away, I can see why they shifted the hut to its new location. We weren't going anywhere that next day, the other three occupants of the hut had to stay put as well. One couple decided to head down the valley later in the day, and we heard afterwards that they got into trouble crossing the Makarora River. The girl was swept away but her partner managed to grab her and they both made it across.

Day Three was fine and clear and we headed up the top valley to Gillespies Pass. It was very slow going up the climb to the pass, but what an amazing view on the tops, worth all that effort. We stayed for some time taking photos and enjoying the snow covered tops. The snow made the descent a

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.....WHERE FOLK "CHEW THE FAT"

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little tricky, had to watch the footing , but as we headed down into Siberia Valley I was just gob-smacked. Of all the areas I have tramped since, this valley is my favourite location. As we passed the marker to Crucible Lake we decided that would have to be another trip, as we were due to meet the jet boat next day and didn't feel we had enough time to get to the lake that day. We got to the hut about 2 pm and in hindsight we could have gone to Crucible, after a very leisurely lunch and quick dip under the falls, we sat in the sun, enjoying the rest of the day. The plane came in later that afternoon, dropped off some people who headed straight for the hut, had a quick look around and then they disappeared along the track to be picked up by the jet boat. We had a very enjoyable night, one other occupant in the hut, and headed off to the Wilkin mid-morning. The track was pretty rough in places, slips and steep drops, it's amazing what has been done to the track since then. We got to the jet boat pick-up point in plenty of time, so had a wander along Wilkin River. It would have been nice to get across to see the other hut but the river level was too high, it certainly made for a interesting ride out on the jet boat.

That day we drove to Haast with the intention of doing the Welcome Flat walk, and spent the night at a backpackers. We then drove up the coast, the rain had started again and just got heavier, so we decided to turn back and go home. I was relieved to be heading home, that first tramp was hard going for me and I felt I had had enough at the time. It was great to be home and in my own bed. A few months later I joined the OTMC and have been on some great tramps since and looking forward to more.

Jill McAliece

Membership

Sue Taylor, 135 Balmacewen Rd, 4675 140 is joining the Club this month. Welcome Sue!

Jonathan Wood has moved to 12 High St, Mosgiel, 489 3274

Ian Sime

Membership Secretary

Auction Reminder

We now have a date confirmed:

18TH JUNE 2009

We are looking for heaps of stuff to auction, so;

- Clean out the tramping cupboard of all that surplus gear you don't need.
- Bake a cake (or some scones).
- Dust of the Home Brew (I can still taste yours Richard).
- Check the attic / garage.
- Grab a few promo items from work.

Drop it into the tramping club on a Thursday night or into the National Bank – South Dunedin (tell the tellers it's for Greg) during business hours (no horses or vehicles though – they should go straight to the clubrooms).

Greg Powell

Trip Reports

Silverpeaks Marathon 14 February 2009

Waking up at 3:35 a.m. is never pleasant, but it's part of getting ready for the annual Silverpeaks Marathon. Several of us met at the bottom of the Pineapple Track at 4:30 a.m. to go to various destinations: Brad, Chris and myself to do the full Marathon; Pam to do the half; Janet, Bronwen and Philip to go on a memorial trip to the ford where Trevor drowned during the same event last year; Alyce (Brad's wife) to go back to bed after dropping Brad and Chris off.

Leaving at 4:35 a.m., the groups separated somewhat after Brad set a good pace. At about 6:45 a.m. the front group stopped for a while at the ford, only to find that everyone else wasn't far behind us. Ralph, Gavin and Michael then joined us, along with several of Trevor's family, to say a few words and share some memories about Trevor, finishing with each of us putting a white rose in the waters of Whare Flat Creek.

Pam, Brad, Chris and myself continued on to the Chalkies, where there were several stops for the taping of feet. Brad and Chris seemed to be noticeably faster than Pam and myself, so by the time we had got to the junction where the half Marathon turns off I had decided that I was going to do the half instead of the full. However, after some peer pressure was applied, I changed my mind. Pam split off to do the half and we later found that she'd had a good trip and got out about 4.20 p.m., the only problems being the gorse and a little bit of mis-navigation at the start of Long Ridge.

Brad, Chris and I continued down the bulldozer track (which I had spent some time clearing a week previously). As we got to Big Stream, we found the geography had been considerably altered - there were lots of trees that had been felled, and some very wide new roads put in that had obliterated the old ones. We looked for a bit at the impressively large logging machinery. Things were more familiar between Poplar Hut and Mount John, where we stopped and had lunch at about 12:15 p.m.

Coming down from Mount John, what had started as a cool day was getting quite hot, which (along with my relative lack of fitness) is what I think eventually led to a slow time. Brad and I had been having a running disagreement all day about

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which of the hills was the worst one, and heading towards the Gap we changed that to a discussion about whether to follow my preference and go past ABC Cave (disadvantage: have to bash through some tussock) or Brad's preference up the ridge opposite Homestead hut (disadvantage: gain some extra height). We eventually chose the way past ABC Cave, filtering quite a lot of drinking water at Cave Creek, and arriving at the Gap at 4:15 p.m.

I find there is something about reaching the Gap in the Marathon: on one hand it's the point where we turn for home, on the other hand I can see it's a really long way, and my muscles tend to be getting quite tired by then so I just want to get the whole thing over with. Going along Rocky Ridge, we got led slightly off-course at one point where there is a cut track to Hermites Ridge vs. the route along Rocky Ridge which is not cut. The other change is that the Yellow Ridge end of the Sliverpeaks is becoming a bit overgrown, possibly due to City Forests putting in gates that make access difficult.

Brad had arranged for Alyce to meet us, so we had as few stops as possible going past Pulpit rock at 6:45 p.m. I discovered David Barnes (our SAR contact) had noticed how long we were taking, and had sent us a text offering to collect us at Hightop, which we all declined. Sometime after 7:30 pm, we met Alyce at the Green Hut site. She had gone to some effort - refrigerated water, powerade, and lots of goodies to eat - so we had a rest there, then walked with Alyce to the turn-off at Hightop. Walking up to Swampy (I'd been maintaining it was the worst hill because it's the last one, but it's much better with company) I found I was getting very tired and lagging a bit, and the others had to slow down and wait for me. It was full dark by the time we were going to the top of the Pineapple Track, and there we had one final stop (Brad to me: "When you said you were going to put your head down and go, I didn't think you meant go to sleep"), then we staggered painfully down the Pineapple Track to arrive at 11:23 p.m. - my personal slowest time of 18 hours and 48 minutes, but the only time I'd ever done it with a group.

The aftermath of the Marathon is mixed - muscles and joints can be quite sore for a few days (although it wasn't too bad this time), but there's also the feeling of euphoria from having taken on a tough challenge and beaten it. On this occasion, there was also the sense of completing a piece of business left unfinished by last year's tragedy. A special thanks to Alyce Wilson and David Barnes - the Marathon would be harder and not as safe without their great support.

Roy Ward for Brad Wilson, Chris Gadd and Pam McKelvey, Janet Barclay, Bronwen Strang, Philip Somerville, Ralph Harvey, Michael Firmin and Gavin McArthur.

North-South Temple

6th December 2008

Four of us took on the challenge to attempt a North-South Temple circuit in one day. This followed on from the previous year's "Routeburn in one day" theme.

An early start to the day was ensured when a helicopter passed directly over the Temple Shelter at 5:30 on Saturday morning. The North Temple River had fallen to near-normal levels and caused us no problems crossing it, unlike the Waitaki School party who were airlifted across it two days previously after heavy rain had swollen the river. We came across their abandoned tents still to be retrieved a short distance up the track.

A brisk pace saw us at the bush line in just over an hour where we took a quick breather to admire the scenery of the upper valley basin. Then began the hard slog up the grassy slopes to the base of that daunting "gut". The advantage of not having to carry a heavy overnight pack became evident as steady progress was made up the gut without the need to take frequent rest stops.

The first snowdrift was encountered about halfway up. It was easily negotiated by walking underneath it where the stream had melted a tunnel through. However the next section of snow, which appeared to extend down from the upper basin completely blocked the usual route up the center of the gut. Matt and James scouted ahead and found a route up a rock ledge on the left flank of the snow. This lead up to a broader ridge. With some climbing this enabled us to get to a place just short of the upper basin. At this point the snow met a near-vertical rock face, and we decided it was too dangerous to go further without the appropriate gear. The consequence of a slip on the hard snow would mean a 250m slide down the snow chute to the rocks below. So instead we spent 20 minutes admiring the views on a perfect day in the mountains before beginning a slow and cautious descent, careful not to dislodge any rocks onto our fellow party members.

On our descent we met a party of three struggling their way up the gut with large overnight packs, intent on camping in the South Temple. Later, while having lunch and a snooze in the afternoon sun at the base of the gut, we observed them retreating back down. We were back at the Shelter by 3 o'clock, confident we could have been on the pass by mid-morning and the circuit completed comfortably in 10 hours. We have pencilled it in for next year if conditions permit.

Saturday evening was spent at Round Bush Reserve enjoying a beer and barbeque followed by a game of French Cricket. Sandflies drove us all to our tents early.

Thanks to my fellow trampers Matt, James and Antony and support crew of Debbie, Jade and Dylan.

Pete Stevenson

Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

Included with this Bulletin is the latest trip programme, covering the period from the start of May until the end of October. I would like to thank everyone who has offered to lead a trip – the trips just wouldn't happen without these people.

The weekend trip programme is designed to cater for as many members as possible, with all winter trips having a suitable hut in the area. Of course, this shouldn't preclude the more adventurous planning alternate trips within the areas being visited, indeed this is a tradition tramping clubs must retain. We are counting on some good snowfalls for August – in fact we have four different weekend trips planned, each with a unique theme. Winter can be a great time for tramping, and the snow can make some ordinary trips quite magical.

Antony Pettinger

9 – 10 May

Kepler Track (including complete Kepler option) (All)

Ann Burton 476 2360

The summer season on the Kepler finishes in late April, so early May is a great opportunity to escape the crowds as well as hopefully missing the winter snows. There are two options being promoted for this trip:

Control Gates to Luxmore Hut: Luxmore Hut is the best choice for those going in and out from the same end of the track. Located under Mt. Luxmore, the hut has a commanding view over Lake Te Anau. Low cloud over the lake creates some great views from the hut. Once at the hut there is time to travel further up towards Mt. Luxmore (Sunday morning?) or the visit the nearby limestone caves.

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The second option is the complete track over two days (the section from Rainbow Reach to the Control Gates is optional). To assist with an early start on Saturday we plan to stay at the motor camp on Friday night. This option will start at the control gates and overnight at Iris Burn. Expect at least 10 hours for Saturday. Sunday involves the walk down Iris Burn to Lake Manapouri (Motarau) and out to Rainbow Reach. The optional section back to the control gates is another 9.5km (or about 33km total for the day).

An annual hut pass or hut tickets will be required for this trip. Trip list closes 30th April.

30 May – 1 June
Green Lake (From Monowai) (M-FE)
Peter Stevenson 454 4148

This year's Queen's Birthday trip is heading to Green Lake, located to west of Ohai and Nightcaps. A gradual climb through bush leads to a 900 m saddle, the other side of which lies Green Lake. The original four bunk A-frame hut has been replaced by DoC with a 12 bunk hut, located at the eastern end of the beach. From the hut there are options to head over to Island Lake and perhaps towards Clark Hut (or shelter). Great views can also be had from the slopes heading up to Mt Burns. This can also be used as an alternate route back to the saddle, keeping above the bush. For the keen, there is an option for a round trip by using Borland Road to get back to the start. Although this is a road (with an adjacent HV powerline) it has been done on two club trips over the past 20 years or so.

The trip list will close on 21st May.





OTMC Email Discussion List

The OTMC have an email list that we use for making announcements regarding Thursday meetings, upcoming trips and other relevant club and tramping information. We also encourage the list to be used as a discussion list. If you wish to join the list visit <<http://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc>>, or google 'otmc email list' and follow the first link. If this doesn't work you can email the list owner, Paul Bennington at paul.bennington@otago.ac.nz and he will be able to help you. There are not a lot of messages sent via the list, and it is particularly useful for distributing late changes to both the social and trip programmes.

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 June Bulletin, deadline is 15/5/09, publication 28/5/09. 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

Maungatua (M/F) 3 May

It is no longer possible to get permission for the Munro Road end of the Maungatua traverse, so we will be going up from the Woodside Glen end, through bush, then into tussock on to the top. We go along the top, which is covered in tussock and patches of swamp until we get to a trig station, then back along the top and down Graingers Road (some of this may be steep!). This is the reverse of the last trip. Characteristics of the trip include being the highest point for quite some distance, so there are magnificent views (including the Taieri Plain) and that we walk through several types of vegetation at the different altitudes. Car pool cost \$8.

Leader: Roy Ward 473 9518

Taieri River Walk (E) 10 May

We will start in Taieri Mouth and follow the river from the tidal area. The track climbs steadily to above bushline for some great views before dropping in to the upper gorge area at John Bull Flat. This will provide a pleasant picnic area and time for the more enthusiastic to continue on the Taieri Millenium track towards Henley. We will return along the same route. The trip will take approximately 5 hours in total, carpool cost is \$5.

Leader: Kathryn Jeyes 455 2473

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Pleasant River to Shag River
17 May

We meet at the club rooms at 9.00 am and drive up past Palmerston and down Bushy Park Rd. to drop off a car, then return to the Goodwood area to start the tramp. The walk is down the Pleasant river to the mouth then north along the coast over agricultural land. We go through the Tavora Reserve and up past Anderson Inlet, along cliffs, then the beach to the Shag River and the cars. The walk is easy throughout with short climbs and a bit of fence climbing to vary easy-going over fields and beaches. There are fine sea views and the possibility of seeing some wildlife.

Leader: Bill Wilson 477 2282

Yellow Ridge-Rocky Ridge-Green Ridge (M)
24 May

When Roy wanted me to take a slot in the trip program, I realised in horror that it was April and I hadn't been in the Silver Peaks once this year. So obviously my trip had to be a really good Silver Peaks trip. This is an old favourite - a through trip along the central core of the range.

Leader: David Barnes 454 4492

Queen's Birthday Weekend
31 May

No daytrip this Sunday - enjoy your long weekend, whether it's in the hills, away elsewhere, or pottering around home.