

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 697, July 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.**

Upcoming Social Programme

2nd July

Twins Daphne Kalinowski and Lorraine Drew tell us about their travelling adventures starting in Beijing, through the former Soviet states of central Asia, finishing at the Turkish coastline of the Black Sea.

9th July

Trish Moller and fellow SAR (search and rescue) members, will talk to us about what SAR is, and how we can become involved in it.

16th July

Ann Burton and Wolfgang Gerber will explain how to make your own dehydrated food, which helps keep your pack weight down, tastes good, and is a must if you are planning longer trips.

23rd July

BYO pictures of trips you have done - hopefully the winter Routeburn and Mt Somers will have been successful trips.

30th July

Phil Somerville has just returned from a month in Turkey, he tells us of his visits to Istanbul Gallipoli and the Eastern Mediterranean, where he did some biking walking and canoeing.

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 tonytimps@xtra.co.nz) or Ralph Harvey (phone 453 4330, email ralphh@ihug.co.nz)

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

The OTMC

I have been sitting back reflecting on my time as a member with the OTMC. In 1998 I had my first introduction to tramping, and the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club by the means of their Bushcraft Course, and have been an avid member since then. Well you might say avid up until a year ago when I joined the ranks of the majority. Yep, I've hardly been in the hills, but that is about to change - the trainers are out and they are pounding the footpath and hitting the gym. Look out hills (well weather willing that is), as unfortunately the last 4 trips have had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

So if my maths is right I have been a member for just over eleven years, and I'm just completing my tenth year as Treasurer. Through the OTMC I have forged some great friendships in that time and have gained so much experience that could never have been achieved without the help of the club members. The trips I have completed have been fantastic, they have been very varied from the very social to the extremely challenging. All heaps of fun even when I'm taken out of my comfort zone which has been achieved on many occasions.

Some highlights of my time have been helping with the Bushcraft courses, it's great to help introduce the hills to people, and to give back some of the experiences which have been given to me over the years. Great trips have been Lake Crucible, Winter Routeburns, Lake Dumb Bell, Routeburn in a day, Tiel Creek (oh what a trip), 2 ten day trips (fantastic), Ball Pass, then Ball Pass with Chris and my Dad, The Kepler when I had three generations there, my Dad, my oldest son Cory, and of course me. The list could just go on and on.

So I would like to say a big thank you to the OTMC, for some extraordinary trips and heaps of opportunities to challenge myself.

After reflecting on all the great times and wonderful trips that I have experienced, it is very sad to see how few people are supporting the club these days. The committee often discusses how

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to encourage more people to participate on trips, what we can do better. We ask for input on where people would like to tramp, and what other activities the Club should organise. However I feel the overwhelming lack of response is a concern.

This brings me to pose the following questions:

1. Why do people belong to the OTMC?
2. Are members quite happy to just belong, but not necessarily participate in Club activities?
3. How many members have been on a Club weekend trip in the last 2 years?
4. Are the majority of Members quite happy with the current direction of the Club?
5. What happens when the current movers and shakers at the Club, move on?

I personally worry about the future of the Club. We have diminishing numbers on our weekend trips, a general reliance on a small number of members to administer the Club, and the usual apathy shown by people when looking for new blood as Committee members etc.

Ann Burton

Membership

This has been a **very** quiet month for membership.

Dick Brasier has moved to 8 Tau Cres, RD2, Diamond Harbour, 8972, and that's it.

Oh! And Mona Taylor has changed her e-mail address, though we don't usually publish these. It is now: monataylor@orcon.net.nz

We've had people from some far away places coming to Thursday nights recently.

One night in mid-May a woman from France and a couple from Belfast turned up, and when this was written they had come every week since.

Another night a couple, she from Spain and he from Ireland, appeared. This adds quite some colour to our evenings.

Auction...The Outcome

The club's newly re-instated annual auction night was held in the club-rooms on 18th June 2009.

We had a good turnout and a crowd of spirited bidders. All items were sold on the night with the exception of a pair of crampons which have now been added to the clubs gear hire cupboard. There were definitely some good bargains to be had from a wide range of goods on offer. The buy of the night was a very good quality cane lounge suit (with free delivery) selling for only \$5.

Tony, our first time auctioneer, rose to the occasion and did a superb job of extracting bids from the crowd. He came dressed for the occasion and his pink tie was so popular that at the conclusion of the auction, and by popular demand, this was also auctioned off. I did notice though, that when Tony also offered to take of his shirt and auction that, the crowd enthusiasm seemed to wane. Wonder why?

The outcome was that the evening raised \$525 for the club and these funds will be used to purchase the new map series.

My thanks to all the members who donated goods or took the time to bake a cake, bottle a wine / beer or make some fudge.

A special thanks to our business sponsors for supporting the auction and we urge our club members to acknowledge this by supporting these businesses;

Cooke Howlison Holden
Macpac
The National Bank
Bivouac Outdoors
R & R Sports
BP

Overall a good fun night with lots of laughs and a good outcome for the club. Thanks everyone for your support.

Greg Powell

Change in OTMC Bulletin Editor...Take 2

Following Robyn MacKay's resignation as OTMC Bulletin Editor the committee have appointed Adrienne Dearnley to the role. Adrienne has been an active trumper with the OTMC for some time and we enthusiastically welcome her to position of Editor. Adrienne will be taking up the role from the next edition (August). I will leave it up to Adrienne to decide how she wants to receive contributions—in the meantime if you have any electronic pieces you can send them to me for forwarding (apett@es.co.nz)

The Bulletin can not be published without your support and contributions,. Trip reports have been the staple of the club magazine, and rightly so. Every trip is worthy of recording—the Bulletin is archived by the Hocken Library (and some members!) and provides a permanent record of OTMC activity. In particular, trips that are different or are off-track are incredibly helpful to future trampers if the reports contain descriptions of routes taken, times, things to look out for or good camping places etc.

Other contributions are also welcome - they may include book reviews, letters to the editor, pleas for information or some literary piece. Please help Adrienne make the OTMC Bulletin the one you want to read.

Bill Denz (1960's OTMC Member)

We have received the following email from Paul Maxim regarding Bill Denz. This has been circulated via the Email Discussion list with good results, but perhaps there some reading this who don't receive the club emails—Paul would welcome any contribution you have.

'My name is Paul Maxim. I am a member of the Tararua Tramping Club and the New Zealand Alpine Club and am currently researching and writing a biography on the well known New Zealand mountaineer M W (Bill) Denz

Bill was a member of your club in the 1960's and perhaps beyond, probably with his family, and it was with the OTMC that he began his trips into the mountains. He went on to become one of our country's foremost climbers before his untimely death on Makalu in October 1983.

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If you could put a notice in your regular circular asking if anybody who knew or tramped/climbed with Bill Denz could contact me. Please mention the fact that it is for a biography.

My details are:

Paul Maxim
PO Box 7109
Wellington South
WELLINGTON 6242

Ph 04 389 6945 (evenings)
0800 117 167 (free call to mobile
anytime)

Trip Reports

The Five Pass Trip

(Fohn Saddle / Fiery Col / Cow Saddle / Park Pass / Sugarloaf Pass)

January 29 - February 4, 2008

Part Two (Fiery Creek to the Routeburn Shelter)

After setting up camp on the true right of Fiery Creek we had time for a bit of rest and recreation. With the weather looking ominous a couple of us decided to take a stroll to Fiery Col to get an idea of the country ahead. The col was about 1km due south of our camp and, without packs, took about 40 minutes to reach. The gut leading up to the pass is very impressive, with a very distinct line between the grey and 'fiery' red rocks—a feature of this region. Having satisfied ourselves that the descent to Cow Saddle was achievable (we had iceaxes, but no crampons) we returned to our camp for a leisurely dinner beside the creek. We set up the radio, with one end of the aerial on the far side of the creek secured with an iceaxe. We didn't need the forecast that night to tell us that rain was imminent—as we lay in our bags we sensed that the front was upon us.

The rain did indeed come with a vengeance throughout the whole night, and it was 6 trampers who woke to varying degrees of dampness on Friday. With the creek up (and now completely uncrossable) our

only option was to stay put— we did consider the rock biv behind us, but knew we wouldn't get across the stream draining Fohn Lakes so stayed put. It was around midday when Pete suddenly stirred us from our thoughts with the announcement that the creek was about to break it's banks and come through both flies. With gear flying in all directions it was amazing to see how fast we could actually move—but not as amazing as the amount of water crashing down all around us in our small amphitheatre.

With our camp now shifted to higher ground we waited for the rain to stop—by mid-afternoon every available drying place sported an item of gear as we urged the sun to stay out. At the time it seemed quite miserable, but in hindsight it doesn't seem that bad—tent flies still have their place in the hills—you just need to choose the right time and place.

Saturday dawned fine with a slight frost and we headed off early (my photos say just after 6am) as we intended to get down into the Rockburn that night. The climb to the saddle is straight-forward, we kept to the true right (grey rock) side all the way, scrambling over the rocks and boulders. With heavy packs we were slower and it was after 7am when we were on the col itself.

After admiring the view of our departed camp, Cow Saddle and the surrounding mountains we headed down towards Cow Saddle. We chose the true right, or red rock side, and angled to the west to avoid the chasm shown on the map. There was very little snow on the south side of the col, which was easily skirted. A rock scramble followed by a steepish scree ridge led directly to the Olivine River, not far from Cow Saddle. A short traverse saw us on the 'saddle' 75 minutes from Fiery Col. Cow Saddle itself is a very broad and swampy saddle and at just over 1000m is the lowest pass on this trip.

Yesterdays rain was forgotten as we headed down Hidden Falls Creek under a sunny blue sky. We generally followed the true right, sticking close to the creek. Travel here is good boulders and tussock - the creek here can be easily crossed in good conditions if required. We crossed to the true left at D40 291145 and picked up the remains of a track on a low terrace. In hindsight it probably would have been easier to keep to the true right, keeping low down on the marked scree slope for an-

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other km or so. Perseverance paid off though and we were at the stream draining Park Pass for lunch. There is enough room here for a couple of tents, with a larger clearing about 30mins upstream.

Both Moir and Doug's notes emphasize the importance of picking up an old track that leads directly to Park Pass. A small cairn about 100m below the Park Pass Creek indicated where to turn off and we soon found the first marker. Not far from here the track starts to climb and this is where the 'last' marker (or second marker!) is. It is imperative to find this marker as there are other remnants of tracks on the terrace. This marker has been inscribed 'last marker'. After 90 minutes or so of steep climbing we reached the lower tussock slopes of Park Pass. Another 30 minutes saw us on the pass and back in familiar territory.

We had planned to get as far down the Rockburn as possible to make it easier for our last day. The route down from Park Pass is initially on the true right, but crosses to the true left before the creek that drains from the Park Pass glacier. There is a marked track (orange triangles) through the gorgy sections that isn't shown on the map, again on the true left. We reached the top flats around 5pm and decided to camp for the night.

Sunday was a pleasant tramp through familiar ground to the road-end. There is a track of sorts through the top flats, and leads to a well marked track that goes through a cutting and onto Theatre Flat. Point 908m on the map is the well known 'rock garden' and we spent a short time there. There weren't too many stops from here as we wandered down the valley, crossing the Rockburn on the bridge below Theatre Flat. The climb to Sugarloaf Pass always seems higher than the last time, but what a view. A last lunch on the pass and then the descent to the Routeburn Shelter brought our trip to an end.

The Five Pass trip is definitely a classic trip. It traverses some great areas of Mt. Aspiring National Park, and provides a great challenge in regards to navigation and route selection. The section from the Beansburn bivy rock to Park Pass is untracked, and is a good test for those map reading skills we don't use often enough, as well as interpreting Moir and other written guides. I would encourage every tramper to

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add this trip to their wish-list of trips to do some time - to my mind this is the type of trip that tramping clubs exist for.

Footnote: There is serious thought being given to running this trip as an OTMC members only trip in January 2010, taking 6-8 days. Look out for more information later this year or contact Antony if you are interested.

Antony P for Debbie Pettinger, Ann and Chris Burton, Peter Stevenson and Matt Corbett.

Triplist

18-19 July - Mt. Somers (All)
Jill McAliece 455-6740

Last years trip to this area was certainly a 'trip of two different days'. One day was snowing, the other sunny. With two well appointed huts it is certainly suitable for all grades. It is a gentle, but interesting walk into Woolshed Hut, passing by a former coal-mining area. Once here you have the option of heading to the saddle leading to Bowyers Stream and Pinnacles Hut or an attempt on Mt. Somers (1687m) itself. (you will need Snowcraft skills for this). Morgan Stream, not far from Woolshed Hut is also a worthwhile excursion.

If transport options allow there is a nice through trip to Sharplin Falls via Pinnacles Hut. This option involves a couple of river-crossings, but provides a great overview of the entire area.

Trip list closes July 9.

1-2 August—OTMC Snowcaving Weekend (Old Man Range) (M)
Richard Pettinger 487-9488

It was something of an OTMC tradition to go snowcaving every year, usually to the Old Man Range above Shingle Creek. Following the success of the 2008 trip

we are heading back again. There is a serious reason for this trip- if you plan to tramp over the winter months, or indeed anytime in snow, then you should know how to construct a snow-shelter of some sort. It may be hard to believe, but snow has a good insulating property to it, and can be your best chance of escaping hypothermia as a snow shelter allows you to escape the dreaded wind-chill. Generally we will separate into parties of 3 or 4, and each team will spend the best part of Saturday building a shelter. More than likely this will be a traditional snow cave, excavated from one or two access holes, or a 'Snigloo', where the cave itself is dug out of the drift, and then the front wall rebuilt. Once your shelter is built you then get to spend the night in it – a good test for your gear. It is actually quite surprising just how insulating a good cave can be – you won't even know about that blizzard outside! Sunday is a time to practice snowcraft skills, or just having fun sliding down the slopes.

Trip list closes July 23

Nordic Cross Country Ski Weekend - 29/30 August

Have you ever tried cross country skiing before?? Are you keen to give it a go? Then come and join us for a great weekend on the Pisa's exploring this range on skis - a fantastic alternative to winter tramping!!

This trip is particularly geared for beginners as an introduction to back country skiing, but is also suitable for experienced skiers.

We plan to stay in Wanaka on the Friday and Saturday nights and travel up to the Waiorau Snow Farm by day.

The Snow Farm has many kilometres of groomed trails and is the gateway to back country skiing on the Pisa Range. One of the many enjoyable routes is the 12km River Run and Loop which winds its way through the picturesque Meg River Valley and returns via the top loop giving contrasting views of the Alps. Meadow Warming hut is situated in the valley and a great place to stop off for lunch.

Ski hire is available on the field - ski and track passes costing \$60 per day. Cross country skiing lessons are also available should you wish to take these up.

For the experienced skiers an option is to ski to the Kirsty Burn hut on the Saturday, overnight in the hut and explore the back country from there.

Does anyone have, or know of anyone who has, a holiday house we would be able to rent for this weekend? The reason is that accommodation in Wanaka is at a premium during this period due to the University Winter Games.

Please let Marina know - ph 476 2013 or 027 324 0003

DAYTRIPS

July 5

Seacliff / Huriawa Pa (E) - Fieke Neuman (473-7535)

Two walks in one and a nice easy ramble with lots of history. First: a walk around the Truby King Recreation Reserve at Seacliff, where the overgrown remains of the superintendent's formal gardens about the site of the now demolished Seacliff Lunatic Asylum. Second: Huriawa Pa at Karitane, which has been developed by the Historic Places Trust and the local Runaka. Plaques along the way tell the history of the area, including a legendary siege, and show the site of the old Waikouaiti Whaling Station and Tavern. The walkway passes blowholes and there are great views out to the coast from Taiaroa heads to Matanaka (trip cost \$8).

July 12

Rosella Ridge (M/F) - Roy Ward (473-9518)

Rosella Ridge is one of my favourite parts of the Silver Peaks. It combines rock outcrops, some bush walking and some great views. We will leave a car near Hightop, then drive to the top of the firebreak which we use to go to the bottom of Rosella Ridge (this is now well marked), go along Rosella Ridge to Green Ridge, then out. There is also a short side trip to Pulpit Rock which is well worth it if you haven't been there before (trip cost \$6).

July 19

Boulder Beach (M) - Roy Ward (473-9518) Note change of leader

We will be parking our cars at Smaills Beach and heading up Karetai Road. Part way up we will admire the spectacular view of Highcliff and its sheer drop into the sea. From there we proceed to the top of Highcliff and look at the numerous dry stone walls in the area. From the top there are commanding views of the coastline. From there we follow the marked track through farm land to Boulder Beach. Our stay at the beach could be short as we don't want to disturb any penguins in the area. From the beach our ascent to Highcliff Road will be via either Buskin or Paradise Tracks. We return to the cars via Highcliff and Karetai Roads (trip cost \$4).

July 26

Millennium Track (Beaumont/Millers Flat) (E)

Ian Sime (453-6185)

A good mid-winter low altitude walk along a section of what was the Roxburgh

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railway line, unlikely to be affected by snow!

This is an easy near-level walk beside a beautiful stretch of the Clutha River you can't see from the highway.

It's a there and back walk. A fast group might reach the Lonely Graves.

We could finish with a hot drink and snack at the Beaumont pub (trip cost \$12)

August 2

Mt. Cargill / Skyline Track (E/M) - Janet Barclay (489-2598)

We start at Sullivan's Dam, walking up the forestry roads to Mount Cargill, and after some good views from the top we head down the Mount Cargill ("Cloud Forests of Leith" and "Escarpment") section of the Skyline track. This runs back down to Sullivan's Dam, and is unique for something so close to Dunedin in that it is designed to have a back-country feel. Be prepared for mud on some sections. (trip cost \$4).

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	Adrienne Dearnley	
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Contact	Teresa Wasilewska	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the August Bulletin, deadline is 17/07/09, publication 30/07/09. You can submit material by email to "apett@es.co.nz"; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Antony Pettinger, 11 Watkin Street, 9010, Dunedin. Thanks.