

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 701, December 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.

December 3rd

Club Barbeque at Woodhaugh Gardens. All family and friends welcome. Bring your own food & drink, DCC barbeque available, start time 6pm.

December 10th

BYO. The Green Lake trip, Timaru Creek or any other photos you wish to show us.

December 17th

Last club night for the year. Informal evening, meet for a chat, then have a drink together where ever you like.

January 14th

First club night for the year. Informal evening, last night to sign up for the Mt Cook in Summer trip.

January 21st

BYO. Show us photos of your Christmas trips.

January 28th

Another evening stroll: Nichols Creek → Swampy Track → Pineapple then down again. Meet at the clubrooms at 6:30; back by 9:30. Bring a torch.

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**

It is with much disbelief and sadness the OTMC learns of the death of David Peacock, a past president and great friend of the club. David passed away at Lake Hawea in late October whilst enjoying one of his passions - mountain biking. Although many current members won't know David, those that did will never forget him.

David joined the OTMC in 1986 (in his words he 'drifted into the club looking for change for a parking meter and nobody threw him out'). David quickly became involved with all aspects of club life, from joining the tramping trips to serving on the committee. In 1987 David served as our Bulletin Editor, with his love of writing and prose clearly showing through. A year later we were lucky to have David as our President. This was a period of great change within the club, with David overseeing the final sale of the Ben Rudd plantation to assisting in the search for a permanent home for the club, which culminated in our current clubrooms in Young Street. On a personal level I can still clearly recall the support David gave me as a much younger Chief Guide and Bushcraft organiser.

The trips with David were always good fun with many laughs - who could forget David falling from a tree at Jubilee (don't ask), his knack for burning holes in his socks at night time, the purple pack, the yellow shorts, Barry W acting as interpreter or David and party being dropped off in the middle of nowhere for a five day tramp, with David still in his town clothes and van departed!. Another feature of the time was David's telling of his 'mussel (muscle?) joke'. This went on over many, many trips and I don't recall David ever getting to the punch-line (if there even was one!).

One of my favourite trips with David was Easter '87 on the Wilkin/Young circuit. As I was crook for much of the trip, David was continuously scheming on how to unburden me from a supply of Baileys I was carrying. He failed, I recovered and our party had a very enjoyable last evening at Young Forks. Although David's time with the club was relatively short he certainly packed a lot of activity and laughs into a five year period. David remained a supporter of the club and continued to participate on some trips, including the 2007 end of year trip to Lake Roxburgh with his family.

The OTMC sends their most sincere condolences to Pam, Naomi and Holly at this tragic time.

Antony Pettinger, President



Membership

Nothing new to report on the membership front this month.

As e-mail is now the preferred contact means for many people, the club would like to add e-mail addresses to the membership database. If you are happy to let us add yours, please send your details to one of the following:

Adrienne at adearnley@actrix.co.nz
Jacqui at signprint2002@slingshot.co.nz
Tony at tonytims@xtra.co.nz.

Please note that we can also send you the Bulletin via e-mail each month. The resultant file is in .pdf format and is usually less than half a megabyte so doesn't take too long to arrive, even if you don't have broadband. Let us know if you would like to receive it this way (and save some trees).

Survey:

The committee are still keen to receive completed surveys. These were sent out with last month's Bulletin so if you haven't managed to fill yours in yet, please make the effort to do so over the next few weeks. There is a box at the club rooms to drop them in any Thursday night, or post to the address on the form. Committee members are hoping to collate the results in the New Year. This is your chance to have your say in how the club runs.

Young Track Extension

DoC have recently put in a new track on the true right of the Makarora River, from the Blue Pools down to the Young confluence. About 2 hours from the Blue carpark down to the Young. The Blue, and the minor streams on the way are all bridged.

Thus if the Makarora River is up, one need not essay the crossing. Or necessarily use the jet boat pick-up system.

Merv Rodgers, Wanaka

Trip Reports

Unexplored Silverpeaks

October 4 2009

Well, the weather forecast wasn't up to much. It said snow the night before and in the morning, clearing later, but the temperature gauge on our car read 4 degrees and, as we drove down in the hail to the clubrooms, I was not expecting anyone to be there. I was thinking of getting back home and settling down with another cup of tea in front of the fire and continuing my sleep. Maybe our bed would still be warm? Could there be anyone more insane than us, venturing out when there was all this snow lying on the hills? Sure enough. There were Conor and Peter. Two utter fools had turned up. Oh no! They had even ridden their bikes to the clubrooms in the snow. So, we had to go somewhere for a walk.

None of us had seen that creek from the Green Hut water supply down to the Possum Hut area, except from a distance. Nobody had ever wanted to see it, to Richard's knowledge. I shuddered; there might be a swim in a puddle or something.



We didn't wait around to see if anyone else turned up, and in a jiffy we were parking up on Mountain Road and setting off towards Green Hut site. Everything was still and quiet, covered in picturepostcardy white; pretty magical really. The track was a little frozen and less mud slushy than usual

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- a good start. The bushes were drooping with the weight of fine, dusty crystals and you had to avoid bashing them or you'd end up wet. The clouds were looming and as we walked I thought that there was a distinct probability that I could mutiny, make them see sense, and still be home for lunch and have my afternoon nap. We did a recce of the weather situation when we got to the Green Hut site. It was looking a bit iffy, but not entirely yucky as it had done earlier. The guys decided that they would like to splash around in the stream, so off we went, down to the water supply. As we pushed through the scrubby bush, powder snow cascaded off the higher leaves and down our necks and into every cranny of our packs. Richard discovered holes and tears in his nylon hoodie he didn't know about. I kept my parka on tight. Conor's pack had a broken zip so filled up with snow fairly efficiently.

Down at the water hole and the dopebusters mini Green Hut reconstruction of Dave and Jason's, the track was not a track, and it remained so for the rest of the trip as far as Eucalypt Spur. There wasn't much of a stream, either, actually. A few metres down, where things got a bit steeper, it completely dried up. Later, it became a stream again, and was added to by tributaries on the true right. When the stream got a bit grovelly, we had a few pig tracks that we were grateful to follow for a while, but the going was wet and cold. When we stopped for lunch we hardly stopped at all. I didn't want my knees to seize up, so I stood around eating my sandwich and wiggled my legs for the ten minutes. Part of the track was through the stream, part of it meant bending over as tall as a pig and an exciting part of it was clinging around a cliff, stepping through and on tree trunks with air on the other side.

I couldn't believe all four of us remained cheerful. Peter came out with some very interesting things, and Conor regaled us with tales of back home in County Cork. Peter and Richard were discussing good exercises for fitness. I had thought swimming was a good overall exercise. But no! - according to Peter, it is grovelling in thick bush exactly like we were doing. Being a university type, he knows such things. He said the best exercise is one that uses every limb and every muscle of every limb, in

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every conceivable position. This complete mix of movements - stretches, lifts and lowers, pushing, pulling, grasping, high steps, low squats, chin-ups – tones your body up perfectly and holistically, and there was no better way to get fit known to Science, but to do Unexplored Silverpeaks trips. I thought of a better pastime which results in every muscle being exercised in conceivable positions, which could be done in front of the fire, but I had to banish such thoughts quickly as I stepped into another lawyer-infested tangle of manuka poles. Why was I always thinking of our cosy fire at home? "Maybe it's something to do with this situation that I'm in where I'm following a stream and my whole body is soaked in freezing temperatures. Actually it's stranger than that. I'm wet through, but my feet are dry!" I have been told that Eucalypt Spur is thought of as overgrown, but it was comparable to the pavement of George Street after the bush bashing that we had done hitherto. Walking on footpaths is boring as there's nothing to exercise your brain, so you have to have scintillating conversation. Complicated square dancing must be good for the whole body and mind. It was around this point that we had a brief glimpse of Summer. Jackets came off for about three minutes. Up on the slopes of Hightop, there was now no real sign of the morning's snowscape. Had we dreamed it?

Thanks to Peter for having his whiz bang technical GPS with him. It was comforting, in a strange way, to know that after 3 hours of stream/bush fighting we had walked a whole 2 kilometres, - "only 2 kilometres". How could that be??? (Richard said he never thought knowing one's precise location on a map could be so depressing.) Thanks to Conor for his lovely Irish accent. Special thanks to Richard for not ever letting me get bored, and finding new places to go. Thanks to the lads for good company and a cheery disposition.

Tracy Pettinger for Conor Cleary, Peter George and Richard Pettinger.

For those who want to see how mad it all was, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us6mHDu08dQ>

It's almost entirely a video of Tracy's back, bush bashing, as taken by Peter. There's also some still photos from Peter at a tiny url site accessible from there.

SEND A POSTCARD - STOP A MINE - SAVE A PARK

FMC is running a bit of a campaign on the Government's proposals to investigate the possibility of mining on the public conservation estate – including in National Parks. See the latest FMC Bulletin or Wilderness magazine. or <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/mining/> for more details. We're encouraging members and the wider public to send postcards or emails with pictures of a favourite spot in the conservation estate to John Key (PM **and** Minister of Tourism), Gerry Brownlee (Minister of Energy & Resources) and Tim Groser (Minister of Conservation), telling them why you think they should leave our parks alone. The address is just Parliament Buildings, Wellington, and a stamp isn't needed. Email addresses are j.key@ministers.govt.nz g.brownlee@ministers.govt.nz and t.groser@ministers.govt.nz

Although it would appear to be a total no-brainer, there is some public and media support for this wacky idea. The NZ Herald (not surprisingly) and The Listener (surprisingly) both editorialised in favour. The ODT, on the other hand, produced a hard hitting defence of our parks.

So, please take a moment to ping off an email, print off a photo, or grab one from that box of shots you always meant to stick in the album, or just buy a postcard or three, and tell these guys “hands off”.

To use the words of the legendary Charlie “Mr Explorer” Douglas, “Do it now; it will save an oath”.

(If you're stuck for a reason why they should leave our parks alone, the National Parks Act tells us that we have parks for the purpose of “preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.” So something along the lines of “mining our parks is completely contrary to the reasons why we preserve parks in perpetuity” would do).

Thanks,
David Barnes

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

December 12/13

Doctors Point / Lake Roxburgh (from Alex) (All – Informal)

Antony or Debbie 473-7924

Despite what the recent 'South' TV programme might have said, you can reach Doctors Point on foot, via a well maintained track through an historic gold-mining area. This was the end of year trip for 2007 and proved to be a great trip. The trip is being run informally, in that there will be no parties made up as on other tramping trips. We will be leaving Dunedin on Saturday morning, aiming to start walking by lunch-time (when the sun is at its hottest - it was around 40° last time!). There is no drinkable water so we need to bring this with us - which is ironic given we are right beside heaps of the stuff. There is quite a bit to explore, so allow plenty of time for the 8km or so walk down beside the lake.

There is good camping under trees at Doctors Point. Sunday is a return to the cars at Graveyard Gully. This will be a nice way to end the OTMC year as far as weekend trips go. Ray McAliece has confirmed that he will be taking his trusty boat again - this can assist in transporting some of the heavier items (it is still a tramping trip!).

Sign the list by December 10.

January 23/24, 2010

Mt. Cook in Summer (All)

Ralph Harvey (Organizer) 453-4330

or Jill McAliece (Leader) 455-6740

Mt. Cook is often associated with snow and colder weather but summer can be a fantastic time to visit as a lot of destinations that are only suitable for people with alpine skills become available to more trampers. There are options for all grades on this trip, encompassing both day and weekend

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trips, here are a couple of ideas:


1. Mueller Hut is a popular destination, especially given its lofty elevation of nearly 1800m. The climb from the Mt. Cook Village does involve a climb of over 1000m but great views right from the bottom compensate for this. Mueller is very busy in summer so you may prefer to camp elsewhere – just remember the OTMC follows the etiquette contained within the management plan to reduce impact on this pristine area.

2. Another neat trip in January is to climb the Mt. Cook Range as far as you are comfortable. This range divides the Tasman from the Hooker and again has great views (but not of Aoraki itself). There is very little water available, though there are tarns higher up towards Mt. Wakefield – this would make a great camping area in suitable weather.

Note that the trip list will close on the first club night for 2010 (Jan 14) so either sign up this year or contact Ralph or Jill nearer the closing date.

February 6/7
Hidden Lakes / Te Anau (M)
Antony Pettinger 473-7924

If you have ever climbed Mt. Luxmore from the Kepler and looked back down to the lake you have probably noticed a series of lakelets at the entrance to the South Fiord of Lake Te Anau – these are known as the Hidden Lakes (at least the new topo names a short track in the area as the ‘Hidden Lakes Track’). I have always wondered what these would be like to visit (on foot), so following a reccy to one in October have decided that it would make an interesting club trip. In all there are around a dozen of these small lakes scattered through the bush and I plan to try and find them all (it’s not so easy when you are down in the bush). We will probably walk around the lake on Friday night (500m past Brod Bay of course) and camp. Although there is no track around the lake edge from Brod Bay, the going is pretty good through the bush with the odd sections of beach. This trip provides a great opportunity to practice map and compass skills as I imagine the smaller lakes will be hard to find. Going by the map, East Cove looks like it may provide the best camping sites (with lakefront views). Should be a fun trip and something slightly different for the club. Closing date will be Jan 28.



WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB 60th Birthday Celebrations

15-16 May 2010

We invite past members to join us to celebrate our 60th birthday. Please send your contact details to us and the contact details of any other past members you know.

Waikato Tramping Club 60th

PO Box 685

Hamilton 3240

Email: wtc60th@paradise.net.nz

Committee Members 2009-2010

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President/Publicity	Greg Powell	454 4828
Secretary	Jill McAliee	455 6740
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Chief Guide/Transport	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Jacqui Colbert	471 7339
Visitor Liaison	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Gear Hire/Clubrooms	Gene Dyett	455 7465
Daytrip Convenor	Roy Ward	473 9518
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Social Convener	Tony Timperley	473 7257
Social Convener/Gear Hire	Ralph Harvey	453 4330
SAR Committee Liaison	Marina Hanger	476 2013

(outside committee)

Library/Publicity	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Bulletin Editor	Adrienne Dearnley	455 5801
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Contact	Teresa Blondell	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the February Bulletin, deadline is 15/1/10, publication 28/1/10. You can submit material by email to "adearnley@actrix.co.nz"; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Adrienne Dearnley, 60 Musselburgh Rise, Dunedin. Or phone me! Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

December 6

Taieri Ridge/Crater Lake [M]

Alan Thomson (455 7878)

This trip involves a drive up to Middlemarch with a walk from the southern end of Taieri Ridge, up over the Sisters, and coming down off the ridge to the remains of a volcanic crater (the Redan). The views from the ridge are extensive, and the crater is quite impressive when viewed from above. We'll need to leave the clubrooms sharp at 9am and should be back by about 6.30pm.

Trip cost \$12

December 13

Waterfalls of the Catlins [E]

Antony Hamel (453 5240)

How do you photograph waterfalls? This trip will visit as many waterfalls in the Catlins as possible - at least 5 - for the purpose of capturing the ultimate waterfall photograph. Bring your camera and a tripod. Short easy walks. Models will be required to wear red, be able to scramble and look happy while getting wet. Trip will be especially rewarding if it is raining hard.

Trip cost \$20

December 20

ABC Caves/Mount Misery [M]

Bill Wilson (477 2282)

Meet at the clubrooms at 9.00am; drive north to just south of Waikouaiti then inland to Bundoran at the south end of the Blucher Rd. Walk along four-wheel drive tracks into the Silver Peaks then through beech forest and on to the ABC caves. We then climb up behind the caves and sidle along to the Gap. Back along 4WD tracks, leaving them to finish over the top of

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Mt. Misery. The walk has some splendid views and a little bit of scrambling. Cost \$12.00

January 17
Rustlers Ridge [E/M]
Gavin MacArthur (455-0027)

We will leave the clubrooms at 9-00am and proceed to the Pigeon Flat carpark. From there we will walk a short distance down the Leith Valley road and connect up with the pipeline track. We then pick up the start of the Rustlers Ridge track and head on up to Swampy Summit where we should get some superb views of the Silver Peaks. From there we will make our way back to the carpark via the Leith Saddle track.
Trip cost \$5

January 24
Mt. Charles [E/M]
Gavin MacArthur (455-0027)

We will meet at the clubrooms at 9-00am and proceed to the Allans Beach carpark. From there we will roadwalk for a short distance to the property entrance and then grind our way up to the summit. We should get some grand views of the surrounding countryside from the top. We will then drop down to the Cape Saunders lighthouse for lunch. From there we will follow the coastline back to the carpark.
Trip cost \$6

January 31
Akatore Mouth/Taieri Mouth [E]
Bill Wilson (477 2282)

Meet at the clubrooms at 9.00 then drive south along the coast to Taieri Mouth. We leave a vehicle at Livingstonia Park then drive on to the bridge over the Akatore River. Walk down the river to the mouth, then north along the coastline to Livingstonia. The walking is easy with some scrambling over rocks and there are some pleasant sea views.
Cost \$6.00.