

**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.

March 4th

Walley Hockley walked the Appalachian Trail, which goes along the east coast of the USA from Georgia to Maine. It's 2160 miles or 3476 km long. If his talk is as good as the Pacific Continental Divide Trail he gave last year, it should be a good one.

March 11th

Phil Somerville, Pam McKelvey and Wayne Hodgkinson tell us about their trip in January to Liverpool Hut - Arawata Saddle - Williamson Flat - Whitbourne Saddle and glacier - Cascade Saddle and back to the Matukituki;

March 18th

Alan Scurr went on an Intrepid Journey to India and Nepal. Starting in Delhi and finishing in Kathmandu, he tells us about this journey.

March 25th

BYO - show us pictures of trips you have done this year.

April 1st

No meeting as it's Good Friday next day.

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**

Although it seemed quite long in the planning stage, the OTMC Five Pass trip has now been and gone. I first floated the idea of the club doing this trip last June with the view of increasing the skills, confidence and experience for members on what is arguably one of the best 'tramping' trips in the South Island. I think this has now been achieved. Most of you will be only too aware of the poor run of weather leading into this trip, but it finally improved on the Friday we left town (the first day Queenstown had seen the sun for weeks, according to our QT member) and we were then lucky to have seven straight days of fine weather, with a couple of hours of rain on our way out from Routeburn Flats on the eighth day to remind us we were in the mountains.

We split the group of 16 into 4 parties of 4, with 2 parties in each direction. My party travelled with Richard Forbes' party in the anti-clockwise direction (Beansburn to Routeburn). We tramped every day (our rest day consisted of climbing two peaks), and enjoyed great views all around. The Five Pass trip is deservedly a classic trip, with each pass being different (we swapped Sugarloaf for the superior Lake Nerine and North Col), ranging from an easy grass low altitude saddle to the alpine required skills of North Col. The heavy snowfalls of 2009 were evident, with snow on Fohn Saddle, Fiery Col, the descent into Lake Nerine from Park Pass (interesting) and a massive amount in North Col (lying not far from the upper bivy rock).

Although I can only speak for the parties with me, I can say I'm really pleased with how the trip went. At times people were outside their comfort zone, be it on steep snow or crossing interesting slopes, but they handled this well. The thing that continues to impress me on these trips is the willingness of OTMC members to assist others who need encouragement - thanks to all on this trip for doing so. This trip can only further the ideals of the OTMC - I give my thanks to all those on the trip for their companionship and positive attitude - it is a trip that won't be forgotten.

Antony Pettinger

Membership

We have three new members this month. The OTMC Committee and all the members would like to welcome Sam Patrick, Ian Woodford and Brent Dewar to our wonderful club. We all look forward to seeing you at our Thursday Night meetings and out in the hills. Enjoy.

Jacqui Colbert

TOPO50 Maps:

The club now has a comprehensive set of the new Topo50 Maps thanks to the successful auction held last year. We have most maps from Jackson Bay south, and they are available to be borrowed from the club library (please note down which ones you take in the book). We have also retained the original NZMS260 set we have, but be aware these are not supported by the NZ emergency services. A big thanks to everyone who organised and supported the auction - the maps are a very useful addition to the club's resources.

Antony Pettinger

Wanted: Day Trip Leaders

As you read this, I'm starting to put together the winter day-trip programme and need YOU! Ideally you are willing to lead a trip with a destination already in mind, but I can also help you pick something suitable if you want some guidance. I'm also after trip ideas - perhaps you know of a place we haven't been before (or for a while), or you have some particular local knowledge, or know someone that can give us access to a place we can't normally get to. Winter suits slightly shorter trips, but there's plenty of scope for exploring the area around Dunedin. This can't happen without leaders. Even if you've not led a day trip before, here's your chance to develop a new skill (there will almost certainly be someone experienced on the trip who can help new leaders), so there's no excuse - contact me now!

Roy Ward (Day Trip Convenor)

Trip Reports

Eucalpt Spur November 22 2009

The team had already assembled by the time I arrived and, it being such a nice day, we didn't need to hang around to get away. It was nice to spot one of our special friends in the group. Two carloads zoomed off to Semple Road and before long we were wandering along the bone-dry track around Hightop and turning off down Eucalypt Spur. Richard was upset to see some isolated broom just getting a foothold near the top. As for me and some others, it was the encroaching gorse and snowgrass cuttings in the track formation that upset us. Several people slid on the steep slope of the dry grass skating rink. Richard collected a beautiful bruise from his slide down the hill. We stopped at the bottom to have a trembly knees session. After 5 minutes we set off again, only to come to Possum Hut within minutes for our lunch stop. I have never been to Possum Hut before, although I did try to get there about 15 years ago with Pam Bardsley.

On that occasion we walked from Green Hut site, missed the hut and found a very nice creek, only to find when we walked up the other side that we had made a booboo somewhere along the way. Then we got back to the creek and couldn't find the track at all. We ended up walking up the stream to Pulpit Rock. We got snowed on. It was a long walk in winter when it gets dark early and our husbands were fretting at home with our small children. When we got to the top of the mountain I was so disoriented I didn't recognise the top of Green Hill! But we made it back to the car before it got dark, somehow.

Anyway. When we left Possum Hut on this trip we struggled steeply upwards onto the ridge crest and came to the right angled bend to the right. The rest of the ridge track going down has been blocked by bits of tree that are supposed to stop your onwards rush as you come down from Green Hut. I can now see that the sharp corner is what you have to take to get to

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Possum Hut. Going straight ahead would have been just silly. So, I reckon that is how we got lost those many years ago and I won't do that again. (Having said that, please don't anyone think I would argue for signs or better tracks in there. I didn't get where I am today by not getting lost once in a while.)

The clamber up from Possum Hut was the moderate part of the E-M "easy to moderate" trip. It is a bit of a grunt, but it isn't for long. Before we knew it, we were lying in the sun at the Green Hut site wondering what to do now, as it was turning into a short tramping trip. Nothing in moderation; it was all too easy. So, Gavin had the bright idea (Richard and I think he's trying to establish another OTMC tradition) of urging everyone back to our place for a beer. We all walked a bit faster then. Back at the cars we collected some pine needles for my chickens. Then down the bumpy road we went (there are some massive pot holes evolving on that road) to the marvellous beers awaiting us at the Pettingers' house. Then we all got terribly relaxed in the warm of the sunny living room. The end.....tgankl tou Richard. Hic.

Tracy Pettinger for Mary Tonkin, Gavin McArthur, Ian Woodford, Sue Bellamy, Brent Dewar, Aurelie Jonquet, Michael Firmin and Richard P.

Taieri Ridge / The Crater December 6 2009

Seven souls set out near Conical Hill which bears a lone pine planted in 1918 to mark Armstice Day, and walked across farmland gradually climbing up to Taieri Ridge. The weather was overcast and mild, the showers holding off for the time being. Behind us we could see the Rock and Pillar Ranges, and ahead in the distance the Two Sisters, towards which we were headed.

The veneer of green grew thinner as we climbed into big sky country, schist rock formations rising up like the bones of the earth with increasing

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frequency. Barbed wire fences proved to be an enduring feature of the walk, with many to be crossed. Cows with calves watched us warily as we passed, calling up reinforcements from around the hill when we got too near. Several piles of enormous bones bleached and scattered between the rocks spoke of less lucky bovines. A startled hare shot away up the hill.

As we neared the Sisters the weather grew windier and threatened rain. Instead of lunching at the top by the Trig station, we scurried down the far side and took shelter in a convenient small patch of dry pines to enjoy our meal. Fortified, we carried on, circling around towards the old volcano crater. The land grew harsher, grass mostly disappearing in favour of small alpine plants, with scattered matagouri and spikey spaniard in clumps. The rock formations grew more elaborate, to the delight of our resident rock climbing enthusiast Rose.

At one point we could see the whole length of the Rock and Pillar Ranges, with glorious sun shining on one end, a perfectly flat inversion layer of cloud halfway up along the middle, and the far end obscured by black rain cloud. That black rain cloud came up behind us, moving faster than we were, and shortly passed right overhead drenching us in pelting rain. In another few minutes it had passed right over us, and the weather came out mostly fine again.

The crater was spectacular, a large bowl with the muddy remains of a lake in the middle. Several of us braved the matagouri and spaniard to climb right up to the ridge of the crater and admire the view, others cut directly across the crater floor. A family of three white wild goats bounded away when disturbed, and we saw something chasing a sheep, a wild dog perhaps?

From Redan to Moonlight Road we mostly descended. In the wide undulating land there was one lone pine tree growing out of a pile of rocks, the only one for miles. Its roots had grown over and between the rocks, forcing them apart along fault lines, an icon of endurance. Finally we came out right near the home of the farmer who owned the land we had crossed, just as the sun disappeared and the rain closed in again. Perfect timing! The

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rain didn't amount to much, certainly not enough to dampen the enthusiasm for ice cream in Middlemarch on the way home. All up we covered around 14 km in a little under 6 hours, with good company and conversation to season the scenery.

Grace Gardner with Rose Pearson, Debbie Nicholson, Ian Woodford, Alan Thomson, Gavin McArthur, Adrienne Dearnley

Five Passes (Anticlockwise) 22 - 30 January 2010

Friday 22nd January

That night we travelled to the Lake Sylvan campsite in the lower Routeburn valley after a four and a half hour drive. There was a little wind but the skies were clearing and it was looking good for our trip. At approximately 1.00 am, our last team member Michael arrived.

Saturday 23rd January

We left at 8.30 am after dropping off the cars to the Routeburn Shelter Carpark. We then crossed the swing bridge over the lower Route Burn and made our way to Lake Sylvan. We then continued on to the Rock Burn hut. I was surprised to see that my 2005 entry was still in the hut book from when my brother and I were last there on



our failed attempt at the five passes. The cloud lifted and it was a beautiful day. No wind and warm – we were all sweating. Lots of jetboat activity which was noisy. After the grass flats, on the Dart the river was hard against the bank and we went up through the bush to get around it. Lots of bush bashing and very slow going. We had lunch in a clearing here. Beautiful views of Chinamans Bluff and Mount Earnslaw. We then crossed the

Beans Burn and then made our way up the true left and then crossed over quite a spectacular swing bridge to the true right to the first flat. We got there at around 4.00 pm. We ran into another party coming out after completing the five passes and they reported that snow conditions were good for tramping. We had our tea and then listened to the mountain radio and the weather forecast was for rain in the morning, clearing in the afternoon.

Sunday 24th January

I heard the pitter-patter of rain on my Fairydown tent in the early hours of the morning. It sounded like a lot of rain, but when I got up, there were



only passing showers with blue sky in between. We headed up the Beans Burn track. The track was a lot better than the last time I was here, with no windfall and even orange markers on the trees to show the way – very easy to follow. A heavy shower of rain meant the jackets were on and after about an hour they were off again with greatly improving

conditions. By lunchtime it was blue skies and a gentle breeze and we reached the rock bivouac at the head of the valley by 3.00 pm. A very nice spot snoozing in the sun. Better than the last time I was here with my brother when we spent two days here out of the rain waiting for the weather to clear.

Monday 25th January

A kea saw us off – another nice day. A bit more cloud than the previous afternoon. Not too hot to go over our first pass. We headed up the Beans Burn until under the saddle, then we climbed up the tussocks. At about halfway, where we had a rest, I discovered that my Thermarest was missing. I figured it was lost somewhere between the bivvy and the start of the climb. Not to worry, I only paid \$30 on Trademe. There was a lot of lingering cloud at Fohn Saddle (pass number one) after a two hour climb, and it

was quite chilly. We then traversed to the Fohn Lakes after negotiating a tricky bluff. We had lunch overlooking the larger of the two lakes. We set up camp between the two lakes, and then went for an explore by the nearby waterfall and ledge looking into the head of the Beans Burn with its glacier and waterfall. Spectacular views in a pretty area. We saw two chamois running down the opposite bluffs and slopes. The mountain radio forecast at 7.30 pm said good weather for the coming days. We heard the other party checking in saying that they would head to the Olivine Ledge. Due to the weather forecast, we decided to stay another day here (as originally planned) exploring.

Tuesday 26th January

A beautiful day by the Fohn Lakes. It was decided that most of us would climb Sunset Peak, 1800 metres. The route up followed grassy slopes with some rocky sections to negotiate. We were at the top by 10.00 am, hav-



ing started around 8.00 am. We spent two hours on the top taking in the views from Mounts Tutoko and Madeline, down the Olivine River to the Olivine Flats. In the distance was Lake Wilmot and the Pike, a glimpse of the Olivine Ice Plateau and around to the head of the Beans Burn and our campsite between the two Fohn Lakes below us. Before leaving, we all built an impressive cairn that could even be seen from the campsite. After lunch, five of us climbed Fohn which is next to Fohn Saddle with great views across the Fohn Lakes and down the Beans Burn. On the way down, we saw three chamois. One of these was a youngster. By now the wind was blowing a little and the sky was becoming cloudy. The forecast was for good weather until Saturday, the day we were walking out.

Wednesday 27th January

A bit of an overcast day. We left our campsite at 7.50 am and headed

directly over the hill from our campsite and were on Olivine Ledge in 40 minutes. In the distance by Fiery Col, we spotted some of the other group and we met in the middle. Some of their group had already done four passes, and we had only done one. However there were two more for us to



do today. We discovered that the group had camped in Fiery Creek and the remaining group members camped on Cow Saddle and hadn't made it over the Col by that stage. It was drizzling lightly. Once we got to Fiery Creek, it was an hour up to Fiery Col (pass number two). There was a bit of snow so out came the ice axes. It was slippery and

steep. At the bottom of the snow, we came across the rest of the other group. The red rocks down from Fiery Col were spectacular – very grippy underfoot with loads of colours mixed in. Then it was over Cow Saddle (pass number three) and down the rugged Hidden Falls Creek where we camped in a clearing. Another great day.

Thursday 28th January

Another nice day. It was a fairly hot and steep climb to Park Pass (pass number four) - mostly through bush. We were at the bushline from the campsite in two hours. We started the long sidle to Lake Nerine through steep snow grass. We reached a nice lakelet with great views down the



Rock Burn and Park Pass Glacier. Wonderful views. Then came the tricky bit of dropping down to Lake Nerine through steep snow and bluffs which

some found difficult and scary. Once camp was set up by the lake bivvy, some of us went to see the lake outlet with amazing views down to Theatre Flat in the Rock Burn. We all turned in by 8.30 pm as we were all cold and tired.



Friday 29th January

After a cosy night, it was another beautiful day. Hardly any clouds. We left camp and climbed around the Hidden Falls Creek side of Lake Nerine. We dropped down to a ledge and followed it until sight of North Col. We then sidled up to the Col (pass number five). An-

tony and I climbed a small peak for some better views which included the Hollyford River, Cow Saddle, Fiery Peak and a nice terminal lake off the glacier on Mount Madeline. It was a cool wind on the Col, so we dropped down into the valley of the Route Burn North Branch. A lot of snow here but easy travelling. We camped by the last flats for our last night. The small amount of port I had been carrying the whole week went down very well by most.

Saturday 30th January

Pouring with rain. We quickly packed up by 7.00 am and hoofed it back to the cars. When we reached the shelter, it was packed with people. A DOC worker was taking surveys and was quite blown away that we had just done the five passes and that we were Kiwis as well! A very enjoyable trip – couldn't believe the good weather that we had. Many thanks to Antony for organizing this.

Richard Forbes for Antony, Debbie, Tony, Michael, Jo, Hilda and Roy.

(Apologies for the random placement of photos! -Ed)



TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

March 20/22 (Anniversary 3 day)
Mt. Titiroa (from Borland) (M-C)
Peter Stevenson 454-4148

This is another 'first in a long time' trip for the club. Mt Titiroa (1715m) sits north of the Borland Burn which is the direction we are tackling this moderate peak from. With school groups using the area the tracks are in good shape. Access to Titiroa is via the North Borland which opens to open country just below the small North Borland Hut. The best route appears to be via the broad ridge near the end of the track itself. We will be camping as high as practical on the Saturday night, probably near the tarns at around 1100m. Sunday will be spent exploring the summit ridge of Titiroa, which has many impressive rock formations. The Mt. Titiroa option is a fit trip, with upwards of 7 hours tramping per day. Moderate grades have the option of heading for the upper reaches of the North Borland. There is a lakelet at the head but access looks steep on the topo map. Another option for the moderate grades is to visit the adjacent Green Lake, perhaps via the track from the Borland Road.

Study those maps now or come to a club meeting for more information. Remember to list your preferred choice in the right hand column on the trip list.

The trip list will close on March 11. Topo50 Map: CE07 (Lake Monowai).

April 2-5 (Easter)
East Matukituki (Rainbow / Sisypus / Ruth Flat)
(Other options available) (All)
Antony Pettinger 473-7924

Easter is traditionally the last chance to enjoy an extended trip in what is hopefully reasonable weather. The East Matukituki has a fantastic 3-4 day

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round trip available - the Rainbow / Ruth Flat trip via Wilmot Saddle and Sisyphus Peak (the best viewpoint in the East Matukituki). It does require a reasonable level of fitness and experience in rougher ground and alpine areas is required. In the event that this option receives little interest we may be able to visit Sisyphus Peak and return back via the Rainbow Stream, itself a very pleasant trip.

Another 'high' option is Dragonfly Peak. At over 2100m this eluded us in late 2006 due to weather, maybe this can be conquered on this trip. There are also options in the East Matukituki for other grades (E & M). These comprise in and out trips, with options to either Aspiring Flat / Rock Of Ages / Rainbow Stream, or to Ruth Flat and the head of the East Matukituki below Rabbit Pass via the Bledisloe Gorge. If there is sufficient interest a party could visit the West Matukituki, which provides trips for all grades to places like French Ridge, Liverpool Hut, Shotover Saddle or Cascade Saddle.

Please indicate your preference on the trip list or talk to me at club. Trip list closes March 25. Topo50 Map: CA11 (Aspiring Flats)

Photography Competition

A reminder that those of you intending to enter the photography should be think about winning shots McKenzie will this and next Bulletin will details of how) to submit



competition starting to getting your ready. Craig be judging month's contain the where (and your entries.

In case you didn't already know...

The OTMC has a really useful mailing list that is open to all members.

If you would like to subscribe to it, the details of how to join are at

<http://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc>

Or talk to Antony on any club night and he will set you up.

Committee Members 2010

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President/Publicity	Greg Powell	454 4828
Secretary	Jill McAliece	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 Convener	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 April Bulletin, deadline is 12/3/10, publication 25/3/10. 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 9013. Or phone me! Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

Please note that there are substantial changes from the Trip card!

6 March (Saturday)

Signal Hill Exploration [E – M]

Bronwen Strang (473 1610)

This will be a short Saturday tramp, meeting at 9 am at the clubrooms and driving up Signal Hill to where the Cleghorn St track meets Signal Hill Rd. We go up past the transmitters on Signal Hill, then down a “rudimentary” track (rough) through Stephenson’s Reserve to St Leonards. After a short time street-walking, we head up through private land and Burns Reserve to be back at the cars between 1 and 2 pm; third try has to be successful! Bring lunch even though the day is short.

Trip Cost: \$4

March 7 – Two Trips

Mystery Cycling Trip - Matt Corbett (487 6595)

Meet at club rooms 9am with your bicycle. Trip destination & difficulty will be decided on the day according to fitness level of participants.

&

Taiari River Track [E/M] - Tony Timperley (473 7257)

The FMC executive is having its meeting in Dunedin on the weekend of 5-7 March. OTMC will host exec members with a walk along the Taiari River Track on Sunday the 7th. Club members are welcome to join the walk which will start at the Henley end and climb to the highest point (180m) above the river where Taiari Mouth and beyond can also be viewed. Time will determine whether we go on or return direct to Henley.

Note: Meet outside Forrester Lodge, 353 King Edward St. at the usual 9:00am. This is 300m down the road from Young St. Trip cost: \$10.

March 14

Tracks around Silverstream [E - E/M]

Roy Ward (473 9518)

The upper Silverstream valley is a bush-filled valley that has an extensive network of tracks. On this trip, we get to explore some of them. We start with a flat walk through thick bush along a old water race to a weir. From

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here, there are then two options (I plan to have the option of splitting into two groups) - an easy walk back (possibly looping back past the bottom of Powder Creek), or a climb of about 300 m up either North Coal Track or Little Coal Track to Trig Q for lunch, which has views of the Taieri Plains and Pulpit Rock, then down McRaes Weir Track.

Trip cost \$4.

March 21

Kakanui Peak [M]

Roy Ward (473 9518)

A fine trip, on the margins of Central Otago, to a small mountain (1527m) with big views. The route follows one ridge on the way up and an adjacent one coming down effectively encircling the source of the Shag/Waihemo River. On the ascent too are interesting views of the normally unseen Mts Kattothyrst and Dasher – clearly ancient volcanic cones – and an abandoned ski hut and tow. There's quite a bit of 4WD track but also a section of wild tussock at the top. Bring a big bottle of water. Note change of leader from the trip list.

Cost \$15.00

March 28

Blue Mountain Track - Whisky Gully (Tapanui) north to Black Gully.

Jane Cloete (467 2328)

Meet at the Clubrooms in Young St by **6.55am sharp**. A long day, but not difficult: a great day out with views to Stewart Island, the Pacific and possibly Mt Aspiring! The track starts at Whisky Gully - eastern end of Tapanui - a steep climb up to the ridge, then along the ridge before dropping down into Black Gully. The official notes say 6-8 hrs but most folk would do it easily in 7 hours. We will be leaving at 7am on the dot - if you are late you will need to meet us at Whisky Gully at 9am.

Directions - SH1 south through Milton, turn right to SH8 at Clarksville. After 60km turn left at Raes Junction onto SH 90, signposted Tapanui. 20+Km to Black Gully turnoff, 13+Km to Tapanui, then left for 3km to the Whisky Gully carpark. Back to Dunedin 6-6.30pm. Trip cost: \$20

Note that much of the track is on the open tops of the Blue Mountains – fantastic views if fine but also subject to wind from every direction. Take lunch, snacks and **all your wet weather gear** even if it is a fine day at the outset. Take a cellphone if you have one AND plenty of **WATER**.