

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 706, June 2010

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.

June 3rd

As it's Queens Birthday Weekend, there will be no Club night, allowing you to prepare for the long weekend.

June 10th

Most of you will have heard of the Icelandic volcano with the unpronounceable name. Over 30 years ago Derek Mycock tramped in Iceland and visited this volcano. He will give an illustrated account of his visit.

June 17th

In the Club's survey people asked for training nights and our first one is on lighting stoves. On a club tramp not long ago, one party arrived at track end and nobody knew how to light the club stove they had got from gear hire. Also, how many people are the first up in their party but cannot have a brew, because someone has bought a stove they do not know how to light? We hope to have a variety of stoves for you to practise on.

June 24th

BYO. It is six weeks since the last one, so hopefully you will have heaps of photos to bring.

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

During the recent meeting of the FMC Executive in Dunedin I was able to meet with some of its members and discuss various aspects of New Zealand tramping clubs. Although the OTMC appears, in the most part, to satisfy the current membership there are issues within the club that are not unique to the OTMC. One of these is the steady rise in the average age of members. 20 years ago it was normal to have an age range of say 16 years to over 70. Now the lower age is nearer 30 years, and they are in a minority. It may be easy to say that in our case we don't try hard enough to encourage more youth into tramping, but I don't believe that to be the answer. Membership of clubs, no matter their purpose, is on the decline. Maybe younger people now see clubs as 'old-fashioned'. Times have changed dramatically in the last two decades, and what was hard for young people to achieve on their own 20 years ago is now a lot of easier. In tramping terms, transport is one example that is easier, with a lot of young people having their own cars, negating the need to use the tramping clubs for trips to the mountains. Other events which appear to have had a negative effect on club membership include technology (social networking) and the changes that came with the Employment Contracts Act in the early 1990's. The real problem the OTMC and other clubs now have is the large gap in relative ages that must deter high school age members from joining. For them it will always be like tramping with their parents, and vice versa for our members. We would need a significant influx of younger members to effectively reverse this problem, hence the difficulty we have. The FMC are holding a youth forum in May - we will be watching with interest in any outcomes.

Another issue that requires work is attracting new members. At the moment we welcome visitors to our meetings, inform them about what the club has to offer, followed by a talk (maybe only slightly tramping related) - and then they go home, perhaps wondering what the club is all about. This is an issue I'm still keen to see resolved and it should involve more than the Thursday meetings. We traditionally used to rely on the annual Bushcraft course to gain new members, but with the decreasing interest in the course this has dropped. Other clubs already hold specific events aimed at attracting new members and I think it is time the OTMC do the same. The committee will shortly be presented with a proposal combining an open day type event with our Bushcraft instruction. This initiative will mean that we would be asking for assistance from the wider membership to carry them out, but stopping the gradual decline in membership is in all our interests.

Finally, I thank all members who continue to assist in the running of the Thursday night meetings. We have been fortunate to have a large number of visitors to our meetings and it is pleasing to see more than just the committee assist with making them feel welcome. The same goes for the supper preparation. The committee members are often busy with other tasks and the extra help is appreciated. Thank you.

Antony Pettinger

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT - WINTER TRIP LIST

We have now pretty much reached the end of the summer trip card - my thanks go to everyone who led a trip or a party - your contribution is recognised and appreciated by the committee. As far as the weekend trips go, we have had a really good run of trips, with a wide variety of destinations. Most of the trips were designed to allow for multiple options and it was great to see this put into practice. Some of the trips were challenging, several peaks were conquered and the two longer trips (Five Passes and Easter) were well supported. It dose appear the trips run after Labour Weekend are hard to fill - surely Xmas celebrations don't start in early November!.

The delay in preparing the winter trip card (which in turn meant the May Bulletin wasn't produced) has now bee overcome, and the new trip card is included with this June edition. I give my thanks to everyone who offered (most without too much persuasion) to lead the trips. With Roy Ward now based in the US the day trip programme will be run by Tony Timperley and Ralph Harvey until a new convenor is appointed following the 2010 AGM.

There are still a couple of gaps in the programme but I can't delay releasing it any longer.

Finally, just some reminders for weekend trips:

Please fill in the SAR contact column on the trip list - this is the information we (and the Police) require in the event a trip is delayed or otherwise.

Please pay the Treasurer before the trip (or make other arrangements with the Treasurer).

Fill out the preferred trip column - this is used by the leaders when making up parties.

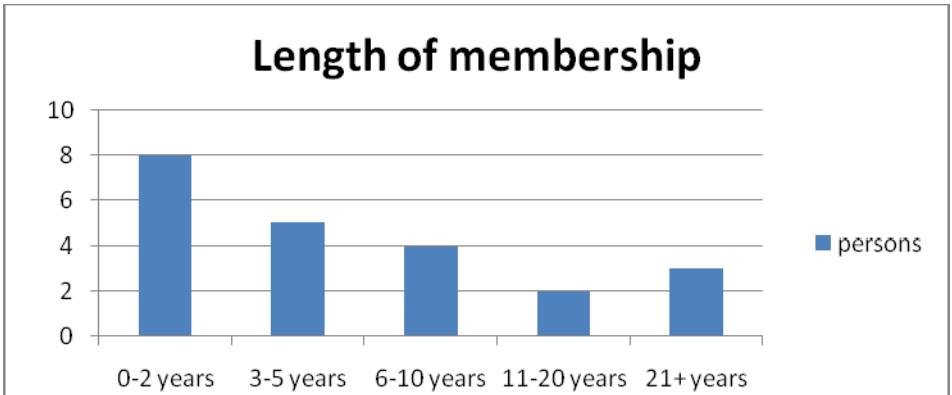
Note your tramping grade on the trip list, again we use this to match parties appropriately.

OTMC Membership Survey Results - Nov 2009

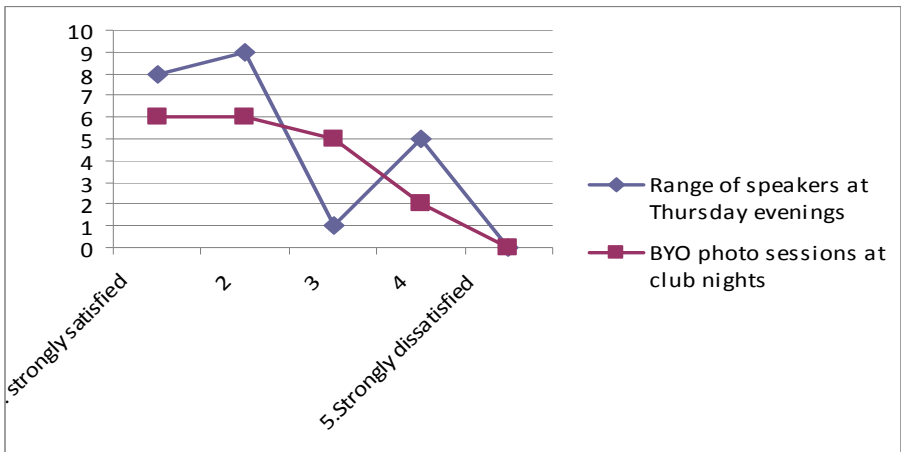
In an effort to ascertain how well the club was meeting the needs of its membership the current committee undertook a survey in late 2009. Below is a summary of the results of this survey.

A total of 24 responses were received.

A full copy of the survey results is available from the committee



Thursday meetings



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Among others comments included:

Speaker presentations should be written up in the bulletin

Excellent range of speakers. Could change the meeting to 1x fortnights – don't think it needs to be every week

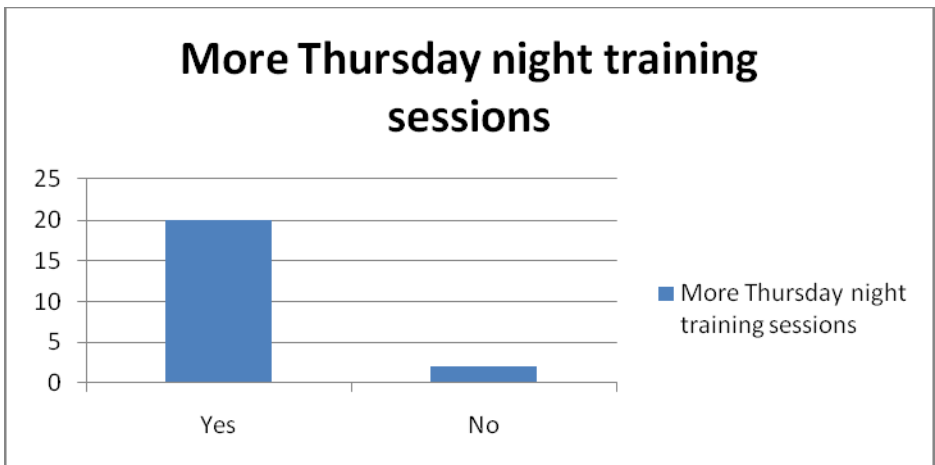
Good range of speakers and subject matter but best if speakers aim for a max time of 30-40min to work towards peoples attention spans

Would like to see more training evenings. Would like to see the whole club make more of an effort to welcome new people and not leave them standing there

BYO photos best kept short and snappy with good commentary and good quality pics

Its up to the members whether BYO photo sessions are good or not

More people could bring photos they took on recent trips



Training ideas include:

First aid, Map reading and compass skills, Team leader, GPS use - pros and cons, Navigation and route finding, river crossing, Light weight packing, cooking/recipes for outdoors, Reading the weather, identify plants/birds, Geology, all survival skills, Risk management, knowing own limits, Equipment available/use/maintenance, stove safety, Avalanche awareness, fitness and training, Leadership fundamentals, water hygiene, Glacier travel, basic rope work, Accident procedures, mountain radio, Link trip programme to key

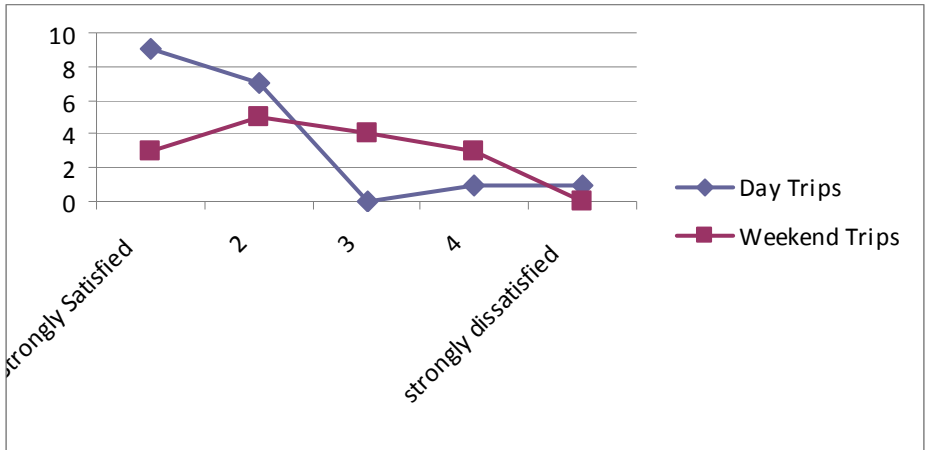
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training, snow skills, SAR, biannual Bushcraft/Snow craft courses, Emergency bivouacs, proper fit of a pack – for comfort

Day Trips and Weekend trips

20 respondents participated in day trips and 2 did not

14 respondents participated in weekend trips and 5 did not



Day trips - Overall respondents seemed happy with day trips, with some interest in Saturday trips

Weekend trips - among others comments included:

- Offer several fitness options within one weekend trip

- Keep a variety of trips – location, grades, huts, tents, on/off track etc

There was significant interest in weekend tramping trips to less visited areas and in 3 day tramping trips. Also just under half respondents were interested in weekday tramping trips

Trip wish list includes

Ahuriri area, Ohau/Hopkins, Matukituki, Makarora, Rees, Lake Unknown, Eyre Mountain traverse, Dart/Rees Right Col, Earnslaw Climb, Rock and Pillar, Banks Peninsular, Peel Forest/Mt Peel, Two Thumbs Range, Takitumus, 3 Passes/Arthurs pass, Arthurs/Lewis pass area, St James, Nelson Lakes, Stewart Island, North Island Tracks, Kepler, Welcome Flat, Young/Wilkin,

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Shotover/Cascade Saddle, Mt Aspiring, Landsborough, Silver Peaks – lesser known areas, Mavora, Mt Cook-Annette Plateau, Dingle Peak, Rabbits Peak
4 -5 days on West Coast in winter
Interclub challenge/fun weekend with another club
Centre of Sth Island (new Alexandra)

Among others general comments included:

Bulletin suggestions – write up of visiting speakers talks, a my favourite place column, different member profile each month, news of members, summary of members private trips and climbs

Before a weekend trip a get together on the Thursday night of those attending the trip (say 30min) would be very helpful – a chance to meet, sort out route preferences, food groups etc

I believe the present membership could enjoy tramping outside their comfort zone if encouraged and supported in doing so. Perhaps looking at more trip planning together beforehand, commitment to part in sharing meals, mentoring role, working out route, looking at map reading etc would help

That the club starts using IT capability far more than at present e.g. use of email and text and also enhance the website to make more appealing, especially to non-members

The whole club needs to be encouraged to make a better effort with new members and guests, whether it is Thursday nights, Sunday hikes or weekend tramping. They must be encouraged to return. We are the clubs ambassadors

I have only been in the club a short time and am very happy to be involved – need to encourage younger members

Would like to see the club more welcoming of new people. Also seems to need a bit of life and enthusiasm. Seems a bit of the same old, same old, and bit stale. Suggest some of the roles need to be changed more often.

I think the tramping club is great! It is always good going on a trip and meeting other people who are keen on tramping – I wish we could have some social event and get every member along! How about a pot luck dinner @jubilee Hut?

Results collated by Marina Hanger

Trip Reports

5 Passes II – Shangri-la or Hell?

(The clockwise group members give a graphic account of their 8 days in the wilderness. To be published in 2 sections - Days 5-8 next month.)

Our group of eight was divided into two sub-groups of four: Richard Pettinger's group with Tracy Pettinger, Rosie Pearson and Paul Cunliffe; and Gordon Tocher's group with Darryl Woods, Michael Firmin and Tony Timperley.

First Day: The pattern was established whereby Richard's group got away first and those in Gordon's group tried to keep them in sight. The first 90 minutes was most civilized as we (Gordon's Group) walked along the Routeburn, collecting many puzzled looks from the numerous "Great Walk" participants coming the other way when they noticed the size of our 20kg packs and that we had ice-axes. On reaching Flats Hut we mingled with the assembled masses whilst we fuelled up with food and drink before heading up the North Routeburn. The size of our packs was remarked upon, which gave Darryl the chance to impress those "merely walking" the Routeburn that we were "tramping over five passes", that we would be "eight days" in "the wilderness" and that there were "no huts". These key words drew gasps of admiration from his audience, which still rang in our ears as we headed up the North Routeburn towards North Col, our first pass.

The rest of the trek to our campsite was uneventful, but hot. We camped by a beautiful tarn, just below the snowline of North Col and with a view right back to the Routeburn Flats. Richard's group had set up camp by the time Gordon's group arrived and Richard informed these males that they had missed the spectacle of Tracy and Rosie cavorting in the tarn. By 7.30pm we had set up the mountain radio, thanks to the chamois-like abilities of Rosie who bounded over the surrounding rock-faces with the aerial until

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we had clear reception. The effort was worth it as the mountain forecast was for mainly fine weather over the next few days, after some morning showers.



The Second Day dawned

cloudy and we did indeed have some spots of rain as we set off to climb North Col. We were soon into the snow; however, it was not rain that we had to contend with but cold wind as we climbed higher over the snow. Conditions just seemed to be getting worse when we crested the col and saw the clouds parting and blue sky ahead. The forecast was correct! After a short break we headed towards Lake Nerine but it was not long before we had an unscheduled break whilst Richard and Rosie took off to try and find the lake. The rest of us were just getting worried whilst munching our muesli bars, when an apparition, with the sun behind it, appeared in the mist on the ridgeline. After first prostrating ourselves, we looked up and saw it was only Richard, who called to us that Rosie had found the lake.

Lake Nerine is a truly magical place, set high in the mountains in a basin above the Rock Burn. After descending to its shores, we stopped for a leisurely lunch before looking for a way to climb out towards Park Pass. The only route appeared to be up a steep snow slope and as we did not have crampons, only ice-axes, things were not looking good. However, some expert scouting by Paul found that there was a 11/2 metre gap between the snow and a rock wall through which we could climb up. We accomplished

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this relatively easily and came back out on the snow on a much gentler slope, which also looked down and across Lake Nerine. This was an opportunity not to be missed for heroic photos, with everyone (including Tracy and Rosie) putting on their best Sir Ed look. We all agreed that Darryl gave the best impression of the conqueror of Everest.

The next section down to Park Pass is described in Moir as “unpleasantly steep snowgrass and hard earth slopes on the Rock Burn side” – a very accurate description, especially when it appeared that you were looking vertically down into the Rock Burn! Nevertheless, except for a couple of minor slides, we successfully negotiated this section before cresting Park Pass, number two of our five. It was so pleasant here that some of us wanted to stop and camp, but Richard warned us of the strong winds that would get up in the night and funnel through the pass.

Heeding his advice we continued on and dropped below the pass, with



Richard trying to persuade us that “Shangri-la” was not far away. (Note: Richard had visited this spot 25 years ago and it had obviously made an indelible impression in his mind.

He repeatedly told us how beautiful it was, that it was a “special place” and you descended to it via a tree – but he didn’t know if the tree was still there!) However, as we had been going for ten hours, Gordon’s group decided to set up camp at a sheltered spot, whilst Richard’s group continued on to

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Shangri-la, which was by now “only half-an-hour” away. It was decided that Richard would return at mid-day to guide Gordon’s group to his “special place” and we would spend the rest of the day there.

On Day Three Richard duly arrived with Paul at mid-day to take Gordon, Darryl, Michael and Tony to “Shangri-la” and what a “half-hour” it proved to be! However, before we set off Richard informed Gordon and co that Shangri-la was not as it was 25 years ago as large clumps of tussock and scrub now covered what had been open flat areas, so there may not be any camping spots. Paul said they had had to clear rocks before they could erect their tent fly. Therefore, it was with great trepidation that Gordon’s group set off for this “special place”. (Note: The following describes Gordon’s group’s journey as Richard’s group had done it the previous evening.)

Getting there was an adventure in itself. After an easy tramp on tussock slopes we overlooked Shangri-la – and, sure enough, there was the tree. Using all our accumulated mountaineering skills we descended the tree backwards, only



to be faced by a steep descent backwards down a narrow spine of rock by the side of a water-shute. These obstacles overcome, we descended more conventionally to Shangri-la and began the task of finding a couple of spots where we could pitch our tents amongst the very large clumps of tussock and thorny scrub. (Note: I mentioned this to David Barnes, who also visited this site “25 years ago”. He said that at that time there were deer

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that kept the vegetation down and so made it a “wonderful campsite”; but now there are no longer any deer in this area. – Tony.) Luckily we found two small patches, on which, after a couple of hours of clearing stones and (when Richard’s back was turned) drastic scrub pruning, we were able to pitch our tents in readiness for a comfortable night.

The Fourth Day was a day of contrasting terrain. First we bashed our way downhill through the thickest bush most of us has encountered; then we descended diagonally across boulder scree until we reached a flat parkland-like grassy area by the Hidden Falls Creek. This easy going did not last long, however, as we had to bushbash alongside the creek on the true left until we came to the open country that led up to Cow Saddle. It was here that two things became apparent. The first was the sun beating down; but fortunately our route still followed the creek, so we were able to dip our hats into it, put them on, and have the pleasure of the cool water dripping down our bodies to mitigate the heat of climbing up the saddle. The second was the contrast in the colour of the rock on either side: on the left as we approached Fiery Col was the “normal” grey rock; but on the right the rock was an orangey-red colour. Amongst this red rock there was an almost complete lack of vegetation. (Note: This rock is ultramafic.) When we reached the northern end of Cow Saddle (the source of the Olivine River) we all took a break and had a “confab”. Richard was for pushing on over Fiery Col and on to the Olivine Ledge bivvy so that the next day we could go and visit some swimming holes in the Olivine River, which he had also visited “25 years ago”! As Tony was suffering from the heat and wanted to stay the night on Cow Saddle, it was agreed that Richard’s group, plus Darren, would press on whilst Tony, Gordon and Michael would stay put. Whilst they pitched their tents, these three watched Richard lead his group over Fiery Col through Gordon’s monocular. On cresting the col, Richard’s group decided to find a campsite early on rather than go all the way to the bivvy. It had been a long, hot day.

(to be continued next month - Ed.)

Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

June 5-7 (Queens' Birthday)
Port Craig / Waitutu / Hump Ridge [M-FE]
Ann Burton (476 2360)

This trip unfortunately closes the same night this Bulletin is posted, but if you are interested in this trip you can ring Ann by the end of the weekend (May 30) and see what can be worked out. Options for this trip include a visit to the historic Port Craig area (and the viaducts beyond) or a roundish trip incorporating the Hump Ridge Track, complete with great views.

June 26/27
Kepler Track / Mt. Luxmore (Cooking Competition) [All]
Gene Dyett (455 7465)

Winter can be a great time for tramping clubs to visit the Great Walks - this trip is heading for Luxmore Hut (conditions allowing) and is incorporating a return of the OTMC cooking competition. It is normally a 4-5 hour easy climb to Luxmore Hut, located above Lake Te Anau. Again, if we have the right conditions, an afternoon trip to summit Mt. Luxmore is a great option. The track heads practically to the top with a further 10 minute scramble to the trig where good views in all directions are available, including the Hidden Lakes visited by the club in February.

Gene has organised the cooking competition with a few twists - come along to club to pick up a guide for the competition. If cooking is not really your thing you are still most welcome to come along - I don't think you can have too many judges, can you??

Trip list closes June 17.

Gear Hire

When members hire equipment from the Club's gear hire, we expect the equipment to be returned promptly, so it is available for other members to hire.

If you are unable to get to the next club night, the onus is on you to make arrangements with Gene or Ralph, for the equipment's return.

Thanks

Gene and Ralph (Gear Hire)

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	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Gear Hire/Clubrooms	Gene Dyett	455 7465
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Social Convener	Tony Timperley	473 7257
Social Convener/Gear Hire	Ralph Harvey	453 4330

(outside committee)

Library/Publicity	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Bulletin Editor	Adrienne Dearnley	455 5801
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Committee Liaison	Marina Hanger	476 2013
SAR Contact	Teresa Blondell	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the July Bulletin, deadline is 16/07/10, publication 27/07/10. 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

May 30

Views of the Strath Taieri Valley [E/M]

Lucy Jones (471-9228)

Meet at the clubrooms at 9.00am. We head up State Highway 87 to Young Road, (13km past Clarkes Junction Hotel). Leave cars here and walk 3km along Young Road to some farmland. Great views of the Strath Taieri Valley and the Kakanui Range, (weather permitting). View some early farm cottages before heading down the hill towards the Sutton Stream. Follow the old gold mining water race beside the stream, taking time to view the interesting rock formations, to State Highway 87. From here we cross the main road and then head across farmland to the Sutton Salt Lake. This is the only inland salt lake in NZ, although it may be dry if there hasn't been much rain. Depending on the time we may walk cross country and back up the hill via a different track to Young Road.

June 6

No day trip as it's Queen's Birthday weekend.

June 13

Victory Beach/The Pyramids [E]

Alan Thomson (455-7878)

The Pyramids are an interesting rock formation that is well worth visiting. Then we will walk out to the beach and head south to where the wreck of the Steamship Victory (1861) can still be seen when the tide is low enough. Come along and explore a unique part of the Otago Peninsula. Leave the clubrooms at 9am, since it's a 30 – 40 minute drive, and the day should only take around 5 hours.

Trip cost is \$6.

June 20

Orbell's Cave [M]

Tony Timperley (473-7257)

This walk is inland from Waikouaiti, traversing hilly pastures with a steep descent and a long ascent (remember the old tramping adage – what goes

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down, must come back up again). We drive to McGrath Rd, just before Waikouaiti, and head inland via Buckland's Crossing and take a long drive down Blucher Road to where it becomes Lamb Hill Road.

The tramp begins from the stockyards and follows a 4-wheel drive track (still called Blucher Road) before descending steeply to Three O'clock Stream. We then go down stream until we reach Orbell's Creek and climb up to the cave, which is on the true left of the creek. After lunch in the cave, we will re-cross the creek, climb up to the ridge and head back to Blucher Road. On reaching SH1 again, a left turn to Waikaiouti could bring you the reward of an icecream.

Trip cost \$10.

June 27

Ralph's Coast to Coast [E/M]

Ralph Harvey (453-4330)

From Macandrew Bay up Greenacres Street to Pukehiki, along Highcliff Rd to the Boulder Beach Track, to Boulder Beach. Follow 4-wheel drive tracks to Seal Point Rd, then down to Sandfly Bay, return up Seal Point Rd to Pukehiki, down Greenacres Track to Macandrew Bay. The Boulder Beach track will probably be very muddy. We should be back at the club rooms by 4pm.

Trip cost \$4

July 4

Lower Silverstream [E]

Janet Barclay (489 2598)

This will be roughly a 3 hour walk, but as some car pooling/ferrying is necessary, allow for a 4 to 5 hour day. Meet at the club rooms at 9:00am as usual. The walk will start at the Taieri River end and will meander along the flood banks through to Mosgiel. This is an open, flat, easy walk with no shelter but is a lovely walk regardless of the weather. Allow for some feet wetting crossing the Silverstream at the end. The walk comes out at Puddle Alley, a lovely picnic area, where we will have lunch before heading home.

Trip cost \$5