

### 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.

#### 1st July

Graham Calder has visited Mongolia, Ladakh (Northern India), Peru and Bolivia. He will show us photos of these places.

#### 8th July

Stefan Fairweather tramped alone over Easter and he tells us about his trip. He went up the Young over Gillespie Pass to the Wilkin River; over Rabbit Pass into the East Matukituki; to Aspiring Hut over Cascade Saddle, and then out down the Dart.

#### 15th July

Tom McTavish went on a winter trip to the Canadian Alaskan border. He will tell us about the people he met there, and about their customs.

#### 22 July

Alex Gough is a PhD physics student at Otago University. Last year he wintered over at Scott Base in Antarctica with a team of researchers. He tells us about their research, and what it is like to work in temperatures of minus 40 degrees.

#### 29th July

BYO. Hopefully photos of Wolfgang's Winter Routeburn, Richard's snow caving trip, and Gene's Kepler trip.

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

**Visit us on the Internet at:  
[www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)**

As I write this there is just ten weeks until the August AGM - the time we elect a new committee for the OTMC. This years election is looking as it may be a bit different as there has been a detectable desire from some members for a change in current positions within the committee, particularly some of the office bearer roles. I agree that regular change is the best way to go, but the current committee can also clearly see the obstacles preventing this, i.e. a lack of volunteers. A lot of the comments we are hearing are based on what the club used to be like - the OTMC has changed dramatically over the years, and will continue to do so. We are justifiably proud of our past, but we are different now, and have adapted to that. Readers of past Annual Reports will note that we have written often that we are lucky to have had a small, but dedicated, number of members prepared to give up freely their time to advance the objects of the tramping club. The fact that some of them (myself included) have held these positions for some years is not necessarily a bad thing - it must surely be better to at least have all the positions filled rather than carry vacancies, as seen in other clubs. The current situation has come about solely because of the lack of nominations from the wider membership from people willing to stand for these roles. In the 25 or so years I have been a member there has not been one election for any of the office bearers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chief Guide) and only an occasional election for a committee role. I know some will say that is because the incumbents keep standing but the reality is that these people only stand because of the apparent lack of interest from the wider membership and they don't want to see the club suffer. I applaud these people because it is thanks to them the club continues to run as it does. I personally didn't expect to hold the position of President as long as I have, but there is no-one, either within the committee, or wider membership that has shown any interest - and yes the committee has been looking.

As I see it the OTMC is certainly not broken - on the contrary, the fact we continue to run well supported weekly meetings, have regular and popular day trips and run a varied and interesting weekend trip programme is testament to a successful club. Yes, trip

numbers may be down, but the opportunity is there for everyone to join in if they wish - having been on nearly every weekend trip on the summer trip programme I would say they are very well received and enjoyed by those on them. The club has changed, and the current committee have adapted the club activity to match this.

This year's AGM looks like it will be important as there are several members on the current committee who have indicated they are thinking about standing down. These include both office bearer and general committee roles. What we need is members who are willing to join the committee and contribute to the running of the club. The best way you can have some input in how the OTMC is run is to become involved in running it. Nomination forms will be available from the club and the website from early July. Nominations close with the Secretary on August 12.

Antony Pettinger  
President

### **Otago Regional Rescue Helicopter**

First up I would just like to say a BIG THANKS to all the trampers who so generously donated to the Rescue helicopter on Thursday night. The total collected for the evening was \$341.10, which I think was really awesome. Also I hope you all enjoyed the very factual and informative talk that Doug Flett from the Otago Regional Helicopter Trust presented.

Westpac is a main supporter of the Rescue Helicopters throughout New Zealand and each year during the month of May all branches throughout New Zealand make an extra effort to raise funds for their Local Rescue Helicopters. So be assured that the funds that were collected on Thursday night will stay in Otago.

Last year Westpac raised over one million dollars and the Otago area raised 49 thousand dollars and this year we hope to better this. Staff organised events such as fashion shows, garage sales, movie nights and sold cheese rolls and apples all in aid of raising funds.

Sue Stevenson

# Trip Reports

## 5 Passes II – Shangri-la or Hell?

*(Days 5-8 from the clockwise group members. Continued from last month.)*

**On the Fifth Day** the “anti-clockwise” groups met up with the “clockwise” groups – a case of “Fancy meeting you here!” or “Do you come here often?”. Richard’s group met the ‘antis” on the Olivine Ledge whilst Gordon’s group had an experience straight out of an old western movie. As they approached



Fiery Col a line of figures appeared on the skyline; luckily it was not Sitting Bull and his braves but Antony and his trampers. We all briefly exchanged greetings and information before the “wises” carried on climbing and the “antis” continued descending.

Meanwhile, Richard and co had ensconced themselves in the Ledge Bivvy before heading off down to the Olivine River and Richard’s swimming holes which, despite the passage of 25 years, were still there. Whilst he and his group were disporting themselves naked in the cool waters, Gordon, Michael and Tony arrived at the bivvy guided by a very helpfully placed orange pack cover (thanks Paul), which was spotted from a great distance by Gordon through his monocular. When the water nymphs returned they described in graphic detail what we three unfortunate males had missed. We gained some idea from the way Darryl’s eyes were still protruding

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from his head!

**The Sixth Day** saw us rising early as six of the group wanted to take in Sunset Peak on the way to the Beans Burn Bivvy. Early cloud had burnt off by the time they reached Fohn Lakes so, after dumping their packs, they climbed the peak via a small snow-field. The views from the summit were magnificent with Mounts Madeleine and Tutoko dominating the skyline and Lake Wilmot and the Pyke River in the lower distance. Not being content with just admiring the view, Rosie again gave one of her famous impressions of a chamois and bounded across a rocky ridge to the adjoining Corinna Peak.

Meanwhile, the more leisurely Michael and Tony arrived at the lake, had a “munch” (morning tea and lunch combined) before continuing on to the Fohn Saddle. It was on this section that they met two other trampers, a young couple, who had just climbed up from the Beans Burn. These were the only other non-OTMC trampers they had met since leaving the Route Burn, five days ago. After a brief chat both pairs continued on their respective ways, with M & T cresting the final of the Five Passes before waiting for the Sunset Peakers to catch up, which they soon did.

From the Fohn Saddle we could see right down the Beans Burn and out to Lake Wakatipu. This, along with Fohn Saddle being our last pass to get over, gave a false sense of accomplishment as one could think that the rest would be easy going and we would be out by mid-day the next day. The truth was that we still had two full days of hard tramping ahead of us.

The first task was the very long 650 metre descent from the saddle to the Beans Burn. Wending our way through large clumps of tussock or taking advantage of the clear paths afforded by numerous dry, but strangely short, streambeds we eventually reached the cool waters of the Burn. Here we rested our aching knees before heading along mercifully level ground to the Beans Burn Bivvy, which offers excellent cave accommodation whilst still allowing discerning trampers the option of pitching their tents on a grassed area of their choice.

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**Day Seven** saw us tramp the length of the Beans Burn, a task which was made easier by good track marked with DoC's orange plastic triangles. When we emerged from the bush at the confluence of the Beans Burn and the Dart River we were surprised at how low the Beans Burn was where we were to cross. We had all been anxious about this crossing (would the water be high, fast, etc) yet each one of us could have crossed individually if necessary. Nevertheless, all eight of us linked up and crossed as a unit, only to realize that because we did this we had no photographic record of the momentous crossing – but no-one was willing to go back! Just beyond was a large grassy flat where we decided to set up our final camp and fight off the sandflies.

**Our Final Day** dawned to the sound of heavy rain on our tents; however, we were not far into our final trek to the Lake Sylvan carpark when the clouds lifted and the rain ceased. Tramping along the flats was relatively easy going but when we had to enter the bush, instead of the usual track markers there was a confusing array of different coloured plastic ribbons, which were there not to guide trampers but DoC workers to their various pest traps. Nevertheless we eventually reached the Rock Burn and the Rockburn Hut where we all gathered to make final arrangements before the final leg to the carpark. As per normal, Richard's group had arrived first, had eaten and drank and were ready to leave by the time Gordon's group arrived. As we were now in both orange triangle territory and track sign-post territory, we decided that now we could safely travel in separate groups, even sub-sub-groups, because we couldn't go the wrong way now - Yeah, right!

Rosie and Tracy set off first, with Richard and Paul saying they would catch them up after the latter had finished pottering around the banks of the Rock Burn. Shortly after they had left Darryl set off as he had to co-ordinate a vehicle shuttle with Richard. Finally the terrible trio of Gordon, Michael and Tony left for what they thought would be an easy stroll via Lake Sylvan.

Now, you would have thought that five passes was enough, wouldn't you?

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Believe it or not there were five of the above who unknowingly thought a sixth pass, Sugarloaf, would be a bonus to add to the five already climbed. The aforementioned “terrible trio” were the last to leave Rockburn Hut and were soon climbing and climbing and climbing. It did not occur to them that these contours did not conform with those of the track to Lake Sylvan. They had just arrived at a small level section when they met Tracy and Rosie coming back along the track. “We are sure we are on the wrong track as Richard and Paul should have caught us up by now,” they told the trio. Neither had they seen Darryl on their way back and it was then we realized that we all realized that we had done far too much climbing.

Reluctantly, we descended to the start of the climb and there we saw the signpost we had appointed in



directions to Lake Sylvan and Sugarloaf Pass respectively; we had gone in the latter direction. In defence of the five of us, from a certain angle the sign was obscured by a small tree which explained why we had all missed it. It had cost us 90 minutes, of which about an hour was spent climbing. Once on the right track, Rosie and Tracy continued on whilst the “trio” took a break before tackling the final leg past Lake Sylvan.

Meanwhile Richard, Paul and Darryl had continued on the right track and had an uneventful and much easier tramp to the carpark. By the time Rosie and Tracy arrived, the car shuttling bringing Darryl’s ute from the Route Burn had been completed. Finally, the “trio” arrived providing more amusement for the campervanners who were sat in their folding chairs watching the world go by.

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We all felt a sense of achievement. For the older members of the group we can now cross the Five Passes off our “bucket list”. The going had been tough in parts, much tougher for some than for others; but by helping and encouraging each other, we all achieved our goals and probably felt better at the end of the eighth day than at the end of the first. Besides leading the (clock) “wise” group, Richard was able to revisit those sites which he had first visited 25 years ago and so, perhaps, can also cross them off his “bucket list”. But, who knows, we may all decide to return and do the Five Passes anti-clockwise next year!



Tony Timperley for: Richard, Gordon, Paul, Michael, Tracy, Darryl, Rosie.

*February 28 2010*

*Garrett's Bush (and beyond)*

12 met up at Woodside Glen to be led a merry dance (off the beaten track) by Ran.

We made it safely to the first corner of the Maungatua track and then started off on our bush-bashing adventure which, for the author at least, resulted in blood, sweat and tears (to clothing and flesh).

After numerous false trails, (well what do you expect when the leader is using an altimeter instead of a compass?) we finally settled for lunch by the north branch of Lee Stream. By that time, we had had many failed attempts at finding the crossover point which would bring us out to the



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bridge and 4WD track which would lead us to the rocky outcrop with the advertised marvellous views. Some mutinous mutterings had already started along the “does this guy really know what he’s doing?” and “how many of you have got torches?” lines.



The ever lurking bush lawyer had ripped my flesh many times and to make matters worse, I even managed to stab myself with the sharp end of one of my poles. The Merchant of Venice and Shylock’s pound of flesh kept popping into my mind - not the best trip to try tramping without gaiters on! But it was all good fun and after a fairly scary sidle along a cliff, many many tanglings with bush, we did finally reach the bridge. Out into the open at last and not too bad an uphill slog to the outcrop. However, the fog had now descended so the marvellous view was somewhat limited (see attached photo).



Then off track again for tussock bashing this time and eerie ghostly sights through the mist. Back into the trees for some more deer track followings. Across to another outcrop and finally onto the Maungatua track to take us back to Woodside Glen.

Stopping at Outram for icecream, we were back home earlier than we had feared - i.e. in daylight. And as Ran pointed out, “At least we avoided the gorse this time”!

A trip to be recommended for those in search of a little adventure. Count me in for next year’s. The wounds should have healed by then....

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Adrienne Dearnley for Paul, Ran, Mr & Mrs McArther, Maria, Lucy, Bronwen, Terry, Rob Seely, Sue Taylor & Roy.



# **April 17/18 2010**

## **Kea Basin**

This was our first weekend trip with the club and it consisted of a group of ten happy trampers. Richard, John, Darryl, Ian, Rebecca, Ella, Tina, Andy, Wendy-Anne and Adrienne. Richard drove the van with squeaky trailer attached from the club heading inland toward Glenorchy. We stopped at Alex for tea and some of us had far too much fried rice from the local take-aways. We were lucky to have a crystal clear night, and as it got darker the stars came out in full force. We arrived at the trailhead after some impressive ford-crossings in the dark, and everyone set to work on their tents, headlamps on. The efficiency with which the club members put up their tents made us, as newbies, realize this was the beginning of many lessons to learn.

After a night of sleep, we hit the trail early. Entering the Rees Valley was magnificent, with the turquoise river to our left, cattle grazing the plain, and glaciers looming in the distance. After a smooth river crossing—the first ever for several of us in the group—we spent the next two hours trudging through many a bog following Darryl's lead. The highlight of this was passing close enough to marvel at the Lennox Falls. One of the first things we admired as newcomers was how bravely the OTMC takes the path less traveled. At about 11am we took a quick break where the trail turned up towards Mount Earnslaw. The next section of the path led us

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through native beech forest. We stopped for lunch two-thirds of the way up at a lookout point with panoramic views of the valley, where a native falcon joined us

We thought couldn't get the higher we more spec-became.

From that to the Kea Ba-over the ridge bivvy. Richard an ideal camp-to the stream



for a snack. the views any better but climbed, the tacular they

from the Mt Earnslaw glacier. The basin itself is nestled into the hill, surrounded by rocky ridges on three sides, and overlooked by the glacier itself. After setting up camp, some of us decided to explore the ridges while others relaxed after the morning's long tramp. Richard led us in a free climb adventure up some pretty steep tussocky hills, which necessitated the use of both our hands and feet. John's GPS tracker informed us that our high point for the day was about 1300m on a ridge looking out over the valley. Here we were met by a great view of the rest of the glaciers further up the valley. On our way back down, we peeked over the edge of the basin at our tents. The way back down was much smoother once we found the track.

point, getting sin was just past the rock brought us to site there next flowing out

After a delicious bush meal, we all turned in early. Those who got up after dark saw yet another, even more beautiful night sky. The next morning broke frosty, but promising another sunny day. We left camp at nine after much resistance to putting wet, frozen boots back on. We enjoyed sunshine for the rest of the day, and before long we had retraced our steps to the river valley, crossing the Rees river and 25 Mile Creek, sloshing through watery bogs, and ducking under several electrified fences. We detoured to Shelter Hut for a quick bite to eat. The sand flies also had their lunch here. From this point, we followed the muddy DOC track back to the trailhead. Back at the van by 2pm guaranteed us an early return to Dunedin. All in all, we couldn't have had better weather, better views or better com-

# TripList

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**July 17/18**

**Winter Routeburn - Glenorchy end [All]  
Wolfgang Gerber (hm 453 1155) (wk 477 7443)  
(cel 021 112 4423)**

For the people not wanting to walk in to the Flats Hut on the Friday night, accommodation can be found at Glenorchy Camping Ground. Saturday morning will be adventurous, as to get up to Falls Hut (as Israeli Creek bridge was damaged recently), we will have to negotiate around the back of the Flats Hut to find the track that connects to the bottom of the 'Big Slip' (that will be fun), then, YES, we walk up and up it until we find the real track. Once we arrive at the Hut we drop off the packs and we go exploring the Harris Basin above the Falls and/or up to the Harris Saddle. For the fitter ones, a short sharp climb up to Conical Hill will give great views of the surrounding Mountains including Mt Madeline and Mt Tutuko. If the conditions are suitable, you could get a panorama like there is at the top of my display at the club.

My annual Quiz will take place after Tea Saturday night about 8pm. With yummy prizes as usual and there will be a prize for the best dressed Table. The Theme this year is dress up as your sports hero. We will all be bringing in a little bit of coal, in a plastic bag, just in case there is none. Also if you have rechargeable batteries in your camera it will be a good idea to keep them warm (when you're not using them), low temperature will weaken them as I found out last year. I will leave it up to individuals where to keep them warm. Even normal batteries should be kept warm. If you have any questions or need to be booked into Glenorchy Camp, please get in touch with me.

Trip list closes 8 July

**July 31 – Aug 1**  
**Snowcaving [M]**  
**Richard Pettinger (487 9488)**

What a wonderful way to start the month, saying “White Rabbits” as you wake underwater.

Emergency snow survival skills involving accommodation using the handiest material are well worth having if you are prone to adventures in the snowy bits of Otago. Learning these skills is usually great fun.

It’s time for members to crawl out of the wood-work and crawl into snow. This trip is the OTMC at its best. There’s quite a bit of interest already. There’s quite a bit of snow already, too. “Looking goood.”

Please sign up for this great Club tradition and chat to Richard if you have any queries. Trip list closes 22 July.

*The following is copied from last year’s Bulletin:*

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 have fun sliding down the slopes.

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pany. A special thanks to our great group leader, Richard (who, by the way, is half mountain goat). This was a very well organized and enjoyable trip. Thanks also to John for his sharing his knowledge of bush craft with us new comers.

Thanks, OTMC!  
Rebecca and Ella



## Committee Members 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	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
(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 August Bulletin, deadline is 16/07/10, publication 29/07/10. 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

**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

**July 11**

**Hare Hill / Hodson Hill [E]  
Gordon Tocher (472 7440)**

Assemble at the clubrooms at 9am, bring plenty of water and a camera or binoculars. See stunning views of the Coastline and Otago Harbour, a hidden railway line, the site of early wind power trials for Dunedin and maybe a former Fitch farm. The route will include a bush track rising from the old torpedo boat station on the western shore of Otago Harbour to Hare Hill (350m), travel through local farmland to Hodson Hill and back down. If time permits we will visit the site where the local “ship spotters” have their viewing platform with very close proximity to the shipping channel. This is a round trip not a “there and back”. Approximate time 6 hours. Carpool cost \$5.

If you live in the Port Chalmers/ Waitati area it may make sense to travel direct to the start point without going to the clubrooms first. Phone Gordon for instructions.

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**July 18**  
**Upper Silverstream [M]**  
**Wayne Hodgkinson (473 0950)**

We anticipate a moderate tramp, up to 6 1/2 hours. Leaving the club rooms at 9:00am, we will drive to the Whare Flat carpark. We will start walking up the Silver Stream, along the Racemans Track to the Top Weir. From here it is uphill along Rain Gauge Spur to The Elbow, after which it is all downhill - initially along Swampy Road to Trig Q, then down one of the Coal Creek tracks back to the Racemans, and return to the car. If the weather is no good, we can easily shorten it.  
Trip cost is \$5.

**July 25**  
**Mt Cargill from Bethunes Gully [Family]**  
**Richard Forbes (453 1327)**

An easy walk suitable for families to the top of Mt Cargill. Leaving from Bethunes Gully we follow up the track first through pine forest and then into the Mt Cargill scenic reserve with waterfalls and impressive rimu trees. Eventually the bush gets shorter and we reach the TV tower on the summit of Mt Cargill. The views from the top are impressive of the peninsula, Dunedin and the Silverpeaks. A side track can also be taken to see the Organ Pipes. We return the same way.  
Trip cost \$3

**August 1**  
**Davies Track / Bivouac Rock / Jim Freeman [M]**  
**Bill Wilson (477 2282)**

We meet at the club rooms at 9.00am and drive to Booth Rd. We climb up Davies through bush and tussock to go round West of Swampy and down past Bivouac Rock to Te Whare Rd. Then we climb back up onto Flagstaff via the Jim Freeman Track and return to the cars via the Pineapple, Old Pineapple and McGoun Tracks. The walk is mainly in bush but with some good views from above the bushline.  
Trip cost \$3.