

**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.

### **5th August**

Becky Cameron spent last summer in the Antarctica, helping to restore Scott's hut. She informs us of what this involved, and described some of the day tramps she did whilst she was there.

### **12 August**

Rodney Meiklejohn researched the history of Mt Domett, a mountain the club runs trips to regularly. He tells us of its history, and shows us different routes for climbing the mountain.

### **19th August**

BYO - Continuing our snow and ice theme, there should be plenty of photos from the snow caving weekend, and the snowcraft Rock and Pillar trip.

### **26th August**

It's our AGM - Become involved in helping OTMC to continue to be a successful tramping club. There will be some vacancies on the committee, some new faces will be welcome. If you do not wish to be on the committee, come along and have your say about what you like, or do not like about our club.

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)**

We are now in the midst of our winter tramping trips and, despite the colder conditions, they continue to provide some great experiences for members. Again Wolfgang's annual winter trip has attracted good numbers but other trips are also enjoyable. For example, Luxmore Hut is a popular and well known destination for a lot of trampers, but the recent OTMC trip added all the ingredients that make winter tramping great - snow, clear blue skies and a snow climb to the summit of Luxmore itself, a first for some on the trip. And, despite the freezing fog that hung over Te Anau the temperature was quite pleasant - short sleeves for some. While we have been concerned about declining trip numbers we need to remember that any trip away with the club is a positive thing, both for the participants and the club as a whole. Looking forward, we are now certainly entering the period of 'snow trips' - starting with instruction both in snow shelters and basic snowcraft skills (both essential skills to possess if you venture on to the tops - at any time of year). These weekends then culminate in a trip to Mt. Armstrong on the Main Divide near Makarora in late August. This 2174m is a serious climb in winter but is generally considered safe enough for those who have obtained the appropriate snowcraft skills. This trip is ideal to try out your snowcraft skills, and with the newish Brewster Hut sitting below the 1500m contour there is an excellent base to fall back to if need be.

Many members may not be aware of the conservation and advocacy role the club carries out for the benefit of many outdoor users. David Barnes carries out this role faultlessly on our behalf and is continually contributing submissions and letters on many recreation matters for both the OTMC, and the FMC. It is because of these efforts that we are seeing many wins for the outdoor community, such as the recently promoted Otago Conservation Parks (see the June FMC Bulletin for more info). These areas are important to us as a club, and as access is formalised we will see more club activity in the parks. We have a weekend trip to the Oteake Conservation Park in late September (perhaps Otamatapaio Hut and environs?). If anyone has an interest in protecting and enhancing recreational opportunities then I encourage you to let either the committee or David know - we do our best to represent the views of our members

- feedback, or even help writing submissions would be appreciated. Another area that the club sees as a positive step is the recent announcement of funding for several cycleways in the Otago/Waitaki area. The OTMC was an enthusiastic supporter when the Otago Central Rail Trail was first mooted in the early 1990's and I see any new trails as a positive move for both the users and the areas they pass through.

Antony Pettinger

## **OTMC COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

**Nominations for the 2010-11 OTMC Committee are open now and close with our Secretary on August 12, 2010. To be nominated for the committee you need to be a financial member of the club, and have your nomination proposed and seconded by two other financial members of the club.**

**Positions to be elected at the AGM are:  
PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER,  
SECRETARY, CHIEF GUIDE  
plus SEVEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
(from which other roles such as Membership and Day Trips  
are appointed)**

**The AGM is on Thursday, August 29 at 8.00pm in the  
clubrooms**

**Nomination forms available from the clubrooms or the club**

# Trip Reports

## Hare and Hobson's Hills above Deborah Bay 11 July 2010

Having raised my boys in Deborah Bay, I'm familiar with Cold Water Creek, the joys of bush-whacking up to the railway line and further up to Blueskin Road. So the prospect of getting to know my own backyard even better with a guided walk to Hare and Hobson Hills on the Purakanui and Heywood Point roads was a treat not to be missed.

On a clear crisp day Mike and I and our neighbour Bridget were joined at 9:15 on the Deborah Bay Green by Ian, Dave, Laurel, Lucy, Jane, Lea and Gavin. Gordon lead us across the paddock at the bend in Lewis Road to the Old Deborah Bay Water Supply, built by locals in 1910 to supply water and electricity (!) and now disused on Cold Water Creek. Turning north we followed the old bullock track up to the ridge above the Deborah Bay settlement. We spotted some 15 sheep trotting down the railway line.

Where would we be without cell phones? After watching Don rounding up the woolly-headed dare-devils, we walked up towards Oliver's horses, who had been advised in advance that Gordon had brought carrots. Navigating deer fences and rock walls we arrived at Hare Hill for lunch. The 360° view stretches north to Heywood Point, northwest over Purakanui, west to

the snow-clad Silverpeaks, southwest to the Maungatua, south to Mt Cargill and Port Chalmers and east to the Peninsula with Allan's Beach visible between Hereweka and Mount Charles. The wind-sculpted and stunted trees



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showed that we were lucky to have such a beautiful day. Gordon cheerfully regaled us with stories of fog, mist, sleet and navigating with one hand on the fence line... Then, with the splendid vistas embellished by this mythology, we circumnavigated more deer fences, rock walls, hungry horses and one very friendly border collie to the trig on Hobson Hill. After touching base with Billy and his Backpackers at Hamilton Bay, we gathered clay down the steep and greasy slopes to the site of the West Harbour School long since dismantled and recycled as two cribs at Aramoana. Then through the saddle to a last high look at the harbour from the northern end of Hamilton Bay and finally to Pulling Point and the ship spotters' lookout before stepping down onto Aramoana Road where our transport back to Deborah Bay awaited us. Nice one Gordon.

Marian Poole for Bridget Ferguson, Mike Atkinson, Lucy Jones, Jane Cloete, Gavin Duthie, Lea Renwick, Laurel Dunn, Dave Wilson, Ian Woodford, Gordon Tocher

## **Luxmore Hut and Beyond**

### **26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

I had never done any of the Kepler Track, which surprises many people, but I prefer to stay away from the crowds and huts in summer. But during winter, these places are less visited or so I thought. My parents were living at the Manapouri Hydro Village when I was born, and Dad was working on the Manapouri Power Station. I assumed that Dad, who is a keen trumper, had tramped at least some of the Kepler Track, but the only part he did was the Control Gates when he was welding them.

Travelling in Antony's car, we left Dunedin at 4.30 pm and took the short-cut road that bypasses Riversdale. The first decent corner we took, the car skidded sideways with tyres squealing. Later on Gene told us the same thing had happened to them in their car. A lot of fog and ice was encountered towards Te Anau, which made for slower going. Lots of snow could be seen in the paddocks through the dark. I wondered what it would be like

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at Luxmore Hut. We found our cabins at Te Anau Camping Grounds and were pleased that the heaters had been turned on and the rooms were cosy. The other four arrived in Gene's car about an hour later and Gene gave us some coal to carry up the hill.



Saturday dawned foggy and cold. We headed to the car park at the start of the Kepler Track, by the excellently welded Control Gates and started walking at 8.30 am. It was about an hour to Brod Bay at the start of the four hour climb up to Luxmore Hut. It was still foggy. The track up to Brod Bay was typical DOC Great Walk standard where two people can walk side by side and chat with no problems. A kea was encountered about halfway to Brod Bay. A quick snack (not the kea!) and the long steady climb was started. After about an hour, we broke through the fog and into a clear, calm, sunny day. We reached the big

bluffs with impressive DOC walkways and stairs bolted to the rock and the snow on the ground gradually became thicker. Some people were encountered on their way down and they told us 16 were in the hut on Friday night. As we climbed higher, the views gradually became more impressive. The snow became deeper and the bush shorter. Eventually we reached the bushline. The snow on the tops was quite deep in snowdrifts but the way forward was easy to follow. We didn't need the crampons we were carrying. We stopped for lunch at the bushline with a good view on a cool calm clear day with impressive 360 degree views. The lake however was clothed in cloud.

After lunch it was gentle walking for about another hour to the hut, which was quite close to the bushline. After getting organized in our bunkrooms, we pushed on to Mount Luxmore. A couple of our group stayed behind to get everything in order for tea. The snow got a bit deeper, and the footprints fewer the closer we got to the top. The ice axes came in handy to steady ourselves. When we got to the turnoff to the summit, the track further on really petered out. The ridge to the summit was quite windblown, so not much snow. The view from the top was great but a bit cold in the

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wind. So we made our way back down to the hut as there were only about one and a half hours of light left. All in all a great side trip. Back in the hut Gene was wondering about the firewood situation so that we could burn the coal that we had all carried up. He spied some footprints in the snow leading to the nearby bushline and bingo – there was a shed full of wood there. So enough was carried to the hut to make a cosy fire. Thanks Gene! The original intention of the trip was a cooking competition but there were no takers. The other people in the hut were impressed with the noise and power of our MSR cookers and Gene cooked us a hearty meal of Pasta D’Oro pasta and sauces, followed by Sam’s dessert of cream, brandy and biscuits. Sam even carried up an old-fashioned hand egg beater to whip up the cream. There was to be a partial eclipse of the moon that night, but only a few of us (fuelled by the warming properties of port) managed to stay awake to see the very start of the eclipse at 10.00 pm. Some women from the Fiordland Tramping Club were there for the night with half of them walking to the next shelter after tea in the moonlight. They got back in the wee small hours saying it was a bit tricky during the eclipse as the moonlight was halved.

The next morning we woke up everyone with Antony’s MSR Dragonfly.

After breakfast, we did the quick trip to see the caves. Another nice cool clear day with fog still on the lake. The icicles on the cave entrance were impressive and the wooden steps into the cave were well constructed but slippery with the ice. The cave seemed to go on forever. I went as far as I could crouch without having to monkey-crawl further on. Then it was



packs on, and down to the cars, back into the fog and mist halfway down the track, and a quick bite to eat at Brod Bay. One of our party did not have an annual hut pass or ticket, so we popped into DOC for them to pay. The woman at DOC was a bit taken aback that someone had called into pay. On Friday night there were 16 in the hut, and on Saturday night there were 24. But not many of these people signed the hut book and most likely did not





# Trip list

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**August 7/8**

**Rock And Pillar Range (Leaning Lodge)  
Incorporating Snowcraft Instruction [M-I]  
Tony Timperley (473 7257)**

This spectacular spot, perched high on the Rock and Pillar range above Middlemarch has seen many great trips over many years. One thing that we have learnt is that there is often a need for snowcraft skills to visit safely in winter. With this in mind we have decided to incorporate our ice-axe and crampon instruction weekend with the trip to Leaning Lodge. The trip will leave from Dunedin on Saturday morning and you will be home for tea on Sunday. After lunch at the hut, instruction will commence - in safe gullies with a good run out to start with and maybe moving to steeper slopes as your confidence increases. Knowing how to use an ice-axe to travel on snow and how to self-arrest with an ice-axe are the most basic snowcraft skills and if you plan to travel on snow often they have to be second nature. Crampon use is less common for most 'trampers', but you do need to know how to fit and use them when the circumstances dictate. Leaning Lodge only sleeps 10, so club members will have priority on this instruction trip. If there is a lot of interest then other options may be considered - talk to Tony if are interested in the trip.

Trip list closes July 29.

**August 28/29**

**Brewster Hut / Mt. Armstrong [M-C]  
Wayne Hodgkinson (473 0950)**

This trip has been specifically planned as a follow up to the snowcraft

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instruction weekend. The primary goal is Brewster Hut, located just above the bushline. Mt. Armstrong (2174m) is an option for those who want to go a bit higher (well, about 700m higher!). The track to Brewster Hut starts from the popular Fantail Falls, on the western side of Haast Pass. A steep 1000m climb through the bush takes you to the recently built 10 bunk Brewster Hut. From here you are free to climb as far as you are comfortable with. With several recent jinxed winter trips to this area we are overdue for a clear sunny weekend to enjoy the expansive views.

Trip list closes August 19.

### **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 /Daytrip 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 September Bulletin, deadline is 6/08/10, publication 19/08/10. 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

**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.

**August 8**

**Tomahawk Area [E/M]**

**Jill McAliece (454 4211)**

Leaving the clubrooms at 9am sharp, we drive over the hill to Ocean Grove. Parking at the beach access, we stroll along Tomahawk Beach going up past the gun emplacements and down to Smaills Beach. From Smaills Beach we follow Karetai Rd towards Boulder Beach, and at the junction head uphill towards the Radio mast. A left turn takes us onto Highcliff Rd and after about 2-3kms we turn off at the Soldiers Memorial to carry on down the hill to Tomahawk Lagoon and back to the cars.

Approx 3 - 4 hours in total.

Trip cost \$3.00

**August 15**

**McNally's Track [M]**

**Janet Barclay (489 2598)**

Be at the club rooms at 9:00am for a drive to Milton to meet up with other takers opposite Tokomairiro High School at 9:45. Travel in convoy to the start of the track. The track climbs to 350 metres and gives great views

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from the top of Milton and its surrounds. The walk takes about 3 hours—2 up and 1 down, so expect an early lunch at the top. Come prepared for mud and exposure to cold winds.

Trip cost \$12

**22 August (postponed from 20 June)**

**Orbell's Cave [M]**

**Tony Timperley (473 7257)**

The walk is inland from Waikouaiti, traversing hilly pastures with a steep descent and a long ascent (remember the old tramping adage – what goes 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 Waikouaiti could bring you the reward of an icecream.

Cost \$10.

*NB! The following trip is different from that advertised on the trip card:*

**August 29**

**Rustler's Ridge [M]**

**Gavin McArthur (455 0027)**

After departing the clubrooms at 9-00am, we will proceed to the Pidgeon Flat carpark. From there it is a short walk down the old Leith Valley Rd., before striking into the bush to pick up the track following the old DCC water pipeline. We climb up the Rustlers Ridge track to the top of Swampy Summit, where we should get some magnificent vistas of the surrounding countryside. We proceed along the top of Swampy until we find the Leith Saddle track which we descend back to the carpark.

Trip cost \$3.00.