

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.) P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.



The OTMTC meets socially at 3 Young Street
every Thursdays open at 7.30pm,
programme begins at 8.00pm.

The Editor Speaks

The AGM has been and gone, and we welcome in a new committee. You will find a brief bio of each of the committee members inside this Bulletin. There are four new committee members and they will introduce themselves more to you in the November Bulletin.

I take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new editor. You will find a few changes in this Bulletin and no doubt there will be more changes as I continue to find my feet. I would love to hear from you so please put pen to paper and write a trip report (day, weekend or even private trip), letter to the editor, book review or any other tramping related contribution you might like to make.

Debs

Committee Members 2010/11

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Peter Stevenson	454 4148
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Chief Guide/Transport	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Debbie Pettinger	473 7924
Gear Hire/Clubrooms	Gene Dyett	455 7465
Daytrip Convenor	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Social Convener	Tony Timperley	473 7257
Social Convener/Gear Hire	Ralph Harvey	453 4330
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Committee Liaison	Ross Hunt	477 3309
SAR Contact	Teresa Blondell	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the November Bulletin, deadline is 15/10/10, publication 28/10/10. You can submit material by email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

It is with some surprise that I find myself again writing this piece as President as I had pretty much decided to step down at the 2010 AGM. As events unfolded there was little interest in the recent election of officers to the OTMC, with the majority of nominations received on closing night - when it was clear what the mood of the club was. I thank those who encouraged me to continue and commit to giving 100% to this great club. That said, this year I believe we have an excellent committee, as well as an enthusiastic group of people operating outside of the formal committee for the good of the club.

The committee have had their first meeting, and although we are still finding our feet, we have discussed a general vision for the OTMC over the next year. The most important asset we as a club has is our membership and, like any group, we need ensure we retain an active membership by attracting new members. While the Thursday meetings are helpful, they are not always the right environment to attract and encourage visitors to return - generally this is because it is not possible to cover fully what the club can offer in the short time frame before a guest speaks. We have a tentative plan to hold an open day in early February 2011 followed by an opportunity to take interested people on a local walk (Tramparama, anyone?). We feel that by dispensing with the usual Thursday meeting format we can better present what the OTMC can offer. The next step from here is to run a bushcraft course in March (promoted at the open day). My feeling is that the 2011 course could be a cross between the Tirohanga version of old and the more recent evening course. Perhaps 3-4 evenings in the clubrooms, followed by a return to the Silver Peaks, with a second tramping weekend optional. The key to success may be in keeping the cost low, hence the Silver Peaks option.

If the above all works out, there are further plans to run an 'advanced bushcraft' trip - at least three days, and to be mainly untracked/unmarked with no huts - Tiel Creek from the Makarora to Siberia seems ideal to me. Timing may be an issue given the late April Easter in 2011 but earlier dates may work.

We know that all this will take a lot of effort, and some expenditure to succeed, but with the current increase in vibrancy obvious in the club we think the effort may be well worthwhile. The committee welcome any comments (or offers of help) from members.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the great work presently being done by Andy Cunningham in investigating funding opportunities for the OTMC and associated people. Since the AGM Andy has put in a substantial amount of time on our behalf, and although it is early days I thank Andy for this commitment to the club.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

Hi everyone ,the subs have been slowly coming in with over 130 so far in. Please keep them coming in and don't forget to fill in the green form so I can update your details on the club computer database. Those paying by direct debit can send details especially if you would like to receive the bulletin electronically, e-mail address, and phone numbers via e-mail if they find it easier. Spare green forms can be collected if you have lost yours from the club rooms on the table . Those of you I have not heard from will get a reminder with this bulletin, if this is a mistake please let me know (there may be delays with those of you paid electronically).

New members recently joined this month

Jeremy Beck and Stuart Mathieson (returning member)

Members resigned from club

Jonathan Wood

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary

Gear Hire

We have some first aid kits missing from the gear hire, if you have one of the missing kits at home, could you please return it to the gear hire as soon as possible.

Thanks

Gene & Ralph

Donation to Gear Hire

Many thanks to Andy Cunningham for his gift of a walking pole, and a short length of climbing rope to the gear hire. If you have wondered if you need a walking pole, you can try the clubs one before you buy your own.

Email List

The OTMC operate an email list to keep members informed of upcoming events, as well as tramping related information. This is generally a low traffic list, but very useful to the committee in particular in getting up-to-date information to members and other interested people. To sign up, follow the link on the front page of the OTMC website www.otmc.co.nz , or email Antony at: otmc@ihug.co.nz

Meet The Committee

The OTMC AGM was held on 26 August with a new committee being elected, welcoming back people who have previously served the club and also some new people keen to help the club.

Antony Pettinger is back as President and Chief Guide. Antony has been in the club since the mid 1980's and has been on committee most of this time. He has served in just about every role within the committee.

Richard Forbes is our Vice President and Membership. Richard joined the club a couple of years ago and this is his second year on committee. He is also a regular on Thursday club nights, meeting people as they come in the door and making new people feel welcome.

Peter Stevenson is new to the committee but not the club as he has been a member since the early 2000's. Peter is our club Secretary.

Ann Burton has been our club Treasurer since she joined the club about 13 years ago. Ann is also a regular on weekend trips and is always keen to take trip money on our Thursday night meetings. Ann is one of those members of the club working quietly in the background but whose role is vital to the club.

Ralph Harvey joined the club in the 2000's but had ties to the OTMC back in the 1970's. He has been on the committee for the past three (or four years) and has filled the role of organising our Thursday night speakers along with Tony. Ralph also helps look after the gear hire and is a regular instructor on our snowcraft courses.

Tony Timperly joined the OTMC almost 10 years ago and since joining the committee has done a great job with organising our Thursday night speakers along with Ralph's help.

Gene Dyett is a returning to the committee and helps with the gear hire as well as looking after our clubrooms maintenance. He has been in the club since the mid 2000's.

Wayne Hodgkinson is our new Day Trip co-ordinator and has been a member since the 1970's although not always a regular in the past due to working out of town, he enjoys getting away into the mountains regularly. This is Wayne's first time on the committee.

Ross Hunt is also new to the committee. Ross has tramped in many places in both the North and South Island's. He became a member of the OTMC a couple of years ago and enjoys getting out into the mountains. Ross is our SAR liaison officer.

Debbie Pettinger has returned to the committee after a number years. Debbie joined the club in the late 1980's and was quite active in the club, taking time off to have children. Debbie is our new Bulletin Editor.

Trip Reports

Blue Mountain Track

28 March 2010

This was my first try at organising an OTMC trip, so I write this report from that angle – perhaps someone else will write from the 'received' angle!

I'd been to the Blue Mountains in early April last year, and thought it worth a trip for the club. But it needed an early start and late return to Dunedin, not usual for day trips. A few nights before the tramp I had a nightmare – no-one turned up! But I'd put an alternative down that it would be possible to meet at Whiskey Gully so I drove the 150km in my dream only to find no-one there either!

Planning: What to grade the trip? Definitely not hard, we'd be on a track all the way. Easy? Yes, had it been a shorter trip, but last year I took 7 hrs so I graded it 'medium' and in the end that seemed about right.

Got organised for the trip – extra food/water/sweaters in case they'd been forgotten. The evening before I remembered about trip lists for the clubrooms etc. – quick phone call to Antony P. who said he'd be willing to be a contact person for this end (unlikely to be needed but you never know!). Thanks Antony.

Sunday – good weather forecast and at 6.30am at the clubrooms the Southern Cross was just visible through thin high cloud. Nine of us had assembled by 6.55 (thanks guys, for being on time) and we set off at 7.00 am on the dot in three cars as we had a bit of car-shuffling to do when we got to West Otago: the start/end of the track is 15km apart, by road. Got to Whiskey Gully, just beyond Tapanui, at about 9am and we were walking by 9.10. I'd promised everyone an easy half hour at the start, ambling along beside a wee stream and indeed the first 200 metres were easy! But there was a bit of scrambling needed for short sections until we got to the waterfall. This had a bit more water in it than I'd seen before, so I bravely let Gavin show the way before I followed very carefully! Up the side of the valley 'til we eventually broke out of the bush, at 680 metres, and into sunshine for a morning tea stop. Then steadily on up, in sunshine and on a good track, to 900 metres. After that we were on a small track cut through dracophyllum scrub for the rest of the walk along the tops. There are plenty of track markers and it would be difficult to get lost even in fog. Saw a few deer in the distance. The track has been widened a bit since last year and it evidently isn't used much – we stumped over lots of moss with exquisite wee flowers which wouldn't have survived heavy traffic.

Lunch at about the half-way point, overlooking the wide West Otago plain, but alas

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there was a mist in the distance which precluded views of Stewart Island or Mt Aspiring, or even of the sea! We examined a small weta (it seemed to be minus a leg or two) and even had a poetry reading to accompany our meal!

After lunch, setting a cracking pace now, on upwards to the highest point of 973 metres, and from there it was only about one km to the turnoff. Thankfully this is better marked than last year! A last stop for a drink/snack in the sunshine before we set off down to Black Gully. The descent takes almost as long as the ascent of the other end – 80 minutes – but we were into the Black Gully reserve by 3.10pm – just 6 hours from the start.

I'd reckoned on being at Black Gully by 4.30 but the early finish was good – time to visit the relations on the way back, or for a cup of coffee with one's sister at Lawrence!

All in all, I much enjoyed this trip. Helped by good weather but made into a fantastic day by such fantastic company!

Many thanks to Rebecca Henck, Gavin MacArthur, Penny and David McArthur, Bronwen Strang, Stefan Fairweather, Jo Baillie and David Barnes for making the effort to get up early and come!

Jane Cloete

Fox Peak Area

27/28 August 2010

On Friday 27th August Ralph Harvey and Andy Cunningham drove up to Fox Lodge and the Fox Peak ski area. We spent the Friday afternoon exploring the environs of the South Basin area. Snow conditions were generally poor – deep graupel and considerable wind drift - but we had a good look around. We spent the night at Fox Lodge, which provided decent facilities at \$25 pppn. On the Saturday we attempted to climb Fox Peak (2330m), and despite poor snow even on the ridgeline, and massing bad weather clouds, we reached the main subsidiary peak at around 2300m. The final ridge from there to the main summit was considered too dangerous in the conditions (we'd almost triggered a slab avalanche lower down the ridge), so we descended with care back to Fox Lodge for tea and the drive back to Dunedin. Despite the conditions the trip was thoroughly enjoyable, and both of us agreed it would be a good place for a Club trip to the area, whether in Summer, Winter – or both.

Ralph & Andy

Winter Routeburn @ Falls Hut

17/18 July 2010

I had a thought that maybe these trips are becoming unpopular, but as the trip list grew my thoughts proved to be quite wrong as 30 people wanted to come along.

On Friday, some walked in to the Falls Hut and some to the overcrowded Flats Hut. My main concern was the crossing of Israeli Creek as mother nature had made a bit of a mess of the bridge. As it turned out my concern was unfounded as the crossing was a non event. The glorious weather we had for the whole weekend was a real bonus for everyone.

Lake Harris was only partially frozen so we just followed the track up to the saddle. 12 of us made it up to Conical Hill for some great views just as my panorama on my display at the clubrooms showed. There was hardly any wind with blue skies and snowy mountain tops. It doesn't get any better than this as we must have spent an hour up there absorbing the scenery. Then it was back to the hut where we learned that Phil and Stefan knocked off Ocean Peak, an amazing feat. This turned the trip into E-C (easy-climbing).

After many years of trying I finally enticed my youngest daughter, Emmy, to come tramping with the "Old Fella". She also made a wonderful Quiz assistant. The winning Quiz team this year was Ian's, which included Brent, Becky and Sarah (who won the women's section in the Moro marathon in September), second place went to James's team, which included Marina E, Trevor, Stefan and Ralph aka Grandad,. With 1 point behind came team Johnston which included Graham, Jasmine, Alison, and Julia. They also had the best dressed table in conjunction with team Pettinger (R+T Rosa and Daryl) and finally coming up the rare (rear) end was team Derek which included Lucy, Jessica, Mike and his Mate.

Next morning some went up to the ledge behind the Hut for a better view of the Flats (once the fog lifted) and Stefan and Abby made it up to Sugarloaf Pass to have a great view of the Rockburn.

It was a really great weekend and I gather everyone achieved what they wanted to with great views, great weather and great company. A big thanks goes to the drivers and food party leaders, you made my job easier. Also a big thanks goes to Ralph for co-coordinating the Friday night take off.

One thing I thought was really cool that there were 4 people under 20 on this trip.

Wolfgang Gerber for Emmy Gerber, Alan Thomson, Jill McAliece, Abby Lute, Richard, Tracy and Rosa Pettinger, Darryl Woods, Graham, Alicia and Jasmine Johnston, Julia Hjortland, Derek and Lucy Mycock, Jessica, Ian Woodford, Becky Cameron, Brent Dewar, Sarah Chisnall, Philip Somerville, Bruce Bernasconi, Thomas Gleeson, James Cleary, Marina Eglasias, Trevor Deaker, Ralph Harvey Stefan Fairweather, Mike Bretell and his Mate.

Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

We are nearing the end of the winter trip card, so that means the we are working on the trips from November through to the end of April. There are already some plans for weekend trips, but I am always happy to hear what members would like to see. With the more settled weather over the summer months we are able to offer a wider range of trips to some of the more remote or less visited areas. I see the role of the tramping club to be the next step for people who have done the main tracks and are wondering what's next. We are lucky to have such a wide range of destinations within a 5-6 hour drive from town - with the club you can get to see many places that most people don't. Remember, all our trips have options for all fitness grades and abilities - so there will be something on the programme for you.

Wayne Hodgkinson is our new Day Trip Convenor, and he too would appreciate offers to lead a trip (see committee list elsewhere for contact details).

You will have read the notice from Ralph and Andy regarding alpine type trips interspersed with the OTMC weekend trip programme - this is a generous offer given the time commitment being made. The club's record of these type of trips has declined over time and I think it is great we have two members willing to reverse this trend - my thanks to Ralph and Andy for this initiative.

9-10 October

Earnslaw Burn (All)

Richard Forbes (453 1327)

The Earnslaw Burn is a dramatic valley sitting between the Dart and the Rees, at the head of Lake Wakatipu. Viewers of the first programme of 'Rivers', presented by Craig Potton will have seen this valley - this is your chance to see it for yourself in person. There will be two main options for this trip. The first is an 'in and out' via the valley track, and the second will be an opportunity to return via the dividing ridge between the Earnslaw Burn and the Rees (a fitter option). This will be a camping trip (no huts available), but offers some great views of the Earnslaw glacier.

Trip list closes September 30. Topo50 Map: CB10 (Glenorchy - most of trip), CA10 (Lake Williamson - head of valley)

23-25 October—Labour Weekend

Ohau Range/Dumbell Lake (All)

Leader TBA (Contact Antony 473 7924)

The idea for this trip is to offer something different - the Ohau Range on the western side of Lake Ohau is a substantial range, with the highest point being Mt. Sutton (2007m). Access will be via Freehold Creek, with a couple of options available to complete a semi-round trip. To make the most of the area it would be best to camp at least by the largest tarn in Freehold Creek, at around 1500m, or alternatively near the saddle with the East Ahuriri. From here a pleasant day trip south along the Ohau Range could see you on Ohau Peak. The return to the roadend (at Parsons Creek) could be via the tops to the north (overlooking Dumb Bell Lake) and either the ski-field, Parsons Creek or Sawyers Creek. Once out of the bush in Freehold Creek great views are everywhere, with no trees in sight.

Again, this will be a camping trip. Snowcraft skills aren't necessary - the pass to the Ahuriri (1400m) should be clear of snow so there are options there.

If there is enough interest a cross-over to the Ahuriri (via the Snowy) may be possible.

Trip closes 14 October. Topo50 Map: BZ14 (Mount Barth)

Addition to Summer Trip Card

As an additional item on the Summer Trip card this season, Ralph Harvey and Andy Cunningham will be leading a monthly weekend trip with the emphasis on attempting and summiting some straightforward peaks in and around the main alpine ranges. The aim is to help develop mountain skills and confidence, and party numbers will normally be limited to six for any trip. The snowcraft course is a minimum prerequisite unless you have mountaineering experience.

This activity will be run on weekends that do not clash with the main OTMC weekend trips – so you can enjoy both if you want! In case of bad weather, the next available weekend that does not clash with a Club tramping trip will operate as Plan B. Unless otherwise advised, trips will use private transport. If the trips prove enjoyable and popular we hope to extend the activity on a more permanent basis.

If you are interested, before signing-up to a trip, talk to Ralph (453 4330) or Andy (476 0404), to see if it would be right for you.

DAYTRIPS

26 September

Gabriels Gully and Wetherstons [E]

Jane Cloete (467 2328)

"... all at once I saw a crowd, A host of golden daffodils"

It is a 75min drive to this area, so we need to be leaving promptly at 9am.

Park at Gabriels Gully. The tracks we'll be using to explore this area will be a bit different from the usual tourist tracks. Lunch back at the carpark before heading west for about 3km on an old 4WD track to get a look at the daffodils. We'll be a bit early for them to be out in all their glory, but they should be pretty good to wander around. Gold coin donation to the landowners.

Trip Cost \$12.

3 October

Unexplored Silver Peaks (FE)

Richard Pettinger (487 9488)

Once again we venture into the wilds of the local hills, to places never seen before by woman or man (except for those women and men who aren't on the trip). Destination unknown. Difficulty unknown (but possibly significant). This trip is probably not for the faint-hearted but, with an adequate sense of humour, you'll probably survive. See you at 9AM at the clubrooms if you dare.

Trip Cost \$6

10 October

Herbert Forest (M)

Jane Cloete (467 2328)

It is a 75min drive to this area, so we need to be prompt leaving at 9am Park on the far side of Herbert Village. The track will take about 5 hours of walking in total: a tiny bit of plantation forest, plenty of natural bush, some small cleared areas, a cave, a waterfall, a couple of stream crossings, plenty of mud! Hopefully lots of native birds too. Lunch in a clearing at the top, then down a different route. The track is steep in places (very

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steep in some short sections!)

If there is spare time we might then drive to Herbert Cemetery (haven't you always had a burning desire to visit it?!) from which we should get spectacular views up and down the coast. Back to the clubrooms by 5.00pm all being well.

Trip Cost \$12

17 October

Woodside Glen/Maungatua Circuit (F)

Bill Wilson (477 2282)

We meet at the clubrooms at 9.00am and drive to Woodside Glen near Outram, We don't cross the creek but go straight up above the picnic grounds circling up through beech forest round the head of the Lee Creek. We cross the North branch of the Lee Creek then cut below the prominent rooks above the South Branch of the Lee Creek. We cross this to join the main track up to the Maungatuas, We then descend steeply to return to Woodside Glen. The walk is through very pretty bush and some scrub. There are excellent views from the Maungatuas of the Taieri Plain. We should be back to the cars before 4.00pm.

Trip Cost \$7

24 October

Labour Weekend—No Day Trip

31 October

Mt Cutten and Environs (E-M)

Bronwen Strang (473 1610)

After leaving the Club Rooms at 9am, the present plan is to park at the top end of Sawyers Bay and go up Graham's Bush track to the Mt Cargill Rd. From there we will walk along the road to the water trough beside the Volco Trust property and head up through the bush towards Cedar Creek Reservoir. Just before the reservoir we turn right and head to the top of Mt Cutten from where we will scramble our way down to a small "art installation" - a tribute to Len Lye - overlooking the Sawyers Bay valley. We will then return to go past the Cedar Creek Reservoir and follow a gravel track down into Sawyers Bay and back to the cars.

Trip Cost \$5

Thursday Night Programme

7 October

Maurice Davis tells us of an expedition to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru in 1960, where the team climbed a needle like peak called Nevado Cayesh 5721 metres high.

14 October

Murray Cockerill will give a talk on time he spent in Alaska, at a National Park between Anchorage and Fairbanks. (oops we do not know the name of the NP) He tells us how he battled bears, elks and mosquitoes, and we complain about sandflies.

21 October

No club night, get ready for your Labour week-end trip.

28 October

Trip to Helicopters Otago at Taieri Airport, where we will see the rescue chopper, and the equipment they use in it. Most of you will remember the great talk Doug Flett gave us earlier this year, were he offered to show us

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