

**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.

The Editor Speaks

Welcome to 2011, I hope you managed some relaxing time with family and friends over the break. Maybe you ventured into the hills, if so I hope the weather was kind and you managed to achieve what you planned. A trip report of your adventures would be most welcome for the bulletin.

This year is shaping up to be a very busy one for the OTMC and this gives plenty of opportunity for all members to become involved. There are the weekend and day trips to go on as well as lead, an open day in February and a number of fundraising activities to support and become involved in. Here's to looking forward to 2011!

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 March Bulletin, deadline is 18/02/11, publication 24/02/11. You can submit material by email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

Welcome to the OTMC for 2011. Yet again the weather over the Christmas / New Year break has proven testing for a lot of outdoor activities, but as we head into what will be a busy few months for the club I hope we can count on some fine summer days to enjoy our wonderful hills and mountains.

The club has a lot happening between now and Easter in late April, with a focus on promoting what the OTMC can offer to trampers of all abilities. In a couple of weeks we are holding an open weekend to promote club activities. The start of each calendar year brings a lot of visitors to the club, but we are somewhat limited on what we can pass on within the confines of our weekly meetings, so we are setting aside the weekend of February 12-13 to promote the OTMC to as many people as possible. Saturday will feature an open day in our clubrooms where, alongside our current photos and maps, we will have displays and tramping equipment outlining what we do and how to become involved.

The second part of the weekend is a series of guided tramps on the Leith Saddle track (from the top of the northern motorway to Swampy Summit). Every trumper knows that the best way to break down barriers is to actually get out there and tramp – this is often a great way to introduce newcomers to tramping (and the OTMC). We have chosen Leith Saddle as it has easy access, good parking and offers great views over a wide area. The trip itself is not hard, which is another reason it has been chosen.

To follow on from the open weekend, we are re-introducing the Bushcraft course in March. This year's course will consist of three evening meeting, a map and compass day, a river safety day and a practical tramp in the Silver Peaks. This will be promoted at the open weekend, but club members are more than welcome to join in any part of the course to brush up those tramping skills.

This club has a proud history of tramping in the lower South Island for 88 years now, and it is certainly our intention to be still doing so in 2023, our centenary. To do this we need to ensure we retain an active and enthusiastic membership – it is from these people the committee is formed and the on-going direction of the club set.

We are looking for help with the open weekend. The most important aspect now is advertising. This year we are starting small with newspaper, Internet, shop window and radio advertising. We are hoping 'word of mouth' from members will assist – enclosed with this Bulletin is a flyer outlining both the open day and the upcoming Bushcraft course. More copies are available at the clubrooms, or you can download a copy from the club website.

We also need people to assist with the open day and to guide groups on the Sunday trip – please sign the list at club or contact Antony or Debbie on 4737-924.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

The current OTMC membership now stands at 182.

New Members Joined Last Month:

Alan Williamson

Members Resigned Last Month:

Paul & Sue Clark

Jacqui Colbert

Matt Corbett

Sandra Cumming

Andrew & Joseph Donnelly

Sandra Francis

Marina Hanger

Danny Leahy

Members I have not been able to contact or who have yet to pay

please let me know if you can contact these people or if they have moved away:

James Henry

Jason & Tania Henwood

Jasmin Taylor

Roy Ward

Fiona Webster

Andy Cunningham has done some great work fundraising for the club. As part of the conditions of getting this money, the club now needs to do some fundraising of its own. My 7 year old daughter has beautifully decorated a donation box which will be kept by the door. If most members give a gold coin donation on club nights, we will raise in excess of \$1000 during the year for the club (this would be on top of the \$1 for supper on the night).

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary

Congratulations to our membership secretary Richard and his wife, Theresa on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Ellen Grace on 29 December 2010.

Debbie (Editor)

Open Weekend 2011

12/13 February

The OTMC is holding an open weekend on 12/13 February as a way to introduce and promote itself.

It is the current members of the OTMC that can be the best publicity for the club. Please talk to your friends and workmates about what you do with the club and encourage them to come along sometime during the weekend. We'd love to meet them!

You will find a poster included with this bulletin, please put it up in your staffroom, local dairy, fish and chip shop, etc. Feel free to photocopy it and pass onto others who maybe interested in getting out into the hills.

The clubrooms will be open from 10am—4pm on Saturday, 12 February. Join the guided walk on Sunday, 13 February to Swampy Summit via the Leith Saddle Track on the hour from 10am—2pm.

Look out for an article in the D-Scene and our display in Bivouac, George Street.



Tramping Skills Course 2011

We are very lucky in New Zealand to have many wonderful hills and mountains to explore and enjoy.

The OTMC is holding a tramping skills course aimed at encouraging people safely out into the mountains. The course is held over three evenings and three days. The aim of this course is to cover a number of topics (including clothing, footwear, maps, river crossing, etc) that will help people enjoy the outdoors safely. There is no charge for this course. Club members are most welcome to come along to some/all of the meetings/trips to brush up on their own skills.

Again it is the members of the club who are the best people to promote the club and our Bushcraft/Tramping Skills Course. This is your chance to help the club by talking with your friends and workmates about getting into the mountains of New Zealand safely. Please make use of the enclosed poster to put on your staffroom noticeboard, local dairy, etc.

The first evening starts 1 March and ends on 3 April with a river crossing day trip at Outram Glen.



OTMC Fundraising

If you've been to the OTMC clubrooms since mid-December you may well have noticed we've acquired an original piece of artwork, courtesy of Becky Cameron. She very kindly painted a picture of Mt Cook, which also acts as a progress chart for the OTMC's fundraising effort.

Last year we began an initiative to modernise the club's equipment for use and hire, and at the end of the year, thanks to the generosity of several charitable organisations, we managed to secure new, exciting equipment valued at around \$9,000 excluding GST – of this the OTMC contributed just over \$2,000 from its reserves. The new equipment will be displayed at the club's meeting on Thursday 27th January. Everyone is welcome to come and have a good look.

This year, the Club is actively looking to raise funds itself – basically, the donors have gifted us money and in return they expect us to make an effort to do our own bit! At the moment we have four confirmed activities across the year:

- a quiz night, being organised for about 3 months' time;
- a charity auction, which will be held around midwinter;
- a non-stop climb of the height of Mt. Everest on a treadmill, set for early Spring;
- a gold coin donation box in the clubrooms so members can make regular – very small – contributions to help.

If we can make this year's fundraising a success, not only will it be great fun, it will also mean we have the credibility to apply again to the same funders in a year or two, to secure more top quality gear for members to use, so it becomes a 'virtuous circle'. Already we've had a number of members keen to get involved (including Richard's daughter!), though a few more would be really welcome; we're also considering suggestions for more fundraising activities.

If you want to help, please get in touch: andy.cunningham@xtra.co.nz; or phone 027 476 0404.

Testimonial For Our New Gear

Eeyore will probably fill you in on the details of our altered trip up the Tasman, but this is just to let you know the new OTMC gear is AWE-SOME. I had a play with the crampons and ice axe and put them to use up on the Ball Glacier.

The crampons with the anti-balling plates and easy-to-do-up straps are like hopping into a Mercedes after driving a beat-up Trabi. So so so so easy to adjust to boot size as well - brilliant for lifeless numb fingers like ours!

I like the cuff strap on the ice axe too.....oh, and they have such pretty OTMC engraving on them too- must have been done by such a delicate wee flower.

Sarah Chisnal

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, or email Antony at: otmc@ihug.co.nz

Jeremy Frimer:

The last meeting of 2010 was undoubtedly one of the best – we were lucky to have Jeremy Frimer give a talk to a combined meeting of the OTMC and OSNZAC covering climbs in Canada and Peru amongst others, as well as telling us of the work he has done in developing rock-climbing routes in Squamish. The completely off-the-cuff talk was backed up by a series of impressive photos, some of which can be seen on Jeremy's website < jeremyfrimer.com >. Thanks to Jay Piggott for arranging the evening.

Trip Reports

Sunday 12 December

Otago Peninsula Wanderings

A warm, windy overcast sort of day saw 8 of us head to the Sandymount car park for a walk to the trig on top of Sandymount, Great views were had up and down the coast with Gavin pointing out various landmarks. We descended about 50 metres and joined the track that takes you over farmland to the very impressive Lovers Leap and further along The Chasm. It takes about an hour to do this walk.

We then drove down to Otakou and up Pipikaretu Road as far as we could before walking over farmland to Quoin Cliff at 121 metres high. Excellent views looking towards the Penguin Place, the Yellow Eyed Penguin tourist attraction at Pipikaretu Beach and some sea lions lazing in the sand. From the trig on top of Quoin Cliff there are views below to Ryans Beach and the wreck of the Hana-nui just visible in the sand. The Hana-nui ran ashore here in December 1943. Beyond Ryans Beach there is Victory Beach and Papanui Inlet with Mount Charles rising in the distance.

Back to the cars and down to Te Rauone Beach for lunch along with hundreds of seagulls that were feasting on the Juvenile Munida that had been washed up on the south end of the beach. This time of the year great shoals of Mujnida can be washed ashore and these are an important food web for birds, fish and whales. We checked out the Gun Emplacements and Tunnels just past Harington Point then onto Taiaroa Head and the Albatross Colony. We also visited the Otakou Marae and Urupa before heading back to Dunedin.



Many thanks to Gavin, our Leader for the day. Lucy, Peter and his wife, Ian, Laurel, Chris and Greg.

Freehold Creek Area

22nd – 25th October 2010 (Labour Weekend)

I have been to the Ohau area quite a bit but I usually head up to the Hopkins River. So this trip was a bit of a change for me to an area I have always noticed but never visited. There was quite a bit of traffic towing caravans and boats on the road on Friday night and also a massive police presence, and the fish and chip shop in Hampden was very popular (and rightly so as the blue cod was superb). The 11 of us on the trip camped that night at the Lake Middleton Camping Ground on the outskirts of Lake Ohau Village. The camping ground was well sheltered as the wind could be heard brushing through the tops of the pine trees but the tents were not moving.

Saturday dawned sunny and clear, with a bit of a breeze. We headed to the Parsons Creek track near the Ohau Ski Field road. The track headed up through black beech forest covered with native red mistletoe that only occurs in a few areas of New Zealand, and is in decline due to possum browsing and declining bird numbers. The mistletoe relies totally on native birds for flower pollination and seed dispersal. We then poked out into farmland and then headed to Sawyers Creek and then eventually onto Freehold Creek an hour after starting. The track through the forest to the bush-line was very well marked and well formed with a new bridge across the creek and evidence of loads of rock removal to make the track quite wide. After another hour, the bush-line was reached. The temperature out of the shade was quite warm and we were all sweating and drinking frequently. A poled route was followed beside the creek and then headed to the right on a terrace until a large tarn was reached. It was decided to camp here for the two nights. The ground was reasonably flat but covered in tussocks so not so smooth. There were pieces of snow here and there and a little ice on the tarn. After lunch we decided to

head up the snow-free ridge to point 1834 . The ridge was quite straight-forward on tussocks and then it was a rock scramble to the top. A few of us were suffering from cramp but we all managed to make the top. Some of us headed south towards point 1966 and the more adventurous ones north to point 1922. The balance of us chose to head back down to the campsite. The view from the top was great with Lake Ohau below us and views towards Aoraki Mount Cook



and the mountains of the Maitland, Hopkins and Dobson catchments. Sunday dawned fine but unsettled weather was predicted later on. So the more adventurous people led by Andy and Ralph headed south to some peaks while the rest of us went back up to point 1834 and then traversed the range as far as we could go. On the way we saw Lake Dumb-bell and many criss-crossing snowmobile tracks which even went over frozen tarns and Lake Dumb-bell! Those guys must have known what they were doing. We crossed many snowfields which most of the time were easy travelling. But occasionally we encountered deep snowdrifts with our legs disappearing under the snow. We got almost as far as the Ohau Ski Fields (Mt Sutton 2007m) and spotted a couple of the hairpins of the access road. We had lunch



here as the wind was hardly noticeable. Great 360 degree views here. We then re-traced our steps and the wind got very strong. Hard to stand at times and sore on the ears. Back at camp as evening fell, a light drizzle set in which sounded worse when we were in our tents. That night from midnight through to 3am it blew really hard with gusts giving our tents a good flex.

On Monday it was quickly back down to Lake Ohau and our cars and then through to Dunedin. Temperatures quite warm.

Many thanks to the drivers for the use of their cars, and to Debbie for organizing, and to everyone for the great company and conversation.

Richard Forbes for Debbie, Antony, Peter, Michael, Brent,
Will, Alan, Andy, Ralph and Becky.

Freehold Creek/Dumb-Bell Lake, 23-25th October 2010

Apart from a quick look at the map, I knew nothing about this area before we left Dunedin. Eleven people in four cars converged on Lake Middleton, next to Lake Ohau, for the Friday night; very pretty place, lots of sand-flies.....

At 8am on the Saturday we parked at the start of the track to Freehold Creek. After crossing a few paddocks, a well-defined track entered beech forest and climbed easily alongside the Creek to around 1100m, where open tussock, Hebe and Spaniard announced our emergence onto the hill slopes. It was a great spot, the peaks above were a mix of rock and snow, and we were warm in the sun.

Antony suggested we follow the poled route to Dumb-Bell Lake up to the lower of two small tarns, at around 1480m. With the heat and the weight of our packs, we ground slowly up the hill till camp was made. The tarn was a lovely place, snow was still around in places, and the water was sweet and ice-cold. When we had set up the tents and had a bit of lunch, the whole group set off to climb the obvious peak (1834m) above the tarns, at first following the poled route. Then a rocky, loose ridge reared above us to the left, offering an interesting alternative, and we climbed up this way, emerging on the ridge to be bowled over by the views to the North – snow-capped peaks all proudly strutting their stuff.

Here the party split into three: four headed south to wander along the ridge to two more tops (1915m and 1966m respectively), exploring the area before coming down via the poled route, two headed down, the other five headed north over another top (1922m) and then followed the ridge round before descending snow slopes and crossing back to the tents. All in all a great day.

On the Sunday the weather was still holding so six of the group headed back up the poled route to the ridgeline again, where they encountered a chilly, strong wind. They kept heading northwards across point 1922m and another top further north at 1817m, following the ridge to the east of Dumb-Bell Lake, until the Ohau Skifield road was seen down to the right. They then headed back to the camp with the wind now behind and urging them along.

The other five headed south from the camp and traversed around till an obvious snow line appeared to lead up towards the top at point 1915m. At this stage five be-

came four as Becky had knee trouble, and decided discretion was the best course of action. The going was mixed snow and rock, with the hardest bits right at the top of the ridge, but after a couple of hours the remaining four emerged on the ridge, and feeling the force of the wind decided to curtail extending their plans, so traversed back down to the campsite.

That night the wind became a gale and clawed at the tents for several hours, but by dawn it had vanished, and the straightforward but enjoy-

able walk down to the car park was once more blessed with sunshine.

Oh, and yes, I'd definitely go there again. It's a great place.

Andy Cunningham



An account of an attempt at the world record for the shortest overnight tramp.

Flagstaff's a special place. The first hill that I climbed, it's been a venue for bushcraft training and birthday celebrations, gorse clearance and guided walks. I've been there in mist, thick snow and blazing heat, at dawn and by moonlight. I've lugged toddlers up it and a stretcher down it. Reflecting on all this, I realised one thing I'd never done was spend a night on top. A plan was hatched. Surprisingly, I found someone else who didn't think it was a silly idea – Antony Hamel.

Setting off from the Bullring, we were on top in time to see the lightshow of sunset over the Silver Peaks. After a couple of warming whiskeys and much faffing about with cameras trying to get arty shots of the city lights, we retired to the bivvy bags just metres from the OTMC anniversary plane table. The full moon made a valiant attempt to break through the cloud cover but was unsuccessful till about 3am. At that point, I decided a dry night was assured, but twenty minutes later the drizzle descended and I was rapidly trying to understand the myriad zips in my borrowed bivvy bag. The drizzle didn't amount to much, but by daybreak it had morphed into a fog which scotched our plans for sunrise photography. So we scuttled back to the car and returned to our sleeping households.

David Barnes

Ball Glacier 7-9 January 2011

On Friday 7th, James, Sarah and Andy drove to Mt Cook area; they headed up to Ball Shelter and bivvi'd the night there, then on 8th headed down onto the Tasman Glacier and round to the Ball Glacier. After some grinding up the rubble-covered glacier they reached white ice and set out towards Cinerama Col on the east side of Mt Cook, below the Caroline Face, James getting furthest before time made them turn back. On the return, an alternative line was followed which cut across the glacier to meet the Ball Pass route about 20 minutes above Ball Shelter. On 9th they headed out and back home. A pleasant trip with wonderful weather and superb views.



Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

19/20 February

Fox Peak/Sherwood Range [All]

Ralph Harvey ph. 453 4330

In the first of three consecutive weekend trips we are heading to an area rarely visited by the club (the last club trip here was a snowcraft in the mid 1990's). The Sherwood Range is located approx.. 20km north of Fairlie, to the east of the Two Thumb Range. Fox Peak, the high point, rises in excess of 2300m so it is a formidable height. Access is via the Fox Peak Ski Field (at 1300m). The range is similar to other Canterbury ranges – no shade, little water and great views. There is a tarn shown on the map (and visible on Google Earth) which may provide a good overnight spot (but is at 2000m!) Given the height there may still be lingering snow on Fox Peak, but this shouldn't create any problems.

Trip list closes 10 February—Topo50: BY17 (Lake Tekapo) & BY18 (Ashwick Flat – most of trip)

26/27 February

Earnslaw Burn [All]

Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327

This trip was postponed following the huge snow-dump last October. Hopefully the normally settled weather in February will allow this trip to be run. The Earnslaw Burn is a dramatic valley sitting between the Dart and the Rees, at the head of Lake Wakatipu. 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 17 February—Topo50 Map: CB10 (Glenorchy - most of trip), CA10 (Lake Williamson - head of valley)

5/6 March

Ohau Valleys (Freehold to Elcho Options) [All]

Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327

There is a lot to choose from in this area, with great weekend trips in the Freehold, Maitland, Temple, Huxley or Hopkins Valleys.

The club had a great weekend in Freehold Creek at Labour Weekend (see the trip reports in this bulletin) – in summer it is possible to link this valley with the Maitland to make a worthwhile through trip. The Temple offers a classic round trip of the North and South branch's, via Gunsight Pass – a steep crossing between the two valleys.

The Huxley has long been a destination on club trips, although the shortening of the public road has reduced this in recent years. Still, it is possible for a keen party to get to either Broderick Hut in the North Huxley or visit the dramatic South Huxley over the course of a weekend.

Of course there are other options, including the Dasler Pinnacles and Elcho Stream – talk to Richard at club about these – or check out the display in the clubrooms.

Trip list closes Feb 24. Topo50: BZ14 (Mount Barth – Freehold to Temple), BY14 (Mount Ward – Huxley to Elcho)

DAYTRIPS

6 February

Sutton Hills to Salt Lake [M]

Lucy Jones ph. 471 9228

This walk takes you from the top of the Sutton hills, through the rocky tors, along the deep gullies, across State Highway 87 and across country to the Salt Lake. This is the only inland salt lake in New Zealand. With good weather this is a trip with panoramic views of the Strath Taieri valley and the surrounding hills and mountains. Walking time approx 3.5 hrs. Meet at the club rooms at 9.00am and take SH87 to Young Rd.(13 km past Clarks Junction Hotel) Take driveway on the R opposite Young Rd.

Trip cost \$15

(Continued on page 15)

12 February

OTMC Guided Walk to Swampy Summit

Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

The OTMC's open weekend will see OTMC members guiding parties on the Leith Saddle track. Members are asked to give a little of their time to share their knowledge and enjoyment of tramping with others who are interested in finding out more about the OTMC. Please talk to Wayne if you are able to give some of your time, Wayne will be contacting members asking for their help.

20 February

Silverpeaks Classic [F/FE]

David Barnes ph. 454 4492

The Classic encompasses the best bits of the Silver Peaks in a day - but it's a big day. We're looking at 9+ hours on the move, and yes it is a 9am start from the clubrooms, so don't invite guests for dinner. The plan is to start at Hightop, head for Pulpit Rock (mandatory summit detour for all who haven't been before) then go along Rocky Ridge, the central spine of the Peaks (great views). From the saddle near the Gap, we'll follow the new DoC markers over the ridge and on to ABC Cave. Then it's a plummet to Cave Creek and a detour to Jubilee Hut before ascending the Devil's Staircase to the summit of Silver Peak. From there, we retrace our steps to the cars. Or we might do it the other way round. As always, remember that Four Seasons in One Day was written on one of Neil Finn's forays into the Silver Peaks (so come prepared for all sorts) and bring lots of water.

Trip cost \$6

27 February

Woodside Glen Circuit

Bill Wilson ph. 477 2282

This is a second attempt as the first was foiled by lambing. Meet 9.00am at the clubrooms. Drive to Woodside Glen. Go straight up the ridge above the car park and through fine beech forest to a fence line. Follow this southwards across two branches of the Lee creek. Skirt below a large crag and join the Maungatua Ridge track , then back down to Woodside Glen again.

Trip cost \$4.00

Thursday Night Programme

3 February

BYO show us your photos of what you have been up to in the hills over the holiday period, and the end of the year social trip to Pigeon Island. Its only two weeks since the last BYO, but hopefully there will be too much to show on the 20th Jan.

10 February

No club night, we will be preparing the club room for the open day on Saturday.

17 February

Phil Somerville was tramping in the top forks area of the Wilkin, also at Rabbit Pass, he also climbed several easy peaks in this area. Phil tells us about this trip he did in November.

24 February

To be advised

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