

**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

A huge thank you to those who helped with our open weekend in February. It is great to feel the enthusiasm created by introducing new people to the club and outdoors. I found it very interesting when talking to our visitors that most had heard about the OTMC before but not been along. Quite often walking in the club rooms door for the first time can be the scariest part and it is up to all of us to take time out to talk to new people. We want to encourage them to come back a second time and hopefully along on a day or weekend trip as well. These people could be our future tramping mates, so please take the time to stop and talk to any new people at club nights.

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
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Daytrip Convenor	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Social Convener	Tony Timperley	473 7257
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SAR Committee Liaison	Ross Hunt	477 3309
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Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the April Bulletin, deadline is 18/03/11, publication 28/03/11. You can submit material by email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

The weather has been an active topic of discussion within the club recently, as it has thwarted both our tramping and climbing trips somewhat. We were lucky with the January trip to the Remarkables, but the planned three pass trip over the North Routeburn / Rockburn at Waitangi Weekend didn't happen – the weather forecast on the crucial middle day led to a wise decision to shift the trip (to Ohau). Despite the weather, I was heartened to hear of the care taken by the leaders on this trip in regard to crossing the various side-creeks on their way out. As we head into March and onwards to the Easter trips things can only get better, can't they?

The OTMC open weekend has now been and gone – and the feeling of those involved was that it was certainly a worthwhile exercise. We had a steady stream of visitors on the Saturday in the clubrooms, with most people staying for over half an hour. Our clubrooms are certainly a great asset for the club – the maps and photos on the walls give a great atmosphere for a tramping club. By adding a couple of tents, tramping gear and some additional displays we created a neat place for people interested in tramping and the club.

Again, the weather wasn't the best for the Sunday trip to Swampy Summit (via the Leith Saddle Track), but again we were surprised and pleased with the response. The Leith Saddle Track seems to be the ideal location for this trip – many people hadn't been there, it has good parking and access from the highway, and has great views (when not surrounded in mist).

The whole exercise has been new to us, and even during the weekend we could see what we could do better next time. This year's weekend could be seen as a test, and I'm sure it will return even better next time. The club does need to promote itself to retain membership - the weekend generated over a years' worth of visitors in one weekend.

A big thank you to everyone involved – it was great to see members outside of the committee helping out.

The club remains busy as we head into Autumn – we have the return of the Bushcraft course starting on March 1, a three day trip over Anniversary weekend and two trips programmed for Easter, as well as our regular weekend and day trips.

Finally, please think about the upcoming winter trip programme. Wayne and I would welcome any ideas for trips (and offers to lead them) – talk to us at a club meeting, or contact us (see committee list for contact details).

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

The membership for OTMC now stands at 186.

Members joined during the last month

Krzysztof (Chris) Dzikiewicz, Tina Anderson and Polly Camber
Welcome to the club and happy tramping.

Please remember to bring along a gold coin for the decorated box by the front door, which is helping to raise funds for updating our gear. This is on top of the \$1 for the club rooms. From the first three meetings this year we have collected \$85. This is a fantastic effort so please keep it up.

I talked to most of the 54 new faces who went to the OTMC open day on Saturday the 12th of February, and many of these have signed up for the bushcraft course. Hope to see you all in the near future.

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary

2012 Craig Potton NZ Tramping Calendar

FMC are offering clubs the opportunity to purchase the 2012 NZ Tramping Calendar by Craig Potton at a reduced cost. This means our club members can purchase the 2012 NZ Tramping calendar for between \$12-\$15 (normal retail \$20).

These calendars contain beautiful photographs of many of our tramping places.

Payment for calendars is not needed until July but an indication of numbers is required by 15 March. Please email/phone Debbie if you are interested in purchasing one or more calendars on debsnz@ihug.co.nz or 4737 924. (please note postage will be extra if unable to collect from clubrooms)

2011 FMC Youtube Video Competition

FMC (Federated Mountain Clubs) is pleased to announce the 2011 Youtube video competition. The purpose of the competition is to showcase on video the recreation of tramping and mountaineering in New Zealand. There are four categories—The natural world, Outdoor history and heritage, People and outdoor culture and Adventure.

Competition closes on 31 September 2011 with winners and prizes announced after this date.

Further information including rules can be obtained from the FMC website www.fmc.org.nz/videocomp



Photo Competition

It's that time of the year again when you should be thinking of taking the winning shot for the clubs photo competition (or maybe you already have). But don't worry you still have plenty of tramping time as the closing date isn't until 2nd June 2011.

This year will see the introduction of categories, they are as follows:

Above Bushline

Below Bushline

Native Flora or Fauna

Historic Hut or Camp Life

Outdoor Landscapes**

** = no people in these photos!

Please note no more than 10 entries per person for any one category please!

Craig McKenzie has once again kindly offered his services to judge our magnificent photos. Craig has also agreed to share his knowledge with us on 24th March 2011, where he will be giving out tips on how to capture that once in a lifetime photo.

Entries can be submitted by either: Hard Copy, CD, DVD, or Pen Drive, All electronic files must be named according to the above categories. They can be dropped off on any Thursday night or to Ann Burton, 139 Helensburgh Road.

Your social conveners need your help, we are finding it increasingly difficult to get enough speakers for Thursday evenings. So if you know anybody who can give us a talk, please ask them if they mind doing a talk for us, 45 minutes to an hour max. If they can, please pass their phone number on to us, and we will contact them to arrange a date. Also if you think you can give a talk please ring us, otherwise we will be having some Thursday evenings without speakers. Thanks to all those who have given us ideas, especially to David Barnes and Stefan Fairweather for agreeing to do two or more talks recently.

Your faithfully and desperate social conveners.
Tony and Ralph

Trip Reports

Was Routeburn, now Caples in a day 20/21 November 2010

The original plan had been to complete the Routeburn track in a day with a small trip on the Sunday. However avalanche conditions on the Routeburn were bad enough for DoC to close the track.

Ann canvassed those on the trip list for an alternative and it was agreed to attempt the Caples track in a day.

The party set off in two groups at 6pm, 10 in a van driven by Ray and 4 others in Ann's car. The trip in the van was enlivened by Ray's great choice of music and the journey to Gore flew by. After a stop for tea, it was all aboard again to Cascade Creek where we prepared camp in a light drizzle. All of us had our heads down by midnight with instructions to be up and about at 5am.

Camp was duly broken, the trailer loaded and off we sped, for a few metres! All out to push the van off some greasy grass, obviously a few in the party needed some exercise to lighten the load, no names but that Pom in the back's a bit lardy!

Onwards to the Divide, day packs were sorted out, laces tightened and loins girded for the off by 6.20am. The weather at this stage was about right, low cloud and warm enough so that top layers were soon being shed as people warmed up on the ascent to Howden Hut.

At the hut a light rain began that accompanied us down to the flats by Lake McKellar where the Greenstone and Caples tracks separate and the slog begins. We made our way past the snazzy camp, with satellite dish and no doubt full wet bar, of the contractors who're developing a new higher track route and into some very water logged beech forest.

How water logged? Well if you need to know what it's like to tramp in wet underwear after depth testing some waist deep pools several members of the group could supply the details.

The hard work now began as we slipped and slid our way up-



hill to the highest point, the McKellar Saddle. Unfortunately the visibility was limited to about 500m at best, so the views were missing and then it really started to rain.

After the boardwalk we dropped down into a dry stream bed and then back into the bush, avoiding tripping over rocks and roots became the priority as we slogged towards Upper Caples hut.

As the hut and thoughts of a lunch break hove into view, we breathed a sigh of relief, it was a short lived respite as sandflies soon made their presence felt. So after 20 minutes it was packs on and off again.

The going was getting better, as was the weather. The rain had stopped and the sun was trying to burn off the cloud as we passed through woodland to the valley floor. We now began to meet parties from the Glenorchy end, which made us swap our stoic grimaces for cheery grins.

As Mid Caples hut was reached the day had completely changed and the temperature was into the 20s, it was great to lie back and bask for a bit. Once we'd all had a breather we were off again on the final leg.

Our path now alternated between sunbaked grassy flatlands and bush, the track was well defined and stumbles were due to fatigue more than roots or rock.

Just to ensure that we knew we'd done a good day's tramping the track started to climb again and the last couple of Ks seemed to last forever.

It was here that a member of the party felt that a trot to the end would be a good plan, his 20 seconds of jogging reduced his trip time by at least a minute so the effort wasn't entirely wasted.

The Glenorchy Road end car park and the van finally came into view and it was a relief to shed packs and unlace boots. The party finished in good spirits and all within the guesstimated time of 10 hours tramping.

It was then into the van for the trip to Glenorchy Camp Grounds where most of us would be sleeping in bunkrooms.

On arrival a shower was the first order of business followed by a few drinks and nibbles, before heading to the Glenorchy Hotel for a meal and more drinks. Despite our long day we managed to cope with in taking beer until 11pm!

The morning was greeted with groans and cautious movement as muscles, joints and other bits protested at the thought of getting out of bed, but once up and fed and watered the idea of a walk up a section of the Mount Crichton circuit to Sam Summers hut didn't seem too bizarre.

The walk was a steady climb on a good track so most went for shoes or trainers rather than boots.

The climb was worth it as the old hermits hut, a habitable dry stone 2 bunker,

was out of the ordinary. As were the water nymphs frolicking above the nearby waterfall.

Broad hints that it was time to head back down were heeded and the new Frankton shopping precinct was raided for coffees and food, Lake Hayes Domain was our picnic spot. Then it was the long haul home.

I think we all felt a measure of satisfaction in having accomplished the trip and I'd certainly sign up for more '....In a day' tramps.

Finally all on the trip would like to give a vote of thanks to Ray McAliece and Chris Burton for their sterling efforts at the wheel. Without them ferrying us all from pillar to post and meeting us at the track end the trip wouldn't have been possible.

Ian Woodford for Ann, Antony, Debbie, Diane, Jill, Lucy, Peter, Sara, Tomas, Wayne, Alan and Wolfgang.

Mt Heim, 2208m

Ahuriri Base Hut. The alarm clock trills loud at 5.45am. No matter, we're already up and moving. An hour later and we start our walk in to Canyon Creek, the air warm and still.

The Creek's a great place, a bit of a sharp rise to get into the valley, but once there it is open bush and fast walking. Then, the steep climb out of the lower valley into the upper, the heat becoming oppressive. Thanks goodness for all the melt water-filled streams.

Near the edge of the drop down to the lower valley, we leave the camping gear under Kea-proof rocks and climb onto the flanks of Mt Heim; it's intricate route finding, steep and unrelenting. Not for the fainthearted, or amnesiacs. Then suddenly the gradient eases and we are confronted by a spectacular corrie. A

frozen lake, cliffs and snow in a magical ring, the outlet river bubbling and gushing, moraine debris all around. Awesome place.

After a short rocky section we don harnesses and helmets, extract ice axes and set off up the snow slopes. No sign of avalanche activity – good – though the snow's a bit slushy in places. The trail we make sidles round a series of large rocky bluffs, and up steepening snow. The task of step kicking changes from one to another, till we stand together on a small col just below the summit dome. Dumping our packs with a grin, we set off up to the top, light as air. Great view – Brewster, Aspiring, Castor and Pollux, a big bergschrund on the 'normal'



route up Barth (note to self: try a different route on the Club Trip in February 2011). We're happy but tired and hot. Down we go, the snow soft, occasional slushy snowballs rolling down the slope. It's changed a lot, even in a couple of hours. Then gently, slowly, down the steep tricky approach section to our camp site, and a warm sandfly welcome; they've all come out to cheer us back.

Tomorrow we go down to the car and back to Dunedin. But that's tomorrow; today is something to savour.

Al Williamson, Ralph Harvey, Andy Cunningham

Lee Street– Mt Hyde

16 January 2011

On a cool grey day the troops gathered at the clubrooms. Amongst the six there assembled was a visitor from California. Julia was here for summer school at the University, studying astronomy and botany (plants and planets !) and her presence ensured we were all on our best behaviour. After the 40 minute drive we parked up beside the Lee stream bridge deep in a gorge below Mt. Hyde. A quick “which way is north ?” quiz proved that quite a few had no idea but it seemed we all knew which way was up. Although the climb was only a few hundred metres it was mostly bush bashing, but a moderate rate of ascent made sure no-one was over taxed. Throughout the walk the discussion was dominated by the kiwis passing on their extensive local botanical knowledge to our overseas guest. Once clear of the bush a leisurely amble along the hill, with the odd electric fence just to make things interesting, brought us to the peak of Mt. Hyde. Lunch was taken quickly with an eye on the approaching rain front. Although the clouds were low, obscuring the major hills and ranges around the district, good views were had of the closer and lower points of interest. On the way back we decided to take a different route but after a bit more bush bashing, (bashing? Gordon had secateurs !) it was time to make a dignified run for it. Well actually we decided to use the highway for the last kilometre to avoid getting drenched (and avoid the bush lawyer.) The drive home was uneventful being punctuated by a stop at the berry farm for real fruit ice cream. Yum ! Our timing was impeccable because while finishing our cones the rain started to fall.

All in all an interesting day , not too difficult but not too easy. Good company and weather that held off just long enough ensured that everyone had great time. Thanks Gordon .

Sam Patrick for Gordon Tocher, Alan Thomson, Lucy Jones, Gavin McArthur and Julia Schneider

TriplisT

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

The trip programme for the winter months (May to the end of October) is The trip programme for the winter months (May to the end of October) is now in production. The weekend trips in this period normally have a hut option, but any ideas are welcome. We have some ideas, such as a return to the Otago Central Rail Train at Labour Weekend, and a 'day trips from Central Otago' trip after winter.

The proposed list is on the club website. Wayne (day trips) and I (weekend trips) are always looking for new leaders – this is not overly difficult as the club can offer plenty of advice and information to help those interested in leading.

If you have any thoughts on the trip programme please contact Wayne (473-0950) or Antony (473-7924). We hope to publish the trip card in April.

19-21 March (Anniversary 3-day)

Mt. Titiroa (from Borland) [M/C]

Peter Stevenson ph. 454 4148

This is another trip upset by the weather in 2010. Mt Titiroa (1715m) sits north of the Borland Burn which is the direction we are tackling this moderate peak from. With school groups using the area the tracks should be in good shape. Access to Titiroa is via the North Borland which opens to open country just below the small North Borland Hut. The best route appears to be via the broad ridge near the end of the track itself. We will be camping as high as practical on the Saturday night, probably near the tarns at around 1100m. Sunday will be spent exploring the summit ridge of Titiroa, which has many impressive rock formations. The Mt. Titiroa option is a fit trip, with upwards of 7 hours tramping per day. Moderate grades have the option of heading for the upper reaches of the North Borland. There is a lakelet at the head but access looks steep on the topo map. Another option for the moderate grades is to visit the adjacent Green Lake, perhaps via the track from the Borland Road.

Study those maps now or come to a club meeting for more information.

Remember to list your preferred choice in the right hand column on the trip list.

The trip list will close on March 10. Topo50 Map: CE07 (Lake Monowai).

2/3 April

Pisa Range Crossover [M]

Limited numbers—Saturday departure

David Barnes ph. 454 4492

I don't recall another club trip on this route. The plan is to have two parties and swap cars. We'll leave Dunedin at 6.30am on the Saturday. One group will start at Lowburn and climb the old miners' pack track to the crest of the range - a 1000m climb. From there, it's a meander along the tops before a final descent to Meg Hut. The other party will have shorter first day, but will still have a 700m climb up Tuohy Gully before they too drop into the Roaring Meg headwaters. On Sunday, each group retraces the other's footsteps. This is open, exposed, treeless country, so could potentially be very hot or very cold.

DAYTRIPS

6 March

Mt. Charles [M]

Tracy Pettinger ph. 4879488 or 027 348 7585

Mt Charles is the highest point on the Otago Peninsula. My walk will be a nice easy one for those new to the Club and on Bushcraft and thinking about finding out about the OTMC. It's suitable for youngsters, too.

It might be windy on top, as it seems to catch the wind and has done that on all my trips over the years to Mt Charles. Please join me for a nice day. Usual time of 9 am at the Clubrooms

13 March

Map/Compass Instruction (Practical)

Antony Pettinger ph. 4737924

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

This is the practical part of the navigation (map/compass) segment of Bushcraft 11 and club members are also welcome. This session follows the theory session presented at the club meeting on March 10 and will involve a series of markers on Flagstaff—you just need to find them by use grid references, map and compass. Bring your normal day trip gear, as well as a compass and map (Dunedin Topo50) if you have them. Meet at the clubrooms at 9am, or at the Bullring at the start of the Pineapple Track at 9.30am

20 March

Akatore to Taieri Mouth [E]

Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328

Leave the clubrooms at 9am sharp. Car pool to the Livingstone park in Taieri Mouth (about 40km). Then walk south along the road to the Akatore estuary: No slacking 'cause we need to be at the beach by 1030am approx. to be able to get around the point. Then a leisurely walk back along the coast - mostly on the beach but a bit of scrambling may be needed to get onto the cliff-tops in places. Back to the cars by about 3.30pm. Should be a good whatever the weather - even if a southerly is blowing it will be mostly at your back and pushing you along!

27 March

Various Tracks in Nichol's Creek [E/M]

Bronwen Strang ph. 473 1610 or 021 055 0809

Come and enjoy the lush valley environment of Nichol's Creek and the tracks that link with the Pineapple track and the Flagstaff-Swampy 'road'. Nichol's Creek is a great area in any weather. It's a valley that never fails to make me feel miles away from the city—and yet not so!

After meeting at 9am at 3 Young Street, we will park at the bottom of Booth Road on the Pineapple track and head across to Nichol's Creek, where we will 'to and fro' involving the Moon track, a ridge track from the 'big trees', Pepper Tree Track (sometimes called Bandid Track), etc, to make the most of the day and may visit the top of Flagstaff depending on time and weather. Come and learn of some new tracks, or for those of you who have been here before, these tracks have been worked on by some hardy souls, so come and see the improvement.

Thursday Night Programme

3 March

Stefan Fairweather tramped from Nelson Lakes to Arthurs Pass over Christmas 2009, he tells us about this trip.

10 March

This is a training night on map and compass use and is a hands on practical talk. Antony is going to give a talk on map reading and compass work, come and refresh your skills. Following on from this talk is Sunday's daytrip where you can test your skills.

17 March

Bring your own photos of trips you have been doing

24 March

Craig McKenzie will be giving us some pointers and tips on taking those prize winning photos. This will be in preparation for our up coming photo competition.

31 March

David Barnes tells us of tramps he has done in three National Parks and four Forest Parks, the area covered is the top of the South Island, and the bottom of the North Island.

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