

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



The OTMCM meets socially at 3 Young Street  
every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm,  
programme begins at 8.00pm.

### **The Editor Speaks**

April is upon us with the days are cooler and the nights growing longer. For some the approach of winter is welcomed as a chance to get into the snow and learn new skills, while for others it means a change in trip destination to areas with huts, or maybe it's time to focus on shorter, closer to home day trips. Whatever you choose to do with your weekends, do take the time to write a trip report on your adventures and help inspire others.

Please email it to me at [debsnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:debsnz@ihug.co.nz) with a photo or two. Thank you.

*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 May Bulletin, deadline is 15/04/11, publication 28/0/11. You can submit material by email to [debsnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:debsnz@ihug.co.nz)

The first three months of 2011 have been busy, but very worthwhile for the OTMC. As with other clubs the OTMC's average membership age has been increasing gradually over time. Coupled with this our membership number has remained under the 200 mark following a purge of non-financial members. To counter this the club has run a very successful open day and a trip for members of the public in February. The follow-up to this initiative was the reappearance of a Bushcraft course – we are now in the midst of this, but it too has exceeded my own expectations.

In evaluating past courses it became apparent that cost and time commitment can be a barrier to people attending a Bushcraft course. We ran two simplified courses in 2009, and have done the same again this year. By using weeknights in the clubrooms to cover the main tramping skills we have eliminated the need for a weekend based camp, as well as the associated cost in money and time. The practical aspects of the course are covered by a navigation day (on Flagstaff), a weekend trip to the Silver Peaks and a day spent practising river safety skills.

We had 34 people attending the first evening session, followed by 35 on the second night. We were lucky to have one of the few fine Sundays this year for the day on Flagstaff practising map and compass skills. This day followed a night in the clubrooms for the BC people, as well as a second night for club members. Given comments in the 2009 end of year survey regarding club training it was surprising to see so few club members take up the opportunity to practise navigation, but otherwise it was a great day with many positive comments for the OTMC.

As we now await a fine weekend for the postponed Silver Peaks trip I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with Bushcraft 2011: Debbie Pettinger, Ann Burton, Peter Stevenson, Wayne Hodgkinson, Ross Hunt, Richard Forbes, Brent Dewar and Alan Thomson. Although the course is not over we are already seeing results from the effort we have put into the OTMC this year. The open day and Bushcraft 2011 have increased the club's profile in the community, which can only be good for club members.

**Antony Pettinger**  
**President**

# Membership

The membership for the OTMC now stands at 189

Members joined during last month

Margaret and Frank van Betuw

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 usual \$1 for the club rooms

**Richard Forbes**  
Membership Secretary



## Photo Competition



The club is having a photo competition again this year. Craig McKenzie has given lots of good tips on taking that 'winning' photo so there is no excuse not to get your camera out and start snapping.

Enter up to 10 photos in any one category, from **Above Bushline, Below Bushline, Native Flora or Fauna, Historic Hut or Camp Life** and **Outdoor Landscapes** (no people in Outdoor Landscapes please).

Entries by either hard copy, CD, DVD or pen drive need to be handed to Ann Burton by 2 June.

## OTMC Auction

The OTMC is holding it's annual auction in the winter months and now is the time to start looking out items to be sold. **Any/all tramping related items are needed.** Put them aside or bring them along to club and pass onto our social conveners Ralph or Tony.

All proceeds from the auction are going towards the gear recently purchased for our gear hire department.

## **2011/2012 Entertainment Book**

The Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club is pleased to be selling the brand new Dunedin, Invercargill and Queenstown 2011/2012 Entertainment Books this year as a fundraiser. Each book costs \$50, of which \$10 is contributed to the Club. The Entertainment Book is valid from now until the 1st of June 2012 and is packed with amazing offers at hundres of local restaurants in Otago and Southland. So when you order two main courses, you get one of them "on the house". You'll also find hundreds of 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from restaurants, cafes, hotel accomodation, rental cars, sports and more.

You only need to use the book 2-3 times before you make your money back, and from then on you can make significant savings doing things you would normally do or trying new places and activities. A sample book will be available during meetings at the Club Rooms, 3 Young Street, St Kilda for viewing, or alternatively view a copy of the book online at [www.entertainmentmedia.com.au/Dunedin\\_20112012](http://www.entertainmentmedia.com.au/Dunedin_20112012)

To purchase an Entertainment Book, fill out the order form enclosed with the latest Bulletin (or being posted to you) and return to the club rooms, or post to Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc), PO Box 1120, Dunedin 9054 in a named envelope with your payment. These books sold out last year and are only available through fund-raising and community groups. From personal experience, I purchased one last year and have been using it regularly for lunches, dinners and holidays with my family. For further information, please have a chat with me at the meeting, phone me on 03 453 1327 or email [forbespotter@hotmail.com](mailto:forbespotter@hotmail.com)

## **2011 FMC Youtube Video Competition**

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](http://www.fmc.org.nz/videocomp)

# Trip Reports

## Abel Tasman Coastal Track

Most people equate the Abel Tasman Coastal Track with sunny days on golden beaches. My memories were clouded by my last visit, where the tone was set as we dashed from the boat to the shelter of the beach to avoid cold, driving rain – rain which continued largely unabated for two of our three days. So my heart lifted when the forecast looked good for a return visit.

My plan was to walk the whole track, from Wainui Inlet in the north to Marahau in the south. Bus timetables and hut bookings meant the trip was planned with military precision, or so I thought until I rechecked the tide times before I left Nelson. Somehow I'd misjudged this crucial factor, so was under quite a bit of pressure as I headed for Awaroa.

The track starts with the biggest hill of the whole journey. However, as it follows what is probably an old packhorse track, the gradient isn't too bad. It's largely in the open, and on a scorching day the camelback was getting drained quickly.

The high point is the junction with the Gibbs Hill track, which is part of a seasonal trial of mountain bikes in the national park. The descent was cooler, being largely in



manuka forest, and in just over an hour I was back at sea level at Whariwarangi Hut. This has to be one of the neatest huts I've ever visited. It started life as a two storey farm homestead in 1897 and was used as such until 1926, when it became a stockman's hut until the early 1970s. DoC restored it from a derelict state and it now provides accommodation for up to twenty trampers. There are idyllic campsites surrounding it, and the lovely Whariwarangi beach is nearby. The tyranny of the tides kept

me from lingering long, and soon I was regaining lost height again. I passed the turnoff to Separation Point, a detour I'd been keen to do. Another day, perhaps.

Mutton Cove was the classic Abel Tasman beach – golden sands, backed by lush bush and bookended by granite headlands. I had lunch at the campsite, warding off a weka that coveted my lunch. Another headland to cross, then another beautiful beach – Anapai Bay. I'd been here with Anne-Marie over twenty years before, on another golden day. She'd been so disappointed with our wet trip in 2007, and I really wished she'd been able to join me on this one.

The next bush section was followed by a crossing of an estuary to bring me to the

sparsely populated Totaranui camp. In high summer, this place is a seething mass of humanity paradoxically trying to get away from it all.

Goat Bay was my last beach of the day and as I crossed it I was doing the maths on the tides for the umpteenth time. The received wisdom is that Awaroa estuary can



be crossed up to two hours after low tide. I knew the tide was a relatively low one, which gave me a bit of flexibility, but I also knew that the hour either side of mid tide is the time of the greatest flow. I'd contemplated just taking it easy all day and bivvy-ing on this side of the estuary. That was going to leave me either crossing at 2am or being stuck till lunchtime and moving my pressure cooker itinerary to the next day. So I steamed on, arriving at the crossing point some two and a half hours after low tide and

just in time to avoid wet shorts.

As I sat on the deck of Awaroa Hut watching the tide complete its journey, I thought that those trampers who only walk the track south from Totaranui or Awaroa south are really doing themselves a disservice. They miss what is undoubtedly the most scenic part of the track, without the legendary crowds or the intrusion of water taxis, and the best hut. That's not to say that the rest isn't good, and I was looking forward to revisiting it in the following days.

David Barnes

### **Brewster Hut January 2011**

Ralph, Abby and Andy went up to the Brewster Hut in late January with a view to climbing the three named peaks in the area: Topheavy, Brewster and Armstrong. After a damp climb to the hut on the Friday afternoon, on the Saturday they set out at 6am to attempt Mt Brewster. Reaching the glacier at 8am, their progress was slowed as Ralph's crampons kept coming adrift, but they eventually reached the West Ridge and scrambled up through cloud and rising gusty wind, till around 150m below the summit they were halted by the unexpected presence of a sugar-crust snow coating over boiler-plate ice, where crampons were ineffective. With no way round the obstacle, they retreated back down the



ridge, and had a close call when a fall caused Ralph to hurt ankle ligaments; fortunately he was still mobile as the team hadn't carried a spare Zimmer frame. Still with plenty of time that day the three decided to return to the hut via the summit of Topheavy, which at this time of year was a straightforward walk across the Brewster West Ridge. The return journey across the glacier consisted of hopping across multiple melt water streams and minor crevasses, then back to the hut for a well-earned cup of tea.

On the Sunday, Abby and Andy wandered up Mt Armstrong and gained a superb view all round, then headed back to the hut and down that afternoon, so Ralph's ankle could be x-rayed. Injury aside, a good trip in great weather.

Ralph Harvey, Abby Lute, Andy Cunningham

## **Herbert Forest**

### **30 January 2011**

Seven of us assembled at the clubrooms on an overcast day at the end of January. Taking 2 cars we drove the 95km to Herbert Forest with no problems – barely another car to be seen (“The good people are at church and the bad people are still in bed!). Boots on, a quick look at the information board at the bottom of the track and we were walking by 10.20am. The first 500 metres should have been easy-peasy but after clambering over 3 fallen trees I wondered just what I was leading the group in to. However after those three, the track improved and we had no more trouble with windfalls. We started to climb on a good track, but just as everyone wanted a break we came to 'the caves'. Well, more of a rock bivvy really and I guess that you could have slept in them, but if you are only half an hour from the road end ...!

Just a little more climbing and then we came to a junction of forest roads. They've done a bit of felling recently and it put me off finding landmarks. So the others had 5 minutes rest whilst I tried to find the track, and in the end we found it *very* clearly marked a few metres further on! Still on a good track, the route goes through an open area and downwards before re-joining native bush. Following the true right of the stream we climbed onwards and upwards – bellbirds singing and Gavin telling us all about the local trees. There was one bit of a scramble (I'd remembered it as much steeper and much longer than it actually is) then nearing the top the track divided. My instinct was to go left, but the track markers were absolutely clear that one should go right, so like good trampers we followed around to the right. Five minutes further on saw where the left-hand track re-joined, so we could have gone that way after all. But lunch was pulling us up to the top and we soon had an almost-sunny wee spot at the top of another forestry road. It had only taken just over 2hours (I'd allowed 3 hours). Back down we took a slightly different route – a sort

of figure-of-eight – and were treated to the sight of some MASSIVE rimu trees. The biggest I've ever seen. More birds to serenade our walking, but not as many as when I was last in the area.

Back to the cars by about 3pm, and then home, fortified by an ice-cream at Hampden, arriving at the club-rooms by about 4.30pm.

Jane Cloete thanks her tramping companions Lucy Jones, Susan Main, Derrith Bartley, Gavin MacArthur, Mary Donovan and Ian Woodford.

## **Sutton Hills to Salt Lakes**

### **6 February 2011**

It was a very hot day and a good turn out. Six of us set off from the clubrooms and drove up to my family farm, Matare, near Middlemarch.

We set off with my Mum in very, very, hot 34-degree weather down through the paddocks to the Sutton hills. Most of the tramp was amongst the rocky tors which are especially large there. Everyone was fascinated with the landscape, shapes and formation of the rocks. There was one particular big rock that we climbed, where there was a magnificent view over-looking the Strath Taieri Valley and the surrounding hills and mountains.



We kept heading round the hills to the Sutton Stream, which was the perfect spot to have lunch on such a intensely hot day. Some of us went in for a refreshing swim, clothes and all, while for others it was great to cool off their feet. We still had an hour of walking after lunch to Salt Lake.

We saw lots of hares/rabbits just sitting or running through the paddocks. We saw a mob a Merino sheep being mustered.

When we reached Salt Lake we looked for a shady rock. Salt Lake was very smelly, muddy mess. Normally it is very dry; it is the only inland salt lake in New Zealand.

It was a nice surprise to meet Richard and Tracey Pettinger from the tramping club out for a walk at Salt Lake; they helped transport some of us back to the homestead.

We were all desperate for a cold drink or a cup of tea.

It was such a lovely day with lots of gorgeous views and very good company.

Many thanks to Bronwyn Strang, Ralph Harvey, Gavin McArthur, Janet and Russell Barclay for such a wonderful day—Lucy Jones



# TripList

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**22-25 April (Easter 2011—4 Day Trip)  
Young-Wilkin (via Gillespie Pass) [M-C]  
Leader to be advised**

The circuit of the Wilkin and Young Valleys is a true tramping classic. Accessed from Makarora, this 38km trip travels through some special places, including part of the impressive Siberia Valley.

The main complication of this trip is the need to cross the Makarora River (and sometimes the Wilkin). There is an option to use the jet boat to get from Makarora to Kerin Forks, but the advertised fixed rate of \$80 per person may be prohibitive. An advantage of using the jet boat is that you gain enough time to spend a day visiting Crucible Lake, accessed from Siberia Valley. There are some good campsites available in Siberia Stream, one at the Gillespie Stream junction, the other further up Gillespie Stream, near the bush-line. With the recent demise of Siberia Hut (by fire on March 16) camping is now the only option in this area. There is a large hut in the South Young, a good days walk from the road-end.

This trip offers a wide variety through some impressive country – sign the list in the clubrooms, or contact Antony for further information (473 7924)

## Winter 2011 Trip Card

The Easter trip marks the end of the summer trip card (although summer seems to have passed us by this year), so we are now finalising the trip programme from May to the end of October 2011. We are always looking for people to lead our trips – a perusal over recent trip cards would

show that it is primarily the committee leading most of the weekend trips, as well as carrying out their appointed roles. Leading a club weekend trip is a responsibility, but one that needs to be shared wider amongst the members. There are options for people leading their first trips to team up with an experienced leader to assist, and the club has lots of good information and advice available. A good way to start could be to lead a day trip or two first, and progress from there. Please talk to Antony for weekend trips (473 7924) or Wayne for day trips (473 0950) if you are interested in helping the club.

The new trip card will be included with the next Bulletin – in the meantime check the website or come along to a club night for more information.

# DAYTRIPS

**3 April**

**Mt Cargill (from Bethunes Gully) [Family]**

**Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327**

A nice walk of 2 halves with great views. First we leave from the club rooms at 9am and make our way to Bethunes gulley North East Valley. We head up first through pine forest and then mature Rimu and Totara forest and finally to sub alpine scrub to the top of Mt Cargill on a well marked track. Plenty of places to stop to take in the views. Have an early lunch at the top and then downhill half back to the cars that the kids just loved last year. A side trip to the Organ Pipes can be made for the more energetic.

*(Continued on page 11)*

**3 April**

**Bushcraft Rivercrossing—Outram Glen**

**Antony Pettinger ph. 473 7924**

Start at the club rooms with a DVD on river safety, then head out to Outram Glen where we get wet feet and try out different techniques crossing the river. This is a training opportunity for club members to brush up on their river crossing skills.

**10 April**

**Taieri River Banks [E]**

**Alan Scurr ph. 489 5538**

From the clubrooms we drive to Taieri and meet at 59 Rivers Road, just off the Main South Road, south of the golf courses.

We will walk from here, down the Owhiro Stream to the confluence of the Taieri River. The river banks protect a large area of the Taieri from flooding. A local farmer will speak about the flood scheme and how it operates. We will look at historical homes, the old railway line that went from Mosgiel to Outram, flood pumps and the controversial flood gates that were lowered and raised again in the June 2010 floods. We may have to ford the Silverstream but apart from that the walk will be across level farmland and through many gateways. Back to the house for a hot drink.

**17 April**

**Green Hut Site (from Hightop) [Family]**

**Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327**

A great taster of the Silver Peaks which is not too hard and good views to be had. We leave the clubrooms at 9am and make our way to Waitati and turn off onto Double Hill / Semple Roads to the start of the track. A well marked track which can be a bit muddy in places is followed along Green ridge to the old Green Hut site an open grassy area. If the weather is good we can continue further on to Pulpit Rock for extensive 360 degree views. We will head back out the same way we came in.

**24 April**

**No Day Trip (Easter)**

# Thursday Night Programme

## 7 April

Ash Kelly talks about his trip of Sub-Saharan Africa, with specific references to his experiences working in a hospital in Malawi. He has worked in hospitals in Zambia and Malawi, as well as Peru, Chile and India.

## 14 April

Stefan Fairweather tells us of his travels from Berlin to Singapore, taking three months in 2004, . He visited Germany, Austria. Italy, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India and Malaysia. He has hiked on Mt Olympus in Greece, Mt Damavand in Iran and in the Indian Himalayas.

## 21 April

Easter so no meeting tonight.

## 28 March

BYO - Bring your photos of trips you have done

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)**