

**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.

## **NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

In accordance with Rule 23 of the OTMC Constitution, notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. is to be held at the clubrooms, 3 Young Street, St Kilda, on Thursday, June 2, 2011, commencing at 8pm to discuss the following motion from the OTMC Committee:

**MOTION:** That all categories of OTMC subscriptions rise by the sum of \$5 (incl. GST), commencing with the 2011-12 financial year (i.e. from July 1, 2011).

*NOTE: this will cause the non-member surcharge on weekend trips to rise from \$10 to \$11 as the surcharge is set at 20% of the current full subscription*

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the June Bulletin, deadline is 13/5/11, publication 26/5/11. You can submit material by email to [debsnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:debsnz@ihug.co.nz)

Firstly, a warm welcome to our new members from the 2011 Bushcraft course – we hope you have an enjoyable time with the OTMC. We appreciate your support and kind comments regarding the course and the tramping club.

This Bulletin sees the release of the winter trip card, with another six months of interesting tramping being planned. While winter can be colder than the summer months (not always!) it is still a great time to get out into the hills. All the winter weekend trips have a hut option, and the day trips programme continues with a wide variety of destinations. Many thanks to all who offered to lead a trip – tramping and other outdoor activities is why this club exists and our leaders are an essential part of this. Special thanks to Wayne Hodgkinson for compiling the day trip programme (and leading a significant number of these trips).

Club finances were at the fore at the recent committee meeting. While we remain in a strong financial position at the moment, rising costs are starting to encroach in to our investment savings. One major expense we are now faced with is the replacement of the roof on the clubrooms. When the club purchased the property in 1990 it was always known the roof would need replacement, particularly given the close proximity to the sea. To have 21 years of life out of the roof has exceeded our expectations, but the time has come to replace the roof. The committee have agreed to fund the roof replacement from general funds (this is within the scope of what the funds have been set aside for) and plan to have the work carried out over the next couple of months.

Another financial issue that is facing the club is the on-going rise in fuel costs. The committee have been tracking this, and to date we are just breaking even (although running costs of the club trailer haven't been taken into account). With the current situation we cannot allow vans to have empty seats – it takes just one person to withdraw to cause a loss. The new trip card has retained a trip cost of \$60, but this may change (rise) as our tramping costs must run on a user-pays basis.

Taking the above into account, the committee have resolved to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (June 2) of the club to present a motion to rise all categories of subscriptions by \$5. The committee recommend this course of action to prevent our general funds being called on to cover day to day running costs of the club.

**Antony Pettinger**  
**President**

# Membership

The membership for the OTMC now stands at 191

## Members joined during the last month

Giselle Walker & David Evers (joint membership)

Welcome to the club and happy tramping

Giselle did the bushcraft course recently and a number of other people who did the course have spoken to me about joining and have taken forms away to be filled in, which is great news for the club.

Please remember to put some money in the donation box by the door when you come to club night. We need more red stickers on our fundraising poster to pay for gear upgrades. This is on top of the usual \$1 for club nights.

**Richard Forbes**  
**Membership Secretary**

## Quiz Night, 12 May

Get a team together and join the fun on 12 May at the Kensington Hotel

Also needed are raffle prizes and volunteers to sell raffle tickets between rounds during the night. Any offers of either prizes or help is much appreciated, please talk to Ralph or Tony on club night or phone Tony 473 7257 or Ralph 453 4330



## 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.

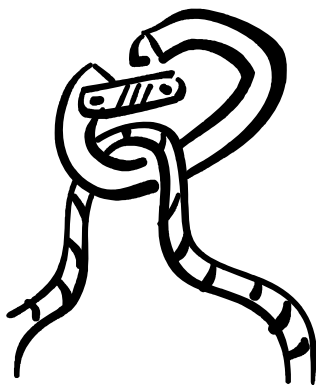
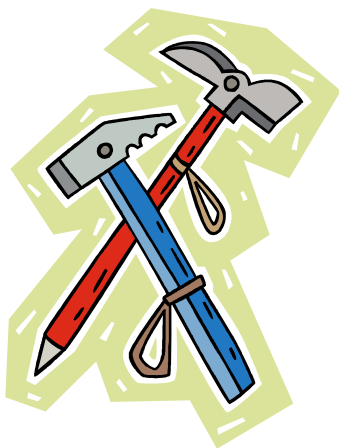
# Notice to Members:

## Mountaineering Trips

In the last Trip Card, from November 2010 to April 2011, a number of mountaineering trips were scheduled; a basic mountaineering training course was also run at the Club Rooms in January/February.

There has been quite a bit of interest from members towards mountaineering activity, which is encouraging. The weekends scheduled in the last Trip Card have, however, been frequently altered because of the weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Nonetheless, several weekends have been successfully undertaken, and the intention is to build on this activity.

From now on, instead of mountaineering trips being advertised on the scheduled Trip List, an email list will be created to allow mountaineering enthusiasts to provide details of planned trips to others that are interested in participating on mountaineering weekends. This is aimed at people who already have a level of mountain experience, or who have participated in the training course at the beginning of 2011. If you want to go on the list, you need to email Ralph Harvey - [ralphh@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ralphh@ihug.co.nz) or Andy Cunningham - [andy.cunningham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:andy.cunningham@xtra.co.nz), who will be pulling this together.



to this year's Snowcraft Course – 13-14 August.

Andy and Ralph

# Trip Reports

## **Landsborough River Landsborough/Karangarua (part 1) January 2011**

It has been three years since our last trip in this area where we flew into Creswicke flat by helicopter then walked out via Broderick Pass, the Huxley valleys, the Ahuriri and the Hunter. This time I had been captivated by the idea of visiting the Valley of the Troggs at the head of the Troyte River starting at the Haast and finishing at the Copeland. I arranged a suitable time with Rob and Pam a few months in advance and, although Pam had a few misgivings about the steep grade of the Karangarua saddle, the trip was on.

We had some atrocious weather in December and early January but, unbelievably, as the start date approached the long-range METVU forecast showed a whole week of beautiful weather – fortune was smiling on our venture. The Landsborough is a serious river to cross at any time and the side creeks become impassable when swollen with rainfall so two or three fine days are essential. Seven was a real bonus, so much so that we opted for bivvy bags and a small cycling tent.

I had hoped for a Saturday start but Rob was delayed by family commitments and we set off at 8:00 on Sunday morning in two cars. I left my car at the start of the Copeland track and we went to the DOC office at Fox for updated

info on the Karangarua track.

Unfortunately they were closed so we had an early dinner and Pam drove us to the start of the Landsborough and as for up the 4-wheel drive track as her little RAV 4 would go. We walked for perhaps an hour before encountering the deserted, and open, hut marked on the map and settled in for the night.

Staying in the hut allowed us



to get an early start the next morning and an easy walk of less than 2 hours brought us to Strutt Bluff. The track over the bluff from this end is very well marked now though a bit vague at the end and we crossed it in an hour and set off for the Queenstown Rafting camp on Harper Flat for lunch. The Rafting company are very generous with their tents, allowing casual trampers to use them when they are not otherwise utilised (the only stipulation they make is that you collect your own firewood). We hadn't come far enough to be able to use them so had lunch and set off up Harper bluff. We took the direct ridge route to the saddle but suspect there is a much easier way up (with a weeks supply of food in my pack the climb was knacker and I was sweating bucketfuls). On the far side there was a pristine campsite with minimal sandflies and we stopped for the day at about 5:00.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>, start time 7:15. We had determined to stay on the true left, seeing little benefit from crossing the river, and had to take to the forest for most of the next leg to Golden Point following trappers lines (the problem being, they tend to gain height unnecessarily as they are there for the setting of stoat traps and not for casual trampers). DOC says to use at your own risk but they can be very helpful. After lunch it was easy river travel to Frazer Hut. Next stop Toetoe Flat but first a steep crumbly ascent to avoid another bend in the river. This

is probably a good time to point out that people who are at all nervous of exposed tenuous climbing should avoid the area – it only gets worse from here onward! Somewhere around this time Pam slipped and hit her cheekbone (later it darkened to a textbook black eye). A second climb and sidle brought us to the Flats where we camped. Unfortunately



the area was also popular with sandflies and we were eaten alive. Pam found a sun-warmed pool for a bath and after a quick dinner we retired to our bivvy bags away from the winged piranhas.

Five minutes walk the next morning brought us to the second rafting camp.

We could have spent the previous night on camp beds protected from most of the insect vermin! Philosophically though it would have detracted from the wilderness feel of the trip. Mixed travel through more open country now brought us to McKerrow Creek where we were entertained by a foraging blue duck. The going had become much easier and we were finally covering some real distance. We reached Hinds flat at 6:15 and started looking for a campsite. Rob found just what we needed on the terrace above the river – a lovely flat grassy bench with a stream flowing through it. Now my fuel pump packed in and we were on emergency gas – a big bottle but some frugality was in order.

Thursday; our fourth day and the hardest so far. Above Hinds Flat the house sized boulders, for which the Landsborough is famous, proliferate. Most of the day was spent bouldering and rock hopping with the odd gully climb to change the pace. It was a full body workout with every muscle being called into play. Camping areas were few and far between (prickly scrub and rocks) and we were starting to get tired. That is the time mistakes happen and we couldn't afford as much as a sprained ankle with the Karangarua Saddle looming! We proceeded upriver at a slow, deliberate and



exhausted pace and came across an unmarked bivvy rock on the true left just before the Sentinel. At about 10 meters above the river, it had a fireplace with a collection of dry wood and several small grassy areas for camping – perfect!

Tomorrow would be our last day in the Landsborough - the Karangarua Saddle was just ahead....

TerryDuffield

For Pam McKelvey and Rob Seeley.

**To be continued next month . . . .**

# Triplist

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**7-8 May**

**Kepler Track (full and part options) [All]**

**Debbie Pettinger ph. 473 7924**

The Kepler Track is part of the Great Walks and this is the first weekend after the track 'officially' closes for the season. The huts remain open but does not have any gas or water and costs \$15 per night. There is the opportunity to walk the complete track, starting at the Control Gates near Te Anau, during the weekend and involves 8-10 hours walking each day, staying at Iris Burn Hut. For those not wanting to walk the complete track, there is the option to stay at Luxmore Hut and return to the Control Gates the next day. This option gives wonderful views over Lake Te Anau and is a magic place for early risers with beautiful sunrises above the clouds.

**21-22 May**

**Motatapu Track (Glendhu Bay end) [All]**

**Jill McAliece ph. 454 4211**

The Motatapu Track was opened in 2008 and traverses overland from Macetown to Glendhu Bay, and has gained contrasting views by users. This trip is not the full trip, rather a taster from the Glendhu Bay end. The Fern Burn Hut is the additional hut installed late in 2008 as a result of feedback from users. This hut is located about two hours from the Glendhu Bay road-end, meaning that you can stay here and explore the area further. The obvious trip from Fern Burn Hut is the main track to Jack Hall's Saddle (1275m). On the way there are glimpses back down to Lake Wanaka, while the view from the saddle gives a good idea of the remainder of the track. It may be possible to climb to the tops from here



for more extensive views. Sunday could be spent exploring further the Stack Conservation Area, which the route to Fern Burn Hut passes. For the more adventurous there is an option to head to the second hut, Highland Hut, and return the same way. This is a real taster for the track.

**4-6 June—Queensbirthday Weekend**  
**Day Trips from Dansey's Pass [M]**  
**Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328**

This is tramping the easy way! No big backpacks but your day-pack will need to have extra warm clothing! We'll be doing 3 day tramps: Saturday sees us up on Dome Hills station near Livingstone; Sunday in the Otekaieke valley with 12 river crossings(!) or there is a FE option to the Otekaieke Hill; Monday in and around Earthquakes (that is what the area is called - no actual earthquakes here in the last few centuries!). Nights will see us at the Danseys Pass motor camp near Duntroon. ie hot showers, electric lights and a good kitchen! Cabins will cost \$20 per person per night but you are welcome to use your tent if you wish. Full details on the notice board in the clubrooms.

# DAYTRIPS

**1 May**  
**All Day on the Peninsula [M]**  
**David Barnes ph. 454 4492**

A nice

People often think of the Otago Peninsula as a place for really short easy walks – and certainly not worthy of a 9am start and giving up a whole Sunday. Be prepared to have those ideas quashed. With a bit of cunning and some connecting road walks, we'll show you a full day on the peninsula with more up hill than a Maungatua traverse. Starting from Turnbull Bay,

*(Continued on page 10)*

we'll climb straight to the top of Harbour Cone (315m), then descend to sea level at Hoopers Inlet. An ascent of the Nyhon Track (190m) is followed by a couple of ks on the road to Sandymount. A short walk leads to the top of Sandymount (320m), a good place for lunch. Then we descend to Sandfly Bay (watching out for sea lions lurking in the dunes) before heading up to Seal Point Road (150m) and dropping to Boulder Beach. The last climb of the day is up Paradise Track (260m) to Highcliff Rd, before we descend Greenacres Track to Macandrew Bay. There's the opportunity to have an ice cream while the cars are retrieved.

Cost \$5

**8 May**  
**Maungatua [M]**  
**Stefan Fairweather**

On a fine day the view from the Maungatua is superb. There will be a car shuffle once at Maungatua to ensure a through trip. Meet at the clubrooms by 9am to carpool to Maungatua.

Cost \$8

**15 May**  
**Catlins River Walk [E]**  
**Janet Barclay ph. 489 2598**

Leaving the clubrooms at 9am and travelling to the Catlins. Cost \$20

**22 May**  
**Possum Hut [M]**  
**Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950**

Possum Hut is a little visited hut in the Silver Peaks. Visit Possum Hut and explore further with Wayne. Cost \$8

**29 May**  
**Nardoo 15—the return of .....**  
**Antony Hamel ph. 453 5240**

The name says it all. The return of an often attempted and rarely achieved trip. Where is Nardoo? Come along and find out. Cost \$15

# Thursday Night Programme

## 5 May

David Stevenson—LandSAR. David will discuss with members where LandSAR is now sitting in relation to the OTMC and similar organisations. He will invite questions from members on how they may be able to contribute to LandSAR. Following this discussion David will advise us on how to avoid the need to call on SAR services (He says he will not mind if he is made redundant!).

## 12 April

Quiz night at the Kensington Tavern. Stretch your brain power! Show everyone how clever you are and earn money for the OTMC at the same time!

## 19 April

Annie Gilmore went to Everest Base Camp with Intrepid Travels, she tells us about her trip

## 26 April

Graeme Loh-DoC Staff member. Graeme has cruised and backpacked on the Galapagos Islands. His talk is entitled 'Meet the wildlife in town'. If you wonder what this intriguing phrase means in relation to the Galapagos Islands, come to the clubrooms and find out.

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@extra.co.nz](mailto:tonytimps@extra.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)**



# Quiz Night

## 12 May

**At the Kensington Hotel**

(4 King Edward Street-beside the Oval)

\$5 each or \$20 for a team of four  
Tickets from Ralph or Tony

Quiz starts at 7pm

Bar Room open at 6pm

*Get a team together and enjoy a  
fun night out!*