

**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.

Most people find out about the OTMC through the internet. Have you checked our website recently? Find out about upcoming day and weekend trips, photos from recent trips, club history and more.

Check out the OTMC on the web at www.otmc.co.nz

We're also on Facebook.

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 16/06/11, publication 30/06/11. You can submit material by email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

It was with great sadness the OTMC learnt of the death of Jonette Service on May 16. Jonette was a valued member of our club for over twenty years, commencing at the same time we moved into our current clubrooms in Young St. Jonette enjoyed many trips, both day and weekend, with the club over the past two decades, and many members will fondly recall her unique character, her quick wit and determination on those trips. Aside from the many club trips, Jonette tramped over many over areas of the South Island on private trips, often with Zena Webb – in this she has probably seen more of our wonderful back-country than most if us. On behalf of the club I thank all those members who were able to attend her funeral – tramping was a major part of Jonette's life and I know the family really appreciated our attendance and guard of honour. We have already missed Jonette on so many trips during her illness and continue to do so – the club has sadly lost a good friend and tramping companion.

The committee have received some comments about the process that has led to the upcoming Extraordinary General Meeting on June 2. The committee haven't made the decision to increase subs – this is what the EGM can do. The committee are elected to run the club, but cannot change subscription rates (or club rules) – this is done by the membership via a general meeting. What has happened is that in evaluating our financial performance on day to day running costs of the club we have become concerned that our income will not cover the required expenditure, so we are recommending to the membership that the subscription rate rise. The reason we are doing this via a EGM is so that the subscription rate can be set prior to the start of the 2011-12 financial years (commencing July 1, 2011) – if we wait for the AGM in late August the effect of any potential increase will not be fully realised until the following financial year. Our Treasurer will present the reasons why we feel this rise is necessary at the meeting on June 2, and can answer any questions.

Finally, our winter tramping programme is under way with many interesting trips planned – the Kepler trip with 17 people has been our largest trip this year (excepting Bushcraft) and feedback received shows the trip was enjoyed by all, with many completing the major portion from the Control Gates to Rainbow Reach (the long way), although some mention of 'false advertising' has emerged.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

Club membership now stands at 197

People joined during last Month

- Kate Botting, Arthur Chesterfield-Evans and Mike Evans
- Richelle & Bruce Adams
- Peter Boeckhout

All these people did the recent Bushcraft course, welcome to the club and happy tramping.

So far the donation box by the front door which my 7 year daughter decorated has collected \$360 which is a fantastic effort. Please keep up the good work and donated a gold coin when you come to club night

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary

Found—Thermarest in Leaning Lodge on the Rock & Pillar Range. Contact David Bottomley on 03 3897678. Leave name and contact number if no answer.



Photo Competition



Entries for the photo competition close 2 June so you should already have your 'winning' photos to Ann.

If you haven't done so already then it's not too late. You have till the **2 June** to get your photo entry in.

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

Quiz Night Thank you

Thank you all who attended the quiz night and for your generosity in buying so many raffle tickets, it was a great night, we made \$763 in total, \$318 of that was from raffle sales.

Thanks to everybody who donated raffle prizes, or bought tickets although you knew you would be unable to attend. A special thank you to our commercial sponsors, Bivouac SBS Bank and Westpac Bank.

A very special thank you to Sarah Chisnall, (it was her idea to run a quiz) she did most of the organising, donated prizes, and was a super raffle seller assisted by Gene. Sarah moves to Invercargill next week, we hope your new job works out well for you, and that you are able to join us on tramping trips in the deep south. (don't forget to pack your thermals)

Ralph and Tony
Social Conveners

OTMC Auction

The OTMC Annual Auction is coming up in August and now is the time to look out anything you'd like donate.

Tramping related items always sell well, so have a clean out of your tramping cupboard. There must be some surplus gear you no longer use or have never used.



Our auctioneers are organised and have promised to entertain but they need gear to auction.

Help us make this year's auction is a success.

All proceeds from the auction will go towards the new gear bought recently for gear hire.



Trip Reports

Karangarua Landsborough/Karangarua Part II January 2011

As you may recall from part I we were nearing the end of our time in the Landsborough.

Friday. 7:20 start. We left our liquid fuel in the bivvy and had an easy trip up to Romping Water where we crossed to the true right of the Landsborough and climbed up to the terraces. Here we had our first look at the cliff with its 30-degree band of scree providing access to the saddle. It was



a formidable sight but still some way off. We had lunch in a glaciated stream then set off for the scree fan, which provided the access for the route. Initially things went well and we proceeded upward staying close to the cliff face. Two thirds of the way up, however the scree peters out and we followed a promising line that ended up on a bluff overlooking the obvious route. Down climbing was tricky and the exposed grassy corner around to the scree bench was uncomfortably exposed (probably this is why there is no route description in Moir's – they may not want to encourage people to go this way).



Again I should stress, if you're nervous of high places – stay away from here!

We reached the saddle at 5:30 and broke out the Minties to celebrate. Clearly, as time was getting short, the Troyte option had to be abandoned and we decided to make for Christmas Flat. The saddle was behind us but sadly our troubles were just beginning....

.... First though a note on the saddle. Flat and grassy with the headwaters of the Karangarua beginning in a depression and flowing in a shallow stream over a smooth rocky bed. It is an idyllic location with nice grassy campsites and sheltered from the worst of the wind. The sun-warmed water trickles down a cascade into a series of pools warm enough to bathe in and actually steaming at this altitude.

On the other side of the saddle notch things change considerably. The ground is steep and bluffy and covered in West Coast scrub. We could see Christmas flat a few kilometres away and expected to be spending the night there. The scrub became worse and we decided on the lesser of two evils, taking to the dry streambed. Unfortunately it didn't stay dry and within the hour we were forced into tangled detours to avoid waterfalls. Finally we had to stop and make some kind of camp. It



was 9:00 and getting dark, we settled down in a damp patch of softer vegetation cooked up a meal and retired at 11:00.

Saturday and the previous days bush-bashing had taken its toll, Pams tramping pants were trashed and mine, likewise were ripped to shreds. I put on my waterproof replacements and we set about extricating ourselves. We had camped at the head of a waterfall and the line of bluffs continued unabated to our left. We picked our way through the forest using animal tracks and losing height wherever possible, before dropping down into a dry creek bed and following it to the main river.

Open space at last!! The next stretch to Christmas flat was quite pleasant.

It had taken us 2 ½ hours to travel just over 1km. The devil was about – two hunters had flown in to the hut and had left a slab of beer on the doorstep. We avoided the temptation, had a quick snack and set off for Lame Duck Flat. The tree fall was diabolical, in places we had to remove packs and crawl underneath. Closer to Lame Duck Hut we came across evidence of the last time DOC had raised a chainsaw in anger – the sawn trunks were festooned with moss and fungus – clearly no work has been done in recent

times.

The new hut has an interesting story. Apparently it started life as the new Christmas Flat Hut but was dropped from 100m or so during transport to that site when windy conditions made it unstable and the helicopter pilot had to jettison. Lame Duck was reconstructed with the scavenged materials (nice hut it is too). The track must have been cleared about the same time as for the next few hours it was in excellent condition, taking us through a magical area of cascades and scoured eddy pools.

Next we reached the cliff described in Moir's as 'chain assisted'. There was no chain (perhaps it was removed by DOC on legal advice after the Cave Creek incident)? The trouble is the DOC markers still lead you up and over a steep cliff face (with a magnificent view downriver) then leads you back to a tricky section that would give pause to a mountain goat! We believe the chain would have been here somewhere, but without it we were forced to backtrack to a spot where pink ribbons indicated a lower route. In our opinion the DOC markers constitute a hazard leading trampers to a spot where they may come to grief, and should therefore be removed!! The rest of the track was uneventful. Christmas Flat to Cassel Flat – 9 ½ hours. There were 4 hunters in residence. Then it started to rain. Rob tented outside until the wind broke his tent – and the rain continued all night and most of the next day.

We made an attempt to leave on Sunday but the first creek we encountered was a wall of white water (and that was the smaller of three) so we returned to Cassel hut to wait it out.

Monday's weather was good. Five hours walking brought us to the Copeland road end and civilisation once more. My thanks to my walking companions – Rob especially has amazing route finding skills.

TerryDuffield

For Pam McKelvey and Rob Seeley.

Silver Peaks Classic - 20 February

Only four people fronted up for the Silver Peaks Classic, despite a reasonable forecast. As we set out from Hightop, swirling nor'easterly mist meant there wasn't a view but at least it also kept the temperature down. We climbed out of the mist as we approached Pulpit Rock. The summit detour was mandatory, as Ian hadn't been there before. As we now had good visibility, I opted to do the trip anti-clockwise – my preferred way.

So we scooted along Rocky Ridge and had lunch at the top of Yellow Ridge. The vegetation has been cleared on the new marked route over the ridge west of the Gap, so it is probably now the fastest route to ABC Cave despite involving the most uphill. After a detour to the cave I was pleased to see that DoC staff have cleared a way through the nasty gorse patch on the vehicle track that climbs out of the gully. They've also cleared and marked the old route down the ridge to the old hut site. We took another detour, this time to Jubilee Hut, and then headed for home. Looking up the Devil's Staircase at 4pm, I was thinking "I've already done a day's tramping. Why am I tackling this hill now?" We climbed back into the swirling mist, and two of the group didn't recognise the summit of Silver Peak until they realised they were heading down hill so must have passed it. Passing the Rocky Ridge turnoff, we'd completed our loop and just had to retrace our steps past the Green Hut site. We were at the car at 7pm, feeling slightly weary. This really is one of the best day trips around.

David Barnes for Ian Woodford, Gene Dyett & Lindsay Bartlett

Mount Charles - 6th March 2011

We didn't know how many people to expect at the club rooms. As we drove there it was raining quite a bit and people were sheltering under trees, but the sun was shining quite brightly too!

Anyway, 15 people came on the trip. Quite a few new faces. As it was the first time for a few it was good for them to start with a very easy trip.

On the way up the Mount, although it was steep in places and there was a cool "breeze" blowing off the Antarctic waters it was still easy. These trampers must be fitter than the last ones I took up here as this time we were on the summit at 11.15am. Most of us ate our lunch then anyway and had a chat, played with a sheep skull etc.

Those from the UK remarked how a view like the fabulous one to the north and to the Silver Peaks would be virtually unattainable in Europe. We are fortunate to live in a nice place.

We were back down at the cars by 12.30. Only 2 with muddy shorts. They only fell over to entertain the rest of us. J

So, we took a vote and the trip ended as all English rambling trips do – at the pub!

Tracy Pettinger for Richard Pettinger, Dave Wilson, Ian Woodford, Aldon Wright, John Bardsley, Geoff Thomas, Sarah Bond, Nicholas Lam, Yu Takazawa, Christian Holtorf, Keith and Sue Wigglesworth, Sophia Leon de la Barra and Alan Scurr.

Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

25-26 June

West Matukituki Valley (Mt Aspiring Hut) [All]

Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327

Although the options on this trip may be restricted by the snow condition, the West Matukituki still has plenty to offer. It is a two hour walk to Aspiring Hut (NZAC) which will most likely be used as a base. From here there are options to head up to the bushline above Aspiring Hut (Cascade Saddle Track) for great views of the surrounding mountains. The snow conditions may prevent access all the way to both French Ridge hut and the newish Liverpool hut but we may be able to get above bushline for some extensive views. The head of the West Matukituki Valley can be reached as a day trip from Aspiring Hut.

The return to Raspberry Creek can be via the very popular Rob Roy glacier.

Note: Aspiring Hut is not covered by DoC hut tickets (or annual pass) and costs \$20 per night (non-members of NZAC).

Trip list closes June 16.

16/17 July – Winter Routeburn (Lake MacKenzie) (ALL)

Theme - Pyjama Party

Wolfgang Gerber 453 11 55 or 021 112 44 23

We'll be walking in to Lake Howden Hut (1 hour) on Friday night and if the conditions are good a side trip up to Key Summit as there will be a

full moon. On Saturday morning the walk to Lake MacKenzie Hut will take between 3~4 hours at the most. Along the way the scenery will be wonderful, including views of the Hollyford Valley, the massive Earland Falls and of course the “Orchard”. There will be lots of photo opportunities for all, so make sure you keep your camera somewhere warm as the cold weather will reduce the life of your battery.

Once at Lake MacKenzie Hut there are many areas to go exploring, from visiting Split Rock and the upper basin, up the zig zag for a great view of the Tasman Sea, the Darren Mountains and of course the MacKenzie Basin. On my last trip to the area a party made it all the way to Harris Saddle and back to the Hut (a fitness essential only trip). Ocean Peak is there for the very fit ones (Snow and climbing skills essential).

My Annual Quiz will be held about 8pm with yummy prizes and the theme is to dress as you would to go to bed. The mind will boggle. This trip is for everyone, from winter climbing to people who just want a cruisy trip.

I'll take latecomers if there are spare seats only

Trip list closes July 7

DAYTRIPS

5 June

No day trip—Queens Birthday Weekend

(Continued from page 10)

12 June

Government Track [M]

David McArthur ph. 481 1478

The Government track commences approximately 5km up the Waipori Falls Road on the true left. After an initial tramp of about 1 hour through a patch of Manuka the track enters a nice section of beech forest (has a variety native birds) with a gentle gradient for about 2 hours. Then tramp to Kowhai Spur. From the top of Kowhai Spur you have a commanding view of the Taieri plains. From this point the track descends rapidly back to the Waipouri Falls road. This tramp is generally sheltered from wind except for the section down Kowhai Spur. Expected duration 5 hours, which includes stops for lunch and snacks.

Recommend wearing boots with gaiters as there is a couple of short muddy sections for about 10 – 20 meters each.

19 June

Coal Creek (Silverstream) [M]

Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

Leaving the clubrooms at 9am, we will drive to Silver Stram carpark. We start walking up the Racemans track in sheltered bush along a historic water race to the Top Weir. A short back track and we head up North Coal Creek towards Trig Q for the view, a snack, and head then down Little Coal Creek to tha Racemans Track, and hence back to the cars.

Should be about 6 hours, please bring \$8 for the drivers .

26 June

Rosella Ridge [M]

Tomas Sobek ph. 487 7896

Meet at the clubrooms at 9 am. We will venture into the Silverpeaks and along Rosella Ridge. This is a popular trip offering great views.

Thursday Night Programme

2 June

Last night to submit photos for the photo competition. Extraordinary General Meeting regarding a motion to increase club subscriptions by \$5, commencing with the 2011-2012 year. If we have time after the meeting a BYO, so bring some photos with you.

9 June

Title " Along the Divide " Come and hear Jay Piggott recount his 2010 expedition to the remote Cordillera Huayhuash mountain range in Peru, to attempt the first ascent of the South East Ridge of Yerupuja (6617 m), the highest point in the entire Amazon Basin. Then their 15 day navigation of the mountain range via the newly established route now known as the Alpine Circuit

16 June

As we have had a late cancellation, we are going to have another BYO

23 June

Keith & Sue Wigglesworth did a 40 day walk across the Pyrenees from Southern France to Northern Spain, along the St James trail (which is one of the Pilgrim Trails) to finish at Santiago in NW Spain. They will describe this epic trek.

30 June

Craig McKenzie shows us the best of the photos from the competition, and tells us who the winners from each section are.

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