

**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.

Well done to Peter George for winning the
OTMC photo competition (photo below).

Check out the other winners on the OTMC Website

www.otmc.co.nz

Photo competition 2011



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

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the October-Bulletin, deadline is 15/09/11, publication 29/09/11. You can submit material by email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

August is the month of our AGM, and included with this Bulletin you will find all the information you need pertaining to the Annual Meeting. The AGM this year is being held on August 25, in the clubrooms at 8pm. Although we are bound by our rules to undertake certain functions at the AGM, we will try and make the meeting seem less formal – a good way to do this is to have more interaction with our members. Aside from presenting our annual report, accounts and electing a new committee, the AGM provides a great opportunity to discuss the on-going direction of the OTMC. The committee have already commenced this and have created a document outlining what we believe our strengths and weaknesses are, and a proposed direction for the club, initially over the forthcoming 12 months. Following this, comment was sought from a wider group of members, and we will now be presenting our thoughts to the AGM. Both the Open Day and Bushcraft earlier this year have reinforced the importance of attracting new members, and these two activities will be held again early next year. Other issues we want to discuss include the Thursday meetings, trip destinations, mid-week tramping, risk management and the on-going format of the Bulletin, amongst others topics. We have discussed looking at updating parts of the constitution (primarily the stated objects of the club), but with the recent review of the Incorporated Societies Act being announced, this may be better done after the government process is complete. Freedom camping at road-ends (and within 1km of any road-end – even on DoC managed land) may become an issue, and we are keeping in touch with the FMC on this.

The aim of all of this is to retain what we believe this club exists for, as well as making sure we are well placed in the modern era. The OTMC has a proud 88 year history that has gone well beyond the original reasons the club was formed in 1923. There is a place in modern society for tramping clubs – we just need to work that little bit harder, particularly in publicity, to make our club the first call for local people interested in the outdoors. Please come and support the OTMC at the AGM.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the huge contribution from two people on the OTMC Committee. Ralph Harvey has indicated he is not seeking re-election at the forthcoming AGM. Most of you will know Ralph's positions on the committee have generally started with 'co', with his main contribution being 'co' social convener with Tony Timperley. This job is perhaps with of the harder ones to undertake—especially as we normally have an outside speaker for 3 out of 4 weeks. Ralph and Tony have excelled themselves here .Ralph's other roles have included gear hire, climbing instructor as well as leading weekend and day trips. Thank you, Ralph, for your efforts for the betterment of the OTMC.

Ann Burton is also stepping down from the role of Treasurer this year after 12 consecutive terms. A lot of money has passed through the club accounts since September 1999 – including the significant sum of money entrusted to the club to assist with construction of the Skyline Track, a project commenced in 2002. Ann has presented the committee with an accurate account of the club finances every month, and offered good advice in relation to subscriptions and investments. The current excellent financial position of the club can be attributed to Ann’s diligence in her role, and on behalf of the OTMC I sincerely thank Ann for holding this important position. From a personal point of view, I would like to thank Ann for her common-sense advice freely offered to me during my term as President – I have always valued her opinion, particularly during the more controversial decisions the committee have been forced to make over the years.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

Members joined during last month -
Members resigned during last month -

Tim Griffith
Annette Winter, and Michael Foley
& Andrea Todd

So far I have had 106 subs come in and I still require another 87 subs according to the club database. Those of you that I have not received subs from will be sent a reminder with this bulletin mail out. Please fill in the green form so that I have your correct details and also indicate if you would like to receive your bulletin via e-mail.

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary



Commended Above Bushline taken by Antony Pettinger

PIZZA NIGHT

Filadelfio's (at the gardens)

This popular night will be held this year on

27 August

(Saturday night) from 6.30pm.

**\$18 will get you garlic bread, wedges, pizza and
great company**

All welcome

**Numbers to Antony or Debbie on 473 7924 - or sign
the list at the clubrooms.**

Showing photos at club

There have been instances recently at BYO's where photos are not showing in the correct order on the club equipment. It seems this is caused by how the photos are named or numbered, which affects the way Windows based computers display them.

If you follow the points below your photos will always be displayed in the correct order.

- Put a copy of all the photos you want to show in a separate folder (i.e. 'Routeburn 2011')
- Either leave filenames of the photos the same as they are when they come from your camera...
- Or renumber, but add leading zero's (i.e. 001.jpg, 002.jpg etc.) Numbering them as 1.jpg, 2.jpg etc. Causes problems in Windows as they will play in this order: 1, 10-19, 2,21-29, 3 etc. This is the problem we are seeing and is not easily overcome by the software we use.

DOC UPGRADES TO THE GREENSTONE, CAPLES AND DART FACILITIES

The Department of Conservation has spent much of Autumn working on upgrades to the Greenstone-Caples track and will spend more time this summer on both the Greenstone-Caples and the Dart-Rees circuit.

The planned works on the Greenstone-Caples are:

- Upgrade and realignment of the Greenstone side of the track over the McKellar Saddle.
- Renovation of the McKellar Hut
- Upgrade and Realignment of the Caples side of the track over the McKellar Saddle.
- Further track works in the Upper Caples Valley.

McKellar Hut is frequently overcrowded and work is underway to double the capacity from 12 to 24 bunks with new wardens quarters and new toilets. The improvements will be completed in time for the 2011/12 walking season.

Work has already been completed on the track on the Greenstone side of the saddle. The track has been realigned to avoid the steep descent, lakeside side and swamp crossing. Work to realign 3.4 km of track on the Caples side of the saddle to avoid multiple stream crossings will be completed over the coming year.

The Dart-Rees track will see two new bridges installed, a proposal to remove one bridge and remediation works on part of the track which has been damaged by flooding. New bridges will be going in at 25 Mile Creek on the Rees and Spaniard Creek in the Dart Valley. The Whitbourn Swing Bridge is being proposed for removal as it was badly damaged by flooding in December 2010. If you would like to comment on the proposed removal of this bridge, please email Susie Geh at sgeh@doc.govt.nz outlining your thoughts.



OTMC Auction Part II 1 September



The Auction in August was well supported. There were some real bargains to be had and it was great to find new homes for so much gear.

But wait! There is MORE!!

If you missed out the first time around, there is still the chance to get some great gear at great prices.

Cross country ski's, over trousers, boots, fishing rod, jackets, and more!



Commended Below Bushline
Taken by Stefan Fairweather



Commended Camp/Hut Life
taken by Richard Forbes

Search and Rescue Swift Water Rescue Training Day 5 or 6 November

The day involves a raft trip from Taioma to Outram Glen (about 20kms and grade 3 rapids). Along the way swift water rescue techniques will be practiced. No prior experience necessary although being happy in the water is a good start.. Participants will have to pay a small charge to hire a wet suit,. Contact Brian

Hollyford Track Special Offer

The Hollyford Track have an exclusive offer available to members wanting to walk the Hollyford Track during the October 2011-April 2012 season.

The *Hollyford Track 3 Day Guided Walk Option A* will give \$200 off the Hollyford Track Guided Walk

or *Option B* is a FREE nights accommodation at the new Hilton Queenstown.

An additional group booking discount of \$100 off per person for a group of 16 people is also available.

To redeem this offer bookings are essential before 30 September. Contact Hollyford Track Guided Walks ph. 03 442 300 or email info@hollyfordtrack.co.nz and be sure to quote the code word 'Tramping'.



Trip Reports

OTMC Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve Hike

9/10 April 2011

On a glorious autumn day we met our mess group, Julie and Laura at 3 Young St, the club rooms then drove to Waitati and turned onto Double Hill Rd and drove along Semple Rd to Mountain Rd where we met the rest of the group at the scenic reserve sign.

Debbie's group went to Jubilee Hut via the Devil's Staircase and we would meet them at the campsite. The others piled into two cars and were driven by Julie's husband and Antony P through locked forestry roads until we reached the beginning of our longer 7 hour walk.

Initially we walked through pine forests and heard bell birds, saw gorgeous red toadstools and made a slight detour to check out the gold miners' tunnels. We followed the water course made for the gold diggings until we reached the river where there was a lot of evidence of pigs. We started to climb and stopped briefly at Yellow Hut. It was a very tough climb. We paused at the top then followed the ridge where the bush gave way to open country and at the top was a magnificent view out to sea and the Silver Peaks. We met a hunter with antlers on his back. Following the ridge line we stopped at Middle Peak for lunch and basked in the sun. We made a brief detour to The Gap.

After lunch we were walking along the ridge line in open country when Mike saw three wild piglets basking in the sun on the track. Luckily the parents were not there and we were not disturbed.

We followed the river and met university students staying at ABC Cave, which had been adapted so that you could sleep there. There were pockets of native bush in the gullies. We then had a steep slippery

descent with glimpses of Jubilee Hut and the yellow tents of 30 medical students in front. We did not visit Jubilee Hut, but went past it following the river to the camp site where Debbie's group had already arrived at a flat area by the river. We pitched our tents



We all shared food in our cook groups and had three course meals – Julie had bought along yummy caramel squares for us. Andrew had a delicious salmon dish. The kids played spotlight but were disappointed that the adults were reluctant to play. We were unfortunately not allowed to have a camp fire.

We were up early to ascend the Devil's Staircase which was somewhat easier than



the day before – but still pretty tough. There was mist wafting around at times that added to the rocky outcrops. We followed the ridge line, took a slight detour up middle peak and saw the catchment area of the Silverstream that provides water for Mosgiel.

The descent was muddy and very slippery in places before lunch at the site of the old Green Hut. After lunch on a woody narrow steep section we met three horses and riders. One horse had slipped down the bank

30 metres and landed sideways in the scrub. Luckily the horse had no injury and with clearing some bush and ropes the horse was able to get back onto the track. The accident had occurred because the riders had tried to turn back but the track was too narrow. We were surprised that the horses were allowed on this track and noted that the hooves had cut the trail. The sign at the end banned many activities but not riding. We made a note to contact DOC about this, as clearly the track is unsuitable for horses.

We arrived back at our cars at 2.30pm and took a group photo of our cheery band.

Silver Peaks Bushcraft

9/10 April

It started a few weeks ago, (no actually more than 7 years ago but that's another story) going to the OTMC clubs' organised bush craft course, river crossing and today was the day. April 09, 2011

Our group: group leader Debbie & son Dylan, Doug & Janet, their son Russell, and me.

Doug and family picked me up from Maitland Street. We were the first, with Debbie, Antony and Dylan just behind us arriving at the Mountain Road car park. We geared up and divided some gear among our packs and off we went.

Janet was just recovering from a cold and our group was going to do the easier trip and the others were going to push themselves over a steeper range towards Jubilee Hut and Cave Stream. I found out that there is nothing better to get in shape than a good hike, we'll explain later.

This was the first time I did a weekend hike here so I was eager enough to take the lead for the first part. I managed (with some applause from our leader) to add some extra mud to our boots.

On the first break and while we had a good view of the range in front, Debbie took the opportunity to let us do some compass practice. We hiked up to Green Hut site and found out Green Hut is no more, except for some roof parts. Nice place to have a break, as we did again on our way back.

This was the beginning of a very muddy hike up the track. Going back the next day was a lot easier than it looks up the muddy track. We had a very nice day and hiked up towards Pulpit Rock. We had magnificent views overlooking the Silver Peaks.

Our lunch on top of Devils Staircase was with superb views again. We headed down to the valley, I can now understand why during rain it would be no fun to be here. The views from the Devils Staircase are very, very nice.

We arrived down the valley and looking back up hoped not to go back this way. We dropped our gear and headed up to Jubilee Hut, here we found some more muddy tracks leading up to the hut. Beautiful views from the hut and we were looking for the other groups' arrival. Instead we greeted 30 med. students. We headed back to our site and set up our camping gear.



Dinner was served, 3 courses with a more than tasty main course. A warm drink to end and more skills learned, not the last lesson! After gently inviting the sand flies to leave and welcoming the other group we slowly went to our quarters and fell asleep.

5 am and try finding a lost flip flop at the pee site is not a good idea,

I put the breakfast water on the stove at 6:30am and started to wake up fellow hikers with its jet engine sound. Breakfast was con-

sumed as if not eaten for days.

Our leader choose the safe option so we hiked back the way we came and we were first up the Devils Staircase, not so difficult as it looks.

We reached the top and took a break and enjoyed the views, a bit further down the track Janet mentioned that she was totally recovered from her cold. You see, nothing better than a steep hike outdoors and you get in return good health. We slid over the muddy track down to the Green Hut site, took in the sun and waited for the other

group.

We continued along the track and were all witness of how not to use a track. A lady + daughter with 2 horses and a man down a steep bank trying to get a white horse off its back, and up on the track a few meters above, badly in need of a Bushcraft course.

I think in the car we all were thinking and preparing for the next hike on our way home

A very good weekend, thanks to our leaders and the people who make this happen.

Peter Boeckhout.

Bushcraft Silver Peaks

9/10 April

We were in Debbie's group for the overnight tramp in the Silver Peaks. In our group there was Debbie, Dylan, Peter, Doug, Russell and myself—The only group unaltered from the planning night.

We were met by an enthusiastic Debbie as we arrived at Semple Road. She was keen that we try the 7 hour option that the other groups were doing as opposed to the 5 hour original plan—but I knew my limits. I wasn't used to carrying an overnight pack (even though it was only half the size of Debbie's!!). It was so



old and uncomfortable (green canvas, metal/wood frame!) and nicknamed 'Hillary'. I was recovering from a cold and breathed a sigh of relief as the rest of the group kindly agreed to take the easier option and we headed off on the track to Green Hut site.

The weather was lovely but the track proved quite muddy from all the recent rain. We practiced our compass and map reading skills to make sure we weren't lost and set

our sights on where we were heading—Green Hut site and Pulpit Rock.

After morning tea at Green Hut site we set off up Green Hill. Here the mud was considerably worse, making for an interesting climb which would have been impossible without tree help. We were all keen to see the view from Pulpit Rock. Peter really impressed us by wearing his pack to the top. Too windy here for lunch, so we carried on to a more sheltered spot at the top of the Devils Staircase. After lunch it was just a matter of descending to the valley below. Wow, it was good to get down. They don't call it the Devils Staircase for nothing.

After setting up the fly in a nice spot beside the stream we took a wander along to Jubilee Hut. It wasn't long before our afternoon of relaxing in the sun was broken by man-song, and we were joined by two very athletic looking blokes , wearing not much more than camelbacks. They were just out for a run and planned to get back home before dark! Oh to be young again!

They warned us that 30 med students were on their way and it wasn't long before they too descended upon us. The look of horror they gave us was priceless before we put them out of their misery and let them know that they did indeed have the hut to themselves.

Back at 'camp peaceful' the other parties finally arrived and set up. Then it was time for the 'most exciting tea' competition which no one won because we all had the same! Although I must say Peter's 'bikkies' were exceptional. Mike arranged a game of Spotlight and then it was time to snuggle for the night.

We were up at first light and our group was first to leave on the grunty climb back up the staircase. It turned into a glorious day and even the mud wasn't quite as bad as we thought it might be - those 30 students must have spread it around a bit. We rested at Green Hut site and were soon joined for lunch by the rest of our groups. There was just the small incident of rescuing a terrified horse which had slipped down a bank. The owners were very fortunate that we came along to lend a hand. Anyway before we knew it we were back on our way and arrived at the cars.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first real overnight tramp with the club. Thanks to the great company and the confidence I gained by doing the Bushcraft course. I would recommend it to everyone.

Janet Barclay



TriplisT

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

I write this comment as the show we so longed for in early July has now made it's second significant appearance in the city. This weather of late has caused some modification to the Winter trip programme. Wolfgang's Routeburn trip was postponed for two weeks, and 26 people enjoyed this relocated trip to Routeburn Falls. Snowcaving has been postponed, and the iceaxe and crampon course was curtailed to one day to ensure safe travel home for the participants (a wise choice, looking outside at present). Spring is on the way though, from here we are back to tramping with a vengeance—below are trip descriptions for the first two Spring trips.

3-4 September

Mt. Somers Area [All]

Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

Mt. Somers is a popular tramping area located in South Canterbury. Access from Dunedin is shorter than the main National Parks, and the area has a lot of scope.

This trip will start from the Woolshed Creek Carpark, from where it is an easy 2-3 walk to Woolshed Creek Hut (DoC – 24 bunk). At this time of year it would be a good idea to base yourself here and explore further. If you haven't loitered too long there is time to head for the summit of Mt. Somers (1687m), a straight-forward climb – first via an old farm track and then on steeper rock / scree to the summit plateau is reached. Great views to be had over a wide area of South Canterbury.

Another option is to explore the Water Caves at the bottom of Morgan Stream, and then visit Morgan Stream itself. From here easy scrambles will take you to some prominent look-out points overlooking the Woolshed Creek catchment.

Sunday can either be a longer trip past the Pinnacles Hut and out to the road-end at Sharplin Falls via Bowyers Creek. An easier, but spectacular option is via the 'bus stop' route on the true left of Woolshed Creek

24-25 September

Aoraki/Mt Cook [All]

Gene Dyett ph. 455 7465

Aoraki / Mt. Cook National Park has many tramps and walks for all fitness levels and mountain views from every direction. There are two main mountain walks,

being Red Tarns and Sealy Tarns. Averaging a 1000m plus in height with Sealy being the better track for getting views of Mt. Cook and Red Tarns with views of the Mt. Cook Village and the Tasman Glacier. There are also two valley walks that we can do the Hooker Valley with two wire bridges. Mueller Glacier Terminal (some board walk) and nice easy walking up the valley to the Hooker Glacier Terminal. Also the walk to the blue pools and the Tasman Glacier Terminal are worthwhile. If the weather lets us down for the bigger climbs we could look at the option of walking the track along the Tasman Glacier to the new Ball shelter for lunch. Plus we will need time to have a look at the new and improved information centre (DoC) which can take an hour and a half on the Sunday. Plus whatever walks we didn't do on Saturday. Also nice simple walks around the Mountain Village if you wish to use these options.

DAYTRIPS

21 August

Graham's Bush to Bethunes Gully [M]

Fieke Neuman ph. 473 7535

We will meet at the clubrooms, organize carpooling and get away around 9:00am. To achieve a nice one-way trip we will need to leave some cars at Bethunes Gully, then drive to the start of the track at the end of Hall Road in Sawyers Bay. The first leg of the trip is up through the charming Graham's Bush Scenic Reserve to Mount Cargill Road. From there we pass the Organ Pipes (impressive reminders of the old volcano we live on) and along the ridge towards Mount Cargill. From there it is downhill all the way to Bethunes Gully where we sort the cars out again. A lovely green trip with lots of views. The walk will probably take about 4 to 5 hours.

\$5 for drivers please.

28 August

Sea to Saddle Hill [E/M]

Alan Scurr ph. 489 5538

This was a popular trip when we did it last year. We start at the seaside near

(Continued from page 13)

Ocean View and walk up a country road across farmland, look at old houses. Then a steady climb up a through some native bush to the top of Saddle Hill. Down the other side to a woolshed for lunch then walk back down a different route to our cars. This trip is very much weather sensitive so it could be postponed if the day is too rough.

Carpool cost \$5

4 September

Orbells Cave [M]

Tony Timperley ph. 473 7257

This walk is inland from Waikouaiti, traversing hilly pastures with a steep descent and a long ascent (remember the old tramping adage – what goes down, must come back up again). We drive to McGrath Rd, just before Waikouaiti, and head inland via Buckland's Crossing and take a long drive down Blucher Road to where it becomes Lamb Hill Road.

The tramp begins from the stockyards and follows a 4-wheel drive track (still called Blucher Road) before descending steeply to Three O'clock Stream. We then go down stream until we reach Orbells Creek and climb up to the cave, which is on the true left of the creek. After lunch in the cave, we will re-cross the creek, climb up to the ridge and head back to Blucher Road. On reaching SH1 again, a left turn to Waikouaiti could bring you a reward of an ice cream. Carpool cost \$15.

11 September

Fraser's Gully (The Long Way) [E]

Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328 & Lucy Jones ph. 471 9228

Pretty and interesting! Sept 11th is also the day for the Moro Marathon, but if you want something a little less stressful then try this trip! Lucy Jones and Jane Cloete are taking folk up Frasers Gully (that's the pretty bit), along the tops (that's a bit dull) and down again (with a bush walk and some local history thrown in). Bring a bite of lunch, though we'll be back to the cars by 2.00- 2.30pm. Meet at the clubrooms at 9am **OR** at Cableways Tavern at 9.10am.

18 September

Careys Bay—Aramoana (Cycling)

Gene Dyett ph. 455 7465

Its time to get your bike out of moth balls or the garage and use this day trip as training for the Otago Rail Trial in October. A chance to enjoy the easy pace of a bike ride around the different bays on the way to the spit. Your body is probably fit from tramping but it needs to get used to the idea of biking the 150km's on the Rail Trial. We will have lunch at the domain where there is shelter at the hall and a public toilet. I need to know numbers early if possible because for this day trip we will need cars with bike racks. Some members have bikes only, so it is important to let me know early as we need to have enough cars to carry the bikes. If I can not get enough cars with bike racks there is a plan B leaving from the club rooms

25 September

Leaning Lodge (Rock & Pillar Range) [F]

Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

A fit graded trip involving a stiff climb of 1100 metres, and probably a fair bit of snow. The Rock and Pillar Range is one of a series of Otago ranges formed as a result of deep faulting running in a NE / SW direction, and offering great views of the surrounding area through to the Silver Peaks. They are the often snow topped hills you can see from Flagstaff and Mount Cargill. The range was named after the distinctive schist tors left after softer rocks have been eroded away. We will leave the clubrooms as usual at 9am, and drive for an hour or so through Middlemarch to a car park at the start of the track. There may be an option of parking cars at two locations to give us a round trip - visiting both Leaning Lodge and Big Hut, depending on weather, snow and group preference. A roughly 2 1/2 hour climb should see us at Leaning Lodge, from where we plan to continue on to the Summit Rocks (1450m). From here, we will either retrace our steps, or hopefully, cruise down to Big Hut for a snack and thence down to the second car park. A quick car shuffle and back home hopefully by 5:30.

25 August Annual General Meeting

Vote in your new committee. We will also be discussing the clubs on-going strategic direction for the next 12 months.

1 September OTMC Auction Part II

The Revenge of the Bargain Hunters! We raised over \$600 in the August auction, yet we still have many bargains for you to bid on: X-country skis, pack covers, over trousers, jackets, and even woolly underpants! Come and clean up the rest of these bargains.

8 September FMC Photo Competition 2011

How do our photo winners stack up with those from the rest of the country? Come and view the magnificent photos on the CD distributed to clubs by FMC. An added interest is that some of our members star in several of these photos

15 September BYO (Bring Your Own Photos)

There should be plenty of photos for this one: from Debbie's Routeburn, Wayne's Mt. Somers trips as well as snowcraft and snowcaving.

22 September

The Rail Trail as it was: Gene Dyett is organising a trip to cycle the Rail Trail in a month's time. To excite interest he will present a film which shows the Otago Central Railway in working order - that is, with trains running along it!

29 September

To be announced.

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