

**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.

Last month some of the photo competition winners were high-
lighted, this month sees more photos from our winners of the

OTMC Photo Competition.



Commended Hut/Camp Life. Taken by Ann Burton

Committee Members 2011/12

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Peter Stevenson	454 4148
Treasurer	Tina Anderson	473 1015
Chief Guide/Transport	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Debbie Pettinger	473 7924
Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	487 6066
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	Ian Woodford	455 5908
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Representative	Ross Hunt	477 3309

The Annual Meeting in August has continued the recent surge in activity with over 30 members present, perhaps the largest number for some time. As well as looking back at the past year, the meeting provided an opportunity to present the Committee's vision for the upcoming year. As I wrote in the Annual Report, the club is currently in very good shape and we have the prospect of a busy summer period to build on what we have all achieved in 2011. There are many things planned for the upcoming year, as well as issues to consider. The trip programme is being developed now, and will include a variety of trips, including a February cross-over trip from the West Matukituki to the Dart via Cascade Saddle. Another type of trip we are going to trial is to provide a three-day option on some of the normal weekend trips. Having a third day greatly adds to the options that can be had on a weekend trip. Two weekends thus far with this option will be Green Lake in summer, and Macetown. Another feature we would like to include is a mid-week option – is anyone willing to organise this? The summer trip card will be out with the November Bulletin (keep an eye on the website for updates).

One of the issues the club faces regards our affiliation to the Federated Mountain Clubs. FMC have changed the way membership numbers are counted. Currently, we have paid a membership fee (\$10) for every full member. Now, we can choose to either pay for ALL our members (including postal members) and continue to pay \$10 (at present). The other option is to make a partial declaration excluding postal members, and pay a higher per member fee (potentially \$12 for the next year). The overall cost difference to the OTMC is minimal, so it is likely the committee will elect to declare all OTMC members to the FMC. Going forward, the club needs to evaluate the relevance of the Postal Membership class. This will require a change to the club Constitution – we will seek feedback from members once we have prepared a proposal.

A more serious issue for the club is the imminent change in Health and Safety in Employment (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2011. While the final regulations haven't been released, the draft clauses do provide challenges for us. It appears that financial members of the club will be exempt from the regulations, however the problem will be with non-members. The regulations allow clubs to offer activities to encourage membership, but only up to a maximum of 12 days per year. It would be unusual for a non-member to complete 6 weekend trips a year, but this could happen on day trips, which are run on a casual basis. We will now have to collect and retain stats of how many trips non-members have been on. Another issue will be Bushcraft. Bushcraft has always been run as the club's contribution to outdoor safety. The fact we obtain many members from the course is a positive spin-off, but is not the true reason we run the course. An

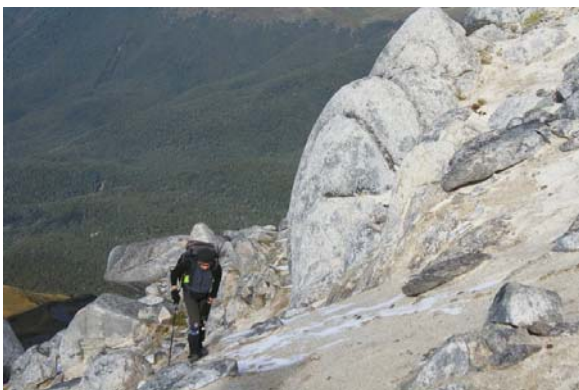
option we are looking at seriously is altering the membership rules to allow people to be enrolled as members during the course – another Constitution change required. We haven't discussed the implications for Snowcraft (including snowcaving) yet, but it is likely if we continue to run these they will be for members only. Other trips that may be solely for members could be 'special trips', such as the Milford in winter or multi-day trips like Easter or the Five Passes. In hand with this the club will be reviewing the way our trips will be organised and risks managed. The draft regulations are available from the Dept. of Labour website (just search for the regulations).

Congratulations to David Barnes upon his appointment to the Otago Conservation Board. David has had a life-long interest in tramping and the outdoors, and does a great job for the OTMC on conservation matters – this new role is great news for all users of our hills and mountains.

Finally, I would like to thank members for their support at the recent AGM. Ian Woodford was elected to the vacant committee position, joining Tina Anderson (Treasurer) and Sam Patrick as new members on the committee. No prior nominations were received for President or Chief Guide, and I was humbled by the support shown at the meeting in nominating me again for these roles. This vote of confidence confirms to me that your committee are taking the club in the right direction. We have a lot of work in front of us as we head to our 90th anniversary in 2013 – but let's not forget what we are here for – to enjoy the hills and mountains of our great country.

Antony Pettinger
President

Commended Above Bushline.
Taken by Peter Stevenson.



Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the Bulletin. You can submit material by email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

Membership

According to my records I still have 34 outstanding - subs please send them in with the completed green form so that your details are correct on the club database.

Members joined during last month

- Greg Hall (from Bushcraft)
- Maria Hamelink
- Andrew Rae
- Jeremy Thomas (rejoining after a year off)

Welcome to the club and happy tramping

Members resigning during last month

- Russell Walker
- Peter Vollweiler (been in club for 26 years)
- Bernadette Thompson
- Jeremy Beck
- Jo Baillie
- James McAuley
- John Fitzgerald (been in club for almost 50 years joined in September 1961)
- Stefan Fairweather

We wish you all the best for the future

Please remember to put \$1 in the hat which pays for the supper and the clubrooms for Thursday meetings

Richard Forbes
OTMC Membership Secretary

Commended Outdoor Landscape.
Taken by Debbie Pettinger



Pine Trees in the Silver Peaks

On a recent visit to Jubilee Hut, I noted that wilding pines were getting away on the Devil's Staircase. So on a return visit six weeks later I packed a pruning saw and made a reasonable impact in about 45 minutes. It's a good excuse to go up the Staircase slowly. Many hands make light work so if you're heading that way take a pruning saw and some secateurs. If lots of people do this, even fifteen minutes on the job will help. The club fought hard thirty years ago to keep the Silver Peaks from being turned into a pine plantation. If we're not careful, it will still happen by stealth.

David Barnes

OTMC Auction Update

A very big thank you to all our members who supported the OTMC Auctions. Close to \$1000 was raised from both auctions!! Well done to everyone involved including the auctioneers, those who donated gear and those who bought the gear. Great effort! Thank you.

One item that did not sell is for an assessment and four FREE maths tutor lessons for a student in Year 1 to Year 11. This is valued at \$184—what do you bid? If you have a child who could benefit from maths tuition. Talk to Debbie about how much you would be willing to pay for this voucher.

Gear Hire

The OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire.
No need to buy new gear, hire from the OTMC first.

Ice axes

Crampons

Packs

First Aid Kit

Cookers

Billies

Tents

Personal Locator Beacons

Avalanche Transceivers and Probes

Climbing Helmets

Members hire is generally \$5 for one week. If you can't get back it back to club then each week is an additional \$5. Phone the Gene or Sam if you can't make it to club nights to bring gear back.

Trip Reports

Kepler Track

7/8 May

It was an early start on Saturday, with 12 of us arriving at the Control Gates near Te Anau at the start of the Kepler Track at 6.30am. Head torches were put on as we wandered along the track in the dark. The sun was starting to break through the clouds by the time we reached Brod Bay for a short break. A quick count of numbers found we were missing three people—oops. Sure that the missing three couldn't be that far away, after all, the Kepler Track is hard to lose, even in the dark, the remaining 9 of us started up the hill. It is a pleasant climb through the bush, stopping to catch breath and admire the view when possible through the trees. It didn't seem to take long to reach the bluffs which was a perfect scroggin stop and the 'missing' three caught up. Onwards and upwards to bush line where we stopped to regroup and another scroggin stop. The view when you leave the bush on the Kepler Track is spectacular and is well worth the climb. It was here Al caught up with us and was surprised to discover the plan for the weekend was to complete the whole Kepler Track, he had thought we were stopping at Luxmore Hut for the night, I am still not sure what he thought when we had such an early start.

We wandered along the tops to Luxmore Hut where we refilled water bottles and enjoyed a moments rest in the sun.

Here we left behind two of our team as they planned to stay at Luxmore Hut for the night and return to the Control Gates the next day. We shouldered our packs and set off from Luxmore Hut at 11am. It is a steady climb from here up towards Mt Luxmore. The sun shone down on us and the views were fantastic as the mist swirled around the fiords and we climbed higher. At the turn off to Mt. Luxmore we again stopped for a rest before most of the group dropped



packs and headed up the remaining 10 minutes to the top of Mt. Luxmore where we found a film crew filming and telling their models to try' looking more like those

guys'. Something to do with our dishevelled, sweaty state I think.

Back to our packs and long the ridge to the first shelter where we stopped for lunch. A cold breeze blew over the tops but we hunkered down among the tussock for a lunch spot in the sun. Eventually it was time to move on, with the mist rising and



starting to spill over the ridge. The temperature dropped and we kept close together as we continued along the ridge. It became quite wet as the mist swirled around us and cut all view from sight. A final scroggin stop at the second shelter before we headed down into bush line. It is a steep descent from here and just when you think you must be nearly there, the trees open and you find there is still a long way to go! Eventually Iris Burn Hut comes thankfully into sight and a welcome rest at 4.30pm.

Beds for all were found and time for a cuppa before tea. It was great to meet up with another two of our group and a very pleasant night was spent eating, talking and eventually sleeping. We were unsure how long the walk out would take so we were up and away at 9am. The walk down the Iris Burn Valley is mostly in the bush and very pleasant. Part of the track has been washed out and a detour which involves quite a climb part way down the valley is a bit testing and one of our team decided to take the quick way down—

trouble was he decided to land on top of someone else to break his fall. Luckily no broken bones and we carried on to Rocky Point Shelter where we had a stop. From here it was a fast walk out to Moturua Hut, arriving in time for lunch. By now most of us were starting to feel our feet and were happy to rest for a bit in the sun. Too soon it was time to pick



up packs and head along the last hour or so of track to Rainbow Reach. A unanimous vote decided that this would be the end our trip and no one felt the need to carry on the last three hours or so back to the Control Gates.

Thank you to those on the trip for a brilliant weekend away. The weather was great and the company even better!

Debbie Pettinger for Alan Williamson, Trevor Deaker, David Barnes, Jill McAliece, Lucy Jones, Ian Woodford, Brent Dewar, Tina Anderson, Peter Boeckhourt, Penny McArthur, David McArthur, Richard Forbes,

Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

The arrival of Spring means that another summer season of tramping is upon us. Below you will find descriptions of the final two weekend trips from the winter card and planning is now underway for the trips from November until the end of May 2012. We are trying a new option on this card, with the trial of an optional third day being available on some of the standard two day trips. Sometimes two days is just not enough time to avoid the direct in and out trips – the third day gives time to explore further, climb a peak or complete a longer round trip. The first trip with a three day is tentatively planned for mid to late November to Macetown. One idea for the middle day is to climb Advance Peak follow the skyline around to Vanguard Peak (with great views over the Shotover and Skippers valleys. Another likely three day option trip is Green Lake in Feb/March 2012 – once you conquer the muddy track from Lake Monowai you may as well enjoy the area. The tops above Green Lake are easily accessible, and provide many options. I know there are some who are unable to get time of work, but a few members have expressed an interest in this and are able to do so.

Other trips that will be on the programme include the end of year trip to Lake Roxburgh, a Cascade Saddle crossover trip from the West Matukituki to the Rees (the last one was in 2007). With Easter in early April it may be a good time to spend time in the Ohau Valleys. The Open Day will be on February 18/19, and Bushcraft 2012 will possibly start on February 28. Other trip destinations are being worked on, and progress can be seen on the OTMC website.

Of course, our trips wouldn't run without leaders, so I encourage anyone interested in leading a trip to talk to either Wayne Hodgkinson (day trips) or myself for the weekend trips. We have plenty of experience and information to help you. Leadership is an important role, but isn't too daunting. We look forward to hearing from you. The new trip card will hopefully be included with the next Bulletin.

8/9 October

Andrews Stream/Casey Saddle (Arthur's Pass)

Dave Chambers ph. 454 3857/021 1501057

I work shift work so please leave message with contact number.

Experience: Suitable for trampers with moderate experience.

NZTopo50: Cass BV21 (NZMS260: Dampier L33)

This is a pleasant two-day tramp, crossing easy saddles on well-defined tracks through open mountain beech/tawhairauriki forest. The middle section, in the Poulter River, is a stroll along open, grassy river terraces. The weather is regularly drier in this south-eastern corner of the park than in areas close to or west of the Main Divide. Accordingly, this tramp can often be undertaken when conditions elsewhere in the park are unsuitable. The track ends are within 30 minutes walk of each other on Mt White Road. The track starts at Andrews Shelter on Mt White Road; turn off SH 73, 24 km east of Arthur's Pass Village

Casey Hut 16 Bunk, \$5 or hut ticket or pass payable to DOC

22/24 October

(Labour Weekend) Otago Central Rail Trail

Gene Dyett ph. 455 7465

Grab your bike and follow the 150km Otago Central Rail Trail. Starting at Clyde and cycling through to Middelmarsh over three days. A van will be travelling with us so you will only need to carry a day bag. We will be camping at Omakau and Ranfurly in tents with the option of cabins. Tea can be bought from home or a meal in the local pub with the option of a BBQ tea at Ranfurly. Over three days, the Rail Trail is relatively easy with numerous stops along the way for refreshments. Take the opportunity to travel at a leisurely place through Central Otago, enjoying good company along the way. This has proven to be a popular trip in the past so be sure to sign the list in the clubrooms or talk to Gene.

5/6 November
Day Trips from Bannockburn
Ray & Jill Mcaliece ph. 454 4211

Welcome to sunny central! Bannockburn is a great place to base ourselves while we explore the surrounding area. Families/partners are most welcome to come for the weekend. Camping at the Bannockburn Domain with all new facilities and plenty of room for tents and games. Come for day walks in the surrounding ranges (long or short walks, whatever suits your fancy), bring your mountain bike, enjoy the wines (tour can be arranged) or just chill out for a weekend.

DAYTRIPS

2 October
Unexplored Silver Peaks [F]
Richard Pettinger ph. 487 9488

The OTMC's annual foray into Silver Peaks madness sees us as off-track as possible, by identifying a place nobody who turns up for the trip has ever been before, and going there. These trips can be particularly interesting, a bit of a bush-bash; and a work-out while presenting a chance to meet the Club's resident loonies. A trip for those with a fair level of fitness but not necessarily a sound mind.

9 October
Swampy Summit to Silverstream [M-F]
David Barnes ph. 454 4492

The ideal spring day trip to get your mind & body lined up for an active summer, this is a longish round trip (after a short drive). The plan is to start at the top of the Northern Motorway and go along the Burns Saddle track to join Green Ridge. Just short of the Green Hut site, we'll take the obscure Greengauge Spur route, plunging toward the a crossing in the upper reaches of the Silver Stream before climbing to and up Raingauge Spur. Then we

(Continued from page 10)

amble across Swampy before dropping down the Leith Saddle track to the cars. There's some sustained ups and downs, so expect to be on the go for some 7-8 hours

16 October

Private Waterfall (Lammermoors) [M]

Alan Thomson ph. 455 7878

This walk starts at the locked gate on the Eldorado Track overlooking Lake Mahinerangi where we have been granted access to walk through private property to a beautiful waterfall. I've been told by the land owner that Jewelled Gecko's have been seen in the area as well as the New Zealand native Falcon. There are old gold mine workings in the area as well so care will be needed to avoid tripping over gold nuggets or falling down overgrown mine shafts. It's about an hour to the locked gate and two to three hours to do the walk so we could be back in Dunedin by mid afternoon, unless we decide to do a bit of exploring.

Trip cost \$15.00

23 October

No Day Trip (Labour Weekend)

30 October

Mihiwaka [E-M]

Gavin McArthur ph. 455 0027

There has been a change to the advertised tramp on this day. Owing to the very rough nature of the access track to Mt. Kettle, I have decided to omit it from the tramp.

We will meet at the clubrooms at 9-00 am and proceed to the car park at the bottom of Cedar Farm Rd. From there we will proceed up Cedar farm Rd. to the reservoir. After exploring this area we will proceed up the back way to the summit of Mihiwaka. If the weather is clear we should enjoy some spectacular views of the surrounding area, from the summit we make our way down hill to Purakanui Rd. and then back to the cars. Carpool cost \$5.00.

Thursday Night Programme

6 October

Last February, Tony Timperley and an old tramping mate met at Lewis Pass and went a couple of tramps in the area (not the St. James Walkway). Tony will show us these tramps and point out other options in an area which has lots of potential.

13 October

BYO—Bring your own photos from recent trips along to show .

20 October

As we all tramp in the South Island high country, we should all be concerned about its future. Well known conservationist, Alan Mark, will enlighten us with his presentation, entitled: "The South Island high country: ecology, conservation, recreation values, and sustainable management." Alan has done much work in the Mt. Aspiring NP area.

27 October

To be advised

3 November

Trans-Alpine Tramping in West Otago. Danilo Hegg is well known in tramping/mountaineering circles and is set to edit the next edition of Moir's Guide North. He is also an excellent photographer.

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 Ian Woodford (phone 455 5908) email ijwoody@clear.net.nz

Visit us on the Internet at: www.otmc.co.nz