

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.

Welcome to the November edition of the Bulletin. This month there are a number of trip reports to encourage you to get out into the mountains over the summer months. Trip reports are an important part of the Bulletin, not only telling where you went but the people you tramped with and other relevant route information. Lately there has been a backlog of trip reports, rest assured I am steadily working through them and publishing as many as I can fit in here. All trip reports are much appreciated. Something to consider when sending a trip report is to include a few photos that can be printed with your report. Photos really add something extra to a trip report, especially for those that receive the Bulletin by email as they are in colour.

If you have written a trip report, please email to me at debsnz@ihug.co.nz. I try to send an email acknowledging all trip reports received, if you don't get an email back, flick me another asking if I've received it.

Debs

Committee Members 2011/12

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Peter Stevenson	454 4148
Treasurer	Tina Anderson	473 7015
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 club continues to thrive, with good numbers at meetings and trips. The release of the new tramping programme with this Bulletin sees a varied selection of trips offered. Unfortunately the start of our summer trips coincides with that mad pre-Christmas rush, although this can make any tramping trips more special.

The first three months of 2012 will also be busy for the OTMC, with a repeat of the Open Day and Bushcraft on offer. The open day will be held on February 25, and will follow a similar format to the 2011 event. A key task is to advertise the day as much as we can. 2011 featured a full page in the D-Scene newspaper, which was good, but does cost money. I acknowledge the great contribution made by Neville Stewart Landscaping in assisting the club in financing the page last time. If anyone else has any ideas on companies that may be able to support the OTMC in this way then please get in touch with Richard, Gene or Sam (see committee list for contact details). Also, we would be interested in hearing any other ideas for promotion.

The second part of the open day will be a walk with the club on the Leith Saddle Walkway (Northern Motorway to Swampy Summit). We hope we have a clearer day weather-wise than this year, which we are sure will attract even more interest. The combination of the open-day and Bushcraft this year has been fantastic for the club and is probably the main reason we are in such good shape at the moment - we can only build on this as we head towards our 90th Anniversary in 2013.

You will see on the trip card that Bushcraft 2012 starts on March 13 (timed to make use of the open day for promotion). The course programme will be similar to this year – 3 or 4 evening meetings in the clubrooms, a navigation day on Flagstaff, a river safety day and an overnight trip to the local Silver Peaks. There will be information made available late this year and early next year, but if you know anyone who wants to be introduced to tramping then let them know this is coming up. The informal nature of the course also means that club members are welcome to attend any part to brush up on specific skills.

All this means a busy time for the committee – if anyone is available to help with either the open day or Bushcraft, then please let us know.

Antony Pettinger
President

MOIRS GUIDE NORTH, the Otago Alps, a tramping and transalpine guide is virtually out of print and being updated. The NZ Alpine Club plans to re-print it sometime in mid 2012.

Moirs covers the area between the Routeburn Track and Mt Cook National Park on both sides of the Main Divide. The seventh edition is being revised, and will be slightly bigger to include some of the land that has come into DoC through tenure review etc. But this will be a revision rather than a complete new edition.

We are looking for updated information throughout the region from now until March 2012. Sooner is better. Both of us can be approached with info about any of the region, but Danilo is concentrating on the region east of the Main Divide and Geoff is concentrating on areas to the west. If you have information that would help in this process, please e-mail Danilo at danilo.hegg@hotmail.com, or Geoff at geoffspearpoint@clear.net.nz

We are interested in comments on off track routes you have used in the guide, track conditions and facility changes, times, access info including phone numbers or e-mail addresses and names, anything you think is relevant. Then we will compare it with what everyone else says! Moirs has always been a backcountry collaboration, and we want it to continue that way. We plan to spend time checking things out in the back country ourselves too of course.

All feedback greatly appreciated.

Geoff Spearpoint and Danilo Hegg

Membership

Members resigned during last month

- Hilda Firth
- Becky Cameron
- Jack De Vries

There are still 22 members to send their subs in to the club for the current year. Our constitution says that subs need to be paid by the 1st of November to remain a member of the club. Emails and phone calls have been made and a final reminder for those people will be sent out with this mail out so please send in those subs.

Richard Forbes
OTMC Membership Secretary

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

Trip Reports

Kepler Track

7/8 May

I had a great weekend. 14 of us went down altogether in a van and a private car. We stopped in Gore for tea. We got to Te Anau just after 10pm and Jill and I were dropped off at Rainbow Reach. We walked in to Moturau Hut in the dark. It was a lovely walk in the dark on a very good track. We got there just after midnight. The next morning we got up at 7.40am and set off at 9.00am on a beautiful morning. We took our time and had a few stops. We saw some wildlife especially a wee bird just hopping around. It was rather sweet. The track was excellent—good and wide. We got to the Iris Burn Hut at 1.30pm, a bit earlier than we thought we would. We had a look around and found the one toilet, which was a long drop and had live and dead sandflies in it. Sandflies absolutely love me! Jill and I went and explored the waterfall which is just 20 minutes from the hut. The waterfall was just amazing. On the way back we collected some fire wood for the fire at the hut.

We were having a hot drink when the rest of the party started arriving. Everyone sorted out where they were sleeping and we started cooking tea on our gas cookers. Jill and I were together for the meal. Everyone went to bed early.

The next morning we all left and set off at 9.00am. We had morning tea at Rocky

Point shelter. It was a lovely walk out along such a great track. It turned out to be a warm day. We stopped and had lunch at Moturau Hut looking out at the calm Lake Manapouri. We headed out to Rainbow Reach. I loved it at the end walking over the swing bridge before heading home to Dunedin.

It was a real challenge for me because it was the first time for carrying a big pack and was a long way. It was a wonderful weekend.



I would to say a big thank you to Jill for doing it with me and supporting me and helping me out. Thank you for just being there and encouraging me.

And also to Debbie for encouraging me too.

Lucy A Jones

The Tararua Southern Crossing

A belief that the Tararua Range is really just a bigger version of the Silver Peaks keeps drawing me back to the place that is arguably the spiritual home of tramping in New Zealand. The range was the original stamping ground of the very first tramping club, aptly named the Tararua Tramping Club and still going strong ninety two years later. Its founders explored the ridges and valleys, and left their names scattered across the map.

My interest in this legendary range has been aided by having a few mates who are Tararua enthusiasts living within striking distance of the range. They don't need too much arm twisting to head for the hills with a Dunedin boy whenever I can tag a few days onto a trip to Wellington. Sometimes the gentle arm twisting is mutual. When Hutt Valley Tramping Club life member Graeme Lythgoe proposed a Southern Crossing, I leapt at the opportunity. Fellow OTMC member Rob Mitchell made it a party of three.

We set off from Otaki Forks on a muggy Sunday morning. The tops were clagged in – legend says it's that way on two hundred days a year – but the heat gave us hope that the cloud would burn off. After a brief detour to Parawai Hut (okay, maybe I am



a hut bagger) we headed up the wide gravel path. Otaki Forks is popular with day trippers and campers, so the path reflects the needs of those users. Eventually the regenerating scrub gave way to mature forest and the track became the expected muddy trail weaving amongst trees. A spot of downhill suggested that we'd crossed Tiro-tiro Knob and shortly we reached the clearing containing Field Hut. The oldest purpose built tramping hut in the country, dating to 1924, it was the Tararua Tramping Club's first major project and was named for one of the club's founders, local Member of Parliament Willie Field.

The hut was a good spot to stop at for lunch, and then it was a short climb to bush line. Judd Ridge stretched towards Dennan above us, while behind us were views of the coast and Kapiti Island. The cloud had burnt off and the day had morphed into a summer scorcher. Tussock ridges above bush-filled valleys – this was my sort of tramping. When we reached the junction with the Main Range route towards the Tararua Peaks it seemed like a good spot for a long break to just enjoy the surroundings. No doubt many trampers scurry past this post, unwilling to incur the wrath of the weather as they race for the shelter of Kime Hut, quarter of an hour further on. Eventually it was time for us to head that way too, but not before I'd dashed up Bridge Peak, one of many innocuous bumps along the way to be named for local

back country identities – in this case, 1950s search and rescue guru Bill Bridge. Kime Hut is the highest hut on the range and, with its high ceiling and no heating, has a reputation for being one of the coldest. But our lovely day had meant that it was cosy enough, even with just five occupants. By bedtime, the hut was surrounded by swirling mist. A few hours later, the mist was gone and replaced by full moon lighting up the tussock. But by morning, it was swirling mist again. Graeme was almost apologetic for us missing the views that he assured us were worthwhile, but I wasn't too disappointed. There's something quite special about the combination of tussock and mist. A short climb around Hut Basin coincided with a brief clearance and a chance for a quick photo of the hut, and then we dropped a bit before commencing the sharp ascent to Mt Hector. It was great to finally see the famous memorial cross, even if that was all we saw. A whole series of small named bumps – the Beehives, Atkinson, Aston – had to be crossed to take us to the Dress Circle, a wide sweeping ridge that leads towards Alpha. Occasional clearances allowed a glimpse of Wellington Harbour in the distance. From Alpha, the ridge that divides the Hutt and Tauherenikau catchments descends to bushline and soon leads to Alpha Hut to end a short day.



Alpha's a pleasant hut, with a split level layout. In common with many bushline huts, firewood is a scarce commodity, as generations of trampers have removed any bit of wood that's not attached to the ground and, judging by the many stumps, plenty that is attached.

Morning brought rain, which turned out to be our constant companion for the day. The decent to Hell's Gate was followed, infuriatingly, by regaining most of the lost height to join the Marchant Ridge. The ridge meanders along, seemingly not making progress of any sort, until a short climb to Marchant itself. The scene of a big fire in the 40s, I'm sure this was a bleak place for many years. Now there's nice regenerating scrub amongst the charred skeletons of mighty trees, testament to the forest's ability to heal itself. Although the only place out of the bush that we encountered all day, we were again denied a view. A sharp descent took us to the site of Dobson Hut and a turnoff leading to the Tauherenikau Valley. We took the other option, following an old vehicle track to the carpark at Kaitoke to conclude a very good trip.

David Barnes

West Matukituki Valley/Aspiring Hut

25/26 June 2011

The trip organised by Richard Forbes had 12 people on it including Ian, Brent, Antony, Debbie, Darryl, Peter, Greg, Andrew, Krzysztof, Simone, Richard and me.

We arrived at Raspberry Flat car park at about 11.30 on Friday night and set off in the pitch black for Aspiring Hut. A bit of an adventure as many of us had never been there before so had no idea what was around us. A little bit of rain started to fall so we put on our jackets but after a while it stopped.

There were copious amount of cow poo to contend with, and when a couple of the culprits appeared beside us out of the dark some of us got a wee fright. Poor Simone had come down with a tummy bug and was feeling quite sick but managed to carry on and we all made it into the Hut at about 2am. Antony and Debbie were already there asleep (or had been) having left earlier in the day.

It rained quite heavily in the night and there was some fresh snow on the hills in the morning. After about 4 hours sleep (if that) we were up and heading up the valley - all except Simone who was still sick and stayed in bed.

On our journey up the valley we heard the helicopter searching for the missing German tourist who had stayed in the hut on the 16th - 10 days earlier and intended to go up the Cascade Saddle and over to the Dart Hut but hadn't made contact as planned on the 22nd. It was very sobering walking along and knowing there was a high probability someone had just died in this beautiful place.

We had lunch in an idyllic spot by the river just before crossing the bridge to the Liverpool Hut track.

Darryl preferred heading up the French Ridge track and wasn't going by himself so offered \$200 to the person who would accompany him - so Krzysztof took him up on his offer and they were off crossing the river and on their way promising to be back down by 3pm and back at the hut by 5pm.

The rest of us crossed the bridge and started the steep climb to Liverpool Hut knowing we might not make it all the way due to the snow and slippery conditions. I'm glad we just had day packs on because blimmey it was steep. Thanks goodness for tree roots in all the right places to heave yourself up on! There were keas and



robins and the views were awesome. As predicted we didn't quite make it to the hut or even see it - some saw the roof, but we still had a great view down the valley to Aspiring Hut.

It was harder on the old legs on the way down. Once down in the valley Richard gave us a botany lesson - the Silver Beech has small jagged leaves, the small round leaves are the Mountain Beech and the larger leaves are the Red Beech - three of the many things I learned during the weekend.

The weather was beautiful - blue sky, no wind - but it was only 5 days after the shortest day so we headed back to the hut before it started getting dark.

As we neared the hut we saw some fluoro orange up at the bush line on the Cascade Saddle route - SAR still searching.

Darryl and Krzysztof came back about an hour after us having enjoyed lunch about 3/4 of the way up to French Ridge Hut.

Later on we were enjoying the nice warm fire - some beverages and good food - and engaging in social intercourse - as Antony informed us the club's constitution encourages.

Until....

I went outside to the water tap and thought I was hallucinating when there were four children there in the dark with their headlamps bopping around excitedly who informed me they were just 4 of 14 kids and 4 adults in total from the Arrowtown



Scouts who were about to invade us. The kids were very excited after there 2 - 3 hour walk in the cold, dark night, and hungry - but hadn't brought any gas cookers with them, so some of our kind members let them use theirs.

Not sure what they would have done if we weren't there. They didn't realize the gas is turned off in winter. That put an end to our night as we could hardly hear each other so we all went to bed.

I was sleeping in the main living area by the window and I woke up in the early hours to the moon lighting up the sky and mountains and it was amazing.

The next day the kids had to be up early as they had a soccer match in Wanaka at 11am so they were up banging and crashing around at about 6am.

We all got up and cleared out of there and up Cascade Saddle. Debbie set a crack-ing pace, then Peter took over the lead and we got to a major creek crossing which looked daunting from where I stood - waterfall, rocks, snow and ice and I thought holy moly are we crossing that?! But it wasn't as scary when you got on to it and following in the experienced footsteps of the others - I felt very safe all weekend - the benefits of tramping with the OTMC.

The helicopter was searching again this time right above us - they seemed to be onto something as when we finally broke the bush line they were hovering around one area for a long time. As it turns out they did find the body of the missing tramper in that area that afternoon. Very sad.

The view up from bushline on the Cascade Saddle track brought a lump to my throat and I just didn't want to leave. I felt I wanted everyone to experience it - it is just breath-taking and I can't believe it has taken me so long to get organised and get out there and do it.

We reluctantly began the descent as it was getting cold standing in the snow. We got some great shots of the views and four kea playing around us and then we headed back to the hut for lunch.

On the way down we met three SAR members and their dog heading up the track and stopped to talk with them.

We packed up after lunch and walked out of the valley to the car park seeing the landscape this time in daylight. Simone was feeling better thankfully and made it back to the car park no problem.

A fantastic weekend - excellent company and magnificent scenery - thanks everyone, especially Richard for organising everything for us.

Richelle Adams.



Routeburn Peaks

On Saturday 21st May, Abby Lute and Andy Cunningham went to the Routeburn Falls Hut for 3 nights. On the Sunday they attempted Mt Xenicus, and got to within 150m of the top when thick cloud meant they could not find the route ahead, so after a frustrating wander round and wait for the cloud to lift, they headed down. On the Monday they headed for the North Ridge of Ocean Peak, and after an epic (and occasionally hair-raising) time with the weather and ground conditions they finally did their route via a combination of North and West Ridges. After the trip they have decided that the following words and phrases should henceforth be banned: heavy rain; thick cloud; high winds; steep snow grass; very steep snow grass; very, very steep snow grass; very, very steep snow grass with snow on top; wet greasy rock; flat tyre; leaking rain jacket.

Andy Cunningham

Mt. Titiroa

19-21 March

We marched up the Borland Valley track from the 'nature walk,' off the Borland Road, to a well-maintained, large bivouac for a brief stop. Finding that the walk-wire had been washed away, we forded the slippery, but minor Middle Branch of the Borland Burn. Following a steady climb and a determined search for water by some, we stopped near a wee trickle for a late lunch. Just after another small gain, we discovered some lovely rocky outcrops that would make a fine lunch stop for future reference. With panoramic views to sustain us, we trudged onward through the bush to a clearing bordering North Borland Hut. We briefly basked in the sunshine, before crossing the small Borland Burn to the true left in search for the ridge up to the tarn for the night.

With some bush bashing and steep scrub scrambling, we managed to arrive at our journey's end for the day, with just enough daylight to set up camp. The sun had graced us with its warm presence all day and its departure was noted with a frosty



crispness, followed by bundling into our tents quite early. Some kept in jovial warmth with a bit of whiskey, while others retired to a quiet evening. Many party members woke to find their boots or socks had frozen solid in the night. One person also had the misfortune to learn that wet porridge freezes at such temperatures, rather than softening (as presumably) hoped. Many trampers tried various tricks to thaw their feet, but we con-

cluded that heading up the ridge was our best bet for warming up!

Climbing up the rocky side of the ridge revealed some nice ice crystals and a little snow, but we quickly made our ascent to the top for a wee stop. At this point, a few party members decided to return to camp for a nice nap, before the afternoon descent. Meanwhile, the rest of us ventured on towards Mt. Titiroa, with one pioneering party trying out the rugged ridgeline. The second group opted to skirt the ridge and had an easy descent, before climbing back up to meet the others. One couple forged onwards to the summit of Mt. Titiroa, while the rest of us decided that it was getting too late in the day and incoming clouds would hamper any views, so we turned back.

One individual took a slight detour by accident, but found a nice spot to stop for a break and an easier route of descent. We cruised down the soft, sandy slope from here, instead of the rocky ridge of our ascent, and made good time back to the tarn campsite. After packing up, we found an easier way back down to the North Bor-

land Hut, without any rough scrub or bush bashing to be had. The crew enjoyed some cards and conversation at the North Borland Hut campsite with one additional trampler (Clint Felmingham), coming from the Lake Manapouri side of Mt. Titiroa on his South Island Traverse (see <http://clintssoutherntraverse.blogspot.com/> for more details). One group had a before dawn start, after an early night, and managed to exit the valley early the next day. The rest of us woke at a more reasonable time and met up with our new companion, along the way. We cruised to the Borland Road, after encountering some perfumed tourists holding their breath on the 'nature walk,' as we passed.



A great trip to be had by all! Thanks Pete for leading the trip!

For photos of the trip by Tomas Sobek, please see: <http://tomassobekphotography.co.nz/gallery3/index.php/Tramping/Mount-Titiroa-March-2011>

Polly for Pete, Wayne, Gordon, Tomas, Darryl, Andrew, Hilda, Stefan, Ilka

Woodside Glen Day Trip 14 August

The guys doing Snowcraft were scurrying home from Queenstown to beat the forecast Big Snow, while 4 of us ventured out from town to see how far we could get up the Maungatua before all hell broke loose.

To tell you the truth I thought nobody would turn up, but there's no stopping Lucy, for one. Lucy is always keen for a walk.

It was cold, muddy and slippery, but the track soon had us at bush line when we recognised this was quite possibly the Death Zone. So, we took photos of the lovely snow covered bush. We had been walking uphill for an hour and a half when I asked for opinions on whether or not to carry on. The other three were still keen, but we were in the snow and more was falling down upon us, so I got flighty and we all had a turn at slithering down on our back sides (not on purpose) to have hot chocolates in Outram.

While in the café the snowflakes came down even fatter, faster and fluffier than before. We made an emergency escape into the blizzard and nearly bowled over the milkman delivering who said "turned out nice again, in't it?" Yes, it had. We had enjoyed our short burst of energetic exercise and were pleased to get home safe.

Tracy Pettinger for Lucy Jones, Kana Kitayama and Richard Pettinger

Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

This Bulletin sees the release of the summer trip card, covering up to the end of May 2012. The summer trip card allows us to be a bit more adventurous when it comes to weekend trips as we don't need to be so reliant on huts. Most of the weekend trips are suitable for all grades, with options for parties to undertake different trips depending on fitness grade. A lot of the trips have options to get to the tops, as well as catering for other options. We have a full range of weekend trips to finish of 2011 with. In early November we are continuing with our 'day trips from' theme, this time basing ourselves in Bannockburn and heading out from there. The middle of November sees the OTMC return to Macetown – a real neat trip that provides a trip steeped in history, as well as allowing a full-on day trip to the tops, including Advance and Vanguard Peaks. We are trying out a three day option on this trip, so if you feel like having a long weekend then this is the trip for you.

Our end of year social trip this year is another attempt to visit Doctors Point on Lake Roxburgh. We were thwarted by the river conditions in 2009 – hopefully this will not happen this year. It is a pleasant half-day walk done the side of Clutha from Alexandra to Doctors Point, where we camp overnight. The last trip for 2011 is headed for Boundary and Duncan Streams, in the Ben Ohau Range (accessed from the Mt. Cook highway). With the new trips in place all we can hope for is a more settled summer than last year.

Dave Chambers recent weekend trip to Arthurs Pass has shown again that travel time to the area is no more than say the Routeburn, Greenstone or Divide. With such a wide range of trips in the area (including Cragieburn) there is no reason why we shouldn't make more use of the area.

Day trips have been going really well, with the most recent trip as I write this having had 21 people attending (the past few Sundays have also provided a great run of good weather, which always helps). Many thanks to Wayne Hodgkinson and all the leaders who make this happen.

5/6 November

Day Trips from Bannockburn [All]

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.

19/21 November

Macetown (two and three day options)

Antony Pettinger ph. 4737924

Macetown today is the remains of a gold-mining town dating back to the 1860's. Located on the Arrow River, upstream of Arrowtown, this idyllic location provides both a reminder of it's past, as well being an enjoyable tramping area. This trip will have a two and three day option . With the extra daylight at this time of year, both options provide enough time to fully appreciate the area. To make a semi-round trip I suggest we head in over Big Hill, which provide extensive views over the Wakatipu Basin and Arrow River/Macetown area. Once in Macetown we will set up camp in the Rich Burn – from here parties are able to explore the area. The obvious trip for the three day option is Advance Peak as a day trip from Macetown. It is possible to follow the skyline ridge around to Vanguard Peak, with great views over the Shotover and into Skippers. If possible we may be able to drop into either Sawyers or Sylvia Creek and head back down to the Rich Burn from here.

For both options return to Arrowtown can be by the historic Arrow Road. Recent work and bridging in the area means you no longer have to cross the Arrow 20 plus times (although that option is still there!).

Our days of camping behind Arrowtown are over, so we may need to over-night at the DoC campsite at Twelve Mile Delta (11km up the Glenorchy Rd). This will cost \$7 per person.

There is a separate list for both trips in the clubrooms – list closes November 10.

3/4 December

Lake Roxburgh (Doctors Point) [All]

Debbie Pettinger ph. 4737924

This trip is the end of year social trip for the club, with an easy walk to a place many people don't head to. Doctors Point is located about 9km

downstream from Graveyard Gully (Alexandra) on the true left of Lake Roxburgh. The track passes through old gold mining areas in distinctive Central Otago terrain. The area can be hot, and has no drinkable water (despite the vast volume in the lake – drink from here if you are game!). We plan to have boat support, so additional water can be taken to Doctor's Point. Being a social trip we will have a BBQ at Doctor's Point and camp under the trees (the only ones for miles). The trip will leave Dunedin on Saturday morning, and we should be walking before lunch. As a boat will be used to carry some gear there will be a modest charge for this.

DAYTRIPS

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.

6 November

Hermit Ridge (how not to get lost) [F]

Antony Hamel ph. 453 5240

Hermit Ridge is a rarely visited ridge in the Silver Peaks. A track cut along its length in 2006 may not have been maintained. This is a fit trip and will take at least 7 hours of tramping. Be prepared for some bush bashing and to keep moving. This is a remote experience on the back door step of Dunedin and makes a great day out.

You may even see a guide book writer get lost.

13 November

Spiers Road-Ben Rudd's-Rhododendron Dell-Davies Track [E]

Richard Pettinger ph. 487 9488

Join us for a pleasant wander over Flagstaff, with a picnic lunch on the lawn by the shelter at Ben Rudd's hut site, followed maybe by a visit to see Bruce Campbell's famous "Rhodies Gone Wild" rhododendron dell. Our approach and descent will be by little-used tracks starting in Halfway Bush, coming out at Booth Rd near Ross Creek Reservoir. A trip for everyone from those new to tramping, to lazy old folk.

20 November

Hermits Cave [M]

Bronwen Strang ph. 473 1610

Come and get the feeling of what it would have been like to be a hermit in the Silver Peaks back in the late 1950's. We will leave the Clubrooms at 9am, park at Semple/Mountain Rd, head past Pulpit Rock to Rocky Ridge and the Cats-teeth, then overland downwards to his cave and do the journey in reverse on the way out.

27 November

Obscure Approaches to Jubilee Hut [F]

David Barnes ph. 454 4492

I think a lot of people know that I'm a Silver Peaks nut. Yet there's still a few corners of the range that I haven't poked my nose into. This trip is a chance for me to fill in a couple of blanks on my map. The snag is that I've been everywhere easy and everywhere that's tracked. We're going to start at Hightop and head along Rocky Ridge to just past Hermit Ridge before heading left onto a ridge that finishes just upstream from the old Jubilee Hut site. I'm picking this as finishing steeply. Then we'll go to the new hut, and then straight up Raboh Ridge. (That's an acronym for Ridge At Back Of Hut). This looks like a bit of a scramble, and we will probably give it a miss if conditions are wet (and take the soft (!) option - the Devil's Staircase). Then we'll head past the Painted Forest, checking on the current state of Dark Horse Hut, before sanity is restored as we regain the main track. My best guess is that this will take 8 or 9 hours.

Thursday Night Programme

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.

10 November

Jane Cloete will give a presentation on Kazakhstan. Jane will tell us her impressions of the country and people when she visited in 2005

17 November

Peter & Leonie Loeber recently visited Africa and will give us a talk about their adventures there. This will be a very interesting talk.

24 November

BYO—Bring your photos along of a recent tramping trip you have been on. Day or weekend trips, club or private trips, all photos welcome.

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