

**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.



An OTMC group on a recent trip to Breast Hill
Hawea Conservation Park (January 2012)

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
Clubrooms/Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	487 6066
Clubrooms/Gear Hire	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 5900
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Representative	Ross Hunt	477 3309

Welcome to 2012, I hope everyone was able to enjoy some of the great weather the south has enjoyed over the Christmas / New Year break (recent snow excluded!) The club has been active, with two weekend trips completed, and 20 members geared up to head to the Matukituki / Rees for a crossing over Cascade Saddle. Add to this a couple of day trips and meetings – yes, we are back to normal!

Gene Dyett's trip to Aoraki / Mt. Cook didn't quite have the summer weather expected, but the group made the best of the conditions, snatching a trip to Sealy Tarns as well as an unexpected side trip near the Benmore Dam on the homeward journey. The second weekend trip was the first official club trip to Breast Hill that I can recall. This new track has come about through tenure review, and crosses sections of Lake Hawea Station to access the Hawea Conservation Park. The 970m climb from Lake Hawea, combined with the cloudless sky was daunting but, as always, it is only the next step you need worry about. This trip is regarded as a highlight of the southern section of Te Araroa / Long Pathway, and certainly offers great views from the summit of Breast Hill. By combining it with the Timaru River it provides a neat almost round trip (masochists could close the loop by walking the road).

The committee are also busy, with planning for the open weekend on February 24/25 well underway. The format of this weekend will be the same as 2011, with the Saturday featuring the clubrooms, and what the club has to offer. Sunday will see Wayne Hodgkinson and others taking people for a walk towards Swampy Summit via the Leith Saddle Track. This is an important event for the club as attracting new members to the club on an on-going basis is vital to the club's survival. Please consider assisting, either on the Saturday or Sunday – see the notice elsewhere in this Bulletin for details. The club has submitted on the Dart Tunnel proposal in the negative. We are opposed because we believe it is contrary to both the Mount Aspiring and Fiordland Park's management plans. Other issues that concern us is increased noise (Hollyford Valley), effect on current uses within the Hollyford, potential environmental impact, as well as the risk of an unfinished project in the event the venture fails. Public submissions have been extended until February 20, so if you want to send DoC your views, you still have time.

The committee have yet to discuss the Riverstone Monorail proposal that includes a Monorail being constructed from the Kiwiburn to Lake Te Anau. There is information regarding this proposal in the media (i.e. ODT, Jan 28, 2012) and on the DoC website. If any members have a view they would like the club to consider please talk to a committee member.

The committee have work to get on with, with several points in the OTMC Strategic Direction (as presented at the 2011 AGM) to be implemented. One of these is the review of the club constitution. Sections of the constitution probably date back to 1923, and some updates need to be made to bring the constitution into the 21st century. And speaking of 1923 (our founding year), next year will be the 90th Anniversary of the OTC / OTMC. This is surely something worth celebrating in some form. I invite suggestions from members. The normal month for the actual anniversary is August (the 23rd is the day), but there is no reason we can't make some of your ideas run throughout the year (or even August 2012 to August 2013). The committee look forward to any ideas.

Antony Pettinger
President

Invitation **Opening of Hoods Creek Track** **15 April 2012**

The North Otago Tramping & Mountaineering Club invites members of the OTMC to the opening of Hoods Creek Track within Herbert Forest on 15 April 2012 starting at 9am.

The North Otago Tramping & Mountaineering Club has been working for the last two years towards opening this track up to the public. Along with the Podocarp, Swallows Tracks and Hoods Creek Track there are options for half or full day walks within the Herbert Forest.

A short ceremony will be held at 9am, followed by guided walks through these tracks.

For more information please contact Robbie Verhoef at Robbie.verhoef@yahoo.co.nz

Membership

Club membership now stands at 185 with only one member still to get in contact about their subs due.

Members joined during the last month

- Mary Wheeler
- Maria Polak

Richard Forbes
OTMC Membership Secretary

Open Weekend 2012

25/26 February

Last year the OTMC held an open weekend that proved very popular so this year the OTMC will again hold an open weekend - this time on 25/26 February as a way to introduce and promote ourselves.

It is the current members of the OTMC that can be the best publicity for the club. Please talk to your friends and workmates about what you do with the club and encourage them to come along sometime during the weekend. We'd love to meet them!

You will find a poster included with this bulletin, please put it up in your staffroom, local dairy, fish and chip shop, etc. Feel free to photocopy it and pass onto others who maybe interested in getting out into the hills.

The clubrooms will be open from 10am—4pm on Saturday, 25 February. Join the guided walk on Sunday, 26 February to Swampy Summit via the Leith Saddle Track on the hour from 10am—2pm.



Tramping Skills Course 2012

We are very lucky in New Zealand to have many wonderful hills and mountains to explore and enjoy.

The OTMC is holding a tramping skills course aimed at encouraging people safely out into the mountains. The course is held over four evenings and four days. The aim of this course is to cover a number of topics (including clothing, footwear, maps, river crossing, etc.) that will help people enjoy the outdoors safely. There is a small charge of \$20 for this course (to cover costs). Club members are most welcome to come along to some/all of the meetings/trips to brush up on their own skills.

Again it is the members of the club who are the best people to promote the club and our Bushcraft/Tramping Skills Course. This is your chance to help the club by talking with your friends and workmates about getting into the mountains of New Zealand safely. Please make use of the enclosed poster to put on your staffroom noticeboard, local dairy, etc.

The first evening starts 13 March and ends on 15 April with a river crossing day trip at Outram Glen.



Is the guide book about to die?

Come along to the club meeting on 16 February

- ⇒ Dunedin Tracks and Trails - updating a guidebook.
In three years there have been developments and a list of updates will be provided. This will include some examples of track closures.
- ⇒ What next? How is publishing dramatically changing?
A review of some recent publications to illustrate some trends.
What can smart phones do in the wilderness?
Alternatives to guidebooks, web pages, blogs, videos etc

Antony Hamel is author of a number of guidebooks.

This will be a light hearted review with hecklers especially welcome.

Trip Reports

Silver Stream-Swampy - 9 October

I must have written something enticing about this trip, because at least four of the people who turned up did so because they wanted to find out about Greengauge Spur. There had been a frosty feel about the day earlier, but by the time we were underway it was warming up nicely. The Burns Track's reputation for mud was undeserved after a dry winter, and we soon found ourselves out of the bush and wandering through scrub to the saddle and on to the Swampy Ridge track. A descent and ascent took us to Sleepy Hollow on the side of Hightop before we joined Green Ridge. Ten minutes short of the Green Hut site a yellow marker indicates the Greengauge Spur track, which climbs sharply for a few minutes to a knob with great views. There wasn't a breath of wind, so this made a great lunch spot.

Descending the 350 metres to the Silver Stream is straightforward but unrelenting. The track has had some clearance work on it in the last few weeks. After a quick splash across the stream, we had to regain the height we'd just lost. If anything, this side was steeper. Eventually we met Raingauge Spur, which we continued to climb to the Elbow on the Swampy Summit Road. We followed the road across the summit, encountering a typical late afternoon easterly, before descending the Leith Saddle track to the cars we'd left some seven and a half hours earlier.

David Barnes for Arthur Blondell, Ripley Dean, Lucy Jones, Tomas So-beck, first-timers Steph McLaughlin & Maryam Ousoukei, and Over Thirties Club members Lindsay Bartlett and Peter Gillespie.

Otago Central Rail Trail

Labour Weekend 2011

150kms of exciting, adventure, adrenaline filled biking with a lot of refreshment stops along the way ! It couldn't get any better and it did!!! Thanks to Gene and Margaret Dyett's planning and kindness we are able to do this bike ride, they were the support team along the entire trail..

Saturday morning we all met at the club rooms, our biking gear on, our tyres pumped, bags packed full with supplies. We leave Dunedin with an expectant hum of anticipation. Within a short drive of 2.5 hours we have arrived in Clyde. First Gene gives a safety and information brief, to the 22 bikers (probably not realizing how that would come into play much sooner then expected) With a 11.30 am start we are on the bike trail, the sun shining. The Otago Central Rail Trail welcomes us with open arms.

Its pedal to the metal for some and time to smell the daisies for others, it doesn't matter what you choose its all about enjoyment. First stop was the gold diggings near Tucker Hill for lunch, this was a slight down hill ride and we all arrived in good time. The willow trees provided some welcome shade. The next ride would be a short ride to Chatto Creek. Unfortunately tragedy struck, when one of three unleashed dogs who were on the trail ran out and hit our cyclist Carole Evans, knocking her off her bike. This fall resulted with serious injury, and it was a quick response by the group and George Evans that resulted in an ambulance being called immediately, but access was a problem. The Rescue Helicopter was the next responder and ferried Carol to the Dunedin hospital , her update is that she has a spiral fracture and has to stay on crutches for 6 weeks. We wish her a speedy recovery. Gene who was riding parts of the trail and riding back to meet us, arrived just as the helicopter left. We were all sad that the bike journey had to end like this for Carole and George.

For the next part of the trail we cycled on, arriving at Chatto Creek for a refreshment stop. Then up over the little mountainous Tiger Hill to Omakau (arguably the best camping ground in Central Otago) . It was a hot and sunny afternoon, and our tents were erected in a big open grassy area. Its chillax time with some of us sight seeing and others to the Commercial Hotel.

Sunday morning after a hearty breakfast, we set off for Ranfurly. The Idaburn Gorge providing the longest tunnels and steepest gorges of the trip. Once passing here the first stop for the day was Oturehua with some cyclists visiting the Hayes Engineering display. The weather was again brilliantly sunny with no wind. From Oturehua it was uphill to the highest point on the track. Nearby this point some visited the Wedderburn pub, and met (the friendliest publican in Central Otago). On this beautiful hot summers day we rode on downhill to the Ranfurly Camping ground. We are over half way in this cycling adventure now. On arrival at Ranfurly it was free time and some went to sight see, shop or just relaxed

around the camping ground. Most that night went to the Ranfurly Lion Hotel, expecting to watch the All Blacks demolish France (and we did 8-7).

Early Monday morning a few foggy heads woke to a foggy morning and all cyclists left around 8ish. Destination Hyde. The fog soon lifted and a strong back wind started to develop, that made the cycling, fast and a little of dangerous. On arrival at Hyde there were some reports of cave monsters attacking some cyclists.

We reached Hyde earlier then expected and most decided to head on to Middlemarch and relax there. The wind was even stronger after leaving Hyde with some electing to wisely walk where there was a very strong cross winds. At times there were bikes lifting off the ground. We all made it safely to Middlemarch Cafe where it was time to rest and recover with big smiles of completion of the wonderful trail.

Time then to pack up and head home to Dunedin, arriving at the OTMC clubrooms at 3.30pm after having a wonderful Labour weekend on the Otago Central Rail trail.

Once again A BIG THANKYOU TO GENE AND MARGARET DYETT for their organization constant support and kindness we couldn't of done it WITHOUT THEM.

Michael Firman for Gene Dyett, Margaret Dyett, Chris Pearson, Kathy Woodrow, Wayne Hodgkinson, Pam Hodgkinson, Jane Cloete, George Evans, Carole Evans, ,Katharine Follin, Anna Burgess, Isobel Stearn, Dave Wilson, Brent Dewar, ,Alan Williamson, Bruce Bernasconi, Tomas Sobek, Michael Firmin, Wolfgang Gerber, Yolanda Valderrama, David Barnes, Ralph Harvey, Maryann B. Oskaei, Tina Anderson



Looking in retrospect – seldom wrong but never correct: Unexplored Silver Peaks. October 2

There's a special allure about going to new places, and I'm sure it's that rather than references to the trip being 'sanity optional' that enticed ten people to join Richard for his annual foray into the unknown. The deal, as you probably know, is to select a route that no-one in the group has done. Naturally, the more people who turn up, the harder that becomes – especially when three of the party share 130 years or so of Silver Peaks experience. The risk, of course, is that, of necessity, the trip reverts to Richard's former annual, event, Silver Peaks for Masochists.

After some discussion, we settled on the southern tributary spur of Rosella Ridge, and decided that going up spurs is generally a better bet than descending them, as subsidiaries converge. After a short road walk north from the Hightop carpark, we dropped down the Hunters' Access route to the "death trap" (as described in the ODT) Waikouaiti River. Our destination was straight opposite us, so up we went. Although there was a fair bit of hand-over-hand hauling, travel was fairly straight forward. As we reached the crest,

we were surprised to encounter a really good animal track.

"Excellent," I thought.

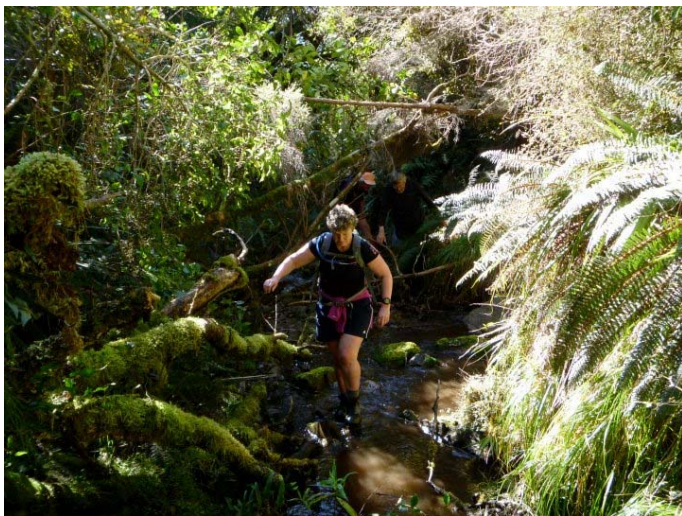
Pleasant travel to the tops! "Too easy," said

Richard, clearly regressing to his masochist days. And so we

dropped into the creek on the far side of the spur, and headed up it.

It was a lovely day, with dappled sunshine pushing through the

tree canopy, so travel was generally pleasant. As the stream steepened and overhanging and collapsed vegetation slowed travel, a decision was made to climb out onto the true right bank for lunch. From there, there was little en-



thusiasm for returning to the stream, so we pushed on up the spur through generally reasonably penetrable bush. As we reached the crest of the ridge, we again found a clear track, so we took it. A few minutes later, we were somewhat surprised to find that we were on the main Rosella Ridge, not far below Little Pulpit Rock. What we hadn't factored in was that the drawbacks of descending spurs apply equally to ascending streams, and that we had landed up in a tributary on the true left of our stream. So when we climbed out to the true right, rather than reaching a subsidiary of our original spur, we'd landed up on a trivial subsidiary of the main ridge. Oh the wonders of hindsight. Richard reckoned that the people in front must be descended from moths, transfixed by the sun and driven towards the light

Anyway, we clearly had quite a way to go, so after a break on top of Little Pulpit Rock we ascended the rest of Rosella Ridge, with Richard moaning that the trip wasn't supposed to be Explored Silver Peaks, before heading out past the Green Hut site and back to the cars, arriving just before 5pm.

David Barnes for Richard Pettinger, Ken Mason, Richard Salisbury, Ripley Dean, Maria Hamelink, Tim Russell, Jeremy Thomas, Peter George, Peter Boeckhout & Paul Cunliffe.

August 20-21

Routeburn Falls/ Lake Harris

A van with six of us left town on the Friday night. We stopped in Alexandra for tea and headed to Glenorchy to the start of the Routeburn, arriving at 11pm. We woke up to birds singing and mountains with snow.

We had an early breakfast, packed our gear and headed off along the Routeburn track. It was a lovely clear, cool morning with just a bit of frost and we soon warmed up once we set off. The track had a bit snow on it and it all looked very pretty. Walking along felt as though we were in a fantasyland; it was stunning. All along the track there were long sticks of frozen icicles hanging down from the cliffs. Just before we had reached the hut we had to climb over and scramble through trees that had fallen on the track. Now we know why it wasn't very good to walk in late at night.

By midday we had reached the Routeburn Flats Hut where we discovered the Pettinger family's gear already there. They had already headed up to Lake Harris earlier in the day. We all found a bunk and emptied our packs. It is very nice to carry a slightly lighter pack up to Falls Hut. It only took us 1hr and 5 minutes to get to Falls Hut which was surrounded by a lot of snow.

By the time we reached the hut we were all ready for our lunch. At Falls Hut we meet up with the Pettinger family on their way back from Lake Harris. The snow was quite a lot deeper above the hut. It was very pretty and tiring trudging through the thick, deep snow. We were rewarded with stunning views looking towards the snow covered mountains. We walked part way towards Lake Harris before turning around and heading back to Falls Hut. We carefully made our way down the steep bank behind the hut. We carried on down through the bush towards Flats Hut and towards the end I stopped to admire a very pretty green bird which was flying close by.

We got back to the hut and the rest of the party was already there, along with 20 others from the Hokonui Tramping Club. There was a good fire going so it was nice and warm in the hut. We had a very nice tea then played cards



with the Pettinger children-Jade and Dylan. I learnt a couple of new card games from them. Some of us were pretty tired and were very much looking forward to a good night's sleep in the hut.

The next morning there was a very hard frost. I was silly enough to leave my boots out side over night. They froze rock hard which made them

really hard to put on. Luckily the fire was going and my boots soon thawed out. I certainly learnt my lesson for next time!

On the way out we got to walk over a swing bridge which was really fun. It was another beautiful, clear day with the sun glistering on the snow. We took our time to experience the view and scenery in snow. I can't ever imagine it looking so beautiful. We got back to the start of the track and sat in the sun to eat our lunch and admire the spectacular scenery before heading back home to Dunedin.

I would like say a big thank you to Debbie Pettinger for a wonderful and very enjoyable weekend.

By **Lucy Jones** on behalf of the Pettinger family, Greg, Gene, Jill, Janet and Russell

Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

18/19 February

Trips between East Eglinton & Homer Tunnel

(Fiordland) [All]

Debbie Pettinger ph. 473 7924

The Eglinton Valley, enroute to Milford Sound, offers numerous options for trampers particularly in summer. For this trip, parties are able to be dropped off anywhere along the highway towards the tunnel as well as into the Hollyford, so you can access Moraine Creek and Lake Adelaide.

One of the more popular trips is the circuit of Mistake and Hut Creeks in the Earl Mountains. This is a pleasant trip with lower sections tracked and the upper section off-track. The highlight of the trip is the crossing between the two creeks via U Pass, a truly impressive notch in the ridge. This is a moderate trip.

If the weather is fine then one of the best Fiordland trips is the traverse along the Livingstone Range from Cascade Creek to Key Summit. This is largely untracked and offers perhaps the best views for trampers in the area including the Greenstone, McKellar Saddle, Emily Peak, Martins Bay, and of course the Darren Mountains, dominated by Mt. Christina.

Other options include Lake Adelaide from the Hollyford (Giffords Crack for the keener), Falls Creek, or perhaps a couple of day trips (Homer Saddle, Key Summit and beyond, Lake Marion).

Trip list closes February 4.

Topo50 Maps: CB09 (Hollyford) & CB08 (Homer Saddle)

25/26 February

Northburn Station/Dunstan Range

(New Zealand's furthest point from any coast) [All]

Gordon Tocher ph. 472 7440

If you have ever wondered where the most inland point of the country is, here is your chance to be one of a handful of people who have been there. Set high on the Dunstan Range above Cromwell, the spot is marked by a cairn and post, this is very close to where the late Shrek was discovered hiding from civilisation. The plan is to camp on Friday night probably in Cromwell, leave the vehicles near Northburn Station and head up Quartz Reef Creek to Leaning Rock (1647m) which affords stunning views of Central Otago. We will follow the spine of the Dunstan Mountains north to Mts Makariri and Apiti, camping high on the range near the cairn of our quest. On Sunday we will cross into Bendigo Station and have the option of a trip to Castle Rock, then descend one of the tracks by Devils Creek to the shores of Lake Dunstan. The terrain is open tussock hills with plenty of gullies and rock tors, total ascent is about 1200m. We should have reasonable access to water, but will need to be prepared for wind, extreme heat and maybe cold. This trip will give a rare opportunity to buy wine grown on the property we have walked across at the Northburn Station Winery and Restaurant.

3/4 March

Lake Isobel/Mt Crichton [F] Antony Pettinger ph. 473 7924

We are running two distinct trips to the same general area this weekend, this is a FIT only option. Lake Isobel is a delightful alpine lake sitting at 1600m at the very head of Twelve Mile Creek (aka Few Creek, for some reason). After 1.5km of good track, the trip reverts to following a faint trail on the ridge dividing the two main branches of Twelve Mile Creek. Great views are available once the bush line is reached, with a mixture of sidling and climbing across boulders, screes and tussock until the lake is reached. There are no suitable camping spots before the lake (and little water), so it is the lake or nothing (and hence the fit grading). Mt Crichton is an easy scramble from the lake (just another 200-300m climb, and offers superb views in all directions. Return will be via the same route (dropping down to the creek is definitely an unpleasant and slower route, and not recommended).

Trip list closes Feb 23.

Topo50 Map: CC10 (Walter Peak)

DAYTRIPS

5 February

No day trip Waitangi Weekend

12 February

Doggy Day Out [E]

Janet Barclay ph. 489 2598

There aren't many OTMC trips where you are encouraged to bring your dog, and this is one of them. Meet at the club rooms at 9am and we'll head to Bethunes Gully for a stroll to the top of Mt Cargill and along to the Organ Pipes before retracing our route back to Bethunes Gully. It doesn't matter if you don't have dog, everyone (including children) are most welcome on this trip.



19 February

Mountain biking (32km Gutbuster) [Cycle/F]

Gene Dyett ph. 455 7465

We start our 32 km ride at Woodhaugh Gardens by the duck pond (Duke Street) 9am sharp. We head up the old road to the Leith Saddle at the top of the motorway, then down Waitati Valley Road to the State Highway. Cross here, up the other side to Mt. Cargill Road to the dis-used quarry. From here it is easy riding along the tops, followed by a great down-hill to North East Valley. Back to Woodhaugh Gardens will complete the loop. Bring lunch usual gear and plenty of water. Should be about 5 hours return (unless we enjoy the views and our lunch stop to much). Most important bring your bike.

26 February
OTMC Open Day (Leith Saddle Walk) [E]
Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

As part of the OTMC's Open Weekend, we will be continuing as we started last year, offering walks up the Leith Saddle Track to Swampy Summit for members of the public. We will have a "Base Camp" set up in the carpark at the top of the North Motorway, running walks on the hour as people are available. I will be asking for offers of help from members, if you can spare a couple of hours to guide a group and share your pearls of wisdom it would be great. Contact me with times you are available.

Meet at the carpark at the top of the motorway.

(no cost)

4 March
Rustlers Ridge/Burns Track/Swampy Summit [M]
Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

A moderate trip to follow the Open Weekend, and a good introduction to the wider area including the Silver Peaks. A mixture of bush, tussocks, and open tops. After meeting at the clubrooms we will head off to the top of the Northern Motorway. We start by following along the Pipeline that supplies water to Sullivans Dam (contouring around the hill), before we start to climb up Rustlers Ridge and onto Burns Saddle. From here we have a number of options, but will plan to continue along Burns Track to Swampy Ridge (the route from Swampy to Hightop) at the edge of the Silver Peaks. From here there is a steady climb onto Swampy for some brilliant views, where the going gets easier as we continue along the road past various navigation aids that can be seen from Dunedin. Then it's all down hill to the cars via Leith Saddle Track. Should be about 3 ½ to 4 hours.

Please bring \$5 for drivers

Thursday Night Programme

2 February

BYO—Bring Your Own photos. It's always enjoyable seeing photos and hearing about what members have been up to out in the hills.

9 February

Dave Still, one of our life members, will give a talk on the history of the Waipori Gold fields, which covers an area of 200 square km. The miners were looking for gold, sheelite, cinnabar and antimony - who knows what is extracted from cinnabar and antimony, without using Google.?

16 February

Is the guide book about to die? Guide book author and club member, Antony Hamel will be giving a light hearted review on this topic (*see note on page six for more details*)

23 February

Set up night for the OTMC Open day. We will be using this Thursday night to set the club rooms up for the open day on Saturday.

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 to-nytimps@xtra.co.nz) or Ian Woodford (phone 455 5900) email ijwoody@clear.net.nz

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