

**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.



Leaning Lodge Work Party—10/11 March 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

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

Bushcraft is the big news this month – we have over 45 participants on the course this year, which is the largest number since 1991. While I am not entirely sure of the exact reason for this change, numbers attending club meetings have been above average for some time. Following the 2011 Open Day and Bushcraft course we have averaged around 30 people most weeks at club. We have continued the format this year, with the Open Day in February and associated advertising designed to promote the OTMC, and Bushcraft in particular. The course itself has been planned to be informal and flexible – this appears to be welcomed by our participants. There were a few nerves on the first night as we started counting seats vs. the incoming participants – it has been a long time since I have seen the clubrooms that full. Thus far we have had two evening sessions, with a day's navigation imminent. In a week we should be in the Silver Peaks – weather permitting. I have been lucky to have an enthusiastic group of members helping me again, and I thank them for their help thus far. Our intention is to run the course in an informal and relaxed format, and feedback I have had has shown we are achieving this. Weekend trip numbers have been variable after a good start to the year. Since the Cascade Saddle trip we haven't had any weekend trips in double figures. Looking at the club's history with new or rarely visited this isn't too much a surprise, although I was initially surprised at the response to the normally popular Fiordland trip in February. On reflection, the closeness to the Cascade trip didn't help. The good news in the OTMC weekend trips are still heading away, fulfilling one of the club's main reasons for existing.

The end of April sees the Summer trip card coming to an end, so Wayne Hodgkinson and I are now busy compiling a list of trips to cover from the start of May until the end of October. Weekend trips tend to become either hut based, or have a hut option due to the colder months. Although this can be limiting in the places we can go, some trips are always popular. A Winter Routeburn has long been an OTMC tradition, and rightly so because the Routeburn is wonderful in winter, particularly the Lake Harris area. Trips where you can use the hut as a base are also popular, for example Aspiring Hut in the West Matukituki. In the wake of the recently introduced adventure activities legislation, the committee have yet to make a decision regarding snowcraft. Given the inherent risks involved it is likely that this will be restricted to OTMC members only. Our day trip programme continues throughout the winter – these trips are a good option for those who want to tramp, but don't particularly enjoy

the long dark nights in the hills. If you have any ideas for trips or wish to 'volunteer' to lead one, please get in touch with Wayne or myself. The trip card needs to come out with the May Bulletin (in late April).

I have previously mentioned the OTC/OTMC 90th Anniversary which occurs in 2013. Once Bushcraft is over, serious thought and planning will commence. There have been a few ideas floated thus far. I am expecting the actual 'Anniversary Weekend' will be held over August 23-25, 2013. The 50th, 60th and 75th anniversaries have been celebrated in this way and were very successful. As in 1998, we are thinking of running different 90th Anniversary themes throughout the year, both tramping and social. 1998 saw the weekend (and longer) trip programme undertake a series of trips crossing from Big Bay to St Kilda Beach. David Barnes has suggested a traverse over local sections of the recently opened Te Araroa Long Pathway. The committee would be keen to hear of any other ideas.

The 90th Anniversary is the right time to look back at our beginnings – the club has been honoured to receive a collection of slides from the collection of Lyall Campbell, Life Member who passed away last year. Lyall, along with Bruce, was a member of our club since the early 1950's, so these slides will provide the OTMC with a great insight of the 1950's to the 1970's in particular. I give my grateful thanks to Gregor Campbell and the Campbell family for entrusting the club with these historic scenes. We are looking at ways to share this collection with the wider club (some of the slide are glass plates – hopefully we can digitize them and show them at club).

We have a modest collection of early black and white photos from the OTC's early days – these have been really popular at the open days and club nights. We are wondering if any of our older members have photos, slides or other club publications that could be shared with the club. It would be great to build up a comprehensive archive of our history. I recently received a copy of the first Outdoors (1934), as well as the first OTC songbook from Life Member Ron Keen. No doubt there is a lot of material in the Hocken, but it would be nice to have it accessible to more members. Current technology regarding archiving material digitally means storage space is no longer a problem. The club has a past that we all need to be proud of, and as we approach our 90th and centenary it would be nice to share this while we still can. I would be most interested in any ideas.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

Club membership now stands at 191.

Members joined during last month

Raewyn Duncan

Sue & Peter Chambers (from Bushcraft)

Welcome to the club and happy tramping

Please remember to put \$1 in the hat to cover clubrooms and supper costs.

Richard Forbes

OTMC Membership Secretary

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In last month's Bulletin, the item on the adventuresmart.org.nz intentions website said that it "has been developed by New Zealand's outdoor safety organisations, including the New Zealand Police, DoC, FMC & Land-SAR". In fact, FMC, New Zealand's main advocate for back country users, wasn't even consulted.

The FMC executive's view is that the site is OK, although it could be better. It's important to note that a search won't be initiated unless your contact person calls the Police – so in that respect, it's no different from the bit of paper I leave by the phone at home.

There has been criticism of DoC's decision to withdraw the paper-based system (and some criticism of FMC for not fighting to retain that system). The reality, in my view, was that the coverage was poor. An intentions book in Glenorchy is great if you're going to the Rees, but what if you're going to the Remarkables? There was also the perennial problem of searches initiated for people who left the area didn't sign out.

David Barnes
FMC Executive

Wanted—trip reports from weekend/day trips for publication in the Bulletin.

Email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

Tararua Biscuits

On the recent Cascade Saddle trip these Tararua Biscuits were passed around by Christchurch based club member Rod Dickson and enjoyed by all. These are not jaw breaker Tararua biscuits but a softer version and survive well being squashed into your pack.

250 grams butter
250 grams brown sugar (1.5 cups)
200 grams condensed milk (0.5 of a tin) or
a tube of condensed milk
250 grams flour (2 cups)
190 grams rolled oats (2 cups)
2 teaspoons baking powder
45 grams coconut (0.5 of a cup)
75 grams currants (0.5 of a cup)



I also add a sprinkle of cinnamon.

Melt butter, sugar and condensed milk together in a large pot. Add flour, rolled oats and baking powder and mix thoroughly. Divide into halves. Spread each half onto baking paper on an oven tray (I do two batches, one after the other). Shape into a large square or oblong shape, depending on size of the tray, and how thick you want the biscuits.

Straighten up the edges, and bake at 150 degrees C for 15 minutes. Should be light to golden brown. Take out and cut into squares to your own liking. Separate biscuits with a spatula or other kitchen implement. Put back into oven for another 5 minutes if you think they are too pale.

Allow 20 -30 minutes to cool down, and then pack in a sealed (i.e. zip lock bags). Enjoy on your next trip, and win friends too, with your home baking!



Ultralight Tramping?

Recently I read an article about two guys doing a 9 day tramp in Fiordland and the weight of their packs (including 5 kg's of food) was less than 10kg's! How did these guys get the weight of their packs down so much?

This got me thinking - how do I cut down on the weight I carry when tramping? Now I don't consider my pack to be overly heavy and I have trimmed the list of what I take tramping down considerably over the years but there is still a certain amount of gear we must take.

Reading further in this article, I found out that these guys made their own packs (weighing in at around 700gm with no waist band or pockets), their parka was a cheap, light, nylon pocket parka from The Warehouse, they made their own tent fly and most of their clothing. These two guys mostly cooked over a fire and used a tin can with meths as a cooker when absolutely necessary. Let's face it; their gear was pretty basic with no luxuries. I am not convinced that cutting this far back on gear would be totally worth the reduction in weight but it's has gotten me thinking.

When it comes to what I carry in my pack I try to live by the rule that if I haven't used it in the last couple of trips, then I probably don't need it. Of course there are some things we need to take every time, even if not used and it also depends partly on the time of year and type of trip being planned. For example a first aid kit is a must on every trip and hopefully is never needed. A parka is another item that must be carried, regardless if it's used or not. I like my Goretex parka and certainly wouldn't swap it for a light, non-breathable nylon pocket park but it is bulkier and heavier than a pocket parka. I stopped carrying overtrousers a long time ago as I never wear them. I've had my sleeping bag for over 18 years and it's kept me warm when others have complained of the cold. It squashes down nicely to fit in my pack and while a lighter weight sleeping bag for summer trips would be nice, as with most people my finances are not unlimited and having two sleeping bags is a luxury I can't justify.

Another thing I would certainly not do is make my own pack. I have a



Macpac Torre and admit I do like the fancy harness and waistband. Compared to these guys home-made packs, mine would be much more comfortable to carry but does weigh in at around 2.5-3kgs. Clothing is one obvious place to cut down on. I like to have dry clothes in my pack should I get wet or cold. Individually the items of clothing don't weigh much but combined, they become more bulky and I guess the weight does add up. While I don't always need the dry clothing there are times when I have been very grateful for it. I usually carry one dry merino top (possibly two in winter), one pair of long john bottoms and one pair of dry socks. I also carry a down jacket in the winter and ultralight but bulky 'croc's for night time footwear. I do not carry extra socks or a sports towel. Let's face it – so far I am not doing a very good job of cutting back on the weight of my pack.

One area I could possibly save weight is food. Reading the article on light weight tramping, they talk about 600gm of food per person per day. They suggest taking foods that hold a lot of fat or oil as these items carry the greatest number of calories per gram. I am not sure that loading up on fat and oil is healthy or something I really want to do but it has given me 'food for thought'.



How much is too much and how much do we really need? I try to carry no water/fluid unless it's the water in my drink bottle. Alcohol while tramping can be nice but is not necessary and does not often find its way into my pack. My main meals are home dehydrated or the light weight Pasta 'n' Sauce type, before dinner snacks kept to a minimum, dehydrated or dried banana and apple instead of fresh – there aren't many luxuries here I can cut back on.

I guess I could get the scales out and weigh everything I put in my pack, making sure I have the lightest version of everything but do I really want to go this far to save a few grams here and there? Part of the enjoyment comes from having a few 'luxuries' but at what cost in weight? It's certainly given me something to think about and I will be looking at different ideas on how to reduce the weight of my pack. I am interested to hear your ideas on the weight of your pack and what you do or don't think is necessary to take on tramping trips.

Debbie Pettinger

Trip Reports

Ben Rudd's Property Picnic and Spiers Road Davies Track Day Trip—Sunday 13 November

Only eight were at the clubrooms on this fine morning, even after giving extra time for stragglers to show up. Bron had phoned to say she would



leave a car at Booth Road, so we didn't need to worry about car juggling till the end of the day. We parked up at Spiers Rd, where we met the others and soon were up and at it. There were no slow people on this trip to justify all the rests we had. The "rests" were enforced upon the keen folk, as we paused frequently for some judicious track clearing. We

were disappointed to see the state of the track. The gorse regrowth forced us away from the marked route, but we believe we stayed within the 20 m wide corridor. So many of the white markers in the old gorse have now been uprooted and apparently discarded. These were placed over ten years ago by Ken M, Richard P and crew, on spots identified by surveyor Chris P. (All of these three were with us today.)

We found the track easier to follow above the scrub this year, so no excuses for losing it. After pausing on the summit of Flagstaff for photos, we cut across the now almost gorse- & broom-free tussock to the skidsite. There we found a little pile of things to cart down to the shelter. Concrete blocks, bags of cement, paint, a ladder, a chainsaw and sundry other items found their way to Ben Rudd's hut site for a working bee to be carried out by Paul C ably assisted by Alan T. For this carrying effort, the troops were rewarded with tea and cake put on by Teresa on behalf of the Trust. Picnickers arrived and it was all very sociable, with so many of the property's owners present. After a leisurely lunch, some of us visited the dell where gorse was begin-

ning to obscure the dell loop track. The gorse was dealt to. The one spreading variety of rhododendron was identified.

Arthur has done some splendid work on opening access to the beech trees below the skidsite and so took off early to progress that some more, while the rest of us packed up and left Paul to camp and think about the work to be done. The tramping trip resumed over to the walkway and down the Davies Track to Booth Road, passing yet more 4-leafed clovers.



Thanks to all those who provided transport: Kathy, Tracy, Bron. It was a very good day.

Richard Pettinger, for (at clubrooms) Alex von Bieberstein, Richard Salisbury, Mary Wheeler, Lucy Jones, Kathy Woodrow, Arthur Blondell, Tracy Pettinger. (At Speirs Rd) Chris Pearson (and bicycle) Ralph Harvey, Bronwyn Strang. (At Ben Rudd's hut site) Paul Cunliffe, Alan Thomson, Teresa Blondell, Peter Mason, Ken Powell, Ken Mason and one black dog.

North Taieri Ridge Sunday, 4 December

When you tramp with Gordon you always get a wee bit more than you bargained for. In the newsletter Gordon promised much and never disappointed. To ensure our comfort right from the start he arranged a sunny day which began with instructions to get to the Middlemarch public toilets. From that rendezvous he lead us to Moonlight. Within 10 minutes of starting we had reached the shell of the stone cottage shown in the photo. We climbed 200m to get to the ridgeline and there had a drink/snack stop. We must have looked hot because Gordon ordered up a breeze which continued for the rest of the day. The walking was easy, through tussock and lush grasslands. The magnificent views had Kana using 180 °/360° panoramic functions in her camera. In the distance the Rock and Pillar Range, Naseby, Macraes Mine and the Kakanui range. Much closer spectacular rock tors; forming occasional small caves and a plethora of potential bivouac spots.

It was at the foot of one of these tors that we stopped for lunch (Gordon apologising that we had to choose between being out of the sun or out of the wind). Back on our feet we continued following the ridgeline to the Brother Peaks 719m. We filed twice around the Trig in honour of Jonette, then we descended for our trip homewards. Lee spotted a distressed lamb beside a cast sheep so we detoured slightly to find two sheep unable to get up. The men did their best to get the sheep on their feet again, but it wasn't working so we had to be content with a phone call to alert the farm owner.



By now it was mid-afternoon. Mindful of the 90 minute drive ahead of us, Gordon, Lee and Tomas (our drivers) lengthened their stride and headed off cross country while the rest of us plodded our way towards the road, where we were picked up at about 4pm. The drive home was via Palmerston.

Jan Burch for Lee Renwick, Lucy Jones, Mary Wheater, Kana Kitayama, Vivienne Harper, Julie Carrick, Gavin MacArthur, Tomas Sobek, Jan Burch and Gordon Tocher.

Breast Hill/Timaru River

21/22 January

Richard picked us up in Waiholā and off we went to Lake Hawea. We arrived at the end of the road around 10:30pm, crossing the Peter Muir bridge and down a steep road.

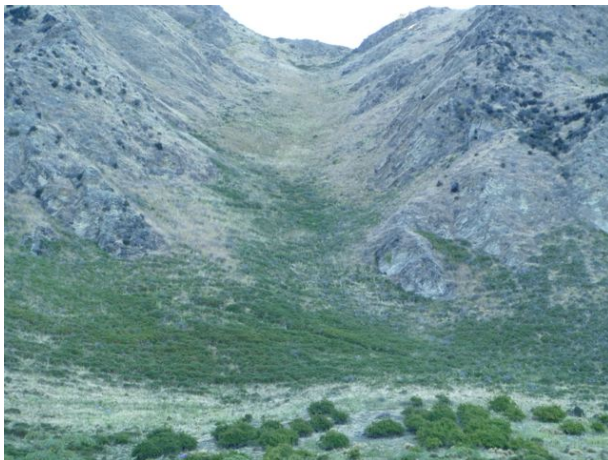
Some tents were put up close to the toilet facilities so we put our tent up a little further away and that happened to be just in the middle of some very sticky weeds aka sticky beads. We were still plucking them from our clothes and gear two days later!

Before we went to our sleeping bags we put on a brew, talked a little bit and found out two things -that if you put your head torch on a jar three metres in front of you, one - you have light and 2 - no bugs in your face.

We woke up at 6:40 am, sprayed our selves first with some sand fly deterrent then having to rush out of our tent because of the very “toxic” fumes we had sprayed in our tent of course. It worked though as we received not a sin-

gle bite. We bumped into somebody with a scary tent over his head.. but he turned out to be a very nice team player indeed.

At 8 am we drove to the starting point, which was a little way back down the road. The track started with a



big crunch upwards. A steep zig zag of 300m up to the first view point. From there it continued to be a steep exercise to our lunch spot with magnificent views over Lake Hawea.

It took us about 3 hours to reach Pakituhi Hut, built in 2011!! Including ventilation system!! Superb facilities.

We all had a long lunch at the hut because we needed it after the climb to the hut. Then we

set off to the summit of Breast Hill, which was another steep climb up. The views are magnificent especially from the rocky outcrops.

We reached the top after another 1.5 hour climb, a snack on the top all together, with super views all around. Our next track in front of us was reason for some to suggest returning to the first hut... we decided that was club blasphemy so we pushed further and tramped with a lot of gusty side winds to Stody's Hut.

Stody's Hut was from a different age to Pakituhi Hut, being an old musterer's hut. The hut had a little bunk room, fire place, a small cooking bench, some wood block seats and to the horror of some trampers a house mouse! We heard later that all five of those sleeping in the hut of them, were standing all night in a circle, fencing in this alien monster.

We all had early tea, lying in the sun being lazy, and because it was getting a bit chilly we went to our tent before dark.

We were sure nobody was leaving before 9 am, Maria and I had a fantastic sleep with me only waking up every hour because I did not want to empty my full bladder. After taking care of a bad back which generated some hilarious remarks later, we crawled out of our tent and the first thing I saw was a little pile of hail sitting in front of our tent and everybody almost ready to go.... !

Ok so we were late, but because of this alien monster in the hut, everybody was up early and had brekkie and packed up already. They were all waiting for us, oops!

We were only 10 minutes behind so we raced down the track to the river and found Gordon waiting for us and making sure we were all right.

A little further down the track Richard and Brent were on the look out for us, so all were happy.

The views were impressive looking down over the valley, and a nice steep descent.

The tramp along the Timaru river was easy on some parts with superb views and boulder hopping in other parts. I kept behind just to let the trampers behind me see where the “track” is.

One part of the track was negotiated over rocks in the middle of the river and thank you to Gordon for standing on a rock at the end of this little gorge and showing us the safer way.

We had a quick lunch on the side of the river with sandfly spray applied before pushing on further to the end of the track.

A most enjoyable weekend made possible by Richard, thank you.

Peter Boeckhout for Maria, Gordon, Richard, Antony, Debbie, Richelle, Michael, Susan, Kathy, Chris, Brent, Tina, Jill and Trevor.



Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

21-22 April

Greenstone/Caples Area [All]

Jill McAliece

Although the days are getting shorter in late April, there is still a good week-end to be had in the Greenstone and Caples valleys, on the western side of Lake Wakatipu. There are several good huts in the area that provide options for all. A good moderate (almost) round trip is the Lake Rere / Greenstone Hut / Greenstone valley circuit. After following the shore of Lake Wakatipu to Elfin Bay a 2.5km track takes you to the neat Lake Rere. The track continues on to meet up with the Greenstone Track about 5km below Greenstone Hut. Return would be via the Greenstone Track.

The Caples offers two huts, although for an overnight trip the Upper Caples is the better option. The Caples is a delightful valley, offering great views both and downstream. A quick party may be able to head towards McKellar Saddle for some great views over the head of the Greenstone towards Mt Christina and the Darrens.

Trip list closes April 12.

5-6 May

Ahuriri/Canyon Creek [All]

Leader to be advised

Another trip where the days are becoming colder, but that can also mean good clear skies – great for photography. The club hasn't been to the Ahuriri for a while. There is an option to cross over to the top of the Dingle (Top Dingle Hut) or do a couple of day trips on the Ahuriri side. Canyon Creek is a great side valley, with many views available once the bushline is reached. The other suggested day trip is to the ridge dividing the Ahuriri from the Dingle, relatively low at 1448m (compared to the surrounding high points).

Trip list closes April 26.

DAYTRIPS

1 April

Orokonui Fence [E]

Alan Thomson ph. 455 7878

This is a walk around the fence surrounding the 307 hectare Orokonui Eco sanctuary. The fence was completed in 2007 and since then pests have been eradicated, a visitor centre has been built and birds and other at risk wildlife have been introduced.

We will leave our cars at the Visitor's centre, near the junction of Blueskin and Moponui Roads. There is one steep section at the northern end of the fence but in general the 3 to 4 hour walk is very easy as it follows the wide gravelled perimeter track. There is plenty to see: great views, many birds, plus fence posts named after benefactors. Since the walk ends at the visitor centre, good coffee is an option before heading for home.

Another option, provided we are ready to do it by 3.30pm, is freedom walking inside the fence (this will incur a small fee).

Trip cost is \$6.00

8 April

Easter—No Day Trip

15 April

River Safety/River Crossing Day

Antony Pettinger ph. 473 7924

This trip is part of Bushcraft 2012, but anyone else who is interested is welcome to attend. We are starting in the clubrooms at 9am, where we will be covering the theory side, using the recent Mountain Safety DVD. We are then car-pooling to Outram Glen, where we will discuss different river crossing sites and, depending on conditions in the river, practise the common crossing techniques. Bring a good sized pack (items well water-proofed), normal tramping clothes, boots, towel, change of clothes and lunch (maybe a hot drink).

22 April
Bethunes Gully/Mt Cargill [E/Family]
Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327

An easy walk suitable for families to the top of Mt Cargill. Leaving from Bethunes Gully we follow up the track first through pines and then into the Senic Reserve with great native forest. The bush gets shorter and we reach the TV tower with impressive views of Dunedin, the Peninsula and the Silverpeaks. A side track can also be taken to the Organ Pipes if you wish. We return the same way (the kids ran this bit last time!)

Trip Cost \$5

29 April
Rocklands to Salt Lake [M]
Lucy Jones ph. 4719228

This trip has now changed to Matare to the meeting of the Rivers. Meet at the club rooms at 9am before heading up State Highway 87 to Matarae (13km's past Clarkes Junction Hotel). This is a walk through farmland with expansive views up the Strath Taieri Valley to the Rock and Pillar Range, Kakanui's and Macraes.

We will walk through paddocks and down a hill to the rocky hill blocks passing lots of rock formation to the Sutton rail/road bridge, where the Sutton Stream meets the Taieri River. We return back up the hill beside the craggy gullies. It is an interesting area and we will see the remains from the gold mining days.

Thursday Night Programme

5 April

Easter—no meeting

12 April

Rafting the Clarence River—Sue Galloway enjoyed rafting on the Clarence River recently. She will be showing us photo's of her adventures and will tell us about tramping opportunities in the area.

19 April

Phillip Somerville, Wayne Hodgkinson and Pam McKelvey ventured into Lochnagar over Christmas. This is a beautiful part of our country, not often visited by the OTMC.

26 April

Seven days, six of them fine, five valleys, four high passes, three fine drams, two wet nights, one great trip. David Barnes and Barry Flamank will talk about the Whisky Connoisseur's Tramping Club's recent trip from Lewis Pass to Lake Rotoiti.

3 May

BYO—It's been a couple of months since our last BYO so there should be plenty of photos to show. If you've been on away in the mountains in the past few months, we'd love to see your photos. Bring them along on a USB to plug into the club computer.

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 Debbie Pettinger (phone 473 7924, email debsnz@ihug.co.nz)

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