

**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 at the start of the Greenstone Track (April 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	Debbie Pettinger	473 7924
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Representative	Ross Hunt	477 3309

**Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)**

The 2012 Bushcraft course is now behind us and, from my point of view, has been very successful and very worthwhile running. The OTMC of late has a trend of short term members (which is fine!), but like other groups, we need to continually attract new members to ensure the clubs on-going survival. The open day is primarily used for promotion of both the club and the forthcoming bushcraft course. The club continues to run bushcraft primarily as our contribution to outdoor safety, but a positive spin-off is that we gain new members. Often this is because the course provides an ideal introduction to our club, and makes it easy for new people to become involved. As I write this we now have 202 members, just over our target of 200. This year's course has enjoyed almost perfect weather (a late shower of hail on the navigation day only affected one party (and the marker collector)). The clubrooms provided an ideal atmosphere for the four evening meetings. I would like to thank the following members for their valued assistance and enthusiasm: Ann Burton, Ross Hunt, Peter Stevenson, Gordon Tocher, Richard Forbes, Peter Boeckhout, Maria Hamelink, Antony Hamel, Peter George, John Kaiser, Jill McAliece, Wayne Hodgkinson, Sam Patrick and Tony Timperley. Your contribution to the club is appreciated by me and the whole OTMC. A special thank you to Debbie - as well as helping at every session she does a lot of behind the scenes work that does not go unnoticed.

With Bushcraft now over for 2012, the committee plan to work on some ideas from the strategic direction as presented at the 2011 AGM. One issue that we would like to discuss with members is the categories of membership, specifically 'postal membership'. Firstly, we have no intention of forcing current postal members to any other membership category – we value your membership, hence there is no change being considered for you. The committee understands that the postal membership category was first introduced as a way for former full members who have moved away to keep in touch with the club. With the dramatic changes in communication technology, this is no longer such an issue. A lot of information, including photos of OTMC trips and the Bulletin are freely available on our website for everyone.

The reason the committee have discussed this is that the FMC has changed the way in which they charge clubs for affiliation. There are now two tiers of club declaration: full or partial. In essence the OTMC formally chose to partially declare our total membership, as postal membership's didn't include a FMC fee. FMC still allow a partial declaration, but at a higher cost for every member of the club. The committee have elected this year to make a full declaration to the FMC, which means we pay the \$10 per member rate (no rise from 2011), but have declared all members, including postal members. Financially, the difference to the club is neutral – if we made a

partial declaration for members, excluding postal members, we would be paying \$12 per member. This increase is similar to what the extra cost of our postal members is. The OTMC is a strong supporter of the FMC, and we have excellent representation on the FMC Executive. An increase of members for FMC means their voice is louder. There are also great benefits to club members by being FMC members.

The committee have discussed informally the option of discontinuing the postal member option. It is suggested that this class of membership is no longer required for the purpose it was first created. Postal members receive club publications, but no other benefits. This means that trip surcharges are payable, and they hold no voting rights. With the demise of the 'Outdoors' annual magazine, and the inadvertent non pro-rata rise from last June it can be argued that postal members are paying more than their share (this is something that is being addressed for current postal members). The club currently has approximately 30 postal members, some in Dunedin, and others further afield. The committee invite feedback from all members on the possibility of removing the postal member category from the club constitution while allowing for current postal members to remain unchanged. In the event a final decision is required, this will be made at the AGM on August 30, as it requires a constitution change. We look forward to any comments on this.

**Antony Pettinger**  
**President**

# Membership

Wow it has been a busy month for new members after bushcraft in April. Club membership now stands at 203 (the most since I have been membership secretary).  
Members joined during the last month

- Peter Hughes
- Kim Briggs
- Chris Le Breton
- Steve & Sarah Hydes
- Johnny Monachan
- Rodger Clarkson
- Mary Donovan
- David & Tracy Senior (our 199th and 200th members!)
- Philip Jenkins
- Rebecca VanAmber

In last bulletin I listed members Sue and Stuart Chambers incorrectly - apologies for that (I put down Peter instead of Stuart)

**Richard Forbes**  
**OTMC Membership Secretary**

# Weekend trip Guidelines

To ensure our weekend trips continue to run well, we remind members of the following guidelines:

- **Closing date** on weekend trips is 8 days before departure.
- **Club transport** is arranged according to the number of people on the trip when the list closes. This is by hired vans or private cars, depending on numbers.
- Those people on the trip list when it closes are **committed to paying the full cost of the trip**.
- **Refunds** can only be given on written application to the committee.
- Trip costs must be paid in full **before the trip leaves**, and are payable to the treasurer on club nights, by posting a cheque or directly to the OTMC bank account 03-0903-0452673-00 (use your name and trip as reference)
- There is a **non member surcharge** of \$12 on weekend trips.
- A **SAR** (Search & Rescue) phone number needs to be a phone number of someone who will be worried if you are late returning home (note—NOT your home number if there is no one there to answer the phone)
- There is to be **no smoking or alcohol** while on club transport.
- The committee/trip leader **reserves the right** of participation on club trips.

## Gear Hire

The OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire.

- |                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| * Ice axes         | * Crampons                          |
| * Packs            | * First Aid Kit                     |
| * Cookers          | * Billies                           |
| * Tents            | * Personal Locator Beacons          |
| * Climbing Helmets | * Avalanche Transceivers and Probes |

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

## Entertainment Book—Fundraising

The 2012/2013 Entertainment Books are now available for \$55.00. \$11.00 from the sale of each book is contributed to the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club. Last year we raised over \$200 selling these books. A copy of the book, (containing discounts at many local restaurants, cafes, movie theatres, etc.) is available to view on Thursday evenings at the club room or online at [www.entertainmentmedia.com.au/Dunedin\\_20122013](http://www.entertainmentmedia.com.au/Dunedin_20122013). Please contact Richard on 03 453 1327 or [forbespotter@hotmail.com](mailto:forbespotter@hotmail.com) if you would like to buy one.

# OTMC 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The club will be celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Otago Tramping Club / Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club during 2013. The committee intend to form a sub-committee to oversee preparations for this historical occasion. It is envisaged that a series of events though-out the year will be held (similar to the 75<sup>th</sup> in 1998), with the major weekend being held in late August (the club was formed on August 23). If you are interested please contact Antony Pettinger (President) or a committee member.

## OTMC Cooking Challenge

Test your cooking skills at the OTMC Cooking Challenge  
at the Chaslands, Catlins.

19/20 May

Your Challenge is to produce a healthy three course evening meal.

### Become the 'Honourable OTMC Bush Chef for 2012'

- ⇒ Think up original names for your individual dishes.
- ⇒ Weight of uncooked food (less is better)
- ⇒ Taste is most important.
- ⇒ Presentation is crucial
- ⇒ Price your meal (again less is better)
- ⇒ Consider nutritional value of your meal (think food pyramid)
- ⇒ Remember the environment (cleaning up, waste)
- ⇒ Make sure your meal is ready on time!



Participate individually or as part of a group.

There is no need for complex cooking skills,  
slapping some food together and presenting it in a super fashionable  
way could land you the Title

"Honourable OTMC Bush Chef 2012"



# Trip Reports

## Day Trips from Bannockburn

5/6 November

This was the first trip on the 'summer' trip card and as we sat eating our tea at Roxburgh in a white out with temperatures down to 0°, I began to wonder about the 'summer' part.

Arriving at Bannockburn and it wasn't much warmer so we stayed in a warm house with family for the night. We woke to a sunny but cool day and headed to the Bannockburn Domain where we pitched our tent along with the others. Boots went on, daypacks were hefted and we were lucky to get a short ride to the start of the track that would take us up to the tops of the Carrick Range and the Young Australian Water Wheel. It is a steepish climb right from leaving the cars. Following a 4WD track we passed stone walls hinting at a time gone by. As we climbed higher the views started to really open up and we could see down to Lake Dunstan and Cromwell.

We stopped for a short break at some interesting rock tors that are well worth taking the time to explore. It was here we started to come across snow and with a cold wind blowing, we took the time to don parka's. From the rock tors the track levelled off and we carried along the tops, beside a water race. By now the snow was covering the



track and the cold wind helped us to make the decision to head down to the water wheel and shelter in the ruins of an old stone house to eat lunch and ponder again that this was supposed to be a 'summer' trip.

A quick inspection of the water wheel before we headed back up onto the ridge and followed the 4WD track back down the way we had come. As we descended back down the hill, the wind died down and the temperature rose. We were quite glad to make it back to the tents at the domain for a hot shower. It was about this time that Ray arrived back with his harem of

‘wives’ who had chosen to visit the local wineries instead of heading up the hill with the rest of us.

That night we enjoyed a BBQ and sing along before retiring to our tents. We woke to a warmer day and after a late start, we wandered around the



Bannockburn Sluicing's. We followed the trails, explored some of the tunnels, pondered the piles of tailings and wondered at the hardy souls that had worked and lived in this harsh environment. We eventually made our way to Stewart Town where we stopped for lunch before heading back to the Domain to pack tents and head home.

Thanks to those who made it such a fun trip, the first of the ‘summer’ trips.

**Debbie Pettinger** for Antony, Jade & Dylan Pettinger Ray & Jill McAliece, Richard & Theresa Forbes, Peter Boeckhout, Maria Hamelink, Gene & Margaret Dyett, Alan & Robyn Thomson, Alan Williamson, Sam Patrick and Polly Camber.

## **Doggy Day Out/Bethunes Gully**

### **12th February**

Twelve happy trampers and six excited dogs turned up for a leisurely stroll from Bethune’s Gully to the top of Mount Cargill and along to the Organ Pipes. There was a good mix of dogs. Two big boisterous teenagers, a black Lab called Jess and an Alsatian called Stella, who hooked up together straight away. (Ray and Andrew are planning play-dates for these two). There were also two gorgeous white fluffy things called Toffee and Angus. (Not so white at the end.) Then we had a Foxy and a Jack Russell. (The only sensible ones.)

It was an excellent day for the grunty climb to the tops, with the usual great views. Steph added the extra challenge of carrying her 17 kilo pack all the way, as training for a weekend tramp that’s coming up. I imagine there were some tired, happy dogs (and Steph), come Sunday night. It was nice to have some relatively new members along on this tramp. I hope they enjoyed the day as much as I did.

Thanks to Russell with Abby, Jill and Ray with Buddy and Stella, Dave with Toffee, Andrew with Jess and Kerry and Alan with Angus, as well as Peter, Raewyn, Anita and Steph.



# Lake Roxburgh

## 3/4 December

Saturday morning and we were up and away from Dunedin early on our way to the OTMC's Christmas social trip at Lake Roxburgh. We all gathered at the car park, just out of Alexandra, and set off to our destination, Doctors Point. A group of us were walking, with Ray in the boat

The track is much different from the previous trip there, in 2007. It is now overgrown, and a bit of head-high-weed-bashing is required in places. We started at Grave Yard Gully, an old cemetery, surrounded by a stone wall. The track is a narrow, gravel pathway that starts off well above the level of the Clutha River. The first 4km to Butchers Point is relatively easy, and our reward for getting this far was a lolly stop.

The last 6km of track, from Butchers Point to our campsite for the night, Doctors Point was more challenging. Negotiating some of the rock bluffs with a pack on proved to be quite tricky, and in some parts we had to find our own way as the river level had risen and washed away the track. There were a number of gold mining huts along the way which were explored and made the walk more interesting.

Upon reaching Doctors Point, we had a well-deserved rest before setting up our tents/fly.

Some of the ground was boggy, and this made finding campsites more difficult than last time. Some of us ended up pitching tents inside old gold-mining huts that had lost their roofs, while some ended up a good 200m from anyone else. We had a bbq for tea (thanks to Ray for bringing in a bbq!)

Wolfgang and Alan, with their guitars provided the after-dinner entertainment which was enjoyed by all. We were all singing songs well into the night. Once the sun set, it became very hard to read "Wolfies Song Book", (not that the musicians always followed the words anyway.)

The next day some of us (Dylan and I) were lucky enough to get a ride out in Ray's boat, while everyone else made the long walk out. From the stories I have heard, the walk out felt like it was longer than the walk in. The trek out took about 3 hours, compared to the 15 minute boat ride, we felt lucky.

A special thanks to Ray for the numerous trips in, without his boat a trip like this would not be possible. Thanks to Alan and Wolfgang for the live entertainment and everyone else for your company.

**Jade Pettinger** for Antony, Debbie & Dylan Pettinger, Alan Thomson, Wolfgang Gerber, Ray & Jill McAliece, Gene & Margaret Dyett, Sam Patrick, Richard Forbes, Peter Boeckhout, Maria Hamelink, Chris & Kathy Pearson, Alan Williamson and Janet Barclay.





# TripList

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

The winter trip card is included with this Bulletin (if all has gone well!). I thank everyone who has offered to lead a trip, or suggested a place for the club to go. From the weekend trip point of view, we are limited in the trips we run as we try and make the trips suitable for the current active membership. It is interesting to note the change over the years in how the winter trips in particular are carried out. Camping in winter is now a rarity, as are trips where ‘trampers mountains’ were the goal. While this may be a reflection of current participant’s desires, it doesn’t mean that this option is now gone. We are visiting a tried and true selection of trips, but it would be great to see a party attempt a trip to Mt Erebus (or Xenicous / 6274), for example. It may mean camping in the Valley of the Trolls, but this in itself can be a special part of the trip (especially in hindsight).

That said, repeat trips to places like the Kepler or Matukituki are always special – every trip is different.

**June 2-4 (Queen’s Birthday)**  
**Hump Ridge / Port Craig Area (M-FE)**  
**Leader to be advised**  
**(Contact) Antony Pettinger**

While this trip is on the trip card for the Port Craig / Hump Ridge area (a great location at this time of year), I am happy for it to be changed based on what intending participants want to do.

With good weather, a trip to Hump Ridge is great. In the past, the OTMC used a track to the north of the current Hump Ridge Track to access this 1000m range close to the southern coast. In fact, if the weather is fine, the better option may be to head north from Okaka Hut and camp near one of the numerous tarns and explore the area (just be careful bouldering on the rock tors).

If you are interested in completing the Hump Ridge Track, you can stay at Okaka Hut (may require liaison with ‘HumpRidge Track’) before descending

to Port Craig. This section takes in the three wooden viaducts, one of which is the largest in the southern hemisphere. There is a lot of history at Port Craig, and DoC have converted the former school house to a public hut. The final day is the coastal walk around Te Waewae Bay.

A more moderate option is the coastal return trip to Port Craig, with the middle day being used to explore towards the viaducts.

**Trip list closes May 24.**

**16/17 June**

**West Matukituki Valley (All)**

**Richard Forbes**

**453-1327**

Although the options on this trip may be restricted by the snow condition, the West Matukituki still has plenty to offer. It is a two hour walk to Aspiring Hut (NZAC) which will most likely be used as a base. From here there are options to head up to the bushline above Aspiring Hut (Cascade Saddle Track) for great views of the surrounding mountains. The snow conditions may prevent access all the way to both French Ridge hut and the newish Liverpool hut but we may be able to get above bushline for some extensive views. The head of the West Matukituki Valley can be reached as a day trip from Aspiring Hut. Richard will do his best to ensure a quiet time in the hut on Saturday night (in contrast to 2011!).

The return to Raspberry Creek can be via the very popular Rob Roy glacier.

Note: Aspiring Hut is not covered by DoC hut tickets (or annual pass) and costs \$20 per night (non-members of NZAC).

**Trip list closes June 7**

# DAYTRIPS

**6 May**

**McNally Track [E]**

**Janet Barclay ph. 489 2598**

Meeting at the clubrooms at 9am, we'll drive to Milton and the start of the McNally Track. Its a steep but short climb to 360 metres with lovely views on a fine day. Be prepared for some mud and cold winds. We should be back down to the cars by early afternoon, time for an ice cream or a look at the fossils at the lime works on the way home. Great trip for the kids.

Trip cost \$12

**13 May**  
**Government Track [M]**  
**Kathy Woodrow ph. 455 4673**

This track is located in the Waipori Gorge and was put in as a pack track to the goldfields. This is a good round trip with some car shuttling and if all falls into place we will be able to do this by starting at the dam by the village. It is expected that we will be back in town by mid afternoon.

**22 May**  
**Maungatua [M]**  
**Tomas Sobek ph. 487 7896**

From the flat Taieri Plains to the heights of Maungatua peaks. Come and look at the world from bird-eye perspective! Provided the weather is nice to us, we should be rewarded by breath taking views from vantage points over 100 metres higher than Silver Peaks. Together with a walk through awesome waist-high tussock, this is a temptation worth the 700 metres climb, isn't it? And it will keep you fit too. We will start from Woodside Glen picnic area and backtrack on the way down.

**27 May**  
**All Day on the Peninsula [M]**  
**David Barnes ph. 454 4492**

People often think of the Otago Peninsula as a place for really short easy walks – and certainly not worthy of a 9am start and giving up a whole Sunday. Be prepared to have those ideas quashed. With a bit of cunning and some connecting road walks, we'll show you a full day on the peninsula with more up hill than a Maungatua traverse. Starting from Turnbull Bay, we'll climb straight to the top of Harbour Cone (315m), then descend to sea level at Hoopers Inlet. An ascent of the Nyhon Track (190m) is followed by a couple of km's on the road to Sandymount. A short walk leads to the top of Sandymount (320m), a good place for lunch. Then we descend to Sandfly Bay (watching out for sea lions lurking in the dunes) before heading up to Seal Point Road (150m) and dropping to Boulder Beach. The last climb of the day is up Paradise Track (260m) to Highcliff Rd, before we descend Greenacres Track to Macandrew Bay. There's the opportunity to have an ice cream while the cars are retrieved.

Cost \$5

# Thursday Night Programme

## 10 May

Ambling and Rambling in North Wales (in Welsh: "Teitheau Cerdded yng Ngogledd Cymru"). During our summer, Tony Timperley was enduring the UK winter whilst visiting family in the Conwy area of North Wales. As there are many hills and valleys in this area, Tony contacted the local branch of the Ramblers' Association and with the very friendly members roamed the area, which also has some interesting pre-historical and historical features. Learn how Tony coped with the northern winter (simultaneous gale, hail, rain and sunshine, for example!), wild ponies, and the Welsh language.

## 17 May

Cavalcades are not just for those with horses or wagons. Walking trails are an important part of the yearly Cavalcade that is organised by the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust.

Cavalcade tramping is great fun and you get to see some interesting countryside.

Antony Hamel tagged along on the 45 Parallel Cavalcade trail and tried to avoid getting into trouble while photographing and videoing the participants.

Come and see the resulting photos and video of these unsuspecting extras in my latest production.

## 24 May

Phillip Somerville spent a week wandering in the wilds of Westland from Whataroa (Butler/Wymper). Learn about the terrain and happenings on this trip. Phillip gave us a small taster of this trip during a talk in April.

## 31 May

### The Great OTMC Quiz

This promises to be an interesting night where you can test your knowledge of the mountains and valleys of New Zealand. Come along to the Great OTMC Quiz with your team for an informal quiz night. You might surprise yourself and the quiz master by how much you know about this country, city and club.

## 7 June

BYO—Bring your photo's of any recent trip you've been on. Day and weekend trip 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](mailto:tonytimps@xtra.co.nz)) or Debbie Pettinger (phone 473 7924, email [debsnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:debsnz@ihug.co.nz))

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