

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping
and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.**



The OTMTC meets socially at 3 Young Street
every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm,
programme begins at 8.00pm.



Admiring the view en-route to Lake Isobel,
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 / Committee	Ross Hunt	477 3309

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

Participation within the OTMC of late has been exceptional, with day trips and Thursday meetings proving popular. Recent meetings have attracted attendances in the mid-thirties, with a peak attendance of 42 for Philip Somerville's recent talk of his trip to the Whympers and Butler area on the West Coast. This is great for the club. On a further positive note, interest in upcoming winter trips is surpassing that of the earlier summer trips. This year's upcoming trip to Waitutu will be the largest Queen's Birthday trip for many years. Other forthcoming trips like the West Matukituki and Winter Routeburn are also proving popular. Couple all this with our consistent day trip programme and you can see that the OTMC remains a relevant organisation for outdoor activities in Dunedin.

Philip Somerville has expressed his fascination with maps during his two recent talks, and I share his enthusiasm with them. They provide a great pastime of perhaps dreaming of places you can go or trips that can be had (with experience gained from clubs like the OTMC), or just wondering at some of the many neat names for different peaks or other features, like the Whympers or Twirlygig. Why are these places so named this? The maps on the clubrooms wall are a feature of our rooms (unfortunately we need bigger walls to display more of our tramping areas), but electronic versions are also useful, and very handy. There is commercial software you can buy, but the Walking Access website is a very valuable addition to the outdoor community. As well as providing the Topo50 map layers, it can also show public access areas. Assuming the information is accurate, it does present some interesting information. Take Temple Stream for example – WAMS show the head of the North Temple above the old hut (including the gut to Gunsight Pass) and Rabbits Peak as non-public land. It may just be me, but this surprised me (I have never heard mention of this over nearly 30 years of club trips here). All in all, this website is a very useful tool and every trumper should have it bookmarked: <wams.org.nz>

If you don't need all the extra information that WAMS can provide, then <topomap.co.nz> is adequate for browsing the New Zealand topo maps.

Our social programme is in a very unique situation, where we are now booked up to the end of August or thereabouts – I can't recall being this

organised in my time in the club – well done to Debbie and Tony for achieving this.

As the theme for this piece has been ‘popular’ I will finish with the final weekend of the Mt. Everest spring climbing season. I was saddened by the clip on TV of an endless line of people (you can’t call all of them climbers) waiting for their turn to get up Everest. 2012 has brought some new records – a Japanese woman at 73 years became the oldest female to reach the top (there is no upper age limit on the Nepalese side, unlike China) and upwards of 200 ascents on one day. The scenes on TV cause one to think of the potential for a disaster surpassing 1996 if the weather changed without warning. Given that a lot of people are there because they can afford to pay top guides, rather than for the challenge of climbing, shows that much has changed on Everest since 1953. With a 4% mortality rate climbing Everest can be seen as a relatively safe bet, but it is sad that commercialisation of Mt Everest is now big business.

Antony Pettinger

President

Membership

Club membership now stands at 204

Members joined during last month

- Dennis Martin

I still have a few copies of the 2012/2013 Entertainment Book available for \$55 with \$11 going to the club for fundraising. A copy can be viewed at the club rooms on Thursday nights. Please contact me if you would like to buy one. Please remember to put \$1 in the hat when you come along to club night, this covers the cost of the clubrooms and supper.

Richard Forbes
OTMC Membership Secretary

Trip Reports

A Muddy Mystery Reece!

Sunday, 11 March

Sunday March 11th dawned wet but windless, and it was possible to see the tops of the hills around Dunedin, so I remained hopeful for a good day's tramping. I'd only volunteered to do this trip 3 days before, so I hadn't had time to reconnoitre – and it was many years since I'd originally done this walk. My idea was to try to go from Ross Creek to Flagstaff and back without retracing our steps. As it was raining we decided to miss out the Ross Creek bit and 9.20am saw us starting up the Pineapple Track in only light rain. Peter was trying out a new jacket and Lucy had new gaiters. We plodded up slowly, being passed by several runners, and paused for thought at the junction to Flagstaff. It wasn't actually raining at that moment, but the clouds looked grim and so we decided to cut out the Flagstaff bit too. Onwards to the Swampy Summit track – the mud was getting thicker and wetter. I thought I'd missed the turnoff to the Moon Track but just as I was about to admit that, there was a clear track heading south-west. Years ago it had been barely visible, but a whole lot of mountain bikes had cleared some deep muddy steep ruts for us. We tried it for about 20 minutes but it got steeper, muddier and wetter and just before the track dropped off the spur I decided to turn back. Had I been able to see further than my nose I would have been willing to try to go on, but nothing was looking like the long-ago track that I knew! So back up the slippery mud to the Swampy track where we stopped, in the rain, for a drink and a snack. Then we did retrace our tracks onto the Pineapple Track but half-way down I took our group down a little-known track parallel to the main one. Alas that too was muddy, steep and slippery! What a relief when we got onto the well-formed McGoun track to walk down and around to the car.

We'd had 3+ hours in the rain – we'd had enough! On with dry jumpers and shoes and back home! So it was a much shorter trip than planned – but it was certainly a mystery, even to the trip leader! Peter decided his new jacket was not quite as waterproof as he'd hoped (did I mention that it rained a bit?) but Lucy's new gaiters were just fine.

Many thanks to Lucy J, Peter H and Raewyn D – very tolerant companions!

Jane Cloete

Cascade Saddle

Muddy Creek to Raspberry Flat

4-7 February 2012

Saturday 4 February

Weather warm and mostly sunny. A group of High School girls left before us as they were concerned that we would all be staying in the same hut that night, and would take all the bunks. We went directly up the Rees flats on the true left, having to negotiate some bogs and a few river crossings. We had overtaken the girls by the time we reached 25 Mile Creek, which was at 10.00 am. It was then directly to the lower bush line and on to the track and across a swing bridge to the true right of the Rees. We then proceeded onto country of flats and bush. We had lunch on the way in a clearing overlooking the Rees, eventually moving onto Shelter Rock Hut. Shelter Rock is quite a big hut complex that could accommodate



many more bunks. It was decided after discussion, and convinced by the sandflies, that we should continue on to Rees Saddle. The first part we boulder-hopped up the river as it was running low. Then eventually we regained the track. It was late afternoon and we were getting tired. Brent's GPS showed that we were not making as

much progress as we would have liked. We pushed on towards the saddle, where there was a final steep push to the top. We had done 25 km that day and camped in a really nice spot by tarns looking down towards the upper Snowy Creek.

Sunday 5 February

Fine, no wind, a few clouds. During breakfast, we spotted a chamois on the peak above the saddle. Four of us decided to climb this peak which was 2,100 m. We got within 20 m of the chamois before it strolled off. It took us 2 ½ hours to reach the top, which had spectacular views of Snowy Creek, Forbes Mountains and Lochnagar (1,000 m below us – made fa-

mous in the Resene paint ad). We could also see the Shotover River in the distance. Four others went into the upper Snowy with great views of the Tyndall Glacier. We spent another night in the same camp spot. We had noticed lots of people passing over the saddle in both directions. Late Sunday afternoon, the other group heading in the opposite direction caught up with us, so we had a bit of a tent city on the saddle.



Monday 6 February (Waitangi Day)

We went down the Snowy, over the bridge and onto Dart Hut. This is an even bigger hut complex with grumpy tourists drying their boots on the seats we wanted to sit on. Also an unfriendly hut warden lectured us on camping practices and moaning about the state of 25 Mile Hut which is no longer managed by OTMC. Leaving the hut, we worked our way towards the Dart Glacier and onto a beautiful ledge over looking the Glacier to camp. We all had a good wash in nearby pools and a few of us went up to Cascade Saddle. We were rewarded with views of the steep bluffs and waterfall of Cascade River, the Matukituki Valley far below, and a glimpse of Mount Aspiring. Back at camp and we were all admiring the sunset when someone noticed a kea with Ross's Raro. A warning sign of things to come!

It was another clear, calm night with a full moon and no wind. The keas would not leave us alone all night. Banging the tent with your arm seemed to get them to go away, but only as far as the next tent. I only dozed that night on a few occasions. I woke up once and saw an outline of the bird in the moonlight attacking the straps on my expensive Fairydown tent.

Tuesday 7 February

We all rose at 6.00 am, none of us having got much sleep. I had not previously been aware that keas were nocturnal. The keas had pulled a rubbish bag out of Greg's pack and a drink bladder out of Susan's, and chewed one of Chris's sandals. As we were packing up, the keas came back and tried to steal stuff as we were packing up to leave. It was a foggy start to the day. We made our

way in the fog up to Cascade Saddle with no views today, and then into Cascade Creek to the DOC toilet. DoC said that it was here that the keas were causing the most problems and some sleepy people stuck their heads out of nearby tents. I wonder if the keas had kept them awake all night as well. One of the guys got out of the tent and was a bit annoyed there was a bit of a queue for the toilet. From here it was a steep climb to the pylon. It was still foggy but slowly clearing. I had read and heard about people who have come to grief on the Cascade Track, so was feeling a bit nervous. The conditions were dry and calm, so there should be no problems. Some sections were very steep but we took our time and made it to the bushline safely. There were some foreigners here waiting for the cloud to lift before continuing on up. One of them was only wearing gym shoes. It seemed to be a long haul down through the bush to Aspiring Hut for lunch, and then a very hot two hour walk back to the van.

In Wanaka, the temperature said 30 degrees.

A huge thanks to Antony for organising a memorable trip. Four days allows for much more to be achieved, and by having two groups with a van at each end means no return journey is necessary.

Richard Forbes for Antony and Debbie Pettinger, Brent Dewar, Greg Hall, Ross Hunt, Susan Lilley, Richelle Adams and Chris Dizikiewicz.



Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

16/17 June

West Matukituki Valley [All]

Richard Forbes ph. 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 (maybe \$25 now?) per night (non-members of NZAC).

Trip list closes June 7

7/8 July

Winter Routeburn (McKenzie) [All]

Wolfgang Gerber ph. 453 1155

Theme—Hawaiian

On Friday night the walk into Lake Howden Hut will take about an hour and if the conditions are suitable, a side trip up to Key Summit will be a must in the moonlight. Saturday morning the walk to Lake MacKenzie Hut will be a 3~4 hour stroll, with some great views of the surrounding mountains, the Hollyford Valley, the Earland Falls and of course the “Orchard”. Once at Lake MacKenzie Hut there are lots of option to be had, with a walk around the lake including a visit to Split Rock, or up to the head of the valley. For the fitter ones, follow the Routeburn Track out of the valley where you pass a memorial to 3 15 year olds who perished near the area in the sixties. As you climb out of the

valley the views will be stunning of Lake MacKenzie, Emily Peak and Ocean Peak. Once above the bushline the Hollyford face is reached with even better views of Martins Bay and the Tasman Sea the Darrens including Mt Tutoko and Mt Madeline.

My annual Quiz will start after tea with yummy prizes as usual. The theme this year is Hawaiian so get out that Floral shirt and bring a Lei. As last years trip to that area was cancelled due to bad road conditions, there will be a plan "B" which has yet to be set at the time of writing.

This trip will whet your appetite for the 2 snow courses coming up shortly Please feel free to give me a ring if you can't get to the club to sign the list in time or see me at the club on Thursdays for more info. I will be putting up a display in the clubrooms soon from previous trips to the area.

Please Note! If you don't hold a hut pass please pay \$15 per night per hut at any DoC office before leaving on the trip. Also please pay for the trip beforehand to make my and the treasures job easier.

Trip list closes on 28 June (a good day)

28/29 July
Day Trips from Mt. Cook [All]
Gene Dyett ph. 455 7465

Aoraki / Mt. Cook National Park has many tramps and walks for all fitness levels and mountain views from every direction. There are two main mountain walks, being Red Tarns and Sealy Tarns. Averaging a 1000m plus in height with Sealy being the better track for getting views of Mt. Cook and Red Tarns with views of the Mt. Cook Village and the Tasman Glacier. There are also two valley walks. One being the Hooker Valley with two wire bridges and a nice easy walk up the valley to the Hooker Glacier Terminal. Also the walk to the blue pools and the Tasman Glacier Terminal are worthwhile. If the weather lets us down for the bigger climbs we could look at the option of walking the track along the Tasman Glacier to the new Ball shelter for lunch. Plus we will need time to have a look at the information centre (DoC) which can take an hour and a half on the Sunday. Plus what ever walks we didn't do on Saturday. Also nice simple walks around the Mountain Village if you wish to use these options.

DAYTRIPS

2 June

No Day Trip—Queen's Birthday

10 June

Possum Hut [M]

Dave McArthur ph. 481 1478

Starting from Mountain Road, initially taking the track to the Green Hut Site. After about 20 minutes the turn off to Eucalypt Ridge is reached, this section is quite muddy in places. Continuing down Eucalypt Ridge to the upper Waikouaiti river, then follow up the Waikouaiti river on the true right to Possum Hut. The track from Possum Hut to the Green Hut site initially climbs quite abruptly through beech forest. Weather permitting its worth continuing for about half an hour to Pulpit Rock for lunch while taking in views of the Silver Peaks area, including the Painted Forrest beech trees. From Pulpit Rock back to Mountain Road allow about 1 and a half hours. Expect to be back at the club rooms around 4pm.

This tramp is suitable for anyone with a moderate level of fitness.

17 June

Harbour Cone & Peggy Hill [M]

Bronwen Strang ph. 473 1610

In the light of the recent trip “All day on the Peninsula” to part of the same area, we shall do this the other way round – Peggy's Hill and Harbour Cone – and endeavour to double up on as few of the tracks as possible. We'll head up Camp Rd and behind Larnach's Castle to the top of Peggy's Hill, the second highest point on the Peninsula (401m), then down to the limekilns before going over to Harbour Cone. Following a circumnavigation of a section of the Cone enabling us to look down on the Buddhist Stupa, we will clamber to the top (315m). Then following a descent to Highcliff Rd and a meander across the valley, a further descent down Camp Rd will bring us back to the vehicles.

25 June
Midwinter Sunrise Walk (7am start) [E]
Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328

This Sunday is just after the shortest day, but we will go up Flagstaff early to greet the sun and let it know that we appreciate that it is trying to get up a bit earlier each day! **7am start from the clubrooms** or 7.10am from the bottom of Taieri Road at its intersection with Nairn and Mellor streets. Then on to the Bull Ring at the start of the Pineapple Track. Wear boots or shoes with good grip. Bring a torch, though you'll be surprised at how much light there is at that hour! Also a hot drink/food as needed. Lots of warm clothes and especially a warm hat. Sunrise from the top is at about 8.10am but the best 'colours' will be as you walk up. Then back to the cars or go on for a longer walk around the Pineapple Track. Cancelled if raining 6.30am. Ph Jane Cloete 467-2328 with any queries.
Cost \$2

1 July
Outram Glen to Lee Stream [E]
Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

An easy walk which can definitely be run regardless of the weather! We will leave the clubrooms soon after 9:00am and carpool to Outram Glen. Here we will start walking up a good track through bush which follows the Taieri River up stream, with some gentle climbs to keep the chill off. The track finishes at the Lee Stream confluence, where we can stop for a break and a snack, or an early lunch. Any desperate masochists might have an uncontrollable urge for a quick dip in a swimming hole nearby. There is also a short climb through bush across Lee Stream for those keen on a view. The return trip is retracing our steps back to the cars. It should take about 3 hours or so of walking, so we'll be home early afternoon.
Carpool \$6 to drivers please.

| **Wanted**—trip reports from weekend/day trips for publication in the Bulletin. |
Email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz

Thursday Night Programme

7 June

BYO—Bring your photo's of any recent trip you've been on. Day and weekend trip photos welcome.

14 June

If you've wondered what NIWA (National Institute of Weather and Atmospheric Research) is about then come along to hear Evan Baddock give a presentation on NIWA and what they do in the Otago/Southern area.

21 June

In 1990 Graham & Alison Johnston travelled around the south of India by train before travelling up to Kathmandu. From here they caught a double decker bus which took them through Northern India, Pakistan, Iran, Western Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel, before travelling back through Jordan and Syria, again. Then on through Western Turkey, Yugoslavia and Italy, to Austria. They travelled through Europe and on to Ireland for a big family party.

28 June

Peter & Leonie Loeber recently spent time in China and will give a presentation titled 'China, Beijing and other places'. Visit the East West Temple in Beijing and see the buried warriors in Xi'an with Peter & Leonie.

5 July

Kea Conservation Trust will be in Dunedin giving a presentation on the Kea. This will be an interesting insight into the trust and the work they do on Kea conservation.

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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