

**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.



Join the OTMC Snow Skills Weekend on 11/12 August

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

This month Antony (our President) has been extremely busy with work so it falls to me, your humble editor to fill this page.

It is now July and I need to remind you that the AGM will be coming up next month and that means a new committee to be elected. If you enjoy getting out into the mountains of New Zealand, and would like to share that enthusiasm with others, then think about being on the OTMC committee. Being on the committee is not an onerous job and can be a lot of fun. Talk to a current committee member to find out what is involved. I assure you we are all quite approachable! More about how to be nominated for the OTMC committee in next month's bulletin but do think about it now.

I'd also like to use this space to ask for more trip reports please. If you go on a club trip (day or weekend) I'd really appreciate someone on that trip putting pen to paper and writing a description of where you went and what you got up to on that trip. I am sure you've read the trip reports in this Bulletin and know what is needed. Please do not sit back, thinking someone else will write one - if everyone does that then you'll have a very boring magazine to read each month. Trip reports not only serve as a record of what happened on a trip but can also be used by others planning a trip to the same area. A trip report doesn't need to be long, and including a photo or two adds interest. Thank you to everyone who does write trip reports, all contributions are very much appreciated. Trip reports for both day and weekend trips can be emailed to me at debsnz@ihug.co.nz or handed to me at club nights.

It is now officially winter and that doesn't mean you can hang up your tramping boots. There are still day trips each Sunday to get you out and about and keep help keep you fit. The past month has seen beautiful weather on Sundays resulting in good numbers of people out enjoying our local hills. If you haven't been on a snow skills weekend or are feel your skills are a bit rusty then sign yourself up for one (or both) instructional snow skill weekends in August. There is no point in carrying an ice axe and crampons if you don't know how to use them and there is no better way to learn than in a controlled environment. Knowing how to build a snow shelter can also be a life saving skill. Check out the up coming trips in this Bulletin to learn more about the instructional weekends.

Debbie Pettinger
Bulletin Editor

Membership

Club membership now stands at 205

Members joined during last month

- Dylan Hegh

I have now sold out of Entertainment books raising \$110 for the club, if any one still wants one I can obtain some more so please let me know. Included with this bulletin is the OTMC subscription for the 2012/13 year, please complete and return the form with payment so that I know your details are correct on the club database. Full membership of the club entitles you to cheaper club trips, gear hire, FMC membership and discounts at various shops so it is worth it.

Richard Forbes
OTMC Membership Secretary

Hut Bookings on the Rees Dart Track

Last year, the club submitted on a DoC proposal to introduce a booking system on the Rees Dart track.

We said:

- Their statistics showed an occasional problem at Dart Hut, and a trend for this to be happening less frequently. They were unable to show whether peak loadings were because of weather events (in which case, a booking system was not the answer).
- Before a booking system was imposed, they should try publicising the fact that occasionally the huts were crowded, and suggest that people be prepared to sleep on the floor or camp.
- If a booking system was imposed, it should
 - be for Dart Hut only (as that will naturally limit numbers at the other huts, where overcrowding is rare)
 - allow use of the annual hut pass.

DoC has recently decided that a booking system will proceed for Dart hut and campsite only, that it will run from 3 January to 28 February each year, and that it will not be implemented until the Annual Hut Pass is able to be used electronically as a payment method. This means it won't be operational until 2013-14 summer.

David Barnes
Conservation & Recreation Advocacy Officer

Book Review
Bold Beyond Belief – Bill Denz,
New Zealand's Mountain Warrior
(Maxim Books)

I've always said that a Silver Peaks apprenticeship can take you a long way. Bill Denz showed just how far. In this comprehensive biography, Paul Maxim examines the life and climbing career of arguably the OTMC's most famous alumnus. In the days when a new route on a major New Zealand peak warranted headlines, Denz had more than his share of those headlines. The first solo Grand Traverse of Aoraki Mt Cook (aged 19) and the first winter ascent of the Balfour Face of Mt Tasman were two highlights of an intense few seasons in the central Southern Alps, before he turned his attention to the Darrans, Yosemite and Patagonia. The last phase of his career was in the Himalayas, and it was here, during an attempt on Makalu, where, as is so often the case, a relatively trivial event – a small slab avalanche – had fatal consequences.

Maxim does a good job of encapsulating the short life of a man described by Geoff Gabites as “the single most important driving force in the development of New Zealand mountaineering in modern times”. The choice of thematic rather than chronological chapters was a mild irritation (I thought for a minute that either the author had missed the Balfour or I'd skipped a few pages) but overall it's a worthwhile addition to any back-country library.

David Barnes

Ben Rudd Management Trust

The Ben Rudd's Management Trust looks after the Ben Rudd Property on Flagstaff for the OTMC. The trust requires replacement trustee(s). Support the OTMC in managing its freehold property on the far side of Flagstaff. Activities include about 4 meetings annually with fantastic suppers, and enjoyment of a wonderful sense of ownership as you wander on our Estate. New trustees are confirmed at the OTMC's AGM. If you are interested, please speak to Alan Thomson, 455 7878, or see him at club

Trip Reports

Dunstan Range 25 & 26 February 2012

Our mission was to locate a cairn and marker pole at 1385m on the Dunstan Range very close to the new Bendigo Conservation Park

The cairn and pole were placed there by Crawford and Cathy Brown, local vintners who decided to solve the puzzle of where in New Zealand is farthest from the sea (119.44km by their reckoning). The location is a few hundred metres inside the northern boundary of Northburn Station and very close to the spot where Shrek the reclusive Merino was discovered on Bendigo Station.

Our intrepid band of three (this was the weekend of the Club's Open Day) set out in perfect conditions with our first objective to reach Leaning Rock 1647m at the southern end of the Dunstan Range. This entailed climbing 1200 vertical metres from the Northburn Station homestead up good farm tracks on various spurs. We used Peter's GPS watch to let us know when each 100 metres was passed as motivation in what proved a pretty relentless climb, the bonus being the steadily improving view.

Nearing the top of the ridge-line we managed to find small patches of an extremely rare plant found only in an area of about 600m², *Myostis Albo Sericea* is ground hugging with small green/ grey rosettes. Thanks to Graeme Loh of DOC for the exact location.

By the time we reached Leaning Rock the terrain

resembled Mars with many and varied rock tors and virtually no vegetation, Leaning Rock itself looks like a Martian base with three large poles embedded in it's surface covered in antennae. This is a key communications hub



for the whole district and so gives fabulous views from Kawarau Gorge, Bannockburn, Lake Dunstan, Clyde, Alexandra, The Ida Valley, Tarras and all the surrounding Ranges.

Progress was now a lot faster travelling along the spine of the Range to another communications site on Dunstan Peak, one that Sam had a hand in building about 25 years ago. It was time to find a camping spot for the night, which meant locating water – a rare thing on the ridge. We dropped down into a beautiful little gully with a babbling brook and lovely spongy area to sleep on.

Sunday dawned cool, not surprising as we were at 1600m, with a few spots of rain. Again travel was easy on the ridge, although the tracks and fence lines on the map and the ones on the ground bore limited resemblance. The rain did not come to much but it was cool and breezy, this is a very exposed ridge. Great views developed of Lake Hawea to the north and Omakau/ the Hawkduns to the east. The new DOC Sign announcing the beginning of the Bendigo Conservation Area was well sand blasted free of paint on the north side and areas of pebbles were arranged in wave patterns indicating how windy it can get on the tops. Drunken fences are the norm at this altitude, presumably due to the snowdrifts and wind; Merinos must be poor jumpers because the fences were only a bit over knee high.

From the Dunstan Ridge we headed off along a fence line to get to the area where the cairn and pole of our quest was to be found, it was strange working to target northings and eastings on the GPS as it is hard to estimate how a minute of latitude or longitude translates to distance on the ground. After numerous reckonings of “it must be close now” a yellow pole appeared in the distance, the fresh coat of paint very kindly applied



by the Browns a few weeks earlier helped. An early bite of lunch and the obligatory photos were taken, then it was off to the next landmark as we were running behind schedule.

Castle Rock was not hard to find even given the large number of rock formations in the area, it really does look like a castle. We elected to take the most direct route to Devils Creek and an old gold mining feature, the steel lined water race and the siphon it fed. The siphon is a large riveted steel pipe which drew water about 100m uphill to feed another water race on the far side of the valley, presumably to service the then boom town of Bendigo. The direct route entailed a gully with the first scrub we had seen since early Saturday, travel was fairly slow and the easier route along a higher spur may well have been faster.

While we filled our water bottles in Devils Creek, I was wondering how it got its name as it appeared rather benign – this question was answered later. The hard work began with a prolonged steep 4WD track leading us up to our next ridge, drivers who use these tracks have my respect - they are not for amateurs. We did not have the option of crossing the gullies for a direct route back to Lake Dunstan as they are very steep with numerous bluffs.

Sunday afternoon was very hot , the route consisted of several steep ascents and descents to get back to the Cromwell – Tarras Road. A couple of endurance race carbohydrate packs were consumed at this stage. Enroute we gained a birdseye view of the section of Devils Creek that probably gave rise to the name, its gorge looks a great place for rock climbers. We intersected a recently established DOC track leading up the hill and carried on down to some relatively flat areas – a nice change as we were getting a bit tired by then.

We arrived back at the DOC carpark about 7:30pm and dropped packs, I ran through the Northburn Vineyard to retrieve the car. The GPS told us we had travelled about 26km on Sunday and we reckon about 47km for the trip. A hearty meal in Alexandra was much needed. The area is an interesting one with some great scenery, I would take a different route if I were going back. The Dunstan Ridge is well worth a visit and would be an ideal MTB trip.

This area is the site of The Northburn 100 endurance event which comprises running races of 50, 100 and 160 km length held in late March. The latter includes a total elevation gain of 8,000m and has a time limit of three days!. The main reason Peter wanted to come on the trip was to familiarise himself with the territory as he entered the 100km race. Peter withdrew after about 64km as he could see hypothermia was a real possibility, he placed second in his age group for the 50km event in 11 ½ hours. The participants experienced strong winds, rain and some snow at various stages.

Gordon Tocher for Sam Patrick and Peter Hughes

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

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.

4/5 August

Snowcaving/Snow Shelter Weekend Instruction

(Old Man Range)

Richard Pettinger ph. 487 9488

This is the trip people think will be awful but rarely regret going on! Snowcaving is all about surviving a night in the high mountains, as comfortably as possible with the material handy to you: snow. It is great fun and a memorable experience. If you're planning on venturing out into the mountains during the winter, then knowing how dig yourself a shelter in the snow is an important life saving skill you need to have.

This is a private car trip, leaving early Saturday morning a, usually getting back latish Sunday afternoon.

11/12 August
Basic Snow Skills Instruction
OTMC Members only
Ralph Harvey ph. 453 4330
Andy Cunningham ph. 476 0404

This weekend is dedicated to helping members learn how to move confidently on snow and ice, and to gain a basic understanding of the use of ice axe and crampons, in a fun environment. For those wishing to do so there can also be training on use of avalanche safety equipment. It is intended that most of the training element is completed by the end of the first day, so participants can use the second day to put their new knowledge into practice, or to ask the instructors about more advanced issues. The instruction will be in the Remarkables area, as this allows immediate access to reasonable snow slopes without the need for a time-consuming walk-in.

Participants on the instruction weekend will need to come early (7pm) to the Thursday night meeting before the weekend to learn how to attach crampons to their boots (bring your boots!). Numbers are limited to 12, including instructors, and the course is almost always full, so you're encouraged to sign up early!

Accommodation will be in Kelvin Heights (cost \$65 for two nights) and participants can either cook their Saturday evening meal at the accommodation, or buy a pub meal in a local hostelry in Frankton.

Transport cost to be advised

DAYTRIPS

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.

8 July
McQuilkans Creek [E]
A tributary to Silver Stream
Janet Barclay ph. 489 2598

Come and discover the old Nordrach Cottage Sanatorium site, a hidden waterfall, an ancient aqueduct and the remains of Smeatons shack. This is an interesting bush walk but expect mud and a bit of boulder-hopping. Meet at the clubrooms at 9. Expect to return early afternoon

15 July
Stone Hill—Purehurehu Point [M]
Gordon Tocher ph. 472 7440 or 021 677 818

This trip proves you do not have to go far from the city to get stunning views. As a bonus you get to blow off the mid winter cobwebs with a walk up a nice steep hill. We will ascend from the harbour side at Waipuna Bay through farmland to Stone Hill. On a clear day there are magical views up the harbour, so bring your camera (you can see a previous trip photo on the rear wall of the clubrooms). Then a comfortable amble down to Purehurehu Point to visit a well appointed cave dwelling and lunch on one of the beaches. The return journey will be over a similar route. You should be back in town about 3 pm.

If you live in the Port Chalmers area it may make sense to travel direct to the start point without going to the clubrooms first. Phone for instructions or if you have any questions.

Trip cost \$6

22 July
Quoin Point to Akatore [M]
Penny McArthur ph. 481 1478

A picturesque coastal walk south of Taieri Mouth. We will start from the car park at Akatore Stream. It is low tide at 11.30 so we will be able to

walk along the edge of steam down to the beach and from there we will travel south following along the rock shoreline, walking along the beach wherever possible until we reach Quoin Point. Expect to see seals and sea birds along the way, and a large number of seals at Quoin Point. We will return via the paddocks. It is an exposed shoreline so bring plenty of warm cloths. Looking forward to seeing you there.

29 July

Rock & Pillars in Winter [M]

(least Fashionable Route)

Antony Hamel ph. 453 5240

There are a total of 7 public access routes up the Rock and Pillars.

The most well known and well used tracks are up to Big Hut and Leaning Lodge. Others that get little use are at Sutton, Rock Road, Gladbrook Road, Taieri Lake and Rockvale. We will take the one which has been least traveled by those who turn up on the day. As is traditional with Rock and Pillar we will start slow and then ease up. Expect snow and ice at the top so may be useful to have crampons, ice axe or snowshoes.

5 August

Nicols Creek and Environs [M]

Bronwen Strang ph. 473 1610

After leaving the Clubrooms at 9am, we will head up the Moon Track from the Leith Valley Road, to the Flagstaff - Swampy "track/road", via the true left of Nicols Creek. Then it will be down into the Silverstream watershed until we meet Possum Busters/Hunters Track and on to the Jim Freeman Track which we will follow up through the Rhododendron Dell to Ben Rudd's Shelter. On the way home depending on the day and the state of the Moon Track, experienced earlier, we may head off part-way down the Pine-apple Track back into Nicols Creek and follow down the true right side of the valley. There will be lots of variety and shelter en route if the weather is inclement. Some of it is not quite bush-bashing, but definitely scrub-shoving - good fun!

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

| Email to debsnz@ihug.co.nz |

Thursday Night Programme

5 July

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 Xiian with Peter & Leonie.

12 July

Maria Hamelink competed in the Routeburn Classic on 28 April. Come along to hear as Maria shares her experiences during this race that follows the Routeburn Track from the Divide to the Glenorchy end. This was Maria's second time competing in this race.

19 July

Nick Mortimer will give a presentation on the geology of Dunedin. Learn how our harbor and surrounding hills were shaped by active volcanos and why the Taieri Plains are flat.

26 July

Jeremy Thomas has volunteered through Te Puka Hereka, The Tied Anchor Preservation Ark for pest control a number of times at Preservation Inlet in Fiordland. Hear how volunteer work is working to turn this remote part of New Zealand into a wildlife sanctuary.

2 August

Dave Chambers completed a trek in Australia from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Lewellen. Join him as he shows us the sights and people he met along the way. Learn how he coped with the wild life, so different to what we are used to in New Zealand.

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. If you can help please contact Tony Timperley (phone 473 7257, email tonytimps@xtra.co.nz) or Debbie Pettinger (phone 473 7924, email debsnz@ihug.co.nz)

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