

**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.



Winter sunrise on Flagstaff day trip (24 June).

Photo taken by David

### 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](http://www.otmc.co.nz)**

The club continues to be a strong club over the winter months, with both the Thursday meetings and the Sunday trips being well supported. We are currently averaging over 30 at club meetings, which is a great number for a club with weekly meetings. Weekend trips, on the other hand, have been a mixed bag. In particular, we have struggled to get Wolfgang's Winter Routeburn away. The first chosen weekend didn't foresee a severe shortage in transport in the lower South Island, and the second choice was forestalled by an uncertain weather forecast. Hopefully third time lucky with the replacement date of August 18-19 (there is a new trip list in the clubrooms). I'm aware that there may be perception the club is getting soft (as we enter our 90<sup>th</sup> year), but I respect the decisions our trip leaders make. In the case of the Routeburn I know Wolfgang struggled with the decision on whether to go or not. Wolfgang was also mindful of the need to postpone earlier rather than later (particularly with the potential of financial implications in the case of cancelling vans). In the event, the trip may have been OK, but the chances of reaching Lake Harris would have been low. The club is indebted to all our trip leaders, and I respect any decision they make as much as I appreciate the offer and commitment they make in leading our trips.

Talking about weekend trips, the current patch of mild weather is a good time to be thinking about our summer trip programme. I know we are restricted to an extent on where we go over the winter, but the summer months mean that there is an endless choice in places to tramp – be it tracked or untracked. Pull out that map collection (or fire up the computer and head to 'wams.org.nz') and see if there is anywhere you really want to go. You don't necessarily have to lead the trip, but we are always on the lookout for new ideas, both for weekend (or longer) and day trips. Wayne and I look forward to your ideas.

August is AGM time. While there are procedural matters to follow, the AGM is also a good opportunity to look at what we have achieved and offer direction for the club. It is also a good opportunity to see what associated groups are up to. The Ben Rudd Management Trust are seeking feedback from members on the on-going management of the Ben Rudd property. This Flagstaff property has been owned by the club since the 1940's and is a great asset to the club and people of Dunedin. A small trust manage the property on behalf of all members – there are current vacancies on the trust (see July Bulletin). Talk to one of the current trustees if you are keen to become involved in the trust. The current trustees are: Richard Pettinger, Alan Thomson, Teresa Blondell and Ian Sime. The Leaning Lodge Trust also need to be re-confirmed (or re-elected). With progress underway on this project now is the time to get involved.

Of course, we also need to re-elect the OTMC committee. The club has been fortunate to have a stable group of people running the club, but we are always looking for new people and ideas. The club is currently very easy to run, with no major issues or decisions facing the committee. The major project from now on will be organising the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations during 2013 (we are still happy to accept all offers of assistance!). If you are interested in standing for the committee, or assisting the committee in some way, please discuss with a current committee member – there are several at club each week. The AGM is August 30, nominations will close on August 16.

**Antony Pettinger**  
**President**

# Membership

I have received just over a quarter (50) of the 2012/13 subscriptions, please keep them coming in. Please return a completed green form (even if paying by the internet )so that I know your details are correct on the club membership database and if you want to get your bulletin via e-mail. You should have had a green form in your last mail out but if you have lost it extras can be picked up at the clubrooms or I can e-mail you one.

## **Members joined during last month**

Sarah Bowers (joint member with Andy Cunningham)

## **Members resigned during last month**

Sebastian Clar

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

## **OTMC COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for the 2012-13 OTMC Committee are open now and close with our Secretary (Peter Stevenson) on August 16, 2011.

To be nominated for the committee you need to be a financial member of the club, and have your nomination proposed and seconded by two other financial members of the club.

Positions to be elected at the AGM are: **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY, CHIEF GUIDE** plus **SEVEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (from which other roles such as Membership, Bulletin Editor and Day Trips are appointed)

**The AGM is on Thursday, August 30, 2012 at 8.00pm in the clubrooms**

*Nomination forms available from the clubrooms or the club website  
([otmc.co.nz](http://otmc.co.nz))*

# **OTMC Annual Dinner**

## **Filadelfio's (at the gardens)**

**This popular night will be  
held this year on**



**1 September**  
**(Saturday night) from 6.30pm.**



**\$18 will get you garlic bread,  
wedges, pizza and great company**  
**All welcome**

**Numbers to Antony or Debbie on 473 7924 or sign the  
list in the clubrooms**

# **Trip Reports**

## **Winter Sunrise from Flagstaff – June 24<sup>th</sup> 2012**

A very short trip report 'cause this tramp was very short! I myself get up early each mid-winter's day (following the longest night) and walk up to Flagstaff to greet the sunrise. I've done the track in snow, ice, mud and wind!

What would the weather be like this year? 6.30am – part cloudy, part starry so that looked hopeful. An uneventful drive to the bullring (that last corner can be treacherous!) and we started walking at about 7.25am. We had torches but there was just about enough light to manage without them. Got to the top a bit early but we sheltered in the wee cave just beyond the trig point and had a hot drink. Alas there was a thin layer of cloud on the horizon so I estimated that 'sunrise' wouldn't be till about 8.20. But no-one was in a great hurry so we waited around and then WOW! At first a few drops of gold on the cloud top, followed shortly by the brilliant colour of the rising sun. As soon as it rose above the cloud, and got too bright to look at, we started back to the cars. Back to the clubrooms by about 9.15am so we all had the full day to 'do our own thing'.

Jane Cloete, for Kris, Vivian, Julie, Ben, Kana, Bronwyn and Ralph.

# **Blue Mountains and the Dusky Forest**

**March 2012**

I was a bit worried that no-one would want to come on this trip – there was Bushcraft and also Graham Loh's excellent trip to hidden parts of Tunnel Beach on the Sunday. However six brave souls ignored the weather forecast and turned up on Saturday morning bright and early.

The drive to Tapanui didn't seem to take very long and soon we were at Whisky Gully donning boots, checking we had good rain jackets, etc. Chris was cycling today so he took one car back to Black Gully and set off to do a round trip to Gore, so six of us started walking.

The bit of track in Whisky Gully was quite good (not too many stinging nettles) and we were soon negotiating the waterfall which was easy as it had been so dry during the week. Up the st-e-e-p hill and out onto the open land of the ridge. Sunny by now, but the wind-chill factor meant that we had to keep moving. And worse, in the distance were the blackest clouds that you've ever seen! The track itself was well-marked, with a waratah every 25 metres and a numbered pole every 100m. We had short breathers but I'd bribed the group with a lunch-break at number 40 – just over half-way along the ridge. So at number 40 we relaxed into some big tussocks where the wind just blew over our heads. "Fifteen minutes only" I said (those clouds were getting closer) but actually we just crammed in a bit of food, had a good drink and were away in half that time. None too soon because there were soon large dollops of rain in addition to the wind. No sooner had we got our jackets on than the rain eased a bit but the cloud rolled in. Now we understood why there are markers every 25 metres! Thanks Tina for your good track-finding!

Up to the trig point at 973metres then it was only 30 minutes until we were in the bush again and thankfully had a decent break. It rained all the way down but that didn't seem to matter and we were at Black Gully at 3.40pm – it is surprising what a speed you can do when bad weather is coming in!

Black Gully Camp is set in a very large grassy area, surrounded by native bush. We found the keys to our two huts – basic but dry and warm and had a pleasant evening. Chris returned from his bike ride to find us lounging in the sun! After collecting the two cars from Whisky Gully, Tina returned to Dunedin and the rest of us retired, well fed, to our beds.

Next day we woke to a dry but cloudy sky and the forecast was for 'showers becoming widespread'. Luckily the showers didn't eventuate until later so we packed up early, had a short drive to the Dusky Forest and were walking by 9am. The forest roads were very good, well graded and clearly marked so we had no trouble getting to the summit of Dusky Hill by 10.30am. Then the sun came out! And

what a view! It definitely had the “WOW!” factor. We could see south to Stewart Island, across to the Eyre Mountains, part of the Old Man range and a great view of the Lammerlaws.

Back to the forest, lunch in a sunny clearing and back to our cars by 1.30 pm. So we were well away by the time the hailstorm hit at about 2 pm: we were very very grateful not to have been caught by that! Thanks to Ernslaw One forests and to the Roulston family for giving us permission to be on their land.

And my thanks to a wonderful group of trampers: Lucy Jones, Kathy Woodrow and Chris Pearson, Steph, Jill MacAliece and Tina Anderson. Jane Cloete trip leader (and trip bully when the weather threatened!).

## **Wandering up the Greenstone**

### **21/22 April 2012**

The weekend family trip to the new Greenstone hut reminded me that tramping is not always about scaling peaks or stomping along tracks. Sometimes, moving at a slower pace, seeing the ‘wanderlust’ on ‘newbies’ faces and hanging out with some ‘younguns’ can be an experience in itself.

Jill and Ray were our ‘Camp Mum and Dad’ for the weekend and somehow they kept all 17 trampers relatively organised. Having taken the van to the trailhead on Friday night and pitched our tents, on Saturday morning we walked along the shores of Lake Wakatipu and headed inland towards Lake Rere.

On the way to the lake, I missed a real Kodak moment - young Sarah reached out and held her Dad’s hand as they hiked through the beech forest. With Andrew being over 6ft and Sarah almost half his size it was a real “Awwwwwhhhh” moment. Young Sarah, Dave and young Dylan all proved that Gen Y’s (or is it Gen Z) can be competent trampers and good company on the track.

I enjoyed chatting with Tina, Raewyn, Alan and Lindsay as we hiked onwards, and when we could keep up with them, Kim and Jeremy kept the group entertained. As did ‘older’ Dylan and Rebecca when they worked out they had forgotten their hummus and cheese at the lunch stop. Highlights along the way were: seeing the ranges reflected in Lake Rere, checking out the remains of a mammoth landslide and peering into a sculptured river canyon



just below the hut. Depending on whom you talk to the Greenstone Valley was named either because it was a Greenstone trading route for early Maori, or because of the river's iridescent green water.

The new 20-bunk Greenstone hut really is Gucci, with double glazed windows, ample bench and seating space and a very productive fire. Some of the group chose to pitch their tents since they had carried them in and the rest of us found a temporary home in one of the two bunkrooms.

The only disappointing thing about this hut was the 'service with a snarl' Hut Warden. I hope he was just having a bad day at the office; otherwise he could be the recipient of "DOC's all time grumpiest Hut Warden" award.

If the hut was Gucci, dinner was gourmet. I was amazed at the meals that different groups managed to produce using a burner and some pots. My personal favourite, however, was Lucy's homemade chutney that appeared during pre-dinner snacks.

We took the direct route out on Sunday, and people broke into smaller groups, some taking the time to walk the riverbed and check out the big slip bivvy. The drive home was rather uneventful; once again, we sang along to Ray's 80's rock anthems and for something a little different we had a special reading of everyone's star signs.

Just another fabulous weekend out with the OTMC proving that good company in the backcountry is a far better proposition than staying in town. Thanks again to Ray and Jill for leading the trip and getting us there and back in one piece.

Sarah Bond for Ray & Jill MacAlicie, Dylan, Rebecca, Jeremy Thomas, Kim Briggs, Alan Thomson, Lucy Jones, Andrew, Sarah & Dave Pask, Debbie & Dylan Pettinger, Raewyn, Tina Anderson and Lindsay Rixon



# TriplisT

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**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.

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.

Please phone either Ralph or Andy or sign the trip list in the club rooms.

**25/26 August**

**Rock and Pillar Range (Tramp/Ski) [M-Ski]**

**Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950**

The Rock & Pillar Range is a great place to visit, just over an hour's drive from Dunedin, with a landscape dominated by impressive Rocks and mighty Pillars. These resistant schist Tors are left standing proud after the surrounding weaker rock has been eroded away. As we found out on a recent Thursday night, the schist rocks appear in the Silver Peaks and underneath Dunedin's more recent deposits. Most of the area is covered by the 'Paerau' sheet.

In winter there is usually a good covering of snow to add to this exciting land-



scape. Staying at Big Hut for \$10 each is a bargain for Saturday night, considering the work that has gone into it recently by the R & P Hut Trust. After a steady climb of 2 ½ hours or so we can leave most of our gear at Big Hut, from which we can explore the area. The gently rolling summit ridge provides an ideal area for Cross Country skiing. X-C skiing is ideal for those who like tramping and hate skiing at expensive ski fields with all those big queues and tows and things. It was very popular with the OTMC in the 1980's while gear was available to hire from local shops. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case, (I have checked) so you would need your own gear, or be able to beg / borrow / steal from someone who has. Alternatively, you can hire snowshoes from R & R Sports for \$10 a weekend, or just bring your tramping boots (with iceaxe and maybe crampons). The tops can get windy, and sometimes icy. There are gullies running into Rock & Pillar Creek that provide good slopes to practice falling over on. We can also visit Leaning Lodge. Private car transport, about \$15 each, leaving clubrooms Saturday morning 8:00am. Phone Wayne if you want to discuss anything, otherwise sign the list in the clubrooms!

**8/9 September**  
**Routeburn Falls/Lake Harris Basin [All]**  
**Gene Dyett ph. 455 7465**

The huts on the Routeburn Track from the Glenorchy end are always popular. It might be winter but that doesn't mean you can't get out into the mountains. There are options for all - those wanting an easier weekend, stay at the end of the road Friday night and walk into Falls Hut on Saturday, have a look around the basin above the hut and return to the cars on Sunday. Fitter options include heading into Flat's Hut on Friday night and with an early rise on Saturday, head up to (hopefully a frozen) Lake Harris on Saturday, spending the night at Falls Hut before heading out on Sunday. If you are really keen camp Saturday night in Valley of the Trolls, visit Lake Wilson or make an attempt on Mt. Erebus. There are plenty of options on the Routeburn Track in winter. Hut tickets or an Annual Hut Pass is required if staying in any of the huts. Contact Gene or sign the list in the club rooms and be sure to note down what grade of trip you'd like.

# DAYTRIPS

**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 Pineapple 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!

**12 August**

**Te Ana Puta (Puddingstone Rock) [E]**

**Graeme Loh ph. 487 6125**

Explore Cape Saunders, looking south is the Southern Ocean, east the Pacific. The Cape Saunders headland pushes into the ocean creating a headland front, mixing the river waters with the ocean water, creating eddys that bring the mollymawks and other seabirds close to shore. See the huge cliffs and a great sea cave. Lets measure its roof! Leaving the clubrooms at 9am. Hope not get wet this time.

**19 August**

**Katiki Beach [M]**

**Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328**

**NB 8am start (to fit in with the tides)**

We'll leave the clubrooms at 8am sharp in order to get around the cliffs with the low tide. Katiki beach is the long one just beyond Palmerston but *before* Moeraki and it also has lots of boulders. We'll drop one car at the far end and then go back to the Shag Point road to begin pottering along the beach from south to north.

There'll be a bit of rock-scrambling so wear shoes that you don't mind being in salt water. Back to Dunedin by 4.30pm. Preferable to have 2-3 cars for this walk.  
Ph Jane Cloete 467-2328 with any queries.

**26 August**  
**Skyline Track (Sullivans Dam) [M]**  
**Alan Thomson ph. 455 7878**

We start by walking part way around Sullivans dam before climbing up through an impressive stand of broadleaf forest. This walk is unique for a track so close to Dunedin in that it has been designed to give you a back country-feel. There is boardwalk on the lower sections but be prepared for a little mud further up. The panoramic views include Swampy summit, Silver Peaks, the northern coastline, as well as Sullivans dam and Dunedin. After taking in the views from Mount Cargill, we take a detour through pine forest before rejoining the "cloud forests of the Leith" track back to Sullivans dam.

**2 September**  
**Orbell's Cave [M]**  
**Tony Timperly ph. 473 7257**

This walk is inland from Waikouaiti, traversing hilly pastures with a steep descent and a long ascent (remember the old tramping adage – what goes down, must come back up again). We drive to Mcgrath Rd, just before Waikouaiti, and head inland via Buckland's Crossing and take a long drive down Blucher Road to where it becomes Lamb Hill Road.

The tramp begins from the stockyards and follows a 4-wheel drive track (still called Blucher Road) before descending steeply to Three O'clock Stream. We then go down stream until we reach Orbell's Creek and climb up to the cave, which is on the true left of the creek. After lunch in the cave, we will re-cross the creek, climb up to the ridge and head back to Blucher Road. On reaching SH1 again, a left turn to Waikouiti could bring you a reward of an ice cream. Carpool cost \$15.

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

| Email to [debsnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:debsnz@ihug.co.nz) |

# Thursday Night Programme

## **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.

## **9 August**

Phil Te Tana competed in his second Coast to Coast in February. Phil will share his experiences along with official race footage. Find out what compulsory equipment each competitor must carry. Phil's talk will give an insight into what is involved in New Zealand's iconic multi sport race.

## **16 August**

BYO—it's been a couple of months since our last Bring Your Own Photo's night. We'd love to see photo's of any recent club weekend or day trips, along with any private trip you have been on.

## **23 August**

Richard & Tracy Pettinger spent time in Spain at the beginning of this year. They will give a presentation entitled 'Four day trips in Andalucia (Southern Spain)'. Hear the stories and see the scenery that Richard & Tracy passed through in Southern Spain.

## **30 August**

### **Annual General Meeting**

Come along and have your say at the OTMC Annual General Meeting. We'll be voting in a new committee as we move into the club's 90th year. This is an important date on the OTMC calendar.

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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