

**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.



Cass Saddle on the Cass / Lagoon Saddle trip  
This view can be seen on the upcoming Cass Saddle Trip

### 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)**

I write this piece just days out from the start of the OTC/OTMC's 90th year of continuous operation. We are one of the oldest tramping clubs in the country, and we all need to be proud of what the club has achieved over the last 89 years. So much has changed in the world since 1923, especially in the technology field, but it is when you are out in the hills, away from all distractions, that you begin to figure out our place in the world. Off the beaten track the hills haven't changed a lot (apart from natural effects like glacier retreat, earthquakes and erosion) and it is refreshing to know that we can still get away to the same environment the first OTC members enjoyed, without disruption from modern life. Of course, there are always pressures on all our tramping areas from other parties, and it is a constant task to make sure our voice is heard. The club has a great reputation in advocacy in protecting what we love – but it an ongoing battle that we will continue to fight.

Tramping at a basic level hasn't changed a lot either. Sure, the gear may be better, but the pack is still too heavy, the hills too steep (up or down) and the weather is often variable. What doesn't change is the wonderful places we visit, and the companionship provided by fellow club members. Tramping brings everyone back to the same level, whatever ones vocation, and still provides immense satisfaction. It is not always a successful trip you remember, but the experiences, friendship (lifelong in cases) and even the bad parts that linger on. As we enter our 90th year it is these ideals we hope to emphasise as we celebrate our anniversary (which is really only a practice run for the centenary in 2023) – we look forward to some great ideas at the forthcoming AGM for our Anniversary year.

I have been enjoying the current TV series 'First Crossings'. While I acknowledge that certain aspects are dramatised for the cameras, and some scenes are obviously embellished or unwise (read river crossing locations), it does provide an opportunity to show what our pioneer explorers were up against. The photography is great though, especially through familiar country like Moraine Creek, Lake Adelaide through to the Homer Saddle.

Finally, it is with great pleasure that the Committee have recommended that David Barnes and Debbie Pettinger be elected as Life Members of the club at the forthcoming AGM (conflict of interest declared and managed where appropriate). Our current and past Life Members have defined the direction of our club, and without them I'm sure the club would be very different today. Further information regarding the two nominations are contained within the Annual Report booklet.

**Antony Pettinger**  
**President**

# Membership

Currently just over half the members have paid their subs - many thanks if you have. Please keep these coming in, and ensure that if you are paying by internet banking, put both your name and "Subs" so that we can identify what you are paying for.

No new members this month.  
Resignations this month:  
Mary Wheeler (now living in the UK)

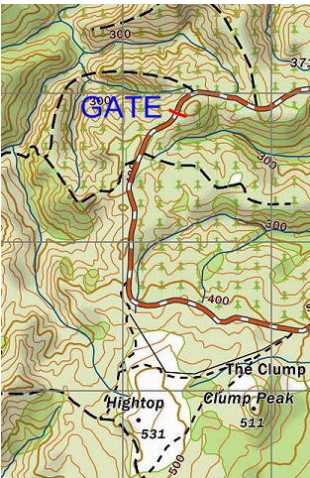
**Richard Forbes**  
**Membership Secretary**

## Silver Peaks gate

The club has keys to the southernmost gate on Mountain Road, which is at a point about 400m N of the "Hunters' Access" route to Possum Hut.

*The keys no longer open the gate near the top of Rongomai Ridge, about 800m south of Tunnels Track. I don't know if they still open the gate near Gap Ridge.*

The keys are available to members, but we are required to keep them under tight control. If you lose or don't return a key, you are liable for a \$500 fee.



If you want a key, contact:

Antony Pettinger ph. 4737924 [otmc@ihug.co.nz](mailto:otmc@ihug.co.nz)  
(pick up location: Pine Hill)

David Barnes ph. 4544492 or 4719813 (work)  
[Mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz](mailto:Mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz)  
(pick up location Waverley or Moray Place)

# Trip Reports

## A trip along the Matukituki Valley

It was June and we were geared up for winter in the mountains! Warm clothing and pleased to hear of weather reports that looked good for the weekend. We left a wet and windy Dunedin in a van, seven of us, around 6pm, Friday 15 June. Richard Forbes, our group leader, was at the wheel with one pickup at East Taieri that made eight our final number.

It was a long drive to Wanaka, then up the western side of the lake and in along the Matukituki Valley. A stop at Alexandra for tea was the only break.

We arrived at the car park at Raspberry Creek at the beginning of the Mt Aspiring National Park around 11.30pm. The sky was full of stars, no moon. The temperature was below freezing. We quickly kitted up and set off, our headlamps showing the path to the Mt Aspiring Hut, 9km and some two hours away.

It was approaching 2.00am before we arrived. We had crossed some small streams

and only wandered off the track once! It was a good plan. We were fit and rested after the trip in the van. It was good to stretch our legs and also meant we didn't have to worry about carrying tents and could make the hut our base for the next day. Needing just a day pack with light supplies would make the tramping on the Saturday much easier.

We had the hut to ourselves. Strangely no one else arrived after 2.00 am! It was spacious

and in excellent condition. Naturally in the winter season there is no gas or running water.

The leaders were up by 7am though the sun would be much longer clearing the tall mountain ranges. Water was obtained by breaking the ice layer on top of the water collection tank. We were good to go by 9.10am with the outside air temperature at minus four degrees, strange, everything was covered in white.



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We headed further up the valley, a gentle walk through nice forest, over swing bridges and open areas of valley floor. The landscape was covered in deep frost, we passed several frozen waterfalls. The mountains, dark green bush and brown open land were capped by snow and a beautiful clear blue sky. The great outdoors! New Zealand at its finest. You had to keep moving to keep warm as the low angle of the sun made for large areas of shadow.



A two hour walk saw us arrive at Pearl Flat with a decision to make. To go to the French Ridge Hut ( a 3 hour climb) or to the Liverpool Hut ( 2 hours). Wayne Hodgkinson had made two previous unsuccessful winter sorties to the French hut so was keen to make it third time lucky. Most of the rest of us thought a 2 hour climb seemed much more inviting so we split forces with six of us opting for the assault on Liverpool Hut.

An easy option. NO WAY!!!!!! Liverpool Hut was some 500m above us. The climb was steep. In parts it was all arms and legs as we hauled and pulled ourselves upwards using overhanging rock, tree trunks, roots and flax for footholds and anchor points. A metre at a time! After about an hour we struck snow. Gradually it got thicker, icy at some points, a sheer drop on one side without much support. It was careful, hard work – the main



“passenger”, author Dennis – relieved when a halt was called. Liverpool Hut was in sight but the track looped up higher and around, covered in snow and too dangerous to pursue. The Hut would have to keep for another day. The views of the glaciated river valley and gentle curve of the steep slopes were spectacular. It had been challenging but worthwhile.

*(Continued on page 6)*



We had a quick lunch just below the snowline but stopping made us cold. The sun was a long distance away at one end of the valley. We hurried downwards and headed back at top speed for the shelter of the hut. The fireplace was started up and the temperature inside rose rapidly from nought to at least six degrees! We felt cosy. A variety of drinks were then produced with Kim's special of mulled wine a real favourite. The late trek in the night before and hard uphill climb that day made an early night inviting.

Sunday was a 'sleep in' and made for a 9:45 departure. But first the obligatory team photo and discussion about the last day. It was decided to walk out and visit the Rob Roy glacier, the track for which was back near the car park. So we trekked out the way we had come in except now we could see things and appreciate the blue sky, frosted grassland of the valley floor, ice formations and dark green bush line culminating in white snow capped mountains. Truly a beautiful part of New Zealand, reminding us of the wonderful scenery we have. We found a frozen pond. It's support was tested gingerly, Richard proceeded across on all fours, Kim more adventurously leapt at full length and "swam" across. Dylan finally punctured the ice layer to display a sheet some 3cm thick.



Richard knows the river well and sighted large trout on two occasions, once a group of three or four sheltering in the lee of large rocks, another time two swimming lazily up river. Trout on the menu at some future time!

Back near the carpark Kim and Dennis decided to walk out to the van and "for fun" and to keep warm begin the long walk to Wanaka. The others set off for the Rob Roy Glacier. The van left Raspberry Creek around 3pm, collected the Wanaka walkers still some way from Wanaka and headed back for Dunedin. Our thanks to Richard and Wayne for their leadership and encouragement. Being away with a group is the best way to learn as you observe what other people take with them, what they wear, the kinds of stoves in use and all manner of other tiny things.

We were blessed with stunning weather. Cold but with spectacular views and frozen waterfalls and big trout. Nice company to boot! A nice place to return to. Well done, everyone.

Dennis Martin for Richard, Dylan, Rebecca, Wayne, Brent, Kim and Lindsay

## Matarae to Sutton Day Trip

Eight of us left Dunedin on a lovely Sunday morning, heading up to Matarae homestead, near Middlemarch. We parked the vehicles in a paddock and Lucy's mum came over to meet us before we all set off walking down through the paddocks.

Our trip started with a walk through large paddocks with very interesting rock tors and formations. We followed a gully down and sheltered out of the wind in the tussocks for morning tea. We continued on to the high point of our day, where we were rewarded with expansive views of the Strath Taieri, Rock and Pillar Range, Kakanuis, Macraes and in the far distance the Silver Peaks.

We walked down a short, steep hill and at the bottom crossed a stream before following an old sheep track, to a fence which we climbed through. This took us in to the Matarae paddocks where we could look back behind us and see where we had come from earlier in the day. It was here that we saw lots of bushes with big fat red rosehips, that you can make very nice rosehip syrup from. We continued walking over the paddocks before taking a side trip, where we left our packs beside a fence and crossed the rail/road bridge to see where the Sutton stream joins the Taieri River. It was interesting to see the rail/road bridge as it is not often that trains and cars can use the same bridge.

We walked back over the paddocks, stopping to look at the remains of huts and their chimneys from the gold mining days. From here it was uphill, taking the time to admire the views as we climbed. We saw the train coming back from Middlemarch and we watched it going round the hills towards Pukerangi and disappearing in the distance. Then it was through the paddocks and back to the homestead where we all enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea of hot drinks with pikelets and jam.

The weather was perfect, which was great for people to see the views.

I would like to thank Gavin McArthur, Penny and David McArthur, Peter Hugus, Debbie Wekking, Viv Harper, Alan Thomson and Gordon Tocher for an enjoyable day.

By Lucy Jones

# Trip list

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**22/23 September**

**Kepler Track (Full option dependant on snow)**

**Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327**

Spring can be a great time for tramping clubs to visit the Great Walks -this trip is heading for Luxmore Hut (conditions allowing) It is normally a 4-5 hour easy climb to Luxmore Hut, located above Lake Te Anau. Again, if we have the right conditions, an afternoon trip to summit Mt. Luxmore is a great option. The track heads practically to the top with a further 20 minute scramble to the trig where good views in all directions are available, including the Hidden Lakes visited by the club a couple of years ago. There may be an option to complete the entire track (yet again, depending on conditions). In this case we suggest heading to Iris Burn Hut via Luxmore on the Saturday, with Sunday being a trip down the Iris Burn to Lake Manapouri to Rainbow Reach. Keen ones may like to complete the trip by heading up the walking track to the Control Gates. The total length is 60km. Either way, this will be a great Spring trip.

Trip list closes September 13

**6/7 October**

**Cass/Lagoon Saddle (Craigieburn)**

**Dave Chambers ph. 454 3857**

This is an area not commonly visited by the OTMC but is a fantastic location. A group from the club did the Cass / Lagoon Saddle trip as a through trip a couple of times over the past 5-6 years and thoroughly enjoyed it. Situated just out of the Arthurs Pass National Park, this trip has a lot to offer. The entire trip up the Cass, down to Hamilton Hut via the Hamilton River and then over Lagoon Saddle would be graded as a fit trip by our standards with two longish days but it is probably the best way to enjoy this trip. For other grades there are two options. The first is to travel up the Cass and camp in the vicinity of Cass Saddle Hut (3 or 4 bunks from memory). From here it is a nice wander up to the saddle. This valley in particular is very reminiscent of the Maitland (Ohau) – patchy beech and lots of erosion.



The second option is to go in the other end and make for the hut and shelter near Lagoon Saddle itself. This option has more climbing, hence the views over the adjacent national park, the Waimakariri and Klondyke Corner are very panoramic. Take note, though, that this end of the track is quite boggy. The through trip itself has a logical stopping place at Hamilton Hut, which breaks the days up evenly. The small lake near Hamilton Hut (marked on the map as 842m) is a recommended short detour.

The trip list will close on September 27.

## **October 20/22 (Labour Weekend)**

### **Macetown and environs (All)**

#### **Antony Pettinger 473-7924**

Gold was discovered in the Arrow River as early as 1862, and soon Arrowtown (formerly Fox's) and Macetown became the scene of intensive mining. As well as the miners there were the support industries as well, which formed the township of Macetown. The first town consisted of calico tents. As the diggings became more permanent, so to did the town. The town was more or less self-contained, with a school, post office, butchers, bakers, and the hotels. There were (and still are) two main routes into Macetown; one following the Arrow River, the other over Big Hill. Both routes remain accessible today. There is a 4WD track all the way from Arrowtown to Macetown via the river, whilst the Big Hill track provides some great views.

The town is now deserted, and very few buildings remain, although there are many tall trees left as a legacy to the hardy people who lived in the harsh climate. At one time there were around 1700 miners working the Arrow River and the Twelve Mile (Macetown). Mining more or less stopped in the 1920's, leaving Macetown as a ghost town. There are two buildings left standing, including the bakehouse, Needham's cottage. These two have had their exteriors faithfully restored to their original condition.

There are no huts as such at Macetown, so camping is the order of the day. Most likely we will camp in the Rich Burn valley, away from the 4WD people who often frequent the main township area during long weekends.

The route up the Arrow River features 24 numbered points, with a booklet available to explain the history at each point (some numbered pegs may now be missing)

The alternate journey over Big Hill is rewarding in its view of Macetown, Advance Peak, Coronet Creek, the Wakatipu Basin, as well as the Remarkables.

Whilst at Macetown, we intend to attempt the ascent of Advance Peak (a tussock climb) as well as explore some of the interesting side gullies. A longer trip may encompass Malings Peak, Vanguard Peak and Adnace Peak via a high ridge.

Once in Macetown there will be options to explore the remains of this interesting place, as well as having a go at climbing Advance Peak for some excellent views.

Trip list closes October 11.

# DAYTRIPS

**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.

**9 September**

**Sandfly Bay [Family]**

**Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327**

We will be leaving the clubrooms at 9 am and carpool to Highcliff Road. Then turn off down Seal Point Road. Sandfly Bay is named after the enormous sand dunes (not after black biting insects). We walk (or run) down the steep dunes onto the beach where we may encounter New Zealand Sea Lions that look like logs - and that are not afraid of humans. A walk along to the far end of the beach where we may see yellow-eyed penguins. If it is a nice day, and time allows, after a steep climb back up the dunes we may drive further along Highcliff Road and down Sandymount Road to visit the Chasm and Lovers Leap, which are impressive rock cliffs reminding us of Dunedin's volcanic past. This trip is suitable for children.

*(Continued on page 11)*

**16 September**  
**Mt Kettle/Port Chalmers [M]**  
**Gavin McArthur ph. 455 0027**

Leaving the clubrooms at 9.00am and proceeding to the car park above Port Chalmers, to the start of Cedar Farm Rd. From here we'll walk up the road to the reservoir and on to the summit of Mt. Kettle. We will then tramp up to the top of Mihiwaka and hopefully the views. This will lead us on to descend the Mihiwaka track to the main road and return to the car park. Carpool cost \$5.00

**23 September**  
**Burns Saddle/Silver Stream/Swampy [MF]**  
**David Barnes ph. 454 4492**

The ideal spring day trip to get your mind & body lined up for an active summer, this is a longish round trip (after a short drive). The plan is to start at the top of the Northern Motorway and go along the Burns Saddle track to join Green Ridge. Just short of the Green Hut site, we'll take the obscure Greengauge Spur route, plunging toward a crossing in the upper reaches of the Silver Stream before climbing to and up Raingauge Spur. Then we amble across Swampy before dropping down the Leith Saddle track to the cars. There's some sustained ups and downs, so expect to be on the go for some 7-8 hours.

**30 September**  
**Moon Track/Pineapple Track [M]**  
**Fieke Neuman ph. 473 7535**

A nice walk around the eastern side of Flagstaff/Swampy investigating old and new tracks. We start by meeting at the clubrooms at 9am, then driving to the Glenleith end of the Pineapple track. The uphill part of the walk involves the newish McGouns Creek track and the old original Pineapple track. The downhill part follows the old Moon track, watching for mountainbikers at its many intersections with the new cycle track. An alternative on this section is the Nicholls creek track on the true right of the creek. Either way we get to see the lovely Nicholls falls and the location of the glow worm colony. Depending on how clever we were parking cars earlier we may have to walk up Islay road to complete the circuit.

# Thursday Night Programme

## **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.

## **6 September**

Doug Bell has been to Antarctica three times as base electrician and winter over manager. Hear how he found life with no sun in such a remote part of the world.

## **13 September**

BYO—Bring along photos from any recent trip you've been on to show at club.

## **20 September**

Alan Williamson kayaked down the Clutha river from Lake Hawea to the river mouth with friends during summer. Learn what it's like to be on this mighty river with only a kayak.

## **27 September**

Rodger Clarkson went on a trekking holiday to Nepal in Oct 2007. He will give a presentation entitled 'Yaks, Yetis and Everest Base Camp'. Hear about landing at Tensing-Hillary airport (one of the steepest runways in the world), acclimatising to an altitude of 5500m and see photos of the spectacular mountains encountered during his 3 week trek around the Everest region, including the 8000m peaks of Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, and Cho oyü.

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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