

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



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



Lake Hawea and the Hunter Valley from Dingle Peak (Timaru River)

Committee Members 2012/13

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
Clubrooms Maintenance	Andrew Pask	453 5719

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

I joined this club just about three and a half years ago. My Dad introduced me to tramping with a trip to the head of the Hopkins Valley when I was 13 or 14 years old. Over the next few years, I did many more trips with family and with Otago Boys High School. I continued tramping with friends and family during my university years. After doing a five year stint in London, I continued doing longer trips with my brother upon my return to New Zealand. With a young family, and my brother having other interests, I decided to look up the OTMC on the internet. My Dad had been a member of the club in the mid 60's. He loved it and made some life-long friends. The best man at my parents' wedding was an OTMC member. The club website was great, and the photos spoke for themselves. I sent an email introducing myself and said I was coming to the next meeting. The following Thursday I turned up early as Ian Sime was setting up. He said "You haven't been here before." I immediately felt at home, and as other members arrived, I chatted to them, I said to myself "This is me." The speaker that night showed some pretty cool photos and told some good stories. The next Thursday night couldn't come fast enough. A study of the trip card and I wanted to go on all the trips. Some negotiating with my wife and young family and it was agreed that I could go on one weekend tramp a month. I quickly signed up for bushcraft and upon completion, I qualified to join the club. The next three trips that I signed up for – Kea Basin, Kepler Track and Green Lake – were all cancelled due to poor weather. So I went on a couple of day trips. My first weekend trip with the club was Mt Somers in winter. Quickly I was tapped on the shoulder and asked if I wanted to be on the Committee as the AGM was coming up. I was chuffed to be asked. Since then I have pretty much done a trip a month until December 2010 when my third child was born. So to be fair on my wife, I have pegged the tramping back a bit. I have never done a trip I have not said to myself "That was a waste of time" and have enjoyed the company I have been with. I have particularly enjoyed the multi-day trips and long weekend trips such as Five Passes, Ohau Range, Huxley, Cascade Saddle and Hopkins Valley. I volunteered to lead trips in the 2009/10 summer trip card. The first trip I was to lead to Corner Peak/Dingle Peak was a shocking forecast. So it was changed to good old Mt Somers. My first trip that I led that went to schedule was to Kea Basin. I soon learnt that if I wanted to go anywhere in particular, you needed to lead the trip there. If there is anywhere you would like to go, now is the time to speak up as the summer trip card is currently being organised. I have now led a number of trips, written numerous trip reports, helped with bushcraft and open days, and been on the Committee three

years and counting. I am thoroughly enjoying introducing my two older children to tramping and bushcraft, and they keep asking when the next tramp is on. I have loved every minute of being a member of OTMC, and enjoyed being able to help out where I can. A successful club relies on members contributing – instead of coming along for the ride. I have made a point to welcome and talk to any newbies to the clubrooms as it is quite hard to walk through those doors to a room of people you do not know. I would like to acknowledge the help and support my wife Theresa has given me to so active and involved in this club. Giving me the time off to leave her with the kids while I go away tramping and to attend club nights and committee meetings. Also to attend the open days and bushcraft and putting up with my tramping gear lying in the hallway at home. She knows I get grumpy if I don't get into the hills often enough. Without a supportive partner it would not be possible, and I am sure other members would agree. This club is ours, so be sure to help out where you can, be it leading trips, writing trip reports, showing your photos or speaking at club nights, talking to newbies, driving the van, etc. I know most of you can say you have done these things. I get out so much more than what I put in.

Richard Forbes
Vice President/Membership Secretary

Membership

So far there are 155 paid up financial members of the OTMC, and 51 members yet to pay. A third reminder will be sent with this bulletin. If you are paying by e-banking, please put your name and "subs" as a reference. This makes it easier to tell the difference between subscriptions and trip costs (which may be the same amount) and I need to know what you are paying.

New members this month

- Theresa Forbes (joint member with Richard)
- Robert Polak (joint member with Maria)
- Lindsay Rixon

Members resigning from the club

Monika Fry (been in the club 6 years)

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary

What happened at our AGM?

Congratulations to both David Barnes and Debbie Pettinger on being elected as life members of the Otago Tramping & Mountaineering Club. This is in recognition of all the work (both on the committee and 'behind the scenes') that both David and Debbie have each done over the past twenty plus years.

Nearly everyone from last year's committee was re-elected this year. Antony Pettinger, as President will be leading the OTMC into it's 90th year as well as being responsible for the club's weekend trips as Chief Guide. Richard Forbes will continue his great work as Membership Secretary and Vice-President. Tina Anderson carries on looking after the club's accounts so meticulously as Treasurer. Peter Stevenson will again be the club Secretary. Wayne Hodgkinson continues to ably look after Day Trips. Ross Hunt will carry on keeping us updated on what's happening in Search & Rescue. Gene Dyett and Sam Patrick continue to diligently look after Gear Hire and clubrooms. Sam will also be the club Ben Rudd Trust liaison. Tony Timperly and Debbie Pettinger reliably continue to organise Thursday night speakers. Debbie will also continue to produce the monthly Bulletin newsletter. Andrew Pask was newly elected onto the committee at the AGM and will oversee renovations in the kitchen area and other general clubroom maintenance.

It was great to see 4 new people elected to the Ben Rudd Trust and that brings the total number of trustees to 7.

The Leaning Lodge Trust also held elections during the AGM. Work is well underway with a view to having the hut's maintenance finished by the end of summer.

Overall the club is in good heart with good numbers on both weekend and day trips and at Thursday night meetings. Long may it continue!

Trip Reports

Snow Caving 2012

Waking at 6am in dark, cold, wet and windy Dunedin meant I didn't have high expectations for a dry, warm experience. However huddled in the club rooms Richard and Wayne had high hopes for clear skies despite what the weather map said. True to their words, 20 minutes out of Dunedin the sun was shining.



Luckily the road was in top condition and we didn't have to walk far but more importantly there was snow, a clean patchy sheet perfect for building caves in. After watching Richard and Wayne perched at the top of an incredibly steep bank and select a suitable spot, the rest of us shuffled up to them and began digging.

Richard said he was very pleased with the snow condition and depth and amazingly, after some excellent team work, both caves were finished

by 2.30pm so we could go exploring. As a novice to snow caving I found the experience truly rewarding and exciting. Despite picking the worse sleeping spot wedged between the two lone snorers, I was pleasantly surprised and relieved at how warm and dry we all were. What an awesome opportunity that everyone should make the most of. Thanks to all who made it happen, what a fun and enjoyable trip to escape the rat race.

Hazel Cunliffe, for Tracy Pettinger, Kim Briggs, Andrew Pask, Sarah Pask, Wayne Hodgkinson, Christine McLachlan, Alice Hodgkinson, Paul Cunliffe and Richard Pettinger.



Katiki Beach Day Trip—19 August

You've been to see the Moeraki Boulders? Thought they were pretty good? You ain't seen nothin! The six of us who headed up to Katiki Beach in August saw a thousand or two, from small hand-sized ones to the ones big enough to use as a paddling pool!

You've potted and peered and enjoyed the rock pools at Brighton or Taieri Mouth? Thought they were pretty good? You ain't seen nothin! Katiki beach has hundreds just teeming with interesting sea-shore life!

Katiki Beach is that long one beside SH1, between Shag Point and Moeraki. The sort of place where you say to yourself "One day, I'll stop there" but never do. We had a bit under an hour's drive from Dunedin (sorry to those folk who didn't realise it was an 8am start) and after some car-shuffling were walking by 9.15. The first bit of beach was disappointing: Chris asked me if there were going to be any 'Moeraki' boulders, and I pointed to a small, broken one quite near. But that was just the beginning: soon there were more and more and more coming into view.

I'd only been on that stretch of beach once before (and that was at a higher tide) and hadn't realised there were quite so many of the concretions. Some perfectly spherical, some just remains of enormous ones. Some could almost be picked up, some would have done as a paddling pool! We had a good leaflet explaining how they had formed in the mudstone. A boulder 50cm across will be about 120,000 years old, and the really big ones up to 500,000 years old.

In the larger broken boulders, and in between all of them, were thousands of wonderful rock pools full of seaweeds, anenomes, sea tulips (an animal, not a plant), crabs and starfish, and even some sea centipedes – long thin black creatures with bristles for feet and measuring 5-25cms long.

So we didn't have a long tramp on the beach – it took 3+ hours to amble the 8Km as each boulder needed to be admired and each rock pool needed to be examined. We were accompanied on the journey by many birds – both black and variable oyster catchers, a couple of shags, some red-legged sea-gulls, a couple of raucus black-backed gulls etc.

And then there were the shells! Katiki Beach must be a shell-collector's heaven, there seemed to be so many different sorts. The usual paua, mussel and oyster shells; and some rarer 'fan' shells and 'roman oil-lamps' to name just a couple.

Overhead it was cloudy but the cloud base was at about 100metres so we could see all the way back to Shag Point and all the way ahead to the Moeraki peninsula. The cloud didn't matter – our heads were down looking at all the interesting beach, but there was a chill in the light wind and our morning tea and lunch stops were very short.

All too soon we'd reached the other car at the far end of the beach. What to do next? We thought briefly of climbing to the monument at Palmerston but all hill-tops were still in cloud. So we decided to go to Matanaka near Waikouiti as only 2 of the group had been there before. Alas, the road was closed because of lambing! Only one thing left – head for home and a good hot drink in a cosy warm house!

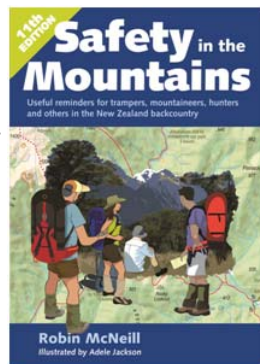
Many thanks to my companions: Kathy, Chris, Lucy, Margaret and Viv
Jane Cloete

FMC 'Safety in the Mountains'

This booklet has been extensively rewritten and is in full colour, waterproofed, A5 size. This is an excellent booklet to have in your pack.

Available to purchase from the club for \$5 each.

Also available from the club are Pack Liners \$3 each.



OTMC T-shirts/light fleece tops



A number of years ago a sports t-shirt and light weight fleece top with the OTMC logo embroidered on was available for members to purchase.

Interest is being gauged to see if there is enough interest to organise again. Please talk to a committee member if you would be like an 'official' OTMC top.

Trip list

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

Planning for the summer tramping programme is well underway, with the first two weekend trips advertised in this Bulletin. The summer programme allows a lot more scope, in that we don't need to be so reliant on huts and so can include areas that are more off the beaten track – a major reason why clubs like ours should exist. The following are some preliminary thoughts on the weekend programme – there is still time to change things with the trip card due to come out with the November Bulletin. You can follow updates on the website.

- December 1-2: Trips from Twizel. There has been a request for a cycle trip in this area, but I feel that there is also room for trampers, hence this will be a joint trip
- December 8-9: Day or weekend trips from Te Anau. The main driver for this trip is to provide an opportunity to complete the Kepler in one day (Control Gates to Control Gates, all 60km). This is a personal challenge for some (and of no interest to others). Weekend options could include trips to either Shallow Bay or the
- Hidden Lakes. December 15-16: End of year trip to Pigeon Island – a nice way to end the year. A social trip with walking opportunities.
- January 26-27: Aoraki / Mt Cook in Summer is beautiful if you get the right conditions. Two main options, Mueller Hut or the Mt Cook Range. Both give great views - especially if conditions are right for bivying out.
- February 2-6: Waitangi Day is a Wednesday, so it gives an opportunity for a five day trip. Options here are a leisurely Wilkin / Young, explore from the Top Forks in the Wilkin, Tiel Creek or any other trip. Rabbit Pass may even be an option.
- February 16-17-18: Another two or three day option, this time to Fiordland, beyond East Eglinton. Lots of options here, including the full traverse of the Livingstone Range from East Eglinton to Key Summit.
- March 29 – April 1: Easter – I'm leaning towards the Green Lake / Borland area. By camping high above Green Lake gives options for some great day trips. Other options include the Borland valleys, and Mt. Titoroa.

20/22 October
Arrow River/Macetown [All]
Antony Pettinger ph. 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 Advance 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.

(Continued on page 10)

November 3-4
Timaru River Area (All)
Leader to be advised

The first weekend trip of the 2012/13 summer programme is headed for the Timaru area – an area that now offers more scope for weekend trips with the opening of the Breast Hill Track. For those heading up Timaru River, the two peaks at the head of Deer Spur Creek are always an attraction. Corner Peak, nearer Lake Hawea offers the better view. Dingle Peak, although higher, has a more restricted view. Both are worthwhile and achievable in a weekend. We normally make a high camp in the basins below Dingle, at the last of the water. The trip up Timaru River can be dependent on the water level in the first couple of km's, with several crossings normally required. There is meant to be a high-level track on the true right, but I have yet to talk to someone who has done this. Another option is to travel a bit further up Timaru River and head for Moonlight Hut. From here a traverse can be made to the head of Deer Spur Creek via Dingle. A side trip up the last climb to Corner will complete a neat traverse.

For those that missed out on the OTMC trip to Breast Hill in January can choose this option – by linking with Timaru River this makes a great trip.

Trip list closes October 25

November 17-18 (and 17-19)
Caples Valley (Kay Creek / Scott Creek Option) (All)
Antony Pettinger ph. 473 7924

Last year we tried having a two and three day option on some trips, and are doing so again this year. The key trip on this weekend can be done in two days, although a third will give the opportunity to explore further. The through trip from the Caples to the Routeburn Road via Kay Creek and Scott Creek is a classic trip, involving lots of interesting terrain, including riverbed travel (yeah!) and off-track sections. The leader of this trip has always had an desire to visit Death Valley – if only to find out why it is so named. It looks like Death Valley could provide an alternate route from Kay Creek Hut to the Scott Basin, with a largish tarn being an obvious camping area at just below 1500m. Extra time on the saddle will give time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the pass – you can even scramble up the end of the Humboldt's for expansive views over Wakatipu and a great view of Earnslaw.

Other options on this trip include a trip to McKellar Saddle (again, great views) or up Fraser Creek. Three days is also right to complete the Greenstone / Caples, for those so inclined.

Trip list closes November 8.

DAYTRIPS

7 October

Unexplored Silver Peaks [F]

Richard Pettinger ph. 487 9488

An annual foray into insanity: come along and visit a part of the great green yonder that nobody on the trip has visited before. Let's see what lurks in the parts of the local hills where "here be monsters" or some other stuff of possible interest. Who knows where we'll end up, but it'll be a bash.

14 October

Herbert Forest (Hoods Track) [M]

Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328

Note: Leaving clubrooms at 8am

We went to the Herbert Forest a couple of years ago, and this time we'll be on a new track : Hood's Track. Most of it will be new for most OTMC folk though we will briefly be on the main track that we did last time. Leave the clubrooms **8am sharp** as it is about 90mins drive to the start. The track is muddy, steep in short sections and has numerous stream crossings (all small ones!). Back to Dunedin by 5pm or a bit earlier.

21 October

Labour Weekend—No Day Trip

28 October

Taieri River Banks [E]

Alan Scurr ph. 489 5538

Drive out to 59 Riverside Road, East Taieri. From there we will walk down the Owhiro stream to the Taieri river. We will walk along the East Bank looking at flood protection work, historical houses etc then crossing the Silverstream. This is a different type of walk, mainly on flat land and over farmland. Should take approximately 4 hours.

Carpool \$15

Thursday Night Programme

4 October

Dermott Maycock is a volunteer with SAR Dogs Otago, an organisation dedicated to the training and deployment of Search Dogs into areas where they are needed to 'find' people whether it be in the bush, avalanches or other disasters. Dermott will tell us what goes into training a search dog.

11 October

Phil Somerville and his wife completed the 'Stump the Hump' challenge earlier this year in February. Starting at midnight, participants must complete the 55 km Stump the Hump Ridge Track in 24 hours. Hear how Phil and his wife 'enjoyed' this challenge and learn how you can do so next year.

18 October

BYO—another opportunity to show photos of your recent trips out into the hills and mountains. It would be great to see photos from any of the club day or weekend trips along with photos from any private trips.

25 October

Claudia Bakirat recently visited McQuarrie Island which is about half way between New Zealand and Antarctica. Claudia will share some of her photos and insights into this unique part of the world.

1 November

Rebecca Van Amber visited Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, USA. This wilderness area has over 1000 lakes and is the most visited wilderness in the USA. Join us to find out what Rebecca did while there.

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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