OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 783, November 2012

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.

OTMC Mt Cook Trip July 2012

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
Ben Rudds / 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 Rep / Committee	Ross Hunt	477 3309
Clubrooms Maintenance	Andrew Pask	453 5719

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

COMMITTEE THOUGHTS

Since joining the club about 3 years ago I have been impressed by the friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and the diverse range of members and the hobbies and interests they pursue. This diversity is reflected in the wide range of activities on offer at the club such as day walks, skiing, kayaking, biking and mountain climbing in addition to the multi day tramps. These people, although all individuals, seem to be bound as one by the love of the great outdoors. Of course none of these activities just happen. Hours of planning and organising go into every event, and it is the hard work and enthusiasm of these people I would like to highlight.

My name is Sam Patrick. I am a committee member for the OTMC and recently also taken a position on the Ben Rudd Trust committee. This is the first time I've been on any committee and I'm thoroughly enjoying it. I have so much to learn, not only about tramping in general but also about how committees and clubs work. The extra effort involved in being on the committee is not great but I get a real sense of satisfaction when plans come to fruition and the simple jobs are complete.

Members will see most of the OTMC committee every Thursday night at the clubrooms but the other two committees that form part of the clubs operations are not always so visible.

The Leaning Lodge Trust is a group of people (some from the club and some from other interested groups) entrusted to look after the (formally) Leaning Lodge. This hut, belonging to the OTMC, is on the Rock and Pillar range overlooking Middlemarch. You've probably heard a lot from this group lately as major renovations are taking place over the next few months. The new improved facility will be a great place for a weekend away from the city rush when it is completed. If you feel you would like to help out on the forthcoming work days contact Ray McAliece or Alan Thomson.

The Ben Rudd trust is a group set up to administer the 112 acres of land owned by the OTMC on the inland side of Flagstaff. You probably haven't heard a lot about this group as the work they do is on a very long term basis. The plan is to return this area to native bush. In the past there has been a pine plantation as well as the usual gorse and broom. The native plants are just starting to become dominant and it is hoped their continued growth will suppress the undesirables in the years ahead. The club will be holding a picnic day at Ben Rudd shelter in mid November. It's well worth a visit to check out the shelter and see the rhododendron dell which should be in bloom about picnic time. The property is easily accessible from the fire break leading up from the bull ring. Turn left at the clear area at the top of the hill. This was the skid site when the pine forest was felled.

Keep an eye out for more information about both these groups in future bulletins.

Sam Patrick

Membership

To date there are 178 financial of the club and I still need to hear back from 17 members about their membership status. A 4th and final reminder will be sent with this bulletin so if this is you please get in touch and let me know what you wish to do. As is usually the case we get a large number of resignations as I track people own.

Members resigned during the last month
Will Sweetman (4.5 years in club)
Lynley McCristell & Ron Besuijen (6.5 years in club)
Shirley McQueen (21.5 years in club)
Greg Powell (13 years and a long committee role in the club)
Giselle Walker & David Eyres (1 year in club)
Jo Baillie (4.5 years in club)
Andrew Fausch (10.5 years in club)
Margaret van Betuw (1.5 years in club)
Brent Vink (4 years in club)

New Members joined during the last month
Denis Gessert (joint member with Jan Burch)

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary

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.

There have been a number of these tops at club for members to try on. There is a variety of colours and styles. The cost of either the fleece or quick-dry t-shirt with the OTMC logo from Adventure Outfitters in Dunedin are expected to cost $50 each.

Please talk to Sam Patrick (ph. 487 6066) if you're interested.

Trip Reports

Are we Zigging, or are we Zagging?
Orbell's Cave – 2nd September

The value of our website was demonstrated when a large group of 14 trampers gathered outside the clubrooms to listen to their leader give instructions on how to get to the start of the Orbell's Cave tramp. Six of this group, four of whom are female European university students, are not members, but had learnt of this trip via the OTMC website.

Elderly leader Tony showed his age when he used a "hard copy" map to show these young trampers where we were heading; but was then given some insight in the finer points of entering data into a GPS as a young male student downloaded the information. Just to make sure they did not get lost, Tony said, "You'll know when you get to the start as there is a large stockyard on the right of the road. We'll park there."

The drive down Blucher Road was even more white-knuckling than it normally is, as the recent heavy rains had made the surface rough in parts and there had been a couple of minor washouts. We wondered how the Europeans were finding it; however, we needn't have worried as we saw their car just in front and nearing the stockyards. Then – bugger – they drove past them! After allowing Lucy, Wayne, Peter and Dave to frantically bail out, Tony drove after the young students, horn blaring. A couple k's down the road he came upon them, as they had pulled over to the side. "Where is the stockyard?" asked the young man with the GPS (who, incidentally, is a Kiwi). "Didn't you see it back there?" asked a puzzled Tony. "Yes, but it didn't match the readings I've got on my GPS." was the reply. Moral of this story: don't rely entirely on your GPS – check the physical surroundings also. (Note: Didn't someone recently drive into the sea because they relied exclusively on their GPS?)

To get back to the actual tramping:- The weather was fine and clear as all 14 of us finally got going. Instead of the usual anti-clockwise circuit, we decided to go clockwise as this would give us a view of the cave as we descended towards it. On previous trips we have had to ward off the attentions of rather large cattle beasts as we crossed the large grassy plateau before descending steeply to Orbell's Creek. This time, however, we were observed only from a distance by shy sheep, although we were concerned at one stage when we saw a line of peering sheep heads directly in front of us. "They are not fierce are they?" asked one of the European students. We Kiwis were also wondering this as they did not move when we approached, but

finally they ran off when Lucy waved her walking poles at them. This brave action enabled us to descend unimpeded to the cave, whilst also enjoying the views across to Strath Taieri, Rock and Pillar and the Lammermoors.

Orbell's Cave is in fact two caves side by side. As this was to be our lunch stop we crossed the creek and climbed up to the caves. We soon found that they had been recently frequented by sheep so, after some preliminary exploration and remarks about the composting qualities of the layers of sheep droppings that made up the cave floor, we decided to sit outside amongst some relatively hygienic rocks.

After a very pleasant lunch we set off for an easy stroll up the Three O'Clock Stream valley. As we did so, we ruminated on the old tramper's adage, "What goes down must have to go back up again". That "up" was yet to come and our easy stroll was merely a warm-up until we reached the long, steep, 400m high zig-zag track that began our return to the stockyards.

Or is it a zag-zig track? Lucy and Tony had a heated discussion as to whether the ascending track started on a zig or a zag. This debate continued amongst the students as they tried to work out whether they were zigging or zagging each time the track changed direction. Despite this confusion we eventually reached the highest point (550m) of the tramp, before beginning the gentle descent back to the cars. The fine, clear weather enabled us to see eastwards out towards Karitane and to the north we could see the Gap and Mt Misery: a fitting end to a very enjoyable tramp which enabled us to appreciate the open country that borders Central Otago.

Tony Timperley for: Lucy Jones, Wayne Hodgkinson, Peter George, Dave Wilson, Katy Goode, Dylan Wedge, Rebecca Van Amber, Chris Campbell, Sandra Croessman, Darren Atkinson, Elitza Hineva, Sandra Enke, Sarah Katzemid.

Mt Cook
28/29th July 2012

On Friday ten of us set off for Mt Cook and our tramping adventure. We stopped in Oamaru for tea before arriving at Unwin Lodge. Greg and his wife were already there, which was nice as it made 12. Unwin Lodge is very nice with heating, lovely hot showers, fridge and a microwave. We couldn't believe how good our accommodation was! I didn't really expect luxury for tramping as this! Our bunk room was named after a French lady who climbed a mountain in a skirt.

Saturday, we were all up at 7am and ready to go at a bit before 8.30am, we drove down to the shelter/car park to the start of the Sealy Tarns and the Hooker Valley tracks.

Most of us did Sealy Tarns while the rest did an easier walk to up the Hooker Valley. The walk up to the Sealy Tarns has fairly new steps, which are great for walking up, climbing higher and higher and the view is incredible. I was thinking

to myself I wouldn't want to fall off the track because it would be a very long drop to the bottom. As we got nearer to the Sealy Tarns, there was snow on the track. We were looking forward to having a snack or should I say morning tea at the tarns. The tarns were frozen and some even went walking on the frozen ice. It was well worth the effort of getting there as it felt awesome to be standing at Sealy Tarns. From there we could see the Red Tarns and the track up to Muller Hut. We spent time taking in the view as it is just so picturesque. We could see Mt. Cook in the distance.

I was wondering whether it would be easier walking up or down all those steps, but there was no need to worry. It was a lovely walk down to the bottom and then on to the shelter for lunch, sitting in the sun, with a cool breeze .

After lunch we set off on another lovely walk, this time through the Hooker Valley. We crossed over two wire swing bridges. To get to one of the wire swing bridges we had to walk along a very narrow walk way of rocks. It was fun walking across but it was also a nice feeling when I had reached the other side. After the swing bridge it was a lovely walk to the glacier. At the lake there were a few icebergs lying in the water. A cool breeze came up and out came our jackets, hats and gloves. We headed back and over the wire swing bridges. Towards the end of the track there was a stone moment in a triangle of every one

who had died on Mt Cook. A bit further on was a rock of a French lady who had climbed in a skirt.

We got to the end of the track, putting our gear in the van and drove to the Mt. Cook car park for a well deserved drink. We all went to the café next to the DoC centre only to find it closed. We all couldn't believe it, so we walked to the hotel/restaurant area. We walked into this very nice area and I mean it was nice, not the place to be in our tramping clothes and boots, while everyone else in the bar was dressed up. We were all sitting in the corner drinking beer and wine with the a great view of the mountain out the windows. That was when we found out that it was Dennis's birthday. We left the hotel and drove back to Unwin Lodge where we all were looking forward to having a nice hot shower. We enjoyed our tea with a start of nibbles, main and pudding. We had a birthday cake for Dennis with birthday candles which we had gotten from the hotel, and we all sang happy birthday.

On Sunday morning we didn't have to be up quite so early. It was breakfast and packing our bags and loading gear our in to the van. We talked about what we wanted to do, a couple of people walked up to the Red Tarns and later we meet back at the Hermitage. While the rest of the us walked to the blue pools and the Tasman Glacier . It was an awesome experience to be standing on top of the moraine wall and looking out to the Glaciers. Now I can say that I have seen glaciers up close.

We drove back to the Mt. Cook village car park. From there we could walk round and have a look at the DoC information centre which is very interesting, with lots of information on the history of the area and the people who have climbed Mt. Cook. We also had a look at the Sir Edmund Hilary centre. This is also very interesting, especially the history of the Mt. Cook village and Sir Ed.

We set off for home and stopped for lunch not far from Mt. Cook in view of the snowy mountains sitting in front of the lake, then home to Dunedin. We were lucky with the weather, we had fine days and clear views of Mt Cook all weekend.

I would like to thank Gene, our leader, for a wonderful trip and especially for driving us up to Mt. Cook and then home.

Greg and Pam Hall, John Kaiser, Raewyn Duncan, Tracy and David Senior, Richelle Adams, Dennis Martin, Tina Anderson and Lucy Jones

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

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 a 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.

1-2 December
Trips from Twizel (tramp or cycle)
Antony Pettinger ph. 473 7924

There are lots of options with this trip, including tramping or cycling. The idea is to have groups going to different places and meeting up at the end of the weekend to share experiences. The Alps 2 Sea Cycle Trail is under

construction with the trail starting at Mt Cook, going past Twizel and the spectacular Ohau Range and onto Oamarama and eventually Oamaru. Bring your bike and cycle parts of this trail. The trail is well graded and gradient relatively easy. If tramping is more your thing then there are plenty of day trips close to Twizel, including Ben Ohau and Ben Dhu, these are easily climbed in a day as was the case on an OTMC 'Day trips from Omarama' trip in 2010. Walking to the top of Ben Ohau offers spectacular views up Lake Ohau and is well worth the climb. There is also the option for those wanting to make the most of the weekend with two days tramping, at Ohau, which is not far from Twizel. The North/South Temple crossing is always a popular weekend trip, or explore Freehold or Sawyer's Creek in a weekend. When signing the trip list, please indicate which type of trip (cycle or tramp, day or weekend) you're most interested in. Parties will be organized as to which type of trip they prefer.

8-9 December
Trips from Te Anau
Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327

Te Anau is nestled on the shores of Lake Te Anau and is the gateway to Fiordland National Park. The impetus for this trip is the OTMC's own Kepler Challenge— walking the Kepler Track in a day, leaving early on Saturday morning and completing all 60 km in one day. This challenge will take approximately 12-14 hours, including the summit of Mt Luxmore, which offers fantastic views over Lake Te Anau. Carrying just daypacks, this is a great opportunity to test your fitness and stamina. If you'd prefer a more sedate trip, walk part of the Kepler Track to meet up with those taking on the day long challenge or visit one of the many short walks around Te Anau and Manapouri. If an overnight trip is for you, the hidden lakes further around from Brod Bay is a pleasant trip (and a test for your off-track skills).

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DAYTRIPS

4 November
Rustlers Ridge—Burns Track [E/M]
Wayne Hodgkin ph. 473 0960

A pleasant trip close to town covering bush, tussocks and open tops. Leaving the cars at the top of the Dunedin North Motorway, we'll head up to and along the Pipeline Track to Rustlers Ridge, which will start a steady climb to some good views near Burns Saddle. From here we have a number of options – if the weather is rotten we can return to the cars down Burns Track (3 hour total), or preferably head along towards Swampy Ridge. This will take us via a bit of a climb onto Swampy, with great views into the Silver Peaks and Silverstream catchment, and then return along Swampy and down Leith Saddle Track. In this case about 4 hours.
Trip cost $5.

11 November
Spier's Road—Ben Rudds Picnic—Davies Track [E]
Richard Pettinger ph. 487 9488

Our annual visit to the Club's ancestral home on the Flagstaff Farside. Join us for an easy womble across Dunedin's skyline using less-travelled routes, including a picnic lunch with the management team who work to look after our land. See the rhododendrons planted by one of our venerable forefathers.

18 November
Karetai Road—Boulder Beach—soldier's Memorial [M]
Jill McAliece ph. 454 4211

Meet at the clubrooms ready to depart for 9am, we will drive over to Tomahawk Lagoon and then walk along Tomahawk beach, up over the hill and along Smails Beach, follow the wee track at the end and join on to Karetai Road, a gradual uphill with great coastal views. We turn inland then back

to coast towards Boulder Beach and find a nice spot for lunch. Then we will go up Paradise Road and join back to the main road before walking along to the Soldiers Memorial by Centre Rd then follow the track back down to the Lagoon. Those that want can stay for cuppa and scones at our house before going home. Walk will be about 5-6 hours. Trip Cost $5

25 November
Potato Point—Heyward Point [M]
Bronwen Strang ph. 473 1610

Lots of beach and headland walking: first (after leaving a car at the end of Heywards Point Rd as a shuttle) we will circumnavigate Potato Point itself, head along Long Beach, up over Pilot Point, along Whareakeake (was Murdering Beach), over Purehurehu, down to Kaikai Beach and along and up to Heywards Point - from there to follow the track around to the end of Heywards Point Rd. As it is high tide at 1.30pm this will be a good day for getting fit walking in soft sand - but don't let that put you off - great views from all the headlands! Trip Cost $6

2 December
Green Ridge—Rocky—Yellow Ridge [M/F]
Tomas Sobeck ph. 487 7896

We are planning for a fast moving longish daywalk in Silver Peaks and great weather. Starting from Mountain Road car park, we will walk along three beautiful ridges: Green, Rocky, and Yellow. Add an extra hour along Mountain Road to complete the circle. So prepare your best scroggin, scorched almonds, or whatever else helps you keep going - for about 8 hours as per Antony Hamel's guide book. Except for Rocky Ridge section, this is part of the well maintained Silver Peaks Route. There will be an opportunity to admire the brand spanking new Philip J Cox Memorial Hut along the way as well as many gorgeous views. Trip Cost $8

Thursday Night Programme

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

8 November

Doug Bell regaled us with his tales of wintering over in Antarctica recently and he's back to tell us about the Dry Valleys. The Dry Valleys in Antarctica are snow free and are the worlds most extreme deserts. Come along and hear more about this unique landscape.

15 November

Robin Schadewinkel has been monitoring a group of robins located in the Silver Peaks before and after a 1080 drop along with a control group of robins located in nearby Silverstream. Tonight Robin will give a presentation on his findings.

22 November

David McFarlane is the Field Manager at the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust and he will give us some insight to the work undertaken to monitor these penguins, which are found on the Otago Peninsula.

29 November

FMC Photo Competition—see photos from the FMC photo competition. Earlier this year our club held it's own photo competition with the winning entries being put into the FMC photo competition.

6 December

Maria Hamelink spent 5 weeks traveling in South America. She survived the trek up Mount Salkaney and Macchu Picchu, sweltered on the equator while standing in two hemisphere's at the same time and marvelled at the wild life. Come and see the sights Maria has to share with us.

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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