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.



Stone Hill - Purehurehu Point—July 2012

Committee Members 2012/13

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	ice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
-	Secretary	Peter Stevenson	454 4148
	reasurer	Tina Anderson	473 7015
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	Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
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l V	Vebsite/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
! S	ocial Convener	Tony Timperley	473 7257
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-	Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
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Visit us on the Internet at: www.otmc.co.nz

Well it's that time of year again and just a few weeks of tramping left till the festive season arrives. A chance to spend time with family and friends or maybe a Christmas tramp to that special spot of your own. Don't forget the extra's - Xmas tree, crackers, lights, the Santa suit, new potatoes and the ham. Hope your pack is big enough (YEAH RIGHT) and we all know what I can do with the extra's.

Overall this year has been good for the club with high membership and good numbers for the open day and bushcraft course. Thursday nights are becoming full houses, also fantastic to see two new life members this year. Also congratulations to Philip Somerville on climbing to the summit of Aoraki/Mt Cook. The weather has played its part on some trips not getting away this year but good to see average numbers are up on most of the trips that do get away.

The club over the years has given me a lot - new skills, respect for the outdoors, new friends, fun, enjoyment on trips and club nights. A chance to go and see many places that most kiwis never get to. I became a committee member to give something back to the club and the rest, as they say, is history. If any one thing stands out this year, for me, it would have to be the club spirit. Just one of many examples is our efforts on the Rock and Pillar Range with the maintenance/demolition/rebuild programme at Leaning Lodge. There is always about 10 or 12 people giving up their time at weekends, or Saturdays, lots of laughs, good friendship, hard work and knowing all our efforts at the end will make a great asset for all to enjoy for years to come.

With the club going forward and new challenges ahead, the committee always need more weekend trip leaders, input, ideas, help with projects and conservation matters to help it stay the great club it is today and into the future.

With the 90th anniversary just around the corner, the club has come a long way over the years. "Been there done that so to speak". The committee looks forward to seeing all of you at the 90th celebrations late in August 2013. Date still to be confirmed. If you have any ideas, thoughts, photos or any information regarding the clubs history please contact one of the subcommittee, Gene Dyett, Richard Forbes, Tina Anderson or Antony Pettinger. Many thanks.

On behalf of the committee we wish you and your family all the best for Christmas and the New Year 2013.

Gene Dyett

P.S. First club night back is Thursday 17th January 2013.

On behalf of all trip leaders, it is already on the trip lists but PLEASE PRINT your name and details CLEARLY. Thank you.

Membership

Club membership now stands at 186.

Resigning members during last month Andrew Rae (one year in club) Michael van der Hurk (11 years in club) Timothy Griffith (one year in club) Susan Lilley (nine months in club) Bruce Newton (23 1/2 years in club)

There are still four members who have failed to pay their subs (which were due on the 1st of July 2012). Several postal, emails and phone reminders have had no joy. Their membership status will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

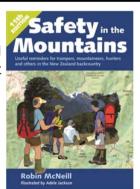
Richard Forbes Membership Secretary

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.



Shelter from the Storm: the story of New Zealand's backcountry huts, by Shaun Barnett, Rob Brown & Geoff Spearpoint

This comprehensive history of huts by three of our best known backcountry writer/photographers is an impressive tome. Dividing huts up by their initial use (with categories like mining, tourism, deer-culling and of course club



huts), it tells the tales of these rudimentary shelters became an important part of our heritage and our recreation. It complements rather than competes with Mark Pickering's wonderful "Huts: Untold stories from backcountry New Zea-(2010).**Pickering** land" told stories, personal and

historic, focussed on fifteen huts. This new book gives us a more complete history of our huts, with detailed profiles of over ninety of them.

Of particular interest to members, most of the club's former huts are covered, with a profile of Big Hut and photos of and text references to Leaning Lodge and Green Hut. The latter photo brought back fond memories of a hut that is still in first equal place on my 'nights spent' list. Also well covered, in the tourist hut section, is the tale of what I think is one of the club's proudest moments, when it was instrumental in breaking the Tourist Hotel Corporation's stranglehold on the Milford Track and introduced the term 'freedom walk' to the lexicon.

The authors' reputation as photographers precedes them, so it's no surprise that the book is well illustrated. What is more surprising is just how well they've done sourcing historic photos, which are a real highlight of the book. Put this book on your Christmas wish list, and tell your beloved to take advantage of the discounted price on the FMC website www.fmc.org.nz.

David Barnes

Trip Reports

Cass Lagoon Saddle 6/7 October 2012

Dave Chambers had described the tramp in the Craigieburn Forest Park as "an area not commonly visited by OTMC but a fantastic location". I had some misgivings when we arrived at the Andrews shelter in rain, wind and darkness very late on Friday, and woke in the morning to steady drizzle. While Dave and Alan did the car shuffle the rest of the party started off down a vehicle track to the Cass River bed. We criss-crossed our way upstream, each crossing ensuring that our boots were reinjected with icy water. The rain turned to snow and soon Denis found that delaying putting his gloves on had resulted in hands too cold to undo pack straps. We went into Beech forest and climbed gently upwards to the Cass Hut.

Cass Hut was small, dark and cold, but gave the illusion of warmth. We stopped for lunch and although it wasn't long before Dave and Alan joined us, some of us were starting to shiver, so we decided to split the group once more, and 6 of us got

moving to warm up again.

It was after leaving this Cass Hut icebox that the trip took on a fairy tale quality. As we made our way on a poled route through the tussock basin and up to Cass Saddle the snow eased and we were treated to magnificent views. After the saddle the track dropped steeply and we scrambled down through Beech forest with scenes reminiscent of the Narnia movies. Dave and Alan caught up to us very quickly. By the time we'd reached the edge of the Hamilton Creek, the sun was shining brightly and the effect with the bush, snow and gurgling river was magical. Before 4pm we had reached Hamilton Hut, with its wide sunny veranda and sweeping views of the valley and mountains. We lazed in the sun until a leisurely dinner was served, ate well and slept in pot-belly stove comfort.



A thick frost greeted us in the morning. Juliet and Alan chose to follow the Harper River to Glenthorne Station where we later picked them up. The rest of us crossed the Harper river (thankfully our route was well supplied with swing bridges) and followed it upstream to reach the West Harper Hut before 10am. I'm sure that the five canvas bunks and the dirt floor would be very inviting if the weather was bad, but we preferred to eat our morning tea in the sunshine outside, chatting to a lightly clad man who had come from the Cora Lynn station and was running our two day route in reverse. He expected to take about 10 hours.

With only a couple of mistakes we managed to walk the track to the Lagoon Saddle Shelter. Even though we chose the flood track at one point to avoid constant river crossing, we all had wet boots by the time the route left the river for a short climb to Lagoon Saddle Shelter. Snow on the tussock around the tiny A-frame suggested another ice box lunch if we went inside, so we picnicked outside it in the sunshine. David Barnes took the opportunity to find the Lagoon Saddle Hut just across the river.

After lunch a gradual climb brought us out of the beech forest and over the Lagoon Saddle. Breath taking views of the Waimakariri River and peaks of the Arthur's Pass National Park became almost mundane as we tramped along boggy tussock in a very gradual descent back to the road. A quick stop for David to bag the Bealey Hut and all too soon we were back at the Alan's truck. We collected the other vehicle, then Alan and Juliet, who seemed to think their day had been every bit as good as ours. Dunedin was reached about 10pm on Sunday night after a weekend that certainly lived up the "fantastic" descriptor that Dave had originally tempted us with.

Jan Burch for Maria Hamelink , Peter Boekhout ,David Barnes, Allan Perry, Juliet Wardell, Denis Gessert and Dave Chambers.



Winter Routeburn 18/19 August 2012

Eight hardy souls gathered at the clubrooms on Friday night, excited with anticipation about the fun in store during the coming weekend, but also weary about the long drive ahead. Personally I had a couple a brain cells working on the best strategy to stay warm and dry on the way out on Sunday as the forecast was for rain. The long drive seemed to go quite quickly as good conversation and interesting scenery kept us distracted. The obligatory fuel stop at Gore was also a quick affair as the town seemed deserted for a Friday night. The roadside scrub fire a few kilometres before our destination made sure we were all awake and ready upon arrival. Several people actually got changed in the van while we were still moving but I found Wolfgang's autobahn driving technique coupled with Kim's acrobatic changing attempts made it preferable to wait till the coach had stopped.

Once kitted up the hike up to Howden hut was straight forward (had to be so... any other direction was straight down!) and very interesting as it was the first time I've tramped by torchlight. There were a few trees across the track but noth-

seasoned ing OTMC members couldn't take in their stride. It was great to hear a Ruru (Morepork) on the way up the hill. After a good nights sleep we awoke to a hard frost and after a warming breakfast it was on to McKenzie hut. an easy 3 hour walk along the side of the valley about above sea 900m level. Great views



were to be had of the surrounding peaks and the valleys extending to the Tasman sea. The forest was quieter than I expected but there were still birds to be seen and heard. Possum sign was obvious as was damage to some of the tastier bushes. There was just enough up and down to make you feel you'd earned your

lunch. After lunch the team split up and visited several viewpoints and points of interest around the local area.

Several of the group sunbathed at the hut as the temperature was 17 degrees in the shade and a lot warmer in the sun. Bikinis and board shorts were the order of the day.

After sunset was expertly prepared consumed with and gusto and most people were by now dressed in their Hawaiian ensemble Full marks to Kim (bikini) and Ivan (lavalava) with evervone else sporting loud shirts and flowers. The two visiting trampers from the Canterbury Tramping Club must have had second thoughts about staying in a hut full of crazies



but the warm fire and chocolate soon eased their fears. After dinner the quiz master took stage and entertained us all with his interpretation of singing and dancing amid the questions. Tina took score accurately despite offers of chocolate and shoulder massages. A great night was had by all including the cantab team.

Next day was overcast but the forecast rain never arrived. A quick hike back and a stop to see the lava tree (ask Alan T) was followed with a lunch stop at Howden. Mid afternoon saw us all back at the van. A 99% dead battery in Rays truck had us all a bit worried but with a bit of outback skill and a few muttered words that I didn't recognize he managed to get it going. The last event of note was the tea stop in Gore when Peter Hughes decided to wear his Hawaiian gear, receiving compliments and suggestions from the local lads cruising the main street. In summary a great fun trip and quite a few memorable moments. I can't wait till next winter!

Sam Patrick

Stone Hill – Purehurehu Point 15 July 2012

Nine of us left Gordon's house in Waipuna Bay at about 10am and climbed the 294m Stone Hill massif via the south face, summiting by 10:50am. The trip up was through wet paddocks, after the overnight rain, causing a few slips and slides on the way. The

views were spectacular with the mist dissipating and a calm day on the harbour so we had a compulsory photo stop on the top with 360 degree views.

From there it was along the top road and then back into paddocks for the descent

down the Jennings Creek gully to a lunch stop at Kaikai Beach. With no road access we had the beach to ourselves. It was interesting that a small cave at the base of the cliffs had been turned into a crib with a lounge area, walled off bedroom area and a long drop toilet in the next cave along. Gordon informed us that it was set up and used by the Lewis Family from Deborah Bay.

After lunch it was up to Purehurehu Point between Kaikai



beach and Murdering Beach (which apparently is now no longer called Murdering Beach but is officially called Whareakeake) and up the north ridge of Stone Hill stopping briefly at a derelict house with views over the sea to the north. Once at the summit for the second time it was time for more photos.

We started the descent and found a farm track part way down to continue our journey, but it was just as slippery so a few of us ended up with muddy backsides. Jane lent David her walking stick for the descent and then went head over heels a couple



of minutes later. Just before the bottom was a very muddy steep section, but we all negotiated it carefully and without further incident washing our boots in the puddles at the bottom.

Gordon then volunteered me to do the trip report (Cheers Cuz!!) suggesting it would be best to do it in the next few days while it's fresh in my memory, but good things take time so here it is six months later.

Thank you to Sue Chapman for allowing us to tramp across her farmland. All in all a very good day out

that makes you appreciate the wonderful scenery we have on our doorstep. Rodger Clarkson for Lucy Jones, Vivienne Harper, Jane Cloete, David Barnes, Kathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson, Peter Hughes and Trip Leader Gordon Tocher.

Moon Track/Pineapple Track 30 September 2012

Weather forecast: Rain. Robbed by one hour sleep (daylight saving time). Two excuses not to go on the tramp around Flagstaff.

With this in mind (or hopefully not) we headed off to the beginning of the old

Pineapple Track which was, for most of us, interesting to see as the new one is well known. Coming up the track we were offered a beautiful view of the harbor of Dunedin towards Anderson Bay. Continuing on the new track, we got our first rain – luckily the last. We crossed the mountain bike track several times. always carefully looking so as not to be run over by a biker. At the end we only saw one biker and a final count revealed that we didn't lose anyone.

On the way we were surprised by some awesome rocks – a feature that made for a nice and early lunch. Following our way down to the Glenleith end we went past a waterfall. We almost regretted that we didn't have lunch there as it is a really lovely place making the tramp worthwhile.



We finished the day early and found ourselves back at the clubrooms at two o'clock just as it started raining. Now we really can say, we made the best out of the day!

Fieke Newman

OTMC T-shirts/light fleece tops

There appears to be enough interest to put an order in OTMC fleece and quick dry t-shirts. These tops are made at Adventure Outfitters in Dunedin and the cost of either the fleece or quick-dry t-shirt with the OTMC logo are expected to cost \$50 each.

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

Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

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).

15-16 December OTMC End of Year Pigeon Island [Social] Debbie Pettinger ph. 473 7924

The OTMC annual social trip this year is headed to Pigeon Island. Pigeon Island is in the middle of Lake Wakatipu and has a high point of 461m This is a lovely place only able to be accessed by boat and this is a perfect opportunity for OTMC members and their families to get away for a weekend before the mad rush of Christmas arrives. There is a large open place to camp with a hut also available. The opportunity is there for those wanting to do a short walk to the highest point and then follow a track around the entire island, finding magical bays along the way to stop and explore. We will travel to the boat launch in private cars. There is the opportunity to stay at the Bannockburn camping ground on Friday night (\$10 per per-

son) or leave early on Saturday morning. Stay on the island over night and return on Sunday. This trip is limited to OTMC members and their family. Bring something for a BBQ tea on the island. There is a \$10 per person cost for the boat ride.

26-27 January 2013 Aoraki/Mt Cook (Mueller or Mt. Cook Range) [All] Gene Dyett ph. 455 0027

This is the first trip for the New Year and time to break out the tramping gear. There are three main options for this trip.

- 1. An overnight trip to Mueller Hut. Leave from the White Horse Camping Ground, up and past the Sealy Tarns before following the poled route to the ridge above Kea Point and onto Muller Hut. A side trip to Mt Olliver at 1933m with awesome 360° views.
- 2. Follow the main ridge from the Tasman Valley, heading towards Mt Wakefield and camping out at a tarn around 1850m with grand views across to Mueller Glacier, Red Tarns and Mt Cook Village. Returning on Sunday.
- 3. For those who would prefer an easier start to the years tramping, from the White Horse Camping grounds follow the Hooker Valley Track into the heart of the Aoraki/Mt Cook area and have lunch at the Hooker Glacier Terminal Lake. Great views of the surrounding mountains and return to White Horse Camping Ground for the night. On Sunday, days trips could include walks around the village or to the Tasman Glacier Blue Lakes.

The trip list closes on Thursday 17th January 2013 but you can call me anytime through Christmas or New Year if you wish to discuss anything about the trip.

Please, could you please put down option 1, 2 or 3 on the trip card.

6-10 Makarora Area (Waitangi Day Extended Trip) [M-C] Ray & Jill McAliece ph. 454 4211

In recent years the club has taken advantage of normally good weather around Waitangi Day (Feb 6) to undertake a longer trip. In 2013 Waitangi Day is on a Wednesday, so we had a choice of skipping a year, or having a five day trip. 2013 is also our 90th year, so we feel it deserves a special trip—five days in the Makarora region. Makarora has long been a favourite

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area of the CG, one reason is the variety in trips on offer. Options on this trip may include the following (although we encourage people to have a go at coming up with different ideas:

- . Head to the Top Forks near the head of the Wilkin and day trip to the lakes (Diana, Lucidus and Castalia) as well a day trip to Waterfall Flat in the south branch (below the waterfall that leads to Rabbit Pass or Pearson Saddle)
- . Makarora Tiel Creek Siberia. Tiel Creek is a very rarely visited untracked valley between the Wilkin and Young (there is photos of a past trip on the OTMC website)
- . The Wilkin / Young circuit is an option five days allows tie to day trip to The Crucible (from Siberia), head further up Siberia Valley from Gillespie Stream (worthwhile), or perhaps even explore towards the newish lake in the North Young
- . A classic trip involving two high passes is the Makarora / Makarora Hut / Scrubby Flat / Hunter / West Hunter / Wilson Pass (Main Divide) / Wills Valley / Gates Of Haast. This is a neat trip, with plenty of off-track to experience.

You will need to be able to get Feb 7-8 off work etc., but a five day trip at this time of year can be great, especially in this area. (hope for similar weather to the 2012 Cascade Saddle trip).

Trip list closes Jan 31, 2013

DAYTRIPS

2 December Sawyers Bay/Mt Cargill [M] Kathy Woodrow ph. 455 4673

We start at Sawyers Bay and have a steady uphill walk to Mt Cargill Rd along a well maintained track through sheltered, regenerating bush. We cross the road and after a relatively shorter climb it levels out and we go past the rock formation known as the Organ Pipes before finally reaching the TV transmitter at the top of Mt Cargill where we will have extensive views providing the weather is clear. It is rather exposed here so carry suitable clothing. We will return the way we came and should be back at the club rooms in the mid afternoon.

9 December Lizard land (Macraes/Nenthorn Area) [M] Graeme Loh ph. 487 6125

Known as giant skinks, Otago skinks are one of New Zealand's rarest lizards and are found only in Otago. We will be travelling to the Macraes/Nenthorn area and hope to see some of these skinks in their natural environment as we wander around the large schist rock outcrops. Leaving the club rooms at 9am sharp.

16 December Green Ridge—Rocky Ridge—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

13 January 2013 Highlay Hill (near Macraes Flat) [E/M] Gordon Tocher ph. 472 7440 or 021 677 818

The first Sunday trip of the new year provides the opportunity to explore new ground for the Club. Located near the historic Golden Point Battery Gold mine of the Macraes Flat District, Highlay Hill is the prominent peak in the area. We will ascend from around 450m altitude through farmland to the peak of Highlay Hill at 820m. There are expansive views into the Macraes Mine and as far as the Maniototo from this vantage point, so bring your camera. We should be back in town about 3 pm.

If you live in the Waitati to Palmerston area it would make sense to pick you up on the way to the start point saving you a trip to the clubrooms. Phone for instructions or if you have any questions. Trip cost \$15

20 January Big Hut/Rock and Pillar Range [M] Lucy Jones ph. 471 9228

Leaving the clubrooms at 9am sharp, we will head up State Highway 87 through Middlemarch to Glencreag Park where we will park the cars. From here we will climb 3300 feet up the eastern face of the Rock and Pillar range passing through tall tussock, some scrub and herb fields before retching Big Hut and the tops.

It takes about 2 to 3hrs to climb to Big Hut where we will have lunch. Depending on time we might walk along to Leaning Lodge. Down the hill to the cars and home. Cost \$15

27 January Mt Kettle/Mihiwaka [M] Gavin McArthur ph. 455 0027

We will meet at the clubrooms at 9-00 am and travel to the car park at the bottom of Cedar Farm Rd. From there we will walk up Cedar farm Road to the reservoir where we will explore the area before making our way to the summit of Mihiwaka. If the weather is clear we should enjoy some spectacular views of the surrounding area. From the summit of Mihiwaka we make our way down hill to Purakanui Rd and back to the cars. Cost \$5.00.

3 February Pineapple Track/Moon Track [E/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 mountain bikers 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.

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.

13 December

This is the final club night for 2013. Bring your family and something for tea and join us at Woodhaugh for a BBQ. This is a great opportunity for family to meet those you spend some of your weekends with. Starting at 6pm, see you at Woodhaugh BBQ's.

17 January 2013

The first club night for 2013, this is an informal night to meet and chat about up coming tramping trips. This is a great time to sign up for a trip or two and take advantage of the warmer weather.

24 January

BYO—Bring your photos of tramping trips you completed over the Christmas/New Year break. We'd love to see where you've been so please bring along your photos.

31 January

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

7 February

No Club night—Extended Waitangi Weekend

14 February

Philip Somerville will share his experiences climbing Aoraki/Mt Cook. Hear how Phillip coped with the challenges involved in climbing New Zealand's highest mountain.

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)

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