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

Tiel Creek, February 2013—read the trip report in this Bulletin.

Committee Members 2013/14

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Vice President
Secretary
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Chief Guide/Transport
Membership Secretary
Bulletin Editor
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Social Convener/ Gear Hire
Social Convener
Daytrip Convener
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Visit us on the Internet at: www.otmc.co.nz
The end of another year is near and as happens at this time of the year we take stock and look back at what the year brought.  
It’s been a good year for the OTMC with the Leaning Lodge Trust completing work on Leaning Lodge earlier this year. Everyone will agree that this is a great asset that will see the hut remain overlooking the Strath Taieri for many years to come. A recent OTMC trip gave it a big thumbs up after a weekend spent enjoying the snow and practicing snow skills using Leaning Lodge as a base. The club is indebted to Ray, Alan, Gene and their band of volunteers for bring Leaning Lodge back to it’s former glory.  

For myself, one of the tramping highlights this past year was the five day Waitangi Weekend trip in early February to Tiel Creek. Five days of brilliant (if sometimes too hot) weather plus tramping in country with no huts or tracks helped make it one of those trips that will be remembered for a long time to come. Read about it further in this Bulletin. It was great to have other parties venture into the Hunter and Wills Valley as well as to Lake Castalia in the Wilkin Valley during the same weekend. Of course there are successful weekend and day trips happening every month in the OTMC. Getting out into the hills, visiting valleys and mountain tops is one of the reasons people join the OTMC. Thank you to all the day and weekend trip leaders for giving up their time to share their love of the outdoors with others.

The Open Day earlier this year was very successful in introducing many people to the OTMC and our Bushcraft Course. It was great to, again, see good numbers on our Bushcraft course with over 45 people registered. As part of the course we had a great weekend in the Silver Peaks, which turned out to be a good introduction to an area not visited by most of the Bushcraft participants before. Both the Open Day and Bushcraft show the commitment within the club for members to willingly put their hand up and help when needed. Of course there was our 90th Anniversary Celebrations this year. Over 150 people registered for the different events making the weekend a special time for everyone involved. Meeting and chatting with friends from both the past and present was a wonderful experience and one I, personally, look forward to repeating in ten years for the OTMC 100th. This event again shows how willing
OTMC members (both past and present) are at putting their hand up to offer assistance as the organisation of an event this size is huge. A huge pat on the back must go to those who helped make the 90th the success it was. Looking ahead into 2014, there are plenty of things planned by your hard working committee. Wayne and Alan have put together an exciting summer trip card with day and weekend trips to a number of places not visited often by the OTMC. Tony and Gene work tirelessly behind the scenes organising varied and interesting speakers every Thursday night. Richard is always at the door, welcoming new people into our club rooms while Tina will happily take your money for trips, etc. The ever smiling Sam and Gene continue to make sure you have the right gear when you head out into the hills. Andrew ensures our club rooms are maintained and Ross attends SAR (Search and Rescue) meetings to keep us up to date on the latest happenings. Richelle looks after the committee business with David continually working quietly behind the scenes ensuring the OTMC’s voice is heard by making submissions to protect our popular tramping areas. Overseeing everything is Antony, as President he ensures the club continues to be the great place that we all know it is! Long may it continue.

Debbie Pettinger
Editor

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**Gear for Hire**

The OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire.

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<th>Ice axes</th>
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<td>Cookers</td>
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<td>Climbing Helmets</td>
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Members can hire gear for $5 for up to one week. If you can’t get it back to club then each week is an additional $5. Phone Gene or Sam if you can’t make it to club nights to bring gear back.
It was a very nice blue cod and chips purchased at the Golden Cobweb in Alexandra, as that was all that was open on a Tuesday night. And then it was on to Boundary Creek camping ground at the head of Lake Wanaka. Phil and Tomas were already there and were looking forward to their trip to the Hunter and Wills Valleys. Shortly after, Andrew’s truck arrived with the rest of our party doing Tiel Creek. And then Ray arrived with his party going to the head of the Wilkin Valley to see the three lakes. We stood around chatting under a beautiful star-filled night, before we headed to the tents for sleep.

**Day 1:** A beautiful day dawned with not a cloud in the sky and no wind. It was going to be a hot day. There was no real hurry to get away early as Ray’s group had a jet boat to catch to Kerin Forks at 10.30 am. Before that, we needed to ferry Phil and Tomas to the start of their track. Our group were walking all the way to the Siberia Valley. So after a quick look at the level of the Makarora River, which was low, we parked the trucks by the airfield and were off across the valley to the Wilkin. The crossing by the jet boat jetty was good and it was easy going to join the Wilkin. We all stopped for food and water when we reached the start of the Wilkin River. It was here Greg discovered that he had lost his brand new polar fleece so he backtracked to look for it. Shortly after that, the jet boat went roaring past with Ray, Jill, Peter, Ann and Chris waving to us. See you all in five days! Greg returned after an almost four kilometre round trip with his missing polar fleece. Then we were off on a long hot walk up the Wilkin Valley. Apart from a short stint in the beech forest, to go around the river, the walk was mostly up long tussock flats. It was hot, so there were plenty of water stops when we came to side streams. Heavy five day packs didn’t help with the heat. The Wilkin was running a little high and dirty so we followed the track. Plenty of cows
along the way and some big black bulls eyeing us as we walked past. Also with the jet boats, planes and helicopters the noise was kept up. Once at Kerin Forks, the track climbs up a steep zigzag track high above the gorge of the Siberia. With the heat and packs the sweat was flowing until it was finally down to the Siberia river where we set up camp about a kilometre from Siberia Hut. It had been a long day and we were tired. Off to bed early as the next day was going to be longer and harder as this is where the marked track stopped for us.

**Day 2:** We woke up to a heavy dew inside and outside of the tent fly and a fog in the valley below us. It was a short walk to the newish 20-bunk Siberia Hut which is very flash (even stainless nuts and bolts holding it together!) A few tourists were seen crossing the river to the airstrip and the rest were ready to leave for a day trip to Lake Crucible. One guy asked me where we were heading to and I said Tiel Creek. He asked if that was in the Young Valley and when I showed him on the map, he said “But there is no track there!” The fog was burning off quickly to another calm blue sky. It was going to be hot climbing up to the saddle behind the hut and down into Tiel Creek. So water bottles were topped up and we set off. We climbed steadily through the bush which was fairly open with not much windfall. Along the way we came to a number of bluffs that had to be carefully negotiated. Either around or through. About halfway up a lone kea greeted us. No water was to be found. Eventually we reached the bush line and as the trees got smaller sometimes we were on our hands and knees to squeeze underneath narrow trees (a bit tricky with wide packs) At the bushline the views opened up with views up Siberia Valley, Wilkin Val-
ley and Mount Aspiring. We could even see Lake Crucible. A rocky knoll above us seemed a good place to have lunch, and I reckoned it would take 10 minutes to get there. It was closer to 20 minutes due to the thick alpine scrub and, of course, dodging Spaniard grass to avoid painful spikes. After lunch we climbed through the tussock tops to a ridge line and then veered left towards the saddle. A final traverse to the saddle and we found water seeping from the moss. A welcome sight as we were getting low on water. The view from the saddle was great with the Siberia Valley 1,000 meters below us and the head of Tiel Creek on the other side. There was a patch of snow below the saddle which made the drinks cool. We descended into Tiel Creek initially following a spur down and then crossing a creek draining the tops. This was because the spur we were on finished at bluffs and waterfalls into a steep avalanche chute. It was quite a steep descent and quite slippery in the damp areas, and also due to the dead tussock leaves. Sometimes it was easier to slide down on our backsides. Some of us found this section quite difficult and demanding. A look down the valley and the first flattish land by some massive boulders seemed a good place to camp. But when we got there, the streams were all dried up. So a terrace dotted with hebes further down by the main stream was chosen. It had been a long day so camp was set, dinner eaten and off to our sleeping bags. A kea visited during the night which brought back memories of the Waitangi trip last year. This kea seemed to be alone and didn’t get up to any mischief. A great satisfying Waitangi day was had by all.

**Day 3:** A very leisurely start as we were in no hurry and the weather was perfect again. We stayed at camp until after lunch time as we only planned to go a couple of hours to the next flat down the valley. We first stayed in the creek but as that got rougher some people took to the scrub. But that was harder going so it was back to the creek boulder hopping until the upper bush line was reached. A couple of detours into the bush around some tricky sections of the river and we reached a beautiful tussock flat where we set up camp by the river under some large beech trees. The rest of the afternoon was spent washing and snoozing, as the sandflies were not too bad. Some went for a stroll up the other branch of the valley, while others washed sweaty clothes and themselves in a deep pool. We had an enjoyable star-filled night and a hearty dinner.
Day 4: Another short day walking through a series of flats and bush, which were not too long nor too short. Sometimes it was easier walking down the river, sometimes on the flats. Upon reaching the last flat of the valley, there was still plenty of day left. We could walk all the way out that day but it was a nice place to camp here rather than at the end of the road. Some went for a short walk from the camp and Andrew went for a walk to the bush line on the other side for the views. It was another hot afternoon so shade was the order of the day. Another pleasant evening once the sun went down socialising with a great group of people.

Day 5: All we have to do now is get back to Makarora. From our camp site there was an old marked track. We found the track straight away and the going was quite good. Then we came to some windfall and a slip and lost the track (this track had not been maintained for some time) We were gaining quite some height above the river and could see some bluffs through the bush. We were bush bashing through regrowth and came across some nasty tributary gorges that had not long ago been scoured out by a lot of water. We came to a large regrowth clearing with rocks and tree fall and spooked a nice-looking stag that ran off into the bush. To avoid bluffs, we headed back down to the river but had to go back into the bush again to avoid waterfalls and rapids. Suddenly we stumbled across the track markers again and despite detouring around waterfalls, regrowth and another waterfall on a side creek, we pretty much kept to the track. Then we saw the Makarora flats and below us was a steep cliff into an impressive gorge of Tiel Creek. The beech forest turned into very dry rata forest. It was very hot here on this sunny slope. Then we were in beech forest again and dropped directly down to farmland. And then it was following fence lines and around willows to the stony riverbed. The Makarora River was even lower now and in one main channel, was only knee deep. We eventually got to the tourist centre and our vehicles.

A very enjoyable trip that challenged some and gave others good off-track experience. Fantastic weather and company. Thanks Antony for the driving.

Richard Forbes for Andrew Pask, Richelle Adams, Ross Hunt, Brent Dewar, Greg Hall and Antony and Debbie Pettinger.
21/22 December
End of Year—Quarantine Island [Social]
Gene Dyett  ph. 455 7465

This is a good chance for everyone to wind down for the year.
The island was first used by the tangata whenua as a place to set nets then it became Otago Quarantine Station from 1863 to 1914. The island is now a public recreation reserve and the St Matins Community leases part of the island from DOC. You can visit the hospital sites, chapel, the wildlife colony’s, old shipwreck, the cave or just go for a walk around the island.
We will be meeting at the Port Chalmers Yacht Club at the back of Port Chalmers no later than 8.30am sharp, boat leaves 9am. They also have other charters to do and will not wait for late comers. The cost of the boat is $4 per person one way (exact cash only please for both trips) as we could have a different boat for the return trip. I will be collecting each boat trip cost separately. $15 per adult, $10 per school age children for Saturday nights’ accommodation, which will be in the bunk house. This money needs to be cash as well and I will collect this and give to the warden. There will also be a health and safety briefing by the warden when we get to the island. They have room for 30 people only so first in, first served. Saturday night will be a BBQ tea. Please bring some food to cook on the BBQ plus your own ‘refreshments’. As water is limited on the island, it is advisable to bring your own plus we will need to take all our rubbish away with us when we leave. The return boat trip will be 2pm on Sunday.
http://www.theisland.org.nz/ this website will give you more information about the island.
Email or ring Gene to book your place or you have questions. Families are most welcome to come along as this is a social trip.
Gene’s email is m.gdyett@xtra.co.nz
25/26 January  
Roaring Meg Cross-Over [M]  
Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328

A second leader is needed for the group going in opposite direction and at least two cars are needed. Leaving from the clubrooms at 6pm Friday 24th January, and overnight in Cromwell (house with limited beds – but soft carpet!). Saturday – one group drives to the Roaring Meg power station, walk up 4WD road to the Power station, then on up to the Meg Hut. Second group – drives to Cardrona village, walk up Tuohys track to the ridge then drop down to the Meg Hut. Partly rough 4WD track, partly rough tramping track with a little off-track. Both groups staying in the Meg hut, which only has 8 bunks, so a tent may be needed. Sunday – out (on t'other route), home. Back in Dunedin at approximately 7-8pm.

6-9 February (Waitangi Weekend)  
Routeburn/Rockburn (Three Passes) [M-C]  
Contact Chief Guide

Note: you will need to take Friday, 7 February off work.  
This trip is one of the classic trips in the Routeburn area, including the alpine traverse passing Lake Nerine (at 1500m). The circuit can be done in either direction.  
If doing this trip in four days you need to plan on camping just below North Col in the Routeburn on the first night, traversing the alpine section and camping at Lake Nerine on the second night. The third night will see you camping at Theatre Flat then the last day is the trip down the Rockburn and over Sugarloaf Pass. This trip involves untracked and sometimes steep country so bushcraft experience is required. There are no huts, but there are a couple of reasonable bivvy rocks. While this trip can be comfortably done in three days, by taking an extra day allows you to spend time and explore around Lake Nerine.  
Sign the trip list in the club rooms or talk to Wayne for more information.
1 December
Rosella Ridge [F]
David Barnes ph. 454 4492
I've been down Rosella Ridge many times, but always taken the southern option where the track forks. It's time I tried the other way. Join me as I investigate the only recognised track in the Silver Peaks that I've never been on. Leaving from the club rooms at 9am.

8 December
Kareta Road/Boulder Beach/Soldier’s Monument [E]
Jill McAliece ph. 454 4211
Meet at the clubrooms ready to depart at 9am. We will drive over to Tomahawk Lagoon and leave cars there, walk over the hill to Smaills beach passing the concrete bunkers on the way, a wee stroll along the beach and then we will plod up Karetai Road, a short break at the top to catch our breath and take photos of the stunning coastal views. We then turn inland for a short time then follow the road back to the coast and drop down above Boulder Beach. Lunch will be in a nice sheltered spot by the trees before ascending Buskins track and up to Highcliff Road. We then walk back to the Soldiers Memorial, beside the road but we now have the Otago Peninsula spread below us in all its glory. A quick visit to the Soldiers Memorial then we continue down the track above Tomahawk Lagoon and back to cars. Walk will be 5-6 hours. Trip cost $5.00

15 December
Nardoo [E/M]
Antony Hamel ph. 453 5240
This is one of New Zealand's earliest tussock reserves. No grazing and burning over many years means there are monster tussocks and vibrant alpine scrub to leap around in. This is now part of the Te Papanui Conservation Park and is a 60 minute drive from Dunedin.
This area is also famous for multiple OTMC trips being beaten back by atrocious weather. However it is summer so we have a guarantee of good weather. This will be a good trip to do some training for any planned Christmas epics.

12 January 2014
Trotter’s Gorge [E/M]
Alan Thomson ph. 455 7878
The bush reserve at Trotters Gorge was first set aside by the Otago Provincial Authorities in 1864 and now provides an important remnant of early New Zealand Native forest. Crowded into a single square-kilometre are enough features of botanical and geographical interest to make a living museum. The plan for this trip is to explore the track up past the University hut (built in the early 1950's) to where there is an old stone hut. If it's a typical stinking hot North Otago day then you may wish to bring your togs and cool off in the swimming pool by the University hut. Trip cost $15.00

19 January
RABOH Ridge (Silver Peaks) [M/F]
David Barnes ph. 454 4492
RABOH stands for Ridge At Back of Hut. There's a steep ridge straight behind Jubilee Hut that provides an alternative to the Devil's Staircase. The plan is to shoot down the Staircase and return via Raboh Ridge, with a visit to see if Dark Horse Hut is still standing. (If conditions are damp or visibility is poor, we'll do something different).

26 January
Sutton Hills [E/M]
Lucy Jones ph. 471 9928
This walk will take you around the faces of the Sutton Stream with great views overlooking the Strath Taieri Valley and beyond. We will stop by the stream and if it is hot people can cool off. We will also look at some historical sites, the old main road, the site of the Boer War Military Camp and an early sod cottage. Meet at the club rooms at 9am sharp as there is approximately a 50 minute drive from Dunedin. We head up State Highway 87, 13 kms past Clarks Junction Hotel, take a driveway to the right to Matarae Station.
5 December
Dave McArthur has recently returned from Scotland and USA. He will give a presentation on his adventures around Lake Superior.

12 December
Join the OTMC for a BBQ at Woodhaugh from 6pm. Please bring your family along with some food to cook.

19 December
The final night for 2013 is a BYO—Bring along your best photos of the year and make this a memorable end to 2013.

16 January 2014
Our first get together for 2014 is a chance to catch up with fellow members after the festive season.

23 January
BYO—We are sure you will have some photos/videos of your Christmas tramping. Bring them along to share.

30 January
Back to the serious stuff of tramping! Our chief guide Wayne Hodgkinson will give us an account of his tramp around the Southern Circuit of Stewart Island.

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 tonytips@xtra.co.nz) or Gene Dyett (phone 455 7465, email m.gdyett@xtra.co.nz)