

**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.

**The Leaning Lodge Trust**  
**With the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club**  
Cordially invite you to the opening of the refurbished  
**Leaning Lodge Hut**  
**Saturday 8 March at 1.30pm.**

1240 metres up the Rock and Pillar Range, Middlemarch  
3.5 hour walk  
Ribbon cutting by Prof Sir Alan Mark at 1.30pm.

Bring warm clothing and waterproof gear, something to eat  
and drink (apart from the hut, there is no shelter).

RSVP to Pete Strang by 16 February  
petestrang@xtra.co.nz or (03) 487 7478

### **Committee Members 2013/14**

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Richelle Adams	476 1302
Treasurer	Tina Anderson	
Chief Guide/Transport	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Debbie Pettinger	473 7924
Ben Rudds / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	
Social Convener/ Gear Hire	Gene Dyett	455 7465
Social Convener	Tony Timperley	473 7257
Daytrip Convenor	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Website	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Rep / Bulletin	Ross Hunt	
Clubrooms Maintenance	Andrew Pask	453 5719

**Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)**

**A Happy New Year to you all, to you all.**

2014 has not blessed Dunedin with amazing weather thus far but I myself have managed to capture a few moments in the sun, chopping boundary hedges, playing at the beach and re acquainting myself with the odd day walk in Dunedin's surrounding hills (Anthony Hamel's book is a very handy tool as is the navigation app on my cellphone!)

I am already thinking about the tramping season ahead and excited about a number of the trips on our trip list. I also have a few personal journeys I am hoping to complete on some of the more well known South Island tracks that I have only read about to date, maybe a couple could be included in the next trip card!

At the end of the day any trip away is a great trip for me. Its not necessarily about the destination but more about the journey. These trips provide me with an opportunity to get to know you (my fellow club members) on a different, more "intimate" level. The biggest challenge for me is getting all the household chores done and allowing myself to escape. I hope to escape more in 2014.

On a different note, the club bank account is tracking along well. At this time of the year we have had most of our income and it is the 2nd half of the year that brings in the expenses. A number of membership subs are still trickling in (better late than never I say J). I'm aiming to bring the benefits of internet banking to the club this year. This will mean that committee members can approve payments collectively anytime and club members will be reimbursed directly to their nominated bank account without the need to wait for a cheque to clear. It should be a win win for all!

Thanks again to all those whom I have had the pleasure of tramping with so far. I look forward to having many more adventures with you in the future and to those I haven't had the pleasure of getting to know so well yet....what's keeping ya!!!!

**Tina (the bean counter Treasurer)**

# Membership

Club membership now stands at 192 after a host of resignations after subs were due.

## Members joined during the last 2 months

Steve and Christine Hopkins

Judy Knox

## Members resigned during the last 2 months

Polly Camber

Henriette Rawlings

Karen Caddick

Stephen and Chris Clark

Cathy McKersey and Graeme Donaldson

Chris Le Breton

Maurice Peluso

Murray Singleton

The following I have not heard from regarding their membership status so the committee is resigning them from the club (after 4 written reminders, e-mails and phone calls)

Sue and Stuart Chambers

Sandra De Vires

Mary Donavan

Vicent Gasso

## OTMC Open Weekend 2014 15th/16th March

The OTMC will again hold an open weekend as a way to introduce and promote ourselves. Please note that this is being held a month later than advertised on the trip card.

It is the current members of the OTMC that can be the best publicity for the club. Please talk to your friends and workmates about what you do with the club and encourage them to come along sometime during the weekend. We'd love to meet them!

We also need members to come along to the clubrooms for part/all of Saturday the 15th of March. You would be talking to the public about the club and encourage them to come along on our walk on Sunday and to Thursday club nights. The club rooms will be open from 10am—4pm on Saturday. If you can't help on Saturday, meet at the Leith Saddle car park on Sunday to 'lead' a group of people up onto Swampy Summit. , Groups will be leaving on the hour, every hour from 10am—2pm.

We are also looking for advertisers to assist us with promotion in the Star community newspaper. This will make more of an impact and be more cost effective for the club. Please contact Richard if you are able to help.

# Trip Reports

**NOT ROUGHING, NOR TOUGHING IT\*!**

**Trip Report of the Clutha Gold weekend – 5-6 October 2013**

This weekend of cycling and walking seemed to go well. Planning wasn't difficult when there were only 11 or 12 names on the list: we would leave cars at Lawrence, take bikes and people to Millers Flat and then all cycle southwards back to the cars at Lawrence. But then suddenly the group swelled to 21 people and I woke one night after a dreadful dream. In the dream it was dawn, foggy and damp; 21 cars, 21 people and 21 bikes were all trying to sort themselves out at the clubrooms in Young Street! Logistics became easier once 6 folk 'volunteered' to cycle up the valley, going northwards towards Millers Flat!

So instead of meeting at the clubrooms we went direct to Lawrence. The walkers – Steph, Margaret and Lucy – joined forces and headed out for Weatherstone's (daffodils) and Gabriels Gully (primroses). Everyone else went to the cycle carpark at the far end of Lawrence. There we sent 6 people on their way on bikes – the Northerners. The remainder drove to the Millers Flat Holiday Park, and managed to be away on the bikes by 9.30am.

What a pleasant trail this new Clutha Gold Cycle track is! Small undulations (nothing too big to bother about), twisting and turning this way and that. Sometimes by the river and sometimes inland a bit. Mostly a good hard surface. The Southern group sauntered along, enjoying the sun when it eventually came out. Some went to the Lonely Graves (not actually on the



cycle track, but not much of a detour) and Alan Scurr found us a small picnic area for lunch, right by the river. At one point there was barbed wire across the track – the official opening was 2 weeks ahead – but we'd been warned about it when we met two of the Clutha Gold Trust who developed the trail. Murray Patterson and Ron Peirce were checking the work in progress and planning the official opening. After we crossed the SH8 at Beaumont, disaster struck! I'd counted bikes going across the road, counted those just behind me, but 5 minutes later that the total was wrong! Ralph and Bronwyn had the same idea. So we went back and there was Kathy walking her bike. She had a rear wheel puncture – not easy to fix. So Ralph and Bronwyn put on some pace and went to tell the front group what had happened. Kathy and I sat down to wait in the sun, but in the shade of willow trees. (The fact that the one big hill was just ahead had nothing to



do with the fact that I waited with Kathy!) But eventually we were picked up and were shortly in Millers Flat sorting out accommodation. And then we found that Chris had

a puncture too. He fixed Kathy's but had a bit of difficulty with his own as his tyre was a different size. Luckily the Beaumont Hotel has a bike mechanic on staff, so Chris could drive there to get a new tyre.

I thought the accommodation was just right for a group of bikers! Plenty of space for tents, two basic cabins, three larger cabins and even a motel unit! (A few mosquitoes didn't bother much.) In groups of 3 or 4 we all went to the pub for a meal – definitely not roughing it with gas stoves and billies! A huge meal followed. Only two brave folk managed to find enough room for pudding!

The 'Northerners', ie those cycling towards Millers Flat, had had a good day too. They hadn't found the hill too tough from their direction, and had no

punctures. Rose had a spectacular crash into a post (17 of us went round it carefully – how could she not see it?!!) but was uninjured.

Of the Walkers, the most surprised was Steph McLaughlin: she hadn't particularly wanted to go to see the daffodils, but now she is converted and planning to send all her friends and relations to Weatherstones each spring!

Sunday dawned foggy and we cleared out of our accommodation early, but were kindly allowed to leave vehicles there for the day. The Northern group, soon to be renamed the Tough Group – see last paragraph, cycled up the valley from M F to the Roxburgh Hydro. The Walkers tackled the Grovers Hill and then the Riverside Walk in Roxburgh township. The rest of us took the cars of the Northerners to the Roxburgh Hydro lookout and had a great



bike down to the bottom of the dam before getting onto the Cycle track itself. Another delightful ride, what with trees, the river, lunch at Pinders Pond (a good swimming dam if the day had been hot), finally arriving back at Millers Flat at about 2pm. Everyone managed to find their own vehicle in the right place and most of us set out home to Dunedin, with perhaps a stop at Lawrence for a sandwich or an ice-cream!

A good weekend had been had by all!

Jane Cloete for Steph McLaughlin (W), Lucy Jones (W), Margaret Dodds (Walking), Alistair McKay, Annie Grant, Alan G, Michelle G, \*Kat Stachowilz,

\*Jarek Mazur, \*Barry Walker, Chris Pearson, Kathy Woodrow, Alan Scurr,

\*Rose Colhain, Dave Wilson, Roger Clarkson, Ralph Harvey, Bronwyn Strang,

\*Jan Bird and \*Andrew Higgison.

\*Some had it tougher than others: The 'Northerners' group had a particularly tough final kilometre as they grunted up the side of the dam and up to the Roxburgh Hydro lookout! Sorry folks! In my memory it wasn't nearly so steep or long!

ps: I'm hoping to 'do' a one-day bike ride to Moa Flat, in April. Details in a later Bulletin.

## Unexplored Silverpeaks 2013

### 13 October 2013

Four of us met at the clubrooms at 3 minutes before nine. Nobody else came, even though it was a seriously nice day with a forecast of no rain and 20 degrees.

After the usual introduction about the point of these trips (or is that pointlessness?) we decided on a venue – there was a bit off the Steve Aimes track that none of us had done. I had never been on Steve's track, even though I admired a great deal the man it was named after.

We parked at the locked gate on Rollinson's and walked up the road a few minutes. Lucy showed us around the tribute trees and relics, which made me contemplate my mortality. Seeing the spot Bryan F died haunted me for the rest of the day. The snow-damaged bush appeared to be in rather a tangle. It must be very tough for the pigs and possums to negotiate. Although it looked such a fun venue for masochism, we decided it was not a place to venture today. Off-track bashing looks much harder this year than I can recall in previous years.

After being our guide through the picnic spots and memorial tree walk, Lucy only had two more jobs, clearing cobwebs off the track with her face, and pulling awful faces at the snow-damaged veg in the hope it would go away. She took it upon herself to be awkward to the hamel along the track, instead of the said lawyer being awkward to would-be passers-by.

The work done on clearing the Raceman's track was very impressive and welcome. But we soon turned off it and headed up back towards Swampy on New Terrain – the well-beaten, much-travelled (by none of us) Little Coal Creek Track.

Discarding equipment as we went, we ascended the ridge until Raewyn decided she'd like her walking pole after all. Where is the gallant Laurie Kennedy when you need him? I had to fill in for him, and raced back down to the spot where we had all hugged a tree.

At the end of the trip, having survived without my great age and lack of fitness getting the better of me and prompting me to have a tree planted or seat erected in my memory, I decided that if I survive long enough to get dementia, I can always start all these trips off again because I won't have a clue about where I've been before.

Richard Pettinger for Lucy Jones, Raewyn Duncan, Jeff Smith

# TripList

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

**22/23 February**

**Leaning Lodge [All]**

**Gene Dyett ph. 455 7465**

We will leave early on Saturday morning and head for the Rock and Pillar range. This takes about 1 hour or so to reach the Doc car-park on Brent Mackenzie's farm. From here we climb to the open tops of Rock and Pillar to enjoy the 360 views. Once at the hut we can have a short break, grab our lunches then go exploring until late afternoon, if the skies are clear we may get to see Mt Aspiring. Enjoy the evening sunset with million dollar views all the way to the Dunedin coastline. Sunday if the weather is good we can visit Big Hut, which is not too far from Leaning Lodge, we can have lunch here. Then we make our way down the old ski slopes and finish by the old stone wool-shed at the bottom.

**1/2 March**

**Mt. Armstrong [M]**

**Gordon Tocher ph. 472 7440477 8944 or (021) 677 818**

**Please note date change from trip card and new phone number**

Mt Armstrong (2174m) is located near Haast Pass and close to Mt Brewster. So long as there is not too much snow on it the peak is readily scaled by trampers. The views from the summit are stunning, on a clear day both Mt Cook and Mt Aspiring can be seen; not to mention a few hundred other peaks. The route to the hut entails firstly crossing the Haast River, then continuous 1000 vertical metres uphill through forest, then tussock to the near new 12 person Brewster Hut (1450m) for Saturday nights accommodation.

As this trip is highly susceptible to poor weather, it is prudent to make alternative plans should the River be too high to cross. The options of either

an alternative weekend of 15 & 16 March or a trip to another location (maybe Ohau area) on the 1st & 2nd will be at the choice of the majority of people who sign up.

Trip cost \$60 plus DOC hut ticket or annual hut pass

## **Advance Notice - Stewart Island**

### **18-27 April**

Most of you may have noticed that this year's Easter trip includes the near-by ANZAC break, to enable a useful 10 day break for those able to take 2 or 3 days off work. Stewart Island has a wide range and variety of trips available, and having up to 10 days makes all a possibility. DOC have ample information on their website, and in pamphlet form. Samples are in the clubrooms. Some trip examples below:

Rakiura Track – 3 day 'Great Walk' (E/M)

Mount Anglem – You could climb Stewart Island's highest peak at 980m. – 5 to 7 days (E/M)

North West Circuit – One of, if not THE best tramp in NZ, in the opinion of many people who have come a long way to get here. 10 days. (M/F)

Southern Circuit – 8 days (F)

Tin Range / Gogs – 10 days including scrub and bush bashing – no huts south of Rakeahua. (FE)

Trips 1 to 4 are all on good tracks, (maybe a bit muddy in places) and have huts available. All of the above can be reduced or shortened by making use of Water Taxis on Paterson Inlet – giving fast access to or pick up from North Arm, Freshwater, Fred's Camp, or Rakeahua Hut. You could also choose to do a shorter trip e.g. Rakiura Track or Mt Anglem, and spend some time on short walks or other trips based from the town of Oban – a great place in its own right. Those doing the 10 day trips would need to aim for the 9:30am ferry from Bluff on Good Friday.

Clearly, each actual trip that runs would require someone to act as Leader for the group doing that trip. There will be an 'Expressions of Interest' list in the clubrooms – and feel free to see me any time.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# DAYTRIPS

**2 February**

**Mt Cargill (Doggy Day Out) [M]**

**Raewyn Duncan ph. 454 5150**

This is an easy/medium day trip setting off at 9am from the club rooms and driving to Bethunes Gully. Walking up Mt Cargill we can explore the Organ pipes, Buttars Peak and the lookout. If the weather is clear we will have great views over Dunedin and the Peninsula. An easy walk back down hill to the carpark. Bring your kids and dogs if you have any. Trip cost \$5.00

**9 February**

**Orbell's Cave [M]**

**Tony Timperly ph. 473 7257**

This walk is inland from Waikouaiti, traversing hilly pastures with a steep descent and a long ascent (remember the old tramping adage – what goes down, must come back up again). We drive to Mcgrath Rd, just before Waikouaiti, and head inland via Buckland's Crossing and take a long drive down Blucher Road to where it becomes Lamb Hill Road.

The tramp begins from the stockyards and follows a 4-wheel drive track (still called Blucher Road) before descending steeply to Three O'clock Stream. We then go down stream until we reach Orbell's Creek and climb up to the cave, which is on the true left of the creek. After lunch in the cave, we will re-cross the creek, climb up to the ridge and head back to Blucher Road. Carpool cost \$15.

**15 February**

**Leith Saddle**

**Alan Thomson ph. 455 7878**

As part of the OTMC's Open Weekend, we will be continuing as we started last year, offering walks up the Leith Saddle Track to Swampy Summit for members of the public. We will have a "Base Camp" set up in the carpark at the top of the North Motorway, running walks on the hour as people are available. I will be asking for offers of help from members, if you can spare a couple of hours to guide a group and share your pearls of wisdom it would be great. Contact me with times you are available. Meet at the carpark at the top of the motorway (no cost).

**23 February**  
**McNally Track [E]**  
**Jacqui King ph. 471 9545**

Leaving the club rooms at 9am we will drive to Milton. The McNally track climbs through farmland behind Milton, offering impressive views over Milton, the Tokomariro plains and the Pacific Ocean. Following a loop track that passes through native forest we'll have lunch on the top before taking the loop track back down the hill to the cars. This is an easy trip so expect to be walking for approximately 3 hours. Carpool cost \$10.

**2 March**  
**Taimoa-Outram Glen (Tramp/Pack Float) [M]**  
**Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950**

A tramp with a difference, for experienced trampers only with some experience of river crossing. The main plan is dependant on a low flow in the Taieri River of 5 cumecs, (can be checked at <http://water.orc.govt.nz/WaterInfo/Site.aspx?s=Outram>) which enables us to combine riverside tramping and scrambling, with wading and "pack floating" through deeper areas. Although graded "M", you should be prepared for some bush bashing/boulder hopping. This is one trip where we will set out deliberately to get wet rather than hoping to avoid it, so you need to be wearing fast drying thermals, with all your gear secure in waterproof bags in your pack, also including floatation. Dry bags would be ideal.

Assuming the required flow, we will leave the clubrooms at 9:00am and drive to our final destination at Outram Glen where we will leave a car. We then crowd into the remaining cars and drive up Taioma Road to Mullocky Gully near the Taieri Railway. Here we will start walking down to the Wild Earth Adventures launch site, near where we cross the river and start heading downstream. Keeping mostly on the true right, we will cross the river and wade / pack float as necessary to find our way down to Lee Stream, and the formed track to Outram Glen.

It should take about 6 hours.

If the river is too high, we will do the start of the trip to the Wild Earth Adventures launch ramp, return to the cars, then drive down to Outram Glen and complete the finish end as far as Lee Stream, which should be a relatively easy walk – allow a total of 5 hours in this case. Phone me on the Saturday to confirm.

Carpool \$10 to drivers please

# Thursday Night Programme

## 6 February

Waitangi Day—no club night

## 13 February

Dust and waterfalls of Cerrado and the Brazilian Savannah. With this intriguing title, OTMC member and photographer extraordinaire Tomas Sobek will present the highlights of his trip to Brazil.

## 20 February

BYO—Bring your photos. With an number of club trips including Waitangi Weekend and the Roaring Meg Crossover, there should be an overwhelming number of photos for this BYO. Bring your photos along on a USB to show.

## 27 February

David Barnes got the best Christmas weather in the Sub-Antarctic Islands. Hear about the glorious weather he had on the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island, see the grand mix of wild birds, beasts and botany.

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@extra.co.nz](mailto:tonytimps@extra.co.nz)) or Gene Dyett (phone 455 7465, email [m.gdyett@extra.co.nz](mailto:m.gdyett@extra.co.nz))

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