

OTMTC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 750, June 2014

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



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



Mt Armstrong trip —read the trip report in this Bulletin.

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 Convener	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Website	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Rep / Bulletin	Ross Hunt	453 0983
Clubrooms Maintenance	Andrew Pask	453 5719

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

Him Outdoors Goes on an Adventure

Him Outdoors embarked on a new adventure recently, for Her Indoors and the appendages it meant 10 days on our own (yes, we did secretly go hooray!). This was something Him Outdoors had been wanting to do for a long time, an adventure to a foreign land across the strait to the deepest South ... yes he was part of the great Stewart Island Adventure.

The planning started months prior - in fact possibly in His head during our summer holidays at the lake in the caravan. Meal plans were made, boots were cleaned and waxed, new clothing magically appeared (minus the price tags) and the pack was dusted off. Ten days is a long time, extra things needed to be taken into consideration, most importantly how to keep one's camera battery and cell phone charged - enter magical Trade Me! Gadgets were purchased at an alarming rate, I was told most certainly they were ALL necessary.

on a more serious note, words from Him Outdoors

This was a fantastic tramp, well organised and planned by the group leader Wayne. This was essential on a 10 day tramp as once you start there is no easy way out. Everyone got on well, we looked out for each other and we paced ourselves over the 10 days to ensure we all made it out together in one piece and still good friends. The views were fantastic and did I mention the mud, the GLORIOUS mud! Despite the mud the weather was great, tramped in rain one day only, unheard of on the Island. I was fortunate to cross on a semi smooth crossing on the Thursday night, felt a bit sorry for the rest of group that came across on a rougher crossing on Friday morning (Wayne hoping that shade of green has faded).

We were thrilled to come across some natives of the island, our iconic Kiwi bird! They ambled along the path with us

briefly before heading back into the bush to forage for bugs. Having never seen Kiwis in the wild this was a particular highlight for me.

It was unfortunate that Raewyn had to turn back on the first day due to a leg injury, having to wait out the next eight days back at base camp. I think Her Indoors would have come had she known that was an option, drinking coffee, short daily walks around the island and a warm comfy bed at night.

Andrew

Extra! Extra!

Labour weekend: a subsidiary cycle trip! At Labour weekend the club is planning Central Otago Rail Trail journey. This is always a popular trip but Jane Cloete is organising a subsidiary trip to the Roxburgh Gorge Cycle trail. Numbers will be limited. It'll be a 2-day trip only. Cost, *approx* \$150-160, includes transport, boat trip and accommodation. Details to follow



Gear for Hire

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

Ice axes	Crampons	Packs
Cookers	Billies	First Aid Kit
Tents	Personal Locator Beacons	
Climbing Helmets	Avalanche Transceivers and Probes	

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.

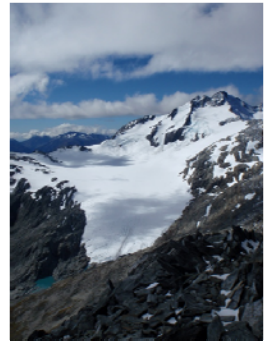


Trip Reports

Mt Armstrong 1st and 2nd March 2014



A dodgy weather forecast may have put off some trampers but for Gordon, Tina and myself it turned out to be a fantastic weekend. Leaving Dunedin in the pouring rain had us slightly doubting



ourselves, however it had dried up by the time we got to Alex and the sky was twinkling with stars when we arrived at Kidd's bush to set up camp. After a very cold night in the tent, we woke to more clear skies and headed up the road to Fantail Falls. We had just started to warm up in the car when we got to the carpark and our first task was to cross the knee-deep Haast River, which rapidly cooled us down again. However, as the track was mostly up with a bit more up, it didn't take too long to thaw out. We reached Brewster Hut at lunchtime and chatted to a solo German hiker as we prepared ourselves for the ascent of Mt Armstrong. A couple of hours of rock hopping later, Gordon and I stood on the top (Tina had elected to soak up the sun lower down the mountain). Mountains as far as you can see, including Aoraki/Mt Cook and Mt Aspiring, a fantastic view of Brewster Glacier, and we even spotted some climbers on top of Mt Brewster. With a quick scramble back down to the hut for dinner, we joined the 13 others who were staying in the 12-bunk hut for the night. Other than the 3 climbers from Queenstown,

the others were mostly foreigners.

Sunday's forecast seemed to be fairly accurate as we woke to damp fog around the mountains. A couple of curious keas did their best to tear up the deck on the hut and when they got suspiciously close to my pack, I decided it was time to head down the mountain. About 10 minutes after we got back to the car around 10.30am, a drizzle started which turned to West Coast rain as we stopped to look at the Diana Falls slip along the road. We also made a worthwhile side-trip to the Blue Pools on our way back to Makarora, then shopped for bargains at Wanaka Wastebusters before we headed home.

Rose Colhoun on behalf of Gordon Tocher and Tina Anderson.

Moa Flat Cycling - 13th April 2014:

Whatever goes up comes down!

For those of you who thought about going on this trip: No, Jane wasn't lying *much* with the pre-trip information.

True: 1) All on tar-seal 2) About 5-6 hours (we took 5hrs including stops, lunch etc) 3) The 'Big Hill' was indeed long and steep! 4) The first 20km were fairly flat, only minor hills

False: 1) Moa Flat is flat - for about 3Km! 2) the promised wonderful long down-hill finish was certainly long but with the wind against us it didn't seem very downhill!

Rose Colhoun and Jane took one car to Raes Junction, meeting up with Ruth Harvey there. Then on our bikes by 9.15am and away up SH1 towards Ettrick. Whoops, we'd just got up the first wee hill when Jane realised she hadn't got her helmet! Didn't take long to go back and the others kindly waited so we actually started the journey about 9.30am. Jane hadn't got a bike pump either but sharp-eyed Rose spotted one on the roadside. Cleaned off the spiders and it worked fine!

At Ettrick we had an off-bike pause for a drink and a snack before we

tackled the big hill. We were about to set out when Jane spotted a farmer she knew. His ute was nearby and he gave her a lift part-way up the hill - just past the first very steep section. They had a good natter - he's now retired from the farm at Moa Flat and lives in Ettrick - on the way up, and then Jane waited in the sunshine for the others. Ruth and Rose were staunch and strong and *they* only had to get off and walk for a couple of short sections of the hill. The group together again, we plodded on uphill to a haybarn for our lunch stop - the sun still shining. The barn was near the top and after that it was only 5Km along the ridge before the first wonderful 5Km downhill!

Across the 3Km of Moa Flat, then up and down a bit to Edievale - the hills were nothing compared to The Big Hill! Another off-bike pause at Edievale and Jane had promised only a wee bit of up before the long run home. Alas the 'wee bit of up' was against a head-wind for 3-4Km and by the time we got to the downhill run it was blowing much harder. Thank goodness it was slightly downhill! Back to the cars by 2.30, then a hot coffee and ginger crunch at Lawrence before heading back to rainy Dunedin.



Images from Mt Armstrong



Musings from Murray Beach

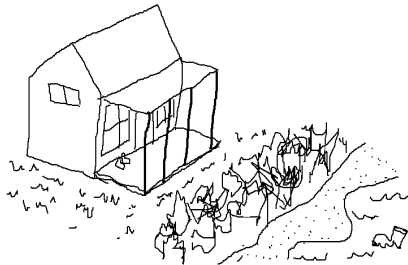
(to the tune of “I’m Henry the eighth I am” by Herman’s Hermits)

I’m Bungaree the hut I am,
Bungaree the hut I am, I am,
I’m the first stop on the NWC,
Those Northwest Circuiteers will be coming up to me,
Everyone stays at Bungaree,
They wouldn’t want Port Willy or North Arm,
I’m their favourite hut, I’m Bungaree,
Bungaree the hut I am, I am,
Bungaree the hut I am.

I’m Bungaree the hut I am,
Bungaree the hut I am, I am,
I’m full of hunters and trampers for the night,
They just keep on arriving so I squeeze ‘em in tight,
No more room in the bunks now,
So they’re sleeping on the floor,
Bungaree the hut I am, I am,
Bungaree the hut I am.

I’m Bungaree the hut I am,
Bungaree the hut I am, I am,
Now it’s gotten dark, and they’re putting on a brew,
They’re all standing round,
Sharing points of view,
What’s that I see, but torches on the shore,
Well that’s all jolly fine, I can pile in some more,
Bungaree the hut I am, I am,
Bungaree the hut I am.

WRH



Letters to the Editor

I have not seen any response to the letter to the editor. I have to agree with Ross' findings in his letter to the editor published in the latest club bulletin. I do sit back and let others do the "hard" work. Not because I do not want to but because the nature of my job, I am afraid to committing to anything as my job is not a 9 to 5 job. I don't want to make excuses as there probably would have been times I could have committed myself to some club activities. I do day dream about me @ retirement age (not so far away) and tramping the whole week, weekends and the rest of the year 24/7 as that is my biggest passion besides cooking food in a billy. Now Ross' point about "leadership training" is a very real one. I think it is the only way fellow trampers would be considering even thinking about becoming a Leader or a President, as it is not an easy job in such an big Tramping Club the OTMC is. Maybe it is time to set up a kind of a leaderships group / course or whatever motivates people to take up a leaderships job leading a group of trampers or becoming a future President. I still remember I think it was just before the first AMG when Antony said to me You can apply for the president position. I hugely respect Antony in his role as President and with his knowledge, skill and leadership experience I am far away where he stands in the club, But I am more than willing to become one of his "apprentices" so to speak :-))What do you Trampers think about Ross' Letter to the Editor? **Peter Boeckhout**

Interesting and thought-provoking. I agree it isn't fair to allow the burden of the majority of the effort and commitment onto a small number of shoulders. Equally I empathise with Peter's comment about not always being around on a regular basis due to work, acting as a block to regular commitment. As a less-than-frequent attendee at weekly meetings, however, I have still found one or two ways to help: I raised funds for the club so safety equipment could be purchased; I have run the snowcraft weekends for three years, in tandem with Ralph. Neither of these require 'regular' effort, but both have hopefully – in a small way - helped to improve the experiences of Club members. It seems to me that whether or not people sign up to be members of the Committee, there are many tasks that can be undertaken, either to reduce the burden of the Committee members, or to expand the capability of the OTMC. To my mind, the question is a bit wider than the roles of Club Officers. It's about willingness to help, and the tapping-into that willingness. It's up to the Committee to decide whether the sentiments of Ross' letter get a wider airing than a few emails; for my part, if there were a workshop meeting to talk about ways to help, including the notion of leadership training, I'd be extremely keen to come along and see if I could give more. **Andy Cunningham**

Trip List

Queens Birthday Weekend

31 May-2 June

Green lake Area [All]

Wayne Hodgkinson ph. 473 0950

Green Lake is the result of one of the largest documented landslides on earth, near the end of the latest glaciation about 13,000 years ago.

We will take advantage of a 3 day weekend to explore this area, with 2 main options available. Starting from Lake Monowai campsite, we will walk about 6 hours to Green Hut for our main accommodation. For day 2 we can either explore the tops via Borland Saddle, or take a lower level route and explore past Island Lake and into the Grebe Valley towards the historic Clark Hut. Both options would return to Green Hut for the night. Sign the Trip List in the clubrooms. Trip cost \$70

14-15 June

Winter Routeburn

Contact Chief Guide 473 0950

A perennial favourite to an oft visited part of Fiordland. Expect some form of social togetherness on this trip. There are many places to visit from here should conditions allow—Harris Saddle, Conical Hill or even the Valley of the Trolls.

28-29 June

Takitimu's Clare Peak

Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

The 'F' part of this trip refers to the option of a high traverse along Clare Peak. The plan is to drive in to Lower Princhester Hut for Friday night.

For Saturday there are 2 options:

The Fit group could have an early start and head up the track to Bog Burn Saddle, turning off and up onto Clare Peak if the going looks OK (snow, weather etc), then continue along the tops until dropping down to Aparima River. We would then continue down the river past Aparima Forks Hut (2 bunks) to Aparima Hut (12 bunks) for the night. This will require iceaxes and crampons.

The Moderate group could proceed along the main route via Becketts Hut (2 bunks) and on to Aparima Hut for the night. This is about a 6 ½ hour day. On the Sunday, we would all return to the vehicles by backtracking the route taken by the Moderate group. Sign the Trip List or contact me if interested, and note on the list your preferred option. Trip List closes 19th June. Trip fare \$65

DAYTRIPS

1st June

No Day trip as this is Queen's Birthday

8th June

Davies—Moon Track

Fieke Neuman ph. 4737535

A nice walk, close to the city, around the south and eastern flanks of Flagstaff/Swampy. We start by meeting at the clubrooms at 9am, then drive to the Glenleith end of the Pineapple track. The uphill part of the walk is via the Davies track, through regenerating bush with good views over the city. We meet up with the Pineapple/Swampy tracks at the top of the hill and then head downhill following the Moon track, watching out for mountain-bikers on the nearby Nichols creek cycle track. Near the bottom of the walk we get to see the lovely Nichols falls and the location of the glow worm colony. Depending on how cleverly we parked cars we may have to walk up Islay road to complete the circuit. **Car share cost: \$5**

15 June

McKessar Track

Kathy Woodrow 455 4673

We will leave a car at the DOC carpark at the Waitati Inlet and then head out to Doctors Point. A walk along the beach through "The Arches" will take us to Māpoutahi where we will cross over to Purakaunui Beach. Here we will leave the beach and follow the track along the base of the hill and head to Osborne. We then head up Purakaunui Station Rd and over the railway line. There we will pick up McKessar Track that connects with Mopanui Track. There we pick up the track around the Orokonui Scantuary and head down the hill (one section is very steep) to the bottom gate. Leave the scantuary fence line and follow the track along side the creek to the Inlet and the car left to shuttle the drivers of the other cars. **Car share cost: \$5**

22 June

Pineapple Track

Rose Colhoun 021 161 3791

Car share cost: \$5

29 June
Gold at Lawrence
Jan Burch 027 455 4559

We park the cars in Lawrence and follow a four wheel drive track on the opposite side of the stream from Gabriels Gully Road to the start of the Gabriels Gully interpretative track. We begin this, checking out the information panels and marveling at the pictures of the area in gold mining days, but detour to walk Munro Gully track, with a short road section, before finishing the interpretative track. A quick explore around Goldfields park and return to Lawrence the same way we came. There's the option of adding the 20 min loop around Lawrence's Domain Track before rewarding ourselves with one of Lawrence's giant-sized ice creams. Approx 4-5 hours easy walking with the option of starting and/or finishing at Gabriels Gully (ie 3 or 4 hours) if a shorter walk was wanted. **Cost \$20 (+ ice-cream)**

Membership

Club membership still stands at 196 with no change. the clubrooms has run out of membership joining forms so alot have been taken away, with some waiting for the new subs year to start.

As a heads up the subs are due 1st July, with the renewal forms in the July bulletin (mailed out the end of June)

Richard Forbes

The New Zealand International Film Festival

The Epic of Everest The official film of the ill-fated 1924 attempt at Everest has been spectacularly restored by the British Film Institute. It's the most majestic and spooked of age-of-conquest documentaries, reverberant with the intimations of nature's indifference that the filmmakers could scarcely ignore when reviewing their remarkable footage. "In June 1924 George Mallory and Andrew Irvine walked to their deaths, disappearing from the view of their fellow explorers on the north-east ridge of Mount Everest. That there was a film-maker, with a customised camera and a telephoto lens, on hand to record any of their final steps is impressive, even when viewed from the age of citizen photojournalism...

More details later when screening times are available

Thursday Night Programme

5th June:

As we have seen from individual presentations and from BYOs, the club has some great photographers. But how do we know which are the best? To help us both take better photos and judge which are the best from our hundreds of digital images taken on tramps, we have enlisted the expertise of photography teacher Alan Cox. After this session, you will have the opportunity to put what you have learnt into practice and enter your best photos in the annual OTMC photo competition, which Alan will judge at a later date.

12th June:

(Postponed from 15th May) Tomas Sobek and fellow OTMC members tramped the circuit from Flats Hut on the Routeburn Track, up North Routeburn to North Col, on to Lake Nerine, then to Park Pass, down to the Rock Burn, before coming out over Sugarloaf. Tomas will describe this trip for us, with the help of his magnificent photos.

19th June:

BYO - By now we should still have photos from Stewart Island - plus ones from Gunn's Camp, Green Lake and the Winter Routeburn. And don't forget the day trips!

26th June:

(Postponed from 29th May.) When tramping in the foothills, seeing native falcons can be a highlight of the trip. Dr Donna Falconer (Yes, her surname is just a coincidence!) has studied the Eastern Falcon, or Karearea, and will present the results of her findings to 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 Gene Dyett (phone 455 7465, email m.gdyett@xtra.co.nz)

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