

OTMTC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 751, July 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.



Join Richard on the Kepler in Winter
12/13 July

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

Hi I'm Richelle, current club secretary.

I've been in the club since Bushcraft February 2011 and that tramp was my first overnighter. I was a late starter to tramping but have always loved the outdoors.

I grew up holidaying in Alberttown and Wanaka and always wondered what was over those mountains. I wanted to explore. I took up mountain biking and loved it but there were places you just couldn't get to on a bike and wanting to stay longer and appreciate the place rather than hurtling through it brought me to the tramping club.

I was reluctant to go on a trip without a bit of knowledge of safety in the outdoors so signed up for Bushcraft. My most memorable and rewarding trips have been the Winter Routeburn, Rees/Dart/Cascade Saddle/Matukituki and Tiel Creek. The latter two worried me in anticipation as well as on some parts of the trip and tested my fitness and stamina at times but the support of my tramping companions was something that I am very humbled by and what makes me love this club. Great people! You gain so much experience and confidence each time you go on a tougher trip.

I wanted to give something back to the club as others have put so much in, so I put my hand up for Secretary last year. It is a pretty cruisy position, I don't do very much at all really so decided I should lead a trip. It's a fairly easy start to trip leading, I'm basing it at our family crib in Alberttown and we'll do day trips from there to see what's over those big hills around Hawea and Wanaka.

I'm a full time worker and a mum to 2 teenage girls, my life is busy like everyone else but there is time to squeeze in a few extras if you really want to. Yes here it comes, the wee push to get you all interested in committee positions seeing the AGM is approaching. I think there may be a few positions up for grabs. It's not hard and we'd love your help in any way. Don't be scared to ask what's involved or expected - you're allowed to ask without obligation!

And let's get more people leading trips. Wayne seems to be leading about 10 this year for goodness sake - and doing a marvellous job too but surely we can all help out.

I look forward to getting to know more of you properly on upcoming trips.

Richelle Adams
Secretary

Membership

For the end of the 2013/14 subscription year OTMC membership reached 196 with a few new members holding off for the new subs year to start next month. This is about 10 less than last year and probably as a direct result of not doing a Bushcraft course this year where we traditionally get many new members. Lets have some volunteers to do a Bushcraft next summer and not leave it up to the committee to organise. We did gain some new members from the open day though.

You will of noticed the 2014/15 subscription forms included with this mail out. Please fill in and return to me asap even if you want to resign from the OTMC. It is important that your details are up to date in the club membership data base that I look after.

A bit of a moan, please pay your subs promptly, last year some people left it to December which isn't good enough. It takes me a lot of time and work to post out reminders, e-mail you or phone you to chase up subs.

Richard Forbes
Membership Secretary

Want to take Children tramping, then this is a great book to read before you head into the outdoors.

This book was written to encourage more parents to take their children tramping. The tracks have all been walked by the author's children when they were under 10 years of age.

The book is set out into two sections, the first one covers useful information such as planning your trip, what to take, clothing, meals, and safety.

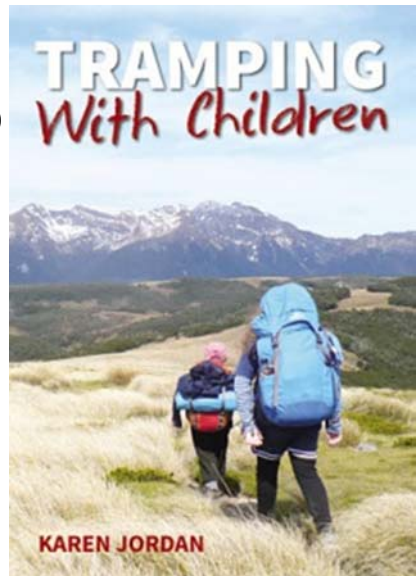
The second part has over 30 suggestions for South Island tracks, which are described in children times.

The book also includes many photos of the tracks. Huts and scenery you will encounter.

This book is for sale for \$30.

It is available from Karen Jordan

please email karenjordan@xtra.co.nz if you would like a copy.



The OTMC AGM is coming up on 28 August 2014, now is the time for you to start thinking about what contribution you can make. Who do you want to see leading the club?

OTMC COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2014-15 OTMC Committee need to be with our Secretary (Richelle Adams) on August 14, 2014.

Positions to be elected at the AGM are: **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY, CHIEF GUIDE** plus **SEVEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (from which other roles such as Membership, Bulletin Editor, Gear Hire and Day Trips are appointed)

To be nominated for the committee you need to be a financial member of the club, and have your nomination proposed and seconded by two other financial members.

The AGM is on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 8.00pm in the clubrooms



Photo Competition



Look out your 'award winning' photos to
enter the OTMC photo competition!

Enter up to 10 photos in any one category. Categories are **Above Bushline, Below Bushline, Native Flora or Fauna, Historic or Camp Life** and **Outdoor Landscapes** (no people in Outdoor Landscapes please).

Entries by either hard copy, CD, DVD or pen drive.

Get out into the hills this winter and make sure you use your camera, you might just take that 'award winning photo'.

Trip Reports

Bullock Track

23 March 2014

On a misty, moist Sunday morning at the end of March, Steph McLaughlin Yuki Fujita, Lucy Jones, Frances Rae, Wayne McCarthy and Jo Burgess assembled at the club rooms at 8am for a 2 hour journey to Bullock Track which is just beyond Roxburgh.

We found that Roxburgh has some wonderful space age toilets which require a space ship licence to operate. Eventually we worked out that the little button surrounded by flashing lights was actually the door handle. If the lights were flashing red you couldn't get in, but if they were flashing blue you push the button and 'open sesame' you were in! But how to get out! Some of us, who shall be nameless, were in there for rather a long, panic filled time. After navigating the toilets we all assembled at the lovely café over the road for a well earned rest, recreation and yummy food.

The entrance to Bullock Creek is approximately 3 km beyond Roxburgh and the track is a four wheel drive road, straight up the hill. For the first two hours we were bemoaning the fact that we were walking in the clouds and missing all the views but when we got to the top and the sun came out we realised how lucky we had been not to be climbing up in the scorching heat. The views were stunning and we enjoyed a leisurely lunch while Yuki and Wayne, with a little help from the rest of us, enthusiastically hunted for a geocache which they were delighted to locate.

After a delightful descent, more geocaching, and a relaxed drive home, we arrived in Dunedin in time for tea. We all enjoyed this trip so much that we have plans to repeat it next April when it is hoped the Autumn colours will be more spectacular.

Exploring the Temple

22-24 March 2014

The lure of the sun and three days in the mountains was too much to resist and Otago Anniversary Weekend saw Antony and I wandering up the South Temple with the idea to venture off the well beaten trail over Gunsight Pass and instead head up behind the hut in the South Temple. Turning off on the true right a bit before the hut, we stopped for a short rest just before we had



to start heading upwards. We followed a faint trail up the hill towards a tongue of bush in the distance. It is a nice feeling when you stumble across a cairn and realise that you are in the right place. The views back down the valley and up towards Gunsight Pass were

starting to open up and made the climb worthwhile. Once we'd reached the tongue of bush, we followed the odd cairn above a gorge towards a valley in the distance. The trail through the edge of the bush was difficult to follow at times but we kept finding cairns which kept us heading in the right direction. We came to a lovely valley that opened out above the gorge and since it was now late afternoon we decided it was a good place to set up camp. The sun set early in the valley so we cooked a quick dinner and it was early to bed.

The morning dawned clear and cold and we wanted to make the most of the day and see how far we could go. Once we'd left our campsite we left the bush behind and followed the small creek up towards some massive scree slopes. As the sun reached the valley floor the temperatures started to rise and we made the most of the small creek that we were following. Eventually the creek ended and it was upwards through the scree towards the ridgeline. As anyone knows moving up through scree is hard work but we eventually reached a hanging valley with a couple of large tarns just below the ridge



line. This seemed like the perfect spot for lunch so we dropped our packs and continued up to the ridgeline and looked down into Watson Stream. It was back down to the tarns for a leisurely lunch and it was here that I decided it was a great place to sunbath while Antony continued up to point 2005m overlooking the Maitland for views down into the South Temple, Lake Ohau and Aoraki Mt Cook.

After Antony ran down the scree slope back to the tarns, I reluctantly left my sunbathing spot to head back down the scree slopes towards our campsite. The return journey was quite a bit quicker and we were down at the creek in no time. We retraced our tracks down the valley to the tent just as the sun was setting behind the ridge. The temperature started to drop quickly so it was another quick meal and early to bed.

We woke to a beautiful red sky the next morning and while we were a little sad to be leaving our idyllic campsite, we acknowledged the warning the red sky heralded (of course having to go back to work the next day had something to do with it). We packed up, hefted our packs and followed the cairns back towards the South Temple. The return journey was not without it's moments as the cairns are a little scarce in places and crossing a couple of deep gorges can be tricky to enter and exit. After reaching the South Temple, it was a straightforward walk down the track. Apart from some recent looking footprints in the South Temple, we saw no one for three days.

Debbie Pettinger for Antony



TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

12/13 July

Winter Kepler [All]

Richard Forbes ph. 453 1327

This Winter is a great time to do the Great Walks as there are less crowds and cheaper huts. We stay in Te Anau on Friday night and head up to Luxmore Hut which is about a 4/5 hour walk to above the bushline. An afternoon walk can be to the top of Mt Luxmore for great views in all directions. Sunday would be retracing our steps (this time down hill) with a side trip to the caves.

There may be an option to complete the entire track if conditions and snow allow, staying at Iris Burn Hut on Saturday and down the Iris Burn valley to Rainbow reach or control gates to complete the whole Kepler Track (60km). The DOC website is a good source of information about the track. Hut tickets are needed for the huts and about \$25-\$30 for the cabin at Te Anau, transport costs \$65

Trip list closes Thursday 3rd July

26/28 July

Huxley Forks [M]

Ruth Harvey ph. 481 1455

The Huxley branches off the Hopkins Valley near Lake Ohau. Using Huxley Forks Hut as a base there are options to visit Brodrick Hut and onto Brodrick Pass or venture into the South Huxley where there is a small two person Biv.

9/10 August

Snow Skills—Basic Ice Axe & Crampons [I]

Ralph Harvey & Andy Cunningham ph. 453 4330

23/24 August
Snowcaving (Old Man Range) [I]
Richard Pettinger ph. 487 9488

Sleeping underwater? A must! Learning how to use local building materials for emergency shelter above the snowline? Also a must! What are you waiting for? Get your name down for this fun experience. We'll leave Dunedin early on Saturday morning, scoot up to the snow on the Old Man Range for the night, then come home whenever we need to on Sunday. This trip is keeping an important OTMC tradition alive. Could this be the year with the perfect weather and snow??

(note from Editor—I took my 14 year old son on the OTMC snow caving trip last year and we both thoroughly enjoyed it. Sure it might be hard work but it is also fun and not that cold inside your cave. I highly recommend going snow caving with Richard, whether you are new to tramping or have been ‘tramping for a while’. If you’re planning on getting into the snow covered mountains this winter then knowing how to dig your own shelter in the snow might just save your life!

DAYTRIPS

29 June
Alternative for Gold at Lawrence [M]
Jan Burch ph. 455 4559

A water race larger than those used for gold panning is the feature of this alternative walk. From the locked gate we walk along the Swampy Access Road to Rain Gauge Spur Track, down to see the top weir on Silver Stream. Through Raceman's Track until we turn off on Steve Aimies Track to ascend back to Swampy Access Road. Approximately 6 hours, total climb of about 400m. Cost \$5.

(Continued on page 10)

6 July
Hare Hill to Hodson Hill [M]
Gordon Tocher ph. 472 7440

Assemble at the clubrooms at 9am, bring plenty of water and a camera or binoculars.

See stunning views of the Coastline and Otago Harbour, a hidden railway line, the site of early wind power trials for Dunedin and maybe a former Fitch farm. The route will include a bush track rising from the old torpedo boat station on the western shore of Otago Harbour to Hare Hill (350m), travel through local farmland to Hodson Hill and back down. If time permits we will visit the site where the local “ship spotters” have their viewing platform with very close proximity to the shipping channel. This is a round trip not a “there and back”. There should be at least one paddock with horses so bring apples or carrots if you want to make friends with them.

13 July
Possum Buster's Track [E]
Sue Levick ph. 476 2793

A short but sweet walk for mid-winter, although if the weather is good it could be longer. Leave the club rooms at 9am and head to the start of the Jim Freeman Track for a round trip. We'll keep going along the Possum Hunters Track, Sligo's Crossing and then up to the Swampy track. We could then head back out via Ben Rudds and the Jim Freeman track back to where we started. The route has all been cleared since the big snow so it's all easy going.

20 July
All Day on the Peninsula [M/F]
David Barnes ph. 454 4492

People often think of the Otago Peninsula as a place for really short easy walks and certainly not worthy of a 9am start and giving up a whole Sunday. Be prepared to have those ideas quashed. With a bit of cunning and some connecting road walks, we'll show you a full day on the peninsula with more up hill than a Maungatua traverse. Starting from Turnbull Bay, we'll climb straight to the top of Harbour Cone (315m), then descend to sea level at Hoopers Inlet. An ascent of the Nyhon Track (190m) is followed by a couple of km's on the road to Sandymount. A short walk leads to the top

of Sandymount (320m), a good place for lunch. Then we descend to Sandfly Bay (watching out for sea lions lurking in the dunes) before heading up to Seal Point Road (150m) and dropping to Boulder Beach. The last climb of the day is up Paradise Track (260m) to Highcliff Rd, before we descend Greenacres Track to Macandrew Bay. There's the opportunity to have an ice cream while the cars are retrieved.

27 July
Port Perambulations [E]
Jane Cloete ph. 467 2328

As July weather can be a bit doubtful, this day is arranged to allow for the worst! The only reason it will be cancelled is if the road to Port Chalmers is closed!

The day is arranged into 4 x 1-1½ hour walks, covering east and west PC and also St Leonards, Maia etc. Expect : a wee bit of mud! Some track walking but mostly footpaths! Small hills but no giant hills! Plenty of history! And if the weather turns to custard (perhaps that should read iceblocks) then we'll cut out one or two of the perambulations!

3 August
Pride and Prejudice on Maungatua [M]
Antony Hamel ph. 453 5240

It is a sharp climb from the Outram end to the bush line. It may be useful to take a few tools to get through the band of gorse that quickly closes this part of the track. Then it is over the tops and opportunity to get lost when trying to find the track going down to Grainger Road. A good winter trip especially if there is snow, mist or rain. No full traverse of Maungatua on public land is currently possible as the legal road from Munro Road is blocked with gorse. I will be making a video of this trip with the commentary / participants using only quotes from Pride and Prejudice. I will bring a script with suitable lines for participants to say.

Trip reports needed—if you've been tramping lately, we'd

love to hear from you. Be it a day or weekend trip, please put a few words on paper and let us know where you went. Include a photo or two if possible and send to debsnz@ihug.co.nz.

Thursday Night Programme

3 July

As most of you know, Gordon Tocher is a keen tramper, but some years back he also spent seven days kayaking in the pristine marine wilderness of Doubtful Sound, accompanied by seals and dolphins. Gordon will give us an illustrated talk of this extended paddle, which also includes a side trip up the Camelot River.

10 July

At 4810m Mt Blanc is the tallest mountain in Western Europe and the 170km Tour de Mount Blanc is one of Europe's most famous hikes. Ian Billinghamurst will give an illustrated talk about his experiences on the Tour de Mount Blanc, which crosses 12 passes, climbs and descends 10 vertical kilometres and encompasses three countries during this majestic circuits.

17 July

A couple of years back Bruce Mckinlay gave us an excellent presentation of his experiences as a DOC rep on heritage cruises to the Southern Ocean. In this presentation Bruce has headed south again, this time to the Argentinian half of Tierra del Fuego and Ushuaia which, at 54deg 48min south, claims to be the "southernmost city in the world". Here Bruce joined a cruise ship to travel down to the Antarctic Peninsula, then to the British base at Rothera, before heading to the Ross Sea via Peter Island.

24 July

BYO—Bring Your Own Photos. We always enjoy seeing photos of the recent tramping trips you have done. Bring your photos along on a USB of any day or weekend trip you've been on recently.

31 July

Trekking in Bhutan :Intrepid OTMC member Philip Somerville has recently been trekking and travelling in Bhutan, a country which reportedly has some of the world's most content people. Philip will give us another of his epic presentations as he takes us through the magnificent scenery for which Bhutan is renowned.

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

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