

**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.



Winning image (Below Bushline) FMC Photo Competition

Tomas Sobek

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	453 0983
Clubrooms Maintenance	Andrew Pask	453 5719

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

Our Forgotten Lands

FMC is heading a campaign leading up to the election to give more protection to large tracts of the conservation estate known as Stewardship Land. I suspect this campaign is just the beginning – the issue is so large and complex that the efforts of the FMC, associated tramping and climbing clubs, and their members will need to endure well into the future.

The Stewardship Land comprises some 30% of the land administered by DOC – that is 10% of New Zealand's land mass. So the issue is huge. Two people who have strong associations with our Club – Rob Mitchell and David Barnes - have penned articles in two publications close to our hearts. Rob Mitchell has a lead article in the FMC Bulletin where he outlines the history of DOC and how Stewardship Lands came into being. The article outlines the findings of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, where she exposes the vulnerability of this land to political and commercial exploitation. David Barnes has an article in Wilderness Magazine – the implications for some of the South Island's iconic areas are outlined.

We are all familiar with the vulnerability of wilderness areas to commercial activity – monorails, tunnels, helicopter and fishing pressures but of more concern is the apparent less than honourable negotiations DOC appears to be engaging in. In a recent negotiation DOC is suggesting that land in the Ruahine Forest Park be reclassified as Stewardship Land so it can be swapped for private land under the guise that as the Forest Park had not been properly gazetted it was exempt from the normal conservation values scrutiny.

The two articles above are very good reading.

It's AGM time again – your committee works hard to bring you a varied programme of day walks, tramps, instruction, speakers and generally advocate on your behalf. There are always opportunities for you to be part of this dynamic, and bring your skills to the fore for the club. If helping to improve the club spirit is your thing don't hesitate to talk to one of the committee, or even former committee members. And don't

forget the opportunities that exist to tramp anywhere you desire with like-minded people – just see the Chief Guide with your ideas. The next trip card for the summer is being prepared at present.

Ross Hunt

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

Takitimu Weekend

28-29 June 2014

Group Rose.

Friday

We arrived early at the carpark @10pm, we all cramped ourselves in the Princhester hut w/ the floor covered with trampers, one tent outside and after a quick cup of tea we slept quickly (and quietly)

Saturday

We were woken by Wayne at 6:45 sharp, all were keen to rise and shine without any sunshine yet to be seen. @ 8:15 we started up towards the saddle between the Waterloo burn and Bog burn and through a narrow, sometimes steep, muddy and slip-



pery track we arrived there one hour later. The first group with Wayne was planning to head to the tops and were checking their GPS gadgets where they exactly were. They went right, we went forward and down the Waterloo burn. Still thinking about what Wayne said about us just returning the same way as we came if they did not make it to the hut tonight!!

So we tramped about an hour to the forrest track end where a tussock clearing marked the start of our roller coaster tramp up and down the Te Araroa track. I

have never seen so many orange markers and poles so close together which made following through the tussock & bush line very easy. It was a hard walk up and down as the open tussock



were half swamp half track, we were just walking over a huge wet sponge, so my socks were soaking wet after 1 minute as all the repairs made lots of new cracks over time in my boots. We had lunch in the sun in between the tussock. Our walk up and down the bush line was slow but steady and we changed as front man / woman several times. We bumped into 3 lower legs of what appeared to be from a deer, not sure who took the fourth one. Taking pictures from the mountains around us was difficult with the sun shining full on. After a total of 7,5 hours tramping including several breaks we reached Aparima hut and quickly got into our warm gear and a hot cup of tea. We managed to get the pot belly burner going and soon I was sweating my pants off and my toes became warm again. The other group reached the hut @ 16:30. After a game of scrabble which we all got into our bunks and had a good night of sleep.

Sunday

Today we could sleep in, we were woken up by voices @ 7:15 :-). We decided to take the other side of the valley and look at Becketts hut, nice hunting hut with some special features inside, including pillows, an old honey pot, folding chairs, meat mincer, milo etc.. We walk down the valley through what was marked on the map as a swamp until we reached a track on the right side of the valley. the walk was faster from there. We were overtaken by a man called Stu who turned out to be a Fish & Game Officer and was walking up the river to do a Trout spawning survey. And he was so friendly to teach us a little bit how to spot Trout and how & where it spawned. Thank you Stu. So we tramped all the way up the Waterloo Burn back where we started from that saddle. It was a tiring walk up although it took us an hour shorter than going up. Beautiful views of the mountains around us and a nice cool breeze to keep us going. Lunch was enjoyed just before the junction for the Becketts hut. We all arrived at the carpark and left just after 4pm. Nice group, nice tramp, I will come back here.

Peter Boeckhout for Maria Hamelink, Rose Colhoun, Greg Hall and Joe Skinner.

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

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

Chief Guide Comment

We are now well through our Winter Programme, with the days getting longer and hopefully warmer. Winter is not necessarily a time to hibernate, but can be a great opportunity to experience our familiar landscapes as a different environment. Often after tramping for a year or so, people get interested in the next ‘thing’, which might involve getting into some Alpine areas. With this in mind, it is an ideal time to upskill with some alpine experience, as the snow is easier to find than in summer. Often trips will involve travelling over a saddle or ridge with snow on it, regardless of the time of year. Two key trips are coming up – Ralph and Andy’s Snow Skills – Basic Iceaxe and Crampons weekend will both introduce and reinforce some essential skills you should have if interested in tramping in snow conditions. Self arresting using an ice axe is something that needs to be practised until it is automatic should it be required. Similarly, Richard Pettinger’s Snowcaving trip has been a regular with the OTMC, both for simple enjoyment and as a safety shelter technique should it be necessary. Snowcaves are also used as a planned accommodation avoiding the need to carry a tent. Try it out, you might get hooked. Moving into September we have a new trip into a new area with a new Trip Leader. Thank you Rose for taking us into the Manapouri / Garnockburn area.

So, there’s something for everyone. Pop your name on the Trip Lists of your choice and get out there and do it.

It is never too early to start thinking about the Summer Trip Programme – let me know your thoughts and preferably offer to lead a trip.

Wayne Hodgkinson

The OTMC Bank Account is now with ASB. The new account number is:

12-3150-0311684-00

Remember to include your name and the reason for your payment when paying by internet banking.

Non-members must pay for trips when signing the trip list, members before the trip departs

Triplist

9-10 August

Snow Skills

Ralph Harvey & Andy Cunningham (453 4330)

If you want to go tramping above the snowline but don't yet have the skills, then sign up for this trip. Based at Leaning Lodge, we will introduce participants to the safe use of crampons and ice axes, step cutting, navigation in snow terrain, self arresting techniques, - subject to demand - additional skills such as using avalanche transceivers. (club members get priority over non members)

Departing the club rooms at 07.30 sharp on the Saturday, we'll drive and walk in to Leaning Lodge for lunch, followed by instruction and fun in the Rock & Pillar area, until we head back down some time on Sunday. Andy will be heading up on Friday 8th to evaluate the best sites for instruction, there is space in his car for anyone keen to come along for the extra night (just phone him)

If you don't have crampons and an ice axe, you will need to hire them in advance from the club, via Sam or Gene. Bring your boots so Ralph can check the crampons fit your boots correctly, it saves time on the hill.

Don't forget your sun glasses & sun cream.

Vehicle cost \$20 to driver, \$5 hut fee to Ralph or Alan Thompson.

23-24 August

Snow Caving Weekend

Richard Pettinger (487 9448)

Come along on this trip if you think you might ever be likely to be caught out above or near the snowline. Snow is your friend for accommodation! Better than a non-existent tent, a snow cave can save you from misery or even death. This is just like a tramping weekend, except it leaves at 7 AM on Saturday, accommodation is free, and there's not too much tramping and much more digging. Everyone should sleep under water once in their life! Destination Old Man Range

Cost \$35 to the Treasurer

**6-7 September
Manapouri—Garnock Burn (E)
Rose Colhoun (021 1513791)**

Heading to the Hope Arm hut on the southern shore of Lake Manapouri, there will be lots of opportunities for exploring and hopefully great views of the lake. Lake Rakatu, Back Valley, Circle Track, the Monument, and the Garnock Burn are all possibilities to check out. On Friday night we will drive to Manapouri and spend the night at my family's holiday house (cost of \$20 pp). The next morning we will head down to Pearl Harbour and catch the water taxi across to the start of the track. The water taxi is \$20 pp or \$15 for groups of 6 or more. It's only 3 hours to the hut, so this trip is rated easy. Phone number 021 1513791 (it's wrong on the trip card).
Trip cost \$65 to the Treasurer.

**20 - 21 September
Day Trips from Albert Town
Richelle Adams ph 4761302**

Staying at the family crib at the confluence of the Hawea and Clutha Rivers, sleeps 10 (or more in tents) There are options for everyone.
Breast Hill part of the Te Araroa trail has amazing views. It requires a good level of fitness and has some steep drops so sure footing and care required in a few parts, 5-7 hours.
Isthmus Peak between Lakes Hawea and Wanaka, 5-6 return steep in places.
Sawyer Burn Hut track starts at Kidds Bush, Lake Hawea and is rated Easy 2- 4 hours. Roy's Peak dominating Wanaka township is 4-5 hours return, a bit of grunt but otherwise easy walking and great views. Mt Iron 1.5 hours easy.
There are some lovely walking/biking tracks near the crib as well for a more leisurely day.
Crib \$10pp for the weekend plus \$60 approx. for vehicle/fuel costs.

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DAYTRIPS

3rd August

Maungatua (M)

Antony Hamel ph 453 5240

Expect anything with Antony as your leader. One thing is for sure you'll be a film star in some guise or another.

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.

9am ready to leave the club rooms. Car cost \$8.

10th August

Trotter's Gorge (E/M)

Ray and Jill McAliece ph 454 4211

Situated in the Horse Range, this reserve is situated on a back road between Palmerston and Moeraki. Trotters Gorge was formed approx 80 millions years ago, sheer escarpments and bluffs of a greywacke breccia mix.

We have two tracks we can do, one follows Trotters Creek past the University Hut, wet feet essential. The other track goes into the forest beside the toilets, and passes a couple of small caves through the bush, this will be muddy. Once at the car park we will decide which track to follow, either way be prepared for a great day out.

Meet at clubrooms for a 9am start. Trip cost \$15

17th August

Nichols Creek (M)

Bronwen Strang ph 473 1610

Flagstaff area has featured often in our schedule this winter. Come and explore more tracks up there - in the Nicol's Creek basin this time, in particular those that join up with the Pineapple track. Nicol's Creek is a great area in any weather – a valley that never fails to make me feel miles away from the city.

We will park on the Leith Valley Road and “to and fro” involving the Moon Track, the Pepper Tree Track (oft-times called the Bandaaid Track), the ridge track up from “the big trees” etc. We may visit the top of Flagstaff depending on time and weather. This is the same day as the film “The Epic of Everest”..... we intend not to have an “Epic of Nicols Creek” so we will be back in plenty of time
Car share cost: \$5

24th August

Akatore (E)

Tony Timperley

Details to be advised. **Car share cost: \$5**

31 August

Government Track (M)

Dave McArthur ph 481 1478

The Government track commences approximately 5km up the Waipori Falls Road on the true left.

After an initial tramp of about 1 hour through a patch of Manuka the track enters a nice section of beech forest (has a variety native birds) with a gentle gradient for about 2 hours.

Then tramp to Kowhai Spur. From the top of Kowhai Spur you have a commanding view of the Taieri plains. From this point the track descends rapidly back to the Waipouri Falls road. This tramp is generally sheltered from wind except for the section down Kowhai Spur. Expected duration 5 hours, which includes stops for lunch and snacks.

Recommend wearing boots with gaiters as there is a couple of short muddy sections for about 10 – 20 meters each.

Meet at the club rooms at the usual time, 9am. **Cost \$10**

7 September

Track Maintenance Skyline Track

Jane Cloete ph 467 2328

Bring your secateurs! Bring your slasher! Bring your saw! If you don't own any of these, then probably I can supply something! But most of all bring yourself and let's do our bit to keep the local tracks accessible! **Cost \$5**

Thursday Night Programme

7th August

To be announced.

14th August

BYO. Bring your photos from Huxley Forks, Port Perambulations, Maungatua, and Snow Skills. You never know - you may have the OTMC photo competition winner. See how it looks on the big screen!

21st August

The OTMC has been a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs (FMC), the national association of tramping and climbing clubs, for over 80 years. David Barnes and other members of FMC's "Dunedin Caucus" (there just happens to be five members of the Executive who live locally) will talk about what FMC does, what it and its member clubs have achieved in that time, as well as looking at ongoing efforts such as the Forgotten Lands campaign and the Community Conservation Partnerships' Fund.

28th August

The OTMC Annual General Meeting. What contribution can YOU make to the club? Besides the five officer positions up for election, there seven other committee members who can be elected. This is your opportunity to help lead the club, so get yourself nominated. Also be here to take part in the discussions on important issues that affect 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)

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