

**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.



At Mt Luxmore Hut on the Kepler Track—July 2014

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.otmte.co.nz

A recent talk at the clubrooms on a trip last December got me reflecting on a particular affliction many trampers suffer from. It was while we were debating the relative merits of various routes out of the Olivines after subjecting Andrew's 3 season tent to a few days of heavy rain and strong wind at Forgotten River Col. Among the routes discussed, Andrew, a good friend from Wellington, was keen on moseying down Destiny Ridge into the Joe River, and out either via the dreaded O'Leary Pass to the Dart or up the Arawata into the Matukituki. (Since the easier route from the Arawata via Whitbourn Saddle was ruled out due to a missing bridge). Neither myself nor Franz (Andrew's friend from Wellington) were keen. The point of all this is that I seemed to remember a previous trip Andrew had done into the Joe some time ago, which had turned into a bit of hard work. I believe Andrew's comments at the time were along the lines of horrible flooded mountain river, gorges, boulders, scrub, and frequently swapping from one to the other, perpetually confident that the other can't be as bad as this! I'm certain he swore never to go there again. Which brings me to the topic in hand.

While some people suffer from various ailments, like Measels, flu, or Bridge, trampers seem to be afflicted by a poorly recognised condition of varying degrees of memory lapse, or 'Selective Amnesia'. Andrew was showing clear symptoms to a relatively high degree. I was immune in this case, since I wasn't actually on the trip concerned, and had the benefit of hearing of it second hand. Sufficient to say, Franz and myself outvoted Andrew and we went down through Blockade Stream to Forgotten River Flats, a much more pleasant route.

So, what exactly is 'Selective Amnesia'? In a nutshell, its symptoms present as forgetting all the rotten bits of previous trips, and only remembering the good bits. It seems to hit trampers in moments of weakness, like that feeling of irrepressible joy when the sun finally comes out. Another moment of weakness happens while thinking and looking at old photos. The problem with thinking is that weird ideas have a habit of coming to mind, especially if there is a map involved. The problem with the latter is that trip photos can be very misleading. Obviously photos only get taken when it's nice and sunny. They inevitably show smiling faces, with clear beautiful views over landscapes to die for. This is because nobody on earth has the persistence, desire, time, or want to shag around with a camera when you're grovelling halfway round a boulder, or trying to decide whether to go under, through, or over that next bit of scrub, or any other hairy bits, including failing daylight. And anyway, the camera would get wet

since it will be raining, there won't be any view, and your frozen fingers won't be capable of pressing any delicate buttons as they are busy clinging onto bits of scrub or grass, or anything within reach. Obviously, at such times your mind is also otherwise occupied.

The only way to avoid this might be to have constant recording of a trip so you can remember ALL the bits that make up the complex experiences. But that would be deplorable for all sorts of reasons.

You might be asking yourself "so what's the problem?" You may well argue that Selective Amnesia is a **good** thing, as without it some trips might never be repeated. Perhaps we missed out on a golden opportunity to visit the Joe. Surely the actual experience is why we do these things. And nothing beats the satisfaction and relative comfort of relaxing in front of a fire at a good camp or hut with good mates, tired limbs, and a belly full of warm tucker.

All these things, a muddle of experiences and emotions, make up the joys of tramping. In other words, just get out there and DO IT!

Wayne Hodgkinson
Chief Guide

It has been very busy over the subs to process.

So far about 135 with still about 60 still to

reminder will be included with this mail out, after that I start ringing and e mailing for payment. If you wish to resign from the OTMC please let me know rather than leaving it for me to track you down

New members during the last 2 months

Tina Stewart Isabelle Gensburger Lynne Senior
Kerry O'Carroll (overseas member from Queensland, Australia)

Members resigned during last 2 months

Robin Hullen Philip Jenkins
Paul Devlin (after 18 years in OTMC)
Bruce Johnston (after 22 years in OTMC)
Eric Callaghan (after 25 years in OTMC)
Laurel Dunn (after 24 years in OTMC)

Rodger and Nikky Miller

Richard Forbes
Membership

Celebration of the original Otago Tramping Club Freedom Walk

In April 1965, members of the Otago Tramping Club planned and executed a tramping trip over the Milford Track. While today this doesn't sound much, in 1965 this was big news, as back then you could not venture into this area unless you went on a guided walk with the Government run Tourist Hotel Corporation. Club members were protesting at being denied access to a National Park, so while this was about the Milford, it had bigger implications affecting public access around the whole country.

As a result of the 1965 trip, new huts were built at Clinton Forks, Mintaro and Dumpling, and the 'freedom walker option' became available. This continues today when you walk the track in season through DoC.

To celebrate the vision of the 1965 trip, the OTMC are running a very special trip to the Milford Track in April 2015 to mark the 50th Anniversary. The club has secured all 40 places available (the track is in season) and is working closely with DoC to make this trip special. There are already a number of the original party interested in attending, and the balance will be made up from other club members. As a result this will be a limited numbers trip, with priority being given to the members from the original trip. In the event interest from other members exceeds the available places (very likely) then a selection criteria will be applied—this will likely not be 'first in / first served', but will be based on contributions made to the club over time. If you just want to walk the Milford Track, then this trip will not be the best option for you—this trip is in season, so it has no advantage over a trip you can book for yourself at any time. This trip is designed to be special for the originals, as well as honouring an important part of OTC / OTMC history.

Details are being worked out, but here are the key dates etc:

Departs Te Anau on April 16 (Thursday) - normal itinerary for the Milford (overnighting at Clinton, Mintaro and Dumpling Huts—three nights on track). Arrive back at Te Anau late on April 19 (Sunday). The club is organising a transport package ex Te Anau (it will be private transport to and from Te Anau before and after the trip). DoC have offered to help us celebrate the event with a special evening at Dumpling Hut on the Saturday night.

A trip list will be at the clubrooms from August 28, 2014—or you can contact the leader, Antony Pettinger, 4737924, or otmc@ihug.co.nz

Aerial 1080 Operation in the Dart, Route Burn and Caples Valleys

The Department of Conservation will be applying cereal baits containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080) poison over public conservation land in the Dart, Routeburn and Caples Valleys. Operations will start anytime from 25th August (weather permitting).

All walking tracks in the Dart, Routeburn and Caples Valleys will be closed for both the non-toxic 'pre-feed' pellets and following toxic pellet drops. Tracks in several side valleys will also be closed including Fraser Creek, Kay Creek, the Route Burn North Branch, Rock Burn and Beans Burn. Closures will be for up to 24 hours, and at least seven days apart. Trampers on multi-day trips will not be allowed to enter or remain within the affected areas during either bait drops. Immediately after the bait drop the walking tracks will be swept clear of the pellets before being reopened.

DOC's 1080 operations in the Dart, Route Burn and Caples are part of the "Battle for Our Birds" programme.

The OTMC have a new bank account

Subs and trip fares can be paid directly to the OTMC bank account

12-3150-0311684-00

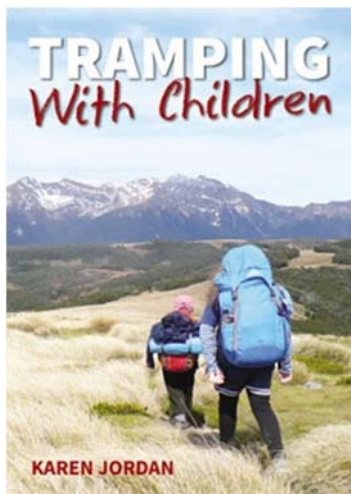
Remember to include your name and reason for payment.

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

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.

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.



Trip Reports

Winter Kepler

July 214

A van of 12 trampers left Dunedin on Friday night. We stopped in Gore for tea and arrived at Te Anau at 10pm. We stayed in good cabins and in the morning, after breakfast, we drove to the control gates.

On with our packs, we were rearing to go for our tramp to the Luxmore Hut. After overnight rain, Saturday was a lovely morning and we spread out along the track, keeping an eye out for one another and helping if needed. Our first stop was Brod Bay and it was good to take our packs off and enjoy the view and have a snack. The track was well signposted and the next part was uphill through beautiful bush. I thought I could hear rain but it was just the gushing of the streams and water dripping off the branches. From the bush line it was 45 minutes to the Luxmore Hut. We had a panoramic view of the Te Anau Basin, Takitimu, the Snowden and Eyre Mountains. The sky was blue and there was a light coating of snow on the track.

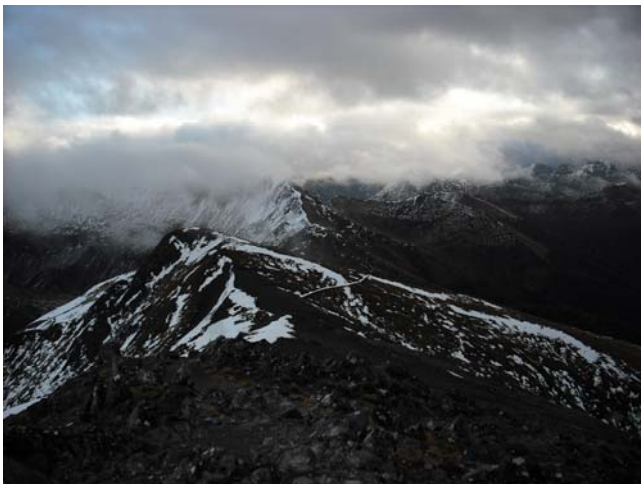


We had all arrived at the hut by 2pm, got a bunk and then Ralph took some keen people up to the top of Mt Luxmore. It was an awesome experience to be standing at 1472m, with an incredible view of the surrounding snow capped mountains. It was also made easier by not having to cart our packs.

Just as well we went, as the weather wasn't so good the next morning. Richard took some people to look at the caves and then we all spent the night having a great meal and sitting around the fire. The warden arrived to check our hut tickets. The best things about the hut were, an inside winter toilet, the water tap in the porch outside the door and lots of bunks. There were even some tourists sharing the hut.

We awoke next morning to find it was snowing. We layered up with warm clothes, packed up and headed for the shelter of the bush. There was plenty of water on the track and we had a brief stop at Brod Bay again, then into the van heading for home. I would like to thank our leader Richard for driving and for such a great weekend.

Lucy Jones on behalf of



**Richard, Roger, Tina, Joe ,Chris, Kathy,
Lindsay, Betty, Tim, Darryl and Ralph.**



OTMC 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, Hut or Camp Life and Outdoor Landscapes** (no people in Outdoor Landscapes please).

Entries by CD, DVD or pen drive to Gene Dyett
Winning entries will be judged in October with all winning photos being submitted to the 2015 FMC Photo Competition.

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

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

Hopefully there has been sufficient snow for successful Snow Skills and Snowcaving trips recently. Coming up we have Rose's Manapouri / Garnockburn trip, and Richelle's Day Trips from Albert Town. Two new trips to new areas with new (to us) trip leaders. Remember it is purely due to fine upstanding individuals who are willing to commit to leading trips that we are able to provide them. I know it is tempting to just sit back and freely pick and choose your trips after the List comes out, but do please spare an appreciative thought for those who make the commitment early. Obviously, we would love to have you come up with your suggestions, and offers to lead. Your first trip does not have to be a 'big deal' and could easily be to somewhere you are familiar with. Feel free to ask, without obligation! The developing DRAFT Summer Trip List is at clubrooms on Thursday nights for you to peruse and think about dates and destinations. Phone me (Wayne) 473 050 or email wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz or dip your toes in a Day Trip if you prefer – give Alan Thomson a call on 455 7878. Don't forget that other 'golden opportunity' coming up – our AGM during which you are free to have your say, including considering a position on our Committee.

6/7 September Manapouri-Garnock Burn [E] Rose Colhoun ph. 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 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 \$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 is only 3 hours to the hut so this trip is rated easy. Once at the hut, there will be time to explore.
Trip cost \$65 to the Treasurer.

20/21 September
Day Trips from Albert Town [All]
Richelle Adams ph. 476 1302

Staying at the family crib (\$10pp) at the confluence of the Hawea and Clutha Rivers, sleeps 10 (or more in tents). There are options for everyone. Some day trips in the area are:

Breast Hill, part of the Te Araroa Trail has amazing views, but it does require a good level of fitness and has some steep drops so sure footing and care is required, 5-7 hours.

Isthmus Peak between Lakes Hawea and Wanaka takes 5-6 hours return. This track can also be steep in places.

Sawyer Burn Hut track starts at Kidds Bush and is rated easy at 2-4 hours. Roys Peak dominating Wanaka township is 4-5 hours return and is a bit of a grunt but otherwise an easy walk with great views.

For a more leisurely day there is Mt. Iron which is an easy 1.5 hours walk or there are some lovely walking/biking tracks near the crib.

Trip cost \$65 to the Treasurer.

4/5 October
Dumb Bell Lake (Freehold Creek-Maitland Area) [M]
Leader to be confirmed (Contact Wayne Hodgkinson
Ph.473 0950)

I had intended leading this trip myself but will now be overseas until Labour Weekend, so it is available for somebody else to take on. Obviously a new Trip Leader should feel free to modify the plan to suit their own desires.

Dumb-bell Lake is a Sub Alpine lake nestled in a tussock and scree basin at 1557m altitude, behind Ohau Skifield. The plan at this stage is to start from Parsons Creek entrance on the Ohau Road, and follow easy tracks up Freehold Creek to the bushline. The route then follows occasional marker poles past some tarns, then via open tops (tussock, rocks, and scree) to Point 1922m and down to Dumbell Lake (about 6 to 7 hours). There are campsites near the lake, and opportunities for further exploration without carrying full packs. Sunday can see a return to the vehicles via Sawyers Creek to offer a round trip.

An alternative for the leader to consider is traveling in (or out) via the Maitland River (about 8 hours to the lake). Phone Ohau Station (03 438 9663)

(Continued on page 10)

for Maitland access permission. Ice axes might be required, and camping will possibly be on snow.

Sign the Trip List or contact Wayne if interested.

Trip cost \$65 to the Treasurer

Sunday, 7 September / the choice of two work parties

September 10-14

The OTMC's Real Estate needs some maintenance!

Richard Pettinger ph 487 9488

or Alan Thomson ph 455 7878

Club members are urged to help look after our asset on Flagstaff. We meet at 9am on 7 September at the Clubrooms or 9.30 at the Bullring. We need lots of hands. The DCC have promised Biodiversity Fund money, but require that OTMC member and other volunteer work matches their \$3000 grant.

Phone Richard 487 9488, or Alan 455 7878. In the event of bad weather, give us a call. We may reschedule for the next Sunday. Loppers, secateurs and gardening gloves will be useful.

If too wet, maybe be postponed to 21 September.

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 I can probably supply something! But most of all bring yourself and a pair of work gloves and let's do our bit to keep the local tracks accessible. Cost \$5 for carpooling.

14 September

Phillip Cox Memorial Hut (Silver Peaks) [M]

David Barnes ph. 454 4492

This is a chance to explore or re-discover a great but infrequently-used route into the heart of the Silver Peaks. The trip starts at Evansdale Glen and follows Careys Creek before ascending Rongomai Ridge to join the Mountain Road. From there, it's a short walk to the top of the Tunnels Track. A sharp descent to the Waikouaiti River is followed by a sharp ascent to Philip J Cox Hut. We'll have lunch at the hut, then retrace our steps to the cars, with the possibility of Honeycomb Ridge as an alternative to Rongomai.

21 September
Millennium Track Mystery [E]
Peter Loeber ph. 477 4895

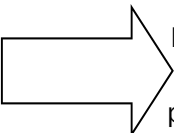
Enjoy a walk along the Millennium Track from Hindon to Taieri Mouth and back. This is an nice walk along the banks of the Taieri River through picturesque native bush. Meet at the club rooms at 9am.

28 September
Victory Beach [E]
Stu Mathieson ph. 027 507 9166

Victory Beach (E): A pleasant ramble in a very nice place. A nice beach, estuary and interesting geology. Yellow-eyed penguins, Hooker sea lions and fur seals are always on the cards not to mention oyster catchers and other coastal citizens, what more could you ask for? Meet at Clubrooms for departure at 9.00 am sharp and remember drink bottles or thermos and camera.

5 October
Unexplored Silver Peaks [F]
Richard Pettinger ph. 487 9488

So, you've survived the insanity of Snowcaving, the AGM and the NZ elections, can you survive this? A trip with no known destination until we assemble on Sunday 9am at the clubrooms. Starting at Whare Flat, Semple Road, Leith Saddle, Woodhaugh? Who can tell? We will go to a place where none on the trip has been to before (or, if they have they forgot). Fitness is fairly necessary, as is a sense of humour



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

28 August

The OTMC Annual General Meeting. This is your opportunity to take part in the discussions on important issues to the club and elect a new committee.

4 September

"Ian's Fiordland - Working, playing and living in Fiordland". Ian Thorne has been involved in adventures and projects throughout Fiordland for over 40 years. Ian's presentation will include island management, which is his speciality. He was involved in the Breaksea Island rat eradication programme, and is currently working on Resolution and Secretary Islands.

11 September

China Panorama: Rodger Clarkson went on a holiday to China in 2012. He will give a presentation showing the highlights of his trip including Tiger Leaping Gorge, Lijiang, Limestone karsts around Yangshuo, Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors and Giant Buddha

18 September

BYO Photos—By now we should have "selfies" from inside the snow caves and outdoor photos from the Manapouri area. Also the day trips should provide plenty of photos.

25 September

The Annual OTMC Quiz Night! - hosted by Gene and Tony. Start getting your teams of four together and training up your general knowledge brain cells. Great prizes!

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 tonyimps@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