

**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.



Tomas Sobek

Committee Members 2014/15

President	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Richelle Adams	476 1302
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 6053
Chief Guide/Transport	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 0983
	Andy Cunningham	482 1066
Ben Rudds / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	0272 864836
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	Ross Hunt	453 0983
Clubrooms Maintenance	Andrew Pask	453 5719

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

I started tramping when at secondary school, and the first courses I attended through the Tararua Tramping Club were the Bushcraft and Alpine skills courses. This was in the seventies and eighties, when tramping was in its heyday. There were several large tramping clubs in the Wellington region, each with multiple trips running every weekend. We assembled at the railway station, climbed into converted furniture removal vans and headed north to the Tararua's. Competition between clubs was a friendly rivalry, with the occasional sporting event pitting club against club. The highlight was the "marathon" traversing the Orongorongo Valley.

Step forward several decades—I rejoined the tramping brigade a few years ago in Dunedin. I was impressed to find the OTMC was running Bushcraft and Alpine skills courses. Not much had changed in the intervening period—the skills I learnt way back had not faded—just the clothing (and the disappearance of the kidney-rotter!) Another Bushcraft course is just around the corner.

The committee is requesting that payment for weekend trips is settled on the night the trip closes (for members) and upon signing the trip list for non-members. There have been several trips lately where the leader has had to chase trip fees after the trip has run. Trip leaders have enough to do!

Bushcraft 2015

March 3: Introduction, Clothing

March 10: Navigation and Weather

March 14: Navigation Exercise

March 17: Food and Cookers

March 24: Trip Planning

March 28-29: Bushcraft Weekend—Silverpeaks

April 12: River crossing

Watch out for details—coming soon.

Chief Guide Comment

You will find the Summer 2014 – 15 Trip Card enclosed with this Bulletin. I would like to again express my thanks to those willing and able to commit to leading trips (both Day Trips and overnights), without them we would all just be sitting around talking about it! You will notice a return to Bushcraft over March & April. This takes a bit of organising, and we appreciate the amount of commitment Antony Pettinger has put into these things in the past. The club will require some help from present members with this, including offers to assist in Evening Talks, leading a Silverpeaks Bushcraft party, or just helping out with Navigation or Rivercrossing etc. There will be ample opportunity to brush up on your own knowledge beforehand. It's all good fun when plenty of people are involved, and you all do have valuable skills and knowledge to assist.

Similarly, Open Day will be on the weekend of 14-15 Feb, and any help with setting up displays or leading a small group of the public on the Day Walk would be appreciated.

You will also see a return to specified Climbing trips, run by Andy Cunningham, as an extension from his recent Snow Skills courses. Participants will need to have completed one of his recent courses, or otherwise satisfy Andy that they have the prerequisite skills before being accepted on these trips. It will be great to see a resurgence of interest in climbing within the club.

Enough waffle, pin the Trip List to your noticeboard / fridge or whatever, put a big asterix beside the trips that interest you, and don't forget to sign up on the Trip Lists.

Wayne

Bulletin Contributions are always welcome. Send them to ross.hunt@xtra.co.nz along with any photos you'd like from your trip. Don't worry about making your bulletin articles look pretty—I will reformat anyway.

Also trip leaders—the Bulletin is the perfect vehicle to promote your upcoming trips. Drop me a few words promoting your trip a month or two before it is due to run.

Trip Reports

Snow Skills Course, 16-17th August 2014

After deferring this course a week due to the paucity of snow, I went up to Leaning Lodge on Friday 15th to check conditions in advance. It was a difficult ascent in the teeth of a cold gale and driving spindrift, and I was pretty shot by the time I got up there, to find I had to dig out the door from behind a small snow drift. After getting inside, I hardly emerged for the rest of the day as the gale continued to howl around the hut.

Saturday dawned clear and cold, and though the wind had abated it was still fairly fresh. I cleared the snow from the entrance lobby more completely, and also swept the drift out of the long drop, as it would have been a cold place to sit...

I then started the search for some decently firm snow, and was delighted to find perfect conditions on the slope right behind the hut, so I managed to dig some platforms for the self-arrest practice, and rehearse the various skills we were handing on.

By 1130, the weekend group had started to appear, and by 1pm everyone had arrived and we were enjoying a brew and some lunch. We then went outside and started using crampons and axes on the slopes, practicing various different techniques – French technique, front pointing, step cutting – all intended to ensure safe passage across areas of snow. We then moved on to self-arrest, and practiced recovery in a range of positions, which always provides some amusement - and head-scratching.

The following morning we went on a wander in search of different slopes, and found a steeper banked area ten minutes from the hut, where we could practice front-pointing and dagger technique, and also use avalanche transceivers and a probe. After this we headed to Castle Rock and climbed the rock using crampons, which was a very different experience for everyone. Just after setting off back to the hut, one person [who shall remain nameless] found they had left their gloves up by Castle Rock, so we split the party and four of us went back to find the gloves, which had naturally been left at the top of Castle Rock. I am still owed a beer for retrieving them; just saying.....

Anyway, a beautiful weekend for weather with great company and fun things to do, and hopefully help everyone who came along to happily wander up in the snows this summer and in the future.

Andy Cunningham, for Joe Simmons, Richelle Adams, Ralph Harvey, Rose Colhoun, Barry Walker, Andrew Pask, and Tomas Sobek.

Day Trips from Albertown Sept 20 & 21

Was a weekend of OTMC glamping (glamorous tramping). I call it glamping as we stayed in one of the Richelle's family's bach in Albert town (just outside of Wanaka) and even went out for dinner on Saturday night! But alas, here I am getting ahead of myself.

We didn't know if we were going to even go on this trip considering the metservice had been predicting snow for Saturday, yet other sites said it would be fine. We decided to risk it anyways (we were staying in a bach



after all) and started off from Dunedin at 6 pm on Friday night and stopped for tea at Subway in Alexandra. Funnily enough, the Otago university tramping club was also there having tea. Small world.

Saturday the entire party climbed Isthmus peak (1385 m). We had a rather inauspicious start by following the wrong track down into a small gully... *shakes head* We had a reasonably uneventful climb. A few people weren't feeling very well. I was trialling out my new camera so spent most of my time at the back trying to catch up.

Eventually we reached the top and a bit of snow. Only 7 of our 13 actually made it all the way to the top of the peak. Those of us that did were rewarded with stunning views of Lake Hawea, Lake Wanaka and the neck.

We took our time having lunch, posting to various social media accounts (yay signal!) and I even got to try out my camera and remote control setting for the first time – with great success.

Saturday night we all rewarded ourselves by each having a quick shower (tramping luxury!), going out for tea to the kiwi classic, Speights Ale House, and then returning to the bach to watch the election results and fall asleep in *real* beds.

Sunday morning, everyone decided to do their own thing. The four of us who had been sleeping in the sheep shed (Richard, Lucy, Rebecca & Dylan) decided to tackle Roy's peak (1578 m) – one of the more popular day walks from Wanaka. Most of the rest of the party did a strenuous 2 km hike into Wanaka to the cafes, a bit of biking, or a walk along the river.

On our way up to Roy's Peak, we picked up 2 British tourists (easily identifiable in their NZ branded polar fleeces). They hung with us the whole way (as all of us were passed by a dozen or so very keen runners) and admitted when we got to the bottom that they probably would have turned back if we hadn't been there. Considering it was the highest mountain they had ever climbed, they did very well!

Lunch at the top of Roy's peak was rather breezy (however due to the close range to Wanaka we were all happily able to post to our various social media accounts from the top), and it was too icy and treacherous for us to repeat our awesome group jumping photo from the day before. Instead we picked a less precarious spot a bit further down and even included our new British friends in the photo.

Then it was time to head back to the bach to tidy up before our drive back home. All in all, an excellent weekend with amazing weather (the snow waited until we were back home to Dunedin to arrive!).

For future recommendations, Isthmus peak and Roy's peak are very similar track and time-wise (5-6 hours return). I personally preferred Isthmus with fewer people and more interesting scenery. Dylan liked Roy's peak better because he enjoyed seeing the track below from the top. But apart from that they are very similar tracks and both would be recommended on a fine day for anyone of moderate fitness. In summer, we think it would be hellish to climb on a hot day as there is no water or shade.

A big thanks to Richelle as trip leader, and especially for lending out her family's tidy and perfectly outfitted bach for our glamorous tramping weekend!

Happy tramping! Rebecca Van Amber on behalf of Dylan, Richelle, Lucy, Richard, Gene, Jacqui, Raewyn, Paul, Tina, and Ruth

Hare Hill to Hodson Hill. 6 Jul 2014. Leader Gordon Tocher.

I was keen to go on this walk as it gave the opportunity to explore otherwise inaccessible parts near to where I live. Gordon too had gone to the trouble of contacting no fewer than 9 landowners to make this outing legal; not something I was ever likely to do! The weather had discouraged anyone else from joining us* but as we looked back from the first climb to behold the Harbour bathed in sun we knew we had made the right decision to brave the outdoors. Well, alright, there was a rainbow over it all but in the finish it hardly rained at all.

The trip was basically up one valley from Deborah Bay then along to top to Hodson Hill, which is one of the bumps in the Hayward Point Road, and down another valley to Pulling Point or as near as makes no difference.

We started up the fine valley from Deborah Bay with its clear stream that had once been used to water sailing vessels. We crossed this and, climbing the ridge to the right, enjoyed views of the large wooded basin around which the railway from Port gains height before taking on the Mihiwaka tunnel. There were a lot of fences and Gordon displayed considerable facility in nipping over them despite his Oringi Jacket (At least his “darn” shorts would have stayed dry had the weather packed in.) We made the top road and walked along it towards Hayward Point. Here we photographed some large macrocarpa that are festooned with native ferns and other hangers-on. These trees I know are well watered by dew from the low clouds that frequently bedevil these hills.

From the ridge road we made an excursion to Hare Hill to get the full view up and down the coast. Here also is the remains of an old wind generator, clearly home-made, that may have been left from an experimental site run by the physics department.

We left the road finally on the flanks of Hodson Hill and descended to a shoulder between it and a fine rocky outlier. Here a steep descent to the right and through a bare spinney of fuschia trees led us into a fine secluded valley, farmed but well populated by large native remnants, old totaras and broadleafs.**

Back at the harbour road the original plan was to have picked up a car left here by car swap. It was shank's for us then but that was ok - a new experience to take a section of the Aramoana road at walking pace.

Thanks for organising the trip, Gordon, and keep them coming.

* Turned out later that someone else did front but went home thinking it was off.

** Or should that be broadleaves?

Rob Seeley

Ben Rudd's Property Maintenance – 7 September – was Jane C's trip

Eighteen of us turned out to work on the property you, dear club members, are freehold owners of. We enjoyed sunny, still conditions, entirely concentrating on the land above the firebreak, where broom and the occasional gorse is encroaching from your neighbour's land. These plants are acting as a great native nursery in your land below the firebreak, so that the majority of your property is progressing to beautiful native shrub and trees. But, above the firebreak, they threaten the natural order of the Otago grassland vista.

Apart from on the firebreak and the old skid-site itself, the worst broom we encountered was near the boundary where a lot of woody and other inter-tussock native species are clear proof that it has never been aerially sprayed. The enthusiastic team concentrated on immediate threats to your property and did an amazing job despite the very dry ground making it hard to pull out even small broom. We must confess we strayed a bit onto the reserve (DCC-managed land). Your own land was not so bad, having been sprayed from the air, and it is fairly healthy tussock and flax (but few native plants in among them). Broom on your land will be easier to control but it does need some attention - the sooner the better. We talked about coming up more regularly in future.

It was a very sociable day, with people close enough to have conversations while we worked. The idea is to make the land you own stand out as a jewel in the crown of Flagstaff's scenic reserve.

So, what a great day for the OTMC! We had 18 people on the go for 4 hours, plus 15 of these for another 3 hours, when we had had enough and stopped for a beer at about 3.30. Tracy's home-baked cakes ended up as an impromptu thank-you to the exhausted Ben Rudd's work team. The Ben Rudd's Trust, charged with managing your land on your behalf, extends a heart-felt thanks to the dedicated, caring workers:

Richard Pettinger for Peter Loeber, Rodger Clarkson, David Barnes, Christine and Steve Hopkins, Paul Cunliffe, Tracy Pettinger, Rosa Pettinger (it was Father's Day), Tina Stewart, Kathy Woodrow, Derek Mycock, Sam Patrick, Jim Sime, Chris Pearson, Gaye Davies, Ralph Harvey, Peter Mason. Special thanks to Derek and Steve/Christine for volunteering your 4WDs.



Triplist

8-9 November
Dumb Bell Lake (M)
Gordon Tocher (477 8944)

Head towards Lake Ohau, park the van and head up Freehold Creek to the tussock basins to the south of the ski field. Options abound for a weekend trip, either camping in the basins or head down to Dumb Bell Lake. Dumb Bell Lake is a sub-alpine lake nestled in a tussock and scree basin at 1557m. The plan is to follow easy tracks up Freehold Creek and follow a lightly marked route to the lake.

22-23 November
Eyre Mountains (All)
Wayne Hodgkinson (473 0950)

A number of trips are available from the Mossburn / Five Rivers end of the Eyre Mountains, including some hut-bagging options. We will most likely drop people off on the Friday night at the required start points, or spend Friday night camped at Irthing Picnic Area.

M/F: Starting from the Cromel end (via Selby Road) we can follow the track up the Cromel valley past Cromel Base Hut (6 bunk), over a saddle and on to Cromel Branch Hut (4 bunk). Next stop will be Irthing Hut (2 bunk) or nearby, for the night, a 9 hour day. A possible option is to take in Upper Cromel Hut (another 2 bunk biv) depending on progress. Sunday will involve taking to the open tops past Mount Bee Huts to the van (5 hrs).

M/F: Another M/F option starts from the Acton Road end, (4WD required), following the Islands Hut Route to Islands Hut, a 6 to 7 hour day. Sunday would see us taking to the tops, and dropping through bush to Cromel Branches Hut, then following the track up the Cromel over a saddle and down the Acton back to the vehicle (about 7 ½ hours). Or perhaps the reverse direction.

M/E: For a more relaxing time, start from the Irthing Road end, head up onto the tops for some good views and stay at Mount Bee Huts (8 bunks) after 3 hours or so. A walk can be done along the tops, or down to Cromel Base Hut and back.

Sign the Trip List or contact me if interested, and note on the list your preferred option. Trip List closes 17 November.

Trip cost \$65

6-7 December
End of Year Social Trip – Glentanner Park, Mt Cook (All)
Gene Dyett (455 7465) TBA

More details later

13-14 December
Emily Pass-Harris Saddle, Rockburn-Lake Sylvan (All)
Wayne Hodgkinson (473 0950) \$65

More details later

Membership

Total membership so far is **179**. Its been a very busy couple of months for membership, with chasing up overdue subs.

Members joined

Nas Khan, Alex Tups (returning member), Teck Lun Soon

Resigning members

Phillip Jenkins (originally joined 1985), Dennis Martin (2 years in club), Marc Doesburg (16 years), Mark Borrie (12 years), Sannah Aitcheson (3 years), Dave Chambers (13 years), Greg Hall (3 years), Andrew Jarvis and Wendy-Anne Miller (7 years), Gavin McArthur (13 years), Allan Perry (14 years), Lee Smith and Julie Gibbs (1 year), Jenny Lowe (14 years).

I am still waiting to hear from 2 other members about their membership status. Anyone know where the following people are as they have not replied to any of my correspondence?

Bruce Bernasconi
Ruth Pankhurst

DAYTRIPS

2 November

A different Route to Sutton Lake (M)
Lucy Jones 471 9228

9 November

Cycling with walking option
Chris Pearson 455 4673 \$TBA

16 November

Lizard Land (M)
Graeme Loh 487 6125 \$15

23 November

Circumnavigation Swampy (M)
Jan Burch 455 4559 \$6

30 November

Heywards Point, Kaikai Beach, Murdering Beach (E/M)
Jacqui King 471 9545 or 027 329 5765 \$8

This tramp will begin in Aramoana and focus mainly on Heywood Pt and Kaikai Beach, plus aim to get a great view of Murdering Beach from Purehurehu Pt. I'm keen to explore Kaikai Beach, and rediscover a cave that I camped by in 1988. A cave there, now has bunks and a door – I wonder if it's the same cave? Join me to find out. Leaving the clubrooms 9am.

7 December

Timber Gulley Waterfall - Lammerlaws (M)
Alan Thomson 455 7878 \$10

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 list closes.

Thursday Night Programme

6th November: Gene has unearthed a vintage documentary on Fiordland. It was made in the 1980s and retraces the early Maori greenstone routes over Fiordland and the now Milford Track and also looks at Fiordland in general. The trampers are all wearing the old-style gear: woollen jerseys, the old faithful bushshirt, aluminium frame packs, and short shorts. This is also a good chance to see what the track looked like before DOC and the government upgraded it. It is also relevant to the club's history in view of the OTMC freedom walk over the Milford 50 years ago next year.

3th November: BYO - Bring all your photos from Labour Weekend - especially the cyclists.

20th November: Touring around Bhutan. We all enjoyed intrepid OTMC member Philip Sommerville's trekking in Bhutan presentation. And there's more! He and his wife, Shona, also did some more leisurely travelling in this fascinating country and Philip will show us more of the sights it has to offer.

27th November: Kayaking in the Polar Regions. Michelle Grant grew up in Dunedin and has spent the last 10 years working in the outdoors in places ranging from Outward Bound NZ to running camps in Malaysia. She has worked the last two seasons on an expedition cruise ship exploring the Arctic and Antarctica as a guide on land and in sea kayaks. Michelle will give a slide presentation on the wildlife, environment and kayaking in these amazing polar regions.

4th December: OTMC Photo Competition - Alan Cox will announce and show the winners for each category of our photo competition.

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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