

**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.



Rebecca Van Amber

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

Tramping's not what it used to be, eh?

Well, yes, we seem to be surrounded by an ever-increasing plethora of rules and best practice guidelines, instant melodrama from the media when someone is lost or a rescue takes place, and the massive, rapid growth in the technology people interested in the outdoors use to connect with each other and arrange to go away. New must-have equipment is dangled in front of us, tempting us by the promise that product 'x' is 200 grams lighter than its predecessor, yet tougher, and – crucially – it is in this year's colours. Drove of people in brightly-coloured parkas snake their way along the Milford or Routeburn each day in season.....

I guess a lot has changed.

Then I head to the hills with my dog, Meg, and I see the dew on manuka, the ferns and flowers, I smell the wonderful clean air, I'm refreshed by a sharp shower. I feel the scree slither under my feet, watch the sun arc across the sky, feel the wind on my face, hear the lark calling, invisible above. I feel that gentle tiredness from a long day's tramping, the pleasure from the hiss of the stove and cup of tea that follows, the easy enjoyment found from reminiscing over a good day out; the promise of more wonderful days to come.

There's no escaping that things do change; but maybe it's best not to dwell too long in that place?

Andrew Cunningham

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

We have had a good start on the Summer Trip Programme (touch wood). Numbers on trips recently have been good, with vans being required more often than not.

It is time, however, for a gentle reminder to pay your trip fee by the **Thursday before the trip leaves**. This is so easy to do now with internet banking that there is no need to meet our often busy Treasurer on a Thursday night.

Our account is with the ASB – account no. **12-3150-0311684-00**, and remember to include your **name** and reason for payment (eg **what trip**). This has also been in previous bulletins.

If you are unwell, or have other good reasons for not being able to go on the trip, please write a note to the committee (or email) with a reason and request for a refund. Your committee are generally a bunch of helpful and friendly people who are keen for people to get out tramping, and **tend to oblige** with such requests. The only likely reason to be declined would be if there is an issue with too many trips losing money (we plan to break even over the year). This saves our hard working Trip Leaders and / or Treasurer having to chase up people who really should know better. You will hopefully notice an extra column on the new Trip Lists (from Emily Pass onwards) to place a tick when paid as a gentle reminder.

Non members, of course, are required to pay when signing the Trip List. Don't forget, even with the above, to make a note of the trips that interest you, and get your name down or contact the Trip Leader.

With **Bushcraft** coming up next year, we are keen to hear from members who are happy to contribute in any way. The course will follow the same outline as previous ones, with dates shown on the Trip Card. Tasks involved include advertising, publicity, helping with Tuesday evening talks (either talking or as a model???), Navigation / Map & Compass Exercise, River Crossing, or the Silverpeaks weekend. Many hands make the work light and fun for everybody involved, and you all have skills and experiences which will help others. Remember your own Bushcraft Course? There is a list at the Clubrooms.

Trip Reports

Staircase Hut

Looking for an overnighter that's close to home and isn't the Rock and Pillars or the Silver Peaks? Look no further than Staircase Hut in the Waianakarua Scenic Reserve. Eric Lord and I checked it out in August.

The track starts at a sign indicating the reserve, about 6km up Mt Misery Road from State Highway 1. It loses 300m as it drops through kanuka forest to the Middle Branch of the Waianakarua River. From there, we boulder hopped and scrambled around ledges upstream for about 20 minutes, until we reached a totara hanging out over the river, festooned with



markers. After a lunch break by the river, we tackled the ascent. Initially, it is a slippery grunt - think the climb behind Possum Hut, but with fewer trees to grab. After quarter of an hour or so, the grade eased a bit, and eventually it settled down to an upward meander along the ridge crest. One section had more lancewoods per hectare (under the kanuka canopy) than I've ever seen.

Pt 473 metres revealed a bit of a view of where we were heading, while Pt 499m had a more expansive view but was followed by a sharp loss of hard-won height. The track is largely lightly but adequately marked and there were only a few places where we had to search around for the track. It seems that the answer is if in doubt, go left.

Eventually we burst out into tussock, and were rewarded with a fine view of a snow-clad Rock and Pillar Range. It seemed to augur well for the club snowcraft

course that day. Half an hour further on, we reached the hut. Our prime source of information on the route was a Wilderness magazine piece by an OUTC member, and I was a little concerned that what the author, who does some pretty serious trips, could do in 5 hours might take me a lot longer. So we were pleased to be there exactly five hours from the car.

The hut has six bunks, but they are three-tier bunks, so it's not very big. There's tank water and a fireplace, and the usual paraphernalia often seen in hunters' huts – everything including the kitchen sink. Fortunately, it also included a fairly ancient gas cooker, which came in handy when mine chose this evening to turn up its toes. We were joined at dusk by a hunter who's an ecologist by profession, and spent a convivial evening.

What can I write about the Sunday, when we simply retraced our steps? Not much. The sunrise peaking through the kanuka was nice. The return journey was a little quicker. The slither down the last bit to the river did, on occasions, involve more a*** than class and the slog up the other side was, well, a slog.

All in all, a nice trip which could be a good Plan B for a small group when a trip to the mountains falls through. It could be done in almost all weathers, provided the river wasn't up. (Check <http://water.org.govt.nz/WaterInfo/Catchment.aspx?r=NorthOtago>). The hut isn't on the topo map, but is on the Walking Access Commission's excellent maps (www.wams.govt.nz). The hut belongs to the East Otago branch of NZ Deerstakers' Assn. Contact Pat Chave, 027 4739158, to see if it's available.

David Barnes

PORT PERAMBULATIONS - 27th July 2014

This trip had been arranged to allow for winter weather – 3 separate walks that could be reduced to just one if the hail and snow caused difficulties.

In the event, the day dawned quite warm and the sun even trickled through. Four of us met at the clubrooms and departed on time. First stop : St Leonards.

St Leonards had a few houses in the 1860s but the main settlement came once the railway was in service in 1873. The history of the area reflects what we were to hear time and time again during our Port Perambulations – those who have, get more! Earliest settlers bought large chunks of land and later subdivided when the railway arrived!

Two of the main settlers were Stevenson and Cook, who formed an engineering/ship repair/dredge building partnership. We saw some fine old houses – quite a few of which were built by Stevenson for his sons and daughters! Even the gardener's cottage looked like a small mansion! On our walk we managed to get some fine views of the harbour and find some hidden wee paths. And we walked all the way up the shortest street in Dunedin (all 10 metres of it!).

But by now the weather was turning. I kept putting on my raincoat, only to take it off 5 minutes later.

Back to the cars and on to Port Chalmers itself. Parking by the Iona church, with a wee history lesson there, we first went uphill to the site of the old school – the technical rooms were so well equipped that even Portobello and Mai used to ferry their pupils there! Up to the site of the railway station (here we got the story of Scott of the Antarctic) (and we were to get different parts of that story on our wanderings), round to the old cemetery and then up and up and up, finally reaching the Scott memorial. A quick read of the many plaques there, a downhill to the cemetery (grave of the first person to die on Scott's first Antarctic trip – he fell off a yardarm whilst the ship was in port) and on down to the shoreline of Careys Bay. More history whilst heading back to the car.

Raining now, we had a bite to eat in a warm cafe before setting out for Sawyers Bay.

The third section of our day began near the roundabout in this township. Obviously it had been the industrial heart of the area at one stage – sawmills, tanneries, brickworks, meat works, schools both private and public – an interesting area all round. Then uphill, downhill and round to Blanket Bay and so across to Roseneath. More old settlement here – and many of the present residents are third or fourth generation in the area. And a few more early settlers who qualified to be described as “those who have get more”!

Raining quite heavily now we returned to the car – soaked in history and almost soaked in rain, but overall with a feeling of a good day out!

My thanks to my tolerant and cheerful companions: Lucy Jones, Geoff Smith and Jacqui King.

Jane Cloete

Hope Arm, Manapouri 6/7 September 2014

On Friday evening, our group of 9 drove to Manapouri to stay at the Colhoun family crib. Saturday dawned with a



typical misty Manapouri morning which made for a slightly more adventurous river crossing on the water taxi at Pearl Harbour. The mist soon cleared as we walked through the forest towards Back Valley. As we got further along the valley the track turned from firm forest floor to swampy mud, requiring a bit of sidestepping or ploughing on through depending on how much you were bothered

by muddy boots.

Back Valley hut proved a perfect spot for lunch in the sun, except for the trip leader who had it in mind that Lake Rakatu was going to be an even better spot. Following the tannin stained Stinking Creek (thankfully didn't live up to its name), we came to the very small, sunless and windy beach at the head of Lake Rakatu. We had a good view of Mt Titiroa though and began plotting a route for the summer trip to the top.

Returning to Back Valley hut, we picked up our packs again and set off for Hope Arm hut, our destination for the night. Lake Manapouri was beautifully tranquil and calm in the early evening, with Fiordland's population of sandflies out in force. After dinner, we made a campfire on the beach and roasted marshmallows. We were joined by some boaties/hunters who were enjoying a few drinks – it was a rather full hut that night!

Sunday morning was again very misty as we set off along the Hope Arm track back to Pearl Harbour. En route we dropped our packs and climbed up to the viewpoint on the Circle Track. Although there was still some mist around, we could see back down to Back Valley hut and as we headed back down the mist cleared and the view back to Manapouri township was spectacular.

Written by Rose Colhoun for Greg Maynard, Alan Thomson, Ruth Harvie, Teck Lun Soon, Barry Walker, Joe Skinner, Katie Gibb, Jon McCallum.

Gordon's Takitimu Trip (cont from pg 8)

The trip will be to the southern end of the Takitimu, with access from the Dipton region. We can get fairly close to the target area by vehicle. The main objective is to get to the top of Spence Peak 1634m which is a readily climbed "trampers peak". The route to Spence Peak is either from the East by travel up the Aparima River Valley and Spence Burn, or from the West via the Windy and Redcliff Creeks. Those wishing a less strenuous trip can explore the valleys in the area.

Spence Peak is about 800 vertical metres above the valley floor the first third of the climb is through forest, then tussock/ scree. There are a number of small Huts in the area but most will be occupied at this time of year, so we will need to carry tents.

If you want to go please provide contact details for the holiday period as that is when the planning will take place.

Leader: Gordon Tocher 477 8944 or (021) 677 818

TriplisT

6-7 December
End of Year Social—Glentanner Park Mt Cook (All)
Gene Dyett (455 7465)

Based at Glentanner Park, a series of day walks to the Mt Cook area. Plenty of choice, with trips to Mueller Hut, Sealy Tarns, Hooker Valley, Tasman Valley, or just stay close to Glentanner. Gene has all the details.

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

A number of options are available from a base in the Routeburn Shelter car park (Wakatipu end). After driving to Lake Sylvan campsite for Friday night

M/F: A trip I have been interested in for some time. Emily Pass is that prominent dip next to Emily Peak that lots of us have seen from Lake McKenzie Hut. Starting on the Routeburn Track, we will turn off to the left at the Emily Creek bridge, making our way up the creekbeds, steep scree, snowgrass, and gut onto Emily Pass (1607m) to the northwest of Emily Peak, followed by a descent (most likely on snow) towards Lake McKenzie with a camp nearby for Saturday night (about 8 hours). An early start on Sunday will see us cruising past McKenzie Hut, onto the Routeburn Track, up and over Harris Saddle and back to the vehicles by 4pm after 9 hours or so. Ice axe and crampon skills required. This might be weather dependant, with a possible alternative trip to Lake Wilson, or Rockburn.

Medium, to Easy: A trip can also be done via Lake Sylvan, past what used to be Rockburn Hut with a tree on it (now a new Shelter I believe) and into Theatre Flat for a camp (about 7 hours). The return could be over Sugarloaf Pass (1154m) and back to the vehicle (about 5 ½ hours).

Sign the Trip List or contact me if interested, and note on the list your preferred option. Trip List closes 4 December.

10-11 January
Takitimu Area (possible 3 Days)
Gordon Tocker (472 7440)

Given the time of year this could easily be three days or longer

(cont. pg 7)

24-25 January
Jackson's Bay-Stafford Bay (M)
Ruth Harvey (481 1455)

The aim is to do a round trip. On the first day we plan on taking the standard route into the recently refurbished Stafford Bay hut. On Sunday we will need an early start if the sea is calm. The aim is to take the coastal route from Stafford Bay to Smoothwater bay. Low tide is at 0930 and this needs to be done within 2 hours of low tide. So we would start early. The DoC website warns that there are numerous rocky and slippery sections, so it should only be attempted by experienced parties.

The amount of walking on each day is only about 4 hours each. Friday night we would camp at Makarora. There would be time to do some of the short walks off the Haast highway or certainly the walk at Hannah's clearing. Please be aware this is quite a distance driving particularly on the Sunday. However, we should be back at the Jackson Bay pie cart by lunchtime.

There is also a little bit of stuff to explore in Jackson's Bay itself which was once one of NZ isolated settlements. We can view the pier which was built too late to be of any use.

Cost \$75

Waitangi Weekend, 6-8 February
South Huxley – Temple (3 Passes in 3 Days) (All)
Wayne Hodgkinson Ph.473 0950

A number of options are available from the Hopkins Valley. Some might involve a night time walk into Monument Hut for Friday night.

M/F: Another trip I have been interested in for some time. Starting in the Huxley Valley, continuing past Forks Huts, and head up the South Branch to camp near a 2 bunk bivvy after 7 hours or so. Saturday heading steeply up and over V-Notch Pass (1884m), traversing the head of the Ahuriri Valley and over another Saddle into the South Temple for a relaxing camp. There is some steep ground to cover, and likely snow on the tops. Monday would see an option of heading up and over Gunsight Pass (Pass no.3) and down the North Temple to the vehicles, or a more cruisey option of just heading down the South Temple.

Another 'Moderate' graded trip could take a group up to Broderick Hut for Saturday night, with a Sunday day trip to Broderick Pass.

Other, including shorter trips can be done in the Huxley, Hopkins, or Temple Valleys.

Sign the Trip List or contact me if interested, and note on the list your preferred option. Trip List closes 29 January.

DAYTRIPS

7 December

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

This walk starts at the locked gate on the Eldorado track overlooking Lake Mahinerangi where we have been granted access to walk through private property to a beautiful waterfall. Those with sharp eyesight may see Jewelled Gecko's on the way. And we found out in October 2011 that the waterfall is well guarded by an aggressive pair of NZ Native falcons, so if you want to take a close up photo of the waterfall it's recommended that you wear a helmet. There are old gold mine workings in the area as well so care will be needed to avoid tripping over gold nuggets or falling down overgrown mine shafts. It's about an hours drive to the locked gate and two to three hours to do the walk so we should be back in Dunedin by mid afternoon, unless we decide to do an extra bit of exploring.

14 December

Kakanui Hill (M)
Rod Seeley 472 7646 \$15

21 December

Green Ridge-Jubilee Hut-Yellow Ridge (F)
Tomas Sobek 487 7896 \$8

Leaving clubrooms at 9am sharp, prepare yourself for a good stretch - Green Ridge, Devils Staircase, lunch at Jubilee Hut, ABC cave, Yellow Ridge, and final section along the Mountain Road back to cars. This might take about 9 hours walking time so we are likely to be back in Dunedin around 8pm. Bringing a torch is a good idea, just in case. Don't forget your fit boots ;)

11 January

Nardoo Tussock Reserve (M)
Jane Cloete 467 2328 \$10

NOTE departure time of 8.30am from the clubrooms. Grade medium. 5-6 hours walking.

THE FIRST DAY TRAMP for 2015! We'll carpool to the north-west side of Lake Mahinerangi and then start climbing towards the tops. There are some amazing rocks and tarns there. And some extraordinary alpine flowers including sundews and other insectivores.

tivorous plants! The return trip might be back the way we came up or possibly going via a patch of native forest (a more difficult route).

18 January

Karetai Rd-Boulder Beach-Soldiers' Monument (E)

Jill MacAliece 454 4211 \$5

We will drive over to Tomahawk Lagoon and leave cars there ,walk over the hill to Smaills Beach, passing the concrete bunkers on the way, a wee stroll along the beach and then we will plod up Karetai Road, a short break at the top to catch our breath and take photos of the stunning coastal views. We then turn inland for a short time, then follow the road back to the coast dropping down above Boulder Beach. Lunch will be a nice sheltered spot by the trees before ascending Buskins Track up to Highcliff Road. We then walk back towards Dunedin and the Soldiers Monument, we now have the Otago Peninsula spread below us. A quick visit to the Soldiers Monument then we continue down the track above Tomahawk Lagoon and back to the cars. Walk will be about 5 – 6 hours.

25 January

Mihiwaka Bush Bash (M)

Gordon Tocher 477 8944 \$5

We assemble at the clubrooms at 9am, bring water as there is none on the route.

Beginning by dipping toes in Otago Harbour we then ascend a 140 year old donkey track and cross the main trunk railway line. A short detour will allow us to peer into a really long, really black tunnel. The route is part bush track with a few hundred metres of bushbashing in the middle to access Blueskin Road.

Stage two of the trip is a rough bush track up the side of Mihiwaka (561m) past a local rock climbing area. The track is steep in places with numerous handholds. We should be able to have lunch on the summit. If we are really keen there is some potential to take a slightly different route back down from Blueskin Road. Given the thick nature of some of the bush eye protection is recommended. The view from Mihiwaka should be extensive as only Mt Cargill is higher in the locality.

Approximate time 6 hours including driving. Carpool cost \$5.

Leader: Gordon Tocher 477 8944 or 021 677 818 - If you live in the Port Chalmers area it may make sense to travel direct to the start point without going to the clubrooms first. Phone for instructions or if you have any questions.



Thursday Night Programme

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

11th December: Annual Club BBQ at Woodhaugh Gardens. These gardens have excellent BBQ facilities and provide an ideal setting. Be there for a 6 o'clock evening start.

18th December: If the previous Thursday is too wet for the BBQ, we will hold it on this evening - same time, same place. Otherwise, no club night. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

15th January: Informal get-together - swap your festive season yarns over a cuppa and a biscuit

22nd January: Wayne Hodgkinson: A non-tramping trip, or a non-historian's and non-traveller's pocket history of a mind boggling part of the world. Everything from Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early Greeks, Romans, the Ottomans, Ataturk etc,etc.

29th January: Derek Mycock An Americian adventure
Hawaii, Pearl Harbour, California, Hollywood and the Grand Canyon

Membership

Finally all the subs have come in a month earlier than last year, thank you all.

Final membership count is now **181** This subs round 22 people resigned which is normal. The most common reasons for resigning are not active any more (17), moved away (2), injured (2) and relationship break-up (1).

Richard

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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