

OTMC BULLETIN

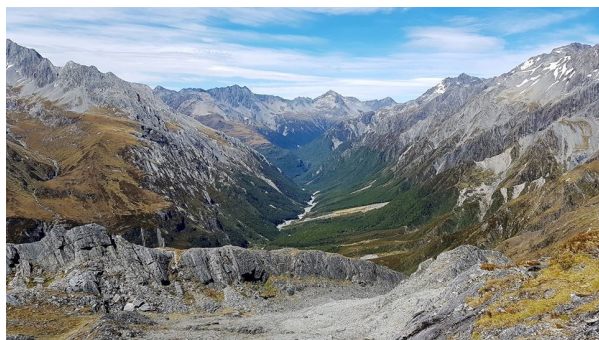


Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

779 March 2017



Trisha admiring the view near Broderick Pass, Ruataniwha Conservation Park : Nas Shannon



Looking down the North Huxley Valley : Nas Shannon

March Trips & Events

Bush Craft River Crossing Day
and Sliverpeaks Weekend
Maungatua (from Woodside)
Urban Adventure (Town Belt)
Bull Creek to Akatore Estuary
East Matukituki (Anivers Wkend)
Hermit's Cave
Caples/Greenstone/Fraser Col
Taieri Millenium Track

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1120, Dunedin

www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/groups/otmcnz otmc@ihug.co.nz

Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin

Doors open 7:30 for 8pm start, all welcome

Immediate Past President : Alan Thomson

I guess that I began tramping in the 1960's but didn't realise it at the time because, as far as I was concerned, I was just wandering around the 'knobbies" (across the railway bridge in Alexandra) with a small pack on my back and my dad's old .22 rifle, popping off rabbits.

After that I became more interested in playing music, firstly in the Alexandra Brass Band and then as an aspiring rock and roll guitarist seeking to make fame and fortune. While I spent some 30 years playing in bands ranging from Rock and Roll in Oamaru, Cabaret in Wellington, and then Blue Grass and Rock n' Roll again in Dunedin, and while I didn't make fame or fortune, the money earned was very helpful along with the enjoyable challenge of bringing up three children, now all married. We now have three grandsons, also an enjoyable challenge.

Why did I join the OTMC? I had read that the Milford Track was reputed to be the greatest walk in the world and as it's only half a day's drive from Dunedin I thought that it was something a person must do, but what did I know about tramping? I took the opportunity of doing the OTMC Bushcraft course in February 1992 followed by walking the Milford Track with the Milton Rotary Tramping Club in January 1993. I joined the OTMC in 1993 and what a lot of fun and adventure it has been.

Some of the memorable trips with the OTMC have been Ball Pass in Mount Cook National Park, a trip into George Sound, the Dusky Track, the Hump Range, a couple of years before the (new) Hump Track was opened, Kayaking on Lake Manapouri, Wolfie's mid-winter social quiz nights (imagine wandering around Key Summit at 1am – it was a full moon), and Ian Sime's mid-week tramps where we headed off on a Monday morning and returned on a Friday. Being self-employed I was able to come to an arrangement with the boss where I could take the occasional week off to go on these trips.

During this time I learned about being a party leader as well as a trip leader. I have also learned about being on a committee (1996), about being a President (1998 to 2003), about being an Immediate Past President, and being on the Leaning Lodge Trust from 2007? (little did I know what I was getting into), about being on the Ben Rudd Management Trust (2009, looking after gorse and broom), and about being back on the committee again (2013 to ??) and now co-ordinator for the OTMC Trapping Team.

What I enjoy most about being in the OTMC and tramping in general is the friendly and positive 'can do' people I meet. Cheers, Alan.

OTMC Bank Account

The OTMC bank account with ASB is ... **12-3150-0311684-00**

Please include your name and the reason for the payment when using internet banking (which is the preferred option). Non-members must pay for trips when signing the trip list, members should pay before departure.

Vehicle suppliers/drivers will normally not pay the trip fee and will be reimbursed fuel costs later (check with the trip leader or Treasurer Rodger if in doubt).

Gear Hire

OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire. Hire charge \$5 for up to a week, then \$5 per week. See or phone Gene (455 7465) or Sam (0272 864 836).

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Cookers & Billies
- Packs
- Tents/Flys
- Personal Locator Beacons
- Climbing Helmets
- Avalanche Probes and Transceivers

Your Committee

President : Richard Forbes	453 1327	forbespotter@hotmail.com
Vice President : Antony Pettinger (and Website, Bushcraft, Centenary)	473 7924	apett@es.co.nz
Secretary : Leonie Loeber	477 4895	loeber@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer : Rodger Clarkson	473 6053	rodger.clarkson@xtra.co.nz
Chief Guide : Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950	wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz
Membership Secretary : Debbie Pettinger	473 7924	apett@es.co.nz
Bulletin Editor/Publisher : Barry Walker	477 5018	bmw@xtra.co.nz
Daytrip Convener : Sharon Rutherford	027 229 1961	sharen.french@gmail.com
Social Conveners : Tony Timperley and Gene Dyett	473 7257	tonytimps@xtra.co.nz
	455 7465	m.gdyett@xtra.co.nz
Clubrooms Maintenance : Sam Patrick	0272 864 836	sammpat@hotmail.com
Gear Hire : Sam Patrick and Gene Dyett		
Club Room Hire & Cleaning : Gene Dyett	455 7465	m.gdyett@xtra.co.nz
Librarian : Helen Jones	477 5018	hlnmaryjo@hotmail.com
Conservation; Advocacy; and Recreation : Chris Pearson	455 4673	cpearson86@aol.com
Ben Rudd property : Sam Patrick	0272 864 836	sammpat@hotmail.com
Leaning Lodge (Immediate Past President Daytrip mentor) : Alan Thomson	455 7878	thomson@ihug.co.nz

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

The club membership currently stands at 203, we welcome our new member Gloria Qi. Debbie Pettinger, Membership



A "Wow" photo by Wayne Hodgkinson from his Annette Plateau trip 18-19 Feb (see page 8)

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

Sea to Summit Bush Bash

15th January 2017

As it was a Sunday morning, a group of 12 met up outside the club rooms at the extremely civilised hour of 9 am. This trip was so inclusive that it an appeal to several generations from six years of age and upwards, and rumoured to attract people from as far as the northern extremities of the province.

After a short drive to the carpark known as "The Green" at Deborah Bay, the trip started by walking up Lewis Street. We met up with Ruth, who had kindly allowed the club to run the trip through some of her own land. Once the resident dog was satisfied we had joined in the chase the ball game for long enough and the sheep had been fed, it was onwards and upwards to the 'donkey track'. This track was used to cart goods up during the construction of the railway and tunnel some 140 years ago. We were given a short account of the history of the area and where we were headed. Eeyore and his friends had long gone so there was to be no hooved assistance with our ascent. In fact our leader told us that the donkey track was too gentle a gradient and took us on a more vertical ascent where we could study up close bush lawyer, ongaonga and gorse along with the more appealing local bush. By my past bush bashing escapades, this was pretty straightforward, and easy to negotiate. We visited the site of the old railway tunnel brick works and again were told a bit about its history.

It was then over the railway track, next to the mouth of the tunnel and back into the bush following the stream for part of the way, managing to avoid wet feet. We came out of the bush and crossed over the Blueskin Road heading for the rock below our intended destination. Two of the group stayed at this point to admire the harbour views, while the rest of us continued onto the 561 metre trig point on Mihiwaka's summit, which is east of Mt Kettle. From this vantage point we could see great views over to the harbour mouth, peninsula and surrounding hills, as the fine weather was still holding out.

We returned pretty much the way we came, apart from following an easy track once we crossed the railway back to the cars. A few spits of rain right at the end didn't really do anything to spoil an enjoyable well organised day out in the local hills.

Jim Western for Gordon Tocher, Ruth Goldsmith, Helen Reid, Carlo November, Takeru November, Christine Hopkins, Steve Hopkins, Michaela Day, Tony Timperley, Russell Knowles and Debbie Guthrie.

Broderick Pass : 4-6th February 2017

We all set off from the clubrooms with drivers Mike, Ralph and Richard, stopping at Oamaru for a bite to eat.

After a quick catch up at the gate end we decided to continue as far as we could along the 4 wheel drive track, the plan was to drive the whole way to Monument hut but this was not to be.

After a short drive we were in a deep patch of water, in fact Mike thought we had made a wrong turn and were actually in the river however on inspection found we were still on the track but the water, up to the door of his high vehicle was flowing like a river over the track. Mike carefully backed up turned around and parked up on some high ground. We then started our walk toward Monument hut, the water was up over our knees already but after 200m we were back on semi dry land. No shuttle service on this trip, though Richard did get a bit further up the track.



Eve celebrates at Broderick Pass - Richard Forbes

We arrived at Monument hut around 1.30am and set up our tents on the flats below the hut.

Saturday dawned a light drizzle but mostly windy, we set off up the Hopkins Valley then over the wire bridge to the Huxley River, the walk up the valley was challenging with severe head wind and the river higher than usual so we used the track in some parts. We arrived at Huxley forks hut around 11.30 and enjoyed a leisurely lunch in the sun. Then on up the North Branch of the Huxley River, the river was high but still able to boulder hop along the river for most though it was slow going and several big slips meant we had to climb up and over the slips on the track.



Mt Mackenzie tarn with Ice - Richard Forbes

We arrived at Broderick Hut about 4.30pm, most feeling exhausted due to the wind, terrain and limited sleep. The plan was to continue on toward the pass and camp on the terraces part way up toward the pass however after a quick chat most chose to stay at Broderick Hut for the night. Phillip and I decided to continue on and find a campsite closer to the pass as we were keen to climb up Mt McKenzie the next day. So after dinner we set off again over the creek and toward the pass. We knew there was to be fierce winds that night and I wasn't keen to camp on the terraces so instead we found a large rock in the valley with a small bivie and cleared a nice wee spot for our bed rolls, no room for a tent. The gusty wind came just as Alex predicted at 3am however by then I had already retreated to the bivie for a less comfortable but sheltered night. It was my first time sleeping in a rock bivie.

We were up at 6am to a bright red sunrise and by 7.30am were on our way grinding up

the zig zag track toward Broderick Pass. It took little over 1 ½ hours to get to Broderick Pass for a lovely view both down the Huxley and out over the Landsborough area. We continued up Mt McKenzie, it was a relatively easy climb with large stable scree rock and large patches of packed snow. After a quick refresher on my snow skills we headed up the snow using our ice axes, as we neared the top steeper section Philip kindly cut some steps for me then we sidled across to some rocks and climbed the rocks to around 2000 metres. As we were making our way down we were joined by Alex then Alex and Philip went back up to the top first climbing up the rocks then onto the snowy top. I found a lovely sheltered spot a little below, sat in the sun and watched them get smaller and smaller as they neared the top.

Meanwhile a small group went up to Broderick pass and Richard and Eve ventured down the creek a bit further, others in the group had explored the South Huxley track.

After a bite to eat atop Mt McKenzie Philip, Alex and I slowly made our way back down stopping at Broderick hut again before heading back down the river to Huxley Forks hut where we met up with the rest of the group. We

arrived just after 7pm so had been tramping for nearly 12 hours.

Back at the hut we ate dinner, shared stories of our day then retired for the night.

Monday morning dawned and as expected could see the weather was closing in, some chose to make an early start and headed off back toward Monument hut, by the time I left the wind was horrific, it was a tail wind but it whipped the gravel up on the river bed stinging our bare legs and almost bowled us over on several occasions, further down the valley the wind has died down but the rain was on and off. After a quick lunch at Monument hut we headed down the road for the 2 hour walk to our vehicles. At the point where we left our vehicles the water was still well over the road but in the daylight we found an alternative track to the vehicles so managed to stay reasonably dry.

On the way home we stopped off at Omarama and it was like a different world, a very hot,

still summer's day, a perfect spot to enjoy an ice cream.

Thank you to Richard for arranging this trip, the drivers and Philip for sharing his snow skills. A great weekend was had by all.

Maria Hamelink for Richard, Ralph, Philip, Mike, Morag, Eve, Trisha, Nas, Rodger. Michael, Gail, John, Alex, Rose, Sue and Keith.

Weekend Wander over Ben Rudd 4th February 2017 Sam Patrick

I went to Ben Rudd's property over Waitangi weekend. It is looking good with native bush starting to dominate the vista. The excellent growing season this year, with warmish weather and lots of rain, has ensured all plants, wanted or not, have put on a growth spurt. The firebreak track shows a marked change from broom and gorse on our neighbour's property to native species on our property. The track down to shelter is increasingly shaded by Coprosma, Broadleaf and

Manuka. Unfortunately bush lawyer is also starting to appear. The open areas of the track are host to baby Broom bushes, Himalayan Honeysuckle and the odd Lupin. Maybe the next workday should work on the track to get these before they really get a foothold. Beech trees, Fuchsia, Raspberries and Red Currants around the shelter are attracting birds with 4 tui, 8 bellbirds and a squadron of wax eyes making themselves seen and heard while I was there. There has been talk of planting some Kowhai around the shelter to help this along. The "hut book" continues to gather positive comments from visitors and it seems half of them bring their dog. One entry had four people and seven dogs ! The names in the book although numerous are just an indication as many more people don't sign the book. I know I forgot to! As per usual the walk back down the firebreak track involved greeting about ten people out walking with dogs, bikes and kids. The walk in and out takes only an hour, so there is still plenty of daylight for a wander after work during the

week. A picnic dinner could be a nice option. I thoroughly recommend it. If you feel inclined you could pull out a couple of baby Broom bushes on your way. They are tiny and easily pulled out...unless summer finally arrives and dries the ground to brick.....yeah right.

Green Ridge and Pulpit Rock : 5th February

The day started off brilliantly with what appeared to be the promise of a Dunedin Stunner. Clear blue skies, sunshine...an absolute rare sight this summer!

However, that did not deter 16 enthusiastic people (including 7 newbies) from filling several cars and setting off to the Silver Peaks (less than 30 minutes north of Dunedin) to take on Green Ridge and Pulpit Rock.

Our journey started from the Mountain Road entrance. Here Tomas pointed to the 3 peaks in the distance showing us where our ultimate destination lay ahead.

From there we climbed up through the bush and scrubby manuka. Many parts of the walk were above tree line allowing for us to take advantage of the panoramic views and getting some great photos at the same time.

1km in, the track points the way to Swampy Ridge. (Another great walk to save for another day). Our walk however continued towards the former Green Hut (approx. 1 hr in) and Jubilee Hut.

Green Hut has since been torn down and now reduced to sawn-off posts in the ground. However the clearing provided a great spot to



Taking a break on the way to Pulpit Rock

rest and take in the views of the higher peaks in the distance.

From here in our customary single file formation we continued a short but steep climb. As we neared the summit of Green Hill we were awarded with more gorgeous views in all directions.

From here it was an easier walk to the base of Pulpit Rock, which we eagerly scrambled to the top to take in the 360 degree views that Tomas had earlier promised us.

From the top of Pulpit Rock we were able to see panoramic views of the Taieri, Middlemarch and the coastal areas near Palmerston. Whilst the day was warm, the summit greeted us with a strong cool breeze, strong enough to make our fellow Scots man quickly hold on to his kilt!

We opted to take shelter from the wind amongst the tussock and schist rock just below the summit to eat our lunch and take in the surrounding views.



Pulpit Rock : Michaela Day

Whilst our trip ended at Pulpit Rock, the track continues on to Jubilee Hut (a trip worthy for another time).

As we retraced our steps and made our descent back down the temperature of the day started to become apparent. With the temperature increasing as we continued to descend it was talks of cold beers at the finish that ended up spurring several of us on.

On behalf of the group a big thanks to Tomas for leading the pack and for making it an enjoyable trip. Bring on the next one!

Geraldine Kerr on behalf of Sonia Alexanian, Tony Timperley, Lucy Jones, Michaela Day, Sandy Webb, Gloria Qi, Jill, Carl, Robin Quigg, Alan Hanson, Bill Richardson, Zoe Melrose, Valeska Gose, John Cookson and Tomas Sobek

Moa Flat Cycling : 11th February

I've done this cycle ride before, but the two who came with me hadn't. I did warn them about one particularly long, and particularly steep, hill but I don't think Greg or Chris realised just how long or how steep!

Greg had a car big enough to take all three of us so we piled in, bikes behind us, but I was dismayed to find thick fog at Lawrence. Would the section of the ride along the Clutha river also be foggy? And cold and damp?

We made a prompt start, leaving Raes Junction at 9.15am and – thank goodness – no fog at all. 20+km along SH8 and we arrived at Ettrick. Filled up our water bottles and then it was on to THE HILL to Moa Flat. Greg soared ahead, with Chris and me plodding on slowly. We found a sunny bank for lunch, just before the top, and after food we made rapid progress. The top marked halfway in distance but over 80% of the day's climb. A glorious long run down to Moa Flat (the moa sculpture half way down looks most realistic 'cause it's now peeping out of tall toitoi grass) was followed by an easy 2km across Moa Flat. Just a couple more hills - nothing to what we'd done earlier - and we joined SH90 at Edievale. The last 9km was almost all downhill back to the cars.

The day was completed with an ice cream at Lawrence so we were back in Dunedin by 3.30pm.

My thanks to Greg and Chris for their cheerfulness and patience. Jane Cloete

East of Flagstaff : 12th February

An aptly named trip with a leader with excellent navigation and observation skills.

13 of us met up at Booth road and then set off onwards and upwards on the wide and well-walked Pineapple Track, until Chris decided to just “walk off the track into the bush”. Dutifully we all followed, to find the Old Pineapple track — a very adequate track out of the sun, in the comfort of the bush. A good grunt until we came out in the open to be faced with the ‘new’ Pineapple track. Ugh, out in the hot sun and still going up?

Not so: Chris’s route took us over the “main highway” on to what he called the ‘Short Cut Track’, through the grass to disappear again onto a clear trail through the bush heading towards the Nicols Falls area. Then up a portion of the Nicol’s Creek Loop Track and a turn on to the Pepper Tree Track. About half way along this track, we stopped for a cuppa and a chance to “declutter” the cling grass from those with hairy legs, who foolishly had neglected to wear gaiters. A silly idea, as the cling grass had not ended.



Flagstaff wanderers : Chris Handley

After this refreshment stop, the well-defined track continued its undulating way until we were back on the Pineapple track, albeit higher than at the last crossing. I was right, the puffing had been because we had still climbed, and we had completed a loop to be higher than before.

However this was the highest we were to go today because, after a brief walk down the Old Pineapple Track, we all dutifully followed Chris again to depart into what looked like bush, on the south side. This soon opened

onto the Totara Track. Chris had done it again. A seemingly unmarked entrance to a track that took us past at least two very large Totara trees and several saplings.

In spite of a belated morning tea stop, we began to think of a lunch stop — here, or continue on and “be home for lunch”? A good decision was to have lunch here. After a suitable time we continued on down, meeting up with the Davies Track taking us back via McGoun’s Road to Booth Road and our cars.

The trip was really good. Thank you Chris, and the weather gods for holding off the downpour until the cars were reached.

Alan Hanson for Chris and Charlotte Handley, Geraldine Kerr, Elaine Stevens, Jenni Lynnea and Tom Gibson (visitors from Canada), Lucy Jones, Jeff Smith, Sylvie Leduc, Anne Patterson, Rob McGee and Sandy Webb.

Addendum from Tom and Jenni.

Thanks for being so inclusive and welcoming to travellers from afar who wanted to join for a day hike. We’re a Canadian couple who read that you welcomed guests to join you on your hikes, and we discovered that’s all true!

The hike on Feb 11th was a good introduction to the area, the local native bush forest, and the participants who were enthusiastic and friendly. We appreciated the interaction with others and it was a wonderful chance to connect with some locals who may or may not yet be part of the club. Chris provided leadership, stringing together well known and mystery segments to create a satisfying walk. Not too long or too demanding, but well worth the effort of making this part of our travels. We appreciate the opportunity to join the club, if only temporarily.

Mount Cook Area / Annette Plateau 18-19th February

Some trips are simply begging to be done, and Annette Plateau was one of them. On Saturday morning 18 knobbly kneed trampers (well, maybe not all of them knobbly kneed) emerged from tents and appeared snacking their brekky outside the kitchen area at DOC’s White Horse campsite at Mt Cook.

We'd arrived during Friday in 1 van and 3 cars from all points of the compass.

By 8:30 we were all heading up the steps towards Sealy Tarns, and continuing through the murk to Mueller Hut – 3 enjoying the freedom of day tripping, while 15 lugged up their packs. It was interesting how all those booked in to the hut seemed to be from overseas. We left Alex (no.19) at the saddle waiting for a clearing in the fog before he could launch himself (by paraglider) into it.



Another great photo from Wayne !

A random thing happened at Mueller Hut when it turned out to be both Sharon and Trisha's birthdays - and that they were both born on the same day! After a drawn out lunch admiring the mountain landscape and watching thunderous icefalls off Mt Sefton, we headed off towards the Plateau with the fog cleared and hot sun shining, surrounded by majestic mountains. The route starts briefly level with the hut, before following occasional cairns down a snowy slope and along a rocky ledge. The rock and softening snow alternated all afternoon, providing entertainment for our rapidly tiring bodies as we endeavoured to keep our feet on top. After a steady climb we stopped to set up camp on snow beside rocks near the lower end of the plateau, 3 ½ hrs from Mueller. The vast majority of us were sufficiently worn out to feel a sense of relief. We

stamped down and shovelled platforms in the snow, pitched tents and had dinner on the go in no time. Great views all round, Aoraki standing proud, clear sky, warm, no wind. With light winds and possible light shower forecast, we were confident of a quiet night.

The sound of Peter's voice and Joe's MSR Dragonfly cooker ensured everyone who had been asleep was up well before 7am, to enjoy a colourful sunrise. We brewed up brekky and headed up the plateau, the snow

not much firmer than yesterday. After an hour's plod we summited Mt Annette at 2235m. Again great views all round. Getting a bit monotonous really.

Eventually, we started back down towards camp, with clear skies and monotonous views of ice clad mountains all round. We were soon heading back towards Mueller, retracing our steps from yesterday. Joe managed to discover a secure bum deep hole for one foot only, so secure he couldn't wriggle his way out of it. Rodger rummaged around until he found the right key, and they were soon sliding and clambering over rocks with the rest of us. In no time at all (about 2 hours) we were

back at Mueller Hut. More tedious views of ice bound mountains being reduced by occasional booming avalanches, and lunch. A cool breeze appeared accompanied by dark clouds from the south, as we started back down.



"Out of the mist" at Mueller : Wayne Hodgkinson again !

The threatened change didn't seem to happen, and we were all back at the vehicles in good time.

A great trip with great company in an awesome place. Thanks everyone, especially Peter for driving us home!

Wayne for the birthday duo Sharon Bretherton & Trisha Geraets, and Joe Skinner, Peter Boeckhout, Rodger Clarkson, Aaron Lewis, Jonas Wiesner, Peju Hose, Nas Shannon, Andrea Hudson, Joe Bretherton, Nathan McCauley, Ian Billinghamurst, Nico Cogan, Ralph Harvey, Gail Mitchel, Maree McRae.

March Day Walks

Club Saturday & Sunday Trip List for the month (day tramps and events)

*Unless otherwise stated day trips leave from the club rooms on Saturday/Sunday at 9am
If the weather is in doubt give the trip leader a phone call to check.*

Sun 5th March : Maungatua (up and down from Woodside)
(M) \$10 Tomas Sobek 777 3047

Here is your opportunity for up to 850 vertical metres climb and descend in one lovely daywalk. First half of the climb is in the forest, could be a bit steep in places. Then we end up following waratahs in waist deep field of golden tussock until we decide we had enough and turn around. Expect stunning views of Taieri Planes and joyful feeling of wading through the sea of tussock.

Sat 11th March : Urban Adventure, the Town Belt off-track
(E/M) \$5 Antony Hamel 453 5240

The Town Belt is a mixture of exotic woodland and open native bush. Much of it is easy going but there are impenetrable bits and cliffs. The Town Belt Traverse held by the Amenities Society over the last few years uses the paved paths in the Town Belt.

Ours will be a true traverse taking a more rugged route specifically avoiding all mown areas and asphalt paths. We will leave cars at Woodhaugh and start walking from the Southern Cemetery. Wear gaiters and tramping boots, there is a lot of blackberry and broken glass in places. I plan to pick up as much rubbish as possible (bottles, cans, tvs...) so bring tramping packs and plastic bags.

Sun 12th March : Bull Creek to Akatore Estuary (E/M) \$8. Rob Seeley 4727646

A walk of about 8km along a mostly rocky shore with the odd sandy bay. Expect to see sealions and shearwaters.

Sun 19th March: Hermits Cave
(M/F) \$10 Jan Burch 027 455 4559

In the 1950s, a club member felt a need to escape and headed to the hills - for over a year. His main hideaway was a cave off Rocky Ridge in the Silver Peaks, and that's our destination. It's a full day out, including steep off-track travel. Silver Peaks are notorious for 'Four Seasons in One Day' so come prepared for anything.

Sun 26th March : Taieri Millennium Track
(E) \$10 Peter Loeber 477 4895

We walk this "annual pilgrimage" from Henley end to Taieri Mouth, for lunch and return. Despite it being on the easier side, you walk through great native bush in parts with some great views from the 2nd half of the Track

Sat-Sun 1st-2nd April : North Otago

Two one-day tramps: (M) \$30 plus camp costs.

We leave the clubrooms Friday evening and drive to Dansey's Pass motor camp. You can bring your tent, or use a cabin. Hot showers! (And bring your togs if you'd like a dip in the river on Saturday evening!)

Saturday – Dome Hills and Balmoral. The track starts with a long uphill section on a farm track, then off-track to a delightful lunch spot by a stream. More uphill back to the cars!

Sunday – An Exploration – there is said to be a track (for us to find!) from the Livingstone Cemetery (near-ish to the Motor Camp) back to Beatties Hill and the Danseys Pass Road. We should be back at the cars by about 3pm at the latest, so back in Dunedin 5.00-ish.

Jane Cloete 467-2328 or j.cloete@xtra.co.nz

March Weekends

Club Trip List for the month (weekend overnight tramps and events)

You must pre-register on the Trip List at the club rooms (or contact the leader direct) before the closing date (normally two weeks before the trip start). Members must pay before departure, non-members upon registering. Vehicle providers may be exempt from the fee (check with the leader). Trip organisational details will follow by email.

*You are responsible for your gear and medical / first-aid needs (also see Gear Hire).
(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required.*

Otago Anniversary Weekend 18-20th March East Matukituki (2 day E/M or 3 day including Sisyphus Peak M/F) Rodger Clarkson (473 6053)

We'll leave Friday night in cars and camp at Albert town \$6. On Sat morning we'll drive to Cameron flat, cross the Matukituki River and tramp to Aspiring Flat - approx 4 hrs (5hrs if we use bridge), so we should have time to drop packs and do side trip up the Glacier Burn. Camping at Aspiring Flat for 2 nights means we have the Sunday option to ascend Sisyphus Peak 1859m (1300m vertical) with daypacks via Rainbow Stream and Wilmot Saddle. Sisyphus has spectacular panoramic views towards Mts Aspiring, Avalanche and Rob Roy. On Monday (Sunday for 2 day option) it will be an easy walk back to the cars and should be back in Dunedin by tea time. Trip fee \$40 (subject to good numbers) + \$12 non members.

25-26th March 2017 Greenstone / Caples / Fraser Col (All) \$50+ Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

A popular area of Otago valleys offering a wide range of trip possibilities. Here are 4:

Caples / Fraser Col / Routeburn (Fit)

This will be an energetic trip with long days and off track travel in creek beds and some steep terrain. We will require reasonable weather.

We will need an early start from the Caples – Greenstone road end, following the main track up the Caples past Mid Caples Hut to Upper Caples Hut (5 hours), cross the Caples (bridged) and head up Fraser Creek to camp near the bushline – a solid 10 to 12 hour day.

Sunday will require another early start for a fun filled day scrub bashing up the creek to Fraser Col (1544m) which often has hard snow on the Fraser side, and a steep descent into Emily Creek and down to the Routeburn, then on to the carpark to await the van – about 8 hours. Ice axe & crampons required.

Greenstone / Caples Circuit (M/F)

A very popular trip, made up of two longish 9 hour days in a weekend, all on very good track. As above starting up valley past Upper Caples Hut, then over McKellar Saddle (1000m) to McKellar Hut or camp nearby (9 hours or so). Timing wise, it may be better to camp further on – another hour or so in order to finish earlier on Sunday. Sunday will follow down the Greenstone to the road end (about 9 hours from McKellar Hut).

Greenstone Hut (M)

5 hours or so. Again, you could camp somewhere, you could also add an interesting circuit of Lake Rere adding about 3 hours.

Mid Caples Hut (E)

A more relaxing trip to spend the night at Mid Caples Hut (or camp) 2½ to 3 hours from the road. You could also add the Lake Rere loop on the way in.

Contact me at wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz or sign the Trip List. Please make very clear your desired trip and fitness level.

Cost will be \$50, and \$15 or 3 Standard Hut Tickets for any huts (or Annual Pass). Bring \$ for takeaways Friday and Sunday night. Trip List closes 16 March.

March Thursday Meetings

Thursday Club Social Meetings at the Club Rooms 3 Young Street, South Dunedin

Members, non-members, visitors, all are welcome to these social events.

Doors open at 7:30 for an 8 pm start

2nd March: Bivouac Gear Night:

Bivouac, who have supported our advertising for the Bushcraft course, are also having a "gear night" for club members in their George St store on this Thursday night at 6 – 7.30pm. To show our appreciation we encourage members to attend, especially if you wish to renew your kit, and/or have an informal chat with Store Manager Bryan Fitzgerald and his team about the latest gear. There will be no pressure to buy; however, they will offer some good deals over and above the normal 15% for OTMC members. There could be up to 25% on selected items. This discount offer will also be extended for two weeks for members who cannot attend the "gear night".

9th March: BYO - This is the first BYO for six weeks so we expect good photos from Broderick Pass and Mt Cook, besides from the Saturday and Sunday day excursions which took place during these weeks.

16th March: Kahurangi National Park – Mt Arthur and the Wangapeka Track. Find out how the intrepid trio of very active OTMCers, Sue, Tracy and Richard, fared on this expedition which took place between 28/12/2016 and 3/1/2017.

23rd March: Hut Wardening at Lake Angelus, Nelson Lakes. Barry and Helen will talk about their 7 day stint as volunteer DOC wardens at this "awesome place" and its \$1m+ hut.

30th March: "Come along to hear about Rose's travels in **Africa and South America**" says Rose, and so we shall, looking forward to some wow photos from our intrepid explorer.

Cheers Tony and Gene

March 2017

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2 Bivouac Gear Night. Club Informal	3	4	5 Bushcraft River X-ing & Maungatua with Tomas
6	7 BC #4	8	9 BYO Photos	10	11 Bushcraft S'Peaks & Urban Adventure with Antony Hamel	12 Bull Creek to Akatore Estuary with Rob
13 Cmtte	14	15	16 Kahurangi with Sue	17	18	19 Hermit's Cave with Peter
					East Matukituki (Anivers Wkend) with Rodger	
20	21	22	23 Lake Angelus Barry & Helen	24	25	26 Taieri Millenium with Peter
—>					Caples/Greenstone/Fraser Col with Wayne	
27	28	29	30 Rose in Africa & Sth America	31		2 April: Cycle with Rose
					1-2 April: Balmoral/Otekaieke with Jane	