

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

780 April 2017



Wilmut Saddle and Fastness Peak, from slopes of Sisyphus Peak (East Matukituki Trip) : Antony Pettinger

Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the OTMC will be held on Thursday 27th April at 8pm at the clubrooms (to be followed by a photo BYO).

The matters to be discussed are the setting of Membership Subscriptions and associated issues.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

April Trips & Events

Dome Hills & Balmoral
and Otekaieke Track

Cycle Leith Valley-Waitati-NEV

Nicholls Creek to Ben Rudd's

Cloud Forest & Escarpment

Easter at Makarora

Sandymount

Daytrip Leaders Training

Extraordinary General Meeting

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

Day Trip Leaders Training Evening

Run by Antony Hamel and Alan Thomson.

7.30 - 9.00 pm Tuesday 11 April 2017 @ OTMC club rooms



- ◆ Light refreshment and chocolates will be provided.
- ◆ The official notes for day trip leaders will be read aloud and with feeling.
- ◆ Constructive changes and additions will be suggested.
- ◆ Free and frank discussions will be encouraged and stories told.
- ◆ Serious topics will be covered. There will be attempts at humour.
- ◆ Chocolates will be consumed.

This evening is designed for all those who lead day trips or want to lead day trips. Also the next trip card will be discussed.



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 | • Packs | • Climbing Helmets |
| • Crampons | • Tents/Flys | • Avalanche Probes and Transceivers |
| • Cookers & Billies | • Personal Locator Beacons | |

Your Committee

President : Richard Forbes	453 1327	forbespotter@hotmail.com
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Gear Hire : Sam Patrick and Gene Dyett		
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Ben Rudd property : Sam Patrick	0272 864 836	sammmpat@hotmail.com
Leaning Lodge (Immediate Past President Daytrip mentor) : Alan Thomson	455 7878	thomson@ihug.co.nz

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

After a very successful Bushcraft course we have had a great response with 23 new members this month along with 2 new members who did not participate in Bushcraft.

We welcome the following new members from Bushcraft 2017

Rose Hinchey	Barbara McCabe
Guy Howat	Andrew McLean
Susan Guthrie	Caitlyn Kilner
Sarah Hayes	Troy Forsyth
Helen Reid	Maria Chapman
Stephen Black	Janina Zimmerman
Lynley Copland	Jennifer McKean
Ying Yi	Esther de Lange
Chris Booker	Valmai and Luke Bilsborough-York
Tania and Greg McMillan	Rob McGee and Anne Paterson

And also, Kenneth Taylor and John Huyser as new members but not from the Bushcraft course.

The OTMC membership now has 225 members.

Please take the time to say hello and make our new members feel welcome. If you see someone on their own or looking a bit lost at either a Thursday meeting or Sunday day trip, please stop to chat and help them feel at home with OTMC.



Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

Maungatua: 5th March 2017

Another Sunday, another fine sunny day and I looked over to Debbie, "it's the Mungatuas today?" "Sure is" she replied. After arriving at the club rooms and meeting Thomas I was slightly confused seeing so many people with leaders of the club Antony and Wayne and others there. Must be a popular walk I thought then I realised it was River crossing day for bush craft. What a beaut day for both trips!



So while our esteemed leaders were to be standing about Outram Glen dipping their toes into the river, 13 hardy walkers tackled the massive hill nearby.



We had been warned it was a steep climb, in parts it was almost down to hands and knees and reminded me of the scramble up to Liverpool Hut in the Matukituki. Once we cleared the bush line the views started to open up all of the Taieri Plain with its neat rows of hedges were specs below us. In the distance Mt Cargill and Swampy didn't look large and imposing like they do from in town. We all stopped to watch a large plane glide silently into Dunedin Airport while having lunch. At this stage 2 of the group decided to relax with

the sunshine and views while the rest of us carried on over the large tussock fields closer to the top. Most of us found it difficult to walk at any speed without slipping and tripping over the terrain, at least tussock is nice to land on if you do fall. We managed to climb to approx 870 meters still some distance from the top but only 30 odd meters in height from the highest point. We were happy with that. A very steep but uneventful descent had us back at the car park around 3.30. Thanks Tomas for the great leadership and everyone for the great company.

*(Narrative by Russell Knowles,
Photos by Tomas Sobek)*

Rangiwahia Hut, Ruahine Forest Park with FMC (David Barnes)

When a bunch of trampers from all around the country have to attend a meeting somewhere like Palmerston North, it makes sense that they actually do some tramping. And so it was that 10 of us from the FMC team went haring out of "Palmie", seeking to escape minutes and motions and head to the hills. Rangiwahia Hut was chosen as somewhere we could get to easily in what was left of the day, fit us all in and provide lots of options for Sunday (and Monday for a few).

As a hut just above bushline that can be reached in a couple of hours without crossing any unbridged rivers, Rangiwahia is an obvious attraction for beginner trampers and families, and for this reason our route was a wide, well graded one. However, we still had to climb 500 metres and it was a warm evening, so it wasn't long before I'd worked up a sweat. The track has recently been re-routed to avoid a large slip. The slip that had been a significant obstacle for trampers since it destroyed the old track over a decade ago. A highlight of the walk is a spectacular arched bridge perched about fifty metres above an unnamed stream. Owen pointed out some large cracks in the ground nearby and suggested that you wouldn't want to be on the bridge in an earthquake. Soon the forest gave way to a band of the ubiquitous leatherwood that is such a feature of North Island

bushlines and then we were in the tussocks for the last few minutes to the hut.

DoC has a booking system at a number of popular Ruahine and Tararua huts that, unlike on the Great Walks, allows unbooked people



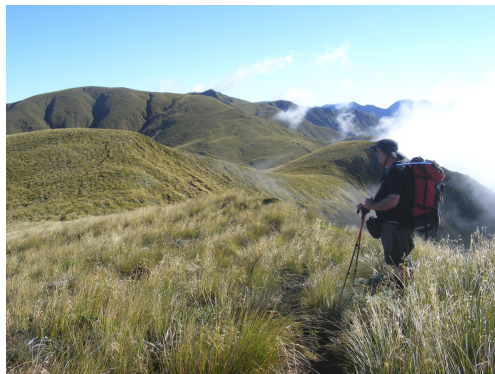
Pat Holland descending Deadman's Track, with Mt Ruapehu behind : David Barnes

but gives those who book certainty of getting a bunk – in theory. We had bookings for nine people, but there were already people occupying eight of the thirteen bunks, and none took the hints that they vacate a few of them. As predicted by many, a booking system without a warden is ineffective unless the booked people are prepared to be very assertive. No-one wants that sort of grief in the hills – a fact that the bunk poachers probably rely on. In the end, Anthony – a local and a frequent visitor to the hut – decided to head home for the night and leave his sleeping mat to ensure there were enough to go round our group.

The thick mist that had descended around the hut in the evening was gone by the time we stirred in the morning, and it was apparent

that we were in for a cracker day. Our big group was dispersing. Two with commitments elsewhere headed back the way we'd come. One maximised his opportunity for a day in the hills with an epic loop out to Howlett's Hut and back. Three with an extra day to play with were heading for a night in Triangle Hut, and I was in a group of three going up to Mangahuia and down Deadman's Track.

We were initially glad of the wide track, as the tussocks had had a good soaking overnight and we too would have been soaked if we'd had to push through them. Tussock tops country has to be one of my favourite tramping environments, and I revelled in being in such a place. The ridge climbs gently from the hut at 1327 metres before turning south and crossing over Mangahuia, 1583 metres, the



John Beech near Mangahuia : David Barnes

high point of our trip. The unmistakable shapes of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe dominated the skyline to the northwest while to the north, south and east, ridge after ridge offered this new North Islander the promise of more great tops trips. John's intimate knowledge of



Rangiwahia Hut

the Ruahines meant he could point out lots of features and possible trips.

Deadman's Track follows a ridge that runs parallel to the one we'd climbed. Again it was at a fairly benign gradient, with the only difficulty being a few muddy patches ambushing us from within the tussocks. Eventually we were back in the bush, which featured some magnificent pahautea or NZ cedar

trees. The conversation flowed freely as we steadily lost height. Looking out through a gap in the trees I could see farmland in the distance and was just thinking we might be out in an hour or so when Pat announced "we're here" as the stile that marked the end of the track appeared in view, a couple of hours sooner than expected.

David Barnes



Wasps in Dunedin Bush

During March two groups of walkers in Dunedin (Morrison Burn and Town Belt) have been attacked by stinging insects. New Zealand has few stinging insects compared to other countries and especially Australia. These attacks are very unusual. During 30 years of walking around Dunedin I have never experienced attacks like this before.

It appears these stings were from disturbed nests of paper wasps. These wasps are smaller and have black bodies compared to the more common German wasp which has a distinctive yellow bodied. "Paper wasps are the introduced social wasps; the Australian, Asian and European Paper Wasps. Paper wasp nests can contain several hundred wasps each with a sting."

In both situations the nests were inadvertently disturbed by the person at the front of the group. The leading person was not stung and was left wondering why everybody was acting oddly. Some unlucky followers were stung, with some people being stung multiple times. Luckily no one reacted badly.

Anaphylactic shock can happen in hypersensitive individuals. It's a good reminder for people who know they are hypersensitivity to stings to carry a supply of adrenalin for rapid administration. Adrenalin can save the life of someone suffering anaphylaxis. Also it highlights the advantages of leading groups from the front!

Antony Hamel March 2017



Common Wasp
Vespa vulgaris



German Wasp
Vespa germanica



Australian Paper Wasp
Polistes humulus



Asian Paper Wasp
Polistes chinensis

The world's largest recorded wasp nest was discovered at Waimauku (near Auckland). It was 3.75 metres tall and 1.7 metres wide.

OTMC and FMC Photo Competitions.



We are encouraging members to enter our club photo competition and then for the winners to enter the nationwide FMC competition. To this end we have organized Thursday club evenings which will have a photography focus. They are:

4th May: FMC 2016 Photo Competition Winners. These photos from each category also have useful comments from the judges.

18th May: BYO – Besides showing photos from just the recent trips, you could also show some of what you consider to be some of your best tramping/mountaineering shots to see how they project upon the screen.

25th May: Photographer Allan Cox will give us a presentation on how to take very good

photos. As Allan says: The art of photography lies not in taking ordinary photos of the extraordinary, but in taking extraordinary photos of the ordinary."

29th June: Closing date for OTMC entries. Allan will be the judge of the OTMC competition.

20th July: Allan Cox will show and discuss the merits of the winners of our OTMC photo winners, which will then go on to the FMC competition.

During April-May Gene will give details of the categories and format required.



North Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club - Herbert Forest Guided Walks

What: Walks through rare mature native forest, guided by members of the North Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club.

Where: The Herbert Forest. Breakneck Road turns off State Highway 1 just south of the Herbert rail overbridge. Then follow the signs. A toilet will be available and a minibus will provide transport between the base and track ends.

When: Sunday 9 April 2017. First walks will depart at 10am, the last at 12 noon.

Options: Five trips will be available:

1. Podocarp Loop – 1 hour
2. Swallows Track circuit – 1- 1 ½ hours
3. Hoods Creek Track (one way) – 1 ½ hours
4. Podocarp Circuit (including Glenburnie and Podocarp Loops) 1-2 hours
5. Swallows, Podocarp and Hoods Creek Tracks (one way) – 3-4 hours.

Also there will be a special botanical walk of 1-2 hours with an expert on local native plants.

Please: Do not smoke and Do not bring your dog(s)

Thanks to: Blakely Pacific for sponsorship, North Otago Search and Rescue for radio communications, and North Otago Motor Group for the minibus.

Cancellation: On local radio stations and NOTMC website (www.notmc.org.nz)

Contact: John Chetwin (03 439 5598)

Jubilee Hut Celebration

The original Jubilee Hut was built by the Otago Tramping Club to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the club. The hut was built as a response to Green Hut becoming overrun by hunters (at one time the club considered relocating Green Hut further into the area we now know as the Silver Peaks) and opened in 1951.

By the mid 2000's the original hut's best days were behind it and, in consultation with the Department of Conservation, the OTMC agreed to the removal of the original hut after a replacement had been completed. The same agreement also led to the removal of Yellow Hut (replaced now by the Philip J. Cox Memorial Hut).

Due to our club's association with the Silver Peaks and the original hut, DoC invited the OTMC to open the new hut – this occurred on May 10, 2007. Following a speech by the OTMC President of the time, a ribbon was cut and the new hut was opened. Pleasingly the new hut has retained the Jubilee Hut name, and the original plaque from the old hut has been placed



on the new hut. DoC have installed a sign at the old hut location to mark the sites significance. Part of the substantial fireplace is all that remains of the original hut.

The new hut has led to a resurgence of interest in the Silver Peaks, and Jubilee Hut is now one of the closest DoC huts to a major city (just a 6-8 hour tramp from George Street).

As part of the club's pathway to the OTC / OTMC centenary we are going to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the new hut over the weekend of May 13-14. Details are to be confirmed, but it is envisaged that we will tramp to the hut to celebrate the Anniversary. An overnight option will be best due to the daylight available in May (we can't afford the helicopter option as per the opening 10 years ago!). Details will be available at club nights, as well as on our Facebook page and email list.

We also plan to release a history of the hut and the tramping club's history in the area at the same time.

Further information regarding the Pathway the OTC / OTMC Centenary and 100 Trips for 100 Years are available on our website: http://otmc.co.nz/otmc_centenary.html

Photo slideshow of the opening: <http://otmc.co.nz/archives/images/JubeHutOpening/index.htm>

Contact Antony for more information.

Bushcraft 2017

The OTMC Bushcraft 2017 course has now finished – despite having to cancel the Silver Peaks weekend due to a persistent easterly the course has gone very well.

In all 62 people registered for the course, with between 45 and 50 participating at each of the sessions. The format was the same as for 2016 – four evening sessions in our clubrooms, a navigation day on Flagstaff and Ben Rudd's and a river safety day at Outram Glen. As mentioned, the Silver Peaks was cancelled, but a large number did join Antony Hamel for his day trip instead.

A positive side effect of this year's course is that we now have in excess of 25 new OTMC members (the highest percentage of Bushcraft people signing up for membership for many years). The OTMC welcome all our new members, and we're sure you will enjoy getting into the hills with us.

A small OTMC team ran the course this year, and I would like to thank those that helped with the running of the course – the OTMC is in a really good space at the moment, with membership and activity rising – I'd like to think that our annual Bushcraft course is contributing to this.

Antony Pettinger, Bushcraft Director



Bushcraft River Crossing : Antony Pettinger



East Matukituki (Otago Anniversary Weekend) : Rodger Clarkson



The Winter Trip Card is due out by mid April. Obviously, as a club we rely on those fine outstanding individuals who volunteer to lead weekend or day trips to avoid the possibility of us becoming a bunch of retired trampers. Feel free to email me at ... wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz with a destination and dates or selection of possible dates.

For Daytrips contact Sharen at sharen.french@gmail.com

There are some very good Trip/Daytrip Leader Guidelines on the club's website.

If you have not lead a trip previously feel free to talk to any of our current leaders, or myself, at a club meeting. Day Trips are always a very good place to start, and a Daytrip Leaders Training evening is being held this month (see page 2) which we encourage you to attend.

Remember - first in gets first choice of dates and / or destinations!

I am looking forward to being overwhelmed with replies. Regards Wayne

April 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 2nd April: Cycle Circuit
Leith Valley-Waitati-NEV
Rose Colhoun 021 151 3791

(Please phone Rose if any questions)

Sat 8th April: Nicols Creek to Ben
Rudds (and back)
(E/M) \$5 Rodger Clarkson 473 6053

There are a number of different tracks between the two locations so come along and be surprised at the route I take...(OK I haven't decided exactly where we are going yet!). Lets see if we can get there and back with almost no double up of tracks. Expect some uphill, some downhill and maybe even some wet feet.

Sun 9th April: Cloud Forest and the
Escarpment Track
[M] \$5 Tony Timperley 473 7257

This tramp has everything: the Cloud Forest itself, rock scrambling on the Escarpment, spectacular views, and a ramble across open farmland. The tramp starts at Sullivan's Dam, then climbs up through the Cloud Forest, over an exposed rock ledge (with great views to

the north) to eventually emerge on Cowan Road just below Mt Cargill. Depending on how we feel and the conditions, we could use the A.H.Reed track to climb up to the mast and enjoy the 360 deg views over the full length Otago Harbour, inland Otago, plus north and south coastal views.

What goes up must come down, so we will amble down Cowan Rd before cutting right to cross open farmland back towards the dam; however, just before we reach it we follow a pipeline through bush, along a muddy track, before emerging back at Sullivan's.

Sun 16th April - Crater Lake (Taieri
Ridge) - POSTPONED till May

Sun 30th April : Off Track Wander
Below Sandymount
(M) \$5 Christine Hopkins 478 0040

Leaving from Sandymount car park we will use some DOC tracks but most of the day will be off track. The route will include the Natural Bridge, a descent beside The Chasm, also some coast walking on rocks and sand. There are some large patches of stinging nettle so wear your gaiters.

April 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.*

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

Easter 14-18th April: Makarora (5 days) Antony Pettinger 473 7924

This trip will depart on the Thursday evening, and is headed to the Makarora region, at the head of Lake Wanaka. There are many options, and parties can choose either a full five-day trip, or complete some shorter trips. Here are some options:

- The most popular trip in this area will probably be the Wilkin / Young circuit. I think this is best in this direction, and whether you take a boat to Kerin Forks is up to each party (current cost is \$110) – takes about 5 hours to walk when the river is low). Camping will be required. The trip is up the Wilkin to Kerin Forks, then a climb into Siberia Stream (one of the nicest valleys you will find). From here there is a neat side trip to Crucible Lake, before a climb over Gillespie Pass to the South Young. Another possible side trip here is to the relatively recent lake formed in the

North Young, upstream from the forks. Out via the Young completes a round trip.

- A fitter trip with some off-track sections is a circuit up the Makarora, over to the Hunter via Scrubby Flat Creek, over a main divide crossing to the Wills, and out to the Gates of Haast Bridge.

- Brewster Hut and Mt Armstrong would be good for a couple of days.

- A neat 5 day remote round trip is Tiel Creek to Siberia Stream – Tiel Creek is untracked, unpopulated and well worth a visit. Return is via the Wilkin River

- There are several valleys that can be linked (in some cases), or should make for good shorter trips: The Fish and Blue, Leven and Ore, Cameron or Boundary Creek are some of these.

A longer in and out trip is to the head of the Wilkin – from here you can view the formidable waterfall face that leads to the East Matukituki, or visit Lake Diana etc.

Trip list will close on April 7

6-7th May: Gunns Camp Day Trips in Hollyford Valley (All) \$55+ Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

The camp previously owned by Davey Gunn, followed by his son Murray, is now run by the Hollyford Museum Charitable Trust.

There are cabins, a backpacker dorm, kitchen, hot showers, toilets – all those mod cons we think necessary when we are not actually tramping.

An example of trips available from this base include Gertrude Saddle (depending on ice) 4 to 6 hours, Lake Marian 3 hrs, Key Summit 3 hrs, Hidden Falls 4–5 hrs, and various ...

shorter day walks or even an energetic climb up the Deadman's (a Fit 8 hours return) to the Routeburn.

Or you might just want a relaxing time to read a book or go fishing.

Accommodation cost depends on numbers, but will be around \$25 each per night if we

have 12 people. We will need to bring cash as there are no eftpos facilities at the camp. There is a 10% surcharge for Visa or Mastercard. The trip fee is \$55 (\$67 for non-members).

Further information on the camp is available at <http://www.gunnscamp.org.nz/>

April 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

6th April: BYO – Remember Wayne and Roger's great photos from the Annette Plateau? Well this time we will have great photos from their East Matukituki and Caples/Greenstone/Fraser Col trips. Also we should have photos from Jane's Balmoral/Otekaieke trip, plus the day trips from this period.

11th April (Tuesday) 7:30-9pm: Day Trip Leaders Training evening with Antony Hamel and Alan Thomson (see page 2).

13th April: No social evening – long Easter break. Have an enjoyable Easter, especially those who are spending 5 days in the Makarora area.

20th April: Venice and Rome – Peter and Leonie Loeber's recent European travels.

27th April: Extraordinary General Meeting (see page 1), Plus BYO (including photos from the 5-day Makarora Easter tramp).

April 2017						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FR	SAT	SUN
** Daytrip Leaders Training Evening Tues 11 April @ 7:30					1	2 Cycle Leith/Waitati/NEV with Rose 021 151 3791
					Balmoral/Otekaieke with Jane 467 2329	
3	4	5	6 BYO Photos	7	8 Nicholls Creek to Ben Rudd's with Rodger 473 6053	9 Cloud Forest and the Escarpment Track with Tony 473 7257
10 Cmte	11 ** Day Trip	12	13 (none)	14	15	16
				Easter 5 days @ Makarora with Antony 473 7924		
17	18	19	20 Venice and Rome Peter&Leonie	21	22	23
—>						
24	25	26	27 EGM (& BYO photos)	28	29	30 Sandymount with Christine 478 0040