

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

785 September 2017



A stroll around the Old Man Range the morning after Snowcaving : Jodie Hill

September Trips & Events

Ben Rudd	Annual Dinner	Leith Saddle/Swampy/Burns/Rustlers Ridge
	Dart Valley	Bull Creek- Akatore Estuary
		Green Lake
Blue Mountains	Grahams Bush to Mt Cargill	Leith Valley - Lake Whare

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

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

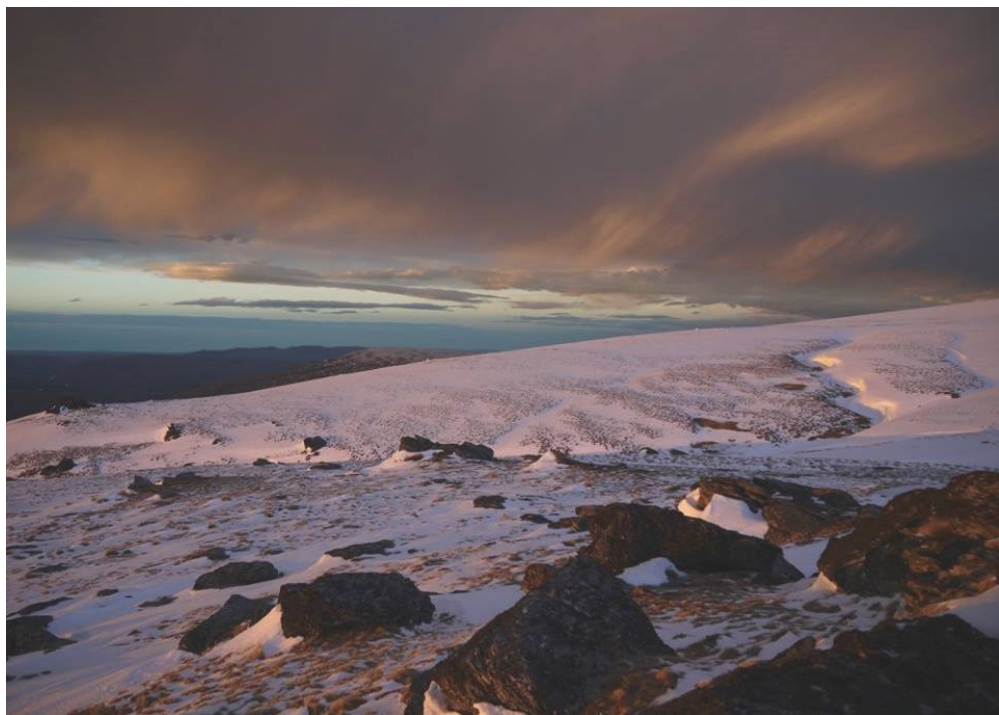
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Ben Rudd property : Sam Patrick	0272 864 836	sammpat@hotmail.com
Leaning Lodge (Immediate Past President Daytrip mentor) : Alan Thomson	455 7878	thomson@ihug.co.nz

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome Andrew and Cailyn McConnell and Alex Forbes as new members this month.

It is great to see new people each week along to our Thursday meetings and Sunday day trips. If you see someone on their own or looking a little lost, please take the time to say hello and make them feel welcome. Thank you.

Debbie



A couple of excellent cloud formation shots taken during the Snowcaving weekend by our featured photographer for this Bulletin, non-member (hopefully not for long) Jodie Hill

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

16th July: Macandrew Bay to Boulder Beach (an alternative to Mitchell's Rocks).

Thursday night: warnings of MUD and slippery tracks. Bring leggings and walking poles, potential to be wet weather! Sunday morning: woke to frost and a clear sunrise. Departure time to Club rooms: drizzle (cleared the frost) and a light but far from warm southerly. Club rooms: a handful of people with wet weather gear, hats and gloves. Forecast: predicted light rain about 10 am and possibly the afternoon also. Suggestion: possible another destination. Answer: No. The five folk checked their mental health, and the full car departed for Macandrew Bay. (At least there would be a coffee shop there). Boots on, umbrella up and we stepped out up Greenacres Street. Less than half an hour later on the uphill sheltered track the umbrella went down and the exertion had spread warmth to the extremities. Along Highcliff Road the clouds lifted as we made our way to morning tea stop at Buskin Road. Not too long though, we did not want to cool down too much. Now the promised mud. Some areas had had stock on it and some areas small lakes. Caution was certainly needed as the top surface was saturated, and the tendency for your boots to skate was real. The bottom at last, past a well maintain little cottage, complete with a rapid number, (Braidwood Road), then the turn off over the newly cleared track to the beach. Yes there they were, THE boulders, all stacked in random fashion at the south end of the beach. Questions were asked how and why this might occur, with no real answer. From the depths of the useless information department it was noted that to be a Tombolo (a perfect half-moon crescent sandy beach), it has to be subject to waves from both direction. This was not the case at Boulder Beach. With that useless fact, and a "to prove we were there" photo, (at the start of the northern cliffs), we back-tracked to the high tide sand for munchie time. A steady gradient up Paradise Track back to Highcliff Road was not as muddy as feared. Again a little caution on the downward leg to



Boulder Beach : Alan Hanson

MacBay, and voilà the car. Thank you Peter Loeber, (leader), Ken Taylor, Niklas Becker and Andrew McLea, for a great trip. Much better than vegetating on the couch watching TV.

Alan Hanson.

6th August: Phil Cox hut via the new Arthur's Track

You will have seen Antony Hamel's email promoting the first OTMC trip on a new track from the Possum Hut area to Philip J Cox Memorial Hut via a new track just above the true left of the South Waikouaiti River.

A dozen joined Antony H on what was no doubt a great day.

Antony premiered a short video of this inaugural club trip along the new track at an OTMC meeting in August and you can now view it on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/2Q0xRNDURTA>

The OTMC would like to acknowledge the work that Arthur Blondell has put in to making this track a reality. A track in this area has been on the radar since the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum was carried out in the Silver Peaks by DoC. That review saw the new Jubilee Hut built, and our old Jube and Yellow Hut removed. At that time, a linking track back from the bottom of Tunnels Track towards Hightop was mentioned as desirable in the future to avoid the locked section of Mountain Road.

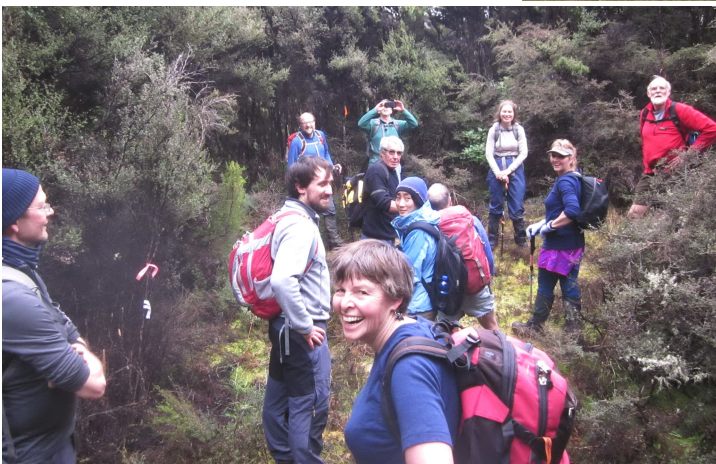
Now, thanks mainly to Arthur this track is a reality. Arthur established the route and has done a lot of the work himself, and latterly has been assisted by the Green Hut Track Group. The club day trip down the river in December inadvertently used part of the track (near Rosella Ridge) – in time this will become a well-established track, and complete a proper Silver Peaks circuit.

If you missed Antony's trip, it is possible that Jan Burch's day trip on October 15 will use the same track.

So many thanks to Arthur, the Green Hut Track Group and DoC for what is the most important addition to the reserve since Jubilee was replaced 10 years ago – I'm sure it will be well used (and provide some

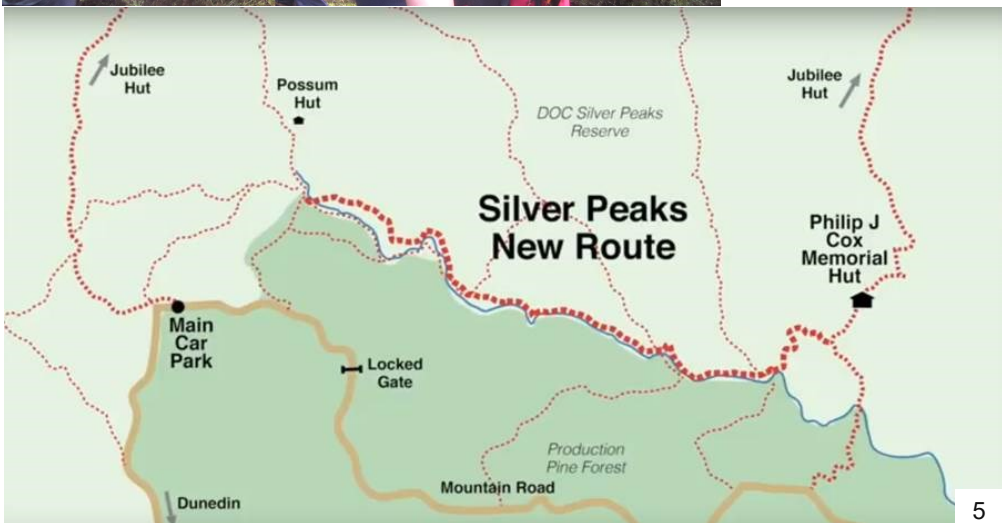
more options for the club's Bushcraft course!)

Report by Antony Pettinger.



The Flag Raising Ceremony, Speeches and awarding of Certificates !

*The Team in bush
Photos by Rob Seeley*



5-6th August: OTMC Snowcaving trip

Twenty-eight people signed up, mainly members. Richard couldn't see many there who had been snowcaving before. Tracy was one who had, but prefers to hang back and defer to people like Wayne and Richard. Well, in the days immediately before the trip list closed and afterwards, eight people pulled out. Two with a fairly credible and novel reason: the home with tramping gear in it had been affected by one of the many landslides that accompanied East Otago's recent floods and was unable to be entered. They needed the weekend to clean up and find a new place to live and a snow-cave couldn't be found close enough to Dunedin.

We ended up with 4 teams of 5. It was very cold and blustery at the Clubrooms, waiting for stragglers, but soon we were in a cosy Roxburgh tea room having coffee and hot choc and hearing all about what to expect. Richard forgot to tell us some key facts:

1. Don't be worried about blue light coming through the snow. It is NOT (necessarily) blue sky through a dangerously thin wall.
2. The bench level needs to be above the top of the entrance tunnel.
3. Benches should be level so nobody slides and piles onto some poor bugger down-slope.
4. You'll slide all over the show if you put a plastic sheet down first. All you need is a closed-cell foam pad to stick to the (level) hardened snow.

All of these bits of experience were gained the hard way, for almost everyone on the



Digging in... : Jodie Hill

trip. Richard learnt something: don't take anything for granted.

We drove up the frozen road as far as we could and Andrew carted most of the packs (and the lazy bum Richard) in a formidable 4X4. He got stuck in snow, so Richard had to dig snow much earlier than anticipated, to help free the vehicle, and so we all caught up anyway quite fast. Then, once Andrew had fetched the rest of the packs, we threw them on and set off across the tundra and



Jodie Hill



Finally ... Richard and Tracy : Jodie Hill

icy wastes to the usual gully. Not enough snow?! What? It had been snowing for months, it seemed.

Wayne gave it thumbs down. Richard poked his nose up the gully to the west of the rock bivy and saw a likely site with handy bare vegetation just opposite bathed in plenty of sun. Yay. Enough room, even for 28 if necessary. We took turns to dig into snow and dig into our lunches. Soon, there were lumps flying in all directions creating mighty piles of snow rubble, eventually with bits of mud and vegetation.

Digging followed novel directions, and some didn't like digging upwards – the fools, Richard thought, they'll suffer because some of those benches were in line with the great gaping cold outdoors. Luckily for them, the night proved to be a balmy zero to two degrees.

There were no reports of claustrophobia, drips, sleeplessness, cold, or anything stressful when we awoke to a sunny dawn with clouds drifting in from the west. People were notable still smiling.

Setting off after breakfast for a wander, Richard showed us the idea of a snow-mound that makes use of: packs, a snow fight, snow angels and minimal tunnelling. We think they got the idea – and it could save a life and a lot of curses. The sky remained nice overhead, but with distant clouds and rain on the Dunstons, and a black sky off to the south steadily heading for Dunedin. Richard took us to a mighty wind scoop with room for about sixty in snowcaves. We may need to use that site one day, if snow falls get less, but it might

be a trick to find water.

As Richard had told Lynley beforehand, the trip is not a "course". It is a normal tramping trip on which those who have been snowcaving before pass on their knowledge to members and intending members who could benefit from the knowledge. All of us who venture above the snowline really ought to know how to make emergency accommodation, using snow, if we need to. If it were a proper instruction course, those of us who have been snowcaving before could be rewarded in some way to instruct, but that can just get crazy. Some of us just come again and again because we like it and enjoy passing on what could be life-saving information.

This year's trip was blessed with keen, eager and fit people, as well as, as usual, no hut fees (yay!). We enjoyed the wobble down the hill and then chocolate or coffee and cake or chips in Roxburgh and a bit of a debrief before getting everyone safely home by 5pm.

Richard and Tracy Pettinger for: Wayne Hodgkinson, Trisha Geraets, Jodie Hill, Lynley Copland, Gail Mitchell, Sharon Bretherton, Joe Bretherton, Carina Osborne, Esti Rubio, Sarah Rosemary, Chris Linsell, Sue Stephenson, Sonja Mitchell, Sue Williams, Andrew McConnell, Robert Van Hale, Rob Cookson, Tina Anderson. Thanks to Chris, the Brethertons, Andrew (and ourselves) for bringing vehicles.

12-13th August Snow Skills

@ Rock & Pillar Range

We ended up with quite a big group of 20 people, which was only made practical by the very helpful commitment of our 2 extra instructors Ralph Harvey and Phil Somerville.

Leaving the clubrooms at 8am we had a good drive through Middlemarch, parked 1 car at the Big Hut end and the rest at Leaning Lodge end, where we started walking. The PLAN was to wander up to Leaning Lodge, use it as a day shelter while practising our snow skills before using those skills on the walk across to Big Hut for the night. On Sunday we had the choice of

returning to the cars via LL or direct from Big Hut and do the car shuttle thing.

It was a nice day until part way up when it started getting very windy, and progressively worse as we gained height. To cut a long story short we took over 4 very trying hours to get everyone up to Leaning Lodge, a trip normally 3 hrs. After a restful lunch we explored a good sheltered gulley with a safe runout above the hut and did our full range of skills – walking with an iceaxe, kicking and cutting steps up and down, and self arresting down a few well developed slides to get a feel for an emergency stop from various positions. It was great to see the growing confidence in people who were somewhat tentative at the start. Some of us wandered onto the ridge to find it still very exposed to the wind.

We decided it would be a bit silly to persevere with our planned trip to Big Hut on snow (in spite of having it booked) and crammed into Leaning Lodge for dinner and a snooze. It was a bit tight but with nobody else there, and everyone in food parties of 4 it worked all right (would have been chaotic with 20 cooks!).

The new plan for Sunday was to do our cramponing practice while taking advantage of overnight frost. Not everyone took part with the day's activities. We got a bit spread out as some were ready while others were still waiting for crampon adjustment (we had

some delays on Thursday night trying to sort crampons at the clubrooms). We started on a good slope with a good range of steepness, and covered all the options. Some got to practice self arresting with crampons on, reinforcing the importance of keeping one's feet up.

The only unfortunate incident occurred when Jodie slipped and slid into a rock, hurting her lower back. The group managed to share all her gear around, including her pack for the return to the cars. It was a relief to hear afterwards that her injuries were limited to a graze and bruising.

A great trip, but possibly indicating use of hard hats might be advised in future. The accident reinforced the need to be always aware of runout, and it would have been easier if everyone was together from the start. Thanks to everyone for your great cooperation throughout, including helping out Jodie, and your willingness to provide a contribution to Big Hut as well as Leaning Lodge.

Wayne for Ralph Harvey, Phil Somerville, Gail Mitchell, Joe & Sharon Bretherton, Sue Williams, Rob Cookson, Tania McMillan, Lynley Copland, Nathan McCauley, Trisha Geraets, Michael Stott, Andrew McConnell, Robert Van Hale, and non members Sophie McCarroll, Chris Linsell, Sue Stephenson, Michael Gaffney and Jodie Hill.

OTMC Annual Dinner / Pizza Night



**It's time for our annual Pizza at Filadelfio's
at the Gardens Corner**

Saturday 2nd September from 6:00pm

Set Menu \$20 / head

**We will need some idea of numbers, so
please let Wayne know (473 0950) or
sign the sheet at the clubrooms.**

September 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 27th August: Clutha Mouth (E/M) **\$12 Alan Thomson 455 7878**

Bring comfy walking shoes rather than tramping boots, most of this walk is along the beach. Leaving the clubrooms 9:00am we will drive down towards Kaitangata, cross a weird bridge to Inch Clutha, and cruise down the north (Matau) branch to find a carpark. We will walk down to the river mouth past some old whitebaiters' shacks, then along the beach to the south (Koau) branch for views to Kaka Point and Port Molyneux, and return. Should be about 4 hours walking.

Sat 2nd Sept: Annual Dinner at **Filadelfo's (6pm)**

Sat 2nd Sept: Ben Rudd's Work Day **(E) \$5 Tracy Pettinger 03 487 9488**

There will be cake. There will be beer. There will be work to do on keeping gorse and broom in check within the tussock grassland on our lovely Flagstaff land.
Always good fun :)

Sun 3rd Sept: Leith Saddle/Swampy/ **Burns/ Rustlers/ Pipeline** **[M] \$5 Tony Timperley 473-7257**

Climb up through native forest to great views over Dunedin City and Otago Harbour. As we progress over Swampy we experience views out towards the Rock and Pillars, then we work around Rustlers' Ridge to look north both up the coast and inland towards the Kakanui, before descending to the Pipeline Track and returning. Leave clubrooms at 9am or meet at the Leith Saddle carpark at 9.20.

Sun 10th Sept: Bull Creek to Akatore **(E/M) \$8 Rob Seeley 472 7646**

Second go at getting this trip going this year. A trip of around 10km along a largely rocky coast with the odd sandy bay. There are no hills to speak of but there will be quite a lot of easy scrambling on rocks some of which will be slippery. The tide is low on the 10th at around 12.30 giving us maximum scope to avoid sealions and farmland. We will do the route in the direction of the wind on the day. Expect sea-birdlife so bring binoculars if you want as well as your day's water requirement.

Sun 17th Sept: Leith Valley / Lake **Whare Circuit (M) \$5** **Fieke Neuman 473 7535**

Lake Whare is a tiny lake nestled in the south-western flanks of Swampy. You can get there really easily from Whare Flat road but what would be the fun in that. Instead, we'll start from the Leith Valley, Morrisons Burn track to be specific, and take in a few of the interconnecting tracks between Swampy ridge and Lake Whare. After that we might head up to Swampy Summit and from there, down Morrisons or possibly Swampy Spur depending on the mood of the Company. Should make for a reasonably long day, maybe back at the cars around 4pm.

Sun 24th Sept: Graham's Bush to **Mt Cargill** **(E/M) \$5 Peter Boeckhout 021 023 62535**

We start from Sawyers bay through a forest track up to Mt Cargill for the views. The track is sheltered from wind and rain.

September 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.*

26-27th August : Winter Routeburn (M) \$45+hut Rodger Clarkson 473-6053

The Winter Routeburn has always been a fun social trip catering from easy (just go the hut and relax) to adventurous (wade through deep snow to get to higher altitudes). The plan will be to drive to Routeburn Shelter on Friday night and walk about 1.5 hrs to Flats hut. On Saturday morning we'll walk to Falls Hut and have Saturday afternoon free to explore and play in the snow - Hopefully some of us will be able to get to Lake Harris as this is always spectacular when covered with ice and snow - last year the snow was about a meter deep near the lake but we made it! Wolfgang has a long tradition of leading this trip as a social occasion so I'd like to try and continue the tradition by having a onesie theme again (and I will do my best to have a quiz). Trip fare should end up \$45 for members/ \$58 non members. (May reduce with good numbers).

9-10th Sept: Dart Valley (M) \$45 Nathan McCauley 021 023 77680

The Dart Valley which forms part of the Rees/Dart Circuit (generally a 4-5 day tramp) located at the head of Lake Wakatipu is the destination for this trip, the first time the club has been back since a huge landslide in 2014 effectively closed this section for 3 years finally reopening in March 2017 after much hard work I'm sure. Friday night we will be heading through past Glenorchy and camping most likely at the Earslaw Burn carpark on Friday night. This close proximity to Chinamans Bluff our starting point will allow for an earlier getaway on Saturday morning. Tramping for approx 5-6 hours on the true left of the Dart River Saturday past the newly formed 3km long lake (due to the 2014 landslide) should see

us arrive to Daleys Flat Hut (20 bunks) and our destination for Saturday evening. For those a little more energetic the earlier getaway may allow for further exploring up the valley. On Sunday we will head back out to Chinamans Bluff again, around 5-6hrs to the car park.

16-17th Sept: Green Lake (E/M) \$45+ Rose Colhoun 021 151 3791

Friday night will be spent at the Colhoun family crib in Manapouri. Saturday morning we will drive down to Borland, possibly in two vehicles so that we have a shuttle. Three options to get to Green Lake: via Lake Monowai (the longest route); via Mt Burns (high route); or via Burns Saddle (easiest route). Hut is relatively new and on the shores of Green Lake. Return to vehicles on Sunday with a possible detour to Island Lake.

Phone Rose on 021 1513791 for more info.

23-24th Sept: Blue Mountains (All) \$30+ Jan Burch 027 455 4559

In recent years the club has had an overnight trip where campers stay the night at the historical Black Gully camping grounds, spending Saturday waking the "4 hour return loop to the top of the Blue Mountains"

[http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/publications/brochures/Documents/Walking in Clutha Brochure.pdf](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/publications/brochures/Documents/Walking%20in%20Clutha%20Brochure.pdf)

I propose to stay Friday night at Black Gully but car shuffle to get a vehicle at Whisky Gully on Fri evening so on Saturday we can get an early start on the Blue Mountain Tramping Route which is promoted a 8-9 hour walk along the ridgetop of the Blue Mountains to Whisky Gully.

<http://www.tapanuiwestotago.net/westotago/Visitors/Attractions.aspx>

At the moment I have no firm plans for Sunday, so I'm anticipating a leisurely morning walk somewhere around Lawrence with a return to Dunedin early afternoon. There's scope for a group to do just the 4 hour return loop, so this short weekend trip may appeal to very beginning trampers right through to the more experienced wanting a bit of a challenge. Luxury accommodation (old smelly huts, toilets, showers and power in the communal kitchen) which we can drive into gives this trip the potential to be very social on Saturday night.

7-8th October: Silver Peaks - Jubilee via the back door

(M) \$8+ Peter Boeckhout 021 023 62535

We'll start from Mt Road carpark and walk up to the turnoff to the devils staircase where we take a left and keep walking until we reach a track that guides us to a fence along the ridge above Jubilee hut. We follow this until we reach point 700 and make our descent to the hut.

(\$5 Standard Hut Ticket or Backcountry Pass).

Next day we follow the Yellow ridge via Philip Cox hut via the Tunnels track and the 4wd road or via Arthur's Track back to the carpark.

Labour Weekend – October 21-23rd

Jane Cloete 467 2328

Maria Hamelink is organising to do the best bits of the Alps2Ocean cycle trail. Contact Maria on 021 135 0141

If biking isn't your thing, how about spending the weekend tramping based at Lake Clearwater? That's about 30km beyond Mt Somers.

I'll be leading long-ish day tramps; the Loebers are planning a trip up to one of many huts in the area.

But: We'd like an extra leader to organise something for the F or FE groups! Would you be on for that? Contact Jane Cloete on 467-2328, or by e-mail.

Also: Lake Clearwater camp is for tents only (or motorhomes!).

If you want to use the cabins at Mt Somers motorcamp: I'd like a rough indication of numbers at least a fortnight beforehand (to book the cabins). Be aware that from the MS motorcamp it is 30km to Lake Clearwater, mostly on a gravel road.

September 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

31st August: OTMC Ben Rudd's Property: August 2018 marks the completion of the current Ben Rudd's Trust twenty years of existence, and a time to re-examine the need for the Trust and its property management plan. Come along and find out the history and importance of this special property, which has been owned by the club since 1946. Over the next few months club members will be deciding what the future management of our property should be – this evening will provide a brief illustrated overview of our 94 year association with the property, presented by the OTMC and members of the Ben Rudd's Management Trust.

7th Sept: Peter Boeckhout 8 days on the Travers Sabine Circuit. Why would you drag a 27kg backpack around in Nelson Lakes National Park? Hear the story and look at the pictures to find out for yourself

14th Sept: Alex Tups : Paratramping Mt Larkins. At 2300m Mt Larkins is the highest mountain east of Lake Wakatipu. Alex Tups will talk about an amazing adventure climbing Mt Larkins and flying down to the pub in Glenorchy. Alex will also show some videos of paragliding and tramping in the area including a very scenic tandem flight from Minor Peak to Pigeon Island at sunset.

21st Sept: Top 'o' the South – During the 1990s Tony Timperley did a number of multi-day tramping trips in the Richmond Ranges and Kahurangi NP. Find out what the Richmond Ranges Alpine Route was like before it became part of the Te Araroa Trail. In Kahurangi, Tony met up with an old mate from Manchester and this was the first tramp they had done together for 35 years! How did they get on?

28th Sept: Trip Planning for Summer trip card. It is time to start thinking about where you would like to go tramping during the summer months so come along and share your ideas. There will be a discussion about what is involved in being a day or weekend trip leader with volunteers being needed to lead both day and weekend trips on the new trip card.

5th October: Antony Hamel Tramping in the 1950s. The recently published diaries of poet, literary editor and arts patron Charles Brasch reveal that he was a keen trumper. Why was he tramping in the 1950s and how different was tramping then?

*Another "Old Man Range"
shot by Jodie Hill*

12th October: Tracy Pettinger Wombling in Southern Spain. Tracy dragged her hapless husband on day walks in the searing heat of Costa del Sol with promise of beer at the end of each silly event. Come and hear how he protested.



September 2017

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			31 <u>August</u> Ben Rudd's Trust	1	2 Ben Rudd workday & Filadelfio's Dinner	3 Leith Saddle etc with Tony Timperley 473 7257
4 Cmtte	5	6	7 Travers Sabine with Peter Boeckhout	8	9	10 Bull Creek with Rob Seeley 472 7646
					Dart Valley with Nathan McCauley 021 023 77680	
11	12	13	14 Para tramping Mt Larkins : Alex Tups	15	16	17
					Green Lake with Rose Colhoun 021 151 3791	
18	19	20	21 Richmond Ranges and Kahurangi with Tony	22	23	24 Grahams Bush with Peter Boeckhout 021 023 62525
					Blue Mountains with Jan Burch 027 455 4559	
25	26	27	28 Summer Trip Card Planning	29	30	1 Oct Powder Hill with Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961