

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

791 April 2018



Mount Cook Sunset : Barry Walker

A group of club "Seniors" enjoyed a mid-week tramp to Mueller Hut for a couple of days in early March. Great weather, great views, lots of steps to climb, but a very enjoyable trip.



April Trips & Events

Mavora Lakes Area Harbour Cone on the Peninsula
French Ridge Hut Mihiwaka
Canyon Creek - Ahuriri Sandfly Bay & Sandymount
Timber Gully Waterfall

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 Joe Bretherton 473 8784

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

Your Committee

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Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome new members Jane Ward and Carolyn to the OTMC which brings our total membership to 229.

Thank you to everyone who makes visitors and new members welcome at our club meetings and on trips. If you see someone on their own or looking a little lost on a Thursday night please take the time to talk with them.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

18th February: Leith Saddle/Cloud Forest/Escarpment/ 3 Peaks Track/Sullivan's Dam/ Return via Leith Loop

As a variation to the usual start from Sullivan's Dam and return for this tramp, Leader Tony ordered that we would start and finish at the Leith Saddle carpark. This would therefore include the extra section from the saddle to the Leith Loop, then a descent to join the Cloud Forest track after about 35 mins. We would return via this route also.

So, after a mad sprint across the motorway, Tony led ten fellow trampers up to the rocky Leith lookout, bravely brushing aside cobwebs to enable a much easier passage for his following companions. From the lookout we admired the views over Sullivan's Dam and to the south over the city and coast. As we also overlooked the motorway, we did some car spotting. There was a heated discussion over whether a campervan we spotted was a Mercedes Mk V or a MK VI DeLux. This argument was not resolved. Ken did, however, correctly identify the roar of a Harley Davidson motor-bike.

It was great that Lucy was able to join us after recovering from her accidental injuries. To celebrate this we encouraged her to lead the next section, which she did with her usual gusto and we reached the powerline clearing ready for our morning break. We enjoyed whilst admiring the extensive views north up the coast and west to Silver Peaks.

Lucy wisely let Tony lead the next section up to Pigeon Hill. This involved squelching through muddy sections, hurdling over fallen logs and pushing aside gorse as we climbed up the rocks to the lookout on the Escarpment. As I said in my blurb for this tramp – it “has everything” and the next section was a complete contrast as we crossed grassy open terrain littered with dead pine tree branches, although the good news is that there has been replanting and young saplings are growing well.

Just before reaching Cowan Road we found a spot with enough stumps and logs to sit on and have lunch. The weather forecast was for a temperature of 27 degrees yet it must have been at least 10 degrees less and overcast, so we all had to put on an extra layer to keep warm. Nevertheless we enjoyed great views south and Ken pointed out Nugget Point, which was bathed in sunlight.

After lunch we ambled down Cowan Road, where thankfully there was just a couple of cars with considerate drivers going up to Mt Cargill. The next section, which branches off Cowan Road, follows the track used by harrier runners for the annual 3 Peaks Race in April. Unless someone goes along this track with a scrub cutter before the race there are going to be some badly scratched runners! We had to push our way through broom and gorse down to Sullivan's Bridle Track (a gravel road) and then clamber over a fallen pine tree in the forest section of the 3 Peaks Track.

Again for further contrast, we climbed over the stile out of the forest and onto open farm paddocks. (The kind owners had given us permission to cross these.) As we were descending to the farm road and gate, we had the feeling we were being followed! When we looked around we saw about a dozen curious young steers were checking us out. They looked very disappointed when we left them on the other side of the fence and walked towards Sullivan's Dam.



Bjarney Jonsdottir

At the dam we went along the left side until where the track from the carpark comes down to the bridge. Here Will decided to take 7 year-old son Artie back up via Leith Valley Road to the Saddle, rather than return via the Cloud Forest/Leith Loop Tracks, which would involve extra climbing and take about another hour. Young Artie had done really well as we had already been going for about 5 hours over very varying terrain.

The rest of us gritted our teeth and walked around to the start of the Cloud Forest Track, to begin our climb, with Lucy again leading. By the time we had grunted up to the rocky Leith Loop lookout we were thinking that young Artie had made a wise decision. However, after again admiring the view, we descended through the bush to the motorway. During this section Lucy cut a finger and although bloody was helped by capable companions to stem the flow and dress the wound, which enabled her to return to her usual bouncy self. Will and Artie were waiting for us at the carpark and after waving to them that we were all OK, we climbed down to the saddle and did another sprint across the motorway to breathlessly complete our six-hour tramp.

Tony Timperley for: Ken Taylor, Will and Arty Sweetman, Jan Burch, Seck ha Shin (Toby), Bjarney Jonsdottir, Peter and Leonie Loeber, Lucy Jones, and Sue Rhodes.

3rd March: Millennium Track - from Henley end and back.

Our original trip that was planned was to Mitchell Rocks, we were all looking forward to it, but it got changed just a few days before the day trip.

Instead we went and did the Millennium track which gave us all a good work out, especially walking right through to Taieri Mouth.

We all met at the club rooms hoping no one would get mixed up with the bush craft river crossing group.

It was a lovely morning with six eager and keen trampers heading out to Henley, to the start of the Millennium track we were meeting one other person out there - Holly.

At the start of the Millennium track we read the sign telling us how far it was to John Bull

Gully and also how far it was to Taieri Mouth.

It was a nice walk, up and down hills and then around corners, along a good wide track which had a few wee streams and a bit of mud.

Once we got going some of us had to stop and have a drink and take a layer of clothing off, as it was getting warm, especially humid and quite muggy.

We were surrounded by very pretty native bush and flax bushes, watching where we put our feet so that we didn't trip over - yes well I can't talk as not long after we got going I tripped over some flaxes lying over the track.

We stopped and had our morning tea at John Bull Gully. We had someone in our group say "see if you can guess where I was originally from" and we couldn't guess and he told us - from Egypt. It was quite interesting talking to him.

After morning tea stop we had to climb up a bit of a hill and then it levelled out which was nice. It was like that for a bit of the way.

We came to a viewing point, with a good wooden seat and a chance to have a bit of a rest and drink, as it was quite warm. We were all admiring the good view looking down on the Taieri river.

The first time we saw anyone was at the wooden seat/viewing point. It was a couple.

We carried on walking to Taieri Mouth for lunch which was only another half an hour. One of our trampers wasn't very good and was struggling, he couldn't carry on any further.

He stayed behind, and our leader Peter couldn't leave him there at the seat, so decided to stay behind with him. Peter put Ken in charge of the 5 of us, which only really took us half an hour to walk to Taieri Mouth for lunch. Along the way there were quite a few muddy bits, we passed quite a few people and even someone pushing a push bike up the track, looked quite hard going. It was very warm and we were all looking forward to getting to Taieri Mouth for lunch. We had a nice leisurely lunch resting for half an hour in the shade.

The walk back was hard because it was very warm and humid, we all had bit of a rest at the viewing point.

Along the way we saw lots of pretty fantails flying around very close by, in the trees.

Once we had passed the sign that said John Bull Gully we knew we were over half way back to the cars.

There was a very light shower but it didn't come to much - we were sheltered by being under the trees on the track.

We all thought that we had a very good work out, up and down hills and going around corners and bends, especially walking all the way right through to Taieri Mouth.

I would like to thank Peter Loeber our leader for a very good tramp - Lucy Jones on behalf of Ash Flintoff, Geraldine Kerr, Magdy Mohssen, Holly Yang and Ken Taylor.

11th March: Sunday Day-walk into Silver Peaks associated with Bush Craft Weekend

A keen group of 11 people gathered at the club rooms at 8 am, all ready for a good days tramp.

The plan was to head for Pulpit Rock and then on to 777 as the lunch stop.

Along the way, 2 further people were waiting for us up Mountain Rd and Isabel Moebs son Leon joined us on his way back from running to Jubilee Hut – oh to be young again !!.

So all up we had 6 people from the Bush Craft Course, 5 members, 3 visitors, with myself, Barry W and Ralph H to ensure all went well.

The day started fine and stayed that way giving great views from all the vantage points. In fact the day couldn't have been a better advert for tramping the Silver Peaks.

We started walking about 9 am and were at the site of the old Green Hut by 10 am, just in time for a morning tea stop, and then it was up to Pulpit Rock.

Up on Pulpit Rock, the group practiced with map and compass before moving onto Point 777. Along the way we came across a bunch of 20 people that turned out to be the Bushcraft group who had camped near Jubilee hut and were heading home. They all were enthusiastic about the experience,

which was good to hear.

After lunch, we reversed direction and headed back downhill, with 4 of the group deviating via the trig point.

We all arrived back at the cars at about 3 pm after a good Sunday tramp.



Peter Loeber on behalf of Anglia Bleath, Isabel and Leon Moebs, Garon Whitney, Charlie and Maree Weaver, Sabina Habine, Massimo Curci, Paul Gilbert, Ken Taylor, Magdy Mosshard, Barry Walker, Ralph Harvey.

25th March: Flagstaff (without a car)

We gathered at the clubhouse at 9.00 and then walked up to Cargills Corner to catch the bus and save a section fare. Caught bus 44 to Halfway Bush, picking up Jane and Lucy at Otago Boys. Once up the hill we walked to Spiers road and followed that up to the start of the track, which wasn't too wet.

Part way up we caught up with Cathy Woodrow and Chris Pearson and continued up to Flagstaff where we stopped to admire the view and a quick snack. Chris and Charlotte Handley then arrived from the Pineapple track so we carried on down to the Pineapple track where Chris and Cathy and Chris and Charlotte left our company. To go down the Pineapple track.

We continued along Swampy Summit to the Junction of the Power Line track where we stopped for lunch. Continued along the Power line track, down through the bush and onto a work track which we went along to see a city water intake. Retraced our steps and carried onto the Leith Valley and along to the bus stop at the bottom of Fulton Road then bus to Countdown, then a short

walk to club rooms

Leader Jan Burch, Thank you

Ken Taylor for Maureen Lanbert, Jane Cloete, Lucy Jones, Laurie Prattley, Richard and Tracy Pettinger, Doug and lastly Carolyn.



Photo(s) by Tracy Pettinger

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.*

8th April: Something on the Peninsula **\$ 5 (E) Leonie Loeber 03 477 4895**

Join Leonie for a day on the peninsula, climbing from sea level to the top of Harbour Cone.



Harbour Cone view : Jade Pettinger

Meeting at the club rooms at 9am, and travelling by cars to Bacon Street where we will follow Smiths Creek for a short distance, where one of the many Otago Peninsula conservation groups, Save The Otago Peninsula Inc. Society (STOP), has done a lot of planting of native species. The track then climbs up to some macrocarpa trees to Highcliff Road. The steady climb to Harbour Cone is through farmland and once we are at the top we will be rewarded with outstanding views out to the coast and in the other direction to the city of

Dunedin. The boulder fields at the summit and the shape are reminders of it's volcanic origins. We will have lunch at the top and return to the cars.

15th April: 3 Peaks & Mihiwaka **\$8 (M) Tania McMillan 027 455 2738**

The trip offers climbs through native bush, bit of pine plantation, rock climbing which is optional around Mt. Chalmers and on a clear day fantastic harbour views. Allow 6 hours, with some mud along a flat piece of track but is easy to navigate.

We meet at 9 am at the club rooms then will travel 25 minutes towards Port Chalmers onto Port Chalmers-Purakanui Road and up past the Scott Memorial. We'll park at Cedar Farm Road on the left, it is best to carpool as parking here is limited. The plan is to reach the top of Mt. Kettle, Mt. Chalmers, Mt. Cutten and Mihiwaka trig, going to the summits and straight back down using the same tracks. There is the option of a round trip but it isn't very pleasant so we will stick to the beaten tracks this time. We will finish off with a pretty walk around the Cedar Creek Reservoir so we can rinse off our boots.

22nd April: Sandfly Bay to Sandy Mount
\$5 (M) Peter Boeckhout 021 0236 2535

Come and join us when we visit one of Dunedin's Peninsula Gems.

We leave the club rooms 9am sharp and park our cars at the end of Seal Point Road carpark. We walk down to the beach and count the seals that are having a lazy Sunday. We follow the dunes track up to our lunch spot on Sandymount. We walk around Sandymount and visit The Chasm & look at the Natural Bridge and back to the dunes track where we retrace our steps. Lambing season is August & September so we should be lucky if we see any lambs. Not sure which month it was but a couple of years ago I counted 22 seals in one afternoon. Time: 4 - 5 hours.

29th April: Timber Gully Waterfall -
Lammerlaws \$12 (M) Leader TBA

This walk starts at the locked gate on the Eldorado track overlooking Lake Mahinerangi where we have been granted access to a walk through private property to a beautiful waterfall. Those with sharp eyes 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. 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 could be back in Dunedin by mid afternoon, unless we do an extra bit of exploring.

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.*

14-15th April: French Ridge Hut
(M) \$55 Joe Bretherton 027 362 1221

After walking up the West Matukituki valley, a challenging track crosses the Matukituki River and climbs steeply through bush to tussock slopes in the sub-alpine zone.

French Ridge Hut offers spectacular views to Mt Barrf, West Matukituki Valley & surrounding mountains.

The current plan is to leave the clubrooms on the Friday night (13th) at 6pm. We'll stop in Alexandra for dinner and hopefully camp somewhere close to the start of the track (yet to be decided).

Saturday morning we'll aim to start walking by 8am: Relatively flat walking from Raspberry Creek Carpark to Aspiring Hut (will be closed at the time for repairs): 2 hours.



Relatively flat walking to Pearl Flat: 1 ½ hours.

Soon after we reach Pearl Flat we cross the swing bridge across the West Matukituki. We then climb STEEPLY through bush then into the sub-alpine zone to reach French Ridge Hut: 3 ½ hours

Total: approx. 7-8 hours

French Ridge Hut is a serviced Hut:

\$25 per night (NZ Alpine Club Members \$15 per night), 20 Bunks, Water Tank, Toilet.

This trip is weather dependant – due to the exposed nature of some of the alpine parts of the track & also the access road to the start of the track.

Questions - give Joe a call or email on jsbretherton@gmail.com

Trip List Closes: April 5th

7-8th April: Mavora Lakes Area
(E & E/M) \$50
Christine Hopkins 03 248 8619



Friday night campsite will be advised when total numbers are known.

The different fitness groups will walk at their chosen pace.

As these huts are small, except Kiwi Burn, and on the 'Te Araroa Trail', tents will need to be carried for the first three options.

From your hut there are options to wander to explore the area further.

Walking Times given below are from DOC.

Options for EASY to EASY-MODERATE

Starting from the Mavora Lakes Campsite
NZTopo50 CC09

To Careys Hut 2 hrs (6 beds)

OR to Careys Hut and on to Boundary Hut
another 2 hrs (4 beds)

OR to Careys Hut and on to Forks Hut
another 1 ½ hrs (4 beds) Mararoa River is
crossed

Starting from the swingbridge at Kiwi Burn
NZTopo50 CD09

To Kiwi Burn Hut 2 hrs (12 beds)

Return Sunday by the loop track 1 ½ hrs

On Sunday some may like to also do a car shuffle and walk the track (or part of) that connects the North and South Lakes - 2 ½ hrs full distance. NZTopo50 CD09

Trip cost: \$50 for OTMC members, \$63 for non OTMC members, closes 29th March.

If you have any questions, or want more details, then please send an email or phone/text: steveandchris8@gmail.com
021 202 6078 or 03 248 8619

**21-22nd April: Cameron Valley/
Arrowsmiths**

\$50 (All) Sue Williams 021 712 606

The Cameron Valley is a stunning valley at the foot of the Arrowsmith Range. It's a 5 hour tramp into Cameron Hut (Canterbury Mountaineering Club \$5 per night) at the head of the valley amongst the moraine. The 9 bunk Cameron hut is surrounded by the peaks of the Arrowsmith Range and is a good base to explore further to the head of the valley to the Cameron Glacier.

Trip List Closes: April 12



Cameron Hut : Tomas Sobek

OTMC Library news

Have a look at our books! We have some beauties.

"New Boots in N.Z." by Gillian Orrell is the description of the Great Walks as experienced by this "tramping virgin" from England.

An office worker in London, Gillian responded to "something deep inside" telling her she belonged in the great outdoors. She farewelled ten years of indoors work and packed her brand new boots.

Having no previous tramping experiences, Gillian became transformed as she set out into our forests and mountains.

"New Boots" offers excellent details of our most popular walks in a very readable form. Her thoughts, feelings and personal insights are interwoven throughout. She includes Maori perspectives in her factual descriptions.

I enjoyed the way Gillian offered herself frankly and engagingly as she ventured forth.

She has added to my desire as another newish trumper to see what these Great Walks are like. It was handy, and fun, to dip into her account of the Heaphy, both before and after walking it myself last week.

Recent additions : A Bunk for the Night - *Shaun Barnett, Rob Brown, Geoff Spearpoint*

Te Araroa - Walking NZ's 3000km Trail - *Mark Watson*

Fast and Light Tramping Food - *Paul Garland*

Cheers, Gail.



Bushcraft Silver Peaks weekend : Rodger Clarkson



On the top of Pulpit Rock



Bushcraft 2018

has now come and gone. While the actual course seems to fly past pretty quickly, Bushcraft is a major undertaking for the club at what is a busy time of year.

After a poorly attended Open Day in 2017, we elected not to hold one this year (the Open Day had been used to promote Bushcraft). We also dropped the newspaper advertising after polling the 2017 course, instead relying on word of mouth, club members and online / social media for promotion. This had no effect on course numbers this year, which in part shows what a good reputation the OTMC has in running Bushcraft courses.

This year we had up to 53 participants (not everyone is able to make every session). The most popular session was the map and compass theory session, where we had all 53 people plus leaders in the clubrooms. All other sessions were very well supported, and successful. After the disappointment of having to cancel the Silver Peaks trips in 2017, we had a great weekend this past weekend, with both an overnight option (5 parties) and a well-attended day trip on both Saturday and Sunday.

We have already had a good number of participants joining the OTMC, and expect to see more. I know the club will make them welcome at our meetings and trips.

I've been lucky to have a great team assisting with the course – I know this is lot to ask as the course is quite compact (and two of the four weeks coincided with a committee meeting, so three nights a week at the clubrooms for some ☺).

Thank you to: Debbie Pettinger, Wayne Hodgkinson, Richard Forbes, Sharon and Joe Bretherton, Rodger Clarkson, Jan Burch, Dylan Pettinger, Peter Loeber, Tony Timperley, Michaela Day, Barry Walker & Ralph Harvey for your assistance during the course – you have all made the running of the course easy!

And finally a big thank you to our Bushcraft 2018 participants (and welcome to the OTMC to those who have already joined!) – the OTMC really appreciate your friendliness and willingness to learn and we trust that you have all benefited from the course, and now feel more confident wherever your tramping takes you. Bushcraft is a great start, remember now that experience will come from practice.

Regards Antony



Photos by Antony Pettinger

OTMC Photo Competition

It's the time of year that we encourage all club members to look back over their tramping photos from the past year of tramping and pick you're best ones to enter into the OTMC photo competition.



Members can enter up to 10 photos and all MUST be taken within New Zealand.

Cropping is allowed along with adjustments for exposure, contrast, etc however removal or insertion of features is not allowed.

More information in next month's Bulletin.

Winning photos in the OTMC competition will be entered into the FMC photo competition in September.



OTMC Auction

Time for a clean out of your excess tramping gear – the OTMC Auction is on 21 June and we NEED donations of items to sell.



If you've upgraded your tramping gear, bought something you have never used or just need to get rid of some tramping items bring them along to the club rooms (or give one our committee members a ring). All items will be auctioned off on 21 June.

This is also a good night to pick up something new to add to the tramping cupboard so be sure to book the 21 June into your calendar.



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*

April 5 - David McArthur – Cuvier Island.

Cuvier Island (Repanga) is currently a re-stricted Nature Reserve and is located approx. 90km out to sea from Devonport, Auckland. Given the relatively small size of Cuvier (196 hectares) there is a surprisingly diverse range of fauna, such as 7 species of lizards including Tuatara, about 60 species of birds and is predominantly covered in Pohutukawa. David lived on Cuvier for 3 ½ years as a lighthouse keepers son and his talk will cover the island's history through to the current Nature Reserve status.

April 12 Five Passes tales from the R Team

Earlier this year 18 OTMC members completed the Five Passes circuit. Tonight the clockwise group (known as the R Team) will share their stories and photos of this spectacular area.

April 19 - Doug Forrester, OTMC Tramping and Climbing 1983-2005

April 26 FMC Photo Competition Photos

As a build up to the OTMC's own photo competition, the FMC photo competition photos will be shown. There is a great variety of tramping photos from each of the six categories. Come along and see what you need to be looking for in your own photo's when entering the OTMC photo competition in August.

May 3 Ross Davies & Richard Pettinger The Olivines 1970's style

The Olivines are one of New Zealand's premier wilderness areas and one that Ross and Richard visited in the 1970's. This will be an entertaining night of photos and memories from their adventures in the 1970's.

April 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
2	3	4	5 David McArthur Cuvier Is.	6	7	8 Harbour Cone with Leonie 477 4895
					Mavora Lakes with Christine 03 248 8619	
9 Cmtte	10	11	12 Five Passes	13	14	15 Mihiwaka with Tania 027 455 2738
					French Ridge Hut with Joe 027 362 1221	
16	17	18	19 Doug Forrester A history 1983-2005	20	21	22 Sandfly Bay & Sandymount with Peter B 021 0236 2535
					Canyon Creek - Ahuriri with Sue 021 712 606	
23	24	25	26 FMC Photo Competition Results	27	28	29 Timber Gully Waterfall with (TBA)