

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

789 February 2018



*February 24-25 : Join Ian Billingham on a tramp to Lake Wilson
(via Routeburn's Lake Harris and the Valley of the Trolls)*

February Trips & Events

Maungatua Summit	Victory Beach and Pyramids
Ahuriri / Dingleburn and Beyond	Mount Cook area Lake Wilson
Papatowai Challenge	Cloud Forest / Escarpment Track
Bushcraft Evenings 1-2-3 and Flagstaff Navigation Day	

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 Ben Rudd's Property - Where to Now?

By David Barnes

What are we going to do about Ben Rudd's? This is a question that has been asked for all the 30+ years that I've been in the club, and probably for 30+ years before. It's been asked less frequently in recent years, because the property's been managed by the dedicated bunch that make up the Ben Rudd's Management Trust. Now, at the expiry of the Trust's 20 year lease, we need to ask it again.

I've got some history with the property. I did my share of work parties, clearing gorse, broom and wilding pines, and saw that the club was just treading water. I also saw that, as the generations who'd grown up with the property's purchase in their memory faded away, it was going to be harder to keep the maintenance going, let alone develop a vision. When the trees were sold, I committed heresy in the eyes of some by suggesting that the club might not be the right entity to manage the property. That idea was roundly defeated, but I did succeed in getting the proceeds of the tree sale ring-fenced so that they could only be used on Ben Rudd's.

A few years later, Peter Mason advised the AGM that the property was ticking along nicely, little work was required and the interest on the tree money was covering any costs and should continue to do so for years to come. I decided that my fears for the property weren't being realised. Twelve months later, Peter announced that there was a weed crisis and we needed to spend almost all the money. At that point, I led the charge to reconsider the future plans for the site.

Despite accusations that I didn't care for the property (and a few ad hominem attacks), I was clear that the idea of regenerating vegetation and protecting the landscape by expecting people who joined a tramping club to commit large amounts of time and/or club money wasn't working – and was doomed to fail.

My views on options for disposal, expounded at length in a paper for the 1997

Extraordinary General Meeting - refer to <http://www.otmc.co.nz/files/benruddfilesoct1997benruddsupp.pdf> included the first serious consideration of the Trust idea. The EGM brought lots of old members out of the woodwork, and I did feel I was going to be rather unpopular when I saw them all glaring at me as I walked into the clubrooms. But the meeting reminded me of the two old guys in the Muppet Show, who start off saying an act was awful, then decide it's not bad, and end up calling 'Bravo'. Disposal to a Trust won the day. The ring-fenced cash was to go with the land.

GST complications meant that we couldn't make an outright gift of the land, which is why the 20 year lease arrangement came about. The Trust still got the cash, and the club got to appoint the trustees, so retained some element of control.

In hindsight, the lease arrangement has been brilliant, because we get to think about our vision for Ben Rudd's once again. The club still owns the land, influences its management and contributes to the work on it. It's not the drag on committee time and effort that it once was. Changing attitudes to environmental work by volunteers have seen work parties supported by people who subscribe to the 'think global, act local' philosophy and so turning up not because the club needs them to but because Ben Rudd's needs them to. And having the Trust as a separate entity has enabled us to tap into resources outside the club.

So, what are we going to do about Ben Rudd's? In my view, it's not broken, so it doesn't need fixing. Provided we can continue to find energetic trustees to guide the management, I'm keen to see the existing arrangements extended.

David Barnes

¹ This file is a 16 page booklet with details of the property and its history as well as several contributed perspectives on what the club could do with it at the time. Well worth a read.

By Peter Loeber

I see where the question of "what to do with the land / what benefit does it bring OTMC" has been canvassed, with a thorough round up almost 20 years ago.

We have only been members since 2009 and whilst haven't participated in all work party's , I guess we do have the right to comment on the issue.

I have a copy, thanks to you, of the publication the club produced in 1997 to give members information on which to make a decision. One of the parts of the publication is an excellent report by Richard Pettinger, "Report on Ben Rudds Vegetation Management".

Now as I see it, and correct me if I am wrong, it is OTMC's long term goal ?/ wish? / hope ? to slowly have native species regenerating via the gorse nursery and create a significant area of native bush that covers the property. To assist nature in moving the process forward, OTMC had done considerable work clearing the gorse and broom over the years. I would assume, if this work is succeeding, there would by now be signs of the natives regenerating.

Hence my questions regarding the situation are –

Is the regeneration process working ? - ie are the natives overtaking the gorse and broom? And has OTMC's work made a difference ?

Or ***Is the situation much the same as it was in 1997 ?*** ie at best we are holding the gorse and broom back? Or, is the gorse and broom continuing to overtake the property.

I consider that before discussion continues OTMC really needs to know answers to the above questions.

Thus may I suggest Richard Pettinger is asked to check on the property, and using his 1997 report, establish in general terms answers to the above questions. He may need assistance and if so the club needs provide him all help required. Obviously, if of any use, I would assist.

If the regeneration of the natives is working, then an action plan, similar to that produced in 1997 probably is needed. However, really before work is done to produce this, it would

be sensible to know if there is a consensus within OTMC to keep the property.

I appreciate there is considerable emotion around keeping or not keeping the property, and if the above questions are answered, perhaps this would assist people come to a decision based on facts.

Thus I hope that my pondering on the issue is of some use.

Peter Loeber

Reply from Alan Thomson Trustee

The short answers to your questions are as follows:

1a: On the 28th October, despite fierce resistance put up mainly by Bush Lawyer, I managed to battle my way to the front-line of the approx 100 Beech Tree's that were planted in the early 1990's and found that the Gorse and broom beneath these tree's had indeed passed away.

1b: Yes the work done by club members in the 1990's under Ken Mason's leadership has made a significant difference.

2a & b: Perhaps the best answer to these would be to quote Hugh Wilson, of the Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula which was started in 1986, who has stated that it takes about 25 years for the noxious weeds to succumb to Native vegetation. If you come on next Sunday's day walk we could venture into the depths of Ben Rudd's and show you where this is happening on our own property.

The BRMT response will be in the December Bulletin and, depending on feed back, the Trust intend to develop a vision and forward looking plan for Ben Rudd's.

There is another fact to consider and that is that the club has owned the property for the last 70 years and if members decide they don't want to keep the property - how do we dispose of it?. There were no offers to buy it when we looked at this option in 1997. Hope this helps.

Cheers

Alan Thomson

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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Ben Rudd Trust and Leaning Lodge Trust contact : Alan Thomson	455 7878	thomson@ihug.co.nz

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome Jim Western and Chris Dzikiewicz as new members to the OTMC.

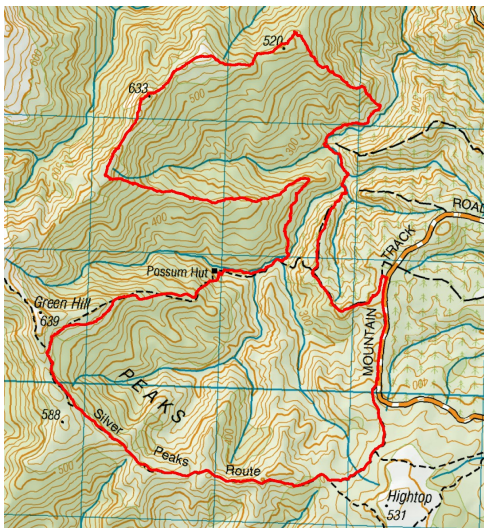
18 people have been removed from the membership register for non-payment of subs which brings the total of current members to 227.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

26th November: Rosella Ridge via Cedar Spur

While everyone else was enjoying river crossings and baths on Kea Basin trip, we had another great Sunday day-walk in Silver Peaks. Originally the name of this trip was Rosella Ridge. It was only on the trip itself that we discovered that someone gave the spur we walked along a name, Cedar Spur. Originally I described the track with question marks, as something to explore and chase the lions and dragons off the map. It was actually pretty easy to follow in most places. But before we get there...



I suppose Richard's trips tend to be rather popular so I should have expected a low turnout. We ended up fitting comfortably in one car. In the hindsight it was probably a blessing, as larger groups have a tendency to go a tad slower. And since this was Kate's first outing in Silver Peaks I altered the route to show her a bit more great views. Peter and James were all for it too, don't blame only me. It did add extra few hundred vertical metres to the original plan, which I wasn't bright enough to consider at that time. Instead of following Gold Miners Direct Route as I originally intended, we took the Green Ridge - Possum Hut grand vista detour. By Possum Hut everyone was

still smiling. By that time we would have also passed by our first thousand of White Fingers orchids. We saw them growing predominantly in small bunches, but almost everywhere we went that day.

We left Possum Hut behind and five hundred metres later, after passing couple of flowering Spaniards, we took the brand spanking new Arthur's River Track. We followed it until the intersection with our intended mystery track along Cedar Spur. It was fairly good going, though one section looked like it could have disappeared any moment. Just as I started questioning my decision to bring unsuspecting group to this place, we came across a surprise intersection with names and arrows. Pointing along the spur and in the direction of our travel was a sign saying "Cedar Spur" and perpendicular to that was "Direct Spur (to Road End)", pointing roughly towards Possum Hut. That is now on my to-explore list, so beware. From there on we reached Rosella Ridge without any difficulties and with moderate huffing and puffing. However we did come across one more surprise - Greenhood, another species of native orchids.



Greenhood orchids (*Pterostylis auriculata*)

By the time we got to Rosella Ridge it was a late lunchtime and I refrained from taking any photos of my companions' faces

for safety reasons. But the views were fantastic and the place delightful. We crossed Little Pulpit Rock and continued traversing Rosella Ridge North-East. At the intersection with Hunter Access Track #1 we ditched the original intention to continue along Rosella Ridge until the river track. The shorter the better; at that point in time we were all getting pretty tired. We knew we still have one more steep hill to climb ahead.



The rest of our journey went smoothly. First following the new river track, then the old one, and in the end the expected steep climb onto Mountain Road. This great fittish circuit of 15.5 kilometres and nearly 1,400 metres of ups and downs took us nearly 7 hours, including short breaks. Pretty good effort for a hot day.

Text, map and photos by Tomas Sobek on behalf of Kate Williams, Peter Boeckhout, and James Lang.

3rd December: Skyline Traverse

'Can it get much hotter?' was the question on my lips as we sat in the sun on the rocks above Sullivans Dam overlooking the Northern Motorway. Thirteen other people had also taken advantage of the very warm weather and joined me on the Dunedin Skyline Traverse. Starting at the Bull Ring around 8.30am it was a reasonably quick walk up to Flagstaff where there was the obligatory team photo overlooking the city. This view would follow us as we continued our journey along the skyline, although the angle would alter.

The next stage from Flagstaff to Swampy Summit is a little deceiving as it looks relatively flat but there are a couple of short, steep sections and our group started to spread out a little as the temperature started to rise. We stopped to regroup before the

final push towards the summit where we stopped for a drink and admire the view. The view from Swampy Summit on a good day is well worth the climb - Waitati on one side and Dunedin city on the other. We could see Mt Cargill beaconing us on and keen to get out of the sun, we headed down the hill towards the top of the motorway. It was nice to see the usually muddy track completely dry and we made good time down the Leith Saddle Walkway.



Once across the motorway we were keen to enter the shade of the bush and start the climb towards the summit of Mt Cargill. We followed the recently cut track starting at the beginning of Pigeon Flat Road to the rocks which made a great place to stop for lunch. The view looking down to the motorway and Sullivans Dam was a good backdrop. The next section is along another recently cut part of the Clouds Forest of Leith walkway to the Power Lines where there was another stop for a drink and reapply the sunscreen. The heat was beginning to be felt with the level in the water bottles dropping rapidly. It was a bit of relief to enter the bush again and on we climbed. Much to Alan's disappointment there were only a couple of very small muddy sections, not even enough warrant wearing boots. We scrambled up onto Pigeon Rocks for another drink stop



and admire the views of Warrington Beach before heading through the wasteland of cut pine trees to Mt Cargill where we were rewarded with more great views of the city.

It was here that the party splint into two groups with one group taking the track down to the junction to Buttar's Peak while the

second group carried on along the skyline and down the cliff face for a more direct route, meeting up with first group at the track junction. Over the top of Buttar's Peak to complete the skyline section and onto the Organ Pipes. It was a quick walk down to Mt Cargill Road and the cars.

Chief Guide Comment

Welcome to 2018! The year got off to a sad start with the sudden death of Geoff Jackson. Many older club members will remember him as a real character during his active time in the 1970's and 80's.

With a burst of fine weather hopefully many of you have been out and about. Ian's Death Valley / Scott Creek trip will have been (even if he wasn't able to make it himself), and Antony's 5 Passes trip might still be away, for a hopefully great start to the year. The Summer Trip Programme is a busy one, with a wide range of trips planned, keeping our fingers crossed for continuing good weather. When camping, be particularly careful with your cooker ensuring you are clear of any dry grass etc.

Last year some trip leaders experienced the occasional niggle from participants not being willing to contribute fully to a trip's progress. This is happily a rare event, but does highlight our continued reliance on trip leaders and others to willingly do their part in ensuring people have a satisfying trip. Remember that your trip leader is the one person who has enabled the trip to go ahead in the first place, and having done all the planning beforehand will feel the pressure in the event of anything not going to plan. Apart from a warm feeling in the belly they don't actually get anything for it! They still pay the same fee that you have. Just a friendly reminder to continue doing what you can to help out.

Wayne

Project Kereru

Thursday, 23 November saw a group of 25 OTMC members visit the Project Kereru aviary where we saw first hand the great work being done by Nik to care for injured Kereru (Wood Pigeon) in the Otago/Southland area. Nik was very generous with her time, showing us around the aviary and explaining how much work is put into caring for the birds as well as predator control. She does an amazing job and as a show of our appreciation the OTMC donated \$100 to Project Kereru.

Nik has used the money to purchase Victor Rat Traps which have been installed in wooden boxes down the perimeter line in the forest where the rats are coming up and through. Nick reports that the traps are doing a great job in catching rats before they reach the aviary. It is fantastic to hear that our donation is making a difference and will continue to do so in the long term. Thank you Nik for your dedication and enthusiasm for the Kereru and for showing us around your aviary.



February 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 4th February: Maungatua Summit (M/F) \$10 Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961

Starting at Woodside Glen car park we will head up the track to above the bush line. If the weather is right the plan is to head further up towards the summit as far as time or conditions allow and to then exit the way we came.

Sun 11th Feb: Victory Beach / Pyramids. (E) \$5 Peter Boeckhout 021 0236 2635

We start at Okia flats car park next to Papanui inlet. Low tide is approx 7am and 7pm. We'll be lucky if we see the shipwreck. Possibility to see sea lions. We walk along the beach to the track that connects to the road back to the carpark. Time: 3 - 4 hours.



Sat 17th February: Papatowai Challenge

A 15km walk or run – Jane Cloete is willing to co-ordinate the transport for this. Note that there is an entry fee and you should do the entry yourself. Phone Jane Cloete 467-2328 or email j.cloete@xtra.co.nz

Sun 18th February: Cloud Forest / Escarpment Track (M) \$5 Tony Timperley 473-7257

This tramp has everything: The mature trees of 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 AH Reed track to climb up to the mast and enjoy the 360 degree views over the full length of the 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 to the right down the 3 Peaks Track, then cross open farmland to the pipeline and follow this to emerge back at the dam.



February 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.*

10-11th February: Ahuriri /Dingleburn and Beyond

(M) \$50 Richard Forbes 453 1327

The OTMC hasn't been to the Dingle Burn since 2013 so its time to do it again. The Dingle Burn drains into Lake Hawea and the easiest way into the head of the valley is over a low pass from the Ahuriri.

Leaving from the Ahuriri Base Hut (6 bunks) it's a short 2-3 hour climb up a bulldozed track to the pass at 1448m. We can explore the tops for a while and the views from here are superb up and down the Ahuriri Valley and Dingleburn Valley. Its only 1.5 hours to the Dingle Burn Valley floor and we will stay in or near Top Dingle Hut (6 bunks) for the night and return the same way we came. We could also explore the Upper Dingle Burn Valley if we have time.

An easier option if we have the numbers is a walk up the Ahuriri Valley itself to the number of huts there, towards its head.

On Saturday morning we will have an early start at Routeburn Shelter, making our way all the way up the Routeburn to Harris Saddle. Here, we leave the track and descend to the western shore of Lake Harris which we follow around to the low valley at the head of the lake, known as the Valley of the Trolls. We travel up the valley and then follow the stream coming down north of Mt Xenicus to finally overlook Lake Wilson near Point 1578. We'll make our way around the head of the lake to make camp at a large flat area on the northern shore of the lake.



Lake Harris and the Valley of the Trolls

24-25th February: Lake Wilson

**(M/F) \$55+ Ian Billinghurst 021 279 7881
email: yarmoss@yahoo.co.nz**

Lake Wilson is a large alpine lake which lies in a peak ringed basin at the southern end of the Serpentine Range. A low valley at the head of the Routeburn's Lake Harris pushes into the mountains with a waterfall, clearly visible from the track, falling into the valley which is the outlet of Lake Wilson. Many trampers would have stood on the Routeburn Track, looking out over Lake Harris at Mt Xenicus and the peaks of the Serpentine without realizing how close they are to another spectacular lake.

On Sunday we climb west of the lake to the ridge line near Point 1561 for views over the Hollyford before heading south to drop down to the Lake Wilson outlet. After crossing the outlet we descend a steep gut on the true left of the falls back down to the Valley of the Trolls and return to the Routeburn.

Trip cost: \$55 for OTMC members, \$68 for non OTMC members. Please note there is an additional cost of \$13 for staying at the Lake Sylvan Campsite.

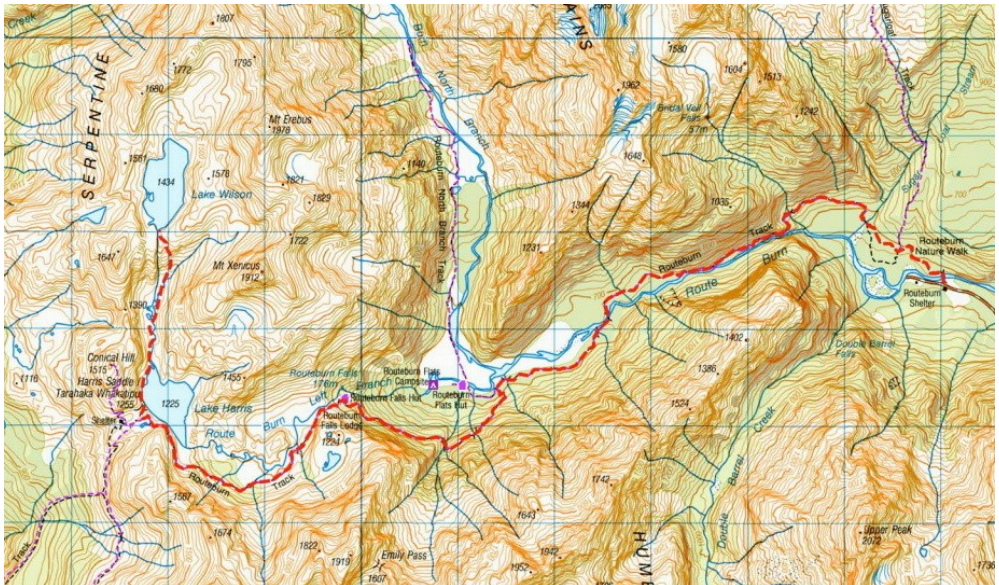
Saturday will involve about 9 hours of travel to reach the head of Lake Wilson, technically making the rating of the circuit FIT. However there are wind dependant

9 On Friday we drive across to Queenstown and camp at the Lake Sylvan Camp Site.

options to camp at the exposed foot of the lake for those wanting a MEDIUM fitness option. Camping east of the lake, and in the Valley of the Trolls are also options. There may also be an option of a 3-4 day trip if a group is interested.

The Lake Wilson outlet gut can hold snow well into summer so for this reason ice axes are required.

Trip list closes 15th February 2018.



17-18th February: Mount Cook Area / Ball Pass

(ALL) \$45+ Wayne Hodgkinson Ph.473 0950

A number of trips of differing fitness grades are available in the Mt Cook area from Fit (Ball Pass, Annette Plateau and others) through Moderate to Easy (day trips based from the White Horse campsite). If intending to stay at Mueller Hut (1800m) you will need to book a place (\$35) as it is in season. There are some campsites near the hut.

We will need to sign in and out at the Visitor Centre.

Heaps of possibilities. Here are 4:

Ball Pass (Fit + Snow Skills)

Weather dependant. This trip will be 2 longish days, and only be open to Fit club members who have demonstrated snow tramping experience. Ice axe and crampon skills are required, this is not a snow skills instruction trip, but might suit those who have completed a snow skills course. We plan to start early from the White Horse campsite, starting up the Hooker Track and on to the Mount Cook Range. The route is lightly marked, exposed in places, and likely to involve walking over loose scree, and steep scree/rock and snow. If the weather forecast is favourable, I would like to head for a high camp on snow near the pass at 2121 metres, otherwise we will camp lower down. There may be a chance to climb Kaitiaki Peak at 2222m on Sunday before we head down the spur via Caroline Hut (private) towards the Tasman Glacier. There is then a bit of a broken road walk to meet a vehicle at Blue Lakes carpark.

Times are: Saturday – White Horse campsite to Ball Pass 10 hours, Sunday 8 Hours.

Annette Plateau (Fit)

Starting with a vigorous 4 hour climb past Sealy Tarns onto the ridge and Mueller Hut. Sidling 200m

below the ridge on the Mueller Glacier side, eventually climbing onto the plateau to find somewhere to camp. The plateau is open to the northwest, so could get windy. Climb the bump on the eastern edge called Mt Annette (2235m). Sunday either retrace our steps, or head down steepish snow and rock via Sebastopol Ridge & Red Tarns. The trip in reverse is also possible. Ice axe & crampons required.

Sealy Range (M/F)

As above, staying at Mueller Hut or camping nearby. Stunning views.

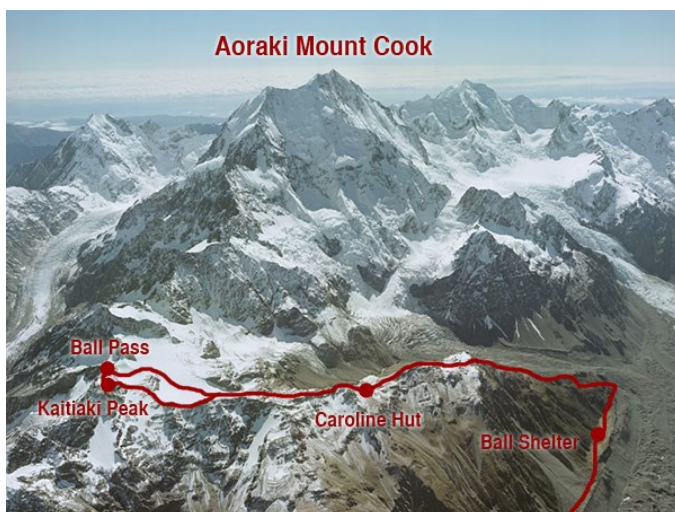
Day Trips (E – M)

Camping at White Horse Hill. Times offered are return times. Day trips could include Sealy Tarns (4 hr return), Mueller Hut / Mt Ollivier (1933m) 8 hrs, Ball Hut (7-8 hrs), Hooker Track to the glacier lake (3hrs), Red Tarns (2hrs), Blue Lakes / Tasman Glacier 1 hour or so.

Talk to Wayne or sign the Trip List.

On the trip list please indicate your fitness and preferred trip. Each trip will run only if we have a suitable Leader for each. This is an alpine area so a good 3 or 4 season tent would be required.

Transport cost will be \$45. Trip List closes Thurs 8 February.



February 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*

January 25 - Philip Somerville - Boating down the Hollyford to Martins Bay: Pack rafts have become popular but we went down river old way with two ride-ons and one Canadian canoe. However, we were accompanied some of the way by a pack rafter. Also walked round to Big Bay. One huge storm while on McKerrow Island, but mostly wonderful weather.

February 1 – BYO photos : It will be great to see the tramping trips that people did over the holidays. Please bring your photos on a USB to show on the club computer.

February 8 Tomas Sobek - Introduction to physics of walking, with a focus on walking downhill. Tomas loves walking downhill. It's so much easier than slogging up, right? Knee problems aside, there is one other issue though: Have you ever landed on your bum when walking down on a

slippery track? Even if it's happening regularly, there might be an easy fix: When walking downhill, lean forward. Come along to learn why, and dust off some simple primary_school physics at the same time.

February 15 Sue Williams – Tramping in Australia

February 22 Ross Davies: The 1970's - The Revolutionary Years: The 1970s were years of radical change on many fronts, and tramping and mountaineering were definitely part of that. A lot changed, including equipment and clothing, food, our relationship with the environment, transportation, climbing techniques ... the list goes on. Ross joined the club in 1970 and will share what he can remember of those years.

March 1 Michael Stott – Walking the Te Araroa Trail

February 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 BYO photos	2	3	4 Maungatua Summit with Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961
5	6 Cmtee	7	8 Physics of Walking with Thomas	9	10	11 Vistory Beach / Pyramids with Peter B 021 0236 2535
					Ahuriri / Dingleburn with Richard Forbes 453 1327	
12	13 BC #1	14	15 Tramping in Australia with Sue	16	17 Papatowai Challenge : Jane Cloete	18 Cloud Forest / Escarpment with Tony 473 7257
					Mt Cook area with Wayne 473 0950	
19	20 BC #2	21	22 1970's tramping Ross Davies	23	24	25 Bushcraft Navigation Day Flagstaff with Antony 473 7924
					Lake Wilson with Ian 021 279 7881	
26	27 BC #3	28	1 March Te Araroa Michael Stott		Bushcraft evenings start at 7 pm Tuesdays 13, 20, 27 (and March 6) at the clubrooms	