

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

794 July 2018

Winter Routeburn Social Trip - July 28-29



Aug 2015

July Trips & Events

Mapoutahi Pa (and Orokonui/Purakanui/Doctors Point)	Clutha Mouth
Unwin Lodge/Mount Cook	Heyward Point/Aramoana
Leith Saddle/Pipeline/Rustlers/Swampy	McNally Track
	Winter Routeburn

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
- Climbing Helmets
- Avalanche Probes and Transceivers

Your Committee

President : Richard Forbes	453 1327	forbespotter@hotmail.com
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Secretary : Leonie Loeber	477 4895	loeber@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer : Rodger Clarkson	473 6053	rodger.clarkson@xtra.co.nz
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Conservation; Advocacy; and Recreation : Chris Pearson	455 4673	cpearson86@aol.com
Ben Rudd Trust and Leaning Lodge Trust contact : Alan Thomson	455 7878	alan.and.robyn.thomson@gmail.com

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

This month we welcome Simon McKenzie as a new member.

As June is the end of the OTMC financial year there is a subscription notice in with your bulletin this month.

Please pay your subscription into the club bank account or hand to me on a Thursday night. If you are paying via internet banking, please email otmc@ihug.co.nz to let me know which type of membership and any changes to your contact details.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

5-6th May: Mt Domett Oteake Conservation Park, Otago

The goal was Mt Domett at 1942m. We set off in two cars from the club-rooms around 6, no stopping for meals, nearly all of us brought something to eat on the way. We turned off at Kyeburn and headed up to Dansey's Pass. About 15 minutes down the other side, we took a left and went down a farm track for a short distance and stopped at a gate. A staring squad of cattle were absolutely delighted to see us and gathered around.



The idea was to walk into the Chinaman's Hut about 2 hours up the Otekaieke River and we set off about 9pm. It was clear and calm and also dark. Across a turnip paddock then down to the river. We spent some time climbing up banks and over rocks and trying to quickly cross the river and keep dry boots. Frost was forming as we got closer to the hut. The hut was just above the river on a terrace and we used a

GPS as it would have been very easy to go straight past it.

Arrived at the hut about 11:30, there was quite a bit of ratty evidence, so we did a bit of house-keeping, shoved all the ancient mattresses into a big pile and finally went to bed. A rat popped up onto the bunk to say goodnight to Alex.



In no time at all it was morning again. Weather was fine and we set off up river, making the top about 1pm climbing the last part through rocks and some snow. It was getting pretty windy by now, so just a brief stop at the top and a quick lunch behind some rocks. Fantastic views right over to the Waitaki Valley and the whole Maniototo.



The original plan had been to traverse right round the ridge, but with the wind picking up and time marching on we decided to drop across and down and go back down to the hut via the gorge. There were plenty of animal tracks to follow and it was relatively easy going, but we still arrived back at the hut after dark. The trickiest part was climbing down the side of a waterfall and we all made it without mishap.

There is a great burner in the hut and Alex had brought some mulled wine, so we had a good night. The rat came out again when all was quiet and gave some of us a fright.

Sunday morning was fine, but would have been too windy on the tops. We headed out to the road-end. Much easier to find your way in daylight and also we weren't trying to keep boots dry. We were down at the Dansey's Pass pub just before lunch-time. Can recommend the huge chairs and enormous fire! Back to Dunedin around 3.

Sue for Joe and Sharon, Nico, Robert and thanks to Alex for organising a great trip.
(Photos by Sue Williams)

2-4th June : Mount Somers

We left Dunedin at 5:45pm and arrived at Woolshed Creek carpark way before 11pm.

Saturday morning we woke up to a crisp morning frost and had our breakfast under a full moon.

We started walking just after 8:30. From the old mine site we could see the valley covered under a blanket of low cloud. We found the first hut under a thick layer of fog while we were looking from the hills in full sunshine. Woolshed Creek hut was occupied by lots of small children. There was a nice frosting of ice on the sides of the creek. We took our morning tea break on the deck.

We continued towards the saddle and took the long road over the first creek as

the steep descent was too icy for our comfort and to my surprise the mentioning of wet boots did not appeal to everyone. After a short walk around and getting moist feet anyway we continued up and up to the saddle. The sky cleared as we gained altitude and we had lunch in the full sun with a view of the steep walk uphill we'd planned for the next day. We continued down the track to Pinnacles hut and arrived a bit early. We turned out to be a nice fit group who walked to the Pinnacles hut under 5.5 hours. We claimed our bunks with some occupying a double bed and it would fill up nicely during the rest of the day with some late comers sleeping on the floor under the table. Some of us went down the track for a little wander to be back before dark. Dinner was served with first hot soup, crackers & dip, tortilla wrap with special spicy filling and finished with a thick piece of chocolate cake. All completely vegan. The hut was warm and full.

Sunday morning started with an early 7 am rise forced upon us by a keen smartphone alarm. We packed up way after 8 and arrived at the saddle within a hour. We dropped our packs and started the steep climb up the hill. Some other trampers followed us. We continued over the top and slogging through the snow we arrived at the summit in good time. We were not really properly geared up for a comfy lunch at the summit so we retraced our steps back to where we could sit in the sun and out of the wind.



Top of Mount Somers - Peter Boeckhout

The journey to Woolshed Creek hut was quick and easy. We arrived at a warm hut with plenty of space and spent the rest of the day walking around, playing games and eating our second all vegetarian / vegan menu.....

The next day was a very late start and because a certain person wanted to spend some savings at Geraldine and Temuka we walked out via the lazy route.

A good tramping weekend with great company, great discussions and great food and lucky with the weather as well.

Peter Boeckhout for Michael Stott, Susie Szakats, Ludovic Dutoit and Ikky Kakhoofd.

10th June : Hare Hill – Hodson Hill

Our group of seventeen hearty souls converged at Deborah Bay and set off at 10:00 up the slope of Hare Hill. The day was overcast but without wind or driving rain (for which we were all thankful). As we entered the bush line of Hare Hill our trusted leader Gordon mentioned the potential for some 'navigational ambiguity' as he established which track to take through the bush.. a phrase that resonated with more than a few of our group (a driving force in my choice to tramp with the others rather than

falling victim to my own well established navigational ambiguity). However, we trusted Gordon to overcome said ambiguity and we resolutely plodded onwards.

We soon emerged from the bush, after carefully straddling a couple of electrified fences... Gordon's careful planning meant that he had come prepared with some rubber piping to place around the electrified wire. We walked along the top road for a short distance then entered the 'horses paddock' where Lucy gave the welcoming committee of two lovely horses some carrots.

We walked over the paddocks to the farm house of the horse owners and then re-emerged onto the top road, walking along Heyward Point Road and entered the farm land of Bill Brown. There was a container house situated at the top of Hodson Hill that was inspiring in its simplicity; more so given the million-dollar views over the sea that it commanded. Many might build a mansion from which to view such beauty.. nice to see that they had not.

Lunch was had at the trig station on Hodson Hill and we were all appreciative of the still day: no wind at all! We were able to enjoy the stunning vista with nothing but a light drizzle to dampen our lunch. Gordon then led us on a downhill trek toward the Bay telling wonderful and interesting stories of the local history.. failed Fitch (European Polecat) farming and 'cray coffin pots' in which crayfish were kept alive until the optimal time for consumption (some of us may have been observed to cringe at this idea).

We then slid down the steeper parts of Hodson Hill, many of us on our bums, great fun! We stopped by 'Billy Brown's Backpackers' .. a grand spot, wonderful accommodation, and looked to be a great place for a gathering. Making our way past the 'Ship watchers spot'. Unfortunately there were no ships passing at that time but we enjoyed the closeness of the sea nonetheless.



Hodson Hill - Photo by Gordon Tocher

After emerging on the bottom road, some of the group travelled back to Deborah Bay in cars conveniently placed there earlier, while others chose to walk the 3 kilometres back to the other parked cars as the weather was still very mild. We reached the cars just as a downpour began: awesome time management Gordon!?

A total of approximately four hours walking and I think someone with one of those fancy distance recording devices said we had walked just over 11 kilometres. We had a great bunch of people, a few new people, one of whom was visiting from Christchurch for the weekend, another couple of people who had recently moved to Dunedin, and Nicolas who is visiting from France. It was their first outing with the tramping club; it was wonderful to have your company and we hope you will join us again soon.

A huge thank you to Gordon for all his time and energy in organising and leading the tramp on Sunday. Knowledge of the local area really did add to the enjoyment of the day. Many thanks to all for a great day out.

Deb Nicholas for Sandra Divett, Susan Kinley, Jane Bruce, Spen Walker, Sue Rhodes, Maria, Ken Taylor, Lucy Jones, Nicolas Pierson, Rorie Marsland, Doug Malcolm, Helen Reid, Julia Racle, Mark Stephenson, Ralf Ohlemuller and Gordon Tocher.

10th June: Ben Rudd's visit

As previously indicated, the 20 year management plan expires for the Ben Rudd's Management Trust this year. The OTMC Committee is consulting with the Trust to determine where to from here. The results of this consultation will be presented to the wider Club at the AGM in August.

As part of the consultation process, a number of Trust and Committee members visited the property on the back of Flagstaff in June. We met up at the Bullring at 1pm and walked up the firebreak 4WD road to the property boundary. Gorse and broom has been controlled by various methods beside the road and into the bush (spot spraying, hand weeding and poisoning). On the city (east) side of the property our boundary is in common with the Flagstaff

reserve which is looked after by DCC. Further on to the northern boundary where the pine plantation used to be, there is a lot of broom present. Over time natives will grow through and shade out and subsequently kill off the broom. This will take several years yet though. There are old warratahs here and there defining the boundary and there was talk of a possible new track through here.

The weather at first was dry, but as we climbed higher drizzle set in. The track was quite muddy but we still saw many people and dogs out and about. This area is well used. Further north towards Swampy the land is looked after by the DCC Water Department and they plan to keep exotic weeds at bay. A drone was going to be used to photograph the entire property but the weather wasn't suitable – maybe another day. The drone can be used to identify and locate rogue pine trees and other weed species. Pest control was also discussed to encourage the bird life. We returned via the Flagstaff track to the Bullring. All up a couple of hours.

Richard Forbes for Debbie and Antony Pettinger, Helen Jones, Barry Walker, Kathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson, Richard and Tracy Pettinger, Wolfgang Gerber, Dave McArthur, Peter and Leonie Loeber, Ralph and Gareth Harvey, Arthur Blondell, Teresa Wasilewska.

BEN RUDD'S MANAGEMENT TRUST

Nominations are being called for Trust members. The majority of the existing Trust members have indicated a willingness to continue, with some taking the opportunity to retire and make way for new members.

If you have an interest in serving as a Trust member to help manage our Club's unique property, then please talk to a Committee member.

Ben Rudd's Property is wholly owned by OTMC, managed by the Trust, and has a QEII Open Space Covenant to protect the property for future generations.

The purpose of the Trust is to promote the historical, environmental, recreational and educational role of the Ben Rudd's property within the context of the Flagstaff area.

July 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 (non-members pay \$13 more than the members fee shown below).

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).

7th-8th July: Day trips from Mt Cook (All) \$45 Rodger Clarkson 473 6053

Staying at Unwin Lodge (\$30/night) we'll explore around Mt Cook area in mid winter conditions. Options include Ball Hut, Sealy Tarns and Hooker Lake. Last time I was up here at this time of year it was possible to walk out over a frozen Hooker lake and climb onto the icebergs.



Unwin Lodge

28-29th July: Winter Routeburn (M) \$55 (+\$15 hut fee) - Leader TBA

This is the Club's regular Winter Social trip. The theme this year is Xmas (so come as

Santa or an Elf or a Xmas tree -whatever ?).

Bring a wee dram (or two), leaving room in your pack for a kg of coal (provided) to keep our Falls Hut destination warm and cosy for the night.

We leave the Clubrooms at 6pm Friday, travel to the Routeburn Shelter and walk in to Flats hut by torchlight (6.5km 2.5 hours). Up bright and early (and frosty) to walk to Falls hut (2.3km uphill 1.5hours) for a night of festivities and a team quiz to test your general knowledge.

Potentially, depending on snow conditions, a walk to Lake Harris is on the cards.

Walk out and travel home Sunday.

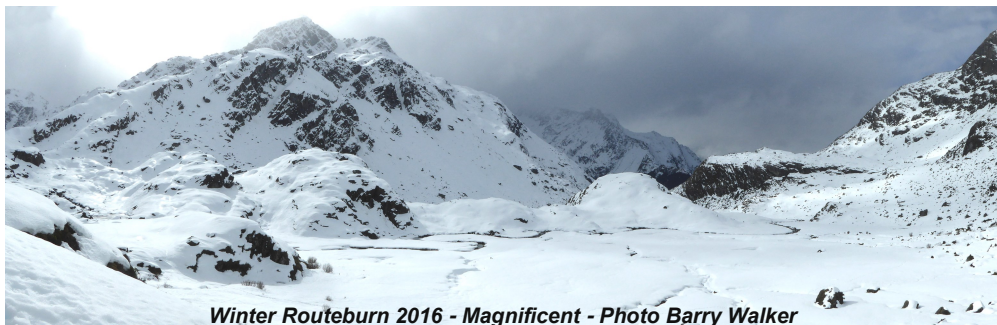
Our regular Trip/Quiz Master Wolfie is unable to lead us this year, volunteer(s) are sought!

4-5th August : Manapouri Kayaking

Rose Colhoun 021 151 3791

The plan for kayaking may not go ahead as the people I have previously organised to hire kayaks from may not have them available. It is difficult to kayak without kayaks.

Contact Rose for plan B or suggestions.



Winter Routeburn 2016 - Magnificent - Photo Barry Walker



Winter Routeburn - August 2015 - Barry Walker



Winter Routeburn (Falls Hut) - August 2016 - Barry Walker

11-12th August : Snow Skills

Basic Ice axe & Crampons

(I) \$20 Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

The main purpose of this course is to enable more of our members to have the skills and confidence to venture into country that may have snow conditions.

Winter is an ideal time to brush up on your use of ice axe and crampons, and the skills required when walking in snow. Your ice axe is your basic survival tool, enabling you cut steps, cross steeper slopes, and most importantly to avoid or arrest a fall and avoid sliding to oblivion in many snow conditions. Crampons with the skills to use them enable you to walk safely in hard or frozen snow. This course is aimed at **club members** who have some tramping experience, but little to no experience in tramping on snow. It can also be used as a

refresher for basic skills like self arresting.

We plan to leave the clubrooms 8:00am on Saturday 11th, and should be back before 5pm on Sunday.

Cost will be \$20 paid to the treasurer + hut fees.

Please sign the Trip List, before it closes on Thurs 2nd August.



Snow Skills behind Leaning Lodge Aug 2014

July 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

1st July: Mapoutahi Pa (M) \$5

Rodger Clarkson 473 6053

After leaving a Car at Waitati Inlet we'll start from Doctors Point, go through the Arches and along to Mapoutahi. From there we go along to Osborne and up the McKessar track before descending beside the Orokonui boundary fence to the waiting car.



8th July: Leith Saddle, Rustlers, Swampy (M) \$5 Tony Timperley 473 7257

We start this tramp at the Leith Saddle carpark and first warm up by going along the Pipeline Track to the start of Rustlers. We then have a steep climb up to Swampy where we should have great 360deg views over the coast, Taieri Plain and towards the Silver Peaks. After our stroll over Swampy, we descend the Leith Saddle Track to the carpark. Warning! Be prepared for mud on both the up and downhill sections.

15th July: Heywood Point - Aramoana (E/M) \$8 Carolyn Taylor 027 571 7712

This 2-3 hour walk starts steeply up a grassy slope but your efforts are rewarded with awesome views over Aramoana township, the peninsula and out to sea. The track continues along a plateau giving views North to Karitane and further on a good day. Suggest bringing walking pole(s) as grassy areas could be slippery making ascent and descent a bit more challenging.

22nd July: Clutha Mouth

(E/M) \$12 Wayne Hodgkinson 743 0950

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.

29 July 2018 : McNally Track, Milton

\$8 (E) Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961

At this time of year, some of us find it hard to get out of bed on these cold mornings. I have a walk that will charge you up and have you home in time to spend the afternoon catching up on housework or relaxing in a chair in front of TV.....asleep, but at least you got up and out for a walk first.

We will meet at 9am at the club rooms and then travel to the outskirts of Milton. The walkway is located on Cemetery Road for those wanting to meet us there at 9.45am.

The McNally walkway is named after the late Tom McNally who was a long serving Milton policeman. The track is maintained by the local Rotary club.

The track crosses rolling pasture and climbs to a nearby hilltop 318 metres above sea level. The bush loop passes through some nice native forest.

Total length is 7 km return with a walking time of 2.5 hours return.

President's Comment : Richard Forbes

Do we have a leadership crisis at the OTMC?

A quick glance at the trip cards over the last few years show that on the whole the Committee has been the same people. The trip leaders are the same people and the trip destinations are to the same places. Of course there are exceptions, but as a whole this is true. Why is this?

In the past the Committee and President regularly changed which provides new blood and new ideas. On the whole the trips are well patronised but we all mostly go in a big group to the same destination. It is a bit tricky for the trip leader to keep tabs on a spreading group of 10 to 20 people with the expected stragglers. It is also much slower with a large group. In days gone by, trips went to a particular area and different parties went off in different directions according to ability. They then met up at the end to travel home. It makes for great conversation on the way home to talk about our different adventures. Different destinations have occurred in a few of the trips I have done with the Club, but this has been the exception rather than the rule.

The Club has always struggled to attract new trip leaders. New leaders bring new ideas and destinations as we all have our favourite spots. For me it is the Ohau area where I went on my first multi-day trip with my dad and brother, and I will never tire of this area. It is not that hard to lead a trip. Firstly you need to select the dates and destination that suit you, put a blurb in the bulletin about your trip and preferably come to the Club to promote it. If it is a weekend trip delegate tramping party leaders based on destination and fitness. Organise the transport logistics and then go tramping. Other club members can help you with this if you are not sure about what to do. All this information, and heaps more, is available on our website and on the back of the trip card. Most trips now days are organised via group e-mails

Some trips struggle to get drivers for the vans or people willing to provide their own cars. One recent trip didn't go ahead as a second car could not be volunteered - this is terrible!

Who does not do their fair share? Who just goes to sleep in the van and then follows the leader on the track? Who doesn't research where they are going and doesn't even have a basic map? Who puts their name on the trip list and then only wants to travel in their own car leaving early and only wants to be in their own food group? We are not a guided walking company, people!

We really rely on people to make a sound judgment on their own fitness and ability levels to go on weekend trips. Sometimes their own judgment is way off the mark, even the Great Walk tracks require a level of fitness to walk up a big hill with a weekend pack on. If you're not sure build up your fitness on the easier graded day walks and then build up to the easier weekend trips. We always try to cater for everyone's needs but only if there are the required numbers

This Club is all volunteers and we all need to do our bit for the Club. This is your Club – put something back in.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to Antony Pettinger after the death of Charlie Weaver on the Routeburn Trip in May. Antony wrote many emails keeping everyone informed of what had happened, kept in touch with SAR from when he was first contacted early on Saturday morning, and organised informal evenings in the Club rooms for all those involved to offer support and counselling. I was relieved that our systems and procedures worked as intended. Due to the generosity of Hirepool (who we hire our vans from), and the trip participants, we were able to make a donation to the Glenorchy Ambulance and Fire Service who did a stellar job in the early hours of Saturday morning.

And finally The AGM is coming up at the end of August. There will be vacancies for Committee positions, please consider putting your name forward for nomination to make your contribution to the running of this club.

Richard Forbes
OTMC President

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 your 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.

Please put your photos on a named USB and hand to Debbie at a club night before 9 August with the winners announced on 23 August.

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



Flagstaff Sunrise 17th June - Rodger Clarkson

OTMC Auction

Time for a clean out of your excess tramping gear – the OTMC Auction is on 16 August 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 a committee member a ring). All items will be auctioned off on 16 August.

This is also a good night to pick up something new to add to the tramping cupboard so be sure to book the 16 August into your calendar.

Proceeds from the auction will go $\frac{1}{2}$ to the Kea Conservation Trust and $\frac{1}{2}$ Project Kereru.



July 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*

5 July – David Barnes, Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC)

Federated Mountain Clubs is the national association of tramping, climbing and outdoor clubs. The OTMC has been a member since 1931. OTMC member David Barnes, who has been on FMC's executive for 18 years, will talk about what FMC does, some of its achievements and what it's working on now. He'll also explain what you can get out of it (there are perks from being one of FMC's 20000+ members) and how you can contribute to its work (other than by being an OTMC member, which means you're already a contributor!!).

12 July – Alex Tups, Climbing Mt Earnslaw

Sure to be of interest to all

19 July – Ian Billinghurst & Gordon Tocher, Southern Humboldt Mountains at Easter

At Easter 2018, four members of the OTMC attempted a north-south traverse of the southern Humboldt Mountains from the Routeburn to the mouth of the Greenstone

river. Come along to hear their story of the 8 passes, 6 valleys, 1 glacier, and a million scree slopes.

26 July – Sarah Chisnall NUTRITION 101 ...what the heck am I supposed to eat?

In the age of alternative facts, the world of nutrition can be a confusing rabbit-hole when trying to figure out what we should eat, tramping or not. Sarah (NZ registered dietitian) will provide an overview of the nutrition basics before jumping in the hot seat to answer/discuss any burning nutrition questions, queries, claims or suggestions YOU want to know."

2 August – Gorse eradication on Quarantine Island

Doc scientist Jillian Hetherington began a trial research project on gorse management on quarantine island last September. Her focus is on gorse eradication without the use of poisons. She is also evaluating whether her poison-free approach might also be, long term, the least labour intensive way of dealing with gorse.

July 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1 Mapoutahi Pa with Rodger Clarkson 473 6053
2mtte	3	4	5 David Barnes FMC	6	7	8 Leith/Pipeline/Rustlers/Swampy with Tony Timperly 473 7257
					Unwin Lodge @ Mt Cook with Roger Clarkson 473 6053	
9	10	11	12 Alex Tups Mt Earnslaw	13	14	15 Heyward Point - Aramoana with Carolyn Taylor 027 5717712
16	17	18	19 Ian and Gordon Southern Humboldt	20	21	22 Clutha Mouth with Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950
23	24	25	26 Sarah Chisnall Nutrition 101	27	28	29 McNally Track With Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961
					Winter Routeburn overnight Falls Hut (Xmas Theme) - TBA	