

# OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

# 790 March 2018



*Lunch on Fiery Col, Five Passes : Barry Walker*

*After an 8 year hiatus 17 keen OTMC trampers braved searing heat and a cyclone to complete the classic Five Passes trip (Fohn Saddle, Fiery Col, Cow Saddle, Park Pass and Sugarloaf Pass). Most of the route is in Mt Aspiring national park, part of it is in Fiordland, and some of the route is through the edge of the Olivine wilderness area.*

## **March Trips & Events**

Lake Isobel & Mt Crichton      Mitchell's Rocks  
Chalkies Challenge      Flagstaff

Matukituki/Cascade/Rees (Otago Anniversary)

Easter: TBA

Bushcraft River Crossing & Silver Peaks Weekend

**Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club**, PO Box 1120, Dunedin

[www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)    [facebook.com/groups/otmcnz](https://facebook.com/groups/otmcnz)    [otmc@ihug.co.nz](mailto: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

President : Richard Forbes	453 1327	forbespotter@hotmail.com
Vice President : Antony Pettinger (and Website, Bushcraft, Centenary)	473 7924	antony.pettinger@gmail.com
Secretary : Leonie Loeber	477 4895	loeber@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer : Rodger Clarkson	473 6053	rodger.clarkson@xtra.co.nz
Chief Guide : Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950	wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz
Membership Secretary : Debbie Pettinger	473 7924	debspettinger@gmail.com
Bulletin Editor/Publisher : Barry Walker	477 5018	bmw@xtra.co.nz
Daytrip Convener : Sharen Rutherford	027 229 1961	sharen.rutherford@gmail.com
Club Meeting Organisers : Gail Mitchell and Sharon Bretherton and Debbie Pettinger	0274 780 775 473 8784 473 7924	gailraem@gmail.com jsbretherton@gmail.com debspettinger@gmail.com
Clubrooms Maintenance : Sharon Bretherton	473 8784	jsbretherton@gmail.com
Clubrooms Hire : Barry Walker & Helen Jones	477 5018	bmw@xtra.co.nz
Gear Hire : Joe Bretherton	473 8784	jsbretherton@gmail.com
Librarian : Helen Jones and Gail Mitchell	477 5018 0274 780 775	hlnmaryjo@hotmail.com gailraem@gmail.com
Conservation; Advocacy; and Recreation : Chris Pearson	455 4673	cpearson86@aol.com
Ben Rudd Trust and Leaning Lodge Trust contact : Alan Thomson	455 7878	thomson@ihug.co.nz

## Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

Welcome to Sam Pynenburg and Gemma Allan as new members to the OTMC.

This brings our current membership to 229.

Thank you to all those who make our new members feel welcome. 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

### 20-21<sup>st</sup> January: Death Valley & Scott Creek

#### Into the Valley of Death ...

Some of us spend time staring at topomaps (perhaps we need a life) and imaging trips. When we see a name like Death Valley our eyes light up. Wouldn't it be great to go there?

So I had to take the chance to tag along after Ian Billingham promoted a January trip up Scott Creek and into Death Valley. Ian, by the way, is doing a wonderful job organising tramps to places less trodden and to untracked tops.

As it happened, Ian's hurt shoulder ruled him out, and he gave me the call to take over as trip leader.

Ten of us spent Friday night at the beautiful DOC Lake Sylvan camping ground near the start of the Routeburn before heading up at 8am on Saturday into the bracken and then beech forest.

Unusually for any tramping club these days, we were a relatively young team. I calculated only two of the 10 were aged more than 39. One was only 19. It required someone of my advancing years to drag the "mean" age up.

Scott Creek to the bush line is tracked, and then we climbed over rough ground up the stream towards the expansive Scott basin. Following Ian's excellent detailed instructions and photos, we dropped

packs to detour to Pt 1344 for views back down to the Dart and over to the Earnslaw massif.

After lunch we climbed further and around a tarn, up some scree and over a saddle about 1690m. We then dropped steeply a short distance, taking care not to bomb each other with rocks, before easing around into the aforementioned Death Valley.



*Sam Pynenburg*

It did not disappoint. The only access was via the saddle and down valley to Kay Creek. The sizeable tarn in the tussock was a beauty, with plentiful campsites. Some of our number went for a dip.



*Philip Somerville*

We were there by about 3.45pm, and the day, with plenty of stops, was civilised and not too tiring.

The same could not be said for the morrow. We scooted down the stream for an hour or two, crossed through a little scrub and forest before arriving at Kay Creek Hut. We then slogged up Kay Creek, two choosing to plunge into cool pools on the way.

There's a steep scramble at the head of the valley to avoid waterfalls and bluffs, and we stopped for lunch on our way down Scott Creek. The walk out was brisk and hot with few stops. We arrived at the van about 3.45pm, a solid, sweaty and exhausting eight-hour day.

Nine of us dunked ourselves fully into the Dart River, before - dust free and a little cooler - we were homeward bound.

Philip Somerville for Andrea, Steph, Nico, Sam, Gemma, Michaela, Sue, Massimo and Andrew.

## **21<sup>st</sup> January 2018: Jubilee Hut and back in a day.**

The weather had been really hot in the days leading up to this walk so a few days prior had arranged a slightly shorter trip which meant going in via Mountain Rd carpark to Jubilee Hut and returning the same way. This was also the last day walk prior to the

large group heading off on the Five Passes trip so we had a number of members doing last minute checks on new purchased gear or just checking their fitness.

A couple of days prior the weather gods were forecasting a cool 22 degrees and cloud cover which in light of the plus 30 degree days looked really good.

An early start of 8am from the club rooms, meeting the final person at the carpark so the group of 10 were heading up the track by 8.45am. The cloud cover was very low and we were hopeful that this would lift later in the day.

A mixture of people on the walk and some with a number of years of experience provided some key conversions along the way and one of these was Gordon talking about snack foods for energy and the importance of topping up along the way.

When approaching the path up to Pulpit Rock we decided to continue as the cloud cover was so low we were walking in the mist and getting wet in the process. No worries at this point about overheating.

Down Devils Staircase and sighting the hut in the distance under the mist cloud. We meet a few Trampers that had spent the night at Jubilee hut and were taking a late start. We arrived at Jubilee Hut approx. midday and for some this was the first time they had actually been in the hut despite a number of years tramping. Understandable

as most walk past unless this is the destination or an over-night trip.

Relaxed over lunch and we all watched Gordon Tocher do a bit of gardening as he removed a bag of weeds from around the hut – excellent work from Gordon and a general reminder to us all to ensure we clean our boots particularly if we have been in our own gardens or other parts of the country to continue to protect our back country.





After lunch we all headed up Devils Staircase hopeful that at the top the clouds would break and brilliant sunshine would reward us after our slog up the hill. This was not to be and we walked out in the mist having not seen anything other than the immediate ground in front of us. Good day overall anyway – any day tramping is a good day.



Sharen Rutherford on behalf of Ken Taylor, Joe Skinner, Jane Ward, Carolyn Taylor, David Bunn, Richard Forbes, Gordon Tocher, Rorie Marsland and Helen Reid. Photos by Sharen.

## 4<sup>th</sup> February: Maungatua Summit

Another nice day for a tramp – not too hot and some cloud cover to keep the temp in check.

Group of 10 left the club rooms at 9am on route for Woodside Glenn carpark. Once at the carpark we split into two groups with a faster group wanting to see how far they could get to the summit and a slower group aiming for above the bush line for lunch which included Andrew along with Lily in tow (doing it the easy way via a back pack on dad's back).

The track conditions were wet with the recent rain so this was a



*Our youngest trampler?  
Lily (photo by Dad Andrew)*

consideration for all and requiring caution for everyone. A slippery rock on the creek crossing proved a bit much with one of the group having a little dip in the stream.

A steady climb up and we were blessed with sighting of a Tui and a NZ Falcon on the path on the way up.

Nice views above the bush line looking out towards the Taieri Plains. The slower group found a nice spot among the tussock grass and the other group continued onto one of the rocky outcrops before turning back.

The trip down the hill provided its challenges with the odd slip here and there.

Sharen Rutherford on behalf of David Bunn, Ken Taylor, Tony Timperley, Sonia Alexanian, Jane Ward, Carolyn Taylor, James Lang, Andrew McConnell and Lily McConnell.

## 11<sup>th</sup> February: Victory Beach

6 keen trampers not afraid of some drizzle, started the Victory beach track at the end of Dick Road's carpark. After 10 minutes we arrived under the Pyramids. They really look like the Great Pyramids of Giza from the carpark road. We climbed up the smallest and had a great view towards the beach and over Okia flat. We took the track leading straight to Victory beach and arrived at Wicklife Bay. We headed south towards the Papanui Inlet and we just could see the remains of the ship wreck Victory (1861) in between the waves. There were a couple of sea lions laying on the beach, or were they Seals?

At this point the rain started to come down a bit quicker and the wind kept on changing direction. We rounded the tip of the beach and walked close to the water, inland west following some markers higher up in the sand. There were some sea lions waking up and not happy to see us. Some time later we bumped into one single sea lion who was a bit more territorial. It wobbled towards me so I stopped and he stopped, then I walked carefully further, the other trampers followed and the sea lion came a bit closer - so as good trampers do they stopped and of course the sea lion stopped as well. Then part of our group walked carefully at the

edge of the water past the sea lion and made it safely across. Then there was one single trumper still hesitating to cross safely and with all the courage the brave trumper could gather, running through boot deep water with some loud noises scaring the big fellow, finally made it towards the safe side. :- We kept walking on the edge of the water and soon we came to a 4wd track. There was a Mom & Dad sea lion with 4 pups a bit further down the road totally not afraid of us.

We followed the high water mark to the road we drove in from and walked back to the carpark. And now the rain was coming down a little bit more. A perfect Sunday to get that outdoors feeling going.

Peter Boeckhout for Lucy Jones, Sue Rhodes, Janet Barclay, Ken Taylor and Ash Flintoff.

### **16-17th December 2017: Xmas Social in Catlins**

I'd previously stayed at the Forest & Bird lodge in the Lenz reserve on a volunteer weekend and thought this would be a great base for a Xmas social club trip so when the opportunity arose that's what I put on the trip-card. 14 of us headed down at various times on Friday with another 2 joining us on Saturday. It was a gloriously sunny Saturday and various people packed in heaps of activities including a trip to Curio Bay to see the fossilised forest, lunch at the Whistling Frog, a walk to McLeans Falls, a trip to Papatowai for a swim and Kayak, a visit to

Cathedral Caves, and walks around the reserve, before heading back to base for a BBQ Xmas dinner.

Ralph played the part of Santa and we sat on his knee to receive our secret santa presents. Ralph was enjoying himself as each person got slightly more amorous with each sitting, unfortunately for Ralph the last person, Mr 'Lapdance' Campbell, just took things too far! He did redeem himself however by getting us some fresh kai off the rocks on the coast.

After drinks and dinner and a few more drinks Alan got out his guitar and sang a few songs including one about an accident prone bricklayer that had Ray in absolute hysterics. On Sunday we met up with the daytrippers and did the Catlins Riverwalk before returning to Dunedin on a wet Sunday afternoon. Everyone enjoyed themselves over the weekend and on a personal note it was good to see Gene out with the club again and long may that continue.



Rodger for Geraldine, Kate, Nicole, Gene, Margaret, Ralph, Andrea, Jamie, Ray, Jill, Alan, Wayne, Maria, Tina and Adam

*Photos by Rodger Clarkson*

## 27<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Five Passes

What a perfect trip the OTMC Five Pass trip turned out to be - 17 people completed 85 people-crossings of passes, saddles and cols over 7 days, (64km), some of which would be at near maximum temperatures ever encountered for tramping, together with a cyclone just to add to the experience.

Ten people under the leadership of Antony Pettinger (who also planned and co-ordinated the trip) took the anti-clockwise direction, whilst Richard Forbes led the 7 person clockwise group.

We took a mountain radio (what a great service the Canterbury Mountain Radio service provide!) - this allowed us to be ready and get into position for the incoming cyclone 4-5 days out, hunker

down for a day to avoid any dodgy river crossings (we had planned at least one rest day anyway), and continue again with the forecasted fine weather.

An awesome trip (anti-clockwise) down the Rockburn and Dart Valleys to the Beans Burn, over Fohn Saddle (1506m) to the fabulous Fohn Lakes area, then onto the Olivine Ledge, up and over Fiery Col (1546m), through Cow Saddle (1025m), and along Hidden Falls creek to a very exposed and windy crossing of Park Pass (1175m), down the Rockburn and up and over Sugarloaf Pass (1154m) to a final 15 minutes on the Routeburn, completing a great 7 day trip for the anti-clockwise group.

Both groups will tell us about their trip at a club night later in the year.



*Five Passes  
Fohn Lakes from  
Sunset Peak  
Richard Forbes*

### *Five Passes*

*Mallory Peak above the  
Merkl Glacier, with the  
McBride Peaks on the  
right*

*Barry Walker*





# March 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 4<sup>th</sup> March: Mitchell's Rocks

**\$10 (E/M) Peter Loeber 477 4895**

Mitchell's Rocks are south, on the east coast, between Toko Mouth and Wangaloa. They have some very interesting fossils and to view them makes for a good day's beach tramp.

The timing of the tramp has to be so that its low tide at the rocks and we will be hoping for a calm sunny day.

To get to the rocks, we will drive down to the Wangaloa Domain (85 km from Dunedin), go down to the beach and walk north about 5 km to the Rocks with the plan of being there around 12.30 to match low tide.

Rather than just walk back to Wangaloa we will continue walking north from the Rocks to either Measly Beach settlement (about 5km)

or continue on to Toko Mouth (about 9 km) (with a car shuttle organised beforehand).

### 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March: Relay for Life

Leonie Loeber (secretary of the OTMC), is participating in the Relay for Life and has asked if the following could be inserted into the Bulletin.

The Relay for Life is an overnight walking event which involves rostered team members of friends, work colleagues or families walking around a track to raise funds for the Cancer Society. This year the Relay for Life will take place on 17/18 March at the Caledonian Ground.

I am walking as part of the 'Mornington Walking Group'. If you would like join the team, please contact me for details on how to register. Registration costs \$20.00 and any money then raised goes towards the total raised for the Mornington Walking Group.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, that would be very much appreciated and I would need to receive contributions by 10 March.

Thank you. Leonie





## 25th March: Flagstaff (without a car)

**\$12 (E/M) Jan Burch 027 455 4559**

Ever thought that driving miles to go tramping isn't as environmentally friendly as it could be? When was the last time you caught a bus in Dunedin? Here's your chance to feel good morally and physically: a tramp done with public transport.

We leave the clubrooms at 9am to catch the #44 bus to Spiers Road. Walk up the Spiers Road track to Flagstaff, then head towards Swampy Summit, turning off just before reaching it to take the Powerline Track down to Leith Valley Road.

Depending on time and inclination, the possibility of a meander to Nichols Falls before continuing down Malvern Street to the network of tracks in Woodhaugh Gardens.

From there we can catch a #3 bus back to the clubrooms. The cost is your bus fares which will be at most \$12, cheaper if you are using GOcard rather than cash, and cheaper still if we start by walking to Cargills Corner to save ourselves a zone. An E/M walk which will include the best views of Dunedin.

# March 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.*

## 3-4th March: Lake Isobel & Mt Crichton (M/F) \$50 Tomas Sobek 03 777 3047

Lake Isobel is a beautiful 1600m mountain lake located at the top of Twelve Mile Creek, accessed from the Queenstown - Glenorchy Road. There are several well formed tracks in the lower valley that link to Lake Dispute, but the route to Lake Isobel is mainly off-track. We will walk via the ridge

between Twelve Mile Creek and Maori Gully. There could be a bit of bush-bashing. There will definitely be scree traverses and plenty of sidling. The lake itself is dominated by towering tops most of the way around, including the 1870m Mt Crichton, which is an easy scramble from the lake. There are great views all around. On the way back we will retrace our steps



**24-26<sup>th</sup> March: (Otago Anniversary Wkend)**  
**Matukituki/Cascade/Rees (M/F) \$55**  
**Nathan McCauley 021 023 77680**

Stunning views of Mt Aspiring will be just one of the rewards for this demanding 3 day trip. This is a fit trip only where all participants will need to have proven fit trip experience with the club due to three big days of tramping 7-9hrs per day. In order to make this trip a success it will require an equal number of vehicles or seats at each end of the trip (one party starting in the West Matukituki Valley the other in the Rees Valley side). It will also require participants to be a little flexible and equally capable of starting and finishing the trip going in either direction so as to ensure there are enough seats to get everyone in and out.

Linking the two valleys by way of the Cascade Saddle and a section of the Dart Valley will be our aim. The climb to Cascade Saddle from the Matukituki side is a demanding 1400m verticle ascent up to the pylon and the descent of the same section for the party coming from the Rees Valley side will require participants being comfortable with steep descents (Matukituki side) and having good balance.

There are some hut options along the way however due to the long days these may not be positioned ideally for our parties so the tents will give us better options. Lastly but most importantly this trip will be weather dependent as there are some significant risks associated if there is inclement weather.



*Five Passes*

*The anti-clockwise team  
above Cow Saddle*

*Antony Pettinger*

*Five Passes*

*The clockwise team's*

*fifth pass, Fohn Saddle*

*Tomas Sobek*



# March 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*

## **March 1 - Michael Stott - Te Araroa Trail (Part 1):**

Over the 2016/2017 summer Michael did not walk all of the TA (Te Araroa trail), though he did walk a fair chunk of it. Michael will talk about some of the places he visited and characters he met as well as some reasons why you would and perhaps why you wouldn't want to walk the TA. Various "poorly taken" photographs included.

## **March 8 - Ian Thorne - DoC Ranger on Fiordland Island:**

Ian will talk about his Doc ranger work in fiordland, as well as a recent trip traversing the Braan mountains. He works mainly on remote Secretary and Resolution islands in fiordland. He also works on the "Battle for the Birds" project. And as a cruise ship commentator.

## **March 15 - Neville Peat - The Sub-Antarctic Islands and Macquarie Island:**

Neville Peat, Dunedin author, will take us on a journey through NZ's 5 sub-Antarctic island groups that were listed as a World Heritage natural area in 1998.

Neville researched and wrote of the

government's nomination for the listing of the islands. He has visited the region many times as a guide and lecturer on tour ships

## **March 22 - Sharen Rutherford, Summiting Mt Kinabula in Sabah, Malaysia:**

Sharen spent three weeks in Borneo in February 2018 and while there did some day walks around Mt Santubong and within the Bako National Park. The highlight of the trip was walking to the summit of Mt Kinabula in Sabah, Malaysia.

## **March 29 - Easter (no club night)**

## **April 5 - David and Penny McArthur – Cuvier Island.**

Cuvier Island (Repanga) is currently a restricted 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.



*Five Passes*

*Crossing the Rockburn*

*Tomas Sobek*





### Five Passes

Large Fohn Lake,  
Sunset Peak,  
Corinna Peak,  
and Brenda Peak

Tomas Sobek

### Five Passes

Sue and Richard admire  
The Rockburn Valley  
Tomas Sobek



## March 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 Michael Stott on the Te Araroa	2	3	4 Bushcraft River X'ing with Antony Pettinger 473 7924
					Lake Isobel/Mt Crichton Tomas 03 777 3047	
5 Cmtte	6 BC #4	7	8 Ian Thorne DOC Ranger	9	10	11 TBA
					Bushcraft Silver Peaks with Antony 473 7924	
12	13	14	15 Neville Peat Sub-Antarctic	16	17 Papatowai Challenge : Jane Cloete	18 Chalkies Challenge with Sharen Rutherford
19	20	21	22 Sharen Rutherford Mt Kinabula	23	24	25 Flagstaff (without a car) with Jan Burch 027 455 4559
					Matukituki/Cascade/Rees with Nathan 021 023 77680 -->	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
<--			No Meeting	(Easter 4 days) TBA -->		