

OTMC BULLETIN

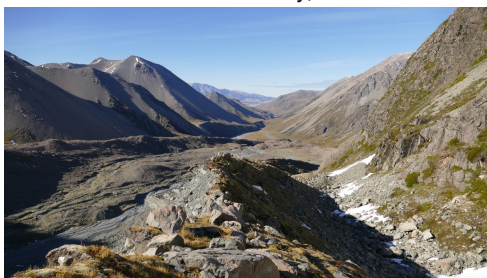


Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

792 May 2018



Cameron Valley, Hakatere Conservation Park, Canterbury : Barry Walker



May Trips & Events

Mount Domett Government Track Mount Watkins Routeburn Crossover
Tomahawk Lagoon Arthur's Track to Jubilee Hut Coal Creek Circuit, Silverstream
(June Queens Birthday - Mount Somers : Pinnacles Hut)

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

President : Richard Forbes	453 1327	forbespotter@hotmail.com
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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.robbyn.thomson@gmail.com

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome the following people who have joined the OTMC after the Bushcraft course:

Garon Whitney, Isabelle Moebs, Leon Miyahara & Motohide Miyahara, Jessica Barder, Angela Bleach, Heather Gruppelaar, Nicola Rodger, Jodi Mutch & Brendan McNeill, Alfred Wong, Suzie Szakats, Katie Scott, Marisa Bellamy, Casey & Ian Thomas, Emma Burns & Matthew Newton,

The club membership now stands at 241 current members

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

18th March: Chalkie's Challenge

9 eager tramper's psyched themselves up to do the Chalkie's Challenge with Sharen. The plan was to start at the signposted track near Waioira Scout Camp, and walk the Chalkie's Track, Raceman's track and then the Tunnel track.

The track was officially sign posted with its standardised green/yellow Doc signage. However, as we soon came to find out, defined it was not. We proceeded to climb in the direction of our target destination, with the joyful sounds of the birds singing overhead, and the fantails swooping around us. We followed the only clear markers we could see which was either pink ribbons attached to branches, or red insulation tape, it was clear that this was no actual track, well not one that had been used recently.

When we found ourselves on something that resembled a track, it was short-lived, and we had to search for markers again. We came to a fence line, so we opted to follow the fence line towards our target, bush bashing where necessary to ensure we continued to follow the fence line to our target destination.

But alas the evil bush-lawyer was everywhere, and it took out its revenge on many of us tramper's. Trying not to let the bush-lawyer get the upper hand, we continued our climb to the top until we came to a right-angled fence in the forestry area. Leading us to believe we were near our destination.

However there appeared to be no clear indication as to which way we needed to go next. With the only option to tackle further dense bush and nasty bush lawyer. With many of us Tramper's already nursing battle wounds, we decided to back-track a bit to see if we missed a marker.

But alas, no such luck, so we stopped for lunch, and pondered our next direction. We reluctantly decided to continue our way back down towards where we started.

Even as we made our way back down it was unclear at times as to where we had come up, not even our footprints could be seen, even as we tried following the pink/red

markers that we believed we followed on the way up.

We finally reached our starting point, noting that we had come down in a slightly different direction to where we had started.

All and all it was a great walk, with great companions. Hopefully it will reappear on the Trip Card again, as it has certainly left several of us with a sense of determination and curiosity to do it again.

Sharen Rutherford on behalf of Ken Taylor, Geraldine Kerr, Jane Ward, Carolyn Taylor, Rodger Clarkson, Rorie Marsland, James Lang, Holly Yang.

8th April: Trip to Harbour Cone

We parked the vehicles at the Broad Bay Boating Club, walked back along Portobello Road and up to the end of Camp Street. After going through the gate we walked along a farm track until we met the sign for the track to Harbour Cone (Herewaka). We had morning tea near a derelict farm building, with a notice telling us it was a 'hazardous area'. We then followed the poles over the farm land, though some Macrocarpa trees until we come out on Highcliff Road. We saw a number of stone fences along the way, a sight that is synonymous with Otago Peninsula. The steady climb to Harbour Cone is through farmland and once we are at the top we



View from Harbour Cone : Magdy Mohssen

were rewarded with outstanding views out to the coast and in the other direction to the city of Dunedin. Surely the best place for a Sunday lunch! The boulder fields at the summit and the shape are reminders of its origins as a volcanic cone, an offshoot of the volcano that formed the peninsula and harbour.

After our lunch stop we walked back down, cross Highcliff Road again and continued to Bacon Street and from there it was about a 10-15 minute walk back to the cars along the harbour foreshore.

I would like to thank my fellow walkers for accompanying me today and for joining me on my walk.

Leonie Loeber for Magdy Mohssen, Ken Taylor, Ivan Booth, Lucy Jones, Doug Mabohm, Tania McMillan, Laurence Prattley, Tina Anderson, Carolyn Vincent and Peter Loeber.

15th April: Mihiwaka 3 Peaks

We all met at the clubrooms at 9am as usual and headed off to the starting point just above Port Chalmers. Included in our group of 13 was 4 year old Zac and 5 year old Lilly along with their parents who came prepared with their child carrier packs.

We headed off up a gravel road climbing toward the reservoir, after a loop round the reservoir we back tracked and headed up Mt Chalmers where some of us climbed a pile of rocks to reach the highest point with views down to Port Chalmers, the wind was so strong I could hardly stand up at the top.

We then headed back down and toward Mihiwaka while Zac decided he had seen enough and he and his parents headed home. At Mihiwaka a trig that was upright a week ago was flat on its side.

We then started up Mt Kettle, a few of us were trying to get to the top of the rocky track but someone down below decided to test his whistle so we turned back thinking we had been summoned only to find that was not the case.

We headed back to the reservoir and found a slightly sheltered spot for lunch then continued with peak number 3 or maybe it was 4.

This was through a pine forest and Sandy had a plan to find a geocache up the top somewhere, on the way up Andrew just

happened to be standing in the wrong place when a pine cone fell from a branch above hitting him on the head ...ouch.

So we headed up to the top, it was pretty steep and some chose to wait below, Sandy was looking for her geocache, all she knew is it was near a fallen log by a flax bush, well there were heaps of fallen logs and heaps of flax bushes but eventually the cache was found ..yay.

We headed back down to the vehicles once again passing the reservoir, some took the longer route and others the direct route.

During the whole day the wind was strong and gusty especially at the top peaks. Little Lilly rode in the pack on 2 small climbs the rest she walked enjoying finding the markers and splashing through the mud, it was great to see such enthusiasm from a young one.

Total distance 9.7km and climbed 504m.

Maria Hamelink for Tania and Greg McMillan, Andrew McConnel and Lilly, Jodie, Brandon and Zac, Jim Western, Jeff Brookes, Ken Taylor, Lucy Jones and Sandy Webb. *(Photos by Maria)*



7-8th April: Mavora Lakes

The rain fell steadily, prematurely darkening the sky as the Dunedin Four left their city behind. The Team Leader and her husband made their own way to the rendezvous point to scout a campsite for the night. The weekend mission was to make it to Forks Hut and back safely. The catch? They'd have to cross the Mararoa River both ways. Would the river cooperate? It was anyone's guess.

As the Dunedin Four entered the Mavora Lakes Campground, they kept a lookout for the Team Leader's signal. Just as they were about to run out of road, three lights arranged in a triangle lit up the night. The Dunedin Four pulled over, retrieved the signal lights, and made camp next to their Team Leader's vehicle.

Dawn brought blue skies, with a few low clouds over North Mavora Lake. Now fully assembled, OTMC-Team-Six hoisted their packs and set off along the 4WD track. As they walked, the sun continued to climb into the sky, causing layers to be shed and cameras to come out. The ruts and potholes left by past vehicular visitors had become impromptu ponds in the recent rain, but the track was still easily navigable on foot, and the beauty of the area had everyone brimming with ideas for future missions, particularly with non-motorized watercraft.

Lunch was eaten overlooking the Mararoa River and the Windon Burn. The best place to cross looked to be about half a kilometer downstream of the confluence. On approach, the Team noted the river's flow was unencumbered by debris, but looked a bit deep and moved more quickly than someone might comfortably walk. The most experienced river crosser volunteered to make the first attempt. Equipped with a pole, he picked his way across, the water never rising above his knees, then turned and came back to the true right bank, where the Team waited. He confirmed that it was flowing at a decent – though not impossible – rate, and would be over the knees of the shorter team members, who were also less experienced with river crossing. And what of the next day? MetService forecast rain for

the next afternoon, but yr.no forecast rain for the next morning – should they cross the river now only to risk a higher or faster flow the next day?

There was enough doubt, so we left Forks Hut for another mission, and enacted Plan B: proceed along the river's true right bank for an hour to reach Boundary Hut. This would keep them in the terrain of Te Araroa



Approaching Forks Hut : Rodger Clarkson

hikers as well as hunters taking advantage of The Roar. Already that day, the team had chatted with dirt bikers, two hunters who reported seeing a stag less than a kilometre from the track the night before, and one very intrepid bicyclist. And sure enough, as they continued along the river, they encountered a handful of TA hikers. Though none had stopped at or were heading for Boundary Hut, we were glad they weren't relying on the hut for shelter that night.

Further along the track, the Team Leader stopped to survey the river for other potential crossing points and realized she was no longer wearing her glasses! She must have lost them during her last clothing swap. The Team Leader and her husband backtracked, but to no avail.



Boundary Hut by the Mararoa River : Jessa Barder

After reaching the hut, it seemed far too early in the day to stop moving, and the track had been fairly undemanding, so the group decided to do a bit of reconnoitering using the swing bridge next to the hut to cross the Mararoa – perhaps the Windon Burn would be a more reliable crossing for the future? So off the group went for some bushwhacking in the surrounding hillocks, with each member of the party taking a turn leading, until the only way back to the bridge was through a boggy marsh. Oh well.

Back at the hut, two southbound TA hikers showed up during dinner and were grateful to learn there was still plenty of bunk space. As bellies filled, the pace of chatter slowed until, one by one, the Team members slipped off to their tents for the night.

Before sunrise, rain began to fall; yr.no had been right. The Team bundled up as the drizzly sky meant a chillier walk than the day before, though thankfully the tailwind kept the rain out of their faces so they could fully appreciate the drama of the surrounding mountains in cloud and rain. As they approached the approximate site of the Team Leader's last clothing swap the day before, everyone slowed and cast their eyes down, perchance to catch a glimmer of light bouncing off glass, but no joy.

As they passed their picnic spot from the day before, the clouds began to clear. In the emerging sunlight, the bright blue of a knife handle and sheath caught one team member's eye. Perhaps this belonged to a hunter? It seemed clean and almost new, though. She picked it up and just happened to reach Carey's Hut in time to hear another team member mention that he must have lost his little blue knife somewhere along the way. At least one lost item was reunited with its owner!

After a quick lunch, the Team resolved to make it to their vehicles in the DOC estimated 2 hours, which they generally considered to be ambitious. In fact, they reached their vehicles in 1 hour and 50 minutes.

OTMC-Team Six was comprised of Rodger Clarkson, Geraldine Kerr, Susie Szakats, Jessa Barder, and Steve Hopkins with Christine Hopkins as Team Leader.

(text by Jessa)

21-22nd April: Cameron Hut

As it happened, two parties did the trip with a brief meeting as one went out and the other went in. Sue, Kathy and Chris made up the advance party, leaving on Friday with expectations of adverse weather which did eventuate that night tenting at the Lake Heron motor camp. They then had an uneventful tramp on Saturday up Cameron Valley to the hut, if a bit slow, taking some time more than the optimistic 5 hours posted on the info board. A bit of an explore around preceded the trip out on Sunday.

The "seniors" group (Ralph, Peter and Barry) had the luxury of postponing the trip to avoid the worst of the weather, travelling up on Saturday and spending the night at the Lake Heron camp in the motor-home.

The tramp in on Sunday was marred a bit by some off-track excursions as the result mostly of rather poor route markings (warratahs with white tops, some of which were loosing their white paint in favour of their green! base colour), and a general lack of markers at critical exit and entry points. By the end of the trip we were pretty critical of the route markings and think a few \$ spent by the Canterbury Mountaineering Club in making some improvements would be money well spent! ...(yes I know some may say we had a few senior moments too).

We also had a bit of fun finding the road entry to the carpark track (no signage, just pick the right 4WD track to go up, unfortunately our first pick was wrong and proved a real time-waster negotiating a long wheelbase motor-home over a pretty rutty track).

Ah well, we did get there in the end and well worth while it was. A fabulous valley ending at a superb mountainous and glacial face. A basic 9 bunk hut, full both our nights with tent overflow (including 5 children/teens), warm and comfortable (except for the bunk headroom which had both Ralph and Barry head-knocking several times with appropriate exclamations).

After a full extra day's explore we headed out and home Tuesday, Ralph suffering a bit of a disappointment by loosing his camera en-route.

Barry Walker for
Sue Williams,
Kathy Woodrow,
Chris Pearson,
Ralph Harvey
Peter Loeber.

Thanks to Sue
for the trip idea
and organization.



Cameron Hut area : Barry Walker

May 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

6th May: Government Track

\$10 (M) Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961

We will meet at 9am at the club rooms and will then travel to the carpark on the Waipori falls road approx 100 metres down from the DOC sign ("Government Track") after you cross the first bridge.

The track starts steep but then turns into an easy grade most of the way. This is a good walk for medium fitness and we will walk 17 km's all up and the time estimate including lunch and breaks is 5-6 hours.

There are a few creek crossing and windfalls can be a problem. The track itself is nice and also used by mountain bikers. The slopes are beech and manuka so very pretty and the last time I walked this track it had lots of bird life.

My plan is to stay in the bush so up and back the same way.

Suggest you bring long pants or gaiters as I'm expecting we will have a tree or two to climb over given the windy weather of late.

Any one wanting to meet us there, can they please ring me prior on 027 2291961.

13th May: Tomahawk Lagoon

(M) \$5 Geraldine Kerr 021 0247 9822

20th May: Coal Creek Circuit Silverstream

(M) \$5 Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

27th May: Mount Watkin

(M) \$12 Kathy Woodrow 03 455 4673

Mt Watkin is a volcanic cone located inland from Waikouaiti. I took a trip there two years ago and we will go through the locked gate and go down the 4WD track and explore around the river before returning to the gate and approach the peak from along the fence line. There is another way of approaching the peak that starts from Mt Watkin Rd that we can take if necessary and I might choose this way and do the peak on the way in.

May 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.*

5-6th May: Mt Domett

(M/F) \$50 Alex Tups 027 362 1221

Mt Domett (1935m) is a prominent landmark on the North Otago western horizon and offers views from North Otago and South Canterbury coastal plains to Aoraki Mt Cook and the Southern Alps.

We will camp at Dansey's Pass on Friday night and climb Mt Domett on Saturday. Weather permitting we plan to camp up high on Saturday night and will climb the neighbouring peaks on Sunday. It is a decent climb so reasonable fitness is required.

12-13th May: Routeburn Track

Crossover

(M) \$55 Richard Forbes 021 510 760

The club has not done the Routeburn as a crossover trip for 4 or 5 years so its time to do this great popular trip again.

Due to expected popularity this will be for Bushcraft 2018 and OTMC paid members only on a first come first served basis. Numbers can be limited due to transport constrains so get in quick

The summer season of the Great Walks ends 30th April and the tracks for this trip will be in winter season. This means no booking season, cheaper hut fees, no gas or running water, no flush toilets, no heating or lighting and usually no warden in residence.

The plan is to take one hired van (final transport arrangements will depend on demand) to each end of the track (The Divide and Glenorchy) with each group walking the entire 33km track during the

weekend. The group from the Glenorchy end will spend Friday night (after a short walk) at Flats hut and Saturday night at McKenzie Hut, and the group from the Divide at Howden and then Falls Huts.

The trip home will be in the van left at the track end by the other group.

This trip will have everything: well maintained tracks and bridges, gorges, river flats, beech forest, alpine tussock lands, crystal clear rivers, waterfalls and lakes, awesome views and superb well equipped huts. Lots of info on the DOC website. For the fitter ones side trips to Key Summit and Conical Hill (conditions allowing) are worthwhile.

Hut fees are \$15 for each night (or Annual Hut Pass) and \$55 for the transport. Trip list closes on 3rd May to give me time to organise.

19-20th May: Arthur's track to Jubilee hut.

(M/F) \$10 Peter Boeckhout 021 0236 2535

We start from the Mt road carpark via the Possum hut route down to the Waikouaiti river and follow the just recently officially opened Arthur's track until we reach the Yellow ridge route. From here on we are out on the ridges and tops via Philip Cox memorial hut and the Yellow ridge towards Jubilee hut.

Next day we walk leisurely out starting with the Devil's staircase, via Pulpit Rock and the Green ridge towards the carpark.

8am (or earlier) departure Saturday, expect 8 hours walk in and 4 hours walk out.

(Reasonable fitness needed to complete the whole weekend.)

2-4th June, Queen's Birthday.

Mt Somers - Pinnacles Hut

(M) \$50 Peter Boeckhout 021 0236 2535

We camp or stay in cabins at Mt Somers Friday night. Expect arrival time to be 11pm.

Early start Saturday morning, we follow the Rhyolite track towards the Bus Stop down to Woolshed Creek hut and up towards the saddle via the North track to Pinnacles hut. 19 bunks, coal fire and several camping spots.

Next day we plan to make our way towards Woolshed Creek hut (26 bunks, plenty camping spots) via the Summit, all weather depending.

On Monday we will agree on one of the 3 options to walk out towards the carpark.

Expect the first day 6 hours, 2nd day 3 or 7 hours and 3rd day 1.5 to 4 hours.

There is an option to walk to Woolshed Creek hut via the South face, but only if you are willing to walk for 8+ hours. I am willing to lead that group (weather depending).

Club room departure Friday 6pm sharp, back in Dunedin Monday late afternoon.



Cameron Valley head with Cameron Hut in the foreground : Barry Walker

Ben Rudd's Management Trust

The OTMC owned 45ha Ben Rudd's property on Flagstaff is managed on the clubs behalf by the Ben Rudd's Management Trust (BRMT). The Trust came about at a time when multiple general meetings of the club could not really decide what to do with the property. In 1998, the BRMT was formed, and a formal Trust Deed and Management Agreement were adopted. While the actual Charitable Trust Deed has no expiry date, the Management Agreement has a 20 year term and expires on August 1, 2018.

Over the 20 years, a lot has been achieved with our property, including the creation of the QEII Open Space Covenant. The OTMC Committee wish to express their appreciation to all members who have served on the Trust over the twenty year term. We know the property is important to a good number of current and past members, and we look forward to further protecting this special piece of land in the years ahead.

In line with our official agreement with the BRMT, the OTMC have invited the Trust to enter into consultation with us starting on May 1. Our intention is for both the Trust and the OTMC Committee to discuss the current Trust Deed as well as the

Management Agreement and Plan, and make suggestions on changes as either party sees fit. The OTMC Committee invite any interested members to let us know what they think, or make suggestions that the club can consider during the consultation. The Committee will not be considering disposal of the property (there has been no case made to the OTMC to do so following the publication of the Ben Rudd's editorial and request for feedback last September). However, all other suggestions are welcome. There are some aspects of our current agreements we can't change, like the charitable status of the BRMT, or where we are bound by the QEII Covenant.

If you have any feedback you would like the Committee to consider, please send to Antony Pettinger at otmcnz@gmail.com by the end of May 2018.

In the event a new agreement is reached, then we will be electing a new Ben Rudd's Management Trust at the OTMC AGM in August – if you are interested in becoming a Trust Member, or want to know what might be involved have a chat with a current Trustee: Richard Pettinger, Teresa Wasilewska, Kathy Woodrow, Jim Sime, Sam Patrick, Alan Thomson or David McArthur.

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.

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 photo 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 12 July 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 12 July.

This is also a good night to pick up something new to add to the tramping cupboard so be sure to book the 12 July into your calendar.



May 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*

3 May, Ross Davies & Richard Pettinger – Olivines 1970's Style

Ross and Richard's recollections. From the 1970s, these two went more than a few times towards the Olivine Wilderness, even getting there and back once or twice, including before it was gazetted a Wilderness. Come and muse over their mangled mix of memories, misguided madness (and maybe minor mockery).

10 May, David Barnes – The Bachelor of Tramping degree: learning life lessons and life skills with the OTMC, 1980-1992.

17 May, The 5 passes with the A Team

In April we heard the R Teams tell their story of how they completed the 5-pass circuit clockwise, tonight we'll hear from the A Team who travelled the 5-pass circuit anticlockwise. They tramped through 30+ degrees and then a cyclone to finish their trip in 6 days.

24 May, Wolfgang Gerber – OTMC in the 1990's

"What 88 year old planted the seed for my joining the OTMC?"

"What really happened on the Matukituki Trip in Jan '95?"

"Why was the Huxley Hut so hot? and I'm not talking about the heat from the fireplace" Come along and find out about these and other events from the '90s

31 May, David McArthur – The Family Tramping Group and the OTMC

7 June, Barry Walker and Helen Jones Magnificent Molesworth Station

DOC volunteer wardens at Cob Cottage (and road) for a week, with plenty of photos.

Advance notice – the Banff Mountain Film Festival is on 19 & 21 June at the Regent Theatre. Tickets can be purchased directly from the Regent Theatre.

May 2018

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3 Olivines with Ross & Richard P	4	5	6 Government Track with Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961
					Mt Domett with Alex Tups 021 172 084	
7 Cmtte	8	9	10 David Barnes BOT degree	11	12	13 Tomahawk Track with Geraldine Kerr 021 0247 9822
					Routeburn Crossover with Richard Forbes 021 510 760	
14	15	16	17 5 Passes Anticlock-wise	18	19	20 Coal Creek Circuit with Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950
					Arthur's Track to Jubilee with Peter Boeckhout 021 0236 2535	
21	22	23	24 Wolfgang's OTMC 1990's	25	26	27 Mt Watkins With Kathy Woodrow 455 4673
28	29	30	31 David McArthur FTG/OTMC			