



*Denan digs his Snow Cave : photo by Dave Bull
(Trip report page 5)*

September Trips & Events

OTC first day trip re-enactment X-Country Skiing at Snow Farm
Ben Rudd's Work Party Map and Compass practical - Mt Cargill
McKessar/Purakanui Gabriels Gully and Wetherstons
Taieri Mouth Cycle and Camp Around Port Chalmers

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 Sharen 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 (some safety items are free).

See or phone Joe Bretherton 473 8784

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

Your Committee

President : Antony Pettinger	473 7924	antony.pettinger@gmail.com
Vice President : Joe Bretherton	473 8784	jsbretherton@gmail.com
Immediate Past President : Richard Forbes	453 1327	forbepotter@hotmail.com
Secretary : Sharon Bretherton	473 8784	jsbretherton@gmail.com
Treasurer : Sharen Rutherford	027 229 1961	sharen.rutherford@gmail.com
Chief Guide : Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950	wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz
Membership Secretary : Debbie Pettinger	473 7924	debspettinger@gmail.com
Bulletin Editor/Publisher : Barry Walker	021 209 5550	bmw@xtra.co.nz
Daytrip Conveners : Tomas Sobek	03 777 3047	info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz
Andrew McConnell	022 089 6537	sossie_the_great@hotmail.com
Club Meeting Organisers : TBA		
Clubrooms Maintenance : Peter Loeber	477 4895	loeber@xtra.co.nz
Clubrooms Hire: Peter Loeber (& Barry Walker)	477 4895	loeber@xtra.co.nz
Gear Hire : Rodger Clarkson (& Joe Bretherton)	473 6053	rodger.clarkson@xtra.co.nz
Conservation; Advocacy & Recreation : Chris Pearson	455 4673	cpearson86@aol.com
Ben Rudd Trust contact : David McArthur	481 1478	de.pp.mcarthur@gmail.com
Leaning Lodge Trust contact : Alan Thomson	455 7878	alan.and.robyn.thomson@gmail.com

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome Darron Mitchell, Declan Mehigan and Emily Bruchez as new members and farewell Caitlyn Robertson, Jim Western, Theresa Forbes, Jodi Mutch, Fieke Newman and David Eggleton.

Thank you to the members who have paid their subscription. I have handed out a number of membership cards over the last few club nights and will post the rest with the next FMC Bulletin (due next month).

There is around half our membership who are still to pay and a reminder notice will be sending out after the AGM. You can pay your subscription directly to our club bank account with your name and 'subs' as a reference, post a cheque to PO Box 1120, Dunedin or pay at a club meeting. If you do not wish to renew your membership, please send an email to otmc@otmc.co.nz to let us know so we don't keep reminding you. Thank you Debbie.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

28th July : Buskin Track/ Highcliff Summit/Boulder Beach/ Paradise Track

It was a cold morning when 16 of us huddled inside the clubrooms to list our names and organise car-sharing. Most had their legs covered in thermals in the expectation of cold southerlies, except Leader Tony, who said the forecast was for 15+ degrees and in any case his natural hairy covering would keep his legs warm. Who was correct? Read on and all will be revealed – in more ways than one!

We parked the cars on the lay-by at the Paradise Track entrance/exit, then set off along the Highcliff Road to the start of the Buskin Track. Although a 15 minute road-walk, we were rewarded by great views over the Boulder Beach area on the left and the harbour on the right. As we descended Buskin, continuing to admire the views north whilst also avoiding the stinging nettles, people began to remark how warm it was getting and removing top layers. (No longjohns yet!)

On reaching the junction between the Buskin and Highcliff Tracks we swung right under a copse of macrocarpa, following a marked but rough track to the start of the 250m climb up to the summit of Highcliff. It was during this climb that certain members of the group dived behind bushes to relieve themselves – not in the way we usually associate with this euphemism, but to relieve themselves of their thermal leg coverings. So, Leader Tony was right! Unfortunately, however, he was not able to shave off his natural leg thermals to cool down.

At the summit our now bare-legged group settled down for drinks and nibbles whilst enjoying the extensive views both to the north and south (see photos). We were also able to see the route we had to take to reach Boulder Beach, which included a return descent to the Buskin Track junction. As Lucy says, “What goes up, must come down” (See her Rosella Ridge/Cedar Spur trip report in the August Bulletin.) and to

prove her point she led the way back down Highcliff, leaving usurped Leader Tony fumbling with his pack as she galloped down the track.



We all enjoy refreshments on Highcliff summit.

As a result we reached Boulder Beach in record time and even though we had had refreshments less than an hour earlier, we were all ready for a leisurely lunch on the beach. Guess who found the most comfortable seat? (see photo). Lunchtime entertainment was provided by Mondie conducting a sea-lion which swayed rhythmically until it thought it had entertained us sufficiently, when it flopped down and just occasionally flipped sand over its torso. It was fast asleep when we left.

Leader Tony was also caught napping when the rest of the group suddenly decided to get up and head back to the start of the Paradise Track. However, as they took the wrong track, he and co-leader Sonia were able to reassert their leadership by taking the correct track off the beach and getting ahead of the pack to lead them to the base



of Paradise Track.

Antony Hamel says "This [track] is an honest 300m climb ...". I think most of us would call it a 300m "slog" or "grunt". Lucy again led the way and had us all gasping in her wake, showing us that "What goes down must go up again and she had led us down and up on both accounts! As a result of Lucy's vigorous pace setting we reached the Paradise Track carpark in record time also and completed the whole tramp in about an hour less than Leader Tony had estimated. Nevertheless all participants agreed that they had enjoyed this energetic and scenic tramp done in perfect weather.



Tony Timperley for, and with thanks to: Lucy Jones, Sonia Alexanian, Jill and Luca McAliece, Darran Mitchell, Luna Lovegrove, Tim Lungley, Mondie Lungley, Peter Loeber, Mark Stephenson, Ken Taylor, Emily Bruchez, Declan Mehigan, Kathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson. Photos by Sonia Alexanian.

27-28th July : Cameron Valley

We were all able to leave Dunedin early, so we arrived at the Mt Somers Camping at about 8:30 pm. There was much debate about when we would get up. In the end Rodger was over-ruled (Sharon is tough like that) and we decided to get up at 6am. Ironically Rodger was up first and woke us all up at 6:30. There were many comments made about alarms not being set, but I took no notice of them.

The start of the valley is about 40 minutes from Mt Somers and we were on the way at 8:30. We could see snow at the head of the valley so we took ice-axes just in case. The first part of the valley is on a 4WD track, the next section was through a matagouri forest. We all took turns losing

the track and getting scratched. It wasn't a monoculture – there was also briar rose, bush lawyer and spaniards. I think Rodger lost the most blood. When he'd finished complaining, he let us know that he isn't one to complain. Eventually we emerged into more open country and reached the large fan in the middle of the valley. We decided to climb up and have lunch at the top with some views. Then it was onward going between the river-bed and the banks until we reached the big moraine walls at the head of the valley. We followed up a stream on the true right of the valley and started walking through snow. Eventually we climbed up into the basin and caught sight of the hut at last. There was about



30cm of snow around the hut and it was a stunning sight. The snow had come down about a week ago, so it was fairly easy going. We reached the hut at about 3:30. We had a rest and then went back outside for a look around. Simon was the most energetic and went part of the way up the carriageway.

The hut is owned by the Canterbury Mountaineering Club and is in a top spot, the view from the hut window is superb. They have solar lights set up and a mountain radio (no heating though).

In the morning there was some cloud coming over from the west, although it was

reasonably mild. We set off by 9am and we were out at the end of the road by about 3:30pm. We were back in Dunedin by 9:30 after a stop at the kebab shop in Timaru.



Sue Williams for Simon, Rodger, Carpark and a big thankyou to Joe and Sharon for their vehicle and driving.

Photos by Carpark Lin.

10-11th August : Snow Caving

(the ultimate cool trip report)

Looking for a chance to just chill out? You could have joined us.

We did the snowcaving thing and slept underwater and it was all pretty cool. This is an activity that 99.99% of humanity would probably not even recognise as a "thing".

This year's superlatives include: the keenest bunch, most accurate (bad) weather forecast; the easiest snow to dig, the most motivated diggers (due to crappiest weather for the trip in many years), least number of hot drinks consumed...

Twelve of us, 3 cars, lots of walking with packs (due to snow drifting across the road rather too low down). Every member of the trip had been cautioned about the weather and the need to prepare to get snowed on, and still they went, forewarned and equipped, enthusiastically ahead into light snow in a light wind. After checking out the rock bivy's salubrioness, grabbing lunch we found a site in the sheltered drift a few minutes to the west. The wind

was katabatic and slightly from the NW, and even the NE, swirling a little. I kept checking if everyone was feeling up to it. They assured me they were. Nobody was sitting back looking obviously apprehensive... It all made for a determined effort to keep busy and take turns to be out of the wind. I warned the bench-diggers that they couldn't hog the relatively cosy still-air work, inside. We were blessed with a great depth of excellent-consistency snow that fell away in huge polystyrene-like blocks.

The snow falling was exactly the quantity and timing as foretold by the insanely accurate yr.no (Norwegian) global weather forecasters (bless them). Although I was about to write a stern letter of complaint to Norway if it didn't stop snowing at 6 o'clock, there was no need to. It stopped as predicted, on time for us to make entrance-way meals in relative comfort.

I have an observation. Years ago, forecasting was not quite so sophisticated. We used hunches and crystal balls which were about as useful as dried seaweed and NZ forecasts, and often trusted luck and went off snowcaving anyway. If the weather turned out to be crappy we'd go and do an afternoon and a morning of wanders around Alexandra. We wouldn't bother learning about snowcaves if it was really ghastly, and instead learn 'emergency' snow survival by getting the hell off the mountain and sitting in a cabin/bar/restaurant instead.

Despite dire and contentious talk among the met boys, of a weather bomb or something, this year we believed we knew what to



expect, and when we would be snowed on and when not, so we had steeled ourselves in true rugged OTMC-fashion and ascended into the frozen mists. We were clearly going to be perched on the boundary of the predicted blizzardous storm north of us and a cool but relatively clear and calm air mass in Southland and Clutha. A slight change in the incoming direction (by a few degrees) of the air mass (the barometric situation) off the coast could shift the boundary of the weather system across the Old Man Range. One would hope to be immersed in the more southerly air mass.



Anyway, we laughed at the arguments about weather warnings and learned the art of keeping warm(ish) while maintaining morale and building our accommodation. We forgot to make hot drinks (something my wife, Tracy, would never allow to happen were she with us), so focused were we on getting out of the weather. Near-palatial, relatively warm, secure caves resulted and all had a splendid night of sleep.

Next day my cave team was photographed by an ace photographer from next door (Dave) and after scant or no breakfast we packed up and left our homes, our neighbourhood, the mountain and hit Roxburgh for a hot drink and lunch. An uneventful journey saw us home quite early, all very pleased with ourselves. We have acquired yet another death-defying piece of knowledge.

Richard Pettinger: for Wayne Hodgkinson, Sue Galloway, Sharen Rutherford, Amit Myint, Louise Shaw, Tim Lungley, Luna Lovegrove, Dave Bull, Denan Diep, Darron Mitchell, Saskia Bronstring. Thanks, Denan and Darron, for bringing vehicles.

Photos by Denan and Dave

3rd August: OTMC Equilibrium Day Jubilee Hut and Return

Changing the club's name from the Otago Tramping Club to the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club was a big decision, with the debate starting with a well-documented debate in October 1966. It wasn't until August 1971 when the name was finally changed as recorded in *Outdoors '73*: 'The 1971 Annual General Meeting provided one of the most significant milestones in the 50-year history of the Club. A motion was passed that "advanced levels of tramping and mountaineering be encouraged" To fit in with this new concept the Club was renamed "The Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc)' It has been written that the name of the subsequently formed Over Thirties Club, a sub-group within the OTMC, was chosen to retain the O.T.C initials.

Fast forward to August 2019, calculations were undertaken to work out when the OTC and OTMC would become equal in age – this turned out to be on August 2019. The original Otago Tramping Club was around for 17,522 days, and the OTMC achieved this age on August 3. To celebrate this, a trip was planned that would link the two names together, hence this trip to Jubilee Hut.

The forecast for the weekend was poor, but a perfect weather window on the Sunday was predicted, and turned out to be accurate. Overnight snow and freezing conditions made for a slow trip to the Semple Road carpark, but clear and sunny weather greeted us, and remained so for the rest of the trip.

It was noted that the start of Gold Miners Direct Track has been shifted to now start immediately behind the DoC sign at the carpark (used to be about 300m on the track towards Hightop). A good pace saw us at the former OTC Green Hut Site 50 minutes later. While regeneration of an area in general is appreciated, it won't be too long until there is no view from the hut site – the once expansive views are being blocked out by the surrounding regrowth.

There have been murmurings of discontent with the 'improvements' made to the track from Hightop, but the addition of steps

between the old hut site and the ridge above has dealt to the worst of what was once a mud-slide at times. Now that we were facing the south, the recent snow and rain had frozen, creating a very slick track from below Green Hill to about a third of the way down the Devil's Staircase. Storms could be seen in the direction of Lake Wai-hola, but skirted around the Silver Peaks.



Original hut site : Antony Pettinger

The view from the top of the Silver Peaks on a clear winters day is impressive, especially with the snow clad Lammerlaws, Lammermoor's, Rock and Pillar and right round to the Kakanui's. Cave Stream didn't look particularly enticing, being frozen and devoid of sun, but wasn't too bad. The section of the old 4WD below Jubilee Hut is as boggy as ever, and the track up to hut itself is also very muddy and slippery. It was disappointing to see the amount of damage by pigs along the valley floor, and outside Jubilee - the options to camp have been reduced remarkably. Luckily, the campsites under the beech trees in various places remain.

A quick lunch at Jubilee, and then a visit to the former Jubilee Hut site – the original hut was built for the OTC's Jubilee in 1948 (opened in 1951), and was removed upon the opening of the replacement hut in May 2007. At this time of year, the advantages of the new site is obvious – the old site is cold, damp, and sees little to no sun in winter.

A steady climb back to the highest point of the Silver Peaks, and a pleasant stroll along the ridges saw us back at the Green Hut site around 3.30pm. The weather held for the final push along Green Ridge to the Semple Road, with the hail and then snow holding off until we were about 30 seconds

from the car park.

The trip bordered between a moderate and fit trip, with the total tramping time being around 7hrs. It was a great day with a real neat team. I'd like to make a special mention of Dick Brasier, who travelled down from Christchurch for this trip. Dick joined the club in 1965, and told us how big a part of his life the OTC / OTMC has been to him, hence him coming down for this trip. Over time, the club can become a really important part of who you are, and for those who joined young, your life skills are developed and enhanced by your tramping experiences (good and bad!) Dick, thanks for joining us, we certainly enjoyed your company and stories.

Antony Pettinger for...Debbie Pettinger, Wayne Hodgkinson, Darron Mitchell, Tim Lungley, Luna Lovegrove, Louise Shaw and Dick Brasier.

18th August: Sullivans Dam, Cloud Forest of Leith and Escarpment Track

We parked the cars at the carpark near Sullivans Dam and headed off. Our party consisted of Jill McAlicie and her grandson Luca, Heather Lundbeck, Lucy Jones, Peter and Leonie Loeber, Tony Timperley and Geraldine Kerr. Immediately after coming through the gates, there was a huge puddle of ice on the road. We tested it with our walking poles, but it was reasonably solid. On the way up the track we 'trod the boards' on the board walks and did the 'limbo rock' under an overhanging tree stump. We had morning tea where the track meets the Powerlines Track where we had great views up the coast to the north and snow on the peaks to the north west.

After morning tea, we continued up the Escarpment Track towards Pigeon Rock which was our lunch stop. Again we had the pleasure of stunning views and glorious sunshine.

After lunch we continued on the Escarpment Track through the remaining pine forest (where there were patches of snow) towards Cowan Road. From there we picked up the Three Peak Tracks to return

to the cars. Unfortunately, this track is very overgrown with gorse and broom which we had to sidle through the gorse so as not to get too many prickles. Once we were through the track we headed back onto the Powerline Track to re-join the Cloud Forests of Leith Track and return to the cars. The app on Geraldine's phone said that we walked just over 10km. We were back at the cars just after 3pm.

Thank you to everyone for your company, to Tony for track directions and to Geraldine for leading a great day out.



Editor's Comment : Barry Walker

After 43 Bulletins, commencing with #765 for October 2015, I have decided to call it a day, so this will be my last OTMC Bulletin as Editor/Publisher.

Prior to my editorship the Bulletin was a "black and white" publication printed externally, but as I have a long history of computers, printers and publishing I decided to put my own interpretation on the layout and go for full-colour. This required in-house printing as the costs of external colour printing were prohibitive.

Unexpectedly that created a few heartaches as the 200+ copies I was then printing exhausted three printers before I finally purchased one that could cope with the load. After several hours of compiling the publication, and a few more nursing the printer, came the extra work in stapling and folding, so it was quite a monthly exercise.

More recently we have had most members opt for emailed digital Bulletins and as a consequence the printing task has reduced to a current 40 copies, much more manageable

I do wonder, however, what the "read-through" rate now is. Whereas I suspect the printed Bulletin hangs around for the odd perusal during the TV ad breaks, and remains available for a quick reminder of what is up-coming (as it does in our house), I wonder whether the emailed version is read to the same extent. Often emails arrive at inconvenient times, so the Bulletin may

not get any attention when it arrives, or for that matter get much of a look at later on, so just what "read-through" rate is achieved?

Also, although emailed Bulletins are the choice of the majority, the choice is somewhat coloured by the extra cost of receiving a printed Bulletin, which may convey a false impression of undervaluing it.

There is current talk of potentially doing away with the monthly Bulletin as it exists in favour of the current weekly updates and perhaps a quarterly Bulletin/Publication, with emphasis not on up-coming events but rather on past events by way of trip reports etc. To my mind this would be a sad ending to what has constituted a primary source of club communications (807 of them to-date) and a significant loss of an important resource of historical record of club events. I remain unconvinced that a digital record, primarily via social media and email, will survive over time, particularly so as voluminous new content diminishes the old to the point it becomes irretrievable (vis: how far back must you go in Facebook beyond the new volume of data to retrieve something maybe just a month old?).

Let's hope, for those of us who read through most Bulletin content, and keep them (at least for a while) as a source of reference, that our monthly Bulletin will survive. I reckon, as with most things of value, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

Cheers, Barry

September 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).

7-8th Sept: Snow Farm X-country Skiing *(Please refer to the August Bulletin)*

28-29th Sept : Taieri Mouth Cycle and Overnight Camp

(E) \$TBA Jan Burch 027 455 4559
or jrb5050@gmail.com

This is a cycle trip for people who don't cycle much with the aim being to give a taste of how much fun cycle touring can be. The mileage makes for an easy ride that even the slowest of us can cycle.

We'll leave from the club rooms at 9am on Saturday morning and cycle to Taieri Beach Campground. For those that arrive early, there are plenty of walking possibilities in the area. We'll overnight in a bach and then ride back to Dunedin.

The emphasis is on good food and good company so if the weather is bad, the trip will be cancelled as it is about enjoyment, not challenge. We will have vehicle support and so beginners need not fear if a spell from cycling is needed.

Labour Weekend: 26-28th October **Fiordland (East Eglinton to Hollyford)** **(All) \$60 Antony Pettinger 473 7924**

There has been a shortage of tramping weekends lately, so here is your chance to enjoy a three-day trip in Fiordland. I am promoting this trip as an 'old school OTMC' trip with different options for different grades or aspirations. There is a trip here for everyone – the trip itself has options between the East Eglinton river right through to the

Hollyford turn-off (and a bit more). Participants will be arranged into smaller self-contained parties, each with an experienced leader – each party is free to choose their own trip...here are some options:

A full traverse of the Livingstone Mountains from the East Eglinton to The Divide – probably a MF trip over three days, with a mix of tracked and untracked areas. This is a camping trip. The trip can be done in either direction, and there are options to swap the East Eglinton for Cascade Creek for a shorter trip, or drop down into the Greenstone via Duck Creek.

Earl Mountains: the Mistake Trip – Hut Creek (preferred direction) circuit is a moderate two day trip – the third day could be a day trip elsewhere, such as the impressive Homer Saddle, Gertrude Saddle (both if conditions allow), Lake Marion or Key Summit and onto the Livingstones.

Routeburn Track – the Great Walk season starts straight after Labour Weekend, so you could visit McKenzie and day trip up to Harris Saddle.

A fitter trip could complete a circuit of the Greenstone – Steele Creek – Caples – McKellar Saddle. The advantage of this option is it is tracked. If there is time, you could cut across the western side of the Ailsa Mountains and meet up with the Routeburn Track at Earland Falls as the club did a couple of years ago.

We will camp in one of the DoC campsites on Friday night. Trip list will close on October 17 – please indicate your preferred grade and trip on the trip list.

September 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.*

The trip fee is paid directly to the vehicle provider(s).

(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required

5th and 8th Sept: Map and Compass Instruction and Practical

See Thursday night (last page) for the instruction night details.

This Sunday session (September 8) is an opportunity to put the theory work we did on the club night into practice. For something different, we will use the cleared forestry area near the top of Mt Cargill for the session. You will be given a large scale map and a list of markers to find. Meet at the clubrooms around 8.50am and we will car pool to the top of Cowan Road just below the summit of Mt Cargill. The area is rough and wet (in places) underfoot, so best to wear your tramping boots and gaiters (if you have them). Maps and compasses will be supplied. Bring your lunch, as this may take until the early afternoon to complete.

7th Sept: Ben Rudd's Work Party (back-up day 8 September) Sue Williams 021 712 606

Volunteers - Yes, spring is nearly here and we're going to take out some broom up at Ben Rudd's in September. The plan is to attack large broom near the skid-site to make room for some more beech trees which we'll plant in autumn.

We have tools - saws, loppers, gloves and stump gel.

MEET: Bull ring at 9am for a 20 minute walk up to the property

Or come up any time during the day – all time is valuable. We are able to claim funding for any volunteer time spent.

BRING: Warm clothes and windproof, food and drink (water isn't handy)

Any questions give me a ring 021 712 606 or see me on Thursdays : Sue Williams

22nd Sept : Gabriels Gully and Wetherstons (E/M) \$20 Jane Cloete 467 2328

Meet at the Clubrooms for a 9am sharp departure

Drive to Gabriels Gully – up and around the gully – primroses, daffodils and history! Expect some short steep slopes, and mud!

Lunch at the cars, then up and over to Wetherstons – THE place for spring flowers. Expect some short steep slopes, and mud!

Then either back over to the cars, or just the drivers could go back and the rest of the group walk slowly into Lawrence to meet up at the Ice Cream corner!

Back to Dunedin by 5pm, possibly a bit earlier.

Phone Jane Cloete 467-2328 with any queries. Cost = \$20 (approx) AND also \$5 if you want to walk around Wetherstons (well worth it!)

6th October: Davidson's Farm on Mihiwaka/Mt Kettle (M) \$5 Alan Thomson 455 7878

This walk will be an experimental trip in the Mihiwaka area over a yet to be determined track (a degree of exploring may be involved) with possibly a visit to the ruins of an old farmhouse.

Yes, you guessed it, not exactly sure where we may be going as have yet to do a recce but hopefully it will be an educational and fun filled day in wide open spaces with expansive views coupled with a mix of forest road walking along with a bit of bush track walking, and maybe cutting. Bring your secateurs just in case.

President's Comment : Antony Pettinger

As I write this piece, we are preparing for the 96th Annual General Meeting of the club. This is always a great chance for the committee to connect with our members and provides an opportunity to discuss issues. As noted in the Annual Report, the club is going really well, and issues that we have discussed time and time again have been resolved. This means we can concentrate on looking ahead and continue to adapt the club to suit the current membership. The upcoming Centenary and associated projects will provide short-term enthusiasm, but we probably need to start thinking now what the club may look like after the Centenary. The incoming committee already have some of these topics on our radar, and we will discuss them during the year.

This is also a good time of year to reflect on how the club is run. Everything that happens in the OTMC is because of volunteers – we just would not exist without this contribution. Your committee have made the biggest commitment to the club for the year. Roles such as Treasurer, Day Trips, Chief Guide, Weekly Update and Membership Secretary require more or less daily attention to keep on top of things – this is significant and I thank Sharen, Tomas, Andrew, Wayne and Debbie for your contribution in these roles.

Equally important are the other roles held by our committee members – roles such as Bulletin Editor, Secretary, Gear Hire and Committee Member require a commitment, either weekly or monthly. Thank you Tina, Sharon, Joe, Rodger, Barry, Peter and Richard for your work over the year. On top of their individual roles, committee members are also consistent attendees at club meetings – it is a good sign to see those who lead the club as our most active members.

There are also many other people who assist the club from outside the main committee, this is also very much appreciated. For some years Ralph Harvey has assisted with the gear hire role, providing cover for when the Gear Hire Officer is unavailable. Jan Burch has volunteered to look after the cleaning of the

clubrooms, and Jane Cloete and Lucy Jones continue to look after our clubrooms and supper supplies (you can all thank Lucy for the chocolate biscuits, if the committee looked after them they would be plain!) Although Access and Advocacy has had a quiet year, Chris Pearson keeps an eye on this space. This year our submitted submissions were for the Aoraki / Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plans (which are now currently on hold). Thanks to you all for your efforts on behalf of our members.

As we are a tramping club, our most important volunteers are our trip leaders – without trips we would have no need for the roles mentioned above. Leading a trip is the easiest way to put something back into the club, and is very satisfying when you see a bunch of contented faces at the end of a trip. Day trip leadership is an easy and safe way to start out – there is minimal work to do beforehand, and as long as you follow the number one tramping rule of sticking together your safety margin is high. If you are interested in weekend and multi-day trips, then the progression to Party Leader and Trip Leader will come naturally. Confident leadership comes from experience, so the more trips you lead the more confident you will become. Your first trips will invariably be to areas you are familiar with, but as your confidence increases you will be able to lead trips to places you that you have never even been to. We do plan to hold some form of Leadership training over the year, so keep an eye out for this.

Finally, a thank you to all members of the OTMC – a club is made up of many different moving parts, and people join for different reasons. The one thing that has been known for ever is that tramping is a great leveller. It doesn't matter what your background is, once you out in the hills we are all the same. The OTMC is not competitive, and we encourage members to take their time and enjoy the environment. In this age when we are connected to technology more than ever, the solitude of the hills is even more important.

September 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*

5th Sept: Map and Compass navigation instruction night

It has been suggested that we run some training nights, so we will give it a go. This will be the first of a two parts, a condensed session on basic map reading and compass use. As we only have an hour or so we will concentrate on map and compass instruction for navigation only. We will cover the basics, and by the end of the night you will be able to use grid references and a compass to find which way you need to travel between two points. Maps and compasses will be available, but feel free to bring your own compass if you have one.

(Followed by next Sunday 8th September practical on Mt Cargill - see page 10)

12th Sept: BYO photos (bring your selected recent trip photos on a USB stick)

19th Sept: David Barnes : Svalbard

When David Barnes told people he was going to Svalbard he got one of two

responses: "where?" or "wow!". If you would have been a 'where', come along and find out. If you would have been a 'wow', come along and see if that was the right reaction. You'll see glaciers, polar bears, walruses and the northern-most shorts-wearer on the planet.

26th Sept: Beginner Cycle Touring

Why? What to do first? How to plan? When and Where to go? Jan is an enthusiastic proponent of cycle touring and she's eager to convince anyone who will listen that cycle travel is a viable option for their next holiday. If you have ever wondered about trying it out, come along to learn from her mistakes, and get her 8 Top Tips for a successful journey

3rd Oct: Richard Forbes : Plants we see tramping

Richard will share facts and information on a selection of plants we come across during our tramps.

September 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1 Ross Ck to Flagstaff Antony Pettinger 473 7924
2 Cmtte	3	4	5 Map & compass Instruction with Antony P	6	7 Ben Rudd's Work Party Sue 021 712 606	8 Map & Compass practical Antony Pettinger 473 7924
Snow Farm						Chris Pearson 455 4673
9	10	11	12 BYO photos	13	14	15 McKessar/Purakanui Russell Knowles 021 167 2722
16	17	18	19 David Barnes Svalbard	20	21	22 Gabriels Gully/ Wetherstons Jane Cloete 467 2328
23	24	25	26 Cycling touring for beginners with Jan Burch	27	28	29 Around Port Chalmers Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545
Taieri Mouth Cycle						Jan Burch 027 455 4559