

OTMC Bulletin



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 809 November 2019



*Re-enactment of our very first club trip: The party at Flagstaff (photo by Antony Pettinger)
See trip report on page 7.*

Upcoming Trips & Events

Earnslaw Burn Waikouaiti Cycle and Camp Xmas social @ Mavora Lakes

Moa Flat Cycling Coal Creek Circuit The Ship at Anchor and Devils Creek

Moonlight Silver Peaks Heyward Point Daylight Silver Peaks

The Pyramids and Victory Beach Swampy – Racemans circuit Sinclair wetlands

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1120, Dunedin

<http://otmc.co.nz> <https://facebook.com/groups/otmcnz> otmcnz@gmail.com

Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin Doors open 7:30 for 8pm start, all welcome

Sign up to our email list: <https://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc>

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 Andrew McConnell 022 089 6537

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

Your Committee

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Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscriptions. Membership of the OTMC brings many benefits with one of them being your OTMC membership card gives you discounts at local tramping shops. \$15 of your OTMC sub going to FMC which advocates for National Parks and Conservation areas on your behalf and also has discounts for backcountry hut pass, Wilderness Magazine, Stewart Island and Cook Strait ferry bookings to name a few. Check out the FMC website to more discounts <https://www.fmc.org.nz/discount-card/>

We welcome Santashree Mitra as a member to the OTMC and farewell Judy Knox, Jessica Barker, Meryl Jones and An Nguyen.

President's Comment: Antony Pettinger

Following a lull in tramping trips due to the trio of snow related trips and a cycle week-end, we have started the OTMC summer tramping season with what looked like a full-on weekend with plenty of up's and down's in the Eyre Mountains area. This trip was a fitter one, and it was great to see a decent number of participants showing an interest in this type of trip. Thanks to Tim Russell for organising a trip that is a bit different from our recent trips.

We are currently putting together the summer trip programme – this covers the period from the start of November to the end of April. We have been planning to include a copy with this Bulletin, as I write this piece we still have quite a few gaps to fill, so it may be delayed until early November. We have a current version of the trips available online (www.otmc.co.nz/tripcard.html).

February and March 2020 will be a busy couple of months for us, mainly due to the return of the OTMC Bushcraft course. Our Bushcraft course is aimed at beginners or those who are looking for the next step to take after completing some of the main tramping trips. The course structure will be similar to 2018, and will include four evening sessions, a map and compass / navigation practical exercise and a river crossing day. To put everything we are teaching into practice we will finish the main course with either day or overnight trips to the Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve. To provide a more typical tramping experience we are holding a further optional weekend trip away to the East Matukituki, overnighing at Aspiring Flat with one of the best valley views available. This trip will be run as a combined OTMC trip – we tend to overlook the East Matukituki a bit with our tramping programme, maybe because of the complete lack of huts? It is a neat valley and offers some great options, well worth a visit.

I wrote about the upper section of the Escarpment Track (Mt Cargill end) earlier in the year, and we discussed the future of this at the AGM. I have recently had the pleasure to traverse the entire track from Sullivan's Dam to Mt Cargill, and am happy to say that someone has been maintaining the track. The Cloud Forest of Leith track from the dam to the powerlines is in good condition. The Escarpment Track has been trimmed from the powerlines to near the old Telegraph Track. From here to Pigeon Rock and across the top to the upper section of the Escarpment Track does require some work, and we hope to get this done over the summer season when we have more daylight in the evenings. At the time we travelled the upper section of the Escarpment track, someone had trimmed close to half of the track (from the Cowan Rd end). There is more to be done, but it proves the track is being used, and at this stage I can see no reason to abandon it. The OTMC thanks those who are helping us look after these tracks.

Finally, we are holding a special club night on November 28 for Wolfgang Gerber. All members are important to our club, but every so often there is a member who has the ability to widely unite the club through well supported trips or social events. Wolfgang has this ability, and it is about time that we spend an evening with Fiona and Wolfgang and look back at some standout club events he has organised for us over the past 25 years or so. The social side of the club is an important part of the OTMC, and Wolfie has been a big part of this. I invite all those who have enjoyed a trip with Wolfgang or have embraced his talents on guitar and vocals to join us for a night of stories and laughter.

Regards

Antony Pettinger
President

Recipe: Tararua Biscuits

Tararua are steeped in tradition and were regularly eaten on tramping trips. Now it is rare to have Tararua Biscuits. This recipe is not the jaw breaker Tararua biscuits but a soft-er version and was given to me by Christchurch based club member Rod Dickson many years ago.

250 grams butter
1.5 cups brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tin condensed milk
2 cups flour
2 cups rolled oats
2 teaspoons baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup coconut
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup currants
optional a sprinkle of cinnamon

Melt butter, sugar and condensed milk together in a large pot. Add flour, rolled oats

and baking powder and mix thoroughly. Divide into halves. Spread each half onto baking paper on an oven tray (I do two batches, one after the other). Shape into a large square or oblong shape, depending on size of the tray, and how thick you want the biscuits.

Straighten up the edges, and bake at 150 degrees C for 15 minutes. Should be light to golden brown. Take out and cut into squares to your own liking. Separate biscuits with a spatula or other kitchen implement. Put back into oven for another 5 minutes if you think they are too pale.

Allow 20-30 minutes to cool down, and then pack in a sealed (i.e. zip lock bags). Enjoy on your next trip, and win friends too, with your home baking!

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

25th August: Grahams Bush - Bethunes Gully

My first time leading a trip and was grateful the weather was perfect. Cool but sunny and calm. A total of 14 of us started the walk from Sawyers Bay and we headed up Graham's Bush. We quickly checked a few of the Halo DOC stoat and rat traps (nothing caught this time) and made it to the road in no time. A few brave folk clambered up some of the Organ Pipes before another small detour to take in the views at Buttas Peak.

Our third detour took some of the group up the front of Mt Cargill, a much easier route now the gorse has been trimmed back.

A lunch stop at the top of Mt Cargill was followed by a leisurely walk down to the car park at Bethunes Gully. A quick car pool back to Sawyers Bay sorted out everyone's transport destinations.

Thanks to those who came along and a special thanks to Debbie and Ken who were amazing in helping me with this trip.

Russell Knowles on behalf of Darron Mitchell, Debbie Guthrie, Doug Malcolm, Jan Burch, Jane Cloete, Ken Taylor, Laurence Prattley, Leone Loeber, Louise Shaw, Lucy Jones, Mandie Lungley, Peter Loeber, and Santashree Mitra

7th September: Ben Rudd's Work Party

Seven of us had a productive day at Ben Rudd's and now have 41 holes for trees ready to go. The holes are spread right along the fire break track, with a tree space at each end of the property. We cut and poisoned plenty of broom so there's room for more trees. We'll let you know of another date before long, so don't worry, you'll still have a chance to help! We're planning to plant trees in April next year. Paul Pope came with us to have a look at the project and gave us some advice.

The trees we planted in autumn this year are looking good and we had lots of positive comments from passers-by.

Thanks from Sue Williams to the volunteers Jan Burch, Richard Pettinger, Tracey Pettinger, David McArthur, Leonie and Penny McArthur.



Leonie Loeber and Penny McArthur heading home after a good gorse-cutting session (photo by Sue Williams)

22nd September: Gabriel's Gully, Wetherstons

What a beautiful day for a trip to Lawrence, Gabriel's Gully and Wetherstons! It was almost the first fine, warm and windless day that we'd had this spring!

We left the clubrooms at 9am sharp - as promised! - and we were starting our morning walk by 10.30 at Gabriels Gully. Regrettably, I had not done a recce for the trip – in fact it is several years since I was there, and some of the smaller tracks that I'd hoped to use were overgrown with gorse and bramble, so we stuck to the main tracks. Up the northern side of the Gully and into the bush, with some lovely yellow primroses to greet us! Around to the dam at the top, then back to the site of the Raceman's Hut. This was an area that used to be covered with all

sorts of primroses – pale blue and pink as well as yellow – but now only seems to have the yellow variety.

Back down the steep way to view the old cave where explosives were stored. Parts of old batteries and stamps were visible here and there. Good track all the way around the southern side of the Gully – primroses along the way – and back to the cars by about 11.45. A quick lunch and some discussions about the afternoon route. Some opted to return to Dunedin (the Fleetwood Mac concert the day before had shortened their sleep!), some opted to drive (7km) to Wetherstons and so get back home a bit earlier, one (Chris) cycled around to Wetherstons, but nine of us walked the 3+km up and over the hill. The daffodils were in their full glory. Who would have thought there were so many varieties? Singles and doubles, frilly and plain, whites and yellows and orange! There were many along the bush paths but thousands on the hillside!

So after an hour or so we walked back to the cars – strange how the hill seemed much steeper the second time around – and after an ice-cream at Lawrence we headed for home, getting to Dunedin just after 5pm.

A grand day out! My thanks to my 14 companions on the day: Leonie and Peter Loeber; Lynley Pearson and her friend Jan Hodges; Isabelle and Moto Moebs; Tony Lough; Lauren and Colin Freeman; Russel Knowles and Debbie Guthrie; Saskia Bronstring; Chris Pearson and Kathy Woodrow.

Jane Cloete



Daffodils at Wetherstons farm (photo by Saskia Bronstring)

28/29th September: Taieri Mouth Cycle tour (37kms each way)

We left the clubrooms soon after 9am, 10 overnighters were joined by Ken, Charlotte, Chris, Debbie and Russel who came out for a day trip. Russel as driving support crew, Cathy and Jane also drove out to Taieri Mouth then biked back to meet us enroute. Amongst us is 6 year old Tilly and 8 year old Artie who impressed us all with their efforts.

We were entertained along the way by Jans icebreaker games, this is where we stopped frequently, checked we all knew everyone's names and shared our likes and dislike of all things biking.

Our first hurdle was the long grunt up South Road then after a breather downhill into Green Island, a few gentlier hills followed and we soon found ourselves at the Brighton Café for an early lunch in the sun.

Enroute some stopped at a garage sale in Ocean View and Jan scored new paniers.

Not sure what happened but I heard Charlotte had to be rescued as she locked herself in the toilet.

A lovely sunny day and mostly flat along the coast to Taieri Mouth however the unwelcome head wind slowed us down a bit, the tide was high and the sea looked very inviting. Cycling through Taieri Mouth we arrived

at the crib kindly organised by Jane soon after 2pm. We pitched our tents or claimed beds then relaxed on the sofas with a cup of tea, some of us exploring the area; the beach and or the Livingstone Green wetlands.

We farewelled the day trippers as they headed back home, and no they didn't cycle, there was a strategic plan to get them all back thanks to Russell.

After our shared pot luck dinner of nibbles, mains and desserts Jan brought out Pictionary and we spent a fun night trying to figure out somewhat strange (and very good) drawings.

Day 2, after the clocks move forward for daylight savings we packed up and set off on the 37 km trip back to Dunedin leaving again just after 9am.

Heading past Moturata Island the tide was out and the path to the Island very clear.

I chose to take an extra steep detour back heading 2.5 km straight up Otokia Road and back down Dickinsons Road, an extra 5 kms though it felt a lot longer. Awesome views of the coastline from the high point.

Cathy had a couple of geocaches to find on the way back but got a puncture and had to abandon her search, luckily Chris was on hand for a rescue.



Cycling team at Waldronville

We arrived again for lunch in Brighton at the same cafe, they were so happy to see us 2 days in a row they took a pic of us and posted us on their Facebook page (Brighton Beach Café).

Then a quick cycle back into town, somehow we ended up with a headwind again (grrr), that last hill from Concord up to Lookout Point tested us all but we stayed on our bikes to the top and after a quick downhill to Caversham arrived back at the clubrooms around 1.30.

Many thanks to Jan who organised the trip and Jane who arranged our accommodation. It was a really great weekend. Lookout for the next trip.

Maria Hamelink for Jan Burch, Jane Cloete, Shanta Mitra, Tina Anderson, Cathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson, Will Sweetman with Tilly and Artie, Ken Taylor, Charlotte Handley, Chris Handley, Debbie Guthrie and Russel Knowles.

1st September: Ross Creek to Flagstaff – Re-Enactment of the Very First Club Trip

The idea for this trip came from a challenge issued by FMC for clubs to re-enact their first trip to celebrate the 2019 centenary of the Taurarau Tramping Club. I thought this was something the OTMC should do, and as it turned out, September 1, 2019 was 96 years to the very day since the inaugural trip of the Otago Tramping Club. Our club was formed on Thursday, August 23rd, 1923 and that meeting set the first trip down for the first Saturday in September. The first trip was from Ross Creek Reservoir to Flagstaff, via the Ross Creek Bush Track and Pineapple Point. As we had the whole day at our disposal, I decided to start from Malvern Street. The Duke Street tram terminus (now long gone) was the meeting point for many early trips, so it is likely many on the first trip also walked to Ross Creek from near the Woodhaugh Gardens.

I guess a combination of a bit of promotion, the sense of history and an absolutely stunning spring day attracted 34 people on the

trip, the largest day trip the club has seen for ages. A short wander up Woodhaugh St, then following the tracks beside Ross Creek saw us crossing the creek below the reservoir and detouring up School Creek. Due to the large size of the party and the myriad of tracks around Ross Creek we managed to fail meeting up at Craigieburn as planned, instead regrouping at Booth Road.

In keeping with the original trip, we circled around the McGoun's track. I'm pretty confident that the large trees near the Booth Rd end would have been there in 1923. Just before reaching the new Pineapple Track, we turned left and headed up the Ross Creek Bush Track (referred to sometimes as the original Pineapple Track). This track is in pretty good order and appears to get a bit of use. The track ends after about 30 minutes at a large clearing near the current Pineapple Track. Here we turned right (towards the city) and after about 200m we had lunch at a prominent point. We know that early trips mention Pineapple Point a lot (many stories of tins of pineapples being enjoyed here, and the tins left as markers on the fence – the fence itself still exists in places). Recent research has pretty well confirmed that this point is indeed Pineapple Point, and in keeping with tradition tinned pineapple was again enjoyed here.

From here it was a hot walk up the steeper parts of the upper Pineapple Track and across to the Flagstaff Summit. The very first trip endured a bitterly cold southwester, this trip was the opposite and it was great to see so many people out enjoying some of the best views of the city.

While the majority of the party retraced their steps back to Leith Valley, a smaller break-away party headed across the bone-dry tussock to Ben Rudd's, dispatching a couple of wilding pines along the way. After a pleasant lie in the sun at the former skid-site this party too headed back down the hill.

As an aside, the idea of installing a seat and associated plaque / signage at Pineapple Point was well received at the AGM and on this trip. The area today has a moderate cover of broom (the recent fire didn't affect the point), but it would not be a big job to

clear this and restore the view from the 1920's. The committee will now work on this idea. There will need to be consultation / agreement with the council (landowner), but if it all works out, we plan to unveil the seat as part of the centenary celebrations in 2023. We think it will become a popular destination for those who don't wish to head to the Flagstaff summit, or for those wanting to reflect on tramping days gone by at a place that has a sense of history for the club.

The turnout for this trip shows that there will be considerable interest in the club centenary and associated events. My thanks to those who came along and celebrated the TTC Centenary and our own history. Antony Pettinger for Debbie Pettinger, Ken Taylor, Sarah Hjertquist, Lauren Freeman, Jan Burch, David McArthur, Debbie Guthrie, Russell Knowles, Tina Anderson, Terry Duffield, Bronwen Strang, Leonie and Peter Loeber, Ralph Harvey, Charlotte and Chris

Handley, Lucy Jones, Jane Cloete, Mark Stephenson, Sharen Rutherford, David Bonis, Tracy and Richard Pettinger, Saskia Bronstring, Bob Craigie, Maria Hamelink, Andrew McConnell, Lilly McConnell, Tony Lough, Tessy George, Kathy Woodrow and Chris Pearson.



Pineapple Point Lookout (photo by Antony Pettinger)

Upcoming Weekends

Club Trip List for the month or so (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).
(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required.*

9-10th November: Earnslaw Burn (M-M/F) \$60 Rodger Clarkson 473 6053

Earnslaw Burn is a spectacular valley below Mt Earnslaw with great views of the glacier. We'll camp somewhere near the head of Lake Wakatipu on the Friday night. On Saturday it's about a 4 ½ hour tramp through beech forest to the Bushline at approx 900m, then the valley is fairly flat heading towards the South Face of Mt Earnslaw. Depending on the size of the group we may camp at different locations in the valley, or some may choose to stay at NZ's best? rock bivy at the bushline. We can go exploring to the head of the valley, surrounded by waterfalls coming off the glacier (Swim anyone?). On Sunday fitter members can head up to



Earnslaw Burn (photo by Rodger Clarkson)

the ridgeline between the Earnslaw Burn and the Rees Valley before descending to

meet the valley walkers, where the cars are parked by 4pm and returning to Dunedin by 9pm.

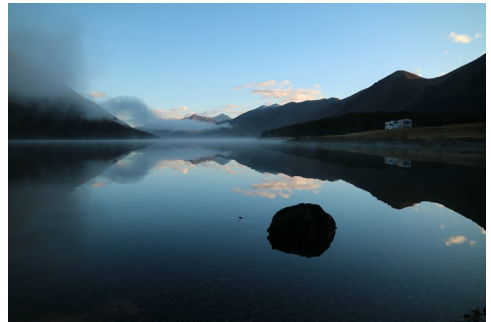
23-24th November: Waikouaiti Cycle and Camp
(M) \$23 Jan Burch 027 455 4559

Cycle trip designed to encourage beginning/hesitant cycle tourists. 9am start from the clubrooms, North East Valley route to Blue-skin Nurseries for a lunch break. Leisurely afternoon enjoying the stunning scenery on the undulating coastal route via Karitane. Cost is accommodation (\$20 for a tentsite, cabins available for a bit more) at the Waikouaiti Beach Motor Camp plus a \$3 per head towards cost of support vehicle. This trip only goes ahead if the weather is perfect. "Miles of smiles" is the motto.

30th November-1st December: Xmas social to Mavora Lakes
(All) \$50 Rodger Clarkson 473 6053

This year our Xmas social trip is going to go and camp at Mavora Lakes (\$8/night or \$4 children). No set activities but plenty of op-

tions here to fill in the day(s). These could include easy walks such as Kiwi Burn or fitter ones further afield. There is also potential for Mountain Biking in the Von valley, part of the Round the Mountains trail, or Kayaking, or just relaxing by the lake and feeding some of our native Namu. Some may like to head over earlier on Friday to maximise the time while others may just like to come for one night. We'll aim to have a Pot Luck/BBQ on Sat night...(does anyone have a portable BBQ?) Options for everyone at this location and we should be getting in before the Xmas rush to this idyllic location. Transport is by private vehicle but we will try and carpool people together.



Mavora Lakes (photo by Rodger Clarkson)

Upcoming Day Walks

Club Saturday & Sunday Trip List for the month or so (day tramps and events)

Unless otherwise stated day trips leave from the club rooms on Saturday/Sunday at 8am

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

2nd November: Moa Flat Cycling
(Cycle~M) PVT Jane Cloete 467 2328

Meet at the clubrooms and leave promptly at 8am. (OR meet at Raes Junction at 9.30). Drive to Raes Junction and get on your bike!

20km along the main road to Ettrick, turn left there to go up a hill which is long and steep and many will have to walk in parts! Along a ridge and down to Moa Flat (that's the only 5km of the trip that is flat!) then up again – not such long hills – to Edievale. A glorious

run down back to Raes Junction finishes the trip. Coffee at Lawrence on the way home?

The whole ride is 60-65 km, and I estimate about 5 hours on the bike. Plus stops plus lunch – so we'll not be back in Dunedin until about 4.30pm.

You must have your own bike and be able to manage repairs – I can't do that for you.

If you and your bike need transport please contact me; or if you can transport others and their bikes, please also contact me.

**3rd November: Coal Creek Circuit
(Silverstream area)
(M) \$5 Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950**

Being almost all in bush, this trip can be run almost regardless of the weather! Leaving the clubrooms at 8:00am we will carpool to the Whare Flat carpark (\$5 to drivers please). We will warm up on the gently climbing (ie flatish) Racemans Track to the Top Weir. From here we can backtrack ½ km or so to start a steeper climb up the North Coal Creek Track as far as Trig Q for a view, and a break. We can then exercise democracy in action and decide whether to return to the Water Race via Little Coal Creek or Steve Amies Track. Back to the cars & return to the clubrooms. Should be 6 ½ hours or so. Expect some mud, and creek crossings.

**10th November: The Ship at Anchor
and Devils Creek
(M) \$10 Kathy Woodrow 455 4673**

The "Ship at Anchor" (S45 42.991 E169 49.716) is at an altitude of 980m. Both it and Devils Creek (S45 44.480 E169 49.244) are in the Te Papanui Conservation Park on the Lammermoor Range. This is an open and exposed spot so you need to be prepared for extreme weather conditions. The day will be long and we may not be back until at least 5:30pm. There will be parts where there is no water available.

Please note that my ulterior motive to visit these two places (apart from the tramp) is to grab a couple of geocaches.

If the weather conditions are unfavourable then something in the Waipori Gorge or Lower Taieri Gorge will be possible backups.

**16th November: Moonlight Silver
Peaks (Saturday 7pm Departure)
(M) \$8 Antony Pettinger 473 7924**

Here is a trip with a difference, a night trip to the tops of the Silver Peaks. This is not a new concept, my records show that David Barnes came up with the original concept in 1986, and we haven't attempted the trip since 2004. The full moon will occur at 2.34am on November 13, so hopefully will still be pretty bright by the 16th. The trip it-

self will be kept quite simple (no point bush-bashing in the dark!), so the plan will be to head up the Pulpit Rock and pt777m from Hightop. If the skies are clear we may wander along to the Cat's Teeth on Rocky Ridge. Return will be the same way we came in. I'd expect to return to Dunedin around 3-4am (in time for the Sunday day trip!)

**17th November: Heyward Point
(E/M) \$5 Geraldine Kerr 021 0247 9822**

A scenic drive to Aramoana is a popular tourist attraction. We will improve on it by climbing on top of the cliffs for some of the best views Dunedin can offer. Totally worth those 200 vertical metres. The rest of the track to Hayward Point is a gentle walk.

**24th November: Daylight Silver Peaks
(M) \$8 Tomas Sobek 021 279 8339**

A moderately mysterious trip in our most popular tramping area. Silver Peaks never disappoint regardless of the season.

**1st December: The Pyramids and
Victory Beach
(E) \$7 Jane Cloete 467 2328**

Depart from the Clubrooms at 8am, and drive to the road-end carpark near Victory Beach. Walk out to the beach, with optional climb up one Pyramid and some cave exploration en route. On the beach we may find penguin tracks, seals and sealions. (No guarantees!) Then along the estuary track and eventually back to the cars. Wear shoes suitable for beach walking. Probably back to Dunedin by 3-ish (unless we get delayed by a coffee somewhere!). For any queries phone Jane.

**8th December: Swampy – Racemans
circuit (9 AM start)
(M) \$5 Tony Timperley 473 7257**

Swampy Access Rd / Steve Amies Track / Racemans / Top Weir / Rain Gauge / Return via Swampy Access Rd

We drive via the Flagstaff/Whare Flat Rd to the locked gate on the Swampy Access Rd. From here we walk up to the Start of the

Steve Amies Track which we descend to the Racemans Track. At this junction we turn right and proceed for an hour to the Top Weir on Silver Stream, from where we begin the long, steep climb up the Rain Gauge Track. This comes out at The Elbow on the Swampy Access Rd which we descend back to the locked gate. This circuit should take about 6 hrs.

**15th December: Sinclair wetlands
(E) \$10 Russell Knowles 021 167 2722**

Several kilometres of well-maintained walking tracks make access easy, and areas of

interest are highlighted with clearly marked signs. From the visitor centre car park the main walking route extends 2 km, along a causeway through swampland, past Lonely Island, and both across and around Whakaraupuka/Ram Island, the site of Tukiauau's pa. Ram Island is being revegetated to native bush, with many plots labelled as to the schools groups responsible. The elevated ground of Whakaraupuka/Ram Island offers views across the swamps and large ponds, as well as a guardian post for Kiwi Guardians.

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.*

If you can help arrange any speakers for our Thursday night social programme, please provide their contact details to Richard or Debbie.

7th November: Halo Project (Sanjay Thakur)

An overall update on the HALO project. Specific information what effect the trapping that some of our members are doing on Mihiwaka is having and how Ben Rudd's property and the surrounding Flagstaff area could contribute to the overall project.

**14th November: Gordon Tocher & co
St James Walkway**

Earlier this year a party of 10 ventured further afield. Getting all the way to Lewis Pass takes a while, but we will take a short cut tonight with Tomas' quality photos and Gordon's quality jokes and stories. Come and you might leave wanting to go too.

**21st November: Rock Art in the Natal
Drakensberg (Chris Handley)**

While nothing like the scale and complexity of Altamira or Lascaux nevertheless South Africa has a rich store of rock Art, concen-

trated chiefly in the Drakensberg and Upper Natal Midlands. Chris will explain the context, both geographical and historical within which the paintings were created, show some examples and talk a little about how some paintings (not shown) have been tied to historical events.

**28th November: This is Your Tramping
Life, Wolfgang Gerber!**

Join Fiona and Wolfgang as we celebrate 25 years of wonderful contributions to the OTMC by Wolfgang Gerber. Wolfgang has organised many memorable trips and other events for the club, with an emphasis on the very important social side of the club. There have been many laughs over the years, and we invite all Wolfgang's tramping friends to join us as we take a look back at the many enjoyable (and sometimes crazy) events Wolfgang took us on. A night not to be missed!

5th December: Travels in Africa (Peter Loeber)

The great wildebeest migration on the Serengeti, big cats and other places and animals in Tanzania.

12th December: Last night for 2019 BBQ at Woodhaugh

Bring the family and join us for a BBQ at Woodhaugh, anytime from 6pm onwards.

Bring something to cook on the BBQ and your chair or picnic blanket to sit on. This is the final OTMC Thursday night for the year.

16th January: First meeting for 2020, Informal night

This is the first night back for 2020. There will be the usual club announcements, tea and biscuits and bring any photos you have of your tramping over the break.

November / December 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1	2 Moa Flat cycling with Jane Cloete 03 467 2328	3 Coal Creek Circuit Wayne Hodgkinson 03 473 0950
4 Cmtte	5	6	7 Halo Project	8	9	10 Ship at Anchor, Kathy Woodrow 03 455 4673
					Earnslaw Burn	Rodger Clarkson 03 473 6053
11	12	13	14 St James Walkway	15	16 Moonlight Silver Peaks, 7pm Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924	17 Heyward Point Geraldine Kerr 021 0247 9822
18	19	20	21 Rock Art in the Natal Drakensberg	22	23	24 Daylight Silver Peaks Tomas Sobek 021 279 8339
					Waikouaiti Cycle & Camp	Jan Burch 027 455 4559
25	26	27	28 This is Your Tramping Life, Wolfgang Gerber!	29	30	1 The Pyramids and Victory Beach
						Xmas social to Mavora Lakes Rodger Clarkson 03 473 6053
2	3	4	5 Travels in Africa	6	7	8 Swampy – Racemans circuit Tony Timperley 03 473 7257
9	10	11	12 BBQ at Woodhaugh	13	14	15 Sinclair Wetlands Russell Knowles 021 167 2722

Note from the editor

Please email your contributions for December issue to info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz by *Wednesday 20 November*. Though I appreciate earlier delivery, so that I can start piecing it together without rushing. If you include a photo or two, please note appropriate captions (names of people pictured, names of land features, etc.)