

OTMC Bulletin



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 810 December 2019



Upcoming Trips & Events

Northern Hawkduns West Matukituki / Rees Crossover The Pyramids & Victory Beach
Swampy - Racemans Circuit Porkies - Jim Freeman Track Circuit Sinclair Wetlands
Shortest Night in the Silver Peaks Papanui Inlet Maungatua Waianakarua River
Powder Ridge - Pulpit Rock - Greengauge - Silverstream Taieri Beach to Brighton
Pineapple Track to Leith Saddle and Leith Valley Moonlight - North Taieri Ridge
Hermits Cave Taieri River Walk and Pack Float Travels in Africa BBQ at Woodhaugh

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>

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

We welcome Jonathan Bull as a new member to the OTMC.

A final reminder has been sent to those who have not paid their 2019/20 membership subscription and with those not having paid now struck off the membership database, we have a total of 171 OTMC members.

The GREAT OTMC AUCTION 19 March

Take the opportunity over the Christmas/New Year break to clear out your tramping gear and bring anything you no longer use along to the clubrooms for the GREAT OTMC AUCTION.

Planned to coincide with Bushcraft this is a great time to donate anything tramping related to the OTMC and it will be auctioned off to new homes with all proceeds being donated to charity.

President's Comment: Antony Pettinger

The changeable weather we have endured during Spring has affected our tramping programme somewhat, with the two most recent weekend trips being cancelled, as well as some of the day trips. In contrast, a recent trip to the Silverstream catchment was held under very hot temperatures. For both weekend trips we looked at alternatives, but these also didn't work out. For Labour Weekend we considered trips to all other areas south of Arthurs Pass, but the weather was just not suitable anywhere. For the Earnslaw Burn we used the 'spare weekend in the middle' to try and rerun the trip – the weather for this weekend turned out even worse than the original date.

I'm sure we are making the right choices – weather forecasting by and large is quite reliable these days, and with the increased emphasis on safety it is important we heed the forecasts. It is a hard decision for a leader to make to cancel a trip, you tend to end up second-guessing yourself, especially if forecasts differ from one another. The club support the leaders right to make the final decision for their trip, and continue to appreciate the effort and commitment they have made in organising the trip in the first place.

The club has discussed the emergence of 'Web 2.0' tramping organisations before (see OTMC Bulletin July 2011 and the June 2011 Wilderness Magazine) – these groups do not operate as a traditional club like the OTMC, but just run trips. A local example is the Wellness Walkers Trust, who do a great job running Saturday and Sunday trips on most if not all weekends. While clubs like ours are different in that an inherent feeling of belonging is instilled over time, the simplicity of Web 2.0 groups also has appeal for those who just want to go walking / tramping. The trips are run via a Facebook page, and appear to be well supported.

I don't believe the OTMC need to feel threatened by the existence of these groups, there are many different walking opportunities within the city, and our greatest strength will be to complement each other. We already have members who are in several other groups, and often tramp on days when we don't. The committee has discussed the option of the club running days trips over the weekdays, and decided that there are already well organised groups doing this, so no need for us to compete against them. We were keen, however, to encourage longer trips to be run during the week, similar to the successful St James Walkway trip last March.

There is a component of Web 2.0 groups we could embrace though, and that could be 'pop-up' trips. This could be where a member is planning to go for a walk or trip on the spur of a moment and would like some company. We'd need to be careful not to compete against our own tramping programme, but this could be a great way to encourage people to get out more. Our trip programme is arranged in six-month blocks, so it is obviously hard to predict the weather and plan that far ahead. Pop up trips would probably be driven by a great forecast or conditions, and could be either evening, Saturday or weekend trips. Our Facebook page would be one option to arrange these (we now have in excess of 2,000 people on the club page). I'd be interested in any feedback on this.

Hard to believe I'm writing these words for the December Bulletin – where has 2019 gone. On behalf of the committee I wish all members a very pleasant Christmas and New Year, and hope you can all get out and enjoy our outdoors over the summer.

Regards

Antony Pettinger
President

Bushcraft 2020

After a break in 2019, our Bushcraft course is returning in February 2020. The OTMC Bushcraft course for 2020 starts on February 18. This popular course is a great way to learn the basic tramping skills suitable for New Zealand – it is also a good way to brush up on your tramping skills.

The course format will be the same as recent years, and will include four evening sessions in our clubrooms, a navigation day on Flagstaff and a river safety day. The course itself will culminate in a trip to the Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve – this can be either a Saturday or Sunday day trip, or an overnight experience. In 2020 we are offering an additional weekend trip, at additional cost. This is headed to the East Matukituki Valley on March 28-29, a spectacular destination for beginner trampers and often overlooked due to the popularity of the West Matukituki. This doubles as a normal OTMC weekend trip.

Topics to be covered include clothing, footwear, weather, food, equipment and trip preparation. Evening two and the navigation day will focus both on map reading and compass use.

The course cost is \$40 per person (transport for the navigation day, river safety day and Silver Peaks will be by car-pooling, and food for the Silver Peaks is additional). A copy of FMC's 'Safety in the Mountains' is also included, and all participants will be members of the OTMC for the duration of the course.

Following completion of the course, the club will be offering a 50% discount for the first year's membership to the OTMC (with the Bulletin delivered electronically).

More information and application forms are available at the clubrooms, or on our website (otmc.co.nz)

Contact Antony for more info: 03 473 7924
antony.pettinger@gmail.com

Wolfgang Gerber – Honorary Membership

Every member of the OTMC brings something to the club, and all contribute to making our club such a special place to be. As we get closer to the 2023 Centenary this becomes more obvious – the OTMC always has been and always will be the people. Clubs remain one of the best ways to bring together so many people from all walks of life together for a common goal, in our case to enjoy the outdoors.

From time to time, though, a member comes along who often unknowingly contributes far more than can be expected. Wolfgang Gerber is one of these members. 2020 marks 25 years of OTMC membership for Wolfgang, and what is remarkable for Wolfgang has been a commitment to invigorating the social side of the club. While tramping and climbing is our primary role, the social side of the club is critical to our ongoing existence.

The most well-known events Wolfgang has introduced to the club are the mid-winter trips to the Routeburn. The first of these was the 1999 Winter Routeburn, and saw the introduction of the quiz night. The Routeburn trips are amongst the most popular trips we have run, and introduced many people to the joy of winter tramping. Running trips in winter are not the easiest thing to do, as conditions often upset careful planning, and I know Wolfgang has been very meticulous with his planning. In total Wolfgang has led 16 winter social trips, often including a quiz and fancy dress. In the mid-2000's Wolfgang felt the mid-winter theme was getting a bit stale, so planned a trip on the Tranz Alpine to Greymouth, overnighting at Arthur's Pass on the return leg. A decent snowfall at the Pass, and the late running of the return train did not take away the uniqueness of this trip.



I can remember discussing with Wolfgang in early 2006 what the ultimate day trip from Dunedin would be, and we agreed it should be Conical Hill, on the Routeburn. As it was unsafe for the drivers to do this in a day from Dunedin, we decided to run it over a weekend as a mystery trip. Although this was the last trip in the year, we certainly had four seasons in a day, as we sat in a snowstorm on Conical Hill toasting the club.

Wolfgang has also run several other trips encouraging members to just come out and enjoy a day together – these have included from 'Visiting Ancient Establishments of Central Otago' and 'Wine Tasting'. Although frowned upon by some, these trips continued a tradition of running non-tramping events for the enjoyment of all. In between these trips, Wolfgang has also run a decent number of standard tramping trips.

Wolfgang and his Tramping Two (sometimes Three) band has provided musical entertainment for us on several trips. Notable among these are the two trips we had beside Lake Roxburgh, and the two trips to Pigeon Island, we even provided a marquee big enough for his band and at least 100 people for one of these trips!

I know every member who knows Wolfgang will agree that our club is so much better for having Wolfgang as a member, and we have been lucky to have him in our club.

I am honoured to announce that the OTMC has recognised Wolfgang's contribution to our club by bestowing Honorary Membership of the OTMC upon Wolfgang. This has been recognised with a special night to celebrate with Wolfgang and Fiona on November 28.

Wolfgang, your contribution has been huge and I'm proud to be able to write this piece. Your support to me in my various roles within the club has been appreciated, and the entire club join Debbie and I in wishing you all the best with your battles head. You are, and remain, an important part of our club.

Antony Pettinger
President

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

12-13th October: Beech Hut, Eyre Mountains

Beech hut is historic and characterful (some would say rough) and can be reached by a straightforward walk up the Mataura valley. Of course being a M/F grade tramp, we couldn't go that way. Instead the plan was to cross via the tops from Eyre Creek, then return over the tops by a long ridge route the following day.

Friday

The advance party of three left Dunedin early and met up in Athol with Rose. That meant their evening's walk up Eyre Creek to



*Looking back at our long ridge route
(photo Tim Russell)*

Shepherd Creek hut could be completed in daylight. Six trampers in the other two cars converged on Gore for takeaways. We drove

up Eyre Creek Rd as far as a 2WD could go, then all 6 piled into the 4WD. The driver (who may or may not be the trip leader) immediately took the wrong farm track and drove through a series of paddocks before finding the correct way up the valley (it's more difficult to route find at night!) After a 2 hour walk in light drizzle we reached the Shepherd Creek hut. The early team had kindly put up tents, so that the rest of us could use the bunks and get to bed soon after our midnight arrival.

Saturday

The day dawned free of rain, however low cloud hung around the tops. The forecast was for a gradual improvement and better weather on Sunday. Departing just before 9am, the first challenge was to find a suitable crossing point, as the river was clear but a bit high from recent rain. "Dry-Boots" Murray crossed in his crocs, while the rest of us just shrugged and went over in our boots. Then began the 800m climb up a long spur to Pt 1242. The cloud level had gradually risen, offering intermittent views of the surrounding hills. We descended to the cloud-free zone at the 1100m contour for a well deserved lunch. Suitably fortified, we headed down to Cowshed hut on the banks of the Mataura. This hut is generally in good condition, except that the door had been left open at some point and birds had deposited their business on just about every surface. We lounged around outside for 40 minutes.

The next phase of the trip involved a number of crossings of the Mataura river as we worked our way up the valley over the course of 2 hours. Some of the crossings had to be made with care and mutual support, as again the river was running a bit high. One member of the party tramped in crocs or bare feet at various times, occasionally putting on his dry boots. In a case of poor planning by the leader, rain decided to accompany us for the last few minutes of the day's walk. The hut was a welcome sight at 5pm, but of course it required one more wade through the river to get to it. Most put up tents, leaving only one person staying the night in the hut. Sumptuous pre-dinner snacks were offered around to all (thanks Al-

lan) and hearty dinners followed. Tired trampers had earned an early night and headed off to bed.



*Packing up the tents at Beech Hut
(photo Tim Russell)*

Sunday

Emerging from my tent and entering the hut, I was greeted with a "here's the culprit!" Apparently the previous night I had absent-mindedly pushed the bolt on the door of the hut across, to stop the door swinging open, oblivious to the fact that Ian was inside and would be unable to escape. Oops, sorry! The skies overhead looked moderately promising. Although there was a layer of high cloud and a few patches of valley mist, we had improved views of the higher mountains around us. Our intended ridge route could be clearly seen from the hut. Departing from Beech hut, we had a scrubby scramble alongside the river - with hindsight we should have just crossed the river twice to avoid that and saved some time. Then began the climb up to Pt 1212, where the views justified a decent length rest. From here we could see Jane Peak in one direction and Eyre Peak in another, the two highest mountains in these parts. Continuing on, five of us went over the high point (Pt 1328) of the ridge and the others did a convenient sidle and had almost finished their lunches by the time the summiters had reached the same spot.

The undulating ridge eventually had the team back at the point where we had crossed the range the previous day. By now we knew that we would be back at the vehicles relatively late. The high cloud persisted throughout and we only counted 3

one minute bursts of sunshine. A photo of a fleeting shadow was taken to prove that there had actually been sun, in case anyone missed it. After the long descent down the spur to Eyre Creek, we located a better section of river and did textbook-quality linked crossings. The walk down the valley to the vehicles was much easier in daylight and we were there at 6:20pm. With a bit of 4WD'ing and the drive to Gore for kebabs or similar, it was about 10:30pm before most of us were back home.

Thanks guys for being awesome company and coping with a few challenges with such good humour.

Peter Boeckhout, Ian Billingham, Rose Colhoun, Murray Hyslop, Allan Sutherland, Sue Williams, Joe and Sharon Bretherton, Brad Wilson and Tim Russell (leader & scribe)



The team at the Hut (photo Rob Seeley)

20th October: “Big Hut” Daywalk

Well once again Huey decided to park a NW gale on the Rock and Pillars to coincide with this trip. So, rather than widen our carbon footprint with a bootless journey to the Strath Taeri (and put Lucy's parents to the trouble of more hot drinks and pikelets) we five opted to attempt something away from Huey's malice but commensurably exhausting in our beloved Silver Peaks.

I pitched a trip down the new River Track and up to the Phillip Cox Memorial hut with a possible loop back via the range's backbone. This was new ground to most people and was approved. A trip in Joy's car later we were heading down the newly aligned

and improved Miners Direct track to the river. After some poor navigation by the leader (which he blamed on jetlag, yeah right) we had found the track and were heading down the river in sunshine.

The track (Arthur B's contribution to the Belt and Road initiative) does rather go on, though and it wasn't until the morning was gone that we arrived at the end. Here at the Sculpture Rocks I could vaguely remember a track from the inauguration trip leading up to Yellow Ridge and fortunately there appeared to be only one track available. This eventually proved to be the one we wanted – but it cost us some anxiety, wandering, vague and marker-less as it was. Arriving at the junction we turned left and found the hut just in time for lunch.

Well it was 2 before the last sandwich was eaten and sunray absorbed and everyone seemed happy to just make a return by the ridge to the river, up the Tunnels Track and plod back along Mountain Road. This we did but even the road bash was enjoyable now views have opened up to the sea. We met a bow hunter with a dislocated shoulder.

So a fine walk in the end and enjoyable company – thanks team. The River Track has had some good work done on it since I saw it on the inauguration trip – but still could do with a bit of signage. Big Hut? – someone else clearly needs to lead this trip.

Rob Seeley. Team members: Saskia Bronstring, Lucy Jones, Helen Sudlow and Joy Liddicoat.



*The Party crosses the Waikouaiti River South Branch
(photo Rob Seeley)*



Big Hut (photo Joy Liddicoat)

27th October: Labour Weekend trip to Big Hut

With dreams of an East Eglinton Labour weekend trip well and truly blown away by the weather forecast, we scoured high and low for another option and finally settled on Big Hut. We wanted to see if we could do the loop track which had been cancelled as the club day trip the weekend before. The Saturday forecast looked good but being our first attempt to the Hut and with two recent club attempts to make it being aborted, we weren't 100% sure.

We left Dunedin a little after 7.30am and arrived in Middlemarch soon after to find the remnants of an overnight mist drifting away. Above the mist, the skies were clear and the sun made for a very pleasant 6 degrees as we set off from the Glencreag Track carpark at 9am. We could see a light dusting of snow on the tops and were soon following the fence line track as it zigged and zagged up and up. The views were stunning and just got better and better as we climbed. By 11 the wind was picking up. We reached pockets of snow on the tussocks and had some fun with the snow grass and enjoyed the beautiful rock gardens.

The poled track was easy to follow but exposed and the wind was getting pretty steady and very fresh. Just when we thought we had another half an hour to go and were wondering if we were mad, suddenly there was Big Hut, peeping out over the ridge line. We arrived at 11.30 and managed to find a

place nearby in the sun out of the wind for lunch - which was definitely warmer than inside the Hut. Living up to its reputation as a fridge, the Hut was pretty chilly inside - the snow piled up outside might have contributed a bit. But it was great to explore the Hut which was in excellent condition and filled with great memorabilia from those who've obviously cared for it over the years. There was one other party in the Hut: a couple who walked up from Kinvara the night before and who seemed pleased to see some locals.

After lunch we decided the conditions were good enough to walk over the Summit Rock and do the loop back to the carpark. We headed off at 12.20 into the teeth of the 'breeze' and up to the 4WD track. There was a light dusting of snow and we were treated to outstanding views in every direction as well as extraordinary tors. This made for slow, easy walking to make time to just drink in the wonderful scenery. We headed north and the wind was now over our shoulders so it was a pleasant walk for about an hour before we took the track to the right and down - and down it was - straight down the new firebreak track for about an hour and a half. By 3pm it was getting hot, so we enjoyed getting our feet wet in the stream on the way. We were back at the car at 4.30pm and it was a sweltering 26 degrees! A great day trip and just a little bit of sunburn.

Joy Liddicoat on behalf of Jo Fox



Arriving at Big Hut (photo Joy Liddicoat)



*Tony looking for the view at Trig Q
(photo Sue Williams)*

3rd November: Coal Creek Circuit - Silverstream

There were 7 of us at the club-rooms. We set off down to Whare Flat Road and re-grouped at the car park and then set off along the Silverstream. It was a very warm morning and we were glad most of the track was in the bush. We followed along the water race and came across some big concrete pipes and eventually arrived at the top weir and had a short break. We re-filled water

bottles for the uphill section. We went up the Coal Creek track which is quite steep in places. eventually made it to the trig and carried on to a clearing higher up. We took turns standing in the shade of a tree and pushed on a bit further for a shadier lunch stop. We had a fantastic view across the forest and out to Saddle Hill. We then began our descent on the Steve Amies track and we were soon back down into the valley. We also checked out part of the Tunnels Track and an almost derelict hut. Just the chimney and one wall remain, so it looks quite good from one direction. From there it was a short distance back to the cars, we had a walk through the stream across the ford at the end to cool our feet. An excellent destination on a hot day.



View from the Tunnel (photo Sue Williams)

Thanks to Wayne Hodgkinson for an interesting trip and the company of Antony Pettinger, Debbie Pettinger, Philippa Edwards, Ash Flintoff and Tony Timperly, Sue Williams.

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.*

25-26th January: Northern Hawkduns
(F) \$45 Tim Russell 027 959 3270

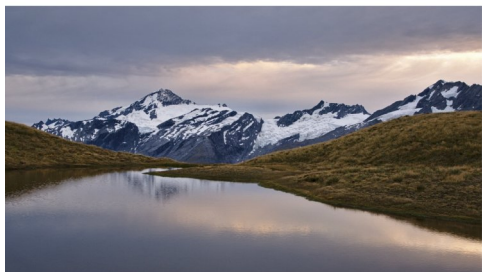
We will be crossing the northern end of the Hawkdun Range to get to Otamatapaio Hut, which is a cosy little hut in a tussock filled valley. The Hawkdun tops in this area are over 1800m, offering extensive views as far as Mt Cook. For variety we will cross back by different spurs, making it mostly a round trip.



*Hawkduns from near Homestead Campsite
(photo by Tim Russell)*

On Friday night we will stay at the Homestead Campsite, then Saturday we will use a 4WD to get us up the East Branch Manuherikia. Berwen track provides an easy start to the day. From then on we are off-track and do a 1000m climb up to Pt 1849. The descent to Otamatapaio Hut (4 bunks, standard) is steepish but quite manageable. On Sunday we will head downriver for a short while, before taking the long spur up to Pt 1816, where more views await as we work our way along the tops to Pt 1834. From there it's all down hill back to Berwen track.

There is an alternative plan if the weather promises to be perfect (grade M/F). We could decide to camp by a sparkling tarn at 1640m, in the basin north of Pt 1816. On Sunday we would continue to the northern



Mount Aspiring (photo Tomas Sobek)

end of the range, then drop down towards Little Omarama saddle. A long gentle spur will lead us back to the vehicles.

6-9th February: West Matukituki / Rees Crossover (Waitangi 4 day trip)
(M-F) \$65 Joe Bretherton 027 362 1221

This trip involves an alpine crossing of Cascade Saddle which connects the West Matukituki River & Dart River valleys – which will offer superb views of most of Mt Aspiring National Park's prominent peaks.

As this coming Waitangi Day (6th) falls on a Thursday, for many of us this will require taking the Friday off work.

We'll endeavour to depart the clubrooms by 6pm (or earlier) on Wednesday 5th and will camp close to the beginning of the track for an early start the next day.



Dart Glacier (photo Tomas Sobek)

The trip is a 3 night/4 day tramp: Starting from Raspberry Creek carpark in the West Matukituki Valley– along the valley to Aspiring Hut – a steep climb up to Cascade Saddle – down the Dart Valley – over Rees Saddle – and down the Rees Valley to Muddy Creek carpark (& vice versa).

Expect 7+ hours tramping each day.

The start & finish points for this trip are a significant distance apart (by vehicle). So the trip will be split into two groups & we'll do a 'key swap' somewhere in the middle. We'll hopefully be using hire vans.



Juvenile Kea (photo Tomas Sobek)

One group will be southbound (start from Raspberry Creek carpark), the other will be northbound (start from Muddy Creek carpark).

This will be a camping trip – so we'll have ample choices for places to setup camp, well away from the huts which will be busy at that time of year.

As always, the trip will be weather dependant. Limited numbers will apply.

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*

1st December: The Pyramids and Victory Beach
(E) \$7 Jane Cloete 03 467 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.



Pyramids (photo Tomas Sobek)

8th December: Swampy – Racemans circuit (9 am departure)
(M) \$5 Tony Timperley 03 473 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.

14th December: Porkies – Jim Freeman Track Circuit
(M) \$5 Debbie Pettinger 03 473 7924

This trip will explore some of the lesser travelled tracks on the back of Flagstaff. Meet at the club rooms at 8am and carpool to the Bull Ring where we will head up to Flagstaff for fantastic panoramic views of Dunedin be-

fore taking the cross track and making our way along the Swampy Ridge Track. We'll turn off on the Porkies Track and head downhill to the Possum Busters Track which we will follow till we reach the Jim Freeman track and then it is uphill, past Ben Rudd's shelter to the Fire Break Track and back to the cars. Depending on how the day goes, we may visit Lake Whare on our travels.

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.

21st December: Shortest Night in the Silver Peaks (Sat Night, departs 8pm)
(M) \$8 Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924

Note: This is additional trip to the printed summer tramping programme.

We have run a few 'shortest day' trips in the past – this trip flips this around and celebrates the shortest night (or close to it). The trip will be similar to the November Moonlight Silver Peaks and will visit Green Hill, Pulpit Rock, the unnamed highest point between Pulpit Rock and Silver Peak, Silver Peak and that other 'peak' with the trig on it. Leaving at 8pm will give us a decent amount of twilight tramping as we head to the tops of the Peaks. If we are really keen, we can wait around for the sunrise, though the official time for this is 5.43am! So, something different to celebrate the second last trip for 2019. Bring your normal tramping gear, a midnight

meal or snack, water and a good torch or headlight.

22nd December: Papanui Inlet
(E) \$7 Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545

Come and walk around picturesque Hoopers and Papanui inlets. We will park near the scout hall on Hoopers inlet road and walk over to Papanui inlet and use Cape Saunders rd to take in the views across this often unexplored Dunedin gem. Last time I was there a seal was swimming along beside the road as I walked. We will head along as far as we please, hopefully to at least the quaint cribs and take in the stunning views over Victory beach and the inlet channel. We will return via the other connecting road to Hoopers inlet and the cars. Bring your cameras and expect a relaxing 3-4 hours walking.



Views from Maungatua (photo Tomas Sobek)

12th January: Maungatua
(M-F) \$7 Michaela Day 027 343 1576

This is graded a fit day trip due to terrain and it could be a long day. With a total distance of 14km and elevation gain of 760m the time estimated is 8hrs or less.

We will do a car shuffle to make it easier at the end of the day. On the way we will drop a car where we will finish at Woodside Glen.

The Maungatua Traverse follows a South to East direction. It begins at the Southern end by the power lines at the end of Munro Road. It is a gradual climb as we go past a large rocky outcrop at 620m called The Three Kings. Then past Trig F at point 702m where the main climb comes to an end.

Then we will carry on to the main summit of 895m. Stopping for lunch somewhere on the tops and enjoying a spectacular view. Then descend down the Eastern spur opposed to the Western spur as it can be a little more difficult to navigate. The decent will become steep in parts. We will finish at Woodside Glen and complete the car shuffle.



Waianakarua (photo Rodger Clarkson)

**19th January: Waianakarua River
(9 am departure)
(E/M) \$20 Rodger Clarkson 473 6053**

Meeting at the clubrooms at 9am we'll do some tiki touring in North Otago. We may do the short walk to the caves at Trotters gorge enroute, before parking across from the Mill House. We'll walk up the riverbed for 4-5km looking at some of the interesting geology on the way (This is where I had a geology fieldcamp), including moeraki like boulders in the riverbed and embedded in the cliffs. At the end of the walk there is an excellent swimming hole so bring togs/towel. On the way home we'll deviate to Moeraki lighthouse/ Katiki Point where if we're lucky we could see Hoiho. Each walk is easy but you will get wet feet crisscrossing the river. We will be back in town late afternoon.

**25th January: Powder Ridge – Pulpit Rock – Greengauge – Silverstream
(F) \$5 Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924**

This is a long circuit that is expected to take around 9 hours. Starting from the Silver-

stream carpark, we'll cross the creek and head up Powder Ridge to Long Ridge. From here we'll head along Long Ridge to the highest point of this trip, Pulpit Rock (760m). Familiar ground from here to just past the old Green Hut site. We plan to follow the Green Gauge track back into the Silverstream – if a reccy shows this is unsuitable we'll head to Swampy and down Rollinsons Road. From here we can either follow the Silverstream tracks, or just head down the road. Bring plenty of water.

**26th January: Taieri Beach to Brighton (Beach Walk)
(E/M) \$12 Jane Cloete 03 467 2328**

Sand and rocks! 15km. Grade Medium, because although it is all flattish walking you will need to keep up the pace for the first half or else the tide will force us take up cliff-climbing! Some rock-scrambling agility may be needed!

Leave from the clubrooms at 8am sharp! OR meet at Brighton at 8.15-8.20am. Drive to Brighton and leave at least one car there. Drive on to the "Maturatu Scenic Reserve" carparking space. Start walking! And when you get back to Brighton (coffee? ice-cream?) go and collect the shuttle cars from the start! Back to Dunedin by 3pm-ish?

Phone Jane with any queries.

**2nd February: Pineapple Track to Leith Saddle and Leith Valley
(M) \$4 Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545**

Exactly as it sounds. A nice big loop up - over and around - back. Hopefully we'll get great weather and views. I love the tops up there. For those with a busy day we will have heaps of options - just walk Pineapple and return to your own transport. Or come right over to the Leith saddle carpark and Russ will shuttle you back to your own transport or come and enjoy the whole large loop.

**9th February: Moonlight - North
Taieri Ridge
(M) \$25 Gordon Tocher 021 677 818**

Summer makes it easier to visit areas a little further from Dunedin, especially with an 8am departure from the clubrooms. Some of you may have walked over the hills known as The Sisters at the southern end of the Taieri Ridge en route to The Crater. This trip will be at the other end of the Ridge to a vantage point known as The Brothers (716 m). The views are extensive and include Naesby, The Kakanuis as well as a very, very big hole in the ground called Macraes Mine. The locality is known as Moonlight although hopefully we will not see any of that.

The terrain is open tussock and grasslands with plenty of rock tors. There will be a short 200m ascent, the majority of the trip will follow the ridgeline. We will overlook a long forgotten town which had a population of thousands and find out how Butter and Egg Road gained it's name. This point is the beginning of both the Shag and Waikouaiti Rivers.

Bring plenty of water. The length of the walk can be readily adjusted to suit party needs, we should be back in Dunedin by 3 or 4 p.m., earlier if required.

If you live in the Mosgiel or Waitati areas it may make sense to pick you up on the way, eliminating the need to go to the clubrooms first. Phone Gordon to arrange this.

**15th February: Hermits Cave
(Silver Peaks)
(M) \$8 Debbie Pettinger 03 473 7924**

This is a great trip to stretch the legs in the Silver Peaks. Meet at the club rooms at 8am and car pool to Waitati then up Double Hill Road to the start of the track at Hightop. We'll follow Green Ridge, past Green Hut Site and onto Pulpit Rock for expansive 360 views. From Pulpit Rock, we'll continue along towards the top of the Devils Staircase, turning off to follow Rocky Ridge past the Cats Teeth to the Hermits Cave turn off. From here it is a short scramble down the

hill to the cave where 'the hermit' (Ross Adamson) lived for three years in the 1950's. This will be a good spot for lunch and a give us time to enjoy the view before returning the way we came.



Hermit's Cave (photo Tomas Sobek)

**16th February: Taieri River Walk
and Pack Float
(M) \$10 Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950**

February to March is a great time for this trip for many reasons - the Taieri River is often at or near its minimum flows, and it's summer so it's almost always warm and sometimes HOT. What do all good trampers need to do on a hot day? – go for a swim or at least get wet! This is the ideal trip with a good dose of everything necessary. All it needs is a flow of 5 cumecs or less, (check at <https://www.orc.govt.nz/managing-our-environment/water/water-monitoring-and-alerts/taieri/taieri-at-outram> or google 'taieri river flow') and some good, keen people.

Wear quick drying clothes, plastic bags for pack contents (lunch, spare clothing), and some sort of floatation (I have taken my tramping pack, boots, and empty spare drink bottles). Wear shoes if you prefer. We will need at least 2 cars – drop one off at Outram Glen and head up to Taioma to start walking. We will wander past the Wingatui Viaduct, Pipeline Bridge, Rock Garden Rapids and bivvy rock, and finish off on the Outram Glen River Walk to return to the cars. Our walk will be interspersed with occasional river crossings, and pack floating across deeper pools (with no current). About 6 hours walking.

If the river is too high we will do the Outram Glen Walk (E).

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.

5th December: Travels in Africa (Peter Loeber)

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



Serengeti (photo from Wikipedia)

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.

23rd January: BYO Photo Night

It's been a while since our last BYO photo night. We'd love to see where you've been over the Christmas/New Year break so please bring up to 20 of your best tramping photos on a USB. They can be day or weekend trips, make us jealous of the places you've been.

30th January: Paragliding (Alex Tups)

Is travelling on foot not enough of an adventure for you? Come and compare notes with Alex, who loves both walking and flying!

6th February: Waitangi Day

No club night!

13th February: Camino de Santiago (Laurence Prattley)

How to walk with blisters!!! Camino de Santiago – The French Way or also known as The Way of St James. 790km from St Jean Pied de Port to the cathedral at Santiago de Compostela where tradition has it that the remains of St James are buried. At further 87km to Finisterre, the end of the world in Roman times.

December 2019 – February 2020

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
DECEMBER						1 The Pyramids and Victory Beach Jane Cloete 03 467 2328
2	3	4	5 Travels in Africa Peter Loeber	6	7	8 Swampy - Racemans circuit Tony Timperley 03 473 7257
9 Cmtte	10	11	12 BBQ at Woodhaugh	13	14 Porkies – Jim Freeman Track Debbie Pettinger 03 473 7924	15 Sinclair Wetlands Russell Knowles 021 167 2722
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Papanui Inlet Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545
JANUARY & FEBRUARY						12 Maungatua Michaela Day 027 343 1576
13	14	15	16 First OTMC Club Night for 2020, informal	17	18	19 Waianakarua River (9am Departure) Rodger Clarkson 03 473 6053
20	21	22	23 BYO Photo Night	24	25 Powder Ridge Pulpit R - Greengauge - Silverstrm Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924	26 Taieri Beach to Brighton Jane Cloete 03 467 2328
Northern Hawkduns Tim Russell 027 959 3270						
27	28	29	30 Paragliding Alex Tups	31	1	2 Pineapple Track to Leith Saddle and Leith Valley Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545
3 Cmtte	4	5	6 (Waitangi Day) <i>No club night</i>	7	8	9 Moonlight - Nth Taieri Ridge Gordon Tocher 021 677 818
West Matukituki / Rees Crossover, Joe Bretherton 027 362 1221						
10	11	12	13 Camino de Santiago Laurence Prattley	14	15 Hermits Cave Debbie Pettinger 03 473 7924	16 Taieri River Walk&Pack Float Wayne Hodgkinson 03 473 0950

Note from the editor

Please email your contributions for February issue to info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz by *Friday 17 January*. 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 landmarks, etc.)