OTMC Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 811 February 2020

Pre Xmas wander along Papanui and Hoopers inlet (photo Debbie Guthrie)

Upcoming Trips & Events

BUSHCRAFT (Silver Peaks Weekend, Navigation Day, River Safety Day)

West Matukituki / Rees Crossover Ohau Valleys

Pineapple Track to Leith Saddle & Leith Valley Moonlight - North Taieri Ridge Hermits Cave Taieri River Walk & Pack Float Doctor's Point - Mopanui Circuit Otago Peninsula

Camino de Santiago Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group North Island Tramping Ambitions for the next 10 years of Orokonui Ecosanctuary Solo tramping on Stewart Island

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

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Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome Tony Lough as a new member. If you see Tony or anyone new to the OTMC on a day or weekend trip, please take the time to make them feel welcome. This is especially important on a Thursday night – if you see someone sitting by themselves, please introduce yourself and talk with them.

After taking the people who have not renewed their OTMC membership off the database, there are 170 current financial members.

President's Piece: Antony Pettinger

Welcome to 2020. This is the decade in which we get to celebrate the vision of Oscar Balk and others who had the foresight to form the Otago Tramping Club in 1923 by way of the club centenary in three years' time. Dunedin and environs were known by some as 'The Pedestrians Paradise', and there is plenty of evidence of Dunedinites roaming the local area before the formation of the club. That we are still undertaking many of these local trips today is testament to the vison of our foundation members.

2020 is the year we need to start our Centenary planning in earnest. Our first planned project, 100 Trips for 100 Years, is planned to start in just over two and half years away, at Labour Weekend 2022. It is envisaged that the Centenary planning will be undertaken by a group of interested (and keen) members outside of the committee. There will be more information on what we need to do in an upcoming Bulletin, but if you are keen to be part of the organising group, please let me know.

2020 also marks 30 years of our ownership of our clubrooms at 3 Young Street. Until then, the club had been renting various halls in the central city, but this meant we were regularly going through the upheaval of moving. While St Kilda was outside our preferred area of occupation, it was the right building and the right price (that we required no mortgage is thanks to a very well financially managed club in the preceding years). Having our home has been good for the club, and has allowed us to personalise the rooms with our maps and photos. The clubrooms were officially opened in June 1990, and it would be appropriate to recognise this event in some way in June 2020.

Speaking of anniversaries, 2021 marks 100 years since Ben Rudd moved to what is now the club property on the western side of Flagstaff. Ben Rudd held an important role in the history of the early Otago Tramping Club, and this would also be something we can celebrate, especially with our own centenary approaching. The Ben Rudd's Management Trust have talked about providing a picnic table at the former plantation skid site, maybe 2021 would be a good time to do this?

As I write this, the club has just commenced our tramping programme for 2020, and February and March will be especially busy for the club, with Bushcraft 2020 starting, plenty of Saturday and Sunday trips, as well as significant trips to the Cascade Saddle and Caples areas. Given the variable weather we have endured over the Xmas / New Year period, we can only assume that we are due for a dramatic improvement over the remainder of summer, and look forward to some excellent days away in the mountains.

As noted in a previous Bulletin, with a change in Bulletin Editor at the 2019 AGM, we have reverted back to commercial printing of the Bulletin (for those 30 or so members who receive a printed copy). Unfortunately, commercial rates for colour photocopying is too expensive to be a viable option (our best quote was $3.00 per copy, excluding postage). We completed the 2019 Bulletins in colour, but starting with this edition we will revert back to black and white, with a coloured page for the front and back pages (like we did in the past). The $10 additional cost for the printed Bulletin will remain for now – the $10 does not cover the full cost of printing and postage for the posted Bulletins, colour or black and white, but we have no plans to review this pricing structure.

All members have access to electronic versions of the monthly Bulletin in colour, either by the monthly email Bulletin posting, or from our website at this address:
https://otmc.co.nz/bulletinarchive.html

Our back-issue archive is being built up, for now there is about 20 years of Bulletins available to download at the above address.

Antony Pettinger
President

The GREAT OTMC AUCTION 26 March (date change!)

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.

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 473 7924
antony.pettinger@gmail.com

An Appreciation

Back in October of last year I received a phone call from Antony saying that the club wants to give me a special night as I have had to retire from tramping due to my illnesses . He said 'You're not getting away from us that easily'. I was a little shocked as I didn't really expect this honour.

So the night was set and I couldn't believe how many people attended, also in the gathering were quite a number of my "Lovely Quiz assistants" were present. I thank you all.

And to my further astonishment I was made an Honorary Member of the OTMC. So I would like to thank the committee for this great honour. Special thank goes to President Antony for the great presentation of my over 40 day and weekend trips that I have led since 1995. And also a big thanks to the amusing video which was supplied by Alan

Thompson which was recorded at the Divide. I still have a little chuckle over it.

As everyone knows I have had a soft spot for the Routeburn in winter, both Falls and Lake McKenzie Huts, where my number went from 18 to 45 in 2000 and a bus was needed for the latter. Also who can forget the Arthurs Pass train/tramp trip.

So once again a big thank you to everyone you really made my night. Last but no least a big thank for my Honourary members certificate it hangs on my lounge wall for everyone to see, and the lovely flowers for my wife Fiona.

Cheers
Wolfgang and Fiona

Updated OTMC Search and Rescue Procedure

The OTMC are committed to running safe tramping trips for all participants. A key part of our safety has always been based on making sure someone knows where you are going, and what to do if you do not return as expected.

The club has existing procedures to appoint a Dunedin based SAR contact person for all trips, and this has not changed. For weekend trips, the SAR contact details will be given to all participants, and in return the SAR contact will have a full SAR list with emergency contact details for everyone.

As day trips are run differently, we leave a list of participants and other details on the SAR from at the clubrooms. A SAR contact still needs to be arranged beforehand, their role is to contact the Police or a club official in the event the party fail to return by a prearranged time.

Now that we use PLB's on all trips, we also need to provide details of who are on our trips to our PLB contacts – in the event a PLB is activated, the Rescue Coordination Centre will contact us for further details of the party who have activated a PLB as their first response. The only time a PLB was activated on a club trip, our PLB contacts did not have details of the party. As a result, we have simplified how to get this information to the PLB contacts:

Weekend Trips: When emailing your SAR list to your SAR Contact, cc the email to: otmcplb@gmail.com

Day Trips: If possible, use your phone (or ask someone on the trip who has a phone / data plan) to take a photo of the SAR list before leaving the list at the clubrooms. Email this list to you pre-arranged SAR contact **and to** otmcplb@gmail.com

In both cases, all emails sent to otmcplb@gmail.com are automatically forwarded to our three PLB contacts. This procedure is designed to be a simple way of providing the information our SAR and PLB contacts require, and it is important we practice what we teach at Bushcraft.

Blank SAR forms and other leadership information are available on the OTMC Website.

Always EMAIL all SAR lists – weekend and daytrips

For daytrips take a photo with a smart phone and send as email before leaving clubrooms. The address is at the bottom of daytrip SAR list: **otmcplb@gmail.com**

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

16th November: Ben Rudd's Work Party

There was some doubt over the weather, but a keen crew appeared at the bull ring at 9am on Saturday. Alan had the key for the gate and took up his truck and most of the tools - thanks Alan. Everyone spread out and along the fire-break track and Sam and Kathy went down the track to the shelter. Everyone got stuck in and dug many holes and also some lopping of broom. Greggs Coffee kindly donated a big pile of coffee sacks again. These have been valuable to mark where we've dug holes and as weed suppression round the trees once planted.

We had finished the main work by around lunch-time and most people went down to the shelter to have a look. A rowan was spotted and it took three men to seek out and destroy. They're easy to see from the outside, but hard to identify from inside the bushes.

It was quite hot (yes!) by now, we all (except Richard P) had a relax under the trees until a big black cloud came over and we high-tailed it back to the cars.

Congratulations folks, we now have a total of 97 holes ready for trees in autumn (done over 2 work parties). Fantastic effort. We've also just had approval for funding for 100 trees from Trees That Count, so we don't have to use any of our own funds.

Thank you to everyone that came up: Alan Thomson, Richard and Tracy Pettinger, Rodger Clarkson, Saskia Bronstring, Fiona Morrison, Jan Burch and Richard Burdy-shaw, Jo Roy, Bryony Hales, Sam Patrick and Kathy Woodrow.

I had a good time and I hope everyone else did too. I'm looking forward to autumn and planting - Sue Williams

Beech tree under the boulder (with Richard Pettinger and Alan Thomson, photo Sue Williams)

23-24th November: Waikouaiti Cycle And Camp

We all met at the clubrooms at 9.00 and a bit later took off to join the north bound cycle-way which we followed till we came to the Normanby Tavern where we grouped up and got ready for the slow climb up North Rd. It was onwards and upwards until we reached Mt. Cargill road and it levelled off a bit. Nice views of the harbour. And then it was a nice big run downhill to Waitati where we stopped for a early lunch and a bit of a rest. After we all ate we continued along the Highway until until we turned off onto the coast road and

stopped just over the bridge to regroup. Then it was of to Karitane. Here it was a lot of up and down hills and crossing the railway line .a fresh SE wind along here and started to get colder. We all stopped at the Karitane lookout, regrouped and then off to Waikouaiti through Karitane and a nice flat road. Arriving at Waikouaiti we parked up in the camping grounds, tents up and then had tea and relaxed. Next morning it was pack up and start heading back. Alight head wind and as we went south the fresher it became. at Warrington we all stopped at Tina's for cake and homemade lemonade. It was hard to leave and the next stop was the Waitati Library for a short rest before going up Mt Cargill road and a brief stop at the top and then down and home for some and the clubrooms for the others.

Thanks Jan and the cube for carrying the gear and Mr transport aka Russell Knowles for taking Carol and Charlotte home Saturday night.

The gang: Jan Burch, Chris Pearson, Kathy Woodrow, Shanta Shreemitra, Debbie Guthrie, Jack Guthrie, Ruby Guthrie, Carol Dewar, Denan Diep, Chris Handley, Charlotte Handley, Richard Burdyshaw, and Ken Taylor.

24th November: Daylight Silver Peaks – Cedar Spur, Rosella Ridge Circuit

It was a nice warm morning, perfect for a trip to the Silverpeaks. There were just three of us, so we took one car and headed off. We parked and started off down the Gold Miners Direct Route, until we reached the Waikouaiti River at the bottom. I managed to get across with dry feet, we had a short break and after following the River Track for a bit, we turned onto Cedar Spur and stared to climb. About ¾ of the way up we lost the track for about 10 minutes, but were soon back on the straight and narrow.

Tomas started spotting a few early orchids, we saw four or five throughout the day. In January you can see at least 5 species of orchids in the Silverpeaks (I know this because I had a look at Tomas' web-site). There was also some Clematis flowering over the side of the track near the top. We had a look across at Green Hill and Pulpit Rock. There was gorse flowering on Green Hill but it's slowly but surely submerging under the canopy.

As it was only about 11:30 we headed down Rosella Ridge enjoying the views and looking for a shady lunch spot. After lunch we continued down, all the way along Rosella Ridge until we came across the River Track and started heading homewards. By now the day was quite warm and I was looking forward to a creek stop. Tomas went right in, Rob and I just stuck to wading. We then took the direct route back up through the forestry and to the road and walked along to the car, arriving about 3:30pm.

Fun Facts: 13.3km, 1175m up and down, top speed 3km/hr

Sue Williams for Tomas Sobek (thanks for leading) and Rob Seeley.

Walking along Rosella Ridge (photo Rob Seeley)

1st December: Victory Beach

Jane Cloete, Mark Stephenson, Ken Taylor, Lucy Jones, Laurence Prattley, and Peter Boeckhout left the Clubrooms at 8am in the rain, a bit of a shock as the forecast the day before had been for sun! We met up with Fiona Morrison down at the road-end, by which time it was just drizzling. No wind at all and the cloud was down to just 50m above sea level, so on with the jackets and we decided to 'do' the track anti-clockwise ie walk back along the road for 15 mins and then turn left onto the track leading to the estuary. We had a short stop just after the cribs and then walked along the tide-line. Whew, just enough space to get around without getting wet feet and certainly good exercise in the soft sand! The timing for this walk had been a bit risky it was only an hour after High Tide that we reached the estuary but we managed OK – but don't try this walk if it is only an hour before High Tide!

Turning the corner onto the beach proper, we saw our first seal (or was it a sealion? I was a bit too far away to see). That was the only one until we reached the western end of the beach. But there seemed to be plenty of penguin tracks leading up into the dunes.

It took just over an hour to walk along the sand to the cliffs where we took off the packs for a wee rest. There we found 3 or 4 seals resting up, though not actually sunbathing as the cloud base was still well down. And just above our stop was a penguin nest! A clear track up onto the cliff base leading into a scrubby patch so the nest itself wasn't visible - but there was plenty of white bird-poo spilt around the area.

Back along the beach and up into the sand dunes: did we imagine the sun or was it really trying to shine? I'd suggested lunch on the top of the pyramid but instead we ate it underneath! We were in the caves under the basalt hexagons. Fiona had done some research about the pyramids and it seems that the small one is a prime nesting site for Welcome Swallows.

Once at the cars, we back-tracked to Portobello where we finished in style with coffee, cake - and sunshine!

Jane Cloete thanks her companions for their tolerance of her foibles, for their pleasant company and for lots of interesting conversation.

8th December: Racemans/North Coal Creek/Steve Amies/Tunnel Tracks

Fearless Four

The weather forecast stated that it would be a fine morning, but around midday there would be "showers, some heavy with hail and thunder". With this prediction, Leader Tony arrived at the clubrooms at 9am not expecting anybody to be there, despite allowing possible participants an extra hour in bed. But, he should have known better shouldn't he? For there waiting were the Dynamic Duo of Lucy and Ken!

Before setting off we discussed our possible options in the Silver Stream area, taking into account the ominous weather forecast. The Trip Programme route was to start at the locked gate on Rollinsons Rd, walk up to the start of the Steve Amies Track, then continue along before descending the Little Coal Creek Track to Racemans. From here we were to proceed to the Top Weir then do the 90 minute climb up the Rain Gauge Track to The Elbow. The top 30 mins of this climb is in the open, as is also the descent down the Swampy Access Road to the gate at Rollinsons. By our calculations we would be in these open areas when the predicted "weather bomb" was predicted to strike. We therefore decided to drive to Whare Flat and walk along the sheltered Racemans Track and perhaps go up one of the Coal Creek tracks if the weather was still looking fine.

When we arrived at Whare Flat, who was there to greet us but Mark, transforming the (In)Trepid Tio into the Fearless Four! With our Sir Ed jaws jutting firmly, we set off in fine, warm conditions, knowing, however, that we would have to keep a weather eye (and ear) open for the forecast changes. (Note: See Sue Williams' excellent 3rd November trip report and photos in the December 2019 Bulletin describing the route we also took.) At 1pm we arrived at the sum-

mit of the Coal Creek tracks and had lunch whilst sat on the bench in the grassy clearing, enjoying the extensive view. Where was the “weather bomb”? Read on!

From the trig point (505m) without a view (see Sue's photo) we were descending the Steve Amies Track when we began to hear ominous rumblings and to the south we saw threatening black clouds approaching. We quickened our pace as we descended to the safety of the thicker bush cover to the accompaniment of ever more frequent and louder thunder.

As we were hurrying along the Tunnel Track there was a sudden rush of wind and then it began to hail. We quickly donned our parkas and with hoods up and heads down continued on our way; but within just a couple of minutes we noticed shafts of light streaming through the breaks in the bush. Were they caused by lightning flashes? How could they be – the rays were constant! It was sunlight! We also realised that the drumming on our parka hoods had ceased. The so-called “weather bomb” had turned out to be nothing more than a cough – for us that is! We could still hear thunder just above and behind us, probably at The Elbow, so we were thankful that we were not exposed up there in the open. We Three Wise Men gave full credit to Lucy for being in direct contact with Huey, who obviously directed the “weather bomb” to by-pass us.

Taking off our parkas, we had a relaxed amble back to the cars basking in the sun at Whare Flat. As we drove home, however, we could see that Dunedin City had copped the full force of the “bomb”, with piles of debris blocking drains and a large pool of water flooding the Wakari bus layby. Family and friends also gave us graphic descriptions of of intense hail, very heavy rain, loud thunderclaps and frequent lightning flashes (which we did not see). We were so fortunate! Thanks again Lucy!

Tony Timperley for the other members of The Fearless Four: Lucy Jones, Ken Taylor and Mark Stephenson.

14th December: Four go exploring on the Porkies

The view of Dunedin from Flagstaff has to be one of the best views of the city and it’s made even better when you have taken time out from busy Christmas preparations to recharge the batteries with a walk in the hills. This was the general consensus of the four of us that had turned up for the Saturday day trip on 14 December.

We took a few minutes to admire the view on the top of Flagstaff after starting 20 minutes earlier from the Bullring. From the top of Flagstaff we continued on through the section of track that had been burnt in the September fire where it was heartening to see the regrowth of tussock and flax with the area now turning a healthy shade of green. From the turnoff on the Pineapple Track we headed along the track towards Swampy Summit and I marvelled at how close the city is, still within sight, and the only other people we saw was a lone runner and a cyclist. There are a number of tracks that lead off this section of track and the one we were heading for on the left, had us climbing the steep section towards Swampy in the morning sun, stopping for morning tea at the Porkies signpost.

From here it is an easy wander down hill through the tussock into the bush. We discussed where the name of the track came from and wondered if it had anything to do with all the pig rutting that we came across in the upper open sections of the track. The Porkies Track drops down towards Lake Whare and meets up with the Possum Busters Track. Here we made a decision to turn left to meet up with the Jim Freeman Track and missed out on seeing Lake Whare. The Possum Busters Track is a pleasant walk through the bush, particularly on such a warm day. There are a number of small creek crossings that we easily jumped across and it was a pleasant surprise to find all the muddy parts have dried out by the warm spring temperatures.

We reached the Jim Freeman Track in good time and stopped for a few minutes rest before the 200m climb to Ben Rudd’s Shelter.

We were grateful for the tree cover as the temperatures were warming up and the sweat was starting to flow. It is a steady climb with a couple of short breaks to admire the view, when the trees allowed, looking towards the Chalkies. We reached Ben Rudd's Shelter nestled in the sun and decided it was a good place to stop for lunch.

After taking our time over lunch we opted to take the track that leaves the shelter from the rocky dried creek bed and takes you past the large rock. Some of the track has been cut with other parts being a bit overgrown with large tussocks and flax making it difficult to see where you are putting your feet but it was easy enough to push through. The scramble past the rocks is a good test for those with shorter legs but overall it is a good alternative route to the Fire Break Track. Once on the Fire Break Track it is an easy wander down to the Bull Ring at 1pm after a 5 hour trip – one where we saw no one after turning off onto the Porkies Track.

Debbie Pettinger for Tina Anderson, Ken Taylor and Antony Pettinger.

Porkies track (photo Antony Pettinger)

15th December: Sinclair Wetlands Tramp

As nobody turned up this became a Sunday family walk. Forecast was for rain but the morning was alright so we went down there anyhow. We just ambled along the track, the kids were having fun using claddy sticks to fight with. On Big Ram island various schools have planted native trees and they have grown a lot since. There are a few picnic tables on this island, good views. A lot of Fern birds about and they did not hide as much as other places. A few spots off rain started so we headed back to the car before we got too wet and headed to Mosgiel opp shopping, hot chips and by now pouring with rain.

Leader Russell Knowles and his followers Debbie Guthrie, Ken Taylor and the young ones Jack and Ruby Guthrie.

21st December: Moonlight Silver Peaks

Despite the less than ideal weather forecast, six enthusiastic trampers gathered at the clubrooms for the penultimate trip of 2019 - Moonlight Silver Peaks. The trip on December 21st was actually our second attempt at a moonlight Silver Peaks, our first attempt being thwarted a month earlier due to persistent rain. The plan was to spend the shortest night of the year (December 21 2019) in the Silver Peaks, with the aim of visiting the high points and (hopefully) being rewarded with views of the surrounding lights and the stars above… however it was not to be.

Hoping to get as far into the Silver Peaks as possible before it got dark, we set off from the Mountain Road car park at a brisk pace. About ten minutes in we stopped for our first view, and to our dismay we saw much of the Silver Peaks shrouded in fog. There goes our hopes of a clear night underneath the stars! Not letting the fog dampen our spirits, we carried on towards Green Hut site, stopping occasionally to peer through the bush, and to don our parkas. We reached Green Hut site around 9:30pm for a quick drink and snack. The drizzle was starting to set in as we headed up the hill behind Green Hut site.

By now the light was fading, and we stumbled our way up through tree roots and mud to reach the clearing above Green Hut site. We were hoping to continue our ascent to reach the summit of Green Hill, but the fog was now encroaching on the peak which earlier was clear. Antony led us to a 'lookout' just off the track where we were treated to views of Mosgiel's lights. Deciding that the fog had probably set in for the night, and there was unlikely to be any views further

along the track, we turned around and headed back for the cars.

Making sure we had our torches handy, we began our descent back down towards Green Hut site and along Green Ridge back to Mountain Road. The walk back was fairly uneventful, despite at times having to contend with our torch lights reflecting back at us in the fog! We reached the cars on Mountain Road around 11:30pm and headed home for bed. Thanks to my Dad Antony for leading the trip!

Jade Pettinger for Debbie and Antony Pettinger, Jane Ward, Carolyn Taylor and Ash Flintoff.

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.

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

Climb to Cascade Saddle (photo Tomas Sobek)

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.

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.

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.

22-23rd February: Wye Creek - Remarkables (All) $50 Rodger Clarkson 03 470 6053

I have never been into the Wye Creek or Doolans area, but it did look interesting from

a viewpoint above the Remarkables skifield, and studying topomaps. An approximate plan could be to park at the skifield carpark, cross over one of the passes into Doolans/ Wye Creek area and set up camp by one of the many tarns and spend Sat and Sun exploring the area and ascending various trampers peaks. Numbers may be limited on this trip with preference given to club members. Accommodation options for Fri night yet to be determined.

Lake Alta with Pass into Wye Creek

7-8th March: Ohau Valleys
(All) $50 Michaela Day 027 343 1576

Trip description is unfortunately not available at the time of bulletin publishing. Please check the weekly emails sent by Debbie and Antony.

14-15th March: Bushcraft 2020 Silver Peaks Weekend
(All) $8 Antony Pettinger 03 4737924

The final part of the Bushcraft Course proper is the practical tramping trip to the Silver Peaks. Ideally most people will undertake the overnight option, but we are offering both a Saturday or Sunday day trip – these options will be the standard Hightop – Pulpit Rock – Pt777m trip (maybe along Rocky Ridge a bit if desired).

It is possible we will be looking for a leader for each of the day trips, if you can help please contact Antony (there is no other scheduled day trip for March 15, just this Silver Peaks option).

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 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

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 on 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

Hermit's Cave (photo Tomas Sobek)

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.

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).

23rd February: Swampy Summit Circuit (M) $5 Tony Timperley 03 473 7257

Please note: ***9am start****!*

Starting from the Leith Saddle carpark we follow the undulating Pipeline Track to the start of the steep climb up Rustlers Ridge to an open grassy knoll. After taking a nibbles and drinks break whilst admiring the views north and west, we descend to the junction with the Burns Track.

Here we have two options: 1) If we are feeling very energetic, we could turn right along Burns and descend to the junction with Swampy Ridge Track before climbing up to the Summit Rd. This will take about 45 mins longer than option 2) where we continue climbing straight up Rustlers to the junction with the Summit Rd.

We then tramp to the communication tower before descending the Leith Saddle Track back to the carpark.

1st March: Doctor's Point – Mopanui Circuit (M) $5 Tracy Pettinger 027 348 7585

Leaving from the club rooms at 8am, we travel to Waitati and park near Doctor's Point. We will ascend Mopunui by the Ridgeline Track then descend around Orokonui Sanctuary, go around the Lagoon Walk and then back up the road to the cars.

1st March: Bushcraft 2020 – Navigation Day (Flagstaff) (E-M) $5 Antony Pettinger 03 4737924

Although this day is primarily aimed at those on our Bushcraft Course, if anyone is keen to brush up on their map reading and compass skills then please come along. The group will be split into smaller parties, and each party will navigate their way around a set of markers. The route will include sections of untracked terrain, but nothing too difficult. Bring your normal tramping gear, and maps and some compasses will be supplied. Meet at the clubrooms at 9am, or arrive at the Bullring on Flagstaff – Whare Flat road by 9.30am. Contact Antony for more information.

8th March: Otago Peninsula (M) $8 Saskia Bronstring 027 266 7703

A walk to the highest point of the Peninsula, Mt Charles, 408m.

The views from Harbour Cone are spectacular so I am hoping Mt Charles will be even better.

Access is via Allans Beach road and the walk should take approximately 3 hours.

If I can't get landowners permission other options on the Peninsula could be Sandymount or Victory Beach.

8th March: Bushcraft 2020 – River Safety Day (Outram Glen) (E) $7 Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924

Again, this weekend is aimed at our Bushcraft Course, but it is also the only opportunity for others to receive river crossing training. We start with a short 'theory' session at the clubrooms, and then carpool to Outram Glen and practice some crossings. How much we can practice depends on the water flow at the time, in 2018 the river was flowing quite fast, so it was in and backing out.

Wear your normal tramping gear, including boots. A full-size pack filled with stuff you don't mind getting wet is best, but day packs are also OK. Also bring some dry clothes.

If you can't make this trip, but would like to gain some experience crossing rivers, then Wayne's trip from Taioma to Outram Glen on February 16 is a good option.

14th March: Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve (combined with Bushcraft) (M) $8 Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924

See details in the weekend trip decription.

15th March: Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve (combined with Bushcraft) (M) $8 Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924

See details in the weekend trip decription.

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.

From Richard and Debbie: Please give us tips for social program / help us organise upcoming evenings.

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.

20th February: Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group (Nathan McNally)

Since 2011, the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group has removed over 19,000 possums from the Otago Peninsula, and that number is increasing by the day. Residents have noticed the positive effects of removing these predators by an increase in native birds, rejuvenated native tree canopies, fruit trees and healthy vegetable gardens. This incredible achievement is all thanks to a huge collaborative effort from volunteers, residents, contractors, the OBPG team, and our funders and supporters.

OPBG's vision of a Predator Free Peninsula is a keystone project within the wider Predator Free Dunedin project, one of the five initial large landscape projects funded by Predator Free 2050. OPBG goal as one of three Predator Free Dunedin delivery partners is eradicating possums from the Peninsula by 2023. But possums are just our initial focus with other predators to be targeted in the future as part of the longer term vision of a Pest Free Peninsula.

27th February: Tramping Trips near Wellington (Jo Fox)

Wellington is only an hour and 15 minutes flight from Dunedin. You can escape the city within a few hour's drive as there are many doable 2 to 3 day tramps in the Tararuas and Ruahines. This slideshow will give a taster of some of these, and is designed to get you planning for your next trip to the capital.

5th March: Ambitions for the next 10 years of Orokonui Ecosanctuary (Colin Campbell-hunt)

Colin Campbell-Hunt is Chair of the Otago Natural History Trust, the governing body of the Orokonui Ecosanctuary. Orokonui has been in operation for over a decade and has been asking itself what contributions to conservation it wants to make in its second decade. Colin's presentation will share those ambitions with the club.

12th March: Solo tramping on Stewart Island (Wayne Hodgkinson)

We are all familiar with the general notion that solo tramping is riskier than tramping in a group. However, there are some advantages, including forcing your own decisions and improving personal confidence. In October I wandered around the Northwest Circuit (again), and will combine some photos with

some thoughts on the pros and cons, and what can make a solo trip both a safe and satisfying experience.

February / March 2020

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2 Pineapple Track to Leith Saddle and Leith Valley Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545
3 Cmtte	4	5	6 (Waitangi Day) *No club night*	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
17	18 Bush craft	19	20 Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group, Nathan McNally	21	22	23 **9am** Swampy Summit Circuit Tony Timperley 03 473 7257
					Wye Creek - Remarkables Rodger Clarkson 03 470 6053	
24	25 Bush craft	26	27 Tramping Trips near Wellington Jo Fox	28	29	1 Doctor's Pt - Mopanui Circuit Tracy Pettinger 027 348 7585
						Bushcraft - Navigation Day (Flagstaff), Antony P. 473 7924
2 Cmtte	3 Bush craft	4	5 Ambitions for the next 10 years of Orokonui Eco-sanctuary, Colin Campbell-hunt	6	7	8 Otago Peninsula, Saskia Bronstring 027 266 7703
						Bushcraft - River Safety Day (Outram Glen), Antony 473 7924
					Ohau Valleys Michaela Day 027 343 1576	
9	10 Bush craft	11	12 Solo tramping on Stewart Island, Wayne Hodgkinson	13	14 Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve (combined with Bushcraft)	15 Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve (combined with Bushcraft)
					Bushcraft 2020 - Silver Peaks Weekend Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924	

Note from the editor

Please email your contributions for March issue to info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz by *Wednesday 19 February*. 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, name of the photographer, etc.)