OTMC Bulletin



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

#812 March 2020



Hermit's Cave daywalk, group posing on Rocky Ridge (photo Charlotte Handley)

Upcoming Trips & Events

Ohau Valleys Bushcraft 2020 Silver Peaks Weekend Sleepy Hollow - Caples East Matukituki Toaroha - Kokatahi Circuit (Easter 5 day trip)

Doctor's Point - Mopanui Circuit Bushcraft 2020 Navigation Day Otago Peninsula Bushcraft 2020 River Safety Day Whare Flat/Racemans/North Coal Creek/Steve Amies Tracks Around Port Chalmers Rosella Ridge - Goldminers Direct East Of Flagstaff

Ambitions for the next 10 years of Orokonui Ecosanctuary Solo tramping on Stewart Island Finding the Lost Continent of Zealandia and why Zealandia Matters Paragliding **Auction**

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).

Club Postal Address Change

Please note that from 1st April 2020 the club postal address will be "3 Young Street" instead of the PO box. The latter will be closed.

Your Committee

President: Antony Pettinger 473 7924 Vice President: Richard Forbes 021 510 760 Secretary: Joe Bretherton 473 8784 Treasurer: Sharen Rutherford 027 229 1961 Chief Guide: Wavne Hodgkinson 473 0950 Membership Secretary: Debbie Pettinger 473 7924 Bulletin Editor: Tomas Sobek 021 279 8339 Daytrip Convener: Tomas Sobek 021 279 8339 Club Meeting Conveners: Richard Forbes 021 510 760 Debbie Pettinger 473 7924 Clubrooms Maintenance & Hire: Peter Loeber 477 4895 Gear Hire: Andrew McConnell 022 089 6537 Conservation; Advocacy & Recreation: Chris Pearson 455 4673 Ben Rudd Trust contact: David McArthur 481 1478 Leaning Lodge Trust contact: Alan Thomson 455 7878

antony.pettinger@gmail.com
forbespotter@hotmail.com
jsbretherton@gmail.com
sharen.rutherford@gmail.com
wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz
debspettinger@gmail.com
info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz
info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz
forbespotter@hotmail.com
debspettinger@gmail.com
loeber@xtra.co.nz
sossie_the_great@hotmail.com
cpearson86@aol.com
de.pp.mcarthur@gmail.com
alan.and.robyn.thomson@gmail.com

President's Piece: Antony Pettinger

Bushcraft

The OTMC Bushcraft course for 2020 has now underway, and we are currently sharing our knowledge and experience with 27 participants. This year's course is the 47th time the course has been run (by my count), and continues a tradition that all who have assisted with the course over the years needs to be proud of. A history of OTC / OTMC Bushcraft probably needs to be written for the upcoming centenary to recognise the contribution we have made to outdoor safety While the course has not been used as membership drive, many active club mem-

bers have been introduced to the tramping club by attending a Bushcraft Course.

There are no strict rules that you must follow for tramping, and this is emphasised by our members during the course. Something I learnt when I started out was to simply observe others you tramp with, watch how they walk, how they pack their pack, what gear they bring and any number of other observations – you do pick up some great ideas that you can then incorporate into your own tramping.

The biggest learning I like to think we provide during the course is decision making

– if we have done our job well, then we will have enabled people to be able to stop and make sound decisions based on their training, observation and experience. It could be the obvious things like river crossings, but also other things like continually observing the conditions / environment you are in, how your companions are going, monitoring your progress and having the courage to turn back if things aren't going to plan. Sound decision making during a trip is leadership, and is your biggest guard against accidents, most if not all are preventable.

The Bushcraft Course is led by a small team of club members, and I offer my thanks to everyone who has, or will be involved over the coming weeks.

Day Trips

Another topic we still hear a bit of 'noise' about is the start time for the weekly day trips. For the past two summer trip programmes (November to the end of April) we have set the normal start time for the day trips at 8am and retained 9am for the winter programme.

The committee have discussed this at our monthly meetings, we have discussed it at both the weekly meetings and AGM's as well as sought feedback via the Bulletin. Despite this, there is still a divided view on what time the trips should start. We are guided by the

views of our members, but there is no clear consensus either way. We have been monitoring numbers on trips for several years now, and whatever we have done has not affected trip numbers overall, but I accept some members will not attend the trip if they don't agree with the start times. I guess we have these options:

- 1. All trips depart at 9.00am, as in the past
- Split the start time to 8am for summer and 9.00am for winter, as we are currently doing
- Accept a compromise, and all trips year round start at 8.30am
- 4. Allow the leaders to set their own start time.

I don't believe anyone accepts 8am is a good time to start in winter (there can be exceptions for further away or longer trips), and there is a valid view that the departure time should be consistent over a 6-month period, which should rule out #4.

It does concern me that there is this division in the club, and I invite feedback via the Bulletin, or a letter to the committee if you have a view on this. We need to resolve this difference, although it is not urgent – we will continue to run as planned for the summer programme, and from May onwards the trips will revert to 9am (unless noted otherwise by the leader). A final decision can be made at the AGM on August 27.

TENDER: OTMC 1996 Covered Briford Trailer

The OTMC obtained a covered trailer to be used to transport packs and equipment for weekend trips in 1996. At the time the trailer was regularly used. In recent years, usage has dropped to as little as one time per year due to smaller trips, and the larger vans we use from time to time having luggage compartments.

We have now arrived at a stage where maintaining, warranting and registering the trailer annually is costing as much, if not more, than a hired one would. Additionally, the

trailer is starting to exhibit signs of corrosion in the chassis due to lack of use and the salt air environment it resides in.

For these reasons, the OTMC Committee have resolved to offer the trailer via a tender process to financial club members.

Description: The trailer is a 7ft x 4ft Briford covered trailer, complete with a lockable double rear door and spare wheel mounted on the drawbar. The trailer is currently registered and warranted, and is sign written with the OTMC logo and name (a condition

of the tender is that the club's identity is removed in a timely manner by the successful tenderer). The OTMC have been informed that the chassis will require some remedial work in the short term to maintain the WOF standard.

The trailer is available for viewing by contacting a committee member.

Tenders are open now, and will close on March 24, 2020. Tenders can be posted to:

'Tender' OTMC PO Box 1120 Dunedin, 9054

Or emailed to: otmcnz@gmail.com

The Committee will only accept tenders from current financial members of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc). All tenders received by the due date will be evaluated by the Committee at the April Committee Meeting and all Respondents will be notified of the outcome by 21 April 2020.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

26th January: Taieri Mouth to Brighton beach walk

A Good Start! An Excellant Middle! A Difficult End! And a WARNING to future leaders of walks along the Taieri Beach.

A Good Start was made at 8am! Ten of us met up with me, Jane Cloete, at the clubrooms and we were away by 8.05am! Had to go promptly, not only because of the tides but also because it was Gala Day at Brighton! Sorry about that, folks, but I hadn't realised the dates clashed!

And the middle section of the day – the walking – was Excellent! We managed to get to Brighton before the big crowds came along and parked near the school. This is where Janet joined the group. Then carpooling to the Matarau Island (= Taieri Island) scenic reserve car park. A wee bit of a muddle here – Jane's arithmetic went wrong as one car took 4 people, but 5 were squashed into one car whilst the last only took 3!

It was warm and partly overcast as we began walking. Thank-you to the whole group for keeping up the pace for the first hour — it's easier to get along that bit of beach using the sand/rocks rather than cliff-climbing. Actually, a slightly slower pace could have been managed — everyone was just too fit! There is more sand over the first

3-4km than previous trips, so that's another reason we were quick – walking on sandy beach is much easier than picking your footholds on rocks.

Then we could relax a bit! Low tide was actually at 11am-ish and so we had plenty of time to look at cliffs and rock-pools, and some big, clear, stranded jellyfish! Lunch was just after the Bruce Rocks. The weather the whole day was very pleasant indeed – warm and mostly sunny with a light nor-east breeze. Just right! And so we reached the end by 1.15pm.

Then we got to the Difficult End: the traffic!

Whilst some of the group enjoyed coffee or an icecream, one car was needed to take the drivers to collect the original cars from the start of the walk. Challenge One was to walk across the road! Once we got to Ash Flintoff's vehicle he found a cunning bypass to get out of the village. Collecting the cars was no problem, but driving back through Brighton to collect the ice-cream eaters was a big one! We crawled and stopped and crawled again. The Gala Day had clearly been well attended and everyone was trying to leave at once. There were traffic lights on the wee bridge, but that didn't help much. So we eventually picked up the rest of the group at about 2pm. I do hope everyone got a lift back to Dunedin - suddenly there was

no-one waiting on the footpath and only Lucy and me in the car.

I finally got home at about2.30pm. Many thanks to my companions for putting up with my fussiness about time management, and for their fellowship during the day: Lucy Jones, Janet Barclay, Trevor and Leanne Barlow, Laurence and Raewyn Pratley, Sandra Divett, Sharon Campbell, Kay Ramsay, Jess Thomson, and lastly Ash Flintoff who was the mainstay of the car shuttle.

Oh, and what was the Warning to future groups? Don't organise it on the same day as the Brighton Gala day!

25-26th January: Northern Hawkduns, Oteake

Friday

Five trampers conveniently filled all seats in the 4WD for the drive to Palmerston, where we had a long wait for takeaways. It was a warm evening through the Maniatoto as we headed for DOC's Homestead Campsite up the Manuherikia valley. We still had daylight for putting up tents and the warm NW wind continued through the night. The wind whistled through the pine trees, amplifying its sound, causing two of our team to abandon their tent for the floor of the shelter, heading DOC's warning that tree fall was a potential danger.

Saturday

Happily we still had a clear view of the tops of the Hawkdun and St Bathans ranges in the morning, even though the forecast was for a few light showers through the course of the day. 4WD mode was needed for the drive up the east branch of the Manuherikia to a parking spot at the start of Berwen track, an easement that provides access through a farm to Oteake Conservation Park. We crossed the small river then climbed over a low saddle that led us to the upper section of the Mt Ida water race that goes all the way to Naseby. We made the most of flat travel while it lasted, before branching off towards the park boundary. We chose a suitable spur for the big climb



Our camp site beside the tarn (photo Tim Russell)

up on to the Hawkdun tops. We felt a few spits of rain as we climbed and wondered what might be in store for us as the day unfolded. As it turned out, the few spits were all we had for the weekend. At around 1500m we found a spot for lunch amongst the tussock on the lee side of the spur that was largely sheltered from the brisk wind. By now it was mostly sunny and a pleasant hour was spent here.

A final upwards push for 50 minutes or so had us atop Pt 1849, from where we could see Lakes Aviemore, Benmore and Pukaki. We headed north along the broad, rocky ridge. We made good progress along the tops and as we crested Pt 1816 we spied the large tarn in the basin that was to be our campsite for the night. Interestingly the other nearby tarn shown on the map had completely disappeared in the recent dry conditions. A steep descent had us tarn-side at 4:20 pm, giving us plenty of time to sort out the best spots to set up the three tents. The braver ones went for a dip in the tarn. Then followed a very pleasant evening working through the edibles and soaking up the scenery. The wind became cooler and lavers were added at regular intervals, so in the end we were wearing most of what we had brought with us.

Sunday

The breeze was still with us in the morning, however the high cloud was showing signs of breaking up and the day was expected to end up being a very warm one. Breaking camp, we headed back up onto the tops, continuing our journey north. The views got

better and better as we progressed. We allocated a good amount of time on Pt 1856, the northernmost point of the tramp. Here the views were extensive - Mt Cook really stood out, as did Lakes Ohau and Pukaki. Many other ranges were identified as we scanned in all directions. A sharp rocky descent to the west took us down to a saddle that offered shelter from the breeze and conveniently it was now lunchtime. It was a nice place to spend an hour nestled amongst the tussock, eating and chatting.

From there we had a little height to gain before turning to the south and following a gentle 6 km long spur back down to the 4WD road and our vehicle. The temperature climbed higher as the altitude dropped. At the bottom of the track we found a perfect pool in the river. Even the cold-water phobic of the team (Tim) sat neck-deep in the pool. With everyone suitably refreshed, it was a brief stroll back to car. It was up to 30C on the drive to Ranfurly, where we stopped for calorie replacement therapy at the local takeaways.

Thanks team for joining me in a visit to a less-tramped area not too distant from home.

Sarah Chisnall, Tomas Sobek, Sue Williams, Andrew McConnell & Tim Russell (leader and scribe)



Panorama of Manuherikia Valley and Saint Bathans Range (photo Tomas Sobek)

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.

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

There are lots of options for tramping in the Ohau area for all fitness levels. A popular weekend trip is the North/South Temple crossing over Gunsight Pass or visit the tarns in the not often visited head of Freehold Creek. Dumbbell Lake in the head of the Maitland is a beautiful spot to camp and of course there is the ever popular Huxley/



Lake Dumbbell (photo Tomas Sobek)

Hopkins Valleys with Broderick Hut to stay in.

Michaela suggests parking at Ram Hill and walking 2-3 hours to Monument Hut. Bring a tent to the huts as this area can be popular this time of the year. We will camp together on the Friday night. Here are some options she listed, but other are available:

- Elcho Hut North of Monument hut up the Hopkins valley 4hrs, 9km from Monument. An Alpine Club Hut. Easy
- South Temple Hut SW turns off west prior to getting to Monument. 3 to 4 hr, 7.5km. Medium
- Huxley Forks Hut NW of Monument Hut, on the way to Elcho. 6hrs, 18km. Hard



Crossing Hopkins River (photo Tomas Sobek)

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).

21-23rd March: Sleepy Hollow - Caples (3-day trip, Otago Anniversary) (F) \$65 Ian Billinghurst 021 279 7881



Sleepy Hollow (photo by Chris Garden Photography, http://www.chrisgarden.com)

Sleepy Hollow is an alpine lake lying in the Humboldt Mountains. Nestled in a basin high above the Caples valley, it has become something of a mythical Shangri-La for lan, who has attempted and failed to reach it for various reasons at least three previous times. So come along at Otago Anniversary three day Weekend as we make attempt number four!



Sleepy Hollow from Bold Peak (photo by Chris Garden Photography http://www.chrisgarden.com)

There are several routes to reach the lake with all of them involving a climb of at least 1400m. If we can get at least two vehicles for this trip we will leave one of them at the Glacier Burn track near Kinloch after camping there on Friday night, and on Saturday use the other to reach our ascent point into the Humboldts, either at the Scott Creek track or from the Greenstone car park. On Sunday we'll traverse the tops to reach

Sleepy Hollow, before on Monday crossing over the range and descending the Glacier Burn route. If we can get the weather this trip should offer a remote off track experience in such a busy area, several chances of climbing some peaks, and extensive views over the Caples Valley and Wakatipu Basin.

21-23rd March: East Matukituki (OTMC / Bushcraft Combined Trip) (All) \$60 Debbie Pettinger 03 4737924

While this trip is an optional weekend tramping trip for the Bushcraft participants, it is also a trip for club members.

The East Matukituki offers a number of options that include crossing the Matukituki River and following the true right to Junction Flat. From Junction Flat you can head up the Kitchener River to the beautiful Aspiring Flats which offers plenty of places to camp. Explore the Rock of Ages Biv and the spectacular Turnbull Thompson Falls at the head of the valley. Fitter groups can venture into the Rainbow Stream and gain height as they head towards Mt Sisyphus. An alternative trip to Aspiring Flat is to cross the Matukituki River at Junction Flat and climb through the Bledisloe Gorge to Ruth Flat for more great camping.

If the weather is warm there will be ample opportunity to practice river crossing and use a map for navigation.

10-14th April: Toaroha – Kokatahi Circuit (Easter 5 day trip) (F – potential for M trip) \$90 Sarah Chisnall 027 327 0327

Having been high on Sarah's list of places to explore for many years, this trip promises to cover some interesting and challenging terrain in an area a bit further than usually accessible for weekend club trips. Route descriptions indicate high potential for some good old fashion bush bashing and navigating some sections of untracked terrain, and some longer days (expect 8hrs +) so this is definitely a Fit rated trip. However, the rewards include striking valley travel, an alpine

saddle crossing, river crossing, small canyons, boulder hopping, the allure of a natural hot spring (if it does in fact exist) and visiting some more remote, smaller back country huts.



Pinnacle Biv (photo from internet)

The initial plan is to begin travelling northwards on Thursday evening (TBC) and continue to the road end via Hokitika on Friday morning (7-8hrs drive from Dunedin), followed by a 3-4 hr walk into Cedar Flats hut. There is apparently a natural hot spring about 1km up the valley from the hut decent enough to soak in, so arriving in time to explore this is an advantage. Saturday is up to Adventure Biv and over Zit Saddle to Top Kokatahi Hut. Sunday is past Crawford Junction Hut and onto Boo Boo Hut. Monday offers the possibility of a day trip up to explore Pinnacle Biv as a side trip and returning to Boo Boo for a second night (so nice light pack for the day). Tuesday will require an early start to walk out to the road end and travel back to Dunedin.

As usual, this trip is weather dependent - being a circuit loop we have flexibility to change plans more easily if needed - and will require good group decision making along the way. Camping gear will also need to be carried as all but Cedar Flats hut (12 bunks) offer between 2 and 6 bunks.

Limited numbers will apply for circuit, but there could also be potential for a M rated trip to spend the time exploring each of the Toaroha (in to Cedar Flats and potentially day trip up to Adventure Biv) and Kokatahi Valleys (in to Boo Boo Hut) without the long day up and over the saddle sections – this is dependent on someone willing to take responsibility to lead that group.

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 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.

14 & 15th March: Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve (combined with Bushcraft) (M) \$8 Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924

See details in the weekend trip description.

22nd March: Whare Flat/Racemans/ North Coal Creek/Steve Amies Tracks (M) \$5 Tony Timperley 03 473 7257

NOTE: Departure 9AM - not 8am.

Starting at Whare Flat we will walk for an hour along the interesting remains of the historical Racemans water race until we arrive at the start of North Coal Creek track. We then climb steeply to join the Little Coal Creek track, then continue up the ridge to a great viewpoint, where we can have lunch. After lunch, it is a short walk to the trig point (505m) at the junction with the Steve Amies track, where we begin our descent back to Racemans and Silver Stream. This should take us about 5 hours. Meet at the clubrooms in time to leave at 9am.

29th March: Around Port Chalmers (E-M) \$5 Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545

We will be walking around Port Chalmers and Careys bay. Beginning at historic Iona church and heading up to good viewing points looking over Otago harbour, then back down to the flat to do a circuit of Back beach taking in the views out to the Islands. Expect 3 to 4 hours of easy walking with some good steep hills, all the better to enjoy the views!

4th April: Rosella Ridge – Goldminers Direct (Silver Peaks) (M) \$8 Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924

The final Saturday day trip on the summer trip programme is a moderately graded round trip in the Silver Peaks. We'll park at the standard starting point on Semple Road

and head for the former Green Hut Site. From here it is a steady climb further along Green Ridge, passing under Green Hill. Nearer Pulpit Rock we will branch off to Rosella Ridge. Rosella Ridge heads down to the South Waikouaiti River – we will intercept the newish 'River Track' here, and follow this to the Goldminers Direct track. Arthur Blondell in particular has been tweaking the original alignment of his track, it will be interesting to see the improvements. The Goldminers Direct track now starts / finishes right at the Semple Road carpark. Bring plenty of water, and plan for a 6-7 hour tramp.

5th April: East Of Flagstaff (9 AM) (E) \$5 Chris Handley 021 024 27749

Meet at the clubrooms about ten to nine ready for a **9 am start**. We will car pool to Booth Road where we can meet those who want to come but live to the north of the city.

This will be an easy introduction to day trips for those who have just finished Bushcraft 2020. We will do a figure of eight on the eastern flanks of Flagstaff, using lesser known and informal tracks. Boots are not necessary but wear at least sturdy shoes and be prepared for the odd muddy patch. Expect to be out for 4 to 5 hours including stops for tea and lunch.

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.

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.

19th March: Finding the Lost Continent of Zealandia and why Zealandia Matters (Chris Adams)

Chris Adams is a GNS Emeritus Geological Scientist. He has lived and worked through the changes and exploration work brought about by the realization, some 50 years ago, that the earth's crust, earthquakes etc are driven by plate tectonics.

NZ, being on the "ring of Fire" and at the junction of two moving tectonic plates provides a fascinating place for continuing research to understand the nature and actions of the ground under our feet.

The latest realization is that New Zealand's position in the Pacific Ocean has changed into the world's eighth continent, Zealandia from New Caledonia to Campbell Island.

Chris will talk about how geologists came to understand how it is that Zelandia existed and undertook the work to prove this. He has a way of simplifying geology so this talk will be of interest to all members.

He is also a keen tramper, so if you have any questions about the rocks where you have been, save them up to ask Chris.

26th March: Paragliding (Alex Tups)

Do you ever dream of flying? Or do you like the idea of getting quickly and easily off the mountain, while everyone else is slogging along the tedious winding track down and up and down again? Come and listen to the stories of our favourite glider pilot and fellow club member Alex!



Paraglider above Remarkables range (photo Tomas Sobek)

2nd April: Auction

Now is the time to be bringing your unwanted gear into the clubrooms for the Auction on 2 April.

If you've upgraded your tramping gear, bought something you have never used or just need to get of rid of some tramping items to make room for more, bring your no longer needed items along to the club rooms (or give a committee member a ring). We need lots of gear for the auctioned so take this opportunity to clean out your garage or tramping cupboard.

All donated items will be auctioned on 2 April so be sure to bring along plenty of \$\$ on this night, as this will be a good chance for you to pick up something useful.

9th April: Easter

No club night.



March / April 2020						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						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	
16	17	18	19 Finding the Lost Continent of Zealandia and why Zealandia Matters Chris Adams	20	21	22 Racemans Track Tony Timperley 03 473 7257
					Sleepy Hollow - Caples (3-day, Otago Anniversary) Ian Billinghurst 021 279 7881	
23	24	25	26 Paragliding Alex Tups	27	28	29 Around Port Chalmers Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545
					East Matukituki (OTMC / Bushcraft Combined Trip) Debbie Pettinger 03 473 7924	
30	31	1	2 Auction	3	4 Rosella Ridge - Goldminers Direct Antony Pettinger 03 473 7924	5 East Of Flagstaff Chris Handley 021 024 27749
6	7	8	9 Easter – no club night	10	11	12
				Toaroha - Kokatahi Circuit (Easter 5 Days) Sarah Chisnall 027 327 0327		

Note from the editor

Please email your contributions for April issue to info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz by Sunday 15 March. 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.) and the name of the photographer to give credits to.