

OTMC Bulletin



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

814 July 2020



Club / family tramping in South Temple (photo by Tomas Sobek)

Upcoming Trips & Events

Catlins - a Pretty Good Plan C Borland Lodge Snow Skills – Basic Ice axe & Crampons

Around Port Chalmers Bullring to Swampy Summit and back Pineapple track
Greenacres / Highcliff / Buskin / Boulder / Paradise Two Reservoirs and a Hill
Sawyers Bay / Slopes of Cargill / Normanby (Bus) East of Flagstaff II

Antarctica tour guide Cycling the length of NZ on the Tour Aotearoa Hydration & breathing
Treading ancient paths in the land of the gods Paragliding Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, 3 Young Street, 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).

Your Committee

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Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome Janine Baker, Sandra Hunt and Jade Pettinger as new members of the OTMC. Janine and Sandra have joined from Bushcraft. Jade is a fourth generation member of the OTMC following in the footsteps of her great grandparents, Sid & Jean Pettinger, uncle Richard Pettinger and father Antony Pettinger. Please make our new members feel welcome when you see them on a trip or at a club meeting.

It is that time of year when membership is up for renewal and you will be receiving a subs notification in your Bulletin this month. Please pay your subs AFTER 1 July, either directly to the club bank account or pay to me in person at a club night. If you choose to post your subs, please note the OTMC has a new postal address of 3 Young Street, South Dunedin (do NOT send to the PO Box number as that is no longer active). Please return your subs notice to me if any of your details such as postal or email address has changed. Thanks Debbie

President's Comment: Antony Pettinger

What a difference three months can make. The committee had been watching the pandemic situation worsen across the world in early March and decided that the best thing for the OTMC to do would be to put activities on hold for a while. We had our last meeting

in the clubrooms on March 19, and two days later the Government announced the alert system. Another two days and the country was headed into lockdown, making the committee decision a moot point. I guess we were lucky to have been able to complete

our Bushcraft course, but the shutdown meant what would have been the biggest trip of the year was cancelled (the joint OTMC / Bushcraft 2020 trip to the East Matukituki would have had between 25-30 people on it).

With the pandemic coming just at the end of Bushcraft, our keen participants have unfortunately been unable to join us on trips. We are now lucky enough to be able to call around half of this year's course OTMC members, and I hope you can join us on a trip or at a meeting soon. It is great that you joined the club, and we all look forward to your company.

Even though club activity was not the most important thing during the pandemic, we have endeavoured to maintain some form of club presence. The weekly virtual meetings generally went okay, the number of participants was reasonably good for the first couple but dropped to end up slightly below what we would expect at a face to face night in the clubrooms during winter. We also enhanced the weekly update to maintain a link with our members at a time when we had no planned activities. We were able to run our first day trip once we reached Level 2 on May 17, and 18 members and friends enjoyed a return to Flagstaff. Our very first trip in 1923 was to Flagstaff, and in a way it was symbolic to do the same trip again after what would have to one of the longest periods of inactivity on our 97 year history.

Our return to clubrooms meetings from June 11 ended our longest break in weekly meetings for many years (decades even), and it is important to note how members value the weekly physical catch up. We are now trying to compile the remainder of the winter trip programme and welcome any offers to lead either a day or weekend trip between now and the end of October (contact Tomas or Wayne). There is little point publishing an entire trip card for the remaining weeks, so we will be using the weekly update, website, Bulletin, and weekly meetings to promote the trips.

We are currently running an online photo competition. The 2018 competition had a lower number of entries than we would have expected, and this probably contributed to having no competition in 2019. It has been interesting to see if an online competition would attract more entries, but again we have had a relatively low number of entries. The photo competition used to be quite popular in years go by, so I am not sure what the answer is. Maybe with the huge increase in photos floating around with the advent of digital photography and the Internet people are just overwhelmed with the volume? Thanks to those who have entered, and congratulations to the category winners. Your photos will be forwarded to the national FMC competition later in the year.

Regards

Antony Pettinger
President

Ben Rudd's Management Trust News



The Trust and other keen workers have been very busy and we've managed to achieve quite a lot even though we were in lock-down.

Beech Trees – these were picked up just before lock-down and once restrictions eased, Richard and Alex Forbes delivered them up to the skid-site. They were all planted over several weekends by some keen people – approximately 120. Thanks to everyone and those who came earlier in the year to dig the holes., which made it a quick job.

Drone Flight – we now have aerial footage of most of the property. David McArthur is looking through it for pest trees and he'll



note the GPS coordinates. All we need to do then is locate and destroy.

Signs – we should have some new signs in place at the boundaries of the property soon. A big thank you to Wolfgang Gerber for his input.

Skid Site – Our next project is some work to upgrade the skid-site area, some of the ideas we have so far: picnic table/s, low plantings. If anyone has any ideas, we would love to hear from you.

Work Parties – we have two coming up on the 5th of September and the 17th of October – more details will be on the new trip card.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

30th November – 1st December 2019: Of Mice and Mavora



Photo by Rodger Clarkson

We were all arriving at different times on Friday and Mavora has a huge camping area so I made a careful plan of how to find our campsite by taking a google earth image and adding arrows, numbers and easy to follow instructions... but not one person followed those instructions, however we all met up after various amounts of aimless driving around the campsite. Sue and Tina's vehicles turned up later than expected after Sue started driving towards Makarora and ignoring Tina's valiant attempts to flash lights and honk horn behind her. We set up camp near the lakefront with car camping meaning we had a few more luxuries than a standard club weekend. As we headed to bed a

squeal was heard as Sue discovered a mouse in her tent. After clearing the contents out, the mouse escaped. The next morning Yuki discovered she'd had a mouse in her tent that must have been there all night, and Shanta had a mouse going back and forth across the tent poles between the tent inner and the fly. The Bretherton's were quite smug as no mouse could possibly get into their campervan.

The day dawned calm and the lake looked inviting on Saturday morning, but we decided lake activities could wait till later. Some heading towards Careys Hut, some cycled the Von Valley and Richard took his kids fishing. The Von Valley is part of the round the mountains cycle trail and was a beautiful expansive valley that we battled into the wind about halfway to lake Wakatipu before turning around and enjoying the tailwind for the return journey

When we got back, we learned that a fish had been caught – Fisherfolk have had a reputation for exaggerating the size of their catch but in today's world of photography how can you? The answer is to photograph it with a small child, so the fish looks relatively big, and fortunately Richard had bought along his own small child just for such an occasion. The fish was delicious but we're still not sure whether it was a trout or

salmon. Anyway time for the big social party... Ray was a little disappointed in me when I went for a nana nap at 5pm!



Photo by Rodger Clarkson

After being thwarted with kayaking on Sat due to high winds in the afternoon the wind briefly calmed down first thing Sunday morning so I got my kayak on general principal, as I turned it over a rather indignant mouse stared back at me from the cockpit and scurried into the depths. I couldn't find it so assumed it must have escaped and had a kayak across the lake while feeling the odd tickle on my leg, it turned out being a very quick paddle which was just as well as the wind picked up again as I approached shore.

Joe and Sharon had a mouse in their campervan on Sunday morning but how did it get in there when there is such a gap between the ground and door? Surely no one would have put one in there to spite the Bretherton's enjoyment at everyone else's mouse invasions. A few of us did the Kiwi Burn loop on the way out while looking forward to whatever 2020 would bring.

Rodger Clarkson for Joe & Sharen Bretherton, Yuki Fujita, Sue Williams, Santashree Mitra, Tina Anderson, Rose Colhoun, Ray & Jill McAliece, Gene Dyett, Richard Forbes and children

19th January: North Otago – Three trips in one

North Otago seems to be as far as we go north for day trips and I decided if we're driving all that way why not combine multiple

short walk locations into a full daytrip. 9 of us headed away in 2 cars at 9am, with the first walk being the Trotters Gorge loop that encompasses the caves. We next headed to the Waianakarua River, parking near the Millhouse and making our way to the riverbed. From there its simply a case of walking up the river for about 5 km, noting the interesting geological features along the way, including moeraki like boulders in the riverbed and emerging from the cliffs. About 1 km above Graves Dam we stopped for a swim at a swimming hole below a layered sandstone cliff. But wait there's more. After stopping in Hampden for an ice-cream we headed to the Moeraki Lighthouse at Katiki Point where we could watch the Hoiho and Seals at play. We arrived back in Dunedin around 6pm so a good full day out.

Rodger Clarkson for Helen Ludlow, Christine Stephenson, Lucy Jones, Santashree Mitra, Bjarney Jonsdottir, Phillipa Edwards, Dawn Church, Wayne Hodgkinson



Photo by Rodger Clarkson

25th January: Silverstream – Powder Ridge – Pulpit Rock – Greengage circuit (Antony Pettinger)

This trip was one of just two 'F' grade day trips on the summer programme, so I was pleasantly surprised to have 10 people along for this circuit trip on the edge of the Silver Peaks. Starting at the Whare Flat carpark, the first 1.5km or so follows the Silverstream Valley. To reach Powder Ridge you need to cross the Silverstream at the lower weir (this has seen better days, but it is obvi-

ous and consists of a broken concrete dam across the main stream).

From the weir, there is a nice level track for another 1km, when Powder Creek is reached. Once across, look for a sign that reads 'Long Ridge & Mount Allen'. Powder Ridge provides good access to Long Ridge, although the lower section is quite steep. After a 200m gain in height, Powder Ridge meanders along for almost 4km, rising slightly in height as you go. There is the odd view along the ridge, but it is not until you reach Long Ridge that the view opens out (pt586m on the map).

Take the time to locate the markers at this point, don't be tempted to head towards the Pulpit Rock direction, you need to head west slightly and look for the warratahs with orange markers, these will lead you to the old 4WD track that runs along Long Ridge. It is then straight-forward walk for the 2 ½ walk / climb to Pulpit Rock. We had a pruning saw with us and cleared some of the overhanging broom, but since this trip the Green Hut Track Group have completed the work (thanks are due to them for all the great work they continue to do on many tracks). This means there is now once again a clear route to the Silver Peaks from Whare Flat.

Lunch was had just below Pulpit Rock, and one topic being discussed was this emerging virus, with around 50 cases worldwide! With the weather threatening to close in we headed off down past Green Hill to the Green Hut Site.

The Greengage track was new to all my companions on the trip. The route was used as a way into the Silver Peaks in years gone



Photo by Antony Pettinger

by, and had been redeveloped by club member Bill Wilson in the 2000's. The junction with the Green Ridge track is fairly obvious, but the sign itself is tucked out of view slightly up the track (a good idea). Greengage track is not shown on the topomap, but climbs to pt588 and follows the ridge down to pt470. From here it is a steep descent to the headwaters of the Silverstream. The track climbs equally steeply on the other side to intersect with the Rain Gauge Spur Track. I had come up this part on a reccy trip back in December and decided the river would be better, so we just splashed our way down to the top weir in the Silverstream (note, avoid the temptation to leave the river and follow the banks – even though you may be following random markers the terrain gets incredibly steep very quickly).

Once at the weir it was just a matter of following the Racemans track back to the carpark. All up we travelled around 22km in just under 9hrs. A great day out.

Thanks to Sharon and Joe Bretherton, Carolyn Taylor, Jane Ward, Tina Anderson, Debbie Pettinger, Joseph Watts, Bianca Bettjeman and Will Sweetman for your company

7-8th March: Temple Valleys Circuit, Gunsight Pass

This circuit was one of my first club trips, I guess 12 or so years ago. I remembered the climb up Gunsight Pass was steep and lately I was keen to check, whether it's still the case. To cut the story short: Yes, it is indeed.

The forecast for the weekend was looking good, especially for Saturday. Since everyone else wanted to just wonder to the hut, I set out solo for the circuit option. Alas it wasn't a trip of solitude. I saw a man with a dog from distance (they were faster, walking the whole circuit as a daywalk). And I kept bumping into another man and his son from Oamaru, walking at similar pace.

So how steep is Gunsight Pass? Steep enough to have both my triceps sore after the trip. On top of the pass I gave the Oamaru couple a short introduction on des-



Random passers by in Gunsight Pass (photo by Tomas Sobek)

cending in loose scree. Personally I find scree travel fun and was glad I managed to pass a bit of that on. Further down I had a faint memory of sidling before the final descent to Upper South Temple. But it seemed hard going so we all continued just straight down boulder hopping. I suppose it was a mistake. Looking at the map again, I think sidling along contour 1300 metres would be probably a better option. As soon as we reached the stream the vegetation was nearly impenetrable and the fastest travel was in the stream, despite the boulders getting more and more slippery. Once reaching the track the rest of the day was straightforward and we walked all the way to the hut. Solid 9.5 hours day, including some photo stops. And the best part was catering at South Temple Hut, which included even a can of chilled brew – thanks Andrew!

Sunday was a bit drizzly but we had only 3 hours of a sheltered valley walk ahead. There was no rush for us with adult sized legs, but an excellent effort from Lily, the young trooper who walked both ways carrying a full pack!

Tomas Sobek on behalf of the leisurely crew: Michaela Day, Caitlin Robertson, Lynley Pearson, and Andrew and Lily McConnell

21-23rd March: Sleepy Hollow

After a hectic week full of people dropping out of the trip due to the developing Covid-19 story, it was a relief to finally be on the road on Friday afternoon. Our trip had shrunk from 13 down to 7 and with a bit of a dodgy forecast I had nearly cancelled the whole thing.

Phil, Gordon, and I missed the standard turn off to Queenstown just South of Milton due to some confusion as to where we were headed, but ended up taking a very scenic route from Balclutha up the Clutha Valley to re-join the main road at Beaumont. By the time we reached Queenstown, Jovan and Brendan who were in the other car from Durnedin, had already arrived at Glacier Burn and rang to say they had found a camp site near the stream. We joined them and were later joined by Rose and Claire who arrived at dusk.

It rained lightly in the wee hours, and while we breakfasted and packed in dry conditions, low clouds swirled around the towering peaks that ring the Dart Valley, ominously predicting the forecasted steady rain for today.

Leaving Claire's car at the Glacier Burn carpark, we all squeezed into Gordon's and Brendan's and headed up the road to Scott Creek, from where we were soon on our way, climbing up the hill. There was extensive flood damage in the lower creek from the February storm, great mounds of rocks brought down by the stream, but the track, for the most part was in excellent condition. Only one tiny side stream required care due to the massive loose rock filled gully it had bulldozed for itself back in February. It started raining soon after entering the trees and it rained continually for most of the day.

We reached the bush line in Scott Creek about 1230, where we had lunch, and we had to decide whether to camp here or to keep going up onto the Scott/Kay Creek saddle and hope the conditions weren't too bad to camp up there. In the end we kept going, but as we climbed higher and higher up the mountainside, and the northerly wind started to lash us with the rain, I began to regret that decision. Thankfully after crossing the saddle and descending 60 metres to the Southwest on the Kay Creek side we found a sheltered spot near a small tarn to make camp. Sheltering in our tents later in the afternoon, some further excitement was caused by runoff from the hill above us slowly creeping through our campsite and forming lakes under our tents. It had finally



Arriving at Sleepy Hollow (photo by Ian Billingham)

stopped raining by this stage, so it was a simple task to pick up the tents and relocate them a couple of dozen metres away from the hillside.

After a calm night the morning dawned fine. We packed and were soon away, climbing to the east and then heading south away from the Scott/Kay saddle and up a valley that lead to the first of three saddles on our traverse to Sleepy Hollow. We stopped to admire some tarns where I had wanted us to camp if the weather had been nice, and from here it was a short climb up onto the first saddle beside Pt 1726. From here we descended a steep scree slope and crossed the valley to climb to Pt 1595, our second saddle for the day. We had lunch on the saddle and made the most of the sunny conditions to spread our wet tents and gear out on the rocks to dry.

After crossing the next valley, we climbed up to the third saddle for the day, Pt 1693 from where we could see the distant ridge line which climbs to Sleepy Hollow. In between us and the ridge lay the biggest scree field of them all which stretches around Mt Bonpland from West to South. Large, extremely loose rocks of every size imaginable required slow, careful travel though until at last the stream was reached near Pt 1168. We started climbing up the stream, but it was getting scrubby with many Spaniards, so instead we crossed and headed directly up a steep gully on the stream's true left side. Once out of the gully and on easier terrain, we began climbing what I thought was the main ridge to Sleepy Hollow, but unfortunately we had turned eastwards too soon

and were heading into the next valley north of the lake, north of Pt 1742. We had to do a light back track and then sidle southwards some more in order to get around a vertical ridge which separates the two valleys. Finally, we were on the main crest of the ridge and followed it up into a massive basin of loose red rock, glowing like the surface of Mars in the late afternoon sun. Crossing rolling terrain past a couple of large tarns we at last reached Sleepy Hollow and made camp at its northwest corner. This was my fourth attempt to reach the lake so my happiness to have finally done it was immense.

Lying at 1700m the temperature soon plummeted after the sun had set so I was early to bed. It snowed overnight, and it was still snowing as we packed on Monday morning, a light dusting ringing the peaks around the lake. We headed off, traversing scree slopes around the southern side of the lake. From the eastern end of Sleepy Hollow, it was a steep but straight forward climb up the scree to a small notch on the skyline which was the pass over to the eastern side of the Humboldt Mountains. We dropped down to rolling countryside of rock and tarns between the 1700 and 1800m contours and headed north in deteriorating visibility. The snow was falling quite heavily near the tarns and the cloud level was dropping for the side around to Pt 1731, but we made the side ok. Here we found the top of the gully that drops all the way down into Glacier Burn, nearly 700m below. After a tricky entrance into the gully the descent of the gully was even worse. Unrelentingly steep, fully of loose rocks that seemed determined to accelerate down the hill side into the people beneath, and with the falling snow turning to rain as we descended, it was quite the unpleasant experience, far worse than I had imagined.

We did it though, reaching the Glacier Burn, and then rock hopping down its true left side to pick up the marked track at the tree line. Claire had injured her foot on the descent of the gully so first Gordon, then Philip performed the herculean task of carrying both their pack and hers the whole way down to the Glacier Burn car park. Thankfully, once under the trees, the Glacier Burn track was



Sleepy Hollow (photo by Ian Billinghamurst)

in excellent condition with a steady gentle gradient that allowed a rapid descent off the mountain side.

We finally reached the car park about 4pm and used Claire's car to fetch the other vehicles that had been left at Scott Creek on Saturday morning. It wasn't until we reached Glenorchy and had reliable cell phone reception that the unfolding Covid-19 drama, with the sudden impending countrywide lock down discovered. We had missed all that excitement being in the mountains for three days!

Thanks, team, for coming away with me to reach Sleepy Hollow. I am super stoked to have finally done it, and I'm sorry about the fairly average weather and worse than expected terrain. It wouldn't be one of my trips without at least one day being a tad damp!

Ian Billinghamurst for Gordon Tocher, Jovan Andric, Rose Colhoun, Philip Somerville, Claire Gilder, and Brendan Penwarden.

23rd April: First ever OTMC Zoom club meeting

Debbie counted around 44 people if you add up all the couples. It was a great way to catch up with members from out of town.



3rd May: Ben Rudd's tree planting

Well, our bubble had a lovely time on the impromptu work day to start planting 100+ local-sourced silver beech provided by Trees That Count. Without bursting our bubble, Nick needed something different after Pooja's breakfast treat to celebrate his birthday. We set off for Ben Rudd's - what could be more special?

First, we collected 14 sacks of pine needles for our (now well-tended) garden, and a sack of pine cones for winter warmth, then we parked up by Sue William's car at 12.30 and ambled up the Firebreak with tools and water buckets. We filled two buckets from the little pool above the firepond on the Firebreak corner.



Nick & Richard checking trees (photo by Pooja K)

We set down our packs and tools by the first ready-made hole and went to the skidsite to find the trees, sacks and fertiliser pellets. It was great to see the trees safely delivered and all ready to go. We owe a lot to Richard Forbes (and David McA) who had got them up there that morning. While on the skidsite, one of us spotted a cheeky 1 metre high rowan, that had been laughing at us from its bold posy by the newly arrived trees. Ha! It couldn't hide anymore, as it was bright red in autumn colours. Easy spotting from a drone, I'd say. It pulled out rather easily.

As soon as we had carried enough trees to get going, more of them miraculously appeared near the next holes. Passers-by, of which there were a huge number on such a warm and still day, the first Sunday of Alert

Level 3, just wanted to help. Thanks, Anya, Nikolai and his aunt!

Sue the supervisor appeared out of nowhere (she had been waiting until someone showed up) and, deciding we didn't need supervising, off she went. Back to her solitary bubbledom.

We planted trees... We had tea and cake. And candles. We celebrated Nick's big day. It was still warm and nice. There were more people on the Firebreak than there was likely to be on George St.

The ground was damp enough for getting the trees off to a good start, and for yanking out broom.

We released trees... Last year's plantings were looking really strong, even one that had been squashed by a large boulder the bulldozer had pushed down last year when that naughty person set fire to Flagstaff. But, the sacks were still there starting to rot and weeds were poking through to hide the precious trees.

The trees were singing to us:

"Please release me, let me grow,
For broom and grasses choke me so
Don't walk by me, stop and weed
I won't flourish till I'm freed.
Lift the sack and peel it back,
Tuck me in, don't leave a crack.
Place some rocks to hold me tight,
Make me free to see the light..."

(How could we ignore their plight?)

We planted every hole and straightened out and added to or replaced sacks to free all of last year's trees from the boundary to the skidsite. It wasn't raining, but we had now almost done our three hour allowed trip. With lots of energy and a briefly threatening sky we took a few trees down to the Simes' Beech Walk, and planted a few more there and one on the way down the shelter track, this time with beech leaf mould from under the maturing trees added to the holes. Where there are no sacks on the ground a green carpet of gorse is doing rather bloody nicely. As predicted. But, last year's trees there are growing stronger and need to be helped to keep ahead of the gorse. Some



Tracy preparing for planting (photo by Pooja K)

lopping for a light-well would be timely. About ten more sacks and maybe a few pegs would be cheaper than weed matting. Where Sam and Sue had helped scuffle the gorse seedlings on the track formation, now under the laid out sacks there is ground as bare as it was that day about this time last year. Brilliant method! (So far.) We reluctantly packed up for home.

The sun was getting low, but still spectacular. We could easily see the hills of the Catlins beyond the Taieri Mouth coastline hills. I recall Bruce Campbell pointing them out to my parents and to me as a child, but I can't recall ever seeing that landscape so clearly since then. There's something very special going on. We were in no hurry to go home. Nick was still enjoying his day.

We counted out the empty PB bags the trees had been in. Thirty four. The four of us in just over three hours had done almost a third of the trees, and we now have trees all through to halfway across the skidsite. There are still about twenty sacks, 14 fertiliser pellets and most of the tiny jar of water crystals.

Richard Pettinger for Tracy, Pooja and Nick

25th May: From Kaikorai to Flagstaff

10 of us set off from the Frasers Gully car-park and headed up the track. We turned off and headed up a lesser used track through the bush and came out at the Tilburn Street Recreation Reserve. We came across Richard and Tracy here and they followed along doing some weed destruction higher

up. We crossed Halfway Bush Park and then around the corner and up Spiers Road.

We had some great 360 degree views of the city and passed the vehicle grave-yard. We paused for morning tea near Ben Rudd's stone wall (on his original farm) and then we left the farm-land behind and climbed until we met the Flagstaff Walkway.

We carried on and had lunch down at the Ben Rudd shelter and returned home the same way with a detour through the bush in Frasers Gully on the way down.

Thanks for joining me (Sue Williams): Lucy Jones, Penny & David McArthur, Lawrence and Raewyn Prattley, Alan Hanson, Rodger Clarkson, Saskia Bronstring and Crystal Lay. Plus Richard & Tracy Pettinger (as a separate group)



Maintaining social distancing at the Athletics club seat (photo by Sue Williams)

14th June: Nicholls - Swampy - Burns Circuit (Mark Stephenson)

The usual suspects gathered at the Leith Saddle Car Park: myself, Lucy Jones, Leonie Loeber, Peter Loeber, Alan Hanson, Dave Bunn, and Tony de Timperley (sic).

It was the morning after the coldest night of the year so far. The air was clear and very cold, ice and frost were plentiful. The first leg of the trip was down Leith Valley Road, still in shade. Being an unsealed road it was walkable but there were some icy patches and slippery cambers.

Ascending the Nicholls Creek Track was easier going with no frost under the bush



Photo by Mark Stephenson

canopy. We walked to the falls, which Leonie was glad to see for the first time. Then we backtracked to the main route up (in stead of crossing at the falls). In spite of the climb nobody stripped off any layers, the air being so cold. Boy, were we glad to get up into the sunshine! We found a spot in full sun with flat rocks to sit on. Stopped for smoko in spite of it being only 10:39 hrs.

Then onwards and upwards till taking a right turn we crossed the upper Nicholls valley and joined the Moon or Moonlight track next to the new MTB track. Then up onto Swampy Ridge. We had bright sun all the way but there was a breeze on the tops. I was delayed arriving at the ridge as I spotted a fernbird. This excuse was treated with much scepticism by all and sundry. After all, I had no photo to prove it! Lunch was taken at a sheltered spot while Tony regaled us with tales of his French ancestry.

Along the Ridge we enjoyed fantastic views from the Taieri to Rock and Pillars, and



Photo by Mark Stephenson

round to Mt Cargill. Taking a right we connected with the Burns track. It was a bit steep and slippery going down and the valley there never gets the sun - some beautiful hoar frost even in the afternoon. After that it

was easy going down to the Waitati Road. We were back to the Leith Saddle by 3:30pm, only an hour later than expected. Note to self: in icy weather, allow extra time.

Club Branded Gear

I have been sourcing tops (to support local made right here in Dunedin) for the club to have our logo embroidered on. There will be an order form made up when an expression of interest is in. The main order will be micro fleece tops and merino tees. Other items can be purchased (e.g. beanies, softshell jackets and the likes) these along with anything else you have and would like to have OTMC logo embroidered on can be added to keep the cost per unit down.

Microfleeces like the ones done some years ago:

- from Adventure Outfitters
- \$42.95 each plus GST
- additional \$8.95-\$12.90 each for embroidered logo depending on number ordered.
- these will be available to try on for size at club room Thursday 25th June and 2nd July



Merino Tees:

- from Adventure Outfitters or Earth Sea Sky
- \$70-\$100 each
- logo additional to purchase price
- Adventure Outfitters have some merino base layer long sleeves at their store that can be purchased.

Any inquiries feel free to contact me:
Andrew McConnell 0220896537

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.*

18-19th July: Catlins - a Pretty Good Plan C (M) \$30 (+ \$8 campsite fee) Sarah Chisnall 027 327 0327

The Catlins has many well-known natural wonders, but it is also home to two DOC huts. If you've ever been curious to have a

looksie at these wee beauties (or you're a hut-bagger) then join me for this opportunity to poke around at both and resolve this curiosity.....and what better time than in the depths of winter!

We will leave Dunedin early Saturday morning to travel down to the Catlins with the ob-

jective to walk the 7-8km into McLennans hut (2 bunks) for a look around and some kai, before walking back out. There could be potential for a group to walk the close by Catlins River Track instead (5-6 hrs) if preferred and vehicle logistics work out.

We will then head to Tawanui Campsite (DOC, \$8 per adult) to set up our tents for the night and eat too much and be merry.

Sunday morning will see us heading a bit further south for a wander approx 5km into Tautuku hut (4 bunks) to darken it's doorway and eat more kai before wandering back out again. Depending on the time and level of group enthusiasm we could also opt for an additional wander around the Lenz Reserve tracks on-route back to Dunedin.

As this trip is effectively two separate day walks, we will only need to carry light day packs with appropriate food and clothes/gear for each walk. An additional bonus is being able to bring some extra luxuries for dinner and to keep warm and cosy overnight that don't need to be carried on our backs, win-win! So come along and explore some lesser known parts of the Catlins as a pretty good Plan C.

1-2nd August: Borland Lodge (All) \$60 Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

This is our first trip to Borland Lodge for a very long time. The lodge is located on the edge of Fiordland, at the start of the Borland Road and Borland Valley tramping tracks. It is winter, so the road will be closed to traffic. It will be largely a social trip, but there are some walks possible in the area:

- 4 ½ hours return: up the road and follow a track to the Bushline towards Eldrig Peak.
- 4hrs return South Borland Circuit: Borland Burn - South Borland and return down the road.
- 3 ½ hrs return Borland Bivvy rock
- + a range of shorter walks, including glow worms.
- Bicycles rides? (snow on road).

- Clifden Caves: 30 minute drive + 45 min in cave (torch required, bike helmet, not in heavy rain). Also old suspension bridge nearby.

We plan to leave the clubrooms 6:00pm on Friday night 31st July, and should be back late Sunday night.

Cost will be \$60 paid to the treasurer + Lodge fees \$35per night, which can be paid by eftpos at the lodge.

Please sign the Trip List, or contact Wayne at wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz before it closes on Thurs 23rd July.

15-16th August: Snow Skills – Basic Ice axe & Crampons (I) \$15 Wayne Hodgkinson 03 473 0950

The main purpose of this course is to enable more of our club members to have the skills and confidence to venture into country that may have snow conditions.

Winter is an ideal time to brush up on your use of ice axe and crampons, and the skills required when walking in snow. Your ice axe is your basic survival tool, enabling you cut steps, cross steeper slopes, and most importantly to avoid or arrest a fall and avoid sliding to oblivion in many snow conditions. Crampons with the skills to use them enable you to walk safely in hard or frozen snow. This course is aimed at **club members** who have some tramping experience, but little to no experience in tramping on snow. It can also be used as a refresher for basic skills like self arresting.

Destination unsure at the moment - possibly Big Hut in the Rock and Pillar Range, a 3 hour up hill walk from the base of the range.

We plan to leave the clubrooms 8:00am on Saturday 15th, and should be back before 5pm on Sunday.

Cost will be \$15 paid to the treasurer + hut fees. Please sign the Trip List, or contact Wayne at wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz before it closes on Thurs 6th August.

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 for Summer tripcard and 9am for Winter tripcard (i.e. starting from May)

If the weather is in doubt give the trip leader a phone call to check.

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

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

5th July: Around Port Chalmers (E) \$5 Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545

Meet at Iona church at 9.20 and we will begin the walk around 9.30. Please message Debbie if you intend to do this walk and that way she can help facilitate any rides that are needed to Port Chalmers. We will begin at historic Iona Church and head straight onto some short sharp steep tracks for stunning views of the harbour and surrounds. We will link up many of the tracks around PC and make the most of the view points along the way. Expect 3-4 hours of enjoyable walking.

12th July: Bullring to Swampy Summit and back (M) \$5 Caitlin Robertson 027 489 1153

We all love those spectacular views over Dunedin skyline and out to Taieri Plains. Come and support Caitlin on her first day-walk as a trip leader! 4–5 hours with nibble breaks.

19th July: Pineapple track (E) \$4 Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545

Exactly as it sounds. Short and sweet.

26th July: Greenacres / Highcliff / Buskin / Boulder / Paradise (M) \$5 Tony Timperley 03 473 7257

Starting at MacAndrew Bay, we climb up through Greenacres to Highcliff Rd. We then walk along here to the Buskin Track, which we descend to Boulder Beach. This descent could be muddy. (Note: Depending on conditions and how we feel, we could do a diversion up the new track to Highcliff point for extensive coastal views. This would add about an hour to our total time.) After lunch-

ing at Boulder Beach we climb up Paradise Track back to Highcliff Rd, then return via Greenacres to MacAndrew Bay. Time: about 6hrs.

2nd August: Two Reservoirs and a Hill (E) \$8 Jane Cloete 03 467 2328

An exploration of two reservoirs and one hill, all in the West Harbour area.

Highly unlikely to be cancelled but if the weather worsens during the day, then it is easy to cut out a section.

Leave the clubrooms at 9am sharp. OR meet up with the cars at Sawyers Bay, at the junction of SH88 and Hall Road, at 9.20am. Convo the cars from there onwards.

Probably back to Dunedin by 3pm-ish.

9th August: Bus - Sawyers Bay - Slopes of Cargill - Normanby - Bus (M) Tracy Pettinger 027 348 7585

This trip will start as we catch the bus (which I'll indicate closer to the time), walk up, through the suburb at Sawyers Bay, then via Grahams Bush to the Organ Pipes, cutting past Mt Cargill, then on down to Bethunes Gully. With a stop for lunch, the 14.5 km takes a leisurely 5 hours (not counting waiting for and riding buses).

16th August: East of Flagstaff II (E) \$5 Chris Handley 021 024 27749

Meet at the clubrooms at 8:50 for a 9:00 start and carpool to Booth Road. Alternatively meet at Booth Road at 9:15.

We will go up the old Pineapple Track and then do a loop via the Shortcut and Pepper-tree Tracks. What follows will depend on the size and wishes of the group. The preferred option is to use two informal tracks to con-tour South until we meet the Davies Track, and return either via that or via yet another informal track. The alternative is to continue

up the Pineapple Track to the junction, then along the Skyline Walkway to the Davies Track.

There will be some mud, so wear at least good walking shoes, but boots (even half boots, will probably be better. Expect to walk for between 3 and 4 hours including tea and possibly an early 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.

It's great to have the OTMC back to having meetings in the club rooms on Thursday nights. There are some great talks already booked and more in the pipeline. If you or someone you know does something outdoor related or has been to some interesting place, please contact either Debbie debbie.pettinger@gmail.com or Richard forbespotter@hotmail.com We'd love to hear from you.

2nd July: Antarctica tour guide, David Barnes

When longstanding OTMC member David Barnes went to Antarctica as a tourist, he thought it was a once-in-a-lifetime trip. But last summer, he talked his way into a job there as a guide and history lecturer. Come along and hear about his experiences. The presentation will feature a professional-standard video of the trip, compiled by one of his workmates.



9th July: Cycling the length of NZ on the Tour Aotearoa, Barry Atkinson

Earlier this year before Covid, when we thought the world was normal, Barry took the ultimate challenge of cycling the length of the country as part of Tour Aotearoa unsupported with everything he would need for three weeks on his bike. Come to the club rooms to share the highs and lows of Barry's journey.

16th July: Hydration & breathing, Brendan Penwarden

The normal function of our breath, that we generally take for granted, has considerable influence on our physiology. It is a complex interplay between the respiratory centre in our brain and our lungs, heart, circulation and energy production. Natural health practitioners are using breathing techniques clinically for a wide range of conditions. We will discuss how we breath can affect our hydration, oxygen saturation, nervous reactivity, sleep, and many others. Some of these effects will relate to tramping and some not, but all to a much healthier and calmer person.

23rd July: Treading ancient paths in the land of the gods, Philip Somerville

FMC travel trip Greece and Crete.

30th July: From a different perspective, Alex Tups

Alex has been enjoying time in the hills post lockdown both tramping and paragliding. He'll show us some mountain tops and valleys from a different perspective.

6th Aug: Monument Hut renovation, Richard Forbes

Richard with his son and hunting friends did a renovation of Monument Hut in the Hopkins Valley (near Lake Ohau). Money and materials were provided by the Backcountry Hut Trust.

13th August: Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, Bruce Bernisconi

Bruce was lucky enough to see the sun rise on New Years Day 2020 from the top of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak. Bruce is keen to share his experience and will tell of sharing this amazing experience with close friends.

July / August 2020						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2 Antarctica tour guide, Dave Barnes	3	4	5 Around Port Chalmers Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545
6	7	8	9 Tour Aotearoa Barry Atkinson	10	11	12 Bullring to Swampy Summit and back, Caitlin Robertson 027 489 1153
13	14	15	16 Hydration & breathing, Brendan Penwarden	17	18	19 Pineapple track, Debbie Guthrie 022 020 3545
					Catlins - a Pretty Good Plan C Sarah Chisnall 027 327 0327	
20	21	22	23 Greece & Crete, Philip Somerville	24	25	26 Greenacres / Highcliff / Buskin / Boulder / Paradise Tony Timperley 03 473 7257
27	28	29	30 From a different perspective, Alex Tups	31	1	2 Two Reservoirs and a Hill Jane Cloete 03 467 2328
					Borland Lodge Wayne Hodgkinson 03 473 0950	
3	4	5	6 Monument Hut renovation, Richard Forbes	7	8	9 Bus - Sawyers Bay - Slopes of Cargill - Normanby - Bus Tracy Pettinger 027 348 7585
10	11	12	13 Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, Bruce Bernisconi	14	15	16 East of Flagstaff II Chris Handley 021 024 27749
					Snow Skills Wayne Hodgkinson 03 473 0950	

From the editor: Deadline for August issue is *Friday 17 July*. I really appreciate early contributions. Please email them to info@tomassobekphotography.co.nz Include captions and photographer name with any photos.