

OTMC Bulletin



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 817 NOVEMBER 2020



Three Peaks Trip-Mark, Emily, Lucy, Chris and Charlotte on the east side of Mt Cargill.

Upcoming Trips & Events

Street Art Evening Walk - Fiordland Adventure - North Island cycle trip - BYO Photo Night - South Island Kokako - Tongariro Alpine Crossing - Club BBQ
Mt Oxford forest - Cleughearn Peak - Mid Canterbury - Lower Timaru River - Gillipse Pass - Titan Rocks
Rustlers to Leith saddle - Gourmet Coast - Careys Creek - Waitati Cycle loop - Maungatua - Silver Peaks - Trotters Gorge - Big Hut+ - Careys Creek - Flagstaff

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).

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 our Gear Hire Committee member.

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Cookers & Billies
- Packs
- Tent/Flys
- Climbing Helmets

Your Committee

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Clubrooms Maintenance: Dave Bunn		
Gear Hire: Ralph Harvey	03 4534330	
Committee: Peter Loeber	03 4774895	

Whats new?

Jubilee Hut in the Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve is destined to enter DoC's hut booking system from November 2020. The Silver Peaks has seen a dramatic increase in people accessing the reserve since the current Jubilee opened in May 2007, and the hut is often full or overfull, particularly in the weekends.



Trip Reports

Club activities over the last month



30th August Hare Hill - Hodson Hill Gordon.T.

Fourteen enthusiastic trampers met me, our leader Gordon Tocher plus Mark.S, Sharon.C, Alan.H, Deane and Susan.M, Rodger.C, Sharen.R, Sue.W, Saskia.B, Glenn.P, Joe and Sharon.B set out on a lovely sunny morning from "The Green" at Deborah Bay for a day which turned out to be much more than a tramp! We headed into the bush by cold water creek and met the friendly property owner who is busy regenerating this beautiful area. As we climbed up the steep hill

Gordon gave us a history of the area, he pointed out the Lewis cottage where 22 children were born! He pointed out the shipping channel, explained Pulling Point, the reason for the different colouring in the sands along the harbour. Then before we knew it we were out onto the road at the top! The weather was perfect on the top of Hare hill so we stopped there for morning tea and enjoyed the panoramic views! Reluctantly we moved out and on to Hodson Hill, on the way meeting some more friendly land owners, these ones with 2 friendly horses, out came the carrots! After a long chat we set off again. As we slipped and slid down the paddock. Gordon explained the formations of springs and underground rivers. We had lunch in a sheltered spot where we could see the massive sheds where Fitch (European polecats) were once been bred for their skins. After a masked photo shot, we headed off down a very steep road to Billy Browns Backpackers. We all fell in love with this lovely rustic building with an amazing view and a charming sheltered back garden. We ventured down to the cliff edge to sit on the ship spotters seat above pulling Point discussed tug and navigation.



2nd Aug 2020 Two Reservoirs and A Hill. Jane Cloete.

Whoops, Jane can't even get the title right! This day trip had Two reservoirs and TWO hills! And we got a lesson in scat identification too!

Seven of us (Jane C, Ruth T, Chris and Charlotte H, Leonie L, Alan H and Janet B) left the clubrooms at 9am and met with Sharon C at the Port Chalmers golf club at 9.25 am. That's in Sawyers Bay if you are looking for it!

Then on our feet to the Rossville Reservoir: few of the group hadn't been there before but liked the track around it. And the trio leader, Jane, was happy because no one slipped from the muddy track into the murky waters below!

Back to the cars to drive around to Cedar Farm Road. Years ago I'd tried to find a walking track from that road down to the Rossville Reservoir but had been held back by thick extensive gorse. But now it looks as if someone has cleared the route so I'll try it again in the summer.

We made good time up the road and onto the Mihiwaka track. Clearing the forest edge the group went on strike and demanded a morning tea break! 7 to one meant that I was out voted and we stopped in a warm sunny patch. Then on to Mihiwaka. I'd promised lots of mud and dutifully fulfilled the promise! But the mud patches weren't long and we got to the top by 11.30am. Lunch in the sunshine with brilliant views and only a tiny breeze.

Back down to the 4WD drive track and across it to the Mt Kettle track. This track was also overgrown when I last tried it but, again, recent clearing has improved it no end. A scat lesson in the sunshine at the top: Did you know that you can use your phone to Google "possum scat" or "goat scat" or similar and get a picture of that animal's poo?!

Down to way we went up - there is said to be a circular route - then a quick trot round Cedar Farm Reservoir to get us back to the cars by 2pm.

Jane thanks her companions for their cheerfulness and for Jane's foibles! Couldn't even get the title right, and as for forgetting to have mid-morning tea break ... !!

16th August 2020 East of Flagstaff. Chris Hadley

Six of us met at the Booth Road carpark at 9 am, ready for a good tramp. Weather was typical for this time of year, a bit overcast but not too cold. We followed the by now standard route — up the Old Pineapple Track, pointing out Pineapple Point when we reached the junction with the new track. With only six people we could all participate to a greater or lesser extent in some very interesting conversations. (The cannabis referendum and referenda in general among many other topics.) After a brief bit of the new Pineapple track we diverted to the Shortcut Track, pausing only to remove a barrier across it, presumably put there by mountain bikers. A little further on we reached a good clearing, so the conversation continued along with morning tea.



Then up the Nichols Falls Track to the Pepper Tree Track, back part way down the old Pineapple Track again and then joined an informal network of tracks that has been built by, and is maintained by, volunteers. A huge totara invited us all to sit down for an early lunch and the conversation, once again, roamed widely. After lunch we continued along the Davies Track for a while, and then on to yet another informal track down to the end of McGoun's Road at the skid site. All in all a good walk, much enjoyed by all participants.

Chris (for Charlotte, Deb, Janet, Ruth and Ross.)

6 September Three Peaks Trip. Mark Stephenson.

It was select group who travelled up from Hall Road after a leisurely 9:30am start due to Covid car sharing restrictions. I was joined by Emily, Lucy, Chris and Charlotte.

Up through Grahams Bush we climbed, awed by the magnificent Rimu en route. Then through the native Fuchsia grove with its orange paper-bark. (Fuchsia



excorticata, or Kōtukutuku). Crossing the stream, Charlotte claimed it as one of the most beautiful stands of bush she had met, and who could disagree?

At the Organ Pipes, we admired the view with coffee (flat white, easy on the sugar) but declined to scale the peak of Mt Holmes. We kept an eye out for a track coming down from its summit to the main track but... it still eludes me. I think bush-bashing is the only 'way'.

We enjoyed a scramble up the direct path to the top of Buttar's Peak. Magnificent views and weather still fine.

At the junction with the track up from Bethune's Gully we ducked off to the right. Some fun with gorse was had by all but we were soon through it. Then a spell of clambering using all



four limbs was required as we climbed the East Face of Mt Cargill. Luckily for us this was also the warm, sunny side.

We had lunch in the sun, basking lizard-like, chewing our sammies and watching distant smoke and clouds of pine pollen rising from the valley below on the Waitati side. From there, Emily went down to Bethune's Gully to catch the bus (all pre-arranged, planned, and approved in triplicate). The rest of us retraced our footsteps down through Graham's Bush, enjoying it 'the other way' just as much.

20th September Whare Flat area, Saskia Bronstring

It was a beautiful day and 8 of us met at the Silverstream car park. No carpooling due to Covid restrictions. The first destination was Chalkies and Powder Hill. We crossed a small ford and headed a short way up the Silverstream.

The turn off to Powder Hill is to the left. It then was a steep climb up which warmed us up nicely. After checking out the views at the top we backtracked to a broken bivvy with Limestone boulders and some nice views over the valleys. A nice morning tea spot. Next we returned down to the Silverstream crossed the swing bridge and headed upstream past the remains of a pumphouse site.



A little further is the turn off to Mcraes Weir track to the right. This follows the original wattrace to McRaes Weir which after a bit of a steep scramble down to the creek, was a lovely photo spot. We then passed some hut ruins and travelled along the Tunnels track. We couldn't find a fantastic lunch spot but found a sunny area on the track for a rest and a snack. We carried on along the Tunnels track and found one in particular to explore and a few scrambled through. Then up to a raised clearing for a more views over the valley and backtracked to a shortcut back to Silverstream and cars.

It was a lovely day and I think it was enjoyed by all.

27 September Soldiers Monument. Jane Cloete.

The forecast for this day trip was dreadful – gale force winds with rain setting in at 11am. It was the wind that worried me: the original plan had been to go from Tomohawk Lagoon, up to the Monument, down to Highcliff Rd, a 30-minute road walk before turning into Karetai Rd, then round and down back to the cars. Have you ever tried walking down the Karetai

road/track in a wind? It is horrid! So early Sunday morning I changed the blurb to a 'long beach walk' then to the Monument for lunch, then home!

Four of us met at the Lagoon carpark: Ruth T, Alan H, Mark S and me, Jane C. Across the road and onto Tomohawk Beach, onto the track past the back of the cemetery, across the golf course and onto St Kilda Beach. The weather was kind: high cloud, no wind, and not too cold. The Pacific Ocean was very pacific and calm. But spots of rain were felt as we neared the St Kilda Surf Club, so we went to the Playground to have break. Just as we were picking up our packs, the rain and the howling wind suddenly began! Abandoning my ideas of taking them back to Tomohawk via alleyways and paths, we took John Wilson Drive and were blown to the end! A quick look at the gun emplacements above Smaills Beach preceded a walk down hill to the car, by which time the wind had dropped a tiny bit and the rain had eased back to a few spots. So the others persuaded me to go up to the Monument. It only took just over an hour to climb over 7-8 stiles and up about 2km to get to the Soldier. Lunch on the lee side – it was blowing a gale again – before rapid descent to the carpark which we reached at about 2.15pm. My thanks to my companions and encouragers

4th October. Mt Kettle and Mt Cutten. Charlotte Handley

Sunday dawned and the forecast was so bad that I thought if it weren't for my being the 'leader' I would be staying in bed. It was, however, great to be forced out of bed because the bad weather that had spent days hovering on our horizon did not eventuate. There were 8 of us, including two new people, Denise and Cheryl.

It was really great to have them on our trip.

We left from the horse trough in Mt Cargill Road. The first detour from the path was to see the impressive stone ruins of what was once either a hotel or a doss house. Our next detour was to view a stunning old rimu tree. We then returned to the main track and carried on up to Mt Kettle, where we had morning tea. We then continued over Mt Kettle and along to Cedar Farm Road. We decided to skip the Mihiwaka section of this walk because there were no views to be had. We then went around the Cedar Creek Reservoir, and on to the Len Lye Attribute sculpture on Mt Cutten. This sculpture was designed by Andrew Drummond and re-constructed by the trusty Tuesday XY and WEA walking groups. Lastly, we back-tracked and went down the track we had used to go to the top of Mt Cutten. We then joined up with the track that we had set out on from Mt Cargill Road. We were back at the cars by about 2.30 p.m.



I wish to thank Bronwen Strang and Jane Bruce for their support and tips and also the Tuesday walking group which has done so much clearing (and marking) of the tracks.

Thank you to the people who turned up despite the terrible forecast. I learned that one can have a great walk even when the views are absent. As the Maori words of wisdom go, the three most important things in life are people, people, people — He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata.

Chris & Charlotte.H. Leone.L. Alan.H. Janet.B. Lucy.J. Cheryl.K. Denise.J

11 October. Jubilee Hut. Rob Seeley.

Great adventure into the Silverpeaks. Led by Rob from mountain road. Unfortunately for us the track was also a part of the 3 Peaks Mountain Race and we spent most of our walk

dodging off track for the runners on our way up to Pulpit rock. From there we were free of those crazy kids and we went through to Jubilee Hut for lunch. From our lovely little lunch spot on the grass we then headed straight up the bluff behind the hut. Bit of a scramble for a start through thick scrub and scrambling over pokey rocks, then we located a track!!!, not sure which crazy buggers had trekked it or if the animal life were using it as a highway. So we clambered over rocks, through thick bush that scratched us to pieces for almost 300m. Until we were right on top of the of the hill against the very edge of the Silverpeaks reserve looking out to Strath Taieri. We potted up and down the ridge using animal tracks to get us back to a side track. A bonus side mission to the Dark Horse "Hut" in the painted forest to keep the hut baggers happy and then once we joined back up with the main route it was a very relaxing walk back down. Thank a heap Rob for the great trip and to our merry bunch of hikers!



18 October. Sandymount to Smailles Beach Rodger Clarkson.



After leaving a car at Smailles Beach we drove to Sandymount to start our walk. Circling around the new lookout overlooking Allans Beach and Lovers Leap we were soon on the sandy descent to Sandfly Bay. There were numerous Sealions lazing on the beach and we stopped for a late morning tea at the bottom of the Sandfly Bay Track. After the break it was along Braidwood Road followed by the track to Boulder Beach. Some (wisely) decided against the boulder hopping

section and we agreed to meet up with them at the next track junction.

Along the boulders I led the remaining group before coming across the track that would take us back to meet the others but after encountering a couple of sealions blocking the track we took a very short 2 min detour around them...but then we came to a fenceline halfway through this 2 min detour and decided to follow it up to meet the others track. So steeply up, up we went until we came to nice level paddock and we could see where we wanted to go just a 9 iron away.



Unfortunately we discovered this paddock was surrounded on all sides by a thick layer of

gorse so back down, down, down we went til almost at the sealions where a quick 1 min bushbash sliding on our backsides had us back on the track, but an hour behind the others. After a few missed texts and messages with the others in intermittent cell coverage we arrived for a late lunch at the track junction between Highcliff Track and Buskin Track after the others had moved on.

A final grunt up the Highcliff Track was rewarded with



increasingly spectacular views where we joined with the sensible group at the top, before an easy descent down Karatei road and track to our waiting car for the car swap, just in time to miss the rugby. One of the sensible group, Peter Loeber, will be running this trip again on the 18 th April 2021 but without the Boulder Beach detour, a wise man is Peter.

Rodger C for Peter, Leonie L, Lucy J, Ricky K, Alan H, Trevor B, Susan M, Sandra D, Karen T & Brett C.

7th November. Round the Harbour Cycle trip. Jane Cloete.

#1 This trip was originally planned for end-August but Covid intervened!

So I booked the ferry again for November. We used Wheels Over Water to transport us: I had thought that they were the only people who could take bikes, but I learn that Port-to-Port can also take quite a few. The day dawned brilliantly and as I went towards the harbour there wasn't a ripple on the water! Later there was a tiny headwind, and after lunch there was a moderate tailwind blowing us along!

For this trip, 7 cyclists met up at the Yacht Club:

Charlotte and Chris H, Joe and Sharon B, Mandy L, Maria H and Chris P. Definitely the Tuff Nuts of the day! They had a good ride to Back Beach at Port Chalmers – plenty of time for talking en route – and the ferry departed promptly at 11.00am. This group went for a coffee and a chat at The Penguin cafe in the village – their food is highly recommended! But then the Tuff Nuts came into their own – they cycled up from Portobello to the Peninsula Ridge and then along back to Dunedin! Charlotte is hoping to get in a trip report too, about their day on bikes.

Another 7 cyclists met up at Shore St: Mark S, Roger C, Rose H and Shelly H, Carole and George E and me Jane C. After hearing about the Tuff Nuts we deserved the moniker of Easy Riders! We also had time for several wee rests and plenty of chat. There were no traffic lights at the road works and the surface was pretty good all the way. There was a brief “Hello! Goodbye” between the groups at the Portobello wharf as the groups swapped ferry places. My group ate at The Galley in Port C – and their food is highly recommended too!

After the food and caffeine fix, it was back on the bikes to head for home – with a bit of a tailwind! A good day all round, with perhaps 32-33km of cycling in total! And the rain held off until evening!

The next “Around the Harbour” bike trip that I’ll organise will be when the whole cycle track on both sides is finished. And looking at the amount of work already done, I think that might be in just a couple of years!

My thanks to my all my companions on the day and particular thanks to Charlotte Handley who led the ‘clockwise’ group whilst I led the ‘anti-clockwise’ group.

#2 Thanks so much to Jane Cloete for organising this great event. Jane split the group into two halves. We, (the clockwise group) met up at Magnet Street and set off along the cycle way to St Leonards where we



crossed the main road and rode along St Leonard's Drive. We were in a bit of a hurry, so no time for idling!

We made the decision to finish off the last section of our ride along the main road, so as to be sure of being on time for Wheels on Water. This is a very user friendly ferry service, and is very well set up for transporting bikes. Once at Portobello, we spent a bit of time deciding where to have an early lunch. The next decision was whether to take the high road or the low road back to Dunedin. Consensus was reached and the high road was chosen. We took many opportunities to re-group, chat, admire the views, and, of course refuel, along the way.

What a feat to peddle up those hills. Well done to the majority of riders who were relying entirely on muscle power! (2 of us had e-power). We certainly enjoyed the downhill and got back to Dunedin before the rain.

Thanks to everyone for their great company and thanks again to Jane for organising the event.

Charlotte H on behalf of Sharon and Joe B, Chris H, Chris P, Maria H and Mandy L.



8th Whare Flat Area Saskia Bronstring

So this adventure starts on Saturday night with a little message from Lucy "it's meant to be wet till lunch time tomorrow". My answer "we'll go to the clubrooms and see who turns up". Sunday morning and it's a bit drizzly but yay we had another keen walker, Mark, for our group.

We drove up to the locked gate on Rollinsons road. It was a bit misty but forecast to clear in the morning. I checked with the others, yep we are still keen. A short walk up the road and then we headed left into Steve Amies track. There are some lovely picnic areas near the start of the track. Further along the track we turn into Little Coal Creek track which gets very steep down to the Silver stream water race. A bit of slipping but we make it down safely. Then a lovely meander along the water race to the top weir. This is a nice area for lunch and photos but a bit early for us to eat. Next was a rather steep and slippery climb up the Rain Gauge Track. A lovely walk through Manuka and some flowering Clematis and also some muddy areas from pig rooting. We found a nice clearing near the top for lunch with sun and views. Then back to the road and cars, about 4 hours walking. Saskia

OTMC BUSHCRAFT 2021


The OTMC are running their popular Bushcraft Course during February and March, 2021. This course is suitable for beginners to tramping, or for people looking to refresh basic tramping skills.

Check www.otmc.co.nz/bushcraft.html for more details, or email us at otmcnz@gmail.com



Dates for Bushcraft 2021

- Feb 16 (Tues): Introductory Session
- Feb 23 (Tues): Navigation Night
- Feb 28 (Sunday): Practical Navigation
- March 2 (Tues): Third Evening
- March 7 (Sunday): River Safety Training
- March 9 (Tues): Concluding Evening
- March 13-14 (Day or Weekend): Silver Peaks



Bushcraft 2021 is run by members of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club
www.otmc.co.nz | otmcnz@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/groups/otmcnz/

Other Updates

Keeping you in the loop!

Hi everyone, as many know there have been many changes in our post covid world. We are now adapting to the new normal. Committee members are changing, we are including more exciting variety of trips, even this Bulletin is getting a wee make over. We will ride the wave of change! Stay tuned.

Leaning Lodge

Thanks to Alan Thomson Sept '20

The Leaning Lodge Trust want to thank Alan for his outstanding commitment to this project over some years. My folder dedicated to Leaning Lodge is now some years old and over 3 inches thickbut it is only a sample of the saga...the rest is now on computer.

To say it has been a difficult time would be an understatement...it has been incredibly challenging and there have been so many “cooks”, rules, requirements, and different sources of supposed authority, that an almost impenetrable net of bureaucracy has almost smothered the project. The administrative scene for this sort of enterprise has completely changed from a few years ago....

The challenges for Alan have been the weather, the snow, the availability of volunteers, the cost of assessments, let alone planning the building in the presence of so many different opinions.

Somehow Alan has conducted this crazy orchestra and in the last few months it is almost in tune. His management and patience with this cacophony has been absolutely outstanding and at great personal cost, time and angst. He is of course as we know a very accomplished musician and maybe his harmonising skills are what have kept the show on the road!

Thanks, Alan. You have been brilliant. We are going to miss your quiet encouragement, your professionalism and tenacity very much.

Tx Chief...Go well. We just might catch you in a blizzard up there some time!

Pete S on behalf of the Trust.

Upcoming Day Trips/Weekends & Thursday Meetings

What's on the radar for our Thursday Club nights and Saturday/Sunday trips and events

Thursday Night Meetings

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.

All ideas are welcome for future up-coming evenings.

Upcoming Trip and Meeting Quarterly Planner

December - February 2021

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1	2	3 Ian Craven Cycle trip North Island, NZ	4	5	6 Careys Creek/HoneyComb. Mark Stephenson. 0276151870
					Cleughearn Peak Joe Bretherton 0273621221	
7	8	9	10 Gerald Closs	11	12	13 Waitati Cycle Loop. Maria Hamelink. 0211350141
14	15	16	17 Last Club Night Woodhaugh Gardens - End Of Year BBQ (from 6.00pm)	18	19	20
					Mid Canterbury Andrew McConnell 0220896537	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Maungatua from Woodside Glen.Tomas Sobek 0212798339
28	29	30	31	1 Jan	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 First Club Night for 2021 (informal meeting)	15	16	17 Silver Peaks Rosella Ridge. Sharon Bretherton 0273621221
18	19	20	21 BYO Photo Night	22	23	24 Trotters Gorge & Katiki Point. Mark Stephenson 0276151870
					Lower Timaru River Tarns 'n' Track Sarah Chisnall 0273270327	
25	26	27	28 Philip Somerville	29	30-31 Bug Hut Day trip + overnight option. Sharon Rutherford 0272291961	
1 Feb	2	3	4 Mark Stephenson - on the trail of the South Island Kokako	5	6-8 Gillespie Pass Rose Colhoun 0211513791	
	9	10	11 The Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Sharen Rutherford	12	13	14 Careys Creek to Black Dam. Jan Burch 0274554559
15	16	17	18 Wayne Hodgkinson South Coast from Bluecliffs to Westies Hut	19	20	21 East of Flagstaff. Chris Handley 02102427749
					Titan Rocks, Waikaia Mark Stephenson 0276151870	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Mihiwaka Bushbash. Sharen Rutherford 0272291961
1 Mar	2	3	4	5	6	7 Nicols Creek/Porkies. Mark Stephenson 0276151870
					Dore Pass Rose Colhoun 0211513791	

As a reminder you must pre-register on the Weekend 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.

Note from the editor

Hi everyone I am the new editor! There will be a fair bit of change in the Bulletin going forward as the weekly update takes over the Upcoming trips and Thursday night meeting information, the Bulletin will be seeing more Centenary and club stuff. Please email your contributions for the next issue to caitlinr007@gmail.com by 15th February 2021. 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.)

Our Club - the highlights

Celebrating everything and everyone OTMC. Send your favourite summer hiking photos to the editor.

