

# The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering  
Club Inc #836 October 2023



## *Trips & Events*

★ *SUNDAYS & SATURDAYS* ★

Sandymount to Smail's Beach ★ Opoho Creek and Signal Hill ★ Ship at Anchor ★ Ross  
Creek ★ Mt Kettle/Mihiwaka area 5 Summits ★ Centenary Weekend Trips: Pineapple  
Point - Flagstaff and Ben Rudd's - Silver Peaks Tops (Hightop to Silver Peak) ★



*Photo credit: Jade Pettinger*

## 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 for fuel costs later (check with the trip leader or Treasurer Amy if in doubt).

## Gear Hire

OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire.

NO hire charge for members for the first week!

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

## Your Committee

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## Get in touch

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**<http://otmc.co.nz>   <https://facebook.com/groups/otmcnz>**

**[otmcnz@gmail.com](mailto:otmcnz@gmail.com)**

**Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin**

**Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, all welcome**

**Sign up to our email list: <https://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc>**

## Trip Reports

**October 2023**

### **1 (100 Trips 096) Sandymount to Smaills Beach, M, Jade Pettinger**

This trip is one of the best half day trips available on the peninsula with a mix of beach and coastal cliff views along with wildlife encounters. Starting at Sandymount we headed down the sandy track towards Sandfly Bay. There was a sealion at the beach entrance, so care was taken to go around it to the right only to come across a camouflaged log that suddenly snorted when I got too close and had to beat a hasty retreat and work our way around the left side of the original sealion. Multiple sealions were dotted along Sandfly Bay with most relaxing and one frisky male chasing other sealions coming out of the water.



Team photo at Sandfly Bay lookout. Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

From here it was up to Seal Point Road and along Braidwood Road before taking the track to Boulder Beach where we stopped for lunch. The tide was out, and I knew there was a track at the far end of the beach that we could loop back to the Highcliff track, which should only add on 5 minutes, I told Jade. Jade let me temporarily take over leadership (always a mistake). The track I'd remembered was now completely overgrown, with gorse blocking it in places (I assume to discourage people using it and

allow for more undisturbed wildlife use). A bit of bush-bashing and we eventually found the other end of the track to follow to get back to the Highcliff Track. I was glad to hand leadership back to Jade after my 5-minute detour turned into 30+ minutes. (I had issues with this section another time I'd led this trip with sealions blocking the track and being hemmed in by gorse working around them, which turned into a 60+ min detour).



Boulder Beach. Photo credit: Rodger Clarkson

The Highcliff Track up to Karetai Road and then Karatai Track taking the coastal section down to Smaills beach really is a spectacular section of coastline with changing views along the whole route. Interestingly there was someone playing a guitar to a sealion on Smaills beach. The Pettingers and Laurence went to do the car swap while the rest of us wandered up to the old gun emplacements at the bottom of Centre Road to wait for the ride back to the club.

Rodger Clarkson for Jade, Debbie & Antony Pettinger, Laurence Prattley, Mark Stephenson, Leonie Loeber, Jeremy Star, Emily Gee, Annise Boothroyd



## **7 (100 Trips 097) Opoho Creek and Signal Hill, E, Debbie Pettinger**

On a fine Saturday afternoon, we left the Logan Park car park and headed up the bike track known as The Big Easy and as the name suggests it was an easy way to climb up to plateau. We zig-zagged our way up with some taking short cuts and stopped halfway up to admire the view over Dunedin.



Photo credit: Helen Emerson

On we went and we soon arrived at the plateau where we stopped to have a drink and watch the downhill mountain bikes race down and get the usual team photo.

We then headed down the Ravensbourne Track and then down the streets of Ravensbourne across the main road and along the shared path to the stadium and back to Logan Park. A short and sweet walk enjoyed by all those who went on this 2hr, 9km walk.

Thanks to our leader Debbie with Anthony & Jade Pettinger, Mike Klemetson, Helen Emerson, Leonie Loeber, Chris Valentine, Sandy Webb & Kath Graham for sharing this pleasant trip with me. Ash Flintoff.

## **8 (100 Trips 098) Ship at Anchor, M-F, Antony Pettinger**

The Ship at Anchor is a named rock tor at the southern end of the Lammermoor Range, within the wider Te Papanui Conservation Park. The tor is so named as it surrounded most of the way round by water which resembles the prow of a ship.

The weather was sort of OK in Dunedin as we met at the clubrooms, and the trip attracted 14 keen trampers. The normal starting point to visit The Ship at Anchor is from the end of the El Dorado track in the vicinity of the Mahinerangi wind farm. The reason in choosing this location for the wind farm was demonstrated quite well as we exited the vehicles - we were treated to strong wind gusts and horizontal rain showers. The route to The Ship at Anchor is via the access road to the weir in Devils Creek following the pipeline. The weather in the valley was relatively mild, but by the time we had reached the brow of the hill the wind was in full force. At this point the party broke into two groups, with four electing to retrace their steps and head for the old gold workings in Barbours Stream.

The rest of us continued down to the Devils Creek weir – a creek crossing is required here, and this is easily accomplished via a footbridge. From here, the trick is to head downstream on the true left of Devils Creek for about 40m, crossing a very small side creek along the way. After the minor creek crossing, head west up a spur beside a large rock outcrop. This leads to a small basin which can be sidled around to the larger tributary of Devils Creek. We picked a likely place to cross this creek, with techniques ranging from simply wading across, or trying your luck on the rocks.



Crossing the creek. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

A further steepish climb to the north leads to easier slopes, which we followed for the final 1,500m to The Ship at Anchor. The expanse of the Te Papanui becomes more obvious in this area, with the tussock lands seemingly going on for many miles. A quick lunch was enjoyed at The Ship at Anchor – there was even a short period of sun between the sleet showers.



Quick lunch stop at the Ship. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

To make a roundish sort of a trip, we elected to drop down to Barbours Stream – from the Ship at Anchor, head north-east past the first prominent gully, and then simply follow the ridge down for the 500m or so descent, aiming to meet the stream near the site of some old gold mining workings. Crossing the creek brings you to an indistinct 4WD track that becomes more obvious as you head back towards the road end. We endured one last squally shower as we approached the vehicles, and the end to what turned out to be a great day in the hills despite the weather.

Antony P for Debbie & Jade Pettinger, Emily Gee, Heather Taylor, Raewyn Prattley, Heather MacDonald, Mark Stephenson, Tina Anderson, Helen Emerson, Wendel Broek, Sandra Divett, Tim Russell & Annie Boothroyd.



## Ship at Anchor – alternative

After climbing the 180m to the top of the Lammermoor Range and sheltering beside a small communication hut to regroup and have a snack, it was decided that four of us would forgo the untracked part of the trip to Ship at Anchor and instead retrace our steps back down the hill to a side track that took us down a wide, broad ridge through the golden tussock to Barbours Stream. The walk down the ridge is pleasant with a wonderful view looking along the length of the Lammermoor Range where the hills almost appeared to move with the tussock waving in the cold wind.

Once at the stream, we spent some time looking over the gold workings and remains of gold tailings and the odd stone hut before finding a sheltered spot in the sun to enjoy lunch. During lunch we wondered about the hardy people that would have lived and mined here while we watched odd rain shower further up the hills but we were dry, happy and sheltered by the stream. Once replenished with lunch, we faced an almost 200m climb out of the stream back up the wide, broad ridge to the four wheel drive track.



The route back along the 4WD drive track. Photo credit: Antony Pettinger

We took our time, stopping often to look around and marvel at the wonderful landscape of rolling hills covered in tussock that changed colour from gold to brown as the sun and cloud chased each other across the sky. The cold wind continued to



buffet us around and we could see dark clouds gathering in the distance, so we picked up our pace and made it back to the cars before the rain and hail arrived.

Debbie Pettinger for Sandra Divett, Raewyn Prattley and Jade Pettinger

#### **14 (100 Trips 099), Ross Creek, E, Antony Pettinger**

Today's trip is a replacement for a weekend trip that was postponed due to the weather and being so close to the end of #100 trips, we couldn't miss one now. Despite being a hastily arranged day trip 11 people turned up for a short 2 hour walk around the Ross Creek/School Creek area. We started the walk at Woodhaugh and took the path through the gardens and up the Bullock Track which is a short but steep climb up to Maori Hill. We reached the top and stopped to catch our breath before following Braeview Crescent which skirts around the contour of the hill and has remarkable views of Leith Valley and the lower section of Pine Hill.

At first it would appear that Braeview Crescent is a dead-end street but if you know where to look, there is a 'locals only' track that continues to follow the contour, crossing a small side stream and after around 5 minutes walking following a narrow, winding trail through the bush, comes out on one of the Ross Creek walking tracks. This was a very pleasant alternative to more road walking.



Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

Once on the Ross Creek walking track we continued following the contour until we reached the Ross Creek reservoir where we stopped for a snack and drink break before walking past the stars and around the reservoir.

After circling the reservoir we followed the creek which is created from the overflow of the reservoir down the valley. The creek is pleasant to walk beside with the water bubbling over rocks and passing through the narrowest parts of the valley with canyon walls rising on both sides of the creek. We stopped for a short time to see the 20m waterfall that tumbles into School Creek before continuing on down the valley and through Woodhaugh Gardens back to the cars. A very pleasant 2 hours, 8.7km walk in the sun.

Debbie Pettinger for Helen Jones, Amy Telfer Chiles, Charlotte Handley, Chris Handley, Richard Pettinger, Tracy Pettinger, Kate Botting, Ash Flintof, Jade Pettinger and Antony Pettinger

### **15 (100 Trips 100) Mt Kettle/Mihiwaka area 5 Summits, M, Antony Hamel**

There was lots going on. The night after an election. A world rugby quarter-final been played at the time we were starting. How many people would turn up and be tempted to talk about politics and or rugby. Always dangerous topics. Politics could be avoided by attempting to change the conversation. The current score of the rugby was a more difficult topic for those getting messages on their phones.

How did we end up here as the hundredth trip? A year-long project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of OTMC. Was this the scrapings at the bottom of the barrel of possible trips? Would there be flag raising and team photos on each summit? Would there be cake and certificates?

Twenty six people did manage the five summits in five hours 15 minutes. The trip went like clockwork. This was greatly assisted by the quality of the tracks in the area. They were in the best condition I have ever seen and a big thanks to all the work of Jim McQuillan, the WEA and XY Tramping Clubs. They even have informal signage in the area.

The order of summits was repeated from the last OTMC trip in 2004. Clockwise from lowest to highest. The quality of the summits vary. I have given them a grade out of 10.

#### 6/10 Mount Martin (478m)

The lowest and poorest summit. A fringe of native bush, in rocks with pines nearly to the crest. There are no views. No obvious high point. Access is through the pine forest with no formed track. The pines are currently high enough to give easy access. When harvested the access will revert to impenetrable gorse.

#### 8/10 Mount Cutten (530m)

Low native scrub growing through the remains of what once was a fringe of pines. On the shoulder a new sculpture in tribute of Len Lye and a seat. Good tracks which also give access down through the quarry to the road.

#### 7/10 Kettle (545m)

The high point is difficult to find and covered in scrub. There are better viewpoints on the ridge east of the summit where a few tussocks and flax clinging to exposed rocks. Particularly loved by goats to the point that it can be a bit smelly. No views to the north which is particularly annoying.

#### 8/10 Mount Chalmers (550m)

No formed track to summit but right beside track to Mihiwaka. Volcanic cone just to the south of Mihiwaka and named on the 1922 Neil map. The 1905 Neil map indicates that this may be a typo as Mount Chalmers was given as an alternate name to Mihiwaka. The "or" got missed out on the 1922 map. Wild pines felled in this area. Nice views and rocky top.

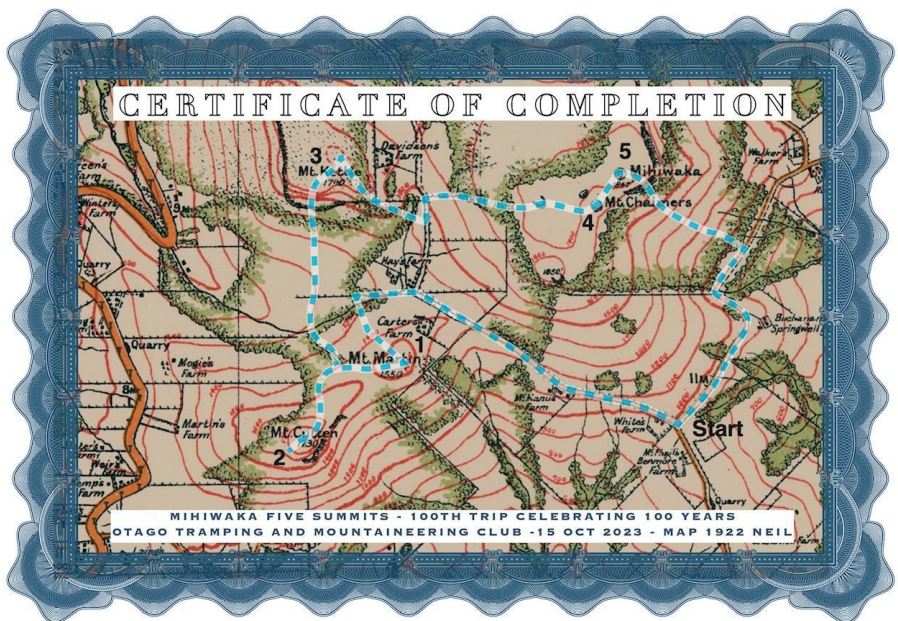




## 9/10 Mihiwaka (561m)

The highest and has the top score. Great views. Sports a brand-new trig securely bolted down and looking sharp. Features a nasty descent or climb through the rock-climbing area down to the road which is always a bit of a scramble. Various routes are marked, and care must be taken to avoid going too close to the bluffs.

Team photos were taken, flags and banners raised, cake eaten, certificates distributed. The weather was OK. It was not at the bottom of the barrel and deserves a few more visits. Will this trip become a more regular feature of the programme, or will it be another 19 years before the next one?



Antony Hamel for Laurence Pratley, Leonie Loeber, Mandy Lungly, Antony, Debbie, Jade, Dylan Pettinger, Lindsay Aitcheson, Tina Anderson, Lucy Jones, Helen Emerson, Ash Flintof, Heather MacDonald, Mark Stephenson, Chris Handly, Charlotte Handly, Wendy Brock, Sandra Divett, Tracey and Richard Pettinger, Heather Taylor, Kate Botting, Chris, Dexter and Bear Valentine.

# OTMC Centenary Weekend: 21-23 October 2023

## 21 (100 Trips 101) Pineapple Point, E Antony Pettinger

Waking up on Saturday 21st October 2023 was definitely a 'pinch me' moment - after 12 months of anticipation and build up, the long-awaited centenary weekend was finally here. Everything had fallen into place perfectly, thanks to the tireless efforts of Antony and Debbie Pettinger in the lead up to the weekend. The weather forecast was brilliant and with over 160 people signed up to attend at least one event, the weekend was shaping up to be absolutely fantastic.

The first of three tramps organised for the weekend was to Pineapple Point, a new lookout part way up the Pineapple Track installed by the OTMC over the past year to mark the occasion. Our usual meeting place of Woodhaugh Gardens was inundated with trampers and it wasn't long before we were on our way up the hill. Some chose to carpool to Booth Road to avoid an extra climb, whilst others walked up through Ross Creek.

Our departure from Booth Road was accompanied by the excited chatter of 70+ trampers, chatting away to both old and new friends. The track didn't seem as steep as usual, however that may have been the distraction of stories being shared as we steadily climbed up the hill. Ominous grey clouds were rolling across the sky with the odd spot of rain which saw some stop to don rain jackets. With everyone being either current or past OTMC members, a bit of rain doesn't bother us so we carried on not allowing it to dampen our spirits. Thankfully the rain didn't amount to much and our jackets stayed mostly dry.



Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

It seemed to take no time at all before we popped out of the bush and were greeted by the newly erected sign on the edge of the Pineapple Track, informing us that we had arrived at our destination. Initially there were only a handful of people dotted around the lookout, testing out the seat and admiring the panoramic views of Dunedin, however thanks to the constant flow of people emerging from the bush it did not take long before the lookout was heaving with people. Every time I looked up more and more people had appeared - some popped out of the bushes of the old Ross Bush Track, some walked in over Flagstaff and down the Pineapple Track whilst the majority came up the Pineapple Track from Booth Road.

Despite the chilly breeze, no one was in a hurry to go anywhere as it was such a joy to socialise and catch up with people who we may have missed at Toitu the night before. Once the last few trampers had trickled in, Antony made a short speech outlining the significance of Pineapple Point to the OTMC before a team photo was taken. Somehow it seemed easier to herd 70+ people in place for a team photo than it is to organise a dozen trampers for a team photo on an ordinary day trip!

Once the formalities were over, some people slowly began to make their way back down the hill while others were still keen to hang around and chat. Some of the keen trampers even carried on up the hill to explore other tracks before heading home! It was certainly a mistake only packing morning tea, as it was well after 1pm by the time the last of us departed Pineapple Point. The return journey flew by as we continued chatting away and before we knew it the cars were in sight. By this stage we only had a couple of hours before the festivities were continuing at the Village Green for dinner later that night.



Trampers on Flagstaff. Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

Having been one of the people who carried tools and wooden posts up the track, cut back broom around the lookout site and installed the signs in the snow, it was incredibly special to be able to share Pineapple Point with over 70 past and present OTMC members. It is the perfect tribute to the club and its legacy over the past 100 years and is something that will be used for generations to come. **Jade Pettinger**



## **22 (100 Trips 102) Flagstaff and Ben Rudd's, E, Ben Rudd's Trust**

Wow! What a fantastic day! As part of the great weekend where so many people representing the OTC/OTMC's wonderful history were in town to reunite, catch up and check out what's been going on, the Ben Rudd's Trust took this unique, once-in-a-Club-lifetime opportunity to showcase our land on Flagstaff. Almost 80 people took an interest in the past, present and future of this piece of real estate all Club members have bought into. One cannot imagine another occasion that could reconnect so many key people from the Club's history with Ben and his land.

At around 10:30am we departed the Bullring forming 2 parties, 1 group headed for the Flagstaff summit while the second group tramped directly to the Skidsite via the Firebreak. 4WD transport was provided for Club members who were not up to tramping to the Skidsite.

On arrival at the Skidsite a table was set up for boiling several billies simultaneously for traditional billy tea and hot water for those who prefer coffee etc. One of the billies was from the OTMC Family Tramping Group. It was great to have this Billy back in action after many years of storage at the Clubrooms, where it sits on a high shelf in its red checkered billy bag.

When all Centenary participants had arrived at the Skidsite, Trust Chair David McArthur welcomed everyone to Ben Rudd's property. Trustee Richard Pettinger joined David to provide brief property updates, such as the fate of the pine trees planted long ago amid the "wealthy Club" dreams of our predecessors; the (far better) beech tree planting and the ongoing Simes' Beech Walk progress.

After the welcoming talk, a group photo was taken from the panorama site. This proved an ideal location, providing a very appropriate background: Swampy Summit, the Silver Peaks, with the distant Rock and Pillars and hills to the north as a backdrop. The panorama photo, which many considered breathtakingly beautiful, helped locate what we could see that day, as the clear sunny weather blessed us.

Soon after the group photo, and before those who wished to visit the Shelter at Ben's hut site did so, we all enjoyed the formal cutting of the Centenary cake by Life Member Dave Still. Dave appropriately entertained us with antics in his usual style, by looking like he was attempting to cut the cake with an ice axe, which added welcomed humour to this special occasion.

Participants were invited to stomp along the undeveloped Simes' Beech Walk trackline, to help "bed it in", and there were impromptu discussions about the pigtrap,

its site and the possible future use of the site (a sunny picnic spot?). There was significant approval given to the future of the Walk and its amenity.



Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

Those who attended the Ben Rudd's Centenary weekend celebration, were impressed by the property development progress and especially liked the bench seat in front of the panorama. It was very encouraging for the Club and Trust to witness such positivity.

A very convivial and entertaining afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the following people who helped make this event a great success:

*Centenary cake:* Trustee Leonie Loeber for baking the cake and Tracy Pettinger for decorating

*Baking:* Trustee Teresa Wasilewska and Kathy Woodrow

*4WD transport from the Bullring to Skid Site:* Richard Forbes, Dave McLean and Dave Bunn

**The Ben Rudd's Management Trust for the OTMC**

### **23 (100 Trips 103) Silver Peaks Tops (Hightop to Silver Peak)**

Despite the late night celebrating the centenary over dinner at the Village Green, over 70 trampers assembled bright and early to spend a spectacular day in the Silver Peaks. The plan for the final event for the centenary weekend was simple - recreate the first OTC trip to the Silver Peaks which took place over Labour Weekend 1923. One hundred years later we were hoping to stand on Pulpit Rock, the same as founding members did all those years ago.

Parking was at a premium at the Semple Road car park, with cars dotting the side of the road in every direction. The true scale of just how many people there were dawned on me when we gathered to take a team photo at the start of the track. Even squashed in like sardines, the poor photographer was nearly falling down the bank on the other side of the road to fit us all in!



Photo credit: Dylan Pettinger

Heading up the slight incline at the beginning of the track was like a pilgrimage with the sheer amount of people. It was not a day to go for a quiet walk and enjoy the sounds of nature, instead the soundtrack to the day was constant chatter, accompanied by boots pounding the track and the occasional click-clack of walking poles. Luckily we didn't meet many people coming the other way, as they certainly would have had a mission trying to manoeuvre around 70 odd of us.

The 4km undulating walk into Green Hut flew by, largely thanks to the excellent company. A morning tea break was declared on arrival to Green Hut Site, and surprisingly we all managed to find somewhere to sit to enjoy the sunshine and friendships that had been formed over the weekend. We are fortunate to have the



support of the Green Hut Track Group who did a bit of a tidy up of the hut site before the centenary weekend, making it a very pleasant place to enjoy a break.

The last order of business before continuing on our journey was to wrangle everyone into place for a team photo. Little did we know that this photo would make the ODT the next day and we would be famous!

At this point, some turned around and headed back to the cars as they were travelling back home that afternoon. We bid them farewell before beginning the steep climb out of the hut site, with our destination being Pulpit Rock. Getting above the bushline was just stunning - it was a bluebird day with not a cloud in the sky. The rolling hills and sharp ridgelines of the Silver Peaks stretched out for miles, with other features such as the Taieri Plains, the Wāitati coastline and far away hills such as Mt Watkin in the distance.

There were plenty of breaks during the climb to Pulpit Rock as small groups stopped to admire the view, point out landmarks and reminisce past trips into the peaks. Being near the back of the group, I admired the rare sight of a line of people snaking their way up to Pulpit Rock, which just seemed to be crawling with people.

By the time I arrived at Pulpit Rock, everyone had settled down for a very scenic lunch so I quickly found a rock perch looking towards the top of the Devil's Staircase. Some keen eyes spotted a Karearea/NZ Falcon perched on a rock just metres away. It was not frightened by the noise we created and hung around for a good 20 minutes or so, before scarpering in search of prey.

Standing on Pulpit Rock was extra special for one man, Frank Graveson. Frank was a very active member of the OTC in the 1960's before moving away from Dunedin. After 60+ years he was back in the peaks, and the grin on his face when he stood on top of Pulpit Rock said it all. It was an honour to share the Silver Peaks with him and he really is an inspiration to all of us.



Frank Graveson (R) and Antony Pettinger; Lunch at Pulpit Rock. Photos: Jade Pettinger

No one was in a hurry to leave our viewpoint - partly due to the spectacular 360° view, and partly because heading back down meant the weekend was nearly over. After over an hour, we reluctantly packed up our things and started retracing our steps down the hill. We soaked up the last of the views before descending through the bush to Green Hut Site where we found some still lounging around and enjoying the sunshine. We joined them for a quick snack before beginning the walk along the very familiar track to the cars.

It truly was a magnificent day in the Silver Peaks and was extra special for those who had not visited the area for many years. The Silver Peaks are the home of the OTMC and are the area we have visited the most over the past 100 years, so it was only fitting that the last day of the centenary celebrations were spent in our tramping backyard. I personally couldn't have thought of a better end to the weekend.

On behalf of the OTMC, I would like to thank all of those who attended the centenary weekend. It is our members (past and present) who make us what we are, and it was incredible to see over 160 people come together to celebrate the enduring friendships and memories that have been made through the OTC and OTMC over many years. Centenary attendees travelled from all over the country and world to attend, with many coming from the North Island while others came from as far away as Australia and the USA. I am extremely proud to be a fourth-generation member of the OTMC and am looking forward to many more happy years spent with the OTMC.

### **Jade Pettinger**



Rosella Ridge. Photo credit: Jade Pettinger

# Plans for Centenary Edition of OTMC Outdoors in 2023-2024

We're keen to create a colourful record of the Club's history at this major milestone and we are inviting you to consider how you can help make this happen.

It is proposed that there is a special issue of *Outdoors* published, to serve as a record of key developments and key personalities in the OTC and OTMC's history from 1923-2023.

The OTMC Committee has agreed in principle to the publication of a Centenary edition of *Outdoors* in 2023-24 with delegation of project responsibility to Ross Davies as Coordinator and Rob Mitchell as Editor.

Our goal is to launch and distribute *Outdoors 100* in November 2024, just in time for Christmas. But before that, there is much to do!

The intended format is a 200 page, A5 book with a colour photo insert, like the 2013, 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Outdoors*. It is proposed to be in both a digital format and hard copy and will be made available to members, friends, and the public at a modest price.

We're seeking help of members past and present, friends and relatives to make *Outdoors 100* a success.

Volunteers will be welcomed. Please advise us if you have other skills in producing print or digital publications and can help the project team.

To help fund this centenary project, we invite indications of financial support. A project budget is being developed and should be finalised in the first quarter of 2024.

If you would like to explore the options for helping in person, please contact Ross Davies or Rob Mitchell directly by phone or email.

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Editor:                Rob Mitchell  
Phone:                0274 764 824  
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## Leaning Lodge, Rock and Pillar Range

The Leaning Lodge Trust, on behalf of OTMC, are very proud to inform members of the progress of the hut rebuild. Over \$200,000 in donations has allowed construction of the new hut adjacent to the old one high up in the alpine area of the Rock and Pillar range (behind Middlemarch). Steel framed, steel clad, a really magnificent 10 bunker now nestles nicely amongst the alpine flora and is all but completed, with an opening date planned early 2024. The hut will have solar bunk lighting, cellphone charging, an online weather station, and a very nice new loo too. At the moment final touches are being done by an extraordinary work party group that has taken the hut from the concrete foundations pour just last February to almost completed this November, less than 10 elapsed months. They have fought the winter weather and now are excluded by deer fawning, with just some interior work and removal of the old hut and site clearance remaining, and also await the flying in of the new toilet structure. So not long now. Meantime, please note the site is still off limits being a construction site, especially with the old hut yet to go, so don't plan a trip up just yet.






# 100 Trip Trampers – first and last!

Our '100 Trips for 100 years' is at an end.

Special mention to the five trampers who were on both trip #001 and trip #100. Photo taken at the summit of Mihiwaka on Trip #100. From left to right: Debbie Pettinger, Leonie Loeber, Jade Pettinger, Lindsay Aitcheson, Antony Pettinger.





## Upcoming Trips

In next month's bulletin, covering our trips in November and December 2023, read about the Club's trips:

### WEEKEND TRIPS

★ MacIntosh Hut/Black Peak ★ Ohau Valleys ★ Naseby ★

### DAY TRIPS

Government Track ★ Grahams Bush to Bethunes Gully ★ Naseby Day Trip ★  
Harbour Cone Loop ★ Escarpment Track Work Party ★ Huriawa Pa / Karitane  
Beach ★ Pineapple Track to Leith Saddle ★

For the next day and weekend trips see:

[OTMC Sept 2023 to Oct 2024 Trip Programme](#)

As a reminder you must pre-register on the Weekend Trip Lists 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 organizational 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)it required.



## Note from the editor

**The OTMC centenary year '100 Trips for 100 Years' are complete! History has been made – and it will continue to be made in 2024 and beyond.**

We will continue to publish monthly bulletins during 2024 so please email your trip reports for the next issue to [helenemerson@yahoo.com](mailto:helenemerson@yahoo.com) **within a week after the trip.**

The trip leader does not have to write the report so put your hand up to take some load off their shoulders! If you include a photo or two, please note appropriate captions (names of people pictured, names of land features, etc.)

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTE!**