

# OTMC TRIP REPORTS

## 2015

---

Sourced from the 2015 OTMC Bulletins



## Contents

<b>Lake Waikaremoana Track.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Heyward Point – Kaikai Beach.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mihiwaka Day Trip.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Takitimu – The Trip Of Attrition.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Kakanui Peak .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Mt Cook .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Canyon Creek / Ahuriri.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Taieri Mouth To Brighton .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Rees Valley – Kea Basin .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>OTC / OTMC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Milford Track Freedom Walk.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Hare Hill And Hodson Hill .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Millenium Track .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Two Reservoirs And A Hill .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Snowcaving 2015 .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Snow Farm .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Gabriels Gully.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Takitimu’s.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Hermit’s Cave.....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Mt Somers .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Property Maintenance (Silver Peaks Explored?) .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>West Matukituki.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Gauges, Spurs &amp; Ridges .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Graham’s Bush – Organ Pipes.....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Mt Titiroa Traverse .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Spiers Road &amp; Ben Rudd’s Picnic.....</b>	<b>56</b>

<b>Ship At Anchor .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>OTMC Committee (2015-16).....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>OTMC Trip Programme 2015.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>OTMC Bulletin Covers (February to May).....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>OTMC Bulletin Covers (June to September) .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>OTMC Bulletin Covers (October to December) .....</b>	<b>64</b>

Cover Photo: Giant Gates bridge, Milford Track (now replaced), April 19, 2015

ALL PUBLICATION PHOTOS UNLESS NOTED Antony Pettinger

# LAKE WAIKAREMOANA TRACK

**Date not recorded**

**Author: David Barnes**

Published in Bulletin 757, February 2015

The Great Walk around Lake Waikaremoana has long been on my 'to do' list, but getting to it from Dunedin is a logistical nightmare. When I had to go to Taupo for a meeting, I decided that was as close as I was likely to get, so I hired a car and tackled the tortuous road into Te Urewera. Think of a hillier windier version of the Catlins road, pre-tar seal.

There are two motorcamps in the area. I stayed at Big Bush Holiday Park, just beyond the lake, as the owners also operate the water taxi and shuttle. By 9am, I'd been dropped at the Onepoto track end, and started on the track's one big hill, the climb around Panekiri Bluff. First stop was only a few minutes up the hill, at the site of Onepoto Redoubt, a significant fortification during the New Zealand Wars. It soon became apparent that the persistent drizzle didn't warrant a parka, as I was generating enough heat as I walked. An hour took me to a trig, at which point the gradient eased. Occasional breaks in the forest on the edge of the Bluff were potential viewpoints, but today all I saw was the inside of a cloud. I decided there was no point taking the short signposted detour to Bald Knob. A check of the map at this point suggested the hut was under an hour away, so I decided that that would be where I'd have lunch. A short steep pinch a few minutes before the hut was surmounted on a stairway. It would have been interesting before that was built.

Panekiri Hut is situated at what is usually regarded as the highlight of the trip, with extensive views of the lake. Although it made a short day (signposted as five hours, it had taken a little over three), I'd chosen to stay here for that reason. Apart from a partial clearance for a few minutes, I saw nothing. I was pleased to have my Kobo. The hut's a bit rumpty by southern Great Walk standards, but perfectly adequate. The fire was out of commission. I contemplated chopping wood to fill in the afternoon, but the axe was impossibly blunt. That night, I was one of six in the hut.

Day two was my longest day. I awoke to wetter conditions than before, and still no view. It took an hour to descend out of the cloud, and another hour to reach the modern Waipaoa hut, at the head of an inlet. From there, the track was largely flat. At Korokoro stream, I took the one-hour detour to a waterfall. Back on track, I took another detour to the Korokoro campsite, but found a big group of picnicking boaties too noisy so took my lunch break a few minutes up the track.

The next section was the only one where I couldn't take a chunk off the DoC times. I find this frustrating – not because I care whether I'm taking a third less or a third more than the DoC time, but because it makes it hard to plan the day. The track goes up and down a lot before arriving at the Maranui campsite, where there's also a DoC staff hut. From there, it's a short climb and descent over a peninsula to arrive at Marauiti Hut, where there were two other trampers in residence.



**Marauiti Hut (PHOTO: David Barnes / OTMC Bulletin)**

Sunday's walk started with an hour and a half to the spacious Waiharuru Hut, where I stopped for half an hour to kill some time. Then I had to climb over the end of the Puketukutuku Range, a peninsula where there's an intensive kiwi protection program running. An electric fence is designed to stop juvenile kiwi straying beyond the trapped area before they can establish their own territories where they are safe(r). Some more shoreline meandering took me to Whanganui Hut, where I had a long lunch in the sun before tackling the last 45 minutes to the water taxi pickup point.

The verdict? A nice trip if you're in the vicinity, but probably not worth making a journey from the Deep South to do it (unlike the North Island's other Great Walk, the spectacular Tongariro Northern Circuit).



## **HEYWARD POINT – KAIKAI BEACH**

**November 30, 2014**

**Author: Jacqui King**

Published in Bulletin 757, February 2015

Sunday's weather forecast was so abysmal, I thought I would have to cancel but surprisingly the morning arrived, sunny with strong winds, so I made the decision to at least go to Heyward Pt and see how things went from there. Christine and Raewyn joined me at the clubrooms and we left at 9am, in Christine's car. To make the most of the day, we started the trip from the end of Heyward Pt Rd instead of Aramoana, as originally planned.

We began at 9.45am, along an unformed vehicle track, taking in great coastal views of Aramoana and Taiaroa Head, before reaching the junction of the track from Aramoana. From here it was onwards through the Heyward Pt Scenic Reserve, which runs along the cliff edge. A great view of Lion Rock can be had from the pine trees, but as Christine had moved off up ahead, Raewyn and I continued on our way, to find her at a warm sheltered spot, gazing at equally impressive views of the coastline. Following the route, we eventually descended through bush on a grassed vehicle track onto Heyward Pt.



**Kaikai Beach from Heyward Point**

Despite the windy conditions, we took in more coastal views and saw seals swimming and rolling about in the ocean. We avoided going to the Auto Pilot Lighthouse, owing to the wind and the nearby Gull Colony, and walked on an angle back up hill, towards the small gate with the private property sign on it.

After a brief morning tea stop, we crossed the stile and walked uphill, to find the black post marking the steep descent to Kaikai Beach. During this time there was a heavy downpour, and I was ready to turn back, however, we could see the weather was beginning to clear, so on we went. By the time we reached the swampland, the weather was fine again and at 11.40am we were at the accommodation cave, slightly inland from the beach. Christine and Raewyn went inside to suss it out. Not only did it have bunk beds and a tent, but also clothing and a well-stocked pantry! In the photo, you can see the cave entrance with a stone wall and beside it is a very tidy long drop toilet.

The route through the swampland to the cave is well marked and there are many tracks from the cave to the beach. The beach can also be accessed first, once the steep descent has been made, by turning right and walking towards a lone Pine Tree.

At 11.55am, we moved off from the cave, to our left, remaining on the same side of the fence and gradually climbed upwards to find the 4WD track, which zigged then zagged along the fence line.

We climbed a gate and walked a short distance to get a view of Murdering Beach, but it was way too windy to walk further down to Purehurehu Pt. As we walked up towards the old house, the strong wind picked up Raewyn's pack cover and blew it away! After having a look inside the old house, we ate our lunch, sitting in a warm spot outside, with a view of Kaikai Beach in the distance - (12.30pm)

20 minutes later, we walked behind to the right of the house and through some trees to a 4WD track. A brief hail shower began as we crossed a few gated paddocks before exiting onto Whareakeake Rd, by a stand of Macrocarpa trees. The shower stopped and from there it was only 10mins to the intersection with Heyward Pt Rd and 800 metres to where the car was parked at the road end - (1.30pm).

All in all, an enjoyable trip, during the best part of the day! Only took 3hrs and 45mins, however in better weather conditions, more time could be spent exploring the beach and accessing Purehurehu Pt.

Written by Jacqui King for Christine Hopkins and Raewyn Duncan

# MIHIWAKA DAY TRIP

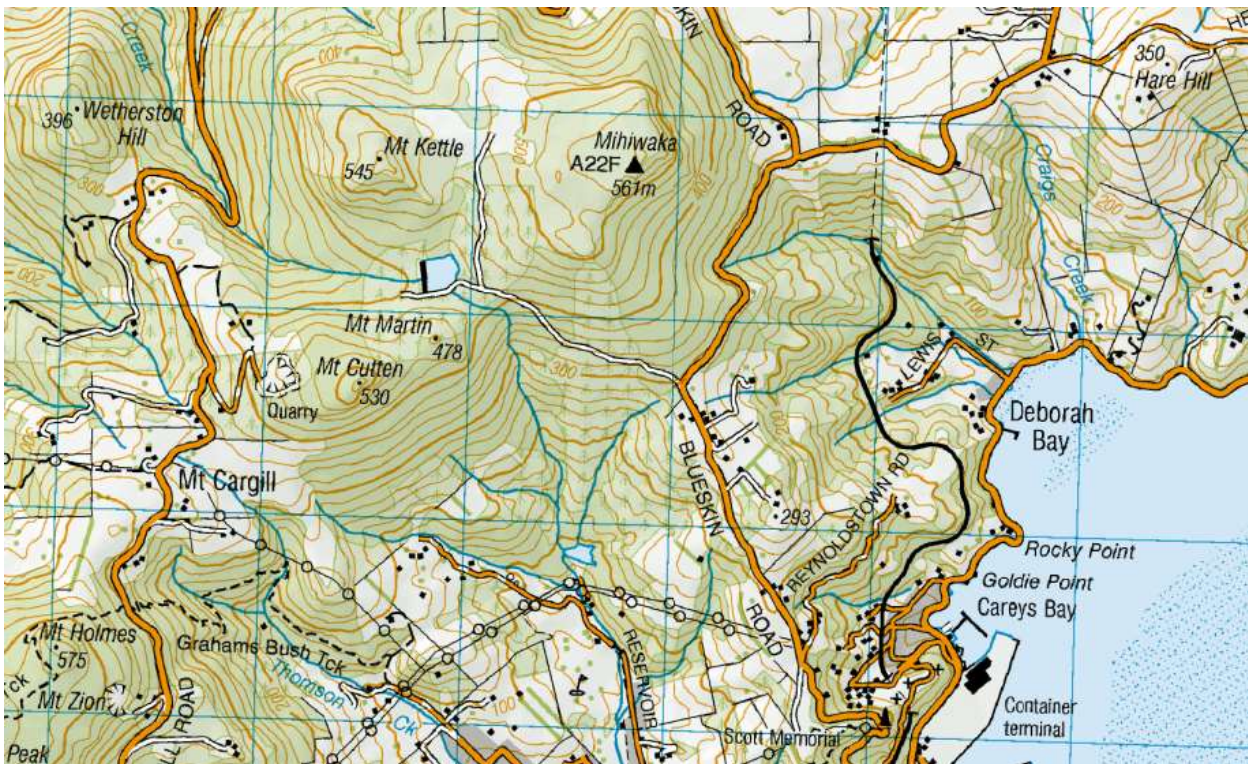
**January 25, 2015**

**Author: Paul Cunliffe**

Published in Bulletin 758, March 2015

A beautiful morning and five members are at the club rooms, boots nearly on, ready for departure to Deborah Bay. There we meet up with one who has cycled from town, and two young Australian women keen to sample a local bush walk.

A quick check everyone has ample sun cream and water, then off we go, up Lewis Street, past some remains of a colonial era ships' water supply system and onto a farm initially allotted to Mungo Lewis' Father after the First World War. Gordon related some details of the Lewis family of Deborah Bay, the first Ma and Pa Lewis had twenty-two children in a one room cottage (plus a few sleep outs) right beside the sea wall. Then up across the paddock we go, past what remains of an explosives factory, then onto a cobblestone zigzag donkey cart track hidden in the bush, up to a nasty barbed-wire fence (that claimed one victim) and then we are beside the main trunk line where there was once a brickworks supplying the lining for the nearby Mihiwaka tunnel.



We check there is light at the end of the tunnel (there is, and fortunately it's not coming toward us). Then we have a brief discussion about possible routes, and being assured of less gorse, up we go 'bush bashing' in the undergrowth beside the stream. Soon we reach a small clearing familiar to Gordon, and leaving the slippery stream, we go 'straight' up, past the skull of the cow with a crumpled horn, to a pleasant spot for a snack break. Up we go to another barbed-wire fence, then it's a steep sheep paddock and we reach Blueskin Road.



Walking the narrow roadside verge, we soon come to a small car park, and the beginning of the track up to the climbing rock. There are no climbers today, we skirt the rock, coming out on top to admire the view eastward over Deborah Bay. Then it's up again, reaching scrub, intermittent northerly cloud, and some awkwardly large boulders. At the top there is a well cut track to the trig (561m), and it's time for a lunch stop. Surveying all below, we can see far to the east, south, and occasionally west. It is warm when out of the stiff breeze, there is cell phone reception, and life is good.

After lunch it's down and down, this time taking a (goat?) track to avoid the boulders. Soon we are discussing knee problems en-route, and then we arrive at the rock. Down we go, now talking about alcoholic sailors/fishermen. Eventually we come to the road, and walk past where we came promising, a few metres of gorse then manuka and soon a track to a hidden meadow. Down we go, and in a roundabout way find ourselves at the weir for the Cold Stream water supply system. Thence it was a plain walk down the paddock, then Lewis Street and back to the cars/bicycle.

Many thanks to Gordon Tocher for varied, informative local walk with great views; by Paul Cunliffe, on behalf of: Christine Hopkins, Alan Thomson, Kathy

Woodrow, Chris Pearson, Laura and Christine Mills.

## **TAKITIMU – THE TRIP OF ATTRITION**

**January 10-11, 2015**

**Author: Jan Burch**

Published in Bulletin 758, March 2015

Organising a trip to leave on 9 January, before the first 2015 club meeting, was always going to be a challenge, but Gordon proved up to it. Even the unavailability of the club GPS couldn't faze him. We started the trip with two less than he had anticipated, but still took three cars in a start staggered throughout Friday, the last leaving at 4pm. Gordon had obtained permission to walk over the Pleasant Valley Station to the DOC Area. When we got together, we realised we'd taken slightly different routes to the Aparima Hut (500m), but we had all managed to do some walking along the Aparima River in daylight. With 8 beds it proved to be just the right size for our party.

On Saturday morning it was Kathy and Chris who next left the group. They chose to walk to Aparima Forks Hut for lunch, then back to Aparima Hut again for Sunday night because they needed to leave early on Sunday.



**Irthing Stream, Eyre Mountains (PHOTO: OTMC Bulletin)**

The remaining six of us followed the Aparima River then Spence Burn through well-tracked beech forest with occasional stream crossings (only one of which necessitated Gordon getting his feet wet) to reach the Spence Hut (820m) just after 1pm. The tentative plan was to come back for the night. Mt Spence (1634m) was the afternoon goal, but everything was dependent on the accuracy of our rather gloomy weather forecast.

At this point the party thinned again, with Johnathon and Andrea staying put for the joys of testing theories about avoiding the sandflies while the rest of us took daypacks to tackle some steep bush bashing under advice from Moirs. By 3.30pm we were above the bushline. The winds were brisk so we didn't tarry too long; still by 4pm it was clear that at our current rate we wouldn't reach Mt Spence before our chosen "turn back time" of 5pm.

So another two of the party jettisoned. Diana and I opted to find a sheltered place in the tussock from which we could rest and watch while Gordon and Tomas become smaller and smaller as they criss-crossed their way up the basin towards the summit. It was 5pm when they crested the ridge. I've been assured that the views were MEGA-AWESOME but once they got there they realized that they still had further to go if they wanted to conquer Mt Spence, so it was a quick stop then back down the way they'd come, picking up Diana and me on the way.

As predicted earlier by Gordon, it was 7pm by the time we got back to the hut. Andrea was able to report that none of the helpful suggestions for avoiding sandflies were 100% effective. As Spence Hut is 2-person, cooking the evening meal was staggered, a bit cramped, but manageable and definitely preferable to fighting the sandflies outside. While Tomas and Gordon opted for a sheltered tent site under the trees, Diana and I went for a more exposed site. I was pleased when I heard the forecast rain start during the night, because I'd hoped to put my new tent to the test, but it turned out to be just a light sprinkling which continued spasmodically throughout Sunday as we retraced our steps to the Aparima Hut for lunch. Taking the 4-wheel drive road rather than the river track from the Hut to the cars shortened the day considerably, so that we away before 4pm.

All in all, a great trip. The area is little used (Spence Hut log book had only two people staying in Dec, two in Nov, and then June was the next visitor), yet reasonably accessible (a 3-hour car journey) and it offers a range of tramping experiences to suit all tastes. Our thanks to Gordon for organising and ably leading the tramp.

Written by Jan Burch for Tomas Sobek, Diana Munster, Andrea Hudson, Jonathon Braun, Kathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson (and Gordon Tocher of course).



## KAKANUI PEAK

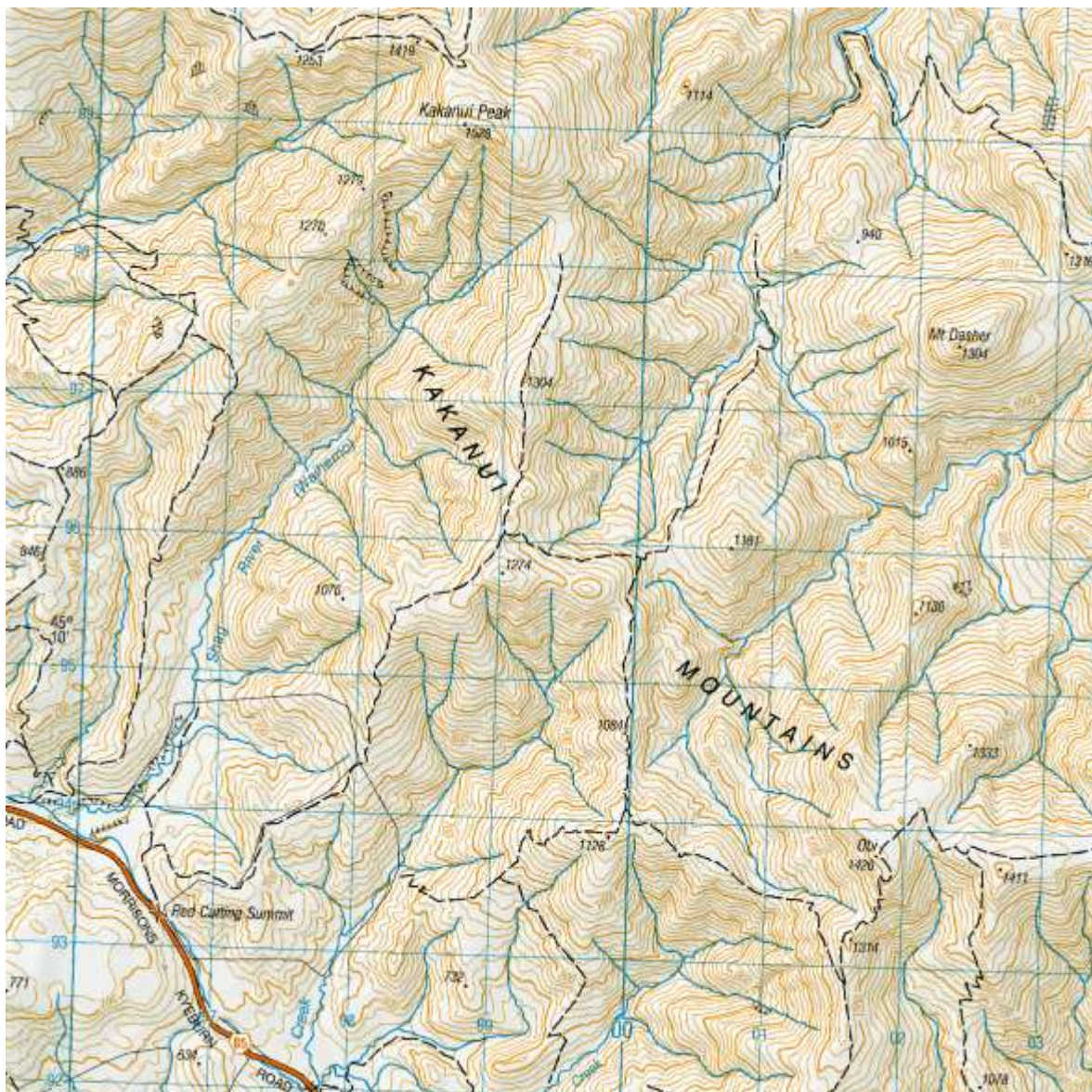
# December 14, 2014

**Author: David Barnes**

Published in Bulletin 758, March 2015

I'd had two cracks at Kakanui Peak in the past. Both had ended at a knob at about 1300 metres, 300 metres shy of the summit, when cloud shrouding the steep upper slopes of the peak had made continuing futile. Today was going to be different, I felt sure.

It was 11 am when our group of eight headed away from the Pigroot. A four wheel drive track soon had us working up a sweat, countered slightly by the cool breeze. The first bend revealed an unwelcome but familiar sight – a cloud where Kakanui Peak should be. However, we'd come too far from Dunedin to be turned back by that, so we continued in hope.





A little over an hour took us to the site of a small ski field, which dates back to the 1970s. The hut's lost some roofing iron since I was last there, but its deck still provided a sheltered spot for lunch. The old rope tow towers continue to march silently to the ridge crest 500 metres away.

When the track reached the ridge crest, we could see the volcanic peaks of Mount Dasher and Kattothrust. They're both shrouded with scree "glaciers", much like the better-known Mt Watkin/Hikaroroa. It's sometimes easy to forget that way, way back, Central Otago was volcanic.

The clouds around the summit were persisting when we reached the point where I'd turned around on past trips. After a few minutes' indecision, we dropped into a dip of the ridge that led to a steep face and, as we did, there was a sudden clearance. That gave us the certainty to carry on up the face. After a brief regroup at a false summit, five minutes more saw us at the trig on the true summit. The strong cold wind ensured that we didn't linger long.

The summit is the intersection between the catchments of the Shag/ Waihemo, the Taieri and the Kakanui. Our route up had taken us up the true left of the head of the Shag/Waihemo, so a return down a spur on the true right meant we got to do a round trip. Half an hour down, we looked back to see that once again the summit had disappeared into a cloud. We'd been lucky enough to strike the only clear weather window of the day.

David Barnes for Rob Seeley, Gordon Tocher, Lucy Jones, Dave Wilson, Wayne Hodgkinson, Michael Firmin and Yuki Fujita.

## MT COOK

**January 17-18, 2015**

**Author: Rose Colhoun**

Published in Bulletin 758, March 2015

A dodgy weather report had forced us to postpone the end of year social trip and although the weather forecast wasn't great for this weekend we decided to go ahead anyway.

Heading through the Mackenzie Country on Friday evening was magical with a long-lasting dusk period painting the countryside in stunning colours. Arriving at Whitehorse Hill camping ground near Mt Cook village, we located Roger who had arrived earlier and found the flattest ground we could to pitch our tents in the almost dark.

Saturday dawned with bluebird skies, so we set off early to head up towards Sealy Tarns. Although we didn't count the infamous steps to the top, our thighs certainly felt the almost 2000 steps we climbed. There was a reasonably strong wind blowing and we could see the cloud beginning to creep over Mt Sefton so after a few photos we headed back down rather than carrying on to Mueller Hut. After a leisurely lunch back at the campground, we drove round to the Tasman valley to view the lake and the far distant glacier. It was rather shocking to see how much the glacier had retreated in the last 25 years. Back at the car park, we decided the logical end to our strenuous day was beer at the Old Mountaineers Café. Then we followed this with more beer over dinner at the campground and chatting to some of the backpacker tourists.



Mueller Lake and the Hooker River (PHOTO: OTMC Bulletin)

The forecasted weather bomb hit during Saturday night with some of our group getting little sleep through leaky tents, gale force winds, and thunder and lightning. With a rough night behind them on Sunday morning, some of the group went in search of coffee at the Old Mountaineer's while a few others headed up the Hooker valley. The Hooker valley offered excellent views of majestic Aoraki with only a few scraps of cloud remaining from the previous night's storm.

Back down the Waitaki valley, we stopped at Lake Aviemore for lunch and a swim before heading home to Dunedin. It was totally worth the wait for our postponed social trip amongst breath-taking scenery. Many thanks to Gene for organising it all.

Written by Rose for Gene, Jo, Lyn, Tina, Sam, Ruth, and Roger.

## CANYON CREEK / AHURIRI

**February 21-22, 2015**

**Author: Rebecca Van Amber**

Published in Bulletin 759, April 2015

Eleven brave souls ventured along with me on my first trip as a trip leader into Canyon Creek! We left Dunedin on Friday night in a nearly ancient 4WD van complete with the club trailer, stopping in Oamaru for takeaways. Shortly after Omarama, we reached Birchwood Road. It was here where the 4WD was quite handy, as Birchwood Road was quite rough in places. We spent Friday night camped at the Ahuriri Base Hut, though I don't think many of us found very flat ground. It was a beautiful, mild, dry night - perfect for being in a bivvy bag or even braving the elements. It was, in fact, a little too dry as there was absolutely no water in the tank at the hut.



**Large tarn in Canyon Creek (PHOTO: OTMC Bulletin)**

Once we got going Saturday morning, we made excellent time up Canyon creek along the very clearly marked route (marker poles/cairns the entire way). After a lunch stop just after reaching the main canyon creek valley floor at ~1300, all 12 of us decided to drop our packs and tackle the side trip up to the unnamed lake at ~1650m. There was a bit of a scramble to start, but then it was a steady steep rocky climb, a bit of scree sidling and climbing over some more rocks before we reached our destination - a beautiful aqua blue alpine lake surrounded by snow and stark rocks. Four hearty individuals (Tomas, Dylan, myself and Maria) had a quick "refreshing"



dip before we started our return journey back down to the valley floor as the clouds started coming in. I must admit I was pleased we all made the journey, as reaching the lake had been one of my primary goals on the trip.

After picking up our packs, it was just a wee bit farther up the valley to the rock bivouac where we set up camp. The weather started to turn, with the wind picking up and a few spots of rain coming in. Tents were assembled in rapid time, with dinner cooked very shortly thereafter, with many of us seeking the relative shelter of our tents fairly early in the evening. My food group (Dylan, Tomas, Lun and myself) somehow managed to squeeze into the well walled off smaller section of the rock bivouac for an "intimate" dinner setting (someone had really put some time into making the back of the bivouac weatherproof - there was mud and grass in-between the rocks, and grass scattered on the floor) . When the rain really started to pour, the other eight quickly took refuge on the other side of the bivouac - although it wasn't quite as protected from the weather due to its larger size. Kudos to Brad who slept in the bivouac on Saturday night.



**OTMC party in Canyon Creek (PHOTO: OTMC Bulletin)**

Sunday morning dawned misty, and the group split up with 10 of us tackling the climb over the saddle into the Ahuriri, and 2 having a more leisurely walk back down Canyon creek to the carpark, stopping on the way to chat with and impress a group of guided tourists who had been camped further down the valley from us on Saturday night.

Those of us on the saddle had a fairly long day involving more off-track climbing, sidling, bush bashing, and route finding while making several references to Moir's guide North (thankfully

Brad had a copy of the 8th edition, which provided a much more complete description than the 7th) (it was a learning trip). Spending some time on the saddle taking in the views of the Ahuriri was definitely a highlight. After initially starting too high, we found the route into the Ahuriri, which has obviously been traveled many times before, as it was fairly straightforward to follow once we picked it up.

We then had a long, flat, hot walk on Sunday afternoon through the Ahuriri back to the car park. Thankfully Tomas found a swimming hole just before the track junction (approximately 20 min from the car park), which provided some much-needed relief from the heat!

The 10 of us were greeted at the van by our party of 2, who had been patiently waiting some 3 ½ hours for us to return! We were all reminded once again that neither the van nor the club trailer was dust proof. The Omarama fish & chips shop made a bit of a killing as we passed through, as they were the only place in town that was open and serving food. We finally arrived back at the clubrooms about 10 pm Sunday night.

Overall, it was a wonderful weekend with a great group of people with a wide variety of skills, some teaching, and some learning! It was truly a joy to be the trip leader to the group, and I am thankful to everyone who came along, but especially those who helped drive the van, and those who navigated our route (much of which was off track).

Rebecca on behalf of Andrea, Brad, Dylan, John, Lun, Maria, Michael, Peter, Richelle, Sophie and Tomas

## **TAIERI MOUTH TO BRIGHTON**

**March 5, 2015**

**Author: Jane Cloete**

Published in Bulletin 760, May 2015

Six of us set out from the clubrooms at 8am sharp – apologies to anyone who arrived a bit later but an early start was needed in order to get the tides. As it was, I hadn't planned that bit at all well - I'd thought that low tide was at 9.45, so imagine my horror when, upon reading the ODT on the Saturday, that I discovered it to be 8.45!

We joined up with one dog, Abby, and 4 people at Brighton and drove to just beyond Kuri Bush. Didn't go as far as Taieri Mouth (the original plan) 'cause I was worried about getting along the beach at Bruce Rocks, if the tide was too high.

We started walking in sunshine but when the sun disappeared behind a cloud it became very chilly indeed! But clambering over rocks soon warmed us up and we were glad to stop for a rest and a bite to eat after 75mins. Abby was a little tired by then too and wanted to be carried. The sun appeared again (and remained out for the rest of the day.)

Time to look at the local wildlife: there were both pied and black oyster- catchers, pied stilts, assorted gulls and terns, a seal basking on a secluded rock, just one shag, and more and more oystercatchers! The rock pools were a bit disappointing – I like to see a variety of anemones, crabs, sea tulips etc, but I didn't see any decent big pools.

By this time, I was having a minor panic about how high the water would be at Bruce Rocks, but we were ably led by Matt who managed to find a good way through, across, over or around each bluff. Lunch was taken early after the last group of rocks.

Then it was just a matter of 3-4 km of sandy beach to get back to the cars. A quick car-shuffle and we were all home by 1.30pm.

My thanks go to my companions for a very pleasant walk. Jane Cloete, on behalf of Lucy Jones, Alan Scurr, Janet Barclay and dog Abby, Ruth Harvie, Steph Mclaughlin and Matt, Carolyn Vincent, Helen Collins and Jan Burch.

## REES VALLEY – KEA BASIN

**May 16-17, 2015**

**Author: Helen Jones**

Published in Bulletin 761, June 2014

With the prospect of good weather, we were optimistic about getting away because this trip had been cancelled the previous week due to an inclement weather forecast. So, it was seven happy trampers who departed at 6pm for the long drive through to Muddy Creek car park where we were to spend the night.

After a meal stop in Alexandra, where we noted the temperature had dropped considerably, we continued on to our destination, arriving around 11.30 p.m.

Two points of interest. Richard, our driver, was breath-tested as we entered Queenstown and we saw a deer on the Glenorchy road.



Rees Valley (PHOTO: Richard Forbes - OTMC Bulletin)



The car park was empty so there was no problem finding somewhere to pitch the tents. However, with a borrowed tent with which we were unfamiliar Barry, Isabelle and I decided to sleep in the van. Not the most comfortable experience but it was warm which was some consolation.

The day dawned clear and cool so after a leisurely breakfast we finally departed about 9 a.m. Our first river crossing came soon after our departure and while we all managed to keep dry feet this was not to last as there were to be numerous river crossings throughout the weekend.



**Rock Biv at Kea Basin (PHOTO: Richard Forbes - OTMC Bulletin)**

Having crossed onto the true right of the river we wended our way up the valley initially through low tussock but as we progressed there was an appreciable layer of snow, so the ground was very marshy and slushy, thus making it more of a slog.

We passed Lennox Falls and eventually reached the track turnoff at the bushline and stopped here for lunch. It was pleasant sitting in the sun enjoying the views of the mountains and the long sweep of river flat. It was then onwards and upwards, a long steady climb on a series of zig zags to the now decrepit Earnslaw hut and a further climb through snow to the rock bivvy at Kea basin, our camp for the night.

By now the sun was disappearing and it was cold. With some judicious negotiating we managed to arrange our 3 tents into the 2 spaces available. Then it was time to prepare a hot meal and make the most of the last rays of daylight. No-one was keen on staying up late, so we were all abed by about 8pm.

It rained in the night, so the snow had frozen and there were icicles hanging from the bivvy roof. Brrrh.

Again, a leisurely breakfast and we decamped around nine a.m down to the valley floor retracing the previous day's steps firstly in crunchy ice and snow but then as the sun came up in more comfortable conditions.

On reaching the valley floor we decided to cross the river to 25 Mile Hut and stop there for lunch. It was pleasant sitting in the warmth of the sun drying off after our thigh high river crossing. Then it was down the valley and back to the van for a much-anticipated change of clothes. Despite the cold water the weather on both days was great.

With a meal stop in Alexandra and an uneventful trip back to Dunedin we arrived back about 10pm

Helen Jones on behalf of Richard Forbes, Ralph Harvey, Tomas Sobek, Isabelle Gensburger, Joe Skinner and Barry Walker.

## **OTC / OTMC 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – MILFORD TRACK FREEDOM WALK**

**April 16-19, 2015**

**Author: Antony Pettinger**

Published in Bulletin 763, August 2015

We all now know that the Otago Tramping Club (OTC) challenged authority in Easter 1965 and undertook an 'unsanctioned' trip over the iconic Milford Track. In April 2015, the OTMC celebrated this momentous club event with a celebration 50th Anniversary trip over the Track (this time with the full co-operation of the authorities).

It may be surprising, but very little was ever reported in the club files from the original Freedom Walk in 1965 – one can but assume that the participants were being careful as to not incriminate themselves. With the completion of the 2015 trip, it has now been judged that it is safe to publish a booklet about the 1965 trip (including a list of participants), with little risk of anyone being arrested!

The OTC history with the Milford Track goes back to 1928/29 with a return Xmas trip over the track (the time when club members witnessed Glade House burnt to the ground).

In 1947 the club was refused permission to walk the Track as a Christmas Trip. It was suggested that the club would 'overtax the amenities provided'. In 1952, the National Parks Authority authorised the NZ Government Tourist Department (later THC) to make a charge to all persons travelling the track, irrespective if they used the facilities or not. By 1957 the hut sites and landings were vested in the Tourist Hotel Corporation (THC) and the National Park Authority authorised THC to charge 30 shillings per person per day to use the track independently (but the THC never allowed this to occur).

In April 1964, the New Zealand Kayak Group complained to the Ombudsman that the public were being denied access to the area and asked the tramping club for support. This was not taken up by the Ombudsman. Come September 1964, and the Fiordland National Park Board agreed to vest the Milford Track in the THC for an initial five-year period. This prompted the OTC to write and send a submission to the National Parks Authority (along with the support of many other tramping clubs and outdoor related groups) opposing this.

By April 1965, the now infamous Easter trip over the Milford Track was planned, and the Chief Ranger of Fiordland National Park advised. The club was subsequently advised that 'unless a decision on the use of the track by private parties is reached, the status quo must be observed'. By mid-April, two days before the trip, the club was advised by THC that 'permission NOT granted, repeat NOT granted'. Finally, on the morning of departure (April 15, 1965) permission was forthcoming from the Parks Board.

By May 1965 agreement was reached between the National Parks Authority and the THC for use of the track by outside parties under Park Board supervision, and that extra facilities would be erected (and were in place for the 1965/66 summer season). These facilities have evolved

into the present Clinton, Mintaro and Dumpling Huts, and the trampers using these huts over summer are a legacy of the original Freedom Walk.

The above is an overview of what prompted the 1965 trip. The 2015 trip was honoured to be able to share the 50th Anniversary with nine of the original participants – their recollections of the 1965 trip were a highlight on this year's trip.



**Most of the 2015 party at DoC, Te Anau (April 16, 2015)**

I was aware for some time that the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Walk would occur in 2015 and was determined that the club would celebrate it. In the end, the best celebration would be to share the trip with some of the 1965 originals. When I mentioned to John (1965 leader) and Robyn Armstrong that the 50th was approaching, John replied with 'it can't be, we are not old enough!'

I had organised a couple of Milford trips before (out-of-season) so knew full well what it would involve logistically but volunteered to organise this one anyway. The plan was simple – as we would be joined by some older members, it made sense to do the trip within the summer open season (maybe a first for the club) and book all spaces on the trip for the club. DoC were really helpful right from the start, allowing the club to book all 40 places, as well as offering a good discount and further support during the trip. To obtain the best prices from the transport operators, we had to book separately with them, but in the end, everything working out perfectly.

Unintentionally, but coincidentally the 2015 trip turned out to be 50 years to the day since the original – an unplanned, but nice link to original trip. They say a southerly is the best way to



clear out bad weather, but I was a wee bit nervous when a dump of snow early in our week closed the track. However, when we arrived in Te Anau on Wednesday afternoon the weather forecast was good, and the track reopened (a day earlier and we would have missed out).



**Lunch at Glade House, Dore Pass behind (April 16, 2015)**

39 of us set off from Te Anau Downs under grey skies and headed up the lake to Glade Wharf. As we approached the head of the lake, the cloud disappeared, and we were treated to cloudless skies and full sun – this only added to the pristine white of the days old pure white snow over Dore Pass. Some of the 1965 party travelled over Dore Pass in marginal weather to reach the Clinton Valley – those that came over Glade Pass had an even more miserable trip. Our trip was far too easy!

A sunny lunch stop at Glade House (closed for the winter season) and an idyllic walk up the magnificent Clinton Valley allowed for a very relaxing afternoon at Clinton Hut (not so relaxing in the river, seven seconds was the record!). After noting the 'mares tails', we settled in for our first evening together. All members had an opportunity to introduce themselves, and it was fascinating to note that there may be 50 years plus of club experience between us all, but our views on the tramping club were very similar. In some ways, it appears the OTMC has not changed that much at all.

Friday morning brought the anticipated rain, but no problem, we would be in the valley all day. The contrast between the bright sunshine of the day before to the misty enchantment of today was striking. The waterfalls emerged, and we were reminded of the force of the river when we

stopped at the former Clinton Forks hut site – a small patch of grass was all that remains of the old large site on the riverbank.

Mintaro Hut is a dark and damp hut – I expect for most of us it will be the last time we stay here as a new hut has been planned to be built further up and in from the current site to avoid an avalanche path. After dinner on Friday night, it was the turn of the nine originals from 1965 to share their memories of the trip – this was one of the highlights of the trip. While some were relying on others for the facts, others recalled the trip as if it were yesterday. John Armstrong was the 1965 trip leader, and his party were charged with organising the boat transport from Sandfly Point back to Milford Sound. John's telling of the refusal of the local boaties to help, to attempting to cross the river to Sandfly Point was very entertaining. Even more impressive was the methods used to cross the flooded Arthur River at Boatshed – I am sure the club would not attempt a similar technique this today! During the evening we were joined by the 40th member – Ross Hunt had been unable to join us the day before, so combined two days into one.



**Clinton Valley (April 17, 2015)**

Saturday promised good weather for the crossing of McKinnon Pass, so it was all eyes to the surrounding mist to judge how thick it might be. No need to worry though, as by the time we reached the pass the skies were clear with excellent views all around. Tramping wise, the time spent on the pass was the best part of the trip for most, if not all. The mild temperature and great views meant it was a place to linger. The trip down to Quentin Hut is still long – an almost 1000m drop in total. Some found time to check out the Sutherland Falls via the new access track (built Nov 2013) before arriving at Dumpling Hut for our last night together.



Right from the start, DoC had offered to help us celebrate the anniversary at Dumpling Hut, and went over and above our expectations by bringing additional treats in for the celebration. Robyn Armstrong was one of the originals, and had decided it was time to write down the history of the 1965 trip once and for all. This comprehensive history of the Freedom Walk was launched at Dumpling Hut – with many copies already being sold. Additionally, a special celebration cake (in the shape of a boot) was expertly crafted by Chris Burton. After this was cut by the oldest and youngest members of the group (John Armstrong and Tina Anderson) we enjoyed a talk from Ken Bradley (DoC) who has lived and breathed the Milford Track for most of his life (at least 500 ascents of McKinnon Pass).



**Clinton Valley from Omanui / McKinnon Pass (April 18, 2015)**

Although the last day from Dumpling to Sandfly Point threatened rain, it never eventuated. A highlight for many was standing at the landing point at Boatshed while John Armstrong outlined how they crossed the river in '65 (even some of the other 'originals' seemed incredulous!).

And so it was we arrived at Sandfly Point for the 2pm sailing – fittingly on the same boat the 1965 trip used (with a new super-structure, and now renamed).

This trip was to honour the 1965 Freedom Walk, and the participants who took part – I hope we made you proud. The Freedom Walk remains one of the most significant events in our 92 year history, and has led the club to become more active in access issues and advocacy in retaining and protecting all our conservation lands. To think that the public could be excluded from a National Park was so wrong, and we can all be proud of the stand our club took.

All credit to DoC on this trip – the hut wardens at each of the huts (Sally, Trev and Ian) were very friendly and a credit to the Department. Ken Bradley and Sarah Thompson from DoC also assisted greatly with the planning and execution of the trip, which in the end went like clockwork.

One lasting impression many have from the 2015 trip is that the OTMC camaraderie is as strong as ever, and very evident when others may be struggling. That you all kept an eye on those behind you made me proud. My thanks to the following club members (and friends) for an enjoyable trip: Debbie Pettinger, Mike Davies, Richard Forbes, Jill & Ray McAliece, Tony Timperley, Rodger Clarkson, Richard & Tracy Pettinger, Rob Mitchell, Raewyn Duncan, Tina Anderson, Andrew Pask, Wayne Hodgkinson, Alan Thomson, Peter Stevenson, Chris Burton, Ross Hunt, David and Penny McArthur, Barry Walker, Zena Webb, Wolfgang Gerber, Gordon Tocher, Pete McKellar, Heather Thorne, Ngaire Richardson, Bronwen Strang, Kathy Woodrow and Chris Pearson.

And a very special thanks to the nine original members from the 1965 Freedom Walk who joined us this year: John Armstrong (1965 leader), Robyn Armstrong, Mary Miller, Bruce Mason, John Allan, Celia Davies, Bruce Dwerryhouse, Stu Thorne and Terry Richardson. It is you who made this trip so special.

Antony Pettinger

*(Historical OTC notes sourced from 'Outdoors, Volume 9, No. 6, May, 1965)*



**Sandfly Point (April 19, 2015)**



## HARE HILL AND HODSON HILL

**July 12, 2015**

**Author: Carolyn Vincent**

Published in Bulletin 764, September 2015

Sunday morning saw another hard frost hit Dunedin, but this did not deter the nine happy trampers that turned up at the clubrooms ready for a 9am start. We left the clubrooms and took the scenic drive down to Port Chalmers. We started our trip at 'The Green' in Deborah Bay, here we walked up Lewis Street and crossed Cold Water Creek, this led us to the bottom of Hare Hill which we were to ascend. All the way on our steady climb up our trip guide Gordon Tocher told us many a great story, both about the area's history, who farmed the hills / paddocks and we even got to see a hidden railway line!

At the start of our steady climb up Hare Hill and through local farmland saw us coming to an area of bush where the track had grown over, but we all managed to weave in and out of the bush until we reached paddocks on the other side.



Hodson Hill (PHOTO: OTMC Bulletin)

Here we climbed to the top of Hare Hill which is 350 metres high. The views as we climbed up Hare Hill and at the top were stunning, we saw amazing views of Dunedin's coastline, the Albatross Colony on the Otago Peninsula, Quarantine Island and the Port Chalmers Container Terminal with its huge cranes.

Once at the top of Hare Hill we all had to then climb over an electric fence which was one of many to come! Lucy who was keen to ensure we would make it safely over the fence decided to go first and to her surprise got electrified twice!! We all knew then how to not climb an electric fence! We continued our walk and turned off along Heyward Point Road, near the top we managed to find a clearing tucked away under the hill out of the cold wind that was blowing, here we stopped for some lunch.

We then continued our walk-through local farmland to Hodson Hill (339m high) and on the way we saw two interesting Wind Turbines each with one blade (instead of the blade going around and around they went up and down). Gordon with his hive of information informed us that Hodson Hill was once the site of the first Wind Farm trials in the 1990's by the Physics Dept at the University - a power company actually bought the land and had seriously considered establishing one there. On our way through one of the paddocks Gordon introduced us to two very friendly horses, they both came up to us allowing us to pat them while Lucy gave them a carrot each.

We carried on and as we descended Hodson's Hill the view's there were just as spectacular, here we saw views of the entrance to the Harbour Basin, where ships came into port and where we were able to watch a Regatta of 21 Sailing Yachts in a series of boat races, it was all so very beautiful to see such breath-taking views. Here we found another spot to sit and have a second lunch. We then reassumed our walk down the hill and through paddocks which lead us to a local farmer's house, here we were able to witness the farmer with his sheep dog rounding up a flock of sheep, I thought the sheep dog was very clever indeed. This lead us past Billy Brown's Backpackers and to Pulling Point where Gordon took us to a viewing platform which was in close proximity to the shipping channel, here we all sat and watched as two tugboats went out and brought in a Container Ship in all at very close distance to us. It was such an awesome site to see and thanks to Gordon, he timed it so well so we could all be a part of this. From here we walked down to the main road (where we also got to see some amazing volcanic rock) then through to Hamilton Bay and back to Deborah Bay where our cars were parked.

I cannot thank Gordon enough for being such an awesome guide and for all the interesting information you shared, I would thoroughly recommend this day trip to anyone.

Carolyn Vincent on behalf of Johanna Noetscher, Amanda Smith, Glen Procter, Jeff Smith, Rose Colhoun, Lucy Jones and Peter Loeber.

# MILLENIUM TRACK

**August 9, 2015**

**Author: Peter Loeber**

Published in Bulletin 764, September 2015

The trip started in an interesting way because of the weather, which continued to impact on the planning but in the end, 3 of us had good days walk.

However for this, plan "c" was required and with this we did manage to "beat" the weather. The first plan was a ramble along the East Coast beaches of the Peninsula with a couple of side excursions with the aim of a not too hard, not too easy but pleasant Sunday walk.

But the first bout of weather, earlier in the winter took out a couple of parts of Highcliff Rd, thus making car swapping a long-distance driving effort, so Plan "B" was hatched and checked.

However, nature hadn't finished with us yet and as the walk came closer, all four weather forecasts, not to forget TV1's enthusiastic weather presenter, "Dan the man", took delight in telling of sleet, snow and gales ahead for the weekend. OTMC however is made of sterner stuff and particularly after viewing the films of skiing at Kime Hut earlier in the week, the trip was planned to proceed.

Sunday snuck in quietly up on the heights of Roslyn where we live, daylight but no noise which I have learned means snow around the house and on our steep drive up to the street. When we first came to Dunedin, for the first couple of times, this was a novelty, but I now believe snow belongs on ski fields and mountains and not our driveway.

But the plan was for a walk, particularly as Tony T had swapped weekends for our family happening in ChCh, clearing the drive happened quickly, Lucy picked up and Geoff was waiting for us at the Club rooms.

Now with a look at Mt Cargill, what occurred to us after seeing the film of hardy TTC members ploughing through the snow was that we should have organised a climb up Cargill with skis carried and had some training for Rodger's Snow Farm weekend. But then again, maybe if the hardy TTC members had all of today's options open to them, they wouldn't have climbed up to Kime in the snow as it can be a cold miserable place in summer, let alone winter, in my experience of both.

As the roads heading up the Peninsula looked well snowed and the idea of traversing the wet snowy grass track down to Boulder Beach didn't appeal, we decided on a good bush walk in an area sheltered from the southerly would be just right.

Hence the old favourite of the Millennium Track was selected. Now this isn't a serious tramp but it's a great bush walk and something none of the other main centres have, as close to them as the Millennium track is to Dunedin.

It was wet cold and snowy when we arrived at the Henley end but with parka's soon on we headed off into clearing weather with a morning tea stop at John Bull Gully planned.



Well it was an ok day by the time we were at John Bull Gully and Lucy proclaimed loudly, "it's a good walk where is everyone else!!."



So, we then walked on up the hill to the high point of the track to Taieri Mouth for lunch, with some snow and some sunshine on the way. The views as always were great.

We elected not to head down to Taieri Mouth as the track was snowy and slushy and so were back at the car by a bit after 2pm. The weather had improved, and we expected all the snow would have gone from Dunedin, but we soon found that we had had the better day out walking.

Geoff Smith, Lucy Jones and Peter Loeber (leader)



## TWO RESERVOIRS AND A HILL

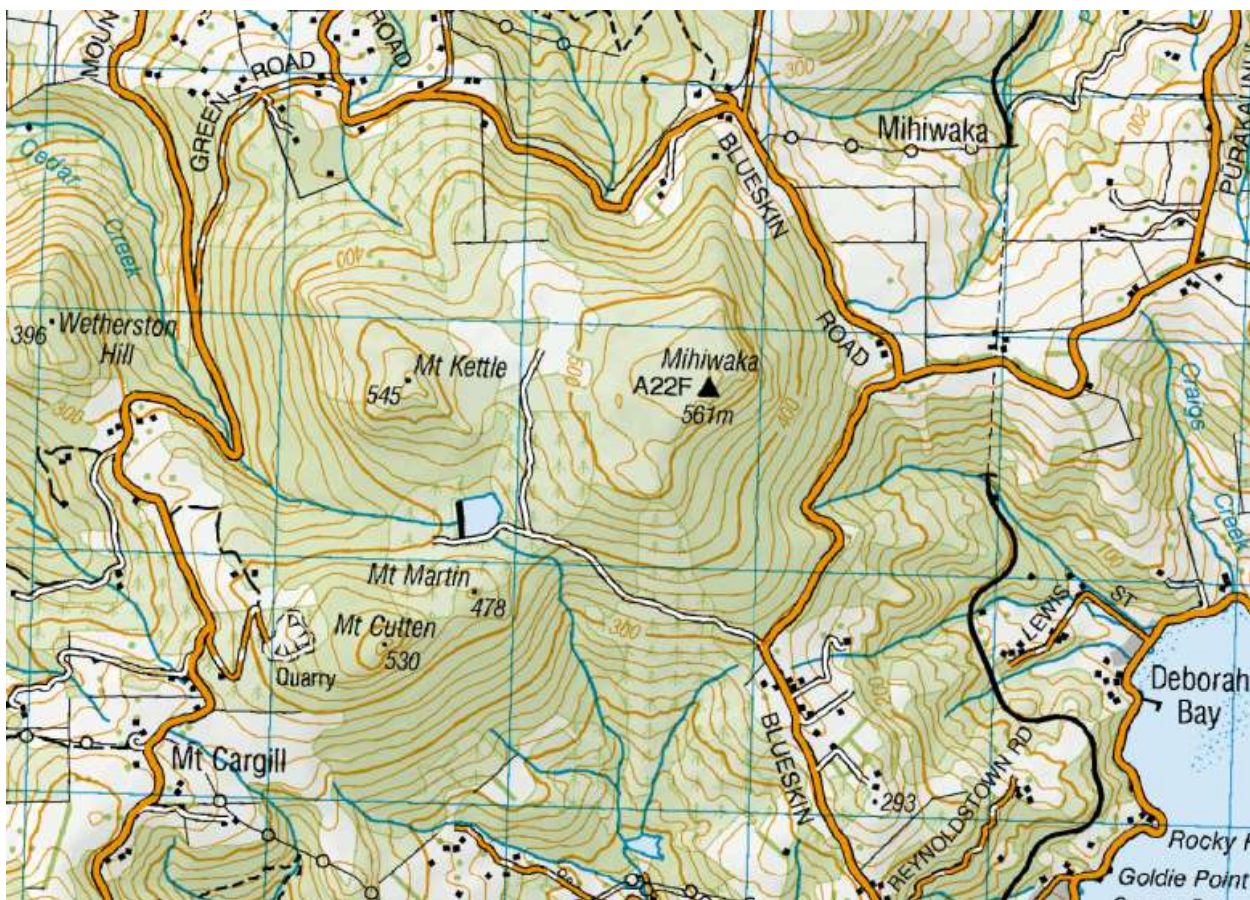
**July 5, 2015**

**Author: Jane Cloete**

Published in Bulletin 764, September 2015

I planned this trip to allow for wintry conditions – if the weather turned too nasty as the day progressed, we could easily withdraw!

So, the day before I got all my stuff ready. Map? yes; Good raincoat? Yes; Extra jumpers? Yes; Extra hat and gloves? Yes; Vacuum flask for some warming soup? Yes; Weather forecast? Rain early, clearing, rain later.



Seven of us met at the clubrooms at 8.55 and we were away by 9am sharp. met up with Bronwyn Strang at the Port Chalmers Golf Club. Golf? Well, it's the nearest carpark to the Rossville Reservoir! On with the coats and gloves – I warned everyone that there is NO sun in the valley of that reservoir. In my memory, this walk had taken an hour, but on the day it only took about 30 minutes. A short walk up the road, view the reservoir – very pretty in spite of the lack of sun. The track around it was good and the circumnavigation didn't take long, even allowing for the fact that I managed to take a wrong turning near the start! And we were all taking off our jackets and gloves very quickly – it was positively warm!

Back to the cars and a 5km drive up the Blueskin Road to Cedar Farm Rd. Park the cars but leave jackets in the backpack! First we went up Mihiwaka. In my mind, when thinking about the trip I remembered the long wet grass – I was there in February – and also the recent precipitation. We would have to plough through long wet grass, or battle knee-deep snow. In addition, on the way up the forestry road, Christine had regaled us with terrible tales of multitudes of windfall trees that she had had to clamber over, when on a recent trip to Mt Kettle. Sure enough, just after the start of the track proper there was a huge fallen tree! And emerging from the bush onto the open tops there were traces of snow – would it get to be deep snow? Luck was with us, as there was no snow (must have been recently 'cause the grass had been flattened) and we got to Mihiwaka in record time. Mihiwaka must have the best views in the land – we could see all the way to Nugget Point in the south and north to the Kakanui ranges. The sun was pleasantly warm, there was no wind – all in all a lovely place. We didn't need our winter coats or woollies!

Back down the hill and around to the Cedar Farm Reservoir. This is much larger than Rossville, and has a large grassy bank where we had lunch. And we earned Brownie points by picking up other peoples rubbish! A quick trot around that reservoir and then downhill back to the cars. On that section of the trip we had the only flaw of the trip. We passed a lady with 3 dogs – one had a muzzle – and that 'muzzled' dog managed to bite Christine! Enough to draw blood in spite of shorts and polyprops!

But all in all a good day out. We only did 7-8km all told but the sunshine and pleasant company made it worthwhile.

My thanks to my companions: Adeline Char, Bronwyn Strang, Christine Hopkins, Helen Collins, Jeff Smith, Lucy Jones and Peter Loeber. Jane Cloete

## **SNOWCAVING 2015**

**August 22-23, 2015**

**Author: Richard Pettinger**

Published in Bulletin 765, October 2015

There were only eleven participants this year due to a last-minute pull-out but that meant a crew of 11 very keen cavers, meeting at the Clubrooms just before 7 am. A quick check of shovels and gear and we were away. A chat was had in Roxburgh about what to expect of the trip, over a pie and (almost) a hot choc– the tearooms seemed to be having a busy day!

The farmer, Regan, had told Vince the road was in good shape, although it defeated two of the cars, and Andrew soon saw us and gear well up the hill. A short walk took us to the site most used by the Club since the sixties, and this year, like last year, it didn't disappoint, with probably the best condition and depth I have ever experienced. Two groups set to, and we were all done by 3.30, with lots of time for a nice wander before tea.

This year's snow formations were most striking and unusual. Every year the pattern of snow is quite different, but here there was an extra weird feature: large scoops suggesting strong winds had been at play, and from unusual directions. There was a thin, steep, high ridge of snow spanning the upper cirque of our little gully, with a deepish basin behind it. Had someone begun to dig a cave in the steep face, without checking the whole area, they might have burst through into fresh air! Probably halfway through making the bench, or something, and faced defeat or at best a cold, draughty night.

Our caves were more predictable, conventional and commodious (yet cosy). We realised that it is a truism: once you have dug enough for accommodation to survive a night, safe out of a blizzard, every bit of shovel work from that point on is purely for luxury. Luxury and interior decorating are not what it's all about, but nevertheless these trips seem to have more of both each year. Truly excellent dwellings awaited us after dinner, completely rent and hutfee-free. I understand almost everyone had about 12 hours good sleep, candles burning to give an illusion of warm glow.

Sunday dawned fine, but not a perfect day like Saturday, so we made the most of the day before increasing cloud drove us away. All 11 got up to the high ridge for views to Southland and the Garvies. Another feature I had not seen before, was a vast sweep of steep wind scoop, which I estimated could have accommodated 60 – 100 people, in many caves in a Coronation Street of snow, (if you ignored the cornice!).

A well-earned coffee and chat at a less busy spot in Roxburgh broke the homeward journey, completed by 5 pm. The thawed road on the way down saw cars plastered with mud that took a lot of hosing and washing to clean away.

Richard Pettinger for Wayne Hodgkinson, Sophie Carty, Andrew Pask, Sarah Pask, Nethaniel Eyles, Joe Skinner, Natasha Harris, Vince Pettinger, Amit Myint, Cairn Monks. Thanks to Andrew & Wayne for vehicles.



# SNOW FARM

**August 29-30, 2015**

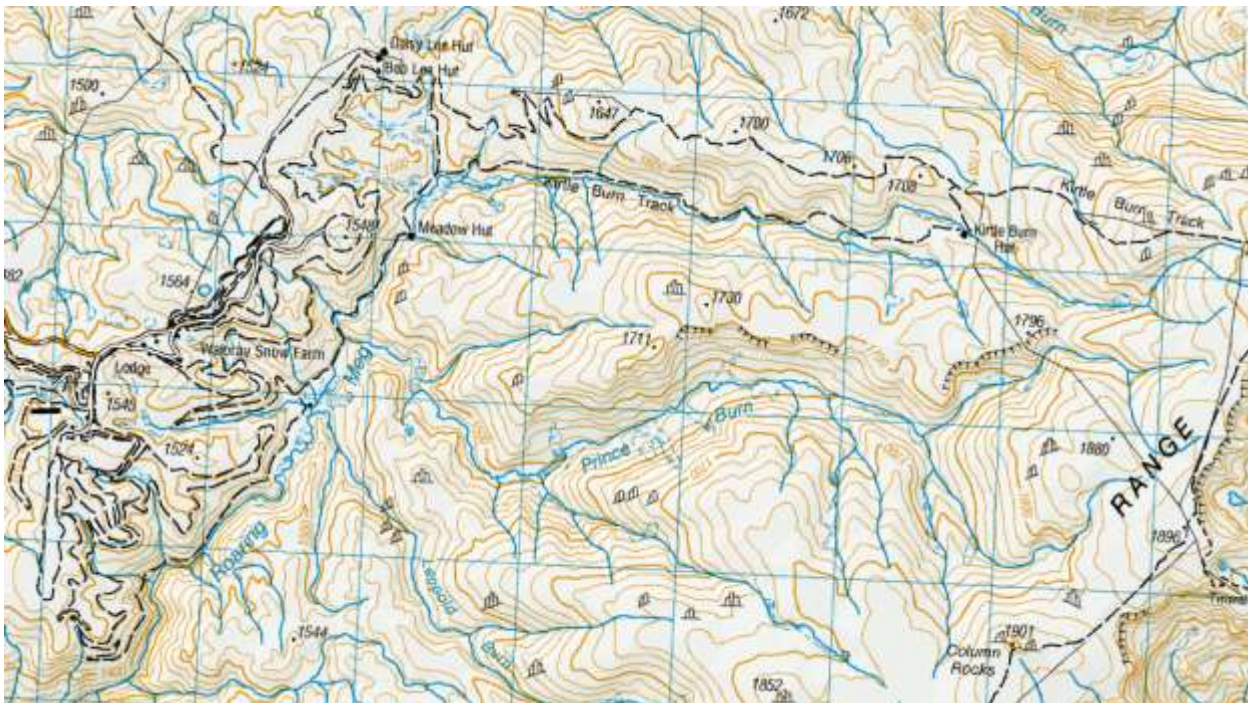
**Author: Rodger Clarkson**

Published in Bulletin 765, October 2015

I had never tried cross country skiing before so I decided it was time to give it a go and lead a trip to the Snowfarm. 11 of us headed away from Dunedin on Friday and stayed in cabins at a camping ground in Wanaka.

It was good to be able to use the camp facilities, so I put some food in the fridge in the kitchen. I wanted to get an early start in the morning and some kind person had eaten my breakfast for me thereby saving me time. I spotted an empty packet of Up & Go on the bench – There's something wrong when not only does somebody steal your food but then they don't even clean up after themselves. Nobody likes an untidy thief.

We drove 3 cars up the mountain with a few slips and slides as the road got muddier towards the top. Most of us were beginners and after we'd hired our gear Wayne, Kathy and Chris gave us a few tips to get us started. We had a bit of a play on some of the easy tracks around the base building and then had an early lunch before heading down the River Run track to our overnight accommodation at Meadow Hut. About half of us carried our own packs and half got our packs delivered by skimobile to the hut. Meadow Hut is 4km from the Base Lodge, so we were there in about an hour. Meadow Hut is a beautiful hut in the valley, and we ended up having it all to ourselves.



After getting ourselves organised at the Hut some of us decided to head to Bob Lee Hut further uphill a few km away. There was a bit of wind higher up and cloud was coming and going causing brief whiteouts. Once we got to Bob Lee Hut another club member Alex Tups turned up



with an ex club member Dr (I'm terrible with names - was it Zhivago?) who were there for the day.

We skied back down to Meadow Hut, but as we discovered cross country skis are hard to control when going downhill. Some people fall forward and do face plants, I personally tended to fall backwards but with the toes fixed and the skis sticking out the back I tended to get into some strange limbo/ the matrix pose before twisting to the side. Apparently, you're supposed to be able to stand up in the skis again but I missed that part of the lesson so it was much easier to take the skis off, stand up and then put them back on. There were a few collisions along the way too - if someone stopped or fell in front it was difficult to stop before hitting them (Sorry Rose, Raewyn)

That night there was an epic card game of Presidents and @\$\$holes. Isabelle took out the first round, and the second, and the third, and the fourth, (and a very humble President she made too) and the fifth, and the sixth etc, etc until finally the peasants revolted, staged a French revolution and tossed her from the throne. Of course, much like life the coup of the people was short lived and Dictator for Life El Presidente Isabelle was back in power!

Sunday turned into a beautiful warm and sunny day. Depending on our abilities and how we felt some headed back on the River Run to the Lodge, some did the Loop back to the Lodge and some went up the Kirsty Burn in an untracked part of the field before returning to Meadow Hut for lunch and heading to the Lodge in the afternoon. Another club member Dave Pickard from Wanaka met up with us on Sunday so it was good to see him too.

They say that x country skiing is one of the best workouts you can do using the entire body. Maybe that's why movement was so painful for the next few days! I certainly enjoyed x country skiing and am keen to do it again next year.

Rodger Clarkson on behalf of Chris Pearson, Nelson Pearson, Kathy Woodrow, Wayne Hodgkinson, Raewyn Duncan, Barry Walker, Helen Jones, Rose Colhoun, President Gensburger and Rob Seeley.

## **GABRIELS GULLY**

**September 13, 2015**

**Author: Rodger Clarkson**

Published in Bulletin 765, October 2015

Saturday dawned fine and clear, the sort of day where you can say goodbye to winter and welcome the summer to come. Sunday 2am - I woke to the sound of a howling southerly through the macrocarpas overhanging my house, eventually dawn came and my house and I were still intact, so I got up and went to the clubroom for our day trip to Lawrence. 11 of us assembled at Gabriels Gully and before we'd started walking Kathy had found the first of many geocaches. A quick pace was set on the initial uphill of the goldfields track, which helped us to warm up in the biting wind. At the far end of this track, we deviated off a sidetrack to join up with the Munro Gully track. This track is through beautiful beech forest and is sheltered in a valley, so it wasn't long before we were all shedding layers. There was a lot of wind/snow fallen trees around but the track itself was in good condition apart from a couple of places. At the top of the gully and back in the wind we stopped for a quick morning tea before heading down a forestry road and onto another track that rejoins the goldfields track, where we continued on the circuit and back to the cars. We had lunch at Greys Dam finding shelter under a pine tree or the back of our station wagons.



**Otago Dam, Gabriels Gully**

After lunch we started on the track up to Otago Dam, Suddenly we came across a blue sign saying “track closed”, but I couldn’t make heads or tails of it so we continued on, after travelling for another meter there was another sign that said something about dams collapsing, flash floods, earthquakes, cliffs, tree falls, killer bees, global warming, and ending with “enter at your own risk”. I’m not sure what that was about either so onwards we continued, after travelling another meter we came to a gate with a danger sign, but it was only a green and yellow sign whereas if it was important I’m sure it would have been red – I wish they’d make these signs a bit clearer. After careful consideration and absolving myself of all responsibility (Peter pointed out that legally I can’t absolve myself from H&S regulations but, while I’m no lawyer, I’m pretty sure that law only applies to others) we continued on with the strict understanding that if there was a fourth sign we would turn back because as everyone knows only a fool breaks the 4th sign rule.

Like the Munro Gully track there is nice beech forest to walk through in a sheltered valley with not a killer bee or a Maggie Barry in sight. At the first stream crossing 3 decided to head back to Greys Dam and 8 of us headed further up the track. A few more stream crossings later and after a steep uphill section the track joins an old water race which we followed until the next stream crossing. Time was getting on, so we decided to turn back at that point, allowing us enough time to stop at a café in Lawrence on the way home. Lucy almost fell into the stream near the finish, but someone managed to grab her by her pack and haul her up. We also met a local couple heading up the track, which was actually a bit disappointing to see some people completely ignoring all the signs!

All in all, a good day out and we’ve still got some tracks to complete on the next visit. Thanks to my companions for the day: Rodger Clarkson on behalf of Peter and Leonie Loeber, Jane Cloete, Lucy Jones, Christine Hopkins, Nicholas Houghton, Kathy Wood-row, Paul Cunliffe, Raewyn Duncan and Jeff Smith.



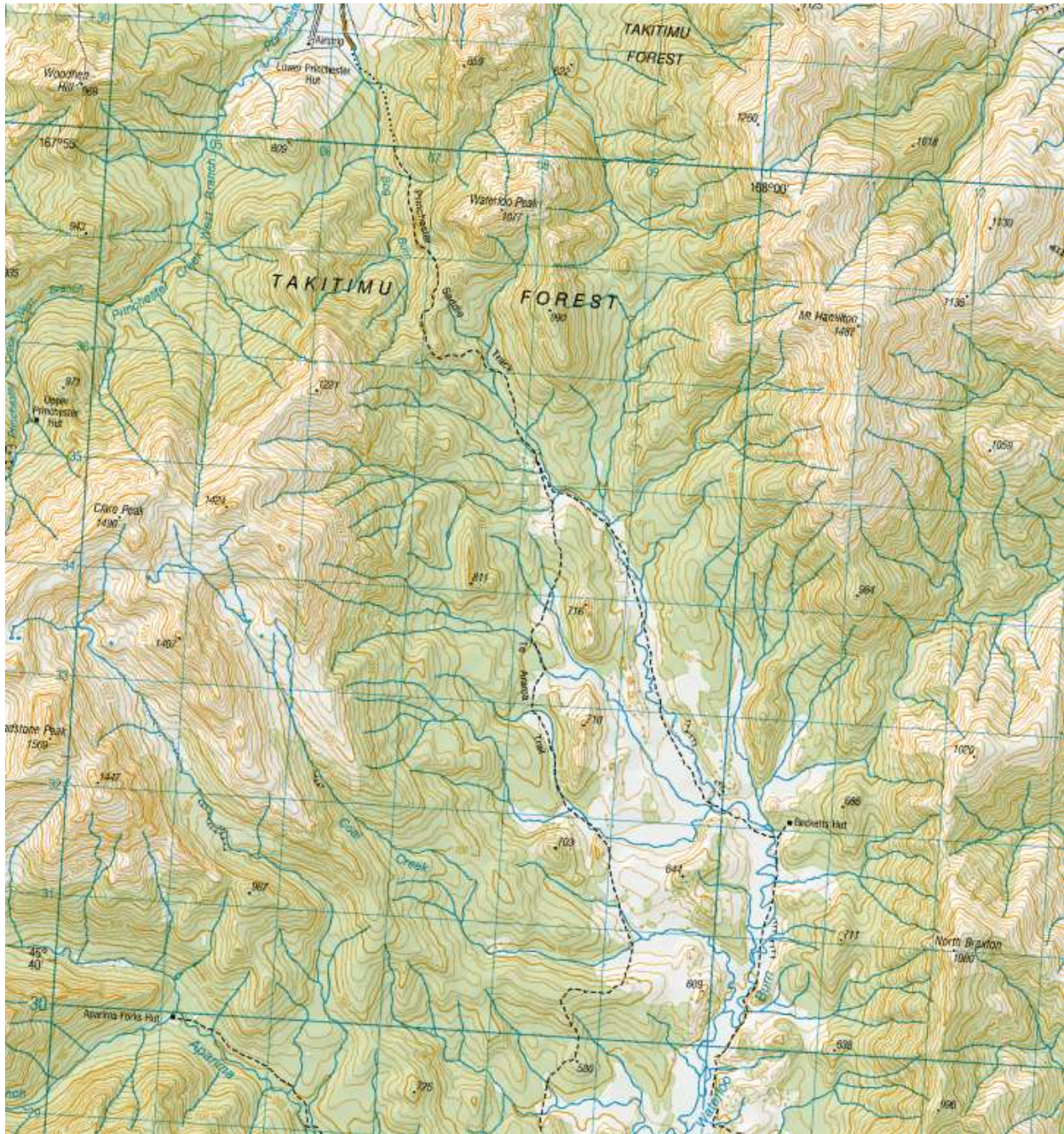
# TAKITIMU'S

**September 19-20, 2015**

**Author: Wayne Hodgkinson**

Published in Bulletin 766, November 2015

We got away at 6pm with a full van load of 10. Stopped for Turkish kebabs in Gore and rolled into Princhester Hut by 10:30 to find John comfortably ensconced. We had the 6 bunker to ourselves, nice, 10 in the hut and 1 in the woodshed. A farmer followed us in to check if we were the ratbags who'd been stealing stuff recently (we weren't).





The morning dawned with steady snow falling. The forecast wasn't great for Saturday – strong winds and snow/rain. Anyway, we were off by 8am arriving at Bog Burn Saddle after 1 ½ hrs – snow and low cloud. We had some sort of a plan to cruise into Aparima Hut via Clare Peak but it didn't seem appropriate today so we continued down into the Waterloo Burn. We followed the Te Araroa Trail to Aparima Hut, arriving there about 4pm. It is an enjoyable route, a few ups & downs, so a bit tiring but interesting with nice countryside and views. Lots of erosion of the terraces by the Aparima River 20min upstream of the hut. The day was expected to clear, but we had showers right through till tea time. We bumped into a hunter who was just heading out – we were probably his second worst nightmare. (No doubt having anticipated a quiet hut).

Time for dinner, Sara rescued my pasta & dehy veges by having a sauce, And Dylan had some drama with his custard. Something like too much milk or not enough custard or something, I think it morphed into some sort of chocolate pud.

Sunday dawned, with a good frost, and we were away around 9am. We had again sort of thought about some going over Clare Peak on the way back while the others cruised up the Waterloo Burn past Becketts Hut, but being unsure of how long we would take (and not wanting to hold the van up too much) and the river being up and the fresh snow and our cold boots and all that we all decided to travel together. The Waterloo Burn is a pleasant valley with good views of the hills when the clouds clear, and Becketts Hut is a wee classic. When we came to a small gorge most of our group made a silly mistake of following the chief guide up and down some nice little gullies in the bush on the true right and then through a pleasantly scenic little gorge when we eventually met Dylan and John who had been waiting for some time having crossed to the true left earlier. I think it must have been easier on the true left. But they did miss out on all that fun.

Had a slow walk back up to the saddle and return to the van just after 4pm.

Wayne for Sara Chisnall, John Allan, Isabelle Gensburger, Dylan Hegg, Teck Lun Soon, Andrea Hudson, Peter Boeckhout, Maria Hamelink, Joe Skinner, and Janet Downs.

## HERMIT'S CAVE

**September 27, 2015**

**Author: David Barnes**

Published in Bulletin 766, November 2015

A good forecast, no weekend trip and a destination with an element of intrigue – I was expecting a big turn out, but 23 people exceeded my expectations. The intrigue factor certainly played a part – several long-standing members were there specifically because they'd never been to the cave. In fact, apart from me, only one person in the group had been there before.

Heading off from Hightop, we'd all managed to get pretty warm by the time we regrouped at the Green Hut site. Big groups tend to accentuate the difference in speeds amongst their members, so by the time the tailenders reached Pulpit Rock several of the front-runners had made the detour to the summit. As we headed off the track to Silver Peak onto Rocky Ridge, some were surprised to discover that there was a track there that they'd walk past previously without noticing. A broad sheltered section of the ridge made a good lunch spot, and then it was 5 minutes to the start of the descent to the cave.



**Hermit's Cave, Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve**

There is what I call the False Cave just below the ridge. It's definitely sheltered overnight guests, some of whom were convinced they were in the real cave. From there, there's a

reasonable ground trail descending for 100 metres. Where it starts to merge with a water course, it's necessary to sidle north below the rocks for about 60 metres. The cave is enclosed by a rock wall. In recent years, it's had some regular occupants. They've installed a firebox and flue, and there's some other detritus that wasn't there when I first visited. Unfortunately, the 1950s bottles that were there until perhaps 10 years ago have gone, and the large log that had served as a doorpost has been sawn up, so some of the historic fabric has disappeared.

After signing our names in the book, we puffed our way back onto Rocky Ridge and retraced our steps to the cars. A souvenir of our visit remains – a geocache has been stashed nearby.

David Barnes for the 23 keen Cavers who made the day so enjoyable.



## MT SOMERS

**October 3-4, 2015**

**Author: Diana Munster**

Published in Bulletin 766, November 2015

15 people embarked on the Mt Somers trip. An advanced team of 4, Barry, Peter, Helen and Jan went through to Woolshed Creek Hut on Friday evening, while the rest of us settled for Friday night at the Mt Somers holiday park.

On Saturday the holiday park crew headed through the Miners Track to Woolshed Creek Hut, whilst the advanced team headed to Pinnacle Hut for a day trip. After a quick break at Woolshed Hut a team of 3 (Peter and Maria and Andrea) headed off to overnight at Pinnacles Hut with a side trip up Mt Somers from the Saddle.



**Overlooking Woolshed Creek and Morgan Stream, Mt Somers**

The remaining 8 of us left our overnight gear at Woolshed Creek Hut and headed up towards Mt Somers via the leading ridge above the 'bus stop', with Rose doing a sterling job at the fore as we wound our way up through tussock and then snow. As we neared the top, we could see Peter, Andrea and Maria waving to us from the top. Unfortunately, our turnaround time of 4pm came up 50m or so below the top; so, after admiring the views we turned around back to the Hut where we were met by Peter, Barry, Jan, & Helen who had a enjoyable trip with views of university students rock climbing en route.

That night the hut had a cosmopolitan flavour with numerous Spanishkiwi families, a Korean family, and of course we had with us Matilda (Sweden) and Johanna (Germany) to further enhance the multi-cultural atmosphere. The 26-bunk hut (deck and grass) housed some 50 trampers including several children enjoying their school holiday break. Sunday was fine but incredibly windy, even for the 8 of us who returned via the Miners Track, the others coming back via Rhyolite Ridge had a bit of a rough time in the wind.



**Bridge across Morgan Stream on the Bus Stop route, Mt Somers**

Thanks everyone for a great trip although I was nominally leader it was one of those trips that was 'self led' by the whole team. .

Diana Munster for Barry Walker, Peter Loeber, Helen Jones, Jan Burch, Peter Boeckhout, Maria Hamelink, Andrea Hudson, Matilda Hildingsson, Johanna Noetscher, Rodger Clarkson, Rose Colhoun, Joe Skinner, Sophie Carty and Charlotte Robertson.



## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE (SILVER PEAKS EXPLORED?)**

**October 4, 2015**

**Author: Richard Pettinger**

Published in Bulletin 766, November 2015

The day was supposed to be windy, with rain later. The Ben Rudd's land got the wind. The 4 Oct day trip was supposed to explore an unknown part of the Peaks, but as the previous maintenance day scheduled for 7 Sept got the rain (and snow) and many of us stayed in bed, the Ben Rudd's land got our team on the day.

Twelve OTMC members, including three from the committee, joined us from various directions, and we set to yanking naughty broom seedlings from among the snow-tussocks on the OTMC land on Flagstaff. The usual camaraderie helped keep us going, but soon the wind gusts made conversation a bit of a struggle. When you're having fun, though, time passes and then you look around and, with some satisfaction, see the change you've made to the landscape. The more obstinate broom and the gorse of all sizes were lopped and stump treated. We saw them quiver in horror at our approach.



**Approaching Ben Rudd's, Flagstaff Scenic Reserve**



After a few hours, some people had to head off, and so we pulled, lopped and treated gorse down to the Ben Rudd's shelter and back. While there, we marvelled at the picnic tables and made good use of one for lunch.

Back at the skidsite, someone produced a bunch of glasses and some brown liquid to put in them. It seemed to disappear fairly fast. Tom set off back to do more work around the shelter and stay the night there. The rest of us had to be home for work next morning, so we went home by about 4-ish. The windy conditions were a bit tiring - as Tracy and Richard found as soon as they got home.

It was a very effective and enjoyable day as Tom later made a point of letting us know, and Raewyn said how much fun she thought it all was. Alan and Sam agreed we should do this more than once a year. It makes quite a difference, and it is looking after our Club's asset with pride.

The only sad thing was discovering the firebreak had been bulldozed, including quite dramatic landscape-changing excavation on our land. It is rather concerning that it was done without the landholder's knowledge and has disturbed a lot of good vegetation cover for gorse and broom to go mad in the exposed soil. Sam pointed out to David and Richard that at least Task Force Green should be able to access it and keep the weeds under control.

Richard Pettinger & Sam Patrick, for: Tom Self, David & Penny McArthur, Tracy Pettinger, Wayne Hodgkinson, Raewyn Duncan, Sue Levick, Jane Cloete, Ian Thorn and Kathy Woodrow. Total person-hours is estimated at being at least sixty.

## **WEST MATUKITUKI**

**October 10-11, 2015**

**Author: Sharon Bretherton**

Published in Bulletin 766, November 2015

There were 19 participants for this weekend trip comprising 16 club members and 3 newbies. Travel was in the form of 3 cars and a 12-seater hire van. After a quick dinner break in Alexandra we arrived at the Raspberry Creek carpark at 11.15pm.

Another four of the group, having travelled by car, arrived shortly before us and decided to camp at the carpark. But not so the 'van 12', we all opted to walk the two hours to Aspiring Hut arriving around 1.30 A.M. or to put it another way – VERY EARLY Saturday morning. It was an easy flat walk-in and no one had any problems following the four-wheel drive track through the paddocks. Fortunately for the other hut occupants, one of the bunk rooms was empty so we were able to empty our packs and get into bed without 'overly' disturbing them.



**Liverpool Hut in winter**

Despite the lack of sleep most of us were up early and contemplating what direction to walk. Most of the members had been to the area previously and were familiar with the walks on offer but us newbies knew nothing and so relied on El Presidente Richard to lead the way. He had decided to give Liverpool Hut another go, having tried to get to the new hut on four previous occasions but because of the snow conditions had only just got out of the bush line with the hut in his sights.

What a pleasant gentle flat walk it is from Aspiring hut to the junction for the Liverpool Hut track - and a not so pleasant steep climb for 600 metres elevation to the hut. Mother Nature designed this walk with humans in mind - providing all the right rocks, tree-branches and roots

in the exact place that you need them regardless of your arm or leg length. Six of us made it to the hut – great views – and gotta love the contrast of colours between the red hut and crisp white snow.



**West Matukituki Valley and Shotover Saddle from Liverpool Hut track**

Back at Aspiring Hut we caught up with the of the rest of the group's activities. It's been said that Saturday was like 'trips of old' as we'd covered four different directions. Some had gone as far as they could due to the snow conditions on French Ridge and others towards Cascade Saddle, with most of the group heading up the head of the valley but not in search of lost gold but a rock bivvy.

On Sunday most of the group went back to the carpark via the Rob Roy Glacier, walking through beech forest you're rewarded at the end with a great view of the Glacier. A number of us witnessed a reasonably sized avalanche that looked like a waterfall as it cascaded down the mountain.

The weather for the weekend was fine with strong winds in parts of the valley and tops, and not too cold. We departed Raspberry Creek at 2.30pm, with a short break at Alexandra – then arriving back to the club rooms around 8pm.

Sharon Bretherton for Richard Forbes, Peter Loeber, Barry Walker, Jill and Ray McAliece, Joe Skinner, Joe Bretherton, Tina Anderson, Nicholas Houghton, Sue Levick, Peter Boeckhout & Maria Hamelink, Isabelle Gensburger, Nicolas Cogan, Ian Billingham, Nas Shannon, Darryl Wood and Rodger Clarkson



## **GAUGES, SPURS & RIDGES**

**October 11, 2015**

**Author: Betty Meiklejohn & Tim Russell**

Published in Bulletin 766, November 2015

Only my third club tramp for the year, I was looking forward to getting my boots on. The morning dawned fine and cool with an expected high of 17 degrees. Perfect!

Eleven of us met at the club rooms where Jan warned us that we were in for plenty of mud. She also set us a wee task for which there would be a prize. We were to keep our eyes peeled for a walking pole she had lost two weeks earlier while she was on a familiarisation walk round the track in preparation for today.

We met Jane and Russell at the gate part way up Rollinsons Road, from where we began the walk up to the Elbow. A couple of us were wary of the occupants of the roadside beehives, having been stung on a previous occasion. But they were beehaving themselves today. At the Elbow we veered left to join the Rain Gauge Spur track, the steepest downwards section of the circuit, which took us down to a crossing of the Silverstream. Here we stopped for morning tea and the only opportunity to fill up water containers. To everyone's surprise the track was very dry, dusty even. Slightly muddy around the banks of the Silverstream, but otherwise very good. Though this didn't stop a few slips and slides.



**Stream crossing between the Greengage and Raingauge Tracks**

Then it was a rope-assisted hitch up the bank to the Greengage track. Jan challenged us to a race to the top. There were 3 takers as Ian, Tomas and Tim raced ahead to our lunch stop at Point 588m, looking across to Long Ridge, Pulpit Rock and Green Hill. It was pleasantly warm as we sat quietly, Tim boiling the billy and all just enjoying being up there, in the middle of nowhere.

After lunch we continued along the remaining few metres of Greengage track, then we turned into the Green Ridge track and headed towards Mountain Road until the turn-off to Swampy Ridge track. There were a lot of amazing views towards Warrington Beach, and inland. The circuit was completed when we arrived back at the Elbow, from where it was an easy stroll back down Rollinsons Rd to the cars, getting there at about 4:15.

In spite of high hopes of success, the walking pole wasn't found.

A special welcome to Charlotte, Chris and Ian who joined us for the first time. It was great to have you along. Charlotte, I hope your nose is looking OK.

Thanks Jan, for a great trip. Betty Meiklejohn & Tim Russell on behalf of Jan Burch, Christine Hopkins, Jane Bruce, Russell Walker, Ian Thorne, Kathy Woodrow, Charlotte & Chris Handley, David Barnes, Tomas Sobek and Jeff Smith

## **GRAHAM'S BUSH – ORGAN PIPES**

**October 18, 2015**

**Author: Jacqui King**

Published in Bulletin 767, December 2015

Awaking to a stunning morning, the same confirmed at Bobby's Head, but from the impending dark clouds in the south and the MetService, I knew what was coming.

I drove to the clubrooms, as the rain started, thinking I'd be sticking a Cancelled Notice on the door – to find 7 keen trampers expecting to go to Tavora Reserve/Andersons Lagoon. As we discussed the change to Graham's Bush, owing to the predicted gale force winds, the wind and rain worsened.



**Organ Pipes, Mt Cargill**

Peter, Lucy, Geraldine, Raewyn and Bronwen decided to bale, leaving Rodger, Jeff and myself. Parking at the end of Hall Rd in Sawyers Bay, Bronwen pulled up behind us. She had changed her mind after noticing the distant blue sky and thought she'd join us after all.

Well, we had the best part of the day! Walking up through Graham's Bush we were sheltered by the trees and it was only as we reached Mt Cargill Rd that we felt the strong wind. As we paused, it whipped off Jeff's sunhat and tossed it nearby, so fortunately he was able to retrieve it, then we continued up on to the Organ Pipes track.



Here, we heard the wind through the treetops and felt it in some of the short exposed sections, where we also got substantial views of the Peninsula and Taiaroa Head. Eventually we stopped for a nosey at the large bivvy type cave alongside the track and to our disgust found that someone had toileted there – ugh! Thankfully Bronwen found a rock to cover it. Usually this cave is a perfect spot for a group needing to shelter from the elements. I remember Ian Sime showing it to me in the late 90's and from memory, about 10 or so of us trampers comfortably sat there having our lunch.

10 minutes later we were at the Organ Pipes, with beaut views over Waitati and Blueskin Bay. Bronwen pointed out a short uphill route over the tumbled stones to another viewpoint at the top of the Pipes, however we all felt it too windy to attempt. It would have to wait for another day. So, we descended the track, to a sunny spot, partially sheltered from the wind and with a view when standing.

15 minutes later we continued downhill and soon after entering Graham's Bush, we could hear a Tui nearby. With the others ahead of me, I stopped to see if I could spy it in the trees – it was virtually right beside me, just slightly above, tumbling from a snapped branch as it flew from one tree to another. There, the sun shone through the branches, highlighting the Tui's bluey green feathers and lacy collar, bobbing its wattle as it sang. My fellow trampers had also stopped on the track just a bit beyond me and we all enjoyed experiencing this sight. So lovely to see a Tui, like this, in its natural environment.

Returning to our cars by 1.30pm, the rain began soon after, on our way back to the clubrooms. Great timing eh! - (Jacqui King along with Rodger Clarkson, Bronwen Strang and Jeff).

# MT TITIROA TRAVERSE

**October 25-27, 2015**

**Author: Rose Colhoun**

Published in Bulletin 767, December 2015

After a comfortable night at the Colhoun family crib, the two groups set off in their different directions on Saturday morning – Dylan's group to Borland, and Rose's group to Pearl Harbour. Mike Molineux kindly ferried us across the river, dropping us off at the outlet which saved us half an hour's walk. Keen to escape the sandflies, we strode off towards Hope Arm.

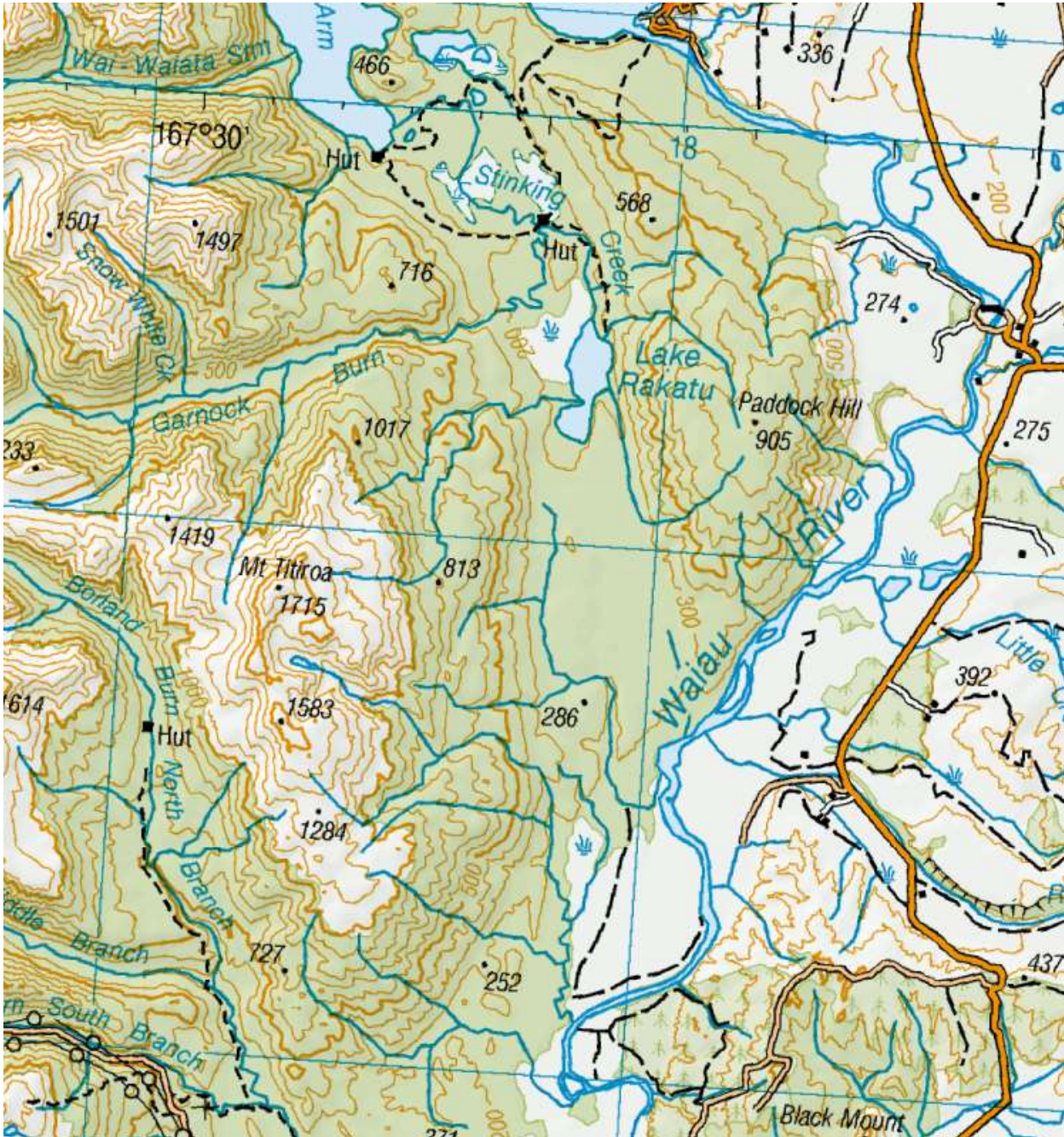
There was a reasonable amount of windfall to dodge after the stormy winter, but we arrived at Hope Arm in good time, just as the cold westerly began to pick up on the lake. Once over the hill into the Garnock Burn, we stopped for lunch in the valley at a campsite where we were tempted to stay for the weekend. But there was a mountain to climb, so we made our way through the boggy valley to the spur, trying to avoid holes hidden under the tussocks (Peter wasn't so successful at this game). Climbing the spur required a solid grunt of a couple of hours, however we were very thankful to the deer for keeping the undergrowth sparse.

As the route became steeper, we navigated around a few rocky bluffs until we topped out on a great viewpoint overlooking Lake Manapouri and the Garnock Burn. We could also see the clearing and saddle where we planned to camp for the night. However, on reaching the saddle, we discovered the wind was roaring up from the lake below, so we decided to pitch our camp just inside the bushline to get some shelter.

Sunday dawned sunny and wind-free – a perfect day for exploring the tops. After a short sidle through the tussocks, we came out on the sandy ridge. Time for more photo stops, and a few checks of the rugby score by Murray. We were in no hurry as we looked out across Lake Rakatu, the Hunter Mountains, and all the way to the head of Lake Te Anau. The rock formations were also astonishing, resembling a giant's playground, or Stone-henge. As we got higher, the snow patches became larger, until we discovered that our "easy" route across the east face was not going to be feasible. So we stuck to the ridge-line which was completely free of snow and just required the odd scramble around rock pinnacles.

We stood on the summit rock at 12.30pm and enjoyed some lunch with a view towards Lake Monowai, the Longwoods, and Hump Ridge. Although there were rumours of seeing Stewart Island from the summit, cloud obscured it for us. While at the top, we scouted, called and whistled for the other group crossing from the Borland end, but no sign was seen of them. The snow was still too thick for us to traverse the east face, so we continued along the ridge, with some steep sidling on the western face. Negotiating the rocky bluffs on the western face was a bit tricky, with loose rocks underfoot keeping us in full-concentration mode. Eventually we found our way down to the scrub and were lucky enough to see three hinds running across the basin. Then it was more sidling along the tussocky spurs to our next campsite at the tarns above North Borland hut.

We'd had an ideal day weather-wise, but the wind changed direction and came hurtling across the tarns, resulting in a mostly sleepless night. An early start at 5.30am saw us packing up and getting out before breakfast as it was too miserable to stand around re-lighting the gas cookers every time they blew out. Keeping to the true-left of the creek bed, we bush-bashed our way through bog pine which was much more dense than the way up from Hope Arm. Towards the bottom, the bush opened out and we made quick time across the valley to North Borland hut in time for breakfast.



Happily, we were back on the track and could relax as we wandered through the forest. Lunch was at an impressively huge rock bivvy, and finally we were back at Borland Lodge where the car was still waiting safely for us. Our feelings of accomplishment were some-what dimmed



when the lodge manager told us of another group who had kayaked across Lake Manapouri, biked from West Arm to Borland Lodge, then ran back across Mt Titiroa, all in 2 days. Back at the house in Manapouri, Tomas and Becky were relaxing while the rest of their group had already returned to Dunedin. They told us of their journey, and we were pleased to discover everyone had made the summit and a successful traverse.

Written by Rose Colhoun on behalf of Wayne Hodgkinson, Murray Hyslop, Peter Boeckhout, and Teck Lun Soon. A big thanks to Wayne for his help with pre-trip organising, Murray and Wayne for their navigation expertise, and Dylan Hegh for leading his group of Rebecca Van Amber, Becky Cameron, Tomas Sobek, and Benjamin Bielski.

## **SPIERS ROAD & BEN RUDD'S PICNIC**

**November 8, 2015**

**Author: Alan Thomson**

Published in Bulletin 767, December 2015

Due to the weather forecast the decision was made to shorten this day trip so five of us headed to the Bull Ring, walked up to the Flagstaff lookout and then on down to the Ben Rudd shelter where we arrived at 11am. It was a little too early for lunch so, leaving our bags at the shelter we then headed down to the Rhododendrons which were putting on as good a show as I've ever seen.



**Ben Rudd's Rhododendrons, October 2015**

On walking back up to the shelter and at the shelter we found that another five club members (the Stragglers) had arrived to join us for lunch (the picnic). Once we had eaten our lunch and solved the worlds problems as well as deciding that closing in the south west wall of the shelter with clear polycarbonate sheet would be a good idea, we then headed back up to the skid side before tackling the newly bulldozed firebreak track. This track is now mainly clay which on the down hill part can be very slippery when wet. A shortened day , but good to get out for some exercise and fresh air.

Alan Thomson for Lucy Jones, Helen Collins, Raewyn Duncan, Mitch Carroll and (the Stragglers) Kathy Woodrow, Dave and Penny McArthur, and Richard and Tracy Pettinger.

## SHIP AT ANCHOR

**November 15, 2015**

**Author: Alan Thomson**

Published in Bulletin 767, December 2015

The day was over-cast, but clearing weather had been promised, when five of us headed off to the Lammerlaws above Lake Mahinerangi. Near the top of the Eldorado Track we were impressed with the size of the wind turbines. We then arrived at the locked gate where the car park is at an altitude of 720m. On beginning our walk, I decided to indulge in a bit of pipe walking, (more level than the road) before we headed over the hill to the weir. On the way we had a look at where the water pipe exits a diversion tunnel through the hill – completed in 1984. Then up the road and over the hill (860m) and down to the weir at 720m. We checked out the intake for the tunnel and had our lunch stop during a brief passing snow shower.



**The way to 'The Ship At Anchor', Te Papanui Conservation Park**

After lunch we crossed Deep Stream and headed up towards the top of the Lammerlaw range and then north to the "Ship at Anchor" (982m) with spectacular views. Approaching the "Ship" we disturbed a nesting Canadian Goose which was sitting on four eggs. We pondered these for a moment, but no-one had brought a stove and pan and there were five of us and only four eggs so they were left for mother goose. Looking for the Geo-cache, that Jan had said we were to check, eventually located by Rob, we had another snack. After another brief snow shower, we then headed off down the eastern face of the mountain range, where some were introduced



to the joys of bum-sliding (it's quicker than walking). After another crossing of Deep Stream at the bottom of the hill, we had a look around a historic gold mining area (540m) before heading up the 4WD track and back to the car, arriving there just before a not so brief hail shower.

If you're into variety then this is the trip for you – road walking, pipe walking, wading through tussock, bum sliding, a historic gold mining area and 4WD track walking as well as fantastic views most of the way.



**The Ship At Anchor, Te Papanui Conservation Park**

Data (courtesy of Jan) Track distance 17km, Moving time 5:5hr, Total time 7.22 plus travel (about 2.5hr), Moving Avg 2.9kmh (bum slides would push this up to 8-10 kmh). On the way home there was an interesting discussion on how to modify tramping shorts to improve the bum sliding experience. Alan Thomson who thanks his companions, Lucy Jones, Peter Loeber, Jan Burch, and Rob Seeley, for an enjoyable day.

## **OTMC COMMITTEE (2015-16)**

**President** – Richard Forbes

**Vice President** – Ray McAliece

**Secretary** – Richelle Adams

**Treasurer** – Rodger Clarkson

**Chief Guide / Transport** – Wayne Hodgkinson

**Bulletin Editor** – Barry Walker

**Bushcraft 2016** – Antony Pettinger

**Membership Secretary** – Richard Forbes

**Social Convenor** – Tony Timperley

**Day Trip Convener** – Alan Thomson

**Conservation & Recreation Advocacy** – David Barnes

**Gear Hire** – Gene Dyett

**Ben Rudd's Liaison** – Sam Patrick

**Website** – Antony Pettinger

**Clubrooms** – Ray McAliece

**Visitors** – Raewyn Duncan

**Immediate Past President** – Alan Thomson

**Hon. Solicitor** – Antony Hamel

## OTMC TRIP PROGRAMME 2015

Month	Date(s)	Specific Trip	Leader
January	10-11	Takitimus	Gordon Tocher
January	11	Nardoo Tussock Reserve	Jane Cloete
January	18	Karetai Road - Boulder Beach - Soldier's Monument	Jill McAliece
January	24-25	Jackson Bay - Stafford Bay	Ruth Harvie
January	25	Mihiwaka Bush Bash	Gordon Tocher
February	1	Rollinson's - Swampy Ridge - Swine Spur	Kathy Woodrow
February	6-8	South Huxley - South Temple	Wayne Hodgkinson
February	14-15	Sebastopol Ridge - Annette (Climbing)	Andy Cunningham
February	14	OTMC Open Day 2014	Committee
February	15	OTMC Open Day Tramp - Leith Saddle Walkway	Tony Timperley
February	21-22	Canyon Creek	Rebecca Van Amber
February	22	Carey's Creek - Rongomai - Honeycomb Track	Rodger Clarkson
March	1	Burns Saddle - Greengage Spur	David Barnes
March	3	Bushcraft 2015 - First Night	Antony Pettinger
March	8	Town Belt Traverse	Alan Thomson (2)
March	10	Bushcraft 2015 - Second Night	Antony Pettinger
March	14-15	Gertrude Saddle - Talbot - Barrier Knob (climbing)	Andy Cunningham
March	15	Bushcraft 2015 - Navigation Day - Flagstaff	Antony Pettinger
March	15	Three Silver Peaks and Dark Horse Hut	Jan Burch
March	17	Bushcraft 2015 - Third Night	Antony Pettinger
March	21-23	Mt Titiroa Traverse	Rose Colhoun
March	24	Bushcraft 2015 - Final Night	Antony Pettinger
March	28-29	Bushcraft 2015 - Silver Peaks Weekend	Wayne Hodgkinson
March	29	Taieri Millennium Track	Peter Loeber
April	3-7	Young - Wilkin (Gillespie Pass) Easter	Teck Lun Soon
April	12	Bushcraft 2015 - River Safety Day (Outram Glen)	Antony Pettinger
April	16-19	Milford Track - 50th Anniversary Freedom Walk	Antony Pettinger
April	19	Bullock Track - Roxburgh	Steph McLoughlin
April	25-27	Huxley - Broderick Pass	Richard Forbes
May	3	Taieri Mouth - Brighton	Jane Cloete
May	9-10	Rees Valley - Kea Basin	Richard Forbes
May	10	Somewhere In The Silver Peaks	Alex Tups
May	17	Bushcraft Bonus Trip - Silver Peaks	Antony Pettinger
May	17	Philip Cox Hut (plus minor track clearing) - Silver Peaks	David Barnes
May	24	Nenthorn Area	Ruth Harvie
May	30-1	Port Craig - Waitutu - The Hump	Wayne Hodgkinson
June	7	Measley Beach - Toko Mouth	Kathy Woodrow
June	14	Grahams Bush - Bethunes Gully	Raewyn Duncan
June	21	Flagstaff at Dawn, plus Swampy	Alan Thomson
June	27-28	Winter Kepler - Luxmore	Richard Forbes





June	28	Skyline Track Clearing	Tony Timperley
July	5	Two Reservoirs And A Hill	Jane Cloete
July	12	Hare Hill / Hodson Hill	Gordon Tocher
July	18-19	Cross Country Ski / Snow Shoe	Chris Pearson
July	19	Doggy Day Out	Jill McAliece
July	25-26	Makarora or Mt Armstrong	Wayne Hodgkinson
July	26	All Day On The Peninsula	David Barnes
August	1-2	Winter Routeburn (Falls Side)	Wolfgang Gerber
August	2	Karetai Road / Boulder Beach	Peter Loeber
August	8-9	Manapouri Kayaking	Rose Colhoun
August	9	Skyline Track	Tony Timperley
August	16	Split Rock - Seacliff	Bronwen Strang
August	22-23	OTMC Snowcaving Weekend (Old Man Range)	Richard Pettinger
August	23	Exploring Brighton	Steph McLoughlin
August	29-30	Cross Country Skiing / Snow Farm	Rodger Clarkson
August	30	Ship At Anchor	Alan Thomson
September	5-6	Snow Skills - Basic Ice Axe & Crampons	Wayne Hodgkinson
September	6	Property Maintenance (Ben Rudd's)	Sam Patrick
September	13	Gabriel's Gully	Rodger Clarkson
September	19-20	Takitimus / Clare Peak	Wayne Hodgkinson
September	20	Signal Hill Area	Bronwen Strang
September	25	Hermit's Cave	David Barnes
October	3-4	Mt Somers	Diana Munster
October	4	Property Maintenance (Ben Rudd's)	Richard Pettinger
October	10-11	Matukituki / Aspiring Hut	Richard Forbes
October	11	Gauges, Spurs & Ridges	Jan Burch
October	18	Tavora / Anderson's Beach	Jacqui King
October	25-27	Mt Titiroa Traverse	Rose Colhoun
November	1	Shag River Mouth	Kathy Woodrow
November	8	Spier's Road - Ben Rudd's Picnic	Alan Thomson
November	15	Ship At Anchor	Alan Thomson
November	21-22	Earnslaw Burn	Rodger Clarkson
November	22	Trotters Gorge	Jill McAliece
November	28-29	Rocky Mountain Social Trip	Gene Dyett & Ray McAliece
November	29	Rosella Ridge	Fieke Neuman
December	5-6	Caples - Greenstone - Fraser Col	Wayne Hodgkinson
December	6	Mt John Hut	Rob Seeley
December	12-13	Kepler In A Day	Richard Forbes
December	13	Mt Charles - Allan's Beach	Christine Hopkins
December	20	Maungatua	Tomas Sobek

# OTMC BULLETIN COVERS (FEBRUARY TO MAY)

**OTMC Bulletin**  
**Bulletin Number 757, February 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.

 The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.



Walking Stream Eyre Mountains


**Committee Members 2014/15**


President	Auan Thompson	405 2978
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Robbie Adams	478 1322
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Tramp	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 8050
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Ben Rutley / Gear Hire	Andy Cunningham	482 5586
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	3272 8648/88
Social Convener	Gene Dyell	455 7485
Social Convener	Tony Temperley	473 7257
Daytrip Convener	Auan Thompson	405 7676
Website	Anthony Pottenger	473 7624
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Cubroom Maintenance	Andrew Park	453 5719

Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)

**OTMC Bulletin**  
**Bulletin Number 758, March 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.

 The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.



Mt Cook—Rope Gahoun


**Committee Members 2014/15**


President	Auan Thompson	405 2978
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Robbie Adams	478 1322
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Tramp	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 8050
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Ben Rutley / Gear Hire	Andy Cunningham	482 5586
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	3272 8648/88
Social Convener	Gene Dyell	455 7485
Social Convener	Tony Temperley	473 7257
Daytrip Convener	Auan Thompson	405 7676
Website	Anthony Pottenger	473 7624
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Cubroom Maintenance	Andrew Park	453 5719

Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)

**OTMC Bulletin**  
**Bulletin Number 759, April 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.

 The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.



Tarnas Suburbs


**Committee Members 2014/15**


President	Auan Thompson	405 2978
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Robbie Adams	478 1322
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Tramp	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 8050
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Ben Rutley / Gear Hire	Andy Cunningham	482 5586
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	3272 8648/88
Social Convener	Gene Dyell	455 7485
Social Convener	Tony Temperley	473 7257
Daytrip Convener	Auan Thompson	405 7676
Website	Anthony Pottenger	473 7624
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Cubroom Maintenance	Andrew Park	453 5719

Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)

**OTMC Bulletin**  
**Bulletin Number 760, May 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.

 The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.



Rivers Hunt

**Committee Members 2014/15**

President	Auan Thompson	405 2978
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Robbie Adams	478 1322
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Tramp	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 8050
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Ben Rutley / Gear Hire	Andy Cunningham	482 5586
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	3272 8648/88
Social Convener	Gene Dyell	455 7485
Social Convener	Tony Temperley	473 7257
Daytrip Convener	Auan Thompson	405 7676
Website	Anthony Pottenger	473 7624
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 2863
Cubroom Maintenance	Andrew Park	453 5719


Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)

## OTMC BULLETIN COVERS (JUNE TO SEPTEMBER)


## OTMC Bulletin

**Bulletin Number 761. June 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.



The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.



Thomas Sobek

**Committee Members 2014/15**


President	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Vice President	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Ruthie Adams	479 1302
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Transport	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 2858
Membership Secretary	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 5963
	Andy Cunningham	462 1066
Ben Ruddle / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	5272 9948/38
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Gene Dyell	455 7405
Social Convener	Tony Tinsley	473 7257
Dealing Convener	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Website	Anthony Petheridge	473 7924
Conservation/Advisory	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 5963
Columbo Maintenance Committee	Andrew Park	453 5719
	Barry Walker	521 259 5555

Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)


## OTMC Bulletin

**Bulletin Number 762. July 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.



The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.



**Committee Members 2014/15**


President	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Vice President	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Ruthie Adams	479 1302
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Transport	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 2858
Membership Secretary	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 5963
	Andy Cunningham	462 1066
Ben Ruddle / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	5272 9948/38
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Gene Dyell	455 7405
Social Convener	Tony Tinsley	473 7257
Dealing Convener	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Website	Anthony Petheridge	473 7924
Conservation/Advisory	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 5963
Columbo Maintenance Committee	Andrew Park	453 5719
	Barry Walker	521 259 5555

Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)

## OTMC Bulletin


**Bulletin Number 763. August 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.



The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.

50th Anniversary of the Milford Freedom Walk



**Committee Members 2014/15**


President	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Vice President	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Ruthie Adams	479 1302
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Transport	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 2858
Membership Secretary	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 5963
	Andy Cunningham	462 1066
Ben Ruddle / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	5272 9948/38
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Gene Dyell	455 7405
Social Convener	Tony Tinsley	473 7257
Dealing Convener	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Website	Anthony Petheridge	473 7924
Conservation/Advisory	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 5963
Columbo Maintenance Committee	Andrew Park	453 5719
	Barry Walker	521 259 5555

Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)


## OTMC Bulletin

**Bulletin Number 764. September 2015**

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)**  
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.



The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street every Thursday—doors open at 7.30pm, programme begins at 8.00pm.



Rodger Clarkson

**Committee Members 2014/15**

President	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Vice President	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Ruthie Adams	479 1302
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 8053
Chief Guide/Transport	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 2858
Membership Secretary	Ruford Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 5963
	Andy Cunningham	462 1066
Ben Ruddle / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	5272 9948/38
Social Convener / Gear Hire	Gene Dyell	455 7405
Social Convener	Tony Tinsley	473 7257
Dealing Convener	Alan Thomson	455 7979
Website	Anthony Petheridge	473 7924
Conservation/Advisory	David Barnes	454 4452
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 5963
Columbo Maintenance Committee	Andrew Park	453 5719
	Barry Walker	521 259 5555

Visit us on the Internet at: [www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)



# OTMC BULLETIN COVERS (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER)

## OTMC BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Ottago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. #766 October 2015

### A New Look Bulletin

A new President, a new Committee, a new Editor and a new look newsletter. It's been a fair while in its current form, at least ten years without much of a change, so I reckon it's time. I hope you like it, or at least can abide it.

*"To continue to climb mountains we must continually descend back into the valleys"*

### Your Auction Proceeds

Our August auction raised \$440 and the committee decided to donate half to the Kaiti Conservation Fund on behalf of the club.

The remaining half will be spent on purchasing more maps of the upper South Island (Nelson Lakes etc.)



**October Trips**

- Mt. Somers
- Mount Peck
- Wharfedale
- Whangarei
- Taranaki
- Lake Taupo
- Lake Taupo

**Steele Farm, E. Country Week 26-30 August**

OTMC Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1132, Dunedin  
 www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/otmcgroupnz otmc@trug.co.nz  
 Thursday meeting at 7.30pm 55, South Dunedin - Doors open 7.30 for 8pm start, all welcome

## OTMC BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Ottago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. #766 November 2015

### President's Report

The club is in very good health and on the up. We get good numbers (30+) on the Thursday club nights, good numbers on the trips (both day trips on Sunday and overnight trips). Club membership increasing with quite a few new members joining. We recently went with the 2015 Bushcraft course early next year, membership is expected to increase even further.

We have a number of ways to promote the club with the website being the main one, but social media such as Facebook is also becoming important. Great photos of recent trips are shared to encourage people to come along to the club to find out more. The open day brings in a substantial number of new members. This doesn't mean we can put our feet up and relax as we need to keep pushing to attract new members heading towards our 100th year in 2023. The success of the club is not just because of a dedicated Committee, but because of many members who help out by:

- Leading trips
- PPC photograph rights
- Helping with the bus and biscuits
- Helping with working bees and track clearing
- Contributing to the social evenings
- Helping with open days and the bushcraft course
- Talking to the members at the club Thursday nights

How many of you can say you have done some of these things in the past or present?

The biggest thing that the club does is to support each other on our trips to make sure we achieve a common goal. This was most apparent on the 50th Anniversary 5000m Trip when we ensured that everyone made it to the top each day. The yams at the end of the day are still the same after all these years according to the older members of the club.

My most recent lead trip to the West Maketaki saw 13 people involved (about 10% of the club membership). It was the trip of all (as I'm told), with five different destinations.

### November Trips

- Mt. Somers
- Mt. Peck
- Wharfedale
- Whangarei
- Taranaki
- Lake Taupo
- Lake Taupo

OTMC Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1132, Dunedin  
 www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/otmcgroupnz otmc@trug.co.nz  
 Thursday meeting at 7.30pm 55, South Dunedin - Doors open 7.30 for 8pm start, all welcome

## OTMC BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Ottago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. #767 December 2015

The December-January issue. A bit bigger and a few more photos than usual. Hope you enjoy it. Always looking for more content, keep it coming. Merry Xmas to all of OTMC

### Open Days : January 30 & 31

As a club we need to promote ourselves and the activities we do. Our Open Weekend on January 30/31, 2016 is designed to do this, as well as promoting the upcoming Bushcraft Course. This time the clubrooms will be used on both the Saturday and Sunday - we are looking for members to come along and assist with either day. You will have various displays of everything the OTMC has to offer, and require people to talk to our visitors - if you can spare some time on either day, put your name down on the list in the clubrooms, or contact Gene Dyell on 4557801.

The second part of the open weekend is an opportunity for interested people to join us on a short walk on the Luth Saddle track - we have chosen this walk as it is easily accessible and (on a good day) provides some great views. Again, the committee would appreciate volunteers to assist with taking people up the track, there will be departures on the hour from 10am until 3pm - if you can help at any time please let a committee member know.

### Bushcraft 2016

Following a very successful Bushcraft course in 2015 (over 50 participants), the course returns in 2016. In reviewing Bushcraft 2015, it was felt that the course ended too late (in late April) - next year the course will end in the middle of March which will allow more opportunities for new-found tramping skills to be used before the colder months set in.

The course is designed for people interested in learning the basic tramping skills, as well as providing an opportunity for others to brush up on essential skills such as map and compass.

The full course includes four Sunday instruction evenings in our clubrooms which cover the basic tramping skills. There is also a practical navigation day on Flagstaff, a river safety day.

### December Trips

- Caples Greenstone Fossil Col
- Mt. John
- Kepler in a Day
- Mt. Charles & Allan's Beach
- Mangatapu

### January trips

- Herbert Forest
- Highway 100 - Macraes
- Mt. Cook area & Aoraki Mafateas
- Matarua Station - Strath Taieri
- Luth Saddle (Open Day walk)

OTMC Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1132, Dunedin  
 www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/otmcgroupnz otmc@trug.co.nz  
 Thursday meeting at 7.30pm 55, South Dunedin - Doors open 7.30 for 8pm start, all welcome