

# OTMC TRIP REPORTS

## 2019

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Sourced from the 2019 OTMC Bulletins



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Cover Photo: North of Pulpit Rock, en-route to Jubilee Hut (August 4, 2019)

ALL PUBLICATION PHOTOS UNLESS NOTED Antony Pettinger

# EYRE MOUNTAINS – ASHTON HUT

**December 1-2, 2018**

**Author: Tim Russell**

Published in Bulletin 800, February 2019

Peter Boeckhout, Caitlin Robertson, Simon Lin, Greg Slui, Tim Russell (leader & scribe)

## **Friday 30th**

With one cancellation due to the weather forecast being "a bit average", it was four of us who headed away from Dunedin on a Friday evening. There was a takeaway stop at Gore for those of us who had not yet eaten. Then we proceeded in light rain to Mossburn, where we met Greg who had travelled from Roxburgh. By now the rain had stopped and we were hopeful of a dry nighttime stroll. About this time, I confessed that this was my first time leading an OTMC trip. The team was slightly reassured when I explained that I was actually a fairly seasoned tramp and had in the past led a few trips for another club.



**Eyre Mountains (PHOTO: Greg Slui)**

We set off a little before 10 pm with headlamps on. Apart from some large puddles to negotiate, the old 4WD track down the wide valley of the upper Oreti River was easy to follow. The main obstacle was a larger than expected Ashton Burn to cross, requiring linking up to keep safe. A river crossing at night was a first for most of us. Soon after 11 pm we were at the characterful Upper Oreti Hut and not too much later were in bed.

## **Saturday 1st**

The day dawned dry with high cloud. The weather seemed settled for now, so we decided to tackle the longer, higher and harder day today, rather than do the trip in reverse (as we would have done in the event of dodgy weather). The forecast was for the possibility of afternoon

showers, maybe heavy. We hoped that they would be isolated.... over somewhere else. Departure time was around 7:30 and our first rest stop was at the tiny 2-bunk Lincoln Hut further down the Oreti River. Lincoln Hut has a relatively recent coat of "rescue orange" paint, as any good NZFS era hut should. Now the effort level stepped up a bit as we began the bush-bash section, following GPS and compass until we reached a spur that would lead us up to the tussock tops, about 1.5 hours later. From this point onwards navigation was easy and the exertion level stepped up a notch. With a little bit of encouragement, the team made it to the ridge top for a well-earned lunch. We were rewarded with extensive views of the Eyre Mountains and Mavora Lakes. Below us was the pretty head basin of the Windley river, dotted with tarns and large patches of snow. Being a Tim-led tramp, lunch lasted well over an hour.



**Eyre Mountains (PHOTO: Greg Slui)**

We followed the ridge north to the high point Pt.1619 and again stopped to take in the views. A fun scree run and then a sidle took us around to Pt 1506. We looked down on a large tarn, with adjacent smaller tarns providing a breeding site (presumably) for a significant number of black-backed gulls. From here we followed a long curving spur down to Ashton Hut, which you can only see when you are 5 minutes away. And that is where we sat and chatted as we contemplated our achievements for the day, before we ambled down the final section to the hut at about 5 pm. Our timing was near perfect, as rain set in for the evening about an hour later. Multiple courses for dinner, plus a wee dram of whiskey, had tired but happy trampers retiring for the night at 10 pm.

### **Sunday 2nd**

The rain was long gone, however misty cloud hung around the tops. We hoped that the sun would win the battle with the clouds before we reached the ridge top. Today we were taking the direct way back to the car, via Pt 1330. As for most of this tramp, there is no track, so we picked the best route we could for a slightly rough sidle to a crossing of a small side stream. From here on it is a



steep and obvious grunt up to the ridge. By now the sun had started to do its job and the views opened up. Which was a relief, because as trip leader you somehow feel responsible for what the weather throws at you. We had an extended break here, warmed by the sun and studying much of the high route we had traversed the previous day. We crested Pt 1330, then began the descent to the Ashton Burn.



**Eyre Mountains (PHOTO: Greg Slui)**

A rest stop at 11:45 on a terrace just above the Ashton Burn turned into a lunch stop when the clock ticked over to 12:00. Our Trampers Union length lunch lasted until 13:00, being very pleasant in the warm sun. No-one was in a hurry to leave. Eventually of course we had to move, and we set a quick pace back to the car. We said our goodbyes to Greg at Mossburn. Peter informed me that it was official club policy to have an ice cream stop on the drive home - being new to trip leadership I was in no position to disagree.

All in all, it was a successful trip. It challenged the fitness level of some, others experienced new aspects of tramping. For the two who were new to bush-bashing and scree running, congratulations, you did remarkably well. Greg the Photographer gave his brand-new high-tech camera a serious workout, and found one or two issues that need attending to. He impressed the rest of us with the weight of professional gear he carried with him. And I got to lead an OTMC tramp for the first time. Thanks very much guys for making my job easy! And thanks to the weather for being much better than average.

## CHRYSTALLS BEACH

**January 20, 2019**

**Author: Ken Taylor**

Published in Bulletin 800, February 2019

A beautiful day but very windy and was surprised to see so many waiting at the club rooms. We drove down to Chrystalls Beach, parked up and got ready to tramp down to the Tokomairiro river mouth. Hard going into the gale force sou/west wind and getting sand blasted as well. Stopped at Cooks Head, had a look and carried on.



**Chrystalls Beach, January 20, 2019 (PHOTO: Ken Taylor)**

Had morning tea about halfway under the shelter of the dune grasses. carried on until we came to the river mouth, had a look around and started to head back. A lot more pleasant with the wind behind us and easing off a little. Once we got to Cooks Head we had an early lunch, wind had picked up again and sand all over our food. Carried on to where we parked, dropped our packs and walked through the settlement looking at the cribs and then back to the transport and home. Nice to get out of the wind.

Ken Taylor (leader), Jane, Lucy, Russell, Debbie, Sheena, Ryan, John, Shane, Ash, Laurence.

## EAST OF FLAGSTAFF

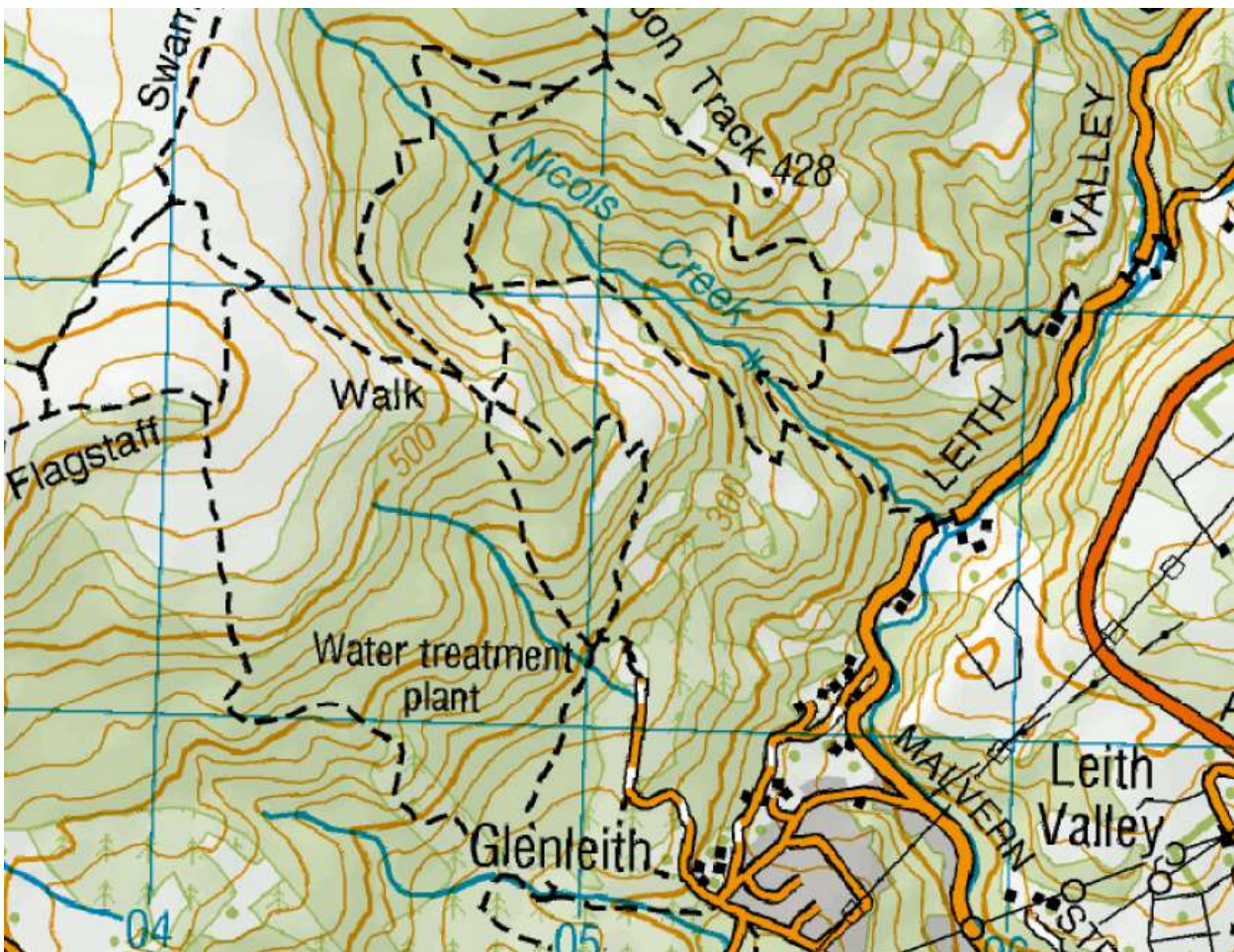
**January 27, 2019**

**Author: Chris Handley**

Published in Bulletin 801, March 2019

Eight of us (including some visitors) left the clubrooms soon after 8am and headed for Booth Road where we met the 9th member of the party. Weather was pleasantly cool as we headed up the 'Old' Pineapple Track. This is a good grunt and blew the cobwebs out of our lungs. A brief 'catch your breath' and then up the 'New' Pineapple track to the (now obvious) start of the Shortcut Track.

Passed the still used but no longer legal MTB track (actually more used and therefore more obvious than the tramping track), joined the Moon track for a few hundred meters and then off on to the Peppertree Track.



We had our morning tea along this track and then continued until we popped out of the bush and rejoined the Pineapple Track pretty much where we had left it to close the first loop. Down the New, off onto the Old and then a right turn onto the unmarked Totara Track, and thence to the Rimu Track.

Stopped for an early lunch at a fine example of the eponymous trees, and on again to the Davies Track for a short spell. At this point my haste in marking, but not naming meaningfully, waypoints came back to bite me as there was a period of 'navigational ambiguity'. (However, I



did decide that an area that I had marked for later exploration was actually not worth it, so all was not completely lost.)

Then down an unnamed track until we finally emerged at the end of McGouns Road, and on to the start of McGouns Track. At this point we split with some opting for a short walk back to the cars, and the rest taking in more bush back to the Old Pineapple Track to complete the second loop.

Chris for Charlotte, Jane Lucy, Deb, Tony, John, Susan, and Peter.

# MAUNGATUA TRAVERSE - NOT

**February 2, 2019**

**Author: Carolyn Taylor**

Published in Bulletin 801, March 2019

This trip was billed as a traverse, the proposed route Grainger Rd DoC entrance to Maungatua Hills, climb up and walk across to Woodside Glen, The pre-trip reccies told us otherwise, the gorse above the tree line from Grainger Rd is dense and impassable. Someone has had a go at clearing some of it for about 30m, fairly recently I'd say, but then it comes to a wall of gorse. Next trip we'll need to take tools, preferably mechanical ones!



Seven of us had a great day, early start 8am and at the Woodside Glen entrance of the track by 8:45am. The bush track is steep, well-marked though, and very pleasant. No flowering Scarlett Mistletoe hanging off trees this time but if you go late December you get to see some fabulous specimens. Someone led a cracking pace (not me!), and we were at the first rock outcrop/viewpoint in about an hour and half- time for a rest and enjoy beautiful views. We decided to head further up through the tussock to the next rocky outcrops, reaching 686m high point. The tussock makes hard work of a relatively short distance: many sections shoulder height ("lost" Marion for more a while there!), good if you can get someone tall to lead the way a bit and act as a marker (thanks Tim J). The view, chat and laughter at the top was totally worth it.

An uneventful descent but I think we were all glad to be on the bush track again even if it was as steep going down as it was going up- funny that.

Thanks Tim, Luna, Mandy, Marion, Phillip, Denan for a fun, challenging day walk.

PS The Grainger Rd bush walk to just above the tree line is well worth it too- lovely bush, few more chatting birds and a viewpoint to rest and enjoy.

Submitted by Carolyn (Trip Leader)

## CAREYS CREEK

**February 10, 2019**

**Author: Carolyn Taylor**

Published in Bulletin 801, March 2019

We all left the clubrooms at 8.00am and traveled to Waitati and turned up Double Hill Road until we came to the car park. Once we were ready, we started the tramp by descending down to the Black Gully dam. We passed through a nice stand of manuka until we came across some old machinery and went a little further along to the dam.



**Travelling down Careys Creek, February 10, 2019 (PHOTO: Ken Taylor)**

We then back tracked onto the Careys Creek track. This was through bush and with the sun shining gave it a wonderful light effect accompanied by the soothing sound of running water. The track follows this creek all the way with numerous crossings, and the remains of the old water pipes can be seen.

Further on we joined the Honeycomb track which becomes more open and follows a gully to the Glen. A large area of mint grows here, nice to walk through.

A very interesting tramp enjoyed by everyone, led by Peter Loeber and his followers: Leonie, Ken, Lucy, Ann, Laurence, Ash, John, Susan, Tony, Sonia, and Carolyn Taylor (scribe).



## **SOUTH WAIKOUAITI RIVER WALK**

**February 17, 2019**

**Author: Carolyn Taylor**

Published in Bulletin 801, March 2019

Sunday 17th Feb was a good day for a wet adventure- or so seven of us thought! With our pack contents sealed and double sealed in plastic bags we set off. The entrance into the bush is a little obscure since the official Possum Track DoC sign has been vandalised; for future reference it is about 750m beyond the Pulpit Rock/Jubilee Hut track entrance.



**South Branch, Waikouaiti River, February 17, 2017**

Quick up and quick down through the mature forest takes you to the stream. Go over it and you head to the unloved Possum Hut (apparently) about 30 minutes further on. Get in it and heading downstream leads you all the way to Waikouaiti and eventually the sea.

We spent a pleasant few hours in the stream negotiating our way through slippery rocks, bush foliage overhang and rock pools of varying and often unknown depths before we took a tea break on a sunny "beach". How wet you actually got pretty much depended on your pre-existing vertical dimensions- not much you can do about that, eh Andrew!

The journey took us over some small waterfalls with larger rocks (wet and dry ones), all relatively easy to clamber down if you take your time! An impassable section of the stream is a significant rock chasm, an impressive view and sound from above. This sent us all on the



adjacent bush track for 15 or so minutes and then down to a tributary that led us back into the South Waikouaiti a hundred metres or so further down. Not much further on the stream part of the walk ended as we met the track to Phillip J Cox hut, got out of the stream and turned right to point us back to the road.



**One of the deeper pools, at the foot of Rosella Ridge, February 17, 2019**

A stiff 20-minute climb through the trees took us back to Semple Rd/Mountain Track Rd where we ambled the five kms back to the cars, drying off as we went. Good day, impressive birdsong, enjoyable walk- thanks Antony and Debbie.

Carolyn Taylor for Antony, Debbie and Dylan Pettinger, Andrew McConnell, Jane Ward, John Tolmie and Saskia Bronstring.

## **HOPKINS / HUXLEY VALLEY, LAKE OHAU**

**March 8-10, 2019**

**Author: Jo Fox**

Published in Bulletin 802, April 2019

Led by Richard Forbes assisted by Andrew McConnell and his four-wheel drive, Jo Fox, Alex Forbes (13), Denan Diep, An Nguyen, Geraldine Kerr, Emlyn Perry, Lynley McArley, Jonathan Bull and Que Minh Vo.

Beautiful weather. Friday night left club rooms, in two four-wheel drives and one car, around 6.15, stopped at Oamaru 7.40 pm for takeaways. The kebabs were huge but the service slow, not recommended for a quick getaway. Off at 8.10 pm. We drove to Lake Ohau Road picking up one of the group from Otematata. Dropped the car at the road end around 11.00 pm and all hopped into the four-wheel drives plus packs. Drove to Monument hut, lots of vehicles were already there so we all pitched tents. Plenty of room for camping. Stunning star-studded clear night. I was pleased to have my warmer sleeping bag.



**Huxley Valley**

### **Saturday 9th Tramp to Monument Hut to Broderick Hut (7 hours)**

8.30 start, lovely day, wet tents to pack up, walked up low flowing river, great views of all the surrounding mountains, some started on the track but eventually joined us, not recommended too slow going. We chatted and got to know each other, about half the group were first timers with the club. A nice paced steady walk we lunched at Huxley forks hut around 12.20, (taking 4

hours for a recommended time of 2.5 hours), had lunch, dried tents and decided what we would do next.

We all opted to carry on to Broderick Hut, up the north branch of the Huxley river. Left at 1.50pm. About 10 minutes after the swing bridge was a very large slip. Another trumper advised us to go through the river and save the large detour. We all got wet undies, but bypassed the slip no trouble. We had great views of Mt Mackenzie and Mt Strauchon and the glacier beneath them. Great to see Broderick Hut around 5pm. Some pitched tents and others in the hut. Lyn had the primo view from the helicopter pad down the valley to Mt Fraser. An had sprained her ankle and was a bit sore.

Lovely dinner had on a balmy evening.



Huxley Valley, looking downstream

### **Sunday 10th March out to Monument Hut**

Left at 8.40am, cloudy and view of mountains had disappeared. An was slow going over the rocks and had not had her ankle strapped, we emptied some weight out of her bag and strapped her ankle at Huxley Forks Hut 12pm (3hr 20). Left at 12. 25, fast walk back to the hut, arriving at the Huxley River 3pm (2.5 hrs.) (Red Hut is about 30mins from the Huxley River swing bridge). Met some successful hunters carrying out deer and Thar hinds. We loaded the 4WDs and after 30 minutes were back at the road end, into cars, left road end 4.15pm and safely back to clubrooms 8pm.

Great trip met some lovely new people and explored a new place I had never been to before. Jo Fox.



## PEGGYS HILL & HARBOUR CONE

**March 17, 2019**

**Author: Peter Boeckhout**

Published in Bulletin 802, April 2019

We parked the cars at Broad Bay and walked towards Camp Road. Clouds were all around us and they only got thicker as we gained altitude. We walked past a few private properties and soon the road turned into a track. We entered a road again and later we crossed a fence onto some farmers private land (which we had permission to cross) and continued steadily up the hill. After walking in a decent thick fog with not much to view around us we stopped and consulted the Oracle which said we were on the right path, so we continued towards Peggy's Hill. We followed a fence line, and it got a bit steep, but we got to point 401 in good time.



**View from Peggys Hill (PHOTO: Peter Boeckhout)**

We had a small break with no views whatsoever, but the morale was great, so we decided to backtrack and reach Harbour Cone from another angle.

While walking back we chased some sheep out of their morning rest, and somebody thought they heard bagpipes? And yes, then we all heard it. Suddenly the clouds opened up and we saw Larnach Castle in between the trees. The view is so much better with no clouds!

We crossed a locked gate and walked down the hill towards our next destination. We followed the yellow markers and in the distance we saw 2 trampers coming towards us. They were on their way to "harbour cone" at least that is what they thought. So, they followed us for a while, and we pointed them in the proper direction.

At this point in time we were bathing in a full late morning sun and it was warm. We reached Harbour Cone with marvellous 360-degree views. We had our well-deserved lunch and soaked up the views. While we were looking towards Peggy's Hill, we agreed that it was a bit steep to



walk straight down from the top of point 401 towards Highcliff Rd. So, we walked back down via the track and linked up to Bacon St. and walked a short while back towards the cars along the road. Thank you, Leonie, for being our guide.



**Harbour Cone summit (PHOTO: Peter Boeckhout)**

Peter Boeckhout for Leonie Loeber, Ken Taylor, Lucy Jones and Debbie Guthrie.

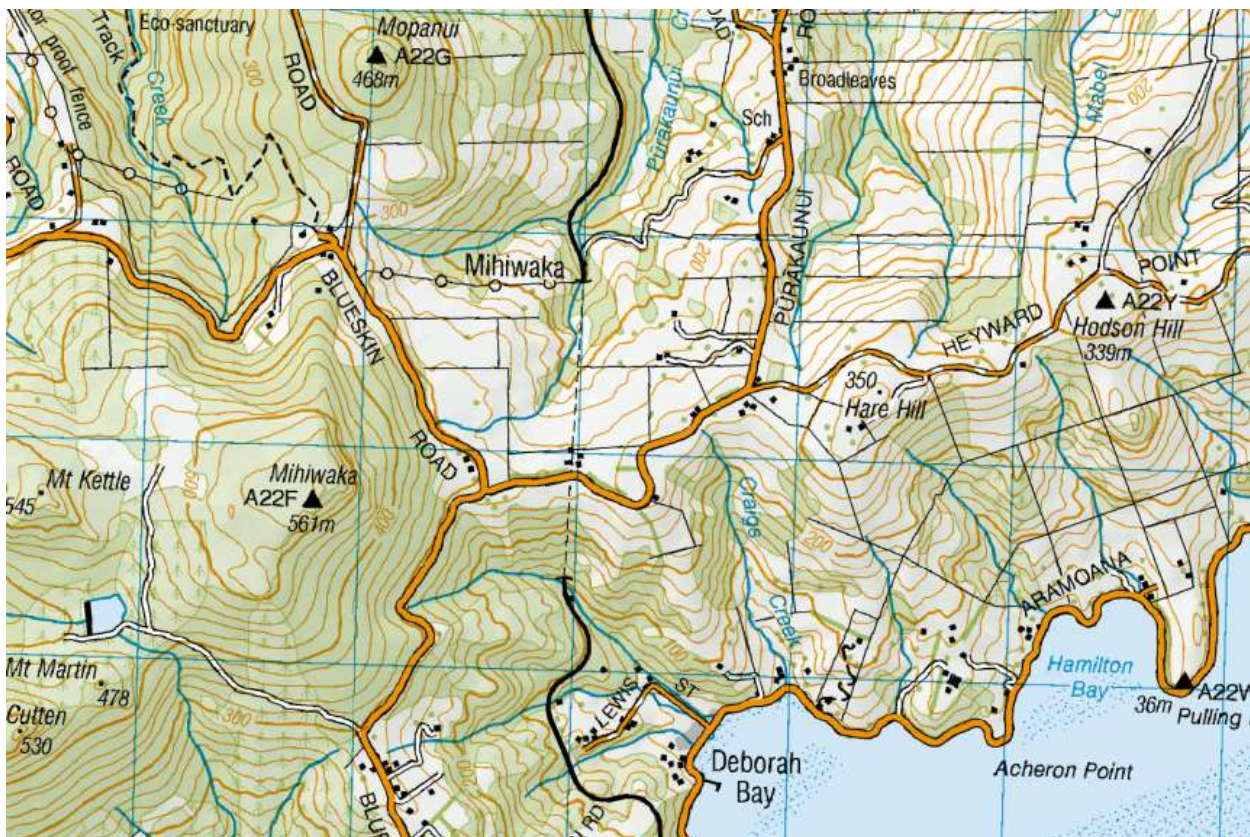
# SEA TO SUMMIT BUSHBASH

**March 24, 2019**

**Author: Spen Walker**

Published in Bulletin 802, April 2019

Having been on Gordon's Deborah Bay - Hare Hill - Hodson Hill Pulling Point walk last year, Jane and I were keen to fill in some more gaps in our knowledge of this area. We were not disappointed. We waited at the Torpedo mole at Deborah Bay for Gordon to arrive from the clubrooms, which he did with Sue on board. So as a party of four we strolled along Lewis St and met the landowner, who told us about damage pukekos can do to a garden. Across the paddock and into the manuka, then up the Donkey track which was the workers access track to the Mihiwaka tunnel, built 1874 - 1877. On the way up we came upon a water race beside the track, this was built by the Mason brothers in the early 1900s to power the sawmill for their firewood business, and some broken bricks lining the farm track. A Mr Upton set up a brickworks below the main trunk line, for lining the tunnel. Since production could not keep up with the tunnel progress, a tramway was laid down to Deborah Bay to bring up extra bricks (hence the Donkey track). The tunnel itself is 1324 m long and 363.443 metres above sea level and yes, there is light at the end of the tunnel.



At the tunnel portal we took to the stream bed, followed Gordon up Cold-Water Creek as far as a small waterfall. We then headed upwards on the true left following the path of least resistance looking for Gordons elusive easy route. A nice remnant of bush here, pity it's rather eaten out but a few large rimu and totara still exist. We exited onto Purakanui Road and then

walked back down Blueskin Road to the start of the track up Mihiwaka. Nice to be on a track again, found there is a new route marked with orange tags around the side of the climbing crag which avoids the scramble up the slab.

We admired the view from the top of the climbing rock, then climbed to the summit which has a stunning 360-degree panorama for lunch.

We took a slight variation of our upwards route down; however it still involved some grovelling or as Gordon likes to call it bush bashing. We ended up back on the same route we had ascended as we approached the main trunk line. It was then a pleasant wander back down the farm track to our starting point.

Spencer Walker for Jane Bruce, Susan Kinley, and Gordon Tocher (Trip leader)



## GREEN LAKE

**February 23-24, 2019**

**Author: Rose Colhoun**

Published in Bulletin 803, May 2019

I turned up to a very crowded Lake Monowai campsite on Friday night, met Greg from Roxburgh, and Clelia and Zora from Invercargill and found some decent spots to put our tents. The next morning, I went in search of the rest of the party who had arrived late on Friday night, and found a line of tents perched on the side of a slope. Finally we were ready to go and picked up my sister Sarah from Borland Lodge, who was ready to leave after waiting an hour for us. Carolyn and Jane had stayed behind at Monowai to take the Cuthbert Saddle track into Green Lake, and Greg dropped Chris and Charlotte at the Borland Bivvy to make their way by the other track. The rest of us, a group of 13, gathered at the Borland Saddle to follow the tops route.



**Climbing the ridge from Borland Saddle en-route to Green Lake (PHOTO: Rodger Clarkson)**

There was an immediate uphill slog after a short bush track, but also immediate rewards with views down towards the Grebe Valley and mountains to the west. We even spotted Chris and Charlotte making quick work through the clearings on the track below us. Mostly following the western ridge we made steady progress uphill, with one small detour taking us a bit further to the west than we needed to go, but with the result that we discovered some delicious snowberries to snack on. The group continued up and up to the high point of Pt 1476, but the trip notes had advised heading around the peak to the saddle, so I sidled across the hill with



three others. We reached the saddle before the rest of the group, but as they came down, they all remarked on the amazing 360-degree views from the high point. Oh well, who needs an extra hill anyway?

Below the saddle, out of the wind that was beginning to pick up, we enjoyed a leisurely lunch overlooking Green Lake, with a glimpse of Lake Monowai to the south-east. A tramper who had been following behind us at a distance from Borland Saddle caught up with us at this point and joined our group.



**Green Lake from above (PHOTO: Rodger Clarkson)**

As we could see the weather beginning to pack in and in fact counted two or three snowflakes floating down on us, we decided to take a shortcut down to the hut rather than continue following the ridge along to the Monowai track. Dropping off the ridgeline, we had a steepish descent through the snowgrass to where it looked like it would be easier going on the flats behind the hut. Turned out the "flats" were pockmarked with large water-filled holes hidden behind chest-high tussocks, most of us fell into at least 2-3 holes as we slogged our way towards the hut.

At more than one point I thought I would never get up again, cast as I was with my pack keeping me stuck to the ground. The group dribbled into the hut, a few brave souls took a swim in the lake and I waited for the last members of the group to arrive. It seems my sister had misinterpreted the directions to the hut and instead of following the group, took herself on a detour towards the old hut site. As we were about to begin a search party, we spotted her heading along the beach and I was most relieved! We got ourselves settled in, deciding who

was going to brave the rain and camp on the beach, and who would luxuriate in the warmth of the hut. Carolyn and Jane arrived just before dinnertime and luckily no one else turned up to share the slightly crowded hut.



**Green Lake, in front of hut (PHOTO: Rodger Clarkson)**

The rain set in overnight and was still persisting in the morning, convincing us to wait for a passing shower before we headed out. Ludo, Sarah Chisnall, Clelia and Zora took the track back to Monowai and the rest of us followed the shorter track back to Borland Bivvy. The showers were not too heavy and there was even a bit of sun in between. However, there was quite a dusting of snow where we had been on the tops the day before. A quick shuttle to get the van from Borland Saddle, we all piled in and travelled down to Borland Lodge to wait for the Monowai track group.

A brief wait it was too, just enough time for everyone to change into their civvy clothes, eat some snacks and huddle in the van out of the rain. Thanks to everyone for joining me in one of my favourite destinations, and major apologies to my dear sister for separation from the group.

Rose Colhoun for Rodger Clarkson, Dave Bunn, Tina Anderson, Caitlyn Robertson, Sarah Chisnall, Ludovic Dutoit, Geraldine Kerr, Greg Slui, Chris & Charlotte Handley, Carolyn Taylor, Jane Ward, Ann Ruxton, Clelia Ponteri, Zora Grossenbacher, and Sarah Colhoun.

## ST JAMES WALKWAY

**March 13-17, 2019**

**Author: Not recorded**

Published in Bulletin 803, May 2019

Our trip started like no other; with a visit to the haberdashery shop in Oamaru and then onto a sawmill which supplies offcuts of wood for the brass monkey. With no suitable lace to be found, we headed on to the Salvation Army store in Timaru. Two pieces of lace were purchased there but before long it was realised they would not fit the bill of making a headdress for Gordon. Sarah quickly came to the rescue offering up her lime green mesh fruit and veg bag for Gordon to throw over his head as a mosquito net! Work it Gordon, work it!

A couple of stops later and almost 8hrs after departure, we made it to the beginning of The St James Walkway.



**Ada Pass area on the St James Walkway (PHOTO: Tomas Sobek)**

The day was cool, which was a great way to begin our walk to Cannibal George Hut. Jackets went on to shield us from the gentle spits of rain. We initially walked on boardwalk before entering lush bush. A stretch of zig zagging up the hill got our bodies warmed up and a wee sheen on the forehead. The hut was reached within the 3 hours sign posted (2hrs 15mins by a speedy Chris!) and sat in the midst of a meadow. With our group of 10 and another of 6, the 20-bunk hut was sure to be toasty warm even without the cosy fire that was lit.

Day 2 began with rain jackets on following the Maria River. There was a mix of beech forest and open meadows leading us to Ada Pass Hut which was reached within the hour. Ada Pass



itself, at 1008m was passed without the blink of an eye. More open meadows covered in long grass kept the gaiters wet and may have distracted me from seeing a very large orange marker indicating the entrance into the Bush. After about ten minutes of following what turned out to be a hunters track, I back tracked to where I had seen a branch lying the track and noted another tramper entering the real track. A sign at Ada Cutlers Hut saying 1km to our destination was greeted with a grin. As was the sight of a number of horses in the field out front of Christopher Hut. The 14-bunk hut was more than full with one person opting to sleep out on the deck and our own Gordon choosing to elope back to the first night's hut to recover some socks he left behind. Did I mention he waited till near dark to make this decision.

Our destination for day 3 was Anne Hut approx. 4hrs 15 away according to literature. Our morning stroll included sightings of horses (1 with its hooves in the air), hares and a large number of Canadian geese. The weather was a mix of rain showers, sun displays, more rain and then sun. We travelled down the valley with Ada River as our guide. Ada homestead could be seen in the distance as we tried to avoid deep trenches of water. We scooted around the side of a wee hill to find more meadows down in front. A 4-wheel drive track then led us to Anne Hut with time to enjoy a bit of sun, have a wash of sorts and try to avoid the very evident population of mosquitoes.



**Christopher Hut on the St James Walkway (PHOTO: Tomas Sobek)**

Like Christopher Hut, Anne Hut was a popular stop over for Te Araroa trail walkers and a few newbies shared our evening. And as we sat around enjoying the start of our dinner and looking at our watches again, Gordon arrived back.

Not only did he retrieve his socks, he returned a pair of shoes, 2 mugs and some hair clips to their rightful owners. It turned out 40% of our group had left something behind.



Day 4 had an overcast start, but the jacket soon came off and the journey continued in a t-shirt. We crossed a footbridge over Anne River and continued to travel over Anne Saddle and into Boyle Valley. A cute hut named Rokeby was tucked up in the Bush to our right and visited by a few. 6 1/2 hours later I arrived at Boyle Flat Hut. With at least 16 expected at the hut a number of our group opted to pitch tents and enjoy various treats ranging from the sound of the river to a private oasis in the Bush with its own nature bath.

The final day seems to be a blur. I think I was already thinking about the warm shower I would treat myself too and a long drive home.

What a fantastic track and a lovely group of peeps to share my journey with. In the words of one of these individuals "it was a pleasure sharing the walk with you."

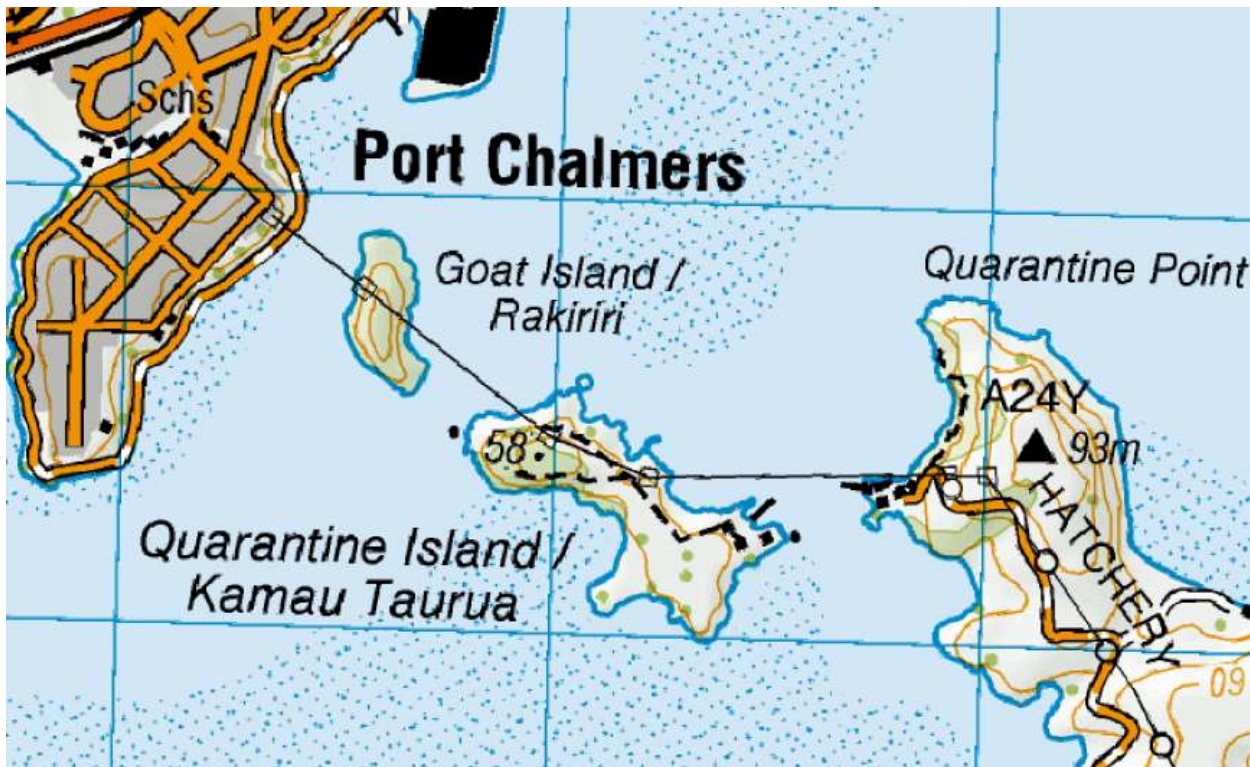
# QUARANTINE ISLAND

**March 31, 2019**

**Author: Jane Cloete**

Published in Bulletin 803, May 2019

This trip was originally going to be a weekend trip, with a day trip on Sunday. But lack of interest caused me to cancel the overnight trip. I planned the day trip around the available ferry times: that allowed five hours on the island which I figured would give time not just for history, geography, and walking, but also time to loll around in the sun doing absolutely nothing!



Jane Barclay had kindly offered to lead the Day trip, and she also did some of the transport to Port Chalmers. Better than that, Janet had done some research: she'd printed off a wee map and useful guide to the walk around the Island. Thank-you Janet.

And many apologies to any of you that turned up at the clubrooms on the Sunday morning. With three cruise ships due in port, that meant that I'd had to book ferry space well in advance!

So, 14 of us left Dunedin on sunny morning, only to find that the Blueskin Blanket had descended at the harbour entrance, so it was cold and misty as we awaited the ferry.

The ferry only took 5 minutes to get to Quarantine Island. We assembled at the end of the jetty there, and Antony Hamel told us some of the brief history of Quarantine Island. Armed with maps we set out. There were the buildings to look at – there's been a lot of work done since I was last there; and a walk around the Island was delightful – and it was even warm on the far

side of the hill, well sheltered from the north-easterly! I was impressed by the amount of regeneration of native bush, which Antony told us was in part re-planted by Ken Mason – a past OTMC member. The geo-cachers among us found all their wee hidden caches as we all circumnavigated the island in groups of 3 or 4.

We had lunch at the Married Quarters – warm and dry. As we ate, Antony read gruesome extracts from the book about Q Island. But it was only 12:30 and the return ferry wasn't due until 3:30pm! We couldn't loll around in the sun 'cause although we could see sun in Dunedin and Portobello, it wasn't shining on Quarantine Island! So we rang Port-to-Port ferries and they managed to fit us all in on a couple of their routine trips. Thus, the day tramp had become a 3-hour Island visit, but in spite of that, I think most folk enjoyed themselves!

My thanks to my companions of that day: Janet Barclay, George & Carole Evans, Sandy Webb & Rintoul, Sonia Alexanian, Laurence Prattley, Doug Malcolm, Tony Lough & Lucy Jones, Antony Hamel, Charmian Green (from UK visiting Dunedin). Jane Cloete.



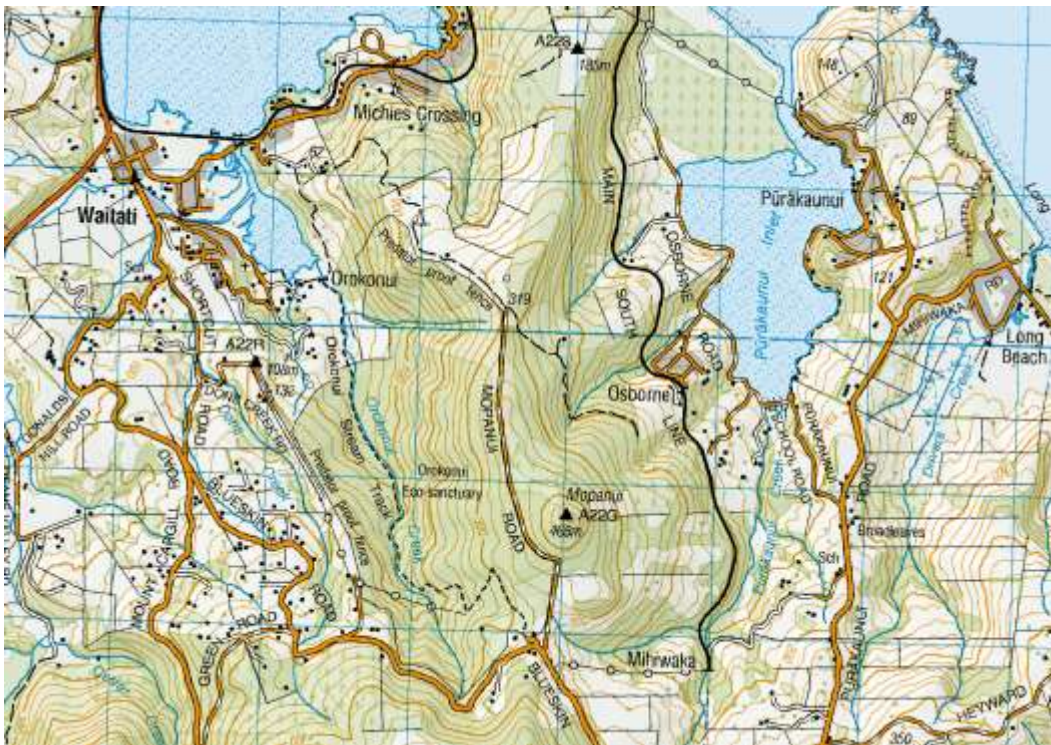
# MOPANUI RIDGELINE TRACK / OROKONUI LAGOON WALK

**April 6, 2019**

**Author: John Kaiser**

Published in Bulletin 803, May 2019

With daylight saving gone, an 8.00am start is a bit of a gloomy ordeal but three of us made it to the clubhouse anyway. The day started to appear quite nice as we drove over the Leith Saddle and the morning light on the Silver Peaks gave nice layers of hills. After parking a car at the Black Bridge boardwalk, we drove up White Road and started up the unformed road. Soon we entered the lovely piece of regenerating bush on Liz Sumpter's property. After this we walked up an open track, with developing views back up the coast and over the Silver Peaks, and then up Mopanui Road beside the heritage listed dry stone wall and a 10min scramble up the lovely bush track to the summit of Mopanui and its 360 views including the Peninsula.



Coffee at the Ecosanctuary beckoned and I clean forgot to check out the great native flax collection nearby based around a koru spiral. But we returned to it after a leisurely café coffee on the top of the hill we just walked up – quite European feeling. After walking down beside the ecosanctuary fence we had a brief lunch stop and chose the estuary side of the Orokonui Lagoon Walk through the new plantings – leaving the bush walk side for another day. And we got back to Dunedin around 3pm. In all, a nice walk on a nice day with nice views, good coffee and good company

John Kaiser with Richard and Tracy Pettinger.

## SILVERSTREAM AREA

**April 14, 2019**

**Author: Russell Knowles**

Published in Bulletin 803, May 2019

With daylight savings now behind us it was a 9am start for today's walk. The attraction for me was the Steve Aimes track, having last walked it about 4 years ago I was impressed by the large number of Lancewoods growing under the Kanuka and wanted to see what had changed. Five walkers were ready to go from the club rooms and we were joined by a 6th at the start. Superbly lead by Tony Timperley and ably assisted by Ash we headed up the Racemans Track to the North Coal Track and scrambled up to our lunch spot at the top.



**North Coal Track (PHOTO: Russell Knowles)**

Stunning views on the way up, you could say it's a wilderness on Dunedin's back doorstep. Debbie handed out some Easter Eggs adding to the yummy array of food. A gentle walk down Steve Aimes and back along the Racemans completed the walk. Special thanks to Tony, Ash, Debbie, Lucy and Sonia for a great walk. 15km was the approximate distance covered.

Russell Knowles



## AROUND PORT CHALMERS

**May 12, 2019**

**Author: Ken Taylor**

Published in Bulletin 804, June 2019

We left the club rooms at 9.00am and it was starting to rain but when we arrived at the Iona church it had stopped. We then went up to the old cemetery for a quick look and then up to Rangi Park track, walked up hill and had a detour to the left but were stopped by gorse so back to Rangi Park track and onto the new lookout and the Scott Expedition Memorial and around the back of Careys Bay, down Slant St and then up to the new cemetery and down to the Lady Thorn dell.



**Above Port Chalmers (PHOTO: Ken Taylor)**

After that we went to the rugby club and along the shore to Victory Place to Stinky Point and along Back beach to a track up to Bellevue St where we had lunch and then back down and along to another track up to the flagstaff and then down to a café and museum. A good day out with plenty of ups and downs

Ken Taylor for trip leader Debbie Guthrie, Sandy, Alan Hanson, John Tolkien, and Mark Stephenson.



## **OUTRAM GLEN TO LEE STREAM**

**May 5, 2019**

**Author: Richard Pettinger**

Published in Bulletin 804, June 2019

Club policy was for an 8 am start, but a draft of the next trip card might have said 9 am. I had to go by the published information, so turned up at 8, to find 5 others there. I hope nobody turned up at 9 (Tracy and I are certainly in the habit of [at least] trying [but often failing] to get to a day trip by 9!) Laurence helped me drop our car back to Tracy who needed it, and soon we were assembled at Outram Glen, with Laurence in the other car picking up Ken in Green Island.



**Taieri River, near Lee Stream confluence**

The track is all very well formed and recovered from the slips of a few years ago. So, we were at Lee Stream before we had even started to puff. We spoke more about pack-floating than river crossing, with the Taieri (as I later discovered) flowing at about 7 cubic metres per second that day, being 3 m<sup>3</sup>/s above its typical low flows. After a bite to eat we went back to the cars and for many of us lunchtime was at home. Thanks, guys for making it worth my while getting out of bed on a lovely day with no wind or rain, great company and no rush.

Richard Pettinger, for Russell Knowles, Debbie Guthrie, Ken Taylor, Emma Roff and Laurence Prattley

## **ST MARY RANGE CROSSOVER**

**May 25-26, 2019**

**Author: Barry Walker**

Published in Bulletin 804, June 2019

We 5 of the North-to-South group headed off in Jeff's kindly loaned 4WD to Awakino Ski field Lodge, where we spent a pleasant evening and woke to a magnificent red sky dawn.

An 8am start saw us slogging upwards to the bare rock peak of Kohurau (2009m). A vicious wind accompanied us for all of the tops, and with not much chance of any shelter on the lee side we were well and truly battered and gradually the oldest of the party (scribe and editor) became more and more worn out. A long downward spur took us to Hut Creek Hut, which was supposed to be our afternoon tea break before heading on to meet the other party at Tailings hut a couple of hours away, however the knees had gone by now and we'd done 9 hours, so the decision was made (with the excellent help of 2-way radios) to stay the night.

Our accommodation was a 4 bunker classic backcountry stone hut (so Joe and Sharon got to share a bunk), complete with stove (we'd taken coal), drafts, mice, and something dead somewhere (smelt but not located).

8am saw us off again, with a x-over meet on what was now all 4WD track, thence onto to Tailings Hut for a short break before completing the 7 hour up and down slog (knees not great) to finally reach the return vehicle down Mt Buster road and head home.

Some great backcountry with lots of rock, a little snow on the tops, lots of tussock!

Barry Walker for Will Sweetman, Joe and Sharon Bretherton, and Emma Roff.

## **ROUTEBURN CROSSOVER**

**May 11-12, 2019**

**Author: Richard Forbes**

Published in Bulletin 804, June 2019

Although this Routeburn crossover trip was not organized as a memorial trip, it happened to be the same weekend and all the same people present as the tragic trip last year when Charlie Weaver passed away literally minutes into the trip.

It was a bit hectic at the clubrooms on Friday night, making sure that people were in the right van (either the Divide or Glenorchy ends of the track) as well as people leaving a change of clothes in the van they were eventually going home in. It was a straightforward trip with Rodger and I sharing the driving to Alexandra for tea and then onto the Routeburn Shelter arriving at 11:00 pm. Once gear was sorted it was off to Routeburn Flats hut – a 6.5 km walk. Shortly after crossing the swing bridge and a short distance along the bush we stopped for a minute's silence with only the sound of the river below. At the same spot and the same time where Charlie fell and died of a heart attack. This was a little emotional for those of us that were with Charlie last year (Chris, Rodger, Alex and myself – the rest who were there had gone in earlier that day). We arrived at the hut just after 1:00 am and the hut was fairly full.



**Lake Harris (PHOTO: Tomas Sobek)**

We were away after 8:00 am that morning for the walk to Mackenzie Hut. Rain was forecast later that day so we were keen to get away. After an hour, we arrived at Routeburn Falls hut and were surprised to find that the wardens were still in residence with the water and toilets still working. A quick bite to eat and a chat to John the DOC warden (ex OTMC). John said it was interesting that doubling the price of over-seas tourist fees on the Great Walks this season



meant there were noticeably more Kiwis doing the walk. This had added to their workload as Kiwis had to prove that they were locals to get the cheaper price.

Off up the hill and onto Harris Saddle for an early lunch. The cloud and wind were picking up and the views were fast disappearing. At the Harris Saddle shelter, our group of 15 were all together. One of Charlie's poems was read out to mark the occasion at this beautiful spot. All of us that were there that night were together for the first time. Some of us decided to do the Conical Hill side trip. Chris was on his way down and he had got to the top. He said it wasn't worth it with the wind, cold, rain and no views. I took his advice and turned back. The rest pushed on, but they didn't reach the top due to the conditions. The rain by now was getting patchy but not settling in. On my way down, I ran into Michaela and Sarah. They had made good time to get there from Howden Hut. We all managed to swap vehicle keys along the Hollyford face and then after a couple of hours we had the first view of Mackenzie Hut. There weren't many views however of the surrounding mountains. An hour later we reached the hut by Lake Mackenzie at around 3:00 pm. Just short of the bush there was a new plaque in memory of the Czech gentleman who passed away in a storm (his partner ended up spending a month at the Mackenzie Warden's hut until rescued). Hard to imagine this beautiful place can be so deadly. There was also a hut warden at Mackenzie Hut and after he checked our tickets we had a great night socializing, eating and drinking, we settled in for the night. The rain also settled in. The hut was not very full with only about another eight or so with us. Rose spent the night with us as she had walked in with the other group and was exiting back to the Divide.



**Lake Mackenzie (PHOTO: Tomas Sobek)**

By morning it was raining steadily but not overly heavy. A quick dash to Howden Hut in around 2.5 hours. The Earland Falls were impressive with the recent rain. After an early lunch in the cosy hut with the fire still going. The people who were there the night before had decided to stay put with the rain. They were very impressed that we had done the whole track in a

weekend. A quick one hour dash to the van at The Divide and a change out of the wet clothes. We were away by 1:00 pm.



**Earland Falls (PHOTO: Tomas Sobek)**

Richard Forbes for Rodger Clarkson, Mandie Lungley, Carolyn Field, Jan Hodges, Lynley McArley, Alex Forbes, Chris Handley, Denan Diep, Hwee Kiat Ng, Que Minh Vo, An Nguyen, Jan Burch, Gail Mitchell, Nathan McCauley, Catherine Clarke and Rose Colhoun.



## **PIPELINE TRACK – RUSTLERS – SWAMPY – LEITH SADDLE**

**April 28, 2019**

**Author: Russell Knowles**

Published in Bulletin 805, July 2019

Another Sunday and the legs were telling us we need to walk so after dropping the pooch to friends we headed along to the club rooms to meet our esteemed leader, Tony Timperley. There was a good turnout this week with 11 of us ready including some first timers for the Pipeline, Rustlers Ridge, Burns Track over to the swampy connecting ridge line track that takes us up to the top of Swampy.



**The party sheltering at Swampy Summit Microwave Station (PHOTO: Russell Knowles)**

A good steady pace was set, and we were up the top before we knew it. Several of us stopped for a few minutes to watch a Fern Bird and a South Island Robin was also seen by a lucky couple. After two stops for morning tea and lunch it wasn't long before we were heading down the Leith Saddle track back to the car. Thanks to Tony and hopefully some of the new walkers will be back for more in the future.

Russell Knowles



## ESCARPMENT TRACK CLEARING

**May 26, 2019**

**Author: Tony Timperley**

Published in Bulletin 805, July 2019

Just five hardy souls, equipped with loppers, shears and other pruning gear, turned up at the clubhouse on this dull Sunday morning. Undeterred, we drove up to the layby where the 3 Peaks Track meets Cowan Road and began our hour's trek to where the Cloud Forest Track emerges at the Powerline Clearing. The Escarpment Track begins opposite, which was where we were to begin our cutting back the overgrown vegetation covering the track.

After our morning drinks, snacks and admiring the expansive views north, we decided we had better get down to some work. Peter B volunteered to clear the gorse which made crossing the clearing a painful experience if you were wearing shorts and no gaiters. Next time you do this track you will have the luxury of walking on a thick carpet of gorse!



**Peter Boeckhout Gorse Clearing, Escarpment Track (PHOTO: Peter Boeckhout)**

Meanwhile, Jan, Sandy, Peter L and Tony T disappeared into the thick bush, hacking our way through thick fern leaves, getting entangled in bush lawyer and splodging through deep mud. Another feature of this part of the track is having to straddle over a number of thick logs, which at this time of year are wet. We leave it to your imagination as to which part of our pants got

soaked as a result of our straddling! Nevertheless, we made good progress in cutting back the thick leaves and laying our own fern leaf carpets to rival Peter B's gorse needle one.

As Jan had an afternoon commitment she had to leave about midday, but not before she and Sandy had done some great teamwork in clearing sections of the track. Fortunately, with immaculate timing, as she left Simon arrived, having walked up from Sullivan's Dam and through the Cloud Forest. He immediately got stuck in, ensuring our momentum was maintained. Peter B also arrived having completed laying his gorse carpet. It was agreed that he would do a recce as far as Pigeon Rock to check on conditions.

While he was away the remaining quartet cleared our way to the Escarpment/Sullivan's Bridle Track junction, reaching it just as the rain began to come down. As we found a relatively dry spot at the junction we decided to have lunch here.

Whilst we were tucking into our soggy muesli bars Peter B returned and informed us, we were about 20 minutes walking time from Pigeon Rock and that the vegetation was even thicker and the track muddier than what we had already hacked and splodged through. As it was still raining and would take us well over an hour (uphill on the 3 Peaks Track this time!) to return to our vehicles on Cowan Rd, we agreed that this was a good place and time to finish.

Five of us (or the equivalent thereof) cleared about one-third of the Escarpment Track from the Powerline Clearing to Pigeon Rock. If about a dozen club members could turn up with shears and loppers on a Sunday morning in the not-too-distant future, then the full track could be cleared in readiness for next spring/summer – especially for when we do our annual Skyline Traverse!

Tony Timperley, with thanks to: Jan Burch, Peter Loeber, Peter Boeckhout, Sandy and Simon.

## **ST MARY'S RANGE CROSSOVER**

**May 25-26, 2019**

**Author: Sue Williams**

Published in Bulletin 805, July 2019

Friday night we headed up to the Maniototo, collected the hut key and then arrived at the hut about 7pm. It was originally the railway station building at Kokonga and was pretty original. Tom got a fire going in the coal range and we spent some time trying to get the smoke to go up the chimney. We then spent some time outside the hut watching the smoke come out the windows!

### **Saturday**

We headed off in the morning about 8am up the 4WD track heading to Tailings hut with fairly strong winds. On the way we checked out the Buster Diggings and could see Mt Cook in the north and Puketapu (Palmerston) in the East.

We eventually made contact with the other half of the trip by radio (well worth taking for a cross-over trip). They stayed at Hut Creek Hut which is about 2 hours away from Tailings Hut. Tailings hut has two separate bunk rooms (snorers/non-snorers). We arrived at the hut about 3pm and after a break we took a walk up the hill behind the hut. Afterwards Phil lead us in some yoga and after dinner played Citadels until our brains faded and the coal ran out.

### **Sunday**

We left a bit earlier at 7:30am, heading towards Hut Creek Hut, met up with the other group. We had a break at the hut, then it was onwards over Kohurau at 2009m. The views were fabulous and we reached the top about midday, with very cold wind. We stopped for a short break and could see a front coming (not in the forecast!). I put on most of my clothes, we had a quick bite and carried on up the ridge. We dropped over the ridge to the Waitaki side and then did a bit of map checking before we started descending. We could then see the Awakino Ski Lodge below and went directly down the steep gully. Phil loves scree slopes and he and Jeff were down in no time, (Phil did have kangaroo jerky in his pack..) There was a final grovel through the tussocks with some stab wounds from Spaniards. We reached the road and arrived back at the vehicle about 4pm.

Sue Williams for Phil Somerville, Jeff Cleugh, Tom Bennett and a big thank you to Alex Tups for organising everything, what an adventure!



## **SIGNAL HILL BY BUS**

**June 9, 2019**

**Author: Jane Cloete**

Published in Bulletin 805, July 2019

There were 9 of us on this trip – myself (Jane Cloete), Lucy Jones, Laura Freeman, Leonie Loeber, Laurence Prattley, Ken Taylor, Mark Stevenson, Debbie Guthrie and Russell Knowles.

Four of us started at the Clubrooms at 9am, caught the bus to the Bus Hub where Ken joined us, and the others were waiting at the Gardens when our bus got there (a minute or two late!) at 9.45. Then we abandoned the buses and put our feet into walking mode!

First up through the Botanic Gardens – a pause to look at the lovely sculpture of the seed cone of a Lebanese Cedar - across into the bush at the top, onto the Alhambra ground – and then the fun began!

I'd done the recce a few weeks before with no trouble at all, so with confidence I led the way down a little-used bush track. 'Little-used' turned into 'hardly ever used'! I say that it was because I'd been listening to Phil Somerville's talk "Into the Unknown" a few days before – he too had navigational challenges and only when they got to the bottom could they look back upwards to see an easier route. I too looked backwards once we'd got to Logan Park and lo and behold the proper track was obvious! Perhaps I should have checked my 'recce' map at the top!

A snack and a drink, then steadily up the 6km to the top of Signal Hill, stopping now and then for a breather and views. Lunch at the top – not too cold and even almost sunny – then down on the Big Easy bike track to the Plateau. Here we turned away for the bikers and plodded downhill to Ravensbourne, getting to the harbour at 1.20pm. Too early to finish the day! So we walked back to town. Lauren did a bit of car shuffling and most of us walked to our homes. For me, I'd walked (I think) nearly 22km! Doesn't look that far on the map!

My thanks to my companions their enjoyable company and for being so tolerant on the steep, muddy and untracked sections!

## LONGWOOD FOREST

**June 15-16, 2019**

**Author: Rose Colhoun**

Published in Bulletin 805, July 2019

An early morning departure from Dunedin on Saturday (with a small detour to Gore McDonald's) allowed for a mid-morning start to our walk from Cascade Road (once we found it, since some helpful person had removed the signpost). With advice from Tim Russell's trip report, and a glance at the road ahead, we parked lower down the road than originally intended, but once we started walking up the road, we realised we had definitely made the right decision. The gorse narrowed in the sides, and large broom branches across the track would have made even a 4WD ride unpleasant. An hour's easy amble brought us to the junction of the track signposted with Te Araroa trail and Martin's hut. Just a little further on, we branched off again, with an older sign suggesting 30 minutes to the hut. With some ups and downs and expected mud, we arrived at the hut just in time for lunch.



**Martins Hut (PHOTO: Rose Colhoun)**

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch, including a hot brew, left our packs behind and followed the track behind the hut up to the top of the Longwood Range. We were pleasantly surprised both by how quickly we reached the bushline, and by how vast the views were. Not far above the bushline, we reached the crest of the range and stopped to soak in the 360o views towards the

Hump Ridge, Te Waewae Bay, Stewart Island, Whenua Hou/Codfish Island, Riverton, Oreti Beach, Tiwai smelter, Bluff Hill, and the Southland plains.

Back at the hut, we set to work collecting a stash of firewood which was skillfully built into a roaring fire by Peter. The small, 1905 erected Raceman's hut soon became quite cosy, aided with the consumption of mulled wine and a smorgasbord of food. Despite heavy rain and possibly hail during the night, we woke to sunlight filtering through the trees. However, as we ate breakfast and packed up, a snow shower passed through, and it was bitterly cold. We headed off along the water-race track towards Turnbull's hut, the easy gradient made more interesting by obstacles of windfalls and creeks to navigate.



**Riverton Estuary with Oreti Beach & Bluff Hill in the background (PHOTO: Rose Colhoun)**

As the track began to descend ever so slightly, we knew we must be getting closer to Turnbull's hut, but the dense bush showed no signs of it. After an hour and a half, we reached several signs stating either 5 or 10 minutes to the hut. Although we could see the shape of Big Dam to our right, it seemed like the longest DoC 10 minutes ever before we finally spotted the hut hiding through the trees. There was now very little water in the dam, just a swampy creek running through it and a lot of dead trees showing where the water level had once risen to. The dam was used to feed the water races around the Longwoods which were mined for gold between the 1830s until the 1950s.



Turnbull's hut was even less desirable than Martin's, with gaping holes in the roof, and a chimney that rattled like a steam train every time there was a light breeze. We had a little lunch here, then although there was a track behind the hut, we backtracked to the junction at the top of the dam and were soon out on comparative smoothness of Cascade Road. A clearing at the end of the road showed buried railway sleepers and gravel where industry had been before.

As Jan commented, as soon as the road started to become comfortably boring, we came to a great gaping hole in the road where once there was a bridge across the river. Despite the broken up large concrete pipes in the river showing the might of the water, the level was now low and we could cross reasonably easily. The rain began to set in a little heavier, but we were soon back at the cars, pleased with our weekend exploring an unexpectedly delightful area.

Written by Rose Colhoun for Jan Burch, Peter Boekhout, Saskia Bronstring and Andrew McConnell.

# MIHIWAKA SUNRISE

**June 23, 2019**

**Author: Joe Bretherton**

Published in Bulletin 806, August 2019

Eight people chose to get up early this Sunday morning to head up to the top of Mihiwaka to watch the sunrise for the winter solstice.

We arrived at the Cedar Creek car park at 6.30am and all headed up the 4wd track with our torches on and well 'rugged up', as it was a cold morning. We soon left the 4wd track and headed up through the pine trees on a rough track which took us into open country. We arrived at the summit with plenty of time to spare and a superb view.



**Sunrise from Mihiwaka, June 23, 2019 (PHOTO: Rodger Clarkson)**

The sun rose at 8.20am, plenty of photos taken – then we all headed back down the hill and ended up at Port Chalmers for coffee and cake! A successful end to the winter solstice celebrations.

Those who got out of bed early: Rodger Clarkson, Brendan Penwarden, Joe Bretherton, Sharon Bretherton, Jan Burch, Ewen Rintoul, Sandy Webb, Bjarney Jónsdóttir Report and photo by Joe Bretherton.

Thanks to Rodger for organising a great location for this day.

## **ROSELLA RIDGE – CEDAR SPUR**

**June 30, 2019**

**Author: Lucy Jones**

Published in Bulletin 806, August 2019

Bundled up in layers of warm clothing, the seven of us left the clubrooms heading towards the Silver Peaks. The trek was about 600 vertical metres up and down and a few muddy parts off the track. We soon warmed up and it became quite a nice day, but especially cool when the wind got up in the afternoon. The tramping saying, "What goes up, must come down" is quite true and I never forget it when I'm out tramping.

We soon arrived to the Green Hut site, which was our morning tea break, to refuel, and take a little rest.



**The Silver Peaks from below Hightop (PHOTO: Tomas Sobek)**

We climbed the rugged track which was pretty hard going, stopping for a breather to admire the views looking out towards Mosgiel and Saddle Hill. After that it began to flatten out, as we got to top we took the first turn to the Rosella Ridge which was a hilly walk along the ridges, and looking out to the right getting a slight view of Waitati. The further we walked along, we could see thick black smoke coming from a couple of fires near Waitati.

After having lunch, we continued on to a steep drop down (sorry I can't remember it might have been Cedar Spur or the track that turned on to Direct Spur that took us down to the Waikouaiti river). We had to cross the river, that was when Tomas suggested making a short trip to Possum Hut.



Once we crossed the Waikouaiti River, it was a great opportunity for us to have a drink and refuel, as it is big grunt and slog up a very steep climb, a great chance for your leg muscles get a good work out. It was nice to see one of our tramping club members doing some work on the track, which made it easier for us to walk on - a big thank you!



**Possum Hut (PHOTO: Tomas Sobek)**

We came out on the Old Miners Track, I must say it was quite the relief to see the cars.

I would like to thank Tomas for leading us on a very good day trip, discovering Cedar Spur and Direct Spur, something new in the Silver Peaks.

Lucy Jones for Emma Roff, Rorie Marsland, Simon Lin, Andrew Connell, Sue Williams and trip leader Tomas Sobek

## **HARBOUR CONE**

**June 25, 2017**

**Author: Maria Hamelink**

Published in Bulletin 806, August 2019

We all met at the club rooms, 11 in total. We welcomed 5 first time day trippers then set off in cars to Bacon St Broad Bay.

A group of locals at the start of the track had a working bee to plant out some flaxes and thought we had come to help, sadly no we continued on up Hereweka-Harbour Cone track, crossing Highcliff Road and heading up past coffee rock (there was no coffee) and up the steep bit to the top enjoying the great views all the way.

We arrived at the top in record time getting there at 11am. We enjoyed a snack and soaked up the 360 degree views on a beaut sunny day. Views from Dunedin, up the harbour, out to Taiaroa Head, over to Hoopers and Papanui inlets including a view of Larnach Castle - Awesome.



**Hoopers Inlet, Allans Beach & Sandymount from ascent of Harbour Cone**

At the top were a couple of French guys with a drone, we posed for a photo from above then headed back down a slightly different route to the one we went up passing by some ruins and a rock wall.

Down at the cars it was only 12pm so we jumped in the cars and drove round to Portobello and walked over to Hoopers Inlet through a bush track stopping for lunch at the high point overlooking Portobello.

The trip ended with coffee and cake at the cafe in Portobello.

Thanks to Sue for organising and leading this trip.

Maria Hamelink for Sue Williams, Tracey and Richard Pettinger, Lucy Jones, Saskia Bronstring, Kerry Hiam, Damon Mitchell, Declin Michigan, Emily Bruchez and Louise Shaw.



## **BUSKIN – HIGHCLIFF – BOULDER BEACH - PARADISE**

**July 28, 2019**

**Author: Tony Timperley**

Published in Bulletin 807, September 2019

It was a cold morning when 16 of us huddled inside the clubrooms to list our names and organise car-sharing. Most had their legs covered in thermals in the expectation of cold southerlies, except Leader Tony, who said the forecast was for 15+ degrees and in any case his natural hairy covering would keep his legs warm. Who was correct? Read on and all will be revealed – in more ways than one!

We parked the cars on the lay-by at the Paradise Track entrance/exit, then set off along the Highcliff Road to the start of the Buskin Track. Although a 15 minute road walk, we were rewarded by great views over the Boulder Beach area on the left and the harbour on the right. As we descended Buskin, continuing to admire the views north whilst also avoiding the stinging nettles, people began to remark how warm it was getting and removing top layers. (No long johns yet!)



**Boulder Beach**

On reaching the junction between the Buskin and Highcliff Tracks we swung right under a copse of macrocarpa, following a marked but rough track to the start of the 250m climb up to the summit of Highcliff. It was during this climb that certain members of the group dived

behind bushes to relieve themselves – not in the way we usually associate with this euphemism, but to relieve themselves of their thermal leg coverings. So, Leader Tony was right! Unfortunately, however, he was not able to shave off his natural leg thermals to cool down.

At the summit our now bare-legged group settled down for drinks and nibbles whilst enjoying the extensive views both to the north and south (see photos). We were also able to see the route we had to take to reach Boulder Beach, which included a return descent to the Buskin Track junction. As Lucy says, “What goes up, must come down” (See her Rosella Ridge/Cedar Spur trip report in the August Bulletin.) and to prove her point she led the way back down Highcliff, leaving usurped Leader Tony fumbling with his pack as she galloped down the track.

As a result, we reached Boulder Beach in record time and even though we had had refreshments less than an hour earlier, we were all ready for a leisurely lunch on the beach. Guess who found the most comfortable seat? (see photo). Lunchtime entertainment was provided by Mondie conducting a sea-lion which swayed rhythmically until it thought it had entertained us sufficiently, when it flopped down and just occasionally flipped sand over its torso. It was fast asleep when we left.

Leader Tony was also caught napping when the rest of the group suddenly decided to get up and head back to the start of the Paradise Track. However, as they took the wrong track, he and co-leader Sonia were able to reassert their leadership by taking the correct track off the beach and getting ahead of the pack to lead them to the base of Paradise Track.

Antony Hamel says “This [track] is an honest 300m climb ...”. I think most of us would call it a 300m “slog” or “grunt”. Lucy again led the way and had us all gasping in her wake, showing us that “What goes down must go up again and she had led us down and up on both accounts! As a result of Lucy's vigorous pace setting we reached the Paradise Track carpark in record time also and completed the whole tramp in about an hour less than Leader Tony had estimated. Nevertheless, all participants agreed that they had enjoyed this energetic and scenic tramp done in perfect weather.

Tony Timperley for, and with thanks to: Lucy Jones, Sonia Alexanian, Jill and Luca McAliece, Darran Mitchell, Luna Lovegrove, Tim Lungley, Mandie Lungley, Peter Loeber, Mark Stephenson, Ken Taylor, Emily Bruchez, Declan Mehigan, Kathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson. Photos by Sonia Alexanian.

## CAMERON VALLEY

**July 27-28, 2019**

**Author: Sue Williams**

Published in Bulletin 807, September 2019

We were all able to leave Dunedin early, so we arrived at the Mt Somers Camping at about 8:30 pm. There was much debate about when we would get up. In the end Rodger was over-ruled (Sharon is tough like that) and we decided to get up at 6am. Ironically Rodger was up first and woke us all up at 6:30. There were many comments made about alarms not being set, but I took no notice of them.



**Cameron Hut (PHOTO: Rodger Clarkson)**

The start of the valley is about 40 minutes from Mt Somers, and we were on the way at 8:30. We could see snow at the head of the valley, so we took ice-axes just in case. The first part of the valley is on a 4WD track, the next section was through a Matagouri forest. We all took turns losing the track and getting scratched. It wasn't a monoculture – there was also briar rose, bush lawyer and spaniards. I think Rodger lost the most blood. When he'd finished complaining, he let us know that he isn't one to complain. Eventually we emerged into more open country and reached the large fan in the middle of the valley. We decided to climb up and have lunch at the top with some views. Then it was onward going between the riverbed and the banks until we reached the big moraine walls at the head of the valley. We followed up a stream on the true right of the valley and started walking through snow. Eventually we climbed up into the basin and caught sight of the hut at last. There was about 30cm of snow around



the hut and it was a stunning sight. The snow had come down about a week ago, so it was fairly easy going. We reached the hut at about 3:30. We had a rest and then went back outside for a look around. Simon was the most energetic and went part of the way up the carriageway.

The hut is owned by the Canterbury Mountaineering Club and is in a top spot, the view from the hut window is superb. They have solar lights set up and a mountain radio (no heating though).



**Cameron Valley (PHOTO: Rodger Clarkson)**

In the morning there was some cloud coming over from the west, although it was reasonably mild. We set off by 9am and we were out at the end of the road by about 3:30pm. We were back in Dunedin by 9:30 after a stop at the kebab shop in Timaru.

Sue Williams for Simon, Rodger, Carpark and a big thank you to Joe and Sharon for their vehicle and driving.

## **SNOWCAVING**

**August 10-11, 2019**

**Author: Richard Pettinger**

Published in Bulletin 807, September 2019

Looking for a chance to just chill out? You could have joined us.

We did the snowcaving thing and slept underwater and it was all pretty cool. This is an activity that 99.99% of humanity would probably not even recognise as a "thing".

This year's superlatives include: the keenest bunch, most accurate (bad) weather forecast; the easiest snow to dig, the most motivated diggers (due to crappiest weather for the trip in many years), least number of hot drinks consumed...

Twelve of us, 3 cars, lots of walking with packs (due to snow drifting across the road rather too low down). Every member of the trip had been cautioned about the weather and the need to prepare to get snowed on, and still they went, forewarned, and equipped, enthusiastically ahead into light snow in a light wind. After checking out the rock bivy's salubrious-ness, grabbing lunch we found a site in the sheltered drift a few minutes to the west. The wind was katabatic and slightly from the NW, and even the NE, swirling a little. I kept checking if everyone was feeling up to it. They assured me they were. Nobody was sitting back looking obviously apprehensive... It all made for a determined effort to keep busy and take turns to be out of the wind. I warned the bench-diggers that they couldn't hog the relatively cosy still-air work, inside. We were blessed with a great depth of excellent-consistency snow that fell away in huge polystyrene-like blocks.



**OTMC Snowcaving Weekend 2019 (PHOTO: Dave Bull)**

The snow falling was exactly the quantity and timing as foretold by the insanely accurate yr.no (Norwegian) global weather forecasters (bless them). Although I was about to write a stern letter of complaint to Norway if it didn't stop snowing at 6 o'clock, there was no need to. It stopped as predicted, on time for us to make entrance-way meals in relative comfort.

I have an observation. Years ago, forecasting was not quite so sophisticated. We used hunches and crystal balls which were about as useful as dried seaweed and NZ forecasts, and often trusted luck and went off snowcaving anyway. If the weather turned out to be crappy we'd go and do an afternoon and a morning of wanders around Alexandra. We wouldn't bother learning about snowcaves if it was really ghastly, and instead learn 'emergency' snow survival by getting the hell off the mountain and sitting in a cabin/bar/restaurant instead.



**OTMC Snowcaving Weekend 2019 (PHOTO: Dave Bull)**

Despite dire and contentious talk among the met boys, of a weather bomb or something, this year we believed we knew what to expect, and when we would be snowed on and when not, so we had steeled ourselves in true rugged OTMC-fashion and ascended into the frozen mists. We were clearly going to be perched on the boundary of the predicted blizzardous storm north of us and a cool but relatively clear and calm air mass in Southland and Clutha. A slight change in the incoming direction (by a few degrees) of the air mass (the barometric situation) off the coast could shift the boundary of the weather system across the Old Man Range. One would hope to be immersed in the more southerly air mass.



Anyway, we laughed at the arguments about weather warnings and learned the art of keeping warm(ish) while maintaining morale and building our accommodation. We forgot to make hot drinks (something my wife, Tracy, would never allow to happen were she with us), so focused were we on getting out of the weather. Near-palatial, relatively warm, secure caves resulted and all had a splendid night of sleep.

Next day my cave team was photographed by an ace photographer from next door (Dave) and after scant or no breakfast we packed up and left our homes, our neighbourhood, the mountain and hit Roxburgh for a hot drink and lunch. An uneventful journey saw us home quite early, all very pleased with ourselves. We have acquired yet another death-defying piece of knowledge.

Richard Pettinger: for Wayne Hodgkinson, Sue Galloway, Sharen Rutherford, Amit Myint, Louise Shaw, Tim Lungley, Luna Lovegrove, Dave Bull, Denan Diep, Darron Mitchell, Saskia Bronstring. Thanks, Denan and Darron, for bringing vehicles.

# OTMC EQUILIBRIUM DAY – JUBILEE HUT & RETURN

**August 3, 2019**

**Author: Antony Pettinger**

Published in Bulletin 807, September 2019

Changing the club's name from the Otago Tramping Club to the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club was a big decision, with the debate starting with a well-documented debate in October 1966. It wasn't until August 1971 when the name was finally changed as recorded in Outdoors '73: 'The 1971 Annual General Meeting provided one of the most significant milestones in the 50-year history of the Club. A motion was passed that "advanced levels of tramping and mountaineering be encouraged" To fit in with this new concept the Club was renamed "The Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc)' It has been written that the name of the subsequently formed Over Thirties Club, a sub-group within the OTMC, was chosen to retain the O.T.C initials.



**Upper section of Green Ridge, beyond Green Hill and ready to climb to Pulpit Rock**

Fast forward to August 2019, calculations were undertaken to work out when the OTC and OTMC would become equal in age – this turned out to be on August 2019. The original Otago Tramping Club was around for 17,522 days, and the OTMC achieved this age on August 3. To celebrate this, a trip was planned that would link the two names together, hence this trip to Jubilee Hut.

The forecast for the weekend was poor, but a perfect weather window on Sunday was predicted, and turned out to be accurate. Overnight snow and freezing conditions made for a slow trip to the Semple Road car park, but clear and sunny weather greeted us, and remained so for the rest of the trip.

It was noted that the start of Gold Miners Direct Track has been shifted to now start immediately behind the DoC sign at the car park (used to be about 300m on the track towards Hightop). A good pace saw us at the former OTC Green Hut Site 50 minutes later. While regeneration of an area in general is appreciated, it won't be too long until there is no view from the hut site – the once expansive views are being blocked out by the surrounding regrowth.



**Silver Peaks looking south, from below Pulpit Rock towards Green Hill, Mt Cargill & Mt Charles**

There have been murmurings of discontent with the 'improvements' made to the track from Hightop, but the addition of steps between the old hut site and the ridge above has dealt to the worst of what was once a mudslide at times. Now that we were facing the south, the recent snow and rain had frozen, creating a very slick track from below Green Hill to about a third of the way down the Devil's Staircase. Storms could be seen in the direction of Lake Waiholā but skirted around the Silver Peaks.

The view from the top of the Silver Peaks on a clear winter's day is impressive, especially with the snow clad Lammerlaws, Lammermoor's, Rock and Pillar and right round to the Kakanui's. Cave Stream didn't look particularly enticing, being frozen and devoid of sun, but wasn't too bad. The section of the old 4WD below Jubilee Hut is as boggy as ever, and the track up to hut



itself is also very muddy and slippery. It was disappointing to see the amount of damage by pigs along the valley floor, and outside Jubilee - the options to camp have been reduced remarkably. Luckily, the campsites under the beech trees in various places remain.

A quick lunch at Jubilee, and then a visit to the former Jubilee Hut site – the original hut was built for the OTC's Jubilee in 1948 (opened in 1951) and was removed upon the opening of the replacement hut in May 2007. At this time of year, the advantages of the new site is obvious – the old site is cold, damp, and sees little to no sun in winter.



**Former OTC / OTMC Jubilee Hut Site, Cave Stream, Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve**

A steady climb back to the highest point of the Silver Peaks, and a pleasant stroll along the ridges saw us back at the Green Hut site around 3.30pm. The weather held for the final push along Green Ridge to Semple Road, with the hail and then snow holding off until we were about 30 seconds from the car park.

The trip bordered between a moderate and fit trip, with the total tramping time being around 7hrs. It was a great day with a really neat team. I'd like to make a special mention of Dick Brasier, who travelled down from Christchurch for this trip. Dick joined the club in 1965 and told us how big a part of his life the OTC / OTMC has been to him, hence him coming down for this trip. Over time, the club can become a really important part of who you are, and for those who joined young, your life skills are developed and enhanced by your tramping experiences (good and bad!) Dick, thanks for joining us, we certainly enjoyed your company and stories.

Antony Pettinger for...Debbie Pettinger, Wayne Hodgkinson, Darron Mitchell, Tim Lungley, Luna Lovegrove, Louise Shaw and Dick Brasier.

# FOREST OF LEITH AND ESCARPMENT TRACK

**August 18, 2019**

**Author: Not recorded**

Published in Bulletin 807, September 2019

We parked the cars at the car park near Sullivans Dam and headed off. Our party consisted of Jill McAliece and her grandson Luca, Heather Lundbeck, Lucy Jones, Peter and Leonie Loeber, Tony Timperley and Geraldine Kerr. Immediately after coming through the gates, there was a huge puddle of ice on the road. We tested it with our walking poles, but it was reasonably solid. On the way up the track we 'trod the boards' on the board walks and did the 'limbo rock' under an overhanging tree stump. We had morning tea where the track meets the Powerlines Track where we had great views up the coast to the north and snow on the peaks to the northwest.



**Cowan Road, between Escarpment and Three Peaks Tracks (PHOTO: Rodger Clarkson)**

After morning tea, we continued up the Escarpment Track towards Pigeon Rock which was our lunch stop. Again, we had the pleasure of stunning views and glorious sunshine.

After lunch we continued on the Escarpment Track through the remaining pine forest (where there were patches of snow) towards Cowan Road. From there we picked up the Three Peak Tracks to return to the cars. Unfortunately, this track is very overgrown with gorse and broom which we had to sidle through the gorse so as not to get too many prickles. Once we were through the track, we headed back onto the Powerline Track to re-join the Cloud Forests of Leith Track and return to the cars. The app on Geraldine's phone said that we walked just over 10km. We were back at the cars just after 3pm.



Thank you to everyone for your company, to Tony for track directions and to Geraldine for leading a great day out.



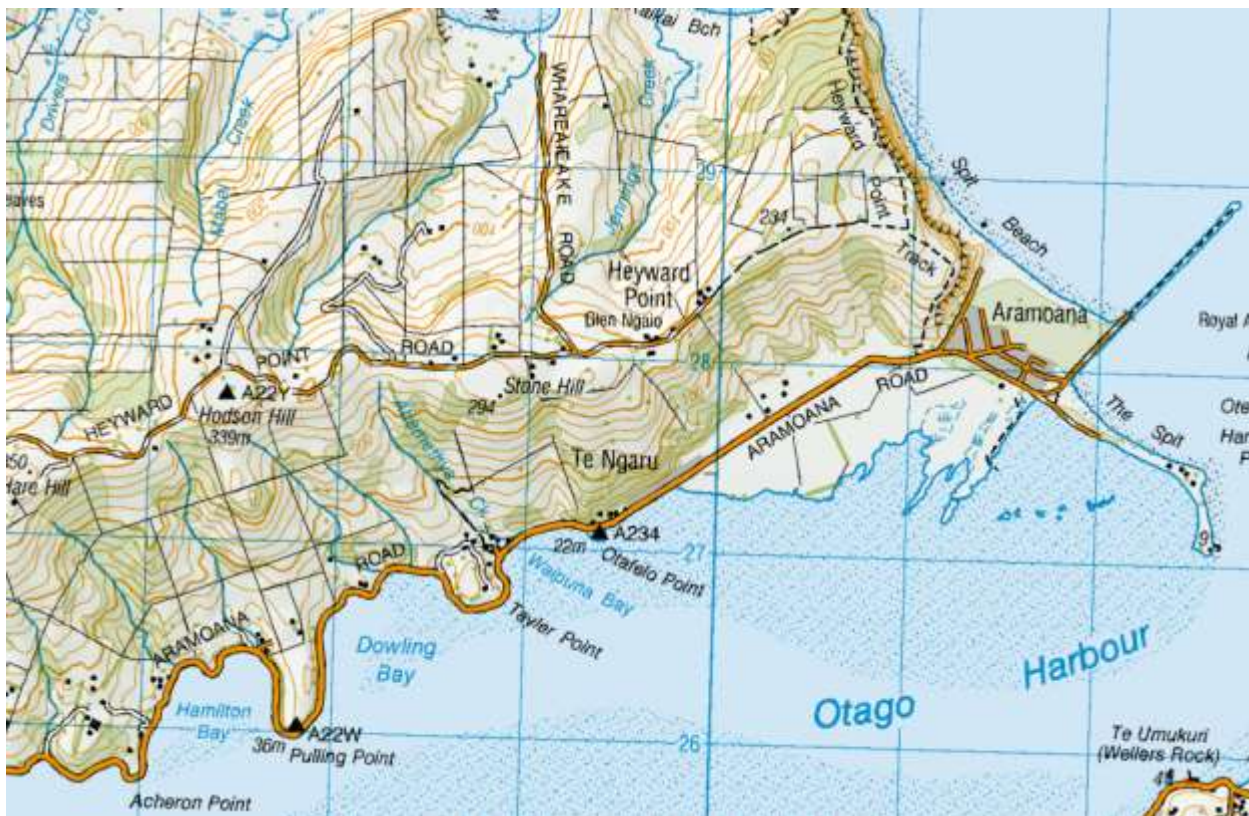
# STONE HILL – PUREHUREHU POINT

**June 16, 2019**

**Author: Chris Handley**

Published in Bulletin 808, October 2019

Six members and one non-member set off directly up Stone Hill from sea level. Route finding posed something of a dilemma — avoid the thistles and fight the wind or climb through the thistles but out of the wind. We all made up our minds independently and struggled up, discussing on the way whether the hill was so-called because of the large number of stones on the top or because one of the early owners of the farm on its flanks was Mrs Stone.



Anyway, we all struggled up to the top at about 300 metres where we could get good views of the harbour and where we had come from. Posed for the obligatory group photo on one of these amazing new cameras that also make phone calls.

Then over the top, down to Heyward Point Road and out of the wind for a few hundred metres and then off down through more paddock all the while attempting to circumvent the worst of the muddy bits and finally emerged at Kaikai Beach where we peeked into a sea cave that has been set up for sleep overs. The weather was sunny and sheltered for a relaxed lunch with time to examine the local deceased fauna and pronunciation practice of the name Purehurehu Point.

Then back by a different and definitely less steep route up, although the final descent was just as steep as it had been in the morning. However, by then the wind had dropped, so route planning was somewhat easier.

Chris Handley for Lucy Jones, Sandy Karamchiti, Lauren Freeman, Mark Stephenson, Ken Taylor and Gordon Tocher.

## COMPASS & NAVIGATION DAY

**September 8, 2019**

**Author: Joy Liddicoat**

Published in Bulletin 808, October 2019

A small group of enthusiastic club members set off on Sunday 8 September for a compass and navigation skills day trip. We met at the club room just before 9am and while it was overcast the road was dry, so we were a little surprised to find ourselves in a light dusting of snow on Mt Cargill just a few minutes later.

Our task was to follow a pre-set course on a map to find 18 markers that had been placed at various points. Soon after we set off the grey clouds turned to hail and snow. Not to be deterred, I decided the snowy and claggy conditions were excellent for a training and skills development day as I could easily end up in a situation where I needed these skills in poor weather conditions. On any trip the weather conditions can change quickly: a route can be clagged in, snow can create white out or you can simply walk off a track and not realise for quite a while. The day also provided a great opportunity to practice working as a group with Luka, Ash and I under the watchful eye of our Club committee members.



**Navigating between markers on Mt Cargill, September 8, 2019**



We started out with each person taking turns to find the bearing to the marker. We were a little slow to start with but as our confidence developed we were soon comparing bearings, turning in various half-circles and suggesting landmarks as well as trying to estimate how far we had walked. Several times the visibility reduced to under 100 metres. When that happened Luka and I took a bearing and sent out a very willing (and surprisingly nimble!) Ash to go ahead 20 or 30 metres while we stayed put. Once Ash stopped, Luka and I would double check the bearing and signal whether Ash should move left or right. It was good system and by the time we were nearing completion we were even able to see the markers from where we'd taken our bearing.

We started out eyes glued to the map, holding on to the compass tightly. But we grew in confidence and were soon picking up the best landmarks to fix the bearing to. Antony and Debbie helpfully guided some of us away from slavishly following a straight-line route to the landmark since once the bearing was clear it wasn't necessary to go in a straight line – we could go around obstacles or move on and off a track (especially good for us shorties who can't scale logs!). After a couple of hours, I was definitely more confident and willing to debate the correct bearing, read the map and relate it to our surroundings. I thoroughly recommend this way of learning or for brushing up on skills – it's safe and was fun to do in a group. Thanks for organising this Antony and Debbie!

Joy Liddicoat on behalf of Antony Pettinger, Ash Flintoff, Debbie Pettinger, Lukas König, and Wayne Hodgkinson

# GRAHAMS BUSH – BETHUNES GULLY

**August 25, 2019**

**Author: Russel Knowles**

Published in Bulletin 809, November 2019

My first time leading a trip and was grateful the weather was perfect. Cool but sunny and calm.

A total of 14 of us started the walk from Sawyers Bay and we headed up Graham's Bush. We quickly checked a few of the Halo DOC stoat and rat traps (nothing caught this time) and made it to the road in no time. A few brave folk clambered up some of the Organ Pipes before another small detour to take in the views at Buttars Peak.



Our third detour took some of the group up the front of Mt Cargill, a much easier route now the gorse has been trimmed back. A lunch stop at the top of Mt Cargill was followed by a leisurely walk down to the car park at Bethunes Gully. A quick carpool back to Sawyers Bay sorted out everyone's transport destinations.

Thanks to those who came along and a special thanks to Debbie and Ken who were amazing in helping me with this trip.

Russell Knowles on behalf of Darron Mitchell, Debbie Guthrie, Doug Malcolm, Jan Burch, Jane Cloete, Ken Taylor, Laurence Prattley, Leonie Loeber, Louise Shaw, Lucy Jones, Mandie Lungley, Peter Loeber, and Santashree Mitra



## **BEN RUDD'S WORK PARTY**

**September 7, 2019**

**Author: Sue Williams**

Published in Bulletin 809, November 2019

Seven of us had a productive day at Ben Rudd's and now have 41 holes for trees ready to go. The holes are spread right along the fire break track, with a tree space at each end of the property. We cut and poisoned plenty of broom so there's room for more trees. We'll let you know of another date before long, so don't worry, you'll still have a chance to help! We're planning to plant trees in April next year.



**Tree planting preparation at Ben Rudd's, 2019**

Paul Pope came with us to have a look at the project and gave us some advice.

The trees we planted in autumn this year are looking good and we had lots of positive comments from passers-by.

Thanks from Sue Williams to the volunteers Jan Burch, Richard Pettinger, Tracey Pettinger, David McArthur, Leonie and Penny McArthur.

# GABRIELS GULLY

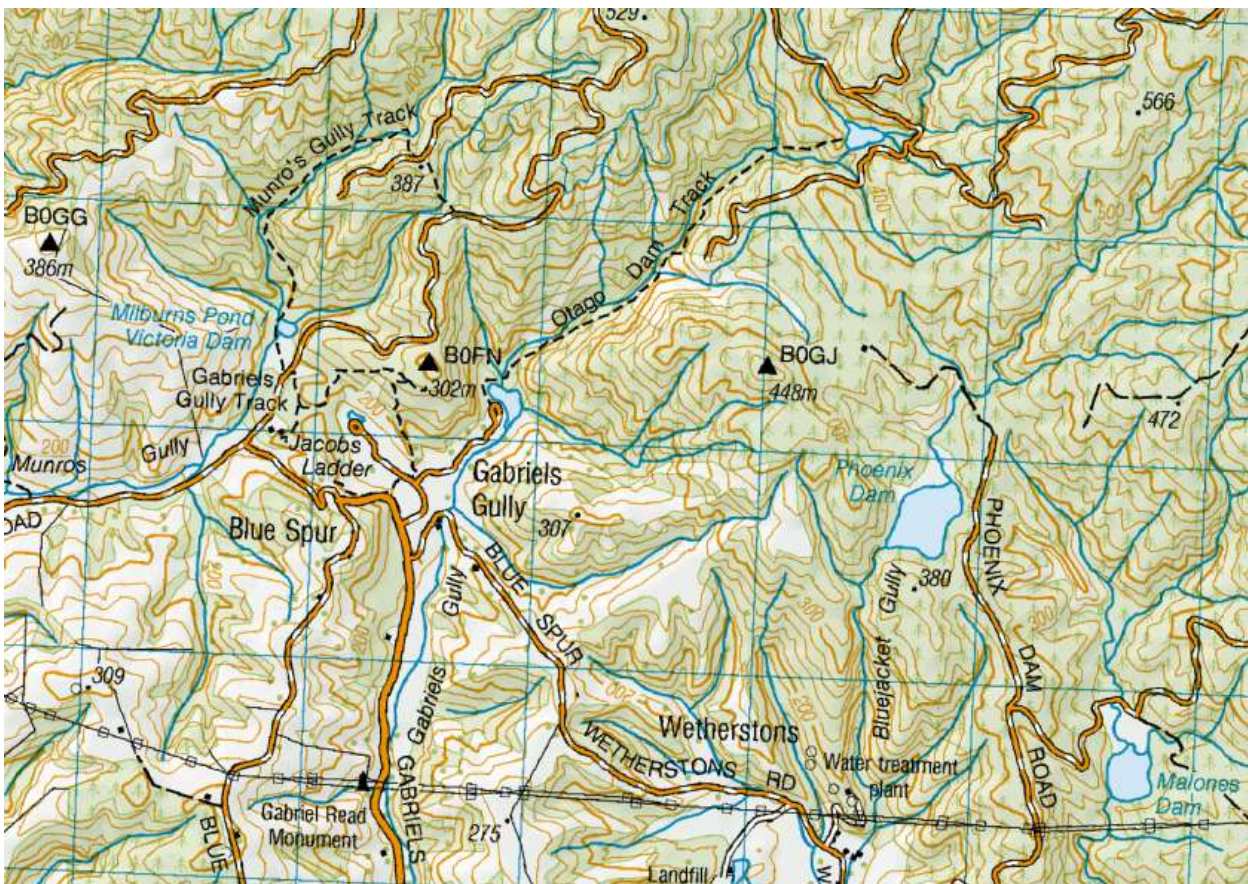
**September 22, 2019**

**Author: Jane Cloete**

Published in Bulletin 809, November 2019

What a beautiful day for a trip to Lawrence, Gabriel's Gully and Wetherstons! It was almost the first fine, warm and windless day that we'd had this spring!

We left the clubrooms at 9am sharp – as promised! - and we were starting our morning walk by 10.30 at Gabriels Gully. Regrettably, I had not done a recce for the trip – in fact it is several years since I was there, and some of the smaller tracks that I'd hoped to use were overgrown with gorse and bramble, so we stuck to the main tracks. Up the northern side of the Gully and into the bush, with some lovely yellow primroses to greet us! Around to the dam at the top, then back to the site of the Raceman's Hut. This was an area that used to be covered with all sorts of primroses – pale blue and pink as well as yellow – but now only seems to have the yellow variety.



Back down the steep way to view the old cave where explosives were stored. Parts of old batteries and stamps were visible here and there. Good track all the way around the southern side of the Gully – primroses along the way – and back to the cars by about 11.45. A quick lunch and some discussions about the afternoon route. Some opted to return to Dunedin (the Fleetwood Mac concert the day before had shortened their sleep!), some opted to drive (7km)

to Wetherstons and so get back home a bit earlier, one (Chris) cycled around to Wetherstons, but nine of us walked the 3+km up and over the hill. The daffodils were in their full glory. Who would have thought there were so many varieties? Singles and doubles, frilly and plain, whites and yellows and orange! There were many along the bush paths but thousands on the hillside!

So after an hour or so we walked back to the cars – strange how the hill seemed much steeper the second time around – and after an ice-cream at Lawrence we headed for home, getting to Dunedin just after 5pm.

A grand day out! My thanks to my 14 companions on the day: Leonie and Peter Loeber;

Lynley Pearson and her friend Jan Hodges; Isabelle and Moto Moebs; Tony Lough; Lauren and Colin Freeman; Russell Knowles and Debbie Guthrie; Saskia Bronstring; Chris Pearson and Kathy Woodrow.

Jane Cloete



## TAIERI MOUTH CYCLE TOUR

**September 28/29, 2019**

**Author: Maria Hamelink**

Published in Bulletin 809, November 2019

We left the clubrooms soon after 9am, 10 overnights were joined by Ken, Charlotte, Chris, Debbie and Russel who came out for a day trip. Russel as driving support crew, Cathy and Jane also drove out to Taieri Mouth then biked back to meet us enroute.

Amongst us is 6-year-old Tilly and 8-year-old Artie who impressed us all with their efforts. We were entertained along the way by Jans icebreaker games, this is where we stopped frequently, checked we all knew everyone's names and shared our likes and dislike of all things biking.

Our first hurdle was the long grunt up South Road then after a breather downhill into Green Island, a few gentler hills followed, and we soon found ourselves at the Brighton Café for an early lunch in the sun.



**Cycling out of Taieri Mouth (PHOTO: Maris Hamelink)**

Enroute some stopped at a garage sale in Ocean View and Jan scored new panniers. Not sure what happened but I heard Charlotte had to be rescued as she locked herself in the toilet.

A lovely sunny day and mostly flat along the coast to Taieri Mouth however the unwelcome head wind slowed us down a bit, the tide was high, and the sea looked very inviting.

Cycling through Taieri Mouth we arrived at the crib kindly organised by Jane soon after 2pm. We pitched our tents or claimed beds then relaxed on the sofas with a cup of tea, some of us exploring the area, the beach and or the Livingstone Green wetlands.

We farewelled the day trippers as they headed back home, and no they didn't cycle, there was a strategic plan to get them all back thanks to Russell.

After our shared potluck dinner of nibbles, mains and desserts Jan brought out Pictionary and we spent a fun night trying to figure out somewhat strange (and very good) drawings.

Day 2, after the clocks move forward for daylight savings we packed up and set off on the 37 km trip back to Dunedin leaving again just after 9am.



**Taieri Beach (PHOTO: Maris Hamelink)**

Heading past Moturata Island the tide was out and the path to the Island very clear. I chose to take an extra steep detour back heading 2.5 km straight up Otokia Road and back down Dickinsons Road, an extra 5 kms though it felt a lot longer. Awesome views of the coastline from the high point. Cathy had a couple of geocaches to find on the way back but got a puncture and had to abandon her search, luckily Chris was on hand for a rescue.

We arrived again for lunch in Brighton at the same cafe, they were so happy to see us two days in a row they took a pic of us and posted us on their Facebook page (Brighton Beach Café).

Then a quick cycle back into town, somehow we ended up with a headwind again (grrr), that last hill from Concord up to Lookout Point tested us all but we stayed on our bikes to the top and after a quick downhill to Caversham arrived back at the clubrooms around 1.30.

Many thanks to Jan who organised the trip and Jane who arranged our accommodation.

It was a really great weekend. Lookout for the next trip.

Maria Hamelink for Jan Burch, Jane Cloete, Shanta Mitra, Tina Anderson, Cathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson, Will Sweetman with Tilly and Artie, Ken Taylor, Charlotte Handley, Chris Handley, Debbie Guthrie and Russel Knowles.

## ROSS CREEK TO FLAGSTAFF (RE-ENACTMENT OF THE VERY FIRST CLUB TRIP)

**September 2-3, 2017**

**Author: Antony Pettinger**

Published in Bulletin 809, November 2019

The idea for this trip came from a challenge issued by FMC for clubs to re-enact their first trip to celebrate the 2019 centenary of the Tararua Tramping Club. I thought this was something the OTMC should do, and as it turned out, September 1, 2019 was 96 years to the very day since the inaugural trip of the Otago Tramping Club.

Our club was formed on Thursday, August 23rd, 1923, and that meeting set the first trip down for the first Saturday in September. The first trip was from Ross Creek Reservoir to Flagstaff, via the Ross Creek Bush Track and Pineapple Point. As we had the whole day at our disposal, I decided to start from Malvern Street. The Duke Street tram terminus (now long gone) was the meeting point for many early trips, so it is likely many on the first trip also walked to Ross Creek from near Woodhaugh Gardens.



**The party at Pineapple Point, September 1, 2019**

I guess a combination of a bit of promotion, the sense of history and an absolutely stunning spring day attracted 34 people on the trip, the largest day trip the club has seen for ages. A short wander up Woodhaugh St, then following the tracks beside Ross Creek saw us crossing the creek below the reservoir and detouring up School Creek. Due to the large size of the party



and the myriad of tracks around Ross Creek we managed to fail meeting up at Craigieburn as planned, instead regrouping at Booth Road.

In keeping with the original trip, we circled around McGouns track. I'm pretty confident that the large trees near the Booth Rd end would have been there in 1923. Just before reaching the new Pineapple Track, we turned left and headed up the Ross Creek Bush Track (referred to sometimes as the original Pineapple Track). This track is in pretty good order and appears to get a bit of use. The track ends after about 30 minutes at a large clearing near the current Pineapple Track. Here we turned right (towards the city) and after about 200m we had lunch at a prominent point. We know that early trips mention Pineapple Point a lot (many stories of tins of pineapple being enjoyed here, and the tins left as markers on the fence – the fence itself still exists in places).



**Pineapple Point, with broom obscuring any view, September 1, 2019**

Recent research has pretty well confirmed that this point is indeed Pineapple Point, and in keeping with tradition tinned pineapple was again enjoyed here. From here it was a hot walk up the steeper parts of the upper Pineapple Track and across to the Flagstaff Summit. The very first trip endured a bitterly cold southwester, this trip was the opposite, and it was great to see so many people out enjoying some of the best views of the city.

While the majority of the party retraced their steps back to Leith Valley, a smaller breakaway party headed across the bone-dry tussock to Ben Rudd's, dispatching a couple of wilding pines along the way. After a pleasant lie in the sun at the former skid-site this party too headed back down the hill.

As an aside, the idea of installing a seat and associated plaque / signage at Pineapple Point was well received at the AGM and on this trip. The area today has a moderate cover of broom (the recent fire didn't affect the point), but it would not be a big job to clear this and restore the view from the 1920's. The committee will now work on this idea. There will need to be consultation / agreement with the council (landowner), but if it all works out, we plan to unveil the seat as part of the centenary celebrations in 2023. We think it will become a popular destination for those who don't wish to head to the Flagstaff summit, or for those wanting to reflect on tramping days gone by at a place that has a sense of history for the club.



**The summit of Flagstaff, September 1, 2019**

The turnout for this trip shows that there will be considerable interest in the club centenary and associated events. My thanks to those who came along and celebrated the TTC Centenary and our own history.

Antony Pettinger for Debbie Pettinger, Ken Taylor, Sarah Hjertquist, Lauren Freeman, Jan Burch, David McArthur, Debbie Guthrie, Russell Knowles, Tina Anderson, Terry Duffield, Bronwen Strang, Leonie and Peter Loeber, Ralph Harvey, Charlotte and Chris Handley, Lucy Jones, Jane Cloete, Mark Stephenson, Sharen Rutherford, David Bonis, Tracy and Richard Pettinger, Saskia Bronstring, Bob Craigie, Maria Hamelink, Andrew McConnell, Lilly McConnell, Tony Lough, Tessy George, Kathy Woodrow and Chris Pearson.

## BEECH HUT, EYRE MOUNTAINS

**October 12-13, 2019**

**Author: Tim Russell**

Published in Bulletin 810, December 2019

Beech hut is historic and characterful (some would say rough) and can be reached by a straightforward walk up the Mataura valley. Of course, being a M/F grade tramp, we couldn't go that way. Instead, the plan was to cross via the tops from Eyre Creek, then return over the tops by a long ridge route the following day.

Friday: The advance party of three left Dunedin early and met up in Athol with Rose. That meant their evening's walk-up Eyre Creek to Shepherd Creek hut could be completed in daylight. Six trampers in the other two cars converged on Gore for takeaways. We drove up Eyre Creek Rd as far as a 2WD could go, then all 6 piled into the 4WD. The driver (who may or may not be the trip leader) immediately took the wrong farm track and drove through a series of paddocks before finding the correct way up the valley (it's more difficult to route find at night!) After a two hour walk in light drizzle, we reached the Shepherd Creek hut. The early team had kindly put-up tents, so that the rest of us could use the bunks and get to bed soon after our midnight arrival.

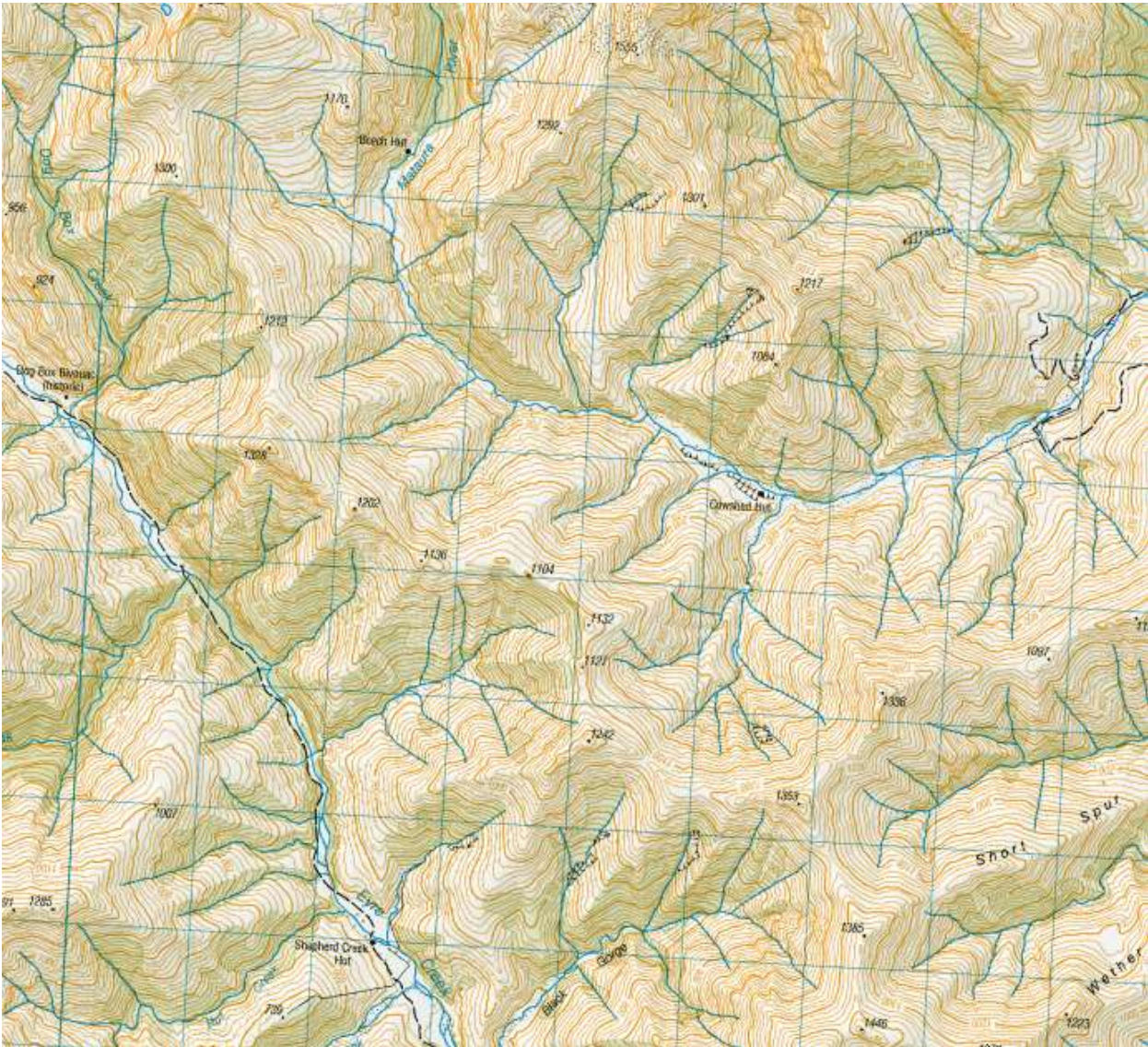
Saturday: The day dawned free of rain; however low cloud hung around the tops. The forecast was for a gradual improvement and better weather on Sunday. Departing just before 9am, the first challenge was to find a suitable crossing point, as the river was clear but a bit high from recent rain. "Dry-Boots" Murray crossed in his crocs, while the rest of us just shrugged and went over in our boots. Then began the 800m climb up a long spur to Pt 1242. The cloud level had gradually risen, offering intermittent views of the surrounding hills. We descended to the cloud-free zone at the 1100m contour for a well-deserved lunch. Suitably fortified, we headed down to Cowshed hut on the banks of the Mataura. This hut is generally in good condition, except that the door had been left open at some point and birds had deposited their business on just about every surface. We lounged around outside for 40 minutes.

The next phase of the trip involved a number of crossings of the Mataura River as we worked our way up the valley over the course of 2 hours. Some of the crossings had to be made with care and mutual support, as again the river was running a bit high. One member of the party tramped in crocs or bare feet at various times, occasionally putting on his dry boots. In a case of poor planning by the leader, rain decided to accompany us for the last few minutes of the day's walk. The hut was a welcome sight at 5pm, but of course it required one more wade through the river to get to it. Most put up tents, leaving only one person staying the night in the hut. Sumptuous pre-dinner snacks were offered around to all (thanks Allan) and hearty dinners followed. Tired trampers had earned an early night and headed off to bed.

Sunday: Emerging from my tent and entering the hut, I was greeted with a "here's the culprit!" Apparently, the previous night I had absent-mindedly pushed the bolt on the door of the hut across, to stop the door swinging open, oblivious to the fact that Ian was inside and would be unable to escape. Oops, sorry! The skies overhead looked moderately promising. Although



there was a layer of high cloud and a few patches of valley mist, we had improved views of the higher mountains around us. Our intended ridge route could be clearly seen from the hut. Departing from Beech hut, we had a scrubby scramble alongside the river - with hindsight we should have just crossed the river twice to avoid that and saved some time. Then began the climb up to Pt 1212, where the views justified a decent length rest. From here we could see Jane Peak in one direction and Eyre Peak in another, the two highest mountains in these parts. Continuing on, five of us went over the high point (Pt 1328) of the ridge and the others did a convenient sidle and had almost finished their lunches by the time the summiters had reached the same spot.



The undulating ridge eventually had the team back at the point where we had crossed the range the previous day. By now we knew that we would be back at the vehicles relatively late. The high cloud persisted throughout, and we only counted 3 one-minute bursts of sunshine. A photo of a fleeting shadow was taken to prove that there had actually been sun in case anyone missed it. After the long descent down the spur to Eyre Creek, we located a better section of river and did textbook-quality linked crossings. The walk down the valley to the vehicles was

much easier in daylight and we were there at 6:20pm. With a bit of 4WD'ing and the drive to Gore for kebabs or similar, it was about 10:30pm before most of us were back home.

Thanks, guys, for being awesome company and coping with a few challenges with such good humour.

Peter Boeckhout, Ian Billinghamurst, Rose Colhoun, Murray Hyslop, Allan Sutherland, Sue Williams, Joe and Sharon Bretherton, Brad Wilson and Tim Russell (leader & scribe)



## **“BIG HUT” DAY TRIP (PHIL COX)**

**October 20, 2019**

**Author: Rob Seeley**

Published in Bulletin 810, December 2019

Well once again Huey decided to park a NW gale on the Rock and Pillars to coincide with this trip. So, rather than widen our carbon footprint with a bootless journey to the Strath Taieri (and put Lucy’s parents to the trouble of more hot drinks and pikelets) we five opted to attempt something away from Huey’s malice but commensurably exhausting in our beloved Silver Peaks.



**Philip J. Cox Memorial Hut, Silver Peaks Scenic Reserve**

I pitched a trip down the new River Track and up to the Phillip Cox Memorial hut with a possible loop back via the range’s backbone. This was new ground to most people and was approved. A trip in Joy’s car later we were heading down the newly aligned and improved Miners Direct track to the river. After some poor navigation by the leader (which he blamed on jetlag, yeah right) we had found the track and were heading down the river in sunshine.

The track (Arthur B’s contribution to the Belt and Road initiative) does rather go on, though and it wasn’t until the morning was gone that we arrived at the end. Here at the Sculpture Rocks I could vaguely remember a track from the inauguration trip leading up to Yellow Ridge and fortunately there appeared to be only one track available. This eventually proved to be the one we wanted – but it cost us some anxiety, wandering, vague and marker-less as it was. Arriving at the junction we turned left and found the hut just in time for lunch.



Well, it was 2 before the last sandwich was eaten and sunray absorbed and everyone seemed happy to just make a return by the ridge to the river, up the Tunnels Track and plod back along Mountain Road. This we did but even the road bash was enjoyable now views have opened up to the sea. We met a bow hunter with a dislocated shoulder.

So, a fine walk in the end and enjoyable company – thanks team. The River Track has had some good work done on it since I saw it on the inauguration trip – but still could do with a bit of signage. Big Hut? – someone else clearly needs to lead this trip.

Rob Seeley. Team members: Saskia Bronstring, Lucy Jones, Helen Sudlow and Joy Liddicoat.

## **LABOUR WEEKEND TRIP TO BIG HUT**

**October 27, 2019**

**Author: Joy Liddicoat**

Published in Bulletin 810, December 2019

With dreams of an East Eglinton Labour weekend trip well and truly blown away by the weather forecast, we scoured high and low for another option and finally settled on Big Hut. We wanted to see if we could do the loop track which had been cancelled as the club day trip the weekend before. The Saturday forecast looked good but, being our first attempt to the Hut and with two recent club attempts to make it being aborted, we weren't 100% sure.

We left Dunedin a little after 7.30am and arrived in Middlemarch soon after to find the remnants of an overnight mist drifting away. Above the mist, the skies were clear and the sun made for a very pleasant 6 degrees as we set off from the Glencreag Track car park at 9am. We could see a light dusting of snow on the tops and were soon following the fence line track as it zigged and zagged up and up. The views were stunning and just got better and better as we climbed. By 11 the wind was picking up. We reached pockets of snow on the tussocks and had some fun with the snow grass and enjoyed the beautiful rock gardens.

The poled track was easy to follow but exposed and the wind was getting pretty steady and very fresh. Just when we thought we had another half an hour to go and were wondering if we were mad, suddenly there was Big Hut, peeping out over the ridge line. We arrived at 11.30 and managed to find a place nearby in the sun out of the wind for lunch - which was definitely warmer than inside the Hut. Living up to its reputation as a fridge, the Hut was pretty chilly inside - the snow piled up outside might have contributed a bit. But it was great to explore the Hut which was in excellent condition and filled with great memorabilia from those who've obviously cared for it over the years. There was one other party in the Hut: a couple who walked up from Kinvara the night before and who seemed pleased to see some locals.

After lunch we decided the conditions were good enough to walk over the Summit Rock and do the loop back to the carpark. We headed off at 12.20 into the teeth of the 'breeze' and up to the 4WD track. There was a light dusting of snow and we were treated to outstanding views in every direction as well as extraordinary tors. This made for slow, easy walking to make time to just drink in the wonderful scenery. We headed north and the wind was now over our shoulders so it was a pleasant walk for about an hour before we took the track to the right and down - and down it was - straight down the new firebreak track for about an hour and a half. By 3pm it was getting hot, so we enjoyed getting our feet wet in the stream on the way. We were back at the car at 4.30pm and it was a sweltering 26 degrees! A great day trip and just a little bit of sunburn.

Joy Liddicoat on behalf of Jo Fox

## COAL CREEK CIRCUIT - SILVERSTREAM

**November 3, 2019**

**Author: Sue Williams**

Published in Bulletin 810, December 2019

There were 7 of us at the clubrooms. We set off down to Whare Flat Road and re-grouped at the car park and then set off along the Silverstream. It was a very warm morning, and we were glad most of the track was in the bush. We followed along the water race and came across some big concrete pipes and eventually arrived at the top weir and had a short break. We re-filled water bottles for the uphill section.



**Enjoying a break on the Racemans Track, November 3, 2019**

We went up the Coal Creek track which is quite steep in places. eventually made it to the trig and carried on to a clearing higher up. We took turns standing in the shade of a tree and pushed on a bit further for a shadier lunch stop. We had a fantastic view across the forest and out to Saddle Hill.

We then began our descent on the Steve Amies track and we were soon back down into the valley. We also checked out part of the Tunnels Track and an almost derelict hut. Just the chimney and one wall remain, so it looks quite good from one direction. From there it was a short distance back to the cars, we had a walk through the stream across the ford at the end to cool our feet. An excellent destination on a hot day.



Thanks to Wayne Hodgkinson for an interesting trip and the company of Antony Pettinger, Debbie Pettinger, Philippa Edwards, Ash Flintoff and Tony Timperley, Sue Williams.

## **OTMC COMMITTEE (2019-2020)**

**President** – Antony Pettinger

**Vice President** – Richard Forbes

**Secretary** – Joe Bretherton

**Treasurer** – Sharen Rutherford

**Chief Guide / Transport** – Wayne Hodgkinson

**Bulletin Editor** – Tomas Sobek

**Membership Secretary** – Debbie Pettinger

**Social Convenor** – Debbie Pettinger

**Social Convenor** – Richard Forbes

**Day Trip Convener** – Tomas Sobek

**Gear Hire** – Andrew McConnell

**Website** – Antony Pettinger

**Bushcraft 2020** – Antony Pettinger

**Clubrooms** – Peter Loeber

**Hon. Solicitor** – Antony Hamel

## OTMC TRIP PROGRAMME 2019


Month	Date(s)	Specific Trip	Leader
January	12-14	Fraser Creek - Routeburn	Ian Billinghamurst
January	13	Taieri Ridge (North End)	Gordon Tocher
January	20	Chrystalls Beach to Toko Mouth	Ken Taylor
January	26-2	West Matukituki to Lochnagar	Ian Billinghamurst
January	27	East of Flagstaff	Chris Handley
February	2	Maungatua Traverse	Carolyn Taylor
February	3	Ocean Grove	Ken Taylor
February	9-10	Mt Cook Area	Wayne Hodgkinson
February	10	Evansdale Glen - Jones Road Loop, Careys Creek	Peter Loeber
February	17	Possum Hut to Tunnels Track (via the river)	Antony Pettinger
February	23-24	Green Lake	Rose Colhoun
February	24	Taieri River (Tramp and Float) / River Skills	Wayne Hodgkinson
March	3	Silver Peaks - (Green-Pulpit-777m)	Antony Pettinger
March	9-10	Lake Ohau Valleys	Richard Forbes
March	10	Tour de Taieri (Waiholā - Taieri Mouth and return)	Peter Boeckhout
March	17	Peggys Hill and Harbour Cone	Leonie Loeber
March	23-25	West Matukituki	Wayne Hodgkinson
March	24	Mihiwaka Bushbash	Gordon Tocher
March	30-31	Quarantine Island	Jane Cloete
March	31	Quarantine Island	Janet Barclay
April	6-8	Mt Oxford	Sharen Rutherford
April	7	Whare Lake - Swampy Ridge	Ken Taylor
April	14	Silverstream Area	Tony Timperley
April	19-28	Hollyford Pyke (options)	Wayne Hodgkinson
April	21	Taieri Island	Jane Cloete
April	28	Pipeline Track / Rustlers Track / Swampy Saddle / Leith Saddle	Tony Timperley
May	4	Tree Planting at Ben Rudd's	Sue Williams
May	5	Outram Glen to Lee Stream	Richard Pettinger
May	12	Around Port Chalmers	Debbie Guthrie



May	19	Government Track	Jan Burch
May	25-26	St Marys Range - Crossover	Alex Tups
May	26	Pigeon Rock Area - Escarpment Track Clearing	Tony Timperley
June	1-3	Port Craig - Waitutu - The Hump	Wayne Hodgkinson
June	9	Signal Hill (Bus and Tramp)	Jane Cloete
June	15-16	Martins Hut - Longwoods	Rose Colhoun
June	16	Stone Hill - Purehurehu Point	Gordon Tocher
June	23	Mihiwaka - Shortest Day Sunrise Trip	Rodger Clarkson
June	30	Rosella Ridge - Cedar Spur	Tomas Sobek
July	6-7	Kepler Track	Richard Forbes
July	7	Harbour Cone	Sue Williams
July	14	Smeatons Shack - Craiglowan Falls (via Ben Rudd's)	Geraldine Kerr
July	21	Huriawa Peninsula and Seacliff	Tomas Sobek
July	27-28	Cameron Valley	Sue Williams
July	28	Greenacres - Highcliff - Buskins - Boulder Beach - Paradise Track	Tony Timperley
August	4	Jubilee Hut and Return (OTC / OTMC Equilibrium Day)	Antony Pettinger
August	10-11	OTMC Snowcaving Weekend (Old Man Range)	Richard Pettinger
August	11	Mystery Trip	Andrew McConnell
August	18	Sullivans Dam - Cloud Forests of Leith	Geraldine Kerr
August	24-25	Basic Snowcraft (Iceaxes and Crampons)	Wayne Hodgkinson
August	25	Grahams Bush to Bethunes Gully via the Organ Pipes	Russell Knowles
September	1	Ross Creek to Flagstaff (Trip to support Taranaki Tramping Clubs Centenary)	Antony Pettinger
September	7-8	X-Country Skiing at Snow Farm	Chris Pearson
September	7	Ben Rudd's Spring Workparty	Sue Williams
September	8	Map and Compass Practical Instruction	Antony Pettinger
September	15	McKessars - Purakanui	Russell Knowles
September	22	Gabriels Gully - Weatherstones	Jane Cloete
September	28-29	Taieri Mouth Cycle and Camp	Jan Burch
September	29	Around Port Chalmers	Debbie Guthrie
October	6	Davidson's Farm on Mihiwaka - Mt Kettle	Alan Thomson
October	12-13	Beech Hut (Eyre Mountains)	Tim Russell

October	13	Unexplored Silver Peaks	Richard Pettinger
October	20	Big Hut on Rock and Pillar Range	Rob Seeley
October	26-28	Fiordland - East Eglinton to Hollyford	Antony Pettinger
November	2	Moa Flat Cycling	Jane Cloete
November	3	Coal Creek Circuit (Silverstream)	Wayne Hodgkinson
November	9-10	Earnslaw Burn	Rodger Clarkson
November	10	The Ship At Anchor & Devils Creek	Kathy Woodrow
November	16	Ben Rudd's Workparty	Sue Williams
November	17	Heyward Point	Geraldine Kerr
November	23-24	Waikouaiti Cycle and Camp	Jan Burch
November	23	Moonlight Silver Peaks	Antony Pettinger
November	24	Daylight Silver Peaks	Tomas Sobek
November	30-1	Xmas Social to Mavora Lakes	Rodger Clarkson
December	1	Pyramids and Victory Beach	Jane Cloete
December	8	Swampy - Racemans Circuit	Tony Timperley
December	14	Porkies - Jim Freeman Track Circuit	Debbie Pettinger
December	15	Sinclair Wetlands	Russell Knowles
December	22	Papanui Inlet	Debbie Guthrie

## OTMC BULLETIN COVERS (FEBRUARY TO JUNE)




**OTMC BULLETIN**  
Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.  
# 800 - February 2019

**Celebrating our 800<sup>th</sup> Bulletin with a look back at past issues**

**February Trips & Events**  
Maungatua Traverse Ocean Grove Mt Cook Area  
Careys Creek Possum Hut to Tunnel Track  
Green Lake Talari River Tramp and Pack Float

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1125, Dunedin  
www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/groups/otmcnz otmc@otag.co.nz  
Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin Doors open 7.30 for 8pm start, all welcome




**OTMC BULLETIN**  
Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.  
# 801 - March 2019

*A misty morning view from Lyall Saddle Hut on the Old Great Road in November 2018 (Harry Walker)*

**March Trips & Events**  
Tinnel Mason Memorial Trip (Silver Peaks) Lake Ohau Valley  
Tour de Taren (MTB) Motueka Dunstons Otago Anniversary 15A  
Peninsula Surprise Quarantine Island

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**OTMC BULLETIN**  
Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.  
# 802 - April 2019

*View of head of North Hurley at sunset - Que Mink Va*

**April Trips & Events**  
Whale Lake Swampy Ridge Silver Stream  
Hillford / Pyke at Easter Anzac weekend  
Tairāwhiti Pipetere/Ruderns/Swampy/Leth saddle

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**OTMC BULLETIN**  
Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.  
# 803 - May 2019

*Paine on the Green Lake tramp (page 3) - Ross Colhour*

**May Trips & Events**  
Ben Budd's Tree Planting Outcrop to Lee Stream  
Routburn Crossover Government Track Port Chalmers  
St Mary Range Crossover Escapement Track Maintenance  
( 1.3 June Queens Birthday Port Craig/Waitutu/Ramp )


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## OTMC BULLETIN COVERS (JULY TO SEPTEMBER)

### OTMC BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. # 804 June 2019



*Of Mary Range Crosser - Ann Tate*


#### June Trips & Events

Queens Birthday Part Cray/Waikuku-Hump  
 Bluff to Tramp Signal Hill to Riverbendhouse  
 Martins Hut, Longwoods Stone Hill, Parihakura Point  
 Mitauna Summit, Rosetta Ridge, Cedar Spire

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1120, Dunedin  
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### OTMC BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. # 805 July 2019



*Martins Hut, Longwoods, Southland - Rose Gathorn (Trip Report page 6)*


#### July Trips & Events

Kapiti Track, Huiarau Corner, Huiarau Peninsula and Smadiff  
 Smeaton's Shack / Otago's Falls via Ben Hurst's  
 Cameron Valley, Huiarau Conservation Park  
 Otago's Falls / Huiarau / Ben Hurst's / Smadiff

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1120, Dunedin  
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### OTMC BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. # 806 August 2019



*Rosetta Ridge - Tomer Cohen (see trip report page 3)*

#### August Trips & Events

Johns Hill, Snow-Covered Powder Ridge (or Silver Stream T)  
 Sulfuric Dams and Cloud Forest of Leth (Snow Skills (see page and Crampers)  
 Graham's Bush to Sulfuric Gully via the Otago Pines  
 OTMC Annual General Meeting - and - Annual Dinner @ Pizadeiro's


#### OTMC Annual Dinner / Pizza Night

It's time for our annual Pizza at Pizadeiro's at the Gardens Corner  
**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August from 6:00pm Set Menu \$25 / Head**  
 We will need some idea of numbers, so please let Wilma know 475 0900  
 or email [agnodagraning@pizadeiro.co.nz](mailto:agnodagraning@pizadeiro.co.nz) or sign the sheet at the clubrooms

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### OTMC BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. # 807 September 2019



*Denise dips her Snow Cave - photo by Dave Bull (Trip report page 10)*

#### September Trips & Events

OTC first day trip re-enactment X-Country Staging at Stone Farm  
 Ben Hurst's Work Party Map and Compass practical - Mt Cargill  
 Mitauna/Parihakura Gullies Gully and Whetstone  
 Tarn Mouth Cycle and Camp Around Port Chalmers

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## OTMC BULLETIN COVERS (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER)

### OTMC Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. # 808 - October 2019



Lakes and rivers during compass day on Mt Cargill - photo by Debbie (This month page 8)

#### Upcoming Trips & Events

Eyre Mountains - Beech Hut - Fordland (East Eglington to Hollyford)  
 Eamshaw Burn - Davidson's Farm on Mts Kaitake / Mt Kaitake  
 Silver Peaks River Track - Big Hut - Rock and Pillar Range  
 Moss Flat Cycling - Coal Creek Circuit (Silverstream area) - Ship at Anchor

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### OTMC Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. # 809 - November 2019



The enactment of our very first club trip: The party at Flagstaff (photo by Antony Pellingor)  
 See trip report on page 7.

#### Upcoming Trips & Events

Eamshaw Burn - Walkabout Cycle and Camp - Kaitake social @ Manuka Lakes  
 Moss Flat Cycling - Coal Creek Circuit - The Ship at Anchor and Devils Creek  
 Moonlight Silver Peaks - Heyward Peak - Daylight Silver Peaks  
 The Pyramids and Victory Beach - Swampy - Raccoons circuit - Seaside wetlands

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1125, Dunedin  
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### OTMC Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. # 810 - December 2019



#### Upcoming Trips & Events

Northern Headhorns - West Maitohaki / River Crossover - The Pyramids & Victory Beach  
 Swampy - Raccoons Circuit - Pukaki - Jett Freeman Track Circuit - Seaside Wetlands  
 Shortest Night in the Silver Peaks - Papanui Inlet - Maungatapu - Waikaraka River  
 Powder Ridge - Pulpit Rock - Greengauge - Silverstream - Teanui Beach to Brighton  
 Pinnacles Track to Leth Saddle and Leth Valley - Moonlight - North Tairā Ridge  
 Hermit Cave - Teanui River Walk and Pulpit Rock - Travels in Africa - BBQ at Woodhaugh

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1125, Dunedin  
<http://otmc.co.nz> - <https://facebook.com/groups/otmtmc> - [otmtmc@gmail.com](mailto:otmtmc@gmail.com)  
 Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin - Doors open 7.30 for 8pm start, all welcome  
 Sign up to our email list: <https://lists.otmc.co.nz/lists/otmtmc>