

OTAGO TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (Inc.)
P.O. BOX 1120
DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 1991
BULLETIN NO. 504

Registered at P.O.H.Q. Wellington for transmission by post as a magazine

Things You only do once.



*Drink four pints
of Home-brew.*

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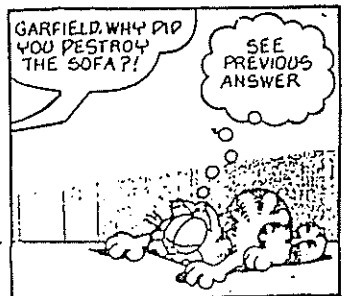
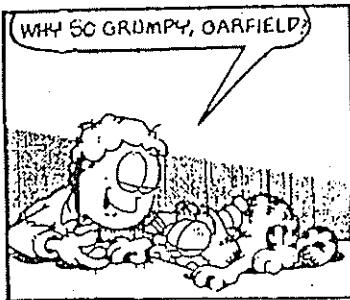
THE OTAGO TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MEETS EVERY THURSDAY
7:30pm

AT 3 YOUNG ST
(clubrooms)

TRIP LIST

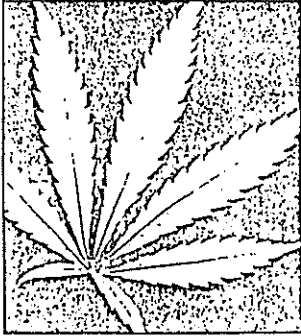
- NOVEMBER 17 ROCK & PILLARS (M) Mark Planner 473-7414
 A chance to see the Rock & Pillars without snow.
 NOTE: 8am start.
- NOV 23-24 MT COOK (ALL) Doug Forrester 487-6416
 Something for everyone here - wander amongst the Mt Cook Lillies in the Hooker, admire the sunrise at Mueller Hut, cross Ball Pass or bag a peak or two on the Sealy Range.
- NOVEMBER 24 EXTENDED OTAGO PENINSULA (M-F) Bruce Mason 476-1544
 Those who thought the Peninsula was only for easy trips are about to be proved wrong.
- DECEMBER 1 SAREX David Barnes 454-4492
 Unfortunately no helicopters on this one. It will be a short introduction to a few of the basic concepts and techniques used in Search and Rescue. A must if you're thinking of joining our SAR list. (see seperate article)
- DEC 7-8 AHURIRI (ALL) Elspeth Gold 453-0644
 Another of those "something for everyone" trips in the home of the Black Stilt.
- DECEMBER 8 STONY CREEK BEACH (E) Peter Mason 473-7636
 Yet another Mason Obscure Special. Where is it? Turn up and find out.
- DECEMBER 14 OTAGO PENINSULA (E) Christine Cocks 473-8329
- CHRISTMAS TRIP STEWART ISLAND December 26 - January 5
 (NOTE Different dates from trip card). There's a "Registration of interest" list up now. If you're keen, sign up and help the leaders gauge interest. Trips graded M-FE (There's no such thing as an easy 9 day trip).
 Further info from Elspeth Gold 453-0644
 Mike Floate 473-9780





EDITORS

DIARY



FLOATING THEORIES

Hello again. To start with this month, I'd first like to thank everybody on all the positive feedback I got for last months bulletin. As my first bulletin I wasn't too sure how well it would be recieved, but with the positive comments I have had so far, I am reassured that you liked what you read.

So on that note I will not only keep up the standard produced so far but I will try to improve on that standard. But like I said last month I can only do this with your help. Help in the form of written input, most important are trip reports, gossip and drawings and cartoons.

A new face has been seen in the club-rooms lately, well not so new for some of our older members. The new face is that of Michelle Williams, who has returned from 3 years travelling the world. Welcome back Michelle, we look forward to hearing about your travels, and seeing you in the hills again.

Christmas is looming closer with only a month and a half to go. Long well earned holidays and time off work are in store for most of us. The Christmas trip this year is heading down to Stewart Island, and is building up to be a good one. With leaders such as Elspeth Gold and Mike Floate it can't be anything but good, So we'll see you there.

Well thats enough from me.

...HAPPY TRAMPING

N.W. Williams

Great Lines...



"The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing. And then they marry him." *Cher*

FROM THE POLLUTION OF LONDON
TO THE HIGHEST POINT IN EUROPE

With a two week holiday, I decided to leave the pollution of London and visit the French Alps, the highest area in Europe.

My destination was Chamonix, then onto Argentiere, the next village, much smaller and with very fewer tourists. But, loaded with trekkers and climbers all camped upon the slopes of the learners slope, to the ski field.

Chamonix is situated at the base of Europe's highest Mountain, Mont Blanc (4808m) which at some point of my visit I would like to be able to reach its summit.

Everyday from my arrival to the end I was out and about upon some adventure, but, in this article I will only tell my story of my journey to the summit of Mont Blanc, and to leave the rest for another time.

It was the summer month of August 1990, and the weather was perfect. My climbing partner was Alan, a guy from Yorkshire in England. We left Chamonix, and caught the telecable up to Les Houches, then changed onto the old tramway up to Carc, where the climb began. We left the tram and heaps of tourists around midday. It was a steady climb up to Des Rognes then up onto Glacier de Tete Rousse and its refuge, along with loads of other bods taken the same challenge.

A late lunch was had, afterwards a horrific route took us up to the Le Grd Couloir, a sheer slope with which constant rock fall kept bashing down, each time with a near miss, as people put their crampons on and make a dash across the ice and scree for the safety of the larger rocks. It was probably the worse part of the whole climb, as the safety wire was hanging below broken, not one, but several which had been at one time strung across.

Next came the long haul up the ridge which often felt verticle, arriving at the Refuge de L'Aig du Gouter. Here at 5.30pm over a hundred bods squashed into its doors for the night, while Alan and I bivvied along with four Italians on top of the snow covered ridge on the half built heli pad which was sitting there. It was a fantastic sunset over the surrounding mountains as the air temp dropped quickly, and clear skies brought a nice wet dew over my uncovered down sleeping bag.

We were rudely awoken at 1.00am by those Italians, and 1.15am Alan and I decided we might as well follow. Brew was had by a bright full moon light. Packed my lovely wet bag away, crampons on, and by 2.00am we were on our way. Once moving the cold soon disappeared, as we plodded constantly and slowly on up the ridge to Refuge-Bivouac Vallat at 4362m. Here roped up we carried on up the steep and narrow ridge. Halfway up Alan got altitude sickness and was struggling badly. He was stubborn and finally he had decided to turn back, along with a frenchman. I roped onto two french guys and continued on the summit. Arrived 6.15am, just in time to see a fantastic sunrise over the Matterhorn and its surrounding peaks. Shortly after Alan arrived after ascending then resting he found himself to be a bit better. And stubborn as he was, he was determined to reach the summit.

After half an hour of freeze our bums off and admiring this 360° Degree view, I re-roped to Alan and it turned out to be a quick descent passing what seemed like hundreds of people still heading up with that steep climb to the summit of Mont Blanc.

In the warming sunrise a brew was had before we descended down the Le Grand Plateau. Then a steeply down pass the Grandes Montees, Le Petit Plateau through the huge cravasses on the Pic Glacier to Les Grand Mulets Refuge. A short break before a breathtaking walk through the Plan Glacier, now well below Mont Blanc and a sidle around underneath Midi, where here we caught the lover telefreak back down to Chamonix arriving around 12.15pm.

An excellent trip, especially to know you've reached the highest point in Europe.

In a comparison to New Zealand's Southern Alps the French Alps I personally found to be very similar. It's mountainous range extends through more than just a single country. As in New Zealand it's range of trips from different abilities are endless. The amount of people that clamber about the area is huge, not only in summer for it's trekking and climbing. But, winter for it's downhill skiing, and for 95% of the time you're not alone. It's a place I'd highly recommend to anybody. And a place I certainly want to return to.

Michelle Williams for those who are adventurous.

XMAS TRIP STEWART ISLAND

26 Dec until 5 Jan

Leave Dunedin about 11am 26 Dec arrive back about 9pm 5 Jan

The trip is designed for experienced trampers who are self sufficient and prepared to accept a high degree of responsibility.

This due to the area we're visiting, the length of time we're going bush, the heavy load we're expecting to carry and the fact that we'll all be relying on each party member at some stage on the trip.

Unfortunately some people may be turned away solely thru lack of experience. If you're in doubt about your fitness or capabilities please talk to Mike or myself.

There is a list up in the clubrooms as a registration or interest only, signing it doesn't commit you.

It will cost \$74 return on the ferry plus petrol divided amongst those in cars. It is possible to charter a boat up the inlet to Freds Camp, this will take people to within 7 hrs of Masons Bay, it is \$200 to charter the boat so the more who use it the cheaper.

The other alternatives were a plane at \$150 or a helicopter at \$300.

The options once over at the island basecamp Halfmoon Bay, over to Masons Bay and do the top end of the island back to HMB or down towards Doughboy, right thru the middle, we should have plenty of time to cover a wide area. If you have a particular trip in mind; or if you want to tramp in a particular party (or not) let us know.

It is going to be a terrific way to see the new year in, what better place to spend your Xmas holidays than with OTMC on Stewart Island.

Please note that there was a printing error in the trip card and the dates are actually 26 Dec until 5 Jan.

We look forward to your company

Elsbeth and Mike

POLICE SAREX --A LESSON IN WEATHER

Many emergencies in the hills occur because of improper reading of the weather or inadequate clothing.

The recent Search & Rescue exercise organised by the local police bore this out although such was probably not planned for.

When we got out of bed around 5.30 a.m. on that Sunday morning the temperature was probably in the mid teens, and certainly at the starting time of 6.00a.m. at the Central Police Station everyone was comfortable in shirtsleeve order, so the unwary could have been tempted to pack light clothing for what appeared to be a mild day.

Fortunately we did not, and while on our arrival at the field HQ at the woolshed at Berwick Forest the weather was still very mild, around 7.30 the temperature dropped by about 10°C in about 10 mins, so that while we stood around and waited for our worthy controller to complete his "battle plan" we were suddenly into most of our warm clothes and still uncomfortable.

Half an hour later when the chopper dropped our party of "foot searchers" at the top of the Government Track it did so in a full blizzard, so that we started our part of the exercise walking on roads covered in about 30mm of snow with a chill accompanying wind.

By lunchtime the snow had stopped and a thaw set in to such an extent that before mid afternoon most of the snow had gone and we were back to shirtsleeve order and bright sunshine on top of the hills while we heard on the radio that the helicopter was grounded at the bottom due to adverse weather conditions.

Along about 3.00p.m. we were treated to about a 10 minute shower of hailstones, which, but for the shelter of the bush could have been distinctly uncomfortable, accompanied of course by a very distinct drop in temperature, after which we were yet again into shirtsleeves and sunshine.

Again half an hour or so later when the chopper picked us up for our final return to HQ it did so in perfect conditions only to be greeted a few minutes later at the woolshed by very heavy rain and a very stiff wind, which continued throughout the period of debriefing to such an extent that it was sometimes difficult to hear people talking above the noise of the rain on the roof.

As you can see from the foregoing, we experienced just about every type of weather going in about an 8 to 9 hour period and while we went out there to learn about Search & Rescue we also got a very good lesson in the vagaries of mountain weather, something that might save our lives in future.

You might say TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Hugh D.

SAREX OCTOBER 1991.

We were told to be at the Police Station at 6:00am on Sunday Morning, which for me meant no drinking the night before, and a leisurely walk down the hill on what was quite a warm morning.

At the Police Station we were given a briefing on the scenario and were then divided into groups for transportation to the Berwick Forest with the help of the Land-rover Club and two Army Unimogs.

At the Search Base at Berwick Forest we waited for the Police, Red Cross and N.Z. Amateur Radio Club to get themselves sorted out and then we were organised into Search teams. The team leaders were briefed on the use of their hand held radios, and correct radio procedure, then they were briefed on their search areas. Next we were briefed on Helicopter safety by the Air Force with their Iroquois Helicopter in hand.

By about 7:30am the clouds had opened and the rain was pelting down. I was in team 3 under the leadership of John Cox, and while Teams 1 and 2 were being flown to the start of their search areas we waited around and drank cups of tea and coffee. When the helicopter returned to pick our team up, we were slightly disappointed to hear that the helicopter was to be grounded as hail storms and high winds were making flying quite dangerous. So our team was transported by four wheel drive to the bottom of the Government Track.

After saying good bye to our driver, we set off at a brisk pace up the Government Track, calling out at regular intervals for the people we were looking for. At one point we called out and received a reply, but it was only another team in the valley below.

When we were about two thirds the way up the track and having relatively little success we suddenly came across a middle aged man and two young girls, who turned out to be three of the seven people we were looking for. Further enquires found out that the seventh member of their party a Mr Redmond Herring hadn't gone on the tramp.

Our three victims led us up the track further to where they believed they last saw the remaining three party members. While we were discussing our next moves, Sharon St Clair Newman's team turned up, which boosted our numbers to eight, so that John and I could stay with the victims while the other six searchers could spread out and do a search of the gully below. Five minutes later they had found the trio, one of whom had a broken leg, another had hypothermia and the third person was fine and in good spirits. After some discussion with Search Base it was decided that the Helicopter would fly in and winch the two injured people out. We lit a fire on the track (against the fire ban law) to signal the Helicopter and keep ourselves warm.

We watched the victims get winched out before we walked to the top of the Government track and were flown back down the hill to base. Back at base it was time to grab a pie and cuppa before going to a dry woolstore for a debriefing. Then we were arranged into transport groups again to return to Dunedin. Back at the Police Station we had another debriefing in the Police Bar and went home happy.

In all I think it was a very well run exercise and I would like to thank the co-ordinators for the effort they put into it.

By Neville Mulholland for John Cox, David Saunders and Murray Walford.

"PROGRESS WITH BEN RUDDS REVEGETATION PROJECT."

Following the work parties of 19 - 20 October our country estate is looking a lot better! About a third of the big plantation site was thoroughly weeded. Many wicked weeds were wasted. The fiendish flora was flogged.

The plantings of May this year are doing quite well, with almost all of the Silver Beech taking. Up to a hundred of them, many less than four centimetres high, are among the healthiest plantings there. They were gathered from the Flagstaff Forest and lovingly planted into the thick pine needle duff. Also, apparently (but no sign yet), there are 0.5 mm high manuka seedlings on all areas of bare clay ground around and within the plantation site by now. (Onlookers would have been surprised to see us crossing bare ground in single file on stepping stones.) You wouldn't believe all the broadleaf that is coming up all over the place, some only 10 mm high. Note: If you visit the site, be extra careful where you put your feet! Tiny beeches and broadleaf and bare ground with microscopic manuka should be avoided.

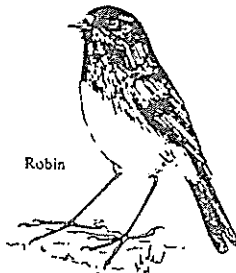
If anyone would like any of the following for their own places, feel free to collect them! - rowan trees, elderberry, silver birch, Christmas trees such as douglas fir, various pines and larches. Collectors should note that a small "fee" is charged: the removal of any brambles, crack willow, Himalayan honeysuckle, gorse, broom, or other inappropriate species spotted is obligatory. See me if you want a key to the gate (ph 4879488).

It is estimated that another thirty person days are required to keep on top of the weed problem this season. The remaining weeds cannot be left till next year. This does not count the continuing effort by Peter Mason and Dave Levick to spray some key areas and poison certain trees.

It would be appropriate for all OTMC members to recognise the property as their freehold estate, held in trust for future members. As such I feel we all owe it to ourselves to spend some of our gardening time, up there. Prospective members should appreciate what they are buying into with their subscriptions.

A big thank you to the following for their hard work: Ross Chambers, Mike Floate, John Galloway (as if he hasn't got enough work to do on his farm), Don, Christine and Victoria Cocks, Dave Jackson, Jonatte Service, Doug Forrester, Ross Cocker, Dean Peterson, Gordon McDonald and Marie (billy-boiler) McDonald. Together they put in 8 person days to get that third of the plantation site done, as well as some work around the shelter. I'm glad you liked the beer.

Richard Pettinger



Thought for today:
Early to bed,
Early to rise,
Till you make enough cash
To do otherwise.

Hilda's Agony Page.

Dear Hilda

What's the world coming to I go to shake a lovely young ladies hand the other day and I,m accused of sexual harrassment and the afore mentioned lushious lady knocks me to the ground never mind the embarrassment of a real kiwi jokor being floored by a lady, I'm most upset that a simple handshake in this day of womans lip can be interpreted as harrassment. I'd appreciate your comments on the whole messy business.

THE PHANTOM

Dear Phantom,

Sexual Harrassment seems to be a major issue these days, what with 'dirty old men' and young children, 'dirty old men and pretty young ladies. You never know what a man is up to (or where his hand has been) when he offers to shake a ladies hand.

Even Santa Claus isn't trusted any more, people used to queue for miles to sit upon his knee. Now they shy away in droves. And when you say messy, are you refering to your hand, or the whole business in general?

Now don't get me wrong, I,m not suggesting, or even implying that you ARE a dirty old man. In fact I don't even know if you are old. But one does stop and wonder, I mean even the term lushious when used to refer to persons of the female gender is considered highly derogatory these days. You call yourself a 'REAL KIWI JOKER', well how sexually steriotypist macho male can you get?? I must ask

And to cap it all off a person who calls himself THE .PHANTOM, well that says it all. I mean would you trust a person who goes under the title of THE PHANTOM?? I'd steer well clear of this dude girls. If you ask me, I say men should have NEVER been allowed out of the kitchen.

Hilda

NEW MEMBERS

Aunty Hilda would like to welcome a few new members to the club. They are: Liliias Alison ph 487-7139
Dale Parsons 453-6781
Pip Koorey 473-7414

We welcome you all with open arms and bid you all Happy Tramping with us.

And now for something completely different....

IRISH PROVERBS.

Our dear friend and Foreign Correspondent Ian Mc Elhinney from somewhere overseas has sent us some Irish Proverbs written in true Gaelic form. There is one wee problem though, somewhere in my highly organised and efficient filing system I seem to have misplaced the English translations.

So her's the go. We are running a competition to find out what these proverbs really mean. If you think you know, or have a fairly good idea then write your interpretations on a piece of paper with your name and post it in the Editors Box in the clubrooms or mail it to The Editor, c/o P.O Box 1120, Dunedin.

Prizes will be awarded for:

- a) Most correct translation, and
- b) Best mis-interpretation.

Here are the proverbs

- 1) Is minic a bhris béal duine a shrón.
- 2) Giorraíonn beirt bóthar.
- 3) Níl aon tóin tinn mar do thóin tinn féin.
- 4) Is fearr goradh cúl cos ná fiche bó ar cnoc.

and his personal favourite,

- 5) Is fearr goradh cúl cos ná fiche daoine i bpluais-sneachta.

Doug's big opportunity to chair the committee.



That's an excellent suggestion, Miss Guild.
Perhaps one of the men here would like to make it.

A WEEKEND ON THE SOUTH COAST.

Port Craig is a beautiful area, sun, sand sea and native bush what more could we ask for.

We set off along the beach on Saturday morning in brilliant sunshine, after lunch the tide dictated that we take the busk track the rest of the way.

Many scroggin stops later the hut appeared, full of army men, wacko!! no one was game enough to do the "Hi honey I'm home" routine. The hut was full and many of the available campsites were taken by the end of the evening.

A quiet stroll to the beach was in order, then settle down to make pudgy and watch the tea cook. Happiness filled we retired to bed earlyish to play cards. Eric and Jenny were taught the art of 500 and a long game ensued.

Sunday after a leisurely breakfast (which consisted of a course of fruit bread toasted) we headed along the tramway to the viaducts. It rained on and off all morning. A very easy couple of hours saw us at the pearcy Burn viaduct for a late lunch. The army boys were working on this viaduct, repairing as best they could rotten and burnt stays and cutting out and bracing those which were beyond repair.

Our group ever resourceful, actually Jenny and Celia (they have no shame) begged a cuppa off the armed forces along with sparkles and snacks.

It was back to camp amid clearing weather for a sunset dip and stroll on the beach. The real mans party arrived equipt with their wives cooking to stir up the otherwise tranquil evening.

Everybody who came back from the viaducts was instructed bring firewood and an entertaining evening was spent telling jokes (I learnt some new ones) and singing along with two very talented gentlemen and a guitar. We retired about midnight, some watched the rugby on a portable TV, yes, hav they no shame, and others listened on the radio (excellent reception on the walkman, ED) I ignored it all hoping to get home without knowing the result. But alas at first light Neville took great delight in telling me of our fate. Knowing Neville I thought it was in fact a cunning conspiracy to depress me but when complete strangers were telling me the story I had to believe him.

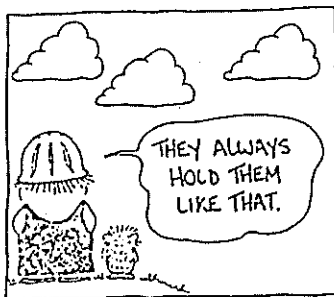
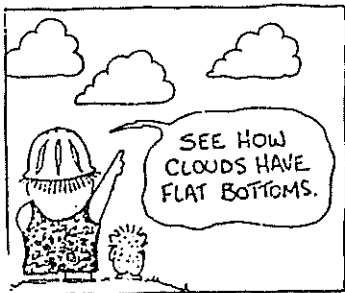
The wind howled all night and the rain pelted down, prehaps it was penance for bringing luxuries such as TV's and radios tramping. Everyone crammed into the hut to cook breakfast as it was pouring on Monday.

We all headed off early along the coast. The scenery was magnificent, the rock-pools devine to wade in. At lunch time a fire was going and the billy boiled. I wonder if the real mens party put the fire out in the traditional way that real men feel they should.

It was back over a couple of tricky bits before a track was reached, the rest headed up the track while we chose the coast and by the time we got to the Bluecliffs beach the tide was full in so it was slow going amid loose gravel. We were but quarter of an hour late out to find most had deserted us, so it was a comfortable ride back (with only four bods in the back of the van), stopping for ice-creams and tea.

A great trip to a magnificent area.

Elspech for Neville, Jenny, Celia and Eric.



THIS SPACE FOR RENT...

YOU CAN USE THIS SPACE or more if you need it, for your news, views, trip reports, drawings and information. And the best bit is it's free. So...

S A R

The O.T.M.C. maintains a list of volunteers for search and rescue operations co-ordinated by the police. If you're interested, and fulfill most of the criteria below, give me a call.

The ideal searcher would :

- be a moderately fit, reasonably experienced tramper (say 1 year post-Bushcraft and doing M grade trips or above,
- be prepared to come searching at the drop of a hat,
- have some knowledge of first aid,
- have a co-operative employer,
- be able to work as a member of a team.

David Barnes
Ph 454-4492

HOT GASSIP

Which old buggar got beaten up by a woman while trying to shake her hand?

Which bank managers wife said, on Halloween night, that everytime she puts her hose away it flops back out, and when she does get it away the zip gets stuck - Ouch

Rumour has it that David L. has tattoos on certain parts of his body.
How true is this?
Only Sue and a few other biky chicks know.

YOUR VIEWS

Dear Mr Editor,

I was most interested to read in the last Bulletin that you are contemplating running a homebrew competition next winter.

Not being a Kiwi pisshead I'm not into beer drinking.

I have however recently started making my own wine so if you could see your way to include a class for this more noble art I'LL BE A WINNER !

Hugh D.

Point taken Hugh, our social sec. has looked in to this matter and changed the Home-Brew competition to a Home-Brew and Wine-Making Competition. Thank you for pointing out your views to us, there is someone here to listen to them.

ED.

WHAT'S ON WHAT'S ON WHAT'S

SOCIAL PROGRAMME



- NOV 7 Wayne Everson - Commander Waitati Malitia.
Pre battle talk,
Get ready for Sun Nov 10th battle.
- NOV 14 Winter BYO Slides (XC Ski etc).
Show us YOUR style!!
- NOV 21 Map Sport - Dunedin Orienteering Club.
An excellent way to improve your map reading and
have fun.
- NOV 28 Wetas - Henrik Moller.
In return for the use of some club facilities
Henrik will let us know about the Wetas he found
on the Rock and Pillars.
- DEC 5 FMC/MSC Meet the Committee night.
Mike Floate will tell us about the FMC including
current issues - changes in hut designations etc..
After which we invite YOU the members to meet,
quiz and generally bring and points you wish to
the attentions of your committee.
- DEC 12 Xmas BBQ/BYO Clubrooms.
- DEC 19 Wine and cheese at clubrooms. As Christmas is upon us
and you may need a quiet, safe haven for a few
hours, join us for a wine and cheese evening, BYO
of course.
- FEB 13 1992 Photography competition. Get your prints and
slides ready.
- May/June Home Brew AND WINE MAKING competition. Point
taken about the wine - not a deliberate
omission I assure you. Wine will certainly need
to be made fairly soon to have a reasonable
chance!!

Next O.R.G. meeting
November 19 at 7:30pm
any queries
phone David Levick 473-8427