

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



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



Mt Cook—Rose Calhoun

Committee Members 2014/15

President	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Vice President	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Secretary	Richelle Adams	476 1302
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson	473 6053
Chief Guide/Transport	Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950
Membership Secretary	Richard Forbes	453 1327
Bulletin Editor	Ross Hunt	453 0983
	Andy Cunningham	482 1066
Ben Rudds / Gear Hire	Sam Patrick	0272 864836
Social Convener/ Gear Hire	Gene Dyett	455 7465
Social Convener	Tony Timperley	473 7257
Daytrip Convener	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Website	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Rep	Ross Hunt	453 0983
Clubrooms Maintenance	Andrew Pask	453 5719

Visit us on the Internet at: www.otme.co.nz

Search and Rescue—OTMC's role today

Many in the Club will remember the valuable role members played in the search and rescue events of a few years ago. The club's expertise was called upon to assist searchers to survive in rugged back country areas. The skills honed by our members were valued by the search leaders to assist in these more rugged searches.

Today the situation is much different. The implementation of various legislative changes, notably the Health and Safety in Employment Act has lead to the Police (as the body responsible for searches) requiring a much more formal and competency based search resource.

The basis of this approach is a regular and ongoing commitment to training. This is based on acquiring Unit Standard (or equivalent) qualifications covering the many aspects of search activities. A natural consequence of this is that it all costs—and the LandSAR groups around the country are continually fundraising for equipment and training purposes.

Membership of the various SAR groups is now a personal commitment—both timewise and financially.

The services provided to the Police by the SAR groups are second to none. This is a result of the dedication to the SAR groups by very passionate people. Dedicated to the training commitment, the competitions that are organised to hone the necessary skills, and the considerable time commitment to fund raising.

As a result of this competency based skill requirement, OTMC members will not be called upon for search activities if they don't have these competencies, or attend the regular training. Few members will have been called out in recent times. This raises the question of the OTMC involvement in the local Land SAR group.

Where we have been of assistance in recent years is in the training of prospective LandSAR members. LandSAR vet prospective members for basic skills, and where necessary have referred these people to us for basic Bushcraft and tramping skills. Beyond that, OTMC appears to limited role to play in the LandSAR organisation.

As your local SAR rep I have been asked by the committee to gain your views on this subject.

Ross Hunt

Trip Reports

Mihiwaka Day Trip

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

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

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

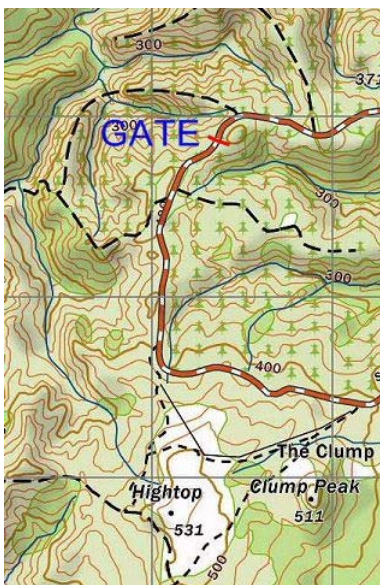
Walking the narrow roadside verge, we soon come to a small car park, and the beginning of the track up to the climbing rock. There are no climbers today, we skirt the rock, coming out on top to admire the view eastward over Deborah Bay. Then it's up again, reaching scrub, intermittent northerly cloud,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

south, and occasionally west. It is warm when out of the stiff breeze, there is cell phone reception, and life is good.

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

Many thanks to Gordon Tocher for varied, informative local walk with great views; by Paul Cunliffe, on behalf of: Christine Hopkins, Alan Thomson, Kathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson, Laura and Christine Mills.

Silver Peaks Gate



The club has keys to the southernmost gate on Mountain Road, which is at a point about 400m N of the "Hunters' Access" route to Possum Hut.

The keys no longer open the gate near the top of Rongomai Ridge, about 800m south of Tunnels Track, although that is often open. I don't know if they still open the gate near Gap Ridge.

The keys are available to members, but we are required to keep them under tight control. If you lose or don't return a key, you are liable for a \$1500 fee. If you want a key, contact:

Antony Pettinger, 4737924, 027 661873 apett@es.co.nz (Pick-up location: Pine Hill)

David Barnes, 4544492h, 4719813w, david.barnes.nz@gmail.com (Pick-up location Waverley or Moray Place)

Takitimu - The trip of attrition 10-11 January

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

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

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

At this point the party thinned again, with Johnathon and Andrea staying put for the joys of testing theories about avoiding the sandflies while the rest of us took daypacks to tackle some steep bush bashing under advice from Moirs. By 3.30pm we were above the bushline. Tomas captured our view for you to share at <http://tomassobekphotography.co.nz/pano33.php> .. The winds were brisk so we didn't tarry too long; still by 4pm it was clear that at our current rate we wouldn't reach Mt Spence before our chosen "turn back time" of 5pm.

So another two of the party jettisoned. Diana and I opted to find a sheltered place in the tussock from which we could rest and watch while Gordon and Tomas become smaller and smaller as they criss-crossed their way up the basin towards the summit. It was 5pm when they crested the ridge. I've been assured that the views were MEGA-AWESOME but once they got there they realized that they still had further to go if

they wanted to conquer Mt Spence, so it was a quick stop then back down the way they'd come, picking up Diana and me on the way.

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

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

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

Kakanui Peak 14 Decmeber

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

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

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

When the track reached the ridge crest, we could see the volcanic peaks of Mount

Dasher and Kattothrust. They're both shrouded with scree "glaciers", much like the better known Mt Watkin/Hikaroroa. It's sometimes easy to forget that way, way back, Central Otago was volcanic.

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

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

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

Mt Cook trip report 17-18 January 2015

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

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

Saturday dawned with bluebird skies so we set off early to head up towards Sealy Tarns. Although we didn't count the infamous steps to the top, our thighs certainly felt the almost 2000 steps we climbed. There was a reasonably strong wind blowing and we could see the cloud beginning to creep over Mt Sefton so after a few photos we headed back down rather than carrying on to Mueller Hut. After a leisurely lunch back at the campground, we drove round to the Tasman valley to view the lake and the far distant glacier. It was

rather shocking to see how much the glacier had retreated in the last 25 years. Back at the car park, we decided the logical end to our strenuous day was beer at the Old Mountaineers Café. Then we followed this with more beer over dinner at the campground and chatting to some of the backpacker tourists.

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

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

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

Membership

Its been a very quiet couple of months with membership. Club membership is now 182 with one new member Ian Billinghamurst

Open day went very well with 67 new faces through the door which is a record I believe.

More advertising was done especially with Facebook, Website, emails, newspaper, flyers/posters and radio. Thanks to all those who helped with the open day and walk on Sunday

A big thanks to all those that advertised with our full page in The Star, this meant that the advertising for the OTMC was free.

- Adams Flags
- Neville Stewart Landscaping
- 8 Ranges Wines
- MSC
- Torpedo 7
- Audit Professionals



Support those that support us

Trip list

21-23 March (Otago Anniversary Weekend)

Mt Titiroa

Rose Colhoun (021 1513791)

A prominent mountain just south of Manapouri, Mt Titiroa offers stunning views of Lake Manapouri, the Hunter Mountains and the Takitimus, as well as incredible rock formations. Ideally, this would be a good opportunity for a cross-over trip with two groups starting on either side of the mountain and swapping keys at the top. One group would begin from the Borland Road and traverse the mountain over to Hope Arm, the other group in the opposite direction. This will be a camping trip (either direction) with two nights camping on either side of the summit. There is no track between the Garnock Burn and North Borland so route-finding will be required. A minimum number of 6 people will be needed to do a cross-over trip and someone to lead the other group. If we decide to go as one group and not complete the traverse, we will go up and down from the Hope Arm side. Anyone who is keen to lead the second group of this trip should contact me asap. Trip rated M-F as the days will be reasonably long and will be mostly off-track. Phone Rose Colhoun 021 1513791

28-29 March

Bushcraft Silverpeaks Weekend (I/M)

Wayne Hodgkinson (473 4895)

The opportunity to put all the learnings from the Bushcraft course, and to brush up on your tramping skills/ Opportunities also for more experienced members to lead and guide a small group from Bushcraft.

The OTMC Bank Account is now with ASB. The new account number is:

12-3150-0311684-00

Remember to include your name and the reason for your payment when paying by internet banking.

Non-members must pay for trips when signing the trip list, members before the trip list closes.

DAYTRIPS

1 March

David Barnes (454 4492)

Burns Saddle—Greenguage Spur (M/F)

This is a longish round trip (after a short drive) with plenty of variety. The plan is to start at the top of the Northern Motorway and go along the Burns Saddle track to join Green Ridge. Just short of the Green Hut site, we'll take the obscure Greenguage Spur route, plunging toward a crossing in the upper reaches of the Silver Stream before climbing to and up Raingauge Spur. Then we amble across Swampy before dropping down the Leith Saddle track to the cars. There's some sustained ups and downs, so expect to be on the go for some 7-8 hours.

8 March

Peter Loeber

Taieri Millenium Track

15 March

Jan Burch (455 4559)

Three Silver Peaks

Did you know that there are Silver Peaks 1, 2 & 3 and that over the years they have been interchangeable? Tony had planned to lead this trip to climb each one with great ceremony and record these events, but when he was unable to, I've stepped in. Like Tony's previous trips, the route will first take us up Green Ridge, with a drinks and snacks stop at the Green Hut site. Then we will proceed to climb up to our first peak above Pulpit Rock before diverting to our second peak on Rocky Ridge. Our final ascent will be to the highest peak at 777metres. Here we will lunch and admire the 360 degree expansive views before returning via Green Ridge again. Unlike Tony's trips we will definitely not be dropping down into the Painted Forest, but we may take a wee detour to it's edges if time allows.

Cost \$8, leaving clubrooms at 9am

29 March

Alan Thomson (455 7878)

Town Belt Traverse

The Town Belt Traverse is an opportunity to explore one of New Zealand's great reserve sites. We will pass through a number of interesting place's such as Admiral Byrd's look-out at Unity park, Thomlinson's paddock (now known as Jubilee Park), the Astronomical Society at the Beverly-Begg observatory, Serpentine Avenue where Toitu Stream once flowed, visit the gardens at Ovelston, and, maybe stop to listen to local poets perform at Prospect Park to name but a few. These and other places of interest will be marked on a map.

The Traverse is being organised by the Dunedin Amenities Society and registration is between 10 and 11am at the old morgue next to the Southern Cemetery where participants will receive a map and a ticket. The ticket-holder will be entitled to a free cup of tea and a sausage from the BBQ at Woodhaugh Gardens where there will be other entertainment and displays. All participants are to complete the traverse by 2pm. There is more information on the traverse on the Dunedin Amenities Society website. We will meet at the OTMC club-rooms at 9.30am (note: this is later than usual) and car pool along to the Oval or, if you would prefer to go straight to the Oval then let me know. The walk one way is only 8.4km and seeing as it is finishing as early 2pm I believe that we could return to the Oval back through the Town Belt maybe via some detours?

There will be no trip cost for today's trip (unless you want to catch a bus back from Woodhaugh).

Sunday 19th April

Steph McLaughlin (481 7116)

Bullock Track at Roxburgh (M)

Car-pool to Roxburgh. At least 2 cars would be good as we could then put one car at the end of the track so as to avoid a 7-8km road walk at the end of the day.

Steep uphill grunt for about 2-3hrs on a walking track, then 5km along the tops and 5km downhill on a 4WD track. MAGNIFICENT VIEWS all across the Teviot valley on one side and across to the Black Umbrella mountains on the other!

For more details phone Steph McLaughlin 481 7116 Trip cost \$25 to the driver of your vehicle NOTE 8am start from the clubrooms



Gear for Hire

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

Ice axes	Crampons	Packs
Cookers	Billies	First Aid Kit
Tents	Personal Locator Beacons	
Climbing Helmets	Avalanche Transceivers and Probes	

Members can hire gear for \$5 for up to one week. If you can't get it back to club then each week is an additional \$5. Phone Gene or Sam if you can't make it to club nights to bring gear back.



Thursday Night Programme

5th March: Did you know that Dunedin has the country's oldest conservation society? The Dunedin Amenities Society was established in 1888 and is active in conserving the Town Belt, Ross Creek, Craigburn and other reserves in which we all enjoy walking, running and cycling. Paul Pope, Project Manager, will present to us a short history of the society and detail the conservation work it undertakes to give Dunedin amenities which are the envy of other centres.

12th March: BYO - We expect plenty of photos from Jackson's Bay/ Stafford Bay and Canyon Creek, plus any other photos from day trips

19th March: No Meeting - Otago Anniversary. Have an enjoyable long weekend!

26th March: To be advised - but it's sure to be good!

2nd April: No meeting - Easter. Have an enjoyable long Easter break.

9th April: OTMC members certainly get around! This time Peter and Leonie Loeber will take us around Nevada's wonderland of National Parks, including the strangest of them all - Las Vegas.

16th April: No meeting - 50th Anniversary of the Milford Track Freedom Walk. From 15th-19th April, forty members, past (OTC) and present (OTMC), will be walking the Milford Track to celebrate this historic protest walk which ensured the Milford Track is open to "freedom walkers".

23rd April: No meeting - ANZAC day. Enjoy another long weekend.

30th April: Milford Track - Members who took part in the 50th anniversary freedom walk celebration will give a presentation, including photos and an outline of the history which led to what is perhaps the most significant event in the history of the club.

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. If you can help please contact Tony Timperley (phone 473 7257, email tonytimps@xtra.co.nz) or Gene Dyett (phone 455 7465, email m.gdyett@xtra.co.nz)

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