

**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.



Tomas Sobek

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
Committee	Bary Walker	021 209 5550

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



Just when we thought alternative transport options between Queenstown and Milford Sound had been put to bed, another proposal has hit the streets. This proposal was floated a number of years ago but put on the back burner while the tunnel and monorail projects were floated. A smart strategy perhaps, as the learnings from those two declined proposals have been incorporated into the new plan. Objections relating to National Park and conservation implications appear to have been largely addressed, so it will be interesting to see how this project progresses.

The plan is to construct a tunnel between the Dart River just north of the bridge through to Gunn's Camp. Specialised roll-on - roll-off carriages will carry vehicles on the 13km journey under the Humbolt Mountains. The proposal aims to increase visitor numbers to Milford Sound by reducing travel times between Queenstown and Milford.

If you're interested, Wilderness Magazine is asking people to follow the discussion on their Facebook page.

Winter has arrived - and OTMC members have started to hibernate, with one weekend trip in June and just one in July. Both trips however will be interesting and popular. If you have any thoughts on winter destinations get in touch with the Chief Guide.

And on the subject of thoughts and opinions, the Bulletin is one vehicle to express those views. Anything about tramping and Club involvement is welcome, and will often result in others' responses stimulating debate.

Ross

Trip Reports

Rees Valley - Kea Basin 16-17 May

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

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

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

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



Richard Forbes

The day dawned clear and cool so after a leisurely breakfast we finally departed about 9 a.m.

Our first river crossing came soon after our departure and while we all managed to keep dry feet this was not to last as there were to be numerous river crossings throughout the weekend.

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

We passed Lennox Falls and eventually reached the track turnoff at the bushline and stopped here for lunch. It was pleasant sitting in the sun enjoying the views of the mountains and the long sweep of river flat.



Richard Forbes

It was then onwards and upwards, a long steady climb on a series of zig zags to the now decrepit Earnslaw hut and a further climb through snow to the rock bivvy at Kea basin, our camp for the night.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Trip

29-30 August

Snow Farm Cross Country Skiing (ALL)

Rodger Clarkson (473 6053)

I've always wanted to have a go at X country skiing, so as they say if you want to do something then volunteer to lead a trip.

The trip list is already up in the clubrooms so I can get an idea of numbers for the Hut booking, that I need to advise Snow Farm in June.

We will leave Dunedin on Friday night and stay somewhere around Wanaka before heading up to Snow farm on Saturday morning. The intention is to stay Saturday Night at Meadow Hut. Snow Farm offers a package deal for Hut Accommodation, 2 days trail pass and ski hire for \$140.(\$110 if you have gear) (see www.snowfarmnz.com for further information) For an additional \$20 snowfarm will give a lesson to get you started.

There's a range of trails for all abilities at Snow Farm. Meadow Hut is 4km from the base building on an easy trail. Snow shoeing could also be an option for some and given it's a full moon that weekend a night ski could also be on the cards.



Peter McKellar



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.



Chief Guide Comment

It is great to see Richard Forbes' trip up the Rees finally got away, although with reduced numbers after postponing one week due to a rotten forecast. Personally, I have my fingers crossed for Queen's Birthday weekend! Richard has another trip coming up 27-28th June to the Kepler / Luxmore Hut – he's a busy chap and must be due for some good weather. However, I see the oracles of the Metservice seem to think we are in for a patchy winter and spring, with an El Nino pattern producing stronger westerly winds and cooler temperatures, with heavier rain in the west and drier in the east. I guess we will just have to see what comes.

Is anyone out there thinking about longer trips? While daydreaming recently I found that next year Easter is early, and only 3 days away from Otago Anniversary weekend. Hmmm. It's away from school holidays, but does mean that for most people 3 days off work would produce a 10 or 11 day break. And there's always late January



Tomas Sobek



Membership

Club membership now stands at 188

New Members

Sam Wilden

Adeline Chai

Amanda Smith and Glen Proctor



All the above are from Bushcraft with quite a few more to come according to the inquires I have been getting

Don't forget our sponsors who generously contributed to the recent "Star" article promoting the Club:

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

Trip list

27-28 June

Winter Kepler / Luxmore (All)

Richard Forbes (453 1327)

Winter is a great time to visit the great walks as the track and huts are deserted.

It is normally about 4-5 hours climb to Luxmore Hut with great views of the Te Anau area. An afternoon trip can be made to Mt Luxmore for even more views. For fitter parties and if conditions on the tops allow it is feasible to do the whole track continuing on to Iris burn Hut for Saturday night and down the Iris Burn valley on Sunday to Lake Manapouri and Rainbow Reach or even to the control gates where we started (60km in total)

We will be staying in the camping ground cabins in Te Anau for Friday night which is about \$27 each. Hut fees apply for the great walk huts (\$15) which are winter rates with no running water, flush toilets or gas supplied.

Trip list closes 18th June

There is only one trip this month. However watch for two trips coming up. One is the Club classic, the Winter Routeburn with Wolfgang as leader. And next month Wayne leads a trip to Makarora or a bit further on to Mt Armstrong.

DAYTRIPS

7 June

Measley Beach—Toko Mouth—Cook Head (E)

Kathy Woodrow (455 4673)

We will probably leave a car at Toko Mouth and drive down to Measley Beach. From there we will walk south to the end of the beach and if the tide is suitable we will clamber around the rocks to the fossil area. Low tide is approx 2pm so I don't know if that will work. Anyway we will then proceed north along the beach towards Toko Mouth taking time to explore up a couple of the creeks. These have direct access to the sea blocked by sand dunes. At Toko Mouth we have access to a crib for lunch so there will be boiling water available for a hot drink, mugs provided. We will then drive around to Chrystalls Beach and walk to Cook Head. This is a phonolite basalt rock which is thought to be a former volcanic vent sticking up out of the sandy beach. **\$10**

14 June

Grahams Bush—Bethunes Gully

Raewyn Duncan (487 8686)

Leaving club rooms at 9 am we will head for Bethune gully, leave a car there then drive to Sawyers Bay. Heading up the Grahams Bush track which is a good track and well sheltered. The track comes to a staircase that climbs to the Mount Cargill road. Across the road is the start of the Organ Pipes track which then leads on to Mt Cargill. We can climb up to the top of butters peak for an amazing view of the entire harbour through to Dunedin city.

After stopping for lunch we then head down the Mt Cargill track back to the car park at Bethunes gully and the car shuffle back to town. **\$5**

21 June

Flagstaff ar Dawn / Swampy Summit (E/M)

Alan Thomson (455 7878)

This Sunday is the shortest day, but we will go up Flagstaff early to greet the sun and let it know that we appreciate that it is trying to get up a bit earlier each day!

7am start from the club-rooms or 7.10am from the bottom of Taieri Road at it's intersection with Nairn and Mellor Streets.Or 7.20am from the 'Bullring'.

Wear boots or shoes with a good grip. Bring a torch, though you may be surprised at how much light there is at that hour.

Also a hot drink/food as needed (for option two you will need to bring lunch). Lots of warm clothes and especially a warm hat.

Sunrise from the top is about 8.10am but the best 'colours' will be as we walk up. Then option one is back to the cars to be home by mid morning, or option two is for a longer walk to Swampy and back making home time about mid afternoon. **\$5**

28 June
Skyline Track Clearing (M)
Tony Timperley (473 7257)

The Skyline Track is a joint project between OTMC and the DCC and climbs up from Sullivan's Dam to Cowan Road, via either the Escarpment Track or crossing a recently logged pine forest. As most of the track is through bush, it needs frequent track clearing which involves mainly cutting back undergrowth and branches which have spread over the track in the past year. So, bring along your pruning saws, shears and clippers to clear the track to ensure a clear track when we tramp up it on 9th August. **\$4**

5 July
Two Reservoirs and a Hill
Jane Cloete (467 23287) (E/M)

Two short walks and longer one, so that if the weather should be inclement we can retreat! Chances are that you haven't circumnavigated the reservoirs, and you probably know the hill from a different approach! Only 15km from the club rooms so we'll be home mid-afternoon. **\$4**

Bulletin Contributions are always welcome. Send them to ross.hunt@extra.co.nz along with any photos you'd like from your trip. Don't worry about making your bulletin articles look pretty—I will reformat anyway.

Also trip leaders—the Bulletin is the perfect vehicle to promote your upcoming trips. Drop me a few words promoting your trip a month or two before it is due to run.

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.

Thursday Night Programme

4th June: One of the enduring pleasures of tramping in the bush and hills is hearing and seeing native birds. Sue Maturin of the Forest and Bird Society will tell us how they are working to ensure that increasing numbers of these birds continue to thrive in their native habitat. Forest and Bird also work to help preserve our local marine environment. Sue will also inform us of the Otago Marine Protected Area Process.

11th June: Stewart Island DVD - "A Local's Tail". As the blurb states, this DVD "Tells the story of Stewart Island from a dog's point of view. It's warm hearted and funny and provides an insight into the ... hard-living culture of the island. From OTMC members' point of view this DVD will be of interest as many of you have been to Stewart Island.

18th June: Stargazing - This clubnight will be spent at the Beverley Begg Observatory in Robin Hood Park. We will be hosted by the Dunedin Astronomy Society who will present a programme combining a mixture of education and stargazing. On 18th June, moon brightness will be at a minimum, so conversely stars will be at their brightest. It is important to note that proceedings will commence at 7.30pm with our usual OTMC notices; then our astronomical activities will start at 7.45. Families are welcome and the charges are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. We would like to thank OTMC member Peter Loeber who arranged this event for us.

25th June: BYO. As we have not had a BYO since March there should be plenty of photos to show, even though some trips were cancelled because of adverse weather. Hopefully we will have photos from Young/Wilken via Gillespie Pass, the re-scheduled Rees Valley/Kea Basin, Port Craig/ Waitutu/ Hump Ridge, Bushcraft River Crossing and Silver Peaks, any of the day tramps, plus photos from the Milford tramp

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)

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