

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

#765 October 2015

A New Look Bulletin

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

Your Auction Proceeds

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

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

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

- anon



Snow Farm, X-Country Skiing 29-30 August



October Trips

- Mt Somers
- Silver Peaks
- Skyline maintenance
- Matukituki
- Tavora / Anderson's Beach
- Mt Titiroa Traverse

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1120, Dunedin

www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/groups/otmcnz otmc@ihug.co.nz

Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin

Doors open 7:30 for 8pm start, all welcome

Gear Hire

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

- ◆ Ice Axes
- ◆ Crampons
- ◆ Cookers & Billies
- ◆ Packs
- ◆ Tents/Flys
- ◆ Personal Locator Beacons
- ◆ Climbing Helmets
- ◆ Avalanche Transceivers and Probes

Hire charge \$5 for up to a week, then \$5 per week.

See or phone Gene or Sam



Skyline Saturdays

Antony Pettinger 473 7924

Now we have had the last taste of winter, it is a good time to maintain the upper section of the Skyline Track – this is a track the club instigated in the early 2000's, and has been designed to create the missing link of a Skyline Route from the Whare Flat side of Flagstaff right through to Sawyers Bay. The section of track that requires ongoing maintenance to keep it open is from near the summit of Mt. Cargill to the powerlines above Sullivan's Dam.

The upper section of the track was almost lost following heavy snowfall in 2013, and forestry felling in 2014. A series of work parties around this time last year saw the route re-established. I had a wander along the track a couple of weeks ago and cut back some new windfall, the work from last year has paid off, but we need to keep on top of it to ensure it remains traversable.

Like last year, I am holding informal work party days on Saturdays – no need to sign up or let me know, if you are keen to help you just need to turn up. We can meet at the top of the track on Cowan Road (near the sweeping bend on the road where you turn and face the city if going up) at 8am – if you want to come later then just wander down the track until you find us.

Bring loppers and a pruning saw – gloves are handy due to the bush lawyer. Also some warm and waterproof clothing, strong footwear, lunch and water (if you plan on staying out for a while). A basic first aid kit would be a good idea.

In time it would be good to get rid of the remaining pine tree trunks across the track and use a scrub-bar to cut back the edges.

Email me if you have any questions, Antony

Committee Report

Richelle Adams, Secretary

Our new Bulletin Editor Barry has asked me to write a few paragraphs about Committee happenings so here we go...

We have just had the AGM and the committee said goodbye to 3 members who all contributed a lot; Andy Cunningham did a thorough check of all the club gear and has thrown out expired/out of date First Aid Kits and replaced them with new basic kits which will be replaced annually. These club kits are very basic and as always all trampers need to take their own personal First Aid Kits on all trips including any medication they may require.

Andy has replaced the lanyards on the ice axes. He has also been bringing the Constitution up to date and his work is currently with OTMC lawyer Antony Hamel.

The committee will be meeting with Antony Hamel over the next few months to discuss the Constitution, there will of course be club consultation and an Extraordinary General Meeting before any changes can be made.

Ross Hunt was our SAR Representative and Bulletin Editor but is moving to Invercargill. We hope he remains a club member and we can meet up with him for some tramping.

Andrew Pask was our maintenance person and did a lot of work on the trailer, in the clubrooms and purchased the new projector and computer.

Thanks to all of you for the work you have done.

Alan Thomson - now our immediate past President, did a great job as President this last year and is also still our Day Trip Convenor and Leaning Lodge Trust and Ben Rudd Trust member - a very busy man, thank you for all your work.

We welcome to the committee Raewyn Duncan, Helen Jones and Ray McAliece. Raewyn will help with welcoming people to the clubrooms at our weekly meetings, Helen is the Librarian and Ray is Vice President and maintenance.

Club Members are welcome to attend the Committee Meetings which are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm. Richard Forbes chaired his first meeting as President this month and the meeting was over by 8.30pm - well done Richard!

Richelle Adams, Secretary

Your Committee

President : Richard Forbes	453 1327	forbespotter@hotmail.com
Vice President : Ray McAlieце	454 4211	jillmcaliece@hotmail.com
Secretary : Richelle Adams	476 1302	richelle@adamsflags.co.nz
Treasurer : Rodger Clarkson	473 6053	rodger.clarkson@xtra.co.nz
Chief Guide : Wayne Hodgkinson	473 0950	wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz
Membership Secretary : Richard Forbes		
Bulletin Editor : Barry Walker	477 5018	bmw@xtra.co.nz
Social Conveners : Tony Timperley	473 7257	tonytimps@xtra.co.nz
& Gene Dyett	455 7465	m.gdyett@xtra.co.nz
Daytrip Convener : Alan Thomson	455 7878	thomson@ihug.co.nz
Gear Hire : Sam Patrick & Gene Dyett		
Website : Antony Pettinger	473 7924	apett@es.co.nz
Clubrooms Maintenance : Ray McAlieце		
Librarian : Helen Jones	477 5018	hlnmaryjo@hotmail.com
Visitors meet and greet : Raewyn Duncan	487 8686	duncannz7@gmail.com
Conservation and Advocacy : David Barnes	454 4492	david.barnes.nz@gmail.com
Ben Rudd property : Sam Patrick	0272 864 836	sammepat@hotmail.com

Membership **Richard Forbes, Membership Secretary**

Subs are still due with almost 150 paid up so far and still over 40 to go, please keep them coming in and remember to send me your completed green form so that I know your details on the club database are correct. If you are paying by e-banking please have your name and "subs" as a reference so that I know what you are paying for.

Members joined last month...

Adam Campbell (joint member with Tina Anderson)

Morag MacTaggart (who did Bushcraft 2015)

OTMC Bank account

The OTMC bank account with ASB is ... **12-3150-0311684-00**

Please include your name and the reason for the payment when using internet banking (which is the preferred option).

Non-members must pay for trips when signing the trip list and members before departure.

Vehicle suppliers/drivers will normally not pay the trip fee and will be reimbursed fuel costs later (check with the trip leader or Treasurer Rodger if in doubt).

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

Snowcaving 22-23 August

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Toity poiple boids
Sitt'n on der coib
A' choipin' and a' boipin
An' eat'n doity woims.*

Snow Farm 29-30th August

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

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

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

After getting ourselves organised at the Hut some of us decided to head to Bob Lee Hut further uphill a few km away. There was a bit of wind higher up and cloud was coming and going causing brief whiteouts. Once we got to Bob Lee Hut another club member Alex Tups turned up with an ex club member Dr (I'm terrible with names - was it Zhiva-go?) who were there for the day.

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

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

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

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

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

Gabriels Gully 13th September

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

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

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

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

Port Craig panorama, Queens Birthday



October Sundays

Club Sunday Trip List for the month (day tramps and events)

Unless otherwise stated day trips leave from the club rooms on Sunday at 9am

If the weather is in doubt give the trip leader a phone call to check.

The trip fee is paid directly to the vehicle provider(s).

(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required

4 October : Ben Rudd (E)

Instead of exploring the wilder parts of the Silver Peaks, please turn up at 9AM at the clubrooms with loppers and gardening gloves for a chance to tame/turn the OTMC's private piece of Flagstaff into a tussock wonderland. Please help maintain the second most valuable item in your (the Club's) ownership .There might be free cake and beer after the day's effort. Last year we had 18 people, and it was all sociable fun. For every person-hour we spend working, we gain brownie points for Biodiversity funding from our fair city, which pays for the tougher weed control work.

Phone Richard Pettinger 487 9488 or Co-leaders Alan 455 67878 or Sam 0272 864836

11 October : Gauges, Spurs and Ridges (M) \$5

Jan Burch 455 4559

This is a cut-down version of a M/F trip I enjoyed when David Barnes led it earlier this year. We'll be starting from the end of the driveable part of Swampy Private Road. From the Elbow, we'll be taking Rain Gauge Spur down to Silver Stream, then using the relatively new Green Gauge track to climb back up to the Green Ridge Track. This will take us towards Mountain Road, until the turnoff to Swampy Ridge Track. From here it is mainly uphill, with lots of pauses to enjoy the magnificent views, all the way to Swampy Summit. The circuit is completed by heading back to the Elbow, enjoying the well earned downhill back to the cars.

18 October : Andersons Lagoon/Beach &

Tavora Reserve (E/M) \$8 Jacqui King 471 9545

Do you like scenic coastlines with possible sightings of fur seals and penguins? Then join me on my daytrip to Tavora Reserve and Andersons Lagoon/Beach, about 40mins drive north of Dunedin. On leaving the clubrooms at 9am, we will travel first to Andersons Lagoon, and park at the grassy end of Andersons Rd. From here we cross a stile or two and walk about 15mins alongside the lagoon to the beach. The beach is a beautiful tranquil spot, where on previous visits, I've seen fur seals swimming in the surf!

We'll spend an hour or so, exploring the area, then return to our vehicles. Depending on the time, lunch could be had at a café in Palmerston, before continuing on to Tavora Reserve. I haven't reccy'd this as yet, however according to Google, it's easy enough to find and is at the end of Goodwood Rd, 10mins south of Palmerston. The Yellow -Eyed Penguin Trust secured the Tavora Reserve area in 1993, to improve and enhance the breeding habitat for yellow-eyed penguins - so all things going well, perhaps we may get to see some!

October Thursdays

Thursday Club Social Meetings at the Club Rooms 3 Young Street, South Dunedin

Members, non-members, visitors, all are welcome to these social events.

Doors open at 7:30 for an 8 pm start

1st October: BYO - Although Snow Skills was cancelled because of the weather, we should still have photos from the Takitimus and the day trips done during September. Also, we are always happy to see any other photos/videos you may have to show us.

8th October: Club night at the film "Everest". We are sure many members will want to see this film - and what better way to enjoy it than to be with like-minded friends! Nearer the time we will check the times of the screenings (they tend to change week by week) and put out a group e-mail to notify you of the club's arrangements.

15th October: Ben Nevis - About 12 years ago, OTMC member Jane Cloete was orienteering at Fort William, Scotland. On a "rest day" she and two companions decided to walk up Ben Nevis, but an adverse change in the weather at about half way forced them to turn back. However, Jane has got some photos taken of Ben Nevis in fine weather; but even these show why this mountain, although not high by NZ standards, should not be taken lightly.

22nd October: Historic Film Footage - postponed from 17th Sept. What were our Otago Tramping Club (OTC) predecessors doing in the 1940s and 50s? To find out come and view the historic film footage we have from these decades. You will be surprised and full of admiration at what they achieved and how they got there.

29th October: Fiordland - Trampler and Mountaineer Extraordinaire, Max Olsen, has done some amazing feats in Fiordland. He will describe these to us with wonderful photos of the terrain he traversed.

For those of you who may be considering walking in Europe after Trixe's excellent recent talk on the Camino, have a look at www.walkinginfrance.info, an very informative blog written by two Aussies with 9,550 km experience of walking in France.

October Weekends

Club Trip List for the month (weekend overnight tramps and events)

*You must pre-register on the Trip List at the club rooms (or contact the leader direct) before the closing date (normally two weeks before the trip start). Members must pay before departure, non-members upon registering. Vehicle providers may be exempt from the fee (check with the leader). Trip organisational details will follow by email. You are responsible for your gear and medical /first-aid needs (also see Gear Hire).
(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required*

3-4 October Mt. Somers Area (All) \$55

Diana Munster 454 6486

Mt. Somers is a popular tramping area located in South Canterbury. Access from Dunedin is shorter than the main National Parks, and the area has a lot of scope. If it is wet on Friday night there is the option to stay at Mt Somers Holiday Park (\$27.50 each). The walking part of the trip will start from the Woolshed Creek Carpark, from where it is an easy 2-3 hour walk to Woolshed Creek Hut (DoC – 24 bunk). At this time of year it would be a good idea to base yourself here and explore further. If you haven't loitered too long there is time to head for the summit of Mt. Somers (1687m), a straight-forward climb – first via an old farm track and then on steeper rock / scree to the summit plateau is reached. Great views to be had over a wide area of South Canterbury. Another option is to explore the Water Caves at the bottom of Morgan Stream, and then visit Morgan Stream itself. From here easy scrambles will take you to some prominent look-out points overlooking the Woolshed Creek catchment. Sunday can either be a longer trip past the Pinnacles Hut (provided a track rock fall has been cleared) and out to the road-end at Sharplin Falls via Bowyers Creek. An easier, but spectacular option is via the Bus Stop route on the true left of Woolshed Creek.

10-11 October West Matukituki Valley (All) \$60

Richard Forbes 03 453 1327

We will base ourselves at Aspiring Hut which is a easy 2 hour walk from the road end at Raspberry Creek. From the hut which is NZAC there are many options for a day walk. Options for great views include the Cascade saddle track, Liverpool Hut and French Ridge Hut, it will depend on snow as to how high we can go but even at the bushline the views are spectacular (there has been considerable snow this winter). The head of the valley if you want to stay low can be reached in a day. The Rob Roy Glacier can also be visited on the way out on Sunday. Aspiring Hut is not covered by DOC tickets or hut passes and costs \$25 per night for non Alpine Club members. Trip closes Oct 1st.

25-27 October Mt Titiroa Traverse (M/F) \$55

(Labour weekend) Rose Colhoun 021 151 3791

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.



Viaduct Crossing,
Port Craig and
Hump Track,
Queens Birthday

A coffee break at
the Snow Farm,
X-country Skiing,
August





Rodger performs at Snow Farm



OTMC Annual Dinner at Filadelfio's in September

October 2015

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 Club BYO	2	3 Skyline*	4 Ben Rudd (E) - see above
					Mount Somers (M) - Diana 4546486 \$55	
5	6	7	8 - Everest Film	9	10 Skyline*	11 Silver Peaks (M) Jan Burch
					Matukituki/Aspiring (All) Richard F 4531327 \$60	
12 Cmte	13	14	15 Club Ben Nevis	16	17 Skyline*	18 Tavora (E/M) Jacqui King
19	20	21	22 Club Historic Film	23	24 Skyline*	25 (no day trip)
					# Mt Titiroa Traverse (M/F) Rose 0211513791 \$55	
26	27	28	29 Club Max Olsen	30	31 Skyline * Track Maintenance	(# 24-26 is Labour weekend)
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