



Martin's Hut, Longwoods, Southland : Rose Colhoun : (Trip Report page 6)

July Trips & Events

Kepler Track Harbour Cone Huriawa Peninsula and Seacliff
Smeaton's Shack / Craiglowan Falls via Ben Rudd's
Cameron Valley, Hakatere Conservation Park
Greenacres / Highcliff / Buskin / Boulder / Paradise

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

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

28th April : Pipeline Track - Rustlers Ridge - Swampy Summit - Leith Saddle Walkway

Another Sunday and the legs are telling us we need to walk so after dropping the pooch to friends we headed along to the club rooms to meet our esteemed leader, Tony Timperly. There was a good turnout this week with 11 of us ready including some first timers for the Pipeline, Rustlers Ridge, Burns Track over to the swampy connecting ridge line track that takes us up to the top of Swampy. A good steady pace was set and we were up the top before we new it. Several of us stopped for a few minutes to watch a Fern Bird and a South Island Robin was also seen by a lucky couple. After two stops for morning tea and lunch it wasn't long before we were heading down the Leith Saddle track back to the car. Thanks to Tony and hopefully some of the new walkers will be back for more in the future. Russell Knowles



Tony leads the way? : Russell Knowles



The A team : Russell Knowles

26th May : Escarpment Track Clearing

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

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



Peter Boeckhout's Gorse Carpet

Meanwhile, Jan, Sandy, Peter L and Tony T disappeared into the thick bush, hacking our way through thick fern leaves, getting entangled in bush lawyer and splodging through deep mud. Another feature of this part of the track is having to straddle over a number of thick logs, which at this time of year are wet. We leave it to your imagination as to which part of our pants got soaked as a result of our straddling! Nevertheless, we made good progress in cutting back the thick leaves and laying our own fern leaf carpets to rival Peter B's gorse needle one.

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

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



A deserved lunchbreak : Peter Boeckhout

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

Five of us (or the equivalent thereof) cleared about one-third of the Escarpment Track from the Powerline Clearing to Pigeon

Rock. If about a dozen club members could turn up with shears and loppers on a Sunday morning in the not too distant future, then the full track could be cleared in readiness for next spring/summer – especially for when we do our annual Skyline Traverse!

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

25-26th May : St Mary's Range Crossover

(South-to-North group)

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

Saturday

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

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

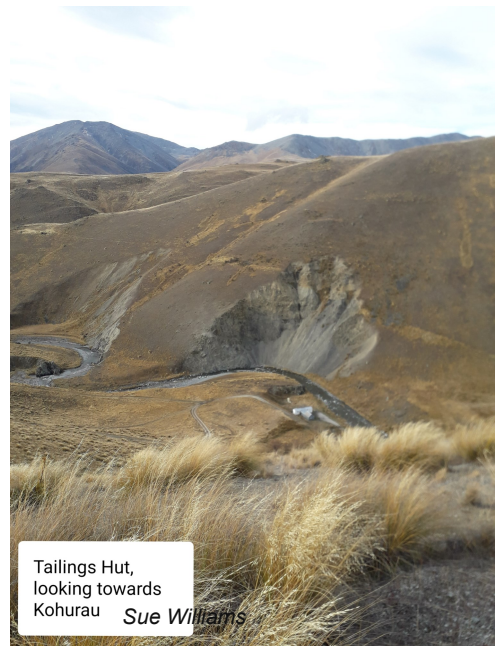
Sunday

We left a bit earlier at 7:30am, heading towards Hut Creek Hut, met up with the other group. We had a break at the hut, then it was onwards over Kohurau at 2009m. The views were fabulous and we reached the top about midday, with very cold wind. We stopped for a short break and could see a front coming (not in the



a long way to go... Sue Williams

forecast!). I put on most of my clothes, we had a quick bite and carried on up the ridge. We dropped over the ridge to the Waitaki side and then did a bit of map checking before we started descending. We could then see the Awakino Ski Lodge below and



Tailings Hut, looking towards Kohurau Sue Williams

went directly down the steep gully. Phil loves scree slopes and he and Jeff were down in no time, (Phil did have kangaroo jerky in his pack..) There was a final grovel through the tussocks with some stab wounds from Spaniards. We reached the road and arrived back at the vehicle about 4pm.

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

9th June: Signal Hill by bus

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

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

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

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

A snack and a drink, then steadily up the 6km to the top of Signal Hill, stopping now and then for a breather and views. Lunch at the top – not too cold and even almost sunny – then down on the Big Easy bike track to the Plateau. Here we turned away

for the bikers and plodded downhill to Ravensbourne, getting to the harbour at 1.20pm. Too early to finish the day! So we walked back to town. Lauren did a bit of car shuffling and most of us walked to our homes. For me, I'd walked (I think) nearly 22km! Doesn't look that far on the map!

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

15-16th June : Longwood Forest

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

We enjoyed a leisurely lunch, including a hot brew, left our packs behind and followed the track behind the hut up to the top of the Longwood Range. We were pleasantly surprised both by how quickly we reached the bushline, and by how vast the views were. Not far above the bushline, we reached the crest of the range and stopped to soak in the 360o views towards the Hump Ridge, Te Waewae Bay, Stewart Island, Whenua Hou/Codfish Island, Riverton, Oreti Beach, Tiwai smelter, Bluff Hill, and the Southland plains.

Back at the hut, we set to work collecting a stash of firewood which was skillfully built into a roaring fire by Peter. The small, 1905 erected Raceman's hut soon became quite cosy, aided with the consumption of mulled

wine and a smorgasbord of food. Despite heavy rain and possibly hail during the night, we woke to sunlight filtering through the trees. However, as we ate breakfast and packed up, a snow shower passed through and it was bitterly cold. We headed off along the water-race track towards Turnbull's hut, the easy gradient made more interesting by obstacles of windfalls and creeks to navigate.

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

Turnbull's hut was even less desirable than Martin's, with gaping holes in the roof, and a chimney that rattled like a steam train every time there was a light breeze. We had a little lunch here, then although there was a track behind the hut, we backtracked to the junction at the top of the dam and were soon out on comparative smoothness of

Cascade Road. A clearing at the end of the road showed buried railway sleepers and gravel where industry had been before.

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

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



Outside Martin's Hut : Rose Colhoun

2019 Annual General Meeting – Committee Nominations



The end of the financial year at the end of June means that nominations for the 2019-20 OTMC Committee are now open. Each year we elect a President, Vice President, Chief Guide, Treasurer, Secretary and seven committee members (the various roles such as Editor, Day Trips and Membership are normally filled by those elected as committee members).

The 96th OTMC Annual General Meeting will be held on August 29, and nominations for the committee close with the Secretary on August 15. Nomination forms will be available at club meetings and are on our [website](#). Nominees need to be financial members of the club, and be nominated and seconded by current members.

Some of the current committee have indicated they are unavailable for a further term, so if you are interested in standing for the committee please have a chat to one of current committee members.

July 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 (non-members pay \$13 more than the members fee shown below). 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).

27-28th July : Cameron Valley, Hakatere Conservation Park

(Fit) \$60 Sue Williams 021 712 606

(please note change of grade from the trip-card to Fit, due to winter conditions)

The Cameron Valley is in the Hakatere Conservation Park, Canterbury. We will be heading for the Cameron Hut about 6 hours (15.6 km) up valley, the last section climbs up the river bed and over large boulders. Cameron Hut is a 9 bunk hut but can be busy on the weekends, so I am planning to limit numbers. The hut is perched on the glacial moraine and the Arrowsmith Range is at the head of the valley. There are

some spectacular views to be had from the hut and it's also rewarding to walk beyond the hut up the Carriage-way (depending on snow levels).



Spectacular Cameron Valley : photos Barry Walker

Pathway to the OTC/OTMC Centenary

OTMC History – Part 1 – The Formation of the Club

The early tramping clubs in New Zealand were formed following the First World War, with the first three established in the Wellington region. The Tararua Tramping Club is the country's oldest club, and are celebrating their Centenary this month (July 2019 – the OTMC have sent a letter of congratulation celebrating this achievement).

Our club is the fourth oldest club, and the first to be formed in the South Island. Our club archives note the idea of starting a local club as follows:

'The following personnel – O. Balk, P.L. Ritchie, G. Wright, R. Gilkison, W. Main, Mr. Clayton, Mr. Marlow and J. Knox – having had a splendid walk over the peaks from Mount Allan to Waitati, were coming down Green Hill, when the topic was 'Why not start a Tramping Club' so as to give some of the pleasures which we got out of the different walks and over tracks to the younger folks'

It is for this statement that I have chosen to use a photo of the ridge leading down from Pulpit Rock to Green Hill as the cover image for a major centenary project '100 Trips for 100 Years'. The Silver Peaks is a significant area for the club (and it appears it will be our most popular trip destination by far when our trip database is completed). This link right back to very start of the Otago Tramping Club is significant and appropriate.

The first record of the club formation was a notice published in the Otago Daily Times inviting interested people to attend a meeting at the Grand Picture Palace Building, on the corner of Princes and Jetty Streets (later the Century Theatre, now a carpark) on August 23, 1923.

The meeting minutes record that 63 persons attended, including a large number of ladies (presumably this was unexpected?). Mr Oscar Balk was voted to the chair and in his opening remarks he said that he was pleased to see such a large gathering, and referred to the great advantages which Dunedin offered to a club of that nature. He pointed out the benefits to be derived from such healthy exercise as tramping over the hills, and the elevating effect it would have upon the mind. With the Tararua Tramping Club now being in it's 4th year of operation we have an excellent model to work upon, in regard to rules and procedures. In recent years, correspondence a week later between Oscar Balk and Fred Vossler (TTC) has been discovered, and was included in the 2013 – 90th Anniversary Outdoors.

Mr. R. Gilkison moved that the Otago Tramping Club be formed. Mr. F. W. Clayton seconded the motion, which was carried with enthusiasm. Oscar Balk was elected as the first president, and subscriptions were set as follows: Gentlemen 10/-, Ladies 5/-, Boys under 18 years of age 5/-

It was proposed to hold the first walk over Flagstaff on Saturday, September 1st, 1923, meeting at the Reservoir (Ross Creek) at 2.30pm.

In 2019, FMC has asked clubs to revisit their own original trip to celebrate the Tararua Tramping Club's centenary. Conveniently for the OTMC, September 1, 2019 happens to be a Sunday, so we will be recreating our first club trip to Flagstaff exactly 96 years after the original trip.

July Day Walks

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

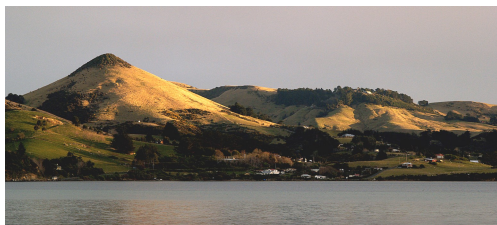
*Unless otherwise stated day trips leave from the club rooms on Saturday/Sunday at 9am
If the weather is in doubt give the trip leader a phone call to check.
The trip fee is paid directly to the vehicle provider(s).
(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required*

7th July : Harbour Cone

(E) \$5 Sue Williams 021 712 606

An easy 3-4 hours (depending how cold it is!)

We'll start at Bacon Street in Broad Bay and climb to 315 m. Windproof gear would be a great idea. 360 degree views of the harbour and peninsula. Conquer the volcano!



*Harbour Cone : Ulrich Lange :
(GNU Creative Commons shared photo)*

14th July : Smeaton's Shack /

**Craiglowan Falls via Ben Rudd's
(E/M) \$5 Geraldine Kerr 021 0247 9822**

21st July : Huriawa Peninsula & Seacliff (E) \$5 Tomas Sobek 021 279 8339

Come for an easy trip to Karitane. We will walk around the peninsula, then drive along the scenic drive to Seacliff and explore the old mental hospital grounds. This one will be a doddle.

28th July. Greenacres/Highcliff/

**Buskin/Boulder/Paradise
(M) \$5 Tony Timperley 473-7257.**

Starting at MacAndrew Bay, we climb up through Greenacres to Highcliff Rd. We then walk along here to the Buskin Track, which we descend to Boulder Beach. This descent could be muddy. (Note: Depending on conditions and how we feel, we could do a diversion up the new track to Highcliff point for extensive coastal views. This would add about an hour to our total time.) After lunching at Boulder Beach we climb up Paradise Track back to Highcliff Rd, then return via Greenacres to MacAndrew Bay.

Car share cost \$5. Leaving the clubrooms at 9am.

4th August : Jubilee Hut @ 8AM

(Fit) \$8 Antony Pettinger 473 7924

On 3rd August the OTMC becomes exactly the same age that the original OTC (Otago Tramping Club) achieved when the name changed to the OTMC in 1971- 17, 522 days. To celebrate this milestone, this trip will visit both the original OTC Jubilee Hut site, and the current Jubilee Hut, opened by DoC and the OTMC in 2007. Starting from Hightop, we will travel over the highest parts of the Silver Peaks, before descending the 400m + descent to Cave Stream and onwards to Jubilee. Return will be via the same route, unless there is interest in heading back via the ridge at the back of Jubilee (which has been called the RABOH route, or ridge at back of hut) Either way, the trip is graded fit - expected tramping time is 8-9 hours. Due to the tramping time required, the trip will depart the clubrooms at 8am.

President's Comment : Antony Pettinger

It's been a while since the current condition and future for Leaning Lodge has been discussed in the Bulletin, as it has been a matter for the Leaning Lodge Trust. However, given events over the past few weeks, it is time for an update from the club. Members from the Leaning Lodge Trust presented an update to the OTMC meeting on May 16 and outlined that there are numerous consenting issues with the hut that is currently on site. Recent investigations by the trust have indicated it will be more or less the same cost to bring the current hut up to building code standard as it would be to replace the majority of the existing structure with something new.

A very brief history of Leaning Lodge would be that the Leaning Lodge Trust was established in 2005, with the sole purpose of bringing Leaning Lodge up to a standard that would suit the Department of Conservation, as it occupies DoC land. As the original OTMC hut has now been replaced with a new structure, this means it also has to comply with the New Zealand Building Code, administered by the Dunedin City Council. Both the DCC and DoC need to sign-off the hut before it can be used by anyone. The Leaning Lodge Trust have elected to more or less remove the current structure to floor level, and replace with a steel framed hut, largely built off-site and reusing as many elements from the current hut once the main framework has been transported and erected on site. This decision was received favourably at the May meeting.

At the meeting in May, it was also apparent that there was strong support for the OTMC to contribute financially to the completion of Leaning Lodge. The committee have listened to this, and sought feedback from members. Based on feedback received, and along with the support shown at the Leaning Lodge meeting, the club have now conditionally donated a total of \$18,570.00 to the Leaning Lodge Trust. To have completed this process within four weeks is a credit to all involved.

The donation is conditional on several points being accepted by the Leaning Lodge Trust. These are not designed to be onerous to the trust, but the OTMC have been careful to ensure both parties agree

on what condition the hut will be handed over to the OTMC upon completion (we have a separate management agreement where the hut will transfer to OTMC ownership upon it receiving official sign-off from the DCC and DoC). As it stands today, the OTMC will own the hut post-completion, with the Leaning Lodge Trust continuing to be responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of the hut. One of the conditions allow the OTMC and Trust to clarify and update the management agreement to provide better direction for future OTMC committees.

This is a good outcome for everyone – after countless hours of valuable committee time being consumed by Leaning Lodge over many years, we can now draw a line in the sand and let the Leaning Lodge Trust focus on the hut, and the committee to focus on the OTMC and tramping.

I have written before about how the committee are working through a plan of ideas and issues that we see facing the club. We have now discussed and resolved all the minor points on this plan, and can now start focussing on the bigger issues. We have put up our hand to take a local lead with an FMC initiative where they will assist clubs work together to increase leadership skills – this links to what I wrote in the last Bulletin, and hopefully will be a good start to improving OTMC leadership, which is the foundation for a strong club.

Other things we are working on are plans for the OTMC Centenary, trip guidelines, training and risk management. Something I have been thinking about is to refresh the official club objects contained within the Constitution - this would require the club to think about the direction we want to take the club over the next 10-20 years. Our membership has changed so much over the past 20-30 years in particular that we are now a completely different club than at any other time in history, and maybe it is time we reviewed our core objects.

That said, the OTMC is not broken, and is currently very vibrant, with satisfactory numbers at our meetings and on both our day and weekend trips.

Antony Pettinger

July Thursday Meetings

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*

4th July David Barnes : New Zealand Geographic Board

David Barnes has been the long serving FMC representative on the NZ Geographic Board - come along and find out what the board do, and maybe how you can propose to have something officially named!

11th July : Maria Hamelink, Morrocco

In March Maria went to Morocco with the main goal of riding a camel over the Sahara Dessert! She also met local Berbers and spent time scouring the madina's in Cassablanca. Tangiere, Fes, Chefchauwen and Marrakech, ending the trip at the coast Essouria.

She will share with us her photos and treasures.

18th July: Into the snow with Wayne

Wayne Hodgkinson will introduce the upcoming Snow Skills trip on 24-25 August, and how it can help you enjoy safe tramping and camping on snow. The main things covered will be walking on snow, use of ice axe and crampons, and self-arresting in the event of a fall. If time permits, we will also briefly introduce snow shelters, including snowcaving for the club trip on 10-11 August.

25th July: Alex takes us Paragliding

Be prepared for some thrilling flights and great views from an overhead perspective as Alex flies high.

July 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1 Cmtte	2	3	4 David Barnes on the Geographic Board	5	6	7 Harbour Cone with Sue Williams 021 712 606
					Kepler Track with Richard Forbes 021 520 760	
8	9	10	11 Maria Hamelink on Morroco	12	13	14 Smeaton's Shack and Craiglowan Falls with Geraldine Kerr 021 0247 9822
15	16	17	18 Wayne on Snow Skills	19	20	21 Huriawa Peninsula and Seacliff with Tomas Sobek 021 279 8339
22	23	24	25 Alex Tups Paragliding	26	27	28 Greenacres/Highcliff etc with Tony Timperley 473 7257
					Cameron Valley with Sue Williams 021 712 606	
29	30	31				