

# The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering  
Club Inc # 820 August 2021



## *Upcoming Trips & Events*

- ★ WEEKENDS ★ Northern Livingstone Mountains ★ Lake Hawea ★ Caples / Steele Creek - Greenstone Valleys ★ Snowdon Forest Area ★
- ★ SUNDAYS ★ Silverstream ★ Silverpeaks ★ Grahams Bush ★ Leith Valley ★ Hermits Cave

*Lets wander where the wifi is weak*

Tenting under the stars. Photo credit: Meredith Walton

## 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, members should pay 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 Sharen if in doubt).

## Gear Hire

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

NO hire charge for members for the first week!

See or phone our Gear Hire Committee member.

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Cookers & Billies
- Packs
- Tent/Flys
- Climbing Helmets

## Your Committee

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## Bed Rudd's Management Trust

**Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, 3 Young Street, Dunedin**

**<http://otmc.co.nz> <https://facebook.com/groups/otmcnz>  
[otmcnz@gmail.com](mailto:otmcnz@gmail.com)**

**Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin Doors open 7:30 for  
8pm start, all welcome**

**Sign up to our email list: <https://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc>**

## Ben Rudd's Management Trust

Ben Rudd's Management Trust hosted a very successful day on our club property with around 40 people attending. The main reason for this day was for us to celebrate 100 years of Ben Rudd taking title to what is now the OTMC Ben Rudd's property. Two new picnic tables and a bench seat were 'opened' at the former skid site. Although we had hoped for the skid site to be rehabilitated better by the logging contractor in late 1989, it has now become one of the focal points of the property, and the area that sees the greatest number of people passing by. A big thank you to the BRMT for arranging the day, it was great to catch up with members and supporters we don't see often.

## Our Wolfgang

It is with profound sadness that the OTMC inform members of the passing of Honorary Member Wolfgang Gerber yesterday.

Wolfgang joined the OTMC in the mid 1990's, and quickly became involved with the club way of life. After starting out his leadership career with a few day trips, by 1999 this had evolved into his very well-known Winter Social Trips, most commonly to the Routeburn Track. In all, Wolfgang organised 15 tramping based weekend social trips - these were often combined with his famous quiz night (where the quizmaster (Wolfie) is always right!)

In 2006 Wolfgang lamented that his mid-winter social trips were becoming a bit ho-hum, so he planned something different, a trip to Greymouth on the Tranz Alpine, with an overnight stop at Arthurs Pass on the return journey for a nice dinner, followed by the expected quiz. As normal, the trip was very well planned and executed by Wolfgang.

Another trip Wolfgang led in 2006 was 'the ultimate day trip from Dunedin'. This was to be the end of year mystery trip, and the destination was revealed on the Saturday morning as Conical Hill on the Routeburn Track. Another great trip, combining lovely sunshine as well as a Christmas snow-shower during a celebratory drink on the top of Conical Hill.

Wolfgang was a very accomplished musician and singer, this inevitably led him (along with Alan Thomson) to providing the entertainment at several end-of-year trips, including Roxburgh Gorge, Pigeon Island and Bannockburn. To encourage audience participation, comprehensive 'Wolfie Song Books' were even provided for those who didn't know the words.

Wolfgang joined the committee for five years, and assisted the club greatly with publicity and his common sense.

In October 2019, the OTMC made Wolfgang an Honorary Member of the club. We held a special night for Wolfgang and Fiona in November 2019 - the night was advertised as an evening to celebrate Wolfgang's time with the OTMC, but was really organised to announce his Honorary Membership to the club. We had prepared a presentation, and Wolfgang easily recalled all the facts and figures presented, regaling us with the stories first hand. Befitting to Wolfgang, it was easily the largest audience we have had in the clubrooms for many years - a fitting tribute to an outstanding member.

Wolfgang's illness had kept him away from tramping and the OTMC during the past year and a half, but his tramping friends have kept in touch. The OTMC has lost a great friend, charismatic leader and an all round fun person to be with. Wolfgang has left a lot of memories for many members. There will be a Winter Routeburn trip as part of our 100 Trips for 100 Years, this trip has nows taken on extra meaning.

To Wolfgang's wife Fiona and their family, the OTMC extend our most sincere condolences, and we are thankful that Wolfgang chose to join Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club. We will definitely miss him.

Regards  
Antony



## Whats new?

### **New huts are coming to a hill near you! Welcoming in “Kahikatea Lodge”**

Where is this new hut but right up the coast!

(Photo credit: <https://www.inaturalist.org/places/waianakarua-scenic-reserve>)

**So on our very own doorstep we will soon have another excuse for an adventure and certainly many more in the future.**

A new DOC hut is being built by our local Deerstalkers Association NZ in east Otago. And guess what! It is looking to open by Christmas! Very exciting present to region.

The North Otago Branch have had this in the works for 2 years and have been fundraising and working with DOC and council to get it approved.

It is being funded by \$20,000 from the Backcountry Trust, \$15,000 from the Otago Community Trust, as well as club fundraising, and is expected to cost about \$100,000.

**So for the nitty gritty**, its a six-bunker, currently named Kahikatea Lodge, and is being built in Waianakarua Scenic Reserve (near Moeraki).

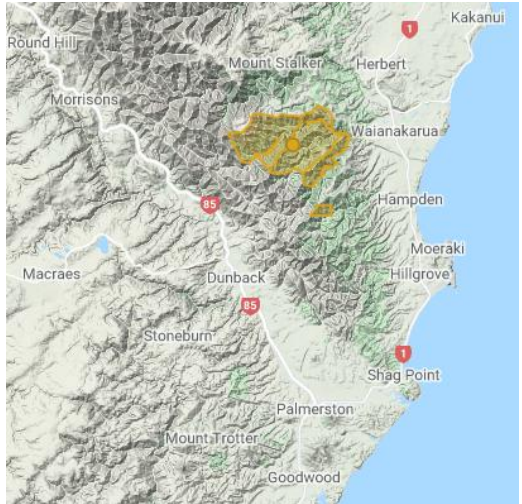
This hut will be run by DOC, but maintained by the Deerstalkers Association and will be bookable.

The hut is based on a standard DOC design and would be sited on a ridge at the edge of the tussock tops, about an hour’s walk from Mount Misery Road. The club plans to build a track in the near future.

### **And now for the latest DOC update**

The days of saving up change for DOC campsites are over as DOC has announced a new campsite pass, which could mean significant savings for regular campers.

An annual pass costs \$140, monthly, it’s \$80, weekly, \$55. The pass can be used at 195 of DOC’s 208 paid campsites, including bookable campsites. A further six



campsites are exempt between Boxing Day and February 8, including the country's most popular campsite, Totaranui.

The pass could mean significant savings. A one year pass would pay for itself after 10 days at a \$15/night 'scenic campsite', or in a week at a \$20/night serviced campsite. But it will take 18 days to pay off the pass at \$8/night basic campsites.

The passes can be purchased online or at DOC visitor centres.

Campsites exempted from the pass include Tapotupotu Campsite at Cape Reinga, the Hot Water Beach Campsite at Tarawera, all three Queenstown campsites (Moke Lake, Twelve Mile Delta and Kinloch), all Te Urewera campsites and all Great Walks' campsites.

DOC heritage and visitors director Steve Taylor said the new pass is designed to encourage Kiwis to spend more time in nature and the move could also potentially help boost income from campsites. Most campsites are cash-only and it is expected that campers short on cash or without the right change in the backcountry will welcome the simplicity of an annual pass.

The announcement comes two months after DOC hiked the price of a number of huts and raised the price of the Backcountry Hut Pass by \$22.

### **Leaning Lodge Rebuild Update!**

The publicity and fund-raising campaign is progressing steadily. A presentation to the Strath Taieri Community Board was well received and the rebuild project gained its support. The August Wilderness Magazine included an article about Leaning Lodge. Interest is growing on the Facebook page.



Donations via our Give-a-Little page continue, along with supportive comments. The Otago University Marketing Department is interested in assisting further with fund raising as a research project, and discussions about this are progressing.

Whilst we've got a long way to go, the increasing interest in the rebuild project is encouraging. The Trust will give an update at the OTMC evening on 2nd September. Please, come along, learn more, and share your ideas.

### **OTMC turns 98!**

And it has been 50 years since OTC changed its name to OTMC and 98 awesome years since the club started. Happy Birthday club!

## Club Activities Over Winter

### Trip Reports

JUNE 2021

**6<sup>th</sup> Buskin / Highcliff / Boulder Beach / Paradise Track. Tony Timperley**

Despite the cloudy skies threatening rain, five optimists (Lucy, Jane, Lawrence, Yuriy and Leader Tony) met at the clubrooms and drove off in two cars to the carpark on Highcliff Rd at the top of the Paradise Track. Our timing was perfect as we and Deb, who had driven from Broad Bay, all arrived at the same time. After a brief description of the proposed route from Tony, we set off along Highcliff Rd towards the start of the Buskin Track.

We had been walking for about five minutes when it began to rain - just as we were admiring the view down to Boulder Beach! We each struggled to don our parkas before setting off again. We had gone no more than a few metres when Murphy's Law was invoked from above and the rain ceased! Undeterred, we continued on to the Buskin. This track is notorious for being extremely muddy in parts; but as we descended we were pleasantly surprised to find it quite dry and that there are now some board walking sections over what are normally the most muddy bits.

*The view north from the rocky summit of Highcliff. Photo Credit: Yuriy Halytskyy*



At the junction, instead of swinging hard left and continuing along the Buskin, we went down to the right, through a grove of large macrocarpa, then on to a rough

track that winds to the base of Highcliff. The zig-zag track that was cut here a couple of years ago has become overgrown, so we had to climb straight up, gasping to keep pace with Lucy, until we reached the long diagonal track that brought us out above a 200m cliff. The track widens here and after about 50m we swung off track to the right and pushed through long grass to the rocky summit of Highcliff. Here we had our morning nibbles whilst admiring the extensive views north (Boulder Beach, Sandymount and beyond) and south( the west Dunedin beaches, Taieri Mouth and beyond).

Fully refreshed, we descended the same route as we had ascended (Remember: “What goes up; must come down.”), rejoined Buskins and made our way past the start of Paradise Track to the Boulder Beach Track. Here the group insisted that Tony assert his leadership and go first. Keen not to disappoint his followers, Tony strode forward into the scrub and then, as he fell forward he found out why nobody else wanted to lead! This section has numerous vines across the track at ankle level which are guaranteed to trip you up if you don't keep your eyes to the ground and step over them.

This can be difficult as you also have to push your way through the scrub, although we have to thank the person, or persons, who has tied pink ribbons along the track to keep us on course. We had lunch on the beach and although we did not see any seals or Yellow-eyed penguins (hoiho), when Lawrence and Uriy went for a stroll along the beach they saw both seal and penguin tracks.

After our lunch break we returned to the base of the Paradise Track and looking up where we had to climb, we realized the truth of Lucy's tramping maxim “What goes down, must go back up”. Antony Hamel, in his book “Dunedin Tracks and Trails”, describes the Paradise Track as “ ... an honest 300m climb ... “. We would honestly describe it as a 300m grunt, with more muddy sections than Buskin. In addition to the mud, we also had to carefully negotiate exposed, very slippery flat rocks which made us thankful we were not going down over this section. With Lucy leading us, however, we soon came out safely to Highcliff Rd and our cars, taking 30 mins less for the full circuit than we had estimated; and thankful that the weather had cleared to allow us to fully enjoy a most satisfying tramp.

*Back along the beach. Photo credit: Yuriy Halytsky*



### **13<sup>th</sup> Orokonui Circuit. Saskia Bronstring**

The weather forecast was not good. Cold and wet so I think many were discouraged from coming on this walk. But Mark Stephenson and I persevered and had a lovely day out.

We met at Woodhaugh Gardens at 9am and drove to Waitati over the motorway. Turned right onto Harvey st and then left onto Orokonui Rd.

There is a carpark on the left near the inlet. We started the morning with a clockwise walk around Watati Inlet.

There were some nice views from the bridge out to Blueskin Bay. At the top of the Inlet are some old buildings from the former Orokonui hospital. We then followed the track upstream towards Orokonui Ecosanctuary. At the predator proof fence line we went left so as to do the circuit clockwise.

I thought it better to do the steep sections uphill. After a good climb along the fence line we came to a lovely stone wall built around 1875. Part way along this is a track to a great lookout over Purakanui Inlet. We also walked the track to Mopanui for a slightly different angle of the Inlet.

Then a nice lunch stop at the Cafe in Orokonui Ecosanctuary and an easy walk down the other side following the fenceline. Back to the creek track and car park. About 4 hours in total and a little wet on this day.



*Brave souls. Photo credit: Saskia B*

*Left: View over Watati and Right: View towards Purakanui*



*Photo credit: Saskia Bronstring*

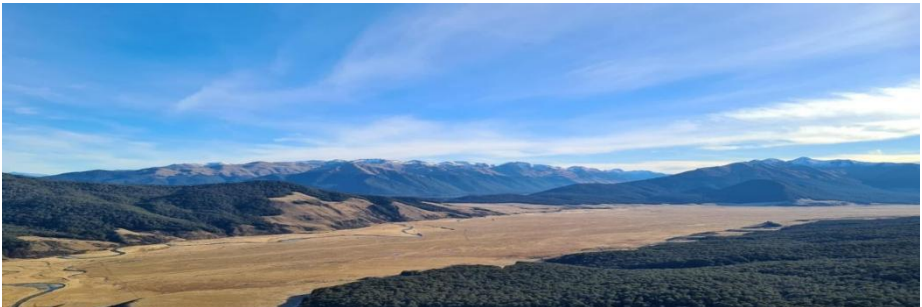
## 19-20<sup>th</sup> Eyre Mountains. Andrew McConnell

Andrew (trip leader), Tom W(writer) and Mark.

Only three of us set out on this trip, the weather forecast was clear so there was much anticipation (along with confusion as to why no-one else wanted to come). Our plan was to camp at Mavora Lakes Friday night then on Saturday walk from the Oreti River bridge to Ashton Hut via Pt 1330 and back out a similar way on Sunday. While there is no formed track once you leave the Oreti River, it is all open tussock so we expected it to be relatively easy to walk through and navigate.

If the sub zero degree start didn't wake us up enough, then the knee deep ice encrusted stream crossing only 15 minutes after leaving the car certainly did. Try as we might to balance over the tussocky bog to stay dry, wet feet were inevitable. We followed the 4WD track up the river valley through many of these boggy streams for about 5km until we crossed the final and deepest one of all, the Ashton Burn.

Then we reached the spur we had to follow to get to Pt 1330 which climbed 700m over 2.5km and the 'easy' bit was all over. We were initially glad of the climb as it meant no more river crossings and a chance to let our feet warm up, but our enthusiasm waned as we entered spaniard territory. Fortunately, all we had to do was to turn around to take in the amazing 180-degree view which gave us enough encouragement to want to climb more. We kept on this way and reached Pt 1330 for lunch.



*The view from some distance up to Pt 1330 looking down the Oreti River towards the Mavora Lakes (just visible) and the Thomas and Livingstone Mountain Ranges. Photo Credit Tom. W.*

Given that we'd carried ice axes and hadn't reached anything properly icy or snowy and still had a plenty of daylight left we decided to take the scenic route to the hut and go via Pt 1506. Here we were greeted with both panoramic views, and justification for binging our ice axes.

From Pt 1506 we began our decent down the ridge to the northeast to Ashton Hut, with only a mild amount of unease about the amount of daylight left. It was quite steep going and route finding was a tricky because we were concerned about coming across bluffs, but we made it down to the hut with any issues and with almost an hour of daylight to spare.



*View from Pt 1506. Photo Credit: Tom Wager*

Ashton Hut had been recently renovated by Permolat Southland and is cosy 4 bunker with an open fire. While there was plenty of firewood, the downfall of the fire was that the only way to prevent it from filling the hut up with smoke was to open both the door and the window, thus letting all the heat out! We did manage to dry off some of our wet socks and felt somewhat warmer after dinner.

On Sunday we had lazy start at 10 am when we left the hut to head back to the car. We took the more direct route than our previous day headed straight for the east ridge of Pt 1330.

*Sidling around Pt 1303. Photo Credit: Tom W*

This required negotiating a steep gully and employing all limbs to scramble down and up the gravelly, scrubby sides but we all made it eventually. We then headed up towards 1330 until we decided to sidle the edge around a few hundred metres below the top to join up with our route on the previous day.



Sunday afternoon was retracing our steps back down the hill and along the 4WD track. This time there was much less care about keeping out of the water, with the main goal being to just finish the trip with clean boots so we didn't have to do clean them at home!

All round this was a very enjoyable trip. Thanks to Andrew for planning it and to Mark for driving and coming along.

## **JULY 2021**

### **3-4<sup>th</sup> Luxmore Hut. Sharen Rutherford**

We travelled in the van from the OTMC clubrooms at 6pm. A common theme on popular/easier trips these days is many people wanting to take their own cars and leaving town early which involves a bit more work for the trip leader to cater for

everyone's needs, wants and requests. When I first joined the club (in 2009) if you wanted to go on a trip you turned up at the clubrooms at 6pm for the van and if you took private vehicles for smaller trips they were full otherwise you couldn't go, it's all about keeping costs low and making it easier for the trip leader everyone.

A quick stop in Gore for dinner and then onto our booked cabins at the Lakeview Holiday Park in Te Anau, a great arrangement there with keys left out for us after hours and pay when you leave on Saturday morning.

A beautiful but cold day dawned, and it was off to the Control Gates and then an hour flat walk to Brod Bay. It was a long gentle 800m climb to Luxmore Hut which went quickly with good company and conservation. There was a lot of snow at the bush line but the going was easy following the track to the hut, a big snowman on the deck greeted us. I reached the hut before 2pm after a leisurely start to the walk at 9:30am.

*Hiker trotting through the snow. Photo credit Rodger Clarkson*



I hadn't been to Luxmore Hut for a few years (after Covid and injury) and was happy to be back, it is a superb facility, no crowds in winter and views to boot.

The hut was about half full with all but about 6-8 people from the OTMC. Some left for the walk to Mt Luxmore getting back just on dark and I heard it was windy, cold and snowy. The 2 volunteer hut wardens said they just got in on the chopper for their 1 week stint before a huge dump of snow and it had been quiet till the

weekend. They dropped off some firewood for the night and it was a great night eating, drinking and socializing.



*Dawn Approaches! Photo Credit: Rodger Clarkson*

A number got up early for the sunrise up the hill a bit and some others went to the Luxmore Caves for a look. A very easy 10am leave time and a quick lunch at Brod Bay and a coffee and cake at Te Anau and we were home for Dinner

Thanks for the organising Sharen the 18 people on the trip.

Richard Forbes for Sharen Rutherford, Lynley M'Arley, Mandie Lungley, Becky Race, Brendan Penwarden, Saskia Bronstring, Alex Tups, Lee Ann Hastie, Rose Colhoun, Rodger Clarkson, Sue Williams, Holly Yang, Clare Nokes, Mark Stephenson, Barry Walker, Simon Roff and Emma Roff

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Walk (tramp) from the Clubrooms - Karatei Track and Return. Laurence Prattley**

Walk from clubhouse up the Karatai Track and back. A frosty but sunny walk. Beautiful day, great company. Back at clubhouse by 2pm.

*Following Page Photo: Those walking were Allan Cox, Laurence Prattley and Tina Anderson.  
Photo credit: Laurence. P.*



### **11<sup>th</sup> Otago Central Rail Trail or Clutha Gold. Rodger Clarkson**

I'd scheduled this trip hoping for a hoar frost but there wasn't even a frost. An icy breeze and a soft track made for some energy sapping riding at times (a lack of cycle fitness may have contributed!). We had the track to ourselves for the interesting section between Hyde and Kokonga that included a tunnel, viaduct and river gorge to ride through, over and alongside. A compulsory stop in Middlemarch for refreshments followed.

Rodger Clarkson for Sue Williams, Lynley Pearson, Mandie Lungley, Joe Bretherton, Sharon Bretherton

### **17-18<sup>th</sup> Port Craig (South Coast). Rose Colhoun**

After a slight misunderstanding about the office opening times to make payment at our accommodation, we were away from Tuatapere an hour later than anticipated, hitting the track at Rarakau carpark just after 9am. It was a nice meander through open forest along the clifftops before the steep descent down the stairs to Bluecliffs beach.

Over the bridge at the Waikōau river, we wandered past the cribs (a reasonable number occupied) and along the length of the sandy beach. Off the beach, we had a short walk along the 4wd track before we stopped for lunch at the last of the cribs. A local came past on his quad bike and advised that the low tide route wasn't really an option now that we were over an hour past the lowest tide.



*One person only. Photo credit: Saskia B*

Continuing on through the bush for another hour, we passed the turn-off to the Hump Ridge and Okaka hut. Then it was up and over a couple of headlands as we walked across two lovely beaches. At the second one, we were surprised to discover a large, soggy blue blanket and pot draped over an abandoned campfire - I wondered if there was a hermit living nearby? The last part of the track was the hardest part, with endless gullies to walk around, making the dot-watchers unbelieving of their gps markers on the map. A very slow 4km to the welcoming sight of the Port Craig schoolhouse. The oldest hut in Fiordland National Park, and possibly the loveliest, it is obviously well-looked after by DoC and their volunteers.



*Left: Port Craig School House. Right: Beach views. Photo Credit Saskia Bronstring*

We were lucky to have the hut to ourselves, and no-one was relegated to the high top tier of the bunks. A delicious three-course meal was followed by a few rounds of cards, including Lily's much-requested Skip-bo.

There were some periods of heavy rain overnight, but the next morning was dry and overcast. We had some exploring around the beach and the historic relics, before returning back along the track to the Rarakau carpark. We wished we had planned this trip as a 3-day weekend, as there was plenty to explore around Port Craig. Half of the group took the low-tide option along Blowholes Beach, timing their leaps over the rock pools as the tide surged in. The easterly wind that was forecast for Saturday finally came true as we reached the beach on Sunday, but we sheltered behind a big rock tor to eat our lunch. The return journey seemed faster, as we got the hard part out of the way early, but it was funny to see that I was passing the turn-off to Okaka at exactly the same time we had passed it the day before. The tide was coming in when we got back to Bluecliffs beach, but there was just enough sand for us to walk on without having to clamber over the rocks. The large windfalls on the last part of the bush track seemed more difficult to navigate in our tired states, and some of us went astray before finding our way back to the track.

Chips and clean clothes were received gratefully on our return to the cars, as we headed home with our tramping appetites temporarily satisfied. Big shout-out to Lily, aged 8, who took on this 40km tramp like a trooper, and to Saskia and Dad Andrew

for their unfailing enthusiasm in coaching Lily along. Thanks to everyone for great company, I look forward to the next, longer trip to Port Craig. Written by Rose Colhoun on behalf of Andrew, Lily, Rodger, Allan, Saskia, Sue and Mark.

Cheers,  
Rose

### **25<sup>th</sup> Otago Peninsula Wildlife Photography. Sue Williams**

It was a cold day, but a small contingent arrived and we set off for a first stop at Taiaroa head. There were a few albatross flying above the cliffs, but you would have needed a telescope to make out any detail. However, there was romance in the air and some of the Spotted Shags were spotted shagging (sorry...). Seriously though, they are amazing birds – beautiful spotted wings, crazy fluffy feathers on their heads and turquoise eye patches. We began to get seriously cold, so we went over the headland and down to Pilots' Beach to see if there were any seals about (just a couple). Next stop was the gun emplacements and then on to Allan's Beach. Even though it was low tide, we had to make timed runs around the rocks. Some of us got it wrong (myself and Lucy). There was one snoozing seal and some oyster catchers and gulls. We stopped to see white-faced herons and pied stilts in the inlet.



*Left: Wildlife spotters. Right: Wildlife spotter sustenance. Photo Credit Sue. W.*

Democracy was put into action and the next stop was for coffee at Portobello.

Sue Williams for Lucy Jones, Sandra Divett, Mark Stephenson, Joe Bretherton, Sharon Bretherton, Rodger Clarkson and Alex Tups, thanks for coming.



*Sleepy Seal. Photo credit Rodger Clarkson*

### **31 July - 1 Aug Aoraki Mt Cook - Unwin Lodge Rodger Clarkson**

This trip was a repeat of a trip I ran in July 2018, staying at the Alpine Club's Unwin Lodge. Like the previous trip I was hoping for snow but again the snowline was a long way above the valley floor. Groups were free to choose the various daywalk options in the area and the destinations chosen included Hooker Lake, the restored Hooker Hut, Tasman Lake, Red Tarns, Sebastopol, along with local cafes, bars and restaurants.



*Tasman Lake. Photo Credit: Clare Noakes*

Hooker Lake had small icebergs and Tasman Lake had hundreds of icebergs of all sizes at the outlet in a spectacular, yet thought provoking display of our shrinking glaciers. We took Ice axes and crampons for the trip up Sebastopol but these were not needed for the warm but increasingly steep walk up.

Rodger Clarkson for Lucy Jones, Clare Noakes, Sue Williams, Joe Bretherton, Sharon Bretherton, Kathy Woodrow, Chris Pearson, Barry Walker, Jill McAliece, Trevor Barlow, Leanne Barlow, Sandra Divett, Richard Forbes, Alex Forbes, Allan Cox, Alex Tups

## **AUG 2021**

### **1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 – Swampy Summit. Tracey Pettinger**

Two people we didn't know turned up at the club rooms so I hoped that we could provide them with a good experience that would fire up their enthusiasm for future forays. The weather didn't look too promising, but hey, it wasn't raining at 9am, so the four of us left in our car.

We parked up at the Bullring and started walking at about 9.30am. We went to the summit of Flagstaff, where we could still get a view although the clouds were rolling

in from Mosgiel. We walked across the connecting track to the Firebreak. On that track, the grasses and tussock had been trimmed in a very Victorian garden sort of way which we found unusual. It included nicely pruned broom.

The walk continued to the summit of Swampy and on the way it became very misty and moist. Young people kept running past us, looming out of the fog, seeming very fit and busy. The summit was no place to have lunch as it is so exposed, so we huddled under the slender eaves of the building back towards Flagstaff and hurriedly ate a sandwich and had a drink.

The joint decision was to return to the car the way we had come up, so off we went. We had a slight diversion and checked out the Simes' Beech Walk to get snagged on some bush lawyer. We checked out the efficiency of the coffee sacks that we have put down on the track to suppress the gorse seedlings in that area. They do a grand job! We inspected more recent beech plantings and the progress of re-vegetation of the bank below the Skidsite panorama display. The display seemed awash with water inside its frame.

We walked back down the Firebreak to the Bullring. It had got very muddy and slippery in the rain, but none of us fell over and it was as uneventful as anyone would wish for. We had walked 14.5 kilometers, according to my phone.

Walking in the rain reminded me of a saying that we heard at ex-OTMC member Mike Doig's 70th birthday party the night before, as retold by his daughter, Alice: "You can have a miserable time, or you can have an adventure – depending on your attitude!"

Tracy Pettinger, for Richard Pettinger, Sarah Colhoun and John Lang

### **6<sup>th</sup> Rosella Ridge - Silver Peaks. Tomas Sobek**

Tomas. S, Caitlin. R, Mark. S, Sue. W, Rodger. C, Yuay. H and Sarah. M.

Tomas led a merry band of hikers high up into the Silverpeaks. The weather looked a little on the edge but we were ready and set for adventure.

We were the only ones parked up at the mountain road side and we quickly got on track. A little muddy in places but we quickly warmed up in the cool air forgoing the extra layer.

We scampered up the site of green hut for our first snack break and then onwards and upwards to the Rosella Ridge.

From here we were on top of the world and we quickly changed flora from open tops to native Bush, some canopy tickling the tops of our heads then soaring upwards above us as the ground was firm underfoot for the most part.



We made our lunch spot at a rocky outcrop also known as little pulpit rock.

We chatted happily taking in the sweeping views out to the coast while munching down some much needed fuel for the next part.

*Lil Pulpit lunch break. Photo Credit Caitlin Robertson.*

We were very fortunate with the weather, not a breathe of wind, or drop of rain, just a little cool as we waited for the sun forever trying to burst through the clouds. From here we hiked on to the hunters track where we weaved down to the river track. We danced around a bit here and there looking for Tomas' side track but alas no luck as many wash out and the regrowth had him bamboozled and we decided to head down the other "track" and onwards to some of the newer tracks. The river track, much to its name had rivers in it and the eucalyptus track with funnily enough had eucalyptus. A couple of slips and slides and muddy bums but everyone was bouncing along these new tracks.

We met some prospective gold miners, the only human faces on the tracks, a 4 generational day trip to see if there was any truth to the gold miners route.

She was a tough little climb on the way out but at the top was the welcome sight of the carpark sign. As much merry spirits we dance along the last muddy line to the cars. After a final head count Tomas had passed minimum requirements of returning hiker numbers. 100%

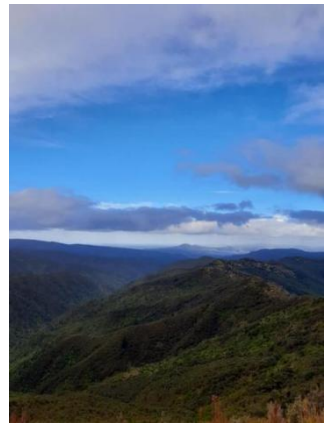
Finally a "debrief" at the favourite Blueskin cafe, a welcome deserved warm cuppa it was a very successful trip for a mid winter escape. We were very impressed and we thank Tomas immensely for leading a wonderful trip. Caitlin.

*Right: Rosella Ridge. Photo Credit: Caitlin Robertson.*

### **15<sup>th</sup> Stone Hill / Purehurehu Point. Gordon Tocher**

This trip proves you do not have to go far from the city to get stunning views.

The group ascended from the western side of Otago Harbour at Waipuna Bay, detoured through neighbouring forests and farmland to Stone Hill.



We had excellent weather, clear skies with balmy temperature. While ascending to Stone Hill the group stopped to take in magical views of the harbour (Photo: Below Left). Gordon explained the purpose of Quarantine Island was actually for control of infectious diseases, and the beacons that marked shipping channels to Port Chalmers. Coincidentally our day walk would be the last club day trip before the country went into Level 4 lock down on 19 th August 2021 again, due to Covid 19. Lanark castle evidently visible for the trained eyes from where we were. We had a magnificent view of the Peninsula and the harbour.

Next was a comfortable amble down to Purehurehu Point following the gentle contours of the landscape. Group members busy picking and tasting fresh watercress from a creek in the gully along the way (Photo: Below Right).



Just before we reach Kaikai beach we visit a well-appointed cave dwelling. The private cave dwelling was used by Lewis family of Deborah Bay, there were 22 children born in to the family in a house of about 15m2 so no wonder they wanted to get away occasionally (Photos: Below).



It was balmy 12C when we got to Kaikai Beach for a pleasant lunch break. Young Ben came prepared he had a refreshing swim in the ocean.

After lunch break on a secluded private beach, the group climbed back onto hill overlooking Kaikai beach and reached an abandoned estate on top of the hill. The view of the area from the estate was breath taking on a calm clear day.

The group then followed the farm trails, went back on Heyward Point Road then returned to Waipuna Bay over a similar route. The steep descent proved more challenging than the ascent, there were couple of muddy bums around despite everyone's best efforts in zig-zagging down the hill.

Trip participants: Mandie Lungly, Lucy Jones, Holly Yang, Tracy Pettinger, Amy Liang, Ben Smith, Zeki Huang, Malgosia Szukiel

Leader: Gordon Tocher

### **14-15<sup>th</sup> Snowcaving Old Man Range/Kopuwai. Richard Pettinger**

What can you say about the perfect trip? Let's do it again!

Well, maybe. And there were a few imperfections. Let's get them out of the way first: Kirstin got cold. The most promising cookers actually failed to promise. Or heat our dinner. Apart from that, it was great.

7 AM starts are a bit of a shock, especially when it's peeing down. But, the Norwegians had said it would rain for about an hour, and snow on the hill would be all over by 9 AM. There'd be a breeze. They were right.

We ran out of rain just past Beaumont. The last sharp (clearing-up) shower was about 20 minutes late. Then it was sunny, especially for coffee and extra second breakfast at Roxburgh's Lounge. Up the hill we drove, in Kirstin's trusty Subaru Outback, to a point where new snow made things a bit slippery.

At this point, Robert, the neighbouring farmer was going past and took us the last couple of ks up very close to our site. Perfect moment number 5 or so. The old snowcave site wasn't looking too promising, so we inspected the true emergency shelter of the rock bivy, and after about 100 m found a site out of the breeze.

The breeze was worth avoiding as it was carrying a knee-deep tide of driven snow. But, in this site, this kind of wind had dropped a large dump of perfect snow. The probes told us it was 2 m deep, and it was steep enough, so dug in.



*Above: Standing in the elements. Below: Caving away. Photo Credit: Allan Cox*



After about 1 hour, we had enough of a posy to survive a night out of the elements. And, after 3 hours, we had palatial accommodation. Allan had planned to try out his tent in an alpine environment, and who were we to not leave him to do that after he had helped with the digging?

Then came afternoon cuppa and a walk. My MSR seemed to be a bit sluggish. So we had to tell it who's boss and got there in the end. After our walk, out in the leg-sanding snowy particle "breeze", we had little to do but wait for dinnertime and bedtime. An early dinner was planned. This is where the MSR and the Jetboil decided they would show us who was the actual boss, and we contemplated a dinner of emergency cold food or extremely early breakfast.

This is where Allan, happily pursuing a dinner of reconstituted peaches and hot custard, destined to be sufficient for all five of us, emerged from hovering over his vestibule meths burner and came to our rescue. In more ways than one. His burner was the little cooker that could. So, we had dessert, followed by a snifter of Allan's commercial ginger concoction, and well, to top it off, our otherwise cold curries, now kind of hot. By this time, Kirstin and Ant had given up on dinner entirely and went to sleep. Amit and I enjoyed this weird combination of flavours and soon all four of us in the cave were asleep, in the soft glow of candlelight.

About 12 hours later, the sun was streaming in the entrance way (as we had planned for, not really expecting the sun to play its part in our plan). We all got up, ready for a day of whatever we wished. But Kirstin, our driver, was still bedevilled by cold, dampness and just wanted to go home.

So we packed up, walked the few hundred metres to the car, had another coffee break in Roxburgh and were safely at home by about 3 pm.

Richard Pettinger for Amit Myint, Allan Cox, Anthony Leathart and Kirstin Bebell.  
Thanks for driving your car for us, Kirstin.

## Blast from the Past! Only received 28 years late...

### **Dragonfly Peak – Waitangi Weekend 1992**

Most active trampers will, sooner or later, have a nemesis trip – a destination that has thwarted them a few times and that gradually becomes an itch that has to be scratched, a boil to be lanced. In the early 90s, mine was Dragonfly Peak in the East Matukituki. When I read it described by Kelvin Liggett in *Outdoors 80* (the club's then-annual publication) as a mountain that can be walked up with hands in one's shorts pockets, I knew it was one I had to get to. The outstanding views of Mt Aspiring/Tititea and the backstory of Paul Powell's obsession with finding the missing Dragonfly aircraft added to the attraction.

One of the perks of being Chief Guide is being able to mould the trip program to suit your own plans. I decided that a four day waitangi weekend trip would provide a good chance to break the Dragonfly hoodoo. The trip can be done in two days, although three is more comfortable, so a fourth day gave a bit of leeway. My mate Eric Lord was lined up as trip leader, and when the trip list closed we thought we'd cracked it. There were about 8 people signed up for the medium-fit option, so that meant a party each for Eric and me to lead. Then it all went pear shaped. Eric got crook, as did the leader of the Easy party. I could take over as trip leader, but the Easy party was a problem. I could cancel the trip for them, or I could let them loose in the West Matukituki without an experienced leader – neither were palatable options. The other option was to lead the party myself – and miss out on Dragonfly again. But it seemed the right thing to do.

The prospect of four days mooching around the valleys, particularly on a good forecast, didn't appeal. I put it to my party – also diminished by withdrawals, and now comprising Kath McDonald and Bill Bagley – that we could go up the East Matukituki and, if we were going well when we got to Junction Flat, we could head up to a campsite above the Bledisloe Gorge track, and then see what took our fancy from there. I knew it would be a big day for them, but we had the option of taking it easy on the remaining days.

We crossed the West Matukituki without difficulty, then made our way up past the old homestead, across Glacier Burn and into the bush. When we

reached Junction Flat, everyone was happy with their progress, and the prospect of the climb up past Hester Pinney Creek was not too daunting. After crossing Kitchener Stream and the East Matukituki, we found the track and commenced the plod to bushline. The tent and most of the party gear were in my pack, acting as a sort of handicap in the race to the tussock. At bushline, the views started to open up, and there was some appreciation from my companions of why I'd been keen to come this way. After following the track until it started to level off for its traverse of the gorge, we headed straight up through untracked tussock. The team was starting to flag a bit by now, so we took it slowly. Eventually, the slope eased off and we reached my intended campsite, nestled beside a spectacular waterfall and with views up to Albert Burn Saddle and Dragonfly Peak in one direction and out into Kitchener Cirque in the other. The tent went up and dinner was cooked. High on the ridge above us, we could see the remaining members of the medium-fit party. I was happy. Even if we got no further, my party of novices had experienced the joy of getting to a remote, trackless sub-alpine campsite.

Friday dawned with the weather still looking settled. Everyone seemed happy with their overnight recovery from Thursday's exertions, so discussion turned to today's plans. I suggested that we could push on up to the other party's campsite, and then if they wanted to do more we could dump most of our gear there and then meander upwards as far as time and enthusiasm allowed – perhaps to the saddle. This was agreed, so up we headed. It was steep and so slow going, and it was perhaps an hour before we reached the campsite by a tarn. We cached our gear, hoping fervently that the local keas wouldn't notice it, took one pack with lunches and extra clothing for all, and headed upwards. On the way, we met the other party descending from a successful ascent of Dragonfly. After a while, we left the ridge and sidled across to the saddle. The views of Aspiring and the Kitchener Cirque were outstanding.

As we took a break on the saddle, I pointed out Dragonfly, a tantalisingly less than 500 metres above us. The foreshortened view made it look close. Perhaps we could go there? With agreement that we could turn back if the terrain got gnarly or if anyone was finding it tough going, we decided we could. The route is basically straight up, with the occasional deviation to avoid bands of small bluffs. In a little over an hour, we were confronted with a gnarly looking couple of metres that led to the true summit. I recalled Kelvin's article mentioning that it was necessary to remove his hands from his pockets for this bit. I decided that it wasn't the place for an expectant father and poor rock climber and that I was near enough to the summit to call it a tick.

My companions, perhaps taking their cues from me, likewise declined. Nevertheless, here they were – two complete novices at the summit of a 2165 metre peak. They were pretty chuffed by what they had achieved. I was feeling quite pleased that I'd manage to encourage them to do it – with no pressure, just a constant "let's see if we can get to" the next landmark, then do it again. I'd had no expectation that we'd get there, and had viewed it as yet another reconnaissance. I was also stoked to finally be there, and what a view! From there, the descent to the campsite was uneventful, as was the following day, where we camped at Aspiring Flats, with a wander up to see the Turnbull Thomson Falls at close range. The next day, not so much. Torrential rain flooded the flats, forcing a waist deep wade. The "Hydroslide Stream" (the one with the number 8 wire handrail) was utterly impassable at the track and required a scramble down to river level. And the Matukituki was raging at Cameron Flat, necessitating a detour to the OBHS bridge – by which time the rain finally stopped. Eric got to Dragonfly in 2016.

David Barnes

**What's on the radar for our Thursday Club nights and Saturday/Sunday trips and events**

### **Thursday Night Meetings**

**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.**

**All ideas are welcome for future up-coming evenings.**

## Upcoming Trip and Meeting Quarterly Planner

# September - November 2021

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2 COVID PENDING.....	3	4	5 COVID PENDING
6	7	8	9	10	11-12 Snowdon Forest Area Ian Billingham 021 279 7881	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Mystery trip
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Grahams Bush Jane Cloete 03 467 2328
27	28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3 Leith Valley - Waitati Circuit (cycle) Saskia Bronstring 027 266 7703
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Unexplored Silver Peaks Richard Pettinger 03 487 9488
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					23 -25 Labour Weekend - Caples / Steele Creek - Greenstone Valleys Ian Billingham 021 279 7881	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Nov 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					Northern Livingstone Mountains Joe Bretherton 027 362 1221	

Hope everyone is safe in their bubbles. There will be no face to face meetings until level 1. Until then please keep an eye on the weekly update for the video meeting link.

Until next time, stay safe and enjoy taking in the beauty of the city streets.

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**

As a reminder you must pre-register on the Weekend Trip Lists 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 organizational 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)it required.

### Note from the editor

Hi everyone, as the Bulletin Editor I am settling in nicely and appreciating all the lovely feedback and critical analysis. Got something on your mind for the Bulletin? Feel free to drop me a line and as always. I LOVE YOUR REPORTS! So please email your contributions for the next issue to [caitlinr007@gmail.com](mailto:caitlinr007@gmail.com) by approximately 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Though I appreciate earlier delivery, so that I can start piecing it together without rushing.

The trip leader does not have to write the report so put your hand up to take some load off their shoulders! If you include a photo or two, please note appropriate captions (names of people pictured, names of land features, etc.)

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTE!**

### Our Club - the Highlights

**Celebrating everything and everyone OTMC. Send your favourite hiking photos to the editor. I may even choose it as the front cover!**

Living the good life. Eyre Mountains  
Photo Credit: Andrew McConnell

