

The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc # 832 June 2023



Upcoming Trips & Events

★ **WEEKENDS** ★

★ Port Craig ★

★ **SUNDAYS & SATURDAYS** ★

★ Orokonui Creek & Eco-Sanctuary Fence ★ Abbots Hill Loop ★ Government Track ★
Gold Miners Direct - Possum Hut - Green Hut Site ★ Sandymount ★
Flagstaff Tracks ★ Maungatua ★ Lake Whare - Possum Busters - Swine Spur ★
Outram Glen - Lee Stream ★



The team at the Sandymount Lime Kilns. Photo Credit Jade Pettinger

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

President/Centenary/Website + media enquires	Antony Pettinger	(03) 473 7924	antony.pettinger@gmail.com
Secretary	Debbie Pettinger	(03) 473 7924	debspettinger@gmail.com
Treasurer	Rodger Clarkson		rodger.clarkson@xtra.co.nz
Chief Guide	Wayne Hodgkinson	03 473 0950	wphodgkinson@xtra.co.nz
Membership Secretary	Ivan Mason		ivan.mason@gmail.com
Bulletin Editor	Caitlin Robertson	0274891153	caitlinr007@gmail.com
Daytrip Convener	Mark Stephenson	027 6151870	markstephenson@xtra.co.nz
Thursday Night Planner	Tracy Pettinger	(03) 487 9488	Tracy@pettinger.nz
Weekly Updates	Tina Anderson		Tina.Anderson@asb.co.nz
Clubrooms Maintenance	Dave Bunn	029 779 7006	

Get in touch

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, 3 Young Street, Dunedin

**<http://otmc.co.nz> <https://facebook.com/groups/otmcnz>
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>

Trip Reports

JUNE 2023

3 (Saturday, King's Birthday) (100 Trips 060) Green Hut Site - Unveiling of Planned Improvements - in conjunction with the Green Hut Track Group (90 years to the day since the OTC opened the Club Hut) E Antony Pettinger

What a brilliant day to be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the opening of Green Hut in the Silver Peaks! Green Hut was built by the Otago Tramping Club within a three month span in 1933 to mark the 10th Anniversary of the club, and was officially opened on 3 June 1933. The hut was visited frequently by the club right up until it's demise in 1988, when it was dismantled after nearly 65 years.



*Looking towards Green Hill and Pulpit Rock.
Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.*

21 of us headed into Green Hut Site this morning to mark the occasion and check out the new seats that were installed three weeks ago. It was great to have some members of the Green Hut Track group join us so we could thank them on behalf of the OTMC for the incredible work they do maintaining these tracks to they can be enjoyed by all of us. It was a perfect day to mark a such a significant event in the history of the OTC/OTMC. Thanks to Antony for leading the trip and the 20 who joined me on an enjoyable day out.



Team photo. Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

5th (Monday, King's Birthday) (100 Trips 061) Nyhon Track - Hoopers Inlet Track (loop) E-M Debbie Pettinger

With adding extra layers, coats, hats and gloves on, and parking our cars on the side of the road at Hoopers Inlet, 17 of us made our way up the very steep climb of the Nyhon track to the top of Highcliff Road where of course we were met with stunning views on a brisk cool day. We then continued to the Lime Kiln just off the side of the road for morning tea, then continuing along the road to complete the circuit, stopping for lunch at the old ruins just off the track before making our way down steeply through native bush, swamp and farm land of the Hoopers Inlet track and then connecting with the Nyhon Track again and back to our cars. A very enjoyable day.



Bit of farmland walking. Photo Credit: Mandie Lungley.

Antony, Debbie and Jade Pettinger, Charlotte and Chris Handley, Sandy Webb, Emily Gee, Tom Kirk, Helen Emerson, Leonie Lober, Debbie Guthrie, Lyn McArley, Nicole, Wendy Bain, S Walker, J Bruce, Mandie Lungley

11 (Sunday) (100 Trips 062) Government Track M Dave Bunn

On Sunday 11th June 18 people meet at the club rooms & made our way to the car park on Waipori Falls Rd just past the start of the track. As we started it was a chilly zero degrees in the valley, so we set off up the short steep muddy section where we warmed up & as the track started to meander up the hill, we started to discuss how it became to be called the Government track. As we learned it was built by the Government in the 1860s as a horse & dray track for access to the gold fields of Lawrence & beyond.



Not long after that we popped out of the bush onto farmland where we were going to stop for a cupper but the wind was so cold we carried on till we got back in the bush before we stopped. Once we had morning tea, we carried on the long steady climb up the hill it wasn't steep, but it just kept going up at a gentle incline to suit a horses and dray. The track has deteriorated over time & I don't think it would be suitable now. As we climbed & climbed the bush line changed as we got higher till, we suddenly popped out at the end of the track at long last it was lunch time.

After lunch we turned around & went down the same way we had come up it was a wee bit quicker going down but just as enjoyable we had afternoon tea at the same spot as we did on way up but the weather was a little warmer now. After that stop it was only a short walk down the last section to the steep muddy section which signalled, we were near the end of the track. Now back at the cars the temperature had risen to 2 degrees now, so we didn't hang around for long got in our cars &

headed home after a very satisfying 18km walk it was a great way to spend a winters Sunday..



Team! Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

Thanks to David Bunn for leading the trip & on behalf of Laurence, Leone, Anthony, Debbie, Jade, Debbie #2, Helen, Mike, Mark, Lucy, Wayne, Duane, Megan, Rebecca, Kirsha, Rob thanks for sharing the walk with me Ash.

17 (Saturday) (100 Trips 063) Purakanui Inlet E Antony Pettinger

Meeting at 1 pm it was the perfect day for a Saturday afternoon stroll.

We started at the Southern end of the inlet walking through to the inlet mouth. It was a leisurely walk on a well-maintained track, allowing for great conversation between the 16 participants.

Over afternoon tea, before returning along the track, knowledge was shared of the history of the area. A great trip with fantastic views of the inlet, clear skies and beautiful wood pigeons above.

Thanks to Antony for leading and to all who attended.

Debbie Pettinger , Antony Pettinger, Jade Pettinger, Dylan Pettinger, Michelle Anderson, Amy Telfer Chiles, Marcus Sanders, Charlotte Handley, Chris Handley, Ruth Thomas, Lindsay Aitcheson, Helen Jones, Lukas Newmark, Linda Thompson, Sharon Holdridge, Jane Sieroczuk



Group Photo. Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

18th (Sunday) (100 Trips 064) Nicols Creek to Booth Road (via McQuilkans and Jim Freeman / Ben Rudd's) M Debbie Guthrie

Nichols Falls, Moon Track, McQuilkans, Possum Busters, Jim Freeman, Firebreak, Flagstaff, Pineapple and Peppertree tracks

Can anyone beat that amount of tracks in a single walk!? This sums up the great day's walking we had on this trip. Varied and interesting.

Beginning at Nichols we followed straight up to the Waterfall track, crossed the creek taking in the gorgeous gully and waterfall. A sharp steep incline saw us connecting up with the Moon track. Follow the markers tied to the trees and you'll be round about in the right place. There are so many tracks leading up to the top part of the Moon track. Just keep going upwards. We ended up using the very top park of the Mountain biking track. This was gorgeous. The rock formations up there were worth the extra walking.

Down thru McQuilkans and on to the very muddy, in places, Possum Busters track.

Fun.

Crossing the creek a few times and then we were into the beautiful Jim Freeman track climbing steadily to lunchtime at Ben Rudds. Some of us enjoyed the quiet at the seat, up and behind the Shelter. Up to the Firebreak and Flaggstaff tracks, Dunedin always looks so gorgeous from here. Down the Pineapple, stopping at Pineapple point to inspect the newly cut track awaiting the new seat to be installed. Should be a lovely spot when the seat is there.



At Pineapple Point - it was unusually windy here today! Photo Credit: Antony Pettinger.

Backtracking a bit to regain access to the Peppertree track, which is in excellent condition and very easy to follow, we returned to the cars, parked at Nicols Falls entrance. A great day out and about 5.5 hours.

My favourite quotes from the day;

Lucy - "Debbie, I think you are lost" (not true! All tracks lead up to the one entrance to the Moon track off the Swampy track!)

Rob - "Are we going the right way?". Sensible question, when we were walking back up the Pineapple to find Peppertree.

Sandra - "Will this only take 5 hours". I certainly hope so Sandra. And 5.5 hours later...

Mandie - "I'm a grandma!" Yay!! Congrats Mandie ♥

Tony - "Was that morning tea?!" We can have two morning teas, Tony, for sure.

A fun day out with fabulous people...

Rob, Antony & Deb Pettinger, Michelle, Mandie, Lucy, Sandra, Tony, Laura, Megan, Lukas, Deb Guthrie.

24-25 (Weekend) (100 Trips 065) West Matukituki Valley All Richard Forbes

Well, another chance to stretch our legs over a weekend! Five car loads of excited trampers made their way up to Wanaka – Raspberry Creek Carpark. Not the warmest drive up, the clouds ever present, an ever-present bone cold chill in the outside air. Until the final road it finally showed blue skies and glorious sunshine ahead.

The 2ish hour hike in for the first two carloads was beautiful, we gazed up at the Rob Roy Glacier through a break in the hills. And it would be the only chance to view it. The bridge had also been closed for safety reasons so no up-close encounters this time either!



Aspiring hut. Photo Credit: Caitlin Robertson.

We arrive upon dying light and made ourselves well at home in the new Aspiring hut. Big and beautiful. Well laid out U shaped kitchen plus island, slightly off to one side, with a central dining and lazing room with fireplace (that is way to complex for a DOC hut) but big windows to gaze out down the misty valley.

Another novel thing about the hut is all the bunks are named after mountains and are different heights based on the mountains. Aspiring of course being the tallest one!

Slowly all the members of the group piled in from dusk to midnight and shuffled into a room for the night. At breakfast all the names and faces were met, and people shuffled around eating and being sorted by leader Richard Forbes for our day's

intentions. Cascade saddle (where keas were spotted!!), up the valley to shovel and pearl flats, Liverpool and French Ridge huts.

My group were keen beans to head up the valley and try for Liverpool hut. After talking to couple who were up there the day before we were quite happy to be able to achieve it, so long as no ice had set overnight.

We trod into the misty morning. Myself, Rodger C, Sharon C, Ian B (where all set to hit Liverpool. The French Ridge team caught up and we stormed through the clouds together. The valley cleared and fog came in. Glimpses of mountains on ridge lines came and went. We hit the our turn off and waved each other off. Liverpool track went up. And up. And up. Luckily we kept close together. Kept each other company, talked about all the things, stopped often (for the views of course!) as we navigated the track. A nice not too rough track, good bounce underfoot with a wee bit steep climbing up slippy rocks at roots. Plenty of goofy photos were also it there!

We made it up. Clearing the bush line, the views were immense and glorious. Mountains surrounding us, thick with fluffy white snow, other just dusted. French Ridge Hut across the valley, wee red dot sitting on a snowy ridge. Of course, photos a plenty, back down the valley where the West Matukituki river wound itself along the valley floor.



Testing the Ice Pond. Photo Credit: Sharon Campbell.

We then waltz over to the hut, had some fun jumping up and down on the frozen pond, playing around the hut, and finally sat down for a spot of lunch. Kea flying around the mountains, not a breath of wind, sun peaking through the clouds around us.

We left Ian for the night at Liverpool Hut (and to fend off the Kea who merrily danced on the roof all night long!). We potted back the hill, cautiously as ever. Rodger shoes (yes shoes, not hiking boots or hiking sneakers) had decided that now was a good time to give up the ghost start crumbling to pieces. A quick bit of strapping tape wrapped around a couple time went to last the distance!

We stomped back down the valley, over banks and forest floors, long bridges and wide expanses. Then by torch light for the final stretched. We final were the last the make it through the doors. We were greeted by another band of South Island trampers from the deep south – Invercargill and Gore trampers who were an absolute delight. Also had a go at trying to get the fire to work properly hahaha.

The last day, it rained, and it rained. Great chance to whip out the rain jacket and pants and give them a whirl. Sossie, Lily little legs, Sharon and myself all trucked back to the car. An endless game of eye spy, some that needed plenty of hints, we would have look crazy all standing over a dirty puddle trying to figure out what the “B” was (bubbles in the end).

But we all made it back safely. Not too damp, rainproof gear actually being rainproof!



Thanks to everyone on the trip who made it truly unforgettable.

Caitlin Robertson on behalf of Sossie and Lily McConnell, Sharon Campbell, Rodger Clarkson, Mandie Lungley, Wendel Broek, Richard Forbes, Tina Anderson, Rebecca & Kezia Armstrong, Michael, Ella, Adrian, Ian Billinghamurst, Esther Abeln, Sandra Divett, Lynley Pearson, Wendel Broek. Apologies if I spelt your name wrong.

25 (Sunday) (100 Trips 066) Taieri Mouth Track E Sandy Webb

The Taieri River Track was opened in 2001 with the first OTMC trip to the track in 2002 and since then the track has been a regular feature on the OTMC trip card. Starting today's walk at sea level from Taieri Mouth were 16 people who wandered past some cute holiday cottages in the Taieri Mouth township before following the track alongside the wide, slow moving Taieri River. With a near high tide, the water lapped at the edge of the track in places and in other parts there was some silty sand flats showing.

In the early stages of the trip, there was some jockeying for position as people found their walking rhythm and started to chat to the people in front and behind them. The track initially winds it's way in and out of a number of small bays and with the native bush right down to the edge of the river, we enjoyed stopping to admire the wonderful views when able to get views of the river through the trees. In places, the tidal nature of the river has created some lovely wetlands and boardwalks have been built to protect this fragile environment while also allowing us to get a closer view of the salt marsh.

After the first half hour of this easy walking, the track starts to climb, weaving in and out of a number of gully's as it steadily rises, eventually reaching a height of almost 200m. At the highest point we are rewarded with a seat placed to make the most of the stunning views of the river, coastline and inland to the Silver Peaks. It was here that the unanimous decision was made to stop for morning tea to give us time to take in these wonderful views.



Morning tea at the lookout. Jade Pettinger.



The hills of the Otago Peninsula in the distance - Sandymount on the far right with Mt Charles slightly further to the left. Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.

After all the effort of climbing to 200m from sea level, the track then drops steeply via zig zags over the next kilometre back to sea level. John Bull Gully is a peaceful grassy cove in a bay on the edge of the Taieri River with a couple of picnic benches and is the perfect place for lunch while watching the river lazily flows past. With

the native bush coming all the way down to the rivers edge and reflecting in the dark waters of the Taieri River, it truly is a magical place to be.

There was some reluctance to leave after lunch as the track immediately heads steeply 200m up hill back to the lookout. Everyone took the hill at their own pace and the climb did not take as long as first thought. It helps that the native bush is so pretty, particularly with the sun shining through the canopy and highlight all the different greens, from lime through to the almost black. Before we realised it we were back at the seated lookout.


An unspoken decision was made to stop here again to give us more time to enjoy the beautiful views set out in front of us. Despite the fact we had only had lunch not long ago, it was time to get the drink bottles and snacks out in order to delay our leaving as long as possible.

All good things must come to an end and eventually it was time to move on with a steady descent down the track as it winds its way in and out of the gully's. The benched track is in surprisingly good condition for winter with very little mud and a number of steps making it easy to negotiate before reaching the rivers edge. Once at the rivers edge, it was a fast walk back to the start of the track at Taieri Mouth township. All up we had walked 10.5km with a total of 400m ascent over 4.5 hours.

Debbie Pettinger for Sandy Webb, Lucy Jones, Charlotte Handley, Chris Handley, Amy Telfer, Laurence Prattley, Raewyn Prattley, Mark Stephenson, Sharon Miller, Helen Emerson, Tom Kirk, Ruth Thomas, Mike Kleminston, Jade Pettinger, Antony Pettinger,



Team Photo! Photo Credit: Jade Pettinger.



Upcoming Trips

**OTC / OTMC Centenary - 100 Trips for 100 Years
Celebrating 100 Years of Tramping and Mountaineering - 1923/2023**

July 2023

- 1 (Saturday) (100 Trips 067) Orokonui Creek & Eco-Sanctuary Fence E-M Tina Anderson**
- 2 (Sunday) (100 Trips 068) Abbots Hill Loop (Friends Hill Rd - Flower St - North Taieri Rd - Abbots Hill Road - Dalziel Road) M Antony Pettinger**
- 9 (Sunday) (100 Trips 069) Gold Miners Direct - Possum Hut - Green Hut Site (return via Green Ridge) E Sharon Bretherton**
- 14-16 (3 Day Weekend) (100 Trips 070) Port Craig (Matariki 3-Day) All Laurence Prattley**
- 15 (Saturday) (100 Trips 071) Sandymount E Jade Pettinger**
- 16 (Sunday) (100 Trips 072) Flagstaff Tracks (avoiding the Walkway) M Debbie Pettinger**
- 23 (Sunday) (100 Trips 073) Maungatua M Antony Pettinger**
- 29 (Saturday) (100 Trips 074) Lake Whare - Possum Busters - Swine Spur (circuit) M Tony Timperley**
- 30 (Sunday) (100 Trips 075) Outram Glen - Lee Stream E Ash Flintoff**

<http://otmc.co.nz/tripcard.html>

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

**The 100 year OTMC anniversary trips are finally here!
Get yourself on a trip to be a part of our great history**

We will be running close to monthly bulletins during this time so please **email your trip reports** for the next issue to caitlinr007@gmail.com **within a week after the trip**. This is due to the sheer volume of reports.

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!

15 of the 19 on the West Matukituki trip. Photo Credit: Richard Forbes.

