

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club
P.O. BOX 1120 DUNEDIN

BULLETIN

Registered at P.O.H.Q. Wellington for Transmission by Post as a Magazine

BULLETIN No.446
JUNE 1986

COFFEE ROSTER

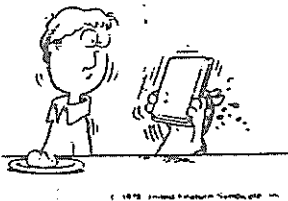
Many thanks to those people who have volunteered to organise and prepare coffee/tea and supper on club nights. If you are keen and enthusiastic, or just willing to help, please add your name to the list in the clubrooms.

Those that are helping so far ;

JUNE 19 Irene Pow
26 Pete & Jana Mason

JULY 3 Doug Forrester
10 Stephen Cathro
17 Glenda Swift
24 John Pohl

AUGUST 4 Kathy Woodrow



ANNUAL DINNER ANNUAL DINNER ANNUAL DINNER ANNUAL DINNER
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To be held this year in the chalet at Glenfalloch. Please sign up on the list in the clubrooms, and pay the treasurer (Bevan Blackmore) before AUGUST 21.

Starts 7.30pm to eat at 8.00pm

Any enquiries ? Then contact.....Graham Johnston (36837)

Alison McPherson (737910)



JUNE 15 Sawmill Track (E)...Ian Sime (36125)
Join Ian for an interesting daytrip to the Sawmill Track.

JUNE 14-15 JUBILEE WINE & DINE (FE)...Don Greer (728043)
It may not be too late to talk Don into letting you join him for his rave-up at the club's own Jubilee Hut....just how many can we fit into it? The Silver Peaks promise to come alive this weekend! By the way, FE stands for fairly easy in this case.



JUNE 22 Nicholl's Creek-Swampy (E)...Mike Floate (739780)
Join El Presidente for an easy wander into the swampy area.

JUNE 29 Silver Peaks (M)...Martin Connell (54374)
Martin is going to lead this trip that was missed out of the trip-card, to somewhere in the Silver Peaks....we hope he knows where !

JULY 6 Mystery Trip (M)...John Bevin (741111)
Mystery Trips are good for people to lead who don't know where they are going, and who are still not sure when they get there !! Ha Ha, just joking John - should be a good wander wherever he decides to take us. C'mon and find out.



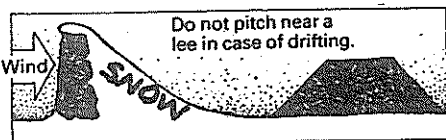
JULY 5-6 MAKARORA/BREWSTER (all grades)...Bill Provan (710594)
This is a return trip to try and climb Mt. Brewster the easy way, after getting slightly geographically embarrassed the last time....(like trying to climb the thing from the wrong valley, wasn't it Bill ?) A great opportunity to do some easy climbing and practice some snowcraft, see some fantastic views, bivvy out under the stars, and much more. If people don't want to go as far as Brewster, there is great tramping in the valleys off the Makarora. This promises to be a spectacular winter trip, so anyone with half a mind should sign up now.



JULY 13 The Crater (E)...Spen Walker (771813)
How many people have viewed the Crater from across the valley on the Rock and Pillar Range, and thought that it would be a fine place to visit ? Well, here is your big chance....and who better to lead the trip ?



JULY 19-20 DANSEY'S PASS (all grades)...Ross Cocker (45995)
The depths of winter transform this area of low inland ranges and tussock-covered hills into a miniature alpine chain of mountains, with secret, silent valleys to explore. This winter there should be no excuse to stay at home every weekend....come with us and enjoy yourself !



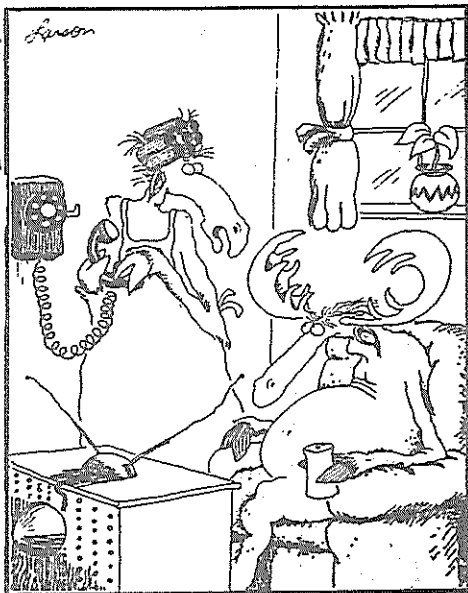
COME
ALPINE
TENTING



A report from Mike Floate on the
FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN CLUBS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mike Floate (for OTMC) and Bruce Mason (as Pastoral Lands Researcher and for OTMC) attended the FMC AGM in Christchurch on 24 May 1986. Many topics were discussed which are of interest to OTMC members, and I chose a few to tell you about.

Increased hut-fees are not wrong in principle because the 'user-pays' principle is here to stay. But there are serious inequalities, and the 'user' should see fairness in what she/he is being asked to pay. If not the unscrupulous may resort to dishonesty, which may in turn erode the intentions and safety provisions of hut-books and radio schedules.



A resolution was passed unanimously opposing moves by Government to charge entrance-fees to public lands. Not only FMC club-members but also the public at large would be affected, and we should gather public support.

OTMC tabled a motion (which was passed) that FMC should move to have zoning for a range of recreational users re-installed in National Parks General Policy. As tourist pressure and increasing commercialism comes on, there will be increasing need for planned grades of "remoteness".

A motion to seek to reduce the severity of the Trespass Act from criminal to civil proceedings was also passed.

OTMC was commended for its foundation donation to the FMC Trust. Additional support from members, including provisions to remember the Trust in their wills, is encouraged. The FMC Trust is the only body whose objectives are to provide funds to further mountain recreation and conservation. Donations are tax-deductable.

'IT'S THE CALL OF THE WILD'

Walkways development has ceased because of lack of funding, and maintenance of existing walkways is becoming an increasing problem - clubs may be able to help with work-parties.

A new edition of the field-guide "Safety in the Mountains" has been published by FMC and will be available soon - free to members.

Members of clubs are invited to comment on, and contribute to the FMC bulletin - many felt that it does a good job, but is a bit "heavy". But it is the only way of keeping us all informed about national issues.

Upper Shotover - Info. Wanted.

21,800 hectares of Pastoral Occupation Licence expires this month on Branches Station. Lands & Survey has invited public submissions on the future tenure of this land (everything above 4000 foot west of Treble Cone to Mt Tyndall, Centaur Peaks and the Flood Burn). Notable features include Lochnagar and Snowy Creek/Rees Saddle.

To assist the Club's O.R. Group with information anyone who has visited this area in recent years should contact Bruce at 67509. Photographs will be particularly useful.

Trip Report....by Jane Bruce

FIVE GO LOOPY ABOUT SKIPPERS

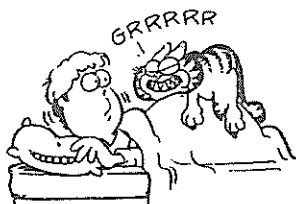
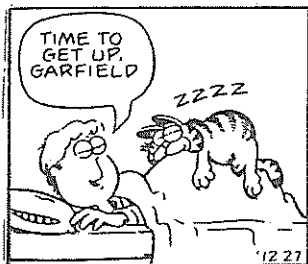


Friday night...our carload slipped in behind the 'no camping' sign at Arrowtown picnic ground, and spread our fly. According to the noticeboard we chose the site of the old Chinese settlement out-house. In the morning, one of the inhabitants came to inspect us. We fed him stale fish from the Alex fish & chip shop, but when Mary passed her leftover muesli to Bruce instead of him, puss gave up on us. We rendezvoused at the Skippers saddle planetable and went over the road in convoy - a good way of finding whose exhaust is dragging. At 10.30 we finally started walking up Skipper's creek, past the old hotel and dam and then mounds of tailings left by a modern dredge. Everyone had lunch at the Forks, where we found a mining claim application notice - better get in quick if you want to see the creek branches in a fit state to recreate in.

We turned up the left branch and followed the pack-track up onto a terrace on the true right. We all spent 3/4 hr looking over the hydro station - the first in N.Z. - commissioned in 1886. Water was carried in a race to the cliff-top, then channelled through 2 pipes to water-wheels at the bottom which drove the dynamo. Electricity was taken over the ridge to the Bullendale workings in the right branch of the Skippers.

After a shower of rain and a great deal of reluctance to leave the Dynamo hut, we went on to a patch of beech on the other side of the creek. Bruce took us all on a guided tour of Curry's Workings, and gave us a lecture on how the stamping-battery worked. Quartz from the mine was sorted and chuted down to the battery by the creek, where it was crushed by the stampers, and the resulting slurry flowed over a mercury-coated plate. The gold and mercury reacted to form amalgam, and both were recovered later by retorting. Apparently mercury poisoning was an occupational hazard of goldmining ! After that we still had enough daylight to go on up to the Aurum basin, a marvellous silent expanse of golden tussock. Here there are a couple of modern miner's huts, and Bruce's favourite battery - a cute fellow only 6ft high, which still works if enough people put their shoulders to the wheel.

Back to the beech to look for a campsite. Our party found a cosy spot and had our fly half up when Mike arrived....OOPS ! We had just jumped his claim. We set about making tea in the dark, which led to us having hot milk instead of custard with our pudding..... sorry folks ! After that we sat around other people's fires and watched their 'prunes & gingernuts & cheese-cake out-of-mugs' before bed.



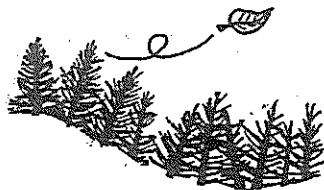
Sunday morning Spen was up bright and early. The rest of us persuaded him to get us up the easy way - with a bowl of muesli and several cups of tea. When he took the fly down so that we got drip-

ped on by the trees we finally got up. The mist was rising and the sun shining as we walked back past Dynamo hut to the forks. We left our packs there and splashed up the right branch, with a bit of a scramble through a hole by a waterfall at one point. We decided that Bullendale would be a horribly cold place to have lived. After looking at the hotel bed-heads, frying-pan, old bottles and the remains of the stamping-battery, some went up to see the remaining house. This even had wallpaper and 1898 newspaper pictures of "the Pasha's men shouting execrations at the Imperial Troops". Anthony and the younger, fitter ones went right up to the ridge for a view, while the rest went to look at the mine-shaft, and back along the pack-track. We had a leisurely lunch at the forks and then walked down Skippers Creek again, past the dredge still pumping out diesel-fumes, and the mess that modern miners leave behind them. The sunny day and an ice-cream at Arrowtown completed a really nice, touristy, getting-to-know-the-country trip.

Party members ; Anthony Pettinger, Mary Hewison, Spen Walker,
Jane Bruce, Bruce (Hysterical Guides Ltd.) Mason

OUTDOOR RECREATION GROUP

The club's conservation group meets on the last TUESDAY of each month, at 9 Chapman St, starting 7.30pm. Interested new-comers please phone the convenor Bruce Mason (67509). Plenty of ideas and food for supper are most welcome.



David Barnes WANTS TO BUY two billy-lids....1-6pt. & 1-4pt. Phone him at 62050 if you can help.

You will all have received the new TRIP CARD with this bulletin. Bill hopes there are lotza good trips to tempt everyone to get out into the hills, and would like to thank all those kind people who 'volunteered' to lead trips, David Barnes for compiling the list of day-trips, and T.L.Beggs for advertising in and sponsoring our trip-card.

Tokina Lenses



AT-X ADVANCED LENS TECHNOLOGY

Impending bankruptcy forces the URGENT SALE of a nearly new Tokina 28 to 85 zoom lens, with f3.5 maximum aperture, to fit MINOLTA cameras. This is a superb quality lens, with a very useful zooming range for the outdoors. phone Ewan Paterson (710594). \$300.00

A HUGE THANKYOU from everyone in the club to Peter Mason, who has been quietly working away at getting the LIBRARY into a suitable lockable bookcase downstairs where everyone can see it and use it accordingly. The glass-fronted cabinet really looks fantastic ! Our collection of books is now shown off to advantage. HIP HIP HOORAY, & YAHOO to you, Peter.

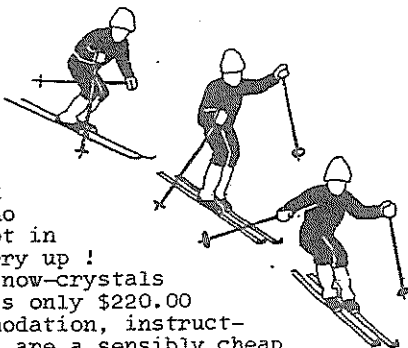


Lyn Dalton and Rob Archibald have a new addition to their family - best wishes, you two, from all of us.

Also, congratulations to James Burbery on his new baby daugh.....OOPS !.....we really mean best wishes on his engagement - sorry, no harm done, eh James ?

SKI WEEK

TO MT. CHEESEMAN SKI-FIELD



Greg Hormann (895348) is organising this year's ski-week to Mt. Cheeseman ski-field in sth. Canterbury, for the week 10-16 August. If there are any people who are keen to go and have still not yet got in touch with Greg, then you had better hurry up ! The sands of time (or should it be the snow-crystals of time...?) are running out ! The cost is only \$220.00 and for this you get lift-tickets, accomodation, instruction, and meals for the 6 days. Ski-weeks are a sensibly cheap way to learn the basic skills and get plenty of time to put them into practice, along with having a great social time. It is imperative that interested people pay Greg as soon as possible, to allow him to secure you a place. Give him a call.

oo

COME TO SUNNY
RAVENSBORNE



FLATMATE WANTED for luxurious seaside chateau set upon a gently sloping secluded section with fine native plants flowering abundantly, and wild animals wandering freely at their leisure.... Ok, ok, it may not look like the picture, but we want someone that is easy-going and friendly to share our flat at 161 Ravensbourne Rd. It's only 5 minutes bike-ride to varsity, 10 minutes to the Octagon, and all for \$25.00 per week. Ring Bill or Ewan at 710594.

Trip Report...by Philip Jenkins

SKIPPERS

What a great way to start a weekend, camping 500m from the Arrowtown pub on Friday night, so we couldn't resist a visit. Saturday morning on up to Skippers Saddle and down the famous dare devil Skippers Road but we were right in the hoon mobile. We all started off from Burkes Terrace and followed the four wheel drive track up the Skippers Creek, passing a modern day gold mining operation, until we came to the Left Branch where we continued onwards. We set up camp at the second hut before we headed up to Aurum Basin Hut. Bruce Mason gave us an interesting and informative rundown on the water-races, quartz-crusher, as well as the life-style of the miners themselves. Then back to the camp for an evening camp fire. Next day we all headed back down the Left Branch to the river junction and carried on up the Skippers Creek to Phoenix Battery where the miners had driven a tunnel into the hill to extract quartz and crushed it using the battery to expose any gold from the mineral. Virtually everyone headed back along the Bullendale Track while Mary, Anthony, Michelle and I headed up to, and followed, the Southbergh Spur viewing spectacular views along the way. We all had lunch back at the river junction before we headed back to Burkes Terrace. The weather was generally fine but our feet were wet almost continuously as we crossed the river over 160 times, so yes, in a manner of speaking it was a wet trip under foot at least. I thought it was great how the whole group stayed together so we could all learn about the rich history of the region. Then ... off into the sunset in the hoon mobile.

6. Thanks Alison, Dave and Michelle for an enjoyable weekend.

RATTENBURY - HODGSON - Andy and Mark are thrilled to announce the arrival of Jim, on June 1, 1986, weighing in at 7½ % of Christchurch Women's Hospital. All participants fit and well. Special thanks to doctor and nursing staff.

Congratulations and many kind wishes to Mark & Andi on the new arrival in their lives. We hope all is going as you would hope.



Trip Report...by Ross Cocker

DAYTRIP 4/5/86 - NARDOO
(OR MORE CORRECTLY, GOVERNMENT TRACK, WAIPORI)

After an impressive two week build up I was really enthusiastic about the number of people who had indicated that they would be going to Nardoo. Numerous phone calls at home on Saturday continued to spur my enthusiasm to the point where I was becoming concerned about transport logistics. Saturday drew to a close as a mild balmy Autumn evening; weather report reasonably encouraging. I woke Sunday at 6.00 am. to the sound of wind and rain lashing the windows. None of my family were even interested in looking outside let alone getting up to come tramping with me. Phoned the Met. office, not good, they forecast gale force Southerlies over Fiordland spreading into Southland and Otago bringing rain, hail and the possibility of snow down to low levels. Then the phone started ringing with apologies. I breakfasted, packed all of my warmest gear and set off for the Clubrooms; on the way the radio announced the temperature at a cool 7 deg C. The "M" (for Madness) part of OTMC was evident as at 9.00 am there were 7 of us ready to tramp. Due to the exposed nature of the Nardoo area I decided to head for an area with more cover and opted to tramp the Government Track which is the old track that runs from the mouth of the Waipori Gorge up to the tops and down to the old Waipori Township which is now under the waters of Lake Mahinerangi. By 10 am. we had entered the bush above the road on the true left side of the Waipori river and were truly pleased to be out of the wind. After an initial zig-zag the track settled down to a steady, barely noticeable climb and continued this way till we cleared the bush at 600 metres. The track was constructed over 100 years ago and is still well maintained, wide enough to walk 2 abreast over about 90% of it as it follows the map contour lines in and out of all the gullies all of the way. It passes through a variety of native bush from kanuka to kotukutuka (fuschia) and beech. There was one open patch of about 3/400 metres where we traversed around a broad grassed ridge. Very cold there but good views of Waipori Road, Lake and River below. It took us two hours to reach the tops which tied in well with our lunch stop. We settled down on the track, out of the wind in a rare patch of sunshine for a casual lunch. Within 15 minutes the sun had gone and we were being "entertained" by a few small dancing flakes of snow; 5 minutes later we had been forced to pack up and were on our way, driven on by thick flurries of snow which had completely covered the ground around us. All of a sudden, extremely cold, my finger tips screamed the message to me as I tried to do up the zip on my parka. We hurried down into the relative shelter of the bush and made a fast trip back to the road. The trip down was uneventful except for our renegotiation of the open ridge where we were buffeted by the high winds, not to mention the snow and sleet, fortunately at our backs. The ODT reported the temp. at 4deg. C. at 1pm at Dunedin Airport; we can confirm that it was considerably less than that where we were, even without taking into account any windchill factor. Everyone was in good spirits back at the road at 2.15pm with only Philip interested in doing something else for the rest of the afternoon. Needless to say his vote went unheeded and we were all home by 3.30pm.

Ross Cocker for those who obviously prefer the cold hills to their warm beds, namely, Philip Jenkins, Sarah Stratton, Brett Christmas, Ian Middleton, Gaylene Waite and Graeme Wilson.

P.S. Nardoo trippers see the new trip card and mark your calendars now.

ANNUAL DINNER GLENFALLOCH

AUG 30th

WITH

DAVE WESTCOT

\$21.50 B'OB

Social PROGRAMME

JUNE 19 Bring your own slides

JUNE 26 Cross-country skiing talk by Bruce Mason... the why's and how-fors of this mysterious craft. Waxing, equipment, clothing, and where to ski will be covered. Essential for newcomers to this activity.

JULY 3 A mysterious evening with Ken Mason. Its a mystery to him as well!

JULY 10 Arthur James speaking on "The DCC's role in the Silver Peaks".

JULY 17 Cooking Competition (and meal for those participating!) The only event where you get to eat the opposition!

Stu Mathieson was elected to the FMC executive at their annual General Meeting on May 24, at Christchurch... Congratulations Stu

New Reserve in the Wainakarua Catchment.

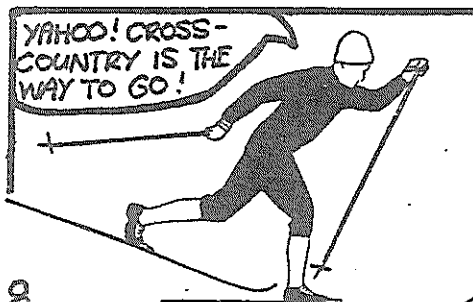
Lands and Survey have recently acquired approximately 4000 hectares of native bush and tussock country in the Wainakarua catchment (South and middle branches) behind Herbert.

It is proposed to classify the reserve as scenic, and is likely to be available for unrestricted public use later this year.

If any club members know the area, Lands and Survey would be most interested to hear of any recognised tramping routes or suggestions on access and other recreational developments.

Hopefully a draft management plan for the reserve will be available for public comment early in 1987. Please send comments to Chief Ranger Tony Perrett at Lands and Survey, Dunedin.

KIWIS OVERSEAS : Richard & Gabrielle are alive and well, and working in Alice Springs, Australia. We'll have some extracts from a letter next month. Andrew Powell is back in London, after a few trips to the continent.



After a bit of a false start last year, there is going to be a public meeting held, in the next couple of weeks, with the intention of forming a CROSS-COUNTRY SKI-CLUB. All keen people are invited to attend. Watch the Midweeker newspaper for details. Phone Angela McErlane (776139) to get immediate details.