

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club (Inc.) P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.

**The OTMC meets socially at 3 Young Street
every Thursday - doors open at 7.30pm,
programme begins at 8.00pm.**

7 June

Phil Ainslie from the University of Otago will talk on high altitude physiology, fitness and acclimatisation. *(A lively, knowledgeable speaker who has won several awards for his innovative research - highly recommended! Ed)*

14 June

Dave, Ralph and Alan will talk about their nine days in the St James - Nelson Lakes area

21 June

Graeme Loh will talk about the “Mohua's Ark” Catlins stoat eradication conservation project

28 June

BYO = Bring Your Own (photos, slides, videos etc and tramping tales)

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. Please contact Fiona Webster (Social Convenor) at “fionaw@tekotago.ac.nz”, or 487 8176 if you can help.

**Visit us on the Internet at:
www.otmc.co.nz**

Thursday, May 10, was a special day for the Silver Peaks, as it was this day the replacement hut for the original Jubilee Hut was officially opened. Members will be aware that the Department of Conservation has built a new 10 bunk hut across the creek from the original site. DoC had identified a need for a modern hut in the area, and with the clubs permission, replaced Jubilee Hut with the new structure. The site chosen (by DoC ranger and club member Barry Atkinson) is far superior to the one chosen in the 1940's. It is at a higher elevation, is north facing and is not surrounded by encroaching bush. The addition of a full-length veranda provides a great place to enjoy the increased sunlight.

I'm sorry that the opening was planned at short notice, which may have prevented more members from joining us, but the club was well represented. In all, I counted 11 members at the hut, including life members Lyall Campbell and Ian Sime. Of course, Barry Atkinson and Philip Somerville were wearing two hats by also representing DoC and the ODT respectively. Other people at the opening included representatives from DoC, Otago Conservation Board, OUTC, the Green Hut track group, McRaeWay Homes (who pre-fabbed the hut) and Helicopters Otago.

I consider it a privilege to be asked to open the new hut, and in doing so I acknowledge the contribution made by previous generations towards the provision of huts in the Silver Peaks area. The number of visitors to the hut has been high, as expected with a new facility. I hope that in the longer term the use of the hut justifies DoC's decision to invest a substantial amount of money in the area.

At the same time as the opening, the original Jubilee Hut was completely removed and is no more. DoC have installed a sign at the site outlining its significance. The old hut served us well, but it was past its best. This was demonstrated when DoC removed the roof - the remainder virtually collapsed.

As for tracks in the area, it is expected that in time the usage of a rough route from the foot of the Devils Staircase to the new hut will become the standard route. Some benching may be undertaken in the future. There is currently a poled track from the old 4WD track straight up to the new hut. It will be interesting to see if the track leading above the old hut towards ABC Cave is maintained, or whether usage will transfer to the 4WD track further down Cave Stream (on private land) and avoid the bush section altogether.

The final outcome of the hut review in the area is as good as it gets. The club had been faced with either spending substantial funds on improving the original hut, or removing it altogether. The club could never have achieved what DoC has provided, and for this the club is grateful. The icing on the cake is that the hut in Cave Stream will continue to be called Jubilee Hut.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

This month we are pleased to welcome Helen Everitt, 27 Shandon St, Roseneath, 472 7868.

Paul & Bronwyn Bennington have moved to 574 South Rd, Lookout Pt, with phone unchanged; and Aaron Whitehead has moved to 8 Clearwater Ct, Tenby St, Wanaka (no phone yet.)

Ian Sime
Membership Secretary

Auckland University Tramping Club

75th Jubilee

Celebrate 75 years of A.U.T.C. Join us for a fully catered formal dinner on Friday 27 July 07 in Auckland, and day walks in the Hunuas the next day. A big party and celebratory dinner will be held at the traditional Hunua Camp on the Saturday night.

Pay by the 31st May to qualify for the earlybird discount.

For more information or to register, go to www.autc.org.nz, or contact David Gauld on (09) 373 7599 extn. 88697

**Antony Pettinger's speech
at the opening of the new Jubilee Hut,
Thursday, 10 May 2007**

I would like to start by thanking the Department of Conservation for providing this impressive new hut in the Silver Peaks reserve. It is indeed a special day when we are here celebrating the opening of this new hut, the most significant structure within the Silver Peaks. So, on behalf of the OTMC I wish to thank Robin Thomas, Bill Wheeler and the entire department for this important asset. I know it is well appreciated not only by the club, but other local tramping groups as well as the wider community. The club also appreciates the fact that the new hut will be known as Jubilee Hut.

I would also like to pay tribute to the team that built the hut. As trampers we are all only too well aware of the weather conditions encountered in this valley. Four weeks in here is a long time, and I'm sure the unique qualities of the weather, and the original Jubilee Hut in its last days, were well enjoyed by the team!

The Silver Peaks has always been regarded as the home of the OTMC. The Otago Tramping Club, as it was originally called, was formed in Dunedin in 1923, joining a few other clubs set up at a similar time. Right from the start club trips have ventured into these hills surrounding us now, and trips continue to be a regular feature of our trip list to the present day.

With the lack of modern-day transport and roading the OTC looked to the local area for the first trips. Local transport was utilised to access areas we take for granted today. In the city, trams and buses were used to gain access to Flagstaff, from where trips would continue over Swampy Summit and into the southern end of the Silver Peaks. The railway lines north of Dunedin and through the Taieri Gorge were used to gain access to Waitati, Evansdale and Hindon. It was from these points that club members explored the Silver Peaks.

Without the equivalent of the modern day Department of Conservation

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it was the role of tramping clubs to establish tracks and huts. To mark the 10th anniversary of the Otago Tramping Club a hut was built under Green Hill, suitably named and painted green. Green Peak Hut became a valuable base for club activities and served the tramping community well until vandalism forced its removal in 1988.

To mark the silver jubilee of the OTC in 1948, a second hut was built, across the creek from us now. This hut was completed in 1951 and named Jubilee Hut.

The start of the new hut began in 1947 when a reconnaissance party explored Christmas Creek and Cave Stream for a suitable location for the hut. Two sites were suggested, one at the junction of Christmas Creek and Cave Stream and another site slightly up Cave Stream. These were quickly discounted and a further site suggested, very close to where we are now. This too was abandoned in favour of the site eventually chosen across the creek. I'm sure the final site chosen featured a lot less vegetation than what we can see today.

Prefabrication of the hut was undertaken early in 1949, along with site works and the construction of a track up from Christmas Creek. The materials for the hut were railed to Christmas Creek just prior to Easter 1949. From here run holders from Mt John and Lamb Hill stations transported the material to a point halfway down Lamb Hill, overlooking Christmas Creek. Club members transported the material from here to the Christmas Creek / Cave Creek junction over Labour weekend 1949. A further work party in November saw the entire material for the hut shifted to the hut site over one weekend, a very impressive display of club commitment to the project.

Once the materials were on site club members were in a position to erect the hut. By winter 1950 the hut was weatherproof. By March 1951 the new hut was finished, complete with a very prominent stone chimney. The club magazine 'Outdoors' published a report on the hut construction in 1951, and closed with this statement:

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"Let us all hope that future administrators of the club will appreciate the worth of this splendid asset, the result of so much planning and toil, and keep it intact from the ravages of time and the general public".

I believe that the club did take great care of Jubilee Hut, and I pay tribute to the many work parties carried out over the years to ensure the vision of our forefathers was retained. Vandalism was never as much a problem at Jubilee as it was at Green Hut, due to its more remote location. Unfortunately though, time has caught up with the old hut - nothing will last forever, least in this environment. Jubilee Hut has provided much for the OTC/OTMC over the intervening years by way of both work parties and club trips, including many memorable social gatherings over the years.

The OTMC had been aware for some time that the original Jubilee Hut had reached its use by date. I'm sure that there are lots of people who will lament the demise of the original hut, but at the same time are elated with the provision of this new facility. As we officially open the new Jubilee Hut, the OTMC would like to pay tribute to the earlier generation of club members who had the foresight to build a hut in this area, our local hills.

Thank you.



Trip Reports

**GO FORTH AND OTMC WILL PRO-
VIDE:**

WE SAVE TWO U.S. SOULS

MT. SOMERS TRIP: 21 - 22 MARCH

Two words can describe the prevailing weather conditions on this trip:- low cloud. However, although any thoughts of reaching the summit of Mt. Somers were frustrated, we did have an interesting trip examining mine diggings, seeing native falcons, not seeing giant weta (luckily), going by the eerie Pinnacle outcrops, and immeasurably improving NZ –US relations (and earning brownie points with St. Peter in the process).

On the Friday night the Woolshed Creek car-park provided us with some excellent tent-sites, but next morning a blocked toilet and all that goes with it made sure that we did not delay our departure. With commendable bowel control, we headed up the Miners' Track in clear weather, but when we reached the Blackburn Mine the cloud closed in and the temperature dropped, so we pushed on to the high point of Trig R (934m before descending 100 metres to Woolshed Creek Hut.

This hut is new and one of which DoC can be proud. It is built to last, sleeps 20+, but is still relatively basic (i.e. no luxuries) – except for the toilets! The two cubicles are built atop a structure that is almost as large as the hut, and after using them (which we all did – remember the blocked toilets?) long drops became a distant memory. Much relieved, and after an extended morning tea, we set off for the long slog up to the saddle.

It was along this section that the cloud lifted and the sun came out. Whereas previously we had been grumbling about the cloud cover, we were now praying for it. As the track got steeper the sun got hotter and the

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only view we had was the next few metres of track we had to trudge up; but at least we would have expansive views when we reached the saddle – wouldn't we? With perfect timing the mist rolled in and obscured any views. As we ate our lunch each looked at the other and wondered who it was who had annoyed he/she up there that controls the weather (known as "Huey" to previous generations of trampers).

As we left the saddle it was not only us who descended, but the mist did also. However, as we approached Pinnacles Hut this mist created an eerie atmosphere as it swirled around the fantastic volcanic rock formations that are the Pinnacles. On entering the hut we found that we were the only occupants, so quickly chose our bunks and settled in. However, just as we were about to tuck into our evening meal, it was with perfect timing that a young American couple, Katrina and Dave, entered. As we made room for them we learnt that they had been married eight months, were on an extended honeymoon, and had been educated at a Christian Evangelical Youth Ministry based in Virginia.

As we Kiwis settled down to continue our evening meals, we noticed that the honeymooners were not eating but merely gazing hungrily at our fare. Not one to mince words, Ray asked them, "Haven't you got any food?" and rather sheepishly they replied, "Not much." How they interpreted "God will provide" we don't know, but on this occasion it was OTMC members who stepped in. Ray gave them generous portions of his and Jill's meal and Katrina and Dave also threw caution to the wind (in more ways than one) and wolfed down large portions of Roy's rice risotto. As we watched Katrina and Dave clean up our leftovers, Ray accidentally pinged an elastic band onto Dave's plate. Dave's immediate response was "No thank you, I don't think I could eat that". To which Jonette, OTMC queen of the riposte, retorted, "That's the only thing you've turned down tonight!"

The next day, before we began our return trip, Carmel cemented US-NZ relations by leaving our American friends some crackers and biscuits (they were heading out in the opposite direction). Again there was low cloud cover, so a side trip from the saddle to the summit of Mt. Somers was again out of the question. This so frustrated Roy that he dashed up a minor peak that was under the cloud cover and was rewarded by seeing, not an

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extensive view, but a pair of native falcons perched on the summit rocks. Another falcon (one of the pair?) came to check out Terry and Carmel by perching on a rock not ten metres from where they were resting.

After another very pleasant extended stop at Woolshed Hut, we split into three groups to go the different routes back to the carpark. Ray, Gavin, Terry and Carmel returned via the Miners' Track and carried out a detailed inspection of the machinery at the Blackburn Mine. The three Js – Jonette, Jill and John – took the Canyon Route which involved a steep descent, which needed rope assistance, from Trig R and numerous river crossings (some in thigh high water) for two to three hours. Luckily they did not encounter the giant weta which is said to inhabit Woolshed Creek. Roy and Tony, true to their manly natures, took the more rugged Bus Stop/Rhyolite Ridge track. This took them up through varied terrain (including an aluminium ladder) to 994 metres, across a tussocky plateau, before a very steep, seemingly endless descent to the carpark and a reunion with the rest of the group.

After a quick change (except for Jonette –what does she do behind those bushes?), we headed off in search of a pub which served roast dinners.

Tony Timperley, with much assistance from: Terry and Carmel Casey, Jill and Ray McAlicee, Jonette Service, John Kaiser, Gavin McArthur, and Roy Ward.

Postscript: On the day after this report was completed, we received an e-mail from Katrina and Dave. It said: "Hello all, We just wanted to send you all a quick note to tell you that we loved staying in that cozy "Pinnacles Hut" with you on the Mt Somers Track! Thank you so much for sharing your delicious food! What a pleasure it was to meet you all. God Bless, Dave and Katrina." As I wrote in the last line of the first paragraph of this report

In case you need further proof that the human race is doomed because of stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On some frozen dinners:

"Serving suggestion: Defrost".

(But, it's just a suggestion).

On Nytol Sleep Aid:

"Warning: May cause drowsiness".

(And...I'm taking this because???)

Akatore to Taieri Beach

6 May

It was turning into a gem of a day as 12 of us gathered at Knargston Park (who knows where that is?) on the left, past the fish shop/caravan at Taieri Mouth. We all squeezed into Bronwen, Trevor and Ken's cars for the short trip to our starting point, Akatore. The conversation in our car was based around how to pronounce Akatore and it was agreed that the culturally aware correct pronunciation was in fact Ah/kah/tor/ey.

Anyway we were soon there. Our local man Trevor gave us an excellent rundown of the local history together with a display of photos he had brought along to show us. And then we were off along to the river mouth, then left along the coastline.

The trip had been meticulously planned to coincide with the tide going out. Perfect for those exciting little moments when you only have split seconds to get round the next outcrop of rocks and up onto safety before a wave wets your boots. There were many squeals of delight as people nearly got caught scrambling to the next high point. Bronwen was an excellent leader by coaxing us at the right moment to "Go now" and making sure we went the right way by pointing it out as she stood up to her ankles in water. At one point we came to a halt at a steep drop-off. Bronwen climbed to the top of a knob to the side and called directions to get around the obstacle – the only time we had to encroach onto farmers' ground by crossing a fence. Kevin and Katie, however, were determined to conquer that cliff and they spectacularly launched themselves onto the sand.

As we got further around there were spectacular views of Taieri Island and Saddle Hill, and Ken pointed out Pulpit Rock in the Silver Peaks. There were also several caves to explore along the way, much to the delight of

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eight year old Russell, who discovered mice living in one.

With the tricky bits behind us we perched on some knobbly bits (Bronwen's words) on the beach to have lunch. Some cows on the adjacent paddock gathered to watch us, but decided that the smell of cheese and pickle sandwiches and berry tea was not what they wanted after all, and went back to their grass. Russell discovered that a Tupperware container of chippies doesn't balance very well on uneven rock! He ate them off the sand anyway, "Really crunchy" was his reaction.

A count of heads during lunch revealed that Ken was missing, and he hadn't been seen for a while. Bronwen and Janet had attended a S.A.R. field day just the week before (they even had a handbook at the ready) and thought they may have had to put their skills to practice when Lucy announced that she had spotted Ken fast asleep in the tussocks. Asleep? Was he actually breathing? Ken surfaced and put our minds at ease.

A scantily clad female walked passed soon after. She kept stopping and scanning the scenery, and it was my guess that we had invaded her private sunbathing domain. We decided to carry on and it was not long before Taieri Mouth was in sight. Sharon and Jan announced that they lived just over the dunes and decided to head that way. Ken invited himself to their place for scones, but was sent on his way, there were no scones to be had. Jet skiers could be seen having a great time in the waves out from Taieri Island and it was agreed that we should arrange to do that as well ... next time.

Before we knew it we were back at the cars at Knargston Park, where some chose to relax in the sun while the drivers got taken back to retrieve their cars at Akatore. We all headed home about 3 pm. Some of us stopped at Brighton for an ice cream. A nice finish to a very enjoyable day.

Thank-you to trip leader Bronwen Strang.

Written by Janet Barclay on behalf of Russell Barclay, Katie Grans, Kevin Sprague, Trevor Mason, Ken Powell, Antoinette Righarts, Fiona Sangang, Lucy Skinner, Sharon Tomlinson, and Jan Weir.

ON MY OWN TWO FEET – THE LIFE OF A MOUNTAINEER

by Norman Hardie

There's an argument that Norman Hardie's achievements in the Himalayas – and for that matter in the New Zealand mountains – are comparable with the climbing achievements of Sir Edmund Hillary. Despite that, relatively few Kiwis know that one of their countrymen climbed the world's third highest peak just two years after Hillary's big climb, or could even name the peak. Hardie's autobiography will go some way towards filling the gap, although his understated and slightly wooden style – further attributes he shares with Hillary – mean that he's hardly shouting those efforts from the rooftops.

Hardie got his first taste of the hills as a Government deer culler before moving on to transalpine trips and then serious climbs. A series of first ascents and a taste for adventure saw him almost go on the Garwhal trip organised by Earle Riddiford that led to Hillary's invitation to join Shipton's 1952 Everest reconnaissance. (The rest, as they say, is history). Finance and career interfered, but two years later he was on the Hillary-led Barun valley reconnaissance. At the end of the expedition, he did a long surveying journey with Charles Evans, Hunts deputy on Everest. This led to an invitation to be Evans's deputy on the 1955 Kanchenjunga reconnaissance. The reconnaissance was so successful that they succeeded in putting two climbers on top, and then two more, including Hardie, the next day.

The reason the Kanchenjunga expedition is regarded by some as a greater achievement than Everest is that essentially the whole climb was a new endeavour, whereas the route to Everest had substantially been forged by the Swiss in 1952, when they reached the South Summit. This trip was again followed by a long surveying/exploring trip.

The book deals with the early New Zealand trips in some detail, correcting a few errors in earlier publications along the way, and then naturally details a lot of the Himalayan expeditions. It goes on to deal with Hardie's growing engineering career, his involvement in the Himalayan Trust, as well as further trips to the Himalayas, Japan and the Antarctic. Trips to the ice included participating in Hillary's 1967 Mt Herschel expedition and a season as base leader at Scott Base. This is a story that needed to be told about a man whose deeds definitely deserve wider recognition and, despite not being written in the most gripping style it will hold the attention of any outdoors enthusiast.

David Barnes

Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

June 16-17

Luxmore Hut / Mt. Luxmore (M-C)

Debbie Pettinger 473 7924

June and July are going to be the months for the club to visit two Great Walks, this weekend at the Kepler and later it's the Routeburn with Wolfgang.

The Kepler doesn't need much introduction – suffice to say it is a great circuit between Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau. The alpine section between Luxmore Hut and Iris Burn Hut may well be impassable in June, but it 'should' be possible to get near Mt Luxmore from Luxmore Hut. Mt. Luxmore, being the highest point on the track, offers great views over Lake Te Anau and the wider area. If there hasn't been a huge dump of snow Mt. Luxmore is relatively straight-forward with no exceptional climbing skills required. The walk up to Luxmore is a nice wander along the shore of Lake Te Anau before a gradual climb to the bushline. A final sidle above the bushline brings you to Luxmore Hut. If conditions are suitable it is possible to complete the circuit in a weekend – just remember the shorter daylight we now have. This trip will close on June 7.

July 7-8

Jubilee Hut

(Traditional OTMC Mid-Winter Social) (All)

Greg Powell 4544828

It's true – there were some great socials held in the original Jubilee Hut. The largest gathering I can recall is 15 in the dead of winter 1986, complete with a cold southerly and snow overnight. 12 on the bunks, 3 on the floor, tidy clothing, games, pot luck dinner, music....

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With the new hut we have decided it is time to revisit an area so close to town for an overnight trip (apart from Bushcraft when was the last weekend trip to the Silver Peaks?, I'm thinking it was around 1990).

Because there is virtually no travel involved this will be a Saturday/Sunday trip, with departure from Dunedin depending on who wants to go which way etc. (you can even walk all the way from home if you want!). The hut sleeps 10 on bunks, and has a large porch for the overflow. More information will be available at club nearer the time.

Committee Members 2006-2007

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Barry Atkinson	487 7820
Secretary	Jill McAliece	455 6740
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Imm. Past Pres	Terry Casey	454 4592
Chief Guide/Bushcraft	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Ian Sime	453 6185
Gear Hire	Matt Corbett	487 6595
and	Dave Chambers	454 3857
Daytrip Convenor	Roy Ward	473 9518
Funding	Greg Powell	454 4828
Publicity/Library	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Social Convenor	Fiona Webster	487 8176
Clubrooms Officer	Terry Casey	454 4592
Committee	Dave Chambers	454 3857
Committee	Alan Thomson	455 7878
(outside committee)		
Bulletin Editor	Robyn MacKay	488 2420
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Contact	Teresa Wasilewska	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the July Bulletin, deadline is 15/06/07, publication 28/06/07. You can submit material by email to "rebell@xtra.co.nz"; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Robyn MacKay, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

3 June Queen's Birthday Weekend

No daytrip since it's a long weekend - enjoy the continuing wonderful weather (fingers crossed!)

Somewhere in the Silver Peaks (M/F) 10 June

Meeting at the clubrooms, we will ponder over the infinite using a map as a guide, and decide on a destination for the day. This might be somewhere someone has been to in the past and wishes to revisit, somewhere someone has an uncontrollable urge to visit, or somewhere someone has totally never been to before. The possibilities are immense! Come along and take a punt. Transport up to \$6 depending on destination.

Leader Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950

Tavora Reserve/ Bobby's Head (E) 17 June

This new coastal reserve developed by the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust is just south of Palmerston and seaward from Goodwood. A walk through coastal wetlands, which are being replanted with native trees and shrubs, emerges on the beach. A short but steep ascent then brings you to the cliff tops with magnificent coastal views and you may see a few seals basking on the rocks below.

The full walk will take no more than a couple of hours, giving time for pottering around on the beach, should you wish. A post-walk coffee and goodies at De-Railed in Palmerston would round off this leisurely walk

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very nicely.

Note: As this is just a short walk, you may want to leave from the clubhouse at 10 am instead of the usual 9 am. If you are going on this trip please ring me to discuss the departure time.

Leader: Tony Timperley 473 7257

Quarantine Island (Family)

24 June

Meet at clubrooms 9 am. Trip cost \$10 (additional car pool charge \$3), all money to be paid to me before you leave. Travel to Back Beach at Port Chalmers for boat departure at 10 am. There will be a talk on the history of the island when you arrive, then you are free to explore. Bring your lunch and warm clothing. Return boat to the mainland leaves at 1 pm. Please contact me if you are coming as I need to confirm numbers, and I will also be contacting those people from the original trip list.

Leader: Cathy McKersey 4550994

Yellow and Hermites Ridges (M)

1 July

Drive via Double Hill to the gate on Mountain Road and walk a short distance to the Tunnels Track. Down this, then up Yellow Ridge, turning South to go up Rocky Ridge. From this drop down an old track to Hermitage Ridge and sidle down the north face. Join another old track through very pretty beech forest down to the Waikouaiti South Branch River, then straight up a very steep 4WD track to rejoin the Mountain Road and cars. We should finish 3.30-4.00 pm. The walk is a very pretty one through bush and with great views from the upper ridges. There are a couple of steep climbs, but these are fairly short. Trip cost \$6

Leader: Bill Wilson 477 2282