

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 676, August 2007

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.

2 August

Harry Griffith will talk about his experiences day hiking in Greece

9 August

Teresa Wasilewska and Co. will talk about SAR, what it is and what role there is for trampers

16 August

Derek Mycock will talk about his time touring Afghanistan (before the American troops arrived)

23 August

Bring Your Own - recent tramping tales illustrated.

30 August

OTMC Annual General Meeting - your chance to have your say in the running of your club. Put your name forward. Get elected. It's your chance.

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**

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

The end of June marks the finish of the OTMC's financial year and means the AGM is imminent. This year's AGM is on 30 August and the committee hope for a good turnout. In reviewing the minutes from the past two annual meetings one thing is obvious – there have been no contentious issues that had been prevalent at earlier meetings. I guess one reason is that the OTMC has now solved issues such as what to do with Ben Rudds and other club property (huts especially). Transport for weekend trips has not been questioned following extensive discussion in this area in the 1990's. The other reason could be that in the 2000's members are satisfied as long as trips still run regularly and weekly meetings continue the high quality we enjoy. I hope this is not the case as the club can only continue to offer what the membership desire if we know what it is that people want. Increasingly we are hearing small comments 'through the grapevine', yet when we come to an AGM there is no discussion put forward. The committee feel that the AGM is a good time to discuss the future direction for the club and invite members to make use of this opportunity.

The management of the club has been pretty stable over the past few years and this may have led to a well-run club, but it appears that there will be a few current members stepping down this year. The committee are responsible for all club activities, including running the trips, Thursday meetings, membership, the Bulletin, financial affairs, gear hire etc. The work of the committee is not too onerous. Generally we meet once a month (the second Monday) for a 1-2 hour meeting. Most committee members have a 'portfolio' for which they are responsible, the amount of time this takes depends on the role but they are generally easy-going on your free time. To this end the committee invite anyone interested in standing to fill out a nomination form (available at club and on the website) and hand in to our secretary, Jill McAliece by 16 August.

The committee's business has been fairly quiet of late, being mostly general day to day affairs relating to the club and its activities. One topic that we have discussed (again) is the role of leadership within the OTMC. We pride ourselves on the safety

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record of our trips and we hope that this is due to good leadership rather than luck. There appears, however, to be a need to offer training on both trip management and leadership within the OTMC. Due to the absence of Bushcraft 2008 we are going to take the extra time available to offer training within the club. There are two leadership roles within the club. One is that of 'trip leader' (weekend / longer trips). This is really a people management role prior to the trip departing town, so is quite different from the 'party (or day trip) leader' which is pretty much on the ground leadership and decision making. The club has led trips continuously since 1923 so has built up certain OTMC procedures for running trips. These are available via the OTMC website as well as being in the club library. While these will be updated as part of the leadership exercise, they still provide all the information relevant to organising and leading OTMC trips. If there are any areas that you think we specifically need to target please contact me. In the meantime, keep an eye out for more information about leadership in upcoming issues of the Bulletin.

Antony Pettinger
President

Membership

In contrast to last month, this one has been quiet.

Ruth Goldsmith, Richard Powell and Jenni Wright are not renewing their membership, and Lynley McCristell has moved to 2/697 Highcliff Rd, Portobello, 478 0230.

Ian Sime
Membership Secretary

ROUTE BURN CROSSOVER

MAY 5-6

Right from the start this trip was going to be popular. Within a week of the trip being announced in March the trip list had around 20 people on it. Originally I had planned to limit the trip to 24 people to avoid overloading the huts but the demand would have made the task of selecting who should go unpleasant so we opted to take two vans to each end of the track. In the end 37 people participated in this trip.

The forecast as we left Dunedin wasn't brilliant, but they aren't often right, are they? We ran into rain not long after leaving Te Anau and by the time we reached The Divide it was steady. Differing tactics were chosen here, with the majority of the group electing to walk over to Howden Hut for what was left of the night. The remaining people decided that staying in the shelter and heading away early would give the same result, minus a wet midnight stroll to Howden.

Saturday morning and even though it was dark it was obvious it was going to be misty day, with only a light rain. The first team from The Divide arrived at Howden at day break – after a short stop it was back into the misty rain for the gradual climb to Mackenzie Hut. The walking was pleasant enough, with all the side creeks thundering below the track bridges – the rain had been quite heavy during the night. Some elected to bypass Earland Falls by way of the emergency bridge; the others were treated to a true display of nature's power. It is amazing how much wind a good sized waterfall can produce.

The private company, Ultimate Hikes, are building a replacement lodge at Lake Mackenzie which means the DoC campsite is being relocated alongside the lake. Access to the camp will include a cantilever structure over part of the lake. Of course the new lodge will have all the mod-cons, and

for around \$1100 for the guided walk you too can enjoy the facilities provided!

The climbing really starts after MacKenzie but it is pretty gradual. The views that are normally seen on the section between the lake and Harris Saddle were pretty much non-existent today. There were a few people coming the other way, and it still makes me shudder to see people tramping in jeans, especially in these conditions.

The cross-over with the group from the Glenorchy end was made at the Harris Saddle shelter, with great care being taken to ensure the van keys were not mixed up. After a longish lunch break it was back out into the weather and up to the highest point of the trip – Harris Saddle (there was no point in seeking the view from Conical Hill, although some from the opposite direction had been up there). The section from here to Falls Hut was covered pretty quickly. I see the section below Lake Harris is being upgraded before the summer season – it is the roughest section of the track and probably needs it.

A comfortable night was had at Falls Hut, which was almost full. If DoC has any extra money to spend in the area they would do well to do something about the bunkrooms – they are always dark, gloomy and cramped.

There is not a lot to say about Sunday. The weather had improved greatly with clear skies and sun. The walk to the road-end is a pleasant stroll. Some members of the group chose to descend the Big Slip of 1994 to detour via Flats Hut. Lunch was enjoyed at the shelter before the sun disappeared yet again. With rain imminent we departed, arriving back in town by 7pm.

The 32km Routeburn track is within the ability of most people over two days, and the advantage of the cross-over is obvious, when the opposing road-ends are so far apart. I am planning a further cross-over of the Routeburn in December, but this time with a further twist: we are going to do it in one day, road-end to road-end. I am keen to visit the area in summer, but want to avoid the hassle of booking huts and overcrowding. This time I will limit the numbers with fitness being criteria! Keep an eye on the next trip card.

Antony P for the west to east team.

Temple Crossing

March 24 - 25

The final weekend of Bushcraft 2007 visited the Ohau valleys, which provides an ideal range of trips suitable for people just starting out. Three trips were undertaken this weekend: Huxley Forks (and beyond), the Maitland / Freehold Creek crossover and the classic round trip of the North/South Temple Steams.

Although I have personally done the Temple crossing many times it never fails in providing a satisfying trip. A group of eight of us set of up the shortish North Temple. I believe that travelling up the North branch first is the better choice. It means you are climbing up the steep rock gut, as well as allowing the trip to be more evenly spaced out over the two days. By the time we reached the bushline the sun was shining brightly and it promised to be a hot climb to the saddle. The track ends at the edge of the bush but travel is relatively straight-forward from here, crossing the stream as required.

The temperature increased as we entered the gut proper, but water was still flowing freely. Travel up the gut is more or less a rock scramble, but there are some short sections of very hard scree that can be unnerving, especially for those who haven't encountered it before. We decided at the bottom that we would have lunch on saddle at 1pm, and so we did. I can't recall conditions being so nice. At 1800m the view is impressive, right through to Aoraki / Mt. Cook itself. Tomas and Stuart arrived at the top long before us and had been further up the ridge to the west for more extensive views.

This pass is now officially called Gunsight Pass, but it looks nothing like a gunsight. I still believe the correct Gunsight Pass in this area is the one between the South Huxley and the Ahuriri. It definitely looks more like a gunsight than the Temple one.

The descent from the pass is steep to start with, but

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with good scree. Lower down the scree turns into larger rocks as the gradient slackens. We met up with some fellows who were returning from a couple of days of face climbing below Belfry Peak – it made our efforts look like a walk in the park. Once below the boulder field we followed the stream until we joined up with the South Temple track. A campsite was found in a clearing, where we spent a rather windy night.

Another clear day dawned on Sunday and as we hadn't too far to tramp we took our time, enjoying the environment as we went. We checked out the relocated / refurbished South Temple hut before having a long smoko in the sun. Even with our dawdling we were still out by lunchtime and spent the next couple of hours avoiding the sandflies. After meeting up with the other groups it was homeward bound. The trip proved an enjoyable end to Bushcraft 2007.

Antony P for Kirsty Ryder and Lynley McCristell.

As a direct consequence of Public Access New Zealand (PANZ) failing to address the need for ongoing funding to sustain the research-based advocacy which was its hallmark a new group has been set up - Recreation Access New Zealand (RANZ). This group has a dual focus, the management of the outdoors, as well as access to public lands and waters. RANZ advocates environmentally and socially responsible 'minimum impact' recreation. RANZ believes there is a pressing need for sound policy making and management practices over public lands and waters. The campaign will focus not only on the protection and enhancement of public rights, but also on the management of recreational resources by public authorities. OTMC people are invited to become RANZ supporters - to this end an application form is available from the RANZ website: www.recreationaccess.org.nz

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

August 11-12

Winter Armstrong plus Makarora options (M-C)

Philip Somerville 473 8862

In a follow-up to a rained-out trip last year, Philip is planning a return visit to the area surrounding Brewster Hut. With the relatively straight-forward Mt. Armstrong (2174m) accessible from Brewster Hut this trip is ideal for those that have been taught iceaxe and crampon skills the previous week-end with Matt. Accessed from Fantail Falls on the Haast Pass highway, it is a 1000m grunt to Brewster Hut. By all accounts the original hut has now been replaced with a 12 bunk hut, bigger, but probably lacking in the character of the first hut. From here there are easy slopes to practise snowcraft skills, or there is the option to tackle Mt. Armstrong itself. As the trip title suggests there are other options available, such as Camerons Creek or to the head of the Makarora itself (both have huts in them). More information available at club, trip closes August 2.

August 25-26

Mt. Cook Area (All)

Peter Stevenson 454 4148

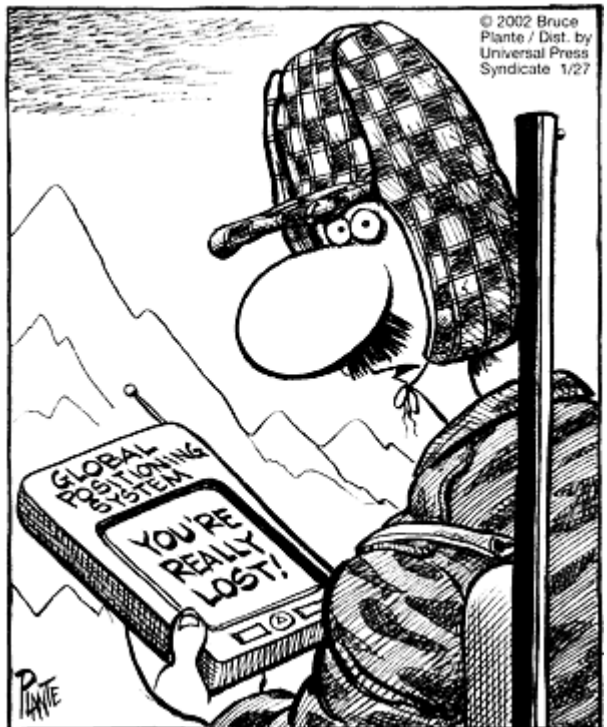
This trip will be the third in recent years to base itself at 'Thar Lodge'. The original 2004 trip came about as a result of interest in having the opportunity of basing oneself near the Mt. Cook Village and completing some of the many day trips in the area. Options include a walk up the Tasman past the Blue Lakes to Ball Shelter. If you venture a bit further (maybe part-way up Ball Ridge) you will be rewarded with great views of

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the Ball Glacier and Aoraki. Another trip is to the Sealy Tarns, part of the way up towards the rebuilt Mueller Hut or to overnight at Mueller itself. The last trip here saw members summit Mt Ollivier (1933m). The Hooker is another valley that is well worth a visit for a day. Trip closes August 16.

September 8-9
Eyre Mountains (Five Rivers) (All)
Leader to be confirmed.

This trip will be a trial to see if people can be persuaded to visit this conservation area. Since a visit there around 2000 the area has not generated much interest within the club. It is planned for this trip to visit the Cromel and Acton Steams and make use of the ridge that contains Mt. Bees huts to provide the views. I accept that the lower regions are covered in bush but it should be possible to include the ridge leading from Mt. Bees huts on most trips. Access to the area for this trip will be limited to that from the Five Forks side. I believe that the area has great potential for 3 day or longer trips, especially once you get into the Helen Peaks area. Trip closes August 30 (the AGM).



Our club extends condolences to
 Fiona Webster and her family
 on the recent loss of her brother, Glenn,
 at Invercargill recently.
 Our thoughts are with them.

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 September Bulletin, deadline is 17/08/07, publication 30/08/07. You can submit material by email to "rebell@extra.co.nz"; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Robyn MacKay, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

Catlins Waterfalls (Very Easy!)

29 July (Wet or fine!)

We drive to Balclutha, then follow the old main road to Romahapa, where we join the Southern Scenic Route to Owaka. Barr's Falls, very close to Owaka, are only a few minutes from the road. To get to the Purakaunui Falls, the most photographed ones, we go down a side road. Then a longish drive to Maclean Falls, the most spectacular, with the whole Tautuku River crashing into a pool. On the way back to Owaka are the Matai Falls.

If there is time and inclination, we can return via Kaka Point for an ice cream, with the breakers at our feet.

Leader: Ian Sime 453 6185

Swampy / Silverstream / Burns Saddle (MF)

5 August

This is a good day out in the hills with only a short drive to get there – just what you need in winter. We'll park at the top of the Northern Motorway, then head up the Leith Saddle Track to Swampy and down the access road to Trig Q. From there, we'll drop down North Coal Creek track to Raceman's Track and climb Raingauge Spur. Depending on conditions and enthusiasm, we'll head to Burns Saddle either by trying to follow Rollinson's Track to Swampy Ridge or by heading back over Swampy and down the direct track to the saddle. From there, it's a short walk back to the cars. (After writing this, I think it might almost be an MF trip).

Leader: David Barnes 454 4492

Rongamai - Honeycomb Loop (M)

August 12

Note: This trip differs from the "Mount Allan/Mount John" trip advertised on the trip card, due to Wenita having completely closed the forest while they are log-

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ging.

We start at Evansdale Glen and walk up beside Carey's Creek. After a detour to the Whaitiripaka Falls, we follow the Rongomai track, which is a steep climb up through native bush then pine forest until we reach Mountain Road at the edge of the Silverpeaks, a climb of about 320 metres. The Honeycomb track provides an alternative route down to Carey's Creek. Note that there are stream crossings, and slopes might be slippery. Trip cost is \$5.

Leader: Roy Ward 473 9518

Taieri River Track (E) **19 August**

Carmel and Terry Casey are leading a wee trip out to Taieri Mouth and over the track from the car park to John Bull Flat. It's a round trip of three hours with spectacular gorge scenery, a variety of native vegetation and a look at the historic element of the river. We will see both bush and coastal birds and the flat is a great spot for lunch. There is a small grunt up one bit of the track but in general it is easy going. Trip leaves from the club rooms at 9am and is \$8. Phone 454 4592 for bookings or further information.

Nardoo Revisited (M) **26 August**

In the 1980's the Nardoo Scientific Reserve was set aside by the Lands and Survey from a farm development block. A statement of intent was sent to OTMC which resulted in a number of unsuccessful attempts to explore the reserve by Ross Cocker. It was one of the first tussock reserves in Otago. It has been fenced and fire free for over 25 years.

Subject to the weather we will head over to Nardoo Stream and then climb to Little Peak. I am wanting to find some of the features shown on a map from the statement of intent so we will be having a good explore. We may end up leaping about in some very large tussocks. For safety reasons all members of the party must be wearing red tops.

Leader: Antony Hamel 453 5240