

# OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 677, September 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.**

### **6 September**

Terry Duffield, Rob Seeley and Pam McKelvey will talk about their experiences tramping the Landsborough, Broderick Pass, the Huxley and Hunter Valleys

### **13 September**

Chuck Landis will talk about his time in Mustang in northern Nepal - a place he describes as the last forgotten kingdom

### **20 September**

Bring Your Own trip photos, slides, powerpoint presentations etc to share.

### **27 September**

First Aid Refresher talk by our own Fiona Webster - you never know when you'll need this valuable information!

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities.

Please contact Fiona Webster (Social Convenor) at "fionaw@callsouth.net.nz", or 487 8176 if you can help.

**Visit us on the Internet at:  
[www.otmc.co.nz](http://www.otmc.co.nz)**

Well it's that time again, only a week or so until the 2007 AGM. Enclosed you will find the annual accounts and report to prepare you for the meeting. The past couple of AGMs have been relatively quiet affairs which is a shame because the meeting can provide a good idea to the committee of member's satisfaction with the direction being taken. Some may say that the lack of interest shown is a good indication the club is doing well but others may see it as a lack of caring, so long as the expected club activities still occur. The OTMC is more than just the committee, it is a combination of the entire membership and our activities should reflect this. While we are required to look back at the recent financial year at the AGM, we should also look forward and try and gain direction from members about where the club should be heading. For example, the weekend trip programme for the summer season is all but finished (apart from leaders) and I would like discussion to take place on the type of trips planned. If we don't know what people want then the committee will keep planning the types of activities we think people want. The AGM is on August 30 and I can guarantee that no-one will be forced to stand for the committee if they don't want to. See you there.

If anyone is interested in volunteer work parties with the Department of Conservation then check out the DoC website (search for 'volunteer'). I have received a list of upcoming opportunities, including hut maintenance in the Hopkins Valley (now part of the Ruataniwha Conservation Park), hut warden at Welcome Flat and hut and track maintenance on the Hollyford and Pyke tracks. These trips are a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, and apart from time there is no cost.

This year's Snowcraft course had 50/50 weather, with the Saturday providing the only opportunity to practice the important skills required by all trampers venturing above the bush-line in the winter. Unfortunately the weather on Sunday curtailed any further instruction. I thank Matt Corbett, Ralph Harvey and Dave Chambers for their contribution.

The recent rain we have experienced showed that the clubrooms needed a little attention to a flashing on the roof. Thanks to Ray McAliece for attending this in his typical no-fuss way.

I haven't mentioned the clubs email list for a while. The OTMC run an email list with a primary function of notifying members (and friends) of upcoming events, as well as letting people know of any short-notice changes made to either the trip or social programmes. People are free to use the list for general discussion but keep in mind that posts may be archived for all time. To join, head to this web page: [lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc](mailto:lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc)

Another electronic feature we can offer is that of receiving this Bulletin in electronic (PDF) format. Although one of the reasons we have offered this

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is to reduce the costs of producing the Bulletin, the OTMC has no firm policy on this at the moment so there is no difference in membership fees at this stage. If you would like to receive your Bulletin via email please let me know ([otmc@ihug.co.nz](mailto:otmc@ihug.co.nz)). If you want to see what the electronic version is like then check out the club website, which houses all the recent editions.

Antony Pettinger

# Membership

The two new members we welcome this month are Paul Cunliffe, 10 Peel St, Ph 4531 311; and Annette Winter, 193 Macandrew Rd, Ph 4550 417.

Good to have you both join us!

Several members have decided not to renew their membership. We fare-well Bess Allan, Deb Carr, Ruth Goldsmith, Chris Mansfield, Trevor Payton, Jan Piggot, Rob Porteous, Kate Price, Leslie Turner and Su White. Trevor, a printer who has been a member since 1978, used to print our annual publication, *Outdoors*.

Ian Sime, Membership Secretary



## OTMC Pizza Night Filadelphios,

7pm, Saturday, 1 September

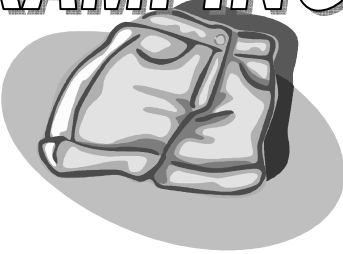
Set menu of garlic bread, wedges, pizza, \$15

Family and friends welcome

RSVP Fiona (phone or clubroom list) so she  
can confirm numbers

# TRAMPING

## SHORTS



## *No hut fees for under 18s on Great Walks*

Chris Carter, Minister of Conservation, has recently announced that from 1 July 2008, under 18 year olds will be able to stay in Great walks huts and campsites for free. This is great news for families, and a chance for more people to discover the joys of tramping from a young age.

The idea was floated at the government's Recreation Summit earlier this year. The Chair of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board, Bill Gilbertson, has been talking it up at every opportunity, and FMC got in behind him. Director-General of Conservation Al Morrison was questioned about it when he spoke at FMC's AGM. Although he was initially a tad defensive, referring to kids being free or half price in non-Great Walks huts, he obviously took some notice when he was told that a family could pay more in a hut than a motel. In fact, that line was used in the Minister's press release.

So, time to take a kid tramping!!

David Barnes

## **WANTED: DAYTRIP LEADERS**

It's that time of year when I'm starting to put together the summer daytrip programme. Leaders with or without a destination in mind (I can help you pick something suitable), or trip ideas from anyone, are all very welcome. The day trips have been quite popular over the last while, but they can't happen without leaders. Even if you've not led a day trip before, here's your chance to develop a new skill, so there's no excuse - contact me now!

Roy Ward (Day Trip Convenor)

473-9518 or "royward@physics.otago.ac.nz"

## **FURTHER HONOUR FOR ONE OF OUR MEMBERS**

David Eggleton, Fieke Neuman's partner, recently won the Reviewer of the Year award at the Montana Book Awards. This is the 5th time he has won this award since the Montanas were established. We often read his reviews in the Listener.

# Trip Reports

## Routeburn Falls Social Weekend 28 & 29 July

The journey as far as Glenorchy was uneventful with the almost new minibus (only 10,000 km) being quiet enough for the oldies to fall asleep, with the exception of Wolfie who was driving.

However, shortly after leaving Glenorchy the road disintegrated into a muddy, rutted track. Our lovely shiny minibus proved ill equipped to handle the conditions as it banged and scraped it's low under-belly along the gravel before finally getting bogged down. At least with twenty willing hands to push we eventually managed to reach the shelter at around 1 am.

Already wet and muddy, there seemed little point in spending an uncomfortable night there, so it was on with head torches and a walk up to Flats Hut. We had a brief stop by the side of a very large icicle that had fallen from high above, and even looked up to see whether there were any more! Anxious shouts from behind to "Get a move on!" finally saw us getting to bed around 3.30 am, much to the astonishment of the one tramper who had retired at 11 pm thinking he had the hut to himself.

The following morning it was decided to continue up to Falls Hut and hope that the road did not deteriorate further before we started home. The hut was reached a little after 12 pm. The cold rain continued all day so that only the really hardy folk ventured further, the rest spending the time lazing around, catching up on sleep or preparing for the evening's festivities. Most made some effort for the fancy dress with a rather bad rugby team, penguin, TV head and even Japanese nightwear. First place was tied between a sexy burglar, a doctor and a rubbish bag. The quiz was entertaining and at times mentally challenging, we all learnt something - 'eructation'.

On Sunday the rain eased and the land was bathed in mist and low cloud, which made it enchanting. All in all, a wet and wonderful weekend.

Tramp Dog

*PTO for fancydress photo*



## Tramping

Rearing to go, full of energy

Hiking up steep hills

Fantastic views

Wandering through beautiful vegetation

The sound of birds chiming and the lovely sound of water  
gushing down stream

Discovering exciting places

Tramping in rain, hail and snow

by Lucy Jones

# *Mud, Wet and Waterfalls*

## *29 July*

It was a very wet Sunday morning as two cars headed to the Catlins with the promise of seeing some waterfalls at their most spectacular best. Ian had the company of two lovely ladies - Asha and Kristina. I, in the other car, had the company of two eight year olds - Russell and mate Taylor. So I missed all the goss, and had to make do with endless “I Spy” and “Paper, Scissors, Rock”!

We stopped the cars at the Rosebank Hotel and from there Ian led us on a very picturesque backroad trip to Owaka. We carried on and stopped at the Purakanui Falls car park and took a reasonably dry walk to the falls through gorgeous native bush. Ian took the boys under his wing and attempted to give them a lesson on native tree names. Asha and I thought it would be a good idea for them to go on in his car whilst us girls travelled together in mine. But when he started talking about smoking the bark of the fuchsia tree, I quickly changed my mind about that.

The falls were gorgeous! Kristina, being an enthusiastic photographer, made the most of where we were. Apparently the overcast conditions were very favourable for the type of photos she wanted. Luckily the nature of our daytrip was very relaxed and she enjoyed taking her time to get some perfect photos.

Next stop was the Tautuku Adventure Camp for lunch. We definitely timed it right, as a group had just left and there was still a fire on in the dining room. We sat down beside it for the most cosy lunch I’ve ever had on a tramping trip. The caretaker informed us that another school group from Taieri College were due to arrive in the morning. She had just finished cleaning up and left one door open for us to get out. The minute she left, Russell dropped his drink all over the clean floor. After searching frantically for a mop of some sort and finding none, we managed to sop most of it up with a roll of toilet paper - the fire took care of the evidence nicely. Then it was quickly off to the next falls, Maclean.

I had devised a cunning plan for avoiding having the boys drape mud all through my car and it was working very nicely. After a walk they hopped into the boot, which was lined with a big tarpaulin. There they removed

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their gumboots and jackets before shimmying over to the back seat. The process was done in reverse before they hopped out for the next walk. I recommend this practice and will definitely use it again.

Matai Falls was our last stop and then it was off to Kaka Point. Ian, Asha and Kristina did the grownup thing and had sophisticated drinks and nibbles at the pub, while I bought the boys an icecream and headed home.

All in all it was a great day out and I would recommend it to anyone who hasn't yet seen the Catlins waterfalls. What better way to spend a wet Sunday?!!

Janet Barclay for Ian Sime, Asha Jesudasm, Kristina Bach, Russell Barclay and Taylor Todd.



Photo by Kristina Bach



# Swampy/Silverstream/Burns Saddle

## 5 August

The five of us piled into David's car. He was our trip leader for the day. We set off to the top of the Northern Motorway. We were full of energy and rearing to go for our big adventure of the day. It was very funny because our leader said, "Who are all these people turning up on a very wet morning?". We walked up the muddy Leith Saddle Track in the drizzly rain. It wasn't cold. The track took us to the top of Swampy and we got a fantastic view of Waitati and the surrounding farmland. Walking along the top of the hill we came across the unusual object. It was a long white rectangle with dishes poking out to the sides. David explained that it was a navigational aid for aeroplanes.

The track went along to Trig Q and from there we dropped down to North Coal Creek. It was a steep drop down and I went very cautiously. Thank goodness there were some trees and rocks to hold on to. At the bottom we joined up with Racemans Track near a stream. We had to cross the stream and I thought it was fun getting my feet wet in the cool water. Further downstream was a waterfall and we watched as the water gushed and thundered down. This is where we stopped to have lunch. We needed to boost our energy levels for our big climb up Raingauge Spur in the afternoon.

David and Jonette told me the difference between a ridge and a spur. A ridge goes along the skyline and a spur is a zigzag around corners and bends. I think I've got it right. Raingauge Spur wound through manuka bush. It was a steady climb and it was a relief to reach the top and see blue sky and sunshine. From there we chose Rustlers Track instead of Burns Saddle as the vegetation was more interesting even though the track was a bit longer. We walked through pretty bush and trees on a narrow track. Near the end it opened into tussock country. The last part of our walk was very muddy and reminded me of quicksand.

"Have you ever heard of sore muscles?"

I would like to say thank you very much to our trip leader David Barnes for an awesome day. Written by Lucy Jones on behalf of David, Jonette, Barry, Lindsay and Trevor.

# JAUNT TO JUBILEE

A busy schedule means I don't often have the ability to grab a weather window and head for the hills at short notice. One wintry Friday, I noticed that an apparently good forecast coincided with a quiet weekend. An email to Eric Lord got an agreement to head for the Silver Peaks after we'd watched our sons' soccer match on Saturday.

Snow had blanketed the area a fortnight before, and its departure had left roads and tracks very sloppy. An hour of mud saw us at the site of Green Hut. The forecast was proving wrong, and it wasn't long before the parkas were back on. The grunt up to Pulpit Rock took us into the murk, and the snow. Lots of footprints suggested the possibility of a full hut, although the mushy snow meant it was hard to tell which way they were heading. We wondered if the club trip the previous weekend had been postponed a week. One last uphill saw us on the summit of Silver Peak and starting the long descent of the Devil's Staircase. It's 300m of increasingly steep track, and near the bottom there's lots of gorse to grab if you slip.

The new Jubilee Hut is quite high above the stream, and the track climbs straight up opposite the old hut site. I'd been told of a sidling shortcut, so we took it – a mistake. After a lot of time clambering through bracken, it was dark as we reached the hut. A party of four from South Canterbury made us welcome, and we were joined soon after by three German students who'd come in the easier but less interesting route from Silverpeaks Station. Three parties on a mid-winter's night makes DoC's decision to opt for a ten bunk design appear prescient, and it seemed my comment in the hut book at the opening a few weeks before, that the hut would lead to a renaissance of interest in the area, was coming true.

After a cosy night, we emerged to look at some fairly clagged in tops. The long way out, via ABC Cave and Rocky Ridge, didn't seem that appealing in those conditions, so we headed back to the Staircase – this time sticking

to the track. Two thirds of the way up, as we walked into the cloud layer, we encountered fresh snow that had frozen quite prettily on the vegetation and rocks. Photo stops involved very cold fingers.

As we descended towards the Green Hut site, it was goodbye snow and hello mud again. The weather didn't encourage us to linger, so it was straight to the car and home for lunch.

David Barnes

**WANGANUI TRAMPING CLUB**

**50th ANNIVERSARY of the Opening of  
MANGATURUTURU HUT**

**22 – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2008**  
(EASTER)

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> – TRIP INTO THE HUT

SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> - CELEBRATORY DINNER

Replies of interest to:

Russell Donaldson  
6 Stafford St.  
Wanganui, 4501

Phone: Ah 06 3442275; Mob 027 5149183  
E-mail: russelld@clear.net.nz

# Trip list

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

Firstly a note from those on the wet, but otherwise successful recent Routeburn trip – the road heading to the start of the track (Glenorchy) is currently being used by contractors constructing the new visitor entrance area and can be impassable for some vehicles without manual assistance (including Rhodes vans). Hopefully as the work proceeds and the conditions dry this will be remedied.

As we are approaching the end of the winter trip card it is time to look forward to the summer tramping season. I have pencilled in the weekend trips, again trying to compile a programme that has something for everyone.

The first trip in November is heading for Timaru River, with one of the aims being to climb Dingle. The other November trip will be to Jacksons Bay, repeating the 2005 trip to Stafford Bay. This is definitely a fine weather trip so I have added a backup weekend in case the weather is bad. December will see the last Routeburn cross-over for a while (as we have been to the Routeburn a lot lately). The difference with the December trip is that it will be in one day, road-end to road-end. The final trip for the year will be slightly different but very relaxing – a walk and overnight camp down Lake Roxburgh, from Alexandra.

2008 will start with a summer trip to Mt. Cook, opening up lots of possibilities. The 2006 trip to Mt. Domet was fantastic so it will be back. The past two Waitangi Weekend trips have been 4 day trips. Next year Waitangi Day is on a Wednesday, so I'm not sure if there is interest in a five day outing – I will be seeking discussion on this at the AGM. February will also see another attempt at the Earnslaw Burn. I am keen for the club to do more in the Ben Ohau Range so the first trip in March is headed there. Easter 2008 will be about the earliest it can get, occurring from March 21-24. I am picking that many people will also celebrate Otago Anniversary Day on Tuesday the 25th, so am planning a five day trip to Lake Ohau. The scope increases greatly given 4-5 days, allowing many round trips and crossings of the main divide to take place.

ANZAC weekend 2008 is three days so I have tentatively slotted in a cross-over trip from the Ahuriri to the South Temple. The final trip, although in May, is planned for the Milford Track, with the idea being to avoid the crowds we had in 2003. This will require time off work. The full list as it is now is available on the OTMC website. As always I welcome any comments, and especially offers of leadership.

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**September 22-23**  
**French Ridge (West Matukituki) (M-C)**  
**Dave Chambers 454 3857**

This trip to Lucas Trotter/French Ridge Hut is perhaps one of the best in the West Matukituki. Sitting at almost 1500m great views can be had in many directions, including across to Cascade Saddle. There is the option of spending the Friday night at the shelter, or tramping into Aspiring Hut. From here it is a nice wander through Shovel and Pearl Flats before the climb to the hut. The last part of the route is exposed and will require the use of crampons and ice axe (and the knowledge to use them). The hut is a 20 bunk NZAC hut, managed by DOC. Hut fees will be \$10 and are not covered by an annual hut pass. If climbing to French Ridge is not for you there is the opportunity to overnight at Aspiring Hut and explore the area from there. Options include the head of the valley and a climb to the bush-line on the Cascade Saddle route. A side trip, either on the way in or out could be to the Rob Roy glacier. The trip closes on September 13.

**October 6-7**  
**Mistake Creek (Earl Mountains) (All)**  
**Matt Corbett 487 6595**

I hope it isn't a mistake planning this trip so early in the season, as snow may thwart the crossing of U Pass. This is a great round trip, and has been used extensively for many Bushcraft courses in the past. Leaving the Milford highway around 5km before Cascade Creek you are soon confronted with a muddy traverse to the west branch of the Eglinton River. After crossing the bridge the track leads into Mistake Creek, where there is one crossing of the creek to undertake. The marked crossing is the best in the area, but still take care. Soon you are at the bush edge and looking for the creek draining from U Pass. U Pass itself is aptly named and is quite impressive. Hut Creek is shorter, but take the time to find the track after each set of flats – it is certainly quicker than bashing through the bush. There is also an option to just visit Mistake Creek, which has a small lakelet in its head. The trip closes on September 27.

**October 20-22**  
**Mt. Titiroa (from Borland) (M-C)**  
**Antony Pettinger 473 7924**

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This is another ‘first in a long time’ trip for the club. Mt Titiroa (1715m) sits north of the Borland Burn which is the direction we are tackling this moderate peak from. With school groups using the area the tracks are in good shape. Access to Titiroa is via the North Borland which opens to open country just below the small North Borland Hut. I’m not entirely sure of the route to Titiroa, but what looks to be the best route is via the broad ridge near the end of the track itself. There appears to be campsites near the tarns shown on the ridge below Titiroa which may be a good place to camp on Saturday. Sunday will be spent exploring Titiroa, which has many impressive rock formations. There may be an opportunity to follow the ridge westwards from Titiroa before heading back into the North Borland. Looks to be an interesting trip to somewhere and will be a great way to spend Labour Weekend. The trip closes October 11.

### 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 October Bulletin, deadline is 13/09/07, publication 27/09/07. You can submit material by email to “[rebell@extra.co.nz](mailto:rebell@extra.co.nz)”; or post handwritten/typed copy or a CD to Robyn MacKay, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

# DAYTRIPS

**2 September**

## **Green Ridge, Link Spur, Raingauge Spur, Rollinsons Track (M)**

We meet at the club rooms at 9am, then drive to the Green Ridge access on Mountain Road. We go up Green Ridge until shortly before Green Hut, then climb up on top of the ridge. We follow this southwest until we cross the stream then climb steeply up to join Raingauge Track and continue up this to near the Elbow. We then go north over Rollinsons Track to join the Swampy-Silverpeaks track and follow this back to the cars. There is a lot of attractive bush and some good views in places. There is no bushbashing, but a bit of grassbashing on Rollinson. We should be back at the cars 4.00-4.30pm. Trip cost \$6.

Leader: Bill Wilson 477 2282

## **Catlins River Walk (E/M)**

**9 September**

**Note:** This trip differs from that advertised on the trip card.

Due to the mistiming of scheduling a Peninsula trip during lambing, I have decided to do the Catlins River Walk instead, which goes between the Tawanui camping area and the Wisp, leading through lichen-covered native silver beech forest alongside the Catlins River. The five hour (one way) walk crosses several swing bridges and is a possible chance to see rare forest birds such as the mohua (yellowhead) and native parakeets. Note that because of travel times, this is a relatively long day (although well worth it). Also at least one vehicle is required at each end, so can anyone who could offer transport please contact me before the trip. Trip cost: \$15

Leader: Wilbert Stokman 488 4688

## **Lizzie's Back Track Tour (E)**

**16 September**

Meet at the clubrooms at 9am and travel by carpool to Middlemarch. Board the

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“Lizzie’s Back Track Tour” bus for an entertaining commentary while visiting historic, thought-provoking places. Expect the unexpected! Added extra: Walks ‘on the Wildside’.

Bring lunch, boots, hat and jacket. Coffee at Kissing Gate Cafe afterwards optional. Small charge to cover bus hire, separate carpool donation.

Contacts: Alan Thomson 455 7878; Liz Keast 464 3782

### **SAR Silver Peaks Familiarisation (M/F) 16 September**

If you are on the club's Search And Rescue callout list, or contemplating it, come along and spend a day in the hills with some of the SAR managers and team leaders. Essentially this is just a day trip in the Silver Peaks, with the emphasis on showing key SAR personnel some of the features of the Peaks as well as spots likely to confuse the unwise and unwary. We’ll do the standard Hightop-Pulpit Rock-Yellow Hut (if it’s still there)-Tunnels trip and maybe some sidetrips. Probably departs Red Cross, York Place, at **8.30am**, but if that changes I'll advise via the club email list.

**This is not an OTMC trip - the club trip that day is Lizzie’s Back Track Tour.**

David Barnes 454 4492

### **Waipori Gorge (F) 23 September**

I have been looking at the Waipori Trip on the 23 September and cannot resolve the safety issues re the hydro people having an unplanned spill and causing the party in the river a certain amount of discomfort. Also the public land does not go as far up the gorge as I thought. Therefore I have come up with an alternative in Mill creek at the south end of Maungatua. We start at the bottom of Mill Creek and go as far up the creek as we can be bothered. We should get well past the old water intakes before sliding right up on to Maungautua using the DoC land that goes to the top of the hill. We then go back down the ridge to Munro Road and return to Mill Creek. This is still a fit trip involving a bit of a bush bash in a rugged area.

Contact: Antony Hamel 453 5240