

OTMC Bulletin

Bulletin Number 678, October 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.**

4 October

Allan Perry will talk about hiking in Switzerland.

11 October

Kate Hewson works at the Royal Albatross colony at Tai-roa Head. She spent some time on Midway Atoll in Hawaii working with the Laysan Albatrosses there.

18 October

B.Y.O. - bring your own slides, photos, etc to share your recent tramping experiences with everyone

25 October

Val and John Muskett will talk about Val's participation in the 24 hour World Challenge Race in Drumondville (Canada), running more than 200 km in a day.

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**

PRESIDENT'S PRELUCE

Thanks to those who supported the committee and attended the recent annual meeting. I think we may have made a record for the shortest AGM – 43 minutes. As expected there wasn't too much discussion about anything. We included a discussion point regarding the weekend trip programme, and the lack of discussion on this important facet of club activity indicates satisfaction with the current range and variety of trips. A question was raised concerning progress on the Skyline Track. The committee have not deliberately avoided updating the membership on progress, but rather have dedicated a lot of time into their desire to see the Skyline Track completed according to plans as soon as possible. Since the start of 2006 the committee have been following a defined and logical sequence of events to aid track construction and to retain the OTMC's integrity to the donors of the monies committed to the track. The committee is very frustrated and disappointed at the lack of progress on the track, but are doing everything possible to achieve a positive outcome. Unfortunately this process will take time.

We also acknowledged the contribution made to the betterment of the OTMC from three outgoing committee members. I would like to repeat the club's appreciation to Barry Atkinson, Wolfgang Gerber and Alan Thomson. Barry has served as our Vice President for a couple of terms, while Wolfgang has done an admirable job with our library and publicity over three years (not bad for a "one year" term!). Alan has been an important part of our committee for over 11 years, most notably serving for five continuous years as President from 1998 to 2003. On behalf of all members I thank all three of you.

Of course the club wouldn't function without the committee running things, and I'm happy to have a very stable committee in charge of the club. The committee also appreciate and acknowledge the work done outside the committee in producing our monthly Bulletin, organising a top-notch social programme and looking after SAR and conservation issues. Thanks to Robyn, Fiona, Teresa and David for their work in these areas.

As noted in the annual report, trip numbers have reduced by around 25% over the past year and a couple of recent trips have been lower than expected. Based on the feedback from the AGM there doesn't appear to be much we can do, it is just one of those things. It will be interesting to see how the trip to Titiroa at Labour weekend goes, and I have a feeling the Jacksons Bay in November will be successful. It really does seem to be the location that is the main pulling power for a trip. I'd welcome suggestions about locations for weekend trips from say August through to Labour weekend, as these tend to be the trips that have lower numbers.

Apparently Leaning Lodge is on track to be replaced in November this year (tentatively booked for the first weekend on November). Once this is complete both former OTMC huts on the Rock and Pillar range will be in great shape. After four years of restoration Big Hut is looking good (google 'Big Hut' to check progress) and with a brand new Leaning Lodge on site it will prove the winning formula of passing these huts into trusts who are dedicated to restoring them to a standard acceptable to DoC (they were both tagged for complete removal). Well done to both trusts.

Antony Pettinger

Membership

Again this month we have two new members to welcome: Danny Hazlitt-Black, 59 Frame St, 4730 596; and James Harrison, 8A Heriot Row, 027 464 3797. You're joining at just the right time to make use of all the best tramping weather!

And we farewell: James Craig, Tony & Nicole Malcolm, Sandra Rogers, Trish Saunders, Karin Staufenbeil, Paul Van Kampen and Jo Woolley who are not renewing their subs. We wish them well.

Ian Sime, Membership Secretary



Tramping in Snow

Awesome

Real picturesque

Feels like you're in fantasy

Tramping through thick gristly, shiny,
white snow

"Great, makes your muscles work harder"

Wrap in Winter Woollies

by Lucy Jones

“GOURMET TRAMPING IN NEW ZEALAND”

by John Sawyer and Liz Baker

It’s funny how our standards change with circumstances. I’m sure we’ve all thanked the chef on a tramping trip for a marvellous meal that honestly would have rated 3/10 in your student flat days. The authors of this quirky book are convinced that one should not lower one’s culinary standards while in the hills, and set out to show us how. Each chapter describes a fairly elaborate meal, with a recommended selection of wines, along with a suggested destination. Each trip is a relatively short and easy one to a hut, which means you can carry all the stuff they suggest and also have the time and energy to cook it when you arrive. There are also chapters on topics such as transporting your produce, ‘must have’ ingredients and breakfasts, lunches and snacks.

The fourteen trips range in strenuousness from Mt Arthur Hut to Welcome Flat Hut, with Luxmoore, Siberia and Mason Bay being the southern entries. Typical meals include spiced pan-fried blue cod with Puy lentils, wilted spinach and coriander and chicken with sun-dried cranberries and mushrooms. The text doesn’t take itself as seriously as many guidebooks (e.g. “This tramp should not take longer than three hours at most. If it does, then you are either not very fit or you have missed the hut and are on your way to Ohakune”).

While this book is probably wasted on me, as these guys cook more elaborately in the hills than I do at home, I’d gladly encourage my tramping companions to take its ideas on board. It is also a useful book for ideas for easy-ish trips – perhaps for beginners, families, or the likes of a group from work.

David Barnes



OTMC Pizza Night
Filadelfios
Now 7 pm, 29 September
RSVP Fiona Webster

Trip Reports

Matukituki to Lochnagar (and return)...

March 2005

I like to believe that one of the main reasons clubs like the OTMC exist is to encourage people to visit areas that aren't commonly visited – areas where there are no tracks and no huts, areas where you need to use those under-utilised navigation skills. Following on from my desire to get people thinking of trips away from the usual tracked country I had allocated a period on the summer '05 trip card for a '10 Day Trip'. Several suggestions for a location were put forward and in time consensus had decided on a neat circuit within Mt. Aspiring National Park. We started at Raspberry Flat and headed to Lochnagar via Shotover Saddle and the upper Shotover. From Lochnagar we planned to go to Dart Hut via the head of Pine Creek, Snowy Creek and Rees Saddle. A return to the Matukituki was planned via Cascade Saddle. Finally, here is our story.

All trips benefit from the organisation and planning put into them prior to leaving town. For a trip of 10 days good planning is essential if you intend to be self-sufficient in food and equipment. Food, of course, is a biggie. Our party of four decided to have communal lunches and dinners, with breakfast being self catered for, due to our inability to agree on what to have. Snacks would also be self-provided. This method worked very well for us. Breakfast ended up as either (instant) porridge, muesli or, in Ann's case, high powered protein bars. For our initial lunches we had bread and toppings (we each carried a loaf each). Once the bread had gone we went with Ryvita (aka corrugated cardboard!). Dinnertime each night consisted of soup, a dehy meal followed by chocolate biscuits. No one went hungry (although Mike's pack only seemed to contain extra food!) The meals were great, which justified the huge effort that goes into preparing them. Cooker fuel is another major weight factor, and although we tried to minimise what we took, it was still a significant weight. As the area we were travelling through was remote we made sure we had a mountain radio. Al-

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though we didn't need it for any emergency it was great to be able to get the weather forecast at each night's sked. We made a deliberate decision not to take crampons, but we all had an ice-axe. The trusty tent-fly was our accommodation for camping, which kept weight down again.

After leaving our vehicles in Wanaka (for security reasons) we traveled to Raspberry Flat via shuttle bus. Our first day dawned grey and gloomy, but with high spirits we set off from the shelter. Soon enough the first groans from the average 25kg packs were heard as we tried to peer through misty skies towards Shotover Saddle. The first inevitable debate about which route to take wasn't too long in coming. Our choices were to follow the 'always right!' Moir or choose a diagonal sidle towards Shotover Saddle, further downstream from the conventional route. A note for future travelers over this route: stick to Moir, it would be far quicker. Our route was across tussocks to start with, but soon we hit a band of scrub about the same time as the rain started (or we walked up into the rain). Visibility soon dropped to virtually nil so it was time for the GPS. We had pre-loaded the GPS with our planned 'waypoints' so in the field it was merely a matter of selecting which waypoint you wanted to get to and follow the arrow. We trudged on towards Shotover Saddle, enduring a miserable lunch in the murk. Eventually we left the snowgrass and headed for the scree on top of the saddle, but the view just wasn't to be. With rain remaining persistent it was now important to get as low as we could in the Tyndall and find somewhere to camp. There are some nice ledges not far below the saddle, but at around 1400m they were still too high. Finally we found an average area at about 1000m on the true right of Tyndall Stream. I have certainly had better campsites but beggars can't be choosers. We cooked our first meal in the fly and settled in for a long night, with the rain continuing to bucket down. We made a bad mistake here by not putting our packs at our heads – the rain pooled very quickly in the fly, and from here onto (and into) Ann's sleeping bag. Not a good start to the trip.

The rain did ease up the next morning, and by lunchtime it had stopped. Rather than push on with wet gear we elected to spend a second night in the Tyndall and dry out our gear.

The third morning dawned clear so it was back into it again. Because we were forced to drop so low into the Tyndall to camp we now climbed back

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up to the ridge dividing the Tyndall from the Tummel Burn. Then it was just a matter of following the ridge down until you come to a side gully exiting into the Tyndall. We picked up the cairns as this gully led us to the bushline. There is a marked permalot track through the bush to Tummel Burn Hut (which is shown on the wrong side of the Tyndall on the map). Lunch here gave us a further opportunity to dry out our damp gear.

Now that we were in the Shotover Valley proper travel became easier. Apparently there is a 4WD track of sorts on the true left, but somewhat higher than the river. As the day now was quite hot we elected to travel down the river. Excepting one area where we had to climb through the scrub this worked quite well. Once past the upper gorgy section it was pleasant strolling to Hundred Mile Hut, which is where we spent the third night.

Antony Pettinger

(to be continued.....)

Snowcraft weekend

3-5 August

After a short delay because no one had the key to unlock the trailer, seven intrepid adventurers under the leadership of Matt, Ralph and Dave, set out on Friday evening. A short stop in Alexandra for refreshments with entertainment provided by local entrepreneurs who were selling beer from a keg for \$1 a mug, unless you were young and female when it was on the house! We were greeted on Saturday morning to a lovely sunrise making it much easier to get up at 7am, and we were all up and away to the snowfields at the Remarkables for 9am. Ice axe in hand (the uphill side) we were soon kicking steps up and down a slope getting used to moving on snow.

After which, with crampons attached, we went higher up in search of a steep snow slope so that we could practise throwing ourselves down. First on our bum, then on ours backs, using the ice axe to arrest the fall. Try going down head first, and don't forget to keep your feet up. So we did.

After we had all managed to cool off with snow down our necks we

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walked over to Lake Alta. The ridge looked tantalisingly close, but with the day drawing on it was back to the car park for 4.30pm. A lovely warm shower washed away the aches and a hot meal had everyone feeling good about the day and retiring to bed early.

Unfortunately the weather deteriorated overnight and after waiting and hoping for some improvement we decided to return home

Derek Mycock

Rongomai and Honeycomb Tracks

Sunday 12th August

Flash floods were the first thing to come to mind when we pulled up at Evansdale and discovered the gigantic beaver mound of tree trunks and branches piled against the bridge over Careys Creek. We came across several more of these piles up the river and surmised they were from the 2006 Anzac weekend flash flood. More recent high waters were evident in flattened sedge all the way up the first part of the track that follows the river. The actual track was dry by and large but there was plenty of cold water wading as the track criss-crosses the river. Gaiters served well and all but myself were equipped! Luckily good old woollen socks do keep their warmth.

John, a new-comer to Dunedin and keen tramper, announced as he came out of the last river crossing that his feet had only just got wet, thanks to the virtues of his German brand boots and super gaiters. This was truly impressive, as we seemed to become enchanted with the enticing pools of the swift and clear-flowing Careys Creek and obsessed to find Waitiripaka Falls on our way out, having missed it on the way up. We chased a side creek in the only feasible manner, wading and rock hopping for 5 or 10 minutes but didn't discover the Falls. This would be a great little summer venture to pass a hot afternoon and hopefully be rewarded. This time of

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year, don't forget your spare clothes!

This tributary creek hides just downstream from the spot in the bank that started us up the Rongomai Track. We immediately started up steeply and followed a narrow ridge line through regenerated bush, eventually coming to pine forest which is currently being clear-felled. For a short section we had to do some nifty foot work on the edge of the ridge, clinging to branches, as we maneuvered our way up and around some of this fell that covers the track. The track then became overwhelmed by imprints from hoary great felling machinery. The DOC sign marking the turnoff to the track that traverses the gully over to the Honeycomb track, was completely split in half. As the wreckage didn't look set to abate we decided to take this gully track rather than carry on up to Mountain Road.

The gully is sheltered and north facing one and seemed seldom used. Well-formed steps manage the steeper muddier patches and huge chest-high ferns often hid our footfall, giving the feel of re-discovering a secret garden. The track seemed to come to an end about half way, but looking down to our left we saw a huge sculpted old tree trunk fallen down over steps that led the track at a sharp right angle. There was no choice but to maneuver our way, squeezing down past it. In wet weather this track would be very slippery. Pig rooting was evident and a bridge that once served for crossing the natural watercourse at the bottom of the gully, was completely torn out of place and beached on it's side further downstream. But no matter, when we reached the top of the adjacent ridge and joined the Honeycomb Track, we were unanimous in feeling we had just experienced a pretty magic little walk and were puzzled that the DoC signpost gave no indication that the track existed from that side.

As nobody had cleared a picnic spot for us, we stopped up for lunch on the track itself before the Honeycomb started a steep descent back down to Careys Creek. In the summer it would be good to time things to be down at the creek for a break. It certainly beguiles with it's cavernous nature and smooth rock formations, and the redundant water-pipes for the Seacliff Hospital supply from Black Gully Dam add intrigue from times gone by. The descent itself was dry slippery and we had to watch our step as much as with the wet mud sliding potential in the gully. From when you reach the creek again it is probably about an hour's walk back out to Evansdale.

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We went in about 9.40am and came out at 3.15pm. With the Fall's side-show and a couple of twenty minute breaks, that means it took us the recommended 4 and a half hours. We weren't the fastest paced on the block for sure – and enjoyed a fair bit of discussion about the flora, as another newcomer to Dunedin with us was Kate Barnard from the UK, who is on a year long working experience at the Botanical Gardens. If I remember rightly, I think debate sided on the Honeycomb being the steeper track. Either way, you're going to get a good cardiovascular workout for part of the journey. It was a pleasant and varied hike in the good company of Lucy, Kate, John, Janet, and Bronwen. Thanks go to Bronwen for organising us, wielding the map and keeping us on track.

Teresa Gutteridge

Pisa Range

August 11-12

One day the trip to Mt. Armstrong from the Brewster Hut will come off. Perhaps next year will prove third time lucky. However this year the forecast heavy rains from the north-west were materialising as the party gathered and so Plan B, a foray into the south-western Pisa Range using the Meg Hut, swung into action. Strong winds spat twigs and rocked the van on the way over to Alex and the weather prospects were sufficiently grim that we were granted the luxury of a Saturday lie-in at Chateau Somerville.

Leaving Wanaka to sort out its power cut we sped up the Cardrona Valley to Tuohys Gully and the steady 5km pull up the pack track to Tuhoys Saddle. (Choose your preferred spelling – the recent Terralink sheet offers both) Heavier showers set in at the saddle and, when the hut was spotted below the descent was taken at a gallop by some. Over a brew a number of options were offered. In a steady downpour some of the party split to ex-

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plore the valley of the Meg, taking in the Miners Hut, while a couple selflessly offered to stay and look after the hut.

Phil, Wayne, Trevor, Andrew and Pam donned as much gear as possible and set off to see how far they could get towards the Roaring Meg Power Station. They had to jog at times to keep warm in the sleet, or was it the pace set by the leader in his running shoes? Several river crossings were made until the cold, wet conditions made the decision to return an easy one. Unfortunately one of the party leapt a little too eagerly across a flooded stream, injuring her leg, so the pace was a little more sedate and conversational on the return trip.

With a decent blaze and a few cookers in action the hut warmed up. Soon the exotic odours of mulling wine mingled with those from the steaming socks. However it's inclusion on future trips should be treated with caution as on this occasion it unleashed a flow of increasingly outrageous puns, so much so that two folk erected tents to escape the torture.

Sunday dawned with clear skies and a thin covering of snow to the door. Quickly away across the Meg, we zig-zagged up the poled route of the pack track towards the south-west, racing the sun to the tops where we hoped to find some hardened slopes on which to practice axe techniques. Great views opened out of snow fields bathed in the rosy glow of the rising sun while periodic avalanche protection booms from the neighbouring ski fields told of their heavy overnight falls.

Satisfyingly crunchy at times but frustratingly prone to plunging folk into thigh high drifts, the snow was never hard nor steep enough to permit useful axe practice so the group took in the views with a snack before the return to the hut. Here a final brew was enjoyed, basking in the sun and casting an eye over the dying stand of pine nearby. Black and gaunt they stood and, while they might be a reminder of settlers' early presence in the region, their destruction had been decreed by DoC to prevent their seeding the locality.

A last push up to the saddle before the descent to the van, reached just as the sleet drifted in again. Thanks to good planning, we had made the most of the window in the weather.

Harry Griffiths and Pam McKelvey for Wayne Hodgekinson, Grant Burnard, Lynley McCristell, Andrew Donnelly, Jonette Service, Trevor Mason, Alex Tups and Kristina Buch. And thanks to Philip.

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

The new trip programme is currently in production, with the day trips still to be completed. The weekend trip programme has been discussed and there appears to be good interest in at least a couple of the trips still to come this year. November will see us heading back to Timaru River with our eyes firmly on Dingle or Corner Peaks. Two years following our trip to Stafford Bay we are returning to Jacksons Bay for what can be a great round trip. December will see two new trips for the club. The first is a cross-over of the Routeburn Track, but in one day. The other trip is designed to be the end of year trip for the club. Following on from the successes of the Silver Peak Tramp and Train and last years 'Ultimate Day Trip' we are having a relaxing weekend trip down Lake Roxburgh from Alexandra. We will be camping overnight and all excess gear will be carried by boat! Being relatively close to Dunedin means that it will possible to have a Saturday morning departure. More information on this trip will be available closer to the time.

3 – 4 November
Timaru River / Mt. Dingle (All)
Ann Burton 476-2360

If you don't like getting your feet wet then this trip is not for you. We are headed for the Timaru River, which drains into the eastern side of Lake Hawea. There is a nice camping site near the lake under gum trees which we will use on Friday night.

There are trips available for all grades from easy (E - 3 to 5 hours tramping time per day) through to fitness essential (FE - 10+ hours tramping per day!)

There is a track of sorts through the lower gorge section of Timaru River,

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but the river is much more fun. In the past we have done a trip to Junction Hut, then up Deer Spur Creek to the prominent junction. From here we followed the leading (steep) ridge between the two branches of Deer Spur Creek towards the saddle between Dingle and Corner Peaks. A beautiful camp in a basin was followed the next day by a climb of Corner Peak – what a view! Following the creek back down returns you to the road-end. This makes a nice trip, graded fit (7-9 hours per day). There is an option to do a full round trip via Moonlight Hut, Dingle Peak, Corner Peak and out. We discussed following the ridge from Corner Peak directly to the road-end, but it looked ‘interesting’ in a couple of points.

An easier option is to travel into Moonlight Hut, involving some tracked and untracked country. Another trip for the fitter is the traverse of Dingle Peak via Moonlight Hut, and coming back down Deer Spur Creek, with an optional side trip up Corner Peak. Corner Peak offers the best viewpoint in the area.

Trip list closes 25 October.

17 – 18 November
Jacksons Bay / Stafford Bay (All)
Ann Burton 476-2360

It is a bit of a drive to Jacksons Bay from Dunedin, but the trip is certainly worth it. The main option for this trip will be the round trip from Jacksons Bay to Stafford bay, overnighing here and returning to Jacksons Bay. The tides will determine the direction, as a low tide is needed in a couple of places along the coast from Stafford Bay to Smoothwater Bay (everyone got completely soaked by the sea in 2005).

Tramping in Westland is certainly different from our normal tramping areas, and being coastal means the climbs aren’t too much (apart from the high altitude pass of 243m). Like the trip before it, expect to get wet feet, as in parts the creeks form the track. There are also 5-6 crossings of the Stafford required, which can be major crossings. Recent reports indicate Stafford Hut is becoming the worse for wear so it may be that DoC are neglecting this area, which would be a shame.

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If the coastal aspect of this trip doesn't appeal then it is possible to travel to Stafford Bay and return via the Kakapo Creek route.

If possible an early departure (3-4pm) from Dunedin is planned due to the distance of the drive and we are looking at arranging accommodation in Haast for the Friday night (beats a MOW gravel pit in the pouring rain!). Since this is a trip that would be unpleasant and possibly dangerous in wet weather, there is a backup trip planned for the following weekend. The trip list will close November 8.

Committee Members 2007-2008

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Greg Powell	454 4828
Secretary	Jill McAliece	455 6740
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Imm. Past Pres	Terry Casey	454 4592
Chief Guide/Transport	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
Library	Kathryn Jeyes	455 2473
Clubrooms Officer	Terry Casey	454 4592
Website/Bushcraft Director	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Publicity	Tony Timperley	473 7257
	Ralph Harvey	453 4330
(outside committee)		
Social Convenor	Fiona Webster	487 8176
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 November Bulletin, deadline is 12/10/07, publication 25/10/07. 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

Bethunes Gully/Mt Cargill/Grahams Bush (E/M) 30 September

This is a day trip of about five hours. We will take two cars, leaving one car at the Sawyers Bay exit and starting the tramp at Bethunes Gully. The walk continues from Bethunes Gully 4km to the top of Mt Cargill (676m) where we will stop for lunch. Hopefully there will be no fog, giving wonderful views over the city. After lunch we will visit Buttars Peak, with the famous not to be missed "organ pipes", then descend through rain forest known as Grahams Bush to Sawyers Bay. Trip cost \$4.

Leader: Michael Firmin 454 4168

Unexplored Silver Peaks (F) 7 October

Turn up at 9am at the clubrooms if you are feeling sufficiently insane to go somewhere none of us have dared venture to before. I'm sure you won't regret it. (The Silver Peaks might never be the same again.) Intrigued? Phone Richard Pettinger on 487 9488 if you want to know more.

Combined Search & Rescue Exercise 12-13 October

4WD the Silver Peaks? How about a helicopter ride over our wonderful hills? This might be you if you join the Combined teams SAREX (Search And Rescue Exercise)! **PLEASE NOTE** - Friday night and Saturday, finishing by 5 pm, with Sat night BBQ/social at the Clubrooms.

This is a great way to find out more about Search and Rescue and work with some of the other members of the team. The aim for this year is to get all volunteers out and searching for most of the exercise time. One shift will start at 6 pm Friday (be prepared to search into the night), and the second at 8am Saturday. A trip list will go up early October, but please ring me for further information. SAR experience is NOT required!

Teresa 477 4987

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Saddle Hill (E/M)
14 October

I hope to do the same walk as last year, which took about six hours. We meet at the clubrooms at 9 am, then drive to East Taieri and park 200 m from the main south highway along Riccarton Rd East.

We'll walk through a variety of farmland and native bush, stopping for lunch at the woolshed on Scroggs Hill Rd. After traversing both hills we'll go back down to our cars. Transport cost is \$4.

Leader: Alan Scurr 489 5538

Labour Weekend
21 October

No daytrip - enjoy your long weekend, whether in the hills, or at home getting into the garden or house painting!

Chalkies Loop (E)
28 October

Note: This trip differs from that advertised on the trip card. In particular, the usual 'no dogs' rule applies.

The Chalkies is named for the colour of the sandstone cliffs that can be seen on the side of Powder Hill. The track is a relatively short (approx three hour) walk that climbs up one spur of Powder Hill (about 400 metres of climbing, but there's no hurry), then down an adjacent ridge. The bottom is unmetalled road, but the rest of it is a good bush walk that gives way to tussock at the top, where we will take a short detour to get to the top of Powder Hill with a really good view of the Taieri Plain. Cost \$3.

Leader: Roy Ward 473-9518