

**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.



*MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!*



6 Dec

Sandra de Vries will lead a walk up Flagstaff. depart clubrooms 7pm. Bring warm clothes and torch. All welcome.

13 Dec

OTMC BBQ at Woodhaugh Gardens - details on page 3

17 Jan

Bring Your Own - welcome to another year with OTMC!

24 Jan

Paul Gray (optometrist)- on trampers' eyes, sun and snow damage, foreign bodies and other accidental damage, and glasses versus contact lenses.

31 Jan

Walk to Sandfly Bay to see the penguins, depart club 7pm.

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**

Well, here we are at the final Bulletin for the year – already!. While club activity has dropped recently there is still plenty of enthusiasm within the club and those who are able to partake in the activities are enjoying them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has assisted the committee with the running of the club during 2007. All clubs need a core volunteer base to succeed and the OTMC is lucky to have a committed group of members willing to organise the different activities we run. Leading the weekend trips in particular can take a lot of time and I especially thank all the leaders who have carried out this essential task over the year.

I would like to make a special mention here of the extraordinary service Fiona Webster has given the club in the role as our Social Convener. After more than seven years Fiona is stepping down at the end of the year. Since September 2000 we have been treated to an impressively diverse and interesting social programme, thanks to Fiona. I can only imagine how difficult it would be to secure a speaker pretty much every week, over the course of the year. I take my hat off to Fiona for being able to do this in excess of seven years.

Fiona, on behalf of the OTMC committee and the entire club I thank you whole-heartily for the commitment you have shown to the club over the years. I have often heard people wonder ‘how does she do it’?, following another very enjoyable evening at the tramping club. We have been very lucky to have you in this important role and you will be very hard to replace. Thank you.

Finally, I would wish the committee and club a very happy Christmas and hope that you are all able to get out some-time for a walk somewhere.

See you in 2008

Antony Pettinger

Membership

It is good to have Marina Hanger, 94 Glenross St, 476 2013 rejoining the club this month. She was previously a member in the '80s.

Greta Doo and Betul Kurt are not renewing their membership. Betul is off to London.

Pam McKelvey has moved to 7 Reservoir Rd, Warrington, 021 216 5334; and Jasmin Taylor to 54 Clermiston Ave, fax 487 9190.

Tramping companion over the holidays?

A German student, Korvin Lemke, has been at Logan Park High School for this last term and will be back for Year 13 during terms 1& 2 next year. He is looking for people to tramp with over the next two months. Korvin is at 40 Grandview Crescent, Opoho, ph 473 7831, and would appreciate some calls.

Ian Sime
Membership Secretary

13 December
Final clubnight for 2007

BBQ Woodhaugh Gardens
6pm - 9pm



**BYO food, drink and games, BBQs are
provided courtesy of DCC. Family and
friends most welcome.**



DOUG FORRESTER

16/12/1937– 16/10/2007

It is with great sadness that the OTMC learnt of the passing of Doug Forrester on October 16.


I guess every club has its characters and Doug was certainly one of the ours. Doug joined the club after completing Bushcraft '82 and quickly showed what sort of trumper he would be. He was always keen on going somewhere different, getting off-track and up high, as well as those dreaded early starts.

Doug was one of the first people I really knew in the club as we lived close by and ended up on many of the same trips. He was always reliable, especially when it came to jokes and stories, of which he seemed to have an endless supply (from the ladies at Ross Home apparently, whilst he worked there).

Doug's love of tramping led to an inevitable attraction to the peaks, and I can remember the whole club being very proud of Doug when he summited Aspiring in the late 1980's.

Doug was an active trip and party leader, and a proponent of the 'go-lite' movement, in fact he went so light on one trip to the Kepler he forgot his sleeping bag! Doug had an aversion for committees, but he looked after the club huts and property for a while, and made an excellent social sec-

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retary. If there was a track workparty on, you could count on Doug to be there. He also had this knack for asking the hard questions at club meetings, and wasn't backward in speaking his mind, especially when it came to 'women's work', a favourite topic of his!

There have been a lot of great trips with Doug to reflect upon such as Little Domet in '86, the attempts on Erebus from 1985 to 1988 and the infamous trip to the double Lake Nerine back in 1990 (Doug is one of only 4 people I know who has actually seen the second Lake Nerine, very similar in fact to the first). Doug was quite firmly in my thoughts on the recent club ascent of Dingle Peak, and it was a poignant moment to stand on top of Dingle, gazing at Aspiring and reflecting on trips past.

I know that I learnt a lot from Doug in my early days, and his willingness to share freely his tramping knowledge will ensure his legacy will remain in the hills and mountains he loved so much.

Doug had been ill for some time and his last trip with the club was the 2005 ten day trip to Lochnagar. This trip now has extra special meaning to me, as I'm sure it will to the other members of the trip.

A lot of us knew him as "The Old Bugger", some knew him as "The Phantom", and the club has sadly lost a true character, a great friend and fellow tramper/climber.

On behalf of the entire OTMC, I offer the club's condolences to Marie and family, and thank you for allowing Doug to be part of our lives.

Antony Pettinger



OTMC SILVERPEAKS MARATHON (FE)

FEBRUARY 16 (SATURDAY)

For those hardy trampers amongst us who like a challenge, the Silverpeaks Marathon is a little more than two months away. No, not the "42 km run along a road" kind of Marathon - it is a tramp for approximately 65 km through much of the Silverpeaks, starting at 4:30 am! There is also a half (about 35 km) option which usually starts at 6:30 am.

NOTE: Wenita is currently logging in the Mount Allan area and forest access is still being negotiated, so there may be a route change this year, or constraints about the exact route to be taken through the forest. If so I will let interested people know a.s.a.p. I hope to finalise details by the end of the year.

Participants must have adequate fitness and equipment, be bushcraft competent, and be able to navigate in adverse conditions. It is preferred for people to go in small groups rather than alone, and it is *vital* to be familiar with the route beforehand. (Several people have had trouble over the years). In particular, I recommend the 'Classic Silverpeaks Circuit' on 3rd February as good experience. Please contact me if you want to tramp over any parts of the route beforehand. (Powder Hill is good to have a look at, as it seems to change every year.)

The Marathon often gets excellent support from volunteers, who help make the event go smoothly and safely. It is something of a tradition to have support people at the start, the Hightop turn-off, and The Gap. If you are interested in helping out at a checkpoint (which could be quite a pleasant day trip), I welcome hearing from you.

Participants must pass through the several checkpoints listed below (assuming we get to do the normal course, see note above), but choose their own route. Grid references in brackets refer to topographical map NZMS 260 series, maps I44 & J44 (Dunedin).

1. Start at the Booth Road end of the Pineapple Track (149828)
2. Bullring, Whare Flat Road (119828)

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3. A point between the White Hill Cairn and Powder Hill (075863)
4. Big Stream (055905)
5. Poplar Hut (060918)
6. Mt. John (678m) (076947)
7. The saddle south-west of the Gap (126976)
8. Along Rocky Ridge to the track adjacent to Pulpit Rock (116927)
9. Old Green Hut site (125918)
10. Swampy Summit (137873)
11. Back to the Pineapple track
12. Finish at the Booth Road end of the Pineapple Track (149828).

The half Marathon follows much of the same route, missing out points 4 through 7, and instead going between checkpoints 3 and 8 along Long Ridge.

Unlike other day trips, it is important to know in advance who is doing the trip, so I will arrange a triplist and hopefully a route display at the club-rooms. Because of uncertainty over the route please also contact me directly so I can keep you up to date with any details.

Organiser: Roy Ward, 473-9518, royward@physics.otago.ac.nz

**Journey to the Centre of Te Papanui
9 – 10 February 2008 (Overnight trip)**

This grand expedition style trip will involve various teams attempting to reach the centre of Te Papanui. There is the possibility of a cross-over from north to south. Prizes given for most bizarre object and activity conducted at the centre point. Due to the possibility of the monotony of the landscape causing temporary madness, a strict policy will be enforced of no sharp knives, letter openers, scissors, tradesman's tools, screwdrivers, darts, baseball bats, pool cues, golf clubs or knitting needles. All trampers must wear something red to assist in identification from air rescue teams. The trip leaves the OTMC club rooms at 8 am on Saturday morning. Transport by car pool, cost \$10. There will be a sign-up list in the club rooms.

Expedition leader: Antony Hamel 453 5240

Search And Rescue

A belated thanks to all those members who participated in the SAREX on 13 & 14 October - it was great to see the enthusiasm and tramping support from all, especially Kathryn who stoically battled McDonalds Rd gorse for too many hours (and found one of the missing runners), and Fiona and Derek whose day was somewhat longer than planned!

It was interesting to hear comments on Friday (an evening exercise centred around the Ben Rudd's property) from the management team looking for Tramping Club members with good knowledge of the area - the find that night was in fact made by a Red Cross member who knew about the stone "drain" just south of the hut, and explored carefully in the dark. Others, who had never visited the shelter, simply milled around the clearing.

The Saturday exercise was based on two runners who planned a run to Jubilee and back, but had not returned. Good tracking was done after heavy rain allowed clean tracks and good footprints (and not many others around, which also helped!). There was a note at Jubilee saying that the runners had gone on to ABC caves, and a note there (although search parties never got there!) to say one had a sore leg, so they were going back out via Yellow Hut. This is an accepted route both for runners and a day trip, using Tunnels Track out from Yellow Hut, but with lack of local knowledge, the management team saw McDonalds Rd as the logical route out, and overlooked Tunnels Track altogether until later in the day. They had apparently planned a team to go to Yellow Hut via Tunnels early in the day, but had less teams than anticipated and recognised this oversight at the debrief. It was also a successful exercise to map the areas where radio communication is particularly challenging - apparently it is no longer possible to lean over from the top bunk of (the new) Jubilee Hut to get cellphone reception! Both of these areas are commonly-used stomping grounds for our members, and local knowledge was the key to a successful search. Many thanks to Rob Porteous, Trevor Mason (observer), Monika Fry, Ralph Harvey, Fiona Webster, Kathryn Jeyes, and Derek Mycock.

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ALSO

A very special thanks to members who gave up their warm, dry homes to search for a girl missing from Ashburn Hall a couple of weeks ago. I am aware that this was a particularly challenging situation, with her previous behaviour pattern and instinct telling us that she would be out of the rain, warm and dry. Searching for someone who probably would not reply, even if she had been present in the search area, is challenging enough without throwing in the grotty weather as well.

I hope that you all read in the ODT of the successful outcome to this situation a couple of days later. Megan was found walking back to Ashburn Hall, having broken into a dwelling on the property owned by Mr Childs. She is to be prosecuted for breaking and entering as a deterrent to further incidents like this.

Many thanks to Ann Burton, Wolfgang Gerber, Henri Rawlings, Ralph Harvey, and Arthur Blondell (who were able to attend), and to and those who were able to tell me quickly that they couldn't, so we could move on to ringing the next person.

Teresa Wasilewska
SAR Contact for OTMC

Trip Reports

UNEXPLORED SILVER PEAKS

7 OCTOBER

Maybe it was the heavy rain in the night, or Richard's suggestion that you must be crazy to do these trips, or the size of the keen crowd who were away at Mt Somers, or the forecast for a cold front at midday. Whatever it was, only one person turned up to do this trip with us. Trevor had seen quite a bit of the Silver Peaks, but wanted a bit of a workout somewhere not too lame. Unfortunately, I was the one who turned out to be lame – a frozen shoulder that I thought would be OK unless we had vertical fern

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like two years ago. Richard wasn't therefore keen to commit to a remote or too lengthy venue and, as it happened, none of us had been on all of the new maze of tracks on the west of the Swampy-Flagstaff ridge. Trevor was disappointed, saying he would leave that country until he was in his seventies.

Anyway, we parked up at the foot of Freeman Track and set off into that system of tracks, emerging on Swampy to eat lunch in the shelter of a building. By this stage more than my shoulder was frozen so I decided Richard should cut his lunch short and then we could all go home. I felt better going home, until I slipped in a creek and wrenched my already delicate shoulder. So, sorry Trevor, you didn't get much of a day, but we enjoyed your stories very much.

We explored the maze, and had no real idea where we were at some stages, and bush-bashed in true masochists' style when we lost interest in the track.

Richard was very upset to see all the Darwin's barberry growing alongside the tracks. He began pulling out the first ones he saw, but soon lost interest as the job would take a few more people than us three. He would have been still up there.

Tracy for Richard Pettinger and Trevor Mason.

Spiers Road – Ben Rudd's hut site – Davies Track

4 November

There were seven keen folk at the clubrooms for this easy walk on a morning of beautifully fine, warm conditions. Some people who might have been having too much fun the night before didn't show up by 9:10 am, so we set off to Spiers Road, Halfway Bush, and juggled a car around to Booth Road.

The trip starts up through a patch of gorse on the only legal road to the Club's Ben Rudd's property. We noted that some of the all-important white marker posts have been wrenched out of the ground, at least one being bent somewhat. There must be large elephants working these fields.

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If you couldn't see the posts, there was a line of sweet violets to follow. There was no sign of the adjacent farmer, but we did see Shrek and his/her many mammoth-woolled kin. The group did some interesting speculation on various values. We passed Ben's walls, and speculated on the evidence of the little fellow's remarkable strength. A bit of holly and Darwin's barberry was encountered before we struck off up the rest of the road to the Flagstaff walkway. A brief stop for breath and views on the summit, and then we set off in a straight-line bearing towards Swampy Summit. Veering too much to the left, we struck the most rugged piece of the trip, the bit of the property between the reserve and the firebreak, which took a while to negotiate. (This section was rougher than anything the Unexplored Silver Peaks trip a few weeks before had stumbled upon.)

We took in the results of the vegetation management below the skidsite then dropped to the shelter, where the water hole looked very sad indeed. Packs were left while we investigated the Douglas seat and the "Rhodies Gone Wild", most of which were "Rhodies Gone To Seed". Never mind, it still looked great: a Himalayan Experience on our doorstep, complete with bamboo (yoiks!). The lovely streams there made a welcome refreshment stop. The tiny scattered remnant of Darwin's barberry on that bit of the Jim Freeman Track was despatched.

A sunny, convivial lunch was had on the Linda Mercier seat, and nobody seemed in a hurry to leave. But, the threat of a SW change had been ever-present and threatening for an hour or so, so we thought we'd try to get home before it came through. No such luck. Although we didn't muck around, it reached us when we were in the open just before the bush of Davies' Track. It became very cold and damp quite fast. The bush was dark, but really pretty in a spooky kind of way, with the occasional hobbit running under our feet.

At the bottom of the track, the leader became all emotional about what a privilege it is to be able to lead trips to such nice places with such nice people. Then we went home.

Thanks to Alan Scurr for bringing his nice, new car. To Roy and Kate for walking home from Booth Road despite the rain, and saving us more car shuffling. Richard Pettinger for Roy Ward, Hilda Firth, Janet Barclay, Andrea Crawford, Kate Barnard and Alan Scurr.

Timaru River / Corner Peak / Mt Dingle

3 - 4 November

Timaru River feeds into Lake Hawea and is reached via a gravel road from Hawea Flats township. On Friday a group of seven keen trampers set off in two private vehicles, camping that night at the Timaru River car park. Fine weather and a nice sheltered spot meant a reasonably comfortable night's sleep for all.

After a leisurely breakfast the group set off up the Timaru River following an angler who had arrived during breakfast. The river itself is quite gorgy in places and was much higher than I remember last time I tramped this route. A number of river crossings were required and in spite of the high water levels these were all done safely (even though one of the ladies stated she had got her "naughty bits" wet!) Once out of the gorge the going was easier and we reached the musterers hut where Deer Spur creek feeds into the main river. After a quick breather we broke left from the Timaru River and headed up Deer Spur Creek. 30-40 minutes later we left the valley floor and climbed a steep ridge that heads to the saddle between Corner Peak and Mt Dingle.

Once we were further up the ridge we identified a suitable camping spot for the Saturday night and at this point the group split into two. Four continued on up the ridge to the saddle and from there on to Corner Peak, while the other three dropped their packs near the campsite and proceeded to Mt Dingle.

By about 7.30 pm all had arrived safely back at the camp site to enjoy a very social and delicious meal. It was a little windy and looked like the rain forecast for Sunday might arrive early. However this was not to be and we all enjoyed a bit of a sleep in on Sunday before commencing our descent back down the ridge to the Timaru River and the cars.

An enjoyable weekend with all achieving their tramping goals. The small number made for great company and a lot of fun and hilarity.

Greg Powell for Ann, Hilary, Dianna, Anthony, Jonnette and John.

Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

January 19-20

Mt Cook In Summer (All)

Sandra De Vries 454 4516

There are some places we generally head to in winter for various reasons. Well, here is the opportunity to visit Mt. Cook in warmer climes. While there may be an option to camp at Mt. Cook, the options to overnight at higher altitudes are appealing, especially considering the views that are possible.

One option will be to Mueller, which is often requested. The new hut will most likely be pretty busy at this time of the year so we will probably be looking at camping, perhaps in the vicinity of the Annette Plateau.

Another option will be the Mt. Cook Range, which is the dividing ridge between the Tasman and the Hooker. Mt. Wakefield will be the destination, and this will be in remembrance of Doug Forrester who enjoyed this ridge immensely. There has been a reccy (from afar) done on the scree slope from Wakefield to the Hooker valley floor – this will be the quick route out. Other trips will be available depending on numbers.

There is a list in the clubrooms now which will close on January 10, so book in 2007 as this is before the first club night.

February 2-3

Mt. Domet Area (All)

Alan Thomson 455 7878

This trip was a really neat start to 2006, so we are repeating it again. The aim then was '4 peaks in one day'. We managed 3 (Little Domet, Big

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Domet and Grayson) but it was a wonderful day. The ideal way to tackle this is to walk in and camp on the Friday night. This gives plenty of time for a longish day (depending on participants) for the Saturday. Sunday provides the opportunity of an attempt on Cone, or perhaps a siesta under the trees at the nearby historic Danseys Pass establishment.

At this time of year Mt. Domet is within the ability of most trampers, being little more than a rock scramble. The view from the top is impressive, from the Kakanui coast to the Waitaki plains and right thought to Mt. Cook. Recommended (and there are no trees!). You will, however get wet feet.

Trip list closes January 24, first club night of 2008.

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 January/February Bulletin, deadline is 18/01/08, publication 24/01/08. 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

Outram Glen to Lee Stream and Beyond (E/M) 2 December

We follow the Taieri River for about an hour and half up to Lee Stream. On crossing the river (wet feet) we intend climbing up to a low ridge, which should give us some good views into Lee Stream. If adventuresome desires persist we can explore further into Lee Stream or up the Taieri Gorge using our Bush Bashing 101 skills. Cost \$3

Leader: Ran Turner 473 8652

Nichols Creek / Bivouac Rock / Jim Freeman (M) 9 December

We meet at the club rooms and drive to the bottom of Pineapple. We walk along the road to Nichols and up it cutting across to Pineapple and up to the top of Flagstaff. We cross-country to the firebreak and down past Bivouac Rock to the Whare Flat Road, We walk to the bottom of Jim Freemans and up it. We return to the cars via Pineapple or some variation, depending on energy levels. Good views.

Leader: Bill Wilson 477 2282

Jubilee Hut (M) 16 December

The plan is to park at Semple Road, walk along the well formed manuka and tussock tracks to Hightop, Pulpit Rock and then down the Devils staircase to Jubilee Hut and back the same way. Meet at the clubs rooms at 9 am, and we plan to be back at the club rooms around 5 pm-ish .

Leader: Michael Firmin 454 4168

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Rustlers Ridge (E/M)
20 January

We drive to the carpark at Pigeon Flat, then walk along the pipeline track through some lovely forested areas. After climbing up Rustlers Ridge and along the tops with some spectacular views of the Silverpeaks (weather permitting), we will return via Swampy Summit and the boardwalk. So come along and enjoy the day, making sure you're prepared for changeable weather. The walk should take approx. 4 hours.

Leader: Gavin MacArthur 455 0027

Potters - Old Man Range (E)
27 January

We drive through Roxburgh to Shingle Creek, then up the Waikaia Bush Rd to the summit ridge (providing the road is negotiable - we may need to take 4WDs). It is then an easy level walk along a grassy track to the huts. Home late afternoon.

Leader: Ian Sime 453 6185



WANTED
SOCIAL CONVENOR

**Must have good knowledge of wine
and social contacts!**

**Contact the committee
c/- Antony Pettinger 473 7924
if you'd like to give it a go.**