

The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering
Club Inc # 820 August 2021



Upcoming Trips & Events

- ★ WEEKENDS ★ Mt Cook Range / Mt Wakefied ★ Mt Titiroa ★ Rees - Dart - Cascade Saddle ★ Nelson Lakes ★
- ★ SUNDAYS ★ Beaumont - Millers Flat & return (cycle) ★ Three Peaks - Escarpment Track - Cloud Forests of Leith circuit ★ Signal Hill-Ravensbourn ★ Whare Flat ★ Wildlife Safari ★ Mihiwaka Bushwack ★

The mountains are calling and I must go



Rose looking over Brewster Hut. Photo credit: Caitlin Robertson

OTMC Bank Account

The OTMC bank account with ASB is ... 12-3150-0311684-00

Please include your name and the reason for the payment when using internet banking (which is the preferred option). Non-members must pay for trips when signing the trip list, members should pay before departure. Vehicle suppliers/drivers will normally not pay the trip fee and will be reimbursed fuel costs later (check with the trip leader or Treasurer Sharen if in doubt).

Gear Hire

OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire.

NO hire charge for members for the first week!

See or phone our Gear Hire Committee member.

- Ice Axes
- Crampons
- Cookers & Billies
- Packs
- Tent/Flys
- Climbing Helmets

Your Committee

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Get in touch

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, 3 Young Street, Dunedin

**<http://otmc.co.nz> <https://facebook.com/groups/otmcnz>
otmcnz@gmail.com**

**Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin Doors open 7:30 for
8pm start, all welcome**

Sign up to our email list: <https://lists.otago.ac.nz/listinfo/otmc>

Whats new?

New Huts!

Well kind of, the old Lewis hut that resided between Mackay and Heaphy Huts has finally been replaced!

Welcome in the Lewis Shelter, built on a high terrace behind the old hut site. Due to the area being prone to seasonal flooding this hut will provide emergency accommodation for those who are travelling between the Mackay and Heaphy huts when the river is too dangerous to cross.

Other than being an emergency shelter for those walking the track will have a nice place for a lunch break, take in the panoramic views of the Heaphy valley, check out the suspension bridge and observe the wildlife.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Kahikatea Hut

Kahikatea Hut. Photo Credit: Huts and Tracks – Home of the Backcountry Trust

Thanks to Barry Wilson from the NZDA we have more details coming out of the new hut in Moeraki! The latest news is a



party will be finishing up the hut on the 11th and 12th Dec. The booking system for the hut will also be in place in time for the new year!

I'm sure you will all be very enthusiastic to go take a look around the new North Otago Hut!



While we are speaking of huts...

Just a wee reminder to read up on the huts you plan to be visiting. DOC have recently put the prices up and made changed the backcountry pass so it pays to read the fine print, or you get caught out like I did!

Great walks

Queen Charlotte Track update

For all those trampers who have been unlucky to nab a great walk booking then I have great news! The runner up for the next great walk addition (The winner was the Hump Ridge Track) Queen Charlotte Track has now fully reopened!!!

There are still some restrictions and care required from the damaged caused from the 17–18 July storm, mostly on the Kenepuru Sound Side.

You can find out all the nitty gritty details on the DOC website.



Club Activities Over Spring

Trip Reports

30th May Saint Bathans. Alexander Tupps.

As the trip organizer this trip was a real challenge to organize. One week before the trip, the long-range forecast looked fantastic but then it deteriorated rapidly day by day and hour by hour. By Tuesday it looked that bad that I thought we must get some significant weather event. Thursday morning when I decided to make the final call to go ahead it looked quite good actually, just to deteriorate again after.

Well we went ahead and by Friday I was checking the weather constantly as MetService issued its first ever red warning for severe rain north of the Waitaki river. Well we were 20km south so we should be safe and surely, we wanted some adventure. Climbing Mt St Bathans was not an option but staying in the cosy Top hut would be nice also in bad weather. For that reason, I brought a bag of coal and each of us loaded another 3 kg to their packs.

Six of us went ahead and met in Omarama where we booked a cabin for Friday night and the host asked us what we were doing there because he saw the forecast - well we knew that already.

We set off early in the morning and climbed an unnamed ridge from Omarama stream to top hut between the St Bathans and Hawkdun ranges that included a 1000m climb to 1746m.

We set off in sunny weather with occasional very light drizzle that turned more into frozen fog as we gained altitude. The scenery was just magic with hoar frost on the tussock and rock covered terrain. It was a very fit group and stops were only brief just to defrost some eyes shut by freezing eye lashes which made navigation more difficult. Once we descended and spotted top hut I felt some relief by the group to be out of the harsh but magic winter conditions and there were many smiling faces after we spotted heaps of firewood and coal at the hut. It did not take long until the hut was roasting and the mulled wine excellent food and many fun games and tales made for a fanatic and fun evening with great company.



Having fun? in the snow.

On the next morning we left the hut in completely dry gear and went out via the normal route over Omarama saddle. After a long lunch in Omarama pub with many tales about great adventures and future trips ahead we completely forgot about the red warning. Well on the drive back we were reminded of it and had to negotiate many big puddles. When we returned home parts of state high way one were shut off already but by then I was already deeply asleep dreaming of the fantastic adventure. Thanks to Juliet, Emma, Brad, Andrew and Tom for great company and a fun and fit trip

September

12th Woodhaugh to Flagstaff. Mark Stephenson

The posse was made up of Joe and Sharon, Lucy, Sue W, Jane C, and myself.

This was an early Covid level 2 (delta) trip so we walked from Woodhaugh gardens to avoid car-sharing.

After walking up through Ross Creek, we hung a left and continued the ascent via McGouns, thence to the Old Pineapple. This was new territory for Jo and Sharon who obviously eschew their own backyard! The weather was pretty fine but strong winds were forecast for the middle of the day.

Morning tea was enjoyed in the lee of a hillock looking back South (ish) towards the original pineapple tin locus, and over that to the South coast.

Continuing the climb we circled around to the Skid site and along to the Bullring before winding back to the Flagstaff summit.

Lunch was attempted here but coincided with the Force 6 gusts ably predicted by Metservice, bang on lunchtime. After ten minutes, the leader said, 'Let's get the flock on out of here.' And so we did. On the way round we dived off down the Davies track where the leader became lost, rescued only by Jo and common sense.

Down through Redwoods and back via Ross Creek area again to Woodhaugh.

A good 6 hours tramping. AGTWHBA."

cheers,Mark

19 September 2021 Grahams Bush - Mt Cargill – Bethunes Gully traverse

This was a bus-assisted trip. We made the drivers' day!

There was a pleasant but uneventful climb through the reserve to the Organ Pipes, where we had been joined by Rodger Clarkson and Saskia Bronstring and her dog. The best thing on this journey was Tina produced some nice things to eat to celebrate Rodger's birthday (not his 40th, not his 60th, but a Big Milestone somewhere in that range. Unburdened, Tina then left the group, followed by Rodger, then Saskia.

Richard said every time he turned around there were different people with us. At lunch out of the wind below the Cargill tower, we were joined by Spen and Jane's daughter Ruth and her friend. All very convivial seeing so many old (and new) friends!



Spen on the Organ Pipes. Photo Credit: Tracey Pettinger

Spem and Jane suggested Kelvin Lloyd should see if a Uni Zoology thesis could study New Zealand birds' (especially ground birds') reaction to dogs in their territory. (There were more dogs than birds today...)

The descent and walk through the valley was as usual uneventful until Richard, Maree and I joined Rodger and Sue to sample Sue's orange cake for Rodger. We sang the usual song around the birthday cake. Then we got the next bus back to the Bus Hub.

Birthday Cake! Photo Credit: Tracey Pettinger



Tracey Pettinger (with Richard helping) for Tina Anderson, Spem Walker, Jane Bruce, Laurence Prattley, Jane Cloete, Mark Stephenson, Ricky Kim, Lucy Jones, Maree MacRae and Sue Williams.

3rd October. Cycle Trip

A lovely Day for a bike ride. No wind and the sun was out. Seven adventurous souls went on this cycle trip, Rodger Clarkson, Jane Cloete, Raewyn and Lawrence Prattley, Joe and Sharon Bretherton.

We met at Woodhaugh Gardens at the Malvern st entrance at 9am. Emailed the SAR list and we were on our way. Headed up Malvern st and Leith Valley road to Sullivans Dam. A nice place for a rest and morning tea.

Then we continued up Leith Valley road to the highest point at the motorway. After crossing this busy road heading towards Waitati there were some lovely viewpoints over Blueskin Bay. An easy ride down to the bottom before crossing the main road again and a steady climb up Donalds Hill road and onto Mt Cargill road. Just one small incident with Jane toppling from her bike due to a minor malfunction but no harm done. This return section of the ride is my favourite with lovely views

over the harbour and Peninsula. A few of us stopped in at Rodger's house for tea and biscuits before returning to the cars and/or home. An approximately 3-4 hour ride.

Saskia



A lovely day for a bike ride. Photo Credit: Saskia Bronstring.

17 October: Unexplored Silver Peaks

(Subtitle: The Path of Most Resistance.)

Richard Pettinger (leader), Mark Stephenson, Tim Russell, & Ross Davies (writer)

Richard's annual madness trip used to be called 'Silverpeaks for Masochists' but dwindling enthusiasm and PR consultants recommended relabelling it 'Unexplored Silverpeaks'. This rebranding was let down a little by the advance publicity "this year it is for masochists who are OTMC members only; for contact tracing purposes"! I wonder what the future historians will make of that.

Nevertheless, three of us "explorers" were waiting for Richard's customary last-minute arrival at the Clubrooms, and we soon enough signed his liability waiver and agreed on Powder Creek East Branch for this year's "exploration". We parked up at the Silverstream carpark and headed upstream to Powder Ridge. We followed the

nice track well up Powder Ridge until Richard thought it time to explore Powder Creek below. Here we turned left and walked off the track. Very soon we were very sure that nobody had been before us. Getting off the ridge was hard going; dense regrowth laced with lawyer. But as we descended, the trees got bigger and the going got more open. Finally, we reached Powder Creek. Richard and I had been here about 50 years before; on a Club day-trip that took a wrong turn coming down Powder Ridge further up and ended up spending a night beside the Creek. Then, it took us another half a day to walk out down the creek and now we were crossing that path at right-angles to climb out the other side.



*Working out the path of least resistance to Point 440. Photo Credit: Richard Pettinger
[After lunch climbing out of Powder Creek]*

There was a regenerating slip not far from the stream that presented an open space that wasn't too steep, so here we enjoyed a rest and lunch and even some sun. As Tim boiled his billy, Richard pointed across the stream at another clearing with about seven very healthy pine trees; one or two nearly old enough to be seeding. He wanted to skin them with his trusty putty knife but conceded there were too many.

Lunch perched on the hillside. Photo Credit: Ross Davies.



Then it was up, bush-bashing up through all manner of inhospitable vegetation, in a mostly straight line towards Point 440 on the ridge opposite. We hoped the ridge would give us easier travel. It didn't. There was even denser regrowth, laced with even more lethal lawyer. The plan was to follow the ridge up to Long Ridge. As we progressed, slowly, vague trails became apparent. Presumably these were pig trails. Pigs are not very tall. There was lots of windfall, and lots of clambering over and lots of grovelling under. When you're on your hands and knees and can see that you're going to need to get even lower; that's when you question things a little.

Crawling along parts of the ridge in the thick scrub Richard noticed the numerous seedling conifers in the understorey - some at nose-height! Some were grown well above the scrub and bearing cones. We had all taken to pulling out what we could. He figured they would be coming up and over from the Big Stream catchment and reckoned this is the beginning of the end of the Silverstream native forest cover as we know it, a sobering thought

Further along the ridge the pace picked up when we found parts where we could walk continuously upright. Finally, we broke out onto Long Ridge. We could have turned right to the top of Powder Ridge and taken the easy way home. But like true "explorers" we turned left, down Long Ridge. We soon came to a road and zoomed along to Boulder Hill with the sky darkening. It didn't look far to Powder Hill but when we saw the jumble of forest slash and gorse and lawyer and bogs in between,

our spirits sank a little. We hoped for an easy way but there wasn't. It became a game of snakes and ladders, looking for the paths of least resistance. We thought we were home free when we reached the track to Powder Hill...yeah right! Impenetrable gorse! We took to the pines beside the track...unpruned! And dark! Crikey, it wasn't afternoon anymore!

We were relieved to finally get to the Chalkies Track and made a hasty descent to the road and back to the car by 7.45pm, 10 hours after we left (covering 21.5kms with 1030m. of ascending). It had been a challenging "exploration", and we were all a bit tired and battle-scarred. But it was a very satisfying adventure with three good companions. Who says you must leave the city to become an explorer?

Postscript. Richard was apologetic after the trip but the other three of us all agreed it was exactly what we had signed up for. Two days later I assured him "...am enjoying the warm glow of achievement. And beginning the process of tracking down and digging out of my skin various bits of hitchhiking vegetation. My bleeding has mostly stopped and I'm going to take my scratched face out in public today... still-crazy-after-all-these-years is OK by me...all good fun and a bloody good all-of-body workout...Thanks heaps Richard, and Mark, and Tim"



The road on Long Ridge and the darkening sky. Photo Credit: Richard Pettinger

23rd-25th October - Labour Weekend

Steele Creek circuit - Famous Five: Rodger(Leader), Sharon, Joe, Sue, and Mark. (Timmy the dog left at home).

This was a classic tramping trip with great scenery and variety of terrain, great company and lucky weather.

Friday night we made it to Kinloch and had a great campsite at the head of the lake. Awoke to a spectacular sunrise. It still took us till 9 o'clock to break camp, only two and a half hours, not bad really but I did notice Joe looking at his watch a couple of times.

Great weather blessed us on this trip. It was warm, no wind or rain really. The first two days also we had high cloud protecting us from sunburn. Awesome! On the Saturday we crossed the Caples river on the swing bridge and headed up the Greenstone. Forking off at the Steele Creek junction, we began the climb to Steele Creek Hut. A couple of crossings of the Steele Creek to cool the feet, we made the campsite by the hut with plenty of daylight left.

The hut at Steele Creek is a rough diamond. Constructed of logs of native beech, including all supports and ridgepole, it has a fireplace and wood and meat stores. There were pots and pans, detergent, even a bag with emergency tampons and other essentials.

Mark decided to have a night in the hut while the others camped nearby. This did not go down well. The Famous Four were not amused. It rained in the night. The comments regarding wet tents lasted a good 24 hours.



Steele Creek Hut. Photo Credit: Rodger Clarkson.



Looking towards Steele Creek Pass. Photo Credit: Rodger Clarkson



Lunch at the Pass 1359m. Photo Credit: Rodger Clarkson

Sunday came and we were away early, though Mark was caught looking at his watch while the Famous Four packed their wet tents. Up the Steele Creek, the track narrows and winds a bit but easily followed. More like an animal track above the bush and scrub as the route passes over the summit of the pass. Fantastic views for lunch here, but going down the other side is spectacular with views over to the hanging valleys of the Scott, Kay and Death Valleys.

Going down is precipitous in parts but a fantastic walk down through ancient beech forest to the Caples river. We camped at a river flat now known as Sandfly Central. Interesting arthropods. I've never been bitten on the eyelids before. Fascinating. Amid much bravado we danced and slapped and lit a fire which attracted a curious robin.

In the evening the red deer came out of the forest to graze. We found two Canada Goose nests, one with two huge eggs inside. Plenty of wildlife in that valley, we saw a lot of deer prints, also a rifleman, and we heard moreporks and a kea (up Steele Creek).

Monday saw us meander down the Caples valley, a relatively easy walk after two eight-hour days. We were nearly back when Rodger fell onto a log, damaging his lip and gum. We took a detour on the way back via the Emergency Dept at Frankton Hospital where he received prompt service, fortunately.

Thanks Rodger for leading a successful trip.

Greenstone/Caples - The Girl Gang; Rose Cohoun, Tina Anderson, Saskia Bronstring and Caitlin Robertson.

So our wee girl gang of four saddled up Friday morning and headed up from Dunedin to te anaua to pick up rose and then onwards to the Divide.

About 2 o'clock we were on the trip from the carpark. Not many cars in the carpark and quiet but steady climb up. Got our hiking legs on and we mooched up the hill to the turn off down to deceased Howden hut.

From here it was just a couple hour walk down to the first hut for the night, McKellar hut. A great big hut with beautiful views of the mountains surrounding us.

We settled in for the night, our sleep was almost perfect when a neighbouring bunker was night screaming. Gave us all quite a turn, after the shock, we all eventually rolled back over to sleep.

By 8am we were out the door into the morning chill. We scuttled along merrily enjoying the mountains sights, green glowing moss and a wide variety of terrain. Dodging mud and skipping over rocks. Taking all the beautiful valley sights with every footstep. Lovely and warm with barely a gust of wind.

We scooted along not far from. The hut now passing steel creek and the little huts over the bank. Who do we walk into but another mad bunch from the club headed up to camp at steel creek! Both groups out for adventure.

After our merry catch up we trotted along to the greenstone, waiting till we got to the hut for a dip in the river, holding off and holding off until we started into the bush and up away from the water. Our holding out was not rewarded, as the hut was high on a hill and away from any body of water much to our displeasure.



Change of terrain. Photo Credit Caitlin Robertson.

Little did we find out later there was a swimming hole 10 minutes away but by then the clouds had come over and we weren't swimming in cold water to freeze in the cold air after. We vowed to swim at the next first chance the next day.



OTMC crossing paths. Photo Credit: Caitlin Robertson

On our third day we pottered along to Lake Rere to take in the pretty scenery. Tina was brave enough to plunge into the waters depth however the dead carcass on the side of the lake was a little off putting to others.

It was a long walk to caples valley where we had lunch near the bridge. The sun blazed down on us as we walked on. The valley floor covered in farm animals and a winding river including a new calf only hours old.

Midcaples for the night and we arrived before the swarms of people rolled in. It was a packed house with many tents circling the area! The sandflies had their human buffet served.



Mckellar Saddle. Photo Credit: Caitlin Robertson

Our last and longest day of all, simply the best views over the saddle taking in what was the best spot of weather we could have hoped for our adventure. A last hurdle of crossing back to divide and away home.

80km of amazing scenery and awesome comrades.

Cant wait for the next adventure.

Caitlin

November

7th Maungatua. Tomas Sobek

We met at the carpark at Woodside, with a plan for a shorter trip than originally planned. It's a very nice place for a picnic on such a nice warm day, but not for us today. There was no warm-up, uphill straight away.

Nice bush, lots of mahoe, but not a lot of undergrowth. I suspect there is a fairly healthy population of pigs snoring in hiding for the day. We had many stops along the way, to discuss world politics, climate change and agreed on some simple and practical solutions. I'm not sure who among us will be the NZ delegate to the next world summits.



Maungatua lookout. Photo Credit: Sue Credit

After a couple of hours (some of it almost swinging from tree to tree), we reached the bush line. We climbed a little higher to a good lunch spot and enjoyed some fabulous views of the Taieri and the Silverpeaks in the distance. We made a new friend who joined us for the rest of the trip. One of the group was feeling a bit weary, so she had a small snooze behind a rock. The others carried on for a short while, who knows what they got up to.



Lunch Views. Photo Credit Sue Williams

The cloud was gradually building up with fog coming and going. We headed back down without further ado and headed home. The only down-side being McArthurs Berry Farm isn't open yet, so no ice-cream!

Sue Williams for Tomas Sobek (thanks for leading), Sharon and Joe Bretherton, Esther de Lange

21st All Round Peninsula. Will Sweetman.

The weather forecast, including a heavy rain watch for the Otago coast from 2pm, may have put some people off this walk, but Lucy Jones was undaunted. As the two of us set off from Bacon Street it was cloudy but with periods of sunshine. We walked through the future forest being planted around Smiths Creek by volunteers from Save the Otago Peninsula and then followed the track which loops up to Highcliff Road.

With an eye on the weather watch we decided not to climb Hereweka but to head straight on down toward Hoopers Inlet. Here we had the option to follow the paper road straight down the hill (using a cable which may have been installed by OTMC members in the 1990s?) or to follow the farm track which the council purchase in 2008 has opened up. On our way back up toward Sandymount Road we missed the track and ended up lower on the hill than we should have been. Here we met a

grumpy farmer (the kind who made cables down hills necessary) but were eventually able to persuade him that this was an honest mistake rather than an attempt to avoid climbing the hill.



Farm track or over the edge. Photo Credit: Will Sweetman.



Sandymount to Sandfly Bay. Photo Credit: Will Sweetman.

At the Sandymount car park we stopped for a break and watched some paragliders launching out over Hoopers Inlet. By now the weather watch had been pushed back to 3pm but we were keen not to get soaked so we pushed on, following the path below Pikiwhara. The track now guides you away from Lovers Leap and the Chasm (the viewing platforms were removed in 2019). From there we headed down to Sandfly Bay where we had lunch. Dodging sealions across the beach we began the stiff climb up the dunes and then the longer slog up Seal Point Road back to Highcliff. (Boulder Beach is closed from November to February for the penguins' laying season). We then followed the road round to Larnach Castle and returned to Broad Bay via Camp Street and the future forest, reaching the car just on 3pm with no sign of rain.

Will Sweetman

December

Thursday 2nd - An evening beach walk

Jane C arranged this walk as an answer to the Beach Walk by Moonlight back in June, and to take advantage of the long summer evenings.

In lieu of a clubhouse meeting, 20 of us, (18 humans and two dogs) met at the St Kilda Surf club. Because of Jane's rather muddled communications, some set off at 7.35pm, and another group started at about 7.45pm!

The wind was ferocious on the top of John Wilson Drive, but once on the beach those big dunes provided excellent shelter. And it wasn't cold either.

By the time we got to the rocks at Lawyers Head, the two groups had amalgamated and we had plenty of time for a chat whilst we admired the rocks at an exceptionally low tide. (In fact the tide times were perfect – as we started to head back to the cars, our original “outward” footsteps were already being covered by the Pacific Ocean.)

There was a seal high up on the beach as we returned. It was probably there on the outward leg but we didn't notice it. But the seal saw us! Even though we were 20+metres from it, the creature decided that we weren't nice to know and gave chase! And yes, it is true – seals can move very fast when they want to!

We didn't go for a coffee afterwards but the evening walk was a pleasant change from the clubrooms, and enjoyed by all.

Thursday Night Meetings

Club Social meetings at the Club rooms 3 Young Street, South Dunedin
Members, non-members, visitors , all are welcome to these social events.

Doors open at 7:30 for an 8 pm start.

All ideas are welcome for future up-coming evenings.

Upcoming Trips

2021

DECEMBER

11-12	Mt Wakefield / Mt Cook Range	Wayne Hodgkinson	03 473 0950
12	3 Peaks, Escarment, Forest of Leith	Clare Noakes	021 186 3579
16 (Thurs)	Last Club Night for 2021		
19	Walk with Jan Burch	Jan Burch	027 455 4559

2022

JANUARY

16	Signal Hill-Ravensbourn	Jane Cloete	03 467 2328
20 (Thurs)	First OTMC Meeting for 2022		
23	Wildlife Safari	Sue Williams	021 712 606
29-30	Mt Armstrong or Dumbell Lake	Gordon Tocher	021 677 818
30	Nichols-Swampy- Pineapple	Chris Handley	021 024 27749

FEBUARY

5-7	Waitangi W/E 3 Days: (VACANT!!!!)		
13	Mihiwaka Bushwack	Gordon Tocher	021 677 818
19-21	(3 Days) Scott Ck / Death Valley / Kay Ck Area		
		Sue Williams	021 712 606
26-27	Mt Titiroa	Rose Colhoun	021 151 3791
27	Whare Flat	Saskia Bronstring	027 266 7703

MARCH

5-6	Acheron Lakes Livingstone Mountains) or Symmetry Peaks (Eyre Mountains)		
		Andrew McConnell	022 089 7637
6	3 Peaks Track - Escarpment Track - Cloud Forests of Leith Track		
		Clare Noakes	021 186 3579
13	Waianakarua	Rodger Clarkson	021 0268 2778
19-23	Rees - Dart - Cascade Saddle (Otago Anniversary 5 Day Trip)		
		Joe Bretherton	027 362 1221
20	Frasers Gully to Jim Freeman Track	Sue Williams	021 712 606

APRIL

2-3	Dome Hills - Herbert Forest Day Trips	Jane Cloete	03 467 232
3	Herbert Forest	Jane Cloete	03 467 2338
15-24	Easter / ANZAC 9 Days - Nelson Lakes (OTMC Members Only)		
		Sharen Rutherford	027 291 1961

As a reminder you must pre-register on the Weekend Trip Lists at the club rooms (or contact the leader direct) before the closing date (normally two weeks before the trip start). Members must pay before departure, non-members upon registering (non-members pay \$13 more than the members fee shown below. Vehicle providers may be exempt from the fee (check with the leader). Trip organizational details will follow by email. You are responsible for your gear and medical / first-aid needs (also see Gear Hire). (E)asy, (M)edium, (F)it required.

Note from the editor

Hi everyone, as the Bulletin Editor I am settling in nicely and appreciating all the lovely feedback and critical analysis. Got something on your mind for the Bulletin? Feel free to drop me a line and as always. I LOVE YOUR REPORTS! So please email your contributions for the next issue to caitlinr007@gmail.com by approximately February 25th. Though I appreciate earlier delivery, so that I can start piecing it together. The trip leader does not have to write the report so put your hand up to take some load off their shoulders! If you include a photo or two, please note appropriate captions (names of people pictured, names of land features, etc.)
A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTE!

Our Club - the Highlights

Celebrating everything and everyone OTMC. Send your favourite hiking photos to the editor. I may even choose it as the front cover!

Buttars Peak

Photo Credit: Tracey Pettinger

