

### 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.

### President's Piece

There have been some great trips recently; Carmel and I have participated in two within the last couple of months, namely Mt Domet and Wolfgang's mid-winter Routeburn. The Routeburn from the Divide side offered the best scenery I have experienced while tramping, fresh snow, crystal clear blue skies, mirror surfaced lakes etc. It makes me wonder why we aren't out there enjoying the assets we have on our doorstep more often.

On a recent trip we had an incident that posed a serious safety issue for the Club. The Committee will not tolerate the type of behaviour displayed by one of the participants (a non member) and have advised the individual concerned that they are not welcome on any future trips organised by the OTMC. Safety of all is an absolute paramount for the Club.

On a more cheerful note, wishing everyone safe and happy tramping.

Terry Casey, President.

### Committee Members 2003-2004

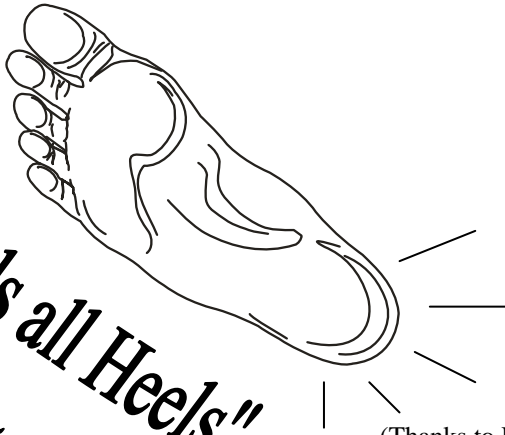
President	Terry Casey	454 4592
Vice President/Clubrooms	Sandra de Vries	473 7224
Secretary	Jenni Wright	454 5061
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Imm. Past Pres./Publicity	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Chief Guide	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Membership Secretary	Ian Sime	453 6185
Gear Hire	Mike Brettell	455 1515
Daytrip Convenor	Cathy McKersey	455 0994
Funding	Greg Powell	454 4828
Library	Jonette Service	454 2323
SAR Contact	Teresa Wasilewska	477 4987
Social Convenor	Fiona Webster	487 8176
Property Maintenance	Peter Mason	455 7074
Bulletin Editor	Robyn Bell	488 2420
Conservation	David Barnes	454 4492

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

NOTICES  
&  
DISCUS-  
SIONS

Much use is now being made of the OTMC "Discuss" email list. If you would like to be included in this list and have notices sent to you via email, and participate in any discussions, please send your name and email address to [jenni.wright@stonebow.otago.ac.nz](mailto:jenni.wright@stonebow.otago.ac.nz)

*"Time Wounds all Heels"*  
*Groucho Marx*



(Thanks to Liz  
Keast for this quote)

# Touching the Void

“A very challenging day out” is how phlegmatic British climbers Joe Simpson and Simon Yates perceived their 1985 bid to climb 21,000 foot high Siula Grande in the Peruvian Andes.

Getting to the top was no problem, but getting off the mountain was another matter. Halfway down, Simpson fell, atomized his left leg and had to be lowered by Yates on a 300 foot rope. Unbeknownst to a blizzard-blinded Yates, Simpson ended up dangling over a sheer precipice with no way to climb back up. Unable to hold on, Yates was forced into the climber’s worst existential dilemma: to cut or not to cut the rope; to save himself or not to save himself, by letting his friend die. He cut it.

Kevin Macdonald’s *“Touching the Void”* is a hugely stirring, appropriately vertiginous hybrid of documentary and docudrama footage based on Simpson’s book, a key work in the literature of extremity, mixing the participants’ accounts with frostbitten, snow-lashed recreations of their ordeal: Simpson feared he would die alone, and with a horrible Boney M song stuck in his head, even as Yates was tormented by guilt.

Breathtaking stuff that freezes the toes, harrows the soul and turns the viewer’s seat into a foot-wide ledge over a yawning chasm.” John Patterson, *LA Weekly*

UK 2003, 106 minutes

Showing at the  
New Zealand International Film Festival 2004,  
Regent Theatre,  
Dunedin,  
July 22—August 8

# Trip Reports

## **Catlins Waterfalls**

**27 June 2004**

Three carloads headed south in darkening weather, and ran into rain south of Balclutha. Just out of Owaka, on the bush-surrounded road approaching Barrs Falls, we found the tree-trimming machine had been at work keeping the encroaching natives back, and this was also the case on later roads. The rain then stopped, and the weather progressively improved to give us a calm sunny day.

On the track into Purakaunui Falls, I was at the rear and stopped to talk with two women coming out. As they turned out to be ex-pupils, the talk went on a bit; long enough for a concerned Ray to come back to see if I was OK! We also met an Italian couple.

A narrow, winding old-style Catlins road took us out to Maclennan, then it was on past Papatowai village and up to the lookout on Florence Hill for the great panorama of Tautuku Bay, with the peninsula at the far end and the Youth Adventure Camp immediately below us.

Rewcastle Road into the Tautuku Valley was like a farm track, but the walkway into McLean Falls, built by Kings High boys and DoC, was a complete contrast to the previous gumboot-losing logging track used by fourth formers of an earlier generation. We shared these most spectacular falls, where the whole Tautuku River drops 20m, with a family from Colorado.

On the way back we visited the Matai Falls, and walked through NZ's southern-most rail tunnel before detouring to the coast at Kaka Point for an ice cream.

Ian Sime for Ray and Jill McAliece; David, Joseph and James McAuley; Janet Barclay, Lee Ann Kostelnik & Fran Murdoch.

# BRAIN TEASERS


<b>MAST</b>	<b>HOROBOD</b>
<b>YGETARTS</b>	<b>CC TICKET</b>
<b>JET</b>	<b>IT IT IT IT TIME IT IT IT IT</b>
<b>soil</b>	<b>Busines</b>

**(Answers in next month's edition.....)**




# Fiordland National Park Draft Management Plan


*(Some) Power to the People?*




The club made an extensive submission on the FNP plan last year. DoC is holding its hearings over a period of several months, and periodically advising how it plans to proceed. I've just received their proposals on a couple of key areas— Recreation & Tourism Management and Recreation Facilities - and we've had our views listened to on a number of them. (Of course, in some cases we weren't the only submitters making these points).




Running races on the Great Walks: We took the line that these should be in the “season”, as the “off-season” provides a very limited opportunity for clubs and others to experience the track without the limitations of a booking system. DoC have now said that the only large scale events will be in the first weekend in December on the Kepler, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in April (depending on when Easter is) on the Routeburn. No races will be allowed on the Milford.




There will be no additional Great Walks. The Hollyford's status will be unchanged.




Heli-hiking won't be allowed on Mt Titiroa, and no concessions will be granted during weekends there or in the Earl Mountains.



More stringent controls will be imposed on the siting and design of structures on High Use Tracks. (We commented that the “sprawling complexes on the Hump Ridge Track” were not “appropriate to the site.”)



*(Continued on page 7)*





*(Continued from page 6)*



Shallow Bay Hut will be retained.



A bridge across the Waiau at Pearl Harbour won't be allowed. (The original proposal said that DoC wouldn't build one, but might allow another party to do so).



The old track over the Hump to Lake Hauroko will be maintained at current (rather than lower) levels.



On the other hand, they're not taking on board our views on the following:



Limiting guided parties in the Back Country zone to 7 (not 12).



Removing the Hump Ridge concessionaire's requirement for trampers to collect their hut passes on the night before departure. (They suggest we write to the Trust on this).



We accepted that the track on the west side of McKellar Saddle is of a standard inconsistent with the rest of the Caples track, but expressed concern that DoC would overdo any upgrade. They say it'll be brought to "Backcountry Comfort Seeker" standard, but what they've done in the Dart is pushing the edge of that particular envelope. Let's hope there's no repeat.



They're still quite vague on how they would implement any proposal to manage the George Sound and Dusky Tracks so that "encounters with other parties will not exceed 5 per day", so we'll have to keep an eye on this.



Also of interest is an easing of restrictions on access to some parts of the takahe area. A permit will be needed.



David Barnes



Conservation & Recreation Advocacy Officer



# TripList

## CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

### *UPCOMING TRIP PROGRAMME*

The planning for weekend club trips covering the period from November through to the end of April 2005 is well under way. A feature of the trips is that a lot of them are to places we probably don't visit enough. You don't need a club to take you on tracks like the Routeburn or Kepler, but you will get the most enjoyment from more remote areas if you visit them with a tramping club – like the OTMC! Most of the trips will be suitable for all grades and experience levels. Each area has plenty of scope to cater for all levels, hence you can let the 'guns' head up to some faraway alpine pass while you enjoy the lower levels. The no tracks/no huts philosophy I've talked about before in the Bulletin is a neat ideal – there is nothing like routefinding and bivying out under a clear sky – I encourage everyone in the OTMC to try this over the summer months. Your bushcraft skills will very quickly increase.

Look out for weekend trips to Maitland/Freehold Creek, Takitimu Mountains, Ben Ohau Range, Ball Pass, Gertrude Saddle/Barrier Knob and the Rock and Pillars (Leaning Lodge). If you get the days between Anniversary Day (March 21) and Good Friday (March 25) we have a 9 day trip planned. There is a standard length Easter trip to the headwaters of Lake Wakatipu (options would include Greenstone/Steele Creek/Caples/Kay Creek/Scott Creek, or the Routeburn Rockburn). The idea is to go to lesser visited areas, using the main tracks as access to them. The last trip is a 3 day trip to the Jane Peak area and over into Eyre Creek.

In amongst this, Bushcraft 2005 is slotted in. The dates can be viewed on the OTMC website, or on the notice-board at club.

*(Continued on page 9)*

# TRIPS

**Makarora Region (M/C)**  
**11-12 September**  
**Ann Burton 4762360**

Another trip to my favourite tramping area – the Makarora Region in Mt Aspiring National Park. A definite starting destination for this weekend is the rarely visited Wills Valley, from the Gates of Haast Bridge. The lower gorge section of the Wills is quite interesting, and will challenge some trampers – but the effort is worth it. The Wills opens up into large flats in the vicinity of Wills Hut. Other options are an overnight trip to Brewster Biv (Mt. Armstrong may be an option), a trip up Cameron Creek to the hut, or exploring in the area of the Blues or Fish valleys. The Wilkin and Young valleys don't offer a lot for a 2 day trip, but then there is still Teal Creek....

**Caples/Kay Creek/Scott Creek (All)**  
**25-26 September**  
**Rob Lawrence 4741620**

The main trip for this weekend is the through trip of the Caples/Kay Creek/Scott Creek. This is more or less a fit trip for a weekend (average of 9 hours tramping per day). It does help to tramp up the Caples at least to Mid Caples hut on the Friday night. There is a track up Kay Creek to bushline, and down Scott Creek from bushline. You will need to camp near the Kay/Scott saddle on Saturday night, complete with magnificent views of Earnslaw.

If the through option doesn't appeal, there is scope to base yourself in the Caples valley for the weekend, hence the 'all' grading on this trip. Another possibility (depending on snow levels) is Steele Creek from the Greenstone.

'Til next month,  
Antony Pettinger

# DAYTRIPS

## **Peninsula Cycle Day Trip (E—MF) 8 August**

Leaving the club rooms at 9am we'll pedal down the low road to the albatross colony for morning tea. For those wanting an easy trip they can take the same coastal road back. For the medium/fit group it's a crossing over to the other side of the peninsula to The Pyramids ( via Hoopers Inlet and Wickliffe Bay) where we can potter and have lunch. Then it's retracing to Hoopers Inlet and up over Sandymount to the High Road (a bit of a grunt). A fast downhill to town, quick stop at Shiel Hill, maybe, and back to the club rooms approx 4pm. Bring lunch, snacks, water and warm gear. Knobbly tires if you do the extended trip as there are gravel roads. If it's raining it won't be on, otherwise see you there.

Contact Bruce Newton 455 8835

## **Family Day Trip – Mt. Cargill (E)**

This trip is being run to gauge interest in running the occasional trip suited to families or non-trampers. The track up Mt. Cargill from Bethunes Gully is a lovely meandering walk through plantation, native bush and then alpine like scrub. Of course the views over the city are extensive.

Meet at Bethunes Gully at 10am, bring your lunch, walking time should be around 4 hours.

Debbie Pettinger – 473 7924

## **Skyline Track (M)**

### **August 22**

We will be walking the 'Cloud Forests of Leith' section on the Skyline Track. This relatively new track runs between Leith Saddle and Mount Cargill, and is unique for something so close to Dunedin in that it is designed to take the most interesting route, giving us a similar back country experience to what you might get on a more isolated track. Adequate footwear essential, gaiters a good idea.

Contact Roy Ward 473 9518

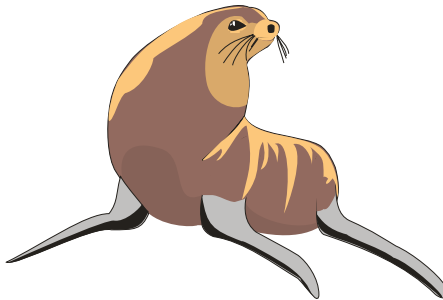
## **Sandfly Bay (E)**

### **29 August**

Always good to go for a walk along the beach and through the dunes trying to spot seals on the rocks. We can make it into a round trip depending on fitness levels and the weather condition. Bring a plastic bag if you want to slide down the dunes.

Time 3-5 hours. Maybe icecream or a cup of tea at Portobello on the way home. If it's raining, come along anyway, the seals will still be there!

Contact Sandra de Vries 473 7224



# Social Programme

## Coming Thursday Night Meetings

- 5 Aug** **BYO** - photos, videos, slides and tales from recent trips
- 12 Aug** Staff from **Jonathan's Camera** shop will be along to give us a few pointers on buying a new camera - what we should look for in a camera we want to take outdoors, and what features are available in cameras these days
- 19 Aug** **Bunny Rathbone** - World Masters **Orienteering** Champion in 2000, will talk about orienteering - what is it, what events are happening locally, and what she has done
- 26 Aug** **AGM** - all members cordially invited to attend (or be voted in to office!!!)
- 2 Sept** **BYO** - more of your photos & slides
- 9 Sept** "Warm and dry - how do they do that?" **Deb Carr** - will talk on her area of special interest - fabric qualities - facts and the fiction

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. Please contact Fiona Webster (Social Convenor) if you can help - see the Committee member list.

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the September Bulletin, deadline is 12/08/04, publication 19/08/04. You can submit material on floppy disc (PC not Mac please), email 'rbell@pooka.otago.ac.nz' (without the quotes), or post to Robyn Bell, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.