

**Newsletter of the Otago Tramping
and Mountaineering Club (Inc.)
P.O. Box 1120, Dunedin.**

**The OTMTC meets socially at 3 Young Street
every Thursday - doors open at 7.30pm,
programme begins at 8.00pm.**

7 July

Harry Griffiths will bring us tales of tramping the Celtic Fringe

14 July

Wayne Hodgson will tell us about his trip to the Garden of Eden (and whether he met any naked people there!)

21 July

Jonette and Judy tell us about their trip to Laos

28 July

B.Y.O. - bring your photos and slides of recent tramping trips and related events

4 August

Ralph Allen will talk to us about the Orokanui Trust and his role as chairman

Any ideas, and contact names in particular, are welcome for the Thursday evening activities. Please contact Fiona Webster (Social Convenor) at "fionaw@tekotago.ac.nz", or 487 8176 if you can help.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

As well as being the end of the OTMC financial year, the end of June is also time for the committee to reflect on activity within the club over the last 12 months. Club membership is at the highest it has been for quite a few years, there have been plenty of great trips with very few problems and the Thursday night evenings have been as interesting and varied as they have ever been. This is a credit to your Committee – the stability of the Committee over the past few years now means the OTMC more or less runs itself.

August 2005 marks the end of the OTMC strategic plan. Some will remember the plan, while newer members won't have a clue what I'm talking about. In short, the club formulated and adopted the strategic plan in 2000 to counter a downturn in club activity. As I wrote in the last Outdoors the initial enthusiasm waned after a couple of years. The plan outlined 8 goals – of which some have been achieved while others appear to have been overly optimistic. I personally believe the plan should not be extended as the club is now doing very well without much thought being given to the plan. We continue to run very good Bushcraft courses, which is where the bulk of our new members come from. Feedback from the weekend trips is positive. Day trip numbers are averaging about 10 people per trip. Thursday meetings are continuing to be well supported, which indicates Fiona is on the right track. As I said above, the membership is at the highest level since probably the early '80's. All this indicates the OTMC is in very good heart and the club is continuing to deliver what members want. We don't need to be the strongest outdoor club in New Zealand; we have to be us – the OTMC, and continue doing what we do. That said, let us know if there is anything the club is not providing for you – talk to a committee member, or put pen to paper and write to the Bulletin.

The committee has made some further progress regarding Leaning Lodge. In short, we have appointed Ray McAlicee to the role of convener to oversee the rehabilitation of Leaning Lodge. We are very appreciative of Ray's offer to undertake the upgrading of this hut. Secondly, the committee will put to the AGM in August the intention of forming a trust to take ownership and responsibility for the retention and ongoing maintenance of Leaning Lodge. The whole club will be asked to make decisions on whether a trust be set up, adoption of a trust deed, appointment of trustees and whether the hut is sold to the proposed trust. To this end, the committee invites any member who has an interest in the long term future of Leaning Lodge to consider becoming a trustee for the hut. The intention is to have around five trustees representing the different interest groups involved. Please contact me if you are interested.

The OTMC was delighted to receive an anonymous donation of a substantial sum of money for the Leaning Lodge project – we offer our appreciation to the donor. This money will go a long way towards the work which is planned to be carried out later this year.

Finally, a big thank-you to Heather and Gary for organizing another challenging quiz night on June 16. Congratulations to the winning team, although some were surprised at their blatant cheating! There's always next year.

Regards,

Antony Pettinger

“John Pascoe”

by Chris MacLean

My first encounter with the name John Pascoe was as the author/editor of “Mr Explorer Douglas”, the diaries of legendary West Coast explorer Charlie Douglas. Further reading revealed that he was a major figure in the New Zealand outdoor scene from the fifties to the seventies, with a variety of first ascents to his name, as well as a fairly prolific author.



This book completes the picture, and in doing so, cements the position of Chris MacLean (author of “Tararua”) as one of the best current authors of outdoor books. But this is far more than a biography of a well known climber and trampler and a litany of peaks and trips. The cover describes Pascoe as “author, historian, mountaineer, photographer”, to which could be added family man and civil servant, and each of these interwoven aspects is well covered. The book shows how he evolved from enthusiastic peak bagger to sage-like ‘man of the mountains’, and simultaneously reflects the changes in New Zealand society throughout his lifetime.

Pascoe finished his working life as the government’s Chief Archivist, a position that must have been instinctive to him; he was already a scrupulous collector of correspondence, an attribute that has enabled MacLean to confidently reflect Pascoe’s own thoughts on events that happened many years ago. The book is well illustrated, largely with Pascoe’s own photographs, and includes topo maps of areas covered in significant trips – something I’d like to see more often.

David Barnes

WANTED

Photographs of trampers doing odd/funny/unusual things, preferably close-up, for our new album! View it in our clubrooms.

WANTED

BITS 'N' BOBS

High Country Parks for Everyone

With your Bulletin, most of you will have received your FMC Bulletin. Inside is a flier about FMC & Forest and Bird's election year "Six Pack of Parks" campaign. This includes a tear-off postcard to the Prime Minister. If Helen gets 11000 postcards, she'll have to take notice. So sign and send yours now! This campaign is about new conservation areas for us to play in.

David Barnes

FMC Executive

Conservation & Recreation Advocacy Officer, OTMC

"Do it now - it will save an oath" - Charlie 'Mr Explorer' Douglas.

Mt Somers

The Woolshed Creek sauna is gone - the roof caught fire. (Is anyone surprised?). Those who experienced this unique facility will have a memory to savour. The old musterers' hut is due to be replaced with a 26 bunker.

Congratulations

The club congratulates Rob Mitchell on his election to FMC Executive. Rob is a member of OTMC and NZAC, as well as the Otago Conservation Board. The OTMC is one of only 4 clubs with more than one member on the executive.

Need a new sleeping bag?

Look out for FMC Sleeping Bags in the August FMC Bulletin. Top quality NZ-made down sleeping bags at really sharp prices. Four models available.

Gear Hire Update....

In response to requests, we have recently added a 70-75 litre Fairydown tramping pack to our gear cupboard. It can be hired for \$10 per weekend, with a 50% discount for club members.

Greg Powell

Trip Reports

PINEAPPLE

SWAMPY

LEITH SADDLE

After the wake-up call from Robyn it was all on to get to the clubrooms by 9am, but we did it. The moving of two cars to Leith Saddle and returning of drivers to Booth Road took 15 minutes. Then we set off at a brisk pace. We looked for signs of rusty pineapple tins at the Bullock Track junction fence. The rusty stain was probably "ochre" or burnt clay, said Richard, but I thought he was being unromantic about it all. There was a cold wind on the tops, so much so, that we just kept on going, and then had to hide behind the building on the top of Swampy Spur to eat lunch.

Down Leith Saddle was a lot more muddy than it was when I had done this walk a month or so ago and there was some ballet/snowboarding techniques in practice to stop us from falling into the mud. There were no winners in the Most Muddy Bottom Contest. (No losers either.)

Roy and Rob found the trip much too short and so they went on ahead and went home over Mount Cargill, needing an extra few hours to fill their day, while the rest of us went home early and drank cups of tea.

Thanks to drivers: Janet, Robyn and Richard. And big thanks to Robyn for the wake-up call at 8.20am!

Tracy Pettinger, for: Janet Barclay, Roy Ward, Robert J Greenhough, Matt DeCook, Robyn Bell, Rob Seeley and Richard Pettinger

CATLINS RIVER WALK

It dawned fine and sunny (oops - somewhat overcast) for our exploration of the stunningly beautiful Catlins River valley - the childhood back yard of our own Ian Sime. The hour and a half drive was unusually long compared to most Sunday trips but well worth the extra travel.

Car juggling (and waiting around for men to organise their gear) commenced at Tawanui but our plans to drive all the way up to the Wisp at the other end of the track (and site of an old homestead at the base of the Wisp range) experienced a reality check at a sign half way up the road suggesting more fun and games with potholes if we took our vehicles any further. So we started the walk by heading up-stream from where Frank's Stream joins the Catlins River. The damp beech forest was awe in-

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spirng even on a grey day and we walked past many small mushrooms and other fungi in a surprisingly diverse range of colours. Though we kept our eyes peeled for them, we saw no paradise ducks, mohua (yellowhead) or even any fish but we did see lots of little boxes by the track (with little ink-pads and paper in them to record the predators in the area).

After a couple of hours we made it to the Wallis stream picnic area for lunch. We decided not to go to the Wisp after all and out of curiosity about the state of the road (which proved to be not that bad after all) walked along it back to the cars to complete our first circle of the day. Our detour took in young pine plantings and fine views over the native bush across the river.

After consulting our watches we found we still had a couple of hours until sundown so most of us decided to go back down to the river and follow it out to Tawanui. Those without torches set off at a rapid clip but were pulled up short an hour down the track by danger tape around an area of clearance work that had pushed mud down over the track. Regrouping, we explored the muddy hillside above and eventually followed a bulldozer track up to the road again. It was annoying that there weren't any signs at the track ends to warn about this obstruction.

A bit more road walking got us all back into the cars and the long drive back to Dunedin. For an "Easy" rated trip this one turned out harder and more complicated than planned - in the classic, time honoured OTMC fashion.

Fieke and David for Ian, Janet, Bruce, Sue, Wyn, Nina, Ken and just-in-time Greta.

YOUTH EXPO

11th-12th May

The 2005 Youth Expo was aimed at year 10 Students to give them options of what services are available to them if in trouble or not. The Stalls consisted of library services, meditation, sexual health, family planning, Dunedin youth forum, rape crisis, church groups, to name just a few. And, of course, the OTMC, the only club. Each session started with a Maori greeting which was all in Maori (without the subtitles) so I, and no doubt many others there, did not understand what the elder was saying, but we had an idea. Also on the entertainment menu was the Logan Park High School Metal Band called Miniscus (also 4th formers), a wonderful Tongan Group, and a awesome haka from the Kings Boys.

All pupils were given a booklet and all had to get 10 stickers from different stall holders to go in the draw for an iPod. Most stallholders had to give the pupils a little task to do to receive a sticker, mine was to identify certain tramping tracks in the lower South Island. To put it in a nutshell, I had to give them a lot of clues. New Zealand geography is obviously not at the top of the education list!

I think our presence was worthwhile as I did have lots of inquiries about what we do. I mentioned to pupils and teachers that we also go kayaking, cycling, building snowcaves, walking marathons, hold a bushcraft course every February, and that we are the only tramping club in New Zealand that has a weekly meeting.

Wolfgang

Triplist

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

As intimated in the June Bulletin, weekend trips were discussed fully at the June committee meeting. The Routeburn trip discussed last month proved to be the catalyst for a reassessment of the trip cost procedure for weekend trips. The following is the procedure we will be following from now on. Please note that most of the rules mentioned here are existing club rules (as found on the rear of the trip card and printed on every weekend trip list)

Non members must pay for the trip upon signing the trip list. Failure to do so may mean you will not be considered for the trip.

Members must pay for the trip prior to departure. Failure to do so will incur a late fee.

Persons whose names are on the trip list when it closes are committed to pay full transport cost plus food. Refunds only by written application to the committee. From now on, if we don't receive an application for a refund/waiver within say 2 weeks an invoice will be sent, along with a covering letter explaining why the invoice has been sent.

If the invoice remains unpaid, then the person will be barred from attending future weekend trips. Resolution would be by way of supplying an acceptable reason for the withdrawal to the committee, or payment of outstanding costs.

If a person has outstanding trip payments they will be barred from attending any future trip until all owing monies have been received.

The committee has been forced to adhere to the existing club rules because of the increasing number of withdrawals after a trip list has closed. We accept that there can be quite legitimate reasons for withdrawing but ask that members take the courtesy of following the rules printed on the trip list they sign. The club cannot afford to make losses on any activity, and with transport costs continually rising the challenge of breaking even on weekend trips is getting harder. We are committed to running the weekend trips on a break-even basis, so that only those attending the trips pay for them. Thanks for your anticipated support of these changes.

The bad weather at Queens Birthday weekend prevented the club trip from leaving town (everyone on the trip wanted to do a crossover of McKellar Saddle or Steele Creek, both of which were affected by heavy snow). The third attempt at the Routeburn Crossover trip on May 13/15 however was highly successful with 29 trampers completing the trip. The forecast was not good, but conditions on the weekend were great, apart from rain on Saturday morning. On behalf of all participants I offer our thanks to Deb Carr, who shuttled the third van from the Divide to the Routeburn Shelter – I know this gesture was appreciated by everyone on the trip.

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**Mt. Cook Day Walks II (All)
August 6-7
Dave Chambers 454 3857.**

Don't let the 'day walk' bit fool you – when this trip was run a couple of years back it was very enjoyable. The original trip came about as a result of interest in having the opportunity of basing oneself near the Mt. Cook Village and completing some of the many day trips in the area. Options include a walk up the Tasman past the Blue Lakes to Ball Shelter. If you venture a bit further (maybe part-way up Ball Ridge) you will be rewarded with great views of the Ball Glacier and Aoraki. Another trip is to the Sealy Tarns, part of the way up towards the rebuilt Mueller Hut. The Hooker is another valley that is well worth a visit for a day. It is intended to use the local deerstalkers lodge again this time, which may limit numbers. This trip will close on July 28

**Snowcraft (Basic Iceaxe/Crampons)
August 20-21
Matt Corbett 487 6595**

All trampers venturing away in winter or crossing passes throughout the year should have a basic understanding of snow travel and arresting yourself if you should fall on snow/ice. This weekend is designed as a basic snowcraft course, covering mainly ice axe use, fitting and walking with crampons and snow travel. The destination will be decided nearer the time, depending on conditions around the region. The club is running a weekend trip with climbing options in the Makarora area in early October as a follow-up to this weekend – a good chance to put the skills you have learnt into practice. There is a registration of interest list now up in the clubrooms. Please sign the list, or talk to Matt if you have any questions.

**Winter Routburn (all)
Falls Hut, Xmas Theme
July 23-24
Wolfgang Gerber 453 1155**

The Routeburn is a wonderful place in Winter with awesome views and scenery and you don't have to book a bunk at the Falls Hut. However, if you don't have a Hut Pass, a \$10 fee is payable at any DoC office (preferably before you leave). We start from the Glenorchy end and walk two hours to Flats Hut on Friday night, or some may wish to stay at the Routeburn shelter. If so, a sleeping mat must be taken

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and can be left in the van on Saturday morning. This trip is for all levels of fitness and it will be a great opportunity for our bushcraft people to experience in safety with us our wonderful New Zealand winter scenery.

There are many options from just walking to Falls Hut; exploring either North Branch or Harris Basin; up to the Harris Saddle, then maybe up to Conical Hill; or over a frozen? Lake Harris to Valley of the Trolls then up to Mt Xenicus/Mt Erebus. The last two options are for experienced climbers only.

The for the fit ones up to Sugarloaf Pass on Sunday morning or just taking in our beautiful winter scenery, or Lake Sylvan might be worth a visit.

Since it is a Xmas theme bring xmas paraphalia i.e. hats, tablecloths, a wrapped present from the \$2 shop. Santa is booked in to give us a visit so you all have to be good. My annual Quiz night (with prizes) will held after Xmas Dinner. And please bring a plastic bag (a handful) of coal. Numbers might have to be limited in order to respect the track and huts.

Trip list closes July 14.

Committee Members 2004-2005

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Greg Powell	454 4828
Secretary	Jenni Wright	454 5061
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	Greg Powell	454 4828
Daytrip Convenor	Cathy McKersey	455 0994
Funding	Greg Powell	454 4828
Publicity/Library	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Social Convenor	Fiona Webster	487 8176
Clubrooms Officer	Alan Thomson	455 7878
Bushcraft	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Committee	Sandra de Vries	473 7224
Committee	Peter Mason	455 7074
(outside committee)		
Bulletin Editor	Robyn Bell	488 2420
Conservation/Advocacy	David Barnes	454 4492
SAR Contact	Teresa Wasilewska	477 4987

Contributions (limit of 1000 words) are welcome for the August Bulletin, deadline is 14/7/05, publication 28/7/05. You can submit material on floppy disc (PC not Mac please); email 'rbell@pooka.otago.ac.nz' or 'rebell@paradise.net.nz'; or post to Robyn Bell, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

**Raingauge Spur
Steve Amies Track (M)
July 3**

The track goes up the Silverstream from Whare Flat and along Racemans Track as far as the upper weir. It then climbs the west side of Swampy to the Elbow. We follow Swampy Road, briefly, as far as Point Q, back down the Steve Amies Track to rejoin the Racemans, then return to Whare Flat. The walk is mainly in bush apart from a short section around the Elbow, and should take 4-5 hours.

Contact Bill Wilson ph 477 2282

**Flagstaff / Pineapple Track (Family)
July 10**

This daytrip is for families, meeting at the Bullring on Whare Flat Road at 10am. We will walk to the top of Flagstaff, then head down the hill to the Swampy turn off, following the 4X4 track back to the Bullring. This is a good opportunity to spend time with your children or grandchildren, introducing them to tramping whilst enjoying some beautiful views of our city.

Debbie Pettinger 473 7924

**Burns Saddles / Rustler's Ridge (M)
July 17th**

This track starts from Waitati Valley Road and heads up through bush to where there are good views over Blueskin Bay and Mount Cargill. At this time of year be prepared for wintry conditions and there may be a little mud underfoot. The walk should take 4-5 hours.

Leader: Alan Thomson 455 7878

Deb's Café Trail (VE)
10 am start - note meeting place

"In his travels he passed by a coffee bush and nourished himself, as is the custom of the pious, on its fruit which he found untouched. He found that it made his brain nimble, promoting wakefulness for the performance of religious duties." From *The Devil's Cup* by S.L. Allen.

Well... I'm not sure about the last bit but I can relate to nimble and wakeful. Meet me at Bean Scene in the Octagon at 10.30 am for brunch, coffee, and coffee, and coffee and coffee *(and maybe we'll even stroll "nimply and wakefully" somewhere inbetween those coffees? Ed)*

Debs Carr 478 0363

Visiting Ancient Establishments
part Deux (All)
Saturday 30 July leaving 10 am sharp

Last year's visit through the Maniatoto was very successful and the 20 people on the trip enjoyed it very much. This year we will be travelling via Lawrence to Alexandra and return. We will be visiting many of the old watering holes that the early settlers used, so this trip is a historical one as well as a medium to get to know your fellow tramper in a social atmosphere. This trip is again limited to 20. We might have a sing-song on the way back so dust off your musical instruments

Wolfgang Gerber 453 1155

Leishman Falls (M)
30 July

Come along on this short trip which is used by some as a training trip. The route comprises a mixture of bush, flat sections, one short steep hill and return via a well defined track through the Chalkies. We should be back by 3pm and if it's fine we'll be rewarded with some good views.

Ron Minnema 453 0829