

**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!*



7 December

Kathryn Jeyes will lead a walk to the penguins at Sandfly Bay, depart clubrooms at 7pm

14 December

BBQ at Woodhaugh Gardens - see page 6 for details

18 January

BYO - talk about your summer holiday trips

25 January

Walk with Sandra de Vries up Flagstaff, depart clubrooms at 7pm

1 February

Steven Swabey will talk about his experiences caving in Australia

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.

**Visit us on the Internet at:
www.otmc.co.nz**

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

It's hard to believe that I am writing this for the December Bulletin – where did 2006 go to? It's also a convenient time to look back at what the OTMC has achieved during the year. The underlying theme is that club activities have largely been based on what the committee perceive to be what you guys want. There are always comparisons made to bygone eras within the club, but I believe that for the OTMC to continue to prosper we need to actively match our activities with our current membership. To that end, there have been numerous thoroughly enjoyable trips throughout the year, including some not undertaken by the club before. Our trips have ranged from some pretty full-on trips to several social trips through the winter months. We finally got to Green Lake on our third attempt in recent times, the Routeburn/Rockburn was completed, the Kepler was undertaken in a weekend and we undertook a coast to coast (albeit by train). I believe that there truly was a trip for everyone. As I see it, the club is in very good heart, and remains a friendly and vibrant organisation that I am proud to be part of.

The OTMC, like many other clubs within New Zealand is faced with an aging membership. This has been debated at times within the committee and more openly amongst the wider membership, with little consensus on how to address this problem. In my time with the club I have witnessed this decline first hand, as I was one of the 'young' ones when I joined in the eighties, and find I am still one of the younger members! In the meantime, there have been very few young people joining the OTMC, and even fewer remaining long term (probably due to the lack of similarly aged members). I think there are many reasons for the decline. Life for everyone today is far more hectic, not everyone has the weekends off, and the increase in high schools covering outdoor education, not to mention the dramatic increase in the choice of leisure activities available. Another one that occurs to me is that car ownership amongst the youth of today is much easier than say 20 years ago. If I wanted to go away for a weekend trip it was either the Silver Peaks or go with the club. I'm not sure where we need to go with this, but I feel in time that this will emerge as one of the most important issues the club will have to face. On behalf of the committee I wish all members and friends a pleasant festive season and hope you can all enjoy some time in the hills,

Antony Pettinger.

Membership

This month Stuart Laird, 2 Massey Ave, 455 0881 has joined, and Jared St Clair-Newman, 132 Wakari Rd, 476 3903 has rejoined. Welcome to you both!

Michael Foley has moved to 22 Larkworthy St, 455 4705.

Only 14 members are yet to pay their sub.

Ian Sime

Membership Secretary

OTMC Marathon

**10 February (Saturday)
OTMC Silverpeaks Marathon (FE)**

It's that time of year again, that those of us who are interested in taking on a bit of a challenge need to start thinking about how fit we are. No, this is not the "42 km run along a road" kind of Marathon - it is a tramp for something like 65 km (although estimates vary) through much of the Silverpeaks, including Flagstaff. There is also a half (about 35 km) option. With some of the dry weather we've been having, there is always a chance that the part of the course through the pine forest is closed, in which case only the half Marathon will be organised.

It is expected that people doing this will have adequate fitness, equipment and be bushcraft competent. The route may be covered in fog, making navigation difficult. For anyone considering doing this for the first time, it is vital to be familiar the route beforehand (several people had trouble last year) - I'm happy to go with people over any parts of the route that people want to check out beforehand (checking Powder Hill is a really good idea, as it seems to change every year), so please contact me if you

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want to do this.

If you want to participate, but don't want to take on that sort of challenge, it is something of a tradition to have some people at the Hightop turn-off, and preferably The Gap as well. Whether you want to do the full marathon, the half, or are interested in helping out at a checkpoint (which could be quite a pleasant day trip), I would welcome hearing from you. Last year there were several volunteers, which helped the event go safely and relatively smoothly, so a special thanks to them.

The course is available on the wall of the clubroom. You must pass through several checkpoints as briefly listed below, and the route you travel between them is up to you. Grid references in brackets refer to topographical map NZMS 260 series, map I44, J44 (Dunedin).

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

The Marathon starts at 4:30 am! The half Marathon may start later, (*6 am the year I did it, Ed*) but you do want to try and get out during daylight. There will be a trip list for this trip, and there will be a route display up on the clubroom wall sometime in the new year that will have more details.

Leader: Roy Ward 473 9518

Trip Reports

Unexplored Silver Peaks

October 14th

(Or: A Return to the Angel's Staircase - By Accident)

We all met at the clubrooms at 9 am, give or take ten minutes. The Richard and Tracy Pettingers are usually ten minutes late for most meetings.

We managed to have just two cars for the seven people on the trip, although Wayne's car was perhaps not the best other car we could have taken given that it has a slipping clutch and when we were behind it, it looks as if the back driver's side wheel is splayed out and ready to roll off into the middle of the road. But it didn't. We kept behind them, though, just to make sure they made it. It could be an adventure in the making!

We started out from Whare Flat and walked up the track, surprised that the bridge is not there anymore. There is a slight deviation, up and down and around to get to the other end of the other bridge. Then we were on our way, walking the same track as last year's Unexplored Silver Peaks trip. Then we walked up a stream for ages and ages, with its lovely gorge, until our feet were numb from the cold water. There was supposed to be a turn off, where the stream splits into two, but only I (Vincent) noticed it, but because it was so excruciatingly obvious, I didn't think I needed to tell anyone about it. Consequently, when I chose the left-hand fork to walk up, and everyone else was chatting so heartily they didn't notice, they all followed me, like lambs to the slaughter. (Well it could have been like that if they'd all fallen off a cliff following me.)

This was going to be a nine hour trip, if we had taken the right-hand fork. Taking the other option shortened the trip by about three and a half hours. Nobody seemed to mind that, though, at the end of the day, which turned out to be the middle of the afternoon.

We got as far as a waterfall with a plunge pool with steep sides and decided to start walking up the side of the hill. It was a bit of a bush-bash in places, but we tried to stick to the top of the spur where the animal tracks are. Unfortunately the animals are much shorter than us, so there was lots of under-overgrowth for tall people. It was a walk for short people, or older people with severe stoops.

We had lunch near the top, huddled together in the spot that most resembled a

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clearing. It didn't have much of a view, but the wind was cooling and we didn't want to linger longer than we had to. Then we were glad it was a shorter trip, as we could see big black clouds heading our way.

The end of the trip was very similar to last year's trip. We saw the pine tree again that we tried to kill last year with Vincent's pocket knife and Roy's walking pole. It was looking very healthy, with big scars where it had been ring barked, but still reaching for the sky. It annoyed us, so we pulled off a couple of branches and swore at it a bit. That'll learn it! If we do this trip again, we will take a saw, or maybe two or three. Then we "Baa, humbug"ed a bit and carried on our merry bash, following the pink tags and blue possum cyanide spots.

On the way back down the Chalkies, the track came to a very abrupt stop. There is now a dug-out area for a new Carisbrook, or was it just a turning circle for the diggers and trucks that have come up the road for the building of two huge new houses? The track ends, or starts, depending on which way you're going, in mid air... The road is deeply rutted and ugly, with mud pushed into the bush with its struggling clematis. The stream has had heaps of gravel shoved to the side of it and although it didn't look dirty, it doesn't seem right that suburbia has infiltrated into what was once a lovely place. It was a sad end to a lovely day.....

Tracy and Vincent Pettinger, for Richard Pettinger - our leader, Wayne Hodgkinson, Roy Ward, Nicole Caruso and Sharon O'Sullivan.

14 December Final clubnight for 2006



BBQ @ Woodhaugh Gardens.



Arrive anytime from 6.30 pm onwards. Bring your own food, drink and games, BBQs are provided courtesy of DCC. Family and friends most welcome.

Σαδδλε Ηιλλ 29 Οχτοβερ

Nine of us met up at the clubrooms and travelled out to East Taieri where we met up with another six intrepid trampers. Away we went, following the farmer through gates, under electric fences, and over wire fences, up the hill through farmland and over a weir that had created a wetland where some waterfowl were in residence. On, up the hill 'til just before the top road where we came across some young calves who took quite an interest in our passing. Four more people joined the group here, including two young lads of seven. (They came in handy for checking the electric fences!) Then down a gravel road and into a driveway that led to a private oasis of approximately 80 native trees and plants, quite a few had been labelled, making the walk down through this hidden bush area very interesting.

Then, just as we were getting peckish, we came upon a mowed area complete with picnic tables. Time for a wee break. After our morning tea we travelled up through a pine plantation, then through a eucalypt forest to where we could get a view out over Westwood to the sea. We then climbed up a road where most continued to the top of the quarry while two of us carried on around the road to the woolshed where we sat in the sun and had lunch while waiting for the others.....

After lunch, and with the weather deteriorating, we made our attempt on Saddle Hill. Everyone made it to the trig and while the view south was blotted out with cloud, we still got reasonable views over Dunedin and the Harbour. From there it was all downhill, once again through farmland. A most interesting walk.

Alan Thomson.

TripList

CHIEF GUIDE COMMENT

3 – 6 February

West Matukituki / Rees Crossover via Cascade Saddle (M/C)

Ann Burton 476 2360

Waitangi Day in 2007 is a Tuesday, so by taking the Monday off work we have a four day window to undertake the crossing from Aspiring Hut to the Rees via Cascade Saddle, the Snowy and Rees Saddle. The plan is take a van to each end (Raspberry Flat and Muddy Creek) and head for the other end, swapping keys in the middle. At this time of year the trip is within the capabilities of most trampers with some experience behind them, although alpine skills may be required on Cascade Saddle. If the weather is fine the actual tramping time would be three days, allowing to camp on Rees Saddle and Cascade Saddle. The fourth day can be used to either explore the area around Cascade Saddle, or from the Rees Saddle travel up to the head of the Snowy (and even over to the head of Pine Creek).

We are planning on taking one van to each end, so numbers will be limited to either 10 or 12 from each end. As we will have the vans for four days there will be an extra charge for the vans of around \$20 per person. The trip list is in the club-rooms now – this trip will close on 25 January.

17-18 February

Hector Mountains / Ben Nevis (All)

Barry Atkinson 487 7820

This is another area that the OTMC rarely visits. The Hector Mountains lie on the eastern side of Lake Wakatipu, south of the Remarkables ski area. At this stage this trip plans to access the area via Wye Creek, on the Frankton – Kingston road. Options include trips to Lake Hope, or right through to Lake Alta, near the ski resort. There are plenty of high, easily accessible vantage points, including Ben Nevis at 2234m. There are no huts in the area, so some nice summer camping will be required. If you prefer your tramping to be pretty much devoid of bush, then this is the trip for you. The trip list will close on 8 February.

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BUSHCRAFT

Bushcraft is a major club event that primarily forms the OTMC's contribution to outdoor safety in the hills for the local community. Another very positive aspect of the course is the publicity generated. To me Bushcraft is an integral part of the OTMC and we try hard every year to surpass what has gone before. Next year's course starts in late February and consists of an instruction weekend, a combined river safety / practical tramp (in the Matukituki) plus two evening meetings (see dates below). For the course to work we need both participants as well as a group of club members who are prepared to share their skills and knowledge. I believe one of the neat aspects of our course is that it is run by trampers whose love of the hills comes before a list of instructional achievements.

To this end, there are two ways for members to become involved. We have found in the past that some of the best publicity we can do is word of mouth from both members and past participants. Included with this posting is a flier that you are welcome to distribute far and wide. We are looking at workplace notice boards, gyms, shops – anywhere where people will see them. You are welcome to copy them or pick some more up from the club. Additionally you can download them from the website. Although there is some benefit in getting the word out prior to Christmas, we need to follow up again in the new year when people have (slightly) more free time.

There is also a list in the clubrooms for people to indicate if they are willing to help. I have been lucky in having a dedicated core of people over the last 5 years or so, but I don't want to ignore any keen assistants. As we get nearer the time we will be refreshing the skills we are covering, in particular river safety, map and compass. We need to ensure we are all familiar with the methods we are teaching.

Programme

Introductory Evening:	February 20
Tirohanga Instruction Weekend	February 24/25 (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon)
Matukituki River Safety/Tramp	March 10-11 (Friday Evening to Sunday night)
Combined trip (to Ohau)	March 24-25 (Friday Evening to Sunday night)
Concluding evening	March 27

Antony Pettinger
Chief Guide

Thanks everyone for the great articles for the Bulletin over this year - this is YOUR magazine, and it's wonderful to have such quality, enthusiasm, and quantity of contributions.

Special thanks to the committee for all the hard work they have done this year, and especially Antony with his multiple responsibilities and regular contributions to the Bulletin.

May your festive season be enjoyable, with time to relax with family and friends in our wonderful NZ outdoors, so that you come back to OTMC refreshed and keen for the New Year!

Robyn Bell, Editor

Committee Members 2006-2007

President	Antony Pettinger	473 7924
Vice President	Barry Atkinson	487 7820
Secretary	Jill McAliece	455 6740
Treasurer	Ann Burton	476 2360
Imm. Past Pres	Terry Casey	454 4592
Chief Guide/Bushcraft	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
Publicity/Library	Wolfgang Gerber	453 1155
Social Convenor	Fiona Webster	487 8176
Clubrooms Officer	Terry Casey	454 4592
Committee	Dave Chambers	454 3857
Committee	Alan Thomson	455 7878
(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 January/February Bulletin, deadline is 12/1/07, publication 25/1/07. You can submit material on floppy disc (PC not Mac please); email "rebell@extra.co.nz"; or post to Robyn Bell, 8 Roy Crescent, Concord, Dunedin. Thanks.

DAYTRIPS

Mount Trotter / Mount Mackenzie (M) 3 December

Meet at the Club rooms before 9 am and drive north up State Highway 1 to Cherry Farm, and on past Mount Watkin. We park by the road then climb Mts McKenzie and Trotter in quick succession, returning through farmland. We should be back by 4.30 pm. The walk is entirely over farmland but there are some splendid views. Transport cost \$8.

Leader: Bill Wilson 477 2282

Waikouaiti Beach (M) 10 December

“Head south, my son, head south!” This is a beach walk where we will be going to the ends of the beaches and crossing the Waikouaiti River so be prepared to get wet. We will leave a car at Puketeraki. We are starting at the Matanaka historic buildings and heading south. Lots of interesting history in this area and lots to explore. Transport cost \$10.

Leader: Antony Hamel 453 5240

Mount Charles (E/M) 17 December

The last club trip for the year, a walk up Mount Charles (the highest point on the Peninsula), offers some really good views across the harbour after a relatively short but steep climb. It is hoped (depending on getting permission) to combine this with either a walk along the nearby Allan's Beach or a walk down the other side of Mount Charles and back around the road. Transport cost \$5.

Leader: Roy Ward 473 9518

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Heyward Point Plus (E) **21 January**

The first daytrip of 2007, come along and experience aspects of the area you probably have not seen before. Exact route dependant on weather and tides. Assemble at the clubrooms at 9am, bring plenty of water and a camera or binoculars.

See stunning views of the Coastline and Otago Harbour, plus maybe the curvature of the earth and sharks swimming off the beach. The route will include parts of the Heyward Point track plus local farmland, the Te Ngaru quarry and a collapsed sea cave. You will be able to learn about the history of the area during the trip from old photos and maps.

There is the option of after-trip visits to the Aramoana Salt Marsh Boardwalk or the Gordon Johnston Arboretum. Approximate trip time five hours. Carpool cost \$6. Phone me if you wish to meet at Aramoana.

Leader: Gordon Tocher 472 7440

Little-Known Tracks on Flagstaff (E) **27 January**

NB:- This is a Saturday trip. Flagstaff again – but there may still be some tracks you are unaware of, this time on the east side. Leave the clubrooms at 9am and explore multiple tracks joining the Moon Track with the Pineapple, plus a few extras. This won't be a long day – home mid-afternoon. It should be interesting.

Leader: Bronwen Strang 021 0550 809

(Note phone number is different to trip card)

Mystery Bike Ride (All) **28 January**

We will be leaving from the clubs rooms at 9am. I will decide the route depending on the biking ability of the people who turn up on the day.

Leader: Matt Corbett 487 6595