



The Official Newsletter of
THE OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB INC.

Going Places.....



Newsletter 347

December 2009/January 2010

Change for Sunday Easier Group Tramp on November 29 Victoria Park— Bellbird

Due to road works in Victoria Park the departure point for the above tramp has had to be changed. We will now assemble at: Carpark opp PMH (River West) at 9.00am and car pool from there – Cost \$1.

The Many Benefits of being a TEC (Tail End Charlie) —Anon

The OFTC is a great organisation. It has folk of all ages and from all walks of life. It has leaders and followers.

The leaders know where they are going, they can interpret the wind and sky, they can name the hills and mountains, they can see the track. The followers follow. They also know things, but are reassured by the leaders in front. Followers are safe in the middle, not having to lead, but don't feel bad because they are not holding others back. Leaders move quickly to spread trampers out so everyone can have space. They also know the front-runners have longer rests and can get the best shelter at food times!

But the best place to be is with the Tail-End Charlie (TEC). That position has a name because it is a responsible place. TEC knows no-one is lost, because TEC is last, it is a unique position in the order of trampers. TEC doesn't have to know the way because the track has been beaten down by all those in front. TEC more quickly assesses where to sit for morning tea or lunch because there are fewer spots to choose from. No-one is behind, so TEC can wave a Leki stick any old how without endangering someone's eye, or impaling another's ribs.

And the view! Not only does TEC see the wonderful world of nature around, but also has the personal views in front. Gaiters—blue, long thin orange ones, muddy ones below hairy knees, pretty pink frilly ones down around the ankles. That trumper always wear a checked shirt, this one's shirt tail swings freely. Hats—floppy fisherman's ones, caps forwards or back, wide brim or no brim, hair, or no hair... And patches. TEC can spend plodding time discerning colour, deciphering language and logos, designing improvements. TEC is a place and person to be cultivated and cared for! Long live TEC!



Six club members joined DoC workers in clearing the Townsend Hut track in October. Hard work! Photo—Paul Knox

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL FUNCTION

Picnic Barbecue

Saturday 12 December, 10am onwards
 Omaka Scout Grounds, Greywacke Rd, off
 Johns Rd (opposite crematorium)

We have been allocated a nice sunny, sheltered site with good access and toilets are nearby. We will have a gas barbecue available for any food which needs to be cooked.

Prior to lunch, we will have some activities for those interested in working up an appetite.

Come and meet up with other club members, perhaps some not seen for a while, and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere.

See you all there,

Cheers,

Your OFTC committee

Deadline: by 20th January please for February newsletter

Newsletter to Liz Griffiths at 351 4501 lizgriffiths@clear.net.nz and copy to mavis.airey@xtra.co.nz.

Trip Planners : Saturday and Sunday trips to Judy Miles at 327 9010 garyjudy@kol.co.nz
 and Wednesday trips to Marj Pollock at 389 4059 marjpol@xtra.co.nz.

Please note — address all correspondence pertaining to Club business to the Secretary

**Over Forties Tramping Club, P O Box 6505, Upper Riccarton,
 Christchurch 8442**

Established 1978 Affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ

www.oftc.org.nz





Committee Reports



Chairman's Report

It is an often-used phrase, I know, but '*where has the year gone?*' I do think for us as Cantabrians that once we have had Show Weekend, there is not much time left in the calendar year before Christmas is upon us. Maybe it is all because of our busy lives, or perhaps for those of us over 40 and beyond, we take just a little longer to get things done. For whatever reason, I do hope that you have all had time to involve yourselves in something of our Club activities – there is an extensive choice for all capabilities.

Our Club has received from John Watson, a very generous donation of tramping books and photographic records of the many tramps he has been involved in over the years. John joined our Club in 1986 and has been an active trumper throughout his time of membership until recently. His photographs, all clearly labelled and mostly in albums, will make an excellent addition to our Club records. The selection of books is extensive and these will be a valuable addition to our lending library. Thank you, John, for your generosity in donating some of your tramping treasures for the benefit of Club members.

Ted Shields has resigned as our DOC liaison representative, a position he has held for the past seven years. This role has involved attending quarterly Recreation User Group meetings and communicating with DOC on other matters relating to our Club. We are indebted to Ted for his contribution in this way. Although an appointment is yet to be made, your committee is keen to see that our DOC liaison continues in a positive manner, particularly as the efforts of the working party on the Townsend track was so well received.

For those of you who attended the October Club night meeting, I am sure that you, like me, would have been pleased to see the good response to the 'bring and buy' section of the evening. It was well supported and a lot of fun. While I am sure we will see more of this at our Club nights, I am aware that some members would like it as a part of each meeting. I would like to encourage and remind you all of our Christmas Picnic & BBQ, noted elsewhere in 'Going Places'. It will be an opportunity to socialise and perhaps catch up with club members you haven't seen for a while. It can be as relaxed or active as you choose – there will be something for all to enjoy.

Over the Christmas and New Year period, I trust that you are able to enjoy sharing the time with family and friends, perhaps with some tramping in the mix as well.

For those of you who are travelling, take care and keep safe. To each one of you, may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a bright New Year to follow.

Regards to you all, Warwick Scadden

Club Captain's Report

Well, the longer hours are here and the finer, warmer weather is almost here. But it hasn't mattered anyway because we have still been out there! And as I heard someone say recently, "we are the over 40s, so what's a bit of rain"!

It is so good to have so many tramping choices each week and so many backpacking opportunities. Do try and get out on an overnighter of one sort or another at least once over the warmer season. These are the times when we experience the true spirit of tramping. This is not to denigrate day walks in any way at all, its just that being in a team which has to work together for a day or two, live together overnight, and really look after each other, adds to the total tramping experience.

If you cannot find a backpacking trip which suits you and you would like to suggest one, you could contact Jack Watt and/or Warwick Scadden and they may be able to help. They will both be pleased to hear from you anyway! Many, many thanks again to our dedicated trip planners and backpacking organisers for their untiring work in getting our fantastic programmes organised and published for our choice and execution.

Very well done also to our trip leaders and co-leaders who take on the job of watching over us during our tramps. While our leaders do a wonderful job, there are always opportunities to improve the way we do things. We have our Guidelines for Leaders documentation in place, we have our locator beacon system operating smoothly and we have had lots of leaders and others through the Outdoor First Aid Course and other training. It is time now to look at how we can upskill ourselves to be even more competent trip leaders, and to this end a small team is beginning to look at a couple of possible small training sessions at our Club nights. More on this later. If you are a leader or would like to lead some tramps, let me or any Committee member know your thoughts on tramp leadership. If you put your name forward in the last questionnaire and haven't been asked to lead a trip, let me know.

One of the DOC men from Hokitika (19 years old) whom we assisted in track clearing on the Townsend track recently asked me if I knew his Grandad, who also lives in Hokitika—I do know him! Once I would have been asked did I know his father, BUT Grandad! Moral of the story—numbers don't matter, keep doing what you've always done! Ask any of our Vets—they have the secret.

Happy tramping, Stu

Membership Report

Resignation

Anne Rippon 384 9127 2/164 Main Road, Redcliffs, Chch 8081

Anne, who has been a member for 24 years, has decided the time has come for her to retire. We wish her all the best.

New member

Russ Kiddey 359 2373 607 Harewood Road, Harewood, Chch 8051

Russ did the Kepler Track as his qualifying trip, and we hope he has many more challenging trips with the Club.

DAY TRIP PROGRAMME

The tramps are listed in order of difficulty, with the easiest first, then moderate, then harder. If you are unsure of a tramp please check with the tramp leader.

NQ means that this tramp is not a qualifying tramp for prospective new members.
All other day tramps are qualifying tramps

Please note : It is club policy that these day tramps and the tramping programmes detailed in the newsletter are for members only.

Also **times given are indicative only** and do not include car travel to and from the tramp.

CANCELLATIONS

Listen to

NewstalkZB 1098

after 7am.

TRAMP PLANNERS

Note — Please forward your draft list to the Club Captain by the 20th of each month

Saturday		Colin Garthwaite	360 3770
Wednesday	Veterans	Jane Gimpl	382 4075
		Heather Spence	337 1690
	Middle	Joan Cornish	376 5146
		Clive Morriss	358 2753
		Cathie Graves	339 0881
	Hard	Beverley Ruddick	337 3390
Diana Kirpensteijn		332 7534	
Sunday	Easier	Mary Brinsdon	366 9119
		Carolina Kol	03 3127970
	Middle	Steve Dakin	329 6695
		Alison Chambers:	332 9755
	Hard	Ian Fussell	358 3724

Reminders to Tramp Leaders**TO CANCEL A DAY TRAMP**

Phone Newstalk ZB

phone (03) 340 1098—for all trips—before 6.45am,
and state the destination. Our club code is **47**.

LOCATOR BEACONS.

Collect and carry these. **Please note** — they are collected from the Shell Petrol Stations at Belfast or Yaldhurst, or at Princess Margaret Hospital - at front vestibule desk. And for any private use of these beacons please contact the Club Captain to arrange.

AT THE END OF THE TRAMP.

Please send list of participants and numbers to Mary Brinsdon at 33 Hewitts Rd, Chch 8014, or brinsdon@clear.net.nz

DECEMBER 9**Walk around Monavale, Deans Bush & Hagley Park NQ**

Cost : nil
Depart : Millbrook Reserve carpark, cnr Rossall St & Carlton Mill Rd (some cars may have to park in the street, eg. Helmores Lane), at 9.30am
Time : 3 - 4hrs
Leader : Marion Macbeth 366 3076

Captain Thomas Track & Godley Head PH 47

Cost : nil
Up Captain Thomas Track to Godley Head, back via Whitewash Head.

Grade : 2 - 3
Depart : Sumner Clock Tower (park Head Street) at 8.30am
Time : 5 hrs
Leader : John Hertzog 384 9321

Governors Bay to Coopers Knob to Living Springs PH44

Cost : \$3
From Governors Bay fire station carpark up Titoki Track etc to CRW, Coopers Knob, Living Springs to Allandale and return via Waterfront track to Governors Bay.

Grade : 2
Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 8.30am
Time : 4-5 hrs
Leaders : Robin & Heather Fear 384 2734

WEDNESDAY TRAMPS**DECEMBER 2****The Willows NQ**

Cost : \$4

Walk beside the Waimakariri R, through pine forest and open country.

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 9.30am
Time : 3 - 4hrs
Leader : Alf Farrant 342 6094

Rakaia River Fun Day

Cost : \$12

Travel via Leeston & Southbridge to North Rakaia River Huts. Beach and river walks. Bring your own sausages and food for planned BBQ. A nice, relaxing day. Veterans welcome.

Grade : 1 - 2
Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 9.00am
Time : 4 hrs
Leader : Joan Cornish 376 5146
Co-leader : Clive Morriss 358 2753

Avoca Ridge

Cost : nil M36

Follow 4WD track around the base of the Horotane Valley ridge, continuing on to the Avoca Valley ridge, then climbing to Summit Rd, crossing to follow the CRW to the Pilgrims Shelter and returning via the bike track to the Kahukura Track and Bridle Path

Grade : 3
Depart : Bridle Path carpark 8.30am
Time : 5 hrs
Leader : Ted Shields 384 3403 / 021-1348888

Mt Somers from Pinnacles Hut SW02

Cost : \$18 Map K36

Walk up to Pinnacles hut then steep climb to summit return via Hookey Knob

Grade : 5
Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 7.30am
Time : 7 hrs
Leader : Gerry Burgess 351 9883

Trig Lineup, Mt Te Oka, November 18
—photo Cathie Graves

DECEMBER 16

Flowers Track & the Zigzag**NQ**

Cost : nil

Hill walking taken at a slow pace. We would welcome members who haven't walked recently to join us for lunch at the picnic area near the Scarborough Clocktower.

Depart : Carpark near Sumner Surf Club at 9.30am

Time : 3 - 4hrs

Leader : Pat Tapper 348 5553

Mt. Fitzgerald BP 29

Cost : \$14

From Pettigrews Road, a moderate climb on farm tracks and native bush to Mt Fitzgerald (826 m).

Grade : 3

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Judy Dewe 03 304 8916

Worsley Spur to the Bellbird

Cost : nil

Up Worsley Spur to summit rd then along CRW to Bellbird.

Grade : 2-3

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 8.30am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Peter Crawshaw 359 2662

Mt Torlesse**W24**

Cost : \$13

Walk up Kowhai river to hut then long steep climb up ridge to summit.

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Time : 7 +hrs

Leaders : Stu McHugh 323 6333 Mark Keown 388 3985

DECEMBER 23

Round the Rivers

Cost : nil

Follow the Waimairi & Wairarapa Streams. Full distance 16 km, option to return by bus from Mona Vale.

Grade : 2

Depart : Burnside Park (by Football Club) at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Alf Farrant 342 6094

Pinchgut Hut via Okuku River N39

Cost : \$11 Map M34

From Taffes Glen Road cross river and walk along river track to hut for lunch. Possible return trip down river with swimming on the way. Bring togs.

Grade : 3

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Charlie Ledbrook 347 9463

River crossing, Pudding Hill, October 25. Photo—
Wendy Hughes

**OFTC**

JANUARY 6

No vets walks in January

You are welcome to join the other planned club tramps.

Ryde Falls from Cooper's Creek. C13

Cost : \$12

Picturesque bush and hill walk through native forest with black beech, matai, rimu and kahikatea to waterfall for lunch. Walk can be extended via loop track to Wharfdale from falls for those wanting an extended tramp.

Grade : 2 - 3

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30am.

Time : 5 - 6 hrs

Leader : Ted Shields 384 3403

Sudden Valley**W52**

Cost : \$21 Map K 33/L33

From the Hawdon Shelter walk up to the bivvy below the Polar Range. From there a climb to the East to ridge and down a good scree to return by a parallel valley to the Hawdon River. Come & see the Indian rope trick.

Grade : 4+

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Time : 7-8 hrs

Leader : Angus Macdonald 349 7109

JANUARY 13

Westmorland wander

Cost : nil

From PMH car park follow the river and explore various paths, steps and reserves in the Westmorland suburb with expansive views over the city.

Grade : 2

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 8.30am

Time : 4 hrs

Leader : Cathie Graves 339 0881

Co leader : Sandra Knox 339 2997

Evans Pass to Ahuriri bush & vice versa along CRW

Cost : \$4

Follow walkway along its full length & meet in middle for lunch & to swap keys. Approx 19km

Grade : 3

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 8.00am

Time : 6-7hrs

Leaders : Elspeth Jeet 384 1331 Terry Jacobs 326 7978

JANUARY 20

Tirimoana Bush - Mt Ella, Kate Valley

Cost : \$10

Gentle tramp on walkway from carpark on Mt Cass Road to cliff top. Spectacular views of Pegasus Bay. See evidence of forest regeneration. Proceed to beach and then a short steep climb to Ella Peak (348m) and Reserve. Return via wetlands.

Grade : 2 / 3

Depart : Belfast Hotel car park 8.30am

Time : 4 - 5hrs

Leader : Marty Gimpl 382 4075

Castle Hill Peak & the Gap via Foggy Stream W49

Cost : \$13

Up Foggy stream then steep climb up side ridge to Castle Hill Peak then around side to the Gap & down to Kowhai River

Grade : 5

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 7.30am

Time : 8 hrs

Leader : Gerry Burgess 351 9883

JANUARY 27

Bowenvale - Mt Vernon

Cost : nil

Find the Hidden Valley then up to Crater Rim Walkway and along to Trig V. Return via different tracks to Victoria Park and Bowenvale carpark.

Grade : 2 / 3

Depart : Bowenvale carpark at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Yanny Webb-Walker 384 4584

Rabbit Hill Circuit W03

Cost : \$14 Map K35

Leave cars at L Lyndon then walk back up Porters Pass to track leading to ridge. Traverse broad ridge taking in Rabbit Hill & Rabbit Hill Saddle then return around lake to cars.

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Kim Bathgate 385 9275

SUNDAY TRAMPS

DECEMBER 6

Vets walk

Cost : nil

Mount Pleasant down Heathcote Quarry. Bring morning tea. Shared lunch at 30 St Andrews Rd. All welcome.

Depart : 30 St Andrews Hill Road 9.30am

Time : 2 ½ hrs

Leader : Val & Malcolm Kiltchen

The Two Deans N 36

Cost : \$10 + \$1 donation to child cancer

Starts and finishes with a bridged crossing of the Waipara. Walk above the river with great views of the limestone formations and some "off track" tramping. We don't go to the top of the North Dean. Return along the ridge to Mid and South Dean.

Grade : 2

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30am. Note early start

Time : 5 hrs

Leaders : Mary Brinsdon 366 9119 and Carolina Kol 03 312 7970

Old Coach Road, Porters Pass W04

Cost : \$ 15

Terrain, open tussock tops. Leave cars at foot of Porters Pass. Enter DOC land at the U bend on road. Climb old coaching track, (neglected condition) until reaching Porters Pass road. Head south here across slope to top of adjacent ridge following fence line. Track soon opens out. Follow ridges around head of stream to return to cars. A very pleasant walk and good views.

Grade : 2-3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark, 8.30am,

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Jack Watt, 355 3493

The Gap W17 Map I34/35

Cost : \$13

Long walk up Kowhai River, followed by steep climb up to ridge and the Gap. The view inland towards Castle Hill and ski fields make it worth the effort.

Grade : 4-5

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Time : 6-7 hrs

Leader : Craig Mason 343 4228

DECEMBER 13

Bowenvale to old quarry (and trig V?) PH 57

Cost : nil

From Bowenvale up to the crater rim walkway, to the old quarry and maybe on to trig V. Back through Victoria park.

Grade : 1

Depart : Bowenvale carpark at 9.00am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Alison Chambers 332 9755

Middle & Top Groups: Club Picnic – no trip planned

DECEMBER 20

Governor's Bay to Maori Gardens PH 38

Cost : \$ 2

From Governor's Bay up Faulkner's track and down Titoki track and along the coastal sea track to Maori Gardens for lunch and a swim.

Grade : 1

Depart : carpark opp PMH (river west) at 9.00am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Gabrielle Bolt 339 8084

Middle Group Half-Day Port Hills Tramp

From the Bridle Path to Castle Rock and onto the Whaka-Raupou Track. We will use the Stan Helms Track, Major Hornbrook Track, Cavendish Bluffs Track and the Crater Rim Walkway - returning to the cars via the Bridle Path at approximately 12.30pm. Another good work out close to home.

Grade: 3

Depart: Bridle Path Car Park, 8.30am

Time: 4 hours

Leader: Karyn Brookes 354 0113

Top group: No planned trip

DECEMBER 27

Sumner to Godley Heads PH 02

Cost : nil

To Taylor's Mistake for morning tea, up to Breeze col and the tracks above Lyttelton to Godley Heads for lunch. Return via coastal walkway. Anyone wishing to join at Taylor's Mistake will be welcome.

Grade : 1.5

Depart : Sumner clock tower (park in Head Street)

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Joan Hewitson 388 4320

Mt Somers - Combined Middle & Top Group SW03

Cost : \$19 Map K36

Steady walk to Pinnacles Hut with a few streams to cross, Middle group return same route. Top group take steep climb to summit (1687m). Return by bush track. Brilliant views on a clear day. Interesting rock formations near the hut.

Grade: Middle group: 3; Top Group: 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark, 8.00am,.

Time : 5-6 hrs

Leader : Steve Dakin (03) 692 2931

NOTE: We are not sure of interest so close to Xmas. If you intend to come, please call/email Steve Dakin. Meet Steve at Staveley Store. We will need someone to collect beacon, and a co-leader for middle group.

Mt Somers combined with Middle Group



JANUARY 3

Orton Bradley – Waterfall BP 53

Cost : \$4 + \$8 per car

From the Orton Bradley Carpark, up the Valley Forest walkway to the waterfall. Return by side track to Magnificent Valley & beyond if time permits.

Grade : 1

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west), 8.30am Note early start

Time : Approx 5 hrs

Leader : Joan Stevenson Ph 388 0227

Co-leader Joan Hewitson Ph 388 4320

Sudden Valley- Combined Middle & Top Groups

Cost : \$23 MapK33/L33

From Hawdon shelter, cross Hawdon river, and thence up Sudden Valley stream to Sudden Valley, a magnificent little hanging valley. Middle group to Sudden Valley bivvy below the Polar Range, return same route. Top group take a short climb to the East and down a good scree to return by a parallel valley to the Hawdon River with a couple of waterfalls to descend en route.

Grade : Middle Group: 3; Top Group: 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark, 8.00am,

Time : 5 hrs

Leader :: Angus McDonald, 349 7109; Ian Fussell, 358 3724

JANUARY 10

Mt Pleasant Ramble PH 63

Cost : Nil

Various tracks from McCormacks Bay to summit of Mt Pleasant and return.

Grade : 2

Depart : McCormacks Bay carpark beside football field at 8.30 am Note early start

Time : 5 hrs Leader : John & Colleen Herzog Ph 384-9321

To be arranged. Possible Lake Sumner area – Combined Middle & Top Groups

Planning a mini-base camp around Lake Sumner. Travel to Lake Sumner Saturday, camp overnight. Day trips on Sunday to suit abilities.

Grade : 3-4

Depart : To be arranged

Time : 5-6 hrs

Leader : To be decided

NOTE: Please register interest in this possibility with Steve Dakin (03-692-2931), or Ian Fussell (358-3724) – phone or email. We will then contact you with details closer to the time.



Mount Donald, November 1. Fearless leader and friends approach the finish line with gay abandon after their perilous descent. Photo–Cathy Graves.

JANUARY 17

Westmorland Wander C 17

Cost : nil

Follow rivers, where possible, and road to Westmorland, then uphill to explore the walkways and reserve areas while enjoying wonderful views.

Grade : 1

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) 8.30am. Note early start

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Cathie Graves Ph 339-0881

Oashore – Te Oka from Birdlings Flat BP11

Cost \$9 Map M 36/37

From Birdlings Flat walk across the shingle bank to steepish initial climb, then down to Oashore Bay. Thence via farm tracks to rocky outcrop at Trig Point (420m) with great views. Return via Oruaka, Maori Pa site. Oashore Bay site of early 1800s whaling station. Faster trampers have option to climb Mt Te Oka.

Grade : 2

Departs : Carpark Opposite PMH West, 8.30am.

Time : 4 hrs

Leader : Bruce Stanton, 338 1909

Avalanche Peak

Cost : \$24

Steep Climb to summit 1753 rewarded by great view and then along ridge to Mt Bealey 1823. Down good scree to creek, then out to village.

Grade : 5

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel carpark 7.30am

Time : 6- 7 hrs

Leader : Ian Fussell 358 3724

JANUARY 24

Heathcote Quarry – CRW PH 04

Cost : Nil

From Heathcote Quarry via Morgans track to Bridle Path, Castle Rock, CRW, John Britten Reserve, Kenton Walkway & back to Quarry for best views on the Port Hills

Grade : 1

Depart : Heathcote Quarry Track, Bridle Path Rd at 8.30am

Note early start

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Mary Brinsdon Ph 366-9119

Mt Richardson – Combined Middle & Top Group SW03

Cost : \$11 Map L35

Invigorating climb through pleasant beech forest up Blowhard and Bypass tracks to summit Mt. Richardson (1047m). Return via Richardson Track. Good views across Lees Valley to Puketuraki range. Top group have option of a bush bash and return on an alternative track.

Grade : 2-3

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark, 8.30am,.

Time : 4- 5 hrs

Leaders : Ian Fussell, 358 3724

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB60th Birthday Celebrations

15-16 May 2010

We invite past members to join us to celebrate our 60th birthday. Please send your contact details to us and the contact details of any other past members you know.

Waikato Tramping Club 60th

PO Box 685

Hamilton 3240

Email: wtc60th@paradise.net.nzWebsite: www.wtc.org.nz

JANUARY 31

Packhorse from Gebbies Pass BP 12

Cost : \$4

A fairly easy walk from the top of Gebbies Pass through plantation and farms to Packhorse for lunch.

Grade : 1

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 8.30am – Note early start

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Maree Bothwell Ph 382-5123

Little Mt Peel – Combined Middle & Top Groups SW03

Cost : \$25 Map J37

Aiming from two different starting points, top group take SE ridge to shelter and down Deer Spur. Middle group take Deer Spur route to top and back – two groups may even meet at the top?

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Time : 5-6 hrs

Leaders : Don Mee, Steve Dakin (03) 692 2931

Kepler Track Report 29.10—2.11.09 (abridged)

Thursday: Jack Watt (Leader), Robin Mears, Warwick Scadden, Ken Smeaton, Gina Lee, Russ Kiddey, Judith Berkett & Ian Fussell (scribe) departed for Te Anau. On arrival DoC advised us that the Alpine section of the track between Luxmore hut & Iris Burn hut was not suitable to tramp due to snow & avalanche conditions.

Friday: We had packs loaded including ice axes & crampons & headed off the walk around the lake. On arrival at the Luxmore hut we were met by the warden who arrived by helicopter saying that she had been attempting to clear the track of snow & avalanche danger. She strongly advised us not to proceed on to Iris Burn hut.

Saturday: We decided to backtrack out the way we had come & onto Moturau hut – a fair walk of 8hrs plus, again in great weather. We met a group of Aussie women who had organised a helicopter ride to bypass the closed section of track. The hut warden Pat, knew Jack so there was much talk & banter of old times.

Sunday: An easier day heading up the valley to Iris Burn hut. On arrival after a cuppa, Jack, Russ & Ian headed up to the Hanging Valley shelter (2hrs) for the views and look at the snow conditions. We met the Aussie women and that night had some good fun euchre card games where much table talk & cheating went on.

Monday: Early start for the return trip to Rainbow Reach to catch the 3pm bus. A stop over at Moturau hut for lunch & another session with Pat (warden) & more banter with the Aussies who had been spotted dipping in the lake by an unnamed member of our party. We collected our stashed ice axes & crampons & were surprised to find another bus operator arrive ½ hour earlier than the scheduled one & charge \$3/ person less to take us back to the motor camp. A clean up, a few drinks and a meal at the pub saw us back in good form after we calculated that we had walked near 90km instead of the 60kms for the round trip. Our feet felt it.

We encountered varied birdlife, including Kaka, red crowned Karkariki, black Robin, Tui, Bellbird, blue Tit and the New Zealand Falcon. The birdlife was much more prolific at lower altitudes, which we attributed to the extensive trapping of stoats and rats by the Kepler Challenge race committee. We passed through stands of Silver Beech, Mountain Beech and Red Beech, with young trees and prolific ferns. Some real 'granddaddies' of Kahikatea towered high above. Probably the highlight was the transition from Beech forest to the subalpine zone, with its myriad colours. Many thanks to Jack for leading the trip & fellow trampers for the enjoyable company.

SATURDAY TRAMPS

DECEMBER 19

Gebbies Pass to Packhorse, Mt Bradley and possibly Mt Herbert BP48

Cost : \$5

From Gebbies Pass taking easy grade walkways which tracks through forest and tussock land to the Packhorse Hut and Mt Bradley. Fine views of harbour, plains and alps. Depending on conditions and group may include Mt Herbert summit via Mt Bradley.

Grade : 3

Depart : Carpark opp PMH (river west) at 8.00am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Colin Garthwaite 360 3770, Co-leader Peter Street 352 5526

JANUARY 30

Hawdon Hut

Cost : \$21

From Hawdon shelter walk up Hawdon River to old Hawdon Hut site. Depending on conditions and group, may continue up to the new Hawdon Hut.

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Leader : Colin Garthwaite 360 3770, Co-leader Peter Street 352 5526



Iris Burn hut, Kepler Track—photo Ian Fussell

Your OFTC Committee :

Chairman: Warwick Scadden 351 9779 scaddens@xtra.co.nz
Vice-Chairman: Gavin Hampton 343 1291 salgav@xtra.co.nz
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 Ian Fussell 358 3724 fussei@clear.net.nz
 Colin Garthwaite 360 3770 colmarin@iconz.co.nz
 Colin Mackie 332 4587 mackiecg@xtra.co.nz

Ex Officio

Health & Safety: Mary Miller**D.O.C. Liaison:****Welfare** Everyone

Base Camp & Backpacking Programme 2009—2010

Month	Venue	Days	Grade	Leader
Dec 6-8 Change of dates	Lewis Pass area. Climb Travers Peak (1724m) then down Boucher Stream to Anne Hut. Next day up Henry River to saddle. Climb Mt Zampa (1710m), along tops to above Ada Hut and down. Next day out. One night option going out from saddle via Cannibal Gorge. Fully booked / waiting list.	2 nights	Mod/hard	Angus Macdonald 349 7109
Dec 10 - 12	Black Hill/ Chest Peak — Limit 6	2 nights	Mod/Hard	Helen Wells 03 312 4028
Jan 11- 13	Lees Valley - Youngman hut to Ant hut to Tarn hut.	3 nights	Hard	Neil Climo 312 4822
Jan 18-22	Heaphy Track. \$25/night. Names ASAP for Do bookings. Good easy track.	5 days	Moderate	Alison Chambers 332 9755
Jan 25 - 29	Mt Cook – Advanced Base Camp—Mts Sebastopol, Wakefield and Olivier. Stay in Unwin Lodge \$25/night. Fully booked / standby names taken.	4 nights	Hard	Neil Helson 03 318 7335 Liz Campbell 357 4543
Early Feb	Theatre Flat (Rockburn Valley). Options include Park Pass	3-4 days tenting	Mod/hard	Gerry Burgess 351 9883
Feb 5-7	Moa Saddle. Cross Wilberforce to Moa Hut. Up North Stream to Moa Saddle and down to Unknown Hut. Via Grif-fiths Stream /Wilberforce to cars with a few river crossings. Date weather dependent.	3-4days	Moderate	Stu McHugh 323 6333
Feb 15-19	Waiuta Lodge (Reefton) Base Camp. Optional overnigh-ter to Big River. Mountain biking optional adjunct.	5 days	Easy/mod	Peter Mears 352 7282 Co-Leader Bob Lysaght 323 5585
Feb 18-22	Hollyford Track. Fly in to Martins Bay or Big Bay. Walk out. Fully booked / waiting list.	5 days	Moderate	Sandi Leith 03 302 4797 Co-Leader Beris Whelan 358 5873
Late Feb- Early Mar	North Huxley , Brodrick Pass, South Huxley pass to South Temple. (date depends on weather)	5 days tenting	Hard	Diana Kirpensteijn 332 7534
Mar 10-17	Heaphy Track & Karamea \$25/night. 5 day Heaphy Track tramp and 1 day for Karamea tracks. Fully booked / waiting list.	8 days/7 nights	Moderate	Mary Brinsdon 366-9119 John Cameron 980-6703
Mar 20-24	Camp Sutton Base Camp near Middlemarch. \$20/night. Optional cycling Otago Central Rail Trail Mar 16-20	4 nights	Easy/mod	Howard Harvey 342 9377
March 29- April 2	Five Passes , anti-clockwise. Fully booked / waiting list.	4 nights tenting	Hard	Angus Macdonald 349 7109
March 26-29	Lake Clearwater Base Camp. Explore new Hakatere Conservation Park. Many options from climbing to fishing. Fully booked—standby names taken	4 days Incl travel	Various	Robin Mears 355 8676
April 10- 17	St Arnaud Base Camp. Red Deer Lodge, well-equipped comfortable. Half day and full day tramp options. Also options for longer trips using huts. Bookings from 01/09/09	8 days	Various	Warwick Scadden 351 9779 Co-leader Anne Dolan
April 12—15	Te Kahui Kaupeka (Mt D'Archaic) Conservation Park. Bush stream, Mesopotamia to head of Lake Tekapo or reverse. Part of proposed Te Araroa walking trail from Cape Reinga to Bluff. Fully booked—standby names taken.	4-5 days Incl travel	Moderate	Robin Mears 355 8676 Co-Leader John Wisker 960 8323
Late April Early May	Motatapu Track. Lake Wanaka to Macetown and Arrow-town. Steep tussock country.	4 days	Mod/hard	John Wisker 960 8323

Several attractive easy to moderate tramps in the Hanmer area need only a leader or leaders to be in this list. All info, where and how, ready for you. Contact Jack Watt 355 3493.

Backpacking Tramps Confirmation System

Due to members withdrawing from backpacking tramps at late stages the Committee decided the following conditions will apply :

- That a deposit of \$25 be paid to the leader no later than 3 months prior to departure if advertised more than 3 months ahead, otherwise at the time of booking.
- The deposit will be non-refundable except in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the leader.
- Although the confirmation date will be advertised the actual tramp date will remain sufficiently flexible to allow changes to be made on account of the weather etc.

Jack Watt—355 3493 at annejack@clear.net.nz is the Base-camp and Backpacking Co-ordinator