



The Official Newsletter of
THE OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB INC.

Going Places.....



Newsletter 348

February 2010

Lewis Pass Area Report 7- 9 December 2009

Monday: Angus Macdonald (Leader), Ian Fussell, Murray Adams, Dennis Logan, Ray Twist, Rod & Carole Lewis and Don Mee (Scribe) started from the Lewis Pass road up the track near Foleys Creek and had good going up on to Travers Peak (1,724m) which we reached soon after midday. Surprisingly, there was cell phone coverage from the summit. We lunched below the ridge and descended to the saddle above the Boucher Stream. Soon we were in rougher going down that stream but got out to the Boyle River and the St. James Walkway by mid-afternoon. An ascent of the Anne Saddle and a plod along the walkway took our tired bodies to the Anne Hut for the night.

Tuesday: It was easy going up the Henry River until its major branch was reached and from this point we had a gorge to by-pass, fortuitously choosing the true right bank, and then numerous river crossings before we topped the Henry Saddle (1,282m) at 10.15am. Then, in the words of Angus: *After parting company with Ian (returning home), and Don & Carole (who decided to take the alternative route to the Ada Hut), the remaining members of the party bush bashed their way up a steep ridge towards a saddle below Zampa. The party was buffeted by a strong cold wind for some time before the wind subsided and conditions became very pleasant. A decision was made not to climb Zampa to save time and the party made good progress on good clear tops past an attractive large tarn below Zampa. Following the ridgeline, great views were enjoyed looking down into the Maruia River and over to the Spenser Mountains. At Pt. 1681 above the Ada Hut, the party followed an easy clear spur down to the bushline. Travel through the open bush was good going until near the St. James Walkway where dense regrowth was encountered. The Ada Hut was a welcome sight after 5 hours tramping from the Henry Saddle.*

Ian, Carole & Don descended Saddle Creek and were able to ford the Maruia River and climb up on to the walkway. After shaking Ian's hand, Carole & Don proceeded along the walkway to meet up with the other five at the Ada Pass. When we arrived the others claimed they had been there "for hours" but oddly enough they still had their boots on!

Wednesday: In dribs and drabs we returned along the walkway to our vehicles at Lewis Pass. Altogether, it was a most enjoyable trip on an unusual circuit, so thanks Angus.



On Point 1616, with Mt. Zampa above heads and route along tops going right. Photo—Rod Lewis

NEXT MEETING

FEBRUARY 23, 2010

at 7.30pm

Horticultural Hall South Hagley Park

Guest speakers: Valda Hodges, Colin and Jenny Mackie

will present a visual and oral description of their 2009 travels in Chile and Argentina. These three club members are very experienced travellers and members will be most interested in their accounts of their travels.

Deadline: by 20th February please for March newsletter

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



OFTC





Committee Reports



Chairman's Report

Although we are already part way into the New Year, I trust that for each of you, it has got off to a good start and may I wish all members an enjoyable, rewarding 2010, with plenty of opportunities to get out into whatever level of tramping is for you. Our trip planners to a great job, in putting together an interesting variety of tramps for the various levels of competency – it is up to us as individuals, to participate, as and when we are able to.

The Christmas Social Picnic and BBQ, held at the Omaka Scout site, was a very enjoyable occasion. 62 members attended, including some who are unable to participate in tramps these days, as well as several new members. The combination of a walk toward the Groynes, playing a Swedish game originating from the Viking era, to the paper boat race, gave opportunities to work up a good appetite for the BBQ lunch. Thank you to all those who assisted with the arrangements, for what was a great day.

On 2 December, Ian Fussell and Colin Mackie attended the DOC Recreation Users Group liaison meeting. A report on the issues relevant to our Club is elsewhere in *Going Places* for your information. DOC conducts these meetings, three or four times each year and it is intended that we will have representation at each meeting and the information will be reported to members via the newsletter and at club nights.

We have waited a long time this summer for suitable conditions to do backpacking tramps, due in many instances to NW wind conditions causing river levels to rise. The outlook appears to be a lot brighter. However, be warned – with the tremendous seed set this year in the South Island Beech forests, there has been an explosion in the mouse population. I am sure we have all experienced, at one time or another, a mouse in our pack sampling our food. A radio report recently confirmed that at Lake Rotoiti, in Nelson Lakes National Park, several trout had been caught, with stomach contents of up to four mice.

Enjoy your tramping.

Regards to you all, Warwick Scadden

Club Captain's Report

Hello there, fellow trampers. Here's to another great year of safe, happy tramping. What a Club to be in—hundreds of keen, enthusiastic people, getting out there to enjoy the wonders of our environment, in the company of great people. But back to safe tramping, I recommend the **training courses** that are available this year. Mountain Safety Council are running courses again on Navigation, Outdoor First Aid and the Revalidation Course on First Aid. We have several people already listed for the 1st Aid Course and if you are a reasonably regular trumper and would like to do this please contact me (or a Committee Member).

We will be running several "in house" training sessions again this year, including River Crossings, Navigation, Basic Snow Craft and possibly a ½ day on GPS use. These "in house" events will be advertised in next month's *Going Places*. Another **important training event** is due to start at our next Club Night (23 Feb). At that meeting - before our speaker - we will begin to look at how we are doing with our leadership of trips and review our roles as group members of trips.

The questions are:

"Are we supporting our trip leaders as much as we should? "

"What sort of support do trip leaders need?"

See the separate notice for this elsewhere in this issue.

Tramp planning is the way our Club is able to provide such a huge variety of trips every month and I must again say huge thanks to our planners who work away and keep us "on track". Recently Alison Chambers took over planning Sunday Middle Group, and even more recently Steve Daikin (Alison's Co-planner) has found that he is unable to do this work meantime. We are working on a way to fill the gap here and have the names from the most recent questionnaire of people willing to help. If you would like to offer your help here talk to Ian Fussell or me. Jane Gimple, who has done a great job planning for the Vets, is passing her duties over to Pat Tapper.

If you have any ideas about training or tramping generally let me (or any Committee member know.

Stu

Membership Report

New members

Howard Clark	376 5449	P O Box 19 553, Woolston, Chch 8241
Pauline Wainwright	376 5449	P O Box 19 553, Woolston, Chch 8241
Ian Costello	388 8971	41 Rawson Street, New Brighton, 8083
Elizabeth Dark	342 5740	43A Yardley Street, Avonhead 8042
Sean Regan	386 1372	199A New Brighton Road, Burwood 8061
Tracy Tripp	338 3302	14 The Rocks, Kennedys Bush 8025
Ken Wooldridge	358 8680	16A Glenburn Place, Avonhead 8042

Congratulations to these seven new members who have completed their overnights and qualified for membership. We now have 463 members.

Marriage

Congratulations to Alan Morgan and Jean Beynon, who were married in December.

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	Pat Tapper	348 5553
		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

FEBRUARY 10**Quail Island NQ**

Cost : \$20

A pleasant easy walk around Quail Island, meeting up with the middle group. Purchase ferry tickets from Black Cat Ferry Cruises Office, Norwich Quay, Lyttelton for the 10.20am sailing. Please contact Heather 337 1690 by Monday 8th to enable numbers to be given to ferry booking office.

Meet : on the jetty at 10am. Suggest park cars in Norwich Quay. Depart : Lyttelton at 10.20 am
Return : 1.20pm or 3.20pm
Leader : Heather Spence 337 1690

Quail Island via Bridle Path PH25

Cost : \$20 for return boat fare. (Gold Card doesn't apply.)

Tramp over Bridle Path to Ferry Terminal to board 10.20pm boat. A pleasant tramp around Quail Island with its rejuvenation from the continuing replanting programme. Bring togs for a swim. Return by boat at 3.30pm. Options to start tramp at Ferry Terminal or catch bus back to Bridle Path carpark. NB: Confirm with Clive by 8th Feb so we can give numbers to Ferry Operator.

Grade : 2-3 Time : 5+ hrs
Depart : Bridle Path carpark at 8.30am
Leader: Judy Harvey 342 9377, Co Leader: Clive Morriss 358 2753

Bowenvale to Trig V PH49

Cost : nil

Find the Hidden Valley in Bowenvale then up to CRW, along to Trig V and beyond. Back via different tracks to Victoria Park and Bowenvale

Grade : 2-3 Time : 5 hrs
Depart : Carpark southern end of Bowenvale Ave at 8.30am
Leader : Alison Chambers 332 9755

The Pyramid 1608m W61

Cost : \$20 Map K33

A steep 1000m climb from the Hawdon Valley to the open tops.

Grade : 4
Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am
Time : 6 hrs
Leader : Colin Garthwaite 360 3770, Ray Twist 03 310 7520

WEDNESDAY TRAMPS**FEBRUARY 3****The Rakaia Huts NQ**

Cost : \$8

Morning tea at the Huts, then easy walking along a track to the shingle beach at Little Rakaia. Bring togs and boots.

Depart : Prebbleton Tavern carpark, 585 Springs Rd at 9.30am

Time : 3 - 4 hrs

Leader : Meg Anderson 355 7459

McCormacks Bay to Mt Pleasant PH63

Cost : Nil

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

Grade : 2

Depart : McCormacks Bay car park, beside football field, at 9.00am.

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leaders : John and Colleen Herzog 384 9321

Stan Helm Track to the Tors

Cost : \$3

Starting at Stan Helm track, Lyttelton climb to CRW via Whakaraupo track then along top to the Tors & back via Castle Rock & the Gondola.

Grade : 3

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

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Diane Jackson 328 8246 (meet at track start) & Bob Lysaght 323 5585

Blimit 1921m

Cost : \$24

Climb through Temple Basin ski area to Temple Col and then on to summit

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Time : 6 hrs

Leader : Don Mee 359 8605



FEBRUARY 17

Horseshoe Lake NQ

Cost : nil

Following the river towards Horseshoe Lake and its environs.

Depart : Carpark opp Bower Hotel, New Brighton Rd, at 9.30am

Time : 3 - 4 hrs

Leader : Pat Tapper 348 5553

Allandale, Living Springs, Governors Bay PH21

Cost : \$3

From Allandale to Living Springs then O'Farrell's Track to South Boundary, down Faulkener's Track to Governors Bay and then harbour side walk back to carpark. Wonderful views.

Grade : 2-3

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

Time : 4.5 hrs

Leader : Mary Brinsdon 366 9119

Glenafric N16

Cost : \$11 map N34

Walk along coastal terraces then along beach & up creek to waterfall for lunch & swim. Return over downs

Grade : 3

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Howard Harvey 342 9377

FEBRUARY 24

Boulder Bay NQ

Cost \$2

From Taylors Mistake walk to Boulder Bay and possibly Godley Heads.

Depart : Park in side streets near Sumner Clocktower at 9.30am

Time : 3 - 4 hrs

Leader : Maree Bothwell 383 5123

Camp Bay to Adderley Head BP02

Cost : \$7 plus gold coin donation for Red Cross.

Panoramic views of Lyttelton Harbour. Bring togs for a swim. See restored Signal Station and old school at Little Port Cooper.

Grade : 2- 3

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

Leader : Peter Mears 352 7282

Camp Saddle, Lyndon Saddle W43

Cost : \$19

Bush walk to Lyndon Saddle and up Craigieburn Valley, then up tussock and scree to Camp Saddle and back via ridge, with scree run.

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Joanna Orwin 358 4109

Hamilton Peak 1922m W26

Cost : \$19

From Camp saddle steep climb up side ridge to top. Descend into Craigieburn ski field & out over Camp Saddle again.

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.30am

Time : 6 hrs

Leader : Elected on the day. Pick up beacon

OFTC

SUNDAY TRAMPS

FEBRUARY 7

Ryde Falls from Cooper's Creek NW04 Z

Cost : \$11

Picturesque bush and hill walk through native forest with black beech, matai, rimu and kahikatea to waterfall for lunch.

Grade : 1

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30am

Time : 4 hrs

Leader : Joan Hewitson 388 4320

Foggy Peak W07

Cost : \$13 Map K35

From the top of Porters Pass a steady steepish climb up broad ridge to summit 800m above the road. Wonderful views of Mt Cook if clear.

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Time : 5hrs

Leader : Gavin Hampton 3431291

Otarama – note weekend Sat 6th & Sun 7th

Cost : \$21

Drive to viaduct on Craigieburn road for an overnight trip to Otarama. Will camp in tents high up on peaks near tarn. Climb Otarama on Sunday and return to cars

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 7.00am Saturday

Time : 7 hrs

Leader : Neil Climo 03 312 4822. Note – Ring Neil to confirm numbers & pick up beacon. Tent required.

FEBRUARY 14

Round the bays BP34 F

Cost : \$5

From Ranui Crescent in Diamond Harbour via the old stock road to Purau. Return along the coastal walkway.

Grade : 1

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

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Maree Bothwell 382 5123

Glenafric East of Waipara N16

Cost : \$11.00 Map N34

Walk along coastal terraces with views of Banks Peninsula, then down to beach for lunch at waterfall.

Grade : 2

Depart : Belfast Hotel Carpark at 8.30am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Bruce Stanton 3381909

Maukuratawhai (Hanmer)

Cost : \$25

From Hanmer Springs drive to T junction beyond Jacks pass. Turn left to park car. Cross Clarence River to follow steepish ridge with no difficulties to top.

Grade : 4

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark 7.30am

Time : 6-7 hrs

Leader : Mary Millar 942 6371. Note: contact Mary to confirm numbers.

FEBRUARY 21

Mt Pleasant PH45

Cost : nil

From Barnett Park to Winsor Castle for morning tea. Up through Jollies Bush and across to trig 499m for lunch. Return via John Britton and Drayton reserves.

Grade : 2

Depart : Barnett Park, Moncks Bay at 8.30am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Jan Leitch 384 9018

Middle and Top Groups combined**Lagoon Saddle and Mt BruceW51**

Cost : \$23 MapK34

A pleasant climb through bush from Cora Lynn DOC car park, along Lagoon Saddle Track and option to climb Mt Bruce.

Grade : 3/4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00a.m.

Time : 4/5hrs

Leader : Paul and Sandra Knox 3392997

Lagoon Saddle & Mt Bruce

FEBRUARY 28

Lyttelton – Buckleys Reserve Phx B

Cost : nil

From Lyttelton Museum up zig zags to Gilmour Tce, followed by a steepish paper road to the ridge. Then at an easy pace on to an unformed, rocky steep track to the top and the gun emplacements. Spectacular views of Lyttelton and the harbour. Via the Pleasant Bluffs track and Major Hornbrooks track we go back down to the cars.

Grade : 2

Depart : Cnr Gladstone Quay & Oxford St, Lyttelton at 8.30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Alison Carter 337 9418

Hinewai BP28

Cost : 17 +\$1 donation Map N36

Climb Stony Bay Peak then to beach by South Track returning by East Track. Big circle route including Stony Bay peak (806m). Good views and down all the way after lunch. Bring togs.

Grade : 3

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

Time : 5-6hrs

Leader : Dave Collins 3527760

Mt Winterslow

Cost : \$19

Winterslow (1700m) is north of Mt Somers & south west of Mt Hutt. The usual route is up from Sharplin Falls via Dukes Knob. From the summit there are outstanding views to the Arrowsmiths & Southern Alps. There are a few alternative routes to take down depending on the group. This trip will only go ahead if a leader is available. Contact Ian 358 3724

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 7.30am

Time : 7+ hrs

Leader : TBA

SATURDAY TRAMPS

FEBRUARY 27

BP 13 Pettigrews Road to Monument & Return

Cost : \$12

Tramp follows along ridge with fabulous views in all directions. Half the group walk from each end. Swap keys at lunch time. Pettigrews Road driver receive \$14. Monument drivers receive \$10

Grade : 3

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

Time : 6 hrs

Leader : Colin Garthwaite. Ph: 03 360 3770

Black Hill (2067m) 29 November 2009

Where was everybody on this fine Sunday? (Possibly watching rugby? PK)

Two of us (N Climo, leader, S Sheen, party member) left Hororata at 7:30 am, after waiting for the non-existent rest of the club to reach us from Yaldhurst, drove to close to the quarry at Redcliffs Stn and began walking at 8:45 am. We went via the Black Hills Station musterer's hut (available for hire, \$50/night, 5 bunks, gas supplied, and quite habitable), cadged a drink from the 4 cyclists in residence and began the climb in earnest. The going was good (green line on map) and we reached the top at 12:45, for a well-earned half hour lunchtime. Views from Mt Cook, Arrowsmiths, head of Rakaia peaks and L Coleridge area were superb. For a bit of variety we bum-slid the snow patches and followed the stream down (yellow line on map) until the waterfalls made the going a bit slow, before heading back to the ridge, now quite steep, and not probably the best going apart from the fact that we were able to visit the only beech tree in the area, where we were given flying lessons by a New Zealand falcon.

We found a different route through the matagouri back to the car, which we reached by 3:45pm, just 7 hrs from our start. Not a very demanding or excessively long trip, grade 4, but a fair bit of up-hill work.

Permission required from Duncan Ensor of Black Hill Station, ph 021 855 014.

Stephen Sheen





Base Camp & Backpacking Programme 2010

Month	Venue	Days	Grade	Leader
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 tent- ing	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 Con-servation 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 op-tions 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 re-verse. 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

Tora Coastal Walkway - Wairarapa Coast

There are four places available on the Tora Coastal Walk commencing Sunday 14 March. The total cost is \$375 to include all food, pack transportation and three nights accommodation. Full details of the walk are available on www.toracoastalwalk.co.nz

If you are interested please contact Graeme Mathe-son 355 4391 ellenandgraeme-m@clear.net.nz

Stony Peak (Akaroa), 25.11.09. Photo—Greg Steer



Rees/Dart Hut trip 23—28 November 2009

Monday 23 November Ian Fussell (Leader & scribe), Helen Wells, Neil Helson, Dave Collins, Mark Keown & Ken Hall departed for Glenorchy for a five day trip on the Rees/Dart track. Track conditions were on our minds as the bridge had just gone back in the week before over the upper Snowy stream & DOC were advising to take crampons & ice axes.

Tuesday 24 We were met at the Holiday Park at 9.30 by Buckley's transport for the trip to Muddy creek with fine weather beckoning. The walk up beside the Rees river was enjoyable in warm sunny conditions and we were met by a school group returning from Shelter rock hut although we didn't find any record of them staying there. They assured us that the side streams were OK for crossing which made it a relaxing trip except for the heavy packs. Another party of three had left ahead of us but we didn't catch them as they walked on through to the Dart hut. That evening three of us did an hour recce up towards the saddle to get an idea on how bad the snow conditions were for Wednesday's crossing.

Wednesday 25 After an eventful night of wind gusts which we thought was going to take the hut out we departed in the morning in overcast but pleasant enough conditions for the climb up the Rees and over the saddle. On arrival at the bottom of the saddle the snow conditions were not too bad as it had been softened up by previous rain and not refrozen. Ice axes were used to help us get up over the saddle and a timely rest was taken at the top where I discovered that I had lost my watch. I thought I knew where it would be at the bottom of the saddle as I had slipped on some snow grass so I hastily descended to the spot where I thought it would be and luckily found it on the grass. So it was twice up to the saddle for me!

We had lunch further around the track overlooking Snowy creek and the snow bridges across the creek where we spotted two deer walking along the side of the valley. That evening the hut warden showed interest in these deer, as he wanted one for a meal. We met up with two guys from Auckland who were tramping for 75 days from further down south through to Arthur's Pass with packs weighing a mere 40 kilos each. The lady bus driver told us they had given her a fudge cake when she took them in because of the weight they were carrying. One of their mums had cooked it for them.

Thursday 26 The day dawned fine for our side trip to Cascade saddle where five of us took off with light packs. The side streams had been up and washouts were evident at some streams where the marker poles lead us into some difficult spots. The wind at the top had us putting on extra clothing but the views down the west Matukituki to Raspberry flat and Mt Aspiring made up for the cold. The return trip involved some fun bum sliding down the snow slopes and a walk down on the Dart river valley floor alongside the moraine.

Friday 27 An early start for the trip to Daley's Flat hut as the Hut warden advised us of a front coming through with rainfall due about midday. This put the plans we were thinking of the side trip up the Whitbourn River on the back burner. The Auckland guys had been up there the day before on the tops overlooking us in the Dart valley. We got within an hour of the hut before the rain started which got steadily heavier. Mark soon had a fire going and with the hut to ourselves we settled in for a lazy afternoon and card game with rain & thunder outside.

Saturday 28 The day dawned fine but cloudy as we headed out to Chinamans bluff. The side streams had been up but receded by the time we crossed so it was an uneventful trip out with the sun coming out and pleasantly warm. We were out early and waited for about an hour for our scheduled transport, which arrived on time.

We can strongly recommend Buckley's transport, Ph No 03 442 8215 when in this area for efficient & courtesy transport. Throughout the track, we did not encounter a lot of birdlife, but Mohua, Robin, Bellbird, and Parakeet was seen at the lower altitudes. A clean-up back at the Glenorchy camp and a bought sandwich that had to be seen to be believed saw us back in good form which lead to a card game at the local with a few drinks in hand. I'm sure the locals thought we were nut cases.

Thanks to all the members who were with me for the laughs and who made this an enjoyable trip.
Ian Fussell



Photo—Neil Helson



Rakaia River Mouth Fun Day, 2.12.09.
Photo—Clive Morriss



Boat race at the Christmas get-together,
12.12.09. Photo—Cathie Graves



DOC/Recreation User Group Meeting 2 December 2009

Colin Mackie & Ian Fussell attended the DOC user group meeting in December along with a large group of other tramping & recreation user clubs.

Some of the items discussed were:

- St James Cycleway project – new track 55km long, expected completion June 2010. Access via Maling Pass to Lake Guyon. The Christopher & Anne huts likely to be used by cyclist due close by. The track also for walkers.
 - Mt Thomas/Pinchgut tracks have had some clearing done, considered good huts for overnight stays.
 - DOC resources being channeled to the Nrth Island due greater population. Korean tramping groups starting up in AKL.
 - Hut books are being monitored to evaluate hut usage. Important to put names in book or suggestion was to count numbers staying and record numbers in book for those who don't sign in.
 - Mt Herbert gorse clearing on tracks. This is being undertaken including the track along the back of Mt Bradley which has been on "the do" list for some time. Suggestion the club could write a letter to the DOC Programme Manager, Dave Milward, offering the club's help to clear this track.
 - Counter on tracks – These counter devices are buried beneath the track surface and are used for recording number of walkers using tracks. The Mt Herbert walkway recorded 12,000 over 12 months (this includes return trips).
 - Toilets – overfull toilets (Packhorse). A call to DOC to advise them when found in this condition . This hut is to be maintained and new information board on history to be erected.
 - Amenity areas – more frequent maintenance on these areas (Godley Head carpark) due increase usage.
 - Godley Head tunnel track cut & resprayed.
 - Port Levy to Hill Top lower markers & secure polyethylene sleeves upgrade.
 - Tweedies Gully track maintenance carried out with volunteers.
 - Rail Trail – staff busy with spraying & other minor repairs
 - Port Robinson Walkway to reopen after closed for three years. Track clearing to start & is expected to be open before winter.
 - Harts Creek track to be maintained & new signage erected.
 - Okuti track has been cut & new signage drafted.
 - Godley Heads gun emplacements – new caretaker appointed, new signs for the area and money received from New World plastic bag programme used to rebuild WW2 security fence in area.
 - Conservation Management Strategy – a document was tabled on this asking for public views of the use of rural & public conservation areas. See website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/getting-involved/consultations/current-consultations/canterbury/cms-chapt1.5.1.pdf>
- Ian Fussell

Your OFTC Committee :

Chairman: Warwick Scadden 351 9779 scaddens@xtra.co.nz
Vice-Chairman: Gavin Hampton 343 1291 salgav@xtra.co.nz
Secretary: Karyn Brookes 354 0113 karynbrookes@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer: Peter Street 352 5526 PeterStreet@paradise.net.nz
Club Captain: Stu McHugh 323 6333 samchugh@clear.net.nz
Editor & Web: Liz Griffiths 351 4501 lizgriffiths@clear.net.nz
Membership: Fay Jackson 348 9276 f.Jackson@ext.canterbury.ac.nz

Committee: Liz Campbell 357 4543 lizcampbell@xtra.co.nz
 Bev Creighton 382 1881 bevcreighton@xtra.co.nz
 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



Sudden Valley, 6.1.10.
 Photo—Wendy Hughes