



# Going Places



OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB NEWSLETTER 478 FEBRUARY 2022

Lyttelton/Evans Pass Circuit, December 8. Photo Cathie Graves



Mt Somers north face car swap G4 January 16 westbound. Photo Neville Palmer

## Club Quiz Night Yaldhurst Hotel Tuesday February 1 at 7 pm

Cost \$25.00 p/p incl finger food

- Teams of five, 50 questions. Teams selected randomly.
- Quiz will be very informal and social and not just hard tramping questions.
- The bar and garden will be open from 6.15 pm.

### Choice of finger food including:

- Bacon-wrapped chicken bites
- Pastry puffs with salami, tomato & caramelised onion (gluten free)
- Zucchini pancakes with feta cream (gluten free & vegetarian)
- Mozzarella stuffed meatballs
- Avocado & prawn crostini

Please remember that this is to support the Yaldhurst Hotel and a thank you for the continued use of their car park so your support is appreciated.

Numbers and dietary requirements to David Jones by January 26

[ballymol@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ballymol@xtra.co.nz)

027 288 5845

Note the deadline for Newsletter items to the Editor is the 20th of every month for the following month's Newsletter—send to Mavis Airey at [mavis.airey@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mavis.airey@xtra.co.nz) AND Terry Stevens at [terendy2@gmail.com](mailto:terendy2@gmail.com)

Trip details by the 15th of every month to Trip Collators: Saturday and Sunday trips to Vicki Steven—421 0060 mob 022 130 4342 [vicki\\_steven2005@yahoo.com.au](mailto:vicki_steven2005@yahoo.com.au)  
Wednesday trips to Barbro Guard—980 2792 [guard.gabk@gmail.com](mailto:guard.gabk@gmail.com).

Please note — address all correspondence pertaining to Club business to the Secretary, in the first instance by email ([secretary@oftc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@oftc.org.nz))

Over Forties Tramping Club, PO Box 6505, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch 8442  
Established 1978 Affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

What a great summer this has been. I have done very little tramping as we have had grand kids staying for five weeks. ( 5 in the 2-8 yrs old bracket) A lot of fun, but also a lot of downtime just being present and hanging around. So my "tramping" has been vicarious through the club facebook postings. Its good to see people getting out in a range of weather conditions, and having a great time.

It is now official that summers are getting hotter. Perhaps this is a good time to evaluate whether you carry sufficient water and not assume that what worked last year will work this year.

You will have received by now an email giving the details of the upcoming Quiz night. These have been repeated in this edition of Going Places. Last year was the first time this event was tried and it was a lot of fun. David Jones and his team do a good job, and it will be a very enjoyable evening. It is also our way of saying thanks to the Yaldhurst Hotel for letting us use their carpark during tramp days. So make sure you get your name to David in time.

Kaye Young officially takes up her role as Club Captain in February and so any issues or concerns you have about a tramp need to be directed to her. Kaye will do a great job. For those of you who haven't caught up, the recently retired Club Captain Marcel Robb has now settled in Te Anau. He has already begun to identify tramps in the area that may be suitable for a possible basecamp sometime in the future.

In March we will hold our AGM. It is time to start thinking about whom you want on the committee. More details will be sent in late February.

What will this year bring? Who knows but one thing that is certain is that uncertainty will again be to the fore as we learn to live within a covid changed world.

**Lawrence Allpress**

## **CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

I have been passionate about the OFTC since January 6, 2016 when with Russell Hignett and Colin Garthwaite I did my first tramp from the Sea to the Sky – Diamond Harbour to the top of Mt Herbert. I ached for 2 days afterwards! So in accepting the Club Captain's role from February 2022 onwards, it is great to have a job that I am really enthusiastic about and which is a far cry from the volunteer jobs I have had in the disability sector and the accountancy jobs I had after graduating with a commerce degree.

However I am writing this before Christmas as I plan to be walking the Te Araroa in January from the Queen Charlotte Track to the Boyle village at Lewis Pass. It has been a long time in the planning and I have spent a lot of time weighing everything on the kitchen scales, listing it all in a spreadsheet and agonising what to take and what not. Biggest problem is that I haven't got my porter with me (a.k.a. my husband Roger). This means I have had to buy a lot of lightweight gear with big price tags. So when I return I will be your Club Captain in February.

Apart from the wide variety of tramps at different levels that the club offers it is the people that make the club. It is wonderful to socialise with so many like-minded individuals who are so enthusiastic and knowledgeable about tramping. But what also impresses me is all the people who volunteer their time and effort on club tramps and behind the scenes. Approximately 150 people out of a membership of 415 are actively involved and this does not include all the people who were involved in the past. Tramp Planners and Tramp Leaders are the lifeblood of the club so if you love coming out with us, consider leading one day. The club always needs more new members to come on board as Tramp Leaders.

The Club Captain's role is to arrange the training courses, liaise with and meet with members and other clubs, monitor the club website, liaise with Tramp Planners, write reports and also **Safety**. Within **Safety** the role involves liaising and assisting the H&S Officer, dealing with incidents and accidents, identifying potential safety issues. Covid 19 wasn't anticipated when the job description was written and it has added a layer of work for everyone on the committee and this is just to maintain the status quo! Lawrence Allpress, our Chair, deserves a medal, for all the work he has put in. Hence as Club Captain I will continue to support the Chair to make decisions in the best overall interest of the health and welfare of OFTC members, as a whole, and continue to follow Government policy on Covid 19.

To finish off: a reminder when you have completed your tramp, in addition to sending tramp numbers to Sally Timms at salgav@xtra.co.nz can you also go onto the website, to the tramp you have just done and at the bottom of the page, click on "**Add Tramp Leader**". This will allow you to add the date, your name and phone number as well as contact details for your co-leader. This information is extremely useful for people who want to do the tramp in the future and for Tramp Planners to know when the tramp was last done.

**Kaye Young**

**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 grade 2 and above are qualifying tramps.  
Travel costs for trips are calculated at three passengers per car.

**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**

**Go to the OFTC  
website home page -  
Cancellation Notices.**

**TRAMP PLANNERS**

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

**Saturday**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	Alec Mills	338 5002
	<b>Grade 1</b>		
	<b>Grade 2</b>	Pamela Gibbons	332 7531
		Graeme Brown	383 3732
		Carol Eddington	021 045 3170
	<b>Grade 3</b>	Peter Moody	351 7448
		Peter Glasson	021 324 954
	<b>Grade 4</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Grade 1</b>	Judy Eden	027 472 6538
	<b>Grade 2</b>	Heather & Alan Robertson	021 181 6019
		Pip Clark	027 331 1739
		Helen Rutledge & Garry Roberts	021 289 8491
	<b>Grade 3, 4 &amp; 5</b>	Ross Walker	027 558 2126
		Lesley Smith	338 4272
		Alison Downard	357 2089
		Peter Moore	027 773 1670

**SUNDAY TRAMPS****FEBRUARY 6****Grade 1: No Trip Planned**

Meet at Ashgrove Tce & decide from there

Cost : TBA

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst Street at 9:00am.

**Misty Peak Akaroa**

Cost : \$ 24

From Brocheries flat, past Purple Peak, Stoney Bay Peak and Flag Peak via Tara Track and others to Misty Peak. Return via Stoney Bay Peak if we have the inclination. Stunning views to harbour, bays and open sea all the way as we follow the ridgeline above Akaroa. Return the same way. If it'S very hot day we may consider an alternative cooler sheltered walk in Hinewai Reserve as the Misty Peak Reserve is quite exposed. Members from the Okains Bay OFTC camp may join us from Brocheries Flat.

Grade : 2

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst Street at 8.30am.

{note earlier start time}

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Jill Halliburton 3374973, 02102267556

**Leith Hill****W029A**

Cost : \$28.00

Park at the Mt Cloudsley carpark behind Castle Hill Village.

Pleasant stroll up Thomas River riverbed, negotiate two waterfalls then a steep climb to a saddle. Easy ridge top walk back to summit. Direct descent down mixed scree to the bush line then through bush to gain a MTB track beside Thomas River. Easy walk back to the carpark.

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 5 - 6 hrs

Leader : David Jones 027 288 5845

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

Go to OFTC website and log in. Click on *Members* section, then click on *Cancellations* on the left hand side list. Type your message into the dialog box then click save. **CANCELLATIONS MUST BE DONE 1½ HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE.**

Any changes to your trip or equipment requirements should be placed 12 hours in advance. Leaders are no longer required to go to the start meeting place provided this has been notified earlier

**LOCATOR BEACONS**

Collect and carry these. **Please note** — they are collected from the Z Service Stations at Belfast or Barrington and Mobil at Yaldhurst. For any private use of these beacons please contact Peter Oliver to arrange (027 438 5082).

**AT THE END OF THE TRAMP**

Please send the number of participants to:  
Sally Timms [salgav@xtra.co.nz](mailto:salgav@xtra.co.nz))

**FEBRUARY 13****Waipara Gorge**

Cost : \$15

See level 2 tramp. But we will not do the extra bit at the beginning. Bring togs and walking sticks and be prepared to have wet feet boots preferable, as slippery in places.

Grade : 1

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 9.00am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Judy Eden 0274726538

**Waipara Gorge**

Cost : \$15

Cars parked at Laidmore Rd park above the river by the information sign. Walk upstream to Drs Gorge to view concretions and return to start for morning tea. View beautiful concretions and limestone formations as we walk downstream for lunch. With permission from the farm, climb above the gorge to the limestone scarp; traverse scarp to just above where the cars are parked and descend a farm track. Bring togs for lunchtime swim. Walking poles recommended as the terrain is bouldery and may be slippery. We cross the river multiple times.

Grade : 2

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 9.00am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Selena Chan 3425014, 0273015501

**Cloudy Hill****W005B**

Cost : \$21.00

From the A Frame at Lake Lyndon, skirt the north pond and climb the east spur of Cloudy Hill to the summit. Proceed along the ridge to pt1456, then a steep descent on scree to a saddle followed by a direct climb to Mt Lyndon summit. Descend directly to the north end of Lake Lyndon and the cars.

This s a hard grade 3 trip with a total height gain of 1181m and two steep ascents, one of which is 30-40 mins on loose scree.

Grade : hard end of 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 5 - 6 hrs

Leaders : Peter Moore 027 773 1670 and Mark Christensen 027 487 8611

## FEBRUARY 13 CONTINUED

**Bealey Spur Power Stream W103**

Cost : \$34.00

*Up Bealey Spur track to tarns then head off into the bush above Power Stream. Drop down steep bank to join a good scree run to the stream and a gem of a waterfall, then follow Power Stream and Bruce Stream out to the road. Several deep river crossings.*

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30am

Time : 5 - 6 hrs

Leader: Neville Palmer 021 550 660

This trip will be limited to 8 trampers. Please contact Neville if you intend to come on this trip.

## FEBRUARY 20

**Governors Bay, Allandale**

Cost : \$4

*Up to Living Springs, across O'Farrells track, and down to fire station, and back along waterfront to cars.*

Grade : 1

Depart : Ashgrove Tce at 9:00am

Time : 4 / 5 hrs

Leader : Mary Brinston, 0272206270.

**Wharfdale track**

Cost : \$17

*The tramp starts from View Hill on Perhams Rd a pleasant tramp through beech forest on excellent track. Very gradual ascent to the saddle through to Lees Valley. Return the same track.*

Grade : 2

Depart : Belfast Hotel Carpark at 8.30 am {note earlier time}

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Pip Clark 0273311739

Co-leader : Heather Robertson 0211816019

**Mt Alford****SW14**

Cost : \$28.00

*An initial walk through native bush before crossing open paddocks and ascending Mt Alford (1171M). Beautiful views of Canterbury Plains, Mt Hutt, Mt Somers & Little Mt Peel.*

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 5 hours

Leader : Adrienne McLeod 027 303 3227

## FEBRUARY 27

**Mt Pleasant**

Cost : nil

*Up to John Britten reserve, and Summit Rd, at a gentle pace, maybe further depending on the group.*

Depart : McCormacks Bay Rd car park at the Redcliffs end, by the sports fields at 9:00am

Time : 3-4 hrs

Leader : John Winterburn 0274883073

**Governors Bay to Bellbird**

Cost : \$3

*Route can be variable. If it is a hot day the route will mainly be in the bush.*

Grade : 2

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce &amp; Ferniehurst St at 9.00am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Carolina Kol 03 3127970

## FEBRUARY 27 CONTINUED

**Cass Saddle****W020**

Cost : \$28.00

*This is the first stage of the Cass Lagoon Saddle Track. From the DOC car park, follow DOC markers up the track from SH73 near the road to the Cass settlement. The track enters the riverbed and then up its centre for approx. ¼ hr before picking up a marked DOC track on the true right. The track enters bush and it takes a further 2 hours to reach the Cass Hut. Note recent floods have washed out the track in places. Another 30 minutes is needed through alpine meadow to reach the saddle, which has good views of the Craigeburns and down to the Harper River. This tramp involves several stream crossings.*

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30am

Time : 7 hours

Leader : Heather Pearce 021 340 774

**Sudden Valley Hawdon River Circuit W52**

Cost \$32.00

*From the Hawdon Shelter, cross the Hawdon River and follow the Sudden Valley stream, crossing as necessary. Take the Devil's staircase out of the stream and continue up the valley to the biv. From the biv, exit Sudden Valley to the Hawdon River via pt 1594. Technical experience needed with lots of scree climbing and descents and gnarly streambeds. Experienced and strong members only.*

Grade: 5

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.00am Note early start time!

Time: 8 - 9 hrs

Leader: Ross Walker 027 558 2126

Please contact Ross if you are coming on this trip.

## WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

For Grade 1 tramps, check the OFTC website.

## FEBRUARY 2

**Charlesworth Reserve and Radley Park****NQ**

Cost: Nil

*From Scott Park follow coast line to Charlesworth Reserve to Ferry Rd roundabout, then follow river to Radley Park. Return to Scott Park following Heathcote River.*

Depart: Scott Park, Mount Pleasant, car park at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leaders: John and Colleen Herzog, 384 9321

**Gondola to Pony Point****PH61**

Cost: Nil

*From Gondola car park, walk up the Bridle Path to the Summit Road then CRW to the Gondola and down Major Hornbrook Track. Along to Time Ball Station for morning tea. Then through Lyttelton to Corsair Bay for lunch. Then on to Pony Point. Back in Lyttelton by 2.30 so those who want to can get bus back to Gondola Carpark. (Bring Goldcard, Metrorcard, or cash for this option) Alternative is to walk back. Bring togs for a lunchtime swim.*

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: 8.30am, base of Bridle Path

Leader: John Corbett, 348 3158 / 021 040 9024

## FEBRUARY 2 CONTINUED

**Broken Hill W072**

Cost \$21

*This route will get you onto the ridge from the main highway, parking in the cleared area besides the road about 1km past Parapet Rock. Walk across open ground until access the 4WD track. Follow route around clockwise direction. When you come down off the final ridge towards the stream pick a route through the bush that brings you onto 4WD track after crossing the stream. Avoid the wilding pines by staying in the bush. Distance 16.3km.*

Grade: 3

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park 8 am

Duration: 6+ hours

Leader: required

## FEBRUARY 9

**Ashley-Rakahuri River - going East NQ**

Cost: \$5.50

*Walking East from Rangiora Rail Bridge along tracks, through plantings and mature trees.*

Depart: Belfast Hotel (The Peg) car park at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Lois Watson, 03 313 3491

**Waipara Gorge N15**

Cost: \$15

*Lovely walk along a river in an area of unique and internationally renowned geological significance. Walk to the Gorge, along the river, wet feet a strong possibility, then back along the cliff tops. Bring togs for a swim at the gorge.*

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Belfast Hotel, 8.30

Leader: Carolyn Blackford, 022 651 6066

**Kaituna Valley to the Monument BP48A**

Cost: \$10

*Key swap required. Suggest stronger trampers start from Kaituna Valley end as there is a steady uphill climb. Lunch at Mt Herbert shelter. Monument is 500m higher than Kaituna valley. Total tramp 15km.*

Grade: 3

Depart: Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St, 8 am

Duration: 6+ hours

Co Leader 1: David Jones, 027 288 5845

Co Leader 2: Denise Cumberpatch, 027 340 3299

## FEBRUARY 16

**Waimakariri Walkway NQ**

A must for birdwatchers

Cost: Nil

*Walk the thin stretch of land between Brookland Lagoon and sea to the mouth of the Waimakariri River over undulating terrain on a mainly sandy base. Return via beach.*

*Depart: Seafield car park (Adrenalin Forest ChCh) opposite Spencer Park camping ground at 9.30am*

Time: 4 hours

Leader: Howard Harvey, 03 342 9377 / 021 136 3043

**Holliss Ave to CRW and beyond**

Cost: Nil

*From Holliss Ave take steps, alleys and paths to Victoria Park. Then Bowenvale, CRW to Sugarloaf, Sign of the Kiwi and beyond. Return via different tracks.*

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Hollis Ave, near Holliss Reserve at 8.30am

Leaders: Cathie Graves, 022 134 1911, and Sandra Knox, 021 027 91380

## FEBRUARY 16 CONTINUED

**Wharfedale Saddle NW19**

Cost: \$17

*Tramp starts from View Hill, and initially follows Wharfedale Track, before heading up a steepish climb, towards Mt Oxford. Take the track, on the left towards the Wharfedale Hut (signposted at Pt 1130) and then turn left at Pt 975 to the Wharfedale Saddle. From the saddle, turn left and follow the Wharfedale Track back to View Hill. There is no significant water until heading down the Wharfedale from the Saddle. There is a long drop toilet at the View Hill Carpark. There is a ford across a stream on the road into View Hill carpark, which can be tricky after rain, no low-slung vehicles!*

Grade: 3

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park 8am

Duration: 6 hours

Leader: required

**Hamilton Peak via Camp Saddle W026**

Cost: \$28

*A slightly easier ascent of Hamilton Pk with a circular return back via the northern part of Broken River ski field. 900m ascent, 8km.*

Grade: 4

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park

Duration: 6 - 7 hours

Leader: Alan Stow, 021 078 6038

Co leader on the day.

## FEBRUARY 23

**Canterbury Agricultural Park to Westlake NQ**

Cost: Nil

*Walking on paths and byways from Agricultural Park to Westlake and return.*

Depart: Cnr Warren Cres and Charles Upham Ave at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Valda Woods, 358 8250

**Flagpole W141**

Cost: \$16

*Scenic walk along farm tracks to summit of Flagpole at 900M, which overlooks Whitecliffs.*

Grade: 2

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel at 8.30 am

Time: 5 hours

Leaders: Russell Hignett, 355 5670, 027 343 6846, Graeme Brown, 383 3732. Cese James to be called a couple of days before the tramp 027 2934 071

**Little Mt Peel SW07**

Cost: \$39

*Travel to Peel Forest and on to Blandswood and car park. Proceed up Emily Falls track to shelter at Mt Little Peel, return down Deer Spur track to car park. Can be done clockwise or anticlockwise.*

Grade: 3

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park 7.30 am

Duration: 5 hours

Leader: Peter Oliver, 027 438 5082

Co Leader:

**Notices for your diaries**

Bowenvale Valley

This is on "our" plantings that we have been doing for over the last decade with the City Council. An opportunity to put back into the Port Hills something for all the enjoyment that they give us.

**Autumn Maintenance Day – Thursday 31 March. 12.30 till 3.00****Planting Day – Thursday 19 May 12.30 till 3.00****Spring Maintenance Day – Thursday 20 October 12.30 till 3.00**

In all cases we meet at the Bowenvale car park and proceed up to "our" area. You only need to bring yourselves – the Council will supply everything else we require.

Queries: Gavin Hampton 343-1291

## Arthurs Pass Basecamp 14th - 18th December 2021

17 members met at the YMCA Outdoor Education Centre on the Tuesday afternoon. After unloading our gear and food, we did about a 3 hr walk on the easily accessible tracks from the village – Bridal Veil Falls, Bealey Valley and the extended Arthur's Pass tracks towards the Otira Valley. This was a nice introduction to the lush Arthur's Pass vegetation and a warm-up for the coming days.

Wednesday's weather was not ideal. Murky skies and all day drizzle! Not to be deterred, we headed out for a valley walk – up the Waimakariri, on O' Malley's Track to Anti- Crowe hut. The track initially took us through Beech forest above the river, then down to the Turkey flats and on to the hut. The weather was not improving, so we didn't venture further. The drying room back at the lodge proved to be a great asset when we returned to base. A visit to the Bealey hotel was enjoyed late afternoon. The pub had a good vibe and they welcomed our business. Back at the lodge, the BBQ was fired up, and meals were enjoyed. A relaxing evening followed with some music provided by the talented Mr. Allpress on his guitar, and some good (and not so good!) singing. The Quiddler and cards came out with the competitive streak of some becoming apparent!

Thursday was fine and sunny. We headed off to Kelly's Creek, just past Otira, and did the track up to Carroll hut. Track was quite steep and rugged in places, but considering all the recent rain, was in pretty good condition. Vegetation was lush with such a variety of alpine species. We seemed a bit late to see the Mt Cook buttercup at it's best, just the odd one in flower here and there. Some of the group relaxed around the hut and tarns on the flats, others continued on over the Kelly Saddle towards the Taipo. There were great expansive views all around. On our return, we called in to the Otira hotel. It turned out to be unlicensed, so those hoping for a beer were disappointed, but coffees etc. were welcome. Back at the lodge, another pleasant evening with excellent food and camaraderie followed.

Friday was the worst day of all – persistent rain all day. We delayed heading out, hoping it would improve. Was not to be, but being an enthusiastic bunch, after an early lunch we departed for the Otira Valley track, and 2 to Temple Basin. The Otira Valley track was very wet, with the streams and waterfalls flowing swiftly – quite spectacular. Some of us just went to the footbridge, but some keen, hardy souls continued up to the snowline and really enjoyed it. Despite the weather, Lawrence and Helen were lucky to get glimpses of the landscape above and around the Temple Basin skifield. The pre-dinner nibble men, Michael and Lawrence, treated us to another round of tasty treats. A great meal followed and a final chance to reign supreme at Quiddler for some of the group. Puzzles and reading occupied others.

Saturday, our day of departure, as Murphy's Law would have it, was brilliantly fine and sunny. Some of the group had commitments and had to return to Christchurch in the morning. But, 9 of us headed off on the Mt Bealey track. The forecast indicated that there could be strong winds higher up, so our plan was to go above the bushline to Point 1760 and then re-assess. Conditions were great, so we continued on along a fairly straightforward ridge. The views all around were expansive – nearest – Avalanche Peak and Mt Rolleston. The last part to the top of Mt Bealey (1836) was quite rocky and narrow, but we were exhilarated to reach the top. Back at Arthur's Pass, we enjoyed a coffee before heading off home.

**Sue Weller**

Photos: Sue Weller



*"In Arthurs Pass were gathered there the Beauty and the Chivalry  
They tramped the days and spent the nights in unrestrained revelry"*

Some poetic licence there as the nights included knitting, Quiddler, card games consisting of Edith hitting her nose, chicklit (she doesn't fall in love until page 171), Deidre producing "fashion in the field" outfits from plastic bags, solving Cryptic Crosswords by Helen and Kaye with seven assistants and of course banqueting. We feasted on starters prepared by nibbles master Lawrence and his assistant, Robin's delicious chocolate brownies, gourmet pizzas and Boeuf Bourguignon from the land of deep fried Mars bars. The undoubted highlight was the male fashion parade. Michael showed a thorough knowledge of the colour palette teaming an Hawaiian shirt with a 1970's tie, Peter M showed the latest tonsorial style topped with a charming Glaswegian cap, Tim contrasted a classic Ballantynes top with an outrageous K Mart tie, Peter B demonstrated the latest runway walk with his punk era stomp and Lawrence was the undoubted star with his new era shorts. The display of twin columns of sun-kissed muscle and sinew rippling in perfect harmony produced much whistling and gale force eye-lash fluttering.

We tramped up and down hills and got wet and sunburnt.

**Anon**

## Backpacking and Basecamps 2022

Dates	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
Sun 30 Jan – Wed 2 Feb 2022	Hope Kiwi Hut – Top Hope Hut	3	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
Wed 2 – Wed 9 February 2022	Okains Bay	7	Easy	Judy Eden 3844857 / 0274726538 Carolyn Blackford 0226516066
Sat 19 – Sun 20 Feb 2022	Ada Pass Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 / 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
Mon 28 Feb – Fri 4 Mar 2022	Welcome Flat Hut – Douglas Rock Hut, Westland <i>3 nights on the track and 2 nights at Fox</i>	5	Moderate	Ian Fussell 3850856 / 02102719869 fussel@xtra.co.nz
Sun 6 – Tues 8 Mar 2022	Kirwans Hut – Montgomerie Hut circuit, Reefton	2	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
9 – 10 March 2022	Packhorse Hut	1	2	Chris Clark 0274879221 kiwisonbikes@xtra.co.nz
Mon 7 – Fri 11 March 2022	Travers – Sabine Circuit, Nelson Lakes <i>Waiting list available</i>			Natasja Steenkamp 021 237 1934 tasjasteen@gmail.com
Sun 13 – Fri 18 Mar 2022	Basecamp – Twizel and surrounds	5	4 & 5	Marcel Robb 039283733/0220125008 marcel.robb@gmail.com
Sat 19 – Sun 20 Mar 2022	Pinnacles Hut, Mt Somers	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 / 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
Mon 28 Mar – Fri 1 Apr 2022	Granity Pass Hut/Mount Owen, Westland	4	Moderate	Ian Fussell 3850856 / 02102719869 fussel@xtra.co.nz
Mon 11 – Thurs 14 Apr 2022	Huxley Hut – Broderick Hut	3	Moderate	Ian Fussell 3850856 / 02102719869 fussel@xtra.co.nz
Sat 16 – Sun 17 Apr 2022	Hawdon Hut	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 / 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com

### 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 6 weeks prior to departure if advertised more than 3 months ahead, otherwise at 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.

**Gerald Edmunds Tel: 342 6331 or [agedmunds@outlook.com](mailto:agedmunds@outlook.com) Base Camp and Backpacking Co-ordinator**

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### New members:

Rachel Connor;  
027 630 7535;  
star.dustconnor@gmail.com  
Marion Coxon;  
027 431 7397;  
marioncoxon@gmail.com  
Nicky Tillson;  
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#### Membership:

Total 418 (Female 253; Male 165)

**Judy Collin**



**Vets' tramp November 17:** With leader Helen Chan the Vets had a very pleasant walk from the Millbrook Reserve to the Heritage Rose Gardens in Hagley Park, near the hospital. Then to the Canterbury Earthquake National Memorial and the Riverside Market and beyond. We were delighted to walk through the market to view the recently painted mural at the rear. The Trompe L'oeil 3D impression is to commemorate the early businesses that had been lost in the earthquake. Its quite unbelievable to find it is painted on the flat rear wall. Perhaps our Trampers who are up in the hills may not be aware of these interesting spots !! **Clive Morriss**

## Stewart Island 28 November—5 December 2021

Six of us (Graeme Kerr, Rob Lines, Sharon Foster, Jenny Hoffman, Susan Brechin and Natasja Steenkamp) flew from Christchurch on Sunday morning 28 November to Invercargill to catch our charter flight to Mason Bay, Stewart island. We saw Mt Anglem from the aeroplane, lovely tarns and spectacular beaches, some on which we walked on. Landing on the beach was one of the many highlights of the trip. Another highlight was definitely seeing kiwis on the track and hearing their calling at night. We met very interesting people along the way and in the huts, had many laughs and made unforgettable memories.

We did the north west circuit, walking clockwise, 6 days and 6 nights. We stayed in the following huts: Mason Bay, Big Hellfire, East Ruggedy, Yankee river, Christmas Village, and Bungaree. Our walking times, including many and frequent stops, and navigation challenges (the track is often not well marked, especially on the western side, and had a few obstacles such as for example fallen trees), were as follow: Day 1 (9.5 hours); day 2 (7.75 hours); day 3 (11.25 hours); day 4 (6.75 hours); day 5 (5.5 hours); and day 6 (3 hours). We took a watertaxi from Port Williams to Oban because we wanted to see the island from the water and did not feel like walking another 4.5 hours to Oban with 1.5 hours on a tar sealed road.

The track is certainly not for the faint-hearted. One constantly has to focus and concentrate on your feet. The main challenges on the track are lots of tree roots and as expected, heaps of mud. However, we managed to go around most of the mud, often swinging through the trees like monkeys and hugging trees. The deepest level of mud for most of us was around ankle deep. We all got scratched and had falls, some more spectacular than others. Backpacks are not good only for carrying your stuff but they saved a few of us from falling badly. For most of us, our boots were wet the whole trip, hence one of our morning rituals was to attend to our precious little feet, dressing them to prevent getting blisters. Regardless, our feet were sore simply from the constant change in terrain and movement in the boots. Thankfully, we were aware of our sore feet only for a few minutes each time we started walking but fortunately ones' feet 'acclimatise' after a short while and feeling the pain simply moved to other parts of the body.



We had perfect tramping weather, no rain for 6 days, and although nobody wanted to believe it, apparently Natasja 'organised' the weather with the weather god. Stewart island is a very special place, so rugged, remote and unspoiled. The blue skies and white sandy beaches made it look very tropical until we went for a swim at Bungaree hut and realised it is not tropical after all!

We would recommend this tramp to very fit, strong and experienced trampers. It's a great feeling to have ticked this tramp off our bucket lists. One member of the group ticked this off twice on her bucket list. She did the north west circuit about 10 years ago (going clockwise), but forgot why she said at that time that she will not do it again. Although she remembered on day 1! why she didn't want to do it again, she kept on saying that this time was so much more spectacular and beautiful because the previous time they had no views due to pouring rain. So thanks Natasja for organising the weather while being on the track.

We stayed in an Air B&B in Oban on Saturday evening and it started to rain during the night. On Sunday morning, five of us went on a 3.5 hour guided walk tour with Beak and Feathers to Ulva Island. The rain was steady for the first half of the tour, which made us grateful for (1) the perfect weather while on the north-west circuit, (2) for having the opportunity to 'test' our wet weather gear, and (3) for not having had to carry the wet weather gear and not use it. Going to Ulva Island was another highlight of our adventure and we highly recommend going on a guided tour. We saw and heard many birds which we would otherwise not have on our own and we learned a lot about the trees and bush. Our co-pilot (Rob Lines) ensured we had a smooth flight back to Invercargill.

Enjoy the pics on the club's FB page, sure they tell better stories than words can!

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