



OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB NEWSLETTER 483 JULY 2022

Middle Rock Base Camp

On Friday May 20th eleven of us set off from Camp Leader's Garry's place at 4pm heading to Middle Rock near Coleridge. The group consisted of Garry, Noelene, Vicky, Lois, Sue, Chrissy, Susie, Kelvin, Carolyn, Alan and myself.

As we drove away from a cold, wet, bleak Christchurch day, we were hoping the weather would improve. We weren't disappointed as the closer we got to Coleridge the fresh snow lying low on the surrounding hills was breathtaking. We arrived at the Shearers' Quarters to a welcoming roaring fire in the spacious lounge. After everyone had explored, found their bedrooms and unpacked, then drinks were poured and conversations began around the fire. The group had strict instructions to keep out of the kitchen while chef Garry prepared dinner. Not only were we having dinner cooked for us, we also had a choice of Thai curried fish, smoked chicken and mushroom filo rolls, baked chicken or fillet Mignon steak! This was followed by ginger pear pie or apple strudel. We were seated and served individually which made the meal even more special. Needless to say the plates were soon emptied of simply divine food.



Saturday morning dawned sunny with a bit of a chilly breeze. We each made our own breakfast and packed lunch with one person eating apple strudel for breakfast. I must admit the lunch award must go to Susie with her impeccable club sandwiches. We set off on a lovely walk down along the Rakaia River and then up along some tracks with great views of the snowy mountains. Saturday evening, once again we had our meal cooked for us. A bbq with seafood kebabs, beef kofta patties, chicken drumsticks, and pumpkin, kumara and falafel patties, served with 4 different salads. Dessert of course followed, this time pav and fresh fruit salad. Garry made the pav after getting back from the walk. Another great evening sitting around the fire.



Sunday morning after breakfast, lunch making and packing the cars, we greeted the Sunday tramp group led out by Selena. They were very impressed with our accommodation. From here we travelled to Peak Hill. Some grade 3 trampers went on ahead of us as we climbed the steepest part of the hill. Once at the first rise we stopped for morning tea and magnificent views over the river, Lake Coleridge and valley with the fresh snowy mountains glistening in the sunlight. We were rewarded at the top of Peak Hill to find some snow to build a little snowman. After a group photo we headed back down quite slow in places where the track was steep and muddy in parts. Hororata cafe was closed so unfortunately we didn't finish with coffee. This very successful and enjoyable weekend was down to the amazing chef and camp leader Garry. Thanks Garry.

Heather Robertson

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

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

Wednesday trips to Vicki Grace—vicki.grace@harcourts.co.nz Ph: 027 201 2231

Please note — address all correspondence pertaining to Club business to the Secretary, in the first instance by email (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

www.oftc.org.nz

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am writing this from my home country Germany and our trip has started with a bit of drama. After the first night of staying with my in-laws, my husband tested positive for Covid. This meant that instead of catching up with family and friends we had to self-isolate away from our families (and from each other). It made us wonder whether it is really a wise idea to travel in times of the pandemic ...

But this is not a column for self-pity or unsolicited travel advice, it is rather a place for some information about the club: The FMC Discount Cards will be posted out to all fully subscribed members in late June/early July. Please ensure that Judy (membership@oftc.org.nz) has your correct mailing address in case your address has changed.

Last year the club introduced a transport rule which limited the number of people per car to four, to limit the spread of Covid-19. While this rule has not been applied consistently, it has not been 'officially' revoked either. A question was brought to the committee by one of our members about reducing the number of cars on the road in the interest of the environment. The committee has agreed that it is no longer necessary to limit the number of people to four per vehicle and that the minimum number of cars should be used for travel. However, more often than not, tramp numbers and car sizes will mean that not all cars can have 5 people, and so to ensure that car owners are not short-changed, travel costs are calculated assuming 4 people per car. The Members Handbook states that all drivers should receive the same amount (regardless of the numbers in each car). This is something that leaders will endeavour to do (although equalising the amounts may be impractical for large group sizes).

Lastly, there is now a donation box at the Springfield toilets and one of the members has suggested we should each donate a gold coin whenever we use these 'first-class' facilities. Like the Yaldhurst Hotel carpark we are regular users, and this is an easy way to 'give back'.

Edith Goesmann

Our Club: Valda Hodges

Valda and Bruce Hodges founded the OFTC in February 1978. The couple had previously tramped with another club but found it hard to keep up with the mostly younger trampers. They wondered if there were other people over forty years of age with a desire to explore the back-country at a more leisurely pace, so they placed small ads in the local newspapers. "There was an overwhelming response", says Valda, and forty letters came back straight away. A public meeting was held, and the club was good to go.



Only eight months on, the club counted 113 members and from the very start the emphasis was on safety. With new members continuously joining it was considered necessary to run 4-5 Basic Bushcraft Courses over the following year, plus two or more Advanced Courses. A basic Leadership Training Programme was also introduced very early, as three or four leaders were required to be on each tramp. All club training activities were organised by the Club Instructor and trip cancellations were broadcast over 3ZB on tramp day at approximately 7am.

Valda remembers the good spirit of the club, the camaraderie and the sense of humour of its members. At 88 years of age, she still goes for daily walks, and only her deteriorating eyesight has stopped her from joining any OFTC activities. Thank you, Valda, you have created a legacy!

Membership Report

20 June 2022

New members:

Willy Cochrane: 0274 777 598
Barbara Purcell: 021 293 1735
Jo Hutchings: 027 314 8194
Mami Kumada: 021 039 2354/352 6215
Kathy Ramsay: 021 233 6732
Kay Taylor: 022 152 6158
Scott Campbell: 021 747 797
Danielle Barwick: 0274 066 801
Garth Dever: 022 050 6625

Resignations (years in OFTC)

Dorothy Aitken-Edwards (12)
Judy Berryman (7)
Denise Matthews (5)
Gary Munks (2)
Anne Priest (3)
Brent Stanley (5)
Joan Stevens (17)
Theo and Karen Degen (4)
Donna Grice (3)
Mary Lovell (16)

Membership:

Total = 405 (Female – 246; Male – 159)

Judy Collin



Grade 4 Mt Oxford - Oxford Hill and Ashley Saddle, June 15: "Epic, cold, monumental, adventurous, magnificent scenery that I've experienced today climbing to top Mt Oxford 1365m, that's 4000ft... Big, big warm thank-you to Graeme our leader and Andrew our co-leader... This tramp goes down in history books!!" – Kathy Ramsay

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

Wednesday	Veterans	Alec Mills	338 5002
	Grade 1		
	Grade 2	Pamela Gibbons	332 7531
		Graeme Brown	383 3732
		Carol Eddington	021 045 3170
		John Corbett	348 3158
	Grade 3	Peter Moody	351 7448
		Peter Glasson	021 324 954
	Grade 4		
Sunday	Grade 1	Judy Eden	027 472 6538
	Grade 2	Heather & Alan Robertson	021 181 6019
		Pip Clark	027 331 1739
		Helen Rutledge & Garry Roberts	021 289 8491
	Grade 3, 4 & 5	Ross Walker	027 558 2126
		Lesley Smith	338 4272
		Alison Downard	357 2089
		Peter Moore	027 773 1670

SUNDAY TRAMPS**JULY 3****Mary Duncan Park to Rapaki Track**

Cost : Nil

Mary Duncan Park to Rapaki Track, and return.

Grade: 1 Time : 3-4 hrs NQ

Depart : Port Hills Rd at entry to Park at 9.00am

Leader : John Winterburn 027 488 3073

Washpen Falls WOO9A

Cost : \$21 plus \$10 fee

An interesting walk in the Windwhistle area which only takes 2-3 hours so will be combined with another walk (as below).

Coalgate Millenium Walkway. This loop track starts on the Hororata side of the white bridge crossing the Selwyn River in Coalgate. It is approximately 5 kms long and is fairly steep initially. There is a longer option of this walk.

Grade : 2 Time : 4-5 hours

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel 9am

Leader : Garry Roberts 3497875

Co-leader TBA

Evans Pass to Ahuriri Bush via CRW PH96

Cost : \$6

Evans Pass to Ahuriri Bush and vice versa along the full length of the Crater Rim Walkway – a cross over tramp with key swap midway. One group starts at Evans Pass/ Godley Head intersection. The other group starts at Ahuriri Bush. Has some steep sections, more climbing from Evans Pass end - approximately 900m. Mostly exposed, with some intermittent bush sections. Great views over both sides of the hills. Groups meet for lunch midway (about Scott Bush Reserve). Distance approx. 22kms / 7 hrs

Grade : 4 (due to length) Time : 7 hours

Depart : Ashgrove Terrace 8.00 am

Leaders: Sue Weller 021 194 9550, Alison Downard 021 133 7252

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)

JULY 10**Bowenvale**

Cost : Nil

Various tracks, shorter and slower than Grade 2.

Grade : 1 Time : 4 hrs NQ

Depart : Bowenvale Ave carpark at 9.00am.

Leader : Diana Hudson 355 6114

Bowenvale and Beyond PH49

Cost : nil

This tramp commences at the Bowenvale Ave carpark at the end of the road. Up Bowenvale to CRW then onto Mt Vernon and return via various tracks.

Grade : 2 Time : 4-5 hours

Depart : Bowenvale carpark 9am

Leader : Jenny Owens 021 027 04522

Co-leader TBA

Mt Herbert from Orton Bradley Park BP10

Cost : \$7 plus share of \$10 per car for Orton Bradley Park

A steady walk up the central valley from Orton Bradley Park to the shelter, and on to Te Ahu Patiki (Mt Herbert) summit at 919 m. Lovely views 360 °views. Return via the route under Mt Bradley and join the tablelands track back to the cars.

Grade : 3 Time : 6 hours

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst St, 8.00 am

Leader : Alison Ford 021 077 6932

JULY 17**Omahu Bush**

Cost : \$5

Explore some of the tracks in the Omahu Bush area.

Grade : 1 Time : 3-4 hrs NQ

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce & Ferniehurst St at 9.00 am

Leader : Judy Eden 384 4857, 027 472 6538

Omahu Bush and Environs PH23

Cost : \$5

From Gibraltar Rock carpark, tramp over walking tracks in Omahu/Ahuriri/Summit Road areas. Home to a variety of bird life including the Bellbird, Grey Warbler, Fantail and Kereru.

Grade : 2 Time : 5 hours

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 9am.

Leader : Helen Wood 021 295 9962. Co-leader TBA

JULY 17 CONTINUED

Trig M Rabbit Hill variation W003B

Cost : \$26

From the A frame shelter at Lake Lyndon, climb ridge track to Trig M. Follow the broad undulating ridge to Rabbit Hill. Return along the ridge before dropping down a spur through bush to the head of Lake Lyndon and back to the cars.

Grade : 3 Time : 5- 5.5 hours

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8.00 am

Leader : David Jones 027 288 5845

Co Leader : Peter Moore 027 773 1670

Castle Hill Peak via Foggy Peak from Porters Pass W137

Cost : \$22

From the top of Porters Pass, steepish climb on scree to Foggy Peak and then along an undulating ridge to Castle Hill Peak. Return the same way. About 1300m vertical gain. Ice axe and crampons (and prior experience) essential. Will be postponed to the following Sunday if weather unsuitable.

Grade : 4 Time : 7 hours

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 7.30 am

Leader : Ross Walker 027 558 2126

Please contact Ross if you are planning to come on this tramp.

JULY 24

PMH to the Sign of the Kiwi

Meet at Cnr Ashgrove Tce & Ferniehurst St at 9.00am.

Leader to be decided on the day.

Valley Road to Trig V PHx

Cost : nil

Follow various tracks up through Victoria Park to the Kiwi and on around Coronation Reserve to Trig V. Sweeping views of the Harbour and Banks Peninsula.

Grade : 2 Time : 5.5 hours

Depart : Valley Road Cashmere (park on Crichton Tce at the end of the tennis courts.) at 9am.

Leader : Carolina Kol 03 312 7970

Woolshed creek via Bus Stop W040

Cost : \$37

From Woolshed Creek carpark, an initially steep climb to the Bus Stop, a view point on the lower slopes of Mt Somers, continue sidling the slopes before dropping down to the waterfall and hut. Return via old coal mine.

Grade : 3 Time : 6 hours

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8.00 am

Leader : Jill Halliburton 021 022 67556

JULY 31

Bruce's River Walk

Cost : Nil

Wandering the river ways with Bruce.

Grade : 1 Time : 3 hrs NQ

Depart : From grassed area on east side of bridge by the Tannery (Garlands Rd & King Edward Tce) at 9.30am. NOTE LATER TIME.

Leader : Bruce Stanton 338 1909

Hogsback W142

Cost : \$28

Start from Castle Hill Village carpark, the track takes us through tussock and beech forest to the knob above Texas Flat. Return the same way. Wonderful views of Castle Hill basin and the Craigieburn and Torlesse ranges.

Grade : 2 Time : 5 hours

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel 8.30 (note earlier time)

Leader : Selena Chan 027 301 5501

Mt Grey N35

Cost : \$17

Steady climb up Red Beech Track through native bush to trig (934m) then walk along the tops and return same or alternative route. All round great views – Kaikoura to Banks Peninsula.

Grade : 3 Time : 6 hours

Depart : Belfast Hotel Carpark 8.00 am

Leader : Peter Moore 027 773 1670

JULY 31 CONTINUED

Mt Torlesse W024

Cost : \$21

Steady plod up the Kowhai River and then up long ridge to summit and return via different ridge (scree slope) to Kowhai Hut and out. Ice axe and crampons (and prior experience) essential.

Grade : 4 Time : 8 hours

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 7.30 am

Leader : Neville Palmer 021 550 660

Please contact Neville if you are planning to come on this tramp.

WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

For Grade 1 tramps, check the website

JULY 6

Charlesworth Reserve and Radley

Park NQ

Cost: Nil

From Scott Park follow coastline 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 Phone 384 9321

Okuti Valley to Hilltop BP31

The track climbs steadily uphill from Okuti Valley Scenic Reserve through native bush and farmland to a saddle from where one can enjoy good views to Kaitorete Spit and Mts Sinclair and Fitzgerald.

Cost: \$18

Grade: 2 Time: 5 hours

Depart: Ashgrove Tce at 8.30am

Leaders: Lois Prebble 021 023 56458 Tom Cholmondeley 021 024 30977

Pattersons Hill WO14

Cost: 125 kms = \$20

Travel to Kowai Bush. Start at Midland Line Viaduct, following road to saddle (650m), steep climb through bush to open country then follow ridge to summit. Return by similar route. Panoramic views of Waimak gorge, plains, Torlesse & Puketeraki Ranges.

Grade: 3 Duration: 5 hours

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark at 8.30am

Leader: Kaye Young Phone 021 025 68702

JULY 13

Upper Ashley River Rakahuri New NQ

Cost: \$8

Exploring along stop banks of the upper Ashley River

Depart: Belfast Hotel, The Peg, car park at 9-30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: David Eddy Phone 359 7443 or 027 262 4601

Lyttelton/Evans Pass/Mt Pleasant PH111

Take various tracks through Lyttelton up the Urumau and along to Evans Pass. Back up through Greenwood Park to Mt Pleasant then along CRW and back to Lyttelton.

Cost: Nil

Grade: 2 Time: 5 hours

Depart: Albion Square at 8.30am

Leader: Jenny Lee 027 413 1624

Woolshed Hill from Hawdon Shelter return W050A

Cost: 230 kms = \$37

Moderate to steepish climb until clear of the bush after about 1hr 10. Great views along exposed ridge, but easy travel, to Woolshed Hill. If the party is travelling well, continue to Pt1420, which adds a further 20-30 mins, before returning via same route. Ice axe and crampons could well be required in winter.

Grade: 3 Duration: 5-6 hours

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark at 8am

Leaders: Lawrence Allpress 022 092 8656 and David Jones 027 288 5845

JULY 13 CONTINUED

Red Hill via Coleridge Pass W028

Cost: To be determined

Park up the Porters Skifield Road off the road opposite the turnoff to the Porters Lodge Cafe. Terrain is fairly boggy in the valley. The trip requires criss-crossing the river in several places if you stay low. From Coleridge Pass climb up the ridge to Red Hill at Pt 1641. From Red Hill take the ridge down to Pt 1488 and Pt 1494 before heading down to the valley and across the river back to the cars. Ice axe and crampons recommended in snow conditions.

Grade: 4

Duration: 5-6 hours

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark at 8am

Leader: Graeme Kerr Phone 027 433 9055

JULY 20

Allandale to Sandy Bay NQ

Cost: \$6

Walking along the coastal track from Allandale to Sandy Bay and returning on the same track

Depart: Cnr of Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Mary Brinsdon Phone 366 9119

Gorge and Cathedrals W033

Via Rakaia walkway, then over rolling farmland. Magnificent views.

Cost: \$22

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8.30am

Leader: Sandi Leith 021 189 4773, 03 302 4797

Co-leader: Ann McKeever 027 733 2850

Foggy Peak W007

Cost: 120 kms = \$19

Steady steepish climb up broad ridge all the way to summit, 800m above road. Return by same route or drop down ridge to the West for half km then cross scree face leading south towards cars. Excellent views on clear days as far as Mt. Cook. The area is subject to fogs and high winds.

Grade: 3

Duration: 5 hours

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark at 8.00am

Leader: David Jones Phone 027 288 5845

JULY 27

Lincoln Area**NQ**

Cost: \$4

Walking on byways, old and new areas.

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Clive Morriss Phone 358 2753

Ferrymead Park/Heathcote River/CRW Loop New Walk

From Ferrymead Park we will follow the Heathcote River around to Hansen Park. Then up Rapaki Track, along CRW then down to join Morgans Valley track back to Ferrymead Park.

Cost: Nil

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Ferrymead Park at 8.30. Drive into Ferrymead Park, on Bridle Path Road, then turn left into Sports Parking area.

Leader: Pamela Gibbons 3327 531 022 678 0398

Hurunui Peak (N66)

Cost: 183 kms = \$29.00

From Korari Downs on 1036 Tekoa Road, a steady climb to ridge followed by some steep sections to the summit. Panoramic views of the Culverden Basin, Balmoral Forest, and Island Hills.

Grade: 3

Depart: Belfast Hotel Carpark at 8.30am

Duration: 4-5 hours

Leader: Edith Goesmann Phone 021 801 718

Club Captain's Noticeboard

Winter has arrived! It is a bit of a shock to the system to have such cold mornings after the glorious Autumn we experienced. In addition we are dealing with the usual coughs and colds and the flu on top of Covid 19 in the community. So if you are feeling unwell please stay at home. After starting a tramp if you find that you feel ill and need to go back to the start, then the Tramp Leader must ensure that someone goes back with you. If you have a health condition and vulnerability please have a quiet word with your Tramp Leader beforehand. Better still, if you have a trusted friend, who regularly tramps with you, please inform that person as the trusted friend is more likely to know what to do, rather than the first aider, in the event of a medical event happening.

Backpack Discussion: Thank you to all Tramp Leaders and new members for answering my questions on the Backpack Inspection topic. I really appreciated your honesty and candid comments and the information provided was invaluable.

My observations were that the Grade 2 Tramp Leaders deal with the majority of Prospective Members. Sometimes there are multiple PM on a day tramp. This creates a problem in terms of having enough time to talk about gear, let alone a backpack inspection, when the day is short and cold and the TL wants people to get home safely. However PM know from reading their Membership Application Form that some questions will be asked and are happy to have their backpacks inspected. What is working for TL, and what they are already doing most consistently, is having a discussion with the PM on the phone, the day before, about what gear to take. On the day of the tramp what works the best is the TL starting a conversation about what is in their own backpack and why, and the importance of warm clothing, taking a parka in summer, good boots etc. This can lead to a longer discussion about first aid kits, gaiters, walking poles and gear in general. Finally, another observation is that the TL doesn't have to be the person initiating the discussion on the day of the tramp; it could be the Co Leader or an experienced member.

In Summary we recommend that:

1. The TL talks on the phone the day before the tramp, to the PM about having the right gear.
2. On the day, if he/she doesn't have time, the TL considers asking an experienced member or the Co Leader to initiate a backpack discussion with the PM about what is in his/her backpack. Tell a story from personal experience about why a particular piece of gear is important.
3. The wording is changed on the Membership Application Form from "Backpack Inspection" to "Backpack Discussion".
4. If a TL sees any club member with a lightweight backpack then the TL demonstrates to everyone attending what is in his/her backpack as a reminder of what gear to bring.

Kaye Young

Club equipment

The following Club equipment is available for members to borrow:

Emergency tent: John Hayman 335 0984 (This tent may be useful for backpacking trips)

Books: Ian Fussell 385 0856

Emergency Shelters (4-6 person Bothy Bags). The Club has three, held by Lawrence Allpress (348 3791), Ian Fussell (385 0856) and Gavin Hampton (343 1291). Excellent for groups.

Backpacking and Basecamps 2022

Dates	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
Sun 26-Mon 27 Jun	Carlyle Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Easy/Mod	Gerald Edmunds 3426331/02108270228 agedmunds@outlook.com
4 hour tramp involving river crossings. (8 bunks; free). 286 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sat 16-Sun 17 Jul	Ces Clark Hut, West Coast	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
5 hour tramp with 500 metres elevation gain. (16 bunks; \$45 per night). 480 kms return travel by vehicle.				
31 Jul-Mon 1 Aug	Tribulation Hut, Hakatere	1	Easy	Gerald Edmunds 3426331/02108270228 agedmunds@outlook.com
4 hour tramp to an old musterers' hut. (6 bunks; free). 190 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sat 13-Sun 14 Aug	Magdalen Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
4 hour mostly flat tramp.(5 bunks; \$5 per night). 318 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 21-Mon 22 Aug	Casey Hut, Poulter Valley, Arthurs Pass	1	Moderate	Denise Cumberpatch 3832661/0273403299 dryrot@xtra.co.nz
6 – 8 hour tramp. (12 bunks; \$15 per night). 230 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 4-Wed 7 Sep	Top Hope Hut, Lake Sumner	3	Moderate	Denise Cumberpatch 3832661/0273403299 dryrot@xtra.co.nz
Day 1: 8 hour tramp to Hope Kiwi Lodge. (20 bunks; \$15 per night). Day 2: 3 hour tramp to Top Hope Hut (6 bunks; free) with time to explore the upper Hope Valley and try the hot springs. Days 3 and 4 are the reverse of the first two. 216 kms return.				
Sat 10-Sun 11 Sep	Boyle Flat Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
5 hour mostly flat tramp. (14 bunks; \$15 per night). 318 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 18-Mon 19 Sep	Hawdon Hut, Arthurs Pass	1	Easy/Mod	Peter Coursey 3324833/0210343183 pkcoursey@gmail.com
4 hour tramp involving three river crossings. (20 bunks; \$15 per night). 230 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sat 15-Sun 16 Oct	Nina Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
3 hour mostly flat tramp in a valley with a lot of bird life. (10 bunks; \$5 per night). 350 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 16-Tue 18 Oct	Ahuriri Valley	3	Moderate	Peter Moody 3517448/0212572031 Pmoody007@gmail.com
A maximum of 6 people, some of whom will have to sleep in tents. A tramp involving river crossings. 700 kms travel by vehicle.				
Mon 17-Wed 19 Oct	Woolshed Creek Hut, Mt Somers	2	Easy/Mod	Jill Halliburton 374973/02102267556 jillhb@globe.net.nz
3-4 hour tramp to a bookable hut (\$15 per night). Day 2: side tramps in the area. 228 kms travel by vehicle. Trip list is full – a wait list is available.				
Mon 31 Oct-Thu 3 Nov	Paparoa Track, West Coast	3	Mod	David Jones 0272885845 ballymol@xtra.co.nz
4 day tramp involving about 20 hours of tramping. Hut fees: \$45 per night.				
Sat 12 -Wed 16 Nov	Old Ghost Road, Buller	4	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 3426331/02108270228 agedmunds@outlook.com
The trip list is full but a wait list is available. We will probably return to Christchurch on Thursday 17 November.				
Sat 19-Sun 20 Nov	Woolshed Creek Hut, Mt Somers	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
3-4 hour tramp to a bookable hut (\$20 per night). 228 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 20-Fri 25 Nov	Golden Bay base camp	6	Easy/Mod	Sue Weller 0211949550 suzwmeller@hotmail.com
Sun 27-Wed 30 Nov	McKenzie Hut, Lake Sumner	3	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 3426331/02108270228 agedmunds@outlook.com
Day 1: 5-6 hour tramp to Hurunui Hut (15 bunks; \$5 per night). Day 2: 5 hour tramp involving river crossings to McKenzie Hut (6 bunks; free) which has a natural hot pool nearby. Days 3 and 4: reverse of the first two. 232 kms travel.				
Sun 4 -Mon 5 Dec	Nina Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Easy	Jenny Hoffman 0212307577 jennybarbarah@gmail.com
3 hour mostly flat tramp in a valley with a lot of bird life. (10 bunks; \$5 per night). 350 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sat 10-Sun 11 Dec	Jolliebrook Hut, Lake Sumner	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
4 hour tramp. (7 bunks; \$5 per night). 216 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sat 10-Thur 15 Dec	John Tait Hut, Nelson Lakes	3	Moderate	Jill Halliburton 374973/02102267556 jillhb@globe.net.nz
Day 1, drive to St Arnaud, stay overnight; day 2 to John Tait Hut, 5-8 hours walk, day 3 day walk to Cupola Hut and basin 5+hours; day 4 day walk to Upper Travers Hut or Travers Saddle 6-9 hours; day 5 back to Lakehead Hut, 4.5 hours, day 6 walk out and drive home. Annual Hut Passes no longer accepted.				

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 Base Camp and Backpacking Co-ordinator

Backpacking and Basecamps 2023

Dates	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
Sat 21-Sun 22 Jan	Pinnacles Hut, Mt Somers	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
3 hour tramp to a bookable 19 bunk hut. (19 bunks; \$20 per night). 204 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Tue 24 – Wed 25 Jan	Manson-Nicholls Hut, Lake Daniels, Lewis Pass	1	Easy	Jill Halliburton 3374973/02102267556 jillhb@globe.net.nz
3 hour tramp to a bookable hut (\$15 per night). 384 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Mon 8 – Sat 11 Feb	Scott Creek, Death Valley, Kay Creek Hut, Mid Caples Hut. Glenorchy, Otago	3	Moderate	Maree Richards 0210364648 mareegonebush@playful.com
Involves tenting and huts.				
Sun 12-Mon 13 Feb	Youngman Stream Hut – Tarn Hut circuit, Lees Valley	1	Moderate	Denise Cumberpatch 3832661/0273403299 dryrot@xtra.co.nz
Day 1: 5 hour tramp to Youngman Stream Hut (6 bunks; \$5 per night). Day 2: 5 hour tramp via Tarn Hut. 160 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sat-Sun 19 Feb	Hawdon Hut, Arthurs Pass	1	Easy/Mod	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
4 hour tramp involving three river crossings. (20 bunks; \$15 per night). 230 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 26 Feb – Thurs 2 Mar	Carrington Hut – Waimakariri Falls Hut – Barker Hut, Arthurs Pass	4	Mod	Kaye Young 3296187/02102568702 rbkmyoung@xtra.co.nz
Day 1: 6 hour tramp involving river crossings to Carrington Hut (36 bunks, \$15 per night). Nights 2 and 3 at Waimakariri Falls Hut (6 bunk, donations) and Barker Hut (10 bunks, donations). Night 4 at Carrington Hut. Day 5 to vehicles. 254 kms travel by vehicle.				
Sat 11-Sun 12 Mar	Ada Pass Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Easy/Mod	Dean Stewart 0273646877 Stewy989@gmail.com
5 hour tramp. (14 bunks; \$15 per night). 380 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Fri 10-Sat 18 Mar	Te Anau base camp	7	Grades 2, 3 & 4	Marcel Robb Marcel.robb@gmail.com
Sun 26-Tue 28 Mar	Cookies Hut, Hakatere	2	Easy/Mod	Edith Goesmann 3837924/021801718 edithgoesmann@gmail.com
5 hour tramp involving river crossings to an ex-musterers' hut (6 bunks; free). Day 2 exploring the area around the hut. 190 kms.				
Fri 31 Mar-Sat 1 Apr	Boundary Creek Hut, Hakatere	1	Easy/Mod	Gerald Edmunds 3426331/02108270228 agedmunds@outlook.com
A 5 hour tramp to an ex-musterers' hut (8 bunks; free). 250 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 16-Tue 18 Apr	Kirwans Hut – Montgomerie Hut circuit	2	Moderate	Edith Goesmann 3837924/021801718 edithgoesmann@gmail.com
Day 1: 6 hour tramp to Kirwans Hut (12 Bunks, \$15 per night). day 2: 4 hours to Montgomerie hut (6 bunks, \$5 per night). Day 3: 4hour tramp to the vehicles. 500 kms return travel by vehicle.				
Sun 30 Apr-Mon 1 May	Crow Hut, Arthurs Pass	1	Easy/Mod	Kaye Young 3296187/02102568702 rbkmyoung@xtra.co.nz
4 hour tramp involving river crossings. (10 bunks; \$5 per night). 254 kms return travel by vehicle.				

Old Ghost Road, 27 April—1 May 2022

The group was - Alan Gash, Alan Robertson, Evelyn Sheridan, Gerald Edmunds (leader), Graeme Kerr (scribe), Lois Hamilton, Peter Moody and Ross Walker.

Day 1 - We left Christchurch in two cars separately and rendezvoused at Amberley a little before 8.00am. The weather forecast for the trip looked ideal. We had a morning tea stop at Springs Junction and reached Lyell carpark (280m) at 11.45. We were walking just after mid-day in perfect conditions, blue sky and no wind. The track to Lyell Saddle Hut (875m) was a steady grade on a well benched track through predominantly Beech Forest and with some excellent views. It was 18km and after 10km Graeme & Ross went on ahead to get the billies on. We were all at the hut by 5.00pm. The hut has a superb position on the saddle with views of bush clad hills. It was a quiet night for all of us after a long day.

Day 2 to Ghost Lake Hut (1200m) 12km. We left the hut just after 8.30 in low cloud but it soon lifted and the day was mostly high overcast. It was an easy climb through beech forest initially. Just above the bush line we reached the Top Camp Shelter where we had a generous break. The views all around us were impressive especially of the Lyell Range. The range is interesting geologically and has a steep and jagged appearance. The track then levelled off and was well benched on open tops. Heaven's Door was a great photo opportunity. Onward to Ghost Lake Hut we arrived just after mid-day. The hut has a stunning position with spectacular views. We could see tomorrow's track descending into a valley and then climbing out, Murchison was visible way off in the distance. We had a relaxed afternoon and in the evening enjoyed a few games of Skip-Bo with plenty of fun and laughter. We shared the hut with a group of mountain bikers (fifty somethings who were farming types) who were good company. A helicopter had dropped off their supplies which included a generous supply of beer and some whiskey. Regrettably they didn't share!



Continued on Page 8

OFTC BASIC NAVIGATION COURSES (for OFTC members only)

At the request of Kaye Young, Club Captain, a small team of us (myself, Ian Fussell and Gavin Hampton) have put together a BASIC navigation course for OFTC members. Based on our experience and reviewing other courses we have come up with a course tailored for our needs. We were very happy to help as we believe the ability to navigate and read and understand maps is of the utmost importance to trampers-be they Leaders or otherwise.

The objective is to give our trampers confidence and knowledge so they can read and understand maps, use compasses competently and, in general, have the skills and abilities to prevent themselves and their group from getting lost. It is not rocket science and we will have up to 6 instructors (the three of us, and Peter Coursey, Peter Moody and Kaye Young) on each of the days we run the course.

The course will consist of two parts. Part 1 - Pre Course notes, which will be emailed to attendees a week before the course in which we carefully and logically explain some of the mysteries of navigation with maps and compasses, and have them work through some examples. The second part will be a field day, commencing at 10am, at the top of the Bowenvale Valley where we will put theory into practice. This day will finish mid afternoon. There will be a cost of \$5 per attendee to cover printing, and an additional \$4 for the drivers of cars from Ashgrove Terrace. This is not a high level or difficult course as we will cover, in a later ADVANCED course, mapping programs, Smartphone Apps and GPS use, which will be sometime near the end of August. NB: People who want to attend the ADVANCED course must have completed the Basic course—unless they can convince us that they don't need to!

The planned dates for the BASIC courses are as follows (you only attend one of these days)

BASIC Nav Course #1 Wednesday 20th July BASIC Nav Course #2 Sunday 31 July

(full details including transport arrangements will be emailed to attendees along with the Pre Course material well before the above dates.) Course numbers will be limited to 20 per course, to keep the instructor/attendee ratio low.

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE BASIC COURSES YOU MUST EMAIL ME BY THE EVENING OF SUNDAY 10th JULY, EVEN IF YOU HAVE VERBALLY ADVISED ME THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND. In your email, please indicate your preference-Wed 20th July, or Sunday 31st July, in order, and your contact phone number. My email knoxps@gmail.com

Paul Knox

Your OFTC Committee

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Old Ghost Road continued

Day 3 to Stern Valley Hut (400m) 13km. We were treated to a spectacular sunrise to start our day. We left the hut at 8.40 and descended initially and then had a bit of a climb onto the Skyline Ridge. Cloud was low on the ridge so there were no views but this added another dimension to crossing it. We then descended the steep Skyline Steps which ended the alpine section of the track. The walk from then on was easy and with 4km to go Graeme & Ross went on ahead again to get the billies on. We were all at the hut well before 1.00pm. A few of our party saw blue duck in the stream that ran close to the hut. More Skip-Bo was played that evening.

Day 4 to Specimen Point Hut (110m), 25km. This was a big day and we were away at 8.00 sharp and it was another fine day! It was an easy start and then we climbed and passed Lakes Grim & Cheerful. We were treated to beautiful reflections at both. We continued on through the Boneyard where we saw lots of goats who didn't seem disturbed by our presence (a cull must be overdue) and then onto Solemn Saddle (700m). Such great names, only on the West Coast! We had lunch in the sun beside Goat Stream but saw no point in crossing it to see the DOC hut. Graeme & Ross went on ahead again to get the billies on. We were all at the hut before 3.30 which was good going given we had fairly generous stops along the way. There were a few mountain bikers about and this was our busiest day sharing the track with them. Most were considerate with the odd exception. One party was going through in a day so they were travelling at pace. The Specimen Point hut has an impressive position and views sitting above the Mokihinui River. It was our last night on the track and more fun was had playing Skip-Bo.

Day 5 to Welcome Bay/Seddonville, 16km. It rained heavily during the night which didn't bode well for our final day however the weather gods were smiling on us again and we left the hut at 8.00 in dry conditions. The track follows an old miners' track hugging the true left bank of the Mokihinui River Gorge, and the scenery was once again spectacular. Some of the engineering along the way was also, especially the three Suicide Slip Walkways. We had spotted lots of interesting fungi along the track previously and the last day had some special examples. We reached the track end around 12.30 and enjoyed a drink at the Rough and Tumble Lodge where our vehicles had been relocated for us. We then headed to the Seddonville Pub to stay for the night but unfortunately it had a closed sign up! There was no sign of life so we decided to head for Westport and once there decided to drive on to Christchurch. We had a great trip and were fortunate to have such good weather. I'll do the trip again one day and highly recommend it. Our party was a mix of Grade 2,3 & 4 trampers so it's suitable for a range of abilities. Some of us had a few aches and pains at the end but we all completed it.