



The Official Newsletter of
THE OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB INC.

Going Places.....



NEWSLETTER 456 February 2020

Family Fun Day

Family, friends and prospective members of the OFTC are welcome

**Sunday March 8
9am – 2pm**

Diamond Harbour - Stoddart Cottage, 2 Waipapa Ave

BYO – Lunch, Drink, Plate of dessert finger food to share

Programme

Children plus parent/caregiver

Meet at Lyttelton at 9.30am to catch the 9.50am Black Cat to Diamond Harbour.

10.30am Walk Pete's Path with morning tea along the way

12pm Treasure Hunt

1pm BBQ and Lunch

2pm Optional Swim with parent/caregiver supervision

Adults and teenagers

9am Meet at the Stoddart Cottage

9.15 to 12.45pm Walk the Cliff Track around Black Point to Charteris Bay and return via Bayview Road

1pm BBQ and Lunch

2pm Optional Historical Tour of the history of Margaret Stoddart and the Cottage for 45 minutes

To register contact Kaye on rbkmyoung@xtra.co.nz or 021 025 68702 by February 29. Name of people attending and the age of each child, 12 and under.

Postponement: If the weather is inclement check the OFTC website by 7am on Sunday, March 8. Another date will be scheduled later in the year.

Annual Meeting

**Tuesday March 10
7.30 pm**

**Knox Hall, cnr Bealey Ave/
Victoria St**

After which there will be a discussion led by chairman Lawrence Allpress on the work of the committee over the last year.

This will include some short presentations from committee members on the various projects carried out during this term.



Okuti Valley to Montgomery Reserve and beyond, January 12. Photo Russell Ramsden.

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 AND Terry Stevens at 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 Wednesday trips to Barbro Guard—980 2792 guard.gabk@gmail.com.

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

**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

As a boy, broiling hot days were an essential part of summer. This was partly due to the fact the local swimming pool was fed directly from an artesian well and while crystal clear, the water temperature in the first week rose little above 10 degrees. There was no chlorination system and so the water was changed frequently. Many hours were spent baking in the sun, swimming until shivering, then back into the sun, all without sunscreen of course. How things change, including, unfortunately, my capacity to handle hot days. And so this summer's lower temperature days, particularly on my tramp day, have been very welcome. Just a reminder that with the hotter weather, extra water is essential.

You will have seen the notices about the Family Fun Day on March 8. Kaye Young is doing a great job of organising this event. There are many reasons why this is an important event. It provides a very easy way to give friends, neighbours and family a taste of what tramping is about. It gives us a chance to showcase our club and maybe sow the seed for future members. There are two programmes - a Grade 1 tramp for adults and teens, and a special programme catering for littlies and their parents. This is a great opportunity for all of us to use, but will only be a success if we each invite people. Kaye is also looking for people to help run the programme. The tasks she has are no more difficult than those for a regular tramp: tail end charlie, first aider and so on. Kaye would really appreciate hearing from you at rbkmyoung@xtra.co.nz or 021 025 68702

Our AGM is coming up (Tuesday March 10). We need to elect a committee and a chair. Fay Jackson and Peter Street will be standing down. At this point in time, the remaining committee members and myself as chair, are happy to be nominated. Between now and the AGM, give it some thought as being on the committee is a very valuable way to contribute to the club. Nominations for the committee and chair can be taken from the floor.

In the past we have followed the AGM with a speaker, but not this year. Instead we will take some time to reflect on the past year and to discuss where the club is going in the future. There will be opportunity for discussion and for you to raise issues. It should be a good, and I hope, a helpful evening.

Lawrence Allpress

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New members

Chris Clark 027 487 9221	8 Brookside Terrace, Bryndwr, Chch 8053	kiwisonbikes@xtra.co.nz
Vicki Grace 027 201 2231	51 Waterstock Way, Parklands, Chch 8083	vicki.grace@harcourts.co.nz
Anne Priest 027 419 8494	3102 Oxford Road, Oxford 7430	gapriest@xtra.co.nz

Re-joining member

John Campbell 021 062 7576	6 Cutts Road, Russley, Chch 8042	johncampbell654@gmail.com
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John has recently returned from overseas.

Changes of address

Carolyn Blackford 022 651 6066	14 Oakfield Street, Burnside, Chch 8053	cblackfordcarolyn@gmail.com
Wayne Calvert 027 626 1415	Apt B21 "Hinton", 24 Charles Upham Drive, Rangiora 7440	w-calvert@hotmail.com
Russell Hignett 355 5670	14 Clotilda Place, Bishopdale, Chch 8053	hussell.hignett@xtra.co.nz
Paul Tayler 021 068 7469	46A Percival Street, Rangiora 7400	paultayler45@gmail.com

Membership

Our total membership is now 415, (245 women and 170 men).

Fay Jackson

Bowenvale Maintenance & Planting 2020

For over ten years, the Club has been working with the City Council in the Bowenvale Valley to plant, and maintain, native species. This started after the Club's 30th anniversary and was seen as being a way of putting something back for the great facility that we have on our doorstep. The dates for our spots with the City Council are as follows (please note in your diaries). I realise that the day (and the dates) will not suit everyone.

2 April – Autumn Maintenance
21 May – Planting Day
29 October – Spring Maintenance

As usual, the meeting point is at the bottom of Bowenvale. 12.30 seems to be a better time for everyone. Any questions phone me on 343-1291.

Thanks, Gavin Hampton

Banking Matters

Due to problems that we have had with the bank that we have been with, your Club has moved its accounts to Kiwi-bank. The new account number is 38 9020 0367943 00.

Unfortunately Kiwibank has since announced that they will not be processing cheques from the 29th of February 2020. (The other banks have indicated that they are also moving this way).

If you do not do internet banking and usually pay your subs by cheque, to pay your sub when they are due, you will need to go into your bank and get them to make the payment to the above account number (as you would for any other bill payment). Please remember to include your name.

Many thanks, **Gavin Hampton, Treasurer**



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	Heather Spence	03 261 2002
	Grade 2	Lyn Foulds	355 6348
		Pamela Gibbons	332 7531
Graeme Brown		383 3732	
Grade 3	Peter Moody	351 7448	
	Grade 3 & 4	Marcel Robb	03 928 3733

Sunday	Grade 2	Sheila Downard	337 4201
		Gaye Morton	332 2284
		Jill Halliburton	337 4973
Grade 3, 4 & 5	Ross Walker	027 558 2126	
	Lesley Smith	338 4272	
	Alison Downard	357 2089	
	Peter Moore	348 0765	

A leader has the responsibility and right to refuse anybody they consider for any reason may not be able to cope with the conditions.

SUNDAY TRAMPS**FEBRUARY 2****Craigieburn – Lyndon Saddle W043**

Cost : \$22

Up Luge track to Lyndon Saddle and up to Helicopter Hill, then down Craigieburn Valley track and return to cars at the bottom of Broken River skifield. A lovely tramp through Beech forest with glorious views and spectacular scenery.

Grade : 2

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.00 am (NOTE EARLIER START)

Time : 5-6 hrs

Leader : Chris Evans 342 9791, 027 303 0838

The Gap W017

Cost : \$14.00

Walk in along the Kowai river followed by a 1,100 metre climb to the Gap, return the same way. Tramp will be at a steady/fast pace due to the distance.

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 7-8 hours

Leader : Ross Walker 027 558 2126

House/pet sitter wanted

We are looking for someone to take care of our house on lower Scarborough (1 cat, 1 foxy, no drive-on access but right by the beach and great views) from March 23 to April 20. Please contact Mavis: mavis.airey@xtra.co.nz

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 (332 3050 or 027 438 5082).

AT THE END OF THE TRAMP

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

Please send mileage details etc to marcel.robb@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 9**River Walk – Latters Spur PH06 Cost: Nil**

From PMH, follow Heathcote River track to Holliss Ave Reserve for morning tea, then upwards via tracks and lanes to Latters Spur, Victoria Park and the Kiwi.

Grade : 2

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst Street at 9am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Gaye Morton 332 2284, 027 245 6147

Co-leader : TBA

Mt Thomas to Pinchgut Hut N57

Cost : \$12.00

This trip will be done from both ends with a key swap. Starting from Taffees Glen road end and crossing the Okuku river and from Mt Thomas car park area parties meet near point 793 for lunch and key swap.

Grade : 4

Depart : Belfast Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 7 hrs

Leaders : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228 0754 and Peter Moore 027 773 1670.

FEBRUARY 16**Waipara Gorge N15**

Cost : \$12

From Laidmore Road, an easy and lovely ramble through the river. Water may be knee high in a few places - walking sticks may be helpful. Bring your togs for a swim in the Middle Gorge. Beautiful limestone formations. Mainly a flat walk with return over some low hills.

Grade : 2

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 9.00 am

Time : 5 hours

Leader : Selena Chan 342 5014; 027 301





FEBRUARY 16 CONTINUED

Avalanche Peak W071

Cost : \$39

From Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre up the Avalanche Peak track and returning via Scotts Track.

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30am

Time : 7 hrs

Leader : David Jones 027 288 5845

Co-leader : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228 0754

FEBRUARY 23

Governors Bay – Bush Walks PH67

Cost : \$3

From Governor's Bay over various tracks through the bush up to the CRW. Return via different tracks. If it's hot we'll stay in the trees!

Grade : 2

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 9.00am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Carolina Kol 03 312 7970

Hamilton Peak / Nervous Knob W026B (Variation of)

Cost : \$24.00

From Camp Stream gate on Broken River Skifield Road proceed up through Broken River Skifield to climb rocky ground onto the back ridge at about the 1750m contour. Bear north picking route onto Nervous Knob 1820m, then continue north to Hamilton Peak 1922m. (Here route varies from W026B, which dependent upon party, is a return option via Camp Saddle). Then a sidle descent over mostly good ground back to Skifield buildings. Retrace morning's steps back to the vehicles. (Map BW21 Springfield)

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30am

Time : 6+ hours

Leader : Kaye Young 329 6187 or 021 025 68702

Bealey Spur W08

Cost : \$29

Gradual climb through beech forest and open tussock with tarns to restored musterers' hut and possibly further. Return the same way

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228 0754



Leith Hill, November 20. Photo Ian fussell

WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

FEBRUARY 5

Coastal Walkway and Mulgan's Track NQ

Cost: Nil

Follow Coastal Walkway to the start of Mulgan's Track (which will be taken slowly for great sea views.) Then down to Surf Club and return to cars via the new Coastal Walkway. Note: Some may wish to avoid Mulgan's Track by staying on the Coastal Walkway all the way to the Surf Club and meeting us there.

Depart: Meeting at Mt Pleasant Community Center (Mc Cormack's Bay road side) at 9.30 am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leaders: John and Colleen Herzog, 384 9321

Sumner Zig Zag to Lyttelton and return different way.

Cost: Nil

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Sumner Surf Club at 8.30am

Leader: Graeme Brown, 383 3732

Co-leader: Elect on the day

Mt Barossa**W097**

Cost: \$30

Steady climb of 750m to summit (1364m) on Barossa Stn. Great views of Mt Potts & Lake Heron with interesting rock formations on summit.

Grade: 3

Departure: Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30 am

Duration: 5 hours

Leader: Required

The Gap**W017**

Cost: \$14

Long walk up Kowai River, followed by steep climb up to ridge and

the Gap. The views make it worth the effort. Return route will depend upon party, but are looking to do the round trip.

(Map BW21 Springfield)

Grade: 5

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 7.00am

Time: 7 - 8 hours

Leader: Gavin Hampton, 343 1291

Co-Leader: Murray Adams, 03 318 0831 or 021 244 9993

FEBRUARY 12

Kowai River to Leithfield Beach**NQ**

Cost: \$4

Walking along the Kowai River Track from Leithfield Village towards the sea and the camping ground.

Depart: Belfast Hotel (The Peg) at 9.30 am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Maree Bothwell, 382 5123

Waipara Gorge Area**N15**

Cost: \$12

Walk along riverbed with interesting geological rock formations. Return by alternate route. Bring togs for swim in spectacular gorge.

Grade: 2 Depart: Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30 am

Time: 5 hours approx.

Leader: Judy Eden, 384 4857

Co-leader: Appoint on the day





FEBRUARY 12 CONTINUED

Little Mt Peel (Huatekereke) **SW07**
 Cost: \$34
Travel to Peel Forest parking at the Blandswood carpark. Proceed steeply up track in a clockwise direction (South Ridge Route) to shelter and Little Mt Peel (1311m), descend via Deer Spur track. No water up there. Great views out over Sth Canterbury and Rangitata Valley (Map BY19 Arundel)
 Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark at 7.00am
 Grade: 3
 Time: 5+ hours
 Leader: Elspeth Jeet, 384 1331
 Co-leader: Peter Oliver, 332 3050 or 027 438 5082

FEBRUARY 19

Allandale to Sandy Bay **NQ**
 Cost: \$3
Walking along the Coastal Track from Allandale to Sandy Bay and returning on the same track.
 Depart: Cnr of Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 9.30 am
 Time: 3-4 hours
 Leader: Alec Mills, 338 5002

Old Coach Road, Porters Pass **W 04**
 Cost: \$ 15
Leave cars at foot of Porters Pass. Enter DOC land at the U bend on the road. Climb old coaching track until reaching Porters Pass Rd. Head south across slope to top of adjacent ridge following fence line. Track soon opens out. Follow ridges around head of stream to return to cars.
 Grade: 2+
 Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8:30 am
 Time: 5 hours approx.
 Leader: Ben Heese, 022 4736509
 Co-leader: appoint on the day

Sudden Valley **WO52**
 Cost: \$28
From Hawdon Shelter cross the Hawdon river and follow Sudden Valley stream up crossing it at various points to the Biv at head of valley. The trip in/out to bivi is approx. 6 hours.
 Grade: 3
 Departure: Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8 am
 Duration: 6 hours
 Leader: Kaye Young, 329 6187 / 021 025 68720
 Co Leader: Elspeth Jeet, 384 1331

FEBRUARY 26

Heathcote River / Coastal Pathway **NQ**
 Cost: Nil
Walk around the Heathcote River Estuary including Matuku Lake and some historic sites. Followed by Mc Cormacks Bay and part of Coastal Pathway.
 Depart: Scotts Park carpark, next to Mt Pleasant Yacht Club 9.30 am
 Time: 4 hours
 Leader: Suzanne Fenwick, 376 5026

FEBRUARY 26 CONTINUED

Halswell Quarry to the Bellbird **PH22**
 Cost: Nil
Walk from the Halswell Quarry up to the Summit Road, then on to the Sign of the Bellbird.
 Grade: 2
 Depart: Halswell Quarry 8.30am
 Time: 4 hours
 Leader: Yvonne Cargill, 358 2129 / 021 0277 6741
 Co leader: Elect on the day

Seldom Inn **N72**
 Cost: \$23
From Mt Whitnow Station, steady climb of 400m to saddle West of Mt Meehan. Descend via farm track to next valley & follow stream to Hut. Return via saddle to East of Mt Meehan, also 400m, and complete circuit on farm tracks.
 Grade: 3
 Departure: Belfast Hotel car park 8 am
 Leader: Required

Bealey Valley (Chockstone) – New Tramp
 Cost: \$35
From the carpark near Jacks Hut on SH73, follow track into Bealey Valley. Proceed up valley then a steady climb over rock and scree to the Chockstone. (This is on the south face of Goldney Ridge). This tramp offers wonderful close up "mountain" views. (Map BV20 Otira)
 Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark at 7.00am
 Grade: 4
 Time: 6 - 7 hours
 Leader: Neil Helson, 03 318 7335 or 027 246 0473
 Co-leader: Elspeth Jeet, 384 1331



Vets at Evans Pass, November 27. Photo Clive Morriss





Sub-antarctic islands trip

Six club members accompanied by one spouse, one friend, and one daughter spent the first week of January aboard the Russian ice breaker Spirit of Enderby, on a Heritage Expeditions' trip exploring the amazing environment of New Zealand's sub-antarctic islands – Campbell, Auckland, and the Snares. After a challenging 40 hours of enduring severe swells and violent ship rolling from Bluff all the way south to Campbell Island (which resulted in some injuries, sea-sickness, and sleep deprivation), we were able to enjoy many of the planned excursions shore in benign weather as we travelled back northwards, reversing the usual itinerary. Endless hours were spent on the bridge watching the heave and fall of the southern ocean swells and the elegant soaring and wave skimming of myriads of seabirds.

Highlights for Campbell Island were an afternoon walk on boardwalk to the Col - Lyall Saddle to see mega-herbs in magnificent flower and nesting Southern Royal Albatrosses, followed by a full day walk to Northwest Bay, with encounters with sea lions, skies full of sea birds, tussockland occupied by nesting albatrosses, Dracophyllum scrub, and deep mud holes – a brilliant Grade 3 tramp. Some enjoyed the alternative of a day on the zodiacs cruising Perseverance Harbour. Auckland Island ended up being a leisurely cruise the length of Carnley Harbour as by afternoon the planned zodiac trip into Musgrave Inlet had become too dangerous. A late afternoon trip to Hardwicke – the site of the unsuccessful Enderby Settlement, was our only time ashore on the main island. That disappointment was more than compensated for by a full day walk around Enderby Island the next day to experience the remarkable recovery of the vegetation after the removal of rabbits and all other pests in 1994. Rata forest in full flower, giant flowering carrot-relative Anisotome, colourful sub-antarctic gentians, the Hooker sea-lion breeding colony at Sandy Bay in full-on raucous and rampant interaction, penguins, albatrosses, an amazing coastline, and an Auckland Island Shag colony were the highlights here.

We then arrived off the Snares next morning in time to see the titi (muttonbirds – shearwaters) leave their burrows to head out to sea for the day, millions of birds blackening the dawn sky. Although the swell was daunting, the expedition staff managed



Clockwise from top left: Snares Crested penguins, Rata forest on Enderby, Young male sea lion on Campbell, Campbell mega-herbs.

to get us all safely off the ship and aboard the zodiacs for a magical few pre-breakfast hours cruising the superb cliffed eastern coast of the Snares, mostly watching the antics of hundreds of Snares Crested penguins.

An overnight trip back to Bluff completed a surreal week during which we humans were mere incidental observers of complete irrelevance to the bustling and vibrant activities and interactions of such abundant wildlife.

Joanna Orwin

Cameron Hut Walk

The weather looked pretty promising as we drove towards Mt. Somers township and then onto the Hakatere Heron Road. We then turned off onto a 4WD track (which a 2WD would manage ok) and up to the start of the track. After signing the intentions book, we were off! The track heads up the true right of the Cameron River; it follows the river in some parts, along with some higher bush "flood routes" in other parts. Apart from looking out for little rock cairns and marker poles, the track was relatively easy and involved some boulder-hopping, a few boggy areas, pockets of Matagouri, and one steep spur/15-minute climb. Where the track skirted close to the river, we got a close-up view of its striking, almost luminous, turquoise-blue colour. For the 7 ¼ hours walk, we were finally rewarded with a dramatic and breath-taking view of the Cameron Hut, dwarfed amongst a barren and rugged landscape of glacial debris, with a backdrop (amphitheatre) of the snow-covered Arrowsmith Range.

We had the 9-bunk hut to ourselves along with its purple door, mountain radio, solar lights, water tank, lots of reading material, and the close-at-hand ...Norski toilet! After a late dinner, we collapsed into our sleeping bags, only to be awoken in the night by what sounded like someone banging on the hut door...orry Geoff! (and good on Chris for getting up to see who it was!) We woke to beautiful day with no wind and clear skies. After breakfast, we walked up the Carriageway, a lateral moraine that sidles up towards the Cameron Glacier, giving us views of some of the Arrowsmith Range peaks, and looking down onto the terminal face of the glacier from where the Cameron River surged from. No keas were sighted, however a number of thar were sighted up behind the hut. During our second night, the wind was a bit gusty with the hut guy wires groaning away, however, our trip leader reported a beautiful night out under the stars...! We departed on Tuesday morning after breakfast and had a quiet and uneventful walk back to the cars.

Tramping time on Sunday: 7 ¼ hours, Tramping time on Tuesday: 6 ¾ hours, Distance tramped: 24.61 km, Average speed: 3.6 kph, Elevation gain: 596 metres

Participants: Geoff Mahan, Fiona Mackenzie, Peter Moody, Chris McCausland, Gerald Edmunds, Jimmy Philpott





Backpacking and Basecamps 2020

Month	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
February 9-10	Black Hill Hut, Lees Valley. This tramp is full.	1	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
February 23-24	Black Hill Hut. From Lees Valley Road Take 4WD's along Townshend River track to junction with Dobson Str. Climb beech covered ridge line to the 6 bunk Black Hill hut Then on to summit of Black Hill (1331M) with views over remote back blocks country of Waimakariri Gorge. Club map database reference: NW17. Distance 13.2km. Total ascent: 1025m, Ascent from the stream 700m	1	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
March 1-8	Mount Richmond Alpine Route.	7 Huts	Mod to Hard	Alison Mckechie 03 3392356 / 022 0178123 Evelyn Sheridan 033830891 / 027 2280754
March 15-21	Base Camp , Twizel Basin and Surrounds. Day trips various grade 3-4 level	6	Mod to Hard	Marcel Robb 03 928 3733 marcel.robb@gmail.com
March 30-April 3	Basecamp Kaikoura. Tramping for all grades, depending on participants. Biking option, kyaking option(hire or bring your own), snorkling, maybe even swimming. Please register interest, early so as I can book accommodation.	4	All	Judy Eden 0274726538. 3844857, edenjudith@xtra.co.nz
April 5-7	Edwards Hut, Arthurs Pass. From Greyney's Flat shelter we will follow the Edwards River for 4 – 5 hours (DOC time) to Edwards hut (16 Bunks). On Monday we will explore the Tarn Col, Falling Mountain and Tarahuna Pass area. Return to vehicles via Edwards River on Tuesday.	2	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
May 17-18	Top Hut, Hakatere. From the Hakatere-Heron Road follow a 4WD track to Boundary Creek Hut. Then follow the South Ashburton River to Top Hut (10 bunks). 6 – 7 hours.	1	4	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
June 7 – 9	Youngman Stream Hut – Tarn Hut, Lees Valley	2	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
July 19-20	Hunts Creek Hut, AP	1	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
August 16-17	Tribulation Hut, Hakatere	1	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
September 13-14	Hawdon Hut, AP	1	2	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
October 18-19	Basin Hut, Avoca River	1	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
November 22-23	Cookies Hut via Pudding Hill Range and Mt Bruce, Hakatere	1	4	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
December 13-15	Waimakariri Falls Hut, AP	2	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.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 that 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

Arthurs Pass Basecamp December 23-28

Christmas Tree, with LIGHTS. Botanising at Temple Basin; Clambering up near vertical Mt Bealey track; Carols on Christmas Eve in the A.P. Chapel; Otira Valley and back for a sumptuous Christmas dinner, and PREZZIES; Bealey Chasm and valley; Mt Aitkin track (for those who could find it).

Folks coming and folks going, comfortable warm cottage, what more could one want for great Christmas experience.

Judy Eden



Okains Bay Camping Ground Base Camp 30 December 2019 – 2 January 2020

Okains Bay Camping Ground, 30 December 2019: Found an ideal campsite protected from the Southerly, set up tents, did a recce of the immediate area, short bike ride.

Spy Glass Point, 31 December 2019: Short drive from the campground up to the end of Boleyn's Rd, started walking across rolling farmland with stunning coastal views followed by a steep descent to an unnamed bay, waited for at least an hour for the tide to go down sufficiently, entertainment included a lone kayaker and several seals swimming or lazing around, waded through waist/thigh-deep water across to North-West Bay, climbed up towards West Head, back up the ridge through farmland to the cars. Warm dry weather, short steep walk.

Participants: Bruce Stanton (Leader), Judy Eden (Co-leader), Eileen Ellis, Noeline Bonner, Lois Hamilton, Trish Hamilton (guest), Pamela Gibbons, Michel Adriaens, Carolyn Blackford

Raupo Bay (bonus add-on), 31 December 2019: After Spy Glass Point walk 4 of the group drove from Boleyn's Road, Chortens Road, then parked at end of Long Lookout Road beside CCC sign providing Raupo Bay track info including time and distance. Lois and Trish took us on a detour to view an abandoned tractor then down to Raupo Bay with only 1 surfer on the beach, collected mussels, then walked up the zig-zag track (roughly 25 min one-way) to the car.

Participants: Judy Eden, Lois Hamilton (Leader), Trish Hamilton (guest), Carolyn Blackford

Misty Peak Track, Akaroa, 1 January 2020: Cancelled because of 33°C forecast which didn't fully eventuate.

Pā Bay, 2 January 2020: Started at private farm track opposite camping ground, passed Little Okains Bay, crossed farmland until reaching Pā Island and the rock exposures on the shore platform of Pā Bay. Seals and adult and fledgling (possibly spotted) shags.

Participants: Bruce Stanton (for part of walk), Judy Eden (Leader), Noeline Bonner, Lois Hamilton, Trish Hamilton (guest), Carolyn Blackford (Co-leader)

Your OFTC Committee

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Club Captain's Report

Hi All

I know that I said you would not be hearing from me until May, however, I couldn't help myself. It is the start of a new tramping year, so let's do something different, something light hearted.

But before that, do support the Family Day to be held on 8th March. There are no tramps running on that date, so I encourage you to head along. Its goal, to foster the well-being of our Club and to promote new membership, especially some new younger members, the demographics of OFTC are for an aging population! Now, to lighter stuff, no pun intended.

The loo with a view

Frequently we succumb to that urge, the call in the wild. We fossick in the pack, where is it, I thought I put it in here somewhere! Even worse, long white streamers flowing behind as we cross the swing bridge, waving rhythmically in the wind to the amusement of many, except the hapless retriever. Even trying to get there, especially in the dark, has its stresses. The "It was here but know it's not" trick and the old favourite for those going cross eyed, the "surely I will find that confounded loo soon", no matter, when you've got to go, you've got to go. The trick of the trade is to find the perfect little house. Is there such a place? Our little place of peace and quiet, preferably should be a little ways from the hut. The seat must be dry, comfortable and sturdy. Borer would be discouraged from residing within our seat. It is also important that the user feel safe from major ground subsidence, especially sudden. Spider, possums, rats and eels are discouraged guests, or should we say from being amused onlookers. I have never felt completely comfortable where a body of water lies within squirming distance of our little establishment. It pays to first check just in case an eel somehow has made a new home. Peer carefully below, two little yellow eyes smiling upwards are a perfect give away. Twitching bushy tails too are a signal of a possible more than memorable visit.

For that quick escape, never close the door whilst in house. Keep the rapid exit option open. If it's raining, the paper goes in the plastic bag, soggy loo paper is worse than mice droppings inside the sleeping bag (but that's another story). Well, we are halfway there, we have a dry firm seat, stable building, no rats, eels or possums and the loo paper is ample and dry. Worthy of mention for the unsuspecting, if you do like your privacy, make sure that the door doesn't jam shut when you are in residence.

There's more, can you believe it, perhaps temporary constipation is a better option?? What of smells, blowflies and ants, not to mention the perfectly adapted sand-flies eagerly awaiting the unprotected bum, a bountiful target sitting above them. Our loo with a view must not harbour any unpleasant odour. This can be off putting, particularly on a hot day, and your turn is last (after ten others). Smell does heighten the experience and most certainly shortens the stay. If it is really bad, scented cotton wool balls help, but don't sneeze. So here I am, seated in my perfect Loo with a view, sturdy, door wide open, no smell, eels, flies or whatever. I am at peace, contented, unparalleled mountain views before me, a Bellbird sings, the nearby brook gurgles, beech trees whisper in the breeze. Oops, someone coming, a sudden movement, the toilet roll knocked, teeters on the edge, I lunge, fingers nudge, I peer below, soft wonderful toilet tissue gone forever, resting in the pit with the poo, stressed again, I consider my options

Cheers, enjoy our beloved high country, and do be safe.

Marcel Robb

