



The Official Newsletter of
THE OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB INC.

Going Places.....



NEWSLETTER 461 July 2020

Back on track again!



Top left: Vets at The Groynes June 3, photo Clive Morriss; Above: Bowenvale to Sugarloaf June 10, photo Mike Currie; Left: Bowenvale to Mt Vernon June 7, photo Sarah Hardie; Bottom left: Monument to Mt Fitzgerald June 17, photo Russell Ramsden.

Club Night

Tuesday July 7, 7.30 pm
Knox Hall, cnr Bealey Ave/Victoria St

Ben Lamb from Christchurch Health and Sport Central speak on Feet and how to get the best out of these most important pieces of equipment. Ben has spoken to the Christchurch Tramping Club and was very well received.

Winter Gathering

Saturday July 18 July, starting midday
Cashmere Presbyterian Church Hall, 2 McMillan Ave

All welcome including past members. Vets and grade 2 trampers please bring soup; others bring finger food. Alex Mills will lead a vets' walk, meeting 10.30am at the church. David Jones will lead a local walk also meeting 10.30. Walkers can drop off their plates at the church beforehand.

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

There is not a lot to report from our recent committee meeting.

The website update group have met a couple of times and have made some good progress in thinking about the design of the website. People involved are Terry Stevens, Ross Walker, Peter Coursey, Peter Oliver, Anja Huskens, Lawrence Allpress. This is a long term project and one we will keep working on.

Gerald Edmunds, our back packing coordinator joined the meeting. He is seeking to develop a back packers planners team. Paul Knox, Ian Fussell, Russell Ramsden and Dean Stewart have put up their hands. If you are interested, give Gerald a call on 03 342 6331. The more, the merrier, and the greater the range of tramps that can be offered.

During the lockdown Level 3 we set up a Trip Register. I would be interested in your experience in using this facility, and whether you thought it a good idea or otherwise. It will remain on the website as an option that tramp leaders may choose to use if they want to know who is coming before the tramp. But as communicated by email, it is no longer needed for every tramp to comply with Covid guidelines. However recent events of people "escaping" from quarantine are a good wakeup call that each of us still need to be diligent in recording our individual movements and contacts.

Some good news is that there will be a Winter Gathering on July 18 to replace the cancelled Midwinter Nosh. This is on a Saturday to enable as many as possible to attend, and is a great way to meet others with whom you don't normally tramp.

Lawrence Allpress

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – July 2020 (as at 20 June)

New members

Ken Francis	348 9878	25a Haslett Place, Upper Riccarton, Chch 8041	
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Resignations

Years

Pauline McFarlane	03 308 3360	94/25 Charlesworth Drive, Ashburton 7700	27
Carolyn Ark	021 159 2651	94 Main South Road, Sockburn, Chch 8042	2
Lisa Bennett	347 0354	156 Lincoln Rolleston Road, RD 8, Chch 7678	1
Jo Taunt	027 365 1836	7/212 Lyttelton Street, Spreydon, Chch 8042	1
David Wynne	359 2122	55 Crofton Road, Harewood, Chch 8051	30
Claire Matoe	388 6427	316 Pine Avenue, Sth New Brighton, Chch 8062	12
Verity Jackson	03 226 9223	69 Trevors Road, Ashburton 7700	2
Terry Jacobs	326 7978	45 Tuawera Terrace, Clifton, Chch 8081	16
Jill Lu	027 706 4649	15 Pollock Place, Rolleston 7614	1
John Allan	326 4966	Wakatipu	11
Astrid Brauksiepe	021 252 0877	131 Emano Road, Nelson	4
Fiona Mackenzie	326 7569	12 Head Street, Sumner	2
Kerrie Maynard	021 023 75434	344 Waterloo Rd, Islington	2
Patricia Phillips	338 6599	219b Hoon Hay Road	35
Joan Porteous	980 8382	448 Prestons Road	14
Jacky Romeyn	339 0906	11 Hussar Place, Hoon Hay	4
Sonia Rutherford	342 1201	44 Showgate Avenue, Sockburn	5

Bereavement

Lisa van Maanen	(Recently resigned)	17 Burnridge Place, Belfast, Christchurch 8051	5
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Change of contact details

Rosemary Harper	351 0677	Townhouse 88, Ngaio Marsh Retirement Village, 92 Grants Road, Papanui, Christchurch 8052	
Denise Matthews	Delete landline		

Membership

Female	220	
Male	157	
TOTAL	377	

Judy Collin



**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
		Suzanne Fenwick	376 5026
	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

Sunday	Grade 2	Sheila Downard	337 4201
		Gaye Morton	332 2284
	Grade 3, 4 & 5	Jill Halliburton	337 4973
		Ross Walker	027 558 2126
		Lesley Smith	338 4272
		Alison Downard	357 2089
		Peter Moore	027 773 1670

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

Note: Grade 1 tramps are now being planned for all Sundays in the month. These will normally be a variant of the Grade 2 tramp, at a slower pace. For further information, please check the website or contact Fiona Butterick 349 3960, 021 234 8622

JULY 5

Pines Beach to Woodend NQ Nx
Cost : \$2
A pleasant walk through Tuhaitara Coastal Park, with some parts along the beach, depending on wind and tide. Return along the Pegasus Walkway.
Grade : 1
Depart : Belfast Tavern carpark at 9.00 am
Time : 4-5 hours
Leaders : Val Armstrong 384 3391
Co-leader : Joan Stevenson 388 022, 02093797

Okuti Valley to Montgomery Peak BP31A
Cost : \$11.00
From the Okuti Valley up the Okuti Track to the Hilltop. From there around to Montgomery Park and up to Montgomery Peak for Lunch, then return same way. Approx 19kms.
Grade : 3
Depart : Ashgrove Terrace at 8.00am
Time : 6 hours
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 (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.

JULY 12**Okuti Valley BP31**

Cost : \$11
This CCC 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 Mounts Sinclair and Fitzgerald. Return the same way. Could be muddy underfoot in places.
Grade : 2
Depart : Corner Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst Street at 9.00 am
Time: 4-5 hours
Leader : Carolyn Blackford 022 651 6066
Co-leader : Jill Halliburton 021 0226 7556

Parapet Rock to Castle Hill Village via Hogsback W031A

Cost: \$19.00
This route is the mountain bike track from Parapet Rock to Castle Hill Village via Hogsback. Starting from Parapet Rock adjacent to State Highway 73, follow the MTB track up the hill and along the ridge towards the environment centre in the Craigieburn Forest Park. Head down through the holiday houses to the Broken River skifield road at Jacks Pass and follow the Dracophyllum flat track to Texas flat. From there continue onto the Hogs Back track through to Castle Hill Village. This trip requires a car shuttle with a vehicle left at Castle Hill Village
Grade : 3
Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am
Time : 5+ hrs
Leader : Peter Moore 027 773 1670.





JULY 19

Purau Saddle to Mt Herbert BP59

Cost : \$7

Well-defined walkway up to Mt Herbert. Panoramic views of Pegasus, the plains, harbour and peninsula.

Grade : 2

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce & Ferniehurst St at 9.00 am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Ben Heese 022 473 6509

Co-leader : TBA

Mt Richardson, Teds Track N09A

Cost : \$11

18kms out to Mt Richardson Trig via Teds Track and return via Blowhard Track.

Grade : 3

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.00am

Time : 6+ hrs

Leader : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228 0754

JULY 26

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 9.00 am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Gaye Morton 332 2284, 027 245 6147

Co-leader : TBA

Mt Bruce W051

Cost : \$24.00

From the Cora Lynn DOC carpark along the Lagoon Saddle track and then climb up to Mt Bruce and return via Broad Stream. Crampons and ice axe are required. Please let Ross know if you are going on this tramp.

Grade : 4 (due to crampons and ice axe)

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30M

Time : 6 hours

Leader : Ross Walker 027 558 2126



WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

JULY 1

Lincoln Area**NQ**

Cost: \$3

Walking on byways, old and new areas.

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

Time: 3-4 Hours

Leader: Clive Morriss, 358 2753

Mt FitzGerald/Sinclair**BP81A**

Cost: \$12

From Port Levy Saddle to Mt Fitzgerald and Mt Sinclair along the Te Ara Pataka Walkway, moderate climb, medium pace. Good all round views, mountain totara, tussock and spectacular century old tree stumps. Would be helpful if people with 4wheel drive vehicles could bring them as Great Western Road can be a bit more tricky in winter.

Grade: 2

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 8.30am

Time: 5 hours

Leader: Jill Halliburton, 337 4973, 021 022 67556

Co-Leader: Appoint on the day

Mt Thomas (variation of N10)

Cost: \$10

From Wooded Valley carpark (320m), walk Smiths Rd to start Ridge Track (old No 2 Track). Steady to easy climb to ridge top of 700m. Head SE along undulating track to Mt Thomas 1023m then descend via Summit Track. Track options abound dictated by conditions.

Grade: 3

Time: 6 Hours

Depart: Belfast Hotel 8.30am

Leader: Sue Weller 926 5716 or 021 194 9550

Co-Leader: Selected on the day

JULY 8

Otukaikino and Kaianga**NQ**

Cost: \$1

Walking around Otukaikino Wetlands Reserve. Then driving along to Kaianga. Walking around Park, over stop bank and follow Waimak River Side Path to picnic area.

Depart: Belfast Hotel (The Peg) at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 Hours

Leader: Valda and Brian Woods, 358 8250

Bridle Path, Diamond Harbour

Cost: Nil – Bring gold card, metro card or cash for ferry.

Meet at the base of the Bridle Path. Walk over to Lyttelton and catch the 9.50 Ferry to Diamond Harbour. (Option to meet at the wharf.) Walk circular track from Diamond Harbour towards Church Bay, up and thru the school, back around to Purau and return to Diamond Harbour (or the other way round). Ferry back, then either walk or bus back to cars.

Grade: 2

Depart: Bridle Path 8.30am

Time: 5 hours

Leader: Carolyn Blackford, 022 651 6066

Co-Leader: John Corbett, 348 3158

Left: June 10 - 12 Three Day Circuit of Mt Somers, photo Russell Ramsden



JULY 8 CONTINUED

Onepunga N12

Cost: \$11

Onepunga farm is at the end of Onepunga Road, approx 18 km from Amberley. The tramp circumnavigates the farm in an anticlockwise direction. Climb gradually along farm tracks to a good lunch spot in a sheltered spot at edge of bush with great views to the north, then head SE to meet Mt Grey track. Descend a steepish tussock face, pass an old limestone quarry and back to cars.

Grade: 3

Depart: Belfast Hotel 8.30am

Time: 5 Hours

Leader: Peter Moody, 351 7448 or 021 257 2031

Co-Leader: Selected on the day

JULY 15

Crater Rim and Mt Ada NQ

Cost: \$2

Undulating walk to Trig V and Mt Ada along Crater Rim. Hills taken slowly.

Depart: Cnr of Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 9-30am

Time: 3-4 Hours

Leader: Suzanne Fenwick, 021 112 8776

Stanmore Road to the Spit (New Tramp)

Cost: Nil – bring gold card, metro card or cash for bus back Meet in Glade Ave off Stanmore Rd, plenty of parking in the dead-end avenue. Follow the Avon to the Spit. Bus back.

Grade: 2

Depart: 9am

Time: 5 hours

Leader: Graeme Brown, 383 3732

Co-Leader: Appoint on the day

Benmore Hut via Sugarloaf Hill W054

Cost: \$13

From the DOC Thirteen Mile Stream carpark brief walk along Benmore Track. Cross the stream then climb ridge directly to pt1203 (+660m). Undulating ridge-top walk over Sugarloaf, then descend to hut. There is a track of sorts, so good navigation skills required. Out via Benmore track with several stream crossings. Great circuit through a mix of open and bushed country.

Grade: 3

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel 8.30am

Time: 6+ Hours

Leader: Kaye Young, 329 6187 or 021 025 68702

Co-Leader: Evelyn Sheridan, 383 0891 or 027 228 0754

JULY 22

Hagley Park and Inner City NQ

Cost: Nil

Walking through Hagley Park and Inner City.

Depart: Mona Vale Ave Kilmarnock St at 9-30am

Time: 3-4 Hours

Leader: Mary Brinsdon, 366 9119

Taylor's Mistake-Godley Heads - Breezes Col NQ

Cost: Nil

From Taylor's Mistake, walk coastal track to Godley Heads gun emplacements. Return by CRW to Breezes Col and down to Taylor's Mistake.

Grade: 1

Depart: Taylor's Mistake at 9.30am

Time: 4 hours

Leader: Howard Harvey, 3429377 / 0211363043

JULY 22 CONTINUED

Mt Grey from Lake Janet N37A

Cost: \$11

From Lake Janet up to Mt Grey summit. Probably take bypass track and return via fire lookout. Exact route decided on the day.

Grade: 2

Depart: Leave Belfast Hotel at 8.30am

Time: 5 hours

Leader: Sandra Knox, 339 2997 / 021 02791380

Co-Leader: Chris Clark, 027 487 9221

Parapet Rock to Castle Hill Village via Hogsback WO31A

Cost: \$19

This route is the mountain bike track from Parapet Rock to Castle Hill Village via Hogsback. Starting from Parapet Rock adjacent to Highway follow the MTB track up the hill and along the ridge towards the environment centre. Head down through the holiday houses to the Broken River skifield road at Jacks Pass then follow the Dracophyllum flat track to Texas flat. Follow the Hogs Back track through to Castle Hill Village. This trip requires a car shuttle with a vehicle left at Castle Hill Village. Very modest height gain of 500 +/- Pace will be a modest Grade 3, not at all fast! Map BW21 Springfield.

Grade: 3

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel 8am

Time: 5 + Hours

Leader: Marcel Robb, 03 928 3733 (Meet Marcel at Springfield)

Co-Leader: Murray Allison, 942 0953

JULY 29

Kaiapoi River, Kaikanui Walkway NQ

Cost: \$4

Walking along the river bank, on walking tracks, stop banks and through parklands.

Depart: Belfast Hotel (The Peg) at 9-30am

Time: 3-4 Hours

Leader: Lois Watson, 03 313 3491

Allendale/Sign of Bellbird Loop

Cost: \$3

From Allendale walk along harbour to Church Lane. Up Church Lane, along to fire station, up Ngaio to South Track, up Watlings Bush then along CRW to Bellbird. Cass Ridge Track back down to join with O'Farrells and on to Living Springs and back to cars.

Grade: 2

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 8.30

Time: 5 hours

Leader: Russell Hignett, 355 5670 / 027 343 6846

Co-Leader: Appoint on the day

Mt Oxford (descending via Ashley Saddle) NW12

Cost: \$10

From Coopers CK carpark climb Mt Oxford (Tracked). Tussock and scrub bash east over Oxford Hill then descend to Ashley Saddle. Follow rough ground trail SW from pt 955. Connect with well and recently cut track from just past pt 758. Vehicle track then continues to carpark. Excellent circuit, times can vary in adverse conditions.

Grade: 3 (Grade 4 if icy) Crampons to be carried.

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel 8am

Time: 7 Hours

Leader: Paul Knox, 339 2997 or 027 208 5070

Co-Leader: Selected on the day





Sumner Clocktower to Godley Head June 3, photo Mike Currie



VetsSumner to Nicholson Park June 10, photo Clive Morriss



Proposed Base Camp Akaroa

- Monday November 2 to Thursday November 5, 2020
- 4 x grade 2 level tramps.
- 3 nights shared accommodation in camping ground cabins.

Expressions of interest please to Chris Evans so I can confirm numbers with the camp. Phone 3611186, or email: chrism_evans@hotmail.co.uk

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 Ian Fussell 385 0856, Marcel Robb (03 928 3733 or 022 012 5008) and Gavin Hampton (343 1291). Excellent for groups.





Backpacking and Basecamps 2020

Dates	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
19 – 20 July 2020	Youngman Stream Hut – Tarn Hut, Lees Valley	2	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
From the upper Lees Valley Road follow the Ashley and then the Lilburne Rivers with some high sidles to the six bunk Youngman Stream Hut (5 to 6 hours). On Monday tramp three hours to Tarn Hut via Lilburne Hill (1405m) and explore the area. On Tuesday return to the road (4 hours).				
16-17 August 2020	Tribulation Hut, Hakatere	1	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
Tribulation Hut, Hakatere. A four hour tramp from Double Hill Run Road (south of the Rakaia River) over Radcliffe Saddle to a six bunk hut on the banks of the Swift River.				
13-14 September 2020	Hawdon Hut, AP	1	2	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
This track begins at the Hawdon Shelter and camping site, accessed from Mt White Road. The track follows the Hawdon River for about 9 km to the Hawdon Hut on the true right of the river, with numerous river crossings				
18-19 October 2020	Basins Hut, Avoca River	1	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
A six hour tramp following the Harper and Avoca Rivers from the head of Lake Coleridge. A 6 bunk standard hut				
2 – 5 November	Base camp from cabins at Akaroa camping ground. Early indication of interest by 21 July please.	3	2	Chris Evans 361 1186 Chrism_evans@hotmail.co.uk
22-23 November 2020	Cookies Hut via Pudding Hill Range and Mt Bruce, Hakatere	1	4	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
13-15 December 2020	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

Bowenvale to Sugarloaf June 10, photo Mike Currie



Club Captains Report

Let us see, what can I ramble on about today? July 1989 OFTC Newsletter contained this trip report:

"Mavora Lakes – April 3 – 7 1989

Party: Pam Callahan, Thelma & Don McNiven, Doreen Mclvor.

On a bright morning in April we set off for Mossburn, staying overnight in a 4-bunk hut in a caravan park. We were going to Mavora Lakes. Surprising how many people have never heard of them. Because of the 40 kms in from the main road to the start of the track, it is necessary to have transport. Don left us at the car park at the start of the Northern Lake and headed off to Glenorchy where he stayed for the next three days.

Our first two days led us through beautiful wide open valleys, golden with grass and tussock, sparkling rivers below us and plenty of cold streams to quench our thirst. We rested the first night at Boundary Hut after about four hours of easy tramping. On the second eight hour day we stopped at Taipo Hut for lunch then tramped on to the next hut. The scenery changed about an hour after lunch and we came to the bush with mossy tracks and ferns; and later a glimpse of the Greenstone River from a high cliff and a distant mountain covered in snow. The Sly Burn Hut was identical to the other two huts except for an outside fire-place. We had a spare day so explored the upper Greenstone Valley and enjoyed a quiet time beside the river. The hut had extra visitors that night and we sat by a warm fire, under a starry sky, making interesting conversation.

Our last day was another four hour tramp out to the Greenstone carpark through lovely autumn tinted bush, with glimpses of the river below, a few cows grazing the flats and the odd bush of rose hips. At the carpark we had lunch, changed our clothes and left about 12 o'clock for our journey home.

This was an easy tramp, giving a glimpse of what is behind the high peaks of Lake Wakatipu, and we were lucky to have excellent weather for the whole week. In bad weather the trip from Boundary Hut to Taipo Hut could prove unpleasant due to the exposure risk as there is no shelter in the open valley."

This club trip started by walking the Mavora Walkway. I have walked it starting from the Divide, first night McKellar Hut, second Greenstone (new) Hut (situated very close to where the old Sly Burn Hut was), third night Boundary Hut then out via Mossburn (and yes there is a stream called the Moss Burn, flowing a bit south of the village).

The Mavora Lakes, a north and south lake, lie midway between Lakes Te Anau and Wakatipu. At 620m a.b.s.l their valley location offers invigorating winter conditions. But what a place for a base camp, best after school holidays and not over long week-ends. There is a considerable amount of sheltered camping for those willing to tackle the long drive down. Tramping and MTB

options abound. I have climbed all the named summits, Cerberus, Eldon, Richmond and Campbell which surround the lakes plus the south east lying summits of Smooth, Hummock and Jane, these latter three being in the north west corner of the Eyre Mountains, the range I mentioned in May Going Places. There are valley walks to satisfy any palette. And yes, the Te Araroa Trail passes through the valley doubling with the Mavora Walkway.

The Oreti River, which drains into Foveaux Strait at Invercargill, has its headwaters east of the lakes, flanking the other side of Mt Campbell. An excellent back packing trip would be to The Acheron Lakes (yes twin lakes again) lying north-west of North Mavora Lake (which is its proper name). This pairing of lakes, set in a magnificent alpine basin, I understand were named after the survey vessel of the same name, Acheron.

Now then, for those who have a map program on your Laptop or PC you will likely have it open investigating this area. Just NW of the northern lake is Shirkers Bush. It is rumored that draft dodgers from the First World War hid here, hence the name. Interesting ah?

My favorite tramp is the up and at it Hummock Peak. Although that is a bit unfair, they all have considerable merit and all the climbs tend to be up and at it. It is an interesting day trip up Gorge Burn into the tarn below Jane Peak. JP itself is a worthy summit at 2022m, a long day tramp but very well worth the effort. Mt Richmond, west of the north lake, is also a very excellent outing. Close to its summit a sharp spur is easily walked. Half way along the rock type changes to a sharp brittle type rock, the smell of Sulphur strong for several paces! (And no, it is Sulphur issuing forth from below, not from within the other bowels). An amble downstream beside the Mararoa River to Kiwiburn Hut or the track through to the Whitestone River, all lovely tramps through magnificent southern beech forest. Across the Whitestone is Mt Snowdon, its long circular summit ridge gives excellent views of the Te Anau basin and offers a good lengthy day trip.

For those with sharp eyes, keep a look out for specimen pieces of Serpentine which have certain similarities and can be mistaken for Greenstone (nephrite) by the untrained. Trout, Rainbow or Brown, abound in the lakes, and for those also with an eye for detail parts of the Lord of the Rings were filmed in the immediate vicinity.

Now that I have whetted the appetite with Grade 2, 3, 4 and 5 tramps abounding, many will be queuing to come on my Basecamp into this wonderful part of Northern Southland.

To complete this ramble, the Talking Heads song "Once in a Lifetime" has a repeated lyric "Same as it ever was". One comforting thought for us all is that our hills, our mountains, will be the same as ever they were. Get out there and enjoy them.

That's this month's bit. Stay safe, be sensible and do keep warm.

Marcel Robb

Your OFTC Committee

Chair:	Lawrence Allpress 348 3791
	navpress@navpress.co.nz
Vice-Chair:	Alison Downard 03 357 208
	alisondownard@gmail.com
Club Captain:	Marcel Robb 03 928 3733
	marcel.robb@gmail.com
Secretary:	Sue Weller 021 194 9550
	suzmweller@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Peter Oliver 03 332 3050
	peter@hackthorne.co.nz
Membership:	Judy Collin 327 5327
	judylesleycollin@icloud.com
Editor / Back-up Ed:	Mavis Airey /Terry Stevens
	0275 293 631 / 021 166 8870
	mavis.airey@xtra.co.nz / terendy2@gmail.com
Committee:	
	Graeme Brown 383 3732
	graembrown1@xtra.co.nz
	David Jones 027 288 5845
	ballymol@xtra.co.nz
	Colin Garthwaite 03 360 3770
	colmarin@xtra.co.nz
	Kaye Young 03 329 6187
	rbkmyoung@xtra.co.nz
	Ross Walker 027 558-2126
	rwchch@gmail.com
	Peter Coursey 03 332 4833
	pkcoursey@gmail.com
	Ex Officio
Health & Safety Officer:	Peter Moody 351 7448
	pmoody007@gmail.com
Welfare: Liaison Team (see June Going Places)	
DOC liaison:	Paul Knox 03 3392997
	knoxps@gmail.com
Webteam Co-ordinator:	Terry Stevens
	terendy2@gmail.com 021 166 8870
Beacon co-ordinator:	Peter Oliver 332 3050
	peter@hackthorne.co.nz
Deputy Club Captain:	Ian Fussell 03 385 0856
	fussei@extra.co.nz

