



The Official Newsletter of
THE OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB INC.

Going Places.....



NEWSLETTER 460 June 2020

Important Notice

Tramp Recommencement!

Club Day Tramps are scheduled to recommence from 1st June 2020. Based on the parameters for Groups set out by the Prime Minister on 11th May the following will apply until future notice and revision.

But firstly, **each member is expected to be self-responsible, tolerant and flexible.**

Without exception, if you are proposing to go on a tramp then you **must** contact the leader **prior** (day / evening before but no later 8pm) to the tramp. The Tramp Leader will specify on the tramp description your options for contacting them. There are two ways to notify the Tramp Leader, who may offer one or both:

1. REGISTER for the tramp via the website:

Either, Go to the OFTC website and click on the link in **Trips Register** (below the Login section).

Or copy and paste this link in to your browser: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V-EtYJaYQ6IUTJ71MeuKlpigBvJqKKBmjJkq8wNpGBY/edit#gid=0>

The link takes you to a spreadsheet which shows an array of tramps available. You can choose a tramp and enter your name and phone number. The spreadsheet is live so that whatever you enter is automatically saved. You can also save the spreadsheet to your "Favourites" on your browser, and go there directly in the future.

2. Text, phone or email the Tramp Leader.

CANCELLATION: If you decide you are not going on the tramp, you need to cancel, either delete your name from the register or, if after the 8pm close off time, text the Tramp Leader.

- **Covid19.** If you are sick, have a runny nose, high temperature etc, do not come on the tramp. If you get Covid19 within two weeks after the tramp, let the tramp leader know immediately. They will be able to supply you with a list of other people who were on the tramp for you to pass on to the Covid19 contact tracing team.
- Participants will make their own way to the tramp's starting point. There will be no prior congregation points or arranged carpooling. Although your committee cannot enforce a one person one car rule, it is expected that this will be the case except for obvious situations like partners travelling together. However, the committee will not create an impediment to individuals who mutually agree to share transport.
- Walking parties shall not exceed the maximum allowable at the time of the tramp, currently 10. If more than the maximum allowable partake, eg if 15 bodies present for a tramp, then two parties shall proceed, say 8 in one, 7 the other. If more than the maximum allowable number present, then the following shall apply
- A Leader is required for each party (overall leader to appoint), experience level to be spread between.
- Second (and subsequent) party to depart not less than 15 minutes after the first party. The parties shall not join during the tramp, that is for lunch etc or accidentally.
- Dependent upon where you are, each party may need a locator beacon (this is not as important for Port Hills tramps).
- At completion, the overall leader must wait for the second party to return.
- Apply Social Distancing throughout. This will not be easy to appropriately achieve and adhere to whilst walking. Much will depend upon the Level rules for the day however, I would recommend 2 metres, thereby giving time to react to what is happening in front of you.
- To facilitate Contact Tracing, the overall trip leader of the day is to maintain and keep the list of **all** those participating on the tramp. (Pertains to the same tramp if broken into smaller parties)
- Tramp cancellation, normal procedure to apply.
- Coffee: Be prepared to phone a café ahead of time and to drink your coffee outside or in your car.

Marcel Robb, Club Captain (for the Committee)

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

Isn't it great to have some more freedoms with Level 2? We are planning to recommence tramping in June, but with some clear guidelines. To some of you, these may be eminently sensible and to others, overly restrictive. The committee has sought to balance the need to come out from under the stones and participate in society against the reality that many in our club are in the higher risk demographic and have specific health issues, including compromised immune systems.

It has been interesting to observe as some people have "kicked against the goads" with strident voices and cries of "unfair" in response to the Level2 Guidelines from the Government. Others have sought to find ways to interpret the Guidelines to their advantage or to work out a way around them. These attitudes have lost sight of the objective - we are doing this to minimise the impact of Covid19. The Guidelines are not in the same category as tax laws. Most businesses seek to minimise tax by the way they structure their business and their way of operating. But we cannot apply the same approach with the Guidelines. We need to keep in mind the end game, which is to win the war.

While technically we may be able to car pool and meet the Guidelines "1 metre" rule for enclosed spaces, this does not mean it is a good idea. Enclosed spaces where air is "shared" over a period of time (one hour for a large spacious room) is a recipe for sharing infection.

A very well written, sobering article comes from Erin Bromage (Comparative Immunologist and Professor of Biology - specializing in Immunology -at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth). She has been tracking Covid19 with her research students since January. Her key conclusions are that the spread is accentuated in confined spaces where air is shared. I've put the link below if you are interested and have access to the web version of *Going Places*. You can copy and paste into your browser. Or you can email me at navpress@navpress.co.nz for a copy of the link

The Midwinter Nosh has been cancelled. It will be some time before we will be able to safely host an indoor event. Maybe we should replace it this year with an outdoor event when the weather warms up.

In the meantime, enjoy the upcoming tramping, with all its limitations.. It is a far better option than being confined to neighbourhood strolls.

Lawrence Allpress

Here is the link for Erin Bromage's article:

https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them?campaign_id=3&emc=edit_MBAU_p_20200511&instance_id=18395&nl=morning-briefing®i_id=126516037§ion=whatElse&segment_id=27303&te=1&user_id=6a535adf11dab082fb6a16f0b2234c20

Post Lockdown Celebration

Midwinter Nosh

Saturday June 13

CANCELLED
Life Saving Club

Bring a plate and stories of lockdown to share.

Details on walks prior to lunch to come.

Petrol Money to Drivers (Level 2)

"With the OFTC preference for transportation to and from tramps being one person one car (other than same-bubble cases) no position on mileage reimbursement is therefore necessary".

Marcel Robb, Club Captain

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (AS OF MAY 18, 2020)

Resignations			
Geoff Barclay	027 523 9953	50 Jacksons Road, RD 2, Kaiapoi 7692	7
Bridget Barclay	027 252 9953	50 Jacksons Road, RD 2, Kaiapoi 7692	10
Sandra Owens	347 6091	908 Two Chain Road, RD 7, Christchurch 7677	11

Membership		
	Female	236
	Male	163
	TOTAL	399

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

JUNE 7

Bowenvale to Mt Vernon PH49

Cost : nil

From Bowenvale up Eastside and Latters Spur tracks, then along the CRW to Mt Vernon. Over Mt Vernon for lunch. Return down Old Bowenvale track to cars. Medium pace with periodic stops.

Grade : 2

Depart : Carpark at end of Bowenvale Ave at 9.00 am

Time : 5 hrs

Leaders : Sheila Downard 337 4201, 027 376 9619
and Joan Stevenson 388 0227, 022 096 3797

To register for this tramp, please ring, text or email your name and phone number to one of the leaders before 8pm the prior evening.

Lyttelton Circuit PH97

Cost : nil

From Albion Square proceed up to Major Hornbrook track to summit. Either take CRW track or Bluffs track out to gun emplacements. Proceed out to Evans Pass and beyond on CRW track return same way to join onto Urumau track and back to Lyttelton.

Alternative route is to return from gun emplacements to Pioneer Women's Memorial via CRW track and then through Whakaraupo Reserve Stan Helms track to Lyttelton.

Grade : 3

Depart : Albion Square Lyttelton 9 am

Time : 5 hours

Leader : Kaye Young 329 6187 or 021 025 68702.

Please contact Kaye the day before to confirm your participation.

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.

JUNE 14

Lyttelton, Stan Helms Track to Urumau Track PHx

Cost : nil

Up Stan Helms track, along CRW, down Major Hornbrook, along and up Chalmers track to re-join CRW, down Urumau track back into Lyttelton. Shorter options for those who would prefer it.

Grade : 2

Depart : Recreation Centre, 25 Winchester St, Lyttelton at 9.00 am. No 28 bus stops straight across the road if anyone's bussing.

Time : 4 - 5hrs

Leader : Jill Halliburton 337 4973,
or 021 0226 7556

To register for this tramp, please text or email your name and phone number to Jill before 8pm the prior evening.

Monument carpark to Rod Donald Hut variation BP77

Cost: nil

From the carpark it's a well-graded climb up to the ridge and the Te Ara Pātaka walkway. Follow the ridgeline along to Waipuna Saddle and drop down to cosy Rod Donald Hut. Return the same way. Lovely views of the peninsula and out to sea.

Grade: 3

Depart : Monument carpark, Purau-Port Levy Rd, 9.30 am

Time : 5-6 hours

Leader: Kirsten Nissen 021 078 8774.

Please contact Kirsten the day before to confirm your participation.





JUNE 21

Scarborough to Godley Heads PH02

Cost : Nil

Walk to Godley Heads, enjoying great views. Return by alternative route.

Grade : 2

Depart : Sumner Clock Tower at 9.00 am

Time : 4 - 5 hrs

Leader : Pamela Gibbons 332 7531, 022 678 0398

To register for this tramp, please ring, text or email your name and phone number to Pamela before 8pm the prior evening.

Kaituna – Packhorse - Mt Herbert BP06

Cost : nil

A steady climb to Packhorse Hut, continue climbing up the south side of Mt Bradley, contour around to the saddle and then on up to Mt Herbert summit. Return via harbour side of Mt Bradley to Packhorse and down. Great views from the harbour heads round to Lyttelton and Lake Ellesmere.

Grade : 3

Depart : carpark at end of Parkinson's Rd (off Kaituna Valley Rd), 9 am

Time : 6+ hours

Leader : Paul Knox 339 2997 or 027 208 5070.

Please contact Paul the day before to confirm your participation.

JUNE 28

Halswell Quarry to Bellbird PH22

Cost : nil

Climb around quarry rim and up through farmland to Kennedy's Bush Spur track and the Summit Road. Follow the CRW to Sign of the Bellbird for lunch. Return to quarry by alternative tracks where possible. Medium pace with periodic stops.

Grade : 2

Depart : Halswell Quarry carpark at 9.00am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Vicki Steven 022 130 4342

To register for this tramp, please ring, text or email your name and phone number to Vicki before 8pm the prior evening.

Old Coach Road W004

Cost : nil

Leave cars at foot of Porters Pass. Enter DOC land at the U bend on road and climb old coaching track, until reaching Porters Pass road. Head south across the slope to top of the adjacent ridge following the fence line. Follow ridges around head of stream to return to cars. Lovely tussock country.

Grade : 3

Depart : Carpark at the hairpin bend at the bottom of Porter's Pass at 9.30 am

Time : 4-5 hours

Leader : Ross Walker 027 558 2126.

Please contact Ross the day before to confirm your participation.

WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

Grade 2, procedure for participating in Tramps for the Month of June. On the night before a tramp it is necessary to do the following:

- June 3rd and June 10th call Graeme Brown on 383 3732 leave your name and a contact phone number.
- June 17th and June 24th call Pamela Gibbons on 332 7531 or 022 678 0398 leaving name and contact number.

A list will be compiled for the leader of the day to just tick off as participants arrive and we have a record for contacting if necessary; also we don't have an issue with passing pens around etc.

When organising the tramps for June we have approached co-leaders with the intention of the co-leader leading a group if we have more than 10 participants on the day, the group would then be split in half. In the event of more than 20 people arriving we will know the evening before and a 3rd leader will be appointed. These tramps are not too demanding so no issues are envisaged. Remember, no co-sharing of transport to start point.

On the day the normal cancellation procedure will apply, NOBODY will be phoned personally.

JUNE 3

The Groynes NQ

Cost: Nil

Walking on familiar tracks in the Groynes Reserve.

Depart: Turn right at roundabout in the Groynes, park near Dog Park Area at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Valda Hodges, 323 5015

Sumner Clock Tower to Godley Head PH02

Cost: Nil

From Scarborough, go up Flowers track, down to Taylors Mistake (morning tea) then out to Godley Head gun emplacements via above Boulder Bay and on to Godley head. Options are to return same way or continue around on Lyttelton harbour side to Breeze Col and back down to Taylors Mistake and back to Scarborough.

Grade: 2

Depart: Sumner Clock Tower at 8.30am

Time: 4½ to 5 hours

Leader: Liz Taylor

Co-Leader: John Corbett

Mt Grey N35

Cost: Use own car.

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.

Grade: 3

Departure: Grey River picnic area on Okuku Road, 9am.

Duration: 6 hours

Leader: Liz Campbell 357 4543 / 021 051 6845





JUNE 10

Sumner Scarborough Nicholson Park NQ

Cost: Nil
Walking along the Estuary and then up tracks to Nicholson Park.
 Depart: Sumner Surf Club car park at 9.30am
 Time: 3-4 hours
 Leaders: John and Colleen Herzog, 384 9321

Bowenvale to Trig V PH49

Cost: Nil
The tramp commences in Bowenvale Ave, by the park. There are many options to walk this route, via the various Port Hill tracks. Return through Victoria Park. Leader's choice of route.
 Grade: 2
 Depart: End of Bowenvale Avenue at 8.30am
 Time: 4½ - 5 hours
 Leader: Lois Prebble
 Co-leader: Barbro Guard

Mt Richardson N09A

Cost: Use own car.
18kms out to Mt Richardson Trig via Teds Track and return via Blowhard Track. A shorter alternative is to cut across Ted's track from the Blowhard Track, at co-ordinates 415E 182N to the Bypass Track at E398 185N point 658 and return to cars via Blowhard track. Ted's Track was cleared of windfall and marked by an OFTC party in June 2019 and is an easy track.
 Grade: 3
 Departure: Picnic area end of Maori Reserve Road, 9am
 Duration: 5+ hours
 Leader: Wendy Cain, 027 338 0532

JUNE 17

Westmorland NQ

Cost: Nil
Walking on tracks and byways on Westmorland. Returning along Worsleys Rd.
 Depart: Cnr of Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst Street at 9.30am
 Time: 3-4 hours
 Leader: Alec Mills, 338 5002

Gebbies Pass to Packhorse Hut NQ

Cost: Use own car
From car park follow marked track through forest and open land to hut. Return by the same route. Easy pace.
 Grade: 1
 Depart: Gebbies Pass at 9am
 Time: 4 hours
 Leader: Howard Harvey, 342 9377 / 021 1136 3043

Halswell Quarry to Bellbird

Walk from Halswell Quarry to Bellbird, side trip round Orongomai Bush. Leader's choice of tracks.
 Grade: 2
 Depart: Halswell Quarry at 8.30
 Time: 4½ to 5 hours
 Leader: Chris Evans
 Co-leader: Vicki Samson

JUNE 17 CONTINUED

Monument to Mt Fitzgerald (BP77)

Cost: Use own car.
A moderate climb past the Monument to main ridge, then along mostly open country to Mt Fitzgerald. Great views of the Peninsula on all sides in good weather. Return same way.
 Grade: 3
 Departure: On the saddle of Purau-Port Levy Road, 9 am.
 Duration: 6.5 hrs
 Leader: Lawrence Allpress 348 3791 022 092 8656

JUNE 24

Hansen Park to Rapaki Track NQ

Cost: Nil
Walking from Hansen Park to Rapaki Track. An alternative local walk can be arranged if members want a shorter walk.
 Depart: Hansen Park at 9.30
 Time: 3-4 hours
 Leader: Eileen McGrade, 942 7380

Sumner to Mt Pleasant

Cost: Nil
Leave from Sumner Surf Club, walk up the Zig Zag and on to Mt Pleasant. Return a different route.
 Grade: 2
 Depart: Sumner Surf Club at 8.30am
 Time: 5 hours
 Leader: Mike Currie
 Co Leader: Anne Quinn

Heathcote Valley Loop (new)

Cost: Nil
From the Bridle path, follow a 4WD track around to Avoca valley. A steep climb to the CRW, then follow the CRW to the John Britten reserve. Descend to the Heathcote valley then follow a new track to join the 4WD track above Morgans valley. Follow the 4WD track back to the Bridle path.
 Grade: 3
 Departure: Leaves Bridle Path car park at 8.30 am
 Duration: 5 hours
 Leader: Elspeth Jeet, 384 1331



March 11 Grade 2 Sandy Bay - CRW - Governors Bay.
 Photo Mike Currie





CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

During our May committee meeting I asked if the members actually read my monthly contribution. I was surprised to find they did. My next question was, should it be continued? Yes was the response, which came as a bit of a blow as I was anticipating relieving myself of a task. Not so.

The last tramp I undertook was Mt Guy on 15 January of this year. Because of the pace I backed off and rejoined the party at the saddle north of the hill. Since returning from overseas I have been unwell and have neither walked nor biked. This has been rather discouraging, especially as I hear of club members being out and about during the stages of lockdown on their bikes, legs or whatever. After suffering a setback, I had decided that my days as Club Captain were numbered and began thinking when I might convey this to the committee. The role of Club Captain requires that the lucky holder of the role be out and about meeting with, walking and getting to know as many within the club as possible. It is unlikely that I will be able to join with you on any tramps over the next two or three months. I, for the time being, will continue to hold office from my phone and desktop.

Many of us will suffer health setbacks, especially as we age. Mine was most unexpected and differed from anything I have previously experienced. If I may offer words of encouragement, there is light at the end of the tunnel, life will again improve.

I very much miss the call of the Kea, the bubbling streams, the scree, the wind in the tussock, the lunches with wonderful views, running noses and blue legs, cuts and scratches, the Beech trees, the Rimu, Southern Rata, Clematis, Sandflies and high country loo's, Robin and Fantail, the moss, ferns and Spaniards'. But most of all, I miss you lot.

I am currently reading novel two of a trilogy written by an Irish author. Within, I read this poem, author unknown (perhaps the books author):

Count your blessings instead of your crosses:
 Count your gains instead of your losses:
 Count your joys instead of your woes:
 Count your friends instead of your foes:
 Count your courage instead of your fears:
 Count your health instead of your wealth:
 And count on God instead of yourself:

As we move through the various level restrictions placed on our tramping community it is time to count our blessings. Our playground still exists, it is the same as it ever was and it awaits and beckons us with open arms. As we are increasingly able, get out there and enjoy.

Marcel Robb

Liaison Team

Until recently we had a Welfare Officer and as we have not found a replacement the committee has decided to try a different approach. One of the strengths of the club is how sociable and friendly people are and the friendships that are formed within the club. We are good at looking out for each other and the initiative to phone everyone during lockdown is an example of that.

We now have a Liaison Team which is a group of club members who regularly tramp with the club. If they hear of anyone who is sick or has had an accident or there has been a bereavement, which has been publicly notified, they will pass the information on to Judy Collin. Judy is our new Membership Officer and she has offered to write a card to the person concerned.

These are the fourteen people who are happy to be part of the Liaison Team. So feel free to approach one of these people when you are out tramping, if you know of a club member who is unwell or has an injury and would appreciate receiving a card from the OFTC.

Wednesday	
Grade 3 4&5	Kaye Young, Bernadette Smith
Grade 2	Graeme Brown, Pamela Gibbons, Mary Anne Webby
Vets	Clive Morriss, Suzanne Fenwick

Sunday	
Grade 3 4&5	Susan Brechin, Sue Weller, Chrissy McCausland
Grade 1&2	Selena Chan, Val Armstrong, Mary Brinsdon, Carolina Kol

Keep in mind that if an accident occurs, the tramp leader has to file an accident report and so Judy Collin and the Club Captain will be notified of the accident, in which case no one from the Liaison Team needs to do anything.

The contact details for Judy Collin are judylesleycollin@icloud.com or text 021 150 7954

Kaye Young





Backpacking and Basecamps 2020

Month	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
July 19-21	Youngman Stream Hut – Tarn Hut, Lees Valley. From the upper Lees Valley Road follow the Ashley and then the Lilburne Rivers with some high sides 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).	2	3	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
August 16-17	Tribulation Hut, Hakatere. A four hour tramp from Double Hill Run Rd (south of the Rakaia River) over Radcliffe Saddle to a six bunk hut on the banks of the Swift River.	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 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

From the Archive: Going Places February 1989

Contributed by Ian Fussell

DIARY OF A THREE PASS TRIP. December, 1988.

Party - Fay Jackson, Keith Morgan, Bill Joy and Michael Walsh.

Friday, 16 December.

Eleanor drove us to Klondyke Corner. Alfresco lunch. Sandflies. Windless sunny day. Farewelled driver 1.30pm. Hot trip up Waimak River not difficult. Channels changed. Also fords. Bill pointed out Carrington Peak, climbed in youth. Reached Carrington Hut 5.30. Four hours flat. Not bad Hut empty. Yarning. Food. Sleep.

Saturday, 17 December.

Lovely weather. 7.10 start. Taipo-Iti up. Wondered whether we'd make it New rockfalls. Much unstable scree, boulders. All made for testing tramping. Gorge eerie place anyway. Always glad to get through O.K. Soon at Harman Pass from upper Taipo Iti. Short rest. On to Whitehorn Pass. On top at 12. Did a Watson with primus. Only minor burns. Ideal snow in Cronin. Glissading. Very hot in Cronin Valley. River up. Last ford tricky. Arrived Park Morpeth Hut in Wilberforce 5.30. Empty. All dehydrated. Bill dispensed brandy, Fay - chocolates, cake, after dinner. Early night.

Sunday, 18 December.

Overcast, left 7.45. Up Wilberforce to Browning Pass. Very steep scree, rock gut. Snow. Needed careful scrambling. Near top found vestiges of Galignite Hut. Bill thrilled to reach top of Pass 10.30. Cold. Kept going to Arahura. Grand view down Valley. Track extended near Harman Hut. Lunched there 1.30. Genial Nelson family in residence Left for Grassy Flats 2.45. in drizzle and mutinous murmurings. (Not as bad as last year.) Over Styx Saddle. Long, tiring descent. Falls. Styx also changed course. Reached Grassy Flats 6. Weary. Footsore. Food. More chocolates, Christmas Cake. Whisky.

Monday, 19 December.

Rose 6. Fine. Left for road bridge 8.15. Worried about noon rendezvous with Eleanor at bridge. I think better get there first. Walked ahead. Arrived Mark Wallace Bridge 11.45. Eleanor arrived noon as planned. Rest arrived soon. Reunion with jolly Nelson trampers in Kokatahi pub. All enjoyed trip. Let's go again said Keith. Eleanor drove us back to Christchurch.



**March 4 Grade 2 Hogs Back Track.
Photo Mike Currie**



Your OFTC Committee

Chair:	Lawrence Allpress 348 3791 navpress@navpress.co.nz
Vice-Chair:	Alison Downard 03 357 208 alisondownard@gmail.com
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	Ex Officio
Health & Safety Officer:	Peter Moody 351 7448 pmoody007@gmail.com
Welfare Officer:	To be appointed
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@xtra.co.nz

Walking the Camino

I have walked the Camino de Santiago
More times than I can tell –
Only once physically
But since then, many times in my dreams.
That's the sort of effect
This thousand-year-old pilgrimage trail
Has on people.

Unlike many pilgrims
I had no expectations of religious revelation
Or absolution from sin –
And received none.

But there is meditative quality
About long-distance walking;
A pleasing, simple rhythm to the day.
And it feels a privilege to be following in the footsteps
Of so many.

I think of those who got injured, sick, or died along the way
Shrines remind us, it happens still.

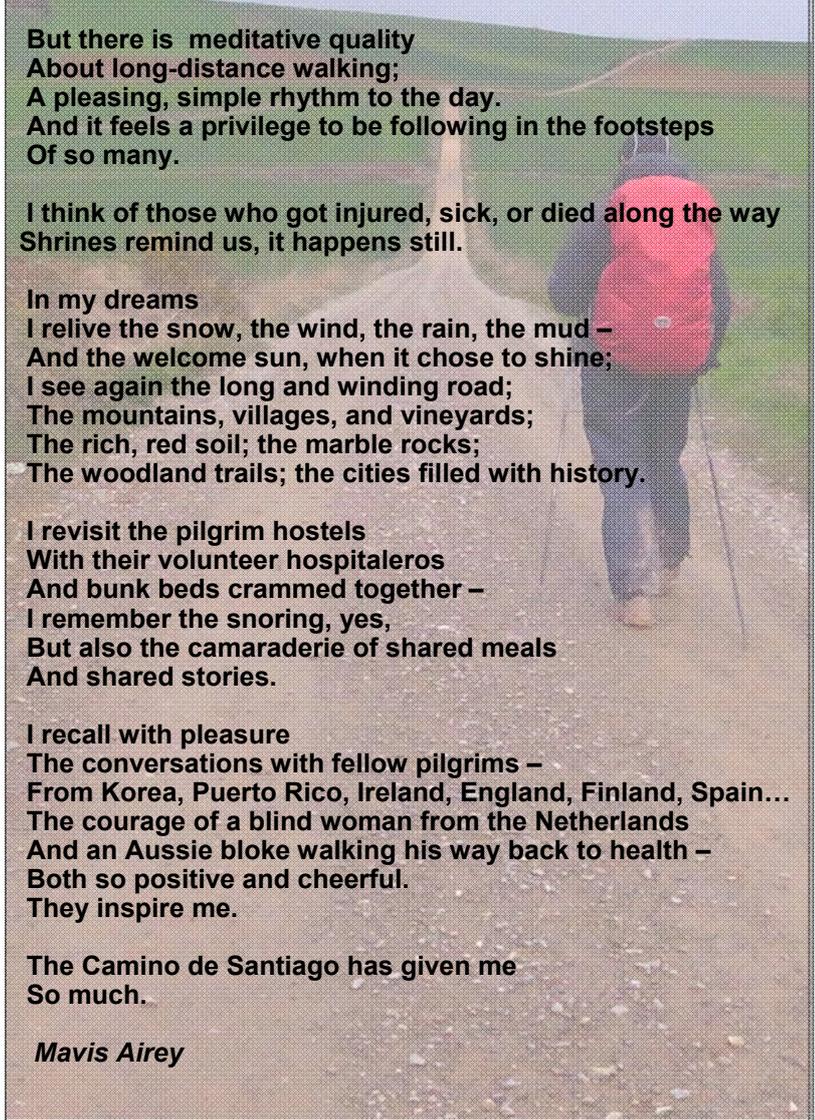
In my dreams
I relive the snow, the wind, the rain, the mud –
And the welcome sun, when it chose to shine;
I see again the long and winding road;
The mountains, villages, and vineyards;
The rich, red soil; the marble rocks;
The woodland trails; the cities filled with history.

I revisit the pilgrim hostels
With their volunteer hospitaleros
And bunk beds crammed together –
I remember the snoring, yes,
But also the camaraderie of shared meals
And shared stories.

I recall with pleasure
The conversations with fellow pilgrims –
From Korea, Puerto Rico, Ireland, England, Finland, Spain...
The courage of a blind woman from the Netherlands
And an Aussie bloke walking his way back to health –
Both so positive and cheerful.
They inspire me.

The Camino de Santiago has given me
So much.

Mavis Airey



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 and tapes: 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).

