



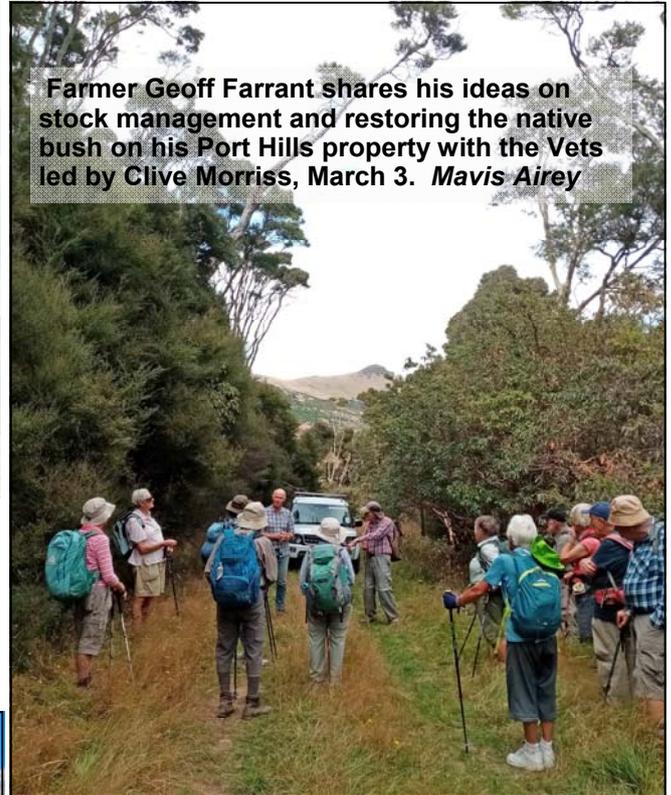
Going Places



OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB NEWSLETTER 469 APRIL 2021



The destination was Mueller Hut on our tramp led by Russell Ramsden. From the deck of the hut, the views were impressive in all directions as we listened to and occasionally saw avalanches crashing off the steep walls across the valley of the glaciers. It is hard to describe the impact that such a powerful landscape has. *Julie Wolbers*



Farmer Geoff Farrant shares his ideas on stock management and restoring the native bush on his Port Hills property with the Vets led by Clive Morriss, March 3. *Mavis Airey*



Twizel base camp trampers at Freehold Creek, Ohau Peak. Notice some people looking longingly at the "fountain of youth" (plastic pipe in the grass to the left). For those who drank - it didn't work! *Lawrence Allpress*



Grade 2 tramp to Timu Timu Heads, March 17. Awesome scenery, weather and company. Many thanks to Pamela Gibbons and Michel. *Mike Currie*

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



Seventy-one people, including 35 newcomers and 36 club members, attended the Bring an Over Forties Friend event at Castle Hill on February 21. Photo: Michel Adriaens

There is no Chair's Report this month.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(as at 20 March)

New members

Victoria Halliday 021 027 03357
Halswell, Chch 8025
Zvictor55@gmail.com

Gill Smith 355 4557 / 027 280 2848
75a Browns Road, St Albans, Chch 8014
gills@xtra.co.nz

Susan Foyle 352 8501 / 027 6022 815
89 Paparoa Street, Papanui, Chch 8053
kmf@xtra.co.nz

Changed contact details

Jenny Hoffman jennybarbara@gmail.com

Resignations

Jennie Benecke 28 years in OFTC
jenniebenecke@gmail.com

Janice Weatherall 3 years in OFTC
jweatherall54@gmail.com

Membership	Female	240
	Male	166
	TOTAL	406

Judy Collin

Approved at the 2021 AGM

Office bearers are:

Chairman : Lawrence Allpress

Vice chair: Alison Downard

Club Captain: Marcel Robb

Secretary : Jenny Hoffman (Committee matters) 021 230 7577

jennybarbarah@gmail.com

Chris Clark (General Club matters) 027 487 9221

kiwisonbikes@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer: Peter Oliver

Membership: Judy Collin 021 150 7954 membership@oftc.org.nz

Editor/ Backup editor : Mavis Airey/ Terry Stevens

Committee:

Graeme Brown

Kaye Young

Ross Walker

Peter Coursey

Ex Officio – no change

Three new life members – Mavis Airey, Charlie Ledbrook and Don Mee

Subscriptions

Subscription notices have been emailed (or posted out to those without an email address). If you haven't received your notice, please contact the 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	Alec Mills	338 5002
		Suzanne Fenwick	376 5026
	Grade 1	Howard Harvey	342 9377
			021 136 3043
	Grade 2	Pamela Gibbons	332 7531
		Graeme Brown	383 3732
	Grade 3	Peter Moody	351 7448
	Grade 3-4	Marcel Robb	03 928 3733
Sunday	Grade 1	Fiona Butterick	349 3960
			021 234 8622
	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	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

APRIL 4

Okuti Valley BP31
Cost : \$12.00
From Okuti Valley up the Okuti Track, through native bush and farmland to the saddle with good views. Return the same way.
Grade : 1 NQ
Depart : Corner Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst Street at 9.00 am
Time : 4-5 hrs
Leader : Fiona Butterick 349 3960, 021 234 8622

Okuti Valley BP31
Cost : \$12
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 : Vicki Steven 022 130 4342

Mt Bradley from Kaituna
Cost : \$9
From Kaituna to the Packhorse, then half way around the south side of Bradley before taking the track up to the top. Then drop down to the other side and back to Packhorse and Kaituna.
Grade : 3
Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St 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@extra.co.nz

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

APRIL 11

Sumner Circuit PHx
Cost : Nil
Sumner clock tower, Boulder Bay, Scott's Hut and roundabout.
Grade : 1 NQ
Depart : Sumner Clock Tower at 9.00 am
Time : 4-5 hrs
Leaders : Joan Hewitson (03) 388 4320, Val Armstrong (03) 384 3391

Old Coach Road W004
Cost : \$13
Leave cars at foot of Porters Pass. Enter DOC land at the U bend on road. Climb old coaching track, (neglected condition) until reaching Porters Pass Rd. Head south here across slope to top of adjacent ridge following fence line. Follow ridges around to the head of stream, possibly on to Trig M depending on the group and the conditions, before returning to the cars.
Grade : 2
Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 8.30am (note earlier start)
Time : 5 - 6 hrs
Leader : Ben Heese 022 473 6509

Broken River Coalmine Track W134A
Cost : \$28
This track follows the route of coal wagons from the loading area at the site of the old Avoca Station on the Craigieburn Rd, to the locality of the abandoned Broken River Coalmine. There is a short, steep climb up to the benched railway track, then around the track with a steep descent to Broken River. Return is via a more gentle pack track and then the benched railway track.
Great views, especially later on in the tramp. The track was cleared and marked after extensive work by OFTC members and was completed in August 2020.
Grade : 3
Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8:00am
Time : 5 hours
Leader : Neville Palmer 021 550-660

APRIL 18

Hoon Hay Reserve to Coopers Knob PHx

Cost : \$2

From Hoon Hay Reserve, CRW, maybe Trig V, Bellbird, Coopers Knob. Return alternative tracks where possible.

Grade : 1 NQ

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce & Ferniehurst St at 9.00 am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Paula Boot 331 6057, 021 025 58204

Hoon Hay Reserve to Coopers Knob PH74

Cost : \$2

From Hoon Hay reserve along CRW via Trig V, past the Bellbird to Coopers Knob. Return via different tracks where possible. Wonderful views.

Grade : 2

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce & Ferniehurst St at 9.00 am.

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Carolina Kol 03 312 7970

Mt Somers Walkway North Face SW16

Cost : \$23

Key swap required. One party will start from the Sharplin Falls carpark (Stavelly end), the other starts from the Woolshed Creek carpark. The route passes Woolshed Creek Hut and Pinnacles Hut with some great rocky scenery between those huts. Lunch is about midway when the groups meet. The distance is about 16km and up to about 1000m height gain.

Grade : 4 but will be done at steady grade 3 pace.

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark 7:30am

Time : 7 hours

Leaders : Sue Weller 021 194-9550. A co-leader is required for this trip. Please contact Sue if you can co-lead.

APRIL 25

Hogs Back Track, Castle Hill Wx

Cost : \$20

From Castle Hill Village, to the Lightning Tree, to Picnic Rock and return. A pulchritudinous place to tootle about in.

Grade : 1 NQ

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park 9.00 am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Fiona Butterick 03 349 3960, 021 234 8622

Cuckoo Creek-Cockayne Alley Loop W139

Cost : \$20

From Texas Flat follow the Dracophyllum Flat track through to Cuckoo Creek. Ascend this track to the ski field road and continue up the road to Middle car park. Down Cockayne Alley track as it sidles across the hillside then descends through tussock and bush to re-join the Dracophyllum Flat track. Fantastic views on a fine day.

Grade : 2

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel 8.30am. Note earlier start time

Time : 4.5-5 hrs

Leader : Jill Halliburton 337 4973, 021 0226 7556

Lyndon Saddle Camp Saddle Circuit W010

Cost : \$21

From the picnic area, up to Lyndon Saddle then along the track to Camp Saddle and return along the ridge to Lyndon Saddle again.

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel carpark 8.00am.

Grade : 3

Time : 6 hours

Leader : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228-0754

WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

APRIL 7

Dunsandel Ramble and Lake Crichton NQ

Cost: \$7

Drive to Dunsandel with points of interest in Township and surrounds and Lake Crichton.

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: David Eddy, 359 7443

Victoria Park to Bellbird via Ohinetahi Tracks

Cost: Nil

From Victoria Park walk up to Sign of Kiwi, then along to Hoon Hay Reserve, walk down to South Boundary then along South Boundary, Totara Log Track and Ella's track to the Sign of Bellbird. Return along CRW.

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Victoria Park, parking near playground

Leader: Pamela Gibbons, 3327 531 / 022 678 0398

Rangitata Gorge (New Trip)

Cost: \$30

From the Rangitata Diversion Race intake follow the Tenahaun Conservation Area track up onto a river terrace. Wonderful views of the Rangitata river. At the end of the gorge the track goes down the hill as the area opens up to farm land. Return the same way.

Grade: 3

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park 7 am (Note early start)

Duration: 5 – 6 hours

Leader: Elspeth Jeet, 384 1331

APRIL 14

Halswell Quarry Park NQ

Cost: Nil

Follow various tracks in the park. Uphill tracks taken slowly.

Depart: Halswell Quarry main car park at 9-30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Alec Mills, 338 5002

Big Ben Saddle NW10

Cost: \$12

Start at Adams Hut (350m) walk up to Big Ben Saddle (720m). Grade 2 may go on to the Grange (836m) Great views of Ashley Gorge and Oxford area.

Grade: 1 and 2 combined. Grade 2 will go on further than Grade 1.

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Belfast Hotel, 8.30am

Leaders: Howard Harvey, 342 9377 / 021 136 3043, Graeme Brown, 383 3732

Mt Noble N70

Cost: \$22

Park cars near woolshed and tramp in a clockwise direction following farm track to top of ridge. Options are to stay on the ridge or keep following farm track to its high point and then climb up onto ridge. Lunch on Mt Noble which hosts some interesting electronic gear, the history of which can be found on the website of the North Canterbury Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Grade: 3

Depart: Belfast Tavern car park 8 am

Duration: 5-6 hours

Leader: TBA

APRIL 21

Greendale Arboretum/Darfield Forest **NQ**

Cost: \$11

Feel like some tree hugging? Morning tea and exploration of the Historic Greendale Arboretum, then travel to Darfield for a walk through the forest park.

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Suzanne Fenwick, 376 5026

Bowenvale / Hidden Valley

Cost: Nil

From Bowenvale Valley walk up the Hidden Valley Track to Huntsbury Track, then on to the CRW and beyond. Return via different route.

Grade: 2

Depart: Car park at end of Bowenvale Valley at 8.30am

Time: 5 hours

Leader: Lois Prebble, 325 2838 / 021 0235 6458

Mt Somers South Face**SW11**

Cost: \$23

This is a cross over tramp with key swap. One group from Staveley (Sharplin Falls) car park taking the south route over Hookey Knob and other group from Woolshed Creek carpark (Jig road), taking the route up Rhyolite ridge to join south track. There is a sharp elevation gain of approximately 700m from each end, although the climb from Sharplin Falls end is more sustained. The track traverses varied terrain with great views of the South Face and the Canterbury Plains. There is a DOC shelter (Acland Shelter) about midway. Total tramp distance approx. 13kms.

Grade: 3 Time: No time given

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park 7.30 am

Leader 1: Kaye Young, 021 025 68702

Leader 2: Sue Weller, 021 194 9550

APRIL 28

Lake Rubicon (Just West of Springfield) **NQ**

Cost: \$12 (Plus a donation to Westpac Rescue Helicopter)

A walk through Brooksdale Station to this gem of a lake. Involves a short climb over a ridge, taken slowly, then follows the Rubicon Stream on an easy track to the lake. Return over broad farm paddocks to the homestead.

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.30am NOTE EARLIER TIME

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Howard Harvey, 342 9377 / 021 136 3043

Mts Fitzgerald and Sinclair**BP15**

Cost: \$11

From Port Levy Saddle walk along Te Ara Pataka to Mt Fitzgerald then on to Mt Sinclair. Good all-round views, mountain totara, tussock and spectacular century-old tree stumps.

Grade 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 8.30am

Leader: Jill Haliburton, 337 4973 / 021 0226 7556

Pudding Hill Stream**SW03**

Cost: \$21

Pleasant summer tramp along stream when flow is low. Poles recommended. From Awa Awa Reserve:

A gradual climb through bush to Scotts Saddle, then along ridge to road. Follow track down to Pudding Hill Stream, along stream through several gorge sections with numerous crossings, surrounded by native bush.

Grade: 3

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park 8.30 am

Duration: 6 hours

Leader: Wendy Cain, 027 338 0532

Reminders

Two reminders with regard to the Bowenvale Plantings that we have done with the City Council:

1st April – Maintenance Day – cleaning around our plantings last year (that were done on the valley floor), preparing them for winter. The plantings look good but there has been a lot of growth round them.

20th May – Planting Day. Our yearly planting slot.

Both days are from 12.30 until about 3pm.

All gear is supplied under Level 1 (so bring yourselves).

Meet at the carpark at the end of Bowenvale.

Any questions, contact Gavin 343-1291, salgav@xtra.co.nz

Waimakariri Falls Hut 13-15 Dec 2020

Led by Geoff Mahan, written by Julie Wolbers

Fine weather both East and West made our tramp hot, though with stunning views the whole time we weren't complaining.

Geoff had checked the river flow on the Ecan site as there had been rain a day or so before. Under his guidance, the group practiced the correct technique, negotiating numerous river crossings to Carrington hut rather than walking the track that runs on the true right of the Waimakariri. A longish trek saw us arrive sweaty but no worries as we could spread out in the 36-bunk hut. It was a great time to be in the hills where we only met a few other parties.

The next day dawned with the sun glistening on the park's highest peaks. Away we headed crossing the White River then joined the true right bank of the Waimakariri. The final push up was 250m passing by the steep falls in gorges, alpine plants in full bloom then finally the hut in an alpine basin with a pretty tarn. Views were of Rolleston to the east and Waimakariri Col (1787m.)

Unfortunately, one of our party lost the sole from his boot the day before and had to miss this day. He spent the day crafting chicken wire around the boot which turned out to be a work of art that got him back safely. It seems others in our club have had similar problems with boots deteriorating so it may be worth a think of what to do if this same ill fate could strike you. His oldish boots had been in the boot shop and checked before the trip - but old boots can play up in unexpected ways - a little warning that may help someone in the future.

Anyway, it was a great trip, memorable for many reasons most of all for the wonderful teamwork.



CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTICEBOARD

Tail End Charlie

This is an important role which is not to be underestimated as to its, less frequent, challenges. Covering the duties the TEC is responsible for, our handbook (page 31) states:

- To remain at the end of tramping group.
- To support slower trampers.
- To remain on track if someone leaves for toilet stop.
- To be alert to trampers taking alternative routes.
- To communicate with leader at stops or via co-leader.

Now then, we all know that the infrequent curve balls presented by a party can make life for the TEC difficult. One such curve ball is the party splitting. Our TEC can only proceed with one group, they, not having personal splitting abilities. In the perfect world our leader would okay the split and appoint an additional TEC, one for each group. However, curve balls, for many reasons, present themselves in imperfect circumstances.

I would say three things. Firstly we all have a responsibility of knowing where the person behind us is. Secondly, from my experience, leaders, do stop frequently to allow re-grouping and to take head counts, this frequency should be adjusted to reflect the overall conditions. And finally, all members carry a level of responsibility for themselves and must stay alert to any changing circumstances and dynamics of the party at large and react appropriately.

Leaders & Trip Descriptions

Please do take care and make sure when your planner circulates the proposed trip description for your perusal and editing if necessary, do ensure that the tramp as described fits with the trip you intend to lead.

Courses.

First Aid and Snow Craft, there are still spaces, act and register now.

Emergency Shelters

I would recommend that Grade 3 and above tramps ensure that they carry an emergency shelter. An emergency shelter is a cross between a bivy bag and an un-poled tent. It provides an injured or unwell trumper with protection from the elements whilst help and assistance is sought. Its size will accommodate four people comfortably, thereby providing support and company for the patient. They weigh about 600+ grams.

Gavin Hampton minds one, Lawrence Allpress the other. So leaders, if your trip would benefit, here is another pick up duty. Backpacking tramps may also benefit, however if tents are being carried then there is no need to lump the extra weight. Note that a tent fly also offers some protection but does need to be poled and roped in blustery conditions.

Marcel Robb

Basic Snow Skills Course

- When:** 10th July 2021 (11th July for Advanced component)
- Facilitator:** Anna Keeling IMFGA Guide www.annakeelingguiding.co.nz
- Where:** Mt Cheeseman ski field area.
- Cost:** One guide with 6 people is \$920 including GST. So \$150.30 per person per day. Fewer attending will cost more per person!
- Covering:** Basic snow craft skills including, but not limited to, self-arrest, use of crampons, use of ice axe, ascending / descending steeper slopes etc.
- Comment:** An essential, if you wish to partake on winter tramps that involve travel in snow.
- Note:** An add-on to this course is also available at additional cost. It will focus on avalanche awareness and training. Accommodation for the intervening night can be provided at Forest Lodge Cheesman area <https://www.forestlodge.info/>

First Aid Course

- When:** Saturday 15th May 2021
- Facilitator:** Peak Safety <https://peaksafety.co.nz/>
- Where:** Riccarton High School Staff Room
- Cost:** Subsidised at \$75 per person. OFTC will pay the additional per person cost.
- Covering:** Outdoor first aid especially tailored for tramping clubs.
- Comment:** Limited numbers apply. There will be a selection process, therefore priority will be given to those members who regularly partake of tramps.
- Note:** OFTC have obtained a grant from FMC which will partially cover the clubs contribution towards this course. For FMC promotional purposes the club has agreed to give a summary of the day's event plus provide photographs of attendees (named) whilst they receive tuition. In attending, members will be required to give their authorisation to have their names and images used by FMC.

To enrol or for further information, please email Marcel at marcel.robb@gmail.com sooner rather than later. Cut off date for the First Aid course is 15th April, Snow Skills 31st May. Payment (payable to OFTC) will be required before your placement is confirmed.

Marcel Robb, Club Captain

Backpacking and Basecamps 2021

Dates	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
Sun 18 – Tues 20 April	Youngman Stream Hut and Tarn Hut, Lees Valley	2	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 / 02108270228 agedmunds@outlook.com
Sat 1 – Thurs 6 May 2021	Old Ghost Road, West Coast <i>There is a wait list for this tramp</i>	5	Moderate	Paul Knox 339 2997 knoxps@gmail.com
Sat 8 – Sun 9 May	Double Hut, Hakatere	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 960 3558 Stewy989@gmail.com
Sun 16 – Tues 18 May 2021	Basins Hut, Avoca River, Hakatere	2	4	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agedmunds@outlook.com
Sun 30 – Mon 31 May 2021	Manuka Hut, Hakatere	1	Easy	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 / 02108270228 agedmunds@outlook.com
Sat 12 – Sun 13 Jun 2021 <i>Note altered dates</i>	Ces Clark Hut, West Coast	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 Stewy989@gmail.com
Sat 3 – Sun 4 July	Magdalen Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 Stewy989@gmail.com
Sat 14 – Sun 15 August	Boyle Flats Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 Stewy989@gmail.com

Backpacking Tramps Confirmation System

Due to members withdrawing from backpacking tramps at late stages the committee decided the following conditions will apply:

- That a deposit of \$25 be paid to the leader no later than 6 weeks prior to departure if advertised more than 3 months ahead, otherwise at time of booking.
- The deposit will be non-refundable except in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the leader.
- Although the confirmation date will be advertised the actual tramp date will remain sufficiently flexible to allow changes to be made on account of the weather etc.

Carroll Hut tramp 14 & 15 March 2021

The third attempt at this tramp this year was successful – inclement weather had ruined the previous two attempts.

Sunday was brilliant. The weather was stunning and a staff member of the Otira Hotel shuttled us from the hotel to the Kellys Creek car park. At present it is not recommended to park vehicles at the car park due to the possibilities of break ins. Near the start of the track a hunter tramping out told us about the remains of a miner's hut just past the tarns on top of the Kelly Range. As a result, once we had reached the hut after 2 ½ hours we continued on to the top of the range and found the hut remains in a sheltered spot south of the track about 100 metres after the tarns. We could not find any mine access. The tarns themselves were alive with tadpoles and with smaller fish eating tadpole remains.

The hut was nice and warm and in the evening the usual game of Quiddler was won by the person who had never played it before. What does that say about the roles of skill or luck when playing the game?

We were woken up very early on Monday morning and left about 7.30am. Despite the evil thoughts about being so early it was very fortunate as after walking from the car park to the Otira Hotel and getting changed it started raining very heavily. Thus ended another very successful overnight tramp.

Trampers: Howard Anderson, Gerald Edmunds, Sandi Leith, Natasja Steenkamp





At the top of Mt Rintoul

Your OFTC Committee

Chair: Lawrence Allpress	348 3791
navpress@navpress.co.nz	
Vice-Chair: Alison Downard	03 357 2089
alisondownard@gmail.com	
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Beacon co-ordinator: Peter Oliver	027 438 5082
peter@hackthorne.co.nz	
Deputy Club Captain: Ian Fussell	03 385 0856
fussei@xtra.co.nz	

Mt Richmond Range Alpine Route

Alison Mckechie, Tim Emson, Steve Cameron & Evelyn Sheridan set out from Hacket picnic area, just inland from Brightwater Nelson, on a pleasant riverside track to the Hacket Hut. There we met Gabriela, a Te Araroa walker who became part of our party for the rest of the trip.

Day 2 saw us crisscrossing Hacket creek and then climbing 900m through beech forest to the Starveal Hut at the bush line. Drizzle started as we neared the hut then turned into torrential rain that saw us hut bound for 2 nights. The huts on this track are 5-6 bunks and several more people turned up and fortunately decided to go on 2hrs 30 to the next hut.

Day 4 dawned fine but with low cloud so we eagerly headed off up a steep incline before dropping to a forested ridge and open hillside to Slatey hut for morning tea. The route soon became a wander along an open ridgeline with occasional decent into beech forest. Low cloud limited what should have been magnificent views to occasional glimpses out to the coast and across the mountain ranges in all directions. We eventually descended through beech forest to Old Man Hut and had just settled in when three men turned up and decided to sleep on the floor because rain was expected overnight. They cruelly cooked fresh fish curry while we ate dehy.

Day 5 was our day to climb Mount Rintoul the highest point of the Alpine Route. We set off in fine weather but with low cloud which lifted as the morning progressed. Once above the bush line the climb was on steep scree slopes and with difficult sidles and descents around rocky outcrops. At the top we had clear views over the Waimea Plains, Tasman Bay and back along the impressive ridgeline we had just climbed. The descent was over rocky scree slopes to the Rintoul hut just below the bush line. However we couldn't tarry for long as we needed to get to Tam hut which was another 5 hours away. We climbed through beech forest to Purple top and down the ridge and eventually arrived at Tam Hut on the edge of a large Tam after 11hrs on the trail.

Day 6 After an early start we climbed through beech forest to a summit then took a steep and rocky descent down to a swing bridge over the Wairoa River and then Mid Wairoa Hut. The weather was sunny and there was a lovely spot in the river for a swim but time and wasps were not conducive to this idea so after a leisurely lunch we moved on. The next section was demanding with 8 river crossings and steep rocky terrain. We arrived at the Top Wairoa hut after 12 hours on the trail. The sign-posted times are obviously intended for younger legs than ours!!

Day 7 From the hut we headed up hill for 2 hours over large red rocks which I found exhausting but someone said was fun. No accounting for taste! This is a unique area of geological interest with few plants able to survive so it appears rocky and barren. From the saddle the track sidled along the ridge line and around Mt Ellis and down to the Motueka River, which we crossed, as well as several side streams before a final crossing to Hunters Hut high above the river, with great views in all directions. The rain bucketed down when we were nearing the hut so we were pleased to get inside and get the fire going.

Day 8 Though it rained heavily overnight it cleared by morning and we continued the scramble over rocky tracks and through streams to Porters creek Hut for lunch. Steve who had been suffering with blisters and inflammation of his toes decided he was unable to continue on 5 hours more to Red Hills Hut so it was decide that Alison would stay with him whilst Tim, Gabriela and I went on so Tim could get back for work. We reached Red Hills hut in heavy rain.

Day 9 We had a leisurely breakfast before the 1 hour 45 minute walk to the carpark where Neville, Alison's husband, was waiting for us with beer, muffins and fruit. All very welcome.

Day 10 Alison and Steve walked out as planned. The things I remember from this trip besides the rough terrain and climbing Mount Rintoul are the colourful rocks: everything from white, silver grey, turquoise, green, orange and rusty red, the gentians, everywhere and in greater numbers than seen elsewhere and wasps!!!