



OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB NEWSLETTER 473 AUGUST 2021



Left: Ian Fussell shares memories of Russell Ramsden at the Midwinter Gathering on June 23. Right: Display of Russell memorabilia, including his boots, hi-vis jacket, firelighter, essential snacks, and favourite overnighter game. *Mavis Airey*



Grade 3 Woolshed Hill from Hawdon shelter and back via Hawdon River led by Ross Walker, June 27. Photo Lulu Sun

**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](mailto:mavis.airey@xtra.co.nz) AND Terry Stevens at [terendy2@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:vicki_steven2005@yahoo.com.au)  
Wednesday trips to Barbro Guard—980 2792 [guard.gabk@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.oftc.org.nz)**

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **Club Captain**

The committee received with reluctance Marcel Robb's resignation as Club Captain, effective 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021, due to a change in personal circumstances..

Marcel has made an outstanding contribution to the club over the last few years with his organisation of training courses, tramp planning and his general oversight of the club's day- to- day operations. And all the while offering encouraging, sage and often humorous advice in person and through his monthly column. His tramping knowledge, wisdom, experience, wry humour and the manner in which he has carried out his responsibilities, will be missed.

And so ... we are on the lookout for someone to pick up this role.

Whenever someone steps down, the temptation is to look for someone of the the same stature with the same skills. We forget that people usually grow in to their roles and we see the departing person as a hard act to follow. We need to keep in mind that the Club Captain is part of the committee team with whom issues are discussed and who give support as needed. They are not carrying the weight on their own. Anyone who takes up this role will bring their own strengths, skills and flavour.

So what are the "bottom line" skills for a Club Captain? Amongst our club there will probably be as many opinions about this as there are members. For my money, a couple that come to mind are the ability to take initiative and good people skills.

If you have any suggestions or want to volunteer, please let a committee member know before the next committee meeting August 9.

### **FMC Affiliation.**

Thank you to all those who took part in the survey. I also want to thank those who took the time to make their view known to committee members by conversation or email. The aim of the survey was to gauge the feeling within the club and was not in any way a binding referendum. There was almost an even split between those who favoured change and those who wanted to retain the status quo. So without a clear mandate for change , the committee has decided will stay with the status quo and remain fully affiliated to FMC. Of greater interest was the fact that 50% of you did not want to receive a printed copy of Backcountry. This is an issue we will pursue with FMC as well as thinking through how we will offer this as an alternative to club members.

The raising of the affiliation issue highlighted that there are some who are very passionate about FMC and its goals. I would like to encourage those who are passionate to consider putting their name forward for the FMC executive, who need good people.

**Lawrence Allpress**

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT 18 JULY 2021**

### **New members**

Robyn Lester	41 Vernon Drive, Lincoln 7608	027 261 1226	Robyn-lester@hotmail.com
Andrew Rich	7 Air Force Lane, Halswell, Chch 8025	0274 339 059	atrich@xtra.co.nz
George York	68 Norwood St, Beckenham, Chch 8023	022 155 4577	Gorgeousgeorge.george@gmail.com
Jon Fellows	45 Chancellor St, Richmond, Chch 8013	027 2211 226	Jonj1960@gmail.com
Michele Elliott	17 Ravenna St, Avonhead, Chch 8042	358 9381 / 021 164 7976	elliottfamily@actrix.co.nz

### **Returning**

Brent Stanley 2/45a Main North Road, Redcliffs, Chch 8081 384 5596/021 184 7388 brentstanley@hotmail.com

### **Updated contact details**

Cathie Graves 022 134 1911  
 Kate Livingston Katelivingston48@gmail.com  
 Charlotte Rivers cl.rivers@xtra.co.nz  
 Natasja Steenkamp 6 Mamaku Lane (not Mamuka)  
 Ruha Goodwill 021 0888 5258  
 Max and Lyn Robb 2 Whitburn Avenue, Halswell, Chch 8025

<b>Membership</b>	Female	241
	Male	162
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>403</b>

**Judy Collin**

### **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 two, held by Lawrence Allpress (348 3791) and Gavin Hampton (343 1291). Excellent for groups.

**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**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Veterans</b>	Alec Mills Suzanne Fenwick	338 5002 376 5026
	<b>Grade 1</b>	Howard Harvey	342 9377 021 136 3043
	<b>Grade 2</b>	Pamela Gibbons Graeme Brown Carol Eddington	332 7531 383 3732 021 045 3170
	<b>Grade 3</b>	Peter Moody	351 7448
	<b>Grade 3-4</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Grade 1</b>	Fiona Butterick	349 3960 021 234 8622
	<b>Grade 2</b>		
	<b>Grade 3, 4 &amp; 5</b>	Ross Walker Lesley Smith Alison Downard Peter Moore	027 558 2126 338 4272 357 2089 027 773 1670

**A leader has the responsibility and right to refuse anybody they consider for any reason may not be able**

**SUNDAY TRAMPS****AUGUST 1****Grade 1 : No Leader, No Tramp**

Meet at cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St (PMH) at 9.00am and decide where to go from there

**Valley Road to Trig V****PHx**

Cost : Nil

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

Grade : 2

Depart : Valley Rd, Cashmere (park on Crichton Tce at the end of the tennis courts) at 9.00 am

Time : 5.5 hrs

Leader : Carolina Kol 03 312 7970

**Monument to Rod Donald Hut****BP77**

Cost : \$9

*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 : Cnr of Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst St at 8:00am

Time : 5 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 (027 438 5082).

**AT THE END OF THE TRAMP**

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

Please send mileage details etc to [marcel.robb@gmail.com](mailto:marcel.robb@gmail.com).

**AUGUST 8****Pines Beach to Woodend 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 NQ

Depart : Belfast Tavern at 9.00am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leaders : Val Armstrong 384 3391 & Joan Hewitson 388 4320

**Adventure Park and beyond****PHx**

Cost : Nil

*Walk up track through Adventure Park to CRW and onwards.*

Grade : 2

Depart : Adventure Park carpark off Worsley Road at 9.00am

Time : 4+ hrs

Leader : Chris Clark 027 487 9221

Co-Leader : TBC

**Mt Grey from Lake Janet****N37**

Cost : \$13

*From Lake Janet picnic area go to Mt Grey summit at 934m. Then down Red Beech track to the picnic area and return on the Mt Grey track to the bypass and back to Lake Janet.*

Grade : 3

Depart : Belfast Hotel Carpark 8:00am

Time : 6 hours

Leader : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228 0754

## AUGUST 15

**Grade 1 : No Leader, No Tramp**

Meet at cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St (PMH) at 9.00am and decide where to go from there.

**Coronation Reserve to Lyttelton PHx**

Cost : nil

*Through Coronation Reserve to the CRW. Follow this past Witches Hill and The Tors and down into Lyttelton. Bring Gold Card or money and face masks for bus back to cars.*

Grade : 2

Depart : Start of Major Aitken Drive at 9.00 am. Suggest park on Enticott Place, first left on Major Aitken Drive

Time : 4-5 hours

Leader : Joan Stevenson 388 0227 or 022 096 3797

Co-leader : TBA

**Mt Lyndon towards Red Hill W113A**

Cost : \$19

*From Lake Lyndon Lodge climb Mt Lyndon 1489m and then take the ridge in the direction of Red Hill before dropping down into the valley to return.*

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8:00am

Time : 6 hours

Leader: Peter Moore 027 773 1670

**Mt Cloudsley W021**

Cost : \$20

*A there and back route from Castle Hill Village. Climb up open ridge from car park near Castle Hill village. Ice axe and crampons required.*

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8:00am

Time : 7 hours

Leader: Ian Fussell 021 027 19869

## AUGUST 22

**Omahu Bush, Gibraltar Rock & Environs PH23**

Cost : \$4

*Tramp over walking tracks in Omahu / Ahuriri / Summit Rd areas. Lots of birds to listen to.*

Grade : 1

NQ

Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 9.00am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Fiona Butterick 03 349 3960, 021 234 8622

**Omahu Bush and environs PH23a**

Cost : \$4

*Gibraltar Rock carpark to Ahuriri Reserve and up to the lookout. Back along the CRW and on to Gibraltar Rock. Continue through Omahu Bush down Prendergasts track and up Kirks track.*

Grade : 2

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

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Helen Wood 348 9202, 021 295 9962

**Lagoon Saddle W051**

Cost : \$29

*From the Cora Lynn DOC carpark follow the Lagoon Saddle track to the saddle. Return the same way.*

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8:00am

Time : 5 - 6 hours

Leader : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228 0754

## AUGUST 22 CONTINUED

**Mt Bruce and return via Broad Stream W051**

Cost : \$29

*From the Cora Lynn DOC carpark initially follow the Lagoon Saddle track and then climb up to Mt Bruce. Descend the other side and return via Broad Stream. Ice axe and crampons required.*

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark 8:00am

Time : 6 hours

Leader: Ross Walker 027 558 2126

## AUGUST 29

**Sumner Circuit Cx**

Cost : Nil

*From the Horse Paddock, Scarborough Bluffs, Taylors Mistake, Evans Pass, Captain Thomas.*

Grade : 1

NQ

Depart : End of lower Sumnervale Dr, Sumner at 9am

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Mary Brinsdon 366 9119, 027 220 6270

**Sumnervale/Taylors Mistake/Evans Pass Circuit PH107**

Cost : Nil

*From Sumnervale, take Bluffs Track to Taylors Mistake, on to Breezes Col, then harbourside track to Evans Pass. Return via Captain Thomas track.*

Grade : 2

Depart : Horse Paddock, Sumnervale Drive at 9.00 am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Paul Maurice 351 3488, 027 665 9924

**Okuti Valley to Montgomery Peak BP31A**

Cost : \$13

*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. Bring extra water as no water is available on this track.*

Grade : 3

Depart : Cnr of Ashgrove Tce and Ferniehurst St at 8.00am

Time : 6 hours

Leader : Sue Weller 021 194 9550

**Hamilton Peak via Camp Saddle W26**

Cost : \$24

*Climb Hamilton Peak via Camp Saddle with a circular return back via the northern part of Broken River skifield. Ice axes and crampons required.*

Grade : 4

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 6 hours

Leader : Neville Palmer 021 550 660

## WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

## AUGUST 4

**Harry Ell/Coronation Hill NQ**

Cost: Nil

*Hill track taken slowly to Sign of the Kiwi, loop track around Coronation Hill and return via Latters Spur Track.*

Depart: Takahe Dr (Opp the Takahe) at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

## AUGUST 4 CONTINUED

**Barnett Park / Taylors Mistake Loop**

Cost: Nil

*From Barnett Park we walk up to the Mt Pleasant Gun Emplacements, down to Evans Pass, then along Scarborough Bluffs and on to Taylors Mistake. Back to Sumner via Coastal Track. From Sumner either walk back to Barnett Park or take the bus. Gold Card, Metro Card or cash needed for bus.*

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Barnett Park, 8.30am

Co-Leaders: Alison Ford, 0210776932 and Jane Ellis, 3384378 / 0211808640

**Waiwera (Little River)****BP63**

Cost: \$12

*Climb via ridge to trig point 684m returning via Table Hill 525m. Great views.*

Grade: 3

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 8.30 am

Duration: 5 hours

Leader: Jenny Hoffman, 021 230 7577

Co Leader; Russell Hignett, 355 5670 / 027343 6846

## AUGUST 11

**Wairarapa, Waimairi Stream Wander****NQ**

Cost: Nil

*An interesting walk through byways and shortcuts following the streams then returning to Fendalton Library.*

Depart: Main entrance Fendalton Library Jeffreys Rd 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Clive Morriss, 358 2753

**Bowenvale and Beyond****PH49**

Cost: Nil

*From Bowenvale Valley tramp to the CRW at a gentle pace. Then along various tracks depending on the weather and party before returning to Bowenvale.*

Grade:1

Depart: From carpark at end of Bowenvale Ave at 9.00am

Leader: Mary Brinsdon, 3669119 / 0237220 6270

**Mt Grey****N37**

Grade: 2

*From Lake Janet picnic area up around 400m to Mt Grey summit at 934M. Probably take Bypass Track and return via Fire Lookout Track. To be decided on the day.*

Cost: \$13

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Belfast Hotel, 8.30am

Leader: Sandra Knox, 339 2997 / 021 0279 1380

Co-leader: Gill Smith, 355 4557 / 027 280 2848

**Onepunga****N12**

Cost: \$13

*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 on edge of bush to meet Mt Grey track. Descend a steepish tussock face, pass an old limestone quarry and back to cars.*

Grade: 3

Depart: Belfast Tavern car park at 8.30am

Duration: 5 hours

Leader Peter Moody, 351 7448 / 021 257 2031

Co Leader: select on day

## AUGUST 18

**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 9.30am

Leader: Eileen Mc Grade, 942 7380

**Bellbird to Ahuriri via Omahu Bush**

Cost: \$3

*From Bellbird carpark take various tracks to the end of the CRW, including a walk through Omahu Bush.*

Grade: 2

Time: 5 hours

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St, 8.30am

Leader: Chris Clark, 0274879221

**Mt Virginia and Mt Meehan****N53**

Cost: \$23

*From Whitnaw Station (500m) a steady climb to Virginia Peak (986m) then follow ridge line to Mt Meehan (1150m) returning by farm track down Waitohi Valley to station. From ridge excellent views of Puketeraki Range, Gola Peaks and Hurunui Catchment.*

Grade: 4

Depart: Belfast Tavern car park at 8am

Duration: 6 hours

Leader: Alan Stow, 021 078 6038

Co leader: select on day

## AUGUST 25

**Bishopdale Papanui Walk****NQ**

Cost: Nil.

*Bring Gold Card if wanting a shorter walk returning by bus.*

*Note: Face masks mandatory on public transport.*

*Walking through Parks, Reserves and Historical Places.*

Depart: Leacroft St near Murmont St Bishopdale Park at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: David Eddy, 359 7443

**Akaroa Heritage Park to Purple Peak****BPx**

Cost: \$19

*Starting from Brocheries Flat, walk up to Brown Top Saddle then across to the Skyline Track with morning tea at the lookout. Return via the road to Brocheries Flat and Purple Peak Saddle. Walk past the Banks Peninsula Shelter and on to Paritai to Taraterehu (Stony Bay Peak – 806m).*

Grade: 2

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 8.30am

Time: 4.5 - 5 hours

Leader: Vicki Steven, 421 0060, 022 130 4342

<https://www.nfrt.org.nz/reserves/purple-Stoney Peak>**Stony Bay Peak (new trip)**

Cost: \$18

*Starting from Heritage Park above Akaroa walk up Curry Track to Stony Bay Peak, back down Purple Peak Track, then follow Woodills Track back to cars.*

Grade: 3

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 8am

Duration: 6 hours

Leader: Kaye Young, 329 6187 / 021 025 68702

Co Leader: select on day

## CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTICEBOARD

### Tramp Planners

In my July 2021 column, I discussed the need for additional Tramp Planners. To ensure that there is an appropriate pool of willing members available to step up when required, OFTC does need more volunteers to "learn the trade", across all tramping grades.

Whilst I was a Commercial Banking Manager in Ashburton, many years ago, I attended a Risk Management Course within which was a segment on Succession Planning. This asked the question of our clients "Have you thought about what happens when you come to exit your business, are you planning for this event so that it will maximise your investment?"

The theme within any organisation, be it Tramping Club or whatever, is actually, very similar, if not the same. If we do not plan for the future then there may not be one.

Planners are "Key" to the OFTC's ability to run an ongoing tramp programme. Without such a programme, well .....

If mankind can develop a missile which can be fired from two hundred kilometres out to sea and hit its target through a toilet window in the middle of a forest, then mankind can become a tramp planner.

Please, get of your whatever, take the plunge and learn a new trade, you might even enjoy doing it.

*Marcel Robb*

## CLUB CAPTAIN'S REPORT

### My Final Words

As you may have read in Lawrence's column, yours truly is, in all likelihood, exiting Canterbury. Where to? We do not know. I will however, maintain my OFTC membership and have undertaken to Lawrence to work on a project once we become resettled.

With two one hundred year flood events hitting parts of the South Island (Mainland) over the past six weeks, it is timely, again, to think of swollen river crossings. There are tramping fatalities on record of individuals who, seeing the car, or hut, on the other side of the stream, have decided to give it a go. I believe the act is called "stupidity fever", or something similar. The tried and tested rule is "wait it out". Put up with being wet cold and miserable for the night! After an air bashing for being late home, yet again, you will live to laugh with your family, over the following days. Floating down a torrent and bashing your head on a boulder, is somewhat final, no more family, no more laughing. A bit sombre?

Over the past 9 months OFTC have organised four courses for members benefit. Navigation, River Crossing, First Aid and Snow Craft. Soon, a Leaders Course will be held. We are most happy with the external Providers who have facilitated the courses, our plan is to reuse them for as long is necessary. Note that the Leaders course will be facilitated in-house.

Not only is the Club Captains role vacant, but so also is the Wednesday Grade 3+ odd months planners role. To assist my replacement, a tentative programme has been put together covering the next 12 months. Where Grade 5 tramps are proceeding, I have also bracketed a same day Grade 3 tramp. There are a few tramps scheduled that have not been undertaken by OFTC for some years, some new and several repeats.

It has been my pleasure to serve the club during my relatively short tenure. I have done my best and have striven to make your experience out there as enjoyable as one can influence such events. Safety has been a feature in my columns, unfortunately one cannot mould words to fit all circumstances and behaviours. There are so many who have helped and supported me, thank you all, to mention some may offend those I may overlook, so no names, only thanks.

Well, thank you very much and now I think it's time for me to go. So from all of me to all of you, I'd like to say Bye for now, "God Bless".

*Marcel*



Grade 3 Mt Herbert from Orton Bradley via Magnificent Gully led by Ian Fussell, July 11. Photo Ian Fussell

## Backpacking and Basecamps 2021-22

Dates	Venue	Nights	Grade	Leader
Mon 9 Aug – Fri 13 Aug 2021	Basecamp at Gentle Annie, Seddonville	4	Moderate	Jill Halliburton 3374973 / 02102267556 <a href="mailto:jillh_b@globe.net.nz">jillh_b@globe.net.nz</a> OR Vicki Steven 4210060 / 0221304342 <a href="mailto:Vicki_steven2005@yahoo.com.au">Vicki_steven2005@yahoo.com.au</a>
Sat 14 – Sun 15 August 2021	Boyle Flats Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Mon 24 Aug – Fri 27 Aug 2021	Old Ghost Road	4	Moderate	Ian Fussell 3850856 / 02102719869 <a href="mailto:fussei@xtra.co.nz">fussei@xtra.co.nz</a>
Sat 11 – Sun 12 Sep 2021	Hawdon Hut, Arthurs Pass NP	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Sat 16 – Sun 17 Oct 2021	Lake Daniels	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Sun 7 – Mon 8 Nov 2021	Casey Hut	1	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 <a href="mailto:agedmunds@outlook.com">agedmunds@outlook.com</a>
Sat 13 – Sun 14 Nov 2021	Nina Hut	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Mon 22 – Tues 23 Nov 2021	Mueller Hut, Aoraki	1	Moderate	Natasja Steenkamp 021 237 1934 <a href="mailto:tasjasteen@gmail.com">tasjasteen@gmail.com</a>
Mon 28 Nov – Sun 5 Dec 2021	North West Circuit, Stewart Island <i>This trip is full, there is a waiting list available</i>	4	Moderate	Natasja Steenkamp 021 237 1934 <a href="mailto:tasjasteen@gmail.com">tasjasteen@gmail.com</a>
Sun 5 – Tue 7 Dec 2021	Waimakariri Falls, Arthurs Pass NP	2	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 <a href="mailto:agedmunds@outlook.com">agedmunds@outlook.com</a>
Sat 11 – Sun 12 Dec 2021	Woolshed Creek, Hakatere	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Tue 14 – Sat 18 Dec 2021	Arthur's Pass basecamp	4	Moderate	Sue Weller 021 194 9550 <a href="mailto:suzmweller@hotmail.com">suzmweller@hotmail.com</a>
Sat 22 – Sun 23 Jan 2022	Jollie Brook Hut	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Sun 30 Jan – Wed 2 Feb 2022	Hope Kiwi Hut – Top Hope Hut – Nelson Tops	3	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 <a href="mailto:agedmunds@outlook.com">agedmunds@outlook.com</a>
Mon 14 – Fri 18 Feb 2022	Travers – Sabine Circuit, Nelson Lakes Waiting list available			Natasja Steenkamp 021 237 1934 <a href="mailto:tasjasteen@gmail.com">tasjasteen@gmail.com</a>
Sat 19 – Sun 20 Feb 2022	Ada Pass Hut, Lewis Pass	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Mon 28 Feb – Fri 4 Mar 2022	Welcome Flat Hut – Douglas Rock Hut, Westland	4	Moderate	Ian Fussell 3850856 / 02102719869 <a href="mailto:fussei@xtra.co.nz">fussei@xtra.co.nz</a>
Sun 6 – Tues 8 Mar 2022	Kirwans Hut – Montgomerie Hut circuit, Reefton	2	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 <a href="mailto:agedmunds@outlook.com">agedmunds@outlook.com</a>
Sun 13 – Fri 18 Mar 2022	Basecamp – Twizel and surrounds	5	4 & 5	Marcel Robb 039283733/0220125008 <a href="mailto:marcel.robb@gmail.com">marcel.robb@gmail.com</a>
Sat 19 – Sun 20 Mar 2022	Pinnacles Hut, Mt Somers	1	Moderate	Dean Stewart 960 3558 <a href="mailto:Stewy989@gmail.com">Stewy989@gmail.com</a>
Mon 28 Mar – Fri 1 Apr 2022	Granity Pass Hut/Mount Owen, Westland	4	Moderate	Ian Fussell 3850856 / 02102719869 <a href="mailto:fussei@xtra.co.nz">fussei@xtra.co.nz</a>
Mon 11 – Thurs 14 Apr 2022	Huxley Hut – Broderick Hut	3	Moderate	Ian Fussell 3850856 / 02102719869 <a href="mailto:fussei@xtra.co.nz">fussei@xtra.co.nz</a>

### 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](mailto:agedmunds@outlook.com) Base Camp and Backpacking Co-ordinator**

## OFTC Snow Craft Course 10 July 2021

**Instructor:** Scott Walker. **Participants:** Wendy Cain, Susan Brechin, Lulu Sun, Natasja Steenkamp, Klaus Goesmann, Edith Goesmann

At 8.30am Scott met with us at Castle Hill Village. Once he was happy that everyone had the correct equipment, he took us up the Cheeseman Skifield Rd in his van.

### Topics covered:

**Planning and Preparation:** Scott explained the Avalanche Danger Scale NZ. The New Zealand Avalanche Advisory provides avalanche reports, their website is: <https://www.avalanche.net.nz/>. Scott recommended to call Garden City Helicopter rather than 111 in an avalanche emergency.

After parking the van Scott showed us how to use transceivers: he explained different settings, pre-departure checks, how to locate a person using the transceiver and how to use a probe. Then we walked up to the Mt Cheeseman ski field lodge. Scott explained where and when avalanches are likely to occur, at what slope, what are the different kinds of snow and what kind of snow to avoid walking on. He explained the formation of a 'snow slab' and why they pose an avalanche risk. A demonstration of different temperatures on/under the snow by using a thermometer and what that means followed.

**Ice axe:** As we got into higher terrain with deeper snow Scott demonstrated the various uses of an ice axe: what are the different parts and their function, how to hold it, and how to avoid injuries. Ice axes are useful as a point of balance, as additional security when climbing (by driving the shaft or the pick into the snow), and most importantly, to stop yourself from sliding down a slope by getting into a self-arrest position.

Scott pointed out the need to have the ice axe ready before you encounter challenging conditions. He explained the ice axe grip, to be carried in your uphill hand when ascending and how to plant the spike in for balance when stepping uphill. He showed us how to carve steps into the snow by using the adze part of the axe and demonstrated proper foot technique when ascending snowy/icy terrain.

**Use of crampons:** We learned to use crampons when our feet are frequently slipping in the snow or ice once the snow is too firm to kick steps or when the angle of slope is too steep to progress safely. Scott explained how to tie them, and demonstrated different walking techniques, and how to avoid accidents.



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The most basic technique is the French Technique, also known as flat-footing, which makes use of all the points on the crampons to grip on the snow or ice surfaces. This usually requires locking the ankle at a slightly unnatural angle, depending on the aspect or angle of the slope (like a duck, or – as Scott called it: the John Wayne walk). Feet should be kept about hip-width apart. This prevents the crampon points from catching on pants or crampon straps.

As the slope became steeper, it became harder to flat-foot. So instead of walking straight uphill, we learned to turn our bodies to one side and ascend diagonally up the slope.

**Self-arrest using an ice axe:** Scott explained that there are different ways to get into the self-arrest position depending on your body orientation when you fall. But the end goal is the same: Stop your fall by planting the pick of your ice axe into the snow and using your body to stop your momentum.

He demonstrated the main steps of self-arrest: Arrest as quickly as possible. It only gets harder to arrest as you gain speed down the hill. Hold the axe so the pick is pointed forward just above the shoulder of your uphill hand. Drive the pick of the axe into the snow and pull up on the shaft. Then get your body off the snow. Kick your toes into the slope to stop your fall. However, keep your feet up during the fall if you are wearing crampons (risk of serious injury).

We all practiced self-arrest for about half an hour.

**Locating and rescuing of a person hit by an avalanche:** We then put into practice the theory of how to find and rescue a person under the snow using our transceivers. Scott hid his transceiver under the snow and we as a group had to find it. He then demonstrated how to use a probe and showed us the correct shovel technique. He explained what to do in a situation where several people are covered by an avalanche: rescue the person closest to the ground first. Some transceivers have a flagging function to identify the one who is the easiest to rescue.

We walked back to the car without crampons, drove back to Castle Hill Village and finished the course at about 5pm.

**Summary:** These were the main skills that we learned but Scott touched on many more topics: He gave us very detailed information on various pieces of equipment (e.g. what to watch out for when buying snow gear, choice of materials and size), gave us useful lessons for tramping in the snow (e.g. the implications of overheating in warm gear) and was generally very happy to provide information and to answer every single question that we had in great detail. Scott showed a particular passion for snow analysis and avalanche rescue which we covered in much more depth than for example practicing different techniques of how to use crampons. Overall, I consider him a deeply knowledgeable, experienced, and passionate instructor and would recommend him for future courses that the club may offer.

**Edith Goesmann**