



OVER FORTIES TRAMPING CLUB NEWSLETTER 468 MARCH 2021

Bring an Over Forties Friend

Kaye Young reports: "It was an amazing day, today (February 21). Beautiful weather, no wind and everyone enjoyed it. The tramps went according to plan and people were back by 3pm to hear Marcel say a few words and have afternoon tea. Judy had 35 membership packs for people and all were taken by newcomers. Overall the day went well. 71 people there and 35 newcomers and 36 club members."



Photos: Summit, Howard Anderson; Descent, Deirdre Whitelaw.



A.G.M. Change of date and place

**Monday, 8th March, 7.30pm
Venue: St Matthews Church,
cnr Jeffreys and Idris Roads.
Entry is off Jeffreys**

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

Reminder: Maintenance Day Bowenvale

When: 1st April 2021

Where: Meet at car park at end of Bowenvale Avenue at 12.30 pm

What to Bring: Yourself – all equipment needed including gloves is provided by the City Council. This is the regular maintenance on the block of land that we have been planting with the City Council for over 10 years. It is on last year's plantings that are in the Bowenvale Valley, so no up hill walking!! All done by 3pm. Questions: Gavin Hampton 343 1291



Sudden Valley–Hawdon River, February 3.
Photo Paul Knox

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 YE 2021

What a year. A year when Covid entered our lives and "Unprecedented" became one of the English language's most over-used words. But in spite of the restrictions on tramping during the lockdown and level 2 regimes, our club has had a very active year.

Some of the highlights include:

1. A return to tramping (compare that to the rest of the world)
2. A successful phone around of support during lockdown - many thanks to those who did the phoning, and offered practical support to members
3. The Coalmine track cleared and re-opened - a huge effort by Charlie Ledbrook and a dedicated team
4. A facebook page created by Paul Knox and Peter Coursey, that now has over 200 followers
5. A new club logo and a facelift for Going Places.
6. New website project - this is well under way with a lot of work from a team including Terry Stevens, Lawrence Allpress, Anja Huskens, Peter Oliver, Peter Coursey and Ross Walker. We hope to have the site operational in this coming year.
7. Creation of a new "Promotions" portfolio on the committee, which Kaye Young has taken on. We are seeing the effects of her work, including the recent "Bring a Friend Day" attracting over 30 interested people
8. The club is in good health from the perspectives of membership, tramp participation and financial data.
 - a. The current membership at the time of writing is 400. This is a decrease from 419 this time last year, but is ahead of the year's low of 379. There is also the expectation we will have an influx of members from the "Bring a Friend Day".
 - b. Tramp numbers - these have fluctuated but recent numbers show a healthy participation, with an encouraging increase in Sunday tramping. There has also been a step up in what is offered in backpacking trips, mostly through the efforts of Gerald Edmonds.
 - c. The financial figures show a good level of reserves, with no blow outs in our expenses.
9. Name Tags - initiated by John Corbet and picked up by Graeme Brown, we now have the ability to produce quality tags at a very reasonable cost. And over 100 members have taken these up. They will also be issued routinely to new members.
10. Christmas Party - another great evening with participatory and much appreciated music from Tom and his band, and then a superb performance from Jaqueline's quintet. This latter may not have happened had it not been for covid and the cancellation of their public performances.
11. Pub Quiz- superbly organised and led by David Jones, this was a great evening. It has put us right at the top of "appreciated carpark users" list with the Yaldhurst Tavern
12. Our club runs well because people step up to do things: first-aiders, tramp leaders, tramp planners, base camp organisers, supper people on club nights, web team, web development team, and the magazine postal stuffer. We owe all these folk a huge thank you.

And then there is the committee. This year four committee members have stepped down. Colin Garthwaite earlier in the year because of health and then Paul Knox, Sue Wells and David Jones at this meeting. All their resignations have been received reluctantly as they have all made significant contributions.

Lawrence Allpress

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(as at 19 February)

New members

Pip Clark 027 331 1739
20 Lincoln Road, Spreydon, Chch 8024
pipclark68@gmail.com

Wayne Monehan 021 338 120/338 2543
263 Hoon Hay Road, Hoon Hay, Chch 8025
monehan@xtra.co.nz

Donna Stapleton 0274 370 204/341 5655
108 Straven Road, Fendalton, Chch 8014
donnastapleton@xtra.co.nz

Resignations

Joanne Wallace Moved to Nelson Member for 6 months

Membership	Male	166
	Female	239
	TOTAL	405

Judy Collin



February 3, Grade 2 Templeman Farm. Photo Mike Currie

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**MARCH 7****Waipara Gorge****N15**

Cost: \$12

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

Grades : 1 and 2 combined

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 9.00 am

Time : 5 hours

Leader : Selena Chan 027 301 5501,

seachannel@gmail.com

Co-leader : TBA

Old Coach Road to Trig M and back**W004/3A**

Cost : \$13.00

Climb Old Coach Track until reaching Trig M route. Up to Trig M and then back down to cars.

Grade : 3

Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Time : 5+ hours

Leader : Joanna Orwin 358 4109

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.

MARCH 14**Mt Thomas****N10a**

Cost : \$11

Wandering various tracks through a range of bush, forest, and pine plantations.

Grade : 1

NQ

Depart : Belfast Tavern car park at 8.30am (note earlier start)

Time : 4-5 hrs

Leader : Fiona Butterick 3493960, 0212349622

Mt Thomas**N10a**

Cost : \$11

573m climb up Wooded Gully track to Mt Thomas summit (1023m). Return down Summit Track (Track1). Pleasant tramp through a range of native bush, beech forest and pine plantations with extensive views from the summit.

Grade : 2

Depart : Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30 am (note earlier start)

Time : 5-6 hrs

Leader : Sheila Downard 03 332 4201 or 027 376 9619

Co-leader: TBA

Lyttelton circuit**PH97**

Cost : 0

From Albion Square proceed up the Major Hornbrook track to summit. Take CRW 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.

Grade : 3

Depart: Lyttelton Albion Square at 8:30am

Time : 5 hrs

Leader : Evelyn Sheridan 027 228 0754

To ensure sufficient numbers contact Evelyn if you are planning to come on this tramp.

MARCH 14 CONTINUED

Foggy Peak from Dry Creek W007A
 Cost : \$18.00
This is an alternate route to Foggy Peak and can be extended on into a circuit taking in Castle Hill Peak. Leave cars at roadside siding besides Dry Creek. Cross road and proceed up the hill.
 Grade : 4 Time : 6 hrs
 Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am
 Leader : David Jones 027 288 5845
 To ensure sufficient numbers contact David if you are planning come on this tramp.

MARCH 21

Grade 1 : No tramp planned.
Meet at cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St (PMH) at 9.00am and decide where to go from there.

Orton Bradley – Grand Circle BP51
 Cost : \$5 plus \$10 per car
A steady climb through eucalyptus to the Tablelands and part of the Packhorse track, then farm tracks towards Mt Herbert. Descend down Mt Herbert walkway track. Be aware that there are some steep sections coming down the Mt Herbert walkway.
 Grade : 2 Time : 5-6 hrs
 Depart : Cnr Ashgrove Tce/Ferniehurst St at 9.00 am
 Leader : Carolina Kol 03 312 7970
 Co-leader : Karen Degen 027 678 5943

Bealey Spur Power Stream W103
 Cost : \$27
Up Bealey spur track to tarns then head off to the bush above Power Stream. Drop down steep bank to stream and gem of a waterfall, then follow stream out to road. Many deep river crossings.
 Grade : 4 Time : 5.5 hrs
 Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am
 Leader : Ian Fussell 021 027 19869

MARCH 28

Barnett Park & Beyond PHx
 Cost : Nil
Barnett Park and environs. End with a coffee/ icecream.
 Grade : 1 NQ Time : 4-5 hrs
 Depart : Barnett Park at 9am
 Time : 4-5 hrs
 Leaders : Val Armstrong 384 3391, Joan Hewitson Ph 388 4320

Scarborough to Godley Heads PH02
 Cost : Nil
Walk to Godley Heads via Flowers Track and Taylors Mistake, enjoying great views. Return by alternative route.
 Grade : 2 Time : 4 - 5 hrs
 Depart : Sumner Clock Tower at 9.00 am
 Leader : Garry Roberts 349 7875

Mt Thomas Wooded Gully Track N10
 Cost : \$11.00
573m climb up Wooded Gully Track to Mt Thomas summit (1023m). Return down summit track. Pleasant tramp through a range of native bush, beech forest and pine plantations.
 Grade : 3 Time : 5 hrs
 Depart : Belfast Hotel car park at 8.30am
 Leader : Alison Downard 021 133 7252
 To ensure sufficient numbers contact Alison if you are planning to come on this tramp.

Bealey to Otira Valley Crossing via Chockstone and Goldney Glacier BV5
 Cost : \$30
Pleasant walk up Bealey Valley, then climb fault scarp to Bealey Slide. Proceed part way up the Bealey Slide and then to Chockstone. Continue on to Goldney Glacier, and then to ridge, cross over, and return back down Otira Slide and out to SH73.

MARCH 28 CONTINUED

Short car shuttle may be needed. Ice axe and crampons required. A little extra courage then usual needed, rewarded with awesome scenery.
 Grade: 5 Time : 6-7 hours
 Depart : Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.00am (meet Neil at Springfield)
 Leader : Neil Helson, 03 318 7335
 Contact Neil to confirm arrangements and suitability.

WEDNESDAY TRAMPS

MARCH 3

Burkes Bush and beyond NQ
 Cost: \$3
Drive on the Summit Road to just beyond Sign of the Bellbird, then turn off right onto private property to park. From there we have an enjoyable walk on farm tracks and bush on Farrant property. The walk is up and down but we can take shortcuts.
 Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 9.30am
 Time: 3-4 hours
 Leader: Clive Morriss, 358 2753

Duncan Park/CRW/Avoca Valley Loop PH99
 Cost: Nil
From Mary Duncan Reserve climb to Linda Woods Reserve (former Tussock Hill farm, now owned by the Summit Road Society). Up to the Summit Road, along CRW, to Mt Vernon and beyond. Return via Rapaki track and Avoca Valley.
 Grade: 2 Time: 5 hours
 Depart: Mary Duncan Park, Port Hills Rd, opposite French Bakery. Park gate will be open so parking available.
 Leader: Anne Quinn, 027 415 1340
 Co-Leader, Ann McKeever, 027 733 2850

Mt Cheeseman W068 variation
 Cost: \$20.00
*A top tramp. From Texas Flat carpark, walk Hogs Back MTB track towards Castle Hill Village. Steeply gain SE ridge of Mt Cheeseman climbing to pt 1552. Good ridge travel climbing to summit ridge, where brief route finding necessary before arriving at the easily gained summit, Mt Cheeseman 2031m. Work north then east dropping into the top of the basin of South Branch Timms Stream. Mixed travel, nothing technical, as Timms Str is followed (good water source) until climbing out on true right to regain Hogs Back Track where it was left. Rocky terrain and some extended periods of mixed scree. Elevation gain 1200m walk 11km. (Map BW20 Lake Coleridge & BW21 Springfield).
 Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel 7.30am
 Grade: 4 Time: 7 hours
 Leader: Russell Ramsden, 322 8856 or 027 224 6660
 Co-Leader: Alan Stow, 021 078 6038*

MARCH 10

Dunsandel Ramble and Lake Crichton NQ
 Cost: \$7
Drive to Dunsandel with points of interest in Township and surroundings and Lake Crichton.
 Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 9.30am
 Time: 3-4 hours
 Leader: David Eddy, 359 7443

Barnett Park – Summit Road – Clifton NQ
 Cost: Nil
From Barnett Park walk Eastenders Track to the Summit Road. Return via Clifton Terrace, Zig Zag to Main Road. Then coastal walkway back to Park. At a gentle pace.
 Grade 1
 Depart: Barnett Park at 9.00am
 Time 3-4hours
 Leader Howard Harvey, 342 9377 / 021 136 3043

MARCH 10 CONTINUED

Mt Mason N42

Cost: \$18

Looped farm track with side trip to Mt Mason. Side trip scramble on unmarked track exposed ridge, return same way to pick up farm track and continue loop. Panoramic views on fine day.

Grade: 2 Time: 5 hours

Depart: Belfast Hotel, 8.30am

Leader: Garry Roberts, 349 7875

Co-Leader:

Rat Hill Circumnavigation W127 extended

Cost: \$21.00

Lovely country under western faces of Steepface Hill and Mt Hutt. From Redcliffe Stream carpark on Double Hill Run Road (South side Rakaia) walk Redcliffe Stream Track it comes out into upper pasture country (880m). Bear SE to gain stream's source valley. Cross over saddle at 1234m then gain Snowy Stream catchment. Work downstream with many stream crossings and some gorging to negotiate. Exit valley and regain Redcliffe Stream Track (not far north of Tribulation Hut) then return to cars. Tramp is reasonably long in time and distance (20km+) (Map BW20 Lake Coleridge and BX20 Methven)

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel 7.00am

Grade: 4 Time: 8+ hours

Leader: Russell Ramsden, 322 8856 or 027 224 6660

Co-leader: Sharyn Foster (meet Sharyn at Hororata), 021 038 4279

MARCH 17

Diamond Harbour NQ

Cost: Bring gold card or money for return bus fare.

Travel by bus from Heathcote to Lyttelton then by ferry to Diamond Harbour. Walking on trails and may be as far as Purau and return by ferry and bus.

Depart: Heathcote Domain car park Port Hills Rd at 9.15am (NOTE EARLIER TIME. BUS LEAVES AT 9.25am)

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Norma Powell, 384 1397

Timu Timu Heads BP18

Cost: \$15

Easy walk over farmland to southern heads of Akaroa Harbour with fabulous views from Harbour to Alps. Lunch in delightful rocky bay called Scenery Nook. Steepish climb out on return via farmland to cars. There may be seals on the rocks.

Grade: 2 Time: 5 hours

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 8.30am

Leader: Pamela Gibbons, 3327 531, 022 678 0398

Red Hill (Short Version) via Acheron Stream Valley (an easier variation of) W001

Cost: \$18.00

From carpark 300m before Acheron switchback, follow 4WD track up valley into basin, cross swamp, bear NW climbing to saddle south of pt1488. Sidle then climb to summit Red Hill 1641m for excellent 360° views. Descend steeply over broken ground to pt 1321 then easily work back to vehicles. A good trip to hone your navigation skills. (Map BW20 Lake Coleridge and a smidgeon of BW21 Springfield)

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel 8.00am

Grade: 3 Time: 6 hours

Leader: David Jones, 027 288 5845

Co-Leader: Peter Moore, 027 773 1670

MARCH 24

Huntsbury Hill Track NQ

Cost: \$2

Pool cars and drive to carpark at start of track. Walk is a gradual climb to Summit Rd. Return via various tracks to carpark.

Depart: Cnr Ashgrove Tce / Ferniehurst St at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Eileen McGrade, 942 7380

MARCH 24 CONTINUED

Halswell Quarry to Bellbird

Cost: Nil

From Quarry through forest/cycle track to Kennedys Bush Track – Summit Road and then to Bellbird. Return via Kennedys Bush Road. At a gentle pace.

Grade: 1 Time: 4 hours

Depart: Quarry car park at 9 am

Leader: Howard Harvey, 342 9377 / 021 136 3043

Sumnervale/Taylor's Mistake/Evans Pass Circuit

Cost: Nil

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

Grade 2 Time: 5 hours

Depart: Horse Paddock, Sumnervale Dr at 8.30am

Leader: Noeleen Bonner, 027 442 2322

Co-Leader: Pamela Gibbons, 022 678 0398

Bealey Spur (pt 1875) W008 extension

Cost: \$27.00

From carpark by SH73 below village, up easy Bealey Spur Track, passing hut at 1244 m. Climb steepens a little as track continues to pt 1545. Thereafter, normal ridge-top travel on Hut Spur. From track end to pt1875 is about 4km, ascending 330m. The high point offers views to Jordan Saddle, upper Avoca River Valley, Jordan Stream and Mt Bealey. Return same way. (Map BV20 Otira)

Depart: Yaldhurst Hotel 7.30am

Grade: 4 Time: 7/8 hours

Leader: Jenny Hoffman 021 230 7577

Co-Leader: Alan Stow 021 078 6038

MARCH 31

Park, River and Gardens NQ

Cost: Nil

A pleasant walk from Millbrook Reserve, Hagley Park, Mona Vale and Botanic Gardens.

Depart: Millbrook Reserve at 9.30am

Time: 3-4 hours

Leader: Mary Brinsdon, 366 9119

Joint Grade 1 & 2, Lyttelton/Diamond Harbour/Purau Loop

Cost: Gold Card/Metro Card or cash for ferry

From Marina, walk to Ferry Terminal for 9.50 Ferry to Diamond Harbour. Coastal Cliff walk to Purau, return via different route.

Grade: 1 and 2 Time: 4½ hours

Depart: Te Ana Marina, Lyttelton at 9.00am

Leader: Howard Harvey, 342 9377

G2 Epic Traverse II - Gebbies Pass to Diamond Harbour

Cost: Shuttle - \$9-9.50, Ferry - \$6.70 cash, \$4.70 metro card.

Gold card not useable between 3pm and 6.30pm.

Shuttle from Lyttelton to Gebbies Pass. Follow Te Ara Pataka/ Summit Walkway to Packhorse Hut and on to Mount Herbert. Drop to Diamond Harbour along Mt Herbert Walkway. Return to Lyttelton by ferry. NB: Bookings required to confirm shuttle. Please contact Chris by 16 March to confirm participation.

Grade: 2 Time: 8-9 hours at a G2 pace

Depart: Outside Lyttelton Recreation Centre, 25 Winchester St, Lyttelton. Street parking and bus stop close by. 8.00 am

Leader: Chris Clark 0274879221; kiwisonbikes@xtra.co.nz

Co-Leader: Pamela Gibbons, 332 7531

Maukuratawhai (Clarence River, Hanmer) N22

Cost: \$40.00

Excellent tramp, well worth cost and early start. Parking about T intersection past Jacks Pass on Tophouse Rd. Cross Clarence River, walk down river to gain end of a spur and pt 976. Keeping to spur top, untracked undulating route loops, crossing pts 1403, 1575, 1466 before bearing SW to gain summit Maukuratawhai at 1625m. Ground conditions mixed. Descent SSW ridge, re-cross river back to the cars. (Map BT24 Ada Flat, BT25 Mt Northampton)

Depart: Belfast Hotel 7.00am

Grade: 4 Time: 7 hours

Leader: Elspeth Jeet 384 1331

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

CLUB CAPTAIN'S NOTICEBOARD

** Covid – 19: Rules covering Alert Levels 1 to 4

Just to jog our memories:

Set out below are the rules we, OFTC, will follow to enable us to manage the risks and still enable us to go out tramping, that is unless Level 4 is re-imposed. And, importantly, **if you are displaying any kind of flu or common cold symptoms, stay at home.**

Level 4 – All tramping is curtailed until this level is relaxed.

Level 3 – Tramps may proceed, however members are to find their own individual transport means to the tramps start. Bubble members may of course share the same transport. Social distancing to be required during the tramp. Leaders to oversee the breakdown in numbers within parties within a tramp limiting sub groups to a maximum of 10 members (leaders have discretion to be minimally flexible here). Members to pre-register for the tramp. Leaders to retain a list with names and their phone numbers of all participants. Tramps are to be kept to be within 1 hours ("Local") travel from standard leaving points.

Level 2 – Tramps may proceed. 4 members limited to a vehicle (1 driver + 3 passengers). All in a vehicle to wear a mask. Leaders to retain a list with names and their phone numbers of all participants.

Level 1 - No limitations.

** Courses

Elsewhere in this edition of Going Places will appear notices advertising a Basic Snow Skills Course and a First Aid Course, both to be held later this year. The latter will be subsidised by the Club but will have attendee parameters set to it. For both there are limited placements available, I therefore suggest that you register your interest, sooner rather than later. Courses will continue to play an important part of life within our Club. As with the recent River Safety and Navigation courses, all, including the above, have been facilitated by external providers. It is anticipated that a Leaders Workshop will be held later in the year; however, it will be facilitated by members.

Marcel Robb

CLUB CAPTAIN'S COLUMN

How time flies, seems only yesterday that I was getting my February column ready to send to Mavis. To start with I include a link to a YouTube video which you may find of interest. I tag it "Sheer Madness" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UDaMNP9opY>

I was speaking with a chap this morning about the Rahu Saddle area on the Springs Junction to Reefton Highway (SH7). Some great tramps to be had in this area. Mt Haast is an excellent walk (Grade 2? or 3). Offers a steady tracked climb without it becoming ridiculously steep. Great views from the top over a particularly picturesque area. Mt Alexander (Grade 4) is gained walking up the untracked Newcombe Creek valley. Where to exit will test the navigation skills. What followed was the U effect, that is, it got steeper all the way up. I had never before, nor after, had to haul myself up by hanging onto beech saplings, the final few metres up were close to vertical. Fortunately (very I might add) we were able to descend an easy bush covered spur back to the highway. From the saddle (Rahu) itself, Klondyke Spur Track (Grade 3, some navigation required) offers an enjoyable adventure once out of the bush. One can make this a loop descending past several tarns, the top one quite large, to then walk out on the Rahu River Right Branch track. Finally, Lake Stream Hut is worthy of a visit. The track (Grade 2 / 3) is mixed but not difficult. The wonderful luxuriant West Coast bush and undergrowth make up for the lack of all-round views. In settled weather, this would make an easy enough overnighter, tenting near the two bunk hut.

Please take care out there, our chosen leisure activity is not without its risks, hidden dangers can lurk at every corner. Please do consider the effect that your poor decision may have on others.

See you all next month.

Wilibald Loamsdown (of Deephallow), Club Captain

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
Mon 1 – Mon 8 Mar 2021	Mount Richmond Alpine Route	7	3 / 4	Alison Mckeachie 03 3392356 0220178123 nevmck@xtra.co.nz Evelyn Sheridan 03 3830891 0272280754
Sun 28 Feb – Thurs 4 Mar 2021	Three Passes, Arthurs Pass NP	4	Hard	Paul Knox 339 2997 knoxps@gmail.com
Sat 6 – Sun 7 Mar 2021	Hawdon Hut, Arthurs Pass NP	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 960 3558 Stewy989@gmail.com
Sun 14 – Mon 15 March	Carroll Hut, Arthurs Pass NP	1	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 / 02108270228 agemunds@outlook.com
Sun 14- Sat 21 Mar 2021	Twizel basecamp <i>This trip list is FULL</i>	6	3/4	Marcel Robb 03 928 3733 or marcel.robb@gmail.com
Sun 28 – Tue 30 Mar 2021	Barker Hut, Arthurs Pass NP	2	Hard	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 / 02108270228 agemunds@outlook.com
Sun 18 – Tues 20 April	Youngman Stream Hut and Tarn Hut, Lees Valley	2	Moderate	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 / 02108270228 agemunds@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
Sun 16 – Tues 18 May 2021	Basins Hut, Avoca River, Hakatere	2	4	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 agemunds@outlook.com
Sat 8 – Sun 9 May	Double Hut, Hakatere	1	Easy	Dean Stewart 960 3558 Stewy989@gmail.com
Sun 30 – Mon 31 May 2021	Manuka Hut, Hakatere	1	Easy	Gerald Edmunds 342 6331 / 02108270228 agemunds@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.

Gerald Edmunds Tel: 342 6331 or agemunds@outlook.com Base Camp and Backpacking Co-ordinator

Youngman Stream Hut – Tarn Hut tramp 31 January – 2 February 2021

From the Lees Valley Road there is a 3 kilometre long 4WD track across farmland. It is a rough 4WD track in the car that can be done by 2WD in summer after dry weather. This leads to a car park.

On a hot Sunday we took 5 ½ hours to get to Youngman Stream Hut. The track follows the Ashley River to Tent Gully and then climbs about 350 metres as it sidles high above the river, then dropping 150 metres to a river crossing and the 6 bunk Youngman Stream hut. There were 2 hunters there but luckily they slept in tents, sharing them with the sand flies. This is a good swimming spot near the hut. Monday was a 700 metre climb to Lilburne Hill (1405 metres asl). We had lovely views climbing up to Lilburne Hill and from the Tarn Hut, out over the bush in the Puketeraki Forest Conservation Area. A brief stroll had us at the 4 bunk Tarn Hut which is just over 100 metres lower. This is a stunning location with the hut overlooking a tarn. As a result the afternoon was spent sitting in the sun watching Swifts skimming over the tarn catching insects. There are good camping sites and two of the group slept in tents.

Tuesday's exit took 3 hours tramping downhill on an old 4WD track to Lilburne Stream and then following the Ashley River to the car park.

This is a highly recommended tramp which will appear on the tramp calendar later this year or early next year.

NZTopo50 reference: BV22 Dampier Corner

Trampers: Howard Anderson, Gerald Edmunds, Jacqueline Kotula, Natasja Steenkamp, Julie Wolbers, Kaye Young.



On Lilburne Hill: Natasja, Howard, Julie, Gerald, Kaye and Jacqueline



Gerald, Russell, Kaye and Howard. Photo Ian Fussell

Tramp to Edwards Hut, February 2021

The aim of this tramp was to climb up to Tarn Col – which two of the group did achieve!

Sunday was a pleasant, warm day which made the five hour tramp up the Edwards River very pleasant. The rivers were low and the ground dry. Edwards Hut is in a stunning location. To the north is of Falling Mountain, so named as it was near the epicentre of a 7.1 magnitude earthquake in March 1929. Williams Saddle, the destination for some of the club's earlier qualification tramps, is just to the east of the hut.

Beneath Falling Mountain is Taruahuna Pass which is just a huge pile of rubble that came off Falling Mountain during the earthquake. It is several hundred metres high and just under a kilometre wide. Some boulders are as large as houses.

The side trip to Taruahuna Pass on Monday took place on another stunning day. The aim was to climb Tarn Col above the pass but Gerald and Russell preferred to watch from the pass, Ian went half way and Howard and Kaye made a successful and challenging ascent. After we returned to the hut Kaye went for a wander and found two Whio (Blue Ducks) in the river above the hut. Evenings were spent playing *Quiddler*.

It was drizzling lightly on Tuesday morning but it stopped after we had been tramping for an hour and we reached the vehicle at Greyney's Flat in 4 ½ hours.

The usual coffee stop in Springfield brought a really enjoyable tramp to a close. The success of such tramps shows how important the social side of tramping is!

Trampers: Howard Anderson, Gerald Edmunds, Ian Fussell, Russell Hignett, Kaye Young.

Cookies Hut tramp, 22–23 November

It was originally planned that this tramp would leave from Pudding Hill Stream and traverse Pudding Hill Range and Mt Bruce before dropping down to Cookies Hut which is located on the Swift River. A reconnaissance showed that this was too ambitious so we started from Double Hill Run Road, crossed Radcliffe Saddle and followed the Swift River to the six bunk hut. It takes about 3 ½ hours to reach the hut. In the background was a poor weather forecast but we were lucky as the predicted rain appeared after we finished the tramp.

The hut is an old musterers' hut that DOC has renovated, making it quite comfortable.

An extra day would allow the group to explore some of the interesting looking hills in the area, including Mt Bruce.
NZTopo50 reference: BX20 Methven

Trampers: Denise Cumberpatch, Gerald Edmunds, Ian Fussell, Russell Hignett, Kaye Young



The Swift River and the hut.

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