



Newsletter of the
NELSON TRAMPING CLUB

Founded 1934, Nelson, New Zealand
www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz

PRESIDENT'S REPORT > Lawrie Halkett

2012/13 has been another busy year for the club. A great summer (memories of days of old!) ensured there were plenty of weekend tramps for members to enjoy.

The highlight for me was the club weekend working bee at Flora Hut, removing, repairing and refitting the roof. Over the course of the first weekend in March 2013, around 25 club members turned up to lend a hand, stay a while and share in the camaraderie as we laboured to preserve a piece of Kahurangi's important past.

Blessed with excellent weather the enthusiastic workforce completed the three-day exercise.

Watch out for the next chapter in the restoration of Flora Hut – it will probably involve lining-out the interior of the bunk rooms.

That, and the olive picking at Frogs End in June 2012, have been very therapeutic for club members in grieving the loss of Ruth Hesselyn.

The regular bi-monthly club nights have been well-attended, with between 30 and 40 people being treated to a range of amazing stories of adventure. The *Show and Tell* night in February stood out for me. Step aside Peter Jackson, as most presenters that evening accompanied their pictures with maps, text and even music! Very professional, (although a mite intimidating for those of us that are just beginning to realise that there are other audio-visual aides besides the slide projector!)

I would like to record a vote of special thanks to Raymond Salisbury, as club Newsletter Editor.

Another person who also deserves a huge vote of thanks is Jim Maxwell, the club Programme Editor. We all know without a programme the club would not exist. His quiet, but relentless drive to get the programme 'filled up' is impressive. Thank you Jim for working on ways to make this task easier for your successors.

And, when it comes to the administration of the club smoothly ticking along, there stands Pat Holland, an extremely efficient and effective communicator. He keeps us well-connected with the world beyond the tramping trail. Not only does he

Nelson Tramping Club

July 2013



The 'fit' party descending a western spur from the summit of Pepin Is

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

do this for our club, but he represents our interests nationally on FMC's National Executive team.

In these times of economic hardship I am pleased to report that through Brenda's judicious stewardship of club finances we have actually ended up this year with more money in the bank. Thank you, Brenda.

New to the role of club Minute Secretary is the irrepressible Kate Krawczyk. Not only is it great to have another female on the club Committee (and we need more) she also brings youth, energy and new ideas. The pub club night was one example of where club members replete with maps over a few drinks exchanged ideas about possible tramps that could be added to the club programme. Keep those ideas coming, Kate.

Thanks go to Dion Pont, Mike Glover and Bob Janssen for their input to the club Committee and activities.

Thanks also to Mike Drake and Mark Graesser for maintaining NTC's excellent website, which after all is our shop window to the public.

My final and heartfelt thanks are reserved for all club members that put themselves forward to lead weekend trips. You are without doubt the lifeblood of our club.

My desire for the coming club year is three-fold:

1. Through the Committee to keep offering an interesting weekend tramping programme to members.
2. Increase the number of club leaders available to run trips.
3. Ensure your club Committee continues to regenerate itself (that is code for existing Committee members to be replaced by other club members!)

Best wishes to all members for another year of safe and enjoyable adventuring in our beautiful mountain lands.

Lawrie Halkett, President



PHOTO > A PICKFORD

Pat Holland clambers out of a passage in the heart of Commentary Cave

TRIP REPORTS

April–June 2013

19 April – Commentary Cave – Upper Takaka Leader: Alison Pickford

Alison Pickford organised a joint weekend with the Nelson Speleological Group. Four NTC-ers, two visitors and eight 'real' cavers gathered at the Rat Trap corner, Upper Takaka. Showery weather looked ominous but the cavers insisted it would be a dry cave. So, off we went along a farm road nearby. We got togged up in polypro, overalls, bash-hat, headlamp and gloves and then walked up a steep hill into a small bush patch. There we were at the entrance to Commentary Cave.

Led by NSG president Andrew Smith, down we plunged. And what an underground adventure we had. For the next 4.5 hours, we experienced large caverns, waterfalls, short climbs, abrupt drops, narrow passages and 'squeezes', which were successfully traversed with much grovelling and some rope-work. Limestone features included stalactites, floral patterns, minitubes and shawls plus some glow-worms - all very beautiful and eerie when seen by lamp-light.

The route was confusing with many twists and turns, plus side passages (which keen young cavers Sam and Bridget thoroughly explored).

Lunch was in a magnificent amphitheatre complete with a tongue of limestone exuding from an upper chamber.

After a final squeeze through a puddle we emerged wet and muddy into the last chamber with daylight seeping in from the exit: Monster Mouth.

We had completed a circuit of a few-100 metres underground and about 50m from the surface.

We drove to the caver's delightful club hut near the top of Takaka Hill for refreshments. About half the team stayed overnight here, which included dinner and socialising.

Arising somewhat late after a night of continuous rain, we again togged up to do Summit Cave near the start of the Takaka Hill Walkway. However, the stream was flooded so we settled for the walkway, accomplishing about an hour's worth before heavy rain set in.

We dried out and ate lunch back at the lovely, warm hut, then packed up for the return drive to Nelson. It was an excellent weekend in weather that would have defeated a tramping trip.

Participants were: Alison Pickford (leader), Patrick Holland (scribe), Raymond Salisbury, Alison Aaron (NTC); Denise, Ian (visitors); Many thanks to the cavers for guidance and hospitality: Andrew, Dawn, Greg, Rose, Saskia, Peter, Sam & Bridget.

25–28 April (ANZAC weekend) – Thousand Acre Plateau – Kahurangi National Park

Leader & scribe: Chris Louth

At the bottom carpark on Matiri Valley road the five of us piled into Kate's 4WD and slipped and slid the last couple of kilometres to the road end. As we hiked towards the West Branch River crossing we could see there was a problem. A group of five from Christchurch, who had just passed us, were milling about on the river bank. The river was raging.

Over two hours later we were back at the same spot. Upstream we could cross fairly easily but were stymied from getting back to the track by bluffs on the river bank and by a wall of blackberry and bush lawyer. The group from Christchurch had long since trudged back to their car and headed for Nelson Lakes.

We were contemplating doing the same when three hunters arrived. They managed to cross a now slightly-lower river, one of them carrying a small and clearly terrified dog. We linked up and slowly inched our way across the white water behind them.

Because of the delay, we spent the night at a very crowded Lake Matiri Hut (15 people, 8 bunks). Two other groups, totaling seven, had also made it across. Some hadn't carried tents so kind-hearted Kate slept in hers and a couple doubled up on her bunk.

We got an early start the next morning. It was cloudy but the wet, cold change was not forecast to arrive until later in the day.

Half-way up to the lookout we were ambushed by a wasps' nest and suffered a few stings.

At the top of another steep section we finally topped out on the rim of the lower plateau. Beech gave way to boggy red tussock as the newly-renovated Poor Pete's came into view a couple of kilometres away.

The hut sure is a vast improvement on the uninhabitable shack that was there previously. It's classified as a two-person bivvy, but at least six could sleep under cover. It was annoying to see



Kate, Sue, Ray, Andrea and Chris at the lookout above the steep climb from Lake Matiri

PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

that some clown had already lit a fire too close to the deck and set part of it alight!

After a quick brew-up it was off to Larrikin Creek Hut. As we neared the hut the temperature dropped and the rain clouds rolled in.

Three hours after we had settled in, a group of five from Wellington, who we had met at Lake Matiri, arrived cold and very wet. After they had put up their tents and got changed we retired to our bunks so they could huddle around the roaring open fire and warm up. They had also encountered the wasps and most had been stung.

The rain kept up for the next 24 hours. The Wellingtonians left late Saturday morning to head back down as they had to catch a ferry the next day. They had spent the best part of two days walking in the rain and we hadn't even got wet, apart from our feet!

As the rain hammered down, Ray regaled us with his hut-bagging exploits and Kate amused us by reading out an article on what was expected of a good wife in the 1950s. Oh, how things have changed. Not completely though, as Ray got his tea delivered while still in his sleeping bag every morning!

Cabin fever was setting in so, with a great team effort, we spent a wet hour in the afternoon cutting up a couple of dead trees and replenishing the hut wood supply.

When the rain finally abated it was too late to head up to the top plateau so we followed the creek

up to where it cascaded vertically off the Hay-stack, and then followed it downstream to where it plunged a couple of hundred metres into Larrikin Creek valley.

Sunday morning we were up at the crack of dawn. Raymond wasn't feeling well, so the rest of us headed up the hill with the intention of climbing the Needle. As the track petered out to nothing it became apparent that the low cloud wasn't going to lift. The ridge-line and the Needle were completely hidden.

Fully aware of the numerous bluffs in the area we thought it prudent to cut our losses and back-track down to the hut.

After collecting Raymond and our gear we set off back towards Poor Pete's with Andrea, and then Sue, setting a blistering pace across the water-logged tablelands. From above the hut we could see someone was in residence. Who should appear but hutbagger Dion Pont, who had braved the river and walked up in the rain the previous day.

Then it was back down the steep, slippery hill, past the wasps without incident, to the Matiri Valley. The river crossing was now quite docile and we reached the cars by mid afternoon.

It was an enjoyable four days, partly spoiled by the weather and our inability to reach the 100-Acre Plateau, but greatly enhanced by an enthusiastic and ever-cheerful crew who are a joy to tramp with.

Thanks to Kate Krawczyk, Sue Henley, Andrea Cockerton & Ray Salisbury.



Andrea, Sue, Chris & Kate at our lunch stop – the new version of Poor Petes Hut on the edge of the 1,000 Acre Plateau

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

11–12 May – Lake Angelus Hut – Nelson Lakes National Park

Leader & scribe: Sue Henley

Nine of us, including three visitors, set off up the Pinchgut en route to Lake Angelus, in great weather and with views to match. Some individuals thought themselves quite clever in having made arrangements with Jim Hickey in advance!

Up on the ridge, tropical temperatures plummeted and wind increased with some of us smaller members of the party traversing the ridge on a sideways lean at times. We continued on at a comfortable pace, remarking on how few people seemed to be about and how the hut may be quite empty.

After some leisurely stops for views and food, plenty of humour, taking the mickey out of some individuals, and photographing 'Sir Edmund' on the mountain, holding his staff.

We arrived at the hut with plenty of time to spare, the hut about one third full, not long after, lots more people arrived and more and more ... and then some more for good measure.

The hut at dinner resembled and smelt like the master chef kitchen and we were soon tucking in to culinary delights afforded by a one night tramp, and the humour at our table knew no bounds.

After a night of little sleep for many, and snoring for others, certain members of our party are reverting back to tenting. The entire hut awoke to

an awful noise, courtesy of a certain individual's cell phone alarm. Two of our party got back to sleep again while seven of our party and two strays headed up to Mt Angelus in perfect conditions with breathtaking views, photo shoots and more humour. We then headed back to the hut to pack and get some sustenance before heading back for more views and perfect conditions to Mt Robert car park.

Overall, it was a fantastic tramp with the most amazing people, thank you all! In our party were the visitors: Ian Morris, Sue Lindsay, Jill Sheppard ... and members: Mike and Deidre Glover, Dion Pont, Mike Drake, Kate Krawczyk & Sue Henley.



Sue's enthusiastic party on the Mt Robert ridgeline.

PHOTO > COURTESY SUE H



Lou Kolff enjoys a sublime view from above Wainui Saddle across the Canaan plateau to north-western Kahurangi National Park

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

12 May – Wainui Hut & Evans Ridge – Abel Tasman National Park

Leader: Ray Salisbury (*for Ross Price*)

It was a crystal clear day as four of us headed off for the Takaka Hills, firstly remembering to turn off at Three Brothers Corner as the driver usually prefers to go through Hope first. Turning off onto the Canaan Downs Road, we spotted the newly opened Wool Shed cafe, which promised to be visited on the way home. Canaan Downs is now known as much for a Music Festival venue as it is for Harwoods Hole and other Abel Tasman NP tracks.

From the carpark we headed off at about 9.30am up an easy gradient, to soon find ourselves on Wainui Saddle. With the prospect of being mainly in the bush, we set about taking photos of distant peaks from Mt Arthur to Mt Snowden to the north-west. However, twenty minutes later we arrived at a higher viewpoint for still better photos.

Evans Ridge provided an easy tramp through the bush, stopping for scroggin before turning off this Inland Abel Tasman route, down to the Wainui River, the descent being the steepest, though hardly difficult.

A later lunch was had at Wainui Hut before leaving at 2.30pm for the carpark. Ray added the hut to his hut-bagging list, there being a sole overnighter from Brisbane.

We completed the day's round trip (6.5 hrs including stops) with a slight diversion to an ex farmhouse which it looks like DOC has refurbished,

hopefully for public use, which Uta may enquire about. The sun had already left the carpark, so a warm coffee at the 'Wool Shed' was inviting as we snuck in just before 5pm closing time and acquainted ourselves of its recent opening. We were Ray Salisbury, Uta Purcell, Lou Kolff (scribe) & Tom Quinn-Gregson.



Tom in the sun outside Wainui Hut, Abel Tasman National Park

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

APOLOGY NOTICE

The esteemed editor of this prestigious publication sincerely apologises for the insertion of this notice, as it is clearly a waste of valuable space.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER > Marielena Margraf



PHOTO > UTA PURCELL

Marielena Margraf & Sue at Castle Rocks Hut

18–19 May – Castle Rocks Hut, inland Abel Tasman National Park

Leader: Uta Purcell

It was unavoidable that the focus of this tramp became the weather. After a soggy Friday, the weekend forecast promised only slight improvement. We were just a trio and were determined to do it.

On a slippery track, and in mist, we climbed up to Holyoake Clearing. It felt very hot. There were no views for our lunch outside the shelter. I regretted not having a camera ready in the loo, as through the slush holes at floor level the beak, beady eye and whole head of a Weka craned in, repeatedly. By 2pm it looked like nightfall in the beautiful bush on the journey to Castle Rocks Hut.

Rain set in at 3pm; the hut appeared at 4pm. Sue, the expert fire maker, went to work and we relished the warmth. Rain stopped before midnight. Contrary to our expectations of more mist the next morning, the sun lit up the dim surroundings of our arrival the previous afternoon. Cameras got busy. Rather than doing a loop via the Coast Track, we chose to return to Marahau on the same slippery track, enjoying the views on the downward section. (New DOC signs now give the distance as 15.1km.) We took seven hours and saw just two other trampers on each day.

Participants were: Sue Davies, Marielena Margraf (visitor), and Uta Purcell (scribe).

26 May – Pepin Island, Cable Bay – Nelson

Leader: David Blunt

Club members were outnumbered by visitors for this trip which saw 23 trampers assemble at the far end of the Cable Bay causeway to do a circuit of the six km² island named by the French explorer Dumont D'Urville after his wife.

Soon after setting off for the eastern end of the island we were greeted by the sound of many tuis feeding in the gum trees.

A brief stop was made at Passage Hut overlooking the estuary, and Delaware Bay before dropping down to the beach for morning tea. Under a clear blue sky and with the tide full in, it made for a very attractive setting.

Then it was up a steepish gully to the farm track which was followed to its highest point reached just before midday. Four of the group chose to stay here while the remainder headed down to Rocky Point near the SW corner of the island where there is a hut hidden away in a small patch of remnant native bush - an ideal place for having lunch in the sun where it was warm enough for one member to strip off to the waist. Then it was back up to re-join the other four. Here the party split up with 15 climbing up to the trig on the highest point of the island and the remainder carrying back down on the circuit track to the car park.

For most of the party it was their first visit to the island which is only open to organised groups for two months of the year. Everyone was delighted with the experience of near perfect weather and



Lynette Salisbury climbs high above Delaware Bay

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY



PHOTO > K8 KRAWCZYK

Kate's intrepid party brave the cold at Parachute Rocks

glorious views.

Participants were: Jo Kay, Dan McGuire, Uta Purcell, Andrea Cockerton, Chris Louth & wife Carole, Ray Salisbury & wife Lynette, Roger Cotton & wife Maureen, Mike Locke, Marielena Margraf, Gail Malinowsky, David Blunt (scribe) and visitors Derek & Alison Walker, Angela Middlebrook, Anna Wilde & Hauruko, Ian & Marilyn Morris, Suzanne, and Cedar Poole.

8 June – Parachute Rocks – Nelson Lakes National Park

Leader: Kate Krawczyk

The weather forecast was pretty dodgy for the tramp but we decided to go for it and see how we went. It was drizzling in Richmond that morning but as we drove south to St. Arnaud the clouds parted and there was blue skies. It looked somewhat promising, but it didn't take long for the weather to close back in!

We decided to head onwards and upwards anyway because it wasn't raining yet and there was a chance that we may get some views above the tree line. After a small detour, missing the parachute rocks track turn-off because we were all too busy chatting away, we got on the right track and started climbing. It was a bit of a grunt up to Parachute rocks at 1400m, and once we got there it had started to drizzle again and it was very cold! We had a quick bite to eat and admired the clouds that we were in and quickly got going again to warm up.

Despite the lack of views and the dodgy weather we all had a great time and our newcomers Ross, Eva, and Hauruko still enjoyed the experience of beautiful South Island bush, good company, and great exercise!

Thanks to all who came along: Kate Krawczyk, Chris Louth, Andrea Cockerton, Haruko, Ross and Eva McKay.

notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Club Night > Monday 6 August
7:30pm, Nelson Intermediate, Tipahi Street**

Guest Speaker: Peter Bell

Peter is a retired DOC ranger, who was responsible for the development of the North West Nelson Forest Park prior to becoming Kahurangi National Park. This included restoring the Heaphy track and huts; upgrading the Wangapeka track and associated tracks and facilities; many other important projects. Come along and hear a little of the history of the incredible resource for recreation that Kahurangi NP will hopefully remain for future generations.

< Agenda for AGM >

- Apologies
- Minutes of 2012 AGM
- Report from Lawrie Halkett, Club President
- Financial Accounts 2012-13
- Election of Committee for 2013-14
- General Business

Nominations Received for 2013/14 Committee:

- Lawrie Halkett (President)
- Brenda Griffen (Treasurer)
- Patrick Holland (Correspondence Secretary)
- Raymond Salisbury (Newsletter Editor)
- Kate Krawczyk (Minutes Secretary & Publicity)
- Chris Louth (Programme Coordinator)
- Andrea Cockerton
- Bob Janssen
- Dion Pont
- Mike Glover

Note 1 > Jim Maxwell has stood down from the Committee and the position of Programme Coordinator. The Club owes Jim a great debt of gratitude for the excellence with which he has performed the role for past three years.

Note 2 > Mike Drake, with some assistance from Mark Graesser, works on development and maintenance of the club website. This is an essential facility for communications within the club, with potential new members and other clubs and with the outside world. Improvements are regularly implemented and suggestions are welcomed.

Note 3 > Ex-president Mark Stevens continues to be Gear Officer. He and Bronwyn hold the club's ice-axes, crampons, tents and some other gear which is available for loan.

Note 4 > Hec & Gillian Arbuthnott at BaseCamp, in upper Trafalgar Street, continue to manage the club's five personal locator beacons which are available for club and private trips.

UPcoming CLUBNITES...

Monday 1 July @ 7pm Social Night

Speights Ale House, Tahunanui
(Beside Mitre 10, Quarantine Rd.)

For more info, email Kate:
k8k@xtra.co.nz: [Kate Krawczyk](mailto:kate.krawczyk@xtra.co.nz)
"BRING YOUR PARK MAPS"

Monday 5 August > AGM Guest speaker: Peter Bell

NW Nelson Forest Park (pre 1996)

Presentation of Annual Accounts and election of new Committee. Plus, a talk by Peter Bell, retired DOC ranger, on the development of North West Nelson Forest Park prior to becoming Kahurangi National Park.

7:30pm, Nelson Intermediate School, Tipahi Street. Gold Coin

Monday 7 October

Speaker to be advised

Monday 2 December

Annual Photograph Competition



PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to Ray Salisbury whose photographs were chosen in the annual FMC Photo Competition. He won 1st Place in the 'Below The Bushline' category.



2-MAN TENT CLUB TENT AVAILABLE

Hidden away in Mark Steven's Stoke garage is a range of tramping gear that's available to club members.

On several tramps this year, I have carried the two-person tent pictured above, and can verify it is waterproof and lightweight.

Specifications:

Brand: The Great Outdoors

Model: Pioneer 2

Weight: 3.2 kg max **Height:** 110cm

Construction: 2-hoop alloy frame, PVC-coated nylon floor, seam-sealed ripstop nylon fly.

Features: Dome variety
2 entry doors with foyers
2 Insect-proof mesh doors
Interior pockets for items

Erection: A bit tricky, until you realise that one pole is longer than the other, and which way the fly goes.

Ray Salisbury, Editor

COMMITTEE :

President: Lawrie Halkett

Correspondence Secretary: Pat Holland

Minutes Secretary: Kate Krawczyk

Treasurer: Brenda Griffin

Gear: Mark Stevens

Programme Team Rep: Chris Louth

Committee: Dion Pont, Mike Glover, Bob Janssen

Newsletter Editor: Raymond Salisbury

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DOC UPDATES

For latest track conditions, go to:
www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/plan-and-prepare/alerts/

Kahurangi National Park

The **Graham Valley Road** is, once again, closed due to a giant slip in May which blocked access to Flora Saddle and Mt Arthur.

Late last year the old **Chaffey Hut** in the Cobb Valley was restored in a joint effort by NZDA members assisted by DOC. Built in 1953-1954; the dilapidated two-bunk hut is a favourite stopping point on trips to Fenella Hut, further up the Cobb Valley.

Abel Tasman Coast Track

Anchorage Hut is being removed from 6 May 2013 to make way for a new hut being built on the site. There will be no hut accommodation at Anchorage until the new hut opens around 5 November. Camping is available.

Adventure GEAR Hire
Our Gear - Your Adventure
021 111 1177

Don Schwass, who has worked for search and rescue in Nelson for decades, kindly spoke at our most recent club night.

If you need to hire tramping boots, tents, beacons, or even clothing, contact Don:

547 4817 / 021 111 1177

www.adventuregearhire.co.nz

Don also provides the only FREE monitored tramping intentions service. Check out **Adventure Buddy** on-line:

www.adventurebuddy.co.nz

New Secretary Needed!

As Patrick Holland is very busy with his FMC role, the club needs a committed person to handle all correspondence, including communication with existing and new members, and general administration.

