



Newsletter of the
NELSON TRAMPING CLUB
Founded 1934, Nelson, New Zealand

Nelson Tramping Club

august 2009

Uta rides the Ute up to Rainbow Skifield



MEMBER PROFILE > Uta Purcell

- 1. Place of birth:** Germany
- 2. Occupation:** Retirement filled with many interests
- 3. Been a member for:** 19 years
- 4. How have you benefitted from being a member?**
Challenged to leave my comfort zone, I acquired new skills, & enjoyed companionship
- 5. Best trip:**
Ball Pass, but as well many others
- 6. Worst trip:**
Facing Mt Alarm when it should have been Mount Tapuae-o-uenuku
- 7. Funniest moment:**
Enjoying Grahame's stories
- 8. Scariest moment:**
Not scary, but disconcerting when the snowpoles from Gordons Pyramid to Salisbury Lodge seemed to be invisible
- 9. Favourite tramping hut:** Cupola Basin Hut
- 10. What wild place would you put at the top of your 'bucket list?'** *Trekking a high circuit in view of Kanchenjunga*

EDITORIAL COMMENT >

New Blood

With great enthusiasm I plunged into my new role as the newsletter editor. I switched on my PC, and logged into the club website. It was only after many long hours of wading through waist-high formatting errors that I realised why no one else had responded so eagerly to Hec's plea for a replacement. Hang, this job should have been rated at least 4.5 on the scale!

All joking aside, it is a privilege and an honour to serve such a diverse group of trampers and walkers. If I can get your stories to read a bit better, and your photos to shine a bit brighter, then I will be a happy camper indeed. So ... don't hesitate to email me anything newsworthy, along with those trip reports. It might be some breaking news from DOC, your favourite tramping tip, recipe, a superb photo, or a yarn from yesteryear. We NEED your contributions.

If you haven't yet, check out the club website. I'm featuring member's photos, profiling huts, etc.

As the new kid on the proverbial block, I hope to bring a fresh perspective to a 75-year-old club. And, as the average age of club members continues to rise relentlessly, I think it's important to, well, reproduce ourselves. Look out for new blood, prospective members, and the like. Treat visitors well, be warm and friendly to them, and ensure they thoroughly enjoy their first outing with NTC. Shout them a coffee, follow up with a phone call, etc. but don't (God forbid) leave them behind, last on the track.

We don't get a second chance to make a first impression.

Raymond Salisbury
EDITOR

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS >
Pam Satherly and Paul Richardson

PROGRAMME

September/October 2009

Listed below are tramps & clubnights for September – November 2009. For further information please contact the trip organiser, or Programme Coordinator, **Uta Purcell**, Ph: 545 0280. Transport donation 8.3¢ per kilometre. **Visit the club website** for info regarding bookings, trip classifications, responsibility & membership enquiries. www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz

5–6 September

Inland Track, Abel Tasman – medium (scale 2.9) Crossover \$18
or **Castle Rock Hut return \$11**
Jocelyn Winn 521 1238

Jocelyn is intending to run this trip (Marahau – Pigeon Saddle) as a crossover, due to transport logistics. If there are insufficient numbers, the trip will change to Castle Rock Hut return. The main attractions of this route are the excellent lookout points along with the changing character of the environment. Depending which way you travel: Pigeon Saddle to Castle Rock Hut (8 bunks, 1 ticket) approximately 500m over 18km. Marahau to Castle Rock Hut, 700m over 11km. Topo N26 or Park Map

6 September

Thomson Hill – medium (scale 2.0) \$14 David Blunt 548 6826

Another new one for the club. Drive to Baton Saddle (on the Wangapeka) to Baton Road and climb 460m over 3km through paddocks, scrub and bush for excellent views at the top and along the way. It is hoped that a stopover can be made on the way home at the original Luna Hut, now on the Hancock farm at Glenrae. Harry may even be present to give us the history. Topo M27

12–13 September

Belvedere Peak – hard (scale 4.5) \$23 +gate Mike Drake 522 4458

Belvedere Peak, 2114m, is located at the top of the Buller, Clarence and Wairau catchments. Day 1: Along the Rainbow Valley then Paske Creek to Hut. Day 2: Attain Paske Saddle, 1796m, then follow ridge to the summit. Reverse route to Paske Hut and then out. 16.5km to hut, a further 5.2km to summit. Topo M30, N30

12 September

Cullen's Creek – medium (scale 2.2) \$16 Uta Purcell 545 0280

From Linkwater follow up Cullen Creek track to climb across a saddle to the old gold working site of Waikakaho village clearing and return the same way. Good track of approx 11km with one short steep section. Topo P27, P28

19 September

Wooded Peak via Bullock Track - fit (scale 3.6) \$3

Tom Brown 548 7190

An historic bush bash, leaving from Maitai Dam to Dun Saddle, then following GPS points to retrace the Bullock Track, used in the late 1850s for the first copper mining attempts, to northern side of Wooded Peak, returning via Sunrise Ridge. Topo O27

20 September

Brandy Creek – easy, \$7

David Blunt 548 6826, Margot Syms 543 3833

Come and celebrate Margot's recovery from leg surgery with a pot luck social lunch at Syms patch, 140 Brandy Creek Rd, Dovedale (off the Dovedale – Wakefield road about 8km east of Dovedale school). There will be a bonfire, so food wrapped in tinfoil can be cooked in the embers. After lunch, Peter will lead a wee farm tour of one hour max. Before arriving at Brandy Creek around lunch-time, there will be a Wakefield wander starting mid-morning at Faulkners Bush. Call Margot if you prefer to go direct to Brandy Creek.

26–27 September

Rocks Hut – medium – (scale 2.9) \$3

Jo Kay 544 9666

From Maitai Dam, leave cars at Caretaker's, then on to Hut via Dun Saddle. Return same way with optional climb up Dun Mountain. Recommended short side trip from Hut to lookout. Topo O27

27 September

North Twin - hard; \$14 (scale 4.2) \$13

Pat Holland 539 1340

From Flora carpark follow Mt Arthur track to saddle between Mt Arthur & Winter Peak then traverse along under the range to a large cairn on the ridge leading to summit of North Twin 1809m. Crampons & ice axe will be needed. 11km each way. Topo M27

3–4 October

Lake Caslani – easy (scale 1.8) \$27

Gretchen Williams 546 8328

From Maruia Road, 1km South of Lower Maruia Bridge, cross farmland and through bush, follow Lake Stream to Lake Caslani. Cross around the spur through the bush to Cliff Lake, then follow spur down above Cliff Stream back to road. Overnight in Cabins and visit Blackwater fumaroles on second day. Topo L29

3–4 October

Mt Chittenden – fit (scale 3.3) \$22 plus gate Ruth Hesselyn 544 0870 (or 0570)

A snow climb requiring ice axe, crampons & head lamp. Day 1: Tramp 6km up the picturesque Connors Creek climbing 550m to camp above the bushline, so bring your winter woollies or polypro.

Day 2: Climb another 750 steep metres to the summit at 2195m then return the same way to camp, collect gear & out to vehicles. Topo N30

5 October

Club night: Ken Ridley – cycling tour of Vietnam/Cambodia

10–11 October

Little Rintoul / Old Man – fit (scale 3.4) \$24 Dan 548 3458

Day 1: Drive via the Northbank of the Wairau and Top Valley Stream to the Lake Chalice carpark. A 400m descent will see you at the hut. From here, skirt the south side of the lake till it meets with the outlet to the Goulter River. Continue down valley for about 4km before starting on the climb to Old Man Hut. (5 bunks, 1 ticket) 14km and 900m.
Day 2: A steady climb via a bush track then an obvious route along the ridge will take you to Little Rintoul, pt1643. Great views from here. Return via the ridge to Old Man, 1514m then descend a rough track to the head of Lake Chalice. Approx 17km and 900m. Topo O28

11 October

Asbestos Cottage – medium (scale 2.0) \$18 Barry James 5466 153

From signposted turnoff part way up road to Cobb dam. Attractive walk, wet or fine. Topo M27

18 October

Maitai – Atawhai circuit – medium (scale 2.0) \$0 David Blunt 548 6826

Starting at Branford Park, follow up the Maitai to Sharlands Creek and climb the Supplejack Track to the lookout seat with its panoramic views in all directions. From here, head south along the forest boundary, almost to Kaka Hill, then drop down on a farm track to Bay View and return back along the ridge via the Centre of NZ. 10.5km. Topo O27

18 October

Mt Robert Ridge – Speargrass circuit – fit (scale 3.3) \$18

Andy Clark 540 3006

From Mt Robert carpark, follow the Robert Ridge to rocky Julius, then descend 700m on a side spur to the Speargrass Creek track, a short distance below the new hut. 14km

24–26 October

Cedar Flat – Classic West Coast Tramp – medium (scale 2.5) \$60

Mike Glover 544 7955 / Dion Pont 547 7562

This is one is from the Nick Groves book entitled *South Island Weekend Tramps*.

Day 1: Travel to Hokitika and head inland for 27km. Follow track up Toaroha River to Cedar Flat with its hot springs and 6-bunk hut and an older dilapidated 2-bunk hut. 4–5 hours, 8km.

Day 2: Day trip to Yeats Hut and/or Adventure bivouac.

Day 3: Out to cars and return home.

There will be an option for starting a day earlier and making it a 4-day trip. This will be decided on weather and participant preferences closer to the day. Topo J33

24 October

Parachute Rocks – medium (scale 2.5) \$17 Mary Honey 548 9083

An old favourite starting from Kerr Bay, Lake Rotoiti.

31 Oct–1 November

Sawcut Gorge – medium

(details in next newsletter)

1 November

Devils Creek Hut – easy

(details in next newsletter)

TRIP REPORTS

July/August 2009

5 July – Basic Snowcraft, Mt Arthur, Kahurangi National Park

Organiser: Mark Stevens

It was that time of year again – short days, long nights, and snow all around – must be time for snowcraft! With snow falling to low levels, and a dodgy weather report, off we went to Mt Arthur.

Alas, the road up the Graham Valley was fraught with danger, so we parked the car. However, Dion's trusty 4WD made it all the way up to Flora carpark. From here, we made fast progress to Mt Arthur Hut, where a visiting weka would not stay away from our lunch.

Crampons and ice axes were used for a short stint up 'the hill', but with a howling wind and falling snow, staying upright was proving hard... so not many skills were learnt.

Back to the hut and down to the carpark in double quick time. At the carpark we helped excavate a car from the snow.

All in all – "lots of snow; not much craft." Thanks to Dion Pont, Ruth Hessleyn, Ulla (visitor), Annie Hill and Mary Wu.

5 July – Marsden Scout Track, Nelson

Organiser: David Blunt

Under a threatening sky with rain forecast, 12 optimistic club members and two visitors left the Barnicoat Walkway carpark at 9.15am, heading up the Scout Trail to the top of the range. For one or two it was a bit of a struggle but spirits were revived

after a rest stop at the top for drinks and a bite to eat.

At the firebreak leading down to the Roding, Gillian left us to return back via the roadway to the carpark. The firebreak, although steep in places, was not too slippery due to an absence of frost. Everyone managed the descent to the Roding Dam without mishap.

Then it was on to the caretaker's house where a little presentation was made to retiring caretaker Neil Fitzsimmons who was also thanked for his friendly assistance to the Club over the previous six years. Lunch was held in what someone thought looked like a Druids Circle just below the Scout Den.

After this we followed the valley down for about 2km and back up a forestry road to the top of the Walkway. This was not without some anxious moments, as one member, after stopping for a comfort stop, took a wrong turning immediately afterwards and failed to rejoin the party. Phone calls to the caretaker were unsuccessful and, as we later found out, he luckily 'intercepted' the missing member on his way out of the valley, then kindly drove her back to Marsden Valley. Perhaps there was a lesson to be learned here of the need to have a tail-end-Charlie in a larger group. Fortunately, all ended up well in what was a good day's outing – with the rain managing to stay away.

Participants were: Andy Clark, Uta Purcell, Gillian Arbuthnott, Gretchen Williams, Mary Honey, Katie and Maurice Cloughley, Dan McGuire, Sara Vickerman, Barry James, Paul Fisher, Graham Davy and Marion Janke (visitors).

11–12 July, Mt Weld (2114m) – Rainbow Valley

Organiser: Mark Stevens

A short walk in to a hut, then a snow-covered Mount Weld to climb in the morning ... could we ask for anything better?

Well, not all was to go as planned. The key was collected from Rainbow Station, a warn-

ing was given about the road conditions at St Rohans Stream: "chains will be needed." (This obstacle did not faze us.) Chains were fitted on wheels and 4WD engaged. Safe passage was made through Rainbow Valley, and a short walk up river flats to the hut was made in good time.

Fire was lit, cups of tea made, tents were erected and lunch was eaten around a cosy fire with snow all around.

Sounds great! – but this is not why we go into the mountains; to sit by warm fires, drink cups of tea and eat cake. (Yes it is –*Ed.*)

So, boots were placed on feet and a party sent to locate the track to take in the morning. It was found and followed up past the bushline. With the dropping of the sun to the west, we retraced our way to the hut ... where the warm fire and cups of tea and cake awaited us again. Dinner was cooked by candle light and the hiss of the gas stove. More cups of tea and cake were consumed.

Conversations ebbed and flowed as dinner was eaten, and of course, more cups of tea. Alarms were set for 5.00am. Sleeping bags were fluffed. Zippers were pulled and heads laid down to rest.

"It's snowing!" came the cry at 5.00am. The fire was stoked and billies boiled. Wheaties were eaten. Jackets and boots were put on.

Making our way up the spur of Mount Weld, the snow became soft, so turns at the front were the order of the day, for each party member. The wind was strengthening with altitude gained. It was snowing, so no view was to be seen – none of the party became peak-baggers. We decided to return to the hut, and leave Mount Weld to be bagged another day.

At the hut, packs were packed, and the short walk out to the cars was taken. Another good weekend in the mountains!

The party were: Mike Drake, Ruth Hesselyn, Carole Crocker, Dion Pont, Jane Dewar, Chris (visitor), Pat Holland and Mark Stevens (scribe).

12 July – Moutere Cycle Tour

Organiser: Rosemary Weir

Seven keen cyclists assembled at Mapua and left for a day's ride at 10.00am. We rode up Seaton Valley, paused at the saddle, and turned left into Old Coach Road. At the end of Old Coach Road we turned onto the Inland Highway and rode into Upper Moutere.

A quick comfort stop at the village, and the decision was made to continue on to Motueka via Central Road. Central Road is an interesting and quiet alternative to the Inland Highway. We sped down to the saltwater baths for a picnic lunch on the Reserve, then off along the Coastal Highway to the Jester House Cafe for a well earned cuppa.

We then turned off the Coastal Highway into Marriages Road and wound up a hill at the back of Ruby Bay. We were rewarded with a great, long, windy downhill, which was a real treat to finish off the ride.

Back onto the Highway at Pomona Road and a short ride back to the vehicles. Altogether 53kms. A very nice, sociable ride, with great views, a few hills and some cruisy downhills.

Participants were: Ken Ridley, Alison Nicoll, Pam Satherley (visitor), Greg and Alison Pickford and visitor Mitch Bloom with scribe/organiser Rosemary Weir.

19 July – Airport Perimeter Walk, Nelson

Organiser: Katie Cloughley

A walk on the wild side this is not. But for a Sunday morning winter walk with compatible company, this is a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours.

Thanks to 'local knowledge' (Gillian Arbuthnott), a detour to the end of the peninsula then saw us continue along the beach before regaining the fence line at the golf course.

Gillian scored more Brownie points by delivering Katie and Annie back to town – thanks Gillian! And a thank you also for cheery company from Annie Hill, Fiona Nisbet (visitor) and, (for

part of the walk) Lynn Charters and her Chinese student Zuiwen (visitor).

19 July – Mount Stokes, Marlborough Sounds

Organiser: Pat Holland

Four souls in the little red Suzuki made for a cozy three-hour drive to the start of the track. The road from Havelock is exceedingly winding, but picturesque, as it tracks along the peninsula between Kenepuru Sound and Queen Charlotte Sound. All the baches and resorts were quiet in the early morn of mid-winter. After a flatty and quick wheel change, we wound up Titirangi Road to the saddle at about 500m a.s.l., overlooking Anakoha Bay.

The weather was cool, but pleasantly calm and fine, as we headed into the bush around the flank of Mt Robinson. The good track then went more directly up through surprisingly dense forest. After two hours of steady effort, we emerged onto tussock very close to the summit of Mt Stokes (1208m) with broad patches of snow. This is the highest point in The Sounds and we were rewarded by superb views on all sides, including D'Urville and Stephens Islands. The Wellington Coast and snowy North Island Ranges were visible in the NE and Tapuae-o-uenuku and Mt Alarm to the South.

It was sunny with a cooling breeze, so we took lunch in the lee of the repeater station before romping down, (a bunch of teenagers from Outward Bound trudging up). On the drive home, we stopped at a Beach Reserve for a brew using Pat's ancient Thermette which surprised some by how quickly it came to the boil.

For a modest tramp, this is rather a long day trip with a lot of driving. However, it was well worthwhile for the sights on a clear winter's day. Day trippers were: Pat Holland, Uta Purcell, Ruth Hesslyn and Chris Olds .

25 July – Dew Lakes, Bryant Range, Nelson

Organiser: Gretchen Williams

Twas a crisp and gorgeous morning. As we got higher, the views unfolded – the caretaker's house and dam, the pylons and 'road' up to the Maungatapu Saddle, the Western Ranges covered in snow. The vegetation alternates a lot between beech forest and interesting mineral belt with the odd rocky outcrop – Maurice perched on most of them. The Rush Pool (it had water in it!) and argillite quarry were explored and we reached Dew Lakes in time for lunch. What a gorgeous little vista with the 'lake' surrounded by yellow green vegetation and stunted beech trees (looking particularly Japanese-like) with Fishtail rearing up in the backdrop and blue, blue sky all around. And the return trip was just as enjoyable!

25–26 July – Mt Fyffe, Seaward Kaikoura Range

Organiser: Uta Purcell

For this snow trip, in perfect conditions, I was joined by Carole Crocker, Marguerite Verheul, Jocelyn Winn, Dion Pont, Alison Nicoll, and Ruth Henry. We left Friday night, and stayed with Lynne in Blenheim to avoid icy roads. An indication of our eagerness was that we were always ready well before the agreed departure time.

To find five cars already in the Mt Fyffe car park was a bit of a surprise on this early, frosty morning. During the drive we had enjoyed great views of Mt Tapuae-o-uenuku and the Kaikoura Ranges under deep snow. Snow covered the track, a wide and well maintained 4WD road, well below the hut at approximately 1090m. Dion and Carole reached Mt Fyffe Hut easily in 2 ½ hours, the rest of us in the next half hour. There were stunning views down to Kaikoura – a Google-map-like landscape – and up to glistening peaks ahead.

Luckily, trampers were leaving the hut so we had it to ourselves.

(Until an American couple arrived to share the last free bunk.) Lunch was outside in the warming sun, taking in the views.

The afternoon provided more photo opportunities, and one big task: to find suitable fire wood. The wood shed held nice, big rounds of wood, but the axe must have been buried somewhere under knee-deep snow. A lot of expertise amongst us found ways to deal with the firewood situation. We got the hut so warm that it became too hot for sleeping, but helped to dry more firewood for the next trampers.

Everyone still felt comfortable the next morning and we climbed to the top of Mt Fyffe (1602m) in 2 ¾ to 3 hours. It was calm and brilliant, the snow powdery, crusty in the shade; because of a cloud bank on the horizon we were unable to see the North Island. Dion went further to the saddle in the direction of Uwerau and Manakau, mainly to look at the round trip that leads back via Kowhai Hut. For the descent, we put on crampons. Another hour was enjoyed at the hut for early lunch and a tramping club style clean-up. The total descent today was approximately 1500m, reaching the car park at 2.00pm.

So, we fitted in a visit to seals, playing under a waterfall in Ohau Stream, and a top-up for us at The Store in Kekerengu. Two relaxed days in the snow, but some of us also had a mission: Dion a new camera to get the best out of, and Alison to retrace her mother's footsteps, who had climbed Mt Fyffe in 1930. Alison deposited a photographic record of this event in the hut.

1 August – Mt McRae (1878m), Nelson Lakes National Park

Organiser: Ruth Hesslyn

Rainbow Skifield was open so we were off. Ruth sweet-talked the driver of a large ute to transport four members of our group up the skifield road. Rob transported the remaining three in the Kay family's Suzuki Jimny.

With ice axes at the ready, we

donned crampons and headed up into the West Bowl to practice self arrests on the first likely-looking slope. Continuing upward, we followed Ruth, who made little butterfly footsteps in which we sunk down through the thin crust into soft snow.

Raymond was then sent ahead to create some nicely-spaced footholds that even us shorties could stride into. Mount McRae drifted in and out of mist so we had ever changing views down to Lake Rotoiti and across to the Robert Ridge. We lunched to the lee of the summit where we were nicely sheltered from the crisp breeze blowing in from the West.

Chris and Ruth took turns to lead us further along the ridge towards a saddle. As time seemed to be racing by, Ruth decided to short-circuit the original plan. She taught us more snowcraft: how to make steps, and how to descend backwards down a near-vertical slope. Down-climbing around to a point where we could walk in a more normal posture, we proceeded back to the skifield.

Special note must be made of Ruth's noble gesture in keeping track of us tail-end-Charlies. As a result of this sacrifice, she missed out on her much-anticipated coffee and cake at the cafe. Also, our trusty leader managed to secure the services of the same ute for transport down the mountain.

Fellow mountaineers were: Ruth Hesselyn (trip leader) Uta Purcell, Jane Dewar, Raymond Salisbury, Merrick Mitchell, a very young Chris Olds (visitor), Jo Kay (scribe) and transporter, chain-fitter and skier, Rob Kay.

2 August 2009 – Mapua Meanders

Organiser: Gillian Arbuthnott

Aranui Park was our starting point to head off into the labyrinth of suburbia. This provided ample opportunity to observe and comment – more than one Amex required here – and weigh up the pros and cons of the local flora before hitting the beach at

Grossi Point Reserve.

A joyful tui, high up in a tree, chorused its approval of our arrival. The tranquil vista of motionless blue water framing Rabbit Island, and an equally stunning blue sky, was the backdrop for the distant Richmond Ranges. The receding tide allowed for ample beach space to wander along. We observed the patterns of erosion caused by the volume of water which moved ceaselessly in and out of the narrow channel which separates Mapua and Rabbit Island. Seabirds, shells and a myriad of smooth pebbles abound along the shoreline. Golden feathery fronds of toi toi line the causeway.

We negotiated a gentle corner and were rewarded by the unfolding vista of the coastline curving gently towards the Kina Cliffs, Motueka and beyond, and watched the waters of Tasman Bay moving undecidedly in various directions around an exposed sand bar.

A sharp left turn, a quick clamber over large rocks, a sedate ascension of strategically-placed concrete steps, a cross-country traverse of some private land (well, we didn't see the sign until afterwards) eventually brought us back to our starting point.

Purses were retrieved from the car and four pairs of feet danced in delight along the footpath in anticipation of coffee and cake at The Naked Bun. Then, it was home to the excitement of a variety of planned activities: a barbecue lunch, an early afternoon concert and the pleasure of a satisfying novel. Mapua Meanders were: Beverley Muirhead, Gillian Arbuthnott, Jo Kay and Val.

8–9 August – Lake Angelus Hut, Nelson Lakes Nat. Park

Organiser: Bob Janssen

With perfect weather and good snow conditions for the weekend, our party left the Mt Robert carpark shortly after 9.30am.

We climbed along Robert Ridge at a leisurely pace in our crampons, enjoying the scenery, arriving at Angelus Hut at about

6pm. (We used an ice axe to hack a hole into the frozen lake to fetch much needed drinking water. Dion used a normal axe to 'modify' the woodbox in order to stoke the fire. –Ed)

Early next morning, Mike, Marguerite, Paul and myself departed the hut under darkness, to climb Mount Angelus (2075m). After enjoying the view from the summit, we returned to the hut, had a brew, and set off after the remainder of our party. After a lunch break near Julius Peak, we traversed the tops back down to our cars.

Participants were: Bob Janssen (scribe), Dion Pont, Mike Drake, Paul Richardson, Raymond Salisbury, Marguerite Verheul, Carole Crocker, Jane Dewar, Annie Hill, Jo Kay, and Ulla Norlander (guest).

16 August – Lookout Range

Organiser: Andy Clark

Out of a possible nine for this trip, only five trusted the organiser's judgement on the weather and turned up for this trip to Billie's Knob, (on Mount Owen.) On reaching the Dart Ford it was found to be impassable, so Dion suggested an alternative trip onto the Lookout Range from the Dry Weather Road.

The stream at the start was also swollen, but our fearless crew bush-bashed up the side until a suitable crossing was found. After a steep scramble, the track was reached.

Good progress was made on this easy gradient track with views expanding as we climbed. Sub alpine terrain was finally reached and old campsites pointed out by Dion, he being the only member to have been here before. Giant rocks were sighted on the skyline, but due to our late start we fell ½ an hour short of our destination, having all decided on a 2pm turnaround – leaves a bit to discover on a future trip.

Our return was uneventful and the stream crossing at the end much easier due to the fall of the river level. A thoroughly enjoyable day, with a fantastic team

and good weather, coats staying where they should be – inside packs.

People who didn't mind a dodgy forecast were: Andy Clark, Dion Pont, Jane Dewar, Sue Davies and Graham Davey.

17 August – Boulder Bank, Nelson Haven

Organiser: Renee Visser

A group of 10 walkers picked our way amongst the boulders and discovered quite a different view of Nelson from that normally seen. The way was punctuated with a 'shag tree' which was bare, except for about ten nests with shags sitting in them. The resourceful creatures had made use of flotsam and their nests sported brightly-coloured bits of plastic in their makeup.

We were then intrigued by the baches and their gardens of red hot pokers, cactii and some flowering daffodils. Herrie left his business card in case they needed a renovator.

We lunched at the base of the lighthouse, then explored the interior. The ground level had a great photo display of the lighthouse's history which was home to three families at one stage. We were able to climb up to the light and wander around the tiny terrace on the outside at the top. We carried on down to The Cut, disturbing a seal lounging on the rocks, and a hare that raced off to who-knows-where.

On the way back we collected what rubbish we could manage to carry.

Thanks to Renee Visser for being our leader. The followers were Jo Kay (scribe), Susan Sinclair, Jim Maxwell, Mike and Sue Locke, Ulla Norlander (visitor), Herrie Ten Oeven (visitor), David Blunt and Ruth Hesselyn.

TIP > Trip Reports are first posted on the club website, near the end of every 2nd month, before being archived. By using the [search](#) feature on the website, you can find previous trips.

AGM Minutes

Minutes of 76th AGM of the Nelson Tramping Club

Held at Nelson Intermediate School on 3rd August, 2009, at 7:30 pm.

President Mark Stevens declared the meeting open and welcomed all members and visitors

Members present: 35

Visitors: 2

Apologies: Mike Drake

Minutes of the 2008 AGM were taken as read. Motion that minutes be accepted. Moved: Ruth Hesselyn, Seconded: Mark Stevens.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT >

presented by Mark Stevens

Mark thanked retiring committee members, Hec, Ruth and Mike, for their input to the smooth running of the club. He encouraged other members of the club to consider becoming a committee member at some stage so that the club continues to remain a healthy entity. The committee was thanked for the organisation of the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Mark encouraged use of the club's valuable assets, the Locator Beacons, to be used on both private and club trips.

FINANCIAL REPORT >

presented by Club Treasurer, Gillian Arbuthnott.

Gillian explained the change to the auditing process. Due to the Charities Act there is no longer a need for an official auditor to check the accounts, which costs \$1000. A financially competent person can now review the accounts and Lindsay did this.

Two queries about the financial statement from club members were explained: Grants, a club member's anonymous donation of \$1000, and \$200 from club funds paid for the Locator Beacons purchased by the Club.

The First Aid payment was

made to a club member who attended a mountain safety course and was 50% of the course cost. Gillian advised that this would be her last year as club treasurer.

Motion to accept the Financial Report - Moved: Hec Arbuthnott, Seconded: Pat Holland

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & NEW COMMITTEE >

Nominations to the club Committee as follows:

President, Gear: Mark Stevens

Vice President: Lawrie Halkett

Correspondence Secretary:

Pat Holland

Treasurer: Gillian Arbuthnott

Minutes Secretary: Jo Kay

Programme Team Representative: Uta Purcell

Committee: Bob Janssen, Dion Pont, Marguerite Verheul

Motion that nominations accepted: Moved: Ruth Hesselyn/Mike Glover. Mark declared that the nominees duly elected. A late nomination from Merrick Mitchell was accepted and passed.

Mark commented about the change to the position of Programme co-ordinator to a four-person sub-committee.

Raymond Salisbury (ex Tau-ranga) was thanked for taking on the role of Newsletter Editor. Pat Holland urged members to use the new web site for the Newsletter and Trip Programme details. The web site will replace e-mail reminders for trips. The meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

GUEST SPEAKERS >

Martin Rodd, Motueka DOC office, and **Michael Hawes**, a technical pest control expert, showed a PowerPoint presentation on the use of 1080 by DOC for eradication of possums.

Uta Purcell presented a colourful and entertaining talk and slide show on her trip to Manaslu in Nepal. Her observations on the local culture were very insightful and the landscape shots stunning.

NEWS + NOTICES >

Upcoming Clubnights (put them in your diary)

Monday 5 October:
Ken Ridley is speaking on his cycling tour of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Monday 7 December:
Annual Photo Competition

Trip Leaders Training Coming Up!

The Committee are planning a Trip Leaders training course. The aim is to encourage awareness of risk management, and minimise the possibility of loss or injury on our expeditions into the wilds.

NZ Wilderness Magazine, published since 1991, is purchased on behalf of members by NTC. Copies are held by Peter Wise at Wises Picture Framers in Buxton Square and are available without cost to all members.

Discounts

Club members receive a 10% discount from the following Nelson stores: Basecamp, Altitude and Rollo's.

Outdoor First Aid Courses:

The Nelson branch of the Mountain Safety Council are running an Outdoor First Aid course.
Dates: 19-20 September 2009.
Venue: Papetai Lodge, Lee Valley, Brightwater.
Cost: \$100.

Go to:
<http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/Training>
or contact:
Administration Officer
Evelyn O'Neill. Tel: 547-2426.
Email:
nelson@mountainsafety.org.nz

Hut History Sought

I am researching my forefather's grazing grounds, especially the musterer's huts he built, or were built for him, from 1875-1895, around the Mt Arthur Tableland area.

Having read a number of historical books on Kahurangi National Park, there is a dirth on info regarding the OLD Salisbury Hut, OLD Myttons Hut, & early Leslie Clearing Huts. If you dig something up, email me the findings.

Thanks...
Raymond Salisbury
newsletter@maxnet.co.nz

Annual Subscription

Subscription: Adult - \$28.00
Couple - \$45.00.
(These all include FMC Affiliation levy of \$10.00 per person.)
Subscriptions can be paid online to:

Nelson Tramping Club Inc. at
Westpac Nelson
Account: 03 0703 0028827 00.

If using this option you must identify yourself by name.

DOC UPDATES >

Anatoki River area > Possum Control

DOC Golden Bay are proposing to conduct a possum control operation in the Anatoki and Devil River catchments of Kahurangi National Park. It is scheduled for spring 2009. They wish to repeat their previous 2004 operation in the area, beginning on the main ridge between Lonely Lake, Adelaide Tarn and Boulder Lake, down into the headwaters of the Anatoki and Devil River watersheds.

For more information:
Contact the NTC editor, or Steve Deverell, Golden Bay Area Office, Takaka. Ph: (03) 525 8026.

St James > Future management

The Department of Conservation is seeking feedback on the future management of St James Conservation Area. (St James Station was purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund in October 2008.) A discussion paper has been put together that outlines future use options for the area over the next 12 months to three years.

Canterbury Conservator, Mike Cuddihy said: "This is your land, this is your chance to have a say on its future."

Also being released [today] for public comment is the 'Draft Guidelines for Aircraft Access - Canterbury Conservancy'. "We would like public feedback on a proposal to put a restricted zone over the Spenser Mountains, north from Mt Una and east from Fowlers Pass to the Clarence River," said Mr Cuddihy.

Both the St James Discussion paper and the Aircraft Access guidelines can be viewed and commented on by visiting these DOC websites:
www.doc.govt.nz/stjamesconsultation
www.doc.govt.nz/aircraftaccess

The deadline for feedback on the St James paper is Monday 14 September 2009.

COMMITTEE >

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