



Newsletter of the  
**NELSON TRAMPING CLUB**  
Founded 1934, Nelson, New Zealand  
[www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz)

## Nelson Tramping Club August 2015

### EDITORIAL COMMENT :

## Change is here to stay

A brief check of the club calendar and recent Committee minutes indicates that some changes are in the air – all for the good, of course.

First up is our Annual General Meeting, which we dispense with in about 10 minutes. Trampers are notorious for being pragmatic. However, it is important to be aware that your Committee are not immortal. Lawrie has done an admirable job as President for many years; likewise, Pat is due for a change in role, having kept the club communications flowing smoothly for as long as I can remember.

So, please turn up on August 10th to elect new Committee members. And listen to local author Aat Vervoorn share his reflections on his career in the hills.

Secondly, our next pub night has been replaced with a **Pizza Party** - for aspiring and current trip leaders. To fill our Programme up with easier trips and more day-trips, **WE NEED YOU** to volunteer – it's not hard to organise a half-day wander around the local hills. So, we're bribing you with FREE PIZZA & DRINKS. Come along on Monday 7th September and share your ideas for future expeditions.

Thirdly, the October club night features a **QUIZ**. Bring your most knowledgeable friends and pit your wits against the club's best. The topics are tramping-related. (Hint: see Shaun Barnett's quiz pages in the *FMC Bulletins* for some possible answers).

Fourthly, with the increase in postal costs, Peter Wise has agreed to collect our mail at his picture framing shop in town. Thanks, Peter.

Finally, remember to pay your club subscription!



See you at Club & Quiz Nights...

**Ray Salisbury,**  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
[newsletter@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:newsletter@maxnet.co.nz)

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:**

*Birgit Klingebiel*

# 10-AUG : AGM

7:30pm @ nelson intermediate

**Guest Speaker: Aat Vervoorn**

A Mt Cook guide who has published two noteworthy books.  
Listen and learn about solo tramping & remote living.

- PLUS: Nominate who YOU want on YOUR committee

# 7-SEP : PARTY

7:00pm | location to be advised

**Current & Aspiring Trip Leaders**

We need YOUR IDEAS for easy-medium tramps.  
Our Programme needs more willing leaders. Be brave!

- PLUS: FREE PIZZAs and FREE drinks

# 5-OCT : QUIZ

7:30pm @ nelson intermediate

**Form a team: Test your knowledge**

Pit your wits against the club's most well-read veterans.  
Topics relate to tramping, mountain history & personalities

- PLUS: talk by Martin Brett on his father Gordon

# TRIP REPORTS

June–July 2015



Doing Dun. Dan's party pose on Dun Saddle

**7 June – Dun Mountain & Little Twin Circuit**  
Bryant Range, Nelson | Leader: Dan McGuire

**Eight tough trampers braved a cold morning** for an early start up the Maitai Valley.

It was a clear cool day, perfect for tramping. We made a stop at Dun Saddle to enjoy magnificent views south of the Richmond Ranges. We then climbed up to the old Dun Mountain Shelter where we had lunch in the sun.

Once refreshed, we traversed to the top of Dun Mountain, along the yellow-brown ultramafic rocks to the trig point.

From there it was a gradual descent to the next saddle, followed by an abrupt ascent of Little Twin, which is 14 metres higher than Dun.

Little Twin is wooded, and provides no real views, and the descent eastward was also steep.

After a brief stop at Dew Lakes, we slipped and slid in a sort of controlled fall, down to the Rush Pools and finally, out to the Dam.



Ray Salisbury exits Dun Mountain Shelter

PHOTO > RAY'S IPHONE

Everyone proved their fitness and the day was enjoyable for all. Total time: 8 hours.

Participants were: Bruce Alley, Kelvin Drew, Robert Renshaw, Ray Salisbury (co-scribe), Graeme Ferrier, Annette Le Cren, Will (visitor), and Dan McGuire (scribe & leader).



Andrea's amazing alpinists on Cauliford Hill, Mt Owen

PHOTO > ANDREA

**28 June – Culliford Hill (1756m), Mount Owen**  
Leader: Andrea Cockerton

**Well, it was always going to be an adventure** and none were disappointed. Ten minutes in and the Dolly of the day turned out to be Dion, who scurried back to retrieve his keys swinging invitingly from his car. Gleefully, however, came the report of two dolies in the mist, the trip leader having left her door wide open. We were off to a cracking start!

Next came that haunting quote, (or was it a battle cry), "I don't recall it being too bushy".

Thank you, Pat, for your words of wisdom on the ascent route from the Stamping Battery at the resurgence, then after three hours the accordingly amended version:

**"My pain and my distress  
are not easy to express;  
One can only wonder at  
such a colossal blunder."**

This was not overstated, as the seven of us led a merry dance through the pig fern, Mike gallantly yielding his machete. Chris suggesting the vegetarians could munch their way up. At one point Pat heroically rescued Kate's sunnies as he slid down the bank in a mass of loose soil and undergrowth, quickly followed by Kate – what a carry-on. Four and half hours in, we had barely attained half the summit height – only reached the track end of the Nuggety Creek route.

Research of the route had yielded only a brief description and picture of a dudes heavily-ripped underpants. After a quick check it was 'onwards and upwards', a short hop above the bushline to those sculptured alpine karst landforms. We picked our summit for the day and crouched down as the wind blasted past. We naively imagined a cruisy jaunt back via the Nuggety Creek track.

The return started pleasant enough, then came the relentless clamber down, followed by a long, undulating narrow sidle above the river – just when we thought we had answered our burning question of best summit route. (Nature has a way of doing that to you.) One thing was certain: our memories would also fail us and next summer we will be back, bush bashing.

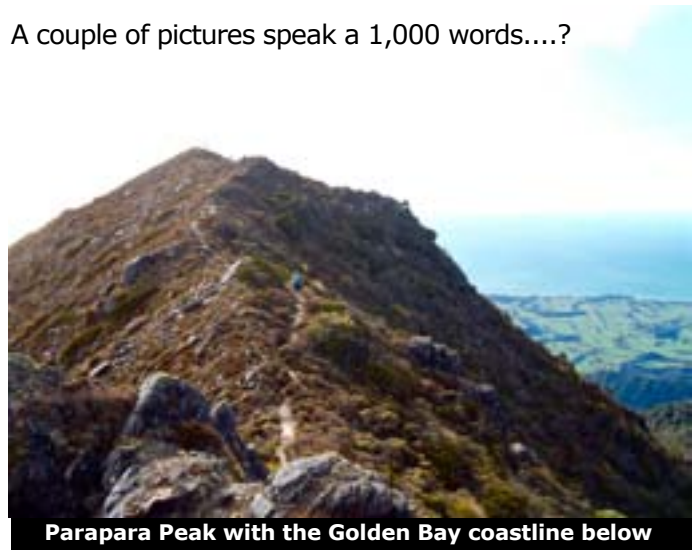
But really, the only thing that stopped us was daylight, wasn't it?

So, what's the difference between a hill and a mountain? One being "less tall" and easier to climb? For example, we should unofficially elevate Mount Culliford from its 'hill status', and downgrade Mount Duppa to a mere hill. You could climb Duppa and back and still be slashing pigfern on Culliford!

Thank you to all the crazy, highly-spirited people who came along for the adventure: Mike, Chris, Bruce, Dion, Pat and Kate. Written by Andrea, but inspired by others.

**21 June – Parapara Peak, Golden Bay**  
Leader: Chris Louth

A couple of pictures speak a 1,000 words....?



Parapara Peak with the Golden Bay coastline below



Reaching the trig station atop Parapara Peak

PHOTOS > CHRIS LOUTH

**5 July – Mount Royal –** Wakamarina, Marlborough  
Leader: Andrea Cockerton

**Known for her excellent and outstanding time management skills,** fellow trampers were dumb-founded when the trip leader failed to make the rendezvous, until she showed them her watch...



Here follows therein, a rather fragmented and dysfunctional trip report: Somewhere in the hills some people made it to the summit. Apparently, the views were grand and it was a tad cold. Somewhere else in the hills others were meandering around while fending off wild boar with their beanies. The bleating goats were more plentiful less bothersome and not so entertaining. Some trip members were also bleating and indeed, it was suspected, even sent angry piggy charging forth to flush out said leader.

On Saturday we arrived at Devils Creek Hut, to find it under siege by a French possum hunter and his tolerant girlfriend. None of those who passed by that weekend could stomach the stench, some teenagers opting for the derelict hut option. Before passing onwards to Fosters Hut and fresh air, we met a highly inspirational lady in her 8th decade from the Golden Bay Tramping club, Sigrid Crump.

The walk up to Fosters Hut takes you through lovely native forest, the occasional rimu is farmed in the valley here with strict DOC guidelines.

The change of plan scuppered the rendezvous with the Sunday day-trippers back at Devils Creek,

who were instead met on their descent from the Mount Royal summit. The track up is not easily recognised, but well-marked from the hut down to the river. (From there, travel true right up-river to confluence of Devils Creek; the marker is visible across this creek and a steep climb awaits. Good exercise, fresh air and wild animal encounters await those who choose to follow.)

Embracing the outdoors were Don, Nicola, Chris, Simon and myself, Andrea (scribe).

**12 July – Mount Arthur,** Kahurangi National Park  
Leader: Andrea Cockerton

**The forecast was one whole degree, sunshine** and zero K's wind. Across the Motueka Valley, Mount Arthur called, (although I can't say exactly what she said.) Six trampers donned our daisy roots and rocked on up. Hey, the Graham Valley Road was even open!

The dunny at the Flora car park was evidently for sale; a golden opportunity awaits the discerning buyer. With loose change but no sniff of an open home, we had to pass this one up.

Opting for the usual route to Mt Arthur Hut, we were treated to snow-laden dracophyllum. The day just kept getting better. After quick refreshments at the hut, Christmas came early for an opportunistic, thieving weka – this fat bird was a pro.

Hopping onto the ridge some 20 minutes in, we met our first returning summiteers, having enjoyed the sunrise from the top. The entire population of Tapawera were out (okay, Mike and one other). Tony Stevens, everyone now knows your panache for my *Revlon No. 85*. All up, ten people had gone before us, carving easy steps into the soft snow – no crampons required today. The odd attempt at sledging thwarted by stockpiles of snowballs in the crutch, impeded any chance of a hoon down. However, the summit plateau playground provided ample opportunity for that inner child to re-emerge.

We did walk a bit because that's what tramping clubs do. Sharing the days adventures were Kate, Ian, Kathy, Simon, Mike and myself, Andrea (faithful scribe).



DOC are apparently selling up assets at the Flora carpark. Trip leader is very handy, hiding behind a pole on Mt Arthur



A perfect day to be out on Nelson's foreshore. Pictured are Brenda, David, Marie & Marianne

PHOTO > DAVID BLUNT

## 12 July – Tahunanui traverse, Nelson

Leader: David Blunt

### A heavy overnight frost with ice on the ground

did not deter six hardy souls who encountered a variety of conditions underfoot, ranging from concrete steps to soft sand with tree roots on Bob's Track, and a stony foreshore in between.

This provided a good workout on a Tahuna hillside circuit followed by a shoreline traverse to the Monaco channel opposite Oyster Island.

Sunny conditions were a bonus with a stop for lunch at the far end beyond the airport and another at the Nelson Golf Club cafe for drinks.

A very pleasant scenic trip with good company was enjoyed by: David Blunt (scribe), Brenda Sinclair, Marie Lenting, David Clark and visitors Marianne Hermsen & Stuart Slack.

## 6–8 July – Climbing Trip – Arthurs Pass

Leader: Pat Holland

### A short-notice decision by three old-timers

based largely on expediency, led to some winter climbing at our fabled old hunting ground of Arthurs Pass National Park. We based ourselves in the township in a delightful old bach on Rough Creek that included an excellent wood-burner. Mike came well prepared with heaps of firewood. On Monday Mike and I made an attempt on Mt Philistine (Conway was laid up with flu). Despite the dubious

forecast, our travel up the Otira Valley track just west of the pass road was pleasant with about 10cm of older snow and no sign of other punters. Across the footbridge and up the snow-covered shingle-slide we went to access the mountain. The morning tea stop at the saddle (1300m) gave us misty views back down to the main road and across to the Temple Basin ski-field. However, Mt Rolleston was well-clagged in so the prospects did not look good. As we proceeded up, the weather deteriorated with strong winds and snowflakes. So we scurried back down and out to the vehicle where snow was gathering thick and fast.

Tuesday dawned fine and clear with 10-20cm of new snow. It was Groundhog Day as we gingerly drove back over the pass to the Otira Valley and repeated our efforts in soft snow to the saddle under Mt Philistine. We were rewarded by excellent 360-degree views, including the Rome Ridge and Otira Face of Mt Rolleston. Conway went back down due to his flu, but Mike and Pat proceeded up a devious route through steep snow gullies, the main peak not visible behind high ridges. Hare tracks eventually led us up into the high valley leading to the main peak.

However, it was hard, slow work with the deep, soft snow, so we called it quits at 1800m with two basins and the final ridge still to go. The descent was rapid and we were back at the vehicle by 4:30pm.

Wednesday also dawned fine and frosty. We walked from the bach to the start of the track accessing Mt Bealey. This zig-zags up the western side of the main valley to the bushline at 1200m,

with the route heading up a classic, long ridge to the summit that looked dauntingly far off. However, snow conditions were soft, but not deep, and we made steady progress to the summit of Mt Bealey (1840m) with glorious views over to Avalanche Peak and south into the Crow and Waimak Valleys and the peaks beyond – all in fresh snow.

The final ridge included an icy rock crux so we decided to go down through snow basins and then regain the ridge for the trudge back whence we came (9.5 hrs return). We were well pleased with the day but somewhat galled that the bach owner had only taken 1.5 hrs to the summit in a summer running event! Overall we enjoyed good company and snatching some days from winter. We were reminded what a great location Arthurs Pass is for accessing moderate peaks. Climbers were: Patrick Holland, Mike Drake & Conway Powell (Dunedin).

## SUBS DUE

### 2015–16 Subscriptions

These are now due and stay the same as for previous years. Please pay promptly.

The Committee is concerned at the poor uptake of the *FMC Bulletin* via the pickup arrangement or at club nights. Please choose the small postal surcharge option if you wish to get the surety of postal delivery for the *Bulletin* and *NTC Newsletter*.

**Subscriptions can be paid** the following ways:

1. Using the Internet, on-line to:  
Nelson Tramping Club,  
Account No: 03 0703 0028827 00  
*Please identify yourself by name.*
2. Post a cheque to:  
The Treasurer  
Nelson Tramping Club  
c/o Wises Picture Framers,  
78 Buxton Square, Nelson 7010
3. Cash or cheque at the August club night.

**Subscription fee options are:**

1. Individual Subscription: \$30.00
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4. Double Subscription with mail out of *Newsletter* and *FMC Bulletin*: \$55.00

On receipt of payment you will be issued with your FMC card which provides discounts on goods and services such as the DOC Annual Hut Pass.

# WE ARE NOT ALONE



### FMC Christchurch Conference

**In June I attended the FMC AGM in Christchurch**, along with Pat. It was combined with a forum on huts and tracks which attracted so many people that the meeting room was standing-room only. It was good to see the wide range of groups represented there including NZ Deerstalkers, Trailfund NZ (mountain bikers), Permolat, Canterbury Mountaineering Club, NZ Alpine Club as well as the usual tramping clubs and several DOC staff.

The AGM business was dispatched quickly and efficiently and we moved on to the main speakers. FMC president Robin McNeill extolled the success of the Outdoor Recreation Consortium which is the partnership between FMC, NZDA and Trailfund and manages the huts and tracks fund. FMC and NZDA are successfully working together after many years of not working together.

Lou Sanson, Director General of DOC, outlined the priorities for DOC starting with fixing DOC's operational structure. Then pest control (including wilding pines), freshwater and marine reserves, more focus on iconic historic sites and better quality tourism. I hope DOC doesn't become the Department of Tourism! He also pointed out that the DOC annual budget of \$350 million is similar to Hamilton City Council, but DOC has to manage about 30% of NZ's land area. It is also interesting that in some rural areas, DOC is the only government agency still there after all the others have left.

The third speaker was Mick Abbott from Lincoln University who gave a thought provoking talk that

challenged us to think differently about conservation issues. For example when developments are proposed for a park, how can they be turned into a positive for conservation, instead of just being negative about them.

Then, there were presentations about individual hut and track projects from all around the country and I spoke briefly about the work we have done on Flora hut. Andrew Buglass talked about the Permolat group on the West Coast and the many huts and tracks they have worked on. Their structure seems more like anarchy with little involvement with DOC.

The presentation I found most interesting was from John Taylor, a DOC ranger from Golden Bay,

who talked about the restoration work he has done on Riordans Hut, Waingawa Forks Hut, Chaffey's Hut and the Cobb Tent Camp.

I was also pleased to meet several members of the [tramper.co.nz](http://tramper.co.nz) website including Matthew who built and runs the site. I have followed many on-line discussions on this website, and it was good to meet the real people behind the on-line identities.

On our way back to Nelson, Pat and I did a quick overnighter to Nina Hut near Lewis Pass – cold, but with beautiful, fresh snow everywhere.

**Ian Morris**  
*Treasurer*



## Federated Mountain Clubs

**I did not know what I was letting myself in for** when Tony Haddon cunningly got me to replace him on the FMC Executive three years ago. FMC is doing its best to represent the interests of our 16,000 members (82 Tramping clubs, NZ Alpine Club, plus a growing number of individual supporters).

I have been impressed by the range of talent and commitment on the Executive, currently headed by our inspirational president Robin O'Neil (a.k.a. Uncle Jacko). Jamie Stewart, the Executive Secretary appointed one year ago, is raising our game with his energy and professionalism. See the FMC website for pictures and profiles of the current Executive: [www.fmc.org.nz/executive/executive-members](http://www.fmc.org.nz/executive/executive-members)

FMC has a very broad brief with the most important being acting as a guardian for recreation and conservation in our big outdoors, especially national parks. We want Conservation Management Strategies and NP Management Plans (reviewed every 5-10 years) to be appropriate and followed. We want better access to and protection for our wild areas – the "Forgotten Lands" campaign is having some successes. Some of the younger Exec (Laura King, Tania Seward, Erik Bradshaw) are

stirring things on access problems and the longer term biggie: climate change.

The quarterly *FMC Bulletin* is a little gem of a production and all credit to editor Shaun Barnett who publishes with little or no direct intervention from the Executive. Make sure you pick up your copy from club nights, Peter Wises in Buxton Square, or Hunting & Fishing shop in Queen Street, Richmond.

Much of FMC interests involve working with DOC which has been through the ringer in recent years with budget cuts and continual reorganisations. DOC has just released its four-year plan which reflects some stabilising at the helm by their latest DG Lou Sanson and facing up to the reality that DOC cannot do it all on its own. Although "partnerships" has a commercial ring, there *are* things happening in the Nelson region that do strongly involve community groups, e.g. Project Janszoon (great talk by Devon Maclean who spoke to NTC in June) and the Hut & Tracks initiative. DOC staff from all levels have been very appreciative of our club's renovation of Flora Hut (which we aim to complete next summer).

The FMC annual photo competition is popular event with very high standards. Congratulations go to David Blunt who was a section winner last year. (Our own photo competition feeds into this, which is being run on 7th December.) See: [www.fmc.org.nz/photo-competition](http://www.fmc.org.nz/photo-competition)

The FMC Youth Fellowship scheme continues with grants to worthy proposals for support of trips great and small. Only the leader must be aged under 30 years. Applications close 18 September.

See: [www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship](http://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship)

**Pat. Holland**  
*Secretary*

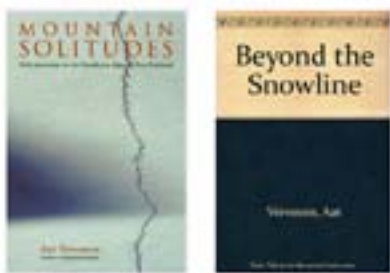
## UPcoming CLUBNITES...

### Monday 10 August AGM

7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate  
Speaker: **Aat Vervoorn**

The AGM is an important annual event for the club to review the status and plan our future. We keep the AGM *very brief* but functional.

**Aat Vervoorn** is best known for the books he has written. Perhaps the most famous is entitled *Mountain Solitudes*, a sequel to *Beyond the Snowline*.



The epic draws on 15 years of solo mountaineering and tramping in the rugged South Westland section of our Southern Alps; country that includes the high peaks of Cook, Tasman, Hooker, and such wild and remote valley systems as the Landsborough, Paringa and Copland.

In a reflective and original style, Vervoorn explores a number of central themes, particularly that of gaining mastery in, rather than over, the mountain environment, and a rejection of the notion that a good mountaineering trip has to have close shaves and suffering to be successful.

### Monday 7 September

## Trip Leader Party

Location TBA | FREE PIZZA !

Catch up with club members and talk about upcoming trips. Bring along maps and ideas so that we can fill the programme.

Email: [Kate Krawczyk](mailto:kate.krawczyk@ntc.org.nz) for info.

### Monday 5 October

## Quiz Night

7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate

For a social evening, come along for some good-natured competition to test your knowledge of tramping, New Zealand mountain history, well-known personalities and the like.

Form teams prior to the event, or we'll randomly put you in small groups. This is a great way to get to know more people in our club.

**PLUS...** a brief talk by Martin Brett on his late father Gordon, accompanied by historical club pics.

### Monday 7 December

## Photo Competition

Our club's annual, informal get-together around the table; a chance to show off your skills with a camera – and show us where you've been tramping all year. Guest Judge: **Martin de Ruyter**, of the *Nelson Mail*

Check out the Rules & Categories in the October *Newsletter*.



## Gordon Brett (1931-2015)

We acknowledge the recent death of Gordon, a Life Member of NTC. He will not be known personally to many of you, although he maintained the NTC mail box at 118 Vanguard Street until recently.

Gordon was a stalwart of the club for many years and was also active in other community groups including St Johns, Nelson Search & Rescue and Mountain Safety Council.

During the 1950s-1960's he led NTC initiatives to construct or renovate a range of huts in the region including Rocks Hut. He was very pleased with NTC's recent efforts with Flora Hut.

A quiet, engaging man with a great sense of humour; we acknowledge Gordon's many contributions to NTC and give our condolences to his sons Martin and Bevin, and extended family.

## COMMITTEE :

**President:** Lawrie Halkett  
**Correspondence Secretary:** Pat Holland  
**Minutes Secretary & Vice President:** Kate Krawczyk  
**Treasurer:** Ian Morris  
**Programme Co-ordinator:** Chris Louth  
**Committee:** Andrea Cockerton, Sue Henley, Dion Pont, Graeme Ferrier  
**Newsletter Editor:** Raymond Salisbury  
*Post reports to:* 71 Montreal Rd, Victory, or email to: [newsletter@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:newsletter@maxnet.co.nz)  
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