



Newsletter of the
NELSON TRAMPING CLUB
Founded 1934, Nelson, New Zealand
www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

Lazy Days of Summer

The long, lazy days of summer are upon us... but not before the mad mayhem of the Christmas rush; that frenetic consumeristic drive imploring us to "buy, buy, buy."

If there was an item I would recommend that you purchase, it's Shaun Barnett's latest masterpiece, titled *Tramping – A New Zealand History*. A riveting read for any tramping aficionado, this weighty tome (2.5kg) delves into the evolution of the word 'tramping' from its colonial context, and takes us on a whirlwind ride through Maori travel, early tourism, club formation, the battle for national parks, changes in technology and the role of women.

Some of us avoid Xmas, and head for the Hills – lots of us. Flights are being booked, PLBs borrowed, track info researched and maps purchased. Soon half of Europe will be flooding into our front country trails, sending the die-hard Kiwi trumper deeper into the wilds in search of tranquil calm, fellowship with friends, (or for Dion, more remote huts to bag!)

Speaking of the man: hearty congratulations go to Dion Pont for his recent engagement to Melanie.

More changes are on the horizon, with Flora Hut becoming a new focus. The club was awarded some \$6,500 for the ongoing renovation to this historic building on the flanks of Mount Arthur. We will need your support on working bees in the New Year.

You can also look forward to teaming up with members of the Waimea Tramping Club in a shared BBQ, and on combined trips next year.

I myself am now heading back to Salisbury Lodge in the dubious guise of a hut warden: I gotta book to write.



Buy, buy...

Ray Salisbury,
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
newsletter@maxnet.co.nz

Nelson Tramping Club December 2014

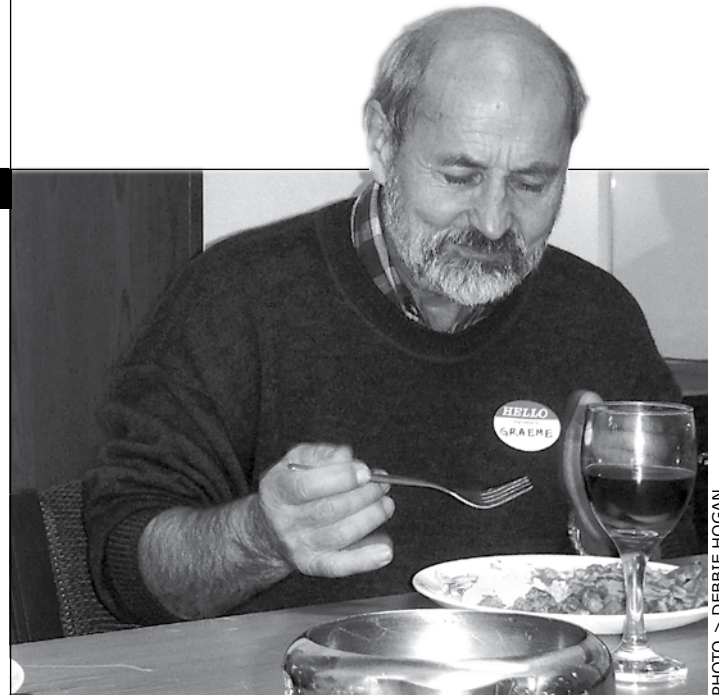


PHOTO > DEBBIE HOGAN

MEMBER PROFILE > Graeme Ferrier

- 1. Position:** Committee Member
- 2. Place of birth:** Victoria, Australia
- 3. Occupation:** Retired
- 4. Been a member for:** 3 years.
- 5. How have you benefitted from being a member?** Introduction to local walking tracks; meeting other trampers; regular activity.
- 6. Best trip was:** Walking the Milford Track with my four kids to celebrate my 60th birthday.
- 7. Funniest moment was:** Gail having a walking pole 'stolen' while camping overnight in the Greenstone Valley, only to discover it had been borrowed by a kea!
- 8. Scariest moment was:** 'Losing' a trumper on a steep descent from Mt Arthur, but eventually sighting him way below heading off in the wrong direction!
- 9. Favourite tramping hut is:** Chaffey Hut, Cobb Valley, recently restored by John Taylor.
- 10. What wild place would you put at the top of your 'bucket list?'** Walking to Macchu Picchu in the Andes.

Welcome to new members:

Nina Solter, John Whibley

TRIP REPORTS

October–December 2014

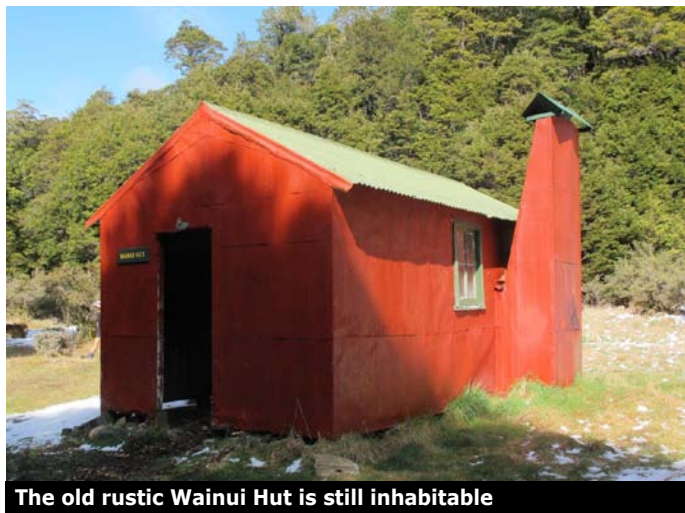


PHOTO > BRIAN RENWICK

The old rustic Wainui Hut is still inhabitable

5 October – Canaan Downs to Bird’s Clearing via Wainui River – Abel Tasman National Park
Leader: Ross Price

The day broke fine and sunny, and the hills were liberally plastered with fresh snow from the day before. The drive in was accomplished relatively easily due to the volume of traffic and sunshine having cleared snow off the access road.

We were soon under way, climbing steadily up the gentle gradient to Wainui Saddle, and a short descent took us to the Wainui Hut, complete with nearby aviary for the re-introduction of kaka and kakariki as part of Project Janszoon. This trip was largely in the bush, however good views were found from Wainui Saddle. The opportunity to descend further down Bird’s Clearing for better views was passed up in favour of an earlier return, while we had lunch there. We did have views across to D’Urville Island and Cape Farewell, and of the coastline and hinterland of Wainui Bay, which was a just reward for our efforts.

Participants: Ian & Marilyn Morris, Brian Renwick

11–12 October – Ellis Basin Hut – Kahurangi NP
Leader: Dion Pont

We started out early on the Saturday morning to give ourselves extra time if the snow conditions were difficult on the way to Ellis Basin. We arrived at Flora car park around 8:30 to find a police car blocking the way to the main parking area. It turned out that the recovery and investigation for the recent helicopter crash was underway and the police investigators were waiting for a helicopter from the Air Force to arrive. A few Keas also welcomed us to the car park with their cheeky antics – hopping

around on innocent victim’s vehicles and playing with our gear as we got ready to start off. Dion smartly removed the soft cover on the back of his ute in anticipation of two days of Kea curiosity.

Off we went up and away to the saddle between Winter Peak and Mt. Arthur. It was a beautiful day with almost no wind. We turned left and crossed over Winter Peak into the hanging valley above Ellis Basin. The snow was firm but not firm enough for crampons so we made our way down through the snow and then hit the real obstacle to reaching the hut – the descent. Now I’ve heard that the walk up the valley to Ellis Basin Hut is a real ordeal and that the ‘easy’ way is the way we were going over the tops – but when we reached the final descent to the basin it was 600 metres straight down on a slippery nasty side with a very rough and almost non-existent track and plenty of spear grass / Spaniards to ‘cushion’ our falls. We were very happy to reach the valley floor and got to the hut around 2:30 in the afternoon dreading climbing back up what we just came down the next day (I speak for Chris and myself – I don’t think anything phases Dion!).

Ellis Basin hut is a very lovely little old forestry hut in a beautiful setting and being so hard to get to it is not busy at all – the last trampers through had been there in August.

So the next day we had to get out somehow and the truck was at Flora car park – Chris and I did tease Dion and told him to pick us up at the bottom of Ellis Valley on the Baton Road but in the end we sucked it up and got on with it. I must say its one of the most scary and exposed climbs I have done. I had to engage my ‘four-wheel drive’ grasping onto tussocks to pull myself up the over 45-degree slope. The heavy overnight pack on my back certainly wasn’t welcome. The conditions didn’t help with patchy snow that had hardened overnight making it quite technical. There wasn’t enough snow for crampons until we reached the hanging valley and then it was beautiful clear sailing up and over Winter Peak back to Flora car park.

Climbers were: Kate Krawczyk (scribe), Chris Louth & the illustrious Dion Pont.



Kea investigate vehicles at the Flora car park

PHOTO > KATE KRAWCZYK



Panoramic from the top of the Needle, with the Haystack to the left and the 100 Acre Plateau on the right

PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

7–9 November – 1000 Acre Plateau – Kahurangi Leader: Chris Louth

With the promise of three days of sunshine and light winds, eight of us left the cars on the Matiri Valley road and headed upstream.

The West Branch Matiri was easily forded and an hour later we were at a deserted Lake Matiri Hut. The hut book indicated there was nobody else on the plateau.

After a regroup at the lookout, everyone found their own pace for the second steep climb up to the rim, then across the open red tussock to Poor Pete's Hut.

It was now 4.30pm but, with hours of daylight left, half the party decided to push on across the waterlogged grasslands to Larrikin Creek while the others would spend the night at Poor Petes and follow early in the morning. This strategy ensured tents would not be needed and most would get a bunk.

At Larrikins Creek Hut, John surprised Kate by pulling two full-sizes pillows out of his gargantuan

pack. Her comment was that it was a nice gesture but she'd rather have a bottle of whisky!

Around 9.30 the next morning the Poor Pete's party arrived and most of us headed up into the spectacular vertical escarpments and across to the saddle between the Needle and the Haystack.

Conditions on the summit of the Needle were sublime. No wind, clear skies and 360 degree views encompassing the Mokihinui Valley and ocean to the west and the snowy peaks of Nelson Lakes to the east. The northern vista was dominated by the striated slopes and razor ridge of the Haystack, while to the south the Devil's Dining Table (a.k.a. 100 Acre Plateau) was spread out just below us.

After a lazy half hour on the peak, we descended onto the top plateau. Five of the group had decided to return to Poor Petes for the second night to shorten the journey out the next day, so they dropped over the side of the plateau and headed back.

John, Kate and Chris headed across to the far edge of the plateau to check out the bump known as Mt Misery. From here you look straight down into the valleys of the Mokihinui catchment and part of the Old Ghost Road route from Goat Creek out to the ocean.

After returning to Larrikins we were greeted by a party of four from Christchurch. It was just as well most of our party had returned to Poor Pete's because the Christchurch group weren't carrying tents or sleeping mats and had decided to come up to a four-bunk hut knowing from the entry in the Lake Matiri Hut book that there were already eight people at Larrikins.

Kate and John pitched a tent and one of the other party decided to walk back to Lake Matiri at dusk so we managed okay.

Our two groups reunited half way down the hill and we reached the cars by mid-afternoon.

A rare three days in an area that is so often inaccessible, wet or windy.

Lucky participants were Kate Krawczyk, John Whibley, Rod and Carole Lewis, Graeme Ferrier, Birgit Klingbein, Helen O'Kane (visitor) and Chris Louth, trip leader & scribe.



Chris, Birgit, Kate, Rod, John & Graeme on the 1000 Acre Plateau

PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

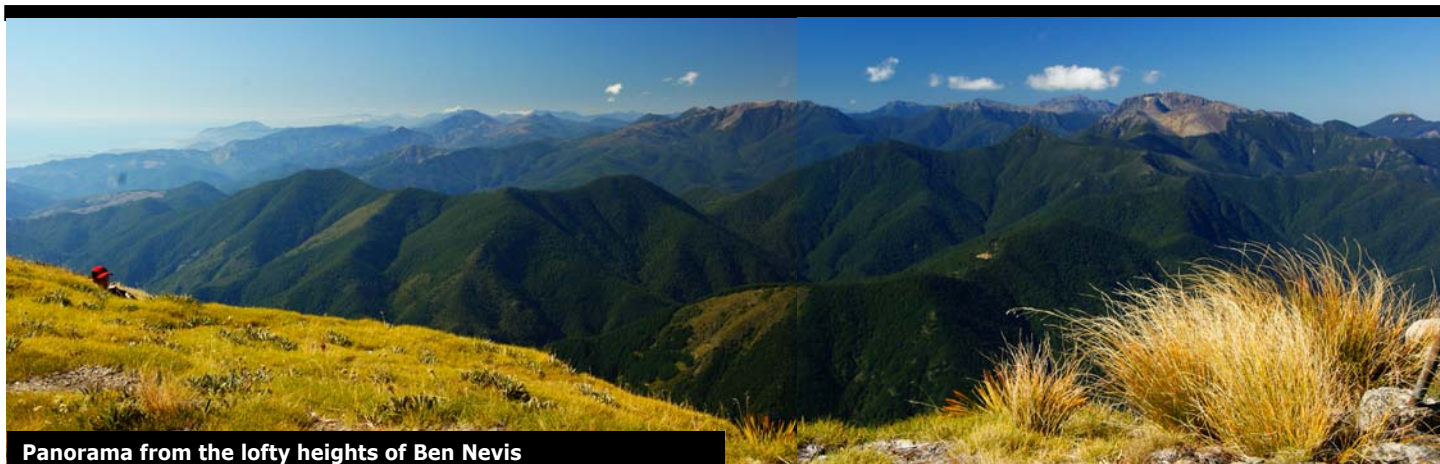


PHOTO > RAY SALLISBURY

Panorama from the lofty heights of Ben Nevis

18 October – The Brook Sanctuary

Leader: Elizabeth Dooley

Three of us met at the Waimarama Sanctuary and walked up the Koro track, joining the stream at Ferny Flats and turning back onto "East D" track just short of Carters Creek. The track is lovely, especially along the stream, with the sound of water mingling with birdsong. The Rangiora is beginning to flower and there were Fuschia, Clematis and some orchids to be found.

We turned down Jacobs Ladder to return to the stream and walked out via the dam, going back into the Visitors Centre to look at the interesting displays available there. We walked for about three and a half hours, but it would be easy to spend a day there criss-crossing the tracks without ever leaving the Sanctuary.

Walkers: Elizabeth Dooley, Jane Russell & Sue Matthews.

30 November – Ben Nevis – Mt Richmond FP

Leader: Andrea Cockerton

Ben Nevis was the revised destination, bad weather scuppering plans to head up Billies Knob. Summer, but not just yet. The track itself was easy to navigate, the access roads not so! A few confabs, consultation of GPS, one wrong turn and we arrived. The road itself was in reasonable order, though 4WD recommended.

The track initially heads through forest along Gibbs Spur; it's a little grunty to start but evens out as you break through the trees around 1000m, the summit itself standing at 1619m. There is some rock scrambling along the spur and delightful vistas across to the Richmond Ranges in the East. The weather held and we arrived at the summit in 2 1/4 hours, though not lingering too long in the cool breeze. A scattering of fellow trampers were heading up, but by far the majority were the mountain bikers using the lower tracks and car shuttling up and down the road. It felt great to blow away some cobwebs and get out.

Fellow trampers were Sue, Kate, John, Chris, Bruce & Michael. Thanks for your company – Andrea (scribe).



PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

Tararua & Nelson Tramping Clubs merge. Pictured here at John Tait Hut, named after one of our early club presidents

photo COMPETITION

Organisers: The Committee; Judge: Barry Doig

On 1st December, we had local photography enthusiast Barry Doig to entertain us with poetry and inspirational wisdom in all things photographic.

As per last year, the first three place-getters in each category received a certificate. First place-getters were given \$15 vouchers to spend at Nelson City Cameras. Ray Salisbury has now resigned from the competition, which leaves it wide open for you to have a crack this coming year!

2014 WINNERS:

1. Landscape:

- 1st – Ray Salisbury
- 2nd – Chris Louth
- 3rd – Debbie Hogan

2. Hut/Camp Life:

- 1st – Ray Salisbury
- 2nd – Nina Solter
- 3rd – Andrea Cockerton

3. Above The Bushline:

- 1st – Ray Salisbury
- 2nd – Andrea Cockerton
- 3rd – Andrea Cockerton

4. Below The Bushline:

- 1st – Mark Graesser
- 2nd – Pat Holland
- 3rd – Andrea Cockerton

5. Nature:

- 1st – Nina Solter
- 2nd – Chris Louth
- 3rd – Chris Louth

6. Historic:

- 1st – Pat Holland
- 2nd – David Blunt
- 3rd – Pat Holland

7. Open / Anything Goes:

- 1st – Ray Salisbury
- 2nd – Ray Salisbury
- 3rd – Pat Holland



PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH



PHOTO > NINA SOLTER

1st & 2nd Placegetters will have their photos sent off to the FMC Photo Competition, run by FMC *Bulletin* editor, Shaun Barnett.

Next year you will be able to view the winning entries on our club website, courtesy of our web guru, Mark Graesser

“Life is like photography...
we develop from negatives.”

TRIP LEADERS!

Our Programme is heavy with harder weekend tramps, but to fully cater for our member's abilities...

please consider leading some easier or shorter walks

www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz/node/447

Read the instructions as to how to list a new trip, or clone an old one.

it's so easy...

COMBINED

CHRISTMAS BBQ

Rabbit Island - Sunday Dec 14

Our club would like to invite the Nelson Tramping Club members to join us at Rabbit Island for a Christmas BBQ on Sunday, 14 December.

We will meet at **2.00pm**, have a game of cricket, go for a walk or perhaps have a swim before starting up the BBQs about 5.00pm.

The plan is to use the **Manuka picnic area**, provided no-one beats us to it. To get there, you turn left at the entrance, take the first turn to the right and the picnic area is the first turn to the left on to the grass.

Regards

Katie Greer, President, Waimea Tramping Club

FLORA HUT UPDATE

Funding and Working Bee

The club has been allocated **\$6,500** from the Outdoor Recreation Consortium for further refurbishment work on Flora Hut.

In March 2013 the club refurbished Flora Hut's roof. The next stage is to refurbish the interior of the hut, including new fireplaces, installation of insulation and interior lining. The interior and exterior will be painted and lining installed in the woodshed.

A working bee is scheduled for 14-15 March 2015 and we need people with building skills to help with the refurbishment work. There will probably be a second working bee to complete the painting.

UPcoming CLUBDATES...

Sunday 14 December

Rabbit Island BBQ

5pm, Manuka picnic area.

Combined tea with Waimea T.Club

Monday 9 February

Show 'n' Tell

7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate

Speaker : YOU!

Bring a USB memory stick with some shots of your recent tramping holidays. 10 minutes each.

Sat & Sunday 14-15 March

Working Bee

FLORA HUT RENOVATIONS

We need building skills to fix up this hut
More details to come in the Feb newsletter

Learn LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

Fast track your Photography on a customised tour – learn on location!

Dates: 23-25 January

3-Day West Coast road-trip

7-8 February 2-Day tour to

Wharariki Beach in Golden Bay

We stay in quality accommodation and cook our own food. A basic level of fitness is required for some of the wilder spots. You don't need a fancy DSLR to participate on this course.

www.hotpixels.co.nz



your photos are our business



Track Closures in the Brook Valley Area

Sections of tracks in the area around the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary are being temporarily closed for the first phase of construction of the pest-proof fence.

The temporary closures will be between 7:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

All tracks will be open with unrestricted access outside of these times, and on weekends and public holidays.

The Dun Mountain Track will be closed:

- From Four Corners to Third House
- 24 November 2014 to 15 March 2015 (excepting Christmas break: 20 December 2014 to 11 January 2015)

We regret any inconvenience these closures will cause. Please obey all signs and barriers in place for your own and others' safety.

For more information on the project, please contact the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Trust: 546 2422, www.brooksanctuary.org.

< TRIP PHOTOS >

If you want to see yourself on a recent club tramp, visit the club website's Gallery page:

www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz

Look out for the links to member's on-line photo galleries on *Picasa*.

DISCOUNTS

FMC members receive a 10% discount from **Rollos** store.

FMC members receive a **20% discount at Macpac** when they join the *Macpac Wilderness Club*, in addition. Present your FMC members card.

TRIP LEADERS

Since our five emergency beacons have been used in several incidents over the last three years, this has led to the Committee tightening up on risk management, and fool-proofing the systemic loopholes in our policies. So:

If you've borrowed our PLBs for a club or private tramp:

EMAIL your intentions to [Pat Holland](mailto:Pat.Holland@maxnet.co.nz), [Lawrie Halkett](mailto:Lawrie.Halkett@maxnet.co.nz) or [Chris Louth](mailto:Chris.Louth@maxnet.co.nz) before leaving. They are the SAR contacts, especially if the hire shops are closed, (e.g. after 4pm.)

NEW SHOP

The **Hunting & Fishing** shop in Richmond now holds the two PLBs that were stored at Stirling Sports.

NEW FORM

Download the **Intentions Form** PDF from our [website](http://www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz).

NEW RULE

"In snow, all members of the party must carry ice-axes & crampons, AND know how to use them."

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

Gear: Mark Stevens **Patron:** Robyn Walsh

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