



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

Nelson Tramping Club January 2012

PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVICE >

TOP TEN TIPS...

Almost everybody has a camera, and takes photographs. But not everybody takes good photographs. Because they do not always think carefully before pressing the shutter. Here are ten tips on how to make a good photograph...

1. First, think before you press the button. Look carefully through the viewfinder and make sure the horizon is straight. Hold the camera steady, feet slightly apart, and make sure your finger is not in front of the lens.

2. Ensure the sun is behind you, or to the side. Never take photos with the sun in front of you, or you will get dark faces. If you can't avoid this, use a flash to light up the faces.

3. Put the horizon in the top third, or lower third, of the picture, never in the middle.

4. Come in close. This is especially important when photographing people, animals or flowers.

5. Avoid making people pose. When photographing people, ask them to do something, e.g. read a book, look at a picture, play with a toy, etc.

6. When photographing children or pets, **get on your knees**, down to their level.

7. Have a point of interest, but don't put it in the middle. Place the focal point to one side of your composition. Use the 'rule of thirds'.

8. Use leading lines, e.g. a road, stream or fence coming in from the left of the picture, and leading your eye into the scene.

9. Frame your scene by photographing through trees, doorways or windows.

10. Keep it simple; less is more. Remove any element that does not contribute anything to the composition.

Above all, have fun with your camera!

Barry Doig, FPSNZ
 Photo Competition Judge



Dan on Ben Nevis - 300m higher than the Scottish highlander

PHOTO > COURTESY DAN MCGUIRE

MEMBER PROFILE > Dan McGuire

1. Occupation: Retired bee-keeper.

2. Where were you born? California.

3. What benefits have you found being a member?
 I enjoy the company and have learnt heaps.

4. Best tramp: Mount Manukau, tallest peak in the Seaward Kaikoura Ranges.

5. Worst tramp: In the Seaward Kaikouras, I got caught in the fog and fell down a waterfall.

6. Stupidest moment: Forgetting my sleeping bag and realising it only when I had climbed to over 2000 metres.

7. My scariest moment: Getting lost high up in the Seaward Kaikouras in fog.

8. My favourite tramping hut: Barretts Hut, Hapuku River, Marlborough.

9. What wild place would I put at the top of my 'bucket list?' The ridge between Old Man and Mt Rintoul, Mt Richmond Forest Park.

WILDERNESS WISDOM

"No man ever steps in the same river twice..."

For it is not the same river & he is not the same man."

< Heraclitus ~ Greek Philosopher >

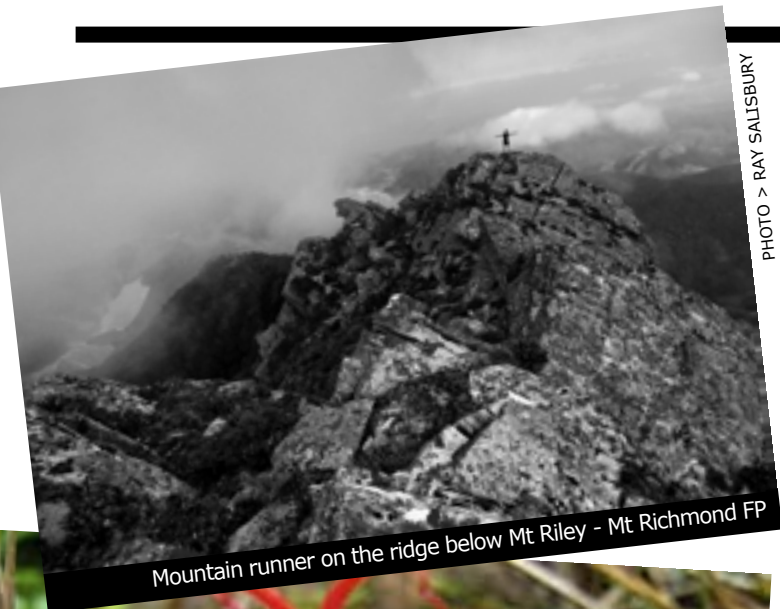


PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

Mountain runner on the ridge below Mt Riley - Mt Richmond FP

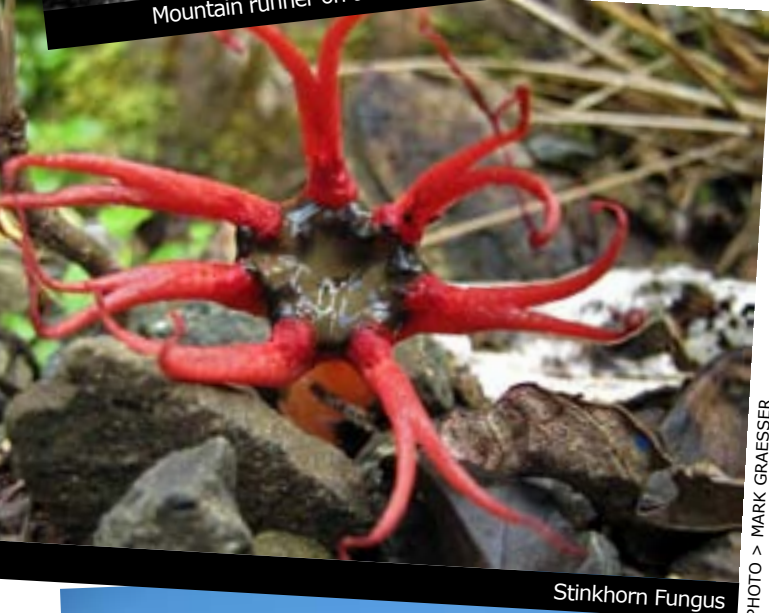


PHOTO > MARK GRAESSER

Stinkhorn Fungus



PHOTO > UTA PURCELL

Boulder Bank seat



PHOTO > PAT HOLLAND

Old Hut with blossom, Gladstone Station

5 December 2011 > RESULTS

Photo Competition

Organisers: The Committee

Judge: Barry Doig

This year 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 recieved a certificate. First place-getters were given \$15 vouchers to spend at the Nelson Camera Shop. It was an enjoyable evening with an excellent turnout. Thanks for your support.

> WINNERS:

1. Landscape:

1st - Mike Glover

2nd - Ray Salisbury

3rd - David Blunt

2. Hut/Camp Life:

1st - Ruth Hesselyn

2nd - Ruth Hesselyn

3rd - Mike Glover

3. Above The Bushline:

1st - Ray Salisbury

2nd - David Blunt

3rd - Ruth Hesselyn

4. Below The Bushline:

1st - Pat Holland

2nd - Peter Syms

3rd - Ray Salisbury

5. Nature:

1st - Mark Graesser

2nd - Gillian Arbuthnott

3rd - David Blunt

6. Historic:

1st - David Blunt

2nd - Pat Holland

3rd - David Blunt

7. Open / Anything Goes:

1st - Mike Glover

2nd - Uta Purcell

3rd - Ruth Hesselyn



PHOTO > PAT HOLLAND

The first six category winners will have their photos sent off to the FMC Photo Competition, run by *Bulletin* editor Shaun Barnett.

Next year you will be able to view the winning entries on our club website:

www.drupal.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz/galleries

"Life is like photography...
we develop from negatives."

TRIP REPORTS

October–December 2011

15–16 October – Mt Dora (2167m) - Rainbow valley
Leader: Mike Drake

With the expectation that the road through Rainbow Station to Lake Tennyson would be un-navigable I phoned the Rainbow Station to organise a key. Sure enough, I was advised that a large snow drift was blocking Island Saddle. I reserved a key anyway and put my thinking cap on. I eventually decided on Mt Dora, via Paske Hut. The weather indicated rain on Saturday and clearing Sunday morning, so everything looked fine.

What I didn't figure was that the weather would not likely produce a frost, and that late in the season the ridge would be only partially covered with snow. Anyway, that was to come later.

So, on Saturday we proceeded down the Wairau, and then the trudge up the Rainbow River. Under a heavy sky and with one stop for lunch, we were soon heading up Paske Creek, into the rain but looking forward to getting a fire going in the hut.

On Sunday morning our weather window arrived early, and we were away, a little later than normal. Once on the snow in the valley heading towards Paske Saddle the rain and late season made for a slow walk up the valley. This was in marked contrast to the trip up Belvedere Peak, when my crampons were singing – no singing today. Us three blokes trudged along, converting Ruth's "hare-like" impressions in the snow into Bigfoot steps. Once on the ridge we found ourselves picking our way through the rock and snow.

On the summit of Mt Dora we discussed our original plan of continuing to Mt Guinevere. This option was quickly discounted when we calculated that we would be arriving home about 11pm from our current position. So, down we went heading towards the spur coming up from behind the hut. However, on closer examination the ridge looked a little jagged, and not wanting to spend time navigating another ridge we headed down the adjacent valley.

A brew back at the hut, then a quick march out back to the vehicle, stopping once for some refreshments.

Next time, we need another day to summit Mt Guinevere, and more wintery conditions to get the crampons singing.

Thanks to the team (Ruth Hesselyn, Liam Sullivan, and Dave Quested (visitor) for an enjoyable weekend at one of my favourite huts.

< HUT WARDENS NEEDED >

DOC in St Arnaud are looking for voluntary wardens for the hut network on the Travers-Sabine track. Dates: **5-17 January**. Phone Nelson Lakes Area Office: **(03) 521 1806**

16 October – Maitai Pipeline – Nelson
Leader & scribe: Gretchen Williams

We parked the car at the usual place, just below the dam, walked over the bridge and turned right where the pipeline emerges out of the ground from the South Maitai (usually you would turn left to proceed to the Caves or Dun Mountain). It was an easy walk beside the pipe to the Jack's Paddock turn-off, although we continued on for a nosey to see where the pipe (siphon) crosses the river, and to check out the new track being constructed from here to Smiths Ford Bridge in preparation for the road closure from this point up the valley for the laying of a new pipe along the road.

Back at Jack's Paddock we crossed the river with the aid of sticks gleaned from fallen willows, walked along the road past the siphon and up a bit of a zig zag side road to meet the pipe again for morning tea. The next stage passed through some quite nice vegetation and gave good views down the valley – quite a different perspective from travelling in a car. When the pipe went steeply down to just above the Motor Camp we turned and came through Johnson's property (braving their 'nasty' sheep) to walk the road before crossing the river again by the wee bridge over the pipe near the camp.

From here it was a really steep climb and then on to the Tantragee Saddle where we sighted the pipe going into the tunnel. We had lunch, then joined throngs of mountain bikers and headed up towards Sharlands Hill then back into the Maitai,. We bush-bashed through pine trees, admired a beautiful kowhai glade in full flower and alive with tui, and were back onto the road near Sunday Hole.

Members joining me were: Jim Maxwell and Alison Aaron. Visitors were: Hiroko, Marmi and Dongrui.

30 October – Coldwater Hut – Nelson Lakes NP
Leader & scribe: Gillian Arbuthnott

The meandering track through the bush, the tranquillity of Lake Rotoiti, the grandeur of steep peaks rising from the opposite shore, the torrent of water cascading through the air at Whisky Falls (the distillery remained elusive), the close encounter with a friendly kea at Coldwater Hut, purple fungi and vivid green Spring foliage and grasses glowing in the beech forest (great photo opportunities here), amiable company and conversation made for a satisfying day. Thank you to: Merrick Mitchell, Mike Locke & visitor Jean Pratt.

This Newsletter is also available on the club webpages: www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz
Look for links to member's on-line photo galleries.



PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

Robbing the Bank: NTC beachcombers disguised as rubbish collectors: Jim, Hilde, Pat, Bob & Ruth.

6 November – Mount Cawte – Pelorus Sound

Leader: Jim Maxwell

From the description I received about this walk I expected to be on a little-used rough track going up, and to be off track coming down. It's not signposted but 50m up the track there is a visitor's book box.

The track up is steep and well-maintained, leading to an observation clearing almost at the peak altitude with two picnic tables.

The view looks up Kaiuma Bay, across to Cullen Point and up Mahau Sound. The track was originally built by Outward Bound students for pest control and now the public are being encouraged to make use of it. The views are great from the clearing.

The track continuing on and over the summit is a little rougher and ends at the public road on the western side of the hill. We opted to return the way we came. Companions were Kelvin Drew and David Blunt.

13 November – Barnicoat Range – Nelson

Leader: Gillian Arbuthnott

From the top of Marsden Valley Road, we joined ascending and descending walkers along the service road to the crest of Barnicoat Hill, traversed the paragliders' runway, slid sideways between a gate and the No.8 fencing wire or leapt nimble over a stile (ouch, one person

who shall remain nameless fell flat on their back) and set off along the patchwork of forestry roads in a southerly direction to our destination: the fire lookout at Richmond Hill. The terrain is pleasantly undulating, bereft of any vegetation, shade or shelter so one is always at the mercy of the elements. However, our day was pleasantly mild, sunny and calm and the 360-degree views were perfect to share with several other walkers and clusters of mountain bikers.

Not all of the group made it to Richmond Hill, but after a lunch stop regrouping we were able to enjoy the 360-degree views in reverse, and whilst John and David conversed at length with two wind-challenged paragliders (watch this airspace) the rest of us reclined in the long, soft grass.

A brief sidle along another section of the service road brought us to the Barnicoat Walkway, which involved a rapid and steep descent to the service road and finally, like the Billy Goats Gruff, crossed the stream bridge which brought us to the carpark.

Thank you for your company: David Blunt, Emily Gee, Gillian Arbuthnott (scribe), Jim Maxwell, Mike Locke and visitor John Tolmie.

19 November – Big Beach Cleanup – Boulder Bank

Leaders: Pat and Bob

What a stunning day weather wise, and a great result! According to Janice Gravett from DOC, three tonne less rubbish was col-

lected compared to last year. Because of all your hard work we have 7.5 tonne less rubbish on our local beaches. That's good news for our environment.

Our own twelve volunteers collected no less than 25 large black bags of rubbish in six hours.

Starting at the sewage ponds we beachcombed our way to the baches, collecting quite a few 'treasures' for ourselves as a bonus.

26–27 November – Kirwans Hill – Victoria Forest Park

Leader: Uta Purcell

The weather cancelled the trip twice this year. After a lot of heavy rain it turned more promising, but only Merrick Mitchell was still able to come. We were joined by my daughter, Gisela, as a visitor.

The uphill walk on a well graded pack track through beech and podocarp forest seemed endless but easy, punctuated by some leisurely breaks and some gold mining relics. All streams were bridged, slips no obstacle, and as yet no mountain bikers hurtling down.

Settling into the hut meant some quick dinner preparations and then it was off to Kirwans Hill, as the views were still clear and cloud anticipated for the next day. Being on the open ridges with views in all directions was the perfect finish to a day that had already been quite satisfying. When we returned to the hut again at 8pm, mists settled all around us, followed by a clear,



Merrick Mitchell near Kirwans Hut

PHOTO > UTA PURCELL

star-lit night. Kirwans Hut was built in 1988 and is still stunning. Next morning we could see the Main Divide from our bunks. Breakfast and photography took turns outside on the 'lawn'. Mid-morning we left and had so many diversions on our descent that it took almost the same time as coming up = six hours. Gold prospectors really lived on this hill and we visited the site of an old miner's hut, heaped with relics. A barefoot walker and four trampers were on their way up. With great hilarity it was established that Merrick had met a tramping couple previously on two separate tramps during the last three years. This led to plans being made to combine for a tramp in the new year.

We had planned for three days away, but two days in good conditions fulfilled all our hopes.



Topping out on Mount Mantell

PHOTO > TONY HADDON

3 December – Mount Richmond

Leader: Dan McGuire

Nine stalwart trampers arrived at 7am for an assault on Mount Richmond, the second highest hill in the park of the same name.

Arriving at the top carpark to cloudy conditions, we set off as the weather deteriorated. There was drizzle well before we reached the hut. However, that did not deter most from going on after lunch to look at alpine plants, including North Island edelweiss in flower. Of course it

began to clear as we descended, and we got some partial views. Participants: Dan McGuire (leader), Tony and Gretchin, Liam Sullivan, Uta Purcell, John Faber, Calvin Drew, Durt Mullis (visitor) and Gina Andrews (visitor).

10–11 December – Mount Mantell – Buller district

Leader: Tony Haddon

Weather report, inclination, programme and Huey all combined into a wonderful Buller evening in tents on top of Mt Mantell. Great views, lovely country, lots of really good exercise.

The highlight was a bunch of no less than fifteen keas feeding in the carpet grass basin around our camp. Fortunately they weren't interested in us after the initial commotion. The five participants were: David Sissons, Gretchen Williams, Kristi DuBois, Mark Graesser & Tony Haddon.



Kirwans Hut was architecturally designed back in 1988, but is still a worthy destination

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

TE ARAROA TRAIL >

Our 3,000km national walking trail from Cape to Bluff opened on 3 December. Look out for Ray Salisbury's feature on the TA in the January issue of *Wilderness* magazine.

UPcoming CLUBNITES >

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

Monday 13 February: Show 'n' Tell Nite

Guest Speaker: YOU! (10 mins each person, depending on no.'s)
>>> Get your photos ready!

Monday 2 April:
Guest Speaker: To be confirmed

TRIP LEADERS >

Most of you will now be aware that our bi-monthly trip Programme is now a 'live document' on our club website.

Get your own password from Mike Drake, log in, and select the 'Programme' page. Immediately below the headline is a small subheader named 'Trip List.'

Choose the date/s you wish to lead a club tramp. Jim Maxwell will ensure your proposals fit into what other folk are doing, so we end up with a diverse range of trips to suit everyone.

DISCOUNTS

FMC members receive a 10% discount from the following Nelson outdoor stores:

Basecamp, Altitude & Rollos.

Lyell Saddle Hut

This recently-built hut was started in April 2011 & is now more or less completed but is not open to the public yet. The hut is being used at the moment as a base by track builders who are building a new track for one of the NZ Cycle Trail Projects. It is the first of three new huts on what will be the Lyell-Mokihinui section of a 160km cycleway/tramping route.

Lyell Saddle Hut is two-roomed with a big porch and sleeps twelve. There's good views down into the Mokihinui. It's owned by the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust and will be available for public use, similarly to DOC huts.

The entire *Old Ghost Road* cycle trail is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

Category: Standard Hut
Altitude: 865m (2,837.9 ft)
Capacity: 12
Facilities: Water supply, toilet, enclosed wood burner
Map sheets NZTopo50-BR22
NZMS260-L29

Access: Easiest access is to walk up from DOC's Lyell camp-ground adjacent SH6. It's over 17km up to the hut on an excellent track at an easy gradient. This route was once a dray road as far as Eight Mile Creek, then a pack track on-ward to the saddle.

Us oldies walked up to the new hut in exactly four hours including a couple of stops. Anyone of reasonable fitness could visit the hut & return to Lyell as a day trip.

NZ Trampler website

WRITING COMPETITION

The newsletter needs you!

To spice up our bi-monthly rag, and to motivate aspiring word-smiths, the Editor has launched a club-wide competition.

Deadline: End of 2012.

Prize: Voucher (to be advised)

So, dust off your typewriter, and get writing. This could be your next trip report, or a proactive piece on the pleasure (or pain) of tramping. There's no word limit, but a decent effort will probably score higher than just a few lines. Poetry and prose, (especially humour) are welcome.

Entries limited to members only.

E-mail articles to:
Raymond Salisbury, EDITOR
newsletter@maxnet.co.nz

NEW BEACON

A light-weight 'KANNAD' Flotation 406MHz PLB has been purchased, bringing our total tally of locator beacons to five.

COMMITTEE >

President: Lawrie Halkett
Correspondence Secretary: Pat Holland
Treasurer: Brenda Griffen
Minutes Secretary: Merrick Mitchell
Gear: Mark Stevens
Programme Team Rep: Jim Maxwell
Committee: Raymond Salisbury, Dion Pont, Bob Janssen, Mike Glover, Chris Olds
Newsletter Editor: Raymond Salisbury
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NEW Mailbox: PO Box 1238, Nelson 7040.

PHOTO COMPETITION : WINNING IMAGES

< www.drupal.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz/galleries >

> **Winning entries** for our annual club photo competition are being presented on our club website (URL is above). Keep a look out in the New Year for this.

> **Thanks** to Mark Graesser for his hard work.