



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

# Nelson Tramping Club

## April 2015

### GUEST EDITORIAL COMMENT >

## Caretakers

**After the death of Ruth Hesselyn in March 2012** the club decided to take on the refurbishment of Flora Hut as a memorial project. The first working bee was held in March 2013 when the roof was renovated.

This year we have undertaken the next stage of the project which is renovating the walls of the hut. There have been three weekends when people have worked on the hut. The first involved replacing the rusted gutters on each of the two chimneys. The second and main working bee of 14 people got the exterior walls painted and lining installed in the woodshed to protect the walls from damage. The third weekend completed the interior roof insulation and lining of one bunk-room.

This year we have been assisted financially with a \$6,500 grant from the Outdoor Recreation Consortium administered by FMC. The creation of this \$700,000 fund was announced by Nick Smith at our AGM last year.

There is still plenty of work to be done at Flora Hut. Some fire-damaged wood next to the fireplace needs replacing; both fireplaces are to have firebricks installed and the rest of the interior lining is waiting to be done. Some of this will be completed soon, but there will be more work required next summer.

It has been satisfying to have families with young children, even one baby, staying at the hut while we have been there. This hut is ideally sited for introducing boys and girls to the mountains. I have found participating in this project to be fun, sociable and satisfying. Thanks to the people who have contributed their time, energy and skills to achieve the great results so far.

*See you at Club & Pub Nights...*



**Ian Morris,**  
TREASURER  
[ian.morris.nz@gmail.com](mailto:ian.morris.nz@gmail.com)



### MEMBER PROFILE > Ian Morris

- 1 Place of birth:** Hokitika, although I grew up in Christchurch
- 2 Occupation:** Retired IT manager
- 3 Been a member for:** 2 years
- 4 How have you benefitted from being a member?** Making a new network of friends since I have moved to Nelson recently. Going tramping to places that I didn't know about.
- 5 Best tramp was:** Everest base camp.
- 6 Worst tramp was:** On the northern slopes of Mt Hutt when I jumped down a bank onto a scree slope that proved to be hard, not soft. I took the skin off my finger tips trying to stop.
- 7 Funniest moment was:** 1971 down the Hollyford with an Aussie mate. It rained on the second day and he announced that he doesn't walk in the rain! We didn't get very far on that Fiordland trip.
- 8 Scariest moment was:** Camped in Svalbard where the risk of polar bear attack meant that our guides always had loaded rifles at their sides, and we slept with trip wire and detonators around our tents. You had to be very careful going to the toilet.
- 9 Favourite tramping hut is:** Ministry of Works Historic Hut, Kahurangi National Park.
- 10 What wild place would you put at the top of your 'bucket list'?** Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia, Chile.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

*Tim Tyler, Sally Ward, Joe & Sharon Bretherton*



PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

Happy days on the round-the-lake walk. Pictured on the jetty near Whisky Falls

# TRIP REPORTS

## February–March 2015

### 15 February – Lake Rotoiti circuit – Nelson Lakes

Leader: Chris Louth

**Kicking and screaming, I was dragged unwillingly** away from the comfort of my bed. I hadn't done a clubtramp for eons, and guilt woke me at some God-forsaken hour of the morning to meet my fellow trampers. 'This will be a good leg-stretch' I cajoled myself.

Once we arrived at Lake Rotoiti, there was no car shuttle. We were promptly marched along the road for an extra hour to the trackhead on the lower flanks of Mt Robert. But, in retrospect, this rude awakening was probably just what I needed.

Our merry bunch of day-walkers managed to keep together all day, thanks to a leisurely pace. Mark Townsend breezed past us on his mountain bike – good to see DOC rangers keeping fit.

Morning tea was eaten and drunken on the jetty near Whisky Falls, which, alas, were a misnomer.

Somehow finding my unfit self in the lead, I was delighted that my 'new' iPhone 4S could pinpoint our position so quickly with its inbuilt GPS.

Lunch was started at Coldwater Hut, and finished half an hour later at Lakehead Hut. Both huts were promptly added to my bagger's list, before we set off along the shoreline track back to Kerr Bay – about seven hours of walking in total.

As is often the tradition after hot summer day trips, the wallets came out and the ice creams went in.

**Walkers were:** Chris & Carole Louth, Ray Salisbury (whinging scribe), Kelvin Drew, Pat Holland, Annette LeCren, Bernard Malloy, with visitors Joe & Sharon Bretherton, and Jacky Bozoky.

### 22 February – Barnicoat Walkway – Nelson

Leader: Kate Krawczyk

Well, the joke of the day was **"if you want it to rain just get Kate to lead a tramp!"**

At the Mount Duppa trip a month ago, it hadn't rained in a month ... then it rained. This time it hadn't rained in a month then, lo and behold ... it rained again! Rain was much needed; it didn't dampen the spirits of the group at all – in fact, it added to the adventure, as I will tell you.

We met at 8:30am at my place on Washbourn Drive in Richmond. (Because of the transport issues of this trip, I figured the easiest way to do it was to drop everyone's vehicles here, take my vehicles to Marsden Valley, then walk back to Richmond and get a willing tramper to drop me off on the way back into Nelson.) Fortunately, this strategy worked quite well, simplifying what would otherwise be a 'cross-over' trip with a car exchange.

We started up the Barnicoat Walkway and Tim reckoned that the most interesting route was directly up the ridgeline instead of the side track, which is the most common route! He wasn't wrong – the ridgeline had good views and was made very



Braving the sandflies at Coldwater Hut for lunch

PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH



interesting by its incredible steepness. We gained 550 metres in no time at all. The walk along the top of the range was a cruise after that. And the route is fairly well marked and easy to follow.

We had patchy rain on our way up the ridge and it came down pretty steadily while we were crossing the range. We were planning on a tea break at Saxton Hill but no one wanted to sit in the rain. About two-and-a-half hours into the walk the Richmond Hill fire lookout came into view. It was a welcome sight, being a destination and a possible shelter from the weather, all in one.

As the nine of us straggled up to it like wet dogs, a welcoming figure appeared on the balcony. I'm sure he thought it was pretty strange to see a group of nine up there on such a wet day. Nevertheless, he invited us in and told us some great stories while we consumed our lunch. He'd been sheltering in this humble abode for 14–16 days at a time keeping a keen eye out for forest fires. He told us how he pops down to the supermarket every two or three days to top up on supplies and for a bit of fitness and company.

I plan on carrying him up some chocolate biscuits on my next walk up there.

We continued down the hill using the forestry roads to pick up the top of Jimmy Lee Creek and followed the lovely bush tracks right back to Washbourn Drive. The walkways here are so great that we only had to walk on the road for about 50 metres before we were back at my place. And on our way home for a lovely sunny afternoon.

**Participants:** Kate Krawczyk, Sue Henley, Mike Kirwan, Ron Mailer, Mark Graesser, Arif Methee, Birgit, Balveer Singh and Tim Tyler.

### 1 March – Gordons Knob – Mt Richmond FP

Leader: Lawrie Halkett

**This trip left from Lawrie's place in Richmond** with another group waiting at the Badminton Hall. 13 people travelled in three vehicles to the forestry road up to Inwoods Lookout in the Golden Downs area.

A wrong turn at one junction, and one car discovering that they had a leaky radiator, meant we had to pack into two vehicles for the drive up the road to Inwoods Lookout.

We parked slightly further up the hill where the track to Hunters Hut was signposted. We started the tramp about 8:50am, initially through bush that alternated between beech and semi-open clearings.

Before long we were climbing an open ridge with rocky sections. We took a break at the top of a steep section and Chris, who had done the trip previously, pointed out the sidle that we were to use, turning south to meet up with a ridge that linked our route with the Gordons Knob massif.

This ridge was a series of nergs; some in the bush, some on rocky ground in the open which was more demanding than it seemed when viewed



Kate's party at the Lookout near Richmond Hill

PHOTO > DAVID COOK

from either end.

Once out of the last bush section, it was just a slow climb onto the top; the steepest sections were probably in the bush in the middle sidle section.

There was a fast group who had to be back early, and the main group, which met this group on their descent about half-way up the climb.

While the natural route onto the top at 1685m would have entailed a curved approach, many sidled the intermediate humps on the northern side and all the group were on the summit before noon.

(Note the point we climbed is unnamed; the true Gordons Knob was 100m lower and to the west of our summit.)

Those with cameras were able to take photos from the summit. Both Tapu-a-oenuku and Mount Travers could be made out clearly and a section of Lake Rotoiti. Plus a good segment of the Robert Ridge was also clear. We had been able to make out Mount Taranaki away to the north from early on in the climb.

Many found the descent rather demanding, partly because the slashed vegetation that was covering the track made it quite slippery. Occasionally, we heard the sound of a chain saw and at the car park we meet the person who had been doing some wilding pine clearing. This was fortuitous, as he was able to take the overflow of the group down to the other vehicle, saving us from having to cram ten into the People Mover.

We arrived at the carpark at 3:10pm, though it was closer to 3:30pm before we set off down the road. We were back at Lawrie's place by 4:30pm.

**Club members:** Lawrie Halkett (leader), Kate Krawczyk, Sue Henley, Chris Louth, Ian Dohoo (photos), John Whibley, Mark Graesser; **Visitors:** Sally Ward, Madeline Rohrer, Sharon and Joe Bretherton, Tim Tyler and David Cook (scribe).



PHOTO > MARILYN MORRIS

**A job well done. Participants of the 14–15 March working bee, ably led by club treasurer, Ian Morris (far right)**

### **14–15 March 2015 – Flora Hut Restoration** Leader: Ian Morris

**Following on from the previous working bee** in March 2013 when the Flora hut roof was renovated, this year our objective was to line the woodshed, paint the exterior walls and line the interior.

Work started a fortnight earlier when a small group accompanied Tom Bruce, a roof flashing expert, to replace the rusted gutters on each chimney.

On 14 March the activity commenced with shifting all the firewood out of the woodshed and excavating about half a metre of rotten wood debris that had accumulated underneath. It would have been perfect garden mulch – Kate wished she had brought a trailer. Bob took on the responsibility of designing and installing the woodshed lining which he did very neatly. The walls are now well protected from flying lumps of firewood and even over-vigorous use of the axe!

Brian took charge of preparing the iron walls of the hut and had several assistants removing rust and filling holes, prior to applying the galvanising undercoat. Pat controlled the team preparing the woodwork for painting. Most of the painting was done on Sunday and Michael Kirwan, who is a professional painter, gave us invaluable advice. It was a relief to have warm sunny weather after the frost, ensuring both coats of paint dried quickly.

The walls are now Bowman (creamy yellow) and the doors and windows frames are Nelson Red. The colours were chosen to be historically accurate to match an old 1928 black and white photo of the hut, strangely enough!

Kate took the lead clearing the drainage trench across the back of the hut utilising her gardening skills. Marilyn arranged flat rocks beneath the eaves where the water drips without any gutters on the roof. Brian and Mark put polyurethane on the plywood ready for lining inside the hut.

One week later Silvano installed polystyrene insulation and plywood lining on the ceiling of one bunk-room, not an easy job, because nothing was square. This bunk-room should be slightly warmer this winter – it will be better still when we get the walls insulated and lined.

Participants on 28 February: Tom Bruce, Simon Ridgen, Ian Morris, Marilyn Morris, Lawrie Halkett, Kay Halkett, Bill Fergie.

Participants on 14–15 March: Ian Morris, Marilyn Morris, Pat Holland, Chris Louth, Marie Lenting, Mark Grasser, Joe Bretherton, Sharon Bretherton, Kate Krawczyk, John Whibley, Brian Renwick, Tim Tyler, Bob Janssen, Michael Kirwan.

Participants on 21 March: Silvano Lorandi, Ian Morris

**VIEW MORE PHOTOS ON-LINE**





This year marks the 13th year of the **NZ Mountain Film Festival**. A favourite event amongst mountain enthusiasts, filmmakers and adventurers, the Festival will return to Wanaka, Cromwell and Queenstown on **July 3 to 11**. The Wanaka 5-day programme includes several new shows and the Queenstown programme has been extended to 3 days. The Photography & Movie Competitions are also a huge draw-card.

**Alex Hannold** ~ Keynote Speaker extraordinaire!

This world famous climber has featured in a bunch of movies. This phenomenal athlete holds many records for free solo ascents of big walls, most notably the only known solo ascent of the Yosemite Triple Crown. It is not only Alex's physical feats that are memorable; his calm and cheerful character is infectious. His warm smile and cheeky demeanour are sure to captivate the audience at this year's Festival.

**Tickets:** Tickets to the festival go on sale on, June 3, mark your calendars! The Festival opens in Wanaka July 3rd, and closes in Queenstown on July 11th.

**facebook**  
NELSON TRAMPING CLUB

**Kate Krawczyk** has spearheaded another great initiative... this time it's our very own virtual pub night, a.k.a., a club Facebook page.

Yep, we've finally embraced the digital age, so get used to it, Luddites! On this social networking website you may:

- Share your photos of a tramping trip
- Share your opinions & trip ideas
- Keep up-to-date with what's happening

Remember, 'sharing is caring'... so keep all your comments positive on this forum. Here's the link:

[www.facebook.com/NelsonTrampingClub](http://www.facebook.com/NelsonTrampingClub)



## Federated Mountain Clubs AGM+WORKSHOPS

**13 JUNE 2015**

Trevinos Conference Centre,  
22 Riccarton Road, Christchurch

A brief AGM will be held in the morning followed by three speakers:

**Robin McNeill**, President, FMC

**Hon. Maggie Barry**, Minister for Conservation

**Lou Sanson**, Director-General, Conservation Department

After lunch there will be workshops:

- Achievements from Partnership: the new Huts & Tracks fund and how to do more of it.
- Intro to CCPF and H&T (Robin McNeil).
- Around the Country: Slide show and brief presentations from projects from around the country.
- Restoring old huts for use: The experience of getting on with the job, sorting the bureaucracy and practical issues.
- How Permolat operates, how it evolved, and tips and tricks for hut and track work.
- Practical tips from restoration of Tunnel Creek Hut, Paringa River (Geoff Spearpoint).
- The land managers' perspective: key DOC staff.

Panel Discussions with audience participation:

- Panel 1: Getting going - tips, tricks and other ideas to save reinventing the wheel.
- Panel 2: What can go wrong? Are you going to court when it does? HSE, OSH and contracts in practice.
- Panel 3: Websites, Facebook & Wiki. Can we share our ideas better?
- Panel 4: Where to next for the H&T fund?

Discussions, information sharing and chats over drinks.

NTC members are very welcome to attend this event. **Pat Holland** will be going as a current member of the FMC Executive and can provide transport.

## UPcoming CLUBNITES...

### Monday 13 April Pub Night

- The Free House
- 95 Collingwood St, Nelson
- From 7pm onwards...

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@nelsontrampingclub.org.nz) for info.

### Monday 4 May ROCK WREN

7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate

Speakers:

**Tristan & Anya Rawlence** / DOC

*Study of the elusive Rock Wren, hidden on the Garibaldi Range, Kahurangi National Park*

DOC are funding a study of the Rock Wren in the wilderness section of Kahurangi. This area has no huts or tracks. Come along and listen to the work being done and see a spectacular portion of Kahurangi that few trampers ever venture in to.

Monday 8 June

### Project Janszoon

7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate

Speaker:

**Devon McLean** / Project Janszoon

Devon is the Director of Project Janszoon, the organisation that aims to get Abel Tasman National Park free of predators. He will speak on the progress so far and the Project's aims for the future.

Monday 6 July

### Pub Night Venue to be advised

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.

Regarding the committee, please consider putting your or another name forward for the Committee. Nominations close in late July so you cannot be dragooned at the AGM. Contact the Secretary **Pat Holland** for a Nomination Form. We keep the AGM very brief but functional. Come along and contribute, then be entertained with our special guest speaker.

**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.

## DOC UPDATES

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

**Dun Mtn Track** is closed. Entire **Brook Sanctuary** is closed during weekdays for the predator fence construction. See [Brooksanctuary.org/news/track closures](http://Brooksanctuary.org/news/track_closures).

> *Mt Richmond Forest Park*

The **Mt Fell Hut** has finally been closed due to its hazardous location, prone to slips or rockfall.

> *Kahurangi National Park*

### Balloon Hut Renovation

Waimea Tramping Club were successful in its application to the Outdoor Recreation Consortium. Their application was approved in March for **\$12,863.50**.

These funds will pay for the replacement of the gas heater, a new wood burner, along with a flue, hearth and woodshed, plus associated costs. (Not sure what the 50 cents will pay for – Ed.)

## Photo Comp WINNING PICS

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#) the best of our annual photography competition, displayed as a slideshow on our club website:



## 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

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