



Newsletter of the
NELSON TRAMPING CLUB

Founded 1934, Nelson, New Zealand
www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz

Nelson Tramping Club March 2016



PRESIDENT'S PIECE :

Keep your powder dry

A couple of recent trips in the hills provided me with some reminders of the pleasures and follies of our wonderful pursuit. Here are a few gems of wisdom that I have gathered from these trips and others. I offer them in the spirit of instruction, not destruction. Some of the follies are my own; others by tramping friends who shall remain nameless.

It is axiomatic that some of our trips will be conducted in less than ideal weather. Even careful prior study of weather maps cannot preclude all risk of wind and rain for multi-day trips. I believe an unduly cautious approach to trip planning detracts from the totality of our experience in the hills. The changeable New Zealand climate indeed offers challenges and also some rewards. But we should always follow the Boy Scout motto: "Be prepared."

The generally clement weather in Nelson does tend to lull us into sloppy habits that can come back to bite us on trips in the Western ranges. Here are some elementary points to reduce the pain and increase safety on multi-day trips under persistently wet conditions:

Pack liner – an essential item but wear and tear leads to small cuts and pinholes that are disastrous under heavy rain. A full pack functions like a lung: your walking motion 'breathes' water into the compressible pack and items therein. Replace your liner frequently, even when it appears okay.

Sleeping bag stuff bag – standard nylon bags are not water proof and even a little water getting into a pack is drawn like a magnet to the bag. (Trying to snuggle into wet down is not nice.) A heavy duty plastic bag can be bulky and difficult to seal. A better option is a kayaking wet bag. These are now available in sturdy but lightweight woven material and have an effective but compact sealing system.

Parka – Modern parkas based on Gortex or other proprietary membranes are lightweight and breathable, but tend not to be completely waterproof under persistent rain, especially in the bush. Clean and re-proof your parka regularly and replace when useless.

No cotton – Cotton underwear and tee-shirts quickly absorb rainwater and sweat, are slow to dry and provide little insulation. Hypothermia can arise under mild conditions, especially with wind. The core body is the key to keeping the extremities warm. Make sure you use wool or synthetic layers, even in summer, as these provide some insulation when damp. And carry some spares.

Tenting – it is a challenge to keep gear dry in wet conditions including the making or breaking of camp. Modern nylon tents with flies do not generally leak much if in good condition. But care and discipline are essential so tracking of water into the tent and gear is minimised. A pack cover is excellent, so the wet pack can stay outside the tent. Minor leaks and condensation lead to water pooling on the tent floor. Use your parka as an extra sheet to protect the foot of your sleeping bag. Have a small dish cloth to wipe up damp surfaces, including skin.

Food – A diet that suffices for a summer day trip won't provide adequate energy for a multi-day trip, especially in adverse conditions. Always carry some extra food to allow for an extra day's delay. Surplus muesli bars should suffice for further days.

Navigation – this can be very challenging on untracked routes in poor conditions. A map and compass are always good but the map should be in a sealable plastic bag with the key area visible. A GPS can also be useful but it is essential to be able to use it properly. Carry enough spare batteries. GPS apps for smart phones have similar features but battery life is short and they are not waterproof. Plan the route in detail and set up key way points before venturing out into the storm. Microscale navigation in difficult terrain is still dependent on individual experience. Finally, key decisions should be shared with the party.



Happy tramping, rain or shine!

Pat Holland
CLUB PRESIDENT



Pat's party on the top of Gordons Pyramid

TRIP REPORTS

December 2015–February 2016

6 December | Cloustone Mine / Gordons Pyramid | Kahurangi National Park

Leader: Pat Holland

Our party of five left Nelson earlyish, but with some trepidation as the weather forecast was dubious. At Flora Saddle, it was quite windy and cloudy. However, by the time we got to Flora Hut there were small patches of blue sky and we did not need our parkas. We admired the results of the club's hut restoration efforts (to be finished this autumn), before following the Flora Track, then climbing up the Grid Iron track.

The track up to Cloustone Mine was in good order, sheltered from the wind. The forest was delightful with all the greens very bright after recent rain. The sky cleared for us as we stopped for lunch at the bushline just above the mine. Then we marched on up to the summit of Gordons Pyramid (1489m). The wind had subsided to a breeze and the views were glorious across to the Tableland and beyond.

The descent of the ridge track into Horseshoe Basin was uneventful with the karst and some flowers glowing in the fresh sunshine. And, so we continued on up to meet the Mount Arthur track, and followed this down to Mt Arthur Hut, where there were several groups enjoying the day.

Back at the car at Flora Saddle, (7 hours) we congratulated ourselves on a very enjoyable outing that showed weather forecasts should be treated with scepticism, if not disdain. Walkers were: Pat Holland (scribe), Kate Krawczyk, Annette Le Cren, David Cook & Kelvin Drew.

29 November | Beeby's Knob | Mt Richmond FP

Leader: Graeme Ferrier

The tramp to Beeby's Knob had not been completed by the Club for sometime, so a good turnout of 10 members committed to the climb in late November. Most of us arrived on-time at Beeby's car park but two committee members had failed to read the notice properly and drove straight past to start from the Tophouse end! (They did eventually realise their mistake when no-one else arrived.)

The car park was busy with a large group from Stoke about to head off up the track. We followed a little later. The climb through the bush was cool and the scrambling over roots in places was reasonably challenging for some. The team regrouped on a small spur before the climb to the access road just below the bush line. Coming out of the bush on to the road we encountered the Stoke walkers who had stopped for a breather. We decided to push on to the Knob and to Beeby's Hut for lunch.

The road to the top makes it quite easy, but it also makes it foot-slogging and less interesting, but we still had almost 360-degree views back to St Arnaud, Lake Rotoiti, Kahurangi to the west, and some higher parts of the Richmond Ranges to the north. Beeby's Knob is rather innocuous with some small masts and shed near the summit. Some climbed to the top on the way past while others left it for the return trip after lunch.

Beeby's Hut is nestled against the bush in a hollow past the Knob itself. Here we found some shelter from the prevailing breeze and settled down for lunch. This was where the highly experienced 'lost trampers' caught up with us.

The return trip was much easier, being largely down hill, but the root scrambling still required care to avoid any nasty falls. We were passed on this leg by yet another group of walkers, this time from the Waimea Club! Eventually all arrived safely back at the car park to begin the return trip to Nelson.

Trampers: Sue, Kate, Annette, Penny, Uta, Bruce, David, Bob, Kelvin & Graeme.

13 Dec | Trig K – Pelorus Bridge | Marlborough

Leader: Marie Lenting

On a beautiful day early in December, nine members enjoyed a great day at Pelorus Bridge where we walked the 6km loop track from the cafe to Trig K (390m).

The track follows an easy nature walk before entering a native forest hill climb through podocarp, broadleaf and beech, stopping along the way for refreshments and views over the surrounding valleys. Reaching our destination sooner than we expected, we had a wonderful picnic lunch, treated to a variety of Japanese cuisine provided by Tet. Thank you so much for this! To add to this, the view down the Rai Valley – from where we had travelled earlier – was superb.

Following on from lunch, we walked down the slightly rooty track to the rather dry Elvy waterfalls, then on to where the track ends at the Pelorus motor camp. This was new to nearly all of us, so we were most impressed with the facilities provided by

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS...

*Penny Parker, Madeline Rohrer
& Jacqui Bozoky*

Marie and her party on the start line

view of Adele Island and the Abel Tasman coastline.

Brian quickly spotted us on the beach and rowed ashore to ferry us in his rubber ducky to the comfortable 30-foot yacht, where after a safety briefing by the captain, we became "the crew". Conditions were ideal for cruising and we were soon underway with crew members taking turns to help

DOC; the cooking area and the conveniences. On to the cafe for afternoon tea. Then the Rai Falls, a new experience for us where two of our party braved the very cold water for a swim.

For me, as a first time leader with the club, this trip was very rewarding. Besides myself, only two others in our group had been to Trig K before.

Walkers were: Debbie Hogan, David Cook, Lou & Chrissie Kolff, Dan McGuire, David Blunt, Michelle Cunningham, Tet Yamamoto & Marie Lenting.

20 December | Abel Tasman Walk & Sail Anchorage via Bark Bay to Marahau

Skipper: Brian Renwick

On a bright, sunny Sunday morning, five walkers left Marahau at 7.45am with the aim of joining Brian Renwick's catamaran *Canopus* at The Anchorage in Torrent Bay by 11.30am.

With only a brief drink stop en-route, we arrived at the Anchorage Hut early at 11.00am after a brisk pace, despite stopping at the lookout to take in the

with sailing the boat towards Bark Bay.

Successfully avoiding other vessels and the many kayakers, we stopped to do some seal viewing at Pinnacle Island. Then, after entering Bark Bay, we slowly headed back down the coast towards Adele Island, with Brian providing hot drinks on board to accompany our packed lunches.

As a break, a stop was made to go ashore and climb up to the 115-metre summit of Adele Island. Views were had in some directions but bush cover prevented any panoramic vista at the top. Then, it was back to the boat, sailing past Fisherman Island, then finally disembarking at Coquille Bay. Richard had to have a quick dip in the sea before our 45-minute walk back to Marahau.

Overall, it was a splendid, easy and rewarding day's outing. Thank you, Brian, for organising everything so well.

Captain & leader: Brian Renwick.

Crew & walkers: Ian and Marilyn Morris, Lesley Gunn (WTC), Richard Grandbois (visitor) and Ron (the scribe).



Above left: Brian rows the trampers to his launch trip back to Marahau. **Above:** Ian Morris glad to swap boots for sails

Find us on 

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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1548415462086918>



10 January | Heartbreak Ridge | Nelson

Leader: Bob Renshaw

It's been a couple of years since I last crossed the Heartbreak Ridge so I thought it would be good to repeat the trip to see if much has changed. Unfortunately not! It is just as rough and scrubby as ever. By the time we had reached the first high point at the start of the ridge, my arms and legs were covered in blood from scratches. After a short break we set off along the ridge which undulates over rocky outcrops and rough terrain. There is a sort of track cutting through but it regularly comes to an end.

There were several places along the track where the way on was not too obvious; time was lost searching through the bush; a couple of extra markers here and there would have made life much easier. Fortunately for us the day had started off with some cloud cover and the weather was a bit cooler. (I think we would have baked up there in the full sun).

Eventually, we arrived at Rocks Hut track by 1.30pm for lunch. It was the long slog down to Browning Hut and back out to the Hackett car park, arriving there at just on 5.00pm after 8.5 hours tramping. On the trip were myself (Bob Renshaw), Kate Krawczyk, Bruce Alley & Berni Butler.

FLORA HUT WORKING BEE



16-17 April / Flora Hut

Graeme Ferrier & Ian Morris are busy with planning, negotiating with DOC & ordering materials for the next stage of the renovation of this historic hut during March. Silvano has generously agreed to line the second bunk room.

We need a few volunteers to do the painting & clean up. Even a half-day contribution will be welcome.

Contact **Ian Morris** for further info.
Email: ian.morris.nz@gmail.com
Phone: **546 4785**

HOT POOL HEAVEN

25-28 MARCH : EASTER W/END
Cedar Flats Huts | Wren Creek Springs
Easy-Medium trip up Toaroha
River, inland from Hokitika
> [CONTACT RAY SALISBURY](#) (More details in Trip Programme)



PHOTO > STEVE MCGLOONE

Andrea's party of nine survive their ordeal on the South Side of Owen

SLOW GOIN' UP OWEN

16–20 January | South Side of Mount Owen
Kahurangi National Park

Leader: Andrea Cockerton

With the forecast changing daily and nine hopefuls, we decided to make tracks as planned and head up the pretty Fyfe River to Branch Creek Hut. The southern access to Mt Owen is mooted as more challenging than the popular route via Granity Pass. With DOC-marked tracks up the Fyfe – and leading to the bush line below Sunrise Peak from the Owen Valley East Road – we simply had to join the dots ... easy!

With hearty introductions and a bad sales pitch of the route, which turned out to be neither 'dry' nor 'cruisey', we were off up the delightfully-named Flying Pan Creek. After an hour the track veers north-east to join the Fyfe River. Thereafter, it pretty much follows the river and a trapline, in parts dwarfed by some steep bluffs. There are river crossings, sidles and careful footwork to avoid ongaonga. We saw a couple of blue ducks.

Ready for some snoozing, we arrived at Branch Creek Hut (920m) after some nine hours. There were several amended versions of the route description by this stage, all relatively polite; mutiny was not yet rife! Around the hut, the damp, long grass made for interesting tenting, although the site was flat enough.

The drizzle of Saturday stayed through the morning as we climbed up the grassy ridge to Point

WE WERE SLIPPING
AND SLIDING OUR WAY
DOWN TO THE BUSHLINE.
IT FELT PRETTY DAMN
GOOD TO HUG A TREE.

1500m and onto Replica Hill, just 50m shy of the height of Mount Owen. The clouds shifted and parted creating a constantly changing vista and tantalising glimpses of the panorama. We were going to see it all, if only by piece meal.

Coming down the south-east side of Replica Hill to the saddle between Mt Owen, we parted company, albeit for a brief few hours. Bombermonk, Michele, Ian, Steve and myself took the route up to Mount Owen summit, easily attained after 40 minutes by picking up the well-cairned route from the northern approach. The rest of the team headed down to Poverty Basin to set up camp near a tarn.

The visibility continued to improve, so when we got down to the basin a couple of us took off again walking southwest along the ridge to Point 1732 with amazing views of the karst landforms of Sunrise Ridge and down to Bulmer Lake. It was



PHOTO > PAT HOLLAND

Forever optimistic, Kate, Andrea & Michelle are still smiling

pretty special and we arrived back a few hours later. Kate and Pat had also been scoping out potential route options on their ramble.

Ready to hunker down for the night, we were all temporarily thwarted due to rising winds. So, with great teamwork, we relocated all the tents deeper into the basin, then fell happily asleep.

We woke to the kind of rain reserved for the West Coast, where the folk are hardier. We were softer, staying in our nice tents. It didn't last; the whistle went; the countdown began, and we were off. The next two hours were interesting indeed. We had to get over to Sunrise Ridge, but it was like a giant maze with poor visibility.

This was no fairytale, but like Mad Hatters, we scurried up and down. There was no tea party either, as we huddled under a rock biv for some solace. The Cheshire Cat would have been smiling indeed. With tenacity and technology (3 x GPS's) we made our way, following cairns.

The next challenge was to exit off the ridge. With steep bluffs, plenty of spaniards, mud and rain, we took over an hour to reach the bushline, each of us, at some point, slipping and sliding our way down. It felt pretty damn good to hug a tree. We were safe; we were off the tops and going home; just a quick jaunt through the bush. However, the rain got heavier and some of the party got slower.

Fast forward a couple of hours, when five of the crew are now stuck on the north bank of the seriously flooding Owen River. Four got across earlier to the south bank. I later discovered the South-Siders were dining on chocolate pudding, relishing flat tent sites and nice views. While the North-Siders had sloping camp sites in the mud. Times were desperate, as I wondered who would make good eating.

Fast forward 36 more hours, when the flooded river finally dropped by the second morning. We were getting outta there! John walked gallantly into camp, loaded with food, and led us the short distance to the road-end. Chris Louth, Lawrie Halkett and John had been doing

a sterling job liaising with SAR, loved ones and various employers. A big 'thank you' to them and everyone on the trip who worked together to keep everyone safe and sane.

North-Side campers were: Ian, Steve & Ben.
South-Side campers were: Pat, Bombermonk (Michel from Belgium), Michele, Kate & Andrea (scribe).

23 January | Captains Creek Hut | Mount Richmond Forest Park | Marlborough
Leader: Liam Sullivan

Nine of us departed Nelson on a day that promised to be hot and fine. First stop was Pelorus Bridge, where we picked up three others: Andrea, Simon & Daniel who were taking packrafts up to Captains Creek Hut for a return trip to the bridge.

We set off from the road end arriving at Emerald Pools, a popular picnic spot with a lovely deep stretch of water some 45 minutes later. After a quick stop, we continued along the track which ascended up to a spur, then sidled a ridge, well above the river. Thankfully, this remained within the shade of beech forest for most of the way. The track eventually dropped back towards the river and eventually took us to the turn-off down to the hut, some 3.5 hours from the start. Being on the Te Araroa, the hut receives large numbers of visitors, particularly foreign, with a United Nations directory in the hut book. A few of us braved the water which was certainly refreshing.

After lunch, we returned to Emerald Pools for a slightly longer swim where the water felt significantly warmer than it was upstream. Then it was an easy walk back to the cars.

Party: Bob Renshaw, Val Latimer, Gretchen Holland, David Cook, Bruce Alley, Richard Talbot, Amanda Gregg (visitor), Jack van der Geest (visitor) & Liam Sullivan (leader & scribe).



Liam's party at Captain Creek Hut up the Pelorus River

PHOTO > LIAM SULLIVAN



30 January–1st February | Kahurangi Point Lighthouse | Kahurangi National Park

Leader: Kate Krawczyk

We set out from Nelson around noon on the Saturday, heading for the mouth of the Anatori River. It took about three and a half hours to get there with a coffee/ice cream stop in Takaka on the way. It's all narrow and windy shingle road past Collingwood. And there must have been a convention of large boat owners at Mangarakau that week because I have never seen that road so busy. And, it's not the kind of road where you want to meet large oncoming traffic. However, we made it safely and set up camp, gathered some firewood and explored the river mouth.

We decided that we would carry on driving to the Tumirawiwi River crossing which would cut at least an hour and 5 km off of the walk to the hut and put us in a better position to cross the rivers at low tide which was at 10:40am. Crossing the Anatori by vehicle was very do-able for both vehicles.

The major river crossings are the Anaweka River and Big River; with Big River being the deepest. It took about an hour and a half walk down the beach to reach the Anaweka by 10am and it was an easy crossing – just over my knees – and I am short! A few of the crew wanted to take a morning tea break at that point but I was keen to carry on and get across Big River. I was a bit nervous because I heard it can be difficult.

We got to Big River at low tide – what a relief! But it was tough to tell where the best place was to cross, as the river was wide and brackish. We found that close to the mouth where the river meets the sea was the shallowest that day. It was waist deep for me; I wouldn't want to do this in the winter. But, because it was such a beautiful hot summer day, we all got safely across. We decided to stop for lunch and a swim – gorgeous!

We carried on for another hour or so and walked right past the hut ...seriously! It was not obvious from the beach and is set back about 60 metres in the trees; you have to keep a keen eye inland. If you get to the lighthouse, you've gone about a half a kilometre too far.

The hut is huge and lovely. It has a great history, being the lighthouse keeper's hut until the lighthouse was automated back in the 1960s. It has four bedrooms, a massive kitchen and a fully-equipped bathroom with bathtub and vanity. To run a hot bath, you just light the fire and wait for

the wetback to heat the water – what luxury in the backcountry!

The biggest issue was the sandflies, which were unbearable. They made lounging outside the hut on the front verandah impossibly uncomfortable. So, we were somewhat confined to the hut; a typical West Coast scenario.

We headed down to the lighthouse that afternoon but couldn't follow the beach at that point because it was now high tide. However, resourceful Rod had found a route description in the hut book that gave us directions. So, off we went with a bit of bush-bashing over the sand dunes to the lighthouse.

On Monday, we made our way out in a leisurely fashion with low tide being closer to noon. The non-retired folk headed back to work; the retirees slowly made their way back to the 'big smoke' of Nelson.

Participants: Rod and Carole Lewis, Debbie Hogan, Madeleine Roeher, David Cook, Marie Lenting & Kate Krawczyk (scribe).

31 January | Sharlands Creek traverse to Marybank Road | Nelson

Leader: Bruce Alley

Being only a half-day walk, our small party of three 'Mighty Marybankers' set off from the Sharlands Creek carpark in the Maitai Valley at the leisurely hour of 9am. Following the creek track to an intersection, then taking a left turn up the Supplejack Trail, we wound our way up the hill through regenerating native bush, pausing occasionally to appreciate the scenery and the peaceful silence which was punctuated only by the sound of birdsong. Only one came down from the canopy and posed for a photo.

An hour and a half later, we reached the lookout where there was a convenient seat from which to gaze at the superb panorama of Tasman Bay.

The next two hours were completely different. We walked along the open tops of the Hira Forest, following various undulating 4WD tracks to climb Wells Hill (458m), which is directly adjacent to the Boulder Bank Drive below. Good views were to be enjoyed of the inland peaks – Fringed Hill, Wooded Peak, Dun Mountain, Little Twin and The Doubles. We then descended to Harris Hill Farm with its charming rental cottages, passing one currently inhabited by Ian and Susan. After more views towards Atawhai and the port, we arrived just in time for lunch at my place in Marybank, beating the hottest part of the day.

Thanks for your company Ian and Susan Dohoo, my two Canadian companions and NTC members. So glad you enjoyed the diverse walk situated so close to the heart of the city.

By Bruce Alley (guide, scribe, and always open to a bribe).



PHOTO > DAVID COOK

Celebrating Valentines Day with funky sunglasses are Graeme, Debbie, Jacqui, Bernie & Kahurangi at Lake Rotoiti

TO PARADISE & BACK

**14 February | Mount Robert Circuit
Nelson Lakes National Park**

Leader: Debbie Hogan

On Valentine's Day, six intrepid trampers set off for Mount Robert in a "Maxi Taxi". Our driver, Bernie, (and her son Kahurangi), were tramping with the club for the first time. It was also their first time up the Robert Ridge and the pain of the Pinchgut climb. It was also a first for Jacqui, who fell in love with the whole area, photographing everything.

Graeme led the way, David was the tail-end-Charlie and the trip leader Debbie was somewhere in-between. The weather was perfect for a ridge walk, not too hot, with just a hint of cooling breeze and wonderful views.

After a gentle wander up Robert Ridge the party returned home via the Bushline Hut and Paddy's Track. In the afternoon sun the track was somewhat hotter than the ridge especially in the absence of the cooling ridge breeze. In no time at all we were all back at the taxi, where the newcomers were delighted to have completed their first trip up Robert Ridge. For both Jacqui and Bernie, it was just the first step in their planning for an overnight trip to Angelus Hut.

As usual, Lake Rotoiti looked inviting after a hot day in the mountains, so four of the six in the party elected to test the water temperature. It was delightful. When the eels came to investigate, Bernie shared her home-made egg and bacon pie with them, much to the delight of some tourists.

Not forgetting Valentine's Day, Bernie brought

funky sunglasses for all of us, a heart balloon and delicious heart chocolates. All too soon it was time to leave paradise, so we boarded the taxi again and headed home to Nelson. The regular taxi fare would have been \$600 for the return trip. Luckily it was still the usual \$18 each for the NTC members.

Debbie Hogan (trip leader), Graeme Ferrier, David Cook, Jacqui Bozoky, Bernie & Kahurangi Goldsmith.

THE SNAIL TRAIL

21 February | Editor Hill | Marlborough

Leader: Ray Salisbury

On a fine summer's day, eight enthusiastic souls departed Victory Square, drove over the Whangamoas, then took the less-travelled road to Duncan Bay in the Tennyson Inlet. At Opouri Saddle (520m), our cars were swapped for boots, and we began the steep ascent. Up, up, up a ridge, cautiously clambering over roots and rocks. This was not an official track, but was well-marked with plastic blue triangles. Once over the crux, a 3-metre cliff requiring the use of handholds and careful foot placement, we drank in a stupendous view over Pelorus Sound to the north. Views over to Tasman Bay and south to the distant Richmond Ranges were enjoyed. This was the first of a series of rocky promontories

WILDERNESS WISDOM:

"Be yourself. Everyone else is taken."



PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

Beside the trig point on Editor Hill, Marlborough Sounds. Pictured are Dion, David, Steve, Ian & young Jacqui

which offered relaxing rests en route.

The ridge here narrowed somewhat, dropping down to a small saddle before climbing over the second rocky knob. Beech forest morphed into podocarp and rata. Tomtits and robins visited us as we waited for the slower members to catch up. Of course, the title of this piece refers only to the numerous empty shells of native *powelliphanta* found on the ground. Plastic pink triangles nailed to various trees indicated a recent snail survey had been undertaken here. I surprised a herd of goats who bolted into the bush.

The old track became easier as we passed the third knob and walked into the garden shed-sized bivouac, used by DOC workers. It was locked, but the rain tank provided much-welcome water. After lunch, David and Bernard decided to head home.

Ray pushed on with his troupe to the high point of the Bull Range (1040m). From there it was a team effort in locating bits of blue tape across unusual boggy clearings to discover the steel trig point atop Editor Hill. From there we gazed 1000 metres down to Okiwi Bay, far below.

On our return journey, now numbering six souls, a minor incident occurred as we raced down the final ridgeline to the cars. Young Jacqui slipped and fractured her wrist, but was promptly bandaged up by Dr. Steve. Of equal concern was the safety of our vehicles, guarded by David and Bernard who were bravely fending off weka attacks when we arrived.

So, the eight weekend warriors were reunited at Opouri Saddle. An endurance epic of eight hours was enough to bag Editor Hill, the naming of which we debated on the way home. (Certainly, this editor feels 'over the hill'.)

Adventurers were: Dion Pont (hutbagger), Ian Morris (hutbagger), Ray Salisbury (hutbagger & scribe), David Cook (hutbagger), Jacqui Bozoky, Bernard Molloy, David Wheeler (WTC) & Steve McGlone (visitors).

Sherpa **TROUBLE ON EVEREST**

MONDAY 14 MARCH | 6:15pm | STATE CINEMA

The filmmakers set out to make a film of the 2014 Everest climbing season from the Sherpas' point of view. Instead they captured a tragedy that would change Everest forever. At 6.45am on 18th April 2014, a 14 million ton block of ice crashed down onto the climbing route, killing 16 Sherpas. This movie tells how the Sherpas united in grief and anger to reclaim the mountain they call Chomolungma.

Tickets are \$20 each. All profits from ticket sales support the Himalayan Trust. Book on-line or at State Cinema Nelson.

UPcoming CLUBDATES...

7pm, Monday 7 March

Pub Night THE HONEST LAWYER

- 1 Point Road, Monaco
- 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 for the next couple of months. Email: [Kate Krawczyk](mailto:kate.krawczyk@nelsontrampingclub.org.nz) for info.

Monday 4 April

Club Night 7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate Speaker: Mark Graesser

To the Dragon's Teeth with James Mackay in 1856: *an exercise in vicarious tramping*

James Mackay Jr, then in his 20's, explored the mountainous hinterland of Golden Bay on three expeditions in 1856 & 1858. During these trips, Mackay named such features as Mount Olympus, Clark River, & the Diamond Lakes. This talk will focus on the first trip, to the headwaters of Aorere River, based on a close analysis of Mackay's reports in relation to today's topographic knowledge, with computer mapping & display tools. There will be a briefer account of two subsequent trips to the headwaters of the Takaka.

Sat & Sunday 16-17 April

Working Bee FLORA HUT RENOVATIONS

Monday 13 June

Club Night Speaker: TBA

learn LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY

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

Dates: 9-10 APRIL
2-Day Golden Bay road-trip

Dates: 23-25 APRIL
3-Day West Coast road-trip

We stay in quality accommodation but 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. **Ray Salisbury** will help you master your camera faster with 1-2-1 tuition.

Location shoots include:

- Wharariki Beach / Collingwood
- Punakaiki coastline, inc. 12 Mile, Truman Track & Pancake Rocks
- Cape Foulwind Walkway
- Charming Creek Walkway
- Denniston Incline

www.hotpixels.co.nz



WILDERNESS MAGAZINES

The club receives 2 copies of each monthly magazine, which you are entitled to read. Contact a Committee member if you wish to read an issue.

Remember to collect your copy of the *FMC Bulletin* at Wises Picture Framing in Buxton Square, around mid-March.

TRIP LEADERS!

It is imperative that we fool-proof a few 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@nelsontrampingclub.org.nz), [Lawrie Halkett](mailto:lawrie.halkett@nelsontrampingclub.org.nz) or [Chris Louth](mailto:chris.louth@nelsontrampingclub.org.nz) before leaving. They are the SAR contacts, especially if the hire shops are closed, (e.g. after 4pm.)

In a SAR situation, the police will want to know the names and details of your party.

SAVE TIME...

Download the **Intentions Form** PDF from our [website](http://www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz). (*it's at lower left on the Programme page.*)

SNOW TRIPS...

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

COMMITTEE :

President: Patrick Holland
Correspondence Secretary & Vice President: Kate Krawczyk
Minutes Secretary: Andrea Cockerton
Treasurer: Ian Morris
Programme Co-ordinator & Gear Officer: Chris Louth
Committee: Dion Pont, Graeme Ferrier, Lawrie Halkett, Ray Salisbury.
Patron: Robyn Walsh
Newsletter Editor: Ray Salisbury
Post reports to: 71 Montreal Rd, Victory, or email to: newsletter@maxnet.co.nz

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1548415462086918/>

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