



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

PRESIDENT'S PIECE :

Where shall we wander?

Tourism and the pressure it is putting on public conservation land, resources and DOC is an issue for robust national debate. We should keep in mind the wording in our key conservation legislation. The objectives in order of importance are:

- (1) conserving nature;
- (2) educating the public;
- (3) fostering recreation;
- (4) allowing for tourism whenever compatible with nature.

The push over the last decade to increase both the number of tourists and the proportion visiting national parks is succeeding, with consequent benefits to the national economy. The focus of DOC has moved from allowing tourism to enabling it including through major investments in the Great Walks and front-country visitor facilities.

However, with DOC funding and the contribution from concessionaire fees remaining relatively static, this can only be detrimental to the other objectives especially conservation and back-country recreation for New Zealanders. We certainly lack increased funding for DOC to ensure our rich resources in both these areas are protected. But how to do this? The populist cry is for a tax on overseas visitors: "make the buggers pay!"

FMC has carefully considered the issue and is not opposed to such a tourist tax. But it would be difficult to fairly and efficiently administer to ensure a major net increase in DOC funding. FMC's position is a substantial increase should come directly from the government coffers which are greatly enriched by the 15% GST very efficiently collected from tourists. What are your views on this?

Sue Henley recently led a trip in Nelson Lakes National Park (see Trip Reports) that highlights issues of overcrowded and inadequate facilities in the Sabine Valley with the Te Araroa trail a particular concern. This was evidenced at Blue Lake where a

Nelson Tramping Club March 2017



Kate & Graeme arrive on Moss Pass

PHOTO > SUE HENLEY

highly contagious tummy bug began circulating. Although camping is common, toilet and clean water facilities are often lacking with consequent increases in risks to both pristine environments and the trekkers.

However, we should not overstate the potential for visitor overcrowding to affect our enjoyment. We can and should plan our visits to our iconic places (e.g. Great Walks, Blue Lake, Angelus Hut) in the shoulder seasons or winter. Or just pop over a ridge - Sue and her team found the D'Urville was tranquil compared to the Sabine.

Our recent trip to Lees Creek was also very enjoyable, as this gem of a valley remains uncrowded. For our summer tramping, there is a vast number of wonderful back-country destinations that are not in *Lonely Planet*. This visit off the Rainbow Road, and even more recently to the Ruahines, brought home another vital component of tramping access. More on this in the next issue.



Happy tramping, rain or shine!

Pat Holland
CLUB PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:
Cary Richman

TRIP REPORTS

December 2016–February 2017



17–18 December | Flanagans Hut | Kahurangi National Park

Leader: Ray Salisbury

Ian's Suzuki Vitara rumbled to the end of Baton Valley Road. Wet boots were donned. At the main Baton Ford, we raced along grassy 4WD tracks on the true right.

Generator noise betrayed a gold mining operation and hidden campsite near the claim. We spotted the miners using a dredge in the river.

We also popped in to visit Puk's Hideaway, an iron shanty near the riverside. No one home.

An historic swing bridge was crossed, after 1.5 hours on the go. Now on true right, we passed a trio of naked bathers, mid-river.

For a further hour, we followed the old gold miners pack track to a lovely lunch spot on a log; the summer sun blazing down.

Half an hour further, and we crossed Loveridge Stream, the prominent tributary. Then followed a double crossing of the Baton, where a septet of who eyed us cautiously.

After yet another crossing, the pack track began to dissolve into a desperate ledge above the Baton, which tumbled over multiple drops some 30m below. A series of cables provided a modicum of comfort as a handrail along a tenuous section of the route (approx. 200m). We cautiously negotiated the slippery footings and dubious handholds.

After some four hours we crossed to the true left of the Baton, for the final push up to the hut, (which lasted a further two hours.)

While the old track reappeared and was gently angled, some of us were a spent force in the summer heat, so rested every few hundred metres.

Nevertheless, we enjoyed beautiful beech forest with late afternoon sun lighting up the highest ridges. After about seven hours, Arif sighted the

eight-bunk hut. We had travelled 14km from the road end. The Motueka Tramping Club have done a decent job in maintaining this remote abode over the years.

I boiled the billy while others rested and began eating dinner. By 9pm we hit the pit. Outside, the southern sky was ablaze in starlight.

Sunday dawned clear, but blue skies were invaded with clusters of cumulous. We shot a party portrait and departed at 8:30am.

Our return along the Baton went without mishap. Patrons: Ray Salisbury (scribe), Ian Morris, Jeff & Arif Matthee.

- 7 hrs tramp
- 7 river crossings
- 7 side streams forded
- 7 blue ducks
- 7 people on track (some clothed, some not)
- = a perfect weekend in the Hills

26–30 December | Moss Pass | Nelson Lakes NP

Leader: Sue Henley

DAY 1 : our trip began on Boxing day morning with a quick car shuttle to avoid having our cars targeted by thieves while parked at Mt Robert car park for seven days.

The track to Speargrass Hut proved to be quite greasy underfoot due to the recent rain, with seven days worth of food, tents and equipment, the going was slower than usual.

We stopped at Speargrass Hut for a good break before carrying on toward Sabine Hut and Lake Rotoroa. The track heading towards Rotoroa is relatively easy for the first couple of hours before it again becomes like the rest of the track – rough and undulating with tree roots and minor creek crossings – before a long winding descent down to Sabine Hut.

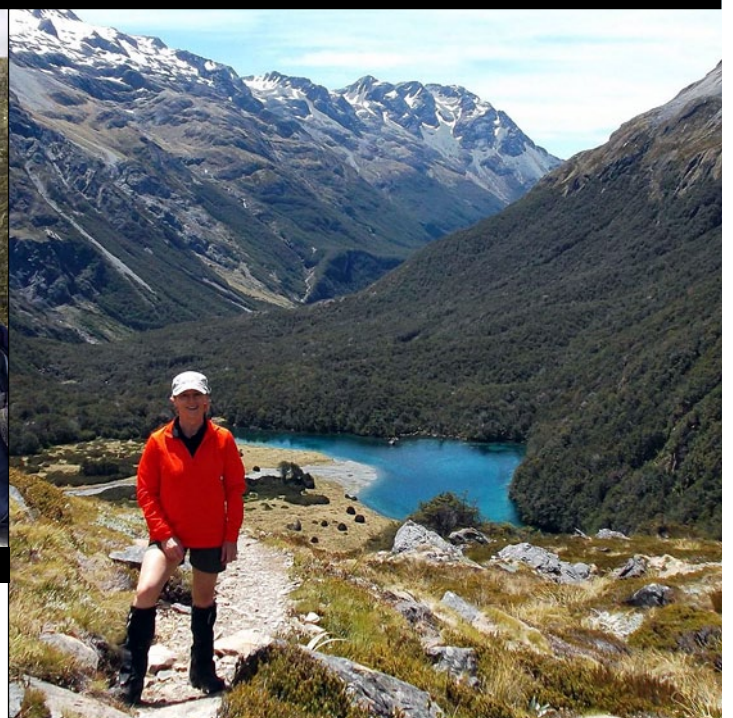
We arrived at the hut to find it already about 3/4 full of people, many of the occupants having caught the boat in that day. Some of our party opted to set up their tents rather than spend the night in a busy hut with lots of kids who, I must say, were really pleasant and well behaved.

DAY 2 : After an unexpectedly good night's sleep, we were up early to beat the forecast showers. Preparing to walk to West Sabine, we bid our farewells to one of our party who decided his knees were not up to the job. He decided to take the boat out instead.

The remainder of us carried on up the valley. At around half way, we started to meet lots of people returning down the track. We learned of a rather rowdy group of party-goers who had carried in their portable stereo, disturbed the peace and generally made a nuisance of themselves at the hut for a couple of days. Thankfully, we met this group on their way out, looking totally unprepared, one of them wearing a towel around him, others wearing



John, Rod, Sue, Cary, Kate & Graeme



Sue Henley above Blue Lake on the way to Lake Constance

sneakers and other unsuitable clothing.

Somewhere along the way, a couple of us also had an unwelcome encounter with some nasty's of the flying kind. Unfortunately, they had a dislike to one particular member of our group throughout the whole trip. Luckily, we kept him dosed up on antihistamine and some Ibuprofen.

We arrived at West Sabine Hut. As we entered, we were rather puzzled by the two sets of gumboots sitting in the porch, wondering who they might belong to.

Some light rain set in shortly after we arrived. We sat in the hut enjoying some refreshments, while listening to the rather far-fetched and amusing theories of one particular occupant. After having heard enough of his anecdotes, some of us opted for a cold swim or wash in the river.

At some stage, over the next few hours, we learned that the gumboots belonged to the two Asian occupants who had worn them on the Travers-Sabine circuit. How they made it out in one piece beggars belief.

DAY 3: After another early start we headed towards Blue Lake. Along the way, we encountered a massive boulder which seemed to have landed beside the track very recently. There was fresh earth and damaged trees where it had landed, dislodged by earthquake perhaps? Scary stuff.

After a steep climb we arrived at beautiful Blue Lake. Though the hut was half full, Kate and John listened to a tip by a fellow trumper and quickly set their tent up by the lake in the most idyllic camping spot you can imagine.

After some rest and refreshments, we said goodbye to another two of our party who decided not to tackle the steep climb to Moss pass with its knee-crunching descent over the other side.

The remaining four of us took a scenic side trip up to Lake Constance. It was wonderful not to be carrying a pack and the views were stunning. We returned to the hut, which was now full, but throughout the day more people trickled in until about 8pm. Some arrived in a sorry state from

Caroline Bivvy after 12 hours, under-prepared and barely able to walk; others arrived without any food or adequate equipment. One of this group was also complaining of stomach pains and feeling ill.

DAY 4: After another early start we began the grunt up to Moss Pass. It wasn't as bad as I had anticipated and the views at the top were worth the climb. We found a spot out of the wind and stopped for a break before beginning the long knee-crunching descent down into the D'Urville Valley.

When we finally reached the bottom, we celebrated with a much-needed lunch stop by the river. We reached George Lyon Hut much earlier than expected and so decided to carry on to Morgan Hut instead. The views along the D'Urville Valley were beautiful – and peaceful after Blue Lake. We had the really lovely Morgan Hut to ourselves. The location was stunning.

DAY 5: After another good night's sleep we made our way towards D'Urville Hut and back to Lake Rotoroa. The wasps decided to pick on Graeme once again, who had, by now, had enough. We bumped into two trout fisherman who were the only people we'd seen since leaving Blue Lake.

We stopped at D'Urville Hut for a cuppa and bite to eat. While we were there, a rather annoyed water taxi driver showed up looking for another trumper who was nowhere to be seen. We continued, easily fording the D'Urville River. However, finding the track on the other side was somewhat of a challenge; not very well-marked.

We continued along the lake track towards Sabine Hut, I have to say this track in some parts is in serious need of some maintenance; not recommended for trampers wearing gumboots! As we got nearer to Sabine Hut, we began to hear stories of people with vomiting and diarrhoea.

We eventually arrived to find the hut almost full,



Kate's intrepid party of eight survive the miserable weather on Gordons Pyramid

with some of the occupants looking rather unwell. Kate and John wisely decided to sleep in their tent while Graeme and I risked the hut. I used the hand sanitiser after touching anything, while Graeme got OCD about hand-washing. All our precautions paid off, either that, or we were very lucky, as we escaped unscathed!

Having heard reports of bad weather on its way, we decided to skip the night at Speargrass and instead carry on through to Mt Robert car park.

We left Sabine at around 7.30am. The track seemed much less of a challenge this time and we made Speargrass Hut in good time. After some refreshments, we returned to the cars before the rain set in.

After arriving home and cleaning and sorting some of my gear, I checked my emails, shocked to read the newspapers had been in contact and there was some concern that our group may have contracted the dreaded Noro-Virus! Of course, we were all fit and well, but I have to say, I took extra care to disinfect, wash and scrub every bit of gear that I had used on the trip.

A big thank you to all those who joined me: Kate Krawczyk & John Whibley, Cary Richman, Carole & Rod Lewis, Graeme Ferrier, & Sue Henley (scribe).

31 December 2016 | North Peak | Mt Richmond FP
Leader: Bob Renshaw

I thought it would be a good idea to put a trip on for the last day of the year but giving only two days notice I didn't expect any calls.

On the day three of us set off expecting strong winds but it was very calm as we climbed steadily up the ridge in fact a very pleasant morning. As we reached the summit we could see the clouds starting to move in over the surrounding hills. From the summit we descended the scree to the small creek below the track leading up to Gordon's Knob and climbed up onto the low saddle. From there we followed the track back along to the ridge and back down to Inwood's Lookout to complete a great day out.

On the trip were Bob Renshaw, Kath Ballentine and Chris Louth.

7 January | Gordons Pyramid | Kahurangi NP
Leader: Dan McGuire

Eight stalwart trampers appeared early for the drive to Flora car park. After taking a roundabout route due to excessive chatting, we arrived at the late hour of 9:00 a.m.

The sou'west wind of the previous day was still present, so we headed for Flora Hut and beyond, in the hopes of meeting a calmer day by the time we climbed Gordons Pyramid.

En route, we saw alpine violas, *ourisias*, maori onions, *celmesia spectabilis* and other daisies. But after a lunch out of the wind at the half-way point, we ascended into a very powerful wind and decided to return the way we had come.

After seven hours, we returned to Flora carpark. The moral of the story: pick your weather!

Participants: Kath Ballantine, Penny Parker (photographer), Kate Krawczyk, Kelvin Drew, Bruce Alley, Ian Dohoo & Dan McGuire (leader and scribe)

14 January | Parachute Rocks | Nelson Lakes NP
Leader: Michele Cunningham

On a fine Saturday morning a group of four trampers gathered for a day trip up to Parachute Rocks above Lake Rotoiti in Nelson Lakes National Park. There were a few sandflies around as we parked near the lake and got ourselves organised. However, we soon walked them off. There were surprisingly few wasps, which was nice to see.

The group set off at a cracking pace leaving the 'leader' struggling to keep up. The day started with a steady climb up through lovely bush on a zig-zag track which kept the gradient pretty manageable.

After a climb of about 700m we reached the bushline. It was only a short scramble to the Parachute Rocks themselves, perched high above the eastern side of the lake. It was a clear sunny day with only a light breeze at that stage, as we enjoyed morning tea with a stunning view.

We then scrambled up the next 300m (straight up this time, no zig-zagging) to get to the ridge. Up here the light breeze had turned into a moderate



PHOTO > MICHELE C

Bett enjoys spectacular scenery on the Parachute Rocks track. Lake Rotoiti provides a worthy backdrop.

and quite chilly wind, so jackets were donned.

We didn't have to go far along the ridge before we could get a panoramic view of Lake Rotoiti. It is slightly boomerang-shaped, with the ridge on this side being on the inside of the boomerang.

I have only ever been on the opposite (Robert Ridge) side before, where parts of the lake are always blocked from view, so this was quite a novelty, and definitely required "panorama" mode on the camera. We also bumped into a lone photographer with a large camera and tripod, busy taking photos of alpine plants.

A little further along, we found a nice lunch spot slightly off the main ridge, looking down into a basin. We then dropped off the other side of the ridge towards a trap line that Chris knew, as an alternative route back down.

After sitting just above the bushline soaking up the warm sun and the view, we headed back into the bush.

This time it was straight down, holding onto trees and following the trap line ribbons. For the most part the track wasn't too hard to find, and before we knew it we had popped out on the main lakeside track and headed down to a pebbly beach where Steve jumped into a swim. Then it was a short jaunt along the lakeside back to the carpark where more swims were had to finish the day off in style. A very pleasant day all round.

Trampers were: Chris Louth, Steve McGlone, Bett Koch and Michele Cunningham (scribe).

4–5 February | Lake Angelus | Nelson Lakes NP

Leader & Scribe: Sue Henley

This trip was initially supposed to take place in November but was cancelled due to unsuitable weather. Unfortunately, the hut on Waitangi weekend was booked out well in advance and as a result only three of us set off.

The forecast for the Saturday was for moderate winds with the odd shower so there was some consideration given to travelling the Speargrass route.

However, when we got to Mt Robert car park the air was still with some low cloud. A decision was quickly made to go via the high route and after a short grunt up the Pinchgut Track, we reached the top. Here, the clothing layers quickly began to go back on. We stopped at the shelter for a quick break before continuing along the ridge, into the wind and cold soaking rain. It was miserable and the views non-existent; rest breaks were short, and after four hours we were rather pleased to smell the smoke and see the hut. The hut was about half full at this stage with plenty of Kiwis in the mix; quite a few of them local.

The next morning dawned bright and beautiful with hardly a breath of wind and it took little persuasion to head for Angelus Peak. After a short sharp climb we reached the top to be rewarded by stunning views all round, reaching the top was a special first for one member so after several photos and congratulations we eventually headed back down to the hut for refreshments. Some fit young



PHOTO > SUE HENLEY

Lake Angelus Hut, our local million-dollar mansion

men were taking a skinny-dip as we headed up to the ridge. One young lady in our group suddenly needed lots of rest stops. (I think she also had a pair of binoculars stashed in her pack!) We made our way back along the ridge towards Mt Robert car park. On the way home, we passed lots of tourists and families heading towards Angelus – the hut was going to be busy that night for sure.

It was a very enjoyable weekend. Thank you to both Kate and Liz for the great company.

**6 February (Waitangi Day) | Booth's Cottage
Glenhope Scenic Reserve**

Leader: Ray Salisbury

This is a tried-and-true easy trip that's been on the club calendar for centuries.

On New Year's Day I'd left Lynette in the car, and jogged up the forestry road for half an hour

to the decrepit DOC signboard. But I ran out of an important commodity: time. So, my wee hut-bagging mission was rescheduled for Waitangi Day.

On February 6th, Kelvin Drew did the honours of collecting five eager men and driving us beyond St Arnaud, up the remote Howard Valley. After donning our boots and daypacks, we sauntered up Monument Road to a locked cabin, and a large concrete plinth, decorated with memorial plaques and a gold diggers pan, shovel and pick.

This region of Louis Creek was mined from 1914 and with government assistance during the Great Depression. Amateurs are still allowed to fossick for gold down in the creek.

About 20 minutes amble up the clay track, we enjoyed morning tea at another locked cabin, possibly the site of the old Jeweller's Shop. The sun was breaking through thick clouds; the imminent rain held off. Half an hour ascending a gentle sidle track along the Third Branch saw us enter the elongated cottage, built by Sid Booth and Ray Clarke in 1933.

Booth's Cottage was the family home of Sid and Eva Booth and their son Teddy for more than a decade. DOC decided to maintain it as an historic structure, but it is now barely habitable. The visitor book was begun in 1995.

With my party's agreement, we decided to be more adventurous, and push on up a broad ridge of open beech. The NZFS had marked the track with permolat, and took us about half an hour to reach the 4WD road that drops into Lake Rotoroa.

Long story short, we followed the orika Road past another gold miner's memorial cairn, and more locked cabins, back to the Kelvinator.

Time: 1.5 hrs to Booths Historic Hut.
Total: 4 hours, 45 minutes for loop.

Hutbaggers were: Ray Salisbury (scribe), Kelvin Drew (chauffeur), David Cook (tail-end Charlie), Arif Matthee (navigator) and visitor Grant Derecourt (narrator).

Find us on 

The NTC Facebook page now has more virtual members than real ones, albeit with some duplication. The last count was 206 members!

- 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>



PHOTO > LEAH PARKER

Liz Henderson on the Rotoiti water taxi to Whisky Falls | Lake Rotoiti at dawn from Coldwater Hut | Inset: Tim & Sophie Tyler

PHOTO > LIZ HENDERSON

10 February | Lake Rotoiti circuit | Nelson Lakes

Leader: Tim Tyler

Thinking to build on short walks with my daughter, I figured a flat, easy grade with a hut thrown in would be nice. However, two four-year-olds with unproven ability, plus a late pull-out, meant a tweak to the original plan.

Gathering at Kerr Bay, we were whisked (sorry, couldn't help it) up to the falls jetty by the very accommodating Hamish of Rotoiti Water Taxis. Here we alighted, duly noted said falls and then proceeded to Coldwater Hut for the night.

Fat eels mooching around under the hut jetty, a full moon on a clear night, occasional scrambling of rats in the eaves, platform bunkbeds and fibreglass longdrops made for novelties to be enjoyed.

Dawn found Kath looking very pleased with her new tent. Comment was passed on the quality of morning mist over the lake.

We followed the track south, then forded the Travers at the signposted location, failing to dampen our knees suitably but noting the clarity and ease of travel. A pause at Lakehead Hut and then on to Kerr Bay with regular pauses saw us keep closer to track time than I thought we might, with young James Parker making his mother justifiably proud by walking the entire distance.

Group members were Liz Henderson, Leah & James Parker, Kath Ballantine, Mark Graesser, Sophie & Tim Tyler (scribe).

18–19 February | Lees Creek | Raglan Ranges

Leader: Pat Holland

The two Honda CRVs picked up participants and rendezvoused at Belgrove with military precision at 8:30 am on a fine clear morning. We drove to the Rainbow Road via the farmhouse where we left the rego forms plus \$25 per vehicle road fee (the gate past the ski-field road is unlocked during the summer season).

The dreaded Six-mile Creek ford was shallow and in good order so we drove through to the Lees Creek car park without problems. The team of seven quickly kitted-up and we were across the Wairau River swing bridge by 10:30 am.

The weather was overcast and humid with no wind. The 1 km of track to the swing bridge across Lees Creek was in good order and we enjoyed the walk plus the rather swaying crossing. (Note: this bridge is incorrectly marked as further up the creek on topo maps and GPS.)

The track proceeds on the true left for about three hours to the hut. We moved through a very lovely mix of beech forest and tussock flats with the delightful creek gurgling gently nearby. It is neatly confined in the valley floor and had very clear water. The track is mostly easy going with plenty of opportunities for conversation and sight seeing.

At one rest point there was wonderful trilling from several bellbirds. Little other birdlife was heard above the piercing racket of late-summer cicadas although we did see several robins and fantails. Wasps were not too evident, perhaps as a result of the coolish, wet summer. (What? I got stung – ed.)

The weather turned to intermittent light drizzle by mid-afternoon. We plunged out of a forest section onto the start of the large tussock flat where the hut is located. It is an older forest service 4-bunker that was moved from Sandfly Creek about 20 years ago. The sign on the door incongruously says "Lee Creek." It was occupied by three hunters.

Ray bagged the hut, but to his chagrin we decided not to stay and moved on up valley to find a good camp spot. Pat's shaky memory thought there was a good camp spot right at the forks at the top of the flat. Although the bush edge of the flat was suitable for camping, the true forks were a welter of beech saplings. So, we decided to continue up the South branch.

The un-marked track on the true left is overgrown in parts. We did get concerned about



Seven tents grace the river flats in upper Lees Creek



Sue crosses the spectacular swingbridge over the Wairau

our water supply when the creek disappeared under the boulders. After a steep section above a gorge the track enters a large flat about one hour from the hut. Although the main creek was still underground, a small side stream was running out of some impressive bluffs on the true right and there was excellent camping nearby. This site was quickly occupied by our array of colourful tents and we were well pleased to get established before the forecast period of evening rain.

Although the tops were beginning to clag in, there was a weak sunset and the evening was very still. We had dinner around a camp fire and thoroughly enjoyed being in such a beautiful wild place, especially those who had recently endured full huts in nearby Nelson Lakes National Park. Despite the pressures of tourism we can still readily find plenty of fantastic backcountry for ourselves.

There was some rain overnight, but Sunday dawned with clearing skies. We decided to let the tents dry out and walk further up-valley, aiming for the tarns at the head, leaving Ray reading a book. The track became even more overgrown and indistinct. Extensive falls of old rotten trees and some slips with fresh boulders indicated damage from the Kaikoura earthquake last November.

After about an hour, we reached the upper forks in more open forest which was obviously the camp spot Pat had recalled. Bluffs and scree slopes on the Mangerton Ridge tower above this grand site. Ruth Hesselyn and Ken Ridley led NTC trips up over this ridge in 2011 and 2015.

Although the bush was thinning, the 'track' steepens. We made a route error here and spent 30 minutes scabbling higher through dracophyllum scrub before realising we should have stuck close to the creek. Moving back down and then up and around a shingle spur we reached a boulder field in the impressive upper basin at 1600m - well above the bushline.

As time was running out, we turned around about 1km short of the tarns. We returned to our

camp site after a thoroughly enjoyable morning

A quick lunch and pack-up saw us under way by 1pm. At the hut, we noted in the log-book that, in addition to the hunters, there had been several day parties through. The trip down the main track was uneventful, apart from another wasp sting. It took us four hours from our camp site to reach the car park.

Although some were rather weary after the morning exertions, the valley was still delightful and readily sustains the in-out nature of the trip. It is interesting to note there are still none of the wilding pines that infest the nearby catchments in Marlborough (e.g. the Branch River). Lees Creek really is one of the gems in this region, east of NLNP.

Explorers were: Patrick Holland (leader & scribe), Ray Salisbury, Ian Morris, Sue Henley, Kelvin Drew, Mark Graesser & Don Morrisey.



WILDERNESS WISDOM:

"We don't stop playing because we grow old.

We grow old because we stop playing."

- George Bernard Shaw

PHOTOS > LEAH PARKER



Leah Parker gets a huge crowd of mid-week hikers up to the top of the Barnicoat Walkway

21 February | Barnicoat Walkway | Nelson Leader: Leah Parker

On Tuesday we met at Barnicoat Carpark by 9am. It was a sunny morning and very hot. We set off and up the 4WD road to the hand glider area on the main Barnicoat Track. Sweating and hot!

Once at the top, we stopped for a break. A little bite of Rocky Road and my orange prune and nut energy log, then we set out along towards the Involution trail and back down to the carpark.

We had another quick stop at the top of the trail at the Jenkins Hill turn-off.

Alex, Suzanne's five-month-old, was a little champion –not a peep out of him. He slept when tired and had a bottle when hungry, all while on the move in the front pack.

Pat made track improvements along the way. It was a very diverse group from a wide range of backgrounds; everyone chatting. I was very pleased with the turn-out for the trial of a mid-week walk.

It took us just under four hours. I'm looking forward to leading another trip sometime soon.

Participants were: Leah Parker (scribe), Grant Derecourt, Suzanne Morris, Alex Morris, Penny Parker, Sarah How, Pat Holland, Joyce Robinson, Bob Robinson, Chris Louth & Dog.

TRIP LEADERS!

If you've borrowed our PLBs for a club (or private) tramp, the policy is that you *must*

EMAIL your intentions to:

[Pat Holland](#), [Lawrie Halkett](#) and [Chris Louth](#)

before leaving. They are the SAR contacts, especially when Rollos is closed. In an emergency, the police will want to know the names and details of your party, and where you went.

Download the [Intentions Form PDF](#) from our website. (It's at lower left on the Programme page.) This has all necessary info, and can save you time making the list of participants.

RAIN POEM

It rained and rained and rained
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simple bogs
It started raining cats and dogs

After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower
And then, most curious thing of all:
A gentle rain began to fall

Next day, but one, was fairly dry
Save for one deluge from the sky
Which wet the party to the skin
And then, at last, the rain set in

Anon – thanks to Lawrie for poem

HOT POOL HEAVEN

22-25 APRIL : ANZAC 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)

UPcoming CLUBDATES...

Saturday–Monday 4–6 March

Working Bee MOUNT FELL HUT

7pm, Monday 6 March
Pub Night
PRINCE ALBERT BAR

- 113 Nile Street, 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 for the next couple of months. Email: [Kate Krawczyk](mailto:kate.krawczyk@maxnet.co.nz) for info.

Monday 3 April

Club Night
7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate
Speaker: Graeme Coop

Te Araroa Trail: *Long Pathway*

In his youth, Graeme blundered around the hills behind Nelson. He spent a summer with the NZFS at Lewis Pass doing plant & animal surveys. Near Hokitika he helped with possum poisoning. Since returning to NZ, Graeme tramped the South Island section of the Te Araroa Trail in 2015 - his topic for this evening's meeting.

Monday 12 June

Club Night
Speaker: TBA



DOC UPDATES

Nelson Lakes National Park

There have been an increase in the number of **vehicle break-ins** at track carparks.

A generous individual has donated about \$250,000 to replace the antiquated basic **Caroline Creek Bivvy** in the St James Conservation Area with a 10-bunk standard hut. The hut is popular for Te Araroa hikers, is located 20km from Christopher Hut, or 12km from Blue Lake Hut. The new hut will be built near the current hut and is expected to be finished by the end of summer 2016-2017.

Windfall clearing has been carried out on tracks in the **Travers, Sabine, and D'Urville** valleys and on the Mt Cedric Track recently.

A water tank has been installed at **Relax Shelter** which was refurbished last year.

Three new larger water tanks & a wood burner were installed at **Bushline Hut**.

A new track will be constructed linking St Arnaud village to the Tee-Total campground and the adjacent biking tracks.

Track clearing has been carried out in Lees Creek, Connors Creek, Hamilton River and Begley River, all in the **Upper Wairau Valley**.

Kahurangi National Park

There is a large slip 100m across on the **Cobb Valley track**, probably caused by a the earthquake on 14 Nov. Slip is

located 10 mins downstream from the Cobb Tent Camp.

Stone Hut has been repainted with a new woodshed.

Track clearing has been carried out on the **Fyfe River** route. The **Matiri Valley** track has been cleared after twelve years.

Due to overcrowding, a new **Mt Arthur Hut** is being considered, but may not be constructed for a few years. It would be sited at the bush edge, 200–300m from the existing hut. A lack of space prevents a new larger hut being built at the current site.

New windows have been installed in the northern wall of **Flanagans Hut** by volunteers from Motueka Tramping Club.

Mt Richmond Forest Park

Water tanks have been installed at **Porters Creek Hut** (& a wood shed) & **Slaty Hut**.

COMMITTEE :

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