



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

## Nelson Tramping Club May 2012



RUTH ON MOUNT ARTHUR

### OBITUARY >

## Ruth Hesselyn

1956—2012

**Throughout the life of any tramping club,** people come and go, and occasionally a person joins who stands out above the crowd, giving that little bit more in terms of enthusiasm, joy and energy.

Ruth Hesselyn was one such person. She joined the Nelson Tramping Club in 1983.

Ruth's climbing started with the Sumner clock tower aged three, and became more serious at sixteen when she and her school friend Pam McKelvey trained in the Port Hills carrying bricks in their packs. In 1974, she worked as gardener at The Hermitage, and with friend and guide Bruno Sprecher, climbed Mt Cook, Mt Tasman, Malte Brun and Silver Horn. Ruth travelled with Bruno to Yosemite where they climbed Half Dome, Glacier Point. In Switzerland they climbed in the Bernina Range. Bruno called Ruth "my little chamois" due to her speed and grace of travel.

Ruth returned in November 1976 as Head Gardener and added other trips to her list, including Footstool, Nun's Veil and Copland Pass.

Ruth attended a photography course at Wellington Polytechnic and resulting in jobs in Nelson and Sydney, allowing her to top up her travel funds. Ruth travelled extensively in USA, UK, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Nepal, Ladakh and Tibet, and around the South Island on her dad's single speed bike.

In 1997 Ruth's mother died as a result of a car accident and Ruth adopted her cairn terrier, Skye, who soon became a tramping dog. A year later Ruth moved her woodworking business to Frog's End, and 'settled' down to tramping, woodworking, working on the olive grove, plus taking her sister Lynne, a wheelchair user, on a series of adventures over the years.

Ruth quickly made a mark in the club with her adventurous spirit, organising new and challenging

trips, and her effortless gait that saw her pull away from the fittest and younger club members. Her large blue pack (called Big Blue) and her slight frame have fooled many people.

Newcomers to the club were especially touched by Ruth, who was always happy to drop back from exploring ahead, and lend a hand, or just walk alongside. After joining the New Zealand Alpine Club in 2002, the tramping club trip programme soon had a selection of these trips on its calendar.

Ruth's legendary fitness extended beyond NTC. Before her 50th birthday celebration climb up Mt Aspiring, an Aspiring Guide told his wife that "she won't make it, she's so tiny". He retracted his words and Ruth was told afterwards that she could come with them anytime.

Ruth threw herself into the club, and over the years worked on the trip programme, producing over two hundred trips in a two year period. She was involved with the committee, and also was one of the most active members in the club. She produced photo display boards for the Nelson Tramping Club's 75th Anniversary. Many hours of work were involved, making sure that the photos reflected the club through the years. Ruth's enthusiasm also extended to trip food, taking dining to new heights.

Ruth will be dearly missed by everyone who knew her. We will miss her joyfulness, adventurous spirit, infectious laughter, companionship and down-to-earth nature. Ruth died doing what she loved, and will be part of her beloved mountains forever now.

### > Mike Drake

Editor's note: Mike has posted a more detailed obituary on the club website: [www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz)

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS >**  
*Marie Firth, Peter Wilkie & Lee Nixon*

FEATURED TRIP REPORT >

## THREE PEAKS A N D A RESCUE

28–30 January > Mt Richmond Forest Park, Nelson  
**Leader:** Pat Holland **Scribe:** Andrea Cockerton

**A party of eight set out from Nelson at 7:30am,** heading to the start of the standard trail to Mt Richmond at Jubilee Flat, accessed via Top Valley Road. Mike and Lee kindly doubled back to leave a vehicle at the Fishtail exit in Pine Valley.

The rest of us started up the ridge track that rose steadily up through beech forest, revealing a glimpse of Mt Richmond after a couple of hours.

This simple day walk was more demanding with three-day packs, including tents, so reaching the gradual sidle was welcome, winding its way to Richmond Saddle Hut at 1200m, where we waited to regroup. An ever-hopeful, solitary weka popped out from under the water tank and an equally-hopeful hunter was searching for his RT dogs.

The climb to the summit (1756m) took a couple of hours over loose rocks and boulders but was well worth the considerable energy. The weather did the day justice; there was a cooling breeze, blue skies and primo 360-degree views.

The decent towards Johnson Peak was somewhat less steep, but equally challenging. The rocky slopes led to grassy, but rough, terrain. After going through the saddle, the route turned along the ridge towards Mt Fell and the nearby hut.

Unfortunately, Andrea's pole found thin air, causing a cumbersome turtle-style roll down the tussock slope and the acquisition of one nasty, sprained ankle. It did lend some excitement to the end of the day and a premature exit. Thank you, Lee, for SAR alert by cell phone and to the *Summit Rescue* team.

Andrea's hopes of being winched (apparently everybody wants to be winched!) were dashed by the hut location in the bush and a gusty wind. So, she was stretchered back up to the tussock with lots of TLC and in good cheer, helped by knowing paramedic Hamish through caving.

In gathering darkness, the chopper thundered off to Nelson. The remaining party of seven were somewhat chastened and tired. It was agreed that the arduous route for the second day would be reviewed after completing the initial section. And so to bed, in bunks plus tents scattered on marginal sites close to the hut. The other three hut occupants, young North Americans, were somewhat bemused but took in good heart all the disruptions to their mountain idyll.

A cool and nearly clear morning saw the reinvigorated band head around the tussock and scrub slopes under Mt Fell to the start of the 10km of ridge that would eventually lead to Fishtail Hut. Although the starting/finishing altitudes are similar, the ridge has major undulations and is through untracked forest. A drop to the first saddle and then a steepish 300m climb to Pt 1327



Andrea stretchered off to the chopper - Pat & Mike at the helm

PHOTO > RUTH HESSELYN

were accomplished with great aplomb and there were no questions of turning back.

Ken was doing sterling work leading the group through the not-always-obvious route. Thence along a supposedly 'hellish' 1km section of stunted beech. But we reached Pt 1359 without serious impediments and still in good cheer for a lunch stop. And so on, down through some beautiful large red beech and gnarled cedar, to a saddle at 1100m. It was then up again to Pt 1269 followed by Pt 1345. The forest continued climbing up the ridge for 0.5km until we staggered out onto the scree of the large basin west of Mt Fishtail.

Tired as we were, a sidle around the basin to the hut seemed a good idea – WRONG. The hut came tantalisingly in view but was across major gullies and we belatedly realised that circumnavigation of the ridge above was the best option. So, with a further 100m of climbing then a sidling descent into rising mist, we finally reached Fishtail Hut at dusk after a 12-hour day.

On day three, Marijke, Lee and Pat took off moderately early and completed the ascent of Mt Fishtail (1641m) – the others lounged in the hut (been there, done that) but missed a superb, mild morning on top with fantastic views of the Richmond Ranges and across low-lying mist in the Wairau valley to Tappy, the Kaikouras and up to the Raglan Ranges.

Back at the hut we packed up and dropped down the standard track to the road-end in 3.5 hours. The descent through beautiful forest was greatly enjoyed, but even better was the swim in Pine Creek. Mike and Lee completed the vehicle shuttle whilst the rest of the team lounged in shade.

Refreshments in Havelock and back to Nelson at a reasonable hour completed a very satisfactory trip, apart from Andrea's accident.

We were very fortunate with the weather which was clear but not too hot. All agreed that the Fell-Fishtail ridge is a very interesting and worthwhile route but one where a good level of fitness and commitment is required. (Water sources are entirely lacking along the ridge.)

Trampers were: Pat Holland (leader, scribe), Andrea Cockerton (guest, scribe), Lee Nixon (guest), Marijke Boers, Mike Drake, Ruth Hesselyn, Carole Crocker and Ken Ridley.

## FEATURED PRIVATE REPORT &gt;

**TOAROHA-WHITCOMBE**

25–30 January &gt; West Coast Classic loop

**Leader & Scribe:** Mike Glover

**On the 25<sup>th</sup> January, six set off for Cedar Flats** in heavy cloud, looking as if it could rain at any time. After four hours' walking on the well-cut track, we arrived at the hut, where DOC workers were busy building an extension on to the existing hut to accommodate a total of twelve people. This area is becoming very popular with families getting a taste of tramping on the West Coast, plus the added attraction of the Wren hot pool to soak in.

Day 2: We headed off early for Top Toaroha Hut to find the going considerably rougher. With the weather threatening to rain we pushed on, only having short stops. During one river crossing, Dion slipped off a big rock and ended up in the river, pack and all. Just as well the weather was warm! We had a cosy night drying out our gear while rain poured outside.

Day 3: We crossed Toaroha Saddle in bright sunshine with excellent views along the way. It was great to see so many blue ducks; I think we saw them on four out of six days. After a slow, steep climb out of the Mungo River we were glad to see Bluff Hut, which sits high on the ridge out in the open tops.

Day 4: This was spent resting and sheltering from rain showers and strong winds, while taking in the views as the cloud came and went.

Day 5 was spent working our way up the Hokitika River to Frew Saddle. Thick cloud was blocking our visibility, making it difficult to see where the saddle was. But as we got further up-river, the weather improved, giving us a clear view of the route ahead. After a well-earned rest at Frew Biv, we boulder-hopped down to Frew Hut, negotiating a few tricky river crossings along the way.

Day 6: It was off down the Whitcombe River for another day of boulder-hopping. We all enjoyed using the cableway, and were lucky enough to have perfect weather for the last day of our trip.

Intrepid trampers were: Mike, Deirdre, Wade, Alice and Chelsea Glover, with hutbagger Dion B. Pont.



Bagging a biv: Dion, Chelsea, Alice, Wade, Deirdre &amp; Mike Glover.

PHOTO &gt; MIKE GLOVER

**Commemorative Walk for Ruth Hesselyn**

Sunday 22 April &gt; Kahurangi National Park

**A wonderful occasion to celebrate the life of** a remarkable woman and we were blessed by excellent weather and good company.

The Flora carpark was bulging by the time the group of over 50 assembled at 11am. This included many from Ruth's family: Rae & Peter Coubrough (Frogs End), Lynne Nicholl (Blenheim), Lynne's son Clayton and family, and Nancy Macy (Frogs End/San Diego, CA).

In her electric wheelchair, Lynne led us at an alarming speed up and over the saddle to the historic Flora Hut. The campfire team led by Mark were late but the weather was fine and mild and a fire was soon burning.

The crowd assembled in a semi-circle and the formal commemoration was led by our patron Robyn Walsh who acknowledged Ruth's many contributions to club life over 30 years. This was followed by tributes from several club members.

The formalities concluded with poems read by Pat and Robyn followed by the release of several helium balloons. These ascended high and drifted very satisfactorily in the light breeze.

Conversations over lunch and tea/coffee were with the friendship of Ruth and sadness at her passing ever present. Groups then drifted off by 2pm, many on walks to Mt Arthur Hut or Mt Lodestone.



## TRIP REPORTS

### March–April 2012

#### 25 February – Separation Point - Abel Tasman National Park

Leader: Uta Purcell

**This destination was chosen** well before the Golden Bay floods. Therefore it was good news to know that the road to Wainui Bay and the start of this trip was open again, though one lane in many places.

Considering the warm summer conditions, I decided to change the round trip over the very shadeless Gibbs Hill to a smaller circuit and without overnighing.

Mark Graesser and I enjoyed the predominantly coastal walk in and out of shade with good views. After Separation Pt we went down to the pleasant campsite at Mutton Cove, then uphill again to rejoin the track back to Whariwharangi Hut and out. Seals at Separation Pt entertained us during lunch.

Since the December flood, the bush-clad slopes along the track to Whariwharangi Hut showed a lot of scarring, the granite rock swept clean of vegetation. Around the hut enormous amounts of silt were evident but tidied.

Trampers were: Uta Purcell (scribe) & Mark Graesser.



Wharawharangi Hut, northern end of Abel Tasman coastal track. Flood damage is evident.

#### 10 March - Kings Creek Hut - Wangapeka Track - Kahurangi National Park

Leader: Brenda Griffin

**Weather wasn't looking great** for a Saturday overnight trip to Kings Creek Hut on the Wangapeka Track. We decided to complete the trip in a day instead.

Kelvin Drew joined me on the trip. Not a good start as my alarm didn't ring so we left later than planned.

At the start of the track, the native birds were out. It was noticeably noisy with bird calls. A few black robins and fantails flitted around. A family of five goats down on the river flats enjoyed the sun.

The tramp follows the Wangapeka River. Sometimes the water is beside you and later, you are looking down at it.

We arrived at Kings Creek Hut for lunch, noticing it was a very clean and tidy hut. A five minute walk led to Cecil King's Hut, now maintained by DOC. It was good to see the historical hut, built in 1935, is in good repair.

Kelvin and I agreed it was a good days' walk, albeit long. We were home by 6pm.

Trampers were: Brenda Griffin (scribe) & Kelvin Drew.

#### 30 March - 1 April - Cupola Basin Hut - Nelson Lakes NP

Leader: Uta Purcell

**The tramp along Lake Rotoiti,** up the Travers Valley to John Tait Hut, and the steeply ascending track to Cupola Basin Hut, can be long, or it would at least appear so on the way back.

Kelvin Drew and Lou Kolff were keen to do it. When Sue Davies joined, she came along with the kind offer by Gary Davies to take us both ways across the lake in his runabout, doing two trips.

Then, at the jetty a fisherman offered Kelvin and Lou a lift as well, which all worked out but not without confusion.

We were comfortably settled for the first night at John Tait Hut, when at 11pm our sleep was rudely interrupted by powerful torchlight and a lot of noise, like an invasion by high-flying aliens.

The second day was brilliant: an early lunch at a new picnic table outside the Cupola Basin Hut got us ready for an afternoon of exploring high on scree slopes next to Mt Cupola. Kelvin and Lou went up steeply, as far as conditions permitted; Sue was more sensible; I observed from a knob lower down.

The stunning views of Mt Hopeless and Mt Cupola had us outside well after dinner, retreating repeatedly to the warmth of the new wood burner. The hut is being painted inside and out, and the track below the hut is cleared of enormous windfalls. The hut was all ours this second night.

On Day 3 we descended early to John Tait Hut with the advantage of Daylight Saving, meeting again the noisy climbers and two hunters from the first day. At 2.30pm we arrived at Lakehead Hut, where Gary was moored. He had walked towards us, meeting us at the swingbridge. As hoped, the weather was good for this trip, the tramping was relaxed but energizing, and so much fun.

Participants were: Uta Purcell, Kelvin Drew, Lou Kolff and Sue Davies. Supported by Gary Davies.

### 3-4 March - Fosters Clearing & Mt Baldy - Mt Richmond FP

Leader: Ray Salisbury

**This tramp was a bit longer** and required a higher level of fitness than I expected. However, our quartet that undertook the expedition were all up to the task.

After a leisurely start in Lee's 4WD, we eventually arrived at the roadend up the Wakamarina valley. It's called Butcher's Flat. After that, it was an easy two-hour romp along the old gold miner's trail to Devils Creek Hut, an old brown NZFS six-bunker.

The stiff climb up William The Conqueror (Pt 1066m on the map) lasted nearly three hours. Initially the track zig-zagged up the face, but eventually, after negotiating two windfalls, eased off onto a relatively flat, rounded mountain top, albeit forested with no views.

From here, the marked track switched south for a kilometre. Upon reaching a small saddle with Mt Baldy, the path departed the ridge to sidle along a steep face for a couple of hours. A highlight was scaring the pants of a weka.

Eventually, with the daylight ebbing away, we reached the ridgeline again. A sign indicated Fosters Clearing, which was pathetically miniscule. The tidy four-bunk hut was merely ten minutes further, and well-located in a much larger clearing. Four souls found four bunks - perfect. Ray got the fire cracking. Yes, it was March, but the 1000-metre altitude and wind gusts necessitated some induced warmth.

Sunday morning saw us return to Fosters Clearing and continue along the main ridgeline, soon gaining the open top of Mt Baldy (1315m) where great views of Tappy, and even the ocean, were enjoyed. Ray pointed his compass due north, and in due time had us back at the saddle, then lurching on William The Conqueror.

The old pack track that led to the stone miner's huts was wet, narrow, and badly slipped. This detour was more difficult.



Marijke Boers, Ben McDowell & Lee Nixon on top of Mt Baldy (1315m), Mt Richmond Forest Park

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

The day was all but over when we returned to the car, tired but happy with our wee adventure in the hills.

Adventurers were: Marijke Boers, Stella, Lee Nixon, Ray Salisbury (scribe) & Ben McDowell (guest).

### 9 April - Hacket-Browning Huts - Mt Richmond Forest Park

Leader: Gillian Arbuthnott

**Perfection is a mix of beautiful** bush, birdsong, pine forest, the constant sound of the Hacket Stream far below, seven pairs of boot-clad feet, and a warm, sunny Autumn day.

Like birds on a wire, we perched on the woodshed at the Hacket Hut for morning tea and enjoyed the relative softness of two mattresses on the grass at the Browning Hut for lunch.

On the pleasant return journey, an encounter with a jubilant cross-bow-bearing hunter, and his trophy pig, raised some safety issues as the track on which the said pig met its demise is the scene for trampers, mountain bikers and day trippers (not a re-enactment of *The Killing Fields*.)

However, thanks to Dan McGuire, Gillian Arbuthnott (scribe), Jim Maxwell, Mike Locke & visitors Lindsay Twiname, Jane & Rod Lewis for your congenial company & enthusiasm.

# RUSTED RED

### Easter - Red Hills Traverse #2 Mt Richmond Forest Park

Leaders: Mike Glover & Ray Salisbury

**This Easter I proposed our** club do a moderate trip so as to attract a broader range of participants. My teenage nephew joined our seasoned members, and fitted in with the family of five, two hut-baggers and a doctor. I noted that our ages ranged from 15 to 50; quite young for a tramping club party of ten.

Fit from our summer sojourns, we decided to keep it local. The ranges of Mt Richmond Forest Park are the under-rated tramping nirvana in our backyard, and home to nearly thirty tramping huts. Our objective was to follow the Te Araroa Trail from Top-house back to Nelson over the four-day weekend.

Firstly, we needed transport to avoid a lengthy car shuttle. Andy



PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

Right Branch Wairoa Hut, now at Porters Creek site: Setting off on Day Two of our Easter trip.

Clark and Barry Pont did the honours – cheers, guys.

Good Friday saw us dropped off in the Wairau valley, skirting round Rainbow Station to the 4WD road up to Red Hills Hut, a welcome relief from relentless sunshine. Four hours down the Maitland into the Motueka, and we were all sweating like proverbial piglets. Boulder-hopping up Lowther Creek during the Golden Hour, racing the impending darkness to find the new hut at Porters Creek. This bright orange NZFS six-bunker squats on a boggy plateau under Porter Knob, in the middle of nowhere. In fact, there's no decent water supply here.

Day Two saw us saunter along a roughly marked route around the reddened rocks, up over spurs and down steep scree slopes ... rough underfoot, with blue skies overhead. Inevitably, Hunters Hut had habitants – two blokes from Barry Pont's Scout Troupe, plus some latecomers. We tented on the heli-pad,

as there was scant flatness to be found. Wade and Josiah did an admirable job in providing a campfire around which to assemble the party.

Day Three – we filled drink bottles and clambered through scrub onto the open tops. Two delightful tarns were picturesque, before we meandered along to the start of the Red Hills range proper. Raymond departed on a solo bid, getting as far as the first of the five summits of Red Hill (1791m) before chasing the fading light down to Top Wairoa Hut, where the party were snuggled around the woodstove.

Our final day's route involved re-climbing the Left Branch Wairoa saddle, which took 1.5 hours, then heading north up a steep spur onto the tussock tops. Raymond bagged Mt Ellis while the party (who'd been there, done that) took off at lightning speed for the distant beacon of Ben Nevis. A couple of gnarly guts and ledges slowed us down, and with dehydration, it took us about eight hours to exit.

The icecream shop at Hope was a welcome sight for some of our weary wayfarers.

Hut-baggers and their patient companions were: the intrepid Glover family, Dion B. Pont, Marijke Boers, Ray Salisbury (scribe) with nephew Josiah Futter, and guest Simon Garton.



Die-hard hut-braggers Wade & Dion. Hunters Hut

PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY



Be safe. Tell someone where you're going. Download Intentions Forms at: [www.adventuresmart.org.nz/Outdoors-Intentions/Default.asp](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz/Outdoors-Intentions/Default.asp)

## WILDERNESS WISDOM

*"The wind riz, then it blew.  
The rain friz, then it snow."*

< Grapevine Magazine >

# Shaun Barnett visiting us

## End of September Tramp. October 2 Club Night.

The Committee have managed to convince Shaun to fly over the ditch later in the year.

Based in Wellington, Shaun is Editor of the FMC *Bulletin*, and roving editor of *Wilderness* magazine. He is also a prolific author, keen-eyed photographer & unashamed hut-bagger.

Join Shaun for a club trip over the weekend, then hear him speak on the Monday evening. He will be sharing about one of his South Island traverses - apparently he's walked the Mainland in three stages.

Shaun is also launching his latest book in October, about backcountry huts. This promises to be a great gift or stocking-filler for Xmas.

## 12–13 November – Red Hills #1 – Mt Richmond Forest Park

Leader: Silvano Lorandi

**When I suggested this trip** to the NTC it was deemed to be too long for a two day tramp and I left open the possibility to have a second night in Hunters Hut for the participants less keen to walk out on the long second day. Well, we underestimated the fitness and resilience of our members. Not only a good number of people joined this trip, eight, but also all of them reached the top and walked out to Inwoods Lookout late Sunday night with a smile on their face (or was it a tense expression of pain?)

Anyway, here is a brief report on two days spent up and down the hills with a great group of trampers.

We left Nelson on Saturday morning with uncertain weather forecast. It said 'rain in the morning and clearing in the afternoon.' In fact, it was pouring and we decided to take it easy, very easy: first stop was *The Chateau Rhubarb* in Wakefield for coffee and breakfast.

By the time we had enough caffeine and were feeling bored being inside, the weather had changed. Now it was raining even harder!

Luckily, at Inwoods Lookout, the start of our tramp, a couple of open sheds were perfect for changing into our rain gear. Even more luckily, it stopped raining so we actually had a semi-dry walk over North Peak, down to Hunters Hut, our base for the night. Hunters hut sits in a very picturesque location overlooking the left branch of the upper Motueka river valley and has been just recently restored which makes it a very cosy hut. The afternoon saw a series of rain showers that gave us a good excuse to take it easy and rest for the next day's walk.

Sunday: the weather decided to follow the weather forecast and we had a wonderful day with sun and light winds. After an early start at 6am, we started scrambling up the tussock spur behind the hut towards some lovely tarns on the ridge.

On reaching the ridge, Red Hill was clearly visible right in front of us and very close. However, it is unfortunately on the other side of the right branch of the Motueka River valley – that involves a long walk right around. Here, a suggestion was made: "Why don't we climb this hill right here in front of us which looks just the same anyway?"

But the group decided to be honest so we pushed ahead.

The last part of the climb to Red Hill involves negotiating three bowls. After two trips from this side I have come to the conclusion that the best route is to go straight toward the top by walking in and out of the bowls. Don't follow the ridgetop or cut across; it is hard and slow travel on big (*and sharp* –Ed.) boulders.

We returned to Hunters Hut the same way and had a long rest at the hut before heading back up over the Gordon Range, now at a slower pace. All walked out in misty weather.

The tramping 'world team' were: NZ-ers Ruth Hesselyn, Gina Andrews and Mark Stevens, Englishman Peter Wilkie (visitor), German Markus Fisher (visitor), Italians Silvano Lorandi (leader and scribe), Donato Romanazzi and Matteo Bordini (visitor).

### Tramping Times:

Inwoods Lookout – Hunters Hut: 4 hours

Hunters Hut – Red Hill: 4 hours

Red Hill – Hunters Hut: 3.5 hours

Hunters Hut – Inwoods Lookout: 5 hours

[www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz) Look for links to photo galleries on the club web-site.

## Transport Charge

**The charge for each trip to be paid by each passenger is calculated using the following formula.** This was set up by past-president Grahame Harris about ten years ago (he was an accountant). It is currently administered by Margot Sym and Jim Maxwell as they assemble trip programmes.

Cost per person per km in dollars is:  

$$((1355 \times P) + 1210) / 42000$$
 where P is the petrol price in dollars per litre.

The current 91 octane petrol price is **\$2.19** (P = 2.19) yielding a cost pp per km of \$0.10. The return distance for each trip is measured with any unsealed km x 1.5

So, for example, for a trip with a road distance to the track of 75km sealed and 10km unsealed gives a total return km of 150 + 30 = 180km and therefore the cost pp is \$18.

Grahame's formula assumes there will be 3 paying passengers per vehicle and that the ve-

hicle will be a solid sedan (i.e. not a mini or a bus). He also included other running costs such as tires and routine servicing. However, insurance, registration, WOF and depreciation costs are not included. The charge was originally called a donation but the committee thought this term was too soft.

This formula has served the club well, ensuring owners are adequately recompensed, on average, for being prepared to put their vehicles forward and enabling trips. The charges would be much higher if the AA mileage rates were used because these are based on the total cost of owning/running relatively new vehicles. However, transport charges are still going up because of the ever-increasing price of petrol.

One particular factor, amongst many, that might be considered is the number of passengers. If there are greater or less than 3 for a particular trip/vehicle then the driver will be making a nominal profit or loss which could be quite high for a long trip.

The listed transport charge is really just a starting point and is open to negotiation to meet the particular circumstances of each trip. **Feedback from members is most welcome.**

## UPcoming CLUBNITES >

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

**Monday 11 June:**

Keynote Speaker:

### Phil Doole

Phil Doole is one of NZ's most determined mountaineers and an outdoors Nelsonian. He is well known for his climbing exploits before and after the events on Mt Cook in 1982 where he lost his feet to frostbite. Past-President of NZ Alpine Club, Phil brings a wealth of experience which he will present in a well-illustrated talk to the club.

**Monday 6 August:**

Guest Speaker: TBA

### 79th AGM

#### Call for nominations:

There are large gaps in the current committee so we need new blood. Please offer your assistance so the essential functions for smooth operation of the club can proceed. Many hands make light work. All nominations must be received by 16 July.

**Monday 2 October:**

Guest Speaker:

### Shaun Barnett

Editor of the *FMC Bulletin*, and roving editor of *Wilderness* magazine. Prolific author, photographer & hut-bagger.



## OUTDOOR SAFETY COURSES RUN IN NELSON

<http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz>

#### Outdoor Leadership

7 May > COST: \$310

Venue: Nelson, TBA

#### Basic Alpine

25-26 August > COST: \$175

Venue: Rainbow Ski Field

The course is aimed at those with limited experience. It will suit those who intend to travel on non-technical snow and alpine terrain and are looking for entry-level instruction to mountaineering. (Pre-course evening, 2 field days.)

Pre-requisites: certificate of attendance from 'Alpine Introduction' or equivalent (e.g. has used crampons and ice axe on snow). Decision on attendance to be made by MSC Branch Alpine Coordinator.

#### Outdoor First Aid

8-9 September > COST: \$180

Venue: Paretai Lodge, Brightwater

#### CONTACT DETAILS >

**Contact:** Evelyn O'Neill.

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**Telephone:** (03) 547 2426

**Email:** [nelson@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:nelson@mountainsafety.org.nz)



#### < On-line Book >

In 1995, Ray Salisbury tramped from East Cape to Cape Egmont. This is his story, now re-published on-line as down-loadable PDF files:

[www.salis.co.nz/lighthouse](http://www.salis.co.nz/lighthouse)

## 6 MAY > TRAMP THE NED MARLBOROUGH

Rain date: 13 May

*The Ned* is one of the highest peaks in the Blenheim area (at 909 metres or 3,000 feet) and offers stunning views to the sea and of the Awatere Valley. The track is not normally open to the public.

Come over and join us!

All details available on-line:

[www.trampthened.co.nz](http://www.trampthened.co.nz)

**Jeff Spurlock**

*Marlborough Tramping Club*

## COMMITTEE >

**President:** Lawrie Halkett

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Correspondence Secretary:** Pat Holland

**Treasurer:** Brenda Griffin

**Minutes Secretary:** Merrick Mitchell

**Gear:** Mark Stevens

**Programme Team Rep:** Jim Maxwell

**Committee:** Raymond Salisbury, Dion Pont, Bob Janssen, Mike Glover

**Newsletter Editor:** Raymond Salisbury

*Post trip reports to:* 71 Montreal Rd, Victory, or email to: [newsletter@maxnet.co.nz](mailto:newsletter@maxnet.co.nz)

**Website:** [www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz)

**NEW Mailbox:** PO Box 1238, Nelson 7040.

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