



Newsletter of the
NELSON TRAMPING CLUB

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

Nelson Tramping Club October 2014

Some of the participants at the NTC 80th Anniversary dinner. Pictured after the banquet in the St Arnaud Hall



PHOTO > RAY'S TRIPPOD

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

Feeling the Pulse

As you can see from the photograph above, our 80th anniversary was well-attended, and a great success. Also inside these pages is a summary from our AGM, as well as a plethora of trip reports which show the club is in very good form, and growing.

A recent pub night had a record number of attendees, as did our snow skills weekend. Trampers joining our club are somewhat younger; in turn, they are attracting more younger folks – all an encouraging sign for the future survival of tramping in our region.

If you want to get to the heart and feel the pulse of what's happening, come along to the last three club or pub nights of the year. Or, if you're more of a hands-on, practical joker, register your assistance for the Big Beach Clean-up or the upcoming Flora Hut working bee – planned for the New Year.

On a more serious note, since our five emergency beacons have been used in several incidents over the last three years, this has led to the Committee tightening up on risk management, and fool-proofing the systemic loopholes in our policies. So...

If you've borrowed our PLBs for a club or private

tramp: email or phone your intentions to [Pat Holland](#), [Lawrie Halkett](#) or [Chris Louth](#) before leaving. They are our club SAR contacts, especially when the hire shops are closed, after hours.

Frequently a trip leader has changed plans, and led the party somewhere other than what was printed on the Programme months beforehand. This could be a postponement, or weather-related reason, or a blocked access road – whatever. It may be a hassle, but is vitally important that we communicate this change of intentions to the Committee. What we don't want is another helicopter search in the wrong area!

We are designing an NTC Intentions Form that will streamline this new process. The Hunting & Fishing shop in Richmond now holds the two PLBs that were stored at Stirling Sports.



Ray Salisbury,
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
newsletter@maxnet.co.nz

Welcome to new member: Debbie Hogan

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS : 26-27 JULY

80TH RE-MEMBERED

To celebrate the tramping club's 80th birthday, the Committee planned a social event in mid-winter. This was reasonably well-attended by some 40 folks over the weekend.

From 4pm onwards, folks trickled into the new community hall at St Arnaud, amazed at how huge it seemed, as the 'hall' is actually a gymnasium. Lynette Salisbury took over the kitchen, ably assisted by Heather, Debbie and many others.

Eventually, by about 7pm, our potluck dinner was ready, and worth waiting for. President Lawrie acted as MC, and got the youngest and oldest guests (Ted Brooks), to cut the birthday cake.

Ray Salisbury ran a Quiz on a range of mountain-related topics, which was much enjoyed. Gretchen's team outclassed Diane and Kate's teams by a smidgen. Lawrie coaxed all and sundry into the gym for a group photo. This was cunning, as he then could engage them in playing games for the remainder of the evening. Some of the games were somewhat 'energetic' and as male testosterone took over, the competitive nature of certain unnamed members became very apparent. (read: Mike, Bevan & Tony!) Dion was promptly thrown onto a chair; Uta was skidding along the wooden floor on her bum; all very entertaining and warming on a clear and chilly winter's night.

Sunday dawned bitterly cold, but did not deter a few hardy souls from photography and walks to the lake. 9am saw teams being briefed by Chris Louth who had organised a Navigation Course using the police co-ordinates and checkpoints at Teetotal Flats nearby. Three teams set out on a 3-4 hour perambulation across the open terraces of the Buller River. Brian Renwick proved the most fit, and was Andrea's secret weapon when serious hill-climbing and bush-bashing was required. All good fun.

Lawrie and Kaye led a less ambitious course around the shores of Lake Rotoiti. Uta opted for an ascent of Mt Robert, while Kathy got a group of bikers together for a morning's ride.

Everyone who made the effort to participate clearly enjoyed the event; those of you who didn't missed out on lots of laughs and great camaraderie.



Above: Ken Ridley, Brian & Dianne Renwick eat dinner.

Right: Ray Salisbury & Ian Morris find a marker on Chris's intrepid nav course.

Below: Lynette Salisbury in her element, controlling the chaotic kitchen. **Below Right:** Octogenarian Ted Brooks cuts the birthday cake.

Bottom: Mike Drake & Andrea race for empty seats during the games evening. (Photos: Debbie Hogan & Uta Purcell).



– Ray Salisbury



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

AGM ...A SUMMARY

Our AGM on August 4th went off really well with a reasonable attendance of 31 folks present, including several visitors keen to engage with our guest speaker, Dr Nick Smith.

President Lawrie did an off-the-cuff report, thanking various Committee Members for their efforts. Our new Treasurer, Ian Morris, introduced himself and gave a brief financial account. Past President Jim Maxwell was unanimously accepted as a Life Member, although absent with a cold.



PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

Dr Nick Smith gives the heads up on the latest DOC initiatives...

Before too long, Nelson MP Nick Smith talked to us on three topics:

- a) DOC's **Battle For the Birds**: how 1080 is really the only tired-and-trusted method with any guarantee of eradicating stoats and possums, thus saving endangered species.
- b) Ten new **Marine Reserves** in the South Island are being established right now.
- c) **Breaking news**: \$700,000 partnership deal with FMC, NZDA & the mountain-biker's Trail Fund. Initially this encompasses 107 projects, including the maintenance of 36 backcountry huts, 670km of tracks and involves some 10,000 hours of volunteer labour.

After a lengthy Q&A session, and a word from the NZDA President, everyone tucked into lots of yummy food – thanks to Brett Halkett and the Committee girls.

– Ray Salisbury, *Editor*



PHOTO > COURTESY SIMON GARTON

Simon's party sidle beneath Julius Summit on the way out ...

TRIP REPORTS

July–September 2014

9–10 August – Angelus Hut, Nelson Lakes NP
Leader: Simon Garton

On a very cold Saturday morning I picked up three trampers, being sure to leave them waiting by the side of the road for a few minutes so they would appreciate the car ride. Having all met up at Mt Robert carpark we spread out across the ridge track with Chris L possibly leading the race. A group of teenage toboggan sliders suffering on the uphill were quickly passed en route to the shelter. There we met a mountaineer breaking in his near \$2k boots for his upcoming trip to the 8200m Cho Oyu two weeks hence. I wished him good luck with the Himalayas and once more we set off at our own paces agreeing to meet at Angelus Hut sometime later. I was happy down the back somewhere, Chris and could others hopefully make the steps.

Actually, the Glovers were already out front breaking the trail. As usual, I was changing my layers fairly regularly while talking to Leigh about how office work can get in the way of monitoring Blue Duck numbers in the Wangapeka catchment. Once past the skifield I could see perhaps 20 walkers ahead. At one point, Andrea decided to lead our rear group of three straight over the ridge rock obstacle, instead of the cattle track sidle. This was a great diversion with Chris leading the layback-climbing move and being there to assist Andrea whose chest pack prevented her from swinging around the rock. Once above the hut the popular option was straight down the snow slope onto the lake. The snow was too soft for a glissade or bum slide.

Plenty of bunk room in the hut but no firewood. Oh well, we should get warm from the 20 something bodies. We spent many hours being entertained by



PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

Lou, Marie & Chrissie top out above the Cobb Reservoir.

John's match tricks, stretching competitions from the ladies, and sit-down dancing demonstrations from the ladies. Shame my cramp prevented me from joining in.

The next day the mountaineers knocked off Angelus – see Andrea's account below – and some of us did some tobogganing with the mattresses. Mostly group efforts including 3-up backwards and over the perfectly made jump. Thanks to the master mattress driver for his steering prowess.

The first call to rise came at 4.30am with the promise of a pretty moon pic! By the time the moon set a hour later, seven hardy souls were wrapping up in anticipation of a summit bid. The eighth kindred and free spirit, Gina, planned her adventure over Sunset Saddle and down to Hopeless Hut. At 6:15am we were off.

Traversing across a frozen tarn in the dark heightens the senses until it has been prodded and tested to hold. The edges were slushy and indeed further along the Hinapouri Tarn lived up to its name 'dark waters', its partly frozen waters made more outstanding against the chalk white of the snow.

Angelus was named after a devotional prayer and our wishful thoughts of good weather were prayer, or maybe we just got lucky. Beautiful dawn, hardly a puff of wind. Just past Hinapouri Tarn, we donned our crampons, taking turns to wind our way up, the sun painting the rocks hues of pinks and oranges.

We all reached her glistening crown and indulged in the vista and achievement, the hut now a mere spec to the north. The descent was initially slow, not throwing caution to the wind. The lower slopes brought some hilarity and emergence of the inner child through jovial participation in body sledging and snow kayaking. Cryptic messages were spotted in the snow from Chris, who greeted our arrival back at the hut at 11am, just in time for a well-earned cuppa.

Having watched the climbing party return safely down Angelus ridge, we returned to the cars while watching the weather close in, exactly as forecast. Sweet as, let's do it again sometime.

23–24 August – Cobb Valley excursions

Leader: Ray Salisbury

The infamous five filled up Kelvin's CRV as we negotiated the gravelled Graham Valley Road. Being our careful selves, Marie and I had checked in with DOC Nelson AND DOC Motueka to ensure we would have access. (There was a warning on the website indicating that the 1080 bait drop was starting in Kahurangi that morning.)

Much to our surprise, a council contractor and his henchman were blocking the road with their vehicle. We were promptly turned around. So, we decided to reach the Tableland via the Cobb Valley instead, and txted our change of intentions.

After a nauseous climb over the Takaka Hill, we found comfort in a coffee at the Woolshed on Canaan Downs Road. Eventually, past Upper Takaka, we meandered over Cobb Ridge, and were soon lunching in sunshine at Myttons Hut.

Several hours of snow-ploughing later, we didn't quite reach Lake Peel – a stretch of frozen snow saw us turn on our heels. Not fully equipped with enough gear for this alternative ramble, we retreated – again.

The girls got the fire raging inside Trilobite Hut, while I shot star trails outside. At breakfast we were entertained by the resident weka family.

Our third excursion was up the old hydro road to Sylvester Hut, a new destination for some of the party. We had a leisurely perambulation around the outlet of Lake Sylvester, with a scheduled rendezvous back at the hut, after much snow-plugging.

Trampers were: Lou Kolff & Chrissie Millington, Kelvin Drew, Marie Lenting and Ray Salisbury (scribe).



23 August – Maitai & Brook Valleys, Nelson

Leader: Elisabeth Dooley

As I was short of time, four of us met at 8am in Hanby Park and walked along the Maitai on a clear, chilly morning, turning up toward Dun Mountain after about an hour. Post logging, it's all rather messy and hard to locate some of the tracks. As we came away from Tantragee, we decided to head for Jack's Track and avoid walking along Brook Street.

We had a little difficulty finding the track, but eventually found ourselves heading along Jacks Track, where the views were magnificent on such a clear, sunny day. Tim was happily snapping away at the snowy mountaintops and the unusual sight of the Cook Strait ferry docked in Port Nelson.

The birdsong in this section of our walk was loud and lovely. We dropped down Atmore Terrace and back to the cars in Mill Street at 11:00 am.

Elisabeth Dooley (scribe) accompanied by Alice Robinson, Dan McGuire and Tim Tyler.

6–7 September – Wakamarina–Mt.Sunday–Mt.Riley

Leader: Kate Krawczyk

It was a beautiful Saturday morning to be setting off from Nelson into the unexplored eastern reaches of the Richmond Ranges – unexplored for us anyway.

Nine of us drove out to the Wakamarina Valley and walked 7km into Devils Creek Hut and then walked another 45 minutes past the hut to the remains of two stone huts thought to have been built during the 1880s by gold miners. The history in this area is very rich and the efforts the miner's went to are amazing! Devils Creek is a beautiful area to explore.

From here, Simon decided to walk on through to Onamalutu Reserve where we were camp-

Information & Rules

PHOTO COMPETITION

Dig through those shots from the past year. Get those pics printed out & ready for judgement. Come along to enjoy the fun, wine, cheese and social atmosphere of this last club night of the year.

Date: Monday 1 December. **Place:** Nelson Intermediate School staffroom, Titipahi Street, Nelson. **Time:** 7.30pm. **Guest Judge:** Barry Doig

National Competition:

The club competition is aligned with the national competition. The winners from our club will have their photos sent off to Wellington. National winners will have their photos printed in the *FMC Bulletin* and receive prizes.

Rolling Slideshow:

A rolling slideshow will also be held at the club night of pics people submit to **Ray Salisbury** by e-mail **before December**. Images should be no larger than 2Mbytes. Email: newsletter@maxnet.co.nz

Format:

All photos need to meet the following criteria for judging by Barry:

- Prints must be the normal 6 x 4 inches in size.
- Photos are to have been taken within the past 12 months.
- No manipulated photos (except for cropping & sharpening.)
Exception is category 7 below.
- Person submitting the photo must be person who has set up the photo.
- Entries are limited to three prints / per category / per person
- First place-getters from each category will receive a Camera Shop voucher. 1st, 2nd & 3rd get a certificate.
- On the back of the print put the category and the title of the picture.
- Do *not* include the name of the entrant.

Categories:

1. Landscape (no people)

This includes wide angle shots (which may even be predominantly sea or sky) or an 'in your face' close-up (a rock in a stream or part of a tree). What's important is that the mood of the landscape which is being captured comes through in the image. It's acceptable to include man-made structures (huts, power lines, sign posts, etc.) providing they add to the scene.

2. Hut or Camp Life (including portraits)

3. Above the bushline (people allowed)

4. Below the bushline (people allowed)

5. Nature flora & fauna (no people)

Informative, artistic images showing non-domestic flora and fauna (so no garden roses, cats or dogs). Geological or meteorological phenomena, (e.g. dramatic clouds, formations or details of rock strata are also acceptable if they are accurately titled). Ensure that the shot is as sharp as you can make it, that the subject is large in the picture and that the background is not intrusive. The 'hand of man' should be avoided – no fences, power lines, buildings, etc. Try to give an accepted common name, or a formal Latin name for the title.

6. Historic

Pre-1980, featuring an aspect of club life. Black & white encouraged but not essential.

7. Anything Goes (Not an FMC category – just NTC.)

Includes humour and manipulated images. Also, larger format prints, panoramics, and shots older than 12 months can be submitted here.

8. People's Choice (Not an FMC category – just NTC.)

Attendees vote on their favourite amongst all the pictures on offer.

Winning photos from previous year's competitions can be viewed on the NTC [Photo Galleries](#) webpage.



PHOTO > PAT HOLLAND

How many trampers can you fit inside a 2-man bivvy? Kate's intrepid party shelter inside the hut on Mt Sunday

ing that night so we gave him the PLB and wished him well while the rest of us walked back to the cars and continued onto Northbank Road and the campsite – with a quick but necessary chocolate stop at the Four Square in Havelock.

Onamalutu Reserve is a beautiful place to camp! I had no idea what to expect other than the brief description on the DOC website, so we were pleasantly surprised to find a lovely Kahikatea grove to camp under, nice and clean flushing toilets, and heaps of birdlife to enjoy. Simon's timing was amazing with him arriving at the campground only fifteen minutes after we'd gotten there! The tuis and bellbirds gave us a tea-time serenade as the sun set and the moreporks sang us to sleep. I haven't experienced many dawn choruses but I must say that it was a good one for me! And then, all of a sudden, at 6:15am, there was the call of the rare 'Andrea Cockerton' bird calling "Would someone put on the kettle?"

Just past 8am the rest of the party arrived. Barry James, Pat Holland, Lou Kolff and David Blunt had left Nelson in the early hours of Sunday morning, all keen to tackle the Mt.Sunday-Mt.Riley Circuit.

We drove to the road-end and started up, and up, and up, and up some more! It was a 1200m climb from the car park to the top of Mt. Sunday – pretty much straight up. The track has been re-routed, possibly because the access road has been moved so, instead of going up the main ridge from the car park, it now starts farther up the valley and climbs a steep spur to join up with the main ridge and the old track. This caused some confusion on the access roads. Chris and I used our GPS's to lead us to the old road-end, but in the end it makes for a much simpler round trip. Now the track begins and ends at the car park. There are DOC signs

en route to help folks find the way. But the topographic maps and GPS have not been updated yet so beware and just trust the road signs.

The track itself is well marked but is steep, slippery and quite technical in some places – not for the faint of heart. The climb leads to the beautiful narrow ridge tops of Mounts Sunday and Riley. While I hear the views are stunning, panning from Blenheim to the Marlborough Sounds... unfortunately we were engulfed in mist so there was no wind to blow it away and give us a view.

We re-grouped for lunch at Mt. Sunday Bivvy, a cute little two-bunker that would have an incredible outlook on a good day. Ian Morris ticked this one off of his hut-bagging list and happily signed the visitor book.

We carried on through to Mount Riley via the saddle which only drops about 100 metres between the two peaks. From there, it was much the same as the other side – steeply downhill for another three hours. At the end of the track, only 500m from the car park there's a gorgeous little river gorge and waterfall. From there, it was on home for a welcome shower and fish 'n' chips.

Participants were Kate Krawczyk (scribe), Simon Garton, Sue Henley, Chris Louth, Rod and Carole Lewis, Ian Morris, Andrea Cockerton, John Whibley, David Blunt, Barry James, Lou Kolff & Pat Holland.

17 August – Red Hills – Beeby's Knob – Richmond FP
Leader: Sue Henley

Two days before our scheduled Red hills to Beeby's walk I received a message on my answer phone from a fellow club member confirming his participation and stating that he intended to ski part



PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

The tramping club tries out the new MTB track joining the gap between Beebys Knob & Red Hills Hut

of the new track that we were about to explore. Somewhat skeptical and slightly bemused, I decided to go with the flow and see what came of it.

It was a cold, grey morning when eleven of us set off on a pleasant walk through rolling beech forest before beginning the gentle incline up the 4X4 track that leads to Red Hills Hut.

After a leisurely morning tea break inside the hut, we took a wide track to the left. After a few minutes and a little back tracking, we found another rough track marked by flagging tape. It seemed to head in the direction of Beeby's Knob. We all agreed that it would take some very skilled mountain bikers to nail this one.

We continued following a sporadically-marked track with plenty of gradient to get the heart pumping and patches of snow which quickly became somewhat larger and deeper.

We stopped in a clearing to for refreshments and entertainment as our fellow ski bunny actually managed to ski up and down the little clearing in which we sat, although I use the term 'ski' loosely! After lots more huffing and puffing, photo shoots and track finding, (the track completely disappeared at one point), we finally reached the spot where our track intersected with another track to Beeby's Knob. It was here that our ski bunny was in his element as he whizzed off down the 4X4 track leaving us all in his wake. The rest of us continued somewhat more sedately down to Top House.

Thank you to everyone who attended for a very enjoyable, interesting and entertaining day, and a big thank you to our navigators, Chris and Kate.

Attendees were: Marcelle Luxon, Kelvin Drew, Dan McGuire, Phillip Palmer, Chris Louth, Kate Krawczyk, Andrea Cockerton, Barry James, Annette Le Cren, Mark Stevens and Sue Henley.

14 September – Snowcraft Day - Robert Ridge Nelson Lakes National Park

Organiser: Pat Holland

20 registered for the annual trip to Rainbow and almost all of us turned out on Sunday, rearing to go. Unfortunately the Rainbow ski field and road were closed, despite the favourable forecast. Rain the day before must have ruined the tow base. So, after a quick confirmation at DOC St Arnaud, we drove to Mt Robert car park for the obvious alternate.

A mild morning and furious pace up Pinchgut Track resulted in some red faces at Relax Shelter. No snow about there so on and up to the former ski field basin where there were only some tiny patches. So, on up the ridge to the basin under Julius, where there were some patches of snow below the ridge. However, it was all rather soft. Therefore, the snowcraft training was very modest but some squishy attempts at self-arrest were made to applause from on-lookers and crampons were tried.

It was very mild and enervating in the midday sun so everyone collapsed for lunch. Entertainment was provided by Andrea doing an icebucket challenge clad in bikini. After lunch, Mike demonstrated the technique of using a snow shovel to assess slope stability and avalanche risk (zero chance that day!)

Before returning from whence we came, about 2/3 of the party went out on the Christie Ridge for the fine view down into Lake Rotoiti.

An excellent day out as always but proper snowcraft training must await more favourable snow conditions. **Leaders:** Pat Holland, Brian Renwick & Mike Glover. **Members:** Andrea Cockerton, Annette LeCren, Barry James, Chris Louth, Debbie Hogan, Gina Andrews, Ian Morris, Kate Krawczyk, Kelvin Drew, Ken Ridley, Sue Henley & Wade Glover. **Visitors:** Birgit Kling, Chris Tilley, Kathy Smith &

spring SOCIAL CALENDAR

UPcoming CLUBNITES...

Monday 6 October

Show 'n' Tell

7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate

Speakers include:

Pat. Holland – Lake Lochnagar

Mike Glover – Ivory Lake

Kate Krawczyk – Johnson Peak

Monday 3 November

Pub Night Social

TURF bar – 7.30pm,

(Corner of Songer St & Main Rd Stoke)

[Kate Krawczyk](#): Ph: **544 7764**

Saturday 1 November

Big Beach Clean-Up

Time: 10 am–1 pm

Where: Cable Bay, T.B.A.

Monday 1 December

Photo Competition

7.30pm, Nelson Intermediate

Our club's annual, informal social get-together around the table... a chance to show off your skills with a camera - and show us where you've been tramping all year.

Check the Rules & on Page 3.

Guest Judge : Barry Doig

HUT UPDATE

Pine Valley Hut in Mt Richmond Forest Park, was burnt to the ground in early June.

The new **James Mackay Hut** on the Heaphy Track will be ready & opened before Christmas

Flora Hut: NTC will be doing a second working bee in early 2015.

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— Katie, Photography Student

TRIP LEADERS

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They are the SAR contacts, especially if the hire shops are closed, (e.g. after 4pm.)

NEW SHOP

The **Hunting & Fishing** shop in Richmond now holds the two PLBs that were stored at Stirling Sports.

NEW FORM

Download the **Intentions Form** PDF from our [website](#). (still a work in progress)

NEW RULE

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

COMMITTEE :

President: Lawrie Halkett

Correspondence Secretary: Pat Holland

Minutes Secretary: Kate Krawczyk

Treasurer: Ian Morris

Programme Co-ordinator: Chris Louth

Committee: Andrea Cockerton, Sue Henley, Dion Pont, Graeme Ferrier

Newsletter Editor: Raymond Salisbury

Post reports to: 71 Montreal Rd, Victory, or email to: newsletter@maxnet.co.nz

Gear: Mark Stevens **Patron:** Robyn Walsh

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