



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

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR TRIP LEADERS >

Beacons

As you will be aware, Base Camp has closed, and can no longer keep our five Personal Locator Beacons and supervise their loaning. The club is in the Arbutnott's debt for this service over many years and we are extremely grateful to them. Formal thanks were given at the club night on 7 October.

We have been able to secure alternative arrangements for the five PLBs. Trip leaders please pick up a beacon from either location:



Rollo's Outdoor Centre
12 Bridge Street
Nelson
Ph 548 1975

Stirling Sports
213 Queen Street
Richmond
Ph 544 8290

There will be one prebooked beacon at each shop kept for scheduled club trips. The other beacons (2 at Rollos; 1 at Stirling) are available for booking by club members for private trips (free; no longer than 7 days). During the busiest part of the summer season unused beacons may also be available for rent by non-members.

Both shops have a supply of the trip intentions form to be completed when a beacon is taken on loan. This is slightly more detailed than in the past but fits with the form Rollos use for their own beacons. We will soon post the PDF form to our website.

We are very appreciative that these shops have agreed to provide this service. Please respect the staff and be patient if they are busy. Direct any complaints or other comments on the new arrangements for our PLBs to the NTC Committee.

Also, please be prompt in returning the PLBs and report any damage too.

Nelson Tramping Club November 2013



PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

EDITORIAL COMMENT >

From Where I Sit

Every morning I sit on a blue sofa and eat breakfast, gazing out the lounge window at the greenery and ever-changing panorama. Ten hills are visible from where I sit. When we first moved into Victory, these summits teased me daily, until I resolved to climb each one. This personal goal provided the necessary motivation to get outside, and get fit.

So, across my summer holidays I began bagging local peaks – and when I reached the top, I would peer back into the bustling metropolis of Nelson below, and spot my tiny green house. And wave to my wife. And pour a flask of tea.

Last summer I was re-climbing 'my' mountains. Not one to repeat things, I was ascending and descending by different routes, of which there are plenty of potential tracks to choose from.

So, for your inspiration, overleaf are a list of local hills to hike – the times aren't particularly fast, but are a rough guide of how long you need to get up and down. Sometimes the tracks are closed due to forestry operations, and are therefore overgrown. Sometimes you will need permission to cross private land. Create your own 'hit list' if you want. Feedback is appreciated!

Alternatively, check out our latest Programme for a diverse smorgasbord from easy local hikes to difficult mountaineering expeditions. Support your trip leaders who are sticking their neck out to take you to far-off places in their personal time.



See you at Club & Pub Nights...

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS > Ian & Marilyn
Morris, and Bruce Alley

OBITUARY >

Gillian Arbuthnott

May 1949 – October 2013

Nelson Tramping Club wishes to express its sorrow at Gillian's passing after a brief illness. We give our sincere condolences to Hec and their two sons plus extended families.

This is not the place for a full obituary but we wish to record and acknowledge the tremendous services that Gillian provided to the Club and her personal friendships with many of our members. She and Hec joined the Club when they moved to Nelson in 2004. In 2006 she came onto the committee as Treasurer and she served for three years, characterised by her highly efficient managing of the accounts and her calm, but very positive and friendly manner. Nothing was a problem for Gillian, financial or personal, because her talents could always help find a solution.

Gillian also led many tramps. Although these were generally only day walks, she made them memorable through her adventurous spirit and her ability to relate to everybody. BaseCamp began



to consume more of their time and energies but Gillian remained a faithful member of the club and continued to assist through the managing from the shop of the club's safety beacons. She and Hec attended the club night on October 7th to be honoured for their services. Little did anybody know that most of us were seeing her for the last time. Gillian's encouraging words to members that evening remain: **"Put yourself forward for service – you will gain far more than you put in".**

LOCAL NELSON HILLS > *inspiration to get fit*

Hill:	Height:	Time to climb:	Main Access:
Barnicoat Range:			
Drumduan	657m	1.5 hrs	The Glen, via the Cable Bay Walkway
Wells Hill	458m	1.5 hrs	Sharland Creek, Hira Forest
Botanical Hill (Centre of NZ)	147m	15 mins	Botanical Park, Hardy St East
Kaka Hill	459m	1 hr	Sharland Creek, Hira Forest
Sharland Hill	351m	40 mins	Atmore Tce, Tantragee Saddle
Sugarloaf	308m	40 mins	Brook St, via road up Grampians
Flaxmore (Grampians)	390m	30 mins	Market Rd, via Kahikatea Track
Fringed Hill	793m	1.5 hrs	Brook St, via Dun Mtn Walkway
Wooded Peak	1111m	2 hrs	Brook St, via Dun Mtn Walkway
Jenkins Hill	776m	75 mins	The Brook camp, via firebreak ridge
Barnicoat Hill	604m	1 hr	Barnicoat Walkway, Marsden Valley
Saxton Hill	516m	1.5 hrs	Along ridge from Richmond Hill & lookout
Richmond Hill (trig)	513m	40 mins	Lodestone Rd, off Queen St
Bryant Range:			
Mount Duppa	1143m	1 hr	Over Whangamoia Saddle on SH6
Saddle Hill (The Doubles)	1215m	3 hrs	Maitai Dam, via Maungatapu Rd
Maungatapu	1014m	3 hrs	Maitai Dam, via Maungatapu Rd
Little Twin	1143m	3 hrs	Maitai Dam, via Dew Lakes track
Dun Mountain	1129m	3 hrs	Maitai Dam, via Dun Saddle
Mt Malita	959m	1.5 hrs	Aniseed Valley Rd
Mt Meares	808m	?	Totara Saddle – Rocks Hut track



PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

Hailes Knob: Chris, Marcel, John, Kate & Andrea

TRIP REPORTS

September–October 2013

1 September – Hailes Knob, Kahurangi NP

Leader: Ross Price

The first day of spring: clear, calm and sunny – a good day to climb a mountain.

None of us had been here before so it was a case of plan as you go. We parked a few kilometres along Waitui Road and began a steady climb up to a saddle below the mountain.

Visitor Laura warned us as we left the cars that she'd recently had a brain operation and had a tendency to say things that could upset people. She was fine, though some of her language was as colourful as Ross's shorts.

There was no obvious way up and no tracks marked on the map, so we crossed some pasture land and began the ascent up a face that was completely devoid of trees, heavily rutted by pigs and criss-crossed by goat tracks.

Inevitably the group stretched out on the very steep, sometimes rocky, slope as everyone found their own pace.

About 300 vertical metres from the summit we stopped to regroup and refresh. Within 10 minutes five of us had assembled but there was no sign of the other four. Fifteen minutes later and still no one, and as none of us were too keen to descend to find them, we decided to continue up the steepest part and around the bluffs to the top.

Normally when you get to about 1300 metres the treeline ends. Here the beech forest started at about 1250 and crowned the peak at 1279, giving only glimpses of the panorama. This is possibly one of the reasons why there is no recognisable track up.

By now it was obvious the others in the party were not coming all the way so we backtracked roughly the way we had come up. We heard them

before we saw them, having lunch at about 1000m. Reunited, we slowly picked our way down.

At an old, insulated fenceline I was doing my impression of someone being electrocuted when I lost my balance and embarrassingly bounced a few metres down the hill.

We got back to the cars at about 3pm, Kate happy that she had ticked off another in her quest to bag all the knobs in the country!

Climbers were: Ross Price (leader), Marcel Stutz, Kate Krawcyk, John Whibley, Andrea Cockerton, Chris Louth (trip report), and visitors Laura, Mark and Elizabeth.

6–9 September – Mt Patriarch, Kahurangi NP

Leader: Pat Holland

Although the weather forecast was rather mixed, it proved very worthwhile to proceed with the famous round trip. There was rain only at night and some mist and wind in the mornings but the days were generally sunny and bright. Five of us drove on the Friday to Rolling River in good order.

After a car shuffle 3km back down the road to opposite Chummies track, we started the trip. No bridge but the river was low which did not prevent our beloved leader slipping and taking a dip in the first minute! Chummies is an excellent track with a steep start but then works its way up the ridge through some lovely forest (4 hrs).

The exit to John Reid Hut in the high tussock basin involves some sidling which proved unnerving as the track is minimal and the surface was slippery with wet tussock and some snow. So, 1–2 hours later we finally reached the hut and set about hunting for firewood.

There was a strong wind and the open fire proved

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Chris Louth traverses the narrow ridgeline toward the ultimate goal... the triple-breasted spire of Mount Patriarch

PHOTO > PAT HOLLAND

to an excellent source of smoke to disinfect the hut

At nightfall we were joined by Tom of the Kea Trust who is tracking kea from Kahurangi to Arthurs Pass using high tech RT and camera gear. The kea populations all over the country are in steep decline due to a range of factors and the Trust deserves all the support it can get.

Day 2 began windy and also misty as we ascended 300m to the ridge. There were no poles nor markers but the route along the western ridge was fairly obvious ... up and down with a few steepish pitches that strained the nerves of some.

The sun finally broke through as we neared Patriarch (4.5 hrs) with magnificent views of the Mt Owen massif, the three peaks of Patriarch, and across to Mt Luna. Mike, Pat and David dropped packs and did the scramble up to the summit of Patriarch (1.5 hrs return) before following the others down through the bush to Kiwi Saddle Hut (2 hrs)

On the descent off the peak, figures were seen in the distance dancing along the ridge – three additional members who had chosen to do in one day what the main party had done in two days! This very tired trio joined us at the hut late afternoon; Kate and John tenting, Gina in the last bunk.

Kiwi Saddle Hut is an excellent six-bunker in a more sheltered situation and the fire did not smoke badly. David impressed with wood cutting using his improvised bow saw. Rain and some snow on the tops in the night. On the morning of Day Three we were still head in the clouds. It was decided that packing over the Luna Tops to Stone Hut was too risky and three decided to walk out down valley.

With sun cutting through at 9:30am the remaining five started a day trip to the Luna Tops. The first

300m climb to the bushline is on an excellent track, but then the unmarked route heads up a gnarly ridge above the basins, with one very steep pitch. I was very pleased not to be carrying a full pack!

We chose a less than ideal spot to exit the ridge and took a while to get down into the main basin (no snow; much clinging to tussock and small *Dra-cophyllum*). Then a saunter across to the saddle under Mount Luna for lunch (3.5hr). There were good views back east to Patriarch and west down into the Stone headwaters. Travel to the bushline looked straightforward where a marked track descends to the hut.

Mike had no takers for an ascent of Luna (windy, cool and we were tired). So, it was back the way we had come. Regaining the ridge via an easier route, we noted that past the drop to Luna Lake on



Outside Kiwi Saddle Hut, under the shadow of Mount Patriarch. Mike, Andrea, Kate, John, David, Chris & Gina.

PHOTO > PAT HOLLAND

the south side, a basin opened out which enabled us to avoid the steepest parts of the ridge and regain the track without difficulty (2 hrs return to KS Hut).

At the hut we were joined by three trampers of uncertain age from Christchurch. They had come from John Reid Hut and had found an iceaxe on the ridge. This proved to have slipped off the pack of one of us – a huge relief to person concerned as the iceaxe was borrowed – and lucky because few use that route early in the season.

After a night of rain and some snow, Day Four saw us head down Kiwi Stream in clearing weather. The track is excellent and the bush magnificent so an enjoyable morning.

At the Wangapeka River bridge (2 hrs), Chris and Pat went 30min upstream to visit Cecil King's old hut (1935), still in excellent condition and just the place for a romantic tryst, if you like rats for company.

The trudge along the main Wangapeka track out to Rolling River (3 hrs) was not tedious due to the ever-changing vistas of river, forest and hills.

The dam creating Lake Wangapeka is gradually being worn down by the river so it is no longer necessary to take the high route.

Coffee with Mike and Heather at Tadmor completed an excellent round trip through wonderful country.

Pat Holland (leader); Andrea Cockerton, Chris Louth, Gina Andrews, John Whibley, Kate Krawczyk, Mike Drake, and David Wells (visitor).

15 September – Hackett Hut
Leader: Jo Kay

The Hackett River and track has undergone some shape shifting caused by the recent flood. There was a diversion round a washout shortly before the turn off to Whispering Falls.

We had a wee look along the closed Whispering Falls track to

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 nibbles, and social atmosphere of this last club night of the year.

Date: Monday 2 December. **Place:** Nelson Intermediate School staffroom, Titipahi Street, Nelson. **Time:** 7.30pm. **Guest Judge:** Don Pittham

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 Don:

- Prints must be 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.



Andrea (far right) with her party high above Lake Rotoiti. Pictured are Phillip, Sue, Jenny, Bruce, Kate and Andrea

PHOTO > CHRIS LOUTH

the first bridge washout and gained a good perspective of the force of the flood by the debris strewn over the track.

At the hut we were entertained by the resident weka living under the wood shed as she ventured out to grab our lunch crumbs.

We walked over to the Browning Hut track and returned to the car park at a leisurely pace allowing us to enjoy the scenery on this lovely spring day.

Walkers on this trip were Mike Locke, Bruce Alley, Pam Smith, Agnieska Grudzinska and Jo Kay (trip leader & scribe)

28 September – Dew Lakes – Bryant Range, Nelson

Leader: Uta Purcell

Twelve trampers weaved their way up from the Maitai Dam to the ridgeline between Little Twin and Maungatapu Saddle. Showers gave way to sunshine and we were able to sit on the track for morning tea at the Argillite Quarry site.

For some it was their first visit; for others a return to a well-loved area. The man-made Rush-pools had a little water in them.

We reached our high point and highlight, the Dew Lakes, just before midday. Eager to get all of the view before thickening cloud and rain blurred it, we tip-toed through the spongy ground to the far side of the shallow lakes just in time but exposed to chilling winds.

Returning to the first of the lakes, we had lunch in the rain. The water levels on track were no different to other days.

Participants were: Laura Solomon (visitor), Dan McGuire, Alison Aaron, Jim Kjestrup (visitor), Natasha Kawrocki (visitor), Val Latimer, Dion Pont, Mary Honey, Charles Kerkham (visitor), Brian & Diane Renwick and Uta Purcell (scribe).

29 September – Parachute Rocks traverse Nelson Lakes National Park

Leader: Andrea Cockerton

This trip was postponed from the previous week and the weather was again looking indeterminate. The plan was to rock on up to the Lakes and make a decision from there to head up to the ridge or to potter around the circular lake walk. In our heart of hearts we all wanted to go up ... not the easy option, so why is it one chooses to head up a track that by virtue of its name implies "effort of some magnitude?" (The Grunt trap-line).

So, the decision was unanimously reached by the time we came upon the start of the trapline, 45 minutes around the lake.

The trapline (marked blue) was easy to find, as it initially follows the true right of a stream and beguiles to its name by giving false hope, lots of chatter and no grunts. Well, it really was not too bad and we attained the height to the ridgeline 2.5 hours after we turned up the trapline, first climbing a spur, steep in places and offering promo views. The ridgeline took $\frac{3}{4}$ hour to reach the large well-placed sign directing us back to St Arnaud.

It was said that the ridgeline was short in comparison to the effort to get there and a greater distance would be appreciated, though the pros and cons depends on your poison! It was rocky and narrow in places, but the soft snow was not icy and the plentiful rocks assisted our passage. The weather was kind too, the sun made a welcome appearance, there was little wind, and flurries of soft snow added to the ambience. The rain and hail was short lived and so our spirits were high.

We reached Parachute Rocks at 1.30pm opting for quick refreshments due to the elements and retreated down into the bush. We passed a stoic



Lawrie's indefatigable party outside Rocks Hut

four-year-old heading up near the bushline with family in toe, all credit to them.

The walk down was uneventful, dappled sunshine through the beech forest, a rest by the stream, more chatter and lunch. All in all, a great day was had.

Happy trampers were Kate Krawczyk, Sue Henley, Jenny Chaddock, Chris Louth (navigator), Philip Palmer, Bruce Alley & Andrea Cockerton (scribe.)

5–6 October – Browning Hut to Rocks Hut

Leader: Lawrie Halkett

The band of seven met at Lawries' in Richmond and left on a shuttle ride to the start of the Hackett Track (thanks to Leif Christensen and Paul Henley for taxiing the group). The day was pretty foggy, but quite warm.

After nearly two hours of pleasant walking up the Hackett Stream, then up the Browning Creek, we arrived at Browning Hut expectantly, as Chris Louth had arrived the night before and had received instructions to have ready a morning tea fit for royalty.

'Alas, we were not met with the smell of freshly-baked scones and alluring perked coffee odours!'

Chris indeed was there, but thought the instructions had been a joke! "No joke", we said as we dolefully peeled off our muesli bar wrappers and sucked on our plastic drink bottles. And so our party became eight – the genders perfectly balanced.

Onward and upward it was, to Browning Pass, swinging east then north as we gained height and marched at a good pace toward Rocks Hut.

Fine views of Mount Richmond, Mt Fell and the Pelorus Valley were enjoyed. It felt good to be above suburbia, basking in broad sunlight while those less energetic below were experiencing a

gloomy day!

When we stopped for lunch we heard from our two lads new to club tramps, Charles and Chris (not to be confused with our venerable club Programme Co-ordinator, the older Chris). Charles, as it happens is hugely musically talented, playing the cello, guitar and piano. To that collection, he had bought and was learning the bagpipes! He also paints in water colours.

Young Chris is a power lifter and painter. He won three gold medals and a silver at the Special Olympics in Shanghai in 2005. After hearing this, everyone wanted him to carry their packs! A couple of years ago Young Chris had an art exhibition at the Refinery in Nelson and sold all his paintings – he has another exhibition coming up in 2015.

As we marched on to Rocks we learnt more about our two new tramping companions. Both now want to add tramping to their impressive list of achievements.

Chris Louth and Sue steamed ahead to claim bunk space, given it was the school holidays and Rocks Hut is relatively close to Nelson City – we didn't want to miss out on a comfortable night. As it happened, we only had to share the hut with a trio of women from Moutere.

Sunday dawned relatively fine though a little blustery as we hit Dun Mountain. Once on the Coppermine Trail we meet a number of bikers and some kindred spirits (the Waimea Tramping Club), doing the Coppermine circuit. Downwards to Third House for lunch.

Eight satisfied trampers lay on the grass, soaking up the sun and reminiscing on what a wonderful weekend we all had experienced.

'As Andrea casually rummaged through her pack seeking her lunch, she discovered three rather solid rocks that had, in some way or another, found their way into her pack!'

Of course, everyone else professed complete ignorance as Andrea carefully scanned the seven other faces for any sign of guilt or over enthusiastic mirth, but alas the culprit was an excellent actor, as she was unable to ascertain who had bestowed the extra burden upon her. A great laugh was had by all while an accusing finger was pointed at an older member of the group!

The party spilt in two with Chris and the girls heading over Jenkins Hills and down the Involution cycle trail to Marsden Valley. Marie, Chris, Charles & Lawrie (leader & scribe) headed down to OK Coral and The Brook.



Regroup at the emergency shelter on Dun Mountain...



...and atop Little Twin. Sue, Andrea, Kate, Bruce & John

13 October – Dun Mtn/Maungatapu Circuit, Nelson
Leader: Chris Louth

An excellent turnout for what is quite a long day traversing part of the Bryant Range ridge-line from the SW to NE.

On a fine clear morning ten of us left the grassy knoll by the Maitai Dam caretaker's house and steeled ourselves for the long, somewhat tedious, climb up to Dun Saddle.

Two and a half hours later, after a non-stop effort, we huddled behind what shelter we could find from the biting wind and had smoko amongst the rock formations.

Once up the short steep climb to the plateau of Dun Mountain the wind abated as we rock-hopped across the top to the emergency shelter. Some weren't too keen to add Mt Maungatapu to the walk so we split into two groups here, with six doing the full circuit and the others dropping back down to the dam from Dew Lakes.

As it turned out, the advance party weren't too far in front up and over Little Twin and were having lunch at Dew Lakes when the others arrived.

We bid them farewell again and continued along the boggy track, up a short pitch over Maungatapu and another unnamed bump and then steeply down to the Maungatapu Saddle.

Sue's 'best friend' Allan was showing amazing stamina as he continually trotted from back to front to ensure everyone was staying in touch. Our walk was to be about 25kms but by the end of the day he would have easily covered two or three times that distance!

Maungatapu Road has been closed to vehicles for a couple of years now and was quite rough in places on the descent. A couple of exasperating up-hills (when you should be going down) saw us back at the cars just shy of eight hours after the start.

The whole route from the top of Dun Mountain to the Maungatapu Saddle alternates between beech forest and open patches of mineral belt country,

where the bush is much thinner and lower and offers views over the coast to the north and the peaks of the Richmond Ranges to the south.

The full circuit was covered by Kate Krawczyk, John Whibley, Sue Henley and Allan, Bruce Alley, Andrea Cockerton and Chris Louth (leader and report), while Graham Ferrier, Ken Ridley, Dan McGuire and Bob Renshaw (visitor), elected the abbreviated version.

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Help needed...

Saturday 30 November Big Beach CleanUp

Walk the Cable Bay Walkway to Sentinel Hill and drop down from saddle to NE end of Horoirangi Marine Reserve beach, returning to Glen Duan picking up rubbish as we go.

Low tide is 2.15pm which is perfect. This walk is one of our best locally and the club will also make its contribution to keeping our beaches clean.

(Note: The official BBCU is on 9th November but the tide is unfavourable on that date.)

Contact Bob Janssen > Ph: 548 8257



Thumbs up on arrival at Nelson's Maitai Caves



Jack Savage was an enthusiastic caver



Sunday 1 December

Organiser: Ray & Lynette Salisbury, Ph: **546 8060**

As per last year, our illustrious club is participating in the Outdoor Recreation Expo run by Sport Tasman. As clubs get free exhibitor space, this is an easy way to advertise our activities in the community.

We set up a large tent, with big posters and photos on display. We talk to the public and give them glossy brochures & membership info.

7.30am set-up. Pack down from **4pm**. Tahuna Recreation Reserve (by the beach).

Phone Ray if you can man the tent for an hour or three. **546 8060** or **021 135 8739**.

www.sporttasman.org.nz/outdoor_recreation_expo

20 October – Maitai Caves, Nelson

Leader: Jo Kay

The beech forest and the sparkling pools of the Maitai River were the highlights of our walk to the Maitai caves.

The track is a shared pathway with mountain bikers descending from the Coppermine Saddle so yells of "biker!" and shuffling to one side of the track were another feature.

We had a short steep climb to the caves entrance and then lunch in the sun followed by an exploration of the caves. The entrance requires you to stoop to get through then a steep and slippery climb takes you down to the floor of the vast cavern where a stream passes through to continue underground. Jack and Sue were the most adventurous making it to the floor of the cave and Sue explored further into a second chamber while the rest of us enjoyed the above ground experience.

Those present on the walk were visitors Jack Savage (9 years old), Ruth Collins, Barbara Bond, Judy Christal, Debbie Hamilton and members Sue Henley, Marie Lenting and Jo Kay (trip leader and scribe).

CONGRATULATIONS...

Waimea Tramping Club have just celebrated their 40th anniversary over Labour Weekend

UPcoming CLUBNITES...

Monday 18 November

Social Night

7pm, Sprig & Fern,
Tahunanui.

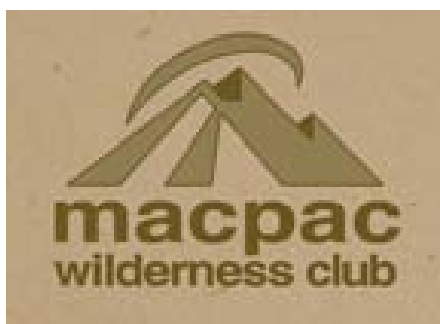
For more info, email Kate:
k8k@xtra.co.nz: [Kate Krawczyk](mailto:kate.krawczyk@xtra.co.nz)

"BRING YOUR PARK MAPS"

Monday 2 December

Photo Competition

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.



Instead of the normal 10% on showing your FMC card, also sign up to join the *Macpac Wilderness Club* and get an additional 10% off.



INTENTIONS FORMS



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Download Intentions Forms at:
www.adventuresmart.org.nz/Outdoors-Intentions/Default.asp

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Don Schwass, who has worked for search and rescue in Nelson for decades, kindly spoke at a recent NTC club night.

If you need to hire tramping boots, tents, beacons, or even clothing, contact Don:

547 4817 / 021 111 1177

www.adventuregearhire.co.nz



Don also provides the only FREE monitored tramping intentions service. Check out *Adventure Buddy* on-line:

www.adventurebuddy.co.nz

DOC UPDATES

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

Kahurangi National Park

The **Graham Valley Road** is still closed due to a giant slip in May which blocked access to Flora Saddle and Mt Arthur.

DOC feared all the debris from recent rain events would have to be moved, which would have taken until Christmas and cost around \$300,000. But luckily, much of the debris is stable and can stay where it is, meaning a smaller job that DOC hopes will be completed by the end of the October.

Abel Tasman National Park

The new **Anchorage Hut** opened to the public on Saturday 12th October. It now sleeps 34 people.

EAST CAPE TO CAPE WEST

TRAMPING e-BOOK

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