



Newsletter of the
NELSON TRAMPING CLUB

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

Nelson Tramping Club September 2011

EDITORIAL COMMENT >

S.L.O.W.I.N.G. D.O.W.N.

It is mid-morning, so the spring sun is warming the porch of Bushline Hut, burning the puffy cloud layer off the lake below, mirror calm deep green.

Birds are chattering in pockets of stunted red beech, and across the Travers Valley, hidden cascades thunder into an invisible void. To the north, the cloud dissipates, revealing the bulk of Gordons Knob, Red Hill and Mt Patriarch. Further west, the snowy ramparts of Mt Owen appear; beyond is the Arthur Range disappearing into the hazy distance.

My mates are philosophising about religion and relationships; the deeper issues of life. I am content to wander for a while, find a tussock balcony to perch on, and drink in the ever-changing vista at my feet.

Rising banks of cumulus envelope me; ubiquitous namu eventually see me retreating to the comfortable hut, refreshed and quietened.

It is moments like this where we feel one with nature, divorced from the demands of our daily grind, floating for a while in a timeless world, unhurried. On popular walks or in crowded huts this sort of solitude can easily be missed. It may mean venturing off the beaten track, or going on a solo trip, to truly 'get away from it all.'

Sometimes the reason some of us go tramping is goal-oriented; to bag a hut or conquer a peak. Even just to explore new territory, or to practise photography. Sometimes we are more human doings, rather than human beings. Perhaps the odd trip into the hills purely to slow down could be what we really need. To clear our heads. To get centred again. When creation calls ... are we really listening?



Raymond Salisbury,
EDITOR
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Our new club Patron : Robyn Walsh

PATRON'S PROFILE > *Robyn Walsh*

I was born in Mosgiel, near Dunedin, in the year of the coronation. When Hillary and Tenzing climbed Everest. My sister is older (and is a member of the Waimea Tramping Club.)

My first memories are at 2.5 years old when we spent three months in a caravan at Hobsonville, near Auckland. Here, my dad attended a course, since he was in the Air Force.

We left Mosgiel in 1960, moving up to Woodbourne until May 1963, when Dad got a posting to the Air Force station near Suva, Fiji. I attended a school there, being Standard 3 and 4.

Memories of living in Fiji include seeing striped sea snakes, beautiful iridescent blue fish, Indian and Fijian firewalking, and experiencing two small hurricanes. Air Force picnics to the nearby Nukulau Island, which is now a prison. Us kids (and parents too) got hooked on the Beatles. We saw the white Sunderland flying boats regularly, and attended outdoor movie theatres. (*Continued...*)

We returned to New Zealand until my father retired. I attended Henderson High School, doing a Shorthand Typing course for three years.

My first job came in 1970 with the Post Office in an Auckland Telegraph Office. I was a teleprinter operator. We moved down to Nelson in 1971 and I transferred to the Nelson Telegraph Office, working there until 1987, then transferring to Telecom. Other short-term jobs have been with the Tasman District Council, microfilming/cataloging plans, and apple-packing over five seasons.

My interest in tramping began to stir when we came to Nelson. My first forays into the hills were with a youth group. The first tramp was to Whispering Falls and Hackett Hut, followed by a jaunt to Stilwell Bay and the Maitai Caves. I became hooked and joined the Nelson Tramping Club in 1977 (after doing my obligatory two tramps).

My first tramp with the club was another visit to Maitai Caves, then the Dew Lakes. An overnight tramp to Devils Creek Hut followed. The Easy to Moderate day walks suited me best, while weekend trips involved driving to a destination from which some glorious day walks were enjoyed. Some particularly memorable weekends have been to Charleston over New Year 1983, Pakawau over New Year, 1984, and Totaranui.

Another very special trip was the 1996 cycle trip through the Rainbow to Hanmer Springs in perfectly clear weather. (I drove a van.) Absolutely beautiful scenery!

My tenure on Committee began in 1983, then a 23-year continuous run evolved. I enjoyed every minute, getting to know members I wouldn't see on the easier trips. Taking part in running the club, hearing trip reports at meetings, and planning itineraries. Positions held on the Committee were Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

During my time on the Committee, I have seen the names gradually change. Also, in the club I have seen many members come and go. But it is good to see a few stalwarts are still in the club.

Also, the objects of the club and atmosphere of the trips, clubnights are just the same as when I first joined: full of enthusiasm and awe of our backcountry. We still do things the same, but with subtle differences. (e.g. clothing, packs, GPS, vehicle models, more roads sealed, club Committee more safety-conscious, etc.)

Oh, and when I joined NTC some 34 years ago, the annual subscription was a mere \$3.00.

Robyn Walsh, Club Patron

List of member's names & contact details are now on-line as a Master List on the club
WEBSITE: www.nelsontrampingclub.org.nz

TRIP REPORTS

June–August 2011



Intrepid climbers ascend a steep snow gully to the saddle

PHOTO > RUTH HESSELYN

25–26 June 2011 – Lees Valley & Mangerton Ridge loop – Raglan Range, Marlborough

Leader: Ruth Hesselyn

In good spirits, we departed the Lees Creek carpark at about midday on Saturday, expecting good weather on Sunday, but not much snow. The three-hour walk up valley was scenic and leisurely. At Lees Creek Hut, the three ladies settled inside and the men pitched tents.

We woke on Sunday morning to start out at 7:30am under a fresh dusting of snow, with flurries still coming down. The walk up-valley in virgin snow conditions was chilly but exciting. Not wanting to stop for too long, we made our way up to the valley head to a half-frozen tarn. After stopping for photos and chocolates, it was ice-axes in hand for the final climb up the snow-covered scree to the 1930m saddle.

The views were spectacular on the saddle but, because of conditions, we dropped down the other side of the Mangerton Ridge to a warmer, more sheltered spot for lunch, dropping 800m in some 40 minutes. Upon reaching the bottom of the scree slope, we bush-bashed down to the valley floor where we picked up the track back to the hut.

After a hot cuppa, we gathered our gear and headed down the Lee Valley for a relaxing walk out. The circuit was described as a 'snow trip' and it was snow we got. Good times!

Trampers were: Mike Drake, Carole Crocker, Pat Holland, Miriam Jones (visitor), Liam Sullivan, Mark Stevens, Grant Standing (scribe) and our super-fit leader, Ruth Hesselyn.

26 June - Railway Reserve/ Grampians circuit

Leader: Katie Cloughley

A short, three-hour walk close to the winter solstice was a pleasant diversion on a sunny, wintry morning. Eleven trampers completed the circuit from Victory Square, along the Railway Reserve, up the Kahikatea Track to the Lookout on the Grampians.

With clear conditions, the city, Tasman Bay and the Mt Arthur Range showed their best faces to an appreciative audience. It was especially pleasing to 'show off' to the overseas visitors in our group.

A gentle retreat down the Ronaki Track and past Nelson College brought us back to square one (Victory Square).

The Sunday strollers were: club members Gillian Arbuthnott, Jim Maxwell, Brenda Griffin, Maurice and Katie Cloughley, (Scribe) and visitors (and hopefully soon-to-be members) Carol and Howard Donaldson, Pam Bennett and Carolyn Moore.

Last, but not least, were Canadians Eric Wells and Angela, spending a few hours in Nelson en route to further travels in the South Island.

3 July - Mount Murchison, Buller District

Leader: Gretchen Williams

After weeks of awful weather and lots of cancelled trips 21 people put aside their cabin fever on this gorgeously fine and frosty morning. Mt Murchison stood out in all its glory from various vantage points on the way. This time we drove through the farm paddocks and gates and parked at the locked gate, saving quite a bit of time and energy. We quickly settled into various fitness groups and were pretty spread out (going up and coming down).

Disappointment struck as we left the tree line to find it was cold, windy and cloudy. The brief but cloudless views to the north, west and south disappeared completely as we proceeded to the top. There we had an uncomfortable lunch huddled out of the wind behind a few buildings and amongst the tussocks, then retreated back down the road to the cars. As we drove home it was noticed that the top had cleared again.

Participants were: Gretchen Williams, Andy Clark, Maurice & Katie Cloughley, Gillian Arbuthnott, David Sissons, Chris Louth, Norah Flight, Raymond Salisbury, Sue Davies, Brenda Griffin, Ron Mailer, Lou Kolf, Uta Purcell, Tom Brown. Plus visitors: Beverley & John Mockett, Roger & Maureen Cotton, Dorothy Hay and Ruby.



Reservoir en route Saxton Hill

PHOTO > DAVID BLUNT

9 July - Copper Smelter & Mt Malita circuit

Leader: Alison Pickford

Eleven folk expressed their intent to make an early start into the frost in the Aniseed Valley, but overnight rain and morning weather that did not look like the fine day promised, convinced me to cancel the trip. Whereupon the day brightened considerably, I began to feel somewhat wimpy ... but only until persistent wetness late in the morning.

10 July - Drumduan, Cable Bay Walkway

Leader: Jim Maxwell

We set off from the Glen in marginal weather and arrived at the airstrip on the Cable Bay Walkway with rain and a cold wind. An urgent study of the map gave us an idea where we should be headed and we quickly got to the shelter of a track through thick gorse.

We were soon at the top of Drumduan and found the rocks which rise above the bush. The rain had stopped and the cloud cleared enough to give us a good view of the coastline. We tried to find another route back to the walkway from there but gave up and returned the same route after a stop for lunch in a sunny spot.

The walk back to the Glen gave us good views of the Boulder Bank and Nelson. A short, but worthwhile outing. Walkers were Gillian Arbuthnott, Jim Maxwell and two visitors, Helen and Lynn.

17 July - Saxton Hill - Nelson

Leader: David Blunt

A great group of 22 enjoyed this tramp. Richard Raine kindly gave permission for the club for us to go over his farm land where he has a milking herd and cattle in well-fenced paddocks. Our responsibility was to ensure all gates we opened were also closed.

We were lucky to have a warm and sunny day. Following the wet period of weather we have been

having the grass and ground was still very wet and those with sneakers and long trousers had a bit of fun in the mud. We passed by the historic homestead, under wonderful oaks to then follow farm tracks for some of the time.

To get up Saxton Hill, the terrain became increasingly steep. Due to the gates issues we were mostly in a tight group, which was very social as it gave the opportunity to get to know others.

There was the option of following a forestry road through to Aniseed Valley, used to bring timber out.

Part of the group went up the grassy face of Saxton Hill and the rest went up the road with a rather steep and icy/frosty track. From the top there were great views back across Richmond, Tasman and to the airport. The view to the south showed us a good dollop of snow on Mt. Starveall, Ben Nevis and North Peak.

On the way up we passed the rock quarry. On the way down we explored a huge reservoir with high earth wall. Paradise ducks were enjoying this secluded spot. The outflow from the dam is controlled and a concreted overflow system at the edge may be the beginning of a stream known as Poor Mans Stream that flows on down to the sea. The creek was planted attractively with native reeds at source.

We came down in the early afternoon and the cows were on the way to the milking shed. The track became increasingly muddy and we took some evasive action over some grassy areas with the help of gallant David and Mike who held the live electric wires down with their rubber soled boots.

There were 14 members and eight visitors as follows: Jim Maxwell, Mary Honey, Mike Locke, Gillian Arbuthnott, Barry & Dion Pont, Alison Nicoll (scribe), Ruth Hesselyn, Beverley Muirhead, Robyn Walsh, Ken Ridley, Chris Louth, Merrick Mitchell, David Blunt and visitors Lyn Jowett, Henry Hsu, Roger & Maureen Cotton, Annette, Paul & Ben Nistor and Barry's grandson Liam.



PHOTO > RAY SALISBURY

The Visitor Book in Top Crooked Hut was over 20 years old. Dion Pont in foreground.

23–24 July – Crooked River – Brunner District, Westland
Leader & Scribe: Ray Salisbury

By Friday night it was becoming apparent that most of NZ was about to be obliterated in the coldest weather we've had for 16 years. Even Fringed Hill got its share of snowfall. A party member pulled out, leaving only two hardy (fool-hardy?) men to weigh their options.

The high route over to Lake Christabel was abandoned for lower climes on what we thought would be an easier valley walk, further southwest.

Early on Saturday, Dion manoeuvred his trusty Suzuki jeep on his favourite shortcut through the Nelson Creek region. Finding the track up Crooked River was frustrating, but we eventually discovered it 40 minutes up the farm road at the Evans River confluence. Old concrete piles are all that remain from the washed-out bridge there.

Dion's new gaitors received a brown baptism as we skirted deep bogs on high terraces. Far below the Crooked River climbed up interminable gorges – in fact, the route seldom travelled beside the river. More than an hour elapsed until the first gorge sidle spat us out riverside, where who whistled in the early evening. We were chasing the light over the second high sidle, hand over

hand up vertical steps as the torturous track negotiated incised gullies and moss-laden rocks. We then boulder-hopped beneath the craggy face of Mt Alexander which towered above us.

Dusk saw us darken the door of Jacko Flat Hut after five hours on our feet. We were the first folk here in four months; the Visitor Book was 20 years old. An average of four parties per year frequented these parts, until 2009 when DOC re-cut and marked the overgrown trail.

On Sunday we embarked on a hut-bagging mission upriver. Tracking fresh deer prints across the frozen river flats, we reached the remote Top Crooked Hut in two hours. From here there's an alpine route over to Lake Morgan – this will wait for another adventure.

It was snowing lightly when we returned to our gear, and headed back to the car, racing the impending darkness for five more hours.

A nine-hour day left us shattered, but the last two remaining pies at Reefton's petrol station revived us. Everyone else had shut up shop; we got home to Nelson 11pm Sunday night.

31 July – Peanter Peak – Nelson Lakes National Park
Leader & Scribe: Ken Ridley

Eight members went on this trip on a perfect day for being in the snow.

Compass & GPS training for beginners and experts

Date: 24–25 September > **Leader:** Mike Glover – Ph 544 7955

Location: Glover family bach, Tadmore

Times: Start 9.00am Saturday. Finish approx. 2:30pm Sunday.

Morning session starts around the table with compass familiarization, map reading and grid references. Put this knowledge into practice with a navigational exercise outside.

In the afternoon, learn to navigate using a map and compass – the easy way.

A BBQ potluck tea is followed by GPS training. There are bunk spaces for six people, (or bring your own mattress or tent).

Sunday morning will be spent in the bush to find set way points.

This is meant for everyone – make time for it, join in, learn, experience, share. Bring a compass and GPS if you have them.

Only one driver was prepared to drive to the Rainbow Skifield, so we had to wait around while three people went up on the bus. So we had a late start.

Up the ski access road we walked, towards the tarn, then donned crampons. As we approached the saddle to Arnst Basin we realised there wasn't enough time to reach Peanter Peak. We decided on an easier trip to Mount McRae.

From where we stood, there were three snow slopes leading to the top. We took the closest, middle route, which got quite steep. Near the summit, possibly due to snow balling under the crampons, one member slipped off, picking up another on the way down. We then had the two least experienced in the group sliding gently towards a run-out at the bottom. Others continued on to the summit, while we re-grouped and sidled over to the easiest route up, which I should have chosen in the first place.

We ate lunch atop the main ridge, enjoying great views. From the summit we had an uneventful walk down across the skifield to the carpark, bus & coffee.

On the trip were: Marie Lenting, Mark Stevens, Ruth Hesselyn, Christine Hoy, Jocelyn Winn, Mary Wu, Henry Wu and Ken Ridley.

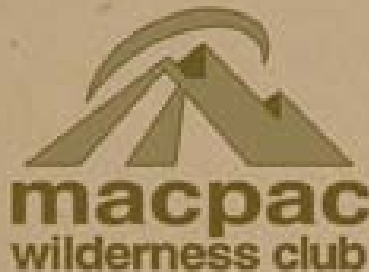
14 August – Rush Pool, Nelson
Leader & Scribe: Gillian Arbuthnott

A marked absence of birdlife in this area so close to the city; however, the terrain is varied – gravel surface service road/soft cushion pine needles/and loose rock – as is the flora and scenery.

Gretchen was the sole intrepid adventurer through the pool to perch atop the Hard Rock Café, Rush Pool (look out for the t-shirt) for morning tea whilst the rest of us continued a short distance to settle in amongst the remnants of argillite at the old mine site.

A rapid descent to the carpark, then home for a relaxing Sunday afternoon watching the southerly blast track its way northwards.

Thank you to fellow Rush Pool Roamers: Beverley Muirhead, Brenda Griffin, Gillian Arbuthnott (scribe), Gretchen Williams, Jim Maxwell, Mike Locke, Val Latimer and visitors Cherie Johannson, Gary Bassett and Hilary.



20% discounts!

Instead of the normal 10% on showing an FMC cards, also sign up to join the Macpac Wilderness Club.

Note that our Nelson store has now moved to Trafalgar Street.

RECIPE > American Fudge Brownie

190 g butter
¾ cup cocoa
2 cups sugar
pinch salt
4 eggs
½ tsp vanilla
½ tsp baking powder
¾ cup flour
1 cup chocolate chips



Melt the butter completely
Pour onto cocoa and combine
Add sugar, eggs and vanilla.
Mix on high speed until colour lightens slightly

Add flour, baking powder, salt and chocolate chips.
Mix until just combined

Pour into a lined sponge roll tin and bake for 45 minutes at 150° C.

Should crack slightly around the edges but still be soft to the touch.
Allow to cool before cutting.

*Submitted by Jo Kay
...and sampled at our recent AGM.*

UPcoming CLUBNITES >

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

Monday 3 October:

Marguerite V

Hiking the Inca Road & climbing volcanoes in Ecuador

-PLUS!-

Ray Salisbury

Recounts his epic 80-Day solo traverse across the North Island. (East Cape to Cape Egmont).

Monday 5 December:

Photograph Comp

Guest Judge: Barry Doig
>>> Get your photos ready!

BOOK LAUNCH



Sat 17th September > 6.45pm
Theatre Royal Nelson

Ed Hillary built two hospitals in Nepal. For more than 30 years, volunteer couples from NZ & Canada worked in these remote places.

Mike Gill is now launching his book *Himalayan Hospitals - Sir Edmund Hillary's Everest Legacy*.

Wine – snacks – films – music

Tickets: \$50 plus booking fee. All proceeds to Ed's Nepal work. Everyman Records, 249 Hardy Street, Nelson. Ph: 03 548 3083
Book online at:
www.everyman.co.nz/



OUTDOOR SAFETY COURSES RUN IN NELSON

10-11 September > Cost \$150

Outdoor 1st Aid:

The Outdoor First Aid course is designed to equip you with skills and knowledge necessary to manage outdoor accidents. Six hours practical work in the outdoors treating people injured in mock accidents.

Venue: Paretai Lodge, Brightwater.

CONTACT DETAILS >

Contact: Evelyn O'Neill.
Mail: 23 Coleridge Place, Stoke.
Telephone: (03) 547 2426
Email: nelson@mountainsafety.org.nz

<SCOUTS>

The scouting movement in NZ has seen a record increase of about 5% in membership.

They need YOU to volunteer. If you are an ex-Scout member, you could become a leader, donate money, or join the Youth Foundation which works tirelessly in the background to help fund events.

Email: murray@scouts.org.nz
Facebook:
facebook.com/scoutsnz



DOC UPDATES

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

Living Legends
Where the field meets the forest



PLANTING DAY 24 September



Meet **Todd Blackadder**, our local 'Living Legend'. He captained the All Blacks 14 times. Living Legends will

be planting around the DOC administered Whakapuaka Wildlife Reserve.

It's located at the head of the Haven Estuary adjoining the Boulder Bank north of Nelson.

Volunteers will plant 5000 additional native trees at this site.

The Haven Estuary is of national importance as a major feeding area for wading birds and fish.

To register, go on-line:

www.livinglegends.co.nz/regions-events/tasman

WARNINGS TRACK WASHOUTS!

The FMC website has an updated list of what roads, tracks & huts have been damaged around NZ:
www.fmc.org.nz/notices-to-trampers

COMMITTEE >

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