

Newsletter

Hagley Tramping Club

Published by Hagley Tramping Club
P.O Box 852, Christchurch 8140, NZ

www.hagleytrampingclub.net.nz

Affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.



NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2011

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2012

Chairperson	Dennis W	Ph 359 1211
Club Captain	Mike Ri	Ph 337 5944
Secretary & Membership	Wendy T	Ph 354 2277
Treasurer	Heather M	Ph 332 6281
Newsletter	Claire T	Ph 339 0992

Welcome to the Hagley Tramping Club Newsletter

The Hagley Tramping Club was originally established as the Hospital Tramping Club in 1974 with the aim of making the back country experience more accessible to the average person and to foster a respect for the wilderness. The Club organises a variety of trips to suit all ages and levels of fitness. We encourage prospective new members to experience 2 or 3 trips to see if we suit their style before joining.

Newsletter Contents

Calendar of Trips & Social Events, Trip Reports & Pictures. For information about Meeting dates & location, Trip Gradings, Checklist for Day Trips, Overnight Trips, Departure Point & Membership, refer the last two pages of this Newsletter.

Club Email Address

For general communication the club email address now is:

hagleytrampingclub@yahoo.co.nz

- For any queries by ph please ring Wendy T Ph 354 2277
- For information about specific trips, please ring the Trip Leader.

Club Website

Unfortunately due to problems with our webserver host, the website has been down for the last few months and this has been of concern for all of us. However the good news is that by the time you have received this newsletter we should have this up and running again with current details and updated photos.

Loss of the website has affected our ability to promote the club and attract new members so please browse through and refer any prospective trampers to the site.

New Members

We would like to welcome Steinar Thon and Agnete Gundersen to the HTC and hope to see them out on the tracks in our upcoming trips.

First Aid Course

Most trip leaders recently attended Mountain Safety Council Outdoor First Aid courses. These were intensive full weekend courses, starting at 8.30am to 10.00pm on the Saturday and finishing late afternoon on Sunday. In addition to classroom lectures we spent a lot of time managing outdoor “real” scenarios, until we were all reasonably confident and competent to manage any situation. As we had to be patients (hidden talent in the club – some great actors!) as well as First Aiders, we all learnt a lot from both sides of the fence. This was extremely educational course with a lot of practical skills learnt by all who attended. See Photos in the Pic Pages.

Christmas Party 2011

Keep your Calendar clear for Saturday 10th December as Wendy and Bill have kindly offered to host our Christmas dinner party at their home.

This is an opportunity for us to pull out those Christmas decorations and enjoy an evening of fun and laughter with club members and their families. This is a pot luck dinner so bring along something yummy to share and don't forget each person bring a gift of up to \$5.

We have a theme of 'Dress up as your favourite Christmas Decoration' so be inspired and get creative.

Contact Wendy (354 2277) for further details and home address

Back Country Foods – Repeat Order

Our prices are considerably below shop prices (see enclosed order form).

Please send orders with money to HTC, PO Box 852, ChCh 8140 to reach the PO Box by Monday 7 Nov. The food will be available for pick up at the 23 Nov.Club Social meeting (or by arrangement). Please contact the treasurer if you wish to pay by Internet banking.

Cheques are to be made out to Hagley Tramping Club NOT Back Country foods. The club will cover the delivery cost.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 5 November	Stour River MTB	
Leader Bill T Ph 354 2277	Grade NA	Transport \$25
Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am		

Maps K36 & J36. The Stour River is just past Woolshed Creek, Mt Somers. We will bike to Lake Emily and Manuka Hut, back the same way. The ride is flat on good tracks, but you will get wet feet. If the weather is unsuitable on Saturday, we could do the ride on Sunday. Please ring Bill if weather doubtful.

Wednesday 9th to Sunday 13th November	Travers – Sabine Nelson Lakes	
Leader Neal S Ph 343 6980	Grade C	Transport \$55
Please ring Neal to book for this trip by Sunday 6 th Nov, but preferably earlier.		

We will be leaving Wednesday lunchtime and driving to Lake Rotoiti. From there an evening tramp to Lake Head Hut for the night. On Thursday head up Travers Valley, taking four days to complete the circuit back to the lake. Each hut is x3 tickets or annual hut pass. If you are intending to buy a hut pass, contact Wendy T (354 2277) for FMC Card which entitles Club Members to a discount.

Sunday 20th November	Kennedy's Bush Track	
Leader Bronwyn Ph 359 7331	Grade A	Transport N/A
Meet at Halswell Quarry 9am		

We will meet in the far carpark down by Findlay picnic area and from there take a leisurely hike up to the summit. We will stop for lunch take in the views and return to the cars the same way. Nice easy day with great company.

Wednesday 23rd November 7.30pm Abberley Park Hall



2011 Favourite Picture Evening

Bring along your photos from trips you have participated in during 2011. We will have a bit of fun coming up with clever captions for each.

As this is our last club meeting before Christmas, please bring a plate to share with your friends.

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th November		Arthurs Pass National Park Camp and Tramp	
Leader Dennis W Ph 359 1211		Grade B	Transport \$25
Contact Dennis to book and for further details by Sunday 20 th November			

The plan is to drive to APNP Saturday morning, park the cars and an easy tramp for 2-3 hours to set up camp. In the afternoon we will hike to a point of interest and return to camp. Tents & cookers required for this trip. Exact camp location weather dependent and to be determined. Please ph Dennis for further details.

Note: This isn't planned to be a hut trip.

30th November Committee meeting at Claire's 7.30pm

Saturday 3rd December		Mt Tripp (Rangitata River)	
Leader Bill & Wendy Ph 354 2277		Grade C	Transport \$25
Depart Shell Service Station, Main South Road, Templeton at 7am			

Map J36. We will cross farm land on an easement, then follow the ridge to point 1095. We tramp along the Moorhouse Range to Mt Tripp 1368m a height gain of 800m. Good views down to the Rangitata Gorge. Return the same way.

If the weather is bad we may change to Sunday. Phone for confirmation.

Saturday 10th December



**Pot Luck Christmas Party
at Wendy & Bill's**

Drinks at 5.30pm Dinner 6.30pm

Dress up as your favourite Christmas decoration and join us for a Pot Luck dinner with a Secret Santa gift (up to \$5)

See page 2 for further details

Sunday 15th January	Pinch Gut Explorer	
Leader Sandra Ph 980 4140	Grade B	Transport \$15
Depart Belfast Hotel 8am		

You will get your feet wet within the first 15mins so remember to bring along a change of dry clothes and footwear. The plan for this trip is to tramp to the Pinch Gut Hut, have lunch and then climb up through the bush behind the hut, along an old 4wd track and down into Whare Stream. We will be in the stream where there is some gentle bolder hopping, so prepare to get wet and have your plastic liner in your pack. This will eventually bring us back onto the track to head home. If you enjoy getting soaked then this is the trip for you.

Sunday 22nd January	Mt Herbert	
Leader Dennis Ph 359 1211	Grade A	Transport \$15
Depart from St Asaph Street 8.30am		

Drive to Little River then Port Levy Saddle (Western Valley Road).

A ridge tramp with some good ups and downs to Mt Herbert. We will have lunch at Mt Herbert Shelter overlooking Orton Bradley Park. Great views all day. Return similar route.

Wednesday 25th January 7.30pm



**Abberley Hall
Buy – Sell - Exchange**

Welcome in the New Year with a Buy, Sell and Exchange of your tramping gear.

Maybe something doesn't fit, no more use for it or just plain bored with it. Bring it along and see if it can be of use to one of your tramping buddies. We will also have supper and a catch up of trips tramped and coming up

Sunday 29th January		Mt Richardson	
Leader Tere L Ph 981 6431		Grade B	Transport \$14
Depart Belfast Hotel carpark at 8.30am			

We drive to Glentui Picnic area and take the Mt Richardson Track to the summit. (1047m) We will have lunch on the summit, then take the Blowhard Track on the north east ridge. The Blowhard Track Shortcut track will take us back to the cars. A good day out, with some climbing, great forest and a good ridge walk. It can be hot on the ridge and there are no streams to cross, so take adequate water.

Saturday 4th – Monday 6th February		1000 Acres Plateau (Matiri River)	
Leader Neal Ph 343 6980		Grade C	Transport \$55
Contact Neal to book and for further details by 22 nd January			

Depart from my house at 7am and drive to Murchison. Cross the Buller River and drive 16km to the road end. 2 hours walking to the Lake Matiri hut for lunch. Then push on to Poor Petes Hut for the night. Day 2 on to Larrikins Hut and exploring the 1000-Acre Plateau. Day 3 walk out and drive home. (NOTE: At the time of publication this track is closed due to a slip. Please contact Neal to confirm trip as detailed or alternative plan)

Sunday 12th February		Red Hill Foothills	
Leader Dennis Ph 359 1211		Grade B	Transport \$15
Depart from Yaldhurst Carpark 8.30am			

Drive over Porters Pass and onto Lyndon Road to Lake Coleridge. On the north side of the road we follow a tributary of the Acheron River into the Red Hill foothills. Great valley and ridge line trip with big views. Round trip return to cars. (We will not actually be climbing Red Hill (1641m) on this trip)

Sunday 19th February	Lyndon Hill & Cave Stream	
Leader Heather 332 6281	Grade AB + B	Transport \$20
Depart from Yaldhurst Carpark 8.30am		

In the morning climb Helicopter/Lyndon Hill (Grade AB).

After lunch we will traverse the cave stream cave (grade AB to C depending on water level). There will be alternative walking options (Grade AB) if the water is too high or for those who prefer to stay above ground.

Those entering the cave **MUST** bring a torch (head torches recommended), several layers of warm clothing and a change of clothes for after – though most of the cave has lower water levels you should expect to get wet to the waist at the entrance. You are welcome to bring family or friends but remember you or they **MUST** phone first. Those intending to traverse the cave for the first time may also wish to phone for more information.

Wednesday 22nd February 6.30pm

Halswell Quarry



Shake, Rattle & Roll up to the Quarry to enjoy a Pot Luck Dinner and a game of Petanque.

Bring your Walking shoes if you wish to take a stroll around the Quarry.

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th February	Glenlock Base Camp (off Motunau Beach Road)	
Leader Glenda Ph 942 4293	Grade A	Transport \$20
Please book with Glenda by 19 th February		

Join us for all or part of the weekend to celebrate Glenda and Lex's new property. Saturday we will drive to the Tiromoana Walkway where we will walk the 3-4 hour circuit taking in the views Pegasus Bay and costal cliffs, height gain 280m. A leisurely lunch on the clifftops or beach. Return to the cars and drive to Glenlock for a shared BBQ and a housewarming party (BYO). Sunday the option of a home retreat, Motuanu Beach stroll or walk on the Mt Cass Walkway circuit.

Wednesday 29th February Committee meeting at Claire's 7.30pm – Ph 339 0992

Sunday 4th March	Mt Alford Track	
Leaders Claire T & Dianna Ph 339 0992	Grade B	Transport \$20
Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am		

Join us for a tramp in the Canterbury foothills between Mt Somers & Mt Peel.

We will be ascending through beech forest & subalpine vegetation to the summit of Mt Alford (1171m) where we will have a great view across the Canterbury Plains and inland mountains. Have lunch and return to the cars.

Saturday 10th March	Cold Stream Hut, Lake Sumner Forest Park	
Leader Neal Ph 343 6980	Grade B	Transport \$30
Depart from Belfast Tavern carpark 7.30am		

We will drive to Jollybrook Swingbridge near Lake Sumner. Walk to Cold Stream Hut for lunch and return the same way. Wet boots on this trip as some 30 river crossings, well shallow creek really!. A beautiful valley to enjoy. Cancelled if weather bad especially Norwest rain. Phone for confirmation if in doubt.

Wednesday 7th March Trip Leaders Meeting at Dennis's Place 7pm – Ph 3591211

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th March	Mt Barron, APNP	
Leader Mike Ph 337 5944	Grade CD	Transport \$35
Book in with Mike by 10 th March		

Leaving early Saturday we will head for Otira. We will climb to a Tarn below Mt Barron Summit and pitch our tents. If the weather is good we can then head up to the Summit. If overcast this is an option for Sunday. Tramp out Sunday, either the way we came in or those that are after an adventure can take an alternate route.

Wednesday 28th March 7.30pm

Abberley Park Hall



Mountaineering with Steven Fortune.

We are lucky enough to have one of our own come and share with us his expedition experiences to places including Alaska and the European Alps. Join us for an evening of adventure and alpine exploration.

Come along and show our club enthusiasm for our guest

Trip Reports

Packhorse Hut Trip

After meeting up with some well dressed trampers at Halswell we made our way out to Kaituna Valley where we started our leisurely climb up to the Packhorse. The track was in good condition, our surroundings green and lush, and I must say we made a fine representation of olde, as the 16 of us made our way to the top.

We were a group of fine looking folk, dressed to impress in our skirts and dresses, suits and vests with caps and hats and bowers and stoles. An array of fashion based on the 1880's we definitely stood out from the current travellers seen up at the Packhorse Hut but would have fitted in well back in her earlier times.

When we arrived up at the hut it was time for a cuppa so it was out with the lace tablecloth, napkins and doilies the tea pots and fine china, tiered cake plates, milk jugs and sugar cubes and the silverware which set the scene for the fine spread of food treats which were to follow.

We had a combined contribution of goodies including cucumber sandwiches, cheese rolls, mini cupcakes, cookies, slices, and chocolates all with fresh brewed tea, the table was a picture of distinction with a selection of all that is expected at a high class tea.

The day was ideal, the weather mild and calm the company was perfect with an old style charm, so thank you to all who came with me on this day, a trip to remember that shows our clubs wonderful way.

Claire

Rakaia Walkway

We started down to Rakaia with the car temperature gauge reading -2.

Ten of us braved the icy blast in what turned out to be a beautiful crisp day. There were several icy white patches along the route where the sun doesn't reach but we were undeterred by this and had a glorious day.

We started on the return loop before lunch, and ended up stopping for our break down at the river in the sun.

I want to thank my team of Wendy, Rose, Marie, Gill, Kathy, Jean, Dennis, Val, Allan; without you all I wouldn't have had such a great day.

Michael Barr

Mid Winter Xmas – Glenthorne Station

Our club has a history of memorable mid-winter Xmas parties and this year was no exception. Everyone wondered what could be better than the party Sandra lead in the Boyle Flats Hut last year. This year organiser Claire set out to prove it could be just as good again.

Glenthorne Station is the last farm at the end of the road in the Wilberforce Valley and has available for hire an accommodation and kitchen/dining room block, which is usually used by contractors working the station. Cars can be driven to the door, so there was no restriction on the goodies required for a Xmas good time.

All week the forecast looked promising for the weekend and it was a glorious winter day when 17 of us arrived at Glenthorne on Saturday morning. The accommodation is a long corridor with 6 bedrooms of different bed configurations, who was sleeping where and with whom was reminiscent of school camp. Unsurprisingly all the "single" girls quickly laid claim to the big room at the end of the corridor where they could play up, furthest from any supervision. After loading the fridges with food & refreshments we were off for the afternoon to Fanghill Hut some 7-8kms up the Wilberforce River. It was an easy walk up this very wide valley hemmed by forested ridges and big snowy mountains to the southwest. Fanghill Hut is a classic old musterers hut, draughty but cosy.

When we returned there was plenty of hot water for showers (slight misnomer, better described as a thick drizzle) all round & dress up in Xmas garb.

Then we started on the pre-dinner snacks and drinks before the main course, which was an unbelievable smorgasbord of great food. The dining table was just big enough to fit everyone around it and there was plenty of conversation & banter.

Dessert was just as good before we sort of collapsed in the easy chairs around the log fire.

How do choose Santa for the secret Santa? Well Carol was the crowd's choice after being last to appear from the powder room. She dressed up as Santa and lots of nice people kissed, sat on her knee and collected their secret Santa. To finish the

night off we had the Claire Quiz Show (won by Wendy & Dennis), the Claire music and dance show and finally the beer bottle stretch challenge – won by?? (Sorry can't say, that would be skiting).

Next day was a slow emersion but by 9.30am the trampers were hard climbing over a snowy Gargarus Saddle to Lake Lillian whilst others were mountain biking the Avoca Valley. Another superb day, t shirts, sun hats and sun glasses – what more could you ask for on mid-winter tramp?

At lunchtime we split the tramping party, with some opting not to go right to the lake but by the time we got back to the top of the saddle we were regrouped.

Cup of tea, pack up, clean up and head home. All tired, but with great memories.

Thanks very much Claire for organising – a really great weekend.

Reminder to self next year: Don't leave digital camera unattended. Dennis

Pinnacles Hut

This may be unique in being the first club trip to start in the middle.

Allow me to explain. I (Tere) proposed a simple overnighter from Jig Rd to Staverley staying overnight at the Pinnacles Hut. Claire, Dianna and Russell decided to start at Staverley on Friday morning and they walked to Woolshed Hut taking the south side of the mountain. They were rewarded with a fine day and spectacular views. Dennis, George and I drove to Jig Road on Saturday morning and enjoyed a frosty start followed by a hot sunny day and made good time to Woolshed creek arriving at about 11am which is when it became an official club trip as we now had more than 3 club members. Hence the trip started officially in the middle!

The newly formed group set off up to the saddle and where we stopped for a bite of lunch then down to the Pinnacles Hut. Every man and his dog (a boarder collie) were in residence when we arrived but as most were climbers up on the Pinnacles we were unsure of the bunk situation. George pitched his tent and then started to lose a very uneven battle with the local kea for possession of his gear. The climbers returned and with a bit of negotiation everyone ended up with a bed and after a pleasant chat, a good night's sleep. Those who awoke early were rewarded by magnificent sunrise lighting up a huge cloud over Banks Peninsula. With the sun up and after a leisurely breakfast we were back on the track and made the rapid descent to the Staverley car park. Then it was a quick lunch and the car shuffle then off to Methven for afternoon tea at Primo Café (highly recommended) and finally home for dinner.

Tere

Rome Ridge

It was a wet, sleety morning as we left Christchurch but as we have learnt in the past the weather can be better on the other side of the Mountains, so six enthusiastic trampers headed to Arthurs Pass.

We made the right decision, by the start of the track we had sunshine and a clear blue sky. (Continued next page)

We headed up Coral Track, a gorgeous bush track that takes you up to Rome Ridge. Due to the cold temperature the rocks and tree roots were covered in a light layer of ice, making us wary of where we placed our feet.

It was not long before we hit snow which meant it was time to pull out the crampons and axes.

This was a highlight for myself and for Wendy as we both christened our new equipment. Wendy was well co-ordinated with her new blue crampons and matching ice axe.

Onwards and upwards we climbed, the view was spectacular, the snow cornice looking magnificent and daunting at the same time, needless to say we kept as close to the rocky ridge as possible. (Continued next page)

We stopped for lunch on a slope and used our ice axes to dig ourselves a ledge to sit in so we did not slide down as that was yet to come.

After lunch the crampons came off and our wet weather gear went on, this was time to practice falling (leaping, diving, throwing) ourselves down the slope and using our axes to stop us.

For someone who has not done this before I found it daunting to begin with but once down the first time my confidence grew and with the help and advice from Bill I now have a better understanding of what I have to do if I lost my footing and a big thank you to John for giving us a successful example of this technique later in our trip.

On our way down the weather had changed, the cloud had come in and the snow was falling but this just added to the ambiance of this trip. Snowflakes were drifting all around us and settling on our heads and packs making it look like we were in the middle of a snow globe, it was picturesque.

The track was still slippery on the way down and with a few 4 to 5 out of 10 scores for our fumbles and trip-ups (we did not score high as there were no face plants or broken bones) we made it back to the cars.

A wonderful winter trip filled with new experiences, a big thank you to Mike, John, Sergey, Bill & Wendy for a great day out.

Claire

Enjoyed a great trip with the Club?

Why not write up a Trip Report so others can enjoy reading about it?

Please type up and email to the club: hagleytrampingclub@yahoo.co.nz

Good Trip Photos needed too!

Please email your best photos to: hagleytrampingclub@yahoo.co.nz with a note that explains which trip the photos were taken on.



Packhorse Tea Party

Rakaia Walk Way





Poulter Hut

Lake Minchin





Pinnacles Hut—6 on the bed!

Rome Ridge





**First Aid
Course**





Glenthorne Mid-Winter



Meeting dates & locations

Our General Meetings are generally held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. As this may vary, please check program for confirmation and venue location.

Abberley Crescent Hall is the venue for most of our general meetings. Abberley Crescent continues west from Edgware Rd after it crosses Springfield Rd. The hall is located in a small reserve on the first bend in the road. Road parking only.

Trip Gradings

Grade	Description
AA	A walk of less than 5 hrs on a good track. Any uphill sections are short and gentle
A	Easy tramp of up to 6 hrs generally on a track. Uphill sections are short and/or gentle.
AB	A harder trip than an A but not as hard as a B
B	Moderate tramp of up to 7hrs which may be off track or include rough sections. Often uphill all morning but mostly on reasonable slopes.
BC	A harder trip than a B, but not as hard as a C
C	Hard tramp of up to 8hrs often on a rough route. Uphill usually continuous and/or on steep slopes
D	Very hard tramp which may be greater than 8 hrs on difficult routes, probably with steep uphill climbs. Ice axe/crampons may be required

The Trip Leader is responsible for the safety and well being of everyone on the trip. Therefore the Trip Leader has the right to refuse to take anyone, who, in his or her opinion, is not equipped, or fit for the trip in any way.

Checklist for a Day Trip

Essential	Essential (Cont)	Optional
Day pack	Warm hat	Walking pole
*Parka (Essential)	Gloves	Camera
*Warm clothes (wool or polyprop)	Personal First Aid Kit	Binoculars
Strong walking shoes or boots	Sun glasses (snow)	
Food & drink		
Sun screen & sun hat (Summer)		

*Due to changeable and often unpredictable nature of the weather in Canterbury, a good waterproof parka and warm clothing must be carried for all trips.

Overnight Trips

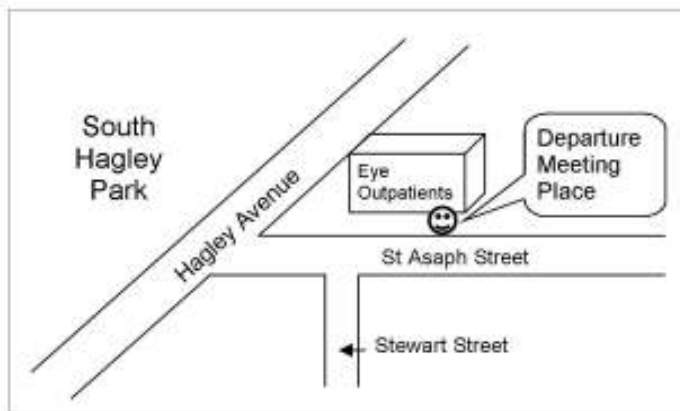
If you are planning to go on an overnight trip, please contact Trip Leader for information about food and equipment requirements.

Departure Point

As departure points can differ by trip, always check the Trip Schedule for correct departure location.

This map shows the location of the St Asaph Street departure place, outside the Christchurch Hospital Eye Department. Please arrive at the meeting place at least 5 minutes before the departure time.

Car pooling is organised when the group meets. Cars remaining in Christchurch are parked in nearby Stewart St.



About our trips

Typical numbers on our trips are 4 – 10 people. For safety reasons, the minimum of people on a Club trip is four. However if there are fewer than four, the trip can still go ahead but becomes a private and not an official Club trip.

As a safety precaution, a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is carried on all trips. The club owns two which have been purchased with funding from the Christchurch City Council. The PLBs are lightweight and utilise the latest in GPS technology.

Club Membership

Our annual membership subscription is \$25 single or \$30 family. Our financial year commences 1 April.

We encourage prospective new members to experience 2 or 3 trips to see if we suit their style before joining.