

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.

MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2013

Chairperson	Dennis W	Ph 359 1211
Club Captain	Michael R	Ph 337 5944
Secretary	Rose C	Ph 332 6005
Treasurer	Heather M	Ph 332 6281
Newsletter	Bronwyn M	Ph 359 7331
Website	Claire T	Ph 021 0762500
Members Contact	Sandra F	Ph 980 4140

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 information about trips, please ring the Trip Leader.

From Your Committee

Newsletter is a bit late out this time!

Yes it is, apologies from the publishing team.

We do try to ensure an overlap with the previous Newsletter but for a combination of circumstances it didn't happen this time. The internet version is always published before the printed copy, so if the Newsletter is late out, check to see if it is on the club website.

Xmas Function

If you weren't there, we had a great Xmas Party at Dennis's home. Thanks Dennis for hosting – much enjoyed and appreciated by all. – Bronwyn.

Easter Tramping

Note there are two trips at Easter. An all Easter Weekend trip in Arthur's Pass and local day trip on Easter Sunday.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Wednesday May 22, see Newsletter for details. Come along and have your input into the running of the club. The current Committee would very much welcome some new members. The commitment and tasks are generally not demanding. (Other than the Newsletter!)

40th Anniversary

Next year will be the 40th Anniversary of the Club which started in 1974 as the Hospital Tramping Club. The Committee would welcome your input into how we might celebrate that.

What about a trip with stubbies, swanni, mountain mule pack, oil skin, Jungle Juice, light bulb torch & TVP? Any starters?

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Sat 16 – Sun 17 March	Klondyke Tarns	
Leaders: Bill & Wendy tel. 354 2277	Moderate	Transport \$40
Please book with Bill & Wendy by 11 March		

Drive to the Rahu Saddle. Walk up the bush track and camp by the tarns. Return along the ridge to the cars. Bring your own tent, cooker etc for camping. Map L31.

Sunday 24 March	Sudden Valley	
Leader: Dennis tel. 359 1211	Moderate	Transport \$25
Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel Carpark at 8.30am		

Sudden Valley is a tributary of the Hawdon River in APNP. Drive to the Hawdon Shelter, cross the Hawdon River and follow up Sudden Valley Stream to Barrier Falls. The gorge is cold with multiple river crossings. Return the same way.

Wednesday 27 March Abberley Cresc Hall 7.30pm

Club Photo Competition



At this meeting we will select the photos to be entered in the FMC competition. We can have 2 per category. Please bring to the meeting printed photos for the following categories:

- Outdoor landscapes (no people)
- Hut or camp life
- Above bushline
- Below bushline
- Native flora and fauna (no people)
- Historic (identifiably pre-1980 and featuring some aspect of club life)

Criteria

- Must feature New Zealand subjects, not overseas
- Must be taken by a club member since 1 Jan 2011 (except historic)
- No digital manipulation except tonal or exposure adjustments, cropping, sharpening or panorama stitching
- Has not won an award in another photo competition

Easter Weekend 29 March - 1 April (4 days)	Carrington Hut Base Camp & Waimakariri Explorer	
Leader: Glenda tel. 942 4293	Moderate	Transport \$30
Please book with Glenda by Sunday 24 March		

Day 1 Drive to Klondyke corner and walk up the Waimakariri River to Carrington Hut (4-5 hours)A comfortable hut (3 tickets), 36 bunks.

Days 2-3 Exploring the upper Waimakariri on day trips. Exact itinerary to be decided by group consensus. Options include: Waimakariri Falls (6-10 hours), Harman Pass (6 hours), Camp Spur, or a walk up the White River.

Day 4 Return to Klondyke corner and Christchurch.

Easter Sunday 31 March	Worsley Spur	
Leader: Diane tel. 358 4720	Easy	Transport gold coin
Depart from top of Worsley Rd (off Cashmere Rd) 9am		

A steady climb up through the trees on Worsley Spur. We pass through Hoon Hay Reserve and onto Cass Peak where we'll sit under the repeater to enjoy lunch and views of Lyttelton Harbour.

Sunday 7 April	Mt Aitken, Arthurs Pass NP	
Leader: Michael R. 337 5944	Hard	Transport \$30
Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel 7am		

Drive to Arthurs Pass. Start on the track to the Punchbowl Falls then branch off onto the Mt Aitken track. A steepish 3-hour climb to the summit for lunch. Return the same way. Please phone Michael during the week to check on weather conditions. Ice axe & crampons may be required.

Wednesday April 10 HTC Committee Meeting at Heather's 7.30pm

Sunday 14 April	Bike Day Trip: Tinwald - Lake Hood & Beyond	
Leader: Dennis tel. 359 1211	N/A	*Transport \$15
Depart from Cookie Time factory, Main South Road, Templeton 9.00am		

*Note that bike transport will need to be pre-arranged if you are not intending to take your own vehicle.

Drive to Tinwald where we will leave the cars. Bike to Lake Hood on the cycle way and then onto the Ashburton River mouth and return. Easy cycling, no hills!

Sunday 21 April	Nina Hut, Lewis Pass	
Leader: Neal tel. 343 6980	Moderate	Transport \$30
Depart from The Peg (was Belfast) Tavern in Belfast at 7.30am		

A day trip tramp into Nina Hut near Lewis Pass for lunch, and return. About 3-3.5 hours to the hut. Easy walking but there are some creeks to cross.

Wednesday 24 April	Club Social Dinner
	<p>Come and catch up socially with tramping friends! La Porchetta Restaurant in Rotheram St, Riccarton. Meet at 6:30pm. Please book with Sandra by Friday 20 April.</p>

ANZAC Weekend (includes Friday) 25 April – 28 April (4 days)	Waiuta, Big River, Inangahua River - goldfields exploration	
Leader: Glenda tel. 942 4293	Moderate	Transport \$60
Please book with Glenda by Sunday 21 April		

Day 1 Drive to Reefton and explore the historic Waiuta township. Possibly camp overnight there.

Day 2 Easy walk to Big River Hut (20 bunks, 4 hours) and explore the environs

Day 3 Big River exploration/relaxation. Visit the fascinating historic restored poppet head and winding plant.

Day 4 An early start for the adventurous: walk from Big River out to the Inangahua Suspension Bridge via Deep Creek (7 hours). A more difficult route and a longer day. En route, explore the fully restored Golden Lead Battery. Depending on the group, some may wish to return via the easier Waiuta route. Car shuttle to be organised. Late return to Christchurch.

Sat 4 – Sun 5 May	Lake Guyon	
Leader: Claire tel. 021 0762500 claire.thornton@cdhb.health.nz	Moderate	Transport \$50
Please book with Claire by 28 April		

We will start from Lake Tennyson then follow the 4WD access up over Maling Pass down into Lake Guyon. Lake Guyon Hut has only 4 bunks so we will need tents, sleeping mats and cooking gear. Depending on numbers we will either come out the same way or carry on through Fowler Pass and out to Fowlers Hut.

!!NOTE DAY!! Saturday 11 May	Kaiapoi to Pegasus town	
Leader: Diane tel. 358 4720	Easy	Transport \$5
Depart from St Asaph St meeting point 9am		

The Kaiapoi walkway follows the river then branches off to Woodend. A new track will take us to Pegasus town then on to the beach for lunch. Return much the same way.

Sat 18 - Sun 19 May	Otehake River Hot Pools	
Leader: Tere tel. 981 6431	Moderate	Transport \$40
Please phone Tere for details		

We drive to Aickens 10 minutes west of Otira where we leave the cars. The Otehake Hot Pools are a 5-6hr tramp up the Taramakau and around Lake Kaurapataka with river crossings of the Otira and the Otehake. No hut so tent required and of course togs & towel. Return the same way.

	<p>Wednesday 22 May Abberley Cresc Hall 7.30pm Club AGM followed by slide show of tramping pics. Please bring on a pen drive if you did not bring to meeting on March 27th. Relive some great adventures!</p>
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Sunday 26 May	Hog's Back (Castle Hill)	
Leader: Diane tel. 358 4720	Moderate	Transport \$15
Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel 8:30am		

This is a fairly new track and close to the mountains. It's easy going except for the hill at the end. On the return to Darfield we'll stop for the best value ice-creams anywhere!

Sat 1 – Mon 3 June Queen's Birthday weekend	Casey - Binsler – Lake Minchin	
Leader Heather tel. 332 6281	Moderate	Transport \$25
Please book with Heather by Thursday 23 May		

Starting from the Andrews Shelter in Arthur's Pass we walk through forest, across river terraces and over the Casey saddle to the Casey Hut (3 tickets). The next day we do a day trip to the pretty Lake Minchin. On Monday we walk down the Poulter valley and over the Binsler Saddle to the cars.

Wednesday 5 June Trip Planning meeting at Tere's 7:00 pm

Sunday 9 June **Travers Peak, Lewis Pass**

Leader: Michael R. 337 5944 Moderate Plus Transport \$35

Depart from Belfast Hotel 7am..

Drive to Foleys Creek just before Lewis Pass. A steady 2 hour climb to the summit. Mt Travers (1724m) offers great views over the St James and across several mountain ranges. Please ring Michael during the week for an update on weather and conditions. Ice axe and crampons may be required.

Wednesday June 12 HTC Committee Meeting at Bronwyn's 7.30pm

Sat 15 - Sun 16 June **Three-Mile Stream**

Leader Neal tel. 343 6980 Easy Transport \$35

Please book with Neal by Sunday 9 June

Start from the head of Lake Sumner and cross the low saddle to Three-Mile Stream Hut. Overnight there then over the low McMillan Saddle, out to the river flat and return to the cars. Nice views.

Sunday 23 June **Bell Hill**

Leader: Diane tel. 358 4720 Easy Transport \$8

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel 9am

Drive to the end of Dalethorpe Rd,(just west of Sheffield) past sign "Dogs will be shot". An easy stroll up a forestry road then a short climb to enjoy views from the top. If there is snow on the mountains all the better.

Wednesday 26 June

Club Social Night



"Coping with the Unexpected" 7.30pm at Dennis's.

A First Aid Refresher, using the PLBs (one day you have to!) & the 1971 Documentary (DVD) " A Stupid Way to Die"

Sunday 30 June **Foggy Peak Circuit** (Details next page)

Sunday 30 June	Foggy Peak Circuit	
Leader Heather tel. 332 6281	Moderate	Transport \$20
Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel 8.30am		

Starting from the top of Porters Pass we climb 800m onto Foggy Peak from where there are great views of the Cragieburn basin and Canterbury plains. From there we will follow a wide ridge down towards the Kowhai river to meet the Kowhai track. We will use a car shuttle to return to the cars. Probably too early for snow but ice axe and crampons may be needed if there is an early fall – phone Heather to find out.

Trip Reports

An Intrepid journey: Doubtful, Amuri Pass, Tutaekuri River, Hope River.

It was raining lightly as we set off for the Lewis on the 27th of December 2012 for our 5-day adventure. We arrived at the Boyle River crossing northwest of the Engineers camp and after some debate over where to cross we linked up and cruised across the Boyle easily. Up the Doubtful was pleasant easy going until we left the grassy flats and began the bush track. There were felled trees everywhere and negotiating them slowed us considerably. Late lunch at the Doubtless Hut then on up towards the pass. I couldn't find the track on the true left of the river so we walked up the slippery river finally reaching Phantom Flat late afternoon. A quick rest and we set off up the well-marked Amuri Pass track. The pass itself was boggy and wet and we were forced to bush-bash quite a bit as markers became fewer and harder to locate. The track reappeared and became a wide cart track that meandered around the Waiheke valley reminding us that this used to be a pounamu trail regularly used by Maori and prospectors in the 1800s. After a while the track dropped down steeply which gave my knees a terrible time so at 8pm we set up camp on a wee flattish area, cooked a quick meal and went to bed.

Next morning we packed up after brekkie and continued down the track till we just about fell into the river getting out. More tree-falls to negotiate in the narrow river but after a few hours the valley opened out to grassy flats where we were able to enjoy sunshine and spectacular views of the mountains and valleys. Bronwyn spotted some deer so I sneaked up and filmed them with my little camera. Very cool. A leisurely lunch in the sun at the crusty old Slaty Creek Biv and we set off again enjoying the day and looking for the Tutaekuri river turn-off which eventually appeared just as were all getting tired and hungry. About an hour up the Tutaekuri we camped as rain began to fall steadily. Another long 11 hour day. The birdsong was lovely but the sandflies in the tent were dreadful which made a quiet read after tea impossible. So lights out and heads down for well-earned kip. A grey foggy dawn greeted us as we ate, swatted sandflies and broke camp. Rain threatened but held off as we headed off up the mist-shrouded Tutaekuri following occasional dozer tracks which was all that was left of farmland (thanks

to tenure review). The scenery in this part of the coast is breathtaking. Mist and low clouds were coming and going revealing glimpses of imposing bush-clad mountains and valleys. Late morning the rain came so jackets on. We kept looking for the sharp left turn that would take us back east again towards the Hope. Alas I missed it and 2 hours up the rather beautiful Trent valley while checking my GPS I realised my error and so, after a late lunch we headed back down again repeating a couple of scary river-crossings. If not for Bronwyn's sharp eyes we might missed the poorly- placed DOC sign telling us the new Tutaekuri hut was 1.5km up the river and off we set in the steady rain, knackered, hungry and wet. What a welcome sight - a shiny new hut with double-glazing, a logburner and comfy bunks. O what bliss! Soon we had a fire going and had hung all the wet stuff out on racks to dry. I was visited by a weka while outside the hut so I videoed him as well. Another big day of 10 hours.

Day Four and the river was roaring after a night of heavy rain. After some lollygagging we agreed to push on as far as we could but would take no risks in the flooded river. Well it was déjà vu: trees, trees and more trees. There were log-jams all over the riverbed. We climbed over, under, through and around them. We bush-bashed and struggled up that valley somehow managing to cross the river when it braided and was shallow, and only when we had no other option. Much discussion of the merits of anti-inflammatories as hips and knees felt the strain! On and on we pushed 'til a bright red marker showed us we had safely reached the track up the Hope Pass. And it was steep. We were pretty stuffed but it was raining again and we wanted to reach the Top Hope hut before dark so we pushed it. Gradually the track eased off and we began crossing the pass itself. The views were awesome, and we stopped for photos. The sign at the top said 3 hours to the hut. We began to make good time down the well-marked track off the pass. Not for long; suddenly we were back in the river again with markers hard to find and tiredness taking over. A quick stop for some food but only for a few minutes as it was windy, raining and cold. More river crossings. Bronwyn caught her foot in a rocky hole and I had to pull it out for her, worrying she might be injured, but she was OK and battled on. What a trooper! Gradually the track eased out onto grassy river flats and we did the last few kms on automatic pilot. Exhausted, cold and wet we were not impressed to find the fireplace in the Top Hope hut had been closed off. All my clothes were soaking though George and Bron had some dry stuff. A 9-hour day so we slept well.

Day Five. Climbing back into wet gear was just awful. Food and away- thanks, cold hut, for shelter at least. Some welcome sunshine as we headed down the valley into (you guessed it) more river crossings and hard to find markers! It was with real pleasure that we crossed the swing bridge over the Hope knowing we had no more rivers to cross and that we would make it out that day. It took us 8 hours to walk out to the road where a nice fellow trumper gave me a ride back to the start to pick up my vehicle. A difficult but amazing tramp and one of the toughest I've done. Thanks Bronwyn and George; great company, just the best.
Neal

Otago Rail Trail

Bill & Wendy, Dennis & Wendy, Glenda & Lex, Pauline & Barry, Sandra and Bronwyn gathered in Clyde on the evening of 28 Feb. Right from the start it felt like a good holiday: hot sunshine, a walk along the river, a drink at the pub and a fine dinner in the garden of the Old Post Office. Next morning we assembled at the Railhead at 8:30, organised the cars and pedalled off towards Alexandra. Sandra was our supporter: taking the overnight bags in her vehicle and popping up by the Trail often over the next few days to take photos and join us whenever the Trail came close to a road. Vineyards and gardens soon gave way to the dramatic schist outcrops of the Manuherikia valley. We crossed the first of the many bone-shaking historic viaducts stopping in the middle to look at all the trout in the river. At Chatto Creek pub we had the first of our many essential coffee/tea stops in the shady garden. The following climb up to Tiger Hill was the steepest and hottest part of the Trail. It was a very picturesque spot with its large tarn teeming with birds. We stopped at the red tin shed –dotted along the Trail are the ‘ganger’ sheds formerly used by the railway workers but now converted into little information booths. Each one tells you some interesting things about the local history, plants, geology etc. Here too we found some big old apple trees, grown from the cores that passengers biffed out of the train windows many years ago. By early afternoon we had reached Omakau, where most of us were booked into the elegant old Commercial Hotel. 2 kms down the road is tiny Ophir where we spent a happy few hours eating lunch in a rose/lavender garden (such terrific food in Central Otago!), exploring the old gaol, the Post Office (oldest working one in NZ) and swimming in the river under the old stone bridge. By then it was well over 30° and my clothes dried on me as I biked back to Omakau. We flopped in the shade for drinks at the cottage Pauline and Barry had rented then ambled along to the Commercial for dinner.

Day 2 gave us some long steady climbs. We rode through two dark tunnels (it helps if you remember to take the sunglasses off!) and passed by the Idaburn Dam but the scenic highlight was the mighty Poolburn Viaduct . Sandra had walked the 3km from the road to meet us there and we all enjoyed the views. After that was a long decline –a lovely fast cruise in top gear. Whoever said a rail trail would just be flat?! Lunch at the Wedderburn station shed and on to Ranfurly in cooler cloudy weather. After settling into our various motels and cabins we met up for a roast dinner at the hotel.

Next morning we set off at 7.30am prepared for a strong head wind but it never came and the weather only improved. Running slightly downhill again we made excellent time, pausing at little places like Waipiata to admire the Waipiata Man made of railway bits, Kokonga, Daisybank and a pretty river gorge with the curiously named Red Dwarf hut . Morning tea was at Hyde at the terraced café on the main road, and then we stopped at the Hyde rail disaster memorial. The Trail was exceptionally smooth on this section making it easy to enjoy the views of the Rock & Pillar range. We arrived in Middlemarch for a picnic lunch and photos at the Railhead to celebrate our 150kms. The drive back to Clyde was a chance to see the scenery in reverse. Along to the pub and Bistro for a final meal together

before returning to ChCh. What a wonderful trip – many thanks to Dennis for organising it so well!

Bronwyn

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 which explains which trip the photos were taken on.

Trip Pics



Korowai—Torlesse Tussock Park



Waimakariri River





Summer Picnic, Abberley Park



Mt Evans, Banks Peninsula



Rome Ridge to Crow Valley, APNP



Redcliffs to Taylors Mistake





Scotts Saddle



**Waihi Gorge
Base Camp**





Central Otago Rail Trail



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 Edgeware Rd after it crosses Springfield Rd.

Trip Gradings

Grade	Description
EASY	A day tramp for almost anyone who can walk 5-6 hrs. Possibly some short gentle slopes, but generally on a track or flat riverbed.
MODERATE	Longer tramp of up to 7hrs, requiring a reasonable level of fitness. Usually involving some uphill sections and generally on a track.
MODERATE PLUS	A long tramp of up to 8 hrs requiring good level of fitness. More difficult terrain, varying gradients including steep slopes. *Ice axe & crampons may be required
HARD	A challenging trip requiring excellent fitness and experience. 8-10+hrs tramping on high passes and untracked routes. *Ice axe & crampons may be required.

*If these items are required, it will be stated in the Trip Description.

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)		Binoculars
Strong walking shoes or boots	Seasonal	
Food & drink	Sun glasses	
Sun screen	Sun hat	

*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

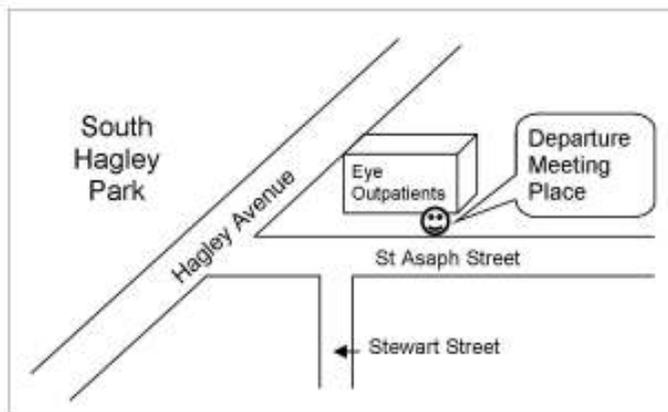
If you are planning to go on an overnight trip, please contact Trip Leader for information about food and equipment requirements.

St Asaph St 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.



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.

Delayed Trip Returns

Return delays can be caused by for example, track closures (requiring a change in route), weather (affecting routes & rivers) and travel conditions (road closures & breakdowns). Consequently return times are always a bit uncertain.

If you have concerns about a delayed return please contact one of the following Club members: Sandra 03 980 4140; Dennis 03 359 1211; Bronwyn 03 359 7331; Neal 03 343 6980.

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.