



www.cmc.net.nz
PO Box 2415, Christchurch
Canterbury Mountaineering Club



CMC Club nights are normally held on the **third Thursday of every month** in the Clubroom upstairs at the Pioneer Sports Stadium, Lyttelton Street, Spreydon. A varied programme of speakers includes club members, overseas climbers and exponents of other adventure sports. **The start time has changed to 7.30pm to allow a half hour to socialise among members before the lecture begins promptly at 8pm.**

Events Calendar

December

- 1 Veterans' Trip - Gerkins Track/Tai Tapu.** Contact Nowell Syme for further information on 980 1272.
- 8 Veterans' Xmas BBQ - Thompson Reserve/Sugarloaf.** All club members welcome. Contact Nowell Syme for further information on 980 1272.
- 6 NZAC End of Year Function - Colin Monteath** will be giving a presentation on his recent expeditions; this may be the only chance we will get for a white Christmas. Venue: The Heritage Lounge, Canterbury Brewery. St Asaph Street entrance.
- 8 NZAC Section Night – 7.30pm. Rob Frost** will take us on a trip around his most favorite areas covering untracked wilderness to soaring mountain peaks. Venue: Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall.
- 15 CMC Christmas Party/BBQ at Kennedy Lodge.** From 10am - all members welcome - come for the day or stay the night.

January

No activities planned in January.

February

- x CMC Club Night - 7.30pm. xxxx**

Suggest a Trip: If you have any suggestions for a trip that you would like to see the club lead, call the Trip Coordinator (Mark Flintoft 328 8887) and he will be happy to arrange leadership and a spot on the calendar.

President's Note

The highlight of Club activities over past months was the annual Kennedy Lecture. This was delivered by Ed Cotter, a Life Member and prominent mountaineer in his earlier days. Ed's address was delivered to an audience of some 230 members and friends in the Christchurch Girls' High School Auditorium in September. He spoke on the first NZ Himalayan Expedition in 1951, in which he, Ed Hillary, George Low and Earl Ridderford took part. The expedition was the forerunner to New Zealand's prominence in Himalayan climbing. The lecture was not only a glimpse into the Club's history but it also took us back to the times when talks were presented using glass plate negatives and a "magic lantern" projector. The lecture was also recorded for the Club's archives.

The CMC/MacPac NZ Mountaineer of the Year event has been postponed until early next year as the recipient for this award is still overseas.

The veterans have continued to be active during the spring, with three outings attracting around 8 to 10 people. After many years, Nowell Syme has relinquished his role in organising these outings and being the contact person. The Club wishes to acknowledge Nowell for his untiring contribution in this regard. The vets group is an important part of Club activities, whereby older members can enjoy friendship and exercise amongst the hills.

The Club would like to open its Library on a regular basis at Club evenings but first we need somebody, or persons, to volunteer as librarian/s. Please contact the Secretary if you are willing.

At Wyn Irwin work is underway to install a diesel fired heater. This will be placed in the fireplace and should make for warmer conditions during colder weather.

I extend to all of you 'Seasons Greetings' and good safe climbing over the summer months to come.

Brian Fineran
President



Steve and Vaughan on the summit of D'Archiac - see story inside

Membership
Membership is open to all. Members receive the CMC News which gives details of Club activities and other news from the climbing scene, as well as the biannual Mountaineer. You can download a membership application form from our website. Subscriptions are fixed at the CMC AGM in May each year. The subscription year runs from 1 June to 31 May. Current subscription rates are:
 • Ordinary member - \$55
 • Student - \$50
 • Long Service (35 years+ continuous) - \$25
 • Family - \$75
 Once you have forwarded your membership application to the Club, you will receive an acknowledgment letter. Processing can take up to four weeks.

Change of Address
If you change your address please be sure to let the Club know. Send your details to PO Box 2415, Christchurch.

Contact List
President: Brian Fineran, phone 384 1187
 email: b.fineran@xttra.co.nz
Treasurer: Doug Hitton, phone 343 0820
Secretary: Guy McKinnon, phone 355 9527,
 email: theorus9@yahoo.com
Instruction Coordinator: Gideon Geerling,
 gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
Huts: Robin Muirson, phone 03-357 4800 or
 027 434 4122
Hut Access: Bill/Sheherelle King, phone 942 9188;
 Owen Rees, phone 323 8988
Membership/website:
 Greg Ewing, phone 021-358-434
 email: greg.ewing@istl.co.nz

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 For more info contact the Instruction Coordinator,
 email: gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
 or visit our website at www.cmc.net.nz

CMC Huts

The Club owns several huts in Canterbury, which provide a good base for mountain activities. These are available either free of charge or at reduced rates for members. **There has been an increase to Kennedy Lodge and Wyn Irwin fees. These are now: \$8 members; \$20 non members.**

Kennedy Lodge, Arthur's Pass

Wyn Irwin, Mt Cook

Cameron Hut

Banfield Hut

Lyell Hut

Barker Hut

Park Morpeth Hut

Eric Bivvy

St Winifred's Hut

Waimak Falls Hut

Hut Access

Wyn Irwin and Kennedy Lodge currently have combination locks fitted. The combinations are changed regularly. The current numbers for both huts can be obtained from Bill & Sherelle King, phone 942 9188 or Owen Rees, phone 323 8988.

Note: A hut register is kept by keycode access holders to track hut usage. Please pay any hut fees promptly. Club members get first priority in all club huts; therefore the CMC does not take bookings but can let you know the availability for use of their huts.

Subscriptions

Thanks to all those who have paid their subs promptly! However, there are still a few outstanding - please action as soon as possible. Contact Greg Ewing for details if you are unsure if you've paid or not - greg.ewing@ist.co.nz

Letter to the Club

CMC Veterans announcement

Dear Brian

With much regret I am writing to inform you that this will be the last year of the Veterans Tramping Programme that I will arrange. Unfortunately the hill is getting steeper every time we go out.

This group started when Laurie Osborne first published the CMC News in 1986 and it was decided that we would include a programme for older members who no longer climbed but still enjoyed an easier time in the hills.

While that was 20 years ago, I was already organising the same for a group of friends for 10 years before. So, a total of 30 years – well past my "use by" date.

In that time we have covered much of the Canterbury foothills by day tramps and further afield for weekends on many occasions.

I take this opportunity to thank all who have joined me on these occasions. They have been great companions and skilled trampers in all conditions.

Regards

N G Syme

The Committee and Members wish to thank Nowell for his long contribution to the Veterans group. Contributions such as his are invaluable in sustaining an active club life. We are sure that the Vets will continue to explore the hills and valleys of Canterbury, albeit under new leadership.

"CMC News" by email? let us know

We have emails for about 80% of our membership, but we expect some have emails that we do not know about. With our increasing use of emails to remind you of events and update you on activities, we would like an email if you have one. In a few cases we do not even have phone numbers, and this makes a problem if you have moved, as we have no way to send letters or notices. If you do want our regular updates, and don't have an email but do have a fax, we can send to this if you advise us.

If you have not received an email from us in the last month, and you have an email address, please email greg.ewing@ist.co.nz with your current details.

Membership Database

I am attempting to rebuild the CMC membership database to include:

- anyone who was ever a member so we have a complete picture of the club over the years, and
- establishing when these members joined or resigned.

I already have some historical information from the Canterbury Mountaineers and our existing records but if anyone knows of or has older club member lists/records I would be interested to talk to/retrieve them.

Thanks.

Greg Ewing
Membership Secretary

Trips



Nikau Palm Gully and Akaroa Head

Veterans Trip, Palm Gully - 1 September 07

With a strong Nor Wester knocking on the door it was mild, sunny spring day that we parked above Onuku Marae, at the start of the Banks Peninsula track and headed south towards the Akaroa Heads. The track is really access for farm vehicles, as it climbs and dips its way southwards, but basically keeping the same altitude.

Nikau Palm Gully is just what it says and, as Brian pointed out, it's a remnant of the vegetation that once covered Banks Peninsula, especially on the warmer faces. After two hours, with the NW pushing us along, we rounded a spur and were met by an obvious palm filled gully.

Here the 4m wide track became a narrow walking track as it sidled downwards for 10 minutes to an elaborate set of steps that dropped right down into the NPG stream. It was cooler, darker and the numerous palms seemed quite incongruous - we seemed to have been transported into a much earlier world. Following a route beside the stream we soon emerged onto a steep grassy slope with access to the rocky coast below being difficult at best. As we enjoyed lunch in the warm sun a commercial cruise from Akaroa were visiting the 100m high Cathedral Caves below our feet, we could even hear a muffled commentary, including the claim Big Ben could be fitted inside.

There's only one way back so after a 20 minute scramble upwards we were on the farm track and plodding into the wind. A great day out. Thanks especially to Nowell Syme - who has been willingly organising CMC trips like this for us, for thirty years.

Donald Reid

Participants: Nowell Syme, Brian Fineran, Robin Muirson, Gordon Habgood, Rod Helm, Donald Reid, Malcolm Carr, Yvonne Reid



Robin Muirson and Nowell Syme enjoying lunch in Nikau Palm Gully.

Veterans - The Old Coach Rd Trail at Porters Pass - 6 October 07

Nine vets left Church Corner for Porters Pass at 8am, stopping at Sheffield to pick up Graham Gough then on to the base of Porters Pass where Trevor Saul was waiting for us. This trail has recently been marked out by DoC and follows the Old Coach Road for a short way up the valley. It then veers to the left side of the valley and climbs on a marked trail to the top of the ridge overlooking the valley to the south and Mt Ben More. Looking back to Porters Pass you can see the Old Coach Road still well defined on the cold side of the hill as it climbs to meet the existing main road at the gap in the ridge at the foot of the last steep section.



We took a moment consider the effort those poor horses pulling the coaches over the pass had to put up with. The weather was fine but a very strong and cold Northwest wind was blowing off the recent snow cover on the Craigburn Range. With no cover from the wind we pressed on up an old farm track to the top of the ridge above Starvation Gully, a short detour west brought us to a saddle over looking Lake Lyndon where the main road passes, the wind here was gale force so we only stayed long enough to take a photo.

From here the trail swung back along the ridge above Porters Pass where we found a place out of the full blast of the wind to sit and have lunch. From this place you could see part of the main road climbing up on the sunny side and then out over the plains to the Port hills in the distance. After a leisurely lunch we continued down the ridge line then sidled around to the top of



the Old Coach Road and followed it back to the cars. Although only a short trek this is well worth doing, preferably not in a strong Northwest gale.

Those who braved the day were: Brian Fineran, Malcom Carr, Graeme Scott, Brian Patrick, Phil Bach, Donald Reid, Gordon Habgood, Rod Helm, Graham Gough, Trevor Saul, and Robin Muirson (scribe).

Veterans tramp to Mt Pleasant - 3 November 07

It was a fine day as we started up the slope to Mt Pleasant. After the climb up we went down to Major Hornbrook Saddle and had a break there before going around the Bluff Track and ending up at Jollies Bush Reserve for lunch.

After lunch we went down to Barnetts Park and, those of us who hadn't seen the caves, climbed up the steps and also again at the climbing overhang just up from the cricket grounds.

Walking around the road to the estuary we made the final climb to the cars through Draytons Reserve.

Brian and Tess Stickle had invited us for afternoon tea so the day ended in a very civilized manner with tea and fresh pikelets. Many thanks for your hospitality.

Nowell Syme

Participants: John Chivers, Trevor Saul, Graeme Scott, Gordon Habgood, Phil Bache, Robin Muirson, Darryl, Nowell Syme.

Club Events

PRE-KENNEDY LECTURE LUNCHEON FOR EDCOTTER

The Kennedy Lecture was established by the late Chris Fenwick, around the mid 1960s, about the time Chris was President. It had always been a tradition with Chris to take a guest speaker to dinner at the Canterbury Club prior to a Kennedy Lecture. While recalling this tradition with Ray Newton recently, it seemed appropriate to revive the custom for the Kennedy Lecture this year, especially as the speaker to be was Ed Cotter - one of our longstanding notable mountaineers. It also seemed a good opportunity to bring together some of Ed's contemporaries for the occasion. So, after much ringing around, I managed to muster together 19 to join us at the Cashmere Club for a meal. It proved to be a great opportunity for Ed, and most of the others also, to meet together after so many years. A photograph of the group is included below.



Present: L to R: Top row: Bryan Stickle, Geoff Harrow, Bruce McCabe, Guy Cotter, John Michael, Laurie Osborne

Middle row: Brian Fineran, Keith Scott, John Sampson, Ed Cotter, Robin Muirson, Dick Leggoe

Bottom Row: Ian Stewart, Ray Newton, Geoff Chisholm, Bruce Menzies, Austin Deans
Absent: Jim Tocker

GOURMET TRAMPING IN NEW ZEALAND

John Sawyer & Liz Baker

Do you fancy the idea of preparing and eating a chorizo sausage and fennel risotto, accompanied by a Cloudy Bay Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, at the Nydia Bay Hut in the Marlborough Sounds? Or perhaps you'd prefer to watch the sun go down while dining on a pork fillet with lemon, olives and couscous, plus a bottle of Trinity Hill Hawke's Bay Chardonnay, on the slopes of Mt Ruapehu?

Gourmet Tramping in New Zealand is all about indulging your senses in the spectacular surroundings of the back country. The authors have never been fans of bird-seed scroggin and energy bars, or just-add-hot-water, instant pasta blarrnggh carried by the average trumper. If, like them, you love tramping but also enjoy eating scrumptious food, this book will be more valuable to you than insect repellent, earplugs or a Lonely Planet Guide.

Fourteen of the country's most beautiful two-day walks, from Great Barrier Island to Stewart Island, and many in national parks, are described. You'll find details of where to buy the ingredients, how to get to your tramp and what to do nearby, facts about huts and facilities, how to cook the meal and which well-matched New Zealand wine to take with you.

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John Sawyer and Liz Baker

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Climbing News

At Show Weekend CMC Committee members Vaughan and Guy joined big Stephen Barratt from Bivouac on a climb of Mt D'Archiac. The trio were driven up the Godley in air conditioned comfort in Vaughan's 4WD and climbed the mountain via Separation Stream and a route mainly on the south flank of the SE Ridge.

Three hours were spent dozing on the summit in sunny and windless conditions while waiting for the sun to go off the descent couloir.

In the Arrowsmiths Rob Frost, Jamie Vinton-Boot and Phil Johnson climbed the Ashburton Face of Mt Arrowsmith in October – a seldom climbed route. They accessed it via the Ashburton Glacier and reported an easy and fast approach.

At Mount Cook, Jamie Vinton-Boot and Thomas Adamson continue to be the only climbers regularly visiting the Hooker Glacier. They climbed the South Face of Nazomi in July in thin conditions and only



D'Archiac from the head of Separation Glacier

recently went again to climb the Dingle-Button route on Mt Hicks. Ice conditions this winter were on the whole disappointing in this area.

The big news so far this season is that 20 year old Dave Manning from Christchurch soloed the Caroline Face recently via the Clit Route. Conditions were reportedly arduous. Well done Dave!