

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

March

- 8-9 **Club Trip - Mt Technical.** Contact Darryl Thompson, dft@ihug.co.nz. This is in the Lewis Pass area. The plan is to drive up Saturday morning and camp high and then climb the peak Sunday.
- 13 **NZAC Club Night, 7.30pm. Venue: Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall. Speaker: Paul Knott** - climbing 500m+ rock routes in Oman.
- 20 **Club Night, Pioneer Lounge, Lyttelton Street, 7.30pm. Prominent caver Neil Silverwood** talks on cave exploration in the South Island.
- 21-24 **Club Instruction: Intermediate Skills course**, flying into Barron Saddle and walking out to Mueller Hut (Flights cost TBA). Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
- 29 **Wilding Tree Control Days - organised by Environment Canterbury, initially focusing on an area close to Cave Stream.** Clubs organise their own transport for the first day, food, timetable etc, and in return EC make an appropriate donation to club funds. This will be about \$40 per person.

April

- Early **Club Trip - Ball Pass** - Greg Ewing is planning this. Contact him on 358- 4346 or at greg.ewing@ist.co.nz
- 5 **Wilding Tree Control Days - organised by Environment Canterbury.** Focusing on a less accessible area. This day will be harder work on steep slopes and is suitable for people with a reasonably high level of fitness. 4WD transport will be needed to reach this site. The combined 4WD club will provide transport for the day, and will make a financial arrangement with the club(s) they transport to compensate for this. Preparation of a plan for each site, supply of tools, a health and safety plan, and help on the day will be provided. Our staff members will brief your members, and work with you to organise the work for the day. We also have a number of volunteers who are not Club members. If you are prepared to have non-club members with you, then you will receive the donation for their efforts.
- 5 **Veterans' Trip - Lake Rubicon/Three Saddles.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 3574800 or 027 434 4122.
- 10 **NZAC Club Night, 7.30pm. Venue: Christchurch Girls High School Auditorium. Speakers: Brian Alder (Changabang) and Graham Charles (Greenland ice cap). Cost: \$10.** This is a special fundraiser for the NZAC Expedition Fund.
- 17 **Club Night, Pioneer Lounge, Lyttelton Street. NZ Antarctic veteran Don Reid** talks about his time on the ice at Scott Base.
- 17 **World Cinema Showcase film festival opens, featuring big mountain skiing film "Steep".** Venue: Rialto Cinema, Moorhouse Avenue: Thu 17 Apr, 4.15 pm; Sun 20 Apr, 11.45 am; Sun 20 Apr, 8.15pm; Mon 21 Apr, 4.00 pm.
- 25-26 **Club Instruction: Ice Climbing Instruction Course (Fox Glacier).** Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
- 25-27 **Club Trip - Mt Sibbald.** Mark Flintoft will be leading this trip over the Anzac weekend with a high camp in MacKinnon Stream from which to reach the summit. Contact Mark on 328 8887 or at mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz

President's Note

The Club, along with the rest of New Zealand, was saddened by the death of Sir Edmund Hillary in January. He joined the CMC in 1947 and, after his ascent of Everest, was made a life member of the Club. At his funeral the Club was represented (unofficially) by Ed Cotter who was among the group of mountain people who formed the ice axe guard of honour as his casket left the church.

For those who attended the Kennedy Lecture last November with Ed Cotter will recall Hillary's early climbing days, leading to the first NZ Himalayan Expedition in 1951, and the eventual inclusion of Hillary and George Lowe in the successful Everest expedition in 1953.

This will be my last President's note. Graeme Jacobs will take over this position in May after the AGM. I have enjoyed my term in office and thank all those who have assisted me with the running of the Club over the past two years.

Brian Fineran
President

May

- 3 **Veterans' Trip - Sugarloaf/Cass.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 3574800 or 027 434 4122.
- 15 **CMC Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm.** Pioneer Lounge, Lyttelton Street, Christchurch. All welcome. Minutes of previous AGM available on our website. Speaker after meeting to be advised.
- 24 **Saturday, 7pm. Best of Banff Film Festival. Venue: Aurora Centre, Burnside High School. Cost: TBA.** Tickets on sale from mid April from The Roxx, Bivouac and R&R; these usually sell out one week prior to the event.
- 30-31 **CMC Erewhon Branch 75th anniversary celebrations ...** *see over for more details.*
- 31 **Veterans' Trip - Winding Stream/Craigieburn.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 3574800 or 027 434 4122.

June

- 5 **Veterans' Trip - Mt Herbert/Purau Saddle.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 3574800 or 027 434 4122.
- 19 **Club Night, Pioneer Lounge, Lyttelton Street. CMC stalwart Nick Moyle** on trekking and travelling in the European Alps, Balkans and Turkey.
- 28 **Club Instruction: Winter Alpine Introductory/Basic Skills course, Arthurs Pass.** Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz

Later in 2008

- 29-30 **August - Avalanche Awareness Course (Arthurs Pass)**
- 26-28 **September - Alpine Intro/Basic Skills Course (Arthurs Pass)**
- 25-27 **October - Advanced Alpine Skills (TBA) or Ice Climbing Course (Fox Glacier)**
- 14-17 **November - Intermediate Skills course (Barron Saddle) or Advanced Alpine Skills (TBA)**

These dates available for bookings, the cost are subsidized for members and details are on the website. Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz, 021 207 3235.

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.



Panorama of the the Harper and Avoca catchments

Trips

CMC Vets Trip - Saturday 2 February 2008 - Lake Monck (aka Lake Catherine)

After weeks of long hot days, typical of this summer, it was a relief to pile out of the cars at Lake Catherine on such an overcast, pleasantly cool day. On with boots and then there was the big decision about which direction to tackle the 17 km loop around The Redoubt, the large hill that overlooks the Avoca - Harper confluence. Clockwise was the consensus so that we did not start with a climb. Plodding around the side of Lake Catherine was very pleasant indeed, with water remaining crystal clear well out towards its centre, however the trout could probably see the two fishermen. We ambled pleasantly down towards the Harper for an hour and then started to climb up and around the side The Redoubt. The track now dropped away in front of us but rather than lose height we followed a new fenceline, around the contour of the hill. This went well for 20 minutes until the fence climbed and we were pushing slowly through matagouri, bracken and Coprosmas, underpinned with loose sharp boulders and shingle. 'Discretion became the better part of valor' for most as we reneged and made our way down the scree and onto the easier flats 150m below. It was then into the business of regaining the lost height. We were pleased it hadn't been a hotter day. Lunch was where we regained a 4WD track overlooking the Pinnacles in the Harper riverbed. On the map we were halfway around in distance but the track along the old moraine terrace above Lake Catherine undulated more than anticipated. This last slog was made easier with the drizzle at our backs, several spectacular tarns and large springfed streams that gushed copiously from the tussocks. We finished the day with a steady descent down to the hut at Lake Catherine. A great day out and thanks to Ryton Station.

Participants - Brian Fineran, Darryl Hodge, Trevor Saul, Gordon Habgood, Rod Helm, John Chivers, Robin Muirson, Donald Reid



Looking down the Harper River towards Lake Coleridge

CMC News proudly supported by

bivouac/outdoor

COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

Erewhon Branch - 75th Anniversary Celebrations

May 2008 marks the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Ashburton branch of the CMC, led by Tom Beckett and a small band of enthusiasts. The 50th anniversary was celebrated by the Jubilee Expedition to the Kashmir Himalaya. This time our sights are a little lower but it should prove just as interesting. Erewhon members have been active in the mountains in many corners of the globe but now is the time to return to our native patch.

The Club's first outing was to Mount Alford, described so delightfully in words and drawings by Cuthbert Denham. From this modest beginning the Branch rose to a level of enterprise out of all proportion to its size.

A programme for the weekend has been arranged to suit the interests of past and present members and friends.

Friday 30 May

Travel to Winterslow Cookhouse (courtesy of the kind permission of David Wightman). Stay overnight and, in the morning, go up Mount Alford or potter about

the area. 4WD vehicles will be available to transport less mobile folk into the cookhouse.

Saturday 31 May

Meet at the Gallery Room, Hotel Ashburton at 6pm for the anniversary dinner (cost \$40 per person). This will be a great chance to meet old friends and mountain cobbers and relive the suitably embellished tales of the desperate days of our youth ... and middle age ... and dotage. It is hoped that we will be graced by the presence of Professor Chowbok, Dean of Erewhonian Studies at the University of Otematata who will deliver a treatise on Erewhonian Psychology per medium of the magic lantern (if we can keep him off the turps long enough). The good professor thrives on audience participation so polish up your verbal darts.

Please advise by 31 March if you are attending either the Mount Alford trip and/or the anniversary dinner.

Contact: Peter Bain, 85 Belt Road, Ashburton phone 03-308 6886



Paul Rogers on the right receives his award.

Macpac NZ Mountaineer of the Year Award

On 21 February the prestigious 21st CMC Macpac NZ Mountaineer of the Year was awarded to Paul Rogers in an evening presentation at the Christchurch Girls High Auditorium. Macpac gave an introduction to Paul's contribution to mountaineering and climbing, which has been extensive over the years.

Paul spoke of his background from growing up in the poorer suburbs of London in his youth, through his varied experiences in the New Zealand alps, the Himalayas and Antarctica. He made it clear that he has adopted NZ as his home, based on the quality of the experiences he has lived here, through a great variety of climbing, the peace and tranquility our uncrowded spaces provide, and the people he has climbed with.

His talk was inspirational, backed by astounding photography - many taken from incredible viewpoints, hanging off places he calmly described as having

"significant exposure". It was clear from his talk that his philosophy on climbing and life in general was not just mountaineering to achieve personal goals, but was very much about the interaction with others and the way they learned and lived through meeting their challenges.

Paul works in the mountains, training and guiding people in all parts of the world, and is clearly very good at this, taking on challenges as large as getting a blind person up the major icefall on the route to Everest.

His work in developing rock climbing in the Darrens in Fiordland is a major part of his gaining the award, and here again he has been instrumental in bringing others to routes he found, and generally adding a lot of top class climbing in world terms to the New Zealand scene, as well as doing high grade climbs himself.

The Canterbury Mountaineering Club commends Paul on behalf of the NZ climbing community for his major contribution, and thrilled to be able to present this award to such a well-rounded achiever and ambassador of the sport. We know many young climbers will be led by his example.

The CMC thank Macpac for their continued sponsorship of this valued award.

Climbing News

Al Moore and two others climbed Mt Greenlaw in late December from the Avoca River. Daryll Thompson climbed Mt Oates in early January. Nick Moyle and Greg Ewing climbed Mt Williams in Arthurs Pass in early February. Stewart Robertson climbed Mt Wilkinson in Arthurs Pass before Christmas.