

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. **Start time is 7.30pm for socialising prior to lecture at 8pm.**

Events Calendar

June

- 31 May-2 Club Instruction: Winter Alpine Introductory/Basic Skills course Arthurs Pass.** Contact gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
- 7 Veterans' Trip - Mt Herbert/Purau Saddle.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 11 Veterans' Midwinter Dinner.** Hoon Hay Buffet, 12noon.
- 12 NZAC Section Meeting, 7.30pm. Speaker: Jordy Hendriks.** Jordy is an avalanche instructor/ NIWA scientist and NZAC member. Jordy will be raising awareness about avalanche safety and discussing new developments. Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall.
- 14-15 Club Trip – Mt Alexander.** Colin Morris is leading this trip to this spectacular peak on the western side of Arthurs Pass. Colin plans to camp up near the tarn on the ridgeline Saturday night and then climb and exit on the Sunday. Contact Colin on 03 318 2643 or email: liz.weir@paradise.net.nz
- 19 Ortovox Winter Forum,** hosted by Gary McCormick with guest speakers - Guy Cotter, Mark Sedon and Penny Goddard plus spot prizes and trade displays. Aurora Performing Arts Centre, Burnside High School. 7.30pm. \$5 at the door.
- 28-29 Club Trip – Mt Scott and Wilson.** Steve March is leading this trip to the Polar Range. He intends to stay Saturday night at Edwards Hut then climb Scott and Wilson and traverse along the Polar Range. Contact Steve on 021 0241 1522 or email: stevemarcham@hotmail.com

July

- 5 Veterans' Trip -Ladbrooks Hill/Lees Valley.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 17 Club Night, Pioneer Lounge, Lyttelton Street. CMC stalwart Nick Moyle** on trekking and travelling in the European Alps, Balkans and Turkey (*to be confirmed*).
- 19-20 Club Trip – Mt Oates.** Carl intends to walk up to a camp at Lake Mavis Saturday and climb and walk out Sunday. Contact Carl on 027 450 1439 or email: carlfischer@hotmail.com

August

- 2 Veterans' Trip - Brazenose/Akaroa.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 2-3 Club Trip – Mt Rolleston.** Andrew Perkins is leading this trip to Rome Ridge on Rolleston. A classic Canterbury climb - this will be a day trip on either Saturday or Sunday depending on weather. Contact Andrew on 3379 463 or 021 508991.
- 16-17 Club Trip – Mt Gloriana.** Mark Flintoft is leading this trip to Lewis Pass. Mark intends to camp up near the tarns Saturday night then go for the summit Sunday morning and return. Contact Mark on 328 8887 or mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz for more details.
- 21 Club Night, Pioneer Lounge, Lyttelton Street.** To be advised.
- 30-31 Avalanche Awareness Course (Arthurs Pass).** Saturday/Sunday. Contact gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz

September

- 13-14 (approx) Club Trip – Ski Touring Murchison Glacier Area.** Cam Mulvey is organising this trip. His intention is to fly to Murchison hut for 4-5 days skiing and then ski out the Tasman Glacier. Email if you are interested. Email: cam.mulvey@gmail.com

Trip Coordinator: Mark Flintoft (phone 328 8887 or mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz)

President's Note

I wish to thank the club for voting me in as President and Brian for the work he did during his Presidency. We have a great committee and I am looking forward to my term. I hoped Guy McKinnon would stay as my right hand man as he has been an invaluable secretary. However, I wish Guy well with his trip to Alaska and thank him for his efforts. Volunteers are required for positions of Secretary, Lectures & Socials and Librarian (*see below*). We would also like to see some female members join the committee as we don't want people to think we are still a male only club.

The Jacobs family has a long association with the Club. Our former Patron, Jack Ede, escorted my father Terry and his brothers on a number of trips during their scouting years. My uncle, Harold Jacobs, was a great Darrans climber. He was on the same rope as our current Patron, Ed Cotter, when Harold broke his leg during a climbing expedition in South America.

My first climb was Sebastapol on a family holiday to Mt Cook. My father and I plugged up winter snow with me racing ahead. I was 11 years old and thought I was at the top of the world. I remember looking across at Mt Cook and wondering how I could acquire the skills to climb that massive mountain. After a few years tramping up Canterbury foot hills with the Peninsula Tramping Club I joined the CMC. In 1983 you were required to be nominated by a club member and state your climbing achievements. I remember nervously hoping the committee would vote me in with my modest climbing record. Now you can simply join online. After a couple of years of club trips and instruction under the watchful eye of John Entwistle, often in "character building" weather, I was ready for Mt Cook. In 1985, just a decade after Sebastapol, Richard Heyward and I completed a thrilling grand traverse. Life's circumstances and some time working in Perth took me away from the mountains but on my return I rejoined the committee and have been assisting Robin Muirson with hut work, in particular, work parties to Barker, Park Morpeth and Cameron Huts.

I remember a few years ago at a Mountaineer of The Year lecture, Geoff Gabbites asked what it took to qualify for the award. A cheeky reply from the audience shouted, "You need to climb a mountain". When Brian asked me to be President I felt someone might make the same comment of me. However, it seems you just have to miss a committee meeting and you will be nominated in your absence. The next couple of years will be busy. I have an eight month old son, Oliver, who Greg Ewing is already trying to sign up as a member. I am renovating our house, running my own architecture practice and now am CMC President. My first lady, Nicki, wonders when I'm going to get time for it all. I also hope to get back into the hills again and hope my son is equally inspired by mountains to join the Club one day.

I hope to meet as many of you as I can at Club functions. The CMC is your Club so please put forward your ideas to maintain and strengthen this significant Club.

Graeme Jacobs
President

Vacancies: Secretary | Lectures | Librarian

A full list of duties for each position is available, however, briefly we require three enthusiastic and committed people for the roles of:

Club Secretary

- Clear Club PO Box at central Post Office, Hereford Street at regular intervals
- Maintain correspondence file by actioning incoming and outgoing mail or forwarding to appropriate committee member, ie Treasurer or membership liaison
- Present a summary of correspondence for approval at monthly meeting (last Thursday of each month *except for December/January*)
- Take minutes at monthly meeting (*not verbatim*), type up for circulation and keep club minute books current

Club Lectures/Socials

- Organise Club nights for a calendar year to run on the third Thursday of the month (liaise with local, national or international speakers (*dependant on funding*))
- Organise and forward, after each club night, a writeup of the lecture for publication in the CMC News and on the website

Club Librarian

- Open Library on club nights to members. Books to be issued for one month and to be returned on following club night. The librarian would need to email borrowers a reminder about returns.
- Look after library records and keep up-to-date (*digital catalogue available*).
- Purchase any appropriate mountaineering titles for the club library, with committee approval.

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

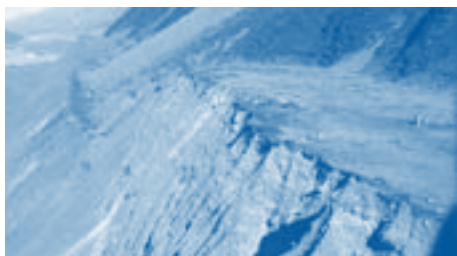
Cameron Hut, Banfield Hut, Lyell Hut,
Barker Hut, Park Morpeth Hut, Eric Bivvy,
St Winifred's Hut, Waimak Falls Hut

A map of our hut locations is now on the website.

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. Please phone at a reasonable time.

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.



Important notice from DoC:

Hut closure - Ball Shelter

Ball Shelter in the Tasman Valley is closed due to its proximity to the moraine wall. At its present location it is at risk should the moraine further slump or collapse. DoC plans to move the hut back to the toe of the hill this autumn. Recent Geotech advice is that the new location will be out of any avalanche path and should be safe for the next 20 years. The decision to close the shelter has not been taken lightly. After aerial and ground inspections and consultation with Geotech, the risk was considered high enough to close the hut. All other huts and tracks are currently open to the public.

Book Review



Where the Mountains Throw Their Dice.

Paul Hersey RRP \$29.99

There are regular reports in the media of mountaineering fatalities and costly rescues and, to some of

us, climbing may seem a selfish and crazy game in which victims have only themselves to blame. But to Dunedin climber Paul Hersey climbing is nothing less than a reason for living; even if – or perhaps even because – at the most life-affirming moments he may be just one step from 'a tumble into the abyss'.

In this fascinating book, which includes white-knuckle accounts of his own climbs in the South Island and the Italian Alps, Paul chats with some of New Zealand's most experienced climbers, such as Bill McLeod, Lydia Bradey and Erik Monasterio, to find out why they are drawn to the mountains, and why, even after losing close friends, they keep returning to this place of 'other-worldly limbo'. Accompanying the text are Paul's spectacular photographs from his own climbs.

cmc.net.nz



Website updates

We have added some new capability to the site which makes club administration a bit easier.

1 New members

You can register on the website and become a member by simply filling in the application form online. This will generally result in you being a fully fledged member within a day or so. You can indicate how you have paid, or leave us some details to use to collect payment. This means no posting or box clearing or other delays. In particular, you will have full member access to the website forums and cooperative areas very quickly.

2 Existing members

You can update your information for us, and we can correct our database. Have you changed address or phone or email lately? Please advise us either by registering on the website, or emailing or posting us. We lose track of a lot of members because we are not advised of changes. If you have already paid membership some time ago, just select the 'just joining website' option.

You will be able to use this for advising us you have renewed your membership, and correcting your details this coming subscriptions round shortly.

3 Climbs Log

There is a Climbs Log where you can fill in brief details of climbs you have done.

4 Audio Track

You can listen to an interview on National Radio, between a person wanting to preserve a specific back country hut, an FMC representative, and a DoC representative. This file should just play on your PC speakers.

5 Hut Polls

There are two Hut Poll items on the menu (only visible after logging in) which show how we can use the website to collect input from members and all see results. We want to know your opinions about CMC huts and we will be creating another more specific set of polls to collect your input. We encourage you to write, email us or complete our online polls with your opinions on the value and condition of our huts. The web version is great as it adds up the count of each response, however, in an email or letter you can tell us a lot more.

6 Useful Links

The website has links on the bottom to MetVUW weather and other local information websites.

We plan to put more archival pictures and information on the website as time permits. Tell us other ideas for improvements.

Greg Ewing

Change to Radio Schedule Times

Aoraki Area Office, DoC wishes to advise hut users that from **1 May to 30 September 2008**, the afternoon radio scheduled calls to huts will be at:

4.45pm.



Trips

Veteran's Trip to Sugarloaf, Cass

A southerly front went through in the night but when we gathered in the morning the rain had stopped and it was cool with a low overcast. It was a routine car trip to Cass except for some excitement on the steep part of Porters Pass when we were forced to stop behind a very large truck and trailer laden to the gunwales with hay. It had lost driving traction on the damp road surface. The prospect of it sliding back into us or jack-knifing across the road quickly motivated Donald to get past!

We started our climb from the University camp across the railway at Cass. Cloud still covered the top thousand feet of our hill but we believed it would either rise or dissipate as we climbed. For a start there was a very steep pitch through patchy native scrub and then, having reached a small ridge, it eased back. This ridge eventually took us onto the main ridge connecting Sugarloaf (1359m) to the lower peak (1082m) to the north. From here we got a good view down to the Waimak riverbed on the other side. This new ridge took us up and down and we gradually gained more height. A morning tea break was called at a flat spot just before the much steeper final climb to the summit.

An added dimension to this trip was the sights and sounds of the trains operating on the railway below us. The locomotives of the loaded coal trains had to work surprisingly hard to surmount the grade through Cass towards Christchurch. We saw the Transalpine passenger service come through and then, to our surprise, half an hour later there was a second one. Business must be good at Toll!



"More of a workout than we expected"

The final section was still shrouded in mist and looked very uninviting. Just after we sat down we heard the distinctive cry of keas from down the Waimak side. They had heard us too and, after a short stop for a meeting partway up the scree, the five were soon whirling around us and alighting to see what we were about. After a half hour or so the kea entertainment had run its course and a cold wind had sprung up so I convinced the others it was time to move on and up.

The cloud had thinned somewhat and climbing the steep rocky slopes got us warm again. The slope was a mixture of rock and clay and was quite difficult to walk on. Eventually the slope eased off, the sun came out and we reached the summit. The climb took three hours including the long stop - it certainly made us think the stories we had heard from our president about running up it from the camp before breakfast!

With only a slight breeze at the top and warm sunshine we had an enjoyable lunch and a marvellous view of the Waimak Valley which circles around three sides of our hill. However, as is often the case, the Craigieburn Range tops remained shrouded in cloud all day.

From low down Robin and others had studied the slopes for an easy descent route. A long scree further to the south looked promising even though it did not start from the summit proper. However it was not possible to tell what it would be like further down where it narrowed into a bare looking gut and entered scrub.

Leaving the top we descended a scree and rock ridge that led to the top of the big scree. We now made very rapid downward progress as the size and looseness of the scree was just right for sliding. In this situation I think a single sturdy walking stick that you can lean back on is better than the longer modern twin poles. As we got into the gut it became steeper but still okay. Donald and myself were well in the rear and had a think about all the matagouri we could see closing in on the others below. At a convenient point we traversed out of the gut on to a ridge with grass and sparse scrub from where we descended easily and then reached a 4 wheel drive track that goes from the camp to the weather station nearby. Having started down this track we began to hear a lot of shouting (cursing) from the matagouri to our left. We carried on after calling encouragement to our friends! Eventually two emerged behind us and later the other two. They evidently had a very bad time crawling on all fours through the matagouri and had the scratches to prove it.

The 4 wheel drive track provided a comfortable return to the cars. The scar left by our descent of the big scree was clearly visible (see photo). Thanks Robin for a good day which turned out to be more of a workout than some of us had expected.

Party: Robin Muirson, Darryl Hodge, Phil Bache, Donald Reid, Rod Helm, John Chivers (scribe)

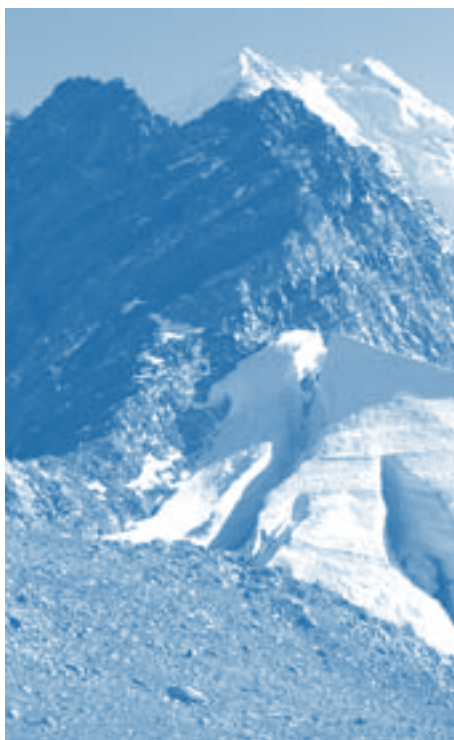
Club Trip - Ball Pass, April 2008

The weekend of 12-13 April nine of us, many recent new members to the club, headed for Mt Cook to do the classic Ball Pass crossing. After settling in to the comfort of the Wyn Irwin Hut on Friday night, we made the final call on which way to cross, and decided to go for East to West.

We took the 4WD vehicles a little way up the rather rough, old Ball Shelter track to get a bit less of a commute up the glacier then all set off along the moraine wall. At the Ball Shelter we headed up the ridge, and after a small scrub scramble at the start,



Taking in the views ...



View of Mt Cook from the pass

we reached the more open ridge and climbed up under the impressive views of the Caroline Face of Mt Cook.

Conditions were perfect – a cool air but perfect blue skies and sun. Stunning views in all directions. We were up to the Caroline Hut by about 3.30pm so stopped there for a good rest and food. We reckoned on still getting suitable camping sites further up, so continued a bit further to clear the next hill, and so cover the most of the upward climb. The campsite was ideal, plenty of flat ground for bivys and enough for a couple of tents too.

This was still rather early for a camp so we admired the view and filled in as much time as we could before finally giving up and going to bed ridiculously early at around 8pm. There was a bit of ice regularly crashing down on the lower part of the Caroline Face.

It would be fair to say that by the morning we were very, very pleased to see the sun come up, as sleep was not as plentiful as we'd hoped, in spite of rather good conditions, if a little frosty. However, as soon as the sun came over the hill, I cracked the ice on my sunscreen, smeared it on and away we went. Near the top we dropped down to the glacier and crossed that for a bit to give those enthusiastic to try their new gear a test.

The final climb to the pass is a scramble up a steepish, fine shattered rock slope. The permanent ice has dropped well below the top of the pass now.

The view from the top shows the Copland Pass Face almost totally devoid of snow and ice – just a couple of bibs still remain, and the descent from Ball Pass barely crosses any snow and ice. We found the recommended path across the face and down the gully, and from there chugged down the Hooker to our very welcome CMC Hut. The latter bit down the valley seemed rather long after the more interesting scrambling around higher up.

Thanks to Mark Flintoft for coming as technical leader and Barry Jarvis (staying in the hut at the time) for helping with the vehicle juggling.

More photos are on the website gallery.

Greg Ewing, Trip Leader

Intermediate Alpine Skills Course – Easter Weekend

Five students and our instructor, Gideon, met on Good Friday at Glentanner, Mt Cook with the intention of flying up to Barron Saddle. The plan was to spend the night there and walk back via Mueller Hut whilst picking up some skills on the way. Just as we were about to load up the chopper with the first load the pilot spotted some clouds moving up in the valley. The chopper could fly but the question was whether we could land or not. After a group consultation we decided that rather than risk spending our money on a flight that may not be able to land, we would walk up to Mueller Hut. We walked up to the hut, sweating under some fairly heavy packs that were packed for a helicopter flight rather than an uphill hike.

The breeze picked up and we provided entertainment to the residents of Mueller as we pitched our tents in the strong wind. The group awoke on Saturday to a whiteout that didn't lift all day. We spent the day brushing up on rope skills in and around the hut. Sunday dawned fine, not a breath of wind or a cloud in the sky all day. We travelled up to the Annette Plateau to practise glacial travel, crevasse extraction and a bit of ice climbing in the wind scoop.

Some of us took the opportunity to take a side trip up Mt Annette and take in the fantastic 360 degree view. After stopping for dinner at Mueller we carried on down to Wyn Irwin. In all, a great weekend with everyone gaining some further skills and climbing companions.

Stuart Macintosh



Ice Climbing Course – West Coast Glaciers, Anzac Weekend

Two instructors and eight students, keen on learning or improving their ice climbing skills, met at Franz Josef Glacier on Anzac Day. After an afternoon of getting confident front pointing and using two tools by bouldering on the glacier, we moved south to our base at the NZAC Hut at Fox Glacier.

The following day we climbed up onto Fox Glacier and practised climbing on top ropes, leading and setting up anchors. Black Diamond had provided an assortment of ice tools to try out and the green leash-less 'Kermits', as we called them, provided a bit of mirth initially, but soon became everyone's favourite for vertical ice.

After the second evening dining in the pizzeria, I think everyone agreed with the climbing style of retreating off the ice into the comforts of the hut and restaurants!

The following morning, with rain forecast and the trip back to Christchurch that afternoon, we decided that, to get the most climbing for our time, we would try out the indoor ice climbing at Franz Josef. This proved to be a great idea as we could try out routes that were much more difficult than what could be found on the glacier and climb many routes in a short space of time. Another fantastic course that I think everyone really enjoyed and got a lot out of.

Thanks to Black Diamond for gear supply.

Stuart Macintosh

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 or join online. 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 acknowledgement letter. Processing can take up to four weeks for mailed applications but joining online will take about a day or two.

Contacts — cmc.net.nz

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

President: Graeme Jacobs, ph 355 9992
email: gjarch@paradise.net.nz

Secretary: To be appointed

Treasurer: Doug Hitchon, ph 343 0820

Membership/website: Greg Ewing, ph 358 4346, email: greg.ewing@ist.co.nz;

Trip Coordinator: Mark Flintoft, ph 328 8887

Huts: Robin Muirson, phone 357 4800 or 027 434 4122

Hut Access: Bill/Shehelle King, ph 942 9188;

Owen Rees, ph 323 8988

CMC Instruction Courses

- ▶ Alpine Snow Skills: Beginner & Intermediate or Advanced
- ▶ Avalanche Awareness & Backcountry Experience
- ▶ Ski Touring
- ▶ Alpine Rock Skills: Beginner & Intermediate
- ▶ Instruct the Instructors

For more info contact Gideon Geering,

Instruction Coordinator,

email: gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz or visit our website at www.cmc.net.nz

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