

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

September

- 6 **Veterans' Trip. Bridle Path/ Castle Rock.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 3574800 or 0274344122.
- 13-14 **Rescheduled 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 give him an email at stevemarcham@hotmail.com
- 13-18 **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 Cam if you are interested, cam.mulvey@gmail.com
- 18 **Annual Kennedy Lecture – Venue: Christchurch Girls' High School Auditorium, Matai Street, 7.30pm.** Lydia Bradey discusses climbing Mt Everest in 1988 and 2008 and the changes between times. Check website for more details.
- 26-28 **Club Instruction - Basic Alpine Skills/Journey.** Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz

October

- 4 **Veterans' Trip. Bellbird Track.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 4/5 **Club Trip – The Warrior.** Doug Hitchons is leading this trip to this challenging peak. He intends to get an early start Saturday morning and put in a high camp Saturday night. Contact Doug on 343 0820 or hitchons@xtra.co.nz for more details.
- 10-13 **Club Instruction - Intermediate Ski Touring Skills Course.** Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
- 11-12 **Rescheduled 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 give him an email at liz.weir@paradise.net.nz
- 17-20 **Club Instruction - Intermediate Skills Course/Journey.** Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
- 23 **Club Night, Pioneer Lounge, 7.30pm. Alternate Ways of Mountain Travel - Skiing, Climbing, Rafting.** Al Moore will present different ways of travelling through the New Zealand Mountains. Al has been a member of the CMC for a long time and is an experienced rafter, climber and heli-ski guide.
- 25-27 **Labour Weekend Instruction - Advanced Alpine Skills Clinic/Ice Climbing Clinic.** Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
- 25-27 **Club Trip – Alpine Rockclimbing in the South Temple Area.** Mark Flintoft is leading this trip to do some of the long rockclimbs in the spectacular South Temple Valley. Climbs on Steeple Peak, Mt Bruce and the Salmon Slabs will be targeted. Contact Mark on 328 8887 or give him an email at mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz

November

- 1 **Veterans' Trip. Mt Alford.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 1-2 **Club Trip – Pito and South Peak in the South Arrowsmith Range.** Nick Moyle is leading this trip to a seldom visited area in the South Arrowsmiths. Contact Nick on 351 2193 or at moylen9@yahoo.com

President's Note

Since my last President's note Jack Ede has passed away. Jack was a life member of the Club and Patron prior to Ed Cotter. The Club was well represented at the funeral with many members in attendance. Ed Cotter spoke on behalf of the Club and told a humorous story of an incident during a trip to Antarctica with Jack. Jack who was sharing a room with Ed was tired of Ed's snoring. Ed suggested Jack tie a string to Ed's foot so that when he snored Jack could simply pull the string to get him to be quiet. However, Jack forgot to undo the string in the morning and, when Ed leapt out of bed, he was left hanging by his big toe from the top bunk. There was also an ice axe guard of honour with some 30 climbers including a number of CMC members.



Ice axe guard of honour at Jack Ede's funeral.

On a happier note I am delighted to announce that all the vacant positions within the Committee have been filled. Sarah Osborne is our new secretary and we are delighted to have a female perspective on the Committee. Nick Moyle, who has rejoined the Committee following his time in the UK, has taken on lectures and socials. We can look forward to an amazing series of lectures if half of what Nick plans gets off the ground. With the enthusiasm Nick showed during his talk at the July club night I'm sure he will succeed. We also have a prospect for club librarian.

The Club has been blessed over the years with members donating a considerable amount to the Club in terms of cash. The Club is often approached for funds for various projects. Two requests we regularly receive for funds are to support publishing of climbing books and overseas climbing expeditions.

Bryan Stickle tabled a proposal for a publishing fund at the AGM and the Committee would like to formalise this. We are yet to write the criteria for issuing publishing funds but it is likely to be for books or articles which focus on New Zealand climbing history and climbers. We have two proposals in front of us right now; a book on Jack Clarke and a Guide to Canterbury Mountains in association with NZAC. The typical publishing request is in the range of \$3000-\$4000. This will require capital of a reasonable size in order to generate enough income to make grants this size while maintaining the capital sum.

We have typically given a \$500.00 donation to expeditions in return for a Club night talk and Mountaineer article. We would like to increase the size of our donations in order to encourage the delivery of lectures and articles which has been difficult at times. Donations to expeditions will not be limited to overseas expeditions. We would like to support innovative climbing projects in our own mountains. Again we are yet to write the criteria but when we do we will let you know.

I see these two funds as nicely balancing each other with the publishing fund supporting climbing history and the expedition fund supporting modern climbing. Combined with the funds outside the Club we have access to, the Fenwick Trust for instruction and Founders Trust for back country huts, we will be well placed to support, what I believe, are our core areas of business - History, Climbing, Instruction and Huts. If you would like to contribute to these new funds we would love your support.

Graeme Jacobs
President

November contd.,

- 14-17 **Show Weekend Instruction - Intermediate Skills Course/Journey.** Contact Gideon Geerling, gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
- 22-23 **Club Trip – Mt Tapuaenuku.** Ex-president Andrew Johnston is leading this trip up the Hodder River to the highest peak in the Kaikoura's. Andrew plans to drive up Friday night. Contact Andrew on 383 9252.

December

- 6 **Veterans' Trip. Woolshed/Hawdon.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 13 **Veterans' Christmas BBQ at Kennedy Lodge, Arthurs Pass.** All welcome. Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.

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

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.



Huts Update

On Sunday 3 August Robin Muirson took a trip to Kennedy Lodge to deliver one and a half cubic meters of fire wood which had been donated by Nowell Syme. He also changed the door code and hung a portrait of W. Kennedy, a founding CMC member.

At Wyn Irwin Hut the heater was returned for a credit as it did not work out. This will be replaced with a tropic Air Diesel unit built locally and it will be installed at Labour Weekend.

A Barker Hut work party is needed to repair and rehang the toilet door. The hut door also requires attention. We will combine this with a trip to Waimak Falls Hut to establish a new toilet, possibly in November. Any interested helpers please contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.

Chch climbers in NZ team again!

Amy Holland, Ataif Edmundson and Louis O'Brien have been selected in the NZ Rockclimbing team again. Well done! They have been competing at a national/international level with trips to the Worlds in Europe and South America in the past couple of years.

They attended some of the CMC youth rockclimbing courses in the past.

Erewhon Branch Celebrates 75 Years

The Erewhon (Ashburton) branch of the Canterbury Mountaineering Club has its origins in May 1933 when Tom Beckett and a small group of enthusiasts met to form an organisation devoted to mountain adventure. The first outing was to climb Mount Alford, a modest top in the foothills between Mount Somers and Mount Hutt. The record of that day is a highlight of the branch's diary and Cuthbert Denham's artwork and prose make it a magic read. It seemed appropriate to repeat that trip to kickstart the 75th party at Queen's Birthday weekend. Accordingly, 26 members and friends travelled in to the Winterslow Station cookhouse in Taylor's Stream. Until the 1940s the station sheep were shorn there and the wool transported out on packhorse. David Wightman, the third-generation runholder was a brilliant host and we enjoyed a marvellous evening of good food and drink, laughter and storytelling. Contrary to Erewhon custom, some of the stories even bore a fleeting approximation to the truth. The only discordant note (if I may describe it as such) was that the very low temperature played billy-oh with the innards of Bunny's bagpipes and we were denied the long-awaited pleasure of hearing his rendition of the traditional slow air "Macfarlane's farewell to Winterslow" On second thoughts. ...

On the Saturday morning we awoke to a clear frosty dawn and the party went their various ways, some to the top of Mount Alford, some to walk up the track towards Three Creeks Hut, and some to potter about the bush surrounding the cookhouse flat. After lunch we all travelled back to Ashburton after thanking David for his whole-hearted generosity in sharing his home with us.

The Anniversary dinner fortunately did not follow the pattern laid down by some previous branch social events. For a start, the police were not called by the neighbours, no-one was suspended by his trouser seat from the antlers of a trophy stag high on the wall, and there were no portraits of dignitaries decorated by strings of saveloys. Instead the evening was conducted with due decorum. In between lashings of cholesterol and drink we were honoured with a lively account by Alick Kelly (our oldest member) of an ascent of Pito Peak in the 1930s and a tale by Arthur Dixon about how he became a member after his wartime service in the RNZAF. Richard Gluyas, resplendent in his club picnic attire proposed a toast to 'Absent Friends', especially Sergeant Jack Partridge, 4 Gunner

Maurice Pilbrow and Trooper D'Arcy Pilbrow who died on active service and to those who lost their lives in the mountains. Tom Morton spoke of some of his more memorable moments in the company of Erewhon climbers. That he can remember them at all is even more memorable. Don Church thanked all the high country runholders for their tolerance of our activities, their hospitality and assistance with hut building and rescues. Don has met all the runholders over the decades and is well qualified to speak about them. We were happy to welcome Anne and Laurie Prouting, late of Mesopotamia as our guests for the evening.

Professor Retep Chowbok, of the University of Otago, who claims to be a descendant of the man who accompanied Samuel Butler's hero Higgs as far as the pass across the range in his famous documentary "Erewhon", treated us to an illustrated discourse on the people of Erewhon. Particular emphasis was on their politics, medicine, music, food, drink, transport, status of women, religion, housing and system of economics. The good professor then demonstrated how these qualities have been insinuated into mainstream New Zealand life and into the manifestos of all current political parties. He warned us to take all electioneering pronouncements with a tablespoonful of sodium chloride. I am aware how much it cost to have the professor speak to us and believe me he was worth every cent paid to him.

Lindsay Holland and Brian Fineran also lent the weight of their words of wisdom to conclude a weekend which, in some small way, scratched the surface of 75 years of endeavour and comradeship within the ranks of the Erewhon Branch.



Drawing by Cuthbert Denham, May 1933



Photo: Mt Alford, 31 May 2008 — Peter Sinclair, David Howden, George Sinclair, Jean Gluyas, Robin Muirson, Charles Ross, Emma de Lacey, Peter Bain, Guy de Lacey, Don Church, Pauline Bennett, Laurie Bennett, Peter Caldicott, Al Moore



CMC Climbing News

Well, the storms and bad weather weekends in Canterbury have had club members hitting ski areas for some good powder turns. Not that much mountaineering or climbing has been happening but some has . . .

Back in April, Vaughan Snowdon climbed the NW ridge on Mt Aspiring. Also in April, Nick Moyle and Jason Bartlett had a bruising time getting to Ivory Lake from the Waitaha River before traversing over into the Tuke and Mikonui Rivers. The weather never relented to allow a climb on Park Dome. In mid June, Nick Moyle and Steve March climbed Mt Manson and traversed to Baldy Hill in the Craigieburns for a good scree descent on a warm day. Nick Moyle and Jason Bartlett also climbed Falling Mountain in a day from Greyneys Corner and the Edwards River in mid July. They also attempted the Two Thumbs in early July but conditions were woeful for climbing. Steve March wandered up and down Mt Torlesse in mid July. Karl Fischer climbed Mt Oates on a club trip in July while Andrew Perkins climbed up Mt Temple in great snow conditions in mid July.

Darryl & Barbara Thompson and Eric Saggars skied to the top of Castle Hill Peak in early August. They also had some enjoyed great ski-touring along the Mt Cheeseman ridge and, along with Hugh Logan, Murray Cullen and Sue Parkes, braved cold conditions while skiing the Angelus Ridge from the Mt Robert carpark to Angelus Hut.

During May - June 2008 Alpine Cowboy Guy McKinnon and Yvonne Cook spent some time in Denali National Park, Alaska where they traversed Mt Hunter via SW & W ridges (6 days), climbed the West Face of Kahiltna Queen, E and SW Ridges of Mt Frances, had an attempt on East Kahiltna Peak, ascended Radio Tower Peak along Middle Troll and the Lady in Waiting on Pika Glacier.

Club member Colin Morris and Vaughan Shanks climbed the South Ridge of Mt Green in mid August from a camp at Darwin corner.

Nick Moyle

Passed away . . .



Jack Ede has been a very big part of the CMC for a very long time. He has been one of our most respected climbers, and contributed a great deal to the club and climbing. He is also a well read author - his books tell of his adventure and commitment to the outdoors throughout his life, and of the fun and pleasure he brought to those around him. He was our club Patron for the past year until the recent AGM. He joined the club in 1941, and was awarded Life Member status in 1985.

The CMC is saddened by the loss of another member of great stature in the climbing community - **Gottlieb Braun-Elwert**, by an untimely heart attack. We pass our sincere condolences to his family and associates. Gottlieb has been a member of the CMC for over 25 years, and known to all for his outstanding achievements and contribution to mountaineering.

In The Press on Saturday, 16 August, Mike Crean wrote an obituary on **Doreen Murie** (formerly Uruquart), who died on 30 July. Doreen was one of NZ's women's climbing champions. Mike's obituary is well worth reading.

Women's Intermediate Mountaineering Course - Temple Basin, 2/3 August 2008 guided by Karen Corcoran

Caroline, Theresa and I left Christchurch at 6pm on Friday, 1 August to drive the long dark roads to Temple Basin, in search of an experience which for all of us was a first, a Women's mountaineering course. Trudging up the trail to Temple Basin was made slightly more difficult by the fact that the goods lift had stopped and my mild cold had now turned severe. We pushed on; I had been excited about this course for months and I wasn't letting a cold get in my way. Finally around 10pm, we arrived at the lodge to meet a very relieved Karen.

On the first day of the course the weather looked a little grim so the morning was used to learn some basic alpine knots and anchors which we constructed outside and later threw ourselves downhill on, to check out how sturdy they were - surprisingly we only managed to dislodge one top clipped V picket. That morning we also learnt which essentials a girl needs to carry in her pack - a pair of woollen undies, a strapadictomy (nothing like being able to pee with the boys...that'll show em), and synthetic down (because even the most hardcore alpine chicks get cold). Back out on the slopes we finished off the day hanging each other upside down over small steep slopes and practising the many awkward ways of falling and correcting your fall using self arrest. We managed to learn and master three basic arresting techniques without losing any body or face parts. We also managed to get a look at the surrounding mountains including an impressive, yet intimidating glimpse of Rolleston, which made a brief appearance in sunshine and blue skies. After dinner, we crowded into our 4m x 2m bunkroom to learn "escaping the system" which we all took turns at creating.



That night we were lucky enough (or unlucky enough) to be a reluctant part of the Fire and Ice Festival or, if you were there you might have experienced, Drunk University Students Festival. Staying in the University Lodge we experienced the night from beginning to end; we were even woken at 2am by one drunken student in our bunkroom falling out of her third storey bunk, face first on the floor. Karen rushed to her aid to be reassured by the student, "I'll be fine, go back to bed, I've done worse". It made me feel old and I'm only 23, was I ever that young and obnoxious?

The next morning we were greeted by equally tenuous weather so we decided to stay indoors and learn some basic rescue systems. We practised escaping the system and then learnt how to create an assisted hoist (good for when we are climbing with heavy men who get themselves into strife). We then ventured into improving weather to practise pitching in teams of two. We learnt to build a bucket seat and anchors in a mock ascent using different techniques of rope management and belay set ups.

After lunch we practised our transceiver searches, refining our pinpoint searching skills. We then threw our gear into the goods lift with much relief and headed down the trail into the rain and slush. We all agreed that it turned out to be an amazingly productive weekend during which we learnt essential skills to prepare us for the mountains. As a female beginner mountaineer I found that the experience of having a female mountain guide running the course was an invaluable opportunity for me to ask questions about areas of mountaineering that affect women differently to men. I was able to ask her how she trains, what she wears and how she manages different aspects of the trip. Karen was supportive, encouraging and motivating and I think the other girls would agree, inspiring. Hopefully, this course and review will inspire more women to become involved in mountaineering and the CMC. It's great fun, get out there.



Veterans' Trip- Mt Herbert, Banks Peninsula

With a threatening weather forecast for the afternoon the depleted group of five set off from Princess Margaret Hospital to drive to the saddle between Purau and Port Levy. We smartly tramped off up a farm track below the ridge leading to Mt Herbert in fine weather which was accompanied by a cool wind by the time we got on the ridge for the final few hundred metres to the top.

There we huddled in the shelter of the transmitter buildings until all had arrived. The view to the north was brilliant with Lyttelton a jewel on a calm blue harbour but rolling up behind us to the south was a bank of threatening clouds. So we elected not to go to the summit shelter for lunch, instead heading rapidly down via a different farm track. By halfway down we were in clouds losing our views and soon getting the first light rain.

Near the saddle it had become heavier and the YHA Hut just above the saddle provided an eminently suitable lunch venue. It is a rough little corrugated iron hut with sacking bunks and enough floor space for a table and two forms. It kept out the increasingly heavy rain but not the draft for us to enjoy a convivial lunch. After lunch it was parkas on for a five minute sprint back to the car. Thence a very quick change and wet drive which included snow as we crossed Dyers Pass en route back to Princess Margaret carpark.

Party: Nowell Syme, Robin Muirson, Melanie Muirson and partner Garth, and Gordon Habgood (scribe)



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



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or visit our website at www.cmc.net.nz

Change of Address

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

Contacts — cmc.net.nz

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

Secretary: Sarah Osborne, 03-960-7783 or 021 159 9505

Treasurer: Doug Hitchon, ph 343 0820

Membership/webside: 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/Sheerlie King, ph 942 9188; Owen Rees, ph 323 8988

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.