

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

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.

February

- TBA Club Trip** - to be advised - check website in January.
- 19 Club Night** - CMC Mountaineer of the Year 2009 - TBA - check website

March

- 7/8 Club Trip - Mt Avoca** - email: moylen9@yahoo.com
- 19 Club Night** - Sandy Briggs - will present pictures of Arctic expeditions with John Dunn including a North/south traverse of Ellesmere Island, Baffin Island traverse. Sandy has also climbed Mount Logan and has made many first ascents on Vancouver Island.

April

- TBA Club Trip** - to be advised - check the website closer to time.
- 16 Club Night** - Kennedy Slide Collection. More details to come.

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

Book sale @ www.cmc.net.nz

The Club recently received a large collection of books that belonged to the late Jack Hayes. Some of these are to be kept for the Club Library and the remainder will be sold, initially through our own web site. This facility can also be used by Club members to sell their own books.

If you wish to use this facility to sell any climbing/mountaineering books, please email the details to Greg Ewing, including for each book the following:-

- Author
- Title
- Year of publication
- Brief comment on the condition of the book
- The minimum price you will accept



John Chivers

President's Note

I have always been interested in the history and events associated with the CMC. While chatting with older Club members, they have recounted some of their memories which have made me more familiar with some of this history.

For example, I was aware that in the past some Club members had push-biked on gravel roads to the Hermitage to go climbing. However, I had not realized it had been Kennedy's party who had been the first to do this. How different this is to the helicopter access modern climbers enjoy today.

I have started my own Club research and am gradually reading the older Mountaineer Journals. I recently read the 1952-53 Mountaineer which starts with an article entitled "Everest the Victory". Apart from this historic overseas climb, this issue of the Mountaineer is jammed full of articles about climbs in the South Islands mountains. These stories provide a valuable history of New Zealand climbing by CMC members. It is important that this continues regardless of whether your climb is a first ascent, a new route or a much climbed summit. We have a Mountaineer due out next year and I encourage you all to write articles for inclusion in this Journal.

It was suggested to me prior to this year's Kennedy Lecture that I should give an introduction as to who Kennedy was and his place in the Club. To assist me Robin Muirson gave me a copy of Kennedy's obituary from the 1950 Mountaineer. After reading this I could see how many of the club's traditions such as trips, club nights and the library have been formed.

Meetings held at Kennedy's Den to discuss prospective climbing trips and the meetings which followed to view trip photographs were the beginnings of our monthly Club Nights and Club Trips. Kennedy had a collection of climbing books in his den. These provided both a resource and inspiration to young climbers who could not afford to buy these precious books. This collection was gifted to the Club upon his death and was the start of our Library. Kennedy was a founding member of the Club and held positions of President and Patron for many years. Our Lodge at Arthurs Pass is named after him.

The first official Club Trip was a climb of Mt Torlesse led by Kennedy. Therefore, I propose to lead a club trip to Mt Torlesse next year to celebrate this event and would like to think we could make this a regular event.

The late Christopher Fenwick clearly understood Kennedy's place in the Club and therefore instigated the Kennedy Memorial Lecture with the Fenwick Fund covering the costs associated with running the lecture. The club is grateful to Chris for this as it gives us the opportunity to hear prominent climbers talk about their climbing. This was certainly the case with this year's Kennedy Lecture given by Lydia Bradey, "Everest Twenty Years On". In talking to Lydia prior to her lecture I thanked her for agreeing to speak. She replied that it was an honour to be asked. Now knowing more about Kennedy I can more fully appreciate her sentiments. We had a good turn out and Guy's review of the lecture is included in this News.

Many thanks to all those who have written trip reports and lecture reviews for this News; it is great to have such a full newsletter. Lecture and trip reviews are important for many reasons; they record for future generations what we did as a Club, provide a resource for planning trips into unfamiliar areas and not least they provide enjoyable reading.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe while climbing this summer season.

Founders Fund

Longtime club member and former patron the late Deryck Morse set up the Founders Fund to support our back country huts. This Fund has just received notification from the Charities Commission that charitable status has been granted. Funds held by the Club on behalf of the Fund can now be transferred to the Fund to enable the Trustees to take over administration. The new trustees are Owen Rees (chairman), Richard Fenwick, Darryl Thompson, Maureen McCloy and Graeme Jacobs.

Club Nights

The committee wants the social aspect of our Club Nights to be enhanced and, with this in mind, we have instigated a gathering time of 7.30pm with the lecture starting at 8pm. This gives every one time to chat to other Club members about climbing and an opportunity to find like minded people to go on future trips with. We will have a range of beverages on offer and some nibbles to add to the social occasion. We have been lucky to have some great speakers and I thank Nick Moyle for the variety he has organized this last year and the exciting list for the year ahead.

Graeme Jacobs, President

CMC Climbing News

Well ... mustering the climbing news has been interesting. Club members have been out and about, mainly in Arthurs Pass but also further afield. Here is a brief rundown.

In mid April Jeremy Parker climbed Phipps Peak after a sustained siege. Back on 30 August, seven members of the ACR team did a route familiarisation ski tour from Fox Peak through to Round Hill. Those on the trip were: Murray Cullen, Eric Saggars, Neil Sloan, Grant Piper, Colin Morris, Paul Beaver (PLO) and Darryl Thompson. Snow conditions varied from very hard to breakable crust but the descent off the Two Thumbs range down to Round Hill was on untracked perfect spring snow conditions. Steve Marcham, Jeremy Parker, Matt Robertson, Mitch Coll, Laurayne Robb and Warren Soufflot went on a club trip up the Edwards in September. They got up Mt Wilson (2035m) but the ridge to Scott looked pretty unstable.

Nick Moyle managed to avoid the westerly cycle and climb Mt Taranaki/Egmont on a fine day in early October via the Surrey Road route from the north side on firm snow and ice. He also managed to stretch his legs on a day trip from Mt Cassidy to Mt Temple at Arthurs Pass in mid October. Andrew Perkins climbed Mt Rolleston and Phipps Peak in October.

Sarah Osborne climbed Castle Hill Peak in early October. Nick Moyle, Tom Kenna and Tim Woodfield climbed Mt Tarapuhi on Show Day. The original aim was Mt Russell but they detoured up the wrong creek from the Deception River due to a navigational error from Captain Custard. They were rewarded with a scrub bash worthy of AP Harper's description of it being the devil. Professor Chowbok and another learned Erewhonian went in search of Martyn Clark's 1990's mid Canterbury test piece crag - the mysterious and hard-to-find Tarzan's Escarpment. Satisfied with the recce, they settled down to scones and tea with the farmer.

On Show Day Guy McKinnon climbed the Central Spur of the Spencer Face of Elie de Beaumont (4+). This classic route, possibly the most beautiful at Cook, was originally established by a strong CMC team in 1972. Conditions on the route were ideal, although the large amount of spring snow recently made access wet and arduous. A great and classic climb.

Nick Moyle

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, Arthurs 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.

Hut News

Greg and I left headed south at Labour Weekend with the new diesel heater and 98 litres of diesel to install at Wyn Irwin. After a brew with Cameron I then set about extending the hearth to accommodate the new heater while Greg repaired and repainted the kitchen window sill and Cameron cleaned the windows.

On Saturday morning we placed the heater in position, assembled the flue and placed it through the roof, fitting the liner and roof flashing, flue cap and finally wire stays. At about 3pm, after hooking up the fuel line, it was time for a test run. Ten minutes later we started to feel the heat. Later in the evening, as the snow fell down outside and sitting in the lounge in shorts and shirt, I checked the temperature gauge: 21 degrees! I left it running overnight and the following morning it was a cosy 14 degrees inside the hut.

Other jobs completed during the weekend were door closers repaired and adjusted, spoutings cleaned, soffits repaired from wind damage, the left hand gas hob reconnected to the inverter in the battery cupboard (NB. to light the hob switch the inverter on first) and some pictures donated by Jack Ede were been hung. Now there are no excuses now for not spending a few nights at Wyn Irwin.

Robin Muirson

Park Morpeth Hut Poll Results

The CMC Committee have received an excellent response to the poll regarding the retention or otherwise of Park Morpeth Hut. In total 65 votes were received, with 62 in favour of keeping the hut and three against. This is a clear result affirming the committee's recommendation to club that this hut be retained.

We received a number of written comments with the votes, many of which were positive. We also received a surprising \$1000 in donations to be put towards the cost of this work and offers of labour. We are incredibly grateful for this support.

After the poll was issued we received information that DoC had not been granted funding this year to replace the hut. We need to follow due process and obtain the relevant approvals from relevant authorities prior to completing the hut. We will be applying to the Selwyn District Council for a Certificate of Acceptance for the work which has been carried out and for the work to complete the hut.

Following this approval we will be in a position to get DoC's sign off. While Selwyn District Council is the building authority, DoC is the landowner we have a lease with. We therefore have some way to go with this process but at least now we have a clear mandate from the club.

The committee will update the membership as more information becomes available.

Graeme Jacobs



Club Nights

July Club Night – Nick Moyle: Trekking and Climbing in Europe and Turkey

Around 30 people turned up to hear Nick Moyle deliver what one Alpine Cowboy described "as a classic CMC talk" of his trekking and climbing destinations in various European and Turkish mountain ranges during 2007. Nick spent two weeks in August roaming the Gran Paradiso area of the Italian Alps, finding good mountains of between 3-4000m, very few people and hut wardens willing to give a 50% discount for CMC members. It was evident that Europeans did not try to emulate Nick's CMC style of pink polypro, self catering and free camping.

The mountains of Croatia, Montenegro and Macedonia offered more hot weather, good limestone and few people along with Slavic hut wardens and climbers wanting to ply an Alpine Cowboy with copious quantities of rajika (plum brandy). At this point of the talk, Brian Fineran, perhaps thinking back to the drinking shenanigans of Lake Rubicon, was seen nodding his approval. Nick, along with his wife Rachel, managed to ascend the highest mountains in Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro during this time. It was on Golam Korab in Macedonia that Nick realised that the new alpine dress attire of the season is underpants, boots and the Bulgarian flag.

Having travelled overland to Turkey, Nick and Rachel spent four days walking the Kackar Mountains in north-eastern Turkey. Here Nick broke all the MSC rules by climbing a snowed up Mt Kackar (3900m) in sneakers. The evening concluded with Nick showing photos of a recent trip to Ivory Lake to emphasise that while the Alps of Europe are a great destination, there is nothing quite like the Southern Alps.

Captain Custard

August Club Night - Grant Guise on Ski-Mountaineering Racing

"It's not much harder than doing a half-marathon."

With ski-mountaineering races often encompassing 1400m vertical metres of climbing, skinning and downhill skiing, most people after listening to Grant Guise would agree that it is a hard, physically demanding sport. Around 35-40 people were at Pioneer to hear Grant give an excellent presentation on the sport of ski-mountaineering and the races he and others are organising in NZ.

While ski-touring and telemarking are popular activities in NZ (particularly this winter), Grant's talk highlighted the differences in equipment between racing and recreation. One noticeable feature was the minimalist

approach to gear – lightweight harness, carbon-fibre ski boots, ¾ length skins and minimal clothing. Grant showed video clips of skiers participating in World Cup races in the USA, France and Italy and the transition from skinning to downhill. I was particularly impressed with the speed skins were removed or put on. The noise of the cowbells and vocal European support crews were apparent at these transitions.

Grant also bought some equipment along to show the audience. I was blown away by the lightweight carbon fibre boots. At 1200 euros a pair, you wouldn't want to leave them in the carpark at the end of the day!! Grant finished the evening with a short film from the Wanaka film festival about two German climbers attempt to climb Gasherbrum II and ski down in under 9 ¾ hours. The talk ended with a few questions, ski descents Grant had made (Foggy Peak, Avalanche Peak and Rolleston's Bealey Face) before the audience enjoyed the food and drinks on offer. Go to www.skimonz.co.nz for more information on ski-mountaineering races in NZ.

Nick Moyle

September Kennedy Lecture - Lydia Bradey: Everest after 20 yrs



When I asked Nick Moyle about plans for the Kennedy Lecture my first question was "Will there be beers?" to which Nick replied, "Yes." From that point my attendance was pretty much guaranteed. Imagine my surprise and pleasure when I also learned that iconic NZ climber Lydia Bradey was to be the speaker.

Lydia has been (and still is) a heroine of mine since I began climbing, but being a mere young one in the sport I had missed out on all the drama associated with her ascent of Everest in 1988. This was the first women's ascent from NZ and first oxygen free ascent for women of any country.

Using photos from the time of her first ascent with an international team (also including other kiwis), Lydia immediately had the audience listening intently. The main thrust of the talk was to contrast the difference between an expedition first as an amateur and now as a guide. This was helped by the route being the same – namely the Hillary Route. It rapidly became apparent how far the advent of technology has affected these climbs. The main difference now being the instantaneous communications and excellent weather forecast available. Also the commercial pressures and organisation of the guiding companies has led to a much higher level of comfort for the often ridiculously pampered clients. Many climbers find the 8000m show now a mockery of what mountaineering should be about, but there is no doubt that for professional guides such as Lydia guiding this peak is the pinnacle of their careers, and as such a serious challenge. The difficulty of getting a guiding placement for this task indicates the difficulty of the task itself and Lydia was the only woman guiding on the hill at the time.

Other highlights of the talk were the photos of Gary Ball and Rob Hall, some seen for the first time, as well as her description of her entry into mountaineering on a skills course run by Paddy Freaney. Lydia continued to describe the various difficulties of the climb with special emphasis given to the unpleasant and dodgy fixed ropes that festoon the mountain. She pointedly contrasted these with the quality ropes fixed by kiwi guide Russell Brice on the North Ridge, and warned of a disaster yet to come... In addition to this, the crowding of these routes itself was problematic, with huge traffic jams of climbers causing dangerous delays high up, during the first summit windows of the season. Lydia experienced this herself on summit day.

At question time someone who must have had their head in the sand for the last 20 years asked Lydia for a brief rundown of her background in climbing. What followed was tour de force whirlwind recantation of her climbing resume, which kept the audience breathless for five minutes at least and charted numerous first ascents and expeditions across the globe. A fitting way to answer the question and to end the presentation.

Although I was moderately terrified, I approached her in person for a chat after the talk and had a lovely conversation. Lydia is one of the all time characters of NZ mountaineering and her return to the big-time is to be welcomed by all. We at the CMC wish her all the best for her trips next year.

Guy McKinnon

October Club Night - Al Moore: Alternate Ways of Mountain Travel

The October club night was a real Erewhonian treat. Al Moore came along and gave a lecture on different ways to travel through the mountains. He introduced his talk by describing how he joined the CMC after being taught by Peter Bain and John Entwisle at Ashburton College. Al showed a few classic shots of Ashburton College tents being demolished by norwesters on tramping trips into the South Ashburton River and an ascent of Ashburton Peak.

Since those Erewhon days Al has climbed, skied and rafted a large chunk of the Southern Alps. His talk had a lot of slides of heliskiing in the Rakaia headwaters and Arrowsmiths (where he is a guide for Methven Heli Ski) from the 2008 winter. One particular shot showed a party skiing off a shoulder near Hakatere Peak. The following slide showed a huge crown wall in the same area. Another photo showed an avalanche path that had run off East Horn. It was interesting that the location of Cameron Hut behind a small moraine wall protected it from the avalanche path. Al also showed some of the different ski runs in the area, especially some glorious waist deep powder skiing on a run called "Master Blaster" in Jagged Stream. Another shot showed a ski run into head of the Lawrence Valley with a view to the impressive Lawrence faces of North and Red Peaks.

The second part of the talk detailed rafting trips in the Southern Alps. Al is a part time lecturer in Outdoor Recreation at CPIT and runs his own rafting company. Al gave a great account of rafting on rivers like the Clarence, the upper Waiau (below St James Walkway), Karamea and also big West Coast rivers; the Perth and Waiatoto. The Perth trip really gave the punters the all round mountain experience with a walk up the Havelock, a wander over Dennistoun Saddle and rafting the impressive gorges of the Perth River. Even more spectacular were the shots of the big boulders and milky waters of the Waiatoto. Al described a classic trip earlier this year on the Waiatoto where CMC stalwarts Austen Deans and Ed Cotter were along for the ride. The evening concluded with a series of questions, a look at the Methven Heli Ski area on a topo map and, in true Erewhonian fashion, the sampling of a few ales.

Nick Moyle

November Club Night – What have you been up to in the hills?

The final club night of 2008 bought a good mix of veterans, wannabes, gnarled old climbers and others to Pioneer to hear from a medley of speakers on climbing and club activities in 2008.

Club secretary Sarah Osborne spoke first about her experiences of rock climbing at Mt Somers, the Intermediate Women's climbing course and a trip up Castle Hill Peak. It was great to hear Sarah's enthusiasm for climbing and her success in dragging non-alpine climbers up mountains.

The next speaker, Guy McKinnon, then presented some stunning shots of climbing from three different countries. First up were slides of "Tears of Allah", new stunning new rock route on Newton Peak in the Garden of Allah. Guy then gave a great account of his traverse, with Yvonne Cook, of Mt Hunter in Alaska. It seems long summer daylight hours can mean some long days. Lastly, Guy gave the audience a look at new routes that he, Bruce Normand and Paul Knott completed in the Tian Shan Mountains, China during August.

According to Guy, a key to a successful climbing trip in China requires you to having to "pay the man" to get through various bureaucratic hassles. It was also great to see the use of packhorses for the load carrying in China. It seemed reminiscent of early CMC trips up the Rakaia where the Manuka Point runholder, Laurie Walker, would lend CMC members horses for trips up and across the river.

Gideon Geerling then spoke about the range of instruction courses the CMC has run in 2008. These courses are a great way to get new members into the CMC and to gain good skills for the future. Gideon also relayed how a pizza can be delivered from Franz Josef to Pioneer Hut on the next available helicopter flight. I wonder what Peter Graham would have thought of that!!

Robin Muirson gave the night a historical focus with a classic set of slides showing old and new CMC huts and some of the characters who built them. It was impressive to learn of the sheer number of huts the CMC built during the first 30 years of its existence, and the work that continues today to maintain these huts.

Joe Arts proved to be the surprise package of the evening. He gave a thoroughly entertaining talk on new rock routes on the limestone cliffs at Bullock Creek on the West Coast. He then showed some incredible slides of new cave exploration at Bulmer (under Mt Owen). These shots showed superfine needles of gypsum growing in caves and the care taken by cavers not to damage the fragile cave environment. We also learnt what happens to Joe's knackered old climbing ropes – they end up in caves like Bulmer!

Nick Moyle finished the evening off showing a range of day climbs in Canterbury and beyond, including a humorous account about the character building nature of scrub bashing in the Deception Valley en route to Mt Tarapuhi.

All in all, the club night was a great way to see some of what the club and its members have done in 2008.

Captain Custard

Veterans' Trips

First of the Summer Wine. Veterans Trip Bridle Track, Banks Peninsula

To mimic a British TV programme three of us gathered at the Bridle Path carpark on a fine spring day after a couple of months of trips cancelled due to the weather. We ambled off up the path to the ridge where we stopped for a morning tea sheltered from the breeze. Brian left us there to return to the carpark having tested out his new hip. John and I continued over the top and onto the Crater Rim Track to go around past Castle Rock then we crossed back over and descended by Castle Rock to rejoin the Bridle Path track halfway down. We continued down to have a pleasant lunch in the rest area by the carpark to complete an easy ramble without causing any trouble.

Party: Brian Patrick, John Chivers and Gordon Habgood (scribe)

Bellbird Tracks, Banks Peninsula

From the Princess Margaret Hospital meeting point two cars drove up Dyers Pass then the Summit Road to park near to Sugarloaf on a fine but breezy spring morning. The six of us dropped down on the harbour side to Farrels Track where we were sheltered from the breeze and tramped around to the Mt Cass ridge. This we climbed up to just below the Summit Road where we stopped in a nice sunny sheltered area for lunch with a view up the harbour. From there we were hit by the now strong wind as we crossed the Summit Road to the Sign of the Bellbird, pleased we had not opted to lunch there as the norwester was blowing straight in to the shelter.

We were all horrified to see the state of the shelter where fires had been lit in every corner and the whole interior was black with soot. We quickly dropped down into the bush out of the wind and tramped down to the bottom of Kennedy's Bush, then up again northwards back to the Summit Road near where we were parked, following the road to the cars and so to our homes after a pleasant blowout of the winter cobwebs.

Party: Donald Reid, Malcom Carr, Phil Bache, Robin Muirson, Melanie Muirson, and Gordon Habgood (scribe).

Club Trips

Mt Oates Club Trip - 19/20 July

Matt, Merv, Ben, James and I departed Christchurch in heavy rain and with a marginal to foolhardy forecast. Fortifying ourselves with an Arthurs Pass, overpriced, calorific dream pie we headed out with the west ridge of Mt Oates as the objective.

The rivers were running clear, the air was still and misty as we tramped through the bush. Under the philosophic guidance of James any perfunctory conversation dispensed. Between swift legs up the Mingha enquires were made into the nature of a good pastry, the defining point at which biv becomes a hut and, of course, the relevant weather situation and merits of different outdoor toys.

Having already abandoned our ambitions of camping at Lake Mavis, along with our tents, we made good time up the Mingha to Goat Pass Hut. Arriving early afternoon we stripped our wet cold gear and positioned ourselves around the table to begin hours of time to kill.

Exhausting all fanciful possibilities of how to make the bitter Goat Pass Hut more comfortable for sodden trampers, we pulled out the cards. President was the name of the game and, with building enthusiasm, we sought to better our own lot. The wind, which had now reached a gale outside, was only heard between bouts of laughter and wails of anguish as three deck hands were dealt out and certain individuals became entrenched in the hierarchy, which we agreed was quite an apt microcosm of society, to the outcry of the asshole.

7am we all solemnly agreed would be the time to get up and get out. Either, weather permitting via the summit of Mt Oates or straight back down the Mingha. Three



On summit of Mt Oates

independent alarms sounded, and three independent alarms were individually shut off, apparently only after arduous deliberation about the weather and the likelihood of a summit. Up at 9am the wind had abated and only a mist was pervading. It was quickly decided a bid should be made.

Bashing through scrub, sliding up scree and wading through powder we gained Lake Mavis. Sneaking across the ice or the outlet, we headed up the western snow slopes to gain a col in the West Ridge. Having moved above the freezing level, we put our crampons on in swirling snow and cloud. Good progress saw us climb up the ridge, negotiating a small vertical step that was the crux of our route, sidle out on the West Face to gain the North Ridge just below the summit.

Cold temperatures, the late hour and the absence of any view ensured we didn't linger. We set off down the ridge to snow slopes, which gleefully presented us with ideal bum sliding conditions. At break neck we slid down between the bluffs to Lake Mavis, distinguished from everything else white only by its uniform flat frozen surface.

A relentless pace saw us on the Mingha River flats before dark and soon after sitting in front of a fire beer and chips in hand.

Carl Fischer

Club Trip - Mt Wilson, 13/14 September

Seven of us met up at the DoC office in Arthurs Pass at 11.30am on a cloudless day. After being soberly warned of the devastation the recent snows had caused on the tracks in the area we headed off for the Mingha. The suggestion offered on the drive up that morning was that the best way to keep dry feet on a river crossing was to trip up the guy in front and walk over them and it made me determined not to be the guy in front as we stepped into the river.

Heading up the lower Edwards we came across a large avalanche cone exiting the "Gun Barrel" chute that descends from The Spike. It had scoured to the base and completely blocked the valley to a depth of 5 to 10 meters with the river exiting a cave underneath. Other than this there was no snow left in the lower valleys. Climbing up through the bush after the East Edwards we enjoyed the finest of showers of tiny water droplets in still air – all that remained of the snow being blown off Mt Williams way above us. The upper valley had soft snow patches under the trees but little significant tree fall or other delays. The only major deviation to the track being an extra crossing of the Edwards to avoid the remains of another large avalanche cone dropping from Bowers at the upper edge of the forest. Seems the Edwards missed the devastation.

From the hut the fitter ones recced up valley while the rest made the fire, restocked the fire wood, organised themselves or simply chilled. Even the radio aerial, damaged by the snow, was rigged back up by the end of the day. With seven of us the hut was soon fairly snug and a comfortable night was had with a light freeze and full moon outside. The snorer will remain nameless!

Come dawn six of us headed up and one retired back to his pit having succumbed to the bug he was trying to ignore the previous day. We headed up valley to below a likely looking snow chute descending the flank of Wilson and dived into the scrub. I hate scrub. Patches of crusty snow teased by nearly supporting the weight and then dumping you thigh deep into a bush. Slimmer members of the party made headway over it by thinking light and going on tippy toe but from here I can only recount the view from the back as I stomped through it bush by bush (not being one of the slimmer members).

Once on the frozen snow proper it was possible to crampon up reasonably quickly in the shade. However, as soon as the sun got to the snow, it rapidly turned to bottomless mush. Frustratingly it preserved the others' earlier crampon marks in the crust showing that it once had offered some support whilst now having the consistency of baby food. Having never enjoyed wading in baby food I descended.



Summit party on top of Mt Wilson

Meanwhile the others had made reasonable time and topped out on Wilson. The ridge onward was corniced and snow softening fast so a return to the Edwards was chosen. At least the soft snow permitted a fairly painless (excepting one crampon point going where the sun don't shine) bum slide descent in varying styles.

Jeremy Parker

Party: Steve Marcham, Mitchell Coll, Peter Daws, Laurayne Robb, Matthew Robertson and Warren Soufflot



Club Trip – Mt Alexander - 11/12 Oct

Despite reports to the contrary, the Mt Alexander trip went ahead with the only participants Merv Rhind and I on the day. The weather was overcast and drizzly on the Saturday but we proceeded on a strength of a good forecast for the Sunday.

The Camp Creek track was well marked but significant snow damage slowed us down somewhat. The hut has been taken over by DoC and, contrary to reports, is now open to the public and in great shape. Despite the temptation to ensconce ourselves in the hut we continued on to a damp camp on the ridge within easy reach of the summit.

Sunday was still a bit cloudy but things improved as we ascended and we enjoyed warm sunshine on the summit. We were looking out over a sea of cloud with only Rolleston and a few of the higher peaks in view. The summit ridge was snow the whole way and was fairly straight forward with just enough exposure to keep things interesting. We both really enjoyed it. The weather and views continued to improve as we descended. We were back at the car by 5pm, tired but exhilarated.

Colin Morris

CMC Ski Touring Course 2008 - 10-13 October

Due to a suspect weather forecast, our instructor, Al Moore, suggested heading to the Nelson Lakes area instead of the Fox and Franz Josef area. So five of us with varying degrees of experience set off from Christchurch for Nelson Lakes with the four students all new members to the club and keen to get into ski touring.

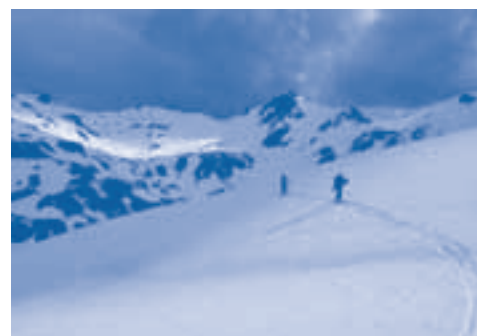
On the first day we shouldered heavy packs laden with skis, poles, ski crampons, boot crampons, ice axes, shovels, probes, and all the other usual tramping gear, for a steep hot climb up the Pinchgut Track. After a slog of around two hours we reached the treeline where the snow cover was declining rapidly. Once we got past Relax Shelter, we could put skis on and skin up the narrow band of snow along the ridge. There was a lot more snow in the second basin, where the old Mt Robert skifield lodges still stand. It was tempting to have a few ski runs down the slopes in this basin. We resisted the urge as it was already mid-afternoon and with the wind picking up and being quite tired from the slog up the Pinchgut Track agreed that Al's suggestion to return to Bushline Hut.

The second day dawned with wonderful weather and faster progress. We had lots of opportunities to practise the transition from skins to skis to boots and crampons, to accommodate the snow and slope conditions. It was really useful to see how and when an experienced ski tourer chose to make those transitions. We also talked about safe route finding and Al demonstrated some tests to check for layers of instability in the snowpack, including the shovel test and a quick resistance test of layers within a snow pit.

We followed the poled route along the ridge, past the Flagtop before dropping into the basin below the western side of Julius Summit, to avoid the rocky and icy conditions.

After skinning back up the slope we had several hundred metres of cramponing along the rocky, icy ridge. This was quite tiring after a big day with heavy packs, and the skis strapped to the sides of our packs felt quite cumbersome and not conducive to good balance. We were all thankful that we hadn't pushed on the day before, as this section would have come very late in an already tiring day. Having completed this rocky section, we finally had the pleasure of looking over the beautiful Lake Angelus. With a mixture of excitement at skiing down the slope to the hut, but nervousness from some of us at having to ski with such heavy packs, we removed our skins and prepared for the descent to Lake Angelus Hut. We all whooped with excitement as we found that the spring corn was perfect, and forgiving! We were a very happy group arriving at the hut beside the frozen lake.

The following day was spent skinning up and skiing down various slopes, with the pleasure of carrying only a day pack. The day started with ski-cramponing up the still-frozen south-west facing slope above the hut. From there we had a few beautiful morning runs down towards Speargrass Creek, where the slope had softened with the morning sun. We were pleased to find how quickly you could skin back up the slope for another run! We discussed route finding and group management on the slopes, including skiing one at a time between "islands of safety". As the day wore on and the air temperature climbed to a remarkable 10 degrees with the nor-westerly winds, the snow softened considerably. Even the slopes that we had



hoped to ski with the afternoon sun had softened more than expected in these warm conditions. Nonetheless we got to explore the slopes on the western side of Lake Angelus and down into Hinapouri Tarn and were all very satisfied as we skinned back across the frozen lake to the hut.

On our final day we made our way all the way back to the carpark. The warm temperatures had melted the snow considerably and we now found we had to walk where only two days earlier we had been able to skin. By this fourth day we were all feeling more confident and familiar with our equipment and when to change modes of travel. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery, made good progress and kept honing our skills as we went. We came to appreciate the freedom that being on skins and skis gave us, and the relative ease at getting around. With a bit of effort, you can go almost anywhere! Thanks Al for a great trip where we learnt a lot.

Participants: Julia Mead, Wouter Vanbeerschten, Dean Richards (scribe), Marie Kospartov (scribe), Al Moore (instructor)



South Peak

Club Trip - South Peak & Pito Peak, 1/2 November

Five of us headed away early on Saturday to Lake Heron and the start of the Cameron Valley. It was windy and raining and we soon realised it was the first day of the backcountry fishing season as we passed many a soggy angler.

A unanimous vote was taken to head for the hut and leave the tents behind as we sorted our gear in the howling wind. Little did we know at the time that we were setting ourselves up for a classic "Nick Moyle" 15 hour marathon the following day. A relaxed walk took us up the Cameron, over a low saddle by Wild Man Hill, and up the South Ashburton Valley. It rained most of the way until we reached an old musterer's hut recently taken over by DoC in the early afternoon. The remainder of the afternoon was spent reading the fascinating 'Farm Trader' magazine. The hut option meant an additional two hour walk up the valley to the base of our ascent, hence we set off at 4.30am following Nick in his nice pink helmet. A beautiful cloudless sky and good cramponing on easy slopes meant a fairly quick ascent to a high col. A steep snow slope on deteriorating snow led to a summit ridge of rotten rock. The ridge was narrow, exposed and very rotten, so we turned back at this point, no more than 20 metres from the summit.

Back in the basin, it was midday and we decided the further climb up to Pito Peak was beyond us so we headed back to the hut. The views from South Peak and the descent basin were spectacular, looking down on the Ashburton Glacier and south face of Mt Arrowsmith. Back at the hut by 2.30pm, we allowed ourselves only a short rest as a four hour walk out was still ahead of us. The low saddle on the way in had transformed overnight into a never ending nightmare climb in the blazing afternoon sun. It took all my will power to keep going and get over this insignificant saddle after 12 hours of climbing.

We got back to the car a little after 7pm, all exhausted and hanging out for a large beer at the Mt Somers pub. It was my first trip to this area and I will be going back again soon, although maybe for a less arduous trip. Thanks Nick for organising and Mitch for driving. Hopefully, I will climb with you all again soon.

Steve Marcham

Party: Mitchell Coll, Andrew Tromans, Mark Flintoft, Steve Marcham, Nick Moyle (Leader)



Bruce & Guy on the summit of Hanjaylak II, 5370m

Overseas Climbing

Tian Shan Expedition - China

In August I was lucky enough to join Bruce Norm and (Switzerland) and Paul Knott (CHCH) on a trip to explore the unclimbed Tian Shan Range in Western China. After various travails with the Chinese and our dodgy agent, we reached basecamp on a pass above the Muzart Glacier. Despite unsettled weather and frequent snows we were able to explore the upper Glacier and recce Yanomax, Baiyu Feng and the north side of the dramatic Xuelian Group. Rewarded at last with a continuous seven-day "fine" spell we at last made ascents of Hanjaylak I & II (approximately 5400m each) for acclimatisation and at last climbed Yanomax (6332m). There is much more to be done in this area but the mountains are difficult with complex icefalls, serac barriers and deep snow making climbing difficult.

The area was visually stunning – and thanks to our photographic efforts now no longer a blank on the map.

Guy McKinnon

Rockclimbing

Trad Climbing at Mt Somers, 10-12 Oct

When I mentioned to people about going rockclimbing at Mt Somers I was told things like "good luck getting good weather" or "tell me what you see poking up from between the dark clouds". However, a beautifully sunny day greeted us on the walk in. After lunch at the hut we headed up to the Christian Principles Wall which we reached after nearly an hour of tramping and scrambling. There we climbed two 15s; "Sleeping with the nasty boys" and "Bring back the cane". The climbing style was quite different to anything I had encountered before as the rock was pretty solid and stable with small face holds and mostly smearing feet but with awesome gear in the cracks between the columns.

The next day the boys headed for the Fortress and Orange Wall but I decided to make a beeline for Meat Grinder Wall which promised some easier routes around grade 14. Here I led one grade 13 or 14 (different in each book) called "Spare Rib". Some other lines caught my eye, however, given the gear was spread over two spaced cracks I will need to remember to bring double ropes or longer draws next time. While we were cruising up Meat Grinder Wall the boys climbed some harder routes including "Mississippi Mudcake" (2 pitch 17 & 15), "Hotline to Jim" 18, "Red Herring" 16 and "Have you been stung" 19.

On Sunday we headed to the Pinnacles for some lazy sport climbing. Brett and I did a two pitch 15/14 and then another 14 on the East Pinnacle while Josh and Brett took on Rocky Road. The rock quality is generally good on these walls while the bolting is nicely spaced and the view spectacular. Having come from climbing at Arapiles it was great to be able to do some multi-pitch again and to be able to have a little bit more of an adventure reaching the crags.

The walkout took just under three hours. Mt Somers is an awesome area. We'll be back!

Sarah Osborne

Obituary – Jack Ede

Born in 1917, and brought up in Linwood, Christchurch, Jack grew up in a time of austerity and developed the typically Kiwi skills of making do, while still going about life with purpose and joy. His father as a musterer and one of his teachers started him on the road to a life in the outdoors. His health suffered in the influenza epidemic in 1918, and later in various jobs in the depression in very poor working conditions. But Jack countered this by taking to many sports, and building a stamina and fitness that were to set him up as a climber of formidable strength.

He became a very keen swimmer, and participated and served in the swimming club for many years. He joined the Scouts and from a young age was tackling the hills and passes in the Arthur's Pass region. Again he served on many roles in the scouts through the years. He was heavily involved in the Harrier club, again giving time generously. And of course biking was the transport of the day, and as in everything else, Jack did nothing by halves.

Gradually, his tramping became more adventurous, and the CMC and Jack found each other. This was an important day for the club. As an example of his commitment, when Jack walked the Milford Track in the Christmas holiday of 1938-39, he first rode his pushbike from Temuka, through the McKenzie Country, Wanaka and over the Crown range to Queenstown. THEN he tramped the Greenstone Track, did the Milford Track, and finally rode back to Oamaru from Lumsden.

When in the mountains, Jack carried incredible loads and was known for always being the one to turn to when you needed something unusual. He once pulled out an eggbeater halfway up Mt Aspiring while digging into his pack for something else. He was also seen heading up the Waimak with a cast iron stove protruding from his pack.

Recommended reading on some of Jack's climbing:

- Mitre Peak with Edgar Williams recorded in Canterbury Mountaineer no 10, 1940-41.
- Elie de Beaumont with Moor and Barford, Canterbury Mountaineer no 12, 1942-43.
- Tutoko with Rodda, Ellis, Longbottom, Canterbury Mountaineer no 20, 1950-51
- Pembroke, with Pane and Robinson, Canterbury Mountaineer no.26, 1956-57
- Snow Caving in NZ, Canterbury Mountaineer no 26, 1956-57
- Lion Peak, Milford with Crawford, Holdsworth and Hearfield, Canterbury Mountaineer no 28, 1958-59

These accounts tell of a very hardy, capable and tenacious climber. The legacy that Jack has left mountaineering is not only that he completed eight first ascents, did so many climbs and adventures, but he went the extra mile to share them with everyone in his writings. He has written "Mountain Men of Milford" and "I've lived Another Day", plus written many articles for the CMC Mountaineer and the Alpine Journal.

His writings are excellent reading, with many humorous anecdotes that paint a vivid picture of a person who loved life and shared his joy and skills with many others. Whatever Jack became involved in, he always ended up the quiet force that helped, inspired and led others. Jack gave similarly to all of the sports he was involved in, making his contribution an epic amount across all his interests. He led many initiatives in training young people in safety in the mountains, receiving recognition from the Mountain Safety Council. He received the QSM from the Governor General for his work in the Scout movement.

Jack served on the CMC committee from 1959 – 1967, and was CMC patron for the year 2007-8. We are all indebted to Jack for the positive impact he has had on so many.

Greg Ewing

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.

Change of Address

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

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For more info contact Gideon Geering, Instruction Coordinator,
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Dimensions:

- Floor Area: 3.97sqm
- Vertical Area: 1.43m
- Maximum Inner Height: 1m
- Pack'd Size: 42 x 17cm

Materials:

- Fly: Silikon Coated Ripstop Nylon
- Canopy: UV resistant, flame-retardant strong polyester
- Floor: PU-coated, taffeta nylon 15,000 waterhead
- Poles: DAC Featherlite ALU, 7001 T6, T602M lines
- Colours: Green and Terracotta

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