

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

April

- 11 Veterans' Trip: Lake Rubicon - 3 Saddles.** Contact Robin Muirson for further info on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 16 Club Night - Kennedy Slide Collection.** Come and see some rarely seen photographs by Mannerling, Turner, Porter and Alec Graham from the Kennedy Collection.
- 25-26 Club Trip – Mt Valiant.** Jeremy Parker is leading this trip to the east Hawdon in Arthurs Pass. He intends to bivvy in the east Hawdon River and come out over Blackball Range. This is an ideal trip for less experienced climbers or those who have not been into this part of Arthurs Pass. Contact Jeremy on 312 8863 or send him an email: JParker@wastemanagement.co.nz

May

- 2 Veterans' Trip: Ladbrookes Hill - Lees Valley.** Contact Robin Muirson for further info on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 9-10 Club Trip – Carrington Peak.** Mark Flintoft is leading this trip to the head of the Waimak. He intends to climb Carrington peak from the Waimak Falls Biv. This is an intermediate level trip. Contact Mark on 328 8887 or send him an email: mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz
- 21 CMC Annual General Meeting - Pioneer Lounge, 7.30pm.** All welcome. Robin Muirson will show the recent upgrade of Park Morpeth Hut at the conclusion of the AGM.
- 30/31/1 Jun – Queens Birthday Weekend - Club Trip –** Nick Moyle is leading a trip into the Ben Ohau range to climb **Mauku Atua/Mt Dark**. Contact Nick on 351 2193 or: moylen9@yahoo.com

June

- 6 Veterans' Trip: Pyramid Valley - Waikari.** Contact Robin Muirson for further info on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122
- 13 Club Trip – Mt Torlesse.** Club President Graeme Jacobs is leading this winter trip with spectacular views across the Canterbury Plains. Contact Graeme on 365-6563 or send him an email: gjarch@paradise.net.nz
- 17 Veterans' Mid Winter Dinner. Hoon Hay 88.** Contact Robin Muirson for further info on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 18 Club Night - Daryll Thomson** will talk about his recent travels in Nepal.

July

- 4 Veterans' Trip: Mt Alford.** Contact Robin Muirson for further information on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122
- 16 Club Night -** Check website for info closer to the date.
- 18-19 Club Trip – Mt Rolleston.** Andrew Perkins is leading this trip up the classic Rome Ridge if conditions allow. This is an intermediate level trip. Contact Andrew on 337 9463 or send him an email: alfresco@clear.net.nz
Trip Coordinator: Mark Flintoft (phone 328 8887 or mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz)

President's Note

The CMC is an incredibly lucky club in terms of the support it receives from its members and friends. In the last "News", I reported that we had received \$1,000 in donations from a number of people for the Park Morpeth renovations. Subsequently, we have received a further donation of \$1,000 from Dr Brian Mason who lives in the USA. This is a very generous donation and the committee has decided to add this to Park Morpeth. Our budget for the completion of Park Morpeth is \$5,000 so with donations of \$2,000 we are well on the way in terms of funding. The balance will be sought from The Founders Trust. Should we be successful, the Club will not have to spend any of its general funds on this project.

I also reported last "News" that The Founders Trust had received Charitable Status from the Charities Commission. I am pleased to report that the Fenwick Trust has now also received charitable status. This is very welcome news as there was some nervousness amongst the Trustees given the wording of the Trust Deed. The CMC benefits greatly from the Fenwick Trust which funds both the Kennedy Lecture and Instruction Programme. The Club will always owe a huge debt to men like Deryck Morse and Christopher Fenwick for their foresight and all our other benefactors.

We have also been gifted Jack Hays's climbing book collection. This has allowed us to fill some gaps in the library and replace some stolen books. Books not wanted for our library are to be sold, with half the funds raised being retained by the Club and the balance going back to Jack's estate. There are some great books and I urge you to look at those for sale on our website if you are interested in some great reading. All funds received by the Club from the sale of books will be put towards the Publishing Fund.

For the first time in the history of the New Zealand/CMC Mountaineer of the Year we have not awarded the Trophy. We had a number of nominations. However, the person chosen by our selection panel decided not to accept the award for personal reasons which we respect. The selection panel felt that the other nominees were not as worthy and so it was decided not to issue the award for 2008. While some may feel this is a lost marketing opportunity, the committee considers the prestige of the award to be more important.

Nick Moyle arranged a great replacement speaker for the club night in February which was to be the MOTY Lecture. Graeme Robson gave a well-presented talk on hunting in the Otago mountains based on a book he wrote on John "Jack" Forbes. Graeme's enthusiasm and clarity of presentation was enjoyed by his audience. Nick has lined up many other interesting speakers. I encourage you to come along and enjoy these lectures and catch up with other Club members.

Bryan Stickle has been busy with Club archives and has completed a list of Club Presidents, Patrons and Life Members. It makes interesting reading and seeing many of the famous names makes me feel very humble to be Club President. The term of President has varied a lot over the years before settling into the current two year term. Kennedy held the post for many years which reinforces his importance to the Club. We will in time put this list up on the website where it can be easily updated after each AGM.

We have the AGM coming up in May and I would like you all to consider nominations of suitable committee members or volunteering yourself. We would like to see some new and younger faces, but that is not to say that older members who have participated in committees of the past won't be welcome back. I know Sarah, our new Secretary, would welcome some female company as she currently feels somewhat outnumbered. However, she is settling into the job well.

We are also in need of someone to carry out some marketing. The role would involve emailing notification of club events to members and keeping in contact with the NZAC and various tramping clubs. Many of the members of these clubs would enjoy our lectures and as far as I am concerned the larger the audience the better. The CMC is an active Club and we want our Club nights to reflect this.

The Committee has had a number of requests for sponsorship from the Expedition Fund and we have granted some of these requests. The most significant is sponsorship granted to Guy McKinnon for his proposed expedition to Pakistan. We wish Guy well with the planning of his trip and look forward to hearing him speak to the Club on his return.

It has been some time since the Mountaineer Index has been updated and we are looking for someone to carry out this task. The Club has funds available for articles and publishing so some remuneration could be negotiated for this work.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on Thursday, 21 May.

Graeme Jacobs
CMC President

Note: Previous AGM minutes and an Agenda should be available on the website: www.cmc.net.nz

CMC Huts

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

Kennedy Lodge, 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

All the club huts are currently in good order with plenty of complimentary notes being received with hut fees for the use of our back country huts.

At St Winifred Hut, DoC have requested three items to be completed. These are a concrete slab under the chip heater, a triple flue through the roof and barriers on the top bunks to stop people rolling off on to the floor. This work will be carried out on the 17 March. DoC will provide the helicopter transport for us and our materials.

At Kennedy Lodge I have a square of carpet donated to the club to be laid in the small bunk room. Anyone wishing to help with this job please contact Robin on 027 434 4122.

In the second week of April we return to complete the refurbishment of Park Morpeth Hut that was begun two years ago.

Anyone making a trip into any of our huts and who wishes to help with the maintenance, there may be some small jobs to do or materials to be carried in. If so please call me before you go in as every little bit helps.

Robin Muirson



Request for photos

Lake Minchin, Mt Torlesse and Mt White Stations

I was recently travelling around the South Island of New Zealand seeking out sites that related to my family history (Minchin & Longden). During my travels I found many beautiful places that linked my family to New Zealand (Lyttelton, Akaroa, Halswell, Ellesmere, Shirley, Waddington, Darfield, Mt White Station, Mt Torlesse, Easdale Nook). However, some sites I was unable to visit or obtain photos and hence my inquiry.

I would like to know if any of your members have tramped through Minchins Pass or Lake Minchin; Mt Torlesse Station or Mt White Station, and have some photos they would like to share?

These places were named after my Great Great Grandfathers who were early colonial pioneers in the region circa 1850s-1890s. Men such as Edward Corker Minchin - Mt White Station; William F.P. Minchin - 'Westwood' at Waddington; and Joseph Longden established Mt Torlesse Station.

Thank you in anticipation of your effort in helping me with my request.

Lyn Raymond
PO Box 528
Turramurra
NSW 2074
Australia

Obituary

The CMC would like to express our sincere condolences to Bryan Stickle following the sudden passing of his wife Therese. The CMC was well represented at the funeral. Those members who know Bryan well will be supporting him at this time. Our thoughts are with Bryan and his family at this difficult time.

Graeme Jacobs (President)

Club Night Reviews –

February Club Night – Following the Sons of Invermark, Graeme Robson

The first club meeting of the year gave club members the chance to hear a thoroughly informative and entertaining talk from Graeme Robson about early 20th century New Zealand hunting extraordinaire and photographer, John Forbes. Graeme wrote the book "Following the Sons of Invermark" and his talk included a selection of Forbes' rarely seen photographs of trips into the Otago Valleys. He began his talk by outlining how the Otago deer herd originated from the Blackmount Forest in Scotland with eight animals being liberated in the Lindis Pass in the late 19th century. The herd then migrated in a NW direction, following the NW wind. As the deer moved progressively westwards into the Hunter, Wills, Landsborough and Clarke rivers so did the stalkers chasing the trophy heads of the stags.

John Forbes was not only a stalker of animals but also a very good photographer. It was incredible that, along with a rifle and ammunition, Forbes was often carrying a large camera, glass plates and a tripod. Considering the minimal size and weight of today's digital cameras, this was no easy feat. A number of the photos were taken high up on the ranges while scanning basins for deer. Some classic photos included Forbes' award winning photo "Sons of the Mist" and several taken along the Main Divide.

One aspect of Forbes and his contemporaries that really impressed me was the selective nature of the stalkers. With only four heads allowed per person per season, the stalker would carefully select their prey, often bypassing a number of worthy animals. As one hunter said to me afterwards, such selection would be unheard of by the modern hunter.

Some of Forbes' photos showed the enormous size of the stags that were shot – almost double the weight of the stags in Scotland. The sheer size of the early stags was testament to the amount of good food available to animals at that time. Some of Forbes' photos illustrated the huge antlers on the stags. It was interesting that the quality of the

stags antlers diminished over time as the general deer population expanded and the amount of food in the valleys was reduced. Graeme described how for a head to fit the Scottish definition of a "royal" meant it needed 12 points and a dram of whisky had to fit in the top coronet of tynes!

Graeme also spoke of the rifles the stalkers used. It was amusing to hear that the Martini-Henry rifle had such recoil that, if a man was lying down when firing he would be stood up, and that if a man was standing when firing then it would lie him down! The ballistics of the Martini-Henry was also interesting in that its bullet was a 500 grain lead behemoth that would drop 44 inches over 200 yards. As Graeme said quite how anyone shot anything using such a rifle was testament to the skill of the stalker.

The talk concluded with a series of questions, a look at some different types of ammunition and some refreshments.

Nick Moyle

March Club Night – Wanderings in the High Arctic – Sandy Briggs

In 2008 I received an email from Lindsay Elms encouraging me to book Sandy Briggs for an address to the CMC when he visited New Zealand in 2009. After listening to a highly informative, knowledgeable and humorous talk, I am very glad I followed Lindsay's advice.

Around 30 people were present at the March club night to hear Sandy Briggs deliver a fantastic talk and show quality photographs of ski-trekking in the high arctic of eastern Canada. Sandy began by outlining a six week ski-trek with John Donne from Grise Fiord (at 74.5 degrees north, Canada's northern most town) via Coburg Island in 2007. They set out from Grise Fiord towing laden sleds in early May and skied across the 1-2m thick sea ice of Jones Sound to the island. Along the way Sandy gave images of the huge icebergs that had travelled from Greenland, the snouts of glaciers/ice caps where they entered the sea and ascents of small peaks. These peaks were only 7-800 metres above sea level but looked a good challenge.

Coburg Island is a National Wildlife Refuge and the party needed permission to access it. At the southern end of Coburg Island the party gained good views of wildlife in the area, such as the beluga whales in the nearby open water of Lady Jane Strait. On the return to Grise Fiord the retreat of the sea ice was noticeable. Sandy also discussed skiing on the foot of the sea ice where the ice is attached to the land. On this trip Sandy took a memorable shot showing the arc of the midnight sun using a long camera exposure.

The next trip Sandy spoke about was an earlier ski trek crossing Devon Island. Some of these slides showed the desperately isolated communities where Royal Canadian Mounted Police were assigned to live and some of the remains of traditional Nunuvut housing.

Sandy's final slides were from the north-east coast of Baffin Island. Here John and Sandy travelled through the huge cliffs of Sam Fiord, an area where big wall climbers regularly test themselves. Again there were spectacular shots of huge rock faces like the Great Sail Wall. It was interesting to see the variety of conditions Sandy and John experienced en route from blizzards to having to portage the sleds due to a lack of snow. Often Sandy and his companions chose to trek at night as it provided harder snow conditions and better

light for photography.

The quality of Sandy's photographs throughout his talk was consistently very good. He also included some of John Donne's slides. One theme running through Sandy's talk was the cautious approach to Polar Bears. As well as having a range of anti-bear devices like spray and a shotgun, the party also adopted a vegetarian diet so as to have as little to attract the bears as possible.

The evening concluded with quite possibly the longest question and answer session I have ever witnessed at a CMC night, before Darryl Thomson thanked Sandy for a superb presentation of an area of Canada many present knew very little about at the beginning of the evening.



Advance Notice — Heritage Film Evening

To CMC Members

This is to let you know I am part way through organising a heritage film showing with the cooperation of the NZ Film Archive.

The plan is to show the original movie of the British 1953 Everest Expedition, co-filmed and directed by George Lowe, and also a short film, probably one of Nui Robins' from the 30s (which has a strong CMC flavour).

This is to be held in the Hollywood Theatre at Sumner, probably a Sunday evening late April. The preferred date is Sunday 19 April, but that may need to be deferred a week or two depending how quickly I can assemble the remaining pieces of the puzzle. Ticket entry will be set to (hopefully) recover costs, with any surplus going to some relevant charity. The films are accompanied by a Film Archive person from Wellington so there is a significant upfront cost that I will carry so there is no financial risk to other parties.

With the aim of filling a theatre (they vary in size from 60 to 160 seats, and I have my eye on the latter) for a single showing, in what is essentially a personal initiative, my plan is to promote tickets sales through: two workplaces - Landcare Research and Christchurch Hospital; and all local tramping/mountaineering clubs. (I am a member of the Peninsula TC and CMC, though not very active or known in the latter.)

Why am I doing this?

I am interested in NZ's outdoor heritage and a couple of years ago I published a book 'Coast to coast - who was first?' outlining the history of exploration across the Main Divide between Canterbury and Westland, leading up to the 25th anniversary Coast to Coast race. I've been wanting to arrange such a film showing for some years, and

it is to mark my 60th birthday that I have mustered the commitment to make it actually happen. I'll probably also team up with fellow PTC member Jean Hallam, with whom I share a birth date.

Grant Hunter
g.hunter@clear.net.nz
tel 351-6369

Climbing News ...

Northern regions

Club members have been getting out and about over the long summer period. Here is a brief rundown on the action.

In mid November Erewhon Branch member Charles Ross climbed Mt Baker from the Garden of Eden. He also managed to haul himself up The Sentinel from McCoy Hut. Greg Ewing bowled up Avalanche Peak in mid December. On 13 December 2008 Hugh Logan, Barbara and Daryll Thomson climbed the Mt Rolleston via Rome Ridge and descended via the Bealey/Chockstone route as there was snow well down that route. Glen Newman also climbed Mt Rolleston that day via the Otira Slide.

In mid January Daryll, Barbara and their daughter Neroli climbed Mt Temple via the Central Buttress - standard route.

Peter Bain and Charles Ross climbed Blair Peak at the head of Rakaia from the Heim Plateau in mid January. Peter had been after this summit for a long time. They both commented on how cut up the Cockayne Glacier was and the good condition of Lyell Hut.

Jeremy Parker climbed Mt Rolleston via the Otira Slide in mid January. Mitch Coll shot two thar while meandering around the Ben Ohau range near Mt McKenzie.

Brad Baston and two others climbed the NW ridge of Aspiring in late January and descended via the Ramp.

Nick Moyle

and, from down south ...

Dan Berger and Richard Heinz began their Mt Cook adventures with a climb of Jellicoe via the East Face Couloir and endured a long descent on the western La Perouse side. They also climbed the Dingle - Button route on a very bare crag called Mt Hicks. The pair returned for an Aoraki-Cook ascent via the Linda during a spell of fantastic weather. Tim Billington and a CMC/Melbourne University club group endured a few weather days in the village but managed an enjoyable trip on Scissors near Barron Saddle Hut and a very wet walk out!

Mike Buchanan and Federico Calegari walked and skinned up the Fox and climbed Haast, Lendenfeld and the north shoulder of Tasman. They also aborted an attempt on the Aoraki - Mt Cook north ridge due to heavy snow and instead climbed the High Peak via Middle Peak and Porter Col.

Cam Mulvey has enjoyed ski tours (some solo) in recent times. He visited the Mt Armstrong/Brewster glacier area with Mal Haskins and had an overnight trip to Barron Saddle with a ski off Mt Montgomery/ Fyfes Pass. He also had a ski descent off the Footstool via the Divide route. Skins were taken off in the lower Stocking Stream. Variable spring conditions and access allowed for a quick climb of Nazomi with Erin Hawke and Rod Barker (ex SAR team members). Simon Allen then joined Cam for a helicopter flight high above the Douglas

Nève on the west ridge of Sefton to remove two out of three permafrost data loggers drilled into various rock locations on the ridge and summit area. The whole trip was about five hours return from Glentanner. Gyula Gajdon and Raoul Schwing took some time out from the Kea research project and joined Cam on a Copland Pass crossing on 2 February. Anyone wanting up to date Copland Route information can contact Cameron at cam.mulvey@gmail.com.

The Grand Plateau area and especially the Linda Glacier have been in the best shape in years. The south faces were relatively thin in the spring and early summer but another enjoyable season was had by all. The newly installed diesel heater is a total blessing to the hut. Greg and Robin have sacrificed their long weekends to improve Wyn Irwin, so come check it out its cosy and warm ... make the time!

In December Carl Fischer, along with Rowan Sinton climbed Aoraki/Mt Cook via Haast and Zurbriggens Ridge and out by Boyes glacier. He also completed a two day tramp of over the Ball and Copland passes with Simon Stewart, Chester Boyes and Ian Gough.

Cam Mulvey

In the second week of February Guy McKinnon and Rob Frost made an unsuccessful attempt on the unclimbed north face of Milford area monolith, Mt Grave. Despite general good weather the pair were rained off on the chosen climbing day with Guy's decision to go in at the start of the high proving unusually incorrect. The pair were bitterly disappointed to see things fine up again mid morning after beginning their descent into the Selwyn Stream Cirque. They did accomplish the first traverse of the Selwyn (from the Tutoko) and exited via an arduous bush bash down the Harrison River. More unclimbed objectives litter this area - North Ridge of Pembroke anyone?

Guy McKinnon

Club Trip

Mt Avoca - 14/15 March

After delaying the trip for a weekend due to poor weather (or was it that Captain Custard wanted to watch Sachin Tendulkar bat??) only two were available to have a crack at the rarely climbed Mt Avoca. We left Klondyke Corner at 9am on Saturday for the usual stroll up the Waimakariri before turning up the Anti Crow River. The Anti Crow no longer has the nice flats I remember it having from my first CMC trip in there in 1994; instead it is filled with rubble from earthquakes and floods. We grabbed a breather at the forks and then, under a blazing sun, headed over Sphinx Saddle and down Easy Stream to the Avoca Valley. A quick stroll had us at Avoca Hut chatting to a young fellow who had parasailed in from the tops above Bealey Spur. We pushed further up the valley and arrived at Moraine Flat at 5pm to set up camp.

The following morning we left camp at 6.30am and headed up a tussock slope and into a scree chute. This led up to an easy side above the bluffs. Crampons were donned for a snow slope up to the ridge before they were removed for the scramble to the false summit. More scrambling had us on a windless summit (2131m) at 10am. Having not been in the mountains since mid November 2008, the Southern Alps looked glorious, especially the up-close views of Mts Greenlaw and Murchison. We quickly headed down the ridge and back to the camp in hot sunshine. The remainder of the afternoon was spent

plugging down the Avoca and then up over Jordan Saddle in stiffling hot weather. We arrived back at the car at 7pm and quickly set about the well known CMC rehydration procedure at the Bealey Hotel.

Trip Participants: Chris Gadd, Nick Moyle (scribe)



Veterans Trips

Vets Trip to Woolshed Hill - 6 December

After a spate of trips cancelled due to the weather it was a relief for five vets to meet up at Church Corner on a fine morning and set off for Sheffield where two more joined us. We drove to just below the St Margarets College Lodge near the Hawdon Shelter and launched off up the track to Woolshed Hill.

The weather was nearly perfect, just a light breeze to cool us once we got above the bushline. A good blowout for us and, despite fears from some, we all made it to the top where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch and splendid views of many of the peaks in Arthurs Pass National Park. Then down again by the same route to the vehicles which some found more strenuous than the upward grunt and so to home.

Party: John Chivers, Malcom Carr, Trevor Saul, Graeme Gough, Rod Helm, Robin Muirson, and Gordon Habgood (scribe).

Vets Trip to Mt Torlesse - 14 February

After a week's delay four members left Church Corner on 14 February. Arriving at the foot of Porters Pass we parked the car off the road at the start of the farm track up the Kowai River. After crossing the river flats the track comes to an end at a large washout. There are several beehives here so we dropped down into the river bed. We followed it, fording the stream several times but I managed to keep my feet dry. There are signs of recent floods down the valley, with riverbanks striped of growth 600mm above the fresh shingle in the bed. This section to the John Hayward Memorial Hut is approximately 5km of easy riverbed travel. This was covered in a leisurely hour and twenty minutes.

This hut was built in 1973 by the Tussock Grasslands & Mountain Land Institute of Lincoln College to service the catchment hydrology research programme lead by John Hayward. This programme was completed in 1980 and contributed valuably to the management of the high county land and water. The hut is now maintained in memory of John Hayward and his works by his colleagues and Brooksdale Station.



We stopped at the hut for a drink and a bite to eat and checked out the hydrology research culvert in the stream behind the hut. Brian elected to stay at the hut as this was his first trip on a new hip. He came prepared with a good book to enjoy for a couple of hours in the sun. Meanwhile Malcolm, John, and I headed off to the right behind the hut and up the spur to the saddle. As none of us were very fit, we decided to have lunch at about 1200m out of the cool wind. There is quite a bit of erosion going on at this point. The ridge is wide and flat for two or three hundred metres then rises sharply to the long ridge to the summit of Torlesse ensconced in cloud. To the right you can see Lake Rubicon down behind the little foothills below. Time to return home so we selected a scree slope and headed for the bottom. Not a particularly good one though back to the hut and we took a little break then headed back down valley. This time we picked up the track on the true right above the river and followed it back to the beehives. As we arrived at the car the cloud rolled back off the top of Torlesse. This was a good workout for the legs to start 2009. There were just the four of us this time.

Party: Brian Patrick, Malcolm Carr, John Chivers, Robin Muirson



Vets Trip to Scott's Saddle, Mt Hutt - 7 March

Four members left Church Corner at 8am on Saturday 7 March for Mt Hutt. We arrived at the Awa Awa Rata reserve at the bottom of Mt Hutt at about 9am to find our fifth member, Donald waiting for us. The Awa Awa reserve is lovely especially when the rhododendrons are in full bloom.

From the reserve the track climbed steeply through beech forest. Parts of the track have been severely eroded by heavy rain in recent times just above the bush line. We walked across the open tops and scree slopes to an old formed road which led down to Scotts Saddle next to the skifield road. After an hour long leisurely lunch in the warm nor'west sun we retraced our footsteps back to the loop track before following the ridge around through the larch forest and back to the cars. Another pleasant day out with good company.

Participants: Gordon Habgood, Rod Helm, John Chivers, Donald Reid & Robin Muirson (scribe)

Punk Rock Guide

Punk Rock. Like the music dated. Neglected. It had its heyday in 79/80. A brief revival in 03 and then abandoned again for the weeds to grow and for dirt to accumulate in the cracks. I took a walk under it last winter. Trad routes sprouted green, grass drooped off ledges, but underneath was a collection of cracks waiting for another revival.

In December Jo Straker and I started cleaning and since then other friends have helped so that about half of the crag is now as approachable as Punk can be.

Please note: that we have left the native ferns in place so climb around them carefully. Okay - it is not a great crag but it is 15 minutes from a bus route, low down and 10 minutes from a road end that's vandal free. And it has lots of pro routes as well as several bolted eliminates.

Approach: Walk up the vacant section past the last house, once on the Captain Thomas Track cross the cattle stop and after 10 metres follow the white tape markers to the crag. We started cleaning at the right hand end (as you look at the crag) so my version of the routes and grades is described from where the guidebook finishes. The last named route on the right is "Once Were Worriers" (18), an obvious crack continuing as a R-tending crack/groove to the edge of the buttress.

There are now four routes to its R and further R (marked with tape) is a fixed rope to access the top. If you must. All the climbs described have access to double bolt anchors fitted with one of rings, chain and krabs or chain links to allow easy descents. Most anchors are visible from the ground.

For pro climbs I've noted any special gear that may be needed. Most climbs are suitable for leading. The exceptions are noted. And if you can spare some time take a brush and an old chisel or similar tool to keep cleaning the cracks.

Climbs are as follows:

NR denotes new route

Kids Arete (17) NR 4 bolts contrived as very near veg and edge, but a safe lead. Lower-off rings

Fern Crack (14) NR Pro, try to avoid clipping the bolts on the next climb. Rings

Aged Arete (16) NR 3 bolts plus med wire near the top. Rings on FC or chains on CC

Crappy Crack (17) NR As per name but cleaned to allow a turfless finish to OWW. Start up the little arete to avoid veg cracks. Chains, try to avoid blocks at the top.

Once Were Worriers (18) Crack then sloping groove which needs RP's and micro cams, also awkward exit R. Chains or continue to the top and rings

Return of the Dinosaurs (21) Up slab above crack of OWW. No pro once OWW is left! Cleaner and can now be top roped, use long slings on the rings to avoid rope drag

Jiggery Pokery (21) Arete to the L. No worthwhile pro!

A Clutch of Grass (17) Crack over bulge. Now much cleaner, takes good pro and has its own lower-off on the R

Lickin' Lichen (16) Has an extra bolt so no gear needed. Lower-off

Treasury (17) L facing corner. Needs a large cam at the top. Much trickier than its guidebook grade of 14. Rings

Plantagenet (13) Excellent pro in R facing corner. Rings

Elbow Bender (17) Gear in blocks and then bolts on the slab. Lower-off

Maindrain (19) Awkward straight crack, but eats small cams around the crux. Rings

Parlance (19) A bolt now protects the bouldery start. Excellent pro and climbing in the crack. Lower-off as for SS

Barbarous Bolters (21) Start from R. Has an extra bolt and then pro - med wires will do -, and a small wire protects the move through the roof. Chains

Sidestep (11) Good fun. Arete and crack to lower-off

Truest Sport (19) Very dirty and smelly at the start, not cleaned yet as are the 2 routes below. Too much guano. Take breathing apparatus and large cams!

Don't Look Back (22)

The Great White Hope (15) Can use GFP lower-off

Schmelting to the Max (19) Arete on R. Clean, but with very poor pro and dodgy flakes! Lower-off to L

Go for pro (19) NR Start at toe of buttress, up flake crack avoiding stepping into Negative C, then thin crack to move R. Needs small cams near the top. Good pro. Chains

Negative Conditioning (12) Obvious crack, cleanish with anchors, but would benefit from more cleaning. Perhaps 14 for the vertically challenged

Positive Reinforcement (15) NR Arete with 3 bolts plus anchor bolt of next climb with a long sling for last runner. Lower-off higher up. Boulder start up arete to ledge is harder

Paragon (12) Crack up slab and on, clean with good pro and anchors

Bits and Bolts (19) NR Climbs tiny corner on arete R of Paragon, bolt, then wires and small cams to 2nd bolt high on arete, continue up buttress past 2 bolts to double rings for lower-off

Exit Strategy (18) Crack to overhanging bay. Well named. Good pro, finish up buttress of previous climb to lower-off

Anathema (13) Now an extra bolt to the to the 2nd lower-off

Claws (16) As per guide but a medium wire is better than a cam at the top. Lower-off

Questioning Reality (24) Clean especially of holds

New Reality Jam Session (20) Clean. Lower-off as for S

Solipsism (14) Takes big cams and hexes and a bolt on the L wall saves a grovel for gear. Lower-off over top

Ecstasy Air (22) Looks OK. Lower-off

Discombobulation (21) OK. Best to finish up EA

New Wave (16) Takes small wires well then 3 bolts to lower-off

Punktuation (23) Now has 5 bolts and a lower-off. Stick clip the first bolt unless you have 3 arms. Good sustained climbing

Solstice (16) Now has 2 bolts to protect moves near some questionable blocks. Chains

Cascade (14) Abandoned to vegetation

Voodoo (19) Watch for gheckos in the crack. Lower-off

Rhythm 'N' Blues (21) Pro OK at start and finish but in poor rock at the crux. Lower-off from AD

Phebotomist (23) Haven't tried it yet

Arcadian Driftwood (15) Have an extra grade if you don't bridge to Devo. Good pro. Lower-off

Devo (14) Hard to keep you feet off AD and hands if you like pro. Wriggle L to 3 bolt crack and distant anchor

Manipulations (19) A variation start to LP. Harder now a vital hold has gone. No pro until in LP

Low Profile (18) Surmount the blocks to 3 bolts and good moves. Lower-off on big boulder don't use it if you weigh more than 300kg!

Nameless Arete (20) Don't pull too hard on the flake above the first bolt! 2 more bolts. Can retrieve gear from LP lower-off

I Wonder (14) So do I. Character building struggle up cracks to lower-off. Needs more cleaning. Has lower-off

Punk's Not Dead (22) Has 3 bolts. Looks OK to bolt 3 and then hard, more like 23. Take a long sling for the anchor until I get a lower-off done

Heading For Sydney (16) Not surprising after this. Take big gear. Needs more cleaning. Will have a lower-off when I do one for PND

If you have an urge to chop the extra bolts and anchors please contact me before you do so. The bolts etc were paid for by the NZAC C/W bolting fund and money given by the City Council so that an accessible, recreational crag could be created near the city. Remember that introduced vegetation quickly reclaims this crag, so it needs to be climbed on. If you have any comments I'd be happy to discuss them with you.

Thanks to Jo Straker, John Hammond, Dale Thistlethwaite and Stuart Hollaway who all have donated time to help me.

John Entwisle, phone 3843262,
email johnkate@clear.net.nz

Reminder — CMC Instruction courses

A series of instruction courses is held over the year to help members increase their skills and deepen their knowledge of the mountain environment.

Good news for the instruction courses is that the Club will subsidise the cost of courses for members. The typical beginner and intermediate courses will be subsidised by approx \$25 per member per day, and those Club members going on an advanced or ski touring (5-6 day) courses will benefit from extended subsidies depending on their years of membership.

The courses are organised and run by qualified guides and instructors including experienced Club members as necessary to maintain a good instructor/student ratio. Weather conditions influence the nature of the instruction; however, the courses are seldom cancelled. All abilities, from beginners to advanced climbers, are catered for. These courses are subsidised by two trust funds: The Christopher Fenwick Fund and the Stan Forbes Trust Fund.

Please note however that all course fees must be paid in advance of the course running and there is no refund for withdrawal from a course.

Course dates - go to cmc.net.nz/calendar to view when courses are being run during 2009.

An instruction application form can also be downloaded from the website if required, completed and forwarded to the CMC, PO Box 2415, Christchurch 8140.



Canterbury Mountaineering Club
PO Box 2415, Christchurch
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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: gjar@paradise.net.nz

Secretary: Sarah Osborne, 03-960-7783 or 021 159 9505
Treasurer: Doug Hitchon, ph 343 0820

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

Trip Coordinator: Mark Flintoff, ph 328 8887
Huts: Robin Muirson, phone 357 4800 or 027 434 4122
Hut Access: Bill/Sherrille 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.