

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 8pm lecture

Events Calendar

July

- 4 **Veterans' Trip: Mt Alford.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 16 **Club Night – Mal Haskins:** Himalayan Climbs, including Lhotse.
- 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 email him at: alfresco@clear.net.nz

August

- 1 **Veterans' Trip: Ben More.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 20 **Club Night – Guy McKinnon:** Climbing in Alaska and other areas.
- 29-30 **Club Trip – Mt Davie.** Nick Moyle is heading up the Waimakariri to attempt this classic Arthurs Pass peak. Contact Nick on 351 2193 or at: moylen9@yahoo.com

September

- 5 **Veterans' Trip: Brazenose, Akaroa.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 12-13 **Club Trip – Mt Te oa Whekere.** Mark Flintoft is leading this trip to the Seaward Kaikouras. He intends to put in a high camp from which the summit will be climbed. Contact Mark on 328 8887 or email him at: mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz
- 17 **Club Night – Kennedy Lecture: Richard Thomson** on new rock routes in central Darrans. Christchurch Girls High Auditorium, Matai Street, 7.30pm.

October

- 3 **Veterans' Trip: Taylors Mistake, Godley Heads.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 3-4 **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 email: JParker@wastemanagement.co.nz
- 15 **Club Night – Ben Winnubst:** Climbing in the Nelson Lakes area.
- 17-18 **Club Trip – Mt Technical.** Darryl Thomson is leading this trip to this stunning Lewis Pass peak. Contact Darryl on 384 9683 or email: dft@ihug.co.nz
- 24-26 **Club Trip – Mt Sealy/Mt Annette.** Sarah Osbourne is heading up Mueller or Barron Saddle huts to climb some of the peaks above Mt Cook Village. Other objectives will be considered. Contact Sarah on 960-7783 or email her at: kangamoo@gmail.com

November

- 7 **Veterans' Trip: Sugarloaf, Cass.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122.
- 19 **Club Night - Mark O'Conner:** Climbing Pico de Orizaba, Mexico.

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

President's Note

Since my last President's Note the Club has had its Annual General Meeting. This was a lot less contentious than last year's AGM and the Committee was pleased to announce the completion of Park Morpeth Memorial Hut. The Club was very grateful to receive \$3,000 from Mary Lowe, on behalf of George Lowe, for the completion of the hut. The Club has therefore been able to complete the hut entirely from donations from members and friends of the Club.

Laurie Osbourne advised at the AGM that Neville Barker's Memorial Cross was for sale on Trade Me. It was decided at the AGM to attempt to purchase this medal and this was achieved at a cost of \$482.00. This cost will be covered by the Barker Fund. We hope to create a display panel with a replica of the medal, photos of Neville and some text about him and the hut building which was paid for by his parents following his death in World War 2.

At the AGM there was some discussion about reinforcing the fact that some of our huts were built as memorials. Joe Arts made the very good point about our memorial huts having cultural and social significance. This, he suggested, will potentially give a higher level of protection from removal by DoC who has a mandate to protect both natural and historical places. We had some years ago been approached by DoC to have a concession for our huts. This issue seems to have gone away as we have had no response to our suggested changes to the concession document. I have had a chat to Hugh Logan and his advice is that we already have our huts licensed. This was arranged for us by Deryck Morse in the days of Lands & Survey. While DoC are the new government department charged with looking after the land our huts sit on, the agreements set in place should remain. If the concession issue raises its head again then this argument will be put to DoC.

The current issue DoC seems to be interested in is a concession for instruction on DoC land. This we will also aim to have removed from us as a requirement. The instruction we run is about safety in the mountains and not about a commercial money making operation.

The veterans have had their annual midwinter dinner at the Cashmere Club. This is a great event and well worth attending if you want to hear some great stories of the Club in its earlier days. Many older members, friends of the Club and past presidents were in attendance. I caught up with Alecia Ede who is the wife of our former patron, Jack Ede. It was nice to be able to thank her in person for Jack's gifting of his Alpine Club journals and climbing books. I also met Austin Deans for the first time and he advised me that he had climbed with Neville Barker.

If you are interested in climbing books the Jack Hayes collection is still on the website with some being for sale. I urge you to have a look at these soon if you want to buy a book. We will be selling those books not required for the library to a bookseller so that we can give Jack's estate their portion of the income.

The revised Mountaineer Index has been printed and is going to be put on the website for easy reference. For those who want a hard copy there will be some for sale. The Club will be publishing the next issue of The Canterbury Mountaineer later this year and I encourage you to write an article for inclusion in the journal (see box below).

I wish you all an enjoyable winter climbing season.

Graeme Jacobs
CMC President

Next issue: Canterbury Mountaineer

The Canterbury Mountaineer is a biennial publication that celebrates the activities of the Canterbury Mountaineering Club. It is due to be published at the end of 2009. The Club would like a range of articles that cover what the Club and its members have been doing. These could include: poetry, alpine climbing, rock climbing, hut building and historical stories.

Any articles, photos etc can be emailed to moylen9@yahoo.com or posted to:

Nick Moyle
150 Aorangi Road
Christchurch 8053

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.

CMC Mountaineer Index Revised 1932 -2007



The Canterbury Mountaineer Index has been revised to include journals published in recent years. A pdf is available from the CMC website - go to 'Publications' page.

A limited number of hard copies were printed for libraries and government departments. However, if you are desperate to purchase a hard copy contact Graeme Jacobs and he may organise another print run. Costs to be advised.

Pumori 7165m, Lobuche East 6119m - Nepal 2009

In the post monsoon season of 2009 Vertical Resources intends to run a combined guided/independent expedition to Pumori, located in the Solo-Khumbu Valley, Nepal. The expedition will include an acclimatisation trek to Chukung Ri (5750m) and climb on Lobuche East (6128m).

If you are interested in this expedition or simply just want to ask a few questions - please don't hesitate to email /or call.

Mal Haskins

NZMGA / Mountain guide

Email : malrock@verticalresources.org

Website : www.verticalresources.org

Phone : +64 21 1142 776



Park Morpeth Hut Revamp

On the 9 April 2009 a CMC work party including Gordon Habgood, Brian Fineran, Charles Ross, Alexander Gradel (from Switzerland) and myself arrived at Glenthorne loaded with all the gear, tools and food required to travel to the Park Morpeth Hut and finish off the renovation we started three years ago.

We set off through fresh snow down the track to Boundary Stream. At the last gate of Boundary Stream I got stuck in the freshly graded track and required a pull out of the mud. We arrived at Bristed Stream about 11.30 am, had an early lunch, and then unloaded all our gear ready for the helicopter.

About 1.30pm the faint throb of the helicopter could be heard. A couple of minutes later the helicopter was on the ground and the first load was put into the net. Gordon climbed aboard and they disappeared up stream while we loaded up the next net. Four return trips saw us all at Park Morpeth Hut.

The first job was to raise the hut by 100mm on to three longitudinal bearers to form an air gap under the floor. The bearers were bolted down by a Bowmac B75 rag strap into a concrete footing. The hut was anchored to these bearers by a Bowmac B50 angle bracket, three at each end of the hut with two 75x12mm coach screws to each bracket.

The next day we framed up the entrance porch and wrapped it with Frameguard G3 ready to attach the corrugated iron to the outside walls. The following morning we removed the old corrugated iron and foil paper from the roof, back and front walls



View from the Bristed

and replaced it with the Frameguard G3. We then screwed the new iron back onto the frame.

We also added new barge caps and ridging to the roof, two sheets of Suntuf clear roofing over the sink bench and one sheet to the end wall of the porch for extra light. Inside the under side of the rafters where battened, 50mm of fibre glass was installed and 7.5 mm pre painted ply screwed to the battens. A start was made on the painting of the outside of the hut but this was thwarted by rain and was not completed before the end of the trip. This could be completed by a small team over a long weekend after the winter has passed.

On the Saturday we were inundated by wave after wave of trampers arriving from east and west, swelling the population of the Park Morpeth community by about 30 persons that night. The Three Pass trip is still a popular long weekend tramp and the revamp of the hut is indeed well worth the effort by the Club and all those members who contributed to the upgrade.

On the 13th the weather closed in preventing us flying out so Charles and Alexander walked out, leaving three of us to continue working. The following day saw three net loads of rubbish and all our surplus gear and ourselves returned to our transport at the Bristed Stream before heading home.

A total of \$5,000 in donations for this project was received by the Club. The Club does really appreciate this loyalty from the older club members.

Overall, another successful and pleasant work party.

Robin Muirson
Huts Coordinator



Waiting for the chopper ...

Club Night Reviews

April Club Night - Photos from the Kennedy Slide Collection

The April Club night was a real step back in time. Jane McKnight, Curator of Pictorial Collections from the Canterbury Museum, presented 49 slides from the Kennedy Collection held by the Museum. Nick Moyle had joined Jane in selecting some of the several hundred that have so far been catalogued. It must be stressed that the Kennedy Collection is vast with thousands of slides yet to be catalogued. Kennedy did not take all the photographs in the collection, but collected photographs from many climbers active in New Zealand before and during his lifetime.

The photos shown had been digitised to enable easy presentation. They were all from about the beginning of the 20th century to the early 1950's and all of the Southern Alps. Jane is not a climber and was not familiar with the locations, instead relying on what was on the label on each picture and assisted by what Nick could identify. Consequently, as each was shown, there was some debate from the audience about the location of each slide. Jane noted down the result of the collected wisdom of the audience, most of whom were Club veterans.

The slides were all black and white, although some had been hand-coloured, and gave a surprising feeling of action showing the skill of the photographers considering the weight and limitations of their equipment. The photographers and/or subjects included some of the leading climbers of their day such as Clarke, Graham, Teichelmann, Turner, Fyfe, Porter, Milne, Du Faur, and, of course, Kennedy himself. Of considerable interest to the audience was to see the much greater extent of snow, ice and glaciers in these earlier years.



It was a shame the audience was not larger but Jane has offered to come again with another selection from the collection. So look out for her next visit, as it is a rare opportunity to see our climbing history as was expressed by Graeme Jacobs as he thanked Jane for her presentation.

Gordon Habgood

May Club Night

The CMC's Annual General Meeting was held in May and at the conclusion of the AGM Robin Muirson showed around 25 pictures of the recent refurbishment of the Park Morpeth Hut. This hut had a refurbishment in 2006, however Robin and his team went back this year to complete the work. The photos showed the large quantity of gear needed and also the quality materials and workmanship that went into ensuring the hut complied with Selwyn District Council regulations.

I found it amazing that the original framing timber is still intact, albeit it being harder to drive a nail into now. Robin and his team installed a number

of new features including a new porch, bunks and wall linings. The work they have done will ensure that the Park Morpeth Hut remains at the site for a long time to come.

Nick Moyle

June Club Night – Nepal Trekking & climbing Mt Whitney – Daryll Thomson

The June Club night saw a very good crowd turn up to hear Daryll Thomson give an informative and entertaining talk about trekking in Nepal and climbing Mt Whitney. Daryll, his wife Barbara, along with Jennifer and Sandy Sandblom, all met in Kathmandu in October 2008, then travelled east by plane to Ilam (pronounced Elim) before a long, slow journey north by ute. When they left the vehicles, they had the company of porters, a guide and cooks on a month-long trek around the north and south sides of Kangchenjunga (the third highest mountain in the world).

The first part of the trek was in the lowlands, surrounded by rice paddies and dal plants. Gradually they gained altitude and saw glimpses of Kangchenjunga and Jannu. The trekking days seemed reasonably long and often camps were in some strange places like peoples gardens! It was amazing to see the weight carried by the porters, especially one porter who carried a double load and therefore earned twice as much.

The trek wound its way near the southern base camp of Kangchenjunga before heading north. Here, for me, were the most impressive photos of Kangchenjunga and the other big mountains, especially those of the north face of Jannu and its infamous wall of shadows. At the northern base camp they had the opportunity to go for walks further afield to a glacier and up a nearby mountain. It was certainly apparent of the need for acclimatisation as the altitude increased. Some of Daryll's photos showed how many tourists were in the area and the close proximity of the toilet tents to mountain streams!!

It was very interesting to see the amount of work that cooks do on a guided trip. This is especially so when they had to cook three meals a day, requiring them to rush ahead and set up while the porters were still trekking. It was also amusing to see how a guide would have a particular house that they would stop at for lunch for the cooks to utilise the fire.

The trekking was not all about walking however. It was also about doing some maintenance of much needed solar panel powered electrical systems in some very remote villages in eastern Nepal. These solar panels are used to power refrigerators to store the vaccines used by health workers in the region. Daryll's talk also highlighted the amount of work that organisations are putting into villages in Nepal.

Daryll concluded his talk with some spectacular shots of Mt Whitney, USA. Daryll, Barbara and Sue Parkes climbed this peak in April 2009 from Lone Pine, before the summer weekend hordes and the necessity of a permit. It seemed as though Daryll and the others benefited from having stayed with locals at the roadend before the trip, thereby learning all the shortcuts. Snow conditions were ideal for the ascent which seemed straight forward enough, although a Korean woman died after a fall/slide while descending the main couloir the night before their ascent day. The evening concluded with a few questions and some refreshments.

Nick Moyle

Climbing News . . .

June – September 2009

As usual, club members have been getting into the hills with varying degrees of success. Here is the rundown...

Mark Flintoft and Jaap Overtoom went up the Central Buttress on Mt Temple in March and Mark also climbed Mt Taylor from Woolshed Creek at Easter. Daryll and Barbara Thomson, along with Sue Parkes, climbed Mt Whitney in April. Mt Whitney at 4418m is in the Eastern Sierras and is the highest peak in the contiguous United States (excluding Alaska). They were able to complete the entire climb in crampons. Nick Moyle managed to haul himself up Mt Misery in early May. Jeremy Parker had a busy May with ascents of Mid Hill, Mt Binsler and Mt Wall. He also managed went up Mottram Peaks in mid June.

Richard Heinz, Neil Williman and Carl Fischer climbed the central direct route on Mt Rolleston in April. Richard Heinz and Carl Fischer climbed Mt Dixon via the East Ridge at Anzac Weekend after walking in via Haast Ridge. Cam Mulvey had an attempt at skiing the Mt Olivier Couloir-Fan from the summit on a day trip at Queens Birthday Weekend. He down-climbed into it and backed off due to stability. Conditions were variable around Mueller Hut with a melt freeze crust although Cam did manage to ski halfway down the Sealy Tarns track. Nigel Green enjoyed icy conditions while climbing Mt Torlesse in mid June.

Nick Moyle

New Water Ice Route, Arthurs Pass

Club members Gideon Geerling and David Spark, along with three others, have started to work on new rock and ice routes near Mt Atkin in Arthurs Pass. Gideon had been eying off the area for the last couple of winters and conditions set up the ice well for 10 May.

This area has great rock potential, the only tricky bit is the base of the rockclimbs which are rather unstable, steep scree. Therefore they are better suited to early winter or spring when snow will keep the ledges in check. There are also some great looking seeps from the tarns forming a few cool ice lines through winter. During a quick overnight mission to get to the ice before it was too soft, Jim Masson and Gideon Geerling put up a great, if somewhat short on the pro, ice route now known as 'No Pants Nathan W14/60m'.

Gideon Geerling



CMC Trip Report

Mt Dark (2496m) - 31 May/1 June

It was a dark and stormy night. This did not deter the intrepid eight accumulating in Bryndwr and heading into a brisk southerly, bound for Glentanner. A cunning meteorological assessment by Nick Moyle meant the inclemency had abated by the time we arrived and a chilly but sunny stroll up Twin Stream was started. Avoiding the river created a few matagouri issues but we were soon passing through a set of narrow cliffs hopping between snow covered boulders. Our steady progress was observed by a family of laconic thar who remained unflinching as old man Osborne showed considerable affection for one icy rock. Camp was made at the head of the valley about 1500m, well above the snow line, with a battery of Suuntos telling us it was about minus 10.

Away at 5am the next day it was probably only slightly warmer as we set about a snow plod up the southern snowfields, reaching the ridgeline just after dawn. The wind prevented us from warming in the sun but the views of Cook, Sefton and around to Hopkins were spectacular. The east ridge of Hopkins beckoned to some of the more experienced party members while others were perhaps more drawn to thoughts of the Tekapo bakery pies, given the windchill. A short ridge with one small step saw us congesting the summit briefly before an easy descent for lunch. We even managed to find a reasonable route through the matagouri back to the cars.

A great climb, quick access, great crew and Tekapo bakery pies on the way home. We even arrived back in time for 'Desperate Housewives'! What more could I say.

Trip Participants: Tom Kenna, Mark Smith, Pete Banks, Helena Parsons, Steve Harris, Andrew Tromans, Nick Moyle, Andy Osborne (scribe)



On the shore of Lake Rubicon

Veterans' Trips

Lake Rubicon/3 Saddles - 19 April

Eight of us, including Nowell Syme leading us for his last veterans' tramp, met at Church Corner on a fine but foggy Saturday and drove up to Torlesse Station to meet the other two members of our party. From the Station yard we climbed over a low ridge and dropped down to cross a stream and green paddock to reach the small and very picturesque Lake Rubicon. For most of us this was our first visit to this place which features prominently in early CMC history and 'Mountaineers' as the site for legendary Christmas picnics.

Graeme had brought his fishing rod and we all watched as, on his second cast, he hooked a good rainbow trout which he gave to Nowell. We then marched on to the head of the Lake and up to the first saddle. From there we dropped into the first of two small and rather scenic valleys, at the end

of the second, climbing to the second saddle and sunny spot for lunch.

After lunch we followed the ridge for some distance to the third saddle where we dropped into a large valley. On the other side and down valley a little we climbed back up to the Station yard and our vehicles.

A most pleasant autumn outing which put us in touch with a part of the Club's history.

Party: Nowell Syme, Don Reid, Graeme Gough, Malcom Carr, Robin Muirson, John Chivers, Brian Patrick, Rod Helm, Brian Oldham and Gordon Habgood

Ladbrookes Hill, Lees Valley

- 2 May

Four of us met at Dublin Street and headed off to meet the other two at the Ashley Gorge Road turnoff to Lees Valley, for the winding drive to the parking spot on the ridge of Ladbrookes Hill.

From there the hardest part of the trip was getting from the road onto the ridge and bush-bashing until we got onto the track up the ridge. The ridge was a steady climb until we came out of the bush onto tussock, snow patches and scrub near the top. Here we decided not to do what previous trips had done, namely to go down a different ridge and end up in the valley. This would have meant a long walk up to the road and back to the vehicles and as there was no track down that ridge it would have been a real bush-bash.

Instead we opted to go to the real top of Ladbrookes Hill which previous trips had not done. It was about a kilometre away over scrub, tussock and snow and turned out to be swampy at the top. We then retreated back to the top of the track for lunch as it was more sheltered from the wind there although still cold.

Then it was back down the track all the way as we found the bottom part viewing from above.

So ended another in vigorating vets tramp on a cool, cloudy, breezy autumn day.

Party: Donald Reid, Robin Muirson, Graeme Gough, Brian Patrick, Rod Helm and Gordon Habgood

Pyramid Valley - 6 June

A small team of five gathered at Dublin Street to brave the pessimistic weather forecast and drive up to Pyramid Valley, Waikari. Leaving the vehicle in a paddock amongst spectacular limestone pillars and overlooking the famed Pyramid Valley swamp where the moa bones were found, we set off. We mainly followed farm tracks to climb to the top of the range separating Pyramid Valley from Weka Pass.

The weather was actually fine but with a slowly increasing southerly and, from the ridge, the views in all directions were stunning. We followed the ridge to the highest point where there was a broadcast station.

From there we retreated behind a sheltering hillock for lunch. When we started to see the dark clouds of the front approaching from the south we smartly took the shortest route back to the vehicle, arriving in plenty of time to be on the road to Waikari before the first rain hit.

Another satisfactory day in the hills for the vets.

Party: Don Reid, Rod Helm, Brian Patrick, Patrick Fitzgerald and Gordon Habgood.

CUTC Easter Mountaineering Instruction Trip

The forecast was bad . . . nor'west winds, 50, 70, 90kmph and rain, lots of it. Therefore the plans were changed. Initially we were going to tramp to Cameron Hut and learn and practise in the Arrowsmith Range. Now we found ourselves at Mt Cheeseman, with barely enough snow to pitch an anchor. Although Karen and Pete did teach us how to move more efficiently in the snow; the big lesson of the day for me.

That night we settled in at Kennedy Lodge and it began to rain. We spent all of the next day doing theory, inside. As we sat in the hut the weather moved slowly. The CMC instructors entertained the idea of driving down to Fox on the third day and spending some time on the glacier. However, the idea of the ice was postponed until May.

After a great deal of wind inside the hut (that night and the next morning) a group of six stayed (with Vaughan as the leader) to climb Mt Rolleston. The others returned to Christchurch. For those who stayed, all was not lost.

We started our trip from the Otira highway at a tick before 7am, not exactly an alpine start I know, but not bad considering one of the group members declared the night before that he would need 'time to prepare' in the morning.

We scrambled up, slightly left of the Otira Slide and hit the Goldney Ridge at about 11am. Seeing that we would likely need to cross the Goldney Glacier at a point and knowing the limited experience within the group, Vaughan mentioned that we could pitch some anchors and try out our crampons on the glacier, while roped up, thus abandoning Rolleston. The suggestion was put to a vote and we all agreed that we would learn more on the glacier than by continuing with what would be more rock scrambling beyond the glacier, at least to the lower summit anyway.

We built some T-Slot and V-Cone Anchors in a small patch of soft, wet snow. Wow, the V-Cone anchor was solid! Four of us bouncing on it and it didn't budge . . . the T-Slot wasn't so successful, but that's part of the learning.

We then placed some cams, nuts and slings to make two equalised rock anchors and had some fun on the glacier. Once we were familiar with walking in





a lot out of this experience. Learning to stop my slide on a slope like this felt much better than piddling around on the learner's slope. We gave enough slack in the rope that people would slide for real and it took a lot to stop if one gained a bit of speed. It really did get some adrenalin going!

We had lunch on the Goldney Ridge and pretended that we saw a storm approaching. So we abseiled down to the scree slopes of the Otira Valley . . . not that we all couldn't have down climbed but it was good practice for us. The last hour and a half of our journey was in the dark, down the much easier Otira Valley and we got to the road at 8pm.

Judging by the smiles on everyone's faces, we all had a great time and I know that we learnt a lot. It was great to put some of that theory the CMC instructors so kindly dished out, into practice.

Kieran Parsons



Club Instruction . . .

CMC Basic Skills Course - May 2009

After the constant rain that had been pelting Canterbury for the week prior to our trip (and with more rain forecast for the weekend), we were extremely happy to awake to clear blue skies in Arthurs Pass on Saturday morning. We'd decided the night before to head for the Cheeseman Skifield to make the most of the weather, and fortunately encountered some clubbies on the access road who let us through the top gate. This meant we could get straight onto the snow and start learning. The crampons went on early, and the axes came out so we could learn basic skills for walking on different types of terrain. As we made our way up to the ridge, we discussed various aspects of mountain travel, including avalanche dangers, terrain traps, and weather conditions and selecting safe routes. We then went over the basics of transceiver searches as a precursor for the up and coming avalanche course.

We met a group of very excited-looking ski tourers on our way up, and this gave us the opportunity to discuss backcountry skiing and some of the dangers it entailed—it all seems much scarier over here than in Europe! At the top, and before hitting the ridge line, we learnt about cornices, lee slopes and how the prevailing wind and previous storm cycles can affect slope stability. We were all keen to learn more about snow packs so Gideon showed us how to dig snow pits and look at the different layers within it to assess the slope stability.

Following the ridge across to the top of Mount Cheeseman (as well as being spectacularly beautiful) gave us great opportunities to use our crampon and axe skills, and we even had time for a picnic while we watched the skiers in the back basin. We took a different route down, cutting across the slope, and chatted about the importance of identifying hazards, and keeping a safe distance between one another when travelling between islands of safety. Then it was back to Arthurs Pass to plan for the next day.



Sunday morning looked very different as we pulled back the curtains and saw the village blanketed in snow with huge flakes still falling. We decided it probably wasn't the best idea to head up the mountain in these conditions, so Gideon spent the morning teaching us about navigation, weather forecasting, avalanche hazards and basic rope skills in the hut. Hanging from the beams was great fun, and we learnt lots of new skills to practice in preparation for the next course! All in all a great weekend and we're looking forward to the next one—Thanks!

Participants: Kerry Wray, Eric des Garets, Lee Burbery.
Instructor: Gideon Geerling

Avalanche Awareness Course 6-7 June 2009

Five people attended the recent Avalanche Awareness course based at Kennedy Lodge. The first day was spent looking at avalanche theory and search techniques.

Due to a lack of access in the Craigieburn Range we moved instead to Mt Hutt. This turned out to be a great decision with a good snow pack and area to practice our transceiver searches and safe travel techniques, as well as refresh our self arrest and axe skills.

It is great to see club members interested in avalanche safety and wanting to get out there in winter and do some great trips. I hope they all have a great, fun and safe winter.

Course Participants: Lee Burbery, David Spark, Andrew Blair, Andy Osborne, Kerry Wray, Eric des Garets

Gideon Geerling
Course Instructor

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- ARC'TERYX**
Alpha SV Pro Shell Jacket
- Minimal compatible storm hood
 - Laminated, quick-dry outer guard
 - Laminated gaiter-out micro-tuff cuffs with elastic
 - One hand pull cord
 - No-rib gusseted underarms
 - Two-way laminated pit zips for ventilation
 - Stormflap Storm front zip
 - Stormflap pit and pocket zips
 - Reinforced Zip Closures
 - Two chest pockets with laminated zips
 - Two internal laminated pockets
 - One elbow pocket with laminated zips
 - Articulated elbows
 - Hip length drop back hem
 - Laminated waist and hem drawcord
 - Micro-vent allowances (1 down)
 - Tiny GORE-TEX™ seam tape (1 down) decreases weight and increases the jacket's breathability
 - Removable harness harness
 - Fabric: 400N GORE-TEX® SL Pro
- Available in Men and Women's sizes S and M and not women's specific cut
Weight: 541g
MSRP \$895



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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.

Contacts — cmc.net.nz

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

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CMC Instruction Courses

- ▶ **Alpine Snow Skills: Beginner & Intermediate or Advanced**
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For more info contact Gideon Geerling, Instruction Coordinator,
email: gideon@adventurelogistics.co.nz
or visit our website at www.cmc.net.nz

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