

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. **The start time has changed to 7.30pm to allow a half hour to socialise among members before the lecture begins promptly at 8pm.**

## Events Calendar

### February

- 6 Veterans' Trip: Mt Somers.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122 for further information.
- 13-14 Club Trip – Mt Manakau.** Doug Hitchon is leading this trip up the highest peak in the Seaward Kaikoura Range. His plan is to drive up to Kaikoura Friday night and make an early start on the mountain Saturday. Contact Doug on 343 0820 or email: hitchons@gmail.com
- 18 Club Night - 2009 CMC/NZ Mountaineer of the Year - Paul Knott.** Christchurch Girls High Auditorium, Matai Street, 7.30pm. \$5 entry (includes drink/nibbles).
- 20 Club Trip – Fang Hill.** Andrew Johnston is taking this day trip up the Wilberforce River to Fang Hill. Contact Andrew on 027 433 4876 or 383 9252.

### March

- 6 Veterans' Trip: Torlesse Gap.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122 for further information.
- 6-7 Club Trip – Mt Valiant.** Jeremy Parker is having another attempt at this trip to the East Hawdon in Arthur's 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 how have not been into this part of Arthur's Pass. Contact Jeremy on 312 8863 or mail: JParker@wastemanagement.co.nz
- 13-14 Club Trip – Rabbiter's Peak.** Mark Flintoft is leading this trip up the north temple river. He intends to drive down Friday night. Contact Mark on 328 8887 or email: mark.flintoft@esr.cri.nz
- 18 Club Night - Alex Palman - Climbing the North Face of the Eiger.** Pioneer Lounge, 7.30pm

### April

- 10 Veterans' Trip: Mt Alford.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122 for further information. (Note: a week later due to Easter).
- 15 Club Night - What have you been up to in the hills?** What club members have been doing. Pioneer Lounge, 7.30pm.
- 17-18 Club Trip – Mt Electra via Two Thumb Stream.** Contact Nick Moyle on 351 2193 or moylen@yahoo.com

### May

- 1 Veterans' Trip: Little Mt Peel.** Contact Robin Muirson on 357 4800 or 027 434 4122 for further information.
- 20 Club Night - Annual General Meeting.** Pioneer Lounge, 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Suggest a Trip:** If you have any suggestions for a trip that you would like to see the club lead, call the Trip Coordinator (Mark Flintoft 328 8887) and he will be happy to arrange leadership and a spot on the calendar.

## President's Note

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year. The summer climbing season has had a lot of northwest weather but hopefully some of you managed to achieve something in the hills.

If you were stuck in a hut hopefully you had our Mountaineer journal to pass the time. This was another successful publication with a good range of articles. I would like to thank Ange for her editorship once again and for Greg and the guys who got them all into the post before Christmas.

I would like to note the passing of Dr Brian Mason just after the Mountaineer had gone to print. I am sure someone will write an obituary for one of our longest serving members for inclusion in the next Mountaineer.

I would like to remind members that we have dedicated funds for publishing and expeditions and the committee welcomes application for funding. With expedition funding, we simply require the successful applicant to give a lecture and write an article for the Mountaineer in return for sponsorship.

I occasionally receive feedback in relation to items published in the News. This is not always positive and so I have to smooth the waters. The Committee has discussed this and welcome letters to the Editor if you have a comment about something we publish. However, please remember that the views expressed in the News are not necessarily those of the CMC.

The next year looks good for the Club with lots of great lectures and trips planned. We will also be awarding the Mountaineer of the Year Award in February which should be a fantastic night.

The New Year will also see the joint publication with the NZAC of the Canterbury Climbing Guide. The club is proud to be involved in a guide which covers our mountains. There will be a book launch in due course and members can purchase the guide at a discounted rate.

Enjoy the rest of the summer such as it is, lets hope February is more settled.

Graeme Jacobs



Ives Peak, January club trip

## Westland Tai Poutini National Park Anniversary

**Registrations for the Westland Tai Poutini National Park 50th Anniversary celebrations are open. The celebrations are planned for Friday 26 March to Sunday 28 March, at venues around Fox and Franz Josef Glacier.** Registrations will close on Thursday 25 February but early bird registrations received by Wednesday 10 February will go into the draw to win a special Westland Tai Poutini National Park prize. There are limited places available for some of the events, and there has already been a lot of interest in the weekend, so make sure you register early. The weekend will be great fun: three days of stories of the past, tales of exploration and adventure, historic movies, displays, activities and a great chance to catch up with the people who have helped make the park an outstanding destination for all New Zealanders and tourists alike, while protecting the priceless natural features of this astonishing area for future generations to enjoy. During the weekend attendees can choose to take advantage of discounted glacier walks, kayaking, boat trips, guided bush walks, and scenic flights from local tourist operators to fully appreciate the Mountains to the Sea landscapes that make this national park so unique and important.

To get your registration pack, go to the DoC website ([www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)) and search for "westland anniversary". You can also email [wnp50anniversary@doc.govt.nz](mailto:wnp50anniversary@doc.govt.nz), or call Katrina Henderson (03 7520081) or Kim Patterson (03 7510 807) to request a registration pack

## 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 Climbing News

Club members have been getting into the hills with the arrival of spring. Here is a brief rundown....

Hugh Logan and Francis Logan enjoyed a Mt Cheeseman and Ryton Valley ski tour in mid September. Carl Fischer has been very active in the hills. During a three week spell from mid September to early October he climbed the SW Ridge of Mt Aspiring with Alex Ross, the Quite Direct route on the south face of Mt Aspiring with Julian Webster, a Philistine- Rolleston Traverse on his own and finished with the Central Couloir on the south face of Douglas Peak with Mike Rowe. In early October Andrew Perkins and Tom Hu enjoyed good conditions while climbing the Minarets from Graham Saddle. Not long afterwards they did not enjoy the mushy snow when having a crack at Rome Ridge. At Labour Weekend Nick Moyle and Jason Bartlett climbed Phipps Peak from the Dobson Memorial. At Labour weekend Barbara and Daryl Thomson, Murray Cullen, Hugh Logan, Neil Sloan and Sue Parkes climbed Mt Catherine, near Lake Heron, on good firm snow.

Mark Flintoft climbed Mt McMillian behind St Winifred's Hut at the start of November. In late November Jeremy Parker, Peter Dawes and Tom climbed Hills Peak while Mark and Tom climbed Mt Stuart in Arthur's Pass also in late November.

At Show Weekend Barbara and Darryl, Murray Cullen and Hugh Logan climbed Mt Ida after finding a "safe" route through the matagouri from Lake Selfe. Darryl, Barbara, Hugh and Roland Logan and Olly Toohey climbed the Otira Face before Christmas.

In a marathon day trip in late December Guy McKinnon climbed the Butterfly Buttress on Bruce Peak. Mark Smith and Sam Langridge climbed Temple Buttress in early January

Mike Andrews had a productive time down at Mt Cook over the New Year. He managed ascents of Taranaki Peak and Peak 2444 from the Cass Valley and Mt Lucia from a camp below the Ridge Glacier.

And from Cam Mulvey at Mt Cook comes this news.... Mike Buchanan and Andrew Rennie climbed the NW ridge of Mt Sealy. They left at 10 am from Wyn Irwin intending on a day trip to Mueller

Hut but pushed on and reached the summit at 7pm. They returned to Mueller Hut around 11 pm. Three days later the pair flew into Plateau Hut and climbed Zurbriggens Ridge on Aoraki/Mt Cook starting at 11pm and returning to Plateau at 4.30 pm. They reported excellent conditions on the ridge but the Linda is fairly broken up for this time of year. Gary Kuehn and Stefan Sporli from Aspiring Guides skied the NW ridge of Aspiring after climbing the SW ridge. They then skied the Ramp and Breakaway route to the bushline below French Ridge hut. This speedy descent enabled them to return to Wanaka in the afternoon of their second day.

Angela Sankey, Peter Dickson and Axel climbed Mt Rolleston via Rome Ridge in mid January. Also in mid January Nick Moyle endured a horrendous bushbash en route to climbing Mt Howe. Greg Ewing had a wander along the Bealey-Avalanche Traverse. Sue Harrison climbed Mt Tapuaenuku. Rob Frost, Andrei van Dusschoten and Guy McKinnon completed the first ascent of the North Face of Mt Grave via a rib on the right side. The climb involved 600m of moderate but dangerously loose rockclimbing from cirque terrace above the Selwyn Stream with a bivy required on descent.

Carl Fischer also had a busy time in Fiordland recently. He completed ascents of the North Buttress of Sabre and the SE ridge of Mt Tutoko

Nick Moyle

## Club Nights

### October Club Night – Getting High in the Top of the South

Around 50 people were present at Pioneer to hear Ben Winnubst give an excellent talk on the peaks and climbing located within the Kaikoura and Nelson Lakes ranges. As author of the NZAC guidebook for this region Ben has a wealth of knowledge of all the routes and an enthusiasm for the climbing available.

Ben started his talk in the Kaikouras with some alternative routes into the Inland Kaikoura range, with ascents of Mts Tapuaenuku and Alarm from the Clarence Valley rather than the Hodder and a variation of access onto the Seaward Kaikoura Range via George Spur. It seems the Kaikouras are a good place to go if the westerly has ruined climbing options in Nelson Lakes.

Ben then showed some photos of peaks up the Wairau Valley such as Pinnacle and Scotts Knob. There were short ice routes available on these peaks in winter, along with easy access and good camping.

The focus of the next section was on the climbing available at the head of the Rainbow Valley. For me these peaks seemed the most spectacular in the area. Ben described the easy access into peaks like Mt Iris, Kehu Peak, Mt Dora, Mt Paske and Mt McKay. I was particularly taken with the Begley Face of Kehu peak and also the shots across the Travers Valley to a snow clad Mt Travers. Judging by the photos it would seem that winter and spring are the best times to visit these locations.

In the Travers Valley Ben showed some great shots of Mts Cupola, Travers and Hopeless. All these peaks offered easy access and short routes. Indeed the south ridge of Mt Travers seems to not have a first ascent!

One part of Ben's talk I enjoyed was the different methods of access into the area. I was particularly impressed with one person using a quad bike to ferry the gear while the other three used mountain bikes.

Ben finished his talk with some shots of the Spenser Mountains, particularly Mt Una and also some of the peaks of Kahurangi National Park.

I would like to thank Ben for travelling down from Nelson to enlighten some CMC members of the climbing options available in the top of the South. Now, who is willing to lead a club trip up there in 2010?

Nick Moyle

### November Club Night – New Routes in Pakistan – Pat Deavoll

The final club night of the year drew a large crowd to Pioneer to hear renowned New Zealand alpinist Pat Deavoll give an informative and illuminating talk on some of the mountaineering she has undertaken in Pakistan.

The first climb was an attempt with Lydia Bradey in 2007 on Beka Brakkai Chhok 7029m in the Batura region of northern Pakistan. The scenery was stunning and the route looked very inviting. Unfortunately a combination of heavy packs, altitude and a dwindling gas supply stopped the attempt at around 6000m. However, Pat and Lydia, along with two Italian climbers that they shared base camp with, still managed to pull off a new route on a 6000m peak they called Wahine.

Not one for being denied a summit, Pat returned to Pakistan in 2008 to attempt Beka Brakkai Chhok, this time with British climber Malcolm Bass. On this attempt they reached the summit ridge at around 6500m. This time around a series of storms resulted them being tent bound for nearly a week. When the weather relented and allowed for a summit push, Pat and Malcolm struck some nasty and dangerous snow slopes. They backed off and made their way back to base camp, mostly completed without any food.

The final climb Pat presented was the first ascent in 2009 of Karim Sar, 6180m. Pat's arrival in Islamabad was at the time of a full security alert. Cars were being stopped and searched for bombs in the street. This was at the height of the exodus of people from the Swat Valley which they passed en route to Gilgit.

From a base camp beside the Shilinbar Glacier Pat and Paul Hersey spent time acclimatizing and load carrying, accessing the glacier through a nasty looking gully. The summit attempt was quite something. Paul, despite being ill, pushed himself to climb up with Pat to the final camp. This was particularly severe, as Paul had bought no sleeping bag and still spent the night there. The following day Pat followed a series of gullies into a high cwm before a steep ridge climb to the summit. She descended the same way and returned to the tent feeling pretty chuffed but also very stuffed.

One aspect that Pat really brought out in her talk was the very real sense of danger in Pakistan. In both attempts on Beka Brakkai Chhok there were bomb blasts in Islamabad where they were based before the climbs. The other sad fact that Pat's talk highlighted is the post 9/11 reality that incomes for the average Pakistani have really shrivelled.

It was also interesting to hear Pat, like Guy McKinnon at an earlier club night, express her frustration of putting in all that effort to get near to a summit without any reward.

The evening concluded with a number of questions before the crowd, as usual, tucked into the beverages. I would like to thank Pat Deavoll for presenting her recent climbs in Pakistan to the Canterbury Mountaineering Club.

Nick Moyle

## 'Beyond the Road's End' Exhibition - 6 March 2010

Barry & Kathryn Smith, along with Barry's brother John, are displaying some of their art works at the Selwyn Gallery in Darfield. Entitled "BEYOND THE ROAD'S END" on the 6th of March.

Kathryn's paintings are in the Nelson Lakes area, John has a selection of photographic studies and Barry has his woodcuts and embossing.

Call in and browse awhile!

## Veterans' Trips

### Taylor's Mistake - Godley Head - 3 October

Seven of us met at the Taylor's Mistake carpark on a beautiful fine morning. We ambled off up the track to Godley Head watching surfers making short runs in the bay, then we deviated down to Boulder Bay to look at the quaint baches, before climbing up to the Godley Head Reserve. We paused for morning tea on the warm concrete of a gun turret, and inspected the underground blast shelter proving my torch needed new batteries. We then set off along the crater rim track with the elder group staying up on the track and the younger group branching off down to the tunnel and searchlight turrets, meeting up at a saddle for lunch. The elder party finished their lunch earlier and as there was now a cool breeze set off down, two by the direct track and Nowell on towards Evans Pass.

While lunching there we watched mountain bikers passing on their track until one lady attempting the elevated 'cattlestop' (more likely a sheep stop) through a fence stopped abruptly going over the handlebars and landing face first on the bars. The result was obviously not nice and two other bikers immediately started first aid so we opted not to clutter the scene only assisting when they found Vodaphone coverage was not good and one came to us to use one of our Telecom ones. As we passed her face was well bandaged. Shortly after the Westpac Rescue Helicopter arrived along with an ambulance, and as we were out of sight further along the track we heard the helicopter depart.



When we reached the next saddle at the head of Taylor's Mistake valley we followed the valley down to the carpark except Nowell who we had misunderstood, came down the Scarborough track. All came right in the end and it had been a good day in the hills.

Party: Nowell Syme, Dick Leggoe, Brian Patrick, Dave Milne, Robin Muirson, Rod Helm, and Gordon Habgood

### Mt Sugarloaf, Cass - 7 November

With no city participants the three of us met up at Sheffield on a fine Saturday with high cloud and a north-west wind. We drove up to Cass and parked by the Railway Station. Walking past the University of Canterbury Lodge and up a ridge to the saddle on the western side of Sugarloaf. Just before the saddle Michael found it was getting beyond his level of fitness and opted to go down and explore Cass.

Graham and I continued on up the ridge, now of rotten rock, to the top. Lunching there in a hollow beside the solar panels for the rebroadcast stations, out of the wind. The view from there was a unique perspective looking down the Waimakariri River from Mt White to the Gorge Bridge, well worth the effort of getting there. After a leisurely lunch we retraced our route down and drove back to Sheffield and thence home. Another excellent day in the hills.

Party: Graham Gough, Michael Clark, and Gordon Habgood (scribe).

## CMC Mountaineer

The latest Canterbury Mountaineer should have been posted to CMC members. A revised index is also available. A pdf of the index 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. Cost: \$5.00 a copy.

### Mt Oxford, 5 December

It was a fine morning when the four of us set off from Dublin Street to climb Mt Oxford only, as there were no takers for the option to overnight at Thompson Huts and return via the Wharfdale Track. (I would have but no sense to do it on my own). We did still start the climb from View Hill (the Wharfdale Track endpoint) as none of us had climbed Mt Oxford by that route even though it proved to be a longer route.

There was a good track and pleasant walking, if sometimes a grunt, all the way up through bush and then tussock. We all elected to stop for lunch just above the bush top as by then it was a late lunch and we needed the spell and re-energising. The view was good but a northwester was starting to get up to breeze strength and the Alps were clouding over.

After lunch Robin and Ian decided they had had sufficient uphill, and set off down while Rod and I continued up the relatively gentle kilometre or so 100 metres to the top in company with two middle-aged ladies training for a marathon. It was good to pass three teenagers coming the other way; at least some of the young generation get out in the hills. We only made a brief photo stop then set off to try and catch Robin and Ian on the way down but they beat us back to the car. A cuppa in the carpark ended another good day in the hills.

Party: Robin Muirson, Ian Gardiner, Rod Helm, and Gordon Habgood (scribe).





## Club Trips

### The Weather Contingency Plan

It was Thursday afternoon and I needed to make a decision, were we going to go to Mt Cook, would I cancel the trip, or was there a decent weather contingency plan. It was the first trip I had ever run for the CMC and it was extremely popular, I wasn't that happy with the possibility of cancelling. However, the high winds/deep fresh snow and high avalanche danger said no, at least for a rookie like me.

I decided that we should head to Arthur's Pass instead, with the possible plan being to attempt the Aicken Blimit Traverse. We arrived at Kennedy Lodge on Friday night and pulled out the maps. I suggested my idea to everyone and they seemed keen. I was pleased with this as I had not ventured into the hills much this season and didn't feel game enough to try anything too hard, especially since I felt responsible for making sure our trip was incident free. In the end our team consisted of Andrew, Antony, Tom, Pepita, Zoe and myself.

We stopped by DoC early Saturday morning to sign our intentions and ask Graeme's opinion on our trip decision. He told us that that traverse would

be extremely dangerous in these conditions and he suggested we attempt something that relied on ridges and areas that were less exposed. Well, this really wasn't working out for me, my first trip as a trip leader for the CMC (possibly the first female trip leader for quite some time) was to be an ascent of Mt Aicken.

We started up the steep trail at 8.30am and before long we were cruising along in T shirts and shorts, warm sun beating down and clear blue cloudless skies above providing us with stunning views of Philistine and Rolleston. It took us four hours from car park to summit where we decided that we would stop and have some lunch. After about 15 minutes we were forced down from the summit by icy winds and so trundled back down the ridge looking wearily at the large amount of small avalanches happening around us. The snow was wet and soft in most places and the intense sun was melting it even further.

I believe that we made it back to Kennedy by around 4pm, the others probably would have been quicker without me however they were very patient with my snail pace decent, waiting for me and chatting in the sun every so often. All in all, a great trip in a beautiful area with stunning weather and great company.

Sarah Osborne



### The Spurs - 22 November

When I read the email invitation for this trip, lead by Daryll Thomson, the destination sounded more like a night club!, however this would not be the case.

Nine hardy souls assembled at Glenthorne Station under a blanket of cloud, trying to work out which combination of polyprop would best show their better side, yes we all have a better side! However, when Murray Cullen suggested more than once this could be an epic, people started nervously fumbling with their GPS devices dangling around their necks, one member was seen stuffing 10 bananas into his pack. In other words, this was going to be a good trip, it had all the makings!

So we set off towards pt1706 between Fisher Stream and Gargarus Stream, ascended through mist and into low cloud, stopping for rests according to age, the breaks long enough to consume a banana. We reached pt1902 when the cloud cleared and the land below and around us came into view, it was a magical sight. This was good because it meant for those nervously fumbling navigation aids that they could relax, and the rest of us could stop having anxiety attacks attributed to the fumbling of said devices. We plodded on ... the group broke into two, some opting for the ridge, two taking to the snow. We avoided a 'scratchy' piece by doing so beyond this point, we made for pt1985 "The Spurs" and had lunch, we knew we were there because we:

- 1 were higher than anything around us;
- 2 the devices told us we were.

The ascent route was selected from a choice of options, ranging from the direct route down Fisher Stream, back tracking! and bagging another peak pt1964, so off to pt1964 down a shingle slide bashed through some Matagouri, staggered over a fence and returned to the cars for tea and cake, thanks to Barbara Thomson for a very pleasant end to our trip to The Spurs. Daryll organised the excursion; thanks for your planning and execution.

Punters: Eduardo, Gustavo, Barbara, Stuart, Murray, Laurie, Jenny, Daryll and Andrew, who you can blame for this report! They made me write it!



## Club Trip: Philistine – Rolleston Traverse - 5 December

So, the trip starts starts on Friday night at Nick's place. After a safe drive provided by Jeremy and his truck to Kennedy Lodge, we all fell asleep for a few hours. We wake at the 3.30am alarm for a solid breakfast before driving up to the start of the Otira Valley track.

In the darkness we walk to the bottom of Mt Philistine, standing there, massive and lonesome, on the right side of the valley. Going up to Mt Philistine, the way up is an easy going "ridge" easily accessible from the bottom after you crossed a bit of loose rocks fields. Reaching a first step of good rock walls you keep going in a small and wide high valley where you clearly see the first summit of the trip and its access ridge we reached on the left side.

From here, we've been welcomed by the end of a nice sunrise, resting above a wonderful and beautiful sea of clouds moving slowly but surely up, telling in silence they won't miss our arrival to the summit of Mt Rolleston. Then starts the traverse, a long and beautiful ridge but a lot of loose rocks considering the time of the year. At the Philistine-Rolleston Col we resisted the urge to drop to the snowfield and instead continued to climb on the ridge which was actually a pretty good rock. The ridge was relatively easy going and we reached the summit by lunch time, where the clouds, without any surprise, shared a bit of room with us for an all grey panoramic view, fantastic!

We started our way down, reaching the low peak and then we went down through the Otira Slide snow fields, very well guided by Nick through the small visibility we had at this time of the day.

By 4pm, we were back in the Otira Valley and had a nice stroll back to the car before returning to Kennedy Lodge where we picked up our stuff, then to Christchurch via the Bealey Hotel.

Trip Participants: Eric de Garets (scribe), Tom Clark, Andrew Tromans, Jeremy Parker, Nick Moyle

## Club Trip to Ives Peak, Victoria Range

On the 16-17 January five members made their way to Springs Junction and thence to the carpark at Lake Stream to attempt Ives Peak. With an early start out of town we got going before the sandflies were up, and the three hour walk to Lake Stream Hut got a sweat up among some of the office workers. Here the five from Chch met our sixth member from Westport who was happily snoozing outside the hut in the warm sun. We strolled through parklike tops to a camp at the prominent alpine lake south of Ives Peak. Various leadership coups during the course of the day meant we ended up a little shy of where I had hoped but this turned out okay anyway as the next day began with a startling bushbash traverse into the head of Shaw Stream. During this stage we had one defection but the rest of the crew made it to the summit (1749m) in pleasant conditions, although we could see rain to the east.



The Paparoas were clear and our Westporter pointed out the names of the prominent tops in that range. After traversing the mountain via the lake at the head of the Woolley River (lunch) we returned to camp via a short but diabolical bush bash (uphill) that involved some tree and waterfall gymnastics. Keeping up with Chris and Lynette kept the rest of us honest and we broke down camp and made it back down to the Hut in super quick time. By the time we got back to cars 13 hours had elapsed and we realised what a big effort we had put in. We hit the road about 9.30pm and had to starve a bit till we got within range of a gas station near Amberly. This was an awesome trip, with a very experienced crew. Thanks to all for coming and I can't speak too highly of the area!

Guy McKinnon (leader) also Tom Hu, Jonathan Carr, Lynette Hartley, Andrew Tromans and Chris Osauskas.



## Mt Cook Base Camp: 26 December – 4 January 2010

Wyn Irwin was bursting at the seams with climbers over the Christmas-New Year period. Unfortunately the enthusiasm of the climbers was not matched to a good weather forecast. Some climbing, however, was done in the infrequent fine spells. Greig Hamilton and Steve Leake climbed Wombats on Heat on the east face of the Footstool while Alex Shipp, Andrew Tromans, Juri Reichter and Mark Flintoft climbed the Divide Route. Jeremy Parker and Peter Dawes climbed Mt Annette from the Annette Plateau in a fast trip from Wyn Irwin. Kai Holten, Cornelia and Greg Ewing and family were also up on the Annette Plateau. Vaughan Snowdon and partner climbed the Linda Glacier route on Mt Cook after making the assessment that the snow conditions were too soft to climb Zubriggen's Ridge. Vaughan then teamed up with Greig Hamilton, Alex Shipp, Mark Flintoft, Juri Reichter and Steve Leake to do a mission up to CMC's Empress Hut.

Leaving Wyn Irwin mid morning good time was made up to the base of Pudding Rock. Here, a large schrund was separating the ice of the Hooker and the rock. Luckily Greig and Uri found a large block of ice bridging the gap near the base of the chains. Uri lead up over the block and up thirty metres rock to the chains. A 200m scramble up pudding rock to Gardiner Hut followed. The next morning Uri, Greig and Vaughan made an attempt on Nazomi, getting turned round at the start of the rock by high winds. That afternoon we made the three hour push up to Empress. 120 kph winds and driving rain was the main feature of the next 3 days. Luckily there are plenty of books and even a DVD player (thanks Cameron) at the hut.

In a rare weather lull Mt Sturdee was climbed. At 3pm on the fourth day the weather eased and Greig, Mark and Alex decided to make a beak for it. Despite the still strong winds Gardiner Hut was reached where we learnt another party was missing attempting to get to Gardiner (this party was later found safe and sound on the terraces below Ball Pass). Abseiling off Pudding Rock proved the crux of the trip. Both Alex and Greig abseiled into the schrund below the rock. The schrund wall was overhanging soft snow and therefore difficult



to get out of, not to mention the waterfall that cascaded onto the duo. Mark when abseiling down managed to swing out and snag the lip of the schrund with his ice axe and pull himself onto the snow. A belay was then provided to Greig and Alex. Alex twisted his ankle on the white ice of the hooker which made for a slow trip back to Wyn Irwin, reaching it at 5am! The other three exited in less exciting fashion the following day.

Mark Flintoft





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www.cmc.net.nz



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- ▶ Ski Touring
- ▶ Alpine Rock Skills: Beginner & Intermediate
- ▶ Instruct the Instructors

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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.