



vol. 23 no. 3 September - November 2011

CMCNEWS



September

- 3 Veterans' Trip—Peak Hill.** Contact Gordon Habgood 03 325 6233 or Robin Muirson on 03 3574800 or 0274344122 for further information.
- 3-4 Club Trip—Mt Greenlaw.** Colin Morris will lead this trip, gaining access from the Anti Crow. Contact Colin on 03 3182643 or email liz.weir@paradise.net.nz
- 15 Club Night—NZ Mountain Film Festival.** Aurora Centre, Burnside High School, Greers Rd, Christchurch. A selection of the films from the 2011 Wanaka Mountain Film Festival. Proceeds from the event will go towards the restoration of the Lockwood Shelter at Temple Basin in Arthurs Pass.
- 24 Memorial/Reunion—Herman Wieringa.** 50th anniversary commemoration at the grave of Herman Wieringa followed by a reunion lunch for skiers, trampers and climbers. Contact David Henson on 03 9233954, email david-henson@paradise.net.nz or Michael Anderson 04 973 9952, email jean.reidy@clear.net.nz

October

- 1-2 Club Trip—The Footstool.** Guy Mckinnon is leading this trip to a classic peak in Mt Cook National Park. Contact Guy on 3559527 or theorus9@yahoo.com
- 1 Veterans' Trip—Little Mt Peel.** Contact Gordon Habgood 03 325 6233 or Robin Muirson on 03 3574800 or 0274344122 for further information.
- 20 Club Night—Skiing in Northern India and Iran.** Paul Sweetenham talks about the skiing and climbing possibilities in Northern India and Iran.
- 22-24 Basic Alpine Course (Labour weekend).** \$150 for members, contact Vaughan Snowdon on 02102456800 or email snowdood@gmail.com
- 29 Club Trip—Mt Armstrong.** Dave Persson is leading this trip to this stunning peak at the head of the Waimak River. Contact Dave on 03 3189249 or dwpersson@xtra.co.nz

November

- 11-13 Intermediate Alpine Course (Show weekend).** \$150 for members, contact Vaughan Snowdon on 02102456800 or email snowdood@gmail.com
- 17 Club Night—Scottish winter: Climbing over there and here.** Steve Fortune talks about his experiences climbing in Scotland and some of the climbing he has done back in NZ.

Hello and welcome to the third issue of the CMC News for 2011. In the last three months, the CMC has had a fantastic range of speakers at club nights. In June, Gideon Geering gave an excellent talk of his summer season spent working at Scott Base. Gideon's talk included a walk through tour of Scott Base using a helmet cam. In July, the CMC NZ Mountaineer of the Year was awarded to Graham Zimmerman. For those of you who weren't present, Graham really pulled out all the stops in his presentation and the footage of his ascent of Mt Bradley in Alaska was superb. Lastly, we had Hugh Logan speak in August about his time filming the ascent of Mt Cook by Steve Moffat and Steve Gurney using modern and old climbing equipment. Come along to the club nights to hear from people enthusiastic about mountaineering, meet some prospective climbing partners or even to borrow a library book.

The club has a number of social events coming up. We are promoting the NZ Mountain Film Festival on 15 September 2011. All proceeds from the event will go towards the restoration of the Lockwood Shelter at Temple Basin. Get a ticket at a club night, Bivouac Tower Junction or at the door and support this great cause.

We also have a range of club trips over the next few months. I would encourage club members to sign up and come on club trips. They are a fantastic way to meet other mountaineers and plan future trips.

It is brilliant to see a number of new members contributing articles in this issue of the News. Long may this continue! If you have news from activities in the mountains, do write it up and send it in. It would be great to see the CMC News packed with trips, tall tales and ripping yarns.

The Canterbury Mountaineer is currently being edited by Guy McKinnon. If you have an article or are in the process of writing one, make sure you have emailed it to Guy by the end of October.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the passing of club member Dave Adam in July. Dave was an experienced mountaineer who absolutely loved the mountains. I would encourage all club members to have a look at Dave's photographs from the 1997 Canterbury Mountaineer Volume 59 to see the joy he took from being in, and climbing on, the mountains.

I hope all club members enjoy the spring and all the mountaineering, climbing and skiing opportunities that it brings.

Nick Moyle
President

June Club Night

Antarctic Field Work

Gideon Geering

Despite the prevalence of all things Antarctic in Christchurch, a good crowd turned up to hear Gideon talk about his first season working as an Antarctic Field Trainer.

Gideon is well known to the club, having been an instruction coordinator for us earlier in his career. It was pleasing to see he has continued to rise through the ranks in the outdoor industry to secure this position and we hear he will return for his second season later this year.

As far as his talk was concerned, we got a good look at what our tax dollars are being spent on at Scott Base. The highlight of the night was his excellent film-tour taken around Scott Base and within the Hillary Field Centre. All were impressed by the facilities, which were of outstanding design, cleanliness and comfort. Also, the sheer logistics of putting scientists safely in the field was staggering.

Gideon was privileged to complete a short recreational trip in the Dry Valleys, and was able to experience the true wilderness of the continent with only one companion. On the whole, it seems a demanding and highly varied job in a challenging environment, made harder by being absent from his young family. A feature article about his first season in Antarctica will appear in the upcoming Canterbury Mountaineer due in 2012. Thanks Gideon.

Guy McKinnon

July Club Night

2010 CMC Mountaineer of the Year Award

AGM

CMC President Nick Moyle said it was to be a, 'fantastic night at Christ's College Old Boys Theatre'. For me, it did not disappoint. From the selection of cheeses and beverages, to the warm atmosphere and great conversations, it was a welcomed evening out. One may have been forgiven for assuming the evening was sponsored by a local cheese monger, such was the stunning range of cheeses on offer.

After a welcome from Nick, Graham Zimmerman was introduced and he was presented with 'the trophy'. Paul Hersey then gave a quick and amusing run-down on Graham's climbing and wedding breakfast exploits on these shores. My first question after hearing his accent was predictable, and was answered within minutes. Born in Wellington, Graeme and his family moved to America when he was just four. He returned at 18 to study in the 'deep south'.

Graeme gave a lively presentation mixed with a nice selection of slides, videos and brilliantly fitting music. He really emphasised that what he had learnt in the NZ Alps i.e. poor conditions, waiting long periods of time for weather and long approaches, set him up for climbing in the greater ranges. This was particularly evident on a trip to Patagonia where most of the time was spent drinking wine and watching the rain fall before succeeding on the route. The highlight of the evening was the footage of his climb with Mark Allen on Mt Bradley, Alaska. This proved to be a long route with little food, but ultimately successful. Again, thank you to all those behind organising the evening. A great venue made the evening another pleasant one out.

Arianna Summers

August Club Night

In the footsteps of Mannering and Dixon

Hugh Logan

I was told by Hugh Logan at 8.03pm that the people in the front rows wanted to 'get on with things'. So Hugh did. Hugh outlined a trip in November 2010 whereby Steve Moffat and Steve Gurney replicated a near ascent of Mt Cook and paddle down the Tasman River, Lake Pukaki and Waitaki River by George Mannering and Marmaduke Dixon in 1890.

Hugh started the evening off by giving a little background to both Mannering and Dixon. It was amusing to hear of Mannering and his way of addressing people by their surname. Mannering and Dixon did a few minor ascents of Mt Torlesse, Mt Enys etc before having a crack at Mt Cook.

Just even getting to the Tasman Glacier proved a real mission compared to now, with a long detour around the Mueller to get over the unbridged Hooker Glacier. From a camp at the Haast Ridge bivvy rock, Mannering and Dixon headed up the ridge, over Galcier Dome and across the Plateau to the Linda. This they ascended in the heat of the day. Armed with a sketch map provided by Reverend Green, they climbed Green's Gully to the summit ice cap. However, with woolen clothing, a cold breeze and the sun behind the mountains, they found themselves very cold. They ended up turning around with an hour to go to the summit. After descending to the bivouac, they then headed down, collected their kayaks for the paddle leg of the journey. At Glenavy they disembarked and took the train back to Christchurch.

So Steve Moffat and Steve Gurney decided to retrace their steps. Moffat even wore gear from the era, right down to single leather tricouni boots, a

diet of Bovril and oats and old wooden kayak. Gurney meanwhile was equipped with all the modern gear. In a nod to modern times, Moffat wore a modern harness and ropes. And they took along Gavin Lang as a guide, Scott Simper as cameraman and Hugh as camera assistant.

A long slog up Haast Ridge had them at Haast Hut. From here it was as Mannering and Dixon had done 120 years earlier. In an eerily similar turn of events, Moffat was near hypothermic when he reached the ice cap and turned around. Gurney kept on for the summit with Simper and Lang.

The following day was a descent down the Freshfields Glacier to the cars, a meal and a rest at The Hermitage. However, sore feet for Steve Moffat—well, actually mild frostbite—delayed the kayak leg of the trip.

The kayak leg seemed to be pretty challenging compared to Mannering and Dixon's trip. This is because the number of canals and lakes—Ruataniwha, Benmore, Aviemore and Waitaki—before getting to the Waitaki River. Even this seemed to daunt the kayakers, particularly with the large number of willows lining the banks—a real nightmare for kayakers. The trip finished with Moffat and Gurney loading their kayaks onto a train at Glenavy.

Quite a few questions followed and then, inexplicably, the DVD failed to fire. Despite the technological hitch at the end, Hugh delivered a very entertaining and informative account of both journeys to a good sized crowd.

Nick Moyle

NZ Mountain Film Festival

This film night is being held on 15 September 2011 at the Aurora Centre, Burnside High School to raise funds to help the refurbishment of Lockwood Shelter at Temple Basin. The shelter was named after George Lockwood and was built for the enjoyment of other people in the mountains for generations to come. Tickets are \$18 for club members and are available from Bivouac Tower Junction. Here is a list of the films to be shown:

Films

1/ *Breast Hill Carbon Free*, 3 mins, NZ Mountain Film Festival winning short film from the 2011 Film Editing Competition. Biking from home to Breast Hill, climbing its steep flanks, then flying back down to Lake Hawea. A carbon free adventure.

2/ *Towers of the Ennedi*, 13 mins, USA, 2011, Directed by Renan Ozturk.

A crazy and wild adventure to document the first ever climbing in the remote Ennedi desert of Chad, Africa. After four days and 800km following a GPS coordinate on a roadless wasteland they found themselves among thousands of beautiful unclimbed towers.

Special Jury Award

3/ *The Whole Nine Yards*, 10 mins, NZ, 2010, Directed by Tim Pierce.

A ski film based up in the mountains surrounding Mt Cook.

Winner of the Hiddleston/ MacQueen Award for the Best NZ made film

4/ *No Ceiling*, 55 mins, Australia, 2010, Directed by Glenn Singleman.

Join Glenn and Heather as they travel to Mt Meru (6672m) in a remote part of the Garwhal Himalaya in India to see if they could break the record for the world's highest BASE jump. But first Heather, a regular and quite non-adventurous woman, has to learn how to BASE jump and climb.

Best Film on Adventurous Sports and Lifestyles

5/ *Chimaera: Sounds of Winter*, 7mins, 2011, Canada, Directed by David Mossop & Malcolm Sangster.

To make this short film a unique camera system capable of shooting over 1000 frames per second was used. Chimaera slows our perception of reality and offers an unprecedented look at a skier's life.

Best Short Film

6/ *The Swiss Machine*, 20 mins, USA, 2011, Directed by Peter Mortimer & Nick Rosen Ueli Steck may be the greatest speed alpinist the world has ever seen. In this film he tells the stories of his record-breaking ascents in the Alps, accompanied by stunning aerial footage of him racing up 8,000 foot alpine faces.

Best Film on Climbing

7/ *Cold*, 19 mins, USA, 2011, Directed by Anson Fogel. Some language may offend. Cory Richards became the first American to summit an 8,000m peak in winter and it almost killed him and his partners. Cory filmed the climb as it happened, and filmmaker Anson Fogel has transformed that footage into a raw, unflinching view of humanity at its limits.

NZMFF Grand Prize for 2011



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26 June 2011 Mt Phipps

This was my first club trip, so I was excited to be heading for the hills.

I got a flat tyre before we'd even left, so after a change of cars and a stop for petrol, we were on our way to Arthur's for the night (Saturday), this would allow us a super duper early start.

The alarm went off at 5am and after a few more minutes' shuteye, it was time to get up and be ready to head out by 6am.

The morning was crisp and clear ... a short van ride from Kennedy Lodge to the Temple Basin carpark and the grunt work was about to begin.

After having walked the access track twice, three weeks earlier on the CMC Intermediate Skills weekend, I knew what was ahead in the dark, but still

an enjoyable way to start the morning, especially as the surrounding mountains started to show themselves.

We lost one member of the party on the walk up, an old injury giving him trouble ... a wise mountaineer, knowing when to turn around.

A brief stop at the day shelter for a snack and drink, then onwards for the upper slopes of Temple. We left the ski area boundary and crossed under Phipps and across our first patch of snow and ice—winter has been a bit slow coming, with most of the peaks only just getting a white coat. A quick stop to put crampons on and ice axe out, and away we went again.

Nick led us to a small gut and disappeared up it to see if we could get through. A couple of others saw how easy Nick made it look, so had ago themselves, but after making about five





metres, slowly down-climbed and decided to wait for a top rope to be set up. One by one we made our way thru the gut, I lost feeling in most of the fingers on my go, so was glad to make it thru and unrope and take a rest while the others had their go. From there, we accessed a nice snowfield leading up to the ridge.

After getting a crampon in the helmet, I knew I was a bit close to the climber in front of me, so allowed a bit more room; the ridge was reached and fantastic 360 degrees views were had.

The ridge was a mix of rock, snow and ice, which I really enjoyed.

We stopped short of the summit of Phipps and had lunch; overcast skies above us allowed for some beautiful colours on the Tasman Sea, just needed a filter on the camera.

From the summit, the decision was made to traverse the west ridge from Phipps all the way back down to the base of the goods lift, near the highway.

So back down the rock, snow and ice

ridge, past where we joined the ridge from the snowfield and below any remaining snow and ice, so the crampons came off and put back in the pack. Then onto a couple of steeper sections that required some down-climbing and a small abseil/traverse to continue our descent.

Out onto the lower slopes and faster travel through the tussocks and spear grass, and on the lookout for the quickest way back to the car. All the group made it back to the car by 5pm, the sun light had left the valley but still gave Phipps a sweet white glow.

Back to Kennedy Lodge for a hot drink, some more food and pack the overnight gear back into the cars, then back on the road and heading back to town.

The end of a great day in the hills and plenty of photos to look back on...

Party: Andy Cowan, Chris Hill, Dave Persson, Heath Rainey, Steve Laird, Luke Gilchrist, Nick Moyle, Calvyn Clark (scribe)



20-21 August 2011 Sealy Range ski touring

Nine lucky people toured the Sealy Range from Wyn Irwin Hut to the Metelille Glacier via Mueller Hut and out down the Mueller Glacier, even skiing across the lake and into the back door of the hut—it was, in the words of one member, a once in a lifetime experience...

The Saturday morning began in typical fashion with several keen individuals leaving early, while the more sagacious stayed behind under the pretext of doing the dishes and securing the hut—thus avoiding a tough snow plug breaking trail up to Sealy Tarns. For many, this was the physical crux of the trip with the track obliterated by heavy snowfall. Luckily, our hut warden Cam Mulvey used his local knowledge and kept the party on track.

Everyone caught up at the tarns and Grant Guise showed his class and cut an enviable (yet achievable) skin track most of the way to Mueller. Here, some relaxed, while others had runs off the peaklet immediately behind the hut or else nearby, showing skills reminiscent of recent Teton Gravity Research productions. It was obvious now that we had a strong skiing party (barring the author) and assuming that we could avoid any mountaineering difficulties, would do great deeds.

After a warmish night, we had a relaxed 9am start to skin up to the Annette. With multiple skiing options open to us, we made a last minute decision to ski the Metelille and out the Mueller. It proved to be a good call.

After Guy and Cam led out, another couple staying at the hut took over and were soon calling for crampons at the infamous Sebastopol 'ridge of death' where several fatalities have occurred in the past. We got spooked and everyone geared up with sharps, but only a few steps were needed and some

skied right across with no trouble, prompting some 'what was that all about' feelings, but it is better to be safe than sorry. Also, we got a good ride up on their tracks so couldn't complain.

Soon we breached the 'little Annette' and got a look down into the Metelille. It was all on and the wide open slopes and gullies looked likely to give good skiing. Everyone took their time getting down, relishing their turns and affecting styles reminiscent of classic NZ 80's ski movie *The Leading Edge*. Except, that is, for the author who proved correct Bill McLeod's famous dictum that 'a ski that slides is a ski that is out of control.'

After some more skinning, we worked some gullies and natural terrain park type features all the way down the Mueller, getting stunning views of Mt Sefton. We even had pleasant shade in the

confines of the glacier just as team water and food supplies started to run low. We were dreading the lakeside moraine bash under Kea Point, but found the lake well-frozen, and after some initial tentative steps, struck out at pace. A few yokels were yelling from the track high above and there was some speculation as to their nationality, as we were afraid they might roll the boulders of the top of the moraine wall, in which case we would have to show skills reminiscent of the Russians crossing the ice road on Lake Ladoga during the infamous siege of Leningrad.

We were all expecting the goodness to end in a rock hop, but ended up ski-





ing to within a stone's throw of the first Hooker Bridge. A short carry of skis in the grass, and we were back on the hard snow that has hung in really well around White Horse and Foliage Hills this season. We skied to the back door of the hut at 4pm.

Naturally, to celebrate we had a Cham-
ois Bar meal and drinks. Some stayed the
night while others left. Special mention
must be made here of two members;
Sarah Hayes—who stoically completed
the whole trip in downhill boots, and of
course, Cam Mulvey, whose savoir-faire
and all round tre-coolness were reminis-
cent of legendary French alpine skier
Sylvain Saudan.

Check out the CMC Facebook page
for more photos!

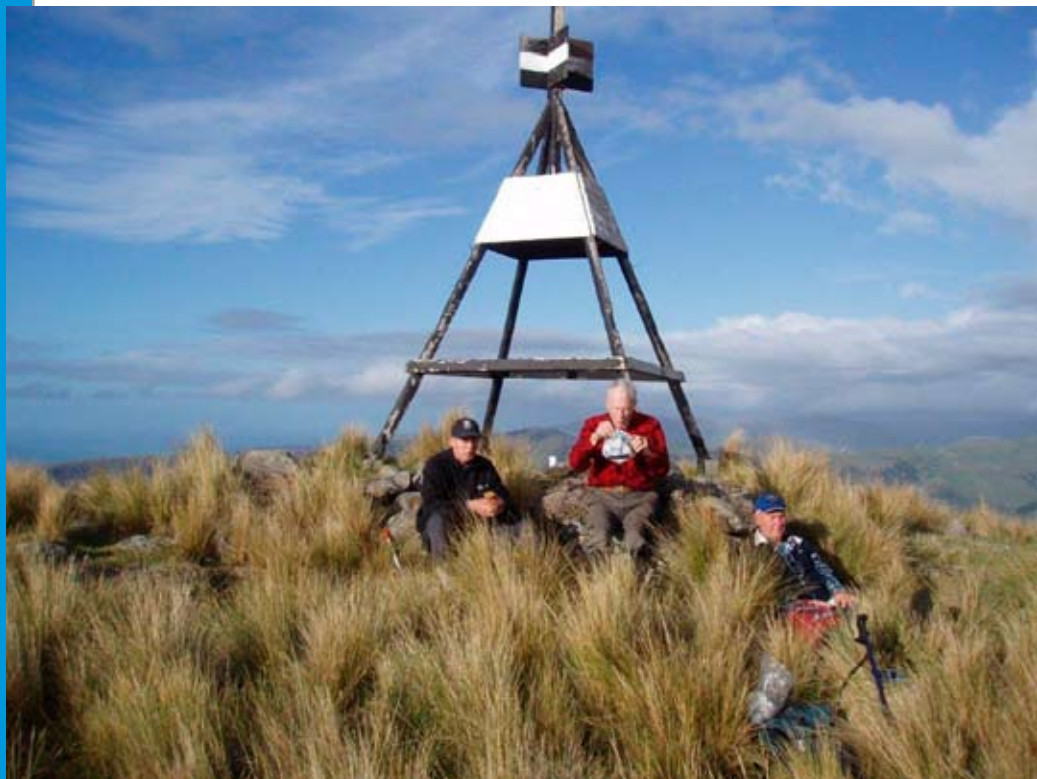
*Party: Cam Mulvey (leader), Grant
Guise, Luke Wigram, Will Davies, Sarah
Hayes, Hamish Mcilwrick, Daniel Lieber-
man, Anne-Laure Le Ny, Guy McKinnon
(scribe)*

28 May 2011 Mt Evans (Banks Peninsula)

After several delays due to attempts to get hut work parties to Park Morpeth, Barker, and Waimak Falls away—now abandoned until next summer—we finally decided to make our attempt to climb Mt Evans on the last Saturday in May. It was Mt Evans only, as the farmer whose land we had to cross to reach Addersley Head is refusing to let anyone on his land fullstop. Even then, there was forecast to be a southerly front crossing over the Peninsula in the morning, so we decided to meet at Princess Margaret car park at midday. We drove over Dyers Pass and through Diamond Harbour, seeing some of the earthquake damage there to park on Purau Saddle.

From the Saddle, we set off up through rough cattle paddocks to a ridge above the paddocks that led us up through an interesting layer of pancake rocks to the top. We managed to find shelter from the cool breeze to enjoy the view to Mt Herbert and across the Harbour to Lyttleton, while having a late lunch. Then a fast walk back to the Saddle and drive to get back to Princess Margaret as darkness fell. It was a good brisk afternoon walk to claim another peak.

Party: Robin Muirson, Brian Patrick, Rod Helm, and Gordon Habgood (scribe)



12 June 2011 Hill 1260 Porters Pass



It was cloudy in Christchurch as three of us left Church Corner, although we hoped it would be clear over the foothills (but likely to be windy!). We met up with Graham and Don at Sheffield and Rod Thomson at Springfield. Windy was an understatement, it was blowing a gale. However, we veterans are of sterner stuff and were going to complete this comparatively short trip to the top of Hill 1260 to fill in another gap in foothills we have climbed. We did, although at times in places more exposed to the gale several of us did get swept off our feet. The top was very windy as you may be able to see in the photograph supporting each other to stand. We had to be strong though as three young ladies on a coast to coast training run were there too. Then we retreated to a saddle with bush on the eastern, and sheltered, side to have a late morning tea.

Then we retreated back to the vehicles parked not far over Porters Pass on the western side. It was still blowing in there, so we drove down to the old roadmans hut by the big trees for lunch. Hardly salubrious, but another historic site visited, as we usually drive past at speed. Then back to town at a comparatively early hour having completed a trip that was as much as could be expected in such weather conditions.

Party: Robin Muirson, Graham Gough, Don Reid, Rod Helm, Rod Thomson, and Gordon Habgood (scribe)

2 July 2011 Mt Grey

The weather was cloudy over the city as we departed Dublin Street, but clear skies promised over Mt Grey. We stopped in Woodend to pick up John's cousin, Bryan, then proceeded via Am-



berley to the DoC Grey River picnic area. From the picnic area, we walked across the concrete ford over the Grey River to start up the most direct track to the summit of Mt Grey, zig-zagging steadily up through the native bush then near the top tussock, to the Trig. There it was, mostly covered in snow, and there was a bitterly cold north-east wind so we retreated below the ridge for shelter from the wind for lunch.

After a brief gathering at the Trig for the obligatory photo resulting in frozen hands for the photographers who had to remove their gloves, we set off down the northern ridge which lead down in a "U" to take us south before crossing

the Grey River and following the Red Beech track back to the picnic area. At the river crossing, an old DoC sign had us worried indicating that route would take us an hour longer than the sign at the summit said, and what it actually took us, as we would have been in the dark for the last part. As it turned out it was just getting dark as we passed through Amberley. Apart from the cold wind and the cloud over the plains limiting the view of Christchurch it was an excellent winter's day trip.

Party: Rod Helm, John Chivers, Bryan Chivers, Robin Muirson, Malcolm Carr, and Gordon Habgood (scribe).

6 August 2011
Mt Alford



With some cloud about and the expectation of strong north westerly winds, three of us departed Church Corner to Mt Alford, stopping enroute at Graham's to pick him up. It was not too warm, allowing us to make good time climbing up the track to the bushline. Then we were exposed to the wind, although it was not as strong as what we could see driving clouds over Mt Hutt where the ski field looked rather rocky and lacking in activity. As we neared the ridge leading to the top, we had some sleety rain but fortunately it was brief.

On the ridge, we were in snow but it had been blown clear at the top. With the plains overcast, we could only enjoy

the views of the surrounding mountains and with the cold wind we didn't linger long, only for the obligatory photographs. Fortunately we didn't have to retreat too far to find a spot out of the wind to have lunch. While there, we were treated to the sight of a splendid rainbow with its top at about the same height as us, so out came the cameras again. Then a gentle amble down to the car park and so home after a pleasantly fulfilling day in the mountains.

Party: Brian Pattrick, Johnathon Pascoe, Graham Gough, and Gordon Habgood (scribe)



Intermediate Mountaineering 04-06 June 2011

After a few seasons of my ski touring starting to impinge on the ski mountaineering bracket, I decided I had better learn what I should be doing and not just what my mates told me to.

So on Friday night, after unfortunately finishing work at 22:30 in Ashburton, I raced over to Kennedy Lodge and joined the rest of the guys on the course. The plan had been in flux as the weather wasn't playing ball, with no snow and unseasonably warm temperatures. Email traffic had been flying, but not much had been decided.

On Saturday morning the decision was made to stay local and we all headed off to Castle Hill to practice some climbing skills in a top roped environment. Here is where one of many lessons occurred.

After being a long time inhabitant of terra firma, where objects in hand can only fall from roughly chest height onto



the floor and thus easily retrievable, I found myself attached to an anchor, with my descender sailing off down to my previously beloved earth, which kind of set the scene for me copping plenty of flack from our esteemed leader Gideon. Especially when I did it again a short time later. Lesson learned.

This day was great for me as I got to practice many of the skills in a safe environment with plenty of people close by to critique. We practiced abseiling, belaying, descending past knots, using prussic knots and some facets of glacier travel.

The end of Day One saw some tired bodies off to the lodge for debrief, more rope practice and then a well-earned beer.

Day Two started early, heading up to Temple Basin ski field to put some of the previous days' skills into practice. Again, Gideon found a spot where the rock was bolted and we had a day of placing various types of protection as well as





a section of dry tooling. It is surprising how much grip pointy metal objects can give you on hard rock.

At the end of the day, we had a final session on rope work as well as an amusing “escaping the system” demo, which I managed to recreate as an unrecognisable mass of rope and prussics.

The final day brought more good weather. We headed back up to Temple Basin with a view to ascending Mt Temple. We teamed up with those that had ropes, divided various peoples' racks and set off, practicing as much of our new skills as possible and avoiding dropping stuff.

For me, it was a perfect grade to start on, not too much exposure, plenty of protection and great views to boot. We all gradually wound our way up the initial pitched section and then along the ridge, without too many problems. Lunch was shared with the resident keas and then it was time to descend. We found some not too steep or technical sections to belay and descend down, with a bit of scree running thrown in for

good measure, finally depositing us back at the ski field. I managed to get myself stuck with an ill-placed prussic on an abseil, providing more amusement for Gideon.

We headed back to the lodge for final day debrief, questions and planning of the next mission. Overall it was a great course, which although had people with differing levels of experience, provided more than enough new skills or practice to keep all interested. Thanks to Gideon Geering and Jim Massam for a great weekend of instruction.

Course Participants: Chris Hill (scribe), David Bark, Calvyn Clark, Peter Jaksons, Merv Rhind, Ursula Jewell, Gavin Raymond, Marta Scott

Avalanche Awareness 23-24 July 2011

We all know that working and playing in alpine environments can be risky, especially in avalanche prone terrain—but what does that look like? What causes one slope to avalanche days before another? Why is wind such a major factor in the New Zealand alps?

We didn't even know what questions to

ask, let alone the answers to those questions, before we signed up for the recent CMC Avalanche Awareness course led by Al Moore on 23 and 24 July 2011. Under Al's expert guidance, we spent a couple of days based in Arthur's Pass discovering how complicated H2O can be. The weather on Saturday allowed us to have a good day out in Temple basin looking at different types of terrain, solar aspects and wind effects and how these



factors affect route finding. We also learnt how to analyse the snowpack profile to identify layers of weakness. We then had some fun trying to find our buried Tupperware victim “wearing” a transceiver. The rescue was successful except that we punctured through our plastic victim with the probe. Kennedy Lodge became a mini-theatre on Saturday night with avalanche safety videos and powerpoint presentations



which were reinforced on Sunday before the weather closed in and we beat a hasty retreat to Christchurch. Two days of professional instruction isn't nearly enough to become competent in assessing avalanche risk, but it is a great start and I would encourage all members to do a course like this.

Trip participants: Andrew and Marta Scott. We would both like to acknowledge the support of the Christopher Fenwick Fund and the Stan Forbes Trust Fund.



Four days of summer in the Gardens January 2011

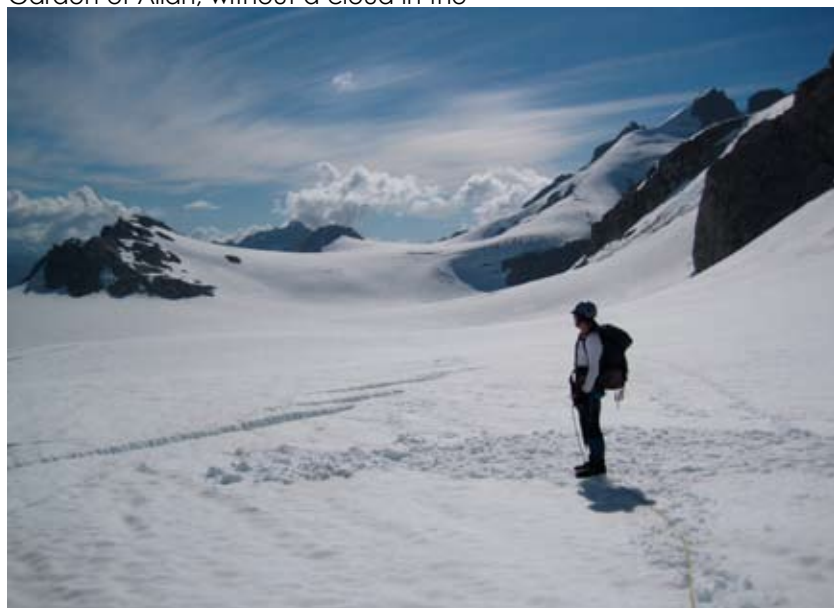
After a spring of continual nor-westerly winds, we waited for a good weather window before making our long anticipated exploration of the Garden of Eden and the Garden of Allah. We were not disappointed. This is a magnificent place, even if global warming is slowly shrinking the ice cover. Because of high rivers (and our advancing years), we allowed ourselves the luxury of a heli flight up to the foot of Wee McGregor Glacier, from where we climbed up to Perth Col and Mt Baker and walked across the Garden of Eden to a much-used but empty campsite at Adams Col. We were surprised to see no other climbers at all during four days of brilliant weather in the Gardens in mid-January.

The team was Dave Laurie, Stephen John, and Andy Buchanan, armed with the excellent new NZAC/CMC book on The Canterbury Westland Alps. On day two, we climbed the south face of Newton Peak and walked into the top of the Garden of Allah, without a cloud in the



sky. We completed the circuit of the John Pascoe Ridge by walking down Allah to Icefall Lookout and climbing back through the Col to our campsite. Day three was another gorgeous day, with an unsuccessful attempt through the slots on Mt Farrar. On day four, we started the long journey home via Mt Baker and Perth Col, then down to the Clyde through Wee McGregor and Colin Campbell Glaciers to Frances Stream and the McCoy hut, before a final day's walk out to Erewhon, as the food ran out and the weather came in.

Andy Buchanan



A Canadian take on NZ climbing, roads & lazy road workers

We came to New Zealand to climb alpine routes. A friend from England said we'd love it; like Canada, uncrowded, not much of a scene, tons of route potential. Then again, an Aussie had just complained about the weather, but...they're good surfers aren't they.

A UK shipping company had our bag for an extra two weeks. During the wait, we climbed an awesome route in the Ordessa Valley. With the bags definitely not in the mail, we bailed on skiing the Haute route in France, conditions weren't favourable in Chamonix, it had rained in North Wales, and now we were picnicking and camping our way around the North Island waiting for our gear.

Finally, we made it out skiing at Whakapapa. The pronunciation on that one had us giggling like school kids for a few days. We've never skied ice quite like that! As the guidebook says, "skis may not be an aid to navigation". Wondered what they meant until we got out on the most bulletproof ice I've ever seen. Along with gale force winds, it made things interesting. But it was school holidays and the kids seemed to love it.

Onto the South Island and two days in Arthur's Pass. We started by laying triumphant first tracks off Rolleston's Low Peak into Bealey Face basin one day after a big storm—let the crowds at Temple Basin choke on those views! I wouldn't trust the stability that much in the Rockies though. Gloated back at Kennedy Lodge about the poor Kiwis attempting to go mountaineering but just postholing instead; Haha, what are they thinking, why don't they ski? The second day provided our answer as we ended up on a rock hard rain crust with no axes or crampons. It is easy to get overcommitted facing in on the way up until one turns around and has to skitter and slide down. Maybe the locals might know a thing or two after all.

Finally off to the big league, Mt. Cook village—a three day window with only scattered flurries on the second day... arrived at Wyn Irwin in the dark Tuesday, left in the dark Wednesday, skied across the frozen Mueller Lake in the morning (is it worth this risk to skip scree bashing on the shore?)—saw Vampire and all doubt evaporated, look at those lines! Wednesday morning ignored the avo debris to the base of the gully, best single swing ice ever, up five pitches by noon when it began to "flurry". Factors which enter into bailing: flurries become heavy spindrift in the gully as it drains two faces of the mountain; no helmet (Kiwi gear is way too expensive); drop the belay jacket; wife not so keen on rapping in the dark; read about killer Southern Alps storms...

Back at The Best Alpine Club Hut in The World we met Cameron, lead hand and wealth of experience. After Cam ascertained that we were not recently evicted possum hunters, all settled in well. Proceeded to get recurrent bout of sleepy eye flu and spent the next week "sifting". When in Rome... Kristina and Cam managed to ski the Olivier Couloir which is in rare nick, then we left to begin...THE ROAD TRIP FROM HELL

As Canadians we had been mildly amused by the inability of the nation to deal with winter and snow. Foolishly thinking we would sightsee on the way to Christchurch airport to pick up arriving family coming on a ski holiday, we decided to go back through Arthur's Pass. Little did we know the third snow storm of the month, once again billed as the "storm of the century" was about to hit. In a heavy snowstorm we drove up Arthur's Pass Sunday night and coasted down to a DOC site past Castle Hill to "Freedom Camp" (a uniquely Kiwi term for sleeping in your truck). Little did we realise that the mighty Porter's Pass Hill lay ahead, until the next morning.

At 9am we were stopped by a young kid (road maintenance), insisting on chains

for all vehicles. The problem was one of his incompetent "sit-on-your-ass-and-call-it-work" colleagues had gotten their grader stuck coming up the hill, cause they didn't have chains. Now I'm going to come across as a brash Canadian, but...WE DRIVE LONG DISTANCES AT HIGH SPEED ON ROADS THAT ARE COVERED IN SNOW FOR FOUR or FIVE MONTHS EVERY WINTER. I know, there's the famous Black Ice: we have that too. No talking to this kid. What's the solution? Go get some chains he says. So... we drive back up Arhtur's Pass, down Ofira Gorge (16 percent grade), to Greymouth, buy some NZ-made chains for \$300 (cost about half that where we live), drive up the 16 percent grade, Freedom Camp exhausted at Arhtur's Pass, drive down the mighty Porter's Pass as all the road maintenance workers have given up and not bothered ploughing anything and gone home to bed.

And the clincher. We didn't bother putting on the chains for any of it as we drive a Bighorn. Now, I've driven lots of cheap econo-boxes with chains, spent my time on my knees. Now that I'm not a diehard climbing bum and actually work I can afford a 4x4, and so don't need the things. See, in the aforementioned Canada, nobody in their right mind puts chains on a 4x4 and drives down the highway; that's why you pay all the extra for gas! Sure, if you're going logging, or moose hunting, or...driving a road clearing machine in a strong snow storm, there's a place for chains on a 4x4. But just to drive down Porters Pass?

But we learned a lesson from some Kiwi friends who said "You should have just driven on by". Maybe in life, as in climbing, one has to separate oneself from the herd and exert will power, leave the worries in the valleys or at the roadblocks. Unable to do so on Vampire I fell for it a second time on the drive. Getting old!

NZ seems like a country of extremes. The friendliest Mountaineering Club with the best located mountain lodge in the world. The worst winter drivers in a country that claims to have a booming ski industry. The in the know sheep farmers of the West Coast who could only laugh along with us as we described the scene at Porters. The incompetent road maintenance company who clearly is given no incentive to keep any roads open.

But oh well, tourists like ourselves are forever drawn here because of the superlative mountains, just a shame that no one can ever get to a ski field until about three days after a storm.

I am going to spread the word to some harder friends in the Rockies that there are unclimbed plums to be picked in the Southern Alps, but I'll also warn them of the sometimes hostile reception given to tourists, the unbelievable costs (\$3.50 croissant at the bakery, \$5 locker for your clothes at Poly Spa in RotaVegas having already paid \$40 for two to enter, \$18 French toast at a local coffee shop), the unfeasibility of buying gear locally (\$450 single 60 meter rope, \$340 Wild Country large cam, wow, wouldn't believe it if I hadn't seen it), the hassles associated with driving... Bit of a hard sell for a North American when Alaska is so near and the greater ranges are closer. Europe's even more affordable than this island. Seems like some burnt out folks in the tourism trade need to realise that there are other places where the locals aren't openly rude to visitors.

Then again, those unclimbed danglers on Vampire, Bill and Ted's, Mt. Tutuko's west face, the lack of any crowds...

I guess that's why New Zealand is unique, love it or sometimes hate it.

Ian Welsted

Well a bit of mountaineering has been happening.

Matt Gilchrist and Dara Malin have been busy in the USA with ascents of Mt Torment, Mt Shuksan and Mt Baker in the Cascades National Park. Matt and Dara also climbed Starr King and Mt Clark in the Yosemite National Park and Matt wandered up Valencia Peak in California in late July.

Guy McKinnon rolled up Sebastopol in July.

At the end of July, Ben Brown had a good day out on Mt Edward at Tekapo.

In mid-August, Marta and Andrew Scott climbed Mt Rolleston's Low Peak via Rome Ridge while Tom Hu and Andrew Perkins enjoyed surprisingly warm conditions on an ascent of the Otira Slide.

On the same day, Vaughan Snowden and Rowan Sinton had excellent conditions on a Philistine-Rolleston traverse.

Al Moore rolled up the Otira Slide and had a ski off the Low Peak in mid-August.

Mark Flintoff had a good day out on Blimit and Mt Cassidy in late June.

West Coast Neves Trip

In July, Josh Hudson and Kieran Parsons made their way to Pioneer hut. The pair climbed the Marcel Face of Mt Haast via route 14.56. Two days later they climbed the Albino Marino route on Mt Haidinger. Conditions were excellent with plenty of good ice that made abseiling the routes on v-threads the best option for descent. The West Coast was busy with action that week. Rob Frost and Scott Scheele climbed Silberhorn from the Balfour. Later they made their way to Pioneer and climbed the Central Couloir of Douglas Peak. Based on the hut book they were the third party to climb the route this winter (as of mid July). Jono and Jerm of Fox Glacier (last names unknown) also climbed route 14.56 on Mt Haast with a speedy 50min descent to the Heemskirk Glacier using the v-threads that Josh and Kieran made two days earlier.

Kieran Parsons

Book Launch: *Summits and Shadows*—Jack Clarke and New Zealand mountaineering

A combined CMC/NZAC event took place at the Papanui Community Centre in early August for the South Island launch of Graham Langton's book on Jack Clarke titled *Summits and Shadows - Jack Clarke and New Zealand mountaineering*. A crowd of around 50 mainly Alpine Club members were present.

The evening started with a very quick AGM for the NZAC Canterbury-Westland branch. I'd been forewarned by Grant Piper that this AGM was run like a North Korean election but even I was surprised by the speed of it.

Graham then stood up and gave a great overview of Jack Clarke and his life. A few years back Graham gave a superb lecture to the CMC about Clarke and his climbing. It was interesting to hear Graham state that since then he has learnt a great deal more about Jack Clarke. Graham's talk was illustrated with a good selection of photographs and he also gave due credit to CMC stalwarts John Michael and Bryan Stickle for their help in his research.

Thanks go to Grant Piper for arranging a fine selection of wine and to the Alpine Club for letting us share the book launch.

Nick Moyle

Open letter to club members

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Upon receiving my June—August CMC News, several things became glaringly obvious to me. Many people are in our club however, most of the work is done by a loyal group.

I felt a pang of guilt, so instead of having another glass of wine, decided to do something about it and put pen to paper. We are all busy, an under statement in an already strange and busy year. This should be a motivator rather than a barrier to contributing. More people doing smaller amounts of work, endeavoring to lighten the load.

Many of our planned adventures do not get off the ground. Does that mean we can not contribute? I don't believe so. Those of us who are able to sneak in an adventure here or there should write it up and send it in. These shared experiences are sometimes just what others need to motivate them.

Thanks so much to all those who contribute regularly big or small.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Nāku nā, Ariana Summers

Stockaid ER food ration packs

Stockaid is a NZ Medical Equipment Supply company who have just imported a limited supply of ER Food ration Packs which may be of interest.

ER Food bars contain 3600 calories in each pack and are designed to supply all the nutrition required for one adult to survive for three days in the event of an accident or survival emergency. They are approved by the US coastguard and The US Homeland Security Service. Each bar is supplied in a resealable foil packet, completely waterproof and would be ideal in the bottom of a backpack or rucksack. The bars break into 9 separate blocks, each block represents one meals worth of nutrition.

For more information or to order, email info@stockaid.co.nz or visit our website <http://www.stockaid.co.nz> to make a purchase online.

Welcome to new members

The following are new members - welcome to the club!

Aaron Strider
Fiona Thomson
Ian Welstead
Tony Rac
Benjamin Brown
Matt McKessar
Steven Fortune
Hamish Quinlan
Daniel Lieberman
Daniel Rae
David Wilkinson
Sharon Brophy
Mike Jennings

South Ridge of Aoraki-Mt Cook renamed

The South Ridge of Aoraki/Mount Cook has been renamed the Hillary Ridge in honour of Sir Edmund Hillary. The decision was announced by Land Information Minister Maurice Williamson on 10 August 2011.

The Hillary Ridge name became official on 18 August 2011 when it was gazetted by the Geographic Board.

Founders Trust Update

Deryck Morse set up the Founders Trust to enable the CMC to maintain its backcountry huts. In the terms of the deed, refunds to the CMC for its expenditure on huts can only be given for back country huts. This excludes the Wyn Irwin and Kennedy huts. Deryck also set up the trust so that other members would consider leaving or giving shares or financial support to the Trust. If you want to give a donation to the Founders Trust then please contact Graeme Jacobs gjarch@paradise.net.nz or Nick Moyle moylen9@yahoo.com

In the 2010/11 financial year \$838 was given by the Founders Trust to maintain the CMC backcountry huts.

Check out this climbing video.....

Ice Is Nice

<http://vimeo.com/27808595>

"Backyard And Beyond team members Shelley and Paul Hersey and Jamie Vinton-Boot team up with Graham Zimmerman to hunt for new ice routes in New Zealand's Southern Alps during the winter of 2011."

CMC Club nights : normally held third Thursday every month in the Club-room upstairs at Pioneer Sports Stadium, Lyttelton Street, Spreydon. Varied programme of speakers, including club members, overseas climbers and exponents of other adventure sports. Start time 7.30pm for socialising, 8pm lecture.

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 Robin Muirson, phone 03 357 4800 or 027 434 4122 or from Greg Ewing, phone 358 4346. **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 Instruction Courses

- Alpine Snow Skills: Beginner & Intermediate or Advanced
- Avalanche Awareness & Back-country Experience
- Ski Touring
- Alpine Rock Skills: Beginner & Intermediate
- Instruct the Instructors

For more info contact Vaughan Snowdon, Instruction Coordinator, email: snowdood@gmail.com or visit our website at www.cmc.net.nz

Facebook Page

The CMC now has its own Facebook page. Go to:
http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/home.php?sk=group_92021219861
to see photos and information about the club.

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.

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Change of Address

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

If undelivered, please return to:
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