

Hagley Tramping Club

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P.O Box 852, Christchurch 8140, NZ

www.hagleytrampingclub.net.nz

Affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.



FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE 2019

Welcome to the **Hagley Tramping Club** Newsletter.

The **Hagley Tramping Club** was originally established as the Hospital Tramping Club in 1974 with the aim of making the back country experience more accessible to the average person and to foster a respect for the wilderness.

The Club organises a variety of trips to suit all ages and levels of fitness. We encourage prospective new members to experience 2 or 3 trips to see if we suit their style before joining.

Newsletter Contents

Calendar of Trips & Social Events, Trip Reports & Pictures.

For general information about the club and trips, refer last two pages.

Club Email Address

For general communication: hagleytrampingclub@yahoo.co.nz

For information about trips, please ring the Trip Leader.



Claire & Pat on the Te Araroa Trail

Club Committee

Chairperson	*****	
Treasurer	Claire T	Ph 0210762500
Secretary	Dennis W	Ph 021 243 9999
Committee	Heather H (Website)	Ph 021 079 7101
	Dennis W (Newsletter)	Ph 021 243 9999
	Sally B	Ph 338 1097
	Pat N	Ph 021 167 9338
	Tere L	Ph 981 6431
Club Captain	Bill T	Ph 354 2277
New members contact	Wendy T	Ph 354 2277

***** No Chairperson was elected at the AGM.

The Club Captain is a technical leadership position available to advise anyone on equipment, trips etc. Please contact Bill if you have tramping enquiry.

(For specific tramps, contact the Trip Leader)

Committee Meetings are not “closed.” Any club member is welcome to come along to our meetings.

Advanced Trip Bookings

Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail

Planning is in progress for Easter.

See Easter Weekend in the Trips Calendar for details.

Sally needs to know now for expressions of interest.

Final decision by 25th Feb.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Sunday 03 February	Hinewai Reserve Banks Peninsula
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From the carpark to Otanerito Bay via Kereru Track for lunch and return via Valley Track. Really lovely bushwalking and good exercise as we drop about 500m to sea level and back up again.

Please phone Tere if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Tere Ph 981 6431

Easy Moderate Transport \$25

Depart from the main road outside Halswell School at 8.30am

Sunday 10 February	Little Mt Herbert (913m) from Kaituna Valley
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POSTPONED! (Dennis re-supplying Te Araroa trampers)

Wednesday 13 February at 7.30 pm	Committee Meeting
Committee Meeting at Tere's in Hornby.	

Sunday 17 February	Waipara Gorge
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CANCELLED DUE TO TOXIC CYANOBACTERIA ALGAE IN THE WAIPARA RIVER.

Impressive limestone cliffs, fossils, fascinating concretions, historic geology – it's got it all. Join me for wet feet (and more) wander through the Waipara Gorge. Be prepared to get wet.

Please phone or Glenda if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Glenda Ph 03 314 3365

Easy

Transport \$15

Depart from Richill St Belfast at 9.00am

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 February	Sudden Valley Explorer, APNP
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An overnigher up Sudden Valley with tents. Moderate grade with a lot of river crossings. Plan is to find a camp site beyond the biv and explore the upper valley. (This trip is classified as an “Explorer” as Tere has not previously been beyond the Barrier Falls)

Please phone or Tere if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Tere Ph 981 6431

Moderate

Transport \$25

Please book with Tere by Sunday 17 February

Wednesday 27 February at 7.30pm	Social Evening
	Amalfi Coast and Jersey
	Bill & Wendy’s home
<p>Bill & Wendy have recently walked the Amalfi Coast in Italy and around Jersey as well. They have invited us to their home to share their experience with an illustrated talk.</p> <p>Please contact Bill & Wendy if you do not know their address Ph 354 2277</p>	

Sunday 3 March	No planned trip
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Sunday 10 March	Mt Bealey APNP 1836m
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The track to Mt Bealey starts at the eastern end of Arthurs Pass Village. Track starts from a small carpark halfway up the Mt Bealey Road. A tramping track zig-zags through the beech forest onto the main ridge leading to Mt Bealey. The unmarked route then follows a tussock covered and rocky ridge to the summit of the low peak of Mt Bealey. Great views particularly up the Waimakariri River to the Shaler Range.

Return the same way.

Please phone or txt Vesna if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Vesna Ph 021 277 2422 Moderate Transport \$30

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 7.00am

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 March	Cass Saddle Tarns
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Walk up the Cass River to Cass Saddle, then climb a further 300m to the alpine tarns above the saddle to camp. Own tents and cookers required.

Maps BV20 and BV21.

Leaders Bill & Wendy Ph 354 2277 Moderate Plus Transport \$25

Please book with Bill & Wendy by Sunday 10 March

Sunday 24 March	Rakaia Walkway
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We walk the Rakaia Gorge Walkway to the end then cross country to lunch at Terrace Downs. Bring your own lunch, but we need to buy a drink to use their patio. We take the short cut back to the Walkway and return to the cars.

Please book with Dennis if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Dennis Ph 021 243 9999 Easy Transport \$15

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel carpark at 9.00am

Wednesday 27 March at 7.30pm

Abberley Crescent Hall

Tere's Foot Rally

Short social meeting with a review of recent trips and what's coming up on the program.

Tere is organising a Team's Foot Rally around the neighbourhood of Abberley Park. It's like a car rally on foot but we don't have to get lost and argue.

Supper to follow.

Sunday 31 March

Sector of ChCh 360 Trail

The 360 Trail rings Christchurch.

This walk will start at Bromley Community Centre in Bromley Rd, walk anti clockwise as far as want to and return via the Red Zone.

Please phone Tere if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Tere Ph 981 6431

Easy

Transport NA

Depart from Bromley Community Centre at 9.00am

Saturday 06 to Sunday 07 April

Tarn Hut

Tarn Hut is on a ridge in the headwaters of the Ashley River on the west side of Lees Valley. A little hut next to a Tarn with great view of the Puketeraki Range to the West.

Leader Heather Ph 021 079 7101

Moderate

Transport \$35

Please book with Heather by Sunday 31 March

Wednesday 10 April at 7.30 pm

Committee Meeting

Committee Meeting at Pat's in Avonhead.

Sunday 14 April	Kowai Hut & Bob's Knob
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Start from car park at the bottom of Porters Pass, to Kowai Hut, then a steep climb onto the ridge east of the hut. The ridge is really fascinating as it is populated by large docile vegetable sheep. Then traverse the ridge over several knobs back to the cars.

Please phone or text Dennis if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Dennis Ph 021 243 9999 Moderate Transport \$15
 Depart from Yaldhurst Tavern car park at 8.00am.

Easter Friday 19 to Monday 22 April	Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail
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A great opportunity to cycle this classic trail. (Google for more trail information)
 Details unconfirmed at the time of publication.

Please contact Sally now with expressions of interest as accommodation bookings need to be made asap.

Leader Sally Ph 338 1097	Cycling	Transport TBA
Please book with Sally. Expressions of interest now, closing date 25 Feb.		

Wednesday 24 April at 7.30pm
No social event planned.

Sunday 28 April	Mary Duncan Park - Port Hills
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We meet at Mary Duncan Park and climb the ridge between Horotane & Avoca Valleys onto the Port Hills. A hike around the hills returning the same way.

Mary Duncan Park is on Port Hills Rd on the right-hand side coming from the city just before Tunnel Rd.

Please phone Tere if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Tere Ph 981 6431

Easy

NA

Meet at Mary Duncan Park at 9.00am

Sunday 05 May	Port Levy Saddle to Montgomery Park (Te Ara Pataka Walkway)
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A great ridge tramp with interesting and varied landscape and native vegetation. Return the same way.

Please phone Sally if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Sally Ph 021 127 6419

Easy-Moderate

Transport \$15

Depart from the Main Rd outside Halswell School at 8.00am

Wednesday 08 May at 7.00 pm	Trip Planning
Trip Planning at Vesna's in Hornby.	

!!NOTE: Following trip is on Saturday due to Mother's Day Sunday.

Saturday 11 May	Woolshed Creek Circuit
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Woolshed Creek is on the south side of Mt Somers. From the car part we tramp to the Woolshed Creek Hut then climb via the Mt Somers Track to go around Mt Somers to the Rhyolite Track back to the cars. Great day trip.

Please phone Vesna if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Vesna Ph 021 277 2422

Moderate

Transport \$25

Depart from Z Station Main South Rd Templeton at 7.30am

Sunday 19 May	Anti Crow Hut
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Drive to car park at the east end of the Waimakariri Bridge in APNP. Relatively easy day walk through forest and tussocks up the Waimakariri River flats to the Anti Crow Hut and return. We may return via the river depending on the river conditions.

Please phone Heather if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Heather Ph 021 079 7101

Easy-moderate

Transport 25

OR Ph 332 6281

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.30am.

Wednesday 22 May at 7.30pm	Club Social Night
	Abberley Crescent Hall
	AGM & Hiking Offa's Dyke
Our AGM night. Finances and Chairperson's Reports. Election of committee roles of Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer. Election of Committee.	
Followed by pics and story of Sally & Chris's recent traverse of Offa's Dyke in Britain. See Trip Report in this Newsletter. Really interesting, not to be missed! Supper to follow.	

Sunday 26 May	MTB Cycle Trip McLeans Is to Spencerville
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Start in the McLeans Is MTB Park and cycle part of the MTB Track, then Templar Island Track and Waimakariri stop banks to Brooklands and road to Spencerville for ice creams! Return the same way.

Please phone Dennis if you are intending to join this trip.

Leader Dennis 021 243 9999 NA Transport NA

Depart from McLeans Is MTB Park at 9.00am.

(Parking: From access road into MTB Park turn into car park on the hard right.

Queen's Birthday Weekend Saturday 01 to Monday 03 June	Elizabeth Hut
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Saturday early start to drive to Gloriavale Christian Community. The tramp is up the Haupiri River in West Coast tramping conditions. Saturday night at Elizabeth Hut. Sunday tramp over Trent Saddle to the Top Trent Hut and back to Elizabeth Hut for day tramp. Monday back to cars with stop at Haupiri Hot Pool.

Own cookers and tents required.

Map BU21

Leaders Bill & Wendy Ph 354 2277 Moderate Plus Transport \$50

Please book with Bill & Wendy by Sunday 26 May.

Trip Reports

Offa's Dyke Path

There are several long distance walks in Britain all of which go through lovely countryside. We chose to walk the Offa's Dyke Path, a 285 kms trail that roughly follows the Wales - England border. Offa was king of Mercia in the eighth century. He seems to have been a powerful ruler and he built this massive defensive dyke to keep out and watch for the warring Welsh armies. It is now thought that he may have used some pre-existing defensive mounds and joined these together to create his lengthy construction.

Britain doesn't have a system of huts as we do in New Zealand so it is necessary to use B & Bs or other such accommodation. We found an excellent company called Celtic Trails who gave sage advice about distances to be walked each day and arranged excellent accommodation. We were warmly greeted at each hostelry with very welcome cups of tea and baking, and fed wonderful breakfasts every morning. If the accommodation was away from the path we would be picked up from a pre-arranged site and returned there next morning. The B & B hosts looked after their "walkers " very well.

It was recommended we take 15 days to walk the path and have two rest days. Although we didn't really need these it was lovely to have the chance of exploring a couple of charming small towns. Hay on Wye and Llangollen.

We started the walk from Chepstow in South Wales. The evening before we walked a couple of miles down to the very start of the path on the bank of the river Severn. A plaque there informs one that this is the start (or end) of the path. There is a good section of the dyke there too. The path does not absolutely follow the course of the dyke and stretches of it have vanished completely but where the path does meet the dyke it is an amazing sight and exciting to walk along or beside this piece of ancient history.

The scenery all along the trail was lovely and varied from grassy or ploughed fields to hills and heather covered moorland, from beautiful oak woods to scree covered slopes. Far reaching distant views from hilltops were glorious and a welcome reward after toiling up a steep hill. The terrain was also varied. Some stretches of the route crossed open fields with no discernible path. Or a well

formed track ran through woods or along a stony bridle path. At times a minor road would be followed until a stile through a hedge led one off into another field or footpath. But the route was always very clear with signs bearing the acorn logo of the National Trails and "Offa's Dyke Path " or "Llwybr Clawdd Offa" indicating the direction to follow.

There were several ruined castles as well as the dyke to remind one of Britain's ancient history. Chepstow, White, Longtown, Dinas Bran and also Chirk (which is still occupied.) And there were canals to walk beside recalling the Industrial Revolution. One of these canals crossed the superbly engineered Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, the highest in Europe and still very much in use by recreational long-boaters.

Perfect weather could not be guaranteed : this was Wales after all ! We did need to use our full wet weather gear on two days and parts of some other days but we didn't renege and refuse to walk. We are Kiwis now after all and had our honour to uphold! We met a few people along the way but generally we had the path to ourselves.

The path finished in Prestatyn, a small town on the North Wales coast. We dumped our packs at our B & B and walked through the town to the sea and took celebratory photos beside the plaque announcing the end (or start !) of the trail and dabbled our boots in the sea. We felt enormously proud of ourselves !! Offa's Dyke Path is a marvellous walk. It is one of 16 multi-day historical trails in various parts of England, Wales and Scotland. We can't wait to return to Britain and tackle another one !

Sally & Chris

[Any reports about your recent club trips would be very welcome! – Ed]

Meeting dates & locations

Our general meetings are generally held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. As this may vary, please check program for confirmation and venue location. Abberley Crescent Hall is the venue for most of our general meetings. Abberley Crescent continues west from Edgeware Rd after it crosses Springfield Rd.

Trip Gradings

	Description
EASY	A day tramp for almost anyone who can walk 5-6 hrs. Possibly some short gentle slopes, but generally on a track or flat riverbed.
MODERATE	Longer tramp of up to 7hrs, requiring a reasonable level of fitness. Usually involving some uphill sections and generally on a track.
MODERATE PLUS	A long tramp of up to 8 hrs requiring good level of fitness. More difficult terrain, varying gradients including steep slopes. *Ice axe & crampons may be required
HARD	A challenging trip requiring excellent fitness and experience. 8-10+hrs tramping on high passes and untracked routes. *Ice axe & crampons may be required.

*If these items are required, it will be stated in the Trip Description.

The Trip Leader is responsible for the safety and well-being of everyone on the trip. Therefore, the Trip Leader has the right to refuse to take anyone, who, in his or her opinion, is not equipped, or fit for the trip in any way.

Checklist for a Day Trip

Essential	Essential (Cont)	Optional
Day pack	Warm hat	Walking pole
*Parka (Essential)	Gloves	Camera
*Warm clothes (wool or polyprop)		Binoculars

Strong walking shoes or boots	Seasonal	
Food & drink	Sunglasses	
Sunscreen	Sun hat	

*Due to changeable and often unpredictable nature of the weather in New Zealand, a good waterproof parka and warm clothing must be carried for all trips.

Overnight Trips

If you are planning to go on an overnight trip, please contact Trip Leader for information about food and equipment requirements.

About our trips

Typical numbers on our trips are 4 – 10 people. For safety reasons, the minimum of people on a Club trip is four. However if there are fewer than four, the trip can still go ahead but becomes a private and not an official Club trip.

As a safety precaution, a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is carried on all trips. The club owns two which have been purchased with funding from the Christchurch City Council.

Delayed Trip Returns

Return delays can be caused by for example, track closures (requiring a change in route), weather (affecting routes & rivers) and travel conditions (road closures & breakdowns). Consequently return times are always a bit uncertain.

If you have concerns about a delayed return please contact one of the following Club members: Wendy 354 2277, Dennis 021 243 9999; Tere 021 140 1104

Club Membership

Our annual membership subscription is \$30 single or \$35 family. Our financial year commences 1 April. We encourage prospective new members to experience 2 or 3 trips to see if we suit their style before joining.

Membership Forms are available as a download form at the bottom of our website Home page. <http://www.hagleytrampingclub.net.nz/>