

Hagley Tramping Club

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Affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.



OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2023

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH 2024

Welcome to the **Hagley Tramping Club** Newsletter & Trip Program

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.



Photo: Carol B

Club Trampers on Mt Guy, Hakatere Conservation Park

Newsletter Contents

Calendar of Trips & Social Events, Trip Reports

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

Club Email Address

For general communication: contact@hagleytrampingclub.net.nz

For information about trips, please ring the Trip Leader.

Club Committee

Chairperson	Pat N	Ph 021 167 9338
Treasurer	Claire T	Ph 021 076 2500
Secretary	Carol B	Ph 021 2222 054
Club Captain	Bill T	Ph 354 2277
Committee	Heather H (Website)	Ph 021 079 7101
	Dennis W (Newsletter)	Ph 021 243 9999
	Tere L	Ph 021 140 1104 or 981 6431
	Sally B	Ph 338 1097
	Bronwyn M	Ph 022 506 2442
New members contact	Sally B	Ph 338 1097

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

Bookings for DAY Trips

For day trips, please book at least the Friday before the Sunday of the trip.

If the weather is unsuitable for Sunday, the trip may be changed to Saturday.

Bookings for OVERNIGHT Trips

As a rule, the latest date for booking is the Sunday of the weekend before the trip unless otherwise stated in the booking information. However, there is always quite a bit of organisation required for weekend trips and it is preferable for the Trip Leader that bookings are made earlier than the Sunday prior.

Show & Tell Social Nights at Abberley Park Hall

A highlight of our social nights is the members who show & tell their recent travels. For some years Claire has provided the data projector. Thank-you very much for the loan Claire.

As the photos have got better, Claire's projector just did not have the light output or resolution to match. At the last Committee Meeting the Committee agreed to investigate the purchase of our own data projector.

We did that & made the purchase, which we all appreciated when Phil showed us his pics of the trip to Portugal & Morocco.

As those of you who attend the AGM will know, for many years (at least 30!) the club has carried a very strong balance sheet. We were able to fund the projector from reserves and still hold a substantial cash asset.

(In case you're wondering: The cost of hiring a projector 5 times more than paid the cost of purchasing our own projector.)

General Trip & Membership Information

See last two pages of this Newsletter.

Shared Transport Costs

Due to the substantial increase in fuel costs, we have had to increase the cost for passengers travelling in shared cars.

There is also a cost adjustment applied if the trip involves a car shuttle.

The driver has the discretion to reduce or increase the cost. This would happen if the trip was to a changed destination with less (or more) travelling time OR may reduce if the driver has a full car.

See Trip Report (page 12) for the story behind this picture!



Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 21 – Monday 23 October	(Labour Weekend)
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No planned trip for this weekend.

Wednesday 25 October Meet at 6.00pm	Club Social Night Ilam Gardens Picnic
Come and enjoy a picnic tea and wander around the lovely Ilam gardens featuring colourful azaleas and rhododendrons. Enter from 87 Ilam Rd and meet on the lawn of Ilam Homestead at 6pm. Go up drive and turn left for Visitor parking (free after 5pm). Bring food - takeaways are available nearby on the Ilam Rd/Rountree St corner (Indian, fish 'n chips and Chinese). Organiser: Bronwyn M Ph 022 506 2442	

Sunday 29 October	Sudden Valley APNP
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A day walk through a rugged and spectacular gorge. Be prepared to get wet as it is all river crossings. The speed of the group will determine if we get beyond Barrier Falls into the upper basin.

Please book with Tere by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Tere L Ph 021 140 1104

Moderate Plus

Transport \$30

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30am.

Sunday 05 November	Anti Crow Hut APNP
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A day trip up the Waimakariri River from the Bealey Bridge to the Anti-Crow Hut & return the same way.

Please book with Dennis by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Dennis W Ph 021 243 9999 Easy-Moderate Transport \$30

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Wednesday 08 November at 7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Committee Meeting at Dennis's in Bishopdale.	

Sunday 12 November	Rabbit Hill 1198m Korowai Torlesse Tussocklands Park
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Starting from West Coast Rd on the other side of Porters Pass, we take the track which climbs to Trig M & then continuing along the ridge & saddle to Rabbit Hill. Return the same way. A long day trip with great views of Lakes Coleridge and Lyndon. Return the same way.

Please book with Bronwyn by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Bronwyn M Ph 022 506 2442 Moderate Transport \$20

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.00am

Wednesday 15 - Sunday 19 November (Includes Show Day on the 17th)	St James Walkway
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5 days / 4 nights. Days are of moderate length but should be within the scope anyone who can handle an overnight pack. We will arrange a car shuttle to the Lewis Pass end and leave a car at Boyle Lodge. Currently have 4 signed up so this trip is on dependent only on weather.

Leader Tere L Ph 021 140 1104 Moderate Transport \$40

Please book with Tere by Saturday 11 November

Wednesday 22 November 7.30pm

Club Social Night

Abberley Park Hall

Come along to hear about Pat's recent trip to the USA. New York, Los Angeles, and a lot more. Followed by supper.

Please bring something of Xmas food for supper.

Sunday 26 November

The Bens Traverse

Ben More (1655m) and Big Ben (1416m).

A through ridge trip from the Lyndon Road to Lake Coleridge Rd. Requires car shuttle. A good weather only trip.

Please book with Vesna by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Vesna 021 277 2422

Moderate Plus

Transport \$25

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.00am.

Sunday 03 December

Peel Forest

We will drive to Peel Forest Te Wanahu Flat on the Rangitata Gorge Rd to start Allans Track to Blandswood & return via The Fern Walk. Big Tree Walk as well and there are some other track options as well to be decided on the day.

Please book with Dennis by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Dennis W Ph 021 243 9999

Easy Moderate

Transport \$35

Depart from Z Station Templeton at 8.00am

*****NOTE: The Club Xmas Party is on a **Sunday** this year. *****

Sunday 10 December
Club Xmas Party
“Denim & Diamonds”



The Club Christmas party is at Heather’s home in Halswell.

Starting from about 4.30pm and dinner about 6.00pm

BYO drinks and Xmas food to share.

Partners very welcome & bring a Secret Santa gift (Around \$10)

Dress up theme “Denim & Diamonds”

Please contact Heather H 021 079 7101 or 332 6281 for her address.

Sunday 10, 17, 24 December	
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No planned trips for these dates.

Wednesday 27 – Friday 29 December	Tarn Col Traverse, APNP
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Leave a vehicle at Greyneys Shelter and start from Hawdon Shelter. This is a moderately challenging 3-day trip with a couple of moderate climbs and a decent down a scree slope. Depending on the makeup of the party we may bypass the Hawdon Hut and camp somewhere near Walker Pass on the first night to shorten the middle day to the Edwards Hut. Tents required -to be confirmed.

Departure time and place to be confirmed.

Leader Tere L Ph 021 140 1104

Please book with Tere by Sunday 10th December

Moderate-Hard

Transport \$35

Saturday 13 - Sunday 14 January	Potts Hut
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Starting from the Potts River Bridge, this is an open country trip up and over a hill into the Potts River valley and up to Potts Hut (10 bunks, once used for mustering). There is the option to make a longer return loop by via the Mystery Lake and the Dogs Range.

Map BX18.

Leader Bronwyn M Ph 022 506 2442

Moderate

Transport \$35

Please book with Bronwyn by Sunday 07 January.

Sunday 21 January	Pinchgut Hut
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This day trip to Pinchgut hut crosses the Okuku river then follows a mostly flat track to the hut (3 hours each way). If the weather is good there is a deep swimming hole where we can stop for a swim. Expect wet feet at the shallow river crossing at the start (or bring a change of shoes).

Please book with Heather by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Heather H 021 079 7101 or

332 6281

Easy-Moderate

Transport \$20

Depart from Richill St Belfast at 8.30am

Wednesday 24 January about 6.00pm	Club Picnic and Games Night Abberley Park
<p>Our traditional New Year picnic at Abberley Park.</p> <p>Bring your picnic with one dish to share and an outdoor game.</p> <p>Then work off the calories with outdoor games.</p> <p>No booking required just come.</p> <p>We can use the hall if wet.</p> <p>Picnic on east boundary of the park (closest to Springfield Rd)</p>	

Sunday 28 January	Double Hut Hakatere Conservation Park
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Drive to Lake Heron and hike up the Swin River Track to historic Double Hut. A long walk (20km round trip) but mostly flat.

Please book with Dennis by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Dennis W Ph 021 243 9999 Easy-Moderate Transport \$40
Depart from the Z Station in Templeton at 7.30am.

Saturday 03 -Sunday 04 February	Hope Kiwi Lodge/St Jacobs Hut
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On this trip we have a choice of hut in which to stay. Hope Kiwi is a large 20 bunk hut (\$25/person) and St Jacobs is 6 bunks (\$10/person). Travel is up the Hope River Valley with a possible side trip to Morris Tarn and maybe the ruins of Museum Hut (private) which was burnt down earlier this year.

Leader Pat N Ph 021 167 9338 Moderate Transport \$30
Please book with Pat by Sunday 28 January.

Wednesday 07 February at 7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Committee Meeting at Pat's in Avonhead Rd.	

Friday 09 - Sunday 11 February	Mt Nimrod 1525m
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We will drive down Friday evening to camp at the Mt Nimrod Campsite. \$10/night. The campsite is 32 km southwest of Timaru. Saturday we will climb Mt Nimrod 1525m, quite a long day. Camp another night at the Nimrod Campsite and drive home on Sunday. Bring tents and cookers. (Spare tents can be provided) Map CA18

Leader Bill T Ph 3542277 Moderate Hard Transport \$50
Please book with Bill by Sunday 04 February.

Sunday 18 February	Blimit-Mt Cassidy Traverse APNP
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Starting from Arthur's Pass, Cons Track climbs steeply to Mt Cassidy (the views from the top are stunning) then a bit of a rock scramble across to Blimit (short for "the bloody limit")

Then down to Temple Basin Ski field and back to the road. This is a very full day hence the 7 am start.

Please book with Pat by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Pat N Ph 021 167 9338 Hard Transport \$40

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.00am

Wednesday 21 February at 7.00pm	Trip Planning
Trip Planning Meeting at Bill & Wendy's in Redwood.	

Saturday 24 - Sunday 25 February	Jollie Brook Hut Lake Sumner Forest Park
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A moderately easy trip with very little climbing. We will start at Sisters Stream and back track to go up the Jollie Brook, lots of river crossings but not of challenging size. Returning next day past Gabriels Hut. This is a lovely summer trip with plenty of lush native bush. Ideal for those who want to try overnighing.

Departure time and place to be confirmed.

Please book with Tere by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Tere L Ph 021 140 1104 or 981 6431 Moderate Transport \$40

Please book with Tere by Sunday 18 February

Wednesday 28 February 6.00pm

Club Social Night

Pétanque at Halswell Quarry

Meet at the Petanque car park in Halswell Quarry. Bring picnic tea and of course your pétanque set. Don't worry if you haven't got one, there will be plenty to share.

Organiser Tere L Ph 021 140 1104 or 981 6431

Sunday 03 March

Castle Hill & Cave Stream

In the morning we will explore the rocks on Castle hill. After lunch there will be an optional traverse of the cave or another walk if the water is too high. Those entering the cave **MUST** bring a (head) torch and a change of clothes for after as you will get wet to the waist at the entrance. Happy for you to phone me for more information.

Grade for Walking: Easy

*Grade for Cave: Dependant on water level – it can be a challenge!

Please book with Heather by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Heather H 021 079 7101 or
332 6281

*Easy

Transport \$25

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.30am

Sunday 10 March

Rakaia Gorge

An easy walk up the Rakaia Gorge from the inland road bridge. We will hike to the far end of the walkway then to Terrace Downs via cross country route. Bring some \$ to enjoy a drink on their patio.

Please book with Carol by Friday if you intend to join this trip.

Leader Carol B Ph 021 222 2054

Easy

Transport \$20

Depart from Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 8.30am

Sunday 21 April (Date & time TBC)
Club 50th Anniversary Celebration

Venue TBA

Detail pending.

Trip Report

A series of unfortunate experiences in a beautiful setting

The plan was to run an easy overnighter to the Hawdon River with an eye to introducing newer trampers to the overnight experience with maybe a bit of river crossing practice thrown in. The weather put paid to the Hawdon so a group comprising Tere, Pat, Claire, Bronwyn and Mark decided to try the Kowhai Hut behind Mt Fyffe as a similar type of trip but theoretically less exposed to the nor' wester. The drive up gave us the first indication that this would not be a boring trip as the road was alive with classic cars heading to the Kaikoura Hop car festival.

At the carpark the weather was warm and mild and steady progress was made up the clear and not-too-challenging river and then through delightful open mossy woodland to reach the hut in slightly under 3 hours. After pitching tents and gathering firewood, there was a trip up exploring up the first side stream above the hut. This stream exuded a definite smell of sulfur and so we were hoping to discover a hot spring. We didn't, but the consolation prize turned out to be a spectacular waterfall.

Once back at the hut it was time to bring out afternoon tea which, with a little bit of pre-trip planning, was a spread of incredible variety which lasted us well through dinner.

While we were cutting firewood we were joined by a solo trumper Kat who had endured a torrid day trying to find her way thorough Kowhai saddle to Hapuku

Hut but had realized she was lost and sensibly returned to the Kowhai Hut. She had lost a boot on a shingle scree and spent some time searching before she was able to locate it and continue. We invited her to join us for afternoon tea and gave her some timely instructions about maps and navigation. We also encouraged her to join a club (preferably Hagley).

Afternoon tea blended into dinner and then with the night closing in and the campfire burned down to embers marshmallows and chocolate biscuits were produced and dinner flowed into supper. The evening was pleasant and warm with occasional strong nor' west gusts and just a little too much cloud for star gazing.

When we arrived at the hut we found sleeping bags on two bunks so expected company. It arrived at 2am when a pair of exhausted climbers/snowboarders finally staggered in after a 20-hour epic to Mt Saunders. They had overcome strong winds, crampon failure and inadequate torches, although we didn't get much out of them as they were still in bed when we got going around 8.30am on Sunday.

The wind had increased significantly overnight and was now blowing a gusty gale, swirling down the valley in roaring waves and eddying between the gorge walls. Huge plumes of dust were tearing off the scree slopes and a constant patter of small rocks was heard from the looser slopes. Once we came out of the bush into the open a constant spray of fine grit got in our hair and eyes and abraded the skin.

Walking in the buffeting wind became a constant fight for balance with your pack acting like a sail; often your direction would change mid-step, or you would suddenly be driven forward by a giant unseen hand so the only way not to be thrown down was to crouch behind any available cover until the gust passed. We caught up with Kat and she asked to join us for her own peace of mind, which we happily agreed to.

We took to linking up to cross the river as a sudden gust while balancing in the knee-high fast flowing stream could spell disaster, as Kat and I discovered when while standing linked up and ready to cross. A sudden gust drove us both staggering forward into the centre of the flow and then the inevitable mis-step took us off our feet into a floundering heap in the river. Fortunately I was able to

anchor myself against a rock and hold onto Kat's pack until she recovered her footing on the riverbed, but even once we had untangled ourselves, it seemed like a long time crouching exposed in the middle of the water waiting for the wind to moderate enough so we could continue to the other side. No lasting damage except cuts and bruises but wiser about avoiding wind gusts.

After 3 and a half hours, a rather weary and abraded, but thanks to the sunshine and strong warm wind, surprisingly dry, group back to the car park. After some discussion we agreed to squeeze Kat sans seatbelt into the back and sneak round the base of Mt Fyffe to take her to her car, parked where she had planned to end her trip in the Hapuku River. Five minutes later we came across a large manuka tree blown down fully blocking the road. We had done some head scratching and some pulling and heaving and even some desperate sawing with my tramping saw when a van approached from the other direction and the occupants asked us why we didn't just take the other side road which, after some backing and a tight turn around, we did and were on our way again.

The only thing we were really concerned about was that we had a short distance to drive on SH1 but what were the chances of seeing a police car? Pretty good as it turned out, as the red and blue flashing lights appeared ahead around the very first bend. We quickly stopped and Pat volunteered to hang about on the side of the road while we drove Kat past the police. When we got to the flashing lights, the police were far too busy dealing with a large overturned trailer to even see us. So we promptly delivered Kat to her car and then it was back to find Pat and farewell to Kaikoura. A nice sit down at the No 8 Café in Cheviot (recommended) and then safely home midafternoon.

A lovely valley, a warm sunny trip, splendid food and great company but that wind certainly gave us some experiences we hadn't been looking for.

Tere Lowe

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 Park Hall is the venue for most of our general meetings.

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-HARD	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.

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: Bill 354 2277, Dennis 021 243 9999; Tere 981 6431

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/>