



June 2014



Newsletter of the
West Coast Alpine Club

Whakarira Canyon, Kokatahi River

↑ Alan Jemison

Committee Korero

» Aaron

Our March meeting was held around a massive plate of hot Hot Cross Buns at Karen's house. The most interesting topics that arose were, organising the AGM, club funding for trips and the Peters Ridge track.

Organising the AGM entertainment seemed daunting to most of us. Someone mentioned they knew someone who had talked to someone. This someone had attended a slide show by Mike Mahoney. The someone had said the slide show on Mike's mountaineering career, was quite good. Within minutes Mary had called the someones, who knew someone, and got Mike's number. About a minute later, Mike and the date for the AGM were confirmed.

That done, Jase read a letter from Ari Kingan. Ari was asking for help toward the cost of his upcoming trip to the famous Cassin Ridge on Denali (6,168m). We agreed to grant him \$250, if he is a current member, and he can give us a presentation. When I was a kid, I went to

a presentation on a climb of the Cassin ridge by Allan Uren. I remember Allan saying if he fell off, he would not just fall onto a ledge, but he'd bounce all the way to the bottom of the ridge. That presentation left quite an impression on me, such a long hard route. It would be great to see another presentation of a climb on this scale.

We loosely talked about the clubs expectations and perhaps targeting funding at certain populations. Although we have not finished this discussion I encourage any members who would like help with a goal to approach the committee. We may be able to help you.

The AGM was held on the 21st of May in the Polytech lecture theater. There were quite a few apologies and only about 20 people attended.

Our president Jack Grinsted gave a fine speech. He asked everyone to stand and remove one shoe. Jack took off his boot and demonstrated a development in shoe lace tying. He showed us how to tie two loops around the bow instead of one. We

were all a bit stunned. How many people will break the habit of only tying one loop around their bows?

His speech concentrated on 10 people in the club who inspired him. I was one of the 10 and thought it a great speech. I am sure the following people thought so too: Alan Jemison, Warren Smith, Karen Grant, Jason Blair, Paul Caffyn, The Burrell Family, Mary Trayes, John McNamee and Dr William McKay.

Dr McKay set up an arboretum in the Coronation Reserve. Jack was obviously inspired by these efforts and encouraged members to take advantage of the new DoC partnership program. He believes there are things that DoC can help us with.

The elections went smoothly. All previous committee members were re-elected with Jase as vice president. Ian Selwood made it onto the committee and Adele Reweti became the Club Captain.

Mike Mahoney's slide show of his mountaineering career was fascinating and hilarious. His talk started at Mt Cook as a beginner climber, and continued to the New Zealand 1977 Mt Everest Expedition.

Mike's stories were insightful and his vibrant wit conveyed his appreciation of both the beauty and isolation of the mountains. During the talk he slowly dressed in the red wind suit he wore on Mt Everest. Amongst the climbing stories, the fabric, the pockets, and the wolverine fur lined hood of the suit all got a mention. Half way through he was trying to show us the special pee flap but could not find it.

One photo taken in the Khumbu Icefall showed some of the team on a little piece of flat snow. Around the red figures, chaotic ice and the black bulk of the SW face dominated the shot. Patchy clouds choked the top of the image and their shadows intensified the claustrophobia, danger and beauty. That was just one of the fantastic photos, there must have been some very good photographers on the expedition.

Finally, Mike looked down between his legs and found the pee flap. With the pee flap in place and us in hysterical laughter, we finished the AGM.



Mike Mahoney with newly reelected WCAC President Jack.

↑ Jason Blair

The West Coast Penguin Trust

» Leon Dalziel

If you've managed to see a blue penguin (Korora) on the West Coast, you're one of the lucky ones! Sadly, due to coastal development, traffic, and predators, their population is in decline.

In 2006 local residents formed The West Coast Blue Penguin Trust. This year we dropped the word "Blue" from the name. The West Coast Penguin Trust now covers the Blue Penguins, Fiordland Crested Penguins (Tawaki), and other coastal seabirds. The Trust has a very big reach, covering all the coastal margins from Karamea to Haast.



Blue penguins are very cute and, are the smallest of all penguins. They stand at just 35-43cm tall and weigh a little over 1kg. On the West Coast it's estimated their population only reaches into the high hundreds or the low thousands.

Blue penguins are very secretive and shy. They leave their burrows before daybreak to spend the day at sea. They hunt squid, fish and crustaceans, returning to their burrows after dark. So it's no wonder not many of us see them!



One of the few ways you'll know they're about, is by spotting their footprints in the sand. The foot prints are usually in a straight line between the burrow and the sea. They don't hang about.

Pahautane Penguin Fence



One of the most important projects we're currently undertaking is building a penguin-proof fence. The fence is along 2.3km of the Coast Road at Pahautane, just south of Fox River.

Ranger Reuben seeks fencing advice from local resident, Reef. Filename: `fencingadvice.jpg`

Unfortunately, some penguins choose nesting sites where penguins may have nested for millennia. In the meantime, the Coast Road has been developed between the traditional nesting sites and

the sea. While the penguins are feeding their chicks they cross the road twice a day, putting them at great risk.

It is hoped that the fence will stop blue penguins from crossing the road, and instead choose a burrow on the much safer seaward side of the road.

If you're driving along the Coast Road in the hours just after dark, or early in the morning, please slow down in areas near the coastline where blue penguins may be crossing the road.

Blue Penguin Census – you can help!

Every year, the Trust runs a census that relies on the local community to take part. The census gives us lots of good information on: Local blue penguin colonies, beach and coastal erosion, mining, development, and other coastal seabird populations.

You can help by getting involved in the next census in August 2014. Keep an eye out in the newspaper or by liking our Facebook Page.

www.facebook.com/bluepenguintrust

It's pretty easy, just choose a stretch of coastline somewhere between Karamea and Haast. And on one or two mornings, walk the beach and count little blue penguin footprints!



Continued on page 4 >>

Blue Penguin and Seabird Mortality Database

>> *continued from previous page*

Along with our good friends at DoC, we maintain a mortality database. This has been instrumental in identifying the most dangerous sections of SH6 for little

blue penguins and highlighting the issue of loose dogs.

If you find a dead blue penguin or other seabird, you can report it to us via our website. If you're able to collect it, wrap

the bird in plastic bags and drop it into your closest DoC office, or keep it in the freezer until it can be collected.

www.bluepenguin.org.nz/report-a-penguin



Dogs and Blue Penguins

In 2007, a blue penguin colony at Camerons was almost wiped out by one dog over a period of weeks. And in 2012, dogs at Cape Foulwind killed 15 little blue penguins. This is a devastating loss when the population is so small!

Even small mild mannered dogs can harass, kill, or maim penguins. When you're out enjoying a beach walk, surfcasting, or whitebaiting with your best friend. Keep your dog close at all times and don't let

it roam into the area above the high-tide mark. Special care is needed at dawn and dusk when blue penguins are travelling between the sea and their burrows, making them particularly vulnerable.

By keeping your dog under control and well trained, we can all enjoy our fantastic coastline.

www.bluepenguin.org.nz www.facebook.com/bluepenguintrust

West Coast Alpine Club Awards

» *Mary Trayes*

The West Coast Alpine Club has two trophies donated by former members. One is for service to the Club and the other is for attendance on Club trips. Judging is carried out by Committee members each year with the trophies being awarded at a Club function mid – year, usually the Annual General Meeting.

Mrs Bruce Trophy

The 'Mrs Bruce Trophy' for Outstanding Service to WCAC was donated by Mrs (Isobel) Bruce in 1966. She was seldom known by her first name, being more often known as Mrs Bruce or 'Bru' and was an enthusiastic and energetic member of the Club throughout the 1960's

Her husband, Tom, and sons Robbie and Michael, often went along on trips as well as per the photograph above, but finding

good photographs of Mrs Bruce has proved elusive. Others from the Bruce family, and now in the Club Archive, show her on a Haast Pass trip before the road went through, on Mt Taratama in a fly camp and out on the Taramakau river-bed.

During most of the time she was a member, Mrs Bruce was on the Committee (including being President in 1959), and would have understood

just how much time and effort it took to keep a club "ticking over." Many different people have been awarded the handsome trophy over the years, and of course it has been easy to keep track of them because their names are all engraved on it.



Sheard Cup

The Sheard Cup for Attendance was donated in 1968 by long time Club member and founding Secretary, Marriot Sheard, more often known to younger members as 'Mr Sheard,' people being more formal with names in the past than they are now. This trophy is a large silver cup and it too has been engraved over the years so we are able to recall the names of all those who have spent an energetic

year 'running around the hills.'

Two of the original objects of the Constitution were to 'encourage walking, climbing, mountaineering and alpine sports in New Zealand' and to 'arrange trips to West Coast and other districts,' both of which are being achieved today thanks to hardworking members.



Peter Ridge Track Marking - Saturday 24th May

» *Jack Grinsted*

The Peter Ridge Track starts at the top of Kings Park Walk, and traverses south along the ridge between Greymouth and Kaiata. The trail passes through open coastal bush and some interesting limestone features. Part way along there is an excellent viewing point looking up the Grey Valley.

From the south end of Peter Ridge Track, a round trip can be made by following the power line access track down to the Civic Centre, then following the road

back to Kings Park Walk. The round trip takes 1.5-2hrs. It is muddy in places.

Historically, the track was maintained and used by the Greymouth Harriers. However, in 2011 it was clear the route received little use. During the 2012-13 summer, Alan Jemison led the charge by organising a disorganised group of club members to cut and roughly mark the track.

Gradually the word got out, and for want of things to do around Greymouth a local backpacker owner began encouraging visitors to use the track. Unfortunately, a couple of tourists managed to lose their way and the police/search and rescue team, advised the WCAC to pop a few more markers in.

A marking trip was arranged for Saturday 24th May, then cancelled due to the weather

forecast. However, some overwhelming enthusiasm overturned the cancellation. A small team put on their raincoats, and had a fun walk with purpose. Aaron, Adele, Lis and myself doubled the number of permolat on the track, providing good marking for route finding in either direction. Several windfalls were tidied up and the kei kei and supple jack were beaten back. While we worked a strong warm northerly made for comfortable if somewhat wet conditions.

The Peter Ridge Track is a great walk that is very accessible to Greymouth and (as proven by this enthusiastic team) can be done in any weather.



Intrepid marking crew on site.

Young members on the Abel Tasman Coastal Walk

» *Caden Manuel (aged 6)*

I went on a boat ride to Onatahuti. I walked along the beach to the track. The track was marked by an orange triangle. There was a boardwalk: it looked new. I

climbed a hill. At the top of the hill we had scroggin and chocolate then my dad had to go down to Awaroa Lodge to get the packs. It was all native bush. It felt a long way to the campsite.

We had two tents because they were very small. My Mum and my little sister Jennifer slept in a dark green tent. Me and my Dad slept in an orange tent.

I crossed an estuary. My dad wore his undies. My sister thought the estuary was called "an easter egg". My favourite part about tramping is camping.



The biggest adventure yet

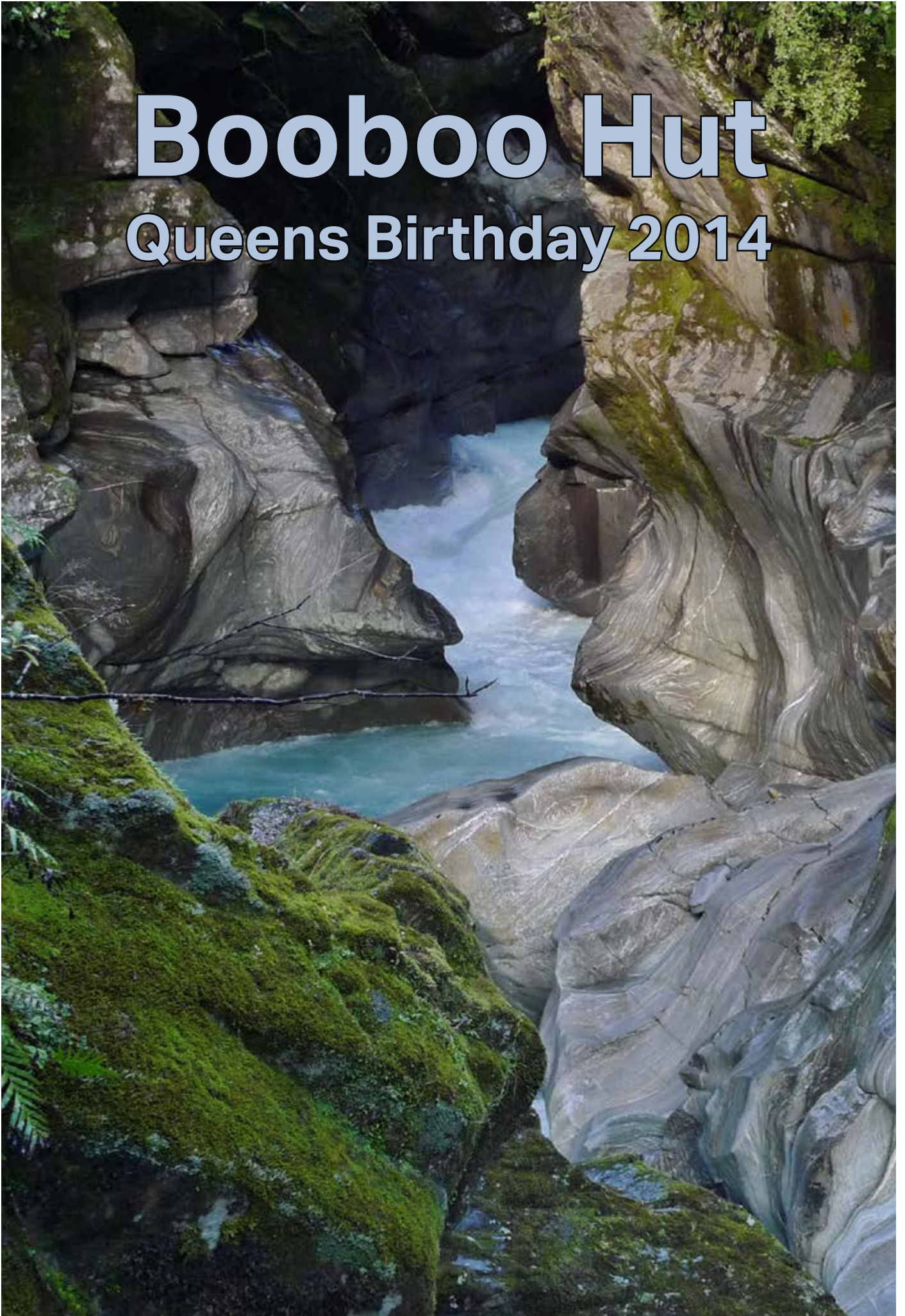
» *Elie (Elizabeth) Stephens*

Since a few of you guys at the club know Corey and I, some through the club or tech, but mostly other means in the community, I thought I'd flick a quick email and say that we- Corey and Elie Stephens are SO proud to announce the arrival of our very own wee 6.4 pound girl-child 'Koriniti.' She was a week early and in a hurry, arriving late evening on the 23rd of September taking about 4 hours labour arriving completely naturally and unassisted, 37 minutes after we hit the hospital. At day 6 we took her to the beach for the first time- I'm looking forward to teaching her to swim asap, since baby's are born with the ability, (she was 'surfing inside' up til 4 months along, so we'll be encouraging that too) -and proud Daddy Corey is looking forward to teaching her to hunt, fish and throw properly, so we are working on the next gen of outdoors enthusiasts and mountain club members.



Booboo Hut

Queens Birthday 2014



Hi folks, in the mountains of Westland there is a place called Booboo. It has nothing to do with bears or even a little bear. No, this spot is the first hut in the Kokatahi valley behind Hokitika. The walk in can take anywhere from 2.5 to 6 hrs depending on your pack weight, navigation skills, the state of the track and the general mood on the day. Its about 700m above the river, on the edge of a terrace and may soon have a bath tub.

This hut is on DOC's minimal maintain list, and the tracks have been taken over by the volunteer group know as Permolat. Permolat are a bunch of enthusiasts who keep these unmaintained tracks open. This trip came about when a friend of mine Andrew Buglass said that after the big winds there were a heap of windfalls. So I offered to give him a hand to remove them.

We set off on Saturday morning, and worked our way up the valley. We cut and pushing the fallen trees out of our way, taking in the great weather and many views as we went. Was a big day though to the hut. Eventually we walked in the hut door around 6:30 – 7ish. Oh, while working on the track, we were overtaken by a party of 5 intrepid trampers who decided to stay the night. The warm hut and hot brews were more then welcome upon our arrival.

The following day the trampers headed off up Pinnacle way while Andrew & I grubbed and cleared the chopper pad a

few minutes from the hut. Mid morning Andrew headed out, while I went for a walk up the Pinnacle Biv track. I can not resist the pure clean air of altitude and open tussock lands. It's a battle with the flax's once the well cleared track reaches the scrub line, 1.5 hrs from Booboo hut. Great views of surrounding mountains, warm sunshine, and ah, did I tell you of the frozen tarns with tadpoles swimming under the ice?? Yip they were there too.

I watched the 5 intrepid trampers gain the tops and walk towards Mt Reaves. They were intending to drop to Cedar flats via Adventure Ridge or camp on top, which ever took there fancy. After a late lunch I headed back down cutting and chopping as I went. 4pm at the hut, time enough to sort fire wood and get set for a cold night. By 8pm my eyes would not stay open any longer so sleep it was..

Monday. Good frost out side warm fire inside. Leisurely breakfast, bit of work round the hut, at 10am off towards home.

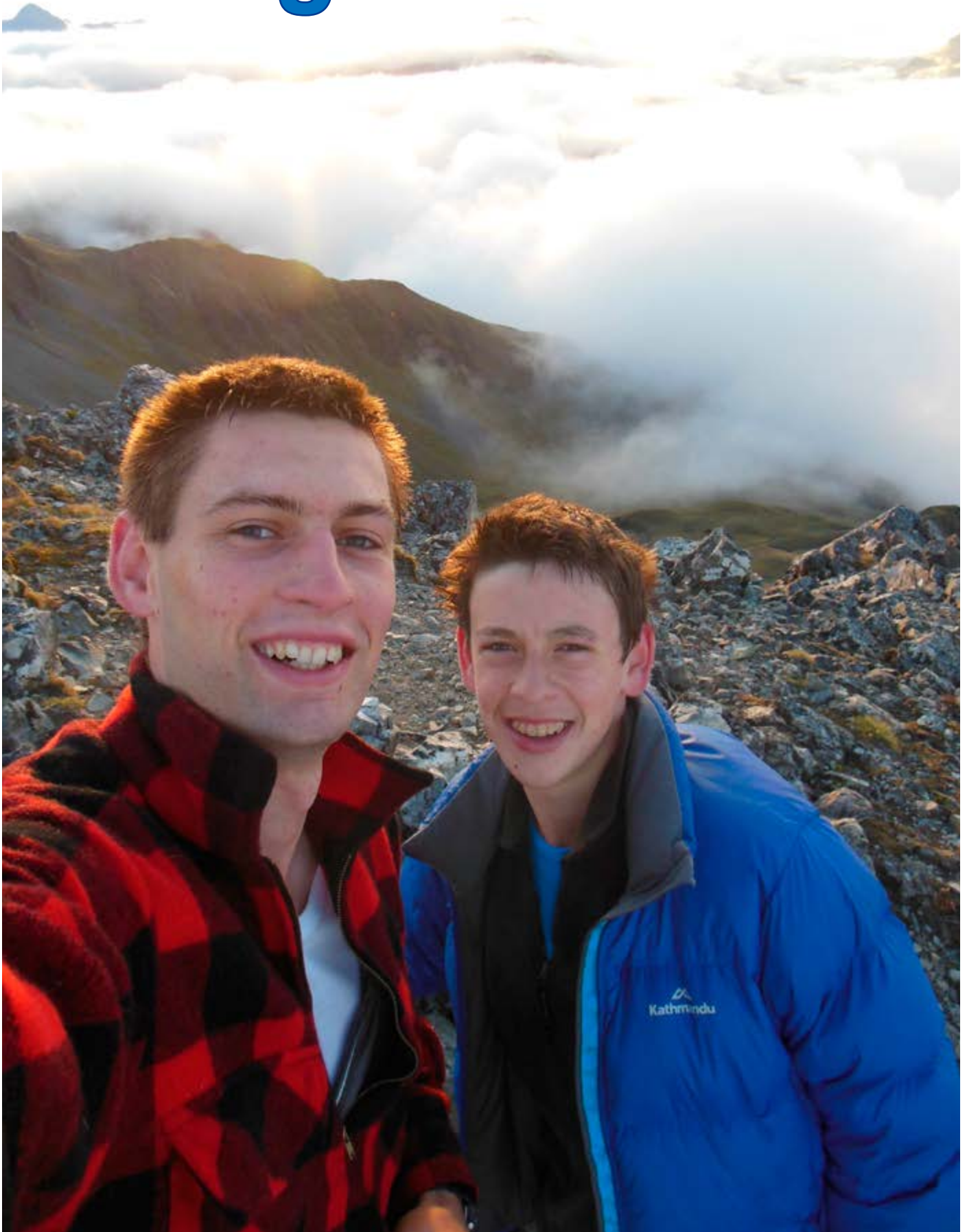


The walk out was quite pleasant with the windfalls gone, not too muddy. Only a few steep bits, well alright then, there are a few, after all it is Westland. But it is still one of the easier spots to get too on a nice day. It took me 5 -6 hrs out with stops... One blue duck in the river above the gorge.

The start of the gorge in the lower Kokatahi is stunning and well worth a walk. More information on the hut, the routes from the hut and Permolat can be found on the Remote Huts website, remotehuts.co.nz. Ooh yer, did I tell you the story behind the name Booboo ?? Next time you see me ask me then. All Ill say now is, it has to do with some very well fed hunters and very hungry track cutters.



Pfog On Pfeifer





» *Paul Burrell*

On the 29th of March we met up with Eigil and Antje at the Deception Bridge and headed up Paratu Stream. It wasn't long before we got into fog, but we continued up the dry creek bed and soon got to Waharoa Saddle. Here we stopped just long enough to enjoy the prolific bird life and eat a snack. From the saddle we ascended through scrub on a good track to the tussock. The fog kept coming and going until we reached a tadpole-infested tarn for lunch.

Again shouldering our packs, we went on over a high point before sidling the second-last basin. Ever-thickening fog shortened our visibility, but by following rough guess-or-by-gosh navigation we dropped into the last basin and spotted the biv when only 80m from it. After a hot cuppa we leisurely explored the surrounding landscape.

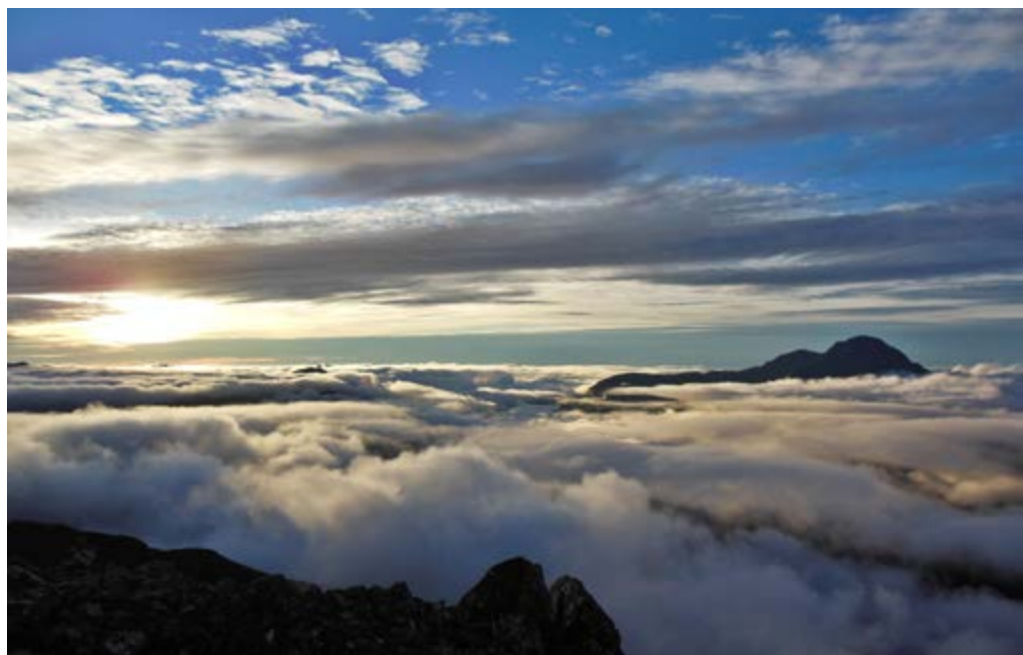
At around 6:30pm the fog completely cleared to reveal the majestic peak of Mt Pfeifer, so Peter and I quickly agreed on a bash at the summit. Aside from several steep, rocky sections, it was reasonably easy going and we arrived at the top (1704m) just in time to see the sun sink into the fog that blanketed the Taramakau Valley.

Descending the mountain, we reached the biv just before dark, so we made up a tasty dinner and slept well in the spacious two-bunker. (Eigil and Antje were confined to their tent).

The next morning dawned clear, so after breakfast Eigil and Antje opted for an ascent of Mt Pfeifer followed by a traverse of the ridgeline. Since Peter and I had already got to the summit, we packed up and climbed high over a small saddle into the next basin. From there we followed

the ridge out, observing the numerous fault lines. Taking it slowly, we clambered up onto point 1592 for a panoramic view of the surrounds. We ate lunch at the same tarn as on the in before dropping down Paratu Stream to the car. All together the trip out had taken just over six hours.

Our party consisted of: Peter and Paul Burrell and Eigil and Antje Wahlberg.





Kahurangi Point Light-house

» Maria Burrell

On the 15th of January this year, Dad, Mum, Anna, Paul and I went to Kahurangi Point Keeper's House. We saved a few kilometres of walking by driving across a ford, and up a windy road past a paddock of cute cows. Then we walked for 3 hours down the beach. The wind was blowing so hard that my bandanna got blown off and it took me ages to get it. Only when I tripped over and did a faceplant on it, did I get it. But at least it wasn't as bad as what happened to Anna; her hat got blown away and it took her a whole hour to get back to us after retrieving it. I thought it was rather funny.

After a while we got to a river which was very deep so we had to go upstream to the old dead tractor where there was a shallow spot and there we crossed. The river was up to my waist and Dad stood on a flounder. Finally we got there. It was

a big housey-looking thing with a sand-dune outside it, which Paul and I had lots of fun playing on. When we were told to stop, we had to wash the sand out of our eyes, noses and mouths.

The next morning we went to search for the light house; as it was high-tide we could not walk down the beach. Just before we left we happened to read a bit in the hut book that someone who had bush-bashed to the light-house had written; 'I pity the poor fool who attempts to bush-bash to the light-house.' I tried to tell them that it would be better to wait till low-tide but no, no they wouldn't listen, so off we went. On the way we saw a green gecko.

Finally, after 2 hours of bush-bashing, we got there. It only took us 1 hour to get back, and after a hasty lunch, we headed back to the ute. It was raining now but the wind had not relented. Finally we got back cold and miserable to the ute. Only when we got home some days later, did I get the sand embedded in my leg, blown there by the wind, out, but overall it was an awesome trip.



Trip Tips

Definitely take some form of eye protection as getting a sandblasting along the beach is quite normal.

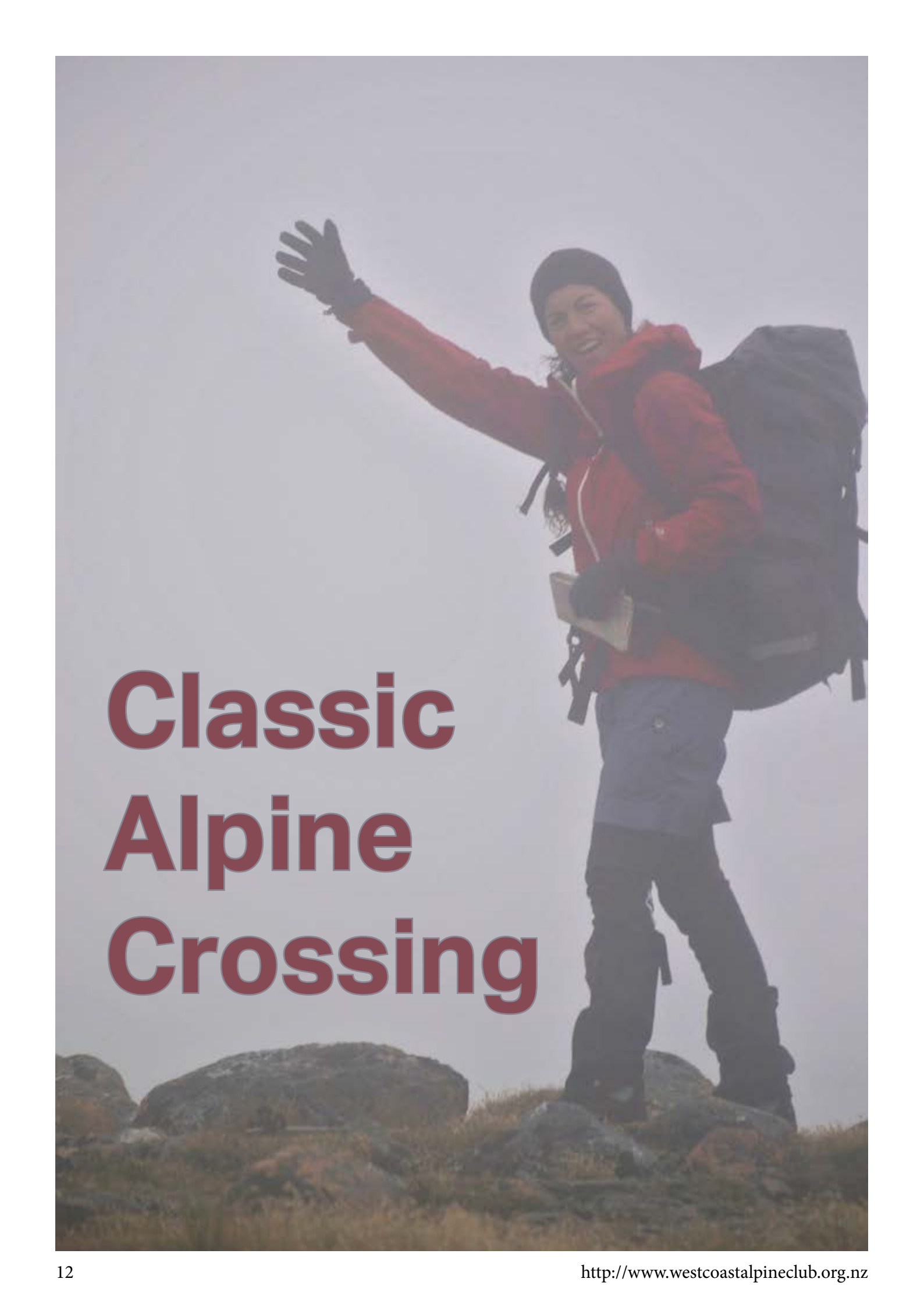
It takes 6 and a half to 7 and a half hours to drive to the start from Greymouth – the last section from Whanganui Inlet is very slow. If you have a 4WD it is worth crossing the Anatori Rr and carrying along the road to the Turimawivi Rr where there is plenty of room to park.

The beach needs to be walked with a low tide, preferably at full moon or no moon.

Big River needs to be crossed between 1 hour before and 1 hour after dead low tide using the old tractor sitting in the mud on the TR as a guide to where.

It is worth staying at least 2 nights at the House if you can, so you get to explore the area at low tide. Lots of room at the House and a lovely spot.

Just like here, rivers quickly become impassable with any rain in the hills.



Classic Alpine Crossing

A classic trip, I love classic stuff...it just never gets old. From a classic dress to a classic 3 star climb. Some might say classics are dated, boring and old. The three passes is anything but dated, old and boring. It's a classic alpine crossing.

Toward the end of our indian summer Abie and I headed out to walk over this ancient route. We met in Arthurs pass and started the trip at Klondike corner. Abie showed up with way too much gear. She had two extra large books, two cameras(one New SLR), her large leather bound journal and thick Woolley jumpers ... I laughed lots then said kind of seriously, "I reckon we will mostly be walking so we won't have time to read etc etc but plenty of time to ponder." She kept the journal and the huge camera, plus the extra food, I didn't really care.

The river was super low so it was an easy walk to Carrington Hut. We found the Tomtits along the track, and Abie click click clicked away. The forecast for the weekend was a large high pressure system. But the next day we woke up to low cloud and wind barreling down the Taipoiti gorge.

We caught up to four others near the top of the gorge. We hoped to get above the cloud near the Harman Pass. But, we were in thick cloud until we found our way to the white horn snow field. We hadn't taken crampons and we managed fine, kicking steps into the soft snow. The clouds cleared as we approached White Horn Pass. One of the other group members had walked the Three Passes eight times with prisoners back in the late 80's. He told us where the snow field used to come to. The difference was at least a hundred meters over 25 years.

Once on top of White Horn, we ate a gourmet lunch and took copious amounts of photos with Abie's large camera. It was a great day, we started to strip off our clothes as we went down down into the the Cronin stream stopping every so often to look at the geology.



Nearer down toward the Wilberforce River, four hours later, we could see the route up towards Noti Raureka/Browning Pass. Abie, who I always see as strong and confident, asked me, "What if I don't make it?" I replied bluntly, "What else will you do, where else will you go? There's no other way." She huffed and started to take photos of TomTits again.



Noti Raureka looks steep looking straight at it, all slopes do. I secretly imagined it with snow and being on top descending it. I didn't tell Abie.

We met the others at Park Morpeth Hut, in the Wilberforce valley. Abie suggested we start early, before the others, just in case she had any trouble heading up the pass. The prison guard told Abie stories about prisoners finding the steep climb up to Noti Raureka/Browning Pass extremely difficult. He told us he had a rope, and pulled a thin piece of cord, I didn't say anything. Abie smiled at me and went off to sleep.

Early the next morning we trotted off, and Abie as per usual hot on my heels. The track is marked all the way to the top and we made it just fine. We sat at the top eating our apples.

(We ate an apple on each pass).

Lake Browning is a very cool spot. The route is an old trading route for both Maori and Pakeha. We looked at the mountains and picked out other missions for other times. The others had long come and gone and Abie and I lingered at the lake. I took off my greenstone and popped it in the water. I said a Karakia to bless it and pay respect. The Lake is a special source for the Arahura River and its people.

The varied nature of this trip was apparent as we headed down into the valley below. I love transalpine trips in this way, the journey type metaphors and not having to retrace your steps.

We were almost at Harman Hut for lunch and coming toward me I saw a bounding, happy dog and a big, tall fulla. Aaron did the shuttle for us, and he and Nui had left the road end at 7am to walk into meet us. We sat on the track, Abie took photos of



more birds. We all walked on together to Grassy Flats for the night.

The landscape much different from the previous day, a classic west coast valley. Our new prison guard friends enjoyed having Nui around, although the wire bridge she had to cross seemed a bit scary for her. The trip down the Styx was slippery, and very green. We watched

Whio surfing in the Styx. The high pressure finally found its way and hung over us. It was a fine, classic weekend.

I will go back over the Three Passes again, our prison guard friend had done it eight times and still loves it, that's the thing about things being classic they never get old. Classic.



Map Reviews

Title: *Maps for the Great Walks of New Zealand*
Subtitle: *1:40,000 Map and Track Guide*
Author: Roger Smith, Geographx
Published: 2013
Publisher: Craig Potton Publishing
Website: www.craigpotton.co.nz
Size: 120 x 150 mm folded
600 x 845 mm unfolded
Price: \$24.99 RRP
Availability: from the website above, or select stores
Review: Paul Caffyn

First a confession – I love maps - my bed sits on two huge map cabinets. Although this nine map series is titled as 'High-quality maps of the 'Great Walks of New Zealand', there are at least six which are perfect for taking along on paddling journeys. Please bear in mind my paddling bias with this review.

Seven of the maps have a scale of 1:40,000 while two (Whanganui Journey and Rakiura Track) have a slightly smaller scale at 1:50,000.

For those of us who enjoy side tramps on paddling trips, the 40m contour intervals and excellent graphic representation of bush, tops and snowfields, are ideal for sorting routes to high points for those superb panorama landscape photos. I bet Colin Quilter could have used the Milford and Kepler maps on his recent Milford to Supper Cove paddle when he ventured to the tops on the few perfect fine days he experienced to capture stunning scenic shots the deep, former glacier-carved valleys.

The Abel Tasman Track map looks ideal for cruising not only the 'track' but also paddling the coastline of the national park and eastern side of Golden Bay - nice to see the boundaries of the Tonga Island Marine Reserve. The 3D map on the flip side extends from Whanganui Inlet on the exposed West Coast eastwards to Nelson.

The Routeburn Track map not only includes the western side of Lake Wakatipu, but the 3D map on the flip side includes the wild West Coast from Gorge River to the Haast River, and across the Aspiring National Park to lakes Hawea

and Wanaka. Almost worth framing on a wall.

On the Kepler Track map, the southern sections of Lake Te Anau and northern sections of Lake Manapouri are shown in detail, ideal for lake cruising but it is the superb topographic representation of the Fiordland National Park that I would like to pin on my wall as a poster. It extends from Martins Bay in the north to Puysegur Point and Te Waewae Bay in the south, and includes to most scenic lakes of all New Zealand, Hauroko, Manapouri and Te Anau, thus ideal for planning paddling or serious tramping trips in the committing glacial-incised valleys of deepest, darkest Fjordland.

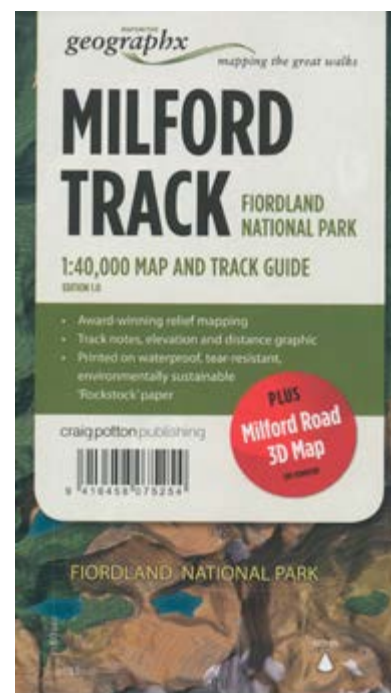
Another potential wall poster is the Rakiura Track map; one side shows the north-west track circuit on Stewart Island (a place to see Kiwis in daylight) and the northern two-thirds of Paterson Inlet, which has some sheltered paddling to numerous historical sites. The 3D flip side shows the whole of the island, with huts, park boundaries, place names and walking tracks shown.

Ideal for use in a parka pocket, or on a kayak foredeck, the maps are printed on waterproof durable paper. The media release notes the maps are printed on Rockstock, which is manufactured from ground down waste stone and offcuts used in the building industry. It contains no wood fibre, generates no effluent in its manufacture, requires no water, acid, base or bleach during production, and is both recyclable and photo degradable.

The nine map series:

- Abel Tasman Coast Track
- Heaphy Track
- Kepler Track
- Lake Waikaremoana Track
- Milford Track
- Rakiura Track
- Routeburn Track & Greenstone Caples Track
- Tongariro Northern Circuit
- Whanganui Journey

The map for my paddling bucket list is titled Whanganui Journey. Both sides of this map have a scale of 1:50,000, the first tracks the river (and rapids) from Taumararui to Whakahoro while the



second tracks from there to Phipiriki. Rapids are shown with small round circles, and bigger rapids (to be treated with caution) are shown with large red circles. Camp and hut sites are marked, and side bar detail distances downstream from Tauramnuui and upstream from Phipiriki. Another side bar details river notes with approx. paddling times. For planning the best month to paddle the river, monthly stats for rainfall, temperature, rainfall days and humidity are shown.

The Heaphy Track map – superb for mountain biking in the winter season (1 May to 30 September), or tramping all year round - the 1:40,000 detail, contours and colour shading, must almost be as good as taking a ipad along with google earth on display without the worry of getting the electrics wet. The track notes of hut-to-hut tramping times are supplemented with a good schematic cross-section showing hut-hut distances and height of huts/campsites. The flipside 3D map of the Kahurangi Park Map extends from Murchison in the south north to Farewell Spit and Golden Bay.

The key to the maps is easy to read, and the magnetic variation is always shown to allow course plotting. Track times between huts are included as a detailed side bar, If I was to raise a minor niggles, I would have liked to see the brightness of the maps raised a tad, particularly the dark blue of the sea. The cost per map seems steep at \$25 but the longevity of these beautiful maps, with the anticipated wear on a kayak deck, or in a parka pocket, would to me justify the cost.

WEST COAST ALPINE CLUB INFORMATION SHEET

www.westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

COMMITTEE

President	Jack Grinstted	027 481 4222 (Cell)	jackgrinstted@gmail.com
Vice President	Jason Blair	03 762 5845 (H)	jase@katabatic.co.nz
Secretary	Rachel Berry	03 755 8811 (H)	rachelberry@paradise.net.nz
Treasurer	Karen Grant	03 769 9607 (Wk)	kareng@tpp.ac.nz
Club Captain	Adele Reweti	03 768 6175 (H)	adelenaumai@gmail.com

General Committee:

Webmaster	Evan Hunt	03 768 9489 (H)	evanhunt@xtra.co.nz
Gear Hire Custodian	Jonny Horrox	03 762 6132 (H)	jh@wrc.govt.nz
Boots Editor	Aaron Gillespie	03 768 6175 (H)	aaronoutside@hotmail.com
Committee Member	Rose Burrell	03 762 5527 (H)	burrellg@hotmail.com
Committee Member	Denise Mayes	027 682 4064 (Cell)	[not on email]
Committee Member	John Burrell	03 762 5527	jhnburrell667@gmail.com
Committee Member	Lis Ridley	027 603 0305	beefy_ridley@hotmail.com
Committee Member	Alan Jemison	03 762 6060 (H)	alanj.98@family.net.nz
Committee Member	Ian Selwood	03 762 7664	insel@vodafone.co.nz

Subs due: Adult: \$30 School Student: \$15 Family: \$35 Newsletter Only: \$15

Club Hut - Arthur's Pass

The club maintains a 13 bunk hut in the Arthur's Pass Village. The key code for the front door is available from committee members as asterisked above. The Hut is available to members and approved non-members (e.g. former members, friends and other tramping clubs etc). To ensure fair use of the hut for all, those wishing to stay longer than 5 nights must get permission from a club officer first.

General hut use is on a 'first come first served basis,' but note that Club Snowcraft Course weekends have priority use. It is also possible to book the hut for your exclusive use by applying to the Committee in advance and paying a deposit. This is then advertised to all members. General users can use the Club E-Group to let others know they intend to use the hut (see below).

A fire warden must be appointed for the duration of your stay (as per our Fire Permit) and any problems at the Hut, e.g. with plumbing, should be reported promptly to a committee member. Before leaving Hut users should organise the method of fee payment, sign the Hut Log Book, and ensure the Hut is secure. For more information see the latest Hut Information Sheet and/or read the notices at the Hut.

Hut Fees/night: **Members:** \$8 per for adults and \$4 for school children
Non Members: \$16 per for adults and \$8 for school children

Hut fees should be paid promptly in one of three ways

- Put money in Hut Box (with names of those who stayed and when)
- Mail your payment to the WCAC Treasurer at PO Box 136 Greymouth, 7840
- Pay by direct credit to the Club Account at ASB Greymouth. Account No. 12 3168 0044967 02

Club Gear Hire

The gear is located at Jonny Horrox's home, 15 Dowling Street, Paroa. Email jh@wrc.govt.nz OR phone 03 762 6132. Hire equipment includes ice axes, crampons, harnesses, helmets at great prices. Good value for beginners. Adequate notice is appreciated but last minute gear hiring is fine, anytime, providing you can track him down.

Club E-Group

If you wish to send a message to other members via the Clubs Email Group List, please email your message to either the Secretary or Club Captain and put 'Circulate WCAC' in the Subject Line. Messages can include letting others know you intend to use the Club Hut, trip details, changes to trips, news items etc.



Boots is the semi-regular newsletter of the West Coast Alpine Club. You can contact us by email: aaronoutside@hotmail.com

Postal Address:

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