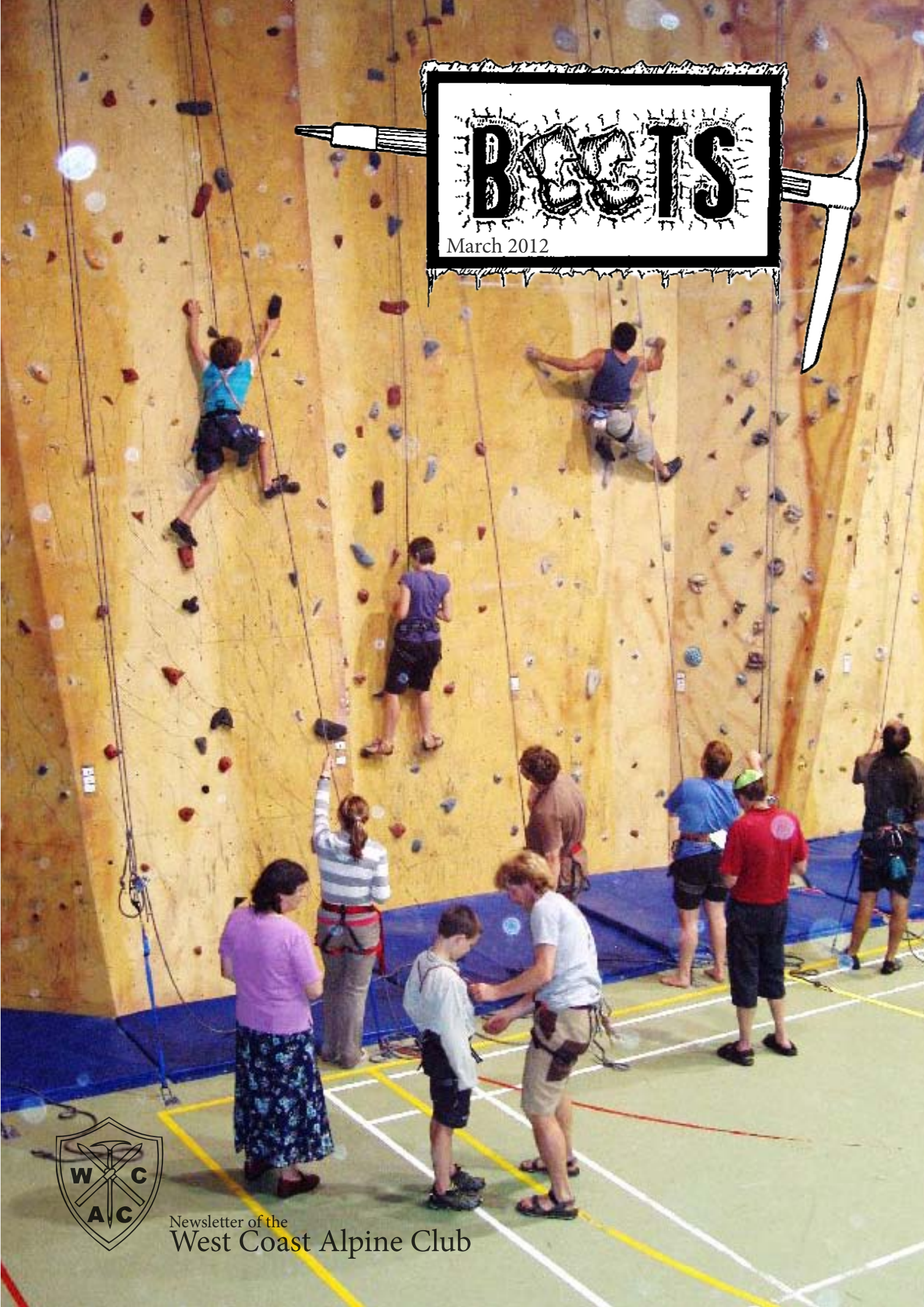




# BOOTS

March 2012





Leon catches a Christmas wave at the 12 Mile breakfast for waifs and strays.

## Mid-Winter Walk

» Rose Burrell

We had a good turnout of 16 members and friends for the Mid-Winter Walk around the Coal Creek Falls to Dunollie loop track on this overcast Sunday afternoon. Starting at the carpark, we strolled into the Falls and had a compulsory photo session. Then we set off onto the rougher track heading over the ridge to Dunollie.

The children were given a few pointers on how not to get lost - with only a few hours till dark, we were quite serious that they would have to wait till the next day for us to find them if they wandered off! As we neared civilisation again, we arrived at the stone entrance of the old Point Elizabeth mine requiring another photo session. Apparently this was our first State Coal Mine and at one stage after closing, was used for a mushroom farm.

The locals of Herd St, Dunollie, were surprised to see such a large

The summer has been sunny, dry and warm on The Coast over the last few months and WCAC members have been out in force. Here are some of the highlights that I have picked up on. On xmas day, a large number of orphans, vagrants and WCAC members descended on Paul Caffyn's house for brunch. Twelve people went out body-boarding on a very crowded 12 Mile surf break!

Over the New Year a small group of members enjoyed a club bonfire on Perfect Strangers Beach as well as a spot of rock climbing.

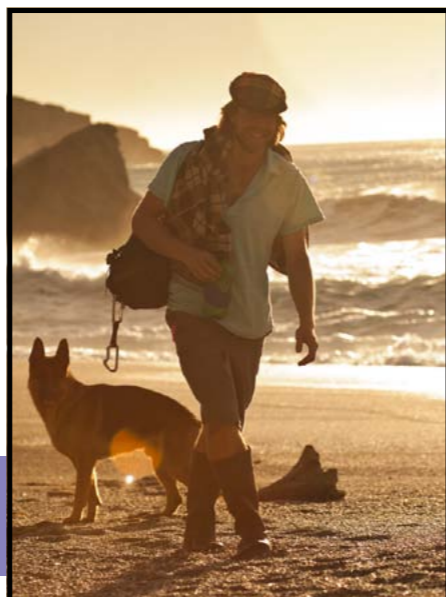
Josh Hudson and climbing partner Kieren Parsons have been mountaineering prolifically, including rock ascents of the Dasler Pinnacles and the Butterfly Buttress in the Hopkins Valley area and the "Great Prow" on Cloudy Peak. They also found excellent snow conditions on the East Ridge of Aoraki Mount Cook. Di Hooper was also spotted enjoying the sunshine at Mount Cook while she was participating in the NZAC annual climbing camp. The editor (with friend Dave) enjoyed 10 days at Mount Cook. We climbed Dilemma Peak from the Hooker Valley and also managed a quick scramble up the Dasler Pinnacles. Meanwhile, our secretary, Rachel Berry, has had enough of the sunshine and is off to Japan for a few weeks of skiing.

ED

## In other news

Jonny Horrox and Cecile Lee have been having an adventure with their newest little girl, Rewa, who is now almost 3 months old.

Jenny Fife, a brief member of the club, has been awarded the 2011 Gottlieb-Erica Scholarship for Aspiring Young Alpinists by the NZIPP, which includes \$500 to put toward an alpine instruction course. All the best for your future climbing Jenny.



Jack and Bud see out the year in style at Perfect Strangers Beach.

<http://westcoast.podserver.info/>

## Book Review by Mary Trayes

FOR THE RECORD

by Denis Knight

Are you on the lookout for an easy read? One which will tell you as much about the character of West Coasters as the region they live in? And a bit more about other parts of the South Island? If you are then you can't go past Denis Knight's 2011 publication, 'For the Record'.

Denis Knight only recently became a member of the West Coast Alpine Club but his links with the West Coast, both through primary school teaching and mountaineering, go back to the 1960's. The book, with stories, diary snippets and poems is organised in chronological order as it follows Denis's life as a teacher, family man, and mountaineer.

Despite spending long periods in Canterbury and Otago, Denis was drawn back to the West

Coast in his retirement, having done his very first stint as a teacher at Whataroa where the glacier country was an immediate drawcard for him. He has also done stints at Fox Glacier, Ross, Hokitika, Kowhitirangi and Barrytown to name but a few of West Coast locations where he's taught.

Now a widower, and not so active since having had a stroke in 2008, Denis is to be commended for having got his life story into print. Too many of us write diaries, take photographs and dream about writing a book but Denis, despite the medical setbacks, has accomplished his dream. Denis' story has also been broadcast on National Radio [with Jim Sullivan], and his story 'Jack Burke' will be published in 'New Zealand Memories' this year.

Copies of 'For the Record' are available from Denis for \$30

(cheque or cash). You can visit him at 42 Whitcombe Terrace, Hokitika, or contact him on 03 755 8795, or [Knights1@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:Knights1@slingshot.co.nz)

FOOTNOTE: Denis was at the last night of WCAC's climbing wall sessions for 2011, and at 74 years now lays the claim to being the oldest Club member to have climbed on the wall.

## WCAC Tracks

This evening I went out for a great evening in the bush - right behind Greymouth. I ran for around an hour past ancient, giant trees and I stretched while looking at the view from King Park over sunny Mawhera. From the top of King Park, I followed the newly WCAC cut track along Peter Ridge to the Electronet powerpole 4WD track and back home. The track/route is looking in fine nick thanks to a keen team led by our president, Alan. This is just one of a number of tracks that are informally maintained by club members. Other tracks include: the Mt George track at 11 Mile; Perrys Track from 12 Mile to 10 Mile Creek; The Coolgardie Track from Brunner Mine Site to Sewel Peak; the Kakawau Peak track; and the Rewanui - Mt Davy Track. Ask around for the details to access these tracks, and you will be rewarded with a fantastic walk to a stunning location often mixed with a bit of local history. And if you ask nicely, you may even get a guided tour.

## The Climbing Wall

The Climbing Wall end of year party was a great success, with a broad spectrum of climbers and spectators. Well done to Alex for taking out the top award and receiving the club marathon cup. Thank you to Paul Caffyn for organising and judging the blind climbing competition and to Jason for creating the vertical twister game.

On a sad note, we have lost our perpetually enthusiastic and kind Climbing Wall motivator Alex Hartshorne. Alex has finally been granted NZ residency and is off to celebrate with an open-ended rock climbing holiday (based on how long his money lasts). Alex, it has been great to have you around and we will miss you very much.



Alex is presented with the winners trophy by Santa, AKA Paul, after the end of year party and competition.

<http://westcoast.podserver.info/>

# Bain Bay Christmas Picnic

» *By Mary Trayes*

There were two beautiful days in a row on December 17th and 18th so with all lawns mown and washing dry on Saturday, seventeen Club members set out for a picnic at Bain Bay on Sunday.

Those who went by water from Mitchells had the quicker trip by far – well for most. Karen's stubby little river kayak kept doing circles en route which meant she arrived a bit later than the others but better late than never.

The walkers were confronted by a 30m thigh deep wade (for adults) not far along the boardwalk section around Carew Bay. Mary was glad that Gary had waited for her otherwise, like Denise who came later she would probably have given it a miss because the route is pretty unclear once you start wading. However, with Rose waving 'over here' and Morgan perched on Marion's shoulders, Mary caught up with the rest for a wet shorts walk on round to Bain Bay.

Once right around the shoreline of Carew Bay the track takes to the bush, cutting over the headland, and making a nice bush walk before lunch. At the bay there were sounds of the boating contingent long before they were seen, with the remainder of the Burrell family busy swimming and frolicking. Chris Manuel and

Lynda Murphy were also there with their two children having arrived first by Canadian canoe at about 11.30am.

The two picnic tables at the campsite area were soon organised together in the shade and lunch consumed. A thermette was lit for hot water for tea and coffee and then just about everyone went for a swim and/or paddle in one of the boats. Jennifer, coming up two, retired for a nap and Karen eventually made it having been sighted coming around the point a while before.

Such a pleasant afternoon... sun, good company, swimming, boating and walking. You really should have been there! And despite rumours there were no metre plus long eels seen when returning walkers waded their way

home again.

We found out later that Denise started off after everyone else, got to the wading bit, said, "Hmmm..." retreated, and ran into Karen just starting out. Denise decided to go up to Carew Falls instead, finding alternative company with a couple of English tourists. The falls looked really good from around Carew Bay so they must have made a fine sight up close.

The walkers were Marion McComb with son Morgan, Rachel Berry, Gary, Rose and Maria Burrell plus Mary Trayes. The boaties were John, Anna, Peter, Katherine and Paul Burrell, Lynda Murphy and Chris Manuel with children, Caden and Jennifer, and Karen Grant. And Denise Mayes went to Carew Falls.



*Lunch stop on the walk through Charleston mining history, guided by Chris Manuel during the Club Camp weekend, 27-29 January. Here we paused to explore a tailrace, seen at right. Full trip report in the next issue.*



Boots is the semi-regular newsletter of the West Coast Alpine Club. You can contact us by email: [burrellg@hotmail.com](mailto:burrellg@hotmail.com)

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