

**From SCOUTS Coastal Otago Zone
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from Josh
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**Josh Cuming Silver
Duke of Edinburgh
Qualifying
Copland Track /
Welcome Flat Hut Tramp
02 - 06 April 2010**

With the summer months gone, I made the decision I needed to do some tramping for my Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. From a friend I heard about the Copland track on the West Coast and these amazing hot pools it had. I thought that the opportunity to soak in natural hot springs, with amazing scenery, after a days tramping must be too good to be true. We departed from the Roslyn Scout Hall, in Dunedin, at the hour of 7am on Good Friday (2nd April & travelled to Wanaka where we met up with a group of four

Rangers (Guides) and two adults. Our group of 17 continued on to Fox Glacier where we had a 4.5hour guided tour of the Glacier. Having never been here before the glacier and the views amazed me.

Our accommodation for Friday night was at the Pine Grove Motel – 8km from the start of the Copland track.

A late(ish) start of 10am on Saturday morning was made slightly worrying by arriving at the car park (on Copland Valley Rd) to find ~30 other vehicles already there. Being Easter weekend this is to be expected – and we were adequately prepared with enough tents. Being in the “fast” group I made good time to our lunch stop at Architect hut. The weather to this point had been reasonably clear

with only light rain. Being in the forest most of the time meant we were quite sheltered and the terrain made for hot going at times. Architect Creek hut is a simple 2 bunk hut with a small pot belly stove. Being only ~3.5hrs from the car park and another 3hrs from Welcome Flat hut and its hot pool, not many people stay here. With the insistent sand flies biting we continued on.

15 minutes from Architect Creek hut we reached our first swing bridge – over Architect Creek.

The one person at a time limit on the bridge reduced our pace considerably. As the track progressed we crossed another two swing bridges and a few more small bridges. The addition of these bridges to the track mean that Welcome Flat hut (and beyond) has become much more accessible. The only proper river crossing involved is 50m from the car park. Being Easter holiday weekend we passed (and got passed by) plenty of other trampers on the track.

After 7.5hrs on the track the first of our party arrived at Welcome Flat Hut. This is a wooden two story hut which sleeps 31 people (on its second level). On the weekend we were there it was manned by two DOC wardens. The hut boasts flush toilets, kitchen sinks with running water and expansive camping facilities. Last of all, there is also a large rock overhang (bivouac) within a minutes” walk from the hut. The hot pools are a further minute up the gravel path from the bivouac.

The hot pools were definitely the highlight of the tramp for me. At an estimate I spent over 8hrs soaking in the hot pools during our 2 nights staying at the hut. There are at least half a dozen pools of varying size and temperature to choose from. These pools are naturally occurring geothermal pools, much like those found in other areas of New Zealand such as Hamner Springs. The origin of these great pools can be derived from the temperature of the rock within the earths crust. As the depth from the surface increases the temperature increases (geothermal gradient). Water which comes in contact with this rock is heated. The reason New Zealand has such hot pools is due to the movement of the tectonic plates exposing water to deeper rock in the earth. Saturday night (our first night at the hut) was pretty quiet – dinner of beef stir fry followed by a good few hours in the hot pools. Being Easter weekend the hut was very busy – with 83 people from Israel to Greymouth (and everything in between) staying there. I ended up spending this night under the fully packed bivouac. The

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rain persisted throughout the night and I woke up to a stream running across the track up to the bivouac. Being late arriving from the hot pools the night before I was on the edge of the overhang and the bottom third of my sleeping bag got quite wet...

Sunday morning dawned another fine day. A breakfast consisting of muesli, pancakes and coffee for me gave me the energy required for the day. A small group set off to reach Douglas Rock hut a further 3hrs up the valley. Having had a very average sleep on solid rock I decided to spend the day closer to the hut with the rest of our group. After breakfast we enjoyed the obligatory soak in the hot pools. With skin resembling that of our aging leaders we headed back down to the hut to make lunch – filled rolls were on our menu. After lunch we set off to the Welcome Flat proper; which resulted in a rather cold plunge in the river for a brave few. (I live in hope the video evidence will never make it online...) After getting back from our walk (and for some – swim) there was light rain. Shortly after this the rest of the group returned from Douglas Rock hut. This hut is much smaller, sleeping only eight people, but with great views (on a good day).

That night we had rice risotto for dinner – another successful meal. After this more time was spent in the hot pools... That night I was very happy to get to stay in the hut. I had a much more comfortable sleep in the hut and consequently woke up feeling refreshed and ready for the days tramp back out.

Monday dawned fine and with 17km of tramping ahead of us we had packed up and were on the track by 10am. I was in the fast group which left last. Apart from having to pack up the tents, this also meant that we managed to hold a consistent pace. However, we did stop at the lookout and took a quick detour to look at the emergency shelter which was an overhang and emergency kit about 15mins down the track from the hut. With our solid pace we made good time to Architect Creek hut for our lunch stop.

We only had a quick lunch stop of about 25mins – the mosquitoes were biting. From the hut at architect creek to the car park our pace seemed to increase again. In a time of 5hrs 10mins I have to say I was quite glad to see the car park. After the inevitable short wait for more of our group to finish, we packed into the cars and headed back to our nights accommodation at Pine Grove Motel. Being a bit of a 'home comfort' person the highlight of Monday for me

was definitely getting a hot shower. Dinner on Monday night was a very filling beef stew. After taking advantage of the Sky TV (and introducing our leaders to 'Skins') I was in bed by 11.30pm. Breakfast on Tuesday morning consisted of whatever food was left – for some last night dinner, for others of us it was fried wraps and jam which was surprisingly good. We had packed up and left Pine Grove by 10.30am. The drive back to Dunedin was well broken up with stops at the blue pools, Wanaka (lunch) and Cromwell (Real Fruit ice cream). Arriving back at the Scout Hall at 6.30pm concluded an awesome Easter weekend.



The Website

For those who are interested -the Scouts New Zealand website <http://www.scouts.org.nz> is worth keeping an eye on. There is always something new being posted from the new Kea & Cub badge posters to the latest Jamboree information & Job Week info. Likewise the Scouts Direct site is adding new badges as they are developed – watch out for the new Scout badges.

From the desk of the Zone Leader

Well winter is nearly over now & the cold temperatures have allowed some Sections & Groups to take part in some of the winter activities on offer. Tainui hosted their annual Brass Monkey camp at Waiora with the weather preventing the usual cycle out & back to Waiora. The persistent rain on Saturday meant that some of the activities were held inside while on Sunday the clearing weather meant they were finally able to get out & burn off some energy. The Cubs & adults in attendance had a great time despite the weather. Wayne Smith (Tainui Leader) said that this is the first time in 15 years of holding the event that it has rained & prevented the Cubs from cycling out & back.

Mosgiel Scouts invited the Otago Scouts to attend a Brass Monkey at Waiora on the same weekend. While the weather played a part they were able to get outside & experience the weather. On Saturday the hardy & brave souls that had taken their bikes with them biked back to the Mosgiel Hall. On the way they encountered snow & rain but had a great time regardless.

Census

The Census figures are all in now & I would like to congratulate all the hardworking Leaders, Committee Members & people working behind the scenes to support our Groups. The majority of the Coastal Otago Scout Groups have shown growth to ensure that we have achieved a growth of just over 7%. Thank you- this growth is excellent & could not have been achieved without your help. This compares with last year where we had a loss of 6%. The challenge is now on to increase those numbers again by another 5%. Keep up the good work- we have a great product to offer the youth of Otago. I believe that there are a lot of people both young & older that would benefit from taking part in Scouts. Let's show them what we do & encourage them to join.

Training

Have you given any thought to what level of training recognition that you want to achieve. The basic training is great for Section work while the Gilwell Woggle should be a goal for each Section Leader. For those interested in going further the Scouting Advanced Personal Development Course (SAPD) is the ultimate challenge & a fantastic course to take part in. The result of this course is a huge burst of enthusiasm, an overload of information & ideas & the Gilwell Scarf & Wood beads. On top of that you get to meet really cool like minded people with as much passion as you have. These courses are now easier to achieve with the new training regime.

Training has been redeveloped & the new training system has been released. This can be done either by attending training sessions held by the Zone team or downloading the material from the Scout website <http://www.scouts.org.nz> and then completing the forms & sending them in. You must be logged on to access some things on this site.

Upcoming training will be Section Organisation (2 hrs)

- Ceremonies
- Patrols / teams etc.
- Games
- Transition.

This is aimed at the newer Leaders & also those that are interested in implementing the National Programme. This will be held on the Wednesday in October from 7pm -9pm at the Service Centre & also on Saturday 10th Oct from 10 am-12am.

Have you got a Leader (preferably 2) that holds a current First Aid Certificate in your Section? While it is not often that it will be needed these skills are valuable & may save a life or at least allow you to assist for minor injuries & accidents. First Aid courses are run through a variety of organisations and an enjoyable event to take part in. If you have completed your First Aid please inform the Regional Service Centre of the date of completion so that this can be added to your training record.

General

1. There are still some of the Otago 'Bring a Friend badges' at the Service Centre. These are free & a great reward for those youth that introduce a friend to the movement. Hold a 'bring a friend' theme night- spacemen, super heroes, flight, dirt, science, food, fancy dress. The list of themes is endless & is a great way of introducing members particularly in the younger sections.
2. There are still award charts at the Service Centre- these come complete with the pen & wipes.
3. Photocopying is available to be done at the centre for a nominal fee page- cheaper than the usual photocopy centres.
4. The old styled badges are still available from the Service Centre, ring 4776644 to find out if what you are after is there before you go online.

Outdoor Leader Training

There will be a meeting at the Regional Service Centre on the 29th August at 7PM for those people interested in completing the Outdoor Leader Programme. This course can lead towards gaining other qualification such as Bush1

There are basic requirements & are as follows

- be 18 yrs old
- Consent to a Police check
- Logged 10 days tramping or overnight camps
- Have an additional 5 days as a leader or co leader of tramps or camps.

The costs are

Outdoor Leader training \$120

First Aid Cert \$120

if you already have this then you do not need to redo the First Aid Cert

Risk Management MSC \$120

This course is run by the Mountain Safety Council & is NZQA approved.

Please contact the Service Centre to book your place or Murray Welsh @ 454 2530

SCOUTS Job Week

Job Week is coming-20th Sept- 10th Oct. Very soon there will be the arrival of Job Week Personal Record Cards & a method of recording the public's interest in supporting this venture. The safety of our Youth is paramount- they should be supervised where appropriate & never be at a job on their own

There is, from the first of September, a Scout Job Week Pack (includes a shirt, badge, record card, pen & sippa bottle) available for \$10 or just the badge for \$2.50. The warning from National is be quick as the packs are limited.

Suggested Jobs include exercising dogs (I have 2 that need walking) -hint, hint

- Sweeping paths, raking leaves
- Car & window washing
- Gardening
- Cleaning windows/outside of buildings
- Minor maintenance & repair work
- Painting fences, gates and buildings

Domestic jobs for family & friends

Yes, National have co-ordinated with the Warehouse to allow Scout Groups to have a BBQ outside their stores. Please contact Steph Wade at 455 9522 to book a time. At present we are waiting for more information to come through from National so *all* Steph is able to do is book your time slot. Please be fair unless some Groups choose to not take part in this venture there will only be a day per Group. Once the information comes through we will pass it on to you.

All the money your Group raises stays with your Group. National & Regional are planning some profile & publicity events. We hope that when the email goes out about these fun activities that you will get behind them.

Kevin McRae (our Regional Development Manager) held an army vehicle wash & foreshore cleanup on the 5th Sept with a good turnout & big photo in the ODT.



Lower South Island Regional Conference

31st October 2010 at Waiora Scout Camp, Mosgiel

Your chance to catch up with what's been happening within the Region. Meet the National Section Leaders and talk about those things that are important to your section.

A practical training day is being planned for Saturday 30th October. Conference information will be sent to leaders soon.

We are still looking for people to join our team in all sorts of positions- Training, Support Leaders, Event Planners and Social Event Planners, etc. Many hands make light work & more fun – please ph Sandra @ 03 4898615 if you think you or someone else is able to help.



Handy Contacts

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