

# Golden Bay Alpine and Tramping Club

December, 2018

Vol 32 - No 3

## PROGRAMME

**Tramps are graded 1 to 5. Details on page 2.**

Contact trip co-ordinator *two days* before a day tramp or *a week* before an overnight tramp. If the weather forecast looks bad, contact the co-ordinator anyway as sometimes tramps are rescheduled.

**As soon as availability & conditions suit      Campbell Creek Canyoning      Grade 5**

Campbell Creek canyon, which starts at the bridge at the intake of the Pupu Hydro scheme, is described in the canyoning guide as: "Easy access to a mellow, but fun and very beautiful stream. Lots of medium to small jumps". The highest drop is 10 metres which is climbed down. Takes 3 to 4 hours. Wet suit a must, helmet recommended (John has spares) and a buoyancy aid recommended if not a confident swimmer. Maximum party size 8. Running this safely requires a low river flow and fine weather.

*Petrol \$3*

Phone John Brockway 525 7288 to book a place or with any questions

**Saturday 15 December      Johnston's United Gold Mine Stamper, Aorere Goldfields      Grade 2/3**

This historical stamper in the Aorere Goldfields was constructed in the 1870's and restored during 2012. Come and marvel at the endeavours of those early miners, and get a feel for their ingenuity in such a harsh place. Will focus on reaching the stamper initially and then if time, energy, and enthusiasm allow, we could explore some more interesting places during the return walk - Druggans Dam, Ballroom Cave, Slate/Aorere River confluence, Moonlight Flat lookout. 4 to 6 hours easy walking.

*Petrol \$8*

Phone Paul 525 7383

**Sunday 16 December      Parapara Gorge – beginner's canyoning      Grade 4**

This excellent trip features Richmond Dam headwall, deep pools, beautifully sculpted bedrock, waterfalls, and virgin forest. Wetsuits required as there are compulsory swims and the water is chilly. Much fun to be had! This trip is great for confident rock scramblers. Round trip takes about 5 hours.

*Petrol \$4*

Phone John Brockway 525 7288

**Saturday 22 December      Ligar Hills Circuit (via Wainui and Cream Cart Track)      Grade 2/3**

A familiarisation tour of some of the newly created walking opportunities on both sides of the Ligar Bay Hills. Start and finish at the Kingstons' place (1204 Abel Tasman Drive). About 5 hours at a leisurely pace. Steep sections requiring a moderate fitness level. There is a 'morning only' shorter option possible.

*Petrol \$3*

Phone Derry 525 9576

**Sunday 30 December      Kaituna Track Crossover      Grade 3/4**

This is one of Golden Bay's most rewarding one-day tramps, crossing the Wakamarama Range between the Naked Possum and Westhaven Inlet, through amazing country, with varied views and maybe a side-trip up Knuckle Hill. Can we get 2 parties and do a crossover? About 8 hours of varied tramping.

*Petrol \$14*

Phone Kerry 525 7571 or 027 2314566

**Sat 5 January (or Sun 6<sup>th</sup> if weather forecast looks better)      Parapara Peak      Grade 4**

Start the year with the traditional pilgrimage up Golden Bay's most prominent mountain. We expect to take 5 hours ascending and 4 hours descending.

*Petrol \$3*

Phone Derry 525 9576

**Saturday 12 January      Whanganui Inlet Kayaking**

Many possibilities in this awesome area. Maybe a chance for fishing on the incoming tide, then paddle up the Wairoa or Muddy Creek. You decide!

*Petrol \$12*

Contact CJ phone or text 027 426 8050

**Sun 20 - Tues 22 January**      **Kahurangi Lighthouse**      **Grade 1**

A delightful coastal walk on our wild west side. Beach the whole way, with a number of river crossings. Relax and explore on middle day. Gourmet dinners. Proposed November trip was cancelled due to high rivers, so let's hope for better weather.

*Petrol \$20 - \$24*

Contact Gaylene 022 1707398 or [beachgums@gmail.com](mailto:beachgums@gmail.com)

**Saturday 2 February**      **Wharariki to Farewell Spit**      **Grade 1/2**

Another try at this trip, previously cancelled due to bad weather. It's a beautiful walk from Puponga to Wharariki up and down via Pillar Point Lighthouse and Cape Farewell along the cliff tops and through farmland with stunning views. Hopefully a crossover if there are enough of us.

*Petrol \$12*

Phone Albie or Fill 525 9138

**Fri 8 - Sun 10 February**      **Lockett Range - Fenella**      **Grade 5**

We hope to leave mid afternoon on Friday 8th and camp at Iron Lake the first night (an alternative is to leave later and stay at Sylvester Hut Friday night but this does make for a very long Saturday). Saturday is climbing Iron Hill, then along the tops following the ridgeline and the occasional cairn, and popping up over Mt Benson until eventually coming to a group of tarns just above the bush line where we will camp. From there it's only a couple of hours down to Fenella on Sunday, and then a walk out to Trilobite.

*Petrol \$17*

Phone Jocelyn/John 525 9125

**Fri 15 - Sun 17 February**      **Asbestos Cottage - Balloon Hut - Cobb Circuit**      **Grade 3**

(Dependent on Cobb Road being open) Leave Takaka late Friday, and after locating a car at Trilobite, walk from Asbestos carpark to stay the night at Asbestos Cottage. Next day follow the pretty track up through the bush to the Flora track junction, then on up past Salisbury Hut to Balloon Hut. Overnight there, then walk around Lake Peel, onto Peel Ridge, then down into the Cobb Valley near Trilobite Hut, and home on Sunday. Bush, history, alpine flowers, park-like open tablelands. With enough takers, this would work well as a cross-over.

Some tents may be necessary given the time of year.

*Petrol \$17*

Phone/text Julie 0277799999

**Saturday 23 February**      **Project Rameka Trapline**      **Grade 2**

We visit this area monthly and invite you for a wander, checking the line of stoat traps at Project Rameka. Up the Great Expectations track, lunch at the Lorax Lair, and return down the Odyssey track. Mostly on tracks through regenerating bush and pine forest, some steep slippery slopes off track. About 4 hours.

*Petrol \$3*

Phone Albie or Fill 525 9138

**Tuesday 26 February**      **Club Night**

Two of our most famous glaciers will be on display, when Bruce Telford takes us on an alpine tramping journey up the Fox Glacier to the Main Divide at Pioneer Saddle, before crossing onto the Franz Josef neve for a challenging descent. Expect great scenery followed by a fun Quiz and supper. Time and venue to be confirmed.

**Fri 1 - Mon 4 March (flexible)**      **Hopeless Hut**      **Grade 4/5**

Alpine trip into the Nelson Lakes NP. Probably travelling up the Travers Valley, staying at one of the huts or camping. Up Hopeless Track, staying at the hut, then over Sunset Saddle. Maybe a side trip up Mt Angelus - it would be rude not to really! Because the weather is going to continue to be wonderful when we do this trip, we will then come down Robert Ridge :) Probably 4 days as it would really be nice not to hurry. Experienced trampers only please. A bit of info re Hopeless Hut: "Cute ply-lined hut, built by the Alpine Club and opened by Edmund Hillary in 1967. It's sure got the view of the sheer cliffs opposite and a view down to the St Arnaud Range at the end of the valley."

*Petrol \$ share*

Contact Cathy 021 999 015

## **TRAMP GRADING**

**1 - Easy**      Maximum of 3 hours walking per day, with graded inclines and descents, on well-marked, benched track. Hut accommodation. e.g. Abel Tasman Track and other Great Walks, or Sylvester Hut.

**2 - Easy/Moderate**      Maximum of 5 hours walking per day on marked tracks, with graded ascents/descents. Hut accommodation or camping in established campsites. e.g. Fenella Hut

**3 - Moderate** Maximum of 6 hours walking per day on tracks or marked route. May involve some rough terrain and ascent of up to 900m per day. Hut accommodation or camping. e.g. Waingaro Forks Hut

**4 - Moderate/Hard** About 8 hours tramping per day, using tracks, routes and sometimes navigating on untracked, rough terrain through bush/scrub. Ascents of up to 1500m per day. Fitness for multi-day trips essential. Often camping. e.g. Haupiri Range

**5 - Hard** 8+ hours of tramping per day, regularly navigating on untracked, rough terrain, either in bush or at high altitude. Multiple ascents/descents per day, sometimes steep. Fitness and strength for multi-day trips essential. Usually camping. e.g. Quartz Range Farm to Adelaide Tarn via Lead Hills

## **A WINNING PHOTO**

The winning photos in the 2018 FMC photo competition were stunning. The photo below was runner-up in the "Below Bushline (no human element)" category. Titled "Paturau Coast", it was taken by GBATC club and committee member CJ Webster. Congratulations, CJ! Our own grand canyon? It's all a matter of perspective! Have a look in the November issue of Backcountry Magazine for more of the winning photos from other clubs.



# TRAMP REPORTS

## Commentary Cave, Upper Takaka, via the abseil entry

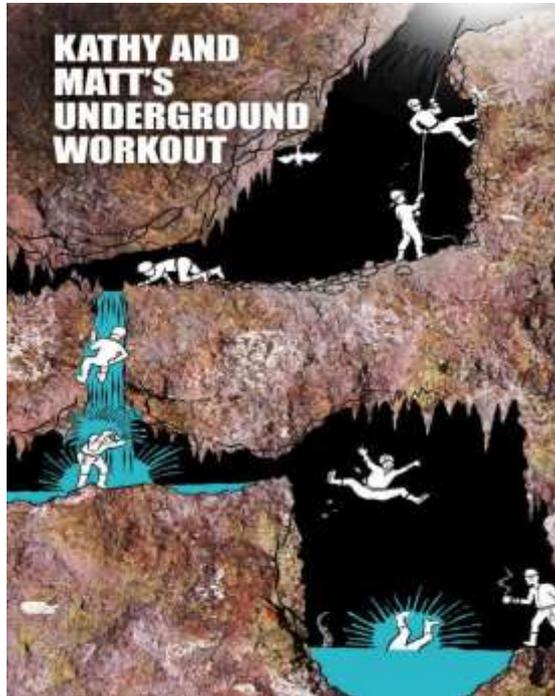
16 September

*Leaders: Matt Hopkins, Kathy Shaw*

*Party: Reto Balzer, Rose & Al Hughes, Gaylene Wilkinson, Tony Lawton*

**First Report:** Having been through Commentary Cave a couple of times, I was curious to explore the abseil entry into this cave system. None of us were disappointed...what great fun! Matt & Kathy are Yr 13 GBHS students who are REALLY competent cavers, and were happy to be our guides. Matt rigged up the abseil while Kathy literally showed us the ropes, with practise attachment of our abseil racks onto a rope to have a dummy run down a slope in the paddock. Then we were off into the bush for the real thing. The abseil lands you on a fairly steep scree in the cave. After scrambling down this you are in a creek, and admiring the nicest formations in Commentary. It doesn't take long at all to get to the next abseil, this time down a waterfall. Immediately after that you step into a rock cleft that the creek is pouring down...this time they say "JUMP!" Hmm, I'm not the only one who isn't sure how waterproof their headlamp is, and we're certainly going to submerge after the 3m jump. After some hesitation, everybody is wet and whooping. Now we're alive! Matt & Kathy are totally prepared - they have thermoses full of hot nectarine tea and several bars of chocolate to share. From here we are in the big central chamber of the cave, and I'm in familiar territory again. Our group split into 'guys and gals' to exit. The girls took the standard Monster Mouth route, while Matt took us out via a skinny passage which involved a bit of bellying and crawling. Out and blinking in the sunlight again, we were buzzing with excitement and chuffed with our wee adventure.

*Tony Lawton*



Above is a drawing of the Commentary Cave experience... it is the cover of a Thank You card which Al made for Kathy and Matt.

**Second Report:** It's not every morning which provides the opportunity to dangle high in the air, clamber deep underground and leap into a subterranean river. Commentary cave in Upper Takaka provided a full-body workout, but our extremely capable young guides, Kathy and Matt, expertly guided us through each challenge. Beginning with an abseil into the cave itself, we then descended an underground waterfall on another rope, before jumping 2 meters into a deep pool. If not already on an 'adrenaline high', this last feat is guaranteed to jump-start your system like a quadruple espresso. After a much-needed hot mug of tea our small party took alternate routes to the cave exit. Matt displayed a sly sense of humour by letting us wriggle like ageing worms through a tiny tunnel before taking a secret, and much easier, route himself. This was a unique and exciting experience which we will be talking about for a long time to come. If you are fortunate enough to do the same in future - don't forget to enjoy the cave itself, full of striking geological formations and impressive caverns.

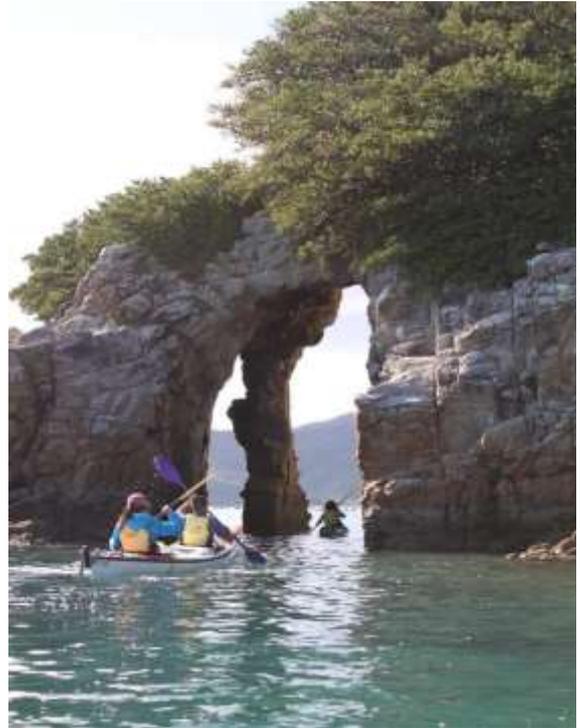
*Al Hughes*

### Sea Kayaking - Tata Islands to Wainui

30 September

*Party: Wally Kalis, Paul & Hazel Taylor, Rose & Al Hughes, Reto & Vera Balzer, Gaylene Wilkinson*

This sea kayak trip is always special, and I love sharing it with others. Being high tide, we could paddle through the arch and sneak into lovely sea passages close to the shore on our way out to Wainui sandspit, where we had a break for morning tea.



We startled a few basking stingray, watched seals lolling in the water, and stayed a little clear of the spotted and pied shags nesting high on the cliffs (beyond squirt zone!). I'm not sure if we were disappointed or relieved that we didn't see the Southern Right Whale which had been in the area during this week. With beautiful views, gorgeous rock formations, wildlife, good company, sun, little wind, gentle exercise.... how could we not enjoy this outing?  
*Gaylene*

Abel Tasman Hinterland *Cancelled - heavy rain*

Mt Owen via Granity Pass *Cancelled - only one taker*

Kahurangi Lighthouse *Cancelled - rain too heavy for river crossings*

Salisbury Lodge via Flora *Cancelled*

### Mt Arthur by moonlight

*Party: Brian, Rodney and Shaye*

Poor weather the previous weekend meant that the trip was postponed, which unfortunately meant that several people could not go - however this did work in my favour as I hadn't been available the week before. We met Brian at Mt Arthur Hut having left the car park sometime around 6, relaxing until night had fallen before heading up towards the summit. The stars and moon made only brief appearances, obscured by the cloud. Upon making it to the turn off to Gordon's Pyramid the decision was made not to continue to the summit, as no view was to be seen. Brian helped us to set up our tents, before he headed back to the hut for the night.

The morning dawned and the view remained obscured, so we headed back to the hut for breakfast. We were back down to the vehicle by 9.30 am.  
*Shaye*

### Club Night

20 November

We enjoyed a presentation by Gaylene on Tramping in Tasmania, finally had time for another awesome Quiz, and there was plenty of chatter over a yummy supper afterwards.

## **Ferguson's Farm, Kaihoka**

**25 November**

*Party: Angus, Maureen, Shaye, Mary, Joyce, Amy, Monika, Kirstie, Suzie, Conrad, Albie, Fill, Alison, Julie, Tish*  
Beginning at the Ferguson's isolated farmhouse, we climbed up vibrant green pastures and along the ridge to a great viewpoint for lunch. We were sheltered from the easterly breeze within impressive clusters of boulders displaying fascinating solution flute rock formations.



We overlooked the beautiful Whanganui Inlet and out to the West Coast waves. As we descended to the western beach via sand dunes studded with nikau palms, we saw a massive, recently fallen boulder, which had rolled down the hillside and gouged through the track.



On the beach we stumbled across an oystercatcher's nest, positioned precariously close to the waves.



We collected some washed up rubbish to maintain the pristine beauty of this area. Tide in so we returned back through the paddocks rather than round the inlet and the weather was kind to us with welcome rain starting just as we returned to our cars.

Thank you very much to the Ferguson family for generously allowing us the tremendous opportunity to explore this unique and beautifully wild environment.

*Amy*

## **Wainui-Tata Coasteering**

**1 December**

*Party: Pippa, Clara, John, Gaylene and Al*

Saturday morning arrived with very inclement weather and the cancellation of some of the girls' normal Saturday sports so at late notice we joined the trip. We met by GB kayaks at 10.00am with a low tide of 1.3m due at 11am, I was sceptical we could get around on such a high low tide without getting wet. However, it was proven to be possible with some more technical climbing and you had to be quick on your feet between wave surges in

some spots. The highlight was the steep traverse section above the surging sea in Wainui Bay before reaching the easier beach amble to Doctors beach and beyond.



We stopped in a sea cave hiding from a rain shower for a well-earned snack and hot drink with Al sharing some rather nice homemade biscuits - yum! Pathfinder Gaylene found the shortcut track from the beach to half way up the Wainui hill road. We had a rather tired but accomplished Clara, age 9, by the time we got back over the hill to the cars two and a half hours after leaving.

We definitely plan to do it again when the conditions are suitable for some swimming stops.

*John*

## **TWO OTHER TRAMPS**

### **The Bibbulmun track in South West Australia**

I first heard about this walking track between Perth and Albany 15 years ago, and in the spring of 2018 eventually did it as an 'End to Ender'. It proved to be a very rewarding experience, and a jolly good holiday to boot.

The present day alignment of the Track was created 20 years ago and is 965Km long. It usually requires six to eight weeks to complete. Because of the consistency and standard provided at the 50 campsites, the track signage, its alignment and maintenance, and its supporting maps and guidebooks, some walkers have given it a six-star rating. Certainly it is a world class long distance walk – eminently suitable for anyone wanting to try out long distance walking.

Before embarking on the longer walks like the USA ones (Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Coast Trail) or our Te Araroa, it would be a good track to experiment with your gear selection, your mental and physical fitness for walking day after day for months on end, and deciding if it is your thing. The biggest expense of course is paying the return airfare to Perth. There is no charge for using the Track and its campsites. One can resupply from the several little towns that the route takes one through.

The scenery is not spectacular by New Zealand standards. But the most memorable feature is subtle change in the environment and the corresponding changes in the vegetation. Biodiversity is immense, even on the coastal sandhills. The understorey of the eucalypt forest is full of surprises especially with the wildflowers in spring. Kangaroos, emus and cockatoos are plentiful. Variety of bird calls enchant. The reliable water supply at each campsite is collected in rainwater tanks from the roof of the well-designed shelters. The giant karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor) and the tingle trees were awesome. The frequent large-scale bush fires have left their mark. The blackened bark on trees day after day can be rather depressing, but the regeneration of the trees themselves and fresh understorey counterbalances that. During my six week journey I met a total of less than 30 people doing the End to End. For ten of the nights I was alone at a campsite. It is still an under utilised track.

Anyone wanting more info can borrow my set of 8 maps and guidebooks and a DVD. Phone me 525 9576.

*Derry*

## A Different Kind of Journey

Recently I heard that oil drilling has started in the Yasuni National Park in Ecuador. Why should that be in this tramping club newsletter? Well, we all care about our national parks and if that happened in New Zealand there would be outrage. But because it is out of sight and we have such a disconnect with where the fuel for our cars comes from, people are not that interested. The President of Ecuador asked back in 2007 for \$3.6 billion from wealthy countries to leave the oil in the ground, a bold and innovative conservation idea and actually half the cost of what the oil was worth. By 2013 only \$100 million had been pledged. Now this pristine corner of the Amazon is being deforested and drilled for oil that people are using to drive in cars and fly in planes. Do you always want to see and go 'somewhere new'? Well so do millions of others and it's changing the climate and destroying our planet. An alternative to seeing new places, is to 'see a place with new eyes'. We have two amazing national parks on our doorstep that overseas visitors love to visit.

I didn't feel comfortable helping to destroy someone else's national park while using a car to take me to go tramping in my local national park, so I started thinking how could I go tramping without using the car? And then along came Cyclone Gita.

With the Cobb road closed many locals have not gone tramping in the Cobb. But instead of seeing it as a problem, I saw it as a challenge and the journey to get there became as much fun as the destination. At first, with the Takaka hill shut, I would cycle up an empty SH60 - a taste of a world without cars! At the broken Cobb bridge I climbed up and onto an empty Cobb road. If you've never walked the road, it was quite different not being in a car, or having cars around.

Next trip, when the big slip on the Cobb was starting to be cleared, I lifted the mountain bike up onto the bridge and cycled up to Trilobite. That's a meaty hill on a push bike loaded up with a heavy pack! There had to be a better way. A quick look at Trade Me and a few days later a second-hand electric mountain bike arrived. From my home I could now get to Trilobite in 2 1/2 hours loaded up with pack and spare battery and arrive ready for a tramp. Asbestos corner was 1 1/2 hours.

Now with the Takaka hill open to traffic again, I cruise along an empty East Takaka road, then it's a short stretch of main road before the Cobb turn off. The electric bike isn't noisy, or polluting, or using fossil fuels, and only costs an amazing \$2.80 in electricity to go 1,000 kms! The bike has paid for itself in fuel cost savings. On a bike you see more and experience more than shut in a car and it's fun whizzing along. It's almost as much fun as tramping! And what about the tramping trips? I've had a great time seeing new places in the Cobb as well as seeing the place with 'new eyes'!

I'd like to thank the guys at the Cobb power station for all their help lifting my bike up and down the ladder when the Cobb bridge was unusable!

*Fiona*

## OTHER NEWS AND INFO

### **Trip Leader's Checklist:**

\* ask all participants if they have any medical conditions that you should know about. If there are, note this next to their name on the trip list, and ensure they take any personal medications required.

\* take a map, compass, PLB and first aid kit for the trip. The Club has these items, and also a GPS, available for use. Contact CJ Webster 027 426 8050

\* email your trip intentions and list of participants to the following two addresses prior to departure:

Gaylene Wilkinson beachgums@gmail.com

Bob Kennedy robekay@gmail.com

These two people will be the contacts for emergency services if the club PLB is activated. If a personal PLB is being used, it is likely that emergency services will find out that it is a GBATC trip and contact Gaylene anyway.

Please contact CJ if there are changes to planned trips so they can be posted on our website and facebook. Also, please organise one of your party to write a trip report, and email to Fill, plus a few photos! (details below).

**Petrol contributions for tramps:** The petrol contribution amount for each tramp is a guide only, based on four people in a car. It may be changed at the discretion of the trip leader. It is the leader's responsibility to collect money from each tramper and to distribute it to the drivers.

**Available for hire:** for club members on private trips (contact CJ 027 426 8050):  
The club PLB and GPS - \$10 for each for up to a week, provided the PLB is not needed for a club trip  
The club Macpac Minaret Alpine tent can be hired for \$5 per day. It weighs 2.4kg.

**Basic First Aid Kit** - Stowed in a small dry bag:

For wounds

Light rubber gloves (self protection)  
2 tampons (compressed cotton wool)  
1 4m x 7.5cm bandage  
Small iodine  
12 cm dressing strip (plasters)  
Leucoplast tape  
2 small safety pins  
2 butterfly closures  
Fold up scissors (\$2 shop!)  
Tweezers  
Burn gel

Medications

Pill sheets, with a small card detailing what the drug is for, and dosage:  
Anti-inflammatory - Ibuprofen  
Pain relief - Nurofen, Panadol, Panamax... codeine  
Allergies, Hayfever, Stings - Antihistamines: Razene, Phenergen

Miscellaneous

Aquatabs - water purification  
Needle & thread  
Earplugs  
Barley sugars

The November issue of the **Backcountry Magazine** (previously called the FMC Bulletin) is available for you to collect from the library. Thanks to the library staff.

Back-copies of the club's **Wilderness magazines** are available to borrow from Bob Kennedy, who kindly houses years and years of them. Phone Bob 525 9958.

We have a Group **Facebook** page - Golden Bay Alpine Tramping Club. It is a closed group, but you can ask to join. Thanks, CJ, for setting it up and being its administrator. And our **website** is <http://www.goldenbayatc.org/>

**Photos.** Please email photos to Fill (address below) for the newsletter, and to CJ (address below) for Facebook or post them direct to Facebook. If you have done an amazing tramp, or if you have dreams of amazing tramps in the future, you are welcome to share these in the next newsletter. Email to Fill.

**Golden Bay Alpine and Tramping Club Committee 2017/2018**

<i>President</i>	Gaylene Wilkinson	022 170 7398	beachgums(AT)gmail(DOT)com
<i>Treasurer</i>	Albie Burgers	525 9138	albie.fill(AT)gmail(DOT)com
<i>Newsletter editor</i>	Fill Burgers	525 9138	albie.fill(AT)gmail(DOT)com
<i>Committee</i>	Rodney Watson	525 8847	rjwatson2(AT)xtra(DOT)co(DOT)nz
	CJ Webster	027 426 8050	cjwebster962(AT)gmail(DOT)com
	Cathy Rooney	021 999 015	cath.roo(AT)gmail(DOT)com
	Julie Sherratt	027 779 9999	julie.sherratt(AT)xtra(DOT)co(DOT)nz