

SUMMER CAMP BASED AT TAPAWERA, TASMAN DISTRICT 9 – 15 JANUARY 2015

INTRODUCTION

Trevor Blogg (Camp Leader)

As reported in the Canterbury Botanical Society Newsletter, the rainy spring had threatened to derail some of the intended activities of our Summer Camp: the paddocks leading to the 4WD access for Red Hills had been saturated just two weeks before our visit. The road to Flora Saddle had been closed for quite some time owing to land-slips. We would be dependent on enough high clearance 4WD vehicles to access three of our destinations including the charismatic Hoary Head. In the event, everything dried out and slips were cleared, and two viable 4WD vehicles were volunteered, all in time to create a perfect camp in excellent weather.

A total of ten Canterbury Botanical Society members, including an overseas visitor, arrived at the Tapawera Settle motor camp on the Friday evening. Many thanks to those who attended the Summer Camp with me: Paul Maurice, Alastair and Fleur Macdonald, Miles and Gillian Giller, George and Margaret Ridgen, Svelta Marinova, and (visitor) Maria Lijka.

DAY 1 SATURDAY 10 JANUARY 2015 RED HILLS, MARLBOROUGH

Trevor Blogg

I was vaguely aware of the phenomenon of the Red Hills formation, which existed somewhere in the Nelson area, and was the same basic formation as an area found (I believed) in Fiordland, but before organising this camp I was unaware of the details or of the vegetation involved. Well, my previous ideas were in need of refinement, and the enthusiasm shown by camp attendees for getting into the area prior to the date of the camp, convinced me that this would indeed be something special.

In geological terms, the Red Hills formation in Marlborough (as it turns out) is an ultramafic remnant left behind on the edge of the Australian plate, as the majority of the same formation followed the counter-clockwise rotation of the Pacific Plate along what we call the Alpine Fault.