

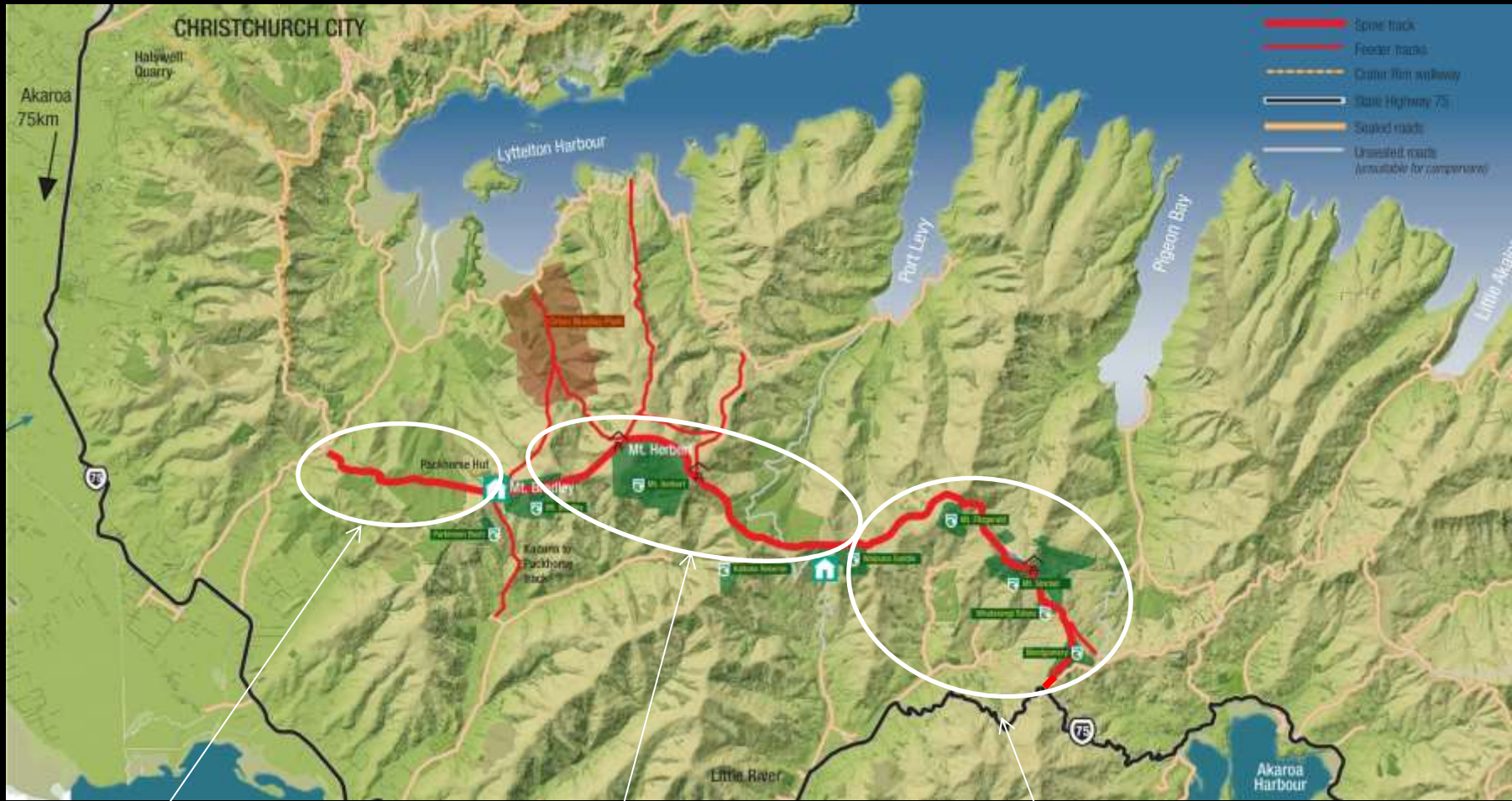
# Spine of the Lizard

*with Burnside High School DoE team*



January 2015

First group to walk Gebbies Pass to Hilltop via Rod Donald Hut



Day 1 Gebbies Pass  
to Packhorse Hut

Day 2 Packhorse Hut  
to Rod Donald Hut

Day 3 Rod Donald Hut  
to Hilltop



## Day 1 - Gebbies Pass Trail Head

Gear check, orientation, map reading



**Departing from Gebbies Pass**



**Spotting the track leaving the logging road**



**Rest stop in the forest**



**Emerging from pine forest to tussock land**



**Views of Lyttelton Harbour**





**Mt. Bradley ahead**



Arrival at Packhorse Hut



## Pitching the tents

DoE students learning to camp



## Evening exploring

View to Mt Bradley and the next day's route ahead



**Day 2 begins with a clear dawn over Lyttelton Harbour**



## Departing Packhorse

By now the forecast southerly has arrived and cloaked Mt Bradley in mist.



## Traversing Mt. Bradley

Thick mist and rain make for a challenging tramp



## Lunch at Mt. Herbert shelter

Welcome respite from the rain





## Departing Mt. Herbert Shelter

A chance to appreciate why being well prepared and bringing all the warm weather proof gear on the tramp list is so important!



## Mt. Herbert Summit

Even without the view, its great to reach the top. 919m.



## Where do we go now?

No track markers are visible and no landmarks either. Its easy to lose all sense of direction in these conditions.



## Mr. Smythe suggests using maps and compasses

The group heads off in a south-easterly direction



**Totara skeletons loom from the mist**



## Port Levy Saddle

Damp and tired – but very happy at Bob’s gate!



## Approaching Waipuna Saddle

The mist has lifted and the rain has cleared



**Windswept totara are full of character**





## Arrival at the Rod Donald Hut

Sun comes out just as we arrive



Sorting out damp gear



**Preparing to light the pot belly**



First experience of splitting wood



Success!



Lighting the pot belly



**Getting those clothes dry!**



**Listening to the weather forecast on mountain radio**





Bed time



## Day 3 Dawns fine

View over Little River from the Rod Donald Hut



## Many hands make light work!

Helping out the Rod Donald Trust by hauling their new fire water storage tanks up the hill



## Rolling them into position

The Trust will have 10,000l of fire water on site and 10,000l of drinking water



## Returning to the totara wood

Where we last saw Brianna....lost person group exercise!



**Striding onward above Port Levy**



Totara arch



**Totara graveyards of Waipuna Saddle**





**Looking back to Mt. Fitzgerald**



Heading to Mt Sinclair



Looking toward Lake Forsyth



Looking toward Pigeon Bay



**Rocky Peak Summit, Montgomery Reserve**



**Descending toward Akaroa Harbour**



## Picking down the rocks

Montgomery Reserve track



**Lush bush in Montgomery Reserve**





**One last totara skeleton**



Living totara giant



## Tree Hug

It took all six to stretch around the tree



We made it!



**Crossing the paddock to Hilltop Hotel**



**A well deserved ice cream before heading home!**

Back to Burnside in just over 1 hour