



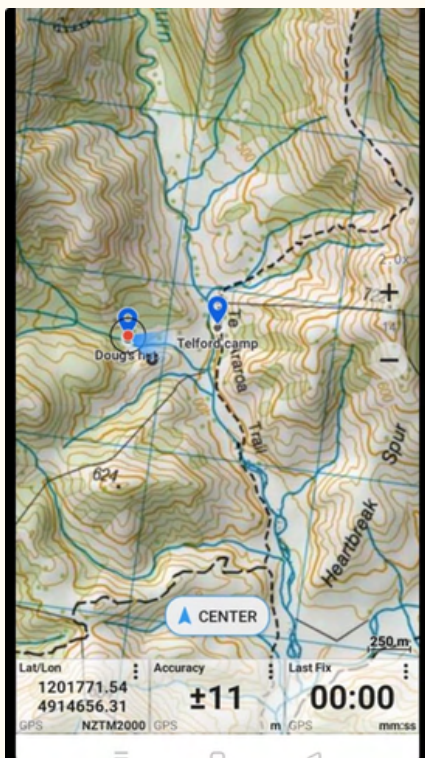
Credit James Hancock

# Dougies Hut, Takitumus

A SPECIAL MAN, HUT AND JOB, THE REFURBISHMENT OF DOUGIE'S HUT WAS FULL OF MEANING

The inscription in the old concrete step outside Dougie's hut reads 1975, AA DN. That's the date and the builders. Doug died a few years ago, his mate still lives and now their hut will provide welcome shelter to many for years to come.

Positioned close to the Te Araroa trail and where a hut is sorely needed, it made perfect sense to tidy Dougie's hut up and make it available to all thereby preserving a bit of history and the legacy of a man well thought of in the area.



A team from Permolat Southland with several trailer loads of mostly salvaged materials, thanks to PF Olsen forestry, winched and towed ourselves in to the hut site on Saturday 11 January with the light rain providing just enough slick to make it very interesting. Stripping the cladding and cleaning the vegetation off the roof gave us a better idea of what was required. Better than we thought in some areas and way worse in others.

This team was a dream team of capable, skilled, enthusiastic volunteers who not only got on with the task but also with each other. Annabel, Hutty and Greg spent a considerable amount of time chasing and replacing rot in the floor and walls while Murray, Jim, Lois and Les set to on removing the woodshed, cladding and resetting piles before we all rebuilt the walls, added a deck, sealed around the chimney, reconfigured the bunks and completed lining the hut in sympathy with its rustic originality. Signage and candle holders were added along with doc mattresses repurposed from the Luxmore hut





# Dougies Hut 2025





# A BIG THANKS

THIS JOB WAS POSSIBLE ONLY BY THE SUPPORT OF SOME WONDERFUL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

- **Backcountry Cuisine** (product and cash sponsorship),
- **Mt Linton Station** (access and support),
- **Wairio Hack Club** (original proposal and historic information),
- **PF Olsen Forestry** (materials),
- **DOC Invercargill** (support, consent, signage),
- **Justin Bain** (materials)
- and of course our team of volunteers.



**Annabel Newnam, John Hutt, Greg Wilson, Murray Dawson, Jim Officer, Les Scown, Lois Bishop** on site and others back home **Karen** (admin) and **John McDonald** (kitchen supplied). Even though John wasn't with us it kinda felt like he was everytime we sat down to eat with his wonderful kitchen box supplying everything we needed.

Four of our volunteers had seen their 70th birthday and were an inspiration to those of us younger ones.

## LET'S CHAT!

Despite some doubt about the amount of materials needed and a complete lack of accurate measurements and plans beforehand, very little came back out ( except a huge trailer load of rubbish)and nothing was left unfinished.

All in all it was a great trip with a very satisfying result.



Photo credit: James Hancock

It was a full four days and TA walkers were literally waiting for us to finish to move in. Lieke and Ida will be remembered as the first to stay in the refurbished Dougie's hut and they were quite proud of that too. We have already had other good feedback about the hut too

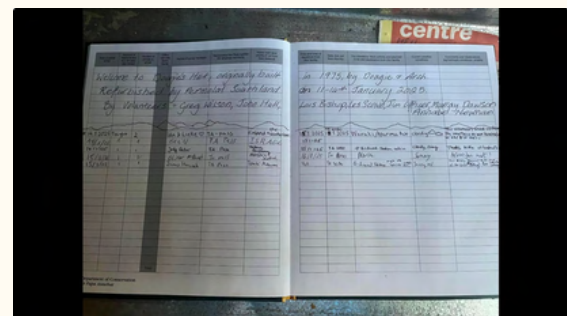


Photo credit: James Hancock TA walker