

Almost

TRUE TRAMPING TALES BY NZ WRITER, JULIA MILLEN

# *Fair Weather Trampers*

*In the New Zealand Bush with the Cock & Bull Tramping Club*

by Julia Millen with sketches by Barbara O'Reilly

One summer morning a group of drinking mates set out for a short walk. Twelve hours later, exhausted and footsore, they straggle on to Makara Beach. So begins the story of the Cock & Bull Tramping Club.

Inspired by *The Compleat Trumper* – advocate of ancient equipment, oilskin parkas, woollen long-johns – the Cock & Bull trampers embark on a series of adventures, and disasters, bush-bashing, struggling over the tops, battling leatherwood and sleet.

JULIA MILLEN's light-hearted stories not only depict Cock & Bull exploits throughout New Zealand but reflect her accomplished writing career. Besides tramping the ranges, she has also skied the Tasman Glacier, and hiked in The Grand Canyon, Patagonia and Antarctica. One of the first women 'on the ice', she took part in the Longwire-Byrd traverse, 19km with the temperature 25° C below.

BARBARA O'REILLY was enticed into the Cock & Bull Tramping Club and after a brief initiation into its unique philosophy, began to enjoy – even relish – the highs and lows of tramping with this diverse group who managed always to triumph over nature and themselves. Barbara's sketches evoke memories of exhaustion and fellowship, skinny-dipping and places of significance to the Cock & Bulls.



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