

Access to the Summit of Mt Alfred

5 December 2016

By Geoffrey & Diana Thomson, tel. 0-3-442 5268

This note is to clear up any misunderstandings regarding public access to the summit of Mt Alfred.

Large areas of Mt Alfred, including all land above the beech forest line, are part of Mt Earnslaw Station. The Department of Conservation (DoC) administers some reserve areas on Mt Alfred, and has developed a walking track into one of them on the western side of the mountain. The presence of this access into the DoC reserve (together with a small car parking area) has given some members of the public the impression that there is a track beyond the bush level – to the summit of Mt Alfred. This impression has been further reinforced by various publications referring to Mt Alfred as a suitable place for day walks.

We want to make it clear that at no time have we treated access beyond the DoC reserve any differently than access to any other parts of our property. We have requested that anyone wishing to venture onto our property should contact us first. That is why our telephone number was provided for those wishing to venture beyond the DoC reserve.

There has never been a track for the public above the bush on Mt Alfred.

However, people seeking access to the top of the mountain have found it convenient to contact us and climb to the top by way of the DoC reserve. For many years this was not a problem for us, as the numbers were small, and visitors understood mountain weather conditions, and caused minimum disturbance to our farming operation. The situation has changed markedly over the last year or so, with large increases in numbers, many people not requesting permission, not understanding mountain hazards, and some getting lost on the mountain.

To enable safe and manageable access in the future, the Thomson family have arranged for Dean Fitzpatrick and Patricia Ko of Wildlight Safaris, Glenorchy to conduct guided tours up the mountain. They will be able to provide a professional guiding service to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip – and provide us with the assurance that health and safety measures are in place for all parties.

Please contact Dean & Patricia if you wish to climb to the top of Mt Alfred.

Wildlight Safaris can be contacted at info@wildlightsafaris.com , or tel. 0-3-442 5200.