

Assessment of:	Gem Panning and Fossil Hunting	Location:	Mount Cook
Completed by:	James Clarke	Date of assessment:	February 2026
Reviewed by:	Steve Turner	Next Review Date:	February 2027
Ratio:	1:12 Max and Min 1 Group Leader	Staff Competencies	Must have suitable group management experience. Inducted into activity by approved staff member.
Activities covered:	Gem Panning, Fossil Hunting and Guided walk around site and to the Stone Centre		

Hazard <i>(something with potential to cause harm)</i>	Risk <i>(How could hazard cause harm and to whom)</i>	Control Measures <i>(What is required to reduce risk)</i>	In place <i>(Y/N)</i>	Action Required	Action Owner	Residual Risk <i>(low / medium / high)</i>
Poor hygiene	To Participants and Staff: Sickness and illness	Safety talk at the start to outline potential hazards. Cover up open wounds on hands with plasters. Water in trough suitably clean.	Y	Available Facilities in working order	Participant's and Mount Cook staff	LOW

Low = Slight injury or minor ill health / It is highly unlikely that the harm would occur

Medium = Serious Injuries or significant health effects / There is a likelihood that harm may occur;

High = Death, major injury (RIDDOR) or irreversible health damage / There is a high likelihood that harm will occur.

		Cleaning facilities available, Warm water for regular hand washing always available.				
Contact with cold water	Participants and Staff: Poor hygiene, painful hands, chill blains, numb extremities.	Safety talk at the start to outline potential hazards. Reduce length of session if weather poor Provide alternative location within building if weather poor. Provide warm water if possible.		Instructor awareness of weather conditions Session not recommended to groups in winter months	Activity Staff Booking Coordinator	LOW LOW
Handling minerals	Participants and Staff: Exposure to lead, minor cuts.	Example Lead wrapped in plastic. Safety talk at the start to outline potential hazards. Participants only to handle items outlined by instructor Participants not to grab discarded minerals and dirt from bottom of trough.		Clear briefing from Instructor	Activity Staff	LOW

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Moving around quarry	Participants: Slips, trips, and falls, fall from height, lost child	Full safety brief from activity staff, Regular head counts, boundaries, no running No climbing. Areas used for session are checked prior to commencement to make sure they are suitable. Any potential hazards are pointed out to groups and unnecessary hazards are removed from the area as appropriate. Good instructor awareness and briefing.		Clear briefing from instructor Pre-session checks	Activity Staff	LOW
Guided Offsite Walk Specific						
Inadequate supervision.	Minor injury/death to participants	Ratio of leaders to participants controlled to effectively manage the group. Safety brief given to all participants taking part in the activity. Ask teachers/ adults to help supervise the group where appropriate.	Y	Clear briefing from Instructor	Activity Staff	LOW

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Exposure to extreme weather – cold, wet, heat and sun.	To Participants and Staff: Hyperthermia, frostbite, circulation problems, heat stroke, sunburn.	Daily weather forecast obtained. Kit list sent to all groups in advance. Instructor to check all participants have suitable footwear, clothing, and equipment to match expected conditions. Activity is cancelled if conditions determined to be dangerous or degrade on session. Spare clothing (gloves, hats, coats) carried by instructor. Sun cream if necessary. Extra water, chocolates and snacks carried by instructor.	Y	Instructor to ensure centre orienteering rucksack is properly stocked prior to setting off. Monitor weather conditions	Activity Staff	LOW
Slip, Trips, Falls	To Participants and Staff: Minor Bruising, cuts, abrasions. Head and spinal injuries.	Leader experienced walking in terrain and of leading groups. Stay to established paths, significant hazards (cliffs, water hazards, quarries, etc) avoided or carefully assessed.	Y	Clear briefing and supervision from Instructor	Activity Staff	LOW

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		Weather forecast obtained and conditions monitored; route changed if necessary.				
Getting Lost	To Participants and Leader: Risk of injury, entering out of bounds areas, fall from height	Sufficient group leaders to participant ratio Safety briefing for participants, outlining what to do if separated. Group to only separate if instructor deems appropriate. Group offsite information and instructor phone number on activity notice board so centre aware of group offsite and return ETA	Y	Instructor to fill in Offsite group information board. Clear briefing from Instructor	Activity Staff	LOW
Injury, illness or emergency away from immediate help.	To Participants and Staff: Worsening of injury/illness symptoms	Leader with each group first aid trained. First aid kit carried Information about group pre-existing medical conditions and medication carried. Leaders are briefed and have planned emergency procedures.	Y	Clear briefing from Instructor. Activity staff have access to group medical information prior to session.	Activity Staff and Participants	LOW

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		Instructor to carry mobile phone				
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Risk Assessment Checked by H&S or Line manager.

Name : Steve Turner CEO

Reviewed on: 2/3/2026



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