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Complete the crossword. Then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell out the hidden solution indicated below the grid.

**Hidden Solution:
NZ southern tramping route (10,5)**

Across

1. _____ Pass - one of three main passes across Southern Alps (5)
4. Annual NZ expedition adventure race (7)
8. Avoid contact with these bush plants! (7)
9. What metal does when exposed to elements (5)
10. Low-lying boggy tract of land (5)
11. _____ the earth - most distant remote places? (4,2)
13. What streams often do during long hot summer (3,3)
15. Maori name for NZ wood pigeon (6)
18. Groups of trees growing together (6)
20. Get to planned destination (5)
23. _____ firma - dry land as opposed to sea or air (5)
24. Native fauna (7)
25. _____ Flat Hut - on Copland Track in Westland Tai Poutini National Park (7)
26. This describes bad weather that looks likely to continue unabated (3,2)

Down

1. Prominent feature you can use to orient yourself outdoors (8)
2. Something that is essential for survival (5)
3. This gives distinctive smell of NZ geothermal activity (7)
4. Flowed fast like river after heavy rain (6)
5. Took on challenging or risky outdoor adventure (5)
6. This describes wind coming from sea towards land (7)
7. Compass direction (4)
12. Continues tramping after brief break (6,2)
14. _____ beauty - wilderness sight! (7)
16. Insects with elongated body often found under decomposing leaves etc (7)
17. Much-needed retreat into wilderness, maybe (6)
19. NZ native tree of genus and species *Myoporum laetum* (5)
21. At or towards stern of boat (5)
22. Put gear into backpack (4)