



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

PO Box 527, Christchurch, www.ctc.org.nz

We are affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Opinions expressed or events described in this newsletter might not actually represent Club policy – we can't be expected to be giving away our secrets.

Vol. 76

May 2006

No. 1

President	Richard Wills	389 8671	Club Captain	Craig Beere	374 2392
Vice President	Warwick Dowling	366 2045	Trip Organiser(day)	To be decided	
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349 2280	(weekend)	To be decided	
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	332 2581	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981 7929
Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111	Gear Custodian	Ken Brown	359 2000
Social Convener	Sue Napier	338 8926	New Members	To be decided	

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (no experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. Membership rates per year are \$35 member, \$55 couple, \$18 junior or associate.

Equipment Hire: The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Ken Brown 359 2000. Note: Club gear assigned to you is your responsibility; please take care of it.

Our **Club Hut** in the Arthur's Pass Township has the comforts of home but with the mountains at the back door. – Even better now with real showers and inside flushing loos (BYO toilet paper!). A great place for a few days away; take your usual gear and a pillowcase.

Please book before leaving town to ensure there is a bunk available. For keys and bookings, phone Dave Watson 981 7929; or if he's away, Rex Vink 352 5329; or if they're both away, Andrew Wrapson 980 6006. Hut fees are \$8 member, \$8 member's partner, \$15 non-member, \$4 kids under 12. If you find any problems or maintenance required, please tell Dave.

Social Scene: We meet on Thursdays 7:30 pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre (Watling Lounge), Hagley Park South, 57 Riccarton Avenue (entrance opposite the hospital). A variety of social functions are organised, the atmosphere informal, and tea and biscuits served. If you can give a presentation or have ideas, please contact Sue Napier 338 8926 or email social@ctc.org.nz. Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm *sharp*, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm *sharp*.

Trips: Unless otherwise stated, day trips depart at 8:00 am and weekend trips depart at 7:00 pm on Fridays, from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street). If you aren't taking your car on the trip, park on one of the nearby side streets, otherwise it may be wheel clamped or towed. If you are taking your car please refuel at Shell Carlton, as they are kind enough to hold our trip lists. Every trip gives an indication of petrol costs per person. Please bring it in cash to help the leader divvy up at the end. If you have comments or suggestions for trips, please contact the appropriate trip organiser (listed at top of the page).

Leaders: Please ask for the trip list box (disguised as a shiny red 'Stanley' toolbox) and post the trip list into the locked box. If anyone turns up after this, the service station has a key to open the box. Spare key holders are listed on the box.

Rates:	Tent	\$3/person/night
Ice axes, crampons harnesses, snow shovel		\$4/weekend
Large/small weekend packs		\$2/weekend
Mountain radio		\$30/weekend \$40/week.

Notices

Email: Email: The club operates a moderated email list, whose address is members@ctc.org.nz . This list is used to send out the newsletter, occasional tramping related messages and other invites, and from time to time a complete list of the email addresses of CTC members. Messages intended for the list, and requests to join or leave the list should be sent to the above email address. Note that the moderator will check as to the appropriateness of all messages.

CTC Stickers: The club has Christchurch Tramping Club stickers for members to stick in hut books when they visit. Please contact the secretary at secretary@ctc.org.nz .

Photos: Thanks to the multi-talented Paul Ashton, we now have photos on the web page to accompany trip reports. Please email photos to paul@tourplan.com .

New Members: Please welcome the following new members - Chris Markham, Asami Harada, and Peter Mortlock (rejoining as an Associate member)

Membership Database: If you know of any updates, errors or omissions, email Susan Pearson susan@toniq.co.nz or phone 337 4914.

Access Database: If you know of any new information that concerns obtaining access to the properties we tramp on (e.g. change of owner or phone number), please call Ian Dunn 343 2155 or email ian.dunn@paradise.net.nz .

Club Hut: When using the Club Hut, please be careful when changing the taps when arriving and leaving. The consequences of cocking this up (no pun intended) could be severe, so please read the instructions carefully.

Committee: The Committee meets from 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. The venue changes between committee members' homes. Club members may attend meetings to discuss matters. Contact the Secretary (secretary@ctc.org.nz or 349 2280).

Club 75th Anniversary: The club will be 75 years young next year. We'd love to celebrate this momentous occasion, so we've forming a wee sub committee to sort things out. If you'd like to help out in this way, call Rex Vink 352 5329 or Dave Watson 981 7929. There will be a bit of a get together on the weekend after Easter 2007. The money raised in April's "No Green Needles" session will be used to offset expenses.

Newsletter Online: There is a new members-only area of the club web site. At present it contains Word and PDF versions of all club newsletters from 2002 onwards. Each time a newsletter comes out, it will be made available in the members only area and an email will be sent to the club mailing list alerting members to this, and supplying login details. On the CTC home page there is a link to the members-only area, as well as contact addresses for those needing login details (who aren't on the club email list, or who can't wait until the next newsletter comes out to get login details). If you haven't got login details already, get them from Jenny Harlow (secretary@ctc.org.nz or 349 2280) or Susan Pearson (susan@toniq.co.nz or 337 4914).

Crampon Retention: Just a wee reminder that stuff attached to the side of your pack is liable to come off, if not securely attached, especially when bush bashing. Many CTC members have bitter memories of having lost valuable stuff in such a way (editor included). Remember that crampon patches are not necessarily to be trusted, and anything tied on needs at least one backup connection point in case of failure.

Mountain Radio: The Canterbury Mountain Radio Service has changed its address to c/- Ballingers Hunting & Fishing, 173 Montreal Street, P.O. Box 22-342, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mountain Radio Fees: Mountain Radio Fees have gone up to \$30 for a weekend and \$40 for a week.

New Committee: The new committee is as follows:

President: Richard Wills
Senior Vice President: Warwick Dowling
Junior Vice President: Andrew Turton
Secretary: Jenny Harlow
Treasurer: Malcolm Carr
Editor: Alastair Brown
Club Captain: Craig Beere
Hut Convenor: Dave Watson
Gear Custodian: Ken Brown
Social Convenor: Sue Napier
Club Patron: Rex Vink

Other committee members: Bruce Millar, Bernard Parawa, Ian Dunn, Mike Ny, Susan Pearson, Jeff Hall (Greta Vink was appointed Honorary Auditor)

Hut Committee: The new hut committee is: Rex Vink, Steve Bruerton, Dave Jenkinson, Don Carnielo, Justin Annan, Andrew Wrapson, Ron Keeble

Unfilled Positions: The positions of Weekend Trip Organiser and Day Trip Organiser were not filled at the AGM. The meeting agreed that the method which worked well last year will be used and trip organising teams formed from within the committee and other club members who indicated their willingness to be involved.

Old Committee: We wish to thank everyone who served on last year's Committee and especially those who are taking a well deserved break from Committee work this year – Adrian Busby, Alan Ross, Honora Renwick and Steve Bruerton. Alan was made a life member at the AGM in recognition of his many years of work on the Committee and in other roles for the club. Honora has been our Club Captain for the past two years. Steve is leaving the main committee but is on the Hut Committee this year. Thanks Adrian, Alan, Honora, Steve.

AGM Stuff: The 2004/05 Report and Accounts and the minutes of the 73rd (2005) AGM are on the club's website on the Officialdom page. If you would like a paper copy of either posted to you please contact the Secretary secretary@ctc.org.nz or 349 2280.

External Events of interest

TWALK: 24hrs of tramping/navigating in fancy dress (optional)... and with lots of food. Location unknown. Tramp to you cover over 120km! May not sound like a fun day walk, but it is! and only 2 people on each team have to go the full 24hrs... while the others can be tempted by a stay in the hash house during the wee hrs! cost probably around \$60 (includes food, transport, 1:50000 maps, beer and music)

Locator Beacons: The current 121.5 MHz locator beacons (the type the club owns and probably the type you own if you have one) will be obsolete from February 2009, when monitoring will cease. The powers-that-be recommend that you are fully upgraded to the new 406MHz beacons well before then. See www.beacons.org.nz for more detail.

Banff Film Festival: The programme will run over two nights at two different locations :

- Friday 19th May, 2006 at 7.30 pm, Christchurch Girls' High School – Banff Rock and Alpine (a climber's delight!)

- Saturday 20th May, 2006 at 7.30 pm, The Aurora Centre, Burnside High School – Banff Classic Variety Programme

Tickets \$15 per night or \$25 for both nights. Available from NZAC Home of Mountaineering, R&R Sport (Mainland), Bivouac and The Roxx.

Little River Rail Trail: The first stage of the railtrail will be officially opened at 9.45 am on Sunday May 28th. Stage 1 will run from the Motukarara end to the picnic area at Catons Bay at Lake Forsyth / Te Wairewa. Only a short distance from Little River township. The Trail will be open to cyclists and walkers (or runners if you are feeling extra energetic!) Be prepared for Canterbury's weather and the donation box will be expecting some attention.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 4 May

Club Night

Newsletter folding / trip ideas night: Come along to do some lovely paper folding and stuffing, and then help the committee with coming up with possible tramping trips for the club year. Now is your golden opportunity to have your great ideas or concepts put into action.

Saturday 6 May

Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006

Mt Oxford from Coopers Creek: Canterbury Foothills and Forests. A popular day hike which starts in beautiful native bush near Oxford. Views over Canterbury plains, Torlesse Range and Waimakariri Gorge area.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 4 May
Maps: L34
Approx: \$15

Weekend 6-7 May

Leader: Adrian Sullivan 331 7188

Moonlight - Croesus: West Coast tramping near Blackball. The Croesus track follows the miner's footsteps up Blackball Creek past several old mine sites and on to the Paparoa Range tops. Similarly Moonlight Creek has many remnants of past activity.

Grade: Moderate
Closed: 27 Apr
Maps: K33
Approx: \$55

Weekend 6-7 May

Leader: Flo Roberts 980 7913

Mt Bovis: Final details to confirm but likely to be staying at the Punakaiki Camp Ground and doing Mt Bovis as a Day trip. The climb is from sea level to 1252m on the Paparoa Range tops. Awesome views up the coast and south to Mt Cook if the weather is clear.

Grade: ModHard
Closed: 27 Apr
Maps: K30
Approx: \$55

Sunday 7 May

Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000

Mt Evans – Adderley Head: Starting near Purau this tramp takes in views of Lyttelton harbour, Port Levy and the Pacific. There's an historic signal station and school house along the way plus u-boat Capt.von Lucknow's 'favourite' island. A beautiful area close to home.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 4 May
Maps: N36 N37
Approx: \$15

Thursday 11 May

Club Night

Richard Lobb is taking us to The Garden of Eden: In February, a party of CTCers headed off to Trampers Mecca: the Garden of Eden icefield. Richard Lobb has been given the task of distilling many hundreds of photos from six trigger-happy campers down to a digestible-size presentation. He and the other party members will share with us their two idyllic days' tramping in the icefield. They will also describe the less joyful experiences of being tent bound for three days, staring at wildly flapping wet nylon, and being subsequently thwarted by low snow levels from crossing to the West Coast via the neighbouring Garden of Allah icefield. Come along and share their pleasure and their pain.

Weekend 13-14 May

Leader: John Henson 342 3311

Otehake Hot Pools: About 4 hours walking, up the Taramakau Valley and the track past Lake Kaurapataka to the Otehake River. Then up (in) the river to the campsite by the pools. Bring suitable pool excavation tools.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 4 May
Maps: K33
Approx: \$30

Weekend 13-14 May

Leader: Jonathan Carr 351 1574

Otehake the hard way: For those who like to mix pleasure and pain this trip provides a classic crossing of the main divide. Traversing the Edwards-Tarahuna Pass-Otehake valley in a day... a long day! Meet up with the cruisy people in the hot pools... travel light with a fly.. a steady pace should see us there in 10-12hrs. Ideal preparation for Twalk! We may start very early Saturday AM or stay in Arthur's Pass Friday night.

Grade: Hard
Closes: 4 May
Maps: K33
Approx: \$30

Weekend 13-14 May	Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111
Mt Snowflake: This is peak number four in the Seaward Kaikouras (after Manakau, Te-ao-Whekere and Saunders). We'll be heading up on the Friday night, gaining as much height as possible, tenting, then knock the summit off on the Sunday morning. Should be lots of fun. Ice-axe, crampons, helmet required. (This is where Sanitarium come to harvest weetbix.)	Grade: ModHard Closes: 4 May Maps: O31 Approx: \$30
Sunday 14 May	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
Governors Bay, Gibraltar Rock: Right in our own back yard and familiar territory for Bernard who knows the magic of these peaceful hills. A fine Café at the Bay for afters.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 11 May Maps: M36 M37 Approx: \$10
Sunday 14 May	Leader: Nigel Watson 981 7929 (yes, it's his parents number)
Mt Pukanni - Moorhouse Range: Rangitata river and Gorge area. Plenty of scope here for a day in the mountains. Nigel has been based on a farm in the area and is keen to show us this beautiful part of the country.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 May Maps: J36 Approx: \$40
Thursday 18 May	Club Night
Jonathan Carr caving and tramping in China: Everything else seems to have been out-sourced to China, so I thought why not my annual leave? Tramping "made in China" is a bit different! For a start it was winter. I'll share my experiences of looking for caves and tramping in World Heritage sites in a land where there is definitely no RMA or DOC... and every meal is a biology lesson. I may throw in the odd giant panda too...	
Saturday 20 May	Leader: Stephen Hoare-Vance 332 6707
Mt Thomas: Canterbury foothills Loburn area. A popular picnic spot with good tracks in beech forest and from the summit commanding views over the plains and to the sea as well as into Lees Valley and the upper Okuku River.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 18 May Maps: M34 Approx: \$20
Saturday 20 May(or Sunday 21 May)	Leader: Sue Hely 337 5453
Goat Hill: 1649m. Drive over Arthur's Pass and down through the breath taking Otira Gorge. Goat Hill is situated between the Deception and Otira Rivers. A classic day out in the wild west. Early start – contact leader.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 18 May Maps: K33 Approx: \$30
Weekend 20-21 May	Leader: Richard Lobb 351 2344
Lake Christabel – Rough Creek: Easy beech forest tramping, but quite a long way in to the hut at the head of Blue Lake. The route out is up and over the tops to Rough Creek, which has a reasonably good track down to the Lewis Pass Rd near the Maruia Hotel.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 May Maps: L31 Approx: \$40
Weekend 20-21 May	Leader: Required
Lawrence Hut: Option one is a return trip to Lawrence Hut, about 10km each way, flat riverbed travel. Option two is to extend the days with trips from the Hut up either the Clyde or Lawrence. Option three is to climb Mt Jollie or Pito Peak	Grade: All Closes: 11 May Maps: J35 Approx: \$40
Thursday 25 May	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: Another Origami night, and a chance to have a chat, and listen to some excellent past trips trip reports.	

Saturday 27 May	Leader: Dave Clark 326 6544
Flowers Track - Boulder Bay: From Scarborough the track leads up to the top of White Wash Head and down into Taylors Mistake. It's easy travel round past the deserted cave baches and then on to picturesque Boulder Bay.	Grade: Easy Closes: 25 May Maps: N36 Approx: \$10
Weekend 27-28 May	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697
Punakaiki – Inland Pack Track: Nikau palm forest, towering white cliffs, gorges, caves, sinkholes, disappearing and re-emerging streams. Come and wander through the unique limestone world of the Punakaiki syncline. (Check out the visitor center display panels for excellent information on the area.)	Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 May Maps: K30 Approx: \$50
Weekend 27-28 May	Leader: Ruth Tramschek 337 6045
Cass Saddle – Lagoon Saddle: Good, well graded tracks and pleasant valley travel. The "Hamilton Hilton" hut to stay at. Winter season conditions so ensure your warm gear is all with you. Possibility of snow at this time of year, ice axe may be required.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 May Maps: K34 Approx: \$25
Sunday 28 May	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
Godley Peak – Mother Millars Spring: 2087m. Early start, Ice axe & crampons required. Contact Leader. Godley Peak overlooks Lake Coleridge and there's spectacular views up the Rakaia and Mathias Rivers.	Grade: Hard Closes: 25 May Maps: K35 Approx: \$30
Thursday 1 June	Club Night
How to produce a digital presentation : Ever wondered about what software to use for managing all your digital photos, editing them to remove various embarrassments, stitching panoramas, creating web pages, or, most importantly, organising them into a CTC slide show? Richard Lobb wonders about all those things too! He's going to tell us about his own solutions and invite counter-suggestions. Come along and join in, bringing your own CDs, laptops, experiences and bewilderments.	
Long Weekend 3-5 June	Leader: Andrew Tromans 0
Moa Stream (Mt Williams): Walk up Moa stream and camp at the head of the valley on the first day. Exploration of the head of the valley or possibly continue into Unknown Stream to complete the Moa – Unknown circuit. Climbing Mt Williams will require full climbing gear.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 May Maps: K34 J34 Approx: \$40
Long Weekend 3-5 June	Leader: Craig Beere 374 2392
Welcome Flat Hot Pools: Leaving Friday night for either the club hut or Hokitika (ish). About a 4 to 5 hr walk on good graded tracks in to Welcome Flats. A day trip up towards Copeland Pass. And lots of time in the hot pools of course. Monday walk out and drive home.	Grade: Easy Closes: 25 May Maps: H36 Approx: \$60
Long Weekend 3-5 June	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
1000 Acre Plateau: A huge uplands plateau, reached via an abrupt 800 climb from the Matiri River. Once you're up though, its gentle tussock land travel to Larikins hut. From the hut, a day trip climbs the two peaks, Needle and Haystack, that join the north and south Plateaus.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 May Maps: L28 M28 M29 Approx: \$60
Sunday 4 June(or Monday 5 June)	Leader: Mike Ny 337 9796
Sudden Valley Biv return: Over the Mt White Bridge to Hawdon Shelter in APNP. Easy travel with short gorge section requiring some careful scrambling. Stunning scenery from within the upper valley. About 3hrs return.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 1 Jun Maps: K33 Approx: \$25

Saturday 10 June	Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000
Ben More Circuit : A club classic. The Ben More Range runs south from the left of Porters Pass. Access is via the Lake Lyndon road. Ridge top views over the Korowai Tussocklands park, plains and Rakaia basin.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Jun Maps: K35 Approx: \$25
Weekend 10-11 June	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697
Smite Peak : Lake Herron area behind Mt Somers. Its about a 2 hour walk into Ribbonwood hut, so we can fill the rest of the day somehow & then early start Sunday to climb Smite Peak & walk back out.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 1 Jun Maps: J35 Approx: \$30
Weekend 10-11 June	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006
Carlyle Hut : Lewis Pass. Tracked walking through beech forest to the Carlyle Hut. From the hut moderate side trip options are Horseshoe Hill for views back towards the Waiau, or Mt Schiehallion looking into the Boyle and Magdalen Valley.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 1 Jun Maps: M32 Approx: \$30
Sunday 11 June	Leader: Pam Crosswell 332 8363
Mt Lyndon : A popular view point next to beautiful Lake Lyndon just over Porters Pass. Pam knows this area well so join her for a day in the hills. There's the usual stop at one of Springfields delightful cafés for afters.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 8 Jun Maps: K34 Approx: \$20
Saturday 17 June	Leader: Malcolm Carr 332 2581
Rakaia Gorge Walkway : An easy loop with a number of unique features. The foremost of these is the spectacular 5km clifftop traverse. This major geological and glacial landmark of the eastern South Island provides a stunning landscape through which the walkway meanders.	Grade: Easy Closes: 15 Jun Maps: K35 Approx: \$20
Weekend 17-18 June	Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155
Arthur's Pass Base Camp : Winter – the best season at the pass. Warm up with a climb to bushline then head up onto the snowy tops for alpine scenery that's second to none. Then back to the cosy pot belly stove at the hut. Brilliant.	Grade: All Closes: 8 Jun Maps: K33 Approx: \$35
Weekend 17-18 June	Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045
Griffin Creek Hut : Griffen Creek – Rocky Creek circuit is on the West Coast's Taramakau Valley near the Taipo River. A mix of track and river travel, some steep climbs and a good chance of spotting blue ducks.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Jun Maps: K33 Approx: \$35
Sunday 18 June	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
Mt Barrossa : South of Mt Somers in the Ashburton Gorge - Clent hills area. Interesting geological area (Barossa Andesite) which includes geods for any rock hounds among us and there's the fine views as well of course.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Jun Maps: J36 Approx: \$30

Trip Reports

Easter Weekend, 13-16 April 2006

Young-Wilkin Trip

Gathering together, we took off into the Thursday night to break for a Subway roll in Ashburton and meet the other vehicle in Twizel where we stayed in cabins. The next day, Andrew's daughter and trip member, Celia was picked up near Wanaka.

Setting off from near Makarora, we crossed the Makarora River. Walking up the Young valley with it's beech forest and mountains peaking above, I was reminded of the Routeburn Valley. However turning into a side valley we began to climb and I began to realise that a glance at a map doesn't always convey the actual effort of getting somewhere. We passed a nearly completed 20 bunk hut, (I think staying there crossed our minds!). The Young Hut was pretty full but we all got a place to sleep including two who apparently had a warm night in a coal shed.

Over the Gillespie's Pass some of us struggled to 1500m, reaching the height of the surrounding ridges, so a "col" would be a more appropriate term. I had noted the high, steep sided valleys we were travelling by this time, as more impressive than I had seen around Arthur's Pass. The snow was considerably heavier under foot on the shaded side of the ridge, and we quickly descended into the Siberia Valley. Meeting a North American traveller who offered space in her tent should it rain on the tent inner we were carrying (that we'd been given without a matching fly!!). Her offer wasn't needed however as rain didn't eventuate and we enjoyed tasty combined meals and a flat camp site.

Next day it was up to the frozen Lake Crucible, and picking up our packs to Siberia Hut in light rain. As the rain increased we climbed on a track and descended to cross (eventually!) the Wilkin River to the Kerrin Forks Hut. Jim and Andrew especially, kept the resident hunters and ourselves entertained with jokes about the Prime Minister and their non-stop jovial banter. An Easter bunny complete with white ears appeared and dispensed chocolate eggs in a very pharmaceutical manner.

The radio didn't provide the communication necessary to inform the transport operator we required an earlier pick-up, so we waited at the forks and waved down a boat and within an hour a large jet-boat was there to pick us up. Blasting down the river and spinning 360-degree turns was one way to eat up the remaining kilometres and was a highlight of the trip. It certainly made it easier crossing the now swollen Makarora River which lead to our vehicles and a 6 hour drive back to Christchurch.

Trampers - Peter Eman (leader), Ruth Tramschek, Andrew and Celia Nichols, Jim Western, Stephen Hoare-Vance (scribe), Dave Ellison-Smith

Please have stuff for next newsletter to the editor by Friday 19 May – Thanks.