



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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PO Box 527, Christchurch, www.ctc.org.nz
Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Any similarity between the opinions expressed in this newsletter and Club policy is purely coincidental.

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*Descending from Mt Alexander to the Taramakau.
See trip report, page 12*

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (minimal experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. We have a club hut in Arthurs Pass and have gear available for hire to members. Membership rates per year are \$35 member, \$55 couple, \$18 junior or associate.

For more about how the club operates, see *More about the CTC*.

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News

The Mt Somers Challenge: The highly successful inaugural *Mt Somers Challenge* took place on 25 January. A total of 21 participants raced, walked, lurched, hobbled or staggered their way round Mt Somers and several other members came along for shorter walks or just to soak up the atmosphere. Stu Smith led the pack home in a blistering time of 4 hours 18 minutes, with Max de Lacey and Steve Bruerton hot on his heels. For a full trip report see page 16. Many thanks to Susan Pearson and Jenny Harlow for their great effort in organising what is sure to become an annual event.

Window of Opportunity: The lounge area in the club hut at Arthur's Pass now has a great new front window, donated by Colin McCallum. Many thanks to the work party that installed it on the weekend of 12 December: David Watson, Don Carnielo, Ken Brown, Steve Bruerton, David Jenkinson, Andrew Wrapson, David Ellison-Smith, Rex Vink.

Locator Beacons: Final reminder: After 1 February 2009 the old 121.5MHz and 243MHz personal locator beacons will not be operational: the old satellite system is now replaced by the 406Mhz system. Remember that the club has five of the new-style beacons which leaders are encouraged to take on club trips and which are also available to members to borrow for private trips.

New Members: After a long holiday break we are pleased to catch up on welcomes to new club members. Thomas Matern qualified for membership doing easy social daytrips and then migrated immediately to a Moderately Hard one in Sudden valley and got a new perspective on club tramping! Tania Stevens qualified for membership on the social weekend basecamp trip at Maruia Springs, Ray Brown qualified for membership on a challenging weekend trip to Lake Florence, Dharshie Jeyaseelan qualified on the popular scenic Kowhai-Hapuku weekend trip and Whare Ward qualified enjoying social daytrips like the Pigeon Bay Walkway. Last but not least Arno Grueber qualified on the wonderful west coast trip to Zit saddle, made especially memorable by tree fall and a heavy pack. Happy tramping everyone.

Kaye and Martyn Hartley: Kaye and Martyn Hartley died on 27th January in a motorcycle accident. They were members of the club from 2002/3 to 2006. Many members from that time will recall them both (Kaye as Kaye Serra) since they regularly organised tea at Club Nights: Kaye was the Assistant Social Convenor at this time and they both put a lot into the club. I can recall many tramps with Kaye when I first joined the Club. After they married they focused more on photography but still kept in touch with some club members. They will be sadly missed. JAH

Tramper of the Month: Rex Vink

<i>Place of birth:</i>	Oosthuizen Netherlands	
<i>Year joined CTC:</i>	1963	
<i>Favourite Day Trip:</i>	Waipara Gorge	
<i>Favourite Weekend Trip:</i>	Cannibal Gorge Across the tops into the Glenroy river	
<i>Favourite Hut:</i>	Awaroa inlet hut, Abel Tasman National Park	
<i>Family:</i>	Greta of course; Cor and Marie, Henry and Lucy; Nellie and Doug, James and Jacob	
<i>Occupation:</i>	Paperhanger, thinking of retiring	
<i>Committee service:</i>	Treasurer, hut convener, president and present position of patron.	
<i>Other Interests:</i>	Photography	
<i>Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?</i>	Colin McCallum, organizing club hut extension in conjunction with David Watson and the 75th anniversary organizing committee	
<i>Any mishaps while tramping?</i>	One day overdue while on the Poulter Binser saddle trip	

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

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 transport costs per person. Please bring it in cash to help the leader divvy up at the end.

New or prospective members intending to go on any trip must sign up at club night or contact the trip leader in advance.

Social: 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 is informal, and tea and biscuits served. If you can give a presentation or have ideas, please contact Alan Ross 384-6425 or email alan.d.ross@orica.com. 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.

Saturday 31 January	Leader: Philip Tree 942-7670
<p>Pompeys Pillar, Red Bay and Shell Bay. Pompeys Pillar is a little island just off the headland to the north of Otanerito Bay. This summer seaside tramp will explore the scenic Red Bay and Shell Bay coastline (popular with seals) and round to the Pillar, with an opportunity for a swim as well. Expect about 4-5 hours walking and about a 6-7 hour day in total, generally easy travel on farmland and QEII covenanted reserves, with a few ups and downs and one short section of bush-bashing.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closed: 29 Jan Map: N37 N36 Approx: \$20</p>

Weekend 31 January-1 February	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
<p>Waimak Col. Waimak Col is a high, easy but snow covered pass from the head of the Waimakariri river into the Rolleston river. Saturday night is spent in or around the wonderfully situated Waimakariri Falls Hut which must be one of the most scenic huts in the National Park. Sunday is a long day climbing up and over the Col (ice axe required) then a long traverse on tussock slopes before dropping down to the Rolleston river where a track is picked up out to the railway and the road. Great mountain scenery surrounds you for most of this day.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 22 Jan Map: K33 Approx: \$40</p>

Sunday 1 February	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<p>Mt Catherine. Mt Catherine is a superb peak overlooking Lake Heron in the Clent Hills area. We'll access via a 4WD road and cross the flats then ascend the south west ridge - about 1000m sustained climb, some of it fairly steep, tussock at first and then rock - to get to the commanding summit of Mt Catherine (2085m). Check out the views of the Arrowsmiths in the distance and plan your next adventure! With a sufficiently fast group we can make a loop by descending the rocky slopes to the south over 2045, 2039 etc. Mostly red sandstone, it's bare, open and starkly beautiful - a good achievement for a moderate trumper who is happy with a bit of scrambling and a reasonably long day (24 km and estimated up to around 9 hours). Trampers are advised to bring (even wear) helmets.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closed: 29 Jan Map: J35 Approx: \$25</p>

Thursday 5 February	Club Night
<p>No Club – it's Waitangi long weekend. No club tonight as it's a long weekend and hopefully many will be on their way to far off tramping destinations.</p>	

Long Weekend 6-8 February	Leader: Leader Required
<p>Ahuriri/Maitland/Snowy Gorge. The new Ahuriri Conservation area has some wonderful tramping country and is surrounded by high mountains, a great setting for a trip in an area not often visited by the CTC. This trip crosses the south end of the Barrier range by a straightforward but quite high pass from the Watson Stream to the Maitland Hut. A low saddle is then crossed to Snowy Gorge stream and Hut before a walk out back to the Ahuriri.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 29 Jan Map: H38 G38 Approx: \$65</p>

Long Weekend 6-8 February	Leader: Leader required
<p>Trent/Haupiri. A trip between two West Coast river valleys over a low saddle. The first day is a relatively long but easy walk up the open Trent river to the Mid Trent Hut. The second day is still in the river but the valley closes in and the river is crossed many times (impassable in high flows) before reaching the Lagoon Hut perched above the river in the scrub. The river is then followed to the easy saddle and a rough track is picked up and followed to the hut in the Haupiri. From there it's an easy walk out via the river bed. The scenery is typical of the wild West coast: rough mountains, tussock tops and great bush. Andrew Turton strongly recommends this trip; he remembers it vividly and describes it as "a real classic trip in the middle of winter".</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 29 Jan Map: K32 L32 Approx: \$50</p>

Long Weekend 6-9 February	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
Mystery Trip. Steve is still working on where he wants to go but it will require 4 days (an extra day added on to the long weekend.) Talk to Steve for details.	Grade: Hardish (probably climbing something) Closed: 29 Jan Map: tba Approx: \$unknown

Saturday 7 February	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
Scenery Nook. Scenery Nook is a little cove out on Timu Timu head (Banks Peninsula). It's only a shortish stroll so what's so special? Just come and see one of the most stunning sea cliffs in New Zealand, curving round to make the cove into an amazing amphitheatre of layered rock in earthy hues of red, pink and purple and a huge dyke - the cross-sectional side of a cone of harder grey volcanic rock - exposed to rise straight up through the multi-coloured strata. It's an area of Significant Natural Value according to Ecan. If you've never seen it before, now's your chance . . . Bring your togs - we might get to have a swim if the seals let us. And bring your camera - it's a great trip for photographers!	Grade: Easy Closes: 5 Feb Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$15

Tuesday 10 February 7:30pm	Social Event
Eat kebabs and chew the fat. Another trip to the Topkapi Turkish Kebab House, 185 Manchester Street, to talk about our Christmas trips over dinner. Check their web site: www.topkapi.co.nz . Please let Ross Ogden know by Monday night 9th of Feb so that he can confirm numbers. You can contact Ross on 351 1857 or txt 021 0117710 or email ogdenr@conwag.com	

Wednesday 11 February 6:00pm eve	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Keep fit for Tramping. Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour of brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and keep your fitness for the rest of the summer season of tramping.	Grade: Moderate Just turn up. Approx: \$None

Thursday 12 February	Club Night
Gear Night with Macpac. Daan Dijkstra will be joining us to talk about some of the exciting new developments at Macpac: the new range of rainwear made out of eVent fabric for example. The return of classic jackets like the Prophet and the Resolution, but also new packs and sleeping bags. You'll be able to fire questions at Daan and no doubt he'll have some interesting spot prizes to give away as well.	

Saturday 14 February		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001	
<p>River Crossing Course. Come along and take the plunge while the water is warm and the weather is mild. Ideal for couples on Valentine's Day - do something that could save both your lives! A River Crossing course is essential training for new trampers and a good refresher for the more experienced. Even though this is summer, bring warm tramping clothing to wear while training. Also bring a large pack with a waterproof pack liner filled with spare clothing etc to bulk it up. This is for pack buoyancy while training. Plus a complete change of warm clothing to wear afterwards. Training will be followed by a barbecue (bring your own food and drink). Venue will be the Waimakariri River close to Christchurch. Meet at the Shell service station at 8am. This is fun as well as instructional - come and do it!</p>		Grade:	Training
		Closes:	12 Feb
		Map:	M35
		Approx:	\$10

Weekend 14-15 February		Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155	
<p>Top Olderog Biv. Top Olderog Biv is located high up in the mountains between the Arahura River and the Taramakau River, and receives very few visitors. There are two main routes into the biv. The first is up and over Mt Kerr, from the Big Wainihinihi River. The other is up Olderog Creek from the Arahura River. One option is to go in to the biv via Mt Kerr, and come out down Olderog Stream via Mt Kerr, the McArthur Crags and Lower Olderog Biv. To avoid a car shuffle all the way in to the Arahura road end, we'll walk back along the forest road to the Big Wainihinihi River. For more information on the area, see the Remote Huts Website, www.remotehuts.co.nz.</p>		Grade:	ModHard
		Closes:	5 Feb
		Map:	K33
		Approx:	\$50

Sunday 15 February		Leader: Penny Coffey. 332-7182. Phone before 8pm only.	
Early start (6:50am at Shell).			
<p>Big Mt Peel. Peel Forest is a remnant of a magnificent podocarp forest that once covered a huge area in mid-Canterbury and, with its mild moist climate, has the highest diversity of ferns in New Zealand. This tramp will take us right into this wonderful area, ascending through the vegetation layers out onto the tussock slopes of Mt Peel. First Little Mt Peel (1310m, 900m+ height gain), then a bit over 4k to Middle Mt Peel (1583m) and a further 2-3k to Big Mt Peel itself (1743m, about 1400m height gain from the cars). As you'd expect, the tussock tops offer panoramic views out over this lovely area. Note: early start -- 6:50am at the Shell -- and please be prepared for a long day.</p>		Grade:	Moderate to ModHard
		Closes:	12 Feb
		Map:	J37
		Approx:	\$25

Sunday 15 February Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366

<p>Coopers Creek. Get to Ryde Falls from Coopers Creek by an alternative route - up the West Branch of the creek itself. This is a real summer trip, with multiple crossings (not quite a chance to put your new-found River Crossing Course skills into action - this should be straightforward) and lots of rock-hopping up the creek bed. The falls themselves - three cascades - are above a beautiful deep pool. We can get back to the cars either via the track on the south of the creek or by the historic tram route. The Oxford forest around here is beautiful beech, with scattered rimu and splashes of colour from the red and yellow-leaved horopito. There's plenty of bird life as well, from robins and fan-tails to the sound of the bell-birds and maybe even a rifleman. The round trip is about 12 km and 6-8 hours - and definitely wet feet!</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 12 Feb Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>
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Wednesday 18 February 6:00pm eve Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914

<p>Keep fit for Tramping. Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour of brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and keep your fitness for the rest of the summer season of tramping.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Just turn up Approx: \$None</p>
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Thursday 19 February Club Night

South Africa with Ruth and Peter, No. 2. East Africa and Kenya. Ruth and Peter continue their travels tripping over animals galore and trekking Mt Kenya with its rock buttress peaks, huge gorges and giant herbs.

Saturday 21 February Leader: Andrew Nichols 981-6698

<p>Broken River Coal Mines. On this trip we drive right around the back of Lakes Grasmere and Pearson from the tiny settlement of Cass, along the Craigieburn Valley road which parallels the railway. Parking near Avoca, we find the remains of the old tramway and walk in to explore the lower Broken River valley, where coal used to be mined and where there are still some old relics of machinery, boilers etc. A lovely area and a nice easy trip with around 200-400m height gain depending on how far our exploration takes us, and up to 5km walking each way.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 19 Feb Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>
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Weekend 21-22 February Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686

<p>Tara Tama. Tara Tama is the high lump perched above the Taipo and Arahura rivers and Griffin Creek and offers a good challenge. It is usually climbed up the long ridge opposite the 7 mile hut in the Taipo and this takes a lot longer than it looks on the map so be prepared for long days. Saturday night will be a high camp on the tops.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 12 Feb Map: K33 Approx: \$50</p>
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Sunday 22 February Could be early start.		Leader: Peter Eman 337-3003	
<p>Black Hill, Rakaia. Now here is a trip we have not done for a bit - the Black Hill that overlooks the Rakaia, in the Canterbury foothills. It is a long day and a long way, but well worth it. We leave the cars by the Double Hill road and climb up Glenrock Stream to Turtons Saddle (I seem to remember some of the biggest tussocks I have ever walked through going up here) and then continue up the north-west ridge of Black Hill. The summit is 2067m and gives stunning 360 degree views over the Rakaia, the rest of the foothills, etc. From the summit we descend via Donald Hill (500m lower but some of the best views of all) and then back to the cars. The total climb is over 1600m which makes it a moderate-hard trip even though there is nothing remotely difficult - you need to be fit and able to keep going . . . There could be an early start - make sure you've contacted the leader.</p>		Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 19 Feb
		Map: K35	Approx: \$25

Wednesday 25 February 6:00 evening		Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914	
<p>Keep fit for Tramping. Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and keep your fitness for the rest of the summer season of tramping.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Just turn up
		Approx: \$None	

Thursday 26 February		Club Night	
<p>Newsletter folding night. Its the monthly newsletter folding night. Feel free to bring along any digital photos you have gathered over christmas.</p>			

Saturday 28 February		Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392	
<p>Sudden Valley. Sudden Valley is the home of a lovely little river, Sudden Valley Stream, which provides a very good summer water-and-rock-hopping trip. After crossing the Hawdon River we start up the Stream itself - multiple crossings back and forth, scrambling round a few easy bouldery sections, passing lovely pools and splashing rapids, a few diversions into the bush . . . There is a short steep climb of a couple of hundred metres to negotiate the Barrier Falls gorge and then we descend again and soon afterwards emerge into the more open river flats and stunning scenery of upper valley with Mts Wilson and Scott above us. We head to the new Sudden Valley Biv for lunch and then travel back the same way.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 26 Feb
		Map: K33	Approx: \$25

Weekend 28 February-1 March

Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000

Youngman Stream/Lilburn Hill. Ken is going to lead a trip into the Youngmans Stream hut via the Ashley river. There will be options for the return on the Sunday with some going out over Lilburn hill and Tarn hut and some returning down the river with some extra exploring. This is a good trip for people to step up to a weekend trip. Talk to Ken for details.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 19 Feb
Map: L34
Approx: \$30

Sunday 1 March

Leader: Kerrie Skinner and Scott Fowler 386-2850

Mt Ida. Mt Ida (1695m) is a good moderate trip up the Harper Road in the lovely Lake Coleridge area. It is not too long and with about 1100m height gain, might be a nice option for fit easy-moderate trampers stepping up to moderate trips. As an added attraction, there's a wonderful scree-run down. In pre-Greek myth, Ida is associated with the Mother Goddess. In CTC myth, Ida was the location of the famous vacuum cleaner trip (see what is possibly one of the shortest and most cryptic trip reports ever, November 24, 1996).

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 26 Feb
Map: K34
Approx: \$25



Thursday 5 March

Club Night

How to preserve your old photos + digital on line album managment. Michelle Cahill from Creative Memories will instruct us on creating a lasting album using traditional scrapbooking, quick and easy picfolio albums, digital on line albums and everyday home displays.

Saturday 7 March		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
<p>Ashley Gorge. Ashley Gorge is one of the best picnic spots in Canterbury and a popular place to explore. Depending on water levels we hope to do a bit of floating down the gorge, and getting wet is the whole point of the trip. Another opportunity to practice all that river crossing training? Great fun in the sun (we hope). Talk to the leader if you're not sure what's involved in this summer water trip, and come along for one of the club's most popular social outings</p>		Grade: Easy (water trip)	
		Closes: 5 Mar	
		Map: L34	
		Approx: \$15	

Weekend 7-8 March (trip date subject to trip leader's social commitments!)		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196	
<p>Savannah Range Traverse. Steve has never been all the way along the Savannah Range and would like to try them . The tops are mostly very gentle but there is one harder section, I'm told. A gentle climb up Woolshed Hill will start this trip followed by the traverse along the rolling tops. Saturday night will be a camp on the tops and Sunday may include a descent into the Casey. Talk to Steve.</p>		Grade: Moderate+	
		Closes: 26 Feb	
		Map: K33	
		Approx: \$40	

Sunday 8 March		Leader: Gareth Gilbert 389-1737	
<p>Mt Richardson. Mount Richardson is a lovely 12km loop in the Canterbury foothills. The track starts at the Glentui Bush picnic area and goes through some superb native beech forest - some steepish sections, about 700m height gain - to Mt Richardson itself (1047m) and a great panorama over the Canterbury plains. We will return via the Blowhard track which gives us the opportunity to walk along the undulating open tops before descending back into the bush again - there are some stands of rimu in places - and back to the cars.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	
		Closes: 5 Mar	
		Map: L34	
		Approx: \$15	

Saturday 14 March		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
<p>Stony Bay Peak. Join us for this trip to Banks Peninsula. We'll start in Akaroa in the Rue Balguerie and walk up the Mt Vernon road and then up the historic Purple Peak track out onto the ridge crest. From the saddle, we go up to Stony Bay Peak (806m) for superb views of Otanerito Bay and Akaroa Harbour. Tea and ice creams in Akaroa before we head home.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod	
		Closes: 12 Mar	
		Map: N36N37	
		Approx: \$20	

Saturday 14 March 1 - 5 pm
PC Browne Room, Horticultural Centre

Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045

Nuts and bolts for leading a CTC trip. What's involved in leading a CTC tramp? What should I know? And - most importantly - how does that trip cost calculation black magic work? Now is your chance to find out the answers to all those questions and more. This introduction to leading CTC tramps is a short, free, interactive, half-day course on the nuts and bolts of running a day or weekend CTC tramp. A variety of presenters will take you on a hands-on tour to increase your confidence and make that next (or first?) tramp you lead more relaxing for you. Topics will or could include: (1) Organising transport and working out transport costs (try some examples - pen and paper provided!) (2) Gear - party vs personal; what club gear is available? how do I get it? (3) Rights and perogatives of leaders, and the role of leaders in CTC tramps at various trip grades. Plus, any other topics raised by you on the day that might bug you about leading a CTC tramp - there will be time to discuss your questions. We plan to keep it simple, without too much detail and mental clutter. Talk to us, and we will address your needs. Tea, coffee, milo, and biscuits available throughout. The course is from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday 14 March. Venue is the PC Browne Room, upstairs in the Horticultural Centre, Hagley Park.

Grade: Training
Closes: 12 Mar
Map: M35
Approx: \$0

Weekend 14-15 March

Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280

Mingha-Deception. Description and details next newsletter

Grade: Moderate+
Closes: 5 Mar

Weekend 14-15 March

Leader: TBA

Woolshed Creek Hut. Description and details next month

Grade: Easy/family
Closes: 5 Mar

Sunday 15 March

Leader: Andrew Tromans Early start 379-2686

Mephistopheles. Wanted to buy - Souls, any condition. Mephistopheles (1736) is an unusual looking tramper's peak directly behind Palmer lodge in Lewis Pass - it is the one keeping a close eye on Faust. There are a couple of route options with terrain ranging from bush-clad spurs to beautiful, easy open tops travel and possibly part of the St James Walkway. Note - early start - make sure you contact the leader

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 12 Mar
Map: M32
Approx: \$25

Weekend 21-22 March

Leader: Gareth Gilbert 389-1737

Henry saddle, Anne Hut, Anne Saddle, Boucher, Foley.
Description next month

Grade: Moderate

Closes: 12 Mar

Map: M31

Approx: \$45

Trip Reports

30 November 2008

Mt Alexander from the Taramakau

A week later than planned, but this is not a trip to do with a bad forecast. Jeff was officially in charge of routefinding (natural deer hunter instincts plus he'd done it before), Clive in charge of river crossing stability, and me in charge of – er – umm – secretarial duties? We were aiming for the spur headed up to the northwest of Alexander Creek, but first we had to cross the Taramakau which was still significantly up. We could tell this because there seemed to be a lot of gorse in, rather than beside, the Otira as we walked along it from the car park. Clive's 'Ocean Swim' souvenir shirt was clearly a bit red-rag-to-a-bull to the Taramakau and it had a pretty good go whilst he was doing a recce. We headed further upstream to a nicely braided section and crossed very safely in several stages. Then we bushbashed down the true right to where Alexander Creek enters (make that thunders into) the Taramakau. It looked horrible but was crossable with some care. We were already two hours into the trip by then – 10 am despite a 5.30 am start from home.

From there it's pretty much straight up for about 800m. The bush is superb – little sign of deer and lovely tree ferns etc etc – but there was a lot of tree fall again and 800m up through this kind of country is never going to be a sprint anyway, unless you are Jeff. He had to stay in sight though, if only to save him having to come back to look for us. We finally crawled through the last hundred metres of dracophyllum and scrub and into the tussock, and lunch about 1pm.

After that there were a few gullies and then some lovely rock to scramble up for about 600m and then 300m on very friendly snow along a pleasantly meandering ridge with decorative but not threatening cornices. It was a hot sunny day and although there was a bit of West Coast-style jungle cloud around and a light breeze on the top (1958m) the forecast front was not making any threatening gestures.

We took advantage of the snow patches between the exposed rock to make a fast descent to the lunch spot (see photo on front page) and then took a collective deep breath and headed back into the bush. Again, Jeff did most of the routefinding and although it seemed a bit steeper (overhanging at times?) and it was not particularly fast due to the care and concentration needed to dangle, crawl, jump and slide without major injury, we made it out to the Taramakau well before dark. We had decided to aim for the braids downstream rather than reverse the route for the morning crossing, so came out a little further down than Alexander Creek.

We walked about a kilometre down the river and then crossed, again securely linked up, on a wide slower-flowing section with a good run-out. For a few seconds in the deepest part Jeff and I were resigned to a swim but Clive steered us left to safety. Personally I feel that I have done my dash on river crossings for a bit. From there we headed straight across to the road with only a 'garbage gully + gorse' experience getting up the left bank to deal with. We were trotting up the road back the car about 9pm, in time to be able to persuade the Wobbly Kea to provide medicinal tea and muffins before they closed at 10, and back home before midnight.

Trip participants – Jeff, Clive, Jenny (scribe)



The lower battlements and approach gullies



The summit, finally

30 November 2008

Mt Aicken

A relatively early start had us walking up the well graded tourist track up Devils Punchbowl Creek by 0930. We turned off onto the Aicken track and started the straightforward climb up onto the tops. So far, so uneventful.

It was overcast and a stiff breeze had come up from the west so we decided on an early lunch in a sheltered spot around point 1844 since we weren't certain we could find a pleasant spot further up. The ridgeline becomes dotted with exposed rock after this point and we meandered from one side of the ridge to the other finding the easiest way through. Its very tame and presents no problems whatsoever and we pop out onto point 1863 a short while later.

Even though this point is 5 metres higher than the true peak, the peak baggers in the group (Ross, Katey and myself) decide to go across to the second peak on the Mingha side of the ridge. There is no snow on the ridge and the wind is much less on this side but it's a bit bumpy. There are sections where you need to edge yourself around protruding rock faces but there are plenty of handholds. Ross makes it look very easy and it's really only the first hundred metres that are any challenge at all. We make it to the second peak, spend a minute or two and then turn around and head back. This time we drop down lower on the north side of the ridge and climb up a gully to rejoin David on the higher peak. The north side is definitely an easier and quicker route.

It's early afternoon and we can hear the coffee and ice creams calling to us from the café a short distance below. We retrace our steps and get out to the cars two hours later. It's been a very quick and simple trip, a bit of a leg stretch at most. We all have some very nice ice creams (which I'm not sure we've really earned!) and some very good coffee before heading back to Christchurch at a very reasonable hour.

Trampers: Ross, Katey, David and Andrew (scribe)

7th December 2008

Lap of the Gods alias The Mt Ida Triathlon

We were told that the planned tramp could not go ahead due to locked gates, tailing of lambs etc. So Kerrie and Scott decided to take us to the same area to climb Mt Ida instead. The gate was still locked but a new track from the south end of Lake Selfe, skirting the east side of Little Mt Ida, allowed access to the lake.

The Climb. Our party of 10 was a mixed ability one, the mountaineers, Clive, Andrew and David S, climbing at a rate matched by supertrampers Stu and Flo. David G and Greg followed on a short way behind and then Kerrie and Scott loitered about waiting for Penny and Susan as good leaders

must. It was lucky the weather was perfect, because those waiting at the top had time for a nap along with the many ladybirds.

The Run: Kerrie and Scott led us down off the top, initially following a south leading ridge, over a rocky knob and then dropping off from this on the east side to scree slopes. From here the fun run started, fast travel down the scree to a mini-gorge with a stream running through it. The other side of this, more scree running all the way down to the end of Lake Ida. 40 minutes from top to bottom even for Penny and me!

The Swim: It was a hot day, but when Clive and Andrew decided to go for a swim in Lake Ida I was very surprised to see them set out down the lake for the other end. Their boots and packs were taken by other members of the party and we set off walking around the lake keeping an eye on both swimmers— just in case.

It was about a 600m swim and it took them only a little longer than it took us to walk. It was a seriously impressive feat – that water was cold.

The Hororata café was closed when we got there, so we popped into the pub, where Clive ordered confidently 'tea for ten'. This is clearly the approach to take in the Hororata pub because shortly after, we were shown to 10 mugs, tea bags, a jug of milk and a big portable 'zip' from which to self serve our own teas. \$2.00 a mug and everyone was happy. Thanks Kerrie and Scott for a lovely day out.

Triathletes: Clive Marsh, Andrew Tromans, trampers: David Sutton, David Gaughan, Greg Hill, Stu Smith, Flo Roberts, Kerrie Maynard, Scott Fowler, Susan Pearson (scribe) and Penny Coffey.

13-14 December 2008

Lake Florence

"Why don't I just watch sport on TV like everybody else?" - Martin Brown 13/12/08

An early start had us walking up the Mt Barron track at about 0730. The track is quite pleasant despite the occasional windfall. Once you're above the bush line it gets a bit scrubby and we end up having to scramble up a narrow scree and climb out through a series of walls before popping out around point 1569. We continue to climb and then drop into a basin below Mt Barron for lunch.

We gain the main ridge and then start the serious business of traversing along Barron Ridge. The jagged ridge is technically unremarkable but requires "a bit" of scrambling and squeezing around the sharp rocks and carefully lowering yourself down small gaps. In order to make his descent easier Martin drops his pack down a gap, only to see it go cartwheeling off down into the Hunt valley. Whilst he goes to retrieve his pack we take a break and consider our options. Our pace has slowed and we soon realise that it has taken us an hour to move half a kilometre along the ridgeline. With another five kilometres to go to Lake Florence we realise that continuing along the ridge is no longer an option. Instead we follow Martins pack and head down into Hunts valley.

There are a series of steep gullies leading down off the ridge. Some of these are quite nice to travel down whilst others are best avoided. Though a combination of scree, snow grass slopes and low scrub we eventually hit the valley floor a short way up from Hunts creek hut. Graham and Ray have both decided they've had enough adventure for one weekend and decide to head to the hut for the night before walking out the road end on Sunday. The remainder of us continue up river for about 45 minutes before bivying down in a dry sheltered gully next to the river after 11.5 hrs walking. Remarkably, it turns out the only thing broken when Martins pack made its rapid descent was his monocular, everything else was undamaged.

We're up early the next day and begin walking up Hunts Valley before heading up to the saddle between Anderson Peak and Mt Armstrong. This section takes us just under four hours and with plenty of time we decide to scramble up Mt Armstrong. We leave the packs on the saddle and travel up a convenient snow/scree slope to a small gap in the ridge. From there Clive chooses to scramble up a bony rock ridge while Honora, Matin and I decide to skirt another snow slope and perform

some gymnastics over a short rocky section before gaining the main ridge.

Honora and Clive push on to the true summit while Martin and I are content to sit on the ridge and admire the view over Waimak col and Mt Lancelot. It's a nice day with some low cloud occasionally wafting in from the west and Martin thinks he's spied a good direct route up to Mt Rolleston from Waimak falls hut. We return to the saddle by dropping onto the snow below us and running all the way down. The snow is quite soft and we don't need crampons.

Getting off the saddle to Lake Florence is a doddle down gently sloping snow. The lake is a beautiful blue colour and is very clear. You can clearly see the rocks at the bottom of the lake but there is no swimming for us this weekend, the water is frigid. We sidle out to the ridge on the true right (pass some reasonable campsites) and then the real fun begins.

We travel down the ridge peering over the massive bluffs looking for a suitable route into the Rolleston river. We come across a couple of cairns around the 1300m contour that seem to indicate a way down. We drop into a very steep gully and work our way down holding onto the available vegetation with every step as we work our way across eroded sections of gravel. I get into a sticky situation on one steep traverse; rock hard gravel with only a few rocks to grab hold of, none of which can take my weight. I back out and wait for my heart palpitations to stop before taking a new route. We're almost at the bottom when Clive is flattened by a rock travelling at high speed. It hits him in the pack low down but still manages to leave a nasty bruise on his lower back. We pause at the river and consolidate. On the Monday following the tramp we learn from Honora that we dropped off the ridge too early.

The track down the Rolleston river is overgrown, has a lot of windfall and seems to go on forever. At this stage of the trip it's the last thing we need. We eventually drop into the river and boulder hop down before reaching the cars after a 13.5 hour day. Thanks to Clive for leading an extraordinary trip and to everyone else for making it so memorable.

Tampers: Graham Alfrey, Clive Marsh, Honora Renwick, Martin Brown, Raymond Begg, Andrew Tromans (scribe).

14 December 2008

Sudden Valley

When the original leader of the trip, Ian, withdrew a couple of days before hand we decided (Jenny told us) that Bryce and I would lead the trip but with Jenny's natural leadership qualities occasionally coming to the fore, it was run on largely democratic lines.

We set off from Hawdon Hut at 9.45am on a warm but overcast Sunday. After crossing the gently flowing, knee deep Hawdon river at the electric fence we headed up the narrow Sudden Valley, following and crossing the stream a dozen times. Shortly before the gorge became impassable at Barrier Waterfall we left the stream to follow the marked track climbing steeply up the true left of the gorge and after kilometre of beech wood rejoined the now broad hanging valley. Walking at a moderate pace we reached the small but perfectly formed Sudden Valley biv for lunch just after midday.

After a leisurely lunch we backtracked down Sudden Valley then followed the tributary on the true right, climbing 500m to the col at point 1447m. The col was an ideal vantage point to plan future 'doable' trips including climbing another 200 metres north west along the ridge from where we sat and crossing a scree to the west, to climb The Dome via point 1669. It all seemed very plausible at the time sitting in the warm sun with most of the climbing for the day done, but we headed south east along the ridge back towards the Hawdon. Climbing to point 1804 the ridge became more narrow and the rock more fractured leading Thomas, on his first moderate trip, to suggest he was going to stick to easy trips in future.

As we made our way down to the bush line Greg led the way and found the animal track promised by Ian which led 300 metres down to point 1158. From here Ian had told us that either heading straight down to One Tree Swamp or turning east and following the ridge for a kilometre before

dropping down to the Hawdon were good routes. Following neither of these routes I led us down part way along the ridge then cut down through the bush towards the Waimakariri which led us in to an unpleasant thickly vegetated gully. It did give us the opportunity to introduce Thomas to bush lawyer and try out some unusual down hill techniques. At one point Bryce rolled himself in to a ball and trundled down hill hence slipping under much of the bush lawyer.

Despite Thomas's threats to tell the easy trip leaders that he had been mistreated he coped well with his first moderate. I think he'll be back.

Back at the car by 7.15pm we made it to Springfield and Joy's who despite saying she was closed was sweet talked by Jenny in to selling us pies to stave off hypoglycemia on the drive back to Christchurch.

Trampers: Jenny Harlow, Bryce Williamson, Greg Hill, Thomas Matern and David Sutton (scribe).



Bryce, Thomas, Greg & Dave at the new biv



View across to Mt Binsler

25 January 2009

The Mt Somers Challenge

The inaugural Mt Somers Challenge – what can one say? If you weren't there, you missed a wonderful day. Sharplin Falls carpark could have looked a bit chaotic to the untrained eye, but all was under almost-perfect control as Phil and Margie checked gear and registered competitors, Susan did safety briefings, handed out maps and reminded everyone about the all-important water stops - some people listened . . . It was already pretty hot by the time the trampers set off at 9 am. The runners seemed to be competing for smallest pack as well as everything else but Alan's little pink bum-bag won that convincingly. There was much limbering up and stretching and eye-ing up of the favourite, Stu Smith. At 10 we let the runners out of the starting gate followed by Bernhard and Penny as the 'sweepers', making sure that nobody fell, rolled or tripped by the wayside. Gareth, Lisa, Michele, Adam and Liz cooled off around the Sharplin Falls and Susan and I set the mountain radio aerial – the method that Richard had worked out during testing the previous day was not wholly conventional but seemed to work even if it made Susan herself despair.

Meanwhile, Richard was walking into Mt Somers hut and setting up the mountain radio there. People were making phenomenally good time: Ruth Barrett through got there at 11:32 (2 hrs:32), then Kerrie Maynard at 11:37 (2 hrs 37), followed by Stu at 11:46 (1 hr 46). Richard checked off names and reiterated water-warnings. On our side, Phil led most of the spectators up to Staveley Hill while Susan headed off to take over from Richard at Mt Somers Hut.

She arrived too late to observe Stu's cool-as-a-cucumber arrival and rest for a bite to eat and a drink, but in time to be perplexed by Clive's arrival as he ran past the proffered beaker of raro, and

around to the back of the hut, (tummy trouble ?). We quickly learnt he was in fact trying to fill up his water bladder, but had not realised that this palatial hut had water taps inside, not outside on the water tanks. As others arrived, they had breaks to get out of the sun, eat, drink and consider if they were fit to continue. Everyone, except the sweepers, had arrived at the hut by 13:15 and four of them had decided they were happy to take the shuttle back. So Richard walked back to the Woolshed Creek car park with Steve and Les and drove around back to Sharplin Falls – picking up industrial quantities of ice-cream on the way. A little much-needed cloud had come in to mitigate the power of the sun but it was still a very warm day. Susan remained at the hut to wait for Penny and Bernhard, while enjoying the afternoon and chatting to Malcolm, Rodney and Lew Shaw, the hut warden. Penny and Bernhard arrived about the same time as the first people were finishing back at Sharplin Falls. Susan then packed up the radio and walked out with Malcolm and Rodney to rejoin the party at Sharplin Falls.

Meanwhile, it was all action at the finishing line: Stu bounded triumphantly down the track before we had realistically expected anyone to get back – 4:18:03 was his time – and before we had recovered from the shock, Max skidded in in a cloud of gravel dust only 30 seconds later. Good thing he did not stand on the landing strip for long because a couple of minutes later Steve Bruerton touched down as well – three of them back before 2.30 pm! In fact, Dayle and Clive also did it in less than 5 hours and Flo was the fastest woman back in 5:10:30. Flo's son Gary was next in, followed by Alan Ross. Alan had clearly given it his all and was quite literally speechless for a worryingly-long length of time. Max's attempt to help by throwing a bucket of water over him after he had recovered enough to totter towards his car was presumably well-meaning. Richard Thwaites was only 3 minutes over the 6 hours; Freddie and Arno were close together shortly afterwards. Everyone was comparing cramp-stories by then (apart from Max who, mindful of past experiences, had taken care to have more than enough water . . .); Freddie commented that he had thought that he had cramp but then realised that it was only a sharp pain in his leg muscles.

Ruth Barratt and Kerrie Maynard easily led the trampers all the way around, with Ruth putting on a second half burst to make 6:20:01 with Kerrie shortly after (6:27:15). Andrew Tromans, accompanied by Arno, had sportingly taken a bit of diversion to the course around the Mt Somers Hut area and arrived shortly after Kerrie. By now the ice-cream was going down very well, cold water and raro being consumed in vast quantities, Max was making tea, Jeff and Lynette had arrived with chocolate cake, Craig and friend had rejoined the spectators, Ian had come back from his solo traverse over Somers itself, picnics were appearing all over the place, and Alan had recovered sufficiently to ask about his time. Susan now arrived back with Malcolm and Rodney in time to witness the recovery phase.

Kathy arrived back singing Ken's praises. Somewhere near the Bus Stop she had been having serious knee problems until hero Ken turned up and was faced with a damsel in distress. He worked some magic with strapping tape and then stood speechless as Kathy ran off. She finished in 8:02:16, 16 minutes ahead of Ken. *Cherchez la femme*.....

At 6 pm. Alan MC'd and Lynette drew spot prizes. Susan's work-of-art T shirts were handed out as prizes to Stu (fastest man), Flo (fastest woman), Arno and Ruth (fastest male and female new members respectively), with two more going as spot prizes to lucky competitors. Adrian and Kerrie arrived shortly afterwards and spent a pleasant evening with Susan, Ian and me until Bernhard and Penny got back a little later. Bernhard did not look sorry to relinquish the mountain radio set he had carried all the way around, together with the rest of a heavy pack-full of in-case-of-emergency gear.

Thanks to the wonderful Mountain Radio people and Paul White for the radio sets – they were vital to the safety plan and we really appreciate your generosity (and the kind interjections of helpful comments from base on our trial-run and on the day!)

Thanks also to Doug Forster for the spot-prize donation of a copy of Freshmap– again very generous and much appreciated by the lucky winner (Steve Bruerton). And thanks to everyone else who kindly donated additional spot prizes (Macpac must have had a very successful Christmas sale – sadly they did not appear to have had a lot left over to pass on to us a spot-prizes – maybe it is the thought that counts?).

Thanks to Bernhard and Penny, our indefatigable sweepers, who had to do the whole circuit with a late start, loaded down with extra safety gear . . . You were both wonderful. Thanks to Richard Lobb, Mt Somers Hut marshal, ice-cream boy, and of course world-expert on unconventional mountain-radio-aerial-setups. Thanks to Phil and Margie, who gear-checked, registered, wrote lists, copied names, recorded times, led people up Staveley Hill . . . I don't know what we would have done without you. Thanks too to Scott Fowler, the official photographer, who managed to catch just about everyone in some sort of action. Thanks also to Lew Shaw at the Mt Somers hut for all the assistance during our equipment test day and on Sunday. His assurance of help, should it be needed, was a valuable part of our safety plan.

And, of course, thanks to everyone who came – from the spectators (most of whom got roped into helping in some way at some point) to the challengers who managed to avoid giving us any first aid incidents to deal with, as well as providing plenty of entertainment. See you all next year!

Jenny Harlow and Susan Pearson (scribes)

PS from Susan: This tramp-turned-into-an-event was my wouldn't-it-be-a-great- idea, that Jenny helped make happen by enthusiasm, encouragement and hard work. She also took on the job of sitting at the shelter – all day. Next year we should show our appreciation of her efforts by putting it together so that she can enjoy going 'Round the Mountain' herself!

PPS from Jenny: And of course Susan wants to be able to do it herself as well.

PPPS from the Editor: See the trip report on the website for a full table of competitors/participants and their times.



Adrian Busby



Steve stops for a drink



Stu bounds into Mt Somers Hut



Alan a bit hot

Classifieds

Classified Ads: Are available to CTC members at no charge.

More about the CTC

Committee:

President	Richard Wills	389-8671	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	325-5001
Vice-president	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	Day-trip Organiser	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349-2280	Weekend-trip Organiser	Andrew Turton	332-8275
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981-7929
Editor	Richard Lobbb	351-2344	Gear Custodian	Ken Brown	359-2000
Social convener	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members	Susan Pearson	337-4914

Our Club Hut: In the Arthur's Pass township, with all the comforts of home including real showers and inside flushing loos (BYO toilet paper!), but with the mountains at the back door. 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.

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. Please make sure you put tents inside your pack. Tents attached to the outside of your pack can be easily punctured when bush bashing or even lost. This may result in serious damage to your bank account! Please air and dry tents after taking them on a trip even if they are not used, and report any damage to the gear custodian.

Rates for Gear Hire

Tent	\$3/person/night
Ice axes, crampons	\$4 per weekend
Harnesses, snow shovel	\$4 per weekend
Large/small weekend packs	\$2 per weekend
Helmets	\$2 per day
Personal locator beacons	Free

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz)
by Sunday, 22 February 2009 – Thanks.