



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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

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Cameron Hut, July 2010

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 \$40 member, \$60 couple, \$23 junior or associate, with a \$5 discount for members who opt to obtain this newsletter electronically.

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

Editorial: Mining in Schedule 4 Land

Most members will have been relieved to see the government shelve its plans to allow mining operations on some selected areas of schedule 4 land. This U-turn was in response to wide criticism of the proposal and in particular to the unprecedented 37,552 submissions on the discussion paper. Our club, of course, made an official submission and many members made their own private submissions. It is gratifying indeed to see how very much alone we weren't! And it's even more gratifying to discover that if enough of us feel strongly about something, and make our views known loudly enough, we can actually make a difference. Sometimes democracy, for all its faults, doesn't seem like such a bad idea after all.

There has been at least one other valuable outcome from the whole process: most of the country now knows what Schedule 4 Land is. And cares about it. Could we have said that a year ago?

Tramper of the Month: John Visser

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| <i>Place of Birth?</i> | Holland, 1937 |  <p><i>John discovers oil in the mountains</i></p> |
| <i>What year did you arrive in NZ?</i> | 1960 | |
| <i>Date joined CTC?</i> | 1968 (?) | |
| <i>What was your first job in NZ?</i> | Housepainting in Nelson for 6 months, then I went deerculling for a year, then, intermittently for approx. 5 years, hunting, meatshooting and painting. Then I climbed Mt Cook and subsequently was forced into tramping [by Rex Vink]. | |
| <i>Occupation?</i> | Painter | |
| <i>Please tell us about your family</i> | Family, hmmm. My father was a painter, forced me at brushpoint to join him. Never had a wage till I arrived in NZ. Only pocket money in Holland. [No complaints, though.] | |
| <i>What's your favourite day trip?</i> | It used to be Mt Hutt. We'd have a great race to the top, which would take about 2 hours 15. Much longer now, of course. | |
| <i>What's your favourite weekend trip?</i> | Over Mt Philistine to Waimak-falls, then down the Rolleston to Otira. The gorge was always quite interesting, especially in winter. | |
| <i>What's your favourite hut or campsite?</i> | Dunns Creek hut, off the Taipo. I was part of the team that built it in 1962. Me and Tex would wake up every night, then we would savour a packet of biscuits, washed down with some excellent whisky. We never did tell the other two. | |
| <i>How many times have you climbed Mt Rolleston?</i> | Mt Rolleston? How many times? Thirty? Forty? I was never good at math. The last time was an elegant winter-solo, via the Otira Face, eight years ago. Doesn't time fly !! | |
| <i>Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?</i> | The "What" is most certainly the Mountains, being an atheist, to me they are Gods. The "Who" are all the people I've met and tramped with and who have enriched my life. | |
| <i>What is the funniest thing to happen to you while tramping?</i> | There was a funny moment – though not at the time – when someone in the flooded Waimak river, cried "Help me Visser, help me". I dragged the poor devil out by his arm. He howled with ineffable fear, the more he howled, the harder I pulled, I thought, "he must be saved, poor chap, he's not happy". It turned out I almost pulled his arm out, hence his plaintive cries. [plaintive?] | |
| <i>What is the most embarrassing thing to happen to you while tramping?</i> | In winter, 300m from the Ada hut. My feet were still dry, there was one easy rockhop – was there ice on it? I jumped – there was!!! Instantly I was up to my waist in 1,5 ft of water. I was so shocked I was beyond screaming. I grabbed hold of a rock, it moved and I fell backward with it. I was now in 1,5 ft of ice-cold water with just my head periscoping out. I became aware of an entire tramping party seemingly having a heart attack. They were also making strange sounds, the gift of speech seemed to have left them. It was a sick spectacle, very sick in fact. And for me – very embarrassing!! | |
| <i>Is it true that you climbed Mt Cook wearing Levi jeans?</i> | Yes, the first time on Cook I was wearing jeans and tramping boots. It was also my first time on crampons. I was ably guided by Pete Farrell, who was one of the better climbers in NZ at the time. Two days later I got hit by a rock and had to be flown out. | |
| <i>Any other interests?</i> | Photography, reading and mountain biking. | |

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.

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| Saturday 31 July. | | Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 |
| <p>Rakaia Gorge Walkway. Rakaia Gorge Walkway is a nice easy trip, mainly following the cliffs above the gorge, and gives great views of the gorge and surrounding landscape. "The scenic attractions of the walkway are outstanding. A number of viewpoints along the clifftop afford dramatic perspectives of the mighty blue Rakaia River as it swirls past the steep bluffs, broad shingle banks and patterned farm terraces . . ." (Pat Barrett). The walkway itself (5k each way) starts in farmland but then enters areas of regenerating native bush, passes the disused Snowdon Coalmine, and ends in a good viewpoint. There is also the option - perhaps for the return trip - of a short loop which takes you down to the Rakaia itself.</p> | <p>Grade: Easy Closes: 29 Jul Map: K35 Approx: \$15</p> | |
| Saturday 31 July. (early start - contact leader) | | Leader: Calum McIntosh 376-6133 patncalum@yahoo.com |
| <p>Travers - Trovatore. Travers Peak (1724m) is just above the Lewis Pass Highway, accessed from the west via a nice bush track. From Travers we can descend a couple of hundred metres and trot over to Trovatore (1737m) and then - conditions allowing - head north-east along the ridge to pick up a nice descent into a stream. That takes us down to the Maruia and thus we can pick up the St James Walkway back to the Lewis Pass carpark. Height gain about 1000m+, snow skills and ice axe and crampons are a must. Early start - contact leader, and this trip could go on Sunday instead, depending on the weather.</p> | <p>Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closed: 29 Jul Map: M31 Approx: \$30</p> | |

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| Weekend 31 July-1 August. | | Leader: Liz Tanner 0211400531 lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au | |
| <p>Hanmer Base Camp. Always a popular social weekend. A Hanmer Base Camp offers tramps for all grades from easy strolls to harder trips, a MTB ride or maybe just lazing around in the hot pools. Some leave Friday night, some on Saturday morning. Stu has a trailer for anyone wanting to take MTB. Weekend walk options to suit all. \$50 for both nights accommodation includes Saturday night dinner. Limited spaces left, contact Liz as soon as possible.</p> | | <p>Grade: Easy/All/MTB Closes: 22 Jul Map: N32 Approx: \$30 + Accom(\$50)</p> | |
| Sunday 1 August. | | Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000 | |
| <p>Mt Oxford. Question: why is it always a southerly on Mt Oxford? Answer: because we always go there when the forecast for wherever we wanted to go originally is truly awful. This gives Mt Oxford rather a bit of a tough task, so today we'll make it our first option. Lovely beech forest, open tussock tops, about 1000m of height gain, probably snow, a convenient stone-wall shelter to cower behind for lunch at the top, and - if it is a good day - the possibility of a westward trek across the tops and a loop back... what more could you want?</p> | | <p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closed: 29 Jul Map: L34 Approx: \$15</p> | |
| Thursday 5 August. | | Club Night | |
| <p>8000km cycle trip!!. In 2006 club member Stuart Douce spent 5 months cycling 8000k from Alaska to Mexico with a side trip up the Dempster Highway to the North West Arctic. He will show a video of his trip. Wow, this should be amazing!</p> | | | |
| Long Weekend 6-8 August. | | Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 | |
| <p>Welcome Flats. Take a day off work and enjoy a quiet long winter weekend at Welcome Flats. Leaving Thursday night for Hokitika. About a 7 hr walk on good graded tracks to Welcome Flats. Optionally a day trip up towards Copland Pass. And lots of time in the hot pools of course. Sunday walk out and drive home.</p> | | <p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 29 Jul Map: H36 Approx: \$65</p> | |
| Saturday 7 August. | | Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045 warwick.dowling@clear.net.nz | |
| <p>Mt Isobel. Mt Isobel (1324m) lies on the open poled tops between Jacks Pass to the west and Jollies Pass to the east. We go up via the delightfully-named Dog Stream track: there is about 850m of height gain, some of it steep but on a marked route, through bush and then tussock slopes to the tops. Bring ice-axe and crampons, just in case. Be prepared for a leisurely departure from Hanmer, after taking in the hot pools (\$14, bring towel & togs) and having a bite & beer.</p> | | <p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 5 Aug Map: N32 Approx: \$25</p> | |

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| Sunday 8 August. | Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913 chris.curry@xtra.co.nz |
| Bealey Spur to the Hut. Start above the baches at Bealey Spur and climb up through sheltering beech forest. On the way to the charming old hut, at about 1240m, the ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. There will probably be snow around, especially in the open areas. Usual winter warm layers, plus a walking pole and gaiters may be useful. The hut is about a 450m climb from the cars and the round trip is about 10km. More adventurous trampers can go up Hut Spur above the bushline for a bit to admire the impressive horseshoe ridge around to Blind Spur from a safe distance. | Grade: EasyMod Closes: 5 Aug Map: K34 Approx: \$25 |
| Thursday 12 August. | Club Night |
| White Island-NZ's most active volcano. Your guide Alan Ross will take you on a tour of this Island. You will find out how 10 men were killed in 1914 and why a cat called Lucky is so-named. | |
| Saturday 14 August. | Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655 vj_schroeder@hotmail.com |
| Mt Lyndon. Mt Lyndon (1489m) is - unsurprisingly - right next to Lake Lyndon, at the other side of Porters Pass. It's a nice little trip, looking out towards Castle Hill Peak and Torlesse one way, and the Porter Heights ski area the other. About 550m of height gain, untracked but through relatively easy sub-alpine scrub, and about 8 k. | Grade: EasyMod Closes: 12 Aug Map: K35 Approx: \$20 |
| Saturday 14 August. (note - 10.30am start) | Leader: Chantal McCarthy 360 3752 chantal.mccarthy@amcor.com |
| Port Hills. Enjoy a social tramp in Port Hills. The decision about the specific tracks we will use will be weather-dependent, but whatever the precise route you'll get an interesting look around our own tramping back yard, about 4-5 hours of easy walking, and all starting at the very civilised time of 10.30am. | Grade: Easy Closes: 12 Aug Map: M36 Approx: \$5 |
| Weekend 14-15 August. | Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839 |
| Cass Lagoon. A popular trip to the luxurious Hamilton hut over two saddles and out along a valley. Side trips up Mt Bruce are available for the more energetic on the trip. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Aug Map: K34 Approx: \$30 |

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| Sunday 15 August. (could be early start - contact leader) | Leader: David Sutton 348 5998 davidsutton@clear.net.nz |
| Binser. Mt Binser is a commanding peak above the Mt White Road with panoramic views of the south-east Arthurs Pass National Park area. We start up the Binser Saddle track to the saddle (1085m) where we leave the track, heading up firstly through bush and then open slopes to pt 1753m. A few k's of superb ridge travel then brings us to the main peak (1868m, 1350m total height gain). With a car shuffle at the start we'll be able to drop down to the south-west to the road. Snow skills and snow toys probably required. | Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 12 Aug Map: L33 L34 Approx: \$25 |

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| Thursday 19 August. | Club Night |
| Elementary First Aid. Tonight, Cathy Harlow will give us a brief introduction to basic first aid, discussing what to carry in a first aid kit and how to deal with some common accidents and incidents that might be encountered whilst tramping. First aid: immediate care for the sick or injured, with the aim of preventing further injury, preserving life and promoting recovery. Often given by a non-professional, with a limited skill range, until the patient is satisfactorily dealt with or until professional help is available. Death: a cure for all diseases. "If a little knowledge is dangerous, where is the man who has so much as to be out of danger?" Thomas Henry Huxley. This is a very brief introduction; the CTC recommends that all members attend an accredited outdoor first aid course (www.mountainsafety.org.nz). | |

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| Saturday 21 August. (could be early start - contact leader) | Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz |
| The Gap. The Gap is the big notch in the Torlesse range visible for miles around and a winter trip there is a real classic. We'll probably go up from Porters Pass (942m) to Castle Hill Peak (1998m) and follow the narrow ridge through to the Gap (1700m). Ice-axe, crampons, snow skills and experience will all be needed. The ridge past Castle Hill Peak has quite steep drop offs both sides. The final section into the Gap, approached by dropping down to the north-west from the bluffs above it, can be anything from easy-peasy to quite tricky depending on the snow conditions. If you have got the skills though, this is surely one of the must-do winter trips. | Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 19 Aug Map: L34 K34 K35 Approx: \$20 |

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| Weekend 21-22 August. | Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz |
| Carlyle Hut. An interesting tramp up a low level bush valley on the south side of the Poplars Range between the upper Waiau River and the upper Boyle River. It'll take us about five hours to get to the Carlyle Hut, which will be our base. Sunday morning we can climb Horseshoe Hill or explore the upper valley (depending on the weather). | Grade: Easy Closes: 12 Aug Map: M32 Approx: \$30 |

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| Weekend 21-22 August. | Leader: Antony White 381-5993 |
| Snow Cave Adventure. Having done the snow-craft course with Adrian, it would be good to actually spend the night in a snowcave. Not sure where exactly, it will be somewhere not too far from Christchurch, probably in the Craigieburns. However, this trip is obviously dependent upon snow conditions and weather. We will allow several hours to make a decent cave, depending on numbers, and then sleep the night in it. That's the plan, so if anyone is up for cold-star accommodation for Saturday night (where else would you be?), and have done a basic snow-craft course that involved building a rudimentary snowcave, then join up! | Grade: Moderate (requires snowskills) Closes: 12 Aug Map: tdb Approx: \$30 |

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| Weekend 21-22 August. | Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 |
| Sylvia Tops. A excellent Lewis Pass trip between 2 attractive valleys (the Doubtful and the Nina) via an easy saddle (Devilskin saddle). This trip has good tracks and 3 huts. | Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 12 Aug Map: M31 M32 Approx: \$35 |

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| Sunday 22 August. | Leader: Scott Fowler and Kerrie Maynard 386-2850 |
| Broken River. A wander around the Broken River area, using the bush tracks as much as possible. We can visit either the top ski hut or Camp Saddle, depending on the group and the day and activity on the ski field. | Grade: EasyMod Closes: 19 Aug Map: K34 Approx: \$20 |

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| Thursday 26 August. | Club Night |
| Newsletter folding night. After we fold the newsletters we will have plenty of time for socialising. | |

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| Saturday 28 August. | Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 |
| Kaka Hill. Kaka Hill (994m) is a pretty little topographical protuberance right by the edge of Lake Coleridge. There are plenty of more strenuous trips out this way but this is a great opportunity to experience this very spectacular tramping area in more relaxed mode (although, with about 400m height gain, this may be at the more-muesli-bars-before-lunch end of our normal 'easy trip' range). It really is a stunning area and the longer drive is worth it just to see Lake Coleridge if you've never been there before, let alone the social delights of a CTC trip... | Grade: Easy+ Closes: 26 Aug Map: K35 Approx: \$25 |

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| Weekend 28-29 August. | | Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000 |
| <p>Casey - Binser Track. A really good standard Arthur's Pass trip, suitable for beginner overnight trampers who however must be capable of carrying a pack for 6/7 hours each day. This is very pleasant country and Hallelujah Flat which is passed on day 1 is a delightful place for lunch. The Casey Hut is big and comfortable for Saturday night and Sunday sees a pleasant wander down the river flats before a climb up through the bush to the Binser Saddle and finally down to the road for (almost) a complete round trip.</p> | <p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 19 Aug Map: L33 Approx: \$30</p> | |
| Weekend 28-29 August. | | Leaders: Liz Tanner 0211400531 Thomas Matern 3853507 lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz |
| <p>Lake Tekapo Base Camp. Talk to Liz Tanner (lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au) if you want to know more about a winter tramping weekend in/around Tekapo or talk to Thomas (3853507) if you want to spend 4 days skiing at Round Hill, the perfect place to learn it. Accommodation is either \$10/night (NIWA holiday house) or \$30/night (more luxurious place). The places are filling quick already so hurry up if you want to join.</p> | <p>Grade: Easy/All/Social Closes: 19 Aug Map: I37 Approx: \$40 + Accom</p> | |
| Sunday 29 August. | | Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 |
| <p>Hilltop to Little River. Uncle Bernhard attempts to brave the new-born lambs again with this popular trip Banks Peninsula trip. Assuming that the little woolly bundles of joy do not object to our presence, we head up from Hilltop (460m) through the Montgomery Reserve, over Mt Sinclair (841m) and Mt Fitzgerald (826m) and then down toward Little River for a restorative tea at the cafe.</p> | <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Aug Map: N36 Approx: \$20</p> | |
| Thursday 2 September. | | Club Night |
| <p>Rockology - by our club expert. John Taylor will do a talk on collecting rocks and minerals in Canterbury. Come along and see what you can find on your doorstep, you will be amazed!</p> | | |
| Saturday 4 September. | | Leader: Jim Western 384-8950 |
| <p>Mt Alford. Mt Alford is a moderate (1171 metres) summit south of Mt Hutt with about 600m ascent. The track starts with a short farmland section and then enters the Alford Scenic Reserve and climbs steadily through lovely beech forest (look out for the emerging lancewoods and horopito) to emerge into more open scrub. We follow the ridge to the summit, with views of Winterslow and Mt Somers. It's not often we tramp in an area with its very own webpage - see http://www.demarussem.net.nz/ for up-to-date weather and pictures.</p> | <p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 2 Sep Map: K36 Approx: \$20</p> | |

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| Weekend 4-5 September. | Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz |
| Otehake Hot Pools. This is a classic club trip to some natural hot pools. Walk up via Lake Kaurapataka which is a lovely spot for lunch. Have a great soak in the pools with dinner by an open fire. Next day a leisurely walk out via the rivers. | Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 26 Aug Map: K33 Approx: \$30 |
| Sunday 5 September. (early start - check with leader) | Leader: Calum McIntosh 376-6133 |
| Maukuratawhai. Maukuratawhai (sometimes irreverently called Mt Muckaroundawhile to help you remember the name) is an interesting 1615m peak just across the Clarence River from where you descend from Jacks Pass. We will climb up the long SW ridge (about 800m height gain) and if time and conditions permit we will traverse around to pt 1575 and descend its south ridge to circle back to the starting point. Snow skills, crampons and ice axe probably required. The trip starts with a cold ford of the Clarence so if you bring some spare sneakers you'll be able to change into dry boots on the other side. Early start - check with the leader. | Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 2 Sep Map: N31 N32 Approx: \$30 |
| Saturday 11 September. | Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 |
| Mt Bruce. Mt Bruce is a moderate tramp in the Lagoon Saddle area. Starting from Cora Lynn, you climb up through the beech forest and out onto open tussock. Good views from the top (1630m, or about 1000m height gain). There are a few different options for the route including descending into Broad Stream and picking up a very pleasant track back through the bush along the stream to Cora Lynn. This trip would suit people looking to step up from easy-moderate tramping - not too far, not too fast, not too high, no surprises, but still just a little bit more to challenge you ... Bring an ice axe and talk to the leader about whether you'll need crampons. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Sep Map: K34 Approx: \$25 |
| Weekend 11-12 September. | Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz |
| Ski-touring. A ski touring weekend suitable for skiers looking to have a go at touring. Not a "training course" but it will be a low stress trip without time / destination pressures. You will need to be an intermediate level skier, preferably have spent a bit of time skiing off piste around ski fields. Basic alpine tramping skill essential e.g.: can stay warm and comfortable above the snow line in all conditions. Destination will be decided based on prevailing snow conditions and the group's skill levels. Likely format will be 2 day trips based from "civilisation" or a short ski or walk carrying gear in to a hut, then trips from there. You will need to acquire/have transceiver, snow shovel, probe, touring skis and skins. | Grade: Ski Closes: 2 Sep Map: Approx: \$40-\$70 |

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| Weekend 11-12 September. | Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006 andrewwrapson@yahoo.co.nz |
| Carroll Hut. It's a short but steep climb from the carpark at Kelly Shelter to the Carroll Hut where we'll stay the night. Plenty of time to wander along the Kelly Range or relax in the hut. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 Sep Map: K33 Approx: \$40 |
| Sunday 12 September. (could be early start - contact leader) | Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 |
| Norma. A nice 1000m-odd climb to Norma, 1722m, in the Opera Range (Lewis Pass), with a surprisingly good track (not on the map) through most of the bush, then open tussock leading to a rocky ridge. Depending on snow conditions, ice axe and crampons (and the ability to use them) may well be required. Be one of the relatively few people to discover what a lovely tramp this is. We may do an early start - make sure your name's on the list or you have contacted the leader. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Sep Map: M31 M32 Approx: \$30 |
| Weekend 18-19 September. | Leader: Liz Tanner 0211400531 lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au |
| Moeraki and Trotter Gorge investigatory trip. The plan is to leave as early as possible on Friday night to make it to Oamaru for the night. Saturday will see us either looking at penguins or doing the Janet Frame coastal walk before we head to the house near Moeraki. Options to explore the nearby beach or Trotter Gorge. Return on Sunday with a stop at Oamaru to view the old buildings and markets. | Grade: Easy/All/Social Closes: 9 Sep Map: J42 Approx: \$50+Accom |
| Weekend 18-19 September. | Leader: Antony White 381-5993 phoenixantony@gmail.com |
| Mueller Hut. Drive down to Mt Cook on Friday night and stay at Glentanner, a leisurely walk up to the hut on Saturday, with options for venturing further if wanted. Walk back down on Sunday morning and back to Christchurch by mid to late afternoon. | Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 9 Sep Map: H36 Approx: \$50 (cars) + \$50 (accom) |
| Multi day trip 23-29 October. | Leader: Craig Beere , mob 021 395 578 381-0839 havokk@ihug.co.nz |
| Great Walk Week. Craig will be leading an intrepid group on one of New Zealand's Great Walks. Which one hasn't been decided yet. Possibly one of the North Island ones. Possibly one of the two Craig hasn't done (Milford and Abel Tasman). The trip will involve at least four days of walking and two days of travel, so you will need to take the short week off work. Depending on the track chosen, ice axe skills may be required. If you are interested, let the leader know soon, so planning for transport can be done early. There will be a cap on numbers. Estimated cost unknown but you should expect at least \$150. | Grade: EasyMod Closes: 14 Oct Map: Approx: \$TBA |

Trip Reports

27 June 2010

Broken Hill

It's often said that the best trips are the ones where expectations are lowest. In which case, given the bitterly cold and wet preceding evening, the gloomy Christchurch morning and the dubious weather forecast, this trip was always going to be a winner. My rock-bottom expectations appeared to be shared by the rest of our party of six, except for leader Bruce James who was as cheerful and optimistic as ever.

Our spirits rose steadily as we left the Christchurch drizzle behind and crossed Porters Pass. True, the top of Broken Hill, our target, was still in the clag but at least it wasn't raining and the forecast had hinted at a possible improvement later in the day. We parked in the Broken River skifield road and were soon scrambling over fences and through tolerably-navigable snow, heading for the nearest ridge. "Which way?" we called. "Up", said Leader Bruce.

20 minutes later we stopped for a breather at which point we began to notice that the way ahead appeared to be blocked by thick trees. "That's funny, I don't remember a forest last time", said Leader Bruce. Birnam Wood, perhaps? "We're not heading into that, are we?" said a doubtful voice. Short pause. "The alternative being ... ?" said another. We nodded resignedly and with a mumble of Tally Ho (or something) Bernhard went crashing off into the trees.

The next 20 minutes or so, spent floundering around in snow-covered scrub and new forest, was not the highlight of the trip. However, we soon emerged into clearer terrain where there was hardly any scrub and we could see the target again. And it still wasn't raining.

The snow got deeper as we reached the main ridgeline, at which point Bernhard donned his new snowshoes for the first time. We all confidently expected him to stride out ahead of us, but alas for Bernhard the snow promptly started getting shallower again. Before too long five of us were standing on a rocky ridge stripped of snow by the wind waiting for Bernhard to slog his way through deeper snow off to the side. Snowshoes were removed again.

The ridge was cold and windy so we continued on a bit to a more sheltered spot a kilometre or so short of the summit to have lunch. And it still wasn't raining. In fact ... could that possibly be a tiny patch of blue sky?

By the time lunch was finished, there were indubitably patches of blue around and the top of Broken Hill was no longer in clag. From then on, things just got better and better. The summit was reached, the snow was lovely underfoot, the views were great, the sky was blue, tra la tra la. Conditions were close to perfect as we continued along the ridge, now heading back towards Flock Hill. We opted to stay on the ridge heading south rather than drop into the valley with the likelihood of having to scramble through more snow-covered scrub. That plan did necessitate another forest bash section, but bashing downhill is so much easier than bashing uphill that this time it was almost enjoyable. And despite heading off in somewhat different directions we all somehow managed to converge again on the 4WD track below. The final several km of 4WD bash back to the cars was pretty missable but was a small price to pay for what had turned out to be a great day's tramping. Many thanks Bruce.

Trampers: Bruce James (leader), Bernhard Parawa, Alastair Brown, Tom Hu, Clem ??, Richard Lobb (scribe).

3-4 July 2010

Lake Christabel - Rough Creek

Waiting in Culverden on Saturday morning in the bright sunshine while Jonathon was eating his cream and jam doughnut (The Breakfast of Champions), I started contemplating the possibility of doing the trip in "reverse". Heading up Rough creek and over to Lake Christabel Hut would allow us to do the high crossing in the glorious sunshine before the predicted southerly change later in the day with the associated showers and strong wind. The wise man who once said something about chickens and eggs hatching must have been a tramper. As we approached Lewis pass we could see the dark grey clouds building on the divide and the windscreen started getting specked with rain. Revert back to Plan A.

It was about 12:30 by the time Bernhard and I finished the car shuttle and started walking along the Lake Christabel track to catch up with the others. The light drizzle gave the forest a very moody atmosphere. Eventually we climbed over the old moraine and dropped down to the lake. The perfectly still water reflected the dull grey sky and the low cloud clinging to the hill sides adds to the saturnine atmosphere.

It's a surprisingly long way to the hut and we make the last half hour to the hut using our head torches (damn lazy 8am starts). The hut is a delight and can sleep up to 10 very comfortably. We settle in for a cosy night. Although Bernhard and I have only walked about five and a half hours, it feels much longer due to the short daylight hours.

Sunday on the west coast was absolutely stunning, not a cloud in the sky. We continue our journey through the bush before climbing out onto the saddle on the bush line. The poled route over the range is very easy to follow and there's a fair amount of snow around but its not too soft or too hard. I climb to the ridgeline without having to use my ice axe. The 360 degree views of the mountains are breathtaking, the sun is shining and the breeze isn't too strong – a truly fantastic place to spend a winter weekend. Much of the previous days discussion centered on how robots and other electronic devices will gradually take over all human tasks. Everyone agrees that tramping is one activity they will not allow to be out-sourced. Its hard to argue on a day like this.

After lunch Bernhard and I move ahead of the group down Rough Creek to un-shuffle the cars. The track is bone shattering steep in some places, or maybe that was my impression with my bung knee. Brief stops at Sylvia Flat hot pools and Culverden round out the weekend.

Thanks guys for a stunning winter weekend.

Jonathon, Bernhard, Martin, Bruce Thomas, Dharshie and Andrew.

4 July 2010

Cloudsley/Enys

An early start had us walking by 9:30am. Leaving a car at the Castle Hill DOC carpark but heading up Cloudsley from Castle Hill village gave us a nice round trip. We ascended via long spur in near perfect weather - brilliant sunshine with hardly a breath of wind. Didn't need ice axe or crampons till late morning. We peaked on Cloudsley for a 12:30pm lunch break and -breathtaking views! Morpheus then advised we had options! Four of the party bravely followed his inspirational enthusiasm to do more. After all, Mt Enys looked only a stone throw away, but walking after a good lunch is always tough. The snow was perfect though – soft and not deep. Peaked on Enys then over Carn Brea to head down Dead Man Spur – not literally murderous scree but not a fun trip down. Crossed Whitewater stream once down and angled cross-country back to the Castle Hill rocks just on nightfall. A 9 hour trip, 2000m of climbing, 16 km. Tired but a phenomenal sense of achievement. Thanks Morpheus!

People: Liz Stephenson (historian), Clive Marsh, Jenny Harlow, Torrie Moore, Paul Titus, Antony (Morpheus) White

10-11 July 2010

Cameron Hut

Backcountry Cuisine reigns again.

'Twas a stunner of a day (again) as we left behind the grey and drizzly Chch morning and headed out towards Mt Arrowsmith. A couple of minor detours later, both vehicles managed to end up at the correct carpark and debark all passengers ready for a beautiful tramp up the Cameron River. Within 20 seconds we encountered our first slightly unexpected obstacle – a locked gate. Suffice to say that some manage the climbing of a gate with pack on more elegantly than others. Some may also possibly experience future difficulty with fathering children!

About 5ks up the river track we stopped for lunch and de-layering. Although not a cloud to be seen, the temperature was not so flash when out of the sun, so luckily we remained within its warm reach for most of the way. Thomas had only put a weather station in over the back reasonably recently, so was able to tell us that the previous night was -10 degrees – oh and that the hut had no fire – so we were a little apprehensive to say the least!! The fact that snow had last fallen weeks ago and that there was still a pretty decent covering in the area, plus innumerable amazing ice features in the river meant we were pretty reconciled to a cold night.

The views all the way up were more and more beautiful, and once we had ascended the only climb before the final stretch we had stunning views behind us back to the Taylor range and through the river valley also. No crampons nor ice axes were required on the way in – luckily as several of us would have been on a crash course if they were! Passing the Homestead (about the size of my bathroom at home I think) and then later reading the history of the area up in the CMC hut makes you really appreciate the comforts of home!!

It was a pretty long hike in as snow made things a little slower, and the last half an hour felt like about 2 hours climbing up the moraine wall so the hut was an extra welcome sight when finally reached over several false peaks on the way! We found two climbers already snuggled in for the night, and with the 7 of us it made for a very tight fit but luckily an extremely warm one. Much inadvertent dancing as we tried to each make tea in the confined space later, we were all tucked in and ready for sleep at a decent hour.

Some of us were up and ready for action at a decent hour the next morning too, however others (JOHNATHAN AND THOMAS) moaned and complained long and loud at the notion of being dragged out of bed at 7.30am (are you kidding???) but eventually mustered their courage and got up. Thomas was mystified at the number of tracks his sandals had made to the toilet the night before and would possibly have needed counselling over his sleepwalking had five of us not admitted to borrowing them in the night!

Frozen boots are a nice experience but even these eventually succumbed to the inevitable and we managed to get on our way again, joyously as the weather continued to be glorious. Eagerly anticipating the sun making it up the valley towards us got us moving at a decent pace for the start, and then when we hit the climb we split into two parties with Thomas, Brian and Cathy attempting the “gorge-ous” river route (Johnathan’s new use of the word definitely worked!) and the rest of us heading up over the tops again. Coming down the far side was rather nerve racking due to minimal winter experience and no poles, but ice axes prove to be remarkably good poles when needed so we eventually made it down and joined the others for lunch and a pack break.

One very surprised possum did not expect its leisurely drink to be interrupted by several trampers chasing it under a rock and then taking photos of it however none of us could quite sum up the guts to put an end to its fluffy and destructive life so it had a lucky escape!

It seemed like quite a slog getting back to the cars, I think several falls (my boots and snow were not friends!!) and the snow + overnight pack are a new level of tramping to get used to for sure – but overall a fantastic trip with beautiful scenery. Lake Heron camping ground looks like a good spot for summer so I’m looking forward to seeing the area again over Christmas.

Thanks Thomas, great leadership as always and thanks too to my fellow trampers (Cathy, Catherine, Ruth, Brian, Johnathan), great company!

PS: And the award for best sunnies goes to.....Brian!!

Trampers: Cathy Batchelor, Catherine Tatarniuk, Ruth Barratt, Chantal McCarthy (scribe), Brian Dougan, Jonathan Carr, Thomas Matern (leader).

10 July 2010

The Descent of Mt Somers

A trip memorable more for the descent than the ascent. Ten of us met up in Christchurch and drove out to meet up with Max in the permafrosted Sharplin Falls carpark. Very surprisingly, he did not even ask us why it took us so long to get there from Christchurch. Changed and rugged up as if for the Arctic, we set off up Mt Somers at a good pace led by Murray. After the usual stops to shed layers, we emerged from the bush into a beautiful sunny day (cue to shed more layers, apart from Kerrie, who was already down to the minimum permitted by decency). From the top of Staveley Hill onwards there was a fair amount of snow around. Max bounded into the lead and step-plugged pretty well all the way to the top, even if Richard wisely preferred to create alternative routes around his more direct and rock-scrambly options and some of the steps were subsequently replugged to greater depths. Peter was particularly vocal in his chagrin - "how come he skips over it and I fall in?" Something to do with physics suggested Ruth, laughing at his difficulties before steaming calmly into a well-judged third place position behind Max and Ian.

The rest of us staggered on at a more moderate pace and eventually made the summit ridge and - finally - the summit for lunch around 1 or a bit later for those who had an extra snack on the way up. While waiting for Scott, Murray and Warwick, Max hatched an Alternative Descent Plan - cunningly baiting with the promise of extra sunshine. Extra sunshine, and more chance to enjoy the lovely day, tempted most of us - there was a very cold wind playing around on the top and we were not inclined to hang around whatever the descent options. Hence the early-lunchers left in a Max-ward direction shortly after Scott, Murray and Warwick arrived.

Max had promised us that he had taken the route innumerable times before, but it turned out that this translates to something more like 'I usually head off about here and it always seems to work out without anything going too badly wrong'. Nothing daunted, we duly plunged down after the fast-moving plume of snow indicating his route, me keenly aware that Kate usually seems to be there whenever I do something particularly stupid or embarrassing tramping, and determined not to do so this time. Despite several points where we did wonder whether it would all work out, we did indeed finally emerge from the last of the bluffs, probably about half a k west of Pinnacles hut. Hitting the track, we made good time despite icy conditions, and were back at the car park just before 5, hoping we had not kept the others waiting for us too long ...

As it turned out, no, we had not - they weren't there yet. Kerrie, Richard, Ian and I, whose gear was all safely locked in Scott's truck, whiled away the time putting on all the warm layers we had in our packs and trying to persuade Ruth to let us play "how many trampers can you fit in a Subaru" with her car, while Ruth and Peter got changed and tried not to look too warm and snug. Then Max bounded up the Staveley Hill track again to see if he could see the the missing trampers while the rest of us whiled a way a bit more time creating various scenarios under which Nothing Could Have Gone Wrong They Just Had a Good Rest on the Top and a Leisurely Descent. Just as we had perfected this version, Max bounced back to the carpark with the good news that the others were not far away. Apparently this time he had been unable to resist saying "What took you so long" but Scott's reply had dampened his enthusiasm for further enquiry ...

Staveley Store being - unsurprisingly - firmly shut, we had to hang out until the Salmon Tales cafe in Rakaia for a cup of tea (muffins, soup ...) but it was worth the wait.

Intrepid descenders: Kerrie Maynard, Scott Fowler, Max De Lacey, Ruth Tramschek, Peter Eman, Warwick Dowling, Murray Gifford, Kate Taylor, Richard Lobb, Ian Dunn, Jenny Harlow.

17-18 July 2010

Mutiny at Port Levy

Well now I have your attention I will tell you my version of the truth!!!! Karen and I set off Friday as the weather was better than predicted and managed a reasonable walk out to Poari before waiting the arrival of the workers ... Andrew and Tania that night ... who brought the rain. The fireplace was well ablaze and our tongues got extra exercise that night.

Saturday dawned...weather looked great and I managed to get two kayaks out. Andrew tried his hand at fishing but to no avail so later took a kayak out to the heads but still no luck. I took off to the island and came back with lots of mussels. Tania and Karen went kayaking then walking ... and then our group doubled in size with the arrival of Jason, Caleb, Liam and Lisa and boat... yeh ahh!!!! It was starting to cool a little so the boating was deferred until Sunday and nibbles and drinks took priority. We were waiting the arrival of Catherine and Chantal ... who did not come out earlier due to what they thought was bad weather ... and Chantal deserted us on arrival as her kids could not get into the house.

Sunday dawned too good to last ... with an intrepid three people with head torches on going looking for shore night life very nice Irish ingenuity to allow some of the group sleep in a bit longer without two excited boys By 9am we departed to head up to the Port Levy saddle and walk out to Hilltop as far as we could until noon...but the road was closed due to bridge reconstruction so we had a road walk up hill for a while until we reached the top...views were great for a while and then true to my suspicion the clouds rolled in and everyone thought it was not much fun walking in the clouds seeing nothing and getting cold!!!! No sense of adventure. So they turned heel and headed back followed by the leader... So for those who wanted Jason kindly took a boat tour of Port Levy and others who had not kayaked got out...then homeward bound....Home was very quiet after such a nice weekend with great people who are like family.

Trip partakers were Karen Garrick, Chantal McCarthy, Catherine Tatarniuk, Andrew Wrapson, Jason Trimble, Lisa Harrison, Caleb Trimble, Liam Trimble, Tania Stevens and Liz Tanner leader and scribe.

24-25 July 2010

Nocturnal Climb up Mt Torlesse

[Nocturnality is an animal behaviour characterized by activity during the night and sleeping during the day.]

The "three wise men" left Christchurch at 4pm on a Saturday afternoon to climb Torlesse at night. We stopped at Springfield and emptied the pie cabinet on our way to our trip just before the shop closed (usually ctc does that on the way back from a trip, but we needed something to fortify ourselves). We parked at the base of Porters Pass, and after experimenting with our cameras in the dark, we found the optional high track route (that we didn't know existed, and bypassed the much easier river bed) and got to the Kowhai Hut before 8pm. We jettisoned our overnight kit at the hut and set off up to the summit, hardly needing to use our torches since the moon rays illuminated the ridgeline with sufficient light. We made slow but steady progress up the ridgeline, being fortunate to have the moon peeking out and reflecting Castle Hill on our left. However, high cloud ended up obscuring the full effect of the moon, but we still had enough light not to necessitate the use of torches till we reached the summit just before midnight. The lights of Christchurch could be easily seen, and we saw Ashburton and numerous other oases of lights on the Canterbury Plains. Looking westward, we saw the lights of the snow groomers on Mt Hutt and several of the Craighburn Range ski-fields. There was not a breath of wind, apart from the occasional blasts that were emitted discretely and promptly followed by some pungent fragrance....This occurred quite frequently, and I wonder whether this was a side effect of night tramping...the verdict is still out...Having taken 4 hours of farting around to ascend, we put the foot on the gas pedal and descended in half the time, so by the time Thomas and I got back to the hut at 2am, Dayle had already eaten and was in his sleeping bag.

We slept in til 10am, then made an (unsuccessful) attempt to empty Springfield once again of pies.

We really enjoyed the trip, and were fortunate to have near perfect conditions to try out night tramping in near full moonlight, where the views are similar, but more in black in white and lacking in defined details.

Nocturnals: Thomas Matern, Dayle Drummond, Antony White (Leader & writer)

More about the CTC

Committee:

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Warwick Dowling | 981-2045 | Club Captain | Jim Western | 384-8950 |
| Vice-president | Rex Vink | 352-5329 | Day-trip Organiser | Jenny Harlow | 349-2280 |
| Secretary | Cathy Harlow | 349-2280 | Weekend-trip Organiser | Thomas Matern | 385-3507 |
| Treasurer | Antony White | 381-5993 | Hut Convenor | David Watson | 981-7929 |
| Editor/Webmaster | Richard Lobb | 351-2344 | Gear Custodian | Bernhard Parawa | 981-4931 |
| Social convenor | Alan Ross | 384-6425 | New Members Rep | Janet Spittlehouse | 981-1944 02102990410 |

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 \$10 member, \$10 member's partner, \$20 non-member, \$5 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 Bernhard Parawa 981-4931. 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 August 2010 – Thanks.