



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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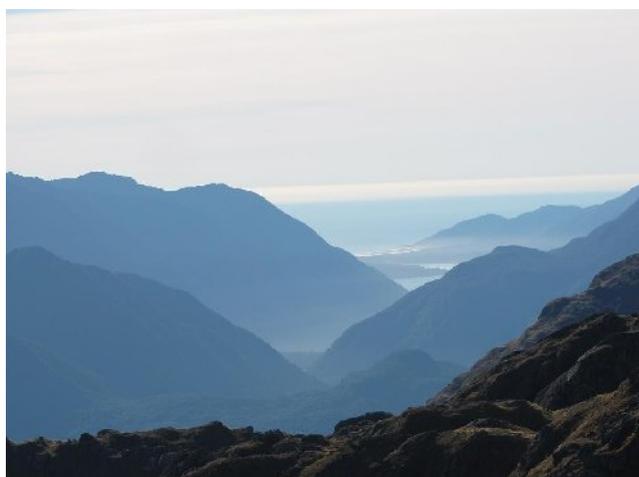
Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 1

June 2011

No. 2



Martins Bay from Conical Hill

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 the last page.

External Events

PTC Barn Dance: The annual PTC Barn Dance is on at St Peters Parish Church Hall Church Corner Riccarton Saturday 11 June 8pm to 12am. Music by 'The Incredible Ceilidh Band', dance caller Colin Forsyth. Tickets \$22ea inc drinks (wine beer fruit punch & soft drinks), nibbles, spot prizes & dances. Prize for best dressed. Tickets from Mary Hines 039426486 or hinestandm@clear.net.nz or online at www.farmsoftware.co.nz/Store

Forever wild? FMC conference invitation, 11-12 June: The Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand invite you to join us at our 80th anniversary conference *Forever Wild? Our conservation lands in the 21st century*, 11-12 June, Te Papa, Wellington. This conference is for all those who have an interest in public conservation land, for work or play. Hear from experts, policy-makers, politicians, recreation and conservation leaders, and those who enjoy our wild lands. Discuss what you think the future for conservation land should look like. See www.fmc.org.nz/conference for more information.

FMC AGM: For members, the FMC AGM will take place at 7:30pm on Saturday 11 June.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Trips: Unless otherwise stated, club trips depart either from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street) or from Caltex Russley on the corner of Russley Road and Yaldhurst Rd. If the departure point is not specified in the trip schedule, you may assume it's Shell Carlton. Day trips usually depart at 8am on Saturday or Sunday. Weekend trips may leave on either Friday evening or Saturday morning.

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.

Thursday 26 May	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: After we have dealt to the newsletter folding we will have some social time and verbal trip reports.	
Saturday 28 May Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com
Langleydale: Langleydale is located at the end of the Port Hills between the Motukarara and the Summit Road and is an area not often explored. We start the tramp at the end of Ahuriri Road in farm country and aim to do a horseshoe loop around the tops. We start up a spur to pt 244 and follow the ridge over pts 363 and 472 and past some rocky outcrops to the (unnamed on the map) Ahuriri peak (534m). Return is back via another ridge to the north. About 12k tramping and height gain about 600m	Grade: Easy+ Closes: 26 May Map: M36 Approx: \$10
Weekend 28-29 May Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
Peel Forest Basecamp: Cabins at camp ground \$20 each. Campsite \$9 per adult. On Saturday we'll do Little Mt Peel at a relaxed pace and on Sunday we'll do some easier shorter walks, such as Fern walk and Denniston bush circuit...there are lots of neat short and longer bush walks to choose from.	Grade: Easy/All Closed: 19 May Map: J37 Approx: \$40 + Accom

Sunday 29 May (Early start) Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
 Departure point: Contact Leader clive.marsh@clear.net.nz

<p>Goat Hill: A nice little 1650m bump directly above Otira opposite Mt Barron. It's an area we don't do as much as Arthur's Pass and fully deserves a bit more attention, especially with the lovely ridge route you can do with this trip. The route starts near the Otira bridge and travels up a good DOC track to the bushline. From there we will follow the ridge around to the summit. The return will be via the long southern ridge above the Deception and then down an old track back to the cars. Assuming there is snow up there, ice axe, crampons and snow skills will be required.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 26 May Map: K33 Approx: \$30</p>
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Thursday 2 June Club Night

Russia by Train, with our 'driver' Chris Curry: Chris will take us on the Trans-Siberian Express from the Mongolia border to Moscow. After that we will visit St Petersburg (formerly Leningrad).

Long Weekend 4-6 June Queens Birthday Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
 Departure point: Shell Papanui

<p>Big Tops Hut, Otehahe Hot Pool: Leaving town on Friday night for an early departure from the Club Hut on Saturday morning. Bernhard will guide you from Aickens Corner past Lake Kaurapataka to Koropuku (Big Tops) Hut where he'll stay on Saturday night. The plan for Sunday is to cover 2km distance to the Otehahe Hot Pools but there will be plenty of opportunity to make this a serious mission. Enjoy the hot bath on Sunday night and a pleasant walk out on Monday morning.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 May Map: K33 Approx: \$40</p>
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Monday 6 June Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
 Departure point: Shell Papanui Tecbruce@gmail.com

<p>Baleine Point: An easy coastal bay tramp starting at Puari. From there we can use the farm track out to Baleine Point, overlooking Beacon rocks at Port Levy's East Headland. Then we proceed round the coast to some little bays and as-yet unknown points where seals and penguins may be in residence. Then we ramble up the ridge back to the cars and back for rehydration at the cafe. Most of this tramp is on farm tracks and is ideal for those who are vertically challenged (in a tramping sense of course).</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+ Closes: 2 Jun Map: N36 Approx: \$20</p>
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Thursday 9 June Club Night

Caving with Wayne Tyson: Wayne will take us caving in Indonesia, including cave diving!

Weekend 11-12 June **NOTE DATE CHANGE** Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
 Departure point: Shell Papanui atromans@gmail.com

<p>Griffin Creek Hut: Take a hot bath on a starry winter's evening. Starting at the Taipo we head up Rocky Creek through a mix of track and river travel up to the hut. Once there, we sit back, relax and take a soothing bath in the outdoor, fully heated bath tub.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$40</p>
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Weekend 11-12 June Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
 Departure point: Shell Papanui

<p>Nina Hut: Follow Andrew on a trip to the Nina Hut suitable for the whole family. It's about 6km and 100m height gain along the Nina River, leaving plenty of time to explore the area or just chill out.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 2 Jun Map: M31 M32 Approx: \$35</p>
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Saturday 11 June Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
 Departure point: Shell Papanui Tecbruce@gmail.com

<p>Abners Head: Abners Head (579m) is located on the tip of the Malvern Hills south-west of Sheffield. It is just north of the Waianiwaniwa river, in the area the proposed Coalgate Dam would flood - so come along and tramp there while you can leave your snorkel behind... This an easy off-track sight-seeing tramp in rolling farm country.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 9 Jun Map: L35 Approx: \$15</p>
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Sunday 12 June Early start. Contact leader. Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
 Departure point: Caltex Russley

<p>Mt Oakden: Mt Oakden (1633m) is an interesting almost stand-alone peak between the Wilberforce and lovely Lake Coleridge. It's a sustained and fairly steep clamber for about 1100m up for but once there you get stunning 360 degree views over the foothills and the lake and up the Harper, Wilberforce and Rakaia Rivers. There are a variety of options for the way up and down, making a great loop trip in the Canterbury foothills. Early start - contact the leader.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 9 Jun Map: K34 Approx: \$25</p>
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Thursday 16 June Club Night

Gear discussion - BRING SOMETHING: Tonight bring along your favourite item of gear. Is it your sleeping bag? Or boots or torch or moisturiser? Tell us why you have chosen this item. Perhaps someone else will want to get one too.

Saturday 18 June		Club Night
<p>Mid Winter Breakfast: Annual mid-winter breakfast at the Chateau On The Park (Deans Ave). For the uninitiated this is the annual awarding of the Loo Loo trophy for the biggest cock-up of the preceding year. Come along and be entertained by tall tales and occasionally unembellished accounts of what can go wrong in the hills. Please dredge through your memory from the previous year and tell us about the bloopers. Meet 8am at Garden Court Brasserie for a great breakfast. Buffet is \$20 (yes special price this year), Continental is \$17, kids 5-12 are \$1/year. You must put your name on the trip list or email alan.d.ross@orica.com or ph 3846425 BEFORE the 15th as we have to give the restaurant confirmed numbers. Bring an empty tummy and a story.</p>		
Sunday 19 June		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Cheron or Dunblane: Two peaks close to Jacks Pass, Hanmer. Depending on how the leader decides to tackle these ones, there should be a round trip with approx 1000m height gain. The location should give you great views over Hanmer Springs.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)</p> <p>Closes: 16 Jun</p> <p>Map: N32</p> <p>Approx: \$40</p>
Thursday 23 June		Club Night
<p>Half way round the World in 1 hour! Join Freddy (alias Alastair Brown) as he takes you on tramping adventures in USA, Canada, Wales, Scotland, Peru and even good old New Zealand. Exotic scenery, quirky weird bits, and everything in between awaits the viewer this evening.</p>		
Saturday 25 June		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Russell Peak: Ever wondered what those hills are behind Ben More station just before the ascent up to Porters Pass? Ask no more - that is the Russell Range and now you can get an even closer look. We go in via Ben More station and tramp up to the ridge and Russell Peak (941m), then traverse east along the ridge and descend near the limeworks bridge. The terrain is a mixture of tracked and untracked in rolling farm country; the views will be stunning - and all this from a height gain of only 500m and distance about 12k.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy+</p> <p>Closes: 23 Jun</p> <p>Map: L35</p> <p>Approx: \$20</p>
Weekend 25-26 June		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Round Mt Somers: Did you think you were not fit enough to run the Mt Somers Challenge in one day? Or did you do it but did not have enough time to enjoy the scenery? Here is your chance. Same departure point, same direction but 2 full days to finish the loop, staying at the luxurious Woolshed Creek Hut for the night.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy/Mod</p> <p>Closes: 16 Jun</p> <p>Map: K36</p> <p>Approx: \$40</p>

Sunday 26 June	Leader: Kerrie Maynard and Scott Fowler.
Departure point: Contact Leader	386-2850 kerriem@yahoo.co.nz

<p>Peak Hill: If there is a nice dusting of snow around we will take a drive out to Lake Coleridge and climb Peak Hill (1240m) - Pat Barrett rates it 'unequivocally outstanding' as a viewpoint and a 'special place for mood and light' and he has surely seen a few of the best! There is good access via a well graded track up to a small saddle from which you can see into both the Rakaia and out over Coleridge. From the saddle we'll continue up through the tussocks to the broad summit to give about 600m height gain altogether. If there is no snow (or too much snow), Mt Isobel up at Hanmer will be the alternative. Make sure your name is on the list or you have spoken to the leader for this trip.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 23 Jun Map: K35 Approx: \$30</p>
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Thursday 30 June	Club Night
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<p>Newsletter folding night: After we have folded the newsletters we will have some social time.</p>	
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Weekend 2-3 July	Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839
Departure point: Shell Papanui	havokk@ihug.co.nz

<p>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.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 23 Jun Map: K34 Approx: \$40</p>
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Saturday 2 July	Leader: Greg Hill 349-9808
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<p>Camp Saddle: Camp Saddle is a nice accessible part of the Craigieburns, just off the main range of Hamilton, Cockayne, Cheeseman etc. We can go up from the ski field access road, or perhaps round via the Craigieburn Valley. It's a short but steepish climb onto the saddle (1480m) for a rest to admire the views out over the Craigieburns and down towards the Broken River Ski area. From the saddle we do a lovely promenade east along the top of a spur to point 1525 and then drop off to meet the Craigieburn Valley track again at Lyndon Saddle and hence back to the cars again. 700m-800m height gain and about 13-14km round trip depending on the exact route.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+ Closes: 30 Jun Map: K34 Approx: \$25</p>
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Sunday 3 July		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931	
<p>Savannah Range: Woolshed Hill (1429m) is a straightforward 800m ascent on a good track from the Hawdon Shelter, but on this trip we aim to go quite a bit further and have a real explore of a less-visited area . . . The plan is to head along the ridge towards the Savannah Range, dropping down to the Hawdon for the return march. Nothing too hard but a longish way and a longish day.</p>		Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)	Closes: 30 Jun
		Map: K33	Approx: \$25

Thursday 7 July		Club Night	
<p>Ski touring the European Alps: Club member Grant Wheaton takes us on The Haute Route: 6000 metres of ascent and decent, 140kms of high level ski touring. First completed in 1910, it is arguably the most famous ski mountaineering trip, in the most awesome alpine terrain crowned by Mt Blanc in Chamonix and the Matterhorn in Zermatt. Altitude sickness, avalanche, abseil, blizzard, freezing conditions, no water, hours in the dark.. and that was just the first day!!! The most stunning skiing, camaraderie and high alpine scenery! See http://www.wildernessjourneys.com/adventures.php?tripID=123</p>			

Saturday 9 July		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014	
Departure point: Shell Papanui			
<p>Ted's Track: Bruce heard whispers of a lost track, now so lost it needs a little TLC. So we're joining forces with the Rangiora Tramping Club, who provide the historical association and intimate knowledge, to reclaim 'TED'S TRACK' from the bush.</p> <p>Some years ago Ted established a track from the Maori Reserve Road end of the Blowhard to the Mount Richardson Bypass track giving an ALTERNATIVE Mount Richardson loop for easy/mod trampers. Involves off- and on-track bush travel/exploration plus track regeneration.</p> <p>Delay to Sunday if weather is unsuitable. Contact leader if in doubt.</p>		Grade: Easy+ & exploration	Closes: 7 Jul
		Map: L34	Approx: \$15

Weekend 9-10 July		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507	
Departure point: Shell Papanui		thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p>Cedar Flat Hot Pool: The Cedar Flats Huts are around 5 hrs walk up the Toaroha River on the West Coast near Lake Kaniere. From the hut it's a 10 minutes walk to a hot pool on the bank of Wren Creek in a great West Coast Bush setting. There is a good camp spot close to the pool if you are too lazy to walk back to the hut after the bath.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod	Closes: 30 Jun
		Map: J33	Approx: \$40

Sunday 10 July Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Tiromoana Bush: Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track is a new-ish walkway constructed as a result of the landfill deal. The club did a 'test run' before it officially opened and it's been a popular tramp ever since. It's certainly a great way to explore the area to the east of the landfill where native bush and the Ella Ponds wetlands are being protected and restored. The track loops around from the Glenafric road to a cliff lookout (Tiromoana means 'view of the sea') and access to the Ella Peak Scenic Reserve and the beach and then back past the wetlands.</p>	Grade: Easy Closes: 7 Jul Map: N34 Approx: \$15
Saturday 16 July Leader: Antony White 381-5993 Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Mt Somers: Mt Somers (1687m) is an old volcano and so this is another interesting geological area as well as a superb day tramp. It's about 1100m height gain, a sustained and sometimes steep climb up from beech woods and through scrub and onto the open flanks before gaining the summit. Take plenty of sunblock and plenty of water and be prepared for a good grunt going up, to be rewarded with a great sense of achievement, panoramic views, and (later) ice creams at the Mt Somers store.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 14 Jul Map: K36 Approx: \$20
Weekend 16-17 July Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>'Lazyman', Mt White Station: A trip into The Lazyman plateau on the Mt White Station, with a side trip to the Puketeraki Range. Experience the joys of winter camping conditions. Ice axe and crampons might be required.</p>	Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Jul Map: L34 Approx: \$35
Sunday 17 July Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Not quite Mt Binser: This trip is a bit of a variation on the Binser theme - we go up to Binser Saddle on the track but then instead of going for Binser itself we head north, up onto pt 1532 and a lovely horseshoe ridge forming the Lower Farm Stream catchment. The high-point of our section of the ridge is 1709 and there is a bit of up and down in-between so call it around 1400m height gain. From the other side of the horseshoe we'll descend a bush-clad ridge down into the Andrews to pick up the track and out to the Andrews Shelter (about 15k altogether). If there is snow you will need to have snow skills for this trip. Could be early start - contact leader.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 14 Jul Map: L34 Approx: \$25

Weekend 23-24 July
 Departure point: Shell Papanui

Leader: Antony White 381-5993
 phoenixantony@gmail.com

Lake Man: A brisk start to the day with a crossing of the Boyle River then 9k's of flat easy river valley travel. A 500m climb up the track by the Kedron River will get you to the bivvy and another 300m will get a scenic campsite at the lake. Back past the bivvy on Sunday then tops travel along the Doubtful Range to Mt Murray (or right along to Mt Garfield if the snow is right for quick travel), before dropping down through the bush back to the Boyle right opposite the cars. A great trip, one of the classic Lewis Pass tramps.

Grade: Moderate+
 (requires snow skills)
 Closes: 14 Jul
 Map: L32 M32
 Approx: \$30

Saturday 23 July
 Departure point: Shell Papanui

Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014

Coastal Exploring - Peraki Bay: Another of Bruce's Coastal series. Starting at the Peraki saddle (560m) we follow the ridge along to Carews peak (794m) for stunning views of the Akaroa, its harbour, entrance. Continuing along a descending ridge (pt.466m) to the South head (100m) of Peraki bay for lunch. Then on down to Peraki bay is the site of Captain Hemplemans Whaling Station, the first on Banks Peninsula and possibility the first European settlement in Canterbury. We then return via Peraki road past the Peraki Bay Reserve, Devils Gap reserve to the cars, then off for rehydration. This is an Easy tramp, suitable for newcomers concerned about fitness and skills, with great Banks Peninsula views. Also a little of its history.

Grade: Easy
 Closes: 21 Jul
 Map: N37
 Approx: \$20

Long Weekend 29-31 July Friday evening plus full weekend
 Departure point: Shell Papanui

Leader: Adrian Busby
 325-5001

Basic Snowcraft Course: An introduction to the basic snow skills needed by any club member wishing to head into the high country over winter. The course covers the use of iceaxe and crampons, basic avalanche awareness, winter survival techniques and snow shelters. Participants must attend the Friday night at the club hut, and will need ice axe, crampons and helmet. These can be hired from the gear custodian get in quick with your bookings or you will have to hire gear from the mountaineering shops in town.

Grade: Training
 Closes: 21 Jul
 Map: K33
 Approx: \$60

Grade Moderate. Based at the club hut so normal hut fees apply. As with all CTC training this course is open to full club members and registered prospective members who have paid the appropriate membership fee.

In addition to the items stated above, participants will need full waterproofs, sun glasses/ski goggles and plenty of winter clothing particularly gloves and/or mittens. The course is limited to 14 participants and the course runs full every year with a waiting list so if you wish to attend, get your name down straight away. Depart 7.00pm prompt from Carlton Shell station.

Weekend 30-31 July Leader: Chantal McCarthy 360 3752
 Departure point: Shell Papanui chantal.mccarthy@amcor.com

<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: Easy/Mod Closes: 21 Jul Map: L33 Approx: \$35</p>
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Weekend 6-7 August Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz

<p>Arthurs Pass Alpine Sports Weekend: A sporting weekend based at the club hut. Options (depending on snow cover / ice formation): ski tour around the top bowls at Temple Basin, ice climbing on the bottom gullies of Phips Peak - Otira Valley or some rumoured ice in Graham Stream, or we may sit at the store, eat pies and drink coffee all day - just depends.</p>	<p>Grade: Ski Tour / Climbing Closes: 28 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$50</p>
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Sunday 7 August Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
 Departure point: Shell Papanui

<p>Rakaia Gorge: 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: 4 Aug Map: K35 Approx: \$20</p>
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Weekend 13-14 August Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
 Departure point: Shell Papanui bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz

<p>Arthurs Pass Base Camp: A weekend based at the Club Hut in Arthurs Pass, with an opportunity to explore the many grades of tracks in the area. The leader is open to whatever tramps people would like to do. Pot luck meal on Saturday night.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/All Closes: 4 Aug Map: K33 Approx: \$35 + hut fees</p>
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Long Weekend 19-21 August
Departure point: Shell Papanui

Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507
thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz

Welcome Flat Hot Pools: Enjoy a long weekend at/in the best hot pools the South Island has to offer. We will leave on Thursday afternoon and drive all the way to a DOC camp ground at Lake Mapourika just north of Franz Josef. After having a good breakfast in Franz Josef the next morning we will follow a great track to the pools. Since this is not a long weekend we will most likely be alone there for the first night. On Saturday there are options to venture up the valley or to relax in the pools. On Sunday we will walk back to the cars and return to Christchurch before midnight. If that long walk is too boring for you then you can join Antony and run all the way to the hut. Trip cost of \$110 includes transport, hut tickets and camp ground fees.

Grade: EasyMod+
Closes: 11 Aug
Map: H36
Approx: \$110

Trip Reports

28 April - 1 May 2011

The Routeburn Classic



Lake McKenzie



Lake Howden

This is the story of our experience as marshals at this year's Routeburn Classic. We expected a few CTCers to be keen but it was just three of us that travelled down for it.

We'd had a couple of emails and phone calls with the event director Evan McWhirter and he was keen to have us walk the whole track once he learnt we'd not done it. So he teed up a key swap and had a car waiting for us when we came out on the Sunday.

We rolled out of Christchurch with John Kay on Thursday morning and had a good trip down getting to know each other and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

It was late afternoon when we arrived in Queenstown and Evan met us at McDonalds for a briefing. Describing Evan as an enthusiastic extrovert would be a huge understatement and he was positively fizzing two days out from his big race with a superb weather

forecast. It soon became apparent that his other 30 odd marshals had all been involved previous years so we were the only newbies. However he looked after us well by teaming us up with his old hands Rick and Roy who would be based at Lake MacKenzie hut. We left the briefing with radios, participant lists and some laminated signs to carry in.

Evan had booked us rooms at the Heritage Hotel and as they were sponsors it didn't cost us anything – bonus !! We had a lovely meal out and retired early looking forward to starting our tramp the next day. We were on the road to Te Anau early which is just as well as we had to stop there to collect a trailer with a couple of portaloos on it. We discovered a magic pie shop in Te Anau so started our walk from The Divide around 2pm with full stomachs.

It's a very good track up to Howden hut which is a fantastic spot, gorgeous lake amongst bush clad mountains. We took some pics and pushed on. The track became a bit bouldery in places especially as it passes Earland Falls which are superb. We saw other waterfalls and crossed bridges over deep chasms in the rocks, it was awesome scenery. The sun was low and the day was cooling off as we arrived at the various buildings which make up Lake MacKenzie hut. We claimed our bunks and introduced ourselves to the rest of the marshal crew that were spending the night there. A good man called Neville had the job of getting up extra early to be in position back at Earland Falls before the first runners came through. Gareth and I had brekky and were sent on up the big climb onto Ocean View where we were to take position at the high point of the track. Boy, we lucked in with that job as the day dawned beautiful and we were straight up from the hut and lake in the morning sun with an incredible view and were also able to look down on the clearing and see the runners making their way through the marshal station down below. There was a buzz of excitement in the air and we'd bounded up the track to be in place before the race even started. I found myself feeling inspired by the athletes and I was jumping around like I had ants in my pants. It got even more exciting as they started and Evan buzzed over in the chopper on his way to the finish line and we heard via the radio as the front runners rapidly approached each marshal point. We'd taken bets on how long before the first runner hit Lake MacKenzie and it was something like 64 minutes – incredible. We walked the 12 kilometres in three and a half hours they day before.

The first guy through was Bevan Stevens and he went on to win, never relinquishing the lead in his first Routeburn Classic. He barely had a sweat going when he flew past us and looked as fresh as a daisy. The first runners through were all serious athletes, there was no conversation from them as we called out encouragement and they would not be tempted by our big bag of lollies. However as we saw the middle and tail end of the pack we soon emptied our lolly bag and found ourselves offering water to some while taking photos for others or rooting through their little packs for bananas etc.

We'd spent a very pleasant morning on our rocky outcrop and had enjoyed a brew before seeing the last competitor through. Once we'd radioed that through we donned our packs again and moved off after the field heading for Harris Saddle. The track that lead us there was a high sidle with views down the Hollyford valley and we were bathed in sunshine and very warm temperatures for the last day of April. We'd been told the detour up Conical Hill was well worth the effort so after enjoying some lunch we headed up without packs. There were a few icy patches on the track up but we were soon on top with views all the way out to sea, straight down to Lake Harris and back to Lake Te Anau. Dropping back to the saddle we grabbed our packs and covered the last few kms to Routeburn Falls hut. We arrived as the light was fading to a huge hut cantilevered off the hillside, just above the treeline, below a pair of waterfalls.

Our Sunday dawned gorgeous as well and involved a simple walk down to the valley past

Routeburn Flats hut and the track out which followed the river through the beautiful Routeburn gorge. We reached the shelter, found the car we were to take back to Queenstown and stopped at a cafe; in Glenorchy to find familiar faces from the evening before – not surprising because they'd recommended the place.

We stopped long enough in Frankton to swap vehicles and have a casual de-brief with Evan who was glowing in the aftermath of a very successfully run race. We heard all about his post race event up at the Skyline restaurant the previous evening and had a quick look through photos of the day. He gave us each a participant's medal, on the basis that we had covered the whole track even if it was over three days instead of some three hours !! We travelled home content, satisfied and very glad to have been able to see such a beautiful part of the country.

This is an annual event and Evan is always keen to get new people involved. It's very well run and despite 330 runners "clogging" the track none of the trampers we met had anything negative to say and were keen to hear how the runners got on. We're hoping to be there next year and would recommend it to anyone who wants to get involved. It's a lot of fun and a great way to see "landscapes of such diversity and splendour that you'll be hard pressed to find a better walk in the world" to quote Shaun Barnett.

Participants: Lisa Glading (scribe), Gareth Gilbert, John Kay

30 April - 1 May 2011

Princess Bath



Head of Lake Tennyson



Princess Bath from the approach ridge

Four of us set out from Lake Tennyson (1100m) in bright sunshine and no wind. This was going to continue for the rest of the weekend, and was a welcome break from the wet autumn weather.

After doing the mandatory barefoot walk across the Clarence River thing, we set off alongside the Southern edge of the lake then headed up Mt McCabe (1606m) and analysed the approaches to Princess Bath, which looked quite intimidating surrounded above and below and around with bluffs. After deciding to have a go at the South-Eastern Ridge, we dropped to a small saddle and ascended the fairly steep slope that tested the varying degrees of fitness! However, all did well, and we got to a point about 150m above the lake when a scree slope suddenly presented itself amongst the bluffs, and it was a fairly easy descent to the bath-edge, and around to the "taps", or tongues of flat land

estate that had mint tent sites. The Princess Bath is held into the face of the dominating Mt Princess by an amazing concoction of a rock dam that looks like the edge of a giant bathtub, and is fairly straight. However, someone forgot to add hot water to it (Hot-pool Thomas perhaps had use of the hot water elsewhere?), and no-one was brave enough to put on their Birthday suits and take a bath.

That evening, we huddled around a “rock” fire and talked till the stars came out and gosh it was way cool, just the serenity of it all...

The next morning, a new unit of time was discovered by a German genius who just happened to be on the trip. I was the only one who was keen to do some morning exercise and “knock the bastard off” and climb Mt Princess, despite the soul-destroying and leg back-peddling scree dress that cloaked “The Princess”.

On a technical note here, the best approach is to ascend the north-western scree slope, up through the right middle funnel between the rock bluffs, then gain the ridge to the left at the top of the funnel. Once you get to the ridge line, its “Hands in pockets” and waltz up to the summit, which is a surprisingly flat ridge line that bends off in a hockey-stick fashion to the North.

Ok, back to the discovery of a new unit of time. It took 40min to ascend the 380 odd metres difference from the lake to the summit, and 20min down. During this time, the German (Arno G) observed that his coffee cup (including preparation time) emptied precisely twice during this interval (plus breakfast), hence was born the 30min coffees. Therefore, when you hear the famous expression on future trips such as “How many coffees to the top”, then you will know that one coffee = 30 minutes of human time.

We then decided to check out another way back to the car, and descended the true right of the outlet that drains the Bath, then walked down the valley near the creek and back to the carpark.

Once we got back to the car the “Princess” of the trip, Luca, who had to put up with the “three wise men” (who discussed at length how we were to get to our destination safely and in one piece), did well to jump into the cold waters of Lake Tennyson for a quick swim (emphasis on the quick).

The drive up and down was uneventful apart from the conversations that filled and reverberated around the interior of which I can't remember any details, and don't warrant any mention in this journal, thus concludes my account of the sequence of events...

Trampers: Antony (Crazy fit leader), Arno (German scientist), Tom (Expedition advisor on avoiding rock bluffs) and Luca (Brave princess who followed the 3 wise men and who didn't complain once!) & Andrew T (Technical advisor and initiator of a great venue)

Classifieds

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

More about the CTC

Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Antony White	381-5993
<i>Senior Vice President:</i>	David Watson	981-7929	<i>Weekend Trip Organiser:</i>	Thomas Matern	385-3507
<i>Junior Vice President:</i>	Thomas Matern	385-3507	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425
<i>Secretary:</i>	Chantal McCarthy	360 3752	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Jim Western	384-8950
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Andrea Zahn	382 1044	<i>Editor:</i>	Richard Lobb	351-2344
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Adrian Busby	325-5001	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	Janet Spittlehouse	981-1944			

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 Jim Western, ph. 384-8950. 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 26 June 2011 – Thanks.