



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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affiliated to Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Opinions expressed or events described in this newsletter do not necessarily represent Club policy.

Vol. 72

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No. 3

President	Dave Watson	981 7929	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	383 4046
Vice President	John Henson	342 3311	Trip Organiser(day)	Sandi Keenan	389 6400
Vice President	Andrew Turton	332 8275	(weekend)	Andrew Turton	332 8275
Secretary	Michele McKnight	388 7975	Hut Convenor	Rex Vink	352 5327
Treasurer	Nellie Vink	332 5879	Gear Custodian	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111	New Members	Alice Yung	382 3988
Social Convenor	Alan Ross	384 6425		Joanne Boereboom	342 5590

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages and runs tramping trips every weekend ranging from easy (no experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instruction courses and hold weekly social meetings. Membership rates per year are \$32 member, \$38 couple, \$16 junior or associate.

EQUIPMENT HIRE: The Club has a range of equipment (tents, ice axes, crampons, harnesses, large and small weekend pack, billies and a mountain radio) for hire to members at reasonable rates. Contact Gear Custodian, Jim Western 328 7762. Note: Club gear assigned to you to carry on a trip is your responsibility; please take care of it.

Our **CLUB HUT** in the Arthurs Pass township has the comforts of home but with the mountains at the back door. Even better now with inside flushing loos, and soon to be improved showers. 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 and no overcrowding. For keys and bookings phone Rex Vink 352 5327; or if he's away, John Easton 337 1941; or if they're both away, Dave Watson 981 7929 (or pager 026 252 3284). Hut fees are \$6 member, \$6 member's partner, \$12 non member, \$4 kids under 12. If you find any problems or maintenance required, please tell Rex when you get back.

SOCIAL SCENE: We meet on Thursdays 7:30 pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre (Watling Lounge) Hagley Park South, 57 Riccarton Avenue (entrance opposite the hospital). A variety of social functions are organised, the atmosphere informal, and tea and biscuits served. If you can give a presentation or have ideas, please contact Alan Ross 384 6425.

TRIPS: Unless otherwise stated, trips depart outside Shell Carlton Corner Service Station (see page 2 for details). Day trips depart at 8:00 am and weekend trips depart at 7:00 pm on Fridays. If you have comments or suggestions for trips, please contact the appropriate trip organiser (listed at top of the page).

Notices

DEPARTURE VENUE: Trips depart from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station, 1 Papanui Road, between Burger King (who said Elvis was dead) and Liquor Land (opposite Derby Street). If you aren't taking your car on the trip, you will have to park on one of the nearby side streets, as you may come back to a wheel clamp, or have had your car towed! If you are taking your car we would like to encourage you to refuel at Shell Carlton, as they have been kind enough to hold onto our trip lists. **LEADERS:** Please ask for the trip list box (disguised as a shiny red 'Stanley' toolbox) and post the trip list into the locked box. If anyone turns up after this, the service station has a key to open the box. Spare key holders are listed on the box.

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: If you would like to receive your newsletter and general news by e-mail, please let Linda Lilburne know at LilburneL@LandcareResearch.co.nz.

CTC STICKERS: The club has had some Christchurch Tramping Club stickers printed for members to stick in hut books when they visit one. Contact Sandi Keenan 389 6400 if you would like some.

ROCK CLIMBING COURSES: Learn to climb safely and confidently with professional instructors – all abilities catered for. Private classes can be arranged. Discount to CTC members. Phone Cliff at Vertical Ventures 332 8571.

FLATMATE WANTED: For sleep out in Hornby, \$55/pw plus expenses. Phone Phil or Brian 344 1195 or 025 662 6171.

OLD MEMBERS: Bernard Parawa's in the members list is incorrect, the correct number is 981 4931. Dave Henson's number has also changed, the new number is 942 3954.

NEW MEMBERS: A big welcome to the following new members - Gareth Gilbert, Anne Cochrane and Kay Serra.

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE: We try to keep the club membership database up-to-date, so if you know of any updates, errors or omissions, give Rex a ring on 352 5327, and help us get it right.

CLOSURE OF MUELLER HUT: The Mueller Hut rebuilding has been delayed until December, so the old hut will remain open until then.

WANGANUI TRAMPING CLUB JUBILEE: The Wanganui Tramping Club are having their 50th Jubilee celebrations Labour weekend 26 - 28 October 2002. Replies of interest to: Russell Donaldson, 6 Stratford St, Wanganui. Phone A/H 0-6-344 2275 russelld@clear.net.nz .

FAREWELL: Justin and Rachael Annan who leave Christchurch for Nelson in the near future. Thanks Justin, for all the hard work that you have put into the club (especially the hut) over the years.

GET BETTER SOON: John Easton, who has just broken a collar bone after losing a bike vs. car collision; and Penny Coffey, who is recovering from surgery.

RENEWALS: Apparently there are a number of outstanding subs that need to be renewed. If this is you, then please come to club and pay Nellie or post a cheque to PO Box 527 including all the relevant details.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 29 June	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 5417
MT PLENTY - GHOST CREEK: In the Torlesse range area. Ask Andrew for more details. There is a trip report at http://www.tca.co.nz/ctc/trips/AUG25.96.html if you are interested.	Grade: Moderate Map: L34 L35 K35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 27 June
Weekend 29 and 30 June	Leaders: Alastair Brown 343 5111 / John Hensen 342 3311
BASIC SNOWCRAFT COURSE: Come along and update your skills from last year or a few years ago or even for the first time. This will be a gentle introduction to ice axe and crampons. Destination will depend on where the snow is but probably Arthurs Pass and the club hut. A fun social weekend to learn some safety.	Grade: All Map: K33 Approx: \$40 List closes: 20 June
Thursday 4 July	Club Night
Auction of tramping gear night. Have you bought one too many sleeping bags? (Alan Ross) or out grown items of your own gear? (little John) or replaced something with new technology? (Stu). Bring along anything you would like to turn into \$\$\$\$\$ and let the bidding begin.	
Saturday 6 or Sunday 7 July (weather dependent)	Leader: Stu Smith 343 1065
MT OXFORD - RYDE FALLS: Mt Oxford is a strenuous day trip, involving 1356m height gain. This will be a round trip going up from Coopers Creek car park to the summit and coming down via Ryde Falls.	Grade: Ski Map: K35 Approx: \$depends List closes: 4 July
Saturday 6 or Sunday 7 July (weather dependent)	Leader: John Henson 342 3311
MT HUTT: has snow, so go play for the day. Contact John to confirm which day will be the one. Mt Hutt has everything from beginners to experienced.	Grade: Moderate Map: L34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 4 July
Weekend 6 and 7 July	Leader: Jim Western 328 7762
MID WINTER HUT BASH: The newly renovated club hut is the venue for the annual hut bash. Be quick as the first 16 names get a bed. The theme of this year's party is "Animal Vegetable Mineral". Bring tramping for day trip. Trip leaves Saturday morning.	Grade: All Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 27 June
Thursday 11 July	Club Night
PROBABLY BEST SLIDE SHOW THIS YEAR!! We have Fay Shaw from Grassroots Adventures all the way from Auckland. She will take us to the Forbidden Kingdom of Mustang, Nepal. Its a remote region in the North of West Nepal. Lying in the rain shadow of the Himalayas, it's a high desert, its landscape stark and dramatic. The language, traditions and dress are ethnically Tibetan. It has limited access of 1000 trekkers/year at US\$700 each. So do not miss this one!	
Weekend 13 and 14 July	Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003
AVOCA VALLEY - SPHINX - JORDAN: A great winter weekend trip into this very attractive remote mountain valley via two relatively easy saddles. Ice axe and crampons required. There is a lovely little hut to stay in on Saturday night.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 4 July

Sunday 14 July	Leader: Don Carniello 338 9865
KOWHAI RIVER TO HUT: We start at the big tree before Porters Pass. To the hut is a nice easy stroll of about 1.5 hrs. From there, there are other options depending on the group.	Grade: Easy Map: K35 L35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 11 July
Thursday 18 July	Club Night
Introduction to Risk Management by John Henson. How it relates to the individual as well as the party. Attending this may help your future safety. Great for prospective and current trip leaders.	
Saturday 20 July	Social Event
PTC BARN DANCE: This great event happens just once a year. For just \$19 you get all drinks, generous supper, called dances and even spot prizes. From 8:00 pm South Brighton Hall on Beatty St. A big group from the CTC enjoys the event. I have just 20 tickets so the first 20 who give me \$19 get them. Phone Alan on 384 6425 or alanross@biolab.co.nz or better still get them at club.	
Sunday 21 July	Leader: TBA, contact Sandi if interested 389 6400
THE GAP: Traverse along the Torlesse Range from Porters Pass to Foggy Peak and along to the Gap. Great views of the Canterbury Plains and the Cass basin. There is even a scree slope to make the trip down to the Kowhai river faster. Ice axe and crampons will be required.	Grade: Hard Map: K35 L34 L35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 18 July
Weekend 20 and 21 July	Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111
POLAR RANGE - MTS SCOTT AND WILSON: Alastair (aka Freddie) is going to climb the peaks in the Polar Range, all around the 2000m mark. Mt Scott is the first target with others following, conditions depending. Ice axe and crampons required. Phone Freddie for details.	Grade: Mod/Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 11 July
Tuesday 23 July	Social Event
Dinner out at Cafe Valentinos 813 Colombo St. This is much more up market than the restaurants we usually choose (by request). Mains are \$15-23 meet at 7:30 pm and you must put your name on the trip list or phone Alan on 3846425 or alanross@biolab.co.nz as I have to give them numbers.	
Thursday 25 July	Club Night
Newsletter folding night and Dave Watson will escort us along two of the great walks, the Heaphy and Milford Tracks.	
Saturday 27 July	Leader: Sandi Keenan phone 389 6400
BRIDLE PATH – CRATER RIM WALKWAY: Meet at the gondola terminal at 9:00am for a pleasant walk up the bridle path. Once at the top of the path, a decision will be made as to which way on the crater rim walkway to choose, weather will play a factor in this.	Grade: Easy Map: M36 Approx: \$0 List closes: 25 July

Weekend 27 and 28 July	Leader: Linda Lilburne 366 6570
SKI TOURING THE GODLEY: Once more we will attempt this wonderful ski touring trip in the area around the Godley Glacier. This trip is weather, snow and 4WD dependent. The weekend of 3 and 4 August is the backup.	Grade: Hard skiing Map: I35 I36 Approx: \$60 List closes: 18 July
Thursday 1 August	Club Night
Our own Jonathan Carr will escort us to Russia including the Caucasus. We will get a feel for the culture as well as chase some holes in the ground (caving). Jonathan is always entertaining.	
Sunday 4 August	Leader: TBA, contact Sandi if interested 389 6400
LITTLE MT PEEL: Start at the Blandwood road end and go up Deer Spur. This track climbs steadily through mixed forest and ferns. Views of the plains can be glimpsed. A good dose of rain will make the tarn at 900mtrs more interesting to look at. This trip can be exposed so warm clothing is advised, snow may be around.	Grade: Moderate Map: J37 Approx: \$30 List closes: 1 August
Weekend 3 and 4 August	Leader: Nick Groot 385 4730
JOLLIE BROOK - GABRIEL: A combination of river travel, lush bush, an easy saddle and tussock flats with beautiful mountains surrounding them - this all adds up to a great weekend trip. A hut on Saturday night makes sure of a cosy night.	Grade: Mod/Easy Map: M33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 25 July
Weekend 10 and 11 August	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
SKI WEEKEND OHAU: Travel down to the Ohau Ski Field on Friday night to stay at the Glenmarry Ski Club, before two days of skiing on the Ski Field. Saturday night will be party night with a sauna to finish.	Grade: Ski Map: H38 Approx: \$45 List closes: 1 August
Weekend 10 and 11 August	Leader: Adrian Sullivan 381 5417
CROW VALLEY: A relatively easy tramp up the Waimakariri and Crow rivers to the <u>brand new</u> 10 bunk hut. With great views of the Crow Glacier and the south face of Rolleston, this is a wonderful place to spend Winter's weekend. Take lots of warm clothes, it could be cold.	Grade: Easy/Mod Map: K33 Approx: \$35 List closes: 1 August
Sunday 11 August	Leader: TBA, contact Sandi if interested 389 6400
GODLEY HEAD CIRCUIT: Plenty of scope here -from starting in Sumner or Taylor's Mistake to starting in the car park on the Summit road. Heaps of tracks to choose from. A 9:00 am start will make this a pleasant winter trip exploring an area with plenty of variety.	Grade: Easy Map: N36 Approx: \$10 List closes: 8 August
Weekend 17 and 18 August	Leader: Craig Beere 355 7313
ROUGH CREEK - LAKE CRISTOBEL: A classic lewis pass trip. You will follow the Blue Grey River through Beech forest to its source in the beautiful Lake Christobel. The night is spend in the large hut, and on Sunday you will exit over the tops (with great views) to Rough Creek and maybe a hot pool at Maruia.	Grade: Moderate Map: L31 M31 Approx: \$40 List closes: 8 August
Weekend 24 and 25 August	Leader: John Henzell 328 9596
ARTHURS PASS BASE CAMP - MOONLIGHT TRAVERSE: John is leading this weekend of the full moon. With lots of snow and the moon he will attempt to traverse one of the mountain tramps around the pass. This could be a very memorable weekend.	Grade: Mod/ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 15 August

Weekend 31 August and 1 September	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 5417
HOPE - KIWI - LAKE SUMNER: Another great winter trip, on good tracks to a big hut. This is classic tramping country with winter snow adding to the scenery. Andrew will visit the Lake Sumner lookout on the Kiwi Saddle before returning down the valley.	Grade: Easy/Mod Map: M32 L32 Approx: \$35 List closes: 22 August

Weekend 31 August and 1 September	Leader: Phillip Tree 344 1195
PITO PEAK: A trip into some of the Central South Island's most spectacular scenery. Pito peak is 2419m high, but is a straight forward climb. Ice axe and crampons required. The view from the top is truly wonderful.	Grade: Hard Map: J35 Approx: \$35 List closes: 22 August

Weekend 7 and 8 September	Leader: John Hensen 342 3311
CAMERON HUT - ARROWSMITHS: With the stunning backdrop of the jagged Arrowsmith Range behind it is hard to get a better view than the one from the Cameron Hut in Winter. A good moderate trip up the tussocky Cameron Valley leads to the Hut. Return on Sunday the same way.	Grade: Moderate Map: J35 Approx: \$30 List closes: 29 August

Trip Reports

Club Hut Opening

Thursday 25 April 2002 - Arthurs Pass - K33

On 25 April 12.00 pm our new toilet wing was officially opened. 11 Club members celebrated this occasion at the Pass. 12.10 pm our treasurer spent a penny thus being the first official user of the Arthurs Pass club hut toilets. David Jenkinson filled up the septic tank (with water). We watched the lights change on the control panel and rushed out side to smell the pong out of the inspection holes. And yes the system worked. Unfortunately it was a drizzly day so our official toilet opening walk was canned.

But let's celebrate because we no longer need to stumble in the dark in search of the old long drops. The unpleasant lifting of the long drop lid revealing spiders, wetas, creepy crawlies and that foul smell

is a thing of the past at the club hut. Go and try out our new flush toilets for yourself. Enjoy looking at the Blazing Blue toilet doors and think to yourself, "why didn't I enter that competition? I could have had lots of free nights at the club hut." There were no partakers in this competition and therefore no winners.

To book a night or two at our club hut ring Rex. Phone numbers and information about the hut is at the front of every newsletter.

Members of the opening party: Maurice and Robin Baigent, Colin McCallum, Joe Grossman, David Jenkinson, Nellie Vink and Doug, James and Jacob Napier, Rex and Greta Vink

Dastardly Deeds at Dumping Hut

Aka **Teddy goes to Milford Sound**

Aka **The Milford Track**

April 2002 - Milford Track - D40 D41

Twenty eight bleary eyed passengers pulled out of Christchurch early on a grey Saturday morning. We were about to embark on Sandi's famous Milford Track trip. We arrived in Te Anau amid

pouring rain and gathering dusk. Those who decided that eating out might be a good idea soon discovered that the entire township of Te Anau closes at 8:00 p.m. The bedraggled bunch arrived back shortly after laden with cans of baked beans, bacon and eggs. Propulsion fuel for the following day.

Sunday morning we arose to low cloud and heavy rain. Onto the bus by 8:00 a.m. then down to the DOC office for those last minute passes. Afterward

we circumnavigated Te Anau a few times looking for John Henzell, before finally making our way to Te Anau Downs, where our launches awaited.

I wouldn't really call it a launch. Well not our one, anyway. More like a speedboat with a canvas roof, cram in ten people and hold on for dear life! Apparently Sandi was hanging over the side feeding the fish, but we were just concentrating on staying inside the boat.

A little over an hour later we were at Glade Warf and low and behold, our first long drop. Of course it had to be inspected. Even toilet paper! Now this was travelling in style.

We meandered slowly along the track, stopping to spot huge trout in the river and having a peek at Dore Pass, hidden behind ominous black cloud, and which some of the party had since decided against climbing. We reached Clinton Hut a little after midday, ditched the packs and sat down to a leisurely lunch.

Day two I arose feeling stiff, sore and tired. I'd been named the resident moaner, however not due to pleasure. (Steve Berry seemed to think I was writing my next Mills and Boon).

We were on the track around 8:30 am after a few indignant cries from the kitchen from those who had been forced out of the bunkrooms by snorers and moaners?? At this stage I had only heard about the two Teddy's who had accompanied the party, travelling on the outside of Jeff's pack and adorning his bunk during those cold and lonely nights. None the less, Teddy had been out partying until the wee hours and had deemed himself almost legless. Jeff's words were now ringing in everybody's ears: "If you see a Teddy leg along the track, just pick it up."

Under sunny skies and the continuous drone of choppers we followed the track up through the Clinton Valley, stopping here and there to marvel at the mountains as they rose steeply out of the ground, reaching up and up and up. Those who decided to lunch on the heli-pad at Pampolona Hut were soon chased off by a giant bird with rotors and an angry DOC ranger.

I chose my lunch spot more carefully, stopping beside a waterfall and enjoying the undisturbed vista for half an hour before continuing the walk to Mintaro Hut. McKinnon Pass loomed in the distance looking steep and difficult and "How the hell are we going to get up there?"

I arrived at Mintaro Hut around 2:30 pm with sore feet, cramped calves and "I've gotta sit down!" The more energetic lot of the early arrivals had decided to go up the pass that day and get photos, as the weather was supposed to pack it in by nightfall. Climbing Mt Hart was an idea I'd found quite

appealing earlier that morning on flat terrain. However, by this stage my legs had decided they weren't moving another inch until tomorrow.

Spent a cosy evening at Mintaro, just about getting knocked over in the rush to cook dinner before it got too dark to see. A few of us wandered down to the swamps before dusk and cast a look up McKinnon Pass and Mt Hart, wondering if they had made it. Most were back before dark spinning tales of a lovely gentle zigzag and nothing too strenuous. I did wonder for a moment if they were pulling my leg. Or perhaps Teddy's leg? Steve arrived back a few hours later in pitch-black night while the Keas were reeking havoc outside and taking turns at destroying the toilet roof. He hadn't made it to the top of Mt Hart.

In bed a little before 9:00 pm and had a lovely sleep after Stanley's brainwave of using the sleeping bag sack stuffed with clothes as a pillow. Stanley however, mustn't have enjoyed the same sleeping bliss as he was up handing out tickets and arresting those who snored the loudest.

Day three dawned bright and sunny with a touch of frost in the dark places. Stanley had discovered a kiwi in the cold light of dawn, but as the fat bird waddled away he was disappointed to learn it was only a Weka.

Away from the hut at 8:00 am we strode up the gentle zigzags of McKinnon Pass. I was pleased to find they hadn't been lying and the trip was invigorating and very beautiful. A sugar sprinkling of snow glistened on the tops as we rose higher in the early morning light. We got to the top by 9:15 am to unobstructed views of the Clinton and Arthur Valleys. Everyone was now breathing a sigh of relief. The climb was over and packs were becoming lighter. Stanley, on the other hand decided that his pack wasn't heavy enough so inserted a 20 kg rock.

Descending the pass we caught our first glimpse of the Sutherland Falls, way in the distance. Once again in the bush line, I spent the afternoon walking with Kevin and stopping at waterfall after waterfall. This was by far the most beautiful part of the trip. We stopped for lunch at Quinton Hut and enjoyed the view until the hungry sandflies chased us inside.

We reached Dumpling Hut before 3:00 pm, as grey clouds gathered and it began to look like DOC had the forecast right after all. After a refreshing dip in the river and a competition to see who could yell the loudest, we settled down for another evening. That night it rained and rained and rained. I lay listening to the deluge. And just when I thought it couldn't possibly rain any harder – it rained harder! I fought my way out of sleep before dawn and lay listening to the same roar of the downpour. The

day trip to Sutherland Falls was going to be a wet one. Anne entered the room in a breeze: "Get up Elle, it's a beautiful day outside." I buried my face further into the sleeping bag taking no notice of her lies as the roar of heavy rain droned through my head. "Come on Elle, the stars are up..." "Bullshit" was all I managed.

After ten minutes of persistence she finally dragged me from my bed. I stood foggy eyed in the doorway for a few moments before casting my gaze upon the view. Sure enough, it was fine. The stars were out and dawn was just breaking. The roar of the rain was thousands of waterfalls thundering down the mountains.

We wandered up to Sutherland Falls relatively dry then got soaked standing beside them. On the way back in the rain we encountered the Fiordland Flasher – Steve Berry running through the bushes wearing a yellow plastic raincoat. He was later renamed the Fiordland Flosser due to his obsession with cleaning his teeth.

We had lunch back at Dumpling Hut before encountering the bunch of extremely polite people who decided that we'd been there long enough and they were entitled to our beds. We had a lovely polite conversation, and after they tired of me they moved along to be polite to a few more of our party. Then if that wasn't enough, somebody decided it might be a good idea to burn down the kitchen. The fire extinguisher worked in the end but the food was ruined and dinner ended up a sordid affair on the balcony outside the bunkrooms. At least we still managed a few laughs!

Day five we had one goal in mind – to make it out to Sandfly Point in time to meet with the kayakers. Thanks to John Axford for the loan of his head torch, else it could have been a very dark and gropey morning. The rain was still falling as we sloshed our way along the track – or was it now a river bed? Passed Jeff a little way along and Teddy was nowhere to be seen – enjoying the warm dry interior of Jeff's pack. The rivers were thundering and we had to navigate many swing



bridges. Easier, I found when you're the only one on it. At least you don't feel like you're going to tip sideways into the river. We stopped at Mackay Falls and Bell Rock. Stood and looked at the rock for a while and scratched our heads. It wasn't till somebody said they'd stood inside it and you can't touch the top. Oh, it's like a bell inside! Wonder what it's like for acoustics.

Giants' Gate Falls was the next stop. A most spectacular sight, looking like a giant had bitten a huge hunk out of the landscape. Trying to wrestle a swing bridge, spray and foul weather, I decided it was not a likely spot to take a photo.

Everyone was out to Sandfly Point by 1:00 p.m. to smiles, laughter and a hot cuppa. There was a stuff up with the kayakers and not all got to kayak, but those who did thoroughly enjoyed it. Finally,

Milford Sound loomed into view and the trip was over. Teddy was happy and we were high and dry. A quick change in the tent, where John Axford decided to give himself a leg wax, and straight onto the bus. A few people were still wandering around outside with dazed expressions. A couple of packs were missing. Melissa climbed aboard the launch and jetted back to Sandfly Point on what was later described as a "Nipple Trip". The packs were united with their owners and we were on our way to Te Anau.

Day six was a rest day. A few of the more energetic ones decided to climb Mt Luxmore but

most were content with retail therapy and a trip to the Glow-worms. Saturday it was on the bus by 8:00 am and on to Arrowtown for lunch and group photos. Teddy was legless by then. Back in Christchurch by 7.30 pm.

Participants: Too many to name, but top marks to Sandi for an excellent trip.

Scribe: Ellen Hoy.

Bijleveld Col

Queen's Birthday, June 2002 - Bijleveld Col - K33

Saturday 7:20 am, and we leave Christchurch in Kierans trusty Mitsi, having left two much more suitable vehicles (according to their owners anyway) in Freddie's garage. So when we arrive at Klondyke Corner, there is a bit of speculation about whether the car will start after three days of freezing winter weather. The mind numbingly boring 15km to Carrington Hut is done fairly quickly, allowing us to have lunch at the hut. Another three hours of slightly more interesting terrain brings us to Waimakariri Falls Hut, our destination for Saturday. So far, so good.

Our three intended destinations for the Sunday are Mt Armstrong, Bijleveld Col and Julia Hut. Setting off at 7:45 am, we soon worked out that crampons would probably be a good idea, shortly after we'd negotiated some steep icy rock. After a bit of a climb, the first of our goals was achieved. We are rewarded by excellent views of Mts Rolleston, Franklin, Murchison, and others too numerous to mention.

Now, for an escape plan. Golly, it's a bit steeper on the other side of Mt Armstrong. After a bit of debate about the least scary way off the mountain, we head down a colouir that looks sort-of OK. And it was OK, except for one teensy weensy discontinuity, of about one metre. Fortunately, soft snow makes for a soft landing. Strangely, I don't seem to recall anything about jumping as a descent technique in the MSC Mountaincraft Manual.

Having lunched at about 1:00 pm, Bijleveld Col is taken off the menu as it's getting clagged out, and looking like a long way away. So we decide to go to Campbell Pass, as a more direct route to Julia Hut. By about 5:00 pm we have reached Campbell Pass, which leaves us about 45 minutes of daylight to cover the 2½-3 hours needed to get to Julia Hut. Another goodie off the menu. However, it does give Max a golden opportunity to contemplate the usefulness of the tent that has, hitherto, been wasting valuable space in his pack.

Sunday night was characterised by the winds that flattened the tent more than once and gave one of our party a hard time answering a call of nature. Later on, we had rains that, understanderably, didn't want to be out in the cold wind either, and came in to join us. So, having pretended to sleep for the last 12-13 hours, we throw everything into our packs, including the odd drop of H₂O, and high-tail it for the relative calm of the Waimakariri Riverbed. This is thankfully achieved without incident, save half an hour of inept searching for the way down,

An extended lunch is enjoyed at Carrington Hut, to compensate for a rather pathetic substitute for breakfast. We were later joined by three familiar faces from the Red Cross. My personal strategy for dealing with the boredom of the riverbed to Klondyke corner is to "knock the bastard off" (to quote Sir Ed.) as quickly as possible, which we do in 2h 40m. Kieran's car started effortlessly, as we headed for the Bealey for drinks and home.

Participants: Max Delacey, Todd Ellis, Kieran McGuigan, Alastair Brown (leader, scribe)

Alastair Brown (Freddie) is the ~~Minister of Truth~~ editor.
Please send articles for the August newsletter to him by Friday 19 July.
Email: alastairgbrown@yahoo.com.au or Telephone 343 5111.