



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.
PO Box 527, Christchurch, www.ctc.org.nz
affiliated to Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 72

May 2002

No. 1

President	Dave Watson	981 7929	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	383 4046
Vice President	John Henson	341 8321	Trip Organiser	Sandi Keenan	389 6400
Vice President	Andrew Turton	332 8275	Hut Convenor	Rex Vink	352 5327
Secretary	Michelle McKnight	388 7975	Gear Custodian	Jim Western	328 7762
Treasurer	Nellie Vink	332 5879	New Members	Ruth Tramschek	326 7833
Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111			
Social Convenor	Alan Ross	384 6425			

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. 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 trip organiser: Sandi Keenan 389 6400.

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 get 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@landcare.cri.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.

NEW MEMBERS: This month we welcome Dan Madden, Julie Sims, Anja Gila Struss, Martyn Hartley, Stephen Barry Gross and Sabrina Martin to the club.

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.

CLOSURE OF MUELLER HUT: Relax – it's only temporary! Mueller Hut is to be temporarily closed to the public while a replacement hut is being built nearby. The existing hut will be closed so that the construction workers building the new hut can be safely and comfortably accommodated at the site. Construction will take approximately six weeks, beginning in the middle of March. As such the existing hut will be closed from mid-March till the end of April, when the new hut will be opened to the public. *The editor has heard a vague rumour that the project might have been delayed by a month or more, so please check with DOC.*

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 .

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Sunday 5 May	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
SUGARLOAF FROM CASS: A moderate trip up the hill Sugarloaf, starting from the railway line at Cass. There are many ways up and down this hill, so the descent should be on a different route from the ascent. Views of the top of the Waimakariri Gorge.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34, L34 Approx: \$25 List closes: 3 May
Weekend 4 and 5 May	Leader: Les Hayes 365 9424
MT FRANKLIN: Mt Franklin is one of the more difficult mountains in the Arthurs Pass to climb and is notorious for loose rock. The Upper Deception and Lake Anna are visited on this trip.	Grade: Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 25 April
Thursday 9 May	Club Night
Weathering the cold, hypothermia and cold injuries. Brought to us by Rob MacLean, an assistant Outdoor First Aid Instructor with the Mountain Safety Council. Rob has spent the last four years working around the world as an outdoor instructor for the US National Outdoor Leadership School.	
Weekend 11 and 12 May	Leader: Barrie Amtman 374 5768
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 Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 3 May
Sunday 12 May	Leader: John Henson 341 8321
THE PYRAMID: Located at the junction of the Hawdon Valley and Sudden Valley. The approach is up the sharp ridge separating the valleys, mostly through the bush. There's a choice of descents: down screes to the Hawdon Valley or further along the ridge followed by another scree into Sudden Valley Biv. Should be a good day!	Grade: Moderate Map: Approx: \$25 List closes: 3 May
Thursday 16 May	Club Night
Gear display by BIVOUAC. Matthew from Bivouac will show us a range of some of the latest and greatest gear from some of the best manufacturers in the world.	
Weekend 18 and 19 May	Leader: Don Carnielo 338 9865
MINGA - DECEPTION RIVER: This is part of the coast to coast race. A popular trip but it can be demanding. Plenty of river crossing practice on this trip. Saturday night will be in the Goat Pass Hut.	Grade: Moderate Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 3 May
Saturday 18 May	Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111
MT HUTT: This trip is starting from near the Rakaia River, in case you were thinking that we were going to cheat by taking the road! So there'll be about 1500m of climbing involved, and probably a scree to aid the descent. Unless, of course, there is enough dissent or bribery, in which case the leader might consider driving a metre or three up the road.	Grade: Mod/Hard Map: K35 Approx: \$20 List closes: 16 May

Tuesday 21 May

Social Event



Meal out at the famous Spagalimis Pizza Restaurant 155 Victoria St. Meet from 6pm cost from \$10-15 approx. Damn good pizza!

Thursday 23 May

Club Night

Slideshow by Sue Napier. These are slides from a recent trip to Northern India. It includes an insight into the people, transportation and scenery of the Indian Himalayan foothills, and the more familiar places including Agra and Varanasi. (It is definitely very different to clean tidy NZ!)

Sunday 26 May

Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275

MT ST BERNARD: In the same area as Andrew's previous trip, Mt St Bernard is North of Purple Peak, which is on the opposite side of Lake Pearson. The hill will probably be approached from the road along the Railway line, near Cass. At about 1900m high, there'll be excellent views of the infrequently visited areas at the top of the gorge.

Grade: Moderate
Map: L34
Approx: \$25
List closes: 23 May

Weekend 25 and 26th May

Leader: TBA

LAKE CHRISTABEL - ROUGH CREEK: A pleasant weekend destination. Follow the Blue Grey River along some grassy flats then through beech forest. Stay the night at Lake Christabel Hut. Come out the next day over rough creek.

Grade: Moderate
Map: L31, M31
Approx: \$40
List closes: 16 May

Thursday 30 May

Club Night

Torches/headlamps and Newsletter night. Bring your best and not so good head torch. Let's compare and contrast the choices and see the new LED technology.

Queen's Birthday Weekend 1 to 3 June

Leader: John Henson 341 8321

FRANZ JOSEPH BASE CAMP WITH ICE CLIMBING: John will be taking his annual ice climbing trip to Franz this year and there will be plenty of scope for the families to get together and have fun as well.

Grade: Family
Map: H35 & H34
Approx: \$50
List closes: 23 May

Queen's Birthday Weekend 1 to 3 June

Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275

ANDREW KNOWS WHERE: So ask Andrew. Bound to be good.

Grade: Moderate
Map: ?
Approx: \$?
List closes: 23 May

Queen's Birthday Weekend 1 to 3 June

Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111

BIJLEVELD COL: A remote trip in a beautiful alpine area. We'll spend Saturday night at Waimakariri Falls hut, knock off Bijleveld Col and hopefully Mt Armstong as well, cruise down to Julia Hut on Sunday, and come back via Harman Pass on the Monday.

Grade: Mod/Hard
Map: K33
Approx: \$30
List closes: 23 May

Thursday 6 June

Club Night

Our own Grant Piper will take us to Europe. There will be Alpine shots as well as rambling ones. Places like Italy, Wales and More. You will need to come along to find out where the "More" is.

Weekend 8 and 9 June Leader: Bruce James 332 3473

MT SOMERS: Bruce will lead an ascent on Mt Somers with the way depending on numbers and weather. Ask him about the options.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K36
Approx: \$40
List closes: 30 May

Saturday 8 June Leader: Sandi Keenan 389 6400

OKAINS BAY: On the other side of the peninsula, but is worth the drive. A bit of beach hopping and some rambling around should make for a pleasant day. If we're lucky we may even see some seals and dolphins.

Grade: Easy
Map: N36 & N37
Approx: \$25
List closes: 6 June

Weekend 15 and 16 June Leader: Craig Beere 355 7313

MARUIA BASE CAMP: This is a classic winter trip. Look forward to a soak in the pools after a good day tramping, or just soak in the pools. Trips will depend on the weather and the people, but with Craig leading these should be scenic and enjoyable.

Grade: Easy
Map: M31, M32
Approx: \$40
List closes: 6 June

Weekend 22 and 23 June.

No weekend trip as the mid winter breakfast is this weekend.

Saturday 22 June.

ANNUAL MID WINTER BREAKFAST: If you haven't done so already, do something incredibly stupid, to be in the running for the prestigious Loo-Loo of the year award. More details next month.

Weekend 29 and 30 June Leaders: Adrian Busby 383 4046 / Alastair Brown 343 5111

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 Arthur's Pass and the club hut. A fun social weekend to learn some safety.

Grade: All
Map: K33
Approx: \$40
List closes:

Trip Report

RIBBONWOOD STREAM SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2002

The 4 of us drove to Porters Pass hoping that the weather on the other side would be a lot better than it looked from Chch. Yep, it was a cracker of a fine day once we cleared the fog hanging over the Pass (no god-like powers intended).

Ribbonwood Stream gravel fan cuts off Lake Pearson from Lake Grasmere and looks massive from the West Coast Road highway. At the road bridge, at about 10 am, we parked the car beside 2 other cars and set off in fine weather with the dubious weather report lurking in our minds. We were most impressed with one of the parked cars, which

was fitted with an excellent anti-Kea device – a net, which was slung over the roof and windows and attached to the wheels.

A fun and interesting, but not too challenging, time was had making our way up or beside the delightful streambed. In the early section there were animal tracks to follow. After that, we criss-crossed the stream boulder-hopping with forays into the beautiful and mostly easy bush. Some of us didn't even get wet feet. Carl was informative on the history of the area.

The water was cool, clear, calf-deep and mild of pace. Usually it was 1 to 2 jumps wide. But back down at the road-bridge, it had mostly vanished into the gravel.

At 1300m the bush-line reached the stream. Lunch was enjoyed there, seated as we were in armchairs of tussock. Clouds appeared, suddenly making us feel chilled in the wind.

We followed the stream for another 5-10 minutes then struck off directly up-slope heading for Mt Manson. We tried our best to find solid rock or vegetation to assist our ascent but, alas, we usually suffered the fate of fools heading *up* scree-slopes. On the way up, Bruce and I were treated to climbing lessons on shattered rock outcrops by Carl and Philip. At last, we reached Mt Manson at 1844m.

The view was expansive, beautiful, and “chopping-up” as the clouds and winds came and went. Snow lay around in patches. As we started the return journey via the ridge crest on the east side of Ribbonwood Stream, we were gently snowed on. The lack of visibility gave rise to some claims of the right way to go which were not borne out by the compass. Fortunately, we enjoyed only a minor detour before the correct course was established and followed.

The sun came and went. At times, we were lashed by graupel (a form of “failed hail”) driven by one of 3 storm fronts prowling the mountains. We were forever donning and taking off raincoats, hats, and gloves. Because the “nasty” bits of weather lasted for only short periods, they were enjoyable and provided great contrast to the sunlight and warmth that soon followed. Sometimes, even

when being flayed by a storm front, we could see the sunlit-drenched warm golden plains far below that contrasted so strongly with the surrounding stark blue lakes, Grasmere and Pearson, and the browns and tans of Sugar Loaf, Purple Hill, and more. We measured the distance from hilltop to hilltop in terms of countless achy footsteps, breaths, and large fractions of hours. Our companions were few and far between. Distances and the scale of things up here were enormous after the cosiness of the streambed. Aaaaaaaaaaah yeeeeeeeeeeeeesssssss, this is why we came here.

From Mt Manson, we briefly headed east to point height 1787 before heading north-east along the main ridge back towards the car. Just before the last spur back to Ribbonwood Stream, we dropped off to the stream via a magnificent scree-run nearly 400m long. We emerged from the darkened stream valley at dusk to a calm, clear blue sky and exchanged pleasantries with a meteorological crew who were quietly setting up their instruments in preparation for launching a balloon.

Car reached at 6:15 pm. Thanks to my companions for a great trip. They were

Bruce James (leader, electronic
photographer),
Philip Tree (climbing instructor),
Carl McKay (historian, climbing instructor,
35mm photographer, ~~navigator~~),
Warwick Dowling (scribe).

Alastair Brown (Freddie) is the ~~Minister of Truth~~ editor.
Please send articles for the June newsletter to him by Friday 24 May.
Email: alastairbrown@yahoo.com.au or Telephone 343 5111.