



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 might not represent Club policy, and if you really care what club policy actually is, you can read about in the rule book, assuming you haven't lost it like I have.

Vol. 72

November 2002

No. 5

President	Dave Watson	981 7929	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	383 4046
Vice President	John Henson	342 3311	Trip Organiser(day)	Sandi Keenan	981 9583
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, Bernard Parawa 981 4931. Note: Club gear assigned to you to carry on a trip is your responsibility; please take care of it.

Our **CLUB HUT** in the Arthur's 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 Henson 342 3311; 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 981 9583 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.

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.

NEW MEMBER: This month we welcome Wendy Spray.

FOR SALE: Macpac/Wilderness mountaineering/tramping style jacket, Reflex breathable material. Foldaway hood, front zip pockets. Size large Cobalt blue with black. As new worn once, replacement over \$400, sell \$300. Phone James 358 3224

CLIMBING NIGHTS: Adrian Busby 383 4046 is recommencing his famous weekly rock climbing nights, starting on Tuesday 5 November. The location changes every week, for a bit of variety, and the Calendar of Trips and Social Events has details below.

FLATMATE WANTED: Not too flat, must have IQ greater than George W. (according to The Press, 91, ed.)... Philip and Carl are looking for a flatmate in Hornby, 15 minutes closer to the mountains than living in the city. Medium sized room, \$200 per month + expenses. Phone 349 3670.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 31 October

Club Night

Newsletter folding and Bernard's Erektion night. That is to say TENT erection instruction night. Now I hear you all think (me included) "I know how to put the club tents up, I will not learn anything." But the fact is the club tents are regularly damaged through incorrect technique including very experienced parties. So lets make the effort to be sure WE ARE NOT the ones doing the damage. See you at club.

Weekend 2 and 3 November	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
MISTAKE CREEK EXCELLENT SADDLE: This trip is in the Rolleston Range between the Mathias and Wilberforce rivers, which is not often visited by the club. The plan is to camp on the tops on Saturday night.	Grade: ModHard Map: J34 K34 Approx: \$25 List closes: 24 October
Sunday 3 November	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
GOVERNORS BAY – GILBRALTAR ROCK: Starting at Governors Bay and climbing up over the port Hills up to Gibraltar rock. Talk to Bernard for a complete route description.	Grade: Easy/Moderate Map: M36 M37 Approx: \$15 List closes: 31 October
Tuesday 5 November	Climbing Night
MT PLEASANT	
Thursday 7 November	Club Night
Glacier National Park, Montana, USA. Lets put the real images to the description we got earlier this year from the Ranger. Ruth Grey has just come back after a couple of years over there. Views of all directions of mountains with how many glaciers? Did Ruth have to run from Bears? Come along and find out.	
Weekend 9 and 10 November	Leader: Frank King 942 8368
MT PFEIFER: A chance to check out a new track cut to the tops. The plan is to climb up to the alpine level and have time exploring Mts Tarapuhi and Pfeifer as well as the biv. The return will be via Pfeifer Creek.	Grade: Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 7 November
Sunday 10 November	Leader: Don Carnielo 338 9865
CAMP SADDLE: In the Cragieburn range (for area see John's Hamilton Peak trip, below). A pleasant day with some uphill climbing some meandering along and some downhill as well.	Grade: Easy Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 7 November
Sunday 10 November	Leader: John Henson 342 3311
HAMILTON PEAK: This is a good moderate trip with a climb of about 800m. In the north end of Cragieburn range. Go up Hamilton peak and along the range. A few ways back down depending on the leader, day and trip members.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 7 November
Tuesday 12 November	Climbing Night
CASTLE ROCK	
Thursday 14 November	No Club Night
No club night tonight as all who can are on their way to Show Weekend trips. Do not come as you will be the only one.	
Show Weekend 15 to 17 November	Leader: Nellie Vink 332 5879
KAIKOURA BASE CAMP: (note: this trip closes <i>two weeks</i> before Show Weekend because of the need to book accommodation) This is a great place for a base camp with trips from easy walks to hard day trips. Join Nellie and Doug for a great holiday weekend.	Grade: Easy/Family Map: O31 Approx: \$TBA List closes: 24 October

Extended Show Weekend 14 to 17 November	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL BIKE TRIP: Bernard is leaving Thursday 14 November to travel to Alexandra, taking 3 days to bike the 162 km of the Rail Trail to Middlemarch. We'll be staying in camping grounds/backpackers. Travel home Sunday via St Bathans. Easy biking, and loads of fun, we'll be taking a couple of vehicles for our gear along the way, limited numbers so give me a ring to book a place.	Grade: MTB/Moderate Map: TBA Approx: \$140 + food List closes: 7 November
Show Weekend 15 to 17 November	Leader: Jim Western 328 7762
RICHMOND RANGE: This trip hopes to visit the tops of this range between the Wairua River and Nelson. Lake Chalice and the alpine route over Mt Rintoul are among the options available. An area not often visited by the club.	Grade: Moderate Map: M28 M29 N28 N29 Approx: \$45 List closes: 7 November
Show Weekend 15 to 17 November	Leader: Alastair Brown (Freddie) 343 5111
MT FRANKLIN: This mountain has repelled the club a couple of times, so Freddie is using the long weekend to be sure of succeeding. The plain is head up the Mingha, camp below Lake Anna, head over Franklin and spend Saturday night at the Otehake hot pools, and escape down the Taramakau.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 7 November
Saturday 16 November	Leader: Rex Vink 352 5327
RYDE FALLS: Ryde Falls is below Mt Oxford, along a well maintained track and remnants of an old logging tramway. Clematis may be flowering to make the trip even more scenic. A popular trip into an interesting area, with an ice-cream stop in Oxford as a reward after the trip.	Grade: Easy Map: L34 Approx: \$10 List closes: 14 November
Tuesday 19 November	Climbing Night
CATTLE STOP CRAG: Off to the left near the cattle stop on the summit road, ask Adrian if you are still confused.	
Tuesday 19 November	Social Event
Meal out at Turkish Kebab House (yes, you guessed, it's Turkish food) at 185 Manchester St. Meet after 7:45pm. Please put your name on the trip list or phone Alan on 384 6425 or alan.ross@nzl.biolabgroup.com before Sunday 17 as I have to give them numbers.	
Thursday 21 November	Club Night
Let's go to Nepal!! Helen Henderson will take us round the famous Annapurna circuit and an attempt to get into the Annapurna sanctuary until driven back by the weather. A classic trek in Nepal with great mountain vistas.	
Saturday 23 November	Leader: Sandi Keenan 981 9583
BEALEY SPUR: Start above the baches and climb through beech forest. Climb up to the hut and ramble along from there depending on the weather and the group.	Grade: Easy Map: K34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 21 November
Weekend 23 and 24 November	Leader: Jeff Hall 332 9251
MT OWEN: A long drive for a weekend but a stunning area to visit, Jeff will be travelling fast, but the terrain is not too difficult. Saturday night will be on the tops in this limestone wonderland.	Grade: Hard/Fast Map: M28 Approx: \$45 List closes: 14 November

Weekend 23 and 24 November	Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003
LEWIS TOPS ROUGH CREEK: A classic Lewis Pass trip starting at the top of the Pass and traversing the easy tops to Brass Monkey Biv. Sunday starts with more tops before dropping down the track to Rough Creek and then the Maruia hot pools.	Grade: Moderate Map: L31 M31 Approx: \$35 List closes: 14 November
Tuesday 26 November	Climbing Night
RAPAKI	
Thursday 28 November	Club Night
This time! Pick the baby photo and newsletter folding night. We will have a line up of baby photos of your committee. Your mission will be to correctly name all the babies from the choices presented. A major prize will be presented to the most accurate person. Will be fun!	
Saturday 30 November	Leader: TBA (contact Sandi Keenan 981 9583)
MT CASSIDY / BLIMIT: In the Arthur's pass area, a good trip to start the fitness programme for Christmas trips.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$25 List closes: 28 November
Weekend 30 November and 1 December	Leader: Alastair Brown (Freddie) 343 5111
MT SEALY: A grade 1 climb, accessed from the Mueller Hut and the Annette Plateau. Almost behind the Hermitage, it gives great views of the upper Mueller, Mt Sefton and Mt Cook. Ice axe, crampons and climbing equipment essential.	Grade: Hard Map: H36 Approx: \$45 List closes: 21 November
Tuesday 3 December	Climbing Night
HUNTSBURY CRAG: At the top of Huntsbury Avenue.	
Thursday 5 December	Club Night
BBQ night - <i>do not</i> go to the clubrooms! This is the night of the Annual Christmas Barbecue. Meeting from 6pm at Findlay picnic area 3 (near the walnut trees) at the Halswell Quarry. BYO friends, family, food, sports gear, water pistols and chairs. Gas BBQ's will be organised. This is always a fun evening and a good social time. See you there.	
Weekend 7 and 8 December	Leader: Dave Henson 942 3954
MCKENZIE STREAM: This stream flows into the Hurunui opposite the Hot Pools. The hut has recently been saved from demolition or removal and we plan to re-cut the track while visiting this attractive valley. We will 4 wheel Drive into the Hurunui valley. Bring loppers, saws, etc.	Grade: Moderate/Work Map: L32 Approx: \$25 List closes: 28 November
Sunday 8 December	Leader: Dave Watson 981 7929
MT TORLESSE: That nice big hill in the Porters Pass area. Walk along the grassy flats for a while then climb up and up to the top. Fun to be had going down the scree slope.	Grade: Moderate Map: L34 L35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 28 November
Tuesday 10 December	Climbing Night
CASTLE ROCK	

Weekend 14 and 15 December	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
WAIMAKARIRI COL: An ice axe will be required for this classic trip in the Arthur's Pass area. This trip follows the Waimakariri to its head before crossing the high but relatively easy Col and descending into the head of the Rolleston River. Saturday night will be at Waimakariri falls hut. Sunday is a longish 8+ hour day.	Grade: Moderate/Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$25 List closes: 5 December
Sunday 15 December	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
MT WINTERSLOW: A hill with a view of the Old man range and all the way down to Mt Cook (if the weather is right). Climb a shoulder to a prominent spur then along a nice broad ridge to the top and back down the same way.	Grade: Moderate Map: K36 Approx: \$15 List closes: 12 December
Tuesday 17 December	Climbing Night
GIBRALTAR ROCK: Just past the Radar dome between Dyers and Gebbies passes.	
Saturday 21 December	Leader: Dave Henson 942 3954
BENMORE: Another try at this trip, hopefully with better weather than the last time. This is a moderate trip with a bit of a climb to it.	Grade: Moderate Map: K36 Approx: \$15 List closes: 19 December
Weekend 21 and 22 December	Leader: Sandi Keenan 981 9583
ARTHUR'S PASS BASE CAMP: A chance to unwind in the beautiful area around Arthur's Pass before Christmas. Sandi will lead a trip to the club hut just before the holiday season. There are trips for all grades available.	Grade: All Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 12 December
Sunday 22 December	Leader: Don Carnielo 338 9865
RABBIT HILL: A nice walk in the Porters Pass area. A gentle climb up the other side of the pass to the top and down the side and along some grassy flats back to the cars.	Grade: Easy Map: K35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 19 December
Tuesday 24 December	No Climbing Night
NO CLIMBING: Because we're all going chimneying (in red suits).	
Sunday 29 December	Leader: Dave Watson 981 7929
PINCHGUT HUT – MT THOMAS: A variation on just to the top of Mt Thomas, a nice trip on a warm day as the single flats in the Okuku river makes the water quite warm. A nice after Christmas trip.	Grade: Moderate Map: M34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 19 December
Weekend 11 and 12 January 2003	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
EAST HAWDON SAVANNAH RANGE: We will tramp into the East Hawdon and climb to the tops, hopefully camping high on the Savannah Range. Sunday will see us following the tops back over Woolshed Hill to the cars.	Grade: Moderate Map: K33 L33 Approx: \$25 List closes: Monday 6 January 2003 (no club over Christmas)

CHRISTMAS TRIPS: Now is the time to plan Christmas trips. Anybody willing to lead a trip over Christmas/ New Year please contact Andrew Turton phone 332 8275.

Trip Reports

ARROWSMITHS – CAMERON HUT

Weekend 7-8, September 2002

For those of you who like facts, I'll put in a few token gestures. There were 11 of us on the trip. The John's, (of the Henson and Shrewsbury variety) Jonathan, Alistair, Sharon, David, Gareth, Joanna, Kieran, Charles and Mike. We went up the Cameron Valley with good weather until lunchtime. It rapidly became a very damp, strong northerly. Sharon became walking wounded shortly after, with an injured knee. (There is no proof that John's detours played any part in that!)

The plan was to dump the gear at the hut and go play in the snow. We arrived at Cameron Hut at 4pm in revolting weather. General vote was to stay put and try again in the morning. Next day it was still somewhat less than dry, so there was a leisurely breakfast and a faster walk out with entertainment thoughtfully provided by John Shrewsbury. So ends the facts section.

There are many ways to categorise people; fast and slow, trampers and non-trampers, those who categorise everyone into two groups and those who don't. Another is by reaction when the overloaded turtle in front, trips over and ends up cast on their back in dull surprise, with all four flippers waving feebly in the air. - Some stand and laugh, while other grab a flipper and roll them back up (then laugh).

On this trip the salient difference was reflected in attitudes to tracks.

Some people like tracks. They consider them to be a physical manifestation of generations of wisdom and experience. Yup, it's worked for 50 years so follow it.

Others however consider them an insult to their navigation skills. Real trampers make their own path.

The two John's on this trip symbolised opposing attitudes. Henson, the fearless leader, treated the valley as a giant skateboard bowl. – Why go the direct route up the middle when you can zing off the sides?

“It was just starting to get interesting”, he loudly claimed on reaching the hut after hours of scrambling over rocks and matagouri into a howling rain-laden northerly. This is not a man who likes tracks.

Shrewsbury on the overhand, is a true champion of their worth. In his enthusiasm to find one on the way out he scabbled over some exceedingly wet (and sharp) rocks. He fell over slowly, reminiscent of a pine tree. We interested spectators waited for him to get up. He lay still for a few moments then remarked, “I have a cut”, in a casual conversation sort of tone. It was a goodie too, a deep rip into the base of his palm. As he scabbled back to the hut he remarked, “that looks like a cairn over there, the track's that way”. What a man, a pathfinder to the core, prepared to sacrifice hand and blood to find the way.

Are you dedicated to the distilled wisdom of the years and follow tracks, or choose to make your own path through life? And more importantly, is the leader of your next trip of the same viewpoint?

ALMOST DAZZLER PINNACLES

Labour Weekend, 26-28 October 2002, H37

Plan A was to climb the Minarets, not far from Mt Cook, as a logical continuation of the Manakau, Aspiring, Aiguilles Rouge sequence started in 1999. Plan A required a good weather on the main divide, but alas, this was not to be had. So Plan B, the Dazzler Pinnacles was devised as it was a few km off the main divide.

So, on Friday night we eight headed south and camped to the south of Lake Pukaki (I would have written bottom of Lake Pukaki, but it was pointed out that we would need scuba gear). In a fit of misplaced optimism, we hoped that we might still have the option of the Minarets if the weather was suitable in the morning. It was not.

Hence Plan B was invoked, and we head off towards Twizel and the Hopkins Valley. We hadn't even got as far as Twizel, and we have a mutiny – one of our party threatens to bail out and hitch back to Christchurch, and is only placated by the prospect of settling Les's continuing vendetta of climbing Sibbald from the MacAuley. However only one vehicle can get there, so half of us continue on to the Hopkins Valley and the other half abandon us, never to be seen again for the rest of the weekend.

We had all day to walk the three hours from the road end to Red Hut, so we made a short detour to the café at Omarama. After an uneventful walk up the Hopkins we get to Red Hut, we meet a couple of associates of a NZAC party attempting Mt Hopkins at the head of the valley. Later we are joined by three students who immediately celebrate their arrival by opening a cask of wine.

At 5am the next morning a collection of wristwatches tell us that it's time to prepare for the day. So we head 4 km up the valley and then 500 vertical metres to the Dazzler Pinnacles Biv where we wake a hunter at 8 am. At this stage it is snowing on and off, but not looking *too* desperate during the "off" periods, so we plug on.

More correctly, Ian plugs on up the snow, and we follow his footsteps. It seems he still desires to establish himself as a step-plugger of repute – long may this desire continue. Anyway, we plod on up to a point at about 1850m where it is snowing quite persistently and visibility is limited. After about ten minutes there was no improvement and we started our retreat. But wait! It's not snowing, there is a hint of blue sky, and we can actually see our summit! Onwards and upwards we optimistically go. But alas, we reach the bottom of the final ridge at 2050m, and the weather has returned to its default setting of wind, snow and cloud. This time our retreat is final, only interrupted by the occasional taunting glimpse of the summit.

We lunch at the biv and continue down the hill, once on the flat, the aforementioned hunter gracefully gives us a ride in his 4WD to Red Hut. There we learn of the student's departure and a similar story of retreat from the NZAC party. The evening is spent listening to Phil's stories of his student days of arranging pranks involving forgery, urine samples, Volvos and tofu making machines. Monday is slothful and uneventful as we head back to Christchurch.

Participants: *Sibbald*: Les Hayes, Peter Crowe, Warren, Ben. *Dazzler Pinnacles*: Phil Tree, Ian Dunn, Todd Ellis, Alastair Brown (supposed leader and scribe).

Alastair Brown (Freddie) is the ~~Minister of Truth~~ editor.

Please send articles for the December-January newsletter to him by Friday 22 November
Email: alastairgbrown@yahoo.com.au or Telephone 343 5111.