



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.  
PO Box 527, Christchurch, [www.ctc.org.nz](http://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 them in the rule book, assuming you haven't lost it like I have.

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No. 10

<b>President</b>	Dave Watson	981 7929	<b>Club Captain</b>	Adrian Busby	383 4046
<b>Vice President</b>	John Henson	342 3311	<b>Trip Organiser(day)</b>	Sandi Keenan	981 9583
<b>Vice President</b>	Andrew Turton	332 8275	<b>(weekend)</b>	Andrew Turton	332 8275
<b>Secretary</b>	Michele McKnight	388 7975	<b>Hut Convenor</b>	Rex Vink	352 5327
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nellie Vink	332 5879	<b>Gear Custodian</b>	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
<b>Editor (Interim)</b>	Linda Lilburne	366 6570	<b>New Members</b>	Alice Yung	382 3988
<b>Social Convenor</b>	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).

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# Notices

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**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](mailto: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.

**CLIMBING NIGHTS:** Adrian Busby is ceasing his famous weekly rock climbing nights, so don't show up any more.

**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.

**SITUATIONS VACANT:** Our beloved Treasurer is resigning after many years of faithful service, so we need a new treasurer for the 2003 committee. So if you are of mostly reputable character, know the difference between a debit and a credit and want to give us a hand, the committee would love to hear from you.

The current editor is also going to be overseas until December, so we need a replacement from May onwards.

**BOOK RELEASE:** Pat Barrett has recently written *A Trumper's Guide to The Foothills and Forests of Canterbury* (A5 format, 160pp). Apparently, a fairly comprehensive and detailed guide to tramping in the region. Special author's offer – \$35.00 plus \$1.00 postage and packaging (\$39.95 RR). Send your order with payment (cheques only please) to: Pat Barrett Images, 117 Harris Crescent, Christchurch. Allow 10 days for delivery.

**EASTER AND ANZAC WEEKENDS:** There is still room in the programme for a *Family/Base Camp* and a *Hard/Mountaineering* trip at Easter. There is also room for a *Moderate* trip at ANZAC weekend. If anyone feels left out it's because Andrew Turton is having trouble recruiting leaders for these long weekends. Anyone who wishes to lead a trip filling these gaps is invited to give him a ring on 332 8275. There is still time for advertising them in the April newsletter.

# Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 27 February

Club Night

Newsletter folding night. Alan Ross will also show slides of a couple of trips from the mid 90's with a humour and scenery theme.

Weekend 1 and 2 March

Leader: Jonathon Carr 351 1574

**PAPAROA'S INLAND PACK TRACK:** The plan is to explore some of the side valleys off this great West Coast tramp. Limestone country makes for some stunning scenery and visiting it with someone who knows all the hidden places up the side creeks can make it very special.

Grade: Easy/Moderate  
Map: K40  
Approx: \$45  
List closes: 20 February

Weekend 1 and 2 March

Leader: Stu Smith 343 1065

**ROCKY CREEK – GRIFFEN CREEK:** A West Coast trip that although is not very long is very interesting with a mix of river flats, bush, rocky gullies and a little scrub. The travel is on slightly overgrown tracks in a not often visited area just off the main West Coast road.

Grade: ModHard  
Map: K33  
Approx: \$35  
List closes: 20 February

Sunday 2 March

Leader: Dave Henson 942 3954

**KAITUNA – PACKHORSE – ORTON BRADLEY:** Start at the Kaituna Valley and head up the hill to the Packhorse Hut. A number of different options are available from here; either travel over Mt Herbert or around the sidling track. Talk to Dave as to what he has planned for a pleasant day on the peninsula.

Grade: Easy  
Map: M36  
Approx: \$10  
List closes: 27 February

Thursday 6 March

Club Night

Lynette Hartley will take us to Mt Hooker. This is a well known but quite remote mountain in Landsborough valley. This trip was done just last Christmas. We will also go to the Olivine's (ice plateau) and a traverse of the Liebig range near Mt Cook. These are all fantastic places where many of us will never get to. A show not to be missed!!!

Saturday 8 March

Leader: John Henson 342 3311

**WOOLSHED HILL:** Leave the cars at Hawdon Corner and head up through the beech forest and onto the tops over Woolshed Hill (1430m) and along the range over rolling tussock/shingle tops until it's time to drop into the Hawdon and back to the cars via the river bed. Great country with relatively easy travel.

Grade: Moderate  
Map: K33  
Approx: \$20  
List closes: 6 March

Weekend 8 and 9 March

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

**MOONLIGHT CROESUS:** A good trip crossing the Southern Paparao Range on the West Coast. A steep climb but on good tracks with a big hut for Saturday night. This track gets a great view from the tops before its descent to the coast.

Grade: Moderate  
Map: K31  
Approx: \$40  
List closes: 27 February

Sunday 9 March

Leader: Don Carnielo 338 9865

**WHARFDALE TRACK:** From View Hill Carpark into Lees Valley. Easy travelling through beech forest on an old benched stock route. Go as far as you wish. A good trip if you're starting out tramping.

Grade: Easy/Moderate  
Map: L34  
Approx: \$15  
List closes: 6 March

Thursday 13 March	Club Night
Our own Peter Eman will show slides of Waitutu forest way down south, Xmas 83/84. A group of club members spent a lot of time bush bashing their own track through to Lake Poteriteri then out along the costal track over the largest wooden bridges in the Southern Hemisphere.	
Weekend 15 and 16 March	Leader: Phil Tree 349 3670
<b>TURRET PEAK, ROLLESTON RANGE:</b> As always, Phil picks trips to interesting areas and this area has not had many successful trips lately. Turret Peak is between the Wilberforce and Mathias rivers north of the Rakaia and should provide a great view. The approach is via Chimera stream.	Grade: ModHard Map: J34 K34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 6 March
Weekend 15 and 16 March	Leader: Sandi Keenan 981 9583
<b>LAKE DANIELS:</b> A great introduction to overnight tramping for new members or day trampers stepping up to overnight trips. This is an easy, relatively flat trip to a large hut by a lovely lake.	Grade: Easy Map: L31 Approx: \$35 List closes: 6 March
Sunday 16 March	Leader: TBA (contact Sandi Keenan 981 9583)
<b>HILLTOP TO DIAMOND HARBOUR:</b> Catch the Akaroa bus to the Hilltop and then follow the ridge line all the way to Mt Herbert. From there, drop down the long spur to Diamond Harbour, catch the Ferry to Lyttleton and then the bus home. A long day but great views of the peninsula and no need to drive the car!!	Grade: Moderate Map: N36 Approx: \$25 List closes: 13 March
Tuesday 18 March	Social Event
Dinner out at Little India, corner of New Regent St and Gloucester St. Meet at 7:30pm. Mains are approx \$15. Please put you name on the trip list or alan.ross@nzl.biolabgroup.com or phone Alan on 3846425. I must give numbers to the restaurant.	
Thursday 20 March	Club Night
Our own John Henzell will take us on another epic sea to summit adventure. From the coast of Australia by foot to the highest point!!! Get a load of these facts! – 763km, total height gain 20,000m, 33 days, 16 days of rain in a row, 12 days of carrying skis without using them, and finally, most shocking, 9 days between decent cups of coffee! This will be a great story. Not to be missed.	
Weekend 22 and 23 March	Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003
<b>LAKE MAVIS – MINGA – EDWARDS:</b> Peter's plan is to tramp up the Minga and camp beside the beautiful Lake Mavis set in a basin above Goat Pass. On Sunday, many options are available including crossing into the Edwards or travelling down the Deception. Talk to Peter for details.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 13 March
Weekend 22 and 23 March	Leader: John Henzell 328 9596
<b>WOOLSHED CREEK HUT – MT SOMERS WALKWAY:</b> A social weekend trip to Woolshed Creek with its good hut and sauna. People can walk in either way depending on their fitness. Bring special food for a social evening. Phone John for more details.	Grade: Social/Easy Map: K36 Approx: \$25 List closes: 13 March

Sunday 23 March	Leader: Dave Watson 981 7929
<b>MT TORLESSE:</b> A pleasant walk up the Kowai valley to the hut gets you warmed up for the climb up the South Ridge. Great views unfold of the Canterbury Plains and the Castle Hill Basin as you climb to the top. Don't forget the warm gear – it can be very exposed on top if the weather turns nasty.	Grade: Moderate Map: L35 L34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 20 March
Sunday 23 March	Leader: Alice Yung 382 3988
<b>KOWAI HUT – BOBS KNOB:</b> Travel up the Kowai valley with the Mt Torlesse Trip to the hut for morning tea. Head up the valley behind the hut and onto the ridge over looking Springfield; travel back on this ridge to the locally named Bobs Knob (not on the map) and drop back down to the cars at the Big Tree Carpark.	Grade: Easy Map: L35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 20 March
Thursday 27 March	Club Night
Newsletter folding night and Sleeping bag comparison session. What is the difference between synthetic and down bags. What weight of fill do you need for what time of year. A prize will be given for the smallest and biggest bag ( the writer has a good chance at both of these! ). Bring your bag/s along and tell us about them.	
Weekend 29 and 30 March	Leader: Flo Roberts 389 1170
<b>LAKE MORGAN – HAUPIRI:</b> Not a trip the club runs regularly, this is a good West Coast tops trip in the area north of the Taramakau river. The travel is up to the tops from the Haupiri river and follow them along to a hut near Lake Morgan. The return on Sunday is down into the Haupiri (snorkel required ? Ed.) which is followed out.	Grade: ModHard Map: K32 Approx: \$35 List closes: 20 March
Weekend 29 and 30 March	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 365 7465
<b>LAKE GUYON:</b> This trip starts on the back road up the Clarence river behind Hanmer. It crosses Fowler Pass to Lake Guyon before exploring the Waiau Valley prior to returning to Lake Tennyson via Maling Pass. Good tracks, easy travel and a lovely hut.	Grade: Easy/Moderate Map: M31 Approx: \$30 List closes: 20 March
Sunday 30 March	Leader: TBA
<b>MT CLOUDSLEY:</b> A popular trip in the Cragieburn Range, near Castle Hill Village. A big climb up the hill from the village, to the top of the hill at 2200m.	Grade: ModHard Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 27 March
Sunday 30 March	Leader: TBA
<b>MT THOMAS:</b> There are three ways up Mt Thomas (1050m). Which one is the quickest? Come along and find out! Mt Thomas is an excellent place to go, offering great views of the plains and Christchurch.	Grade: Easy Map: M34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 27 March
Thursday 3 April	Club Night
We have Margaret Clark along to take us Trekking in Ladakh. She is the most widely travelled person that Alan Ross knows. Ladakh is the Tibetan part of India's Cashmere state beyond the Himalayas. It's an easy access land of clear Indigo skies nestled between Chinese restricted Tibet and the Muslim uncertainties of Pakistan. Margaret will show slides of 6 treks featuring oasis villages and apricot orchids, Buddhist monasteries and festivals, alpine spring flowers, summer Yak meadows and autumn harvest activities. Wow!	

Weekend 5 and 6 April	Leader: Don Carnielo 338 9865
<b>HURUNUI HOT POOLS:</b> Drive into Lake Sumner (snorkel required? Ed.) then take an easy walk up the Hurunui Valley to camp beside the hot pools. These pools, although small, (6-8 people) are nice and hot. A good relaxing social weekend trip.	Grade: Easy Map: L32 Approx: \$30 List closes: 27 March
Weekend 5 and 6 April	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 6003
<b>EDWARDS – MINGA VIA WILLIAMS SADDLE:</b> Tramp into the large Edwards Hut via a good track. This alpine valley itself is well worth the visit, but as a bonus, the next day you will cross the low Williams Saddle and drop down to the Minga river for a good round trip.	Grade: Moderate Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 27 March
Sunday 6 April	Leader: TBA
<b>SUGARLOAF FROM CASS:</b> 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: Easy Map: L34 Approx: \$25 List closes: 3 April
Sunday 6 April	Leader: John Easton
<b>MT WALL:</b> This is an interesting trip in the Broken River area. Some of the best scree in the Craigieburn range are to be enjoyed in this vicinity.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 3 April
Weekend 12 and 13 April	Leader: Gareth Rapley 03 363 0270
<b>THE LAZYS MAN:</b> An area not often visited by the club, the Lazyman is an elevated plateau above the Esk River on the Western side of the Puketeraki Range. The approach is via Mt White Station.	Grade: Moderate Map: L34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 3 April
Sunday 13 April	Leader: TBA
<b>MT HUTT:</b> 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	Grade: ModHard Map: K35 Approx: \$20 List closes: 10 April
Sunday 13 April	Leader: Don Carnielo
<b>GODLEY HEAD:</b> Popular walkway with heaps of good views. From Taylor's Mistake walk along the coastline with heaps of bays and caves. The track climbs to the top of the Peninsula and crosses the Summit road.	Grade: Easy Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$10 List closes: 10 April
Easter Friday 18 April	Leader: TBA
<b>STEEPFACE HILL:</b> Steepface Hill is near Mt Hutt, overlooking the Rakaia River. This hill is about 1900m high and is well known for a long and narrow scree which speeds up the descent.	Grade: Moderate Map: K35 Approx: \$20 List closes: 17 April

Easter Weekend 18 to 21 April	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
<b>TRENT / MCKENZIE TOPS:</b> The plan is to traverse the easy rolling tops between the Trent and Hurunui rivers above the McKenzie Hut along to the Harper Pass. We pass 2 hot pools along the route and spend 1-2 nights camping on the tops. 4WDs welcome, availability of these will limit numbers.	Grade: ModHard Map: L32 Approx: \$40 List closes: 10 April
Easter Weekend 18 to 21 April	Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003
<b>MATAKITAKI RIVER – NARDO TOPS – BURNS CREEK:</b> Come and explore a rarely visited part of the Nelson Lakes National Park. The plan is to climb to the tops the traverse them, above the Nardo and Burns Creeks before descending to Bob's Hut in the Matakitaiki river and following it back to the cars.	Grade: ModHard Map: M30 Approx: \$45 List closes: 10 April
Extended Easter Weekend 18 to 27 April	Leader: Sandi Keenan 981 9583
<b>STEWART ISLAND EPIC:</b> Takes in Easter and Anzac day. For 3 days off work you have 10 days of freedom to play down in the remote Stewart Island. We will be walking the Southern Circuit in 6 or 7 days, with some time to sightsee the island and attractions. Contact Sandi if interested.	Grade: Moderate Map: C49 D48 D59 Approx: \$500 List closed:
Anzac Friday 25 April	Leader: TBA
<b>ASHLEY HILL:</b> Ashley Hill is located on the Eastern side of Lees Valley, so from here you'll be able to see most of the Puketeraki Range.	Grade: Easy Map: L34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 24 April
Long Anzac Weekend 25 to 27 April	Leader: Sarah Hardie 332 8275
<b>OHOU FAMILY BASE CAMP:</b> We will stat at the Glen Mary Ski Club Hut on the shores of Lake Ohau. It is a good base for mountain biking, kayaking, fishing and, of course, great tramps around Lake Ohau. There are walks for all grades and abilities.	Grade: All/Family Map: H38 Approx: \$70 List closes: 17 April (by phone)
Long Anzac Weekend 25 to 27 April	Leader: Keith Johnson
<b>THE VALLEY OF DARKNESS:</b> Now there is a name that brings up all sort of images. Go with Keith to this trampers El Dorado in the untracked rain forests of South Westland. A valley straight out of the Lord of the Rings (it is rumoured that the trampers Holy Grail is there). A trip for real men and women this is the ideal place for 3 days of grovelling in wet bush and fighting wasp sized sandflies.	Grade: ModHard Map: G37 Approx: \$55 List closes: 17 April (by phone)

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## For Sale

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- Mountain Hardware Down Jacket "Sub Zero" ;SM : as new: recom.retail. \$1200.00: sell for \$600.00
- Koflach "Clima Complex" plastic boots Sz UK 6.5. \$150.00
- Kofach "Viva Soft" plastic boots Sz UK 6.5. \$100.00
- Black Diamond Mountaineering Goves ,as new. \$100.00
- Macpac "Prophet" technical mountaineering jacket; one year old, ex condition. \$450.00
- Scarpa "Inverno" plastic boots, ex condition. UK 6.0. \$350.00

Phone Pat Deavoll. 328 9043 email; [pdeavoll@hotmail.com](mailto:pdeavoll@hotmail.com)

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# Trip Reports

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## Ashley Gorge (Craig Beere)

Sunday 26 January 2003

River adventures and a bit of drama, but not quite what we envisaged. Sunday was a lovely day, but there turned out to be rather too much water in the Gorge to wade and float down as intended. Despite getting half the party fairly wet establishing this, Craig's urge to get properly soaked was still not satisfied. We therefore moved onto Ashley Gorge campsite and wandered down river from there. It was a very instructional day, covering some river-crossing

basics and also developing a CTC gorse-and-thistle -crossing technique (courses to be run by Craig later in the year). Coming back, our intrepid leader and the equally intrepid Allan rescued not only a small child from the raging torrent (well, a slightly fast bit of the river) but also a damsel-in-distress (mother of child) as well. We then got changed for the third time and completed an arduous day by eating ice-creams on the river bank.

Leader: Craig Beere, Scribe: Jenny Harlow.

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## Lewis Tops – Lucretia Stream

Weekend 18 – 19 January 2002

John's plan was originally to go up the Nina valley and Lucretia stream on Saturday and then up to the Lewis Tops on Sunday exiting at the Lewis Pass car park. Due to the weather forecast being better on the Saturday than the Sunday the trip was reversed and we camped beside the tarns under Lucretia on Saturday night.

We travelled up to the Lewis Pass in Steve's 4 wheel drive leaving Christchurch soon after 8:00am on Saturday. Steve dropped us off at the Pass car park and returned to the NZDA lodge to leave the vehicle. The sand flies had scarcely begun to bite before he was back again and we began our tramp.

The access to the tops is up through about a kilometre of bush. The height gain to the bush line is about 370m so it is a steady climb. It was as promised, a hot day and we were soon all three 'dripping'. As we plodded up through the Beech, Steve thought he heard a Kaka cry, but sadly no one glimpsed the elusive parrot.

We had thought to break for lunch (in the shade) at the bush line but agreed on arrival that it was too early. So we continued on for another kilometre to the first 'top' (another 300m of height gain). Now we had fantastic views all

around us and were pleased to discover a cool pleasant breeze. Lunch was a leisurely affair as John and Steve told me a bit about the names of the valleys and peaks we could see and various tramps that were associated with them : Cannibal Gorge, Henry saddle, Mount Haast, snowy Freyberg Range.

After lunch we ambled across the tops on easy short tussocky terrain, past the numerous tarns. Ahead of us was Mount Technical with its steep sides and rocky ridges and a little snow in the scree basin. John suggested we might perhaps wander along exploring a more direct line towards our plainly visible goal (saddle between Lucretia and Mount Technical) rather than following the more traditional route (staying higher up on the ridge). No one was in a hurry, it was a lovely day, we concurred. Naturally we found out as we went that this was a cleverly disguised nature trail designed to make the track longer !

Even with the nature trail and relaxed pace we arrived at the Lucretia Tarns mid afternoon after a 7.5km day. So around 4:00pm after having a cup of tea and pitching the tents Steve and I decided to see if we could make it to the top of Mount Technical. John felt the need for a nap and said that after that he would go for a stroll up Lucretia.

We scrambled up onto and over western ridge,

across the scree basin to a gully, which looked like it would give us access to the top of the rocky north ridge. We then slowly worked our way along this ridge to a 'notch' just before it joined the western ridge. At this point we were only about 200m from the peak. Way below us we could just see the tarns with the two tiny tents. Unfortunately on the other side of the 'notch' was a big rocky lump in the ridge that Steve called a 'gendarme', which looked formidable. I always thought a gendarme was a French traffic policeman. Perhaps the term comes from the real gendarme's impassability when he has his (or her?) arms up to stop the traffic. Well this 'gendarme' definitely had his arms up to stop us. We gave in and returned to the tents by a slightly different route, arriving back about 7:00pm. John assured us he had been up Lucretia and had not just slept in the tent for 3 hours.

By now the wind was becoming stronger, gustier, colder and blowing from several directions. Dinner was cooked and consumed and John kept us amused with stories about other members of the tramping club (mainly Alan), but by 9:00pm the temperature had us scuttling into the warmth of our tents and sleeping bags.

Sunday morning, John was serving tea in bed by 6:30am. The tents were in mist and the temperature was 6 degrees. Brrrr....There were no reasons to hang about so soon after 7:00am we were off, moving towards the 'wall' at the head of the Lucretia valley south of the tarns.

Generally keeping to the left (east) side of this wall working our way down across the rocky ledges did not prove too difficult. Towards the bottom of the wall a side stream was crossed with a cairn on it indicating that our general left-ish track was appropriate. Shortly afterwards we entered bush and followed a very indistinct old blazed track down the stream to the bivvy. I was happy to be with experienced track spotters and I did my best not to lag behind over the rough (to me) ground. By this time the mist had lifted but the day was overcast and muggy and up behind us on the tops it looked as if the threatening

weather was on its way.

John set the scene early on in the day for the 'wally-of-the-weekend' award by doing an acrobatic slide, bum touch and recovery on snow grass just below the tarns. Steve followed on our way down Lucretia stream with a less impressive slide and bum dunk in the river. (He lost points for his slow recovery). However, I got the award later on for my dedicated slide and head thump, which was performed modestly out of view of the other two trampers. The small gash above the eye and steri-strip applied to it, proved to be a major attraction later on in the day.

By the time the tidy Lucretia bivvy was reached (around 10:00am), these antics were all done and dusted and we had a pleasant break. We then proceeded in a more seemly fashion down a well-tended track in the attractive Lucretia valley. This crossed the stream several times as it led to the Nina valley, finally climbing up and around the gorge before descending to the swing bridge. Again we thought we heard a Kaka call but did not see it. We realised that we were making good time (11:30am) and decided to keep going rather than spend time having lunch and risk being rained on.

We reached the lodge at about 1:00pm after a 13.5km day and it still was not raining. A group of people were just preparing to walk up to the Nina hut and quizzed us about the 'muddiness' of the track. They spotted my cut and asked how it had happened. John told them I had refused to cook dinner and he had smacked me. I ignored this explanation (clearly John is no woman basher and I was busy getting my gaiters off) but these people were gullible and there was a degree of whispering together and as they set off for their tramp they all passed me by a little closer than necessary, rubber necking !

A great weekends tramping – thanks to John and Steve for putting up with me.

Trampers : John Henson, Steve Brasch,  
Susan Pearson.

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## Mount Somers (1687m)

Saturday 1 February 2003

Leader Warwick tried to put us off at the start by warning that a southerly change was forecast (this blew past, or over, or something, because we had a perfect day). He then tried several cunning manoeuvres to lose us in transit – last minute turns, random signalling, going past the junction and then reversing... Not at all daunted, all 12 trampers eventually assembled at the Sharplin Falls car park. It is a steepish path to begin with but some of us managed to keep up a flow of encouraging conversation, at least while we were relatively cool in the shelter of the bush. Susan and Kerry set a good pace (probably trying to avoid this frivolous chit chat) until we had a rest on Staveley Hill. They were all ready to set off again shortly afterwards, when it was pointed out that not all of the group had yet arrived, so they went back to round up the flock. Margee declared that she would just continue at her own pace and not try to make it to the top – “you lot just carry on”. Of course, every time we stopped after that she would appear again, climbing determinedly and steadily to overtake us.

After Staveley Hill we came out of the bush line and onto the rocks. Mount Somers is volcanic in origin and biotite-garnet-rhyolite is apparently typically exposed here. I cannot say I recognised any myself but it is good to know that one has stumbled over some geologically interesting stones. Steve, the trip botanist also pointed out the bog pines and other unusual plants. On the open slopes Claire and James, from England, showed the rest of us a clean pair of heels. They must have been solar powered – or maybe it was the effect of the conversation on them as well.

The top of Mount Somers has been adorned with a millennium monument of great spiritual significance. Visions of it being carried up under a full moon by robed and chanting figures were dissipated when we read that they came up by helicopter. Never mind, the enclosure made a very good structure to lean back on for lunch. We all (including the redoubtable Margee) admired the view from all angles and vantage points and then started back down. Something spiritual must have switched the gradients while we were up there, because I am sure it was steeper going down. Clare and James skipped lightly from rock to rock and a few others descended as steadily as they went up, but some of the rest of us thumped, slid, stumbled and generally tangled one leg around the other very inelegantly. We spent another long break in the grass near the bush line enthusiastically discussing knee joints and other tramping handicaps before trotting reluctantly back to the cars.

It was still a beautiful day when we got down and only the promise of ice-cream persuaded some people to leave. It was clearly good ice-cream though because several people had two, while Warwick did the complex calculations over the trip costs (memo to committee – are there funds to buy him an abacus for Christmas?). Thank you Warwick for the ideal moderate tramp with a great group.

Trampers: Warwick Dowling (leader),  
Stephen Heald, Clare Hamson, James Buis, Jenny Harlow (scribe), Joanna Ibell, Takaya Onishi, Margee O'Reilly, Kerry Skinner, Margaret Lovell-Smith, Coen Willemse, Susan Pearson.

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Linda Lilburne has graciously agreed to be the interim editor until the club elections in May.  
Please post or email articles for the April newsletter to her by Friday 21 March 2003

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