



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

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affiliated to Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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Editor	Joanna Ibell	980 3824	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 instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. Membership rates per year are \$35 member, \$55 couple, \$18 junior or associate.

Equipment Hire: The Club has a range of equipment for hire to members at reasonable rates (tents, ice axes, crampons, harnesses, large and small weekend pack, billies and a mountain radio). Contact Gear Custodian, Bernard Parawa 981 4931. Note: Club gear assigned to you 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 real showers and inside flushing loos (BYO toilet paper!). A great place for a few days away; take your usual gear and a pillowcase. **Please book** before leaving town to ensure there is a bunk available. For keys and bookings phone Andrew Wrapson 381 6003; or if he's away, Rex Vink 352 5327; 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 Andrew.

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, day trips depart at 8:00 am and weekend trips depart at 7:00 pm on Fridays, from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street). If you aren't taking your car on the trip, park on one of the nearby side streets, otherwise it may be wheel clamped or towed. If you are taking your car please refuel at Shell Carlton, as they are kind enough to hold our trip lists. If you have comments or suggestions for trips, please contact the appropriate trip organiser (listed at top of the page).

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.

Notices

Email: To receive general notices and the newsletter by email (including last minute trips and the list of member email addresses), email Linda at LilburneL@LandcareResearch.co.nz.

CTC Stickers: The club has Christchurch Tramping Club stickers for members to stick in hut books when they visit. Contact Sandi Keenan 981 9583.

Photos: Thanks to the multi-talented Paul Ashton, we now have photos on the web page to accompany trip reports. Please email photos to the editor.

Membership Database: If you know of any updates, errors or omissions, call Rex on 352 5327 or email greta-vink@clear.net.nz.

For sale Montrail Vecors, Size 9UK, 1 careful owner, Crampon compatible, Very good condition \$300.00. Ph Gareth 354 1488

Sir Edmond Hillary Trust 50th Anniversary Project wish to raise funds through sale of merchandise. See www.hillarytrust.co.nz for further.

Flier from **43 Degrees South** states, "We are a new company specialising in the design and manufacture of quality outdoor clothing, made in New Zealand." They are offering a 10% discount off orders paid for before 15th October and a free set of polyprop. Contact details are: Forty three South Limited, PO Box 30-102, Christchurch (212 Hazeldean Rd) info@43southnz.com Ph 379 3098

Heaphy Track 14–20 December 2003. Bernard Parawa is walking from Collingwood to Karamea along the Heaphy track. He is in search of someone to walk the other way, to do a key swap, meeting up again on the way back to Christchurch. Ph Bernard 981 4931

Phil Tree crashed his bike on Friday 15th August and is in Burwood spinal unit, room 4. It will be a long process learning to walk again, possibly taking years. He now has some slight movement in his hands. You can obtain updates from Carl ph 349 3670, or Jeff ph 332 9251, email Jeff.Hall@Invitrogen.com.

An entry from the **Townsend Hut Visitors book** 23/04/1994.

What a cock-up, getting here, typical CTC trip though. Hall, Roberts, Sutherwood Hayes, Ross, Wheaton paced furiously up the creek. Of course they missed the track. Wheaton led a group of gullible fools up a steep slip up into the scrub. Easton and King wandered down to the track entrance collecting the rest and arrived at the hut 1 hour before the others. We can hear Carol Garland screaming abuse at Wheaton from the snow covered scrub 200m away.

Allan Ross, Jeff Hall, Flo Roberts, Les Hayes, Grant Wheaton, Carol garland, Frank King, John Easton, Simon Hassall, Sue Napier, Mike Sutherwood, Vicki Eman, Steve Berry, Bill Nossiter, Bruce James, Simon Robertson.

A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB

Installment Two - The 1930s.

The Te Hapua Tramping Club was formed at a meeting on 9th June 1932. Its original members belonged to the YMCA gymnasium or were YMCA boarders. They ran holiday camps and day tramps for several years. The directors of YMCA became concerned that members of a Christian organisation went tramping on Sundays and did not attend church. It was decided to form a breakaway club. There is a photo of these members at their YMCA Easter 1932 camp in club records. Unlike the CMC, they were not misogynists. There are several ladies in the group who became their wives. Some of these people remained members for up to fifty years, notably Bert Cocks who was one of the movers for the new club and was club patron for many years.

The club began with about 25 members. The annual subscription was 2/6d (25 cents) with a 3 pence levy per tramp to cover club overheads. The club name is said to mean "The Happy Family". Interestingly our friendly rivals, the Peninsula Tramping Club was set up after an informal meeting on 20 May and a more formal meeting on 10 June 1932.

Club activities in the first decade were very social with dances and an annual combined tramping clubs ball. It was difficult to travel to back country areas because the average person did not own a car then and rail timetables made it impossible to visit Arthur's Pass for weekends. A lot of the tramping was on the Port Hills and Bank's Peninsula. Much of this was energetic. At Labour weekend 1933, a party walked from Diamond Harbour to Akaroa and back. This is approximately 100kms in three days. Strong links developed between the various tramping clubs and YHA, which was also founded in New Zealand in 1932 and began with a chain of farm hostels on the Peninsula. NZ Railways ran regular "mystery hikes" and the club frequently joined these.

Despite these difficulties, some members became interested in the Alps and club parties climbed several of the Arthur's Pass and outer range summits. Longer tramps began and 19 members walked the Heaphy at Christmas 1939. The outbreak of war in September 1939 had a big initial impact on the club. A large proportion of the male members joined the forces and went overseas. Despite this our records show much club activity during the war years and the later 1940s. This will be covered in instalment three.

David Henson

IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

Early this year Government set up a Ministerial Reference Group to report on access. The group has produced a report on "Walking Access to the New Zealand Outdoors".

It also produced a companion report on access to lakes and rivers (this is not part of the foreshore debate). The reports cover both access over private land such as on Bank's Peninsula and also across private land to reach public land beyond. The report concludes that the NZ tradition that access will not be unreasonably refused is breaking down and proposes a strategy for addressing the problem.

This strategy has five objectives:

- To strengthen leadership and to provide direction for, and co-ordination of, access arrangements nationwide. (Elsewhere in the report an Access Commission is suggested);
- To provide greater clarity and certainty of access by locating and publishing what is acceptable and where it may occur;
- To affirm the validity and embrace the ethos of the Queen's Chain by providing mechanisms for its promotion and enhancement;
- To encourage negotiated solutions; and
- To find ways to improve current legislation provisions for access.

The reports are open for public comment until 30 November. There will be a series of public meetings around the country to discuss the reports. Both reports can be downloaded from www.maf.govt.nz.

FMC supports the general direction of the reports. However Public Access New Zealand (PANZ) suggests that they are a recipe for doing nothing and has produced an alternative strategy based on existing legislation or minor changes thereto. This can be downloaded from www.publicaccessnewzealand.org/ There is a degree of overlap and if Government acts on the reports it may well use some of the techniques in the PANZ paper.

The papers are lengthy but the guts of the debate are summarised in section 12 of the Government report and the last 3 pages of the alternative PANZ report.

Stop Press: We have just received word that the Ministerial Access Reference Group will hold a public meeting in Christchurch on 30th September at Russley Hotel, Roydvale Avenue from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Our club will make a submission after the public meeting and will organise an evening or weekend workshop to discuss the issue. If you want to contribute please contact Dave

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 27 September

Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045

Mt Storm: Access this 1254m peak from Lees Valley. Probably will do a circuit from Mt Pember station to Snowdale station with a modest car shuffle to finish off. Expect 850m height gain.

Grade: Mod
Map: L34
Approx: \$20
List closes: 25 Sept

Sunday 28 September

Leader: Mike Newlove

Cave Stream Escarpment: Start at the Cave Stream car park. Head to the top of Flock Hill among the limestone tors. Circle around base of escarpment back to cars. Mostly untracked. Expect 300m of height gain. Short and sweet at about 3-4 hours walking.

Grade: Easy
Map: K34, L34
Approx: \$20
List closes: 25 Sept

Thursday 2 October

Club Night

Paddling and walking in the Grand Canyon and in Tasmania. Doug Rankin is presenting us with slides on his boating and walking trips on the Colorado and Franklin Rivers. This will be an interesting evening!

Weekend 4 and 5 October

Leader: Craig Beere 355 7313

Mt Somers Walkway: Spend the weekend tramping around the northeastern side of Mt Somers on the well-used walkway. Options for a climb of Mt Somers.

Grade: Easy
Map: K36
Approx: \$30
List closes: 25 Sept

Saturday 4 October

Leader: John Shrewsbury 365 3395

Mt Oxford: A local classic that is steepish and, on a nor-west windy day, can make the crab walk a useful method of travel above the bushline. Come on; don't miss the fun of experiencing Mt Oxford! Big views from the top. A good days exercise. Bring ice axe.

Grade: Mod
Map: L34
Approx: \$12
List closes: 2 Oct

Sunday 5 October

Note: 7am start

Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155

Wild Mans Brothers Range: Drive to Lake Heron, then walk half way to Cameron Hut up Cameron River bed. Wild Mans Hill (1856m) is on your left. Fantastic views of Arrowsmiths, Palmer Range, Lake Heron... Early Start. Ice axe and crampons.

Grade: Hard
Map: J35
Approx: \$20
List closes: 2 Oct

Thursday 9 October

Club Night

To be advised.

Weekend 11 and 12 October

Leader: Gareth Gilbert 354 1488

Kellys Creek, Hunts Creek Hut, Kellys Range: A great trip covering all of the bases from west coast valleys to a night in the huts hut above the bush line and returning via the Kelly range tops.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K33
Approx: \$40
List closes: 2 Oct

Saturday 11 October

Leader: Rex Vink 352 5327

Ryde Falls: Is below Mt Oxford along a well-maintained track. There are remnants of an old logging tramway. Native clematis will be flowering to make the trip especially scenic. A popular trip into an interesting area, with an ice-cream stop in Oxford.

Grade: Easy
Map: L34
Approx: \$12
List closes: 9 Oct

Sunday 12 October	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
Mt Barrossa Client Hills: Near the Ashburton gorge, This will be done as a round trip. Mt Barrossa is 1367m high. Good views of Mt Cook and Lake Clearwater.	Grade: Mod Map: J36 Approx: \$20 List closes: 9 Oct
Thursday 16 October	Club Night
Tonight Simon Causer is going to talk about and present slides entitled Habitats and Behaviour of large game animals in the South Island. This is a collection of pictures taken over the last 20 years.	
Weekend 18 and 19 October	Leader: Keith Johnson 388 1332
Croesus Track: Visit this historic mining area north of Blackball. Stay the night in the Croesus hut and visit some of the surrounding areas.	Grade: Easy/Mod Map: K31 Approx: \$45 List closes: 9 Oct
Saturday 18 October	Leader: Tim Broad 365 8740
Scott's Saddle, Pudding Hill: Pudding Hill, @ 868m, is 370m above the surrounding plains where the North Branch Ashburton River enters the plains. From Pudding Hill, the leader has a number of tracked options depending on the party and the weather.	Grade: Easy Map: K36 Approx: \$15 List closes: 16 Oct
Sunday 19 October	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
Mt Potts: Erewhon area. Mt Potts @2184m is a straightforward tramp with a big height gain of up to 1500m, depending on where the cars are parked. Ice axe and possibly crampons required. Andrew enjoys this trip. Help him to get fit for the Christmas holidays.	Grade: Hard Map: J35, J36 Approx: \$20 List closes: 16 Oct
Thursday 23 October	Club Night
Orientation evening. John Henson is going to teach us how to use a compass. Please bring along pencil, paper and compass.	
Weekend 25/27 October Labour Weekend	Leader: Ruha Goodwill 981 2256
Arthur's Pass Family Weekend: A chance for the family groups to enjoy the updated comforts of the club hut. Short walks will be the order of the weekend in an adults welcome to the environment.	Grade: Easy Map: K33 Approx: \$40 List closes: 16 Oct
Weekend 25/27 October Labour Weekend	Leader: John Henson 342 3311
Ski Touring Tasman Saddle: 3 days ski touring from one of the huts near Tasman saddle. Flying in and out. Contact John for details.	Grade: Hard Map: I35 Approx: \$Lots List closes: 16 Oct
Weekend 25/27 October Labour Weekend	Leader: Dave Watson 981 7929
Robert Ridge Lake Angelus: This is one of the magical trips in Nelson Lake National Park. Great views from the tops and 2 nights at Lake Angelus allow time to climb some of the local peaks. Options for a longer trip contact Dave.	Grade: Mod Map: Approx: \$60Plus List closes: 16 Oct
Saturday 25 October Labour Weekend	Leader:
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.	Grade: Easy Map: M36 Approx: \$5 List closes: 23 Oct

Thursday 30 October	Club Night
Newsletter folding night. But wait there's more! Bring along your walking stick, and prepare to discuss with the non-believers their relative merits.	
Weekend 1 and 2 November	Leader: Contact John Henson 342 3311
Bruce Stream Jordon Saddle: Travel up Bruce stream and over Bruce saddle into Amphitheatre Creek. Camp in the Avoca before returning via Jordon Saddle	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$35 List closes: 23 October
Sunday 2 November	Leader:
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 900m more interesting to look at. This trip can be exposed and snow may be around so warm clothing is advised.	Grade: Easy Map: J37 Approx: \$30 List closes: 30 October
Sunday 2 November EARLY START: 7:00am	Leader: John Easton 981 9414
Big Mt Peel: Usually the leader will follow the track to Little Mt Peel and then travel along the easy tops to Big Mt Peel and then return the same way. This provides for a long day – bring a torch just in case. But John may take an alternative route to Big Mt Peel. Bring warm clothing	Grade: Mod Map: J37 Approx: \$30 List closes: 30 Oct
Weekend 8 and 9 November	Leader: Frank King 942 8368
Big Tops Hut: High above the Otehake sits big tops hut lost until Frank and Honora recut the track. Visit this special place with someone who knows it well.	Grade: Mod/Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$40 List closes: 30 October
Saturday 8 November If weather poor, contact leader.	Leader: Adrian Sullivan 331 7188
Ribbonwood Stream, Mt Manson: Ribbonwood Stream is located at the very end of the Craigeburn Range, and is the stream, which formed the large gravel fan, which separates Lake Grassmere from Lake Pearson. Initially there is a short gorge before the stream opens out into a basin, from which the tops of the range are accessible. There are many ways out.	Grade: Mod-Hard Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 6 Nov
Saturday 8 November	Leader: Sandi Keenan 981 9583
Mt Pearce, Haytor: This is a semi-regular club trip in the Banks Peninsula region. Sandi always leads trips at an easy pace with plenty of breaks for refreshments. Should be an enjoyable day out with good views over the sea.	Grade: Easy Map: N36 Approx: \$10 List closes: 6 Nov
Weekend 14/16 November Show Weekend	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 354 1488
Nina, Lake Christobel, Rough Creek: Visit the new Nina hut on the way up the valley before climbing over to Lake Christobel. Return to the hot pools via Rough Creek.	Grade: Moderate Map: M32/L31/M31 Approx: \$45 List closes: 6 Nov
Weekend 14/16 November Show Weekend	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322 6196
MacCaulay Valley Base Camp: 4WD access with Steve will allow a great opportunity to visit this stunning area in the Two Thumb Range with towering peaks all around. If the NW howls Steve will find a dryer location.	Grade: All Map: I36 Approx: \$50 List closes: 6 Nov

Faerie Queen, Gloriana: From a high camp above Ada Pass the prominent peaks of Gloriana and Faerie Queens will be the object of our time.

Grade: Hard
Map: M31
Approx: \$40
List closes: 6 Nov

Trip Reports

Jollie Brook: 23 and 24 August 2003

We'd planned a clockwise round trip from the Sisters car park staying at Jollie Brook hut for a night. Well someone had planned it and Susan was talked into her debut as leader. It was graded easy and easy it was.

There was a murmuring of concern (from others not me) on the Thurs night about the weather forecast, though on Sat morning at 7.00 when we left it was looking to be fine.

Our group, once 8 was now 6 due to this and that, which was fine by us - the hut sleeps 7.

So off we went, I led the way, slightly off track....a good start, we took turns at that, leading and going slightly off track. No one got us lost though except Susan nearly did, but that was later.

We got to Gabriel's Hut for lunch about 12.30; it had been snowing ever so lightly and was lovely. A very friendly hunter arrived from Jollie Brook on his way out and he told us he'd "fixed" 2 of the 4 possums that had fought all night under the hut. We were very grateful about that!

He was soaking wet so we presumed it was raining up ahead but no, he was wet from pushing through branches laden with snow hanging over the track. Much better for us he said. We were very grateful about that!

The walk up the saddle was easy, and just as the friendly hunter had said it got prettier as we went. The snow down over the saddle was simply beautiful.

George fell in a stream and got very wet, but the hut was close and the hunter had left the fire going - we were grateful for that. We got to the hut about 2.00 as planned. There is a lovely spur straight up the back that we had designs on climbing. The hunter (yeah, yeah we're very grateful) told us to look for the clay bank and begin there to avoid lots of pushing through soaking wet manuka.

Susan, George, Mike and I set off up the spur at 3:15 leaving Lynette and Bronwyn at the hut. It was great, the snow got thicker and the scenery was amazing. I had my eye on the top but "we had to stick together" sensibly enough and came down about 4:00 having got about half way up.

Lynette was looking stuffed, a bit dehydrated and fell into a deep sleep before tea. Bronwyn was supposed to have done an essay on the relationship between Korea and Japan post WW2 (I think) but I suspect they probably talked while we were away instead.

We had a communal tea, (a PTC thing we'd picked up) and ate Mikes chocolate.

Sunday, after a restful night with a star-studded sky, undisturbed by fighting possums, was a beaut day! Here was more murmuring of concern about weather, (from others not me) this time about sun and possible snow melt, making rivers too difficult to cross if we continued with the round trip plan. Susan kept saying she didn't want to get her feet wet but was really, I suspect, more worried about getting a "Lulu of the Year" award on her first time as leader if we got trapped on such an easy trip by raging snowmelt!

Bronwyn wanted to nip up the spur a short way so we did that, cleaned up, took photos and set off up the hardly noticeable saddle back toward Gabriel's hut, the lure of Lake Sumner for lunch spurring us on. It's only half an hour to the Lake from the hut. This time it was Lynette who fell in a stream. We skipped along feeling light and pack free thinking we were like the teddy bears going for a picnic, singing their song a few octaves too high but cute all the same, except when we got to the lake Lynette, my sister who I'd kindly invited along, said we looked and sounded more like the 7 dwarves.

Hummmph! She seriously thought she was Snow-white! Bronwyn did look a little like Dopey though in her hat...even as she modeled elegantly for us on the beach.

We followed George to where the Hurinui exits the lake, a huge waterhole, ate lunch and Mikes chocolate.

It was on the way back to Gabriel's hut that Susan nearly got us lost. We'd followed her in a dedicated fashion, skipping when she

skipped, jogging when she jogged....(I exaggerate really, mostly we watched her from behind looking a bit silly)

Must've been about 3 when we got to the cars.

All in all we had a great trip with great weather and especially great company, every one, Susan (leader), George, Mike, Bronwyn, Lynette and Kerrie (scribe).

Sudden Valley: Sunday 24 August 2003

An annotated version of the description to be found in the *Ian Dunn Private Collection of Morning Ambles and Afternoon Strolls* (in press).

Take the Mt White Bridge off the Arthurs Pass Road and drive to the public shelter. We attempted a 7.30am start and failed dismally, so it was slightly later than intended when we splashed across the Hawdon for the first time.

Ascend Sudden Valley Stream to the Biv. Alternate between floundering like a salmon in tramping boots and scrambling like a lesser-known rock spider, upstream for a couple of hours. Pause to admire the quaint Sudden Valley biv. Have a convivial lunch and either change boots or wring out your socks in an optimistic manner. From the biv, continue upstream for about 400m (looking for a place you can cross without getting your new footwear wet), until a tributary enters from the true left. Ascend the full length of this tributary, aiming for the saddle on the ridge to the north of point 1653. Well, actually, start going up the tributary, scabbling on the icy rocks, and decide the forest by the side would be easier. The forest unfortunately was dripping with melting snow – tackle the stream again. After a short time the stream effectively disappeared under the snow and we headed left to keep to the side of the basin. The snow was knee-deep and soft: most of the group generously allowed the expert snow-pluggers to demonstrate their skill. At the saddle everyone settled down to laze in the sun or take photographs or gossip – just as if we did not have most of the distance still to go.

From the saddle, drop down slightly and traverse around the northeastern slopes of

point 1653, before climbing up on to the East Ridge of point 1653. Dropping down from the saddle seemed a waste of height at the time, but looking back at the ridge it was a very sensible option. Descend this ridge to point 1346. Well, we did not go this far but it would probably have been the experience of a lifetime. Then head for the bush-covered knob about 600m south-southeast of point 1346. This makes some rather interesting bush bashing and navigation sound very easy, but we got there in the end. There was still a reasonable amount of snow in the forest and most of the group were still happily chattering and laughing – and not always at Bernard's lemon squeezer hat.

From this bush covered knob, continue down the ridge heading south-south-east for a couple of hundred vertical meters, before veering left (east) to go directly down the slopes to the Hawdon. Well - what could be easier? I must have been doing it wrong because it seemed like hard work to me. Jonathan had described how important it was to avoid coming off the ridge into the gully with its lovely enticing waterfalls, so we clung tenaciously to the crest of the ridge even when it tried the most desperate strategies to shake us off. At this point the full meaning of the term 'vertical meters' (and there were about 800 of them) became apparent – it was really quite steep. I am not sure that moss-tobogganing and bush-slalom are yet Olympic sports, but we are now all well qualified to be NZ's team should the need arise. Despite the steepness and the quite rapid pace, the river still seemed to get no closer: the only indication that we had descended was the sudden ambush by bushlawyer. The advance party made it out of the bush just as the light was going, but

several others were able to experience the full fun of doing it in the dark (except of course that they were well-prepared trampers with torches).

The route back lies along the true right of the Hawdon, where a four-wheel drive track can be picked up after shortly after crossing a creek. For those of us who got cold and set off before the main group, this was a magical walk back: there was just enough moonlight to see the track without torches, and we marched along watching the stars come out and listening the bush and the river. Looking back we eventually saw the little line of lights

bobbing along like Snow White's dwarfs with their lanterns. Back at the cars sometime after 8pm we performed complicated manoeuvres with cold limbs and dry clothes and waited for the rearguard contingent.

Many thanks to Ian for allowing us to test this little amble out – we'll be back for the full version in the summer (perhaps pencil it in for the longest day?).

Ian (mastermind of the original), Bernard, Jonathon, Frank, Ruth, Mike, Keiran, Joanna, Warwick, Steve, Richard, Jenny (annotations)

Tarn Hut: 6 and 7 September 2003

Some of us met at the shell garage at 7am, Susan, Trevor and Helen headed to Sheffield to pick up Kerry. Andrew and I waited for Taka to arrive, and at 7.15 (we were thinking its was time to go), he finally arrived; Andrew had already scratched his name from the trips' list. Further up Papanui Road, we picked up Alistair then headed gaily up to Oxford to meet up with Susan, Kerry, Helen and Trevor the Thar (explanation to follow).

The drive into Lees Valley was stunning. We parked the cars and ventured into the Ashley River around 9.15, via a 4WD track. This lasted for approx an hour. Once we reached the cattle yards we were onto the track, which was very muddy in places, horror!! Some of the party got their boots dirty - what's the world coming to? We followed the track for another hour when we came to the sign for the new track up Tent Gully. We stopped here for a group pow-wow about the tramps options. The Groups decision was to continue on and take the high road to Youngman Stream Hut.

After gaining altitude quickly, we reached a nice little clearing; the idea of lunch was raised. It was also suggested at this time why not just go and follow the ridge and meet up with the Tent Gully track, but the lack of water was a concern so Kerry and I took off and 10 minutes later returned

with full water bottles for all those that needed it.

After lunch the party of intrepid explorers headed up the ridge into the unknown. On a distant ridge we had observed a large tree so it was agreed that we should join up again there and decide the next plan of attack. After reaching the tree, we came across our first taste of snow for the day, so for fun we started to launch soft snowballs down to the ascending group. Our patient leader had the misfortune of receiving a rather hard snowball directly on top of his head.

While most of the group used this time for a breather, Trevor took off like a man possessed heading for the tops, we eventually caught up with him just before we came across the Tent Gully markers and the true snow-line. From here on we were in snow of all types, which ranged from hard (scooted across the top) to horrible soft snow (you fell thru to knee deep), we were all still in shorts at this point, - funny how you forget how sharp hard snow can be - I managed to spring several small leaks on my knees!!

I've now done several trips with the club that has required some snow plugging and have noticed how the leaders always seem to end up near the back, but then I remembered what Bernard said on the Barker Hut trip, 'a good leader always

leads from behind'.

We eventually reached the top and the signpost pointing the way to Tarn Hut when we realised that the group had grown and now was nine. The word came thru that there were two more people heading for Tarn Hut, so we took off to the hut at a fast march so as to claim the bunks. Just as we left the tops and headed down hill, out from the back of the group sprung "Trevor the Thar", like a beastie with DOC cullers hard on his heels, he took off toward the hut and no one was going to beat him, it was like watching a young Thar buck the way those long legs glided over the snow heading to sanctuary.

We all eventually arrived at the hut to hear that the other two had decided to go to Youngman's hut instead much to our relief. After a search we found a place to pitch the tent, (the hut has only five bunks) so eight people was going to be a tight squeeze. Susan and Helen said that they would sleep in the tent as long as we gave them all the spare sleeping mats.

The kettle was boiled and everyone had a hot drink and changed into dry socks and warmer clothes. Trevor was testing his new boots and was very happy with the fact that he had no hot spots. The hut had a little log burner so this was kicked into life. We all went outside at one time

or another to see either Mars or the lights of Christchurch - what a great view!

Sunday we awoke to a cloudy but nice day and after a leisurely breakfast we broke camp and headed down the 4WD track to the cars!!!! Permission had been gained to use this track, which is normally closed; this really is the quick way back to the car park!!!!

One of the group worked for a communication company and had brought along some toys to try out, these worked well, too well. On the Saturday night he was seen leaving the warmth of the hut to talk on the radiophone to someone in Christchurch, the joys of modern technology! This did not stop there, on the down hill trip to the cars, technology was once again out, this caused a little frustration within the group as technology seems to walk rather slow and would get left behind at times!!!!

We finally arrived back at the cars then headed into Oxford for a pie. Saturday was a moderate trip; Sunday was definitely an easy option. Good weekend trip enjoyed by all thanks Andrew

Adventurers were Trevor Scott, Alastair Christie, Helen Harkness, Susan Pearson Kerrie Skinner, Takaya Onishi, Andrew Wrapson (Leader) and scribe Scott Fowler.

Bealey Spur, Jordon stream: 14 September 2003

And so it was that your humble scribe decided it was again time to get off my behind and venture out into the wilderness with those nice people from the CTC. After having to pull out of the trip to Tarn Hut the weekend before, I figured that a nice moderate day trip up Bealey spur with Bernard would be a good way to start getting back in shape for the summers tramping. Now because this scribe is not always the most motivated trumper, it had been some months since my last outing, and due to my complete abhorrence to any form of regular exercise outside of tramping I figured that a

moderate trip would about be my limit. A quick glance at my topo map on the computer at the area to be tackled and I was sure that it would be no problem.

9:00 am Sunday and I met our party of 5 blokes and no women (!!) at Springfield as I usually do. Weather was slightly overcast, not too windy, with patchy rain on the way up, as it was to stay for most of the day. The usual confused car shuffle occurred at Bealey huts resulting in Bernard leaving his car at the Waimack bridge and myself taking us back to Bealey huts and a game of catch

up to the others who were now 10 -15 minutes ahead of us. With great gusto we set off up Bealey Spur, with myself setting a brisk pace (by my standards) in hot pursuit of the rest of our party.

We caught up with the rest of the crew at a lookout point with great views of Bruce Stream. It was at this point that we picked up our hitchhiker. When Bernard and I arrived, the guys were chatting with a young Japanese woman whose name sounded something like Ume. She was well equipped with cameras and was staying at Arthurs Pass. After a few photos of my own, and the donning of our precipitation protection apparatus, we set off for the Bealey hut, with Ume accompanying.

Considering that I was wearing a watch, I am not sure what time we arrived at the hut, but I was definitely lagging behind at this stage. At the hut we found the Easy trip crew had beaten us to all the comfortable places inside the hut and so we were relegated to standing round outside, eating and having photos taken with Ume.

A Quick lunch and Bernard is ready to go as he knows better than most of us that there is a way yet to go and the intention is to be out by 5:00pm. I am especially keen on this plan as I have a party to go to that night and wish to get away as soon as possible. Ume decides that she is going to continue along the spur with us, although she probably had no idea of where we were actually heading to. (Of course it turns out that I had no idea of where we were actually heading to either).

Now it is from this point on that we hit the snow, and it is with great gratitude and relief from this unfit scribe to our leader and Mike for making our lives so much easier that day(of course they were in front because no one else could keep up with them).

At about 2:30pm, with Ume still with us and merrily snapping away with all her cameras, Bernard stopped on a snowy peak looking down on Little Jordon stream and announced that we would have to adopt "Plan B".

"What's Plan B?" I asked.

"To start our descent from here." He replied.

"So what was Plan A.?" I inquired.

"To continue along this snow covered ridge to that high point along there and then travel

down that long spur there, to that stream way down there." He pointed.

"Oh" I exclaimed, "Plan B sounds much better to me, are you sure that is a moderate trip?"

We walked back along the ridge a way, and then Bernard made his next announcement.

"We could just go straight back along this ridge the way we came or we could drop down along here somewhere and bushbash our way down to the river flat. I'm gonna bushbash, if you want we could split up and those who want to can travel back along the track. You can follow me, but I take no responsibility for where we are heading."

One thing I'll say for CTC members, they don't shy away from adventure, and so it was that a bushbashing we did go, in time honoured CTC fashion, with Ume still Game enough(or mad enough) to stay with us no matter where we went.

A plunging we did go into the bush. A stumbling and a slipping. A crunching and a cursing. With an oching and a snagging, with cries of "ROCK" echoing across the river flat. Until just when I thought this decent would never end, a voice called out from the River flat:

"They must be CTC members to be mad enough to come down there!"

As we tumbled out of the bush, we were met by Keith Johnston and Pam, walking their dog and trying to find where we were going to come out.

Your unfit scribe was rather knackered by this time and struggled complainingly over the last small hill towards the car, unsure weather he would be able to still stand at the end, let alone go to this party that night. We took Ume back to her car and gave her a copy of the CTC newsletter. So maybe our hitchhiker may turn up on another CTC tramp sometime soon.

As for me, not only did I get to the party but I even danced half the night away. There's hope for me yet.

This trip was peopled with the following: Bernard Parawa (Leader), Warwick Dowling, Mike Ny, Jonathon Davies, Michael Shannahan, Rodney Erickson (Scribe) and of course Ume.

Dear Aunty IceAxe

Please help - I've tried and tried and now my confidence is gone!

Every time I try and fail I feel more rejected and useless. What am I doing wrong?

"Hopeless"

Dear Hopeless

In my experience these problems usually come down to three things: technique, approach, and equipment. Think calmly about each of these aspects and consider what might be going wrong. If that fails, give up mountain climbing and try your luck at personal relationships instead.

Aunty IceAxe

Article about clothing suitable for bum deep river crossings should be in November's newsletter. (I add the padding to take the newsletter up to an even number of pages, and we're there already)

Please post or email articles for the October newsletter to the Editor (Joanna Ibell)

by Thursday 23 October 2003

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