



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.

Vol. 73

September 2003

No. 4

President	Dave Watson	981 7929	Club Captain	Sandi Keenan	981 9583
Vice President	John Henson	342 3311	Trip Organiser(day)	Warwick Dowling	366 2045
Vice President	Andrew Turton	332 8275	(weekend)	John Henson	342 3311
Acting Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349 2280	Hut Convenor	Andrew Wrapson	381 6003
Treasurer	Andrew Turton	332 8275	Gear Custodian	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
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.

New Members: A warm welcome to Tony Foley, Scott Fowler, Bronwen Strang and Richard Thwaites

For Sale: Heavy duty Laser Light Pointer. The ultimate authority for identifying distant peaks and ridges. Tractor battery not included. Ph Aunty Ice Axe

Possum Control – Laying of Baits in the Maruia Valley

DOC are laying possum baits in the Maruia Valley from August to December 2003.

The area covered is from the Lewis Pass down to Marble Hill near Calf Paddock then up the Alfred River to Lake Daniels. The baits will be laid in lower altitude forest areas including the lower sections of One Mile Stream and Jackson's Creek.

The baits will be in two forms – green pea sized cyanide pellets in blue bags placed in trees and ground cereal 1080 baits. Both are highly poisonous but the risk reduces after a month. A detailed map and explanatory notes supplied by DOC will be tabled at club nights.

A Concise History of the Christchurch Tramping Club (in nine instalments)

Instalment one – In the Beginning

Was there life in the mountains before CTC? The short answer is yes.

When Samuel Butler arrived at his run at Mesopotamia in 1861, it was not long before curiosity compelled him to climb to Butler Saddle to see what was over the range.

What he saw contributed to his allegory "Erewhon". Later "Explorer" Douglas and "Arawata Bill" O'Leary and certainly others wandered extensively in the Alps. No doubt they hoped to find grazing or gold but simple love of exploration must have been a key motivation.

The N.Z. Alpine Club, formed in 1891, was the first organised mountain club. Several more were formed early last century, particularly after the First World War – the Tararua Tramping Club in 1919, The Otago Tramping & Mountaineering Club in 1923 and the Auckland Tramping Club in 1925. In Canterbury, a Christchurch Tramping & Mountaineering Club was formed in 1925. This was not our club. Later its male members formed the Canterbury Mountaineering Club. There used to be some confusion about this and many people thought that our CTC and the CMC had been a single club that had split.

When Federated Mountain Clubs was established in 1931, 12 clubs attended the exploratory meeting and there were 17 members clubs by the time of its first AGM.

Our club arrived on the mountain scene in 1932. It was formed by members of YMCA at a meeting on 9th June 1932 with an inaugural membership of about 25 people.

Our original name was the Te Hapua Tramping Club. More about this in the next instalment, which will cover, club life in the 1930s.

David Henson

Will MacQueen 1965-2003

It was with sadness that I heard about Willy MacQueen's death on August 12 2003. Willy, or Will, was known to club members in the early 80s because his older brother James was an enthusiastic and active participant and leader of club trips.

There were four MacQueen brothers - James, Richard, Bruce and the youngest, Willy. I was lucky enough to meet them in 1980 or 81. My first trip with James and Willy was an ambitious winter tramp (Whataroa, Perth, Scone creek, Sealy Pass, Godley Glacier, Terra Nova Pass, St Winifred steam, Havelock R). Willy was only 15 or 16. Plugging steps up the Godley in deep snow convinced us all that skis might be a very good thing for winter tramping.

Not ones to be put off by limited skiing ability the next MacQueen adventure I went on was ski touring in the Garden of Eden the following winter. I did several trips tramping, ski touring and climbing with the MacQueen boys over the next few years. Notable memories include:

- Being roped to Willy when I fell in a huge crevasse in the upper slopes of the Tasman and being dragged up, like a seal out of a hole in the snow, with my prussics in a tangle.
- Learning that, while peanut slabs are a good energy food in the outdoors, they are not the solution to all your food packing problems. A week of nothing but peanut slabs and lentil dinners is not good.
- Discovering that green ginger wine may not give you a headache but carbon monoxide poisoning certainly will. We huddled for a couple of hours in the toilet in a snow storm in the dark at Tasman Saddle hut wondering how long it took carbon monoxide to clear from the hut and, more to the point, our blood streams. Answer: We skied without apparent ill effects the next day.

The best thing however about going in to the mountains with the MacQueen brothers was the feeling that everyone was part of a team and that risks in the mountains could be approached carefully and thoughtfully. By supporting one another and everyone in the group the MacQueen brothers managed to bring out people's strengths and everyone achieved more than they would have on their own.

Over the next twenty years Willy went on to work full time in the outdoors. He was an exceptionally skilled kayaker and a qualified mountain guide.

He was guiding a ski-touring client on Fox Glacier when a snow bridge collapsed.

My thoughts are with Willy's wife Ellan and his brothers.

Lynette Hartley

Phil Tree crashed his bike on Friday 15th August and is now in Burwood spinal unit, room 11b. Phil is fairly confident that he will walk again, as he is getting more and more movement back. His main concern is that he has no movement below his elbows. At this stage it's "wait and see" as apparently hands are usually the last motor function to recover.

During the week visiting hours are from 1.00pm - 8.00pm. You can obtain updates from Carl ph 349 3670, or Jeff ph 332 9251, email Jeff.Hall@Invitrogen.com.

Water Quality

On Thursday 21 August John Aitken, director of Envirolink Laboratory, spoke at the club meeting about water quality along the length of the Waimakariri. Some of the salient points:

1. There were huge numbers of bacteria in the Hawdon hut water tank, presumably from avian and possum feces. "Where there are birds and mammals fouling the water, there is a likelihood of bacteria and parasites capable of causing diarrhoea". John compared this with the findings from the river and recommended using the river water but pointed out that no E.coli showed up in the tank. If you do use the tank water boil it first.
2. If you want a substantial meal of bacteria, drink from a tarn. Not only is the water stagnant but usually home to ducks and other birds.
3. The mountain water supplies were relatively low in E coli at 1 or 2 per 100ml but increased rapidly the closer to the sea. – The peak was about 70 around Stewart's Gully. From the type of bacteria and from testing which antibiotics they were resistant to, he believed that in the middle stretches of the river much of the pollutants were from farm animals, but further down they were likely to also be due to human feces in the water.
4. With reference to the Hawdon "above the hut should be fine, and the water in the upper reaches should similarly be clear."
5. "Any person developing diarrhoea is strongly advised to visit the GP if symptoms do not clear with 2-3 days and there is a history suggesting a recent trip up-country. Ova cysts and parasites should be tested as part of the workup, or the patient may have continuing problems if the organisms are left untreated."
6. "In my opinion, Ngai Tahu's involvement with guardianship of water sources within the South Island is carried out with the goal of safeguarding water quality for everyone, and that the initiatives that they have instigated (and Rapaki Bay is a shining example) are well worth noting, acknowledging, and emulating. Outdoor recreationists and Ngai Tahu share the same goal of preserving the environment for the enjoyment of future generations."

(Thanks to Honora for paying attention and obtaining further information from John)

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 30 August	Note: 9:00am start	Leader: Helen Harkness 384 2890
Bridle Path and Tracks East: Bring your own transport and meet at the Gondola car park at 9:00am. Then walk towards Evans Pass. We will explore a mix of tracks east from the Bridle Path. Great harbour views.		Grade: Easy Map: Approx: \$nil List closes: 28 Aug
Thursday 4 September	Club Night	
Lets go to south Patagonia with our guide Bill King. This is located at the VERY bottom of South America. They did a traverse of the Darwin range east to west. Wow this will be a great show!		
Weekend 6 and 7 September	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 6003	
Tarn Hut: High above the upper Ashley river in the Puketaraki Range Tarn hut offers great views and access into an area less often traveled		Grade: Moderate Map: L34 Approx:\$25 List closes: 28 August
Saturday 6 September	Leader: Sandi Keenan 981 9583	
Mt Karetu: West of Mt Grey in the Ashley Forest lies the prominent Mt Karetu. There will be good views from the open top. Forestry roads encircle and then approach this peak from a number of ways. Expect at least 300m of height gain.		Grade: Easy Map: M34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 4 Sept

Saturday 6 September	Leader: Paul Ashton 358 5570
Mt Misery: This lies at the northeast corner of the Black range and overlooks the Waimakariri River to the north and the Cass River to the south. The usual approach is via Pylon Gully, but your leader may have other plans for this day. Expect ~ 1200m height gain.	Grade: Mod-Hard Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 4 Sept
Thursday 11 September	Club Night
Staff from Mainland will be talking about and showing the latest gear at our usual meeting place - i.e. this is NOT held at Mainland.	
Weekend 13 and 14 September	Leader: Flo Roberts 980 7913
Gizeh Col, Jordon Saddle: Travel up the Anti Crow before climbing Gizeh Col and down to the Avoca Hut for the Night. Return via Jordon Saddle. Ice axe and crampons required.	Grade: Hard Map: K34 Approx:\$35 List closes: 4 Sept
Sunday 14 September	Leader: Dave Henson 942 3954
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 group.	Grade: Easy Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 14 Sept
Sunday 14 September	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
Bealey Spur, Jordan Stream: Start at the baches, as for the Easy trip. When reach Bealey Spur hut, continue to the open tops of Hut Spur. Drop to Jordan Stream. Return along south bank of Waimakariri River and road back to cars.	Grade: Mod Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 14 Sept
Tuesday 16 September	Club Night
Come and dine out at Spagalimis on Victoria Street for a yummy selection of pizzas. Meet at 7pm. Please put your name on the list or ph Kaye on 3424534 or email at serra@canesis.com.	
Thursday 18 September	Club Night
Come along to a mystery video evening with an alpine / mountain theme.	
Weekend 20 and 21 September	Leader: John Henson 342 3311
Basic Snow Craft: The second basic snow craft course for the year. Covering ice axe and crampon use for club members wanting to travel above the snowline. The last course was booked out 3 weeks before close off.	Grade: Easy Map: K33 Approx:\$35 List closes: 11 Sept
Weekend 20 and 21 September	Leader: John Henson 342 3311
Intermediate Snow Craft: Covering basic snow anchor's, belays, glacier travel and avalanche awareness. This course is for people wanting to progress beyond the basic level.	Grade: Moderate Map: K33 Approx:\$35 List closes: 11 Sept
Saturday 20 September	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 374 0552
Woolshed Hill: Approached from Hawdon Corner. Offers views up the Hawdon River. Because it is at the end of the Savannah Range, there is the possibility of traversing further along the range before descending through open Beech forest to the Hawdon River. Ice axe.	Grade: Easy-Mod Map: K33, L33 Approx: \$20 List closes: 18 Sept
Saturday 20 September	Leader: John Henzell 328 9596
Mt Binser: Cross the Waimakariri River onto the Mt White Road and head to the Andrews Shelter. From there onwards, choose your place	Grade: Mod-Hard Map: L34, L33

to park the cars. Start walking at about 520m and ascend to 1860m. Great views from the open tops. Take ice axe and crampons.

Approx: \$20
List closes: 18 Sept

Thursday 25 September

Club Night

Newsletter folding night and discussion on boots, socks and gaiters. Please bring along your own favorites (No grubby, mould ridden, stand on their own, cheese smelling socks allowed, John Henson!)

Weekend 27 and 28 September

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

Pell Stream, Cannibal Gorge: A trip that used to be a club regular. Travel up the Pell using the old blazed track before crossing the tops and dropping into Cannibal Gorge.

Grade: Moderate
Map: L31
Approx:\$40
List closes: 18 Sept

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: 24 Sept

Sunday 28 September

Leader:

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: 24 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: Andrew Turton 332 8275

Port Robinson, Gore Bay: The start point depends on the tide. An interesting coastal walk on and by the beach. Some magnificent cliffs to look at (not climb) and rock pools to mess about in along the way. View the ruins at Port Robinson.

Grade: Easy
Map: O32
Approx: \$15
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

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
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
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

Trip Reports

Thirteen Mile Bush: Saturday 26 July 2003

The wind howling around the Port Hills should have been a portent of things to come, but despite this an intrepid party of 13 gathered under Warwick's able leadership to venture up 13 Mile Bush. Efforts by Helen to 'jolly us along' with early morning wit and repartee fell on unreceptive ears.

Arriving at Ben More Station, conditions seemed relatively benign, but that I suppose is why they locate these homesteads where they do. The quizzical look of the farmer on hearing of our intent to

go onto 'the tops' was not relayed to the rest of the party. His instruction however to, "go through the gate at the deer paddock," caused the impatient front party to go *into* the deer paddock and the remainder of the group to go through the gate adjacent to the fence and *around* the paddock, with somewhat comedic results. On re-grouping, an uneventful trip up to Ben More hut ensued, with a fair amount of stream hopping along a well marked and recently cut track.

The hut, which had been described as, "somewhat derelict"; proved to be basic but well kept. It had obviously been adopted as someone's 'home from home', with fresh onions and other provisions stored out of harm's reach in the rafters, and a general aura of tidiness. The purpose of the onions was apparent from the abundance of animal bones a few metres away, but the location nevertheless provided an agreeable spot for an early lunch.

A climb of some 750 metres faced us after lunch, which is perhaps not the best to aid digestion. An early 'diversion' was tackled in forthright manner by Ian, after which the rest of the party seemed happy to 'follow in his footsteps' up much of the increasingly snowy and foot snagging climb. With the exception of Jonathon, the accepted practice of 'taking one's turn at the front plugging footsteps' seemed to be in abeyance for the day.

A brief stop at the tree line saw most donning extra layers of clothing, and some a few metres further on yet more layers of clothing, as the full implications of travel away from the protective forest became apparent. Thus we progressed, at times on all fours, to the intended high point 1623 where a surprisingly large number of persons were able to huddle in the lee of a modest rock outcrop. Articles of clothing and personal possessions were to be seen vanishing into the valley below, to add to the magpies' bountiful cache.

No dissent was heard to the suggestion that we traverse a leeward ridge heading back to the cars, and the views, in the rare interludes between grit blasting, were quite stunning. The old adage, 'Any downhill ridge in a storm,' holding ever true, we slithered, strode and even tobogganed,

towards that ever-welcoming sign of civilisation, a fence line.

Following the fence line down, the lead party adopted the 'line of sight' principle and diverted towards an 'obvious' farm track (obsolete it transpired) leading in the preferred direction. Sadly, the rearguard had not noticed this deviation and continued plodding along the 'Fence line to nowhere'. Here the advantages of carrying cell phones becomes apparent, as communication thenceforth became 'confused', with the lead party assuming that their actions were both obvious and indeed logical, and the rear party having little idea where they were going and probably dissenting anyway.

And so the advance party zigzagged around paddocks and through mires back to the secure haven of the vehicles, whilst the rearguard attempted 'more direct routes', and returned some half-hour later. As the rearguard held the keys to most cars, the leading party had ample opportunity to reflect on their impatience and lack of communication skills as they rapidly chilled in the fading light.

Such are the pleasures of tramping in winter. Christchurch, it transpired, was bathed in sunshine and light airs for most of the day. But then the experience of 'walking' on all fours into a 'stiff breeze'; with ice axe as one foreleg and tramping pole as another would have been missed.

Sincere thanks to Warwick, without whom the experience could well have been missed. Party included: Warwick (leader) Susan, Steven, Michael, Helen, Jenny, Richard, Catherine, Ben, John, Ian, Ron (scribe), Jonathon.

Cass – Totara Daytrip: Saturday 9 August 2003

Twelve of us drove north under fog to the Hanmer turnoff on SH1, but turned right into Mt Cass Rd. Seven kilometers along here we parked at Mt Cass Station, and walked a further 3km along the road to Dovedale Station. Then we walked another half hour northwards on a farm road before climbing up a spur out of the fog and through native forest to the tops. Kowhai was in full bloom amongst totara, pittosporums, native jasmine, nettles, coprosmas, mahoe, pseudopanax etc. A giant weta stopped us all in our tracks for a close-up look. Emerging into a sunny clearing on top of the range was like stepping into fairyland. Limestone weather-sculpted rocks set the scene at each clearing. Now did the notorious CTCs push on relentlessly to achieve goals? Not on your nelly. The unusual landscape was enjoyed to the full. We waved to Christchurch under fog, in a thumbs-to-noses sort of way, and lazed in the sun. Leader Warwick dutifully engineered the tumbledown trig on Totara

knob back into a standing position as ordered (what are leaders for?) and on the next knob declared we had reached Oldham, where lunch was allowed. Lunch is devoured before some bright spark pulls out a GPS, declares we're nowhere near Oldham, and like Grand Old Dukes of York, just to achieve goals, we march along the top of the hill (to Oldham) and march ourselves back again.

We now explore the ridge westwards to Mt Cass, through more native bush with regular clearing and slippery limestone rocks. From here (4pm) it's just 25 minutes down a farm road to our cars, making it a 7 hour day, having covered 17km. This is a fabulous area to explore, and quite close to home. Thanks to Warwick for organizing us.

Mike Shanahan, Jonathan Davies, Tim Broad, Jenny Harlow, Virginia Owen, Diane Carter, Ivor Lewis, Ron Keeble, Kerrie Skinner, Susan Pearson and Sue

Hely (scribe)

Barker Hut - Tales of Bernard's Tumbles: 19 - 20 July 2003

Four keen trampers formed a huddle at club the Thursday before. This hut is the highest hut in Arthur's Pass NP at approx 1,620m. The weather forecast was for a big southerly to pass during Saturday and the snow to fall to 600m. One party member has his 6 monthly pass to go away for that weekend so he was desperate (understated) to go anywhere. These 4 considered all sorts of options depending on the snow level. But agreed a final decision would not be made till Sat am.

We paused at the Bealey and the barmaid said there had been no snow for at least a week but the valleys were full of residual snow. We became hopeful of a Barker attempt.

The air temp was very cold with frozen snow about at Klondyke corner where we parked the car just after dawn. BUT IT WAS FINE! Crossing the Waimak just a few minutes later was really bracing indeed. My bootlaces became loose after getting wet during the crossing. So when I stopped to tighten them I had to break through the

layer of ice, which had formed all over my gaiters!

Geoff spotted several deer on the flat near the Anti crow hut. We were all surprised to see them this close to the road. Carrington Hut was reached at 11am. It was cold inside and out. After lunch we headed up the White. There were heaps of deer footprints around the lower section. The first snow was reached approx 1hour up and if anything it became warmer for a while. We stayed in the valley. Its here that Bernard had his first mishap (no 1). We were still in the valley and the snow was soft and approx knee deep. He was just in front of me stepping down a slight slope when he pitched forward down the slope. However he left his leg behind where he had originally placed it as it had become wedged between some unseen rocks. He said nothing but was clearly in a awkward position. He looked so funny I considered reaching for my camera (on my chest strap) but decided to help him up instead. He brushed himself off and we laughed. 3

steps later (no 2) he did exactly the same thing, however this time there was a grunt of pain on impact with the snow. As I stepped forward to help he had already undone his pack straps. Bernard said he was on the edge of breaking something this time. Only I was laughing this time.

At the head of the valley we passed over 2 side creeks completely full of avalanche debris - was quite impressive. From approx 30min from here the snow thankfully hardened up and we had wonderful cramponing up to the hut. By now it was cold and threatening to snow. It took us just 4 hours to get here from Carrington. Scott was having stomach trouble. I discovered this while walking behind him earlier. I stayed in front of him after that. In spite of Scott's auxiliary means of propulsion I am proud to say I was second to the hut. On arrival I found Geoff chipping the frozen snow from the base of the door to get in. A great feeling to be there after all the weather worries. I have to comment that our leader Bernard did not do a single step of snow plugging. When I challenged him on this he mumbled something about a good leader leads from the back!

We had a good meal of standard tramping food except Geoff who fried a steak. He said it was only frying pan size as he had read it was a Mod-Hard trip and was too small to share. After cooking the Hut temperature got up to 7 degrees C!

My biggest fear did not happen! Bernard did not snore!!! In the morning we had good visibility but it was really cold outside. It must be time for Mishap no 3. He was on the top bunk and decided to grip the cross beam and swing out.

He lost some control and his feet hit the pots and pans on the cooking bench sending them flying and making a hell of a noise in the confined hut. In spite of our fears Bernard did keep hold of the beam and the only casualties were the pots.

Heading down the slope directly below the hut was easy with great snow conditions again. Right at the bottom for some reason I looked back up to see Bernard looking really ungraceful! He was face down arms splayed out (one holding his axe) sliding slowly but out of control down the last few

meters of the slope. I never did find out the distance of this tumble. This is of course no 4!

Just minutes later no 5 occurred. Bernard was just stepping down a low bank to cross a tiny stream. You guessed it he fell headfirst (on this occasion taking his legs with him) down the 1m to the edge of the stream. By this time we were getting accustomed to seeing him in embarrassing positions but we laughed all the same. The walk out from here was uneventful and a bit of a drag as this one tends to be at the end of the weekend. However Bernard and I got quite a bit behind Geoff and Scott down the Waimak. At approx the anti crow I decided to catch the first 2 who were just in sight far down the valley. To set the record straight I was STRIDING OUT not running. Everybody knows you cannot run down a riverbed with a weekend winter pack on you back. Those who accused me of this are totally mistaken. I did catch them but was a great deal hotter than them just before Klondyke corner. I can also report that "taking a short cut " over the grassy "flats" is a lot slower than staying in the riverbed at the last corner where you can sight Klondyke corner. It is most disconcerting to be close to your prey and even while striding out with enthusiasm across these grassy "flats ".

Trying to get ahead of them, you regain the riverbed only to find them further ahead than when you last saw them!

It was great to have Scott (a prospective member) along for the trip. Geoff upsets me greatly in that he does no training at all and always beats me to the destination at the end of the day. And that leaves Bernard our leader, and what can I say? Should I thank him for the entertainment?

For me it was a wonderful trip with all the variety and companionship you could wish for in a club weekend trip, thanks guys.

Scott Fowler, Geoff Farrant, Mr Tumble man and Scribe Alan Ross.

Postscript, I have done perhaps 40 days tramping with Bernard and never seen him fall over. Do not in any way let the above story put you off going away with this great guy.

CTC Summer School Programme

Challenge yourself without going 1000m straight up; stimulate those brain cells without being asked to name all the peaks visible on a supremely clear day; enjoy yourself without having to clean your boots afterwards - yes, your club is now offering a series of classes to further enhance your tramping experience.

Origami: Add interest to newsletter folding night – learn to turn your newsletter into novel and interesting shapes (including tramping boots and rescue helicopter). One evening session followed by celebratory bonfire.

Crochet and knitting: Following our simple patterns you will be able to knit your own survival blanket, crochet ropes and a climbing harness (in extremely bright but manly colours), and play complex cats cradle games when stuck in a hut. (No liability whatsoever is accepted for the consequences of participants' use of articles created in this class.)

Multiday-tramp cooking. With a range of dehydrated ingredient, learn the delicate skill of providing exactly the same repast night after night but still surprising your companions every time (equipment: one billy per class)

Hut improvement evening: Club experts describe how to add those homely touches that make a hut a special place to be. Includes choice of colour, floral decoration, and the selection of appropriate labour saving devices. To be held at Resene Colorshop, Cashel Street.

Arithmetic for timid trampers: How many kilometres can you tramp on one packet of biscuits? How far is it and how long will it take at an average speed of 3 photographs an hour? What is 10% of the total trampers in the group to the nearest kilo or major limb? How old are you? Get the knack of making up authoritative-sounding spur-of-the-moment answers to these and many other numerical questions.

Equipment issues: Learn how to describe your equipment properly, what salient points to cover, what major aspects to emphasise about each article, and how to include an element of instruction in every comment. One week-long session (half hour break on third day). (Note: this refers to tramping equipment only - all other queries should be referred to Aunty Ice Axe.)

Car Maintenance: How to recondition your car engine, turning it from a lada to BMW, on the side of a gravel road, using only a tent peg, broken gaiter cord and inflammatory language.

MacGyver Tramping (beg): Turn billys into snowshoes, cookers into flamethrowers,

MacGyver Tramping (adv): Create a hang glider from a two people tent and turn a hut into a hovercraft - all this with only a Swiss army knife.

Dress Making: Experiment with mix and match polyprop, fleeces and embarrassing hats. Discover what colours highlight your eyes, sunburn and matagouri scratches.

This session will culminate in a support group for trampers trying to kick the habit of wearing ripped polyprop clothing – you can throw it out. We must support each other through this difficult time.

Creative Writing: Master the balancing act between evocative description and wildly inaccurate exaggeration, surprise even those who were on the same tramp with your trip reports, pen shopping lists to delight the artistic soul . . . (Note: this course is a prerequisite for next term's Poetry in Motion course on tramping gait and posture.)

Photography for Beginners: This is a totally theory based course allowing you to discuss photography equipment and techniques with total confidence without ever having to carry the extra weight of a camera or risking your own exposure. Talk like a pro about shutter speeds, depth of field, f-stops, film types, light sources, exposure, composition... without ever buying a camera.

Dear Aunty Iceaxe

Last winter I went tramping in the hills with the CTC. Unfortunately it started to snow horizontally and I spent three days trapped in a hut with 6 seasoned trampers. Finding conversation topics was quite challenging. I fear they were not interested in my croquet club triumphs or the disaster at the Cashmere ladies mid week badminton tournament. Indeed they appeared to be avoiding me for months afterwards.

What can I do to prevent this? What are suitable conversation topics for such a situation?

Regretful

Dear Regretful

Ask to see their equipment. No one can resist such a request, especially if uttered in

polite, interested tones. Before you know it, the entire group will be engaged in deep conversation comparing size, durability and trips they've used it on. If the conversation starts to lag after 10 hours, casually ask someone to explain the relative merits of one tool compared to another and that will set them off for the second day.

Another tactic is to hold the map upside down, peer at it vaguely and ask for your current location. They will spend hours talking about north, magnetic north, true north, true left, true right, gridlines, altitude and GPS units.

By the time the weather clears you will have learnt who has the best equipment, how to use it, how to navigate, and be on good terms with all.

Aunty Ice Axe

Beginner Trampers' Questions

For those of us who were late starters to the noble and glorious pass time of tramping, there is much to learn from the people who never bothered with booties but from birth went straight to mini tramping boots.

For example, what do you do with used tea bags on an over night trip? Is it acceptable to biff them in the fireplace, chuck them in the bush or must we diligently cart them home?

And what underwear do you wear when preparing for a trip involving bum-deep river crossings? I have already started my research on the former question- so far it's "none", "the usual", "togs with linings" and several for "polartech". In the interest of good research and nothing at all to do with a deeply perverted personality, experienced trampers shall be quizzed on this personal question and shops canvassed for appropriate products. Emails on these topics are invited. All will be revealed in the next issue.

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

by Thursday 18th September 2003

Email: joannaibell@ihug.co.nz

Telephone: 980 3824

Post: 78 Cuffs Rd, Wainoni, Christchurch.

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