



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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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.

Vol. 73 May 2004

No. 11

President	Adrian Busby	383 4046	Club Captain	Honora Renwick	942 8368
Vice President	Rex Vink	352 5327	TripOrganiser(day)	Warwick Dowling	366 2045
Vice President	Nigel Watson	981 7929	(weekend)	Frank King	942 8368
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349 2280	Hut Convener	Andrew Wrapson	381 6003
Treasurer	Kerrie Skinner	03 324 3261	Gear Custodian	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111	New Members	Probably to be decided at the first Committee Meeting	
Social Convener	Alan Ross	384 6425			

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (no experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise 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 \$8 member, \$8 member's partner, \$15 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. Every trip gives an indication of petrol costs per person. Please bring it in cash to help the leader divvy up at the end. 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: The club operates a moderated email list, whose address is members@ctc.org.nz. This list is used to send out the newsletter, occasional tramping related messages and other invites, and from time to time a complete list of the email addresses of CTC members. Messages intended for the list, and requests to join or leave the list should be sent to the above email address. Note that the moderator will check as to the appropriateness of all messages.

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 P.Ashton@ext.canterbury.ac.nz

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

Welcome to **new members** Diane Mellish and Elisabet Maseras.

The **Committee** meets from 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month. The venue changes between committee members' homes. Club members may attend meetings to discuss matters. Contact the Secretary (349 2280 or harlowj@cpit.ac.nz).

AGM Results: On 29 April 2004 the following were appointed to the Committee for 2004/5:

President	Adrian Busby		
Senior Vice President	Rex Vink		
Junior Vice President	Nigel Watson		
Secretary	Jenny Harlow		
Treasurer*	Kerrie Skinner		
Editor	Alastair Brown		
Club Captain	Honora Renwick		
Weekend Trip Organiser	Frank King		
Day Trip Organiser	Warwick Dowling		
Hut Convenor	Andrew Wrapson		
Gear Custodian	Bernard Parawa		
Social Convenor	Alan Ross		
Other committee members	Alice Yung Gareth Rapley	Gareth Gilbert Kaye Serra	Ian Dunn Trevor Scott
Hut Committee	Rex Vink Dave Jenkinson Justin Annan	Dave Watson Don Carnielo John Easton	Ron Keeble
Honorary auditor	Greta Vink		

* The position of Treasurer was not filled during the AGM. Kerrie Skinner subsequently accepted the position.

Advance notice of a forthcoming Special General Meeting

At the AGM on 29 April 2004 the following motion was carried:

“That all decisions of the past committee relating to the Avalanche Peak Challenge be held in abeyance until the Club shall determine its relationship with this event at a Special General Meeting to be held at the social night venue as soon as is practical and no later than Thursday 15 July 2004 and that all those members who have strong views either for or against the committee decision be given a deadline to present written submissions outlining their concerns. These submissions to be made available to all members at least two weeks prior to the proposed Special General Meeting.”

A formal notice of the date, time, location and proposed business of this meeting will be sent to members as soon as possible.

Please note

Members will see from this that the actual date of the Special General Meeting has still to be fixed: those speaking at the AGM in favour of holding this meeting earlier than 15 July 2004 if possible were concerned that the matter be sorted out as soon as is practical, but it was also felt that it was not possible to fix an alternative date immediately.

However, members will see that the motion carried at the AGM includes the provision of written submissions, which will be available to members before the meeting. My understanding of the discussion which took place at the AGM is that this is intended to facilitate the provision of information relevant to the discussion and to make sure that members can come to the meeting as fully informed as possible about the issue and the various points of view (i.e., it is not intended to prevent anyone who wants to from speaking at the Special General Meeting).

Although the date of the Special General Meeting has not yet been set, this newsletter is the only way of making sure that all members know what has been decided to date. I want to make members aware of the aspect of written submissions and to suggest that everyone who wants to make a written submission should aim to have it ready before the deadline for the next (June) newsletter so that they can be distributed with that newsletter if necessary. I also suggest that submissions (marked “Submission”) be sent to The Secretary, P O Box 527, Christchurch 8015 or email to the Secretary at harlowj@cpit.ac.nz

It is also worth mentioning something else that was touched on in the AGM: the business discussed at a Special General Meeting is limited to that stated in the requisition and notice of such a meeting (the requisition sets out the resolutions to be discussed at the meeting). The formal requisition has not been finalised but the original AGM motion which has resulted in this Meeting indicates that the business of the Meeting is the Club’s relationship with the Avalanche Peak Challenge. This means (although many people do have strong views about everything that has gone on in the last few months), please remember if you prepare a submission that it should be relevant to the business of the meeting!

Thank you, Jenny Harlow, Secretary

A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB

INSTALMENT 8 – THE 1990s

The Club's 1990 annual report noted that wasps were becoming a problem each summer in beech forest areas. Things have not changed greatly since although it is possible they are not quite so prevalent now.

A major event in 1992 was the purchase of the freehold of the club hut land at Arthur's Pass. Prior to that time most property in the township was on land leased from the then Department of Lands and Survey which had been restructured in 1987.

The new landlord became Landcorp and they invited lessees to purchase their land in 1990. There were protracted negotiations by us and other tenants about a fair price and we eventually bought the land for \$12,000. At the end of this decade, we decided to replace the hut's rustic toilets with a new megaloo. The writer opposed this at the time on the grounds that if members were pampered at the Pass they would be less fit to meet the rigours of real back country ablutions.

The other big 1992 event was our 60th anniversary celebrations in October. This was a dinner and social at the Mt Pleasant community hall followed by a picnic at Living Springs next day. A good time was had by all except the lad who fell off the Crater Rim Walkway and broke his wrist.

It became apparent in the early 1990s that DOC was not adequately funded and the direct effect on mountain recreation was a run down in the overall quality of track and hut maintenance. Hut fees were raised and clubs began occasional work parties particularly on re-cutting tracks.

Search and Rescue became a significant club activity during this decade. The CTC had been involved in searches for much of its existence but these had tended to be ad hoc and fairly shambolic in that a dozen or more people were called out at short notice to look for misplaced trampers. In the 1990s the Police moved towards using well trained teams which were called out fairly frequently. CTC ran one of the best of these teams for several years but they are called out less often now because the Police rely more on their own personnel.

The club's social life continued unabated with outbreaks of fancy dressing and cross dressing. The latter should not be taken as a major change in members' sexual orientation. There are some club photos from the 1940s and 1950s where the same perverse behaviour is apparent. Needless to say we still went tramping when we had sufficient energy to spare from the above pastimes.

This is the end of my narrative. It is too early to comment on the present decade. This history has been episodic and idiosyncratic by definition. My apologies if I failed to mention you or your most memorable tramp.

David Henson

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 6 May	Club Night
Newsletter folding night plus a review of what happened at the AGM. Also verbal trip reports from the previous two weekends.	
Weekend 8 and 9 May	Leader: tba
Arthurs Pass Base Camp: Spend a weekend at the club hut and tramp some of the great day trips around the area	Grade: All Map: K33 Approx: \$40 List closes: 29 April
Sunday 9 May	Leader: Bev Clark 326 6544
Sumner to Godley Head: Over the hill to the east (or south) of Sumner and along to Godley Head. There are stunning views here and plenty of options for round trips. A really easy trip.	Grade: Easy Map: N36 Approx: \$4 List closes: 6 May
Sunday 9 May	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
Godley Peak: Rakaia area just south of Double Hill. Access to Double Hill station via 40km of rough unsealed road. On the way to the commanding summit (2087m) visit Mother Millers Spring perched high up on the mountain. Fine views of braided rivers and lakes.	Grade: ModHard Map: K35 Approx: \$30 List closes: 6 May
Thursday May 13	Club Night
Outdoor First Aid Night! We have Pat McIntosh who is a G.P. with a great deal of outdoor first aid experience as well as mountain rescue involvement. This will be an interactive and practical session, so be sure you come along this night and learn!	
Saturday 15 May	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 6003
Mt Richardson, Blowhard, Bypass: Canterbury foothills. A popular easy trip done here at Moderate pace. From the Glentui picnic area carpark (380m), move up through good forest to tussock & peak at 1047m. Follow the ridge along Blowhard track & turn right into Bypass track back to carpark.	Grade: Easy/Mod Map: L34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 13 May
Weekend 15 and 16 May	Leader: John Henson 3423311
Doubtful/ Doubtless/ Nina: A excellent Lewis Pass trip between 2 attractive valleys (the Doubtful and the Nina) viva an easy saddle (Devilskin saddle). This trip has good tracks and 3 huts.	Grade: Mod Map: M31/M32 Approx: \$35.00 List closes: 6 May
Sunday 16 May	Leader: Ivor Lewis 347 8372
Lagoon Saddle Hut: Arthurs Pass/Bealey area. Club classic. Park cars at end of Cora Lynn Road. Walk on up past Bealey Hut through bush, pine forest, then open tussock. Views! Lagoon Saddle is reached after a steady climb and a 570m height gain. Track high point 1240m.	Grade: Easy Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 13 May
Thursday May 20th	Club Night
Our own Sue Napier is taking us to Africa, beginning at Zanzibar then going south to Zimbabwe with lots of places in between.	

Saturday 22 May	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 354 1488
Mt Gargurus: Rakaia region. A pleasant, not-too-steep hill just to the northeast of Lake Coleridge. Good views of the Wilberforce, Mt Ida, Rakaia Spurs, Lake Coleridge. A 1000m height gain to reach the 1655m summit.	Grade: Mod Map: K34 Approx: \$25 List closes: 20 May
Weekend 22 and 23 May	Leader: Bernard Parawa
Mount Haast/ Mt Puttick: This trip is in the Southern Victoria Ranges. The trip starts at Rahu saddle before climbing Mt Haast and traveling along the ridge to a high camp. Options are to explore Mt Puttick AND Mt Kemp before exiting via the Rahu river on Sunday	Grade: ModHard Map: L31 Approx: \$40.00 List closes: 13 May
Sunday 23 May	Leader: Mike Newlove 355 8360
Og, Gog, Magog: Cass railway station region. The nobs Og (825m), Gog (924m), Magog (930m) are mostly hidden from view from the highway by the hills to the east of Lake Grasmere. This is a good trip with at least 750m of height gain as there are dips between thar nobs!	Grade: Easy/Mod Map: L34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 20 May
Thursday May 20th	Club Night
Newsletter folding night – Don't miss it.	
Saturday 29 May	Leader: Jonathan Davies 322 7540
Kennedys Bush Reserve: Park cars at end of seal on Kennedys Bush Road near Halswell Quarry. Walk up vehicle track to the Sign of the Bell Bird on the Summit Road and on the way enjoy the loop tracks in Kennedys Bush. A variation may be to start in Halswell Quarry.	Grade: Easy Map: M36/M37 Approx: \$3 List closes: 27 May
Weekend 29 and 30 May	Leader: Tim Broad 3658940 or 021645601
Upper Rakaia: An opportunity to explore the upper RAKAIA VALLEY. This is a full on tramping trip but getting to the upper valley by 4 wd. This will allow plenty of time to explore the glaciers and passes at the head of the valley	Grade: ModHard Map: J35/J34 Approx: \$60.00 List closes: 20 May
Sunday 30 May	Leader: Michael Shanahan 339 0435
Mt Harper: Rangitata River region. Mt Harper (1829m) provides a straightforward height gain of 1170m from the cars parked at Lake Roundabout. The interesting loop route takes you in a south-west arc to Balmacaan Saddle and down beside the stream back to the cars.	Grade: Mod Map: J36 Approx: \$30 List closes: 27 May
Monday 7 June	Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045
Stony Bay Peak, Purple Peak Track: Start in Akaroa in the Rue Balguerie. Where the Mt Vernon road forks, walk up the steep gravel road past the farm to the ridge crest. From the saddle, go up to Stony Bay Peak (806m). Superb views of Otanerito Bay and Akaroa Harbour.	Grade: Easy/Mod Map: N36/N37 Approx: \$15 List closes: 4 June

Trip Reports

April 24/25

Hawdon and the Savannah Range (alias Rocky Creek).

Richard and I had signed up for the Hawdon/Savannah tramp with Andrew Turton as our leader. Unfortunately Andrew was struck down with flu and unceremoniously told us if we wanted to go, we were on our own.

Richard was keen to go anywhere and do anything, so long as he could get a credit towards membership. I managed to persuade him that the trip Honora and Frank had done a few weeks earlier to Griffin Creek would be great fun and we should try it as a *moderate* tramp. Ideally we should have left Friday evening, but things didn't work out, so Saturday early was the best we could do.

We drove across Arthurs Pass and down to the Taipo River, crossed the bridge, turned smartly down a track (behind a flimsy Taranaki gate) and parked where the beehives are. A footpath leads down to the riverbank and meanders along through meadows of watercress and gorse bushes for a few hundred metres before ending up on the Taipo River 'beach'. Almost immediately after this a stream comes in true left and a cairn marks the track up the bushy spur to a high terrace. The track along this terrace has been recently 'opened up' and we found it well marked and cut. We arrived at Rocky Creek after an hour and a half's reasonably easy walking.

At Rocky Creek we had been advised that the track *used* to follow the true left bank through the bush, but that slips had made this track tortuous compared with open streambed travel. Taking the hint we dropped into the streambed and enjoyed the change of terrain, progressing quickly about 150 metres up the creek. Once we could see the side-to-side waterfall 20m ahead we started looking true left and soon saw the characteristic plastic ties we had been following for the past hour and a half. The diversion around the waterfall proved straightforward. Then after another 20 or 30 metres of streambed travel, the stream turned to the left up ahead and got a lot rockier. Here we noticed a red permatex nailed to an overhanging branch near where a small stream entered from the true left. Once again we followed the friendly markers for a short diversion to find ourselves again in the streambed. From here to the hut it was standard stream boulder travel made interesting by the varied rock in the stream. There were lots of green pebbles and big areas of black rock with white layers running through it and then other rarer patches of flakey layers of grey rock (schist?). We reached the hut at about 13:00. (3½ hrs from car park)

Rocky Creek hut is a tidy 2-person hut high up on the true right of the riverbed. It is reached by one of 2 tracks: the downstream one is cairned from the river near where a tree has fallen right across the stream and the upstream one (also cairned) is some 200m further up the main creek bed. The downstream track takes some time to reach the hut, with the alternative upstream track appearing to be more direct.

Rocky Creek continues on up towards the 'saddle' over to Griffin Creek. The creek bed gets narrower but difficult sections have short friendly bush diversions cut. Just before the saddle is a sizable slip, which we thought we needed to climb in order to reach the saddle and the 'track' over the other side.

It turns out we were wrong. We spent some time blundering around in the bush above the slip before we decided (as we could see time slipping away) that the comfortable Rocky Creek hut was more inviting, than the potential prospect of a night out in west coast bush...

So we turned back. Later we found out that the track over was only a little way further on from the slip. Ah well ... we will try again another time.

Many thanks to Frank and Honora, for marking and cutting the track and for Frank's excellent route description as far as we went.

Susan Pearson (scribe) and Richard Lobb.

Please post or email articles for the June newsletter to the Editor (Alastair Brown)
by Friday 21 May 2004

Email: <mailto:alastairgbrown@yahoo.com.au>
Post: PO Box 527, Christchurch.

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