



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

PO Box 527, Christchurch, www.ctc.org.nz

We are affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Opinions expressed or events described in this newsletter might not actually represent Club policy – we can't be expected to be giving away our secrets.

Vol. 74

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No. 4

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Vice President	Rex Vink	352 5327	Trip Organiser(day)	Warwick Dowling	366 2045
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Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349 2280	Hut Convener	Andrew Wrapson	381 6003
Treasurer	Kerrie Skinner	324 3261	Gear Custodian	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111	New Members	Alice Yung	382 3988
Social Convener	Alan Ross	384 6425		Nigel Watson	981 7929

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. Please contact the secretary at secretary@ctc.org.nz.

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.

New Members: A big welcome to the following new member – Colleen Scott.

When using the Club Hut, please be careful when changing the taps when arriving and leaving. The consequences of cocking this up (no pun intended) could be severe, so please read the instructions carefully.

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 secretary@ctc.org.nz).

We now have three flash new email addresses: secretary@ctc.org.nz, editor@ctc.org.nz and newmembers@ctc.org.nz. Thanks to Paul Ashton for sorting these out for us.

Classified

Flatmate wanted – Quiet mature person to share 2-bedroomed house in Hornby with one other. Email harlowj@cpit.ac.nz.

External events of interest:

www.mountainz.co.nz: A new website that is a source of news, articles, trip reports, photos and forums. They're also keen to get material on your adventures.

MSC courses: phone 351 0942. Check out the website for local courses on tramping and climbing related topics. Outdoor First Aid - teaches the skills to manage accidents and sudden illness in the outdoors. This is invaluable for the scenarios. Runs Friday evening through Sunday. 29/31 October. \$80.

Arthur's Pass National Park 75th Anniversary

Arthur's Pass National Park is 75 years young, and DOC is organizing a celebratory weekend on 11 – 12 September 2004. There's a bunch of mostly sedentary activities planned, including – a Mainline Steam Train day excursion; various presentations; a dinner; and a dance. For more information see:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/Community/002~Events/Arthurs-Pass-National-Park-75-Anniversary.asp> (or Google™ it if you can't be bothered typing all that.)

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 26 August	Club Night
It's newsletter folding night with plenty of time for social catch up.	
Saturday 28 August	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 6003
Mt Thomas: Mid Canterbury. A track takes you up through bush from the base of Wooded Gully to the open top and Mt Thomas at 1023m. The return has 2 options for closing the loop. Fine views of the bush and the Ashley River. A good trip close to home.	Grade: Easy Map: M34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 26 August
Saturday 28 August	Leader: Paul Ashton 358 5570
Mt Winterslow from Sharplin Falls: Rangitata region. Mt Winterslow at 1700m lies just north of Mt Somers. The usual	Grade: Moderate Map: K36

track is followed to Dukes Knob. Shortly after, you leave the main track and carefully pick up the old track through bush towards Trig U. Ice axe and crampons required for the broad open tops. A loop route is possible, but this trip will probably return the way it came.

Approx: \$20
List closes: 26 August

Thursday 2 September

Club Night

Rex will show videos of Late 1980 until 2003. River crossing weekend at the Hawden corner with hangi. Bits and pieces round that time. The 60th anniversary, with daytrip and work parties at the new hut extension. So if you were around at that time, you can spot yourself on the big screen. I made a point of ~~shooting~~ photographing lots of people.

Saturday 4 September

Leader: Bayne Hunter 389 6028

Rabbit Hill/MacFarlane Stream: Porters Pass area. Bayne knows the way. Park at bottom of Porters Pass, walk up ridge on west side and along to Rabbit Hill at 1198m. Return via MacFarlane Stream. Longish Day. Ice Axe recommended.

Grade: EasyMod
Map: K35
Approx: \$20
List closes: 2 September

Weekend 4 – 5 September

Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 6003

Cass Saddle – Lagoon Saddle: A popular classic tramp in beech forested valleys behind the Craigieburn Range. Each day will be only 5-6 hours walking, with a night in the comfortable Hamilton Hilton. It's still winter conditions so ask Andrew about what gear you'll need.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K34
Approx: \$30
List closes: 26 August

Sunday 5 September

Leader: Steve Bruerton 322 6196

Mt Oxford Traverse: Coopers Creek carpark via track to summit (1364m) then along poled tops to the west. Track drops back into forest and heads towards View Hill carpark. Either do car shuffle or continue on loop track back to start. This is a local classic. Highly recommended. Ice axe required.

Grade: Moderate
Map: L34
Approx: \$10
List closes: 2 September

Thursday 9 September

Club Night

3 Cold Nights: We have Nick and Craig along tonight to tell us what's its like to be stuck in the snow for 3 nights with only day packs AND live to tell the tale. Just this winter they were stuck on the side of Phipps (in the Temple Basin area). Nick and Craig will tell us what they did right to survive the 3 nights. I am sure we can all learn something from this session. Do you carry enough gear to be safe? After tonight you will have a better idea. A night not to be missed!

Saturday 11 September

Leader: Gareth Rapley 027 231 8560

The Rakaia Spurs: Lake Coleridge area. The high loop route following the high ridges offers spectacular views of the Wilberforce and Avoca River valleys. Watch out for avalanche dangers if traversing the upper basins. Avoid descending the basin south of point 1832 – you will get bluffed out. Ice axe and crampons required. Great trip.

Grade: ModHard
Map: K34
Approx: \$25
List closes: 9 September

Weekend 11 – 12 September

Leader: Frank King 942 8368

Snow Caving – snow shelters – snow sports: Temple Basin or Broken River – wherever the snow and weather's best. Spend a night in a comfortable snow cave. Also find out how to build an emergency snow shelter – and get some time on the slopes, if you're inclined.

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

Sunday 12 September	Leader: John Easton 981 9414
Ashley Hill: Eastern Lees valley. There is about 600m of height gain on the loop track. The snow-laden Puketeraki Range will provide rewarding views across the valley. Gaiters and walking or ski pole recommended. Expect lots of snow.	Grade: Easy Map: L34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 9 September
Thursday 16 September	Club Night
Walking the Length of the Pyrenees: We have our own John Henzell to take us on an amazing trip! In the tradition of John's Sea to summit trips, but this one is a sea to summit..... to sea. This time with the entire approx 650km length of the Pyrenees (which forms border between France and Spain) between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. WOW!!	
Long Weekend 17 – 20 September	Leader: Trevor Scott 356 1154
St James Walkway: The days are getting longer but the mountains are still wearing their winter finery. You deserve a break. Take a couple of days off to walk the St James with the mountains above looking their best. Warm huts.	Grade: Moderate Map: M31 M32 Approx: \$40 List closes: 9 September
Saturday 18 September (spend Friday night at club hut)	Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914
Mt Te Kinga: SE Corner of Lake Moana/Brunner on West Coast. There is a new track from the lake starting at Ivy Bay at 120m. Climb up through bush to burst out on to the open tops. Enjoy the grand view from Mt Te Kinga (1204m). Ice axe and crampons required. Depart Christchurch on Friday night.	Grade: ModHard Map: K32 Approx: \$45+hut List closes: 16 September
Weekend 18 – 19 September	Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111
Barker Hut – Mt Murchison: All the usual snowy toys, ice axe, crampons, harness, rope, snow stakes. We'll leave Christchurch very early Saturday Morning (6am), and get to Barker hut that night. Sunday we'll knock it off, and blat back to Klondike corner. Awesome views, wonderful sense of achievement.	Grade: Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$40 List closes: 9 September
Weekend 18 – 19 September	Leader: Frank King 942 8368
Salmon Creek: Go beyond Black Hill Hut; down into the pretty bush filled Salmon Creek. Honora and I adopted it in the winter of 2000, spending numerous weekends cutting the track from ridge-top to valley floor. I'm planning on walking a loop.	Grade: Moderate Map: L34 Approx: \$20 List closes: Tuesday 14 September
Sunday 19 September	Leader: Adrian Sullivan 331 7188
Little Mt Peel Loop: South-west Canterbury Plains. Ascend the steep Deer Track to bush edge. Continue along the summit ridge to the cosy shelter at Little Mt Peel (1311m). Descend via the unmarked route along the South Ridge back to the cars at Blandwood. 950m of height gain. Expect lots of snow. Gaiters and ski pole recommended.	Grade: EasyMod Map: J37 Approx: \$25 List closes: 16 September
Thursday 23 September	Club Night
Macpac Gear Night: Jo and Jenni from Macpac will talk about Macpac's exciting new range of sleeping bags and summer clothing. There are 18 new sleeping bags that are causing a stir on the world market. This will be a sneak preview of the sleeping bags because they are not released into the NZ market until October.	
Saturday 25 September	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 381 6003
Mt Alford: Half way between Mt Hutt & Mt Somers. Mt Alford	Grade: Easy

(1171m) hasn't been done by the club for a while. There's a hill to climb, via a 4WD road that goes almost to the top, and some hidden forest too. Expect snow. Gaiters and ski pole recommended. Up to 670m of height gain, depending on where the cars are parked.

Map: K36
 Approx: \$20
 List closes: 23 September

Weekend 25 – 26 September

Leader: Philip Tree 349 3670

Hanmer Base Camp: Get two walks for the price of one, plus hot pools and a sociable evening. There are Easy and Moderate options for each day. Accommodation is being arranged, but be in quick for a bed.

Grade: Easy+
 Moderate
 Map: N32
 Approx: \$40
 List closes: 16 September

Weekend 25 – 26 September Leaders: Frank (bureaucracy) & Honora (mountain) 942 8368

Mt Rolleston: It's not the highest or hardest, but Rolle is the brightest diamond in Arthurs Pass National Park. And it shines even better in winter conditions. Get a good night at the club hut, spend the whole day enjoying the climb, relax after at the Chalet, and wind down with an easier scheme on Sunday.

Grade: Hard
 Map: K33
 Approx: \$40
 List closes: 16 September

Sunday 26 September

Leader: Tim Broad 365 8940

Mts Hamilton & Wall via Camp Saddle: Craigeburn Range. Club classic loop. Beautiful track up through forest towards Camp Saddle. Lots of snow. Will need ice-axe and crampons as icy surfaces may have formed on some slopes. Mt Hamilton at 1922m is your high point and will attract about 860m of height gain. Awesome day.

Grade: Moderate
 Map: K34
 Approx: \$25
 List closes: 23 September

Thursday 30 September

Club Night

Newsletter folding night: Honora will host a session to examine how trampers can make their trip successful and enjoyable. She will also be keen to hear your suggestions also.

Saturday 2 October (Long day - 7am start)

Leader: Scott Fowler 349 6232

Chest Peak via Mt Storm: Western Lees Valley. Chest Peak (1936m) is the high point of the Puketeraki Range. Once up on Mt Storm, the way is all on open ridges with expansive views. Much distance to travel over lots of snow. Fast pace. Book now for the Lees Valley trip of the year. Of course, ice-axe and crampons required.

Grade: ModHard
 Map: L34
 Approx: \$15
 List closes: 30 September

Weekend 2 – 3 October

Leader: Frank King 942 8368

Chest Peak: The overnight version doesn't need the fast pace of the day-trippers. We'll leave town on Saturday and camp high on the range, in the last sheltering beech, at the old caravan. On Sunday a short climb will see us breast the summit of the Puketeraki Range for the gob-smacking views inland. We'll have time to enjoy them.

Grade: Moderate
 Map: L34
 Approx: \$25
 List closes: Tuesday
 28 September

Weekend 2 – 3 October

Leader: Keith Johnson

Lyell Walkway – Buller Gorge: The walkway starts from the Buller Gorge highway, at the historic gold mining town of Lyell. It winds through forested hills littered with historic relics and artefacts such as a stamper battery and diversion tunnel.

Grade: Easy
 Map: L29
 Approx: \$40
 List closes: 23 September

Sunday 3 October

Leader: Sandi Keenan 337 3263

Rakaia Gorge Walkway: Starts at the stunning bridges over the

Grade: Easy

chasm formed by the mighty Rakaia. There is so much of interest in this easy, and nearly flat, 3 to 4 hour return walk. If you have never done it before, then it is a must do. An amazing trip with so many different and surprising features, eg some volcanic rocks and soils.

Map: K35
Approx: \$15
List closes: 30 September

Saturday 9 October

Leader: Gareth Gilbert 354 1488

Flagpole: Malvern Hills/Selwyn River area. A short and beautiful walk - perhaps 3 hours return. The views just get better and better as you ascend the track on the easy ridge to Flagpole (896m). For the fit, there is an option of a loop back to the cars via a steep descent to the paddocks. Expect snow. In addition to the usual required full water-proof storm gear, bring gaiters, water-proof boots, and walking pole/ice axe. Oh yes, & lots of warm clothing.

Grade: Easy
Map: L35
Approx: \$15
List closes: 7 October

Weekend 9 – 10 October

Leader: Tim Broad 365 8940

Lake Daniels: An easy track to a good hut at this attractive bush fringed lake, near Maruia Springs.

Grade: Easy
Map: M31 L31
Approx: \$35
List closes: 30 September

Weekend 9 – 10 October

Leader: Dayle Drummond 339 8287

Mt Speight: One of the gnarly 'must do' peaks of the upper Waimakariri. Nuff said.

Grade: Hard
Map: K33 K34
Approx: \$35
List closes: 30 September

Sunday 10 October

Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155

Sudden Valley/Discovery Stream: south-east APNP. This trip was originally scheduled for June 20 this year, but was postponed due to bad weather. Now is your chance to savour the delights of this wild, varied, and beautiful area. Expect to get wet feet crossing the Sudden Valley Stream during the gorge. You may want to take spare boots and/or spare socks and plastic bags. Ice axe and crampons required.

Grade: ModHard
Map: K33
Approx: \$25
List closes: 7 October

Weekend 16 – 17 October

Leader: Frank King (for planning) 942 8368

Ball Pass: Walk up the Ball Ridge opposite the dazzling Caroline Face of Mt Cook/Aoraki, and camp in snow. Ice axe and crampons, and the skills to use them needed.

Grade: Hard
Map: H36
Approx: \$50
List closes: 7 October

Trip Reports

6 & 7 March 2004 Moderate Hard.

Lake Mavis

Enthusiasm amongst the group was high, and the weather was finally looking good after several depressing weekends.

We started the tramp by wading across the Bealey and I could hear the physio's words "Keep the strapping dry" ringing in my ears. I had sprained my ankle a few days ago and was wondering just how far I would be able to go on this tramp.

River travel proceeded at a fair pace and after climbing up to Dudley Knob, the hares called a scroggin stop to allow the tortoises to catch up. The well-defined track then carries on mainly through bush to Mingha Biv where lunch was had about 12:30 in the sunshine. Someone commented that although the track is straightforward, it is still sobering to think about the level of concentration required to run this route in the Coast to Coast, particularly this year with the extra handicap of icy rain.

The track to Goat Pass continues in more open country, passing the pretty Kennedy Falls before climbing gently. About 500m before the pass itself, the party regrouped and then set off up the ridge to Lake Mavis. Gordon was waiting for us at a prominent rock on the lower part of the ridge. He had come up to Goat Pass hut the day before.

We all worked our way up to the lake over easy but steep terrain. It was pleasant to arrive mid afternoon and have time to pitch camp and enjoy the location. Some hardy trampers actually braved the lake (total immersion) to freshen up.

The sunshine fought with layers of mist to control our environment, giving the photographers amongst us, plenty of scope for arty shots. Further round the lake another group had camped and clearly had their sights set on climbing Mt Oates. We were quite content to watch their exertions from our comfy camp.

7:30am Sunday saw us departing for the grunt across the scree slopes to the 'obvious notch' in the western ridge of Mt Oates. This took about an hour and brought us to the 'adventurous' part of our tramp. No one had been here before and the route was of the 'follow your nose' variety. Most of us were content to let Andrew take responsibility for route decisions, made often by scuttling off ahead and scouting out what was and was not possible. He seemed to be thoroughly enjoying this. From the 'notch' we dropped down about 150 metres to a point where we could see a reasonably clear sidle across the scree below point 2054. After about 500m of sidling, Andrew made the safest judgement call that we needed to climb up to the ridge again. He could see some tricky looking rocky ribs that we needed to cross if we were to maintain our contour. Later we observed that these would not have been a problem and that gaining the ridge at that point had been unnecessary. It was easy to be wise in hindsight though, and everyone was happy with Andrew's decision at the time. From the ridge we dropped down again and sidled around point 1859m to a saddle where some of the party crossed onto the Edwards side of the ridge, wandering on down gradually easier slopes to a rest point on the tussocky-topped ridge at about the 1600m contour. Others kept to the ridge coming down a rocky 'staircase' at much the same place for a well-earned scroggin stop.

Now, the 'hard work' was done we could relax and we strolled along the tops enjoying the stunning views in stunning weather. The tarns on Williams saddle were our lunch stop and some of the men lolled around bare-chested to get the maximum effect from the sunshine.

The trip so far had delivered, routine river travel, lovely lakeside loitering, dramatic rocky scree sidling, tame tussocky tops, and now, we were to be granted as a final treat: beech bush-bashing.

We set off down to the bushline and skirted it for a while before taking the plunge. There seem to be various opinions about the best way to do this, but there seems to be a consensus amongst everyone that it is essential not to drop too much height too soon, due to some nasty bluffs hiding in the trees. Those in front seemed to know what they were about and I had to struggle just to keep up with the flashes of colour in the greenery ahead of, or should I say below, me. This penultimate stage of our day took about an hour and a half with us popping out exactly where we expected. Well done whoever was at the front!

Effectively the tramp was over - the last hour being routine river travel back to the cars. My physio would have been horrified at what I had subjected her strapping tape to - but I was enormously grateful for her skills which had enabled me to enjoy one of the best club tramps (that I have been on) this year.

Participants: Andrew Turton, Sarah Hardie, Ruth Tramschek, Peter Eman, Richard Pickering, Susan Pearson (scribe), Gordon Spite, Heather, Sue, Jeff.

Saturday 30 July 2004.

Mt Oakden

Mt Oakden lies in between the top end of Lake Coleridge and the Wilberforce River. In fine visibility there are spectacular views in all directions. Gareth's group of trampers had high hopes for such views since the forecast for the South Island as reported on the early morning National Radio was "Glorious everywhere".

After some initial confusion about which route we were taking (Sven's or Pat's), we set off across the plains. We picked up Trevor and Steve en route and arrived at the small campsite near the Lake Coleridge intake at around 10:15.

We checked out the hillside for the best 'matagouri free' access and set off through someone's back yard and up a grassy slope to the 'hill'. We were starting out at 500m and had to get to 1633m. The bottom part of the hill seeming the steepest, so we were happy to find that we had managed 400m by the time we stopped for our first view point. Below us we could clearly see how Wilberforce river water was channeled across the gravel of the Harper river mouth and into the top end of the Lake. An elegant way of keeping the lake topped up for the power station at the other end. Structures clearly constructed to assist with overflow and rivers in flood also obvious from our bird's eye vantage point.

We resumed climbing with Trevor at the front and Gareth carefully mustering the strays at the back. Soon Trevor was rewarded with the important job of plugging steps through the soft snow and we all kept our heads down, ice axe to the ready as we worked our way up onto the smaller of the two peaks and lunchtime.

Not a breath of wind, fantastic snow, bright sunshine, no clouds in the sky and views up the Wilberforce to Browning Pass and views out along Lake Coleridge over the plains to the sea (well perhaps I was imagining the sea!). What a priceless place to have lunch!

After lunch we walked across to the main peak. On the way I saw with new eyes the wind sculpted snow surface and incredible rime frost on the boulders. Recently I had attended Pete Ozich's Avalanche lecture and as a result I was able to deduce which way the wind had come from, when the rime ice was formed. It seems so counter intuitive that it should be the windward side. I remember thinking with pleasure "I actually learned something at that lecture".

From the top of Oakden we could now see more spectacular views up the Rakaia and the Mathias valleys, and over to Mt Taylor which Trevor and Steve had toiled up the last weekend. No one wanted to leave this magical spot, but eventually Gareth could hold his anticipatory excitement no longer, for the scree run ahead and we farewelled the peak.

1000m of good small slidey scree was the perfect way to end this perfect tramp. We all enjoyed it but nothing compared to Gareth's giggling glee. I have a photo to prove it! We sidled out at the bottom to avoid the matagouri and picked up our previous track onto the hillside and round to the cars.

We stopped at Terrace Downs to drop off Trevor and Steve and sampled the coffee, beer and soft caramel slice. All were pronounced delicious and reasonably priced - worth remembering for other tramps in this area. Thanks Gareth for a perfect tramp on a perfect day.

Participants: Gareth Rapley (leader), Trevor Scott, Stephen Heald, Nigel, Nick, Susan Pearson (scribe), Adrian Busby, Tim Broad.

Mt Taylor (2333m)

This must have been one of the best day trips of the year - for me anyway (probably relief at finishing it alive after setting out in such daunting company). We also had a beautiful day - no wind and bright sunshine the whole time. It is a long trip but the group kept moving and we were also able to use 4WDs, thanks to Steve, Trevor and especially the intrepid Flo in her Subaru, to drive a long way in (children - check on access before you try this at home). In fact this also provided a cunning way to slow Ian, Flo, Stu and Ron down to the pace of mere mortals: the Subaru decided on a tactical halt a couple of kilometers before the other vehicles stopped, and so its passengers had a bit more of a walk in. When the group had reformed we started up Swin River (South Branch) - more of a stream really, but made more interesting by the thick ice covering rocks and growing in from the edges. I could only admire the way that those in plastics coped with crossing it multiple times. Ron and Todd were setting a good pace but waited for the group to meet up again before we struck up the west ridge of Mt Taylor, aiming for point 1266 and continuing up the ridge from there. There were some sections of rock scrambling, a bit of frozen scree, and some deeper snow if you got diverted off the main ridge, but some sections were also still without snow altogether. A number of different techniques were demonstrated, from all-terrain crampons (Frank) to agile rock hopping (Ian) to my own idiosyncratic stumble, slide, and hope for the best method of progress. People settled down into their own pace quite happily, but there always seemed to be someone there if I needed a hand (thanks folks).

We had lunch on the top with stunning views of pretty well everything you could mention, except possibly Snowdon and North Wales, while hundreds of photographs were taken of everything and everyone (and if people consider the back of the head to be their most photogenic angle, I reckon that should be respected). By then it was about 3pm and time to be leaving. The descent was pretty rapid - although some of the rapidity was less than intentional. We were back at the hut just as the light started to fade and then set out to make sure the Subaru could get out. But those who thought the fun was over by then were wrong! In the dark it became much harder to find our way out and we spent an exciting time trying to find wheel tracks and the right fencelines. It was actually very beautiful with the hard permafrost glinting and twinkling in the headlights.

Many thanks to Bernard for a great trip.

Participants: Uncle Bernard (leader), Ron, Frank, Honora, Stu, Flo, Ian, Steve, Trevor, Todd, Jenny (scribbler)

Craigieburn range

Once upon a time, quite a while ago now, Scott Fowler took a merry band of keen, happy trampers to the Craigieburn range for a day walk up to Mt Olympus and beyond...all were blissfully unaware of exactly what was in front of them. We started from the Olympus Ski road, with Doug leading the way up to the ski huts for a scoggin stop. He then led the way up an icy rocky route to the ridge and on up to the top. A perfect day for waiting on the tops for others...no wind and great views. Our next challenge was Mt Cheeseman, we followed Doug down to the saddle. It was here Rodney climbed the pole; yes the pole, just there in the middle of nowhere. Rodney saw his chance to be first to the top of something so up he went, then we all went up to Cheeseman to catch Doug and eat our lunch. With all afternoon in front of us, Mt IZARD was looking pretty good. The first mutterings about "Maybe we'll get to Enys, I've always wanted to do Enys" began to quietly circulate here, and some said it was rumoured that Alan Ross had said "You'll never get all the way to Enys and down to the cars before dark at this time of year!" Doug led the way (again) as we set off down, down, down then up, up, up to Mt IZARD, which was where I found the teaspoon. Others were very envious but it was definitely the only piece of treasure there. Down from here, then up again to Mt Cloudsley, Doug was there first (yawn!) and it was here Jenny found Alice the Womble's long lost earring. It's just amazing where Alice has been and if she could do it then so could we! Mt Enys here we come! (To this day I wonder if everyone's enthusiasm was entirely genuine). NEVER THE LESS... off we went with Doug leading the way, but wait...theres more...It's Trevor overtaking Doug. Determined as he marched up the ridge not to look back, to press on towards his goal, to beat Doug to the top! And that he did, by a hair! Everyone eventually made it up Mt Enys, even Rodney! On the way down as Scott turned to gaze back to where we'd been he was lucky enough to see a broken spectre in the mist, a few of us who lingered at the back were glad we did as it was a lovely sight to see. And so it was a weary band of tired happy trampers that descended the scree slope back to the road, a very satisfied band, triumphant band in fact that walked back to the cars as the sun began to set.

Participants: Scott our real Leader, Doug who led nearly to the end, Trevor who led at the end and the followers, Kerrie, Cyril, Eli, Jenny and last (quite alot of the way) but not least Rodney!

Mt Olympus 2094m, Mt Cheeseman 2031m, Mt IZARD 2091m, Mt Cloudsley 2107m, Mt Enys 2194m

Please post or email articles for the October newsletter to the Editor (Alastair Brown)
by Friday 20 September 2004

Email: editor@ctc.org.nz
Post: PO Box 527, Christchurch.

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