



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. 75

July 2005

No. 3

President	Adrian Busby	383 4046	Club Captain	Honora Renwick	942 8368
Vice President	Alan Ross	384 6425	TripOrganiser(day)	Alastair Brown	343 5111
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349 2280	(weekend)	Alan Ross	384 6425
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	332 2581	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981 7929
Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111	Gear Custodian	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
Social Convener	Sue Napier	338 8926	New Members	Craig Beere	374 2392
				Kerrie Skinner	349 2280

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. Contact the 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 Dave Watson 981 7929; or if he's away, Rex Vink 352 5327; or if they're both away, Andrew Wrapson 980 6006. 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 Dave.

Rates:	Tent	\$3/person/night
	Ice axes, crampons	\$4/weekend
	harnesses, snow shovel	\$2/weekend
	Large/small weekend packs	\$25/weekend
	Mountain radio	

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 Sue Napier 338 8926 or email social@ctc.org.nz.

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 paul@tourplan.com .

Membership Database: If you know of any updates, errors or omissions, email Susan Pearson susan@toniq.co.nz or phone 337 4914.

Access Database: If you know of any new information that concerns obtaining access to the properties we tramp on (e.g. change of owner or phone number), please call Ian Dunn 343 2155 or email ian.dunn@paradise.net.nz .

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 (secretary@ctc.org.nz or 349 2280).

Membership cards and FMC cards: Most of you should find your FMC card enclosed with this newsletter. If you don't need it, feel free to return it to one of the Committee members. For most people the most important thing about the FMC card is the Annual Hut Pass discount. Also remember that most local tramping shops will usually give you a discount (on non-sale or non-special offer items anyway) if you show them your CTC membership card (the green one) when you make your purchase. The Treasurer is doing the CTC membership cards when he gets subscription payments and cards are either handed over in person or posted with the next newsletter: if you have paid but not yet got your card then it should be with you shortly; if you have not paid yet then get out the cheque book and start scribbling.

Classified ads

Classified ads are available at *no charge* to CTC members.

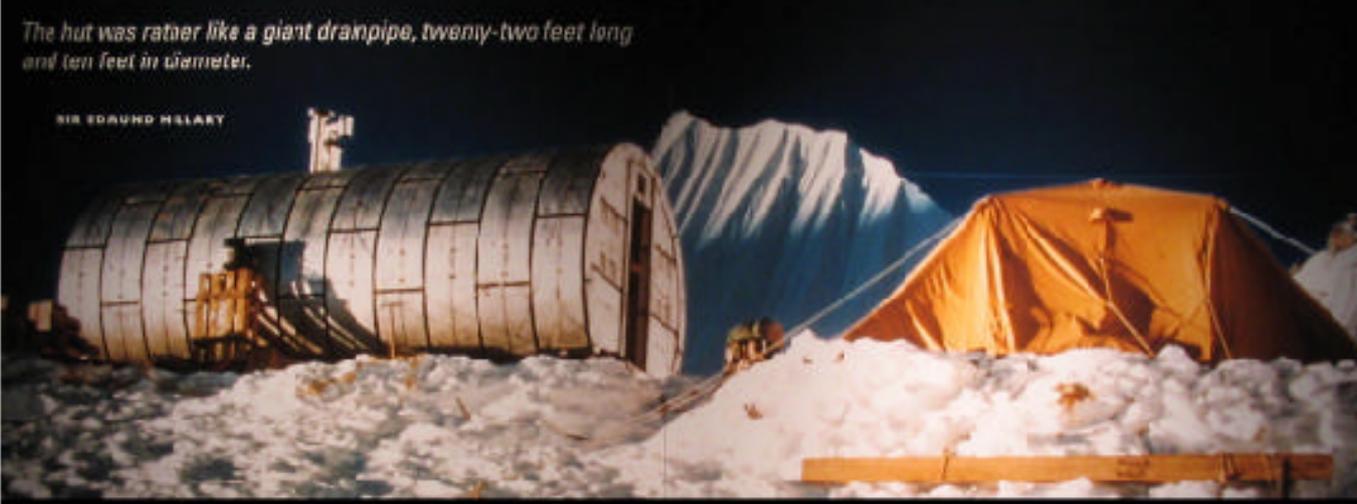
External events of interest:

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

Barn dance: The PTC is holding their annual barn dance on Saturday 16 July at South Brighton hall, 8pm. The cost is \$20 and this includes dancing, drinks, supper and spot prizes. Tickets are available from Sue Napier, either at club or phone 338 8926.



Norman Hardie will be doing a talk “**From Kangchenjunga to Ama Dablam**” at Christchurch Girls High School on the 21st July at 7.30pm.



The hut was rather like a giant drainpipe, twenty-two feet long and ten feet in diameter.

SIR EDMUND HILAERY

From Kangchenjunga to Ama Dablam

Norman Hardie on the first ascent of Kanchenjunga in 1955 & the Silver Hut Expedition including the first ascent of Ama Dablam, wintering over and the search for the Yeti!

July 2005 Christchurch Girls High School

MSC courses: phone 351 0942. Check out www.mountainsafety.org.nz for local courses on tramping and climbing related topics. 2005 highlights:

Outdoor First Aid - Revalidation Course: 1-Day course for those with a certificate less than 2 years old. Stephen Small 03 313 4490. 17 July 2005. \$40.

Outdoor First Aid - Full Course: Stephen Small 03 313 4490. 15-17 July 2005 or 30 September - 2 October 2005. \$80 + \$20 for manual.

Risk Management: Bert McConnell 03 312 1290. 2-4 September. \$80.

YMCA climbing club: The guys at the YMCA climbing wall are setting up a Thursday night climbing club. You get a 10 entry card for \$70 to be used on club nights, which also entitles you to entry to the wall at other times at student prices and a 10% discount on climbing courses at the Y. It is intended for climbers of all levels, from those who have just done the basics and want to practice to the experts - everyone who is interested in a social climbing on Thursdays, discounts, and helping each other to improve. Talk to the YMCA (Jimmy) if you want to find out more.

YHA Arthur's Pass Golden Jubilee: The Arthur's Pass Youth Hostel is celebrating its Golden Jubilee at Labour weekend. If you are of sufficiently appropriate age you may remember that the CTC had some involvement in the Youth Hostel in its earlier years. If you are interested, ask for details of our invitation from the club secretary, or email Margaret Abbot margaret.a@paradise.co.nz or phone 942 4082.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 30 June	Club Night
Newsletter night – come along and exercise those hands, and have a chat.	
Saturday 2 July	Leader: Craig Beere 374 2392
Poulter – Binser Saddle: A Round trip near Mt White in APNP. Walk up to Poulter Hut and return via Binser Saddle 1100m.	Grade: Moderate Map: L34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 30 June
Weekend 2 – 3 July	Leader: Pam Crosswell 338 5511
Boyle River Hut – Libretto Range: Lewis Pass area. Cruise in on the St James Walkway to the Boyle Hut. Optionally, out over the Libretto range tops for the return journey (ice axe required for this option).	Grade: Easy Map: M31 Approx: \$35 List closes: 23 June
Weekend 2 – 3 July	Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671
Mt Barron – Kelly Range: Arthur's Pass / West Coast. Staying at the club hut Fri night. Climb up and over Mt Barron and descend west down to Hunts Hut. Traverse the Kelly Range and descend back to the road on the Carrol Hut track. Ice axe and crampons required.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$35 List closes: 23 June
Sunday 3 July (extended day trip – leaving Saturday)	Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111
Mt Rolleston: The classic climb in Arthur's Pass National Park. The Rome Ridge hasn't been attempted by the club in living memory (i.e. the editor's), so we'll have a go at that. Ice axe, crampons and experience essential.	Grade: Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 30 June
Thursday 7 July	Club Night
New Club Member Darren Osmond will present a slideshow on Bushwalking in Australia , featuring two walks in Tasmania (temperate climate), 2 walks in Central Australia (arid climate) and two walks in Tropical North Queensland. One of these walks also showcases an ultra-lightweight approach to walking.	
Saturday 9 July	Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045
Big Ben From Rakaia: The walk follows the ridge up to Big Ben 1417m in the Benmore Range granting wonderful views along the way. Great views of Lake Coleridge and Rakaia River. A nice day out.	Grade: Moderate Map: K35 Approx: \$20 List closes: 7 July
Weekend 9 – 10 July	Leader: Tracy Heyes 338 3271
Arthur's Pass Base camp: All the comforts of the club hut and options from easy to moderate to hard to all points of the compass.	Grade: All Map: K33 Approx: \$35 List closes: 30 June
Sunday 10 July	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697
Flagpole – Malvern Hills: In the Glentunnel area, this attractive summit (896m) offers not only a superb and extensive view of the Canterbury Plains and mountains but also an interesting round trip along the summit ridge.	Grade: Moderate Map: L35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 7 July

Thursday 14 July	Club Night
<p>This evening we will go exploring the Southern Fiords with Lynette Hartley. In April she and Jeff did a nine-day sea-kayaking trip in Dusky and Doubtful Sounds. Lynette will share the secret of how to stay warm, dry, comfortable and sandfly-free in Fiordland. The group climbed Mt Sparrman, the first peak ever climbed by Europeans in New Zealand. They also kayaked to other historic spots like Richard Henry's house site on Pigeon Island and the site of the first shipwreck in New Zealand.</p>	
Saturday 16 July	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006
<p>Rakaia Gorge Walkway: An easy loop with a number of unique features. The foremost of these is the spectacular clifftop traverse that the track follows for 5km. This major geological and glacial landmark of the eastern South Island provides a stunning landscape through which the walkway meanders.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Map: K35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 14 July</p>
Weekend 16 – 17 July	Leader: Craig Beere 374 2392
<p>Mt Somers Walkway: Canterbury Foothills. Craig will be running an easy trip on the Mt Somers walkway.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Map: K36 Approx: \$25 List closes: 7 July</p>
Weekend 16 – 17 July	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
<p>Mt Guinevere: In Arthur's Pass, on the ridge west of the Crow Hut. Access via Waimakariri and Crow Rivers to the Crow Hut. Climb through (generally) fairly open beech forest to the bushline and sidle to the large tarn. Continue to sidle around easy slopes to a final short scramble to the top. Optional return to AP via Avalanche Peak. Ice axe and crampons required.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 7 July</p>
Sunday 17 July	Leader: Stu Smith 980 7913
<p>Mt Oxford: Up via Coopers Creek and back via a partially tracked route returning via Ryde Falls.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Map: L34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 14 July</p>
Thursday 21 July	Club Night
<p>Free night. This means do come along, the formal part of the evening is as usual, and then have a chat with other members etc, but there is no formal speaker tonight. (If you are keen to hear an awesome talk by Norman Hardie this evening, see earlier in the newsletter).</p>	
Saturday 23 July	Leader: Mike Newlove 355 8360
<p>Hinewai to Beach: This is on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula beyond Akaroa. Walk down Hinewai reserve to Otanerito beach. Plenty of scope for rambling here.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$20 List closes: 21 July</p>
Weekend 23 – 24 July	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697
<p>Cedar Flats – Toaroha River: West Coast. The track to Cedar Flats generally follows the river with one climb up around the Toaroha Canyon. Once at the Cedar Flats Hut follow your nose and you should find the hot springs. If you've a bit more energy, continue on up Yeats spur to Yeats Hut above the bushline.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Map: J33 Approx: \$60 List closes: 14 July</p>

Weekend 23 – 24 July	Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914
Winter Reefton Base Camp: On Saturday we will explore the Murray Goldfields. Old gold miners garb to be worn. We'll stay somewhere warm and cosy in Reefton – probably the old Nurses home \$20 each and plan to eat out at the bistro – they do a classic west coast roast at about \$12.50 which is a stonking good meal. On Sunday we'll do a day trip, maybe Klondyke valley circuit, maybe Mt Haast, maybe Lake stream, maybe just Lake Daniels (I have done none of these). The second day's activity will be dependent on who is on the trip and the weather.	Grade: Moderate Map: L30 Approx: \$60 List closes: 14 July (cost does not include food)
Weekend 23 – 24 July	Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671
Intermediate Snowcraft (Part 1): In-town training weekend to 'learn the ropes' of belaying, glacier travel, crevasse extraction, mountain safety issues and alpine equipment, in preparation for the 'on the snow' training weekend at Arthur's Pass in August. Practice these techniques in comfortable surroundings before heading into the snow. Venue to be announced. Check with Richard for gear required. It is required that participants have experience in the use of Ice Axe and crampons already. (Part 2 is on August 6 – 7)	Grade: EasyMod Map: No Need Approx: \$0 List closes: 14 July
Sunday 24 July	Leader: Richard Lobb 351 2344
Mt Torlesse: Travel to just short of Porters Pass and walk up the Kowhai valley to the hut and then climb to summit via the south ridge. Great views of the Canterbury Plains.	Grade: Moderate Map: L34 L35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 21 July
Thursday 28 July	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: After this a computer and data projector will be available for you to show any digital pictures of tramping trips you wish to show others - nothing formal, but do get involved! (bring a CD with the pictures on it).	
Saturday 30 July	Leader: Bev Clark 326 6544
Bridle Path Crater Rim Walkway Mt Cavendish: A cruisey day on the port hills. With a bit of luck, there'll be great views of Christchurch and Lyttleton Harbour.	Grade: Easy Map: L37 Approx: \$0 List closes: 28 July
Weekend 30 – 31 July	Leader: Gareth Rapley 027 231 8568 (leave a message)
Mueller Hut: Ascend the track to the Sealy Tarns and carry on up scree or snow slopes to the recently replaced Mueller Hut on the Sealy range above the Mt Cook village. Awesome views of Mt Cook and Mt Sefton. Mt Sealy can be accessed from here or scramble up Mt Ollivier (One of Sir Ed's first ascents). Ice axe and crampons required.	Grade: Moderate Map: H36 Approx: \$80 List closes: 21 July (cost includes \$30 for hut)
Sunday 31 July	Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155
Mt Harper - Lake Emma: In the Erewhon region. Walk starts near Lake Camp. The climb to the summit (1829m) provides trampers with a changing perspective of the Rangitata River headwaters. The northern view takes in the Lake Heron Basin and the craggy Arrowsmith Range.	Grade: ModHard Map: J36 Approx: \$20 List closes: 28 July

Weekend 6 – 7 August	Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671
Intermediate Snowcraft (Part 2): Ice Axe, crampons required. 'On the snow' training weekend at Arthur's Pass. Apply the lessons learnt during the in-town training weekend and find out how to use these techniques in real alpine conditions. An action packed weekend full of challenges, learning experiences and fun. Prepare for those adventurous alpine tramping trips you have planned! Staying at the club hut.	Grade: Moderate Map: K33 Approx: \$35 List closes: 16 June
Weekend 6 – 7 August	Leader: Adrian Sullivan 331 7188
Hanmer Base Camp: What better way to spend a winter weekend than walking the hills and forests by day and soaking in the hot pools for the evening. Adrian is checking out some comfy accommodation options - possibly at a backpacker's.	Grade: All Map: N32 Approx: \$35 List closes: 29 July
Weekend 13 – 14 August	Leader: Richard Lobb 351 2344
Sphinx Saddle – Jordan Saddle: Walk in to the Anti Crow Hut on Friday night (about 1½ hrs max). Saturday up the Anti Crow River and over Sphinx Saddle (1549m), then a wee way up the Avoca to Avoca Hut for the night. On Sunday down the Avoca, up to Jordan saddle. Depending on the weather either stay on the tops to enjoy the views and out down Hut Spur, or out via Jordan Stream.	Grade: ModHard Map: K34 Approx: \$45 List closes: 4 August
Saturday 20 August	Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111
The Dome: A club specialty, come and join Freddie on this classic peak in winter conditions.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 K34 Approx: \$25 List closes: 18 August
Sunday 28 August	Leader: John Henzell 328 9596
Mt Manson: About 800m climbing. A good moderate trip in the northern end of the Cragieburn Range. Up Hamilton Peak and along to Mt Manson, at the very end of the range. Travel is along the tops all the way, but if there's sufficient interest there is also the possibility of descending the short gorge of Ribbonwood Stream to Lake Grasmere.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 25 August
Sunday 11 September	Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155
Mt Catherine: A cracker of a peak near Lake Heron. More details in next newsletter.	Grade: Moderate Map: J35 Approx: \$30 List closes: 8 September

Trip Reports

30 April 2005

ECan operation No Green Needles 2005, Corner Creek,

ECan's 'kill a pine, save the environment' working party day, extremely well organised by ECan, Warwick and Lynette. Warwick's appeals for at least 40 members to sign were effective and we all duly met in the carpark of the Yaldhurst Pub to transfer to assorted Four Wheel Drive Club vehicles to take us into Corner Creek. The trampers congregated determinedly on one side of the carpark while the 4 wheel drivers stood their ground on the other: nobody dared enter the no man's land in between. Eventually however the inevitable could be put off no longer and we had to actually make contact and pile into the assortment of vehicles with Very Large Tyres. Surprise, surprise – they were wonderful people. A number of differences in attitude did come out during the day ("I'm not going to chop down a pine tree unless I can drive right up to it") but they were great fun, and did huge amounts of pine destruction (amazing how big a tree one of those winchey things can persuade to come out of the ground). The vehicles were also absolutely necessary for getting right into the site so easily and I was full of admiration for the drivers' skills when crossing the river (although being shown something that looked like a periscope did not fill me with confidence).

At Corner Creek the trampers were divided into groups, kitted out with axes, loppers, saws and other implements of destruction, and sent out on pine-massacre missions to various carefully designated areas of the map. We also had a radio which took some getting used to: most of our day was enlivened by listening to the ECan man's very unsuccessful attempts to get hold of Bernard's party - or even find out roughly where they had got to. We worked out that we were late back when we acknowledged a call for our number and a slightly irate voice came back 'where the hell are you'. At that point that was indeed a Good Question since we seemed to have temporarily mislaid the little map that we had been given. However, long experience of reading between the lines - or the tone of voice - was not wasted: clearly what he really meant was 'why aren't you here'. We decided that what he did not know did not have to worry him and, uttering assurances that we were not far away and heading back at that very moment, scrambled up the steep slope above us with due regard to the number of sharp implements we were in charge of. Arriving at the top - yes - there indeed were all the vehicles about 15 minutes away. We rendezvoused with the others, watched the ECan man drive off hopeful pursuit of the Bernard party, and then moved to one more site to mop up a few more renegade pines.

All in all the day was a great success: not only did the combined trampers/4wd'ers deal with the whole target area but it was a good way to bring the two groups together - as ECan said - "congratulations - no fights, no insults, no sabotage". Many thanks again to Warwick for the organisational blood, sweat and tears. ECan paid the club \$880 for our participation, of which \$330 goes to the 4wd'ers for transport costs, leaving \$550 for the club. It is intended to use this to purchase two locator beacons.

Participants: about 40 assorted (and fully sorted) CTC members plus the wonderful 4wd'ers.

11-12 June 2005

Edwards - Williams Saddle

The newsletter outline included a night's camping on Williams Saddle. A check with the leader was reassuring. No camping. Saturday night would be in the Edwards hut. If others had known, maybe there would have been more takers. As it was, Andrew was still happy to go with just Lisa and me. We left Saturday morning in light drizzle and mist which cleared over Porters Pass.

Weather reports indicated both days should be brighter than Christchurch with Sunday better than Saturday. Just after Greyneys Shelter, Andrew opted to park his vehicle in clear view from the road rather than try to hide it.

Around 10 am we crossed the Bealey then the Mingha Rivers before heading into the Edwards valley having noted the broader Mingha valley we would be coming out of the next day. Walking was easy going. Fresh footprints seemed to run out at the Edwards and Edwards East Branch confluence. We crossed the branch, had a scroggin stop and began the grunty bit up through

trees to avoid the waterfall part of the main Edwards River. The track was well defined and roots provided good footholds. In one place, to assist in getting down a steep rocky bit, a strong chain had replaced the rope that Andrew remembered. It provided some brief excitement.

On up into small patches of snow, we glimpsed the saddle, deciding it would be our lunch spot. Just as well we did not defer lunch any longer. A couple of minutes on the way after eating we saw the Edwards hut. Out of the bush, into tall golden tussocks hiding the muddy track. Light snow surrounded the hut set against its Falling Mountain backdrop.

At 2.45pm we opened the door on an empty but smoke-tainted hut. A not very successful wood gathering exercise followed. Things were pretty wet. Andrew put the axe to good use and made a fire. What a leader! Why is it that 3 people spread themselves all over a large hut? We ate, talked and filled in a DOC survey until about 8.30 pm. Apart from kea cries, there was just the odd creak of the hut's wooden structure. We agreed that it would be quite spooky being here alone.

Tucked up in one of the 2 bunkrooms all sound asleep, we were woken by thudding feet on the verandah. I checked the time-10.45pm. He, she, or it opened the main door, flashed a torch around, thudded out and was heard running away. Then silence. Now completely awake, our imaginations ran wild. We reassured each other that no, we hadn't imagined it. Lisa even said she had heard a pack being put down. We cleared some bench space, clothes line etc, went back to bed and waited- and waited- and waited.

At last people came in. We played possum behind our bunkroom door. After they had quietened down, it took a while for us to get to sleep again. Apparently, it was a young chap who had come ahead then gone back for his father and another older man. Snow had held them coming up over Walker Pass from the Hawdon.

We had not planned an early start on Sunday. Our day was not expected to be long, and Andrew expected it would take a while for the mist to clear from Williams Saddle. Looking up towards the Saddle, he pointed out a large rock part way up. We were to climb up to this, cross to the left below it, then continue up and over to the left to the saddle.

At almost 10 am we left the others who were going out down the Edwards. From the hut, we had a short walk down through tussock and scrub, then water to cross before finding a narrow gut with a stream coming down it. Climbing up the rocky stream was straight forward.- a different story if it had been icy. We saw 2 perfect kiwi footprints in the snow. Later, a hare ran ahead.

Below the big rock we traversed to the left picking up the stream gut again. Next came the trickiest part of the trip involving a steep pull up through snow, scrub and slippery grasses, hard to get good ice-axe holds in. The tops at last. A thin crunchy layer topped deeper snow. There was no wind. We were elated to have such clear views all around. Looking down into the valley below the Edwards hut, we spotted the other trampers heading off. They had been watching us. Beyond the saddle (1327m), was Mt Williams (1718m), looking tempting.

Now down to the saddle with its collection of tarns (yes, camping in summer would be great). Andrew could not resist briefly testing the ice on one of the tarns. It held. We continued traversing south beyond the tarns towards the trees because you can get bluffed if you drop down too soon. We had lunch before plunging into the long bush bash down to the Mingha.

Although this was Andrew's first snow trip over Williams Saddle, his good recollection of previous trips had served us well up to now. There are no tracks, markings, cairns etc of any sort. But from here, he said he would be unsure of how close we would be to where he had gone before. He just hoped he did not meet up with a wasp nest encountered on a previous trip.

The aim was to go diagonally down to the left, finishing on the Mingha-Goat Pass track. The beech trees were thin trunked but dense with mossy rocks underfoot. Low branches kept snagging our packs and ice-axes, annoying but unavoidable. It really was a long way down. At last the Mingha River and across it an orange track marker - civilisation.

A celebration snack then down valley via the Coast-to-Coast route.

Nearly there we saw figures coming out of the Edwards. Arriving at 4pm having taken a little longer than Andrew expected, we found 2 of our hut companions. Their mate arrived some time later.

A fire, hot pie and feline company at Springfield, then home.

Huge thanks to driver and guide Andrew for patience and good humour (not so sure about some of the singing though). Lisa, greatly enjoyed your company.

Trampers: Andrew Wrapson (Leader), Lisa Glading, Helen Harkness (scribe).

11 June 2005

Federated Mountain Clubs AGM (in Christchurch)

Members will be aware that the CTC is affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, the national association of tramping, mountaineering, skiing, and mountain-biking clubs. FMC's objectives are to promote these activities, to promote training and safe use of the backcountry and to promote its preservation and sound management. This year the FMC held its AGM in Christchurch and the club sent two delegates.

Brain Stephenson is the new President, John Wilson having come to the end of his term of office – he is Immediate Past President. Patron is Allan Evans. Secretary is Barbara Marshall. Treasurer is Graeme Lythgoe. The North Island Vice Presidents are Shaun Barnet and Lex Smith; the South Island Vice Presidents are David Barnes and Richard Wesley. Other South Island representatives on the Executive are Rick Barber (Greymouth), Tony Haddon (Nelson), Robin McNeill (Invercargill), Rob Mitchell (Dunedin), David Round (Banks Peninsula). North Island members are Owen Cox, Hannah McGregor, Vivian Milne, Eileen Newsome, John Wheeler.

Four workshops were held during the AGM:

Six pack of parks

FMC and Forest and Bird are promoting the creation of six new high country conservation parks during the next parliamentary term. They are St James, Kaikoura, Ashburton Lakes/Mt Heron/Mt Arrowsmith, Otehahe/Hawkdun Range, Pisa Range and the Remarkables.

Mountaineering

The report from the mountaineering workshop showed that it was mainly concerned with helicopter and plane access to the mountains. One issue was the problem of overflying, including tourist/sightseeing flights in popular areas or the main access valleys. FMC Executive will be following this up. The question of landings on Bevan Col was also raised – many members will be aware that the New Zealand Alpine Club has been discussing this issue. While there was a consensus of concern about the issue at the FMC AGM, the meeting stopped short of the original proposal for the FMC to support a total ban on summer landings and more restrictions on winter landings. However, FMC will be deciding its stance at some point and we would like to be able to make the Executive aware of opinion within the CTC. If you have any comments please speak to Ken Brown, the committee's FMC liaison officer, or post to the Secretary at PO Box 527 or email to secretary@ctc.org.nz.

Mountain Biking

In general there seemed to be a very positive attitude to scope for tramping and mountain biking in the backcountry to be compatible activities (often the same people of course). FMC and the Mountain Bike New Zealand (MTBNZ) agreed an accord last year including formal liaison, and MTBNZ was represented at the AGM (well kitted out in Ground Effect clothing) and talked about the Association's attitude to commercial mountain biking operations (not positive, especially on conservation land) and mountain biking in national parks (seasonal, where appropriate, due consideration to trampers etc).

Clubs

This workshop covered FMC liaison with clubs and the more general issue of the role of clubs in the 21st century.

The CTC has already expressed some concern to the FMC about liaison and the most effective way for FMC to make sure that it is representing the opinions of its member clubs. We took advantage of this workshop to make some suggestions - while making it clear that we appreciate the hard work of the Executive (volunteers who spend huge amounts of their own time on FMC

issues) and the role of the FMC. The workshop resulted in an AGM motion requesting the Executive to consider ways of improving communication with clubs.

The workshop also discussed how relevant clubs are to trampers now, and what clubs experiencing a drop in membership can do to rectify the situation. Since the Te Anau Tramping Club apparently rejuvenated itself by renaming as something like the Te Anau Tramping & Outdoor Recreation Club, we can presumably expect the FMC to rebrand as the Federated Mountain, Valley & Holes Underground Clubs of New Zealand any day now.

Delegates: Ken Brown (whole day), Jenny Harlow (half day)

Mt White (1741m)

Steve Bruerton seemed rather surprised when no less than 18 trampers turned out at 7am for this trip, in the teeth of a dire weather forecast and considerable uncertainty about whether we would be allowed access to Mt White (due to the farmers' access protest weekend). Numbers were swelled by the addition of Honora and Frank, plus Peter and Andrew, who came along in lieu of the postponed snow craft course. In the end we had no access problems at all when we got to the end of the shingle road at Mt White station. Bernard had brought a diversionary tactic anyway - bright red plastic lederhosen style shorts with a reinforced black plastic bum pad. He was reluctant to reveal the full provenance of these glorious additions to the practical trumper's wardrobe, but insisted that they were specifically intended for bum sliding. However, having modeled them for the assembled trampers and farm workers, he did not appear to want to take them on the trip - but braver spirits (Alan Ross - who else?) quickly took up the challenge and packed up the shorts for further experimentation in the snow higher up.

We set off along the 4WD track leading from the farm to the east for a kilometre or so, then struck off through light scrub up a spur - in true CTC fashion at least 2 different lines were being taken with Jeff leading a direct and straight up assault and the rest of us straggling untidily up the side of a gully. We all met up when everyone had gained the crest of the ridge - where most people stopped to add a few extra layers against the cold wind - and carried on up. By common consensus we decided to have lunch out of the wind and in the sun at 1529m - all except Ian who had put on a sprint and was visible on the scree above us. This proved very useful since he and Jeff put a good set of steps in the snow on the final section to the summit - there was not a lot around except in patches and what there was, was very soft.

Great views from the summit, including Lake Letitia beside Mt White station below us, the Esk river, and the Poulter. But here things degenerated sadly as Alan donned the red plastic reinforced lederhosen to applause and ribald comments and tried some experimental bum slides on a safe section of slope. The snow was too soft to allow much speed to be built up but when a good groove had been created the shorts gave a reasonable run, with the added benefit of protection from lurking rocks. Bernard also had to try them out, but other members of the party were strangely reluctant to follow suit. Honora demonstrated snow craft skills to the would-be snow craft course attendees while the rest of us carried on down the ridge towards 1718m. Alan occupied the time waiting for the whole party to regroup by practicing lulu of the year commendation speeches - featuring Steve 'twinkletoes' Bruerton spraypainting his roof (and deck ... and fence ... and driveway ...), and others in various stories including past contributions to international travel safety, and of course semi-submersible parallel parking.

Steve led the group down the spur to the east from 1604m - an easy descent on wet mud and thin scree into very light scrub on the southern side of the spur - to intersect with the 4wd track as it crosses the stream that comes down from Mt White. David and Ian demonstrated an incredible ability to remain upright while descending at speed. At the bottom, Alan took the opportunity to strip down to his underwear while Steve took the opportunity to run off with Alan's clothing ... after a snack stop we set off to walk the 4WD track around White Spur and back to the cars, arriving just as the sun went behind the hills. It was a great trip and well worth doing again - and there is interest in seeing if we can get permission to mountain bike the track as well. Many thanks to Steve for persevering on running the trip, to the assembled company, and of course to the anonymous makers of the 'happy bobs' reinforced bum sliding shorts.

Steve Bruerton (leader), Bernard Parawa, Alan Ross, Clive Marsh, Paul Beaman, Ian Dunn, Joy Bryant, Adrian Sullivan, David Ellison-Smith, Lynette Hartley, Jeff Hall, John Henzell, Todd Ellis, Peter Langlands, Andrew Tromans, Honora Renwick, Frank King, Jenny Harlow (Scribe).

Please post or email articles for the August newsletter to the Editor (Alastair Brown)
by Friday 22 July 2005.

Email: editor@ctc.org.nz

Post: PO Box 527, Christchurch.

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