



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.

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No. 9

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Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111	Gear Custodian	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
Social Convener	Alan Ross	384 6425	New Members	Alice Yung	382 3988
				Dave 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. 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 Andrew Wrapson 980 6006; 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.

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

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, call Rex Vink 352 5327 or email greta-vink@clear.net.nz .

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 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 (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.

Nigel Watson is now working on a hill country sheep station (hence his resignation from the committee) and the club wishes him well in his new career and hope to perhaps tramp across the same land that he has to muster on.

Bequest: As highlighted in previous newsletters, the club has received \$2500 from the Estate of Colin McCallum. If you have any creative ideas on how it should be spent, please get in touch with someone on the committee, so we can spend it in the best possible way. We've had a few good ideas so far, and we'll vote on the best idea at the next AGM.

FMC AGM: The 2005 AGM will take place on Saturday 11 June 2005 in Christchurch. Nominations for the executive and any notices of motions are required to be forwarded to the FMC secretary by 7 April 2005. Please contact Gareth Gilbert on 355 7697 or gareth@hot.co.nz for more information.

FMC Executive: The Club has received a formal letter from FMC re nominations for the Executive. There is one definite vacancy this year since the President John Wilson is standing down at the end of his 3-year term of office and becomes Immediate Past President. FMC's covering memo also notes that "there may be others who wish to retire". There are 3 full Executive meetings a year. The formal letter seeks "people who have an interest in the outdoors, either in supporting back country recreation or in back country issues generally, who are interested in advocating for these issues and who have committee experience". Current South Island Executive Members are Robin McNeill (Invercargill), David Round (Banks Peninsula), Richard Wesley (Christchurch). There are also 2 South Island Vice Presidents: Rick Barber and David Barnes. Nominations are made by the affiliated clubs (with the consent of the nominee!) and nominations must be in by 7 April. This means that the committee will probably have to make a decision at the March Committee meeting (9 March). If you would like to be considered or want to talk to someone about this then please contact the committee (Gareth Gilbert 355 7697 is the FMC Liaison Officer, or any other committee member, or the secretary secretary@ctc.org.nz).

Body O2 voucher for auction: Worth \$299. Some of you will remember we had this company one Thursday night tell us about their system of Simulated Altitude Training. We have gained a voucher for a whole programme. We will auction this off on Thursday March 31. If you cannot be present please bid in writing to Alan Ross on alansuekeganfergus@yahoo.co.uk or by mail. The proceeds will be put to good use for club gear perhaps towards a personal locator beacon or similar. The club wishes to thank Gareth at Body O2 for this voucher. www.bodyo2.com

Classified ads

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

For sale: Salomon X-Hiking boots. Womens size 6 UK, 39 1/3, USA 7.5 and 25 cm. Near new condition (only worn twice). \$100. Phone Jolanda 03 314 9197, or e-mail jolanda.simon@hurunui.govt.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. www.remotehuts.co.nz might also be of interest.

Avalanche Peak Challenge: is on 26 February this year, see the calendar item below for more details.

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

Above the Bushline: Emlyn Wright 384 6226. 16 - 17 April 2005. \$80.

Introduction to Navigation: Night class at Riccaton HS, with MSC instructors. Patrick Campbell 03 312 3522. 10, 17, 24, 31 May 2005 (four evenings) 11-12 June 2005 (weekend trip). \$50 plus weekend costs.

Outdoor First Aid - Revalidation Course: 1-Day course for those with a certificate less than 2 years old. Stephen Small 03 313 4490. 6 March 2005 or 17 July 2005. \$40.

Outdoor First Aid - Full Course: Stephen Small 03 313 4490. 4-6 March 2005 or 29 April - 2 May 2005 or 15-17 July 2005 or 30 September - 2 October 2005. \$80 + \$20 for manual.

Risk Management: Bert McConnell 03 312 1290. 11-13 March 2005 or 17-19 June 2005 or 2-4 September. \$80.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 24 February Club Night

Newsletter Folding Night: the usual fun filled origami night.

Saturday 26 February Leader: Dave Watson 981 7929

Avalanche Peak Challenge: We need about 20 marshals this year, to cover the entire 26km course. We have a number of roles to meet your experience and fitness level. Marshals are required to attend a detailed briefing on the Friday Night prior to the event. If you're interested, Dave would love to hear from you, so give him a buzz.

Grade: Easy/Hard
Map: K33
Approx: \$0
List closes: 17
February

Weekend 26 – 27 February Leader: John Henson 342 3311

Nina-Duchess-Brass Monkey: An interesting variation of some popular trips. John knows the Lewis Pass area very well and those on the trip will benefit from this.

Grade: Moderate
Map: M31
Approx: \$35
List closes: 17
February

Sunday 27 February Leader: Ruha Goodwill 981 2256

Gore Bay to Port Robinson return: Cheviot coast. This is the perfect trip and day to enjoy with your family. The tides are just right as you walk along sandy beaches, passed headlands, and under cliffs. Rock pools and eroded beach platforms entice you on the way to Hurunui River mouth. Bring your togs for a swim. Hot weather guaranteed!

Grade: Family/Easy
Map: O33
Approx: \$25
List closes: 24 Feb

Thursday 3 March Club Night

Brain Mee will take us to Istanbul then on to Athens (mainly the Acropolis) which wasn't finished when he was there. After that we head to Meteora (Greece) which has monasteries perched on huge rocks. Lastly we go to the Island of Santorini then Crete and finally to Rhodes. Wow!

Saturday 5 March (Early start - phone leader) Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697

Mt Misery: Is the north-east toe of the Black Range near Cass railway station. It's name is a misnomer. At 1765m, and a mere 1250m height gain, it affords a great climb above and views over the Waimakiriri River and Lake Grasmere. This trip will probably take in Mt Horrible too.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K34
Approx: \$25
List closes: 3 March

Saturday 5 March (Early Start - phone leader) Leader: TBA

Broad Stream Mt Misery Traverse: Long day, big effort, huge rewards. Lots of height gain and loss. Varied topography. Mt Bruce could be reached from the road by the standard Lagoon Saddle track or by the alternative Broad Stream track and route. A trip not often done so catch it while you can. Perhaps carpool with the above Mt Misery trip.

Grade: Hard
Map: K34
Approx: \$25
List closes: 3 March

Weekend 5 – 6 March Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

Mount Bovis – Paparoas: Tramp to the 1252m summit of Mt Bovis. From here there are spectacular views of the Paparoas.

Grade: ModHard
Map: K30
Approx: \$40
List closes: 24
February

Sunday 6 March Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006

Le Bons Bay: Eastern Banks Peninsula. We will try the following route, or something similar. Park cars near Le Bons Peak on Lavericks Ridge Road. Follow road down to Le Bons Bay. Take Dalglishes Road onto ridge on south side of Le Bons Bay Stream. Continue along ridge to Summit Road where cars await after a car shuffle.

Grade: Easy
Map: N36 N37
Approx: \$20
List closes: 3 March

Thursday 10 March Club Night

We have the famous **multi-sporter** Aaron Prince along tonight. He will recount some personal experiences in adventure racing. Most recently in team Go Lite Timberland in the Southern Traverse.

Saturday 12 March (Early start/phone leader) Leader: Sue Hely 337 5453

Mt Barron: Lies approximately due west of Otira. At 1730m, it has excellent views into the west coast and mountains around Otira. It will be accessed by a loop track. About two thirds of this very interesting trip will be above the bush line. Expect about 1330m of height gain.

Grade: ModHard
Map: K33
Approx: \$30
List closes: 10 March

Saturday 12 March or Sunday 13 March Leader: Lynette Hartley 332 9251

Corner Creek: Ecan's Operation No Green Needles 2005. This site is at the confluence of the Harper & Avoca Rivers. Transport will be provided by North Canterbury 4WD Club members. Supply of tools and safety plan will be by Ecan. We supply our own food and tents.

Grade: Work
Map: K34
Approx: \$0
List closes: 3 March

Weekend 12 – 13 March Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275

Griffin - Rocky Creek: A classic West Coast round trip with 2 huts, 2 rivers and a low saddle. You are also likely to come across some blue ducks.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K33
Approx: \$50
List closes: 3 March

Sunday 13 March Leader: Adrian Sullivan 331 7188

Mt Storm: Western Lees Valley. Mt Storm (1254m) sits some 750m above the cars parked at Snowdale station. A common route leads south along the ridge top from Mt Storm and exits at Mt Pember station.

Grade: Moderate
Map: L34
Approx: \$15
List closes: 10 March

Thursday 17 March Club Night

Antarctica by one of our own club members! What better place for Christmas than camping on the Ross Ice Shelf, Antarctica?? Come and see how 20 students managed to dispose of two hagglands, two skidoos and three instructors in just one eventful day! Pictures of beautiful scenery and daily life on base plus some science may all find their way into this presentation by Linda Lilburne.

Saturday 19 March (Early start/phone leader)	Leader: Richard Lobb 351 2344
Rome Ridge to Avalanche Peak: Central Arthur's Pass National Park. Access to Rome Ridge is via Coral Track, which is exceptionally steep. There will be some rock scrambling on an exposed ridge – not for the faint-hearted nor the inexperienced. Only about 8 km in length, but with some 1200m in total height gain, this route affords spectacular views including that of “permanent” ice on nearby Mt Rolleston. Track high point 1833m.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 17 March
Weekend 19 – 20 March	Leader: Mr/Ms Mysterious
Mystery weekend to Mystery location. This is obviously still up in the air, so read your emails or find out at club, or better still, volunteer as a leader with a location.	Grade: Definitely Map: Probably Approx: \$TBA List closes: 17 March
Sunday 20 March	Leader: Mike Shanahan 339 0435
Lake Rubicon from the East: This is a truly easy walk – it's about 5km one way and the height gain is about 80m. Lake Rubicon is nestled among some hills just to the north-west of Springfield, so there will be no excuse for not stopping at Springfield on the way home for copious coffees and ice-creams.	Grade: Easy Map: L35 Approx: \$15 List closes: 17 March
Easter Weekend 23 – 28 March	Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914
Five Passes: Leave Tuesday evening for 5-6 days of tramping in Mt Aspiring National Park. Exceptional scenery.	Grade: Moderate Map: D40 E40 Approx: \$140 List closes: Wed 9 March
Thursday 24 March	No Club Night
No club tonight as it's Easter.	
Easter Weekend 25 – 28 March	Leader: Sarah Hardie 332 8275
Oha Family Base Camp: It will be based at the Glen Mary Ski Club. There will be two day Trips – a moderate trip lead by Andrew Turton and an Easy Trip lead by Sarah Hardie. All are welcome to attend, especially the Easter Bunny.	Grade: Family Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 17 March
Easter Weekend 25 – 28 March	Leader: Flo Roberts/Stu Smith 980 7913
Rees-Dart: Room for two more for a trip up the Dart river over the Rees Saddle and return down the Rees Valley again. Exceptional scenery and time for side trips, or wait for the perpetually decrepit Flo and Stu to catch up. Hassle them for more details.	Grade: ModHard Map: E40 Approx: \$100 List closes: Wed 9 March
Monday 28 March (Early start/phone leader)	Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045
Mt Faust: is on the way to Lewis Pass. We'll start at the Boyle Village. Mt Faust at 1710m represents an 1100m climb. Wonderful open ridge, lots of pretty tarns. Descend on to St James Walkway and return to cars at Boyle Village. Be prepared for a good time.	Grade: Moderate Map: M32 Approx: \$35 List closes: 24 March
Thursday 31 March	Club Night
Newsletter folding night + lots of verbal trip reports from all those Easter trips.	

Saturday 2 April (Early start/phone leader)	Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155
South Ridge Dome via Douglas Stream: Arthur's Pass National Park. This southern approach is the hard way to tackle Dome (1938m). South Ridge can be a rock scramble. Your reward will include views over the Waimakariri River and the East Edwards valley.	Grade: Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$25 List closes: 31 March
Weekend 2 – 3 April	Leader: Required
Jordan Sphinx Saddle and Avoca Valley: A double crossing over Black Range and camp out by Avoca Stream. A great trip from start to finish.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 24 March
Sunday 3 April	Leader: Bev Clark 326 6544
Captain Thomas Track to Godley Head: Sumner to Evans Pass to Godley Head. Return via Boulder Bay. Bev knows this area well and promises a good easy trip – lots of stops to take in the great views while resting from those height gains on the way.	Grade: Easy Map: M36 N36 Approx: \$5 List closes: 31 March
Thursday 7 April	Club Night
Let's tour Stewart Island with our guide Frank King. Frank has done several trips so this will be a great show of somewhere many of us do not get to.	
Saturday 9 April	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006
Rabbit Hill: southern Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park. Rabbit Hill (1198m) lies on the south side of the Lyndon Road near Porters Pass. Height gain is about 400m, whether coming from the Lyndon Road or from near Porters Pass. Enjoy an easy day out with Andrew.	Grade: Easy Map: K35 Approx: \$20 List closes: 7 April
Weekend 9 – 10 April	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697
Black Hill: Leave View Hill along the Wharfdale track then up to Black Hill Hut. A very cosy hut. Good views of Lees Valley and the Craigieburn Ranges. Return via Wharfdale Hut with the option of going up to Mt Oxford.	Grade: EasyMod Map: L34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 31 March
Sunday 10 April (Early start/must contact leader)	Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111
Mt Winterslow: Just north of Mt Somers lies Mt Winterslow (1700m). This loop trip is not hard, but longish. Bring a torch. Starting from the Sharplin Falls carpark, this route heads north over Duke Knob. A gradual westerly arc brings you over the summit and down to Pinnacles Hut. From here, the stream route back to the cars is weather dependent.	Grade: ModHard Map: K36 Approx: \$20 List closes: 7 April
Anzac Weekend 23 – 25 April	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
Scamper Torrent: Leave on Friday evening. Travel past Ross and tramp up the Waitaha River. The Scamper Torrent hut is a seldom visited spot situated in an isolated alpine valley. Andrew has a few ideas up his sleeve for the remainder of the trip, so interrogate him for more details.	Grade: Moderate Map: I34 Approx: \$60 List closes: 14 April

Anzac Weekend 23 – 25 April Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111

Mt Cook National Park: Freddy would like to do something in the Mt Cook region, maybe his perpetual nemesis, the Minarets, or Mt Sealy and along to Barron Saddle, maybe even Mt Dark. Give him a bell if these or something else tickles your fancy.

Grade: Hard
Map: H36
Approx: \$50
List closes: 14 April

Weekend 30 April – 1 May Leader: Adrian Busby 383 4046/Alastair Brown 343 5111

Basic Snowcraft Course: Essential training for winter tramping. More details in next newsletter.

Grade: Training
Map: K33
Approx: \$25
List closes: 21 April

Weekend 7 – 8 May Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

Arthur's Pass Base Camp: Range of tramps to be organised, Easy Moderate and Hard. Or just come and have a relaxing stress free weekend.

Grade: EasyModHard
Map: K33
Approx: \$25
List closes: 28 April

Trip Reports

6 February 2005

Woolshed Creek & Bus Stop (Mt Somers)

On Waitangi Day we started out from Woolshed Creek carpark at about 10 am in low cloud. Temperature was about 25°C.

We set a fast pace uphill in hot and muggy weather. A profuse amount of sweating was going on when we arrived at abandoned Blackburn mine after only about 1 hour of climbing. Shortly after that the clouds cleared and the sun came out to warm things up even further.

From the ridge we had a great view to Woolshed Creek hut (and toilet) below.

We had lunch at Woolshed Creek hut at noon and some of us took a 1st refreshing dip (temperature over 30°C by now). One trumper so relieved to see the stream he went in almost immediately, only stopping to take off his pack. There was a group of veteran trampers at the hut. Lots of jokes from Adrian Busby.

The group decided to go back via Bus Stop Route via the Emerald Pools...a chance for another refreshing dip. It was an interesting route, involving climbing 2 aluminum ladders. Beautiful landscape consisting of rocky outcrops and canyons. Near the Emerald Pools we found a hermit's retreat which some of us inspected. It was situated under a rock overhang, someone had built a stone wall in front of it. It even included a chimney!

Then it was time for the 2nd refreshing dip, in the Emerald pool. Beautiful, cool place to stop and enjoy the clear, chilled waters. We made a short diversion to an impressive waterfall and a really large/deep rock pool. Then we backtracked for a little and it was uphill from here again. The leader set a fast pace.

With Bus Stop in sight, Erik shouted brandy snaps (with cream) and chocolate log as a bribe to slow the pace, and to celebrate his first year anniversary with CTC. One missed out, we tried to call him back - but to no avail. We could see him waiting at Bus Stop as we finished our snack. We introduced our new American friend Elaine to Brandy Snaps and talked about the Edmonds cookbook.

On arriving at Bus Stop we discovered it had been vandalised - someone had taken the sign! Another brief water stop and we were away again through the tussock.

We had a brief rest on rocky outcrop so our leader could fix his knee, before the steep descend to the Woolshed Creek carpark below. Whatever Warrick did to his knee did the trick as we had trouble keeping up with him, stopping occasionally to let the slower ones catch up, before speeding off again (very frustrating for those following as they wanted a brief rest also). Suspect those in front were picturing themselves in the next pool of clear cool water.

We were back at the car park at 4:30, where most of us took a 3rd dip into the cool waters.

We stopped in Staveley for a well deserved ice-cream before returning home via the "Tourist Route" (Rakaia Gorge and Darfield). We arrived in Christchurch at about 7 pm. The end of a very hot, muggy but worthwhile day in the hills.

A word of warning - several members ran out of water on the final downhill stage - a reminder to take sufficient water and restock supplies where possible.

A thoroughly good trip. Some very tired people at the end of the day. A good way to celebrate my first year of tramping with the club. Thank you CTC.

Warrick Dowling (leader), Erik Norder (scribbler), Jolanda Simon, Joy Bryant, Bryce Williamson, Stephen Heald, Clive Marsh, Michael Shanahan, Carol Garland, Elaine Shapland, Adrian Busby.

Alan's Mystery Trip, (The Mole Tops)

We met at Joy's place around 6:30 Saturday evening, all eyes focused on the weather on T.V. Will it rain or not? Where will we go? Where will it be the finest? What crazy antics will our leader get up to (rain or shine)? We decided to drive to Murchison where Alan, our beloved leader had booked us a bed and leave the trivial decision of where exactly to go until the next morning.

It dawned cloudy but fine, so the maps were studied around the camp table. Mt Owen was given the thumbs down and Peter's suggestion of the The Mole Tops given the thumbs up. At the start of the track Alan weighed the packs. Joy's was the lightest at 11kg and Peter's at 22kg was the heaviest. The party gear was duly divided up amongst us with my share being the billy. Perhaps Alan felt sorry for the 'oldest' Grandmother in the party.

For 2½ hrs we followed the Mole Stream up to Mole Hut, where we would stay the night. By this time the cloud had lifted, and we could see the Tops. Peter and Alan's eyes lit up and they said "Lets go to the Tops". So after lunch, with light packs (Alan took my gear in his pack. His story: the extra weight was to help him get fit, yeah right!). We set off through tall tussock up to the saddle and then followed a spur onto the ridge where we came into a big basin dotted with tarns and yellow spikey flowering Spaniards. One lovely tarn even had its own waterfall. The views were stunning, with the Mahanga Range standing proud and the Spencer Range in the background. Below us was the D'Urville Valley and the blue water of Lake Rotoroa glistening in the sun. We could also see that Mt Owen was clear of cloud after all, but I was just as happy being on the Mole Tops. At this stage the party split up, Ilan taking "Forty winks", Max (being Max) climbing all the tops in the vicinity, while the rest of us were content to stroll along to the closest high point (1770m). We were back to Ilan by about 6 o'clock and by the time we arrived back at the hut, Max had already started cooking tea ("Thanks Max!")

Ruth and Peter tented and six of us 'cosied up' in a four bunk hut. This proved to be another trip where Alan's plans to sleep with the women were foiled, it was such a shame that he had to sleep next to two other guys!! In other respects though, he was true to form wearing the ubiquitous paisley shorty pj's complete with Mr Bean teddy in pocket. Further lunacy followed as he flourished Bob the Builder's lamp and murdered sleep with Fergus's musical toy (even if it did play Brahm's Lullaby). Well, you can imagine the comments!

At 7 o'clock I was allowed by the 'Great One' to put my nose out the door to see a beautiful day. After a leisurely breakfast we headed for Mole Saddle, and then stumbled through the trees a bit on the true right of Bull Creek until we found the route down to the D'Urville River. It was a bit of fun following the track as it quite often disappeared, causing us to criss-cross the stream and clamber over wind blown trees, (leaving behind painful skin off my shins). Finally we came out on the D'Urville River and it was good to walk on a flat track once more. A further 20 minutes on, we found the track junction where we were to turn up valley again to the Tiraumea Hut. However, we decided to dump our packs and do a side trip through the mud to the ten bunk D'Urville Hut by Lake Rotoroa. A lovely serene place but too many sandflies to linger. On the way back I slipped in the glorious mud but washed it off before Alan could get a photo. (typist: Clearly Pam does not know that Alan is very good at washing mud off female anatomy, what an opportunity missed!).

Once again we headed uphill until it leveled out to a saddle in beautiful open Beech forest. We found the six-bunked Tiraumea Hut in a grassy clearing after wandering down the other side of the saddle for a short distance. The hut, surrounded by bush-clad hills was a welcome sight after an 8 hr day. Peter and Ruth tented, this time with Alan (lucky them), Max slept in a bivvy bag under the trees. Once again Max cooked tea for Alan, Kerrie, and myself. Alan had noticed that Ruth and Peter had made chocolate cheesecake and bribed Peter 2 lollies to share some. His smug look though deserted (or should it be deserted) him, when Ruth asked for all our bowls!

The evening's entertainment was once again thanks to Fergus. This time it was a joke glass, which lit up with different glowing colours when it was filled with water. Alan had filched so many of Fergus's toys that he even forgot about one of them, the Bob the Builder tablecloth. Poor Fergus! Alan was duly disciplined with a wooden spoon, but we will not go into that!

The next day, rain was threatening, so we started on the track early, followed a creek up through Beech forest back up onto the Mole saddle. The track climbed continuously with some quite steep sections and it took 3 ½ hours to reach the saddle. By this time the rain had stopped, but we were in the mist. Finding the route poles at times was a bit hard and we went off course once but were soon back on track after we retreated to the last seen pole. It was about this time that Peter asked Alan if he had any Vaseline handy? ...

This Grandmother was running out of puff so I was pleased when we finally started going downhill. The Jameson track took us down a gentle spur and for once I could actually keep up and listen to the conversation. (Such an intelligent group!) The track provided more mud to manoeuvre through and Kerrie and I had to bypass a wasp nest, which the others had stirred up. Both Ilan and Joy got stung on this trip. When we got back to the cars Alan weighed the packs again and was disappointed that he had not lost much weight (not surprising really, given that it was full of Fergus's toys!). Then Alan gave me the keys to the new company car and asked me to drive. Well, this was only my first trip with Alan so I must have impressed him. I wouldn't give back the keys until we got to Culverden, it was great to drive after my old car.

This was a great round trip, thanks Alan for the planning and to Peter for the maps and for suggesting the Mole Tops. Thanks to Joy, Ruth, Kerry, Ilan, and Max for your company.

Most Profound Statement of the Trip: Peter: "The bush goes right up to the bushline"!

Participants: Peter Eman, Kerrie Skinner, Pam Crosswell (scribe), Alan Ross, Max DeLacy, Ilan Egoz, Ruth Tramschek, Joy Schroeder. (Susan, typist).

Aunty Ice Axe's Book Review page

Westland Foothills and Forests: A Walking and Tramping Guide. By Pat Barrett. Published by Longacre Press. A5. 60 p.

In a desperate effort to raise the literary tone of this newsletter (sniff. ed.), Aunty has agreed to do an occasional book review or similar piece of intellectual pretentiousness. The occasions will be prompted mainly by the Club being given free books to review, which is exactly how this lucky volume has come to deserve the Ice Axe treatment. Thanks Pat, and Longacre Press.

This latest guide from Pat Barrett covers the west coast from Karamea to Haast and includes a section for western Arthur's Pass National Park. The first thing that strikes the reader is probably the huge amount of information packed into the book. Each tramp or walk has a grade, a walking time, access and map details as well as information about the area – and that is before the trip description itself. Most descriptions are also supported by a copy of the relevant section of topographical map itself. In addition, there are a lot of Pat's great colour photos. This makes it a great book to be an armchair trumper with – Aunty's favourite mode of exercise. The book also covers a large range of trips. It will probably be of most use to give less regular trampers an idea of the numerous of easy – moderate tramping opportunities in the area. Several Hard and Hard+ trips seem rather out of place since - as Pat tries to make clear - they could not be attempted on the basis of the guide book description/map alone, and it seems to Aunty that someone with the skills and experience to attempt them might also have less interest in the majority of the book. Aunty just hopes that nobody who has just successfully completed the two-minute Hokitika Gorge Swingbridge trip feels that it will automatically be no problem to move immediately on to Mt Adams (2 days, Hard+). That said, if you are looking for a comprehensive, very well laid out and informative guide to the shorter and more accessible walks and tramps in the area, this seems like a good place to start. In fact, Aunty has only one more complaint – in a book about the West Coast, how come the sun is shining in every single photo?

Pat has written to us that this book, and his updated (2004) edition of Canterbury Foothills and Forests, can be purchased direct from him for \$39.95 each inclusive of postage (the recommended retail price is \$39.95). Write to Pat Barrett Images and Electrical, 117 Harris Crescent, Christchurch (ph/fax 03 352 2177). "Orders of five or more copies mailed to the same address will attract a 10% discount."

Please post or email articles for the March newsletter to the Editor (Alastair Brown)
by Friday 25 March 2005.

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