



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

October 2005

No. 6

President	Adrian Busby	383 4046	Club Captain	Honora Renwick	942 8368
Vice President	Alan Ross	384 6425	Trip Organiser(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

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. The Gear Custodian is Bernard Parawa 981 4931, however, he's away overseas for a while, so please contact Warwick Dowling 366 2045 during his absence. Note: Club gear assigned to you is your responsibility; please take care of it.

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

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 5329; 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.

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. Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm *sharp*, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm *sharp*.

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.

A big welcome to the following **new members**: Janet Crofts and Andrew Tromans. Please help us make them feel welcome.

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).

Hut Working Bee: There will be a Hut Working Bee some time in October. If you'd like to help, get in touch with one of the hut committee members (listed on front page).

Newsletters available from members-only area of web site: There is a new members-only area of the club web site. At present it contains Word and PDF versions of all club newsletters from 2002 onwards. Each time a newsletter comes out, it will be made available in the members only area and an email will be sent to the club mailing list alerting members to this, and supplying login details. On the CTC home page there is a link to the members-only area, as well as contact addresses for those needing login details (who aren't on the club email list, or who can't wait until the next newsletter comes out to get login details). If you haven't got login details already, get them from Jenny Harlow (secretary@ctc.org.nz, 349 2280) or Susan Pearson (susan@toniq.co.nz, 337 4914).

Transport Costs: have changed somewhat, thanks to a thorough review by Warwick Dowling. These better reflect the currently prevailing costs of transport, including maintenance and fuel. The most noticeable difference is that the driver is now counted as a contributor, along with the passengers. The new tables are currently being used on upcoming trips.

Classified ads

For sale: MacPac Canyon backpack. Older model but only used once. \$150. Phone Denise on 339 4368.

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

External events of interest:

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 - Full Course: Stephen Small 03 313 4490. 30 September - 2 October 2005. \$80 + \$20 for manual.

River Crossing Day: 19th November 9am - 1pm (plus pre-meet 7pm Monday 14 November). Fee \$20. Call 351 0942 or Canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz

Anchors and Belays: 2 day course, for climbing and abseiling. Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 November, Port Hills, fee \$80.00. Call 351 0942 or Canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz

Alpine Instructors: There is an Alpine Instructors course coming up: River and Navigation on 5-6 November. If you're interested in attending, get hold of someone on the committee, and we'll sort you out (in the nicest possible way).

Simon Garton is planning to take a **mountain biking** day trip to the **Wharfedale track** on Sunday 30 October. Ride time will be up to 5 hours, bike from View hill to Townsend hut and returning the same way for maximum single-track fun. Simon's number is 343 0742

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.

Track cleared, Julia Creek: Plan your longer trip now to take in Lake Browning, Popes Pass, Julia Hut and the Julia hot pools. The overgrown track in Julia Creek has now been cleared and marked. Doug spent 2 days a month ago with cruise tape and loppers, and he, Sue and Merv have just been back to complete it with permolat. It's now in need of some foot traffic. Feel free to take some small secateurs to snip at the small regrowth in the future, but all the major lopping has been done. Cairns mark the upper end track start in a rock scree. Enjoy.

From Julia Hut: After entering the bush after crossing the bridge near Julia Hut turn hard right and follow along the river bank above Mary Creek. After a short distance pick up the track which crosses to Julia Creek and is followed for about 1 1/2 km until it emerges at the remnants of a small flat at E2379952 N5810337. This area has been recently nuked presumably by a large snow avalanche. Follow up through the nuked area for about 100m looking for cruise tape at the edge of the scrub above at E2379849 N5810265. A short cruise taped route leads through the scrub to a hidden scree above. Climb up the scree beside the scrub to E2379796 N5810043 where the way down another scree into the upper valley is obvious.

From the upper valley: Shortly after passing Gold Creek Julia creek emerges from underground. Cross the creek here and ascend scree to E2379796 N5810043. Descend directly down the now visible scree leading down valley to a cairn at E2379839 N5810219. Cruise tape leads through a short section of scrub and the rest is the reverse of the up valley route

Time: about 1 1/2 hrs from Julia Hut to Gold Creek at present

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 29 September

Club Night

Newsletter folding night: Also please bring along some of your digital pictures of past trips so you can share them with other members. (A data projector will be available - just bring the pictures on a CD.)

Saturday 1 October

Leader: Required

Peel Forest Walks: Off the Rangitata Gorge road near Arundle this 600 hectares of native forest reserve has several massive specimens of Matai and Totara estimated to be over 1000yrs old.

Grade: Easy
Map: J37
Approx: \$30
List closes: 29 Sep

Saturday 1 October

Leader: John Taylor 942 3012

Mt Alford: Mt Alford lies just south of Mt Hutt in a small forest reserve. A rough unmarked route follows the fenceline to the top of this hill for great views of the plains.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K36
Approx: \$25
List closes: 29 Sep

Weekend 1 – 2 October

Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000

Hope Kiwi; Starting at Windy point on the Lewis Pass, about 6hrs walk on easy terrain to the Hope Kiwi Lodge. Depending on trip numbers either a side trip to Kiwi Saddle / Lake Marion and then return to cars or else a cross over trip through to Lake Sumner can be done.

Grade: Easy
Map: L32 M32
Approx: \$35
List closed: 22 Sep

Weekend 1 – 2 October

Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003

Mt. Faust: Traverse the Mt. Faust ridge to Boyle Flat Hut and back via the Boyle River, or in reverse if weather dictates. Great views and possible high camp. Ice axe and crampons Required.

Grade: Moderate
Map: M32
Approx: \$35
List closed: 22 Sep

Thursday 6 October

Club Night

Richard Lobb spent 2002 in Canmore, a town in the **Canadian Rockies** at the edge of Banff National Park. He will talk about his year in Canada, showing slides of his hiking, skiing, rock-climbing and other Canadian experiences.

Weekend 8 – 9 October

Leader: Simon Garton 343 0742

Paske – Belevedere Peak: Belevedere Peak is at the head of the Clarence River above Lake Tennyson. Paske hut is the overnight destination. Return (or go in) via Paske saddle.

Grade: Moderate
Map: M30 N30
Approx: \$40
List closes: 29 Sep

Weekend 8 – 9 October

Leader: Alastair Brown 343 5111

Two Thumb Range: Climbing or alpine tramping. Tantalus, Electra, Priam or Myrmidon? Never mind if they are any good to climb – with names like that you need these peaks in your photo album.

Grade: Hard
Map: I36
Approx: \$40
List closes: 29 Sep

Sunday 9 October	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
Mt Potts: Near the confluence of the Clyde and Havelock rivers above Erewhon Park ski field in the central Southern Alps. Enjoy a classic day out with Andrew in stunning LOTR country.	Grade: ModHard Map: J35 J36 Approx: \$40 List closes: 6 October

Sunday 9 October	Leader: Malcolm Carr 332 2581
Cass, Totara, Oldham: A fabulous area close to home 17km past the Hanmer turn off on SH1 and start from Mt Cass Station. It's 17k & around 7hrs. For previous trip notes and GPS check out www.ctc.org.nz/trips/AUG9,03/index.html .	Grade: EasyMod Map: N34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 6 October

Thursday 13 October	Club Night
The club night will be the Frontrunner premises at 79 Lichfield Street - NOTE CHANGE IN VENUE. See advertisement. At the end of the newsletter	

Weekend 15 – 16 October	Leader: Philip Tree 349 3670
Arthur's Pass Basecamp: All the comforts of the club hut and options from local Arthur's Pass day trips to a day trip on the West Coast thats just a bit far to do from Christchurch. How about Mt Tuhua near Lake Kaniere (Mod) or Point Elizabeth Walkway and Rapahoe Beach (Easy) or Mt Alexander via the South Ridge (Hard)	Grade: All Map: K33 Others Approx: \$35 List closes: 6 October

Weekend 15 – 16 October	Leader: Flo Roberts 980 7913
Hooligan Range Near Lake Sumner. Not visited so often since the bridge over the Hurunui has been gone. But there are still other bridge options and of course real trampers aren't put off by the thought of wet undies anyway.	Grade: ModHard Map: M33 M32 Approx: \$30 List closes: 6 October

Sunday 16 October	Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045
Mt. St Bernard: Mt. St Bernard lies north of Purple Peak on the opposite side of Lake Pearson. One approach is possible via Cass. At about 1900m high there'll be excellent views from the top.	Grade: ModHard Map: L34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 13 October

Sunday 16 October	Leader: Michael Ny 337 9796
High Bare Peak: Leaving the cars at Little River we climb above the village for a breather and a fine view. Turning right we travel along the tops to Adrian's plantation for lunch, then it's delightful travel down through native bush to the road and finish at the local café.	Grade: EasyMod Map: N36 Approx: \$15 List closes: 13 October

Tuesday 18 October	Social Event
The old tradition of a club meal out will start again at Topkapi Turkish Kebab House, 185 Manchester Street. Meet at 7.00pm. Mains are from between \$10 and \$20. Please email Sue at grubbie@ihug.co.nz or phone 338 8926 if you are interested by Sunday afternoon, so I can tell them numbers.	

Thursday 20 October	Club Night
Grant (Grubbie) Piper is off to Kyrgystan! Kyrgystan? Sounds dodgy with the last 4 letters being "stan", but Grant went on a 6 week mountaineering trip to the Kashual Tau range in an attempt to relieve a few peaks of their virginity. He will show slides of the trip and tell a few good Grubbie stories.	

Labour Weekend 20 – 24 October	Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671
Barker Hut: At the head of the Waimakariri river, Barker Hut sits perched on a rocky knoll not far below the White Glacier. Access point for climbs of Mt's Murchison, Harper, Wakeman and Davie. Ice axe and Crampons req.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$35 List closes: 13 October
Labour Weekend 20 – 24 October	Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045
Harper Pass: Retrace the pounamu gatherers and gold miners footsteps across the island. Thanks to the gold miners of 1864 / 65 there is a benched track over the pass, with easy river valley travel either side. (The more direct Arthur's Pass route linked up in 1865) Hot pools as well. Hopefully there will be enough starters to make this a cross over trip to simplify the car arrangements.	Grade: EasyMod Map: L32 L33 K33 Approx: \$45 List closes: 13 October
Sunday 23 October	Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000
Ryde Falls: In the View Hill area at the foot of Mt Oxford accessed via part of the Wharfedale track. A small attractive waterfall is the centre piece of this pleasant bush ramble amongst Beech, Podocarp and banks of forest ferns.	Grade: Easy Map: L34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 20 October
Thursday 27 October	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: Come along and help fold the newsletter, then hear the yarns from past trips, and if possible show a few pictures (if people bring them).	
Weekend 29 – 30 October	Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003
Croesus – Moonlight: A West Coast tramp in an old gold mining area. Stamper batteries and old mine sites to explore in the Croesus. Tops travel along the Paparoa Range and descend the moonlight through more mining areas.	Grade: Moderate Map: K31 Approx: \$50 List closes: 13 October
Saturday 29 October	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006
Knowles Tops: Explore this 835m hill in the Ashley Gorge area with Andrew. There are views to the river and plains and a café at Oxford for refreshments afterwards.	Grade: Easy Map: L34 Approx: \$15 List closes: 27 October
Saturday 29 October	Leader: Stephen Hoare-Vance 332 6707
Mt Oakden: 1633m. A club favourite, Mt Oakden overlooks the confluence of the Wilberforce and Rakaia. There's some rock scrambling involved higher up with stunning 360° views to the main divide from Mt Cook to Arthur's Pass.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$25 List closes: 27 October
Weekend 5 – 6 November	Leader: John Henson 342 3311
Black Range Traverse: An opportunity to traverse the eastern end of the Black Range. From Cass Saddle Climb to a high camp before heading south to Stag Hill. On Sunday traverse the tops either west to by Mt Bruce or north to Mt Misery. Saturday morning departure.	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 27 October

Weekend 5 – 6 November

Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045

Mingha – Deception: A popular trip that is used for the “Coast to Coast” mountain run section. Generally on tracks in the Mingha Valley. Staying at the Goat Pass Hut right on the Main Divide. A side trip to the pretty Lake Mavis is possible for the fit and energetic. Travel in the Deception River is in the riverbed and involves numerous crossings and scrambling on quite bouldery terrain in the upper sections.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K33
Approx: \$35
List closes: 27 October

Sunday 6 November

Leader: Deirdre Sheppard 342 7929

Little Mt Peel: From the Blandswood Road end climb steadily via Deer Spur. A well formed track leads to an attractive bush-edged tarn at 900m. A good spot for lunch. Then it’s on to the summit with spectacular views.

Grade: EasyMod
Map: J37
Approx: \$30
List closes: 3 Nov

Sunday 6 November

Leader: Adrian Sullivan 331 7188

Mt Ida: Mt Ida is in the Rakaia area near Lake Catherine and the Harper River. 22 folks climbed it last time the club ran a trip there. A couple of vacuum cleaners were apparently involved.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K34
Approx: \$30
List closes: 3 Nov

Sunday 13 November

Leader: Mike Newlove 355 8360

Foggy Peak: A rewarding 2km climb which starts from the top of Porter’s Pass. A great vantage point in a splendid area so get those legs pumping ‘n’ get amongst it. 2.5 - 3hrs to the top.

Grade: Easy
Map: L34
Approx: \$20
List closes: 10 Nov

Trip Reports

Weekend 3-4 September 2005

Pinchgut Hut via the Okuku River

Five keen trampers got away on time from the Shell Carlton, in light drizzle. Got to our departure point, downed packs and off we went up hill. Oh! this appears not to be the right way, where is that river crossing point? Backtrack, cross the river, we had already past it in the vehicle. Very obvious now! Okay Andrew we know you haven't been up here for 6-8 years.

Good progress was made by all to reach our destination in about four easy hours, with a lunch stop in warm sunshine.

Mealtime was had by all, surrounding a very cosy fire. (some were finding it a little hot and kept opening hut doors). A delicious chocolate gateau (in perfect condition) was eaten for dessert. Andrew spilt boiling water on his foot, fortunately Nurse Margie to the rescue with Tim's icy cold bucket of water. Damage not too severe.

Sunday mornings curfew was broken by about half hour, to have the hut all cleaned up and us all heading out by 9.30am. After much discussion Phil and Margie decided to retrace their steps out the low river track, while us other three decided to do the ups and downs route into the forestry. The ups and downs in the bush took us about 1 ½ hours, and another 2 ½ to find our way out off the forestry. We were back to Phil & Margie whom had been waiting about ½ hour for us at the vehicle.

All in all a good easy trip, to a beaut hut with good company.

Leader Andrew Wrapson, Phil Tree, Margie O' Reily, Tim Broad, & Michele Hood (scribe)

Sunday 11 September 2005

Mt Catherine

The scenery was stunning as we drove around the head of Lake Heron. We followed a good farm road to park below Mt Catherine. Nine of us climbed the peak directly by keeping to the main ridge (north of Home Ck), except where towering rocky knobs forced us to sidle below on steep screes. We avoided the hard snow to the south side of the ridge. The weather was so calm and warm on the summit (2085m) we could laze for ages while Les named a panorama of peaks.

We planned to continue around the summit ridge then use a scree to descend, but just after leaving the summit Bryce had a tangle with a boulder. From below him I was hugely relieved that no-one was hit as the boulder rolled on down. But I was being called back up; there was an injury. I missed seeing Bryce's somersault, and by the time I'd climbed back up Stu had helped put a bandage in place that was leaking blood at all sides. Graphic descriptions were told of a huge gash to the shin exposing a length of shin-bone. Bryce seemed able to walk but was quite shaken. We descended via the shortest and easiest route possible, and were back at the cars after a 7 hour day. The patient was obviously in a lot of pain after stiffening up during the long drive home.

On enquiring next day, he reported stitches to the extensively bruised and grazed area, tetanus and antibiotic treatment, and orders to only go back to work in a few days if he could keep his feet up. We all hope your recovery is straightforward, Bryce, and that it's not too long before you're working up that fitness again.

Trampers: Les Hayes, Andrew Tromans, Yvonne Cook, Jenny Harlow, Clive Marsh, Stu Smith, Flo Roberts, Bryce Williamson and (leader) Sue Hely.

Bill Atkinson on Avalanche Awareness

Honora Renwick wrote the following:

I attended a MSC 4 day course on this topic for MSC Alpine instructors led by Bill Atkinson and John Hooker, the snow safety officer at Mt Hutt. There was the usual focus on the technical skills of analysing weather, terrain, snow pack etc. However the surprise for me was an additional big focus on the soft skills of group management and understanding the mechanisms of individual and group think

Bill explained that avalanche analysts have long observed that you can front-load back country recreationists like us with the hard skills and awareness to avoid travelling on avalanche prone slopes but this goes out the window if there is a lack of awareness of when our decision-making is being guided by heuristic traps. He defined this as the unconscious rules of thumb that usually serve us well but at times can let us down.

He has great resources on his website www.sunrockice.com (which is worthwhile for the weather links alone). Under "downloads" on avalanche related articles, the ones authored by McCammon, a decision scientist, deal with the topic of decision-making e.g.

www.sunrockice.com/docs/Avalanche%20training00.pdf

Common heuristics in unconscious decision making (FACETS)

Name	Trigger feature	Heuristic
Familiarity	Familiar setting or situation	If I've done it before then it's what I should do now.
Acceptance	Actions by a person or group that I like	If someone I like is doing it then it's what I should do to be accepted.
Commitment/Consistency	Opportunity to validate prior actions or words	I should remain consistent with my prior opinions and actions.
Expert Halo	Credible expert opinion	If an expert believes it then it's what I should believe.
Scarcity (Tracks)	Competition for a limited resource	If something is scarce then I should desire it
Social proof	Behaviour of people similar to myself	If people like me are doing it then it's what I should do.

Bill gave some examples and management strategies to overcome these. Relating to commitment/consistency; he suggests

Bring possible scenarios and changes of action up well in advance and nominate a point when to consider them e.g. we can travel up to this point then check out the route and if it's not looking good, then we can go that other way instead.

For the social proof heuristic, I thought about our club cultural practices that are at variance to what we do on MSC activities. For instance, the club doesn't carry avalanche transceivers, poles and probes when we go into avalanche terrain. Why do you think that is? The CUTC have seven transceivers available at no charge for their members.

For the scarcity heuristic, this brought to me how it can be hard to abandon your original objective if you think there won't be time in the day or opportunity in the future to have another go at it. In fact, retreat is your strongest defence!

Have a read of the scenario below and see if you can identify the heuristic traps that are operating. All of them (familiarity, acceptance, commitment/consistency, expert halo, scarcity, social proof) are present.

Imagine that you're a novice leader taking a group of friend's powder skiing to one of your favourite backcountry areas. Your friends are all great skiers but have little or no avalanche training, and they look to you for guidance.

Recent snow and wind have raised the avalanche hazard to considerable, but you haven't noticed any obvious signs of instability as you skied to a secluded slope. As you approach the open slope from the drainage below, you see a group of four other skiers near the top, filling in a snow pit they've just dug in a large wind pillow and preparing to ski the slope. Their skin track is your quickest way to the top – it crosses low on the 32° slope then switchbacks up an open,

shallow gully to the top. Your other option is to break a safer trail through the deep powder in the trees on the flank of the slope, meaning that by the time you reach the top, the other group will have made at least two runs, leaving little fresh powder for you and your friends.

As you pause to consider the situation, one of your buddies starts up the trail broken by the other group, on his way to the top. Your decision: should you follow your friend up the existing trail or should you insist that your party break its own, safer trail?

On the course, when we were out in the field, we took turns at being leader. Bill explained part of the avalanche prevention strategy is to travel as a group so we can communicate and make decisions together. There's always a range in fitness so he suggested the leader place the slowest member of the group behind the leader and zigzag up the hill. At the change of direction the leader could then easily check out the group and notice how the individual members were going, and if anyone had stopped.

His strategy for measuring the suitability of his pace was to engage the slowest in conversation and if they were unable to complete their sentences without a breath, then the pace was too fast. He tucked himself behind the slowest to give frequent feedback to the leaders as we went. I noticed there was a lot of animated chatting going on down the line.

ABSTRACT: Avalanche education has become widely available in the United States, and yet trained recreationists continue to comprise over a third of avalanche victims. Does avalanche education really make a difference? This study investigated the relationship between avalanche education and victim behaviour in 344 recreational U.S. accidents, and found that victims with more avalanche training did in fact take fewer overall risks. However, all of the risk reduction in trained recreationists can be attributed to better mitigation measures taken by these victims. None of the risk reduction appeared to be the result of trained groups exposing themselves to fewer hazards. In fact, victims with basic formal training exposed themselves to more hazard than any other group, including those with no awareness of avalanches. In light of recent findings in decision science, these results suggest that behaviouristic and naturalistic teaching strategies would be effective in improving avalanche education.

Please post or email articles for the November newsletter to the Editor (Alastair Brown) by Friday 21 October 2005.

Email: editor@ctc.org.nz

Post: PO Box 527, Christchurch.

This newsletter is the copyright of The Christchurch Tramping Club, so there!

The **FRONTRUNNER**

An **exclusive** offer to **Christchurch Tramping Club Members** and their families.

The **Frontrunner** will be open to serve you from 6-9 pm **Thursday October 13.**

On **October 13th**, **The Frontrunner** will be offering you:

20% off *Hi-Tec Hiking* boots and shoes 

20% off *Merrell Hiking* boots, shoes and sandals 

20% off *SmartWool* socks and clothing 

20% off *Royal Robbins* recreational and travel clothing 

10% off all accessories

10% off all other running shoes, casual shoes, and walking shoes

10% off all other brand name technical and casual clothing

Each Christchurch Tramping Club member who shops with us on the night will receive

The Frontrunner **VIP Card with a \$100 credit.**

The Frontrunner has arranged **Free Parking** next to us at **81 Lichfield St** until **9.30 pm** (see map on next page)

