



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

September 2005

No. 5

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.

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).

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

Change to on-line newsletter distribution: The club has established a new members-only section of the club web site, which is accessible from a link on the home page (www.ctc.org.nz). The login details for the member's only area will be sent to the club e-mail list each month in the message announcing the availability of a new newsletter (the login details will be changed from time to time). Those not on the e-mail list can get the login details from Jenny Harlow (secretary@ctc.org.nz, 349 2280) or Susan Pearson (susan@toniq.co.nz, 337 4914). From now on, the newsletter URLs e-mailed to club members will refer to documents in the members only area, and members will have to login to access them. A benefit of the members' only area is that it will provide ready access to all on-line editions of the newsletter.

Darren Osmond has resigned from the Club after he and his family decided to return to Australia. We wish them well.

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:

Forest Values Survey: ENSIS (Formerly the Forest Research Institute) are running a Forest Values Survey on Monday 5 September from 7pm to 8:45pm. The surveys are interactive and designed to identify a wide range of views about what New Zealanders most value about their local forests. Phone contact Harley Spence or Kirsten Crawford on (07) 332 3975 or email kirsten@coastline.co.nz 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:

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

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

Alpine Instructors: There are a couple of Alpine Instructors courses coming up: Above the bushline on 24-25 September and 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).

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.

A word from our sponsor...

The **FRONTRUNNER**

The **Fronrunner** is pleased to have this opportunity to address the members of the Christchurch Tramping Club. We would like to inform all CTC members of the products and

service available at The **Fronrunner**. As many of your members may already know, The **Fronrunner** has been situated on Lichfield St for close to 15 years. Currently our shop is located at 79 Lichfield St., next to the Bus Depot.

The **Fronrunner** can offer CTC members, footwear, clothing and accessories to make their active recreation comfortable and enjoyable. Our Technical footwear for Tramping, Hiking, Walking and Running includes leading Brands such as: Merrell, Asics, HiTec, Saucony, Montrail, Vasque, Nike, Brooks, New Balance, Teva and Soloman.

The **Fronrunner** can offer CTC members Brand Name technical and casual clothing from Royal Robbins, Columbia, Helle Hanson, Pearl Izumi, Smartwool, Asics, Nike and Orca. All these products, shirts, shorts, pants, and jackets, provide functional benefits including, moisture management, insulation, waterproofness, compactability, and easy care as well as being current in fashion.

The **Fronrunner** can offer CTC members exceptional accessories, such as, Pedometers, Heart Rate Monitors, Hydration systems, Socks, Hats, Custom insoles, the latest compact GPS positioning systems from Navman, walking poles, lights, backpacks and water tight carry bags.

The **Fronrunner** can offer CTC members Free Podiatry advice on Wednesday afternoons between 4-6 or Saturday 10-4. To hopefully help solve any foot or footwear problems. Please phone to book a time.

Most importantly, The **Fronrunner** would like to offer The Christchurch Tramping Club and exclusive evening at The **Fronrunner** in October.

Please look forward to details of our offer in the next edition of "The Christchurch Trumper."

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 25 August

Club Night

Newsletters folding: hear about past trips, and have a social chat.

Weekend 27 – 28 August

Leader: Jim (The B.....) Western 337 1958

Arthur's Pass Base Camp: Jim's seen the light and returned to the smoggy depths of Christchurch. To clear his lungs he's heading to the fresh air at Arthur's Pass. (only to pile coal on the pot belly stove and create another fug). Join him for a weekend in the hills based at the club hut. Don't forget an ice axe and crampons if you are planning heading on to the tops.

Grade: All
Map: K33
Approx: \$40
List closed: 18 August

Weekend 27 – 28 August

Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914

Mt Fyfe: Leave Friday evening and camp/bivvy at roadend. Take the Fenceline spur up to Mt Fyffe Hut then follow ridge to Mt Fyffe, continue along to Gable and Gable End. (NB: This is 1400m height gain with weekend packs). Drop down to the Kowhai Saddle and follow the river to Kowhai Hut for the night. Sunday - short walk out along the river back to carpark. Bring colour to the Kaikouras: a prize will be given (at the hut) to the most colourful tramper on the trip. Ice Axe and crampons required.

Grade: Moderate
Map: O31
Approx: \$45
List closed: 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. Trip dependent on avalanche forecast, with ice axe and crampons, and possibly transceiver needed.

Grade: ModHard
Map: K34
Approx: \$20
List closes: 25 August

Sunday 28 August

Leader: Pam Crosswell 337 2489

Mt Karetu: 972m West of Mt Grey. A short easy tramp over open tops east from Okuku Pass to a tussock covered summit with views of the plains, Okuku headwaters and North Canterbury.

Grade: Easy
Map: M34
Approx: \$15
List closes: 25 August

Thursday 1 September

Club Night

Jim Western is running a fun **team competition**. This will include a map reading exercise, rock identification, photo identification etc, etc. Quality prizes for the best team(s). Come along and have some fun.

Saturday 3 September

Leader: Stephen Hoare-Vance 332 6707

Woolshed Hill: 1429m A popular climb to a modest summit with a marked track through beech forest to clearings and a flat tussock top. Good views over the Waimak/Hawdon confluence and into the upper reaches of Sudden Valley.

Grade: Moderate
Map: K33
Approx: \$25
List closes: 1 Sep

Weekend 3 – 4 September	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006
Pinchgut hut. About 4hrs fairly flat walking. Wet feet right at the start – some people have been known to wear an old pair of shoes across the river then change in to dry boots for the walk. A nice new DOC hut in a streamside clearing in the beech forest.	Grade: Easy Map: M34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 25 August
Weekend 3 – 4 September	Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671
Mt Harper: At 2222m, one of the high peaks at the head of the Waimakariri Valley. Not technically difficult, but climbing gear and some experience required. Climb from Baker hut, either returning that way or continue on to the spur between Harper and Greenlaw Creek.	Grade: Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 25 August
Sunday 4 September	Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000
Brooklands Lagoon & Waimakariri Mouth A coastal Lagoon formed by merging Waimak and Styx Rivers. Enjoy a pleasant stroll alongside the saltmarsh and out to the Spit. There's a wildlife reserve and a bird hide with nesting swallows.	Grade: Easy Map: M35 Approx: \$10 List closes: 1 Sep
Thursday 8 September	Club Night
Jonathan Carr is taking us Under New Zealand . Yes, sooner or later we all end up underground... and speleologists opt for sooner! In this talk Jonathan will try and turn you to the dark side (but in less than 12hrs of film... hopefully). Much of the great indoors lies beneath popular tramping areas; and I'll include some new discoveries we have made. Caving is more than just tramping with your eyes closed!	
Weekend 10 – 11 September	Leader: Jim Western 337 1958
Cass Lagoon: A popular and well used track, but it is quite a long way and there are 2 saddles to climb. Beautiful winter scenery and a great overnight hut. Check with Jim if ice axe is required	Grade: Moderate Map: K34 Approx: \$30 List closes: 1 Sep
Weekend 10 – 11 September	Leader: Doug Forster 337 5453
Glenroy Tops: Travel up the obvious spur above Lake Daniells to camp near tarns around the 1600m contour. This is likely to be a snow camp at this time of year, so be prepared for this. Next day, travel along the tops to a low saddle and descend to Station Creek and back to Lake Daniells. There is a short steep section on the traverse, but otherwise the route is straightforward. Crampons, ice axe and gear for a snow camp essential. Leaving Friday evening (at a time to be arranged), and will camp amongst the campervans at the road end.	Grade: ModHard Map: M31 Approx: \$45 List closes: 1 Sep
Sunday 11 September	Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155
Mt Catherine: A cracker of a peak near Lake Heron. 2085m. Apparently views of Mt Cook are in the offing. See www.ctc.org.nz/trips/MAR7,04/index.html for a trip report.	Grade: Moderate Map: J35 Approx: \$30 List closes: 8 Sep

Sunday 11 September	Leader: Erik Norder 980 8022
Kowhai Valley: Near the base of Porter's Pass. A nice easy stroll up a sheltered catchment that contains the unique subalpine and alpine region of the Torlesse Range. Once a DSIR research area, there's a 4 bunk hut and other interesting structures.	Grade: Easy Map: L34 L35 Approx: \$20 List closes: 8 Sep
Thursday 15 September	Club Night
Let's go Knotting . Come along and learn all about knots – from being about to tie a guy rope onto a tent, to tying into the rope if you have a harness on, to basic knots to anchor yourself etc. Plenty of rope will be available for you to practice those knots.	
Saturday 17 September	Leader: Andrew Nichols 981 6698
Mt Richardson: 1047m Glentui – Mt Thomas Forest area. A popular climb on a loop track with views of Plains and west across Lees Valley to Puketeraki's. A great day out.	Grade: Easy Map: L34 M34 Approx: \$12 List closes: 15 Sep
Sunday 18 September	Leader: Jeff Hall 332 9251
Lake Taylor Mountain Biking: This is your opportunity to have a rare mountain biking adventure with the club. Plenty of scope for just cruising, or slogging you guts out up and down some semi-serious hills.	Grade: MTB Map: L32 L33 Approx: \$40 List closes: 15 Sep
Thursday 22 September	Club Night
Linda Lilburne will recount her adventures in Peru and Ecuador in 2002. These include tramping the Inca Trail, exploring cloudforest and Amazonian jungle, and checking out the incredible wildlife on the Galapagos Islands.	
Weekend 24 – 25 September	Leader: Required
Macaully Hut: Leader with 4WD or 4WD owning tramping buddies required. From the hut a 2-3 hr walk puts you right at the head of the valley in some spectacular alpine scenery. Or head straight up a peak from the hut.	Grade: All Map: I36 Approx: \$50 List closes: 15 Sep
Weekend 24 – 25 September	Leader: Honora Renwick 942 8368
Echo Col: Attention all you Waimak/Avoca pass-baggers! Frank and Honora are eyeing up Echo Col. The club hasn't done this one in a looong time. If the snowpack is stable and the weather's kind, we'll be crossing it on the day of the better conditions e.g. slope loading. Early morning start for a long day. Friday night at club hut, crampons and ice axe. Warm sleeping bag to spend the night at the chilly Avoca hut.	Grade: ModHard Map: K33 Approx: \$30 List closes: 15 Sep
Sunday 25 September	Leader: Ivor Lewis 347 8372
Bealey Spur: A very popular nature walk through beech forest to snowline on well marked track. Sweeping views of the Upper Waimakariri, includes BYO lunch at vintage musterers hut.	Grade: Easy Map: K34 Approx: \$20 List closes: 22 Sep
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.)	

Weekend 1 – 2 October	Leader: Ken Brown Ph 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 closes: 22 Sept
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 closes: 22 Sep
Thursday 6 October	Club Night
Richard Lobb is doing a presentation on the Canadian Rockies . More details next newsletter.	
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
Saturday 8 October (or Sunday 9 October)	Leader: Required
Mt Potts: Above old Erewhon ski field this trip has a straightforward climb of 1500m providing great views of the Southern Alps.	Grade: ModHard Map: J35 J36 Approx: \$40 List closes: 6 October

Trip Reports

6 August 2005

Mt Bruce

You might expect a climb to 1630m in the Craigieburn ranges in early August would require the full winter kit, ice gear and the prospect of some pretty chilly conditions.

Wrong.

Thanks to some superb organization by trip leader Susan Pearson we left Christchurch in mild but breezy conditions to a cloudless sky and balmy temperatures that would not be out of place in early summer. If this is global warming, bring it on. The skiers might be a bit frustrated but for trampers conditions could hardly have been better.

Our party of 12 left the car park at Cora Lynn a little after 10 a.m. and made good time to the top of the tree line on the north side of Mt Bruce, where the suggestion was made that we leave the well worn track and make a bee line straight up through the tussock for the summit. The first of the group made this just after midday and we all enjoyed some stunning views of the surrounding peaks.

Alastair Brown arrived at the top only to discover he had left his polar fleece jacket at the first regroup stop where we had left the track. Resigning himself to retracing his steps rather than the planned round trip he was then pleasantly surprised to have John Henzell turn up, and like El Grego, produced the missing polar fleece from his pack. Naturally John thought this was worth a beer or two, trouble was Alastair was reminded of this so many times during the afternoon he was thought to mutter "wished he'd left the bloody polar fleece back on the hill". (*Obviously the author has a better memory than the editor.* Ed.)

The return journey down the south side of Mt Bruce required an initial descent over a snow-covered slope. Most of us were without crampons and some without ice axes, but as Susan had correctly predicted, these were hardly necessary.

Notwithstanding, your inexperienced scribe was a little apprehensive until Alastair "Sturmbannfuhrer" charged off down the slope goose-stepping without any bother.

We descended to a sheltered and sunny saddle below the snow for lunch, with conditions so pleasant a little doze was indulged in.

The return was along Broad Stream, a well-marked track with the odd bridge and rope guide presumably courtesy of the lodge at Cora Lynn, certainly not engineered to DOC standards.

We made it back to the car park about 3.30p.m. and were back in the city before dark.. Brilliant.

Trampers: Susan Pearson, Joy, Mike, Kia Tegels, Alastair Brown, John Henzell, Linda Lilburne, Ruth Tramschek, Peter Eman, Ilan Egoz, Stephen Heald, Will Blake

Mueller Hut

I arrived early at the Shell station and was feeling a little apprehensive as I enjoyed a quiet cuppa. My concerns were heightened when Alan Ross pulled up, got out of his car and said, "I've got a cold" to which I replied "So have I." Alan had had very little sleep and was looking like I was before I took my Codral flu capsules so he decided not to go. I was still keen and confident I could get to the hut albeit I might be traveling a little slower than normal. We rang through to Gareth out in Burnham to reorganise our transport and were then on our way.

So from our dubious start the trip down was uneventful and we reached the roadend, after logging our intentions at the DoC office, about noon. We were lucky with weather and left the car, having gobbled lunch, in glorious sunshine and calm conditions. We were soon very hot as the lower section of the track is like a giant sized and extremely long staircase. With my head cold and a fair sized pack my legs were feeling like lead and my lungs felt too small for the job at hand.

We grunted on gaining height impressively and were soon catching our breath at the frozen Sealy Tarns.

From here we found snow although iceaxes weren't used quite yet. Following the marker poles we spent much of the time in a previous trampers footprints and for this I was very grateful. It was still beautifully calm and as the pitch became steeper we were able to rest and look back down to our tiny car below and the Hermitage just down the valley a little. Gareth took one of his few stops at a large boulder at the base of the final snow slope and suggested we don our crampons. With a final determined effort we were soon on top of the ridge and the view was worth every single step - FANTASTIC !! Snow capped peaks for miles, the Mueller glacier, the huge mass that is Sefton and what we decided was perhaps the low peak of Cook with it's top drifting in and out of cloud. Just beautiful, virtually windless, absolutely silent and a magical place to be.

To say I was keen to see the hut would be somewhat of an understatement. The 1000 metre climb, over three hours, had taken almost all the strength I had in my cold ravaged state and I declared a loud halleluiah on spotting the hut further up the ridge.

We slowed our pace and absorbed the breath taking views before arriving at what is a lovely new hut. Large, clean and fantastically sited for views we were soon enjoying a hot drink and skipping around in the snow taking photos. I rehydrated with more cups of tea while Rene and Gareth plugged up to the top of Ollivier and back.

We spent a relaxing and quiet evening in the hut sharing the space with the other two parties and finding to our surprise we were the only ones in any of the Mt Cook N.P huts for the night. Who would have thought - so few enjoying our mountains over a winter weekend with good weather forecast ? Perhaps it was in part due to the high avalanche risk rating.

We had a deliciously leisurely start to Sunday and were the last to leave the hut at 10am. It's such a magnificent spot I had to almost wrench myself away. Retracing our steps, almost literally, we descended on crampons with light snow falling and in gloriously still air. At about the halfway point we removed our crampons and proceeded down the vast rocky staircase - no doubt wrecking havoc on our poor knees. The return trip was under two hours, which I think is testament to the gradient of the track.

After an enjoyable if hugely overpriced lunch back at the village we fell back into the car for the long drive home.

A massive thank you to Rene for his long hours of driving while I sat in the back asleep between bouts of nose blowing and coughing. A thank you also to Gareth for a well led trip. A big tick for the effectiveness of Codral cold capsules - they really do keep you soldering on.

Trampers: Gareth Rapley, Rene Heyde, Lisa Glading (scribe)

Finally, a wee lament for the lack of winter this year (courtesy of the Dominion Post):



Please post or email articles for the October newsletter to the Editor (Alastair Brown) by Friday 23 September 2005.
Email: editor@ctc.org.nz
Post: PO Box 527, Christchurch.

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

