



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. 76

December 2006

No. 8

President	Richard Wills	389 8671	Club Captain	Craig Beere	374 2392
Vice President	Warwick Dowling	366 2045	Trip Organiser(day)	Bernard Parawa	981 4931
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349 2280	(weekend)	Jeff Hall	332 9251
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	332 2581	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981 7929
Editor	Alastair Brown	343 5111	Gear Custodian	Ken Brown	359 2000
Social Convener	Sue Napier	338 8926	New Members	Craig Beere	374 2392
				Susan Pearson	337 4914

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (minimal 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 Ken Brown 359 2000. 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 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.

Rates:	Tent	\$3/person/night
	Ice axes, crampons	\$4/weekend
	harnesses, snow shovel	
	Large/small weekend packs	\$2/weekend
	Mountain radio	\$30/weekend
		\$40/week.

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.

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: We now have photos on the web page to accompany trip reports. Please email photos to webmaster@ctc.org.nz .

CTC Website: As most of you know, the CTC has had a website (www.ctc.org.nz) since 1999. Paul Ashton has been Webmaster from the very beginning and has put many many hours of his time into it over the years. Paul now wants to take a slightly more behind-the-scenes role and so Richard Lobb is becoming the new Webmaster. The Committee would like to offer a huge thanks Paul for all his work in creating such a marvellous resource for the Club, and welcome Richard into the hot seat.

New Members: Please welcome the following new members - Fiona Tuckett, Liz Blacket, Helen Williams, Graham Allfrey, Alice Chen

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 .

Club Hut: 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.

Committee: The Committee meets from 7.30 pm 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).

***DID YOU KNOW THE
CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING
CLUB STARTED LIKE THIS?***

**Don't miss the club's
75th Anniversary
The weekend after Easter 2007
(14/15 April 2007)**

There is more information
in this newsletter, on the website
[www. http://www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz) or by
contacting
Rex or Greta Vink, Ph (03) 352 5329
PO Box 527, Christchurch
email greta-vink@clear.net.nz



Newsletter Online: 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 or 349 2280) or Susan Pearson (susan@toniq.co.nz or 337 4914).

Crampon Retention: Just a wee reminder that stuff attached to the side of your pack is liable to come off, if not securely attached, especially when bush bashing. Many CTC members have bitter memories of having lost valuable stuff in such a way (editor included). Remember that crampon patches are not necessarily to be trusted, and anything tied on needs at least one backup connection point in case of failure.

Mountain Radio: The Canterbury Mountain Radio Service has changed its address to c/- Ballingers Hunting & Fishing, 173 Montreal Street, P.O. Box 22-342, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Get Fit for Tramping: Susan's "Get Fit for Tramping" sessions happen every Wednesday evening over the summer months. Come along to Mt Vernon carpark at 6:00pm on Wednesdays. This is Susan's backyard and she can show you 5 or 6 circuits of varying distance and difficulty. The aim is to pick the right one for you to complete in 1 hour. As you get fitter, you move on to the next circuit. Race yourself or a fellow trumper to push your boundaries. Talk to Susan at club night and she'll show you the circuits on the map. Please note that there are no trip lists and no 'leaders'. After some initial help from Susan, you should be confident enough to follow well marked tracks on your own and be self reliant. After getting people settled on their circuits, Susan herself will be aiming at the Moderate level circuits.

Classifieds

Classified Ads: Are available to CTC members at no charge.

External Events of interest

Locator Beacons: The current 121.5 MHz locator beacons (the type the club owns and probably the type you own if you have one) will be obsolete from February 2009, when monitoring will cease. The powers-that-be recommend that you are fully upgraded to the new 406MHz beacons well before then. See www.beacons.org.nz for more detail.

45 Year of Antics: The Otago University Tramping Club has recently published 45 Years of Antics, a book containing some of the best stories and trip reports of the Club over the last 45 years. Two hundred pages of hilarious fun and crazy adventures selected from editions of Antics going back to 1960, when it was first published. Illustrated with magnificent photographs provided by past and present club members, and sprinkled with original cartoons. See the OUTC's website <http://www.outc.org.nz/461.html> for more detail. Members of FMC affiliated club's can order the book for \$29.95 + p&p. Cheques should be made out to 'Otago University Tramping Club' and sent to Otago University Tramping Club, P.O. Box 1436, Dunedin, with a note indicating the quantity of books required, your postal address, and if claiming the discount, the name of your FMC-affiliated club or confirmation that you are an individual supporter. Add \$5 for 1-2 books and \$10 for 3-5 books to cover postage and packing.

: Anthony Ede is thinking about tramping the Dusky Track in late February. Tramping in remote areas has its hazards and an individual has greater risks. He was wondering if there would be person(s) in the club that may be interested. He would really appreciate your help and interested parties can make contact using his email address: aede@dialectpayments.com. Thanks in Advance.

Poo Pots: DOC is trialling a "Poo Pots in the Park" scheme at Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. Pots are free, and recyclable outside the Visitor Centre at the Aoraki/Mt Cook village. The liners are free, bio-degradable, and can be deposited with the poo in hut toilets or outside the Visitor Centre. The CTC support and encourage the use of the Poo Pots in the Aoraki/Mt Cook region, both for human health and for Maori cultural reasons. To take, pick up a supply of Poo Pots and liners, visit the Visitor Centre at the Aoraki/Mt Cook village during its opening hours - we suggest you contact DOC directly to confirm the opening hours before leaving Christchurch.

FMC pack liners and poster: FMC have produced their own pack liner. Suitable for day packs and for a bag-with-a-bag in bigger packs, it is a bit smaller and lighter than the standard. Prices \$56 for 100 bags or \$20 for 25 bags inc. p&p from FMC. See the notice board in the latest FMC bulletin. If you only want a

few, email the CTC secretary secretary@ctc.org.nz or phone 349 2280 and we will see if there is enough interest for an order. FMC have also produced a colour poster - again see the Bulletin.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 30 November

Newsletter night: This is the usual origami, followed by a presentation on how to use a mountain radio – an absolute must for those going on weekend and multi day trips.

Saturday 2 December

Leader: John Taylor 942 3012

Three Deans: In behind Amberley in the foothills. A nice day walk with some scenery.

Grade: Easy
Closed: 30 Nov
Map: M34
Approx: \$15

Weekend 2-3 December

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

Lake Tennyson Base Camp: Join Bernard for a great place for a base camp under the Beech trees beside the lake. Princess bath is just one option for tramping, there are options for all grades as well as scope for fishing, and mountain biking.

Grade: Easy/All/MTB
Closed: 23 Nov
Map: M31
Approx: \$40

Weekend 2-3 December

Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671

Navigation: Learn how to read a map, line up a compass, fix your position, tame the terrain and find your way from here to there whether up in the clouds or down in the bush. Map L34, notebook, pencil, rubber and a compass with a transparent base required. Magnifying glass useful for reading map detail. Classroom/Port Hills session on Saturday and "In the Bush" training near Mt Oxford on Sunday. Check with Richard if you need advice on purchasing any items. Saturday venue to be announced.

Grade: Training
Closed: 23 Nov
Map: L34
Approx: \$25

Thursday 7 December

Annual BBQ at Halswell Quarry: Meet at 6pm. Bring your own food and drink. BBQ's will be provided. This is a great social event in the awesome warm weather that we will have. All welcome, including the kids.

Saturday 9 December

Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671

Vertical Rope Skills: Come along and extend your skills vertically. Learn abseiling, prusiking, lowering, safety methods, multi-stage abseils, single rope abseils, multi-stage lowering and more. Some day you may need to do this on a tramp. Beginners can learn the basics and for people wanting to upgrade their skills, I will be teaching some advanced techniques, to increase safety and enable you to deal with some awkward situations. Give your preference for Sat or Sun. The day will be chosen on the number of preferences for each day and the weather.

Grade: Training
Closes: 7 Dec
Map:
Approx: \$10

Weekend 9-10 December

Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003

Griffin Creek - Rocky Creek: An interesting West Coast trip with a mixture of bush, riverbed, track and also the opportunity of open tops travel. (up to Mt Griffin and the Serpentine mine) The tracks have been recut in the last couple of years and there is a good hut at Griffin Creek.

Grade: Moderate
Closed: 30 Nov
Map: K33
Approx: \$40

Sunday 10 December

Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000

Little Mt Peel: Peel Forest area. From the Blandwood Road end climb steadily via Deer Spur overlooking the Rangitata. 8km, approx 850m height gain, marked tracks, some steep. 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: Easy/Mod
Closes: 7 Dec
Map: J37
Approx: \$25

Thursday 14 December

Norman Hardie on "The Silver Hut expedition": Doctor Pugh who had been the physiologist to the 1953 Everest Expedition was very keen to undertake long-term experiments on humans at high altitude with the intention of making the results available to the planners of future space flights. This was before the first sputnik went into orbit. Eventually money was raised and a large group was organised for a ten months enterprise at 20,000 feet in the Himalayas during 1960/1. Sir Edmund Hillary was the leader of the party which over the scattered period included 23 men, nine from New Zealand and the others from the USA, UK and India.

To give some incentive to mountaineers and to test the long term effects of the experiment an attempt was made on Makalu, fifth highest mountain in the world, at the end of the period. Ama Dablam was climbed for the first time and to give some news value for the sponsors a detailed search was made for the alleged yeti. Norman Hardie was there for the first three months for the construction of the high laboratory. He kept in touch with the others after he left and has photographs covering the whole enterprise. Some of Pugh's medical team have subsequently been the main advisers to American and Russian space station experts.

He will also have copies of his new autobiography, "On My Own Two Feet" available.

Saturday 16 December

Leader: Adrian Sullivan 348 4612

Peak Hill: Southwestern shore of Lake Coleridge. 5-6 hrs return. Outstanding viewpoint. 1240m. 600m height gain, 4/5km tramping on part track and part easy tussock hillside terrain

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 14 Dec
Map: K35
Approx: \$20

Sunday 17 December

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

Mt Catherine: Clent Hills, Ashburton River Catchment. Weather permitting leave ChCh 5pm Friday night and camp beside Lake Heron. Views of the rugged Arrowsmiths. 2085m.

Grade: ModHard
Closes: 14 Dec
Map: J35
Approx: \$20

Sunday 17 December

Leader: Required

Mt Somers - Canyoning: Wet t-shirts anyone? Fantastic summer fun in a beautiful landscape. Let the river be your guide. Requires wetsuits, abseiling experience, a lack of fear of water and a degree of gung ho attitude! For those who think Ashley Gorge is a bit tame.

Grade: Wet
Closes: 14 Dec
Map: K36
Approx: \$25

Thursday 21 December

Plate and Crate: This is the annual potluck dinner and the final social event for the year. It is from 6pm, eating at 6:30. Bring food for at least 4 people. You will need your own eating tools (plate and cutlery) plus liquid refreshments.

Saturday 23 December

Leader: Bruce Miller 349 3611

Mt Williams: APNP Awesome peak - stands above Edwards/Mingha confluence.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 21 Dec
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Between Xmas 2006 & Jan 14 2007

Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045

Hopkins - Temple - Ahuriri - Snowy Gorge Creek - Maitland - Hopkins: This circuit starts and ends at the top of Lake Ohau, tramping to the west and north. Lovely country over snowy passes and beautiful valleys. Pace medium. Ice-axe and crampons required for the Temple - Ahuriri crossing. Actual walking 4-5 days. Departure date yet to be confirmed. Expressions of interest invited.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 14 Dec
Map: G38 H38
Approx: \$TBA

27 December 2006 – 2 January 2007

Leader: Bev Clark 326 6544(and Dave)

Poulter River / Thompson River – Arthur's Pass NP area: A Xmas trip in the Eastern area of Arthur's Pass National Park that is an interesting area, that the club has not run a lot of recent trips into. Should be a great trip contact Bev and Dave for more details. Experience is needed in traveling off track, as this does involve some travel off the standard marked trails.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 14 Dec
Map: K33 L33
Approx: \$TBA

Thursday 28 December

No club night: Happy tramping / socialising

Long Weekend 1-5 January

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

Wilberforce River - Mungo Saddle - Arthur's Pass SE area: For those of you that saw Penny's great slides of Mungo Pass area here is the chance to see it first hand with Bernard. Heading up the Wilberforce River and into the unknown – contact the leader for details. Experience is needed in traveling off track, as this does involve some travel off the standard marked trails.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: ASAP
Map: J34 K34
Approx: \$60

Friday 5 January

No club night: Happy tramping / socialising

Weekend 6-7 January

Leader: Flo Roberts 980 7913

Lake Stream – Lewis Pass / Rahu Saddle area: Trip list closes please contact as early as possible before Xmas.

The first weekend trip of the New Year, it's over Lewis Pass to Rahu Saddle. Lake Stream Biv is in a beautiful location with the option of a tops circuit with good views down into Springs Junction if the Northwester stays away. Contact the leader as this does involve some travel without tracks.

Grade: ModHard
Closes: 28 Dec
Map: L31
Approx: \$40

Sunday 7 January

Leader: John Henson 342 3311

Mystery Moderate Trip: Que sera sera!

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 4 Jan
Map:
Approx: \$TBA

Thursday 11 January

Trip report night: Come along and hear about those amazing tramping trips that were done over the festive season.

Weekend 13-14 January

Leader: Jenny Harlow 349 2280

Casey Binser: A really good standard Arthurs Pass trip, suitable for beginner overnight trampers who however must be capable of carrying a pack for 6/7 hours each day. This is very pleasant country and Hallelujah flat which is passed on day 1 is a delightful place for lunch. The Casey Hut is big and comfortable for Saturday night and Sunday sees a pleasant wander down the river flats before a climb up thru the bush to the Binser Saddle and finally down to the road for(almost) a complete round trip.

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 4 Jan
Map: L33
Approx: \$40

Sunday 14 January	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322 6196
Blimit: Arthur's Pass – Twin peak circuit. Popular high points above Punchbowl Falls.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 11 Jan Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Saturday 13 January	Leader: Erik Norder 980 8022
Hallelujah Flat: Rejoice the Nord is at hand! APNP - along the track from Andrews Shelter in the Mt White area. Lovely tramp through forest to open scenic river flats. 8km there and 8km back, 300m height gain, mostly straightforward forest track. If it is a hot day there is a good swimming hole to cool off in when you get back.	Grade: Easy Closes: 11 Jan Map: L33 Approx: \$25
Thursday 18 January	
The CTC Web Site: Tonight our web team (Paul Ashton and Richard Lobb) will talk about the club web site -- how it developed, where it's at now, and where it might head in the future. In particular they'll be seeking opinions on some of the future possibilities, such as wikis, forums, shopping baskets and photo albums. Come along, learn about some of the site's present capabilities and offer your own opinions on how you'd like to see it develop.	
Saturday 20 January	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980 6006
Mt Bruce: A fine viewpoint on the Black Range. The walk overlooks the Bealey/Waimak and Harper River catchment. Well tracked.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 18 Jan Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Weekend 20-21 January	Leader: Clive Marsh 325 6253
Mt Adams – West Coast: Repeat of the Mt Adams trip that was cancelled in November if the weather gods are happy.	Grade: Hard Closes: 11 Jan Map: I34 Approx: \$60
Weekend 20-21 January	Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914
North Opuha: The North Opuha Conservation Area became public land in Sept 2003 and covers the lower slopes of the Ben McLeod Range close to the Fox peak ski area not far from Fairlie. The area is served by a small historic hut with good camping around it. Access to the hut (ht 900m) is an easy MTB ride or an easy 2hr tramp. From the hut, there is a lovely(moderate) ridge walk around the basin (1000m ht gain), and/or we can explore the valley floor for a more relaxed option. MTB circuits via the Phantom river are another attractive option.	Grade: EasyMod/MTB Closes: 11 Jan Map: I37 Approx: \$50
Weekend 20-21 January (or 27-28 January)	Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914
North Opuha conservation area : The new conservation area has a 7km Access track which is ideal for mountain bikes, so although the walk in is pleasant, the bike in will get you to the hut faster for more exploring time. The area is served by an historic 4 bunker musterer's hut in good condition with plenty of attractive camping around it. There is a lovely ridge circuit to tramp, and MTB tracks all over the place. This can be as challenging or as relaxing a weekend as you want to make it. Walking the MTB access track is an option for more relaxed trampers and is set in impressive country.	Grade: All Closes: 11 Jan Map: Approx: \$60

Extended Trip 20-27 January

Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275

West Coast Traverse Taipo to Whitcombe via the Kokatahi: The plan is to do a traverse on the West side of the divide utilizing the newly maintained huts and tracks in the Hokitika catchment. The trip starts in the criusey Taipo climbs up to Dunns creek hut over Newton Saddle and into the Arahura. The next stage leads over into the Styx , climbs up to Lathrop Saddle and over the Browning range then down into the head of the Crawford river. The Crawford is followed to the junction with the Kokathai, then the Kokathai followed up to its head and on up to Zit Saddle. Depending on weather and time there are several options from there.. From Zit Saddle the Adventure ridge can be followed into the Toaroha valley to visit the hot pools and an exit to the road via the Toaroha track ,or the short route exiting from Zit saddle to Boo Boo hut via the Pinnical ridge, or a harder option which after dropping to the Toaroha involves climbing up to the Diedrich range and down Gerhardt Spur to the Whitcombe river, or lots of others some even exiting to Canterbury. All possible depe With 10 huts and 5 bivs along the route,(bad weather shouldn't upset us to much) and with the tracks in the upper Kokathai being recently recut this is a good time to visit this rugged interesting country. Talk to Andrew for more information.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 11 Jan
Map: K33 J33
Approx: \$60

Sunday 21 January

Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697

Mt Harper: Above Lake Emma. Rangitata River flows around Mt Harper and Mesopotamia Station is nearby under the Sinclair and Ben Mcleod Ranges 6-7 hours (loop route). Views of Asburton River gorge and lakes area.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 18 Jan
Map: J36
Approx: \$25

Weekend 27-28 January

Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045

Buckland Peaks: A good track to a newish high level hut. Take advantage of the long summer days to get to this interesting tramp in an area not often visited by the CTC. It's a long drive but well worth it. There are great tops to explore above the hut.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 18 Jan
Map: K29
Approx: \$50

Sunday 28 January

Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914

Around Mt Somers: This involves a tramp of 28km, and a cumulative height gain of 2000m. With short infrequent rests this takes 9 hours, so be prepared for a 10 hour tramp. Starting and ending at the Sharplin Falls carpark, this is a varied and interesting tramp passing through forest, under waterfalls, and over open tussock land. You will see interesting bivvies, a brand new hut, and with fantastic views and traverse the south face of Mt Somers on a new track still unknown to many.

Grade: ModHard
Closes: 25 Jan
Map: K36
Approx: \$25

Sunday 28 January

Leader: Craig Beere 374 2392

Ashley Gorge: One of the top picnic spots in Canterbury and a fine place to explore. Beautiful gorge area.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 25 Jan
Map: L34
Approx: \$15

Thursday 1 February

Multi-day tramps in the South Island: Susan Pearson is taking us on multi-day tramps in the south Island. The trips will be including Lewis Pass to Nelson Lakes, and possibly The Dragons teeth – an area rarely visited by the tramping club.

Weekend 3-4 February

Leader: Andrew Wrapson 366 5108

St James Walkway: You will need to take a days holiday on the Monday (5th) but take advantage of Waitangi day and make a long summer weekend and join Andrew to walk the entire length of this walkway. The St James is one of the best of Canterbury's walkways and is suitable for anybody who can carry a 4 day pack for 6 hours a day. With good tracks , big huts and great scenery this is well worth the effort. Numbers limited so be in early.

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 25 Jan
Map: M31 M32
Approx: \$50

Long Weekend 3-6 February

Leader: Jeff Hall 332 9251

Copland Pass – Mt Cook NP area: Take the Monday off for a long 4 day weekend for this great crossover trip. Option of either cross there and back or attempt a round trip. Still to work out the logistics but give me a ring if you are interested. Definitely need some snow craft skills as will require competence with ice axe and crampons for the snow slope at the Pass.

Grade: Hard
Closes: 25 Jan
Map: H36
Approx: \$60

Long Weekend 3-6 February

Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914

Lake Angelus: Classic tramping trip, if you haven't done it yet now is your chance. Leaving on Saturday we will walk Robert Ridge, visit Lake Angelus hut and stay there or maybe camp at Hinapouri Tarn. Climb Angelus Peak, drop down through Sunset saddle to Hopeless Hut. Finally walk out along the Travers valley. Will need to take Monday off work.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 25 Jan
Map: M30 N30 N29
Approx: \$60

3 February 2007 – 9 February 2007

Leader: Bev Clark 326 6544(and Dave)

Poulter River / Thompson River – Arthur's Pass NP area: A repeat of the above Xmas trip into the Eastern area of Arthur's Pass National Park depending on how this trip goes. Should be a great trip contact Bev and Dave for more details. Experience is needed in traveling off track, as this does involve some travel off the standard marked trails.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 25 Jan
Map: K33 L33
Approx: \$TBA

Sunday 4 February

Leader: Dayle Drummond 337 1718

Mt Potts: Upper Rangitata. Mt Potts is near the confluence of the Clyde and Havelock Rivers. Above the Erewhon Park Skifield.

Grade: ModHard
Closes: 1 Feb
Map: J35
Approx: \$25

Sunday 4 February

Leader: Brent Crammond 322 4353

Nikau Palm Gully: Out past Akaroa towards the heads. A great place to explore this summer.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 1 Feb
Map: N37
Approx: \$20

Weekend 10-11 February

Leader: Craig Beere 374 2392

Minga Deception (or visa versa): The classic Arthurs pass weekend trip. A week after the coast to coast the track should be free of runners. Join Craig on this great trip and see one of the best parts of the national park. Good hut (Goat pass) to stay in on Saturday night.

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 1 Feb
Map: K33
Approx: \$40

Weekend 17-18 February

Leader: Jeff Hall 332 9251(and Max Delacy)

Canyon Creek – Ahuriri River: Access to the park is via Birchwood Road which leaves SH8 about 17 km west of Omarama township. Birchwood Road runs for 21 km up to the park boundary, after which it is 4WD only for a further 10km to the road end but my Corolla seemed to manage it OK. All sorts of options in the valley or on the tops.

Grade: ModHard
Closes: 8 Feb
Map: G38
Approx: \$60

Weekend 17-18 February

Leader: Ian Dunn 343 2155

Dunfiunary – Lake Pukaki: Mt Dunfiunary can be easily accessed from the Mt Cook road and provides some great views of the peaks of the surrounding area not to mention a few mobs of Himalayan Tahr. Always an interesting area.

Grade: Hard
Closes: 8 Feb
Map: H37
Approx: \$60

Trip Reports

The rather soggy story of Alan's much-anticipated Show Weekend 2006 tramp . . .

Plan A – Kokatahi - Toaroha via Zit Saddle. Plan B – Grey Range. Plan C – another really good area John Henson knows about. Plan D – Ohau. Despite the appalling forecast for Friday and Saturday, nine of the original group of keen trampers met at John Henson's house on Thursday night for the Great Getaway, believing fervently in the clearance forecast for late Sunday/Monday. John had decided earlier in the week that paternal duties meant that he just had to stay home, but he is a good host. John Henzell turned up in suit and tie – rather formal tramping gear we thought until he explained that although “I had my pack actually in the boot of the car”, he had been looking at the weather forecast for long enough to realise that a sore knee really must preclude the possibility of getting soaking wet with the rest of us. Nothing daunted, we squashed into Steve's truck and Alan's limousine and set off for Ohau, where Andrew used his ski-bunny connections to book us into the Glen Mary Ski Club hut.

We stopped in Fairlie to add Max to the party and drove on. About half an hour later, one of the minor recurrent sub-themes of the trip revealed itself as Richard asked if any of the other occupants of Steve's truck happened to have a spare toothbrush with them. No, we did not. A quick tour of late-night Twizel confirmed that it was seriously lacking in that most necessary amenity for the modern traveller - a toothbrush vending machine. It was lacking in most other things as well, but that's Twizel for you. Richard would probably have liked to be allowed to drop the topic right there but no, it had way too much potential amusement value for that. We managed to persuade him to use Steve's cell phone to call the Alan-mobile, to see if they could ask about dental hygiene kit purchase opportunities at the pub where they were picking up the key to the Ski Club hut. A short technological struggle ensued as the cell phone asserted its mastery over a mere human and tried to connect to the internet, order pizzas, play happy tunes, and sulk wordlessly before it could be bullied into calling Alan. Alan seemed to find the situation somewhat amusing but happily agreed to ask everyone he met that night if they had a spare toothbrush they could sell to Richard for an appropriate exorbitant sum (plus his commission of course).

Friday morning – the expected rain and low cloud. Richard was offered various toothbrush substitutes from the kitchen paraphernalia – the upholstery bit from the Hoover, a scrubbing brush, etc. He did seem seriously interested in the possibility of radical modifications to the scrubbing brush at one point. Alan tried gallantly to keep the three-day-trip momentum going but enthusiasm waned visibly as we got comfortable with maps and forecasts and talked about river levels and had more cups of tea, and second breakfast . . . In the end all except sensible Ruth opted for a day trip up behind the hut on Friday, and definitely-oh-yes very-definitely-nothing-could-stop-us-Alan starting a two-day trip up the Maitland on Saturday. Steve had been talking very eagerly about trying his truck in the mud so we loaded packs into that so that he had a good excuse to avoid the rain for a few ks by driving up the four-wheel drive track onto the terraces behind the hut. Andrew had to go with him to show him the way, and Max had to go with him because . . . well, it was not clear why but he did. Steve at that point had not actually joined us but clearly he would catch us up. Barely five seconds later he does – stomping after us with his pack on and asking why all ours are in his truck. Does this mean we have to carry ours for that crucial extra couple of k? Apparently yes. Steve let Alan get back to the truck and start to take his pack out before he 'changed his mind' and leapt into the driver's seat, giggling happily. Alan looked most taken-aback to have been caught out so easily.

Eventually we were all walking up the very pleasant track up the beech forest beside Freehold Creek, with speedy types like Peter, Max and Flo leading the way. By the time we collected for a short break part way up, Alan had had to remove his shirt and when he joined the group his appearance was greeted by howls of derision, apparently aimed at his resplendently pink and glowing tummy. Alan furiously repudiated all accusations of 'gut' and drew himself up proudly to demonstrate this, but unfortunately this had such an effect on his centre of gravity and equilibrium that he promptly fell over backwards. A slippery rock. Allegedly.

Lunch at the bushline, a discussion of parkas (waterproofness of, or otherwise) and then out into the beautiful tussocky alpine basins. I have this description on good authority from Andrew – visibility was not wonderful at the time. Dayle gave equally vivid descriptions of other memorable CTC trips in the area while we plodded upwards. Andrew suggested a loop to come down to the creek a slightly different way and we sidled around the edge of a basin and up onto a ridge only to find that Alan and Peter had opted for

a lower route. Alan later claimed that we had callously and carelessly abandoned our leader, but democracy and the majority vote clearly prevailed at the time. By this time it was raining steadily and there were no takers for a longer trip, so we met Alan and Peter near the bushline, received their admonitions totally without the proper show of respect and regret, and all squelched home for showers, tea, soup . . . Did any of us really regret that we were not ten staunch but soggy trampers crammed into a four-bunk hut beside a raging river with the rain pelting down?

Saturday. Raining hard. The only bright spot was that against all odds, a spare toothbrush had been discovered the previous night. Well-boiled, it seemed to make Richard the happiest of men. Most of the party refused to even get out of bed until guaranteed safe passage back to Christchurch, and Steve eventually had to be lured out with coffee. Alan made a phone call for a weather forecast and reported that the expected Sunday clearance now looked like Monday, and it was raining in Christchurch and probably everywhere else in the southern hemisphere. There was no opposition whatsoever to heading home, and we packed and cleaned up in record time and drove home via a leisurely stop in Fairlie for coffee* and cakes. I am now beginning to see why every one is so enthusiastic about longer trips – clearly hardly any tramping happens, you stay in very comfortable ski huts, drink wine and have coffee, do a lot of armchair navigation, talk about all the great trips, and then come home. Perfect.

* 'Eat' deli bar and cafe in Fairlie – just on the corner near the 4-Square. Simply the best place to stop at if you are heading down that way. Easy-going, child friendly (very important with the average group of trampers), good food and coffee.

Trampers - Alan Ross, (esteemed leader), Andrew Turton (co-pilot, navigator), Flo Roberts, Ruth Gray, Peter Eman, Max de Lacey, Steve Bruerton, Dayle Drummond, Richard Lobb, Jenny Harlow.

Newsletters revisited - Reprints of selections from past newsletters for Anniversary Year

'The Christchurch Trumper' September, 1956 (Vol. 24, No. 7)

Arthur's Pass Weekend

The weekend of August 11-12th was set down in the programme as our annual weekend at the Pass. Twenty-three members were at Christchurch station in time to leave on the 6.40 pm railcar, two others arriving at 6.45 in the mistaken belief that ten to seven was "zero". At Springfield most members joined in the traditional dash to a "cuppa".

We arrived at the Pass in pouring rain and many trampers, mountaineers etc. urged harassed railway officials to speed up the unloading of their packs so that they could don parkas. I feel that the guard on the railcar was relieved to see the back of us.

Although it was getting late various members became absorbed in a game of "Kan-u-go" until almost Saturday morning when one of the more indignant lacy committee members tactfully (?) suggested that the others "might want to get some sleep". In the meantime the two who missed the railcar at Christchurch arrived per car. To the roll of thunder and the flash of lightening all were soon in their bags and silence descended at last!! (A. H. please note) until 5 am when some late railcar arrivals joined us. Dawn was ushered in to the sound of heavy rain. This made most members somewhat reluctant to arise but finally breakfast was over and Ernie suggested a trip over the Pass and down the Otira Gorge to Otira. Several hardy souls were eventually persuaded to put on boots and parkas and off they went. Rain fell all the way but they seemed to enjoy the walk. Two miles short of Otira a M.o.W. truck stopped and despite the leader's protests he was bundled aboard and we rode the last two miles to the settlement. Fortunately our arrival coincided with that of a railcar and we joined the passengers in the Refreshment Rooms for pies, sandwiches and tea. A roaring fire was also greatly appreciated. However, all good things come to an end and we were finally asked to move on, so we adjourned elsewhere for some time until we could see a train being assembled in the rail yards. We journeyed back to the Pass in the guard's van arriving about 5 pm.

After tea we were joined by a party of West Coast Boy Scouts and Ray Clelland the Park Ranger, and Martin Barriball, a well known mountaineer, showed coloured slides of places they had visited. Mr Clelland also gave a brief talk on the geography of the Park and on a wall map pointed out prominent features and points of interest.

Afterwards, canasta, monopoly, kan-u-go and other games were played until Sunday morning (almost). Sunday was dull but was not raining. Gloom settled over the party however, when it was found that a vital item of breakfast had been omitted from the foodlist. However, tramping ingenuity overcame this setback when a pressure cooker was commandeered and all hands set to work cutting up surplus meat and vegetables left over from the previous meal. All edible materials on hand were popped in and the lid clamped down, brought to pressure - the result - one of the tastiest tramping stews on record.

After the meal, parties set off to climb Avalanche Peak, Mt. Aitken, and Phipps Peak. Another party headed for the Temple Basin Ski Area. After climbing for some time the assault parties all encountered misty conditions, snow showers and cold winds with visibility reduced to nil. All these parties turned back without reaching their objectives, but all had an enjoyable time. The ski party only broke on ski. On the way back to the Hostel the Aitken party detoured to the Punchbowl Waterfall.

Back at the Hostel there was just time for a quick meal and a general tidy up before the train left at 5pm. Our seats were in the last carriage which we virtually had to ourselves and so all those well known, traditional, and as usual harmoniously sung tramping songs were trotted out and systematically murdered one by one. If only we could hear ourselves as others hear us. All too soon we were pulling into Christchurch Station and many a strained vocal chord was set at rest.

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Saturday, 21 January
– Thanks.