



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

PO Box 527, Christchurch, [www.ctc.org.nz](http://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

## September 2006

No. 5

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

**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](mailto: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.

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

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## Notices

**Email:** The club operates a moderated email list, whose address is [members@ctc.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:paul@tourplan.com) .

**New Members:** Please welcome the following new members - Ian Foster and Rebecca Sunderland

**Membership Database:** If you know of any updates, errors or omissions, email Susan Pearson [susan@toniq.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@ctc.org.nz) or 349 2280).



### ***DO YOU RECOGNISE THESE PACKS?***

**Christchurch Tramping Club 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Weekend after Easter 2007  
(14/15 April 2007)**

More details in the October newsletter but keep this date free

To go on the mailing list  
Ph (03) 352 5329, PO Box 527, Christchurch  
email [greta-vink@clear.net.nz](mailto: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.

**New Fridge:** Thanks to Doug and Nellie Napier for the donation of their much loved but too smaller Fridge for our Club Hut at Arthur's Pass. Much appreciated as our existing fridge suffered under the hands of someone forgetting to remove their food from the freezer when departing! The new fridge will be going up the Pass in a couple of weeks.

## Classifieds

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

**Snow Chains:** Feeling tyred? Things just keep sliding past? Get a grip; Snow chains for sale, never used \$65 ono. Suit small to medium car ("Speedy 40" will fit 155-13, 165/70/-13, 175/65-13 etc) Please phone Jim Western on 337 1958.

**Galibier Makalu Climbing / Tramping Boots:** Made in France by Richard Ponvert. Though a few years old, these were top of the range and are in excellent condition. Rigid sole, suitable for crampons. Double layer of hand stitched leather. Says size 10 1/2, but I am a 9 1/2 and they are a bit short in length for me. \$100 for a bargain. Phone Rene Heyde 358 3194 or 0274 570 422.

**Advance notice:** Worrying about Christmas pressies already? Looking forward to summer and being able to wear T shirts again instead of multiple thermal layers? Wondering what to do for a replacement for that calendar in the loo? The Club will be producing both T shirts and calendars in celebration of the 75th anniversary next year. Both will be on sale before Christmas. More information in future newsletters, or contact the secretary (secretary@ctc.org.nz)

## 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](http://www.beacons.org.nz) for more detail.

# Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 31 August

Club Night

**Newsletter folding followed by "Tramp Wise":** After origami we will be having an informal discussion on "What happens if the trip does not go according to plan"? We will consider the options open to you, and then how you might put them into action.

Saturday 2 September (or Sunday 3)

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

**Crater Rim Walkway. 4) Sign of the Kiwi to Godley Head:** The final installment of life in the backyard by Bernard. Crest the crater eastwards on easy tracks, past memorial shelters and popular climbing crags, to arrive at the breathtaking conclusion to this epic march. (GPS recommended and don't forget to spit on the Gondola.) 18km, 400m height gain, undulating tracked terrain.

Grade: Easy  
Closed: 31 Aug  
Map: N36 N37  
Approx: \$10

Thursday 7 September

**Sue Napier is taking us to Mali:** There will be picture of a trip Sue did to Mali in West Africa last year. The trip involved visiting lots of markets and mosques, tramping in the Dogon area, travelling down the Niger River by boat, and then a music festival in the desert outside Timbuktu.

Weekend 9-10 September

Leader: Jonathan Carr 351 1574

**Lake Mavis:** Lake Mavis (above Goat Pass) in the winter! Come and visit this very accessible mountain gem when it's all covered in snow. A winter wonderland and it will be a full moon as well, this should be magical. Ice axe and very warm winter gear will be needed. It's upgraded to ModHard only because of the need to camp in snow in the winter (talk to Jonathan if in doubt).

Grade: ModHard  
Closed: 31 Aug  
Map: K33  
Approx: \$30

Sunday 10 September

Leader: Malcolm Carr 332 2581

**Lake Rubicon:** Out west past Springfield. A pleasant day hike that leads in over rolling farm land and on up the valley to the little gem that is Lake Rubicon nestled in the foothills. A perfect place for lunch. Further ramblings may be possible up the valley. 12km, 200m height gain.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 7 Sep  
Map: K35  
Approx: \$15

Sunday 10 September

Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355 7697

**Mt White:** Mt White stands above the Poulter River and Waimakariri in the SE corner of APNP. Some of the best views in the park.

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 7 Sep  
Map: K33  
Approx: \$20

Thursday 14 September

**Film night:** We will be showing the original "Seven years in Tibet". This film is a 1957 British documentary made by and featuring the real Heinrich Harrer, tracing the true story of the Dalai Lama's flight from the Forbidden City.

Austrian mountain-climber Harrer found himself interred in an Indian prison camp at the outbreak of World War 2. He escaped, crossed the Himalayas at great peril and privation and entered - not only the forbidden country of Tibet, but it's holy capital Lhasa, where he befriended the young Dalai Lama and was allowed to photograph the breathtaking architecture, pageantry and populace of this remote paradise. Smuggled out of Tibet, Harrer's 16mm colour footage (taken in 1939-40) is featured in this reconstructed account of his long mountainous trek and actually records the Dalai Lama's escape to India with the red Chinese army in hot pursuit.

Sunday 17 September

Leader: Dave Clark 326 6544

**Barnett Park to Mt Pleasant:** Battlement Site to Evans Pass then to Barnett Park via Sumner. Meet at 9 am at Barnett Park to walk the new track to the Summit Rd.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 14 Sep  
Map: K36  
Approx: \$10

Sunday 17 September

Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914

**Mt Somers (1687m) via Pinnacles Hut:** Walk starts at Sharplin Falls Scenic Reserve. From the summit of Mt Somers' prominent volcanic cone there's commanding views across the plains. Ice axe and crampons required.

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 14 Sep  
Map: K36  
Approx: \$25

Thursday 21 September

**CTC Photo Competition:** It is back, after a break of several years. The categories will be:

- Landscape
- Human interest
- Humour
- Flora / fauna

Prizes will be presented in each category, and the CTC photo competition trophy will be presented (if we can find it!!). Also your photographs - winners or not - could be selected (if you agree) for the club's 75th anniversary 2007 calendar.

Entries close on the 14th, and must include a suitable caption, and the name of photographer. (Only 2 entries per category, per person allowed). Please get them to Sue Napier on, or before, that date.

Prizes will be sponsored by Photo and Video International, Merivale Mall.

Weekend 23-24 September

Leader: Warwick Dowling 366 2045

**Black Hill Hut:** Black Hill Hut is perched high up on the Puketeraki range with views as far as Christchurch. With good tracks and a cosy hut this is a great hut for a weekend away. There are good tops just above the hut to explore for the keen active party members.

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 14 Sep  
Map: L34  
Approx: \$30

Sunday 24 September

Leader: Required

**Fox Peak:** A high hill with wonderful views of the Mt Cook and Upper Rangitata regions.

Grade: Hard  
Closes: 21 Sep  
Map: I37 J37  
Approx: \$40

Sunday 24 September

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

**Mt Binser:** SE APNP Mt White - Casey Saddle area. Tramp starts at Andrews shelter. Ridgeline travel with plenty of snow. Stupendous all embracing views of nearby 4x 2000m+ National Park whoppers - Mts Harper, Davie, Murchison, and Franklin

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 21 Sep  
Map: L33 L34  
Approx: \$25

Sunday 24 September

Leader: Bruce Miller 349 3611

**Rabbit Hill:** A prominent knob to the left of Porters Pass designed with day trippers in mind. Great country for rambling. The majestic Torlesse Range stands close by along with the café at Springfield.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 21 Sep  
Map: K34  
Approx: \$15

Thursday 28 September

**Newsletter folding night + "Tramp Wise":** After origami we will be having an informal discussion on "What happens if the trip does not go according to plan?" This months incident report and discussion focuses on what happens when trampers get separated from the group... and then get lost.

Sunday 1 October

Leader: Erik Norder 980 8022

**Bealey Spur:** This is an ideal beginners trip for those new to the club (or the country) - only 550 metre high gain and a total walk of 11 kilometres. A good track with great scenery make this a club favourite. It will be led at an easy pace with frequent stops for drink, food or photos. Speedfreaks are advised to avoid this trip. Ice axe and crampons will not be required.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 28 Sep  
Map: K34  
Approx: \$25

Sunday 1 October

Leader: Required

**The Pyramid:** APNP above the confluence of Hawdon and Sudden valleys. 5-6 hours loop route. An old track leads up the SE ridge (1608m) Unobstructed views of Waimak basin and surrounding peaks. Scree descent possible to the Hawdon.

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 28 Sep  
Map: K33  
Approx: \$25

Weekend 7-8 October	Leader: Jim Western 337 1958
<b>Henry Saddle/Anne Hut/Boucher/Foley:</b> A great moderate trip in the Lewis Pass area. This trip is almost a round trip starting at the top of the Lewis Pass. It initially follows the St James walkway before turning off to climb up and over the Henry Saddle and down to the large comfortable Anne Hut. This saddle is untracked but follows easy stream beds and open valleys. Sunday again follows part of the St James over the Anne Saddle before again following the open beds of the Foley and Boucher streams back to the road.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 28 Sep Map: M31 Approx: \$40
Sunday 8 October	Leader: Required
<b>Mt Cloudsley Mt Enys:</b> A couple of stunning prominent peaks in the Craigieburn Range. Awesome views of everything.	Grade: Hard Closes: 5 Oct Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Sunday 8 October	Leader: Required
<b>Ryde Falls :</b> Wharfedale Track area. A club classic with good tracks through mixed beech podocarp forests to small attractive waterfall. 4-5 hours, 38 smiles, 15 belly laughs, mixed company, 1 great time.	Grade: Easy Closes: 5 Oct Map: L34 Approx: \$20
Weekend 14-15 October	Leader: Peter Eman 337 3003
<b>Lewis Tops:</b> A classic tops trip at a great time of year. Traverse the wonderful rolling Lewis tops while there is still snow on the higher mountains. This trip starts at the Lewis pass, climbs the track to open tops which it follows to the Brass Monkey Biv. The next day continues along the tops to above Lake Cristobel before following the track down Rough Creek back to the road. There may be time for a soak in the pools at Maruia afterwards. Ice axe required.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Oct Map: M31 Approx: \$40
Sunday 15 October	Leader: Required
<b>Chest Peak:</b> Western Lees Valley. Chest Peak (1936m) is the high point of the Puketeraki Range. Book now for the Lees Valley trip of the year. Ice-axe and crampons may be required.	Grade: Hard Closes: 12 Oct Map: L34 Approx: \$25
Sunday 15 October	Leader: Brent Crammond 322 4353
<b>Tumbledown Bay (Little River):</b> Interesting beach/headland area to the east of Little River settlement. Come along and explore then rest and refresh at the ever popular café afterwards.	Grade: Easy Closes: 12 Oct Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$15
Weekend 16-17 October	Leader: Jeff Hall 332 9251
<b>Mt Franklin, Arthur's Pass:</b> A classic climb in Arthur's Pass head up Friday night to club hut and away early up the Mingha over Goat Pass and up to Lake Anna. Climb early Sunday and return to road end by torch light most likely. Wx dependant with option of Seaward Kaikouras if no-go for the Westcoast.	Grade: Hard Closes: 5 Oct Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Long Weekend 21-23 October	Leader: Richard Lobb 351 2344
<b>Mt Owen:</b> A classic exploratory trip making use of the long weekend. Travel up Owen Valley past the pub and on up Bulmer Creek through the cliffs to an idyllic lake. This is a beautiful area with neat cast landscape and lots of options for camping. Names like Poverty and Castle Basin do not do justice to the area. Either return via Sunrise Peak or crossover into Fyfe River, all good options but may need to be moderated if lots of snow. Heaps of options are possible with earlier trips including being dive bombing by Falcons (the bird not the car).	Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Oct Map: M28 Approx: \$50

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# Trip Reports

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## Ball Pass

At one point I thought I must be dreaming; it was a calm clear summer's day, 35 degrees and yet ice bergs drifted a few yards away.

As a novice trumper, the invitation for the Ball Pass trip was a dream come true; a dream that began with fine [and superb] dining at the Hermitage, meeting the kindly CTC members, morning hot showers in the Alpine club lodge and a stroll up a colourful valley, past the ice-bergs in the Mueller glacier lake. A perfect dream; nothing could go wrong.

New to tramping and dawdling in the scenery, I quickly proved how things can go wrong after drifting back from the main party. Warwick came back to search for myself, Louise and shepherd Gareth Gilbert but we invisibly crossed paths amongst large boulders. The team had walked for less than an hour, before losing about 3 hours, catching up and re-grouping.

The sun and reflected heat were roasting; to the novice it was still a picnic though others packed away 3 litres or so of water for the upcoming slopes. But none were prepared for the chance encounter with the strident 'Gottlieb' of Ball Pass Treks, who asserted that we were late starting and should pack 'poo-pots' or stay the night on the flat.

Our leader, Warwick Dowling, had decided to go over the pass, from the Hooker to the Tasman. Some say the hard way; possibly because of the lengthy scree faces up from the Hooker Valley.

The scree was very hot and dusty, two steps up, one slide down. Susan made the smart move and went up the rocky centre avoiding the scree. Ron Keeble made it look like a stroll in Hagley park (as he did the whole trip). I think many of us could have fallen asleep on the 'Playing Fields' at the top, a protected green area about the size of a rugby field. But it was only 4 pm, we had to refill all the water bottles and had another 3 hours slow walking. We were a mis-matched convoy: some frustrated to be as fast as the slowest.

DOC describes the Pass as "a route not a track" and correctly. On Ball Pass there are a dozen steepish faces or razorbacks with 'paths' just wide enough for my nervous boot .

Without Susan Pearson's remarkable memory of this uniform rocky wilderness, Warwick's quiet confidence, the fitness of the leading experienced trampers and warm still weather, a lot could have gone very wrong.

At 7 o'clock, we topped Ball Pass, remarkable perhaps in the lateness and that crampons were not required as the snow was soft and confined to the very top. We had to watch our footing, tired as we were, as ice was present only a 100mm below the steep surface in places. No one will forget the warm still sunset over Aoraki/Mt Cook, the brilliant night sky and almost surf like roar of the avalanches. A dream realised.

At about 9am on Sunday we headed down towards Caroline Hut. The route was very ill defined and again proved the reassuring guidance of Susan and Warwick.

Just before lunch and 200 metres from the hut, my friend Brian turned to check on others, tripped and tumbled 5 metres. The 'other' Clive witnessed the fall and thought Brian was a 'gonner'. So did Brian; who

was a good friend of the late Erica Beuzenberg (who died on the Ball Pass) and as he tumbled he thought he was going to meet her again.

Brian was in shock for many hours and had a painful rib cage. Things can go wrong. But on the steep walk down we were continuously distracted by the grandeur of the mountain, the avalanches, the glacier snow, the mountain flowers, the sharp gold/red rock forms and the space.

The walk was not all cheery as we knew Brian and some of the ladies were stoic but stretching themselves; Ball Pass showed that it is a testing hike. The weather was calm and very hot (actually very perfect), water was running out and 'Gottlieb' said there was no water at Ball Shelter. Thankfully he was wrong and the team of friends relaxed with cups of tea at about 3 pm. Still an hour and half walk to the cars, and to reflect on a dream.

About 11.5 hours the first day and around 7.5 hours the second.

Trampers - Warwick Dowling, Susan Pearson, Ron Keeble, Gareth Gilbert, Clive Marsh, Joy and Allan Schroeder, Louise Hamilton, Pam Crosswell, Joy Bryant, Bruce Miller, Brian Birchall, Clive Davidson (main scribe)

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Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor ([editor@ctc.org.nz](mailto:editor@ctc.org.nz)) by Friday, 22 September –  
Thanks.