



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

July 2007

No. 3

President	Richard Wills	389-8671	Club Captain	Jim Western	376-5191
Vice President	Andrew Turton	332-8275	Trip Organiser(day)	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Lisa Glading	389-1737	(weekend)	Andrew Turton	332-8275
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981-7929
Editor	Alastair Brown	343-5111	Gear Custodian		
Social Convener	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members	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 acting 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 Alan Ross 384-6425 or email alan.d.ross@orica.com. 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). New or prospective members intending to go on any trip must sign up at club night or contact the trip leader in advance

Leaders: Please ask for the trip list box (disguised as a shiny red 'Stanley' toolbox) and post the trip list into the locked box. If anyone turns up after this, the service station has a key to open the box. Spare key holders are listed on the box.

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

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.

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 Monday of every month except January. The venue changes between committee members' homes. Club members may attend meetings to discuss matters. Contact the Secretary (secretary@ctc.org.nz or 389 1737).

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.

New Members: Please welcome to the club the following new members: Suada Habul, Alistair Hayward and Nicola Smith, Dough Osborne and Susan Tregurtha, David Somerville, Lovisa Eriksson, Mike Winslade, Ruth Baker, Diane Mellish, Ken Rapson, Camilla Holmes, Katrin Borchel and last but not least Gary Munks.

Vacancy: We are still looking for a new gear custodian. Ken Brown has kindly continued this roll until the beginning of July. Ideally you will need to have some knowledge and experience of outdoors equipment, storage space and the ability to be at the club on Thursdays to pick up and hand out club gear. Please phone Jim Western on 376 5191 if you are interested. Jim will take this job on in early July, if there are no takers.

Classifieds

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

Crampons for sale: Black Diamond Sabertooth Pro crampons for sale. Come with anti balling plates, in very good condition, only 1 1/2 seasons use retail at \$380, selling for \$190 because they don't fit my new boots. Please contact Nathan Watson on 027 343 8121 or naw96@cpit.ac.nz.

External Events of interest

Poo Pots: DOC is now commercialising their "Poo Pots in the Park" scheme at Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park. The one-litre pots are \$5, accompanied by five biodegradable cornstarch liners and a tube of hand sanitiser, and recyclable outside the Visitor Centre at the Aoraki/Mt Cook village. The liners 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 obtain the poo pots, 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.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 28 June	Club Night
Newsletter Night: We also have a session of what you should be carrying on a winter weekend trip. But this should be humorous as we have gear freak John Henson and Mr Bean's brother comparing what they would take on a weekend trip.	
Weekend 30 June-1 July	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
Basic Snowcraft Course: Ever wondered what ice axes are used for? Come along and discover they have a dozen or more uses - from self belay to step cutting. Learn self arrest - the fundamental and essential alpine safety technique for steep snow and even snowgrass slopes. And how to use crampons to get a grip on the terrain. We may even have time to make a small snowcave or an igloo. Stay at the comfortable club hut at Arthur's Pass.	Grade: Training Closed: 21 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Weekend 30 June-1 July	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
Mt Oates, Arthur's Pass: A repeat of last years trip into Lake Mavis with a view to climb Mt Oates. Neat area with good views and can be tailored to various fitness levels, as the climb of Mt Oates is optional. Talk to others on Jonathan's trip last year, it sounds great!	Grade: ModHard Closed: 21 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Sunday 1 July	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
Banks Peninsula part 1 – Wainui – Saddle Hill – French Hill - Hilltop: Do an impressive long-distance Banks Peninsula tramp in easy sections! Bernard leads part 1, from Wainui to Saddle Hill, French Hill and Hilltop. Start in from one of the roads above Wainui (across Akaroa Harbour from Akaroa itself) and head up Saddle Hill (841m), across Wainui Pass (550m) to French Hill (815m) and drop gently down to Hilltop (about 500m) where the thoughtful leader will have arranged to leave a car. A great easy moderate tramp in undulating country (approx 800m height gain) and a 9km trip. See 29 July for part 2!	Grade: EasyMod Closed: 28 Jun Map: N36 Approx: \$15
Sunday 1 July (note early start)	Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155
Norma: A nice 1000m odd climb to Norma, 1722m, in the Lewis Pass area, with a surprisingly good track (not on the map) through most of the bush, then open tussock leading to a rocky ridge. Ice axe and crampons required. Be one of the relatively few people to discover what a lovely tramp this is. Make sure you contact leader for departure time and place.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 28 Jun Map: M31 M32 Approx: \$30
Thursday 5 July	Club Night
Tramping in Fiordland: Slide Show of tramping in Fiordland, Mt Aspiring and Jacksons Bay. We have Evan Monks all the way from the Otago University Tramping Club to lead us on this journey.	
Saturday 7 July	Leader: David Henson 942-3954
Mount Vulcan: A lovely 4-5 hour easy trip with about two hundred metres of height gain, and no worries about snow gear etc etc. Mighty Mt Vulcan overlooks the sea on the east coast, north of Christchurch and 10 km S.W. of Motunau. This is an unusual trip for this Club but the leader knows the area well, and how could you not want to see what a place called Vulcan, close to Mt Venus, is actually like? There are plenty of farm tracks to follow or, depending on the group, we may take an untracked route along the ridge up to Vulcan. Total round trip about 10km.	Grade: Easy Closes: 5 Jul Map: N34 Approx: \$15
Weekend 7-8 July	Leader: Jim Western 376-5191
Kirwans Hut: An old graded pack track climbs steadily to this good big hut situated just on the bush line. Great views over the surrounding country side and with an interesting side trip to the old Kirwans Reward mine site, this is a good winter weekend trip.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 28 Jun Map: L30 Approx: \$50

Weekend 7-8 July	Leader: Jeff Hall 332-9251
Lake Florence, Rolleston River, Arthur's Pass: Given the absence of snow the intended ski touring option for this weekend trip has been deferred. Option is to run the Lake Florence that did not run from earlier this year due to Wx. The existence of Lake Florence has been speculated on by a few club members wondering up the Rolleston River. I'm sure a few club members can offer some directions and advice on best access. Should be good travel, with Mt Armstrong and Anderson Peak at the head of the lake and options for a round trip possible.	Grade: Hard Closes: 28 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Sunday 8 July	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
Bealey Spur to the Hut: Bealey Hotel area. Start above the baches and climb through beech forest. On the way to the charming old hut, at about 1240m, the ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. Bring warm clothing and water-proof boots. Walking pole and gaiters may be useful. The hut is about 450m climb and the round trip is about 10km.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 5 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Sunday 8 July (note early start)	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
Maukuratawhai: Maukuratawhai is an interesting little 1615m peak just across the Clarence River from where you descend from Jacks Pass (sometime irreverently called Mt Muckaroundawhile to help you remember the name). We will climb up the long SW ridge (about 800m height gain) and if time and conditions permit we will traverse around to Pt 1575 and descend its S ridge to circle back to the starting point. You will need crampons and ice axe and warm footwear including gaiters. The trip starts with a cold ford of the Clarence so bring some spare sneakers so you can change into dry boots on the other side. Note early start - 7am at the Shell garage.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Jul Map: N31 N32 Approx: \$30
Thursday 12 July	Club Night
Sir Ed Video: The life of Sir Edmond Hillary part 2 (of 4). This part is where he summits Everest, so it should be interesting.	
Saturday 14 July (9 am start)	Leader: Bev Clark 326-6544(with Dave Clark as well)
Heathcote Quarry – Mt Pleasant – Castle Rock – Heathcote: Why drive for miles when there is great tramping on the doorstep? This walk begins at a historic quarry and leads up to the summit of Mt Pleasant for a breathtaking panorama of city, plains and harbour. Then it's along Mt Pleasant Bluffs, taking in the imposing crags of Castle Rock, and the coming back round and down to the Quarry. It's about 5 hours at an easy pace, with about 400m of gentle up. 9am start at the Shell, Carlton Corner.	Grade: Easy Closes: 12 Jul Map: M36 Approx: \$5
Weekend 14-15 July	Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913
Arthur's Pass Base Camp: Winter is a great time to visit the club hut, with snow on the mountains the Pass can be a magic place. There is tramping for all abilities, from easy strolls to hard climbs on the snow covered mountains and even the possibility of skiing at Temple basin.	Grade: All Closes: 5 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Sunday 15 July	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Mt Barrosa: In the Clent hills, Mt Barrosa is a wee bit further west than Mt Somers and a wee bit lower too (1364m.). It is an interesting geological area (Barrosa Andesite) and rumour has it that keen rock hounds can find geods (whatever they are). Others can just enjoy the 800m climb on mostly untracked tussock hillside with good views all the way up. Approx 10km round trip.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Jul Map: J36 Approx: \$25

Tuesday 17 July	Social Event
Mid week social event: How about a half price BUFFET dinner at the Casino! For \$18 (drinks extra) you can choose from a huge selection of great food and even dessert. Now this special price is limited to a max of 12 people. So it's strictly the first 12 who contact me or put their names on the trip list or alan.d.ross@orica.co.nz or 3946425.	
Thursday 19 July	Club Night
Earth Sea Sky: We have Earth Sea Sky coming to show us their product range and also why we should buy one of the last ranges of outdoor products made here in Christchurch.	
Saturday 21 July	Leader: Pam Crosswell 332-8363
Leith Hill – Thomas River: A lovely Craigieburns loop, starting at Castle Hill Village and trotting up Leith Hill (1384m, about 700m height gain) and back to the cars via the Thomas River. Check with the leader about ice axe when we know what snow conditions are like.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 19 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Weekend 21-22 July	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
Basic Snowcraft Course: Ever wondered what ice axes are used for? Come along and discover they have a dozen or more uses - from self belay to step cutting. Learn self arrest - the fundamental and essential alpine safety technique for steep snow and even snowgrass slopes. And how to use crampons to get a grip on the terrain. We may even have time to make a small snowcave or an igloo. Stay at the comfortable club hut at Arthur's Pass.	Grade: Training Closes: 12 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Weekend 21-22 July	Leader: Lisa Glading 389-1737
Hanmer Base Camp: A wonderful mid winter social weekend. A big house has been booked for Fri and Sat nights and Hanmer has many activities on offer during winter. So options include climbing Isobel, mountain biking, skiing, overeating at cafes, mini golf or soaking in hotpools. Pot luck dinner for Sat night so bring something yummy and a bottle of vino or the like. Don't delay in getting your name on the list or contacting the leader as the accomodation needs to be confirmed a couple of weeks prior.	Grade: All Closes: 12 Jul Map: M31 M32 N32 Approx: \$30 + Accom
Weekend 21-22 July	Leader: Jeff Hall 332-9251
Mt Taylor / Lake Heron: Mt Taylor is located in behind Lake Heron with the option of overnight accommodation pending access with Clent Hill Station. At 2333m Mt Taylor is one of the highest peaks in the Mt Somers / Mt Taylor range and affords great views of the surrounding area. The club has done this trip a few times in the past and is a great trip out. In addition Lake Heron is home to New Zealand's largest remaining population of the endangered waterbird, the Southern Crested Grebe, which can sometimes be spotted in winter.	Grade: Hard Closes: 12 Jul Map: J35 Approx: \$40
Sunday 22 July	Leader: Peter Eman 337-3003
Hamilton Peak: This is a classic Craigieburns biggie (1922m) which can be approached from a couple of different directions depending on snow conditions. Superb views from the top on a clear day. It is often windy so make sure you have all those warm windproof layers. You'll also need ice axe and crampons and be confident using them. Departure will be (usual place) 8am sharp so don't be late!	Grade: Moderate Closes: 19 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Sunday 22 July (+ club hut Saturday night)	Leader: Jeff Hall 332-9251
Mt Alexander: Direct from the Taramakau: A bit of a challenge for all you hard trampers. Spend Saturday night at Arthur's Pass (Club Hut or Alpine Club hut?) to be poised for a brisk departure, and then up from 250 m to 1958m (and back again). It's steep and there will be snow so bring your usual toys - crampons, ice axe - and a good head torch. Please make sure you talk to the leader for this trip.	Grade: Hard Closes: 19 Jul Map: K32 K33 Approx: \$35

Thursday 26 July	Club Night
Newsletter Night: Newsletter folding night + trampwise session. What happened to turn a benign well tracked 2 1/2 hr Easy trip into a 6 1/2 one? No, no one was lost or injured. Come along and Susan will show some photos and highlight what happened.	
Saturday 28 July or Sunday 29 July	Leader: John Henson 342-3311
Club Ski Field Day: A chance to ski one of the stunning club fields in the Craigieburn Range where rope tows and ungroomed snow are king and the people are friendly. The choice of day (Saturday or Sunday) will depend on the weather and the location will depend on the snow conditions so get your name down and prepare for some turns. You'll need to make sure that you are in contact with the leader about options, day, and departure point and time.	Grade: Ski Closes: 26 Jul Map: Approx: \$unknown
Weekend 28-29 July	Leader: Malcolm Carr 960-5281
Cass Lagoon: Although a standard trip with a big comfortable hut on Saturday night, winter conditions mean short daylight hours, cold weather and the possibility of snow. Snow means great views however, and winter is the most interesting time to walk the Cass Lagoon. An early start each day is important and check with the leader about ice axes.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 19 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$40
Weekend 28-29 July	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
Intermediate Snowcraft.: In-town training weekend to 'learn the ropes' of belaying, glacier travel, crevasse extraction, mountain safety issues and alpine equipment, in preparation for the 'on the snow' training weekend at Arthur's Pass in August. Practice these techniques in comfortable surroundings before heading into the snow. Check with Richard for gear required. It is required that participants have done Basic Snowcraft Training in the use of Ice Axe and Crampons.	Grade: Training Closes: 19 Jul Map: N/A Approx: \$25
Sunday 29 July	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
Banks Peninsula part 2 - Hilltop - Mt Fitzgerald - Little River: Bernard leads the ice-cream section of his Banks-Peninsula-long-distance-trail-in-easy-stages tramp. From Hilltop wander up to Mt Fitzgerald (826m, about 400m of height gain) and then down to the famous Little River cafe. This section will be on the easier side of easy-moderate.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 26 Jul Map: N36 Approx: \$15
Sunday 29 July (note early start 7 am)	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 355-7697
Cloudsley: Cloudsley is one of several 2000m+ peaks on the southern end of the Craigieburn range and a good winter peak in the right conditions. We'll be starting from Castle Hill Village and heading up Long Spur (well-named) to the snow-clad top of Cloudsley (2107m, total height gain about 1300m) with great views across the local ski fields. Wrap up warm, grab your ice axe and crampons and check with the leader on his plan of attack. Note early start - 7am at the Shell.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Saturday 4 August	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
Torlesse: A great moderate/hard winter trip in the right conditions (fingers crossed . . .), Torlesse is 1961m with stunning views. There will be around 1300m total height gain and you'll need ice axe, crampons and experience on icy slopes. This trip will probably have an early start - make sure you talk to the leader about departure time and place.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 2 Aug Map: L34 Approx: \$20

Weekend 4-5 August	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
Intermediate Snowcraft: 'On the snow' training weekend at Arthur's Pass. Apply the lessons learnt during the in-town training weekend and find out how to use these techniques in real alpine conditions. An action packed weekend full of challenges, learning experiences and fun. Prepare for those adventurous alpine tramping trips you have planned! Stay at the club hut.	Grade: Training Closes: 26 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Weekend 4-5 August	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
Kelly Range: A 2 to 3 hour steady climb up to the renovated Carrol hut just above the bush line provides a great base to explore the rolling Kelly tops behind the hut. Winter conditions should mean these tops are snow covered so bring your ice axe and explore. A very good location for a winter weekend away.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Sunday 5 August	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Earn lunch in Lyttelton: Start in Vernon Park and stroll up to the Summit Road via Dry Bush and then along the Crater Rim and down to Lyttelton. After a cafe lunch, you can choose whether to take the bus back to town or earn tea as well by walking back to Mt Vernon. Mountain bikers welcome to pick a route and join us for lunch. (Height gain and distance 350m/8km one way, 700m/16km return.)	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 2 Aug Map: M36 Approx: \$15 inc. lunch
Sunday 5 August	Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Mt Bruce: A lovely moderate tramp in the Lagoon Saddle area. Starting from Cora Lynn, you climb up through the beech forest and out onto open tussock. Good views from the top of Mt Bruce (1630m) and a few different options for the route depending on conditions. Bring ice axes and talk to the leader about whether you'll need crampons.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 Aug Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Saturday 11 August	Leader: Philip Tree 942-7670
The Grange: A new trip for the club, in the lower foothills out behind Oxford. This walk climbs to a high point overlooking picturesque Ashley Gorge, travelling on vehicle tracks across old farmland reverted to scrub. Expect some up and down at a sensible gentle pace climbing to a viewpoint high above the Ashley Gorge.	Grade: Easy Closes: 9 Aug Map: L34 Approx: \$20
Weekend 11-12 August	Leader: Grant Wheaton 338-6067
Ski Weekend Amuri / Hanmer: Come join us for a weekend skiing at a club ski area. Amuri ski area at Hanmer is the choice at this stage although this may change depending on the snow cover. Amuri has a poma ski lift and is suitable for most skiers, although everybody must be self sufficient. This should also be a good social weekend.	Grade: Ski Closes: 2 Aug Map: M31 Approx: \$65
Sunday 12 August	Leader: Warwick Dowling 366-2045
Avalanche Peak via Scott's Track: We'll be going up Avalanche Peak (1833 m, about 1000m height gain) via Scotts Track. This track begins just north of the village and climbs through beech forest and then follows a poled route up the north-eastern spur of the Peak. There are some narrower sections near the summit. Arthur's Pass is a spectacular place in the winter and the top of Avalanche is THE place to be able admire it all from. Make sure you have an ice axe. Check with leader about crampons. Avalanche Peak is not named that for nothing: the leader will be checking with DOC on snow conditions and the trip may go elsewhere if necessary.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Aug Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Sunday 12 August (note 9am start)

Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914

Ice skating at Mt Somers: Ice skating in the shadow of Mt Somers at a lovely community-run natural ice skating 'rink' - provided there is ice of course. Nice social day for the whole family. Meet at 9am at the Shell station. Staveley Store hires ice skates, so if you don't have any they can provide them. There is usually somewhere to get warm by a brazier, but still bring plenty of warm clothes and flasks of hot drink as well as your usual lunch and snacks. There are two safe (outdoor) rinks and sheltered (sunny) pleasant spots to rest and watch the skaters.

Grade: All
Closes: 9 Aug
Map: K36
Approx: \$20 + entry
fee and

Saturday 18 August

Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655

Lake Rubicon and Bob's Knob: Lake Rubicon is in the Porters Pass area, tucked in behind the ridge running down from Torlesse to Bob's knob. We hope to do a winter variation linking Bob's Knob and the lake. Perhaps even a symbolic crossing of the Rubicon river in memory of Julius Caesar's decisive moment? There are a few different options depending on conditions and participants, adding up to a great moderate winter tramp.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 16 Aug
Map: L34
Approx: \$20

Weekend 18-19 August

Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280(alt. contact Lisa Glading 389-1737)

Hut Bash - B there or B square - 'B' theme fancy dress: The Hut Bash is a tradition from the 90's, sadly neglected of late. It is your mission to help in the revival of this winter-warmer. We'll be using a large private hut and the aim is to tramp in (a couple of hours) in the afternoon, and have a great party on Saturday night. The evening will start in incredibly civilised manner with a three course dinner and degenerate rapidly from there into dance dance dance, complete with sound system courtesy of Grant Wheaton and maybe even a twirly glittery ball. Fancy dress of course (we couldn't deprive Alan of the opportunity to put on a frock again): This year we will have a B theme, with a prize for the best costume with some recognisable connection (however tenuous) to the letter 'B'. The committee will have given permission for alcohol. A very limited number of vehicles will go in to transport the heavy stuff so if you are really keen but can't tramp in contact us anyway.

Grade: All - the party
trip
Closes: 9 Aug
Map: M33
Approx: \$TBA



Sunday 19 August	Leader: David Henson 942-3954
Bush Spur and Mt Herbert: A variation on the standard Mt Herbert trip, this one goes from Tophouse at the very end of the Kaituna Valley road. The tramp will start by climbing up the spur (private land, with permission), then follow the top boundary of the Mt Herbert Reserve and finally climb to Mt Herbert (919m) itself, the highest point on Banks Peninsula. For the return we'll do a bit of a loop and pick up the Monument track back to the cars. Around 700m height gain, initially reasonably steep, and about an 8k-10k round trip, partly off-track but in good terrain.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 16 Aug Map: M36 Approx: \$15
Saturday 25 August - ie Saturday night, full moon!	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
Mystery Moonlight Trip: "'tis a crisp clear night, witches on broomsticks flit before the full moon, a werewolf bays, and the sparkling snow crunches underfoot as the trampers wend their secretive way towards. . ." Well, that's the general idea. The leader will pick the location according to weather and whim so be prepared for various possible terrains. Ice axe and crampons required. And a torch of course, for use in the event of unexpected moon-failure. Witch's hat and cat optional. The trip will leave Christchurch at 5:30 pm and have dinner en-route. Contact the leader to check departure point.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 23 Aug Map: TBA Approx: Up to \$25 + meal
Saturday 25 August	Leader: Bev Clark 326-6544with Dave Clark
Sumner - Evans Pass – Godley Head – Taylors Mistake - Sumner: A classic harbour-head trip in an area the leaders know very well. Great views across to Diamond Harbour, Mt Herbert etc, and, on the other side, over Taylors Mistake and Sumner. A relaxing easy trip of around 6 hours taking in some local landmarks.	Grade: Easy Closes: 23 Aug Map: N36 Approx: \$5
Weekend 25-26 August	Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392
Cameron Hut: This 9-bunk hut is sited in a glacial basin under the Arrowsmith Range at approximately 1275m and is 16 km from the car park. This should be 5 to 6 hours of easy tramping. Return the same way. There are plenty of peaks close by to admire under the full moon and maybe climb on Sunday. Talk to the leader about ice axes.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 16 Aug Map: J35 Approx: \$40
Weekend 25-26 August	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
Mt Una / Lake Tennyson: Access the Rainbow road in behind Hamner Springs and on up to Lake Tennyson. From there it's over Maling Pass, cross the Waiau River and on to Mt Una. Mt Una is one of the highest peaks in this area and is a hard winter option. This trip involves long days and is dependant on snow conditions for access past Hamner.	Grade: Hard Closes: 16 Aug Map: M30 M31 Approx: \$40
Sunday 26 August	Leader: Dave Watson 981-7929
Rabbit Hill: Rabbit Hill (11198m) is a nice easy-moderate bump in the Porters Pass area. We'll be aiming to do a bit of a car shuffle so that the trip can go up and over the hill and come out on the Lake Lyndon road. Expect snow (gaiters help to keep your feet dry), dress to impress with warm windproof layers, and a walking pole or ice axe may be useful.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 23 Aug Map: K35 Approx: \$20

Trip Reports

24 June 2007

Mt Bruce (1830m)

This was supposed to be Flo's Ribbonwood Stream/Mt Manson trip, with early start and all. However, a forecast of 100k winds for the tops was a bit off-putting even for such stalwarts as Flo, Stu and Jonathan, and we opted for Mt Bruce instead. Bernard did however put in a strong case for yet another 'hunt the toboggan' expedition as we sailed through Porters Pass – the reward offered for finding the much loved red plastic family pet has increased in value and now seems to include a lifetime's tea and muffins at Springfield and Geri's hat collection. But no – Mt Bruce it is and we continue on to Cora Lynn. After a brisk ascent of the Lagoon Saddle track to a bit above the bushline we struck up towards the north east spur. The mixture of scrub and snow that side was not too bad and the foolish scribe who had managed to forget her gaiters was happy trailing at the back with Dayle ahead under strict instructions to kick a good clear path. At this point we were still out of the wind but as soon as we popped out onto the ridge it buffeted enthusiastically and with a good sharp antarctic bite.

On the summit we admired the view briefly and then retired into a relatively sheltered spot – all except Jonathan that is: he had brought his snow shovel up and was busy digging what looked like an alpine panama canal just for the sake of it. The wind was blowing up spindrift all around us and we did not exactly have a lingering lunch stop before heading off down to the stream. There was some firmer crunchier snow that side but as soon as we were dropping down in to the gully it was soft soft soft. Paul got to try down climbing for a short time on the steepest section but most of it was a very straightforward descent. Down at the stream and out of the wind we picked up the nice path that leads down to Broad Stream itself and had a longer stop. Somehow this turned into a very aggressive Australian-rules snowball fight, with Stu hurling snow indiscriminately and holding his own against all comers. Only Jonathan escaped unscathed but not long afterwards, as we were negotiating the snow-laden bush, Bernard revealed some very un-uncle like characteristics and – giggling happily - dislodged a whole tree load of snow onto the unsuspecting Jonathan who disappeared briefly into a blurry snowman shape. Paul was so taken with the idea that he tried it on Bernard, and when I complained that more of it had had gone down my neck than anywhere near the saintly uncle, he assured me with true journalistic sang froide that that was just 'collateral damage'. Flo meanwhile was posing at particularly picturesque points for Stu to take photos.

Eventually of course we dropped below the real snow, progress was a bit quicker, and soon we were crossing the final paddock on the path back to the cars with Dayle gathering quite a retinue of sheep and calves, all convinced that if pestered for long enough he would feed them something. We were back at the cars before 4 pm and in plenty of time to stop at Springfield for tea, pies, money laundering etc. Here Stu demanded that any write-up of the Great Snowball Fight must acknowledge him as the King of the Snowballs – your wish is my command, oh majesty.

Thanks everyone for a great trip. Participants were Flo the snow-queen, Stu the snowball-king, Paul the rescuer of besieged snow-hedgehogs, Bernard the snow-ambush guerrilla, Dayle the snow-kicker, Jonathan the snow-shoveller, and Jenny (the one with more snow in her boots than anyone else ever).

July 2007

Dear Aunty Ice Axe

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Is it true that every cloud has a silver lining?

Doubtful

Dear Doubtful

As a trained agony aunt, and moreover being unusually sensitive to the subtle nuances of the human condition even for that most perceptive of breeds, the tramper, Aunty senses that there is more to your question than meets the pince-nez. However, the current rate of agony-remuneration (ten and a half cords of wood - for boiling the cauldron) is not exactly generous. It seems that the agony-aunt market is flooded with returning US generals convinced that having dealt with the Middle East so convincingly, they can now turn to all the other problems in the world. Therefore Aunty does not propose wandering for long in what might be termed the emotional-minefield aspects of your enquiry. Sufficed to say that it is indeed very common to find, after he she or it has suddenly departed one's life, the manifest flaws and weaknesses of the said he she or it, and to see that hitherto undreamt-of heights of ambition can now be achieved as a free agent. If this is the lining that you refer to then by all means consider it the most sterling silver this side of a Nigerian bank account.

Instead, Aunty would prefer to address the practical points raised by your enquiry. As any desert traveller will know, after the 23rd day of burning heat and hallucinations of giant pots of tea shimmering across the horizon, a cloud can be as unlined as a baby's bottom and still be a sight worth pawning one's camel's grandmother for. Milton waxed poetic on the subject of clouds and linings - 'Was I deceiv'd, or did a sable cloud/ Turn forth her silver lining on the night?' (Comus, 1634). The fact that he was blind rather detracts from the authority of this as evidence for a meteorological phenomenon but it still gives Aunty a much-needed opportunity for pretensions to literary grandeur.

No doubt there are clouds whose reverse sides are the equivalent of a good thermal lining on a curtain. And who could resist the appeal of describing something as an 'altocumulus mackerel sky'? However, poor Doubtful, it seems that the standard tramper-view of a cloud is something black and lowering, moving with the speed and goodwill-toward-man of a herd of stampeding rhino, and with a particular attraction towards Christmas trips. Aunty remembers vividly one occasion when clouds well-lined with the not-inconsiderable leftovers of the Biblical Great Flood decided to join an ambitious yuletide epic, resulting (insert confused splashing noises here) in the entire party being washed out of their tents and only quick thinking and a flotation device of thermarests saving the 10lb plum pudding from foundering in the depths of the Landsborough. It is difficult to reflect on possible metallic-coloured beneficial side-effects in such circumstances. No - Aunty feels that it is her duty, as a tramping agony aunt, to counsel against the silver-lining theory and to remind you instead of that invaluable Czech proverb "hope is a good breakfast but a poor dinner" – and an even worse substitute for pudding and custard.

Yours, Aunty Ice Axe.

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz)
by Sunday, 22 July 2007 – Thanks.