



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

May 2007

No. 1

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		\$2/weekend
Large/small weekend packs		\$30/weekend
Mountain radio		\$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.

New Members: Please welcome the following new members - Gary Shade, David Cook, Ludovic Romany, Jennifer Keys (rejoining), Nick Maeder (rejoining).

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 389 1737).

Members Login to Website: The general "Members" login has been removed from the new web site to enable some new features to be rolled out. Instead, you now need to use your own personal login. If you're on the club email list you should already have received an email about your login name, which will be of the form r.lobb, s.pearson, c.beere etc. The default passwords for all the new logins are the same as for the old 'members' login, but once you're logged in you can click the "User details" menu at the top to change your password, email etc. If you're not on the club email list and would like to be able to login, please send an email to richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz, but note that the website software does require that you have an email address if you're to have a login account. Sorry about any inconvenience here.

Newsletter Online: The new web server has a different way of making PDF versions of newsletters available. You first need to login to the site (see previous notice). A new item, "Newsletter archive" will then appear in the main menu. Click this menu item, then select the newsletter you want from the list of all newsletters.

Website photos: We intend changing the three photos displayed on the front page of the website regularly. So if you'd like to have one of your trip photos appear there, please send it to webmaster@ctc.org.nz. Photos should be landscape format, must have CTC club members clearly visible in them (either doing some great tramping or being sociable in an interesting place) and must be eye-catching in thumbnail size as well as looking good full size.

Internet Banking: You should have received your subs renewal form for 2007/2008 membership year with last month's newsletter/FMC bulletin. If you

did not receive this please contact Susan Pearson. Please note we have made it possible for you to pay your subs by Internet banking. Please note that in order for the treasurer to match up payments with members, it is important when making your payment, to fill in the payment boxes called "Particulars", "Code", and "Reference". The renewal form will show you what

to use for these, but in general, the Particulars should be your first name initial followed by your surname, (eg spearson) the Code is "subs" (for everyone) and the Reference is your membership id on the club database (which you probably don't know). If you lose your renewal form and need to find out your membership id, ask Susan or Malcolm what it is.

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.

At the AGM on 19 April 2007 the following were appointed to the Committee for 2008/8

President	Richard Wills
Senior Vice President	Andrew Turton
Junior Vice President	Warwick Dowling
Secretary	Lisa Glading
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr
Editor	Alastair Brown
Club Captain	Jim Western
Weekend Trip Organiser	Andrew Turton
Day Trip Organiser	Jenny Harlow
Hut Convenor	Dave Watson
Social Convenor	Alan Ross
Club Patron	Rex Vink
Other committee members	Peter Mortlock
	John Taylor
	Steve Bruerton
	Mike Ny
	Susan Pearson
	Jeff Hall

Greta Vink was appointed Honorary Auditor

Hut Committee: Rex Vink, Steve Bruerton, Don Carnielo, Andrew Wrapson, Ken Brown, Steve Berry, Dayle Drummond, David Ellison-Smith (Hut Convenor Dave Watson).

The position of Gear Custodian was not filled at the AGM. Ken Brown has agreed to continue to hold the club gear until a Gear Custodian is co-opted.

We wish to thank everyone who served on last year's Committee and especially those who are taking a well deserved break from Committee work this year – Sue Napier, Bernhard Parawa, Craig Beere, Bruce Miller, Ken Brown.

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.

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.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour : is coming to Christchurch again in 2007 for one night only: Saturday 26 May, 7:30pm at The Aurora Centre, Burnside High School. This years selection of the best outdoor adventure films includes mountaineering, kayaking, skiing, rockclimbing, Mountain biking and more. \$18 from The Roxx, Bivouac Outdoor and R&R Sport. Be in quick as it is sure to sell out.

Promo Clip: www.youtube.com/watch?v=begwHc9Przw&eurl=

Fact Sheet: www.banffcentre.ca/mountainculture/media/factsheets/2006/tour/

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 26 April

Newsletter folding night.: The usual origami followed by a chance to see some old tramping slides which have been donated to the club.

Saturday 28 April

Leader: Dave Clark 326 6544

Evans Pass - Godley Taylors - Mistake Sumner: Local harbour head circuit

Grade: Easy
Closed: 26 Apr
Map:
Approx: \$5

Saturday 28 April

Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671

Vertical Rope Skills: Come along and dangle with dexterity! Learn abseiling, prusiking, lowering, safety methods, multi-stage abseils, use of a retrieval line to double the abseil, multi-rope lowering and pulley systems. Add these skills to your tramping portfolio. Beginners can learn the basics and then we will move on to more advanced techniques, to increase safety and enable you to deal with awkward situations. Develop a head for heights without having your feet on the ground.

Grade: All
Closed: 26 Apr
Map:
Approx: \$10

Weekend 28-29 April

Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275

East Hawdon / Mt Valiant: Mt Valiant is a really great view point providing a vista of the main divide and the center of the park for a long way. A fairly easy tramp up the East Hawdon for lunch and to camp beside the Biv starts the trip. Mt Valiant will be climbed either that afternoon or the next morning (on the best weather day)before returning the same way on Sunday. A good standard moderate trip.

Grade: Moderate
Closed: 19 Apr
Map: L33
Approx: \$40

Sunday 29 April

Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931

Mons Sex Millia: Poplars Range Lewis Pass area.

Grade: Moderate
Closed: 26 Apr
Map: M32
Approx: \$25

Thursday 3 May

Pacific Crest Trail: John Henzell is taking us to North America, where he did a 4200km tramping track which threads along the mountain crest of the western United States from Mexico to Canada.

Saturday 5 May

Leader: Erik Norder 980 8022

Redcliffe Hill, Rakaia: At Redcliffe, walk the farm track to Redcliffe Hill, a climb of 540m. Then follow the 4WD track that loops across the head of Redcliffe Stream then back to the Road. Great scenery with an easy walk over a 4WD track. About 20 km of easy walking.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 3 May
Map: K35
Approx: \$25

Weekend 5-6 May

Leader: Steve Bruerton 322 6196

Lake Florence, Rolleston River, Arthur's Pass: The existence of Lake Florence has been speculated on by a few club members wandering up the Rolleston River. I'm sure a few club members can offer some directions and advice on best access. Should be a good trip, with Mt Armstrong and Anderson Peak at the head of the lake and options for a round trip possible.

Grade: Hard
Closed: 26 Apr
Map: K33
Approx: \$40

Sunday 6 May	Leader: Required
Bobs Knob: Prominent unnamed blob on ridge leading to Mt Torlesse. Access via Kowhai Stream on right before Porters Pass. Around 600m vertical - expect scrub, tussock, scree and possibly a wade through the creek.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 3 May Map: L35 Approx: \$15
Sunday 6 May	Leader: Bruce Miller 349 3611
Mt Torlesse: Local biggie in Torlesse Range overlooking Springfield. Usual access via Kowhai Stream. It's a satisfying day out and involves over 1300m climbing with some steep scrambling on ridge sections.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 3 May Map: L34 Approx: \$15
Thursday 10 May	
Townsend Tops: (above the Taramakau River- West Coast) by Alan Ross. A wonderful weekend of lovely weather and fantastic views. Steve Bruerton said it was possibly his best trip of '05!	
Weekend 12-13 May	Leader: Jim Western 376 5191
Bush Stream, Mesopotamia, Rangitata: Option of a circuit in the Bush Stream area behind Mesopotamia Station. Jim's call on this trip. The area has a lot of history from the early days of exploration by Samuel Butler, with open tussock tops, neat views across the Rangitata to the Cloudy Range and the peaks such as Mt Alma behind.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 3 May Map: J36 Approx: \$60
Sunday 13 May	Leader: Required
Mt Fitzgerald: Through Little River and off the summit road beyond Hilltop or up from Pigeon Bay to Montgomery Park. Across tussock covered farmland, these summits are located in scenic reserves with forest remnants featuring totara, kahikatea and matai. Either way about 500m of total vertical hill climbing and approx 10km tramping on reasonably tracks.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 10 May Map: J36 Approx: \$15
Sunday 13 May	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322 6196
Mt Somers North Face Direct: Dominant peak in interesting sub-alpine region inland from Rakaia. The volcanic landscape can be dramatic and the 1687m summit offers an exciting experience for the winter day tripper.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 10 May Map: K36 Approx: \$25
Thursday 17 May	
Lewis Pass to Nelson Lakes: A loose title for a masterminded multiday experience, accommodating the requirements of 3 parties, tramping in from different places, on different days, to come together for 3 days, then splinter again to finish at different destinations. Come along and see our photos taken by 8 trampers as we traversed 6 passes over 7 days. Susan Pearson will be your guide.	
Saturday 19 May	Leader: Required
Ryde Falls: View Hill - Oxford area. Ryde Falls lies on part of the Wharfedale Track. A popular club outing with good tracks through mixed beech podocarp. A good choice for new members with minimal tramping experience, or those feeling they are not ready to tackle big hills and/or rough country.	Grade: Easy Closes: 17 May Map: L34 Approx: \$10
Weekend 19-20 May	Leader: John Henzell 021 150 5927
Otehake Hot Pools: Always one of the best social tramps of the year, stories about the fun at Otehake are legendary in the CTC. John Henzell, one of our best leaders for this most relaxing of trips will lead this overnight soak. The trip in can be a little wet and the river can be a bit rough but 3-4 hours each day should see most of the tramping done, that leaves plenty of time for soaking. Come and be part of the fun. Email henzell (at) gmail (dot) com for more info.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 10 May Map: K33 Approx: \$40

Sunday 20 May	Leader: John Henson 342 3311
Mt Binser: Across Mt White bridge and on to Andrews Shelter. From road to Saddle over 1 hr and from saddle to summit 3-4hrs. On a clear day some of the best panoramic views in the south east APNP.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 17 May Map: L34 Approx:

Sunday 20 May	Leader: Pam Crosswell 338 5511
Mt Lyndon: Across the lake beyond Porters Pass stands golden tussock flanked Mt Lyndon 1438m. A steady climb of about 550m though untracked but relatively easy sub alpine scrub. Approx 8km.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 17 May Map: K35 Approx:

Thursday 24 May	
Codfish Island, Kakapo, Kaka and conservation: Lynette Hartley is going to start by talking about the two weeks she spent as a volunteer looking after Kakapo chicks and eggs on Codfish, a small island off Stewart Island. She will also talk about a couple of other projects she has been involved with while working with DOC. These will feature Kaka and Rats. So if you are interested in Kakapo with their own hot water bottles and electric blankets, Kaka with backpacks or Rats with jewelry come along and see the photos.	

Saturday 26 May	Leader: Richard Wills 389 8671
Meteorological – Weather: Meteorology Come along and learn about NZ's weather patterns – why it rains, hails, snows and shines when it does. Find out how to interpret cloud patterns in the sky, access weather information on the Internet, read weather maps and make predictions. Avoid the worst of the weather, broaden your horizons and make your tramping drier, warmer and safer.	Grade: Training Closes: 24 May Map: N/A Approx:

Saturday 26 May	Leader: Chris Curry 351 5913
Pigeon Bay: A straight forward walk beginning at the Pigeon Bay Domain and traversing the length of Pigeon Bay over farm land to Wakaroa Point. Farm vehicle track 3 –3 1/2 hrs return.	Grade: Easy Closes: 24 May Map: N36 Approx:

Weekend 26-27 May	Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000
Lake Man: The plan is to park beside the Engineers camp, tramp up the Doubtful then climb up to camp near the Lake Man Biv. A visit to the picturesque lake is a possibility for the afternoon, then on Sunday a off track trip along the easy tops to Mt Murray. A really good moderate tramp with great views and lots of variety.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 17 May Map: L32 M32 Approx: \$40

Sunday 27 May	Leader: Susan Pearson 337 4914
Benmore Loop: Found south of Rabbit Hill near Lake Lyndon, this 17km loop loins up the points 1327, 1660, 1565, Benmore itself, 1624 and 1465. Expect 1000m of climbing as we undulate around the loop. Classic golden tussockland with good views.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 24 May Map: H39 Approx:

Thursday 31 May	
Newsletter folding night: Newsletter folding night and verbal trip reports catch up. Trampwise session. What you should know about where you are going before you set out. Expectations of those leading and those being led can sometimes differ. Come along and find out what might have happened on one (moderately hard) trip were it not for luck (for one trampler) and experience (for another).	

Long Weekend 2-4 June	Leader: Andrew Turton 332 8275
Upper Rakaia / Lyell Glacier: A long but not difficult walk up the upper Rakaia from Glenfalloch leads to the stunning upper Rakaia glaciers. The plan will be to tramp up to and stay at either the Riseck or Lyell huts on Saturday and do a day walk on the Sunday. Butler Saddle above Meins Knob, Whitcombe pass, a walk up to the glaciers themselves or a combination of the above are possibilities for this. On Monday we will cross the Raikia vist the Ramsey glacier and tramp down the other side of the river to Manuka point and back to the cars. This is not a difficult tramp and being a valley trip bad weather shouldn't pose to many problems (except for a big norwest and high rivers)but does involve a few km of walking.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 24 May Map: J35 Approx: \$40
Sunday 3 June	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981 4931
Mt Bealey: Very popular day hike in Arthur's Pass NP. Good steep track through beech forest to bushline and rocky tops with plenty of scree for fast descent. Exit via Rough Creek.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 31 May Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Thursday 7 June	
The Adventures of Gareth Rapley: We plan to have globe trotting member Gareth Rapley back in NZ to show us where he has been in the last 6 months.	
Saturday 9 June	Leader: Malcolm Carr 960 5281
Mt Thomas: North Canterbury foothill with extensive forest (mostly exotic) accessed via Hayland road off the Oxford – Loburn. Approx 700m of vertical climb, and 10km along marked tracks.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 7 Jun Map: M34 Approx: \$15
Sunday 10 June	Leader: Doug Forster 337 5453
Porters Pass - Rabbit Hill -Trig 1660 MacFarlane Stream Circuit: Interesting circuit south of Porters in the Korowai Torlesse Tussocklands Park. An area considered a key site for the protection of high country landscapes and ecosystems.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 7 Jun Map: K35 Approx: \$20
Sunday 17 June	Leader: Ken Brown 359 2000
Lillburne Hill: Out through Oxford and into Lees Valley to access this 1405m summit in the Ashley River catchment. Tracked access on open ridge to the tops. Snow draped Puketerakis close at hand. Check with Ken for details. 900m vertical climb and approx 20km overall walking.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 14 Jun Map: L34 Approx: \$15
Sunday 17 June	Leader: Mike Ny 337 9796
Nikau Palm Gully: Akaroa Heads scenic zone with big cliffs, seabirds, palm trees and more. Acclaimed as one of the best forest remnants in the province. The size and number of nikau palms will amaze. Approx 10km tracked walking with some gently hills.	Grade: Easy Closes: 14 Jun Map: N37 Approx: \$20

Trip Reports

9-10 December 2006

Rocky Creek – Griffen Creek

We stayed at the Club Hut on Friday night and resisted the temptation to hang around watching Dale felling trees on Saturday morning. A fairly brisk start and short car shuffle saw us all at the Taipo end of the route

around 9am. A less-than-brisk period of wandering around in a swamp ensued before we followed Peter and Andrew down to the river and picked up the track proper not far up as it headed upwards onto the valley side. The track goes up and down and varies in quality, with short scrambles, slips and tree falls to negotiate. Andrew's route-finding and everyone's help hauling each other up when required were both greatly appreciated. Part way along we saw a falcon, which made a warning pass over the leaders of the group, but we must have been far enough away from the nest to avoid worrying it any more. The high side track eventually brought us to Rocky Creek and then the rock hopping started in earnest.

Peter had been aiming for Rocky Creek hut or even beyond for lunch, but he could recognise the signs of his whole group running out of energy and motivation so we stopped about half an hour before the hut and stocked up on both. The weather was perfect – sunny and warm but not baking hot, and a little light breeze. Much restored we trotted on up, found the side track to the hut, and eventually arrived at the lovely little Rocky Creek Hut up on a terrace beside Rocky Creek. Another short stop here – mainly to read the hut book and reflect in admiration on the various people who have helped to maintain the hut and track. The hut book also gave us a good description of the route from the hut, which we duly followed. Down into Rocky Creek to start with, and then following the creek upwards as it got narrower and narrower with more and more overhanging scrub to negotiate. 'Closed in' is the technical term I believe. As before, there were sections where you had to scramble or haul yourself up (or be hauled or boosted). None of it was easy but nothing impossible. The actual track markers are few and far between and there are some side creeks joining Rocky Creek up here, so some care was needed on occasion. We did not take enough notice of two cairns either side of one stream at one fork and ended up doing a short cross-country to find the correct branch again. Eventually we found the gully mentioned in the Rocky Creek hut book and made the steep ascent through the scrub to the saddle mostly in 4-limb-drive mode, hauling ourselves up by the vegetation.

Another short break and then the equally steep descent – again in and out of a creek - to find the Griffen Creek hut track. By this time I think most of us were feeling that it was a longish day and although everyone was going well, there was a distinct feeling that it would be good to get to the hut: even Lisa had an air of serious concentration as we negotiated our way down, and Helen gave just the slightest impression of possibly feeling that one could eventually have enough of the fun of clambering around in a stream.

Finally we reached Griffen Creek and Andrew disappeared at a rapid pace muttering about the bush bath alleged to exist at the Hut. The rest of us got there a little after Andrew who – bless him – already had a billy on. One person was clearly already resident in the 4-bunk hut so the rest of us sorted out between bunks and tents and set up camp. If you have not been there, Griffen Creek Hut is a true gem. More homely touches and loving care than my house that's for sure (okay, that's probably not saying a lot), cosy and well-equipped, and yes the bush bath exists. Lisa started her monster dehy chili soaking, teas and soups and dinners were made, blue ducks spotted down at the creek . . . and lo and behold ex-club member Alan Jemison strolled in. Clearly a staunch tramper with a capital S, albeit slowed up a bit by a knee injury - multi-day sojourns in impassable terrain, unreachable peaks and uncrossable saddles mentioned as casually as if they had been strolls to the dairy.

Whatever he thought of the eight of us invading his peace and quiet, he coped well and soon we had almost sold him an anniversary calendar and were trying to persuade him to rejoin the club. (The fact that he lives in Greymouth and is president of the West Coast Alpine Club made this something of a challenge in marketing terms.) Andrew reappeared, glowing and happy after his bush bath, to swap epic trip stories with Alan and fill him in on all the club gossip. That took some time, as you can imagine (enough for both Lisa and Ruth to try the bath, and in the end Alan had to get up especially early to get the final instalments – in return for making the hut-dwellers tea). We let the tent people sleep in a bit, until Pat's bivvie bag started to wriggle like a caterpillar, and then went and told them loudly what a beautiful day it was. Alan had plans to have a look at Mt Griffen and made good his escape in the ensuing confusion of boiling billies and teabags.

After breakfast we reluctantly packed up and set off again up the Griffen Creek track (ie in Griffen Creek most of the way). We passed two more pairs of blue ducks on the way and the creek down here is relatively fast travel compared to the grovelling and clambering of the previous day. Fairly quickly we came to the point where the track leads off upwards to climb up the side of a long spur off Mt Griffen. Parts of this are pretty steep and it seemed to go on for long enough to have got all the way up Mt Griffen itself.

Looking at the map confirms that this is yet another wild exaggeration: It's actually about 400m vertical, but I really do mean vertical. Anyway, finally we hauled ourselves through the last section of leatherwood scrub to yes-this-has-to-definitely-be-the-top. How can there possibly be a swamp way up here? And why does Peter want us to have our lunch sitting in it?

It turns out that my fevered brain maligned him – he only wanted us to have a rest there and then – is he mad? – to take a “little side trip” to get the views from that-knob-way-up-and-over-there before lunch. Not only is it way-up-and-over-there, but I know from my only other trip around this area that it is a route through yet more thick leatherwood scrub from which most trampers emerged looking like blood-spattered extras from the Texas Chainsaw Massacre, unless they have had the foresight to bring full body-armor. Pat, Lisa, and Helen took my advice and shifted only as far as necessary to get themselves out of the swamp and onto solid sunbathing ground. Naturally I had to go with Peter, Andrew, David and Ruth to make sure that I was close to hand to say I told you so when the first yelp of pain was emitted. We made it up onto point 1126 and there found Alan again, who assured the optimistic Peter that the high point not far away was only Wilsons Knob and that Griffen itself was a fair way further. I admit that the views were indeed worth the blood-loss though.

After an equally excruciating descent we rejoined the others for a leisurely lunch and then launched ourselves down the track towards Harringtons Creek. This is much more travelled than the other side but is still steep in sections. It takes around a couple of hours to get down to the Creek and then cross to pick up the track that eventually brings you out at the farm gate where – yes! – Happiness! – Peter's car awaited, unmolested by vandals. Soon we had unshuffled the cars and were on our way back east. We called in at the Club Hut to see if the lumberjack team had had any disasters with Large Trees and Hut Roofs, but all seemed to be well and there was a huge pile of logs around the back. Then home.

A great weekend trip – thanks Peter and Andrew.

Trampers - Peter Eman (leader), Andrew Turton, Ruth Gray, Pat McIntosh, Lisa Glading, Helen Williams, David Ellison-Smith, Jenny Harlow.

14-15 April 2007

75th Anniversary Weekend

The 75th Anniversary celebrations have been a huge success, with over 180 people attending the Anniversary afternoon, dinner and dance at the Cashmere Club on Saturday. We had ex-club members coming from as far away as Switzerland and Australia and there was a wonderful atmosphere as old friends got together. A major talking point was the Anniversary photos CD, running a looping slide show in each room with photos from all eras of club tramping – ‘look that's us at the old hut’ – ‘how did they get so much mud on them?’ – ‘gosh weren't shorts short in those days’ – ‘oh that must be the trip when . . .’ – ‘hey that must me be with the beard’. The copies of the CD that were available on the day sold like hot cakes. Rex Vink, assisted by his magician's apprentices Lynette Hartley and Grant Wheaton, took commemorative photographs of members grouped by the decade they joined the club. This covered the select band who were there in the 1930s right up to our most recent members. After the photos Vera Ross (née Stewart, one of the founding members of the Club) and Noel Tweedie (the senior current member) cut the beautiful huge cake iced with a Mount Cook lily design. Following tea, orders were taken for the commemorative photographs and the event organisers had a little time to catch their breath before the evening program.

Alan Ross was MC for the evening but even Alan, with a microphone, barely managed to make himself heard over the hum of excited talk as everyone gathered for dinner. One of the highpoints of the evening was the Tramping Fashion Show organised by Peter Mortlock with assistance from enthusiastic models. It must have been hard to look good in some of that tramping gear, but they managed it as they showed off tramping style through the years including leather shorts, the holey singlet, puttees, kidney-crusher metal frame packs, and massive old sleeping bags. Throughout

the day Bev Rohleder had been selling raffle tickets, so most of those present were in with a chance to win the framed painting and print generously donated by well-known painter Maurice Middleditch or the wonderful Tramping Teddy complete with hat and miniature mountain mule pack hand-made by Bev herself. In the end Doug Wright, Val & Jim McKie, and Ursula & Ron Culley were the lucky winners and the raffle raised \$400 for the Club. For the rest of the evening the band kept us entertained and guests danced, talked and mingled through to supper and the final adieus at midnight.

The Club committee has moved a vote of thanks to the Anniversary sub-committee (Rex Vink, Bev Rohleder, Peter Mortlock, Lynette Hartley, Jenny Harlow) for all the hard work that went into organising the 75th Anniversary Celebrations.

The sub-committee in turn would like to thank the many other people who have been involved: Greta Vink for organising and coordinating ticket sales, Richard Lobb for assisting with the photo CD and the set-up on the day, Grant Wheaton for the audio-visual expertise and gadgets, Susan Pearson for CD printing, Eric Saggars for the replica tramping hut facade, the fashion show models, Alan Ross for MCing, and many others. Many thanks also to Warwick Dowling, Joy Schroeder and everyone else who stepped in and helped out on the day. Finally, a huge thanks to everyone who came along and made it such a happy and memorable occasion.

We sold out of the first run of **Anniversary photo CD's** and took orders for another batch. It's not too late to order one for yourself - only \$10 each for a CD containing over 600 photos from the early years right up to the last photo competition. It includes the slide show that was running on the day. To order contact Jenny Harlow (03) 349 2280, harlowj@cpit.ac.nz, or send a note to "CD Orders", CTC, PO Box 527, Christchurch 8140 with payment. Get in quick – they are already going fast!

We would also like to put up a webpage of photos from the Anniversary Celebrations. If you have any to contribute please contact Richard Lobb (richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz or (03) 351 2344) to discuss the best way to submit them (Richard does not want his email blocked by lots of huge photo attachments all at once!) or post prints to "Pictures from 75th", CTC, PO Box 527, Christchurch 8140 (please indicate if you want us to return them to you).

Easter 2007

Mount Owen Area

A visit to the Marino Mountains is essential for any trumper worthy of the name. 20/20 vision is also useful in this instance for 2 reasons, firstly to avoid the amazing holes and cracks in the limestone rock and secondly because 2 of the party had torch problems, but Katriana had the problem sussed – carrots for scroggin.

It was good to leave Highway 1's endless stream of cars heading to all points north. After surviving a midnight mozy attack at our Calf Paddock stopover, we left the Owen Valley car park in great weather but the smiles turned to painful grimaces when the background drone in the beech trees came to life and several of us showed off our running ability while slapping legs and heads.

After nearly missing the turnoff to Bulmer Creek we looked in awe, second-guessing the cunning cavers track up the vertical rock wall, interspersed with angled ledges just right- with the addition of rope ladders – for a route up to the very tranquil Lake Bulmer as far removed from boy racers and city stress as you can get. But we hadn't earned our dinner yet so we carried on to Castle Basin (Freezer Basin would have been a more apt name). Not yet in winter mode, primuses did overtime with boot thawing the priority in the morning.

This day saw us head to Sanctuary Basin, a side trip to Mount Owen was straightforward but a great lookout (Lookout range to the east) then on through what looked like a limestone glacier with its crevasse

like cracks. After selecting a campsite near Sanctuary Basin we did some site seeing – Granity Pass hut, an old prospectors hut etc. We weren't left in doubt that it was Easter with people all over the show.

Sunday with mini Easter egg supplemented breakfast (a Lynette tradition) we had Culliford Hill to climb, more effort than you might think for a hill but with less cloud about, panoramic views of all the ranges.

With packs harnessed and heading in a southwest direction the route changed from swampland to spaniad hillsides, holey ridge tops and caves in every bluff, all the while digital cameras snapped possible masterpieces. One such small cave proved too tempting and gave us a taste of what the nearby cavers were up to.

Down a good scree and back to Lake Bulmer yours truly bashes leg on rock 5 metres from camp site in idle moment of boredom (very sore next day). Campfire with PTC party, still night, 1 duck quack, several Kea squawks and hundreds of weak calls.

Monday morning up Sunrise Peak and past 2 young boys and their dad, down long bush track (Andrew slipping on autumn leaf litter 294 times), swim in the river for some.

Thus ended another great, well lead moderate Easter trip by Steve.

Trampers - Steve (leader), Max (scribe), Lynette, Katriana, Andrew, Flo.

24-25 March 2007

Tarn Col

Eric felt our Anniversary trip should be done as it always used to be, up the Hawdon and down the Edwards and using the Edwards Hut not camping on Tarn Col as outlined in the newsletter. Fine by us.

FRIDAY: Helen W's carload arrived at the Hawdon Shelter first and were astonished to find a church group doing their own Coast to Coast, 4 wheel drives and tents everywhere and the shelter full of young men, bikes and gear. Only Deidre knew Eric our Leader so it was introductions all round when the second carload arrived. Eric, still very fit, was an active member of the club in the 60's. Peter and Deidre also had a long association with the club, Helen H. not quite so long and Helen W. ,Kate and Chris were new or prospective members- a perfect mix for an Anniversary trip.

SATURDAY: It was a beautiful clear night and our campsite just under the trees, dry and comfortable until 5 am when the "Coast to Coast" vehicles with banging trailers departed for their river section. At 7:30 am we left the remnants of tent city to head up the Hawdon River flats then onto bush tracks. By 9:50 am we reached the site of the Hawdon Hut, burnt down 2005. About 15 minutes further up, trees had been felled and ground marked out for the new hut. Emerging from the bush from time to time, we were now seeing rugged tops ahead. Bypassing Twin Falls stream, the pull up towards Walker Pass (1110m) is steep but straightforward. By 12 noon, we popped out to an open clearing with great views down to a tiny Hawdon River. Exposed now, we were suddenly disorientated by nor-west gusts as we tried to locate a marker or cairn. On course, we skirted a large tarn before the pass then pushed through scrub and grasses to follow the East branch of the Otehake. By 12:30 pm, we caught up to Eric and Peter gathering wood for a boil up. Our leader filled our mugs and allowed a full hour for lunch. A short distance on, a sharp turn left (west) had us scrambling in and out of a creek up to Tarn Col. Gentians and magnificent patches of edelweiss were part of the rich plant life here. Eric, in front, had seen a flock of yellowheads earlier and now he and Kate saw rock wrens. At last an open area with a tarn- by 3 pm we had reached Tarn Col (1380m), perfect with no wind and plenty of sunshine. Camping would be great today. Just beyond the tarn, land suddenly stops and there is a straight plunge down. On being asked which was Taruahuna Pass (1270m), Deidre replied "That pile of rocks down there." The 1929 earthquake had sent debris down onto the pass from Falling Mountain. At 3:35 pm we began descending from the col, climbing straight down a narrow gut having rejected the scree. Once the party was safely down, Eric leaving us in the Peter's care, went ahead to the hut instructing us to "be there (Edwards Hut) before dark." Picking our way through rock debris took

some time before easier intermittent tussock-covered tracks interspersed with river sections. When the troupes arrived at the hut between 6:10 pm and 6:35 pm (6:30 pm made it an 11 hour day including a 1 hour lunch stop), Eric had a fire going and hot water ready. A hunter and his son were the only other occupants. We learnt that in 1969 Eric had built this hut to replace the previous Edwards Hut which was nearer the trees, and had been burnt down.

SUNDAY: When we arose, the hunters were away looking for deer having left the fire going. A cosy hut sure beats tenting! Sun lit up the tops when we left at 8:35 am passing through golden tussock up into trees above the Edwards River. Two hours on, we exited trees onto a rocky area where Eric had a fire going and the billy on the boil. If this tramping the old way, we liked it! Despite only 4 hours tramping today, we had variety- well-defined tracks through beech trees, a rocky face with a chain hand-hold, criss-crossing the river in the Lower Gorge area and open riverbed. We arrived at SH 73 just north of Greyneys Shelter at 12:30 pm having crossed the Minga then the Bealey Rivers. Helen W. and Chris then had the hard part, getting back to their cars at the Hawdon Corner. It was 1:08 pm before they got a lift and 2:50 pm when they returned having had to walk in from the Mt White turnoff. Thanks, guys.

Our party request that anyone reading this encourage the picking up of trampers returning to their cars.

A vote of thanks to Eric ably assisted by Peter (The Jockey boys) for a perfect Anniversary tramp.

Trampers - Eric Saggars (Leader), Chris Bamford, Peter Mortlock, Deidre Sheppard, Kate Taylor, Helen Williams, Helen Harkness (Scribe)

7 January 2007

Travers and Trovatore (aka John's mystery trip)

As usual, the weather brings out the CTC tramping crowds – 13 people on a day which did not auger to be very good. When we emerged from the bush having slogged up the Travers track there was very little visibility and the most hopeful comments seemed to be about climbing above the cloud. However, John's faith was vindicated because by the time we were most of the way up Travers the cloud was rolling away nicely. It was also rolling right back again in many places of course but the outlook still looked much better than it had done. Jonathan advised that the normal (winter) route to Trovatore involved sidling a couple of hundred metres below Travers itself to go past the tarn and then up via the south west spur of Trovatore, but we were not short of time and the whole group opted to follow Richard and go to Travers itself. We had lunch on the top with more cloud rolling around enticingly and Lynette being interrogated about her whizzy new camera. John Henzell, naturally, won the high-powered-camera-technology stakes but there were some creditable runners up around. Janet (trumpets and drum rolls) was of course the winner of our 2006 photo competition but understandably did not seem inclined to regard any of our motley group as worthy successors for her winning model.

After first lunch we set off again, about a third of the group taking the more direct route down the ridge to the saddle between Travers and 1890 and then doing a high sidle to avoid the very jagged ridge top towards Trovatore, another third following Jonathan on the 'winter route' and the rest trying to compromise between them. The high route was clearly faster, provided you resisted peer pressure to come down, but then they missed Flo wading thigh-deep into the tarn just for the sake of it. Stu had been saying how restrained his pace had to be because of his recovering leg injury, which of course just about gave the rest of the low route group the opportunity to keep up with him. Roughly – well - behind but not too far behind? And, as Richard noted, Gary's pace indicated that he is a worthy son for the mighty Flo.

There was a brisk wind on Trovatore which only David seemed immune from – the rest huddled behind the little aerial-equipment hut, but we were finally getting the great views we had been promising to Paul. From Trovatore (second lunch) we set off along the ridge comprising 1723, 1755 etc etc and Jonathan's favourite scree run (in the winter, his favourite bum slide). It is indeed a good scree, although you probably need to start from a bit below the real top where it is a bit steeper and there are some loose rocks. From the bottom of the scree you rock hop down the stream and then down the Maruia to the footbridge and then follow the track back to the Lewis Pass carpark. Poor Bruce, as the third driver, got hustled into slip-streaming along after John Henson as he and Flo stormed off to unshuffle cars but he seemed to survive

without his legs being worn entirely to stumps and they picked us all up from the carpark before the sandflies had had time to digest their first course.

A great trip – thanks John. I should also take this opportunity to state that rumours spread by John Henson that my impressive limp after the trip was due to him walloping me for refusing to make him a cup of tea are entirely inaccurate. It was done by a rock, and if I had realised that the rock was that thirsty, or the effect that even a dehydrated and dying-for-a-cuppa rock would have on the back of my knee I would have made it one on first time of asking. Perhaps I just did not recognise that bowling up behind one at a million miles an hour with the sound of whistling wind around it is rock-speak for “yes please that would be lovely - a touch of lemon and sugar thanks and do you by any chance have earl grey”. We live and learn and – thanks for asking everyone who expressed concern/amusement at my recent ungainly walking gait – it is almost good as new now.

(See the trip report for Trovatore 16 July 2006 if you are bored enough to need the trivia about the naming of Trovatore and Travers.)

Trampers - John Henson (leader), Jonathan Carr, John Henzell, Lynette Hartley, Stu Smith, Flo Roberts, David Ellison-Smith, Bruce Miller, Richard Lobb, Gary Roberts, Janet Crofts, Paul Titus, Jenny Harlow.

Book Review: “Coast to Coast: Who was First?”

Reflecting on 300 years of discovery and self-discovery, leading to the Coast to Coast multisport adventure race.

By Grant Hunter (published by Fifth Camp, Christchurch, New Zealand).

As the subtitle makes clear, this book is more about the background and history of coast-to-coasting, and mountain-race-type adventures around Arthur’s Pass in general, than the present Coast to Coast race itself. It starts with the history of the coast to coast route from Maori onwards, then the exploits of the surveyors and explorers like Dobson. Mountaineers like John Pascoe come into it too. The history of mountain running at Arthur’s Pass in the 1970s tells how the CTC and other Christchurch clubs started the idea of mountain running races in Arthur’s Pass in 1970 (the first mountain race, up Mt Bealey, was won by Eric Saggars of the CTC jointly with Stan Scott from the National Park Board, with John Visser, also CTC, next in). The Mt Bealey race was eventually transformed into the Avalanche Peak Challenge by Chris Cox and Dave Watson. The final chapter covers the present Coast to Coast race. The book is well-sprinkled with illustrations including photos and reproductions of drawings, maps, posters etc.

This is a good book for anyone interested in the history of exploration, recreation and racing through Arthur’s Pass.

The book should be available through some bookshops, but the easiest way to purchase (special price \$21 including postage) is to contact Grant at fifthcamp@clear.net.nz or (03) 351 6369 (post to Fifth Camp, P O Box 34046, Christchurch).

(reviewed by Jenny Harlow)

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 27 May – Thanks.



Ridge, North Opuha



Spurs Hut, North Opuha



Garden of Eden