



# 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 - if they do it's probably pure coincidence.

Vol. 76

## November 2007

No. 7

<b>President</b>	Richard Wills	389-8671	<b>Club Captain</b>	Jim Western	376-5191
<b>Vice President</b>	Andrew Turton	332-8275	<b>Trip Organiser(day)</b>	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
<b>Secretary</b>	Lisa Glading	389-1737	<b>(weekend)</b>	Andrew Turton	332-8275
<b>Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	<b>Hut Convener</b>	Dave Watson	981-7929
<b>Editor</b>	Alastair Brown	343-5111	<b>Gear Custodian</b>	Jim Western	376-5191
<b>Social Convener</b>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<b>New Members</b>	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 Jim Western 376-5191. Note:

Club gear assigned to you is your responsibility; please take care of it. Please make sure you put tents inside your pack. Tents attached to the outside of your pack can be easily punctured when bush bashing or even lost. This may result in serious damage to your bank account! Please air and dry tents after taking them on a trip even if they are not used, and report any damage to the gear custodian.

**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](mailto: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 transport 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.

<b>Rates for Gear Hire:</b> Tent	\$3/person/night
Ice axes, Crampons	\$4/weekend
Harnesses, Snow shovel	\$4/weekend
Large/small weekend packs	\$2/weekend
Mountain radio	\$30/weekend
or	\$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:** We now have photos on the web page to accompany trip reports. Please email photos to [webmaster@ctc.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@ctc.org.nz).

**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 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](mailto: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.

**John Visser:** John Visser had a collision on Rapaki track on his mountain bike, 3 cracked ribs, punctured lung, various cuts and bruises, we all hope he recovers well. If you are in his neighborhood, he might like a visit, ring Brenda first perhaps.

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## Classifieds

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

**Room for rent:** Room for rent till February or thereabouts, single fully furnished, sharing house with one other person. \$110 per week includes phone and broadband. Share of 1/3 of power bill. Phone Kerrie 386-2850 or txt 0274500877.

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## External Events of interest

**Wanganui Tramping Club - Mangaturuturu Hut 50th Anniversary:** The Wanganui Tramping Club is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Mangaturuturu Hut. Planned Festivities are a trip into the hut on Saturday 22 March 2008 and a celebratory Dinner on Sunday 23 March 2008. Please contact Russel Donaldson, 6 Stafford St, Wanganui 4501, 06-344-2275, 027-5149183, [russeld@clear.net.nz](mailto:russeld@clear.net.nz).

**Intrepid Magazine:** Ryan Holden, the publisher of Intrepid magazine, (apparently New Zealand's newest adventure magazine) is looking for quality tramping content and if anyone in the club is keen to submit an article on tramping then please let him know at [ryan@intrepidmagazine.com](mailto:ryan@intrepidmagazine.com). Fame and fortune guaranteed.

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## Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 25 October

Club Night

**Newsletter folding and Trampwise:** How good are your mapreading skills? The Trampwise session will be in a quiz format to 'test' your skills and promote discussion. A rumour has it that a useful prize might be awarded to the winner.

Saturday 27 October	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
<b>Mount Oxford from Coopers Creek:</b> A classic tramp in the Canterbury foothills. Start from Coopers Creek and walk past the old hostel (now owned by the Scout Association) that the Club helped to build many many years ago, and up through native bush to the tussocky open tops to the trig on Mount Oxford (1364m, about 1000m height gain). On the return we have the option of making a longer day of it by doing a loop down a different spur and back past the Ryde Falls track. Great views over Canterbury plains, Torlesse Range and Waimakariri Gorge area.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 25 Oct Map: L34 Approx: \$15
Weekend 27-28 October	Leader: Sarah Hardie 332-8275
<b>Croesus Hut Family trip:</b> Alongside the Moderate trip Peter is leading over the tops from the Moonlight, Sarah will lead this family trip into the Croesus Hut. A formed track with a steady climb up to the hut makes this a good trip for families . Depending on the group some may continue over to the coast on the Sunday.	Grade: Easy Closed: 18 Oct Map: K31 Approx: \$40
Weekend 27-28 October	Leader: Jonathan Carr 351-1574
<b>Moonlight - Croesus:</b> A great moderate trip over the tops in the Southern part of the Paparoa range on the West Coast. There are good tracks up both the Moonlight and the Croesus but the section over the tops is a marked route only. Great views can be had down to the coast, back towards the Alps and on a clear day all the way south to Mt Cook. As a added bonus there is lots of old mining equipment to explore. The plan is to camp on the tops on Saturday night (weather permitting). All in all a good trip.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 18 Oct Map: K31 Approx: \$40
Sunday 28 October - check with leader for departure time and place	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
<b>Mt Wilson and Mt Scott:</b> Mt Wilson (2035m) and Mt Scott (2009m) are part of the Polar Range (yes, named after the Antarctic explorers) between Sudden Valley and the East Edwards. Ascent options are to go up the south-east ridge of Wilson from Sudden Valley via a steep gully upstream from Sudden Valley Biv, and then go on to Scott, or to go up (also steeply) from the head of Sudden Valley. The guidebooks say grade 1+ and we can expect there still to be snow and ice around. Please check with the leader about your skills for this trip and note that there may be an early start.	Grade: Hard Closed: 25 Oct Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Sunday 28 October	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Pudding Hill Stream:</b> A varied loop in Mt Hutt forest, starting in Awa Awa Rata Reserve. From the Reserve we will walk up Scotts Saddle Track to the Ski-field road. This is a climb of about 600m over 5km through mixed forest and then on tussock tops with great views over the plains. From the road, we head west down through the forest on a track which may be overgrown to reach Pudding Hill Stream. We follow this downstream (untracked) for approx 6km to where a short track leads back to the reserve. Expect wet feet on the homeward part of this round trip of approx 12km.	Grade: EasyMod Closed: 25 Oct Map: K36 K35 Approx: \$20
Wednesday 31 October 6pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car park at 6pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise the heart rate and lift your fitness for all those serious summer trips you have planned.	Grade: All Just turn up. Map: Approx: \$0
Thursday 1 November	Club Night
<b>North West of Scotland:</b> Our own Penny Coffey will take us to the North West of Scotland including the Orkney Islands and Western Isles. Penny will show you that there is more to Scotland than the names you know, (e.g. Isle of Skye) come along and see why.	

Saturday 3 November	Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655
<b>Port Levy Saddle to Mount Sinclair:</b> Enjoy an easy moderate day out on the Banks Peninsula. This tramp will run from the saddle above Port Levy along the tops to Mount Sinclair (841m), with views out over Pigeon Bay on one side and Akaroa on the other. Mount Sinclair was in fact named for the Sinclair family who settled in Pigeon Bay in the 1840s, before Christchurch was even founded. If people are keen and there are enough of us, we could do a car shuffle and be able to carry on through to Hilltop.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 1 Nov Map: N36 Approx: \$10
Weekend 3-4 November	Leader: Flo Roberts 980-7913
<b>The Pinnacle:</b> This trip is described by Sven in his guide book as spectacular with some superb tarn basins. The Pinnacle is in the area of the Victoria Range south west of Springs Junction and is a wilderness tramp with no tracks or huts so is not for unexperienced people. Stu and Flo have attempted this trip before but snow drove them back, but November should be kinder weather wise. Join them for what should be a excellent trip.	Grade: ModHard Closed: 25 Oct Map: L31 Approx: \$45
Sunday 4 November (Early start - 7am at the Shell)	Leader: Richard Pickering 332-2171
<b>Cass River, McLeod Stream, Black Range and Mt Misery:</b> An exploration of part of the beautiful Black Range in the Cass Lagoon area. The trip starts by going up the Cass River from Grasmere and then up McLeod Stream and onto the Black Range tops around point 1911. From there we'll make our way along the tops to Mt Misery (1785m) and then down again to the cars. Someone must have had a bit of a negative experience in this area because Misery's neighbour, across Pylon Gully is the equally dispiritedly-titled Mt Horrible. How could you not want to find out what they are really like? In fact, Mt Misery is a nice scrambly top with good views across the Waimakariri. This is a longish day trip with some 1300 - 1400m of ascent, hence the moderate hard rating. Note early start - 7am at the Shell.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 1 Nov Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Wednesday 7 November 6pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get Fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car park at 6pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise the heart rate and lift your fitness for all those serious summer trips you have planned.	Grade: All Just turn up. Map: Approx: \$0
Thursday 8 November	Club Night
<b>Hillary - a view from the top:</b> The final installment of "Hillary - a view from the top". In this last segment he loses his wife and daughter in a plane crash, searches for Yeti in Nepal and jet boats from the mouth of the Ganges to the headwaters high in the Himalayas.	
Sunday 11 November	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
<b>Hamilton Peak to Mt Wall:</b> Why stop at Hamilton Peak? A bit of a variation on the classic Craigieburn ascent, this tramp will climb via Camp Saddle to Hamilton Peak (1822m) above the Broken River ski field and then carry on with a scrambly traverse of the rocky ridge-top to Mt Wall (1874m). Descending from Mt Wall, we'll use one of the best shingle slides in the area to come right down almost to the ski field road close to the cars again. A more adventurous moderate trip with the usual impressive Craigieburn scenery and views.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Nov Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Sunday 11 November	Leader: Brent Crammond 338-8171
<b>Pinchgut Hut:</b> Try the Pinchgut track and visit Pinchgut Hut, in the Mt Thomas area. There is a crossing of the Okuku River right at the start of the track so you could wear an old pair of shoes for this and then change in to dry boots for the walk. 3-4 hours of gentle walking, mainly in beech, will get us to the hut in a streamside clearing where we will lunch before returning.	Grade: Easy Closes: 8 Nov Map: M34 Approx: \$20

Multi day trip 14-13 November 6pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914337 4914
<b>Get fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon carpark at 6pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise the heart rate and lift your fitness for all those serious summer trips you have planned.	Grade: All Just turn up. Map: Approx: \$0

Thursday 15 November	Club Night
<b>Ski Touring with John Henson.:</b> John will give a presentation, taking us ski touring in the Westland and the Tasman Glaciers. Built up over the last three years.	

Long Weekend 16-18 November	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
<b>Alpine Route Richmond Forest Park:</b> The Alpine route is the name for a tops trip just above the bush line (and often in the bush) in the Richmond Ranges between Nelson and the Wairau valley. It is not particularly an alpine trip, more a marked route on the tops so don't be put off . Snow is unlikely at Show weekend unless a late Southerly hits. There are regular huts along the Route and several entry and exit points so the final route will be determined when we see how many people there will be on the trip. A cross over trip or a round trip are both possible. This area can often get good weather when other areas are not so lucky.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Nov Map: N27 N28 O27 Approx: \$50

Long Weekend 16-18 November	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Mt Alexander:</b> Mt Alexander (1958m) is a classic trampers' peak in the Lake Brunner region. It is usually done as a hard weekend trip and was cancelled last year due to weather so this is the ideal moderate option. The extra day allows more moderate trampers to enjoy this tramp. Leaving town on Thursday evening, we will spend the night at the club hut. On Friday we will climb (approx 1200m) to a high camp by some tarns on Friday. On Saturday we can climb to the summit, or just explore this area of weird rock outcrops, tussock land and basins. Potential for magnificent views to the familiar mountains of Arthur's Pass to the northern Paparoas and even Mt Cook. After a 2nd night in camp we head home.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Nov Map: K32 K33 Approx: \$40

Long Weekend 16-18 November	Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111
<b>Mt Lambert, Wanganui River:</b> Head up the Wanganui River to Hunter Hut and follow the recently cut track to the tops above Lambert Gorge. A bit of scrub bashing to a tent camp on the tops with the objective of climbing Mt Lambert for views over the Gardens of Eden and Allah. Return same way.	Grade: Hard Closes: 8 Nov Map: I34 I35 Approx: \$50

Sunday 18 November	Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
<b>Lake Emma, Mt Harper and Balmacaan Saddle:</b> Mt Harper is down in South Canterbury, in the Rangitata area. We'll go in via the Lake Clearwater road, walking past the tranquil Lake Emma and then work our way up the reasonably steep side of Mt Harper, 1829m (can this leader find a matagouri-free route?). From Mt Harper we'll descend west through the tussock to Balmacaan Saddle (1150m) and then down Balmacaan stream to pick up a rough track and back out. In total it's a bit over 1100m of ascent and a reasonably long-moderate day for a very satisfying Show Weekend workout.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Nov Map: J36 Approx: \$25

Sunday 18 November	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
<b>Mt Somers hut from Woolshed Creek:</b> A Show Weekend day trip to the Mt Somers conservation area in the Canterbury foothills - Mt Somers itself, an ancient volcano, dominates the landscape. This tramp follows the Mt Somers Walkway from the Woolshed Creek carpark up through bush and then more open subalpine scrub to the new Mount Somers hut (400m - 500m of ascent), with good views of the glaciated landscape of the Stour Valley, Lake Heron and the Arrowsmiths en-route. On the way we will take a look at the old coalmine workings - coal was discovered there in 1856 and mining continued until 1954. Also in the area, but less likely to be spotted, is the rare Mt Somers weta - pretty distinctive with black and bright orange legs, white joints and antennae 12.5cm long. Come along for a great holiday weekend day trip.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 15 Nov Map: K36 Approx: \$20
Wednesday 21 November 6pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get Fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car park at 6pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise the heart rate and lift your fitness for all those serious summer trips you have planned.	Grade: All Just turn up Map: Approx: \$0
Thursday 22 November	Club Night
<b>Product presentation by South Island gear manufacturer Cactus Climbing.:</b> We have Rob Gray to tell us about their product range of packs and outdoor clothing. Rob will also be announcing at club the winner of a \$200 prize which will result from an email promotion to be sent out soon. Watch for this on the email. As well as this people present on the night will be given a voucher to purchase product at a discount off the Cactus website.	
Weekend 24-25 November	Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922
<b>Arrowsmith Mt Biking:</b> For those keen on tramping with a bike, though you can sometimes ride the down hill bits. This weekend is a bit of exploring in behind Lake Heron. Access via farm tracks (private land dependant on permission) to the range between the Cameron and South Ashburton Rivers dropping into the upper South Branch of the Ashburton River and returning down the Ashburton. Options for other neat circuits in the area.	Grade: EasyMod/MTB Closes: 15 Nov Map: J35 Approx: \$30
Weekend 24-25 November	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<b>Leadership:</b> A course for leaders and aspiring leaders to learn the skills of running trips. Trip planning, weather monitoring, choosing suitable trip members and equipment. Assessing situations, setting priorities, making decisions and taking effective action. Evaluating and minimizing risks. Using different styles of leadership for different situations. Handling challenges, conflicts and accidents. Managing people in groups with a range of abilities. Doing all that and still enjoying the trip!. A combination of classroom and outdoor training - come along and be challenged.	Grade: Training Closes: 15 Nov Map: J35 Approx: \$40
Sunday 25 November	Leader: Penny Coffey 332-7182(please phone <i>before</i> 8pm)
<b>Gargarus:</b> Go to classical Greece for only \$20! The original Gargarus - as mentioned in Homer's 'The Iliad' - is the topmost peak of Mt Ida (also known as Kaz Dađý) in the environs of ancient Troy in what is now Turkey. Our Gargarus (1855m) - note opposite to Mt Ida! - is a very satisfying peak close to Lake Coleridge. There is about 1300m total height gain and it is reasonably steep, straight up the tussock and a bit stonier at the top. From the top you can look out over the lake, the Harper, eye up the Spurs and Mt Ida for another day . . .	Grade: Moderate Closes: 22 Nov Map: K34 Approx: \$20

Sunday 25 November (Early start 7 am from Church Corner)	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
<b>Mt Stuart:</b> Mt Stuart is a less well-known peak lying slightly north-west of the Otira Viaduct. We will do a round trip including this peak by ascending the Mt Phipps ridge until reaching a point where we can descend into the little-visited upper basin of Pegleg Creek. From the saddle at the head of the creek it is a straightforward climb to the top of Mt Stuart (1906m, around 1400m - 1500m total ascent). From there we will descend the west ridge passing over Hills Peak and finally ending up near the south end of the viaduct with a bit of a road bash back to the cars. There are spectacular views looking down on the viaduct from further down the ridge. At this time of year you will need crampons and ice axe. Fitness and experience on snow are essential. Note early start - 7 am from Church Corner (NOT the Shell).	Grade: ModHard Closes: 22 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Sunday 25 November	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275(and Sarah Hardie)
<b>Ryde Falls:</b> Join Andrew, Sarah and David on this family trip in the lovely Mt Oxford Forest. We'll follow the well-benched track from the car park through the beech forest, looking out for the scattered rimu and the splashes of colour from the red and yellow-leaved horopito. There's plenty of bird life as well, from the ubiquitous robins and fan-tails to the sound of the bell-birds and maybe even a rifleman. The falls themselves - three cascades - are above a beautiful deep pool. Plenty of time to look around, explore and socialise on this family outing for everyone from kids to grandparents.	Grade: Easy/family Closes: 22 Nov Map: L34 Approx: \$15

Wednesday 28 November 6pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get Fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car park at 6pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise the heart rate and lift your fitness for all those serious summer trips you have planned.	Grade: All Closes: 22 Nov Map: Approx:

Thursday 29 November	
<b>Newsletter folding night:</b> Trampwise Session. If you watched while one tramping companion jumped into a raging mountain river to chase and retrieve the pack that another tramping companion had just rolled into the river, would you consider him to be a hero or a fool? Come along for a light hearted debate on this and other events of the trip, then vote on hero/fool status.	

Saturday 1 December	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914 and Doug Forster 337-5453
<b>Getting the most out of your GPS:</b> Want to get the most out of your GPS? This course is for people who already use a GPS but want to explore how to do more with it. There will be an opportunity to look at some of the latest GPS models in action, including using your GPS in conjunction with mapping software. This course will be a mixture of theory and hands-on/switched-on practical, probably based at Mt Vernon. You must be on the list or have contacted the leader in advance to check on equipment required and meeting time and place.	Grade: Training Closes: 29 Nov Map: M35 Approx: \$0

Weekend 1-2 December	Leader: Honora Renwick 942-8368
<b>Doubtful - Mt Garfield:</b> Mt Garfield is on the tops to the south of the Doubtful valley in the Lewis Pass area. The tops are easily accessed by several routes and are rounded making for easy travel. There are some tarns dotted along the tops and good views are all round. Looks pretty good for a weekend out in the mountains. So join one of the CTC's most experienced leaders on this interesting trip.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 22 Nov Map: M32 Approx: \$40

Sunday 2 December	Leader: David Henson 942-3954
<b>Bush Spur - Mt Herbert:</b> 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 on good terrain.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 29 Nov Map: M36 Approx: \$15
Sunday 2 December	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Round the Mountain - Mt Somers:</b> Here's a bit of a challenge - start and end at the Sharplin Falls car park and go right around Mt Somers in a day. This is a superb trip, taking in a variety of vegetation - through beech forest, under waterfalls, and over open tussock and sub-alpine scrub. There is a good track the whole way around and you pass Pinnacles Hut and the new(ish) Woolshed Creek hut before crossing the face of Mt Somers on the newest section of the track. There is nothing difficult about any of the terrain but it's a long day - total length 28km and a cumulative height gain of 2000m so be prepared for a 10 hour tramp.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 29 Nov Map: K36 Approx: \$20
Thursday 6 December	Club Night
<b>End of year BBQ at the Halswell Quarry:</b> Meet from 6pm. Bring your own food and drink. BBQs will be provided. This is a great social event. Bring cricket gear and a soccer ball also.	
Saturday 8 December	Leader: John Taylor 387-0609
<b>Harper River Pinnacles:</b> The Pinnacles are hundreds of amazing tall mud-and-pebble pointy tower formations, created by some magical mixture of mud/geology/wind/water/whatever (your leader is the expert - he'll be able to explain it all). They are right on the banks of the Harper River (Lake Coleridge area), making a lovely trip to walk about 11k up the river, cross, and explore. The walk in is basically flat, but there is the option of a slightly longer loop for the return with a bit of up and down on a 4WD track.	Grade: Easy Closes: 6 Dec Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Weekend 8-9 December	Leader: Sarah Hardie 332-8275
<b>Crow Hut:</b> A easy family trip up the Waimakariri and Crow rivers to the comforts of the newish Crow Hut. The pace will be comfortable with time for the kids to play in the river. A trip further up river may be possible in the afternoon. The return on Sunday will be by the same route. All children must be capable of river bed travel, and each family unit self-contained. Some camping may be necessary.	Grade: Easy/family Closes: 29 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$35
Weekend 8-9 December	Leader: TBA
<b>Griffin Creek:</b> A repeat of the very successful trip Peter Eman led last year. The trip is along some rough tracks and riverbed in the Rocky Creek then over a bush saddle to the well-situated Griffin Creek Hut. This hut has an outdoor bath, a wonderful outlook and blue ducks in the river. Sunday sees a climb to the bushline to a great view point before dropping back to the road.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 29 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Multi day trip 8-16 December	Leader: John Henson 342-3311
<b>Pre Christmas Extended Mystery Trip:</b> We are planning a 9-day moderate trip visiting stunning tops and great valleys with the odd track and hut thrown in for comfort. The location of the trip will depend on the weather and the party members. For more information please contact John.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 29 Nov Map: TBA Approx: \$TBA

Sunday 9 December	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
<b>Hooligan Range:</b> The Hooligan Range is accessed from the Lake Sumner road. It's an area the club has not visited that much and it deserves more attention. The Hooligan itself (1582m) is some 1000m above the road - steep at first, flattening into about 3k of undulating tops travel. Take plenty of water and enjoy the views out over Lake Sumner itself and the surrounding Hurunui-area country.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 6 Dec Map: M33 Approx: \$20
Sunday 9 December	Leader: Deirdre Sheppard 342-7929
<b>Mt Richardson:</b> Mount Richardson is a lovely 17k loop in the Canterbury foothills. The track starts at the Glentui Bush picnic area and goes through some superb native beech forest - some steepish sections, about 700m height gain - to Mt Richardson itself (1047m) and a great panorama over the Canterbury plains. Our return route will be along the Blowhard track which gives us the opportunity to walk along the open tops before descending back into the bush again - there are some stands of rimu in places - and back to the cars.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 6 Dec Map: L34 Approx: \$15
Saturday 15 December	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
<b>Foggy Peak:</b> Foggy Peak is a nice bump just beside Porters Pass - yes - let the car do most of the height gain, start from around 900m and have a relatively easy trip up the stony slopes of Foggy Peak for lunch. You'll be able to look on towards Castle Hill Peak, around to Torlesse, across to the Craigieburns . . . and Uncle Bernhard says that if anyone spots the toboggan that escaped up here a couple of winters ago, it's kennel is still waiting for it at home.	Grade: Easy Closes: 13 Dec Map: K35 Approx: \$20
Weekend 15-16 December	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<b>Navigation:</b> Decipher the mystery of maps, take command of a compass, measure bearings with the twist of a wrist, plot your position, spy out the land and set forth to your destination whether up in the swirling mists or bogged down in the baffling bush. A compass with a transparent base is required. A magnifying glass would be useful for reading map detail.	Grade: Training Closes: 6 Dec Map: TBA Approx: \$40
Weekend 15-16 December	Leader: Jonathan Carr 351-1574
<b>Pfeifer Biv:</b> Jonathan's plan is to combine a great tramp over the Pfeifer tops with the joys of soaking in the Otehake hot pools (a rerun of the famous Possum eyes trip). The route is up the Paratu Creek to the Waheroa Saddle and on to the tops via Frank and Honora's recut track which has turned what was a difficult scrub bash into a standard tramping route. The tussock tops are then traversed to Mt Pfeifer before descending down into the Otehake for a well deserved soak in the hot pools. This could be a long day but with the long daylight hours should mean no repeat of the Possum eyes affair. Sunday is a mere womble back to the road and cars.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 6 Dec Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Sunday 16 December	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
<b>The Pyramid:</b> An adventurous moderate trip with all the prerequisites for a classic CTC tramp - wet feet, a little scrambling around the top, and a possible scree descent. The Pyramid (1608m) is a sustained steep climb on an old ridge track overlooking Hawdon and Sudden Valley confluence. Once out of the bush and onto the rocky ridge you'll have a commanding view of Waimakariri Basin and surrounding peaks. There are a couple of descent options - a scree chute to Sudden Valley and then the Sudden Valley track down the stream and through the gorge, or through the bush into the Hawdon Valley.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 13 Dec Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Weekend 22-23 December (Saturday evening briefing; TBA, Sunday Trip) Leader: Jim Western 376-5191

**Mystery Trip:** Jim's plan is to run a fun weekend involving sending out various groups to go to various check points, using general map and GPS skills. Teams will have to produce evidence that they have performed various tasks, by producing proof by means of a digital photo. All groups will meet up for a barbeque/picnic at the end of the day. I will adjust the trip to suit all types of trampers, so that the easy tasks can be suitable for those with families, and harder tasks will be for those that want more of a challenge. Full info in next newsletter.

Grade: Various/social  
Closes: 13 Dec  
Map: TBA  
Approx: \$TBA

Multi day trip 27 December-2 January

Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686

**Horace Walker Hut via Douglas and Karangarua valleys:** Horace Walker is a West Coast hut up to the Douglas river beneath a series of glaciers and towering cliffs. Stay in the hut or camp at the lake below the Douglas glacier and walk to the summit of the Gladiator (2125m) with views across the Douglas Neve to Mt Sefton. Exit down the Karangarua river via either Red Deer Col or Mt Howit. Trip will probably leave on the evening of the 26th. A note from the organiser: These valleys are quite rough and most of this trip is off track. The Douglas valley is famous (infamous!) for its scrub. Not a trip for moderate trampers. The country however is very spectacular and wonderful tramping country.

Grade: Hard  
Closes: 20 Dec  
Map: H36  
Approx: \$60

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## Trip Reports

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25 August 2007

### By the Silvery Moon

"Richard Lobb is taking a mystery moonlight walk" says Lisa, hmm I've certainly walked in the dark plenty of times – not through choice, might be fun to do it on purpose, "why not" I reply.

The day finally arrives, a beautiful cloudless sky but will it hold until tonight? We meet Richard and Bernard at the usual place just before 6pm, a couple of pickups to be made before we all meet up at Springfield. Richard has picked up a hitchhiker along the way! A duck is to be found firmly lodged in the front of his car. After a sumptuous meal (duck does not feature on the bill o' fare) we carry on toward our destination – Red Hill.

A three-quarter moon lights the way to the track end. Slightly cooler than inside the cars but a couple of layers and a bit of movement will fix that. Suddenly, out of the night looms a ghostly sight, our leader has donned a hellish mask and is making some rather alarming sounds. Of more concern is his hat, it sports two long ears. Richard is warned that he could be mistaken for a roaming wallaby, a suggestion he scoffs at.

The sky is clear and the moon bright so we don't use our torches until a creek crosses our path. More through habit than anything, a couple of us throw some light on things but quickly extinguish them once over the first obstacle. We do about 20 minutes adventuring before conceding defeat and taking the track.

An invisible force field blocks Richard's progress and he is flung backwards. The rest of us opt to go over rather than through the fence. "I thought that was a gap in the fence" he offers by way of explanation.

A gentle zephyr springs up forcing us to put on our jackets, the harbinger of the NW blowing on the tops. The bit I've been dreading starts - feeling horrendously unfit I just hope I can keep up on the climb. However we all climb steadily upwards and I'm delighted not to be miles behind. Ian decides to take a slightly different route and we all meet in the saddle below the top. We duck out of the wind and try to guess what town's lights are twinkling in the distance. A quick drink and we are on our way, within half an hour we are at the top in a fairly strong NW, the Rakaia and Lake Coleridge easily visible. We get into the lee of some rocks where Richard produces a thermos of hot chocolate and a bag of chocolaty treats.

After 10 minutes we are ready to move again and decide to head down the same way. In the distance we can see a light sweeping the paddocks. "What is that?" someone asks. "It's someone spotlighting" is the reply. Richard's choice of hat may yet prove to be his undoing. We get back to the cars about 2am our leader intact. More delights are in store when Richard passes around some energy drinks. He then gives a display of his vitality, which he assures us, is a sign of his ability to drive home without falling asleep. We pile into vehicles and set off home, Katrin and Bernard keep up a discussion in the front while two of us

doze in the back.

Thanks to Richard for a great trip and to Bernard for not falling asleep at the helm.

Participants: Richard Lobb, Ian Dunn, Keri Skinner, Bernard Parawa, Katrin Borchel, Lisa Glading, Gareth Gilbert (scribe)

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20 - 22 October 2007

## Isobel and (almost) Sebastopol

Full marks to Bernhard for making a long weekend trip happen in the face of considerable opposition from the Weather and the roads. Plan A – Judges Creek – had to be adjusted the week before owing to quite significant Lack of Road beyond Lake Tennyson (slip damage); Plan B – Pasque Saddle - was looking good until we were driving up the Tophouse Road beyond Hanmer and found it impassible for mortal cars (a couple of 4wds charged through while we were trying to decide what to do), again due to a slip.

Motivation was a bit lacking by then anyway – the wind was blowing strongly, as forecast. Plan C, Lake Guyon, succumbed to a combination of the driving rain (also as forecast) and lack of permission . . . Bernhard must have been anxiously counting the remaining letters of the alphabet in case he ran out.

Temporary respite was found by going back to Hanmer, securing the last 3 tiny cabins at the forest camp, and zipping up Mt Isobel for the late afternoon (except Todd, Jim and Joy, who claim to have pioneered some new routes on Conical Hill and certainly established a route to the nearest cafe).

Next day we set off again – Plan D, Sebastopol – accessed from the Tophouse Road conveniently before the slip, and equally conveniently, on Molesworth Station so we did not have to sell our souls to St James for permission. We crossed the Clarence in approved style and walked up an unnamed but very pleasant stream with the Cardigan Ridge on one side and the Crimea Range on the other. The whole area is riddled with Crimean War names – Lord Cardigan led the infamous Charge of the Light Brigade in the Battle of Balacava – the Balaclava range is just to the north; there's also Inkerman, Nightingale, Alma . . . and of course Sebastopol itself (the Siege of Sebastopol, 25 September 1854 – 8 September 1855). Flo, Stu and Lynette set their normal cracking pace, the rest of us followed. Despite telling everyone how unfit he was after months concentrating on becoming a undisputed crazy-golf champion, Todd did not seem to have any trouble keeping in touch with the front-runners. We set up camp a few k's short of Sebastopol, the weather still looked good, so we set off to try that for the afternoon.

In less windy conditions it would have been very do-able, but by the time we had gone up about 500m the wind had strengthened considerably and we were on the more exposed section of ridge. Martin and Emily had already sensibly opted for a cruisey afternoon in the shelter of the valley, and Warwick also decided to conserve energy part way up. The rest of us were pressing on but when Flo had been blown over by a particularly playful gust, and most of the group had avoided a similar fate only resorted to lying down voluntarily, even the most determined decided that discretion was the better part of valour. We lay there, shielding our faces from wind-blown scree, as one by one Richard, Stu, and finally Lynette, staggered back across the saddle towards us. Regrouped, we found a very nice scree slope down and got back to the tents in time for a very pleasant late afternoon in the sun before – again spot on forecast – the promised front came in as the light began to fade.

It blew and rained all night, and no other happy campers were up to greet the perennially-happy and yodelling Bernhard as he got the first billie going. Soon though the rain stopped and figures began to emerge, cups of tea, muesli . . . crossword progress reports, tents dismantled . . . and eventually we were all tramping out again. I was full of admiration for Joy's light pack – how does she do it I asked myself – she has everything she needs and does not look like she is trying to move house with a Macpac? Coming out was much quicker than going in: instead of trying to find the best route ourselves and scrambling around in the stream, we just followed the cattle track – they'd clearly spent years working out the most efficient route and seemed to have a similar aversion to Warwick to getting their feet wet unnecessarily. Wet feet and wet-quite-a-bit-higher could certainly not be avoided however with the Clarence. It had come up a bit with the rain overnight and we spent a bit of time finding the best place to cross. There were a few exciting moments before we were back at the cars getting changed and heading off to find a place out of the wind for lunch.

Thanks to Bernhard for giving us really fun weekend in challenging circumstances, and congratulations to Emily (Martin's daughter) who made a great job of coping with her first CTC trip.

Participants: Bernhard, Lynette, Flo, Stu, Warwick, Martin, Emily, Jim, Joy, Todd, Richard, Jenny

## Locator Beacons

Dear Aunty Ice Axe

I see that the Club has got some of those new locator beacons. I have my doubts about whether these new-fangled gizmos are worth taking on trips - what do you think of them?

Techno-luddite

Dear T-L

Once upon a time Aunty would have totally agreed with you – a massive couple of hundred grams of extra weight, a proper kiwi trumper does not get lost or injured anyway, absolute reliance on satellites clearly all under the control of the CIA or SMERSH, and – most calamitous of all to contemplate - a whole Aunt-life and the happiness of multiple nephews and nieces depending on a couple of AA batteries? No thank you.

There is of course the suspicion that the multiple nephews and nieces would probably be quite adequately consoled in their Aunt-deprived grief, should Aunty become terminally lost, by the prospect of immediately inheriting her collection of tramping paraphernalia including some unique examples of early hip-flasks and an unrivalled assemblage of used teabags. In addition, Aunty is now older and wiser, the skies are now so crowded with satellites from miscellaneous countries that death-by-fallout-from-satellite-collision is now an accepted insurable risk, and a couple of AA batteries can apparently now keep a small bunny toy hopping frantically for even longer than it takes the Hororata Pub to serve a cup of tea (several years and counting). A modern Aunt must move with the times and indeed an ambitious Aunt should aim to keep ahead – riding like a surfer in the curl of the breaking wave of wireless mice, talking fridges, microchipped dogs, e-loopaper . . . (Actually, Aunty's physique has proved ill-adapted for surfing: even after the custom-made wet suit had been specially engineered there were several traumatic episodes of what is - in surfer jargon - apparently known as 'the washing cycle', accompanied by the involuntary ingestion of a large amount of ocean-bottom sand, and Aunty conceded defeat.)

The buoyancy issue notwithstanding however, over the last few years Aunty has made a determined attempt to redress her natural inclination to disregard any invention made after the end of the 19th century. Txt-an-Rnt, linking the socially-dazed-and-confused, romantically-refused, personally-diffused, etc, to live agony-help 24/7 from a call centre in Croatia has been an outstanding success. The latest innovation is from [www.threewitches.com](http://www.threewitches.com) – your choice of SpellCast (like a podcast but with added herbs and incantations) to download onto your poisonApple iSpell and invoke whenever and wherever you want.

The personal locator beacon has been top of the list of Aunty's technology-reassessments. Clearly the potential for such a device in an age when so many people talk about the need to 'find' themselves must be enormous. Aunty has been particularly struck by the added features of the new frequency digital beacons. Personal identification of each unit already provides useful extra information to the search authorities, but surely this can be extended to trigger other events as well – for instance, your 'out of office' email autoreply and cell phone message could automatically be updated to "I am sorry that I am unable to respond at present because I am totally lost, possibly injured, in some remote location. Please check TV and newspaper reports for further information."

So Aunty is now a convert to the cause and takes a beacon everywhere (particularly when venturing into the larger shopping malls). As a frequent solo-trumper, as far as Aunty is concerned it's just common sense: it weighs less than the scroggin-with-lots-of-extra-chocolate, and after the Camel Incident Aunty recognises that inconvenient events can happen to even the most experienced adventurer. For a group, well, it could save someone several days tramp out to raise the alarm and – very importantly – increase chances of Aunty getting home in time for Coronation Street (memo to self – ask Garmin to see if activated beacon can automatically reprogram video recorder . . .)

Yours, in techno-heaven,

Aunty Ice Axe.

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Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor ([editor@ctc.org.nz](mailto:editor@ctc.org.nz))  
by Sunday, 25 November 2007 – Thanks.