



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.

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No. 4

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	Jim Western	376-5191
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 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.

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

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 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.

Notices

Email: The club operates a moderated email list, whose address is members@ctc.org.nz. This list is used to send out the newsletter, occasional tramping related messages and other invites, and from time to time a complete list of the email addresses of CTC members. Messages intended for the list, and requests to join or leave the list should be sent to the above email address. Note that the moderator will check as to the appropriateness of all messages.

CTC Stickers: The club has Christchurch Tramping Club stickers for members to stick in hut books when they visit. Please contact the secretary at secretary@ctc.org.nz.

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

Membership Database: If you know of any updates, errors or omissions, email Susan Pearson susan@toniq.co.nz or phone 337 4914.

Access Database: If you know of any new information that concerns obtaining access to the properties we tramp on (e.g. change of owner or phone number), please call Ian Dunn 343 2155 or email ian.dunn@paradise.net.nz.

Club Hut: When using the Club Hut, please be careful when changing the taps when arriving and leaving. The consequences of cocking this up (no pun intended) could be severe, so please read the instructions carefully.

Please welcome the following new members: Dee Woods and Angela McCall.

Committee: The Committee meets from 7.30 pm on the second Monday of every month except January. The venue changes between committee members' homes. Club members may attend meetings to discuss matters. Contact the Secretary (secretary@ctc.org.nz or 389 1737).

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

New Digital Locator Beacons: The club has just received a \$2000 grant from the Lions Foundation that will allow us to purchase up to three of the latest digital locator beacons for club use. This is the result of much diligent work by Dave Henson and others who prepared the grant application. We all extend our thanks to Dave and everyone in the club who contributed towards the application and also the Lions Foundation.

Classifieds

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

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 30 August

Club Night

Newsletter Night: Newsletter folding night + Trampwise session. What do you expect of a CTC tramp trip leader? Someone to organise the vehicles and hand out jelly beans OR sympathetic people persons, well practised in navigation, experienced in first aid, superb at weather manipulation and equipped with a Tardis pack full of 'just-in-case' remedies for countless calamities? Come along to find out how close your expectations are to reality.

Saturday 1 September

Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022

Narnialand magic: The club is very lucky to have been given permission to go into Flock Hill to explore the amazing rocky escarpment where the first of the Chronicles of Narnia was filmed. We'll start from Cave Stream and walk up to the escarpment. If there is still snow it will be just like the frozen Narnia winter wonderland. Come along and enjoy a great social trip. Approx 300m height gain overall, 10km, tussocky terrain.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 30 Aug
Map: K34
Approx: \$20

Weekend 1-2 September	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
<p>Ski Touring: To all those doubters we have it on good authority from Steve that there will be snow for this trip. The destination is unclear at this point but when those snow clouds part, I'm sure the suggestions will come flooding in. For the uninitiated ski touring is basically skiing without the crowds, chair lifts, blaring music and packed car parks and is something more akin to tramping with long snow shoes on. If all else fails in the snow department, Steve has some good ice climbing tips he is keen to pass on.</p>	<p>Grade: Ski Closed: 23 Aug Map: TBA Approx: \$TBA</p>
Sunday 2 September	Leader: Jim Western 376-5191
<p>Mt St Bernard/Purple Hill: Purple Hill (1680m) is the big lump behind Lake Pearson and Mt St Bernard (1518m) is behind Purple Hill. There are a number of options for ascent and descent depending on conditions. We could go up Purple Hill directly from Long Hill Saddle, or drive round to the back of Mt St Bernard on the Craigieburn Road and up from there. Look down on Lake Pearson and see how it is almost split in two by twin shingle fans from Purple Hill and Mt Manson opposite. Without snow, there is a great scree run down towards the lake. About 1000m of height gain. Bring an ice axe and probably crampons (check with the leader), and have a great day.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 30 Aug Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>
Thursday 6 September	Club Night
<p>Antarctica with our guide Grant Piper: This was a NZ Alpine Club expedition to the Antarctic Peninsula. Club member Linda Lilburne also participated. This show will include ski touring, Mountaineering and other worthwhile distractions. Will be a great show!</p>	
Weekend 8-9 September	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
<p>Minga / Deception: One of the classic Arthur's Pass tramps, this trip follows the route of the Coast to coast run, but backwards. September is a great time to tramp this route, with plenty of snow still around but before the melt causes the rivers to be too high. It can still be cold however at this time of year and it is a long way down the Deception so an early start is recommended. There is about 11 hours tramping over the 2 days and there is also a big hut on the Saturday night (Goat Pass). A back up plan in case the weather is norwest or the rivers are high is to go into Black Hill Hut</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 30 Aug Map: K33 Approx: \$35</p>
Weekend 8-9 September	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<p>Snow Shelters: If you need "Shelter from the storm" or if you fancy a "Home on the range" without carrying a tent then learn how to "Brave the elements in a snow cave", make a "Igloo with a view", work like a beaver and build a snow lodge or "Sleep on a bench in a trench". Participants must have done a basic snow craft course or equivalent and be willing to stay overnight in what they create.</p>	<p>Grade: Training Closes: 30 Aug Map: N/A Approx: \$35</p>
Sunday 9 September (7am start)	Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
<p>Faust: Faust is a 1710m peak in the Lewis Pass area, above the Lewis River. We'll start from at the Boyle carpark (about 600m) and find the track up through the bush to the open ridge up to Faust itself. Options for the return include descending Faust to join the St James Walkway back to the cars. This trip may have an early start - make sure you check with the leader about departure time and equipment (ice axe and crampons probably). Leaving Shell service station at 7am.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 6 Sep Map: M32 Approx: \$30</p>

Sunday 9 September	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
Gebbies Pass to Sign of the Kiwi: Explore the historic Summit Road area between Gebbies Pass and the Sign of the Kiwi. Gebbies Pass is named for John Gebbies, originally one of the farm workers for the Deans (of Riccarton and Deans Bush fame), who settled land in the eastern side of the head of Lyttelton harbour in 1845. The Sign of the Kiwi (completed 1917) was one of the chain of road houses planned by Harry Ell, whose vision protected the Summit Road area as network of reserves and walking tracks. After ascending about 300m from Gebbies Pass itself we will undulate along the tops, including Coopers Knob (573m) and Cass Peak (545m). Total trip about 15 k in total and 500m - 800m height gain, ending with a well-deserved tea or ice cream at the Sign of the Kiwi tea-house.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 6 Sep Map: M36 Approx: \$10

Sunday 9 September or Saturday 8 September	Leader: John Henson 342-3311
Ski trip: Another chance to ski one of the stunning club fields in the Craigieburn Range where rope tows and ungroomed snow are king and the people are friendly. The choice of day (Saturday or Sunday) will depend on the weather and the location will depend on the snow conditions so get your name down and prepare for some turns. You'll need to talk make sure that you are in contact with John about options, day, and departure point and time.	Grade: Ski Closes: 6 Sep Map: TBA Approx: \$unknown

Thursday 13 September	Club Night
Alaska and the Yukon: by our guide club member Deirdre Sheppard. Join us on a trip through the FMC travel club to a land where probably very few of us will ever get to. Will be very interesting.	

Saturday 15 September	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
Stony Bay Peak: We'll start in Akaroa in the Rue Balguerie and walk up the Mt Vernon road and then up the steep shingle road past a farm and out onto the ridge crest. From the saddle, we go up to Stony Bay Peak (806m) for superb views of Otanerito Bay and Akaroa Harbour.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 13 Sep Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$20

Weekend 15-16 September	Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111
Gloriana / Fairie Queen: A great trip, that starts off from Lewis Pass and heads up Cannibal Gorge to Ada Pass Hut. From Ada Pass Hut there are numerous options for climbing either peak from the stream draining down to Ada Pass around the back or directly up from the St James walkway. Or if people want a more moderate trip could just be a hut party with return via the Zampa Tops. Climbing either peak will be mod-hard grade as it requires steepish snow skills, ice axe / crampons etc.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 6 Sep Map: M31 Approx: \$40

Sunday 16 September (Early departure: please contact leader)	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
Mt Winterslow: Mt Winterslow (1700m) is north of Mt Somers and south west of Mt Hutt. The usual route is up from Sharplin Falls (500m) via Dukes Knob. From the summit there are outstanding views including the distant Arrowsmiths and the Southern Alps. Mt Cook and Mt Tasman may also be visible on a clear day. Ice axe and crampons may be required if the upper slopes still have snow and ice. Early departure: please contact leader.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 13 Sep Map: K36 Approx: \$20

Thursday 20 September	Club Night
Digital Cameras: All you need to know about the latest digital cameras. We have Matthew Nixon back from Photo & Video Merivale Mall. He was fantastic last time and will update us on the latest models including wide angle and water resistant models. Also Matthew will explain that not all AA batteries are equal!	

Saturday 22 September	Leader: Philip Tree 942-7670
Tiromoana Bush Track: Remember the Kate Valley landfill controversy? As part of the deal, a lot of recreational opportunities have been added to the area. This is a new track, probably not even officially opened when we test it out, which offers a good way to explore the area to the east of the landfill where native bush and wetlands are being protected and restored. The track loops around from the Glenafric road to a cliff lookout (Tiromoana means 'view of the sea') and beach access and then back past the wetlands. Join the trip and be one of the first to use the track!	Grade: Easy Closes: 20 Sep Map: N34 Approx: \$15
Weekend 22-23 September	Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155
Casey / Binser: A weekend trip up to the beautiful Hallelujah Flat and on over to the comfortable Casey hut for Saturday night. On Sunday the trip returns over the Binser saddle to our cars. A weekend on the easy side of moderate with well marked tracks and a big hut this is a good introduction to weekend tramping but you still need to be able to carry a pack for up to 6 hours each day.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 13 Sep Map: L33 Approx: \$35
Weekend 22-23 September	Leader: John Henzell
Cedar Flat Hot Pools: A well tracked West Coast valley, a good hut and a hot pool, sounds like a pretty good weekend tramp . Cedar flat is up the Toaroha valley inland from Hokitika and 4 to 5 hours up a maintained track should see you at the hut. The hot pools are not large but are nearby the hut which is situated in the large flat surrounded by mountains. These should be, in September, still well covered in snow. Sitting in a hot pool after a days tramping looking up at the sunset on snow covered West Coast mountains with good company - idyllic!	Grade: Moderate Closes: 13 Sep Map: J33 Approx: \$45
Sunday 23 September Note early start 7am at the Shell	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
Cloudsley: Cloudsley is one of several 2000m+ peaks on the southern end of the Craigieburn range and a good winter peak in the right conditions. We've graded it moderate but it is a long day and you should have done your basic snow craft or equivalent. We'll be starting from Castle Hill Village and heading up Long Spur (well-named) to the snow-clad top of Cloudsley (2107m, total height gain about 1300m) with great views across the local ski fields. Wrap up warm, grab your ice axe and crampons and check with the leader on his plan of attack. Note early start.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 20 Sep Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Thursday 27 September	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: + some video footage from the 75th anniversary. If you missed this it will be of interest. If you were there on the day, you might be in the show.	
Weekend 29-30 September	Leader: Peter Eman 337-3003
Gizeh Col: Another one of the classic enjoyable tramps the club has run in the Arthur's Pass area involves a short re-acquaintance with the Waimak up to Anti Crow Steam and crossing over the Black Range into the Avoca Valley. The Col passes through some neat country with peaks Greenlaw, Gizeh, Harper providing good backdrops, if Peter has made the requisite sacrifices to Huey. Bound to be snow by then, with the usual requirements for ice axe and crampons advisable, contact the leader.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 20 Sep Map: K34 Approx: \$35
Sunday 30 September	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
Woolshed Hill: Woolshed Hill (1429 m) stands above above the Hawdon, off the Mt White Road. There will be about 820m of ascent, mostly through beech, following a track up the crest of a ridge and then the tussocky top. The first 300m or so up is reasonably steep. Views from the top down into the Waimakariri/Hawdon confluence and, on the other side, the Andrews.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 27 Sep Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Sunday 30 September	Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
Woolshed Hill and Ridge: Go with the Easy/Moderate trip above onto Woolshed Hill (1429m, above the Hawdon) and then explore along the undulating ridge top. Descent and return routes will be decided by the leader on the day according to the inclinations of the group and the dictates of the weather.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 Sep Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Thursday 4 October	Club Night
Ed Hillary: Video 3 of the extraordinary life of Ed Hillary. Contents are the 1st motorised journey to the South Pole (causing some stress in the process). The search for the Yeti in Nepal and his jet boat trip from the mouth of the Ganges to headwaters high in the Himalayas. What a man!	
Saturday 6 October	Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111
Mt Potts: Take your choice of literary connections for this stunning area - Samuel Butler's Erewhon or Lord of the Rings. Mt Potts is an impressive peak (2184m) above the Havelock/Clyde confluence. It's a long day and there may be snow and ice. A good workout guaranteed, and hope for a clear day so that we can enjoy the magnificent views. Bring ice axe and crampons.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 4 Oct Map: J35 J36 Approx: \$25
Weekend 6-7 October	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
Lucretia / Lewis Tops / Rough Creek: A good moderate tramp in the Lewis Pass area . Half on track but half off track , this trip starts on the Nina valley track before turning off into the Lucretia valley and climbing to the tops. An ice axe may be needed for this section . Saturday night will be on the tops by the Brass Monkey Biv. Sunday will be much shorter, following the tops to meet the Lake Christobel / Rough Creek track which is then followed back to the road. Good views are gained from the tops above the lake. A soak in the hot pools is also a possibility if time permits.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 Sep Map: M31 Approx: \$35
Weekend 6-7 October	Leader: Jonathan Carr 351-1574
Sefton Biv: Trip to a great old style basic four bunk that is perched half way up the slopes below Mt Footstool with great views across to the south face of Mt Sefton. This is not just a climbing area but is also a neat place to visit. The hut is no charge to stay in but dependent on other park users and could be combined with other trips in the area that may be more moderate contact the trip leader. Ice axe, crampons and snow skills are required for trips into this area.	Grade: Hard Closes: 27 Sep Map: H36 Approx: \$50
Sunday 7 October	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
Bealey Spur to the Hut: Start above the baches at Bealey Spur and climb through beech forest. On the way to the charming old hut, at about 1240m, the ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. Bring warm clothing, and a walking pole and gaiters may be useful. The hut is about a 450m climb and the round trip is about 10km.	Grade: Easy Closes: 4 Oct Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Sunday 7 October	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
The Pyramid: 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 (1608 m) 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: Moderate Closes: 4 Oct Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Saturday 13 October	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
<p>Hinewai: Hinewai is a beautiful bird and bush reserve on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula, accessed from the Summit Road above Akaroa. The reserve has a wide range of natives including some original remnant beech and the newer plantings which are really getting established now. Your leader will be able to tell you all about them! Listen to the bird song as you follow the well established track down to Otanerito bay and then loop back up to the car park again.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 11 Oct Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$15</p>
Weekend 13-14 October	Leader: Jeff Hall 332-9251
<p>Mt Faraday: Mt Faraday home to the Giant Mole or Faraday Weta and the occasional lost trumper. This area of the northern Paparoa Ranges is a bit of an exploration trip, as the last club trip into this area has been a while ago, so keen to repeat. Travel over on Friday night with tenting on the tops above bush line and hopefully not too much snow about. If weather limits the tops options there are still neat exploration options in this part of the Northern Paparoas. Contact trip leader as more moderate options are possible.</p>	<p>Grade: Hard Closes: 4 Oct Map: K30 Approx: \$45</p>
Sunday 14 October Note early start 7am	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
<p>Maukuratawhai: Maukuratawhai is an interesting little 1615m peak just across the Clarence River from where you descend from Jacks Pass (sometime irreverently called Mt Muckaroundawhile to help you remember the name). We will climb up the long SW ridge (about 800m height gain) and if time and conditions permit we will traverse around to Pt 1575 and descend its S ridge to circle back to the starting point. You will need crampons and ice axe and warm footwear including gaiters. The trip starts with a cold ford of the Clarence so bring some spare sneakers so you can change into dry boots on the other side. Note early start - 7am at the Shell garage.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 Oct Map: N31 N32 Approx: \$30</p>
Saturday 20 October	Leader: Bev Clark 326-6544
<p>Evans Pass and the Pioneer Womens Monument: This trip covers several of the sites of special interest to historic Christchurch. We'll start at Evans Pass, from the road originally completed in 1857 which and provided the main route between Christchurch and Lyttelton until the railway tunnel was completed in 1867. From the Pass we'll work along the summit road to the Pioneer Womens Monument at the top of the Bridle Track above Lyttelton. Originally dedicated to the pioneer families of Christchurch, the second plaque on the monument reads "Centennial Memorial to the pioneer women of Canterbury" and was unveiled by the granddaughter of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, founder of the New Zealand Company and Canterbury Association. From the Monument we'll work our way back to Evans Pass via the track around the Mt Pleasant bluffs. This easy tramp will have about 200m of ascent/descent and take you through some of the lovely Summit Road reserves - and we'll probably have time for an ice cream stop in Sumner on the way home as well - what more could you need for some gentle Labour Weekend exercise?</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Oct Map: N36 M36 Approx: \$10</p>
Long Weekend 20-22 October	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<p>Cameron Glaciers: An expedition for alpine adventurers who have done the Intermediate Snowcraft Course this year or in seasons past. Tramp intrepidly up the scenic Cameron Valley and behold the spectacular Arrowsmith Range. Walk on a real alpine glacier that slithers slowly and secretly beneath your boots. Perform the rescue rituals of rope and carabiner, pulley and prusik in the deep blue dungeons of cryptic crevasses, beneath a canopy of crusty snow. Then ascend to a vantagepoint, belay by belay, and spy out the land.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 Oct Map: J35 Approx: \$40</p>

Long Weekend 20-22 October	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
<p>Judge Creek: Travel up the Rainbow road in behind Hamner Springs most likely on the Friday night. There are various accommodation options from the road with DOC huts accessible past Rainbow Saddle. Heading up Judges Creek on the Saturday there are various circuits either over into the Severn and Branch Rivers or Lees or Coldwater Creeks check with trip leader or check out the CTC web trip report from June 2003 for an overview of one of the circuits in this great area.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 Oct Map: N30 Approx: \$45</p>
Sunday 21 October	Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
<p>Thirteen Mile Bush, Benmore tops: Another Labour weekend day tramp option, if you just can't get away for a long trip. . . We'll leave the cars at Benmore station and walk up Thirteen Mile Stream and then up through Thirteen Mile Bush, past the dinky little Benmore Hut (morning tea?) and then up through more bush and out onto the Benmore Tops. There's no track on the map but there is on the ground. If everyone's keen we can keep going to Benmore itself (1656mm, which would make the height gain around 1200m). There may be a loop option along the tops, depending on what permission we get from Benmore Station.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 Oct Map: K35 L35 Approx: \$25</p>
Saturday 27 October	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
<p>Mount Oxford from Coopers Creek: 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 hav 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 Oct Map: L34 Approx: \$15</p>
Sunday 28 October - check with leader for departure time and place	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
<p>Mt Wilson and Mt Scott: 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Hard Closes: 25 Oct Map: K33 Approx: \$25</p>
Sunday 28 October	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<p>Pudding Hill Stream: 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 6 km to where a short track leads back to the reserve. Expect wet feet on the homeward part of this round trip of approx 12km.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 25 Oct Map: K36 K35 Approx: \$20</p>

Mt Alexander: Mt Alexander (1958m) is a classic trumper's 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

Trip Reports

18 - 19 August

Hut Bash - B there or B Square

Well, this might not have been quite the riotous-high-liquidity-swinging-singles hut bash of Alan's dreams, but a fun social evening with a good dinner, good company and good music seemed to suit the twenty-two people who came along just fine. The costumes were just amazing. Some people dressed 'in character', such as Ron as Bacchus (god of wine), complete with toga and real grapes suspended from his roman-wreath. Carl apparently spent hours watching past Fawly Tours episodes so as to be able to do Basil to the life. Lisa and Gareth made a stunning carefully-timed entry into the hut as a Bunny Girl and a Bishop, while Phil and Margie came as Blackadder and a beautiful Bawdy Broad – and most fortuitously Malcolm appeared as a magnificent Baldrick sidekick. John Henzell went for the 'less is more' approach in exotic bathrobe and indiginous chesthair. Bernard made a fine Basketball player, with Gerry as a Butterfly with Blow-up wings. Andrew and Michele made a lovely cross-species couple as Bear and Black Cat, prompting the resident "Back-off I'm a Biotechnologist" mad scientist Clive to wax lyrical about horizontal gene transfers. Susan's Butterfly Bling outfit must have ensured the \$2Shop's profits for the month as well as making her one of the more unusual mountain bikers sighted in the Hurunui area in recent years. Representing trade skills rather than flora and fauna, Katrin was one of the healthiest-looking Brumby's Bakers I have ever seen, and Ken a very practical Boilermaker with formal Bowtie.

We took some time to establish what particular shade of B Max was but it turned out to be Henri Becquerel, the scientist who discovered radioactivity - a dapper cosmopolitan frenchman in black trousers, waistcoat and black tie, beret and white shirt. Perhaps he could have stretched the alphabet one place to be King Cophetua to Lovisa's Begger Girl? I completely let the side down in Boring Blue Pooh Bear pyjamas (even more sadly, my normal winter-night attire). Steve Bruerton was one of the two 4WD drivers who ferried the heavy stuff right into the hut, and most appropriately came as a Blind man (signs on the side of the truck saying 'Caution – Blind Driver' seemed to worry some of the other traffic on the highway . . .). Lynette's parrot accessory for her superb Blackbeard costume threatened to steal the show, but the entirely inadequate prize for Best Costume (a Bear knapsack suitable only for very very short day trips – half way around Hagley Park might be pushing its carrying capacity) was eventually awarded to sound-supremo and all round electrical wizard Grant Wheaton as a blood-besplattered Mad Butcher.

Island Hills hut, up in the Hurunui, made a superb location – a friendly reception at the homestead where we parked before the 2-3 hour walk in, good accommodation, plenty of space, and even a coal range and gas stoves. A few of us did short reconnaissance walk around on Saturday afternoon while Grant, Steve and assorted assistants wired the hut for sound and set out the huge amounts of food that miraculously materialised from packs and the two vehicles. On Sunday a keen group of seven, lead by Clive, set off to explore a tempting ridge up to Skeddadle. Time and a rather rocky section prevented us from reaching the top, but it was good to get out, do a bit of scrambling, and admire the snow-clad mountains around. Meanwhile the others had a leisurely morning and made a superb job of cleaning up the hut (thanks folks!) and had headed out, the 4WDs had left, and the last four trampers – lead at high speed by John and

Lynette – finally got back to their car a bit past 5 pm.

Many thanks to everyone for coming and for making it such an easy fun occasion, providing such yummy food and carrying in such amazing costumes. Especial thanks to Grant for providing all the equipment, giving up his weekend to set it all up and operate it, packing it all up . . . Steve Bruerton was the other 4WD-driver – thanks Steve, keep working on housetraining that guidedog of yours. Thanks Alan for arranging the location. Thanks also to Jim Western, who did loads of organising, provided food and club gear, but who also managed to develop such a horrible cold that in the end he was forced to drop out.

11 - 12 August 2007

Cheeseman-Hamilton-Cass

This was advertised as a trip to the Kelly Range, but even the ever-optimistic Bernhard was struggling to justify such a long drive given the forecast: "snow, heavy at times, from midday Saturday to midday Sunday with winds up to 75 km/h on the tops". So, never ones to cancel a trip because of a bad weather forecast, Bernhard and Jonathan between them hatched The Alternative Grand Plan: drive up the Mt Cheeseman skifield road as far as the skating rink, walk up the road to the skifield, climb up to the ridge top by Mt Cockayne, make our way down to the Harper River via pts 1705 and 1044, then stroll up the Harper and round to Hamilton Hut for the night. On Sunday the general idea was that we'd head up to Cass Saddle, climb to Mt Hamilton, drop into the Broken River ski area then (wave hands casually here) pick up the track that heads through the forest back to the car.

A generally relaxed approach to Saturday's activities meant we didn't actually arrive at the Cheeseman skifield until around midday, under a heavy leaden sky. Since Bernhard had promised Helen a cafe stop or two, we then felt obliged to provide the new skifield cafe with its first (and probably last) business for the ski season's opening day.

The snow started at around 12:30pm but with lunch, coffees and hot chocolates inside us, we felt ready to take on anything. Bernhard and I headed up the ridge while Jonathan and Helen opted to walk up the valley along the line of the ski tow. From up on the ridge we watched as they vanished into an A-frame hut halfway up the slope. But ... why didn't they come out again? After a while, Bernhard decided to go down to find out and I, muttering slightly about losing 20m of hard-earned altitude, tagged along behind. On reaching the A-frame, all became clear. The ski field's opening-day sausage sizzle was taking place, so with no other customers in sight (or indeed anything at all in sight at this stage in the snowstorm) good manners had dictated another stop.

Even more replete with a sausage or two inside us we ambled on our way again. We were soon on the ridge, at which point the nice soft vertical snow turned all nasty and horizontal. We sheltered behind the ski-tow top hut to don several more layers of clothing before heading off in poor visibility along what we hoped was the ridge top. Whether it was or not soon became irrelevant as travel was just too unpleasant, so we dropped off to the west and started sidling in more sheltered conditions. However, sidling on the frozen scree with its layer of fresh snow also wasn't much fun so we dropped still further to less frozen terrain, at which point the tramping became quite pleasant again. However, we were now getting a bit worried about time, so at 4pm it was a relief to find ourselves on pt 1044 starting the descent to the Harper. The descent spur provided excellent travel, although we had to negotiate some forest in failing light for the last 20 minutes or so, reaching the Harper at 5:20pm. The remaining 3.5km of snowy river travel, with intermittent swampy bits and several cold river crossings, was not the highlight of the day and we were pleased to arrive at the hut by headlamp around 6:30pm. There, Jonathan's claim that "No-one else will be brave enough to head in there on a weather forecast like this" was proved incorrect, regardless of the appropriateness or otherwise of the word "brave": there was a party of 11 CUTCers in residence. This was good, however, as they had the fire roaring and the hut all warm and cozy.

Despite my pessimistic predictions of foul weather, Sunday morning dawned brilliantly fine, with the fresh snow turning a pleasant-enough hut location into a beautiful winter wonderland. All the same, lethargy from the previous day's exertions, a late start and ominous spindrift swirling off the tops meant that Jonathan

had no takers for his planned "short cut" from Cass Saddle back to Mt Cheeseman. Instead we just ambled out down the Cass to the main road, where Bernhard won "hero of the day" by hitching back to the skifield road and walking the 8km up the road to get the car in remarkable short time. Many thanks for that Bernhard and for leading such a thoroughly enjoyable trip.

The team: Bernhard Parawa (leader), Jonathan Carr, Helen Williams, Richard Lobb (scribe).

25 - 26 August 2007

Mount Una (2300m)

Driving up on Friday night, braving the suicidal rabbits on the Lake Tennyson road and camping beside the lake positioned us for a brisk start on Saturday morning – and after months of bad weather weekends, this one looked like it would be pretty good. With most of the party in runners or light boots and carrying their snow boots or plastics, we made good time across Maling Pass on the 4wd track and descended to the Waiau – rather demoralisingly, at about 800m we are now lower than we started at Tennyson. Clive, Jeff and Freddie had had a good look at Una and the approach routes from the Pass and decided to investigate the unnamed stream (henceforth 'Freddie's Stream') just north of Glacier Gully – Glacier Gully had been the route used by Phil's group the last time the club did the trip. At this point the fast progress slowed considerably as we climbed up the side of the of the gorge via a very steep gully (coming out the next day we found how we should have done it - see later!), Cecilia and I very grateful for considerable help from Jeff and Clive. At the top of the gully we found a good deer trail that took us pretty well all the way up the stream, albeit with bit of bushbashing every now and again through particularly precocious new growth or around tree falls. It was not fast though and we were a little behind schedule and (speaking personally at least), not a little tired, when we got out of the bush and into the first patches of snow. But the good news, says Jeff, is that we are now about as high as we were at the start of the day at Lake Tennyson! Somehow, coupled with the news that we still have 650m more to climb to the intended base camp, this did not have quite the cheering effect that he may have intended.

From there though we gained height very quickly. The head of the stream had some avalanche debris in from a gully the other side but this could be negotiated easily and then we climbed on snow and scrub pretty steeply up, heading for a basin with a tarn at about 1580m, north of pt 1778, north east of Una itself. By the time we were around 1300m the wind had risen quite dramatically, as predicted in the weather forecast. By the time we were traversing the snow slopes towards the basin there were a few gusts strong enough to make me just stick my ice axe in firmly and wait for them to pass before I tried moving on. We finally got there about 5 pm and Jeff started scouting for a good camp site. He selected a spot under some bluffs which offered good shelter from the wind and some protection from possible avalanches from the slopes above, and he and Freddie started digging madly with their ice axes to level off an area for 3 tents. We all joined in and, since the snow was pretty soft, very soon had an area that, with a bit of imagination and careful tent-tessellation, was just about big enough. That all became a bit academic a few minutes later, when a particularly violent gust of wind from a completely new direction picked the moment before two of the tents were properly tied down, and snapped one of the tent poles*. Three people in a Minaret? Well, it is certainly cosy.

After showing us who was boss, the wind seemed to ease off a bit and we cooked dinner, dug out some more terraces for garden furniture, pack-anchorage points etc, admired the stars, and sorted out gear. Cecilia and I had already decided that every successful ascent team needs base camp support and it was clearly our Duty to do that rather than go with the others on their 4 am start, so we were able to lie-in in the morning and listen to the dedicated alpinists finding their tea bags and – eventually – crunching off over the ice. We got up as the sun came up over the peaks opposite the camp site and had a leisurely breakfast (well, once I had got up enough courage to try lighting the MSR . . .). It was absolutely beautiful up there, a crisp clear blue and white sunny day, and it was only very slowly that we packed up the tent and set off to retrace our steps back down to the stream and out (well, roughly – there did seem to be a few more deer trails offering distracting alternatives than on the way in when we could just follow routefinder-extraordinaire

Jeff and the others). We were taking it steadily and had some good breaks but even so it was impressive/embarrassing (depending on your point of view) to be caught by the successful ascent team just before we reached the Waiau. Coming out, you could just follow the deer trail roughly on a contour, pop out from the bush onto the tussock slope and then drop down the tussock to the stream almost where it meets the Waiau – and vice versa for the way in.

[The ascent team's story] The ascent team left camp just before 0600 and worked up onto the ridge that leads to point 2130 which is NE of the summit and then along the ridge to the summit. There is one ~20m 'step' in the ridge which we assume was where Phil Tree's party had had to rope up verglass covered rocks on their May 03 ascent but there was enough snow for us to just front-point a not-too-steep gully. The wind, which had been threatening, finally admitted that its bark was worse than its bite and backed off - fortune favours the brave (sometimes). We reached the summit at 0900. The descent was a reverse and we reached base camp by 1100. The rest is history. We did get good views of the ascents out of Glacier Gulley and there appear to be not-too-technical routes (~Grade 1) as well as the direct route which is a bit more technical. However, we were glad not to have been in Glacier Gulley on this trip as many of the faces had avalanched leaving a lot of debris in the valley and - worse still - there were a few areas yet to avalanche. It appeared that most of the routes out of Glacier Gulley would be avalanche-prone whereas our shallow-graded basins and ridge route was relatively safe in this regard. The cornices on the ridge deserved respect however, but could easily be avoided.

[And back together again] After than it was the long haul up over Maling Pass again – the pass is about 500 sadistic metres above the Waiau - and then more 4wd track and a bit of cross country to get back to the cars about 5.30 pm. More rabbit carnage and finally we get to Hanmer for tea, soup, burgers, and plans for more equally stunning trips.

Ascent team: Clive Marsh (leader), Jeff Hall, Alastair Brown. Base camp support: Cecilia Kirk, Jenny Harlow

* Subsequent inspection found cracks in many of the ends of the pieces of Minaret poles, these date from 1995 and have seen a fair bit of use. On reflection, probably a good idea to check for cracks in tent poles (particularly at ends of sections where they join) before taking tent for an alpine camp

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 26 August 2007 – Thanks.



Descending the Ridge from Mt Una



Hut Bash - B there or B Square