



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

PO Box 527, Christchurch, www.ctc.org.nz

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Any similarity between the opinions expressed in this newsletter and Club policy is purely coincidental.

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PHOTO

Zit Saddle, October 2008

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. We have a club hut in Arthurs Pass and have gear available for hire to members. Membership rates per year are \$35 member, \$55 couple, \$18 junior or associate.

For more about how the club operates, see *More about the CTC*.

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The Editor Squeaks. Welcome to a somewhat new-look newsletter. Apologies to those who really loved the old format, but your temporary acting editor – currently resident in Italy – had to do something to keep his dwindling enthusiasm for the task alive.

Also, this newsletter introduces a new *Tramper of the Month* feature: see page 2. Thanks to Peter Mortlock for the suggestion and to Steve Bruerton for agreeing to be this month's centre-fold boy.

Lastly, a quote from dim-distant school poetry studies that seems particularly pertinent to me from here in Italy where the mountains are wonderful but remote wilderness is hard to find.

*What would the world be, once bereft of wet and wildness? Let them be left.
O let them be left, wildness and wet; Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.*

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Tramper of the Month: Steve Bruerton

<i>Date joined CTC:</i>	1986	PHOTO
<i>Favourite Day Trip:</i>	Mt Torlesse, Philistine-Rolleston Traverse, Wharfedale Track MTB, Rhyton Valley Ski Tour	
<i>Favourite Weekend Trip:</i>	Tapi from Clarence, any tops trip when the weather is perfect, anywhere new.	
<i>Favourite Hut:</i>	Mueller	
<i>Family:</i>	Wife - Ngaire, Matthew (8), Daniel (7)	
<i>Occupation:</i>	Roading Construction Operations Manager	
<i>Committee service:</i>	About 10 years: Conservation Rep, Trip Organiser, President, Tea Boy	
<i>Other Interests:</i>	Mountain biking, ski touring, four wheel driving, family camping, multi-sport racing, (fading memory - racing bike and kayak gathering dust in the shed)	

News

New Members: We are pleased to welcome David Gaughan to the club this month. His qualifying tramp was the Mt Thomas to Mt Richardson traverse, which he managed with an ease that put some of the club trampers to shame. Happy tramping, David.

Special Event: Don't miss the Mt Somers 'Round the Mountain' Challenge. See page 9.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

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.

New or prospective members intending to go on any trip must sign up at club night or contact the trip leader in advance.

Social: 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 is 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*.

Thursday 27 November	Club Night
Newsletter folding tonight: As well as the normal folding of the newsletter we will catch up with verbal trip reports from Show Weekend.	
Saturday 29 November. Early start - contact leader	Leader: Ross Ogden 351-1857
Aicken: Our winter trip to Aicken could not go because of the weather, so let's try again . . . Mt Aicken (1859m) is a commanding peak right behind Arthurs Pass township. There is a good but steep track through the bush. Well above the bushline there is a more exposed section between pt 1863 and Aicken. Views of the best of the Pass from the top. With more daylight, there could be options of going down the back of Aicken to the Mingha and returning along the Mingha track and then back to the township, which would make a longer day but is an interesting trip.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 27 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Saturday 29 November	Leader: Malcolm Carr 960-5281
ECAN's extra Wilding Pines Day: ECAN have asked us to publicise an extra Wilding Pines day this year - apparently some people just love it so much they want to do more! The plan is to meet at Yaldhurst in the pub carpark, on the left heading south, at 8.30 that morning. There will be several ECAN vehicles which we can fill with volunteers. We will need drivers to take their vehicles up with a carload as well and ECAN will give these drivers some MTA vouchers. The day will be on, rain or shine. Destination Flock Hill. Note that this is not one of the Club days where clubs get a donation for providing volunteers (they'll be coming up next year).	Grade: Work Closes: 27 Nov Map: TBA Approx: None
Weekend 29-30 November	Leader: Leader required
Arthurs Pass Base Camp: Visit the club hut at Arthurs pass for a weekend in the mountains. With trips of all grades right outside the front door, from easy wanders to the Punch bowl falls to hard mountain climbing and most grades in between, there is something for everybody. Saturday night can be spent in the hut or going out for a meal in the village.	Grade: All Closes: 20 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$50
Sunday 30 November	Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655
Camp Saddle: Camp Saddle is a nice accessible part of the Craigieburns, just off the main range of Hamilton, Cockayne, Cheeseman etc. We can go up from the ski field access road, or perhaps round via the Craigieburn Valley. It's a short but steepish climb onto the saddle (1480m) for a rest to admire the views out over the Craigieburns and down towards the Broken River Ski area. From the saddle we do a lovely promenade east along the top of a spur to point 1525 and then drop off to meet the Craigieburn Valley track again at Lyndon Saddle and hence back to the cars again. 700m-800m height gain and about 13-14km round trip depending on the exact route.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 27 Nov Map: K34 Approx: \$25

Wednesday 3 December Evening		Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914	
<p>Get Fit for the Round the Mountain Challenge: Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and lift your fitness for the summer season of tramping and this year's special January Challenge.</p>		<p>Grade: All Just turn up Approx: None</p>	
Thursday 4 December		Club Night	
<p>ANNUAL BBQ: Tonight is the Annual BBQ held at the usual Halswell Quarry at Finlay Area 2. Meet from 6pm. BBQs will be arranged. This is a great social event in the awesome warm weather that we will have. Bring some sports gear: we'll have a game of cricket or similar.</p>			
Saturday 6 December		Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913	
<p>Wharfedale Track: The Wharfedale is a real piece of local history. It was originally envisaged as a road route to open up Lees Valley: work started optimistically in 1879 and about \$half-a-million in today's terms had been spent in four years before it reverted to being one of the more expensive 19th century stock routes. Now it makes one of the network of tracks in the Oxford forest and is used by mountain bikers as well as trampers. The track is mostly low level (400 - 700m) through bush and beech forest. We are planning to do a crossover trip if numbers permit, to make the most of the area. (This trip was originally scheduled for September but did not run then so if you missed out then, now's your opportunity ...).</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 4 Dec Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>	
Weekend 6-7 December		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000	
<p>Kowhai/Hapuku, Kaikoura: A good moderate tramp between two different valleys in the shadow of the Seaward Kaikouras. The Hapuku is gorged in its middle reaches but this is traversed by a good track. Look out for falcons in this area. Good camping is had near the head of this valley close to the climb to the saddle. Two routes can be taken on the Sunday: over the saddle and down the Kowhai or up to the summit of Mt Fyffe and down the 4WD track.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 Nov Map: O31 Approx: \$50</p>	
Sunday 7 December Could be early start - contact leader		Leader: Kerrie Skinner & Scott Fowler	
<p>Lap of the Gods: Join Kerrie and Scott on this exploration around Mt Olympus. We'll park up the old ski field road before the locked gate and go a little way on the road and then up one of the southern ridges to a high point which is only a little below Olympus (2094) itself. The ridge along to Olympus from there is challenging so we'll probably do some exploring around there and pick a route down through the valley. A great trip for everyone, including people looking to step up from easy-moderate trips to moderate. There could be an early start - make sure your name is on the list or you contact the leader.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 4 Dec Map: K34 Approx: \$25</p>	

Wednesday 10 December Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914 337 4914
Get Fit for the Round the Mountain Challenge: Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and lift your fitness for the summer season of tramping and this year's special Round the Mountain Challenge (see 25th Jan).	Grade: All Just turn up. Approx: None
Thursday 11 December	Club Night
Africa:Travel in Tanzania: Join Peter and Ruth on the first part of their travels in East Africa to a land of wild animals, high mountains, diverse cultures and beautiful beaches.	
Saturday 13 December	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Ryde Falls: This trip in the lovely Mt Oxford Forest is suitable for families and everyone looking for a relaxing social tramp. 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.	Grade: Easy /family Closes: 11 Dec Map: L34 Approx: \$20
Weekend 13-14 December	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
Lake Florence via Mt Armstrong: The plan is to climb Mt Armstrong via Mt Barron and the Barron ridge. The Saturday night camp will be at Lake Florence and Armstrong attempted by the north ridge. After a successful summit the return to the cars will be via the Rolleston river. Ice axe, crampons and other mountaineering equipment needed. Talk to leader for details.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 4 Dec Map: K33 Approx:
Sunday 14 December	Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155
Sudden Valley to the Hawdon: Definitely a wet-feet trip, this is a wonderful off-the-beaten-track day out. We go up Sudden Valley stream to the biv and then up the rocky slopes towards point 1653 from where we have a great viewpoint out over the Polar Range to the west and the Savannah Range to the east. We work our way around on the tops and drop down through the bush to emerge in the Hawdon valley and then follow the Hawdon back to Hawdon Corner and the cars. This can be a long day but it is well worth it for fit trampers looking for something a bit different.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 11 Dec Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Wednesday 17 December Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get fit for the Round the Mountain Challenge: Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and lift your fitness for the summer season of tramping and this year's special Round the Mountain Challenge (see 25th Jan).	Grade: Just turn up Approx: None

Thursday 18 December Club Night

End of year break-up formally known as the Plate and Crate: This is the annual potluck dinner and the final social event for the year. Doors open at 6pm and eating begins at 6:30pm. Bring plenty of food to share. You will need your own eating tools (plate and cutlery) plus liquid refreshments. This is a great social night to catch up with friends as well as club members who do not come to club nights normally. Venue: the usual club-night meeting room (hort. centre).

Saturday 20 December Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022

<p>Redcliffe Hill: Redcliffe Hill (940m) overlooks the mighty Rakaia river and is easily accessed using a 4WD track from the farm with a climb of 540m. It's all easy-tramper territory but note that there is a total of about 20km walking. In 1971 a team from Canterbury Museum found bits of moa eggshell in a rockshelter up there. Suspicions that it was the remains of some tramper's hard-boiled lunch were quashed when it was carbon-dated to the 18th century - or were there CTC-ers out in the hills even then? Please note that the farmer has asked us to be careful not to frighten his lambs.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 18 Dec Map: K35 Approx: \$20</p>
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Sunday 21 December Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931

<p>Mt Bealey and Rough Creek: Famous pre-cursor to the Avalanche Peak challenge, this was done as a race in 1970 and was won by Eric Saggars (still a CTC member). It took him 1 hour and 6 minutes. It will take us more like 7 or 8 hours! The tramp climbs steeply through beech forest on a well defined track to continue climbing (above the bushline) on a tussock and rock ridge. A fast scree descent of 500m leads to Rough Creek and slower travel for the last 3km back to the road. Good balance and boulder hopping skills pay off here as the stream is crossed, probably with wet feet, many times. A classic, satisfying, multi terrain tramp with some rich club history.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 Dec Map: K33 Approx: \$25</p>
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Thursday 25 December Club Night

No club – it's Christmas Day!

Sunday 28 December Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366

<p>Mt Cassidy (and maybe Blimit): Mt Cassidy (1850m) is right above Arthurs Pass township, up the steep Cons Track from the north side of Punchbowl Creek to the bushline (1280m) . From the bushline there is a rough unmarked route, also steep and rocky, to the summit. The ridge along towards Mt Temple is mostly straightforward rock hopping on lovely red sandstone. We can drop off into Bills Basin or carry on over Blimit (1923m, and a bit more scrambly) and then down. From there we go down through Temple Basin (should be lovely this time of year, with heaps of Mt Cook lilies) and thence down to the road, aiming to pick up the Bridal Veil track back to the township for quite a long but very satisfying day.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 25 Dec Map: K33 Approx: \$25</p>
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Thursday 1 January Club Night

No club – it's Christmas Holidays!

Saturday 3 January	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
Flock Hill Escarpment: The club is very lucky to have been again 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, walk up to the escarpment and wander around through the tangle of rock formations. Approx 300m height gain overall, mostly untracked in tussocky terrain, about 10km. We'll have to tiptoe past any sheep with lambs to calm the concerns of a worried farmer. Come along and enjoy a great social New Year trip.	Grade: Easy Closes: 1 Jan Map: K34 Approx: \$20

Wednesday 7 January Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get Fit for the Round the Mountain Challenge: Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and lift your fitness for the summer season of tramping and this year's special Round the Mountain Challenge (see 25th Jan).	Grade: All Just turn up Approx: None

Thursday 8 January	Club Night
No club – it's Christmas Holidays! No club as it's Christmas Holidays, and there might still be some lucky people out on Christmas trips.	

Sunday 11 January	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 389-1737
Hamilton Peak: This is a classic Craigieburns biggie (1922m) which can be approached from a couple of different directions, either from the Broken River side over Nervous Knob or from Camp Saddle. Superb views from the top on a clear day over Cass Saddle towards the Black Range, and Lake Pearson and Flock Hill to the east. Around 1000m height gain, depending on where we park. It is often windy up there so make sure you have all those warm windproof layers.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Jan Map: K34 Approx: \$25

Sunday 11 January Meet 8.15am at the Bus Exchange	Leader: David Henson 942-3954
Takahe - Crater Rim - Lyttelton - Sumner: Why take the cars when you can get there by bus? And, as your venerable leader points out, very cost-effective if you have your Senior Card. Join Dave at the Bus Exchange (Platform D which is on Colombo St opposite Ballantynes) at 8.15 to catch the 8.34 am No. 10 bus to the Sign of the Takehe and then walk up to the Crater Rim. Down to Lyttelton for a cafe lunch (it's tough, this tramping business), then back to Sumner via the Chalmers Track and catch the bus back into town. A great relaxed local ramble.	Grade: Easy Closes: 8 Jan Map: M36 Approx: \$5

Wednesday 14 January Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get fit for the Round the Mountain Challenge: Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and lift your fitness for the summer season of tramping and this year's special Round the Mountain Challenge (see 25th Jan).	Grade: Just turn up Approx:

Thursday 15 January	Club Night
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First meeting of 09 and trip reports catch up: As the first club night after the holidays we will catch up on all the verbal trip reports from all the trips since the last meeting. A good social catch up as well.

Saturday 17 January	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
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<p>Red Hill: Red Hill is a Club favourite, with a multitude of different ways up and down - one to suit every weather pattern including the dreaded nor'west. It's just north of the Lyndon Road, and is a good 1100m or so height gain no matter which way we approach it - steep at first and then once on the ridge top an undulating ascent to the summit (1841m). This might be a nice option for fit easy-moderate trampers stepping up to moderate trips. As you slog up the last bit you get your reward as the breathtaking view of Coleridge suddenly opens up, and there are some loop options for the route back.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Jan Map: K35 Approx: \$20</p>
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Weekend 17-18 January	Leader: Leader required
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<p>Dasler Pinnacles, Ohau: The Dasler Pinnacles are a jagged peak on the side of the Naumann Range between the Hopkins and Dobson rivers at Ohau. It offers an easy way up the back that any moderate trumper can climb. It is a superb vantage point with great views over Hopkins valley, the main divide peaks (Mts Ward, Hopkins, The Black Tower etc) and over into the Landsborough (Mts Strachan, Dechen etc). A great time of year to complete this highly recommended trip.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 8 Jan Map: H37 Approx: \$60</p>
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Sunday 18 January	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
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<p>Poulter Valley: The Poulter Valley Track opened to bikes late in 2007 as a 3-year trial and mountain biking the route is a great way to experience the area. It's graded intermediate, mostly 4wd track and although there are some gruntier sections and you'll need a real mountain bike, you don't have to be an expert. It is 27k return and about 6 hours riding so we'll head up the valley for 2 to 3 hours then have lunch and return. MTBs are allowed to go up to Poulter Hut but the route uses the river bed (2 crossings) rather than the tramping track. Please bring enough tubes /patches to cover 2 or 3 flat tyres (a bit of matagouri stuck in the tyre can be a cruel thing). Usual club trip wet weather gear, warm spare top, etc as well please. The trip will still run if the weather is iffy but may change to do some Craigieburn Forest tracks.</p>	<p>Grade: MTB Intermediate Closes: 15 Jan Map: L34 Approx: \$25</p>
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Sunday 18 January	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
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<p>Tiromoana Bush Track: Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track is a recently constructed walkway, one of the positive spin-offs of the landfill deal. It's a great way to explore the area to the east of the landfill where native bush and the Ella Ponds 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 access to the Ella Peak Scenic Reserve and the beach and then back past the wetlands.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 15 Jan Map: N34 Approx: \$15</p>
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Wednesday 21 January Evening

Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914

Get fit for the Round the Mountain Challenge: Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Last chance to boost your fitness for this year's special challenge. Aimed to raise your heart rate and lift your fitness for the summer season of tramping.

Grade:
Just turn up
Approx: None

Thursday 22 January

Club Night

Remote Huts on the West Coast by the founder of www.remotehuts.co.nz: We are privileged to have Andrew Buglass, the founder of the great www.remotehuts.co.nz website, coming to talk to us about why he formed the website and the resulting group. Andrew will show us photos of a bunch of these huts that many of us will never get to. He will also tell us about some past and present projects the group are working on. You might even be inspired to join! Should be very interesting.

Sunday 25 January

Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280

Mt Somers 'Round the Mountain' Challenge: This is a day for everyone, no matter what their fitness, age or competitiveness - after all, it's always much better to watch other people working hard than do it yourself! There are plenty of options for all.

Grade: Moderate-Hard Challenge plus easier options

And some great spot prizes courtesy of Macpac (thanks folks!). Any club member there on the day - challenger, stroller, or specator - is in with a chance.

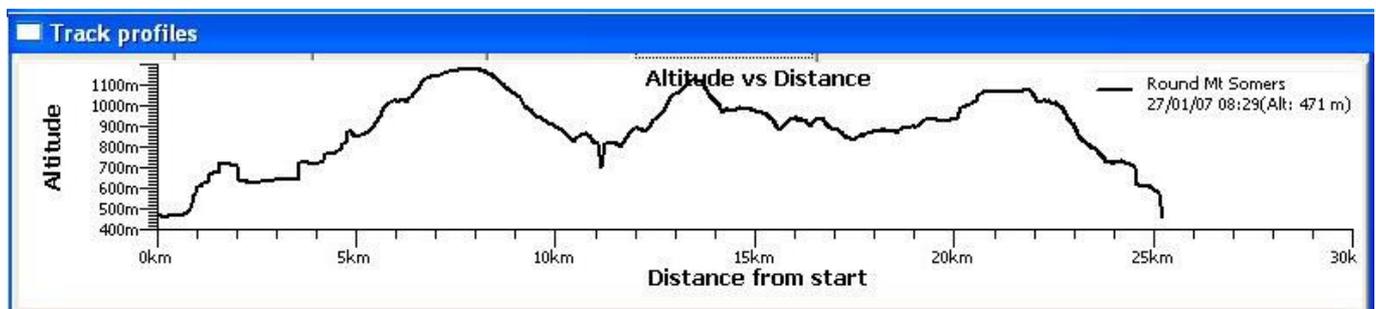
Closes: 22 Jan

Map: K36

Approx: \$20

Round the Mountain Challenge: Tune up your training for some serious races, do it to beat Stu's time, or just do it for the fun of it – go all around the mountain with anything from fiercely competitive individuality to friendly camaraderie in a group. Tasteful T-shirt prizes for first man, first woman and first new member to complete the challenge without too-obvious cheating or helicopter support.

Staveley Hill option: Come support the Challengers and have a cruisey stroll up Staveley Hill with a picnic, or further if you want, and be perfectly positioned to encourage them through to the finish on the final leg. Or come out later in the day, have a family afternoon around the Sharplin Falls area, lay bets on the Challengers, and participate in prize-giving festivities and general post-challenge euphoria.



Profile for the *Round the Mountain Challenge*

Wednesday 28 January Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get fit for Tramping: Come along to Mt Vernon Car Park at 6:00pm for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and lift your fitness for the summer season of tramping.	Grade: All Just turn up Approx: None

Thursday 29 January	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: As well as folding up the newsletter would someone like to bring in their Christmas trip digital photos?	

Saturday 31 January	Leader: Philip Tree 942-7670
Pompeys Pillar, Red Bay and Shell Bay: Pompeys Pillar is a little island just off the headland to the north of Otanerito Bay. This summer seaside tramp will explore the scenic Red Bay and Shell Bay coastline (popular with seals) and round to the Pillar, with an opportunity for a swim as well. Expect about 4-5 hours walking and about a 6-7 hour day in total, generally easy travel on farmland and QEII covenanted reserves, with a few ups and downs and one short section of bush-bashing.	Grade: Easy Closes: 29 Jan Map: N37 N36 Approx: \$20

Weekend 31 January-1 February	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
Waimak Col: Waimak Col is a high, easy but snow covered pass from the head of the Waimakariri river into the Rolleston river. Saturday night is spent in or around the wonderfully situated Waimakariri Falls Hut which must be one of the most scenic huts in the National Park. Sunday is a long day climbing up and over the Col (ice axe required) then a long traverse on tussock slopes before dropping down to the Rolleston river where a track is picked up out to the railway and the road. Great mountain scenery surrounds you for most of this day.	Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 22 Jan Map: K33 Approx: \$40

Sunday 1 February	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Mt Catherine: Mt Catherine is a superb peak overlooking Lake Heron in the Clent Hills area. We'll access via a 4WD road and cross the flats then ascend the south west ridge - about 1000m sustained climb, some of it fairly steep, tussock at first and then rock - to get to the commanding summit of Mt Catherine (2085m). Check out the views of the Arrowsmiths in the distance and plan your next adventure! With a good group we can make a loop by descending the rocky slopes to the south over 2045, 2039 etc. Mostly red sandstone, it's bare, open and starkly beautiful - a good achievement for a moderate trumper who is happy with a bit of scrambling and a reasonably long day (24 k and estimated up to around 9 hours). Trampers are advised to bring (even wear) helmets.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 29 Jan Map: J35 Approx: \$25

Thursday 5 February	Club Night
No Club – it's Waitangi long weekend: No club tonight as it's a long weekend and hopefully many will be on their way to far off tramping destinations.	

Long Weekend 6-8 February	Leader: Leader Required
Ahuriri/Matiland/Snowy Gorge: The new Ahuriri Conservation area has some wonderful tramping country and is surrounded by high mountains, a great setting for a trip in an area not often visited by the CTC. This trip crosses the south end of the Barrier range by a straightforward but quite high pass from the Watson Stream to the Maitland Hut. A low saddle is then crossed to Snowy Gorge stream and Hut before a walk out back to the Ahuriri.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 29 Jan Map: H38 G38 Approx: \$65

Long Weekend 6-8 February	Leader: Leader required
Trent/Haupiri: A trip between two West Coast river valleys over a low saddle. The first day is a relatively long but easy walk up the open Trent river to the Mid Trent Hut. The second day is still in the river but the valley closes in and the river is crossed many times (impassable in high flows) before reaching the Lagoon Hut perched above the river in the scrub. The river is then followed to the easy saddle and a rough track is picked up and followed to the hut in the Haupiri. From there it's an easy walk out via the river bed. The scenery is typical of the wild West coast: rough mountains, tussock tops and great bush. Andrew Turton strongly recommends this trip; he remembers it vividly and describes it as "a real classic trip in the middle of winter".	Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 29 Jan Map: K32 L32 Approx: \$50

Saturday 7 February	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Stony Bay Peak: Can't get away for the long weekend? Join us for this trip to Banks Peninsula. We'll start in Akaroa in the Rue Balguerie and walk up the Mt Vernon road and then up the historic Purple Peak track 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. Tea and ice creams in Akaroa before we head home.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 5 Feb Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$20

Trip Reports

11 - 12 October 2008

Mt Franklin

This was a trip where it felt like summer in the lowland (road end) but still truly winter up high. Starting from the 'Coast to Coast' road end where the Mingha and Edwards meet the Bealey, we headed up to Goat Pass, negotiating some felled vegetation from the winter snow. We encountered fresh snow on the last 200m or so up to Goat Pass before dropping down a snow-melt filled Deception to access a scree on the true right just upstream of the Upper Deception hut. From there it's a 500m climb up the scree, this scree doesn't really want to be climbed; it's in equilibrium and any weight applied to disturb the equilibrium results in - err - a disturbed equilibrium (a lot of scree coming your way) and ½ a step (sometimes more) backwards. Notwithstanding, the only thing worse is all the alternatives such as going anywhere near the lower part of Good Luck Creek, clearly this what you would need in abundance to get past the waterfalls. After attaining a height of ~1350m, a traverse takes you in to the upper part of Good Luck Creek across some reasonably graded ground. Once over to the creek we decided to make camp (well if you can call bivving a camp) since there was no obvious source of water above ~1400m and this was the highest opportunity to sleep on anything other than snow.

The highlight of the night was probably the trio of Great Spotted Kiwi we could hear fossicking nearby and they were still turning on the entertainment as we breakfasted. An hour or so further up the valley brought us to the still solidly frozen lake Anna behind which the climb itself starts. We followed route 8.7 from p79 of the NZAC Arthur's Pass guidebook. A narrowish but gently sloping couloir at the eastern end of the S face, which leads up to the South ridge. This couloir obviously catches the sun at this time of year and there had been enough melt to create quite firm ice. Once at the S ridge, we got good views down to Lake Sally which made us realize we were probably taking the easiest route up the hill. The South ridge is reasonably steep and the snow was firm but never got excessively icy and most-times our crampons were in to (and including) the tips of our toes. After ~100m, the grade backs off and the ridge swings to the Left and joins the SW ridge. From here it is a fairly straightforward snow plod to the summit. We had good views of all the usual suspects with Rolleston and Alexandra dominating the foreground and the Otira face looking particularly impressive. We descended by the same route and unpacked camp and made our way back to the civilization of the Deception-Mingha track and the road end which was reached at dusk and we headed for deserved but limited (there's not a lot open after 10pm in AP) refreshment after a ~15 hour day.

PHOTOS

25 - 27 October 2008

Zit Saddle circuit

It is possible to get good weather on the West Coast on a holiday weekend. No, really – only a little rain on day 1. In fact, the good forecast brought Peter, our esteemed leader, quite a few phone calls in the few days before departure – sign up sooner – it was a wonderful trip.

We spent most of Friday night trying to work out how to turn the water on at the club hut and then went through to the Cedar Flats road end, beside the Kokatahi. The walk up to Cedar Flats took up the rest of the morning – good track, a little windfall, everything going well.

From Cedar Flats we headed for the track up the spur to Yeates Hut. DOC had told Peter that there was “a bit of windfall on the track” but it was more like “there's a bit of track in the windfall”. And just as there is nothing quite like West Coast bush, so there is certainly nothing at all like West Coast fallen-over-bush. It is also quite a steep track, so when you were not hauling yourself up and over fallen trees (or crawling through them) you were hauling yourself up the track itself. There was strong competition to be at the back of the group and thus benefit from any easement through the tangle of undergrowth forged by the front-runners (even Ruth, normally miles ahead of everyone, seemed not quite as fast as usual that particular day . . .). It was a very tired advance guard who pushed their way through the final fallen tree, hauled themselves up the last few vertical metres, and finally emerged into the tussocks. From there it was only 15 minutes or so to the hut, the rain was letting up, and thoughts of cups of tea were figuring strongly in my mind.

The others came in a little later, perfectly timed to take advantage of the relay of brew-ups we had started. Arno did not look entirely enamoured of his first multi-day tramp with the club, but then he had chosen to carry a bit of extra weight in order to get fit for some upcoming adventure. The two Andrews on the other hand were bursting with energy and – together with Ian – had done most of the leading up through the ridge. Most of the ground around the basin

was distinctly boggy, but with a little scouting we found a dry campsite just big enough for the Dome. Dinners were cooked, and finally six people crammed into the hut while Bernhard, Andrew T and I opted for the comparatively palatial Dome (Andrew T having given Bernhard strict instructions that no singing was allowed).

During the night the predicted southerly came through: it was a good thing that I did not know it was snowing, or I might have felt cold. We woke up to a nice dusting of snow on the tussock around the tent, and the hut-dwellers had found that the roof let the spindrift in quite nicely. After the usual fluffing we set off through the scrub toward the ridge high above us. The faint track soon faded out completely and there was a more hand-over-fist-hauling and some close encounters of the Spaniard kind before we managed to catch up with Ian on the backbone of the ridge. It was considerably colder up there and the patches of snow grew more extensive as we gained more height. Soon we were putting on crampons, but conditions were good apart from a bit of sugary ball-up snow in the sunny patches, and we made rapid progress. The descent into Zit Saddle is not quite straightforward – Ian had done it in the reverse direction and went on to scout a route, together with the fearless Andrew N resplendent in bumble-bee stripped leggings.

After a bit of scrambling around, one party sliding around on very steep and very bony scree, the other going for the step-with-vertical drop-to-nothingness and vegetation-down-climbing option, we all made it safely into the saddle (my clumsy self largely thanks to the combined efforts of Bernhard and Ian – thanks again – as usual). From there all we had to do was to find the perfect place for lunch . . . the search continued for some time, until eventually an exasperated Peter asserted Leadership Prerogative and declared Lunch Here Right Now.

We could see Adventure Biv far below us. We could not see the poled route DOC have recently put in but surely we just have to head down there and across a bit and pick up that ridge? Turns out the DOC route involves going up the main ridge from the saddle and then descending, but with a little cross-country we caught up with it and then started the real business of scrub-bashing our way down. The DOC route is rough and ready, makings frequent use of natural features such as tunnelling through the scrub in steep little gullies, and often does not seem to exist in anything but imagination, but it would be much worse without it. It was again a somewhat tired group who finally got to the biv, which has a lovely position on a flat section of the spur above the bushline. Well, a tired group apart from Andrew and Andrew ('the A team') who only had a short rest and then continued down to Cedar Flats for the night. The rest of us stayed at Adventure Biv. As Susan said, how often do you get to spend a lovely evening at a West Coast hut, in great position, no wind and rain, no sandflies, sun until late . . . Ian went exploring with his camera, the rest of us just lay around in the sun, set up tents, helpfully relieved Arno of some of his extra pack-weight, and made up for whatever dehydration might have threatened earlier in day . . . and Uncle B could sing all he wanted - a gently contented humming soon formed a soothing background to the lazy chit chat in the sun.

The next day I, for one, was glad that we had not attempted Adventure Ridge the previous evening. More copious tree fall and another steep track were a bit tiring even with mind and body refreshed and revived by the lovely evening. Arno wanted to do the two swing bridges over the river, the rest of us stayed on the Adventure Ridge side and – having to negotiate some washed out track – ended up behind Arno, Andrew and Andrew (the triple A team?) on the final section down from Cedar Flats to the cars. It was another beautiful sunny day at that point and we did not hurry as we cruised down the river. A mysterious figure overtook us on the river flats, also appearing in no hurry but - unlike us - actually making light-speed progress. Who can this levitating tramper be? It turned out that it was Mr Remote Huts, Andrew Buglass, himself - fresh and dandy from dealing to the track up to Crystal Biv (a long term project apparently). Back at the cars we packed up and headed into Hokitika for tea and money transactions, then Peter and Andrew N made the long drive home with assorted sleepy passengers.

Many thanks to esteemed leader Peter, and to everyone for being a great group.

Trampers – Peter, Ruth, Susan, Andrew Nichols, Bernhard, Andrew Tromans, Arno, Ian, Jenny (scribe).

See www.remotehuts.co.nz for more info on the amazing work Remote Huts and the Permolat group, including pages for Adventure Biv, Yeates Hut (and Crystal Biv).

photos

See also the front-page image.

14 - 16 November 2008

Tapuae-o-Uenuku

aka Tapi, the Hodder, and the six-poles-missing trip

This trip report should probably be set in epic verse or written by Tolkein, but neither of those options being available you will just have to put up with the usual amateur boring-prose effort. Eighteen people happily volunteered for the Club's Show Weekend Tapi trip and the convoy duly set off on Thursday night. The eighteen included three brave Australians (aussie-Andrew, Tom and Jo) who wanted to experience a real hard-out kiwi-style multi-day tramp – you got it folks! We camped at the hay barn, managed to reduce our chaos to some semblance of order by about 9am, and set off along the 4wd track towards the river. The Hodder river did not seem quite like the gentle friendly flow expected, but there had been no recent rain . . . We linked up and crossed confidently and carried on. For those unfamiliar with the route up the Hodder, the official count is something over 60 river crossings, through two main gorges with a section of flats mid-way, so if it stayed like that we'd get plenty of practice with our river crossing technique.

We did indeed practice assiduously - for most of the next 6 hours or so. I'm not saying that practice makes perfect, but it certainly made some pretty efficient team work. On the more challenging crossings the first people across able to form a bulkhead so that the team crossing only had a short stretch before they could grasp an arm and be in relative safety – albeit occasionally hauled rather enthusiastically over the final few feet. Special mention must be made here to 'King of the River' Martin Brown – everyone wanted to cross in Martin's team! – and Stephen, Mike, Bryce, Scott, Bernhard, David and Ian. Ian and Dayle were able to avoid some of the crossings by some nifty manoeuvres around the sides, but not all of us felt up to those aerial gymnastics. Nobody dared ask the Australians directly what they thought of their first New Zealand tramping experience but they plugged on gamely despite Jo having come down on her knee rather painfully earlier on; Tom in fact displayed a distinct aptitude for the whole game and seemed in some danger of enjoying himself.

The flats between the gorges made a nice break in the tension, and we completed the final gorge without major mishap. There were a few people who had had the full immersion experience, including the heroic Dave 'save that hat' Sutton (the heroism was sadly in vain but Kerrie was able to borrow a replacement hat off aussie-Andrew) and Cathy had lost her walking pole when a bit of rock she was hanging onto, while wading/sidling along a tricky bit, came off in

her hands and she unceremoniously fell backwards into the torrent. Luckily Kerrie and Scott were there to grab her before she had too much fun, but alas the pole was a gonner. By this time the diagnosis for the river's enthusiasm was clear – snow melt. The group reconvened on the river bank for a break and then set off up the steep and very eroded slope to gain the sidle track high above us. This gave great views of the gorge but left one guessing exactly how far ahead the Hodder Huts were, as the track wound down through gullies and out around a couple of spurs. It was after we had dropped down for one final crossing onto the true left of the Hodder that our rear-guard party finally saw the huts on a little shelf. Aussie-Andrew and Jo, understandably somewhat tired by the Hodder experience and the climb up out of the river, dealt very well with the fact that the huts were still a fair way and a final slog up the scree ahead. We got a nice cheer though when we finally arrived, and – more to the point – the makings of a nice cup of tea just coming to the boil courtesy of Kerrie and Scott.

Susan had marked out space for our tent in prime position between the huts, the Dome was set up nearby, the aussies chose a site strategically close to the long-drop, various bivvie bags (including Andrew's super-delux home-away-from-home pride-and-joy) were wedged between the tents, and the rest fitted comfortably in the huts – perfect planning! We all had a wonderful warm evening with the moon almost full and a spirited discussion about the departure time for the summit attempt next morning by way of entertainment.

Diane and I had decided to have a low-key womble day with the aussies, having a bit of an explore in the snow and then wandering down to camp by the river at river where the sidle track comes back into the first gorge. The Story of the Summit will therefore come from the willing pen of Kerrie . . .

I'd heard that Tapi was rather like Mt Torlesse only 300 meters more height gain... reassuring don't you think? Only rather misleading! We started off in the dark at 4:30am full of good spirits. It was a lovely walk up the valley and when we got to the snow it was quite hard and easy to crampon on. It was steep though and a lot of it was a sidle - no zigzagging - so our ankles got rather sore as it went on and on, and - as I said - steep. It was a gorgeous day, and lovely to finally make the saddle. Cathy decided she'd only go to the saddle but Susan egged her on and Scott had us doing the 50-steps-have-a-rest thingy which helped enormously to manage the knackered-from-altitude effect. So up we went over the crest only 120 meters or so from the summit and then we saw the guys front pointing and using axes for a few places... We decided not to do it as a wind had come up and even though we could've gone up we knew we'd be very scared coming down. Don't take any notice of the photos that make it look like a doddle! We were satisfied, we knew we could've done it.....

So down we went. It was a big day, about 9 hrs I think. We got back around 1.30 and had a brief rest before heading down the river to the campsite (at the downstream end of the high sidle). We knew even from there it'd be a 7 or 8 hour walk out on Sunday and we were concerned about the river conditions, especially as it was such a hot day and the river was even more up. We wanted to be ready to leave at first light on Sunday. So some stayed at the hut, the rest of us went down to the river, including Kieran and Denise who had started later than the main group on Friday and arrived at the huts on Saturday. It was about an hour and a half to get there with only the one river crossing. We had a lovely evening there, Jenny was so pleased to see us and was playing camp mother, getting water and generally fussing around un-necessarily. There were two levels: a grassy terrace and a lower shingly terrace. four tents down stairs and three upstairs and just enough room for all! There was a lot of river watching that evening, especially since the river had turned muddy – but Dayle said this was due to a slip upstream.

(Back to the fuss-budget scribe)

The few people staying at the huts set off in the dark on Sunday rejoining us at first light. As the dark slowly lifted into grey early morning and we all stood by the river trying to convince ourselves that the snow melt effect might be a little more subdued, we were gratified to see that at least it was no longer murky. We had organised ourselves into groups around our strongest river crossers and were feeling nervous but resolute as we entered the river for our first crossing. It is notable though that out of the approximate one thousand photos taken on this trip, there are absolutely none of the morning river crossings – everyone's cameras were safely waterproof-wrapped and stowed in packs.

Very soon it became apparent the river was if anything stronger than it had been, and colder. Two linked up groups went in in rapid succession and, although safely retrieved and changed immediately into dry gear, cold then became a real problem. Two more poles had gone as well (taking the Hodder's pole-total for the weekend to six, since a separate group had lost two as well). A couple more crossings took us to a small section of flats and a major consultation with maps and gps's. For most of us, other than the very strongest river crossers, continuing was simply not an option. Four men from the Marlborough tramping Club who had been up at the Huts doing maintenance joined us – they had never seen the river like that at that time of year – and were equally keen on alternative options. Dave, Ian and others had researched a do-able route out onto the tops, consultation with other experienced trampers and scrutiny of the maps made it all look feasible, so we set off upwards – very happily.

It was steep but well worth it for the sun and the views alone. We soon found ourselves on a lovely section of ridge top on Tongue Spur, a few rocky sections to make it interesting, with views surely almost as good as the others had got from Tapi? With a few scouts moving ahead to check out the route we made good progress and had lunch down on a saddle above the Shin river. Descent into the Shin would have been a bit easier if we had all taken notice of the marker pole indicating a convenient (though very steep) track, but with a little help from almost everyone else, those of us foolish enough to try the cross-country approach eventually slithered the last section of slope and tore free from the last bit of matagouri, briar and bush lawyer. Much gratitude is due to Stephen Hoare-Vance and Scott in particular for helping here. A recuperative dip in a very convenient pool in the river and then we set off again. The Shin was pretty much what the Hodder had been supposed to be – a warm, unthreatening, fun wet-feet amble on a lovely sunny day.

All too soon we met up with – as Denise said – our unwelcome friend the Hodder. Bryce and Kieran went scouting the unknown territory to the right, Ian went to check out the crossings back to the point where the 4wd track meets the Hodder. The rest of us sat there and contemplated life, the universe and everything. Eventually – deep breath – the decision was made to take the five crossings back to the 4wd track. I carefully put my semi-dried gear from the morning back on – no point getting a second set soaked – and, having procrastinated as long as I could, joined the others for the first crossing. The Hodder was a little bit wider and less turbulent (maybe six walking poles and a hat took some energy to digest?) and the crossings were textbook perfect, with the same great team work that had been so vital on the way in. Soon it was all done and we were walking back towards the cars. A stop in Seddon for huge amounts of burgers, chips etc relieved the long drive back and most of us were home between midnight and 1am.

Various adjectives come to mind to attempt to summarise this trip – perhaps I'll just settle for 'memorable'. So, Thank you Uncle Bernhard, the river crossing champions, the route-scouters, the moral-supporters, the wonderful staunch aussies, and the cup-of-tea providers, and everyone else for one of the most memorable trips I have ever done.

Trip participants –Bernhard Parawa, Dave Sutton, Martin Brown, Ian Dunn, Bryce Williamson, Mike Ny, Andrew Tromans, Cathy Basire, Susan Pearson, Kerrie Maynard (scribe *b*), Scott Fowler, Denise Stroud, Kieran McGuigan, Diane Mellish, Stephen Hoare-Vance, Dayle

Drummond, Jo, Tom, aussie-Andrew (the three intrepid Australians, who pass on their own thanks to the Club for the trip), Jenny Harlow (scribe *a* and *c*).

PHOTOS

See more photos from this trip on the web:

- For Bryce's see <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=51372>
- For Ian's see <http://picasaweb.google.com/ianrdunn24/TapuaeOUenuku#>
- For Scott's see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/scottfowler/>

More about the CTC

Committee:

President	Richard Wills	389-8671	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	325-5001
Vice-president	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	Day-trip Organiser	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349-2280	Weekend-trip Organiser	Andrew Turton	332-8275
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981-7929
Editor	Richard Lobb	351-2344	Gear Custodian	Ken Brown	359-2000
Social convener	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members	Susan Pearson	337-4914

Our Club Hut: In the Arthur's Pass township, with all the comforts of home including real showers and inside flushing loos (BYO toilet paper!), but with the mountains at the back door. 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.

Equipment Hire: The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Ken Brown 359-2000. Note: Club gear assigned to you is your responsibility; please take care of it. 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 for Gear Hire:

Tent	\$3/person/night
Ice axes, crampons	\$4 per weekend
Harnesses, Snow shovel	\$4 per weekend
Large/small weekend packs	\$2 per weekend
Helmets	\$2 per day
Personal locator beacons	Free

To find out still more about the CTC, visit our website: www.ctc.org.nz

Classifieds

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

Tramping boots for sale (size 40): For Sale: Zamberlan tramping boots, Size 40. Worn 4 times. \$180. Contact Helen Phone 3842890.

Assorted tramping gear: Items available for purchase, all in very good condition, if not new, from trumper reluctantly leaving NZ:

1. Aarn midsize pack with offsetting front weight pockets. Very good condition. Personally adjusted by Aarn for an optimal fit. Retailled for \$360. Asking \$160.
2. Kathmandu Pine model tent for one person, with rainfly and stuffsack. New and unused. Weighs about one KG. Retailled for \$399. Asking \$170.
3. One pair Montrail goretex tramping boots with Vibram soles. Used one season and nicely broken in. Mens wide size EUR 42, UK 7.5, US 8.5. Comfortable and reliable. Retailled for \$260. Asking \$130.
4. One lightweight goretex Bivy bag from UK airforce. A good easy shelter. Retailled for \$140. Asking \$60.
5. One Thermarest Trail Lite self inflating air mattress with bag. Used lightly one season. Retailled for \$120. Asking \$60.
6. One pair Huski medium size waterproof rain pants with elastic waist and zippered boot openings. Retailled for \$60. Asking \$25.
7. One pair Lowe Alpine snowboarder gloves, ideal when used with wool glove liners. Retailled for \$60. Asking \$25.
8. One lightweight waterproof tarpalin for tent or sleeping bag footprint. 1 M x 3 M Retailled for \$40. Asking \$15.
9. One REI lightweight nylon waterproof tent footprint or quick pitch minimalist shelter, with bag. 2.5 M x 3 M New and unused. Retailled for \$40. Asking \$15.
10. One pair large Kathmandu cordura gaiters, still going strongly. Retailled for \$60. Asking \$20.
11. One pair mens large polypropylene thermal underpants, lighter than wool and dries quickly. Retailled for \$50. Asking \$20.

You can email questions to: garyshade@hotmail.com. [Gary can bring items to a central location in Chch in the week beginning 1 December, or again on December 21. Ed.]

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz)

by Sunday, 25 January 2009 – Thanks.

Have a Happy Christmas, everyone 😊

PHOTO (logo)

Macpac Advent-ure Calendar:

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