



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

PO Box 527, Christchurch, [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz)

We are affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Opinions expressed or events described in this newsletter might not actually represent Club policy - if they do it's probably pure coincidence.

Vol. 77

## June 2008

No. 2

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

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (minimal experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. Membership rates per year are \$35 member, \$55 couple, \$18 junior or associate.

**Equipment Hire:** The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is 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/weekend
Harnesses, Snow shovel	\$4/weekend
Large/small weekend packs	\$2/weekend
Helmets	\$2/day
Personal Locator Beacons	Free

**Our Club Hut** in the Arthur's Pass township has 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.

**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 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](mailto:alan.d.ross@orica.com). Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm sharp, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm *sharp*.

**Trips:** Unless otherwise stated, day trips depart at 8:00 am and weekend trips depart at 7:00 pm on Fridays, from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street). If you aren't taking your car on the trip, park on one of the nearby side streets, otherwise it may be wheel clamped or towed. If you are taking your car please refuel at Shell Carlton, as they are kind enough to hold our trip lists. Every trip gives an indication of transport costs per person. Please bring it in cash to help the leader divvy up at the end. If you have comments or suggestions for trips, please contact the appropriate trip organiser (listed above). 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

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# Notices

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

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

**Membership Database:** If you know of any updates, errors or omissions, email Susan Pearson [susan@toniq.co.nz](mailto:susan@toniq.co.nz) or phone 337-4914.

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

**Club Hut:** When using the Club Hut, please be careful when changing the taps when arriving and leaving. The consequences of cocking this up (pun intended) could be severe, so please read the instructions carefully.

**Committee:** The Committee meets from 7.30 pm on the second Monday of every month except January. The venue changes between committee members' homes. Club members may attend meetings to discuss matters. Contact the Secretary ([secretary@ctc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ctc.org.nz) or 349-2280).

**New/Returning Members:** Welcome back to Kerrie Smith – look forward to seeing you out tramping.

**Au-revoirs:** Merv and Stella Woodham are leaving the Club after many years. They originally joined in the early 1950's and it was great to see them at the 75th anniversary last year. Merv was President from 1962-1966 while Stella was the editor of the 50th anniversary journal still on bookshelves of many club members. We will naturally still keep in touch so this is not a goodbye but a recognition of their contribution to the Club - Rex Vink.

**New Committee:** The new Committee wishes to thank those who served on the Committee last year and are now taking a well-deserved break: Jim Western (many thanks Jim for being a wonderful Club Captain and indefatigable Gear Custodian), Lisa Glading (a super secretary), Jeff Hall (mastermind of all those hard weekend trips . . .), Mike Ny (Mike had put in sterling duty helping to organise day trips), John Taylor and Alastair Brown. Alastair has had to stand down as Editor after his latest four years. During that time he implemented huge improvements to the newsletter production system - so much so that the present Acting Editor Richard Lobb was almost convinced when told that it would hardly take any time to do now . . . The committee's thanks too to Richard for taking on the Editor's role. No secretary was elected at the AGM in April: Jenny Harlow has agreed to resume these duties as Acting Secretary. Many thanks, Jenny.

**Hatches 'n' Matches:** Congratulations to Lynette and Alastair ("Freddie") Brown on the arrival of Philip Edmund Brown, born 26 May 2008, 3.24kg. Rumours that he was wearing crampons and waving an ice-axe have been categorically denied. Best wishes to all concerned and we look forward to receiving the junior membership application soon.

**Subscriptions, please!** Subscriptions for the 2008/9 membership year are due. If you have not paid yet, please put this on your to do list a.s.a.p. If you have lost your reminder and need details of club bank account for internet banking please contact Susan Pearson (CTC membership administrator) on [Susan@toniq.co.nz](mailto:Susan@toniq.co.nz).

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## External Events of interest

**PTC Barn Dance:** The Peninsula Tramping Club's Legendary Barn Dance, Saturday 21 June. For \$25 you get drinks, a great supper, spot prizes and best of all called dances. This really is a fun night out and CTC usually have about 20 people going. No previous barn dancing experience required. Alan Ross has a limited number of tickets so bring your \$25 to club or phone him on 384-6425 before 16 June.

**Mountain Safety Council courses:** The Mountain Safety Council runs courses throughout the year, many of which will be relevant to members. Their Avalanche Awareness course is THE recommended course for this important topic, and places fill up fast. Other alpine courses include alpine travel, equipment and safety; glaciers and crevasse rescue; and alpine climbing. In addition they run courses on river safety,

navigation, outdoor first aid (also extremely popular), parent-and-child tramping, risk management . . . See the MSC website [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz) for details.

**MSC Ortovox Winter Forum:** The Mountain Safety Council is organising a Winter Forum on 19 June, on the subject of avalanches. Speakers include Penny Goddard, Guy Cotter, and Mark Sedon. It's on at the Aurora Centre (Burnside High School), 7.30pm. Tickets \$5 and no need to book. Enquiries [canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:canterbury@mountainsafety.org.nz).

**Avalanche Awareness in the Backcountry:** The New Zealand Alpine Club is publishing *Avalanche Awareness in the Backcountry* - an 'avalanche handbook' - in June. The NZAC blurb says "this is the first avalanche handbook created specifically for New Zealand's unique weather and snowpack conditions. Everyone who visits New Zealand's mountains needs to have an understanding of avalanches and the threat they pose. This book provides simple strategies for identifying avalanche terrain and avalanche conditions, explains how to make wise decisions and teaches rescue techniques. Well illustrated with photos, diagrams, and a New Zealand regional guide, this book is an essential companion for climbers, snowboarders, skiers, trampers and hunters." The author is Penny Goddard, avalanche expert and one of the speakers at the Ortovox Winter Forum above. Price \$30, or \$20 to NZAC members - see [www.alpineclub.org.nz](http://www.alpineclub.org.nz).

## Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 31 May	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
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**Nikau Palm Gully:** We tried to do Nikau Palm Gully earlier in the year but it was rained off, so here's another chance to go to this little gem in the Akaroa Heads scenic zone with big cliffs, seabirds, palm trees and more. The gully is acclaimed as one of the best forest remnants in the province, with an amazing collection of huge nikau palms. Approximately 10km walking with some gently rolling hills, this is one of the few peninsula tramps that gets you out close to the steep headlands and bays with a good safe track all the way.

Grade: Easy Closed: 29 May Map: N37 Approx: \$20
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Long Weekend 31 May-2 June	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
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**Lake Sumner Park, Queens Birthday Weekend:** Jollie Brook Hut is an old style but comfy forestry style hut approx 11 km walk in from the Sisters car park. The walk in crosses the Hurunui (bridged) and crosses easy river terraces to Gabriel Hut where a short side trip can be taken to see the Lake itself. Then the track climbs gradually (200m) through bush to a saddle dropping down into Jollie Brook and the Hut. On Sunday there are options depending on how energetic people feel AND what the weather is doing. We could stay a 2nd night at Jollie Brook Hut, leaving us free to do a daytrip up Jollie Brook itself at 1528m. Less keen trampers might like to explore further up the Jollie Brook stream (there used to be a biv up there) or just stay cosy and read a book. Really keen types might like to combine the two or tackle Mt Longfellow. An alternative option could be to pack up on Sunday and walk to Cold Stream Hut for our 2nd night. The hut is a short way up a tributary of Jollie Brook on the way out to the Hurunui. We can spend some time Saturday evening around the log burner deciding which options are popular. Monday we tramp out following Jollie Brook which will involve getting your feet wet, but does not involve any significant hill climbing. This is intended to be a social weekend so there will be some communal element to the eating arrangements.

Grade: All Closed: 22 May Map: M32 M33 Approx: \$30
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Long Weekend 31 May-2 June	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
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**Dasler Pinnacles Ohau, Queens Birthday Weekend:** The Dasler Pinnacles are spectacular looking spikes set on the side of the Naumann Range between the Hopkins and Dobson valleys at Ohau. The one to climb looks steep but is a very straight forward scramble and provides one of the best view points in this area. Main divide peaks such as Mt Ward, McKerrow, the Black Tower and through to the Solution range above the Landsborough as well as the Hopkins valley, Elcho Col and much more. The walk up the valley is not too long and there are lots of valley huts as well as a high level biv. All in all, a trip that is really recommended.

Grade: Moderate Closed: 22 May Map: H37 H38 Approx: \$50
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Sunday 1 June	Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
<b>Ben More:</b> Here's one for tussock fans - Ben More is found in the southern section of the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park conservation area - New Zealand's first tussock grasslands conservation park. There is a nice circuit from the Lake Lyndon road, across the Acheron, and up onto a horseshoe of undulating tops (1327, 1660, 1665, . . .) with Ben More (1655m) at its high point. There is about 1000m of climbing altogether, and about 17km of tramping through the beautiful golden tussock landscape.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 29 May Map: K35 Approx: \$20
Thursday 5 June	Club Night
<b>Vietnam:</b> Let's go to Vietnam with our guide Alan Ross. We will start in the South at Ho Chi Min City and progress North to Hanoi. From here we train to the northern border to the Sapa hill tribes and walk on the tallest range in Vietnam.	
Saturday 7 June (note early start - 7am at the Shell)	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
<b>Mt Percival:</b> is a straightforward moderate bump (1629m) on the range on the opposite side of Jollies Pass from Mt Isobel (Hanmer area). We will start from Tophouse Road in the Clarence and wander up the leading ridge. Depending on the weather and snow conditions there are a couple of options to round the trip off, either down an interesting little tributary of Pass Stream or along the ridge crest on the south-west side of the tributary. Meet at the usual place at 7am. If the weather is poor on Saturday this trip may go on Sunday instead: make sure your name's on the list or you have contacted the leader.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Jun Map: N32 Approx: \$40
Saturday 7 June	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
<b>Redcliffe Hill:</b> (This trip was postponed earlier in the year.) 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?	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 5 Jun Map: K35 Approx: \$20
Weekend 7-8 June	Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
<b>Griffin Creek:</b> Griffin Creek is a hidden gem of a valley just past the Taipo on the West Coast. The upper creek near the hut has blue ducks in it, the hut is wonderfully located with a great view and even has a bath! There are 2 tracks in a overgrown track up Rocky Creek or one straight up to the shoulder of the ridge below Mt Griffin then straight down into the hidden upper valley of Griffin creek. Check with Andrew for route details.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 29 May Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Thursday 12 June	Club Night
<b>World tour by map!:</b> Dave Henson will present a series of images of maps back to back with photos of the actual land in the map covering Italy, Austria, France, Canada, USA, Australia and NZ- WOW!	
Weekend 14-15 June	Leader: Sarah Hardie / Andrew Turton Ph 332 8275.
<b>Arthurs Pass Base Camp:</b> A trip suitable for all members, based at our club hut in Arthurs Pass. The pass in winter can be a magical place and, with a wide level of trips ranging from easy to hard, it can cater for all levels of trampers. A good day's tramping returning to a warm comfortable hut with full amenities for a social evening in or a meal in the village.	Grade: All / Family Closes: 5 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Sunday 15 June	Leader: David Henson 942-3954
<b>Mt Alford:</b> Mt Alford is a moderate (1171 metres) summit south of Mt Hutt with about 600 metres ascent. This is another of the growing number of permission-free routes made available by the tenure review process. The access is from Alford Scenic Reserve at the foot of the hill then up a new scenic track which avoids the 4WD track used in the past.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 12 Jun Map: K36 Approx: \$20

Sunday 15 June (could be early start - check with leader)	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Expedition to find The Missing Link track:</b> Can we link up Mt Richardson and Mt Thomas? Join the exploration party and find out. We'll start at Birch Hill Lodge and climb up to the Blowhard ridge track towards Mt Richardson, but leave it to drop down into Garry Stream. From the stream we climb up to the north western ridgeline of Mt Thomas and then descend by the Wooded Gully track and (small car shuffle) regain the vehicles. "Bush bashing guaranteed, failure possible." Remember to bring your torch! Please note that there could be an early start so make sure you've signed up!	Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Jun Map: M34 Approx: \$15
Thursday 19 June	Club Night
<b>Tasmania with Lynette and Jeff:</b> "Tassie, have the devil of a good time." That's what it says in the adverts and who could resist? And it's true we had a good time and we saw the little devils at Cradle mountain. We also saw quolls, pademelons, wombats and a two-headed Tasmanian. Oh, and we did some tramping in national parks as well. Tonight Lynette and Jeff will take us on a two week trip around Tasmania by campervan.	
Saturday 21 June	Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913
<b>Tiromoana Bush Track:</b> Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track is a new walkway constructed as a result of the landfill deal. The club did a 'test run' last September, before it officially opened in April. 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.	Grade: Easy Closes: 19 Jun Map: N34 Approx: \$15
Weekend 21-22 June (starts evening of Friday 20 June)	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<b>Basic Snowcraft Course:</b> Ever wondered what ice axes are used for? Come along and discover they have a dozen or more uses - from support on steep slopes to self-belay, digging snow shelters and step cutting. Learn self arrest - the fundamental and essential alpine safety technique for steep snow and even snowgrass slopes. And how to use crampons to get a grip on the terrain. We will even find some time to make a small snow cave or an igloo. These skills are essential for safety if you are going tramping up in the snow. Stay at the comfortable club hut.	Grade: Training Closes: 12 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$50
Sunday 22 June (early start - contact leader)	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
<b>Mt Manson:</b> Mt Manson (1859m) is a club favourite in the Craigieburns, opposite Purple Hill overlooking Lake Pearson. Our usual access is from the Craigieburn Valley ski road but there are some options for both ascent and descent depending on conditions and whether we can get permission to use Ribbonwood stream for the return route. Depending on conditions, this trip could be anything from a harder-end-of-moderate to a moderate-hard. You'll need to be prepared to take ice-axe and crampons and be experienced and competent in using them. So, if you're not, take advantage of the Basic Snowcraft course on this weekend instead!	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 19 Jun Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Tuesday 24 June	Social Event
<b>Ten-pin Bowling:</b> Want to try your hand at 10-pin bowling? Or are a regular four-bagger who wants to show everyone how it's done? Either way, come along and join the fun at the Garden City Bowl, 15-21 Iversen Tce, starting at 7:30pm. Only \$6 per game. All interested contact Ross Ogden, 351 1857.	
Thursday 26 June	Club Night
<b>Newsletter Folding Night:</b> Newsletter folding and let's see some digital photos of recent trips. We will have the data projector so bring some photos for us to look at.	

Saturday 28 June	Social Event
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**Annual Mid-Winter Breakfast at Chateau On The Park (Deans Ave):** For the uninitiated, this is the annual awarding of the Loo-Loo trophy for the biggest cock-up of the year. Come along and be entertained by tall tales and (occasionally) unembellished accounts of what can go wrong in the hills. Please dredge through your memory from the previous year and tell us about the blooper. Meet 8am at Garden Court Brasserie for a great breakfast. Buffet is \$21.50, Continental is \$18.50, kids 5-12 years are \$1/year. You MUST put your name on the trip list or email alan.d.ross@orica.com or phone Alan on 3846425 before 26th as he has to give the Restaurant confirmed numbers. Bring an empty tummy and a story.

Saturday 28 June	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
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**Pines Beach - Waikuku Beach:** Going to the Mid-Winter Breakfast? Of course you are . . . and what better to do afterwards to get a bit of fresh sea air and exercise than join Ken on this social beach-stroll along what was, until recently, the Pegasus Bay Walkway. The walkway itself now stops at Pines Beach at the mouth of the Waimakariri, but there is still public access, mostly along the beach, past Woodend and right up to Waikuku and the Ashley river. The whole thing is about 15k, giving Ken plenty of choice of the best bit to try.

Grade: Easy/family Closes: 26 Jun Map: M35 Approx: \$5
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Weekend 28-29 June	Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
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**Mt Williams:** Mt Williams is in the Rolleston range between the Rakaia, Mathias and Wilberforce rivers. This is a good chance to climb this Mountain before the snow gets too deep. The rivers can provide access problems so Mt Guinevere in Arthurs Pass is the stand by. Check with Andrew for details. Ice axe and crampons required.

Grade: ModHard Closes: 19 Jun Map: J34 Approx: \$40
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Thursday 3 July	Club Night
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**Walking Poles:** Our special guest speaker Ailey Ong-Schnelle (technical advisor to The Australasia Nordic Walking Association) will be showing and talking about the benefits of using poles in the NZ great outdoors. Some products Ailey will bring for sale at a discount will include: Deuter (packs and sleeping bags), La Sportiva (footware), Freeze dried food, Primus (cookers), Leki trekking poles, Grivel (ice axe and crampons). This will be a great chance to learn the benefits of using poles from an expert as well a buy some gear. Sounds like you will need to bring some \$\$\$\$ with you this night!

Weekend 5-6 July	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
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**Basic Snowcraft Course:** Ever wondered what ice axes are used for? Come along and discover they have a dozen or more uses - from support on steep slopes to self-belay, digging snow shelters and step cutting. Learn self arrest - the fundamental and essential alpine safety technique for steep snow and even snowgrass slopes. And how to use crampons to get a grip on the terrain. We will even find some time to make a small snow cave or an igloo. These skills are essential for safety if you are going tramping up in the snow. Stay at the comfortable club hut.

Grade: Training Closes: 26 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$50
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Sunday 6 July	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
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**Barrosa:** In the Clent hills, Mt Barrosa is a wee bit further west than Mt Somers and a wee bit lower, too (1364m). It is an interesting geological area (Barrosa Andesite) but at this time of year snow is likely to be the major feature of the landscape - check with leader about ice axe and crampons. There is an 800m ascent up the open tussock hillside with good views all the way up. Trivia time - 'barossa' spelt the other way comes from the Italian for red rock or red soils; Barrosa spelt this way refers to the 'Battle of Barrosa' fought during the Iberian Peninsular war in 1811. Back to reality - approx 10km round trip.

Grade: Moderate Closes: 3 Jul Map: J36 Approx: \$20
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Sunday 6 July (note start at Vernon Park)	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<p><b>More Lunch in Lyttelton:</b> Last year Susan did 'Earn Lunch in Lyttelton' - clearly we need a different title so who's on for more Lunch? Start in Vernon Park carpark at 8am and stroll up to the Summit Road via Dry Bush and then along the Crater Rim and down to Lyttelton. Height gain one way approx 350m. After a café lunch, you can choose whether to take the bus back to town or earn tea as well (wow - what a lucrative day this could be!) by walking back to Mt Vernon via Stan Helms track and the Whakaraupo lookout. Bikers are welcome to join us - MTB'rs maybe start around 11, cycle round to Kennedy's Bush, up to the Summit Rd and down at the sign of the Kiwi? After lunch, return up Evans Pass along to the Anaconda, down to Taylors Mistake and back via Sumner. Road bikers might like to do Long Bays.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy trampng, + biking options  Closes: 3 Jul  Map: M36  Approx: \$5</p>
Weekend 12-13 July	Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392
<p><b>Hanmer Base Camp:</b> This great mid winter social weekend in Hanmer is always a popular choice. With lots of activities ranging from lazing in the hot pools, easy day walks and mountain biking to harder trips climbing the surrounding mountains, there is something for everybody. Talk to Craig about his final plans and accommodation.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/All/Social  Closes: 3 Jul  Map: N32  Approx: \$30 + Accom</p>
Sunday 13 July	Leader: Stewart Smith 980-7913
<p><b>Mount Horrible:</b> Did you know that there are six Mt Horribles in the South Island? That doesn't say a lot for the earlier settler experiences, does it? This one is of course our very own Horrible, right next to Mt Misery. Don't be put off – with this leader it's bound to be a good day. This is a great trip to test out your winter snow skills (assuming there's snow of course), and although it's not that high (1254m) it's a good tramp with good views from the top over the Waimak towards the Hawdon, Sudden Valley and the Polar Range.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 10 Jul  Map: K34  Approx: \$20</p>
Sunday 13 July	Leader: Bruce Miller 349-3611
<p><b>Mt Grey:</b> Mt Grey is one of the most accessible of the bumps in the northern foothills and makes a popular easy moderate trip. There are a variety of routes but one of the best goes from the Grey River carpark up the river and then up a spur to the northwest of the peak itself using the Red Beech track, curving back southwards on the ridge to the summit of Mt Grey itself (934m). There is about 600m of height gain on this route, which is about 7k each way. The bush on this track is beautiful - as well as the eponymous red beech it includes totara, matai, rimu and some kahikatea.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod  Closes: 10 Jul  Map: M34  Approx: \$15</p>
Weekend 19-20 July	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<p><b>Intermediate Snowcraft Course:</b> Done the Basic Snowcraft Course and want to know more and meet greater challenges? This is an In-town Training Weekend to 'learn the ropes' of belaying, glacier travel, crevasse extraction, mountain safety issues and alpine equipment, in preparation for the 'on the snow' training weekend at Arthur's Pass in August. Learn and practise these techniques in easy surroundings before heading into the snow. Check with Richard for gear required. It is required that participants have done Basic Snowcraft Training in the use of Ice Axe and Crampons.</p>	<p>Grade: Training  Closes: 10 Jul  Map: K33  Approx: \$50</p>

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# Trip Reports

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25 - 27 April 2008

## Judges Creek

Four days out - unbelievable – a good forecast for a long weekend! Well, yes, not completely believable after all: on Thursday there were predictions for rain coming in from the north on Saturday. Bernhard was determined to get to Judges Creek having been stymied by a blocked road at Labour Weekend, but contingency plans were breeding like rabbits on prozac. We left Christchurch on Thursday night and drove up to Hanmer and then on past Lake Tennyson and Island Saddle to a small road-side hut. After a bit of fluffing around eleven trampers were finally dispersed and snoring inside huts/tents/hut porches. . . Next morning – tea, breakfast, maps, and a vast proliferation of the contingency plan population – and we're off. First stop – see if, when DOC say that a gate is locked in winter, they really mean locked = secured with a padlock and key = definitely no access = no, not even for the CTC on holiday. Turns out that that is exactly what they meant. Never mind – luckily we have a lot of contingency plans.

A little later we finally set off up Judges Creek - a lovely wide open valley. A few crossings and re-crossings were necessary as we worked our way up but mostly it's easy going on an almost imperceptible gradient. After lunch we got to the head of the valley and started up the steep rocky slopes to the saddle above us. There was a bit of snow around and it was pretty nippy out of the sun. We regrouped on the saddle below pt 2022 and then worked our way down into the basin below. All that contingency planning had been positively exhausting: when we got to a nice flat area part way down at around 1800m, with a convenient stream for water, we happily opted to camp even though it was only about 3.30pm. Richard, Clive, Flo and Stu did however drag me out with them for a recce up to the ridge around pt 2107 to explore options for crossing directly into the Coldwater catchment and thus add to our world-breaking stock of contingency plans. It was well worth it: we caught the remaining sun as we negotiated the jagged ridgeline and looked across and down into the area we were aiming for the next day. Despite the very steep and bluffy terrain Flo and Richard even found a probable route down that might well not kill or even injure too many of us.

We went back with the good news to the camp, only to find a missing Bernhard (or not find a present Bernhard, whichever you prefer). It turned out that he had had a late flash of enthusiasm for the recce and set off just about as we were descending – looking carefully we could spot a little blue figure zig-zagging determinedly upwards on the scree high above us. He eventually returned, singing happily, as it got dark.

To say that it was not a warm night is a bit of an understatement: it was a sudden reminder of what winter tramping is like. Boots and unguarded water froze and getting up took a bit of willpower. Richard had the small comfort of at least being warmer than on his Lake Mavis camp (-7 degrees apparently). However, our campsite was well-placed for morning sun and we set off down the valley towards Lees Creek in heartening sunshine. Having dropped a bit and admired the beautiful waterfall in the creek, we traversed north/northwest around the side of pt 1973 to head up a small sidestream, Stu leading the way over the scree and scrub. Cautiously, we negotiated a bit of steep icy gully and then Stu again roared into a commanding lead as we came over into the tarn basin to the east of 2045. Martin refused all encouragement to swim, and after a bit of trial and error we followed Stu's route up and around the ridge overlooking the basin and out onto a bit of a rocky shelf at the head of the Coldwater valley where we had lunch. The one eventuality our extensive contingency planning had not prepared us for seemed to be better weather than forecast, but there it was – a beautiful day, sunshine and no sign of clouds building let alone the rain that we had expected by now. More planning was clearly called for . . .

After suitable discussion, we followed Clive's suggestion of a high traverse on the true right of the Coldwater Creek valley between about 1600 and 1700m. This turned out to be a magical route which took us past several more beautiful high tarns. We finally descended into the valley in the late afternoon, coming down to a superb camp site at on the river flats. After setting up the tents and sorting the gear out, the pyromaniac contingent built a fire and we had a very social evening swapping places as the smoke drifted in different directions, toasting our toes, and sampling Clive's freshly roasted chestnuts.

Next morning restored our faith in the forecast and the main thrust of our contingency planning – misty and overcast, approaching rain in the air, and here we are comfortably camped down in the valley and only a couple of hours from the road – perfect. We had a pleasant walk out down the Coldwater and came out

onto the Wairau-Hanmer road about 11am as the rain came in. We had lunch amidst the heaving throng of Hanmer visitors and then headed home, most of us planning to go back to explore the other options in that wonderful area.

DOC assure us that they are actively researching biological controls for the remaining contingency plans left at large in the area.

Trampers: Bernhard, Stu, Flo, Andrea, Martin, Clive, Andrew Turton, Andrew Tromans, Mike Ny, Richard Lobb, Jenny.

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4 May 2008

## Mt Temple and Cassidy



Having flagged the concept of doing the Philistine-Rolleston traverse, the group thought Mt Temple would be a suitable goal. I did briefly consider how the conditions might be in APNP whilst wading through ~50mm of hail in central Christchurch on Friday night. But of course, the southerly rarely penetrates across to Arthurs Pass and despite about 50mm of rain in Christchurch and a good dose of hail/sleet on the Port Hills, Softrock measured 1mm of precipitation in Arthurs Pass on Saturday. There had been about 100mm snow towards the end of the previous week but overall I thought that it was worth going over to take a look.

We did however get a good freeze and the forecast free air freezing level of 900m was probably about right. We left the Temple ski field car park 8am and headed up the well graded track to the Temple Basin ski field, encountering some ice from the thaw-freeze up until about 1300m when there was no evidence of thaw. We carried on up to Temple Col for morning tea with some 100 - 200mm of snow. The guidebook describes two routes from here to Temple, one on the east side and one on the west. We had seen the one on the west and “better the devil you know” was not applicable to this so hoped for something a bit more straightforward on the east. We were rewarded: we dropped about 100m then traversed north to a ramp which we took back up to the leading south ridge on Temple. There were a few interesting steps on the snowy rocks but generally not too much drama and we were sitting on the summit for an early lunch. However, the “better the devil you know” principle still failed to apply to our choice of descent route - surely that gully we saw going down the W face will be cruisey? So, we retraced south along the ridge to near where we had gained it from the east and took a ‘likely’ gully off to the W. The conditions were ‘hybrid’ - not enough snow/ice to reliably kick into but enough to lubricate the rock and freeze the scree.

Part way down we diverted to the south to inspect the route on the west side of the ridge to Temple Col. The consensus was that it would need the rope and was probably not the path of least resistance so we returned to the descent gully and split into two groups, both eventually finding routes down the bluffs.

We had early afternoon tea back down at the base of the top rope tow and decided to head over to Bills Basin. Inspired by the sight of the lovely pink rock above the fresh snow and the clear blue sky, David, Freddie, Jenny and I then decided to complete the day with a traverse just under the summit of Blimit, across Cassidy and down Cons track back to the village. Richard bravely agreed to forego this extra treat and go back to the carpark to drive the car back to the village and pick us up. The warm conditions held until we were part way off Cassidy and we were back to the village before dark - and drinking tea in Springfield not too long after.

We were: Clive, Freddie, David Sutton, Richard Thwaites, Jenny

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10-11 May

## MTB Weekend

MTB weekend exploring Ashburton Lakes & Mt Somers. May 10th/11th 2008



Lunch at Downs hut



Views of the Main Divide

### Day 1: Lake Heron Station to the Rakaia and back. 38 km 5 hrs.

Six of us rendezvoused in Rakaia over coffee, then drove to Mt Somers motor camp, to check in and get organized, in a vaguely disorganized way, for a day's MTB riding.

Steve had got permission for us to cycle from Lake Heron Station through the station to Downs Hut and onwards to the Rakaia, time and track permitting. It was a long drive to Lake Heron station and by the time we had arrived, got the bikes together and made contact with the farmer, we were staring lunchtime in the face. No matter, we set off determined to get to Downs hut some 14km away before satisfying the hunger pangs.

We were fortunate, the track was good the weather was sunny and the wind in our faces was light and promised a fast trip home again. A flat ride through paddocks and over well flattened river gravel could have become tedious were it not for the magic surroundings and the excitement of the regular fords. Anna and I were not familiar with the technique of riding through fords and learnt that the trick is to take them at the right speed. Too fast and the back wheel spins up all the water, rewarding the enthusiasm with a wet backside. Too slow and the lack of momentum means that an uneven bottom is likely to cause a wobble and the need to put a foot down into the icy water. So after a few fords I had both wet feet and a wet backside much to the amusement of the more accomplished riders.

We arrived at our lunch spot by 13:00 and enjoyed half an hour in the sun, wringing out socks and contemplating the hill in front of us. We had been told that the track would now deteriorate due to its no longer being a viable route to the Rakaia for vehicles due to a slip on the way down on the other side. So we knew that not only had we a hill to climb but also that the riding surface would become more of a challenge.

The hill was steep but short and the route then led across undulating tussock. The track was good then not so good and had eroded in characteristic fashion. Riding in ruts seemed like the okay thing to do until a

pedal rams into a tussock and you stop dead and tumble off in a surprised heap. So then trying the tussock ridge seems like it might reveal happier results but then it suddenly gives way to a drop into a rut and you narrowly miss going over the handlebars.

This technical stuff required total concentration in addition to being pretty slow going. By the time we got to the saddle overlooking the Rakaia, everyone was ready for the afternoon tea stop. Sitting in the tussock in the sun we had time to fully appreciate the view up the braided Rakaia to the big snowy peaks of the main divide and reflect on how lucky we were to be where we were.

The track was now just an indistinct ground trail through the tussock and looked very steep and gorsey on the way down. This played no part (of course) in the group coming to a consensual decision that there was insufficient time to investigate it. So reluctantly (!) we turned our wheels to pedal back to the cars, whereupon John discovered he had got a puncture.

The return trip was uneventful with the wind behind us giving us a bit of extra help to cross those fords with more style and arrive back just as the temperature was beginning its downward spiral.

## **Day 2: Mt Somers Hut, (22km, 3 hours 600m height gain)**

Sunday saw the addition of Grubbie to our group. He had turned up at the motor camp in time for the dinner the night before. Sue, Anna and Steve were on main course duty and provided a delicious dinner of roast chicken and a greengrocer's challenge of vegetables: potatoes, parsnips, sweet potato, brussels, carrots, green beans, broccoli, cauliflower..... I think somewhere someone had read that cyclists need 10 and not 5 a day. Its amazing how easy it is in retrospect to rue the lack of a photo.

Needless to say after a repast of those dimensions (including extensive pre-dinner snacks and pudding with custard and cream) it was necessary to find a strenuous bike ride with a bit more hill climbing to work it all off. Our penance for wanton gluttony was to be the Mine track up to the new Mt Somers Hut. The road proved to be perfectly rideable, if steep in places, with views across the Woolshed creek valley to Mt Somers itself.

We lunched at the palatial new hut and set off back again with a desire to do some kind of detour to bring us out at the Mt Somers walkway carpark – or as close to it as possible.

About halfway back along the mine track, Ron spotted a likely looking route leading off in the right direction towards a rocky promontory. It looked like it might peter out there above a hillside of gorse but Grubbie was all for it saying

“What could possibly go wrong?”

Anna and I gingerly descended the slope expecting to meet the others coming back any moment, but no the track just kept on going and turned out to be a remarkably good single track, mostly rideable for real mountain bikers. We were delighted with it when it dropped us out just 100m or so from the car park we were headed for. An easy road return journey brought us back to the cars by early afternoon leaving a choice of coffee stops on the way home.

As an uncommitted mountain biker, I congratulate Steve on his choices of rides over the weekend, not too long, not too hard but plenty of interest and some challenges to improve the skills. Coupled with a very social Saturday evening it all contributed to a very enjoyable weekend.

Leader Steve Brasch, other riders: Sue Brasch, John Henson, Anna, Ron Keeble, Susan Pearson (scribe) Grant Piper (part timer).

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Sunday, 18th May 2008

## Mt Harper

Mt Harper – Sunday, 18th May 2008

8:00 am at the Shell Station and everyone is here, ready to go. Ten of us divided between two cars. Great organisation that bodes well for a great day. It is one of those cold, crisp Canterbury mornings that gets down to 1 degree as we pass through the foothills.

We leave the cars at Camp Lake and start off at 10:20 am. A short walk across the flats does little to prime the muscles for the climb ahead and then we are into it. For the next hour and a half it's all pretty much head down and bum up as we plug away, ever upwards. It is warm work too, especially for Alan who strips down to his bare chest. "Very impressive Al. Have you been working out?" The occasional glance upwards reveals the long legs of Stu leading the way, and seemingly opening an ever widening gap between where he is, and where I am. At about 12:00 midday we reach the ridgeline and it flattens for a while. We quickly don wind proofs for protection against a bitter wind, then it's time for lunch.

After lunch it's onwards and upwards again to the top – not so steep and a bit easier going now, and we are there after about another 30 mins. We are at 1828m (6000 ft) and it's just a bit hazy but still beautiful views all around. The Arrowsmith Range to the North, the Alps to the West, the plains to the East, and down below the great Rangitata and the fabled lands of Erewhon and Mesopotamia. There is no snow on the top but plenty around us on the South faces.

From the top we head South West following the ridgeline to Balmacan Saddle (which everyone knows is a woollen overcoat). It's easy going on the ridgeline but not so easy on unfit legs and weary knees on the steep descents. Then it's down to the valley floor and North again following Balmacan Stream to Camp Lake. At 5:00 pm we are back at the lake and the cars. It has been a 17 kms round trip with about 1000m gained and lost. Total time tramping was 6 hrs 40mins.

The Mt Somers store was closed so we headed instead for the big salmon café at Rakaia for pre-dinner snacks. The stuffed potatoes are highly recommended for stuffed trampers. All in all – as anticipated, it has been a great day. Thanks to Warwick for leading a great trip. JK

The team:- Warwick Dowling, Alan Ross, John Kay, Doug Foster, Sue Foster, David Sutton, Jim Western, Linda Lilburne, Flo Roberts, Stu Smith.

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Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor ([editor@ctc.org.nz](mailto:editor@ctc.org.nz))  
by Sunday, 22 June 2008 – Thanks.