



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.

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

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

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

Vol. 76

## March 2008

No. 10

<b>President</b>	Richard Wills	389-8671	<b>Club Captain</b>	Jim Western	376-5191
<b>Vice President</b>	Andrew Turton	332-8275	<b>Trip Organiser(day)</b>	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
<b>Secretary</b>	Lisa Glading	389-1737	<b>(weekend)</b>	Andrew Turton	332-8275
<b>Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	<b>Hut Convener</b>	Dave Watson	981-7929
<b>Editor</b>	Alastair Brown	343-5111	<b>Gear Custodian</b>	Jim Western	376-5191
<b>Social Convener</b>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<b>New Members</b>	Susan Pearson	337-4914

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

**Equipment Hire:** The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Jim Western 376-5191. Note:

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

**Our Club Hut:** In the Arthur's Pass Township has the comforts of home but with the mountains at the back door. - Even better now with real showers and inside flushing loos (BYO toilet paper!). A great place for a few days away; take your usual gear and a pillowcase. Please book before leaving town to ensure there is a bunk available. For keys and bookings, phone Dave Watson 981-7929; or if he's away, Rex Vink 352-5329; or if they're both away, Andrew Wrapson 980-6006. Hut fees are \$8 member, \$8 member's partner, \$15 non-member, \$4 kids under 12. If you find any problems or maintenance required, please tell Dave.

**Social Scene:** We meet on Thursdays 7:30 pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre (Watling Lounge), Hagley Park South, 57 Riccarton Avenue (entrance opposite the hospital). A variety of social functions are organised, the atmosphere informal, and tea and biscuits served. If you can give a presentation or have ideas, please contact Alan Ross 384-6425 or email [alan.d.ross@orica.com](mailto:alan.d.ross@orica.com). Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm sharp, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm *sharp*.

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

**Leaders:** Please ask for the trip list box (disguised as a shiny red 'Stanley' toolbox) and post the trip list into the locked box. If anyone turns up after this, the service station has a key to open the box. Spare key holders are listed on the box.

<b>Rates for Gear Hire:</b> Tent	\$3/person/night
Ice axes, Crampons	\$4/weekend
Harnesses, Snow shovel	\$4/weekend
Large/small weekend packs	\$2/weekend
Mountain radio	\$30/weekend
or	\$40/week

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## Notices

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

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

**Photos:** We now have photos on the web page to accompany trip reports. Please email photos to [webmaster@ctc.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@ctc.org.nz) .

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

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

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

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

**New Members:** Please welcome the following new members: Angela and Peter Moore, Bryce Curran and Geoff Titmuss.

**AGB:** Notice is hereby given that the 76th Annual General Meeting of the Christchurch Tramping Club (Incorporated) will be held at the PC Browne Room, Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park, 57 Riccarton Ave, Christchurch on Thursday 17 April 2007 at 7.30 pm. Please submit any items for the agenda to the Secretary, Christchurch Tramping Club, PO Box 527, Christchurch 8014 or email [secretary@ctc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ctc.org.nz).

**New helmets for the club:** Thanks to the efforts of Dave Henson, we have been successful in getting a grant which will be used to get helmets.

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### Classifieds

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

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### External Events of interest

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

**Over 40's 30th anniversary:** The over forties Tramping club is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Saturday 29 March 2008. For further details please contact Ted Sheilds, Box 41071, Christchurch, 384-3403, [dls@paradise.net.nz](mailto:dls@paradise.net.nz) .

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## Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Thursday 28 February

Club Night

**Newsletter folding night:** and many verbal trip reports from preceding weeks.

Saturday 1 March	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
<b>Ashley Gorge:</b> Ashley Gorge is one of the best picnic spots in Canterbury and a popular place to explore. Depending on water levels we might do a bit of floating down the gorge, and getting wet is the whole point of the trip. An opportunity to practice all that river crossing training? Great fun in the sun (we hope). Talk to the leader if you're not sure what's involved in this summer water trip, and come along for one of the club's most popular social outings.	Grade: Easy (water trip) Closed: 28 Feb Map: L34 Approx: \$15
Weekend 1-2 March	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253325 6253
<b>Lake Florence, Rolleston River, Arthur's Pass:</b> Swimming options in Lake Florence, maybe. This trip was canned mid last year due to cold and snow. Involves traveling up the Rolleston River from the Otira valley and camping in a hanging lake at the head waters. Options for side trips to climb Mt Armstrong and Anderson Peak at the head of the lake or round trips are possible.	Grade: Hard Closed: 21 Feb Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Weekend 1-2 March	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
<b>Libretto Range:</b> A weekend trip that takes only a day and a bit out of your weekend! You can get all those chores done on Saturday morning before we head off for the Boyle village mid afternoon. We climb Faust and set up camp beside the tarns near the top, a great place for dinner and sunset watching. Sunday will be a longish day spent enjoying great views from the rolling Lewis tops as we walk the full length of the Libretto range. We'll cross over Faust, Mephistopheles, Mount Lucia, and many other peaks before dropping down Foleys Creek, back to the land of mortals and the road home.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 21 Feb Map: M31 M32 Approx: \$40
Sunday 2 March (note early start - contact leader)	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931
<b>Dome via the Edwards:</b> The first part of our two-pronged attack on the Dome (1838m), an impressive bump between the Edwards and the Waimakariri. This is the moderate version, going in up a bush spur or via the beautiful Edwards valley using the track that continues on to the Edwards Hut. Whichever way, much of the ascent is steep, but perfectly do-able, and leads us out onto the impressive rocky top. It will be a long day so we'll make an early start - make sure you check in with the leader in advance.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 28 Feb Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Sunday 2 March (note early start - contact leader)	Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155
<b>Dome via the South Ridge:</b> Part two of the double-Dome-day. This moderate-hard version involves a bit of scrambling, and some short narrow steep exposed sections of ridge. We go in via Douglas Stream into a lovely glaciated cirque, then up a cunning route around the bluffs to gain the south ridge, about 400m below the summit. This is where the scrambling comes in and you do need to be happy with a bit of exposure and more bits with a tendency to the vertical - although the hand-holds are good where you need them! In return you avoid the bash up the scree and pop out onto the top of the Dome almost before you expect to. If your esteemed day trip organiser can do it (with a helmet) then it can't be that bad. The descent is into the Edwards and out with the moderate group. Probably an early start - contact the leader.	Grade: ModHard Closed: 28 Feb Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Wednesday 5 March Evening 6:00pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get Fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car part at 6:00pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and maintain your uphill fitness for all those summer trips still left to do.	Grade: Moderate Just turn up Map: Approx: None
Thursday 6 March	Club Night
<b>Everest Base Camp:</b> It's Everest Base Camp with Graham Foulds. Unbelievably he has been to Nepal some 10 times and E.B.C. 4 times! Graham has also done some teaching at a school in the Khari Khola region. It will be fantastic to get some insight into why Sir Ed. was so driven to help these people.	

Weekend 8-9 March	Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280
<b>Binser/Casey:</b> A standard easy to moderate (almost) round trip in the Arthur's Pass area with good tracks and a big hut for Saturday night. Suitable for people new to overnight tramping or families but all must be capable of tramping with a pack for 6/7 hours. Valleys, flats, terraces, river bed, swamp, old abandoned homesteads, bush-with-something-other-than-beech and bush-with-beech-only . . . this trip has it all, including a great hut for Saturday night. The trip will leave from Jenny's place in Hornby.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closed: 28 Feb Map: L33 Approx: \$40
Weekend 8-9 March	Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922338 0922
<b>Waitaha River, Scamper Torrent Hut, Smyth Range:</b> Trip to the Waitaha Valley to visit one of the remote huts in the area. Heading up to Scamper Torrent Hut with access to lovely tops country between the Waitaha and Wanganui catchments. Options of round trip to Kiwi Flats in the Waitaha via the Smyth tops and Headlong Spur or over into the Wanganui via Karnback ridge. Check out remote huts website for more details.	Grade: ModHard Closed: 28 Feb Map: I34 Approx: \$45
Sunday 9 March early start 7am at Church Corner	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
<b>Goat Hill:</b> A nice little 1650m bump directly above Otira opposite Mt Barron. It's an area we don't do as much as Arthur's Pass and fully deserves a bit more attention, especially with the lovely ridge route you can do with this trip. The route starts near the Otira bridge and travels up a good DOC track to the bushline. From there we will follow the ridge around to the summit. The return will be via the long southern ridge above the Deception and then down an old track back to the cars. Early start 7am at Church Corner.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 6 Mar Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Sunday 9 March	Leader: David Henson 942-3954
<b>Takamatua stock route - Hinewai - Purple Peak:</b> Here's one we have not done for about 15 years. It uses two of the historic double fenced bridle tracks in the Akaroa district which are legal access. Starting from Takamatua Valley we climb to the summit road which we follow for about 3 kms and then divert through the upper part of glorious Hinewai reserve. We descend to Akaroa via Purple Peak track. A short car shuttle is involved. About 14 km and 600 metres height gain in easy country with time for coffee, etc. at Akaroa or Little River.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 6 Mar Map: N36 Approx: \$15
Wednesday 12 March Evening 6:00pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get Fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car part at 6:00pm, for 1 hour's brink tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and maintain your uphill fitness for all those summer trips still left to do.	Grade: Moderate Just Turn up Map: Approx: None
Thursday 13 March	Club Night
<b>Gear night-weekend packs.:</b> With all the innovation lately lets look at what's on the market these days. If you have purchased a pack in the last 2 years do please bring it along and lets compare and contrast the various options. Weight being a constant issue. My own weekend pack is 2.75kg empty!	
Saturday 15 March	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
<b>Hawdon Hut:</b> We'll drive to the public shelter near Kidson Lodge, off the Mt White road and then wander up the Hawdon river to to check out the new (possibly even unfinished) Hawdon Hut for lunch. The new Hawdon Hut is about 1km further upstream than the site of the old hut (burnt down in 2005). The Hawdon is a beautiful Arthur's Pass river valley with good travel, partly on faint 4WD track and partly across the open river flats, with beech forest either side. You'll get wet feet - it's not so bad when you get used to it! - and the total tramp is 8-9km each way, about 200m very gentle height gain.	Grade: Easy Closes: 13 Mar Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Weekend 15-16 March	Leader: TBA Contact Jeff Hall 338 0922
<b>Waimak Col:</b> Spectacular scenery in the heart of Arthur's Pass National Park.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 6 Mar Map: K33 Approx: \$30
Sunday 16 March extended day trip - Saturday night at the Club Hut	Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
<b>Mt Griffin:</b> (1516m) is a classic West-Coast style peak over past Otira, with an old serpentine mine. There's a good track through the bush and the scrub, it's a lovely area, you get great views over the coast . . . Wouldn't it be good to be able to do it without carrying a weekend pack? The only trouble is that it's such a long drive. The solution is an extended day trip: go up to the Club Hut on Saturday night, get a brisk start in the morning and be able to do the 1400m height gain to the top at a reasonable rate, and have a great day out with something a bit different to our usual day trips. Even if you don't feel like going all the way to the top the mines at 1200m are a fascinating place to explore and you can still find bits of serpentine exposed in the old workings.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 13 Mar Map: K33 Approx: \$35
Wednesday 19 March Evening 6:00pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get Fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car part at 6:00pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Aimed to raise your heart rate and maintain your uphill fitness for all those summer trips still left to do. NB: Next week is Easter so no Get Fit for Tramping session. Following week 2nd April is the last session - daylight saving ends these sessions.	Grade: Moderate Just turn up Map: Approx: None
Thursday 20 March	No Club Night
<b>NO CLUB NIGHT:</b> as it is Easter. Hope you are able to go on an Easter trip.	
Friday 21 March	Leader: Not available
<b>Easter day trips:</b> No, you're right - there are no Day Trips on over Easter. One and all, your trip leading team are all heading off for longer trips so go on - use this opportunity to explore the joys of overnight tramping yourself. Happy Easter - Day Trip Disorganiser.	Grade: All Closes: 20 Mar Map: non Approx: \$TBA
Long Weekend 22-25 March	Leader: Bruce Miller 349-3611
<b>Ball Pass:</b> One of New Zealand's classic mountain pass traverses with some of the best views of Mt Cook available anywhere. Come and join in this great trip at an optimum time of year when the weather should be at its best. This trip is always a highlight and will start with a walk up to the old Ball hut before climbing to camp high on the Tasman glacier side of the Pass under the imposing Caroline face. Sunday will see us climbing up to the pass before descending the Hooker glacier side. Ice axe and crampons required.	Grade: Moderate (requires snowskills) Closes: 13 Mar Map: H36 Approx: \$60
Long Weekend 22-25 March	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
<b>Trudge Col:</b> Trudge Col is a classic Arthur's Pass trip accessing some of the most remote parts of the park. The trip starts up the Hawdon valley, a gentle start. The col itself is not too tough although a steep climb. The stream down on the other side is very interesting but Adrian has chosen to go over the tops and down the ridge - an alternative route which is meant to be better. The return route is via the upper Otehae and over Walker Pass. Talk to Adrian for more details. All in all a good challenging trip close to home and one every CTC trumper worth his/her salt should do one day. Take this chance.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 13 Mar Map: K33 L33 Approx: \$40
Thursday 27 March	Club Night
<b>Newsletter Night and Trampwise:</b> Newsletter folding and Trampwise - Ablutions, Washing up and Toileting. Hut and Campsite protocol. Is it okay to clean your teeth at the water tank, fling your teabags in the river, use washing up liquid to wash your greasy pans and swim in the tarn? Come along and take part in a lively discussion on both what is best for the environment and courteous to your fellow trampers.	

Saturday 29 March	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
<b>Redcliffe Hill:</b> 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: Easy/Mod Closes: 27 Mar Map: K35 Approx: \$20
Saturday 29 March (Cap of 10 club members and 2 non members)	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<b>Wildling Pine Control Day 1 - Cave Stream area:</b> Efforts to control the wilding pines are now being co-ordinated by the newly formed Waimakariri Ecological Landscape Restoration Alliance. The Alliance brings together more than 20 groups from local, regional, central govt, runholders, tourism interests, ski field operators, Transit NZ, Transpower, Orion, DOC & environmental groups. The plan is to raise about \$1 million over the next 8 years to remove the existing wildings. This is great news. As usual, we are being organised by ECAN. This is a great way to fund raise for the club, and to have fun, by donating your time and effort on the day. Funds raised will go towards club equipment. ECAN will prepare a plan for the site, provide tools, and help on the day. On Day1, working in the Cave Stream area, the club will provide 3 cars taking a total of 12 people - 10 of which can be club members (2 people will be non-club members assigned to us by ECAN). Be in quick to get your name on the list before it sells out. Names oversubscribed will be put on the wait-list - the leader will let you know if you are wait-listed. In return, please let the leader know immediately if you cannot go on the trip when your name is down to go - so that others can be put in the finite car space to maximise the club's fund-raising.	Grade: Easy/Work Closes: 27 Mar Map: K34 Approx: None
Weekend 29-30 March	Leader: John Henson 342-3311
<b>Polar Range:</b> Up the Hawdon River and the north branch of Discovery Stream to a high camp. Travel along the Polar Range and drop into the East Edwards. A car shuffle will be required but a great opportunity to visit some of the best country in Arthur's Pass.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 20 Mar Map: K33 Approx: \$40
Sunday 30 March early start	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
<b>Avalanche Peak - Mt Bealey:</b> A club classic, with a bit of everything: three peaks, 3km of ridge-top travel, great views, some gentle scrambling, a good scree run, a river, and a bush bash. We go up Avalanche Peak (1833m) the usual direct way, then traverse the ridge tops over Lyell Peak to Mt Bealey (1838m). The route calls for a bit of scrambling experience on mediocre rock but there's no major exposure. From Mt Bealey we descend scree to Rough Creek and then splash, bush bash and boulder hop our way out to the road. Note early start - contact the leader.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 27 Mar Map: K33 Approx: \$20
Wednesday 2 April Evening 6:00pm	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<b>Get Fit for Tramping:</b> Meet in Mt Vernon car part at 6:00pm, for 1 hour's brisk tramping. Last session - daylight saving makes them impractical. Nibbles afterwards at Susan's for those that turn up.	Grade: Moderate Just turn up Map: Approx: None
Thursday 3 April	Club Night
<b>Iceland:</b> Lets go to Iceland with our guide Penny Coffey. During this 2 week walking tour they visited Fjords, geothermal areas, volcanic lava deserts and crater lakes. We have never been to Iceland before so this show will be special!	

Saturday 5 April	Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913
<b>Broken River coal mines:</b> On this trip we drive right around the back of Lakes Grasmere and Pearson from the tiny settlement of Cass, along the Craigieburn Valley road which parallels the railway. Parking near Avoca, we find the remains of the old tramway walk in to explore the lower Broken River valley, where coal used to be mined and there are still some old relics of machinery, boilers etc. A lovely area and a nice easy trip with around 200-400m height gain depending on how far our exploration takes us, and up to 5km walking each way.	Grade: Easy Closes: 3 Apr Map: L34 Approx: \$20
Saturday 5 April (Cap of 13 club members and 2 non members)	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<b>Wilding Pine Control Day 2 - Constitution Hill area:</b> See the Day 1 (Saturday 29 March) for the general good news. On Day 2 the combined 4WD clubs will be providing transport to Constitution Hill adjoining the area we worked on last year. This will have harder terrain, some very hard, compared to Day 1. The club aims to provide 13 members. A further 2 non-members will be assigned to us by ECAN. Our total allotment is 15 people. Be in quick to get your name on the list before it sells out. Names oversubscribed will be put on the wait-list - the leader will let you know if you are wait-listed. In return, please let the leader know immediately if you cannot go on the trip when your name is down to go - so that others can go to maximise the club's fund-raising.	Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 3 Apr Map: K34 Approx: None
Weekend 5-6 April	Leader: Stewart Smith 980-7913980 7913
<b>Gerhardt Spur West Coast:</b> Gerhardt Spur is a long ridge which divides the Diedrich and Muriel Creek catchments between the Whitcombe River and the Te Aroha Rivers. There are fantastic views from the Biv out over the Kowhiterangi Plain to the Tasman Sea in a neat area but the track is overgrown and will provide an energetic weekend. Options for a crossover trip.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 27 Mar Map: J33 Approx: \$60
Weekend 5-6 April	Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392
<b>Hanmer Base Camp:</b> A good chance for a weekend break , with as much activity as you wish . Full day hikes, easy bush or forest walks, mountain biking, or just an easy soak in the pools. Craig will organize the accommodation so talk to him regarding the final plans.	Grade: Easy/All Closes: 27 Mar Map: N31 N32 Approx: \$60
Saturday 12 April	Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392
<b>Helicopter Hill:</b> We'll park by the shelter just off the main highway at the entrance to Craigieburn Forest Park and walk up through the beech forest and out onto the open tussock top of the Helicopter Hill (1256m, about 400m height gain). Not quite as big as the main Craigieburns range in the background, Helicopter Hill still gives panoramic views of the Castle Hill Basin. For the return journey we have the option of looping back via Lyndon Saddle and the ski field road, which would make 6-7km round trip.	Grade: Easy Closes: 10 Apr Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Saturday 12 April (or Sunday 13 April, depending on the weather)	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<b>Vertical Rope Skills:</b> Come along and dangle with dexterity! Beginners can learn the basics of abseiling, prusiking, lowering & safety methods; and then we will move on to more advanced techniques such as multi-stage abseils, use of a retrieval line for extra-long abseils, multi-rope lowering and pulley systems - to enable you to deal with awkward situations. Add these skills to your tramping portfolio, & extend your possibilities. Develop a head for heights without having your feet on the ground.	Grade: Training Closes: 10 Apr Map: Approx: \$10
Weekend 12-13 April	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
<b>Lake Mann Tops:</b> A good weekend trip with plenty of variety for all. Easy tussock valley, plenty of bush climbing up to the rolling tops and a lovely mountain lake. The plan is to return along the tops on Sunday before dropping down an untracked (but mostly open) spur to the valley again. A good trip for all moderate trampers.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 3 Apr Map: L32 M32 Approx: \$40

Sunday 13 April	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<p><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!</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 10 Apr Map: M34 Approx: \$15</p>
Saturday 19 April (note early start - 7am at Church Corner)	Leader: Sue Hely 337-5453
<p><b>Godley Peak:</b> This could be one of the last opportunities for a good moderate hard trip for a few months now that the clocks have changed. Godley Peak (2087m) is at the end of the Palmer Range, overlooking the confluence of the Wilberforce and Rakaia rivers. See if you can find the elusive Mother Millers Spring when you're up there. After crossing a little preliminary light scrub on the flats we'll go in via one of the long spurs - nothing difficult to negotiate, but a sustained climb of over 1500m and about 10km each way so it will be a long day. John Robert Godley, the man who met the first 4 ships, is regarded as the founder of the Canterbury settlement and had a strong influence on the conditions of those early pastoral land leases.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 17 Apr Map: K35 Approx: \$25</p>
Weekend 19-20 April	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344351 2344
<p><b>Lake Mavis / Mt Oates area:</b> The general objective is a trip into the Lake Mavis area with options of a cross over trip from the Mingha into the Edwards or other options around this area. Details yet to be finalised.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 10 Apr Map: K33 Approx: \$40</p>
Sunday 20 April (could be early start - contact leader) Leader: Penny Coffey 332-7182(phone only before 8pm)	Leader: Penny Coffey 332-7182(phone only before 8pm)
<p><b>Little Mount Peel (and maybe a bit further):</b> Did you know that Peel Forest is the Fern capital of New Zealand? It is a remnant of a magnificent podocarp forest that once covered a huge area in mid-Canterbury and, with its mild moist climate, has the highest diversity of ferns in New Zealand. This tramp will take us right into this wonderful area, ascending through the vegetation layers out onto the tussock slopes of Little Mt Peel. Try your fern identification skills en-route - tree ferns in the lower forest, tufted ground ferns such as crown fern (piupiu), with prickly and smooth shield ferns and spleenworts on track margins and steep shaded banks. The climbing clubmoss scrambles up and over other plants like a vine. At the tree line and even beyond you can find mountain kiokio. Clubmosses, filmy ferns and the adder's tongue fern dot the higher shrublands and grasslands. Even at the summit of Little Mt Peel (1311m), at least nine different ferns have been found amongst the snow tussock. There's a little hut (the Tristram Harper Memorial Hut) for lunch and if there is time, enthusiastic trampers can explore further towards Middle Mt Peel. The ascent is almost 1000m but on a good well-formed track so this trip should suit anyone from easy-moderate trampers keen on getting a bit of a stretch upwards.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 17 Apr Map: J37 Approx: \$20</p>
Long Weekend 25-27 April	Leader: Bernard Parawa 981-4931981 4931
<p><b>Judges Creek:</b> Bernard was going to do this trip last Labour weekend, but the Rainbow road was closed by a slip. We hope for better luck this time. The plan is to travel up the Rainbow road on the Thursday night to find a hut or a camp. Heading up Judges Creek there are various circuits possible, with the most likely being over into Lees Creek. Check with Bernard for final details. Take this opportunity to go to a little visited area, with a wonderful leader on this bonus long weekend before winter comes .</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 17 Apr Map: N30 Approx: \$45</p>

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# Trip Reports

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Thursday 13 December

## The great cooker race

Once again the club night was abuzz with the excitement of the annual cooker race, or at least 10 people showed some level of interest. The long standing champion Alan "Cooker" Ross looked supremely confident in his equipment with only 2 others willing to test their heat in the battle of the boiling water.

This year's field was an interesting mix of Gas canister stove, a trusty but slow to start MSR, and the Ross Rocket. A measured amount of water was placed in matching tins and a check was made that Alan's did not hold hot water as had been suggested in previous years. A quick check that the pin was out on the fire extinguisher and we were off.

The Gas cooker and the Ross Rocket were off to a quick start with the MSR struggling under the weight of many broken matches. All looked normal until Alan's face showed the look of a worried man, the Ross rocket was failing. Rather than the normal space shuttle launch it was looking more like a very wet sky rocket (more fizz than whoosh).

As the assembled crowd realised that a new champion was about to emerge frantic pumping of various nobs of the Ross Rocket failed to avert the result. Gas was the winner on the night followed by the MSR with the Ross Rocket failing to even get to the boil.

Alan was magnanimous in defeat if slightly puzzled at the failure of his trusty equipment. Better luck next year Alan and I promise that I will not empty your fuel out next time.

John Henson

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16-17 February 2008

## (not quite) Buckland Peaks

This was Lynette's Sawcut Gorge trip weekend, with hordes of enthusiastic would-be gorge swimmers queuing to sign up . . . As the rain poured down on Friday I re-read Sven's description – deep gorge . . . avoid high river flow . . . log jam would be dangerous . . . jump into foaming pool . . . umm . . . It seems that I was not the only one to get cold feet, or at least to want to keep my cold feet dry. Soon emails were flying in all directions, suggestions and counter suggestions and counter-counter suggestions breeding like rabbits (Jonathan's wins the prize – "Another plan is to Bug the Ashley in flood!! It's over 50cumeecs.... can't do that very often!"). Lynette did the only thing possible – handed over leadership to Bernhard and told everyone to sort it out for themselves. In the event a measure of sanity unusual in the tramping club prevailed and six of us settled on going over to Buckland Peaks on the West Coast on Saturday.

Susan created some small confusion by first of all strongly advocating for bikes to be taken to speed up travel along the 4wd track at the start, and then not bringing her own bike – something about texting that she had changed her mind. So – sans bikes – we drove over to just short of Westport, located the road end and set off. The sun had come out, the 4wd track was not too bad at all, and soon we were heading up the steep well-marked track on the damp steaming bush-clad spur. We had lunch before the little lookout encouragingly marked 'Halfway House' and made the bushline a couple of hours later. Bernhard's walking pole sported his elephant-head-toboggan-caller again – presumably in case the rogue sled had taken refuge on the coast - but despite repeated trumpeting there was no answering call. The hut sits on the side of a basin about a hundred metres below the main ridge so we decided to enjoy the sunshine and views for a bit before descending . . . Suddenly Susan, Richard and I noticed that Bernhard, Rodney and Jonathan had executed a stealthy and highly-ungentlemanly flanking manoeuvre and were heading fast for the hut and the best bunks. We scrambled along and down the rocky track after them just in time to admire Jonathan's ability to claim a bunk by throwing the entire contents of his pack at it from a hundred paces (years of practice clearly). In this case though the skill was not totally necessary since there were 6 bunks and nobody else there.

Being experienced trampers, we opted not to try to get up to the Peaks themselves that evening, but assorted parties made forays onto the nearby ridges at various points during the preparation and consumption of tea and dinner. It is a beautiful area, with the Peaks themselves looking almost Mt Owen-like, scattered with huge grey boulders.

Being experienced trampers we were of course totally unsurprised when the next day dawned not fair and clear but covered in with thick grey clag - soon disintegrating into rain. After a leisurely breakfast Bernhard made the decision to pack up and head up onto the ridge again, and go down unless it showed distinct signs of clearing. On the ridge the wind was clearly westerly and the clag was if anything thickening rather than dispersing. Down we went. Rodney shot off – hard to tell if he wanted to go that fast or just built up so much momentum that he could not stop on the extremely wet and slippery track. The rest of us followed at a more sedate pace. After dropping a few hundred metres it was much warmer and sunnier – so much so that a bit further down again Richard and I decided that it would be worth having a look at the top again. So we slogged back up, encouraged that it still seemed to be warm and sunny as we got higher. Being trampers almost as experienced as Jonathan and Susan, however, we were still not very surprised when we popped out of the bushline and the clag promptly and very emphatically rolled back in. We wanted to find a hat lost the evening before anyway, so we wandered on up until – was there no limit to the number of optimistic experienced trampers on the trip? - there was a trumpeting sound and the figure of Uncle Bernhard loomed out of the murk. We located the hat, had lunch in an atmospheric basin of mist, and then headed back down.

The 4wd track seemed a wee bit longer and more uphill than on the way in, but we were back at the cars before 5 pm. Clarisa's in Reefton provided a much-needed pot of tea etc and has been duly added to the list of Good Places to Have a Snack at on the Way Home.

Experienced trampers: Bernhard, Jonathan, Susan, Rodney, Richard, Jenny



Rodney on the ridge above the hut



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February 2008

## The epitome of fashionable elegance . . .

Dear Aunty Ice Axe

I was recently on an overnight tramping trip, and when everyone got to the hut I realised that I just don't have the right gear. Everybody else all had exactly the same - and I mean exactly - electric-blue down jackets and those plastic shoes with holes in. What's going on - was I hallucinating after too much glucose drink on the way up? Were they all really part of the club cheer-leading team? Is my tramping wardrobe malfunctioning?

Out-of-it

Dear Out

Fear not - What you have experienced has a perfectly natural explanation entirely independent of the potent cocktail of e-numbers, electrolytes and energy food consumed by the average trumper for their morning tea. If we adopt a medical analogy (at an early age Aunty aspired to be a doctor, but a career as an agony aunt has providing a perfectly good alternative opportunity to tell other people what to do while doing the exact opposite oneself), the rather startling sight of an entire hut of trampers clad in identical electric-blue down jackets can be considered a symptom of Sellout-sale Syndrome. Sellout-sale var. Fairydown in this case. This strain proved to be especially virulent as few trampers' immune systems or wallets could withstand the sudden exposure to such large amounts of gear at such low prices. It was also highly infectious, transmitted so rapidly by word of mouth that within a week few who had been in contact with others who had already been 'saled' had not also succumbed. It is rumoured that some cases with particularly low immunity/high overdraft limits have a different sleeping bag for every day of the week and a perfect russian doll of tents from half-a-person up to army-catering size.

However, it is also clear that susceptibility to Sellout-sale syndrome decreases markedly after the first few attacks. The most recent manifestation, var. Macpac, seems to have had considerably less effect on the wardrobes and finances of the tramping community. Once one has stocked up with a life-times' worth of gear, only firm believers in reincarnation can be similarly tempted a second time. In addition, there must be a natural limit to further outbreaks as the number of respected gear manufacturers falls enough to make them rarer than the tapdancing tuatara in the endangered species stakes.

Aunty considers it her duty to keep an eye on outdoor fashions so as to be able to advise the sartorially challenged amongst her readership, such as yourself, and has noted that Ground Effect gear is now seen everywhere. Personally, Aunty would not wear this particular brand at the climbing wall, where the less ground effect the better, one would have thought. Aunty shares the attitude of most trampers to climbing – scramble happily around on precipitous loose rock at impossible angles but turn pale and freeze in fear when offered a rope and something to hold onto that does not try to run away when you touch it. Aunty's climbing and mountain-biking adventures were both (to get in the gratuitous pretentious literary moment that has become Aunty's trademark and paraphrase the philosopher Hume on the life of man) 'nasty, brutish and short'. Suitably baggy and well-padded clothing from the aforesaid manufacturer has therefore been particularly useful during convalescence. Work is now in hand to persuade them to incorporate a good concealed pocket for that other guaranteed Aunty-remedy in cases of nervous shock and exhaustion – a flask of 'Old Growler' 95% proof. After a few sips of that one electric-blue down jacket more or less in the fizzle of bright lights appearing to bounce off the retina is immaterial, and plastic shoes with holes in seem like a positively great idea as backups in case your tramping boots give out mid-way through a two-week epic in Fjordland.

Happy shopping

Aunty Ice Axe

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Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor ([editor@ctc.org.nz](mailto:editor@ctc.org.nz))  
by Sunday, 23 March 2008 – Thanks.

# Club Projector

Where has the club slide projector gone?

Missing in Action, last seen hiding in the corner after  
being up staged by the club data projector.

Please phone Jim on 376 5191 if you know where it  
is.