



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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

If any opinions expressed in this newsletter represent Club policy, it's by pure coincidence.

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No. 7

President	Richard Wills	389-8671	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	325-5001
Vice President	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	Trip Organiser (day)	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349-2280	(weekend)	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

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	Free
Beacons	

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.

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.

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. 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*.

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

Notices

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

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

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

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

Club Hut: When using the Club Hut, please be careful when changing the taps when arriving and leaving. The consequences of cocking this up (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 or 349-2280).

Paddy Goldstone, 26 December 1911 - 11 September 2008: Patricia 'Paddy' Goldstone joined the Club in the 1930s and went on many day trips in the early days of the Club. She came to the 75th anniversary last year and cut the cake for us. Paddy was very active in the community, including fund raising and campaigning for people with disabilities. She also became a seasoned traveller later in her life, and clearly retained a love of the outdoors - "if there was water she would swim in it, if there was a hill she would climb it". The club is proud to have had her as a member.

Peter Croft, 1930 - 2008: Older members of the Tramping Club will also remember Peter Croft who passed away recently. Peter was a member of the CTC in the 1950s and was employed by the Arthur's Pass National Park Board as a Ranger in 1958. He was appointed Chief Ranger from 1959 - 1977. He also spent a year in Nepal as a ranger helping establish a national park. Peter finished his working days as Chief Ranger for Nelson Lakes and retired in 1988.

Possum, rat and stoat control: DOC are commencing their 1080 possum, rat and stoat control programme in the upper Maruia Valley. It is planned for 15 November to 15 December, weather allowing. They will be spreading the baits by helicopter. Contact DOC's Greymouth office (03 768 0427) if you have any questions. DOC are also consulting about 1080 control in the Otira area.

New Members Welcome: A warm welcome to the following new members: Bitten Plesner and Stuart Macaan.

Classifieds

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

External Events of interest

Alpine Recreation: Alpine Recreation wishes to announce that despite the tragic loss of their Director, Gottlieb Braun-Elwert, who died suddenly of a ruptured aorta while ski touring with New Zealand's Prime Minister on 14 August, the company is continuing to be directed by Gottlieb's wife Anne, supported by a strong team of loyal guides. Gottlieb and Anne have been operating Alpine Recreation for 27 years, and have been responsible for establishing the Ball Pass operation in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park. Anyone who knew Gottlieb or has done the Ball Pass Crossing may be interested to view www.alpinerecreation.com/gottlieb – in particular Colin Monteath's photo tribute.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 1 November

Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006

Pigeon Bay Walkway: Pigeon Bay is a cliff-top walkway on the Peninsula. It starts on the shore at Pigeon Bay Domain and then climbs up to a 4WD track which takes you out to Wakaroa Point (7-8k one-way). From here you can see the full sweep of headlands around from Christchurch to the Kaikouras. Return the same way, making 15-16k in total. Pigeon Bay was settled before Christchurch was founded, by the Hay and Sinclair families. The Sinclairs gave their name to Mt Sinclair and driving down Pigeon Bay Road you pass the Hay Scenic Reserve: small, but – as Mark Pickering comments – notable for having one of the last stands of lowland podocarp forest left on the Peninsula.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 30 Oct
Map: N36
Approx: \$20

Saturday 1 November

Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111

Torlesse: It's not very often that a day trip organiser gets people actually volunteering to lead something, but there's nothing like not giving people what they want to promote self-sufficiency and initiative: "There don't seem to be any mod or modhard trips on Saturday's recently, so it seems that the only way I can go on one is to lead one myself" commented your noble leader. Torlesse is 1961m, about 1300m total height gain, with a few scrambly bits. Charles Torlesse, a surveyor for the Canterbury provincial government, was the first European to climb the slopes of the range around 1849. The first track over Porters Pass was made by a few keen men with picks and shovels 1858-9 - thinking how much hard work that was will make slogging up the last few hundred metres of the eponymous torlesse rock (aka weetbix) scree seem positively easy.

Grade: Moderate
Closed: 30 Oct
Map: L34
Approx: \$20

Weekend 1-2 November

Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275

Lagoon Saddle: A trip designed for club members with families with some previous experience, this trip will tramp up to the Lagoon saddle and camp near the biv. From there possible day trips include Mt Bruce and up towards Mid Hill. We will leave on Saturday morning and camp on the Saturday night. All families should be self contained. This trip follows a section of the Cass-Lagoon track.

Grade: Easy/family
Closed: 23 Oct
Map: J34
Approx: \$40

Wednesday 5 November Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get Fit for the Club's January Tramping 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.	Grade: All Closed: 30 Oct Map: Approx: None

Thursday 6 November	Club Night
What to pack for an overnight tramp? This night is targeted specifically at people new to tramping or new to overnight trips. So if you are one of these about to take the step into the wonderful world of weekend tramps in huts or tents do please try to come along. We will go through all the gear from pack through to torch.	

Saturday 8 November	Leader: David Henson 942-3954
"James Youngman's Journey" tramp: James Youngman and his family arrived in Lyttelton on the Zealandia 21st September 1858. He was advised to try Akaroa for work so about November 1858 he paid 10 shillings to travel across the Harbour and then walked 25 miles, through a lot of bush and over Mount Sinclair to reach Akaroa. He didn't get work, so walked back again. Finally he walked to Kaiapoi and ended up operating his own sawmill in Oxford. We are going to commemorate the journey 150 years on with this tramp, which covers the two main summits traversed by James Youngman. No promises of a sawmill in Oxford as a return for your efforts, but this trip will be an opportunity to connect with the real human history of our area as well as – for the more prosaic/less historically-minded – an exploration of lovely Summit Road tracks. The walk will begin via Montgomery Reserve near Hilltop then follow the Summit Walkway around Mt Sinclair to Lunch on Mt Fitzgerald then return to Pettigrews Rd crossing the actual summit of Mt Sinclair. Gaiters (knee-height, not ankle) recommended – there has been much regeneration of tussock and Spaniard-grass on the summit.	Grade: Easy tramping, + biking options Closes: 6 Nov Map: N36 Approx: \$20

Weekend 8-9 November	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
Lewis tops: A classic Lewis Pass tops trip traversing fairly easy tops from the pass to Rough creek with an overnight stop at Brass monkey Biv. Great views over Lake Christabel are gained on the Sunday before the descent to the road via the Rough Creek track. There are tracks up to the tops and down from the tops but the section in between is not tracked. Depending on the group this route may vary, possibly starting in the Nina.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 30 Oct Map: L31 Approx: \$50

Sunday 9 November	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Linked-Up Missing Link: Back in June Susan and her intrepid band of explorers mounted an ambitious reconnaissance mission to link up Mt Richardson and Mt Thomas by finding a way through the beech woods, gullies and streams between the two. After an entirely accidental two-pronged attack and some imaginative navigation, they emerged bruised but triumphant. In September, Doug and Sue went back and put in some hard work cutting some of the track for the new trail blazed metaphorically by the first group. Come and enjoy the fruits of their labours – before the wasps reclaim the area for the summer.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 6 Nov Map: M34 Approx: \$15

Wednesday 12 November Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get Fit for the Club's January Tramping 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.	Grade: All Closes: 6 Nov Map: Approx: None
Thursday 13 November	Club Night
NO CLUB TONIGHT: IT'S SHOW WEEKEND: If you come to club tonight you will be the only one. If you are lucky you will be on your way to a tramp!	
Long Weekend 14-16 November	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Mt Tapuae-o-Uenuku: The club hasn't done Tapi for a while but Show weekend is the perfect time to climb this classic trampers' mountain. It is not a technical mountain but it does require ice axes and crampons and the ability to use them. There have been some great club trips to Tapi in the past: the famous Peter the Navigator trip, the trip that Joy blew away, and ask Alan Ross some time how many attempts he had before he made it to the top. The first day is up the Hodder river to camp or stay at the huts. There are many river crossings this day. Saturday will see the attempt on the summit and Sunday will see us retrace our steps down the Hodder after a successful weekend.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 6 Nov Map: O30 O29 Approx: \$65
Saturday 15 November	Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022
Hallelujah Flat: A nice day trip option for Show Weekend, Hallelujah Flat is about 8k up the Andrews Track (on the way to the Casey Hut) from Andrews Shelter. If it is a fine day we could go up the Andrews Stream so be prepared to get your boots wet. The only steep section is right at the start – a short climb onto a terrace and then into the bush for more gentle gradients to about 300m height gain altogether, red beech forest, and then a gently undulating descent to Andrews Stream. You'll come out into grassy flats and then Hallelujah flat itself, dotted with hebes and a perfect place for lunch. Return the same way, and if it is a hot day there is a good swimming hole to cool off in when you get back. "It is a short walk from the hallelujah to the hoot" (Vladimir Nabokov).	Grade: Easy Closes: 13 Nov Map: L33 Approx: \$25
Wednesday 19 November Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get Fit for the Club's January Tramping 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.	Grade: All Just turn up. Map: None Approx: None
Thursday 20 November	Club Night
Arthurs Pass through 50 years by John Charles: We have John Charles to talk and show some slides about his life in Arthurs Pass. John has lived in the Pass for 50 years and worked for the National Park Board from 1959 until 1988. Before that he was a Government deer culler. He has also travelled to Antarctica many times including a trip to work on repairs to Scott's hut. All older and former members are welcome to attend. COME AND HEAR A LEGEND!	

Saturday 22 November	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Peak Hill: Take a drive out to tranquil Lake Coleridge and climb the Peak Hill (1240m) – Pat Barrett rates it ‘unequivocally outstanding’ as a viewpoint and a ‘special place for mood and light’ and he has surely seen a few of the best! There is good access via a well graded track up to a small saddle from where you can see into both the Rakaia and out over Coleridge. From the saddle we'll continue up through the tussocks to the broad summit at 1240m, to give about 600m height gain altogether. A great trip at any time of year.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 20 Nov Map: K35 Approx: \$25
Weekend 22-23 November	Leader: Jim Western 376-5191
3 mile circuit Lake Sumner: A round trip with tracks to follow each day and a big comfortable hut for Saturday night. The first day follows the good track around the shore of Lake Sumner over the low Kiwi Saddle to the Hope Kiwi hut. On Sunday tracks lead across to the 3 mile stream and over another low saddle to the McMillan Stream and back to the car. 4WDs welcome.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 13 Nov Map: L32 Approx: \$50
Sunday 23 November Early start – contact leader	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
Mt Alexander direct: A bit of a challenge for all the hard trampers. Mt Alexander in a day involves crossing the Taramakau and then up from 250m to 1958m (and back again). It's steep and you should bring a good head torch. Please make sure you talk to the leader for this trip and note – early start!	Grade: ModHard Closes: 20 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Wednesday 26 November Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Get Fit for the Club's January Tramping 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.	Grade: All Closes: 20 Nov Map: Approx: None
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 Closes: 27 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Saturday 29 November	Contact person (leader TBA): Warwick Dowling 981-2045
DOC's extra Wilding Pines Day: DOC 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! Location etc not known at this stage but it'll be the usual get-out-there-and-pull/chop/hack/saw-them-till-they-die format. DOC will arrange transport from Christchurch and Warwick will coordinate a trip list but 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: 20 Nov Map: TBA Approx:

Weekend 29-30 November	Leader: Leader required
<p>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.</p>	<p>Grade: All Closes: 20 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$50</p>
Sunday 30 November	Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655
<p>Camp Saddle: Camp Saddle is 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.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 27 Nov Map: K34 Approx: \$25</p>
Wednesday 3 December Evening	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<p>Get Fit for the Club's January Tramping 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 Closes: 27 Nov Map: Approx: None</p>
Thursday 4 December Club Night	
<p>ANNUAL BBQ: Tonight is the Annual BBQ held at the usual Halswell Quarry at Findlay 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>

<p>Sunday 7 December Note: Could be early start - contact leader</p>	<p>Leader: Kerrie Skinner & Scott Fowler 386-2850</p>
<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 itself 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>
<p>Saturday 13 December</p>	<p>Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/family Closes: 11 Dec Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>
<p>Weekend 13-14 December</p>	<p>Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 4 Dec Map: K33 Approx:</p>
<p>Sunday 14 December</p>	<p>Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 11 Dec Map: K33 Approx: \$25</p>
<p>Sunday 25 January</p>	
<p>for future presentation ... : Susan has done it three times; Kerrie's done it twice but Scott has only done it once; Stu's done it in less than six hours; you can go all the way, or just some of the way . . . What is it? Find out next newsletter!</p>	<p>Closes: 22 Jan Map: Approx:</p>

Trip Reports

September 08: Bibbulman - Western Australia

I've just spent 5 days on the Bibbulman walk in Western Australia, so I thought I'd share the experience for those who are looking for something a bit different.

The track runs for 1,000km from Perth to Albany. Two of us tramped just over 100km from Walpole to Perry's Crossing on the South Coast. Highlights included a spectacularly rugged coastline, impressive Tingle tree forests, kangaroos, wallabies, many birds, bobtail lizards, rats, whales, seals, dolphins, and the obligatory snakes (2) and spiders for a rush of adrenalin.

In spring however, even the "blockiest" bloke would have to admit to being impressed by the variety and colours of the flowers, especially considering it is the Australian bush. They were everywhere but prolific along the coast. The tingle forests are a must-do for any visitor, but the cliffs and beaches of the coastal areas are spectacular like the South Island ranges are spectacular.

The track itself is "easy" and generally clearly marked. Some days though the distances between shelters and the need to carry a full days water definitely moved those days well into the "moderate" category.

The "shelters" are 3-sided huts placed with spectacular views in mind, or in quite pleasant settings in the forest areas. They sleep about 12 comfortably, although we had them to ourselves for 4 of the 5 nights. All had plenty of fresh tank water, were clean, with about 3 or 4 tent sites nearby.

Temperatures for our trip ranged from about 5 to the mid 20s, so very pleasant, and very few bugs (true!) although I'd say it would be different in summer. I would rate the sea as cool but very swimmable (although my companion thought differently), and the rivers cold but not headache material.

Contact me if you want to know any more.

Eric

13 - 14 September 2008: 3 Creeks Hut

We went into 3 Creeks Hut from the Alford Forest and planned to return via the 4WD track along Taylor Stream so left Max's car at the start of the track. The walk in was very pretty with low light sliding in under the cloud, illuminating the contours of the land. Going up, the snow was very soft and tiring. Fortunately we had Max to forge a line of steps. The northern side of Winterslow was clearer of snow but alas, there were no magnificent views of Mt Taylor and Old Man to enjoy as there was complete mist. I used the opportunity to bring out the compass, enabling us to descend to the hut via the favoured spur. In actual fact, any spur from the Winterslow ridge would have taken us in the right direction to the 4WD track and the hut but it was a good challenge, picking the right one in the clag

Arriving at the hut, we fossicked around for fuel for the fire and the woodshed. I evicted a dead possum but no one was persuaded to give it a Christian burial. People had been there recently,

presumably pig hunters. They'd left a sack of large kindling and a few cans of Speights. We purloined a sample of each to contribute to our comfort.

There were stove dramas but luckily amongst the four of us there were 3 stoves. An overfilled stove is hard to pressurize and Max's Pocket Rocket attachment was a little capricious. Anyway we had water boiling on the fire and Bill's reliable stove to fall back on but it all worked out fine in the end. I think the hut was jinxed because even Andrew's matches and Max's lighter failed to work!

The bunks were quite saggy so I find it is a good idea to fill the hollow with a doubled over mattress resulting in a comfortable night. We sat by the fire, drying out boots and socks with varying degrees of devotion and success. Andrew and Max are both music buffs so I was treated to a solid 2 hours of reviews from the pair of them. Bill headed for his bag and we followed suit by 9pm. The full moon sidled over and lit up the hut. It was a mild night with no frost. Just as well, because Max had a Pinnacle but he was cosy.

We rose around 7am to a gloriously fine morning and I relit the fire as I'd neglected to dry out my insoles! The boys had laughed the day before at my real estate sign base layer insoles which cushion and insulate effectively and are very lightweight. Andrew and I had opted for the Skellerup Ashley rubber gummies but he had inserted a pair of \$50 heavy insoles. He wasn't convinced that mine were effective with their ever-diminishing layer of air.

We didn't fancy a 15km trudge along a 4WD track back to the car so I suggested detouring to have lunch at the Alford hut. Even Max was loathe to spend another day plugging steps through porridge on the 4WD track that rises to 1400m before branching off back down a spur to the Alford Hut. I checked out the map and submitted a proposal of short-cutting over Pt 976 down to a gorged section of Taylor stream and climbing 400m back up to meet the track coming down to the hut. This was accepted and implemented.

The gorge was very pretty with a couple of sheep. I think they must have been surprised to have company. I couldn't envisage any humans going down there but there was an encouraging animal trail overrun with different species' of calling cards, going down through what initially looked to be vertiginous matagouri. This ended in a lovely fine 100m scree run, turning out to be an excellent route and the only possibility without exposing yourself to some grief as the other routes were ringed with bluffs. Bill, a hunter, spotted big deer prints and plenty of pig sign in the gorge. We selected an innocuous place to cross in the spring melt, absent of white water and linked up.

We ascended the other side, mustering the sheep duo up the hill. Soon we were back in fenced country and I slowed down as the glucose and muscle glycogen ran out. I was hoping the liver glycogen would kick in before we reached the hut for lunch but it was soon downhill to what someone remarked as being the woodshed. It turned out to be a lovingly cared for musterers' hut that gets frequent visitors. The bunks and mattresses were a big improvement on 3 Creeks and the glass window was so clean that we initially thought it was missing!

Max fired up the Pocket Rocket (a good name for Max, actually). I collected water from a black hose, into the wash basin, which failed to draw comment from the fastidious Andrew. I guess he was preoccupied with the discovery he was sitting on 'raisins', his expression for mouse shit. We had a well-deserved lunch with a cup of tea in the sun outside the hut.

Downhill to Cookshop. Plenty of warning notices about vigilant residents nearby if we tried breaking and entering. Despite not seeing supporting technology such as a form of aerial, we confined ourselves to inspecting the shower and bunkrooms. All shipshape. Earlier this year, it had hosted a wedding party! The walk out along the 4WD track was no better than it should be. We requested Max to speed up to his natural pace in order to fetch his vehicle closer to us as we languished in the heat. He obliged. En route we encountered a magnificent gate to rival the one at Loch Katrine. Bill observed it was unlocked requiring discouraging contortions by the cocky to

operate the locking mechanism.

We changed out off wet boots, accompanied by prospecting sandflies and sped off to retrieve the other car. Thanks all around to the guys for their camaraderie and contributions to a good weekend in the hills.

Trampers: Max, Andrew, Bill, Honora (scribe)

20 - 21 September 2008: Boyle Base Camp

How can you get all the benefits of a weekend trip without the humungous pack and with added hot pools and mega-size toaster? At the Boyle social-weekend-with-some-great-tramping-too Base Camp!

Saturday was a lovely sunny day so we headed up onto the Lewis Tops. There were still patches of snow around – enough to add to the adventure but nothing to cause a problem – and we had a good amble along the tops with lunch looking out over Deer Valley and then returned the same way. Steve and his son Andrew had already forsaken us in favour of a bit of bum sliding on Dad's parka, and they had already been to the Silvia Flats hot pools by the time we were back at the Boyle River Lodge. Inspired by the thought, the group persuaded Uncle Bernhard to take them to the hot pools before dinner and headed off – to Maruia rather than Silvia though, on the grounds of avoiding unseemly squashing into limited pool-space. After that we had a great social dinner, with everyone contributing something. It was pasta though – just to make sure we hit that authentic weekend trip note. Early bed as well, and hardly any snoring.

The next day did not look like a tops day. In fact, from the speed that the clouds were scudding over us, it was very definitely a valley day. No problem – we are perfectly positioned to head up the St James towards Magdalen Hut. It's a lovely walk crossing the Boyle on the wire footbridge and then wombling up the true right through the beech forest and river flats. Craig told us about a trip he had been on that had attempted a bit of cross country and ended up rather bemired in bog. Good thing he warned us, we thought a little while later as diversion across the flats to avoid a section of path with a lot of tree fall ended in a bit of a squelching sound . . . Once on firm ground again we had lunch and watched the weather getting just that bit more ominous. Ominous enough for us to make a strategic decision to forego a visit to the hut itself and head back to the Lodge. The rain caught us half way home – a good lesson in how quickly a nice day can turn into something really quite wet and cold. But we only have to an hour to go before we are back at the Lodge, cups of tea, biccies, more tea . . . A rapid clean up and we are on our way home.

Many thanks to everyone who made this a really fun weekend, and to Boyle River Lodge for taking our short notice booking and providing such a great base. Thanks to Felipe for the photos as well.

Trampers: Bernhard, Bitten, Guillermo (Felipe), Tania, Katie, Craig, Malcolm, Jenny (scribe), Steve and Andrew

Sun 28 Sept 2008: Mt Percival

Doug had 14 names on the list to meet at 7am. A horrible hour since we've just reset watches for daylight saving. Pity we didn't do a head-count before setting off at 7.10am.

Snow had fallen overnight to well below Jacks Pass, but miraculously no snow lay on the road. We parked down the Clarence 1km past the Jollies Rd junction, and snow-plugged from the cars to the summit for lunch at midday. Clear skies but a keen wind, and some on the edge of their comfort zone descending icy slopes to the south. Doug tried hard to regroup us before descending into this 'lovely valley' route out. The head count wouldn't tally. A bod could be seen sitting high on the icy slope, not moving. Only 12 in the group here. No-one can name the missing person. How many did meet at the garage? It must be a sitting rock.

The 'lovely valley', which Doug last visited 6 years ago, proves to now be choked with broom. The broom lies horizontal after all the spring snow, so it's easier to walk in the stream, which is swollen with snowmelt. We climb out at all the little gorges into snow and broom tangles. Twelve of us straggle out the widening valley where it meets the Clarence end of Jollies Pass road. Back at the cars after 7 hours we scan the list copy and realise that two bods never did show at the garage at 7am. And spy all the crampons left in the cars, so sure they wouldn't be needed! So the 100 percent of us who've returned feel it's been a pretty successful day, since there are no losses after all.

Sue Hely for Susan Pearson, Kathy Basire, Andrew Tromans, Ruth Barratt, Greg Hill, Clive Marsh, David Sutton, Jenny Harlow, Kerrie Maynard, Scott Fowler, and leader Doug Forster.

Sunday 12 October: Mt Winterslow.

Mt Winterslow (1700m) is north of Mt Somers and south west of Mt Hutt.

With an early start at 7.00am from town, eleven of us set off from the Sharplin Falls car park at Mt Somers in clear weather and a good forecast for most of the day. The party followed the track to the hut initially and then on up to the saddle and highest point of the track between the Pinnacles Hut and Woolshed Creek Hut. Close to the saddle we ran into Sue Napier who had stayed overnight at the hut. She was having a wander while her partner Grant and Ruth Barratt's partner Kevin were off climbing on the crags above the Pinnacles Hut.

Just after the saddle we headed north east down a spur to cross over to the lower slopes and start off up one of the ridges of Mt Winterslow. We had an atmospheric lunch stop among rock pinnacles with great views. After that it was a steep grind up to the first summit at 1625m. After another short stop where there was a debate as to whether Mt Cook could be seen, we followed a fence line east across the tops to the main Mt Winterslow summit (1700). There was little snow left on the mountain so crampons and ice-axes were not required.

The clouds started to come in after we left the summit and we followed the poles down the ridge to the bush line where we picked up old markers and track to eventually emerge about half an hour from the car park on the Pinnacles Track. This ridge track is not now maintained by DOC but had been recently worked on by some of the club members.

Interestingly for the first 500 metres or so of the bush track off the tops the beech trees were in a state of devastation with many broken trunks and branches everywhere. This made for slower travel and although strong winds may have been responsible, general consensus was that it was probably the result of heavy snow falls this winter.

We arrived back at the cars around 5.30pm. Thanks Kerrie for a great trip.

Trampers: Peter & Ruth T, Doug & Sue, Scott & Kerrie (leader), Bitten, Bryce, Dave, Mike, Ruth B (scribe).

Saturday 18 October: The Spurs

18 July – 15.1 km, 11 hours 30 minutes, ~1500 m height gain

6.00 am, Bryndwr Road: It's a nice morning, much better than the forecast. A southerly change is expected but, with luck, the inland valleys will miss the worst of it – and the change should be short and sharp anyway. It looks to be a great day ahead. A vigorous tramp that I've not done before, but about which I've heard great things, and with good company. To cap it off, when we get back I'll go to the pub for a meal and a beer, and to watch the Canterbury v Hawkes Bay rugby semi-final. It's a pity about the early start though, hardly necessary since daylight saving came in.

7.10 am, Fendalton Road: Picked up by Alan Ross in his brand-new, shiny red Toyota Aurion (where do they get those names?). One car and five blokes since Jenny decided she needed a sleep-in. Alan, despondent about the absence of women, declares that I will be referred to as Bridgette for the remainder of that day. I mutter that the surrogate woman's role usually falls to the youngest boy on a ship, but Thomas (an allegedly Danish visiting student) objects.

9:30 am, Glenthorne Station: The bad weather has not arrived (yet), although the Cascade Range, fifteen or so kilometres to the northwest, seems to be getting a bit of a hammering. We have a clear view of the challenge ahead of us; and, to be honest, it doesn't look too intimidating. There's a fair bit of snow in the basins, but the ridge crests looks clear.

9:50 am: Climbing the low ridge north of Gargarus Stream, the weather is still good and we are warming up. We pause to remove outer garments, but Alan doesn't stop (taking off garments that is). Alan complains that I'm not taking my new persona seriously. I comment on his ability to talk continuously. He wonders aloud if my comment is a compliment. We can now see rain falling in the Rakaia Valley and wind-driven clouds swirling over Lake Coleridge.

11:30 am: We are well up on the flanks of Pt 1706 m. The southerly has arrived – the wind is light, but the mist has obscured our view and it's starting to snow. Alan has put on his clothes. Thomas tells us that the highest peak in Denmark is 120 m. We encourage him to indulge in the alpine experience by leading the way up the scree – he plugs pretty good steps for a novice.

12:30 pm: Pt 1706 m, we stop for lunch in the lee of the ridge. It's cold now and we all don beanies and gloves. Warwick has the most pairs of glove (five). It is very misty, but the wind is still light; after a short discussion, and with GPS and map, we decide to go on. The southerly should blow through before the end of the trip (if we are lucky).

2:15 pm, the saddle north of Pt 1902 m: We've made slow progress since lunch. The ridge (which we couldn't see from the car) between Pts 1706 and 1902 m is very narrow and composed of fragile crumbling greywacke. Warwick insists we stay close together. We can see for only 10 or 15 metres, which might be a good thing since we can't tell how far the drops are. Occasionally the clouds thin out enough for us to see the hulk of Pt 1985 m looming in front of us. A notch in the saddle is proving the most difficult obstacle so far. Stephen finds a route up and out, which Thomas and Alan follow, but it's not clear how to get around the next outcrop. Warwick chooses to drop down a snow chute to the left and skirt around the bottom. Alan decides to drop down another cleft a bit further on to meet up with Warwick as he comes around the base of the outcrop. I decide to have a look to the right. We all hoot loudly to keep in touch. My route turns out to be straight forward and I call Stephen and Thomas through. I can hear Alan and Warwick through the whiteness, but can't make out everything they are saying. Warwick seems to have lost a lot of height.

3:15 pm, still on the saddle an hour later, but a lot has happened. After lots of shouting, I'm still not sure what Warwick and Alan are doing. I decide to climb down the rocks to find a route for Warwick to come up to us (Stephen, Thomas and me). About 10 minutes later I reach him as he's putting on his crampons. I also note the slide marks in the snow stretching up into the mist toward the ridge crest. The two of us kick steps up the steep snow slope to meet up with Alan. Alan says he thought he might have seen Warwick for the last time when he (Warwick) went hurtling past desperately trying to self arrest. Apparently the snow was too soft for the ice axe to grip. The three of us continued our climbed back to the ridge then took the easier route around to meet Stephen and Thomas, who had not bothered to get the billy boiling.

4.15 pm, west of Pt 1885 m. In the last hour we've made much better progress, though still slow. The rest of us followed Warwick's lead and put on crampons to allow us to skirt around the south-west flank of the high peak. Most the time we were in white-out conditions, being unable to distinguish snow from sky. But the snow had stopped falling, the wind had dropped right off and it was eerily hot and humid. We're well behind our anticipated schedule but, having regained the ridge, which is much broader here, we should be able to make good time. The clouds clear for a moment and we get a view back along our (embarrassingly short) route. We can see the long slide mark below the notch we christen "Warwick's Folly."

5.00 pm: Having started to descend rapidly we take a scroggin and de-cramponing stop. Warwick and I compare GPS and map to work out how far we've come along the main ridge – only to find that we are not on it! In the mist we've strayed onto a southern spur that is leading us into trouble. We have to contour back around to the north. Fifty meters on, were back in the snow and have to re-crampon.

6.00 pm: Pt 1832 proved to be slightly gnarly, though straightforward in comparison with our earlier experiences. While getting off the rocks and back on to the snow, Thomas tripped and dived headlong down the steep slope but exercised a perfect self arrest to pull himself up within a few metres. We're beginning to doubt his Danish credentials and suspect that he's actually an Icelandic refugee.

6:30 pm: Pt 1587 m and we've reached the turnoff to the correct spur down to the valley. The last bit has been a lot of fun; some fine scree and good snow for glissading. The ice axes have been put away and the walking poles are out. We're pretty well home and hosed!

7:15 pm: Perhaps we got a bit over confident. Were in deep, steep beech forest full of rotten logs and bedecked with a slippery mulch of leaf litter. We took a left branch of the spur when we should have gone right. At 1200 m, we try to contour back to the spur, but the terrain is too steep and there are too many rotten logs to clamber over. The only viable option is to drop down to the creek. Alan and Thomas lead the way. Like a young boy, Stephen delights in sliding headlong through the leaves and mud and swinging round trees (some of which are dead and rotten, and are brought crashing to the ground). The old(er) men stumble along behind, grumbling about their knees.

8:00 pm: We're out on the creek shingle and it's still light – for a while anyway. Alan, Thomas and Warwick don their headlamps. Stephen and I trudge on ahead.

9.00 pm: back at the car after 11.5 hours. Even the last bit of trip, along the farm track, had its excitement; we had to consult the GPS about whether to turn right or left at a tee junction.

11:30 pm, back at Bryndwr Road. On the road trip back home, Alan and Warwick shared the driving. Near Windwhistle, we passed cell phones around to inform wives and flat mates that we were out and on our way back. Enthusiastic talk of hot pies and ginger beer came to nothing when the Hororata Pub was closed. Then we had to dodge the police cars, fire engines, party buses and flocks of intoxicated teenage girls milling around in the aftermath of an unfortunate car-versus-pedestrian accident outside the Yaldhurst pub.

What an exhilarating day! One of the best trips I've had with the Club. Thanks very much to Warwick for his leadership, Alan for his driving and chatter, and the whole team for the way it stuck together and remained patient, calm and even jovial under testing conditions. Thank goodness we had an early start! And I wonder what happened in the rugby?

Participants: Warwick Dowling (leader), Stephen Hoare-Vance, Thomas Friis, Alan Ross and Bryce Williamson

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz)
by Sunday, 23 November 2008 – Thanks.