



# 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 with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 78

## October 2008

No. 6

<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. **Please note that Ken will away from 3 October to 17 October.** If you know now that you'll need gear in that period please contact Ken before he goes away. In Ken's absence please contact Jenny Harlow ([harlowj@cpit.ac.nz](mailto:harlowj@cpit.ac.nz) or ph 349 2280). You will need to plan ahead (it may not be possible to fulfil last minute requests) and you'll also normally have to pick gear up yourself from Hornby.

<b>Rates for Gear Hire:</b>	
Tent	\$3/person/night
Ice axes, Crampons	\$4/weekend
Harnesses, snow shovels	\$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).

**Welcome Flat Hut Wardens:** Did you know that a new programme set up by the Department of Conservation means that there are now year round opportunities for people to volunteer as hut wardens at Welcome Flat? The minimum volunteer period is one week, with a maximum of one month for first time volunteers. For an Information Pack or for general enquiries, email Sally Jackson: sjackson@doc.govt.nz.

**Pub Charities grant:** Pub Charities has granted the Club \$2,032 for more equipment. Many thanks to Richard Wills and Dave Henson for another successful grant application, and to Pub Charities for their generosity.

**Gear:** Please note that Ken Brown, the Gear Custodian, will be away from 3 October to 17 October. See the front page under 'Equipment Hire' for alternative arrangements. Thanks.

**Hatches and Matches:** Usually reliable sources report that Helen and Phil Hulme are now proud parents of a newborn trumper called Owen. Congratulations!

**New Members Welcome:** A warm welcome to the following new members: Emma Bosworth, John Horgan, Janet Spittlehouse, Janice Antill, Ruth Barratt.

# Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Saturday 27 September	Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392
<b>Mt Somers Conservation area:</b> Depending on the weather and the group, we'll head in either on the Woolshed Creek or Sharplin Falls (Staveley) side of Mount Somers and use the good tracks to explore the area. Possibilities include the coal mines and the big new hut for lunch, or the Rhyolite Ridge track, or Sharplin Falls, perhaps the track around towards Pinnacles Hut, or maybe a look at some of the track across the south face . . .	Grade: Easy Closed: 25 Sep Map: K36 Approx: \$20
Weekend 27-28 September	Leader: Linda Lilburne 332-2502
<b>Black Hill Hut Ski Touring:</b> Black Hill Hut, perched high (1200 meters) on the Puketeraki Range just on the bush line, makes a great base for ski touring along the range. The plan is to 4-wheel-drive in then climb up through the bush to the hut and spend the rest of the weekend skiing the tops. On skis we should be able to get a fair way along the tops. This trip is subject to 4WD availability, permission and of course snow at the time.	Grade: Ski Closed: 18 Sep Map: L34 Approx: \$35
Weekend 27-28 September	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<b>Buckland Peaks:</b> Buckland Peaks are at the north end of the Paparoa Range on the West coast. There's a new hut there, perched at the top of a good track just above the bush line. The rough Paparoa tops are well worth exploring and the view on a good day includes all along the Alps to Mt Cook. There could be a bit of snow around so check with Warwick for what equipment you will need.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 18 Sep Map: K29 Approx: \$55
Sunday 28 September (Meet 7am at the Shell, and that Daylight Saving starts today!)	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453
<b>Mt Percival:</b> Mt Percival 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. Make sure your name's on the list or you have contacted the leader.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 25 Sep Map: N32 Approx: \$35
Thursday 2 October	Club Night
<b>Patagonia near the bottom of South America:</b> Your guide Alan Ross will take you on a visual journey to places you may have heard of in Argentina and Chile like the stunning Moreno Glacier, the famous Torres del Paine National Park, Fitzroy National Park and more!	
Saturday 4 October	Leader: Philip Tree 942-7670
<b>Hinewai:</b> Hinewai is a beautiful bird and bush reserve on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula, accessed from the Summit Road above Akaroa. The reserve has a wide range of natives including some original remnant beech and the newer plantings which are really getting established now. When you sit down you can really hear the bird-song all around you. There are plenty of loop options of varying terrain and distance depending on the group so we can get right down to Otanerito Bay and back up to the car park again or do a shorter trip and find more of the waterfalls hidden in the bush . . .	Grade: Easy Closes: 2 Oct Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$15

Weekend 4-5 October	Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922
<p><b>Mt Franklin:</b> At 2145 meters high, Mt Franklin is the highest mountain in the north section of the Arthurs Pass National Park. It looks down on the delightful Lakes Anna and Sally and is usually reached via the Mingha track and Goat Pass. This is not a straightforward scramble and will still require ice axe, crampons and other suitable equipment. Talk to Jeff for details.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard          Closed: 25 Sep          Map: K33          Approx: \$40</p>
Weekend 4-5 October	Leader: Richard Wills 389-8671
<p><b>Navigation Course:</b> Embark upon a voyage of discovery and determination. Decipher the mystery of maps, command a compass with a twist of the wrist, obtain your bearings by degrees, plot your position, spy out the land, and set forth to your destination ... whether marching up in the mist or battling down in the bush. A compass with a transparent base is required. Magnifying glass useful for reading map detail. Check with Richard for advice on purchasing any items.</p>	<p>Grade: Training          30 Sep          Map: L34          Approx: \$30</p>
Sunday 5 October (note: could be early start)	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
<p><b>Cloudsley:</b> Cloudsley is one of several 2000m+ peaks on the southern end of the Craigieburn range and a great place at any time of year. Cloudsley itself is about 1300m height gain from Castle Hill village. If the spirit is willing and the flesh not too weak, we could trot across to one of the neighbouring peaks as well (Enys or Izard) so it might be a longish day. From the Craigieburn ridge we can look right over to the gods on Mt Olympus. If there's still snow you should have done your basic snow craft or equivalent. Note this trip may have an early start.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate          Closes: 2 Oct          Map: K34          Approx: \$25</p>
Thursday 9 October <span style="float: right;">Club Night</span>	
<p><b>Antarctica through the camera of a club member:</b> Scott Fowler went back down to the ice and this time he worked for the summer at the American base, McMurdo. Come along and have a look at some great pictures of both the summer season and a collection of his favourite winter shots.</p>	
Weekend 11-12 October	Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
<p><b>Mt Williams:</b> Andrew is going to have another go at this mountain which is in the Rolleston Range between the Mathias and Wilberforce rivers. Bad weather cancelled the trip in June but he hopes for better luck this time. Rivers can also pose a problem so talk to Andrew for his back-up plan. Ice axe and crampons required.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard          Closes: 2 Oct          Map: J34          Approx: \$40</p>
Sunday 12 October (check with leader about meeting point)	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
<p><b>Packhorse Hut and Mount Bradley from Gebbies Pass by MTB and/or tramp:</b> Meeting place either at the garage at 8am or Gebbies Pass 9am. This trip will run as combined bike/tramp. The ride up to Pack-Horse from Gebbies (about 200m) is intermediate biking, nothing too hard but there are few bike-carry sections and some solid hill climbs. Mostly a benched well graded track though. For trampers, it's an easy tramp to Kaituna Pass and the Pack-Horse Hut (about 500m). We will regroup at the Hut and then all walk up to the top of Mt Bradley (855m). Return the same way, or trampers could go down via Orton Bradley and the bikers can shuffle some cars.</p>	<p>Grade: Mod MTB          or Easy/mod tramp          Closes: 9 Oct          Map: M36          Approx: \$10</p>

Sunday 12 October (may be early start - contact leader)	Leader: Kerrie Skinner 386-2850
<b>Winterslow:</b> Mt Winterslow (1700m) is north of Mt Somers and south west of Mt Hutt. The usual route is up from Sharplin Falls (500m) via Dukes Knob. From the summit there are outstanding views including the distant Arrowsmiths and the Southern Alps. Mt Cook and Mt Tasman may also be visible on a clear day. There are a few alternative routes we could take down depending on the energy level and spirit of adventure prevailing in the group. Ice axe and crampons may possibly still be required if the snow hangs around. May be an early departure: please contact leader.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Oct Map: K36 Approx: \$25

Wednesday 15 October	Social Event
<b>Ice skating on real ice:</b> Still pining for that Mt Somers ice skating trip that never quite happened? Here's your chance to skate on real ice – the sort that's guaranteed to be there when you want it, not like the stuff outside. It's at the Alpine Ice Sports and Entertainment Centre, 495 Brougham Street, Opawa. Visit their web site on <a href="http://www.alpineice.co.nz">www.alpineice.co.nz</a> Cost: \$12. Contact Ross Ogden, 351-1857 or <a href="mailto:ogdenr@conwag.com">ogdenr@conwag.com</a> before Tuesday the 14th to get your name on the list.	

Thursday 16 October	Club Night
<b>Ice Video showing no 2:</b> To follow on from the first showing last month and Scott's photos from last week this is the next instalment of Marcus Lush spending time in Antarctica. He really is quite comical in his view of how he finds his surroundings.	

Saturday 18 October (early start - contact leader)	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<b>Rakaia Spurs:</b> The Spurs is another classic Canterbury trip we have not done for a while, in the Lake Coleridge area – the upper Wilberforce valley and also overlooking the Avoca on their eastern side. The complete Spurs trip goes over three high points (1985m, 1964m, 1902m), ie around 1300m height gain plus a bit of up-and-down. Much of the ridge up is steep and there is some scrambling on the knobby bits, especially around the tops. Great fun for fit trampers with a bit of rocky-ridge experience. Who knows if there will still be snow by then? – check with the leader. Note early start.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 16 Oct Map: K34 Approx: \$30

Weekend 18-19 October	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
<b>Cass Lagoon:</b> The Cass Lagoon is a good standard Canterbury trip and the club tried to run it in early August. Bad weather cancelled Andrew's attempt then but hopefully he will have better luck now. A good marked track, a big comfortable hut for Saturday night and great scenery mean this is always a fun trip and a good moderate trip for those people stepping up to weekend tramping.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Oct Map: L33 Approx: \$40

Sunday 19 October	Leader: Bruce Miller 349-3611
<b>Mt Thomas:</b> A North Canterbury gem, taking in rich mountain beech forest and a bit of open tops. There are a few different options for routes up and down from the Wooded Gully picnic area. We'll probably go up the Wooded Gully track, which joins the open ridge west of Mt Thomas itself, and then trot along about 1.5k to the tussock-clad top (1023m, about 700m height gain from the start). We could return the same way or via a slightly steeper track down through the pine plantations on the southern spur. Should be about 6-7 hours tramping at a relaxed pace with plenty of time to admire the scenery.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 16 Oct Map: M34 Approx: \$20

Thursday 23 October	Club Night
<p><b>Peru and Bolivia – Inca Highlands and beyond by your guide Jolanda Simon:</b> Jolanda did a 25-day tour through Peru and Bolivia in August this year. From the lush jungles and exotic wildlife of the Amazon, to hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Pichu, to the vast expanses of Lake Titicaca and a 4WD trip through the surreal landscapes of the Salar de Uyuni. Discover this fascinating part of South America.</p>	
Long Weekend 25-27 October	<p>Leader: Penny Coffey 332-7182 Please don't phone after 8pm.</p>
<p><b>Lake Angelus Hut / Nelson Lakes:</b> This trip will tramp into Lake Angelus Hut on Saturday (probably over the tops via the Robert Ridge but this depends on the weather). On Sunday Mt Angelus will be the target of a day trip. On the Monday the route will be down the Cascade track and out via Lakehead hut. This may be done in the opposite direction. This is a good moderate trip with marked routes most of the way but there may still be snow around so ice axes may be needed. If the weather forecast is bad an alternative destination will be looked at.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 16 Oct Map: N29 M29 Approx: \$60</p>
Long Weekend 25-27 October	<p>Leader: Peter Eman 337-3003</p>
<p><b>Tohara River / Zit Saddle Circuit:</b> A trip with a mix of easier (up the Tohara River track) and more challenging off-track bits (the circuit between Yeats Hut and Adventure Biv ). This is a good west coast trip with great bush and good views. Leaving Friday night. Ice axe and crampons required.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 16 Oct Map: J33 Approx: \$60</p>
Multi day trip 25-31 October	<p>Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392</p>
<p><b>Heaphy Track:</b> Come walk this classic New Zealand Great Walk starting on Labour weekend and going though into the next week (requiring that you take Tuesday through Thursday off work). We'll see a wide range of scenery. We'll see lots of cool plants and animals. We'll meet interesting people. We'll stay at good huts. In short, we'll have a great time. Tentative plan: Saturday drive to Karamea (or perhaps Takaka or Nelson), bus to Golden Bay (or fly if people are willing to pay). Sunday to Wednesday walking. Thursday drive to Karamea. Four nights at huts (Brown, Perry Saddle, James McKay and Heaphy), one night at backpackers or cabins. Closes early due to the need to book transport and huts. Note that Annual Hut Passes do not apply to Great Walk Huts.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 2 Oct (note early closing). Map: L26 M26 Approx: \$250</p>
Sunday 26 October	<p>Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000</p>
<p><b>Pudding Hill Stream:</b> Yes, a day trip option for Labour Weekend, if you absolutely can't get away for an overnight trip. A varied loop in Mt Hutt forest, starting in Awa Awa Rata Reserve. From the Reserve we will walk up Scotts Saddle Track to the Ski-field road. This is a climb of about 600m over 5km through mixed forest and then on tussock tops with great views over the plains. From the road, we head west down through the forest on a track which may be overgrown to reach Pudding Hill Stream. We follow this downstream (untracked) for approx 6km to where a short track leads back to the reserve. Expect ye-olde-traditional-New-Zealand-this-is-real-tramping wet feet on the homeward part of this round trip of approx 12 km.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 23 Oct Map: K36 K35 Approx: \$20</p>

Monday 27 October (early start - contact leader)	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
<p><b>Maukuratawhai:</b> And another Labour Weekend Day trip - riches upon riches. Maukuratawhai is located on the north side of the Clarence River (eg, the wet feet side) - the hill straight opposite the Jacks Pass Road as you go over from Hamner. After crossing the Clarence it's a 900m climb up the south-west ridge to the summit at 1615m (if time and conditions permit we could traverse and descend the south ridge to circle back to the starting point). There may still be snow on the tops so check with leader if ice axe and crampons are required. Early start.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 23 Oct Map: N31 N32 Approx: \$30</p>
Thursday 30 October <span style="float: right;">Club Night</span>	
<p><b>Newsletter folding night:</b> As well as the newsletter folding we will catch up on verbal trip reports and have some social time.</p>	
Saturday 1 November	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
<p><b>Pigeon Bay Walkway:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 30 Oct Map: N36 Approx: \$20</p>
Saturday 1 November	Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111
<p><b>Torlesse:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 30 Oct Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>
Weekend 1-2 November	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
<p><b>Lagoon Saddle:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/family Closes: 23 Oct Map: J34 Approx: \$40</p>
Thursday 6 November <span style="float: right;">Club Night</span>	
<p><b>What to pack for an overnight tramp?</b> 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.</p>	

Saturday 8 November (or Sunday 9 Nov depending on weather) Leader: David Henson 942-3954	
<p><b>"James Youngman's Journey" Memorial Walk:</b> 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 James's journey 150 years after his walk, following in some of his footsteps. 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. We are aiming for two options - a long walk from Purau Saddle to Pettigrews Rd or a shorter trip from Pettigrews Rd to Mt Sinclair and return.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy or EasyMod  Closes: 6 Nov  Map: N36  Approx: \$20</p>

Weekend 8-9 November	Leader: Leader required
<p><b>Lewis tops:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 30 Oct  Map: L31  Approx: \$50</p>

Sunday 9 November	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
<p><b>Linked-Up Missing Link:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 6 Nov  Map: M34  Approx: \$15</p>

Long Weekend 14-16 November	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
<p><b>Mt Tapuae-o-Uenuku:</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard  Closes: 6 Nov  Map: O30 O29  Approx: \$65</p>

Saturday 15 November

Leader: Erik Norder 980-8022

**Hallejuah Flat:** A nice day trip option for Show Weekend, Hallejuah 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 Hallejuah 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

---

## Trip Reports

---

### Sunday 31 August 2008 Mt Binsler

Who says some trips are ill-fated? They are just waiting for the perfect day. Having refused to happen umpteen times, this was finally Binsler's moment and it was indeed a great day.

Fifteen people were percipient enough to sign up and after the usual wobbling-on-the-edge-of-chaos start and optimistically setting up a car shuffle from the other side of Binsler and various other distractions, we were tramping by – well, at least by ten thirty . . . or so . . . okay maybe quarter to eleven . . . or so. Lots of regulars, including a rare sighting of Lisa and Gareth, and a few new faces. Rather frighteningly, a couple of people had ice-hammers as well as ice-axes – did they know something I didn't? I worried about this most of the way up the Binsler track and was still chewing it over during the lunch number one or elevenses stop on the Saddle. Then we struck bravely off the track into the bush to start up Binsler itself. At that point it became clear that, at that level anyway, a snorkle would be a bit more useful.

Flounder flounder flub flub. After about half an hour (wild exaggeration) and millions of kilojoules, we were about 10 metres from the spot where we left the track.. Very very very soft snow over bent-over new-growth and tree fall. We spent more time submerged than we did anywhere near the surface. Eventually we hauled ourselves onto relatively firmer ground, but only because it was so steep that all the snow had fallen off - into the Trough of Despond which had so nearly ensnared us for ever. Even more eventually, and following the mighty Stu, we break out of the woods and into the sun again – and yes, yet more soft snow loosely piled over tussock, turpentine etc etc. Some of the party were voting for lunch then and there, but most of us continued to follow Stu who eventually ran out of whatever magic gas Stu's run on a bit past 1 pm, and we all had lunch and regrouped, still below peak number one (Binsler has three, like Goldilocks and the three bears: baby bear, mother bear and father bear).

So, to cut through a lot more soft snow and Ian this time in the lead step plugging, we eventually made it onto baby bear about 2.30 pm. The snow was harder now though and almost all seemed keen or close enough to keen to carry on. Lisa, Gareth and Stu opted to return the same way and bring other vehicles around. Personally I'd have probably agreed to try to climb Mt Cook rather than go through that regrowth again. Anyway, the rest of us made Mother Bear and then Father Bear (1868m) in good time on firmer snow – lovely lovely ridge and good conditions. No need for crampons let alone ice hammer unless you had a particularly hard brazil nut in the lunch bag. From there Doug lead the way down the south-west ridge and soon in fact disappeared

completely in an impressive bolt for road end and car. There was a bit of scrub lottery at the bottom – some got lucky and some got entangled – eventually we were all straggling out.

Only one flaw in the grand plan – no cars other than Doug's which had been left there at the start. Sometime after 5 Doug drove off with the various drivers in search of their cars, and the rest of us started walking. . . Happy endings all round, found cars, drivers, tea at Springfield. At Springfield we found out that Phil is a new father – congratulations Helen and Phil. Great day – thanks Uncle Bernhard!

Leader Bernhard Parawa, plus Doug, Ian, Paul, Lisa, Gareth, Nigel, Stefan and partner, Cecilia, Phil-the-new-father, Stu, Jenny (scribe), Jonathon, Adrian

---

## 30-31 August 2008 Ski days at Mt Cheeseman

By stringing two ski days together at a nearby club field there was plenty of opportunity for club members to dip in for one day or stay for both.

In the event, we all took advantage of the option to string the days together (!) with 6 of us staying at the Snowline lodge and 4 at the Forest Lodge.

We all started off skiing on the field but after lunch, the inviting unskied snow off-field beckoned, so John persuaded Barbara to act as taxi driver for 3 runs down some virgin snow. So Flo, me, John, Katie, Jeff, Lynette all skied down the slopes adjacent to the access road. Katie had to be persuaded to join us, not too sure whether she could cope, but she proved to be more than capable. When we reached the bottom, our taxi picked us up and ferried us back to the top for another run - and then another! Big thanks to Barbara.

Saturday/Sun night it was very windy overnight which did not bode well, but the morning was fantastic, clear and sunny but still a bit gusty, with firm snow.

So the tourer's decided to do a bit of transceiver practice to give the snow a chance to soften up. We all benefitted from the practice, its nice to know that if you get buried in an avalanche, your mates know how to find you!

Then around 11:00am John, me, Lynnette, Jeff and Flo set off to tour outside the field. The ridge line was mostly fine with a few strong gusts. The far side was remarkable for not only a fine example of recent slab avalanche but also a series of point release avalanches as well.

Due to our late start we decided that the potential goal of touring to the basins above Ryton station and back was unrealistic, so we stopped at an inviting looking slope with a good aspect (ie soft snow ). Lynette provided some gentle amusement by forgetting to fix her heel before descending and (not being a telemarker) ended up in close contact with the snow on her first turn. Other than this, the perfect slope & snow delivered the sought after pleasure as we skied down it with grins and whoops to prove it.

Then it was on with the skins to walk back up to the ridge. Flo discovered that traversing shady slopes there are distinct advantages to having skins the same shape as skies. John showed us all how useful ski crampons can be in these situations!

We returned to the ski-field to find that the skiers there, had mostly enjoyed their day once the snow had softened up. Thanks John for a lovely weekend.

Skiers: John Henson, Katie Frame, Phil Tree, Susan Pearson (scribe), Ron Keeble, Flo Roberts, Lynette Hartley, Jeff Hall, Barbara and Emma Henson

---

20 Sept 2008 Track Cleared

## Blowhard Track to Garry River

Following Susan's crossover trip (15 June, Blowhard Track-Mt Thomas) where the main party bashed down one spur to the Garry River and the late group found an old track marked with bottles and cans down the next ridge, Doug and I went back (23 Aug) to find and record it on GPS. We did a circuit in deep snow, taking in Mt Richardson, with a side trip down to the Garry.

Yesterday, 20 Sept, Doug and I cleared and marked the old track. It goes from near Trig Q on the top ridge of the Blowhard track (with Mt Richardson 4-5km to the west) and follows a ridge down to the Garry River. On the opposite bank of the Garry a small stream flows in about 20m downstream. We have made a track and marked it, leading up the ridge. We've only done 100m height gain, but it is just a matter of pushing on up the ridge to the track on the tops leading to Bobs Biv to the nor-west or Mt Thomas to the nor-east. We have tracked the route on the GPS if wanted. Named, of course, the Missing Link track.

One could walk up Mt Richardson and along the summit ridge to take this track on to Mt Thomas before descending to a car shuffle after one very long day. Or descend sooner on either Ridge Track or Wooded Gully Track. Or go to Bob's Biv for the night. Or reach this track in 1 hour 10 mins by parking at the end of Maori Reserve Rd, also signposted Birch Hill Lodge, and walking up the Blowhard Track.

We have not made the take-off point from the Blowhard Track too obvious, since there is no explanatory signpost. If you walk up the Blowhard Track and find the large Trig Q on the tops, which is now totally surrounded by trees and 8m off to the south of the track, you have overshot the take-off point by approx 30m. Enjoy our hard work!

Sue Hely

---

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor ([editor@ctc.org.nz](mailto:editor@ctc.org.nz))  
by Sunday, 26 October 2008 – Thanks.