



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.  
PO Box 527, Christchurch, [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz)  
Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 78

April 2009

No. 11



*Rome Ridge, March 2009*

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

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

## Contents

Notice of AGM	1,16	Trip Reports	12
Trampers of the Month	2	Classifieds	14
News	3	External Events	15
Events calendar (trips & social)	3	More about the CTC	15

**Annual General Meeting:** The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 16 April 2009 in the PC Browne Room, Canterbury Horticultural Centre, Christchurch. The meeting will start at 7.30 pm. For the official notice, see the back page of the newsletter. The business of the meeting will be: (1) Confirmation of the minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting (2008); (2) Matters arising from the minutes; (3) Receipt and consideration of the 77th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts; (4) Election of Committee members; (5) Election of Honorary Auditor; (6) Consideration of notified motions; (7) Consideration of other appropriate business. Any member wishing to notify a motion for consideration under (6) above should do so in writing. Written notice of notified motions must be received on or before 12 March 2009 (please address mail to The Hon. Secretary, Christchurch Tramping Club, PO Box 527, Christchurch 8140) in order to be included in the official notice of the business of the Meeting. All club members are encouraged to attend the meeting. The Committee is elected from financial members, other than Associate Members, at each Annual General Meeting. You can contribute to your club!

## ***Trampers of the Month:*** Lynda and Dave Watson



<i>Place of Birth</i>	Lynda: Christchurch; Dave: Christchurch
<i>Date joined CTC:</i>	Dave: December 1970; Lynda: September 1976
<i>How long have you been married?</i>	30 great years
<i>Family (children)</i>	Nathan, Nigel and Lisa
<i>Favourite Day Trip:</i>	Lynda: Mt Robert Ski field via Bush Line Hut area Dave: Mt Torlesse via Kowai Valley, my first mountain at the tender age - of 13!!
<i>Favourite Weekend Trip:</i>	Lynda: Mueller Hut; Long Weekends Nelson Lakes and Routeburn. Dave: Hawden-Edwards
<i>Favourite Hut:</i>	Lynda: Mueller and Mt Robert Bush Line Hut Dave: Ivory Lake Hut but sadly with global warming the icebergs have disappeared
<i>Occupation:</i>	Lynda: School Secretary; Dave: Building Services Engineer
<i>Committee service:</i>	Lynda: about 8 years Dave: not sure exactly but at least 30 years

<i>What do Mr and Mrs Watson do in their spare time?</i>	Always up on the Port Hills out daily with Timmy our son's retired sheep dog
<i>Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?</i>	The boil'n bag boys, Les, Robert, John, Rod. We did some amazing trips and formed so many club life long friendships
<i>Any mishaps while tramping?</i>	Lynda: snowblindness on Castle Hill Peak in December or more correctly 12 hours later. Dave: breaking your ankle on Seddon Col at 2000 metres is not very clever especially with no mountain radio
<i>What is the funniest thing to happen to both of you while tramping</i>	Had many laughs and good times with our family and friends but leaving Jeff asleep on the summit of Mt Dumblane was priceless

---

## News

**New National Map Series:** Land Information New Zealand will launch a new 1:50,000 topographical map series in 2009, branded Topo50 maps. The entire Topo50 map series will be released simultaneously in September 2009 and will replace LINZ's existing 1:50,000 series (NZMS260). The new maps will use the new NZTM2000 projection. For more information see [www.linz.govt.nz/topo50](http://www.linz.govt.nz/topo50)

**New Members:** A warm welcome to new member: Mark Jermy. Mark has come along on trips to Pompey's Pillar, Mt Bealey and Red Hill so he has experienced quite a variety of trips and has met quite a few of us. Happy Tramping Mark.

---

## Calendar of Trips and Social Events

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

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

**Social:** We meet on Thursdays 7:30 pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre (Watling Lounge), Hagley Park South, 57 Riccarton Avenue (entrance opposite the hospital). A variety of social functions are organised, the atmosphere is informal, and tea and biscuits served. If you can give a presentation or have ideas, please contact Alan Ross 384-6425 or email [alan.d.ross@orica.com](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.

Thursday 26 March

Club Night

**Newsletter folding night PLUS a re show of Africa-Travel in Tanzania.** Its the monthly newsletter folding night. BUT back by popular demand from those who missed it mid December, is a re-show of Ruth and Peter's Slide show no 1, originally billed as "Join Peter and Ruth on the first part of their travels in East Africa to a land of wild animals, high mountains, diverse cultures and beautiful beaches."

Saturday 28 March

Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045

**Wildling Pines at Winding Creek.** Wildling Pine days are when the club provides volunteers for ECAN-organised destroy-wildling-pines days. It's lots of fun, great exercise, and often gets us into areas we don't otherwise visit.

Winding Creek is on the lower slopes of Mt Saint Bernhard/Purple Hill. CTC is looking for 10 to 15 people for this day. The contour here is mostly easy but the trees have been grazed making them harder to deal with than other trees of similar size.

Grade: Mod - Mod+ Work

Closed: 26 Mar

Map: L34

Approx: \$0

This is a great opportunity for you to help save our environment from the wildling-pine menace, and fund raise for the club (each volunteer will earn the CTC \$40 from ECAN). The CTC then pays all transport costs - volunteers pay nothing. You provide all your own food + drink, plus usual day tramp gear. Tools + gloves will be provided, but you can bring your own. You may also bring a chain saw, but only provided that you have been on an accredited chain saw course (bring your certificate) and bring the required safety equipment.

These trips run rain or shine, so only put your name down if you are definitely going. If you have to withdraw, then please contact the leader by telephone immediately so that we can contact someone else to take your place.

Meeting time and place is the carpark at the Yaldhurst Pub, Saturday morning - ready to leave at 8am. It's 2WD access but not for cars with low clearance. ETA back in CHCH: ~ 5 - 6 pm.

Weekend 28-29 March

Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686

**Pfeifer Tops.** A trip close to the road but with a real back-country feel. You start at the Deception swing bridge on the Highway 73, follow Paratu stream up to Waharoa Saddle before climbing to the tops on a recently cut route. Then easy tussock tops are followed to the brand new Biv which has good camping beside it. Day 2 is a little harder, up and around Mt Pfeifer before descending the long spur to Lake Kaurapataka. Some bush bashing required. The track is then followed back to the road. A good trip with lots of variety and great views.

Grade: Moderate+

Closed: 19 Mar

Map: K33

Approx: \$45

Sunday 29 March

Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000

**Mt Bruce.** Mt Bruce is a lovely moderate tramp in the Lagoon Saddle area. Starting from Cora Lynn, you climb up through the beech forest and out onto open tussock. Good views from the top (1630m, or about 1000m height gain) and a few different options for the route depending on conditions. Possibilities included descending into Broad Stream and picking up a very pleasant track back through the bush along the stream to Cora Lynn.

Grade: Moderate  
Closed: 26 Mar  
Map: K34  
Approx: \$20

Who is this Bruce man anyway, commemorated in both Mt and stream? Turns out that Whillians Bruce was joint purchaser, with John Macfarlane, of the Cora Lynn Station (as it is still named) in 1967 - from the Goldneys in fact - immortalised in the form of a ridge if nothing else. Bruce had been manager at Motunau, and was known all over the province as the 'Little Angel.' Besides Cora Lynn he had Riversdale, across the Waimakariri, and the Inchbonnie estate beyond Arthur's Pass. The N.Z. Loan and Mercantile took over Bruce's stations about the end of the '80's . . .

Thursday 2 April

Club Night

**First Aid Kits! What to put in them?** OK, we all know we must carry a personal first aid kit on club trips. But is two band-aids enough or do need to carry a defibrillator as well? The plan will be to review actual injuries sustained during club trips and discuss what was needed in the way of first aid gear. We will also review the "ideal" kit make up.

Saturday 4 April

Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045

**Wilding Pines at Corner Creek.** Wildling Pine days are when the club provides volunteers for ECAN-organised destroy-wilding-pines days. It's lots of fun, great exercise, and often gets us into areas we don't otherwise visit.

Grade: All - work  
Closes: 2 Apr  
Map: K34  
Approx: \$0

Corner Creek is on Glenthorne Station, near the confluence of the Harper and Avoca Rivers - lovely country. The CTC is looking for 10 to 15 people for this day. Several volunteer days have been held here in the past and this should be the last (or penultimate) visit to finish the job.

This is a great opportunity for you to help save our environment from the wildling-pine menace, and fund raise for the club (each volunteer will earn the CTC \$40 from ECAN). Canterbury Combined 4WD Clubs will provide transport (CTC recompenses Canterbury Combined 4WD Clubs in due course so there is no transport cost for volunteers). You provide all your own food + drink, plus usual day tramp gear. Tools + gloves will be provided, but you can bring your own. You may also bring a chain saw, but only provided that you have been on an accredited chain saw course (bring your certificate) and bring the required safety equipment.

These trips run rain or shine, so only put your name down if you are definitely going. If you have to withdraw, then please contact the leader by telephone immediately so that we can contact someone else to take your place.

Meeting time and place is the carpark at the Yaldhurst Pub, Saturday morning, ready to leave at 8am. ETA back in Christchurch: 5 - 7 pm.

Weekend 4-5 April		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
<p><b>Cannibal Gorge.</b> A good trip on a good track to a good hut -- ideal for those looking to get into weekend tramping. We'll start at the Lewis Pass, walk up the St James Walkway to the first hut and maybe further, depending on the group. On Sunday we'll retrace our steps back to the Lewis Pass.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy/Mod          Closed: 26 Mar          Map: M31          Approx: \$45</p>	
Sunday 5 April		Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914	
<p><b>Mt Binser.</b> Mt Binser (1860m) is a commanding peak above the Mt White Road with panoramic views of the south-east Arthurs Pass National Park area. We start up the Binser Saddle track to the saddle (1085m) where we leave the track, heading up firstly through bush and then open tussock slopes to pt 1753m. A few k's of superb ridge travel then brings us to the main peak (about 1350m total height gain). With a car shuffle at the start we'll be able to drop down to the south-west to the road. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen for a great tramp.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate          Closes: 2 Apr          Map: L34 L34          Approx: \$25</p>	
Thursday 9 April		Club Night	
<p><b>No Club: it's Easter.</b> No Club tonight as it's Easter and hopefully you are on your way to a tramp.</p>			
Long Weekend 9-13 April		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196	
<p><b>Mt Axis, Campbell Range.</b> Steve writes: "The trip evolves: The start will now be in the Taipo Valley, heading up to Julia Hut then Popes Pass. From there I hope to climb direct on to Mt Browning (Note:1st iffy detail). From there as previously advertised I hope to traverse north over Mt Ajax (2nd iffy bit) and then head as far along the range as time and weather (3rd iffy detail) permit. Extra days off work is flexible at this stage (may end up being inevitable once the trip is underway!) depending on who is interested and if they can get leave."</p>		<p>Grade: Hard          Closes: 2 Apr          Map: K33          Approx: \$30</p>	
Long Weekend 10-13 April		Leader: Stewart Smith Flo Roberts 980-7913	
<p><b>Easter Mystery Moderately Hard Trip.</b> Stu and Flo will lead a trip at Easter but are unsure yet where they will go. If you are interested let them know.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard          Closes: 2 Apr          Map:          Approx: \$unknown</p>	

Long Weekend 10-13 April

Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344

**The Three Passes.** How about spending Easter doing one of the classic New Zealand tramps? The Three Passes route takes us from the Waimak bridge over to Lake Kaniere on the West Coast via the beautiful Harman, Whitehorn and Browning passes. Ice axe and crampons may be required for crossing Whitehorn Pass. Great river and alpine scenery all the way. There's nothing terribly difficult, but you do need to be comfortable with rough off-track tramping, be able to handle an ice axe and have a reasonable head for heights on the way up to Browning Pass. Hopefully we'll have enough people to make a cross-over trip. We'll take either 3 or 4 days depending on the weather and the party/parties.

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 2 Apr  
Map: J33 K33  
Approx: \$60

Saturday 11 April Meet 9 am at Clock Tower, Sumner

Leader: Dave Clark 326-6544

**Sumner, Taylors Mistake, Godley Head, Evans Pass.** An easy day trip of about about 6 hours, this is a ramble around some local favourites. The cliff walk from Taylors Mistake to Boulder Bay offers great views out to the ocean, then we go uphill a couple of hundred metres to Godley Head carpark. From there we head west to Evans Pass, from where we can look down into Lyttelton Harbour. This tramp is all in the open so sunhats and water are important. Note: We will meet at 9am at the clock tower in Sumner.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 9 Apr  
Map: M36  
Approx: \$0

Sunday 12 April

Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360

**Og Gog Magog.** The nobs Og (825m), Gog (924m), Magog (930m) are mostly hidden from view from the highway by the hills to the east of Lake Grasmere. This is a good trip with at least 750m of height gain as there are dips between the nobs. Where do Og Gog and Magog come from? Have a look at at the Bible - one of the more stirring mentions is Revelations 20:7-8 'Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle . . . ' Og turns up in Numbers 21:33 'And they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. So Og king of Bashan went out against them. . . '. Or there's a Celtic myth of the giants Gog and Magog . . . So now you know.

Grade: Easy/Mod  
Closes: 9 Apr  
Map: L34  
Approx: \$20

Thursday 16 April

Club Night

**AGM.** It's the AGM so come along and have input into the running of the club, election of officers etc.

Saturday 18 April		Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392	
<p><b>Lyndon Saddle and Helicopter Hill.</b> Helicopter Hill (1256m) is an easily-accessible hill in the Craigieburns. Most of the route up is through beech but the top clears to tussock, low hebes and grasses and you can see out over the amazing limestone escarpments of Castle Hill Basin. The Helicopter Hill area has been a 'take-off' site for those wilding pine seeds - you'll see the patches where DOC have been organising the felling of the big trees producing the seeds - and you can continue the good work of the Wilding Pine days by pulling out any small seedlings you come across.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy  Closes: 16 Apr  Map: K34  Approx: \$20</p>	
Weekend 18-19 April thomas_mahern@yahoo.co.nz		Leader: Thomas Matern Ph 021 02919896 email	
<p><b>Te Ao Whekere.</b> Thomas has been exploring options for climbing Te Ao Whekere in the Seaward Kaikouras. He has several ideas to climb the mountain starting from the Puhi Puhi road and Happy Valley Stream. He would like to try to traverse the mountain into either Boyd Stream or Snowy Stream, camping there and returning back over on Sunday. Talk to Thomas for details.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard  Closes: 9 Apr  Map: P30 P31O30  Approx: \$50</p>	
Sunday 19 April (could be early start - check with leader)		Leader: David Sutton 960-1877	
<p><b>Dome.</b> The Dome (1945m) is a distinctive bump between the Edwards and the Waimakariri. It's a moderate trip, but at the longer/more strenuous end of the moderate range. We'll probably go in via the long western spur, climbing steadily to the bush line (about 700m up) and then up another 500m+ along the open undulating ridge to the summit of the Dome itself. There are a number of descent options, including dropping down into the the beautiful Edwards valley to the track that goes up to the Edwards Hut. It will be a long day so we may well make an early start - make sure you check in with the leader in advance.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 16 Apr  Map: K33  Approx: \$25</p>	
Thursday 23 April		Club Night	
<p><b>Russia in winter with our guide Sue Napier.</b> A slightly cold trip across Russia The slides will cover the 10,000km Trans Siberian railway trip from Vladivostok to St Petersburg. Russia is an interesting place to visit, especially in winter when you are the only foreign tourist! There is plenty of good scenery including Lake Baikal, ice fishing, skiing, dog sledding, heaps of culture and great people.</p>			

Saturday 25 April		Leader:
<p><b>Where's my easy trip?</b> Try the base camp for your easy and easy-moderate trip options! It's fun, it's sociable, you get to explore a new area, you might even strike it rich . . .</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 23 Apr Map: Approx:</p>	
Weekend 25-26 April		Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392
<p><b>Reefton Base Camp.</b> Reefton has a host of options for tramping and exploring. The old gold mining areas have a good series of tracks criss-crossing them so there should be something for everybody. The Murray Creek gold fields, the ghost town of Waiuta, the Big River track or the tramping tracks at the Rahu saddle are just some of the options. Join Craig for what should be a fun social weekend.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/All Closes: 16 Apr Map: L30 Approx: \$50+Accom</p>	
Sunday 26 April (early start - contact leader)		Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253
<p><b>Mt Technical.</b> Mt Technical is a impressive-sounding peak in the Lewis Pass ("what did you do at the weekend?" "well, I just cruised up Mt Technical . . ."), 1870m in its stockinged feet - about 1000m above the highway but with a few 'interesting' bits to negotiate towards the top. There will be an early start, and if the weather looks really really good on an earlier weekend this trip might even do a temporal-translocation and happen a bit ahead of the scheduled date, so if you are interested just contact the leader well in advance and ask to be kept in touch with the plans.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 23 Apr Map: M31 Approx: \$25</p>	
Thursday 30 April		Club Night
<p><b>Newsletter folding plus a collection of short videos.</b> After the usual folding of the newsletter Alan Ross will show a few short videos from club trips. Some of them people will find amusing, he thinks.</p>		
Weekend 2-3 May		Leader: Ross Ogden 351-1857
<p><b>Avoca Valley.</b> The head of the Avoca is a great valley, well worth a visit. There is a great little A frame hut and, with at least 5 options of getting in or out of the valley, plenty of scope for a round trip. The plan at the moment is to go over Sphinx saddle and back over Jordan saddle but Gizeh Col is also an option. Sphinx and Gizeh Col both give access out of the Anti crow and Jordan Saddle goes into the Jordan Stream.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 23 Apr Map: K34 Approx: \$40</p>	

Sunday 3 May		Leader: Mike Ny 337-9796
<p><b>Pinchgut Hut.</b> Pinchgut hut is down behind Mt Thomas with a nice track. There is a crossing of the Okuku River right at the start of the track so you could wear an old pair of shoes for this and then change in to dry boots for the walk. 3-4 hours of gentle walking, mainly in beech, will get us to the hut in a stream-side clearing where we will lunch before returning.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 30 Apr Map: M34 Approx: \$20
Sunday 3 May		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
<p><b>Tiromoana Bush.</b> Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track is a new-ish walkway constructed as a result of the landfill deal. The club did a 'test run' before it officially opened and it's been a popular tramp ever since. It's certainly a great way to explore the area to the east of the landfill where native bush and the Ella Ponds wetlands are being protected and restored. The track loops around from the Glenafric road to a cliff lookout (Tiromoana means 'view of the sea') and access to the Ella Peak Scenic Reserve and the beach and then back past the wetlands.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 30 Apr Map: N34 Approx: \$15
Thursday 7 May		Club Night
<p><b>Product presentation by the company Salomon.</b> Details in next newsletter.</p>		
Saturday 9 May		Leader: Philip Tree 942-7670
<p><b>High points of the Crater Rim.</b> Okay so places like Mt Cavendish, Gibraltar Rock, and Cass Peak don't exactly need oxygen to climb, but they are right there on the Port Hills, just waiting for us to have a wander around and appreciate the amazing countryside that is right on our back doorstep. Great views out over Lyttelton harbour, Christchurch, Peiku Lake in Tibet (okay, that one's not true . . .) , no 2-hour drive, and great local ice-cream . . . what more could you want from a superb day's tramping?</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 7 May Map: M36 Approx: \$5
Sunday 10 May		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
<p><b>Temple Col.</b> Pop up to Temple Col (1774m) and have a look at all the wonderful weekend tramping opportunities on the other side . . . If this does not get you inspired, nothing will. Temple Col is about 900m up from the highway, partly along the very friendly zig-zag path up to the Temple Basin Ski area - perfectly placed for morning tea. Above ski club huts, the last part of the climb is a bit steeper, and then we are on the ridge between Phipps and Blimit, trying to see the route down to Goat Pass. Admire Franklin and Oates in the distance, and make a vow to do a longer trip in this area.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 May Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Saturday 16 May		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
<p><b>Rapaki Track and Mt Vernon.</b> Rapaki track is a local classic, going right up from Hillsborough to the Summit Road close to Witch Hill. One option for this trip would be to start on the Mt Vernon Valley track from the Mt Vernon carpark on The Crescent - that takes us onto the Rapaki and thus up to the Crater Rim. From there we can pop up Mt Vernon (462m) and then descend back to the cars on the Mt Vernon Farm Track.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy  Closes: 14 May  Map: M36  Approx: \$5</p>	
Weekend 16-17 May		Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275	
<p><b>Arthurs Pass Base Camp.</b> Come join us for a weekend at the club hut at Arthurs Pass. This is a trip suitable for all but will be aimed at being suitable for families. There are tramps for all grades so all are welcome.</p>		<p>Grade: All / Family  Closes: 7 May  Map: K33  Approx: \$45</p>	
Sunday 17 May (could be early start)		Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155	
<p><b>Savannah Range - Andrews Stream.</b> Woolshed Hill (1429m) is a straightforward 800m ascent on a good track from the Hawdon Shelter, but on this trip we aim to go quite a bit further and have a real explore of a less-visited area . . . The plan is to head along the ridge towards the Savannah Range, dropping down to Andrews Stream for the return march. Nothing too hard but a longish way and a longish day.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate+  Closes: 14 May  Map: K33  Approx: \$25</p>	
Sunday 24 May		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344	
<p><b>Mt Barrosa.</b> In the Clent hills, Mt Barrosa is a wee bit further west than Mt Somers and a wee bit lower too (1364m). It is an interesting geological area (Barrosa Andesite) and rumour has it that keen rock hounds can find goods (whatever they are). Historians and linguists will appreciate that this is not the 'red earth barossa', redolent of red wine, but the 1911 Peninsula Wars version - NZ was, after all, originally a colony . . . Those just there for the tramping can enjoy the 800m climb on mostly untracked tussock hillside with good views all the way up.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 21 May  Map: J36  Approx: \$20</p>	
Sunday 24 May		Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913	
<p><b>Packhorse Hut and Mt Bradley.</b> We'll go up to the Packhorse Hut from the pretty Kaituna Valley, just before Little River. It is about 600m height gain to the Hut on a good track. The Hut is a lovely old building of Halswell stone dating from 1914. It is formally called the Sign of the Packhorse and - like the Sign of Takehe, Sign of the Kiwi, etc, originally built as a rest house for Harry Ell's proposed summit route from Christchurch to Akaroa. From the Hut, those that want to can go up Mt Bradley (855m). We may also be able to visit the Remarkable Dykes area and take a different ridge back down towards the cars.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy or EasyMod  Closes: 21 May  Map: M36  Approx: \$10</p>	

---

# Trip Reports

---

15 February 2009

## Ryde Falls via Coopers Creek West Branch

14.5 km, 5 hours 40 minutes, 350 m total height gain



Carrie and Malcolm negotiate the toe-toe



The pool above the third tier of Ryde Falls

The West Branch of Coopers Creek is a pretty, meandering, shingle-based stream, surrounded by beech forest, but open enough for the sun to warm anyone who takes an intended or accidental dip. Wendy and I stumbled on this route a few years ago when exploring the bush around the base of Mount Oxford. We enjoyed it so much that I suggested it to Jenny as a club trip when she was asking for ideas last year.

At 9 am, and following a recent cold snap, the air at Coopers Creek car park was crisp enough to condense the breath and to keep the sand flies (mostly) at bay. After crossing the bridge, we dropped to the stream bed and made our way up to the confluence of the West and East Branches. The slope of the West Branch is gentle and, on this occasion, the stream was low; a veritable trickle in comparison with recent snow-melt experiences in the Hodder River and Sudden Valley. The water was exceptionally clear and a swim in one of the numerous pools would have been tempting in hotter conditions.

As the day warmed, the insects came out; cicadas, numerous (thankfully placid) wasps and more bumble bees than you could shake a trekking pole at. The latter took a liking to Stephen's bright white polypro tee-shirt and my lunch. When I offered to brush off a particularly large and furry one that landed on Stephen's nose and began to investigate his right nostril, his reaction was worthy of a nomination for the Cooch-Windgrass Award for Oneness with Nature: "No, leave it alone! It's just looking for a place to build a nest!" (I can only presume that he expected his nostril would prove unacceptable.)

After a leisurely three hours, including a couple of stops to enjoy the sun and converse with the bumblebees, we reached the Ryde Falls clearing. We continued along the short track to the falls themselves and then clambered up the slippery path to the top of the third and lowest of the three tiers where we "cooled" our legs in a deep pool. We took lunch in a sunny spot back at the clearing, and chatted briefly to a family party that had come in along the conventional route from View Hill car park.

Our return to the cars was made along the track to the south of the creek. We contemplated taking the old logging-tram route, but DoC seems intent on discouraging its use. It was very

overgrown when I last went that way and seems even more so now; and we didn't fancy stumbling on a wasps nest in thick regrowth. By now it was quite warm in the bush, but higher up on the ridge the breeze was able to penetrate the forest sufficiently to make it comfortable. We made good time, getting back to the cars in about 1 hour 45 minutes from lunch. In order to give Carrie more of a look at the Canterbury hinterland, we returned to Christchurch via the Waimak Gorge and the main highway, with stop for ice creams or smoothies at Darfield.

It was a very enjoyable trip that I would recommend to anyone who enjoys wet feet and bumblebees, and who would like to try a different route to Ryde Falls. Particular thanks to Malcolm for doing the driving.

Trampers: Stephen Vance-Hoare, Carrie Moore, Malcolm Reid, Bryce Williamson.

---

14 - 15 March 2009

## **Mingha-Deception**

We decided to make a bit of a mark of Bitten's last tramp in NZ (at least until she wangles her way back here . . .) and even the weather joined in - it was absolutely beautiful for the whole weekend. Seven of us set off bright and early on Saturday, Richard and I shuffled the cars and the others started tramping. The route across the river flats is very clear, thanks to the Coast to Coasters, and the river was nice and low. We caught the others up before lunch and wandered on up to the Hut. The first of our group to arrive at the hut were slightly dismayed to find it covered in people, but they turned out to be a large group of runners just passing through. Similarly, the rumoured delights of 17 school-children at the hut turned into a message in the hut book that they had moved on to camp further down the Deception.

Lisa and Scott stayed at the hut to take photos and admire the scenery while the rest of us headed up to Lake Mavis. It's a bit of a grovel up the scree to get up there but well worth it - it was just lovely. Later, all back at the hut, the party goodies started to appear in Bitten's honour and we had a lovely evening complete with Pecan Pie and custard courtesy of Susan, and baby kiwifruit from Kerrie and Scott - the perfect tramping desert provided it's not me who has to carry it.

Next day we set off down into the Deception in two groups, the advance guard of Susan, Kerrie, Scott and Bitten aiming to untangle the cars while Richard, Lisa and I could enjoy a more leisurely pace. As expected, the first steep gorge and the Upper Deception took some time to negotiate, but once past the old hut the pace picked up and we timed it perfectly to arrive at the Otira bridge just as the cars arrived back. Huge ice-creams at the Arthurs Pass Tea rooms and tea at the Wobbly Kea completed a wonderful weekend. Many thanks to everyone and congratulations to Lisa for such stoic determination and good humour in tackling the Deception.

Trampers: Susan Pearson, Kerrie Maynard, Scott Fowler, Bitten Plesner, Richard Lobb, Lisa Harrison, Jenny Harlow (scribe).

---

21 March 2009

## **Rome Ridge to Avalanche Peak**

11 trampers gathered at 7am at the Shell Station on a cold wet Christchurch morning. "Perhaps we should all go back to bed?" said Kathy. With the Arthurs Pass forecast predicting a cloudy day with showers falling as snow above 1100m, it was tempting indeed. But, buoyed by Doug's assurance that it hadn't rained in Arthurs Pass for four days and that Saturday's similar forecast had been dead wrong, we headed off stoically. Within 15 minutes we'd left the rain behind and by the time we'd crossed Porters Pass it was a lovely fine cloudless morning. There's clearly a

moral there somewhere.

By 9:30am sun-block had been applied, the Harlow Gear Rental service had offered poles and redundant ice axes to all and sundry, newcomer Neil had been introduced to everyone and we were on our way. The team powered its way up Rome Ridge with me, leading from the rear as usual, looking in vain for someone slower than myself whom I could pretend to be looking after. We had a short scrog stop just above the bushline to soak up the great views down into Arthurs Pass village and then we were off again up the ridge, now a lovely wide tussocky slope stretching on into the distance towards Mt Rolleston. "Tramping doesn't get much better than this" I gasped in the hope that someone – anyone -- would slow down enough to listen.

We soon got to the end of tussock and, after another brief scrog stop and sun-soak, started onto the scrambly stuff. Any fears that Brit newcomer Neil might struggle proved groundless as he raced ahead with the A-team. At the point where the ridge suddenly gets much steeper and rockier, we usually branch off round the side to join the connecting ridge to Avalanche Peak, but there Dayle said he'd like to continue scrambling on up the ridge, dropping down onto the connecting ridge from above. I waved him on, having insufficient breath to argue. Linda was soon off after him, with Jenny, David and Neil hot on her heels. In an attempt to prove something – I don't wish to consider what – I tagged along behind, leaving the rest of the party to take the sane route around the side. Happily, though, the scrambling was straightforward and we were soon on the knob at the top of the ridge, almost able to see down into the famous "gap". Great lead, Dayle! The loose rocky descent to the connecting ridge was straightforward, though it did have newcomer Neil looking slightly discomfited for the first time. Apparently in Britain rock sticks together better than here.

We had soon joined the rest down on the connecting ridge – all except Sue and Doug who had struck off at an angle to join the ridge nearer to Avalanche Peak. There we settled down in the sun to have lunch, with Mt Rolleston towering over us and spectacular views down into the head of the Crow River. Then it was on along the rugged rubble ridge towards Avalanche Peak with great views down into the Crow and back towards the Crow Glacier all the way. By 3pm we were back in tourist country on Avalanche Peak. After another short sun-soak, we headed down Scotts Track back to the village, arriving at 5pm for ice creams and pots of tea before driving back out of the beautiful weather into rainy Christchurch. Thanks everyone for a great trip, particularly Dayle for the interesting extra scramble and Neil for allaying my fears about taking a newcomer on a moderate+ trip. But ... didn't the leader do well with the weather, eh?

Trampers: Dayle, Flo, David, Kathy, Jenny, Doug, Sue H, Linda, Neil, Susan P, Richard L (leader and scribe).

---

## Classifieds

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

**Subaru Legacy for sale. \$2,000 o.n.o.:** Great trampers vehicle! 1995 White Subaru Legacy wagon 1.8L All wheel drive. 206,000km. 8 years full maintenance history, CAM belt replaced last year, current WOF and licence. This vehicle has been incredibly reliable and I am only selling it due to parents coming to NZ. (They need to tour the country in a vehicle with a bit more comfort .) Bodywork is not perfect - it has been used extensively for tramping - so has its quota of minor scratches and dimples! Contact Susan Pearson - 03 337 4914, or 021 261 4415 or [susan@toniq.co.nz](mailto:susan@toniq.co.nz) or [sue.n.ron@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sue.n.ron@xtra.co.nz).

---

---

# External Events

**Happy Birthday to the Avon Tramping Club:** The Avon Tramping Club will be holding their 25th Anniversary Dinner on 27 June. They are keen to get back in touch with past members, so if you fit that description yourself, or you have any leads, contact John Hinton (358 3192 or johnhinton@nettel.net.nz) or Judy Murphy (348 3858, jjmurphy@actrix.co.nz).

**Banff Mountain Film Festival:** The Banff Mountain Film Festival, "a show case of the world's best mountain culture and adventure films", is on Saturday 16th May at 7.00pm in the Aurora Centre, Burnside High School, Christchurch. Tickets are \$20 each, available from 28th March from R and R Sport, Bivouac Outdoors, Mountain Designs and The Roxx Climbing Centre. Note that in past years, tickets have sold out about one week prior to the event, so we encourage you to buy tickets early. Enquiries: please contact Clayton Garbes on claytongarbes@hotmail.com

---

## More about the CTC

### Committee:

<b>President</b>	Richard Wills	389-8671	<b>Club Captain</b>	Adrian Busby	325-5001
<b>Vice-president</b>	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	<b>Day-trip Organiser</b>	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
<b>Secretary</b>	Jenny Harlow	349-2280	<b>Weekend-trip Organiser</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

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

**Equipment Hire:** The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Ken Brown 359-2000. Note: Club gear assigned to you is your responsibility; please take care of it. Please make sure you put tents inside your pack. Tents attached to the outside of your pack can be easily punctured when bush bashing or even lost. This may result in serious damage to your bank account! Please air and dry tents after taking them on a trip even if they are not used, and report any damage to the gear custodian.

### Rates for Gear Hire:

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

---

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 26 April 2009 – Thanks.

**Christchurch Tramping Club (INCORPORATED)**  
**77th Annual General Meeting**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB (Incorporated) WILL BE HELD AT THE WATLING LOUNGE, CANTERBURY HORTICULTURAL CENTRE, SOUTH HAGLEY PARK, 57 RICCARTON AVENUE (ENTRANCE OPPOSITE THE HOSPITAL) ON:**

**THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2009 AT 7.30PM**  
**(WATLING LOUNGE WILL BE OPEN FROM 7PM)**

**AGENDA**

1. Confirmation of the minutes from the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Presentation of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2009.
4. Election of Committee for the ensuing year.

**Committee**

President

Senior Vice-President

Junior Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Editor

Club Captain

Weekend Trip Organiser

Day Trip Organiser

Hut Convenor

Gear Custodian

Social Convenor

Club Patron

And a maximum of 6 other members

5. Election of Honorary Auditor.
6. Notified motions

Notice of motion proposed by the Committee:

“That the following new annual subscriptions structure be adopted

	Ordinary Couple	Associate	Junior	
Mailed newsletter	\$40	\$60	\$23	\$23
Non-mailed newsletter	\$35	\$55	\$18	\$18

Late payment surcharge \$10 for failure to pay within 2 calendar months of the due date.”

Proposed: Warwick Dowling; Seconded: Richard Lobb

7. General business