



# 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.

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*Mt Barrosa, July 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 \$40 member, \$60 couple, \$23 junior or associate, with a \$5 discount for members who opt to obtain this newsletter electronically.

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

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**Special Feature this Month:** A report by Jonathan Carr of Emma Richardson's extraordinary South Island traverse: 1780 km in 180 days, with a total height gain of 93,125m. See page 10.

**FMC Cards:** If you don't have a use for your FMC card, please could you return it to the club secretary. We need extra cards to issue to members who join during the year.

And don't forget ...

## The CTC Photo Contest

See back page for details.

# Tramper of the Month: Anne Henderson

<i>Place of Birth?</i>	I am a Londoner.	
<i>Why did you come to NZ?</i>	I came as an Assisted Immigrant looking for work.	
<i>When did you join the CTC?</i>	In 1955, at the age of 29.	
<i>How did you find out about the CTC?</i>	Through Ava Whimp (nee Hedge). Ava is still a member of the CTC.	
<i>Family?</i>	I have a brother and sister in England.	
<i>Committee service?</i>	I served as Secretary on three occasions and I was made a Life Member in 1975.	
<i>Your employment?</i>	I worked in the office at Lincoln College and then for the Justice Department and the District and Magistrates Court. I also worked as a dishwasher in the kitchen at Outward Bound, Anakiwa.	
<i>Your first day trip with the CTC?</i>	A trip to the Monument on Banks Peninsula.	
<i>Your first weekend trip with the CTC?</i>	Mingha-Deception.	
<i>Have you lived anywhere else in NZ?</i>	Yes, Wellington for 2 years and whilst there I was a member of the Tararua Tramping Club.	
<i>Your favourite long trip?</i>	Two weeks tramping in the Tin Range on Stewart Island.	
<i>Your favourite day trip?</i>	Mt Somers	
<i>Your favourite hut?</i>	Black Hill in the Lees Valley area.	
<i>Who had the greatest influence on your tramping days?</i>	My tramping cobbler, the late Colin McCallum and the late Joop Bijleveld and his wife Adrie who were both members of the CTC. Bijleveld Col in the upper Waimak area was named after Joop.	
<i>Why is tramping not as popular today as it was in your days?</i>	Because of mountain biking and kayaking	

*On Ben Lomond, 1960*

# News

**New Members:** Please welcome the following new members to our club. *Paul Knox* comes to us as a current member of the Over Forties club with solid tramping and leadership skills which will (we hope) be of immediate benefit to the club. *Joanna Martino* and *Ian Costello* have immersed themselves in the club by coming to our social club nights as well as doing a variety of day tramps mostly on the Peninsula. *Liz Tanner* has also been a social presence in the club for some months now, supporting our Round Mt Somers challenge back in February when very new to the club and joining in on classic tramps like Rakaia Gorge. *Rachel Brown* has done a variety of tramps from the well known Nikau Palm Gully to the mysterious Black Hole. *Allan Growcott* ventured up Bealey Spur for matchless views of the Waimak and wandered across Manuka Downs. *David Bottomley* took his time doing Rabbit Hill (in 2007) and finally managing his 3rd day trip at Hinewai this year. *Naomi Wells* impressed the club's moderate trampers whilst doing the Three Passes. *Paul Thorne* not only learnt basic snow skills with Adrian Busby but also kept him company on his otherwise lonely trip up Mt Bruce.

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## 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.

Saturday 1 August.	Leader: Kerrie Maynard 03-386-2850
<b>Peak Hill.</b> Take a drive out to tranquil Lake Coleridge and climb Peak Hill (1240m). Pat Barrett rates it 'unequivocally outstanding' as a viewpoint and a 'special place for mood and light' - he has surely seen a few of the best and it should be particularly stunning in winter. There is good access via a well graded track up to a small saddle from where you can see into the Rakaia on one side and out over Coleridge on the other. From the saddle we'll continue up through the snow (probably) and tussocks to the broad summit at 1240m, giving about 600m height gain altogether.	Grade: EasyMod Closed: 30 Jul Map: K35 Approx: \$25

Weekend 1-2 August.	Leader: John Henson 342-3311
<b>Intermediate snow craft.</b> If you did a basic snowcraft last year and have spent a season doing a few day trips into the snow then this course will expand your knowledge and snow skills. Focused on snow tramping, not pitched climbing, we will cover foot and axe techniques for steeper terrain, setting up a snow belay for crossing a crevasse or schrund, roping for glacier travel, avalanche awareness, etc. Likely gear requirements are ice axe, crampons, harness, snow shovel, avalanche transceiver and probe.	Grade: Training Closes: 23 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$40

Weekend 1-2 August.	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
<b>Lillburn Hill.</b> A tramp in the winter ranges. In to the Youngman Hut either by the valley route, or depending on snow conditions the Pancake Range is an alternative. Back out via Lillburn Hill (1045m) past Tarn Hut. Ice axe and crampons required.	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closed: 23 Jul Map: L34 Approx: \$30

Thursday 6 August.	Club Night
<b>We have Mapworld along tonight.</b> Mapworld are a leading local supplier of maps and navigation equipment. Learn about what is now available. Topics : the latest developments in maps and navigation equipment including GPSs, emergency locator beacons and compasses; digital topo mapping for the PC and GPS; the new NZ topo map series. Mapworld will offer a great GPS/digital mapping and beacon deal to anyone who is present on the night!	

Saturday 8 August.	Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022 erik@tba.co.nz
<b>Narnialand Magic.</b> The club is again lucky to have been given permission to go into Flock Hill to explore the amazing rocky escarpment where the first of the Chronicles of Narnia was filmed. We'll start from Cave Stream and walk up to the escarpment. If there is still snow it will be just like the frozen Narnia winter wonderland. Come along and enjoy a great social trip. Approx 300m height gain overall, 10km, tussocky terrain.	Grade: Easy Closes: 6 Aug Map: K34 Approx: \$20

Weekend 8-9 August.	Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922 jeff.hall@invitrogen.com
<b>Ski tour.</b> Destination to be decided on weather and snow conditions. Full touring gear required - transceiver, shovel and probe.	Grade: Ski Closed: 30 Jul Map: Approx: \$40

Weekend 8-9 August.		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001	
<p><b>Snow shelters / Snowcraft.</b> Snowcaves, snow mounds, simple trenches. Come and learn the basics of constructing a shelter above the snow line. Also a repeat of basic snowcraft techniques for those who missed the first basic snowcraft.</p>		Grade: Training	Closes: 30 Jul
		Map: K34 K33	Approx: \$30
Sunday 9 August. (early start)		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<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. You'll need to have done your basic snow craft or equivalent for this trip. Note early start - contact leader.</p>		Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)	Closes: 6 Aug
		Map: K34	Approx: \$25
Thursday 13 August.		Club Night	
<p><b>Remote Huts on the West Coast.</b> We have Andrew Buglass the founder of the remote huts website back again. He will build on the show he did last time and update us on their current projects.</p>			
Saturday 15 August. (early start - contact leader)		Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453 doug@forster.net.nz	
<p><b>Mt Manson.</b> Mt Manson (1859m) is a club favourite in the Craigieburns, opposite Purple Hill overlooking Lake Pearson. We'll be doing a round trip from the Craigieburn Road to Mt Manson, then Hamilton Peak and down to Camp Saddle and back to the cars. Depending on conditions (which, even if your vegetarian trip-organiser were prepared to sacrifice ever-so-many black cockerels, remain obstinately hard to forecast a month in advance), this trip could be anything from a harder-end-of-moderate to a moderate-hard. Ice axe and crampons, and the ability to use them, will be essential.</p>		Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 13 Aug
		Map: K34	Approx: \$25
Weekend 15-16 August.		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz	
<p><b>Hanmer base camp.</b> The Hot Pools are a given. But where to walk? How about Princess Bath and Mt Princess or Mt Clara or Mt Southey, all in the Lake Tennyson direction. Or head up the road towards Lewis Pass for any number of bush / mountain walks. Don't want to walk? How about a day's skiing at Amuri. Or mountainbike the growing network of trails in the forest. Something for all.</p>		Grade: Easy/All	Closes: 6 Aug
		Map: M32 M31 N32	Approx: \$40

Sunday 16 August.	Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913
<b>Woolshed Creek Hut.</b> This is a lovely trip at any time of year, with an opportunity to visit the historic coal mines as well as a flash big hut for lunch and a great leader. What more could you want? In reasonable conditions this should be an easy trip, but of course in winter it could be harder because of snow. Fortunately, part of being a trumper is being able to get a feel for what you are capable of given the conditions you know prevail at the time, and make sensible responsible decisions for yourselves . . . It's about 6-7 k each way, and 200-300m net altitude gain from the cars to the Hut.	Grade: Easy Closes: 13 Aug Map: K36 Approx: \$20

Thursday 20 August.	Club Night
<b>Come to the Gardens of Eden and Allah with Susan..</b> The Garden of Eden is a large snow/ice plateau at the head of two rivers: The Clyde (flowing east) and The Perth (flowing west). The Garden of Allah is a similar plateau adjacent to the Garden of Eden. River crossings can make this wilderness area technically tricky to get into (and/or out of) and its main divide location guarantees both magnificent vistas and fickle weather. This all adds up to a place of mysterious attraction for committed trampers (and climbers). Geoff Spearpoint (and Phil Novis) led a 6 day trip to 'The Gardens' last February. They know the area well and opened the trip to some trampers who, for one reason or another might never have got there on any other trip. Susan was lucky enough to be one of the 8 trampers that went on the trip with Geoff and Phil. Come and see some of her photos and get a feel for this special place.	

Weekend 22-23 August.	Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392 havokk@ihug.co.nz
<b>Cameron Hut.</b> Into the hut on Saturday, about 4 to 6 hrs depending on snow levels / conditions. Early start Sunday (or a sleep in if you don't want to go up the hill) to climb Marquee, 1100m height gain, then out the same way. From Cameron Hut, the view of the Arrowsmith Range covered in winter snow, is stunning.	Grade: Moderate (requires snowskills) Closes: 13 Aug Map: J35 Approx: \$40

Saturday 22 August.	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
<b>Mt Donald.</b> Calling all adventurous easy trampers - another new trip to test drive. Mt Donald is a 491m bump east of Weka Pass overlooking the Waikari Culverdon planes - great views, weather gods permitting. This should be a nice social and family-friendly trip. We'll start off up a farm track and possibly come down off-track. The whole trip should be about 3 k each way, about 350 m height gain. It's not too far to drive from Christchurch (Waipara), and there is the Nor'Wester in Amberley on the way home - what more could you want?	Grade: Easy/family Closes: 20 Aug Map: M34 Approx: \$15

Sunday 23 August.		Leader: Thomas Matern 325-5750 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p><b>Ben More.</b> Ben More is found in the southern section of the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park conservation area. It's New Zealand's first tussock grasslands conservation park, but at this time of year may well be under a picturesque carpet of snow ... There is a nice circuit from the Lake Lyndon road, across the Acheron, and up onto a horseshoe of undulating tops (1327, 1660, 1665, . . .) with Ben More (1655m) at its high point. There is about 1000m of climbing altogether, and about 17km of tramping. Please make sure you contact the leader in advance if you are interested in this trip, either by signing up at club, or phone or email.</p>		Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)	Closes: 20 Aug
		Map: K35	Approx: \$20
Thursday 27 August.		Club Night	
<p><b>Newsletter Folding night.</b> Be one of the first to see the latest newsletter. It's a social night after the folding is done.</p>			
Weekend 29-30 August.		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz	
<p><b>Lake Mavis Snow Camp.</b> No wimps allowed. Uncle Bernard advises there will be a compulsory lake swim before dinner with optional snow rolling after. Anybody discovered with a hot water bottle in their sleeping bag will be rostered on to getting up first and boiling the billy for breakfast.</p>		Grade: Moderate (requires snowskills)	Closes: 20 Aug
		Map: K33	Approx: \$35
Weekend 29-30 August.		Leader: Gareth Gilbert 389-1737 gilbert.gareth@gmail.com	
<p><b>Mt Somers Circuit.</b> A lovely mixture of bush and open country walking, staying at the large new(ish) Woolshed Ck hut for the night. If there's enough interest we'll have a communal dinner or perhaps just a potluck dessert -- tell the leader your preferences. Approx 12km walking per day on well formed tracks.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 20 Aug
		Map: K36	Approx: \$30
Sunday 30 August. (could be early start - contact leader)		Leader: David Sutton 960-1877 davidsutton@clear.net.nz	
<p><b>Avalanche Peak to Mt Bealey.</b> This is a classic winter traverse from Avalanche Peak (1833m) to Mt Bealey (1839m). If the conditions are right, there is over 3 k of superb ridge travel looking out over the Bealey on one side and on the other out over the Crow towards Lancelot and Guinevere (still romantically close after all these years, I guess because Arthur is safely hundreds of kilometres away in the Kahurangi ...). A close knowledge of Tennyson's 'Idylls of the Kings' is not essential for this trip, but snow skills, ice axe and crampons definitely are. The trip may change location due adverse snow conditions and/or the leader getting a better idea. Contact the leader nearer the time for up-to-date plans.</p>		Grade: ModHard	Closes: 27 Aug
		Map: K33	Approx: \$20

Sunday 30 August.	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
<p><b>Cass - Totara - Oldham (Limestone loitering).</b> Walk through a fascinating limestone area in coastal North Canterbury. As well as the limestone there are some good stands of native bush, and we'll pop over Mt Cass (525m), Totara (527m) and Oldham (496m) on our way along a low spine of hills. Mount Cass is the site of a proposed windfarm and (as at the time of writing), Hurunui District Council has turned down the resource consent for the windfarm and the applicant is appealing to the Environment Court. Come and see the area and its unusual limestone environment for yourselves. Some off-track tramping in gentle country, 10 - 12k at a relaxed pace, in a very interesting area - a tramp to please almost everyone.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod  Closes: 27 Aug  Map: N34  Approx: \$15</p>

Thursday 3 September.	Club Night
<p><b>Trekking in Peru and Boliva.</b> We have Tim Mundy as our chief guide on these treks in South America. We will see some wonderful scenery and Tim will give us a very good taste for the trekking potential in these countries.</p>	

Saturday 5 September.	Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981 1944 jkspittlehouse@hotmail.com
<p><b>Mt Alford.</b> Mt Alford is a moderate (1171 metres) summit south of Mt Hutt with about 600 metres ascent. We wanted to go in July but it was a very snow-covered bump then so we'll try again now. We had 17.5 people last time we did it - the half is now the pride and hope of the Hulme household and has been on many more trips already. In the early 1880s, Alford Forest was the scene of a 'diamond rush' after a miner found something very very glittery - people poured into the area and it could have been even bigger news than dairying, but in the end it turned out to be just small crystals of quartz . . .</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod  Closes: 3 Sep  Map: K36  Approx: \$20</p>

Weekend 5-6 September.	Leader: Jonathan Carr 351-1574 j.carr@aranz.com
<p><b>Dun Fiunary.</b> Climbing trip, beside Lake Pukaki in the Mt cook area. Check with Jonathon for details, dates may alter to suit weather. Probably a Saturday walk in to a high snow camp, Climb Sun am, then out. Only 10Km from the road to the summit but there is the matter of 1900m of height gain....</p>	<p>Grade: Hard  Closes: 27 Aug  Map: H37  Approx: \$40</p>

Weekend 5-6 September.		Leader: Thomas Matern 325-5750 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p><b>Hot Pools with Thomas, Part III - Otehake.</b> This is part three of Thomas' hot pool series. The tramp starts at Aickens Corner; after crossing the Otira it's a pleasant walk along a marked track with some rougher sections just below the Hot Pools. We will camp close to the pools and walk back the same way on Sunday. It's about 4 hours to walk and no significant height gain so we will have plenty of time at the pools.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 Aug Map: K33 Approx: \$45</p>	
Weekend 5-6 September.		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p><b>The Bacon &amp; Eggs trip.</b> "The loveliest faces are to be seen by moonlight, when one sees half with the eye and half with the fancy" (Persian proverb) Yes, it's the not-quite annual full-moon trip, but since the moonlight cannot be guaranteed, top billing for the trip goes to something more reliable - a Bacon &amp; Eggs breakfast. The cunning plan is to walk into a hut on Saturday night by the light of the full moon (bring moon-backup head torch) carrying suitable breakfast supplies (and admire how much better everyone looks), sleep (hut/tent), awake to a beautiful dawn, cook and consume the said breakfast, possibly embark on further tramping options, and then walk out replete in body and mind. If weather dictates, we could perhaps go on Friday night instead, so be sure to check with leader well in advance.</p>		<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 27 Aug Map: K33 K34 Approx: \$25</p>	
Saturday 12 September.		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
<p><b>Mt Grey.</b> Mt Grey is one of the most accessible of the bumps in the northern foothills and makes a popular easy/moderate trip. There are a variety of routes but we are planning to go from the Lake Janet picnic area. That leaves about 500m of height gain to the summit (934m), including one steeper section of about 100m before a much kinder gentle ascent of about 1.5k along the lovely tussock tops to the trig on the top.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy+ Closes: 10 Sep Map: M34 Approx: \$15</p>	
Weekend 12-13 September.		Leader: Antony White 942-7910 phoenixantony@gmail.com	
<p><b>Lake Man.</b> A brisk start to the day with a crossing of the Boyle River then 9k's of flat easy river valley travel. A 500m climb up the track by the Kedron River will get you to the Bivvy and another 300m will get a scenic campsite at the lake. Back past the bivvy on Sunday then tops travel along the Doubtful Range to Mt Murray (or right along to Mt Garfield if the snow is right for quick travel), before dropping down through the bush back to the Boyle right opposite the cars. A great trip, one of the classic Lewis Pass tramps.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 3 Sep Map: L32 M32 Approx: \$30</p>	

Sunday 13 September. (could be early start - contact leader)

Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366

**Castle Hill Peak via Mt Plenty.** Castle Hill Peak (1998m) is a classic winter trip. Today we'll do a bit of a variation on the usual approach and leave the cars a little past Porters Pass to go up via Mt Plenty. We gain the main ridge at 1842 and then head on up to Castle Hill Peak as usual. The total height gain will be about 1300m from the road. The grading will depend on how much snow is still around, but you should be prepared to use ice axe and crampons. It could be an early start - make sure your name is on the list or you have contacted the leader.

Grade: Moderate to ModHard  
Closes: 10 Sep  
Map: L34 K34 K35  
Approx: \$20

Weekend 19-20 September.

Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014

**Mt Rosa and Avoca Exploring.** Mt Rosa is located near the end of the Craigieburn road, down by Avoca Station and gives a scenic viewpoint down the Waimakariri Gorge and up the Waimakariri basin and surrounding valleys. Last time Bruce was there he thought it was such a nice place to wander around that he didn't want to go back to town. So this time he isn't. The intention is to get access to a station hut, have a pot luck dinner and have a second day to continue to explore the area. Maybe the Broken River Coal mine or just peruse the map and wander into a corner or two that catch the eye.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 10 Sep  
Map: L34  
Approx: \$25

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## Trip Reports

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December 2008 - July 2009

### A South Island Traverse

*Reported by Jonathan Carr*

This is not really a trip report... more a report of a trip!

Many will remember Emma Richardson - one of the youngest members to independently join the CTC in recent years (i.e. membership wasn't genetically inherited from either parent nor was there a genetic pre-disposition to tramping... rather, at 16, her mum wouldn't let her join the kayaking club).

Well, Emma has recently completed a solo traverse of the South Island. Al and I tried to get her to talk to the club... but after 180 days in the hills she could only stand the city for a short while. However, before she headed off, some of us managed to extract some stories... and I managed to get her to enter her route into Freshmap.

Here are some statistics from Emma's tramp:

Distance	1780 km
Uphill	93,125 m
Downhill	93,591 m
Marked huts+bivies (including named rock bivs)	~170
Days	180 (I think)

I was surprised at these numbers

and double checked the computation... especially the uphill... but if anything, the stats are probably an underestimate.

This is the hard way to get the maximum benefit from your annual hut pass!

Any traverse of the Southern Alps is a remarkable and individual achievement. But a solo, continuous traverse at 21, with very little external contact and support (her Mum + Dad met her at Mt Cook and Springs Junction, and I met her at Arthurs...) makes this one rather unique.

In the months preceding December 2008, Emma packed maps and food parcels... (what else is the final year of your degree for?) and then posted these off to high country stations and DoC offices - no helicopter food drops on this trip!

Many of the sections along Emma's route were over 20 days in length... up to 195km long and involved up to 9000m of climbing... that's a heavy pack! Furthermore, many of the hardest parts were off-track... and she had to cross some very big rivers alone. Her boots failed her in the very first 2 weeks of the journey... but undeterred, she found a pair of discarded men's boots with no tread whatsoever in a Fiordland hut and continued the rest of the journey in these.

Comparing epic tramps is meaningless... so much depends on the fickle weather and the conditions encountered... and Emma had her fair share of foul weather... gales, NW storms and unseasonably early heavy snows. Her tent was almost destroyed on the tops of the Princess mountains, buried in snow beneath the Waiiau Pass, partly eaten by rats in Wanaka... and she encountered 80cm of rain in 24hrs while trying to get to the Mungo Hut. Without a mountain radio there was no forewarning of these events (especially the rats) other than the usual precursors immediately before. Sensible river crossing decisions, good basic gear and good decision-making are a given for this kind of adventure. However, the motivation to persevere is something else. Her route was compromised by conditions and there is unfinished business in Fiordland... but deviations and side trips to the East (like a 5000m 95km detour into the Takitimu ranges) made up for most of these compromises in my opinion.

During her trip several club members encountered her in the hills... most observing that traversing the South Island appeared to be an effective weight loss program. Certainly in Arthurs Pass she was in scavenge mode. She reminded me of stray dogs I had encountered in Patagonia - a happy stray dog. Although Emma survived the recession and housing crisis... she did not completely escape the leaky building syndrome... However, rather than pursuing a path of litigation she found that a packliner between the fly and outer was effective.

It was early in the expedition, after a forced retreat from the Princess mountains, that Emma encountered her true Nemesis - a concerned, well-meaning policeman at Tuatapere. He insisted on providing the emergency locator beacon and did his best to dissuade her from tramping alone off-track in Fiordland. No doubt he was used to over-confident tourists. Six months later he contacted Emma's Mum to follow-up and complete some report for the year. He wanted to know when she had gotten out of the bush etc... According to Emma's mum there was a startled silence when told she hadn't... apparently it took the poor constable quite a few moments and clarifications to grasp the concept that the slight girl he encountered 6 months ago was still on the same trip and was now nearing Nelson!

Hopefully we can get Emma back and get her to give a bit of her story. There was no room for battery powered luxuries like cameras and GPS's on her trip... but periodically she posted back a series of journals... and the stack of blotted pages with runny ink that I spied looked like they could tell a story in themselves.

In the absence of these stories, the numbers speak for themselves - especially if you know the

joys of South Westland, off-track tramping in Fiordland, trans-alpine crossings and very heavy packs!

Congratulations Emma!

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14 June 2009

## **Binser Saddle to Andrews Strm**

This being my first trip with the club I wasn't quite sure what to expect as I waited nervously at the Darfield Shell Station on the cool foggy winter's morning. I was picked up by our trip leader Richard Lobb and Warwick Dowling, they both gave me an indication of what to expect on the trip and checked that I was prepared (like all good cub scouts are).

We reached the Andrews Stream car park deciding to leave Richard's car here to make the shuttle at the end easier and all eleven piled into the other two cars for the small journey round to the Binser Saddle car park (with a small amount of four wheel driving from the shingle road to the carpark).

We all flung out of the cars for the usual stretching and yawning, boots and gaiters went on and with some introductions we were off. A beautiful clear calm sunny morning was in front of us as we started our push up Binser saddle, the track was well maintained with a few slippery clay parts and upon reaching Binser Saddle approximately one hour later we stopped for a ten minute break. Soon after we confronted the first signs of snow and looking for the sun we veered off the track on the left hand side. Thrashing on through the bush we passed signs of deer and opossums - identified by our former pest controller member, Kees. We carried on with our toil through the bush and soon reached the sun, which provided some spectacular views of the Poulter River, Mt White Station, Mt Binser, the upper Waimakiriri River and our meeting point Andrews Stream.

Ice axes came out to deal with the patches of snow and scree in between us and point 1532m, upon reaching this we perched on some rocks for a well earned lunch break. Unfortunately some cloud and a cool breeze came in from the west, (which happened just after the sun screen was thrown around the group) you have to wonder what we had done to deserve it!

It was soon time to move on as people were getting cold, with a bit of a hop, skip and a jump we arrived at the base of point 1623m. For me this was the most hair raising section with a slight knife edge ridge and a steep slide down to Lower Farm Stream, thinking back to some advice I'd been given by a mountain guide to slow down and make accurate movements in dangerous spots, I cautiously took my time and reached the top.

Everyone was going well at this point and we broke up into two groups to reach the small saddle between high points 1694-1709m, one group headed over point 1694m and the other eager to test their cramponing and sidling skills, headed directly to the saddle. This proved to be the harder of the two options with a lack of snow and the ridge group waited for the others to catch up.

By this time the weather had really started to cool and standing on the saddle below high point 1709m felt like standing in front of a snow machine. Once everyone had regrouped we scurried up to a rock outcrop on the ridge up to 1709m, this was a huge relief providing us with shelter from the wind. Richard kept us moving up to point 1709m and we stopped on the summit for some scroggin and fluids, with smiles returning to everyone's faces to have a break away from the wind. Richard and other experienced heads discussed our route from here and made a sound decision to head directly down to the Andrews Stream track. This proved to be a great route as crampons were taken off and we had a nice run down some dry scree on the Northwest side of the high point. We were soon back into the bush where progress slowed

down and finding gaps between the thick regenerating bush proved challenging, this was where the loose gear on the side of my pack caught me out and put me on my backside! Approximately two hours later we stumbled across the Andrews Stream track, much to my surprise as I had tuned out of our location on the spur.

Time was of the essence now so the drivers and those who hadn't brought head torches, (sadly to say one of these people was our leader!) motored down the track to kindly organise the cars. The last 4.5 kms proved to be a bit more of a gut buster than expected with some small climbs over spurs, this was totally unexpected as everyone was looking forward to a down hill stroll to the cars. Nearing the end of what seemed like a very long 4.5 kms we switched onto night vision and bobbed along the track for the last 45mins, looking forward to meeting our transportation all ready to head home after our 8.5hr day. Last task of the day was to head to Springfield for a well earned snack and a pot of tea. A big thanks to Richard for his leadership on a great trip and to the group for making me so welcome.

The group: Warwick Dowling, Richard Lobb (leader), Ken Brown, Flo Roberts, Kees de Jager, Kerrie Maynard, Denise Stroud, Kieran McGuigan, Andrew Tromans and Chris Bamford (scribe).

3-5 July 2009

## Cedar Flats Hot Pools Trip



Lunchtime



Main Pool

It was a cool Friday night when 8 people assembled at the Shell Station to seek some warmth in some warm west coast hotpool. We embarked on our expedition at 19:00 in two vehicles and headed to the club hut at Arthur's Pass.

It was the 4WD team v the humble (but reliable) Toyota 2 wheel with chains that tackled the first obstacle, being the Porter's Pass iced with snow. The 4WD (unhindered by chains) got to the club hut first, so when the chain-car made it safely, they were greeted with a warm fire, hot water and a museum of National Geographics, some dating prior to before some of us were born! These made fascinating reading, especially the recent breakthroughs made in DNA research in 1972!

After some light negotiations about what time was "reasonable" to extract ourselves from our warm sleeping bags the next day, we split into 3 groups and retired for the night. All was quiet outside, with the flakes of snow having long stopped descending from the sky as the Arthur's Pass Village fell into an unconscious silence.

However, one person broke the truce with some loud snoring that was heard in another room,

which resulted in another person seeking some serenity on the couch!

We awoke around sunrise and after analysing the detailed, exhaustive list of various knobs, dials and other mechanisms that make the club hut de-function when you leave it, we set out on stage 2 of the 4wd v chained Toyota epic to the backblocks of Hokitika. The road can be found by taking the Lake Kaniere Road from Hokitika, head about 25km towards Lake Kaniere, then turn right into Middle Branch Road which goes up the Toaroha Valley. We loaded ourselves with the maximum tents, cameras, food and clothing that our bodies could cope (regardless of their perceived necessity) and started out around 10:45hrs. The track is not marked well, but it starts where the farmers dirt track descends an escarpment to the main river terrace, and then turn upstream. There are several tracks that lead off to the right, but if you follow the main one that heads up the river you will find the start of the walking track as it enters the bush proper.

The track is very boggy in places (typical of West Coast tracks), but eventually comes to a junction where there is a "flood" route and the "main track" route, which I think is self-explanatory. We opted for the non-flood route which was probably the better one, but it does mean scrambling over large river stones for over 1km which bleeds off the walking speed in the process. We stopped for lunch at the best possible place for skimming stones across the river, which most of the guys took to with gusto, while the ladies on the trip rolled their eyeballs to the heavens wondering why on earth mature men act like boys...

However, one guy set up his tripod and camera, and almost as if on cue, two Whio (Blue Ducks) landed on the water right in front of us and provided some light lunchtime entertainment!

The track ascends up to a small saddle to avoid the canyon that the river flows through. After 4 hours (incl 1 hour for lunch), we arrived at the Cedar Flat Huts:

1. a bright orange one constructed for deer cullers in the 1950's, which has 2 bunks, and
2. a standard 6 bunk classic.

Two American girls had booked the exclusive, historic accomo for the night ahead of our large group, so we resorted to doing the math on how 8 people can squeeze into the 6 bunk hut. After discussing various scenarios and analysing algebraic equations, it was Hot-Pools Thomas who had carried his tent for 6 prior tramps decided that it had better use than sitting in his pack!

We had low expectations for what the hot-pools experience would be like, but we were pleasantly surprised when we arrived there. One large pool had been dug out of the rock about 1m above the river bed, and another pool lower down right next to the river had been prepared as a paddling pool. After braving the icy cold water we thawed ourselves out in the pools. These pools come fully equipped with a shovel AND candles for those who are romantically inclined... watch this space! Xxx

We waited until dark before psyching ourselves up to brave the cold stream and headed back to the hut.

The general consensus was that we were all to go to the hot pools the next day until one person thought that it would be a wonderful idea to go up adventurous ridge for some bushline views. That enthusiasm was shared with another person and these two woke up before any other "normal" person would and set of into the dark seeking the bushline. This however proved to be elusive, as the ridge had a lot of wind-blown trees that made navigation slow, and Adventure Ridge lived up to its reputation!

The rest of the group either did packing or enlarging the hot pools yet not disturbing the pristine environment that the pools are endowed with.

We then walked back down the valley in two groups, with the slower group in front and the faster group taking up the rear, until someone in the faster group was honest enough to ask why we were busting our guts to go fast back to the cars when we did not need to ...and that it was

OK to have a rest every now and then...

The faster group then stopped for lunch, and were spotted by the slower group, who were still ahead of the faster group and who has also stopped for lunch about 100m downstream!

The drive back to Christchurch was largely uneventful, with the 4WD overtaking the Toyota when its occupants were scrambling around in the snow putting the chains back on to get over Porters Pass. However, given the new found experience of the chain-fitting crew, the chains were put on in record time and the Toyota wasn't far behind the 4WD when we arrived at Springfield.

Trampers: Thomas Matern (leader), Naomi Wells, Dharshie Jeyaseelan , Malcolm Carr, Ken Brown, Tomyu Hu, Stephen Hoare-Vance, and Antony White (scribe)

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## More about the CTC

### Committee:

<b>President</b>	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	<b>Club Captain</b>	Adrian Busby	325-5001
<b>Vice-president</b>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	<b>Day-trip Organiser</b>	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
<b>Secretary</b>	Cathy Harlow	349-2280	<b>Weekend-trip Organiser</b>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<b>Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	<b>Hut Convenor</b>	David Watson	981-7929
<b>Editor/Webmaster</b>	Richard Lobb	351-2344	<b>Gear Custodian</b>	Ken Brown	359-2000
<b>Social convenor</b>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<b>New Members Rep</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 \$10 member, \$10 member's partner, \$20 non-member, \$5 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

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Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 23 August 2009 – Thanks.

*Do your tramping photos look better than this?*



If so, then enter ...

## The CTC Photo Competition

Prize is a \$200 pair of binoculars and your name on the CTC photography trophy  
(which you even get to keep for a while)

### Entry categories

- Landscape
- Humor
- Flora & Fauna in the mountains.

### Rules

- Max of 2 entries per person per category
- All entries must be in digital form. Photos and slides will need to be scanned.
- Images must be no bigger than 800 KB
- Each image must have a title which includes the entry category and your membership number ( not your name ) and your caption eg *Fred in front of Mt Cook*. The reason for the membership number is so that the judge does not know who took the photo. Your membership number is on your membership card. If you have lost this then please request it from Malcolm – [malcolmcarr@clear.net.nz](mailto:malcolmcarr@clear.net.nz)
- All entries must be from NZ and have a tramping aspect.

Send your images prepared as above to [susan@toniq.co.nz](mailto:susan@toniq.co.nz) who will collate them and pass them to the judge.

Entries close on **Tuesday 15 September, 2009**. We will then show the best from each category and our esteemed judge will evaluate them at a club night and choose an overall winner.

We are most fortunate to have a well qualified judge and their decision on any matter will be final.

So go search those databases and send in your entries and picture yourself ( pun intended ) up the front proudly holding the trophy!