



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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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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Climbing to Paske Saddle, June 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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News

Photo Competition: Next month we will be calling for entries for the CTC photo competition. The proposed categories for this year's competition are: landscape, humor, wildlife (non human), where I stayed the night (hut, bivvy, tent, woodshed, rubbish skip). All must of course be from a tramping perspective. See the next newsletter for rules and other information, but in the meantime: *start thinking about your entry possibilities!*

Tramper of the Month: Lisa Harrison

<i>Place of Birth?</i>	Let's just say you might throw tomatoes at me if I told you that one! ;-)	
<i>Date joined CTC?</i>	I started doing some trips at the beginning of the year but I think I officially became a member in April? So I'm just a baby CTCer.	
<i>How did you find out about the CTC?</i>	I was looking at the upcoming trips online and feeling rather envious that I wasn't out there doing it already. The website was modern, informative and up to date above other clubs' websites.	
<i>Who was the first person you met at the CTC?</i>	I've met quite a few lovely people (whose names mostly escape me) but with the number of trips on offer I haven't come across them again.... yet.	
<i>Your first day trip?</i>	In February, to Scenery Nook on Banks Peninsular. I prefer sub alpine terrain trips but was keen just to get some walking done as soon as I could.	
<i>Your first weekend trip?</i>	To Goat Pass, up the Mingha River and down the Deception. It was fantastic! Great people, great weather and I conquered the Deception! However my very first weekend trip, which got me hooked on tramping when I was just 18, was a nice easy overnighter into Waitawhetu Hut in the Kaimai Ranges.	
<i>Family?</i>	My family live in the North Island and I have a niece (14 months) and a nephew (3.5 years) that I just adore.	
<i>Occupation</i>	I'm a senior recruitment consultant and recruit temporary staff ... but that's enough about work!	
<i>What trips with the CTC are you most looking forward to?</i>	Any easy-mod overnight tramp! I love the feeling of arriving at the hut and cooking up a storm after a hard day's walking. For me it's not about how fast it takes you to get there but the journey you've had along the way.	
<i>Other Interests?</i>	Mostly the outdoors, skiing, travelling and having a few wines with my friends! I've done a few crazy things in my time too like parachuting, ice-climbing and thundercat racing and I'm also a closet scrabble lover!!	
<i>Who is the one person has had the most influence on your life?</i>	I would have to say my mum. A girl can't get by without her mum!	
<i>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about yourself?</i>	Um, hi! I'm always keen to get out and explore but I'm not a speedster - I like to take it all in and have some fun so if want to do some walks when their isn't something on the calendar, then let me know.	

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. 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 27 June.		Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392 havokk@ihug.co.nz	
<p>Helicopter Hill. We'll park by the shelter just off the main highway at the entrance to Craigieburn Forest Park and walk up through the beech forest and out onto the open tussock top of the Helicopter Hill (1256m, about 400m height gain). Not quite as big as the main Craigieburn range in the background, Helicopter Hill still gives panoramic views of the Castle Hill Basin. For the return journey we have the option of looping back via Lyndon Saddle and the ski field road, which would make a 6-7km round trip.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closed: 25 Jun
		Map: K34	Approx: \$20
Weekend 27-28 June.		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931	
<p>Mt Guinevere. An easy day on Saturday into the Crow Hut. Sunday starts with 600 vertical m up the bush spur behind the hut to the high tarn, then a further 400m on up to Mt Guinevere (2042m). Ice axe and crampons. Consider a 2nd pair of boots or sneakers for the river crossings on the way in to keep dry boots for the snow work.</p>		Grade: Moderate to ModHard	Closed: 18 Jun
		Map: K33	Approx: \$35

Sunday 28 June.		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366	
<p>Throwing a pinch of salt over Mt Oxford's right shoulder. Mount Oxford is a popular day trip, normally tackled from either of Coopers Creek or View Hill car parks. The latter is also the start of the Wharfedale track. Linking the two is a track section of about 4 km, stretching north from pt 1130 m, (directly west of Mt Oxford) down into Dobson Stream and the site of the Wharfedale Shelter (is it still there?). If you haven't filled in this bit of track in Oxford Forest then here's your opportunity. The intention is to climb to the 1130 m shoulder from View Hill, descend to the site of the shelter and then make our way back along the Wharfedale. Nothing is likely to be too arduous, but the total distance will be somewhat in excess of 20 km.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closed: 25 Jun Map: L34 Approx: \$15	
Wednesday 1 July. <i>Floating Hard Trip for July</i>		Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253 clive.marsh@clear.net.nz	
<p>Rolleston. When you look up 'Mt Rolleston' in Freshmap, it gives it the category 'hill', which seems a bit understated for something 2275m high. Anyway, Clive is planning to make an attempt on the biggie some time in July, the exact date depending on whenever conditions are suitable but an early start is a certainty. If you are potentially interested, let him know. Note that this is a hard trip and needs technical mountaineering skills and appropriate experience.</p>		Grade: Hard Map: K33 Approx: \$25	
Thursday 2 July.		Club Night	
<p>The Aarn tramping pack. We have the designer Aarn Tate along to show us his packs with the front balance pockets. "New research on the Aarn system shows it to be much more efficient than traditional methods with all the load in the backpack. Learn how we have used the latest findings of sport science to develop load carrying systems with the efficiency benefits of traditional systems without the practical disadvantages".</p>			
Saturday 4 July.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014	
<p>Kaka Hill. Kaka Hill (994m) is pretty little hill right by the edge of Lake Coleridge. There are plenty of more strenuous trips out this way but this is a great opportunity to experience this very spectacular tramping area in less strenuous mode (although, with about 500m height gain, in winter this may be at the harder end of our normal 'easy trip' range). If the conditions aren't good for Kaka Hill, we will head to Manuka Downs instead (map O33) for a relaxing coastal tramp near the mouth of the Hurunui.</p>		Grade: Easy+ Closes: 2 Jul Map: K35 Approx: \$25	
Weekend 4-5 July.		Leader: Thomas Matern 325-5750	
<p>Cedar Flats. the Cedar Flats Huts are around 5 hrs walk up the Toaroha River on the west coast near Lake Kaniere. The attraction here is that - depending on river flows and excavation energy - a hot bath rewards your walk in.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closed: 25 Jun Map: J33 Approx: \$40	

Sunday 5 July.	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
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 include descending into Broad Stream and picking up a very pleasant track back through the bush along the stream to Cora Lynn. Bring ice axes and talk to the leader about whether you'll need crampons.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$25

Thursday 9 July.	Club Night
Raincoats and Boots. These two items are so very important for tramping in NZ, especially at this time of the year. If you have purchased either of them in the last year or so please bring your purchase along. How do you find the product performs? What price and from where? This will be an especially interesting night for anybody in the market for these items.	

Saturday 11 July.	Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022 erik@tba.co.nz
Bealey Spur to the Hut. Start above the baches at Bealey Spur and climb up through sheltering beech forest. On the way to the charming old hut, at about 1240m, the ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. There could be snow in the open areas. Bring warm clothing, and a walking pole and gaiters may be useful. The hut is about a 450m climb from the cars and the round trip is about 10km. More adventurous trampers can go up Hut Spur above the bushline for a bit to admire the impressive horseshoe ridge around to Blind Spur from a safe distance.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 9 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$20

Weekend 11-12 July.	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
Godley Hut Ski Touring. Once again we are hoping to find enough lake freeze to get up to the Godley Glacier. Trip date may shift to catch appropriate weather / snow conditions.	Grade: Ski Closes: 2 Jul Map: I36 Approx: \$50

Sunday 12 July.	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz
Mt Barrosa. 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 geodes (whatever they are). This trip was originally scheduled for May but owing to the horrible weather, did not run then so we are trying again. Remember that at least basic-level snow skills are probably necessary for any moderate trip at this time of year.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Jul Map: J36 Approx: \$20

Thursday 16 July. Club Night

Tramping with the CTC by Thomas Matern. Thomas is a new club member with less than one year under his belt. But in this time he has done lots of trips. Tonight he will show a montage of some of his earlier day and weekend trips. For new or prospective members this will give you a good flavour for what the CTC does and where we can take you.

Saturday 18 July (early start - contact leader) Leader: David Sutton 960-1877

Mt Torlesse. A great moderate/hard winter trip in the right conditions (fingers crossed ...), Torlesse is 1961m with stunning views. Your ambitious leader is also considering a few of the local options such as heading towards the Gap once we get up Torlesse . . . There will be at least 1300m total height gain and you'll need ice axe, crampons and experience on icy slopes. This trip will probably have an early start and could switch to Sunday if the weather is better then - make sure you talk to the leader about day and departure time.

Grade: ModHard
Closes: 16 Jul
Map: L34
Approx: \$20

Weekend 18-19 July. Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006

Carlyle Hut. Lewis Pass area beech forest tramping to a cosy hut. Horseshoe Hill, Mt Schiehallion (named after a mountain in Scotland, the name is from Gaelic meaning something like 'Fairy Hill' or 'Constant Storm' - take your pick!) or even Mt Saint Andrew could tempt the keen on Sunday morning.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 9 Jul
Map: M32
Approx: \$40

Sunday 19 July. Leader: Penny Coffey 332-7182
(phone before 8pm please)

Mt Alford. Mt Alford is a moderate (1171 metres) summit south of Mt Hutt with about 600 metres ascent. This is another of the growing number of permission-free routes made available by the tenure review process and a great addition to our tramping repertoire. We had 17.5 people last time we did it - the half is now the pride and hope of the Hulme household - it's good to start tramping when you're young! 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 . . .

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 16 Jul
Map: K36
Approx: \$20

Thursday 23 July. Club Night

Movie - Down Under from Above. We are privileged to be showing a movie of the South Island back country introduced by Harry Ruffell, one of the makers of the movie. It sounds like it shows breathtaking scenery.

Saturday 25 July. (early start - contact leader)		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
<p>Travers and Trovatore. Travers Peak (1724m) is just above the Lewis Pass Highway, accessed from the west via a nice bush track. From Travers we can descend a couple of hundred metres and trot over to Trovatore (1737m) and then - conditions allowing - head north-east along the ridge to pick up a nice descent into a stream. That takes us down to the Maruia and thus we can pick up the St James back to the Lewis Pass carpark. Height gain about 1000m+, snow skills and ice axe and crampons are a must. Early start - contact leader, and this trip could go on Sunday instead, depending on the weather.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 23 Jul Map: M31 Approx: \$30</p>	
Weekend 25-26 July.		Leader: TBA
<p>Arthurs Pass Hut. It's winter. Let's be honest here, that warm club hut with indoor toilets is looking more tempting than a tent in the snow. Not to mention pizza and chips at the Wobbly. Nothing too organised, just get someone else keen for a walk in the snow and take advantage of this great facility we have at the Pass.</p>	<p>Grade: All Closes: 16 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$35</p>	
Sunday 26 July.		Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981-1944 jkspittlehouse@hotmail.com
<p>Rakaia Gorge. Rakaia Gorge Walkway is a nice easy trip, mainly following the cliffs above the gorge, and gives great views of the gorge and surrounding landscape. "The scenic attractions of the walkway are outstanding. A number of viewpoints along the clifftop afford dramatic perspectives of the mighty blue Rakaia River as it swirls past the steep bluffs, broad shingle banks and patterned farm terraces . . ." (Pat Barrett). The walkway itself (5k each way) starts in farmland but then enters areas of regenerating native bush, passes the disused Snowdon Coalmine, and ends in a good viewpoint. There is also the option - perhaps for the return trip - of a short loop which takes you down to the Rakaia itself.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 23 Jul Map: K35 Approx: \$15</p>	
Thursday 30 July.		Club Night
<p>Newsletter Folding night. Be one of the first to see the latest newsletter. It's a social night after the folding is done.</p>		

Saturday 1 August.		Leader: Kerrie Maynard 03-386-2850	
<p>Peak Hill. 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 both the Rakaia and out over Coleridge. From the saddle we'll continue up through the snow (probably) and tussocks to the broad summit at 1240m - to give about 600m height gain altogether.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 30 Jul
		Map: K35	Approx: \$25
Weekend 1-2 August.		Leader: John Henson 342-3311	
<p>Intermediate snow craft. 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.</p>		Grade: Training	Closes: 23 Jul
		Map: K33	Approx: \$40
Weekend 1-2 August.		Leader: Kenneth Brown	
<p>Lillburn Hill. 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.</p>		Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)	Closes: 23 Jul
		Map: L34	Approx: \$30
Thursday 6 August.		Club Night	
<p>We have Mapworld along tonight. Mapworld are the leading supplier of the following items. Learn about the latest models and what is now available Topics : the latest developments maps and navigation equipment and emergency beacons, and how to choose the right ones for you. Digital topo mapping for the PC and GPS, GPS, Emergency Beacons, Compasses and 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!</p>			
Saturday 8 August.		Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022 erik@tba.co.nz	
<p>Narnialand Magic. 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.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 6 Aug
		Map: K34	Approx: \$20

Weekend 8-9 August.		Leader:
Pito Peak. Hopefully we'll find some 4WD owners keen to drive us in to Hermitage Hut. From here it's straight uphill for 1600m to reach Pito Peak at the south end of the Arrowsmith range. Tremendous views of the Armoury Range (The Warrior, Amazon, Outlaw, Renegade) and in to the Gardens on the Main Divide. Potential here for the ski tourers as well.	Grade: Hard Closes: 30 Jul Map: J35 Approx: \$40	
Weekend 8-9 August.		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
Snow shelters / Snowcraft. 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.	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
Cloudsley. 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.	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 6 Aug Map: K34 Approx: \$25	
Weekend 15-16 August.		Leader: TBA
Hanmer base camp. Hot pools afterwards are a no-brainer. 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.	Grade: Easy/All Closes: 6 Aug Map: M32 M31 N32 Approx:	

Trip Reports

27 April 2009

Mt Technical

With relentless optimism and gambling on the front arriving later than forecast we left the Deer Valley campsite at 8.30 and worked our way up Deer Creek until we crossed the side creek which meets Deer Creek at 600674 (Map M31). We ascended the ridge on the true left of this side creek which gave easy travel through open beech to the tops. The not-unreasonable price of 50~100m of wallowing through dracophyllum and flax is required before the open ridge is gained leading up to point 1651. It was now 10.30 and we could see the summit but Mt Mueller & Freyberg and tops on the N side of the main highway had succumbed and the wind was up and the (weather) writing was on the wall it seemed. The ridge from here to the summit of Mt

Technical provides pleasant travel and we traversed typically 5m off to the south side where it was 10C warmer than the top. We reached the summit at about 12.30 and we seemed to be in cloud and just when we were steeling ourselves for things to deteriorate, a partial clearance came and we got good views of the surrounding ranges. We continued WNW to the Apprentice then back along the broad tops to the poled route and cut track to the Highway to complete a loop. The section after the Apprentice is well worn with cairns and other forms of infrastructure, in contrast to our upward route. The weather held until we were back down on the highway at about 5pm which goes to show that it's not raining until there is water falling out of the sky.

Trampers: Clive Marsh (leader and scribe), Ian Dunn, Thomas Matern

23 - 24 May

Mt Somers and the demise of the GSM

We arrived late. Even so, as Trevor and I stepped across the bridge at Sharplin Falls Creek we both took the time to ponder the demise of the once-great GSM, or is it now gsm?

Those Great Southern Men that usually accompanied us two JAFAs on our annual ventures South, had disappeared. They, who had led and inspired us as we crossed the rivers, streams, valleys, hills, ridges, and ploughed through the matagauri of the Southern Lands. Then, while our socks dried slowly next to the stoves at night, they had entertained us with all manner of stories and banter.

Was this trip to become the sad defrocking of a legend of countless Tui ads, destined to be spoken of in condescending tones at the cafes of JAFAs around the world?

By the time we had reached the top of the first ridge, we were down to shirt sleeves.

Storm warnings..... Phah!

An hour or so later pockets of snow started to appear in the more sheltered gullies which, while picturesque, came with a twinge of anxiety - we had a pass to get over.

Sure enough as we came within sight of Pinnacles Hut, the entire ridge was fairly well covered in snow and framed in scattered mist. A couple of degrees cooler and the snow on the track would become treacherous, so we hurried on to the hut in what were now sleety showers.

A quick lunch and chat to a French-born student who was studying at Canterbury, and then were on our way. We did hesitate long enough to warn the foreigner to beware of the myths and legends common to this region of New Zealand.

Despite the snow and icy rain, the markers were easy to follow up the ridge, and we scrambled our way to the first pass. It was our first experience of tramping in falling snow, and we enjoyed the stark whiteness of the snow against the trees and boulders, the isolation (apart from the odd rabbit) and the crunch of snow underfoot.

Then it got a bit uncomfortable as the wind picked up, and the sleet began to work its way through coats, down necks and into gaiters.

We reached what must have been a mountain bike track, still obvious under a cover of snow and slush. The cold encouraged us to reach almost jogging pace as we raced towards the hut. It was case of slide, slip, recover, slip again down the track towards Woolshed hut. It must have looked quite hard case to any observer. Almost six hours after setting out we crossed Woolshed Creek, and stepped into the hut, which was already comfortably warmed up by another two groups that had tramped in from Coalminers car park. We had done well, we thought.

Great Southern Men... Phah!

The next morning it was still raining. The creek we had crossed the day before was now looking a bit angry to put it mildly. As we weren't GSM, we decided to take up the offer of a lift from a

group in the hut, who actually turned out to be true GSM, from Dunedin. We made our way along small-stream-with-track-markers that disappeared into the main stream within 100 metres of the hut, then tracked up and over the hill.

We reached the old mine an hour or so later. GSM suggested we should go down Sidewinder track, rather than take the easier route. As we reached the bottom I realised that noise I had heard on the way down wasn't a waterfall, but was actually the river itself. The track quickly disappeared under water. Then followed a few Tui moments:-

- “the water doesn't flow very fast next to this rock”
- “the water is not cold”, and
- “the track is just past this big rock”.

Back up Sidewinder we went. Back to small-stream-with-track-markers.

GSM might think themselves hard men, but if their reproductive capabilities are as good as their watercraft, it is no wonder they are disappearing.

We look forward to the resurrection of the gsm next year, but until then.... Phah I say.

Trampers: Trevor Java & Eric Jafa (aka Skilling)

24 May 2009

Lagoon Saddle Hut / Mt Bruce

Recipe for Mt Barrosa Tramp

Ingredients:

- 10 CTC members
- 1 Spanish guest (for flavour)
- Assorted garish polypro leggings (optional but strongly encouraged)
- Various improbable/inedible/indigestible tramping snacks

Method:

1. Carefully plan a tramp to Mt Barrosa and advertise on CTC trip list.
2. Wait for bad weather on trip day and hastily scramble together trip to somewhere around Mt Bruce at last minute.
3. Drive along West Coast Road towards Arthur's Pass. Make dire predictions of road conditions on Porters Pass. Intersperse with suitably disparaging remarks about walking up Waimakariri River on previous tramps/expeditions/epics.
4. Turn left on Cora Lynn Road. Drive as far as feasibly possible in non-ATV vehicles. Park up and disgorge trampers. Before setting off ensure that at least one member of the party is wearing shorts and bare legs regardless of weather.
5. Wind gently 500m up northern foot of Mt Bruce. Sweat profusely before removing warm layers donned in honour of bad weather and not required in sheltered forest. Every attempt should be made to ensure maximum distance between leader and back marker.
6. Level off at around 1200m and contour around snow-slushed tussock of north western shoulder of Mt Bruce before dropping very slightly to Lagoon Saddle Hut.
7. Insert trampers into Hut – forcibly if necessary. With ingenuity and perseverance they will fit, though some bruising may result.

8. Eat improbable/inedible/indigestible tramping snacks. Discuss methods of insulating Christchurch houses. Allow 10 minutes instruction from Jonathan Carr on enjoyment of crawling around under houses, then move smoothly into a heated debate on damp levels below New Zealand homes.
9. Decide that only the young and foolish will climb Mt Bruce in current weather conditions and obtain unanimous agreement of party to return to vehicles via route in.
10. Retrace steps to Lagoon Saddle. Receive sudden rush of blood to head/legs. Divert party 400m up Mt Bruce to summit where facial skin can be stripped by punishing spin-drift. Allow Spanish guest and leader to sensibly remain on lower slopes.
11. Ensure that main party descends northern slope of Mt Bruce through deepest snow. Marvel at inventive profanity as main party flounders down hill.
12. Return to vehicles at swift pace. Encourage removal of unsightly tramping gear before re-emergence into populated area.
13. Check Spanish guest still alive.
14. Re-load trampers and proceed to Springfield to consume delicious food to compensate for improbable/inedible/indigestible tramping snacks.
15. Disperse.

Party: Rodney Erickson, Jonathan Carr, Anthony White, Naomi Wells, Andrew Tromans, Thomas Matern, Kerrie Maynard, Scott Fowler, José Marzo, Richard Lobb (leader), Cathy Harlow (scribe).

30 May 2009

Nikau Palm Gully

Mike had a near-record turnout from trampers eager to squeeze something in between southerlies for Queen's Birthday weekend, and it was a great trip. Nikau Palm Gully is the southern-most mainland location for nikau palms, in a little gully that must have been jumped by the fires that cleared most of the peninsula, and so was a very interesting place to go on any day. Add in a beautiful day and stunning views over the outer parts of Akaroa harbour from the mostly-coastal track out to the gully and great company . . . altogether a lovely day. The track starts from the Onuku Farm Hostel, which is also part of the Banks Peninsula Track network - very well-worth doing if you have not already (yes you pay but it's just so civilised and fun and the perfect place to take people who don't think that they are really multiday trampers - my parents loved it!). The Hostel people gave us permission to come back over one of their tracks which splits off from the Nikau Palm Gully route and takes you up and over the ridge and back down to the Hostel. That really made the trip, on such a lovely day. We had a good break at the top while baby Owen did a quick change (Owen was tramping at -6 months so he is should be well used to the routines by now) and the rest of us lazed and gossiped in the sun. Then we headed down and back to the cars, and home via the superb cafe at Little River. Many thanks to Mike for leading and to everyone on the trip for the great company.

Trampers: Mike Newlove (esteemed leader), Liz Tanner, Joanna Martino, Ian Costello, Malcolm Carr, David Best, Sam Cook, Katie Frame, Allan Growcott, Dharshie Jeyaseelan, Rachel Brownie, Paul Knox, Scott Fowler, Kerrie Maynard, Ken Brown, Helen & Phil & Owen Hulme, Virginia Owen, Jenny Harlow

Paske Hut

Bernhard's trips can usually be depended upon to produce something unexpected and memorable, and this was no exception. From the very start, as we left Christchurch half an hour behind schedule, there was a faint whiff of epic in the air. Was there really enough time left in the day to drive to Lake Tennyson, walk to the head of the Clarence, cross Paske Saddle and continue on to Paske Hut? The answer turned out to be either yes or no, depending on how you define "day".

The drive to Lake Tennyson, with four in Bernhard's Trusty Rusty and five in Lisa's Town Ace was uneventful and we arrived at a slightly snowy Lake Tennyson at around 10:45am. Bernhard, concerned about the forecast snowfall, briefly raised the question of whether to park at the turnoff or drive down to the lake but the rest of us misunderstood this to be a question of whether we'd rather walk the 1.4km to the lake or drive it. So down to the lake we went – a slightly unfortunate decision as it turned out. Geared up, and with boots in hand in hope of having dry feet for the snowy trip in, we waded the outlet and were on our way up the lake by 11am.

Bernhard's Tapi trip last year famously resulted in the loss of no fewer than six walking poles during river crossings. Arno, obviously aware of this, did his best to compete by losing both of his two poles on the first river crossing. I wasn't fortunate enough to witness this performance myself but apparently it involved one pole slipping off a rock into the rapids, frantic windmill motions with both arms and the launching of the second pole to join the first. Arno at least stayed dry, but the same could not be said for Lisa whose leap into the pole-swallowing pool gained her honour and glory but no poles.

We continued on, one of us rather lighter and one rather wetter, to reach the foot of the climb to Paske Saddle at 3:15pm. A nervous query about whether it was getting a bit late to start climbing got no more than a raised eyebrow from Bernhard and up we headed, with Ian, Antony and Russ doing a great job plugging steps. The first 200m or so were rather steep and the going was slow but once the upper basin was reached it became straightforward and we arrived at the pass at 5:15pm. With the sun setting, the views were stunning but there was no time to dawdle and we were soon heading down the other side. Lisa gave us a snappy unplanned self-arrest demo but then the gradient eased and the snow became softer. And softer. We now found ourselves repeatedly falling through the crust to our thighs or deeper. Night was falling, shins were scraped and tempers were frayed. Martin and Russ, both with bare legs, were suffering the most, but we were all greatly relieved to reach shallower snow at the forest edge.

We carried on down the valley – a snaking line of headlamps in the moonlight – sometimes in the icy streambed, sometimes in the forest edge and sometimes wallowing in snowy tussock. Progress was slow but steady and the GPS "distance to destination" slowly counted down. With 500m to go, we spread out across the river flats to avoid missing the hut in the dark. The call "the GPS says 120m to go" was followed 30 seconds later by an excited cry of "I can see it!". It was 7:30pm as we trudged into the 6-bunker. A fire was lit, clothes were changed, dinners cooked and an air of contentment settled on the crew. Russ impressed all by setting up his army-style shelter outside while the rest of us bedded down on bunks and floor.

Howling wind gusts and horizontal snow began in the night, banishing any faint hopes of tramping anywhere on Sunday. Instead we spent a happy hut-day snoozing, recounting tales of epic tramps, working through escape-from-blizzard scenarios, drinking cups of tea and philosophising on such weighty matters as bladder pressure versus pit suction. The hardier types ventured outside occasionally to gather and chop firewood.

Happily, the blizzard-escape scenarios proved unnecessary, as the storm had largely abated by

the next morning. We left the hut at 7:15am, heading back to Paske Saddle. The intermittent snow showers stopped soon after and it was pleasant tramping. Our route finders managed to avoid the deepest snow on the way back – perhaps there are some advantages to tramping in daylight, after all? – and we were on the saddle by 10:30am. A quick descent to the Clarence valley on the other side followed. At that point Ian prophetically remarked: "It would be imprudent to say 'We made it!' until we're actually rolling into Hanmer".

The return trip down the valley seemed to take much longer than on the way in, despite a relaxed lunch stop in a welcome patch of sunlight and a brief requiem mass for Arno's poles at the river-crossing point. We were back at the cars by 3pm, far earlier than expected, so we had plenty of time to get the cars out before dark. Or did we?

It turns out that there is a limit to what snow chains can achieve, especially when the snow depth is greater than the ground clearance. After Bernhard had popped a chain off three times within 100m, we pushed his car to one side and let Lisa's Town Ace have a go. That did somewhat better, only popping a chain off once, but it too was soon bogged down. Then Russ's army training came to the rescue. "Two people on the side to stop the sideways slide", he cried, "everyone else at the back. On the count of three. One, two, three ... PUSH. Again ... one, two, three ... PUSH". And so it went on as we half pushed and half carried the Town Ace, now promoted to ATV, the 1.4km out to the road. It wasn't even completely dark as we headed back to the lake for Bernhard's car. I was sure that, with the lower ground clearance, it was doomed to spend the night at Lake Tennyson, but mere deep snow is no match for a platoon of nine under a vocal army Lance Corporal. By 6pm both cars had been driven or carried to the road undamaged, except that Lisa's electric driver's window was stuck down. Out came the duct tape and plastic sheet to effect a quick repair. Now all we had to do was drive back to Hanmer over Jacks Pass ...

This last stage actually went much better than the pessimists like me had predicted. Chains were soon removed and only twice did we have to leap from the cars to push the vehicles. The dreaded Jacks Pass turned out to be almost anticlimactic – several cars had driven over it since the snowfall, and there has hardly any snow at all on the steep descent. "We made it", we chorused as we rolled into Hanmer at 7pm, 4 hours after arriving at Lake Tennyson.

Thanks Bernhard for another memorable trip and the whole party for a great team effort.

Trampers: Bernhard Parawa (leader), Antony White, Arno Grueber, Cathy Harlow, Ian Dunn, Lisa Lee-Johnson, Martin Brown, Anthony Russell, Richard Lobb (scribe).

Weekend 6-7 June

Kirwan's Track

Five of us set off early on Saturday from the Shell station – a depleted group due to sickness and car starting problems. The weather was wet at Lewis Pass but by the time we arrived at Boatman's Road end for the start of the Kirwan's Track it had stopped raining. There were no other cars in the car park so we left the tents behind and set off at 11.30 up a well graded bush track to Kirwan's Hut. We passed some old gold workings including a tunnel on the way. We had the company of the south island robin in several places, Kakas were heard and one was spotted quite close feeding on a low branch. After 4½ hours we reached the hut – the last 30-50 metres of height gain in snow. In the stunted beech forest the snow made for a pretty sight.

The hut was cold and while Lisa got the coal fire going and melted the water tank tap to collect fresh water the others walked up towards Kirwan's Hill – another 45 minutes away. We didn't go quite the distance as the light was fading, the path was not that easy to follow in the snow and the low cloud did not give great views of distant peaks.

The hut took a while to heat up but we had it to ourselves and next day was off by 7.30 am down the steep path to Kirwan's stream and then through to the Montgomerie Valley. We passed some more interesting workings in the bush including an old iron wheel through which a tree had grown and a battery by the stream. This part of the track is very pretty. At the junction of the Montgomerie and Waitahu rivers we paused for an early lunch at the uninspiring Montgomerie Hut. After that it was a long walk down to Gannon's Bridge via a 4-wheel vehicle track. Another hour took us over a low saddle back to where our car was. Sunday was therefore a lot longer with over 8½ hours walking. We had some tea at Reefton before heading back to Christchurch. A great trip and thanks to Rodney for taking on the leadership after John was sick.

Trampers: Kathy Harlow, Ruth Barratt, Ruth Gray, Lisa Lee-Johnson and Rodney Erikson

7 June 2009

Woolshed Hill

After an early overcast start from Christchurch we set off from Hawdon Shelter at 9am led by Doug and Sue. We climbed through beech forest on a DOC marked track to the bush line, reaching the summit of Woolshed Hill shortly after. Whilst we ate elevenses the cloud began to clear from the north resulting in a broken spectre (look it up – it's an interesting circular rainbow effect which occurs with a particular combination of mist/cloud below you and sun above – you see your own shadow in the middle and so everyone regards it as 'theirs' – an alternative explanation for the cause of WWI?).

The party trailed out along the ridge until we regrouped for lunch at the saddle south of pt 1445. Above the bush the windblown snow varied in depth from a few centimetres to half a metre and from powdery to icy with a frozen crust, resulting in often lopsided progress with one foot on top of the snow and next knee deep. But by now the cloud had completely cleared to leave a clear crisp day with views across to The Pyramid and Savannah Range.

Following lunch, part of the group led by Doug decided to cut down in to the Hawdon valley whilst the remainder opted to walk further along the ridge to pt 1676 before completing a circuit down to the Hawdon River along the ridge south of East Hawdon Stream.

The longer ridge walk group split again near pt 1520 as the snow became increasingly icy on the slopes facing the afternoon sun and continuing without crampons proved risky. Jeff (without crampons), Clive, Jenny and Ian (with crampons) continued on whilst Sue, Kathy and David (all without crampons) retraced their steps along the ridge to pt 1445 and cut down to the Hawdon, initially following the same route as Doug's group before taking a detour through some particularly thick bush. Appropriately Kathy demonstrated a close affinity with bush lawyer, skilfully winding herself in to the middle of a large ball of the stuff.

The intrepid crampon-equipped (except the even more intrepid Jeff) group sub-trip report We continued in similar conditions to those so graphically described by Dave – one minute buried knee deep, the next minute very happy to have crampons and trying to kick a reasonable step for Jeff. Jeff of course did not really need it – he seems to stay on by gecko suction – and when we got to the steeper section up to pt about 1600, he just swung his ice axe and cut steps as efficiently as any 19th century Mt Cook guide. We firmly squashed Clive's attempts to turn right (apparently he's always wanted to go to Mt Valiant . . .) and headed off down the south west ridge over pt 1414 down to the Hawdon. We too met our share bush lawyer but got down fairly efficiently (large payoffs in used leafmould or something) and finally hit the Hawdon for the trek home.

The two groups met on the walk back down the Hawdon to the shelter arriving as the sun set at 5.15pm to join an increasingly cold Doug's group who had arrived an hour earlier.

Many thanks to Doug for an inspired choice of trip location for the day, and apologies to him and everyone else w kept waiting so long. Dave was still in time for the last pie at Joy's though!

Trampers: Doug Forster (leader), Sue Hely, Susan Pearson, David Sutton Kathy Basire, Jenny Harlow, Clive Marsh, Jeff Hall, Ian Dunn, Laurayne Robb, Nigel Devery, John Allen

Classifieds

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

More about the CTC

Committee:

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

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