



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.
PO Box 527, Christchurch, 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. 79

June 2009

No. 2



Crossing the Clarence

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

New Members: The club welcomes two new members this month: Andrea Roberts and Sarah McDermott. Andrea accompanied the hardy souls who traversed the Three Passes at Easter and last year was observed to do our Mt Somers Challenge in a very respectable time. Sarah has wasted no time getting out on both a day trips and the social weekend trip up to Cannibal Gorge Hut.

Search and Rescue Officer: At the meeting of the Christchurch Tramping Club Committee on 11 May 2009 the following change was made to the Regulations of the Christchurch Tramping Club (Rules and Regulations Appendix A): the position of Search and Rescue Officer was disestablished. The Committee considers that the new SAR infrastructure renders such a role redundant.

Tramper of the Month: Mark Jermy

<i>Place of Birth?</i>	Plymouth in the UK, but I grew up across the river in Cornwall - the wild west of England. It rains a lot there, just like our West Coast.	
<i>Date joined CTC?</i>	March this year, with walks since Dec last year as a "prospective".	
<i>How did you find out about the CTC?</i>	I looked at the websites of the tramping clubs in Chch. CTC had the greatest number and the best range of trips.	
<i>Who was the first person you met at the CTC?</i>	I work with Ken Brown but I didn't know he was a member. The first person I met on a trip was Bernhard Parawa.	
<i>Your first day trip?</i>	Mt Bealey, 21st Dec 2008. Until that day I thought I was fit.	
<i>Your first weekend trip?</i>	No weekend trips yet! That will come.	
<i>Family?</i>	My gorgeous wife Esther and two lovely girls Harriet (6) and Maddie (4).	
<i>Occupation</i>	I teach mechanical engineering at the Uni of Cauty.	
<i>What trips with the CTC are you most looking forward to?</i>	I think an EasyMod weekender to ease me into the multi-day scene.	
<i>Other Interests?</i>	Being a dad, travel, and reading.	
<i>Did you do any other tramping before joining the CTC?</i>	I did a lot of walking on Dartmoor while at school, and then odd bits and pieces in the UK. Since coming to NZ in 2005 I did the odd day walk in Arthur's Pass and the Port Hills before joining the club.	
<i>Is there anything else the CTC should know about you?!</i>	I don't think so, all my skeletons are firmly in the cupboard...	

Last month's mystery tramper of the month was ...

... drumroll ...

Alan Ross.

What's the prize for guessing, I hear you ask? How about a wooden spoon for not?

Other News

FMC Annual General Meeting: The Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc) Annual General Meeting will be held at the Brentwood Motel in Wellington on Saturday 20 June 2009. The meeting starts at 09.00 and finishes at approximately 16.30. Any affiliated members of the CTC are welcome to attend. If you are planning to attend please advise the CTC Secretary via email by no later than 6 June 2009.

Trip Leaders - welcoming newcomers: If you find you have a non-member on a trip you're leading, please make sure to introduce them to everyone and make encouraging noises about joining the club. If they're at all interested, give them a new member's form, with the day's trip filled in and signed by you. Also, please ask them if they've been in contact with Susan. If not, ask them to fill out the prospective members form on the website so she knows about them and can contact them to talk about the club, send out newsletters etc. Or they can phone or email her directly.

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 30 May.	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Nikau Palm Gully. Nikau Palm Gully is a little gem in the Akaroa Heads scenic zone with big cliffs, seabirds, palm trees and more. The gully is acclaimed as one of the best forest remnants in the province, with an amazing collection of huge nikau palms. Approximately 10km walking with some gently rolling hills, this is one of the few peninsula tramps that gets you out close to the steep headlands and bays with a good safe track all the way.	Grade: Easy Closes: 28 May Map: N37 Approx: \$15
Long Weekend 30 May-1 June.	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Nelson Lakes - Molesworth. Bernhard is going somewhere in the Nelson Lakes or Clarence-Wairau headwaters area. The precise route is still in the lap of the weather gods.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 21 May Map: N30 Approx: \$50

Long Weekend 30 May-1 June.		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196	
<p>Waimak Falls. One day to walk in, a day to enjoy the alpine environment (or rush headlong up the nearest steep snowy thing you can see) and a day to cruise back out. 18 km each way and about 700m height gain. Carrington Peak and Mt Armstrong are commonly climbed, Lancelot and Mt Rolleston are other possibilities. Going out via the Rolleston River or over Jellicoe Ridge are further (harder) options.</p>		Grade: Moderate with Climbing Options	Closed: 21 May
		Map: K33	Approx: \$40
Sunday 31 May. Note 9 am start		Leader: David Henson 942-3954	
<p>Lyttelton Horseshoe. The tramp starts in Lyttelton (Whakaraupo) and takes the Whakaraupo Track up to the Summit Road (about 350m height gain). This track sidles through the rocky outcrops directly above the port and passes the Whakaraupo Lookout - a large crag with extensive views of the harbour. Once up at the Summit Road we do a short section of the Crater Rim Walkway to pick up the Chalmers Track which zig zags down again through groves of kowai and ribbonwood back towards Lyttelton for afternoon tea.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 28 May
		Map: M36	Approx: \$5
Thursday 4 June.		Club Night	
<p>Compass and Map reading instruction night. While some consider the GPS largely replaces the map and compass let's do a basic refresher. What if the batteries went flat, the GPS broke down, nobody had one or it got lost? There is still a place for this skill! Come along and see if you can still do it. Bring along a map and compass if you have one. We will also allow time for verbal reviews of those Queens Birthday Weekend trips.</p>			
Saturday 6 June.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014	
<p>Black Hole. Black Hole? No, not a region of space with a gravitational field so powerful that nothing, including light, can escape its pull - this is a new trip for the club (to an area with a gravitational field so powerful that . . .). The Black Hole is an interesting little gorged area up near Lake Coleridge, with up to about 10 k of tramping, partly on an old 4wd road and partly untracked. We are now officially in winter - make sure you have really good warm layers, warm gloves, hat etc etc.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 4 Jun
		Map: K35	Approx: \$20
Weekend 6-7 June.		Leader: John Henson 342-3311	
<p>Kirwans Hut. Kirwans Hut is in an area of old gold workings on the west coast near Reefton. Superb views from Kirwans Hill and many mining relics to ponder on as you climb through red beech then silver beech forest to the hut. The track was originally used to cart heavy equipment by horse so is cut to a gentle grade but it is around 900 m height gain from the road to the hut.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 28 May
		Map: L30	Approx: \$60

Sunday 7 June. Could be early start - contact leader Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453

The Pyramid. An adventurous moderate trip with all the prerequisites for a classic CTC tramp - wet feet (you start by crossing the Hawdon), a little scrambling around the top, and a bit of scree or bush-bashing. The Pyramid (1608m) is a sustained steep climb of about 1000m on an old ridge track overlooking Hawdon and Sudden Valley confluence. Once out of the bush and onto the rocky ridge you'll have a commanding view of Waimakariri Basin and surrounding peaks. There are a couple of descent options - to the west through the bush to the Hawdon Valley, or to the east to return Sudden Valley Stream (even wetter feet . . .). There could be an early start - contact leader.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 4 Jun
Map: K33
Approx: \$20

Thursday 11 June.

Club Night

Lynette Hartley will be taking us to Madagascar this evening. Madagascar is the fourth largest island on the planet. It's in the Indian Ocean east of Africa and is also known as the Red Island. It is one of the most ecologically rich islands in the world with over 80% of its animals found nowhere else. It is famous for sapphires, vanilla, lemurs, chameleons and, historically, pirates. Seventy three percent of its people are rural and poor with farmers having only 2.15 acres (less than a hectare) each on average. Only 15% of its original rainforest remains. Lynette spent five weeks there last year and she will take us tramping in some of the national parks and show us some of the really weird flora and fauna.

Saturday 13 June.

Leader: Ruth Tramschek 337-3003

Orton Bradley and Mt Herbert. At 919m, Mt Herbert is the highest point on Banks Peninsula and is part of the southern side of the crater rim of Lyttelton Harbour. The crater rim was formed by the eruption of the Lyttelton volcano about 12 million years ago, plus the effect of the more recent Akaroa volcano (a mere 9 million years ago), which buried much of the older volcano. We'll go up from Orton Bradley (about 900 m height, 8k one way), so if volcanoes don't get your pulses racing, how about trees? Orton Bradley of course has a large collection of interesting exotics, and the reserves around the summit of Mt Herbert have survival remnants of the podocarp-broadleaf forest which originally covered the peninsula.

Grade: Easy/Mod
Closes: 11 Jun
Map: M36
Approx: \$10

Weekend 13-14 June.

Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001

Basic Snowcraft. Essential skills for trampers wanting to extend to winter trips or trips above the bushline. Run from the club hut in Arthurs Pass.

Grade: Training
Closes: 4 Jun
Map: K33
Approx: \$40

Sunday 14 June. Could be early start - contact leader

Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344

Binser Saddle, Ridge and Andrews Stream. This trip is a bit of a variation on the Binser theme - we go up to Binser Saddle on the track but then instead of going for Binser itself we head north, up onto pt 1532 and a lovely horseshoe ridge forming the Lower Farm Stream catchment. The high-point of our section of the ridge is 1709 and there is a bit of up and down in-between so call it around 1400m height gain. From the other side of the horseshoe we'll descend a bush-clad ridge down into the Andrews to pick up the track and out to the Andrews Shelter (about 15k altogether). If there is snow you will need to have snow skills for this trip. Could be early start - contact leader.

Grade: Moderate+
Closes: 11 Jun
Map: K34
Approx: \$20

Thursday 18 June.

Club Night

South - the Movie. 'South' is the full movie account of Sir Earnest Shackleton's heroic but unsuccessful attempt to cross the South Pole in 1914-16. It results in one of the most amazing journeys to save his crew. A 'must-watch' even if you have seen this before.

Saturday 20 June.

Social Event

Annual mid-winter breakfast at the Chateau On The Park (Deans Ave). For the uninitiated this is the annual awarding of the Loo Loo trophy for the biggest cock-up of the preceding year. Come along and be entertained by tall tales and occasionally un-embellished accounts of what can go wrong in the hills. Please dredge through your memory from the previous year and tell us about the bloopers. Meet 8am at Garden Court Brasserie for a great breakfast. Buffet is \$23.50, Continental is \$18.50, kids 5-12 are \$1/year. You must put your name on the trip list or email alan.d.ross@orica.com or ph 3846425 BEFORE the 17th as we have to give the restaurant confirmed numbers. Bring an empty tummy and a story.

Saturday 20 June.

Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022

Bob's Knob. Bob's Knob is a 1261m bump on the Torlesse ridge. We start from the Big Tree carpark and climb up the ridge to the Knob (about 600-700m height gain), where we can admire the views up to Torlesse and down to Lake Rubicon. By going a little further along the ridge we can get a nice scree-slope descent to the huts (snow conditions permitting) and then walk back along the Kowai River to the cars. It's about an 11-12 k round trip, some 600-700m height gain. Remember your winter tramping gear.

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 18 Jun
Map: L35
Approx: \$20

Saturday 20 June.

Social Event

Its PTC Barn Dance Time! What better way of working off the midwinter breakfast food than having a jolly good dance! The PTC (Peninsula Tramping Club) are having their famous annual Barn Dance tonight. This is a really fun night and you do not need a partner (if you have one, you spend a lot of time dancing with somebody else's!). Usually we have 20 from the CTC. At South Brighton Community Centre Hall corner of Beatty and Estuary roads 8pm to Midnight. For \$25 you get all drinks and nibbles, generous supper, called dances and spot prizes- just great value! Alan Ross has tickets so catch him at club or phone him 3846425. He has strictly 20 tickets.

Weekend 20-21 June.		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: 11 Jun
		Map: L34	Approx: \$30
Sunday 21 June.		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931	
<p>Banks Peninsula part 1 - Wainui - Saddle Hill - French Hill - Hilltop. Each year Uncle Bernhard attempts to lead a long-distance peregrination over Banks Peninsula by easy stages, and each year it does not quite go according to plan (lambs, cars, random chaotic butterflies . . .) but equally regularly, the trips get record numbers and a great deal of fun is had by all. So now, we are pleased to announce that Bernard leads part 1 (of ???), from Wainui to Saddle Hill, French Hill and Hilltop. Start in from one of the roads above Wainui (across Akaroa Harbour from Akaroa itself) and head up Saddle Hill (841m), across Wainui Pass (550m) to French Hill (815m) and drop gently down to Hilltop (about 500m) where the thoughtful leader will possibly/probably/maybe have arranged to leave a car. A great easy-moderate tramp, about 9km in undulating country (approx 800m height gain).</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod	Closes: 18 Jun
		Map: N36	Approx: \$15
Saturday 27 June.		Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392	
<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	Closes: 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	Closes: 18 Jun
		Map: K33	Approx: \$35

Sunday 28 June. Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366

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.

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 25 Jun
Map: L34
Approx: \$15

Some time in July (a "floating" hard trip) Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253

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.

Grade: Hard
Closes: 25 Jun
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Thursday 2 July. Club Night

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".

Saturday 4 July. Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014

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.

Grade: Easy+
Closes: 2 Jul
Map: K35
Approx: \$25

Weekend 4-5 July. Leader: Thomas Matern 325-5750

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.

Grade: EasyMod
Closes: 25 Jun
Map: J33
Approx: \$40

Sunday 5 July.		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001	
<p>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. Bring ice axes and talk to the leader about whether you'll need crampons.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 2 Jul
		Map: K34	Approx: \$25
Saturday 11 July.		Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022	
<p>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 a bit further above the bushline for a bit to admire the impressive horseshoe ridge around to Blind Spur from a safe distance.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 9 Jul
		Map: K34	Approx: \$20
Weekend 11-12 July.		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196	
<p>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.</p>		Grade: Ski	Closes: 2 Jul
		Map: I36	Approx: \$50
Sunday 12 July.		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344	
<p>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). 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 . . . This trip was originally scheduled for May but owing to the horrible weather, did not run then so we are trying to reschedule. If we can't get permission for Barrosa we'll go somewhere equally wonderful . . . remember that at least basic-level snow skills are probably necessary for any moderate trip at this time of year.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 9 Jul
		Map: J36	Approx: \$20

Weekend 18-19 July.		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
<p>Carlyle Hut. Lewis Pass area beech forest tramping to a cozy 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.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 9 Jul
		Map: M32	Approx: \$40
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>		Grade: All	Closes: 16 Jul
		Map: K33	Approx: \$35
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. NOTE: We are still looking for 1 or 2 assistant guides, please contact John. Otherwise course numbers will be very limited to maintain a good instructor / learner ratio.</p>		Grade: Training	Closes: 23 Jul
		Map: K33	Approx: \$40
Weekend 8-9 August.		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001	
<p>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.</p>		Grade: Training	Closes: 30 Jul
		Map: K34 K33	Approx: \$30

Trip Reports

2 -3 May 2009

Sphinx-Avoca-Jordon. Moderate+

Dwindling daylight hours dictated a disciplined early start on Saturday for Ross, Susan, Thomas and Greg. Alan and Martin had driven up to the club hut the night before. We all met at 8:30 at the Bealey Spur side of the Waimak bridge, both parties having independently come to the same conclusion that Klondyke and crossing the Waimak was NOT an option.

We were about to enjoy one of those perfect windless, crisp, sunny post-southerly weekends. We were grateful because the recent rain and snow left us with a more demanding tramp than we had anticipated. The Anti Crow was swift and cold and we made slow progress at first, having to link up for a few of the crossings. I wondered if the snowmelt was going to create a

problem further upstream but the Anti Crow did not gorge and the crossings and terrain got easier.

Ross had planned to take us over Gizeh Col, but knew that we had to have reached the 'turn off' for Sphinx Saddle by 12:30 if we were to make it over to the Avoca hut in daylight. We knew when we caught sight of the Col that in these soft snow conditions it was out of the question - and we were too late anyway.

So we turned up the true right tributary which heads up towards point 1847 and hit soft snow at 1200m. The route actually goes over the unmarked saddle 200m to the west of Sphinx. So as soon as we could see the saddle we veered away from the stream and headed directly to the saddle. Ross did his leaderly duty and plugged a very comfortable zigzag to the top. The views were Christmas card perfect with glimpses through to the North east of the Mt Bealey - Avalanche Peak ridge line and the Mottram Peaks directly opposite us.



At 15:00 we had not much time to linger so we set off down the other side into aptly named Easy Stream. Ross yahoo'd as he ran down the snow slope, the rest of us were a wee bit more cautious. Once out of the snow the devastation in this streambed was impressive, broken rock and dead fallen tree trunks strewn all over. An hour and a quarter from the saddle saw us in the Avoca and heading along the 4WD track feeling confident at last that we would not need to get our torches out. Thomas, Martin and Greg stepped out and were soon out of sight, they had a fire and a cup of tea in mind. Alan and Ross and I wandered along at a slower rate getting to the marked track on the true right of the river at about 17:00 and arriving at the hut 20 minutes later. The tidy hut is in bush, up and away from the river, it has 6 bunks and a good pot belly stove which was already roaring on our arrival. In the remaining daylight we gathered and chopped more wood to leave the woodshed well stocked for later parties.

After a satisfying dinner we retired to our comfy bunks and most of us (Martin fell asleep) were entertained by Alan's bedtime stories, some of which might even have been true. We were up early enough to see Mt Avoca at the head of the valley bathed in the red of sunrise and were packed and off down the valley again by 8:00am. Sunless and chilly, the Avoca valley did not seem quite as charming as it did last night, but we kept warm as we strode along the 4WD track. When we started up Galilee Creek, we realised that we needed to be very careful as the rocks in the stream were still covered with ice.

Near the top of the creek we decided to explore the tributary on the true left and then climbed a soft snow slope (plugging done by Martin and Thomas this time) to get a direct sidle onto Jordan Saddle. Reading the route guide we discovered that this is more normally done by going up the tributary on the true right side of the Galilee Creek.

We had lunch on the saddle (12:00) and debated the in-other-conditions attractions of returning

by the ridge down the Bealey Spur. The prospect of a further 400m climbing and a lot more time wallowing in cold wet soft snow soon decided us that the stream was a better option.

Now in sunshine, we carefully picked our way down the tricky upper Jordan to the bushline where travel became more routine and we made good progress downstream to the Waimak. Re-united with the track we enjoyed leaving the rocky stream/river bed behind. On the way back to Springfield, we heard a bit about Ross's younger obsessive climbing days and then, that both he and I were in South America staying in the same accommodation (Pepe's Place) in Huaraz, Peru within a week or two of each other, some 29 years ago. It's a small world!

I had a great trip, thanks to everyone who helped me in the river. We have some very scenic photos to remind us of the weekend.

Leader: Ross Ogden (leader), Alan Ross (storyteller), Greg Gimblett, Susan Pearson (scribe), Thomas Matern, Martin Brown.

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, 21 June 2009 – Thanks.