



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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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.

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*Below McArthur Crag, on the Lower Olderog
Biv trip, February 2009*

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

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

Contents

News	1	Classifieds	18
Tramper of the Month	2	External Events	18
Events calendar (trips & social)	3	More about the CTC	19
Trip Reports	11		

News

New Members: We are pleased to welcome new members: Mary-Louise Batchelor and Ross Brewitt. Mary-Louise qualified for membership doing the classic Heaphy track and Ross qualified on the popular Arthurs Pass weekend trip, Cass-Lagoon. We hope you both continue to enjoy tramping with the CTC.

Congratulations: Long time club member John Henson completed the Two-day Individual Coast to Coast in 15 hours and 39 mins and 19 seconds. He was 21st in his section: Veteran Men (40-49). Club members who have tramped the Mingha-Deception may be particularly interested to know that John ran this leg in a little over 5 hours!

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

Tramper of the Month: Linda Lilburne

<i>Place of Birth</i>	Waverley, Taranaki	
<i>Date joined CTC:</i>	1992	
<i>Favourite Trip:</i>	Yet to be done - I enjoy new walks best	
<i>Favourite Area for Tramping:</i>	Aspiring National Park. A trip along the tops between Harris Saddle and Park Pass was just stunning.	
<i>Favourite Hut:</i>	In the late 80's, I did an alpine scenic flight from Franz Joseph. I looked in utter amazement at these huts high on the glacier, and vowed I'd stay in them one day. Tasman Saddle Hut is pretty special.	
<i>Occupation:</i>	Scientist (environmental modelling)	
<i>Committee service:</i>	VP, Gear Custodian for 4 years.	
<i>Other Interests:</i>	anything outdoor really but particularly ski touring and sailing; travel.	
<i>Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?</i>	CTC and its people have played a big part in taking me on all sorts of tramping trips over the last 15 years.	
<i>Any mishaps while tramping?</i>	Ah well. I'd rather not have to own up to leading a poor group of CTCers on a daytrip down a ridge into a gorge that I'd been specifically warned not to drop into - it was a long night!	
<i>Funniest thing to happen while tramping</i>	Watching Al Ross unsuccessfully attempting to score brownie points on a week long trip in the Landsborough.	

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.

Thursday 26 February	Club Night
Newsletter folding night. Its the monthly newsletter folding night. Feel free to bring along any digital photos you have gathered over christmas.	

Saturday 28 February	Leader: Craig Beere 374-2392
Sudden Valley. Sudden Valley is the home of a lovely little river, Sudden Valley Stream, which provides a very good summer water-and-rock-hopping trip. After crossing the Hawdon River we start up the Stream itself - multiple crossings back and forth, scrambling round a few easy bouldery sections, passing lovely pools and splashing rapids, a few diversions into the bush . . . There is a short steep climb of a couple of hundred metres to negotiate the Barrier Falls gorge and then we descend again and soon afterwards emerge into the more open river flats and stunning scenery of upper valley with Mts Wilson and Scott above us. We head to the new Sudden Valley Biv for lunch and then travel back the same way.	Grade: EasyMod Closed: 26 Feb Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Weekend 28 February-1 March	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
Youngman Stream/Lillburn Hill. Ken is going to lead a trip into the Youngmans Stream hut via the Ashley river. There will be options for the return on the Sunday with some going out over Lillburn Hill and Tarn hut and some returning down the river with some extra exploring . This is a good trip for people to step up to a weekend trip. Talk to Ken for details.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 19 Feb Map: L34 Approx: \$30

Sunday 1 March		Leader: Kerrie Skinner & Scott Fowler 386-2850	
<p>Mt Ida. Mt Ida (1695m) is a good moderate trip up the Harper Road in the lovely Lake Coleridge area. It is not too long and with about 1100m height gain, might be a nice option for fit easy-moderate trampers stepping up to moderate trips. As an added attraction, there's a wonderful scree-run down. In pre-Greek myth, Ida is associated with the Mother Goddess. In CTC myth, Ida was the location of the famous vacuum cleaner trip (see what is possibly one of the shortest and most cryptic trip reports ever, November 24, 1996).</p>		Grade: Moderate Closed: 26 Feb Map: K34 Approx: \$25	
Thursday 5 March		Club Night	
<p>How to preserve your old photos + digital on line album managment. Michelle Cahill from Creative Memories will instruct us on creating a lasting album using traditional scrapbooking, quick and easy picfolio albums, digital on line albums and everyday home displays.</p>			
Saturday 7 March		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
<p>Ashley Gorge. Ashley Gorge is one of the best picnic spots in Canterbury and a popular place to explore. Depending on water levels we hope to do a bit of floating down the gorge, and getting wet is the whole point of the trip. Another opportunity to practice all that river crossing training? Great fun in the sun (we hope). Talk to the leader if you're not sure what's involved in this summer water trip, and come along for one of the club's most popular social outings</p>		Grade: Easy (water trip) Closes: 5 Mar Map: L34 Approx: \$15	
Weekend 7-8 March (trip date subject to trip leader's social commitments!)		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196	
<p>Savannah Range Traverse. Steve has never been all the way along the Savannah Range and would like to try it. The tops are mostly very gentle but there is one harder section, we're told. A gentle climb up Woolshed Hill will start this trip followed by the traverse along the rolling tops. Saturday night will be a camp on the tops and Sunday may include a descent into the Casey. Talk to Steve</p>		Grade: Moderate+ Closed: 26 Feb Map: K33 Approx: \$40	
Sunday 8 March		Leader: Gareth Gilbert 389-1737	
<p>Mt Richardson. Mount Richardson is a lovely 12km loop in the Canterbury foothills. The track starts at the Glentui Bush picnic area and goes through some superb native beech forest - some steepish sections, about 700m height gain - to Mt Richardson itself (1047m) and a great panorama over the Canterbury plains. We will return via the Blowhard track which gives us the opportunity to walk along the undulating open tops before descending back into the bush again - there are some stands of rimu in places - and back to the cars.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 5 Mar Map: L34 Approx: \$15	

Thursday 12 March Club Night

Gear Night with Macpac (correct date this time). Daan Dijkstra will be joining us to talk about some of the exciting new developments at Macpac: the new range of rainwear made out of eVent fabric for example. The return of classic jackets like the Prophet and the Resolution, but also new packs and sleeping bags. You'll be able to fire questions at Daan and no doubt he'll have some interesting spot prizes to give away as well.

Saturday 14 March 1 - 5 pm, PC Browne Room, Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
Horticultural Centre, Hagley Park

Nuts and bolts for leading a CTC trip. What's involved in leading a CTC tramp? What should I know? And - most importantly - how does that trip cost calculation black magic work? Now is your chance to find out the answers to all those questions and more. This introduction to leading CTC tramps is a a short, free, interactive, half-day course on the nuts and bolts of running a day or weekend CTC tramp. A variety of presenters will take you on a hands-on tour to increase your confidence and make that next (or first?) tramp you lead more relaxing for you. Topics will or could include:
(1) Organising transport and working out transport costs (try some examples - pen and paper provided!)
(2) Gear - party vs personal; what club gear is available? how do I get it?
(3) Rights and perogatives of leaders, and the role of leaders in CTC tramps at various trip grades.
Plus, any other topics raised by you on the day that might bug you about leading a CTC tramp - there will be time to discuss your questions. We plan to keep it simple, without too much detail and mental clutter. Talk to us, and we will address your needs. Tea, coffee, milo, and biscuits available throughout.

Grade: Training
Closes: 12 Mar
Map: M35
Approx: \$0

Saturday 14 March Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360

Stony Bay Peak. Join us for this trip to Banks Peninsula. We'll start in Akaroa in the Rue Balguerie and walk up the Mt Vernon road and then up the historic Purple Peak track out onto the ridge crest. From the saddle, we go up to Stony Bay Peak (806m) for superb views of Otanerito Bay and Akaroa Harbour. Tea and ice creams in Akaroa before we head home.

Grade: Easy/Mod
Closes: 12 Mar
Map: N36 N37
Approx: \$20

Weekend 14-15 March Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280

Mingha Deception. A good standard Arthurs Pass trip over the route of the Coast to Coast . The Mingha has a good track and there is a big hut at Goat Pass. The Deception however has no formed track and can live up to its name and take a deceptively long time if you are not used to boulder bashing. It is however a great trip and one every member should do one day. Join Jenny for a fun weekend.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 5 Mar
Map: K33
Approx: \$40

Weekend 14-15 March		Leader: Andrew Turton & Sarah Hardie 332-8275	
<p>Woolshed Creek Hut. A easy family oriented trip along a pretty good track to a big new hut, this is a good trip for those new to weekend tramping . Andrew and Sarah are taking their son (8) into Woolshed Creek Hut and other families in the club are welcome to come. All family groups should be self-sufficient and the children capable of 3 to 4 hours tramping per day and all have suitable gear. Talk to the leader for more information .</p>		<p>Grade: Easy/family Closes: 5 Mar Map: K36 Approx: \$40</p>	
Sunday 15 March		Leader: Andrew Tromans Early start 379-2686	
<p>Mephistopheles. Wanted to buy - Souls, any condition. Mephistopheles (1736) is an unusual looking tramper's peak directly behind Palmer lodge in Lewis Pass - it is the one keeping a close eye on Faust. There are a couple of route options with terrain ranging from bush-clad spurs to beautiful, easy open tops travel and possibly part of the St James Walkway. Note - early start - make sure you contact the leader</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Mar Map: M32 Approx: \$25</p>	
Thursday 19 March		Club Night	
<p>Lets go to the Austrian Tyrol Mountains with our guide Katrin Borchel. Katrin shows slides of the summer or two that she spent working and clambering over spectacular limestone peaks of the Wilder Kaiser range in the Austrian Tyrol mountains, where wannabe mountaineers can use hundreds of metres of cables and cut steps to do it the easy way, without damaging their new outfit, and still get back to the chalet for a cold beer, sausages and sauerkraut afterwards.</p>			
Saturday 21 March		Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655	
<p>Adderley Head. Starting near Purau this tramp takes in views of Lyttelton harbour, Port Levy and the Pacific. There is an historic signal station here which was established here in 1867. At first messages were sent by code flags flown from the flagstaff during the day and by carbide Morse lamp at night, until the it got the first submarine telephone service in New Zealand in 1880. The old school house on Adderley Head (built in 1883 for the signalmen's children) is the only remaining building from the original settlement. The signal station was closed in 1949. Enough historical stuff! This is a a beautiful area close to home and well worth exploring with our wonderful leader.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 19 Mar Map: N36 Approx: \$15</p>	

Weekend 21-22 March

Leader: Gareth Gilbert 389-1737

Henry Saddle, Anne Hut, Anne Saddle, Boucher, Foley. A chance to see some of the best of the St James linking two easy saddles and the middle of the walkway, and a big hut on Saturday night. You start at the Lewis Pass, follow the walkway to the swing bridge then head off up river before turning off and following a side stream up to Henry Saddle. It's an easy tussock descent down into the Henry valley which is followed to the Anne Hut. Next day the walkway is followed over the Anne Saddle before turning off up the Boucher stream and over into the Foleys creek and back to the highway. There is a bit of off-track travel needed, but nothing too tough.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 12 Mar
Map: M31
Approx: \$45

Sunday 22 March May be early start

Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344

Rome Ridge to Avalanche Peak. Rome Ridge takes you up about 1100m from the Arthurs Pass road to about 1825m, under Rolleston and with with great views onto the Crow Glacier, Jellicoe Ridge, etc etc. Mostly it is just steep, but there are a few sections where rock scrambling skills and a head for heights come in useful - last time we did this there was even a bit of a permanent snow field. From the top we trot along the nice little spine of ridge parallel to the Crow to meet up with Scotts Track/Avalanche Peak (1833m). And it's all downhill from there! This will probably be a longish day and you need to be able to keep going and cope with the more 'interesting' stuff, but it's a great trip if you're fit and keen to give it a go.

Grade: Moderate+
Closes: 19 Mar
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Thursday 26 March

Club Night

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

Weekend 28-29 March

Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686

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

Grade: Moderate+
Closes: 19 Mar
Map: K33
Approx: \$45

Saturday 28 March

Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045

Wildling Pines at Winding Creek. Wildling Pine days are when the club provides volunteers for ECAN-organised destroy-wildling-pines days. It's lots of fun, great exercise, and often gets us into areas we don't otherwise visit. Winding Creek on lower slopes of Mt Saint Bernhard/Purple Hill. CTC is looking for 10 to 15 people for this day. The contour here is mostly easy but the trees have been grazed making them harder to deal with than other trees of similar size. This is a great opportunity for you to help save our environment from the wildling-pine menace, and fund raise for the club (each volunteer will earn the CTC \$40 from ECAN). The CTC then pays all transport costs - volunteers pay nothing. You provide all your own food + drink, plus usual day tramp gear. Tools + gloves will be provided, but you can bring your own. You may also bring a chain saw, but only provided that you have been on an accredited chain saw course (bring your certificate) and bring the required safety equipment. These trips run rain or shine, so only put your name down if you are definitely going. If you have to withdraw, then please contact the leader by telephone immediately so that we can contact someone else to take your place. The usual meeting time is 8am, with ETA back in CHCH at ~ 5 - 6 pm. Meeting places will be confirmed later.

Grade: Mod - Mod+ Work
Closes: 26 Mar
Map: L34
Approx: \$0

Sunday 29 March

Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000

Mt Bruce. Mt Bruce is a lovely moderate tramp in the Lagoon Saddle area. Starting from Cora Lynn, you climb up through the beech forest and out onto open tussock. Good views from the top (1630m, or about 1000m height gain) and a few different options for the route depending on conditions. Possibilities included descending into Broad Stream and picking up a very pleasant track back through the bush along the stream to Cora Lynn. Who is this Bruce man anyway, commemorated in both Mt and stream? Turns out that Whillians Bruce was joint purchaser, with John Macfarlane, of the Cora Lynn Station (as it is still named) in 1967 - from the Goldneys in fact - immortalised in the form of a ridge if nothing else. Bruce had been manager at Motunau, and was known all over the province as the 'Little Angel.' Besides Cora Lynn he had Riversdale, across the Waimakariri, and the Inchbonnie estate beyond Arthur's Pass. The N.Z. Loan and Mercantile took over Bruce's stations about the end of the '80's . . .

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

Thursday 2 April

Club Night

First Aid Kits! What to put in them? OK we all know we must carry a personal first aid kit on club trips. But is 2x bandaids enough or do need to carry a defibrillator as well? The plan will be to review actual injuries sustained during club trips and discuss what was needed in the way of first aid gear. We will also review the "ideal" kit make up.

Saturday 4 April

Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045

Wilding Pines at Corner Creek. Wildling Pine days are when the club provides volunteers for ECAN-organised destroy-wildling-pines days. It's lots of fun, great exercise, and often gets us into areas we don't otherwise visit. Corner Creek is on Glenthorne Station, near the confluence of the Harper and Avoca Rivers - lovely country. The CTC is looking for 10 to 15 people for this day. Several volunteer days have been held here in the past and this should be the last (or penultimate) visit to finish the job. This is a great opportunity for you to help save our environment from the wildling-pine menace, and fund raise for the club (each volunteer will earn the CTC \$40 from ECAN). Canterbury Combined 4WD Clubs will provide transport (CTC recompenses Canterbury Combined 4WD Clubs in due course so there is no transport cost for volunteers). You provide all your own food + drink, plus usual day tramp gear. Tools + gloves will be provided, but you can bring your own. You may also bring a chain saw, but only provided that you have been on an accredited chain saw course (bring your certificate) and bring the required safety equipment. These trips run rain or shine, so only put your name down if you are definitely going. If you have to withdraw, then please contact the leader by telephone immediately so that we can contact someone else to take your place. The usual meeting time is 8am. Meeting places will be confirmed later.

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

Weekend 4-5 April

Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006

Cannibal Gorge. A good trip on a good track to a good hut -- ideal for those looking to get into weekend tramping. We'll start at the Lewis Pass, walk up the St James Walkway to the first hut and maybe further, depending on the group. On Sunday we'll retrace our steps back to the Lewis Pass.

Grade: Easy/Mod
Closes: 26 Mar
Map: M31
Approx: \$45

Sunday 5 April

Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914

Mt Binser. Mt Binser (1860m) is a commanding peak above the Mt White Road with panoramic views of the south-east Arthurs Pass National Park area. We start up the Binser Saddle track to the saddle (1085m) where we leave the track, heading up firstly through bush and then open tussock slopes to pt 1753m. A few k's of superb ridge travel then brings us to the main peak (about 1350m total height gain). With a car shuffle at the start we'll be able to drop down to the south-west to the road. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen for a great tramp.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 2 Apr
Map: L34 L34
Approx: \$25

Long Weekend 9-13 April	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
<p>Lake Browning Mt Axis Campbell Range. The plan is in up the Waimak and out via the Taipo via Lake Browning Mt Axis and the Campbell Range. Steve is researching all the options but hopes to traverse the range on the tops. If the team are keen this trip could extend out to 5 or 6 days and continue on over Tara Tama to Scotties Biv or possibly even side below Razorback ridge to Mt Griffen. Extra days will probably be needed along with lots of fitness. Check with Steve for any further information</p>	<p>Grade: Hard Closes: 2 Apr Map: K33 Approx: \$60</p>
Long Weekend 10-13 April	Leader: Stewart Smith Flo Roberts 980-7913
<p>Easter Mystery Moderately Hard Trip. Stu and Flo will lead a trip at Easter but are unsure yet where they will go. If you are interested let them know. Hopefully more details next month.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 2 Apr Map: Approx: \$unknown</p>
Long Weekend 10-13 April	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
<p>The Three Passes. How about spending Easter doing one of the classic New Zealand tramps? The Three Passes route takes us from the Waimak bridge over to Lake Kaniere on the West Coast via the beautiful Harman, Whitehorn and Browning passes. Ice axe and crampons may be required for crossing Whitehorn Pass. Great river and alpine scenery all the way. There's nothing terribly difficult, but you do need to be comfortable with rough off-track tramping, be able to handle an ice axe and have a reasonable head for heights on the way up to Browning Pass. Hopefully we'll have enough people to make a cross-over trip. We'll take either 3 or 4 days depending on the weather and the party/parties.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 2 Apr Map: J33 K33 Approx: \$60</p>
Saturday 11 April Meet 9 am at Clock Tower, Sumner	Leader: Dave Clark 326-6544
<p>Sumner, Taylors Mistake, Godley Head, Evans Pass. An easy day trip of about about 6 hours, this is a ramble around some local favourites. The cliff walk from Taylors Mistake to Boulder Bay offers great views out to the ocean, then we go uphill a couple of hundred metres to Godley Head carpark. From there we head west to Evans Pass, from where we can look down into Lyttelton Harbour. This tramp is all in the open so sunhats and water are important. Note: We will meet at 9am at the clock tower in Sumner.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 9 Apr Map: M36 Approx: \$0</p>

Sunday 12 April

Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360

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

Grade: Easy/Mod

Closes: 9 Apr

Map: L34

Approx: \$20

Trip Reports

18 - 19 October 2008

Cass-Lagoon Saddle

[Pre-script: one big fat apology to all for the delay in the submission of this trip report!]

Cass-Lagoon Saddle in 2hrs? They said it couldn't be done! We beg to differ and I swear you won't hear any one of the eight trampers on this trip who will tell you otherwise.

After the usual exchange of pleasantries to be expected of an Andrew Wrapson led trip ie hows your car? Have you been watching Coronation St? We headed off from Cora Lynn car park out of the trees to traverse around the side of Mt Bruce. Through the swamp, our thoughts interrupted as the mist turned into 'a much better rain' by the ever positive Bruce and as the board walks punctuated the bog a query in a small Danish accent "do you think we will be finding Shriek any time soon?'. Down the dale and 2hours later, back into the tree line, a small accumulation of melting snow provided the perfect ammunition as the trip scribe was announced. A cosy lunch stop with as many as feasible squished into the Lagoon Saddle Shelter, 2x spilling out the doors onto the veranda, Ross under a tree and Bitten banished to the wood shed on high 'Shriek alert'.

Refuelled it was 2hours? down into the valley floor only to loose the track....The comment 'hmm, I seem to remember this happening last time' found leadership skills come into question. Bruce was promptly posted due skyward to find the track. Vola, a voice from amidst the heavens declared assurance we were back in business. With the promise of the hut only two hours away we trekked on encouraged with such wisdom as 'don't drink from that stream' as Andrew pointed to a dead possum in it our faith was restored. In fact, absolutely confirmed, as a short distance later we crossed the same stream...shaking his head we were all reminded 'I wouldn't drink from that stream either'.

Our final negotiation to Hamilton hut entailed the crossing of a no frills walk wire. As last but not less least to cross the river we turned back to see none other than the white bearded man in a red coat himself. After the inevitable call "hey, whats in the pack?" Dave was from then on known as Father Christmas.

Parked up in Hamilton Hut we were left to ponder each others dinners and who had won the 30

million in power ball. Fortunately Dave enquired if any one was interested in hearing a poem? Thank god, any thing to escape the power ball conversation! What a treat as verse after verse we were left dumbstruck with this mans talent and humour. Father Christmas you rock!

Up the following morning to reach the saddle in possibly 2 hours? Andrew commented that one of our fellow guests was really weird! He was up for 2 hours (yes that's right, 2 hours) the night after we all went to sleep by himself starring at a candle. Simons mind was easily read imaging the same person making his way up the river bed 'there was this really weird guy in his sleeping bag who watched me for 2 hours last night.....'

A cracker day prevailed as we made our way for the next two hours up the valley to the pass. Brindsley proved a joy to trek behind as he cleared the track of all in sundry.....they must have really tidy tracks in South Africa! Stunning views from the saddle, a few cheeky Kea and enough snow to hide the pot holes we meandered on happily for another let me see, 2 hours? A lunch stop then on for an other ? 2 hours. Bruce may beg to differ....'awe, could have been two and half!'

Many thanks to Andrew. A great trip and a great bunch. We are all just shocking time tellers!

6 - 7 December 2008

Kowhai/Hapuku

Due to my absent-mindedness we had a late start on a beautiful Saturday morning, because I had to go back to get my camera. We arrived at the car park at the foot of Mt Fyffe some time between 10 and 11am. We had to do a quick car shuffle and started to head out to the Kowhai Hut around 11am after everybody had sorted their backpacks.

We walked up the Kowhai River and had to cross the river about a dozen times before we arrived at the Kowhai Hut at around 3 to 4pm. I tried to avoid the river crossings but gave up after the 3rd or 4th time. We met some young guys on the way up who tried their luck hunting up the valley but obviously weren't very successful as they returned with empty hands. They left the Kowhai hut with the embers in the fireplace still glowing (although I have to note here that they left a full bucket of water for the people already there to dowse it in an emergency). At the time we reached the hut, clouds had gathered and we were not very confident to get a nice view from Mt Fyffe on the next day.

Two guys that stayed at the hut with us that night also tried their luck hunting but returned empty handed so we had to eat the usual tramping dinner we brought with us. After we had shared some stories at the fireplace, most of us went to bed in the tents we brought with us, although I spent my night in a Bivvy-Bag and two others spent their night in the hut.

On the next day the sky was clear again and we started in good spirits up the valley towards Kowhai Saddle. This part of the trip involved a lot more scrambling and uphill parts but less river crossings, which kept me quite happy. The Group divided once we arrived at Kowhai Saddle and finished our second breakfast, one group going down the Hapuku river valley while my group went up the mountain to the summit of Mt Fyffe. The poled track started of at a comfortable climb with good footing but soon turned into a bit more strenuous walk over debris landslides. But it is always good to have a little workout. Once we were up the better part of the mountain there was some more debris landslide climbing and ridge walking involved until we reached the summit of Mt Fyffe. There we were greeted by an helicopter that brought up some rich Indian guy who said he was missing all the wild animals everybody was talking about and that unlike where he came from, where tigers, Elephants and other exotic animals are obviously running around everywhere, New Zealand seemed to be a wildlife deprived country. Anyway, after we did our "poser" shots and the shots of the almost cloudless view and finished our lunch we started our descend back towards the car park. The walk down was, besides being the

hardest part of the trip due to constant steep-slope downhill-walking, quite boring as it was on a 4WD track.



The Party at Kowhai saddle, looking towards Hapuku

The Hapuku river group was five strong as we descended scree initially heading down to the beginning of the Hapuku. The day was hot and clear and we could see that this side of Kowhai saddle has quite a bit more bush and hopefully shelter from the sun. After stopping for a break at the Hapuku hut we found that linking up was required at some crossing points as we followed the river due to snow melt. We then followed the track that climbed around the spectacular Hapuku Gorge and then followed the river out to the car park.

The two groups met again on a car park in Kaikoura and everybody arrived home in one piece. At the end of the day I was very happy that I did go back home to get that camera. I thank Ken Brown on behalf of all the people on the trip for this wonderful weekend.

Stephan Schaller (scribe), Bitten, Dayle, Ruth, Margaret, Kristie, Katie, Darshie, Ken (subscribe)

28 December 2008

Mt Cassidy-Blimit-Temple Basin

12.3 km, 7 hours 45 minutes, 1230 m height gain

I didn't expect a big party for this day trip nestled between Christmas and New Year, but the turn-out was pretty good – eight club members augmented by Adele, my daughter back home for a holiday from Sweden, and Mike Stewart, a former CTC member on holiday from Scotland.

We left the Devil's Punchbowl car park at 10.30 am and (after a brief wait while Mike retrieved his camera from his car's roof) we climbed Con's Track to the bushline at ~1200 m. After regrouping, rehydrating and re-energising we resumed the climb – Mike again having to retrace his steps to pick up the camera he had left behind. At about 1.30 pm, we stopped on the knob at 1750 m for a leisurely 30 minute lunch and to take in the scenery. The weather was near perfect for alpine tramping – warm and sunny with wispy high cloud and a gentle breeze. The clear air afforded great views of Mounts Rolleston, Oates and Franklin, along with many more-distant peaks. After checking that Mike had his camera, we made quick progress along the ridge over Pt 1819 m and Mount Cassidy (1850 m) to Blimit (1921 m) where we took a 10 minute break.



Having a break at Blimit

For the next stage, some of us worked our way along the gnarly north ridge to the first col, and then descended the scree to the large tarn in Bill's Basin. The majority took a more direct route to the tarn but then had to wait a while for the party to regroup. The final part of the descent was through Temple Basin Skifield and down the access road to State Highway 73. About 1500 m south along the highway, we picked up the Bridal Veil Track, by which we returned to the cars.

A good day with great company and near-perfect weather – and Mike still had his camera.

Trampers: Penney Coffey, Mike Stewart, Dayle Drummond, Kate Taylor, Stewart Smith, Denise Stroud, Kieran McGuigan, Kees De Jager, Adele Williamson, Bryce Williamson (scribe).



A view of Mt Rolleston, looking across the tarn at Bill's Basin

Trent-Haupiri

By the time we had left Christchurch, made the journey over to the Lake Brunner region and shuffled the cars it was already 12 noon. We realised we were in for a pretty late day after calculating the amount of time it would take for us to walk the 25 odd kilometres to Mid Trent Hut. We figured it would take about 7 hours. We left the voracious sandflies behind and start walking along the farm/4x4 track along the Ahaura river before we turn into the Tutaekuri River. We cross over to the true right and find that, although the river is well down, it is still quite deep and the rocks at the bottom of the river are covered with that awful red slime. Its makes keeping one's footing very difficult and it was to blight our entire trip. Travel up the Tutaekuri is easy in open terrain and we make very good time, arriving at the hut just ahead of our predicted time. With a forecast for drizzle that night most of us pile into the four bunk hut. Flo and Stu spend the night in their tent.

There is a low mist the following day so we decide against travelling straight up onto the tops around Mt Monotis. Instead we elect to travel up river to the saddle and re-evaluate once the weather has had time to clear. In contrast to the previous day's travel, the river narrows into a series of gorges. The abundant mosses, the low mist and the beautiful, lush forest give a very primordial, "land before time" feel to the journey. Its a cool day but not cold, perfect for tramping actually. We spend the morning travelling up river, climbing over windfall and wading across pools that are waist deep in places. We lunch in a sunny spot in the river as the forest begins to give way to low scrub a short distance from Lagoon Hut and then climb steeply out of the river and then along tussock benches to Trent Saddle.

The cloud has never cleared way completely throughout the day and it still clings to the higher peaks that surround us. We had been playing with the idea of camping on the saddle and making an attempt on some of the surrounding peaks such as Mt Elizabeth. However it has taken us far longer than anticipated to reach the saddle and it is now mid afternoon. Also, the strong breeze and cloudy skies make camping less attractive. Todd, Martin and myself start walking down to Elizabeth hut leaving behind Flo Stu, Dayle and Ian who are still contemplating a high camp. With only 2.5 km to the hut members of our group make optimistic predictions of "the hut in 45 minutes". Sadly it was not to be.

The first half of the track is very pleasant and we make excellent time. The second half however is in the bush and the enormous amounts of windfall almost stop us dead in our tracks. It is certainly a trial thrashing through that felled vegetation but we continue on, alternating between bush travel and boulder hopping down the creeks. Time wears on and eventually we drop out of the bush onto the river and come to the hut. We square ourselves away and before long Dayle arrives, followed shortly thereafter by the remainder of the group. They had abandoned their plans for camping on the saddle and followed us down. Given the nature of the track we are all glad they came down in the evening rather than leave it all for the last day. Predictions of only 45 minutes to the hut proved wildly optimistic, it took us 2 hours.

Our final day dawns clear and we are away by 8:30. The Haupiri river is very similar to the Tutaekuri on the first day, grassy flats, shingle river beds and the occasional diversion through lush forest. We reach the hot spring in short time but because of the poor rainfall the water level is quite low. Someone, possibly the nearby Christian commune, has built a concrete pool that receives the overflow from the spring. If the water level was higher it would be quite pleasant but as it is it looks a bit slimy and rocky. Undaunted, Martin drops himself in to soak, followed soon after by Flo. The spring is so small that only one person can fit in at a time but it is quite warm apparently.

We continue on and the bush gives way to stunted pine trees before reaching the car. We replace the tyre on Flo's car that has slowly deflated over the weekend before taking a soothing swim in the river while the cars are being unshuffled. Thanks to everyone for putting on a great

trip at the last moment. It certainly was memorable.

Trampers: Flo Roberts, Stu Smith, Todd Ellis, Ian Dunn, Dayle Drummond, Martin Brown and Andrew Tromans (scribe)

14 - 15 February 2009

Lower Olderog Biv

We made the decision quite early on that we wouldn't head for the original objective of Top Olderog Biv since it would have made for a very long day out on Sunday. Instead we opted for the closer, but no less challenging alternative. We left both cars at the "Cowboys Paradise" main gates and started walking up the metalled road up Wainihinihi creek. After about an hour we locate the start of the track and begin the long plod up towards Mt Kerr.

The track is marked and is relatively free of windfall and we eventually break out into the alpine scrub. The ridge up to Mt Kerr consists of a series of flat sections alternating with very steep steps that must be climbed by grabbing the scrub and hauling yourself up. With a bit of effort we make the summit of Mt Kerr and survey the fine views. We can easily locate Mt Griffin and Tara Tarma but the low cloud obscures the tops of the peaks further south in the main range and it makes identifying individual mountains difficult.

The ridge across to McArthur Crag is initially very simple following a well marked ground trail. However, as you near the summit there is a steep sidling climb under a scrub covered terrace. After thrashing through the scrub to the top you have to reach up, grab the vegetation and drag yourself up over the lip of the terrace. We sidle below the summit across a gully to the south east ridge. This ridge has a nice sloping side on the south and a precipitous drop on the northern side. It leads down to a series of formidable looking pinnacles. We sidle below the first two pinnacles on the southern side before climbing up between the second and third and dropping into the northern side. Careful selection of spurs is important as you have to drop down through a band of thick scrub to the next section of snow grass. The higher most spur is probably the best option while you should avoid the small gully. We continue down the broad main ridge before being brought to a complete halt by a set of massive bluffs above a very thick clump of rough scrub. Looking down we can clearly see the biv with its burnished red paint job as well as a nice rocky section leading down to the clearing but how do we get down off the bluff and through the scrub?

We have to sidle off to the true left which brings us under the bluffs quite easily. This just leaves a nasty crawl through a deep gully covered with thick scrub. The drop off into the gully is very steep and we make it down by dangling off the leatherwood while trying hard not to be impaled by the branches below. We take our time but eventually get to the river and then grovel our way out the other side to the rocky section. Stu Smith attempts another route by continuing down the ridge even further to avoid the worst of the scrub but it appears that no matter what option you choose, you are doomed to force your way through tough west coast bush. The scree down the other side is straightforward but there is a final band of scrub before the biv.

The biv is one of those old dog kennel types on the edge of the scrub with some reasonable campsites on the grassy sections. The only problem is that there is no close water supply. There are a couple of big buckets that are supposed to work as water tanks but these are dry and the only alternative is to walk off into the scrub and down another steep terrace to a small stream a short way up from the biv. The wekas are very vocal throughout the night and there are a couple of possums who prowled the area, growling at the intruders. Some drizzle, and then rain forced some of the people in bivvy bags to relocate during the night but by dawn it was dry and it even looked like the clouds were beginning to break up.

We travel across the scree slope down the ridge from the biv and peer over into Jade creek below us. We can clearly see the prospectors' huts below us, clinging to the steep walls above the river amongst a sea of bush. We follow the broad ridge down to the Jade-Olderog

confluence. There is a marked track but it is steep and overgrown and there is a bit of windfall that makes it difficult to follow at some points. Eventually we drop into the river at the back door of an old, run down prospectors' hut and we exchange bush bashing for boulder hopping down the river. The river is quite low so we have no serious difficulties making our way down to the Arahura river although travel is quite slow and slippery. The travel improves slightly when we travel down the true right of the Arahura although we still need to make occasional detours into the bush to negotiate large boulders or deeper pools. After about an hour we reach the old footbridge and get to the Lower Arahura Hut for lunch.

Below the Arahura the track becomes very broad and open and we make it out to the cars in just over two hours. On the way out we stop briefly at "The Cesspool". Despite the less than attractive name, it is a wonderful deep pool at the bend in the river. The footbridge passes right overhead and gives you great views over the pool and the adjacent sandy beach. I can't resist jumping in for a swim to wash off two days worth of accumulated sweat and grime. Ray wades in knee deep while Stu (Senior) washes his face and hair from the water's edge. The remainder of the trip members are hydrophobic. Admittedly it was a bit too cold for a proper swim but I have no problems drying out during the last half hour to the cars.

Thanks guys for a memorable trip. Trampers: Ian Dunn, Ray Brown, Stu (Senior), Stu (Junior), Dayle Drummond, Andrew Tromans

15 February 2009

Big Mt Peel

The Mt Peel Family – Little Mt Peel, Middle Mt Peel and Big Mt Peel – are a group of mountains some 30km north of Geraldine. After an early start at 7am Susan didn't expect being home before sunset in view of spending four hours in the cars and walking about 23km.

We left the cars at 9am and headed towards Little Mt Peel (1311m). This section of the track is definitely 'touristy': wide, well marked and it includes a long board-walk above the bush line. It took us just 90 minutes to get to the Tristram Harper Shelter on top of Little Mt Peel where we could fill up our water bottles. Water could have been a problem during this trip: having enjoyed Adrian's river crossing course the other day, Susan and me started with wet boots but using these new skills was not necessary, even keeping the boots wet was quite hard as a bit of mud below the bush line was all we could find. I think we wouldn't have reached Big Mt Peel if there hadn't been water at the shelter.

After a tea break at the shelter we walked along a gentle ridge with only one steeper section that led us to Middle Mt Peel (1583m). Finding the actual summit turned out to be quite difficult even though we were equipped with GPS receivers - or should I say it was hard because we did have 3 GPS receivers? However, we stopped for our first lunch break quite close to Middle Mt Peel and, suitably strengthened, headed towards Big Mt Peel. The weather turned out to be just perfect: clear sky but a light wind.

Now the ridge became more rocky and there was no obvious track but Susan found a shortcut that Dave, Ruth and I had missed - which delayed HER arrival by five minutes. On top of Big Mt Peel (1743m) we met the Geraldine Tramping Club, some 20 members of respectable mean age with three people over 70 and big applause when the oldest member (78) eventually arrived. They got permission to drive up the valley and walked up another ridge which didn't reduce the height gain but the distance (probably 7km instead of 23km). We had our second lunch break on Big Mt Peel before we went the same way back, passing Middle Mt Peel and having an afternoon tea close to Little Mt Peel. We stopped again at the shelter where Penny asked if we want to go down a much shorter ridge but at this point nobody was really keen on an adventure and so we took the same track back to the cars where we arrived at 6pm after tramping for 9 hours and 1700m of cumulative climbing. We skipped the compulsory coffee shop stop and arrived in Christchurch just before sunset. Thanks for this nice trip.

Trampers: Penny Coffey (leader), Ruth Barratt, Susan Pearson, David Sutton, Bruce Cameron, Thomas Matern (scribe)

21 February 2009

Broken River and Avoca Hut

Assembling at the Carly at 7am in persistent rain had deterred many. However 5 decided they "didn't mind the rain" and would have greater expense for a commercial four-wheel-driving. Over Porters and the rain had cleared and we turned off the main road just before the Mt. White turnoff and drove through the tiny Cass settlement. The gravel road turned out to be a maintenance road for the Trans Alpine railway, (there are at least 10 gates to open each way) and we stopped to talk to a crew of jokers having brunch while adding shingle to support the line.

Going down another track, Andrew took us under a steel viaduct and to the junction with the flooded Broken River. Some huts across the river beckoned, so three negotiated a rickety footbridge to find a very recently renovated 1908 homestead spruced up by DOC into the Avoca Hut (no fees). An isolated vestige of this country's agricultural heritage and evidence of the extent people went to to get wool to market.

Backtracking, we located some huts where a track appeared (on maps) to start. Despite not being apparent, we hiked up the hill following remnants of a coal cableway, eventually reaching the remainder of the winch and boiler system. Lunch was had and clear views into the Broken River valley and Torlesse Range were enjoyed. We hadn't walked in a drop of rain despite being surrounded by clouds. We abandoned the plan of descending into the Broken River valley because the river was uncrossable and track indistinct after about an hour of further walking following the cable way.

We descended onto a track in a strengthening but warm nor' wester and returned to the vehicle. Andrew couldn't resist the temptation to check out Lakes Marymere and Hawdon (for fishing I think) and we did some 4WD rockn'rolling. Future parties should be aware that they may be able to cut half an hour off the journey by obtaining permission to drive across Flock Station land to cut off two sides of the triangle. Good exploring was had by all.

Participants: Andrew Nichols (leader), Stephen Hoare-Vance (scribe), Stephen Nichols, Peter and Angela Moore.

Classifieds

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

For sale: One Harvest Maid Dehydrator with ten trays: - \$60. One 12x9 Fiesta canvas tent with windows and porch. Made by the Kiwi Camping Co. Only used once. Retailed \$450. Asking \$150. Contact Irene, phone 3320765.

External Events

FMC Annual General Meeting and nominations for Executive: The FMC Annual General Meeting will be held on 20 June 2009 in the Brentwood Hotel, Wellington. The FMC is calling for nominations to the Executive. As an affiliated club, the CTC may nominate a financial member to the executive. If any financial member of the CTC wished to be nominated, please notify the Secretary (Hon. Secretary, Christchurch Tramping Club, PO Box 527, Christchurch, 8140) before 30 March 2009 so that nominations can be ratified by the Committee and passed on to the FMC before their deadline of 30 April 2009.

Summit Road Society: The CTC is a member of the Summit Road Society so our members may be interested in the following Summit Road Society happenings. First, a new publication called Port Hills - Protect and Enjoy (copies \$20 from Secretary, PO Box 17719, Christchurch). Next, a picnic outing to Orton Bradley Park on Sunday 1 March (contact Jeff Long, 384 8463). Finally, their AGM on 11 March (7.30pm, Beckenham Service Centre, 66 Columbo Street).

Taylor's Mistake Rogaine Series: Rogaining is a bit like orienteering by more social, relaxed and takes a little longer. It involves teams of two to five people visiting as many checkpoints as they wish in a set time period. The checkpoints are free-choice and have different point values so strategy and route selection becomes a vital component. For those who might be interested, there are three commercially-organised rogaines in the Taylor's Mistake area on April 1st, April 8th and April 15th. See www.madeventz.co.nz/tmrogaine. [Note: this is not a CTC event -- just a posting "for your interest"!]

More about the CTC

Committee:

President	Richard Wills	389-8671	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	325-5001
Vice-president	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	Day-trip Organiser	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Jenny Harlow	349-2280	Weekend-trip Organiser	Andrew Turton	332-8275
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	Hut Convener	Dave Watson	981-7929
Editor	Richard Lobb	351-2344	Gear Custodian	Ken Brown	359-2000
Social convener	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members	Susan Pearson	337-4914

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

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

Rates for Gear Hire:

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

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor
(editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 22 March 2009 – Thanks.