



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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

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Arriving at Whitehorn Pass, Easter 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*.

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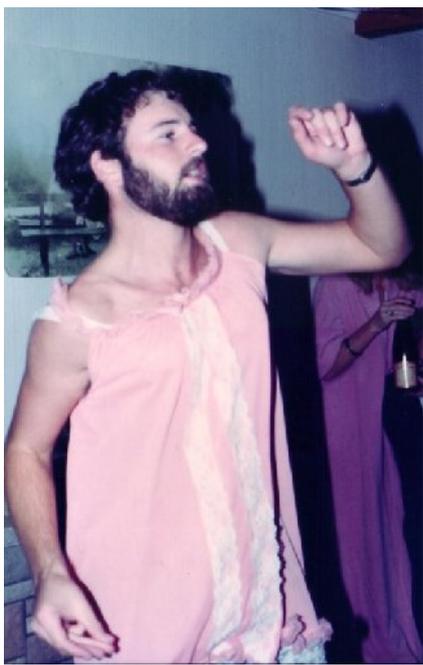
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Tramping Trivia Quiz

The answers to the following questions can all be found on the club website.

1. What famous author started farming the Mesopotamia Station in 1861?
2. What on-line group, established in 2003, maintains a number of remote Westland huts?
3. What was the original name of the CTC?
4. There were two separate CTC trips to hot pools in May 1999. Which pools were they?
5. What named peak is near to Balmacaan Saddle?
6. Who won the inaugural Mt Somers Challenge?

Tramper of the Month: Guess who! [Answer next month]

<i>Place of birth:</i>	Waverley, in the North Island	
<i>Date joined CTC:</i>	Approx. 1992	
<i>Family:</i>	One almost wife, one son, one stepson	
<i>Favourite day trip:</i>	Mt Bealey, down the scree and out the stream.	
<i>Favourite weekend trip:</i>	Mueller Hut above Mt Cook Village – the view cannot be beaten.	
<i>Favourite hut and campsite:</i>	Angelus Hut (Nelson Lakes). Campsite: anywhere on the tops in Fiordland.	
<i>Favourite tramping meal:</i>	Ice cream - yes this can be served frozen on the Sat Night of a weekend trip leaving on the Friday night.	
<i>Any mishaps while tramping?</i>	Too many to mention here. No injuries to me but plenty of situations to deal with, three involving helicopter intervention.	
<i>Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?</i>	Grant Wheaton – thank you for organising those three challenging stupendous 12-day trips. Two failed to get to their target destination, but boy did we have a great time trying.	
<i>What is the funniest thing to happen to you while tramping?</i>	<p>Really so many actually but here are a couple ...</p> <p>Jim Weston – locking me in the dunny at Aspiring Hut. When he let me out a whole bunch of other hut residents were watching. That in itself is not so bad but I was wearing a pink nightie and slippers at the time!</p> <p>I recall sharing a Minaret tent on the Richmond Range. During the night I had a disturbing dream that we had a possom in the tent and in my dream I was pushing it out. I was rudely awoken by an upset tent mate. He was loudly accusing me of pushing against his upper inner thigh with my hand and wished to move outside for some reason!</p>	
<i>Do you carry anything in your pack that is unique to you?</i>	No, I only ever carry the bare essentials.	

News

New Committee: At the AGM on 16 April the following were elected to the Committee: President - Warwick Dowling; Senior Vice President - Steve Bruerton; Junior Vice President - Peter Mortlock. Club Captain - Adrian Busby; Editor - Richard Lobb; Secretary - Cathy Harlow; Weekend Trip Organiser - Steve Bruerton; Day Trip Organiser - Jenny Harlow; Hut Convenor - David Watson; Gear Custodian - Ken Brown; Social Convenor - Alan Ross; Club Patron - Rex Vink; General Committee - Andrew Turton, Susan Pearson, Janet Spittlehouse, Thomas Matern, Adrian Sullivan and Bruce Cameron. A warm welcome to all those new to the Committee. Farewell and thanks to those who are taking a break - Richard Wills has been our President for 3 years and Training Officer for even longer - many thanks Richard for the hard work and dedication. The many club members who have benefited from your training courses owe you a huge vote of appreciation. Ross Ogden and David Ellison-Smith were part of the general committee last year - thanks to you both for contributing to your club. Andrew Turton is taking a break from the role of Weekend Trip Organiser but is still on the Committee.

New Members: This month the following new members join us : Antony White, Lisa Harrison and Cathy Harlow. Antony is rumoured to be known, from schooldays, to club member Kerrie and they were re-united on her Red Hill trip. Antony also participated in Peter's infamous Steepface hill trip, and Steve's Savannah Range tramp, and still submitted his membership application! Lisa enjoyed the scenic beauty of Scenery Nook with Erik and Jenny's classic Mingha Deception weekend. She proved that those old tramping skills, on hold for a few years, don't go away. Cathy has joined us after tramps to Mt Garfield and Mt Richardson and then found herself voted onto committee as secretary. Could this be a family trait? A warm welcome to you all, see you out tramping again soon!

AGM and subs renewals: The AGM voted in favour of the new subscription rates so there will be an increase of \$5 for all members getting a mailed newsletter, but if you opt to get your newsletter via the website the subs will stay the same. The additional fee for late subs payments is \$10 so pay up now when you get your renewal notice and save us having to chase people as well as saving yourself \$10.

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.

Weekend 2-3 May		Leader: Ross Ogden 351-1857	
<p>Avoca Valley. The head of the Avoca is a great valley, well worth a visit. There is a great little A frame hut and, with at least 5 options of getting in or out of the valley, plenty of scope for a round trip. The plan at the moment is to go in over Sphinx saddle and out over Jordan saddle but Gizeh Col is also an option. Sphinx and Gizeh Col both access the Anti Crow and Jordan Saddle goes into the Jordan Stream.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closed: 23 Apr Map: K34 Approx: \$40	
Sunday 3 May		Leader: Mike Ny 337-9796	
<p>Pinchgut Hut. Pinchgut hut is down behind Mt Thomas with a nice track. There is a crossing of the Okuku River right at the start of the track so you could wear an old pair of shoes for this and then change into dry boots for the walk. 3-4 hours of gentle walking, mainly in beech, will get us to the hut in a stream-side clearing where we will lunch before returning.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closed: 30 Apr Map: M34 Approx: \$20	
Sunday 3 May		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000	
<p>Tiromoana Bush. Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track is a new-ish walkway constructed as a result of the landfill deal. The club did a 'test run' before it officially opened and it's been a popular tramp ever since. It's certainly a great way to explore the area to the east of the landfill where native bush and the Ella Ponds wetlands are being protected and restored. The track loops around from the Glenafric road to a cliff lookout (Tiromoana means 'view of the sea') and access to the Ella Peak Scenic Reserve and the beach and then back past the wetlands.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 30 Apr Map: N34 Approx: \$15	
Thursday 7 May		Club Night	
<p>Product presentation by Salomon and R & R Sports. SNOWORLD SPORTS PRESENTS ... An evening with Salomon, one of France's leading outdoor brands, and R & R Sports, New Zealand's leading outdoor retailer. We will commence the evening with a brief outline of Salomon, a history of how they began and their philosophies. This evening is aimed at outlining some of the features and benefits of different styles of hiking footwear and outdoor products and how to choose the right footwear for you. These days there are many boot and shoe brands on the market and we hope to unravel some of the jargon and really get down to what you need. The best, most comfortable shoe or boot for you! We will take you through the latest Salomon footwear range and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. At the end of the evening we will have spot prizes and a range of footwear on offer at discounted prices especially for CTC members. Come along on the night and also receive 30% discount on all Salomon products at R & R Sports, Christchurch. If you wish to visit our website prior to the evening it can be found at www.salomon.co.nz .</p>			
Weekend 9-10 May		Leader: Thomas Matern 325 5750	
<p>Julia Hut Hot Pools. A west coast valley tramp with hot pools as the incentive if the river flows are cooperating. It's about 20km each way but it's easy travel. (Take off 5km or so if Thomas can find some 4WD vehicles to drive as far as 7 mile creek).</p>		Grade: Moderate Closed: 30 Apr Map: K33 Approx: \$45	

Sunday 10 May	Leader: Philip Tree 942-7670
High points of the Crater Rim. OK, so places like Mt Cavendish, Gibraltar Rock, and Cass Peak don't exactly need oxygen to climb, but they are right there on the Port Hills, just waiting for us to have a wander around and appreciate the amazing countryside that is right on our back doorstep. Great views out over Lyttelton harbour, Christchurch, Peiku Lake in Tibet (okay, that one's not true . . .) , no 2-hour drive, and great local ice-cream . . . what more could you want?	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 7 May Map: M36 Approx: \$5
Sunday 10 May	Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
Temple Col. Pop up to Temple Col (1774m) and have a look at all the wonderful weekend tramping opportunities on the other side . . . If this does not get you inspired, nothing will. Temple Col is about 900m up from the highway, partly along the very friendly zig-zag path up to the Temple Basin Ski area - perfectly placed for morning tea. Above the ski huts, the last part of the climb is a bit steeper, and then we are on the ridge between Phipps and Blimit, trying to see the route down to Goat Pass. Admire Franklin and Oates in the distance, and make a vow to do a longer trip in this area.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 May Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Thursday 14 May	Club Night
Skiing in Canada by John Henson and Grant Weaton. Grant Wheaton and John Henson travelled to Canada this year in the hunt for deep powder snow, wild animals and great food. Come and see how they managed to score two out of three and were very pleased to miss out on the third. Based around two great back-country lodges in British Columbia and Alberta.	
Saturday 16 May	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
Rapaki Track and Mt Vernon. Rapaki track is a local classic, going right up from Hillsborough to the Summit Road close to Witch Hill. One option for this trip would be to start on the Mt Vernon Valley track from the Mt Vernon carpark on The Crescent - that takes us onto the Rapaki and thus up to the Crater Rim. From there we can pop up Mt Vernon (462m) and then descend back to the cars on the Mt Vernon Farm Track.	Grade: Easy Closes: 14 May Map: M36 Approx: \$5
Weekend 16-17 May	Leader: Andrew Turton 332-8275
Arthurs Pass Base Camp. Come join us for a weekend at the club hut at Arthurs Pass. This is a trip suitable for all but will be aimed at being suitable for families. There are tramps for all grades so all are welcome.	Grade: All / Family Closes: 7 May Map: K33 Approx: \$45
Sunday 17 May (early start; contact leader)	Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155
Savannah Range - Andrews Stream. Woolshed Hill (1429m) is a straightforward 800m ascent on a good track from the Hawdon Shelter, but on this trip we aim to go quite a bit further and have a real explore of a less-visited area . . . The plan is to head along the ridge towards the Savannah Range, dropping down to Andrews Stream for the return march. Nothing too hard but a longish way and a longish day.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 14 May Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Thursday 21 May Club Night

A Trampers Diary (Photos With Roddus) by Rodney Erickson. Come and be entertained by a selection of photos of local tramps from the occasional CTC tramping career of Roddus and see if you appear in any of his photos.

Weekend 23-24 May Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914

Lake Guyon. This is part of the new St James Conservation area. Drive to Hanmer and up towards Lake Tennyson on the Tophouse Rd. Go in over Fowlers Pass (approx 300m height gain) heading for the (4 bunk) Fowlers Hut or Stanley Hut. Options from Fowlers could include fishing in the lake or climbing Mt Stanley. Options from Stanley hut could include exploring up Lake Hill, Lookout hill, visiting the lake and/or wandering up the Stanley River track for a while. Good opportunity for Easy trampers wanting to do a not-too-challenging weekend tramp. Moderate trampers still have plenty of more demanding options.

Grade: EasyMod+
Closes: 14 May
Map: M31 N31
Approx: \$25

Sunday 24 May Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344

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 . . . Those just there for the tramping can enjoy the 800m climb on mostly untracked tussock hillside with good views all the way up.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 21 May
Map: J36
Approx: \$20

Sunday 24 May Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913

Packhorse Hut and Mt Bradley. We'll go up to the Packhorse Hut from the pretty Kaituna Valley, just before Little River. It is about 600m height gain to the Hut on a good track. The Hut is a lovely old building of Halswell stone dating from 1914. It is formally called the Sign of the Packhorse and - like the Sign of Takehe, Sign of the Kiwi, etc - originally built as a rest house for Harry Ell's proposed summit route from Christchurch to Akaroa. From the Hut, those that want to can go up Mt Bradley (855m). We may also be able to visit the Remarkable Dykes area and take a different ridge back down towards the cars.

Grade: Easy or EasyMod
Closes: 21 May
Map: M36
Approx: \$10

Thursday 28 May Club Night

Newsletter folding night. Mostly newsletter folding tonight. A social night as many people will be packing for the long Queens Birthday Weekend trips.

Saturday 30 May		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
<p>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.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 28 May
		Map: N37	Approx: \$15
Long Weekend 30 May-1 June		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931	
<p>Nelson Lakes - Molesworth. Uncle Bernhard is on holiday but has sent us a cryptic postcard implying that he would like to go for a walk at Queens Birthday Weekend. The destination will be in the eastern Nelson Lakes region, possibly Lees Vally or similar area accessed off the Rainbow Road. Contact Bernhard for more information.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 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	Closes: 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
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.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 4 Jun Map: K35 Approx: \$20

Weekend 6-7 June	Leader: John Henson 342-3311
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.	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% if 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.	

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

Trip Reports

15 March 2009

Mephistopheles

With good weather forecast for the first time in weeks we had eight people show up for this day walk. Setting the meeting time fifteen minutes earlier than usual for an early start also meant we were away and driving by 7am precisely. Although it probably put more than a few people off, an early start is necessary for the long drive up to Lewis pass and we compensated with a brief stop at Culverden, allowing all the caffeine addicts to get a fix.

True to the forecast, there wasn't a cloud in the sky when we reached Boyle river settlement. Although it is not marked on the maps there is an excellent track leading up the ridgeline from the Boyle river. You start by walking along the road over the river, crossing the fence and climbing up to the small terrace along a clearly worn path. From there you head back along open fields towards to bush near the river. There is a huge sign marked "Faust loop track" at the entrance to the bush - you can't miss it. Once in the bush you go past the obstacle course and flying fox, climb a second terrace and follow the track off to the right. The bush is very pleasant and the track very easy to follow

There is however one confusing bit. About halfway up we came to a second sign which was also marked "Faust Loop walk". This sign had two arrows marked on it pointing in opposite directions. The first arrow to the left looks brand new and is very clear in canary yellow. The second arrow points to the right and is obviously older, faded and looks as if someone has tried to scratch it off. Notwithstanding, you have to follow the arrow to the right to get to the tops. Following the track to the left will take you on a long sidle along the face of the range.

The open ridgeline leading up to Faust and Mephistopheles is a delight with very simple rolling tops and a gradual climb. It is a breathtakingly beautiful day with hardly a cloud in the sky. The views in all directions are incredible. We have lunch on Faust before setting off to complete Mephistopheles only a short distance way, although a couple of the trip members need a bit of prodding to wake them up after laying down and sunning themselves after lunch.

The climb up to Mephistopheles looks like it might require a bit of scrambling but in fact it is totally straightforward. After taking in the view for a while we head back to Faust before dropping into a basin and some very nice tarns. This area would make a great camping spot with its views across St James station. We continue down the spur leading to the St James

walkway and enter the bush. There is no track here, although as long as you stay on the crest of the spur it is quite open and easy going. It gets a bit scratchy if you leave the spur. We have quite a bit of fun bounding down some very soft moss before coming out onto the walkway upstream of the bridge. The walk out to the cars is completely straightforward and we get back to Culverden in time for some ice cream.

Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable trip.

20 - 21 March 2009

Savannah Range

Steve's original plan of traversing the length of Savannah range and camping on the tops didn't last very long when we realised how heavy our packs would be when carrying all our water with us. The weather forecast also made camping on the open tops an unattractive option so Steve, ever the pragmatist, decided that we would drop off the Savannah Range into Andrews stream somewhere around Casey saddle. This would give us a nice sheltered campsite from the predicted southerly as well as giving us the option of a quick exit from the hills if the bad weather continued into Sunday.

There certainly didn't seem to be any sign of the southerly change when we arrived at Hawdon shelter and started up the track to Woolshed hill. The bright sunshine and cool breeze was quite a contrast from the overcast skies we knew Christchurch would be experiencing. We passed a couple of hunters who had come up the previous evening and chatted briefly about their fruitless attempt to find some game. Apparently the helicopters had scared all the wildlife away.

After Woolshed hill the Savannah range runs away to the north. It's not difficult travel but there is quite a bit of "up and down". Especially where it drops steeply down to the bush line only to immediately climb back up to its previous altitude. We tackled this section straight after lunch and it came as a bit of a rude shock. We sidle out to a saddle north of point 1520 before completing a long sidle on the scree below point 1676. This brings us onto a broad spur leading down into Andrews stream. We enter the bush while trying to stay as close to the crest of the spur as possible. The bush is relatively open with only a bit of re-growth and the occasional bush lawyer. We take a short break to look into the steeply gorged stream next to the spur but unfortunately the waterfall further down is obscured. There is a flat section at around 900m altitude directly below us that is marked as a swamp on the maps. However, when we reach it, we find it reasonably dry and it makes for some quick travel before the final drop into Andrews stream. Andrews stream is completely dry when we cross it and we quickly discover that Andrews Biv has been removed in early 2008. Luckily we brought the tents and there is some surface water in the creek a short way up from the former biv site.

We get up quite late the next day to discover that the southerly hasn't reached far inland and there is nothing but clear blue sky above us. So far its been a pretty easy trip so Anthony and I decide to climb Mt Brown whilst Steve and Graeme take their time plodding out to Andrew's shelter. We leave our packs and start heading up the stream behind the old biv site. Its pretty straightforward but we keep looking up to make sure we don't get bluffed. After about an hour we climb out on the true left through the bush, skirting around a large scree slope coming down straight off Mt Brown. We climb up to a prominent knob at about 1280m. We carry on across a small saddle before traversing a short scree to a clump of bush further to the south. From here it's a straight forward plod up snowgrass slopes and bare rock to the summit of Mt Brown. The southerly obviously came through during the night since the snowgrass has a lot of ice attached to it and the scree is quite solid in some parts. However the inclement weather has long since past and we have stunning 360 degree views with clear blue skies. The Canterbury coast is still under heavy cloud but there is hardly a breath of wind where we are and the sun gives the

valleys a golden glow.

All too soon we have to head back. We retrace our steps to the saddle off point 1280 before dropping directly into the scree and run all the way down to the creek that runs along side our campsite. Travel down the creek is relatively fast and we're back at the campsite by one pm. Steve and Graeme have long since departed, so after a short lunch stop we race off down Andrews track to the shelter. Steve and Graeme shunned the track and it its high sidles and stayed alongside the river. Besides the continual river crossings, the old Forestry Service track has been re cut and makes for some very pleasant travel according to Steve. We drive back to town at a very civilised hour, dropping back into the gloom and overcast as soon as we drop off Porters pass. In fact, our brief stop at Springfield was the coldest we had been all weekend.

4 - 5 April 2009

Cannibal Gorge

After meeting at the Carlton Station, we drove to the Lewis Pass car park in time to see the search and rescue helicopter landing. They were looking for the missing American tramp who started his tramp here at the Saint James Walkway. Unfortunately, there was no sign of him. The intentions book told us that Cannibal Gorge hut was likely to be full (not to capacity) of Scouts. We quickly realised that no one in the group was keen on sharing a hut with a Scout Troup so we planned to walk on to Ada Pass hut. It was a 4 hour tramp through beech forest with gentle hills and the odd bridge or two. We didn't see anyone on the walkway, not even the Scouts who weren't in the hut either.

We arrived at Ada hut after another hour of tramping at about 3.30pm. The hut is nestled in the valley with a great view of Gloriana Peak. However, it is a bit dark inside and Andrew convinced us that you could hear rats scabbling around at night so we all packed our food away in our packs! David, keen as ever, walked on to Ada Pass but said it was very disappointing, no views. Most of us got out and prepared our freeze-dried "fast, nourishing food for adventurers" except for newcomer Nathan who began to prepare Steak and fried mushrooms. We all drooled while he ate his gourmet tucker! Someone saved the day by sharing several packs of biscuits.

We were up early the following day after enjoying an extra hour in bed due to the end of daylight saving. We retraced our steps back to Lewis pass passing the Scouts 3 or 4 times. Back at the cars Nathan discovered he had a flat tyre but changed it in no time and was soon on his way to Murchison for more tramping. One or two people had blisters and others were feeling stiff before we left the car park, but the weather had been kind and the company was good.

Trampers: Andrew Wrapson (leader), Nathan Hedges, Brian O'Connell, Sarah McDermott, Janet Spittlehouse (scribe), David Cook, Tania Stevens, Chikako Yamauchi and Thomas Matern.

4 April 2009

Mt Balfour (Mt Binsler)

This was my first trip as a full member, but the hazing I had feared did not appear. Rain and wind threatened in Arthur's Pass so instead we went to the Hanmer Springs area.

After checking the wind at Jack's Pass we decided to go for an unnamed peak (1694m) adjacent to Mt Balfour (which is slightly lower). Arthur Balfour (1848-1930) was Prime Minister of the UK from 1902 to 1905 when he resigned, as his government had been weakened by a dispute over trade tariffs. No such misfortune befell our party and we completed the route united and strong. We parked across the river from the Acheron Guest House and crossing to the true right of the

Ribble, began our ascent along the north-south ridge which rises from the road to point 1694. First, up through steep tussock. The gradient lessened as we came onto ground of mixed scree and tussock. We picked up the old Molesworth Station boundary fence, which runs along the ridge right up to the summit. All the stanchions have been flattened over the years and it would not now deter even the most timid sheep. A sharp 50m or so descent and about the same in steep ascent, then up the last section of gently sloping ridge in fine, stable scree and we were at the summit. The wind was strong but not strong enough to make it difficult to stand.

After lunch we descended into the Ribble valley by a long eastwards-trending spur with some good scree, and some just plain sharp scree. Quite a bit of it ended up in my pockets when I tripped and perhaps accounted for the feeling that my pack had somehow gotten heavier. We followed the Ribble north to the cars, crossing the river several times, never more than ankle deep. Home via coffee in Culverden. A great day out.

Members: Dayle Drummond, David Gaughan, Ruth Gray, Sue Hely, Mark Jermy (scribe) Ron Keeble (trip accountant and keeper of the exchequer), Stu McAan, Susan Pearson (Leader), Andrew Tromans.

Non-members: Stefan Innocenti, Torsten Altmueller, Paul Knox, Claire Abaffy

10 - 13 April 2009

The Three Passes



Camping at Ariels Tarns



Descending to Lake Browning

After a planning and organisational effort which on its own would have exhausted most people, Richard embarked his group of intrepid east-to-west three passers bright and early on Friday morning. There were nine of us (soon to be 10 including Jonathan) and seven in the west-to-east group who had left the night before for the club club hut. Car drivers deposited the cars at the Bealey Hotel and rejoined the rest of the group at Carrington Hut and we all headed on up into the Taipoiti River. There was soft fresh snow from the recent southerly on Harman Pass which blended poorly with the wet boots courtesy of the Taipoiti. By the time we got to Ariels Tarns most people had pretty cold feet and there was a rather icy wind blowing to boot, so we set up a rather chilly camp on the snow. Jonathan joined us at the Tarns, muttering uncomplimentary things about the bash up the Waimak . . . I am prepared to believe Richard's claim that it is a perfect little campsite, but I may have to go back there when frostbite does not feel quite so imminent in order to appreciate it fully. By next morning however most people had recovered feeling in most of their toes and we set off after the boldly-determined Martin up to

Whitehorn Pass. A little too boldly, as it turned out – after some energetic scrambling over snow-covered rocks and boulders, we realised we were a little off track when we saw the orange marker poles below us – but were greatly comforted to find that missing the markers had not disadvantaged us in any way since the poled route was similarly composed of plunges into soft snow between rocks. Your lily-livered scribe did not like the short section of rock bowling alley up to Whitehorn Pass but everyone else was made of stancher stuff and my attempt to pike out was democratically squashed, for which I am very grateful because once out of that bit the whole trip improved immeasurably for me. By the time we got to the top of Whitehorn Pass it was a beautiful day and the views were truly spectacular.

Plan A had been to get up Browning Pass that day, to avoid having to make the ascent in the forecast rain the next day, and possibly meet the west-to-east party for a joint camp at Lake Browning. There was therefore little time to hang around and after a careful descent of the steepest upper section into Cronin Stream, we pressed on down the stream bed as fast as slippery icy rocks and more new snow would let us. Naomi was the only one to take a bit of a dunking – or at least to admit to it. We had lunch just below the snowline and bit more of a chance to take a breath and admire the lovely valley. As our advance guard arrived at Park Morpeth Hut, however, what gangly-legged fairisle-jersey-clad apparition should appear but Ian, first of the west-to-easters and reporting no trouble on the descent of Browning Pass. Richard relaxed visibly and declared a change of plan to the grateful troops – camp at Park Morpeth and make the ascent the next day. Luckily Park Morpeth is well-equipped in the campsite department, because in addition to our little colony of some 7 tents, there must have been at least 5 more from assorted other parties (the hut itself was being re-renovated by the CMC).

Next morning the weather was still holding and we made the ascent of Browning Pass with little trouble, which surprised Thomas who had doubted that Adrian had been serious the night before when he pointed out the route – “up there? – you mean up there? that vertical straight up there?” – mind you Thomas did try to make it more exciting for himself by shunning the scree-and-new-snow soup combination in which the rest of us were trying to find semi-solid footholds and taking a wet-snow-on-tussock line off to the left. Not highly recommended, but he made it. Our scree route was certainly vulnerable to rock fall and we took great care but even so Phil had to do a nifty dodge to avoid one good-size missile from above. Lake Browning was invisible in mist when we arrived but then appeared in a magical moment of clearance – just wonderful. With no snow to contend with now we made good progress down to lunch at Harman Hut (its so wet down there that the toilet is built on its own little rock promontory with a special section of board walk for access).

Owen and Antony had the bit firmly between their joint teeth by then and shot out of the starting gate for the final section of the day down to Grassy Flats, making even Martin and Jonathan look like they were traveling at a sedate pace. The west-to-easters had reported very boggy conditions across Styx Saddle, including an Adrian-sized hole from which it had nearly required lifting equipment to extract him. Despite carefully following Tom I am pretty certain I found the same hole, but everyone else seemed to escape mud above thigh level. At Grassy Flats Richard took soundings on inclinations to continue a bit further down but since the early arrivals has already unpacked, the answer was pretty clear and we had a very convivial camp there for the night.

The rain started during the night and continued, light but persistent, through breakfast. The track to the road end is mostly easy-going but even so we seemed to be traveling very fast as we marched through the rain – Antony and Owen again the front runners. It may have been Naomi's first tramp with us but she kept up apparently effortlessly. We made it to the road-end well before lunch time and after a final team photo, squashed ourselves into Flo's car and Adrian's ute and set off back east. Great timing – the rain started properly while we were still on the Lake Kaniere Road and did not let up the whole way. We met the triumphant west-to-east

group at the Bealey Hotel, spent about 2 hours untangling cars and gear and working out the horribly convoluted trip finances, and finally waved each other off from the Bealey for the drive home.

Many thanks to Richard for taking on the huge effort and stress involved in leading this trip. Despite what you think, all us passengers really enjoyed it and hope that, after a suitable recovery period (about 10 years should do it) you'll be on to lead another Easter trip sometime.

West-to-Easters: Adrian Busby, Flo Roberts, Andrea Robers, Ian Dunn, Ruth Gray, Clare Abaffy, Kees de Jager.

East-to-Westers: Richard Lobb, Jonathan Carr, Martin Brown, Tom Hu, Owen Crump, Antony White, Phil Hulme, Thomas Matern, Naomi Wells, Jenny Harlow (scribe).

10 - 13 April 2009

In the direction of the Campbell Range and Mt Axis ...



Camping near Scotty's Saddle



Hura Saddle

I've always been one to throw myself in the deep-end, and this Easter was no exception. So at 8am on Good Friday I found myself bumping along in the back of Steve's 4WD on the track up the Taipo on my first CTC trip bound for Mt Axis and a traverse of the Campbell Range, feeling just a wee bit of pressure to make a good impression. Of course, I didn't look particularly sharp when, within the first 5 minutes, I had to: (1) confess to not bringing a map, (2) face up to crossing the Taipo at the point where I'd been swept away in 2006 and (3) fall into a large heffalump hole and whack my knee on a rock. On the upside, I'd got my three disasters for the trip out of the way nice and quickly and I could settle back into the climb up the spur towards Scotty's and the Tara Tama Range, sunny and covered in snow.

Steady progress along the lumpy ridgeline saw us easily at the large tarn beyond Scotty's Saddle before the sun started sinking. With four tents scattered casually around the frozen tarn we rapidly cooked, took in the evening light on Tara Tama itself (recently emerged from clag and looking fabulous), and jumped into pit for the first rather long sleep of the trip.

First light brought grey clag and chilliness, but we pushed on over the shoulder of Tara Tama regardless, and were soon slithering in the fresh snow across Dunn Saddle, Edelweiss and Newton Saddle, drinking in the view when it materialised. It was surprisingly wintry, and we all stayed fairly well rugged up as we carried on across the craggy tops towards Hura Saddle... ..where we stopped short, looking down at the pass directly beneath our feet. It looked a little dicey with the fresh snow on steep snowgrass. Add to that the persistent grey clag, and a slightly slower than optimal pace with the snow conditions, and the planned Campbell Range traverse started to look a bit marginal. It didn't take too much debate before we dived off to the west – fast scree, tussock, an animal trail through scrub, some grovelly West Coast bush – to

our bail out option in the Arahura. Emerging at the river it was only a hop, skip and jump upriver to a far cosier night at Mudflats hut.

A far lengthier debate ensued in the morning – up to Browning Pass, Popes Pass and Julia, or the more direct Newton Creek, Dunns Creek option? Dayle had the casting vote and made what in hindsight turned out to be a rather wise decision: by 8am we were bound for Newton Creek via the Arahura highway. Too easy? Steve and Todd certainly thought so – they soon had us grovelling down a narrow, overgrown gut full of rushing water, taking the off-track approach to the swingbridge. The freshly cut track up to Newton Creek hut from the bridge was therefore a rather welcome sight, and the sun shone sufficiently to prompt an early lunch before continuing, now boulder hopping, up the creek. Such fun to be in a West Coast creek that was essentially scrub free and with the perfect amount of rocky challenge!

2.5 hours after leaving the hut we crossed Newton Saddle for the second time in the trip and commenced the second half of what was to become a figure of 8 'red line'. Dunns Creek wasn't quite as straightforward, and it took 3 hours of grovelling to reach the bog in which the hut is situated. With 2 tents a metre from the hut door we totally filled the non-boggy space and squished inside for dinner amidst steamy and dripping clothing. Meanwhile a pair of weka asserted their authority over the valley rather vocally outside.

Persistent, wet drizzle and rain accompanied our trip out down valley on Easter Monday, so it was a case of putting the heads down and just trudging. We dropped steeply to the Taipo, ate a 5th (6th?) round of Easter eggs, cruised to the cableway, lunched at the new Dillons hut and were greeted by the most welcome site of the 4WDs by 2.30pm. Sodden gear looked a little out of place in sunny Springfield where we stopped to eat pies and contemplate unfinished business – i.e. the remainder of the Campbell Range.

P.S. I was given a membership application form for the CTC on the drive home, so the no map--river crossing ineptitude--heffalump hole incident obviously wasn't fatal. I look forward to trip number two with the club!

In no particular (but possibly chronological...) order, we were: Max de Lacey, Linda Lilburne, Todd Ellis, Steve Bruerton (leader), Dayle Drummond, Andrew Troman, Jo Hoare (scribe)

Classifieds

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

External Events

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

TwinNeedle Outdoor Equipment Repair: Time to sort out your gear for the winter? TwinNeedle are the ex-MacPac repair outfit and they seem to have a few specials on for rejuvenating sleeping bags, waterproofs etc. 161 Ferry Road, 03 943 4444, www.twinneedle.co.nz, matt@twinneedle.co.nz

PTC Barn Dance: The famous PTC Barn Dance will be on 20 June at the South Brighton Community Centre Hall. You don't need to be a member of PTC to come along. Cowboy/girl

hats, neckerchiefs and chaps encouraged but not essential. Partners are not needed for the dancing and two left feet are fine. You don't even need to know how to barn dance as all dances will be called! Tickets \$25 (including drinks, nibbles, supper, dances, spot prizes . . .). Contact Carol Crawford, Ph 358 9490 or Email crawfordc@xtra.co.nz

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			Hut Convenor	David Watson	981-7929
Editor	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 \$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, 24 May 2009 – Thanks.