



# ***THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER***

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.  
PO Box 527, Christchurch, [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz)  
Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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Vol. 79

**September 2009**

No. 5



*Mt Travers, July 2009*

The **CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB** has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (minimal experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. We have a club hut in Arthurs Pass and have gear available for hire to members. Membership rates per year are \$40 member, \$60 couple, \$23 junior or associate, with a \$5 discount for members who opt to obtain this newsletter electronically.

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

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## **News**

**New Members:** We're pleased to welcome two new members to the club this month: Hazel Dickinson and John Allen. Hazel came on Adrian Busby's snowcraft course and has been signing up for every snowy peak on the menu since. John survived his first trip with the club up Woolshed Hill with Doug, Clive, Jeff, Ian and Dave Sutton, amongst others, but still came back for more. Welcome aboard!

**Donation from Anne Henderson:** The Club would like to acknowledge the generous donation from Anne Henderson, a life member, for funds to enable the committee to continue with the window replacement at the club hut, Arthur's Pass. For all the newer members, Anne was a very active trumper from the sixty's through to the ninety's and worked tirelessly as the Club Secretary for many years. On a recent visit, Anne heard from Rex Vink about the new Lounge window installed with a bequest from the late Colin McCullum's estate and said she would like us to continue our good work. With the donation the club hut committee has been able to purchase a new larger window for the North bunkroom which will be installed this summer.

Thank-you Anne. We look forward to taking you up to the hut for a grand opening of both the new windows. For the hut committee – Dave Watson.

# 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.

<p>Sunday 30 August. (could be early start - contact leader)</p>	<p>Leader: David Sutton 960-1877 davidsutton@clear.net.nz</p>
<p><b>Avalanche Peak to Mt Bealey.</b> This is a classic winter traverse from Avalanche Peak (1833m) to Mt Bealey (1839m). If the conditions are right, there is over 3 k of superb ridge travel looking out over the Bealey on one side and on the other out over the Crow towards Lancelot and Guinevere (still romantically close after all these years, I guess because Arthur is safely hundreds of kilometres away in the Kahurangi ...). A close knowledge of Tennyson's 'Idylls of the Kings' is not essential for this trip, but snow skills, ice axe and crampons definitely are. The trip may change location due to adverse snow conditions and/or the leader getting a better idea. Contact the leader nearer the time for up-to-date plans.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closed: 27 Aug Map: K33 Approx: \$20</p>
<p>Sunday 30 August.</p>	<p>Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000</p>
<p><b>Rabbit Hill.</b> Rabbits were introduced to New Zealand in the 1930's for food, the rabbit skin industry, and sport. Interestingly, it took a few years and some repeat releases by those determined but sadly myopic rabbit-o-phile landholders before the rabbits took to the idea. Then, suddenly, they began to spread and increase in numbers ... Rabbit Hill (1198m) is a nice easy-moderate bump in the Porters Pass area. We'll be going up from the road in the Porters Pass area, possibly passing the enigmatically named Trig M (1251m), and trotting along the tops to Rabbit Hill itself. Return options include a car shuffle and descending to the Lake Lyndon road. Approx 600m height gain overall and about 10 km (partly tracked, part tussock hillside).</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 27 Aug Map: K35 Approx: \$20</p>

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

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

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

Weekend 5-6 September.	Leader: Thomas Matern 325-5750 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<b>Hot Pools with Thomas, Part III - Otehake.</b> This is part three of Thomas' hot pool series. The tramp starts at Aickens Corner; after crossing the Otira it's a pleasant walk along a marked track with some rougher sections just below the Hot Pools. We will camp close to the pools and walk back the same way on Sunday. It's about 4 hours to walk and no significant height gain so we will have plenty of time at the pools.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 Aug Map: K33 Approx: \$45

Weekend 5-6 September.

Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344  
richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz

**The Bacon & Eggs trip.** “The loveliest faces are to be seen by moonlight, when one sees half with the eye and half with the fancy” (Persian proverb) Yes, it's the not-quite annual full-moon trip, but since the moonlight cannot be guaranteed, top billing for the trip goes to something more reliable - a Bacon & Eggs breakfast. The cunning plan is to walk into a hut on Saturday night by the light of the full moon (bring moon-backup head torch) carrying suitable breakfast supplies (and admire how much better everyone looks), sleep (hut/tent), awake to a beautiful dawn, cook and consume the said breakfast, possibly embark on further tramping options, and then walk out replete in body and mind. If weather dictates, we could perhaps go on Friday night instead, so be sure to check with the leader well in advance. Kowai Hut is the current venue but the leader is open to counter-suggestions of moonlight-accessible huts with a range of Sunday morning tramping options.

Grade: EasyMod  
Closed: 27 Aug  
Map: K33 K34  
Approx: \$25

Thursday 10 September.

Club Night

**Big wall climbing in Yosemite!** Grant Piper will take us on a successful multi day attempt on El Capitan. You may have seen this massive wall on TV so come see it up close and personal.

Saturday 12 September.

Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006

**Mt Grey.** Mt Grey is one of the most accessible of the bumps in the northern foothills and makes a popular easy/moderate trip. There are a variety of routes but we are planning to go from the Lake Janet picnic area. That leaves about 500m of height gain to the summit (934m), including one steeper section of about 100m before a much kinder gentle ascent of about 1.5k along the lovely tussock tops to the trig on the top.

Grade: Easy+  
Closes: 10 Sep  
Map: M34  
Approx: \$15

Weekend 12-13 September.

Leader: Antony White 942-7910  
phoenixantony@gmail.com

**Lake Man.** A brisk start to the day with a crossing of the Boyle River then 9k's of flat easy river valley travel. A 500m climb up the track by the Kedron River will get you to the Bivvy and another 300m will get a scenic campsite at the lake. Back past the bivvy on Sunday then tops travel along the Doubtful Range to Mt Murray (or right along to Mt Garfield if the snow is right for quick travel), before dropping down through the bush back to the Boyle right opposite the cars. A great trip, one of the classic Lewis Pass tramps.

Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)  
Closes: 3 Sep  
Map: L32 M32  
Approx: \$30

Weekend 12-13 September. Leader: Lynette Hartley 338-0922

**Reefton Mountainbiking/Tramping.** Reefton is a perfect spot for exploring by mountain-bike. Old gold and coal miners laboriously hacked trails through the bush then conveniently abandoned them for the future enjoyment of a bunch of frivolous recreationalists. Lots of trails around the town or a quick drive down the road and you could do a day trip up Croesus Track or take a torch and bike the Waipuna Cave Stream. Trampers also welcome: there are trips like Big River through to Waiuta that would be great with a tramping trip to do a Waiuta trip and shuttle cars, or a tramping group could do the Waitahu River - Cementown - Blacks Point route, while bikers went up to Montgomerie Hut then brought the cars back around.

Grade: MTB  
Closes: 3 Sep  
Map: L30 L31  
Approx: \$30 + Accom

Sunday 13 September. (could be early start - contact leader) Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366

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

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

Thursday 17 September. Club Night

**The Big Snow of 92.** We will show TV footage of the biggest snow fall for many years in Chch. Your Club Captain and wife skied to work that day (and got in the newspaper) as I recall. See more snow in Chch than you can poke a stick at. Thanks to Andrew Wrapson for the DVD.

Saturday 19 September. Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360

**Mt Thomas.** A North Canterbury gem, taking in rich mountain beech forest and a bit of open tops. There are a few different options for routes up and down from the Wooded Gully picnic area. We'll probably go straight up to Mt Thomas (1023m, about 700m height gain from the start) and then trot along about 2 k on the tussock-clad ridge-top to the west and descend on Track 2. Altogether there should be about 6-7 hours tramping at a relaxed pace with plenty of time to admire the scenery.

Grade: Easy/Mod  
Closes: 17 Sep  
Map: M34  
Approx: \$15

Saturday 19 September. (early start - contact leader)		Leader: Laurayne Robb 980-8584	
<p><b>Winterslow.</b> Mt Winterslow (1700m) is north of Mt Somers and south west of Mt Hutt. The usual route is up from Sharplin Falls (500m) via Dukes Knob. From the summit there are outstanding views including the distant Arrowsmiths and the Southern Alps. Mt Cook and Mt Tasman may also be visible on a clear day. There are a few alternative routes we could take down depending on the energy level and spirit of adventure prevailing in the group. Ice axe and crampons may still be required if the snow hangs around. There will probably be an early departure: please contact leader.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 17 Sep
		Map: K36	Approx: \$20
Weekend 19-20 September.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014	
<p><b>Mt Rosa and Avoca Exploring.</b> Mt Rosa is located near the end of the Craigieburn Road, down by Avoca Station and gives a scenic viewpoint down the Waimakariri Gorge and up the Waimakariri basin and surrounding valleys. Last time Bruce was there he thought it was such a nice place to wander around that he didn't want to go back to town. So this time he isn't. The intention is to get access to a station hut, have a pot luck dinner and have a second day to continue to explore the area. Maybe the Broken River Coal mine or just peruse the map and wander into a corner or two that catch the eye.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 10 Sep
		Map: L34	Approx: \$25
Weekend 19-20 September.		Leader: Thomas Matern 325-5750 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p><b>Rahu River - Klondike Track.</b> What?? - A Thomas trip with no hot pools? No, its true. Just a regular walk in the woods, stroll in the alpine meadows, linger beside babbling brooks and camp by a high alpine tarn kind of a weekend. Only 3k and 700m height to the tarns above the bushline. Set up camp and climb to the granite outcrop-studded tops. There should be a loop return via point 1541, how much "scrambling " this may involve and what the state of the spur track down through the bush is like will add the excitement to the weekend.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 10 Sep
		Map: L31	Approx: \$35
Sunday 20 September.		Leader: David Henson 942-3954 david-henson@paradise.net.nz	
<p><b>Lyttelton Horseshoe.</b> 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: 17 Sep
		Map: M36	Approx: \$5

Thursday 24 September. Club Night

**Newsletter folding night.** Just some social time after folding the newsletters.

Saturday 26 September (could be early start).

Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045  
warwick.dowling@clear.net.nz

**Mons Sex Millia.** Mons Sex Millia is 6000 ft high (hence the name - 'the 6000 bump' translates - roughly - to 'mons sex millia' in Latin) but for those of you used to this new-fangled metric system you get a rather-less-readily-translatable 1840m. It's very conveniently situated just off the St James walkway, in the Poplars Range, and offers a superb day trip involving a sustained and fairly steep ascent on the open tussock slopes, a rest beside a pretty tarn at about 1620m, and then the final push on a gentler gradient to the summit overlooking Carlyle Stream to the south and the Magdalen Valley to the North. There could be an early start - contact leader

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 24 Sep  
Map: N32  
Approx: \$25

Saturday 26 September.

Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014

**Mt Noble.** Mount Noble is yet another new trip for the club, just off the Lake Sumner Road in the Waikari area. The tramping is mostly untracked and there is about 800m of height gain to the top, steep and first and then easing off, so this is a trip at the more demanding end of the easy-moderate range. At the top you'll be rewarded with great views out over the Hurunui country. There are some options for the return trip, depending on the stamina and bush-bashing enthusiasm of the group.

Grade: EasyMod+  
Closes: 24 Sep  
Map: M33  
Approx: \$25

Weekend 26-27 September.

Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686  
atromans@gmail.com

**Princess Bath.** Perched high on the side of Mt Princess, hidden until you pop up through the bluffs is the surprisingly large "princess bath". (At 1750m it may still be the princess ice-skating rink.) From the carpark at Lake Tennyson there is a couple of k's wander along the lakeside to warm up then a 500m puff to the top of Mt McCabe for a rest break with a fine view up the Clarence and down the Waiau. More puffing and maybe a scramble or two then drop down to the camp. Climb to the top of Mt Princess Sat afternoon or Sun morning then hurry back to Hanmer for a quick hot pool before heading home.

Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)  
Closes: 17 Sep  
Map: M30 M31  
Approx: \$35

Thursday 1 October.

Club Night

**Tramping on the Central Plateau of the North Island..** Our guides Gareth and Lisa will take us on a winter 3-day tramp in and around Tongariro including some of the crossing and the Northern Circuit. This will be interesting as we seldom get to go here.

Saturday 3 October.		Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022 erik@tba.co.nz	
<p><b>Hallelujah Flat.</b> Hallelujah Flat is about 9k up the Andrews Track from Andrews Shelter, on the way to the Casey Hut. If it is a fine day we plan to go up the Andrews Stream so be prepared to get your boots wet (excellent way of breaking in new boots!). If it's raining we will take the track. It's about 300m height gain altogether, through red beech forest, and then you'll come out Hallelujah flat itself, dotted with hebes, is the perfect place for lunch. Then back to the cars via the track and Springfield for coffee, milkshake, icecream, etc.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 1 Oct
		Map: L33	Approx: \$25

Weekend 3-4 October.		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000 kenneth.brown@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p><b>Hope Kiwi Lodge.</b> This trip will be starting from either Windy Point, Sisters Swingbridge or Loch Katrine. (We have ruled out a start from the West Coast via Hope Pass). Further options to ponder over include subverting the trip to become Three Mile Stream and Mac's Knob. Whatever the fine detail evolves to be, it will be in lovely tramping country, beautiful red and mountain beech forest and grassy open flats. History fact for the trip: Early drovers cut the track over Kiwi Saddle to enable stock to be taken through to Harper Pass and on to the West Coast to feed hungry goldminers. Maori Gully (so named because early European explorers found woven flax ladders that Maori used to traverse the gorge) prevented stock being driven up the Hurunui River.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 24 Sep
		Map: L32	Approx: \$30

Weekend 3-4 October.		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz	
<p><b>Ski Mountaineering - Mt Sibald from the Godley.</b> Well, the trip title is plan # 1. But as we know, the combination of snow, skis, mountains and weather forecasts has the potential to turn trip destination discussions into deeper debate than anything yet heard in Parliament Chambers. The last trip I led to the Godley, only 4 of the trip participants came with me - the other 10 went to the Hanmer Hot Pools - no doubt they are still regretting not skiing Captains Peak in perfect weather and snow. Fri night road end camp, late start up the hill by the time we drive in on Sat morning so extra torch batteries for the descent. Sleep in Sunday, big breakfast to make up for the dinner you missed last night, then mooch off home.</p>		Grade: Hard	Closes: 24 Sep
		Map: I36	Approx: \$40

Sunday 4 October.		Leader: Thomas Matern 325-5750	
<p><b>Ben More.</b> Thomas is having another go at Ben More since he was unable to do the trip in August. There are a couple of options, approaching Ben More either from the north or the south. The ascent from Ben More Homestead through Thirteen Mile Bush involves is longer and about 1200m height gain, but there is a track on the ground even though it's not on the map, and you can have morning tea at the cute little Benmore Hut. Alternatively, we can do the more open-tussock-travel version, starting from the Lake Lyndon road and climbing up onto a horseshoe of undulating tops (1327, 1660, 1665, . . .) culminating with Ben More, 1655m (about 1000m of climbing altogether, and about 17km of tramping).</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 1 Oct  Map: K35  Approx: \$20</p>	
Saturday 10 October. (meet at Clock Tower, Sumner, 9am)		Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655	
<p><b>Godley Head via Captain Thomas track.</b> The Captain Thomas track takes us up from Sumner towards Evans Pass and the Scarborough Hill reserve. Once on the top we can have a great tramp out to Godley Head. The old gun emplacements make it a fascinating place to explore, as well as getting you right out onto the end of the headland, sea cliffs below you and sea (almost) all around ... Note: meet at Clock Tower, Sumner, 9am.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy  Closes: 8 Oct  Map: N36  Approx: \$5</p>	
<p><i>October's Floating Hard Trip</i>  Choice of weekend is weather dependent.</p>		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz	
<p><b>Mt Davie.</b> Depends on weather, snow, leaders motivation and numerous other factors that differentiate disorganised climbing trips from real tramping. Rumour has it that it's a bit steep near the top.</p>		<p>Grade: Hard  Closes: 1 Oct  Map: K33  Approx: \$35</p>	
Weekend 10-11 October.		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p><b>Mt Faust - Libretto Range.</b> Leave Chch Sat afternoon, climb to the top tarns below Faust and enjoy a glorious sunset. Awake to a stunning vista of morning light turning the surrounding snow-clad peaks pastel pink and ..... ok, ok, let's just agree it's pretty nice up there on a sunny morning. A long haul on Sunday all the way along the Libretto Range to Pt 1674 then drop down with a short bush bash into Foleys Stream and follow that out. A great off-track tops trip. Be prepared for snow travel and possibly a snowy camp (hard to guess as I write this in August, what the snow level will be by then.)</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)  Closes: 1 Oct  Map: M31 M32  Approx: \$35</p>	

Sunday 11 October.	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
<b>Mt Harper.</b> Mt Harper (1829m) is a great trip in the Rangitata area. We'll go in via the Lake Clearwater road, walking past the tranquil Lake Emma and then work our way up the moderately steep side of Mt Harper. In total it's a bit over 1100m of ascent and a reasonably long-moderate day. Return options include a lovely route down through the tussocks to Balmacaan Saddle and then down Balmacaan stream to pick up a rough track and back out. Mt Harper could be named after Leonard Harper, who gave his name to Harpers Pass after making the first European crossing to the West Coast from Canterbury via that route in 1857, or after Leonard's father (the first Anglican bishop of Christchurch and the man who caused the cathedral to be built).	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Oct Map: J36 Approx: \$25

Weekend 17-18 October.	Leader: Liz Tanner 420-1148 lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au
<b>Hanmer base camp.</b> Everyone had so much fun on the last Hanmer base camp that as soon as they got home they rushed out and booked a house in Hanmer for a return visit. Close to town, no more having to drive to the coffee shop and hot pool for these hardened socialites. Sleeps 20, so the more the merrier. First name on the list gets the double king bed, next is the queen, and so on right down to the broom cupboard, and unlucky last sleeps in the woodshed. Potluck tea Saturday night or eat out if you want. Accommodation costs: \$20pp.	Grade: Easy/All Closes: 8 Oct Map: M32 N32 N31 Approx: \$30 + Accom

*Advance notice of long weekend - Anyone with a trip in mind please contact Steve on 322 6196 or email [steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz](mailto:steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz), and we will put it in the October newsletter. Some suggestions looking for a leader: Central Otago Rail Trail (MTB), Cox-Roche Pass-Sth Huranui (M), L.Sumner-McKenzie Stm Tops(EM), Poulter-Worsleys Pass-Edwards (MH)*

Long Weekend 24-26 October. Labour weekend plus one or 2 days	Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922
<b>Mt Cook Area - Probably Tasman Glacier.</b> Options currently being talked up include a traverse - Armadillo Saddle, Tasman Saddle, Graham saddle or a ski / climb trip maybe De L Beche Hut based, climbing the Minarets.	Grade: Ski Tour / Climbing Closes: 15 Oct Map: Approx:
Long Weekend 24-26 October.	Leader Required
<b>Waimak Falls Hut.</b> 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.	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 15 Oct Map: K33 Approx:

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# Trip Reports

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18-19 July 2009

## Carlyle Hut



Setting out



Brian, Michelle and David

Eight people in two 4WD vehicles set off at 8am stopping in a cool Culverden where we were warmed up by some excellent pies from the local bakery. Fog blanketed the terrain for most of the remaining ride, but we located the turn-off near the Hope River bridge and readied ourselves in sunshine. One person faced the prospect of walking the weekend in slip-on shoes after forgetting their boots, but Brian came to the rescue with a loan of some sturdy walking shoes.

The walk along a farm road covered some flat terrain before we followed a track which climbed through manuka and matagouri. Some open ground eventually appeared and it became our sunny lunch spot. Following the track through beech above the Carlyle River we began to encounter snow on the ground which eventually became a slowing factor as it had forced down the trees to form low arches, although Andrew said that the track had been cut back compared to previous trips.

The railway carriage-shaped hut was reached, after 4.75 hours walking 6 of the one kilometre-squares on the topographical map. With the time around 4pm the group decided against attempting any of the local peaks that were mentioned in the trip description. Some animal sign was noticed in the snow, of particular interest to Tim, one of the hunters in the group. Some hunters did appear at dusk but decided to walk back out again for their own reasons.

With plenty of time and not a lot of light, activity turned from meal preparation to conversation... of ship voyages... and then extensive poetry recital. David and Brian displayed tremendous capacity to remember and recite Robert Service verses about life in the far north of Canada and Alaska, some of which were in the vicinity of thirty minutes each! With plenty of dry wood the hut was warm, if a little smokey, perhaps driving many of the inhabitants to bed at 8:30pm.

The predicted southerly change failed to live up to fears, only bringing some windy spots of rain and not even a frost (perhaps effecting Christchurch more than the interior). A leisurely morning ensued and the boot forgetter attempted to make amends for things by cutting firewood and overhanging trees. The group departed at 10am and walked out in 3.5 hours. A stop in Culverden preceded our return to town around 5:30pm. A relaxed trip was had by all.

Participants; Andrew Wrapson (leader), David Hughes, Brian Fowler, Ken Brown, Tim Broad, Michelle Hood, Malcolm Carr, Stephen Hoare-Vance (scribe and firewood cutter).

19 July 2009

## Torlesse



Scrog stop halfway up



Heading down again

Our Torlesse trip almost didn't happen because gale force winds were predicted, but on the night before the Sundaytramp the forecast dropped to 65km winds at 2000m so Torlesse was doable.

The mists of Christchurch gradually cleared as we headed across the Canterbury plain and walking up the Kowai valley the sky got bluer as the sun rose and there was barely a gentle breeze. The snow had been partially frozen in the valley but became softer as we headed up the spur immediately beyond the hut leading directly to the summit. Antony plugged steps through the snow, knee deep in places, the rest of us slip streaming. As we got higher the snow got harder and the going easier but the wind picked up, roaring across from the Gap and catching us on the exposed ridge. Stopping to put crampons on around 1600m the leader's glove blew off and whilst he went back down hill to retrieve it a committee formed to make the decision about carrying on or not. Actually Clive decided he was going up anyway and after putting on extra layers 10 people carried on whilst 4 decided it was too gusty and returned to wait in the hut. Clive led a path to the summit in the lee of the ridge but we all got a good exfoliation from the spindrift, arriving at the top pleased but red faced more from the constant blasting than exertion.

On the top the winds died sufficiently for us to enjoy lunch in a hollow and take in the expansive views before heading back down the ridge to get buffeted by the increasing winds again.

Antony White, Thomas Matern, Tom Hu, Clive Marsh, Kees deJager, Graham Allfrey, Bernhard Parawa, Richard Lobb, Jenny Harlow, Cathy Harlow, Kathy Basire, David Sutton (uploaded by David Sutton 'leader')

26 July 2009

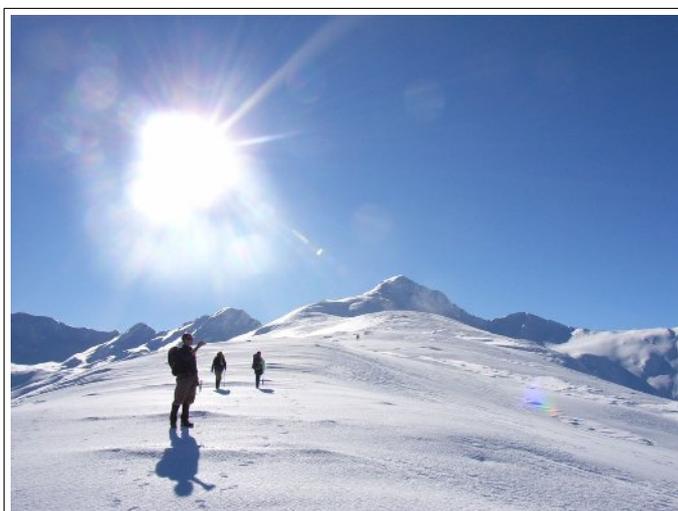
## Rome Ridge

We set off knowing that there had been lots of precip in previous week but it had been stable for ~ 3 days with good freezes. So 6.30 from road saw us at bush line at ~7.30 and the day broke fine, still and clear. The snow was nicely consolidated for the next hour or so up to ~1400m and we were filled with optimism as the ridge laid back in front of us all the way to the Rolleston low peak. We chose to stick to the ridge (as opposed to a S side side across the ridge leading to Avalanche peak) and in hindsight this probably cost us an hour or so. Above ~1400m the snow became soft and deep and even on the ridge. There had been no lack of freeze but a lack of

thaw and everything had been too cold at that height to give any consolidation. We suspect that the firm conditions below 1400 were created by rain at some stage during the preceding weather event. Further, despite the snow having arrived with strong winds, there was no wind-slab on the ridge.. all soft. So progress from here to the notch was slow and we finally made it just after 11am. The heavy loading meant that the usual, quick easy descent via the Otira slide was almost certainly not an option (avo risk) and so we were planning on the basis of reversing the Rome Ridge. We did a reccky on the N side of the ridge above the notch- the usual route for avoiding the unfeasibly steep section of the ridge itself- but the snow felt/looked very loaded & heavy and any slab avalanche would be a major. We could have climbed at the very top of the face adjacent to the rock but decide too risky. Turning the ridge on the S side was considered but this is quite a steep climb and the prospect of down climbing it late in the day was not attractive so we decided to retreat. Nice place to spend a beautiful day-..Ray Brown, Dave Sutton, Clive Marsh.

26 July 2009

## Travers and Trovatore



Looking towards Travers



Descending from Travers into the basin

Steve always seems to get amazing weather for his trips, and this was no exception. He was also hopeful that the recent warm spell would have meant a bit of consolidation in the fluffy powery snow most of us had been wading through on recent trips. We stumped up Foley's track to the bushline, mildly encouraged by the crisp conditions, and emerged to the clear blue sky and beautiful snow of a classic winter tramping day.

Getting up Travers did not take too long and we had lunch up there and discussed the options (Well Jonathan dug furiously with his snow shovel, making some snow-cave palace, and the rest of us discussed options). Steve had carved a slice into the snow pack on the edge of the basin through which the normal route to Trovatore lies, and declared that even there, close to the ridge, it was "not nice at all". He was happy with a high traverse though, and, with our day-glo leader plugging the way, that's what we did until we were able to reach the south-west ridge. The snow was still pretty soft in places (most places) but thanks to step pluggers Andrew, Ian, Jonathan and Steve, we made good time.

The little technical-equipment-of-some-sort hut on Trovatore had turned into an interesting square ice sculpture and the wind was brisk. We had a brief second lunch and headed along the ridge to about 1755, and Jonathan's favourite scree run in the whole wide world. It was, of course, a very snowy scree run and nobody was keen to venture down the main chute.

However, by sticking to small spur until part way down we found a much safer slope and then just turned the favourite scree run into the favourite bum slide - now how often do you get a 600m perfect bum slide? It just had to be done.

From the bottom of the slide we slid and scabbled down the icy rocks of the stream to join the Maruia (Right Branch) climbed up onto the St James Walkway at the bridge, and thus back to the cars. My suggestion of the lovely Red Post Cafe in Culverdon (now open later at the weekends) was vetoed so we had tea and pies in the tea rooms and got back to the Shell almost exactly 12 hours after setting out.

Thanks everyone for a perfect day.

Steve Bruerton, Jonathan Carr, Ian Dunn, Andrew Tromans, Warwick Dowling, Hazel Dickinson, Graham Alfrey, Mark Roberts, Jenny Harlow

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1 August 2009

## Peak Hill

It was a cold dark morning for a small group of 10 or so intrepid trampers. The 7am start was a wise decision given the arduous nature of the day, which required many rest stops to recover ourselves. With crampons and ice axes aplenty, we set out at 9am at a brisk pace to tackle our Peak. The wind howled, Spanish grass stabbed and Matagouri entangled. We had a wee break. Some more wind, a bit of slippery ice, a patch of vomit, and we thought it best to break again. A latecomer caught up with us and it was time for a cup of tea.

On the way back, the snow was so thick, we couldn't even slide down it. Oh well, we figured it was time for lunch and a nap in the sunshine anyway. After which, we dashed down the hill at an incredible pace to make it back in time for ....oh my, after checking our watches, it was only 1:30pm!?

Trampers: Scott Fowler, Kerrie Maynard, Stu Smith, Anthony White, Uncle Bernard, Allan Growcott, Arno Grueber, Greg Hill, Femke Reitsma (scribe), Caitlin Arden .... and Late Comer Jonathan who turned up at shell at 8, not understanding for the life of him why anyone would leave at 7 for Peak Hill!!!!

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# More about the CTC

## Committee:

<b>President</b>	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	<b>Club Captain</b>	Adrian Busby	325-5001
<b>Vice-president</b>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	<b>Day-trip Organiser</b>	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
<b>Secretary</b>	Cathy Harlow	349-2280	<b>Weekend-trip Organiser</b>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<b>Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	<b>Hut Convenor</b>	David Watson	981-7929
<b>Editor/Webmaster</b>	Richard Lobb	351-2344	<b>Gear Custodian</b>	Ken Brown	359-2000
<b>Social convenor</b>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<b>New Members Rep</b>	Susan Pearson	337-4914

**Our Club Hut:** In the Arthur's Pass township, with all the comforts of home including real showers and inside flushing loos (BYO toilet paper!), but with the mountains at the back door. A great place for a few days away; take your usual gear and a pillowcase. Please book before leaving town to ensure there is a bunk available. For keys and bookings, phone Dave Watson 981-7929; or if he's away, Rex Vink 352-5329; or if they're both away, Andrew Wrapson 980-6006. Hut fees are \$10 member, \$10 member's partner, \$20 non-member, \$5 kids under 12. If you find any problems or maintenance required, please tell Dave.

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

## Rates for Gear Hire:

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

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Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor  
([editor@ctc.org.nz](mailto:editor@ctc.org.nz)) by Sunday, 20 September 2009 – Thanks.

*Do your tramping photos look better than this?*



If so, then enter ...

## The CTC Photo Competition

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

### Entry categories

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

### Rules

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

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

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

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

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