



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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Bush potluck, Sawcut Gorgeous trip

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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Notices

Mountain Safety Council Courses: The Canterbury branch of the Mountain Safety Council (MSC) runs a number of alpine instruction courses that might be of interest to CTC members, including basic, intermediate and advanced snowcraft courses and avalanche awareness courses. For details see their website, <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz>, and click on the link to the Canterbury branch.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

Trips: Unless otherwise stated, day trips depart at 8:00 am and weekend trips depart at 7:00 pm on Fridays, from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street). If you aren't taking your car on the trip, park on one of the nearby side streets, otherwise it may be wheel clamped or towed. If you are taking your car please refuel at Shell Carlton, as they are kind enough to hold our trip lists. Every trip gives an indication of transport costs per person. Please bring it in cash to help the leader divvy up at the end.

New or prospective members intending to go on any trip must sign up at club night or contact the trip leader in advance.

Social: We meet on Thursdays 7:30 pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre (Watling Lounge), Hagley Park South, 57 Riccarton Avenue (entrance opposite the hospital). A variety of social functions are organised, the atmosphere is informal, and tea and biscuits served. If you can give a presentation or have ideas, please contact Alan Ross 384-6425 or email alan.d.ross@orica.com. Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm sharp, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm sharp.

Saturday 27 March.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p>Mt Alexander (the little one). An easy trip up Mt Alexander?!? This is not the big scary Mt Alexander in Otira - it is the nice friendly little Mt Alexander (758m, about 200-300m height gain) in Hurunui country, just north of highway 7 after you pass Waikari and the Weka Pass Railway. We'll ramble up over some rolling farm country and have lunch at the radio installation on top. Views over the Waikari plains, and up the Scargill valley. Eye up Ben Lomond for the future ...</p>		Grade: Easy	Closed: 25 Mar
		Map: N33	Approx: \$15
Saturday 27 March (or Sunday if weather dictates) Early start. Contact leader.		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Mt Sinclair. Mt Sinclair (2065m) is on Mesopotamia Station, way up the Rangitata, and is a new trip for us. From the top you are looking back right into the Two Thumb range, or out of the river toward Mt Harper... Sinclair goes one up on Harper though - it sports a beautiful lake in a little basin at about 1600m, which we'll visit on our way up or down. It's named after Dr Sinclair, a past Colonial Secretary. After his retirement he gained a reputation as a naturalist and made several trips back to New Zealand. In February 1861 he joined von Haast (who was surveying the Rangitata River system) at Mesopotamia Station. On 25 March 1861 Sinclair was drowned in the river while trying to get to the homestead of Samuel Butler. His grave is marked on the map, about a quarter of a mile from the river and in front of the Mesopotamia homestead.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closed: 25 Mar
		Map: J36	Approx: \$25

Sunday 28 March.		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 Bryce.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Coopers Creek West Branch. Get to Ryde Falls from Coopers Creek by an alternative route - up the West Branch of the creek itself. This is a real summer trip, with multiple crossings (not quite a chance to put your new-found River Crossing Course skills into action - this should be straightforward) and lots of rock-hopping up the creek bed. The falls themselves - three cascades - are above a beautiful deep pool. We can get back to the cars either via the track on the south of the creek or by the historic tram route. The Oxford forest around here is beautiful beech, with scattered rimu and splashes of colour from the red and yellow-leaved horopito. There's plenty of bird life as well, from robins and fan-tails to the sound of the bell-birds and maybe even a rifleman. The round trip is about 14.5 km and about 6 hours - and definitely wet feet!</p>		<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 25 Mar Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>	
Thursday 1 April.		Club Night	
<p>No club tonight as it's Easter. Do not come to club tonight as you will be alone. It's Easter and those who can will be on their way to some long Easter trips.</p>			
Long Weekend 2-5 April.		Leader: Leader needed. Contact Steve Bruerton 3226196	
<p>Campbell Biv, Axis Range. Day 1 - Styx river to Grassy flats hut or camp on Styx saddle. Day 2 - into the Arahura and up to Campbell Biv. Day 3 - climb over Mt Axis and Mt Harman/Kaniere, drop to Lake Browning and down to Harman Hut. Day 4 - back over Styx saddle and out.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard Closed: 25 Mar Map: K33 J33 Approx: \$50</p>	
Long Weekend 2-5 April.		Leader: Liz Tanner 420-1148 lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au	
<p>Hinewai Reserve Weekend. Cabin is booked. Sea and scenery in place. What more could you want.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy/All/Social Closes: 25 Mar Map: N37 Approx: \$30 + Accom</p>	
Long Weekend 2-5 April.		Leader: Stuart Douce 960-7514 stuart.douce@gmail.com	
<p>Otago Rail Trail. Cycle tour the Dunstan trail and Central Otago Rail trail. Dates: approx 6 days will be over Easter (negotiable). Accommodation: camping. Transport: Share transport costs to Alexander. Mountain bikes and panniers required. Contact Stuart if you are keen and we can sort out a trip that suits. 960-7514 or stuartdouce@gmail.com.</p>		<p>Grade: MTB Closed: 25 Mar Map: Approx: approx \$50</p>	

Saturday 3 April.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p>East ramble on the Port Hills. It's Easter and the Bearded Easter Bunny will be hopping over the Port Hills, his loyal band of followers in tow ... Well, maybe hopping around rather than over: If the tides are right, we'll explore the coast from Governors Bay to Lyttelton; If not, we'll take a look at the 'over the top' routes, including trying out some of the lesser-known tracks.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 1 Apr
		Map: M35	Approx: \$5

Thursday 8 April.		Club Night	
<p>Winter in the USA and Canada. Flo and Stu will take us from California to Colorado including Yosemite, Grand Canyon and Arches National Parks. Then for more scenery the Canadian Rockies- wow!</p>			

Saturday 10 April. Meet at Yaldhurst Hotel carpark @7:45am to leave at 8:00am		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045 warwick.dowling@clear.net.nz	
<p>Wildling Pine Control Day 2: Corner Creek. Here is where you get a chance to volunteer to kill pest trees, and the CTC receives a donation from ECAN based on the number of people we supply. You pay nothing and ECAN provides all tools, briefings, etc. You just have to bring your food, water, and normal day tramp gear. Today we are dealing with just one site, at Corner Creek, an area where we've made real progress over the last few years. Corner Creek is graded minimum Moderate, and we want 15-20 people. ECAN wants you there! ECAN will organise 4WD transport at no charge to us. It's work rain or shine and you must commit to turn up if your name is on the list - if not we lose money! These days are great fun, and in addition to the warm glow of healthy exercise you can take home a bit of the saintly aura of an eco-warrior!</p>		Grade: Work - Moderate	Closes: 8 Apr
		Map: K34	Approx: \$0

Sunday 11 April. (Could be early start - contact leader)		Leader: David Sutton 348 5998	
<p>Rakaia Spurs. The Spurs is another classic Canterbury trip, in the Lake Coleridge area. The last trip here was a bit eventful but this time there should be no snow for Warwick to practice his self-arrest on, and longer daylight to enable us to avoid that walk-out-in-the-dark feeling. The complete Spurs trip goes over three high points (1985m, 1964m, 1902m), i.e., around 1300m height gain plus a bit of up-and-down. Much of the ridge up is steep and there is some scrambling on the knobby bits, especially around the tops. Great fun for fit trampers with a bit of rocky-ridge experience. Note there could be an early start.</p>		Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 8 Apr
		Map: K34	Approx: \$25

Sunday 11 April.

Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981 1944
jkspittlehouse@hotmail.com

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
Closes: 8 Apr
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Thursday 15 April.

Club Night

Wondering what you can see on easy walks? Liz Tanner will show you.. Liz will be sharing pictures of easy tramps she has done...come and be surprised at some of the places you can explore!!!!

Saturday 17 April.

Leader: Jim Western 384-8950
jimwestern@xtra.co.nz

Broken River Coalmines. On this trip we drive right around the back of Lakes Grasmere and Pearson from the tiny settlement of Cass, along the Craigieburn Valley road which parallels the railway. Parking near Avoca, we find the remains of the old tramway walk in to explore the lower Broken River valley, where coal used to be mined and there are still some old relics of machinery, boilers etc. A lovely area and a nice easy trip with around 200-400m height gain depending on how far our exploration takes us, and up to 5km walking each way.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 15 Apr
Map: L34
Approx: \$20

Saturday 17 April.

Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Bruce.James@ihug.co.nz

Oakden. Mt Oakden (1633m) is an interesting almost stand-alone peak between the Wilberforce and lovely Lake Coleridge. It's a sustained and fairly steep climb for about 1000m up for most of the way but once there you get to look out over the foothills and the lake one side and have a bird's eye view of the Wilberforce, beautifully illustrating what a classic braided river looks like, to the other. There are a variety of options for the way up and down, making a great loop trip in the Canterbury foothills.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 15 Apr
Map: K34
Approx: \$25

Weekend 17-18 April.	Leader: Alan Ross 384-6425 alan.d.ross@orica.com
Black Hill Hut - Mt Storm. Black Hill Hut from the Lees Valley. Leaving town Saturday morning. 7km across gentle farm land, then a steady 800m height gain through bush to Black Hill Hut. On Sunday continue on a circuit around the tops with a few ups and downs to Mt Storm and descend to the cars.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 8 Apr Map: L34 Approx: \$25
Weekend 17-18 April.	Leader: Stewart Smith 980-7913 tramperflo@paradise.net.nz
Grey Range. A tops circuit near Arthurs Pass. Lagoon Saddle, Mid Hill, a side trip to Mt Packard, Bruce Saddle. Camp in the head of Bruce stream. Either out down Bruce stream or continue on the tops and come down Bealey Spur.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 8 Apr Map: K34 Approx: \$35
Sunday 18 April. (max 12 people)	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Og Gog Magog. Finally - permission to enter the hallowed ground: the trip to Og Gog Magog is officially on. But, we can only have a maximum of twelve people so sign up now! We've tried to get to Og Gog Magog a few times recently and the trip descriptions have run though the full gamut of biblical and folklore references, so maybe this time we'll just stick to the facts: Og (825m), Gog (924m), Magog (930m) provide a good trip with at least 750m of height gain as you go over the bumps and the dips between them.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 15 Apr Map: L34 Approx: \$20
Thursday 22 April.	Club Night
AGM. The club Annual General Meeting. Agenda: Confirmation of Minutes from the last AGM; Matters arising; Annual Report and Statement of Accounts; Election of Committee and Honorary Auditor; Notified Motions; General Business.	
Saturday 24 April.	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz
Woolshed Hill. Woolshed Hill (1429m) stands above the Hawdon, off the Mt White Road. Why is it called Woolshed? Good question with no obvious answer. There will be about 820m of ascent, mostly through beech, following a good track up the crest of a ridge and then about a kilometre of tussocky top to the summit, with options to explore further if you want to ... The first 300m or so up is reasonably steep. Great views from the top down into the Waimakariri/Hawdon confluence and the upper Sudden Valley (bring your maps and count off the names of polar explorers as you identify the bumps on the Polar Range) and, on the other side, the Andrews.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 22 Apr Map: K33 Approx: \$25

Long Weekend 24-26 April.	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz
<p>Somewhere fine. ANZAC day is on Sunday this year, but that's not going to stop Bernhard taking a long weekend. You don't really need to go to work on Monday, do you? Bernhard's proposing to head off on Friday evening at 7pm, bound for Central Otago. He's offering two full days of moderate tramping, autumn colours and maybe a bit of frost. Returning Monday afternoon.</p> <p>There's no knowing where we're going Uncle Bernhard says it won't be snowing But I think his nose is growing. (balance to be completed by trip participants)</p>	Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Apr Map: Approx:
Sunday 25 April.	Leader: Clive Marsh 325-6253 clive.marsh@clear.net.nz
<p>Aiken - Blimit - Cassidy. A great Arthurs Pass climber's traverse, from Aiken (1863m) to Blimit (1921m) to Cassidy (1850m). The ridge between Aiken and Blimit is a grade 2 route, with some significant gendarmes (bypassed with care on one side or the other) and is especially knarly close to Blimit (if you aren't keen on some grade 14 rock climbing, the guidebook advises a sidle out on the southern flank...). From Blimit to Cassidy we fall back to a grade 1. A great day out for all the fighting-fit rock-geckos in the club.</p>	Grade: ModHard Closes: 22 Apr Map: K33 Approx: \$25
Sunday 25 April.	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
<p>High Peak, Rockwood Range. High Peak (968m, 400-500m height gain) is in the Rockwood Range behind Windwhistle overlooking the Selwyn river gorge. There are some interesting rock formations, views out over to 13 mile bush and the Benmore range, Lake Coleridge to the main divide, Rakaia gorge and Mt Hutt, and across the plains to the coast. This tramp is partly untracked but in friendly tussock or rolling farm country, it should present no problem to an adventurous easy+ trumper.</p>	Grade: Easy+ Closes: 22 Apr Map: K35 Approx: \$20
Thursday 29 April.	Club Night
<p>Newsletter folding + Raoul Island. After we have sorted the newsletter our own Gareth Rapley will take us to this location "way up north" He spent 17 months on this isolated island. He will talk about volcanoes, birds and weeds and isolation.</p>	

Saturday 1 May.		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045 warwick.dowling@clear.net.nz	
<p>Hallelujah Flat. Hallelujah Flat is about 9k up the Andrews from Andrews Shelter, on the way to the Casey Hut. We are aiming to go up the stream, which is an interesting alternative to the track: for much of the way there is a route along one side of the stream or the other, but linking them up involves crossing the stream back and forth, and there are a few sections scrambling over the rocks and boulders on the banks of the stream itself. It is lovely route to the equally lovely Hallelujah Flat. Return probably down the track, through the red beech forest, and back to the cars. Make sure you bring enough warm layers (polypro), and of course hat and gloves, so that you can keep cosy while in the stream and also get changed into something dry once you reach the Flat.</p>		<p>Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 29 Apr Map: L33 Approx: \$25</p>	
Weekend 1-2 May.		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p>Lucretia Tarn. Lewis Pass area. We'll let the road do most of the climbing, our trip starts at the top of Lewis Pass, climbing to 400m bushline then on to gentle rolling tussock tops. Camping at the Lucretia Tarns at the head of Lucretia stream. Return the same way or drop down Lucretia Stream and out down the Nina Valley. Trip will be at an easy pace but you will need to be properly equipped for camping on the tops.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 22 Apr Map: M31 Approx: \$35</p>	
Sunday 2 May. (7.30 start - see trip description)		Leader: Sue Hely 337-5453	
<p>Packhorse, Herbert and Kaituna Valley. This will be a 19km circuit going to Packhorse Hut, Mt Herbert, then continuing along the ridge and down to drop in to the head of Kaituna Valley Rd. Nothing difficult, but a longish circuit at a goodly pace. There will be no trip list at meeting, so please phone the leader to put your name on the list. Note that departure is at 7.30 am and we will be meeting outside Halswell School (plenty of good parking)</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 29 Apr Map: M36 Approx: \$10</p>	
Thursday 6 May.		Club Night	
<p>Trekking in remote Western Nepal. Join Lonely Planet Trekking in Nepal guidebook co-author Wanda Vivequin on a journey to remote Western Nepal. Wanda has visited Nepal 17 times and trekked recently to the basecamp of Western Nepal's highest mountain Mt Saipal. Her team was one of just a handful of trekking groups to have ever travelled the complicated route to visit this remote and culturally diverse region. She will also talk about her visit to the northwestern region of the Humla region where she has trekked twice. Wanda Vivequin is a Canada-based kiwi specialising in remote area trekking and cultural tours of Nepal. She is in Christchurch briefly to visit family and wanted to share her adventures with like-minded people.</p>			

Saturday 8 May.		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Nikau Palm Gully. Nikau Palm Gully is a little gem in the Akaroa Heads scenic zone with big cliffs, seabirds, palm trees and more. The gully is acclaimed as one of the best forest remnants in the province, with an amazing collection of huge nikau palms. Approximately 10km walking with some gently rolling hills, this is one of the few peninsula tramps that gets you out close to the steep headlands and bays with a good safe track all the way.	Grade: Easy+	Closes: 6 May Map: N37 Approx: \$20
Weekend 8-9 May.		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000 kenneth.brown@canterbury.ac.nz
Mt Fyfe. Up the hill, stay at mt fyffe hut - mt fyffe summit - kowhai saddle - return via kowhai river. Great views up and down the coast, sunrise up out of the ocean if you make it out of bed in time (or take a bivy bag and sleep out on the summit, its a stunning place to wake up)	Grade: Moderate	Closes: 29 Apr Map: O31 Approx: \$35
Sunday 9 May.		Leader: Antony White 021 0497 893 phoenixantony@gmail.com
Hamilton Peak. This is a classic Craigieburns biggie (1922m) which can be approached from a couple of different directions, either from the Broken River side over Nervous Knob or from Camp Saddle. Superb views from the top on a clear day over Cass Saddle towards the Black Range, and Lake Pearson and Flock Hill to the east. Around 1000m height gain, depending on where we park. It is often windy up there so make sure you have all those warm windproof layers.	Grade: Moderate	Closes: 6 May Map: K34 Approx: \$25
Saturday 15 May.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
John Browns Tomb. This is a another in our Canterbury Coastline series, up near Nape Nape. John Browns Tomb is an intriguingly-named collection of rocks on the Eastern slopes of the Blythe Valley. This will be a nice easy tramp, with some off-track travel but in easy terrain, about 300m height gain.	Grade: Easy	Closes: 13 May Map: N33 Approx: \$15
Weekend 15-16 May.		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz
Basin Creek - Half Moon Saddle - Hanging Valley Ck - Avoca River. Grab the map and have a look - the title lays it out. Looks like some scree scrambling in the top of Basin Ck and a small section of bush bashing from Hanging Valley down to the Avoca, the rest should be reasonably straightforward travel. If enough 4WD seats can be arranged the trip will start / finish at Basin Hut which takes 10km of river bed travel off the trip. Or I can take packs in the truck while people MTB in to Basin Hut. If there are enough spaces I am happy for people to come in to Basin Hut and base-camp there for the weekend, there's plenty of hills and valleys to do as day trip's.	Grade: ModHard	Closes: 6 May Map: K34 Approx: \$35

Sunday 16 May.	Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981-1944
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.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 13 May Map: L34 Approx: \$20

Sunday 16 May.	Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 Bryce.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz
Philistine. Matthew Arnold (Victorian writer, poet and general self-confident arbiter of what's-what in the late 19th century) characterised the aristocracy as Barbarians, the middle classes as Philistines, and the working class as the populace. So today we attempt the middle classes, all 1967m of them. The Philistine bluffs have a bit of a reputation but there is a good route up through them for the cognoscenti, and after that there is more rock and scrambling to Philistine itself. Those happy on rock that may move of its own volition will have a great day, with views to die for, a nice energetic scramble, and a bit of class rivalry thrown in. And of course the too-fat-to-fly kea in the village as you relax in a virtuous glow afterwards with tea or ice-cream...	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 13 May Map: K33 Approx: \$30

Saturday 22 May.	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz
Red Hill. Red Hill, just beyond Porters Pass on the Lyndon-Coleridge Rd, is a popular emergency destination in a raging norwester. But it's hard to appreciate the nice rolling ridges and the great views over Lake Coleridge when just poking your head over the top is liable to cost you your hat, glasses, toupee and possibly entire head. So ... a radical thought ... why not go there deliberately on a lovely fine day, when we can soak up the views and the sunshine, and spend more than the bare minimum time on the ridge tops? We'll park near the end of Lake Lyndon, cross the small saddle into the upper Acheron catchment and then (weather permitting) traverse the whole horseshoe ridge taking in Pts 1244, 1494, 1488, unlabelled 1520+, Red Hill (1641), 1321 and 1249 before dropping back to the river basin and returning via the same low saddle. Untracked but straightforward ridgetop travel the whole way.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 20 May Map: K35 Approx: \$20

Weekend 22-23 May.	Leader: Antony White 021 0497 893
Patutu. A lookout hill on the coast north of Kaikoura, just south of the Clarence River. Trip will be based in Kaikoura with a social dinner on Saturday night.	Grade: Easy+ Closes: 13 May Map: P30 P31 O31 Approx:

Weekend 29-30 May.	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
Hurunui Hot Pool. Its too far for a relaxed weekend walking in to the pool so the cunning plan is to bike in. So beg steal or borrow a bike and join Thomas for the weekend. We'll leave the cars at Lake Taylor and cycle on a good track for about 25km to the pool. We'll either camp near the pool or ride to No.3 Hut or Hurunui Hut. If you don't mind some tramping you can also walk to the Mackenzie Hut and enjoy the Mackenzie Hot Springs along the way.	Grade: MTB Closes: 20 May Map: L32 Approx: \$35

Trip Reports

29 Jan - 1 Feb 2010

Gillespie Pass

It really is a spectacular drive along the foothills of the Southern Alps. Blue lakes contrasted against the rocky, dry-brown land, jagged peaks in the distance, all framed in a cloudless blue sky. Makes you proud to be kiwi. Even the sight of the blue-and-whites out to accumulate his quota was not cause for undue concern – we were enjoying the picture-perfect day far too much.

The trip to Makarora from Christchurch might be long, but on a day like that day, it was priceless. We arrived at Makarora (West) sometime around 4pm, completed the necessary paperwork with those ever-friendly staff at the DOC centre and had crossed the Makarora at the Young River by about 6pm. I won't say it was a saunter up to the shelter at the North Branch, but even with a full pack we were in fairly high spirits about life, the universe and everything really.

The first reality check was a fairly serious, and highly successful attack by Easy Company, North Branch, 1st Sand fly Battalion. I'll bear the scars for many a day. The second reality check was to find we had left the butane in the car. But hey, after a swim, a meal warmed on the fire, a postcard setting complete with the sound of water cascading down nearby waterfalls, and a 10pm sunset, as they say, "who cares..."

Next day, after a 6-hour detour back to the car, we reunited the butane with our packs and set off up to the Young Hut. The contrast in the track from yesterday was the 3rd reality check. Well marked but with loose rock, lots of exposed roots, and plenty of vertical, made us feel the full weight of all those "extras" we had packed for the trip. The beech forest and the Young River was some compensation, but the new Young Hut was like the Taj Mahal. Clean, new, well laid out, screens on the windows and a classic bush setting, shared with only 4 other trampers, made us feel so good that we even talked to the Aussie in the group.

It was an early start the next day. After about half an hour we emerged onto the flat, grassy valley floor, the crystal clear Young River now a mere stream, and ahead a huge basin of loose

looking gray rock, patches of ice and Mount Awful appearing through misty cloud. A cool breeze. Perfect for tackling Gillespie Pass.

The pass itself is not easy, but the track clearly marked and the view from the top was well worth every calorie it took to get there. Any remaining cloud disappeared while we enjoyed lunch, so it was starting to get very hot again. Eventually we reached the floor of Siberia Valley, after a heart breaking climb just when you felt you were about to emerge. The thought of a side trip to lake Crucible was well truly buried by the time we reached the fork, so we carried onto Siberia Hut.

There can only be a handful of accommodation as well placed as Siberia Hut. Expansive views up a glacial valley, dominated by Mt. Dreadful. After coffee, chocolate and a chat to trumper from California who had injured his calf trekking Gillespie Pass, and his guide, we set off to Kerin Forks.

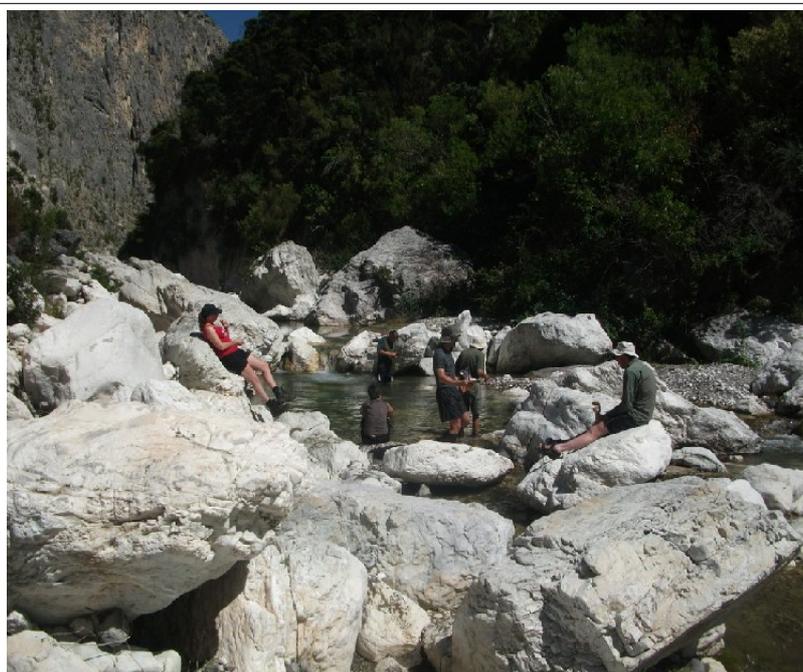
Next day was again, crisp, clear, still and hot. Did I say hot? Such an understatement. Some seven (yes 7) hours later, we arrived back at Makarora. The lesson learnt – cross the Wilkin and walk the river flats – the path has not been maintained for years!

The general feeling on the way back was, 'we must do that again', with a definite plan to get to lake Crucible.

Trevor Lloyd and Eric Skilling (scribe)

20 - 21 February 2010

The Dam Easy Sawcut Gorgeous Trip



Each to their own



Sawcut gorgeous

With temperatures of 25-28°C and not a cloud in the sky, this trip had nothing short of fantastic written all over it. A cruisy 4hr drive north (thanks drivers!) through Canterbury and along the majestic blue coast of Kaikoura (with a little seal-spotting along the way), we arrived at the start not long after lunch.

Twelve of us headed out on a lovely meander up the bed of the Ure River through Sawcut Gorge, taking time to stop, splash around and admire the stunning stark white limestone rocks

and river walls. Never have I come across a river so invitingly warm.

Approximately 3 hours later (in surroundings like this, who's keeping time?), we arrived at the small 6 bunk Isolation Hut. Once tents were up, most of us were quite content to put our feet up and relax a little more. But not Antony and Thomas, they set out with buckets and spades from the hut to build a dam. And what a fine dam it was!

So what else is one to do after an afternoon of walking, swimming, playing and relaxing? ... Eat!

Brian and Dave did a great job of gourmet appetisers, followed by the rest of us chipping in with a selection of yummy morsels for a potluck dinner and dessert.

It wasn't long before the sun set and the galaxy turned on all its glory. Phil gave us a lesson in astronomy and how to navigate our way by the stars, and the milky way soon made its own path above us. I cant remember the last time I took time out to stop and take it all in.

Slowly we all turned in for the night, with only the sound of giggles left bursting happily from tents.

The next day Antony and Andrew put in the hard yards with a quick blat up the valley and then we all strolled our way back down the gorge. Lunch was spent lazing around in more water holes and the only thing even remotely enticing about having to leave was the talk of icecream on the way home.

For those curious about the unnamed vineyards we saw in the Ure Valley, a little Google investigation uncovers that they are grapes grown for the Saint Clair Pioneer Block 4 range of wines - Sav Blanc, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. So now I'm off to find a bottle and relive the weekend all over again.

A huge thanks to Antony for organizing such a great weekend.

Connoisseurs: Malcolm Carr, David Hughes, Bryan Fowler, Philip Tree, Jane Castle, Tomyu Hu, Katie Frame, Andrew Tromans, Thomas Matern, Antony White (Leader), Lisa Harrison (Scribe), Dharshie Jeyaseelan.

5-7 March 2010

Rocky and Griffin Creeks



Taipo River



Climbing above Griffin Creek

After meeting on Friday evening at Jonathan Carr's place we set off in his spacious Honda Odyssey with five on board. We drove all the way to the camping area at Kelly's Creek near Otira. After a short drive to a car park near the Taipo River we left in bright sunshine at 9:30 am. Following a route beside the Taipo and later Rocky Creek, we were immediately grateful for

bright ribbons and track clearing apparently done by ex CTC members, Honora Renwick and Frank King. As would happen throughout the trip, even five pairs of eyes could not prevent us from losing the route at times, and Jonathan's previous experience of the route was useful.

We passed Rocky Creek Hut (a two bunk bivvy really) in hot sunshine, and recognised names in the book. All but one had a swim in a cool pool, and after negotiating several divisions of the creek, reached the rather insignificant saddle with few views, in the mid-afternoon. We descended a stream to Griffin Creek and followed in upstream to the welcome four-bunk hut. It was a chance to unwind and enjoy some good food – especially a chocolate cake Alan Ross brought for his 51st birthday on the next day. Stories, especially those with a caving theme were told, and some noticed the brilliantly bright stars in the cloudless night sky.

Sunday dawned a bit cool as we were in shadow, but soon warmed up as we descended Griffin Creek for an hour or two (where four pairs of Whio/Blue duck were sighted) and climbed a spur to a ridge, where we had lunch. Despite dropping our packs, we struggled and climbed the ridge to Wilson's Knob (1302m) where we saw a Serpentine (mineral) mine in the distance below Mt. Griffin though breaks in the cloud. With a little breeze and good views of the braided Taramakau flowing towards the Tasman Sea, we wound our way down the ridge in bush to the road from where Alan and Jonathan retrieved the vehicle. After a drinks break in Arthur's Pass, we arrived back in town about 9:30 pm.

Participants; Alan Ross (leader), Jonathan Carr, Norman Shanks, Martin Brown and Stephen Hoare-Vance (scribe).

6-7 March 2010

Mt Davie

Didn't quite get to the top, but with views like we got, who cares? See the website trip report for the photos.

14 March 2010

Mt Faust



Tussock top views



The descent ridge

Seven of us left the Shell concourse to head to the Lewis Pass area and escape what turned out to be 30° temperatures in Christchurch. After crossing the Boyle by the road bridge we headed up a steep well marked track for 700 metres through the beech forest to emerge from the bush around the 1300 metre contour. 400 metres of more easy angled grassy slopes led to the top of Mount Faust (1710m) which we reached after 3 hours from the river.

As this was our lunch stop we sheltered from the cool stiff breeze blowing on the tops and admired the views of the Lewis Pass tops and down to the Magdalen / Boyle valleys. This is a scenic area with many small tarns tucked in hollows and a great place to bring a tent one day.

After lunch Richard led us down an untracked spur to the valley floor where we picked up the St James Walkway. This descent was quite straightforward with easy terrain and a GPS helping the navigation. I don't think it really qualifies as my first bush bash in the South Island. An easy hour alongside the river got us back to the cars and the ferocious sand flies. A great cup of tea in Culverden finished off a good day's tramping.

Trampers: Richard Lobb, Jenny Harlow, Denise Stroud, Kieran McGuigan, Anna Gruczynska, Chris Nitschke and Ruth Barratt (scribe).

Classifieds

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

Aussie Holiday(s): I am booking an apartment for some time in Aug/Sept 2009 (flexible on dates) at Caloundra for two nights and at Noosa for three nights. I have a car over there and room for two others. Airfares are about \$400 return. Accommodation will be paid for. Preference will be given to those on limited income. I can pick you up from Brisbane airport. If interested contact Liz on 4201148 or 0211400531. Also: next year sailing in Whitsundays ... need a sailor!! Express interest now.

External Events

Forest and Bird MacKenzie Action Weekend 24-25 April 2010: Forest and Bird will be holding a weekend of action and learning for those who are interested in protecting the Mackenzie Basin from intensive dairying and development. The weekend will include an afternoon at the Tekapo Scientific Reserve where we will remove wilding trees and hear about the work that is being carried out there, a campaign workshop and on Saturday evening speakers will introduce us to the values of and threats to the Mackenzie Basin.

There will be accommodation available at the High Country Lodge & Backpackers, 23 MacKenzie Drive Twizel for up to 45 people. Meet at Twizel midday Saturday 24th. Bring your own bedding, breakfasts, lunch, snacks and drinks. Saturday night dinner provided. Please also bring as large a piece of old/new green material as possible and something red to wear, and a pair of loppers if you have them. Cost will be \$65 for accommodation and dinner.

Please register by email/fax with your name and address, phone number, visa card type, and expiry date and if you would travel on a bus from Dunedin or Christchurch, if provided, to: Nicole Seminiuk n.seminiuk@forestandbird.org.nz, fax 04 385 7373 or send a cheque to Forest and Bird Box 631 Wellington. For further information on the Forest and Bird campaign see www.forestandbird.org.nz/home.

There will be a Dawn Parade in Twizel on the Sunday morning for anyone wishing to attend.

More about the CTC

Committee:

President	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	Club Captain	Adrian Busby	325-5001
Vice-president	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	Day-trip Organiser	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Cathy Harlow	349-2280	Weekend-trip Organiser	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
Treasurer	Malcolm Carr	960-5281	Hut Convenor	David Watson	981-7929
Editor/Webmaster	Richard Lobb	351-2344	Gear Custodian	Ken Brown	359-2000
Social convenor	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members Rep	Janet Spittlehouse	981-1944

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

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

Rates for Gear Hire:

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

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 25 April 2010 – Thanks.