



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC.
PO Box 527, Christchurch, www.ctc.org.nz
Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 79

February 2010

No. 9

Haumuri Bluff, December 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*.

Contents

News	1	Classifieds & General Notices	15
Events calendar (trips & social)	2	More about the CTC	16
Trip Reports	11		

News

Round the Mountain - the Mt Somers Challenge, 7 February. "It's not a race, some people are just more competitive than others..." After the success of last year's event, here is another chance to run, tramp, hop, skip or pogo stick round Mt Somers. Some people may be aiming for Stu's amazing time (4 hours 11 minutes) but you can also do it as a trumper in 7-9 hours and get all the fun of the event. As last year, we also encourage anyone to come along who just wants to picnic/spectate/support/revive Alan with buckets of water/explore the Sharplin Falls area/wander up Staveley Hill to meet the returning runners and generally have a great day out. See the trip list for more details.

Calendar of Trips and Social Events

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

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

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

Saturday 30 January.	Leader: Chris Curry 351-5913 chris.curry@xtra.co.nz
Harper River Pinnacles. The Pinnacles are hundreds of amazing tall mud-and-pebble pointy tower formations, created by some magical mixture of mud/geology/wind/water/whatever. They are right on the banks of the Harper River (Lake Coleridge area), making a lovely trip to walk about 11k up the Harper River, cross, and explore. The walk in is basically flat, but there is the option of a slightly longer loop for the return with a bit of up and down on a 4WD track.	Grade: Easy or EasyMod Closes: 28 Jan Map: K34 Approx: \$20
Weekend 30-31 January.	Leader: Ian Dunn 343-2155 ian.dunn@paradise.net.nz
Olderog Biv. Ian's last trip onto the McArthur Range , Mt Kerr and Olderog Biv was a great success so he's heading there again. Maybe we'll go to the upper biv this time.	Grade: ModHard Closed: 21 Jan Map: K33 Approx: \$35

Sunday 31 January.

Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
Bryce.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz

Pt 1805, Mt Bealey Ridge. Pt 1805 is fascinating nobbly rocky outcrop reached by a short diversion south from pt 1760 on the ridge up to Mt Bealey. This is a great piece of scrambling for those happy with the little bit of exposure in some short sections of the route, but the rock is reasonably solid (for a change). If there is time, we'll trot up to Mt Bealey itself (1836m) and probably aim to descend via Rough Creek (rock hopping, wet feet a certainty and probably wet shorts as well - a classic Arthurs Pass summer trip for those experienced in mountain stream travel). If you don't fancy the scrambling or the stream, you can miss them out and still come along for a moderate tramp with a good 1100m straight-up height gain and the usual stunning views.

Grade: Moderate+
Closes: 28 Jan
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Tuesday 2 February. 6:00pm

Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914

Get Fit for the Round Mt Somers Challenge. Come with Susan for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. Just turn up in the car park at 6:00pm. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve climbing towards the summit road. Well if you are not ready for the challenge now, its probably too late, so we'll ease off a bit tonight.....

Grade: Moderate+
Just turn up
Map:
Approx: None

Thursday 4 February.

Club Night

Slide show by Ian Dunn of tramping trips in the South Island. Ian will take us on a selection of trips he has done in the South Island.

Weekend 6-7 February.

Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014

Mt Rosa and Avoca Exploring. 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. Plan is to do Mt Rosa as a day trip, return to cars, scoot down the road to Avoca Hut and have a pot luck dinner. Day 2 to explore the area. Maybe just peruse the map and wander into a corner or two that catch the eye. Petticoat Junction. What is it? We will find out even a Hootavill Cannonball may appear! (Or its current counterpart.)

Grade: Easy
Closed: 28 Jan
Map: L34
Approx: \$25

Sunday 7 February.

Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914

Mt Somers 'Round the Mountain' Challenge. This is a day for all members, no matter what their fitness, age or competitiveness - after all, it's always much better to watch other people working hard than do it yourself! There are plenty of options for all.

Round the Mountain Challenge: Tune up your training for some serious races, do it to beat Stu's time, or simply to see what you can do for yourself - go all around the mountain with anything from fiercely competitive individuality to friendly camaraderie in a group. There will be two groups - people expecting to do it in 7 hours or less, and normal-mortal-trampers expecting to do it in around 8-9 hours. Tasteful T-shirt prizes for first man, first woman as well as first new members (man and woman) to complete the challenge without too-obvious cheating or helicopter support.

Grade: Moderate Hard
Challenge plus
Easier options

Closes: 4 Feb

Map: K36

Approx: \$20

Supporter options: Come support the Challengers and have a cruisey stroll up Staveley Hill with a picnic, or further if you want, and be perfectly positioned to encourage them through to the finish on the final leg. Or come out later in the day, have a family afternoon around the Sharplin Falls area, lay bets on the Challengers, and participate in prize-giving festivities and general post-event euphoria. Bring a picnic for the afternoon, while we are waiting for the challengers to start coming back in. Chairs? Picnic rugs?

Please make sure you are aware of departure times from the Shell. Trampers going round the mountain and expecting to take more than 8-9 hours - i.e. most of us! - will be leaving the Shell at 7am. Everyone else 8 am at the Shell. Talk to an organiser if you are not sure.

Round Mt Somers Track Profile

See the club website for a map of the route and more-detailed route information.

Tuesday 9 February. 6:00 pm

Leader: Susan Pearson

Stay fit for Tramping. Come with Susan for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. Just turn up in the car park at 6:00pm. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve climbing towards the summit road. The challenge is over so it might be more relaxed this week.....

Grade: Moderate

Closes: 4 Feb

Map:

Approx: None

Thursday 11 February.

Club Night

55 Years of Tramping in the Australian Alps. Our own Dave Henson will take us on many multi day trips across many years in the Aussie Mountains. Find out what Australia really has to offer the NZ trumper.

Saturday 13 February.	Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
Ashley Gorge. Ashley Gorge is one of the best picnic spots in Canterbury and a popular place to explore. Depending on water levels we hope to do a bit of floating down the gorge, and getting wet is the whole point of the trip. Another opportunity to practice all that river crossing training if you did the December course? Great fun in the sun (we hope). Talk to the leader if you're not sure what's involved in this summer water trip, and come along for one of the club's most popular social outings	Grade: Easy+ (water trip) Closes: 11 Feb Map: L34 Approx: \$15

Saturday 13 February.	Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022 erik@tba.co.nz
Scenery Nook. Scenery Nook is a little cove out on Timu Timu head (Banks Peninsula). It's only a shortish stroll so what's so special? Just come and see one of the most stunning sea cliffs in New Zealand, curving round to make the cove into an amazing amphitheatre of layered rock in earthy hues of red, pink and purple and a huge dyke - the cross-sectional side of a cone of harder grey volcanic rock - exposed to rise straight up through the multi-coloured strata. It is an area of Significant Natural Value according to ECan. If you have never seen it before, now's your chance . . . Bring your togs - we might get to have a swim if the seals let us. And bring your camera - it's a great trip for photographers!	Grade: Easy Closes: 11 Feb Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$15

Weekend 13-14 February.	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
Mistake Creek, Chimera Stream. Canterbury high country. Braided rivers, beech forest camping, tussock and scree tops. Blue skies above and a hint of nor-west cloud building on the main divide.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 4 Feb Map: J34 Approx:

Sunday 14 February.	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
Pudding Hill Stream. Ken is planning to do the loop starting from Awa Awa Rata Reserve. This goes up the ridge to about 1100m (starting from about 500m) before briefly joining the Mt Hutt Skifield Road then dropping down into Pudding Hill Stream and following back down the river (numerous river crossings required). There are shorter loops in the area if people wish to do an easier trip.	Grade: Mod Closes: 11 Feb Map: K35 & K36 Approx: \$20

Tuesday 16 February. 6:00	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
Stay fit for Tramping. Come with Susan for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. Just turn up in the car park at 6:00pm. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve climbing towards the summit road. NB: Susan will not be leading this session for the next 5 weeks - her parents are visiting and fitness is going out of the window - but those who have been coming can stay fit without her.	Grade: Moderate Just turn up Map: Approx:

Thursday 18 February.

Club Night

Zanskar in North India. Our own Eric Saggars is going to take us on 2 trips to this area South of Kashmir. The first trip is a winter ski traverse and the second one is a tramping trip. These were done at high altitude with 6,000m peaks all around. This is a mostly Buddhist area with many displaced Tibetans. Will be very interesting as we have never been here before that I can remember.

Saturday 20 February.

Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360

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

Grade: Easy/Mod
Closes: 18 Feb
Map: N36 N37
Approx: \$15

Weekend 20-21 February.

Leader: Antony White 021 0497 893
phoenixantony@gmail.com

Sawcut Gorge. A stunning geological feature - the sawcut gorge is a must do summer trip. Only about 5km each way to Isolation Hut via the gorge but the walking is riverbed, not formed track. If landowner permission can be obtained, fitter types could climb up to Ben More (where the map shows a hut - is it there?) and watch the sun rise out of the Pacific on Sunday morning.

Grade: Easy+
Closes: 11 Feb
Map: P29
Approx: \$45

Sunday 21 February.

Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Tecbruce@gmail.com

Ghost Creek and Cave Stream. This is an interesting little exploration around the area to the west of Porters Pass. We'll start with a look at the Ghost Creek gully area and then cool off from the heat in Cave Stream, further down the highway. If you've never done Cave Stream, here is your chance - follow the stream as it goes underground through a beautiful limestone tunnel 594m long. Bring polypro to wear in the cave (no cotton please) and a dry layer for afterwards as well, and a torch. There are also swimming opportunities in Broken River.

Grade: Easy (water trip)
Closes: 18 Feb
Map: K34
Approx: \$20

Sunday 21 February.

Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366

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

Grade: Moderate+
Closes: 18 Feb
Map: K33
Approx: \$25

Thursday 25 February.	Club Night
Newsletter folding night. We will fold the newsletter then have some social time.	

Saturday 27 February.	Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111 alastairbrown@yahoo.com.au
<p>Godley Peak. Godley Peak (2087m) is at the end of the Palmer Range, overlooking the confluence of the Wilberforce and Rakaia rivers. See if you can find the elusive Mother Millers Spring when you're up there. After crossing a little preliminary light scrub on the flats we'll go in via one of the long spurs - nothing difficult to negotiate, but a sustained climb of over 1500m and about 10km each way so it will be a long day. Admire the sheep when you are out there - John Robert Godley, the man who met the first 4 ships, is regarded as the founder of the Canterbury settlement and had a strong influence on the conditions of those early pastoral land leases.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 25 Feb Map: K35 Approx: \$25</p>

Saturday 27 February. (Sunday if weather not good on Saturday)	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
<p>River Crossing. Come along and take the plunge while the water is warm and the weather is mild. A River Crossing course is essential training for new trampers and a good refresher for the more experienced. Even though this is summer, bring warm tramping clothing to wear while training. You'll need a large pack with a waterproof pack liner filled with spare clothing etc to bulk it up for pack buoyancy while training. Also bring a complete change of warm clothing to wear afterwards. Training will be followed by a barbecue (bring your own food and drink). Venue will be the Waimakariri River close to Christchurch. Meet at the Shell service station at 8am. This is fun as well as instructional - come and do it!</p>	<p>Grade: Training Closes: 25 Feb Map: M35 Approx: \$10</p>

Weekend 27-28 February.	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507
<p>Lake Daniells. An easy 9km walk along a well graded track to stay in a comfortable hut beside a peaceful shallow lake. What more could you want for an introduction to overnight tramping or just for a relaxing social outing, well away from the noise and bustle of the city? Or you could take your fishing rod and try for some trout along the river. Tramping doesn't get much more cruisy than this.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Feb Map: L31 M31 Approx: \$30</p>

Weekend 27-28 February.	Leader: Leader Required - Contact Steve Bruerton Ph 3226196
Mueller Hut. Our friend Michelle Hood is in residence as hut warden so that seems a good reason to pay a visit. Mueller hut is one of the most spectacularly sited huts around with sunset and sunrise views of Mt Cook and the constantly collapsing ice cliffs of the east face of Mt Sefton. It's a solid 1000m climb up to the hut but it's not far distance wise (only about 2km on the map). There is a well formed path with steps as far as Sealy Tarns (about 1/2 way) then tussock, scree and rock from there. No ice axe needed to get to the hut.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 Feb Map: H36 Approx:

Sunday 28 February.	Leader: David Henson 942-3954 david-henson@paradise.net.nz
Gebbie's Pass - Packhorse - Kaituna Valley. A crossover tramp from Gebbie's Pass to Kaituna Valley via Packhorse Hut. "Crossover" means the party will divide and drive to opposite ends of the trip meeting for lunch at Packhorse Hut where we exchange car keys. This allows a linear walk through interesting country on the flanks of the higher hills of Bank's Peninsula. The Kaituna section is one of the most scenic valleys on the Peninsula with extensive areas of native bush. This tramp will be done at a relaxed civilised pace and should be suitable for most club members. .	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 25 Feb Map: M36 Approx: \$20

Sunday 28 February.	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Purple Peak and Otanerito. Purple Peak overlooks the Akaroa settlement and Harbour. From the peak we'll descend through Hinewai (a 1050ha private reserve for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife which abounds with birds enjoying the regenerating natives) down to the dinky little bay at Otanerito. This trip is definitely at the easier end of moderate and would make a good outing for those looking to step up from easy-moderate tramping.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 Feb Map: N36 N37 Approx: \$20

Thursday 4 March.	Club Night
Tramping in Switzerland by Craig Beere. In July and August, Craig travelled to Switzerland with the FMC Travel Club. Switzerland is a place he has wanted to see for decades, ever since seeing The Eiger Sanction as an impressionable youngster. The trip was primarily a tramping trip but there were a few tourist activities included. Come and see photos of mountains and valleys and cable cars and clocks (there were a lot of clocks). See where Sherlock Holmes met his end. See where Heidi and Peter lived. See where Clint Eastwood climbed. See where meringue was invented.	

Saturday 6 March.		Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655	
<p>Bobs Knob and the Kowhai River. We'll start from the Big Tree carpark on the highway and make our way up this prominent bump on the ridge leading to Mt Torlesse. The cartographers have churlishly refused it a name, but to trampers it is known as Bob's Knob (a proud 1261m, or 600m or so up from the river). We can do a loop via Kowhai Stream as well for the authentic CTC trip experience - a bit of scrub, a lot of tussock, some scree, possibly a wade through the creek, and undoubtedly a well-deserved doughnut-stop in Springfield on the way home.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 4 Mar
		Map: L35	Approx: \$20
Weekend 6-7 March.		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196	
<p>Mt Davey. I keep putting it in the trip list - and I keep not going there. maybe this time?</p>		Grade: Hard	Closes: 25 Feb
		Map: K33	Approx: \$30
Weekend 6-7 March.		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507	
<p>Rocky Creek - Griffin Creek. An old favourite this one: an interesting West Coast trip with a mixture of bush, riverbed, and track. The trip heads along some rough tracks and riverbed in the Rocky Creek then over a bush saddle to the well-situated Griffin Creek Hut. This hut has an outdoor bath, a wonderful outlook and blue ducks in the river. Sunday sees a climb to the bushline to a great view point before dropping back to the road.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 25 Feb
		Map: K33	Approx: \$30
Sunday 7 March. (early start - contact leader)		Leader: Antony White 021 0497 893 phoenixantony@gmail.com	
<p>Big Mt Peel. Peel Forest is a remnant of a magnificent podocarp forest that once covered a huge area in mid-Canterbury and, with its mild moist climate, has the highest diversity of ferns in New Zealand. This tramp will take us right into this wonderful area, ascending through the vegetation layers out onto the tussock slopes of Mt Peel. First Little Mt Peel (1310m, 900m+ height gain), then a bit over 4k to Middle Mt Peel (1583m) and a further 2-3k to Big Mt Peel itself (1743m, about 1400m height gain from the cars). As you'd expect, the tussock tops offer panoramic views out over this lovely area. Note: there could be an early start - make sure you contact the leader - and be prepared for a long but rewarding day.</p>		Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 4 Mar
		Map: J37	Approx: \$25

Sunday 7 March.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p>Three Deans and Whites Gorge. "Once upon a time there were three Deans: there was father Dean, mother Dean, and baby . . ." no no no. These Three Deans have proper tramping names - South Dean (571m), Middle Dean (585m) and North Dean (573m) - located in Waipara, North Canterbury. It's about 500m height gain, in easy country. You'll be traveling along the open tops so make sure you bring some warm layers just in case. The return will be via Whites Gorge so wet feet on this fun easy trip.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 4 Mar
		Map: M34	Approx: \$15
Saturday 13 March.		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
<p>Bealey Spur. A popular day trip near Arthurs Pass with great views up the Waimakariri River. There's a good track up to the hut, and it's possible to go further up the ridge towards Jordan Saddle.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod	Closes: 11 Mar
		Map: K34	Approx: \$25
Weekend 13-14 March.		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz	
<p>Mt Alexander. Alexander (1958m) is a great trampers mountain, situated in the Taramakau valley across from Jacksons. Access is up Camp Stream then a 1200m climb to a high camp by tarns. Sunday we can climb to the summit or just explore the high ridge area then descend. Views into Arthurs Pass, to the Paparoas and even to Mt Cook.</p>		Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 4 Mar
		Map: K32	Approx: \$40
Weekend 13-14 March.		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000	
<p>Mt Thomas - Pinchgut Hut - Bobs Bivvy loop. DOC have cut a new track from the Pinchgut Hut to Bobs Bivvy via Cattlepeak Ridge making a complete loop behind Mt Thomas. We'll start and finish at Mt Thomas picnic area and be doing a couple of 5-6 hour days.</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 4 Mar
		Map: M34	Approx: \$20
Sunday 14 March.		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Faust. Faust is a 1710m peak on the southern end of the Libretto Range, in Lewis Pass. Why the Libretto Range? Most of the peaks are named after operas: brush up on your selling-your-soul-to-the-devil bartering skills for this one. We'll start from at the Boyle carpack (about 600m) and find the track up through the bush to the open ridge up to Faust itself. This is a great trip for trampers looking to step up from easy-moderate level trips. Options for the return include descending Faust to join the St James Walkway back to the cars.</p>		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 11 Mar
		Map: M32	Approx: \$25

Sunday 14 March.

Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981 1944
jkspittlehouse@hotmail.com

Tiromoana Bush. Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track was 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.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 11 Mar
Map: N34
Approx: \$15

Trip Reports

November 13-15 2009 (show weekend)

L e w i s T o p s W a n d e r a b o u t

“Get the facts or the facts will get you. And when you get them, get them right, or they will get you wrong.” - Thomas Fuller.

With cars judiciously parked to cover all eventualities (well, two of them anyway), closely studied maps and one carefully calibrated GPS in hand, six of us set off up the Nina Valley to make our way to the tops via Lucretia Stream.

Setting off at a cracking pace from the start in order to sort the boys from the girls, we reached the swingbridge that promised access to the Nina Hut in no time at all. “Hang on,” cautioned Trip Leader, “We’ve come a bridge too far.” Aware that the two “walkwires” marked on the map were no longer, we figured this was the bridge that crossed the Nina just before its junction with Duchess Stream. Doh, clearly we were too quick for our boots and had galloped right past the Lucretia, even though the GPS said we still had 120 metres (or thereabouts) to go. Stoopid technology – what would it know? Back we tracked, fossicking around “Lucretia” for the unmaintained and over-grown track. We didn’t find it, but our noses led us up and we had a satisfying bush bash to near the bushline, where we concluded that we had, in fact, headed up the wrong stream. Sending Carl and his GPS down a bushless gully until it found a satellite to wink at, confirmed this (wonderful technology, very useful). No worries, mate, the forecast was turning out to be very accurate, gloomily predicting ‘weather’ about the tops, and it was an easy bush bash back to the track and thence the Nina Hut. Should be only ten, maybe 20 minutes from the swingbridge according to the map.

Ok, make that 60. We knew the hut had been relocated (to the true right of the Nina) but this relocated? Turns out our freshly baked bridge was somewhat downstream of the old walkwire, and the hut somewhat further up. For six so-called mod-hard trampers, the family-grade walk into the hut proved quite tiring and some of us pouted sulkily at the prospect of dossing down on the floor of the full-to-capacity hut (full of children and their parents, I might add).

But dinner was illuminating and revitalizing. Try boiling dried mango til it’s fat and juicy, add a fruity herbal tea bag and drink the result: nectar of gods. It’ll make your pupils pop with pleasure (thanks Martin).

The Party at Nina Hut

Brass Monkey Biv

Day two dawned as forecast: calm and clear. Geographically challenged no longer, we headed up the Duchess Stream and, at last, the tops. Beautiful. And windy. And cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. We boiled ourselves a hot drink at the appropriately named biv and carried on to explore our various options and aerodynamics (did I mention it was windy?). One option was up, so we went up, in a NE direction, to look down on the elusive Lucretia. I gained a new respect for my ice axe. We found some snow so applied crampons (completely incident-free: no one's fell off or anything). The wind had mercifully dropped and we saluted Mt Technical, cloaked in grey, wet stuff and were glad we weren't up there. But we were up and it was getting late and there was that wind again, with thunderous-looking weather descending as forecast. We found a spot, down a bit, above Deer Valley, and pitched our tents. I scored a nice mossy hollow safe inside Martin's tent which stayed up, and slept. Others didn't.

The following morning we took the only sensible option and scarpered out down Deer Valley. Brilliant navigating by Trip Leader led us through the forest glade, safely past raging waterfalls, unerringly to the main highway (what an unwelcome din the traffic made. I'm not sure what the traffic made of six disheveled trampers emerging like Vietnam vets from the jungle)... right between the two judiciously parked cars. Eight kilometers that way, and eight kilometres t'other. Right on cue, the ambivalent spit and drizzle made a firm decision and bucketed down in true West Coasterly fashion. Miraculously, Uncle Bernie (aka God) came to the rescue a couple of k's down the road, on his way home from his own tramping exploits, giving the drivers a lift and sparing the war-weary veterans a mind-numbing slog.

What a great trip. I liked the tent that stayed up, and didn't want to go home (at least, not once home was safely in my sights). Thank you, guys, for being such a great bunch. I hereby pronounce you honorary girls. And thanks, long-suffering souls, for teaching me the basics of Five Hundred. I'll remember to play my Joker next time.

Trampers: Martin Brown, Mike Ng, Kate Taylor (Scribe), Andrew Wedlake, Carl Hoffman, Antony White (Navigator)

29 November 2009

M t W h i t e

Clearly snow is easier to climb than scree

Classic views of great shelter belts

Smooth suave and sophisticated debonair devil of the tramping scene, Alan Ross was for a momentary instant disconcerted by the choices open to him – to avail himself of every opportunity to clutch Flo in a familiar embrace? to befriend the extraordinarily fit young Danish trumper on her first moderate trip with the club? to find out how Lois could intend to make the giant leap from easy moderate to moderate+ trips without a full-scale training schedule of Port Hills runs? Fortunately for our charismatic cavalier, this conundrum was easily resolved as the party launched itself at the slopes of Mt White: Flo was out of his reach both literally and metaphorically for most of the tramp, the extraordinarily fit young Danish trumper was also apparently extraordinarily unimpressed by the shirt-off routine, and Lois calmly disclaimed any notion that keeping up with the topless hero required any special training. Nothing daunted, he kept up his spirits – and those of the rest of the company – by recounting the tale of how, when at the peak of his physical prowess, he had proudly referred to himself as a 'stud-muffin' and some unkind and misguided female had rejoined that although the muffin part was easily identified, the 'stud' was more elusive ...

Leader Dave certainly did not want this to be too easy for anyone, passing resemblances to bakery items notwithstanding. He started with a careful assessment of terrain and triumphantly chose the steepest available ascent slope. The group rose dutifully to the challenge, at a rate of

something like 500m+ per hour in fact. Antony must have had prewarning – he was traveling especially lightweight in the pack department (but compensating with a pair of enormous boots just in case anyone dared to accuse him of not taking that sacred text the club gear list sufficiently seriously). Stu was as usual telling all and sundry that he was not particularly fit and had not been out very much ... well, telling us until he was of earshot, striding away in front. We had lunch on a shoulder a few ks from the top and then carried on. Dave could see his chances of a pie at Springfield fading hopelessly as the tramping stalwarts such as Dayle, Doug, Sue, Flo, Stu, Antony, and Kerrie - as well of course as the afore-mentioned legendary muffin king - voted vociferously to continue along the ridge and descend to Esk valley via the spur off point 1604. Line got a quick lesson in techniques for coping with bad loose-rock-that's-not-proper-scrree from Antony and we sailed downwards without mishap.

We met the 4wd track where it crosses a stream and had a quick refreshment stop, cooling off with a bit of splashing and rock skimming. Needless to say, somehow things seemed to escalate very quickly and suddenly battle lines were drawn up either side of the stream ... hitherto neutral Dave was caught in the crossfire of a particularly powerful exchange and retaliated with a boulder positively hurled into the water, resulting in a wave which drenched innocent bystanders and protagonists alike... Lois moved calmly forward to reclaim her pack before it became collateral damage in a further engagement, and things settled down before we managed to block the creek with a boulder barrage. Amicable relations undented and nicely cooled down, we set off to blitz 6.5 k of 4wd track in record time.

It was late but still light when we got back to the cars after a very satisfying trip. Many thanks to Dave for leading, the stud muffin for gracing the trip with its glorious bare-chested presence, everyone else for making it another great day, and Mt White Station for permission to do the trip.

David Sutton (unenviable leader), Dayle Drummond, Line Bisgaard, Lois Hamilton, David Cook, Doug Forster, Sue Hely, Kerrie Maynard, Alan Ross, Flo Roberts, Stu Smith, Antony White, Jenny Harlow.

December 12-13 2009

P e e l F o r e s t B a s e C a m p

View from Mt Peel

Giant Tree

An assortment of families and individuals made the journey arriving at different times and setting out to different destinations.

The majority started off from the camp ground following the Fern track..then started up the Deer spur to little Mt Peel.The wind was not an issue on the ridge so most of us continued on to the top....two intrepid trampers came down the south ridge and were kindly met by the club taxi...Alan who had met Andrew Sarah and their son David who got to the top but came back the same way. Alan had run up the mountain...well he ran when we were watching him.

Followed a group BBQ...a first for Sachin and Divya then the next morning we did a series of short walks and game of cricket...some set off to see the giant Mt Peel lilies. Weather was great....group was great...accommodation at the camp was great.

December 5-6, 2009

Kaikoura Base camp

Andrea on concretion

Lake Rotorua

Haumuri Bluff tramp...we set off early and arrived at Oaro by 9.30am. Eight happy trampers set off from there...two first time trampers...a nice flat walk alongside the railway line for about 4-5 kms...time to look at the lolling kelp and watch the waves before we had to descend to the coastline where the railway went into a tunnel. The track to the beach was a little dodgy!!!!

Once on the coastline it was boulder hopping all the way..3-4 kms to the bluff. There were lots of concretions and LOTS of seals...some surprised us by hiding under the rocks...at the bluff we found paua and the most amazing rock formations....a couple of intrepid people used the rope to ascend to the top and look down at the others having lunch below.

Then it was back by the same route...the day was hot and everyone flopped under a tree when we made it back to the tunnel.

Back to Kaikoura and to a lovely night's accommodation....

Lake Rotoua the next morning is inland from Pateke and about 2 hours to circuit the lake...lots of bird nesting...great weekend...great group of people...great weekend.

Thanks all.

Classifieds

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

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 and Webmaster	Richard Lobb	351-2344	Gear Custodian	Ken Brown	359-2000
Social convenor	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members Rep	Susan Pearson	337-4914

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

you find any problems or maintenance required, please tell Dave.

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

Rates for Gear Hire:

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

Please have material for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 21 February 2010 – Thanks.