



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.

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“Lucretia Heights” campsite, May 2010

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

Subs Reminder: Just a gentle reminder that club subscriptions are now overdue. If you haven't yet paid, why not do it now? Remember that there's a \$10 late fee for memberships still unpaid at the end of June.

New Members Welcome: We welcome four new members to the club this month: Eduardo Martinez, Cathy Batchelor, Murray Gifford and Chantal McCarthy. Please accept the club's warm welcome to you all.

Club Auditor: Greta Vink is resigning as Honorary Club Auditor after many years of tireless work. Thank you, Greta, for all your endeavours on the Club's behalf. Your skill, patience and help will be sorely missed.

Club Hut News: The hut crew has been very busy up at the pass lately fitting two new windows

in the North wall, insulating and recladding, painting, putting up new curtains (thanks Susan!), cleaning gutters, unblocking drains and generally looking after the place. Many members don't realise what a huge effort goes into maintaining the hut for us all. Our sincere thanks to all the hut committee and in particular to the construction team of David and Linda Watson, David Jenkinson, Don Carnielo, Steve Bruerton, Ken Brown and Rex Vink.

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>Saturday 29 May. (Note, meet at the bus station - see trip details)</p>	<p>Leader: David Henson 942-3954 david-henson@paradise.net.nz</p>
<p>Hills and history. Meet at 8.45 am at platform D2, Colombo Street opposite Ballantynes to catch the 8.59 am bus to the Sign of the Takahe. We'll start with a walk up through Victoria Park to the Crater Rim Walkway then along the Crater Rim to near Lyttelton. Then we descend the Whaka Raupe Track through the bluffs above the port, divert to Corsair Bay, and reach Lyttelton through the historic harbour area with the option of visiting the Torpedo Boat Museum (\$2). We finish with the customary visit to replenish the soul at the Lyttelton Coffee Company. All this for only the cost of a return bus fare (free if you have a senior gold card!).</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closed: 27 May Map: M35 Approx: Bus fare, or free with senior Gold Card</p>
<p>Weekend 29-30 May.</p>	<p>Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz</p>
<p>Hurunui Hot Pool. It's 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.</p>	<p>Grade: MTB Closes: 20 May Map: L32 Approx: \$35</p>

Sunday 30 May.	Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
Ben More Horseshoe. Here's one for tussock fans - Ben More is found in the southern section of the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park conservation area - New Zealand's first tussock grasslands conservation park. There is a nice circuit from the Lake Lyndon road, across the Acheron, and up onto a horseshoe of undulating tops (1327, 1660, 1665, Benmore itself at 1655, 1624, 1510, 1555, 1465 - or vice versa). There is about 1000m of climbing altogether, and about 17km of tramping through the beautiful golden tussock landscape.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 May Map: K35 Approx: \$20
Thursday 3 June.	Club Night
Movie night. Our movie tonight is called " The Beckoning Silence" It's the story of the attempt on the Eiger in 1936 (produced in 2007) and is apparently very good.	
Saturday 5 June.	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com
More coastal exploring: Teviotdale and the End of Pegasus Bay. Another trip in the Coastal Exploring series, this time on the northern coastline between Tirimoana reserve and the Waipara river at the end of Pegasus Bay. The trip includes some rolling farm country on Teviotdale Hills, culminating at a nice lunch spot overlooking Pegasus Bay. Then we explore the coastal lagoon north of the Waipara mouth before turning back inland to head for a nice re hydrating cuppa in Amberly.	Grade: Easy Closes: 3 Jun Map: M36 Approx: \$15
Long Weekend 5-7 June.	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Buckland Peaks and beyond. Subject to a decent forecast and navigable tops, the plan is to head up and camp at or near Buckland Peaks on the first day. From there we'll continue exploring the tops further south, returning the same way. Then out on the third day. However, if that option isn't practicable, Bernhard has Other Plans! Talk to him for details.	Grade: Moderate+ Closed: 27 May Map: K29 Approx: \$45
Long Weekend 5-7 June.	Leader: Chantal Mccarthy Chantal.Mccarthy@kiwipack.co.nz 360 3752
Karamea Base Camp. Drive to Westport Friday night, stay in backpackers. Up early Saturday morning to head up to the start of the Heaphy Track - a lovely 4-5 hour hike takes us to the Heaphy Hut where the river meets the sea. The track itself runs along wild coastline with stunning nikau, karaka and rata forest plus frequent penguin and shag sightings. After lunch we return the same way, although those keen for a challenge could head up to the Lewis and back! The track is great and mostly flat; those who would like a shorter version can turn around and head back part way. A holiday house has been booked in Karamea for Sat/Sun nights. Sunday we will explore the Oparara Arch area with plenty of different grade options to choose from and we'll head back on Monday with a few breaks at short but lovely walks such as Chasm Creek.	Grade: Easy Closed: 27 May Map: L26 L27 K32 Approx: \$135 incl. accom.

Long Weekend 5-7 June.	Leader: Antony White 381-5993 phoenixantony@gmail.com
Lewis Pass tarn-tenting, bush bashing, tops travel adventure. 7am start on Saturday, drive to Maruia Springs, climb up to the Mueller Tarns and tent there that night, with possibly a side trip to Mt Mueller on the same day. Sunday, head east along the Freyberg Range to Mt Freyberg, and drop down into Pell Stream to the hut. Monday, jump over a small ridge to the Alfred River, take an (optional) cooling dip in Lake Daniels, and then it's an easy walk out to the sluiceway carpark. This trip will involve a mixture of steep ascents, both craggy and rolling tops, tenting on cold tops, bush bashing, and some interesting navigational challenges, so come prepared for some adventure!	Grade: Moderate+ Closed: 27 May Map: M31 Approx: \$35

Monday 7 June.	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
Redcliffe Hill. Redcliffe Hill (940m) overlooks the mighty Rakaia river and is easily accessed using a 4WD track from the farm with a climb of 540m. It's all easy-tramper territory but note that there is a total of about 20km walking. In 1971 a team from Canterbury Museum found bits of moa eggshell in a rockshelter up there. Suspicions that it was the remains of some tramper's hard-boiled lunch were quashed when it was carbon-dated to the 18th century - or were there CTC-ers out in the hills even then?	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 3 Jun Map: K35 Approx: \$20

Thursday 10 June.	Club Night
China and Mongolia. Our Guide Chris Curry will take us from Hong Kong to Beijing then by train across Northern China to Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. Chris will then show us round this region.	

Saturday 12 June. 7.30am departure - see below	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453 doug@forster.net.nz
Pinchgut Hut - Bobs bivvy circuit. We will start at the end of Taffes Glen Rd and take the track around the river to Pinchgut Hut. From there we use the new DOC track over Cattlepeak Hill to Bobs Bivvy. After that we follow the usual track (re-cut we hear) around the ridge to the track junction at pt 953 and then take the old ridge track (probably a bit overgrown) down to re-join the inwards track and back to the cars. This will be a longish day but it is straightforward travel. There is a single deep ford at the very start so you can bring sneakers to use for this if you are averse to having wet feet. Note that departure will be from the Shell, Papanui, at 7.30am. There will be no trip list at club: you must phone the leader to put your name down. If the forecast is not favourable for Saturday the leader may change the trip to Sunday.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 10 Jun Map: M34 Approx: \$20

Weekend 12-13 June.		Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839
Jollie Brook / Gabriel. A combination of river travel, lush bush, an easy saddle and tussock flats with beautiful mountains surrounding them - this all adds up to a great weekend trip. A hut on Saturday night makes sure of a cosy night.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 3 Jun Map: M32 / BU23 Approx: \$30	
Sunday 13 June.		Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981-1944 or mob 02102 990 410; jkspittlehouse@hotmail.com
Mt Alford. Mt Alford is a moderate (1171m) summit south of Mt Hutt with about 600m ascent - a nice early winter trip. In the early 1880s Alford Forest was the scene of a 'diamond rush' after a miner found something very very glittery, so presumably Mr Brownlee will be wanting to 'improve access' to it any time now. He could take note of what happened last time - people poured into the area and set about busily digging, but in the end it turned out to be just worthless bits of quartz. Better than fool's gold I guess . . .	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 10 Jun Map: K36 Approx: \$20	
Thursday 17 June.		Club Night
Hut Wardening with Michele (Hood). Have you ever stayed in a hut with a resident warden? Come see what Michele has done as a volunteer hut warden for DOC. Some highlights and stories to be told and fantastic photos from Muller Hut above Mt Cook village.		
Saturday 19 June Early start - contact leader.		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz
Dome. Take the Mid-Winter Challenge - the Dome on as-close-to-the-shortest-day-as-your-ever-optimistic leader can make it. The Dome (1945m) is a distinctive bump between the Edwards and the Waimakariri, which we will probably access via the long western spur, climbing steadily to the bush line (about 700m up) and then up another 500m+ along the open undulating ridge to the summit of the Dome itself. It will be a long day requiring a commitment to Just Keep Going. There will be an early start - contact leader for details - and if necessary (i.e., probably), a restorative dinner at Joy's in Springfield on the way home. Ice axe and crampons (and the ability to use them) may be required. Also a torch.	Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 17 Jun Map: K33 Approx: \$25	

Saturday 19 June.

Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
andrewwrapson@yahoo.co.nz

Korowai-Torlesse Tussocklands Park. Actually the whole park would be a bit ambitious - it's 21,000 hectares altogether. We'll head in at the base of Porters Pass, probably ambling towards Trig M. It's an easy social trip which will be tailored to the group on the day. The main aim is to get out and enjoy the winter landscape in our first tussock grasslands conservation area. Tussock is indeed the major feature of the landscape for our trip - but it's not all the same you know: the slim-leaved snow tussock is common but the area also the eastern limit of mid-ribbed snow tussock - see if you can spot the difference! There could be snow so gaiters and a walking pole will be useful; dress warmly, and have a great time.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 17 Jun
Map: K35
Approx: \$20

Weekend 19-20 June.

Leader: Antony White 021 0497 893

Edwards - Mingha via Williams Saddle. Tramp into the large Edwards Hut via a good track. This alpine valley itself is well worth the visit, but as a bonus, the next day you will cross the low Williams Saddle and drop down to the Mingha river for a good round trip.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 10 Jun
Map: K33
Approx: \$35

Weekend 19-20 June.

Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686

Mt Haast, Mt Puttick. Climb Mt Haast and travel along the ridge to a high camp before options to Mt Puttick and Mt Kemp. Return via the Rahu River.

Grade: Moderate+
Closes: 10 Jun
Map: L31
Approx: \$40

Sunday 20 June.

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

More coastal exploring: Teviotdale and the end of Pegasus Bay. Another trip in the Coastal Exploring series, this time on the northern coastline between Tirimoana reserve and the Waipara river at the end of Pegasus Bay. The trip includes some rolling farm country on Teviotdale Hills, culminating at a nice lunch spot looking out over Pegasus bay. Then we explore the coastal lagoon north of the Waipara mouth before turning back inland for a nice re hydrating cuppa in Amberly.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 17 Jun
Map: N34
Approx: \$15

Thursday 24 June.

Club Night

Newsletter folding + what should you carry in a winter day pack. Attention newer members!! After the folding of the newsletter we will go through what you should carry in your day pack for this time of year. Really targeted at new or perspective members but some of the old hands might learn something as well.

Saturday 26 June.

Social Event

Mid winter breakfast. Annual mid-winter breakfast at the Chateau On The Park (Deans Ave). For the uninitiated this is the annual awarding of the Loo Loo trophy for the biggest cock-up of the preceding year. Come along and be entertained by tall tales and occasionally unembellished accounts of what can go wrong in the hills. Please dredge through your memory from the previous year and tell us about the bloopers. Meet 8am at Garden Court Brasserie for a great breakfast. Buffet is \$18.50 (yes special price this year), Continental is \$18.50, kids 5-12 are \$1/year. You must put your name on the trip list or email alan.d.ross@orica.com or ph 3846425 BEFORE the 22nd as we have to give the restaurant confirmed numbers. Bring an empty tummy and a story.

Weekend 26-27 June.

Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507

Cedar Flats. The Cedar Flats Huts are around 5 hrs walk up the Toaroha River on the West Coast near Lake Kaniere. The attraction here is that - depending on river flows and excavation energy - a hot bath rewards your walk in.

Grade: Easy
Closes: 17 Jun
Map: J33
Approx: \$40

Sunday 27 June.

Leader: Bruce James 332-3473

Broken Hill. Broken Hill overlooks the limestone escarpment land on Flock Hill and the Cave Stream area. We'll park at the Craigieburn picnic area, cross the road, and make our way up past Trig G to the summit (1486) and then probably on to the un-named pt 1586. From there we can do a nice loop back to the cars. If there is no snow this trip will be at the easier end of moderate, with some 700-800m height gain and about 15k of tramping; talk to the leader closer to the day to check on conditions.

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 24 Jun
Map: K34 L34
Approx: \$25

Sunday 27 June.

Leader: Dayle Drummond 337-1718

Flagpole Hill. Stamping ground (probably literally) of the redoubtable Lady Barker (Station Life In New Zealand, etc), Flagpole Hill is also close to the forestry plantation where your leader has done some arbori-husbandry work and is anxious to check on the fate of the little seedlings he has launched upon the world ... Flagpole itself is an accessible 892m (about 600m height gain) and there are various options for the ascent and descent depending on the group.

Grade: Easy/Mod
Closes: 24 Jun
Map: M34
Approx: \$15

Thursday 1 July.

Club Night

Lets go to South America with Jonathan Carr. Now Jonathan tells me he took 9,000 photos during this trip. I have asked him not to show them all. But among them their will be many great shots. As you know Jonathan's photos are always good but the highlight is usually the associated stories. He did it on the cheap spending every night in a tent. Oh it's to Patagonia down the bottom!

Saturday 3 July.		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Woolshed Hill. Woolshed Hill (1429m) stands above the Hawdon, off the Mt White Road. Our last scheduled trip there diverted due to bad weather, so we are giving it another go. 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. If there is no snow this trip will be at the easier end of moderate; talk to the leader closer to the day to check on conditions.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 1 Jul Map: K33 L33 Approx: \$25</p>	
Weekend 3-4 July.		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686	
<p>Lake Christabel, Rough Creek. A pleasant weekend destination. Follow the Blue Grey River along some grassy flats then through beech forest. Stay the night at Lake Christabel Hut. Come out the next day over Rough Creek.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 24 Jun Map: L31 Approx: \$40</p>	
Sunday 4 July. (early start - contact leader)		Leader: Antony White 021 0497 893 phoenixantony@gmail.com	
<p>Cloudsley. Cloudsley is one of several 2000m+ peaks on the southern end of the Craigieburn range and a great place at any time of year. Cloudsley itself is about 1300m height gain from Castle Hill village. From the Craigieburn ridge we can look right over to the gods on Mt Olympus. This is American Independence Day so as well as cherry pie, ice axe and crampons (and the ability to use them) may be required. If there is snow around you'll need to have done your basic snow craft or equivalent for this trip, but if you have it is a pretty good introduction to more serious alpine tramping. Note - there could be an early start - contact leader.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 1 Jul Map: K34 Approx: \$25</p>	
Saturday 10 July.		Leader: Kerrie Maynard 386-2850	
<p>Mt Somers. Mt Somers (1687m) is an old volcano and so this is an interesting geological area as well as a superb day tramp. It's about 1100m height gain, a sustained and sometimes steep climb up from beech woods and through scrub and onto the open flanks before gaining the summit, so be prepared for a good grunt going up, but be rewarded with a great sense of achievement, panoramic views, and then tea at the dinky little Staveley Store store. The track up Mt Somers can get icy in winter so be prepared to bring crampons and ice-axe as well as your usual winter-tramping warm layers etc.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Jul Map: K36 Approx: \$20</p>	

Weekend 10-11 July.	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507
Cameron Hut - Arrowsmiths. Located behind Mt Somers, the Arrowsmith Range is far larger and steeper than the surrounding foothills. 5 or 6 hours tramping, with only a little climbing towards the end, will get us to the Cameron hut, situated on the remnant terminal moraine of the Cameron Glacier. Spectacular views from the hut on to the Arrowsmith mountains.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 1 Jul Map: J35 Approx: \$35

Sunday 11 July.	Leader: John Allen 355-3959
Tiromoana Bush. Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track was constructed as a result of the landfill deal. This is 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. As an added bonus your leader is an expert on landfills - take your chance now to ask all those burning questions about liners and leakage as you tramp along! 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: 8 Jul Map: N34 Approx: \$15

Weekend 17-18 July.	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
Polar Range - Mt Scott and Wilson. Steve is going to climb something in the Polar Range. More details in the next newsletter or talk to Steve. Ice axe and crampons required.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 8 Jul Map: K33 Approx: \$35

Long Weekend 23-25 July. Friday evening plus full weekend.	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
Introductory snowcraft course. An introduction to the basic snow skills needed by any club member wishing to head into the high country over winter. The course covers the use of iceaxe and crampons, basic avalanche awareness, winter survival techniques and snow shelters. Friday night is part of the course, stopping at the club hut. Participants will need warm winter clothing, ice axe, crampons and helmet. These can be hired from the gear custodian get in quick with your bookings or you will have to hire gear from the mountaineering shops in town.	Grade: Training Closes: 15 Jul Map: Approx:

Trip Reports

1 May 2010

Technically Thomas and his Sweet Sixteen

Weather forecasters and work mates alike were devastated when Saturday 1 May dawned bright and clear. The 16 of us about to climb to the Lewis Tops and tent overnight were

delighted!

On this false note of enthusiasm we bowled on up the scenic Lewis Pass in convoy – or that is it was scenic UNTIL we became a convoy, at which point Thomas's exhaust amended the view to a thick black fog, reminiscent of a steam train in a tunnel. Once the fog cleared, we all bailed out of the cars, looked apprehensively at our packs and then set off. The party of 16 immediately split in 2 – those who were capable of running up the track through the moss covered trees and those that felt teeth and nails were useful climbing up mountains appendages. Much to our (the second party's) surprise, we reached the treeline without too many injuries and settled in for morning tea while we contemplated with relief the easy stroll ahead to the tarns. (Pwha hah haaaa ha ha.) That was until we had a wee chat with our beloved leader and began to develop a suspicion that all was not as it had seemed....

Our first clue came when he confidently named a mountain across the valley as "Mt Technical" and proceeded to give us a detailed description of his trip there on another occasion. A slight "hmm hmm" noise from Allan and a pointing out that in fact Mt Technical was in completely the opposite direction was then verified by aforementioned beloved leader's GPS. Since he graciously agreed that the GPS was correct, we all forgave him and agreed that indeed "technically" it WAS a mountain so therefore it could at a stretch also be called Mt Technical. Unfortunately it was at this point we turned around and saw that the "rolling hilltops" as described in the trip propaganda were in fact a series of large hills, each requiring an over the top approach. When our bottom lips went out and a series of sad whimperings about "but you said it was only 400m to the tree-line" were heard, the response came back very speedily with "well technically it is only 400m to the tree-line – you didn't ask how much climbing there was after that!" ...

Many poutings, an exciting recipe for "seared tuna à la toilet paper" (for recipe details see Jason); one mutiny (this tarn will do, we're stopping here!!) and many patient repeatings of "but I only said it was 400m to the tree-line" later, we arrived at the infamous Lucretia Tarns. In fact there were so many tarns on the way that the hillbillies would have been jealous ("what in tarnation..?") – all of which were stunning, especially with the evening sun hitting them.

The campsite was rapidly thrown together with a strict hierarchy of 'Lucretia Heights' (Lisa and Gareth); Boys (either side of the creek) and Girls (Upper swamp). Discovering that above the tree-line equals no bonfire was not a personal happy moment but we managed to entertain each other for a couple of hours of darkness before the cold sent us scurrying to bed. Sadly, it was only about 8pm – and we had already stretched it out from about 6.40pm as that was just too pathetic to go to bed at!

Oh, what a night. Other than the initial amusement of listening to "mwah blah blah mwah" (Antony) ; "mwah blah mwah blah blah" (Thomas) followed by "hee hee hee" (A&T giggling); the night was memorable for:

- a) the tarn freezing solid
- b) the swamp freezing solid
- c) the tents freezing solid
- d) the waterbottles and everything else freezing solid and
- e) being the longest coldest most uncomfortable night of my life.

Getting up on a Sunday morning has never been so exciting! "Yay!!" say-eth I, as I skipped and pranced (OK, OK, limped and hobbled) around the campsite "It's morning and I can get up off the frozen solid rock I have been lying on" Ah, the small things that delight one so..

Our three speediest led by Antony headed back on a different route down the creek, while the rest of us returned along the lovely sunny tops. Hiking back we picked up our mutineers safe

and sound, swapped stories of recalcitrant tents (they don't work so well inside out), skipping rocks on frozen tarns and other such exciting moments. Allan enjoyed leaving us frequently and precipitately as a result of his new "drink tarn water without boiling it" diet. He hasn't set up his website yet but for those wanting to lose 7kg in two days he assures us it is very effective.

Antony's boast of waiting for us at the cars was found to be a little wanting, so the lucky 13 explored the beautiful tarn at the start of the St James, had some billy tea and then headed on down to pick up our missing 3 – who despite the rescue chopper we'd seen heading up their valley had in fact emerged safe and sound by that time.

A quick stop in Culverden for warm food and drinks and we were off back to the land of showers and nurofen. A strenuous but lovely weekend, thank you "Technically Thomas", you have the patience of a saint!!

PS Sorry about the hillbilly bit, couldn't resist.

Trampers: Antony White, Catherine Tatarniuk, Bryan Fowler, Jim Manser, Allan Growcott, Abby Grassham, Gareth Gilbert, Lisa Glading, Lisa Harrison, Jason Trimble, Tom Stock, Margaret Carpenter, Cathy Batchelor, Chantal Mccarthy (scribe), Murray Gifford, Thomas Matern (leader).

8 May 2010

Nikau Palm Gully

Eleven of us set out from Carlton Corner on this hesitant Saturday morning – it wasn't particularly gray, but it wasn't exactly sunny either. It could turn either way. On this occasion, the weather men got it right – we did have patches of rain. Not the intimidating kind of patches though, so they didn't get in the way of a brilliant day.

On arriving at Onuku car park, and having passed a succession of signs which all delivered one message (albeit in a variety of ways) – "Private land. Keep out. Closed", some began to doubt whether indeed we were destined to walk to Nikau Palm Gully that day. After a brief commotion at the otherwise sleepy Onuku Farm, we were allowed to proceed.

We followed a well formed and very accessible farm track gently uphill for a couple of hours, stopping every now and then to take in the views, admire the frolicking fantails and take our layers off and put them back on, depending on where we found ourselves in relation to the forementioned patches of rain.

Just as our body clocks struck lunch o'clock, we clambered down a steep path and a few flights of stairs to the gully, proceeding for another quarter of an hour or so through the amazing bush peppered here and there with beautiful nikau palms of differing age and size, some adorned with deliciously red berries. As the weather has by now declared itself on the sunny side, we lunched in a clearing at the end of the path, admiring the stunning view of the Akaroa Harbour and the wondrous clouds spilling along and across the hilltops. Easy Erik provided the lunchtime entertainment imparting his teachings on the unsuspecting newbies who are now enriched by the knowledge of what you absolutely must have in your first aid kit and which boots are absolutely the right ones to buy.

On the way back, we opted for a small detour along the Blue Walk track, making the overall trip just long enough to ensure no chit chat during the drive back to Christchurch as everyone contentedly snoozed in their seats (except, hopefully, the drivers).

Thank you to our leader, Mike, for a great day and to the drivers Roz and Eliza for getting us there and back safely.

Trampers: Mike Newlove (Leader), Easy Erik Norder, Eliza Hamilton, Doug Hueston, Harriet Runcie, Roz Beyers, Rose Columbus, Azean Wilson, Ray Begg, Sarah Day and Anna Gruczynska (scribe).

Classifieds

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

More about the CTC

Committee:

President	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	Club Captain	Jim Western	384-8950
Vice-president	Rex Vink	352-5329	Day-trip Organiser	Jenny Harlow	349-2280
Secretary	Cathy Harlow	349-2280	Weekend-trip Organiser	Thomas Matern	385-3507
Treasurer	Antony White	381-5993	Hut Convenor	David Watson	981-7929
Editor/Webmaster	Richard Lobb	351-2344	Gear Custodian	Bernhard Parawa	981-4931
Social convenor	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members Rep	Janet Spittlehouse	981-1944 or 02102 990410

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 Bernhard Parawa 981-4931. 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, 20 June 2010 – Thanks.