



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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

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

Vol. 80

May 2010

No. 1

## A Call to Arms

The government has released a discussion paper in which it proposes to remove the following areas from Schedule 4 protection against mining:

- The Inangahua Sector of Paparoa National Park
- The Te Ahumata Plateau of Great Barrier Island
- 3,038 hectares (in 7 pieces) of the Coromandel Peninsula.

### But it won't stop there!

The government also proposes to survey the mining potential of:

- Additional parts of Paparoa National Park
- The Tapuae-O-uenuku Complex near Kaikoura
- The Lyell, Rotoroa and Riwaka complexes in the Nelson/Murchison area
- Dun Mountain, east of Nelson
- Additional areas of the Coromandel.



Do you *really* believe that mining in these areas can be done without despoiling them? Just consider the impact of infrastructure like heavy-machinery approach roads alone.

In 1970 nearly 10% of New Zealanders signed the Save Manapouri petition. It made a difference: silence is not going to be taken to mean "I'm not sure" or "I'm too busy to think about this now". Silence is going to be taken to mean "OK, go dig a big hole in my national park". Now is the time again to stand up and be counted.

To find out how to voice your opinion see <http://www.2precious2mine.org.nz>

Exactly what you do isn't so important as that you do *something* to make your opinion known, even if it's just clicking a button to add your name to a petition. But

**you must speak out before 4 May 2010**

which is when submissions to the discussion paper close.

# Tramper of the Month: The Pest

<p><i>Place of Birth?</i></p>	<p>Apparently, I was hand-made in China by well-paid and contented factory workers who were definitely over the age of 10, but I have no recollection of my early life.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Me and Mt Cook</i></p>
<p><i>Date joined CTC?</i></p>	<p>Well, 'joined' is perhaps a little formal, but I have been tramping with the club since early 2004 and if I keep saving my pocket money I estimate I'll be able to pay up in about 2020.</p>	
<p><i>What was your first day trip?</i></p>	<p>That's a hard one to remember, but it could have been the amazing trip Scott Fowler led over Mt Olympus, Cheeseman, Izard, Cloudsley and Enys. Scott went to Antarctica shortly after that, but I don't think that that was because of anything I said about sporrans. You could be reincarnated more times than the Dalai Lama and not have a better day trip than that one, ever.</p>	
<p><i>Your first weekend trip?</i></p>	<p>Another extremely memorable experience: Uncle Bernhard's legendary Mt Owen 'cross-over' trip. The half of the party I was with crossed the snowy-covered plateau in near-zero visibility (honesty, plus the fact that others can flatly contradict me, forbids me to claim any credit for that feat) and the other half did not. Some logistical confusion resulted as the uncrossed-over vehicles were retrieved, Uncle Bernhard's car was memorably photographed en-fossé, and a wonderful time was had by all.</p>	
<p><i>How did you find out about the CTC?</i></p>	<p>It was hard not to know about it really when you live in the same house as another member – newsletters all over the place; sleeping bags, and polypro spilling out of every cupboard; people with very large boots appearing regularly; the washing machine choking on yet another load of tramping socks ...</p>	
<p><i>Who was the first CTC person you met?</i></p>	<p>Well, other than the other house inhabitants, I kind of met them in lumps rather than individually. Kerrie Maynard lived here for a bit so she was another formative influence – I still remember her pikelets. Richard Lobb thought I was a teddy bear, which was a faux-pas it naturally took some time for me to overlook, but my magnanimous nature won through in the end.</p>	
<p><i>What future trip are you most looking forward to?</i></p>	<p>I've still got a secret ambition to be the first hedgehog up Mt Cook. I have built-in spiky bits as well as my own crampons, and a good head for heights (being naturally low to the ground helps there), and I don't mind a bit of exposure (nobody in fact has ever accused me of modesty). However, my usual tramping companion is too lily-livered to even think about it so I'll have to wait until I find someone who can really appreciate my potential.</p>	
<p><i>Did you tramp before joining the CTC?</i></p>	<p>No, I guess I'm just a natural at it. Everyone else seems to end up sweaty and tired but right from the start I found it all really easy.</p>	
<p><i>Do you have any other interests?</i></p>	<p>Many, but I would like to take this opportunity to point out to DOC that eating birds eggs is not one of them. Nor native snails, lizards, or those vicious rubbery-tasting giant worms. I spend a lot of time reading and thinking, and</p>	

	planning future tramping trips. I do a bit of climbing, and I've been ice-climbing as well. I have also decided to learn to swim after a recent unfortunate incident involving the Dart River convinced me that it would be a useful accomplishment.
<i>Have you always lived in NZ?</i>	No - as I've said, I am an introduced species, but I have adapted well and feel very at home here.
<i>What is your occupation?</i>	Being unofficial club mascot is pretty demanding of course, and I do quite a lot of photographic modeling – I can be relied on for a happy smile no matter what the conditions. I also take my role as a representative for New Zealand tramping when I do overseas trips like trekking very seriously: people seem a bit surprised at my lack of resemblance to Ed Hillary at first, but I think I do a good job at conveying the diversity of our tramping community.
<i>Is there anything else you would like to tell the CTC about yourself?</i>	What is this? Psychotherapy? No, most people know me well anyway, and now that I've had a chance to set the record straight about the birds eggs I think I'll leave it at that.

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## Editorial

Did you know that New Zealand's reserves of argon are worth 130 trillion New Zealand dollars? This is a *fact*. I know, because I worked it out. The precise number, direct from my spreadsheet, is a mouth watering \$129,838,558,235,294. Any number with a dollar sign and that many digits has to be good for you, right? Just think how many Hong Kong shopping trips or cases of Veuve Cliquot that will buy you. [38,653,932,193 and 309,581,683,918 respectively.]

Of course, there are facts and there are useful facts and, before you all rush out and buy liquid air distillation plants, I must admit that my argon facts are a bit light in the usefulness department. However, they are every bit as good as the facts on New Zealand's mineral wealth promulgated by that well known outdoor adventurer and connoisseur of fine forests, Gerry Brownlee. He keeps telling us that a recent report estimates NZ's mineral potential has a gross in-ground value of more than \$140 billion. Personally, I think his number is pretty wimpy compared to my \$130 trillion for the gross in-atmosphere value of our argon, but ... hey, wait! Did I forget to mention that my \$130 trillion estimate was for the "gross in-atmosphere" value of our argon and has almost nothing to do with its actual economic value? Well, no problem, my mate Gerry doesn't usually bother to mention the "gross in-ground" bit with his numbers either.

\$140 billion has a nice, friendly, heart-warming feel to it. Never mind that it's a silly number, and that the actual amount landing in each of the average New Zealander's pockets will be a big fat zero. \$140 billion is just what the country needs. And if a bit of some national park that I never visit has to get dug up in pursuit of the fantasy, let's run with it, I say. I'm sure all the government's overseas mining friends, who are just itching to put our scenic terrain through a sieve to get at the odd valuable trace element, will be happy to run with it, too.

Richard Lobb  
27 April 2010

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# Notices

## News from the AGM of 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010:

### **Committee appointments for 2010/11 were**

<i>President:</i>	Warwick Dowling
<i>Senior Vice President:</i>	Rex Vink
<i>Junior Vice President:</i>	Malcolm Carr
<i>Secretary:</i>	Cathy Harlow
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Antony White
<i>Editor:</i>	Richard Lobb
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Jim Western
<i>Weekend Trip Organiser:</i>	Thomas Matern
<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Jenny Harlow
<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Lynda Watson
<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Alan Ross
<i>Club Patron:</i>	Rex Vink
<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Bernhard Parawa
<i>Other committee members:</i>	Janet Spittlehouse Bruce Cameron Adrian Busby Peter Mortlock Dave Watson

### **In addition:**

Greta Vink was appointed Honorary Auditor

**Hut Committee:** Steve Bruerton, Steve Berry, Ken Brown, Don Carnielo, Dayle Drummond, Rex Vink, Andrew Wrapson, Dave Jenkinson (Hut Convenor: Lynda Watson)

We wish to thank everyone who served on last year's Committee and especially those who are taking a well deserved break from Committee work this year – Steve Bruerton, Susan Pearson, Ken Brown, Andrew Turton and Adrian Sullivan.

**Help us!** We are looking for one more general committee member so please contact the Club Secretary ([secretary@ctc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@ctc.org.nz)) if you would like to get involved in helping to run the Club. No experience necessary!

**New Members Welcome:** We welcome five new members to the club this month: Caroline Salatzo, Renee Sonnenberg, Anna Gruczynska, Di Murray and Shane Clark. Please accept the club's warm welcome to you all.

**Left at club hut:** Two items were left at the club hut a week or two ago: A "Future, by Globe Trotter" bright green jacket and a black pair of size L over-trousers. If you know whose these are or you wish to claim them, please contact Dave or Lynda Watson on 981-7929 or email [David.Watson@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:David.Watson@cdhb.govt.nz).

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## External Events

**PTC Barn Dance:** The very popular Peninsula Tramping Club Barn Dance will be held in the South New Brighton Community Hall from 8pm to Midnight on Saturday 19th June, 2010. Dance the night away with The Incredible Ceilidh Band with caller Colin Forsyth. Tickets of \$30 include: all drinks, generous supper, called dances, spot prizes. Tickets usually sell out, so best to buy early - contact Alan Ross (ph 384-6425 or email [alan.d.ross@orica.com](mailto:alan.d.ross@orica.com)).

# 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.

Thursday 29 April.	Club Night
<b>Newsletter folding + Raoul Island.</b> 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.	

Saturday 1 May.	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045 warwick.dowling@clear.net.nz
<b>Hallelujah Flat.</b> 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.	Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 29 Apr Map: L33 Approx: \$25

Weekend 1-2 May.	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<b>Lucretia Tarn.</b> 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.	Grade: Easy Closes: 22 Apr Map: M31 Approx: \$35

<p>Sunday 2 May. (7.30 start - see trip description)</p>	<p>Leader: Sue Hely 337-5453</p>
<p><b>Packhorse, Herbert and Kaituna Valley.</b> 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 the 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>
<p>Thursday 6 May. <span style="float: right;">Club Night</span></p>	
<p><b>Trekking in remote Western Nepal.</b> 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>	
<p>Saturday 8 May.</p>	<p>Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360</p>
<p><b>Nikau Palm Gully.</b> Nikau Palm Gully is a little gem in the Akaroa Heads scenic zone with big cliffs, seabirds, palm trees and more. The gully is acclaimed as one of the best forest remnants in the province, with an amazing collection of huge nikau palms. Approximately 10km walking with some gently rolling hills, this is one of the few peninsula tramps that gets you out close to the steep headlands and bays with a good safe track all the way.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+ Closes: 6 May Map: N37 Approx: \$20</p>
<p>Weekend 8-9 May. <span style="float: right;">Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000 kenneth.brown@canterbury.ac.nz</span></p>	
<p><b>Mt Fyffe.</b> 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 bivvy bag and sleep out on the summit, it's a stunning place to wake up).</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closed: 29 Apr Map: O31 Approx: \$35</p>
<p>Sunday 9 May.</p>	<p>Leader: Antony White 021 0497 893 phoenixantony@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Hamilton Peak.</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 6 May Map: K34 Approx: \$25</p>

Thursday 13 May.		Club Night
<p><b>Retailer Bivouac gear display.</b> Bivouac will detail a selection of their latest gear. As well as this they are offering a deal of 20% off all recommended retail prices in store using the voucher supplied at the meeting (conditions apply).</p>		
Saturday 15 May.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
<p><b>John Browns Tomb.</b> This is a another in our Canterbury Coastline series, up near Nape Nape. John Browns Tomb (note, no apostrophe on the map) 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 13 May Map: N33 Approx: \$15</p>	
Weekend 15-16 May.		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz
<p><b>Basin Creek - Half Moon Saddle - Hanging Valley Ck - Avoca River.</b> 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 are plenty of hills and valleys to do as day trips.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 6 May Map: K34 Approx: \$35</p>	
Sunday 16 May.		Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981-1944
<p><b>Mt Richardson.</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 13 May Map: L34 Approx: \$20</p>	

Sunday 16 May.	Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 Bryce.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz
<b>Philistine.</b> 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 admiration of 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

Thursday 20 May.	Club Night
<b>Tramping shots with Susan Pearson.</b> Susan will take us through a potpourri of her favourite photos from club and non-club trips. She will include plenty of people so watch for yourself to appear on the screen.	

Saturday 22 May.	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com
<b>Mt Cotton.</b> Mt Cotton (1470m) is beautifully situated right on the edge of Lake Coleridge. Getting right to the top involves a bit more height-gain than on many easy-moderate trips (about 900m over 5k) but we'll have a nice steady and gradual ascent from the northwest, at the top end of the lake, mainly through tussock and then the final open ridge-line to the very top. Almost everything in this area has stunning views - rivers, lakes, snow-capped peaks ... and Mt Cotton is no exception. Give it a go and surprise yourself.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 20 May Map: K34 Approx: \$25

Weekend 22-23 May.	Leader: Leader Required
<b>Patutu.</b> A lookout hill on the coast north of Kaikoura, just south of the Clarence River. The trip will be based in Kaikoura with a social dinner on Saturday night.	Grade: Easy+ Closes: 13 May Map: P30 P31 O31 Approx:

Sunday 23 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 nor-wester. 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 ridge-top travel the whole way.

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 20 May  
Map: K35  
Approx: \$20

Thursday 27 May.

Club Night

**Newsletter folding.** After we fold up the newsletter we can have some social time.

Saturday 29 May.  
(Note, meet at the bus station - see trip details)

Leader: David Henson 942-3954 david-henson@paradise.net.nz

**Hills and history.** Meet at 8.45 am at platform D2, Colombo Street opposite Ballantynes to catch the 8.59 am bus to Sign of the Takahe. We'll start with a walk up through Victoria Park to Crater Rim Walkway then along the Crater Rim to near Lyttelton. Then we descend the Whaka Raupo 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!).

Grade: EasyMod  
Closes: 27 May  
Map: M35  
Approx: Bus fare, or free with senior Gold Card

Weekend 29-30 May.

Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507  
thomas\_matern@yahoo.co.nz

**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.

Grade: MTB  
Closes: 20 May  
Map: L32  
Approx: \$35

Sunday 30 May.		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000
<p><b>Ben More Horseshoe.</b> 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.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 May Map: K35 Approx: \$20</p>	
Thursday 3 June.		Club Night
<p><b>Movie night.</b> We will show a climbing related movie. Watch the next newsletter for the title.</p>		
Saturday 5 June.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
<p><b>Allendale to Teddington via Mansons Peninsula.</b> The Explore the Coast series continues with a trip to complement the Easter Bunny's Coastal hop to Lyttelton. This time we start at Allendale and proceed up onto Mansons Peninsula. We can have lunch on the very tip of the Peninsula before proceeding on to Teddington. The route may be reversed, who knows, but lunch will be in the same scenic spot enjoying the harbour views from a unique perspective.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 3 Jun Map: M36 Approx: \$15</p>	
Long Weekend 5-7 June.		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
<p><b>Buckland Peaks and beyond.</b> Plan is to head up just below Buckland Peaks on the first day. From then on you're at Bernhard's mercy! More details in the next newsletter.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 27 May Map: K29 Approx: \$45</p>	
Monday 7 June.		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<p><b>Redcliffe Hill.</b> 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?</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 3 Jun Map: K35 Approx: \$20</p>	

Saturday 12 June. 7.30am departure - see below	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453 doug@forster.net.nz
<b>Pinchgut Hut - Bobs bivvy circuit.</b> 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

Sunday 13 June.	Leader: Janet Spittlehouse 981-1944 jkspittlehouse@hotmail.com
<b>Mt Alford.</b> 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

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## Trip Reports

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18 March 2010

### Mt Sinclair

Of mice...There once was a trumper named Rodney. One day Rodney decided to go on a tramp with his great mates from the Christchurch Tramping Club. Since Rodney lived in Oxford he had arranged with the trip's illustrious leader Richard to meet at the bridge near Arundel. As he put his boots on immediately prior to getting into his car, he noticed that something did not feel quite right. It felt as if his sock had become bunched up around his toes inside the boot. Not wanting to be late, Rodney decided to start driving and to sort out the boot situation when he arrived. Off went Rodney on the long drive to Arundel, all the while with this strange sensation in his toes. Once he had arrived at the appointed spot, Rodney got out of the car and removed his boot. Strange. His sock was tight fitting over his toes and not at all bunched up. Rodney put his hand inside his boot and felt around. His finger brushed up against something soft and slightly squishy. Upturning his boot and giving it a good shake – out dropped a dead mouse – a generous gift from his family cat.

and men...Rodney and his great mates from the Christchurch Tramping club had completed their tramp near Mesopotamia station. They had two vehicles; Bernhard's trusty rusty and Warwick silver sedan. After thanking the cocky, both cars set off along the unsealed road bound

for Christchurch, with Bernhard in the lead and Warwick bring up the rear. After a short time I could feel my legs beginning to cramp and I asked Bernhard if we could pull over so I could get some water at a nearby river. We expected Warwick to pass us quite quickly, however after five minutes, Warwick's vehicle had failed to appear. We returned the way we had come to find Warwick's car on the side of the road, bonnet up, with the battery as flat as a pancake. The helpful cocky was jump starting the car and all seemed well. We headed off again but we only got a short distance before Warwick's car packed another sad. It was a wonderful opportunity for the men in the group to stand around an open bonnet and demonstrate the masculine art of automotive repair. A busted alternator was diagnosed. Luckily Bernhard is always prepared with a good collection of tools and a cunning plan was hatched. The batteries on the cars would be switched – the car with the bung alternator would get a fully charged battery and the car with the working alternator would get the flat battery, which it could then recharge. Unfortunately this plan hinged on the Warwick's car being able to jump start Bernhard's car. Which it was unable to do. Plan B was to recharge the battery in Warwick's car for about ten minutes to get it started, drive as far as we could until the battery failed, then repeat the procedure. We did this twice before finally grinding to a halt two kilometres short of Arundel. We made it back to Christchurch in Rodney's and Bernhard's car. Warwick's silver sedan is now at a crossroad near Arundel, patiently awaiting the AA or a bunch of vandals.

We also went on a tramp. We climbed to the top of Mt Sinclair and didn't see a thing the whole time because of the low cloud. This is despite our leader's insistence that it was going to clear at any moment. We returned along the same route, the clouds had lifted slightly and got a look at the tarn where we had lunch. Richard owes me one icecream.

Trampers – Richard Lobb (leader and eternal optimist), Bernhard Parawa, Warwick Dowling, Rodney Erickson, David , Dayle Drummond, Ruth Barratt, Stephen Hoare-Vance, Andrew Tromans (scribe)

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21 March 2010

## Mt Ida

12.6 km, 5 hours 45 minutes, ~1300 m height gain.



*Quasi-conical glaciatic lumps (with lakes)*

At just under 1700 m, Mt Ida is the tallest peak amongst the quasi-conical, glaciatic lumps between Lake Coleridge and the Craigieburn Range. In antiquity there were two Mt Idas, both associated with the mythology of Zeus. The Cretan Mt Ida (that island's highest summit, now called Psiloritis) is the site of the cave where Zeus' mum, Rhea, reared her boy in safety from

her child-devouring hubby, Kronos. Turkey's Mt Ida (now Kaz Dagi), is the peak from which (with lustful intent) Zeus carried the youthful Ganymede off to Olympus. I guess that our Mount Ida was named after the Turkish one; just a few kilometres to the northeast is Mt Olympus; and even closer, northwest across the Harper River, is Gargarus, which shares the name of the highest point on the Turkish mountain.

We left Christchurch on a warm north-westerly morning, but with ominous dark clouds spilling over the main divide. The breeze was warm and dry as we skirted around Little Mt Ida, but half an hour after leaving the cars we ran into enough drizzle to demand waterproof jackets. We stopped briefly at the rather desolate Lake Ida skating area and Bert Lyttle's (abandoned) Lodge, before starting to climb the south-eastern spur to Pt 1642 m. It's a fairly unrelenting ascent of nearly 1000 m, first through tussock, and then up a scree covered ridge studded with outcrops of sharp, shattered greywacke. We had drink and nibbles breaks where we could find shelter, under a solitary beech near 900 m and in the lee of a rock outcrop at about 1400 m. At times it seemed that the weather was clearing and Scott kept his sunglasses optimistically (but ultimately, forlornly) at hand.

Two hours after starting the climb we huddled for lunch on the eastern flank of Pt 1642 m. Short periods of sunshine and view were interspersed with longer ones of swirling mist and cold, big-drop, nor-west rain. 25 minutes later, René had lost his lunch (downhill and before he'd eaten it) and several of us were feeling the creeping cold. The beanies and gloves came out and we decided it was time to push on. At this point, René found the he had brought just one anti-shingle gaiter. Clive had a solution – and those of you who know Clive will be unsurprised to learn that it involved duct tape.

We dropped to a saddle, and then climbed 120 m up over the true summit and on to the southern ridge. Scott pointed out the descent route and then, like the jump captain of a parachute team, sent us on our way down the shingle. This scree is amongst the best around – deep and soft with a large component of fine, dark mudstone shards. Clive and Antony galloped ahead, with the rest of us following along more sedately. Those new to scree running rapidly gained confidence and the valley was soon filled with gleeful hoots with the odd bellow of “rock!” After squeezing through a gully (and triggering a harmlessly slow, but noisy, avalanche of chunkier rocks) we entered a lower slide that spilled down into the Idaburn valley, splitting the lake into two sections.

While the group re-gathered on the Lake Ida shoreline (and René tore duct tape from his ankle and boot), Clive and Antony set off on the 700 m swim (I subsequently measured it on Freshmap) back to the skating area. They made great time, taking just a little longer than those of us who lugged their packs around the northern edge of the lake.

Once the swimmers had dried off and put on warm tops, we marched briskly back to the cars. To the east the weather was substantially clearer and warmer, and we interrupted our return to Christchurch to enjoy the warm sunshine and a round of ginger beer in the gardens of the Hororata Pub.

Thanks to leader Kerrie and her able lieutenant, Scott – and also to the drivers, Scott and Antony.

Participants: Kerrie (leader), Scott, Clive, Rene, Janet, Jay, Antony, Dave and Bryce.

27 - 28 March 2010

## Kaikoura Base Camp



Well Friday morning I awoke to a text that said there were crayfish left at the house for us...not sure if they were cooked or not...later another text saying they were...WE WERE in for a GOOD weekend I could see...more so if the others did not like crayfish!!!!

The house I had booked at Kaikoura was excellent for singles as all the beds were just that..and it had a table tennis table and pool table and kayak...all of which got well used...we invented a net for the table tennis table of some of the lovely books in the library there .

It was an interesting weekend ...I think the tramp excited me more than the others. We all set off from Half Moon bay...my van was left at Okiwi bay...and from there there was a gradual climb up through the valley full to the intersection of two tracks...there some of us parted company...the easy walkers led by Andrew Wrapson going onto the Seaward valley to return by the same route and the others coming onto Okiwi bay with me.

After we parted, my group...Greg Hill ,Caroline Salazzo and David Cook...had a climb up to a ridge. After that there was a steady downhill to the valley with the Ohau stream and really dense forest for a short time...then a steady uphill climb up Jacobs ladder...where the clouds occluded any visions of angels ...the southerly struck and clouds rolled in in about 10 minutes it had gone from sticky hot to thermal gear on.

From Jacobs ladder another descent through ancient rimus and open land...a short climb and then down to Okiwi bay...then crayfish was on the menu for afternoon tea so the plan was back to Kaikoura after showing Caroline her first NZ seals along the coast.

Some of the group had to leave to get back for Saturday night events...Chantal McCarthy and Greg and 2 visitors so I loaded the kayak in my van and others followed down to the beach for water sports time....there were no brave swimmers though!!!!

After a shared tea on Saturday night we had a pleasant evening...not very active chatting and watching Dvds.

Sunday the weather was a bit drab so a table tennis tournament took place ...then a quick trip down town for coffee...clean up and home.

What a great group to go away with...they were Lisa Harrison, Tania Stevens, Caroline Salazzo, Chantal McCarthy, Greg Hill, Jason Trimble and his sons, David Cook, Andrew Wrapson and two friends of Jason's Ben and Lisa. And Liz Tanner (leader and scribe).

We missed our lovely bubbly Jan whose back was too sore to sit in a car to travel up...next time Jan.

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Easter 2010

## Arthurs Pass base camp

Well there was a slight change from Hinewai reserve...one reason being that us girls all wanted to go away and it did not really matter where and also the info centre at the pass had interesting events on...so Alice, Anglea, Karen and Liz headed up to the club hut on Friday...arriving at lunchtime to a good after noon...Liz thought to try Avalanche peak...the others opted for the Punchbowl falls...and all goals were achieved for Friday.

The next morning three of us headed up the Bealey valley walk...it is beautiful and back via the Bridal veil walk...to be joined at the club hut by Scott and Kerrie. There was a chapel service on that 1-2 members went to and then we all went to hear about the subantarctic islands at the info centre....which was packed with people.

Sunday the rain set in...so it was pack and back to Christchurch...great group, great company....great time...thanks all

Liz Tanner (leader and scribe), Alice Yung, Karen Garrick, Anglea Mc millan

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Easter 2010

## Wairau - Paske circuit



*Junction of Paske, Begley and Rainbow*



*Rainbow hut*

On this unofficial CTC trip, seven members left Christchurch in fine weather and drove up the Rainbow Road behind Hanmer Springs. After one hour on the passable gravel road we left the vehicles over Island Saddle. In hot conditions we walked up the Wairau Valley for several hours eventually climbing to an emerald tarn with suitable campsites. Some took a cooling swim while others did a reconnaissance of the ridge to the true left.

A fine day with wind dawned and we were away by 8:30am. Once on the ridge, those who had taken the scramble higher route were advised by the reconnaissance team that the route up the middle of the valley was the best. After a steep sidle around the east side of Mt. Dora we reached another ridge and dropped down a scree to a tributary of the Paske Creek. Without a track we followed it down to the Paske Hut on the river flats which was occupied by a couple from the Peninsula Tramping Club. Some mutual recognition went on and familiar names were noticed in the hut book. Down the Paske we continued - the latter part on the left side, to an open flat where it joined the Begley and the Rainbow Rivers. We spotted a track on the left side on the Rainbow gorge and followed it to where Stu spotted the Rainbow Hut amongst Willow trees.

The next day we bush-bashed up the Tanekaha creek – the right side is best, and located a spur with two rocky bulges to follow to Turk Ridge. After lunch and a sweat as we climbed in the cool rain, we gained the ridge at 2000 metres and dropped down the other side, south of Mount Weld. After negotiating a steep section we steadily progressed down the valley past a possible campsite to pylons, and crossing the Wairau River, we reached the vehicles in the Rainbow Road. We carried on to the Island Saddle Hut at 4:30pm where we spent the night, and cruised back to town the next day.

Participants: Stu Smith, Flo Roberts, Anthony White, Andrew Tromans, Dale Drummond and Stephen Hoare-Vance (scribe).

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## About the CTC

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.

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

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

### Rates for Gear Hire:

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

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Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by Sunday, 23 May 2010 – Thanks.