



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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Mt Somers Summit, July 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*.

News

New Members Welcome: We welcome two new members to the club this month: Yani Najman and Silvia Horniakova. Please accept the club's warm welcome to you all.

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 28 October.	Club Night
Newsletter folding night. As well as the folding of the newsletter we will have lots of verbal trip reports from all the Labour Weekend trips. Come and find out how they went.	

Saturday 30 October.	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com
The Grange. The Grange is an easy tramp over rolling farm country on the southern side of Ashley gorge. Starting from the homestead by the Ashley Gorge road, between Oxford and Ashley gorge we will ascend a ridge passing over pt 618 and pt 830, peaking at pt 884. Views of the country north of Mount Oxford across Oxford village, snow covered Eskhead and even into Ashley Gorge. To make a loop, we'll aim to descend into Knowles Gully from pt 836 onto a farm track and return via the airstrip. If transport can be organised we could continue south from pt836 south down the ridge to exit Gammons road at the back of Oxford.	Grade: Easy Closed: 28 Oct Map: L34 L35 Approx: \$20

Weekend 30-31 October.	Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686 atromans@gmail.com
Mt Haast. Mt Haast is the big skyline pyramid that catches your eye as you approach Springs Junction from Lewis Pass. We'll camp high by some tarns on Saturday, returning via the ridge above Rahu River Left Branch on Sunday.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 21 Oct Map: L31 Approx: \$40

Weekend 30-31 October.	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
Otehake Hot Pools. This is a classic club trip to some natural hot pools. Walk up via Lake Kaurapataka which is a lovely spot for lunch. Have a great soak in the pools with dinner by an open fire. Next day a leisurely walk out via the rivers or the same way back.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 21 Oct Map: K33 Approx: \$30

Sunday 31 October.	Leader: Liz Tanner 0211400531
Craigieburns or Bealey Spur. An easy+ trip either up to Helicopter Hill in the Craigieburns or Bealey Spur, depending on the weather and the group and the leader's inclinations on the day. 500 - 600m height gain depending on location.	Grade: Easy+ Closed: 28 Oct Map: K34 Approx: \$25

Sunday 31 October.	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz
Norma. A nice 1000m-odd climb to Norma, 1722m, in the Opera Range (Lewis Pass), with a surprisingly good track (not on the map) through most of the bush, then open tussock leading to a rocky ridge. If there is still snow around then ice axe and crampons (and the ability to use them) may well be required. Be one of the relatively few people to discover what a lovely tramp this is. We may do an early start - make sure your name's on the list or you have contacted the leader.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 28 Oct Map: M31 N32 Approx: \$30

Tuesday 2 November.	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
Get fit for tramping (and the Mt Somers Challenge...). Come with Warwick for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. No list - just turn up in the Mt Vernon car park at 6:00pm sharp. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve some good brisk climbing towards the summit road. Get fit for summer - and of course the Mt Somers Challenge in February: run it, tramp it, or just watch it - forget the Coast to Coast - this is the event to aim for!	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 28 Oct Map: Approx:

Thursday 4 November.	Club Night
Let's go to Japan with Nathan Watson (was Auction night in the last newsletter). After a year sipping sake, learning to fight like a samurai and mastering the art of chopsticks Nathan is back home for a brief stop before more overseas adventures. Come along and get an insight into Japanese culture and an untapped land of outdoor possibilities.	

Saturday 6 November. (Note meeting time and place)	Leader: David Henson 942-3954 david-henson@paradise.net.nz
Lyttelton to Cashmere via Whakaraupo Track and Crater Rim Walkway. Meet at 9 am at platform D2, Colombo Street opposite Ballantynes to catch the 9.12 am no. 28 bus to Lyttelton. From Lyttelton we ascend through the bluffs above the town on the Whakaraupo Track to meet the Crater Rim Walk. We follow along the summit of the Port Hills for some distance and aim for an early afternoon stop at the new Sign of the Kiwi and then walk down through Victoria Park to the Sign of the Takahe, where buses depart back to the city every half an hour (routes 10 and 14). All this for only the cost of a return bus fare (free if you have a senior gold card!).	Grade: Easy Closes: 4 Nov Map: M36 Approx: \$5

Sunday 7 November.		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000 kenneth.brown@canterbury.ac.nz
Ben More Horseshoe. 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 a bit over 1000m of climbing altogether, and about 17km of tramping through the beautiful golden tussock landscape.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 4 Nov Map: K35 Approx: \$20	
Sunday 7 November.		Leader: Liz Tanner 0211400531 lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au
Mt Herbert. A trip to Mt Herbert from Orton Bradley, over at Charteris Bay. There is a reasonable track most of the way up and the ascent is around 800m. Mt Herbert itself (919m) is the highest point on Banks Peninsula. Depending on the group, we may return via the Packhorse Hut or back the same way.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 4 Nov Map: M36 Approx: \$15	
Tuesday 9 November.		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
Get fit for tramping (and the Mt Somers Challenge...). Come with Warwick for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. No list - just turn up in the Mt Vernon car park at 6:00pm sharp. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve some good brisk climbing towards the summit road. Get fit for summer and the Mt Somers Challenge in February.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 4 Nov Map: Approx:	
Thursday 11 November.		Club Night
No club tonight. No club tonight, it's Show Weekend!		
Long Weekend 12-14 November.		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
Harper Pass. Retrace the pounamu gatherers and gold miners footsteps across the island. Thanks to the gold miners of 1864/65 there is a benched track over the pass, with easy river valley travel either side but it is still 20-25km each day. (The more direct Arthur's Pass route linked up in 1865). Hot pools as well. We'll leave town on Thursday night and there will be another destination if we don't have enough starters for a cross over trip.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 4 Nov Map: L32 L33 K33 Approx: \$45	

Long Weekend 12-14 November.		Leader: Liz Tanner 0211400531 lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au	
<p>Kaikoura - Haumuri Bluffs, Mt Fyffe. Join Liz for another Kaikoura Base camp. The sort-of plan is to do the Haumuri bluffs on the way up on Friday (weather permitting) and stay at a house at Puketa, 12 km south of Kaikoura (sleeps 6, we'll put up tents if there are too many people). Saturday and Sunday will depend on the group and what they want to do: perhaps the Spaniard Spur route to Mt Fyffe and an attempt at Mt Patutu. There is also an option to do a half day rafting down the Clarence. Cost is \$110 -- let Liz know ASAP if you're interested as she has booked and needs to confirm any others besides herself. BBQ Saturday night.</p>		Grade: Easy/All	Closes: 4 Nov
		Map: O32 O31	Approx: \$110

Saturday 13 November.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p>Mt Karetu. Mt Karetu (about 970m) is nice social tramp over open tops east from Okuku Pass to a tussock covered summit with views of the plains, Okuku headwaters and North Canterbury. There will be about 600-700m height gain but rumour has it that this is going to be a bit of a family outing, taking one of our newest additions to the tramping fraternity on her first tramp, so there will be a sensible relaxed pace and time to enjoy the day making it easier than your average Easy-Mod trip.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod-	Closes: 11 Nov
		Map: M34	Approx: \$20

Tuesday 16 November.		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
<p>Get fit for tramping (and the Mt Somers Challenge...). Come with Warwick for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. No list - just turn up in the Mt Vernon car park at 6:00pm sharp. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve some good brisk climbing towards the summit road. Get fit for summer and the Mt Somers Challenge in February.</p>		Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 11 Nov
		Map:	Approx:

Thursday 18 November.		Club Night	
<p>Auction Night (yes it really is this time) + verbal trip reports from Show weekend. OK so it has been postponed twice! This will have given you more time to find items to sell. The one we had a year or so ago went well so let's try again. Do you have any surplus gear that you no longer use and you would like to turn into cash? If you are a newer or perspective member this could be the chance to buy some gear on the cheap! If you do come along be sure to bring some cash so transactions can be finalised on the night. BRING IN THAT SURPLUS GEAR.</p>			

Saturday 20 November.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p>Panama Rock. The Josef Langer Trust has purchased a special area of land (49 ha) at the head of Le Bons Bay. It is called Panama Rock and includes a significant rocky outcrop overlooking an area of regenerating bush and streams. They are holding an Open Day today and Bruce has volunteered to coordinate transport etc for club members who are interested in going out and taking a look. The Trust are doing a guided walk and providing predator trapping information etc, and Bruce will make sure that the day adds up to a reasonable easy social day trip for those who want it while others can just enjoy the Open Day.</p>		Grade: Easy/All/Social Closes: 18 Nov Map: N36 Approx: \$15	
Saturday 20 November.		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
<p>Peak Hill. A second attempt to climb the Peak Hill (1240m) - Pat Barrett rates it 'unequivocally outstanding' as a viewpoint and a 'special place for mood and light' and he has surely seen a few of the best! There is good access via a well graded track up to a small saddle from where you can see into both the Rakaia and out over beautiful Lake Coleridge. From the saddle we'll continue up through the tussocks to the broad summit at 1240m, to give about 600m height gain altogether. A great trip at any time of year.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 18 Nov Map: K35 Approx: \$25	
Saturday 20 November.		Leader: Bruce James 332-3473	
<p>Torlesse. After a pleasant stroll up the pretty little Kowai river to the huts we start the real thing - up the long southwest spur of Torlesse the summit (1961m, about 1300m total height gain, with a few scrambly bits). Charles Torlesse, a surveyor for the Canterbury provincial government, was the first European to climb the slopes of the range around 1849. The first track over Porters Pass was made by a few keen men with picks and shovels 1858-9 - thinking how much hard work that was will make slogging up the last few hundred metres of the eponymous torlesse rock (aka weetbix) scree seem positively easy.</p>		Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 18 Nov Map: L34 Approx: \$25	
Weekend 20-21 November.		Leader: Antony White 381-5993 phoenixantony@gmail.com	
<p>Mingha - Deception. The classic Arthurs pass weekend trip. Come on this great trip and see one of the best parts of the National Park. Good hut (Goat pass) to stay in on Saturday night. Climbing up to Lake Mavis optional.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 11 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$30	

Tuesday 23 November.		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
<p>Get fit for tramping (and the Mt Somers Challenge...). Come with Warwick for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. No list - just turn up in the Mt Vernon car park at 6:00pm sharp. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve some good brisk climbing towards the summit road. Get fit for summer and the Mt Somers Challenge in February.</p>		Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 18 Nov Map: Approx:	
Thursday 25 November.		Club Night	
<p>Newsletter folding night. After stuffing the newsletters we will have some social time.</p>			
Saturday 27 November.		Leader: Antony White 381-5993 phoenixantony@gmail.com	
<p>Sudden Valley. Sudden Valley is the home of a lovely little river, Sudden Valley Stream, which provides a very good summer water-and-rock-hopping trip. After crossing the Hawdon River we start up the Stream itself - multiple crossings back and forth, scrambling round a few easy bouldery sections, passing lovely pools and splashing rapids, a few diversions into the bush . . . There is a short steep climb of a couple of hundred metres to negotiate the Barrier Falls gorge and then we descend again and soon afterwards emerge into the more open river flats and stunning scenery of upper valley with Mts Wilson and Scott above us. We head to the new Sudden Valley Biv for lunch and then travel back the same way.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 25 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$25	
Saturday 27 November. (Early start - contact leader.)		Leader: David Sutton 348 5998 davidsutton@clear.net.nz	
<p>Travers-Trovatore. Travers Peak (1724m) is just above the Lewis Pass Highway, accessed from the west via a nice bush track. From Travers we can descend a couple of hundred metres into a tarn basin, up the other side and onto Trovatore (1737m). From Trovatore we hope to head north-east along the ridge to pick up a nice descent into a stream. That takes us down to the Maruia and thus we can pick up the St James Walkway back to the Lewis Pass carpark. Height gain about 1300m+. If there is still snow, snow skills and ice axe and crampons are a must. Early start - contact leader.</p>		Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 25 Nov Map: M31 Approx: \$30	
Weekend 27-28 November.		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507	
<p>Edwards Hut, Taruahuna Pass. Arthur's Pass area. We usually spend Friday night at the club hut. Start early on Saturday and reach Edwards Hut around lunchtime. It's only about 7 km but the track does climb up and down past two gorges so it will take 3 to 5 hours to the hut. Side trip to Taruahuna Pass and see why Falling Mountain got its name.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$45	

Tuesday 30 November.		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
<p>Get fit for tramping (and the Mt Somers Challenge...). Come with Warwick for an hour's vigorous exercise in Mt Vernon Park. No list - just turn up in the Mt Vernon car park at 6:00pm sharp. We take different routes depending on how we feel on the evening, but they all involve some good brisk climbing towards the summit road. Get fit for summer and the Mt Somers Challenge in February.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 25 Nov Map: Approx:</p>	
Thursday 2 December.		Club Night	
<p>Annual BBQ * note venue change *. This year we are going to a much more central location (sorry Steve B.) It's Vernon Park at the end of Hillsbrough Tce St Martins. Aim to arrive after 6:30. BBQs will be arranged. Bring all you own food and liquid + any sports gear for Soccer or Cricket. I will on purpose not say anything about water pistols.</p>			
Saturday 4 December. (Meet 7am Church Corner.)		Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453 doug@forster.net.nz	
<p>Mt Barron. Mt Barron is a 1730m peak above Otira, about 1500m of ascent altogether, with some scrambly rocky (probably snow/rock) sections. We'll do this as a round trip - DOC are alleged to have done some track work up there which should make finding the return route a bit easier! Ice axe and crampons and the ability to use them essential. Early start 7 am at Church Corner. Note: This trip may change to Sunday if the weather is better then - please contact the leader to check.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 2 Dec Map: K33 Approx: \$30</p>	
Saturday 4 December.		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p>Pigeon Bay. Pigeon Bay is a cliff-top walkway on the Peninsula. It starts on the shore at Pigeon Bay Domain and then climbs up to a 4wd track which takes you out to Wakaroa Point (7-8k one-way). From here you can see the full sweep of headlands around from Christchurch to the Kaikouras. Return the same way. Pigeon Bay was settled before Christchurch was founded, by the Hay and Sinclair families. The Sinclairs gave their name to Mt Sinclair and driving down Pigeon Bay Road you pass the Hay Scenic Reserve - small, but - as Mark Pickering comments - notable for having one of the last stands of lowland podocarp forest left on the Peninsula.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 2 Dec Map: N36 Approx: \$20</p>	
Weekend 4-5 December.		Leader: Ken Brown 359-2000 kenneth.brown@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut. Climb up to Avalanche Peak before descending a long shingle scree into the Crow Valley. Meet the easy group for the night at the Crow hut before returning via the Waimak.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 Nov Map: K33 Approx: \$35</p>	

Weekend 4-5 December.		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006 andrewwrapson@yahoo.co.nz	
<p>Crow Valley - Crow Hut. Arthur's Pass area. The Crow Valley is one range west of Arthur's Pass village. Starting at Klondyke Corner, travel starts on the gravel riverbed, usually involving a river crossing or two (sometimes not at all if the river is low) but soon becomes grassy river flats. Some more river travel in the lower Crow and then pick up the track to the Crow hut. A short walk past the hut gives views of the south face of Mt Rolleston and the Crow glacier icefall. Meet the moderate group at the hut and walk out the same way on Sunday.</p>		Grade: Easy+	Closes: 25 Nov
		Map: K33	Approx: \$35
Sunday 5 December.		Leader: Joy Schroeder 351-4655	
<p>Kaituna, Packhorse Hut, maybe Mt Bradley. We'll go up to the Packhorse Hut from the pretty Kaituna Valley, just before Little River. It is about 600m height gain to the Hut on a good track. The Hut itself is a lovely old building of Halswell stone dating from 1914. It was formally called the Sign of the Packhorse and - like the Sign of Takehe, Sign of the Kiwi, etc - was originally built as a rest house for Harry Ell's proposed summit route from Christchurch to Akaroa. From the Hut, those that want to can go up Mt Bradley (855m).</p>		Grade: EasyMod	Closes: 2 Dec
		Map: M36	Approx: \$10
Thursday 9 December.		Club Night	
<p>Come along and learn about walking in the UK + some risk management advice? Below is some of the email from Audrey Watson. I plan for her to do a talk for us. "I work for the Ramblers, the biggest walking charity in the UK as a Led walks officer. I am responsible for advising our 500+ groups on recruiting and training volunteer walk leaders and generally advising and supporting our 28000 Led Walks each year on all aspects including risk management and training. "I recently won a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to travel to NZ in November/December to compare how walking/tramping groups operate and are organised in NZ as compared with the UK."</p>			
Saturday 11 December.		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
<p>Flock Hill Escarpment. Come and explore the amazing rocky escarpment where the first of the Chronicles of Narnia was filmed. We'll start from Cave Stream, walk up to the escarpment and wander around through the tangle of rock formations. Approx 300m height gain overall, mostly untracked in tussocky terrain, about 10km. Entrance through a wardrobe is entirely optional.</p>		Grade: Easy	Closes: 9 Dec
		Map: K34	Approx: \$25
Weekend 11-12 December.		Leader: Gareth Gilbert 981-1737 gilbert.gareth@gmail.com	
<p>Lucretia Hut. Gareth wants to have a look at what he missed during the Lucretia Tarns trip this year. The plan is to walk up the Nina River and the Lucretia Stream to the very basic Lucretia Hut, drop the packs and head further up the valley towards Lucretia Tarns. Spend the night camping next to the Hut and head home on Sunday.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod	Closes: 2 Dec
		Map: M31	Approx: \$30

Weekend 11-12 December.

Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz

Mt Sibbald. General idea is to drive in to Red Stag Hut then wander up to a high camp on Sat, climb Sunday morning and cruise on home. Alpinists who don't like carrying gear up hills and want to do a "one day rush" may also be considered. Trip weather dependant.

Grade: Hard/Climbing
Closes: 2 Dec
Map: I36
Approx: \$50

Sunday 12 December.

Leader: Kerrie Maynard & Scott Fowler 386-2850

Mt Ida. Mt Ida (1695m) is a good moderate trip up the Harper Road in the lovely Lake Coleridge area. It is not too long and with about 1100m height gain, might be a nice option for fit easy-moderate trampers stepping up to moderate trips. As an added attraction, there's a wonderful scree-run down and an opportunity for a swim at the bottom if it's a hot day. In pre-Greek myth, Ida is associated with the Mother Goddess. In CTC myth, Ida was the location of the famous vacuum cleaner trip (see what is possibly the shortest and most laconic trip report ever, November 24, 1996).

Grade: Moderate
Closes: 9 Dec
Map: K34
Approx: \$30

Trip Reports

5-8 August 2010

Welcome Flat



One of many swingbridges



Dinner

Our trip started on Thursday evening at 6pm with most of us (the ones not lucky enough to be picked up on the way) heading / rushing to the Shell station to organise cars to our first major stop at Hokitika. "Minimal toilet stops" was the plan so we could make it there before midnight. (a not-so-subtle hint to the females on board!)

We were heading to Lake Mapourika, 120km from Hokitika where we were camping the night in tents before driving to the start of the track 26 km south of Fox Glacier.

It was a welcome sight to see the Hokitika BP station, with everyone having a nice stretch and

some comfort food, while we chatted standing in the very refreshing almost-midnight air.

We arrived at the lake and everyone quietly got to work, adorned with head torches putting up their tents. We couldn't resist a quick peek at the beautiful moonlit lake just before retiring for a cold night huddled in our sleeping bags. This is where I have to admit I didn't sleep on the hard ground with the others, but instead in Antony's (warm) car as it was too late to blow up my luxurious airbed that I had with me!

After packing up the next morning in the rain, we made our way to Fox Glacier for a last-minute food / toilet stop and to fill in the Intentions book at Doc. Jonathan discovered some fancy toilets that he insisted we try out. There is an automatic soap dispenser, water, hand dryer and toilet that flushes all in succession. Not to mention the friendly voice that tells you when you enter you have ten minutes maximum use time before the door opens! Even though you know you have ten minutes you can't help feeling a little nervous!

We drove over to Doc and while we waited for Thomas and his carload we had a browse in the shop there and played with the native bird soft toys (not just the girls either) squeezing their tummies to hear the realistic sounds they made. We were wondering what was taking Thomas so long. Someone made a bright suggestion that perhaps he had already been and gone. Sure enough, the intentions book had long been filled out and he was nowhere in sight, presumably already driving to our starting point. Whoops!

The walk started with crossing Rough Creek, which going by its name and what had been said about it might be an adventure in itself. However, we were lucky enough to barely get our ankles wet if we ran fast enough.

The track started immediately through the forest on the other side of the river. It's an easy and well-marked track, mostly walking through beautiful rainforest. We encountered a little bit of rain here and there through the trees, but not too many 'layer stops'. We followed the Karangarua River for about two hours before it turned into the Copland Valley. The spectacular surrounding snowy peaks and icy-blue river made for some amazing photo stops.

We crossed some well-placed streams, small but gushing enough to replenish our water bottles with lovely, fresh mountain water.

After about two more hours we made it to the small (no exaggeration) McKenzie Hut, with an out-house close by. Perfect for a well-earned lunch stop. Apparently according to the Map Readers we were more than half way. (were they just trying to make us feel better?) Some of us "getting-slightly-tired"-types decided to count down the swing bridges to go....the anticipation of the hot water was getting the better of us!

After another couple of hours and some up and down zig-zagging along the active landslide for about 500m, bordered by the hugest boulders some of us had ever seen, we commenced the final half hour or so climb to our destination (why they had to save the uphill for right at the end nobody knows!) And there it was in all of its glory, through the clearing...the much anticipated Welcome Flat Hut.....bring on the hot pools !! Thanks to Jonathan's "possum poo" (aka chocolate peanuts) for that last burst of energy we may not have made it..

On arrival at the hut, we were welcomed with a cosy fire before we dashed off to the hot pools for a glorious relax and soak after seven hours tramping. There were three very large pools to choose from, a couple of them shallow, and one even more perfect than a bath...all with soft, green mud at the base and the option of diverting hot water to heat up or cool down. The surrounding mountains were stunning, and night time was amazing, especially when the clouds left us under the stars. A few memories from the weekend... Thomas our Swamp Dweller, complete with his rock pillow (and how many packets of tim tams ?!) took out the award for the most time spent in the hot pools. Great leader and even shared his Tim Tams, but you had to be quick. Thanks Thomas! Cathy and Caroline blew us away with their gourmet food. Yani and I

had a competition to see who's pasta was the most bland...Cathy in the end took pity on both of us and shared some of her food with us. What about the two humans we encountered the first night in the pools...we think in their natural form, seemingly getting to know each other (we thought surely they were on first name basis after the seven hour tramp in, but not sure..). Anyway, a memorable first date I am sure. Brian enjoyed a lovely sleep listening to his I-Pod, while some of us had free entertainment and were very much not sleeping!! I was lucky enough to learn some new swear words from the German tourist who didn't appreciate me rustling my pack-lining rubbish bags quite early in the morning. So that's what Antony meant when he said rubbish bags are not popular amongst fellow hut-dwellers! We had a laugh on the way home when the boys figured the best time to learn to put chains on their cars was actually in the snow, when your hands are too frozen to even read the instructions! However with some moral support and the odd warm hat they managed to be complete heros and deliver us through the icy conditions to safety. It was a memorable weekend with a great bunch of people (and lets not forget Tigger, of course, Cathy) It's a great place to stay for a couple of nights, so you can do some exploring during the second day up the valley from the hut. Especially with the promise of hot water on your return.

People: Thomas Matern (Leader), Sheree Hann (scribe), Brian Dougan, Cathy Batchelor, Jonathan Carr, Yani Najman, Antony White, Caroline Solazzo

2-3 October 2010

Awesome Akaroa weekend



Lunch at Nikau Palm Gully



Large totara, Hinewai Reserve

Friday night I arrived to the house to myself.....the first impression was ...what a great deck...what a great view....who wants to go tramping...listen to those birds...this is soooo peaceful....then I prepared for the next night.

The others had a later start Saturday meeting at the Shell station and other venues.about 9am.and by 11am ish 14 of us started out to the Nikau palm gully...thinking the lost two were having an extra romantic moment...when Lisa phoned saying they had arrived a bit late and where were we...so they opted to go boating....

It was the most perfect day...and after a warning to be careful in case there were new born lambs we got to the gully about 1pm for a lunch break...a few losing the trail through the last bit of bush.It was abit difficult leaving such a beautiful place but we thought of afternoon tea and managed to get back to the vehicles before 4pm.....then it was afternoon tea at the house for 16

people....Paul had kindly made Anzac biscuits with choc chips in them. Clare produced two cakes of chocolate.

Elena and her car returned to Christchurch and Caroline's car load stayed to have tea with the overnighers.

Next morning I was impressed that everyone was up by 8am to head off to the Hinewai reserve...where we seemed to do the waterfall circuit...Paul was working that afternoon and had to leave by midday so it was back to the house...farewell to half of the group and 4 of us enjoyed the sun...the deck and another boating outing.

What an enjoyable weekend

Liz Tanner...leader and scribe...Elena and Dimetrie from Russia, Caroline Solazzo, Alix Allard, Marie Masson France, Latesha...Kiwi, Lindsay, Scotland, Jason Trimble and Lisa Haarrison, Angela McMillan, Karen Garrick, Paul Focamp, Geoffrey, Milanda Lin...China, Clare Jacob England.

Thanks so much to the drivers who did such a great job at getting all their passengers there...and to all the lovely chatty group...do come on other trips we love to have you.

3rd October 2010

Mt Lyndon / Red Hill circuit



View northwest from Mt Lyndon



Heading along the ridge to Red Hill

I am told that Red Hill is a back up for severe Norwest weather days and that it is often very difficult to stand on the summit, never mind see any views. Well not on Sunday. Unlike many of the party of 10 I have never been up Red Hill so it was particularly sweet to have such fantastic weather with clear skies and minimal breeze. Richard's trip started and ended at the outdoor lodge at the far end of Lake Lyndon and ascended Mount Lyndon before traversing the tops around to Red Hill. The views were stunning – we even spotted Mount Cook in the far distance.

Ellie and Silvia were two new members who got a taster of some snow skills - not strictly required on this trip but worth having a go. They also got introduced to a scree run which was not the nicest of scree but Ellie seemed to enjoy herself. Maybe not so enjoyable was our regular exposure to Alan's torso as he insisted on flaunting his well toned 12 pack!

Thanks Richard for a great trip with good company and perfect conditions.

Trampers: Scott Fowler, Kerrie Maynard, David Sutton, Elly Haycox, Jenny Harlow, Silvia Horniakova, Alan Ross, Klemens Stampfli, Richard Lobb (leader), Ruth Barratt (scribe).

9 October 2010

Not Mt Catherine, not even Mt Somers



Looking down on Woolshed Creek Hut



The parties meet in snow near the saddle

"Mt Catherine" said the newsletter. "Yuck", said Richard, eyeing the weather forecast -- "How about Mt Somers instead?". So 10 of us arrived at Sharplin Falls and stood in the rain, looking into the clag where Mt Somers ought to be. "Yuck" said arch-wimp Richard again. "Who's for the Mt Somers walkway instead?" Only Matt seemed at all crestfallen at the lost opportunity to climb something so, with a crossover trip as the goal, five of us piled back into Jonathan's minibus and drove round to the Woolshed Creek carpark while the other five set off towards Pinnacles Hut.

We in the West-to-East party were agreeably surprised to have only a bit of drizzle during our 90 minute tromp into Woolshed Creek hut, where we stopped for lunch. It was thoroughly pleasant tramping and the tussock and rock above the bushline seemed a veritable blaze of colour under the greyness of the sky. The West-to-East party, however, wasn't so lucky with the weather and had a two hour slog through the bush in steady rain before reaching the warm refuge of Pinnacles Hut, pre-heated by a resident party of rock climbers.

With the wind swinging to the South, temperatures were dropping and it was snowing steadily by the time the two parties met near the saddle, stopping to exchange pleasantries and car keys and to share their enjoyment of the winter-like landscape. The snow eased soon after that and within an hour or so the sky was clearing. Both parties exited in the sunshine.

The walkway offers a wonderful range of terrain: bush, rivers, gorges, alpine tussock and magnificent rock structures from the sharp pinnacles to fascinatingly textured volcanic cliffs. Even in marginal weather conditions it's a pleasure to walk.

West-to-East Trampers: Jonathan Carr, Silvia Horniakova, Klemens Stampfli, Bernhard Parawa, Richard Lobb (leader, wimp and scribe). East-to-West Trampers: Ruth Barratt, Steffan Rolfe, Matt Gunn, Kieran McGuigan, Denise Stroud

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	Jim Western	384-8950
Social convenor	Alan Ross	384-6425	New Members Rep	Janet Spittlehouse	981-1944

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

Equipment Hire: The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Jim Western 384-8950. 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, 21 November 2010 – Thanks.