



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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

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Mt Binser in the morning sun

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 the last page.

News

New Members Welcome: We welcome Moss Hosseinzadeh to the club this month. Please accept the club's warm welcome to you.

Tramper of the Month: Charles Afford

<i>What's your occupation?</i>	I'm the lead engineer with Solid Energy on their lignite briquetting project	
<i>When did you join the CTC?</i>	Mid 2010	
<i>Did you tramp before joining the CTC?</i>	Not officially, but I hunted a bit and always enjoyed bush-bashing so that helped.	
<i>How did you find out about the CTC?</i>	When I moved to Christchurch from Whangarei I just typed the 'Christchurch Tramping Club' into Google and bang, there it was.	
<i>Who was the first CTC person you met?</i>	Antony White.	
<i>What was your first day trip?</i>	Mt Oxford with Ken Brown and Kees De Jager. It was a great trip, howling gale as usual but no rain. And the Kees-pace suited me so I decided this was going to be a pretty good club.	
<i>Your first weekend trip?</i>	Snow caving with Ants. Remains the best trip I've done so far.	<i>Mt Somers Challenge: official winner</i>
<i>What are your favourite tramps?</i>	Day tramp: Mt Somers Longer tramp: The Adelaide Tarn hut walk.	
<i>Your favourite hut?</i>	Lonely Lakes hut, in the Kahurangi National Park.	
<i>What's your most embarrassing tramping memory?</i>	Going tramping after a few weeks of the travelling lifestyle and being the slowest and most unfit person in the party.	
<i>How much training did you do to achieve the impressive time of 3hrs 44 mins for this year's Mt Somers Challenge?</i>	Not too much 'formal' training really. I ran 5 or 6 days a week and made sure at least 2 or 3 of them were over 2 hours up in the port hills. I was aiming for the Buller Marathon 2 weeks after Mt Somers so I used Mt Somers as a bit of a practice run. As it turned out the marathon was only 3hr 14 mins and felt about 3 times easier than Mt Somers!	
<i>Do you have any other interests outside tramping?</i>	Too many. Work is by far my biggest one, and even that has to compete with mountain biking, road cycling, running, electronics, hunting, shooting, socializing, 4x4'ing, unicycling, building contraptions in the garage, the list goes on. If it involves being outside, some kind of endurance, some kind of mental challenge or something mechanical then I'm usually keen!	
<i>We haven't seen you out in the hills so much lately. You're not giving up tramping, we hope?</i>	Nope, certainly not. Unfortunately in my other life I'm an engineer on a coal mining project that involves a fair bit of travelling, so lately I've been struggling to find free weekends in Christchurch.	

Calendar of trips and Social Events

Trips: Unless otherwise stated, club trips depart either from Shell Carlton Corner Service Station at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street) or from Caltex Russley on the corner of Russley Road and Yaldhurst Rd. If the departure point is not specified in the trip schedule, you may assume it's Shell Carlton. Day trips usually depart at 8am on Saturday or Sunday. Weekend trips may leave on either Friday evening or Saturday morning.

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>Long Weekend 29-31 July Friday evening plus full weekend Departure point: Shell Papanui</p>	<p>Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001</p>
<p>Basic 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. Participants must attend the Friday night at the club hut, and will need 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 Moderate. Based at the club hut so normal hut fees apply. As with all CTC training this course is open to full club members and registered prospective members who have paid the appropriate membership fee.</p> <p>Participants will need in addition to the items stated above, full waterproofs, sun glasses/ski goggles and plenty of winter clothing particularly gloves and/or mittens.</p> <p>The course is limited to 14 participants and the course runs full every year with a waiting list so if you wish to attend, get your name down straight away. Depart 7.00pm prompt from Carlton Shell station.</p>	<p>Grade: Training Closes: 21 Jul Map: BV20 Approx: \$60</p>

Weekend 30-31 July Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Chantal McCarthy 360 3752 chantal.mccarthy@amcor.com	
<p>Casey Binser Track: A really good standard Arthur's Pass trip, suitable for beginner overnight trampers who however must be capable of carrying a pack for 6/7 hours each day. This is very pleasant country and Hallelujah Flat which is passed on day 1 is a delightful place for lunch. The Casey Hut is big and comfortable for Saturday night and Sunday sees a pleasant wander down the river flats before a climb up through the bush to the Binser Saddle and finally down to the road for (almost) a complete round trip.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 21 Jul Map: BV21 Approx: \$35</p>	
<p>Saturday, 30 July. STOP PRESS: Now Sunday 31st July</p>		Leader: David Sutton 348 5998	
<p>Sudden Valley - and gain Western Ridgeline: An adventurous moderate trip with all the prerequisites for a classic CTC tramp - wet feet (you start by crossing the Hawdon), a little scrambling around the top, and a bit of scree or bush-bashing. We will go up the Sudden Valley and then scramble up on to the ridge on the Bealey River side, opposite The Pyramid. Once out of the bush and onto the rocky ridge you'll have a commanding view of Waimakariri Basin and surrounding peaks. Note 7 am start Church Corner - contact leader.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 28 Jul Map: BV20 Approx: \$25</p>	
Sunday, 31 July		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931	
<p>Mt Cloudsley / Enys: 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. 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: ice axe and crampons (and the ability to use them) will probably be required. Note - there could be an early start - contact leader.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard (requires snow skills) Closes: 28 Jul Map: BW20 Approx: \$20</p>	
Sunday 31 July Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Lewis Tops: This trip starts at Lewis Pass and climbs 600m to open tops with tarn basins (probably snow-filled) and great views. This trip would be excellent for those who want to get up into snow-covered but unintimidating tops. Ice axe and crampons may be required but if you haven't used these before, talk to the leader anyway.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 28 Jul Map: BT23 Approx: \$35</p>	

Thursday 4 August	Club Night
Movie Night 'Everest': This is a movie made by an IMAX team in 1996 as they summited just after the deadly storm that killed 9 people.	
Weekend 6-7 August Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Antony White 381-5993 phoenixantony@gmail.com
Snow Caving: Having done the snow-craft course with Adrian, it would be good to actually spend the night in a snowcave. Not sure where exactly, it will be somewhere not too far from Christchurch, probably in the Craigieburns. However, this trip is obviously dependent upon snow conditions and weather. We will allow several hours to make a decent cave, depending on numbers, and then sleep the night in it. That's the plan, so if anyone is up for cold-star accommodation for Saturday night (where else would you be?), and have done a basic snow-craft course that involved building a rudimentary snowcave, then join up!	Grade: Moderate (requires snowskills) Closes: 28 Jul Map: tbd Approx: \$TBA
Saturday 6 August Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Mt Oxford: Question: why is it always a southerly on Mt Oxford? Answer: because we always go there when the forecast for wherever we wanted to go originally is truly awful. This gives Mt Oxford rather a bit of a tough task, so today we'll make it our first option. Lovely beech forest, open tussock tops, about 1000m of height gain, probably snow, a convenient stone-wall shelter to cower behind for lunch at the top, and - if it is a good day - the possibility of a westward trek across the tops and a loop back... what more could you want?	Grade: Moderate Closes: 4 Aug Map: BW22 Approx: \$20
Saturday 6 August Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Rakaia Gorge: Rakaia Gorge Walkway is a nice easy trip, mainly following the cliffs above the gorge, and giving great views of the gorge and surrounding landscape. 'The scenic attractions of the walkway are outstanding. A number of viewpoints along the clifftop afford dramatic perspectives of the mighty blue Rakaia River as it swirls past the steep bluffs, broad shingle banks and patterned farm terraces . . .' (Pat Barrett). The walkway itself (5k each way) starts in farmland but then enters areas of regenerating native bush, passes the disused Snowdon Coalmine, and ends in a good viewpoint. There is also the option - perhaps for the return trip - of a short loop which takes you down to the Rakaia itself.	Grade: Easy Closes: 4 Aug Map: BX20 Approx: \$20

Weekend 6-7 August	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz
Arthurs Pass Alpine Sports Weekend: A sporting weekend based at the club hut. Options (depending on snow cover / ice formation): ski tour around the top bowls at Temple Basin, ice climbing on the bottom gullies of Phipps Peak - Otira Valley or some rumoured ice in Graham Stream, or we may sit at the store, eat pies and drink coffee all day - just depends.	Grade: Ski Tour / Climbing Closes: 28 Jul Map: BV20 Approx: \$50
Thursday 11 August	Club Night
Tramping with Bernhard by Bryce Williamson: Bernhard's weekend tramps are among the most popular in the club, in part perhaps because you're never quite sure what you are in for. Bryce will describe two of Bernhard's trips: one recent and one from a few years back; one in an area completely divorced from the intended trip the other which reached its intended goal; one fairly uneventful, the other full of adventure.	
Weekend 13-14 August Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz
Arthurs Pass Base Camp: A weekend based at the Club Hut in Arthurs Pass, with an opportunity to explore the many grades of tracks in the area. The leader is open to whatever tramps people would like to do. Pot luck meal on Saturday night.	Grade: Easy/All Closes: 4 Aug Map: BV20 Approx: \$35 + hut fees
Saturday 13 August	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com
Mt Bruce: This easy tramp lets you practice snow skills in Leader Bruce's best Mt Bruce style.: Normally rated 'easy moderate', this tramp will be at an 'easy +' pace. Starting at Cora Lynn (600+m), we climb through beech forest to a snow covered ridge leading up to Mt Bruce itself (1630m - a kilometre straight up!). Great views surround the top. Descending to Lagoon saddle, we return via the lower flats and circle back to the bush track and cars whence we'll return to Christchurch. By prior arrangement you could join Uncle Bernard's party staying at the club hut, a few K's up the road at Arthur's Pass for an extended Weekend. Bring an Iceaxe and crampons. (Rentable from the club).	Grade: Easy/Mod (Requires Snow Skills) Closes: 11 Aug Map: BV20 Approx: \$25

Sunday 14 August Departure point: Shell Papanui (Early start)	Leader: Ruth Gray 374-4276 ruthterina@yahoo.co.nz
Mt Catherine: Mt Catherine is a superb peak overlooking Lake Heron in the Clent Hills area. We'll access via a 4WD road and cross the flats then ascend the south west ridge - about 1000m sustained climb, some of it fairly steep, tussock at first and then rock - to get to the commanding summit of Mt Catherine (2085m). Check out the views of the Arrowsmiths in the distance and plan your next adventure! Given sufficient enthusiasm from the group and the leader we may make a loop by descending the rocky slopes to the south over 2045, 2039 etc. Mostly red sandstone, it's bare, open and starkly beautiful - a good achievement for a moderate trumper who is happy with a bit of scrambling and a 24 km day (estimated up to around 9 hours). Ice axe and crampons probably required. Early 7am start at Shell (Papanui Rd)	Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 11 Aug Map: BW19 Approx: \$35

Thursday 18 August	Club Night
30 years of tramping with John Henson: John will take us on a journey of his tramping career in the South Island. He will also include some of his more recent recreational pursuits. Come along as you may be in some of the shots (and some others may have had hair back then!).	

Long Weekend 19-21 August Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
Welcome Flat Hot Pools: Enjoy a long weekend at/in the best hot pools the South Island has to offer. We will leave on Thursday afternoon and drive all the way to a DOC camp ground at Lake Mapourika just north of Franz Josef. After having a good breakfast in Franz Josef the next morning we will follow a great track to the pools. Since this is not a long weekend we will most likely be alone there for the first night. On Saturday there are options to venture up the valley or to relax in the pools. On Sunday we will walk back to the cars and return to Christchurch before midnight. If that long walk is too boring for you then you can join Antony and run all the way to the hut. Trip cost of \$110 includes transport, hut tickets and camp ground fees.	Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 11 Aug Map: BX14 BX15 Approx: \$110

Saturday, 20 August	Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111
Mt Rolleston: When you look up 'Mt Rolleston' in Freshmap, it gives it the category 'hill', which seems a bit understated for something 2275m high. Note that this needs snow skills, appropriate experience, ice axe and crampons. We will be leaving on Friday night and staying at the club hut, unless there's sufficient interest in leaving Christchurch at 5am on the Saturday.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 18 Aug Map: BV20 Approx: \$25

Saturday 20 August		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p>Greta Valley Exploration: Views over Scargill, Greta Valley from the tops that are often seen as you whiz by on sh1 remaining unexplored by the CTC....Till now! An easy ridge trip across rolling farmland to the trig (A99V) at pt.424. Then off round the Greta Valley Walkway and back to rehydrate by a nice woodburner with the locals.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Aug Map: BV26 Approx: \$25	
Sunday 21 August		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 Bryce.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Mt Temple: We start on the very friendly zig-zag path up to the Temple Basin Ski area. Above ski club huts, the climb is a bit steeper, leading to the final scree up to Temple Col (1774m) and the ridge between Phipps and Blimit. From the Col we start the final rocky scramble up to Mt Temple itself (1913m, a bit over 1000m up from the highway). From the summit you can have a look at all the wonderful weekend tramping opportunities on the other side . . . If this does not get you inspired, nothing will.</p>		Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 18 Aug Map: BV20 Approx: \$25	
Thursday 25 August		Club Night	
<p>Newsletter folding night: After we have folded the newsletters we will have some social time.</p>			
Saturday 27 August		Leader: Chantal McCarthy 360 3752	
Departure point: Shell Papanui			
<p>Rabbit Hill: Rabbit Hill (1198m) is a nice little bump in the Porters Pass area. We'll be going up from the road in the Porters Pass area and trotting along the tops to Rabbit Hill itself. Return options include a car shuffle and descending to the Lake Lyndon road. Approx 500m height gain overall and about 11 km (partly tracked, part tussock hillside)</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 25 Aug Map: K35 Approx: \$15	

Sunday 28 August Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Big Mt Peel: Peel Forest is a remnant of a magnificent podocarp forest that once covered a huge area in mid-Canterbury and, with its mild moist climate, has the highest diversity of ferns in New Zealand. This tramp will take us right into this wonderful area, ascending through the vegetation layers out onto the tussock slopes of Mt Peel. First Little Mt Peel (1310m, 900m+ height gain), then a bit over 4k to Middle Mt Peel (1583m) and a further 2-3k to Big Mt Peel itself (1743m, about 1400m height gain from the cars). As you'd expect, the tussock tops offer panoramic views out over this lovely area. Note: there could be an early start - make sure you contact the leader - and be prepared for a long but rewarding day. Ice Axe and Crampons required.	Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closes: 25 Aug Map: J37 Approx: \$25

Thursday 1 September	Club Night
New Zealand Walking Access Commission: CEO Mark Neeson will be on hand to talk about the Commission's work, its new Walking Access Mapping System and its goals for the coming year. Mark was a club member in the 1970s/early 80s.	

Weekend 3-4 September Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
Croesus Top Hut: A great family trip in the Paparoa Range. A good track with a steady climb to the hut and plenty of time to have a look at historic mines or to climb Croesus Knob for a great view towards the coast.	Grade: Easy Closes: 25 Aug Map: BT19 BT20 Approx: \$45

Weekend 10-11 September Leaving Saturday morning 7:30. Departure point: Caltex Russley	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz
Edwards Hut - Mt Scott - Mt Wilson: The trip will follow the river / track to Edwards Hut, approx 5hrs tramping. Depending on snow conditions and available time we may have a look at Mt Wilson and Mt Scott that afternoon and/or on Sun morning. Options to stop at the hut or walk on up the valley. Ice axe and crampons if you want to go above the valley floor.	Grade: Moderate with Climbing Options Closes: 1 Sep Map: BV20 BV21 Approx: \$40

Sunday 11 September Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Richard Kimberley ph 326-6158	
<p>Avalanche Peak: We'll be going up Avalanche Peak (1833 m, about 1000m height gain) via Scott's Track. This track begins just north of the village and climbs through beech forest and then follows a poled route up the north-eastern spur of the Peak. There are some narrower sections near the summit. Arthur's Pass is a spectacular place in the winter and the top of Avalanche is THE place to be able admire it all from. Make sure you have an ice axe. Check with leader about crampons. Avalanche Peak is not named that for nothing: the leader will be checking with DOC on snow conditions and the trip may go elsewhere if necessary.</p>		Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 8 Sep Map: K33 Approx: \$25	
Weekend 17-18 September Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p>Otehake Hot Pool: 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.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 8 Sep Map: BU20 BU21 BV21 Approx: \$35	
Sunday 18 September		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 Bryce.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Mt Binser: Mt Binser is a commanding peak above the Mt White Road with panoramic views of the south-east Arthurs Pass National Park area. We start up the Binser Saddle track to the saddle (1085m) where we leave the track, heading up firstly through bush and then open slopes to pt 1753m. A few k's of superb ridge travel then brings us to the main peak (1868m, 1350m total height gain). With a car shuffle at the start we'll be able to drop down to the south-west to the road. Snow skills and snow toys probably required. Check with leader for an early start</p>		Grade: ModHard (requires snow skills) Closes: 15 Sep Map: Approx: \$25	
Saturday 24 September Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
<p>Ryde Falls: This trip in the lovely Mt Oxford Forest is suitable for families and everyone looking for a relaxing social tramp. We'll follow the well-benched track from the car park through the beech forest, looking out for the scattered rimu and the splashes of colour from the red and yellow-leaved horopito. There's plenty of bird life as well, from the ubiquitous robins and fan-tails to the sound of the bell-birds and maybe even a rifleman. The falls themselves - three cascades - are above a beautiful deep pool. Plenty of time to look around, explore and socialise.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 22 Sep Map: L34 Approx: \$20	

Sunday 25 September Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
<p>Bealey Spur to the hut: Start above the baches at Bealey Spur and climb up through sheltering beech forest. On the way to the charming old hut, at about 1240m, the ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. There will probably be snow around, especially in the open areas. Usual winter warm layers, plus a walking pole and gaiters may be useful. The hut is about a 450m climb from the cars and the round trip is about 10km. More adventurous trampers can go up Hut Spur above the bushline for a bit to admire the impressive horseshoe ridge around to Blind Spur from a safe distance.</p>	Grade: Easy/Mod (Requires Snow Skills) Closes: 22 Sep Map: K34 Approx: \$25	
Weekend 1-2 October Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<p>Hawdon Hut: We will start at the Hawdon Shelter and follow the Hawdon River upstream to the spacious Hawdon Hut. The track stays in the riverbed all the way so the total height gain on this trip is about 80m. The Hawdon Hut is a quite new 20 bunk hut next to the river with a great view. From the hut there are options to walk up to Twin Falls or even further to a nice tarn on Walker Pass. Please make sure that you have got a valid hut pass or 3 hut tickets.</p>	Grade: Easy Closes: 22 Sep Map: BV21 Approx: \$30 + Accom	
Multi day trip 6-11 November Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839 havokk@ihug.co.nz
<p>Milford Track [Advance Notice]: Craig has walked all the Great Walks except the Milford. It is time to tick it off. Come and join him on a trip described as 'the finest walk in the world' by the poet Blanche Baughan in 1908. The plan is to drive to Te Anau on Sunday 6 Nov, walk the track over the next four days, then drive home on Friday (Canterbury Anniversary Day). Optionally we can spend a night in Milford Sound and go for a cruise. Will require 4 days off work.</p>	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes in September Map: CB08 Approx: \$450	

Trip Reports

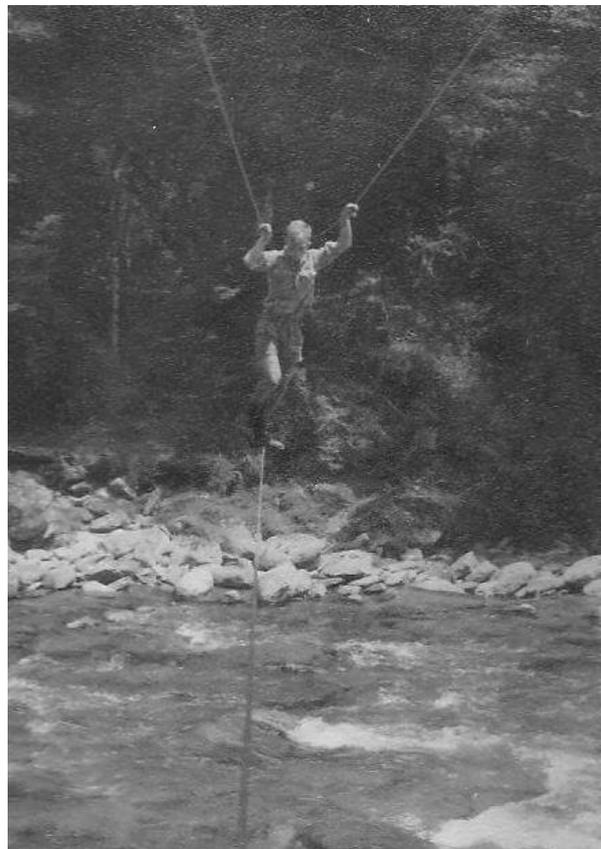
25 December 1961 - 11 January 1962

The Spenser Range

Editor's note: on 19 May 2011, Eric Drake, of Edinburgh, Scotland, wrote to our club about an aunt of his, Lillian (Lily) Day. Lily visited NZ in 1961-62, and while here joined the CTC. Lily died recently, aged 90, and Eric inherited some of photos of her tramping trips, mostly related to a long trip over Christmas 1961/2. Here is the trip report as it appeared in the March 1962 edition of The Christchurch Tramp. For all the photos, see the report on the website: http://www.ctc.org.nz/index.php?option=com_tripreport&task=view&id=512



2-wire bridge



3-wire bridge

BYLEVELD'S CHRISTMAS TRIP

(Although privately organised and not an official Club trip, this story is printed as it will be of interest to our members who know the area covered).

On 25rd December our trip started in the usual way -- crowded bus, long ride, hot day. Our party included Lily Day, Adriana B., Dereck Collins, Andy Harris and Johannes B. An old friend of the Club, Andy Esler, was waiting for us at Murchison and soon had us at his place at Tutaki feeling very much at home. We did a lot of eating and talking but turned in early for an quick start next day.

Up at 4 a.m., and after goodbye and many thanks to the Eslers, we started along the Tiraumea track. A nice valley, good going mostly in bush, very helpful on a hot day. The track went up and down to the D'Urville hut and we were glad to get there after ten hours tramping with full packs -- a good way of finding out whether the party will make the grade on the rest of the trip!! On Christmas Day we continued round the head of Lake Rotoroa in perfect weather, passed our campsite of four years ago, and up the Sabine along a well blazed track through Red Beech forest to the Forks where we crossed the river to a comfortable new hut. Next day we managed to get moving in the early afternoon and went up the East Branch to see the slit gorge. Again we followed a blazed track -- the Nelson Lakes Park Board has surely done some work around here - and near the beginning of the gorge found a place where it was possible to hold the trees on the other side and look at the rias well ver rushing through a good 100' below. Quite a sight to see and hear.

Next day the weather was again perfect and the men crossed the Sabine and followed up a steep rocky gut to the basins under Mt Windward. In places there was good rock climbing and we were well satisfied with gaining the top of a high bluff which gave us good views of the Sabine Valley. Back at the hut the rest of the day was spent building a raft. It was a great piece of work and although it did not float, was great fun.

On the 28th we left for the Blue Lake in the West Branch. The going was good with sheer rock faces rising to a great height on either side. Five hours saw us at the lake which is still blue. We selected a campsite near that of four years ago and were soon settled in. The after- noon of the next day saw us climb a high col between the Sabine and the D'Urville. We had hoped to see Mt Ella but the lady discreetly covered herself with clouds. That night the golden weather vanished and cloud closed in. Next day was wet and we spent most of it in bed. By the 31st the rain had stopped and the sun reappeared to dry us out a bit. We were glad it was fine so that we could see all the waterfalls about us - quite different from when we arrived.

New Year's Day we were off at 6.40 a.m. and crossed the moraine wall which keeps Lake Constance in place. Beyond the head of the lake we were soon climbing up snowgrass and shingle slides to 'Our Col' in a high basin. The weather cleared a little and there were some nice views. Going down was good, some basins and later a long snow filled gully through which we had some good glissades, followed by tricky going around and between bluffs to the western feeder of the Waiau. It took us six hours from Blue Lake to the Waiau Forks and after a meal the rain began to fall. At 11 p.m. it was raining so hard that our campsite, which was on an island (the only decent spot for camping), was, in our imaginations at least, in danger of being flooded. At midnight it was still coming down very hard but an inspection showed that it had made very little difference to the river. Later the rain eased and all minds were at rest. By day-light it was still raining and we decided to get ourselves closer to our next food supply at Lake Tennyson in the Clarence Valley. On arrival we rewarded ourselves with a glorious meal. It was a calm, clear evening and we sat quietly by the lake watching the trout rise.

The third day of the New Year was for washing and sunbathing. We also augmented our food supply with an eel - no the trout didn't bite. Next day, after a breakfast of fried eel and gooseberry pie, we left with heavy packs. It was hard work over Maling Pass in the blazing sun. At the Waiau we watched a few hogsbacks increase rapidly and by the time we were near Lake Guyon a few drops of rain were falling. We pushed on quickly to the Ada-- Christopher hut and found three people in residence who did not know exactly where they were. They thought perhaps the Matakitaiki but had a feeling they were wrong. We soon put matters right for them and later heard that they arrived safely in Murchison. For the next two days it was showery with a lot of low cloud. We were forced to laze around.

On the 7th we moved up the Christopher and in a basin in the West Branch had a short rest before tackling the last steep pull to the obvious pass, which we reached five hours from the hut. Through the gaps in the South West clouds which had chased us we looked back almost over the tops of Faerie Queens and Una. Believe me, that pass is high!! On the other side was the steep rock gully which Graham had mentioned. He was right -- it was steep. We got down safely however and at the bush line had a late lunch. Looking back, we felt rather proud of our Club who, with Tony as leader, crossed that range with a big party three years before on an Easter trip. After lunch we kept going to the forks and camped where the hut isn't any more. Cooked a meal and collapsed into our sleeping bags - it had been a hard day.

We spent the next two days at an upstream forestry hut and were glad of fine weather. Highlights were the climbing of Mt Burn (we think) about 7,000' from which were good views of the Spenser Range, and Dereck's loaf of bread, baked in a camp oven.

On the 11th we left the hut and via the forks and a high track reached the first flats where we met Dave and Bill from the Matakita Station. We soon put ourselves and packs aboard their land-rover and moved downstream mustering sheep. The last crossing of the river was the wettest of the entire trip. The girls, who were riding in front, got wet to their waists. We stayed the night in the homestead and in the late afternoon next day were dropped back at Eslers. Next morning we were taken to Murchison where we caught the bus home again.

Johannes.

26 June 2011

Peak Hill

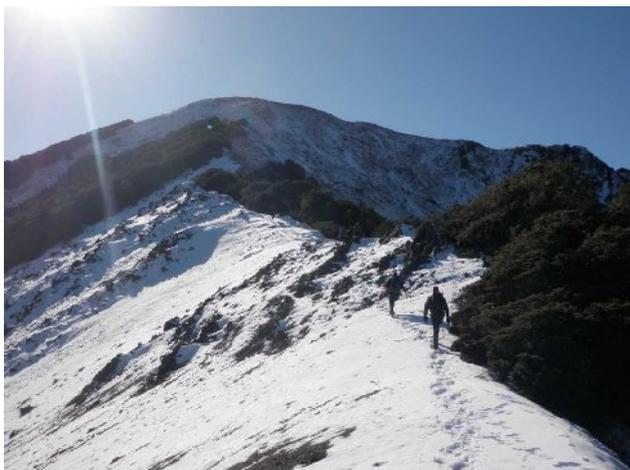
On Sunday, 18 of us dragged ourselves out of our warm beds to meet outside the Yaldhurst pub on a cold, dark and showery morning. There was a bit of confusion as to the exact meeting place, but Scott and Kerrie soon rounded up the strays and we were soon on our way to Peak Hill by Lake Coleridge, where it was actually a nice sunny day with the odd fluffy cloud.

It was originally intended to be a trip to practice things in the snow (such as throwing snow balls), but as luck would have it, it seems to be a particularly snow-less winter so far. It didn't matter though, as it was a nice walk anyway. It took less than two hours for everyone to get to the top where we had a leisurely lunch admiring the lovely views of Lake Coleridge and the surrounding mountains and countryside. A quick trip down saw everyone back at the cars by around 2pm, which was a short day but very enjoyable. We then made our way to the café at Hororata where we made a lot of noise and consumed some of their yummy things.

The trip was led by Scott Fowler and Kerrie Maynard, and the people that participated were: Lynette Hartley, Ruth Barret, Cathy Harlow, Sylvia Horniakava, Ron Keeble, Penny Coffy, Sam Newhouse, Greg Hill, Richard Lobb, Alan Ross, Milan da Lin, Chantal McCarthy, Richard Kimberly, Kate Taylor, Rodney Erikson and Nikki Wells (scribe).

3 July 2011

Woolshed Hill



Ridge to Woolshed Hill



Pt 1705 above Walker Pass

A very frosty start promised a clear day for this trip led by Bernhard and with the good forecast, it was very well attended by 18 keen trampers eager to get a taste of the recent snow that had finally fallen earlier in the week. The trip looked like it wasn't to get off to a good start when one of the party informed the leader that he had left his boots in his car back in the city. Fortunately, before Bernhard had to make any hard decisions, his boots magically appeared in the hands of another party member who had seen them left them behind at the Shell station and diligently brought them along. It then became known that he had also not brought a head torch. Again, fortunately, our well-prepared leader had a spare. (Could be a possible for Loo Loo award, Karl).

We headed off along the grassy area to the Kidson Lodge, before the climb up the well-used track through beech forest, heading for Woolshed Hill. The ascent was fairly quick and in about an hour or so we cleared the bush line and started encountering the snow and the great views we have come to expect from tramping in this area. The trip along the tops was fairly easy going with the snow still soft and not too deep, and the crampons we all diligently brought never threatened to leave our packs. Lunch was had between Woolshed Hill and points 1420, in very pleasant sunshine on the Andrews side of the ridge, to shelter from the cool breeze. Discussions were had as to how far along the tops we would travel in relation to how much daylight we had left and, in due course, the choice was made to head down the scree run just north of Point 1445, before the bush-bash back down to the Hawdon River bed. The bush-bash was a relatively easy one and we ended up following trap lines through the thicker stuff near the bottom. Much relief was expressed as we reached the cars before darkness descended. Nearly 15 km walked with about 1000 m height gain in a fairly leisurely six and a half hours.

Participants: Bernhard Parawa (leader), Rodney Erickson (scribe), Karl Holdorf, Clive Marsh, Stewart Smith, Denise Stroud, Liz Stephenson, Kate Taylor, Penny Coffey, Flo Roberts, Warwick Dowling, Kees de Jager, Paul Titus, Linda Lillburn, Bryce Williamson, Andrew Tromans, Ian Dunn and John Simkiss.

More about the CTC

Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Antony White	381-5993
<i>Senior Vice President:</i>	David Watson	981-7929	<i>Weekend Trip Organiser:</i>	Thomas Matern	385-3507
<i>Junior Vice President:</i>	Thomas Matern	385-3507	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425
<i>Secretary:</i>	Chantal McCarthy	360 3752	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Fiona Green	359 5965
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Andrea Zahn	382 1044	<i>Editor:</i>	Richard Lobb	351-2344
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Adrian Busby	325-5001	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	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 Fiona Green, ph. 359 5965. 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 21 August 2011 – Thanks.