



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC
PO Box 527, Christchurch. www.ctc.org.nz

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 81

July 2011

No. 3



View towards Arthurs Pass from Pfeifer Tops

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

An Event in CTC History: On 23rd September 1961, Herman Wieringa who was a member of CTC, and also CMC and Craigieburn Valley Ski Club was killed by an avalanche on the Mt Olympus ski field. He was buried at Ruru Lawn Cemetery. Herman was a Dutch immigrant who adapted to NZ society readily and became active in mountain recreation. It was expected that his family would visit NZ after his burial and mark the grave. However an old friend of his, Michael Anderson, who remains a CTC member despite living in Wellington for 40 years, visited the grave two years ago and found it was still unmarked. He organised a subscription by old trampers, climbers and skiers to install a plaque. Our club contributed. There will be a commemoration at the grave followed by a reunion lunch for trampers, climbers and skiers from that era on Saturday 24.9.11. An invitation will be sent shortly to all known CTC members from that time and to the current committee. Anyone who is interested (including newer members) and has not received an invitation can contact David Henson to register: email david-henson@paradise.net.nz or phone 9423954,

New Members Welcome: We welcome ten new members to the club this month:

May: Anna Schmidli, Virginia Good, Fiona Green and Milanda Lin.

June: Peter Coleman, Adam Spring, Julie Macintyre, Karen Garrick, Jon Tomlinson and Clare Abaffy.

Please accept the club's warm welcome to you all.

Tramper of the Month: Flo Roberts

<i>Place of Birth?</i>	Born in Aussie 1948. Came to NZ about 1970. Have lived here ever since.	
<i>Family?</i>	I have 3 adult children who are all outdoorish, and 1 granddaughter.	
<i>Your job?</i>	I work in a plant nursery.	
<i>When did you join the CTC?</i>	In the early 1990s.	
<i>Who had the greatest influence on your early tramping days?</i>	Mike Sutherwood. He talked me into joining the CTC.	
<i>What's your favourite hut?</i>	Ivory Hut	
<i>What was your first weekend trip with the CTC?</i>	Townsend hut / Koropuku hut in winter. Some of the party got slightly lost!	
<i>What's your favourite longer trip?</i>	Getting into Ivory Lake via the Tuke river and having fine weather while there.	
<i>Any memorable mishaps while tramping?</i>	Being burnt by boiling water at Avoca Hut and then thrown into a drum of freezing water and then having to walk out.	
<i>What's the most embarrassing thing to happen to you on a tramp?</i>	Losing the club tent poles in the middle of a 5 day trip.	

Flo on Rome Ridge Trip, 2009

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.

Thursday 30 June	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: After we have folded the newsletters we will have some social time.	
Weekend 2-3 July Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839 havokk@ihug.co.nz
Cass Lagoon: A popular trip to the luxurious Hamilton hut over two saddles and out along a valley. Side trips up Mt Bruce are available for the more energetic on the trip.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 23 Jun Map: K34 Approx: \$40
Saturday, 2 July Departure point: Check with leader	Leader: Greg Hill 349-9808
Camp Saddle: Camp Saddle is a nice accessible part of the Craigieburns, just off the main range of Hamilton, Cockayne, Cheeseman etc. We can go up from the ski field access road, or perhaps round via the Craigieburn Valley. It's a short but steepish climb onto the saddle (1480m) for a rest to admire the views out over the Craigieburns and down towards the Broken River Ski area. From the saddle we do a lovely promenade east along the top of a spur to point 1525 and then drop off to meet the Craigieburn Valley track again at Lyndon Saddle and hence back to the cars again. 700m-800m height gain and about 13-14km round trip depending on the exact route.	Grade: Easy+ Closes: 30 Jun Map: K34 Approx: \$25

Sunday, 3 July		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Departure point: Check with leader		
<p>Savannah Range: Woolshed Hill (1429m) is a straightforward 800m ascent on a good track from the Hawdon Shelter, but on this trip we aim to go quite a bit further and have a real explore of a less-visited area . . . The plan is to head along the ridge towards the Savannah Range, dropping down to the Hawdon for the return march. Nothing too hard but a longish way and a longish day.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)	Closes: 30 Jun
	Map: K33	Approx: \$25

Thursday 7 July	Club Night
<p>Ski touring the European Alps: Club member Grant Wheaton takes us on The Haute Route: 6000 meters of ascent and decent, 140kms of high level ski touring. First completed in 1910, it is arguably the most famous ski mountaineering trip, in the most awesome alpine terrain crowned by Mt Blanc in Chamonix and the Matterhorn in Zermatt. Altitude sickness, avalanche, abseil, blizzard, freezing conditions, no water, hours in the dark.. and that was just the first day!!! The most stunning skiing, camaraderie and high alpine scenery! See http://www.wildernessjourneys.com/adventures.php?tripID=123</p>	

Saturday 9 July		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Ted's Track: Bruce heard whispers of a lost track, now so lost it needs a little TLC. So we're joining forces with the Rangiora Tramping Club, who provide the historical association and intimate knowledge, to reclaim 'TED'S TRACK' from the bush.</p> <p>Some years ago Ted Garlick established a track from the Maori Reserve Road end of the Blowhard to the Mount Richardson Bypass track giving an <i>alternative</i> Mount Richardson loop for easy/mod trampers. Involves off- and on-track bush travel/exploration plus track regeneration. Bring implements of track regeneration: saws, lopping & pruning shears etc.</p>	Grade: Easy+ & exploration	Closes: 7 Jul
	Map: L34	Approx: \$15

Weekend 9-10 July		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507
Departure point: Shell Papanui		thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<p>Cedar Flat Hot Pool: The Cedar Flats Huts are around 5 hrs walk up the Toaroha River on the West Coast near Lake Kaniere. From the hut it's a 10 minutes walk to a hot pool on the bank of Wren Creek in a great West Coast Bush setting. There is a good camp spot close to the pool if you are too lazy to walk back to the hut after the bath.</p>	Grade: Easy/Mod	Closes: 30 Jun
	Map: J33	Approx: \$40

Sunday 10 July		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Tiromoana Bush: Otherwise known as the Kate Valley Walkway, the Tiromoana Bush Track is a new-ish walkway constructed as a result of the landfill deal. The club did a 'test run' before it officially opened and it's been a popular tramp ever since. It's certainly a great way to explore the area to the east of the landfill where native bush and the Ella Ponds wetlands are being protected and restored. The track loops around from the Glenafric road to a cliff lookout (Tiromoana means 'view of the sea') and access to the Ella Peak Scenic Reserve and the beach and then back past the wetlands.</p>	Grade: Easy	Closes: 7 Jul
	Map: N34	Approx: \$15

Thursday 14 July	Club Night
<p>Auction Night of Tramping gear: 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. Let's stick to tramping related gear please.</p>	

Saturday 16 July		Leader: Antony White 381-5993
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Mt Somers: Mt Somers (1687m) is an old volcano and so this is another interesting geological area as well as a superb day tramp. It's about 1100m height gain, a sustained and sometimes steep climb up from beech woods and through scrub and onto the open flanks before gaining the summit. Take plenty of sunblock and plenty of water and be prepared for a good grunt going up, to be rewarded with a great sense of achievement, panoramic views, and (later) ice creams at the Mt Somers store. Please bring ice axe and crampons.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)	Closes: 14 Jul
	Map: K36	Approx: \$20

Weekend 16-17 July		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>'Lazyman', Mt White Station: A trip into The Lazyman plateau on the Mt White Station, with a side trip to the Puketeraki Range. Experience the joys of winter camping conditions. Ice axe and crampons might be required.</p>	Grade: Moderate	Closes: 7 Jul
	Map: L34	Approx: \$35

Sunday 17 July Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Not quite Mt Binser: This trip is a bit of a variation on the Binser theme - we go up to Binser Saddle on the track but then instead of going for Binser itself we head north, up onto pt 1532 and a lovely horseshoe ridge forming the Lower Farm Stream catchment. The high-point of our section of the ridge is 1709 and there is a bit of up and down in-between so call it around 1400m height gain. From the other side of the horseshoe we'll descend a bush-clad ridge down into the Andrews to pick up the track and out to the Andrews Shelter (about 15k altogether). If there is snow you will need to have snow skills for this trip. Could be early start - contact leader.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 14 Jul Map: L34 Approx: \$25
Thursday 21 July Club Night	
<p>Breathtaking Borneo with Lynette and Jeff: This evening we will go to Malaysian Borneo with Lynette and Jeff. Borneo has lots of national parks unlike anything in New Zealand, lots of breathtakingly big caves that have been occupied for hundreds of years and lots of animals to see including orang-utans, birds and creepy-crawly things. The highest peak is Mt Kinablu, which is also breathtaking being 4095 metres high.</p>	
Weekend 23-24 July Leader: Antony White 381-5993 phoenixantony@gmail.com Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Lake Man: A brisk start to the day with a crossing of the Boyle River then 9k's of flat easy river valley travel. A 500m climb up the track by the Kedron River will get you to the bivvy and another 300m will get a scenic campsite at the lake. Back past the bivvy on Sunday then tops travel along the Doubtful Range to Mt Murray (or right along to Mt Garfield if the snow is right for quick travel), before dropping down through the bush back to the Boyle right opposite the cars. A great trip, one of the classic Lewis Pass tramps.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 14 Jul Map: L32 M32 Approx: \$30
Saturday 23 July Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014 Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Ashley Hill: Ashley Hill (1018m) is a nice little loop trip on the eastern side of the Lees Valley. Starting from the Lees Valley road we plan to ascend the curving spur leading eventually to Ashley Hill from the south, and then on a little bit higher to pt 1036 (options of a side trip to the trig at 1085m). To make a loop, we'll aim to descend to the north and sort out the short stretch of intervening road with a car shuffle. The Lees Valley is named after the Lees brothers, run holders in the second half of the nineteenth century (eventually bought out by Richardson - who has the hill named after him).</p>	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 21 Jul Map: N33 Approx: \$20

Sunday, 24 July		Leader: David Henson 942-3954
Departure point: See description		
<p>Port Hills: BACK TO THE PORT HILLS !! - HALSWELL QUARRY - KENNEDY'S TRACK - BELLBIRD - CRATER RIM - KIWI (refreshment stop) - HARRY ELL TRACK - TAKAHE. Our Club began with a relaxed tramp in 1932 on the Port Hills which remain part of our culture. Active members do fitness training here and seniors do day walks. Many hills tracks are closed owing to earthquake risk. However this is a classic/basic walk on safe ground climbing to the summit then through Kennedy's Bush where bellbirds will serenade our transit and then back along the Crater Rim with vistas in all directions and down Harry Ell's track where we divert through the leucadendran dell to reach the Takahe. Meet at Parkside temporary bus depot (Hagley Avenue opposite ChCh hospital) at 0900 hrs to catch No 7 bus at 0910 to Halswell. Return bus from Takahe to same depot. NO TRIP LIST - contact leader.</p>	Grade: Easy	Closes: 21 Jul
	Map: M35	Approx: Bus fare, or free with senior Gold Card

Thursday 28 July	Club Night
Newsletter folding night: After we have dealt to the newsletter folding we will have some social time and verbal trip reports.	

Long Weekend 29-31 July		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
Friday evening plus full weekend		
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<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>	Grade: Training	Closes: 21 Jul
	Map: K33	Approx: \$60

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: L33 Approx: \$35</p>	
Saturday, 30 July Departure point: check with leader		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 Departure point: check with leader		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.	
Saturday, 6 August	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	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Departure point: Shell Papanui	
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
Departure point: check with leader	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: K33 Approx: \$50
Weekend 13-14 August	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Departure point: Shell Papanui	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: K33 Approx: \$35 + hut fees

Weekend 13-14 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: 4 Aug
 Map: tbd
 Approx: \$TBA

Saturday, 13 August
 Departure point: check with leader

Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014

Mt Bruce: Mt Bruce is a moderate tramp in the Lagoon Saddle area. Starting from Cora Lynn, you climb up through the beech forest and out onto open tussock. Good views from the top (1630m; about 1000m height gain). There are a few different options for the route including descending into Broad Stream and picking up a very pleasant track back through the bush along the stream to Cora Lynn. This trip would suit people looking to step up from easy-moderate tramping - not too far, not too fast, not too high, no surprises, but still just a little bit more to challenge you ... Bring an ice axe and talk to the leader about whether you'll need crampons.

Grade: Easy/Mod
 (Requires Snow Skills)
 Closes: 11 Aug
 Map: BV20
 Approx: \$25

Sunday 14 August
 Departure point: check with leader

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 trampler 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 start - contact leader.

Grade: Moderate+
 (requires snow skills)
 Closes: 11 Aug
 Map: BW19
 Approx: \$35

Long Weekend 19-21 August Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p>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.</p>		Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 11 Aug Map: H36 Approx: \$110	
Saturday, 20 August		Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111	
<p>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.</p>		Grade: ModHard Closes: 18 Aug Map: BV20 Approx: \$25	
Saturday, 20 August		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014	
<p>Greta Valley: SCARGIL lookabout - (North Canterbury)</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Aug Map: BV26 Approx: \$25	
Sunday, 21 August		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366	
<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	
Weekend 27-28 August Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839 havokk@ihug.co.nz	
<p>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.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Aug Map: BT19 BT20 Approx: \$45	

Multi day trip 6-11 November
Departure point: Contact Leader

Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839
havokk@ihug.co.nz

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.

Grade: Easy/Mod
Closes in
September
Map: CB08
Approx: \$450

Trip Reports

14-15 May 2011

Nina Hut, Devil's Den Biv



Eric keeps his boots dry



Devils Den Biv

Young Sam is reported to have phoned home on Monday morning to tell his Dad about what a great weekend he'd just had. The conversation went something like this....

Sam: 'Great weekend Dad, awesome blue skies, almost frosty start on Sunday up to the Devils Den Biv where we enjoyed a great view of the valley. Lots of gentle little streams to cross, birds like everywhere and not a single sandfly'.

Dad (experienced trumper): 'So you had nothing but rain, never saw the sun, wet boots, soggy socks, nearly got blown off the ridges, the streams were flowing like rivers, and the sandflies had a field day'.

Sam: 'Well, yeah Dad ... but it was great!'

A forecast of snow to 1100 metres and gale force winds saw the Lake Christabel tramp quickly change to a trip up the Nina Valley. Eight of us set off mid-morning from the Deerstalkers Hut up a well organised (2 swing bridges) track through the beech forest. Pretty, but soggy, and getting more so.

We arrived mid-afternoon at Nina hut (and a pretty good hut as well) which gave great

views of the squalls of rain sweeping down the valley. Richard, the ever enthusiastic leader then proposed we take a day pack, cross the river and head up to somewhere else equally sodden, cold and windy. Chinese proverb - man in cosy hut with hot coffee in hand very hard to 'dislodge'. Yes, we called his bluff. He was probably only trying to impress el-presidente, but even the latter was looking longingly at the weekend paper Jonathan had brought along. Coffee, Sudoku and the weekend crosswords were the order of the day.

Next morning six of us packed and set off for a quick trip up to Devils Den Biv. Apart from a few very full streams, it was quite pleasant in the shelter of the trees, and only when we emerged did we realise how bad the weather had got. After adding an extra layer of clothing and a snack we stumbled and tripped out way between mounds of tussock, guarded by the odd Spaniard, up to the Biv. El-presidente entertained us by doing a slow-motion backwards stumble and slide off some tussock, for a full dunking into one of the many streams of water lurking underneath.

By the time we got to the 'biv' (more like a small hut, double glazed, separate outhouse and all) a hunter was only just packing up after spending a night there. I think the howling wind had kept him up all night. There was a dusting of snow on the ridge above, and by the time we'd had a quick break the wind got stronger and snow started to fall. We beat a hasty retreat back down to the forest.

Susan (bless those gammy knees) had a pot of boiling water ready for us by the time we arrived back at Nina Hut, so a leisurely break, pack and then off we went, sloshing our way back to the road.

Thanks to Richard for making all the right decisions considering the weather, I certainly enjoyed the trip and the chance to meet a few more club members.

Richard Lobb, Susan Pearson, Warwick Dowling, Jonathan Carr, Sam Stephenson, Jo Pikelharing, Trevor Lloyd, Eric Skilling (scribe).

21-22 May 2011

Pfeifer Tops

A cloudy but windless Saturday morning saw us negotiating with the cocky to let us leave our vehicles in his back paddock near the river and away from the notorious Aickens corner carpark. We crossed the Otira river and pick up the flood track on the true right and reach the confluence of Paratu stream soon after lunch. Travel up this stream is remarkably easy due to some obvious track work (thanks Frank and Honora) that leaves the track free of almost all troublesome vegetation and obviates the need to grovel our way through the undergrowth.

At Waharoa saddle we reach the low overcast that refused to budge the whole weekend and added a little extra challenge to navigation. Travel through the murk along the broad ridge and across two high basins to Pfeifer biv is remarkably simple and we stop just before 5pm.

The Biv is new and very clean and well built. Clearly DOC had thought they were being very enlightened and green when they installed under floor insulation. Sadly the local Kea population saw this as an opportunity for wanton destruction and these eco-vandals have been busy tearing out the insulation, chewing it to bits and scattering the polystyrene around the tussock.

Saturday night was a swinging time at Pfeifer Biv with a feathered soiree commencing soon after dark. A great number of Keas arrived and squawked incessantly until the early hours of Sunday morning and at least two Kiwi were also heard. They didn't do any

damage to our property and were content to destroy more of the insulation.

With a complete lack of wind the cloud was still present in the morning. We climbed up out of the basin and we soon emerged from the cotton wool and were greeted by the sun as we continued up the spur towards Mt Pfeifer. The sudden clearance came at the best possible time and allowed us to pick a route up through the bluffs. There was a considerable amount of snow between the rocks that had formed an outer crust, but the rocks themselves were large, firmly placed and plentiful and we use these to climb to the summit.

Standing on the summit of Mt Pfeifer in the winter sun (sans wind) was truly beautiful. Solitary Mt Alexander shot straight up out of a sea of cloud, a lone sentinel in the west. The cloud pressed inland towards Arthur's pass, hugging the bases of Mt Rolleston, Mt Franklin and Tara Tarma, all of which were sporting a fresh cloak of snow. It was a great place to be and a view to remember.

Our original plan had us travelling over Mt Pfeifer and down a ridge to Lake Kaurapataka. However, the drop off from Pfeifer is reasonably steep and covered in crusty snow. As a group, we are not properly equipped for such an alpine adventure so we stuck with the devil we knew and returned the way we came for brunch at the biv. It took two and half hours for the return trip.

Martin Brown tried to talk us into a grovel down Pfeifer creek but the rest of us are quite pleased with our success on the trip so far and have no intention of souring the experience. Instead we retraced our steps to the saddle, and thence, to the cars.

Martin Brown, Flo Roberts, Dayle Drummond, Peter Coleman, George Williams, Andrew Tromans

21 May 2011

Mt Torlesse



Rodney just prior to his dramatic rescue



Kowai River Valley

21 km, 8 hours 15 minutes, ~1600 m height gain

Four CTC members headed off from the Russley service station, meeting Oxfordites Rodney and Bridgid (a prospective new club member) at Springfield. After a couple of weeks of poorish weather this day was brilliant with hardly a cloud in the sky.

We headed up the Kowai River from the main highway at about 8:30 am. The sun was still well behind the mountain and the air was crisp in the valley, but we soon warmed up with a

brisk walk along the four wheel drive track. We arrived at the John Hayward Memorial Hut in around an hour and had a drink and snack before starting up the long ridge for our 1150 m climb to the top of Torlesse. As we climbed, the wind grew stronger and much colder, and at about the half way mark we were putting on the layers that we had removed lower down. At around the 1500 m mark, Bryce and Rodney stopped for food and refreshments and for the others to catch up. Bryce, who was 20-odd meters further the slope, turned to survey the view, only to have his pack somersault down the steep scree slope. Fortunately, Rodney, who had ducked down out of the wind, heard Bryce's plaintive wailing and was able to leap across the scree to grab the pack before it picked up more speed and disappeared down the valley.

We ascended the last 400 odd meters a bit more slowly, but now in sunlight and with falling wind speed, reaching the top in about four hours from the cars. With such a clear day, the vistas from the top were stunning, with views right down to Mt Cook/Aorangi, although the plains were pretty hazy. After enjoying the views and taking lots of photos, we settled down out of the wind to have lunch. We then headed along the tops to the east, circling round behind the hut and dropping to the ridge of hills south of the hut. We were looking for a scree gut to drop back down to the river. Having finally found it we also discovered that most of the shingle at the top part was gone, making the initial descent slightly tricky. But it got a lot better lower down and took us to the Kowai River just downstream from the hut. From there it was just the long walk downriver back to the car.

Participants: Bruce James (leader), Silvia Horniakova, Rodney Erickson (scribe), Bridgid (of the unknown surname), Marta Scott and Bryce Williamson.

For more photos see Rodney's blog (<http://roddus.blogspot.com/2011/05/mt-torlesse-21st-may-2011.html>) and Bryce's Picasaweb site (<https://picasaweb.google.com/Brycewilliamson13/MtTorlesseSat21May2011#>)

12 June 2011

Mt Oakden via the south-west ridge



The lower part of the ridge



After the gnarly bits

14 km, 6 hours 30 minutes, ~1400 m height gain.

Early on a frosty Sunday morning, eight CTC-ites and five others set from the Caltex Russley service station bound for adventure on the slopes of Mt Oakden. By the time we passed through Yaldhurst the mist had lifted and we were treated to a spectacular sunrise painted in the rosy hues of Puyehue volcanic ash.

Leader Richard had intended that we tackle the 1633-m peak via the steep north ridge, to the east of the deep scree-filled scar of the mountain. But as we travelled, Warwick described an alternative route, skirting around the western shore of Lake Coleridge and on to the southern ridge leading directly to the Mt Oakden summit. The advantages would be a less-steep ascent and a more interesting loop trip, albeit longer and probably more challenging. From the view across over Ryton Station from the Harper Road the dark, razor-back ridge looked very alluring; and by the time we reached the Oakden Canal baches the occupants of Richard's Integra were generally in favour of the alternative. It took little effort to convince the other participants, and so Warwick's route it was.

The skirt around the lake proved slightly problematic due to the high water level and matagouri cloaked banks. But within a few minutes (and with wet boots) we found a stile and path up to a well-maintained farm track that made for fast, easy travel to the stream that drains the south face of the mountain. The creek bed permitted us to avoid most of the matagouri and we were soon climbing steeply to the ridge, initially on scree and then through tussock with occasional matagouri scuffles.

At ~1200 m the wind had picked up and, since the ridge ahead provided no apparent shelter, we tucked into the lee for lunch. The postprandial going was relatively unchallenging till we reached Pt 1431 m, where the last scramble up a steep face of sharp, crumbly, dark argillite was substantially more exposed. Since the ridge beyond this point had the appearance of unrelenting similarity, about half of the group decided that they would rather return than to face the challenges ahead. Richard and Warwick gallantly surrendered their hopes of summiting to guide the returnees, in two parties, back to the cars.

As it turned out, apart from a couple of other gnarly sections skirting around knobs, the ridge travel was not particularly difficult and the seven circueteers reached the summit less than an hour after the others had turned back. The wind at the top was strong and cold, so we wasted no time in crossing the snowy bowl to the top of the northern scree gut. The scree was gloriously deep, soft shingle, perfect for a hurtling decent; and in less than half an hour we had descended nearly 900 m.

At about 700 m we skirted across to the north-east ridge and then continued more (knee-grindingly) slowly to the grassy ramp below Pt 681 m and thence back to the cars where Richard and Warner were waiting patiently in their street clothes. The other returnees arrived in pairs over the next 30 or so minutes, but by 4 pm we were returning along the Harper Road.

With the Hororata Pub closed due to earthquake damage, we aimed to drop in at the Hororata café. However we were too late and, instead, the Hororata services station received some unexpected late patronage for ginger beer, Crunchie bars, chippies and other calorie-packed delights. As we departed Hororata we were farewelled by gloriously rosy volcanic skies silhouetting Mt Hutt-- a spectacular visual finish to a great day.

Thanks to leader Richard Lobb and to the drivers, the two Richards and (new CTC member) Adam Spring.

Participants: Richard Lobb (leader), Richard Kimberley, Warwick Dowling, Cristina Zablan, Andrew Tromans, Adrian Daly, Laura Haslam, Adam Spring, Klem Stampfli, Bruce Thomas, Warner Milne, Matt Crombie, Bryce Williamson

For more pictures see

<https://picasaweb.google.com/Brycewilliamson13/MtOakdenCircuit12June2011#>

29 May 2011

Mt Aicken-Mingha valley



Pt 1863m with Mt Aicken at the back right



Nearing Mt Aicken Summit

17.4 km, ~1400 m height gain, 9 hours 30 minutes (for the slower party)

This trip was originally intending to go to Goat hill, above Otira township, but the weather forecast wasn't too promising for a pleasant day that far west. As we set out from Springfield, the day was cold and frosty but clear-as-a-bell, so we decided to head for Arthurs Pass and see what it looked like up there. Stopping to re-gather the cars at the Mt White turn off, the skies were still clear but we could see the clouds sitting on the tops further to the west. Arthurs Pass looked clear and so it was decided to tackle Mt Aicken. Several members of the group were pleased about that since a trip there was abandoned a couple of weekends back because of the weather. As we arrived in Arthurs Pass, it became even more obvious that Goat Hill wouldn't be a pleasant option and so, around 9 am, a party of nine headed up the Mt Aicken track.

Starting at around 700 m, we climbed steeply up through the bush, passing part of the old hydro scheme before leaving the bush at the 1300 m mark. The views of the mountain ranges skirting Arthurs Pass were excellent, with a light coating of fresh snow to add to their beauty. Morning tea was had on a flat outcrop at around 1500 m before heading off to the first peak. By this time we were scrambling up a rocky ridge through fresh snow that has fallen the day before. Point 1844 m is the first peak and looks for all purposes like the top, with a large flat area and a cairn; but our leader, Clive Marsh, informed us that real top is one we could see further north. After a quick photo shoot of the stunning surrounding mountains, we continued scrambling along the rocky ridge towards point 1863 m, where we had lunch trying to shelter from the cold wind and some of the party spied a group of chamois down in Agility creek. Clive informed us that this was still not Aicken peak – it's the next one just to the east, which, at 1858 m, is actually five metres lower.

It was quite difficult staying on top of the ridge between points 1863 and 1858 m since it was very rocky and involved very careful climbing in places. With nine in the party it could have taken some time to traverse this short distance, so most of us dropped onto the scree below the ridge and then had to climb back up to Mt Aicken summit. From this point we proceeded to drop down to the east, into the Mingha river. There was enough snow on this side to allow some good bum-slides, with a couple of inches of fresh dry snow on a harder base. Although we were carrying crampons, we (just) got away without using them.

The party regrouped at the bush line, where Clive instructed us to stay well to the left of

the creek so as not to get bluffed; and once hitting the Mingha track, just head on out to the cars. A faster group comprising Klem Stampfli and Rodney Erickson along with drivers Richard Kimberley and Dave Sutton went ahead to unshuffle the cars, managing the relatively easy bush bash down to the Mingha in about 40 minutes and were out before nightfall. The rest of the group, including our leader, had managed to get themselves bluffed and then travelled at a more sedate pace along the valley, arriving at the cars, in the dark, around 40 minutes later.

A brilliant day and a bit of everything on this trip; very enjoyable.

Participants: Clive Marsh (leader), Dave Sutton, Klemens Stampfli, Rodney Erickson (scribe), Murray Gifford, Silvia Horniakova, Marta Scott, Richard Kimberley, Greg Hill, Bryce Williamson.

For more photos see Rodney's blog (<http://roddus.blogspot.com/2011/05/mt-aickin-may-29th-2011.html>) and Bryce's Picasaweb site (<https://picasaweb.google.com/Brycewilliamson13/MtAickenMinghaValleySunday29May2011#>)

4-6 June 2011

Fowler Pass-Lake Guyon-Stanley River-Cow Stream thermal pools



Stanleyvale Hut



The Racecourse and Mt Maria

54.7 km and ~1300 m height gain

Plan A: Tramp up to Koropuku (Big Tops) Hut and also visit Otehake Hot pools for the long weekend. This plan was scuttled by Thursday night since the weather forecast for that area was not too good, with plenty of rain forecast and possible high winds on the tops.

Plan B: Head up to Hanmer, over the back into Molesworth and up to a hut on the Severn River; explore this area and (hopefully) stay just east of the rain. Unable to secure key for locked gate to Molesworth Station at short notice.

Plan C: Head up past Lake Tennyson and Island Pass and then cut across to the Severn River from that side. Wairau-Hanmer Springs Hydro Road blocked by a washout in Island Gully.

Plan D: Head back to camp at Lake Tennyson and explore from there. Possibly due to some discussion in the leader's (Bernhard's) vehicle on the drive back to the lake, when we got to the access road this plan had been abandoned; and ...

Plan E was announced: head back to Fowlers Hut near Pass Stream; follow the track over

Fowler Pass; tramp to Lake Guyon; camp the night and see what the morrow would bring.

The area we were in is the former St James Station, now the St James Conservation Estate and the routes we were to follow are a combination of new mountain bike trails, old farm tracks and some tramping tracks. This area is huge country, with large open grassy areas dotted amongst the mountains. Or is that lots of mountains dotted amongst the large grassy areas, as well as plenty of rivers and streams feeding out of picturesque valleys. Not much forest but plenty of tussock, matagouri and swamps.

Fifteen keen CTC trampers left Fowlers Hut around 12:30 pm on a moderately warm day with light winds and no rain. The rain clouds could be seen hanging over the mountains to the north west and our hope was they would stay there, our intention being to stay off the tops since the wind was forecast to be gale at 2000 m.

The track up to Fowlers Pass is very well formed and the climb of a light gradient before dropping sharply down into Smyths Stream. We then rapidly followed Smyths Stream, resting for second lunch at the confluence with the Stanley River. We then continued on at a brisk pace following the Stanley before rounding the base of Point 1144 m and heading onto the wide grassy plain of Stanley Vale and into light rain at the south end of Lake Guyon. We camped, spread out, in the excellent grassy area below the tiny Lake Guyon hut, which was full of hunters and mountain bikers. The evening was spent the socialising around a nice bonfire before hitting the hay around 8:30 pm, having walked 16 km in around four hours on our first day.

We were unsure of the plan for Sunday as we awoke to rain over the lake. But we could see the edge of the rain band over Stanley Vale and so the day's plan was to head back over Stanley Vale, continue down the Stanley River, then head back up the Edwards River to Scotties Camp Hut and onto Cow Steam, which had some good camping AND according to one of our party, some unspectacular "tepid" hot springs.

After leaving the rain behind our first stop was at the historic Stanley Vale Hut, where we found an old possum trapper in residence. We continued on until Racecourse Stream, where a fairly new track has been created up to and across the Racecourse Flats, which was a very nice area. The track took us up to Point 992 m and then down to Point 930 m, following the ridge to Charlies Saddle. Most of us just dropped off Point 992 and headed straight for the hut, with a short matagouri encounter near the bottom. From there it was about another hour along the four-wheel-drive track to Cows Stream and our camp for the night. Day two had been 26 km in about 7 hours.

The hot pools, just below our excellent camp site, were very well constructed in concrete and room for everyone. Several of the group were in "as soon as", while others pitched tents, set up bedding and had a leisurely dinner etc before heading down to check the spring out. Entering the pool was a slow process due to the rather high temperature of the water -- estimated to be around 43C; it didn't matter that only our legs and backsides were in the water, and plenty of comments were made about the meaning of the word "tepid".

Monday dawned fine after a dry night and we packed up and headed off by about 8:45 am for the twelve-odd kilometres back to the road, following the 4WD-cum-mountain-bike track. However Martin spotted the car from some distance and most of us headed off through the swamp (ask Craig Beere how deep it was) in a direct line to the waiting vehicle.

Another excellent and enjoyable weekends tramping.

Participants: Bernhard Parawa (leader), Martin Brown, Liz and Bernie Stevenson, Craig and Caz Bunt, Rodney Erickson (scribe), Mat Gunn, Richard Lobb, Bryce Williamson;

Antony White; Gort Stephan, Greg Hill, Max De Lacy, Craig Beere.

For more photos see Rodney's blog (<http://roddus.blogspot.com/2011/06/fowler-passlake-guyonstanley.html>) and Bryce's Picasaweb site (<https://picasaweb.google.com/Brycewilliamson13/FowlersPassLakeGuyonEdwardsPass46June2011#>)

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>	Jim Western	384-8950
<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 Jim Western, ph. 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 24 July 2011 – Thanks.