



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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PO Box 527, Christchurch. [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz)

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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*Black Hill, Rakaia. October 2011*

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 two pages.

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## News

**New Members Welcome:** We welcome Lisa Goldsbury to the club this month. Please accept the club's warm welcome.

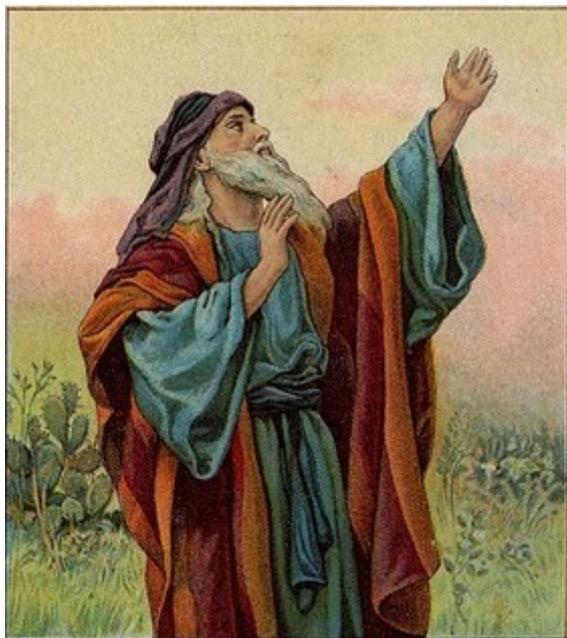
**Unveiling of Hermann Wieringa Memorial:** Herman Wieringa was a Dutch immigrant who came to New Zealand in 1952 and became a very active member of CTC and the Craigieburn Valley Ski Club. He was killed in an avalanche on Mt Olympus skifield on 23rd September 1961.

He was buried at Ruru Lawn Cemetery and it was expected that members of his family would visit New Zealand and mark his grave. However Michael Anderson, who was a friend of Herman and is still a CTC member despite living in Upper Hutt for many years, visited the grave a few years ago and found it had not been marked. He began a subscription to pay for a plaque. Both CTC and CVSC plus 14 individuals from both clubs made donations which was ample to cover the cost of the plaque.

The plaque was unveiled on Saturday 24th September 2011 which is effectively the 50th anniversary of Herman's death. 38 people who were a mix of both clubs attended a

ceremony at the grave and 36 people went to an enjoyable memorial lunch at Chateau on the Park. It was proposed and agreed at this lunch that the residue of \$239.71 from the plaque fund should be donated to the Summit Road Society because their track work on the Port Hills is valuable to elderly club members who still tramp.

## Tramper of the Month: Bruce Cameron



*Give us a short summary about yourself.*

I'm a granddad from the North Island with a passion for electronics, and also a new product development engineer.

*How did you find out about the CTC?*

I joined in 2008. I found out about the CTC through another member, then looked up the website - I was looking for a kid-friendly club.

*Did you tramp before joining the CTC?*

Yes, with the Avon Tramping Club.

*Who was the first CTC person you met?*

Sue Pearson (who was then the new members rep.)

<i>What were your first trips?</i>	In the blur of past tramps Cass Ridge was first day trip I think; and Kiwi Hut with Steve was the first weekend trip.
<i>Have you served on the club committee?</i>	Yes, I'm the Teaboy (aka 'assistant social organiser').
<i>Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?</i>	For style, this was 'Matagouri Les' [not in the CTC], who they say "cannot read a map, is illiterate, shortsighted and deaf" - particularly deaf as you head into spikey scrub off a nice well maintained benched track.
<i>Your favourite hut?</i>	The old Woolshed Creek Hut (Mt Somers)- particularly memorable one night in the snow – it's now been replaced by the new Woolshed Creek Hut.
<i>What are your favourite tramps?</i>	I like anywhere new, preferably with a view or experience, gorge etc. Mt Noble may be my favourite day tramp (it has a bit of everything). My favourite weekend tramp might be Savannah Range (on from Woolshed Hill, between the Hawdon and the Andrews).
<i>What future trips are you most looking forward to?</i>	Exploring the coastline, rivers and tops: where do I start? I have 209 tramp ideas listed, so far...
<i>Have any embarrassing things happened to you while tramping?</i>	I left my boots at Shell, not once but twice!
<i>Do you have any other interests?</i>	Grandkids, exploring, and Work.

# 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 27 October		Club Night
<b>Newsletter folding night:</b> After we have folded the newsletters we will have some social time		
Saturday 29 October Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Antony White 381-5993
<b>Travers - Trovatore:</b> 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 and trot over to Trovatore (1737m) and then - conditions allowing - 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 back to the Lewis Pass carpark. Height gain about 1000m+, and ice axe and crampons may be required. Early start - contact leader, and this trip could go on Sunday instead, depending on the weather.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 27 Oct Map: BT23 Approx: \$35	
Weekend 29-30 October Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Brian Dougan srotje@yahoo.com
<b>Klondyke Valley / Lake Stream:</b> The Klondyke Valley is a family destination, the Lake Stream Route is a bit more demanding and Brian will make it even more interesting by climbing over the tops between these two valleys. Be prepared for a great and possibly epic trip.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 20 Oct Map: BT22 Approx: \$40	

Sunday 30 October		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p><b>Port Hills Education:</b> Omaha Bush: Here's an opportunity to learn about the various plant communities in Omaha Bush, 'top to bottom' and to be informed of work here and plans for the reserve's future management. Alice Shanks, from the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and Paul Tebbutt, convener of the Friends of Omaha Bush will be our informative guides from Coopers Knob to the foot of the reserve. They will show us the variety of native flora from the snow tussock and silver tussock around the Summit Road and the top of the reserve, via the mid-level Kanuka to the superb examples of remnant and rejuvenating Podocarp forest. If Gibraltar Rock is open, we'll also get shown the plants that are typical of Port Hill rocky outcrops. NOTE: Meet at Shell Papanui at 8:30am.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy          Closed: 27 Oct          Map: BX24          Approx: \$10</p>	

Sunday 30 October		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p><b>Mons Sex Millia:</b> Mons Sex Millia is 6000 ft high (hence the name - 'the 6000 bump' translates - roughly - to 'mons sex millia' in Latin) but for those of you used to this new-fangled metric system you get a rather-less-readily-translatable 1840m. We will approach and return via Carlyle Stream on the south side of the main ridge. Long day tramping (8-10 hours), much bush-bashing, and around 1400m height gain. Bring ice-axe. Should be great! Note: early start.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate          Closes: 27 Oct          Map: BU23          Approx: \$25</p>	

Tuesday 1 November		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<p><b>CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday:</b> This weekly event involves roughly 70 minutes of moderate paced brisk walking about the safer hill trails around/near Mt Vernon Park. Note that the Mt Vernon Park is still officially closed, so all who partake are entirely responsible for their own welfare. We meet at the corner of Hillsborough Tce &amp; Heybridge Lane, just near The Crescent, as the Mount Vernon Valley Track car park is closed. No trip list. No cost. Just turn up.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate          Closed: 27 Oct          Map: BX24          Approx: \$0</p>	

Thursday 3 November	Club Night
<p><b>Stone walls and Roman roads: a taste of hillwalking in the UK with added historical flavouring by Jenny Harlow.</b> Walking in the UK might not have the same spectacular scenery as we get here, but there are many lovely areas and all are indelibly etched by many hundreds of years of human habitation. Intrigued by the thought of The Corpse Road? Wonder what the Romans were doing on the High Street? Impressed by 40m high railway viaducts over 150 years old? Mind-boggled by the thought of 180,000 miles of dry stone walls? Come along to see and hear a few edited highlights of a recent trip to the UK.</p>	

Saturday 5 November		Leader: Alastair Brown 343-5111
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p><b>Mt Rolleston:</b> 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. Note - this trip is rescheduled from the August one that was cancelled.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard (requires snow skills)</p> <p>Closes: 3 Nov</p> <p>Map: BV20</p> <p>Approx: \$25</p>	
Sunday 6 November		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p><b>Pinnacles Hut:</b> Pinnacles Hut is a fairly easy walk into the base of Mt Somers. The track follows a stream and goes over two easy hills, ending at the hut which is used as a base for rock climbers for the nearby Pinnacles on the side of Mt Somers.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+</p> <p>Closes: 3 Nov</p> <p>Map: BX20</p> <p>Approx: \$25</p>	
Multi day trip 6-11 November		Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839
Departure point: Contact Leader		havokk@ihug.co.nz
<p><b>Milford Track [list closed]:</b> 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>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod [Closed]</p> <p>Map: CB08</p> <p>Approx: \$450</p>	
Tuesday 8 November		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<b>CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday:</b> See November 1.		Grade: Moderate
Thursday 10 November		Club Night
<b>No Club tonight as it's the long weekend</b>		

Long Weekend 11-13 November Show Weekend Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz	
<p><b>Inland Pack Track:</b> The Inland Pack Track was cut in 1860 as an alternative way along the Punakaiki coast, but it is very unlikely that you will find a car there now. We will leave on Friday morning and, after a car shuffle, walk up the Fox River towards Ballroom Overhang. On the way we will have a look at a large cave. We'll spend the night either under the overhang or in our tents. On Saturday we will travel down the Dilemma Creek Gorge and camp near the Bullock Creek Submergence. On Sunday we follow the track to its southern end at the Punakaiki River, stop for some pancakes at Punakaiki before heading home. There is hardly any height gain on this track, start and end are at sea level and the highest point is just under 200m. This trip is subject to weather conditions - many of the rivers can not be crossed during or shortly after rain.</p>		Grade: Easy+ Closes: 3 Nov Map: BS19 BS20 Approx: \$60	
Saturday 12 November Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014	
<p><b>Cold Stream Hut:</b> Starting from the Lake Sumner Road we cross the Hurunui River on a bridge. We then tramp up the Jollie Brook River branching off to Cold stream and continuing upstream to the Cold stream Hut (620m) for lunch. Easy river travel in bush country guaranteeing wet feet AND no hills to climb (120m total height gain). River Crossing Skills not needed. In the event of high river levels this tramp will be exchanged with Mount Eleanor.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 10 Nov Map: BU26 Approx: \$25	
Sunday 13 November Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: David Sutton 348 5998	
<p><b>Otarama:</b> After a stroll up the pretty little Kowai river to the huts we start the real thing - up the long southwest spur of Torlesse to the summit (1961m, about 1300m total height gain, which makes it a bit more strenuous than some moderate trips). Then, from here we'll go along the ridge to Otarama, a peak to the NNE, and only 2m higher than Torlesse itself. Be prepared for an early start as it will be a long day...</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 10 Nov Map: BW23 Approx: \$15	
Tuesday 15 November		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
<p><b>CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday:</b> See November 1.</p>		Grade: Moderate	

Thursday 17 November		Club Night
<p><b>Eyre Mountains and Takatimu Mountains by our guide Steffan Rolfe:</b> Steffan will be presenting photos from a 5 day trip in the Eyre Mountains completed in October 2008, and a 4 day trip into the Takatimu Mountains in October 2009. These were mostly in untracked terrain in Southland between Lumsden and Te Anau.</p>		
Weekend 19-20 November		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Departure point: Shell Papanui		bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz
<p><b>Freyberg Range via Pell Stream:</b> Climbing the Freyberg Range (Lewis Pass) from Pell Stream, camping high at some tarns. Options will depend on the weather and the group. Early start (7am) and possibly ice axe and crampons required.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 10 Nov  Map: BT23 BT22  Approx: \$40</p>
Saturday 19 November		Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p><b>Mt Hamilton:</b> This is a classic Craigieburns biggie (1922m), which can be approached from a couple of different directions: either from the Broken River side over Nervous Knob or from Camp Saddle. Superb views from the top on a clear day over Cass Saddle towards the Black Range, and Lake Pearson and Flock Hill to the east. Around 1000m height gain, depending on where we park. It is often windy up there so make sure you have all those warm windproof layers.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate  Closes: 17 Nov  Map: BW21  Approx: \$20</p>
Weekend 19-20 November Leaving Saturday morning 7:30.		Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
Departure point: Caltex Russley		steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz
<p><b>Edwards Hut - Mt Scott - Mt Wilson:</b> 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 needed if you want to go above the valley floor.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate with Climbing Options  Closes: 10 Nov  Map: BV20 BV21  Approx: \$40</p>

Sunday 20 November Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Richard Kimberley 326 6158
<p><b>Avalanche Peak:</b> 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 Closes: 17 Nov Map: BV20 Approx: \$25
Tuesday 22 November		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<b>CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday:</b> See November 1.		Grade: Moderate
Thursday 24 November		Club Night
<b>Newsletter folding night:</b> After we have folded the newsletters we will have some social time.		
Saturday 26 November Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
<p><b>Mount Eleanor:</b> Starting inland we tramp on tracked and untracked coastal farm country to the Waiau River's mouth then return via Mount Eleanor. Located South above the Waiau River giving views over the North Cheviot Plains and the Waiau River's Pacific confluence. This tramp may be exchanged with Cold stream Hut if river is up.</p>		Grade: Easy Closes: 24 Nov Map: BU26 Approx: \$25
Weekend 26-27 November Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<p><b>Otehake Hot Pool:</b> 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. This trip is for all those people who could not come with us on the September trip due to high demand.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 17 Nov Map: BU20 BU21 BV21 Approx: \$35

Sunday 27 November		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p><b>Blimit-Aicken:</b> A great Arthurs Pass climber's traverse, from Aicken (1863m) to Blimit (1921m). The ridge between Aicken and Blimit is a grade 2 route, with some significant gendarmes if there is still snow on the ridge (bypassed with care on one side or the other) and is especially knarly close to Blimit (if you aren't keen on some grade 14 rock climbing, the guidebook advises a sidle out on the southern flank...). A great day out for all the fighting-fit rock-geckos in the club.</p>		Grade: ModHard Closes: 24 Nov Map: BV20 Approx: \$25
Tuesday 29 November		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<b>CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday:</b> See November 1.		Grade: Moderate
Thursday 1 December		Club Night
<b>Annual BBQ - venue in next newsletter:</b> Annual BBQ - venue in next newsletter		
Weekend 3-4 December		Leader: Leader Required
Departure point: Caltex Russley		
<p><b>Lake Florence:</b> We start up the Rolleston River track to above the bushline, then cross the river and attempt to find a cunning route avoiding scrub and bluffs on to the ridge and up to a high camp at Lake Florence. Should be enough time to wander up Anderson Peak or even have a go at Mt Armstrong. Homeward via the ridge and basins of the Barron Range to Mt Barron then down the track.</p>		Grade: Hard Closes: 24 Nov Map: BV20 Approx: \$40
Sunday 4 December		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p><b>Cave Stream:</b> Have you ever driven past Cave Stream on the way to another tramp, yet not plucked up the courage to stop and go through it? This trip is probably the shortest that CTC has done in a long while, with the distance being about 400m through the cave. However, this is usually a brisk 4 degrees C air temp, so please make sure you bring a torch, leggings and polypro top, and something to change into after the trip. Ice-cream after the cave as well - what could be better?</p>		Grade: Easy+ (water trip) Closes: 1 Dec Map: BW21 Approx: \$15

Saturday 10 December Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
<b>Mt Arden:</b> Starting from Mount Arden Station, Hawdon area, we follow Tommys Stream. Then head up onto the ridge line cresting Mount Arden to take in the views over the Middle Waipara River and checking out some other interesting tops for future conquest. This is the area behind The Deans, Mount's Grey and Keretu. Following on along the ridgeline we then descend down to McDonald Downs and off for rehydration or perhaps ice creams.	Grade: Easy Closes: 8 Dec Map: BV21 Approx: \$20	
Weekend 10-11 December Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Gareth Gilbert 981-1737 gilbert.gareth@gmail.com
<b>Lucretia Tarn:</b> Lewis Pass area. We'll let the road do most of the climbing, with our trip starting at the top of Lewis Pass, climbing 400m to the bushline then on to gentle rolling tussock tops. Camping at the Lucretia Tarns at the head of Lucretia stream (10km horizontal, 1000m vertical). Return the same way. There are options to either camp at the tarns just above the pass (height gain about 600m) or to do a loop by dropping down into Lucretia Stream and out down the Nina Valley.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 1 Dec Map: BT23 Approx: \$35	
Sunday 11 December Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
<b>Point 1696 - North of Woolshed Hut:</b> This is probably somewhere that the club has not been before - we walk into Woolshed Creek Hut in the Mt Somers area, then do a loop trip incorporating Peache Saddle, then up to pont 1696 (un-named). This will be a longish day, but as this is in summer we won't need to have an early start.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Dec Map: BX19 BX20 Approx: \$25	
Saturday 17 December Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
<b>Lake Rubicon:</b> Out west past Springfield. A pleasant day hike that leads in over rolling farm land and on up the valley to the little gem that is Lake Rubicon nestled in the foothills of Mt Torlesse. A perfect place for lunch. Further ramblings may be possible up the valley.	Grade: Easy Closes: 15 Dec Map: BW21 Approx: \$15	

Sunday 18 December Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
<p><b>The Pyramid:</b> An adventurous moderate trip with all the prerequisites for a classic CTC tramp - wet feet, a little scrambling around the top, and a possible scree descent. The Pyramid (1608m) is a sustained steep climb on an old ridge track overlooking Hawdon and Sudden valley confluence. Once out of the bush and onto the rocky ridge you'll have a commanding view of Waimakariri Basin and surrounding peaks. There are a couple of descent options - a scree chute to Sudden Valley and then the Sudden Valley track down the stream and through the gorge, or through the bush into the Hawdon Valley.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Dec Map: BV21 Approx: \$20
Long Weekend 26-30 December (might change, talk to the leader) Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<p><b>Christmas Trip:</b> Plan A: Toaroha River, Zit Saddle, Kokatahi River, Crawford Creek, Styx River. This has the potential to become an epic...</p> <p>Plan B: Te Araroa - St Arnaud to Boyle Village (6-7 days)</p> <p>Plan C: Te Araroa - Lake Tekapo to Mesopotamia (3-4 days)</p> <p>The trip date can be changed, talk to the leader if you can't make it on certain days. The trip grade will be at the easier end of moderate.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Dec Map: TBD Approx: \$TBA
Weekend 7-8 January Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz
<p><b>Zampa Tops:</b> The Zampa Tops are north east of the Lewis Pass above the Cannibal Gorge. They are rolling tops studded with tarns with many great camping sites and stunning views of the Spenser mountains. The usual route is to climb up to the tops from just below Henry Saddle then traverse the tops to find a camp site (total height gain is about 800m). Side trips are possible for the keen and a round trip can be made by returning via Ada Pass and the Cannibal Gorge or via the Henry Valley and Henry Saddle.</p>		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 29 Dec Map: BT23 Approx: \$40
Weekend 21-22 January Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006 andrewwrapson@yahoo.co.nz
<p><b>Carroll Hut - Kelly Range:</b> It's a short but steep climb from the carpark at Kelly Shelter to the Carroll Hut where we'll stay the night. Plenty of time to wander along the Kelly Range or relax in the hut.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Jan Map: BV20 BU20 Approx: \$40

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# Trip Reports

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11 August 2011

## Mt Catherine

Route description only:

Parked outside haybarn at Heron Station, walked up 4WD track to a gate opposite the ridge to Mt Catherine. Waked up the ridge to Mt Catherine itself. There is a narrow section approx 2/3rds along the ridge. On the return from the summit, we dropped into the basin on the true left side above the stream to a ridge that drops down into the flats. We crossed the flats until we hit the 4WD track. This turned out to be an easy route down the mountain. The whole trip took approx 8 hours.

Trips members: Arno Grueber, Silvia Horniakova, Denise Stroud, Kieron McGuigan, Max de Lacy, Caroline Thomas, Andrew Tromans, Ruth Grey (leader)

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1 October 2011

## Torlesse Gap via Kowai River valley

22.3 km, 7 hours 40 minutes, ~1200 m height gain.



*Synchronised step-plugging*



*Winding on up, with Mt Torlesse in the background*

The Torlesse gap is a classic Canterbury day trip, with the advantage of being rather closer to Christchurch than many. Warwick's initial intention was to tackle our objective from Porters Pass, over Foggy and Castle Hill Peaks. However, the forecast was for nor'westerly gales above 1500 m. And since the Torlesse Range is particularly exposed to the nor'wester, Warwick sensibly decided that we should approach in the lee, via the Kowai River.

Saturday dawned fine and calm in Christchurch and the prospects of strong winds seemed remote. As we travelled along the Old West Coast Road it was apparent that there was plenty of snow below the Gap. If the snow conditions were good we should be able to make fast progress, which would open up the possibility of a more extended trip – perhaps skirting round to Red Peak. When the suggestion was put to Warwick at the requisite Springfield loo stop, he indulgently assented – in principle.

At 9.30 am it was still quite calm at the Big Tree parking spot, but it was frostily cold in the

shadow of the mountains. A roll call was made of the thirteen participants, including two past CTC members, Lovisa and Heather, who have recently come back to Christchurch and returned to the local tramping fold. A brisk pace helped to ward off the chill, especially as we climbed up from the river bed to the four-wheel drive track (though Richard and Silvia persevered along the shingle braids). An hour after leaving the cars we were on the river bank opposite the John Hayward Memorial (Kowai) Hut, where we made a scrog-stop and consulted the map regarding the best route ahead.

Progress through the upper reaches of the Kowai River and over the broad river terrace on the true left bank was slower, but by midday we had reached a copse of beech tucked under a ridge that I remembered as the one that we had descended on a 2008 CTC trip. The wind was now stronger and quite cold, so we took shelter in the trees and donned wind-stoppers and parkas while eating lunch.

On the restart, my suggestion that we should ascend via the ridge was ignored in favour of Peter's and Richard's views that we should continue up the stream. The decision turned out to be rather inspired. The rock walls closed to form a narrow gut filled with solidly packed avalanche debris that was readily kicked into sturdy steps. Initially Kees and Peter led the way. But as we left the gut and the snow became firmer and more slippery, Kees donned crampons and Peter, who had (inadvertently) left his ice axe at home, gave way for Greg. At this point I grabbed an opportunity, lending my ice axe to Peter and continuing with my trekking pole. With lesser protection against slipping, this gave me an excuse to trail behind the others (and thus avoid having to plug steps). Several times I volunteered Peter to take over, but Greg ploughed on at the front for a couple of hundred vertical metres. Eventually Peter and then Richard (who had raced up the slope) took over before Greg had another turn. The snow was still of very good step-plugging quality, though it did get a bit hard and slippery immediately below The Gap. I offered to plug the last ten or so metres, but Greg didn't seem to hear me and reached the objective at 1.30 pm, quickly followed by Richard and Peter.

Just to the east of the snow crest line in The Gap, the wind was still remarkably slight, but one step past that point exposed us to a freezing blast racing across from the Craigieburns. So we backed off and shifted around onto the shingle at one side to watch the others wind their way up the slope towards us. (No mention was made of going on to Red Peak.) After several recounts it became apparent we had "lost" one of the party. On his arrival, Warwick explained that Heather, who was suffering from a pre-existing calf strain, had retreated to the hut.



*Cristina, Silvia and Kees approaching the top*



*Congregation in the gap*

After regrouping, admiring the view, taking photos and refuelling with chocolate, we started on the descent. The snow was excellent for bum-sliding (although the icy crust, imbedded with sharp little rocky shards, did a bit of a sandpaper job on my bare legs). Greg bounded off ahead and disappeared into the distance along the ridge that I had suggested as an ascent route. The rest of us retraced our way down through the avalanche gut, thereby extending the bum-sliding opportunities. Rather than climbing back onto the river terrace, we followed the stream down through the short narrow gorge above the hut, which made for slightly faster and more interesting travel. Greg and Heather obviously saw us coming and came down from the hut to meet us at the river.

The trudge out along the Kowai was brisk and largely uneventful. However, the by-now-very-strong wind was blasting us with clouds of eye-irritating loess and grit. We got back to the cars by 5.15 pm by which time the wind was shrieking down from Porters Pass and we were pelted with pine cones and small branches as we changed our clothes and packed the cars. Remarkably, the wind had reduced to a mere zephyr in Springfield where we partook of beverages, cakes and pies at (ex) Joy's café.

Thanks to leader Warwick for a well-organised day and his good decision making. Thanks also to the drivers, Warwick, peter and Matt.

Participants: Warwick Dowling (leader), Andrew Tromans, Lovisa Eriksson, Cristina Zablan, Peter Emans, Siliva Horniakova, Greg Hill, Kees de Jager, Richard Kimberley, Craig Bunt, Heather Cray, Steffan Rolfe and Bryce Williamson (scribe).

Photocredits: Bryce Williamson

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25 September 2011

## Bealey Spur



*View up to Arthurs Pass*



*Continuing on up the ridge above the hut*

Richard led a very pleasant womble up Bealey Spur, beautifully timed to avoid the oncoming southerly. We explored a bit of the ridge beyond the old musterers' hut at the bushline and headed down just before the first of the light snow-showers came through. A lovely day enjoying the ridge-line track and spectacular above-the-bushyline views.

Participants: Richard Lobb (leader), Susan Pearson, Jo Pekelharing, John Cridlin, Kourosh Saberi, Malcolm Carr, James Carr, Virginia Good, Liu (Alvin) Yang, Kevin Knight, Tom Hu, Christina Zablan, Jenny Harlow

## Black Hill, Rakaia



*South end of Lake Coleridge*

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose. Uncle Bernhard's trips are well known/famous/infamous (delete as applicable) for their idiosyncratic departures from the rules of tramping and physics alike, but he does usually allow a brief interlude of normality before the trembling traverse along the edge of chaos... Not this time: The landowner having vigorously asserted the rights of sheepish mothers-to-be, mothers-at-large and lamb-offspring-already-sprung, we had barely arrived at the departure point when we diverted to an alternative route. Having set his ravenous horde coursing enthusiastically up the DOC easement along Redcliffe Stream, a sensible Uncle Bernhard also let Peter and Stu assume almost full control of route planning from then on. We duly chased the Dynamic Duo along the DOC track, down into the stream, then up the stream, to arrive panting at some scrubby junction of water courses where renewed map-and-gps-consultations took place. Uncle Bernhard maintained a masterly strategy of absence and/or deafness until - Peter and Stu momentarily distracted - he broke from the pack and set off at a cracking pace up a narrow gully, taking the shortest-path route toward the destination... Again we chased - this time up the icy rocky little watercourse - and again - eventually - caught up, after finding what seemed to be the the only point where climbing out of the gully onto the to gentler slopes beyond was possible.

At this point Bryce consulted his super-clever-watch and demonstrated somewhat questionable motivational-leadership skills by announcing ' well that's about 250m height gain done - less than 1500m still to go...' Forcefully persuaded to Just Keep Going, those of us with a sudden hankering towards embroidery as a hobby, rather than than tramping, again set off in pursuit of the rapidly-disappearing Stu and Peter...

(Richard had clearly anticipated what a struggle it would be for mere mortals to keep up with Peter - apparently on departing from the Shell, Peter transferred his gear into Richard's car and then went to park his own car on a side-street - Richard then attempted to drive off immediately - only Murray's intervention saved Peter from the somewhat unfamiliar experience of being left behind ...)

Despite the high-speed tactics, the new lamb-avoidance route was clearly somewhat longer to the usual approach over Turtons Saddle: We had lunch part way up, after which Richard led one line of attack on the summit, while Stu pioneered an alternative on the eastern ridge.

Eventually we all made it to the top (2067m) - glorious weather, the kind of views that emphatically remind one of why one does do this (rather than, say, embroidery, as a hobby), and also the kind of brisk sharp wind that discourages any unnecessary loitering-with-intent-to-fall-asleep-and-dream ... Soon we were all heading down - glissading/bum-sliding/snow-lolloping/etc as the fancy took us. Part way down we stopped to decide on the best route from there - Bernhard demonstrated relaxed leadership in action, reclining comfortably on the ground and humming happily while Peter and Stu pored over the map and debated the fine points of various alternative possibilities. At the end of the break, the wise leader simply had to get the executive summary from his map-minions and set off. Negotiating some small knobby-bits took us out onto a 4wd track which eventually disgorged us onto the road - and from there a brisk march took us back to the cars, home-made chocolate brownies (yes - really) and the drive home...

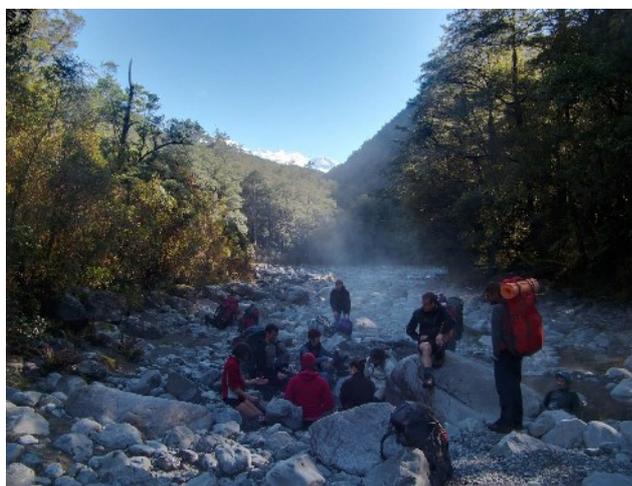
Participants: Bernhard Parawa, Murray Gifford, Bryce Williamson, Richard Kimberley, Heather Clay, Mike Ny, Stu Smith, Peter Eman, Cathy Harlow, Jenny Harlow

Photocredits, including front page image from this trip: Bryce Williamson

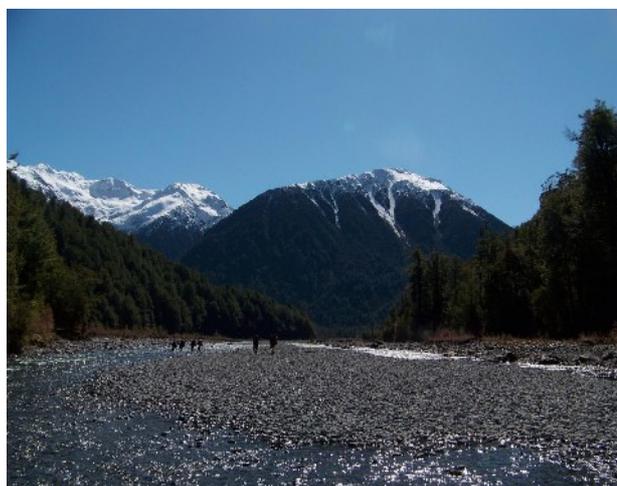
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17-18 September 2011

## Otehake Hot Pools



*Otehake Hot Pools*



*Lower Otehake looking towards the Taramakau*

7 am, 12 people, 3 cars at Shell Papanui. The weather was nice and welcoming although we were prepared for a little rain that Saturday. Had a break in Arthur's Pass and did lots of self-introduction as there were heaps of new mates. There were 7 women and 5 men. While enjoying our coffee and meat pies 7 Keas greeted and entertained us.

We started walking and within the first minutes we hit a bunch of refreshing shallow rivers and all of us gave up trying to keep boots dry. Once we crossed the Otira River, we went up the Taramakau valley which was an easy walk and gave us lots of relaxed time chatting to all the new members. Suddenly from behind the bush, something red approached; it was Jonathan with a massive river bug on his shoulders. We then had lunch next to the stunning Lake Kaurapataka. The lake water was cold and clear and the area was intact.

Once past the lake we reached a junction and had the options of dropping to the Otehake River or along the flood track. We chose the flood track which was a little of a challenge. After wrestling with big fallen logs we hit the Otehake River and quickly arrived at the hot pool which was amazing with a nice and cosy campsite next to it.

Tents were pitched and everyone got hours of soaking with Celia stressing that fire is a

must. Shortly there were marshmallows in the fire. While we were relaxing in the pool and eating Camerons and lollypops, a lucky possum was enjoying his/her feast in the campsite. Once it got dark, Ken taught how we could put sand and a candle in a paper bag for mood making.

There were lots of unexpected events all of which involved the leader one way or another. Burning his shoulder while boiling water in the hot pool and an underwater shot with a non-waterproof camera to mention a few.

On Sunday we took the river route (of course Jonathan floated all the way down to the car park) and crossed tens of rivers, the deepest of which was 1m. On the way back another short stop at Arthur's pass Café was nice. It was such an enjoyable, memorable, stress-free, stress-releasing, entertaining and pleasurable trip to all of us.

Many thanks to Thomas and the rest, for the weekend couldn't be better.

Members: Thomas Matern (Leader), Antony White, Jo Pekelharing, Celia Cameron, Kim Swarbrick, Anand Gudimanchi, Caroline Solazzo, Jonathan Carr, Johanna Paddison, Julia Fettes, Ken Beatson, Kate, Moss Hoseinzadeh (scribe).

Photo Credits: Thomas Matern

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8-9 October

## **Anne Hut via Henry Saddle and Boucher Saddle**

*or the trip where nine trampers were transformed into contortionist tree huggers dragging wet, cold and heavy feet behind with the interruptions of leisurely park strolls and the reoccurring mysterious disappearance and reappearance of one trumper.*

This was the trip to visit the new Anne Hut, crossing two saddles and guaranteed to come with great views, wet feet and a moderate scrub bash. In addition to this Greg, our trip leader, had also promised this to be a good weather trip. Bearing the last promise in mind, at least one trumper squeezed into Craigs back seat to the sound and sight of a steady rainfall on the Saturday morning. At Culverden all but two trampers scrambled out into the rain to the café and coffee where the Café owner posed some discreet questions on our "real" tramping intentions. Was it really going to be enjoyable considering the weather? But when we reached the car park at the shelter there was only high air humidity left of the rain, so everyone got sorted for a quick stroll on the St James Walkway. But first we all got a straightforward reminder on club policies about not bringing tents on a weekend trip, with the additional remark from the only person carrying a bivibag that it was not going to be shared with anyone else in case we all got stranded somewhere. A somewhat subdued group started off on the trail.

Straight after the first bridge we started following the river, with numerous crossings back and forth and in spite of all the rain there wasn't that much water. At the first river fork we left the right branch of the Maruia River and headed towards the Henry saddle. It was steady upward going on a stony river bed with slightly deteriorating weather making it more cloudy, colder and wetter with some added wet snow every now and then. Eight trampers had a quick stop for lunch in the shelter of some trees but ended up waiting for the ninth one who's leisurely munching away on salami and brie.

Continuing on ahead we suddenly stopped after having turned up a fork and Susans GPS was consulted by the trip leader. Apparently the trip leader had been very determined not to use the GPS, asking Susan to have it somewhat tucked away to avoid unnecessarily use. But now it came in handy and since we had made the wrong turn we headed back

down a little bit and continued onwards and upwards. Reaching the saddle was very straightforward and the weather was improving again so we could enjoy some views. The start of the descent was very nice walking, soft tussockland with some patches of snow. The ones that were a bit ahead came across some deer just crossing in front of them. Farther down we got into the forest and there were some fallen trees but the way down beside the river was rather easily negotiated, at some places someone had even been out with a saw. Down onto the plain towards Anne Hut some of the trampers started dreaming about seeing the wild horses. There were plenty of traces around, but no live horses. One trumper walked ahead expressing wishes of a warm hut and an early night. When the last of us had finally got up the little hill towards the hut, it had turned to dusk and the chill in the air promised a cold night. Then, magically, a little group of horses emerged from the trees onto the plain beside the hut and we were rewarded with the fulfilling of our wishes.

In the new immaculate hut there were only two other trampers and someone had got the fire burning so it was warm and cosy inside. Brian quickly got out chopping more wood and after a while the "go ahead of the group" trumper finally arrived to the hut, what had happened? The evening was spent eating, talking and solving cryptic crosswords.

The next morning we awoke to clear blue skies and a good frost making it impossible to use the taps, and water was retrieved from the top of the tank instead. Kerrie, Susan and Martin had all left their boots outside and they were now trying to thaw them. Martins socks were nicely frozen into two red curls which is not the way his feet look. In the end all socks and boots were put on and we had a nice and sunny walk on the walkway. On the way we had a bit of a stop on the site of the burnt down old Anne Hut and a look inside the old musterers hut which is still there but will be removed in two years time.

Leaving the trail and crossing a little river we had a nice stop in the sun, all we had left was the Boucher saddle. So we waved happily at the group of teenagers just heading in towards Anne hut for a tramp on their school holidays. We headed up along the creek with the aim of lunch at the saddle, starting off upwards on a wet tussock with a suction that Kerrie remarked would be a splendid exercise spot for the ABs. Then we tried the bush but reverted down into the creek bed instead since the bush wasn't that easy to get through. We got around some serious tree falls but the overall impression getting onto the snowcovered tussock leading up to the saddle was that this was moderate scrub bash. Greg continued up in a rather quick pace and everytime the rest of us caught a glimpse of him, he waved happily at us and continued upwards. Finally we reached the saddle (and Greg) and had a long desired, but postponed lunch. After some discussion over the options for heading down, Greg ran off to check whether it was possible to sidle along the Traverse peak to reach the trail on the ridge. The conclusion was that it wasn't possible without iceaxes and crampons so the remaining options were to head up to the Travers peak and then down the ridge or go down Foleys Creek and cross over to the ridge trail further down. We chose Foleys Creek.

The descent started off with a steep snowcovered tussock ending up in a pool, which was neither big and deep enough nor hot enough for a swim. Avoiding the pool we bumslided into the bush and back into the creek a bit further down. Back into the tree filled creek we alternatively climbed down the wet, stony creek bed or under, around or over tree trunks, sometimes combining both tree and creek climbing in the same maneuver. The amount of time spent in a straight upright position wasn't that long. Greg went ahead to run back and fetch one car to the end of the trail while the rest of us continued down the creek bed, twisting our bodies and packs around the trees. After a while, a trumper known to be ahead, suddenly emerged from behind. How could this happen again? Having a short break, Susan consulted her GPS and discovered we would never be so close to the trail

on the ridgeline again so we decided to head up to the ridge in pursuit of the trail. Up we went and through the bush, according to the GPS we were only 100 m from the trail, then only 50 m off and then we were supposed to be on the trail but there was no trail under our feet. Turning a blind eye to the GPS we headed off into a clearing, then towards another clearing and all of a sudden someone shouted "the trail" and we were onto a trail again. Someone remarked that there is no better thing than a good trail. Heading down towards the road we spotted Greg's car and wondered how long he'd been waiting. Down on the road, we walked towards the spot where the car was parked when it emerged from behind us. That mystery was easily solved. In his one hour wait, Greg had done turns back and forth on the road so that he could pick Craig up to drive his car to the spot as well.

In the end nine satisfied trampers thanked the leader and sorted out money issues at the Culverden pub, rejoicing in the warm and pre-game atmosphere. Trampers: Greg Hill (leader), Susan Pearson, Craig Bunt, Kevin Knight, Andrew Tromans, Kerrie Maynard, Martin Brown and Lovisa Eriksson (scribe).

## Classifieds

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

## 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 20 November 2011 – Thanks.

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