



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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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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Ahuriri, February 2012

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 page 19.

Obituary

Ruth Hesselyn: Ruth (Marjorie) Hesselyn, a Club member for a period in the early 1970's, tragically slipped and died on a tramping trip last week on Mt Arthur in Kahurangi National Park. Ruth joined the CTC with her school friend Pam as a young teenager and soon proved her small, slight stature was no hindrance in footing it with the 'Boil 'n Bag' and 'Jockey Boys' of that club era. She became a very active member, enjoying being in the hills tramping with the Cljub - or rock climbing at Castle Rock if a nor-wester was blowing across the plains. Ruth became a landscape gardener, living and climbing at the Hermitage for a period. She summited Mt Cook several times and more recently climbed Mt Aspiring for her 50th birthday. She later spent years living in Switzerland and Australia before returning to live in Nelson where she became an accomplished furniture maker and got back into her first love, tramping. The Club sends its condolences to her family and friends.

Tramper of the Month: Ruth Gray

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| <p><i>Give us the short summary about yourself - job, family, where you are from, etc...</i></p> | <p>I spent most of my childhood living on the family farm near Wellington. I grew up riding horses and competing in dressage, show-jumping and cross-country events. I moved to Christchurch to study in 1984. At university I got involved in protests against apartheid in South Africa and defending the ChCh abortion clinic. In 1986 I joined a NZ solidarity brigade to Nicaragua to learn about the revolution. On my return I joined the communist movement. I have worked in numerous industrial jobs - most recently as a knife hand in the meat works. I currently work supporting people with intellectual disabilities.</p> |
|  | <p><i>When did you join the CTC</i></p> |
| | <p>I joined the CTC in the mid 1990s.</p> |
| | <p><i>Did you tramp before joining the CTC?</i></p> |
| | <p>Yes I had done quite a bit of tramping before joining the CTC. I joined the club because I found that none of my friends wanted to do the kind of tramps I wanted to do. The club introduced me to lots of new people and places to go tramping that I had never known about previously.</p> |
| | <p><i>What are your favourite tramps?</i></p> |
| <p>Day tramps: Avalanche Peak - in both summer and winter. I usually do it once a year. I may have to find a new one as it is getting too popular now.</p> | |
| <p>Multiday tramps: Ball Pass. I've done it three times now and would do it again. The views are amazing!</p> | |
| <p><i>Your favourite hut?</i></p> | |
| <p>Castle Rocks Hut above the Franz Josef glacier. I went there for the first time last year. The hut sits above the glacier and you only have to look out the window to have an amazing view of it.</p> | |
| <p><i>Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?</i></p> | <p>My parents. We always went on walking holidays when I was young. These were only day trips however and it was not until I was an adult that I discovered the joys of overnight tramping.</p> |
| <p><i>Most memorable trip?</i></p> | <p>My most memorable trip was to the Olivine Ice Plateau. We had most of our tents destroyed whilst camped on the plateau. After more than 24 hours of stormy weather we woke up to blue skies and sunshine. We spent the day exploring the plateau and climbing some of the peaks - in between sewing up the rips in the tent flies.</p> |
| <p><i>What future trips are you most looking forward to?</i></p> | <p>Ivory Lake in April and tramping in Colorado in July.</p> |
| <p><i>What interests or hobbies do you have, other than tramping?</i></p> | <p>Since my early 20's I have been a political and union activist. I currently volunteer on an international project to print socialist books. I like to go for long bike rides when I can't tramp. I also enjoy reading, watching movies and going to the gym. I like to collect and try new recipes.</p> |

Ruth, Gardens of Eden (2012)

News

CTC AGM: A reminder that the Christchurch Tramping Club's AGM is on Thursday 19 April. See the back page for the agenda, which includes a notified motion to increase club subscription fees.

FMC AGM and nominations for Executive: The FMC's AGM will be held on 9 June 2012 at the Sudima Hotel, Christchurch. If you wish to attend the meeting on behalf of the CTC then please contact the CTC secretary (secretary@ctc.org.nz or 349 2280) for further details. Nominations for the FMC Executive are also open until 11 April. If you would like to be nominated or to find out more, please also contact the Secretary as above.

FMC Photo Competition: Entries for the FMC photo competition are open until 20 April. See the FMC website (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/photo-competition/>) for more details. Entries must be compiled and sent to the FMC by the CTC, so if you want to enter please send your files to Jenny Harlow ([pumpkinnz\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:pumpkinnz(at)gmail.com)) by 14 April. Please ensure that your entries are named as required by the FMC.

New Members Welcome: We welcome 9 new members to the club: Steve and Loretta Maddox, Michael Lavarias, Simon Johnson, Daniel Slater, Gareth Caves, Mark Saunders, Nikki Wells and Kate Wills. Please accept the club's warm welcome.

Hut books: DOC is undergoing a restructuring process which will take effect from the 1st of July 2012 with a reduction in budget and staff. Funding of backcountry projects will more and more depend on usage so we encourage all members to record their visits in the hut books provided when out tramping, as they provide one record of usage.

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.

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| Thursday 29 March | | Club Night |
| <p>Newsletter folding night + Raincoats: After we have folded the newsletters let's discuss raincoats, always an essential piece of kit but particularly critical with winter coming on. Bring your own and tell us what you like and perhaps do not like about your coat. If you are a newer member this may assist you when you choose to buy a new one.</p> | | |
| Saturday 31 March Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Lynette Hartley 338-0922 |
| <p>Wilding Pines #2: It's that time of the year again when we are asked to volunteer to kill wilding pine trees. ECAN organise this and ask the tramping clubs to send people. We get a financial contribution to the club for everyone who comes out for a day's work. There are three options this year (Saturday 17 March, 31 March and 14 April, all at Flock Hill) . There will be trip lists and you can sign up for one, two or three days. ECAN organise four wheel drives where necessary. Each day has a range of terrain with some easier country and some big areas of ground to cover. ECAN supply appropriate hand tools but bring your own gloves, lunch, water etc. If you have a chainsaw and have done the safety course they are keen to hear from you but there is lots of work for people without chainsaws. Likewise anyone who wants to bring their 4WD to either of the March dates where they would be required and has the skills let the leader know (4WDs will be reimbursed). We need to give ECAN numbers so get your names down soon by signing up on the list at club or phoning the leader directly. We usually have a good turnout of members and it's a rewarding day in every sense.</p> | | <p>Grade: Work Closed: 29 Mar Map: Approx: \$0</p> |
| Weekend 31 March-1 April Departure point: Contact Leader | | Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686 |
| <p>Barker Hut: Take a walk up to the head of White river and stay at a wonderfully part of the park. Plenty of options: climb to one of the surrounding passes and take in some views or just laze around the hut enjoying the mountain ambience. Choice of returning over Mt Harper. Ice axe and crampons may be required.</p> | | <p>Grade: ModHard Closed: 22 Mar Map: BV20 Approx: \$35</p> |
| Weekend 31 March-1 April Departure point: Contact Leader | | Leader: Li Li 0212363211 ahhlili01@hotmail.com |
| <p>Cass-Lagoon: A popular trip to the luxurious Hamilton Hut. After the car shuffle we usually start at Cora Lynn, over Lagoon Saddle and down the Harper River to the Hamilton Hut. Sunday starts with a steep climb up Cass Saddle followed by a cruisy walk in/along the Cass River back to the road. Side trips up Mt Bruce are available for the more energetic on the trip.</p> | | <p>Grade: EasyMod Closed: 22 Mar Map: BV20 BV21 BW20 Approx: \$35 + hut fees</p> |

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| Sunday 1 April | | Leader: Ralf O'Poil Organiser: ralf@clearfell.co.nz | |
| <p>Deans Bush/DeansMall + native firewood for \$90/trailor approx: Come and visit for the last time Deans bush, before it is cleared to make way for the next stage of the new mall. This will make up for all of the retail space that has been lost in the CBD, and will also be where the new headquarters of the New Zealand Native Forestry Preservation Trust will be built. Firewood will be on sale from 7.30am to 12pm, by the main entrance of the old reserve.</p> | | <p>Grade: Easy Closed: 29 Mar Map: Approx: \$0</p> | |
| Sunday 1 April | | Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 | |
| Departure point: Shell Papanui | | | |
| <p>Mt Barron: Mt Barron is a 1730m peak above Otira, about 1500m of ascent altogether, with some scrambly rocky (probably snow/rock) sections. We'll do this as a round trip - DOC are alleged to have done some track work up there which should make finding the return route a bit easier! Ice axe and crampons may be necessary, and there will probably be an early start: contact leader for details.</p> | | <p>Grade: ModHard Closed: 29 Mar Map: BV20 Approx: \$30</p> | |
| Thursday 5 April | | Club Night | |
| <p>No club night as it's Easter: No club tonight as all the lucky ones are on their way to far off exciting places!</p> | | | |
| Friday 6 April | | Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com | |
| <p>Lake Hood Walkway: Family Friendly: Super Easy Tramp. NO HILLS! Suitable for nanas, poppas, moms, dads and kids with backpacks and large wheeled buggies. Veteran trampers: a great preschooler-paced tramp! If conditions are unsuitable on the day, this tramp will be exchanged with Easter Monday's trip. A great opportunity to try a CTC trip. Non-members: email leader, tecbruce@gmail.com, re suitable preparation. NOTE - meet at CHURCH SQUARE in ADDINGTON 9 AM.</p> | | <p>Grade: All / Family Closes: 5 Apr Map: BY21 Approx: \$25</p> | |
| Multi day trip 6-7 April | | Leader: Richard Kimberley 326 6158 | |
| Departure point: Contact Leader | | | |
| <p>Mt Adams: Mt Adams stands well west of most other 2000m high mountains on the West Coast and views from the summit are reported to be spectacular -- Gardens of Eden and Allah etc. The route starts in low-level bush and traverses all vegetation zones as it climbs to bivvy at the bush line on day one. Climb to the summit requires crampons and axe, then a return to the car and home on day two. Trip date can change according to the weather forecast.</p> | | <p>Grade: ModHard Closed: 29 Mar Map: BW16 BW17 Approx: \$60</p> | |

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| Long Weekend 6-9 April Easter Departure point: Contact Leader | | Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686 |
| Bluff Hut: A nice walk into the west coast mountains with plenty of huts and nice views. Walk past Cedar Flats Hut to Top Toaroa Hut on the first day. Over the pass to the Mungo River and climb to Bluff Hut to enjoy the great views. Then over Frew Saddle then down and out the Hokitika River. | Grade: Moderate Closed: 29 Mar Map: BV18 BV19 Approx: \$40 | |
| Saturday 7 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 |
| Mt Norma: A nice 1000m-odd climb to Norma, 1722m, in the Opera Range (Lewis Pass), with a surprisingly good track (not on the map) through most of the bush, then open tussock leading to a rocky ridge. Be one of the relatively few people to discover what a lovely tramp this is. Please note that it is an early start - make sure your name's on the list or you have contacted the leader. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Apr Map: BT23 Approx: \$30 | |
| Sunday 8 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com |
| Peninsula Exploring - Hill tramp: Something different, nothing too strenuous, but with great views from the tops or an interesting coastline. Weather dependent, there are several options. | Grade: Easy Closes: 5 Apr Map: BX25 BY25 Approx: \$20 | |
| Monday 9 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Alan Ross 384-6425 |
| Mt Cassidy to Blimit: Mt Cassidy (1850m) is right above Arthurs Pass township, up the steep Cons Track from the north side of Punchbowl Creek to the bushline (1280m) . From the bushline there is a rough unmarked route, also steep and rocky, to the summit. The ridge along towards Blimit is fairly straightforward, and then down. This trip is to be run at no more than Moderate pace. If the weather is not good for Arthurs' Pass, the backup plan is to climb Faust on the Libretto Range on the way to Lewis Pass. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Apr Map: BV20 Approx: \$25 | |
| Monday 9 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com |
| Port Hills - Mt Ada: Easy walk up to CRW on a different usual route from usual then along the ridge and back through some Regenerating Bush to the cars. Easy off track and tracked, kid friendly terrain. Height gain 400m. Distance 9km. May be exchanged with Fridays' Lake Hood trip. Check with leader. NOTE - Late Start 9:30 AM at PMH on Cashmere Road opp Bengal Drive, by PMH. | Grade: Easy Closes: 5 Apr Map: BX24 Approx: \$5 | |

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| Thursday 12 April | Club Night |
| <p>Learnings from a fall and necessary helicopter extraction on a club day trip: The injured person and some in his party tell us what happened and how the party dealt with the situation. The purpose of the resulting discussion will be to assess how we can avoid such events and mitigate the consequences if they do happen.</p> <p>As an aside the club has 4x personal locator beacons, which are free to use by club members, and helmets for just \$2/day.</p> <p>Can I encourage all members to attend as any one of us could be forced into an unplanned situation like this and you will be better prepared after this meeting</p> <p>-- Alan Ross.</p> | |

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| Saturday 14 April | Leader: Lynette Hartley 338-0922 |
| Departure point: Shell Papanui | |
| <p>Wilding Pines #3: Last chance to come and kill wilding pine trees this year. ECAN organise this and ask the tramping clubs to send people. We get a financial contribution to the club for everyone who comes out for a day's work. Sign up on the trip list. ECAN organise four wheel drives where necessary. Each day has a range of terrain with some easier country and some big areas of ground to cover. ECAN supply appropriate hand tools but bring your own gloves, lunch, water etc. If you have a chainsaw and have done the safety course they are keen to hear from you but there is lots of work for people without chainsaws.</p> | <p>Grade: Work Closes: 12 Apr Map: Approx: \$0</p> |

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| Weekend 14-15 April | Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 |
| <p>Arthurs Pass Weekend: Saturday we'll go mountain biking in the Craigieburn area, including the new Hogs Back Track. Saturday night at the recently refurbished CTC Hut at Arthurs Pass probably with dinner down at the Wobbly. Sunday we could pretend to be climbers at Castle Hill, go through Cave Stream, or do another day on the bike - maybe up the Poulter Valley. We could even go tramping. Trip saboteurs, folks with alternative plans and general groupies all welcome.</p> | <p>Grade: All Closes: 5 Apr Map: Approx: \$50</p> |

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| Weekend 14-15 April Leaving 7-30pm on Friday Departure point: Caltex Russley | Leader: Alan Ross 384-6425 alan.d.ross@orica.com |
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| <p>Pfeifer Tops: Leaving from the Caltex Russley 7:30 pm on Friday for a night at the club hut. Mt Pfeifer is above Otira just on the West Coast of Arthurs Pass. On Saturday we will go up on to the tops and camp near the Biv. Distance just approx 8km and height gain 1,000m (to the Biv). We will plan to knock off Mt Pfeifer (1,700m) either on the Saturday afternoon or on Sunday morning and come out the same way. Apparently the views are fantastic and it could be the last chance to have a snow free camp on the tops before winter.</p> | <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Apr Map: BV20 BU20 Approx: \$45</p> |
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| Sunday 15 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | Leader: Leader Required |
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| <p>Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut - Klondike Corner: Climb up to Avalanche Peak before descending a long shingle scree into the Crow Valley, past Crow Hut and out to the Waimak. Longish day so could be early start - check with the Leader.</p> | <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Apr Map: BV20 Approx: \$30</p> |
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| Sunday 15 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com |
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| <p>Monserat (458m): Another locally named high point on the seaward end of the Cass Ridge system. We start from Cass Road following a farm track then head West up onto the Cass ridge (pt496). Down the ridge to Monserat then back by a more direct farm track. Great views of Glenafric, Mount Vulcan, Motanau Island and the coast. On/off track. 420m height gain. 13km.</p> | <p>Grade: Easy Closes: 12 Apr Map: BV25 Approx: \$15</p> |
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| Thursday 19 April | Club Night |
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| <p>AGM: It's the club Annual General Meeting. Club Members - this is your chance to have a say in the running of your club, by voting on motions and by electing the club officers whom you wish to see running your club. Or ... why not stand for office yourself? See the back page of the newsletter for the agenda, which includes a notice of motion to increase the membership fee this year. Doors open at 7:00pm and the meeting will start promptly at 7:30pm. Please be on time.</p> |
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| Saturday 21 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Thomas Matern 354-4309 |
| Stour River - early 7am start: The Stour River flows at the foot of Mt Barrosa and is easily accessible from the Ashburton Gorge Road. Climbing Mt Barrosa is a great moderate trip but on this trip we will stay next to/in the river on an easy pace. We will start our trip at the Stour River bridge and follow it upstream. Depending on the party, weather and river level we will either do a small loop via Woolshed Creek Hut or take the longer way past Lake Emily to the Lake Heron Road. The route is mostly flat but wet feet are guaranteed. | Grade: Easy Closes: 19 Apr Map: BX19 Approx: \$25 | |
| Weekend 21-22 April early start 7am Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz |
| Mt Sebastopol: Mount Sebastopol is in the Crimea Range about 30km north of Hanmer Springs and 10km east of Lake Tennyson. It's easily accessible from the Tophouse Road. The plan is to find a nice, not too high camp site and climb Sebastopol without the packs either on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning before heading home. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Apr Map: BT24 BT25 Approx: \$40 | |
| Sunday 22 April Departure point: Caltex Russley | | Leader: Richard Lobb Note early start at Caltex Russley 351-2344 |
| Mt Sinclair: Mt Sinclair (2065m) is on Mesopotamia Station, way up the Rangitata. From the top you are looking back right into the Two Thumb range, or out of the river toward Mt Harper... Sinclair goes one up on Harper though - it sports a beautiful lake in a little basin at about 1600m, which we'll visit on our way up or down. It's named after Dr Sinclair, a past Colonial Secretary. After his retirement he gained a reputation as a naturalist and made several trips back to New Zealand. In February 1861 he joined von Haast (who was surveying the Rangitata River system) at Mesopotamia Station. On 25 March 1861 Sinclair was drowned in the river while trying to get to the homestead of Samuel Butler. His grave is marked on the map, about a quarter of a mile from the river and in front of the Mesopotamia homestead. Early start: contact leader. | Grade: Moderate Closes: 19 Apr Map: BX19 Approx: \$35 | |
| Thursday 26 April | | Club Night |
| Newsletter folding night: After we fold the newsletter we can have some social time. | | |

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| Saturday 28 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com | |
| <p>Mt Arden: Starting from Mount Arden Station, Hawdon area, we follow Tommys Stream To Matagouri Stream. Then head up onto the ridgeline cresting Mount Arden to take in the views over the Middle Waipara River. We also check out some other interesting tops for future conquest. (Doctors Hills; Double tops; Mounts Mason, Lance, Hilton, Grey and Okuku). Following on along the ridgeline we then descend down to McDonald Downs and off for rehydration or perhaps icecreams. On/off track, 400m height gain. 11km.</p> | | Grade: Easy Closes: 26 Apr Map: BV23 Approx: \$20 | |
| Saturday 28 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bruce James 332-3473 | |
| <p>Mt Horrible: Did you know that there are six Mt Horribles in the South Island? Doesn't say a lot for the earlier settler experiences does it? This one is of course our very own Horrible, right next to Mt Misery. Don't be put off - with this leader it's bound to be a good day. This is a great trip to test out your winter snow skills (assuming there's snow of course), and although it's not that high (1254m) it's a good tramp with good views from the top over the Waimak towards the Hawdon, Sudden Valley and the Polar Range.</p> | | Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Apr Map: BV21 Approx: \$20 | |
| Weekend 28-29 April 7am early start Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Thomas Matern 354-4309 thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz | |
| <p>Hurunui River Hot Pool: It's a long walk from the Lake Taylor road end to the pools but it is rewarded by a great, hot bath with a stunning view. There is a good track all the way to the pool and no height gain but it is about 25km each way. Depending on the party we will either stay at the Hurunui Hut about 1 hour from the pools or camp on the river bed just below the pools, allowing all-night soaking. Due to the size of the pool, this trip is limited to 5 people so sign up quickly!</p> | | Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 19 Apr Map: BU22 Approx: \$35 | |
| Sunday 29 April Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Richard Kimberley 326 6158 | |
| <p>The Dome: The Dome (1945m) is a distinctive bump between the Edwards and the Waimakariri. It's a moderate trip, but at the longer/more strenuous end of the moderate range. We'll probably go in via the long western spur, climbing steadily to the bush line (about 700m up) and then up another 500m+ along the open undulating ridge to the summit of the Dome itself. There are a number of descent options, including dropping down into the the beautiful Edwards valley to the track that goes up to the Edwards Hut. It will be a long day so we may well make an early start - make sure you check in with the leader in advance.</p> | | Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Apr Map: BV20 Approx: \$25 | |

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| Thursday 3 May | Club Night |
| <p>The Amazing Chatham Island Black Robin by Raazesh Sainudiin: In 2011 Raaz spent a month on the tiny island of Rangatira in the Chathams, home of the amazing black robin. These black robins are a critically endangered species (population around 200 birds), but less so now than in 1980 when there was only one breeding pair left (and only five birds in total)! Raaz will tell us about his experiences on this wild remote island and about the way in which the black robin has been saved from extinction - so far at least. Very few people in the world are ever able to visit Rangatira so this is a unique opportunity for us to see and hear about it</p> | |

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| Saturday 5 May | Leader: David Sutton 348 5998 |
| Departure point: Shell Papanui | |
| <p>Goat Hill: A nice little 1650m bump directly above Otira opposite Mt Barron. It's an area we don't do as much as Arthur's Pass and fully deserves a bit more attention, especially with the lovely ridge route you can do with this trip. The route starts near the Otira bridge and travels up a good DOC track to the bushline. From there we will follow the ridge around to the summit. The return will be via the long southern ridge above the Deception and then down an old track back to the cars. Early start 7am at Shell Papanui.</p> | <p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 3 May Map: BV20 Approx: \$25</p> |

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| Sunday 6 May | Leader: Jim Western 377 5431 |
| Departure point: Shell Papanui | |
| <p>Andrews Stream - Hallejeh Flat: Hallelujah Flat is about 9k up the Andrews Track from Andrews Shelter, on the way to the Casey Hut. Given suitable weather, we'll offer anyone who's interested the option of going up the streambed rather than the track. Either way, it's about 300m height gain altogether, through red beech forest, and then you'll come out at Hallelujah flat itself, dotted with hebes - the perfect place for lunch. Then back to the cars via the track and Springfield for coffee, milkshake, icecream, etc.</p> | <p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 3 May Map: BV21 Approx: \$20</p> |

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| Sunday 6 May | Leader: Matt Gunn 332 8704 332 8704 |
| Departure point: Shell Papanui | |
| <p>Mt Torlesse: Local biggie in Torlesse Range overlooking Springfield. Usual access via Kowhai Stream. It's a satisfying day out and involves over 1300m climbing with some steep scrambling on ridge sections.</p> | <p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 3 May Map: BW21 Approx: \$20</p> |

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| Saturday 12 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com | |
| Coastal Exploring : John Browns Tomb: Up near Nape Nape is an intriguingly-named rock formation on the Eastern Blythe Valley Hills. We will also visit a large seal coloney with lots of frolicking seal pups. Bring binoculars and cameras. A nice easy tramp, with some offtrack travel but in easy terrain. Height gain 300m, Distance 12 Km. | | Grade: Easy Closes: 10 May Map: BX24 Approx: \$20 | |
| Weekend 12-13 May Early start from Caltex Russley at 7:30am | | Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz | |
| Corner Creek, Packard Peak: Hopefully this trip will start with a 4WD ride into the Avoca Valley (1st 4 to sign up get a ride) If we have more bottoms than seats we could take packs in by vehicle and have a mountain bike start to the trip. One way or another we will start walking at Corner Creek in the Avoca Valley. About 6km, 900m gain and a couple of waterfalls later, we should find a nice tarn in a high basin beneath Packard Peak. If we have time we will scoot up Packard on Saturday afternoon, otherwise we can climb on Sunday morning. | | Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 3 May Map: BV20 BW20 Approx: \$40 | |
| Sunday 13 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Leader Required | |
| Gabriel Hut: The cute little Gabriel Hut is reached from a track starts from the road that leads to Lake Sumner via Lake Taylor. There isn't much height gain, so it's an easy walk into the hut (in the middle of the bush), and then an easy walk to the lake. There is the option of swimming at Lake Sumner for those who are keen. | | Grade: Easy Closes: 10 May Map: BU23 Approx: \$25 | |
| Saturday 19 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bruce James 332-3473 | |
| Mt St Bernard: Mt St Bernard (1518m) is behind Purple Hill, which is next to Lake Pearson. This is one bump that the club hasn't done for quite some years, so it will be up to the capable leader to navigate a way through the Matagori. | | Grade: Moderate Closes: 17 May Map: BV21 Approx: \$20 | |
| Weekend 19-20 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Gareth Gilbert 981-1737 gilbert.gareth@gmail.com | |
| Pinnacles Hut and Mt Somers: A leisurely walk from the Sharplin Falls carpark to the Pinnacles Hut on Saturday. On Sunday we will follow the track to the saddle, climb Mt Somers and return to the cars via the track down the southern face. Easy trampers are welcome to join and can take the easy way back to the cars on Sunday. | | Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 10 May Map: BX19 BX20 Approx: \$40 | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Sunday 20 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 |
| Mt Manson: A club favourite. Northern end of the Craigieburn Range overlooking Lake Pearson. Options could include going along the ridge to the Craigieburn Range and along to Mt Hamilton, descending via Camp Saddle. | | Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 17 May Map: BV21 Approx: \$20 |
| Saturday 26 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 |
| Hurunui Peak: West of Culverden and down the ridge from Charring Cross (1000m) near the end of the Te Koa range. Located between the Hurunui and Dove Rivers. Great views of the Big and Little Island Hill Ranges also looking out over the Amuri Plains. On and off track. 620m height gain | | Grade: EasyMod Closes: 24 May Map: BU24 Approx: \$20 |
| Weekend 26-27 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006 andrewwrapson@yahoo.co.nz |
| Hawdon Hut: We will start at the Hawdon Shelter and follow the Hawdon River upstream to the spacious Hawdon Hut. The track stays in the riverbed all the way so the total height gain on this trip is about 80m. The Hawdon Hut is a quite new 20 bunk hut next to the river with a great view. From the hut there are options to walk up to Twin Falls or even further to a nice tarn on Walker Pass. Please make sure that you have got a valid hut pass or 3 hut tickets. | | Grade: Easy Closes: 17 May Map: BV21 Approx: \$35 + hut fees |
| Sunday 27 May Departure point: Shell Papanui | | Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 |
| Crossover: Woolshed Creek to Sharplin Falls: A great opportunity to walk the full length of the Mt Somers subalpine walkway in one day, from Sharplin Falls to the Woolshed Creek carpark, with no transport hassles at the end. Hopefully we'll have enough people for two parties, one going in each direction. The walkway offers a great variety of scenery: bush, river, waterfalls, gorges, stunning rock-faces, tussock tops, and a couple of cosy huts to pause at en route. There's even an historic coal mine to inspect. It's 17km with a total height gain of about 1000m, but all on good tracks, so is at the easy end of the club's 'moderate' tramp range. | | Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 24 May Map: BX19 BX20 Approx: \$25 |

Trip Reports

4-6 February 2012

The Easy Ahuriri Trip

[The editor/webmaster apologies for the late publication of this report.]

Five lucky people turned up at my place in Twizel mid Saturday morning looking keen for a wee stroll in the lovely Ahuriri valley just a few k's south of here. We arrived at road end about mid day and it was boots on for some, sandals for the illustrious leader, slopped copious quantities of suncream on and off into the blazing sun. Since Auntie Helen bought Birchwood it has been popular with hunters, climbers, trampers and trampers who insist on taking their bicycles with them. Reminding ourselves it was an easy trip we meandered along the valley floor reaching Top Hut after a few hours. Pitching tents, eating and swatting sandflies occupied the evening.



Sunday dawned fine and the group practised more meandering in the valley head. Stream crossing, boulder hopping, scrub bashing and bouldering lessons were all gratefully received. Near the head of the valley is a wee lake at the foot of a glacier coming off the south side of Huxley. It's hemmed in by scree walls and seemed to be avoiding us. A steepish tussock gully was climbed where arms were just as useful as legs and we broke out onto a flat area below V Notch Pass. The lake is between this flat and the side of Huxley and a few metres higher.

After a splendid lunch that we did not have to share with the sandflies and much admiring of alpine flowers we set off for the lake. There are two of them, the first being a glorified puddle that would be barely adequate for the 'complete immersion' and a larger one above it. Reminding ourselves that this was an easy trip we picked the easy path from here down very steep bouldery scree and back out into the valley head. Some of us were glad to see camp that night after an 11 hour day. Should have been more but yes it was an easy trip.

More revolting meals were eaten out of packets that night and everyone was glad to hit the pit. Monday we all woke in time for the obligatory commemoration of Waitangi day and then we made a beeline for the nearest ice cream shop a few hours away. Hopefully the five participants who were not members will see the benefits of joining such an exciting club where all trips are easy. Victims were: (and people should understand that the list is in no particular order and has nothing to do with loss of blood on the trip) Immy, Mike, Kim, Sarah, Margy, Carl (leader and scribe). The leader prefers anonymity. [But doesn't get it. Good try, Carl -- Ed].

26 February 2012

Mt Harper

Oh, The grand old Duke of York,
He had ten thousand men;
He marched them up to the top of the hill,
And he marched them down again.

The 'grand old' bit is of course a reference to Richard's new-look of bearded gravitas, rather than any accumulation of years ... And although ten thousand might be a slight exaggeration, it's pretty mild by my usual trip report standards: an impressive 19 of us set out from Christchurch in light rain and optimistic spirit.

The General carefully crafted an attack plan for the matagouri-protected lower slopes of the target ('straight up I think') and gallantly led the way through the thickest patch of Harper's prickly defences, but thereafter stayed back to encourage the rearguard of his troops. Lieutenant Williamson (also resplendent in extra-luxuriant beard - is something catching in the higher ranks?) was delegated to take charge of the vanguard, a task he fulfilled with his usual able zeal. Advance scouts Matt, Ian, Gareth and Conor lead most of the way to the top while the rest of us followed in good order.



After a ration-break at the top, the Grand Old Duke departed daringly from the story-line and advanced several undulating kilometres to the west before marching his troops triumphantly down the final sections of hill from Balmacaan Saddle and out along the stock track back to Lake Camp.

Special meritorious mentions in dispatches: Gareth for trying to use the General as a wind break, Conor on his first outing for being fitter and faster than most of the rest of us, Cristina and Morwenna for adding a touch of sartorial glamour to the trip (Cristina - Best Hat; Morwenna - Most Pink), Annabel for coming with us rather than the easy trip she thought she would be doing, Uncle Bernhard for now being Grandpa Bernhard ... everyone else for making it a great trip, and of course the General - 19 out, 19 back, and no major bloodshed, desertions, Missing In Actions or court martials - pretty good going.

Trampers: Richard Lobb (the Grand Old Duke of York), Morwenna Hicks, Gareth Caves, Dharshie Jeyaseelan, Adrian Hughes, Silvia Horniakova, Matt Gunn, Ruth Gray, Cristina Zablan, Warwick Dowling, Simon Johnson, Conor McCollum, John Cridlin, Annabelle White, Ian Dunn, Naomi Wells, Bernhard Parawa, Bryce Williamson, Jenny Harlow

4 March 2012

Mt Ida near Lake Coleridge

The day started with rain on my skylight and thoughts of heading to the high hills may not be a great way to spend the day, but the forecast says fine, so trust in the weather map. The trip to Windwhistle was wet and grey but Richard confirmed the day would be fine. On

up towards Lake Coleridge and the patches of blue skies began to appear and the snow was way down on the Mt Hutt hills. The two cars arrived at Lake Selfe and the day was looking good.

A cheerful party of eight set out around the southern flanks of little Mt Ida, thru the daisy and matagouri fields of tussock. A bit of a rise to warm up the body and then back down to Lake Ida. The lodge on the south end of the lake looked forlorn and desolate. Passed the man made lakes (guessing ice skating in winter), thru the pines and ahead lay the challenge for the day, a 1100m climb, 30 to 35 deg slope with little respite. Tussock slopes ahead, climbing to a lone beech for our first break. Onward thru smaller scrub and rocky outcrops, the view expanding all the time, plenty of snow on the Craigieburn's, not much ahead, but the tops were in the clouds. Two hrs on and 1300m gained, the weather still clearing; we stopped for lunch with the sun shining thru. We perched on the scree slopes like 8 hungry kea, surveying, and the valleys below, the Olympus road, Mt Enys, Harper River, the Knuckles and Mt Hennah.

Refreshed, the tops poking out of the clouds now, not much snow; we tackled the steeper upper screes, the lower trials disappearing behind us over the slope lines. Richard remarked, that 300m went fast, about half an hour and soon the slopes were flattening and the false top was just up there.



The top was time for well earned break, a laze in the sun and take in the views of Avoca, Harper, Cass saddle and the Craigieburn Range all topped with snow.

Some even had time for wee nap and a second lunch.

Bernhard grew impatient; the top is over there. Down a 100m to a broad scree saddle and a jaunt to Mt Ida at 1692. Richard declared 1640m on his \$20 altimeter, but he had been given the wrong height further back on a reset, and was advised to climb a

further 40m to get to the top. A short break to view the Wilberforce River, Gargarus, Mt Cotton and out to the west.

We retreated back down to the saddle and sidled quickly to the south and central streambed and screes to the top end of Lake Ida. The screes were very good and we all rapidly descended. Lili had scree-riding lessons. We all regrouped at the bottom, the lake looked inviting and the sun was warm, Four stopped for a swim after Bernhard tried the water and didn't immediately grasp for breath and seemed to enjoy it. Lili said she would swim the 900m to the far end of the lake if someone would carry her pack. Gareth volunteered and Lili slipped into the lake and glided of into the distance.

We all took the east lake track and arrived just in time for Lili to emerge to a cheer and congratulations. Another bask in the sun, Bernhard finding a few mushrooms for dinner. Back to the cars and home via Lake Lyndon, and I reckon it saves about 4 km on the Hororata route.

We were Bernhard, Richard, Ruth, Joanna, Nikki, Murray, Lili and Gareth.

10 March 2012

Aicken - Blimit - Cassidy

A party of four enthusiastic trampers arrived at the Punchbowl Falls car park, Arthurs Pass, just before 9am on a high overcast morning with a brisk Westerly wind cooling things down. On the track by 9am heading first to Aicken, we made fast time up, reaching point 1844 by around 11am where we had a short scrog break. Not wanting to hang around too long, as the forecast was for rain late in the day, we set off for point 1863, after which we started on the traverse between Aicken and Blimit. The going was very rocky, with a couple of areas that involved some rock climbing, but no equipment was necessary.



We stopped for lunch somewhere around point 1832, sheltering from the cool wind behind a large rock. After this, the going was pretty good, with short rock scrambles here and there, as we cruised along and the wind stayed mercifully lighter. The two mountain goats of our party soon left us in their wake and we didn't catch them again until they stopped before the grade 14 rock climb just before Blimit. We then dropped down onto Punchbowl Creek basin to sidle below this rock massive, before scrambling back up onto Blimit itself, where we had a very short stay as the wind was quite brisk and the cloud had closed in.

The rest of the trip involved heading along the ridge to Cassidy before dropping down the not-too-pleasant Cons Track, which was not well marked higher up and involved a lot of steep travel on very loose rocks until the bush line. Back at the car by 5:45pm after a good trip of just under 11km and around 1300m height gain.

Trampers: Andrew Tromans (Leader), Jeff Hill, Clive Marsh, Rodney Erickson (Scribe)

For more photos check out Rodney's Blog:

<http://roddus.blogspot.co.nz/2012/03/mt-atkins-mt-blimit-mt-cassidy-traverse.html>

2-3 February 2012

Akaroa base camp

Well after leaving Christchurch on a very wet night we got to Halswell and No Rain ... no rain at Little River either ... then Hilltop ... so far so good.

Gonzalo, Astrid and Liz spent the first night in the house to be joined by Dan and two visitors the next morning ... so we set off to Nikau Palm Gully Walk as the weather looked better that way. Beaut day and great harbour views ... arrived at gully that said 'closed due to rock fall' so a couple of us decided to proceed with caution to see extent of damage ... track very overgrown and slippery but there was no rock fall at all ... having done this track several times. We returned to the hostel and signed out.

Sunday the two visitors went kayaking and saw dolphins while the rest of us went to Hinewai reserve going down Valley track and side tracks to waterfalls and returning by east track ... a good workout to remember for the next week ... well for some anyway. We spent a bit of time looking at the albums of photographs and documentation on the reserve

... amazing detail on everything and spoke to Hugh who was out using his hand mower!!!
Lovely weekend, nice house with views of harbour, great weather!!!!!! Electric blankets ...
was this a tramping trip?????

3-4 March 2012

Hokitika base camp

After a bit of delay five of us set off on Saturday to leave a very wet dismal Christchurch for the sunshine of the west coast ... we hoped. After Arthurs Pass the weather steadily improved and by the time we were ready for our first walk to Londonderry rock ... a whole 15 minutes ... the sun was out. From this effort we thought we could manage 1/2 hour down the top of Goldsworth track, returning to have lunch in the shade for some of us!!!!
NO SANDFLIES!!!!

After lunch we took the back road to the other end of the trail at a camp area and had a look at a sluicing gun there before we headed onto the Tunnel loop ... entered at both ends by a short tunnel. Then it was up the Blue spur walk with long sluicing channels ... one about 40m long ... and not space for obese people ... or claustrophobics!!!! Lots of gold mining holes, wall... then onto our little house for the night at Hokitika and a beach walk to the town before deciding what would be on the menu for dinner.

Dan wanted to try whitebait pizza so ordered a prawn and bacon one as well and in the meantime Liz had bought two rotisserie cooked chickens, garlic bread and some salad... so then it was down to the nitty gritty of eating before watching the sunset on the beach and off to Glow worm dell.



Sunday morning saw us off to Hokitika gorge... wishing we had a kayak to launch but absolutley lovely ... then off to Lake Kaniere and we did part of the Lake Kaniere circuit before it was time for a swim!!!! Well for some brave ones... STILL NO SANDFLIES!!!!!!!

Back to house to clean up food and house and back to Chch... what an amazing time we had had.

Noeline Marsh, Dan Slater, Liz Tanner, Nigel Gallienne, Jovan Andric made up the group.

Classifieds

A book that might be of interest to club members is "Fair Weather Trampers: In the New Zealand Bush with the Cock and Bull Tramping Club", by Julia Millen with sketches by Barbara O'Reilly. \$30 + pp. See www.ctc.org.nz/ctcdocuments/FairWeatherA4flyer.pdf.

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 | 354-4309 |
| <i>Junior Vice President:</i> | Antony White | 381-5993 | <i>Social Convenor:</i> | Alan Ross | 384-6425 |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | Jenny Harlow | 349-2280 | <i>Gear Custodian:</i> | Thomas Matern | 354-4309 |
| <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 Thomas Matern, ph. 354-4309. 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 22 April 2012 – Thanks.

Christchurch Tramping Club (INCORPORATED) 80th Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB (Incorporated) WILL BE HELD AT THE CANTERBURY HORTICULTURAL CENTRE, SOUTH HAGLEY PARK, 57 RICCARTON AVENUE (ENTRANCE OPPOSITE THE HOSPITAL) ON:
THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2012 AT 7.30PM
(DOORS OPEN FROM 7PM)

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the minutes from the 79th Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Presentation of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2012.
4. Election of Committee for the ensuing year.

Committee

President

Senior Vice-President

Junior Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Editor

Club Captain

Weekend Trip Organiser

Day Trip Organiser

Hut Convenor

Gear Custodian

Social Convenor

Club Patron

And a maximum of 6 other members

5. Election of Honorary Auditor.
6. Notified motions

Notice of motion proposed by the Committee:

“That the following new annual subscription structure be adopted with effect from and including subscriptions due on 1 May 2012:

| | Ordinary | Couple | Associate | Junior |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| Mailed newsletter | \$45 | \$65 | \$25 | \$25 |
| Non-mailed newsletter | \$40 | \$60 | \$20 | \$20 |

(Late payment surcharge to remain \$10 for failure to pay within 2 calendar months of the due date).”

Proposed: Adrian Busby

Seconded: Rex Vink

7. General business