



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

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

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 81

February 2012

No. 9



*Heading to Pt 1696, Winterslow range
(see Peache Saddle trip report)*

The CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (minimal experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. We have a club hut in Arthurs Pass and have gear available for hire to members. Membership rates per year are \$40 member, \$60 couple, \$23 junior or associate, with a \$5 discount for members who opt to obtain this newsletter electronically.

For more about how the club operates, see the last page.

Obituary

Tim Broad: It came as a shock to many club members to hear that Tim Broad passed away on December 14 2011. Tim joined the tramping club in 1996 and soon became a popular member with his great attitude and enthusiasm. Tim led a number of trips for the club between 1999 and 2005 and was always keen to give advice to anyone on any outdoor interests. Any club trips near a lake or river were sure to see Tim pack his fishing gear, particularly Lake Minchin in Arthurs Pass which was a favourite place.

The club was well represented at Tim's funeral by both past and present members, several of whom spoke of shared adventures and Tim's great love of the outdoors.

Our thoughts are with his family and he will not be forgotten by those who knew him.

– Andrew Wrapson and Gareth Gilbert

News

New Members. We welcome two new members to the club this month: Lisa McArthur and Sacha Dowell. Please accept the club's warm welcome.

Tramper of the Month: Clive Marsh

Give us a short summary about yourself - job, family, where you are from, etc...

Born and bred in Shropshire England in the latter half of last century. Shifted to NZ in '93 and haven't found anywhere I'd rather live despite a few attempts in the early days. I work as an engineer and a walnut farmer when I'm not in the real world (tramping). My other interests are kayaking, general relativity, swimming, and cycling.



Clive demonstrating banana-pilates

<i>When did you join the CTC?</i>	2005
<i>How did you find out about the CTC?</i>	Through a friend.
<i>Did you tramp before joining the CTC?</i>	Yes... taught at Massey and lived in Palmy until '99; ran out of fingers counting the different ways to climb Mt Taranaki...
<i>Who was the first CTC person you met?</i>	Can't remember, but I am sure that they were very nice to me.
<i>What was your first day trip?</i>	Can't remember but I am sure it was fun.
<i>And your first weekend trip?</i>	The first I remember was a trip up Mt Alexander from 'the far side', ie starting over towards Lake Brunner.
<i>What is your favourite hut?</i>	Colin Todd (Aspiring National Park)

Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days? At the start, my mother who took great delight in out-pacing me around Cadair Berwyn and trying to scare me at the top of Pistyll Rheadyr (the largest waterfall in Wales).

What is your favourite tramp? For a day, Mt Barron: decent rock and different everytime you go (if you 'lose' the track as I often seem to); Philistine-Rolleston traverse and Otira face are also worth a mention. Overnights: Lambert Tops/Scamper Torrent region (in good weather...). Looking forward to doing Ivory Lake.

Embarrassing moment? Setting off from 'top of the bruce' without axe/crampons for a gentle stroll up to the crater lake on Ruapehu, getting lured (by my partner) into climbing to the summit from the north side using volcanic flints as ice axes, refusing to descend that route and bailing to Turoa and hitching and getting picked up by some of my (Massey) students who had observed our technique on the ascent...

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.

Saturday 28 January Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Alan Ross 384-6425
<p>River Crossing Course: Book in to be in! Once again the club is running the ever-popular river crossing course. Space will be strictly limited to 14 persons so put your name down quickly. A river crossing course is really a 'must' for all trampers regardless of how hard or not-hard you tramp: with our varied climate and number of rivers sooner or later all trampers will have to face that decision to cross or not to cross.</p> <p>Participants will need a complete change of clothes (to put on at the end) and should have lace-on boots (sandals or gumboots are unsuitable). You will need a weekend-size pack with a bomb-proof waterproof pack liner. The pack should have the bulk and weight of a weekend size pack. Don't put your usual tramping gear but fill it with blankets, bed quilts, old clothes etc and weight as necessary (old plastic soft drink bottles filled with water, rocks or bricks - very easy to obtain now - if necessary). The course will be held at the Waimakariri or - if that is flooded - the Ashley River. It will finish around 1pm. Meet at the usual place and time for a CTC trip (8 am at the Shell Service Station).</p>		Grade: Training Closed: 26 Jan Map: Approx: \$5
Saturday 28 January Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Michael Newlove Bruce Cameron 355-8360
<p>Flockhill Stream: Starting from Cave Stream carpark we follow Broken River to the Flock Hill Stream confluence then head into a small gorge following the stream up past waterfalls exiting below the Flockhill escarpment. Returning along Flock Hill's (998m) amazing ridge line stone formations to icecreams. Ideal water trip for newbies. Bring extra dry clothes.</p>		Grade: Easy (water trip) Closes: 26 Jan Map: BW21 Approx: \$20

Weekend 28-29 January Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
<p>Zampa Tops (replaces Mingha-Deception): To avoid the hordes of runners and their support crews training for the Coast-to-Coast in two weeks' time, we'll head up north instead. 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>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closed: 19 Jan Map: BV20 Approx: \$35</p>	
Sunday 29 January Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Penny Coffey 332-7182	
<p>Mt Oakden: Mt Oakden (1633m) is an interesting almost stand-alone peak between the Wilberforce and lovely Lake Coleridge. It's a sustained and fairly steep clamber for about 1100m up but once there you get stunning 360 degree views over the foothills and the lake and up the Harper, Wilberforce and Rakaia Rivers. There are a variety of options for the way up and down, making a great loop trip in the Canterbury foothills. Early start - contact the leader.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Jan Map: BW20 Approx: \$25</p>	
Tuesday 31 January		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
<p>CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday: ~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 6pm sharp at the corner of Hillsborough Tce & 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 Approx: \$0</p>	
Thursday 2 February		Club Night	
<p>Iceskating in Sweden by our newest Swedish club member: Ice, ice baby - come and get cooled down in the summer heat and experience the almost effortless way of covering distance on iceskates. Lovisa will be talking and showing pictures on a main outdoor activity in Swedish wintertime - long distance iceskating.</p>			

Long Weekend 4-6 February Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Leader required
Ahuriri Conservation Area: The Ahuriri Conservation Area (near Lake Ohau) has some wonderful tramping country and is surrounded by high mountains, a great setting for a trip in an area not often visited by the CTC. There are many possible routes in this area, e.g. an EasyMod trip over the low saddle between Snowy Gorge Creek and Maitland Stream, or a more moderate loop up Watson Stream and back via Snowy Gorge Creek.	Grade: EasyMod to Moderate Closed: 26 Jan Map: BZ14 Approx: \$60
Long Weekend 4-6 February Departure point: Caltex Russley	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
The Three Passes: How about spending the long weekend doing one of the classic New Zealand tramps? The Three Passes route takes us from the Waimak bridge over to Lake Kaniere on the West Coast via the beautiful Harman, Whitehorn and Browning passes. Ice axe and crampons may be required for crossing Whitehorn Pass. Great river and alpine scenery all the way. There's nothing terribly difficult, but you do need to be comfortable with rough off-track tramping, be able to handle an ice axe and have a reasonable head for heights on the way up to Browning Pass. Hopefully we'll have enough people to make a cross-over trip.	Grade: Moderate Closed: 26 Jan Map: BV20 BV19 Approx: \$TBA
Sunday 5 February Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Ashley Saddle - 900m: Located East of Mount Oxford overlooking Coopers, Oxford Creeks, Ashley Gorge and Canterbury plains. We follow a 4WD track from Adams Hut to Big Ben Saddle (640m) then scoot along the ridge to Ashley Saddle (900m) just below Mount Oxford. (Potential for another Oxford loop)	Grade: Easy+ Closes: 2 Feb Map: BW22 Approx: \$15
Sunday 5 February Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
Rome Ridge to Avalanche Peak: Rome Ridge takes you up about 1100m from the Arthurs Pass road to about 1825m, under Rolleston and with with great views onto the Crow Glacier, Jellicoe Ridge, etc. Mostly it is just steep, but there are a few sections where rock scrambling skills and a head for heights come in useful - last time we did this there was even a bit of a permanent snow field. From the top we trot along the nice little spine of ridge parallel to the Crow to meet up with Scotts Track/Avalanche Peak (1833m). And it's all downhill from there! This will probably be a longish day and you need to be able to keep going and cope with the more 'interesting' stuff, but it's a great trip if you're fit and keen to give it a go.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 Feb Map: BV20 Approx: \$25

Tuesday 7 February	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday: See Tuesday 31 January	Grade: Moderate

Thursday 9 February	Club Night
<p>Cycle Tour- Wakhan Loop, Badakhshan, Tajikistan buy our guide Clive Marsh: Cycling up stream on the true right of the Oxus River in the chariot marks of Alexander the Great (well maybe, judging by the depth of sand on the road, there had been a few good floods through since he was there) to near its source then back down the Gunt Valley to Khorog. The Pamir Mountains (third highest after the Himalayas and Karakorum) for a backdrop and the Fedchenko glacier (largest non-polar) lurking to the north. In the words of a Scouse motorcyclist we met on one of the passes.. 'What the **** are you doing up here on a push bike?'</p>	

Saturday 11 February	Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Broken River Exploring: Another river exploration, this time in the Castle Hill area. Starting at Cave Stream carpark we follow the Broken River down its gorge to the Avoca Hut. This river is ideal for River Crossing newbies. Its an interesting relatively safe but challenging trip, ideal in hot weather to gain some rivercrossing experience. RIVER CROSSING SKILLS NEEDED. Enrol in the club's course.</p>	Grade: Easy (water trip) Closes: 9 Feb Map: BW21 Approx: \$20

Saturday 11 February	Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Departure point: Shell Papanui	
<p>Mt Barossa: In the Clent hills, Mt Barrosa is a wee bit further west than Mt Somers and a wee bit lower too (1364m). It is an interesting geological area (Barrosa Andesite) and rumour has it that keen rock hounds can find geodes (whatever they are). Historians and linguists will appreciate that this is not the 'red earth barossa', redolent of red wine, but the 1911 Peninsula Wars version - NZ was, after all, originally a colony . . .</p>	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Feb Map: BX19 Approx: \$20

Saturday 11 February		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001	
<p>Navigation Course: Ever been wandering around in the hills with no idea where you are? Sick of relying on others who get themselves and you lost? Then, you can find your way out of a blizzard at 2am in the morning with this highly insightful course. Adrian has extensive experience in navigating in all sorts of terrain, including the infamous Rakaia Island trip, where even dead possums can be used as navigational aids!</p> <p>Learn those essential navigation skills - map, compass and the basics of using a GPS - on this navigation course. Recommended for all club members who lack a sense of direction. There will be a preparation session on Friday night, 7pm - 9.30 pm (probably at the Horticultural Hall) which you will need to attend as well as the practical day on Saturday. On Saturday we will meet at 9am at Little River. This will be a full day, learning skills and putting them into practice 'in the field' including not just map reading but real navigation in the hills. Normal full tramping gear, pack, lunch, etc required. An important part of the course will be the selection of suitable equipment (compasses, GPS etc). It was foggy during the previous two years' which were perfect conditions to learn how to navigate your way in poor visibility, so bad weather is no excuse for this course.</p>		<p>Grade: Training Closes: 9 Feb Map: Maps Approx: \$20</p>	
Weekend 11-12 February		Leader: Liz Tanner 021-1400531/03-3273473	
Departure point: Contact Leader			
<p>Akaroa Weekend: Liz has booked a beautiful place in Akaroa (\$20 per person) which we will use as a cosy base camp for some day walks on the Peninsula: Nikau Palm Gully on Saturday and Hinewai Reserve on Sunday. Shared tea on Saturday for those who stay overnight. If you instead just want to do a day trip, Liz will try to organise transport for you. Contact her.</p>		<p>Grade: All / Family Closes: 2 Feb Map: BX25 BY25 Approx: \$20+Accom</p>	
Weekend 11-12 February		Leader: Antony White 381-5993	
Departure point: Shell Papanui			
<p>Waimak Falls Hut - Waimak Col traverse: Waimak Col is a high, easy but snow covered pass from the head of the Waimakariri river into the Rolleston river. Saturday night is spent in or around the wonderfully situated Waimakariri Falls Hut which must be one of the most scenic huts in the National Park. Sunday is a long day climbing up and over the Col (ice axe required) then we will do either a long traverse on tussock slopes before dropping down to the Rolleston river where a track is picked up out to the railway and the road, or out via Mt Philistine. Great mountain scenery surrounds you for most of this day.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 2 Feb Map: BV20 Approx: \$35</p>	

Tuesday 14 February		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday: See Tuesday 31 January		Grade: Moderate	
Thursday 16 February		Club Night	
First aid in the hills by our doctor member Gort Stephan: First aid in the New Zealand Bush from a GP perspective with lots of room for discussion.			
Saturday 18 February		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
Departure point: Shell Papanui			
Ashley Gorge: Ashley Gorge is one of the best picnic spots in Canterbury and a popular place to explore. Depending on water levels we hope to do a bit of floating down the gorge, and getting wet is the whole point of the trip. Another opportunity to practice all that river crossing training if you did the club course recently? Great fun in the sun (we hope). Talk to the leader if you're not sure what's involved in this summer water trip, and come along for one of the club's most popular social outings.		Grade: Easy (water trip) Closes: 16 Feb Map: BW23 Approx: \$15	
Saturday 18 February		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014	
Departure point: Shell Papanui		Tecbruce@gmail.com	
Ashley Gorge - top half: Starting at the Townsend, Ashley Rivers confluence and entrance to the Ashley Gorge we travel down the gorge in the river visiting a hut and guaranteeing wet feet, and maybe more. Exit at the Middle Bridge. We then take vehicles to Ashley Picnic Ground and go in search of a lost 20m Waterfall. Then, joining up with lower gorge trampers, it's off for rehydration. Be sure to bring extra clothing to change into.		Grade: Easy Closes: 16 Feb Map: BW22 Approx: \$15	
Saturday 18 February		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
Departure point: Shell Papanui			
Mt Oxford: Question: why is it always a southerly on Mt Oxford? Answer: because we always go there when the forecast for wherever we wanted to go originally is truly awful. This gives Mt Oxford rather a bit of a tough task, so today we'll make it our first option. Lovely beech forest, open tussock tops, about 1000m of height gain, probably snow, a convenient stone-wall shelter to cower behind for lunch at the top, and - if it is a good day - the possibility of a westward trek across the tops and a loop back... what more could you want?		Grade: Moderate Closes: 16 Feb Map: BW22 Approx: \$15	

Weekend 18-19 February Departure point: Shell Papanui	Leader: Gareth Gilbert 981-1737 gilbert.gareth@gmail.com
Kirwans Hut: Kirwans Hut is in an area of old gold workings on the west coast near Reefton. Superb views from Kirwans Hill and many mining relics to ponder on as you climb through red beech then silver beech forest to the hut. The track was originally used to cart heavy equipment by horse so is cut to a gentle grade but it is around 900 m height gain from the road to the hut.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 9 Feb Map: BS21 BS22 Approx: \$50

Weekend 18-19 February Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: David Sutton 348 5998
Lake Heron to Turtons Saddle crossover: We'll probably leave Christchurch on Friday night, drive to near Lake Heron and walk into Double Hut by headlamp. On Saturday we'll cross Clent Hills Saddle and make our way down the North Branch of the Ashburton/Hakatere River to meet up with the Moderate party at Comyns Hut (see previous trip description). On Sunday we'll hump our packs straight up from Comyns Hut to Pt 2114m, the high point of the Black Hill Range, known as Fruit Cake Peak. Then we'll make our way along the the ridge over several peaks as far as Black Hill, from where we'll descend to Turtons Saddle and out to the car left by the moderate party. Depending on the group and enthusiasm levels, a less demanding second day would be to traverse the range to the west of Turtons Stream over Pt 1836m. Also, rather than leaving on Friday night, a very early departure on Saturday morning is possible - check with the leader. There will probably be just a single car load of trampers going each way, so get your booking in early.	Grade: ModHard to Hardish depending on route Closes: 9 Feb Map: Approx:

Weekend 18-19 February Departure point: Caltex Russley	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz
Turtons Saddle to Lake Heron crossover: On Saturday we'll have an easy walk from Double Hill Run Rd beside the Rakaia, over Turtons Saddle and in to Comyns Hut, with perhaps a detour up into the range on the true right of Turtons Stream to get the blood flowing. There we should meet the ModHard party travelling in the opposite direction (see Lake Heron to Turtons Saddle). On Sunday we'll have a longish day criss-crossing the North Branch of the Ashburton/Hakatere River and Round Hill Creek, making our way up and over Clent Hills Saddle to emerge in Heron Basin where, hopefully, we can find the vehicle left by the ModHard party. There will probably be just a single car load of trampers going each way, so get your booking in early.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Feb Map: BW20 BW19 BX19 Approx:

Sunday 19 February Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Antony White 381-5993
Bealey Spur to Jordon River: There will be an early start of 7am, and it will be a long day. The plan is that we will head up the Bealey Spur, past the hut, and up to point 1875. Then, we will proceed down to the Jordan Saddle, down the stream to Turkey Flat and head back to the car. This will be a distance of around 26km, and a height gain of about 1300m, however, I don't recall the club leading this trip for a number of years.	Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 16 Feb Map: BV20 Approx: \$25
Tuesday 21 February		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday: See Tuesday 31 January	Grade: Moderate	
Thursday 23 February		Club Night
Newsletter folding + boots discussion: BOOTS! Such an important part of our basic gear (the social convener just re-learned the the importance on a long trip with 2x resulting big toe nail loss + approx 1m consumption of his Lucoplast and considerable pain). So have you bought a pair lately? Or do you have a favourite style? For new or perspective members who are thinking of buying boots this night should be of interest. Oh, and we will fold the newsletter. Bring in your boots! PS the Social convener is looking to buy new boots suitable for crampons once his feet recover!		
Saturday 25 February Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Easy Erik Norder 980-8022
Bealey Spur: Start above the baches at Bealey Spur and climb up through sheltering beech forest. On the way to the charming old hut at about 1240m, the ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. The hut is about a 450m climb from the cars and the round trip is about 10km. More adventurous trampers can go up Hut Spur above the bushline for a bit to admire the impressive horseshoe ridge around to Blind Spur from a safe distance.	Grade: Easy+	Closes: 23 Feb Map: BV20 Approx: \$20
Sunday 26 February Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bruce Cameron 338-4014
Charing Cross: With a name like this we have got to have a look. Located in the Tekoa Range, a nice peak (1000m) above the Pahau River in the Culverden area looking over the Amuri Plains, Island Hills, Hurunui River and Hurunui Peak. Easy farm country. Tekoa is the distinctive snow covered pyramid-shaped peak seen from Weka Pass.	Grade: Easy	Closes: 23 Feb Map: BU24 Approx: \$20

Sunday 26 February Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz
Mt Harper: In the Erewhon region, near Lake Emma; walk starts near Lake Camp. The climb to the summit (1829m) offers ever-changing views of the Lake Heron basin, Ashburton catchment and the craggy Arrowsmiths range. From the top we get stunning views into the Rangitata River, Mesopotamia station and Butler Downs. We return via Balmacaan Saddle to make a loop trip.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 23 Feb Map: BX19 Approx:	
Tuesday 28 February		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday: See Tuesday 31 January	Grade: Moderate	
Thursday 1 March		Club Night
Auction of surplus tramping gear: Do you have any surplus gear that you no longer use and you would like to turn into cash? If you are a newer or perspective member this could be the chance to buy some gear on the cheap! If you do come along be sure to bring some cash so transactions can be finalised on the night. BRING IN THAT SURPLUS GEAR. Let's stick to tramping related gear please. Highlight- the social conviener will have a pair of pre (once) loved rugged boots suitable for crampons for sale.		
Saturday 3 March Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Mt Ida: Mt Ida (1695m) is a good moderate trip up the Harper Road in the lovely Lake Coleridge area. It is not too long and with about 1100m height gain, might be a nice option for fit easy-moderate trampers stepping up to moderate trips. As an added attraction, there's a wonderful scree-run down and an opportunity for a swim at the bottom if it's a hot day. In pre-Greek myth, Ida is associated with the Mother Goddess. In CTC myth, Ida was the location of the famous vacuum cleaner trip (see what is possibly the shortest and most cryptic trip report ever, November 24, 1996).	Grade: Moderate Closes: 1 Mar Map: BW20 Approx: \$25	
Weekend 3-4 March Leaving Friday Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Liz Tanner 0211400531, lizjtanner@yahoo.com.au
Hokitika Base Camp: Join Liz on a family weekend in Hokitika. She has booked a house for two nights, sleeping 6 people in beds, 2 on couches (\$25 per person per night) and plenty more in tents (\$15 per person per night). BBQ on Saturday night. There are lots of easy walks in that area and more challenging options are available for those keen. Liz plans to leave mid afternoon on Friday but there could be a later departure for those who can't make it. Sign up quick, this trip is limited to 12 people.	Grade: All / Family Closes: 23 Feb Map: BU18 BV18 BV19 Approx: \$50+Accom	

Sunday 4 March		Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280
Departure point: Shell Papanui		pumpkinz@gmail.com
<p>Mt Richardson: Mount Richardson is a lovely 12km loop in the Canterbury foothills. The track starts at the Glentui Bush picnic area and goes through some superb native beech forest - some steepish sections, about 700m height gain - to Mt Richardson itself (1047m) and a great panorama over the Canterbury plains. We will return via the Blowhard track which gives us the opportunity to walk along the undulating open tops before descending back into the bush again - there are some stands of rimu in places - and back to the cars.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 1 Mar Map: BW22 Approx: \$20
Tuesday 6 March		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday: See Tuesday 31 January		Grade: Moderate
Thursday 8 March		Club Night
TBS: See next month's newsletter.		
Saturday 10 March		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Aicken-Blimit-Cassidy Traverse: 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 gnarly 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: 8 Mar Map: BV20 Approx: \$25
Saturday 10 March		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Departure point: Shell Papanui		
<p>Mt Alford: Mt Alford is a moderate (1171 metres) summit south of Mt Hutt with about 600 metres ascent. In the early 1880s, Alford Forest was the scene of a 'diamond rush' after a miner found something very very glittery - people poured into the area and it could have been even bigger news than dairying, but in the end it turned out to be just small crystals of quartz . . .</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 8 Mar Map: BX20 Approx: \$25

Weekend 10-11 March Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Max De Lacey weekendtrips@ctc.org.nz 03-688-8342
Crooked Spur Hut - Mesopotamia: Meet Max at Peel Forest and head up the Rangitata River to Mesopotamia, an area the tramping club does not visit very often. The plan is to head up Bush Stream to Crooked Spur Hut. Return the same way or via Brabazon Saddle and Black Birch Stream.	Grade: EasyMod to Moderate Closes: 1 Mar Map: BX18 BX17 Approx: \$45	
Sunday 11 March Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366
Rakaia Spurs: The Spurs is another classic Canterbury trip we have not done for a while, in the Lake Coleridge area - the upper Wilberforce valley and also overlooking the Avoca on their eastern side. The complete Spurs trip goes over three high points (1985m, 1964m, 1902m), ie around 1300m height gain plus a bit of up-and-down. Much of the ridge up is steep and there is some scrambling on the knobby bits, especially around the tops. Great fun for fit trampers with a bit of rocky-ridge experience. Who knows if there will still be snow by then? - check with the leader. Note early start.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 8 Mar Map: BW20 Approx: \$35	
Tuesday 13 March		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb - every Tuesday: See Tuesday 31 January	Grade: Moderate	
Thursday 15 March		Club Night
The repair and manufacturing co Twin Needle are presenting tonight: See next month's newsletter for more details.		
Weekend 17-18 March Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz
Pinnacle (near Springs Junction): The Pinnacle is a 1500m bump 15km west of Lake Christabel. From the car park it is about 800m vertical through untracked bush and another 300m to the summit. There are a few large tarns just above the bush line, making a great camp spot with views of Lake Christabel. On Sunday we'll head back the same way or do a small loop, depending on the weather and the party.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 8 Mar Map: BT22 Approx: \$40	

Sunday 18 March Departure point: Shell Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 385-3507
Ben More: The ascent from Ben More Homestead through Thirteen Mile Bush is about 1200m height gain, but there is a track on the ground even though it's not on the map, and you can have morning tea at the cute little Benmore Hut. From there, the track goes up onto the ridge and we come down via farmers' fence lines.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 15 Mar Map: BW21 Approx: \$20	
Weekend 31 March-1 April Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
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.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 22 Mar Map: BV20 Approx: \$35	
Weekend 31 March-1 April Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Li Li 3360 739 ahhlili01@hotmail.com
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 and 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.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 22 Mar Map: BV20 BV21 BW20 Approx: \$35 + hut fees	
Multi day trip 6-7 April Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Richard Kimberley 326 6158 janeandrichard@xtra.co.nz
Mt Adams: Mt Adams stands well west of most other 2000m high mountains on the West Coast and views from summit are meant 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.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 29 Mar Map: BW16 BW17 Approx: \$60	

Trip Reports

26-27 November 2011

Not quite Otehake Hot Pools



Cedar Flats hot pool



Toaroha River

7:45 am on Saturday 26th of November I arrived at our trip leader's house. We were about to fill his car before meeting up with the rest of the crew at the Caltex on Yaldhurst Road. Off we go, first up is Julie. Coordinates get punched into the GPS Unit - the screen stays blank. Unknown address! A phone call in search for direction gets answered by an automated voice. Have we got a map? Thank god for the android - sure as we can access a map - both putting our heads together with what we knew about the rough location we were able to find the small cul-de-sac. Here Julie was, waiting for us already running late. Next on the list was Virginia. No need for GPS advice here – we know the road. She was already nervously looking at her watch. So with a little delay we arrived at the Caltex where the rest of the 10 strong team was waiting for us.

Heads were put together as the early morning river readings showed an increased flow and to reach the Otehake Hot Pools we have to cross the Otira River. Our water experts Thomas and Jonathan weren't happy and decided we have to change plans – still Hot Pools but it will be a bit further to go – Cedar Flat in Hokitika's back country. We split the team into 3 cars and off we went towards Arthur's Pass. Some of us felt the urge to cast their vote on Election Day so one car load stopped by for a special vote at the Arthur's Pass Village polling station. All others assembled for another coffee (we couldn't resist a first quick stop in Springfield). The Keas kept us entertained while waiting but couldn't keep up with the stunt a clever little beagle played in his owner's car. He was turning everyone's head by cheekily tooting the car horn. Not just once and quickly, no a few minutes in a row just to make sure he got everybody's attention. He seemed to quite enjoy himself.

After having fulfilled the election duties we carried on over towards the coast. A quick stop at the Otira footbridge and a look at the river flow confirmed we've made the right decision. Cedar Flat we're on our way.

Time was getting on when we arrived at the car park, smelly cow poo covering our shiny metal horses. We packed our bags, split the tents, put on the boots and off we went

casually chatting away. Three other trampers started around the same time. The weather was kind, clouds surrounded us but no rain appeared.

Our keen leader raced ahead, equipped with a shovel he arrived way before the last of our group and had a nice big pool dug out by the time we all pitched our tents. Dinner was cooked, sandflies fought and stories told. By the end of the evening we were all soaking in the hot pools, our skinny dipping fellow trampers were escaping back to the hut so we had the two pools to ourselves. Jonathan provided Christmas decoration with the installation of solar powered fairy lights and Virginia spoilt us with home made brownies for dessert in the pools. Who has got a care in the world about who our next country leader will be?

After a late night in the pools some were up for an early soak, others had a sleep in. We all had a chilled out breakfast. We were spoilt with beautiful sunshine and a great view of the surrounding mountain tops. Hard to get motivated walking back to civilisation!

Nevertheless we had to and made our way back. It seemed shorter and we enjoyed a lunch break next to the river for a refreshing splash and drink of water. Back at the car we decided to meet up for Fish and Chips in Hokitika before crossing the pass towards the East again. We all enjoyed each other's company and had a great relaxing weekend away. When are we going to the Otehake Hot Pools?

Thomas (leader), Charles, Glen, Jacob, Jonathan, Moss, Julie, Virginia, Sacha, Andrea (scribe)

11 December 2011

Pt 1696, Peache Saddle, and the great Upper Woolshed Creek Steeplechase



Down to Woolshed Creek Hut



Approaching Pt 1410m

Once upon a time there was a newish Hut called Woolshed Creek Hut, which you usually only went to if you were going round Mt Somers. Then one day a wise trumper called Bryce looked at his maps and muttered "umm – now that looks interesting" loud enough for the sharp ears of the Day Trip Organiser to hear, and lo and behold, Pt 1696 and Peache Saddle became a brand-new trip for the club. A brand new trip with a suitably august collection of trampers to try it out: Bryce himself was clearly a biased consumer, but the been-there-done-that experienced palates of the likes of Peter, Stu, and Max would provide a more demanding test.

We duly stormed into Woolshed Creek Hut in fine style, with the morning mist lifting to give enticing glimpses of the Winterslow Range behind the Hut. From the hut we headed up

Woolshed Creek along the route towards the old sauna and after about 20 minutes of mostly easy travel, scrambled upwards to gain the spur leading towards our main target – an unmarked peak at just over 1700m just south-west of pt 1696.

The party spread out a little on the way up, as is customary, but within an hour or so of lunch we were all gathered on unmarked-1700ish in bright sunshine with the cloud well below us and Mt Cook visible in the distance. Cristina persuaded as many people as possible to pose for various photos wearing her Christmas Hat while the rest of us ate second lunch/early afternoon tea/anything else going begging. Pt 1696 was easily gained, but from there we had a slightly demoralising down-and-up again before finally dropping down into Peache Saddle itself. No stone fruit, however misspelled, in sight but we had good views down into the Lake Heron side of the range all the way and from the saddle itself could see more inviting vistas rolling off the Winterslow Range to the north.

Richard's enthusiastic suggestion of a scree descent straight down from the saddle into the creek was firmly vetoed by Bryce who wanted to sidle a little above the saddle and explore a route around onto further spur. The best intentions of mice and men are easily thwarted however, and we ended up having to descend a little early after coming across a deep gully (which suited those of us who had run out of water at the saddle very well). It was very hot out of the cooling breeze we'd had higher up and it was a happy group who finally slithered down to the stream again – Silvia seemed to be trying to get full immersion but the rest of us contented ourselves with general splashing and dabbling.

That left us quite a long way up the stream and Richard was outlining a rather pessimistic narrative about how long it might take to get back to the hut – anything might be between our intrepid adventurers and a happy ending - gorges, dragons, treacherous pools, lost bookmarks... The fact that Max declared that he had been down it before with no trouble did not fool anyone into thinking that that necessarily meant that it was easy, or indeed humanly-possible. Suddenly those men-of-action Peter and Stu leapt up and – as if trying to take the landscape by surprise – headed downstream at a determined canter. Some of us followed and we seemed to be making good time – surely we were way out in front – but no, Max, Richard and others had taken short cut and soon galloped over a low rise beside us. With Peter and Max alternating the lead we leapt, splashed and bounded, now in the creek, now heading directly through the scrub to cut out the bend, back into the creek again, scrambling up the other side... It was a very exhilarated group who finished the inaugural Upper Woolshed Creek Steeplechase some 35 minutes after Peter and Stu's first break-away dash. Andrew and Mark appeared shortly afterwards – Mark thus demonstrating that he is ideal CTC cross-country-tramper material. Thinking that Sylvia, Cristina and Penny might be inclined to take a more cautious pace and that kind Bryce would naturally be staying back to offer assistance if necessary we settled down to wait – not a hardship since a couple staying at the hut knew Richard and were soon brewing up welcome cups of tea for us. Bryce however had seen that Sylvia, Christina and Penny were quite capable of helping themselves, and appeared shortly after Mark, with the others not far behind.

It seemed a little unfair after all that to have to climb up again as we left Woolshed Creek Hut, but Andrew lead off at a cracking pace and a little over an hour afterwards we were all back at the cars.

Thanks to Bryce for inspired planning and leadership, and to the rest of the group, for surely one of the best day trips of the year.

Trampers: Bryce Williamson, Penny Coffey, Andrew Tromans, Silvia Horniakova, Cristina Zablan, Mark Saunders, Richard Lobb, Max De Lacey, Dave Sutton, Peter Eman, Stewart Smith, Jenny Harlow (scribe)

Lucretia Tarn



Lewis Tops



Attempting Technical

The Tops above the Lewis Pass offer stunning views with fairly easy access and great camping spots, making for great summer overnight trips. The forecast was very promising as Uncle Roddus met the other seven in the party at Amberly on Saturday Morning, led by the easy going Gareth Gilbert. Arriving at The St James car park just before 11am and while preparing ourselves for departure for our weekends adventures, Uncle Roddus found the mysteriously missing expensive tramping sock, in his tramping boot, that he had hassled Mrs Roddus about the night before. He seriously considered not returning home after the weekend, but decided instead to just slip it in with the rest of the washing and keep quiet about it.

The track up to the Lewis tops and Lucretia Tarn starts just across the road from the car park and winds its way up through some beautiful mossy beech before clearing the bush about the 1300M mark. The travel along the tops follows a well used track through short but lush snow grass passing several lovely tarns and offering excellent views of Trovatore, Zampa, Freyberg, Mueller and also down to the Lewis Highway and Maruia Springs.

Heading West along the tops, Uncle Roddus, Craig and Lovisa, decided to bag The Apprentice, as we were passing by so close to it, with the rest of the party happy to just wobble over the saddle to the tarn. After admiring the views from The Apprentice, the three dropped directly down the southern face 100m to the Tarn and beat the rest of the party there and thus nabbing the best waterfront real estate. Time from cars about 5 hours. Uncle Roddus was quite keen to have a crack at Mt Technical, as there was still plenty of daylight hours left and at only another 300 odd meters height gain from our camp, was just too tempting to let pass. After pitching tents and refueling, he conned Craig and Lovisa to accompany him.

They quickly made the top of the ridge, passing under the first two rocky outcrops before scrambling over more rocks to where the ridge changes direction. From here the ridge looked pretty difficult but it looked like others had been along this route before and so they carefully battled on until the last bit that looked a bit too technical, but were able to slip below and under before climbing up a gut to about the 1820M mark. With only a short distance to go to the radio mast things started to get much more difficult and two of the party decided they weren't comfortable with the terrain here. Uncle Roddus Had already navigated this bit and called back that he would see if he could get along any further. He was only about 100M from the summit, but after careful consideration decided it was too technical to safely traverse this last bit and had to settle for taking a photo of the top from

his vantage point. He rejoined the others and they returned to camp for dinner and rest.

Sunday dawned to a very early rising and the sight of mist in Lucretia valley. Our three intrepid explorers from the night before were today joined by Andrew, as the loop party who wanted to continue down to the Lucretia Biv and out down the Nina to the highway, while Gareth and the rest just wandered back out the way they came in and picked up the cars to meet the rest at the NZDA Hut. The loop party left about 7:45am and carefully dropped down the steep col of Lucretia Stream and then struggled along the patchy but well ribboned track to the Biv. After negotiating some flood damage to the Nina Valley Track, the loop party arrived at the NZDA hut in about 6 and a quarter hours.

Participants: Gareth (Leader), Lisa, Karen, Kevin, Lovisa, Craig, Andrew, Rodney (scribe)

4 December 2011

Cave Stream

In these austere times it's only right,
That frivolous spending seems impolite.
So to save hard earned cash on expensive sun cream,
Our leader had a cunning plan for our fiscally aware team.
A different approach would do from the start,
So off we went tramping into the dark.
Into the bowels of this underground stream,
Thoughts of a hot sunny day were all but a dream.
And just as we lamented the lack of heat,
Our thoughts were diverted by an angry shriek.
Our spectacled friend was now in distress,
After hearing a 'plop' she was now one lens less!
She plunged into the pool and searched in vain,
But her optical absconder was not seen again.
Onwards we travelled through this underground river,
The temperature dropping would make us all shiver.
In such dark, damp conditions it would not be too soon,
That each of us would resemble an anaemic prune.
Or even something more spectacular,
Such as a wrinkled version of Count Dracula.
Then into view a large cascading fall,
That you could only negotiate if extremely tall.
Fortunately this detail did not matter,
As conveniently placed is a permanent ladder.
So with translucent skin and squinting eyes,
We all surfaced back into warm southern skies.
The sun was so hot, it started to burn,
So back into the cave half the team did return.
The rest of us headed to Castle Hill rocks,
In search of Hobbits that never wear shoes or socks!

Participants: Andrew Wrapson (leader), Astrid Gianotti, Gonzalo Roderiguez, Greg Hill, Michele Hood, Milan Cho, Virginia Good, Mathew Good, Finza Latif, Stephan Rolfe, Ayelen Betsabe, Andres Steinhilber, Jim Western (failed poet), Tania Stephens, Charles Afford, Rowan Hooper, Lovisa Ericksson, Jeff Rogers, Jeff's neighbour, Gandalf (ring leader) and P. Jackson (director).

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>	Antony White	381-5993	<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 19 February 2012 – Thanks.
