



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. 82

February 2013

No. 9



All on the top (from Mt Somers trip)

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 \$45 member, \$65 couple, \$25 junior or associate, with a \$5 discount for members who opt to obtain this newsletter electronically.

For more about how the club operates, see the last two pages.

Calendar of trips and Social Events

Trips: Unless otherwise stated, club trips depart either from 'Z' Carlton Corner Service Station (formerly Shell) 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 'Z' 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.

CTC OVERDUE TRIPS: Members/family/partners or a nominated person concerned about a trip being overdue should firstly discuss this with a Club Officer when they feel that the trip is delayed. Refer to the list of Club Officers on the back of the newsletter and on the club website. Club Officers know where to obtain copies of the Trip Lists containing the names and addresses of the party members with their vehicle registration details etc.

This will greatly assist Police Search and Rescue. The Club Officer can then contact the Police directly. Concerned people should keep trying different numbers until they actually contact a Club Officer (DO NOT LEAVE MESSAGES). We recommend that concerned people start with the Club Captain, then the Gear Custodian, then the Presidents, then the Trip Organisers, then people listed under Our Club Hut - if no contact can be made then the Police. Members (particularly Trip Leaders) please discuss this arrangement with your loved ones so they are aware of this procedure.

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 Jim Western 377-5431 or email Jimwestern@xtra.co.nz. Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm sharp, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm sharp.

Thursday 31 January		Club Night
<p>Newsletter night: Hot off the press will be the first print run for 2013. Be the first to read about what adventures occurred over the Christmas period, and be inspired to make the best of the long hours of daylight tramping opportunities, and get your name down on the trip lists.</p>		
Saturday 2 February		Leader: Bruce Cameron txt 022 188 5905 or ph 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		
<p>River Exploring - Selwyn Gorge: Another of Bruce's river exploring series. We follow the Selwyn River from near one of its sources through a gorge section with lots of cooling of places. Definitely a wet feet trip. Bring spare clothes to be left at the cars. If the river is unsuitable an alternative trip will run (Moorehouse Range?). River crossing skills are not needed) Height loss, 40 m; distance, 16 km.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy (water trip) Closed: 31 Jan Map: BY21 Approx: \$25</p>
Multi day trip 2-7 February 5 to 6 day trip between 2nd to 10th Feb		Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922
Departure point: Contact Leader		
<p>Garden of Eden: Heading up the Rangitata river, Clyde river, Perth Col and explore the Garden of Eden ice plateau. Requires some fitness, snow and rope skills for glacier travel and ability to forget the drudgery of hours spent walking up river beds. Numbers limited.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard Closed: 24 Jan Map: BX18 BW18 BW17 Approx: \$40</p>

Sunday 3 February		Leader: David Sutton 021 1808081	
<p>Sudden Valley to the Waimakariri: Sudden Valley Stream is a deeply gorged tributary of the Hawdon River, which it enters just before the Waimakariri River confluence. The valley is a popular destination for CTC trips, either as a trip in its own right or as an exit route after passing over The Pyramid. This trip is a bit more ambitious. After climbing through the valley, we will make our way up the un-named creek just below the Sudden Valley Biv, on the true right of the main stream. At the saddle near 1500 m, we will turn south east, following the high ridge over Pts 1804 and 1720 m and then bush bash down to One Tree Swamp on the north bank of the Waimak. From there it's a gentle traipse back to Hawdon Shelter along grassy river flats. Expect a fairly long day at least 20 km of travel and ~1500 m height gain. Our leader has promised that there will be no bush-lawyer this time!</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closed: 31 Jan Map: BV21 Approx: \$25</p>	

Tuesday 5 February		Social Event	
<p>Barbeque 6pm Spencer Park: Let's make the best use of these long warm summer evenings. Liz Tanner has kindly organised this for us. BYO food and drink. If you need a ride or any other information please phone Liz on 021 1400 531</p>			

Wednesday 6 February		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
<p>CTC Hill Climb: For February starts at the new time of 7pm on Wednesday evenings, and lasts for 60-70 minutes. It involves ~ 1 hour of brisk walking, on and off trail, up and down hills in the Mt Vernon Park area. Grade Moderate. We meet at the corner of Hillsborough Tce and Heybridge Lane just before 7pm. See here for a map of the meeting location. No trip list. Just turn up.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closed: 31 Jan Map: BX24 Approx: \$0</p>	

Thursday 7 February		Club Night	
<p>Adrian Busby Presents "Survival Shelters and Bivi Bags my 40 year search": Come hear about the years of hardship and survival as Adrian painstakingly tested to the extreme everything from a large paper bag through to the latest in all weather, all terrain Gucci bivi bags, that are a must for the fashion conscious survivalist.</p>			

Saturday 9 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove Note: 7.30 am departure 355-8360
Woolshed Creek Hut, Bus Stop Overhang, Rhyolite Ridge: This gives us a varied round trip following the Mt Somers Walkway from the Woolshed Creek car park up through bush and then open sub alpine herbfield to the Woolshed Creek Hut -- 350 m height gain. On the way, we will look at the old coal mine workings. From the hut, up to the Bus Stop Overhang - 500 m height gain from the hut. From there it is down the Rhyolite Ridge back to the car park. Note the early departure time of 7.30 am.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Feb Map: BX19 Approx: \$25

Weekend 9-10 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: William King 03 3578922 Bill.King@enable.net.nz
Hut Spur, Jordan Saddle, Black Range: Leave Chch on Saturday morning. Start from Bealey Corner/pub and head up Hut Spur to the Jordan Saddle and then to the Black Range. The campsite is located on the Eastern side of the Black Range and has good views at 1500m with several tarns to cool down in. Return on Sunday via Jordan Stream to Bealey Corner, with a compulsory stop at Springfield. This tramp will be paced to enjoy the views. It is approximately 14kms to the campsite with a gain in height of 1000m. If summer arrives!!!, and the weather is hot, we might consider leaving Chch a bit earlier to avoid the heat. A one day trip option up Hut Spur could be considered if the weather looks doubtful.	Grade: EasyMod+ Closed: 31 Jan Map: BV20 Approx: \$35

Sunday 10 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Andrea Zahn 382 1044
Blimit: It's not Mt Blimit or even Blimit Peak. Just "Blimit" is apparently a contraction of someone's thoughts about the climb many years go. At 1921 m, it's one of the higher peaks on the eastern side of Arthurs Pass, with spectacular views of Mt Rolleston, the Aicken Range and the main divide. The ascent route will start from the Punch Bowl Falls car park, climbing steeply up Cons Track and over Mt Cassidy. Return options are the reverse journey, or dropping through Bill's Basin and the Temple Basin Skifield complex, then walking back to the cars via the shady Bridal Veil Track.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Feb Map: BV20 Approx: \$30

Tuesday 12 February	Social Event
Meal out at Thai restaurant: Thai Orchid Riccarton Rd 12 Feb...ph Liz 0211400531 ideally before or on February 3rd so she can book by 10 Feb.	

Wednesday 13 February		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
CTC Hill Climb: For details refer to description on 6 February		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 7 Feb
		Map: BX24	Approx: \$0

Thursday 14 February		Club Night	
<p>Te Anau Wildlife Centre: This evening Liz Tanner will tell us about her time working as volunteer with the Department of conservation at the Te Anau Wildlife Centre. They look after some amazing native New Zealand birds including the rare Takahe, Kaka, Keas to name a few. This will be a great evening to learn about what DOC do at the wildlife centre, and what it is like working as a volunteer. And for those of you wondering why your wife/husband/partner etc are grumpy with you, don't forget it's St Valentines day, before it's too late!</p>			

Saturday 16 February		Leader: Bruce Cameron txt 022 188	
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		5905 or ph 365 8210	
		Tecbruce@gmail.com	
Coastal Exploring - Squally Bay: Starting at 300m on easy farm country (tracked and untracked), we descend to the east headland of Island Bay then follow the coastal cliffs, descending further to Wakamoa Bay. Continuing on round Wakamoa Reef along the cliff tops towards Rocky Nook and perhaps a little further to the next point before heading back to the cars. This section of the coast has some amazing cliffs and rock formations.		Grade: Easy	Closes: 14 Feb
		Map: BY25	Approx: \$20

Saturday 16 February		Leader: Antony White 03-550-7166	
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		phoenixantony@gmail.com	
Norma: This is the fairly prominent 1722-m peak that can be seen from SH7, on the true right of the Lewis River just north of its confluence with the Nina river. A pleasant 1000-odd m climb over Pt 1532 m takes us to the summit overlooking Lucretia Stream. The track is a surprisingly good, firstly through moss-draped beech, then open tussock leading to a rocky ridge. Be one of the relatively few people to discover what a lovely tramp this is. We may have an early start - make sure your name is on the list or you have contacted the leader.		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 14 Feb
		Map: BT23	Approx: \$30

Weekend 16-17 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686 atromans@gmail.com	
Barker Hut: This hut is in a really beautiful part of Arthurs Pass. Moderate trampers can visit one of the nearby passes for some stunning mountain views or just laze around the hut enjoying the alpine ambiance. The more energetic (mod-hard) types have the option of returning over Mt Harper. Ice axe and crampons required.		Grade: Moderate to ModHard	Closes: 7 Feb
		Map: BV20	Approx: \$30
Sunday 17 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Thomas Matern 354-4309	
Ashley Gorge - Pack floating: 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: 14 Feb
		Map: BW22	Approx: \$20
Sunday 17 February Departure point: Z (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 1100 m height gain, 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 1996 vacuum cleaner trip.		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 14 Feb
		Map: BW20	Approx: \$25
Wednesday 20 February		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
CTC Hill Climb: For details refer to description on 6 February		Grade: Moderate	Closes: 14 Feb
		Map: BX24	Approx: \$0
Thursday 21 February		Club Night	
Stewart Island's North West Circuit: Li Li, James Hopkins and Jonathon Carr show us why Stewart Island is such a fantastic place to visit, after their extended Christmas/new year trip to this southern island paradise. This island has abundant birdlife and stunning beaches, and much more.			

Saturday 23 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
Mt Harper/Mahaanui: Mt Harper (1829 m) is a great trip in the Ashburton Lakes area. We'll go in through Ashburton Gorge and along the Hakatere Potts Road to Lake Camp. In total there is about 17 km of travel and a bit over 1100 m of ascent. The ascent takes us up the moderately steep north slopes of Mt Harper. The normal return option is a lovely route down through the tussocks via Balmacaan Saddle to Balmacaan Stream, and then out along a rough track back to the cars.		Grade: Moderate Closes: 21 Feb Map: BX19 Approx: \$25	
Weekend 23-24 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Andrew Wrapson 980-6006	
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. An annual hut pass or 3 hut tickets are required to stay at this hut.		Grade: EasyMod Closes: 14 Feb Map: BV20 BV21 BW20 Approx: \$35 + hut fees	
Sunday 24 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360	
Camp Saddle: Camp Saddle is situated on a nice accessible spur off the main ridge of the Craigieburn Range, southeast of Hamilton Peak. We can go up from the Broken River ski field access road, or perhaps via the Craigieburn Valley Track. It's a short but steepish climb onto the saddle (1480 m) for great views out over the Craigieburn Range and down Broken River to the Torlesse Range. From there we'll undertake a lovely promenade east along the top of the spur to point 1525 and then drop down to the Craigieburn Valley Track at Lyndon Saddle and hence back to the cars. 700m-800 m height gain and about 13-14 km round trip depending on the exact route.		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 21 Feb Map: BW21 Approx: \$20	
Wednesday 27 February		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
CTC Hill Climb: For details refer to description on 6 February		Grade: Moderate Closes: 21 Feb Map: BX24 Approx: \$0	

Thursday 28 February	Club Night
<p>Newsletter night; Boots, Books and Billies: Turn at 7.30 so that we can all help get those newsletters into envelopes and be there to experience the latest breaking news. Then there will be the opportunity to make an offer on several pairs of second hand tramping boots the club (or club members) have for sale. We also have billies, plus lets bring in some books (outdoors, non fiction, fiction etc) that club members may wish to swap or sell.</p>	
Saturday 2 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<p>Mt Olympus via Mt Cheeseman: Recent DoC decisions have substantially improved the accessibility of Mt Cheeseman (2034 m on the Craigieburn Range) as a tramping destination. A CTC trip in November last year made it clear that this would be an excellent route to Mt Olympus (2094 m). So here's a wonderful opportunity for fit trampers to bag two 2000-m-plus peaks in a single day.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 28 Feb Map: BW23 Approx: \$20</p>
Weekend 2-3 March Leaving Friday night Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Craig Beere 381-0839 havokk@ihug.co.nz
<p>Inland Pack Track: The Inland Pack Track was cut in 1860 as an alternative way along the Punakaiki coast, but it is very unlikely that you will find a car there now. We will leave on Friday evening and stay at the club hut to cut two hours off the driving time on Saturday. If there are two cars then we will do a car shuffle, otherwise we will make something up. There is hardly any height gain on this track, start and end are at sea level and the highest point is just under 200m.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+ (water trip) Closes: 21 Feb Map: BS19 BS20 Approx: \$60</p>
Sunday 3 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Jim Western 377 5431
<p>Mt Oxford: This is THE classic Canterbury foothills day tramp, with ascent options from Coopers Creek or View Hill. Initially we'll ascent through beech forest, opening up to open tussock tops with stunning views of the Canterbury Plains, Lees Valley and the Puketeraki Range. The exact route will depend on weather and whim, with the option of a closed loop of around 20 km if the party is sufficiently interested and energetic.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 28 Feb Map: BW23 Approx: \$20</p>
Wednesday 6 March	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
<p>CTC Hill Climb: Now starts at 6pm on Wednesday evenings, and lasts for 60-70 minutes. It involves ~ 1 hour of brisk walking, on and off trail, up and down hills in the Mt Vernon Park area. Grade Moderate. We meet at the corner of Hillsborough Tce and Heybridge Lane just before 6pm. See here for a map of the meeting location. No trip list. Just turn up.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 28 Feb Map: BX24 Approx: \$0</p>

Thursday 7 March		Club Night
<p>Barcelona: Chris Curry shows us the sights of this great Spanish city. Come and see the buildings of Gaudi, and a day on the mountain range of Monserrat north of Barcelona at the famous monastery and mountain.</p>		
Saturday 9 March		Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		
<p>Ben More loop: Ben More is (only just) the second highest peak in the Big Ben Range of the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park conservation area. There is a nice circuit from the Lyndon Road, across the Acheron River and up onto a horseshoe of undulating tops (1327, 1660, 1665, Ben More at 1655, 1624, 1510, 1555, 1465 - or vice versa). There is a bit over 1000 m of climbing and about 17 km of tramping through a beautiful golden tussock landscape with views to the Torlesse, Craigieburn and Mt Hutt Ranges, Lake Coleridge and up the Rakaia River.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Mar Map: BW21 Approx: \$20</p>
Saturday 9 March		Leader: Lynette Hartley & Jeff Hall 338-0922
Departure point: Departure time and venue to be confirmed		
<p>Wilding pine day: Here's a great opportunity to spend a day in the outdoors killing trees. The aim of this activity is to help rid the Craigieburn and Flock Hill areas of wilding pines spawned especially from Helicopter Hill. There has been good progress in the last 12 months but the volunteer sites have plenty of trees, so we need as many people as we can get. ECAN provides the tools and briefing. Bring your own lunch, wet weather gear and water. This year, unlike previous years, there may be charge for petrol. Anyone who is qualified at using a chainsaw can bring it. There will be a range of terrain from easy to steep to accommodate everyone. These days are great fun, and in addition to the warm glow of healthy exercise you can take home a bit of the saintly aura of an eco-warrior!</p>		<p>Grade: Work Closes: 7 Mar Map: BW21 Approx: \$unknown</p>
Weekend 9-10 March		Leader: Steve Bruerton 027 503 0208
Departure point: Contact Leader 322-6196 steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz		
<p>Mt Sibbald: Leaving town Friday night, camp at the road end. On Saturday we 4WD up to Macaulay Hut then tramp up to a camp by the tarn in Upper Tindill Stream. Early start on Sunday for the climb. Usually the climb is achievable with ice axe and crampons however the gap between the low and high peak can be difficult. Harness, 2nd ice tool and some ropework may be needed to reach the high peak. Trip places may be limited by how many 4WD's are available. Trip date is weather dependent.</p>		<p>Grade: Hard Closes: 28 Feb Map: BX17 Approx: \$60</p>

Sunday 10 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Pinchgut Hut: This is a well appointed hut in behind Mt Thomas with a nice track making an easier-end-of easy-moderate tramp. There is a crossing of the Okuku River at the start of the track so you could wear old shoes or sandals for this, changing into dry boots for the walk. 3-4 hours of gentle walking, mainly in beech, will get us to the hut in a stream-side clearing where we will lunch before returning.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 7 Mar Map: BW23 Approx: \$20	
Wednesday 13 March		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb: For details refer to description on 6 March	Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Mar Map: BX24 Approx: \$0	
Weekend 16-17 March Leaving Friday night Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Andrea Zahn 382 1044 andi.zahn@gmx.de
Waimak Falls Hut: Waimak Falls Hut is in the upper Waimakariri River in a stunning alpine environment. It's 18km each way and 700m height gain, mostly tracked. We'll leave early on Friday evening and walk to the Anti Crow Hut for the night.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Mar Map: BV20 Approx: \$30	
Sunday 17 March 7.00 am departure Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931
Mt French: Just west of Jacksons, on the road to Kumara Junction, is an impressive, steep-sided, bush-clad, granite massif called the Honunu Range. Mt French is the highest peak on the western edge of this range. At 1305 m, it may not sound particularly challenging, but the track from the Kumara-Inchbonnie Road starts from just above 200 m. The ascent is initially steep, through dense bush, emerging onto open tops at about 900 m prior to Pt 1233 m. The road trip will be fairly long, so note the early starting time.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 14 Mar Map: BU19 Approx: \$40	
Wednesday 20 March		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb: For details refer to description on 6 March	Grade: Moderate Closes: 14 Mar Map: BX24 Approx: \$0	

Saturday 23 March Departure point: Departure time and venue to be confirmed		Leader: Lynette Hartley & Jeff Hall 338-0922	
<p>Wilding pine day: Here's a great opportunity to spend a day in the outdoors killing trees. The aim of this activity is to help rid the Craigieburn and Flock Hill areas of wilding pines spawned especially from Helicopter Hill. There has been good progress in the last 12 months but the volunteer sites have plenty of trees, so we need as many people as we can get. ECAN provides the tools and briefing. Bring your own lunch, wet weather gear and water. This year, unlike previous years, there may be charge for petrol. Anyone who is qualified at using a chainsaw can bring it. There will be a range of terrain from easy to steep to accommodate everyone. These days are great fun, and in addition to the warm glow of healthy exercise you can take home a bit of the saintly aura of an eco-warrior!</p>		Grade: Work Closes: 21 Mar Map: BW21 Approx: \$unknown	
Sunday 24 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Li Li 021 236 3211	
<p>Waipara Gorge: An easy walk along and across the Waipara River to the gorge. We can swim in its deeper river holes, admire the limestone cliff tops, and have lunch at the North Dean, where we may (on a sufficiently clear day) be able to see both the Southern Alps the east coast. There will be (easy) stream crossings, so be prepared to get wet feet.</p>		Grade: Easy+ (water trip) Closes: 21 Mar Map: BV24 Approx: \$20	
Wednesday 27 March		Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045	
<p>CTC Hill Climb: For details refer to description on 6 March</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 21 Mar Map: BX24 Approx: \$0	
Long Weekend 29 March-1 April Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686 atromans@gmail.com	
<p>Kahurangi Crossover: A crossover trip from Boulder Lake to the Cobb reservoir via the Dragons Teeth and the Drunken Sailors. A nice mix of bush, open tops and river travel, on and off track. Thursday night departure. Numbers limited due to transport logistics.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 21 Mar Map: BP23 BP24 Approx: \$100	

Saturday 6 April	Leader: Lynette Hartley & Jeff Hall 338-0922
Departure point: Departure time and venue to be confirmed	

<p>Wilding pine day: Here's a great opportunity to spend a day in the outdoors killing trees. The aim of this activity is to help rid the Craigieburn and Flock Hill areas of wilding pines spawned especially from Helicopter Hill. There has been good progress in the last 12 months but the volunteer sites have plenty of trees, so we need as many people as we can get. ECAN provides the tools and briefing. Bring your own lunch, wet weather gear and water. This year, unlike previous years, there may be charge for petrol. Anyone who is qualified at using a chainsaw can bring it. There will be a range of terrain from easy to steep to accommodate everyone. These days are great fun, and in addition to the warm glow of healthy exercise you can take home a bit of the saintly aura of an eco-warrior!</p>	Grade: Work Closes: 4 Apr Map: BW21 Approx: \$unknown
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Long Weekend 25-28 April Leaving Wednesday night	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 981-4931 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz
Departure point: Contact Leader	

<p>Wangapeka Track to Mt Owen: Wangapeka Track thru to Mt Owen. This is just a heads up, more details will follow in the next newsletter. Thursday is ANZAC day, Friday is not a public holiday!</p>	Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 Apr Map: BQ22 BQ23 BR23 Approx: \$TBA
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Trip Reports

3 Jan - 7 Jan 2013

Odyssey Basin

The MaCaulay river was hugely swollen and brown courtesy of the near biblical rainfall that had fallen on the divide in the previous three days. We set off about lunchtime along the 4x4 track that runs beside the river until we reach the hut at Third Waterfall stream. We leave the river and sidle high amongst the tussock to avoid the deeply scoured gullies before dropping into North East Gorge stream just below Two Thumb stream where we are brought to a complete stop. The stream, usually a placid and easily forded trickle, has been transformed into a roaring brown torrent. We sit and debate for a short while. We could possibly cross over if we link up, but the sounds of boulders being washed down the riverbed convince us to adopt a new plan. We climb up the tussock and sidle out above the gorge in Two Thumb stream. This route involves loose scree and a lot of Matagouri. Steve and Max escape unscathed but I end up being perforated and bleeding from my legs and hands. We camp at the first available campsite beside the river.

The next morning dawns clear and we begin the long climb up Two Thumb stream to

Athene col. There is a remarkable amount of snow lying around thanks to the recent storm and the lack of freezing conditions means that it has remained quite soft. Athene col is about 2300m above sea level and from here we have some great views down into Odyssey basin and the tarn where we will be making our base for the next two nights. We can also look across the valley to The Thumbs. These are two massive rock outcrops that stick straight up out of the ridgeline with vertical cliff faces and deep grooves etched into its sides. To the north is the head of Odyssey basin and a series of fascinating peaks. Tantalus is closest, towering over our intended campsite. Priam is visible at the head of the basin and behind that is Myrmidon and Achilles. Alma sticks out just beyond. Our closest peak is Electra (2447m), which sits at the end of the ridge leading out to the south west of Athene col. We drop our packs and begin working away along the bare rock ridgeline towards Electra. The first hundred metres along the ridge are quite easy but then we come up against a large buttress in the ridgeline that we cannot climb over. We are forced to drop off onto the western side of the ridge and travel along a series of narrow rock benches. After squeezing around rocks that loom over steep drops off into nothingness, we regain the ridge and then double back up to the summit. The view from our first peak is outstanding with the peaks around Mt Cook standing out to our west. Further north, Mt D'Archiac sticks out prominently with its sharp peak and Mt Sibbald is only a couple of valleys over. We retrace our steps to Athene col, regain our packs and then drop down into Odyssey basin. The afternoon is spent excavating level camp sites amongst the scree and digging drainage ditches to ensure a dry nights sleep. Our selected site has grandstand views west over Mt Cook and the view is quite dramatic when the sun sets late in the evening, or at least it would be if I was awake to see it.

The next day dawns clear again. Fully kitted out for climbing we climb back up to Athene col and then sidle high around the head of Two Thumb stream before struggling up loose scree to the gap between the two Thumbs. We select the large thumb for our assault and we scramble up the face to the first rock bench. From here we work our way carefully around to the west face of the thumb and slowly make our way up a series of narrow and quite fragile benches that zig-zag their way up the peak. One of the zags is quite nasty. It is smooth with no obvious holds, has a downward slope off into thin air and, although the snow has slid off, there is still thin layer of ice on it.



Odyssey basin

Also the turn back onto the next zig is quite tight and very exposed. We create a secure anchor and Steve leads the pitch with me belaying him. He makes it without incident and when he's at the top he discovers a climbing sling that has been sacrificed by a previous party. It has been used to create a very dodgy anchor from which they would have climbed down. The sling has been placed around a large rock which has been wedged against the rock face with a number of other rocks. From here the climb is much easier. Although it's still not a stroll it's much less demanding and we can now rest at the summit of the high peak (2546m). It's a clear day and the same mountains from the day before are still clearly visible but now we have views into the

Canterbury foothills as well. We make our way back down and reach the dodgy rock ledge again. We only have a 30 metre rope and no one is keen to down climb. We create a safe anchor by sacrificing three of our own slings and doubling up the rope so we can all abseil down. Halfway down Steve discovers a rock that will serve as a reasonably safe anchor point so we change the plan. I attach myself to the new anchor point and Max uses the rope as a handhold and gets off the ledge. Steve goes back up and retrieves most of our climbing gear before we take turns belaying each other down. It's all very complicated but we make it down without falling to our deaths and everyone is happy. After a quick lunch break we make a half hearted attempt on the low thumb, but when we find no obviously easy route we decided to call it quits and return to base camp. After an hour or so we decide to go for a walk to the top of Priam (2435m). This is much more of a tramper's peak with no equipment required. At the top we take the time to look back at The Thumbs and marvel at the route we have taken just that morning. We also took the opportunity to scope the route up to Myrmidon and beyond. It doesn't look too inviting and would be much nicer with a good covering of snow. After two peaks in a single day I have no difficulty falling asleep this night.

Day four and we set off to climb Tantalus. We make quick travel up snow and bare rock up to the ridgeline between Priam and Tantalus. Initially the ridge is quite easy but as you approach Tantalus there are a series of deep notches in the ridgeline. We come to a step rock face that, from our perspective at least, looks to have a series of narrow benches running up it in a manner very similar to The Thumbs. After a bit of thinking we commit and begin climbing this imposing rock wall. We make about four metres before we beat a hasty retreat back to our starting point. Undeterred we drop into the scree and work our way around to the west ridge above Iliad basin, hugging the rock massif above us. We then work our way up a series of gullies before finally gaining the west ridge. From here it is remarkably simple to make our way to the summit (2454m). Again we have unbroken views of all the usual suspects and we note that Canterbury appears to be under a veil of cloud. After a while we retrace our steps, including the grinding climb back up the loose scree, and return to camp.

A lesser group would sit back and feel content, even smug, at having climbed four 2000 metre plus peaks in four days, but not us. Or at least, not Steve and Max. Soon we are fully loaded and, for the fourth time, we are struggling up to Athene col before running back down the snow into Two Thumb stream and sidling around the scree into Tom Thumb stream. Here we are met with lush, green vegetation growing in the lower reaches of the stream and a view up to the Split peaks. We wander up to a ledge where we find another campsite nestled next to a small tarn surrounded by snow debris. We have another lazy afternoon making a smooth sleeping surface.

The morning on our final day turns out to be another stunner. We are away earlier than usual and climb out through the rocks and reach the main ridgeline of the Two Thumb range. We drop our packs and scramble up to the top of Mt Caton (2309m) where we have an uninterrupted view along the ridgeline which we are going to follow all the way back to where Third waterfall stream flows into the MaCauley river. The first obstacle is an unnamed bump on the ridge at 2308m. It's quite rocky and it spoils a nice smooth ridgeline. Next is Mt Pattison (2313m) and then it's on to Captains peak. The wind from the west has been steadily increasing as we've travelled along the ridge and by now it's getting tough to stand up. Half way up Steve discovers the wind has taken his hat without him noticing. After an exhausting climb we finally reach the top of Captains peak (2371m). We continue across the ridge below point 2321m and have lunch in the lee of a large rock. By this stage we have had enough and the descent into the MaCaulay becomes a long slow

trudge back to civilisation. I for one am glad to have put the endless scree behind me, even if it means swapping it for matagouri. Eventually we reach the 4x4 and then we're off to Tekapo for some junk food and then home.

Trampers: Steve Bruerton, Max de Lacey, Andrew Tromans

20 January 2013

Mt Somers

After speaking with Richard earlier in the week to confirm that the trip had indeed been moved to Sunday for weather considerations and arranging our meeting place near Glentunnel, I picked up a call from our leader just as I was walking out the door to ask if I could actually meet at Darfield to sort cars and pick up another trumper. This was all due to the sudden appearance of several extra bods wanting to come on this trip, on such an excellent day, that the original numbers had swelled to 16 trampers.

Four car loads arrived at the Sharplin Falls car park about 9:40am to find our numbers swell to 17 with Max already waiting for our arrival. Several comments were made to Richard for putting on such a perfect day and how unusual that was for one of His trips.



The lunch-stop rock

We set off hot on the heels of a smaller group from the Avon tramping Club about 10:am and with a brisk pace being set, soon passed them before we had a viewing stop at Dukes knob, where we tried to see how many bods we could cram onto the rock viewing knob. Off we set again with the pace being fairly quick as we dropped down again to Bowyers Stream. After a scrog stop beside the stream in the warm sun, the next stopping point was the waterfall that falls beside the track as we walk under the rock overhang(I'm sure we all know the one). It was here that a certain club member who quite often tramps with his shirt

off (especially if there are young ladies on the trip)(I'm sure we all know who), decided to show off by taking a cold shower under the aforementioned waterfall.

Next stop was the saddle looking down on Pinnacles Hut where we decided to have lunch and again most of us scrambled up onto the rock to bask in the sun and enjoy the views. At the hut, two of our number decided to head up to the summit via the pinnacles route behind the hut, while the rest of us continued on to the next saddle where we then followed an occasionally cairned route up onto the tops. Afternoon tea was had at the summit in good conditions and a light breeze before we headed off on the long slog Down Staveley hill, which in good company didn't seem to take too long at all. Back to the cars around 5:30pm.

Trampers: Richard Lobb (Leader), Andrew Tromans, Lovisa Eriksson, Eric Mauer, Olivia Barron, Max de Lacey, David Selway, Alan Ross, Kieran McGuigan, Simon Johnson, Clive Marsh, David Sutton, Cathy Basire, Linda Lilburne, Jovan Andrie, Jim Western, Rodney Erickson (Scribe)

For More Photos check out Rodney's Blog: <http://roddus.blogspot.co.nz/2013/01/mt-somers-20th-january-2013.html>

Classifieds

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

More about the CTC

Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	<i>New Members Rep:</i>	David Cockeram	337-0948
<i>Senior Vice President:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Bryce Williamson	351-6366
<i>Junior Vice President:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	<i>Weekend Trip Organiser:</i>	Thomas Matern	354-4309
<i>Secretary:</i>	Li Li	021 236 3211	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Jim Western	377 5431
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Andrea Zahn	382 1044	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Thomas Matern	354-4309
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Adrian Busby	325-5001	<i>Editor:</i>	Sam Cook	741-1476
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	Liz Van Ekeris	337-0948	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196

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 Bernhard Parawa 981 4931; 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 the hut convenor, Steve Bruerton, ph 322 6196.

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	Free
Personal locator beacons	Free

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor (editor@ctc.org.nz) by 24 February 2013 – Thanks.