



# THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC  
PO Box 527, Christchurch. [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz)

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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*King Peak (from Ice Lake 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.

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## News

**New Members Welcome:** We Welcome three new members to the club; Anna Herlender, Noel Kennedy and Joanne Parker. Please accept the club's warm welcome to you all.

# Tramper of the Month: Andrew Tromans

*Give us the short summary about yourself - job, family, where you are from, etc...* I'm from Perth, Western Australia, where my parents and brother and sister still live (all non-trampers). I came to New Zealand to work as a scientist - Metrology in Chemistry (no, it has nothing to do with the weather) for the NZ Government. I ended up in Christchurch due to a managerial error and now they can't make me leave. .



*Date joined CTC?* October 2005.

*How did you find out about the CTC?* Internet search.

*Did you tramp before joining the CTC?* I did a bit in WA, mainly on the Bibbulmen track, the Stirling Ranges and the Perongerups. It's a totally different game over there. I had also done a few tramps in the Tararuas and Tongariro when I first came to NZ.

*What was your first day trip?* Mt White, where I discovered the CTC philosophy of tramping and the worst cramping of my life.

*Your first weekend trip?* Mt Guinevere. Didn't get to the top but a great trip.

*Who or what had the biggest influence on your tramping days?* Probably Richard Wills with his knowledge and experience and his infinite patience in teaching newcomers.

*Your favourite hut?* Tough one. Bluff Hut due to its stunning position and remoteness. Also Mungo Hut, probably due to the journey being so memorable.

*What future trips are you most looking forward to?* I'm slowly crossing items off my list but I absolutely must get to the Olivine ice plateau and Ivory lake before I die..

*Have any mishaps/embarrassing/funny things happened to you while tramping?* Stewart Smith had to be helicoptered out of a trip I was leading after being belted with a rock. He didn't think it was funny. Otherwise it's been kind of dull and uneventful.

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# 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 Wednesdays 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 Silvia Horniakova 021-264-8430 or email [silwika@yahoo.com](mailto:silwika@yahoo.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.

Wednesday 26 June	Club Night
<p><b>Newsletter folding night:</b> Be the first to experience the latest club news hot off the press, and help the club get ready their next batch of the ongoing saga of the adventures, trails and tribulations of the Christchurch Tramping Club. A good social time to catch up and plan for future exploits out in the hills, whilst assisting the club with their monthly mail out.</p>	

Saturday 29 June <span style="float: right;">Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280</span> Departure point: Caltex Russley - early departure, 7 am	
<p><b>Mt Bealey:</b> Mt Bealey lies at the southern end of the range running towards Mt Rolleston along the western side of Arthurs Pass. At 1836 m, it's a smidgeon higher than the better known Avalanche Peak. The ~1200 m climb starts from the south end of AP Village, initially steeply through beech forest on a well-defined track, then continuing above the bush line on a tussock and rock ridge. A short detour to the impressive Pt 1805 m knob could be on the cards, depending on conditions. Ice axe and crampons may be required, along with experience in using them. Potential participants must contact the leader or add their names to the trip list by the end of the closing date.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 27 Jun Map: BV20 Approx: \$30

Saturday 29 June <span style="float: right;">Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686</span> Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui - 7 am start	
<p><b>Wild Mans Hill:</b> This peak stands between the Cameron River and the South Branch Ashburton River. We climb from the Cameron Valley car park up to Pyramid (1598 m) then follow rolling tops to Wild Mans Hill (1856 m). From there we will drop down into the Cameron Valley for our return. Ice axe and crampons may be required. There will be a special prize for the wildest (wo)man in the group i.e. untamed facial hair, Swannies, howling at the moon etc. Note the early start time.</p>	Grade: Moderate Closes: 27 Jun Map: BX18 BX19 BW18 Approx: \$40

Weekend 29-30 June <span style="float: right;">Leader: Thomas Matern 354-4309</span> Departure point: Contact Leader <span style="float: right;">thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz</span>	
<p><b>Cedar Flat Hot Pools:</b> The Cedar Flats Huts now consist of a 1958 historic hut (for those who like the rustic style backcountry accommodation), and a modernised (2012) 12 bunker with good heating (if you prefer a bit more luxury). There is also ample camping in the immediate area. Cedar Flat is around 5 hrs walk up the Toaroha River on the West Coast near Lake Kaniere and is surrounded by stunning scenery (including some snow capped peaks in late June!). From the hut it's about 10 minutes walk to a hot pool on the bank of Wren Creek in a great West Coast Bush setting. There is also a good camp spot close to the pool if you are too lazy to walk back to the hut after the bath. If you really want to earn your soak there are various peaks and saddles such as Zit Saddle, Squall Peak &amp; Jumble Top all within a few km of the Hut. You also have a good chance of spotting Whio in the river on the way up the river valley. Do you need any more reasons to go??? Yes? - OK Thomas ALWAYS brings lots of chocolate on hot pool trips!</p>	Grade: Easy Mod Closes: 20 Jun Map: BV19 Approx: \$50-80

Sunday 30 June Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210
<b>Wild Cattle Hill (600m):</b> Starting Putiki we travel over untracked hilly farm country to a nice bush topped hill (Pt.621) for lunch with great views over Port Levy and Port Robinson. then its down to Wild cattle hill (600m) and back down to Puari and off for rehydration. (Kids OK weather allowing check with leader) Time - 4 - 5hrs Distance 10Km	Grade: Easy Closes: 27 Jun Map: BX24 BX25 Approx: \$TBA

Multi day trip 1-2 July Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Andrew Tromans
<b>Cameron hut and Arrowsmith Range:</b> Located behind Mt Somers, the Arrowsmith Range is far larger and steeper than the surrounding foothills. 5 or 6 hours tramping, with only a little climbing towards the end, will get us to the 8 bunk Cameron hut. Bring your snow toys and have a wander on Cameron glacier or simply laze around enjoying the spectacular winter views from the hut on to the Arrowsmith mountains. Especially keen trampers may have a go at Mt Arrowsmith itself.	Grade: Moderate to ModHard Closed: 20 Jun Map: BW18 BW19 BX19 Approx: \$40 + CMC hut fee

Wednesday 3 July	Club Night
<b>Any Question about Gear? - Gear Night at BIVOUAC (Tower Junction):</b> How do water proof fabrics work? What is loft power? What is the best Harness for Glacier Travel? How should I look after my waterproof Jacket? Dave, a buyer for Bivouac Outdoor and self confessed gear junky will be talking through the latest innovations in outdoor equipment and clothing and attempting to answer any questions you have about gear. Will be held at Bivouac Tower Junction and there will be a extra discount on the night if you want to pick up something new.	

Saturday 6 July Departure point: TBA for Friday night	Leader: Richard Kimberley 021 2032 645 or 326 6158 janeandrichard@xtra.co.nz
<b>Mt Rolleston:</b> This trip has been deferred a couple of times earlier in the year due to inclement conditions and leader illness. The intended ascent route via the Otira Slide involves a sustained climb is in excess of 1400 m and steep and exposed in some parts. Participants will need snow skills, appropriate experience, ice axe, crampons and helmet. We will be leaving on Friday evening, staying the night at the club hut in Arthurs Pass and starting early on Saturday morning. Depending on the weather forecast, the trip date could change to Sunday.	Grade: Hard/ Climbing Closes: 4 Jul Map: BV20 Approx: \$35 + hut fees

Saturday 6 July <span style="float: right;">Leader: James Hopkins 03 967 5003</span> Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui - early departure, 7 am	
<p><b>Travers - Trovatore:</b> Travers Peak (1724 m) is just above the Lewis Pass Highway, accessed from the west via Foleys Track. From Travers we can descend a couple of hundred metres and trot over to Trovatore (1737 m) and then - conditions allowing - head north-east along the ridge to pick up a nice scree (or snow-field) descent into the unnamed stream west of Henry Saddle. That takes us down to the Maruia River and thus we can pick up the St James back to the Lewis Pass car park. Height gain about 1400 m. Ice axe and crampons may be required, along with experience in using them. Early start - contact leader.</p>	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 4 Jul Map: BT23 Approx: \$35
Weekend 6-7 July 2013-07-05 <span style="float: right;">Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210</span> Departure point: Contact Leader <span style="float: right;">Tecbruce@gmail.com</span>	
<p><b>Arthurs Pass Winter Base Camp:</b> Leaving on Friday night Staying at the CTC Club Hut. (\$20) There are lots of options, grades for varying weather patterns &amp; abilities. Little walks suitable for families. Potluck tea. Email leader for more details</p>	Grade: All / Family Closes: 27 Jun Map: BV20 BV21 Approx: \$30 + Accom
Weekend 6-7 July <span style="float: right;">Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196</span> Departure point: Contact Leader	
<p><b>Mt Greenlaw:</b> At 2315m Mt Greenlaw is 2nd in height only to Mt Murchison in the Arthurs Pass area. In fact its higher than the adjacent main divide peaks as far south as Whitcombe Pass. So thats a good reason to go and climb it. Unfortunately it has a rather bad reputation for consisting of horrible weebix rock. To resolve this we will sneak up on it in winter when its all frozen together. A great plan but it may be a touch chilly. I will 4WD up the Avoka so seats are limited depending on other 4WD owners that may come along. Camping in the head of the Avoca Valley with an early start on Sunday to climb or an extra early start from Avoca Hut. Sure to be a great winter trip in the snow with great views so book in now. This is definitely a mid winter ice axe and crampons type trip so if you want to go it is highly recommended you get in touch with Steve to discuss logistics, gear and your skills. Climbing Grade is (2-) with Moderate-Hard fitness level.</p>	Grade: Hard/ Climbing Closes: 27 Jun Map: BV20 Approx: \$50

Sunday 7 July Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
<b>Bealey Spur:</b> Bealey Spur: This is a very popular track through sheltering beech forest to the snow line. Starting above the baches at Bealey Spur we'll climb up to the charming old musterer's hut at about 1240 m. The ridge opens up in places to reveal immense views over the Waimakariri River and to the mountains beyond. There will probably be snow around, especially in the open areas. Usual winter warm layers, plus a walking pole and gaiters may be useful. The hut is about a 450 m climb from the cars and the round trip is about 10 km.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 4 Jul Map: BV20 Approx: \$25

Wednesday 10 July	Club Night
<b>Physiotherapy session with Graeme Nuttridge: Dip Physio, Dip MT, Dip DMT, M Phty., MNZCP (Advanced Practitioner in Sport:</b> Graeme qualified in Dunedin 31 years ago (1980). He gained his diploma in manipulative therapy in 1984 and examined the Dip MT for a number of years. He gained his Dip MDT and has been part of the New Zealand Teaching Faculty for the McKenzie Institute since 1995. He has been to two Olympic Games, been the consultant physiotherapist to New Zealand Cricket (1991 - 2006) and Team Physiotherapist for the Tall Blacks (1991-2001). He has had continuous involvement with Canterbury Cricket. He completed his Masters Degree and is an advanced practitioner in the area of sports and orthopaedics (2001). Graeme is currently director of PHYSIOSOUTH, with seven clinics, four these gyms based. He has a special interest in rehabilitation and the application of exercise based therapies. Graeme's clinical focus, apart from rehabilitation, is to incorporate physical activity and subjective well being into standard physiotherapy practice by utilizing the evidenced based model. Graeme has also been a keen trumper and climber, having climbed Mt Cook among many other adventures. He understands the physical and mental requirements for performing in the outdoors. He will talk to us about how to prevent injuries while tramping, how to deal with them, recover, exercise and much more - subject very useful to every one of us!	

Saturday 13 July Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron txt 022 188 5905 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com
<b>Coastal Exploring: Kaiapoi to Kairaki Beach:</b> Starting at the Information Centre by the Kaiapoi Wharf, we will follow the Pegasus Bay Walkway via the Askeaton Park to Kairaki Beach, returning the same way. Great activity for kids. Weather permitting, buggies are OK. Check with leader first. Time: 4 - 5 hours. Distance ~ 8 km.	Grade: Easy Closes: 11 Jul Map: BW24 Approx: \$15

Saturday 13 July		Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545 or 981-2045	
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui - early departure, 7 am			
<p><b>Goat Hill:</b> Goat Hill is a seemingly modest peak on the true right of the Otira River, directly east of Otira township. However, with a starting altitude of ~450 m, it involves a good 1200 m of height gain. We will start up the track on the north side of Barracks Creek, with return options yet to be evaluated. Snow is likely, so participants should have ice axe, crampons and knowledge of how to use them. Note early start time.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)</p> <p>Closes: 11 Jul</p> <p>Map: BV20</p> <p>Approx: \$35</p>	
Weekend 13-14 July		Leader: Max De Lacey 03-688-8342	
Departure point: Contact Leader			
<p><b>St Winifred - Havelock Valley:</b> St Winifred Hut is a historic hut dating back to 1959, but don't let that put you off, a CMC working party set to it in 2004, upgrading it with a porch, new stainless steel benches, chip heater, new toilet and - wait for it - solar lighting. Surrounded by many stunning peaks up to 2500m it is a great winter spot. Access is a easy moderate day walk up the Havelock valley (you will get wet feet!). Sitting on the 900m contour on the western flank of the flat and wide Havelock valley it is a sunny spot with grand views. If you want an Easy Mod tramp in a stunning setting this is it! Contact Max for details. Meeting point will be Mt Somers township by arrangement. Access will be via Erewhon station.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Mod + River travel</p> <p>Closes: 4 Jul</p> <p>Map: BW17 BX17 BX18</p> <p>Approx: \$40 + hut fee</p>	
Wednesday 17 July		Club Night	
<p><b>Life and tramping in South Korea with Morwenna Hicks:</b> Morwenna Hicks, our CTC member, spent several years living in South Korea teaching English. South Korea is a very small country, only 2/3 the size of NZ's South Island, but 80% mountainous. Come and get a sense of Korea through its mountains: the rich culture, ancient history, pure beauty, and quirks of tramping in Korea. It might just convince you to go there for tramp or two, rather than treating it as a transit stop on your way to another country!</p>			
Saturday 20 July		Leader: Bruce Cameron or txt 022 1888 5905 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui			
<p><b>Port Hills - Sumner to Taylors Mistake:</b> An easy tramp -- starting from Sumner we will explore from Whitewash Head (or, rather what's left of it) over to Taylors Mistake for lunch and back again via a different route. Time 4 - 5 hours.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy</p> <p>Closes: 18 Jul</p> <p>Map: BX24</p> <p>Approx: \$10</p>	

Saturday 20 July <span style="float: right;">Leader: David Sutton 03 3318064</span> Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui 7 am start	
<p><b>Mt Iazard - Mt Cockayne:</b> Mts Cockayne and Iazard are two peaks in the mid-region of the spine of the Craigieburn Range. The plan is to start south along the Hogsback Track from the Mt Cheeseman Road bridge over Tims Creek. We'll then scale the western ridge of Mt Iazard (2019 m) before turning north, over Mt Cheeseman (2031 m) to Mt Cockayne. The Mt Cheeseman Road should provide an easy return to the cars, with bail-out options down ridges from Mt Cheeseman or Pt 1950 m if the conditions are unfavourable. This is likely to be a long day with potential for plenty of snow and at least 1500 m of total height gain. Ice axe and crampons required, along with knowledge about how to use them. Note the early start time.</p>	Grade: ModHard (requires snow skills)  Closes: 18 Jul Map: BW20 BW21  Approx: \$20

Weekend 20-21 July Departs Friday 19th @ 7pm <span style="float: right;">Leader: Adrian Busby Steve Bruerton 325-5001</span> Departure point: Contact Leader	
<p><b>Basic Snow Craft Course:</b> This is an annual regular. Have you ever been tempted to do a tramp in winter, but had to pass because you didn't think you had the snow skills? Here is the answer. An introduction to the basic snow skills needed by any club member wishing to head into the high country over winter. The course covers the use of iceaxe and crampons, basic avalanche awareness, winter survival techniques and snow shelters. Ice axe, crampons and helmet required; these can be hired from the gear custodian ..... get in quick with your bookings or you will have to hire gear from the mountaineering shops in town. Contact leader for additional gear requirements. Gear check (appropriate boots, etc) will be at club night on Weds 17th. Or as agreed with leader if you can't make it in on Wednesday. Participants are encouraged to take the option of leaving town on Friday night and spending a social night at the club hut in Arthurs Pass. This will mean you are ready to go early on Saturday Morning. The course will start somewhere in the Craigieburns as soon as everyone is mustered on Saturday morning - the sooner you are ready the more playing in the snow you shall get. Saturday night will be at the Club hut at Arthurs Pass. Sunday back to the Craigieburns then home. This course is available only to full club members. Numbers will be strictly limited so do not hesitate - this books out early every time! NOTE: Will leave from the Departure point @ 7pm on Friday.</p>	Grade: Training Closes: 11 Jul Map: BW21 Approx: \$30

Weekend 20-21 July Leader: Li Li 021 236 3211  
ahhlili01@hotmail.com  
 Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

<b>Mid winter venture up the Nina:</b> What a great time of year to go up the Nina - all the sandflies will have flown north to warmer climates. That means they wont bother you. Nina Hut is a great hut 10 bunker with heating, located on an easy track with lots of options to venture further if you are so inclined. At this stage trip numbers are limited to 8 so get hold of LiLi and secure your place.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 11 Jul Map: BT23 BU23 Approx: \$40 + hut fee
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Sunday 21 July Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360  
 Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

<b>Rakaia Gorge Walkway:</b> The Rakaia Gorge Walkway is a nice easy trip, mainly following the cliffs and river terraces above the gorge. A number of viewpoints afford great views of the gorge and surrounding country. The walkway itself (5 km each way ) starts in farmland, passes through areas of regenerating native bush and the disused Snowdon Coalmine. The return trip involves doing a short loop, taking you down to the Rakaia River itself and then back the same way.	Grade: Easy Closes: 18 Jul Map: BX20 Approx: \$20
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Wednesday 24 July Club Night

**Avalanche Awareness evening with MSC:** Andrew Hobman is the Alpine and Avalanche Program Manager for the MSC (Mountain Safety Council). This evening he will introduce us to his experience in the mountains and avalanche awareness. He will also let use know what the MSC does, and how it is run. Winter is in full bloom, get wise about assessing avalanche conditions, so you don't get caught!

Sunday 28 July Leader: Bruce James 332-3473  
 Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

<b>Broken Hill:</b> Broken Hill overlooks the limestone escarpment lands of Flock and Prebble Hills, and the Cave Stream area now sometimes known as Narnialand due to the filming there of parts of the first of the Narnia movies. We'll park at the Craigieburn picnic area, cross the road, and make our way over Pts 1355 and 1408 m to the Broken Hill summit (1486 m) and then probably on to the un-named Pt 1578 m. From there we can do a nice loop back to the cars along Flock Hill Stream. If there is not much snow this trip will be at the easier end of moderate, with some 700-800 m height gain and about 17 km of tramping; talk to the leader closer to the day to check on conditions.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 Jul Map: BW21 Approx: \$20
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Wednesday 31 July	Club Night
<p><b>Newsletter folding night:</b> Be the first to experience the latest club news hot off the press, and help the club get ready their next batch of the ongoing saga of the adventures, trails and tribulations of the Christchurch Tramping Club. A good social time to catch up and plan for future exploits out in the hills, whilst assisting the club with their monthly mail out.</p>	
Sunday 4 August Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344
<p><b>Bob's Knob:</b> Bob's Knob is a 1261-m bump in the Torlesse region on the ridge running along the true left of the Kowai River. We start from the Big Tree car park and climb up the ridge to the Knob (about 600-700m height gain), where we can admire the views up across to the Torlesse Range and down to Lake Rubicon. By continuing along the ridge a bit we can get a nice scree-slope descent to the huts (snow conditions permitting) and then walk back along the Kowai River to the cars. It's about an 11-12 km round trip, some 600-700m height gain. Remember your winter tramping gear. If there's a lot of snow about we might take ice-axes, in which case instructions on their use will be provided to newcomers. Ask the leader if you're uncertain.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 1 Aug Map: BW21 Approx: \$15</p>
Wednesday 7 August	Club Night
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Wednesday 14 August	Club Night
<p><b>CTC 1947: commentated by Arthur Peters, Noel Tweedie, Jim McKie and Merve Woodham:</b> Come and view Old fashioned river crossing, the making of The Oxford Hut, The Rees Dart track and footage of the Kaikoura rail tunnels being constructed. This movie was digitally adapted by our club Patron: Rex Vink.</p>	
Wednesday 21 August	Club Night
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Weekend 24-25 August Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Tecbruce@gmail.com
<p><b>Winter in the Alps: Glenthorn Station Basecamp:</b> Located NW end of Lake Coleridge up the Wilberforce River. Lots of tramps available or just enjoy the mountain views. Accommodation in a lodge. Contact leader <a href="mailto:TecBruce@gmail.com">TecBruce@gmail.com</a> for ideas, details and options</p>	<p>Grade: All Closes: 15 Aug Map: BW19 BW20 Approx: \$30 + Accom</p>

Sunday 25 August <span style="float: right;">Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344</span> Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	
<p><b>Castle Hill Peak via Mt Plenty:</b> At 1998 m, Castle Hill Peak is the highest point on the Torlesse Range and a common tramping objective. Normally it's tackled from Porter's Pass over Foggy Peak. On this trip we'll take an alternative route, starting from the SH73 bridge over the Porter River up to Mt Plenty and then along a pleasant spur to the main Torlesse ridge, about 1 km south west of Castle Hill Peak. Depending on the inclination of the participants, the trip could be closed with a loop over Pt 1941 m and down the spur to Ghost Creek. Ice axe and crampons required, along with knowledge about how to use them.</p>	Grade: Moderate (required snow skills) Closes: 22 Aug Map: BW21 Approx: \$20

Wednesday 28 August	Club Night
<p><b>Newsletter folding night:</b> Be the first to experience the latest club news hot off the press, and help the club get ready their next batch of the ongoing saga of the adventures, trails and tribulations of the Christchurch Tramping Club. A good social time to catch up and plan for future exploits out in the hills, whilst assisting the club with their monthly mail out.</p>	

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# Trip Reports

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29-31 May 2013

## Ice Lake

The views up the Whataroa River were the stuff you would expect to see on a post card being sold in a tourist shop rather than being confronted with at the start of a tramp. Grassy paddocks in front of verdant forests with snow covered mountains looming in background and a cloudless blue sky overhead. Undaunted, we started preparing and had a brief chat with the small group of hunters standing around nearby. According to them, there were sizable groups of hunters already in the hills based at different huts and they were simply the last to get moving. We began wondering if we would be able to get a bunk that evening.

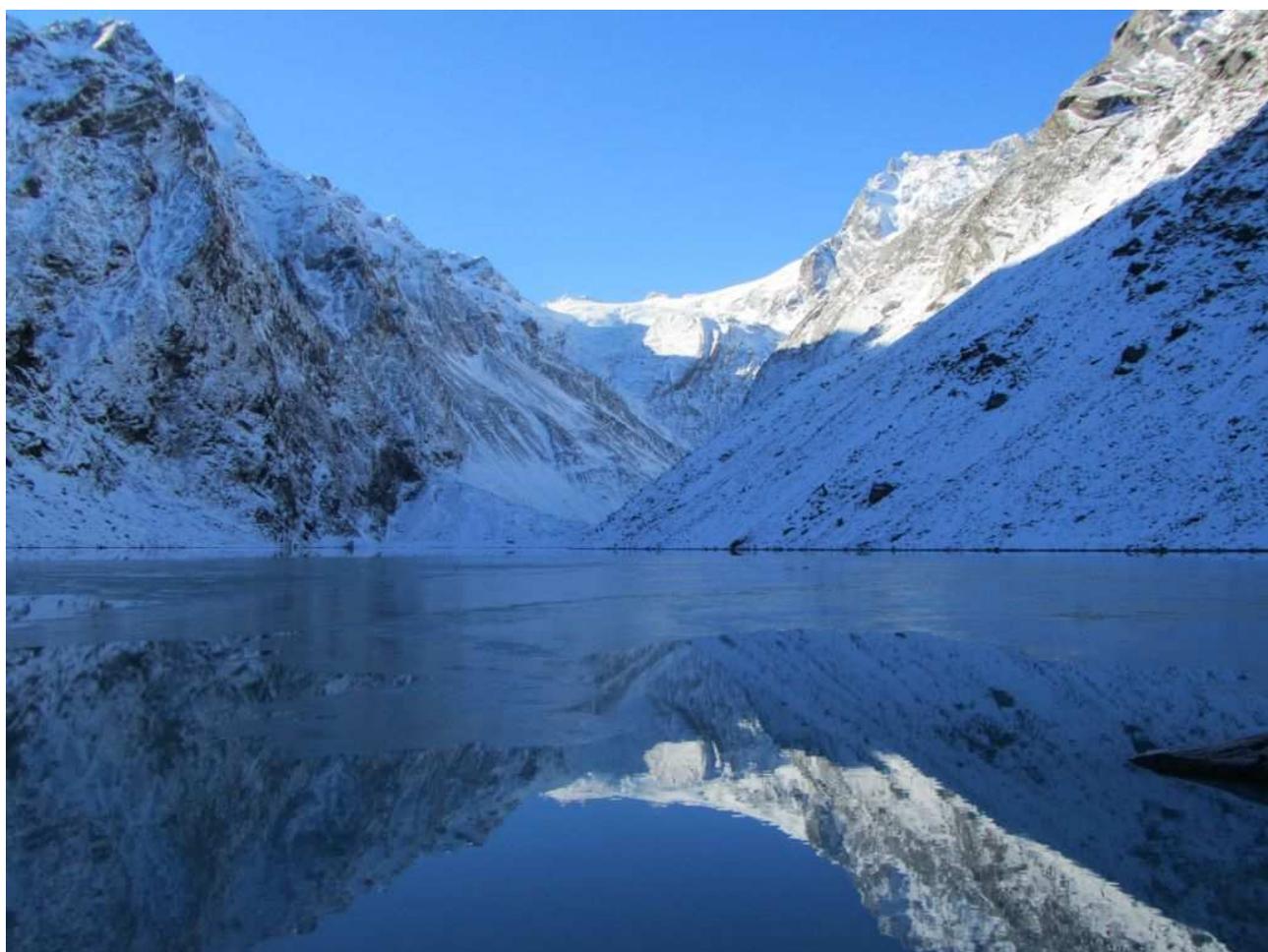


*Southern Alps*

We shouldered our packs, stepped into the postcard and began our tramp. Farm paddocks gave way to river boulders, which gave way to terraced bush tracks and eventually we reached the swing bridge at the confluence of the Whataroa and Perth rivers. It was right on the two hours predicted by the guide books too. From here we continued along the track beside the Whataroa in a southerly direction. The bush tracks were in very good

condition with practically no windfall (thanks DoC!) but it was still quite rough and we were not able to set any land speed records. The track connects a series of beaches alongside the river and the rocks on the beaches are covered in a very hard frost. Because of the orientation of the valley and the time of year we only receive a few minutes of direct sunshine and the rocks remain solidly frozen all day. This added a little extra challenge.

More stereotypical kiwi images presented themselves as we moved up river. Dense and moody forest crowding around a swiftly running blue river with snow clad giants towering overhead. King Peak is especially impressive with its incredibly sheer north face rising almost vertically out of the ground ahead of us. We were running out of daylight but we rounded a corner and ahead we saw a swing bridge and Butler Junction hut just beyond. It was just as well since the track had been getting rougher the further we went. The hut had been left in a bit of a state by the three hunters who had arrived before us. We carefully moved some of their gear and claim four bunks and some bench space and began to brew up. A short while later the hunters turned up. They had spent the last four days waiting out the weather and today was the first day they could get out. They had ended a rather large Chamois. They were nice enough guys and they apologised for leaving the hut in such neglect. The fire we lit was very welcome that evening.



*Ice Lake*

Next day we left in the early morning gloom for a day trip up to Ice Lake. We crossed the swing bridge and continued up the Butler River. It was another stunning day and we had more jaw dropping, clichéd views of the surrounding mountains once we reached Top Butler Hut. We found evidence of the hut being occupied, but the hunters were clearly

making the most of the settled weather. The track up to Ice Lake starts out in a civilised manner but the sun obviously doesn't get into the valley at this time of year and we walked under a rock overhang that has some enormous ice stalactites hanging down like swords. Eventually we left the track and begin walking up a large boulder field. There had been snow in recent days but unfortunately there had not been enough to completely cover the rocks. Nor had it time to freeze and it was not particularly enjoyable clambering over large boulders that were covered in several centimetres of soft snow but we were getting close to our destination and we were all quite eager to see Ice Lake under perfect weather conditions.

Ice Lake lived up to its name. The lake was perfectly still and had a thin veneer of ice beginning to form on its surface. The sun shone on the Whataroa glacier at the head of the lake while we were in the shadows under massive rock buttresses at the lake outlet. We sat in the snow at the lake edge and a troop of noisy Keas completed the quintessentially kiwi experience.

It was bitterly cold and we began our return journey through the boulder field. Eventually we reached Top Butler Hut where we were able to soak up the last feeble rays of the sun before it disappeared behind the western ranges. It was just as well since I was beginning to feel the cold quite badly. We headed back down the rough track and make it to Butler Junction hut before we lost the light. The hunters had another good day and had knocked off another large Chamois.

The weather forecast predicted worsening weather on Friday and a biblical deluge over the weekend. We had to get out on Friday or be trapped in a hut for three or four days until the side creeks drop. When I awoke at 5am on Friday it had already begun to rain lightly so we leaped out of our bags and begin to make preparations to leave. We began walking by torchlight and mercifully, the rain remained light and intermittent until we reached the cars. No sooner had we started getting changed under the veranda when the rain began in earnest. Takeaway food at Hokitika rounded out the trip and we made it back to Christchurch early that evening.

Chris Underwood, Karl Holdorf, Cristina Zablan, Andrew Tromans

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## Classifieds

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

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# More about the CTC

## Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Andrea Zahn	382 1044	<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>	James Hopkins	03 967 5003
<i>Secretary:</i>	Li Li	021 236 3211	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Silvia Horniakova	021 264 8430
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Cristina Zablan	03 374 6354	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Thomas Matern	354-4309
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Adrian Busby	325-5001	<i>Editor:</i>	Sam Cook	342-3735
<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](mailto:editor@ctc.org.nz)) by 25 July 2013 – Thanks.

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