



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC
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Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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Craig Bunt on Coral Track

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.

News

New Members Welcome: New Members Welcome: We welcome six new members to the club this month; Andrew Smith, Jedediah Knight, Geoff Titmus, Leah Witton, Sarah Chauvin and Esme Park. Please accept the club's warm welcome to you all.

Tramper of the Month: Morwenna Hicks

I was born and brought up in a small town in Southland, went to boarding school and university in Dunedin, lived in South Korea for three years (teaching English), and moved back to NZ straight to Christchurch in March 2010 - just in time to get settled before the earthquakes kicked in!



Morwenna amongst the Mount Cook lilies, near Lake Adelaide.

How did you find out about the Club? It turned up first in the Google search and sounded good!

Did you tramp before joining the CTC? Yes, with family, friends, Otago Uni Tramping Club, Seoul Tramping Club.

Your first weekend trip? I haven't done one with the CTC yet, as I can't convince my partner to come too!

Who had the biggest influence on your tramping days? My parents - we lived near Fiordland, so they took us on lots of day walks, and on my first overnight tramp when I was 11: the Kepler Track.

Have you served on the club committee? Not yet, but a lovely workmate was the New Members Rep when I joined, so I might be convinced at some point...

Your favourite day tramp? Gertrude Saddle (off the Milford Road) or the Rob Roy Glacier (Mt Aspiring National Park)

Your favourite weekend (or longer) tramp? Northwest Circuit, Stewart Island.

What future trips are you most looking forward to? The Dusky Track - just have to find the time to go!

What interests or hobbies do you have, other than tramping? I go to the CCC group fitness classes (Step Athletic clashes with the Thursday club meeting), spend long weekends at my partner's parents' bach in the Marlborough Sounds (slowly getting better at fishing and scuba diving), and like learning languages (but get them mixed up with each other too frequently).

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 30 May	Club Night
<p>Newsletter folding night + what to carry in your winter day pack ***Attention new or perspective members***: After we have folded the newsletter we will go through what you MUST carry on a winter day trip to be safe. New or perspective members please make an effort to come along.</p>	

Saturday 1 June	Leader: David Sutton 03 3318064
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	
<p>Mt Izard - Mt Cockayne: Mts Cockayne and Izard 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 Izard (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 fairly 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.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard (requires snow skills) Closes: 30 May Map: BW20 BW21 Approx: \$20</p>

Long Weekend 1-3 June Leader: Alan Ross 384-6425
 Departure point: Contact Leader alan_sue@xtra.co.nz

Paparoa Range Tops (West Coast): Make the most of the long weekend provided courtesy of Her Majesty. Be ready to leave Friday night - 7pm. Travel to the Wet Coast (spelling intentional) and stay the night over there. On Saturday ascend the range via the Moonlight Track and camp on the tops. (1,000m height gain). On Sunday wander along the range and descend to Croesus hut. On Monday make the easy wonder down the Croesus track to the road and drive home. 1st June is the first day of winter so clearly warm gear will be needed! The scenery will be stunning so definitely take a camera. If weather is no good in the Paparoas the trip will proceed elsewhere as leader has a non-refundable, non-exchangeable leave pass from family so you will be sure of a great low stress weekend! Trip list closes strictly on 23rd May as numbers need to be confirmed for Friday night accommodation.

Grade: Moderate
 Closes: 23 May
 Map: BT19 BT20
 Approx: \$70 + 1 Hut night

Thursday 6 June Club Night

Lets go to Malta and Cyprus with our own guide Chris Curry: After the verbal trip reports from the Easter trips we will learn about "Malta the fortress and Cyprus the divided country". Chris is an experienced guide and his commentary will be as entertaining as the photos.

Saturday 8 June Leader: Alastair Brown 338-1324
 Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

Mt Ida: At just under 1700 m, Mt Ida is the tallest of the quasi-conical, glaciated lumps between Lake Coleridge and the Craigieburn Range. In recent years its ascent has become a fairly regular CTC event - a stiff climb of ~1000 m followed by an equally long scree-run descent with an option of swimming back along Lake Ida (perhaps not a sensible option in June?). The scenery includes spectacular views up the Wilberforce, Avoca and Harper Rivers and across to the Craigieburns and Mt Olympus.

Grade: Moderate
 Closes: 6 Jun
 Map: BW20
 Approx: \$25

Saturday 8 June Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210
 Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

Rakaia Walkway & Some: An old favourite with added luxury! Starting from the Rakaia Gorge Car park we follow the walkway. Then divert to Terrace Downs Coffey Bar for a decadent morning tea with views. (HOT COFFEE) Then continue along farm tracks to Pt.476 where we rejoin the river. Follow along above the Rakaia Horseshoe. Rejoining the walkway at its end we then return past the old Snowden Mine entrance (torch) back along the track to the cars. Time 5hrs + Café stop Distance: 14Km (Walkway 10.4Km +-4)

Grade: Easy
 Closes: 6 Jun
 Map: BX20
 Approx: \$TBA

Sunday 9 June Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Mt Thomas: A popular club trip in the North Canterbury foot hills. Starting from the picnic area, we go up the Wooded Gully Track to a saddle, then along the Ridge Track to the summit with great views of the Canterbury Plains. Back to the picnic area via the Summit Track. Around 600 m height gain.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 6 Jun Map: BW23 Approx: \$15

Thursday 13 June	Club Night
Head torches - the essential item on every (winter) trip: For the next couple of winter months the sun will set between 5 and 6 pm. This is usually time when we are finishing our tramps. So if you don't want to get caught in the dark, relying on glow-worms, glowing eyes of possums or other random glows, you ought to have a GOOD HEAD TORCH! Come along to this club night and bring your best and brightest head torch (or other source of light) to show/compare with other members. If you don't own one yet or are just about to purchase, even better: Come along and get advise and recommendation from a real field testers!	

Saturday 15 June Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Antony White 03-550-7166 phoenixantony@gmail.com
Mt Philistine: Matthew Arnold (Victorian writer, poet and general self-confident arbiter of what's-what in the late 19th century) characterised the aristocracy as Barbarians, the middle classes as Philistines, and the working class as the populace. So today we attempt the middle classes, all 1967 m of them. The Philistine bluffs have a bit of a reputation, but there is a good route up through them for the cognoscenti, and after that there is more rock and scrambling to Philistine itself. Those happy on rock that may move of its own volition will have a great day, with views to die for, a nice energetic scramble, and a bit of class rivalry thrown in. And of course the admiration of the too-fat-to-fly kea in the village as you relax in a virtuous glow afterwards with tea or ice-cream. Please note, helmets will be compulsory on this trip, and let the leader know in advance if you need to borrow one. Ice axe and crampons are necessary.	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 13 Jun Map: BV20 Approx: \$30

Saturday 15 June	Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210
Port Hills: On our doorstep is a great tramping area, Port Hills. Often overlooked were some great day tramps to be had. Along came an earthquake, well lots really and they have been pretty much neglected, till now! Where I plan exactly on going I do not as yet know except it will be a loop of some sorts in the Port Hills. Suitable for kids weather allowing time - 4hrs	Grade: Easy Closes: 13 Jun Map: BX24 Approx: \$TBA

Sunday 16 June Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 0272127498
Lilburne Hill: A good round trip in the Puketeraki Range foothills accessed from the Lees Valley. Follow the Ashley river initially across farm land and then up a marked track, near Tent Gully up onto the SE ridge of Lilburne Hill (1405 m). Lovely tops travel give magnificent views as Tarn Hut is passed, and the 4WD track is picked up down the ridge to drop back down to the valley track. 800 m climb, 20 km round trip. Ice axe and crampons might be required.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 13 Jun Map: BV22 Approx: \$25

Wednesday 19 June	Party
<p>*CHANGE TO WEDNESDAYS* - SOLSTICE FEAST CELEBRATION - *PARTY*: Winter solstice is an astronomical event when the Sun reaches it's lowest excursion, or the name for the shortest day of the year in the southern hemisphere - 21st June. We would like to invite you to celebrate this event as a beginning of winter with a little Solstice Party. There will be yummy warm and spicy non-alcoholic punch served, candles lit, games played and stories told. If everyone could bring a plate of winter type desert such as baked apples, fruit pies, etc... to share with fellow trampers, that would be fantastic. Come along to spend a cosy and social Wednesday nigh evening. Come along to party :) !</p>	

Saturday 22 June	Social Event
<p>Annual CTC Mid Winter Breakfast: 8 am. at The Chateau on the Park, (corner of Deans Avenue and Kilmarnock Street). Please put your name down on the list at the club rooms or contact Silvia Horniakova beforehand (silwika@yahoo.com), so that the hotel will have a good idea of numbers on the day. Everyone to pay the hotel on the day of the breakfast as follows; Continental - \$17.50 per person (discounted from \$19.00) Fully cooked buffet - \$22.50 per person (discounted from \$24.00) Children under 12 years are \$1.00 times their age. This is your last chance to nominate the annual club "Loo-Loo" of the year award, for the most deserving recipient, in such categories including; the most geographically challenged, logistically lacking, or outrageously disoriented. Please note that accurate details are all well and good, but never let the truth get in the way of a good story! All welcome.</p>	

Saturday 22 June Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210
Coastal Exploring: Waimakariri & Brooklands: Continuing with our coastal exploring we start explore the Brooklands Lagoon & its Wildlife reserve then continue along the Waimakariri's southern bank upstream as far as the Waimari confluence. highest hills will be the stopbanks. (Kids OK weather allowing check with leader) Time - 4 - 5hrs Distance	Grade: Easy Closes: 20 Jun Map: BW24 Approx: \$TBA

Saturday 22 June		Social Event
<p>Peninsula Tramping Club's Annual - BARN DANCE: 8pm until midnight at the Roy Stokes Community Hall, 146 Sea View Road, New Brighton (opposite Police Station). The incredible Ceilidh Band, spot prizes, fancy dress theme, prizes for best dressed. Bring a plate of finger food for supper, drinks supplied. Tickets available for \$25, from Dan Pryce (PTC). Ph. 384 7065, mobile 021 927 716 (txt is fine) email: dan.pryce@mas.co.nz</p>		
Saturday 22 June		Leader: Bruce James 332-3473
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui @ 7am		
<p>Shingle Hill: Celebrate the shortest day with a trip in the Black Hills. Shingle Hill is situated next to Black Hill on the south side of the Rakaia valley. After a few kms of 4WD track, we have about 900 m of straight-forward climbing to the top at 1873 m. Great views of the Rakaia valley. Ice axe and crampons are required, and note the 7am start time.</p>	Grade: Moderate+	Closes: 20 Jun
	Map: BW20	Approx: \$30
Sunday 23 June		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		
<p>Tiromoana Bush: This easy trip follows a walkway to the east of the Kate Valley Landfill. The track loops around from the Mt Cass Road to a cliff lookout (Tiromoana means "view of the sea"). We will go to a beach, then up to the Ella Peak Scenic Reserve and return via the Ella Ponds Wetlands which are being protected and restored.</p>	Grade: Easy	Closes: 20 Jun
	Map: BV25	Approx: \$15
Wednesday 26 June		Club Night
<p>Newsletter folding night: 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		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui - 7 am start		
<p>Wild Mans Hill: 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

<p>Saturday 29 June Leader: Jenny Harlow 349-2280</p> <p>Departure point: Caltex Russley - early departure, 7 am</p>	
<p>Mt Bealey: 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>	<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)</p> <p>Closes: 27 Jun</p> <p>Map: BV20</p> <p>Approx: \$30</p>
<p>Weekend 29-30 June Leader: Thomas Matern 354-4309</p> <p>Departure point: Contact Leader thomas_matern@yahoo.co.nz</p>	
<p>Cedar Flat Hot Pools: 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 & 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>	<p>Grade: EasyMod</p> <p>Closes: 20 Jun</p> <p>Map: BV19</p> <p>Approx: \$50-80</p>
<p>Sunday 30 June Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344</p> <p>Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui</p>	
<p>Castle Hill Peak via Mt Plenty: 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>	<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills)</p> <p>Closes: 27 Jun</p> <p>Map: BW21</p> <p>Approx: \$20</p>

Sunday 30 June Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron 365 8210
Wild Cattle Hill (600m): 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

Wednesday 3 July	Club Night
Any Question about Gear? - Gear Night at BIVOUAC (Tower Junction): 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: Z (Shell) Papanui - early departure, 7 am	Leader: James Hopkins 029 770 7973
Travers - Trovatore: Travers Peak (1724 m) is just above the Lewis Pass Highway, accessed from the west via FoleysTrack. 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.	Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 4 Jul Map: BT23 Approx: \$35

Sunday 7 July Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Rakaia Gorge Walkway: 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: 4 Jul Map: BX20 Approx: \$20

Saturday 13 July Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui - early departure, 7 am		Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545 or 981-2045	
<p>Goat Hill: 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>		Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 11 Jul Map: BV20 Approx: \$35	
Saturday 20 July Departure point: TBA for Friday night		Leader: Cristina Zablan & Richard Kimberley 03 374 6354	
<p>Mt Rolleston: 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 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.</p>		Grade: Hard/ Climbing Closes: 18 Jul Map: BV20 Approx: \$35 + hut fees	
Sunday 28 July Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Bruce James 332-3473	
<p>Broken Hill: 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.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 25 Jul Map: BW21 Approx: \$20	

Trip Reports

28 April 2013

Castle Hill Peak (viewed from Mt Cheeseman).

The weather again played a part in defining the destination of this day trip. The original plan had been to tackle Castle Hill Peak via Mt Plenty but with North West winds forecast to be 60-70km and possibly 100km later in the day, we would have been pretty exposed. Our resourceful leader had an alternative plan already formulated before he left the city. Our destination now being Mt Cheeseman via The Hogs Back, where the mountains would shield us from the brunt of the wind for most of the trip.

12 of us left the cars at 10am with the temperature being mild and the sky slightly overcast as we headed up onto the Hogs back via a well developed mountain bike track. From the back of Hogs Back we left the track and crossed a small stream before heading up a steep ridge south of Tims Stream. At about 1400m things levelled out a bit and to keep out of the worst of the wind, we sidled the ridge and headed up onto the tops via the low point between Cheeseman and point 1950, after which we stayed on the eastern side of the tops until a few brave souls actually ventured up on to Cheeseman peak to experience the wind trying to blow them back off again.



Approaching the top basin

The next problem was trying to find somewhere somewhat sheltered to have some lunch. We finally hunkered down behind a rock out crop just above the tarn above point 1552 for a bite to eat. After that we headed past the tarn and dropped quickly down some reasonable scree into Waterfall Creek which appears to be pretty much free of any waterfalls. After that it was a short walk to find the mountain bike track then back to the cars about 3:30pm.

See Rodney's Blog for some more photos: <http://roddus.blogspot.co.nz/2013/04/mt-cheeseman-28th-april-2013.html>

Trampers: Richard Lobb (leader), Bill King, Kees de Jaeger, Frankie Fitzpatrick, Richard Kimberley, Max de Lacey, Jenny Harlow, Xiaogiu Jiang, Angela Lowery, Sarah Chauvin, Denise Stroud, Rodney Erickson (scribe).

4 May 2013

Rome Ridge - Avalanche Peak circuit

13.4 km and ~1500 m height gain over 7 hours 15 minutes.

On account of the poor weather forecast for Sunday, this trip was brought forward by a day. And on account of the still-not-very-good forecast and the change of day, five of the nine anticipated participants dropped out.

The Christchurch weather was warm, sunny and still at the Papanui Z station, where we briefly mingled with Mike Newlove's Mt Vulcan party before setting off. There were puffy clouds over the Torlesse Range, but as we drove deeper into the mountains the weather got progressively worse. At Arthurs Pass the clouds had closed in, bringing with them light rain - though it wasn't particularly cold or windy. After contemplating the option of a cup of coffee and a drive back home, we decided that we might as well start up Coral Track in the (forlorn?) hope that the conditions would improve.

As we set off, I assessed our chances of completing the trip as about 20 per cent, which decreased to about 10 per cent as we got higher and the rain settled in. Having reached Rome Ridge, we decided to keep going, at which point my assessment improved again to 40 per cent. The view was intermittent, but the conditions weren't too bad and the swirling dark clouds gave a very dramatic air.

By 12.30, we had climbed the first of the scrambly steps along the ridge and settled into a reasonably sheltered spot for lunch. We were all quite wet and it was getting colder, so we didn't hang around for long. At 1.30, we'd reached the high point where Rome Ridge joins the main ridge between Avalanche Peak and Mt Rolleston. The wet had made the clamber up to this point more difficult than it is under dry conditions; but I now assessed our chances of completing the circuit as 100 per cent since the forward journey was much more appealing than the return.

The clouds had closed in further, and we couldn't see more than about 20 metres, which made it difficult to find the ridge to Avalanche Peak. We started down in the direction we judged to be best, but the GPS said to go much further left. We all felt, intuitively, that going that far left would just take us back around to Rome Ridge, but the GPS was right. In the event, we had dropped slightly below the ridge, on the Crow River side. But a quick clamber up to a narrow saddle got us on to the McGrath Creek side, under Pt 1825 m.

Fifteen minutes of negotiating the scree took us onto the ridge proper. The going was now much faster and the clouds seemed to have lifted (or perhaps we had descended). At 4 pm we had reached Avalanche Peak. The wind was stronger and the rain colder, though the weather hadn't yet changed to the south.

On the descent down Scotts Track we met three young North Americans who were clearly intent on reaching the top. Our warning of the forecast southerly change and the likelihood of snow seemed only to encourage them.

We were back at the car at about 5.40 pm, as the light was getting dim. Ten minutes later we were in Wobbly Kea enjoying hot drinks and something to eat while warming ourselves in front of the fire. It hadn't been the best of days for tramping, but still very worthwhile. In fact the weather made it a bit more of an adventure than it might otherwise have been.

The trip home (thanks Craig) was uneventful. By the time we had reached Cass, the sky was clear and decorated with stars. At home, Wendy told me it had been a warm sunny day!

Participants: Cristina Zablan, Nikky Kear, Craig Bunt, Bryce Williamson (leader)

25-27 April 2013

Owen River - Lake Bulmer - Mt Owen - Fyfe River

Day One.

Due to a non-optimal weather forecast, only six out of a potential nineteen people gathered in the only open cafe in Culverden on ANZAC Day morning. After tea and scones we continued through Lewis Pass and Murchison to arrive at the Owen Valley East Road end at about 1pm.

From the Owen Valley East Road end, Bernhard, Bryce, Chris M, Chris U, Karl, and Jonathan, set off up the Owen River and then Bulmer Creek. After about two and a half hours in gloomy weather we arrived at the base of what appeared to be an unclimbable vertical rock face. Following a route commonly used by caving teams, those of us who hadn't been that way before discovered that the face was indeed climbable by a series of vegetated rock ledges. Anyone hoping for an extreme rock climbing experience would have been disappointed as the route was actually quite straight forward. Due to the vegetation there was never a feeling of exposure and the initial steep sections were aided by fixed ropes.

At the top of the ledges there is a more difficult rock step. This rock step was again made easier by a fixed rope with a few foot loops tied into it. The rock step is about five meters high, and after the initial move to get on to it there are some excellent hand holds. We had with us an extra ~ 5 meter length of rope which enabled us to haul the packs up the step, one by one. Once at the top of the rock step it was an easy walk up the valley to the camp site next to Lake Bulmer, where we arrived at dusk. That evening the cloud held at bay and the marble rock walls of the Lake Bulmer cirque were illuminated by a nearly full moon.

Day Two.

After decamping at Lake Bulmer, Jonathan led us on a short side trip to the main entrance of the Bulmer Cave. Those of us brave enough to follow Jonathan into the cave entrance gingerly made our way onto a rock bridge that spans the deep and dark void. The cave entrance is impressive and it is certainly worth a 45 minute detour to have a look at. Just don't fall in! After taking a few pictures we all made our way back to the route which would take us up to Castle Basin, and then to Poverty Basin. Jonathan navigated us through the rock formations on the approach to Castle Basin, and from there the route to Poverty Basin was more intuitive.

At Poverty Basin we discussed the weather and decided that a climb to the summit of Mt Owen should be possible. In the saddle between Replica Hill and Mt Owen we had some lunch, donned all our warm clothing, and then ascended until we found the main tramping route and finally the summit. On the summit the cloud thwarted any hope of seeing the view, and the cold wind stopped us from hanging around to talk about it.

After descending to our lunch spot we headed off to the north west, staying roughly between



Bryce, Bernhard, Chris Underwood, Jonathan & Karl on summit of Mt Owen.

the 1600 meter and 1700 meter contour lines. We found the ridge line running off Replica Hill that would lead us to the 1500 meter spot height and then to the track down to Branch Creek Hut. The descent to the bush line was hampered by sleet and poor visibility, but a map, a compass, and Bryce's GPS ensured we found the track with ease.

About seven hours after leaving the camp site at Lake Bulmer we arrived at Branch Creek Hut. Four out of the six bunks in the hut were occupied by a caving team, so Bernhard and Jonathan pitched their tents outside in the long, wet grass. Fortunately the 11pm downpour was only brief, so the tent dwellers didn't get too wet.

Day Three.

On the morning of the 27th we left Branch Creek Hut in light drizzle. Half an hour downstream we came across the caving team, some of whom enticed some of us into an unnamed cave above the true left of the Fyfe River. After an hour or so of exploring the cave, Bryce was the last person to exit. He was also the person most covered in mud, but his enthusiasm for caving seemed to have been renewed.

As we continued downstream, the Fyfe River valley became wider and easier going and we saw a few Whio (Blue Duck) swimming in the river. The track eventually climbs 300 meters over a ridge line and then drops into Frying Pan Creek. Once we met the Owen Valley East Road we walked the last remaining kilometre up the road to where we'd parked the cars.

Branch Creek Hut to the road end, including the caving, took us about eight hours.

On the way home we stopped off at the Murchison Pub for a burger and a pint, as well as a dose of 1980's rock music.

Thanks to Bernhard for an enjoyable trip in some very interesting terrain.

Participants: Karl Holdorf, Bernhard Parawa (Leader), Bryce Williamson, Chris McGimpsey, Jonathan Carr, Chris Underwood (scribe).

12 May 2013

Red Peak via Mt Torlesse

At club night, Alan Ross had commented that this would be a "big day". And so it turned out, with fairly impressive stats for a moderate trip; ca 22.4 km and 1600 m height gain over 9.5 hours. But it didn't really seem too tough, largely because the conditions were so sublime. Fortunately, our (original) leader, Bruce James, had the foresight to start early. Unfortunately, he got a cold on Friday and so pulled out, leaving David Sutton to take up the reins.

We started off from the Big Tree Car Park in early morning sun at ~8.30 am. The Kowai River contained a reasonable amount of water and had changed course a bit after recent heavy rain. But with judicious crossing choices and energetic rock-hopping, most of us got the John Hayward Memorial Hut with dry feet. By then we had caught up with a couple of PTC trampers who had made an early start ahead of their colleagues, whom we were to see off and on, in the distance, throughout the day.

After a brief break at the hut to refuel and fill water bottles, we started up the southwest ridge of Mt Torlesse. We were now in fairly deep shadow, but the light breeze was warm and some of us were regretting wearing polypros rather than tee shirts. From about 1000 m, recent snow became more prevalent and in some regions it was reasonable deep. But it was also of very good step-plugging quality, so the going was fairly easy, at least for

those following the step pluggers. Flo obviously found the pace a bit too slow and arrived at the summit (1961 m) substantially before the rest of the us, who arrived as a mob just after midday.

We were now in the sun without a hint of a cloud to be seen. The westerly wind was still light, but a bit cooler at that altitude; so we donned jackets and coats, and tucked ourselves into the lee of the hill for about half an hour while we enjoyed the brilliant views and had lunch.

At about 20 minutes to one o'clock, we headed off north of Mt Torlesse towards Junction Peak (1882 m). This is delightful ridge studded with a couple of knobby bits that were very easily circumnavigated. We had dropped out of the wind, so some of us paused to de-layer, while Bernhard, who had donated blood a couple of days earlier, started to suffer from cramp (that was nearly mistyped as "camp", which would have been very unfair to Bernhard!). After re-gathering at Junction Peak, we turned sharply west, down moderate scree to a distinct saddle and then up a long, shallow ridge to our ultimate goal of Red peak (1853 m).

At Red Peak we took a fairly leisurely afternoon tea and photo break. It was only 2.30 pm, so it seemed likely that we would be back at the cars well before dark. An ETA of 5 pm was mentioned, but turned out to be an underestimate by a good hour.

The descent from Red Peak was down the steepish south spur, initially on good scree and snow, with a couple of bluffs that we had to work our way around. The worst part was a region of snow tussock, and dracophyllum between ~1300 and 1100 m, the snow covered bits of which proved quite slippery. (Packs make excellent bum protectors.) Once out the tussock the going was faster (except for some fungi that needed photographing); but it took us till 4 pm to reach the Kowai River, only about half way back to the hut. Faster progress down the Kowai and over a couple of river terraces got us to the hut about 5 pm, where we were overtaken by a couple of very purposeful girls who, we presumed, had been to the Torlesse Gap.

From the hut it was the requisite hour march back along the river to the car park (with less care being taken about dry feet). We got changed in dim light, but with a still-warm breeze. It was a great disappointment that there were no pies at the Yellow Shack, but the salmon cakes were very nice.

Thanks to David for leading a great trip and to David and Bernhard for driving. Thanks also to Bruce James for doing the original organising and having the foresight of having us start at 7 am.

Participants: David Sutton (leader), Flo Roberts, Bernhard Parawa, Craig Bunt, Warwick Dowling, Pauline Lamb, Andrew Tromans, Kees de Jager, Bryce Williamson

Classifieds

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

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) by 23 June 2013 – Thanks.
