



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.

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*Climbing up from the Hogs Back Track
(from Mt Cheeseman and Mt Cockayne 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.

News

New Members Welcome: We welcome two new members to the club this month, Natasha Sydorenko and Radu Popovici. Please accept the club's warm welcome to you both. May we also point out an error published in the October 2013 Newsletter, in that we incorrectly published Guy Wood's name as Guy Wilson. Please accept our apologies and accept the club's warm welcome Guy.

Tramper of the Month: Radu Popovici

I am Romanian, but after 25 years without crossing any borders I have now discovered that I really like visiting other countries. Working in IT in a company which had projects all over the world opened up a lot of possibilities for this new hobby. Five years ago I arrived in NZ and I'm still here today. I have a brother, who you might meet as he will be visiting me in about a month.



"Me" ...

How did you find out about the Club? I met some CTC members during a tramp in Kaikoura ranges a few years back, then I googled it when I moved to Christchurch in June this year.

Did you tramp before joining the CTC? Yes, absolutely. I have been tramping more or less frequently ever since I was in school. Initially under the supervision of my uncle, then with friends my age starting from high school.

Your trips with the Club? Day trip: Definitely remember that one. Goat Hill led by Warwick and it was 13th of July. I had trouble keeping up with the others for most of the day. I like to think that I am now in a much better shape than I was back then, but I have to agree there is still room for little improvement. The first weekend trip was a very lazy trip to Cameron hut. Lazy because weather was not good enough to climb something of course.

Your favourite hut? Longview hut in the Ruahines, with Field hut in the Tararuas a close second. As you can see I haven't tramped so much in the South Island yet :)

Your day tramps? Day tramps: Obviously not Goat Hill; in NZ it could be Tongariro Crossing or going up to Angelus Hut in Nelson Lakes. For weekends, wandering on the tops in the Tararuas on a good weekend (I was lucky to get 2 or 3 of those in almost 5 years) or Nelson Lakes - the Sabine circuit with Blue Lake, Waiau Pass and beyond.

Most memorable tramp? My trips in NZ have been very uneventful so far if that's what you mean by memorable. I got lost twice and had to spend the night under the stars, but nothing too bad. Once in the Tararuas looking for Tarn Ridge Hut in incredible fog (that's when I decided to buy a GPS) and once in the Ruahines trying to find my way to Daphne Hut after a very long day, but had to stop 5 minutes away from the hut after losing the track in some thick bush and not being sure whether there is a bluff between me and the river (pitch black and yes I had the GPS with me).

Otherwise I will always remember a day trip in some remote hills back home in Romania, in which I managed to hurt my leg badly enough that I had to start limping home, only to have it magically heal itself when some drunk farmer was chasing us with his dogs later that night. Some of my companions still maintain that I was the first to get into the car that saved us at the last minute.

What future trips are you most looking forward to? Mt. Cook, of course.

Have any interesting or funny things happened to you while tramping? Sharing Field Hut with a group of about 15 boy scouts and their 3 supervisors (I think reversed proportions - 3 kids and 15 supervisors - would have been more appropriate). That's probably in the "interesting" category.

What interests or hobbies do you have, other than tramping? I would say fishing, but my kayak hasn't seen water since I moved to Christchurch (hopefully things will change later in summer). Photography would be another one, however sometimes I'm a bit too lazy to carry all my gear.

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. 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 30 October		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>		
Friday 1 November 7 am start Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 337 3125 bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz	
<p>Princess Bath: Mt Princess is a high peak (2126 m) north west of Lake Tennyson and directly north of Maling Pass. Tucked into a cirque on its southern slopes, and about 400 m below the summit, is a large and spectacular tarn called Princess Bath. We will approach this objective from the Clarence River by following the course of Princess Stream. Swimming togs are optional. Note that this will be an early start.</p>	Grade: Moderate	Closes: 31 Oct
	Map: BT24	Approx: \$40

Saturday 2 November	Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	atromans@gmail.com

<p>Hooligan: The Hooligan Range is accessed from the Lake Sumner road. It's an area the club has not visited that much and it deserves more attention. The Hooligan itself (1582 m) is some 1000 m above the road - steep at first, flattening into about 3 km of undulating tops travel. Take plenty of water and enjoy the views out over Lake Sumner itself and the surrounding Hurunui country.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 31 Oct Map: BV23 Approx: \$25</p>
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Sunday 3 November	Leader: Richard Kimberley 326 6158
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	janeandrichard@xtra.co.nz

<p>Misty Peaks off Piste: This is being run in conjunction with the inaugural Banks Peninsular Walking Festival so there will be many non CTC members participating. Mt Berard is not labelled on most maps. It's a 790 m peak above Akaroa, just south on the main-ridge saddle of Stony Bay Road. The walking will start from near sea level in Akaroa township and wind up the hill via farmland and regenerating bush. After reaching the summit and inspecting the earthquake damage, we will heads south and west, under Brasenose and down Lighthouse Road back to town for tea and nibbles.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Mod Closes: 31 Oct Map: BV20 Approx: \$20</p>
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Tuesday 5 November 6:15 pm	Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545
Departure point: Corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane	981-2045

<p>CTC Hill climb: The CTC Hill Climb is a weekly event during daylight saving time.on Tuesday evenings, 6:15 pm, starting on Tuesday 1 October. We meet on the corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane, for 60-70 minutes of brisk walking up hill and down dale around Mt Vernon Park. No trip list.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 31 Oct Map: Approx: \$0</p>
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Wednesday 6 November	Club Night
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Bryce will show us how he uses Picasa software for organizing and storing pictures: You take tramping (and other) photos, but struggle with an adequate filing system? To paraphrase Wikipedia, Picasa is a free image organizer, viewer and editor for digital photos, plus an integrated photo-sharing website, originally created by a company named Lifescape and owned by Google since 2004. "Picasa" is a blend of "pic" for pictures and "casa" (Spanish for "house"), intended to mimic the surname of Pablo Picasso. Bryce has been using Picasa for several years and finds it a simple way to catalogue and organize his photos, and to share them with friends and family. He'll explain how to get a copy of the software, a bit about what it can do, and show how he uses it as a log of his tramping life.

Multi day trip 8-9 November		Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001	
<p>BASIC NAVIGATION: Venue Friday night at the Horticultural Halls (normal club meeting place) 7.00PM SHARP and Saturday Little River 9.00am. (you must attend the Friday night session) The course covers not only GPS use but the more essential aspects of navigation such as map reading and compass work, in the classroom Friday night and then out on the hills on Saturday. The course gives a good basic all round insight into navigation in the mountains. Names on the Trip list as the course always fills rapidly.</p>		<p>Grade: Training Closes: 31 Oct Map: Approx: None</p>	
<p>Saturday 9 November (may be early departure) Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui</p>		<p>Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz</p>	
<p>Mt Somers walkway: The Mt Somers walkway (north face) offers a wonderful range of scenery: bush, rivers, gorges, volcanic pinnacles, towering cliffs and cascading waterfalls, sub-alpine tussock and even an old coal mine. Our goal is to walk the full length of the walkway (excluding the south face) from Sharplin Falls to the Woolshed Creek car park taking in Pinnacles Hut, Woolshed Creek hut and, for the more energetic, the bus-stop and Rhyolite Ridge. Given enough people we'll do a cross over, with one party going in each direction. Otherwise we'll do a car-shuffle at the start. Depending on route the total distance is between 16 km and 18 km and the total height gain from 1000 m to 1200 m. The pace will be geriatric dignified as befitting the seniority of the leader and the whole route is on good tracks, so the trip is at the easy end of moderate or the harder end of easy-moderate. May be early departure: check with leader.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Nov Map: BX20 Approx: \$25</p>	
Sunday 10 November		Leader: Richard Kimberley 326 6158	
<p>The Stones from the back: This trip begins from Stony Bay Saddle (or Richards Bushblock) and runs down Stony Bay Rd before dropping into Stony Bay Stream to the 100 m contour. Then we'll climb to the Stones (518 m) and along Lisburn Track in Hinewai Reserve to Stony Bay Peak (806 m). We will return via Tama Track to Stony Bay Saddle. Good views overlooking the Pacific and some great Banks Peninsula bush.</p>		<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 7 Nov Map: BY25 Approx: \$20</p>	

Tuesday 12 November 6:15 pm Departure point: Corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane		Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545 981-2045	
<p>CTC Hill climb: The CTC Hill Climb is a weekly event during daylight saving time on Tuesday evenings, 6:15 pm, starting on Tuesday 1 October. We meet on the corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane, for 60-70 minutes of brisk walking up hill and down dale around Mt Vernon Park. No trip list.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 7 Nov Map: Approx: \$0	
Wednesday 13 November		Club Night	
<p>Hiking the National Parks in Southern Utah: Lizards and Landscapes by John Shultis: He will be showing slides of the national parks and other conservation areas packed into southern Utah, focusing mainly on the different, incredible landscapes one can experience there, along with a few shots of lizards! John lives in the USA and has tramped in NZ so will be interesting to compare experiences.</p>			
Long Weekend 15-17 November Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686 atromans@gmail.com	
<p>Lake Morgan: A west coast trip to an scenic alpine lake. On day one we wander up the Crooked river. The following day we climb up to the lake and the nearby hut. The last day will be spent traveling across the tops and back to the cars. A nice mix of river/track/bush and alpine tops.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 7 Nov Map: BU20 BU21 Approx: \$40	
Long Weekend 15-17 November Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Lynette Hartley 338-0922 lhartley@canterburymuseum.com	
<p>Old Ghost Road (by MTB) and Denniston Plateau exploring. West Coast.: Make the most of Show weekend and head to the west coast. Lynette has schemed up a plan to take a bunch of bikes. We will explore the southern half of the Old Ghost Road (from Lyell). http://www.oldghostroad.org.nz/ and then have a day exploring Denniston plateau. Both days can be adjusted to suit any skill or fitness level. Cost will depend on numbers but Lynette intends to arrange a van and bike trailer. Expect about \$70 vehicle cost, accommodation (3 nights camping or backpackers). and a share of a bike trailer hire as a minimum. Contact Lynette to get on this limited numbers trip. Note this is a 4 day trip and will require taking a day off either before or after the long weekend.</p>		Grade: All Closes: 7 Nov Map: BR22 BR21 Approx: Contact Leader	

Saturday 16 November Leader: Richard Kimberley 326 6158
 Departure point: TBA for Friday night janeandrichard@xtra.co.nz

<p>Mt Rolleston: After having been deferred several times earlier in the year due to inclement conditions and leader issues, we were defeated in September by difficult snow conditions. 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. This trip will be limited to six participants plus the leader.</p>	<p>Grade: Hard Closes: 14 Nov Map: BV20 Approx: \$30 + Accom</p>
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Tuesday 19 November 6:15 pm Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545
 Departure point: Corner of Hillsborough 981-2045
 Terrace and Heybridge Lane

<p>CTC Hill climb: The CTC Hill Climb is a weekly event during daylight saving time on Tuesday evenings, 6:15 pm, starting on Tuesday 1 October. We meet on the corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane, for 60-70 minutes of brisk walking up hill and down dale around Mt Vernon Park. No trip list.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 14 Nov Map: Approx: \$0</p>
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Wednesday 20 November Club Night

Food and Nutrition for tramping by Julie-Ann Stacey: I am an ex Chef and have combined my passion for food with my love of herbs and nutrition. Recently I have moved to Christchurch from the North Island and now work as a Naturopath, Nutritionist and Herbalist, my focus is on food as medicine. The topics I will be discussing include: Energy requirements for a one day hike, overnight and multi day hike, Menu planning and preparation, High energy and sustained energy foods, Nutrients required for endurance and recovery.

Saturday 23 November Leader: David Sutton 03 3318064
 Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui david.sutton@cdhb.govt.nz

<p>Mt Barron: Mt Barron is a 1730 m peak above Otira, about 1500 m of ascent altogether, with some scrambly rocky (and possibly snowy) sections. We'll do this as a round trip - DOC is alleged to have done some track work up there which should make finding the return route a bit easier. Ice axe and crampons may be necessary, and there will possibly be an early start: contact the leader for details.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 21 Nov Map: BV20 Approx: \$30</p>
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Sunday 24 November Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz	
Pudding Hill Stream: This gives us a varied round trip in the Mt Hutt forest, starting in the Awa Awa Rata Reserve and walking up the Scotts Saddle Track to the ski field road through mixed forest and then tussock tops - height gain around 600 m. From the road, we follow a track through forest to reach Pudding Hill Stream which we follow for about 6 km and then back to the reserve. Round trip approx 12 km.		Grade: Easy Mod Closes: 21 Nov Map: BX20 Approx: \$25	
Tuesday 26 November 6:15 pm Departure point: Corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane		Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545 981-2045	
CTC Hill climb: The CTC Hill Climb is a weekly event during daylight saving time on Tuesday evenings, 6:15 pm, starting on Tuesday 1 October. We meet on the corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane, for 60-70 minutes of brisk walking up hill and down dale around Mt Vernon Park. No trip list.		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 21 Nov Map: Approx: \$0	
Wednesday 27 November		Club Night	
Newsletter folding night: After folding the newsletters we can have some social time.			
Saturday 30 November Departure point: Caltex Russley		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz	
Mt Lyndon: Mt Lyndon is the hill that overlooks Lake Lyndon just beyond Porters Pass. Starting from the south-west end of the lake we'll climb ~700 m via a low saddle to the summit at 1489 m. Depending on conditions we might then head west, towards Red Hill with various bail-out options along the way.		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 28 Nov Map: BW21 Approx: \$25	
Sunday 1 December 7 am departure Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Andrew Tromans 379-2686 atromans@gmail.com	
Mt Kruse - Blue Mt - Mt Seymour crossover trip: These three peaks lie in the St James Range, running south from Lake Tennyson and immediately west of the Tophouse Road. Ideally we will need at least two cars and sufficient participants to run parties in both the northward and southward directions. After climbing ~800 m to the main spine of the range, there is about 8 km of tops travel with undulations up to ~200 m before descending back to the road. Note the 7 am departure time.		Grade: Moderate Closes: 28 Nov Map: BT24 Approx: \$40	

Tuesday 3 December 6:15 pm Departure point: Corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane	Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545 981-2045
CTC Hill climb: The CTC Hill Climb is a weekly event during daylight saving time on Tuesday evenings, 6:15 pm, starting on Tuesday 1 October. We meet on the corner of Hillsborough Terrace and Heybridge Lane, for 60-70 minutes of brisk walking up hill and down dale around Mt Vernon Park. No trip list.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 28 Nov Map: Approx: \$0

Wednesday 4 December	Club Night
Annual BBQ Heathcote Valley: Annual BBQ - It's the top end of Heathcote park at the corner of Port Hills Rd and Bridal Path Road (just below the turn into the Gondola). Aim to arrive after 6:30pm. BBQs will be arranged. Bring all your own food and liquid, chairs + any sports gear for soccer or cricket, croquet etc....A great social time to catch up and celebrate Christmas arriving soon.	

Sunday 8 December Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz
Kaka Hill: Kaka Hill is a ~1,000 m hill on the north eastern edge of Lake Coleridge and provides stunning views of the lake and surrounding area. A great opportunity to experience this spectacular tramping area in a relaxed mode. Approximately 400 m height gain. Lake Coleridge was named after the nephews of the famous English poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge. They were members of the Canterbury Association involved in surveying the area for European settlement.	Grade: EasyMod Closes: 5 Dec Map: BW20 Approx: \$25

Saturday 14 December Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui @ 12 NOON	Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001
RIVER CROSSING COURSE: Undertaking a river crossing course is the closest thing we have in the CTC to a compulsory training course, in NZ everyone heading to the hills, even easy day tramps needs to have good river crossing skills and more importantly the skill to decide not to cross! With a large number of our new members from overseas where river crossing skills are almost entirely absent this course is a 'must do' for these members. Again get your name down on the list as this course fills fast and places are limited.	Grade: Training Closes: 12 Dec Map: Approx: None

Multi day trip 6-12 February Date to be determined! Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Silvia Horniakova 021 264 8430
<p>Garden of Eden - Early 2014 sometime: IMPORTANT - DATE TO BE DETERMINED... Limited numbers - contact leader. This trip will likely run in the beginning of February, probably around Waitangi day, to get the best and most settled weather. You will need to be flexible on ability to come along on a yet to be determined date. The trip would be 6-7 days. I won't set the exact date, but rather wait for a massive high to settle over us and then go for it. Garden of Eden is a beautiful glaciated area in the head of Rangitata/Clyde River. I visited this area last year as a part of CTC trip and would like to return there and possibly take a group of keen trampers with me. We would start at Erewhon station, walk up Clyde, then Francis river and access Gardens via Perth Col. Then we would spend some time on the Ice Plateau either crossing over to Garden of Allah and down Lambert Col or set up camp at Adams Col and climb something from there. People who want to join should be very fit, used to travelling off route, do multiple river crossings, happy to carry heavy packs (6-7days worth of supplies), have some experience with glacier travel roped up (however this can be shown beforehand in Chch). Good use of crampons and ice axe is necessary. It is a wild place, far from civilization, so we will have to travel as a group from start to finish. It can be a hard travel at times, but very rewarding. If anybody is interested please email me (silvia@bivouac.co.nz).</p>	Grade: ModHard (requires snow skills) Closes: 30 Jan Map: BW17 Approx: Contact Leader

Trip Reports

15 October 2013

18 Penguins in a Nor'wester Can't be Wrong (aka Ben More/Big Ben Day Trip)

The morning was looking sunny as 18 people gathered cheerfully at Shell, provisioned themselves with One Square Meals (ok, maybe that was mostly me) and divided themselves into cars. As we progressed towards Lake Coleridge the trees began to show ominous signs of thrashing about in the wind – even the trees deep down in the gullies. But the sun was shining and optimism prevailed.

Reality began to dawn when we were parked at the base of the hill, putting our boots on and generally getting organised. It was considerably easier to do this on the leeward side of the car. In fact, it was actually easier just to sit in the car and put one's boots on, otherwise one's gaiters were apt to blow away. I decided that this was the optimum time to don an item I bought from Bivouac but have never managed to remember the name of – let's just say it is a sort of tube bandanna that covers your entire head tightly, thus keeping your hair out of your face and your glasses firmly held behind your ears. Because by now it was clear there was definitely going to be a howling nor'wester.

Bryce had lured us along with an email containing the immortal words "The total climb will be no more than about 100m". When we had done about 100m of the first hill, which was plainly quite a bit bigger than that, one or two of us began to query this description. "Oh, I meant about 100m at a time!" said Bryce.

We progressed into the teeth of the wind in 100m increments, stopping periodically to apply sunblock and admire the views of Lake Coleridge. There was obviously some dirty weather going on over on the West Coast, but on our side things were still clear and sunny and the views were stunning. By the time we reached the main ridge we had begun forming spontaneous "penguin huddles" whenever we stopped, with everyone aiming to be the penguin most sheltered from the wind. Bernhard took the penguin thing to extremes by gathering a pile of stones for himself to sit on at lunchtime – although admittedly this could have been because all the gravel outcrops in the snow had already been claimed by other trip members!

"It hasn't started blowing yet," said Bryce, standing in the middle of the penguin huddle, as we made the decision to carry on and do the planned 25-odd km trip rather than doubling back around the horseshoe ridge to the car.

Actually, Bryce was right. It felt as if the wind tripled in strength as the afternoon went on. I can honestly say I have not walked in that much wind for, oh, about 8 years. You couldn't walk beside someone - you were likely to get blown into them, and you couldn't hear them anyway because your jacket hood was thrumming like a sail in the Americas Cup. (Speaking of which, one or two trip members commented that this was the sort of wind that Americas Cup races were cancelled in!) The best way of progressing (I hesitate to say "walking") was to lean at a 45 degree angle into the wind, keep your knees well bent, and pretend you were walking with crampons on, so that your feet didn't get blown into each other. There are few times in my life when I have wished to weigh 100 kilograms or carry a 100 kilogram pack or both, but that afternoon some extra weight really would have been very useful to anchor me to the hill! However, luckily I had brought along two big

sandwiches, one bumper bar, and one chocolate One Square Meal, and like a determined Very Hungry Caterpillar I hoovered these items up at every opportunity. I can thoroughly recommend eating half a One Square Meal while lying prone on the sheltered side of a rock stack in a howling gale, even if said rock stack is not quite big enough to shelter 18 people!

I would like to say the wind diminished as we descended the ridge, but I would be lying. However, there was a brief respite when we got onto the scree, and once we got down to farmland it was actually possible to hear people talk again. By this point I had acquired a pair of matching blisters on my heels and was not particularly looking forward to the final bash out to the cars (to all those people who told me the brand of boot I was wearing was especially uncomfortable - you are so right, and I will be buying something else in the Labour Day sales!) The drivers took off on a speedy advance mission to save us having to wait at the road end, and the rest of us followed along behind. As we got deeper into the little gorge, one trip member observed that it was a bit like Tapuae-o-uenuku - the similarity became more and more apparent as we crossed and re-crossed the creek and became locked in a competition to see who could avoid being the one who falls in. (OK, I went in up to my arms, but I maintain that it is not "falling in" if your butt is still dry, even if it is the only part of your body that is still dry). On the plus side, having wet feet kept my blisters much happier!

Thanks to a sterling effort from the drivers the vehicles were waiting for us, and as it was quite late in the evening, we waived the traditional after-trip food stop and settled up the cash by the side of the road (a slightly hazardous enterprise for Bryce as the nor'wester had quite a hunger for \$10 notes). I had an emergency muesli bar in my pocket, but it was not nearly as enticing as the dark peppermint chocolate that another more sensible trip member generously shared out – a great end to a great if windy day!

Participants: Conrad Dekker, Max de Lacey, Richard Kimberley, Chris McGimpsey, Radu Popovici, Kees de Jager, Anna Herlender, Warwick Dowling, Heidi Baillie (scribe), Xiaoqiu Jiang, Bryce Williamson, Jenny Harlow, Kieran Cummings, Helen Bealey, Andrew Smith, Bernhard Parawa, David Sutton and Adrian Radcliffe.

29 September 2013

Mt Cheeseman and Mt Cockayne

(Otherwise known as Bryce's mission to the sun)



"It will be bright sunshine the other side of Porters" said Bryce as we left town in cold rain.

"I'll just put my longs on now but I'll be taking them off when it fines up" said Bryce as we got changed in light drizzle.

"I can feel the sun just above us, we'll probably break out into it quite soon" said Bryce as we headed upwards in thick cloud.

"It's really quite warm unless you've stopped" said Bryce as we had lunch huddled against a rock outcrop for protection against the elements.

"I am not sure where the sun has gone" said Bryce as we made the top and it started to snow in earnest.

"My gps has died but I've got my compass" said Bryce as we navigated towards Cockayne in almost zero visibility and continuing snow.

"What a great day" said Bryce as we walked that last bit of three and a half ks down the skifield road in strengthening rain.

We all totally agreed.

Bryce Williamson (mission to the sun captain)

Conrad Dekker, Adrian Radcliffe, David Sutton, Natasha Sydorenko, Jiang Xiaoqiu, Radu Popoxia, Richard Kimberley, Jenny Harlow (mission reporter)



Still deep lots of snow on top

5-6 October 2013

Top Hut at South Branch Ashburton River

On Saturday morning five adventurers were heading towards Mount Somers. Each of them comes from different country: Brazil, Hong Kong, Ukraine, UK, Poland. Each of them has different culture and different tramping experience. However, one thing they have in common: a desire to tramp to true New Zealand high country. The aim for the weekend is Top Hut at South Branch Ashburton River.

In Mount Somers the five adventurers met the leader of expedition Max - a real Kiwi-born trumper. Max led the party to a car park at the end of Hakatere Road, where the adventure started. The trampers followed the track along Cameron River for about two hours. When some of them spotted Highland Home hut, Max realised that they walked too far. So they returned a bit along the track and then climbed on a saddle in Wild Mans Brother Range. At 12.45 there was a time for lunch with beautiful views on the valley along South Branch Ashburton River. After the lunch keen trampers descended from the saddle to the valley, bravely crossed the river and



continued towards Top Hut that is nestled quite comfortable in front of Big Hill Range. The hut was reached at about 3 o'clock, so it was perfect time for afternoon tea. During the tea the real Kiwi trumper Max announced: "before the dinner everyone should go for a walk". Not all adventurers were of the same opinion, however finally everyone moved. Pablo and Maya opted for a nice and short walk on the hill behind the hut. The rest of the trampers walked towards Stumpy Stream and then suddenly one of them pointed a smooth hill with rocks on the top. "Can we go there?" someone asked. Max looked at the hill with his experienced eyes, gave his approval and then... the race started! First, Max and Adrian – they were almost running towards the hill. Then, when the slope was steeper with more and more rocks, Natasha suddenly found that this is exactly what she enjoys in the mountains and rushed to the summit of the hill. There were wonderful views from the summit but it was not enough for Natasha who has just discovered her climbing nature. Natasha rushed along the ridge toward 2,000 meter peak and Adrian followed her keenly. As much as Natasha loved the rock climbing Anna found herself less comfortable with the rocks and announced that she wouldn't mind going down now. Max found nice scree slope and then.... the fun started for Anna. Yes, that is true! Jenny if you are reading this report you should know that finally Anna found how to have a fun on scree (as she promised you long time ago, that she would finally do!). When Anna and Max were in the middle of the scree, they noticed that Natasha and Adrian resigned about 200 m before the summit from further climbing and decided to go down.

Everyone was back in the hut about half past six and the next point on the tramping agenda, that is cooking dinner, started. Just before the sunset the clouds moved behind the Arrowsmith Range and there was so beautiful view on the mountains in snow with magnificent Ashburton Peak in the middle and red and pink clouds above them. Next morning, when the trampers woke up, the mountains were still wonderfully visible and now covered with red light from the sunrise.



About 8.30 the party left the hut and headed towards Arrowsmith Range. The weather slightly deteriorated, however no serious winds or rains occurred. Max found the right saddle in the Wild Mans Brother Range and with ice-axes in hands all keenly moved upwards. Then, there was a break for snacks and photos and after that descent to Cameron River. Adrian chose to descent directly to the Spean Stream, while the others continued rather on the slope with mix of grass, rocks and scree. Finally, all trampers gathered together again to have a lunch in a picturesque spot about 10 minutes from the Cameron Hut Route.

Once Cameron track was reached, there was an easy way down to the car park that lasted about three and half hours. Easy doesn't mean boring as the views all around were wonderful. As always in New Zealand. And as always on the tramping with the Club there was all what New Zealand offers: river crossing and wet feet, rock scrambling, scree running, tussocks, spaniards and even a bit of matagouri. Max showed the foreigners beautiful piece of Kiwi Land. Now, the foreigners cannot wait for the next tramp!

The team led by Max de Lacey included the following adventurers: Pablo de Oliveira, Maya, Natasha Sydorenko, Adrian Radcliffe, Anna Herlender.

Classifieds

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

External Events

Volunteers Needed: Hi CTC Members: My name is John Shultis, and I am an Associate Professor at the University of Northern British Columbia in the Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management program (www.unbc.ca/ortm/). I did my PhD at the University of Otago, and have regularly tramped, visited and conducted research in New Zealand for over 20 years, so am very familiar with the backcountry subculture in New Zealand. I will be visiting New Zealand this coming summer to conduct additional research, including the Christchurch area. The research involves me interviewing individual outdoor recreationists (trampers, climbers. etc.) about their recreation equipment and the impacts it has on their outdoor recreation experiences. Why am I interested in this topic? The academic literature often expresses concern about the potential impacts of some of the new technology available, but no one has really attempted to ask outdoor recreationists what they think of this equipment and how it impacts their experiences in the bush. I am contacting several tramping/climbing clubs throughout New Zealand in order to look for volunteers to participate in this study. The interviews will take between 60-90 minutes, and I can meet you at whatever date, time and place works best for you. I will have a car, and can make my way to your work office, home, quiet public area, etc. for the interview. I am looking for a broad range of people to participate, from beginners to experts, first-timers to trip leaders, men and women, young and old, etc. I will be in the Christchurch area from November 12th to November 18th, 2013. If you will have some spare time in these dates, and are willing to be interviewed for this study, I'd really appreciate if you could volunteer to be part of this research. By doing so, you could help contribute to understanding how peoples' use of recreation equipment affects their backcountry experiences. Please contact me at john.shultis@unbc.ca as soon as you can if you are interested! Many thanks in advance for considering this request, and I look forward to hearing from some of you! I will also be presenting a slide show on Utah at the Nov. 13th CTC meeting, so I may see some of you there as well. All the best, John



Top Hut at South Branch Ashburton River Trip



*The ridge between Cheeseman and Cockayne (probably)
(from Mt Cheeseman and Mt Cockayne trip)*



*Climbing up from the Hogs Back Track
(from Mt Cheeseman and Mt Cockayne trip)*



*A pause in the step plugging
(from Mt Cheeseman and Mt Cockayne trip)*

More about the CTC

Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Andrea Zahn	382 1044	<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Bryce Williamson	351-6366
<i>Senior Vice President:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<i>Weekend Trip Organiser:</i>	James Hopkins	03 967 5003
<i>Junior Vice President:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Silvia Horniakova	021 264 8430
<i>Secretary:</i>	Angela Lowery	03 3529914	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Thomas Matern	354-4309
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Cristina Zablan	03 374 6354	<i>Editor:</i>	Sam Cook	342-3735
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Adrian Busby	325-5001	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	Liz Van Ekeris	337-0948	<i>Hut Bookings:</i>	Bernhard Parawa	027 212 7498
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	David Cockeram	337-0948			

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 337 3125 or 027 212 7498; or if he's away, Rex Vink 352-5329; or if they're both away, Andrew Wrapson 980-6006. Hut fees are \$15 member, \$15 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 21 November 2013 – Thanks.