



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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No. 10



First food stop waiting for those who took the old track and those who took the new track to reunite (from Ball Pass 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

AGM Announcement: The 2015 AGM will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday April 29, at the University - precise location to be confirmed. Please send any Notices of Motion to the editor, to be received by Friday March 13 midnight. This is your opportunity as a member to help contribute to the running of the club by standing for one of the available committee positions. All positions on the committee are annually elected by the club membership attending the AGM, and anyone can stand for any position: this is encouraged. We need you! Details of the roles are in the 2014 CTC Club Rules, which can be downloaded from the web site.

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: Until 1 February 2015 we meet on Wednesdays 7:30 pm at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre (Watling Lounge), Hagley Park South, 57 Riccarton Avenue (entrance opposite the hospital). From 1 February onwards the venue will be Room 533, Rutherford Building, the University of Canterbury. 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 phone Kate Taylor 980-8224 or email kate-taylor@clear.net.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..

Wednesday 25 February	Club Night
<p>The Folding of the Newsletters: Please join us on this solemn occasion, during which we remember those trees that died and those birds and other vertebrates and invertebrates which lost their homes in the making of our newsletters. BUT in acknowledgement that we made only a minute dent in the monoculture that is a commercial pine forest, and that our enthusiastic tree-hugging and earnest advocacy of renewable resources are sure to create better, more diverse environments for birdies to build their homes, the person who folds the most newsletters on the night will be rewarded with a Prize!</p>	

Thursday 26 February 6.15 pm start Departure point: Corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb: Meet at 6:15pm, on the corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace, every Thursday evening for an hour of power walking/tramping in the Mt Vernon Park. No trip list, just turn up - except if wet or if there is a public holiday next day. Note new day of THURSDAY.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Feb Map: Approx: \$0
Saturday 28 February Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 richard.lobb@canterbury.ac.nz
Woolshed Hill: Woolshed Hill (1429 m) stands above the Hawdon, off the Mt White Road. There will be about 820 m of ascent, mostly through beech, following a good track up the crest of a ridge and then about a kilometre of tussocky top to the summit, with options to explore further if you want to. The first 300 m or so is reasonably steep. Great views from the top down into the Waimakariri/Hawdon confluence and the upper Sudden Valley.	Grade: Easy Mod Closes: 26 Feb Map: BV21 Approx: \$25
Weekend 28 February-1 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Natasha Sydorenko 0223140684 n.sydorenko@hotmail.com
Fairie Queen: Friday night walk in to Cannibal Gorge or Ada hut. Saturday head up Camera Gully, set up camp by the lake and scramble a couple of km along the ridge to Fairie Queen, 2236m. Sunday morning up Gloriana, 2218m then either head out down the gully or traverse along the tops to Ada Pass. The number of people will be limited to 6 (though the trip leader reserves the right to change her mind).	Grade: Hard Closed: 19 Feb Map: BT23 Approx: \$40
Weekend 28 February-1 March Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Keith Dekkers 021 1277202 332-1908 keithdek@hotmail.com
French Peak Sleepover: The plan A. is to get a perfect weather forecast and head over to the Lake Moana. Climb Mt French in the afternoon, set up camp and spend an evening cooking dinner as the sun sets west into the Tasman. In case of less than perfect weather on the Coast, plan B. is to get a house at Hamner. Saturday a walk up Mt Isobel and on Sunday Keith has ridden all the tracks in the Hamner forest so he can lead a mountainbike trip to suit all levels. Rumour also has it that an expeditionary party may use the Mt French trip to shuttle some cars while they attempt to traverse from Mt French through to the Taramakau. This should in no way be considered part of the sane and sensible trip Keith is running.	Grade: EasyMod Closed: 19 Feb Map: BU19 Approx: \$40

Sunday 1 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366 bryce.williamson68@gmail.com
Red Hill via Coleridge Pass: Red Hill (1641 m) is a popular CTC destination, usually approached from the east via the ridge from Mt Lyndon, or from the south-east as a sheltered resort when other trips are destroyed by the nor'wester. This time we'll try an approach from the north. With permission, we will drive up the Porter Heights Skifield Road to the bridge over the Porter River. We'll then follow the river over a gentle ~200 m ascent to Coleridge Pass, at which point we'll turn south and ascend more steeply up another ~500 m to the summit. The descent route will start along the ridge over Pts 1488 and 1494 m. Depending on time and inclination, we can descend back to the cars more directly via the north ridge from Pt 1494 m, or tramp substantially further over Mt Lyndon (1489 m) and Pt 1456 m.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Feb Map: BW20 Approx: \$20

Wednesday 4 March	Club Night
The High Five-0 Challenge: 50 Peaks, 50 Marathons, 50 Days. Mal Law lives for taking on big outdoors adventures for causes that he is passionate about. He has taken on the enormous and unprecedented challenge of completing 50 days of back-to-back hard yakka, climbing 50 peaks while running the equivalent of 50 marathons over predominantly rough, tough backcountry trails over 50 days. His goal is to raise \$250,000 for the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand. Mal might be a mad bugger, but he is an inspiring one. He has already raised a remarkable \$320,000 at the time of writing after completing just 20% of the Challenge. Every day he is joined by a fresh bunch of support runners - CTC's Steve Bruerton is one person who will be joining Mal on one of the days. One of Mal's strongest supporters and advocates is Tony Sharpe, and he will come and talk to us about this remarkable Challenge, what it involves, and how you can become involved. You can track Mal's progress on http://www.high50.org.nz .	

Thursday 5 March 6.15 pm start Departure point: Corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
CTC Hill Climb: Meet at 6:15pm, on the corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace, every Thursday evening for an hour of power walking/tramping in the Mt Vernon Park. No trip list, just turn up - except if wet or if there is a public holiday next day. Note new day of THURSDAY.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Mar Map: Approx: \$0

<p>Saturday 7 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui</p>	<p>Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz</p>
<p>Old Coach Road/Trig M: This trip in the Korowai-Torlesse Tussocklands Park will start at the base of Porters Pass and follow the Old Coach Road, the route taken by the Cobb and Co. coaches in the 19th Century. Then an unmarked easily followable trail along the crest and Starvation Gully route up to Trig M. Great views of Lake Lyndon and surrounding area. Around 700 m height gain. The return will follow the Coach Stream route down past Kowai Forest and back to the cars.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 5 Mar Map: BW21 Approx: \$15</p>
<p>Sunday 1 March 12 noon departure Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui</p>	<p>Leader: Adrian Busby 325-5001 adrian.busby1@gmail.com</p>
<p>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. Not the late start time of 12 noon.</p>	<p>Grade: Training Closes: 26 Feb Map: Approx:</p>
<p>Saturday 7 March Departure point: Contact Leader</p>	<p>Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922 jeff.hall2@lifetech.com</p>
<p>Wilding pine day #1 - Upper Waimakariri Basin: Here's a great opportunity to spend a day in the outdoors killing trees in the high country with like-minded people. It's also a chance to admire and experience the skills of our four-wheel-drive brethren. The aim of this activity is to help rid the Upper Waimakariri Basin of wilding pines. A \$30 donation will be paid to the club for each member that attends. You pay nothing and ECAN provides the tools, briefings, and organises 4WD transport. Bring your own lunch, wet weather gear and water. Contact the trip organizer if you are planning to bring chainsaw as ECAN has specific trained operator requirements. These days are great fun, and in addition to the warm glow of healthy exercise you can take home a bit of the saintly aura of an eco-warrior!</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 5 Mar Map: Approx: \$0</p>

Weekend 7-8 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: James Hopkins 03 967 5003 snikpohsemaj@gmail.com
Arthurs Pass Base Camp: Just to prove that being run over by a 2Ton SUV is no deterrent to getting out into the great outdoors, James is heading for the Arthurs Pass Club hut. Standard club hut basecamp with options for the many daywalks in the area. I'm hoping I can do the Bridal path and Punchbowl falls. Wishful thinking has been wanting to do Avalanche Peak - but I think I will have to leave that to the more able bodied. Main convoy leaving Christchurch Friday after work, cars pooled under CTC policy. Option for separate car pool for those who cannot escape work on Friday. List will remain open (if space permits) until last minute - although those on list by 26 Feb will get first priority. Note: Wilding pine day on 7th - why not carry on up to the hut afterwards for an AP area tramp on Sunday.	Grade: Easy/All Closes: 26 Feb Map: BV20 Approx: \$35 + hut fees
Weekend 7-8 March Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Bill Johnson bill@billjohnson.co.nz
Mt Speight: A bit of river travel, some bush bashing, tussock basin campsites, a rocky ridge with one or two exposed moves near the start but mostly an easy scramble on to the top, and even some scree to get back down into Greenlaw Ck. Some rock climbing routes on the buttress if you want to carry a bit more gear up the hill.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 26 Feb Map: BV20 Approx: \$30
Sunday 8 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Natasha Sydorenko 0223140684 n.sydorenko@hotmail.com
Avalanche Peak-Mt Bealey Traverse: This is a club classic, with a bit of everything: beech forest, waterfalls, keas, three peaks, 3 km of ridge-top travel, great views, some gentle scrambling, a great scree run, a bit of a river bash. We go up Avalanche Peak (1833 m) the usual direct way, then traverse the ridge tops over Lyell Peak (1828 m) to Mt Bealey (1838 m). The route calls for a bit of scrambling on mediocre rock but there's no major exposure. From Mt Bealey we descend scree to Rough Creek and then splash, bash and boulder hop our way out to the road. There may be an early start - contact the leader.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 5 Mar Map: BV20 Approx: \$25
Sunday 8 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com
Port Hills - Coopers Knob: This is the highpoint of the Port Hills, giving panoramic views of Lyttelton Harbour, the Canterbury Plains north, south and west to the Alps. Another of Bruce's variations, mostly in a loop. Some on track and some off, but no scrub bashing. Time: 4-5 hours. Height gain: 500 m. Accompanied kids are OK, but contact the leader first.	Grade: Easy/family Closes: 5 Mar Map: BX24 Approx: \$5

Wednesday 11 March	Club Night
<p>Zen and the art of the MindBall: Fancy yourself as a Zen master of mind control? Come along and learn about the inner workings of your brain and challenge a fellow club member to a competition on Mindball. Wearing headbands that detect brain activity (or lack of it), put yourself into your happy place, watch the brain activity drop, and don't get distracted! The person who is calmest and most focused wins! I have a personal theory that many of us trampers are out there in the mountains to slow our over-excitabile brains down. The question will be, can you put yourself into that calm zen-like state with the rest of the club eagerly looking on? An entertaining and social night having a play on some of Science Alive's fun equipment, courtesy of Karen Tait (who promises it is not as scary as it sounds).</p>	

Thursday 12 March	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045
Departure point: Corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace	warwick.dowling@gmail.com
<p>CTC Hill Climb: Meet at 6:15pm, on the corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace, every Thursday evening for an hour of power walking/tramping in the Mt Vernon Park. No trip list, just turn up - except if wet or if there is a public holiday next day. Note new day of THURSDAY.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Mar Map: Approx: \$0</p>

Saturday 14 March	Leader: Susan Pearson 337-4914
	susan@toniq.co.nz
<p>Mt O'Malley: Mt O'Malley is a ~1700 m peak often seen on the way to Mt Aicken, but rarely visited. It is readily accessed via the track from Arthurs Pass Village south of Devils Punchbowl Creek. There is a splendid tarn just to the north west of the summit, which will permit a cooling swim if the day is hot.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Mar Map: BV20 Approx: \$30</p>

Weekend 14-15 March	Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Tecbruce@gmail.com
<p>Cameron Hut: Despite its mountainous scenery, the trip in to Cameron Hut is on easy hill country. Located behind Mt Somers, the Arrowsmith Range is far larger and steeper than the surrounding foothills and makes a spectacular backdrop to the hut setting. Five or six hours tramping, with a bit of uphill and some rocky terrain near the end, will get you to the Cameron Hut, situated on the remnant terminal moraine of the Cameron Glacier. Great views from the hut on to the Arrowsmith mountains.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 5 Mar Map: BW18 BX19 BW19 Approx: \$40 + CMC hut fee</p>

Weekend 14-15 March Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453 doug@forster.net.nz
Walker Pass - Sudden Valley: Tramping up the Hawdon Valley, over Walker Pass into the upper East Otehake, then up to Amber Col where there is a nice camp site. Possible walk up Falling Mountain if there is time in the evening. Next day traverse along the Polar Range then drop into Sudden Valley. Possibly an alternative exit from Sudden Valley depending on the party and the weather. A terrific slice of classic Arthurs Pass tramping.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 5 Mar Map: BV21 Approx: \$35

Sunday 15 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz
Mt Guy: Mt Guy is a 1319 m peak in the Hakatere/Ashburton Lakes area, directly north east of Lake Clearwater. We'll park as near as we can get to the eastern end of the lake, then cross Lambies Stream to pick up the newish DoC track up the southern face of the hill directly to the summit -- a climb of ~650 m. From there we'll descend over about 3 km down a long ramp to the north west, with great views to all points of the compass. Once down to the river-terraced plain, we'll return to the cars via the Clearwater Circuit Track, either directly or by ambling around Lake Clearwater. Evidence from last year suggests an outside chance of seeing kotuku (really!).	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 12 Mar Map: BX19 Approx: \$30

Wednesday 18 March	Club Night
What's that in my billy? A trumper's guide to freshwater critters: Professor Angus McIntosh of the Freshwater Ecology Research Group (FERG) at the University of Canterbury will open our eyes to the aquatic life we may wonder about but often overlook in our haste to cross streams and rivers and get to that cup of tea at the end of a hard day's hike. FERG research is primarily field-based, and covers a broad array of applied and theoretical ecological topics including the natural history of New Zealand's freshwater biota, the influence of land-use change, acid mine drainage, ecosystem size and disturbance on stream communities, and biogeochemistry and nutrient cycling.	

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Saturday 21 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz
Hinewai Reserve/Otanerito Bay: Hinewai is a 1200 hectare bird and bush reserve on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula with a wide range of native forest and birds. We will access the reserve from lower Long Bay Road and do a loop, taking us to the Visitor Centre and lookout and back down the Valley Track. If time permits, we will go down to Otanerito Bay.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 19 Mar Map: BY25 Approx: \$20
Saturday 21 March 7 am start	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045 warwick.dowling@gmail.com
Mon Sex Millia: This peak is 6000 ft high (hence the name: '6000 bump' translates - roughly - to 'mons sex millia' in Latin) but for those of you used to this new-fangled metric system you get a rather-less-readily-translatable 1840 m. We will approach and return from the west, keeping out of the bush as much as possible, going past Garnet Peak. It'll be a longish day tramping: ~9 hours, and around 1300 m height gain, with a little bush bashing on the descent near the track. Torch and whistle are must. There is NO water on this trip, so bring plenty. Early start, 7 am.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 19 Mar Map: BU23 Approx: \$30
Saturday 21 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com
River Exploring - Rakaia: Another of Bruce's river exploring trips (dry feet) linking onto the previous extended Rakaia Walkway tramp (Pt.476). Starting from Middle Rock, following the Rakaia's true left to Terrace Downs for rehydration. The nor'wester will power us along whilst views will include the Alps, Black Hills, Mount Hutt the Rakaia and its gorge. On and off track, mostly grazed riverbank farmland. Time: 4-5 hours. Height gain: ~70 m.	Grade: Easy/family Closes: 19 Mar Map: BX20 Approx: \$15
Weekend 21-22 March Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Radu Popovici popovici.radustefan@gmail.com
Mt Hopeless: Hopefully some people will be interested in climbing mount Hopeless. be optimistic about weather conditions and don't lose faith even in ice-cream scoop sized hail. Either leave Chch Friday after work and camp near the lake in St. Arnaud or leave very early Saturday morning. In any case sleep at Hopeless Hut on Saturday night ready for an early departure on Sunday morning. Cheerfully climb the peak via the auspiciously named route "hopeless creek". Return in time for some treats (see the hail analogy above) at the shop in St. Arnaud. Failing that, chances are that we will still find some food in Murchison before merrily strolling back into town late on Sunday night.	Grade: Hard Closes: 12 Mar Map: BS24 Approx: \$50

Weekend 21-22 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Li Li 039264395 ahhlili01@hotmail.com
Nina - Devilskin Saddle - Doubtful: A classic tramp in the Lewis Pass area. There are huts (Nina and Doubtful) either side of Devilskin Saddle and the Devils Den Bivouac on top so there are plenty of hut options.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 12 Mar Map: M32 Approx: \$40	
Sunday 22 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com
Bullock Hill (988 m) and a few more: Located beside the Waimakariri, this small bump is then followed by a few more, Magog, Gog and Og as we traverse along beside the river with its gorge on one side and the Transalpine rail line on the other. Views of the Poulter confluence area and from the Torlesse Range round to the Polar Range. The terrain rolling hill country mostly off track on alpine farm country. Time: 5-6 hours. Accompanied kids are OK but contact the leader first.	Grade: Easy/family Closes: 19 Mar Map: BV21 Approx: \$25	
Wednesday 25 March		Club Night
How to Map GPS logs onto 3D Google Earth Images: Bryce, Richard L, and a few others have taken to adorning their tramping photo albums with GPS logs mapped onto 3D Google Earth images. There have been some expressions of interest in finding out how to do this. So on this night, Bryce is going to run through the process while we enjoy a post-newsletter-folding cuppa.		
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Saturday 28 March Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui		Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com
Paterson Stream: A loop up the side of the Waimakariri Gorge with views across to the Oxford side. This tramp is mostly on farm tracks on relatively flat terrain. Time: 4-5 hours. Accompanied kids are OK but contact leader first	Grade: Easy/family Closes: 26 Mar Map: BW21 Approx: \$15	

Saturday 28 March		Leader: Richard Lobb 351-2344 trampgeek@gmail.com	
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui			
<p>Mt Barrosa: In the Clent hills, Mt Barrosa is a wee bit further west than Mt Somers and a wee bit lower too (1364 m). It is an interesting geological area (Barrosa andesite) and rumour has it that keen rock hounds can find geodes (whatever they are). Historians and linguists will appreciate that this is not the 'red earth barossa', redolent of red wine, but the 1811 Peninsula Wars version - New Zealand was, after all, originally a colony . . . Those just there for the tramping can enjoy the 800 m climb on mostly open tussock hillside with good views all the way up. Given suitable enthusiasm, energy levels and access permissions, we'll continue beyond the summit in a small horseshoe over Pts 1355 and 1321 m to descend the spur to the bottom of Waterfall Stream.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 26 Mar Map: BX19 Approx: \$25	

Weekend 28-29 March		Leader: Jonathan Carr 351-1574 jonathan@jonathancarr.com	
Departure point: Contact Leader			
<p>Celtic Peak: Celtic Peak and its slightly taller and much steeper neighbor, Highland Peak, cradle a small alpine tarn at the very head of the Dingle Burn. Getting there will involve driving in to the Ahuriri Base Hut, 600m up on the old deer cullers pack track then 500 down into the Dingle Burn. Then its 5 or 6 km steady climb up the valley to the tarn. Climb Celtic Peak on Sunday morning for view across the Hunter River to Mt Brewster, east to Mt St Mary, and down Lake Hawea toward Wanaka. Back to camp and retrace your steps back out. Jonathan is quite keen to make this a 3 day trip to allow a little more exploring in the area, that could allow staying at top Dingle Hut for a couple of nights. Please indicate if you want to do a 2 or 3 day trip.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 19 Mar Map: BZ13 BZ14 Approx: \$50	

Sunday 29 March		Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui			
<p>Banks Peninsula - Ridgeline: This trip is the section of the ridge to the north of Lake Forsyth, extending Bruce's previous High Bare Peak tramp from Pt 424 m to trig A5MK (99m.) Great views to the south and Lakes Forsyth and Ellesmere. The terrain is a rolling ridge line with some on and off track, mostly over grazed farmland. Time: 5-6 hours. Accompanied kids are ok, but contact leader first</p>		Grade: Easy/family Closes: 26 Mar Map: BY24 Approx: \$10	

Long Weekend 3-6 April Easter Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Warwick Dowling 981-2045 warwick.dowling@gmail.com
Lake Nerine: Located in the magnificent Humboldt Mountains north of the Routeburn Track area. This is a stunning tramping area with awesome scenery all around. There is some steep tussock country to traverse between Park Pass and Lake Nerine but generally the tops are straightforward travel. The Rock Burn and North Route Burn are both beautiful places to travel in and out of the area. And a crossing of Sugarloaf Pass makes it all a perfect loop trip	Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Mar Map: CB09 CA09 Approx: \$80
Saturday 4 April Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Kerrie Maynard 386-2850
Mt Isobel: Mt Isobel (1324m) lies on the open poled tops between Jacks Pass to the west and Jollies Pass to the east. We go up via the delightful Dog Stream track: there is about 850m of height gain, some of it steep but on a marked route, through bush and then tussock slopes to the tops. This trip is on the gentler side of moderate and would make a great step-up for trampers looking to see how they go on something a bit harder than easy moderate - or a well-earned less demanding day for people recovering from those hard-out Christmas trips ...	Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 Apr Map: BU24 Approx: \$25
Saturday 11 April Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: David Sutton 0211808081 david.sutton@cdhb.govt.nz
Peveiril Peak: Peveiril Peak (1755m) sits on the true left of the Poulter, almost opposite the Binser Saddle track. We'll need permission for some of the access but there are a few different options we can use. Total height gain is about 1300 m.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Apr Map: BV21 Approx: \$30
Saturday 11 April Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Jeff Hall 338-0922 jeff.hall2@lifetech.com
Wilding pine day #2 - Upper Waimakariri Basin: Here's a great opportunity to spend a day in the outdoors killing trees in the high country with like-minded people. It's also a chance to admire and experience the skills of our four-wheel-drive brethren. The aim of this activity is to help rid the Upper Waimakariri Basin of wilding pines. A \$30 donation will be paid to the club for each member that attends. You pay nothing and ECAN provides the tools, briefings, and organises 4WD transport. Bring your own lunch, wet weather gear and water. Contact the trip organizer if you are planning to bring chainsaw as ECAN has specific trained operator requirements. These days are great fun, and in addition to the warm glow of healthy exercise you can take home a bit of the saintly aura of an eco-warrior!	Grade: Moderate Closes: 9 Apr Map: Approx: \$0

Saturday 25 April Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: David Sutton 0211808081 david.sutton@cdhb.govt.nz
Mt Barron: The track starts near Otira and takes you up a spur and along to the Holts Creek basin. From this basin we will climb up to the ridge west of Mt Barron to get to the summit (1730 m). There are good views from Mt Barron over to the West Coast. From Mt Barron we will descend down a spur north of Goat Creek to Otira township.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 23 Apr Map: BV20 Approx: \$35

Sunday 17 May Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Chris McGimpsey 03 3589125 judychris@xnet.co.nz
TORTIS Tours presents, "How to get lost for beginners": A chance to learn and practise some basic bush craft skills and survival tips, in case you ever get "misplaced" on a tramping trip. Due to popular demand this will be similar to the earlier TORTIS tours run late last year. This is a interesting way for new trampers to learn and refine the simple skills of route finding, building a shelter, lighting a fire, what to do if the trip leader is lost etc. Bring your normal day backpack, a big lunch and a sense of humour, because everything else required for the course will be provided. Each trip is restricted to a max of four people.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 14 May Map: BW22 Approx: \$15

Sunday 24 May Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Chris McGimpsey 03 3589125 judychris@xnet.co.nz
TORTIS Tours presents, "How to get lost for beginners": A chance to learn and practise some basic bush craft skills and survival tips, in case you ever get "misplaced" on a tramping trip. Due to popular demand this will be similar to the earlier TORTIS tours run late last year. This is a interesting way for new trampers to learn and refine the simple skills of route finding, building a shelter, lighting a fire, what to do if the trip leader is lost etc. Bring your normal day backpack, a big lunch and a sense of humour, because everything else required for the course will be provided. Each trip is restricted to a max of four people.	Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 21 May Map: BW22 Approx: \$15

Trip Reports

6-8 February 2015

Ball Pass

The Waitangi Day three day weekend offered an excellent opportunity make the Ball Pass crossing. A group of 14 met at trip leader Natasha's place at 9am, picked up club gear, divided into cars and headed south. Even at a leisurely pace most trampers reached the NZAC Unwin Hut by early afternoon leaving enough time for some to make side trips up to Sealy Tarns, Red Tarns or into Mt Cook Village to secure poo pots (required for overnight camping in Mount Cook National Park). Ball Pass can be crossed from two directions - from the Hooker Glacier to the Tasman Glacier or vice versa. Natasha conferred with DOC at the Visitor Centre who suggested that with the recent snowfall, the better route was Hooker to Tasman. So at 9am, the group set off for Whitehorse Car Park with a bright, beautiful day in front of us. The track up the Hooker Valley is an easy walk steps, fine gravel and nice bridges. Within about 15mins there was some confusion on the route direction as some members felt the correct way was along the old track that used to be the route. This immediately led to a much more interesting route that had steep wet slabs, heavy brush and a number of small stream crossings along an obviously no longer



Sealy Tarns

maintained track. After 1/2 hour or so, some members decided this wasn't the correct route and returned to the main track. Other members continued bush bashing and eventually all were reunited at a small hill on the moraine wall overlooking the Hooker Glacier. **For future readers looking to do this trip: stay on the main track to the picnic table near the lake and continue on from there.** While the track is reasonably marked with cairns, there are large washouts that cause you to head up valley side walls then back down again to try to pick up the track up the valley. Some members tried to keep their altitude with some bush bashing, but we all eventually met back up on the main track. By late morning, the bright, beautiful day turned into a bright, hot day and with loaded packs, one member was clearly not going to be able to make the pass and finish the trip. Chris volunteered to stay behind with that tramper and the group forged ahead. There was a nice lunch stop at a waterfall in the stream coming down from Ball Pass. Further up there was a stop at the "Playing Fields" a nice level spot mid way up to Ball Pass. It was about

4:30pm and it had been quite an effort up to that point with full packs. There was a short discussion about whether to camp there or forge ahead - a quick vote indicated all were wanting to continue on. Onward and upward we went making the "Z" up from the Playing Field to gain the next ridge. The route is reasonably marked, but some members opted to head down into the bottom of the Ball Pass snow slope and other sidled the traditional route along the right hand side. By now there was soft, knee deep snow that was making the going more challenging. At the bottom of the final ramp up to the pass it was pretty clear that most members of the party were feeling it. Finally about 6pm we crested the pass and had a fantastic view of the Caroline Face of Mt Cook. While the original discussion was to camp at a site near Caroline Hut some 2-3 hours further on, the group decided to make camp at the pass. This was camping on snow, but had the upside of small tarns of freshwater nearby. Tents were quickly pitched, bivys set, cookers cooking and by 8:30pm pretty much everyone had retired for the evening. The group woke up to another spectacular morning with Mt Cook even more dazzling with the sunrise. A few decided to make a quick side trip up Kaitiaki Peak adjacent to where we camped. All were packed up and headed down the ridge by about 8:30am. David, one of the younger, fitter members of the party elected to take a different way down straight from Ball Pass and ended up getting down in 2 1/2 hours - some six hours quicker than the rest of the party. The group followed the ridge down sidling to the left and right as required and made rest stops at Caroline and Ball Huts and drinking lots of water to compensate for the 27 degree day. A tramper with a sprained ankle and a few others taking a more leisurely were glad when they saw Chris heading up the Ball Hut road in a 4x4 to pick them up some 2.5km from the Blue Lakes Car Park. All up, everyone made it back to the car park by 4pm. A stop was made at McKenzies Bar and Grill in Lake Tekapo to settle up on fuel and CTC gear rental and for some Stone Grill cooking.

Party members: Bill Johnson (scribe), Chris McGimpsey, David Harper, David Selway, Jason Baker, Jovan Andric, Linda Lilburne, Li Li, Mani Singh, Martin Brown, Max de Lacey, Michael Ny, Natasha Sydorenko (leader), Virginia Kneebone

24 January 2015

Mt Olympus from Ryton River

On the 24th January I took on my first moderate trip with CTC, climbing Mt Olympus. The plan was to get to the car park of Mt Olympus ski field and then walk straight up the ski field up to a 1100m high peak. Warwick was leading this trip and the CTC Access Officer had arranged access from the farm managers to the private ski field that took us to the car park.

The day started early with a 7am start. We arrived at Lake Coleridge around 8.30am and carried on up to the road to Mt Olympus ski field road. It took us a little while to get around some of the farm gates as they had James Bond style high security locks on them. This one lock took us good 15 minutes to figure out how it worked. Anyway, our determination took us through to the ski field car park. We started this climb around 10am.

Being new to moderate trips, I struggled on the first bit of the slope climbing to the first hut on Mt Olympus. I think it was just my inexperience in establishing good pace. We had a bit of snack around this hut and carried on upwards. I felt a lot better on the rest of the climb to the ridge. I had learned from Michael Newlove to bring lots of nuts and raisins. That and lots of water proved to be a good source of energy to drive me up this mountain. We arrive on the ridge of this mountain, just 100m down from the peak at around 12.30pm. This is where we decided to have lunch and take some selfies.

After a short break we continued our steep climb to the peak. Upon reaching the summit, we were welcomed with breathtaking views of the valley beyond. We spent about 10mins on the peak absorbing the scenery and enjoying our new found pride of conquering Mt Olympus.

We then continued down the northern ridge of the mountain heading towards the Craigieburn ski field. This was nice meandering up and down walk, where enjoyed the view of the valley on both sides. There was a big pole in the middle of this ridge for some reason, which I could not resist to climb.



High tarn at head of Ryton River - a cool dip

After goofing around we made our way to a 200m climb up to Mt Cheesemen. This was a tough climb, not because of the terrain but because it was getting hotter and I had spent most of my energy on the Mt Olympus. Warwick didn't tell us that we will be climbing another mountain! We made it the top somehow and were greeted with a swarm of flies, which was interesting for them to be up so high at this altitude. We found some space around them and enjoy a 15 to 20 min break enjoying the sunshine and views.

We soon got hot and decided to head down the slopes to a small fresh water lake that somebody had spotted. It was a perfect opportunity for a swim that I had been waiting all day long. We head down with speed on some scree slopes and arrived at this lake in just under 15mins. And, we were greeted with beautiful cool fresh water. The swim was so relaxing and my feet felt that they were in heaven.

It was a relatively easy run down to the bottom of the mountain after this. Yes, we literally ran down some incredible scree slopes! We followed a nice horse track down from the scree slopes all the way to the car park below. It was good 1 hour walk where me and Warwick had the chance to discuss religion. Yes, we were bored!

I got to the car park with a smile on face and proud to have completed this trip without much hassle. I have really enjoy my time with the CTC crew so far and look forward to embarking on a few more of these trips in the new future!!

We were: Warwick Dowling (leader), Chris McGimpsey, David Sutton, Shaun Wong (photographer), Stewart Smith, Xiaoqiu Jiang, Sumit Anand (scribe).

Confessions of a Beginner Trumper

I began tramping with the Christchurch Tramping Club (CTC) about a year ago. I had tramped a little at University, not having had the pleasure of coming from a tramping minded family, and since then had done a few trips in various places but never anything very constant. Upon my return to NZ after 7 years away I decided that it was time to see more of our beautiful country and meet some new people. Little did I know, in my naivety of the time, that this one decision would lead to an addiction that would quickly come to rule my life.

I got myself some boots, a decent jacket, and headed out on a day trip. Now the CTC is an excellent club, and they are very good at giving you information that you might need when starting out. I remember very well our first lesson of the day with Bruce as he asked the party of 12 what it is that kills you in the outdoors. We confidently came up with various explanations - accidents, hypothermia, bad weather, river crossings, rock falls. All wrong answers. But those were all the things I had prepared for! It turns out that it has something to do with the law of lemons, at which point I began worrying as I hadn't packed one of those. If all the lemons line up, that is when you might end up with one of those outcomes, and so it is all the decisions leading up to that point which are the ones that really do the harm. The three biggest mistakes in tramping are: sticking to an inflexible schedule; trying to please others; and fear (especially fear of speaking up).

I learnt a lot on those first few tramps - but there were plenty of things that the club failed to tell me. So, here is a list of the perils of beginning tramping, so any newcomer can walk into the exercise completely informed.

I learnt after my first trip that if you are a normal level of fit, even if you go on an easy tramp, there is a very high possibility that you will not be able to walk for two days afterwards. Whatsmore, the pain is not worst the day after the trip, rather two days after the trip, which means you are almost certainly at work. It can be difficult to explain why exactly it is that you are shuffling along the corridor or holding onto both walls as you try to descend the stairs, one at a time, hoping that your tired thighs do not give way underneath you. You may also end up having to wear sandals to work, even in the middle of winter, because you have skin falling off random parts of your feet. People will ask you why you subject yourself to this, and you may wonder why yourself. However, come the next weekend you have forgotten the pain and will happily put yourself through it all over again. Beware, this is the first stage of tramping addiction.

One of the wonderful aspects of tramping with a club is that they will take you places off track right from your first day. This is great fun for a baby trumper as it makes you feel like you are roughing it like the big boys. It comes with its own set of drawbacks though, as if you are like me, you may still be developing your coordination. I did not think much of this until one fateful night when I decided to go for a swim. The exchange went something like this:

Random stranger: Are you ok?

Me (puzzled): Yes, I'm fine thanks.

Random stranger, hand on my arm: No love, are you ok, really?

Me (puzzled and somewhat disturbed): Umm yep. I'm fine.

Random stranger: You can talk to me, I understand what you are going through. (Gestures to my bruises and scratches, accumulated over a couple of weekends of tramping and in

various stages of purple / green healing)

Me (finally understanding): Oh these? I fell over, that's all.

Random stranger (smiling and shaking her head): Ok, whatever you say. But if you need to talk to someone, you can talk to me.

That's right, become a trumper and you may get mistaken as a victim of domestic abuse. I think it is amazing that someone would be brave enough to come up to a complete stranger and check they are ok, but I really am ok. Unless you can help me with my tramping addiction? At this point it is becoming difficult to turn back.

At around this time the relationships with your family and friends begin to change too. Your family and your flatmates suddenly become acquainted with the standard procedures for a search and rescue callout. Not that you should need them, but someone has to be left with your intentions. My mother was most upset with this to begin with, but now her prowess at knowing what to do is something else on her skite list for her knitting circle friends. Not so much the fact that her daughter is off galavanting around the hills every weekend instead of joining her own knitting circle.

Your normal friends suddenly can't see you at the weekends. They do not understand why it is that you have to be in the hills every weekend or why they have to book you in for events at least a month in advance, and even then if it is a sunny weekend they probably still won't see you. If the weather is terrible you may attend social functions in town, but you will spend most of your time either talking about the weather, checking the metservice / metvu / yr websites on your phone, or peering out the window to see if there is any break in the clouds. Don't worry - you will make new friends who are as obsessed with the weather as you are and all the talk on Facebook from Wednesday to Friday will be about this topic. At the point where you start making these new friends you are perpetuating your addiction. There is still time to get out. It won't be easy, will involve going cold turkey and through severe withdrawal, but I believe that at this point it is still possible. Beyond this point I have my doubts.

The browser history of your work computer begins to show the ill effects of your addiction from around this point onwards. Your favourite websites will include the weather websites aforementioned, and a range of sites containing trip reports, topo maps and mountain photography; collectively known as mountain porn. The lure of this mountain porn is especially strong on a Monday morning after a weekend out in the hills. Luckily on Mondays you not only have these wonderful mountain porn sites, but also Pat Barrett's column in the Escape section of The Press. My workmates are all aware of the importance of this piece of literature on a Monday and save the section especially for me to drool over as I drink my morning coffee. Trying to remove this reading is like trying to pry food away from a polar bear after 6 months hibernation. If you are at this stage of addiction I hate to tell you, but you are beyond help. Accept and embrace the new you.

As you now have a fully ceded addiction it is time to know a few others truths about your transition from sometimes trumper to always trumper. 1) Long johns under shorts will become normal weekend wear. They are now acceptable at anytime during the weekend, any place, including in the city. You will have no problem walking into the supermarket, around Merivale or popping into town to pick something up in this attire. In fact, you will find that the shorts even become optional. 2) You wake up on a Saturday before your 7am alarm and spring out of bed to go tramping. Every other day of the week it is a struggle to climb out at 7.30am. 3) You have a total disregard for how bad the weather may have been - as far as you remember the wind and rain never even touched you, it was an amazing trip. 4) You begin to check weather websites more than you even check for Facebook

updates, and become an expert weather forecaster just from the hours you spend looking out your office window.

And the strongest and scariest part of the addiction is the overwhelming need for more, to go higher, to go further. I remember my first real mountain, in Arthurs Pass National Park. It is not a named peak, rather the grandly named Pt 1844 directly across from Avalanche peak on the way to Mt Aickin. We had driven to the pass for a basecamp weekend, and a late start 'wander up a hill' was suggested. I confessed that I hadn't done a lot of hill climbing but the leader gallantly took me along anyway. I remember about half an hour into it being ready to give up. The path was insanely steep (in my baby trumper opinion) and there had already been three signs warning of the dangers of the steep path ahead. After a strategically placed muesli bar stop and a lot of good natured cajoling from our amazing leader, we continued slowly (very slowly), upwards, and up and up and up. As we popped out of the bush all the hurt was forgotten. I was into the majesty of the mountains and they erased all of the pain to get there. From there it was 'well maybe just to the next knob', until it was 'can we go to the top?' The achievement of standing on Pt 1844 (now forever known to the three of us as Mt Karen), surveying the surrounding peaks, valleys and rivers on a bluebird day was the end of me. Elation, euphoria, grandeur, the words mean nothing. At that point I graduated from being a beginner trumper, a sometimes trumper, someone who tried tramping, to being a forever trumper. The need to go higher and further really began that day, and I hope that it never ends.

I have been informed by my ever patient teacher of that day that there is in fact a cure for tramping addiction. In his words: 'The only proven cure for tramping addiction is to work a little and go tramping more often'. In his wisdom he has so far been totally correct, and I fear that this may be the truth.

So what is it that keeps me going back for more? It is like a drug, and it is difficult to quantify. For me, the backcountry contrasts from everything that we rely on in the city. The grand scale and basic premise of putting one foot in front of the other belittle the real benefits of something that seems so easy. The hard part is to let go of everything that goes out there with you and to allow yourself to just be there, a part of it all, neither dominating nor submitting to the surrounds. It is the art of being still of mind and allowing the invasion of this grand space into your body, your spirit, soul. And when this happens, you may just find yourself renouncing the clutter and heading for the hills, over and over and over again.

- Karen Tait

Classifieds

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

More about the CTC

Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	<i>Overnight Trip Organiser:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425
<i>Vice President:</i>	Warwick Dowling	981-2045	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Kate Taylor	980-8224
<i>Secretary:</i>	Angela Lowery	0220889370	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Bernhard Parawa	337 3125
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Natasha Sydorenko	0223140684	<i>Editor:</i>	Sam Cook	344-0083
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Brian Dougan	
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	Chris McGimpsey	03 3589125	<i>IT Convenor:</i>	Richard Lobb	351-2344
<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Bryce Williamson	351-6366			

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 contact the hut convenor, Brian Dougan, srotje@yahoo.com.

Equipment Hire: The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Bernhard Parawa, ph. 337 3125. 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 19 March 2015 – Thanks.