



# ***THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER***

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

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

Vol. 85

November 2015

No. 7



*Views from Mt Valiant*

The CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB has members of all ages, and runs tramping trips every weekend, ranging from easy (minimal experience required) to hard (high fitness and experience required). We also organise instructional courses and hold weekly social meetings. We have a club hut in Arthurs Pass and have gear available for hire to members. Membership rates per year are \$45 member, \$65 couple, \$25 junior or associate, with a \$5 discount for members who opt to obtain this newsletter electronically.

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

---

## **Calendar of trips and Social Events**

**Trips:** Unless otherwise stated, club trips depart either from 'Z' Carlton Corner Service Station (formerly Shell) at 1 Papanui Road (next to Liquor Land and opposite Derby Street) or from Caltex Russley on the corner of Russley Road and Yaldhurst Rd. If the departure point is not specified in the trip schedule, you may assume it's 'Z' Carlton. Day trips usually depart at 8am on Saturday or Sunday. Weekend trips may leave on either Friday evening or Saturday morning.

New or prospective members intending to go on any trip must sign up at club night or contact the trip leader in advance.

**CTC trip change notifications:** For very late changes to a trip, typically after you have left the trip list at the departure point, you can leave a notification of the details of the trip change on the CTC web site merely by sending a special text message from your mobile phone.

The message is for SAR purposes, and ends up in the members only area of the web site.

**Procedure for leaving text message:** Store this phone number [+27 79 454 4321](tel:+27794544321) on your mobile phone, with a contact name such as "CTC TRIP CHANGE". The text messages must start with CTC or TRIP, as the text number is shared with other organisations - this is the filter for us. You can also post notifications via the CTC web site: log in to [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz) and select the "Notify trip change" entry in the Members menu. You can view recent notifications via that page too.

**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 CMLC (Canterbury Mineral & Lapidary Club) building at 110 Waltham Road, Waltham. This new building, beside and on the south side of Waltham School, is about 100m south of the Brougham St/Waltham Rd intersection. Waltham Road is the southern extension of Barbadoes Street. For a map go to [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz) and click the *Social Calendar* link. 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 Kay Taylor 03-3584580 or email [kaytaylor30@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kaytaylor30@xtra.co.nz). Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm sharp, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8:10 pm sharp.

Wednesday 28 October	Club Night
<p><b>Newsletter Folding and Trip Planning Evening:</b> Come along, chat, help with folding club newsletters and have the opportunity to help plan tramps. Bring your maps and ideas. There'll be a laptop and projector available to informally show slides from recent club or private trips. Start the evening at the nearby The Roxx Climbing Centre. Meet about 5.30, find a CTC buddy and climb till 7.30pm. We get industry prices, just show your CTC membership card. Prices are as follows: Top Rope Area: Adult \$13 casual, concession for 10 sessions \$120. Bouldering Area: Adult \$11 casual, concession for 10 sessions \$90. Hire of harness and shoes is extra.</p>	
Thursday 29 October	Leader: Warwick Dowling warwick.dowling@gmail.com
Departure point: Cnr Heybridge Ln & Hillsborough Tce	
<p><b>CTC Hill Climb -- 6:15 pm-7:15 pm during daylight saving hours:</b> Meet at 6:15 pm, on the corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace, every Thursday evening during Daylight Saving 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: 8 Oct Map: Approx: Free</p>
Saturday 31 October 7:30am start at Yalhurst Road, diagonally opposite Caltex Russley	Leader: Doug Forster 337-5453 doug@forster.net.nz
Departure point: Caltex Russley	
<p><b>Mt Foweraker (1804m):</b> 7.30 am start at the Yaldhurst Rd meeting place. This is a recently named peak at Pt 1804, 1493770 524131, and we will ascend via an untracked bush ridge east of Red Beech Stream. If conditions and party are suitable we might return via Sudden Valley Stream. Fall-back to 1st Nov in the event of unsuitable weather.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 29 Oct Map: BV21 Approx: \$30</p>
Saturday 31 October	Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	

<b>Port Hills - Lunch on Port Hills:</b> Bruce's mystery trip to the Crater Rim Walkway, then back down. Time: 4- 5 hrs. Height: 400 m	Grade: Easy Closes: 29 Oct Map: BX24 Approx: \$5
--	---

Weekend 31 October-1 November  
Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

Leader: Andrew Smith  
andrew.smiffy@gmail.com

<b>Lake Man &amp; Doubtful Range:</b> Meet at 7 am. Drive to just passed the Engineers Camp on SH7. Ford the Boyle, Doubtful and Kedron Rivers to Lake Man and the Doubtful Range (about 13km with a height gain of 1000m). Enjoy the magnificent views of the range. Camp next to Lake Man if the weather is good or next to/in the bivouac if it's not (space is limited around the biv). Return via the Doubtful tops (~13km).	Grade: Moderate Closes: 22 Oct Map: BU22 BU23 Approx: \$65
---	---

Wednesday 4 November Club Night

**Transalpine Traverse from Mt Cook to Arthur's Pass:** After a years' planning, in December 2014 Ruth Gray and two companions attempted a transalpine traverse through the heart of the Southern Alps from Mt Cook to Arthur's Pass. For almost one month they traversed a lot of moraine, numerous glaciers, and the badly storm damaged Wanganui River valley, visiting places that few people ever get the opportunity to see. This is the story of their journey, and the challenges and obstacles they faced along the way.

Thursday 5 November Leader: Warwick Dowling  
warwick.dowling@gmail.com

Departure point: Cnr Heybridge Ln & Hillsborough Tce

<b>CTC Hill Climb -- 6:15 pm-7:15 pm during daylight saving hours:</b> Meet at 6:15 pm, on the corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace, every Thursday evening during Daylight Saving 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: 8 Oct Map: Approx: Free
---	--

Saturday 7 November Leader: David Sutton 0211808081  
Davidlsutton@yahoo.co.uk

Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

<b>Godley Peak, 2087m, Palmer Range:</b> Godley Peak (2087 m) is at the end of the Palmer Range, overlooking the confluence of the Wilberforce and Rakaia rivers. See if you can find the elusive Mother Millers Spring when you're up there. After crossing a little preliminary light scrub on the flats we will go in via one of the long spurs - nothing difficult to negotiate, but a sustained climb of over 1500 m and about 10 km each way so it will be a long day. Admire the sheep when you are out there - John Robert Godley, the man who met the first 4 ships, is regarded as the founder of the Canterbury settlement and had a strong influence on the conditions of those early pastoral land leases.	Grade: ModHard (requires snow skills) Closes: 5 Nov Map: BW19 Approx: \$30
---	--

Saturday 7 November Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905  
Tecbruce@gmail.com

Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui

<p><b>Mount Thomas, Grey systems - Okuku (1143m) or Keretu (972m):</b> Over the back of Mount Grey is Keretu and Okuku, either side of the Okuku Pass. Both are on open country, some tracked and some untracked. I intend to knockoff Okuku (1143m) via Pigeon Bush if access is available, and if not, we can view it from Keretu across the Okuku Gorge, a coming overnight summer tramp. Both give great views. Time: 4- 5 hrs. Height: 972 m/1143 m depending on route.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+ Closes: 5 Nov Map: BV23 Approx: \$10</p>
<p>Saturday 7 November <span style="float: right;">Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz</span> Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui</p>	
<p><b>Mt. Lyndon:</b> Mt. Lyndon overlooks Lake Lyndon just beyond Porters Pass. Starting from the south west end of the lake at the Lodge, we climb up to a low saddle and then to the summit, 1489 m. Great views of the surrounding area. 700 m height gain. Return the same way.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 5 Nov Map: BW21 Approx: \$20</p>
<p>Wednesday 11 November <span style="float: right;">Club Night</span></p>	
<p><b>Stoat Trapping on Coal Island, Preservation Inlet, Fiordland:</b> Tonight Warren McKie from the Coal Island Trust will talk about the predator eradication programme running on Coal Island. This is a wonderfully wild part of NZ that few people ever get the chance to visit. Warren will cover a little of the industrial history of Preservation Inlet and Puysegur Point, and what remains there today. Then he will talk about the Trust's formation and work, its achievements with Coal Island so far and how tramping club members could get to see what is left of the industrial era while at the same time helping to maintain Coal Island's predator-free status. Good pre-talk reading is The Fjords of Fiordland or Fiordland Explored by John Hall-Jones, and Moirs Guidebook South. NB: Members are invited to join one of their quarterly pest-control trips, (at own transport cost), so come along and see what's involved.</p>	
<p>Multiday trip 13-21 November <span style="float: right;">Leader: Chris McGimpsey 03 3589125 judychris@xnet.co.nz</span> Departure point: Contact Leader</p>	
<p><b>Lake Nerine:</b> visit Lake Nerine via Sugarloaf Pass, Rock Burn &amp; Park Pass. Returning via the Route Burn North Branch. If weather and time permits a side trip to visit Lake Wilson and a possible trip home via Conical Hill. There will be time to do some side trips on the drive back from Queenstown to help break the long journey home. A lovely alpine camping and tramping trip run at a relaxed pace.</p>	<p>Grade: Hard Closes: 5 Nov Map: CA09 CB08 Approx: \$70</p>

Long Weekend 13-15 November Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545 warwick.dowling@gmail.com
<b>Manakau (2608 m):</b> Leave Chch Friday morning, and walk to campsite near Barrats Biv. Saturday up early and at it for a long day trip to summit and back to camp (1900m height gain). Sunday walk out. Trip weather dependent.	Grade: Mod/Hard Closes: 5 Nov Map: BT27 BT2 Approx: \$35 + Accom
Long Weekend 13-16 November Alternative Date: 20 - 23 November Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Shaun Wong Scott Sutherland 021 234 6847 shaunwong@mail.com
<b>Transalpine Traverse- Hokitika To Rakaia - Weather Dependent:</b> Following requests for a multiday trip, we have finally settled on a 4 day transalpine traverse from Hokitika to the Rakaia during the November period, if weather permits. Day 01: Start from Hokitika Gorge Walk with a wee womble up Whitcombe River to Frew Hut for the night. Day 02: An early ascent up Frew Creek over Frew Saddle and across to Mathias Pass to setup a basecamp; where if time permits, the group shall summit Gerard Peak (2065 m) and return to the basecamp. Day 03: Tracking down Canyon Creek to North Mathias River and setting up camp at Moraine Hut by Blacksmith Point. Day 04: Travel down the Mathias River across to the Rakaia River and finishing at Algidus Road. Notes: This trip is dependent on the weather as there are multiple river crossings and will also require some extensive logistic planning. River crossing, ice axe and crampon skills are essential.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 5 Nov Map: BV18 BV19 BW19 Approx: Circa \$80 plus hut fees
Saturday 14 November	Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com
<b>Coastal Exploring - Banks Peninsula:</b> Starting from Magnet Bay we follow the coastline exploring Murrays Mistake, Jachin Island finishing at Boaz above Tumbledown Bay. More information about these places on tramp. No formal track except what the animals have made for us. Grazed coastal hills with great coastal views of cliffs and bays we don't often visit. Time 4-5 hrs Height: ~100 m	Grade: Easy Closes: 12 Nov Map: BY25 Approx: \$0
Sunday 15 November Departure point: Z (Shell) Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz
<b>Craigieburn Valley/Camp Saddle:</b> The trip starts in the Upper Cave Stream Reserve and follows a track up through mountain beech forest to Lyndon Saddle. The track then follows the Craigieburn Valley, then off track for a 500 m climb up to Camp Saddle. From the saddle, we head along the spur to Point 1525, then a scree descent to Lyndon Saddle. If time permits, we'll aim to make a short, 150 m ascent to Helicopter Hill, before heading back to the cars via the Lyndon Saddle Track. Round trip around 14 km and 700 - 800 m height gain.	Grade: EasyMod+ Closes: 12 Nov Map: BW21 Approx: \$20
Wednesday 18 November	Club Night

**Iceland - The Land of Fire and Ice!:** Iceland - a land of natural beauty and amazing contrasts. Volcanoes and glaciers, mud pools, geysers, waterfalls, fiords and much more! Michel and Hilde will show us some photos from their two weeks hiking, camping and diving trip around Iceland in August last year.

Thursday 19 November Leader: Warwick Dowling  
warwick.dowling@gmail.com  
 Departure point: Cnr Heybridge Ln & Hillsborough Tce

CTC Hill Climb -- 6:15 pm-7:15 pm during daylight saving hours: Meet at 6:15 pm, on the corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace, every Thursday evening during Daylight Saving 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: 8 Oct  
 Map:  
 Approx: Free

Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November Leader: Adrian Busby  
adrian.busby1@gmail.com  
 Departure point: Fire Fighting Pacific, 2-4 Halls PI (off Birmingham Dr) Middleton

**Basic navigation** - Adrian will run a two-part training course intended to give good basic all-round insight into navigation in the mountains. It covers essential aspects of navigation, such as map reading and compass work. The first part will be conducted in the Fire Fighting Pacific, 2-4 Halls Place (off Birmingham Drive) Middleton at 7.00 pm SHARP on Friday night. Then we'll go out on the hills near Little River on Saturday, starting at 9.00 am. You must attend the Friday night session in order to be able to do the field work. You must also put your name on the Trip list since this course always fills rapidly.

Grade: Training  
 Closes: 18 Nov  
 Map:  
 Approx: \$15

Saturday 21 November Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905  
Tecbruce@gmail.com

**Banks peninsula - Nikau Palm Gully:** Travel out past Akaroa on the Kaik bound road till you get to the very end. There are big cliffs here, with seabirds, palm trees and more. Acclaimed as one of the best forest remnants in the province. The size and number of nikau palms will amaze. Time: 5hrs.

Grade: Easy  
 Closes: 3 Dec  
 Map: BX25  
 Approx: \$25

Saturday 21 November		Leader: David Sutton 0211808081 Davidlsutton@yahoo.co.uk	
<p><b>Garnet Peak:</b> It is near Mon Sex Millia. Park where state highway 7 crosses Matagouri Stream. Climb the ridge on the true right of Matagouri Stream to Pt 1720. Follow the ridge to Garnet Peak. Descend via Pt 1642 and Pt 1373.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 19 Nov Map: BU23 Approx: \$40</p>	
Wednesday 25 November		Club Night	
<p><b>Newsletter Folding and Trip Planning:</b> Come along, chat, help with folding club newsletters and have the opportunity to help plan tramps. Bring your muscles, maps and ideas! There'll be a laptop and projector available to informally show slides from recent club or private trips too. Start the evening at the nearby The Roxx Climbing Centre. Meet about 5.30, find a CTC buddy and climb till 7.30pm. We get industry prices, just show your CTC membership card.</p>			
Thursday 26 November		Leader: Warwick Dowling warwick.dowling@gmail.com	
Departure point: Cnr Heybridge Ln & Hillsborough Tce			
<p><b>CTC Hill Climb -- 6:15 pm-7:15 pm during daylight saving hours:</b> Meet at 6:15 pm, on the corner of Heybridge Lane off Hillsborough Terrace, every Thursday evening during Daylight Saving 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: 8 Oct Map: Approx: Free</p>	
Saturday 28 November		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz	
<p><b>Middle Rock - Conical Hill:</b> Enjoy afternoon tea with an easy day tramp on the Rakaia River terraces. In this variation, we lunch on top of Conical Hill (Dry Acheron Walkway), reached from Middle Rock Station. Easy social tramp, generally on well maintained farm tracks. Great views of the Alps, Mt Hutt Range and Lake Coleridge. Afternoon tea (\$10), provided at Middle Rock Station by the hosts. More at <a href="http://www.middlerock.co.nz">www.middlerock.co.nz</a>. Time: 4 hours + afternoon tea. Height gain 400 m.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy/Social Closes: 26 Nov Map: BX20 BW20 Approx: \$20 + \$10</p>	
Weekend 28-29 November		Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 Tecbruce@gmail.com	
<p><b>Lake Sumner / Jollie Brook Loop:</b> This classic easy scenic tramp close to Christchurch that is well worth trying. Meet at Z station in the morning and drive to the start of the track off Lake Sumner Rd, Travel along the Hurunui River till Gabriel Hut Then up the Gabriel Stream over the saddle then down to the Jollie Brook Hut. Stay there for the night. The following day, return down the Jollie Brook track (wet feet) back to the start of the trail and time permitting a detour to the Cold Stream Hut. Ideal tramp for first overnights. Height gain 300m. Some easy river travel, you will get wet feet. River skills not needed. Remember to use a dry bag. Pot luck tea Saturday Night.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Mod Closes: 19 Nov Map: BU23 BV23 Approx:</p>	

Sunday 29 November Leader: Bryce Williamson 351-6366  
bryce.williamson68@gmail.com

**Black Rock, 1714m, Puketeraki Range:** This peak is above the northern part of the Lees Valley, and will probably be approached from the Hawarden (east) side. Bryce may have in mind a loop, following a stream out, so see him for details. This is possibly a new trip for the club, or at least rarely visited by the CTC, so come along and celebrate it with Bryce. Height gain ~1100 m.

Grade: Moderate  
Closes: 26 Nov  
Map: BV22 BV23  
Approx: \$15

Wednesday 2 December Club Night

**Cycle Touring in Samoa (TBC):** Tonight Sue Pearson is talking on her (and Bryce's) recent cycle touring holiday in Samoa. (NB This date is yet to be confirmed)

Saturday 5 December Leader: Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905  
Tecbruce@gmail.com

**Banks peninsula - Okana Valley:** Bruce spotted this one from the CTC Prices Valley Tramp back in June. Opposite the Packhorse track in Kaituna Valley is the Okana Stream with some bush and about 500 m height gain. It's on and off track, with a few animal tracks for good measure. Looping down a farm track after lunching on the top (~500 m) with views out over Lake Ellesmere, the southern plains, Kaituna Valley and more. Time: 4-5 hrs Height Gain: ~500 m.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 19 Nov  
Map: BX24  
Approx: \$10

Sunday 6 December 7:30am start Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360  
newmike@slingshot.co.nz

**Gabriel Hut/Lake Sumner:** The cute little Gabriel Hut is reached from a track starting at the Sisters Stream on the Lake Sumner Road. From the swing bridge crossing the Hurunui River, the track traverses a series of ancient river terraces, making it an easy walk to the hut with little height gain. From the hut, there is the option of a short walk to Lake Sumner. Return the same way. Note the earlier start time of 7:30 am.

Grade: Easy  
Closes: 3 Dec  
Map: BU23  
Approx: \$25

Wednesday 9 December Club Night

**Travelling in Cambodia:** Tonight Rex and Greta Vink are going to talk about their recent trip to Cambodia. A talk description to follow.

Saturday 12 December		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz	
<p><b>Hawdon Hut:</b> This trip will start at the Hawdon Shelter in Arthur's Pass National Park. Cross the Hawdon River and pick up the track on the edge of the river terraces, following the Hawdon River upstream through delightful glades and open river flats. The track stays near the river bed all the way so the total height gain is about 80 m. Look forward to lunch at the spacious Hawdon Hut next to the river with great views and return the same way.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 10 Dec Map: BV21 Approx: \$25</p>	
Wednesday 16 December		Club Night	
<p><b>Plate and Crate:</b> Pre-Christmas catch-up with food and drinks (BYO) to be held at the club rooms. More details to follow. Please note that this is the last club night until January 13th 2016.</p>			
Long Weekend 28-31 December		Leader: Chris McGimpsey 03 3589125	
Departure point: Contact Leader		judychris@xnet.co.nz	
<p><b>Motatapu Track - Arrowtown to Wanaka:</b> Need to work off your Xmas lunch? Why not try the Motatapu Track. If numbers permit the trip shall be run as a cross over trip. Starting from the northern junction of Wanaka-Mount Aspiring and Motatapu Rds, and traverse to the Southern junction of Villiers St and Buckingham St, Arrowtown with a total distance of approximately 48km and creature comforts at the three purpose built huts on the trail. Rewards the lucky trampers with some remarkable landscapes and monumental hill lines.</p>		<p>Grade: Mod/Hard Closes: 17 Dec Map: CA12 Approx:</p>	
Multi day trip 3-10 January		Leader: Chris McGimpsey 03 3589125	
Departure point: Contact Leader		judychris@xnet.co.nz	
<p><b>Shotover Saddle - Cascade Saddle loop:</b> Over the Shotover saddle and down to explore Lochnagar. We will return via the Cascade saddle, perhaps with some side trips thrown in for good measure.</p>		<p>Grade: Mod/Hard Closes: 24 Dec Map: Approx: Approx \$60 + Hut fees</p>	
Multi day trip 6-12 February Can be anywhere in February or March.		Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545	
Departure point: Contact Leader		warwick.dowling@gmail.com	
<p><b>Gardens of Eden and Allah (Glacier trip):</b> This trip has now closed, as numbers are limited. A waiting list has opened. If you are interested in this trip please contact the trip leader. Glacier rope skills required. The dates may shift in February or March to suit the weather, so flexible annual leave will be very handy. This trip will only go when &amp; if the weather is suitable.</p>		<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 28 Jan Map: BW17 BW18 Approx: Contact Leader</p>	

---

# Trip Reports

---

26-27 September 2015

## Intermediate Snow Craft Refresher W/E - Arthurs Pass

Two car loads of snow-craft enthusiasts took off on Saturday morning and following a discussion over lattes at Springfield on exactly where we should head to for that days fun in the snow, it was agreed that Cheeseman Ski field was the logical choice. We could simply step from the cars onto the snow (unlike Temple Basin) and most of us had been there recently and knew it would probably have enough snow to play in – so off we went.

The drivers emptied their cars of folk and paraphernalia at the Snowline Lodge and we geared-up for the day's activities. We bumped into Bill and Pip at the lodge who had just arranged with the mountain to have their post redirected to their winter-retreat snow cave digs located at the top of the main T-Bar. Shaun reconfirmed our intentions with the office before we traversed east over to the area below the ski run called Shamus' way (about 1450m). There were two ideal gullies with adequate snow (depth and quality) for us to practice various key elements we had learnt on the recent Intermediate Snow Craft weekends at Temple Basin. We split into three groups of three (Tom, Karen, Elizabeth; Shaun, Gort, Josh and Eric, David and Rodger) and practiced our snow anchors (stakes, axes, shovels and bollards) and pitching (belaying) on and up the slopes. It was good experience to trial the different types of anchors in the snow condition present on the day (non-"sticky" – a bit like sugar it would not bind under foot to form a larger solid snow mound – which was a limiting factor to consider). Eric, I'm guessing used his considerable experience from his tug-of-war days, dislodged an anchor by doing a horizontal leg squat in the snow while tethered to what I believe was an ice axe – it was difficult to confirm what it was as it spat out of the snow with such a blur of speed that it would have even impressed the army ballistics division. Lucky there was no damage done by what turned out to be an ice axe as it made a soft landing on Eric's chest, just below his chin. The learnings never stop. We called it quits late afternoon and headed to the club hut for tea and to plot our next day's sortie. Dinner was the usual tramper's hut version of MKR accompanied by a few refreshments which ultimately lead to nominations for what to do on Sunday. The group reaffirmed their democratic leanings by agreeing to de-merge into two groups; group one being further snow-craft practice and group two also being further snow-craft practice but higher in the same area (Mt Rolleston). As every mountaineer knows the best time to traverse snow is when it's still hard (frozen) – which regrettably meant more Henry Kissinger type group negotiations on getting everyone to agree to getting up at the outrageous time of 4.30am. I'm still not sure what time it really was because between the 9 of us in the hut there were at least 9 proposals on when to set the alarm as daylight saving was due to start on the Sunday morning. I fairly sure someone set their alarm one hour the wrong way (early) as it woke me up from my half sleep (it really felt like the night before Christmas to me). Anyway with a consensus of phone alarms chiming I knew the real "get-up now" time had arrived so I quickly got up, roused the others who were trying to ignore the inevitable, cooked and polished off breakie. We stepped from the two cars at Otira Valley car park at 6.15am. With headlights on we bobbed our way like the 7 dwarfs (although we were actually 9) in the twilight up the valley to the snow. Crampons were donned after the bridge in the dawn of a brilliant early morning, with stunning soft glows of colour on the neighbouring peaks. As a single group we carried on up the valley and around the ridge (left) to the base of the Otira Slide. We continued at a slower pace up the slope stopping occasionally to discuss conditions, the route and intentions. About halfway up the slope the single group started to form into the two sub-groups – as discussed the previous night.

At the top of the slide, on the Goldney ridge, the group one guys decided they had gone far enough and carried on with their snow craft work on the slope while the group two members with the necessary skills to ascend Mt Rolleston (Low Peak - 2212m) reaffirmed their willingness to continue. By this stage group two consisted of Tom, Elizabeth, Eric and Rodger; with the three newer CTC members having completed the Intermediate Snow Craft course this winter. Tom was the guide (having climbed the Low Peak more times than he can remember!) and thus considering the snow conditions



*Goldney Ridge*

(good – no signs of avalanche risk) and team experience, chose the “climbers preferred” ascent which is straight up via the icefield to the couloir, right along Goldney ridge, then across and up the steep snow/ice wall to the lone “finger” rock pinnacle which is very obvious even from the head of the valley floor. The Low Peak is just beyond the pinnacle. It all sounded perfectly reasonable to us – until we started the climb. It became immediately obvious why two technical hand tools were essential – you are effectively crawling up the ice using both feet and both hands – you must maintain a minimum of three points of contact with the snow at all times – having one axe only provides two points (you lose one anchor point each time you reposition it). Although the trip up to the top from the col only took about 45 minutes it was incredibly tiring; the added exertion of driving in and carefully pulling out the ice axes one move at a time used arm muscles that have been in retirement for years. The helmet provided the added benefit of supporting your upper body against the snow (via your head!) to allow you to have a breather – I certainly needed one every few minutes. The other taxing thing was the intense concentration required and the ongoing decisions needed – you’re managing a number of activities like assessing foot and axe plants for adequate purchase, continually looking up for the best snow and route, looking up and down and communicating with others, looking around to check on looming obstacles etc; these all factor in to the overall risk management of what you’re doing. We arrived at the Low Peak as a single group, handshakes all around and sat down to take in the stunning views including the magnificent Crow Neve and Glacier which extends from the Low to the High Peaks and over to Avalanche Pk – where for me the climb all started. Mt Rolleston is very much an Arthurs Pass favourite with climbers, evident by the fact that there were already two other groups at the top, plus another group ascending High Peak via ropes and yet another group making their way over via Rome Ridge – quite a hub-bub of activity.

Following a team discussion the initial descent included two pitches from the top via a 70m rope belayed by Tom who was secured to two load-sharing snow stakes. Elizabeth abseiled first and placed the bottom anchors for the next pitch. The benefit of the reversing Italian Hitch came to the fore as once one belayer reached the lower point the next guy could tie-on at the top without changing the belay knot (the hitch would flip-over in the ‘biner to provide resistance in the other direction). The two pitches put us below the steepest part of the ice face and from there we front-footed with both axes down to the Col. Once re-grouped we carried on with a bit more face-in decent and then took advantage of the now very soft snow



*On the Low Peak of Rolleston*

for a long and in some places steep bum-slide down the “Slide” to the head of the valley. We re-joined the rest of the crew at the hut around 4.30 pm for a cuppa.

Footnote: For me at least and I think the same goes from listening to the other “newbies”, the climb of Mt Rolleston Low Peak was far from an impromptu decision made on the spur of the moment while we just happened to be gathered within its mighty shadow. When I first looked over to Mt Rolleston from an earlier trip with the club to Avalanche Peak I quietly made a promise

to myself that one day I would have a go at that impressive peak. After looking into the skills needed for that endeavour and discussing the climb with several others at the club, I added alpine and snow craft training courses to my tramping skills to better prepare myself to safely attempt that peak and other possible climbs. The recent intermediate snow craft course I completed was invaluable for this climb in both the technical aspects and the teamwork skills learnt that are needed for alpine trips and climbs.

Participants: Tom, Rodger (scribe), Elizabeth, Eric, Shaun, Gort, David, Karen and Josh.

---

3-4 October 2015

## **Kaikoura Trip**

In my last trip report, I said all leaders lied about the route and the pot of gold at the end. Our leader Gandalf, aka Bruce, did not lie on this trip as there was no route planned other than we knew we were going to Kaikoura. As a group of 5 including Bruce, we collectively made some decisions and ended up having a brilliant time!

We met at the usual time and place on Saturday morning and drove to Cleverley. We parked up, took day-sacks and went on a 3.5 hour round jaunt from Cleverley to Spy Glass Point. Along the way we saw many, many sea lions and had some beautiful views of the snow-capped mountains behind the sea. Lunch was enjoyed on a cliff.

After this we made our way to Kaikoura town where we had an interesting hour. Bruce got a free sausage sizzle whilst a holy band were singing their praises to Jesus as well as us witnessing some of the locals getting into a fight which included one of the vehicles having the window smashed in with a hammer. From here we swiftly made our way to Mt Fyffe car park.

The 5 of us left the car park at 16:00 and arrived at Mt Fyffe hut (1100m) in 2 groups. The first in 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours and the other group only 20 minutes behind. The walk was all up hill and made bearable with some fantastic views of the Kaikoura Peninsula and some amazing sunny weather. Oh and some gummy bear sweeties baited by Ivo to encourage us in the last hour or so.

Once at the hut, I did my usual headstand stance with a lovely backdrop of the scenery. The 2 tents were then put up (I was the only one that stayed in a tent whilst the others slept in the hut), then a few photographs were taken of the sunset, then dinner followed by a jolly good laugh for several hours afterwards. There were several other non-CTC members both tenting and also staying in the hut.

No full moon for Bruce although he did wake up at precisely 03:23 and asked Karen if she wanted a coffee (not sure how the other hut residents felt about that wake-up call but he didn't talk again until about 06:00). 06:30 we were up to see the sunrise although Ivo and James

decided to go up Mt Fyffe to get a better view. They came back to the hut conveniently over 90 minutes later where the rest of us had started to clean and pack things away.

09:00 we left the hut in 2 groups. Karen and Bruce decided on going back down the same way they came the previous day whilst the others decided to do the Spaniard Spur, a 5 hour trip via the Kowhai River. Armed with a PLB and Map in hand, off we went setting off down quite a steep track. In fact it felt like we walked over a cliff, when you looked down from above it and looked up from below it! It took 70 minutes to reach the river and then we started on our way following the orange markers. Not long into it and we lost the markers but knew we had to be on the left side of the river. Every time we saw a little mound of delicately placed rocks, we knew / hoped we were on the right track. 5 hours after we left the hut and 7 river crossings later, we arrived back at the car park. I think I can safely say that we had an interesting, good bonding and morale boosting walk.

14:45 all 5 of us we were eating fish and chips whilst enjoying the company of lots of seals, before heading back home. The journey back home was extremely windy but we all almost made it back safe and sound at 18:00.

Fatalities – Kellys camera – drowned. Ivo's tramping pole – MIA.

Weather – amazing the whole trip!

Scribe – Kelly Purdie. Leader – Gandalf aka Bruce Cameron. Participants – Karen, James, Ivo.

---

10-11 October 2015

## **Mt Valiant, Arthurs Pass**

### **Mt Valiant, EI 1847, Topo map BV21**

Seven keen trampers (Tom (Leader), Jonathon, Natasha, Noel, Eric, Max and Rodger) stowed away into two cars and traversed west via the "Old West Coast Road", first to Sheffield to pick up Max (and tuck into the fabulous pies and slices at the local Pie shop) then on towards the club favoured stomping ground being the Arthurs Pass National Park. Turning right off the main road 20 kms shy of Arthurs Pass we crossed the railway line and Mt White bridge over the Waimak' and parked up at the Hawdon valley carpark that defines the starting point of the many walks in this area. With boots on, gear checked and packs slung on to our backs we headed north up the alluvial Hawdon river bed at just after 10am. Several river-crossings later (knee deep and not too cold) we altered course at a sizable tributary to head up the East Hawdon Stream which would lead us to our humble accommodation being the East Hawdon Bivouac. This remaining tramp from the river junction to the hut saw us switched from boulder-hopping along the stream to popping up into the beach forest, all in beautiful sunny conditions. We arrived at the hut after 4 brisk hours of travel and 400 meters height gain at just after 2pm. As luck would have it there was no room at the inn, 4 young fellas had arrived before us which meant the tents that Tom had sagely advised to take with us sprang up in a nice little clearing near the hut – Occupy East Hawdon Bivouac was established. The East Hawdon Stream valley leads directly to the base of Mt Valiant – which from the hut is a very impressive peak mainly due to it having pride of place all by its self. We gazed up at the rocky crags and quickly decided we would stick to the original plan of climbing the peak on the Sunday. The rest of the day was spent relaxing, cooking dinner and eventually meeting our hut-dwelling neighbours. We tried our best to extinguish their outdoor fire by piling it with waterlogged wood, but we were non-to subtly brought to line when two of our new friends showed us how to scavenge the local area for bone-dry wood which quickly got the fire fair roaring along. We agreed to an early start (6.30 depart) to take advantage of the frozen snow and once we reached Tom's bedtime promise of 8pm we departed the fireplace like dominos.

Our dawn breakfast devoured we headed out by continuing up the now little East Hawdon stream, then into scrub, then onto scree, then arriving to fingers of icy snow on the west side of the mountain. We donned crampons and helmets and carried on – Max nobly leading the way mainly because no one could keep up with him. One great thing about cramponing up good solid snow is you can gain altitude pretty quickly, which is what we did, summiting before 9am (height gain from the tents about 800m). The views from the Arthurs Pass mountains are never disappointing with the outlooks from the large Mt Valiant



*A most Valiant mountain model*

top truly spectacular – in all directions. The morning was glorious, the low sun casting great shadows that made for picture-postcard photo opportunities – with Noel becoming the mountain model in very Mont Blanc - European poses, all very impressive stuff. We picked out a few of our favourite peaks – Rolleston of course, and marvelled at the scenery for some time. We headed down, a little bit of front-pointing needed just below the top, and arrive back at base camp at 10.40, the return trip taking precisely 3 hours 59 minutes, not bad. Tom added our achievements in the hut book – stating the climb was highly recommended.

After an early lunch we packed up and took off down the river to civilisation. We bumped into a couple of young researchers working for Lincoln Uni who provided us with a great summary of how the Kiwi population is going in the area. The families of birds (there were several families occupying bush areas all down the valley) and they said the population is slowly spreading – which is great to hear. A couple in the tramping group heard Kiwi's calling in the night and Jonathon spotted Kiwi footprints in the sand by the river. The area is obviously fairly special due to it also being a habitat for the rare Orange Fronted Parakeet, further supported by the fact that we bumped into 3 DOC folk visiting the valley plus we saw several stoat traps along the track.

I couldn't locate the origin of the naming of this peak as "Mount Valiant" but to view it from the valley approach you can understand how the mountain is deserving of its name. It was a great overnighter with fantastic scenery, a great mountain and inspiring mountain-top views, a destination worthy of future trips.

---

11 October 2015

## **Big Ben Range: Lyndon Road to 13 Mile Bush**

*or 20 trampers, 16 km, one fire, and several 111 calls*

Some of us have learned to be somewhat cautious when approaching anywhere near Benmore with Bryce, especially with an interesting forecast for the winds... However, a nice straightforward crossing from the Lyndon Road side of the Big Ben Range via Rabbit Hill, along the Northern arm of the Ben More horseshoe, and down via Ben More Hut and 13 Mile Bush ... What can possibly go wrong?

Well, ascending to the Ben More horseshoe from the demoralising saddle that followed our triumphant conquest of Rabbit Hill, smoke became discernable on the southern flanks of pt 1170 at the end of Lake Lyndon. Ascending a bit higher, flames became visible, followed by a lot more smoke...

At this point a psychologist could have had a very interesting time monitoring the reactions of 20 trampers. A number of groupings were apparent: Group 1 - snatch out cell phone and try to call 111 (also try to maintain rate of ascent as fast as possible at the same time, while

reserving enough breath to convince emergency services that this is not a heavy-breathing nuisance call, and not falling over); Group 2 - display expert knowledge of fires including possibility of anyone starting a controlled (sic) burnoff with such a wind forecast and detailed exposition of behaviour to be expected from this particular conflagration; Group 3 - start animated discussion of possible much more interesting (ie, criminal/careless/supernatural) possible origins of the fire (the majority of this group focussing on the mysterious activities of a vehicle that swept past us at high speed as we were gearing up at the cars and which might then have possibly been seen somewhat closer to the start of the fire); Group 4 - ignore fire almost totally and continue whatever other conversation had been going on.

Some additional confusion was occasioned by those who bounced like practised politicians from group to group in order not miss any angle.

After a somewhat ragged regrouping around pt 1327 it was decided that Michel, who had bounded effortlessly up everything that entailed an up so far, should have charge of Richard's cell phone and, clutching the precious device, should make as good a pace as possible for the high point where everyone (who did not have to put in as much effort as Michel) was



*Lunchtime entertainment*

convinced there would be cell phone reception. He was followed by a few lesser mortals, also carrying cell phones, as back up. Thereafter, technical discussion being exhausted and any idea of a controlled burn-off being negated by manifest lack of control in the department of the fire creeping up the slopes of pt 1170, most of us relapsed into Groups 3 or 4.

Michel made it to the transmitter at pt 1660 in record time and put through the vital call... Then the conflicting sense of relief that the fire service already know about it and annoyance that we are not the saviours of the Canterbury High Country from a black and charred future as charcoal and insurance claims. Naturally someone passing on the road has already phoned it

in. Presumably also someone was keeping an eye on it because, although we were eagerly watching for a helicopter and monsoon bucket (possibly plural) for several hours afterwards, none appeared and the fire seemed to retire into the state of sullen sulky smouldering crossness that seemed very understandable when a really good flamboyant start had not ended with heroic firecrews and network news.

The heroic 20 trampers then concentrated on the most important things - lunch and watching some gliders disporting themselves nearby, and then headed off down the spur towards Benmore Hut. The track through the bush is in pretty good condition considering the windfall and we made good progress and had time for a good break in the sun at the hut. The car drivers were then dispatched first to recover the cars from the Lyndon Road (the more canny of those drivers then handed the keys on to the first other trumper who wanted to pass ...) and the rest of us straggled out through the bush and then the long march through farmland to bring us to the 13 Mile Bush carpark. For me this was considerably enlivened by Li Li's impassioned and highly technical discussion with Fez about ways to mitigate the smell of durian enough for her to be able to eat it in the comfort of her own home without her flatmates threatening a rent strike or appeal under some UN convention on human olfactory rights.

Trampers: Bryce Williamson, Chris McGimpsey, Jeremy MacCormack, Greg Hill, Lindsay Walton, Debbie Bevins, Caroline Salazzo, Arnur Iskaliyeu, Karen Tait, Janey Thomas, Roger Thomas, Li Li, Michel Holleman, Antony Fairbanks, Bassam Maghzal, Sarah Maghzal, Richard Lobb, Jenny Harlow, Alan Ross, Virginia Kneebone.

---

# Classifieds

**Classified Ads:** Free building demolition wood suitable as firewood. From a 1940's house. Located in Cashmere. Please phone Michele: 9607538 or 0274075439

---

## More about the CTC

### Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	<i>Overnight Trip</i>	Shaun Wong	021 234 6847
<i>Vice President:</i>	Andrea Zahn	382 1044	<i>Organiser:</i>		
<i>Secretary:</i>	Angela Lowery	0220889370	<i>Social</i>	Kay Taylor	03358-4580
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Natasha Sydorenko	0223140684	<i>Convenor:</i>		
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Kate Taylor	980-8224	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Bernhard Parawa	337 3125
<i>New Members</i>			<i>Editor:</i>	Karen Tait	027 520 6464
<i>Rep:</i>	Chris McGimpsey	03 3589125	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Gareth Caves	03 9808 224
<i>Day Trip</i>			<i>IT Convenor:</i>	Richard Lobb	351-2344
<i>Organiser:</i>	Warwick Dowling	021 35 4545	<i>Access Officer:</i>	Michele Hood	027 331 4779

**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 Gareth Caves 03 9808 224; or if he's away, Steve Bruerton 322 6196; or if they're both away, Rex Vink 3525329. 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, Gareth Caves.

**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 November 2015 – Thanks.