



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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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 \$50 member, \$70 couple, \$30 junior or associate, with a \$10 discount for members who opt to obtain this newsletter electronically.

On Goat Hill - Kay Taylor's Arthur's Pass base camp trip. Photo: Michael Hammond

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 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 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. Please note that formalities start at 7:50 pm sharp, and if there is a guest speaker, he/she will start at 8 pm sharp.

Wednesday 25 October	Club Night
Newsletter Folding Evening: Newsletter folding, Lightning talk and general catch-up with refreshments as per usual.	
Saturday 28 October Departure point: Z Station Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz
Hogsback/Dracophyllum Flat: From the access road just west of Castle Hill Village, Hogsback Track follows the Long Spur ridgeline, then through beech forest, crossing Long Creek and Waterfall Creek. We then go off track up to Hogsback itself (1,032m), traversing the ridge before dropping down and crossing Hogsback Creek. Up to Long Spur and re-join the track back to the cars. A mix of on and off-track tramping. Round trip around 15kms, 400m height gain.	Grade: Easy Mod Closes: 26 Oct Map: BW21 Approx: \$20
Saturday 28 October	Leader: Bill Johnson 022 049 3453 bill@billjohnson.nz
Mt Storm: On the other side of the Ashley Gorge, Mt Storm is 1254m high. This is a trip that the club has not done in a long time. We will ascend 800m one of the Eastern ridges, and possibly do a loop trip for a change in scenery.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Oct Map: BW22 Approx:
Weekend 28-29 October Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
Casey Tarn and Pt 2140: Pt 2140 in the Birdwood Range may not sound very special but this peak stands above all the surrounding peaks and will give outstanding views out to the main divide. Walk in via Triangle creek and camp at Casey tarn before scrambling up the peak	Grade: Moderate Closes: 19 Oct Map: BW20 Approx: \$40

Sunday 29 October	Leader: Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070 judychris@xnet.co.nz
<p>TORTIS tour #21: beginners guide to getting lost and what to do about it, plus some general navigation & bushcraft skills. Bring your normal day pack & gear, a good lunch and a sense of humour - some pre-torn clothes may be usefull as the trip does involve some bush bashing. Bring your GPS and/or compass if you have one , but it is not essential because they will be provided for the navigation part of the exercise. We will stop at the Rangiora pub for tea and a debrief on the way home NB This is the last TORTIS tour for 2017</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate - easy pace Closes: 26 Oct Map: Approx: \$20</p>
Wednesday 1 November Club Night	
<p>A China Adventure - Hiking and Caving at Tiger Leaping Gorge: Tonight club members Nick and Kayleigh are talking about a caving and hiking trip to Yunnan province in China. They hiked the spectacular Tiger Leaping Gorge, widely considered the best hike in China, and one of the most impressive gorges in the world. It's located on the Jinsha River, a main tributary of the Yangtze River. Of course Nick and Kayleigh explored some of the caves in the region too. Come along for a peek at one of China's most wild regions.</p>	
Saturday 4 November	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz
<p>Prebble Hill: Prebble Hill (902m) is a nice little bump to the north of the Torlesse Range and in the middle of a limestone area. The trip will start opposite the Castle Hill Scenic Reserve and follow a farm track, then the true right of the Porter River. From there, follow the escarpment up to the summit of Prebble Hill. The return trip offers a great opportunity to explore all the beautiful limestone formations. Around 5kms each way and 200m height gain.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+ Closes: 2 Nov Map: BW21 Approx: \$20</p>
Weekend 4-5 November Leader: Eric Skea skea.eric@gmail.com Departure point: Contact Leader	
<p>Mt Armstrong, Carrington Peak: Stay Friday night in Arthur's Pass. On Saturday, gain Waimakariri Col via the Rolleston River, climb Mt Armstrong, and stay in Waimakariri Falls Hut. On Sunday, either climb Carrington Peak or enjoy a lie-in, then walk out to Klondyke Corner.</p>	<p>Grade: Hard Closes: 26 Oct Map: BV20 Approx: Approx \$35 + hut fees</p>

Weekend 4-5 November Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Bernhard Parawa 337 3125
Townsend Hut: I really can't recommend this hut enough. Its sits in a beautiful location overlooking the Taramakau River. Continue along the ridge past Mt Koeti and then down the track to Lake Kaurapataka.	Grade: Moderate Closes: 26 Oct Map: BU20 BU21 BV21 Approx: Approx \$40 + hut fee

Sunday 5 November	Leader: Michael Hammond 02108414764 mbahammond@hotmail.com
Hallelujah Flat: Just upstream of the bridge near Andrews Shelter, a marked track begins on the true left and climbs through open scrub to the beech forests above. It continues to climb but then meanders across regular side creeks, while generally keeping much to the same contour. Eventually it rejoins Andrews Stream at Hallelujah Flat (about 2 hr 30 min from the shelter)	Grade: Easy Closes: 2 Nov Map: BV21 Approx:

Wednesday 8 November	Club Night
Predator Free NZ 2050: Predator Free NZ 2050 is a plan to eradicate vermin from NZ forests by 2050. Anita Spencer, Senior Ranger for DOC is coming to talk about the work being done by Predator Free 2050: the different traps available, community projects in Sumner and the Summit Road, access to Govt funding and project support. If the club, or club members wish to become involved in back country (or back yard) predator control, this talk will be very interesting.	

Weekend 11-12 November Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Steve Bruerton 322-6196
Pito Peak: Pito peak is 2401m high and sits on the true right of the South Branch Ashburton River. A good chance to practice your snow skills before summer arrives.	Grade: Moderate+ (requires snow skills) Closes: 2 Nov Map: BW18 BX18 BW19 Approx: Approx \$35 + hut fees

Weekend 11-12 November Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Joshua Johnson
<p>Tasman Glacier: Depart Friday afternoon (Nov 10th) staying in Mt Cook Village. Set out for Tasman Glacier, Saturday morning Nov 11th (descending the moraine wall, near Ball Flat Hut). Glacier Travel up Tasman Glacier through Saturday, tenting on the Glacier Saturday evening. Sunday, returning the approximate same way we came, and back to ChCh (Nov 12th). Requires glacier travel / crevasse rescue skills (which is the reason for the modhard designation). I will be hosting a refresher session on the above skills, prior to the trip. Trip list closes Nov 3rd.</p>		Grade: ModHard Closes: 2 Nov Map: BX16 Approx: Contact Leader
Wednesday 15 November		Club Night
<p>Exploring the Milford Track: Tonight club member Rob Ferguson is talking about his 3 seasons' as hut warden on the iconic Milford Track. Rob saw it in all weathers and has some great stories to tell. Rob also has historic photos of the track and area too. Come along to see the Milford Track from the comfort of the club rooms!</p>		
Long Weekend 17-19 November Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Bill Johnson 022 049 3453
<p>Almer Hut Franz Josef Glacier: Over night trip to historic Almer Hut overlooking the stunning Franz Josef Glacier. Well leave Fri evening and stay at a backpackers or camp in Franz Josef. Sat morning we'll helicopter up to Almer Hut. Options from there include climbing St Mildred or Drummond peak (hard option) or just hanging out at the hut and enjoying the view (easy option). Other options depending on what the group wants.</p>		Grade: Hard with easier options Closes: 9 Nov Map: BX16 Approx: Contact Leader
Long Weekend 17-19 November Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Andre Eger
<p>Hokitika Gorge: Current plan is to leave Friday night and drive to Hokitika, staying overnight, and start walking on Sat into Cedar Flats Hut for a very early lunch (and a dip in the hot pools?). We then follow the track to Mullins Hut and spend the night there. Sunday we will make our way to Serpentine Hut, crossing the Diedrichs Range from Mullins Hut. Monday we will be using the recently cut track (whatever that means) following the Hokitika River from Serpentine Hut all the way out to the gorge. If the weather is somewhat questionable, we may want to do the trip in reverse to avoid getting trapped by flooded side creeks in the Kakariki Gorge of the Hokitika. Information about the general terrain can be found at the permolat website (http://remotehuts.co.nz/huts/serpentine). Reasonable weather is quite essential.</p>		Grade: Hard Closes: 9 Nov Map: Approx: \$unknown

Weekend 18-19 November Departure point: Z Station Papanui		Leader: Barry Watson
Packhorse Hut: From Diamond Harbour, we will eagerly make our way up to the tallest peak on Banks Peninsula; Mt Herbert (height gain approx 850m) where we will enjoy magnificent views across Lyttelton and the Canterbury Plains. From there we will walk along a well marked and interesting track to the classic and much-loved Packhorse Hut. Here we will enjoy the inside comforts of the hut before retiring to sleep under the stars in our tents. bazzaman7@gmail.com	Grade: Moderate but at an easy pace Closes: 9 Nov Map: BX24 Approx: \$15 plus \$5 DoC hut fee	
Sunday 19 November Departure point: Z Station Papanui		Leader: Michael Hammond 02108414764 mbahammond@hotmail.com
Mount Herbert: The highest point on Banks Peninsula. Great 360 deg views at the top, so close to where we live. A wonderful place to have lunch while drinking in the scenery. We will go in from the Diamond harbour side. An enjoyable walk the whole way. Then coffee at Diamond Harbour afterwards before heading back to town. A great way to finish off the long weekend. Note: 9 am departure.	Grade: Easy+ Closes: 16 Nov Map: BX24 Approx: \$10	
Wednesday 22 November		Club Night
Canadian and Alaskan Road Trip: In September CTC life member and CTC Patron Rex Vink and his wife Greta traveled to North America, met family there and did a road trip through Canada and Alaska. Rex will take us along on their journey through some of the magnificent scenery of these vast countries. I hope some of the older members who know Rex and Greta will be able to come along tonight too!		
Long Weekend 24-26 November Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Andrew Tromans 337-3925
Trudge col: Leave on Friday night for Hawdon Hut. On Saturday climb up to the col and traverse across Rugged Peak, Smooth Peak and Mt Valiant before dropping down to camp at East Hawdon biv. Out early on Sunday. There is a rock step on the way up to the col which will require a certain degree of comfort with exposure. This will be a great trip to a seldom visited corner of Arthur's pass.	Grade: ModHard Closes: 16 Nov Map: BV21 Approx: \$30 + hut fees	

<p>Sunday 26 November Departure point: Z Station Papanui</p>	<p>Leader: Michael Hammond 02108414764 mbahammond@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Mount Barossa: Situated in the Hakatere Conservation area , Mt Barossa is a target well worth achieving. From the top there are incredible views of so many ranges near at hand including Mt Somers and Mt Winterslow. Not a hard climb and we will take it at a leisurely pace.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 23 Nov Map: BX19 Approx: \$25</p>
<p>Wednesday 29 November Club Night</p>	
<p>Newsletter Folding Evening: Newsletter folding, Lightning talk and general catch-up with refreshments as per usual.</p>	
<p>Saturday 2 December Departure point: Z Station Papanui</p>	<p>Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz</p>
<p>Mt. Richardson: This is a lovely 14 km loop in the Canterbury foothills. We start at the Glentui Bush picnic area and go through some mountain beech forest - some steepish sections with a 700m height gain - to Mt Richardson itself (1,047m), and a great panorama over the Canterbury plains and Lees Valley. The return trip follows the Blowhard Track giving an opportunity to walk along the open tops; at about half way along the Blowhard Track, we then descend back into the bush along the Bypass Track and flow the ridge down the eastern side of the Glentui River. On the way back to the cars we can sto and check out the beautiful waterfall on the Glentui River.</p>	<p>Grade: EasyMod Closes: 30 Nov Map: BW22 Approx: \$15</p>
<p>Weekend 2-3 December Departure point: Z Station Papanui</p>	<p>Leader: Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070 judychris@xnet.co.nz</p>
<p>Croesus Hut: The Croesus Track is a loop track running from the Smoke-ho car park near Blackball up a bush covered valley to overnight at the 16 bunk Ces Clark hut which has great views of the Grey Valley. It's is a beautiful 4 - 5 hour walk into the landscape of the Paparoa Ranges. There is plenty of evidence of the local gold mining heritage, and a variety of vegetation and wildlife. There will be time to look around the old gold stamping battery and an opportunity to watch the sun set over the Tasman Sea, if the weather permits. The Croesus Track is one of the few pack tracks on the West Coast that ascends over 1000 m above sea level, and its high points provide excellent views of the Southern Alps and the sea. The walk out on Sunday will be via the skyline ridge route and then down through the bush via a hunter's track to the Smoke-ho car park. It's an ideal tramp for people new to overnight tramping. 7 am departure</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate - easy pace 29th Nov Map: BT19 BT20 Approx: \$45+Hut Fee</p>

Weekend 2-3 December		Leader: Bernhard Parawa 337 3125
Departure point: Z Station Papanui		
<p>Paske Saddle: Leave at 6.30 pm on Friday and proceed to Fowler Hut. Saturday head up the Clarence river to Paske Saddle. On Sunday return to Lake Tennyson and home.</p>	Grade: Moderate	Closes: 23 Nov
	Map: BS24 BT24	Approx: \$30 + hut fees

Wednesday 6 December	Club Night
<p>Te Araroa Trail - North Island: Stefan Fairweather, a 42 year old resident of Christchurch walked the 3000km Te Araroa trail between February and May this year. He started at Cape Reinga on February 1st and made Wellington 56 days later. After a brief period of R&R in the capital, he headed over to Picton and spent the next 42 days walking to Bluff. Aside from some food parcels sent ahead, a few dollars on his EFTPOS card and a very supportive wife, Stefan did the walk completely self supported. In this two-part talk, he will first talk about the many joys of planning such a walk. This required the purchase of toys such as a food dehydrator, and a packraft from the USA which he used on the Northland estuaries and Whanganui River. He will talk about the highlights of his two-month North Island odyssey including the kauri forests of the north, Pureora forest in the Waikato, the Whanganui River and the Tararua Ranges. Stefan will talk about the South Island section of his Te Araroa walk in early 2018.</p>	

Sunday 10 December		Leader: Alan Ross 384-6425
Departure point: Z Station Papanui		
<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. You need a weekend pack at least 15kg in weight. You must be a current member to come on the course. Approx 1pm to 4 pm. Depart 12.45 pm</p>	Grade: Training	Closes: 7 Dec
	Map:	Approx:

Wednesday 13 December	Club Night
<p>End of Year Christmas Party /Last Meeting for 2017: Put this date in your calendar, it's the Annual Christmas Get-Together and the last social function of the year. To be held at the club rooms, Warwick will be opening the doors at 6.00pm and members are asked to bring a plate and liquid refreshments of their choice. A non-alcoholic punch (of the liquid variety!) will be provided. Friends and family most welcome. See you there!</p>	

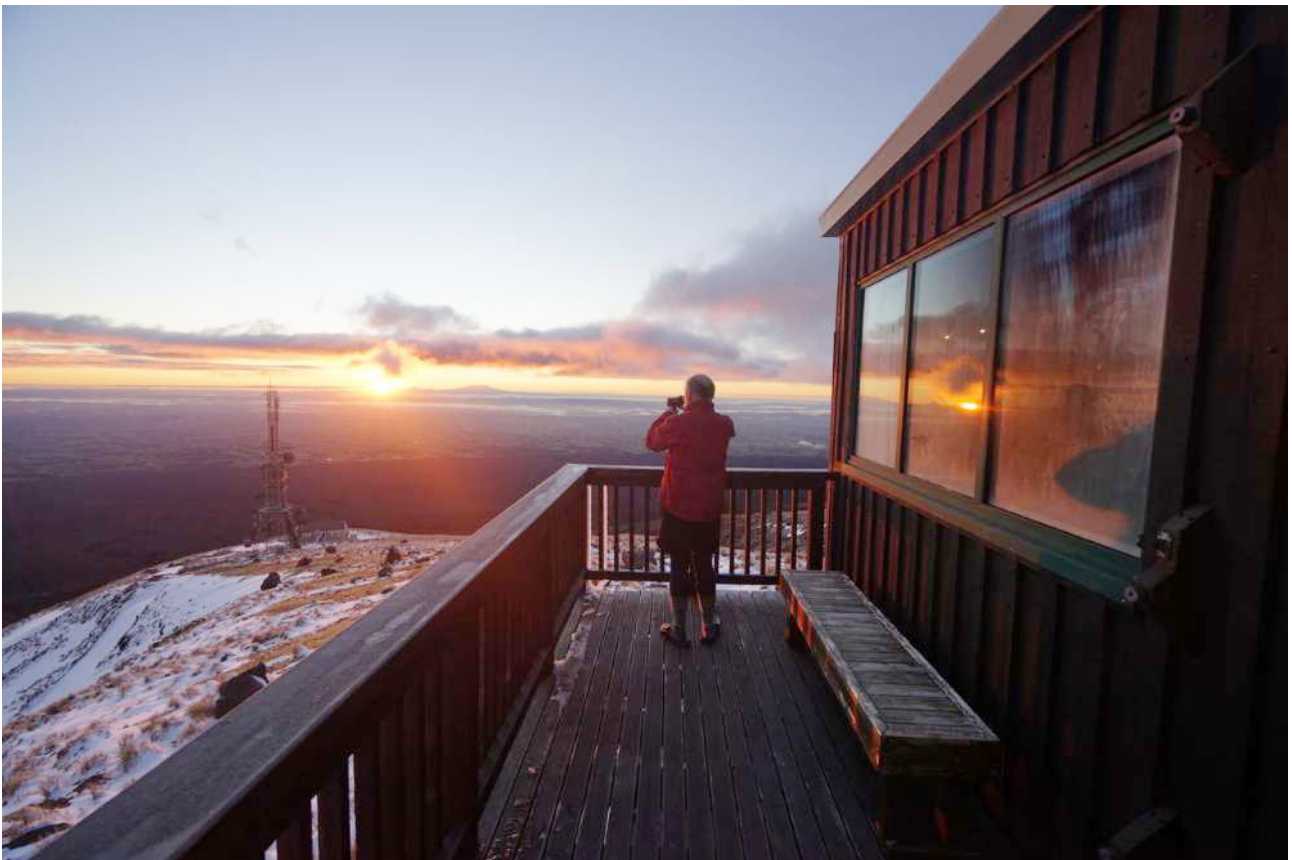
Trip Reports

4 September 2017

Rescue on Taranaki

Reprinted from the facebook page - Bill Johnson, Tomyu Hu, Byce Williamson & Jonathan Carr

On Bill's recent North Island trip we got to use some of that extra gear we often carry around.. wondering why our packs are so heavy whilst others skip past with little more than a shopping bag..



Clear skies at sunrise

This came about when a climber went sliding and then tumbling out of control just 200m below the summit of Taranaki.

Although the day started fine, the cloud came in early and then it whited out with 10m visibility if you were lucky. Although not high angle slopes, it was very icy.. and on Naki you can slide a long way!

The victim was lucky that we had just descended off the poled route into the catchment which did not end in terminal bluffs...

It wasn't nice seeing someone shoot past you and disappear in to the cloud... I remember saying it felt worse to watch someone fall and be helpless than to be the one falling...

Tom was pretty quick with "Nah, I'd rather it be him!"

It took more than 20 mins of descending to find him... and we had to slow down to keep in sight of each other. With much relief, after a bit of descending, I could hear him shouting out below in the cloud somewhere...

We incrementally homed in.. passing various bits of debris.. a glove, a water bottle.. ice axe, frames of glasses.. and miraculously the lenses.. plus the odd splodge of blood.

Fortunately he was conscious and standing... soft snow did the arresting in this 250m fall... David, as we soon learned, even thought he was OK... but it became apparent he was a bit confused.

Bill called the police on the 111 system (we did have a beacon).. but best to have a conversation if you can!

Although David seemed OK.. a bit bloodied and bruised etc we decided to put him in a harness and prepare to belay him down. Tom swapped his more appropriate crampons with our new friend's clip-ons (which had been "attached" to what looked more like a hi-tech soft summer boot!).

We knew a chopper wouldn't be able to come... and we still had 500m to descend to Taurangi lodge.

The Police erred on caution and wanted us to wait until a paramedic could get to us and do an assessment,

It was 11:30am now.. so we weren't under time pressure.. but it was beginning to snow intermittently.

A shelf was cut out of the snow/ice... down jackets and all gear on... Then Bill got out his light weight thermal coated bivy bag - it proved very valuable! So soon we had him out of the wind and elevated off the snow wearing, I think Bill's, extra jacket. He was shivering in shock.

Then the longish wait... 4hrs+? But we had all the gear to sit tight comfortably... and we felt the sun through the cloud for a bit. We had a lot of chocolate and nibbles.. but to David's frustration, the Police said we weren't allowed to feed him!

Meanwhile Bill negotiated to descend and conveniently take David's BMW to the airport to catch his flight back to chch... but not before first doing a few business deals on the side of the mountain... it was a Monday after all.

Eventually a lone policeman and a trailing SAR volunteer appeared (the rest of the team were 500m below with a stretcher and not deemed trained enough for the conditions I believe). The Policeman was very professional and fit... (I had expected it was a late twenty-something with huge pack who had been charging up the hill towards us... but he was mid 50s!).

Long story.. made wee bit shorter: We ended up doing what we were going to do.. helping the two SAR guys by placing anchors (with a 'meat' anchor (person) backing up the stake). We belayed with an Italian hitch on a crab... and David was walked down using an edge kit in short-roping manner. We divided into two teams which efficiently leapfrogged each other down about 10 pitches.

It was all low angle stuff.. and David seemed very capable of walking down himself, but you didn't want to risk another fall.

After about 6-7hrs from the start of the incident we got to the top lodge... on the last bit David was off belay but short roped from in front and behind.

Victim complaints: We made him laugh too much... turns out he had 3 broken ribs, broken collar bone and possibly punctured lung.. as well as the normal abrasions.

* It was great to have a basic set of gear between us (stake, rope, bivy bag etc)

* For what is normally a half day trip, it was good to have the extra clothing so we could sit out 4-5hrs.

* The most important bit of gear? The ability/experience/confidence to improvise and make some sensible decisions.

It was eventually a happy ending after 2-3 days in hospital... Although the last thing we heard from David was that his wife was going to kill him.

7-8 September 2017

Hikurangi (near Ruatoria)

It's well known that Te Ika a M?ui (aka the North Island) is actually a giant fish hauled from the sea by M?ui using a magic hook fashioned from his grandmother's jawbone and baited with blood from his own nose. Many suppose that Te waka a M?ui is the South Island, but Ng?ti Porou know otherwise. They say that the first part of Te Ika to emerge from the water was Hikurangi, and that M?ui's canoe, Nukutaimemeha, became stranded on it. Hikurangi is now manifest as the highest non-volcanic peak of Te Ika and is the maunga tapu of Ng?ti Porou. Nukutaimemeha is held to still remain, in petrified form, on Hikurangi's summit. Having been driven east by pervasive nor' westerly storms, Tom, Jonathan and I were about to have a look for ourselves.

After arriving in Ruatoria in mid-afternoon, we visited Te Runaga o Ng?ti Porou to get permission to climb Hikurangi and pay our \$15 per hut fees. We then headed up the Tapuaeroa River to Pakihiroa Station. At a smidgen after 5 pm, we left the car and started up Te Ara ki Hikurangi, a long farm track on a ridge heading south to Hikurangi Hut. The summit of Hikurangi was swathed in cloud, but from several kilometres distant, the hut could be spotted just below the bush line and slightly to the right of an apparent scree slope. To our left during most of the ascent was a smaller, but very impressive peak, Wharekia and its imposing bluffs.



Tom makes some friends

By about 6.30 it was pretty dark. Then about 7 pm the full moon rose like 'a ghostly galleon tossed upon cloudy seas'. Even more ghostly was the scene that met us 20 minutes later, at 1100 m on an artificial plateau; Te Takapau a M?ui -- nine whakairo (statues) representing M?ui and his whanau -- constructed to mark the change of millennium. The whakairo were decorated with reflective metal insets and tassels that gleamed eerily in the light of the moon and our head torches.

What we hadn't realized in getting to the plateau was that we had missed the turnoff to the hut. Having effectively lost the track, we followed a fence line, straight up the ridge beyond the plateau, slightly over-climbing the hut. Then Jonathan picked out a reflective track marker with his head torch and we made the minor correction to reach our destination. The total ascent of 950 m over 9.5 km had taken us 2 hours and 40 minutes.

We arrived at Hikurangi Hut in the dark (the moon now obscured by clouds) and in light rain, buffeted by a cold and blustery north-westerly. The hut seemed well constructed, but in need of maintenance, a good clean and some other acts of tlc. It was fitted with an iron stove, but there was no firewood to speak of, and nothing more in the way of insulation -- so it was very cold. We had a quick meal and were pretty promptly in our sleeping bags. The night was stormy, with heavy downpours at times, and strong-to-gale-force winds. I was sleeping under the apex of the roof and occasionally showered by a light mist from the wind driving the rain up under the roof capping.

The wind had died off by dawn and the morning was cold, but calm and sunny when we eventually climbed out of our sleeping bags. We ate breakfast without haste and then headed off for Hikurangi summit with lightened packs at 9.40 am. The first 250 m of the climb was up a steep grassy slope that we had mistaken for scree the previous evening, and then through a section of goblin forest and out onto the tussocky north ridge of the mountain. Then we contoured around at ~1450 m for a bit over a kilometre on a bench on the western side of the ridge. The west face of the mountain was a labyrinth of imposing, eroded, rock pinnacles, coated lightly with glistening rime ice and dissected by rather substantial and unstable-looking scree chutes.

Eventually, the track markers led us to the left and 150 m directly up one of the steep icy scree chutes to a col in the ridge about 100 m north of the summit. From the col it was a short trip south along the mildly exposed ridge to the trig station, the 630 m climb from the hut having taken an hour and 50 minutes. The wind was stronger up here and hand-numbingly cold, but the rime-coated rocks and tussock gave the place a very striking appearance. Motivated by a desire to get out of the cold, and in the face of deteriorating weather, the search for the Nukutaimemeha was cursory and unsuccessful; but the requisite photographs were taken in all directions.

We had imagined that the descent through the icy scree chute could be a bit hazardous, but it turned out not to be so, and by 1 pm we were back at the hut. By 2 pm we had lunched, packed up and were on our way back down Te Ara ki Hikurangi to the car. On the way we stopped to photograph Te Takapau a M?ui, along with the several impressive 'minor' mountains in the vicinity -- Whakeria (1106 m), Aorangi (1272 m) and Taitai (700 m) to the east, and Whanokao (1618 m) and its only slightly shorter unnamed siblings to the west.

After about an hour of descent, we came across a pair of frolicking horses (perhaps a mare and her adolescent foal). They ignore my attempts to attract them, but rushed enthusiastically over to Tom when he came round the corner. 15 minutes later we saw a farmworker driving a large mob of sheep up the track towards us and calling out something unintelligible (but possibly "get off the track"). To avoid the risks of sheep-scattering and

farmer's wrath, we jumped the fence at sidled around Pt 598 m on the opposite side from the mob. Later, we met another farmworker, on a horse with a cluster of accompanying dogs, who exchanged pleasantries with us.

At 4 pm, exactly two hours after leaving the hut, we arrived at the car, damp from perspiration and light rain and muddied by the farm track churned by myriad bovine hooves. After changing into drier and cleaner clothes, we headed back to Ruatoria to report to Te Runaga o Ng?ti Porou that we were out. And then it was a couple of hours drive to Gisborne, the first leg of our return to Wellington and, eventually, Christchurch.

Total distance: 23.8 km

Total ascent: 1750 m

1 October 2017

Starvation Gully - Rabbit Hill - Pt 1660 m circuit

21 km and 1780 m total ascent over 9 hours. Seven participants: Mike Ny, Aaron Hunter, Elaine Booker, Kayleigh Gilkes, Annett Paetzold, Adrian Meier and Bryce Williamson (leader).

This was a rerun of a trip from July that was curtailed after a large party of us floundered around in thigh-deep soft snow for several hours. But the route was modified because of lambing. Instead of starting from the hairpin bend where SH73 crosses Coach Stream, we went from Starvation Gully, about half way between Porters Pass and Lake Lyndon. We expected this to be fairly long trip – c.a. 20 km and ~1700 m height gain – at least 8 hours.

We left the cars at 9.30 am and stormed up to Trig M in just under an hour (a huge contrast to the July effort). An hour later we were at Rabbit Hill, having travelled a bit over 6 km with a bit over 600 m total ascent. Next was a ~100 m descent to the saddle immediately south of Rabbit Hill, followed by a steep short 250 climb (past an orange road cone) up to the northern arm of the Ben More horseshoe route. At 12.20 pm we stopped for lunch, slightly on the south side of the ridge where we were sheltered from the (not too cold) light wind. By my estimate, we had done about 40% of the trip in less than three hours. The high point, 1660 m, didn't look too far away and the ridge ahead of us was pretty benign; so perhaps the eight-hour estimate was pessimistic? As we sat, we scoped out an interesting looking ascent route that might be a useful future alternative trip in windy conditions. And a couple of blokes on trail-bikes, who we had been watching earlier, zoomed noisily past us without (I think) even knowing we were there.

After half an hour we were on our way up the beautiful ridge to Pt 1660 m, the 3.6 km and 370 m height gain taking us an hour and a quarter. The clouds had closed in and the temperature had dropped sufficiently for the light precipitation to fall as graupel. So we didn't hang around long before setting off northeast in the general direction of Pt 1623 m. We actually ducked slightly under that point and circled around onto the north-westerly ridge leading down to Pt 1021 m. The ground was a mixture of tussock and loessy scree, so the descent was pretty easy going. At about 900 m, having circumvented a copse of matagouri, we had short break. Then we headed on to Pt 1021 m and down a steep ridge to Macfarlane Stream. Bits of that ridge required some bush bashing through a mixture of matagouri and scatchy caprosma, but Aaron eventually led us into some open beech forest, which was easier and less-prickly going.



Kayleigh and Aaron looking back from about 1500m

We were now no more than 700 m (as the crow flies) from the Coach Stream Route, which might suggest that the eight-hour target was well within our sight. But on the descent we had noted that the c.a. 350 m climb out of Macfarlane stream looked steep and would involve some serious bush bashing. In fact it took us about an hour and 10 minutes, with Kayleigh pathfinding the entire ascent. At this point we agreed that the trip so far wasn't really "hard", but this part was definitely annoying – so the trip should be classified in future as "moderate-annoying". Having regrouped at (actually just before) the track, we covered the final 3.6 km to the cars in just under an hour, the full trip having taken us just a minute longer than nine hours. From there it was on to the Sheffield Pub for lashings of wedges and (for me) a couple of pints of Monteith's Black.

Some general observations: (1) This is a good route, but the climb out of Macfarlane Stream is definitely annoying! (Perhaps someone will find a more accommodating route in the future?) (2) If Kayleigh weren't a vet, I'd think she was obsessed with animal poo. (3) We had two new club aspirants, both of whom managed the long day with aplomb and even claimed to have enjoyed themselves!

7 October 2017

Prebble Hill

We were meant to be climbing Mt White, but we weren't given permission due to lambing. Further to that, the weather forecast was not conducive to anything that required any climbing (due to cold and lack of view) or driving any significant distance. So we went to Prebble Hill.

We parked up at the Cave Stream carpark and, at 9.40 am, headed down to Broken River

and past the cave outlet and along the true left of the gorge, which we negotiated by climbing over a series of small bluffs. Downstream of the gorge, we crossed Broken River and skirted south along the eastern slopes of Gorge Hill to near the confluence of Broken River and Porter River, where we crossed the latter. We climbed up to a river terrace and then made a gentle diagonal ascent to the western end of the northern ridge of Prebble Hill.



Crossing Broken River

Just after 11 am we stopped for morning tea at an overhang in a cluster of limestone boulders. Then we proceeded on in persistent cold drizzle, to the wrong summit -- a point of just under 900 m altitude and about 400 m south of the true summit. Having realised our mistake, we headed north for the ten-or-so minute trip to claim Prebble Hill proper, decorated with some large elegant limestone outcrops and boulders.

Thoughts of traversing along the southern ridge were dampened by cold rain, so we set off back along more-or-less the same route, stopping every now and then to dispatch wilding pines. To avoid the gorge we clambered about 100 m up beside a waterfall of an unnamed stream running out of Dry Valley, where we found more pines. Then over a low ridge and into the valley of Cave Stream and past the entrance to the cave back to the cars.

The whole trip had taken us less than four hours, but we were pretty wet – so the warm fire box of the Sheffield Pub (pre-occupied by a large group of post-middle-age bikies) was much appreciated, as were the wedges, chips, hamburger and beer!

10 km and ~550 m total ascent over 4 hours. Six participants: Mike Norriss, Kieran McGuigan, Heidi Dohn, Bill Johnson, Josh Johnson and Bryce Williamson (leader).

More about the CTC

Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Chris McGimpsey	027 657 3070	<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Shaun Wong	021 234 6847
<i>Vice President:</i>	Shaun Wong	021 234 6847	<i>Overnight Trip Organiser:</i>	Andrew Tromans	337-3925
<i>Secretary:</i>	David Selway	03 326 3344	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Kay Taylor	03358-4580
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Natasha Sydorenko	0223140684	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Bernhard Parawa	337 3125
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<i>Editor:</i>	Eric Skea	021 0247 5473
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	Joshua Johnson	0278865868	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Elizabeth Eadon	03 376445	<i>IT Convenor:</i>	Nick Edwards	0273656751
			<i>Access Officer:</i>	Ian Dunn	0212141907

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 **and pay** before leaving town; the club bank account number is 38-9017-0279838-00 (Kiwibank/Christchurch Tramping Club). Include your name and the words "hut fees" in the particulars/code/reference fields. Phone Steve Bruerton 322-6196 for booking and key code; or if he's away, Chris McGimpsey 027 6573070; 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, Steve Bruerton.

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 23 November 2017 – Thanks.
