



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.

Vol. 88

April 2019

No. 11



Nearing High Peak of Mt Rolleston. Photo:
Scott Sutherland

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.

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.

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. 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.

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, \$25 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 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 item per weekend
Harnesses, snow shovel	\$4 per weekend
Large/small weekend packs	\$2 per weekend
Helmets	Free
Personal locator beacons	Free

Wednesday 27 March	Club Night
<p>Newsletter Folding Evening and A.G.M.: It's A.G.M. time folks...time to discuss the years happenings, table the financial report and hear what the committee members have been doing. We'll be discussing the future of the printed newsletter, which will be on the Agenda. If you have views on this please come along and be heard. There'll be plenty of time for chat and refreshments as well as the A.G.M. which we usually hold in April, but this year many club members are away during April hence the earlier date. See you there!</p>	

Weekend 30-31 March		Leader: Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070	
<p>2019 Johnnie Walker series #1: With thanks to Louise for the original idea, welcome to the 2019 Johnnie Walker series which is a chance to knock off a bunch of random rock piles over the next few months. There neither rhyme nor reason to the actual selection of rock piles, but the series is based on the principle that “a good attitude gains you altitude, and altitude gives you a good attitude”. So my first couple of “rock piles” will be 1656m Goat Hill on the West Coast at around 1200 metres of height gain and 12km of travel. This route starts with your typical West Coast 700m vertical ascent to the bushline followed by a gentle 500m height gain along a lovely open ridge top. The return trip is back the same way for a pot luck tea at the club hut on Saturday night. Sunday’s rock pile will be the 1608m Pyramid starting from the Hawdon Shelter, crossing the Hawdon River before climbing 1000m up via a track to the tops. The return journey will be via a westerly scree run back down into the Hawdon River before the team retires to the Sheffield pub for tea.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closed: 21 Mar Map: BV20 BV21 Approx: \$30 + hut fees	

Wednesday 3 April		Club Night	
<p>The Olivine Ice Plateau: In December 2018, club member Eric Skea was part of an eight day journey to the Olivine Wilderness Area, just northeast of Fiordland National Park. Eric will show some maps and photos, and talk about the trip.</p>			

Weekend 6-7 April		Leader: Warwick Dowling 021 35 4545	
Departure point: Z Station Papanui		warwick.dowling@gmail.com	
<p>Lake Christabel & Rough Creek: On the west coast side of Lewis Pass, Lake Christabel & Rough Creek is a classic CTC tramp. For details of last year’s tramp in some snow, see the CTC trip report of 26-27 May 2018: Lake Christabel via Rough Creek. I don’t expect that there will be snow when we do it in early April this year, but you never know in our mountains. The direction of traevl is undecided at present, but I intend to do it as a through trip. From last years trip report, SH7 via Rough Creek to Lake Christabel Hut: 10.8 km and 900 m total ascent over 9 hours 30 minutes - noting that the snow makes their trip longer. And Lake Christabel Hut to Palmer Flat: 17.3 km and 250 m total ascent over 6 hours 50 minutes is probably realistic for us. It is prudent to take tents, in case others are at the hut. Bring gear for heat and cold. Let me know your tent & cooking gear requirements, so that sharing and club gear can be organised.</p>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 28 Mar Map: BT22 BT23 Approx: \$50	

Multi day trip 6-20 April	Leader: Bill Johnson 022 049 3453 bill@billjohnson.nz
<p>Peru (Huayhuash Circuit): The Huayhuash (pronounced ("wi wash")) is rated one of the 10 best treks in the world and is a 120km, 11 day loop that is between 3300m and 5000m elevation. I am looking at a guided option where you can hike with just a day pack and donkeys will carry all the other gear if you want. Cost looks to be around NZ\$4500 (NZ\$1500 guide+ NZ\$1800 flights (from NZ) +NZ\$1000 hotels and misc.) The guided bit is all inclusive. I have had a number of people express interest in this trip and will likely organise it into groups of 6 to make logistics easier and for those that may want to take a more leisurely pace. Please contact leader for more details; mail.billjohnson@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate but at an easy pace</p> <p>16 March</p> <p>Map:</p> <p>Approx: See trip description</p>

Wednesday 10 April	Club Night
<p>Free evening so far: We have a free evening this meeting unless a speaker is organised closer to the date. There will be refreshments, club business and chat time as usual. If you wish to show some photos of a recent trip, please either bring your laptop, or else the club's laptop is available for showing photos on a memory stick.</p>	

Saturday 13 April Departure point: Z Station Papanui	Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360 newmike@slingshot.co.nz
<p>Staces Hill: Starting from the Hakatere-Heron Road, follow a farm track and cross the Cameron River. A short steep climb up the river bank takes us on to a tussock covered ridge. At the 1200m contour is Staces Hill Tarn, with a further climb to the summit of Staces Hill (1479m). Great views of the Arrowsmith Range, Southern Alps and Lake Heron Valley. Height gain around 500m. Return trip 5hrs, 10kms. Please note:- Departure Time and Point:7.30am "Z" Carlton Corner.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy/Mod</p> <p>Closes: 11 Apr</p> <p>Map: BW19 BX19</p> <p>Approx: \$30</p>

Wednesday 17 April	Club Night
<p>Free Evening so far: We have a free evening this meeting unless a speaker is organised closer to the date. There will be refreshments, club business and chat time as usual. If you wish to show some photos of a recent trip, please either bring your laptop, or else the club's laptop is available for showing photos on a memory stick.</p>	

<p>Long Weekend 19-22 April Departure point: Contact Leader</p>	<p>Leader: Barry Watson 021668895 bazzaman7@gmail.com</p>
<p>Lake Nerine Easter Tramp: Idyllically nestled in the picturesque Mt Aspiring National Park is the alpine wonder; Lake Nerine. Surrounded by mountains which will probably be lightly covered in snow, this trip will be a stunning way to spend your Easter weekend. Leaving around late Thursday afternoon, we will camp beyond Tekapo, then start the tramp the next day on the first part of the Routeburn Track. We will then make our way across a wide variety of terrain and over North Col towards Lake Nerine. When there you will be wowed by the Lakes size, beauty and splendour. On Sunday we will return the same way we came and camp along the track somewhere and be back in ChCh around dinner time Monday. Total height gain is approx 1000m. Please bring a tent, warm clothing and Easter related treats to share.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate - easy pace Closes: 11 Apr Map: CA09 CB09 Approx: Approx \$80</p>

<p>Multi day trip 19-25 April Departure point: Z Station Papanui @ 9am.</p>	<p>Leader: Michael Hammond 02108414764 mbahammond@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Otago Rail Trail: A great opportunity to walk the Otago Rail Trail. The trail is 152km long, consisting of a packed gravel surface so shouldnt be too hard on the feet. The possible accommodation is your choice and can be a mix of B and B, backpacker and camping site. Hyde is the only location where choice is limited. Theres no particular height gain on any day and after reaching the highest point of 600m we drop back to where we started. There are a few videos online if you want to check out the wonderful scenery. The itinerary I have chosen is: Day 1 Drive to Clyde, then walk 8 km to Alexandra Day 2 Alex to Oamakau 29 km Day 3 Oamakau to Oturehua 29.5 km Day 4 Oturehua to Ranfurly 26 km Day 5 Ranfurly to Hyde 32.5 km Day 6 Hyde to Middlemarch 27 km Day 7 Return to Chch after collecting car from Clyde. There is some flexibility in the dates I have chosen but i wouldnt want to start later then the 21st. As this is an easter trip accommodation options may be limited. Best not to delay too long.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy Mod Closes: 11 Apr Map: Approx: \$70 plus accommodation and possible shuttle fees</p>

Saturday 20 April Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
newmike@slingshot.co.nz
 Departure point: Z Station Papanui

<p>Otepatotu Reserve/Lavericks Peak: Otepatotu, loosely translated, means 'place of the fairies' and is located along the Summit Road, midway between Okains Bay and Le Bons Bay. The trip will start part way up Robinsons Bay Valley Road and ascend to the Summit Road. From there a track climbs through a remnant mountain totara forest to reach the summit of Lavericks Peak (755m) with 360 degree views. Nearing the summit, trees are hung with weeping moss, creating a 'goblin forest' atmosphere. The return trip travels down through a native fuschia gully forest on the southern side, a farm track to Robinsons Bay Valley Road and back to the cars.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy+ Closes: 18 Apr Map: BX25 Approx: \$20</p>
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Wednesday 24 April Club Night

Newsletter Folding Evening: Tonight we have newsletter folding, (possibly dependent on the discussion at the A.G.M.), then general club business, along with refreshments and chat time.

Weekend 4-5 May Leader: Eric Skea skea.eric@gmail.com
 Departure point: Contact Leader

<p>Mt Alexander: Stay in the club hut in Arthur's Pass on Friday night. On Saturday morning drive to Camp Creek River off Lake Brunner Road and begin the tramp along the Camp Creek Route to the summit of Mt Alexander, from 180m to 1958m. High camp on Saturday night. Summit either Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning as time/conditions allow. There may be early-season snow, in which case snow skills would be required - the trip leader will send round an email about that nearer the time.</p>	<p>Grade: ModHard Closes: 25 Apr Map: BU20 Approx: \$40 + hut fee</p>
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Wednesday 8 May Club Night

Antarctic Heritage Trust- Shackleton's Georgia trek : Tonight the AHT is coming to talk about their restoration and preservation work on historic huts in Antarctica, followed by a film called The Last 36 about Shackleton's trek on Georgia Island.

Weekend 11-12 May		Leader: Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070	
<p>2019 Johnnie Walker series #2: This series is based on the general principle that “a good attitude gains you altitude, and altitude gives you a good attitude”. Saturday’s pile of rock will be 1836m Mt Bealey via the Mt Bealey track, 1000 metres of height gain, a scree run down into the top of Rough Creek followed by a boulder hopping thrash down stream to the main road. Following a pot luck tea, a hot shower and a comfortable nights sleep we will knock off Mt Misery via Broad Stream and the two points 1854 on Sunday. The return trip will be via a bush bash down the north face onto the main road with a short road walk back to the cars. All this should ensure the Sheffield pub stop on the way back to CHCH is well earned.</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 May Map: BV20 BV21 Approx: \$30 + hut fees</p>	
Weekend 25-26 May		Leader: Symon Holmes	
Departure point: Caltex Russley		symon_gnome@yahoo.co.nz	
<p>Boundary Creek Hut: From Buick’s Bridge carpark on the Hakatere Heron Road we follow an easy track through the tussock to the historic Boundary Creek Hut. We then walk over to Mystery Lake and down to the Te Araroa Trail before walking out. Ideal for those looking to do their first overnight trip.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 16 May Map: Approx: Approx \$35</p>	
Weekend 15-16 June		Leader: Symon Holmes	
Departure point: Caltex Russley			
<p>Woolshed Creek Hut: Nice easy walk in over the Miners track to the Woolshed Creek Hut. Walk out the same way or depending on the weather and keenness we may walk out via Rhyolite Ridge and the Bus Stop overhang. Ideal for those looking to do their first overnight trip.</p>		<p>Grade: Easy Closes: 6 Jun Map: BX19 Approx: \$25</p>	
Long Weekend 7-11 August		Leader: Barry Watson 021668895	
		bazzaman7@gmail.com	
<p>Tongariro Crossing in Winter: The Tongariro Crossing is a tramp that needs little introduction. It’s iconic among people from all walks of life and experience levels. A classic hike for the keen trumper is to do it in winter, which is our goal. The plan is to fly from ChCh to Palmerston North or WEL on Tue evening on Aug 6th and return Sun Aug 11. Within this time our plan is to complete the crossing in one day then try to also climb Mt Ruapehu and/or Mt Ngauruhoe on another day. A certain level of flexibility will need to prevail depending on the best weather conditions on the day. Although we won’t be roped together, a good level of snow experience will be required, as will alpine clothing and equipment. Costs are approx. and will cover van/car hire and camping/hostel type accomodation near the crossing or mountains, (they exclude airfares.)</p>		<p>Grade: Moderate (requires snow skills) Closes: 25 Jul Map: BH34 BH35 Approx: Approx. \$300</p>	

Weekend 24-25 August Departure point: Contact Leader	Leader: Barry Watson 021668895 bazzaman7@gmail.com
<p>Avalanche Awareness Course (OENZ): This is a 2 day introductory avalanche awareness course that focuses on identifying avalanche terrain and understanding what causes avalanches. Understanding the NZ Backcountry Avalanche Advisory is a vital skill that you will learn on this course. This is a practical field based course with some theory to increase your understanding. This course is approved by (MSC) Mountain Safety Council. You will gain a MSC certificate in Avalanche Awareness upon completion of this course. We will stay at the Club Hut on Friday night and the fee includes lodging and main meals at Temple Basin. This course is only open to Club Members. AVALANCHE AWARENESS COURSE INCLUDES...</p> <p>Introduction to the NZ Backcountry Avalanche Advisory Mountain Weather in NZ Using an avalanche transceiver Probing techniques Snow Shoveling technique Small party rescue scenarios Identifying avalanche terrain Identifying terrain traps Introduction to safe travel techniques</p>	<p>Grade: Training Closes: 15 Aug Map: Approx: \$399</p>

Trip Reports

2 March 2019

Philistine – Rolleston Traverse

I've never had ambitions to be a mountaineer, but after my recent grade 1 forays up Mt Evans and Mt Aicken I seem to have developed a taste for it, so when Lorraine posted a trip to complete the Philistine – Rolleston Traverse, my interest was piqued, particularly by her description "This is a grade 2 mountaineering route, but a very achievable one". Ice axes and crampons – all sounding pretty good, rock shoes – really?, ropes and abseiling – fun, but sounding like it's getting a bit technical. Was I really up for this? Lorraine arranged a get-together (with scones) where most of the team discussed the plan. In the lead-up to the meeting she told me "I'll just be encouraging you to come along", so my participation seemed to be a foregone conclusion. The plan was to pick the best day out of Saturday and Sunday, and go to the CTC Hut at Arthurs Pass the night before so we could have an early start. The trip was expected to take between 12 and 17 hours, so we needed to be walking before sunrise. We walked on Saturday, which was extremely fortunate, as it turned out, but I'm getting ahead of myself here.

We arrived on Friday night to an over-full hut and got all the gear sorted for the next day. With a departure at 05:00 after getting up at 04:00 there was no time to mess around in the morning, just eat and go. We set out up the Otira river from SH 73 at 05:30 in the pitch dark under a starry sky with a crescent moon. Half an hour later we were at the footbridge and filled our water bottles at the last water stop before our eventual descent back into the valley, and we started our ascent of Warnocks Bluffs. Soon we were able to discern the outline of the mountains against the sky – dawn was approaching, and by 06:45 we could see the first light on Mt Rolleston, giving us a view of our objective. It was much nicer

walking without headlamps on, although I did enjoy the night-walking experience.

Progress was fairly swift and the walking was not terribly difficult as we cleared the bluffs and ascended Mt Philistine, summiting at the planned time of 09:00. There was a brief rest as we contemplated the next part of the trip. From the summit we had a fairly good view of the ridge where we would be walking, all the way around to Mt Rolleston. Of course it looks different from a distance, and Lorraine assured us that it wasn't as bad as it looks. The walking became more challenging as we proceeded, with quite a bit of clambering and holding onto rocks as we traversed narrow ledges. We were heading towards the notch, or was it the gap, which was going to be a bit of an obstacle. Sure enough, we encountered a tricky section that required for some of us the use of a rope. The more experienced mountaineers went ahead and set a fixed line for us to attach to as we traversed this section. For those unfamiliar with this procedure, a rope is anchored at both ends, and secured at various points along the way by carabiners anchored into rock. The climber then attaches to the rope using a prusik, which is a short length of cord between the rope and the climber's harness. The climber then moves the prusik along the rope as they walk, and if they fall the prusik tightens on the rope and arrests the fall. Quite safe, but it's a damned nuisance holding the rock with both hands and then needing a third hand to move the prusik. Needless to say, progress was rather slow.

We got over this little hurdle, but this wasn't the notch, that was a bit further along. Repeat the rope procedure. With 12 people this takes a fair while, even if not all of them are using the rope. By the third time I was over using prusiks and just walked through the rope section, much faster and as long as you're sure-footed, not unsafe at all. There was another section, however, where it looked a bit hairy and from below the holds were not clearly visible. This was climbing rather than traversing, and I was glad that a belay station was set up to allow us to climb in safety. This means you have a rope attached to your harness, and the belay is attached to an anchor at the top. The belayer keeps you on a reasonably tight rope throughout the climb so if you fall, you won't fall far. Mind you, the experienced climbers did this without a rope, so it's clearly just an experience and confidence thing. Once I was up there the route became clearer, and I believe that I could have done it without the rope. Next time, maybe.

By the time we cleared the belay station it was getting past 17:00, and we were running late, although we weren't watching the clock. We still had a fair way to go to the summit, and a few challenging sections to get through. At one point I was on a narrow ledge after climbing up a chute, with a big drop behind me. I reached for the next handhold to test it, and as I touched it I was suddenly standing in a small rockfall. I hung on tight with my safe hand, and when the rocks stopped falling I was still on the ledge with rock around my legs. My right foot was pinned down by a large rock that I couldn't move because it was going to roll down the chute towards other climbers, both my knees and right shin had been hit, but I was still standing, although I had visions of being ferried out by helicopter. I tipped one rock down the slope behind me, and as soon as the climbers had cleared the chute I sent the one pinning my foot on its way. A quick check showed that my foot was OK, the knees were sore but functional, and I continued on my way after popping a couple of Panadol. It was a lucky escape.

I was in the first group to reach the summit at about 19:00. We were significantly late by now, and there was still some distance to travel. Before the last of the team arrived, the early summiters started heading down to the abseil point where Nick set up a rope. Scott went down first and started scoping out the exit route, followed by Monika, Jenna, and me. He sent the three of us on our way to sidle around to the col where we were to wait for the rest of the team, while he assisted the others on the abseil. Off we went, arriving there just

after sunset. We settled down to wait. And wait. And wait. It was by now pitch dark, and Monika went off to see where the others had got to, followed by Jenna. After a long wait I went off to see what was happening, and eventually saw some lights and heard Monika talking to the rest of the team, guiding them down in the dark. I don't know how she managed it, I could hardly make out where to walk myself, never mind guiding others. I returned to the col and waited.

It was well after 22:30 by the time the team left the col. We'd had some food, and some snow had been melted to replenish water bottles, but the fuel supply was limited and it's not a fast process. We set off again, still hoping to make it home that day, but progress was very slow. After about an hour we reassessed our options, and despite talk of splitting the team with one group walking and another staying, it was deemed unsafe to continue, and the only viable option was to stay on the mountain overnight. Lorraine located a spot near middle peak with a couple of large flat rocks that served as beds for about 5 people, and the rest of us just found what we could. Eighteen and a half hours after we started walking I found myself a cosy spot that was relatively flat, moved some of the bigger rocks aside and emptied my backpack to use it as a sleeping mat. It was a clear night with a very light breeze, and not too cold, but the rock just suck the heat out of your body, so it was quite chilly. My SOL emergency bivvy was good though, the top of me was warm even if the part on the rock wasn't.

It was an uncomfortable night for most of us. Some people claimed to have slept well, and I had heard snoring. For myself, I didn't feel like I had slept at all, and I remember checking my watch several times during the night. My neighbours found several reasons during the night to move around, and also found plenty of things to talk about. When I finally saw daylight breaking and gave up trying to sleep they appeared to be fast asleep, so at least they did get some rest. The emergency campsite slowly came to life as the sun rose, and the views were spectacular. It was well worth spending the night there, even if it hadn't been planned. Bags were packed and breakfast eaten – I was glad I'd packed an enormous lunch. The big problem was water. Nothing up there, and the nearest water was at least 400 metres below, and several hours away. I had 300 ml to keep me going, and I imagine others were pretty much in the same situation.

As we worked our way down to the Goldney Ridge, we split up into two teams, which I'll name for the radio callsigns we were using. At the time we did the split, car keys were being swapped and Lorraine discovered that hers was missing. She "popped back up the hill" to check the bivvy site as that was the only place it could be. In the meantime, Nick led Team Megatron down the Goldney Ridge and into the Otira valley for a speedy trip home. I was standing in the wrong place to join them, and stayed with Team Flower, which Eric led in the same direction but a bit more slowly. Lorraine soon rejoined the team; she is damned fast on her own! Her callsign was Bumblebee, but for some reason most of the radio traffic was between Megatron and Flower. There were another couple of abseils, one of which I didn't need, preferring to down climb instead. I was unsure about the last one, but Lorraine managed it without rope, so I suppose I could have given it a go.

At the bottom of the last abseil there was a walk down a gut to a snow patch that had to be traversed with crampons. Lorraine led me down there and sent me off across the snow while she returned to assist Eric and Scott with the remaining climbers. I traversed the snow and dropped my pack at a small patch of snow just beyond. The large snow pack was melting and forming the Otira river, and I wandered over with my empty water bottles for a refill. What a relief! Four hours on only 300 ml of water, and on a clear sunny day.

I'm not sure if there was another abseil, I couldn't see what was happening at the distance I was from the rest of the team, but eventually Kate, Tom and I were together and trying to

find a way down into the valley. Our attempts proved fruitless, and I was just in the process of working our way over to the true right when Lorraine and Scott turned up and quickly established that was the way to go. A tricky crossing of some really horrible scree soon had us on some nice scree and rapidly descending into the valley and walking on nice soft grass. There was still some distance to go, though, and the grass soon gave way to uneven rocks along the Otira river. Team Flower eventually made it to the cars at 16:30, we later learned that Team Megatron arrived at 13:30. Having just spent eight and a half hours getting down from the emergency bivvy in broad daylight, I can confidently say that the decision to stay was the right one. Attempting in darkness what we had just done would have not had a good outcome.

Back to the hut to retrieve our gear, and a few people managed to have a shower. I was more keen to get home, so I didn't bother. With the two groups finishing at different times, the distribution of passengers was different for the ride home. I didn't mention earlier that Lorraine's key-finding mission had been unsuccessful, so we were also down a car, but the seven people in Team Flower fitted perfectly in the remaining vehicles. Team Megatron had also kindly cleaned and tidied the hut for us, so we could just load and go. There was no desire to stop at the Sheffield Pub, just straight home.

Well! What an adventure. An absolute epic, even. I've never been on a trip that didn't make it home on the day it was supposed to, never mind bivvying high upon a mountain. I think it was a first for many members of the team. And it was a day trip as well – I've not made it to a destination before, but it was a multi-day trip, and we had heaps of supplies. This time we had nothing much, but fortunately we had just enough to get by. I learned that it's wise to take a sleeping mat and a tarp; if I'd had that I'd have had a comfortable night. I had enough clothing, but if the weather had turned cold, it would have been a different story. And it was nice that we had mobile phone coverage for quite a lot of the route, so we could alert people to our situation and not have unnecessary searches being started.

I can say that I truly enjoyed almost every moment of this trip. The night on the rocks is better in retrospect than it was at the time. The rockfall wasn't great, but it was over quickly and I soon realised that I was uninjured. The worst part was running out of water. Other than that, I loved it and I want more. I am a Mountaineer! Well, not really, I have so much to learn, but I'm keen.

Special thanks have to go to Lorraine for organising and leading this adventure, for her routefinding skills, and general concern for team welfare. Thanks to Eric, Nick, and Scott for doing the ropework and routefinding, and bringing their expertise to the team.

Statistics: (My stats for Team Flower)

- Distance walked 21.8 km
- Min elevation 894 m
- Max elevation 2275 m
- Cumulative elevation gain 2745 m
- Total walk time 27 h 01 m
- Moving time 7 h 16 m
- Average moving speed 2.99 km/h

The walkers were Lorraine Johns(Leader), Eric Skea, James Atlas, Jenna Hughes-Games, Kate Taylor, Michael Ny, Monika Bratownik, Nick Edwards, Scott Sutherland, Sharon Brophy, Tomyu Hu, and John Kerkhofs (Scribe and photographer).

More about the CTC

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. 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 you start with Karen Tait, 027 545 7404, or Jonathan Carr, 022 034 4608. Then try 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. Refer to the list of Club Officers below, and on www.ctc.org.nz. Members (particularly Trip Leaders) please discuss this arrangement with your loved ones so they are aware of this procedure.

Club Officers

<i>President:</i>	Chris McGimpsey	027 657 3070	<i>Overnight Trip Organiser:</i>	Barry Watson	021668895
<i>Vice President:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Kay Taylor	03358-4580
<i>Secretary:</i>	Natasha Sydorenko		<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Bernhard Parawa	337 3125
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Carol Horgan	027 212 7294	<i>Editor:</i>	Eric Skea	021 0247 5473
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Alan Ross	384-6425	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	Joshua Johnson	0278865868	<i>IT Convenor:</i>	Nick Edwards	0273656751
<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Kelly Purdie	027 614 2255	<i>Access Officer:</i>	Ian Dunn	0212141907

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor
(editor@ctc.org.nz) by 18 April 2019 – Thanks.
