



THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER

Published by CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPING CLUB INC
PO Box 527, Christchurch. www.ctc.org.nz

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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No. 1



Mt Barossa - John Kerkhofs

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, \$20 junior or associate, plus \$15 for members who opt to obtain a paper newsletter.

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 Katherine King 0276141941 or email xxkatkingxx@live.co.uk. 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 Barney Stephenson, ph. 03 358 3281 . 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 24 April	Club Night
Newsletter Folding Evening: Tonight we have newsletter folding, then general club business, along with refreshments and chat time.	
Wednesday 1 May	Club Night
The building of Lake Daniels hut: This wednesday evening, Ian Fisher will talk about the building of Lake Daniels hut near Lewis Pass. Ian will show a film on the construction of this hut called 'Someone cared.' If time allows, Ian will also show a short film on Lake Guyon near Hanmer.	

Weekend 4-5 May Departure point: Contact Leader		Leader: Eric Skea skea.eric@gmail.com	
<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>		Grade: ModHard Closes: 25 Apr Map: BU20 Approx: \$40 + hut fee	
Wednesday 8 May		Club Night	
<p>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.</p>			
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>		Grade: Moderate Closes: 2 May Map: BV20 BV21 Approx: \$30 + hut fees	
Weekend 11-12 May Departure point: Caltex Russley		Leader: Nick Edwards	
<p>Otehake Hot Pools (Take 4): We tried three times to go last year but we were beaten by weather every time! Summer is well and truly over now, so why not warm up with a trip to what may well be the best hot pools in the area? The tramp starts at Aickens Corner, then after crossing the Otira River it is an easy stroll along the Taramakau up to Lake Kaurapataka. The flood track along the Otehake River can be a bit challenging but we might be able to follow the river if we are lucky. The trip in should only take a few hours so there will be plenty of time to soak in the pools, and we'll share a potluck supper, making this an excellent social trip. On Sunday we'll return either the same way or via the Otehake and Taramakau.</p>		Grade: Easy/Mod Closes: 2 May Map: BU20 BU21 BV21 Approx: \$40	

Wednesday 15 May Club Night

Bill Johnson talks about the club Peru Trip!: This evening, club member, Bill Johnson will talk about the tramping trip that club members went on to Peru last month.

Sunday 19 May Leader: Bryce Williamson 021-0232-2310 bryce.williamson68@gmail.com
Departure point: Caltex Russley 4 pm on
Saturday 18 May

Mid Hill: Mid Hill is a 1831 m peak on the Black Range between Lagoon and Bruce Saddles. We will stay in the club hut on Saturday night to get an early start (although others are welcome to drive up on the day). The route initially follows the track to Lagoon Saddle, but then heads overland to the north of the lagoon. The last bit is reputedly a bit gnarly. Return distance from Cora Lynn is estimated to be 20 km with about 1500 m total ascent. It'll probably be a long day, especially if there is snow on the ground. Ice axes and crampons should be carried.	Grade: Moderate+ Closes: 16 May Map: BV20 Approx: \$25 + Hut Fees
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Wednesday 22 May Club Night

Philistine-Rolleston Traverse or Night on Bald Mountain...: In early March 2019, Lorraine Johns led a team of twelve on a one-day traverse from Mount Philistine (1967m) to Mount Rolleston (2275m), and out via Goldney Ridge and the Otira Valley. John Kerkhofs will talk about this expedition, and how a day trip turned into an epic overnight adventure. The team leader and some of the team members will be there to assist with the presentation and answer questions.

Weekend 25-26 May Leader: Symon Holmes
symon_gnome@yahoo.co.nz
Departure point: Caltex Russley

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.	Grade: Easy Closes: 16 May Map: BX19 BX18 Approx: Approx \$35
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Wednesday 29 May Club Night

Newsletter Folding Evening : Tonight we have newsletter folding, then general club business, along with refreshments and chat time.

Long Weekend 1-3 June		Leader: William King 021874626
Departure point: Caltex Russley 6:30am		wchking@yahoo.co.nz
<p>Queens BD Trip - West Mathias Bivouac and Whitcombe: A three day trip up the Rakaia to the South Mathias, Observation Cone, Cattle Stream, Whitcombe Pass and down the Rakaia. This reconnaissance trip will cover a challenging part of a longer trip planned for late spring this year. The spring trip will include - Waimak, Harman-Whitehorn, Unknown Col, South Mathias, Whitcombe Pass, Bracken Snow Field, Rakaia. The West Mathias trip will require snow-rope skills, crampons, preferably two ice axes and tents/bivvy bags. As the huts are quite small in this area, the trip is limited to six people. This is a your chance to get into a far flung place that is seldom visited and to set yourself up for AP to MC. Depart from Caltex Russley 6.30am Saturday 1 June and bring along some river shoes unless you enjoy cold feet.</p>	Grade: Mod/Hard	
	Closes: 23 May	
	Map: BW18 BW19	
	Approx: Contact Leader	

Saturday 15 June		Leader: Michael Newlove 355-8360
Departure point: Z Station Papanui		
<p>Prebble Hill: Prebble Hill 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, follow a farm road, then a track above the true right of the Porter River. Cross a stock bridge and follow the escarpment up to the summit of Prebble Hill (902m.) Return trip offers a great opportunity to explore all the beautiful limestone formations. Return trip around 10kms, 200m height gain.</p>	Grade: Easy+	
	Closes: 13 Jun	
	Map: BW21	
	Approx: \$20	

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>	Grade: Easy	
	Closes: 6 Jun	
	Map: BX19	
	Approx: \$25	

Wednesday 19 June		Club Night
<p>Buy, sell and exchange evening: It's time to dust off all that un-used gear that's been replaced with lighter and dearer versions, and turn it into good hard cash whilst equipping your fellow trampers. Yes it's the Club's Buy, Sell and Exchange Night, and always a lot of fun. Come along and practice your auction skills! Boots, ski's, jackets, packs, ropes, crampons, tents,... Good quality items only please. Also, please bring cash as there is no Eftpos available. Items may be donated to the club to sell for the benefit of the club coffers. There promises to be some great bargains so don't miss out- see you there!</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)</p> <p>Closes: 25 Jul</p> <p>Map: BH34 BH35</p> <p>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.</p> <p>AVALANCHE AWARENESS COURSE INCLUDES...</p> <p>Introduction to the NZ Backcountry Avalanche Advisory</p> <p>Mountain Weather in NZ</p> <p>Using an avalanche transceiver</p> <p>Probing techniques</p> <p>Snow Shovelling technique</p> <p>Small party rescue scenarios</p> <p>Identifying avalanche terrain</p> <p>Identifying terrain traps</p> <p>Introduction to safe travel techniques</p>	<p>Grade: Training</p> <p>Closes: 15 Aug</p> <p>Map:</p> <p>Approx: \$399</p>

Trip Reports

23-24 March 2019

Princess Bath and Mt Princess

Zack sent an email to Barry, Emma, Monika, and me in early March suggesting that as the last weekends in March were looking a bit sparse for trips perhaps we should put something together. His criteria were fairly simple -

Does it go through Amberley so I can visit the French bakery?

Does it have alpine lakes to pitch a tent next to?

Based on these, he suggested Princess Bath in the St James Range, accessed via Lake Tennyson which is about an hour's drive north of Hanmer. He also wanted somebody to lead it, as he has never led a trip and didn't want the responsibility. Leading a Christchurch Tramping Club trip isn't all that hard, it's just like herding cats, in other words, a piece of cake. Nevertheless, Monika was appointed trip leader, but on the proviso that I did the admin. And so another CTC trip was born.

I got the trip posted on the CTC website and we then limited it to ten people, based on a concern about availability of tent sites near Princess Bath. From photos of earlier trips that we'd seen, it didn't look like there was a profusion of suitable real estate, but that didn't seem like a major deterrent as we soon had a full list and another two on the wait list. After increasing the list to twelve we lost three and ended up with nine people on the trip, just the right number for the two cars we had available. The perfect trip has cars loaded to capacity as it keeps the travel costs to a minimum.

The departure time was set at 07:00 so we would have plenty of time to get to Princess Bath and then summit Mt Princess the same afternoon. It was a bit of a dreary day as we set off, but spirits were lifted as we reached the French Bakery and Café in Amberley. Food stocks were replenished and second breakfast was eaten, and on we went to Hanmer, and then further towards Lake Tennyson. They say that no battle plan survives contact with the enemy, and of course this one changed even before first contact. My plan was to walk from the Tennyson campground and wade through the Clarence River, but Chris suggested leaving the cars at the start of the 4wd track to Maling Pass and then walking along the track instead of walking across the boggy valley. That wasn't a hard sell at all, so that's what we did. Four WD tracks are boring, but infinitely better than wading through bog.

By the time we started walking the weather had cleared and it was warm and sunny. We left the 4WD track a bit before Maling Pass and started uphill to the ridge that leads to Mt Princess. Lunch break was in between a couple of stands of beech trees where there was a bit of shade; the last trees we would see on this trip. After lunch we pressed on to Point 1906, but although the plan had been to summit it and then descend to Princess Bath, there didn't seem to be any real point in doing that, so we passed over the eastern spur at about 1800 metres, having been warned not to go lower as we would end up in horrible rock and having to climb back up. It was from here that we got our first view of Princess Bath, and we could see a clear route across to the lake.

After a bit of a rest the team pressed on, and close to the lake we bumped into Joe Arts, who was out for a walk. Joe is also a CTC member, but also my mother is his godmother, so we've known each other forever. I'm more used to catching up with him in the local

supermarket, but we stopped and had a good chat while the rest of the team moved on to the lake to claim tent sites. I rejoined them soon afterwards and we soon had tents pitched at the western end of the lake and started considering the Mt Princess ascent. It was already after 16:00 by the time we got the camp set up, and there was some doubt about being able to complete Mt Princess before dark. We'd been a bit slow getting to the lake, and being tired it was looking like not all of the team would reach the summit. Walking in the dark wasn't terribly appealing either, so we decided to just explore around the lake and go to the summit in the morning.

We set up a communal kitchen area and got dinner started. You may recall from the Jollie Brook trip that there was a bit of fancy cooking going on? It seems that we are heading towards a back-country cooking competition, so I thought I'd best get some practice in. I've bought a fancy stove and a couple of pots, and this was the first outing for the new kitchen. I thought that Boeuf Bourguignon would be a good thing to try, so I hauled up all the ingredients up the hill and set about cooking it from scratch. The only concessions made were that I used instant mashed potato, and made the carrot puree at home. Hauling a mouli up a mountain just to puree a carrot is ridiculous. The meat was diced before leaving as well, but all the veges were chopped onsite. Half a bottle of red wine in the stew, and half in the diners, yum! It came out pretty good too, although the carrot and onions were a little undercooked. Odd, because the test I did at home was 100% successful. An afterthought, though; altitude affects the boiling temperature of water – could the 6 degree loss of temperature at 1700 metres require longer cooking? Some research needs to be done.

A word of warning to those planning to camp by this lake – Canada Geese! When camping by an alpine lake, it's reasonable to expect a good supply of clean water. While we'd seen only a few of these flying shit-factories on the way in, there was ample evidence of their leavings around the lake, particularly at the eastern end where it was accumulated in great piles. The idea of drinking that water untreated was not terribly appealing, and as I'd not bothered to bring any treatment pills with me all water had to be boiled first. Fortunately I had plenty of fuel and two big pots, but if I'd had my usual small stove and 750ml mug it would have been a lot more difficult. The steel water bottle was handy as well, tip in a litre of boiling water and put it aside to cool. Can't do that with plastic!

After dinner the majority of the team started drifting over the rocky ridge that holds the lake in – there's probably a proper geographical term for it, but I don't know what it is. The lake outflow is at the eastern end, and there was rumoured to be a waterfall that turned out to be just a minor trickle. Gradually people drifted over to the outflow and we just stood around chatting and admiring the view over the valley and the St James Range and adjacent mountains. Thoughts turned to our exit strategy for the morning – it's always more fun to leave a different way than you came in. The descent from the lake is rather steep, but we spotted a narrow gully that looked promising. We could see pretty much down to the valley, and it didn't look like there was anything to prevent us from leaving that way, except the ever-present threat of falling rocks. The decision was made – that would be our way home.

It's getting dark quite early, so we were mostly in bed not long after 20:00. I slept as well as usual, which is not very, not helped at all by the occasional sound of rocks tumbling down the slope and into the water on the other side of the lake. That didn't bode well for the morning's climb up Mt Princess.

The morning revealed another sunny day; we breakfasted quickly and set off to the northern side of the lake to start our ascent of Mt Princess. Everybody was well rested so we had the full team when we rounded the end of the lake and started up the loose rock.

We stayed close to the rocks on the left as we went up, variously staying close together, or splitting into smaller groups to minimise the risk of dislodging rocks onto the climbers below. Slowly we picked our way up to the ridge where there was less risk of rockfall and carried on up to the summit for a long break to admire the views. After a decent interval we started on the descent, which was much easier. We'd taken 70 minutes getting to the ridge from the bottom of the scree – getting down took 20 minutes!. Tents were quickly packed away and we were ready to travel.

It was only a short walk to the gully we'd identified the night before, and Chris led the way down in a shower of stones and small rocks. Given the amount of loose stuff, we did the first section one at a time, taking shelter behind the larger rocks to the side of the gully as the followers sent more rubble down. We continued in similar fashion, sometimes solo, sometimes in small tight groups, until we were out of the gully and the slope opened up enough for us to spread out a bit. By lunchtime we were off the rocks and into a soft grassy area where we settled down for a feed.

Having finished lunch and completed the major descent, all that remained was an easy walk down the valley to the cars. The valley is actually very boggy, although it sounds better to call it a wetland reserve. Fortunately in early autumn it is very dry, so we didn't get wet feet on the way out - all except for Monika, who managed to find and step into what must have been the only wet part of the big and sink in to the full length of her leg. Falling into bogs etc. is usually my role on a trip, so I'm pleased that somebody else has stepped up to the plate and taken that over.

After traversing the wetland we still had another 5km to walk on the 4WD track, not terribly inspiring, but at least we could see our objective. An hour's drive had us back in Hanmer, much too early for dinner, so we settled for gelato instead, although some preferred fish and chips. There had been talk of visiting a Polish molecular restaurant in Hanmer, but we were way too early for that, so we just piled back into the cars and headed for home. Great trip, great company, accomplished all the objectives, and we were home before dark.

Statistics:

Distance walked 23.7 km

Min elevation 1060 m; Max elevation 2126 m; Cumulative elevation gain 1545 m

Total walk time 12 h 12 m; Moving time 7 h 07 m; Average moving speed 3.33 km/h

The walkers were Monika Bratownik (Leader), Chris McGimpsey (Guide), Zack Williams, Emma Rogers, Michael Norriss, Louise Petrie, Barry Watson, Ursula Jewell and John Kerkhofs (Admin assistant, Scribe and photographer).

15-17 February 2019

Dave Sutton's Routeburn in a Day – Brilliant!

Who would want to drive all the way to Hollyford to walk 33 or more kms? You can do that on the Crater Rim. Ah, what the heck, why not?

So 1.00 pm on a hot Friday afternoon six of us (Chris, Natasha, Alan, Jonathan, Susan and me) piled into a trusty Toyota van with our gear and headed south. Trip a bit like budget flying, Highway 1 to Dunedin, where in Oamaru we saw ominous cumulous like clouds in the distance. Meanwhile, another eight (David, Barry, Michaela, Kristy, Emma, Zac, Kate and plus one other) piled into another business class trusty van and headed to Glenorchy, so we could all walk, talk, swap and get home.

Dunedin, 7.00 pm, black beer and roast dinner at one of Chris' locals, and onwards further

south, van swinging about as the southerly hits and glad it's Susan and not me driving. Someone says we have another 4 hrs to go – this is nuts, why did I sign up? Chris offers me the keys, I politely decline and he stoically drives the last bit, into the dark through the murk and rain. Hollyford and Gunns Camp 12.30, or was it 1.00 am? Ground wet, but sky fine, cold and damp, we reluctantly find spots to pitch tents and Chris grabs the dry floor in the van, gets up at 6.00 and wakes us all to more damp and cold and no rain. It's going to be a fine and brilliant day, will the creaky body make it? Light shoes and pack are going to help.

What a fantastic trip: my goal "Every footstep will be a delight" was met...well, maybe the last 3 kms or so involved putting the mind in neutral and plodding to the end, but no cramp, hot feet or blisters this time. Head torch not required. Fantastic weather and incredible views all the way, beach forest tracks, streams and waterfalls, lakes, tarns, tussocks and spaniards, and lots and lots of mountains including Madeline and Tutoko.

A comfy night at the Lake Sylvan camp site in a reciprocated tent (this one was much better than mine) and then back to Christchurch next day in the business class van with comfy seat, stretched legs and great view) and stops for real fruit ice creams, apricots and greengages, pies, coffee and salmon for Natasha. Christchurch, a blistering fuel stop and at the rental depot bang on 5.00 pm to avoid any penalty costs! Timing is everything, including for David's keen eye on the weather window to get this one absolutely 100% spot on.

Party: David Sutton (Leader and critical arrangements without which this wouldn't have happened), Chris McGimpsey, Natasha Sydorenko, Allan McInnes, Jonathan Carr, Susan Pearson, Barry Watson, Michaela Watson, Kristy Macdonald, Emma Rogers, Zack Williams, Kate Taylor, Apologies I Forgot One-other and Barney Stephenson (report)

7 April 2019

Castle Hill Peak via Ghost Creek

12.8 km and 1460 m total ascent over 8 hours. Five participants – David Sutton, Grant Barrie, Barney Stephenson, Warwick Dowling and Bryce Williamson (leader).

In September last year, after Eric's Mottram Peaks trip and a night in the CTC hut, a small party of CTCers did a short Sunday trip up Ghost Creek to an "impassable" waterfall in the Torlesse Range. Later, Markus (who did Mottram Peaks that weekend, but not Ghost Creek) told me that Ghost Creek permitted a reasonable ascent route to Castle Hill Peak, the highest point on the Torlesse Range. So when Kelly was soliciting day trips for early April, this came to mind. From the map I devised a trip up Ghost Creek gorge to the west branch, gaining a westerly ridge over Pt 1531 m that leads almost directly to Castle Hill summit. There were two potential risks: the weather and my lack of knowledge of where exactly the waterfall was. I judged the former to be slight (light south-easterlies, occasional showers but mostly fine) and the latter to be moderate.

I had arranged for us to meet at the Papanui Z station (it being more accessible to me by bike), but there was a minor revolt, started by Grant, that ended up with us meeting at the Russley Caltex. We departed from there about 7:10 am, the principal revolutionary having been late! But the road trip was short, so by 8:30 am we were heading north on the four-wheel-drive track along the true right of the Porter River. The weather was not brilliant, but also not particular unpleasant, and I was supremely confident that it would improve as the day went on.

40 minutes later we had turned up Ghost Creek and were entering the gorge. The going

was pretty straightforward, apart from some minor scrambling that was mostly undertaken to keep our boots dry (given the certainty of snow higher up). The weather, if anything, was slightly worse.

40 minutes later still, we reached the confluence of the east and west branches and what do you know – the west branch (the one I had planned to follow) was blocked by an “impassable” (c.a.) 20-metre waterfall. OK, so that means we have to try the east branch and, if the worst comes to the worst, we’ll just walk back the cars and go to the Sheffield Pub. (By the way, the weather had not improved, in fact slightly worse, and we were now all in waterproof jackets.)

Another 40 minutes and we came to a small waterfall that David and Grant made modest attempts to surmount. With perseverance we could probably have defeated it, but it was easier and safer to retreat slightly down stream and (led by David) scramble over a crumbly shoulder above the waterfall.

About 10:50 am, and having ascended about 430 m, we came to a south-easterly facing scree-filled, snow-dusted vale that gave the appearances of a pretty straightforward climb to our target ridge. We paused for about 10 minutes for a morning break then headed up the scree. But it is in the nature of scree to be a right-bastard to climb, so we soon veered to our right and onto a steep spur of crumbly but beautifully stratified greywacke.

The 400 m ascent to the ridge (led by David) took us about an hour. It was steep, crumbly, type-two fun, with not a lot of a view and occasional sections of hands-on-rock scrambling. And, by the way, the weather hadn’t improved – if anything it was a bit worse. We emerged onto the broader tussock-and-snow ridge just below Pt 1531 m, where we took a lunch break for 20 minutes and most of us put on more water- and wind-proof gear.

From Pt 1531 m we were on a broader and gentler ridge in magical conditions. We were in the lee of the main spine of the Torlesse Range so there was not much in the way of wind and, with the exertion of steady climbing, I don’t think that any of us were cold.

On we forged, taking 90 minutes ascending 500 m over 1.2 km (led by David) in light rain, turning to sleet, to a point on the main Torlesse ridge just 200 m southwest of the summit, the knob at the top of the final steep section of the standard Foggy Peak-to-Castle Hill Peak route.

As soon as we popped our heads over the main ridge we were struck by a light, but intensely cold south-easterly breeze. I could feel my moustache freezing and then my right cheek and hands started to hurt. At the summit (which we reached at 1:40 pm), David (who got there first) had taken shelter behind the rime-decorated trig station. There not being enough room for me, I hopped onto the leeward side of the nascent summit cornice where it was remarkable calm and reasonably warm. The others immediately followed me and we hunkered down for 20 minutes in relative comfort for second lunch and to put on some more protective clothing (since the weather was getting worse).

At just after 2 pm, we headed northeast to Pt 1940 m, then turned at right-angles to the northwest, descending 600 m over 2.5 km and 80 minutes to the top of a scree that Richard Lobb had introduced me to in August 2013. (David was also on that trip, as was Richard Kimberley, who forgot his crampons and horrified of a bunch of Over-Forties trampers that we met.) I remembered this as being one of the best scree runs I’ve ever done, but it is now really terrible! If anyone asks you, tell them it’s really, really terrible and on no account should they go near it. No matter what, definitely stay away from it.

By 3:40 pm (led by David) we were at the bottom of the (absolutely dastardly horrible) scree run – and the sun “almost” came out. Then it was the trudge back to the car (led by

David) and a drive to the Sheffield Pub for assorted beverages (I had a beer), burgers and chips (thanks Warwick).

In summary, I was wrong about the weather and lost my gamble with the waterfall. But it was a thoroughly enjoyable (often of the type-two type) day. The conditions made for some magical imagery, albeit at the expense of having to check the GPS from time to time. Thanks to the team for their amusingly entertaining company and to Warwick for driving.

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>Social Convenor:</i>	Kay Taylor	03358-4580
<i>Vice President:</i>	Bill Johnson	022 049 3453	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Katherine King	0276141941
<i>Secretary:</i>	Eric Skea	021 0247 5473	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Barney Stephenson	03 358 3281
<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>Editor:</i>	Peter Hinchey	0225948023
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	Joshua Johnson	0278865868	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Steve Bruerton	322-6196
<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Kelly Purdie	027 614 2255	<i>IT Convenor:</i>	Nick Edwards	0273656751
<i>Overnight Trip Organiser:</i>	Barry Watson	021668895	<i>Access Officer:</i>	Ian Dunn	0212141907

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor
(editor@ctc.org.nz) by 23 May 2019 – Thanks.
