



# ***THE CHRISTCHURCH TRAMPER***

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

Affiliated with the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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

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No. 1

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Interior of Green Gully Hut (old gold miners hut – see Trip report)

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 **fortnightly** 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 an extra \$15 for members who opt to obtain a paper newsletter.

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

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## News

This notification is to bring your attention to a change to the CTC regulations (soon to be Bylaw) relating to alcohol on CTC trips and at CTC events.

Rule 14 (l) of the CTC Rules and Regulations 2024 (R&R24) states: ***The Committee shall have the power to alter, amend or rescind, as it deems necessary, the Regulations as listed in Appendix A. Any changes will be notified to the Club's membership. Any such changes can be revoked or amended by a majority of the members present and voting at a General Meeting.***

Regulation 3 (l) of R&R24 states: ***Alcoholic beverages may only be carried on Club trips at the discretion of the Committee.***

In the near future, the "Regulations" will be superseded by "Bylaws", as required by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. At the CTC Committee meeting of 10 March 2025, the following motion was put and carried:

*...that the Bylaw relating alcohol on Club trips be reworded to read:*

***"Alcoholic beverages may be carried on Club trips only at the discretion of the trip leader. Responsible alcohol consumption is permitted during club activities when legally permitted. Members are expected to drink in moderation and ensure that their behaviour remains respectful, safe, and does not negatively impact others."***

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## 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 'Z' Russley (formerly Caltex) 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 8 am 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 alternate 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 **Bryce Williamson 021-0232-2310 or email [bryce.williamson68@gmail.com](mailto:bryce.williamson68@gmail.com)**. 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. For bookings and the door entry code please email: **[hutbooking@ctc.org.nz](mailto:hutbooking@ctc.org.nz)**. Or phone Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070; or if he's away, Rex Vink 022 197 8101. 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, Chris McGimpsey.

**Equipment Hire:** The Club has a range of equipment for hire. The Gear Custodian is Alan Ross, ph. 027 358 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.

A more detailed list is on our website under the Member's menu, Gear Hire

**Rates for Gear Hire:**

Tent	\$5/person/night
Ice axes, crampons	\$5 per item per day (\$10 weekend)
Avalanche kits (transceiver+probe+shovel)	\$5 per item per day (\$10 weekend)
Large 70L packs	\$2 per weekend
Helmets	Free
Extra snow shovels	\$5 per item per weekend

Saturday 3 May Departure point: Z Russley		Leader: Rachel Perkinson +64 20 4069 4627 rperkinson2@gmail.com	
<b>Mt Potts (maybe), Erewhon Hut and Mt Sunday :</b> Initial plan will be to visit Erewhon Hut on the Mt Potts ski field (expect lots of scree) and then if time and conditions permit we will head on to the summit of Mt Potts before dropping down the scree to rejoin the access track to the cars (I may decide to reverse and do it as per the map below).(16km 1700m) I haven't asked for snow skills at this point as we have the option of just visiting the hut and leaving the summit for another day but please state when you sign up if you have them or not and I'll revise the plan the week before based on who has signed up. See here for a better description and photos: <a href="https://hikingscenery.com/mt-potts-circuit-canterbury/">https://hikingscenery.com/mt-potts-circuit-canterbury/</a> When we return to the car there will be an optional side trip to Mt Sunday (1.5km) seeing as we have driven all that way. Due to the shortage of daylight head torches will be essential but hopefully the early start means we won't need them. Bring plenty of layers. DO NOT sign up if you just want to do Mt Sunday this is a Moderate/hard trip for a reason. Pace will be moderate to ensure we have enough daylight. Trip will only go ahead if a) drivers sign up and b) the forecast is good. Date subject to change due to weather.		Grade:Moderate/ Hard Closes: 2 May Map: BX18 Lake Clearwater Approx: TBC	
Wednesday 7 May			
Social			
<b>Hiking in Japan and Mongolia (David Sutton):</b> Join us for an exciting social night as David shares his adventures hiking with Jacqui through the vast landscapes of Mongolia and the scenic trails of Japan.			
Weekend 10-11 May Departure point: Z Papanui		Leader: Megan Vink +64 27 8680359 meganvink1998@gmail.com	
<b>Megans Winter Hot Pool Party part 1 - Otehake Hot Pools:</b> There isn't no party like a Megan Hot Pools party! The first Winter Hot Pools party is a good one, Otehake Hot Pools. Leaving from Z Papanui, and with a stop at Sheffield for a second breakfast, we'll head over AP to the carpark, cross the Otira (hence the river crossing skills needed) and make our way up the TA track, head off up to lake Kaurapataka and up via the flood track to the hot pools. Bring a tent and some treats!		Grade:Easy/ Moderate Closes:7 May Map: BV21 Cass Approx: \$40.00	

<p>Wednesday 14 May</p> <p>Departure point: South-western end of Coronation Hill</p> <p><a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/4Y3UJerg4JnyK3ts9">https://maps.app.goo.gl/4Y3UJerg4JnyK3ts9</a></p>	<p>Leader: John Kerkhofs +64 21 2429253 john.kerkhofs@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Wednesday Social Walk #74 - Mt Ada:</b></p> <p>This walk mostly follows the Crater Rim Walkway (CRW), with a couple of diversions. We'll head towards Marleys Hill and into Hoon Hay Reserve where we divert to Trig V. From there it's back to the CRW and on to Ohinetahi Reserve where we'll divert to the top of Mt Ada which offers a great view down Whakaraupo/Lyttleton Harbour. From there we'll head back along the CRW, skipping Trig V. It's all on track except for a tiny bit at the tops of Trig V and Mt Ada, super easy walking even in the dark.</p> <p>Do I even need to mention that you'll need a headlamp?</p> <p>About 7.2 KM, 321 m elevation gain, around 2 hours.</p>	<p>Grade: Easy</p> <p>Closes: 14 May</p> <p>Map:</p> <p>Approx: Free</p>

Long Weekend 16-18 May	Leader: Justin Loh 0212668466
Departure point: Z (formerly Caltex) Russley	jx@justinloh.com

<p><b>Experience West Coast: Dining with the Devil:</b></p> <p>Explore the striking landscape features of the Devils Dining Table (or the Hundred Acre Plateau as it is also known) and the mudstone peaks of The Needle and The Haystack while looking over the Thousand Acres Plateau.</p> <p>Day 1 Friday - Meet up after work and drive to Marble Hill DOC Campsite (booking required \$10) - Z Russley to Marble Hill - 205km 2hr45min. Pizza/burger at Brew Moon while on the way.</p> <p>Day 2 Saturday - Wake up super early and drive to Matiri Valley Carpark - Marble Hill to Matiri Valley Carpark - 109km 1hr30min. Journey pass Lake Matiri Hut, Poor Pete's Hut, Larrikin Creek Hut, and up to the many tarns on the Hundred Acres Plateau and find some good spot to pitch our tents, explore nearby peaks and enjoy the views of the sun setting over the Thousand Acres Plateau. Sunrise: 07:38. Sunset: 17:15. 22km, 1650m elevation gain.</p> <p>Day 3 Sunday - Walk out and drive back to Chch - Matiri Valley Carpark to Z Russley - 314km 4hr. Book your own campsite for Friday night 16 May 2025. <a href="https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/west-coast/places/lewis-pass-scenic-reserve/things-to-do/campsites/marble-hill-campsite/">https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/west-coast/places/lewis-pass-scenic-reserve/things-to-do/campsites/marble-hill-campsite/</a></p> <p>Limit to 8, will open to 12 if there's enough cars. Just a little note about Justin's moderate/hard trips- - Expect long day. - Hairy rocky exposed scrambling involved, either planned, and/or unplanned. While carrying an overnight pack. - When we are doing extensive ridge travel, there is no water source, you are responsible for making sure your own hydration needs are met. - Electrolytes are important for long days; water alone will not be as effective. - You are expected to have your gear dialled in, not the time for experimenting, definitely don't wear that pair of boots you got from Temu or The Warehouse. - Ensure you are well fuelled throughout the journey. Carbs is the ultimate endurance fuel, energy from carbs becomes available within 5 minutes to 2 hours of consumption whereas energy from fats takes 2 hours to 6 hours to become available. Your body only have enough carb store for 2 hours. - Please study the route map regardless of how experienced you are. - Pace yourself, no medals for being the fastest person or the person who is huffing and puffing to keep up with the fastest person. - Experience required if you have not done an equivalent moderate/hard multi-day trip before: 2x moderate/hard day trips + 2x moderate multi-day trips.</p>	<p>Grade: Moderate/ Hard</p> <p>Closes: 14 May</p> <p>Map: BR23 Murchison</p> <p>Approx: \$122 - cost estimation based on 3 person in a 3000cc vehicle</p>
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Wednesday 21 May	Social
<b>New Zealand insects (Morgane Merien):</b> What do stick insects, science communication, and Canterbury Museum have in common? Answer: Morgane Merien, "entomologist, and a science communicator who is passionate about sharing knowledge on our wonderful natural world especially insects and other invertebrates." Come along to hear about insects, Canterbury Museum, and more.	

Long Weekend 23-25 May	Leader: Justin Loh 0212668466
Departure point: Z (formerly Caltex) Russley	jx@justinloh.com
<b>Experience West Coast: Frew Saddle and Mt Meta:</b> Cableway, swing-bridge, boulder hopping, a saddle, and a mountain. Day 1 Friday - Meet up after work and drive to Club Hut - 137km 1hr45min drive. DIY dinner at Club Hut. Day 2 Saturday - Wake up super early and drive to Hokitika Gorge - 133km 1hr45min drive. Take the Whitecombe Valley Track, then the Frew Saddle Track to Frew Saddle and camp around the biv. Wander up to Mt Meta (5km, 450m elevation gain return) and enjoy the views the sun setting over the surrounding big mountains. 25km, 1900m elevation gain. Sunrise: 7:45 AM. Sunset: 5:06 PM. Day 3 Sunday - Walk out same way, drive back to Chch - 269km 3hr30min. Limit to 8, will open to 12 if there's enough cars. Just a little note about Justin's moderate/hard trips- - Expect long day. - Hairy rocky exposed scrambling involved, either planned, and/or unplanned. While carrying an overnight pack. - When we are doing extensive ridge travel, there is no water source, you are responsible for making sure your own hydration needs are met. - Electrolytes are important for long days; water alone will not be as effective. - You are expected to have your gear dialled in, not the time for experimenting, definitely don't wear that pair of boots you got from Temu or The Warehouse. - Ensure you are well fuelled throughout the journey. Carbs is the ultimate endurance fuel, energy from carbs becomes available within 5 minutes to 2 hours of consumption whereas energy from fats takes 2 hours to 6 hours to become available. Your body only have enough carb store for 2 hours. -  Please study the route map regardless of how experienced you are. - Pace yourself, no medals for being the fastest person or the person who is huffing and puffing to keep up with the fastest person. -  Experience required if you have not done an equivalent moderate/hard multi-day trip before: 2x moderate/hard day trips + 2x moderate multi-day trips.	Grade: Moderate/ Hard Closes: 21 May Map: Approx: \$15/\$25 Club Hut + \$103 - cost estimation based on 3 person in a 3000cc vehicle

Saturday 24 May Departure point: Z Papanui		Leader: Michael Newlove 021-1685716 newmike@slingshot.co.nz	
<b>Kaituna Valley/Te Ara Pataka(Summit Walkway)/The Monument Return:</b>		Grade:Easy/ Moderate	
The trip will start at the end of Kaituna Valley Road and follow the South Monument Track, then Te Ara Pataka (Summit Walkway), from which there are great views looking up to Te Ahu Patiki (Mt Herbert) and out to Koukourarata (Port Levy). Along the North Monument Track, then a track marked with rock cairns takes us up to The Monument (711m), giving 360 degree views of Banks Peninsula.		Closes: 23 May Map:	
Returning the same way, good views of Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) on one side and Pegasus Bay on the other.		Approx: \$15 cash please	
Return trip 15kms and 500m overall height gain.			



Long Weekend 31 May-2 June Departure point: Z Papanui	Leader: Justin Loh 0212668466 jx@justinloh.com
<p><b>Te ao Whekere (2,590m) + Surveyor Peak (2,365m):</b> This trip is now a 3D2N Winter trip with alpine travels. Snow skills required. Trip grade is now Hard, note Day 1 is a killer. Note 5am departure. Sunrise 7.52am. Sunset 5.04pm. There's only 5 named peaks above 2,500m between Seaward Kaikoura Range and Inland Kaikoura Range, this is one of them. Te ao Whekere is a 2,590m elevation mountain ranking as the second-highest peak of the Seaward Kaikoura Range. Day 1 - 3.5hr drive to Jordan Stream next to Puhi Puhi Road. Follow Jordan Stream to the major fork, and continue up the true left branch till at 700m where the stream swings west. Just upstream of the 700m contour, look for a scree that goes most of the way down to the true left branch, climb this onto the major spur running north-west. The spur levels at 1500m, continue up to 1850m, camp at the saddle around 2,200m. 9km, 2000m elevation gain. Day 2 the climb Part 1 - Te Ao Whekere (2,590), pt2468. 6km, 800m elevation gain. Day 2 the climb Part 2 - Surveyor Peak (2,365). 7km, 800m elevation. Day 3 return home - Same way back to car. 3.5hr drive back to Chch. 9km. I am expecting to be melting snow for water, if there's no snow, we will be dropping down to my secret campsite near -42.19562, 173.71150. If you have never melt snow for water before, its a lot of snow for not a lot of water, bring extra gas. "For the next few hours we continued to climb higher and higher, this time making the steep ascent along a jagged rocky ridge-line. Again, reminiscent of Taranaki, however these rocks were not reliable and would often crumble in your hands or under your feet sending small boulders barrelling down. It was a tense time as we had to constantly watch out for falling rocks, never truly trusting the grip we had. Anytime a shrub or tree was near, I opted for that as my hand hold, putting my faith in its roots."</p> <p><a href="https://climbnz.org.nz/nz/si/nelson-lakes-kaikoura/seaward-kaikoura-range/te-ao-whekere/jordan-stream-route">https://climbnz.org.nz/nz/si/nelson-lakes-kaikoura/seaward-kaikoura-range/te-ao-whekere/jordan-stream-route</a>  <a href="https://climbnz.org.nz/nz/si/nelson-lakes-kaikoura/seaward-kaikoura-range/te-ao-whekere/happy-valley-route">https://climbnz.org.nz/nz/si/nelson-lakes-kaikoura/seaward-kaikoura-range/te-ao-whekere/happy-valley-route</a>  <a href="https://wtmc.org.nz/trip-report/te-ao-whekere-reconnaissance/">https://wtmc.org.nz/trip-report/te-ao-whekere-reconnaissance/</a>  <a href="https://wtmc.org.nz/trip-report/te-ao-whekere-the-discovery-of-the-sarhsaurus/">https://wtmc.org.nz/trip-report/te-ao-whekere-the-discovery-of-the-sarhsaurus/</a>  <a href="https://www.stokedforsaturday.com/2014/12/summiting-te-ao-whekere/">https://www.stokedforsaturday.com/2014/12/summiting-te-ao-whekere/</a></p> <p>Just a little note about Justin's moderate/hard trips' - Expect long day. - Hairy rocky exposed scrambling involved, either planned, and/or unplanned. While carrying an overnight pack. - When we are doing extensive ridge travel, there is no water source, you are responsible for making sure your own hydration needs are met. - Electrolytes are important for long days; water alone will not be as effective. - You are expected to have your gear dialled in, not the time for experimenting, definitely don't wear that pair of boots you got from Temu or The Warehouse. - Ensure</p>	<p>Grade: Hard          Closes: 28 May          Map: BT27                Kaikoura                BT28                Mangamau                nu          Approx: \$80</p>

you are well fuelled throughout the journey. Carbs is the ultimate endurance fuel, energy from carbs becomes available within 5 minutes to 2 hours of consumption whereas energy from fats takes 2 hours to 6 hours to become available. Your body only have enough carb store for 2 hours. - Please study the route map regardless of how experienced you are. - Pace yourself, no medals for being the fastest person or the person who is huffing and puffing to keep up with the fastest person. - Experience required if you have not done an equivalent moderate/hard multi-day trip before: 2x moderate/hard day trips + 2x moderate multi-day trips.

Wednesday 4 June

Social

**Looking out for our Neighbours - Kea conservation (Cage Cardon):**

Kea are the world's only alpine parrot and are found only in New Zealand. They're in serious trouble due to predation and human food. We'll learn more about their conservation and how to use a survey tool to count kea while out tramping.

Come along to hear a talk from Cage, a Wildlife Keeper at The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust. Previously, he was an intern zookeeper at Auckland Zoo.

Long Weekend 6-8 June Departure point: Z Papanui		Leader: Justin Loh 0212668466 jx@justinloh.com
<b>Experience West Coast: Elliot Tops and Two Tarns:</b> You may or may not have seen this on Wilderness Mag featuring "luxurious alpine herb fields and two idyllic tarns". Day 1 - Meet up after work and drive to Slab Hut Creek Campsite DOC (bookings required \$10). Dinner at Brew Moon while on the way. 3hr30min 260km. Day 2 - Wake up bright and early and drive to trailhead 42-28'16.1"S 171-48'07.9"E on Ahaupara Kopara Rd - 1hr15min 60km. Look for track on true right of creek. Hike up to Lake Aynsley (East of pt1425) to camp. Should take 6.5 hours according to Wilderness Mag. 5km, 1300m ascent. There is no water source until we arrive at camp. Sunrise 7.56am Sunset 4.59pm. Day 3 - Pack up and head South towards "mini Earnslaw Burn" (West of pt1462) before looping our way back to the car. Should take 5.5 hours according to Wilderness Mag 7km, 350m ascent. Drive back to Chch - 4hr15min 290km. Book your own campsite for Friday night 6 June 2025. <a href="https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/west-coast/places/victoria-forest-park/things-to-do/campsites/slab-hut-creek-campsite/">https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/west-coast/places/victoria-forest-park/things-to-do/campsites/slab-hut-creek-campsite/</a> Limit to 8, will open to 12 if there's enough cars. Just a little note about Justin's moderate trips- - Please study the route map regardless of how experienced you are. - Pace yourself, no medals for being the fastest person or the person who is huffing and puffing to keep up with the fastest person. - Ensure you are well fueled throughout the journey. Carbs is the ultimate endurance fuel, energy from carbs becomes available within 5 minutes to 2 hours of consumption whereas energy from fats takes 2 hours to 6 hours to become available. Your body only have enough carb store for 2 hours. - Experience required if you have not done an equivalent moderate multi-day trip before: 2x moderate day trip + 2x easy/moderate multi-day trip.		Grade: Moderate Closes: 4 Jun Map: BT21 Waiuta BU21 Haupiri Approx: \$130 - cost estimation based on 3 person in a 3000cc vehicle
Wednesday 18 June		Social
<b>African winter #1: Tramping in Namibia - Duestenbrook, Brandberg, Fish River:</b> TBA		

Long Weekend 20-22 June Departure point: TBC		Leader: Joanna Buchajczyk, Mark Nicholls 022 403 7585, 027 561 8463 jbuchajczyk@gmail.com, markjnicholls@hotmail.com	
<b>Mataketake Hut for Matariki:</b>  Like quite a few others in the club, I really like this hut and since I was halfway through a book I started and the bookshelf could do with some organising, I thought it would be a cool place to be for Matariki weekend. We'll leave on Friday morning (it's a public holiday so no need to take the day off) and head down to our stop for the night (the NZAC lodge at Fox Glacier), closer to the date we'll figure out some activities/ stops to do on the way as it's a long drive. On Saturday morning, we'll drive down to the end of the Paringa Cattle track and make our way up to Mataketake Hut, I'm hoping to do it as a loop so depending on the weather forecast, it will be via the Maori Saddle route or the Mica Mine Route (doing the other on the way out). Once at the Hut, it will be time to admire the environment/ view, climb some nearby hills, read some books and enjoy Matariki. On Sunday it's time to head out and home, stopping for dinner, snacks etc on the way, expect to be home after 9pm though. Details: - Christchurch to Fox Glacier - 6 to 7 hours by Car - Fox Glacier to Paringa Cattle track north carpark - about an hour by Car - North Carpark to Mataketake Hut (via Maori Saddle) - 9 hours, rated, rated advanced - North Carpark to Mataketake Hut (via Mica Mine Route) - 8 hours, rated expert/ route - Approx elevation gain - 1200m - NZAC Lodge @ Fox Glacier - (\$20 for NZAC members, \$40 for non-members) - Mataketake Hut - \$25 per night (YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK THIS VIA DOC)		Grade: Moderate Closes: 18 May Map: BY13 Lake Paringa Approx: TBC- Fuel + 50%	
Wednesday 2 July		Social	
CTC Buy, Sell & Exchange: TBA			

Weekend 12-13 July	Leader: Michal Klajban 020 4196 3548
Departure point: Z Papanui	michal.klajban@gmail.com

**Brass Monkey hut:**

Brass Monkey Biv has been removed. Long live Brass Monkey Hut! We'll visit this gem when the mountains around will probably be covered in snow, so you need to have snow skills and appropriate snow gear for this trip. The hut itself is quite small, and we can't rely on it being empty, so we'll be carrying tents. We'll approach the hut via the Rough Creek route. If the snow conditions are good, we could look at walking out via Lewis Tops and hitching back to Rough Creek, but the basic plan for now is going via Rough Creek, in and out the same way. We really need two good days for this trip, so if the weather isn't ideal, I'll postpone. It's about 1400 m up on the first day, so let me grade it Mod/Hard as we'll have overnight packs, and there will likely be snow.

Grade: Moderate/  
Hard  
Closes: 12 Jul  
Map: BT23  
Lewis Pass  
Approx: \$80

Wednesday 16 July

Social

**African winter #2: Namibia - people, geology, animals, short walks: TBA**

Saturday 26 July

Leader: Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070

Departure point: Z Papanui

tortistours@gmail.com

**TORTIS Tour #69:** A beginners guide to getting lost and what to do about it, plus some general navigation and bushcraft skills. This is a day of practical training to help prepare you for the day when your planned day walk becomes a potential overnight sleepover. Bring your normal day pack and gear, a good lunch and a sense of humour - some older pre-torn clothes may be useful 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 Coffee Culture for tea, a Q&A session and a trip debrief on the way home, because the trip lasts till until 5 - 6pm depending on your navigation skills. This is the only club training course which is open to non-members, and it is designed for trampers looking to step up from easy to moderate trips.

Grade: Easy/  
Moderate  
Closes: 25 Jul  
Map:  
Approx: \$25 pay  
online.

Sunday 27 July	Leader: Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070
Departure point: Z Papanui	tortistours@gmail.com

**TORTIS Tour #70:** A beginners guide to getting lost and what to do about it, plus some general navigation and bushcraft skills. This is a day of practical training to help prepare you for the day when your planned day walk becomes a potential overnight sleepover. Bring your normal day pack and gear, a good lunch and a sense of humour - some older pre-torn clothes may be useful 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 Coffee Culture for tea, a Q&A session and a trip debrief on the way home, because the trip lasts till until 5 - 6pm depending on your navigation skills. This is the only club training course which is open to non-members, and it is designed for trampers looking to step up from easy to moderate trips.

Grade: Easy/  
Moderate  
Closes: 26 Jul  
Map:  
Approx: \$25 pay  
online.

Wednesday 30 July

Social

**Hiking in Greenland (Linda Lilburne):** TBA

Wednesday 13 August

Social

**African winter #3: Botswana safari:** TBA

Wednesday 27 August

Social

**Exploring the Lanna Kingdom - Cycle Touring Northern Thailand (Michael Drawbridge):**

CTC member Michael recently returned from a cycling adventure through Northern Thailand, spending several weeks exploring its diverse landscapes on two wheels. Along the way, he captured stunning photographs of the country's vibrant culture, breathtaking scenery, and everyday life. Join us as Michael shares his journey, showcasing his photos and stories from the road.

Sunday 31 August Departure point: Z Papanui	Leader: Chris McGimpsey 027 657 3070 tortistours@gmail.com
<b>TORTIS Tour #72:</b> A beginners guide to getting lost and what to do about it, plus some general navigation and bushcraft skills. This is a day of practical training to help prepare you for the day when your planned day walk becomes a potential overnight sleepover. Bring your normal day pack and gear, a good lunch and a sense of humour - some older pre-torn clothes may be useful 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 Coffee Culture for tea, a Q&A session and a trip debrief on the way home, because the trip lasts till until 5 - 6pm depending on your navigation skills. This is the only club training course which is open to non-members, and it is designed for trampers looking to step up from easy to moderate trips.	Grade: Easy/ Moderate Closes: 30 Aug Map: Approx: \$25 pay online.

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## Trip Reports

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29-30 March 2025

### A tarn in Crimea Range

A keen party of 6 met up at 6am in the morning and headed off cheerfully to the trailhead. Along the way we stopped at Culverden to give the EV a top up while we had some extra breakfast. We parked our car along the Rainbow Road just before the climb up to Island Saddle. It was at the point when I arrived at Tophouse Road that I wished I have not traded my Subaru Outback for a little low riding hatchback.

After a quick brief with the team. We headed up the spur that takes us to pt1684. It was a good 500m of ascend to kick start the day. From there we continued on the ridge to pt1774, then to Mt Maling. A gradual descend from Mt Maling is followed by a steep scree ascend in order to continue on the ridge to Crystal Peak.

We had the idea of taking the ridge all the way to Mt Dora before descending to camp but decided against it when we got to Crystal Peak. The travel on the ridge between Mt Guinevere and Crystal Peak looks too sporty and we no longer have the appetite for that on the first day. Plus, some of us are running out of water.

The descend from Crystal Peak to Wairau River is straightforward once we found a good line. Then it's a steady march to our tarn. The tarn is beautiful, blessed with clear blue waters, multiple pools, and running creeks feeding into it. We made sure to camp away from obvious rockfall zones but one will definitely not want to be here in the event of an earthquake. Having said that, there is a somewhat island of safety on the other side of the tarn away from Mt Dora. This will be a nice place to be during Summer when the sun is higher in the sky.

After setting up my stuff, I decided to wander off and check out the area directly below Mt Dora. Curiosity got the better of me and I ended up climbing up to the saddle between pt1977 and Mt Dora for a good look around. It was at this point that the decision to not summit Mt Dora via this route is made.

Bright and early the next morning, we headed up the scree slope SW of Mt Dora, sensibly staying close to the rock wall and opting for some rock scramble. Sensible if you don't have legs of steel like Jack and Etienne who simply powered straight up the scree slope. The selected route follows the scree close to ridge, and then a zag to the right which took us to a lower bowl on the ridge.

From the lower bowl, we climbed to the upper bowl, then onto Mt Dora. The sportiest section is the zag through a short chute section that only takes 5 minutes to clear. Then a quick scramble back down the bowls along the ridge and steady march towards Mt Guinevere via a very demure ridge line. And return the same way we came from.

Back at camp, we packed up our gears and then slowly headed back down the valley. We stopped for lunch after the waterfall. Then continue on down the valley along the Wairau River and dreadfully do the 500m ascend to regain the ridge. Then onto pt1587 and found ourselves some beautiful scree to run down and finish the day on a high note.

16 hours, 27.5km, 2990m elevation gain. Jason, Jack, Etienne, Diana, Kaveh, and Justin. Photos by Diana.

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5-6 April 2025

## **Casey Saddle - Binser Saddle, Arthur's Pass**

This was my first experience leading a trip, made a pleasure by a cheerful and easy-going group and weather far better than expected.

### **Day 1**

Eleven of us headed to Andrews Shelter on Mt White Road, passing through rain in the foothills and seeing the skies clearing ahead of us. After some vehicle shuffling to avoid road walking on the second day, we ambled along the Andrews Track, stopping at Hallelujah Flat for lunch and saying a quick hello to passing trail runners. On over the barely noticeable Casey Saddle, crossing the Surprise Stream (thankfully with no surprise flooding) and down to Casey Hut which is situated in the beautiful Poulter Valley. Some pitched tents, others found the last remaining bunks, freshened up in the creek or made use of the modern hut's solar lights to eat chocolate and chat.

### **Day 2**

The end of daylight saving meant we could have a more relaxed start to the day. It was a gentle stroll down the river valley, passing the site of the old Minchin Homestead and solving the world's problems en route. After our lunch near Pete Stream, we began the gradual climb up to the Binser Saddle. Tree fall, bird calls and the buzzing of wasps stood out. From there, it was down to the waiting car and our drive home.

Uploaded by: Sophie Bartle on Thu Apr 10 2025

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12-13 April 2025

## **Tenting by the Tarn above the head of Shaw Stream**

The day started off with a mild drizzle as we get out of the car and get ready to make for the trail. Naturally, we put our rain gear on but discovered that they are not necessary once we are in the bush. Lake Stream Route is a beautiful track that goes through Victoria Forest Park, snaking its way up the valley right next to Lake Stream, all the way to Lake Stream Hut.

The signage at the start of the trail informed us that it will take us 3.5 hours to get to the hut. I took it easy, hanging at the back of the pack, savouring the greeneries, forest



bathing. The track is mostly well-formed in the eyes of an experienced tramper. Most of the fallen trees have been dealt with. Shoes got wet right from the start and the multitude of stream crossings and bogs meant that there is no point of trying to keep them from getting wetter.

In the last hour before we reached the hut, the track started to climb more steadily, straying further away from the stream, and when it does route its way back to the stream, one can only admire the masterpiece of nature, water and gravity working together. Then, we arrived at a huge clearing where the hut is sited. We had our lunch break here.

The next section steps up the challenge. We are not expecting to find a track here but we did, its faint but we managed to follow it most of the way. Out of the bush, and into spear grass territory. Towards the head of the valley, we climbed a boulder field to get onto the ridge, headed for pt1568. The weather is still cloudy and we are right in the fog by now, but the views opened up when we got to the top of pt1568, as if open sesame.

We headed North along the ridge and took a spur that drops down towards the tarn that feeds Shaw Stream down below. It is a massive spot, undulating, but plenty of choices when it comes to choosing a camping spot. True to a West Coast weather, the sky opened up in the evening and rewarded us with a beautiful West Coast sunset with a view towards Ives Peak and no signs of civilization.

The next morning, we decided to pack up and hiked up to the ridge NE of the tarn. The idea is to walk along the ridge around the tarn back to where we came from. However, once at the top of the ridge, we come to conclusion that it is not a good idea to do that, so we went back down and make our way back the same way we came from.

Going back down the boulder field requires a degree of focus as the rocks tend to be slippery. There's something about West Coast rocks that behaves in an almost complete opposite manner to the East. I had trust issues with West Coast rocks. We had a break at the bottom of the boulder field while waiting for the rest to catch up before heading down to the hut for another break.

We cruised back to the car after that taking in that beautiful lush green forest one last time.

15 hours, 26km, 1800m elevation gain. Min, Jiang, Jeremy, Jonathan, Jason, Kaveh, and Justin. Photos by Jason.

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18-20 April 2025

## **Easter in the Oteake Conservation Area**

I led a trip to the Oteake Conservation Area over Easter to add some more huts to my tally. My early planning turned out to be lucky with the various weather prognostication services not quite agreeing that the weather wouldn't be terrible.

We drove down on Thursday night and stayed at the very pleasant Danseys Pass Motor Camp. The next morning dawned with low cloud and almost drizzle. As we drove over Danseys Pass the weather improved and it was merely cloudy when headed towards Kyeburn.

We parked beside the second ford and then walked on the 4wd track to the actual start of the track. We started up the Little Kyeburn Track. DOC said the track was overgrown but some very good people have recently trimmed back all the vegetation and it was easy to follow. It climbed steadily and then steeply before popping out at Buster Hut.

We had a well deserved lunch at Buster Hut and then continued on through the Buster diggings. There was a group of 4WDs practising their skills on the spoil heaps. We

continued down to the valley floor and then headed back up hill to Brown Hut.

The next morning dawned clear and we had a warm and mostly cloudless day as we plodded along. After a brief detour to visit the historic Green Gully Hut it was on to Hut Creek Hut. It was a warm plod up and down the rolling hills to Hut Creek Hut. After a welcome break at the refurbished hut it was more plodding on to Tailings Hut.

The next morning dawned with rain and combined with our sore feet we decided to abandon the day trip to visit more huts and just to walk out. The rain stopped and we travelled upstream under misty low cloud. The rain returned after we had done most of the climb up the Buster diggings and followed us the rest of the way. We had a well earned lunch at the huts at the start of the track before plodding back to the car. It was a rainy drive home with a stop at Timaru for dinner.

Overall it was a good long weekend trip to an interesting area of the country.

Uploaded by: Symon Holmes on Mon Apr 21 2025

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19 April 2025

## Lyttelton Market via old Bridle Path

It's been a while since I led a club trip on the Port Hills. It was organised quite last minute, but still, six of us showed up at the Gondola carpark. I was there a bit early so I treated myself to one pipeline loop. We followed one of the old tracks heading up to Te Tihi-o-Kahukura / Castle Rock. One of my favourite tracks in Port Hills!

Upon reaching Summit Road, I had a brief moment of confusion about where to go next, but Fiona quickly put me back on track - for which I'm very grateful, so this didn't turn into another "the trip leader made a wee navigational error" kind of trip!

We dropped down to Cass Bay via the military base and strolled along the beach towards Lyttelton. We agreed that incorporating a swim at Cass Bay would make the trip perfect - but since no one had brought togs, we just made a mental note to bring them next time.

After a quick refreshing stop at the Lyttelton Market, we headed back to the cars via the Bridle Path. It was a very pleasant day out, and we also had the pleasure of having Simon, who recently moved to Wellington, join us for the trip.

**Stats:** 16 km, 4h 45min, 1025 m ascent (includes one loop on the pipeline)

**Participants:** Michal Klajban (leader, scribe, GPX), Mark Nicholls, Simon Barr, James Atlas, Fiona Vetcher, Peter Vetcher

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19 April 2025

## Chasing the sun on Little Mount Peel

The Easter Weather forecast played havoc with plans for a multi-day adventure. After scouring the weather forecasts Windy.com was promising a sunny day at the summit of Little Mount Peel. Some what doubtful five of us set off from Christchurch and made the two hour drive through the thick wet drizzle. The first positive sign was the fact it wasn't drizzling in the carpark (which was very full). We set off up the South Ridge Track encountering plenty of mud and lots of cheeky fantails. Stopping for a brief look at the somewhat underwhelming Emily Falls we headed up to the bushline where we were greeted by bright sunshine and views of the summit (the plains were still blanketed in cloud). At the summit we were joined by Max for lunch who was doing the loop in reverse.

We basked in the sunshine and warmth (there was almost no wind) enjoying some mini Easter Eggs and watching the rain and clouds further north and moving amongst the hills. The sun against the clouds creating a suitable spectacle. A cloud blocking out the sun reminded us that the sunshine was to be short lived so we set off back down the Deer Spur track back to the car. The loop is approximately 10km with 950m of elevation gain.

Attendees: Rachel Perkinson, Megan Vink, Ashely Beijeman, Solomon Ord-Walton, Yurii Kotok and briefly Max De Lacey

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## Classifieds

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### Peel Forest Outdoor Centre - Get ready for the back country this winter with our upcoming Outdoor Skills courses

We're excited to share with you our upcoming Outdoor Skills courses, which we believe will be of great interest to your club members. We would be very grateful if you could share this email with them.

#### **Bush Essentials**

Learn Essential Bush skills, river crossing, navigation and route finding, gear and many other tips and tricks.

Sat 24 - Sun 25 May

\$599 - Includes Accommodation at Peel Forest

[Bush Essentials Course | Peel Forest Outdoor Centre in New Zealand](#)

#### **Intro to Mountaineering**

Learn the key skills to move on snow and in the mountains above the bush line in winter conditions (pre-requisite for the Avalanche Awareness Course).

Fri 27 - Sun 29 June

Fri 11 - Sun 13 July

\$750 - Includes Accommodation at Fox Peak Ski Area

[Intro to Mountaineering | Outdoor Skills Courses | Peel Forest Outdoor Centre](#)

#### **Avalanche Awareness (ASC1)**

Learn essential decision-making skills heading into the back-country or side-country (Intro to Mountaineering or equivalent first)

Sat 5 - Sun 6 July

Thurs 24 - Fri 25 July

\$650 - Includes Accommodation at Fox Peak Ski Area

[Avalanche Awareness Course | Outdoor Skills Courses | Peel Forest Outdoor Centre](#)

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## 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 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>	Natasha Sydorenko		<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Zack Williams	+64 273025888
<i>Vice President:</i>	Gort Stephan	02040854415	<i>Overnight Trip Organiser:</i>	Rachel Perkinson	+64 20 4069 4627
<i>Secretary:</i>	Bryce Williamson	021-0232-2310	<i>Social Convenor:</i>	Kayleigh Gilkes	020 4110 7446
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Pam Bunz	+64 27 220 1955	<i>Gear Custodian:</i>	Alan Ross	021 962884
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Daniel Weatherley	+64 21 220 0710	<i>Editor:</i>	Peter Hinchey	0225948023
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Michal Klajban	020 4196 3548	<i>Hut Convenor:</i>	Chris McGimpsey	027 657 3070
<i>New Members Rep:</i>	John Kerkhofs	+64 21 2429253	<i>IT Convenor:</i>	Alan Chapman	+64 22 327 2832
<i>Day Trip Organiser:</i>	Rachel Perkinson	+64 20 4069 4627	<i>Access Officer:</i>	Ian Dunn	0212141907

Please have stuff for the next newsletter to the editor  
(**editor@ctc.org.nz**) by 29 May 2025 – Thanks.