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## Newsletter

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# HOSPITAL TRAMPING CLUB

Published by Hospital Tramping Club

P.O Box 852, Christchurch, NZ

[www.geocities.com/trampingme2](http://www.geocities.com/trampingme2)

Affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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## SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2007

## JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2008

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Chairperson	Sandra F	Ph 980 4140
Club Captain	Bill N	Ph (03) 315 7780
Secretary & Membership	Wendy T	Ph 354 2277
Treasurer	Helen M	Ph 342 7847
Newsletter	Dennis W	Ph 359 1211

The Hospital Tramping Club was established in 1974 with the aim of making the back country experience more accessible to the average person and to foster a respect for the wilderness. The Club originated in the hospital, but is open to all members of the public. The Club organises a variety of trips to suit all ages and levels of fitness. We encourage prospective new members to experience 2 or 3 trips to see if we suit their style for joining.

For further information about the Club, meeting place and trip gradings, refer back pages of this Newsletter.

### **Hospital Tramping Club to change name**

#### **Important meeting dates:**

Special General Meeting to discuss new name options: Wednesday 26 Sept. 7.30pm at the Trade Union Centre.


Meeting to vote on new name: Wednesday 24 October, 7.30pm at the Trade Union Centre.

Current financial members of the Tramping Club will receive letter notification of these dates and information about the name change process.

## Calendar of Trips and Social Events

<b>Sunday 23 September</b>	<b>Methven Walkway</b>	
Leader Dianne Ph 358 4720	Grade A	Transport \$13
Depart from St Asaph St Meeting Place at 8.30am		

Drive to Methven racecourse where we leave the cars. The walkway follows the Diversion canal to the Ashburton River. (Flat all the way!) After lunch we will return on the opposite side.

<b>WEDNESDAY 26 September</b>	<b>CLUB NIGHT</b>
	Special General Meeting
	7.30pm meeting at Trade Union Centre
	<b>AGENDA</b> Options for re-naming the club to be presented

<b>Saturday 29 &amp; Sunday 30 September</b>	<b>Lake Daniells</b>	
Leader Sandra Ph 980 4140 or 027 224 0045	Grade B	Transport \$25
Please book with Sandra by Monday 24 September		

This is one of the leader's favourite trips. We'll leave Christchurch at 8.00am. A great trip for beginners, who would like to experience an overnight tramp. Meeting place to be arranged by leader. Hut tickets required.

<b>Saturday 6 &amp; Sunday 7 October</b>	<b>Lucretia Biv</b>	
Leader: Bill Nossiter Ph 03 315 7780	Grade B+	Transport \$20
Please book with Bill by Monday 1 October		

Lucretia Biv is located in the upper reaches of the Lucretia Stream which flows into the Nina River, Lewis Pass. Map 260, M31.

Meet at Belfast Hotel 8am Saturday, 2 hr drive to Alpine Log Cabin where cars will be left. Pleasant walk up the Nina, turning off into a seldom used track to Lucretia Biv – two bunks. Tents and cookers required.

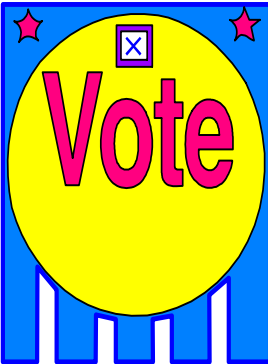
<b>Sunday 14 October</b>	<b>Lake Coleridge</b>	
Leader Diane Ph 358 4720	Grade A	Transport \$18
Depart from St Asaph St Meeting Place at 9am		

On arrival we will look around the village and power station before walking up through the Arboretum on the way to the Lake and intake. Should still be some snow on the mountains and beautiful scenery ideal for photos.

An easy day.

<b>Saturday 20 Sunday 21 &amp; Monday 22 October (Labour Weekend)</b>	<b>Mt Koeti</b>	
Leader Mike R Ph 337 5944	Grade C	Transport \$30
Please book with Mike by Monday 15 October		

Mt Koeti (1783m) is on the southern side of the Taramakau River between the Otehake River and Townsend Creek. Leave early Friday night to camp out at Pfeifer Creek or Lake Kaurapataka. Saturday & Sunday up and over Mt Koeti to Townsend Hut. Return to cars Monday. Tents and cookers required.

<p><b>WEDNESDAY 24 October</b></p> 	<p><b>CLUB NIGHT</b></p> <p>Special General Meeting  <b>7.30pm meeting at Trade Union Centre</b>  <b>AGENDA</b>  <b>1. Voting for Club name change</b>  <b>2. South America - Desert to Rainforest</b>  Heather will present a slide show of her travels through Chile's Atacama Desert, across Bolivia's salt lakes and high altiplano, via Peru's Ancient civilizations to the rainforest of Ecuador. Other highlights include Machu Picchu and the Inca trail, a festival in La Paz and the statues of Easter Is.</p>
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<b>Sunday 28 October</b>	<b>Akaroa – The Kaik</b>	
Leader Michael B Ph 358 3081	Grade A	Transport \$20
Depart from St Asaph St Meeting Place at 9am		

Drive to Akaroa and park the cars. Walk to The Kaik and return.

<b>Sunday 4 November</b>	<b>Weka Pass Railway</b>	
Leader Sandra F Ph 980 4140	Grade A	Transport: \$10
Please book with Sandra by Monday 29 October for transport arrangements		

The train departs Glenmark at 11.30am travelling to Waikari, returning to Glenmark at 1.35pm. There is a 45 minute stopover at Waikari. You can enjoy a spot of lunch at the pub or bring your own. Standard return fares are as follows:

Adults \$18 pp; Children \$10 pp; Family (2 adults and 2 children) \$50.

The Railway does not take bookings for the scheduled train trips, we purchase tickets when we get there.

<b>Sunday 11 November</b>	<b>Mt Alford</b>	
Leader Dennis W Ph 359 1211	Grade B	Transport \$20
Depart Yaldhurst Hotel Car Park at 8.30am		

Mt Alford (1121m) is located just south of Mt Hutt. We drive to Alford Forest township and turn into Spoors Rd. Follow the road until it becomes a 4wd track and leave the cars. We walk up the 4wd which provides access to the Mt Alford ridge, and along the ridge to the summit. This trip requires permission to cross private land. If this is denied we will do an alternative trip in the Alford Forest area.



NOTE! There are two trips planned for Sunday November 18th

<b>Friday 16, Saturday 17 &amp; Sunday 18 November (Show Weekend)</b>	<b>Kirwans Track</b>	
Leader Heather M: Ph 322 5030	Grade B	Transport \$25-\$35
Please book with Heather by Wednesday 7 November (Note early booking date!)		


Leader Heather M (Ph: 322 5030). Starting near Reefton we walk through beech and pine forest and then on a 4WD track alongside the Waitahu River until we reach Montgomerie Hut (5 hours). On Saturday we warm up along grass flats then uphill to Kirwans Hut passing remnants of the old mine including the stamping battery and aerial ropeway. A short day (4+ hours) so those who wish should have time to go beyond the hut to check out the view from the top of Kirwans Hill. The next day it's a gentle downhill track through the forest until a footbridge and tunnel lead us out to the Caplestone car park (5-6 hours).


<b>Sunday 18 November</b>	<b>Waikuku - Kaiapoi</b>	
Leader Diane W Ph 358 4720	Grade A	Transport \$8
Depart from St Asaph St Meeting Place at 9am		

Drive to Kaiapoi where one car will be left, then on to Waikuku to start our wander through the forest to Woodend and Kairaki. We will stop for lunch when we find a spot with a sea view. On to Kaiapoi where you will wait with drink in hand while the drivers return to Waikuku. This is quite a long walk but good for a summer's day.

<b>Sunday 25 November</b>	<b>Capt Thomas Track to Godley Head</b>	
Leaders: Alisoun B Ph 355 6278 & Helen McC Ph 342 7847	Grade A+	Transport: NA
Meet at St Leonards Square in Sumner at 9.00am		

We will walk up Capt Thomas track then along the Crater Rim Walkway out to Godley Head. Return to Sumner via Taylors Mistake and Whitewash Head. Walking time: 4-5 hours. Bring plenty of water on this trip.

<b>WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER</b>	<b>CLUB SOCIAL NIGHT</b>
	<p>Last Wednesday Social Night for the year.  7.30pm at Bill &amp; Wendy's Home, 4 Hibiscus Place.  Please bring a plate.  Fancy dress Hospital Theme to celebrate the last year of the name "Hospital" Tramping Club.  Great prizes for best dressed!</p>

<b>SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER</b>	<b>CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER</b>
	<p>Christmas Dinner at the Garden Restaurant,  110 Marshlands Rd, Shirley.  All are welcome to join us for the end of year gathering.  Dinner is at 6pm.  Cost \$22.80 per person &amp; seniors \$20.80 per person.  Please book with Sandra Ph 980 4140 by Monday 26 November</p>

<b>Sunday 2 December</b>	<b>Jubilee – Estuary Walk</b>	
Leader: Wendy T Ph 354 2277	Grade A	Transport: NA
Meet in the carpark at the beginning of the Jubilee Walk near the Bower Bridge (corner of Wainoni and New Brighton Roads) at 9am		

We follow along the Avon adjacent to the Cockayne Nature Reserve, to the Estuary Walkway. We continue around the side of the spit to the end and back along the beach to the Surf Club. The return brings us through the Bexley Wetlands on the opposite side of the river.

<b>Sunday 9 December</b>	<b>Barnett Park – Mt Pleasant</b>	
Leader: Diane W Ph 358 4720	Grade A+	Transport: NA
Meet at Barnett Park, in Moncks Bay at 9am		

Our starting point will be up Eastenders Track to Jollies Bush then across farm land to Mt Pleasant Reserve for lunch. The return trip will be down hill via Glenstrae Track to McCormacks Bay and Beachville Rd waterfront to our starting point.



NOTE: There are two trips planned for Sunday January 20th

<b>Sunday 20 January</b>	<b>Red Beech Stream Explorer</b>	
Leaders: Mike R Ph 337 5944 & Dennis W Ph 359 1211	Grade B+ & C	Transport \$20
Meet at the Yaldhurst Hotel Car park at 8.30am		

Red Beech Stream drains the east side of Dome in Arthur's Pass National Park. Drive to the Cora Lynn rail bridge (over the Waimakariri River) and park the cars. Cross the Waimakariri River, the river flats and into Red Beech Stream. Explore forest and if possible climb out one of the spurs for a good view. Note this area is untracked so be prepared for some bush-bashing.

<b>Sunday 20 January</b>	<b>Bell Bird - Kennedys Quarry</b>	
Leader Diane W Ph 358 4720	Grade A+	Transport: NA
Depart from St Asaph St Meeting Place at 9am		

Trekking up Worsley Spur then on to the Crater Rim Walkway will ensure we take the Holdsworth Track to the Bell Bird. Carrying on down hill to the big Totara tree then back up to the quarry. After lunch we may do a short walk to Cass Peak then return via Ella's Track and Summit Road to the cars.

### **Wednesday 23 January**

Trip Leaders Planning Meeting.

If you would like to lead a trip in the next Newsletter, or have some ideas for trips, please attend this meeting. Ph Sandra F 980 4140 for meeting details.

<b>Saturday 26 &amp; Sunday 27 January</b>	<b>Gabriels – Jollie Brook</b>	
Leaders Bill & Wendy T Ph 354 2277	Grade B	Transport \$15
Please book with Bill & Wendy by Monday 19 January		

Depart 8.00am. Drive inland from Waikari to the Sisters Swing Bridge in the Lake Sumner region. Walk up river terraces to Gabriel Hut for lunch. Option of looking at, or dipping in the lake, before returning to Gabriel Hut for the night. Walk out via Jollie Brook Stream. Maps M32 & 33. Bring insect repellent, tent & cookers.

<b>Sunday 3 February</b>	<b>Kate Valley – Tiromoana Bush</b>	
Leader Diane W Ph 358 4720	Grade A	Transport \$15
Depart from St Asaph St Meeting Place at 9am		

Drive to Waipara then onto Kate Valley where the loop track has been completed. A walk along the beach will determine our lunch spot. Suitably refreshed we will return along the Lookout Track and farm road.

<b>Saturday 9 &amp; Sunday 10 February</b>	<b>Hawdon Hut</b>	
Leader Sandra F Ph 980 4140	Grade B	Transport \$20
Please book with Sandra by Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February		

All are welcome to join us for this adventure. There has been a new hut built near the original site. This trip will include plenty of river crossings, but the river should be at a low level. This new hut is a two ticket overnight stay.

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## Trip Reports

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### **Mt Pleasant Wander, Sunday 10 June**

I lured “The Beverly Hills, Hill Billy’s” to take to the streets of Mt Pleasant after offering my merry band scones, jam and cream and coffee to get them started.

First problem solved, then it was a matter of keeping them out of all those “open homes” we saw, climbing ever higher and higher. There was some confusion after lunch, as it appeared we were then going down hill but that was soon put right after Billy’s track. Back up the hill only to find them going down again. It was the Devil’s plan to get them down the hill into Basil Place. Only this time a dead-end, to be confronted with yet another hill climb to escape.

Drips of condensation from their perspiration made my clan think it was going to rain which triggered an unplanned descent to return to the cars. I think we might have still been on those hills, if not for that cry of “rain!”

Michael B

### **Mount Vulcan Sunday 1 July**

With panoramic views, this day out was hard to beat. There were nine of us in all, and after gathering at Belfast we set out for Omihi in two vehicles. Noel a prospective member taking five in his 4wd, and four in ours (Bill and Wendy).

Timing was perfect as we arrived at the woolshed at 9.00 to meet the farmer, who was very agreeable to us being on his property for the day. He gave us an aerial printout of the farm which is on the coast, south of Motunau.

We headed off on the white limestone track and before long could see Banks Peninsula from a less usual perspective. With low-lying Ellesmere it was easy to see why Captain Cook had mistaken it for an island.

The scramble up Vulcan, a cone-shaped hill just over 460m, gives an incredible 360 deg view. Very satisfying to be there!

Pam led the way down. We took a circular route to provide for a 5-6 hr day. After the recent heavy rains the surface was quite muddy as we dropped to the creek. Lunch was had in a picturesque spot in the open.

During the day the farmer had mustered a flock of sheep into a holding pen, which was part of our route. They looked almost cartoon-like – all crammed in and facing us.

All up a wonderful day out and a good chance to chat with old and new friends:

(See Trip Pics)

Nigel, Jenni and Noel, Kathy, Elaine, Noel J, Pam, Bill and Wendy.

Wendy.



## **Edwards Hut, Williams Saddle, 28 & 29 July**

Winter trips hold a promise of very cold conditions which keeps many trampers away from the mountains during the season. Under Mike's leadership two other keen trampers (Bill & Dennis) put aside their home comforts and headed for the hills. Although the forecast was patchy and the sky overcast for most of the trip, there was no wind for the whole trip and our parka's never saw the light of day. After leaving the Bill's 4wd beside the Bealey we made short work of getting to the Edwards Hut in 4 hours. No snow on the valley floor but lots of frozen stuff hanging in the gullies. Mike had packed a bush saw and we spent the next couple of hours extracting some decent size dead trees, sawing & splitting into firewood. The firewood supply was very low when we arrived but was well stocked when we left. Sharing the hut with us was a chamois hunter who had a lot of success upstream from the hut during previous trips – but not this time and a party of three younger Brits who arrived late pm.

Good frost overnight & in the morning we fronted up to Williams Saddle (1327m). The Williams Saddle is untracked. It's very visible from the hut but it isn't apparent how to climb it. Challenges: Bluffs and thick alpine scrub in the approach. Last time Mike had been over they had taken a route too far north & had to back track to get around the bluffs. This time Bill led the way & after one false move we got onto a foot worn route which took us straight up the stream on the North side and sidled out to the South at the top. A good stiff climb first thing in the morning! This took us out onto open rocks, tussocks & snow, high above the saddle. We dropped down into the saddle and up the far side for a stop – admiring kiwi prints and the frozen tarns along the way. We watched as the Brits made slow progress behind us and decided we would wait & see if they wanted to stick with us for the descent – which they did. The descent into the Mingha is again untracked – necessitating a hard bush bash across steep country steadily sidling south to avoid the Mingha gorge.

Hours later after much pushing, shoving, heaving, swinging from trees & sweating – Mike led us down into the Mingha well clear of the gorge for a very well earned stop and boil-up. There we left the Brits and took the shortest route down the Mingha & Bealey to the car – arriving 6 hours after leaving the Edwards. Another good trip Mike – thanks!

Dennis

(See Trips Pics)

[Contributions to Trip Reports & Pics are always welcome.

If you've had a great trip out let others in the club enjoy it too.

Email to Dennis at [Dennis.Daphne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Dennis.Daphne@xtra.co.nz)]

# Trip Pics

Boyle Base Camp



Doesn't show here, but the theme was "red."  
Bill N, Toni, Bill T & Wendy

Day trip up the Boyle River



On the ridge  
to Mt Faust

Mt Vulcan



## Mt Vulcan (continued)



## Edwards Hut—Williams Saddle



This is odd, isn't the ice supposed to be on top of the water?



Eating Mike's trademark lime jelly from a hut pot!

Edwards Hut in  
relation to Williams  
Saddle



## Edwards Hut—Williams Saddle (continued)



Mike & Bill, Dennis & Mike on Williams Saddle



Kiwi prints on Williams Saddle.  
Note size relative to boot  
in lower centre.

## Joyful Restaurant



Bill & Wendy

Sandra



Alisoun & Alison



## Kowhai River Hut



Checking out the Big Donut in Springfield.  
Diane, Heather, Michael, Nigel



Alright you lot—I'm the Trip Leader and the track is over here!

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## Meeting dates & locations

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Our General Meetings are generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month. As this may vary, please check program for confirmation.

The Trade Union Centre is on the corner of Armagh St and Madras St with the entrance at 199 Armagh St. Please be on time for meetings as access is restricted and we have someone on the door to let people in until 5 minutes after the meeting starts.

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## Trip Gradings

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Grade	Description
A	An easy day walk suitable for almost anyone who can walk for 5-6 hours. Possibly some short gentle slopes.
B	As a day walk - Longer & harder, requiring a reasonable level of fitness and involving some uphill work. As a weekend - A fairly flat trip but requiring sufficient fitness to carry an overnight pack for 4 to 6 hours
C	As a day walk: A very hard trip and a very long day, requiring excellent fitness. As a weekend: A fairly substantial trip requiring sufficient fitness to carry an overnight pack for 6 - 8 hours and probably climbing for most of the first day.
D	A very hard trip requiring excellent fitness, equipment and experience. Solid uphill work on difficult routes.

The Trip Leader is responsible for the safety and well being of everyone on the trip. Therefore the Trip Leader has the right to refuse to take anyone, who, in his or her opinion, is not equipped, or fit for the trip in any way.

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## Checklist for a Day Trip

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Essential	Seasonal	Optional
Day pack	Sun hat	Walking pole
*Parka (Essential)	Sun glasses	Camera
* Warm clothes (Essential)	Warm hat	Binoculars
Strong walking shoes or boots	Gloves	
Food & drink		
Sun screen		

\*Due to changeable and often unpredictable nature of the weather in Canterbury, a good waterproof parka and warm clothing must be carried for all trips.

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## Overnight Trips

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If you are planning to go on an overnight trip, please contact Trip Leader for information about food and equipment requirements.

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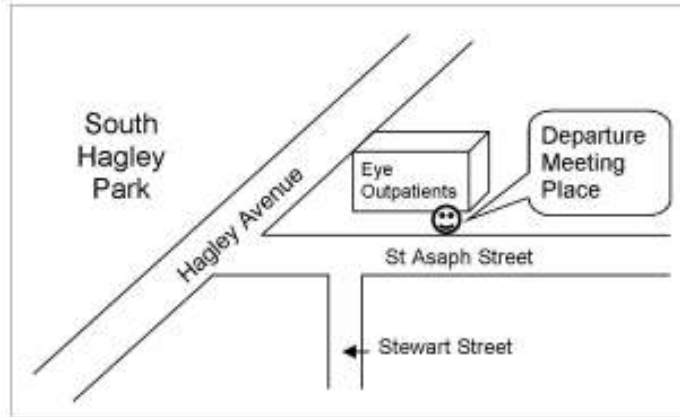
## Departure Point

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As departure points can differ by trip, always check the Trip Schedule for correct departure location.

This map shows the location of the St Asaph Street departure place, outside the Christchurch Hospital Eye Department. Please arrive at the meeting place at least 5 minutes before the departure time.

Car pooling is organised when the group meets. Cars remaining in Christchurch are parked in nearby Stewart St.



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## About our trips

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Typical numbers on our trips are 4 – 10 people. For safety reasons, the minimum of people on a Club trip is four. However if there are fewer than four, the trip can still go ahead but becomes a private and not an official Club trip.

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## Club Membership

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Our annual membership subscription is \$20 single or \$25 family. Our financial year commences 1 April.

We encourage prospective new members to experience 2 or 3 trips to see if we suit their style for joining.