

cutc

canterbury
university
tramping
club

term #2
june 2019

the
twalk special

welcoming the
new committee

trogs
from term 1



cover

TWALK 2018

photo courtesy of CUTC public

back page

photo by Ruth McKie

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publication

CUTC newsletters are published every
university term.

instagram: @cutc_nz

facebook: /UCTrampingClub

cutc.nz

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President's Speech

*a few words from
the president*

I am Josiah Greig, the president of the University of Canterbury Tramping Club for Semester One of 2019.

The president's role mostly involves all the fun behind-the-scenes admin work, but thanks to an epic Committee team, this has gone great so far. Thanks in particular to the hard work from both the Captains, Ruth and Matthew, the Club has been running smoothly.



Photo of me (right) and the Avoca hut Officer Tim (left) before getting lost up a mountain (seen in the background)

The club is going well this year. After the first AGM, we have a bunch of awesome new committee members adding heaps to the Club. At the start of the year we were short on a few roles, so it's great to see them being filled by a bunch of great people.

The Club's activities have gone well so far. We all survived Freshers despite most people greatly underestimating how difficult the 'Hard' route was. There was only one case of a wasp attack, and only mild amounts of alcohol consumed overnight, so we all called it a success.

TWALK was an awesome event thanks to the efforts of Maxime and Leon! Despite missing the event myself, I was deeply saddened to hear how I had missed out on a sleepless night running over 70+ km up and down a hill. It sounded like a truly epic time, but you do have to wonder about the mental state of people doing it.

As I am leaving after this semester, the President role will be available. If you are interested in potentially filling this role, email captain@cutc.org.nz for more information. The election of the new president will be held at a club meeting in the start of Semester Two.

Thanks again to everyone in the committee; it has been a great semester.

Cheers,

Josiah Greig
CUTC President 2019

This is your captain speaking!

*or rather,
both your captains*

Hello fellow trampers.

We hope you have some fun things lined up for the mid-year break. It's always nice to have some time off after the stress of exams and lectures.

Regarding this semester, we should firstly congratulate Leon, Maxime, Amy and Caleb for pulling off TWALK this year with 320 participants roaming around up at Castle Hill Station. As one of the more involved events of the CUTC year dependent on many people coming together, it can be a very nerve-racking time for the organisers. Particularly when a van breaks down on Friday night while carrying a good chunk of the cooking equipment for the event to site. Also, shout out to the heroes who helped with the broken bus window on the ride back, thanks for donating your discarded costumes, strapping tape and tarp to keep the ride less breezy!

Aside from TWALK we have also run a trip every weekend of the term, including a girls' trip and an environmentally focused pine-pulling trip enjoyed by all except for the trees.

Club meetings have also been good this term with a fashion show kicking things off, followed by a miniature on-campus TWALK which was well-received and hard-fought with most teams only making it back in the last minutes of the allowed time. There was also a poo-themed meeting involving some competitive teams and 40 rolls of toilet paper, as well as a 'build a sundae' night in the last week of term.

The club's plans for next term include running an ever-popular snowcraft course, where club members can learn the basics about using an ice axe and crampons – very useful, and in some cases, mandatory for those winter tramps.

Keep an eye out as there potentially may be some more advanced-level snow skills opportunities as well.

Refreshers is, as you may have guessed, a slightly colder rerun of Freshers; a somewhat more social trip to get people either back into things or, in the case of the new batch of exchange students, dive in for the first time. This will be held first week back in semester two – we can't say where exactly it'll be at the moment.

We're also looking at running a joint weekend trip with the Otago University Tramping Club early next term. The idea would be to drive down on a Friday night to meet OUTC halfway at a campsite, and spend the next couple of days doing day trips in the surrounding area. It should be a good opportunity to meet some trampers from other parts of the country. More details to come!

We launched our new club Facebook page this term too; give it a follow for the latest club news, trips, meetings and join the community groups to find other tramping buddies or second-hand gear.

Have a happy holiday and see you next term for some more epic adventures in the hills!

Your captains,

Ruth and Mathew

Enviro- activities

*more than
just tramping*

Other than, well, tramping, the Canterbury University Tramping Club also hosts what are called 'environmental-based trips'.

The environmental-based trips have a particular focus on the environment (no way!), and we aim to do one environmental trip each term.

The trips can vary from removing wilding pines, eradicating wasps or helping DoC and other environmental organisations with trapping. So these trips tend to be less about tramping, and more about giving back to our beautiful world!

The trip we ran for term two was a trip removing wilding pines. We met up with some volunteers from DoC who showed us an area that they have been trying to remove pine trees from for years. The last time the area targeted was about 3 years ago, and it was our job to go and remove the pine trees that the workers missed 3 years ago. Pine trees are a real problem in New Zealand because they both kill the native plants and trees and they are also really difficult to eradicate!

It was a full on day and surprisingly exhausting removing the pine trees, but I think I can say that everyone came home feeling satisfied and with a fuzzy feeling knowing we helped DoC with such a difficult and time-consuming problem!

Johanna Hey

Environmental Trips Officer



Safety First

*ways to keep safe
outdoors*

In this newsletter, we have a quick recap on the CUTC Code of Practice (as detailed on the website), and a couple of tips that we should all be aware of!

CUTC Code of Practice

As students, we all want to have fun and come home safe. Regardless of if we are a leader or a participant we are all equally responsible for our own safety, and the safety of our mates. To help achieve this, the CUTC has evaluated common hazards and divided up basic tasks to ensure all trips run smoothly:

Leader:

- Finds somewhere to go.
- Advertises the trip & communicates to participants.
- Works out group gear including navigational equipment.
- Evaluates the competence and number of participants.
- Submits a BASE form.
- Calculates expenses such as fuel.

Driver:

- Current driver's licence.
- Insurance, registration and WOF.
- Fuels up!

Participants:

- Understand the risks and their consequences: is able to manage these.
- Discuss with other group members and trip leader any concerns or questions they may have
- Understand plan, route and potential alternatives.
- Bring appropriate gear.
- Notify trip leader of allergies.
- Bring food unless otherwise arranged.
- Pay for fuel / allocated expenses.
- Aware of: CUTC Refund Policy, & CUTC Gear Locker Policy.

Note: Anyone can lead a trip! If you're keen and want some help, have a chat to one of the exec.

Tips

A couple of things to think about for the next trip:

Tip #1: Get to know your group.

Regardless of whether you are the leader or a participant, try to put faces to names, finalise plans and most importantly, gauge tramping abilities. Make sure everyone knows what they are getting into. Talking about previous trips is a fantastic way to gauge someone's ability. The weekly club meetings are a great place to catch up with your group, find out about the weather and sometimes even find a bit of insider knowledge from someone who might have done the trip before.

Tip #2: Tell someone your plans.

This can never be stressed enough. When you are going into the bush, always, always, *always* tell someone. Let them know where you're going, where you're going, how many people are with you and when you expect to be back at a very minimum. Doing this can mean the difference between life and death. The club has a convenient system (BASE) that gives your intentions to the safety officers, who will kick search and rescue systems into action if they don't hear from you after you're due out. Take responsibility and ask the leader: have you submitted our intentions to the club?

Note: You may use the BASE form for private trips if you wish. Club trips & PLB hires **MUST** submit a BASE form.

That's it for this term. We look forward to seeing your adventures on a BASE form in the near future!

Your Safety Officers,

Chris and Kerry

Welcoming the New Committee

2019

Say hello to the CUTC Committee for 2019!

Some names and faces will be familiar, others not so much - in any case, here is a quick and hopefully helpful (and somewhat illustrated) guide, to get to know your new committee better. Some introductions have been written by the members themselves!

Feel free to talk to any of us on anything related to the club, the trips, or the roles each member is responsible for.

PRESIDENT *Josiah Greig*

Our club president - you met him on page 4 of this newsletter!

CAPTAIN *Ruth McKie*

Most of you have probably already met Ruth; if you haven't, you'll see her around in the weekly CUTC meetings, if not leading a lot of great trips.

Mathew Falloon

"Hello club I'm Mathew, one of your Captains/Gear officers and Treasurers this year. I'm just a sucker for punishment I guess.

I've been a member of the club for 7 years and on the committee for 6. (Damn I'm getting old) I studied here at Canterbury and have lived in Christchurch for many years.

As a Captain I help run the day to day operations of the club, organise the weekly meetings and establish what we're aiming to do over each term.

As a gear officer I hire out and collecting gear back from people as well as dispensing any gear related advice you may need. As Treasures I take payments for the club and make sure any club spending is appropriate.

Trips I run tend to be more social (board games have been known to follow me to huts) and on the easy to medium end of the spectrum. I'm not one to try and smash time records on trips."

SECRETARY *Lexi Richards*

"Hey guys, I'm your 2019 secretary. You'll see me around taking the committee's minutes, answering general questions, and very possibly stealing Up & Gos. Keep an eye out for me and get amongst it."

TREASURER *Robert Phillips & Mathew Falloon*

CUTC has two treasurers this year! They take care of the club assets and deal with the financial aspect of running CUTC.

GEAR *Tim Dunshea & Mathew Falloon*

OFFICER

Are your gear officers for 2019. That means they're the people to go to regarding the gear lockers, as well as any other gear-related questions you may have.

SAFETY & INSTRUCTIONS

Kerry Clapham & Christopher Dewhurst

As you saw earlier in this newsletter, Kerry and Christopher are our Safety officers and want to ensure all CUTC trips take place safely and with appropriate equipment. Please go to them for any questions about keeping safe on your adventures!

Chris de la Torre is our Instruction Officer, who's the expert on not just safety, but also skills for Bushcraft, Snowcraft, First Aid, and more.

TRIPS OFFICER

Maxime Savoie & Jarren Beckett

As the Trip Officers, Maxime and Jarren co-ordinate a lot of great trips for CUTC members to go on, week after week.

As for TWALK, you can thank ***Maxime Savoie & Leon Batten!***

TECH

Mitchell Denton

Our 2019 Technowizard, responsible for the club's website, databases, mailing lists, and every other tech-related aspect of running CUTC.

MEMBERSHIP

Luke Whitehead

As the member in charge of memberships, Luke is also the person to go to if you ever need your contact details updated.

SOCIAL OFFICER

Hovey Dickson

You can have Hovey to thank for any fun, non-tramping events to come in the future! Keep an eye out for exciting social activities coming soon.

TROG OFFICER

Helena Douglas-Thomson

"Hi I'm Helena, the TROG manager. We have had some fantastic entries this semester with some spectacular photos, so a big thank you to everyone who has sent something in. Keep them coming as each entry puts you in the draw to win gear! We are hoping to actually publish a TROG book at the end of this year so if you want to see yourself in print, this is your chance! If you ever want to reflect on the history of the club check out the library for past editions; you might even get some ideas."

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Jessica Gosling & Sam Mythen

The officers behind the club's publicity aspects - that includes running the official CUTC social media accounts, as well as getting involved with other clubs and organisations to put CUTC's name out there (e.g. getting us members discounts in certain places)!

ENVIRON- MENTAL OFFICER

Johanna Hey

"Hi everyone! My name is Johanna and I'm the Environmental Officer for 2019. My job includes promoting awareness about environmental issues that may impact us trampers, running environmentally-focused trips and engaging with the wider environmental community."

NEWS- LETTER

Sei Lee

The one writing all these right now, who also designs the newsletters for CUTC and (tries to) get it published on time. If you have any suggestions or things you'd like to see in future CUTC newsletters, please let me know through email (in the Committee Contacts page at the end)!

AVOCA HUT

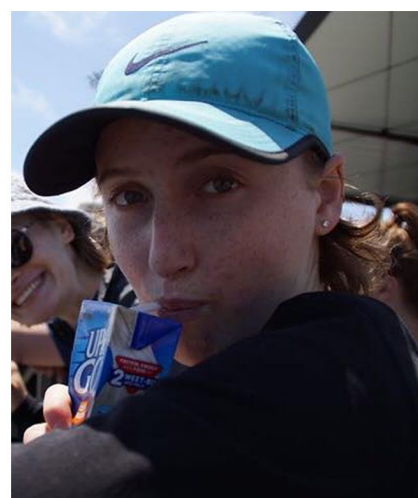
Tim Dunshea

Our officer for Avoca Hut, a hut maintained by CUTC with the help of DOC. Thanks to the Avoca Hut Officer, CUTC members get to have a well-maintained hut to regularly visit and stay in!

GENERAL EXECUTIVE

Volker Nock

Our General Executive of CUTC for 2019.



Most of the Committee preferred not to have their photos included here (which is understandable). Have a photo of one of our captains, Mathew (left) and our secretary, Lexi (right) with her Up & Go. If any members would like to be featured like this, please email the Newsletter Officer! That could be a section to include in future newsletters.

The TWALK Special

*Castle Hill Station,
2019*



Castle Hill,
photo courtesy of Adventure Dreamers on Wordpress

TWALK: A Human Experience Not to Be Missed

Hi, my name is Maxime Savoie and I was one of the organizers of the TWALK 2019. This message is addressed more to the people who don't know about TWALK, or to the competitors who are interested in what happens behind the scenes.

The organizing of this kind of event is a big challenge. We're talking here of a bargaining race of 24 hours in backcountry lands and stations with more than 300 competitors coming from all over New Zealand. Competitors that we have to advert for, drive from uni to the location of the race to, feed and please by setting some interesting legs in an interesting place.

The first challenge is to find the place: it's a long job because it's a long-term gamble. You need to find a farmer who is keen to host 300 people (in tents usually) for 24 hours who eat in their woolshed and hike on their land. So you need to receive a lot of denials and accept that your backup plan can - in the last minute - tell you, "Yes, but only on the area further from the woolshed" (Flock Hill station: a true story from this year). Fortunately, we succeeded in finding a great place with lovely farmers who were OK for doing TWALK - Jos and Catherine (I thank them a lot), in a beautiful place on Castle Hill. However, we now have to set up the legs, and have to trade and deal with the farmers to be able to access some parts of their land, and to use parts of their woolshed. I am sure that a UN agreement is easier to obtain than a simple deal with farmers.





After that, we need to organize toilets, competitors' entries and payments (thanks to Mathew and Robert for their help), buses, recruit a chef which will rent some kitchen gear, recruit his team and finally cook across 24 hours (thanks to Caleb and Amy and all the cooks).

Then, the weeks before: setting up the legs with a team of good tampers (thanks to the dream team of this year who did an amazing job), print the maps, prepare the meeting, and create the T-shirt (unfortunately not in time, but we can't be perfect). On the day itself, we have to react to all potential problems that can happen, and have plans from A to Z only to throw them all away because something unexpected happened.

Fortunately, this year - except for a chef's van we had to empty and transport everything inside from in Castle Hill Station (transporting on the top of my car a big fridge on Porters Pass Road at 2 AM! The best night ever!) - everything went pretty well. You finish the day happy but completely empty (not having slept enough). When you arrive home, you just fall on your bed and sleep. That's the life of a TWALK organizer: hard, but gives you an experience in planning, and overall a very interesting time. So if you feel that you are the human for this kind of challenge, just do it!

Maxime Savoie
TWALK Officer 2019

Freshers, 2-3 March 2019

by Jessica DiCaprio

Craning my neck towards the sky, I stood in a clearing surrounded by tents and long, straw-like grass. Above me were stars. So, so many stars. I couldn't help but gawk at all the clusters and constellations and colors. I marveled at the silhouettes of trees and mountains framing the universe. Around me, pockets of conversation drifted from different parts of the field. Head torches blinked on and off. Dry grass crunched underneath boots. Tents and sleeping bags rustled as zippers were pulled. If I listened carefully, I could pick out the gentle rush of water in the nearby river. All the while, those tiny pinpricks of light gradually made their way across the night sky.

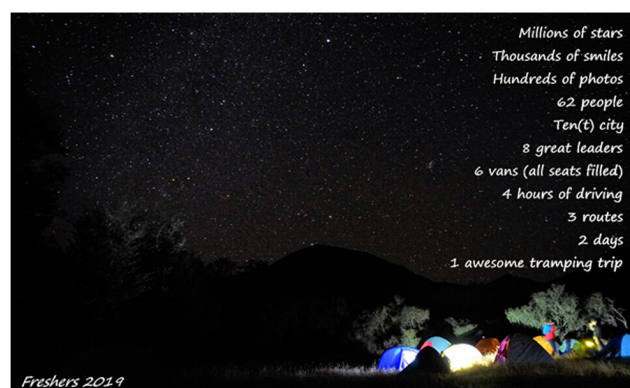
It was a humbling experience which made me ponder my existence in the world. Compared to the trees, mountains, and stars, I, as an individual, am small and insignificant. Witnessing something so vast reminded me to put things in perspective. Observing something so beautiful reminded me why I love spending time in nature. Seeing the Milky Way for the first time during the Freshers Trip is a moment I won't soon forget and fortunately, I can share that sight with others thanks to one of the trip leaders, Mitch. I brought my camera and tripod thinking I would photograph mountains, rivers and maybe the sunrise, but capturing the stars? Surely, that was above my skill level! However, Mitch, a self-taught photo-

-grapher fascinated with astrophotography, showed me a few tricks and soon, I was taking decent pictures for a beginner!

But the lessons didn't stop there. By the end of the weekend, I had learned:

1. It's possible to secure a camera to a tripod with a hair tie if you just so happen to forget that one small piece which connects the two items.
2. Peanut butter stays well between two tortillas, but Nutella seems to ooze out. Either spread the Nutella thin bring it in a bag to spread later.
3. While it looks funny, wearing socks and jandals is an effective way to prevent sandflies from swarming your feet.
4. Pants are hot when tramping in the sun, but they save you the effort of constantly swatting away sandflies.
5. Sandfly bites can itch (and sometimes swell) for days after you get bit. No joke.
6. I'm not a fan of sandflies (as you may have guessed by now).

Anyway, I would 100% recommend CUTC for anyone who wants to get outside, tramp, and meet people with those similar goals! Freshers was awesome and I look forward to going on more trips!



Heaps of Fun, 4 March 2019

by Keira Low

It all started with heaps of trampers,
Heaps of backpacks all over the carpark,
All in line for vans to take off,
With heaps of excitement.

We have arrived, and there were already
heaps of sandflies welcoming us at the
trailhead,
Heaps of us got bitten,
We put on heaps of sunscreen before the
hike,
Hopped across heaps of mud puddles,
Crossed heaps of streams,
Stepped on heaps of cow dung,
Had heaps of breaks,
Ate heaps of snacks
Had heaps of laughter,
and walked heaps of steps,
before we finally arrived at the hut.

We had heaps of tents set up before the
sun sets,
Heaps of us, too, started showing off our
ultimate cooking skills.
We had heaps of
let's-get-to-know-each-other conversations,
And heaps of deep ones too.
It was simply heaps of fun,
With these heaps of amazing people.

We saw heaps of stars,
It was so beautiful it felt like we had heaps
of drugs.
And heaps of us headed into dreams
shortly.
I'm sure heaps of us didn't sleep well,
But we all sure did wake up with heaps of
hunger.

We spent heaps of effort getting out of the
mountains,
Under heaps of sunshine.
And I had heaps of motivation thinking
about the highly recommended Fish and
Chips.

The weekend is now over,
It was heaps of fun,
but FUCK!

I'm dealing with heaps of itch.



Trips / Events

*upcoming
trips*

Most CUTC trips are TBA, but here are some trips happening soon – a good opportunity to get some fresh air while studying for exams! Sign up for trips over at My CUTC (my.cutc.nz/trips/).

15-16 June

Day trip to Akaroa (Sat/Sun TBC)

Trip leader: Jarren

A chance to escape your textbooks and clear your head. Easy day trip to the Hinewai Reserve and Akaroa township. Meet at UCSA Carpark at 9AM, returning by 5PM. Trip cost of \$15 towards fuel payable on the day.

22-23 June

Day trip to Mt Oxford (Sat)

Trip leader: Jarren

Another chance to escape your textbooks and clear your head. Morning tea at the pie shop and moderate climb of Mt Oxford. Meet at UCSA Carpark at 9AM, returning by 5PM. Trip cost of \$10 for fuel payable on the day.

Weekly events at CUTC:

Trail Running Tuesdays/Mondays

Every Tuesday/Monday at 5PM, CUTC members meet in the UCSA Carpark to go for a casual trail run in the Port Hills. This is open to all abilities, so if you're interested, feel free to join! More details are in the 'CUTC Trail Running Group' on Facebook.

Club Meetings

Every Wednesday at 7:30PM, CUTC holds a general club meeting in Ernest Rutherford 141. Most meetings will go over upcoming trips with forms for you to sign up – but often, these meetings involve way more fun than that (and free food)!

Past meetings have included a picnic, a build-a-sundae night, free pizzas, a mini campus TWALK, and even a fashion show! Keep an eye out on your inboxes for more information about upcoming meetings.



Above: some photos from the fashion show earlier last term, taken by our captain Ruth.

Contact Information

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the committee*

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