



Monthly newsletter of PTC. Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Postal Address: The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 13 258, Armagh, Christchurch 8141

Web address [www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz)

E-mail [secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz](mailto:secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz)

Facebook name [peninsula tramping club](https://www.facebook.com/peninsula-tramping-club)

## May 2012

<b>President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford	351 9496
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Dan Pryce	356 2617
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mary Hines	942 6486	Liz Stephenson	358 3281
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Price	337 2614	Brian Smith	Quartermaster 355 9945
<b>Trip Planner</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020		
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069		

**New Member Enquiries** Please contact Stan Wilder, 980 5291, to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters

**CORRESPONDENCE**, including changes of address etc. can be sent to the club secretary—see above

**OUR CLUB** consists of people of all ages who tramp for recreation. Regular trips are organised, ranging from 'easy' to 'hard', day trips to long weekends. Various instruction courses run each year to improve members' skills for back-country tramping. In addition to a monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are held.

**CLUB NIGHTS** are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park (entrance on Riccarton Ave), starting promptly at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30.

### Tue 8 May **FMC INFORMATION EVENING**



**Rob Brown** our local Christchurch FMC executive member will talk to us about the role of FMC. Nearly a third of your PTC subscription payment goes to fund FMC. Find out what is happening in the bigger picture of our tramping environment and what we can do to improve it.

**Supper Duty: Stuart Payne, Susan Pearson, Miriam Preston**

### Tue 12 June **OLIVINE ICE PLATEAU**



Four of the team of ten who did this superb 8-day alpine trip will recall the highlights of their trip up the Beans Burn and onto the plateau via Forgotten Col

**Supper Duty: Deborah Rhode, John Rice or Lois Moore, John Robinson**

## COMING TRIPS

### Day Trips:

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town nearest to the destination. Non-members are asked to phone the trip leader in advance. If you doubt your suitability for a day-trip, or if the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you to go on the trip.

### Weekend Trips:

May leave on a Friday night (usually for base camps) or Saturday morning. Please book with the trip leader by the closing date. Be certain you want to go on the trip when booking, as it is not fair on the leader to withdraw after the closing date (good excuses excepted). Numbers on some weekend trips are limited, so book promptly.

### Bike Trips:

For up-to-date details on biking trips please contact

**Rick Bolch ph 980 5156 email rlbolch@paradise.net.nz**

<b>6 May</b>	<b>MT WINTERSLOW</b>	<b>Maps BX20;K36</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Chris Leaver 322 6445</b>	
■	<b>Moderate</b> walk to the highest peak (1700m) on the Winterslow Range. Starting from Sharplin Falls car park, with potential views of Mts Cook and Tasman. Take ice axes and crampons. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$16</b>
<b>12-15 May</b>	<b>MOTATAPU TRACK</b>	<b>Maps CB11,12;F40,41</b>
<b>Sat-Tue</b>	<b>Dan Pryce 356 2617 &amp; Gary Huish 332 7020</b>	
■ ■ ■ ■	<b>Moderate</b> tramp of Shania Twain fame between Arrowtown and Wanaka. <b>List Closes: Sat 28 April</b>	
<b>13 May</b>	<b>BIRDLINGS FLAT - MAGNET BAY</b>	<b>Maps BY24;M37,N37</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip</b>	
■	<b>Easy-moderate</b> trip along the coast from Birdlings Flat to Oashore, Tokoroa, Hikuraki and Magnet Bays. Returning the same way. <b>Start: 8am Halswell School</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$8</b>
<b>19-20 May</b>	<b>THIRTEEN MILE BUSH - BIG BEN RANGE</b>	<b>Maps BW21;K35,L35</b>
<b>Sat-Sun</b>	<b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b>	
■ ■	<b>Moderate-hard</b> trip starting from Porters Pass and traversing along the Big Ben Range before dropping to a hut at the head of Thirteen Mile Bush. Heading down the valley next day. <b>List Closes: Sat 12 May</b>	
<b>20 May</b>	<b>MT ALEXANDER</b>	<b>Maps BV24;N33</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Margaret Clark 348 4993</b>	
■	<b>Easy-moderate</b> wander in open, rolling North Canterbury farm country, to this 750m lookout near Scargil. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
<b>26-27 May</b>	<b>PINCHGUT HUT</b>	<b>Maps BW23;M34</b>
<b>Sat-Sun</b>	<b>Margaret Clark 348 4993</b>	
■ ■	An <b>easy</b> , almost flat trip up the Okuku River in the Mt Thomas Forest to a comfortable hut. This trip is a good introduction for those who have not been out for a while or want to introduce children to tramping. <b>List Closes: Sat 19 May</b>	
<b>27 May</b>	<b>PORT ROBINSON WALKWAY</b>	<b>Maps BV26;O33</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Kevin Hughes 332 6281</b>	
■	<b>Easy</b> coastal walks in North Canterbury, around Gore Bay. The walks features beaches and headlands. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$17</b>

- 2-4 Jun**      **CASEY SADDLE - LAKE MINCHIN**      **Maps BV21,22;K33**  
**Sat-Mon**      **Kevin Hughes 332 6281**  
**■■■**      **Moderate** tramp in Arthurs Pass NP. Starting from Andrews Shelter and crossing the low Casey Saddle, we'll stay at Poulter Hut with time for a day trip to remote Lake Minchin.  
**Q'Bday**      **List Closes: Sat 19 May**
- 2-4 Jun**      **BUCKLAND PEAKS**      **Maps BS20;K29**  
**Sat-Mon**      **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
**■■■**      A **moderate** trip at the northern end of the Paparoa National Park. The route climbs steeply to Bucklands Peak Hut where great spotted kiwis can often be heard at night. A side trip to the Buckland Peaks, at 1325m, should give views from Mt Cook to Karamea.  
**QB-day**      **List Closes: Sat 19 May**
- 2-4 Jun**      **ROSS BASE CAMP**      **Maps BV18;J33**  
**Sat-Mon**      **Leo Manders 356 1731**  
**■■■**      Base camp in this popular area with a variety of walks amongst mining relics or some serious tramping.  
**QB-day**      **List Closes: Sat 19 May**
- 3 Jun**      **HOGS BACK**      **Maps BW21;K34**  
**Sun**      **TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip**  
**■**      **Easy-moderate** loop to the peak behind Cheeseman's Forest Lodge in the Craigieburn Range. Great views of the range and its beech forests.  
**Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)**      **Approx Cost: \$20**
- 10 Jun**      **80TH ANNIVERSARY DAY TRAMP**      **Maps BX24;M36**  
**Sun**      **Leo Manders 356 1731**  
**■**      An **easy** tramp on the Port Hills. The original route is still closed due to rockfall issues so we plan to start from the Sign of the Takahe, heading up to Sign of the Kiwi, Kennedys Bush and Halswell Quarry.
- 16-17 Jun**      **CASEY SADDLE - BINSER SADDLE**      **Maps BV21;L33,L34**  
**Sat-Sun**      **Gary Huish 332 7020**  
**■■**      **Moderate** round-trip in the south-east corner of Arthurs Pass National Park. Good track and comfortable Casey Hut. Casey Saddle is barely perceptible but Binsler is more noticeable with a 600m climb to the Saddle.  
**List Closes: Sat 2 June**
- 17 Jun**      **MT BINSER - THREE PEAKS**      **Maps BV21;L33,L34**  
**Sun**      **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
**■**      **Moderate-hard** trip in the south east corner of Arthurs Pass National Park. The track is followed to Binsler Saddle before turning south. The route is then unmarked through bush and onto the open tops. There are three peaks, ranging from 1753m to 1860m with a deep saddle between the low and middle peaks. Possibility of a round-trip. Ice axe and crampons may be required if the snow is early.  
**Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)**      **Approx Cost: \$20**
- 23-24 Jun**      **BANFIELD HUT**      **Maps BW19;J35**  
**Sat-Sun**      **Leo Manders 356 1731**  
**■■**      **Easy-moderate** trip up the Rakaia River to a small hut a short way up a side stream—Jagged Stream. Largely 4WD track with a stream crossing and possibly a little scrub and a washout to negotiate. From the hut there could be time for some exploration either up Jagged or adjacent mountain-sides, to give views of peaks and glaciers at the northern end of the Arrowsmiths.  
**List Closes: Sat 16 June**
- 24 Jun**      **MT BOSSU**      **Maps BY25;N37**  
**Sun**      **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
**■**      An **easy** trip on Banks Peninsula with great views of Akaroa Harbour.  
**Start: 8am Halswell School**      **Approx Cost: \$15**

<b>30Jun-1Jul</b>	<b>KIRWANS HUT</b>	<b>Maps BS21,22;L30</b>
<b>Sat-Sun</b>	<b>Raymond Ford 351 9496</b>	
■ ■	<b>Easy-moderate</b> tramp up a well-graded miners pack track in Victoria Forest Park near Reefton. Despite the gentle grade it is still a near-900m climb through the forest to this comfortable hut near the bush edge. An optional side-trip to tussock-topped Kirwans Hill, gives great views of surrounding mountains. <b>List Closes: Sat 23 June</b>	
<b>1 Jul</b>	<b>FLAGPOLE</b>	<b>Maps BW21;L35</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip</b>	
■	<b>Easy-moderate</b> ramble in the foothills behind Whitecliffs to 900m this viewpoint. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	
		<b>Approx Cost: \$11</b>

## President's Report

Just five weeks to go before we celebrate our 80th anniversary. See elsewhere in Footnotes for the 80th Anniversary Program. Please contact me if you intend going to the Sat dinner. Sunday you can just turn up. Thanks to the people who helped with our recent Trip Planning meeting. We have some exciting trips coming up including bushcraft courses again and a good range of easy trips suitable for those of you who have not been out for a while and families, including children. There will be a good spread of all trip options from easy to hard throughout the next year. Thanks to Gary Huish for putting together all our trip ideas. We are looking for new trip leaders and aim to make this an enjoyable experience for you by offering assistance from other experienced members who can go on your trip. Contact Gary for further details on this.

### Digital Photos for a club Photo Archive

With our 80th anniversary coming up, we would like to bring our club's **photo archive** up to date. It would be appreciated if you have good resolution digital images of any PTC trips during the last five years. Please, no more than six images per trip and all images need to have a caption of where it is and an approximate date—the year will do. Putting this into the filename would be helpful. We need a good variety of trip pics, preferably from a number of members. Please email these to me, [leomanders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:leomanders@paradise.net.nz). Please, no more than six at a time. I will also be available at club night on May 8 if you don't want to email and have them on a flash drive etc for downloading to our club archive.

### New Members

We are having a good run on new memberships and also have a number of potential members going out on trips. This is really great to see and thanks are due to those who have brought the new people to the club. **Stan Wilder** has done a great job in assisting new people and is the contact person for all new-member enquiries. **Liz Stephenson** is embarking on a follow-up program for potential new members and the club will be running an open weekend in Feb 2013 so interested people can check us out over a weekend trip.

### Barn Dance

One month after our 80th anniversary weekend we will again be holding our annual barn dance. This will be held at Roy Stokes Hall in New Brighton. See elsewhere in Footnotes for details of this event and please put it in your diary. Tickets will be on sale shortly and will be available from any committee member. If you are also a member of another tramping club, please alert that club of this event. Dan Pryce is overseeing this year's event.

### Postage Increase

As of 1 July 2012, the cost of postage is increasing by 10 cents for our normal Footnotes mail-outs and 20 cents when we mail out FMC bulletins to all members. We now have nearly 50% of members opting to only have the electronic version of Footnotes. This has saved not only money but also resources like having to physically produce and fill envelopes. The impact on the club of the postage increase amounts to around \$200 over 12 months with the bulk of that on FMC bulletin mailouts. Your executive has decided to pre-stock enough post-paid envelopes before 1 July 2012 to counter the increase for up to 12 months.

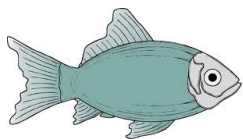
### New Minaret Tent

The club is purchasing an additional Minaret tent to add to club gear which will bring our Minaret stock up to six. These tents are proving popular with members. They are available obviously for club trips as a priority but can also be hired for a small fee to club members doing their own private trips.

## Happy Tramping – Leo Manders

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Thurs 24 May **Lyttelton Explorer**



Come and see some post-quake ingenuity at work in our port town.

Meet at the **Porthole Bar** (built from a container) on London Street from **6 pm**. We can sup there, and then perhaps explore local gap-fillers, so bring warm clothes.

Later we'll dine at **Fishermans Wharf** looking over the water at 39 Norwich Quay. They specialise in local seafood—see [www.lytteltonwharf.co.nz](http://www.lytteltonwharf.co.nz) for the menu. One account per table so bring some cash! Please book for restaurant by **Sun 20 May**

Phone Sue Britain on 388 2329 or e-mail [suebritain@gmail.com](mailto:suebritain@gmail.com)

### Wed 6 June **Much Ado About Nothing** by William Shakespeare

7.30pm



Directed by Ross Gumbley      Featuring Lisa Chappell

Laced with Shakespearean wit, Much Ado is the model for the modern romantic comedy. Beatrice and Benedick are engaged in a war of words; scorning love, marriage and each other. But with so many sparks flying, hearts are soon set alight.

We have booked the best seats in the new Court Theatre, Bernard Street, Addington.

Book your seat, \$39 discount price by **Tuesday 15th May**, with Brian Smith

Ph 355 9945, 027 740 3035, or [brian21x@xtra.co.nz](mailto:brian21x@xtra.co.nz)

### Peninsula Tramping Club 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend June 9 & 10, 2012

#### Saturday 9 June 2012

**5.00pm** Meet at **Lone Star** Bush Inn, Upper Riccarton for **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

Drinks at bar (at own cost) and chat

**6.00pm** All seated in Dining Room

Cost \$40.00 per person with set menu featuring Starter Lone Star loaf and

Choice of one main from 7 different mains (Lone Star's best-selling meals)

Choice of one dessert from 2 different desserts

A chance to catch up with other members and past-members. We will also have our PTC digital photo library with images from 1932 through to 2012 available for viewing on a few computers in the dining room.

We have pre-booked for around 40 people. We need to know whether you are coming so please register by emailing [leomanders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:leomanders@paradise.net.nz) or phoning Leo 356 1731. Will need to confirm final numbers in the first week of June. No need to prepay. You pay for your meal on the night.

Please confirm by Sat 2 June 2012. Contact Leo Manders if you want the specific menu details.

#### Sunday 10 June 2012

**9.30am.** Meet at Sign of the Takahe for 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk

You can drive and leave your car at Victoria Park or catch a 12 or 14 Metro bus to the Sign of the Takahe

This will be a group tramp following Harry Ell Track to Sign of the Kiwi then along open sections of Crater Rim Walkway through to Kennedys Bush Track, down Kennedys Bush Track to Halswell Quarry and onto The Old Vicarage on Halswell Road directly opp Halswell Post and Video.

Approx **3.00pm** onwards drinks and snacks at The Old Vicarage and a chance to chat.

Plenty of car parking near The Old Vicarage or catch a 7 or 8 Metrostar bus from here to take you back home.

The Old Vicarage has a variety of espresso coffees, teas and a full bar. It has a lunch and snacks menu, available at your cost. An area near the bar will be set aside for us.

Contact Leo Manders if you have any questions [leomanders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:leomanders@paradise.net.nz) phone 356 1731 or mobile 027 442 6080. You do not need to pre-book. Feel free to just turn up on the day either for the walk at **9.30am** or at The Old Vicarage at around **3.00pm** onwards.

## NOTICES

**Membership** We welcome new members: **Maureen Anderson, Ruth Barratt,  
John, Tracey, Jessica and Katie Cridlin**

**Kristie DuBois** is resigning to return to USA

**For Sale: Kathmandu leather boots:** size 43. Have plenty of wear left in them. Price modest and negotiable.  
Helen Harkness ph. 384 2890

**Deadline for June newsletter Sun 3 June.** Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to  
**Kerry Moore, [moorekj@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moorekj@xtra.co.nz) Phone 359 5069**

**Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 29 May at Raymond's**

### Heights of Winter Rogaine, Saturday 30th June

Prepare yourselves for some mid-winter fun. Information on the annual Heights of Winter in North Canterbury is now available on the NZRA website, <http://www.rogaine.org.nz>

The date coincides with a full moon. There are 12hr and 6hr options. The terrain is varied, ranging from gentle hills to steep and rugged hill-country with an elevation range of 500m. Vegetation is a mix of clean open grassland, scattered scrub, open native forest, and some plantations. On-line entries will commence in mid-May.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Olivine Ice Plateau, 29 Jan – 6 Feb 2012

This is the fourth year that Geoff Spearpoint has provided the local knowledge for a group from the club to undertake a week-long alpine trip.

#### SUN 29 JAN – DRIVING DOWN THERE AND WALKING IN

7.30am—eight of our group of ten met at Merv's place and picked up Aarn in Leeston on the way south—lunch at Tarras, petrol, etc at the BP in Frankton, then straight through Queenstown to Glenorchy. We picked up Kevin who had gone down the day before with Heather's Rees – Dart group. We had a chat with Tussock before leaving and driving on to the road-end at Chinaman's Bluff.

We walked up the Dart track and crossed the Dart upstream of the Beans Burn. When we arrived in the area the Dart was in one channel and looked deeper and swifter about three quarters of the way over. We made a fairly serious crossing in two lines of five, waist deep on me—good practice for everyone. At 6pm we were at the camping area on a lovely night. We lit a campfire and slept out under the trees.

#### MON – UP THE BEANS BURN

We left the campsite at 8.10am in fine, sunny weather but a nasty southerly change was forecast for the evening. Lunch by a large pool was the start of the "swims competition", with Liz leading the charge. The weather was deteriorating by 5pm as we neared the big rock bivvy in the upper Beans Burn that was our home for the next two nights. We ended up with three in the upper chamber, two in the lower inner chamber and Kevin in the open downstream chamber. Four tented in Minarets out the front. Chrys and Linda had a small bush to shelter their tent, but Chris and I copped most of the breeze side-on. The chambers could have slept more.

#### TUES – WET & WINDY.

The Beans Burn was in moderate flood so we sat it out at the rock biv.

#### WED – THE HIGH ROUTE INTO THE FORGOTTEN

During the small hours the wind finally stopped, thank goodness. By daybreak the rain had all but gone. The long range forecast had been very accurate.

By 8.50am we were walking up-valley. The group climbed out of the Beans Burn up an obvious scree and tussock slope on the true right, to a saddle at CA09 250606. Sadly, it was clouded along the Divide on the western side, so we got no views down into the Olivine. Travelling north up the tops to 260621 just west of

Irvine Peak, we could see into the Forgotten. We dropped steeply then traversed gullies to the north east, to get to the bush edge at 268636. Geoff was aiming for a bare rocky knoll at 928m. Bush travel was easy at first, but then steepened into a gully making us sidle for a better line, then drop down to the knoll, finally arriving close to 9pm. What a camp site—numerous tarns—all around 20° and a pleasure to swim in despite the muddy bottom. We had a great evening, including a camp fire.

#### **THURS – DOWN TO THE FORGOTTEN AND UP TO FORGOTTEN COL**

We set off at 8.45am on a fine, clear morning. The 100m or so down through the bush was still a little bit of a mission and it was nice to finally drop out to the wide open valley floor of Forgotten Flats. Heading north up the Forgotten, it was easy-going for a while until the valley narrowed. Further up, the large rock bivvy was visible ahead. Chris and Kevin chose not to detour to the bivvy, continuing on up an obvious stream bed. The bivvy rock is massive and forms a very large, flat “ceiling” to the bivvy. Obviously, many hours of patient work had gone into building the wind-break stone wall around the outer lip. It could easily sleep twelve-plus.

This was our lunchtime, then we moved on up to find Chris and Kevin sidling up and onto the snow. Eventually we crossed a snow bridge and onto the Plateau, now in the misty cloud forming along the peaks. We reached 1827m Forgotten River Col and the Olivine Ice Plateau proper at 6pm.

Around the corner to a v in the bare rock we set up the tents on the snow but with our gear and the camp kitchen on solid rock. Occasional views north-west up the plateau opened enough to see some of its extent.

#### **FRI – SOUTH, DOWN AND OFF THE PLATEAU. DOWN DOWN, DOWN, AND UP, UP, UP, TO CAMP JUST BELOW MOUNT GATES.**

We were walking by 9.40am on a miserable day with no let-up in the cloud and steady light rain for some time, particularly during our lunch stop at the low point in our drop to get around to Mt Gates. As we climbed the weather was improving.

At 5.45pm we camped at 2100m on a bare, loose rock spur, below 2157m Mt Gates, this time with limited shelter from a light wind. The loose surface meant we could scrape the scree off onto the snow to make a base for the tents. Geoff explored off the end of the spur and somehow found flowing water near the snow surface. Miserable and clouded in, it may have been but there is usually a plus. Curving around to the north-east from our campsite was the Thunder Glacier; a steep ice face that falls to the Joe Glacier way below. It's called Thunder for good reason, it regularly sounds off night and day—most impressive.

#### **SAT - SOUTH EAST OFF THE BARRIER RANGE.**

Going down a broad spur to cross the head of Derivation Icefall then up the eastern spur to our high point on Mt Watkins, through to the south side then down, we were forever heading east—Desperation Pass, Seal Col. Turning south we descended to a campsite at tarns above the Margaret Glacier. We were walking by 10am, still with cloud along the range. If we'd got started much later each day we'd eventually be starting tomorrow! It was frustrating to think there was probably brilliant weather away from the high ground, and frustrating for Geoff, knowing from a previous trip that we should be seeing fantastic views all along there. But the limited visibility made Geoff's recall of detail all the more impressive.

Descending from Watkins, Geoff had to locate a small notch that would take us through to the south side, below 2215m Stefansson Peak. Once over the notch, Geoff dropped his pack and pronounced, “I may be gone for some time” as he disappeared down into the murk. As time went by, we hugged the rock face edge, futilely trying to shelter from the slight wind or stomped to and fro. What happens if Geoff doesn't return? How long do we wait? What goodies may we find in Geoff's pack? Thirty five minutes passed when a figure appeared, trudging up through the mist. O we of little faith. Forget those last few sentences.

Geoff had walked in a zigzag down the steep face below Stefansson, to ensure we were on a good line for dropping around to Desperation Pass. Following him down, maybe it was just as well we couldn't see below us. We made Desperation at 4pm. From there gentler slopes were ahead, making for easier, faster travel although we had the continued chore of ‘crampons on, crampons off’ as we came to rock spurs that we could travel on.

At Seal Col, our route curved to the south, on a spur high above the Margaret Glacier, still galloping down, until at last, after two days in the cloud, we were dropping below the cloud ceiling. And there was blue sky up ahead—very exciting. Then we were off the snow altogether, onto former glacial rock faces with fascinating patterns in the rock. Geoff had promised a tussock campsite on the spur, along with tarns. Yes and double yes, at 6pm on an obvious area of the spur, height 1529m with numerous tarns and they were all warm. The race was on

for first in. What a lovely night for sitting back in the tussock and enjoying the evening. Pity though, that it was still clouded in above us.

### **SUN - DOWN TO THE DART TO CAMP**

We walked down the spur above Margaret Burn, through the bush to the Dart then along the edge to the footbridge over to the true left onto the Dart track. We bypassed Daleys Flat Hut and Sandy Bluff camping south of Bedford Stream. Another nice morning in paradise and the cloud was clearing. We could see up the Margaret. Plus, it was clearing from this end of the range above us and we could see back up to Seal Col. This chance was too good to pass up so we walked back up on our rock spurs, over to the edges above the Margaret and further up. Eventually we left the site at 10am and trundled down to the bush edge. Back in the Dart we scrambled down the true right, crossed the Margaret and on down to the swing-bridge. At 1.30 we stopped briefly at Daleys Flat Hut with it's ever-present hordes of sandflies.

Further progress was slowed as the temptation to jump in the next blue pool appearing around the corner was too much to resist. This probably reached a peak at the top end of Dredge Flat where, apart from swims, Geoff led an expedition across the now-braided Dart, over to explore the remains of the Dart dredge.

Eventually, we continued south, rounded Sandy Bluff and chose a campsite 100m up a stream, 1km south of Bedford Stream. This was a lovely site at the bush-edge, beside the stream and with a camp fireplace. As with the first night in the Beans Burn, it was a great night to sleep out.

### **MON 6 FEB – WALK AND DRIVE**

Another lovely day. We had camped on our last night only 6 or 7km from the track end so were able to get back to the cars and away by 9am. In monitoring the weather forecast prior to the trip, it was certain that a southerly was going to be a problem. So spending two nights at the rock bivvy in the Beans Burn was planned for. What wasn't anticipated was the subsequent cloud along the tops. Frustrating for all of us, but we were still all too aware what a marvelous route it is. Oh, and the swims competition, probably about eight all.

We were: **Geoff Spearpoint, Doug Forster, Chrys Horn, Kevin Hughes, Gary Huish, Chris Leaver, Linda Lilburne, Liz Stephenson, Aarn Tate and Merv Meredith** 🏠 MM

## **Wanganui River Journey—17-24 March 2012**

**Saturday.** With the airport as our meeting place, right from the beginning this trip felt different from the usual. We were to be a group of sixteen but those bringing their own kayaks travelled by car and ferry. At Palmerston North Airport the ten fliers met most of the others so we only needed to hire one extra car to get the group to Taumarunui. While settling in to our cottage and cabins we contemplated the BBQ and the warm sunny evening. Some preferred to eat out but the majority enjoyed the evening outdoors with BBQ food and drink from the local supermarket. Later we watched the instruction video supplied by Blazing Paddles then listened to some very useful advice from our experienced kayakers, until we realised that the “what to do if...” scenarios were making our novice kayakers more and more nervous.

**Sunday.** The next morning we tackled the challenge of fitting all our gear into dry bags then squeezing the bags through small hatches into the kayaks. Three couples opted for Canadian canoes and had barrels to hold their gear. As they had spare space they helped out the kayakers and no precious liquid supplies had to be left behind. Late morning the fleet set off from Cherry Grove. The fleet was: three 2-seater Canadian canoes, four in their own single kayaks, five in single hired kayaks and then there was Geoff. Geoff in his Cataraft sat high up in a comfy chair in the middle of his raft, supported by two inflatable yellow pontoons aka “bananas”. The first day was not uneventful as many of us took an unplanned swim while getting used to our boats. Luckily the weather was warm and sunny. The water was fairly shallow with a lot of rapids and due to the number of bailouts it took longer than expected to reach our campsite at Ohinepane, 22km down-river.

**Monday,** and we had a deeper river with more bush alongside and numerous waterfalls. No, we weren't going over falls, they were from side-streams joining the Wanganui. Some of us had fun attempting an extremely close approach to the Ohura falls. A cake for morning tea was also a highlight. We had rain that night but not until well after we'd set up camp at Maharanui, and it stopped early enough in the morning for tents to dry. (31km)

**Tuesday.** Today's morning tea was at a cafe above the Retaruke River. Access required a hard paddle 500m upstream, followed by a bush-bash to reach the track which then headed steeply uphill—but they did have coffee and even Ice cream if you got in quickly. The river banks formed a steep bush-covered gorge with numerous



streams and waterfalls cutting their way down to the river. The steep banks afforded shelter from the wind much of the day except when the river lined up with the wind direction and we had to paddle hard into a head wind. We camped at Ohauora and again it rained at night, but not a problem as all campsites had cooking shelters. (31km)

**Wednesday.** Another particularly scenic day with a slightly shorter time spent paddling. After setting up camp at Mangapurua in the afternoon we piled into the three canoes to cross the river for the walk to the Bridge to Nowhere. This was not easy as we had to paddle upstream as well as across the river. All made it but each managed the crossing in different ways. (29 km)

**Thursday.** The overnight rain raised the river a considerable amount so that the boats we had left high and dry were floating by morning—thankfully all properly tied up. We had a late start that morning as we had to load floating boats. A short day on the water, we reached Ramanui campsite for lunch. As our leader was at the back of the fleet almost everyone missed the campsite and had to paddle back upstream, not an easy exercise but we all made it without mishap. By now we were averaging just 1 capsize per day and were making good time on the river. In the afternoon we walked up the Matemateonga track to the hut (we felt we should do some tramping on the trip). The top part of the track was unmaintained and became a bit of a bush-bash. On the way back to camp we stopped at a lodge for a few cold beers and two of us even availed ourselves of a shower. (11 km)

**Friday.** Rain overnight swelled the river even more but it wasn't a problem, in fact, it meant we moved a little quicker and there were fewer rapids to contend with. This was the only day that we had rain while on the water and it was mostly very light with only brief heavier showers. We reached Pipiriki before lunch and had not long pulled all our boats out of the water when Blazing Paddles arrived to transport us back to Taumarunui. That evening we all enjoyed an excellent meal out. (21km)

**Saturday.** We had a leisurely drive with morning tea in Taumarunui, lunch in Fielding and a little time to explore Palmerston North before catching our flight back to Christchurch.

### **Capsizes, Wipe-outs and Shenanigans**

The following incidents occurred over five days of kayaking and aren't related chronologically as my memory isn't that good. For the same reason the author cannot guarantee that the following is either accurate or complete. To prevent embarrassment, all "on (or in) water" incidents will be related using the name of the boat. Those who weren't on the trip can have fun trying to match people with boats.

We set off led by experienced kayakers Jade and the Yellow Penguin with Grey Hunter, Red Rescuer and Big Yellow as Tail-end Charlies. Iona was our first casualty when she flipped in the second rapids. Iona's captain slid out but managed to maintain a hold on both paddle and boat. While a camera was destroyed, a lost hat was later retrieved from the water.

Beulah's paddler did lose her hat but her shoes were retrieved—croc's float well. Beulah was talking to Eileen and didn't see a large rock until too late. Forgetting the advice of the night before—lean towards the rock—Beulah's person was dumped out but was ably assisted by Red Rescuer. Unwilling to float through the rocky rapids in shallow water, she struggled against the swift current and slimy rocks to reach the opposite shore then walked barefoot along the bank until past the rapids where Big Yellow (having heroically rowed across the river and upstream) ferried her back to Beulah.

Faith was notable for the most unintended swims—four. In one amusing rescue Faith's driver parted company with both boat and kayak—but never fear—Big Yellow to the rescue. Unfortunately she was unable to mount the throne and had to be towed to shore instead. Faith also managed to turn upside down near the shore in shallow, calm water. No one is sure how this was managed but at least she was able to self-rescue.

Betty got stuck on two rocks with no way out but to eject and accept Red Rescuer's assistance to reach shore. Margaret also got stuck on rocks twice but managed to self-rescue once. Even the Yellow Penguin strayed too far into shallow water and had to be assisted by the Big Bananas.

The best rock story goes to Penelope. Thinking they were on a tramping trip, Penelope made a summit attempt in a canoe. The front end of the canoe rode up the rock leaving the forward paddler hanging in air until the heavier weight at the back slid the canoe backwards off the rock, surprisingly without a wipe out. Unfortunately there is no photographic evidence of this feat but we do have video evidence of the style with which Penelope's rear paddler twirled his paddle.

Our only pile-up occurred when Faith the kayak was mown down by Moira a canoe. All three ended up in the water. Luckily this was the only canoe capsize as it takes some time to pump the water out. Two shoes were lost, unfortunately one from each paddler.

Strange to watch was a kayak (Iona) and a canoe (Moira) suddenly heading back “upstream”. Such unusual behaviour gave those at the back of the fleet ample warning to both avoid the whirlpool and to pull over to watch the show.

Also amusing was Beulah kayaking up a side stream thinking the hard work was because of the current, not realising that Margaret was getting a free tow. Revenge was had later when Margaret seemed to be paddling hard and making no headway. If anyone had thought to look around they would have found Eileen holding fast to Margaret with one hand and a rock with the other. This small war of Margaret versus Beulah and Eileen further escalated into several incidents where one craft snuck up behind another to cause mischief.

**Casualty list:** 1 watch, 1 hat, 2 shoes, 1 camera

**And the award goes to....**

For assisting the most rescues	Red Rescuer
Main River guides	Yellow Penguin and Jade
Oddest Craft	Big Yellow aka The Throne aka Double D aka Two bananas etc etc
First capsize	Iona
Most Capsizes	Faith
Slowest recovery after capsize	Beulah
Only hire kayak to NOT capsize	Eileen
Only canoe that DID capsize	Moira
Most near misses without capsizing	Margaret
Collision leading to a double capsize	Moira and Faith
Most artistic use of a paddle	Penelope’s rear paddler
Highest summit attained in a canoe	Penelope
Standing up in a canoe	Margaret’s front paddler
For not doing anything silly enough to get an award –	Betty and Grey Hunter

Thanks to all the cooks. With weight not an issue we enjoyed food somewhat flasher than the usual tramping fare. Finally many thanks to Mary Hines for organising this once in a life time trip. We all appreciated the huge amount of work involved and were impressed that she even managed to order great weather.

The paddlers were: **Mary and Tim Hines, Geoff and Mary Korver, Gary Huish, and Margot Bowden, Ron & Susan Keeble, Mary McKeown, Pauline McFarlane, Geoff Price, Darcy Mawson, Jillian Wilson, Yvette So, Pauline McFarlane, Kevin Hughes, Heather Murray. HM.**

## **Heaphy Track — Easter 6-9 April 2012**

At 7am on Wed 4 April, four of us met outside the Canterbury Museum to catch an Atomic Bus to Blenheim, arriving at noon. We had an hour to spare for lunch before catching another Atomic Bus to Nelson, arriving just after 2.30pm. We had arranged for Trek Express to take the four of us in their minibus right through to Browns Hut. They were running late, but their phone number on my distributed trip notes quickly sorted things, so we had a latte at Oasis, beside the Nelson i-site and bus drop-off. After a fruit and ice cream stop in Motueka, we arrived at Brown Hut just on dark at 6.30pm with just a 5 minute walk from where the minibus dropped us off. We cooked our dinner on a PTC stove. All the rest of the huts had gas supplied. Dinner was the usual three course soup, main then instant pudding with fruit for dessert. Our two non-members on the trip were surprised at the dinner quantity having snacked all day on the trip up.

**Thur** dawned beautifully fine with not a breath of wind, or a cloud in the sky. We made quick work of the uphill climb on a 1 in 16 gradient, pretty much the ruling grade for the majority of the 82km Heaphy Track. We had a leisurely lunch in pristine fine weather outside the Aorere Camping Shelter which is about two thirds of the way up to Perry Saddle Hut. We stopped and climbed up to the view from Flannagans Lookout and very soon arrived mid-afternoon at Perry Saddle Hut. The hut is right on the saddle and with the old hut which we were booked into, the warden’s quarters slightly up the hill, toilets and the incomplete and blocked-off spacious new Perry Saddle Hut being built to replace the old one, the place looked more like a village. We had the place to ourselves

until right on dark when others arrived to eventually completely fill the hut. This was the fourth time that I have walked the Heaphy Track, the first time being 1972, 40 years ago. The short, steep shortcut track on the leg from Browns to Perry Saddle to bypass the balloon loop of the 1 in 16 grade track has now been replaced with a quick zig zag without upsetting the gradient.

**Fri** again dawned beautifully fine. I had commented to the group that morning departure times from the hut are purely dictated by being exactly one and a half hours after the trip leader gets up. This worked almost exactly without even thinking about it for the whole trip. Usually we were away by 8am, so had plenty of time to savour the delights of the track while travelling through the Gouland Downs. A wonderful job has been done on restoring the downs hut with its 8 bunks and open though smoky fireplace. People can book this hut at the same price as the others. There's no gas but at least you get peace and quiet. Few people choose to stop there for the night. This hut is the original on the track and before the Perry Saddle Hut would have been your first night coming east to west. 80% of those walking the track go east to west, 20% west to east. You have a downhill advantage going east to west as the Westland end is at sea level. I prefer E to W having done 4 east to west and one west to east. The latter was a return trip after going from east to west in 1992 about 20 years ago, just before the booking "Great Walk" system started. The Westland section is a beautiful finale to this great track.

This day's leg covered 24km but it is the easiest 24km you will ever walk. We had lunch at Saxon Hut, built in the late 70's. At that time a road was proposed, linking NW Nelson and Karamea which would have ruined the track. This period saw massive numbers of people walking the track. Heaphy Hut recorded over 120 staying on one night. Now numbers are limited by the booking system. After another leisurely fine weather lunch with some party members cooling off at a nearby pool, we continued our journey onto James McKay Hut. This hut is also up for replacement within the next 12 months. It is too small when fully booked. During the night I had a mouse encounter of the jumping-on-my-face kind, then, as I tried brushing it off, it ran into my sleeping bag where it thought it could hide until I found a small lump at my feet. The mouse slowly scurried out of my bag and onto the floor. In 40-odd years of tramping, that was a first for me and in a crowded Great Walks Hut was not very attractive to our overseas visitors. It's now 20 years since the Heaphy Track had to be booked, giving DoC 20 years of revenue, yet same old facilities but it's encouraging that DoC has funding for the replacement of the three main huts—Perry Saddle, James Mackay, and Heaphy and plan to do the job within the next two years. DoC also aims to replace most "one at a time" wire bridges with wooden deck ones so groups don't have to wait to cross. It surprises me that this has taken so long; Great Walks tracks should have premium facilities to meet expectations of walkers paying a premium price. Heaphy hut fees are likely to increase to \$50 but I'm sure most people will be happy to pay that for rodent-free facilities.

**Sat**, yet another fine morning and away at 8am once again—a descent now on a winding track leading towards the Heaphy River. There are beautiful bush and river vistas and plenty of birds to be seen along the way. We arrived at Lewis Hut right on lunch time, most people sat on the river's edge of the Lewis River for lunch just before it merges with the bigger Heaphy River, right in front of the Lewis Hut. The next leg involves crossing two long suspension bridges, first across the Lewis River then across the Heaphy River. Both of these bridges are up for replacement. From here to Heaphy Hut the track follows the true left of the now very large watercourse of the Heaphy River. The vegetation is tall lowland native hardwood forest including kahikatea and more and more nikau palms. The Heaphy Hut is located with a fantastic view out to the Heaphy River mouth. The hut site has been occupied for a long time and a great historical record is available to read inside the Heaphy Hut.

**Sun**, with some cloud overnight, yet another fine day. The walk is all down the coast from the Heaphy River mouth all the way out to Kohaihai. We passed Katipo Creek with its camping shelter on the way. We had lunch at the Scotts Beach campsite after successfully negotiating Koura Beach at near high tide without incident. We climbed the last climb over the Kohaihai Bluff saddle and took photographs at the viewpoint on top. From here it was downhill to the Kohaihai River and road-end. We'd had dry feet for the whole walk over four days, but due to an exceptional high tide backing up the Kohaihai River, the last part of the track was under water. We arrived at the Kohaihai Shelter and used the free phone there to ring the backpackers we had booked in Karamea. Half an hour later they picked us up and took us to Rongo's Backpackers near the hotel in Karamea. After luke-warm showers due to a Karamea water shortage. It hadn't rained there for six weeks. We couldn't resist the pub down the road and I think everyone ate the large whitebait sandwiches on offer there. We returned to the hotel for dinner in the evening.

**Mon**, another fine morning. We were picked up at 8.30am by Karamea Express and arrived in Westport around 10am. The driver for the whole journey gave us a history lesson of the road and the area. A cafe not far from the i-site in Westport provided a hearty all-day cooked breakfast and latte. The Intercity bus picked us up at 11am for a scenic trip along the coast down to Greymouth. A 30 minute stop at Punakaiki allowed time for ice creams and a walk around the pancake rocks. We were dropped off at the Greymouth Railway Station. Twenty minutes later we were gliding out on the Tranzalpine on its scenic trip back to Christchurch and the train's outdoor viewing car proving a delight along the way. We arrived in Christchurch 20 minutes early at 5.45pm ending a delightful trip. Thanks guys. We were: **Mary McKeown, John Cridlin, Maureen Anderson and Leo Manders.** 🏠 LM

# Barn Dance

**Saturday 14 July, 8pm till Midnight**

**Roy Stokes Community Hall**

**146 Seaview Road (opp police station)**

**Dancing – Country, Scottish, RocknRoll**

**Called dances with Colin Forsyth and**

**The Incredible Ceilidh Band**

**Spot prizes**

**Fancy Dress Theme**

**Prizes for Best Dressed**

**Bring a plate of Finger Food for Supper**

**Drinks Supplied**

**Tickets \$25 from any PTC committee member**

