



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

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## September 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 11 Sept **FILM NIGHT—EVEREST 1953**



**Grant Hunter** will screen a film on the successful expedition to Mt Everest in 1953. This features Nepal and Kathmandu within the first 4 years of visitation by westerners, (in the days when Jeeps were carted in by coolies), as well as climbing the mountain. Featuring, of course, Kiwis Ed Hillary and George Lowe.

**Supper Duty: Miriam Preston, Jane Swift, Yvette So**

### Tue 9 Oct **Wild Heart – the Possibility (and Challenges) of Wilderness in Aotearoa NZ**

*“Heading into the hills I’m often struck by how strange it is to think of ourselves as visitors in our public conservation lands. It seems many of us have a far more intimate relationship. But given this, are we up for the possibilities our wildest places offer us in terms of this country’s wider well-being?”*

Mick Abbott is a former equipment designer for Fairydown and Hallmark and has completed solo journeys along the length of South Island’s main divide and to Fiordland’s West Cape. He’s a regular columnist for Wilderness magazine, and has co-edited a number of recent books including, *Wild Heart, Beyond the Scene and Making Our Place* He recently joined the staff at Lincoln University’s School of Landscape Architecture.

**Supper Duty: Sophie Toutain, John Robinson, Nic or Marg Webb**

## 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**

9 Sep Sun ■	<b>STONY BAY PEAK – MT BRASENOSE</b> <b>Chris Leaver 322 6445</b> <b>Moderate</b> walk behind Akaroa, crossing the new Misty Peaks Reserve between Stony Bay Peak and Mt Brasenose. <b>Start: 8am Halswell School</b>	<b>Maps BX25,BY25;N36,N37</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$13</b>
15-16 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>BUSHCRAFT - HAWDON</b> <b>Leo Manders 356 1731</b> <b>Easy.</b> Calling all family memberships with teenage children. This is the event you have been waiting for. This course is ideal for beginners or more experienced folk wanting to cover specific topics that usually we wouldn't have time for on a weekend trip. We have adults and teenage children already booked, so this is the opportunity for our family members with young children. You can just book your children if you wish. They will be well supervised and have the company of other young people. Limited spaces available. See President's report, Bushcraft section for topics covered. We will walk into Hawdon Hut and overnight there. <b>List Closes: Sat 8 September or earlier if spaces filled</b>	<b>Maps BV21;K33</b>
16 Sep Sun ■	<b>CASTLE HILL PEAK - GAP - KOWAI STREAM</b> <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b> <b>Moderate</b> climb from Porters Pass to the highest peak on the Torlesse Range at nearly 2000m. Fine views all around. Returning through The Gap then Kowai Stream. <b>Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BW21;L34,L35</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$13</b>
22-24 Sep Sat-Mon ■ ■ ■	<b>MT BREWSTER, MT ARMSTRONG</b> <b>Raymond Ford 351 9496</b> Based at Brewster Hut above Haast Pass, we plan a <b>moderate</b> climb of 2174m Mt Armstrong or a <b>moderate-hard</b> climb of 2515m Mt Brewster. <b>List Closes: Sat 8 September</b>	<b>Maps BZ13;G38</b>
22-23 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>BOYLE BASE CAMP</b> <b>Stan Wilder 980 5291</b> Departing Friday to arrive at the lodge after 5pm, with an option of going Sat morning. On Saturday night we'll have a pot-luck dinner. An 8.30am start on Saturday, will allow us to climb Mt Faust, visit the tarns and down via scree to the St James Walkway. Another option is, a 9.30 Saturday start could visit Magdalen Hut, a nice easy, open walk to this new, secluded hut. The Sunday trip starting 8.30am will go up Doubtfull River and return for an early afternoon departure. If we get enough people we will have exclusive use of the lodge. <b>List Closes: Sat 8 September</b>	<b>Maps BU23;M31,M32</b>

22 Sep <u>Saturday</u> ■	<b>CAMP SADDLE – LYNDON SADDLE</b> Evelien Baas <a href="mailto:evelien@farmsoftware.co.nz">evelien@farmsoftware.co.nz</a> 03 317 9077 or 027 557 5521	Maps BW21;K34
	Easy-moderate loop that gets you above 1500m in the Craigieburn Range. Features some nice ridge walking, with great views of the range and its beech forests. Please email, phone or text Evelien beforehand to arrange the <u>Saturday</u> meeting at Darfield.	
	Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church) or 8:45am Darfield Supermarket	Approx Cost: \$16
27-30 Sep Thu-Sun ■■■■	<b>MOTATAPU TRACK</b> Dan Pryce 356 2617 Moderate tramp between Arrowtown and Wanaka. It is part of the Te Araroa Trail. See <a href="http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/otago/motatapu-track-brochure.pdf">http://www.doc.govt.nz/upload/documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/otago/motatapu-track-brochure.pdf</a> List Closes: Sat 15 September	Maps CB11,12;F40,41
29-30 Sep Sat-Sun ■■	<b>BUSHCRAFT - PELL STREAM</b> Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008 Moderate. Join Kevin and Geoff for a bit of adventure in forest in the Pell Stream area near Lewis Pass. The intention is to offer bushcraft knowledge in navigation, camping, leadership, route-finding, safety, firelighting, river travel, geology, botany and whatever else you might like to upskill in. We'll combine an informal programme that will cover the basics with greater detail where you want to refine your knowledge and get more crafty. It is about enjoying being in the hills. The aim is to increase awareness and give people a wider overview to make more confident and competent decisions. And we also expect to be taught a thing or two ourselves. List Closes: Sat 22 September	Maps BT22,23;L31,M31
29 Sep <u>Saturday</u> ■	<b>MT CHEESEMAN - MT OLYMPUS</b> Gary Huish 332 7020 We'll let our cars do the hard stuff, up to Cheeseman Ski-field. This will give us time to ascend to the crest of the Craigieburn Range and tramp along to Mt Olympus, one of the more dramatic viewpoints on the range. Returning the same way. Snow should still be present, so take your ice-axe. Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW20;K34
		Approx Cost: \$16
6-7 Oct Sat-Sun ■■	<b>MINGHA – DECEPTION</b> Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate. Classic crossing of the main divide following the Coast to Coast route up the Deception River, over 1070m Goat Pass and down the Mingha to Greyneys Shelter. List Closes: Sat 28 September	Maps BV20;K33
7 Oct Sun ■	<b>BEN MORE, FROM LYNDON ROAD</b> Terry Thomsen 379 8481 Moderate snow trip to this 1655m peak in Korowai/Torlesse Tussockland Park. We aim to do a round-trip starting from the road between Lakes Lyndon and Coleridge. Views should include Lake Coleridge basin and Rakaia River. Ice axe required. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW21;K35
		Approx Cost: \$13
13-14 Oct Sat-Sun ■■	<b>WOOLSHED HILL - EAST HAWDON</b> Mary & Geoff Korver 355 3905 Moderate trip in Arthurs Pass National Park. Up a bush track to Woolshed Hill, then along the Savannah Range and dropping into East Hawdon. List closes: Sat 6 Oct	Maps BV20,21;K,L33
14 Oct Sun ■	<b>WHARFEDALE TRACK</b> Paul Moreham 339 8050 Easy walking on well-formed track near Mt Oxford. Beech forest so wasps may be a nuisance. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW22;L34
		Approx Cost: \$12

20-22 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■ Labour Wknd	<b>BIG TOPS - KOROPUKU – TOWNSEND HUT</b> Kerry Moore 359 5069 A <b>hard</b> trip in Arthurs Pass NP up the Taramakau past Lake Kaurapataka up to Big Tops and on to seldom-visited Koropuku Hut. On day two we'll go up Koropuku Stream, past Mt Koeti and on to Townsend Hut. A bush track goes from the hut down to the Taramakau. <b>List closes: Sat 13 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BV20,21;K33</b>
20-22 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■ Labour Wknd	<b>HENRY RIVER - ANNE – BOUCHER</b> TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip This <b>moderate</b> trip starts on the St James Walkway and climbs to Henry Saddle to cross the Libretto Range and on to the newly built Anne Hut. Returning via Boucher Stream to Foleys Track. <b>List closes: Sat 13 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BT23;M31</b>
20-22 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■ Lab Wknd	<b>BOULDER LAKE</b> Leo Manders 356 1731 <b>Easy-moderate</b> trip in NW Kahurangi NP with access along Brown Cow Ridge. Spectacular rock formations and interesting geology. Possible side trip to view Anatoki Peaks. <b>List closes: Sat 13 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BN23,24,BP23,24;M26</b>
20-22 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■ Labour Wknd	<b>NELSON LAKES BASE CAMP</b> Heather Murray & Kevin Hughes 332 6281 A very pretty area with all grades of day-tramps catered for. Possible options are a <b>moderate</b> traverse along the St Arnaud Range, starting from the Rainbow Ski Field so that the vehicles do the hard work, and dropping down to St Arnaud. Mt Robert is another excellent <b>easy-moderate to moderate</b> option (depending on how far you go). If you want an easier time of it, there are nice tracks on the shores of Lake Rotoiti, and in the 'mainland island' with its enhanced wildlife. <b>List closes: Sat 13 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BS24;M29,N29</b>
21 Oct Sun ■	<b>MT GREY - RED BEECH TRACK</b> Stan Wilder 980 5291 <b>Easy-moderate</b> walk to this popular foothill inland from Amberley. Round-trip up the Grey River through beech and plantation forest to the tussock summit. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BW,V23;M34</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$10</b>
27-28 Oct Sat-Sun ■■	<b>LEWIS TOPS</b> Heather Murray & Kevin Hughes 332 6281 An <b>easy-moderate</b> Lewis Pass tops trip along the main divide starting from the Lewis Pass car park. Camping on the top for views up the Maruia River to the Spencer Mountains and across to the Freyberg Range. <b>List closes: Sat 13 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BT23;M31</b>
28 Oct Sun ■	<b>MAUKURATAWHAI</b> Gary Huish 332 7020 Over Jacks Pass behind Hanmer, this <b>moderate</b> tramp climbs to this 1615 m summit. Possible round trip. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BT24,25;N31</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$21</b>
3-5 Nov Sat-Mon ■■■	<b>MT ADAMS</b> Gary Huish 332 7020 This <b>moderate-hard</b> trip to the isolated sentinel of 2208m Mt Adams commences at 100m. The top commands a view from Cape Foulwind to Mt Cook. Ice axe and crampons required. <b>List closes: Sat 27 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BW17;I34,35</b>

<b>3-4 Nov</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>AMPHITHEATRE CREEK</b> <b>Mary Hines 942 6486</b> A <b>moderate</b> round trip in the Black Range near Arthurs Pass NP. This creek with a grand name is a tributary of the Avoca River. Getting there and getting back will involve various permutations of routes in the Lagoon Saddle and Jordan Saddle area. <b>List closes: Sat 27 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BV20;K34</b>
<b>3 Nov</b> <b>Saturday</b> ■	<b>PACKHORSE HUT – FROM GEBBIES</b> <b>Margot Bowden 332 7020</b> Easy walk on the peninsula, up through farmland, pine plantations and bush remnants, to cross the volcanic dykes before the sturdy stone Packhorse Hut, from which you'll enjoy excellent views of Lyttelton Harbour. <b>Start: 8am Halswell School</b>	<b>Maps BX24;M36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$7</b>
<b>10-11 Nov</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>PRINCESS BATH, LAKE TENNYSON</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> Moderate tramp to this impressive tarn basin at 1700m, behind Lake Tennyson in the upper Clarence Valley. It should be possible to climb nearby Mt Princess, 2126m. Camping out. <b>List closes: Sat 3 Nov</b>	<b>Maps BT24;M31,31</b>
<b>11 Nov</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>RED BEECH STREAM - SUDDEN VALLEY</b> <b>Chrys Horn 338 0313</b> Moderate-hard circuit in the Hawdon River area on the south side of Arthurs Pass. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV21;K33</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$23</b>

## President's Report

### Bushcraft - a reminder

We are running our bushcraft courses this month 15 – 16 September and also in October. Full details were recently emailed to you and are also in August Footnotes. If you want to come and haven't registered yet, please contact the appropriate trip leaders – see Coming Trips.

### Photo Archiving Instruction Day

What do you do with your photos after you have taken the photo and you decide you want to keep it? Here is an opportunity for you to learn how to categorise, sort and label your photos to create your own photo album on computer. An opportunity to learn not just about photos but also how to incorporate written material, maps, title pages even movies into your albums. I will show you how you can set up your photos and add bits and pieces so that you can put together any presentation or future talk in just 10 minutes. You can time me on the day! You will need to bring a computer, preferably a laptop, your camera and instruction book and a pot luck lunch to share. The venue will be at my place and is limited to 8 people. We will use the data projector, large TV and programs like Irfanview and Microsoft Publisher. Date is Sat 13 October 2012. Ph 356 1731 or email leomanders@paradise.net.nz to secure your place or for any further information. The day will start at 9.00am and is intended to run to around 5pm.

### Subscriptions for 2013

Your executive has studied our accounts, courtesy of the treasurer, at the half-year point. You may recall we were heading into cost increases from different sources as explained at our AGM. While our costs are increasing—hall hire and postage as two examples, the good news from our accounts reveal that we are now tracking in the right direction. Due to a good increase in new members and subsequent increase in club night attendances, your executive will at this stage be recommending at an upcoming **Special General Meeting 7.30pm Tues 13 November 2012**, that the membership consider voting to have 2013 subscriptions remain the same as 2012 and that we also remove the family surcharge as indicated at our last AGM. Formal notification of this meeting will be advertised in next month's Footnotes.

### FMC 2013 Photo Competition

Our club would like to participate in the 2013 FMC Photo Competition. If you would like to show your photos please email these to me (see address above) or give them to me at a club night. I will coordinate photos as in previous years. Our photos can be submitted to FMC at any time before April 2013. For categories and full information please see the last FMC bulletin mailed out to you last month.

### PTC Recipe Book

We are on the lookout for your favourite tramping recipes. These can be novel, imaginative, one pot, two pot, sensible or just plain crazy. We will make successful recipes available on our web site to help trip leaders with menu planning ideas. Prizes will be offered for your best creations. Contact **Liz Stephenson 358 3281** or email [stephensonbes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stephensonbes@xtra.co.nz) with your great recipe or for further information.

**Happy Tramping – Leo Manders**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Wed 19 Sept

### ICE FESTIVAL, HAGLEY PARK

Lots of events happening at a tent city in Hagley Park. See [nzicefest.co.nz](http://nzicefest.co.nz) for full details. Events on the 19th include ice-skating ( \$20 ) , photo exhibition of Antarctic Huts ( gold coin )



a talk on ocean acidification, a video of an artist's Antarctic experience and more. There will be bars open and a variety of food outlets, so we can grab a cheap meal and peruse the attractions. Meet at **Ice Station HQ** at 6pm. No need to book but you are welcome to let Sue Britain know you are coming ph. 388 2329 or e-mail [suebritain@gmail.com](mailto:suebritain@gmail.com) Advance warning could help with putting folk with similar interests together (e.g ice-skating ).

At 7.30pm there is a film "Hunting the Ice Whales" If you are keen on this please book a ticket at [dashtickets.co.nz](http://dashtickets.co.nz) ( \$11 ). If it is a fine evening you are welcome to join Sue for a walk around the Botanic Gardens beforehand. Meet at **Gardens Info Centre at 5 pm.**

Sat 13 Oct

### Photo Archiving Instruction Day

Starts 9.00am till 5.00pm. Bring your computer or laptop, camera with instruction book. Bring a pot luck lunch to share. You will learn how to set up your photos and incorporate other material like maps, title pages, written material, even movies into your computer photo album. How to transfer onto mobile devices, ipads etc. How to easily use the data projector or your TV for your presentations. How to set up your photos so that it only takes 10 minutes for you to organise any talk or presentation in the future. We will also cover scanning your prints, colour, black and white, slides into the digital format. We will cover order sequence of your photos and using both time order and area order to easily locate your photo groups. Limit of 8 people. Contact **Leo Manders 356 1731** [leomanders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:leomanders@paradise.net.nz) to enlist or for further information.



Tues 16 Oct

### Bowenvale Blitz: Bowenvale Walk and meal at Elevate Bar & Restaurant

Meet at Bowenvale Reserve car park at the end of Bowenvale Ave, Cashmere at **6pm** for a walk, then descend to **Elevate Bar & Restaurant, 2 Colombo Street**—Colombo/Dyers Pass Road/Centaurus Road intersection—for a meal at 7.30pm. Names for meal to Margot Bowden [Margot.bowden@gmail.com](mailto:Margot.bowden@gmail.com) or phone 332 7020 by **Sunday 14 October**



## NOTICES

**Membership** We welcome new member, **Linda Dawber**. Resignation received from **Rex Taylor**.

**Nor'wester photo wanted:** Grant Hunter is looking for an attractive photo of nor-west clouds (hogsback variety) in a eastern high country setting, to match up with some amateur poetry. He'd be pleased to hear from anyone with something along these lines. g.hunter@clear.net.nz or 351 6369.

**High Country Water-take Application** Recently ECAN received an application from P&E Ltd to divert, take and use 276 litres per second from the Cass River to spray irrigate up to 554 hectares of Grasmere Station. This move threatens Lake Grasmere, Cass River and Sarah Stream. If you have concerns about intensive irrigation in the High Country and the potential effects of nutrient run-off into Lake Grasmere, please make a submission before **8 Sept 2012**.

<http://ecan.govt.nz/publications/General/consent-form-con520-submission-resource-consent-application-050710.pdf>

**Deadline for August newsletter** **Sat 4 Aug**. 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 28 Aug at Liz's**

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Routeburn - Caples Tracks 2-6 May 2012**

This trip was cancelled last year due to avalanche danger but this year the weather forecast looked good. Four of us left Christchurch early on Wednesday 2 May and had picked up Pauline in Ashburton by 9am. With a beautiful day there was a lot to enjoy on the trip down, including great views of Mt Aoraki, autumnal colours of Otago, and snow on the peaks. Although it is quite a way from Queenstown along Lake Wakatipu and around from Glenorchy to the end of the Caples Track the time passed quickly as Gary regaled us with accounts of the recent Earnslaw and Olivine Plateau trips as we looked at the peaks before us. Gary hid a bike near the end of the Caples track and then we drove 12 km back through Kinlock to the start of the Routeburn. It was cold and late in the day when we left the car and started the 6.5km walk into the Routeburn Flats Hut but it was only in the last half hour that some of us resorted to torches.

Frosty flats outside the hut greeted us in the morning but we soon warmed up climbing through beech forest to the Routeburn Falls Hut. I last walked the Routeburn track more than 30 years ago and I was surprised at the "village" that is now at the falls. The falls hut has 48 bunks and flush toilets! There were sounds of building at the Ultimate Hikes private accommodation up behind the Falls Hut and I learned from the ranger that eight private en-suite rooms were being constructed at the Falls Lodge and another eight at the Lake Mackenzie Lodge. We left the beech forest and climbed through sub-alpine vegetation beside the tumbling cascades. Looking back where we had come from there were good views of the Routeburn Flats and Humboldt Mountains. From above the falls the track climbs steadily through wetlands and tussock-covered flats and then sidles around the bluffs beside Lake Harris and on to the highest point of the track, Harris Saddle (1255m). There is a shelter at this point and we met up with Sue and Stan Wilder, and Mary Jane Bonsell who were on their way back from Lake Mackenzie. Other trampers came and went as many people were making the most of the fine weather and the cheaper off-peak fees. There was snow on the ground in this area and we contemplated the track up Conical Hill which was mostly in the shade and likely to be icy. We decided to give it a go and left our packs at the shelter. Care needed to be taken but for those who made it to the top the reward was spectacular views in all directions, including right down to the West Coast. Back at the shelter we enjoyed lunch in the sun with Sue, Stan and Mary Jane before heading our separate ways.



We descended from the saddle and traversed around the Hollyford face enjoying views of the Darran Mountains. We stopped for an afternoon snack and four young “Amazon” women came past, running the track in a day. Gary speculated that they were an overseas bobsled team in training. As we came around to start the zigzag descent down to Lake Mackenzie we watched a helicopter flying in and out to the lodge. It was very cold at the lake but with a bit of PTC expertise the log fire was soon warming the hut inhabitants. There were many nationalities present and it was good to see so many young people enjoying this walk.

We left at 8am the next morning for the 8.6 km walk to Lake Howden Hut. After a short walk across the grassy flat beyond Lake Mackenzie Hut we had a short climb to the bush-line and then gradually descended to Lake Howden, craning our necks up to admire the 174m Sunderland Falls on the way. After a leisurely lunch at Lake Howden we left our gear at the hut and climbed up to Key Summit where we did the tourist walk through the alpine wetland and admired the views of the Darran Mountains and looked down the Hollyford. There was much debate as to the position of Lake Marian in a hanging valley but we eventually pinpointed it with the help of our map.

Another fine day dawned on Friday, although it was chilly before the sun came up. We headed away from Lake Howden and up over Greenstone Saddle before dropping down to the junction of the Caples and Greenstone Tracks in the valley upstream from Lake McKellar. It was a grunty, short but steep climb up a wide stone path to McKellar Saddle. There was boardwalk through the sub-alpine vegetation and tussocks. I stopped for a bite to eat and Pauline, Miriam and Derek continued on. When Gary and I came to the junction of the new track DoC are making in the Upper Caples, on the (true right of the river) and the old track (true left) we were unsure as to which track the others had taken. So Gary and I headed



down the wide freshly bulldozed track at a very fast pace hoping to catch them. I was dismayed at the destruction but Gary assured me it wouldn't be long before growth would soften it and it would appear like many of the other beech forest sections of the Routeburn. No sign of the others and when we were joined up with the old track we realized we must be ahead of them and decided to wait. What patches of sun there were in the forest soon disappeared as the sun moved behind a hill and I had every item of clothing on to try and stay warm. Eventually we decided to go on and were soon at the Upper Caples Hut. The others were with us within a few minutes and we enjoyed lunch and a brew inside away from the sandflies. It was easy walking for the next 7km to the Mid Caples Hut, through bush and grassy clearings with the valley widening out the further we walked. The hut was full that night and we were a mixed bunch. Fellow occupants were, a father and his young daughter who was experiencing tramping for a school project, a couple of hunters, a young woman who offered us Tui products for easing sore feet and repelling insects, and a young German couple. The next morning we headed off down from the hut to the river and crossed the bridge over a spectacular gorge. Gary sped on ahead as he was biking from the road-end, back to get our vehicle from the start of the Routeburn. The rest of us strolled the 9km down the true left of the Caples passing the confluence of the Caples and Greenstone rivers not long before the road-end where we changed clothes and boiled the billy. It wasn't long before Gary appeared and we were motoring. We enjoyed lunch in the sun at a café in Glenorchy and then drove straight back to Christchurch, stopping for a quick bite in Tekapo. Thanks to Gary for leading the trip and cooking very tasty meals. Thanks to Derek for driving us all the way there and back in comfort in his spacious new vehicle. We were: **Gary Huish, Derek Gane, Pauline Macfarlane, Miriam Preston and Sue Piercey.** 🏠 SP

## **Trent – Haupiri 2 – 5 August 2012**

This was my second attempt on this circuit and another in the series of multi-day trips PTC deliberately schedules during the winter when the snow is still locked up, winds are light and the Coast weather is often settled. The first time was in Sept 2006 with a party of four. On that first trip, we proved the option of climbing out of the upper Trent to travel west along the top ridge was not only a better option than struggling up the Trent River but it was the highlight of the whole trip.

**Thursday:** This time we planned for an easy first two days, followed by two long days. We left home at 7:30am and drove 270km to the Haupiri area. After signing in at Gloriavale Community and leaving a bike nearby, we drove to the Waikiti Downs road-end and were tramping up the Trent by 1pm. We reached the newish (2006) 6 bunk Tutaekuri Hut within 3 hours. The hut was built there to facilitate an Amuri - Hope round-trip that DoC thought would provide a multi-day option for trampers but the hut book shows little use. Gary fixed what threatened to be a problem with the water tank's tap.

**Friday:** For an easy half-day, we left the Tutaekuri Hut at 8.40am, rounded the corner back into the Trent and headed south-west. The Trent valley is a pleasant wander with many grassed terraces. After a lunch stop, we arrived at the four bunk Mid Trent Hut about 1.30pm and spent the rest of the day doing not very much. I must confess I removed a battered copy of *Dr No*, from the hut because I had started reading it.

**Saturday**—the day that mattered. We left the hut at 7.10am in half light and were soon around the southern bend in the Trent. On our 2006 trip, Geoff Spearpoint had reconnoitered around this bend and found that the spur beyond the second of two adjacent streams offered a good route to the top ridge. By the time we reached the bush-line, the day was near-perfect with the snow slopes looking picture perfect. Although we knew where an animal track started at the bush-line, it was still a struggle in scrubby areas, but eventually we were on the top ridge NE of 1469m, with views all around. The Taramakau River valley was below us to the south and we were less than 2km from Harper Pass. To the north, the upper Trent Valley was in the shade below.



Heading west, travel along the ridge was easy at first, with less snow cover than last time and just a little wind. As we continued on to 1539m and eventually to 1543m Mt Wilson the wind built a little as did the cloud and we probably left it too late for a comfortable lunch stop. We were mindful of the impending big drop beyond Mt Wilson and the climb up again to 1585m. The descent wasn't helped by thin layers of soft snow on snow-grass, however we pressed on, in deteriorating conditions until, approaching point 1600m—yes, exactly 1600—rain started—not nice at all. Thoughts of this for the rest of the day and a wet campsite were depressing but as we approached the sidle below Mt Dixon 1556m, the weather improved. Once in the Mt Dixon area, although I knew the approximate line we needed to take, I was uncertain of landmarks. We sidled below and curved down, maybe a little low at first, but were soon headed down and then straight ahead, the eastern end of the long skinny tarn we were aiming for. Further down, we passed the terrace we had camped on last time. Trending to the western edge worked well, and then back right, 30m or so to the top of the scree gut running down through the bluff to gain the valley floor below. In 2006, the scree gut had been a fast dusty scree run. This time, the scree in the upper section had gone, prompting caution on a bonier surface but it's still by far the best route down.

At 5.20pm we were down, and Gary spotted a flood surface beside the stream that proved to be an ideal campsite. A twenty minute shower arrived just as we had our pack contents spread around. We had dinner but there were no takers for dessert as the others sought the comfort and warmth of the tents.

**Sunday:** We were away by 8.10am and were soon up on the saddle. In 2006 the descent to the Haupiri had been a battle through scrub and it was hard to find the bush track down to Elizabeth Hut. Geoff marked the line with blue cruise tape as we went. After that, I contacted DoC in Greymouth and they provided us with orange markers, so in 2007, Sue Hely, Doug Forster and I cleared the track up to the saddle. DoC has since put poles over the saddle and improved the track down to the old Top Trent (Lagoon) Hut.

We lunched by Cone Creek where a previous awkward, tight crossing was now scoured wider, making it easier to cross. Further down-valley Bill and I encountered a pair of black lambs, which we later learned were Arapawa Island sheep. The lambs had no fear of humans and kept running up to us as a possible source of milk. They were black with white socks and tail tips. I regret having my camera packed away.

At 2pm we reached the fancy new lodges where my bike was parked. Ahaura-Amuri Road is a very pleasant ride, particularly on the smooth clay sections, although the surface gets bonier. It took 1½ hr to get back to the car at 3.40pm. We enjoyed a stop at Jacksons pub with their range of gourmet pies, and arrived home, mid-evening.

We were: **Doug Forster, Bill Hotter, Gary Huish and Merv Meredith.** 🏠 MM

### Note

Access permission through **Gloriavale** via Mark Christian is easy to get, but signing into their intentions book takes time when a group is keen to get walking. The three new lodges along the road into the valley may indicate that, had there been hunters staying, we may have been refused permission.

**Access to the Tutaekuri:** The Ahaura – Amuri road passes right through Waikiti Downs. In 2011, ownership of the farm changed and it took a lot of phone calls tracking down who to phone. When you drive there large “keep out” signs provide a phone number. There seems to be no problem with access for hunters and trampers when you know who to ask.

### Potts River Trip 18 – 19 August 2012

When the leader of a trip pulls out, you wonder if they know something you don't.

In this case, there was something neither Gary nor we knew – the best route in to the Potts River Hut! Mind you, Gary had drawn a suggested route on the map, and Kevin managed to interpret it well, so we only had a short section of prickly matagouri to negotiate. This was a good improvement on the route that Gary had previously experienced, so thanks to him for recommending the alternative. The matagouri was followed by a good number of river crossings before we reached the extremely characterful hut, after a 7-hour hike on the warm, cloudless, windless day.

Many in our eight-strong group immediately set about taking revenge on the matagouri by chopping as much of the dead wood as they could for the hut fire. We were clearly going to need something to keep us warm until bedtime as the temperature was dropping fast and a frost was imminent. Previous occupants had left a stock of wood and we needed to replenish supplies for anyone who might arrive at the hut in worse conditions at some future date. Dinner went down a treat. Gary had done us proud – as ever – although there were distinct differences of opinion over the best way to cook the main course, and how much sugar was necessary for the dessert.

Our 8.30am start the following day was somewhat later than our leader, Dan, had decreed, but we made good progress – until, that was, we got up into the snow. People were breaking through to the underlying soft stuff and those at the back of the line must have been stepping in holes up to their knees. That wasn't too bad along the side of the unnamed lake that is the source of Boundary Stream but it was definitely harder going on the climb up from the frozen lake to the Dogs Range.

By the time we got up onto the ridge, mid-afternoon, the weather started to deteriorate, the sky darkened with a few flakes of snow whipping across, so we decided to cut our losses and head down, as time was conspiring against us because of the slow going through the snow. Making a bee-line for the track out meant bypassing Mystery Lake – a bit of a disappointment – but a couple of short bum slides down the hill helped to raise people's spirits.

Once on the track, we were motoring, and we made it back to the cars by 5.20pm, a 9-hour day. Coffee and a snack at the Rakaia Salmon Tails cafe made a pleasant finale to an enjoyable trip – one which had, perhaps, been enhanced for many of us by a certain couple's short 'domestic' over their last white jelly bean ... Thanks to all for the company and the entertainment.

We were: **Dan Pryce, Kevin Hughes, Heather Murray, Chris Leaver, Liz Stephenson, Rick Bolch, Miriam Preston and Carolyn Catt** 🌲 CC

### **Bus Stop, 19 August.2012**

We set off from Christchurch in mist which did not lift until we were almost at Mt Somers, when the foothills were revealed in their winter splendour. Because the forecast was for deteriorating weather Joy made the decision to do the circuit in an anti-clockwise direction. We made good time to the junction with the South Face Route, where we had a brief stop before heading off for the Bus Stop and Tri-falls Stream across the plateau under the bulky slopes of Mt Somers. Always a pleasant route, we experienced well-trodden snow, ice and boggy sections, easily negotiated in good visibility and with the sombre but beautiful colours of the alpine vegetation and views to admire. Joy set a good pace and we were at the Woolshed Creek Hut by 1.15 pm and a welcome lunch in comfortable conditions.

As we left the hut for the return trip via the Sidewinder Track the cloud was beginning to roll in from the west as well as up the Woolshed Creek gorge and Mt Somers was completely shrouded in mist within the hour. We were back at the car-park by mid afternoon, well content after a 5½ hour walk. We had made the most of the day, negotiating the flanks of Mt Somers in good conditions and enjoying the bird song, interesting vegetation, old mine workings and remnant ancient silver beech forest on the return.

We were: **Joy Schroeder, Sue and Stan Wilder, Dorota Giejsztowt, Dave Girling, Ann Sherlock.**  
🌲 AS

