



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

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February 2013

President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Dan Pryce	384 7065
Vice-President	Mary Hines	942 6486	Liz Stephenson	358 3281
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Brian Smith	Quartermaster 355 9945
Trip Planner	Gary Huish	332 7020		
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
Editor	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 12 Feb New Members' Night



Bring along friends, neighbours, work colleagues, and family who are interested in the outdoors. Let them see what PTC has to offer. See page 5 for details.

Supper Duty: David Ramm, Alice Yung, Rachel Payne

Tue 12 Mar AGM plus Outdoor films of the 50's



Grant Hunter will treat us to a viewing of some of his movie collection

Supper Duty: Douglas Woods, Sophie Toutain, Aarn Tate

AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM —7:30pm Tue 12 March

The 81st Annual General Meeting of Peninsula Tramping Club will be held at Canterbury Horticultural Centre, Hagley Avenue

Agenda: Presentation of Exec. Reports Election of officers, executive members and auditor

General Business: Nominations for all positions are called for. They may be sent, signed by nominee, proposer and seconder, to **Merv Meredith, Secretary, 322 7239**

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

9-10 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	LAKE STREAM - KLONDYKE Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate tramp from Rahu Saddle in Victoria Forest Park. Camping out in a tarn basin below some 1500m peaks. A round trip, dropping into Lake Stream for the return trip. Some great views of the surrounding area from the tops. List closes: Sat 2 Feb	Maps BT22;L31
10 Feb Sun ■	MT HERBERT FROM ORTON BRADLEY Sue Britian 388 2329 Classic easy-moderate walk to the highest point on Banks Peninsula (920m) Good tracks, historical interest at Orton Bradley Park, plus fine harbour views. Start: 8am Princess Margaret (Hackthorne Rd end)	Maps BX24;M36 Approx Cost: \$6
16-17 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	NORTH TEMPLE - GUNSIGHT PASS - SOUTH TEMPLE Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate trip at the head of Lake Ohau. Travelling up the north branch of Temple and crossing Gunsight Pass into the South Temple. List closes: Sat 9 Feb	Maps BZ14;G38,39
17 Feb Sun ■	BEALEY SPUR Joy Schroeder 351 4655 Popular easy-moderate walk to this historic shepherds' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer fantastic views of the upper Waimak and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. If time permits it is worth walking beyond the hut, further up the spur. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BV20;K34 Approx Cost: \$21
23-24 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	HAMILTON HUT VIA HARPER RIVER Leo Manders 356 1731 Popular easy-moderate trip in the Craigieburns, overnighing in the good-sized Hamilton Hut. Heading in from Lake Coleridge up the Harper River. Great introductory trip for people getting back into tramping. List closes: Sat 16 Feb	Maps BW20;K34
24 Feb Sun ■	ROME RIDGE - AVALANCHE PEAK Liz Stephenson 358 3281 This moderate-hard trip traversing the range from the ridge to Mt Rolleston to Avalanche Peak in Arthurs Pass makes an excellent round trip. Expect a long day. Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BV20;K33 Approx Cost: \$26

2-4 Mar Sat-Mon ■■■	PINNACLE Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate-hard circuit in Victoria Forest Park near Springs Junction. Camping out in alpine basins containing many large tarns. The route crosses the Upper Grey River and takes in 1500m Pinnacle. List closes: Sat 23 Feb	Maps BU23;M32
3 Mar Sun ■	MT SOMERS FROM WOOLSHED CREEK Heather Murray & Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Moderate walk to this 1687m peak on the Winterslow Range. Starting from Woolshed Creek and travelling via the Rhyolite Ridge Track . Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BX19,20;K36 Approx Cost: \$22
9-10 Mar Sat-Sun ■■	ZAMPA TOPS Heather Murray & Kevin Hughes 332 6281 This moderate trip traverses the tops to the east of Cannibal Gorge and gives spectacular views of the Spencer Mountains. 1710m Zampa overlooks a very nice large tarn. List closes: Sat 2 Mar	Maps BT23;M31
10 Mar Sun ■	NIKAU PALM GULLY Kerry Moore 359 5069 This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms here are notable for being the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an easy tramp towards the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour. Start: 8am Halswell School	Maps BY25;N37 Approx Cost: \$15
16-17 Mar Sat-Sun ■■	GLENROY TOPS Liz Stephenson 358 3281 A moderate circuit to the west of Lewis Pass. Starting on the Lake Daniels track before heading onto the interesting Glenroy Tops for a high camp by tarns. Continuing along the tops to return past the lake. List closes: Sat 9 Mar	Maps BT23;L31,M31
17 Mar Sun ■	TIMUTIMU HEAD - SCENERY NOOK TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip Easy-moderate tramp over Peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Returning via a natural tidal swimming pool at Scenery Nook. Start: 8am Halswell School	Maps BY25;N37 Approx Cost: \$16
23-24 Mar Sat-Sun ■■	CAMERON RIVER - STH BRANCH ASHBURTON TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip Moderate trip in close proximity to the Arrowsmith Range. We'll be in the headwaters of two river valleys, with a couple of crossings of the Wild Mans Brother Range. List closes: Sat 16 Mar	Maps BW18,19,BX19;J35
24 Mar Sun ■	PURPLE HILL Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Moderate round-trip from Flock Hill Station, returning via Flock Hill Stream. You will look down on Lakes Pearson, Grassmere, Marymere, and Hawdon in the Castle Hill Basin area. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BV21,BW21;L34 Approx Cost: \$20

29Mar-1st Fri-Mon ■■■■ Easter	COPLAND PASS - WELCOME FLAT Raymond Ford 351 9496 The moderate-hard Copland Pass used to be one of New Zealand's greatest alpine tramps, linking the grandeur of Mount Cook with the West Coast bush and the hot springs at Welcome Flats. The erosion of Stewart and Copland Gullies on the eastern side of the Main Divide has isolated Hooker Hut on an inaccessible piece of lateral moraine. We intend to climb Copland Pass via a gully further up the glacier. Ice axe skills and crampons will be required. List closes: Sat 9 Mar	Maps BX15,BY15;H36
29Mar-1st Fri-Mon ■■■■ Easter	WELCOME FLAT TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip Moderate trip to this attractive location on western side of the Copeland Pass. A trip to the pass is also planned. The natural hot pools at the end of the day's tramping make this an interesting trip. List closes: Sat 9 Mar	Maps BX14,15;H36
29Mar-1st Fri-Mon ■■■■ Easter	MOSS PASS TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip This moderate trip visits the jewel of Nelson Lakes, Blue Lake. A circuit between the D'Urville and Sabine rivers. List closes: Sat 9 Mar	Maps BS24,25;M30
29Mar-1st Fri-Mon ■■■■ Easter	KARAMEA BASE CAMP Leo Manders 356 1731 Easy to moderate walks from this popular West Coast spot at the southern end of the Heaphy Track. Options include Scott Beach, Oparara Arches, Mirror Tarn, Fenian Basin and Cavern Creek Caves or Mt Stormy for the adventurous. List closes: Sat 9 Mar	Maps BQ22;L27,M28
31 Mar Sun ■	BARNETT PARK WALKWAY TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip An easy trip for those not heading away at Easter. Possible coffee stops afterwards Start: 9am Barnett Park	Maps BX24;M36

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wed 20 Feb Styx Mill Conservation Reserve



Enjoy an evening walk along the Styx River and meal at Barracouta Bar & Restaurant, Northwood Supa Centa, Belfast

Meet at **Styx Mill Road/Cavendish Road entrance at 6pm** for a walk along the Styx River, then head to Barracouta Bar & restaurant, Northwood Supa Centre, 1 Radcliffe Road, Belfast for a meal at 7.30pm. Names to Margot.bowden@gmail.com, phone 332 7020 by **Monday 18 February**.

To Be Advised Wind In The Willows: Summer Theatre



Anthony Harper Summer Theatre Wind in the Willows. Enjoy one of the world's most beloved children's story in the Botanic Gardens in the last week of February. Sue Britain will send an email with the date later in the month.

NOTICES

Deadline for the March newsletter Sun 3 March. Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to Kerry Moore, moorekj@xtra.co.nz Phone 359 5069

Membership: Debbie Harding is resigning

Next committee meeting: 7:30pm Tue 26 Feb

PTC New Members' Evening

Bring along friends, neighbours, work colleagues, and family who are interested in the outdoors. Come and see what PTC has to offer!

Our club is increasing in membership and offers a wide range of trips! It's a great way to meet people and offers lots of opportunities to enjoy social activities and to visit interesting places

When: Club night Tuesday 12 Feb 2013

Venue: Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park

Time: Arrive at 7.30p.m. Presentations will start at around 8pm.

Speaker: Geoff Spearpoint; Writer, Photographer, Climber, Tramper

Topic: "Tramping clubs are good places to be"

This is our main promotional night of the year so join in to celebrate our club and what it has to offer. Trips of various grades aimed at those who'd like to sample tramping, climbing and mountain biking with the PTC are being arranged for the following weeks.

Don't miss our activities - tramping, climbing, mountain biking and much more. See: <http://www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz>

Evening Programme

7.30pm	Chat with members about the club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instruction (bushcraft, trip leadership and trip leadership mentoring) • tramping • climbing • mountain biking • social activities (club nights, mid-week evening walks with meals out)
8.00 - 8.10	Welcome from PTC New Member Coordinators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How our club works and the way we run trips (trip grading, food etc) • Introducing the Club President and essential club notices
8.10 - 8.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new members' perspective: recently joined members will speak of their impressions
8.30 - 9.00	Geoff Spearpoint "Tramping clubs are good places to be"
9.00 - 9.10	PTC basics: how to go on a trip, the fixture list, and how to join the club.
9.15pm	Supper

TRIP REPORTS

Rome Ridge – Avalanche Peak Circuit - 16 Nov 2012

I have to confess at the outset, much of the enjoyment from tramping comes from the wide-ranging conversations that wander back and forth within the group, and finally settles on a few points of agreement. As we toiled up Rome Ridge, we pondered on the nutritional merits of almond icing and why had it had fallen out of favour as a source of tramping fuel. The conversation naturally meandered onto the concept of wilderness areas, paused for a while on the management of the conservation estate, and picked up speed on economic management of the country and by mutual agreement finally came to a halt when we reached the bush-line.



Out on the open ridge, above the edge of the beech forest, was a good place to take stock and to catch a breath. Thick cloud and misty drizzle obscured Mt Rolleston, the upper slopes of the leading ridges, and out to the west. There was no prospect of the weather improving. We agreed that our earlier decision to abandon the Mt Philistine – Mt Rolleston traverse had been the right one.

This proved to be the pattern for the previous week. What had started out as a plan for an ambitious trip between Elcho and Broderick passes, rapidly diminished as the weather models pointed to a combination of heavy rain and low snow levels for the weekend. Other options were considered, such as a climb from Broderick Hut, and discounted. The forecast did, however, suggest that a fine break on Friday, between the oncoming succession of fronts, would allow enough time for a climb in Arthurs Pass before the rain and nor-west gales arrived in the evening.



Gary kindly offered the family bach as a base, so after an exchange of emails and phone calls and a reshuffling of the party, we decided to travel up to the Pass Thursday night and make an early start Friday. Our early start went awry as the alarm didn't go off. Breakfast was punctuated by an unresolved disagreement over who had the best night's sleep and who snored the loudest. The weather didn't look promising. Cloud hung over Mts Rolleston and Philistine. We met three climbers at the bottom of the Rome ridge track. They had departed at 3am to attempt the Crow Face, but returned discouraged, saying the snow pack was isothermic and very soft. They were right. The snow conditions were awful; but fortunately for us, we were able to take advantage of their steps most of the way up the ridge.

At the junction with the Avalanche Peak ridge, we paused, debating whether to continue up to Mt Rolleston or head along the ridge towards Avalanche Peak. Faced with indecision, we procrastinated and adopted the usual trumper's ploy—stop and have a snack. The wind was starting to pick up with passing showers of light snow and the tops remained enshrouded in murk. It didn't take long to reach a consensus, Avalanche Peak it was. The snow pack was very unstable. Small avalanches sloughed off—sometimes with a little assistance—broke away, hissing down the slopes and flowing over the bluffs into the headwaters of McGrath Creek.

Just short of the Crow Valley turn off, the sun broke through briefly so we stopped on a sheltered patch of rocks to have lunch. The discourse resumed again as we discussed the forthcoming 'Gardens' trip, the past, present and future prospects for tramping clubs, and on the descent, Geoff recounted how a few tenacious individuals in Otago made the extraordinary efforts to open up the Milford Track for all trampers.

Travel along the remainder of the ridge was straightforward, but the weather began to deteriorate. By the time we reached Avalanche Peak, the cloud enveloped us and light snow and drizzle settled in as we descended Scotts Track. On the summit, we met one other person, who obligingly took a group photo. At the track-end Gary headed back up the road to collect the car while the rest of us hastened down the road with Geoff complaining about having to keep pace with long, leggy blondes. We'd promising to have a brew ready for Gary but he turned up with the car and transported the weary crew the last few hundred metres back to the bach.

Thanks to everyone for an enjoyable day, great company and conversation.

Party: **Liz Stephenson, Gary Huish, Geoff Spearpoint, and Raymond Ford** 🏠 RF

Waimakariri Col, Mount Philistine — 8–9 Dec 2012

Six trampers set off early on Saturday morning with a good weather forecast. Four of us started off up the Waimakariri as Gary and Raymond did a car shuffle and stashed Gary's bike at the Otira Valley road-end. The river was not too high and some of us only required help in a couple of crossings. We made good time allowing a short detour to Carrington Hut, as two of the party had not visited this hut before. After a break we headed up the upper Waimakariri towards the falls, at which point the track steepened considerably and from there to the hut. It was a bit of a grind at the end of the day, albeit in spectacular country. The CMC Waimakariri Falls Hut is in a great location with rock cliffs, gorges and waterfalls all around. There was no-one else there so after a hearty supper, four of us stayed in the 6 bunk hut and 2 in a Minaret tent.

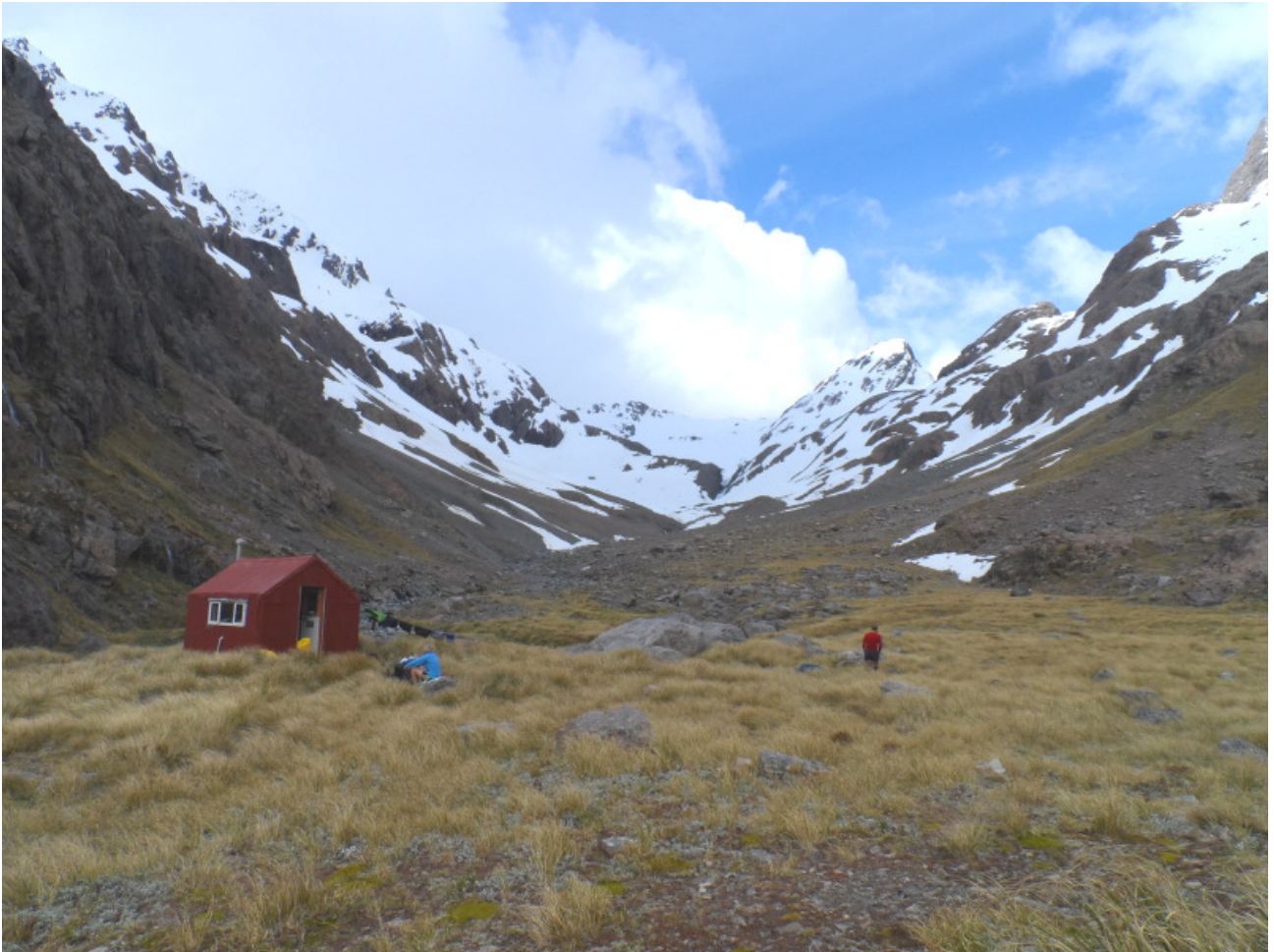
The next morning we got away early as the day was going to be a long one. We soon hit the snow which proved to be soft and hard going. The sun was beating down too which didn't help. After 2 hours we crossed over the col and dropped considerably towards the head-waters of the Rolleston before sidling around to climb up onto the Rolleston-Philistine ridge. This section took quite some time due to the soft snow conditions. Up on the snowy ridge the views were great. In places it was necessary to sidle around gendarmes and there were a few tricky, challenging bits due to the snow conditions. In all it took us about 7 hours to reach the summit from the hut.

After the obligatory photos on the summit of Philistine, we headed down and out to the road-end. Gary went on ahead to bike down to Arthur's Pass and discovered that the pesky keas had found his bike in the bushes. Luckily their damage did not extend to the tyres.

Thanks to Raymond and company for a great trip.

Trampers were:

Raymond Ford, John Robinson, Gary Huish, Liz Stephenson, Laurayne Robb and Ruth Barratt. 🏠 RB





MOUNT PEEL 8-9 DEC 2012

We'd planned to drive down on the Friday afternoon and climb to the shelter on Little Mt Peel for the night, then climb Mt Peel on the Saturday, returning to the shelter, packing and dropping down to stay at the camping ground for the night. That would give Sunday morning to browse local features before driving home. Instead the harder alternative of climbing the whole thing in one day eventuated.

The weather forecast—Friday bad, Saturday clearing, then light winds on Sunday—dictated our strategy. So Sunday it was, but that meant Shane Wright and Bill Hotter had to drop out. Just Joy and I travelled down early Saturday afternoon. Wayne Thomas caught us in his camper van as we arrived at Peel Forest. Keith Paterson joined our group later that evening. We also had the company for a while, of Joy's husband Alan, who was with the Tuesday Trekkers group across the way in the cabins. We used the remainder of the afternoon to visit the historic church and cemetery on Mt Peel Station. The giant Himalayan lilies were only just coming into flower.

Sunday's weather was as promised, fine and almost calm. The three of us drove up Blandswood Road and were walking from the car-park by 7.30am, up through the baches and then on to Deer Spur for the climb to 1311m Little Mt Peel. The changes since my last visit to the shelter on Little Mt Peel were noted—two water tanks, we were pleased to see and a Norski toilet around the corner. After leaving a note in the hut book for Chris Leaver's day trip, we continued on.

Initially, the ridge up from the shelter is pleasantly gradual, but then you lose height, followed by more demanding climbing up to Middle Mt Peel. Joy had climbed Mt Peel years ago, so her memory of the route was helpful. The final sidle to the top of 1743m Mt Peel at 1.10pm had included climbing out of a steep snow gully which we avoided on the way down. On top we had great views all around in still conditions. The weather had indeed been very kind.

Back down at the shelter at 4.30pm, we were restocking our water when a young Spanish tourist came up South Spur to spend the night, hoping to see the sunrise next morning. We were back to the car at 6.10pm after a long

day of moderate tramping. We returned to the camping ground to shower and pack, then left Wayne to embark on the next stage of his new nomadic lifestyle.

We were: **Joy Schroeder, Wayne Thomas and Merv Meredith** 🏠 MM

END OF YEAR ASHLEY GORGE TRAMP AND PICNIC 14-16 DEC 2012

Once more, the club scheduled the end-of-year picnic at the Ashley Gorge domain. To complement the picnic on Sunday 16th, this year we listed the river trip in the Ashley from Middle Bridge down to the domain as the Saturday day trip.

For Glenda and I, our weekend started with our arrival at the camping ground mid-afternoon on the Friday. It was hot and we were careful to set up at the far end where we would have maximum shelter from the nor'wester. With the recent weather, the whole area was green and the camping ground looking particularly picturesque. Once set up, we checked out the river from the domain. Flow appeared normal and was warm—definitely a pleasant first swim for the year. Later that evening Marion and Keith arrived and were quickly set up.

For Saturday's river trip our group of four waited at the Lees Valley turn-off from 8.45 till 9.20am but no one arrived from town which was disappointing. We drove up to Middle Bridge thinking we might see someone who'd come directly but the car park before the bridge was empty. We were walking by 10am with the river in moderate flow ($3.84\text{m}^3.\text{sec}^{-1}$), so progress was slower than on previous occasions, as we spent time picking crossings and then doing so mostly in a four over the first three hours. The fresh footprints we saw also going down-stream rang no bells. But all was revealed about lunch time when we meet Gary, Margot, Mary and Stan, returning upstream after their lunch. The reason we had not seen their vehicle was because they had driven across Middle Bridge and parked out of view on the far side. They decided to continue walking back to the bridge which was good for us as Stan was able to drive our car back to the camping ground. Earlier when we were discussing our logistics, I had briefly considered retracing our steps back to the car but fortunately for me dismissed the suggestion quickly as Keith said, "over my dead body. I haven't done this trip before and I'm not going back now."

After lunch we continued and eventually came to the main gorgy part. As promised, it was a bit of a float down. By now, the water was warmer and the river wider, making crossings easier. Here we could cross in pairs. Easier it might have been, but we were all pleased to arrive at the domain and back to our camp site a little after 6pm—eight enjoyable hours in total on a fine, warm day. Lesley Ward had arrived in her house bus during the day, and an enjoyable evening followed in lovely weather.

CLUB PICNIC SUNDAY was another warm day. I biked to Oxford in the morning to check out the farmers' market. Back at the camping ground, it was time to move down to the river frontage in the domain. It was getting decidedly hot and the number of people in and around the river progressively increased. Marion did eventually come out of the water. We only had ten club members turn up on the day, but what an enjoyable day! We could have had twelve if Dan had been able to find the group in the domain. Maybe they count anyway because they were actually in the domain. And so home after a great weekend. 🏠 **Glenda & Merv M**

Havelock River Foray — 29 Jan – 1 Feb 2013

A long spell of warm settled weather lured David and I to Mesopotamia Station and beyond to explore a valley the club seems to avoid. This was a Tuesday to Friday getaway. We could have saved hours of walking by starting at Erewhon but that would have meant crossing the voluminous Clyde. As it was even the Havelock was carrying a large volume and we were forced to climb at one point where the full flow was hard up against a bluff. We parked the car only a little past the Bush Stream, Te Aroha car park, to begin our long walk. We passed Growler Hut unseen and well left of our route. It's opposite Freezing Point which was about 25 degrees shy of the day's temperature. The weather was too good and shade hard to find but in early afternoon we had a siesta under matagouri bushes then set off for Carneys Creek. We already knew not to look for Finlay Face Hut as it had been erased by an avalanche. We considered camping but pressed on for Mistake Flats Hut, arriving there hot and tired in dim light 14 hours after leaving the car.



Mistake Flat Hut

On Wednesday we settled for an easy, flat trip up Forbes River to the biv—an ideal walk allowing us to recover from the long previous day. David had two cameras and found lots to shoot. I carried my camera around my neck for the whole trip and was nearly as snap-happy as David. Back at Mistake Flats Hut we lazed then had an early dinner and headed up-river for St Winifred Hut in the cool of the evening.

The Havelock needed to be crossed twice and with the snow-melt still in high gear we had to choose crossing points with care. Arriving at the hut we were surprised to find the light on and someone in residence. By the door was a small inflated boat which the owner called a pack-raft. He, Forrest McCarthy, had walked from Scone Hut on Westland's Perth River, over Dennistoun Pass and down Eric Stream. Rather than our long trudge back down-river, he planned to cruise down on his pack-raft. We were green with envy. We were hoping for the river to drop, he wanted full flow to whisk him down to Peel Forest where he'd hitch a ride to Chch.

In the morning David and I woke to the aroma of billy coffee as the rafter prepared to set sail. We saw him off in his little craft and then crossed Eric Stream to visit ancient Agony Island Biv where we switched to day-tripper mode and headed up-river to Veil Stream. A sign in huts warned that Veil Biv was being undermined by the river and had been removed so we knew not to look for it. A few hundred metres above the biv site we encountered a large snow bridge. To get a view of the valley-end we climbed above the obstacle, took photos and headed back to Mistake Flat Hut for another night. We could have taken two days to head down to the car but with a NW wind picking up strength and luck in finding useful cattle and vehicle tracks we made good time and pushed on the whole distance—about 28km from Mistake Flats to the car.

Neither of us will rush back to this valley. It's good enough scenically with well-spaced huts but without a serious 4WD visitors will find access arduous. The nearby Lawrence is a better bet. Mind you, if you take a pack raft it's just a one-way walk. To learn more about this new form of transport, do an internet search on Forrest McCarthy and pack raft.

We were: **David Ramm and Kerry Moore.** 🏠 KM



Cloudy Peak 2403m from near Freezing Point



Upper Havelock River