



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

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## November 2013

<b>President</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith	Quartermaster	355 9945
<b>Vice-President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford		351 9496
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden		332 7020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Price	337 2614	Maureen Thompson		359 5707
<b>Trip Planner</b>	Liz Stephenson	027 633 2038	Sue Piercey		384 9567
<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 12 Nov **Adventures with "First Crossings"**

Geoff Spearpoint will present his experience behind the making of the TV programs that ranged from Tapuae-o-Uenuku to Milford

**Supper Duty:** **Penny Coffey**  
**John Cook**  
**Liz Cunningham**

### Tue 9 Dec **PTC MasterChef contest**



Some say a trip is only as good as the food that is consumed. The PTC MasterChef contest aims to increase the variety of dishes and improve the quality of cooking on PTC trips. We want to encourage club members to be as adventurous in their cooking as they are on their trips!

Here is your chance to show off your culinary skills. **Details over-page.**

**Supper Duty:** **Adrian Daly & Laura Haslam**  
**Wendy Dann**  
**Julie Davis**

## PTC MasterChef Contest

The aims of the PTC MasterChef contest are to increase the variety of dishes and improve the quality of cooking on PTC trips. This is your chance to show off recipes you have submitted for our **PTC Recipe Book** or you may just want to create a new dish.

### Contestants

- May enter as an individual or as a group of up to three
- Will have half an hour to prepare a dish using authentic outdoor cooking appliances and equipment (billies, stoves, etc)
- May reheat a dehydrated meal or use fresh ingredients

### Judging

Dishes will be judged by a panel of three Masterchefs on the following criteria

- taste
- nutritional value
- cost
- preparation time, and
- presentation

The best recipes will be published on our website and included in our recipe book, if not already submitted.

Please register by emailing me as soon as possible!!

Leo Manders [leomanders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:leomanders@paradise.net.nz)

## 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](mailto:rlbolch@paradise.net.nz)**

- |                |   |                      |
|----------------|---|----------------------|
| 9-10 Nov<br>■■ | <b>BARKER HUT - MT HARPER, MT SPEIGHT</b><br><b>Gary Huish 332 7020</b>   | <b>Maps BV20,K33</b> |
| Sat-Sun        | <b>Hard</b> trip at the head of the Waimakiriri River. Walk into Carrington on Friday night and on to Barker Hut on Saturday. The intention is to climb Mt Harper or Mt Speight early Saturday and walk out late on Sunday. Ice axe and crampons needed.<br><b>List closes: Sat. 2 Nov.</b> |                      |
| 9-10 Nov<br>■■ | <b>POWER STREAM - BEALEY SPUR</b><br><b>Ring Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you would like to lead this trip</b>  | <b>Maps BX24,K34</b> |
| Sat-Sun        | <b>Moderate</b> trip near Arthur's Pass heading up Power Stream and returning down Bealey Spur.<br><b>List closes: Sat. 2 Nov.</b>  |                      |
| 10-Nov<br>■    | <b>VICTORIA PARK – SUGARLOAF</b><br><b>Bruce Cameron 365 8210</b>   | <b>Maps BX24,M36</b> |
| Sun            | An easy stroll up Victoria park<br><b>Start: 8am Cashmere Rd, by PM Hospital</b>  |                      |

- 15-17 Nov **GLORIANA AND FAERIE QUEENE** **Maps BT23,M31**  
 ■■■ Gary Huish 332 7020  
 Fri-Sun **Hard** climb starting from the St James walkway to Ada Pass and camping high by tarns above Camera Gully. Planning to climb Gloriana but may try Faerie Queene as well.  
**List closes: Sat. 9 Nov.**
- 15-17 Nov **WILKIN RIVER - GILLESPIE PASS - YOUNG RIVER** **Maps BZ12,F38**  
 ■■■ Heather Murray & Kevin Hughes 332 6281  
 Fri-Sun Classic **moderate** tramp between Young and Wilkin Rivers over 1500m Gillespie Pass in Mt Aspiring NP. Starting and finishing near Makarora, the valleys are tracked and the route over the pass is poled. Possible side trip to Crucible Lake  
**List closes: Sat. 9 Nov.**
- 15-17 Nov **GREYMOUTH BASE CAMP** **BU19,BV19,J31,32,K31,32**  
 ■■■ Keith McQuillan 384 6164  
 Fri-Sun **Easy to moderate** walks from this popular West Coast spot on the edge of Paparoa National Park. Walks include the short Pancake Rocks track and the Truman Tracks to limestone river gorges and luxuriant forest.  
**List closes: Sat. 9 Nov.**
- 17-Nov **MT CHARON** **Maps BU24,M32,N32**  
 ■ Bruce Cameron 365 8210  
 Sun From the Rogerson Road behind Hanmer, this **moderate** tramp climbs over Benvoirlich and on up the attractive ridge to this 1540m summit in the Hanmer Range. Bring togs in case there's time and inclination for the hot pools at the end of the day.  
**Start 8am: Placemakers, Cranford St.** **Approx. cost \$21**
- 23-Nov **DRACOPHYLLUM FLAT** **Maps BW21,K34**  
 ■ Christine Leaver 322 6445  
Saturday An **easy** trip in the Craigeburn area.  
**Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)** **Approx. cost \$18**
- 24-Nov **TRIG M** **Maps BW21,K35**  
 ■ Liz Stephenson 0276 332 038  
 Sun An **easy** stroll to this point near Porters Pass overlooking Lake Lyndon.  
**Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)**
- 23-24 Nov **ROUGH CREEK - LAKE CHRISTABEL** **Maps BT22,L31 M31**  
 ■■ Kerry Moore 359 5069  
 Sat-Sun **Moderate** round-trip starting up Rough Creek near Maruia with a splendid view of the lake from the saddle. From Lake Christabel Hut a track winds around and back up towards Rough Creek.  
**List closes: Sat. 16 Nov.**
- 1 Dec **PHILISTINE - ROLLESTON TRAVERSE** **Maps BV20,K33**  
 ■ Gary Huish 332 7020  
 Sun Probably the most spectacular of the **hard** day climbs in the Arthur's Pass area.. From the Otira Valley, there's a tricky ascent through the Philistine Bluffs, then it's fairly plain sailing to Mt P. The traverse along the ridge gives marvellous views of Mt R before the ascent to the high peak. We climb both high and low peak before descending the Otira Slide back to the valley.  
**Leaving Saturday night to stay at Arthurs Pass, contact Gary** **Approx. cost \$28**
- 1 Dec **MT MANSON** **Maps BV21,BW21,L34**  
 ■ Merv Meredith 322 7239  
 Sun This **moderate-hard** variation is the complete works. Starting from SH73 near the Flock Hill gate at 700m, it is a full clockwise circumnavigation of Manson Creek. A height gain of 1159m is quite a climb but compared to our usual route, this route has a lot of easier slopes, both up and down. Ask Merv for a pdf with the full route description. Take ice axe and crampons  
**Start: 7am Church Corner (across from church)** **Approx. cost \$18**

- 1 Dec** **PORT HILLS RAMBLE** **Maps BV21,BW21,L34**  
 ■ **Stan Wilder 980 5291 Sue Piercey 384 9567**  
**Sun** Easy walk on the Port Hills for members and anyone who is interested in finding out about tramping and the club.  
**Start: 9.30am Sign of the Takahe, 200 Hackthorne Road.** **No Cost**
- 30Nov-1Dec** **MAGDALEN HUT, MT SAINT ANDREWS** **BT23,24,M31,32**  
 ■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip (0276 332 038)**  
**Sat-Sun** **Moderate-hard** trip with Friday night travel to Magdalen Hut. Climb Mt St Andrews then up to Rokeby Hut and out on Sunday.  
**List closes: Sat 23 Nov.**
- 7-8 Dec** **PRINCESS BATH, LK TENNYSON** **BT24,M30,M31**  
 ■■ **Liz Stephenson 0276 332 038**  
**Sat-Sun** **Moderate** tramp to this tarn basin at 1700m, behind Lake Tennyson in the upper Clarence Valley with a climb of nearby 2126m Mt Princess. Camping out.  
**List closes: Wed 27 Nov.**
- 7-9 Dec** **PLUTO PEAK** **CA10,E40**  
 ■■■ **Raymond Ford 351 9496**  
**Sat-Mon** This **hard** trip plans to climb Pluto Peak via Spaniard Valley above the Dart. Ice axe and crampons required.  
**List closes: Sat 30 Nov.**
- 8-Dec** **GOLA PEAK** **BV23,M33**  
 ■ **John Robinson 0276331476**  
**Sun** **Moderate** trip around rolling farmland to some 1300m peaks, 25km west of Hawardon with views down into the upper Okuku River Valley.  
**Start 8am: Placemakers, Cranford St.** **Approx. cost \$17**
- 14 Dec** **MT BARRON** **BV20,K33**  
 ■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**  
**Saturday** **Moderate-hard** trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1700m peak west of Otira. Expect a long day. Travelling up the night before and staying at Arthurs Pass to give us an earlier start. Check with leader if ice axe and crampons required.  
**List closes: Sat 7 Dec.**
- 14-Dec** **YEAR END PICNIC, DIAMOND HARBOUR**  
 ■ **Glenda and Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 Diamond Harbour and the reserve is too nice and convenient with lots of options, even without a camping ground at Purau so we are returning to Diamond Harbour.  
 The picnic will be in the Stoddart Point Reserve on the lower level at Diamond Harbour. Drive in to the left of the shops on the road down to the jetty and then to the right at the first hairpin, into the reserve. You can catch the ferry from Lyttelton. Come when it suits you.  
 As well as walking, there are plenty of options, eg an early swim at D' Harbour or at Purau. Bring your kayak or any vessel. Or bring your MTB. Camp Bay isn't far away, or maybe you would like to try the Port Levy road.  
 From the reserve, there is a cliff face track running some distance both ways, as well as a number of other tracks higher up, including the Monument track to Mt Herbert.  
 Our old silver Subaru will be down in the reserve about 10am. If we have gone walkabout, we will still see you at lunchtime.
- 21-22 Dec** **FREYBERG RANGE PELL STREAM** **BT22,23,L31,M31**  
 ■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip (0276 332 038)**  
**List closes: Sat 14 Dec.**



- 22-Dec **RED HILL** **BW20,21,K34,35**  
 ■ Gary Huish 332 7020  
 Sun **Moderate** trip to this 1641m peak between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Choice of route depending on mood and conditions. Probable snow on the top so an ice axe may be an advantage!  
**Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)** **Approx. cost \$18**
- 27Dec-5Ja **STEWART ISLAND NW CIRCUIT** **CH08,CH09,D48,D49,E48,E49**  
 ■■■■■■■■ Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip (0276 332 038)  
 This classic **moderate** tramp takes in the north-west circuit of the island starting and finishing at Oban. Bush mountain scenery, untouched coastal landscape and an abundance of bird and insect life.  
**List closes: Sat 14 Dec.**
- 27Dec-2Ja **FIVE PASSES** **CA09,CB09,D40,E40**  
 ■■■■■■■■ Penny Webster 021868806  
 This classic **moderate-hard** trip takes in five passes and major river catchments in an incredible alpine environment. Starting near the Routeburn car park, crossing Sugarloaf Pass into the Rock Burn, Park Pass into Hidden Falls Creek, Cow Saddle and Fiery Col into the Olivine and Fohn Saddle into the Beans Burn.  
**List closes: Sat 14 Dec.**
- 11-14 Jan **ANNETTE PLATEAU** **BX15,H36**  
 ■■■■ Raymond Ford 351 9496  
 Fri-Mon A **hard** trip along the Sealy Range beyond the new Mueller Hut in Mt Cook National Park. We should obtain the reward of some impressive views, including Mt Cook, Hooker Glacier, Mt Sefton with its icefalls and the Mueller Glacier. We intend to camp on the Annette Plateau and climb 2627m Mt Sealy. Descent from the plateau would be via Sebastapol Ridge.
- 12 Jan **PREBBLE HILL & CAVE STREAM** **BW21,K34**  
 ■ Gary Huish 332 7020  
 Sun This **easy** trip goes over and under some of the more interesting limestone formations in the Castle Hill basin. We start from the Cave Stream car park and head down Broken River before climbing 902m Prebble Hill. This is the one visible from SH73 apparently covered in pebbles but close up they are huge and erosion-carved into animal shapes that are only limited by the imagination. On our return we have the opportunity go through the underground Cave Stream. Bring a torch, some warm clothing and a full change for the car. You will get wet!  
**Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)** **Approx. cost \$16**
- 16-19 Jan **RAKIURA TRACK** **CH08,CH09,D48,D49,E48,E49**  
 ■■■■ Leo Manders 356 1731  
 Wed-Sat The **easy** Rakiura Track follows the open coast, climbs over a 300 metre high forested ridge, and traverses the sheltered shores of Paterson Inlet. It passes sites of historical interest and introduces many of the common sea and forest birds of the island.  
**List closes: Sat 9 Jan.**
- 20-Jan **TIMUTIMU HEAD - SCENERY NOOK** **BY25,N37**  
 ■ Bruce Cameron 365 8210  
 Sun **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 outside Halswell School, Halswell Rd** **Approx. cost \$16**
- 26-27 Jan **ROCKY CREEK - GRIFFIN CREEK** **BV19,20,K33**  
 ■■■ Merv Meredith 322 7239  
 Sat-Sun **Moderate** circuit between Rocky Creek and Griffin Creek to the north west of APNP.  
**List closes: Wed. 16 Jan.**

- 27-Jan** **GOAT HILL** **BV20,K33**  
 ■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip (0276 332 038)**  
**Sun** **Easy-medium** trip in Otira area. Track heads off from the land-fill up the ridge near Barrack Creek. Good views to be had on a fine day  
**Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)** **Approx. cost \$28**
- 2-3 Feb** **CASEY SADDLE - LAKE MINCHIN** **BV21,22,K33**  
 ■■ **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
**Sat-Sun** **Moderate** tramp in Arthur's Pass NP. Starting over Casey Saddle, we'll stay at the new Poulter Hut with time for a day trip to remote Lake Minchin.  
**List closes: Sat 26 Jan.**
- 2-3 Feb** **CROESUS - MOONLIGHT** **BT20,21,K31**  
 ■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip (0276 332 038)**  
**Sat-Sun** Two of the best-known tracks in the Paparoa Range incorporated into a single **moderate-hard** round trip, without the need for a car shuffle (but with the need for a bush bash!). Takes in lush forest, open tops and plenty of old gold workings.  
**List closes: Sat 26 Jan.**
- 3-Feb** **WAIPARA GORGE** **BV24,M34**  
 ■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip (0276 332 038)**  
**Sun** An **easy-moderate** trip traversing the Waipara Gorge.  
**Start 8am: Placemakers, Cranford St.** **Approx. cost \$10**
- 1-9 Feb** **VOLTA** **CA11,F38,39**  
 ■■■■■■■■ **Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008**  
**Hard** trip to the Volta Glacier  
**List closes: Sat 26 Jan.**
- 6-10 Feb** **ST JAMES WALKWAY** **BT23,24,BU23,M31,M32**  
 ■■■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip (0276 332 038)**  
**Waitangi** **Easy-moderate** walk over this popular track in the Lewis Pass area. Good huts along the way, including the new Anne Hut. A minimum of climbing. Ada Pass is barely perceptible. Good track through beech forest and river flats.  
**Wknd** **List closes: Sat 26 Jan.**
- 6-10 Feb** **PUNAKAIKI BASE CAMP** **BS19,20,K30**  
 ■■■■ **Stan Wilder 980 5291 or swilder@clear.net.nz**  
**Waitangi** We'll stay in the recently refurbished Te Hui House, situated next to the pub.  
**Wknd** The house has an excellent open-plan kitchen and lounge. All rooms are serviced [ie all bed linen supplied]. Various sleeping configurations are available—dorms & share \$28 pp, double twin \$75, or you can pamper your partner to a double or twin, both with ensuites \$75 pp.  
 Meals: Thur night - own arrangements.  
 Friday - "Pot Luck"  
 Saturday - Team Leader's special.  
 Trips: Thursday afternoon - local walks.  
 Friday - Inland Pack Track from Bullock Creek car park, north to the Ballroom Overhang, and out to the Fox River car park. Grade e-m  
 Saturday - Inland Pack Track from Bullock Creek car park south to Cave Stream lookout, south to Pororari swing-bridge and out to car park via Punakaiki River. Grade e-m  
 Sunday - local walks.  
 If we get enough interest, concession rates and exclusivity will apply, so please book early.  
 For bookings or more info contact Stan.  
**List closes: Sat 26 Jan.**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Tues 19 Nov **Beckenham River Circuit and Dinner**



Walk the Beckenham - Heathcote River Circuit for an hour, followed by dinner at Elevate. Meet at 6.15pm on Remuera Street near Colombo Street. Dinner is at **Elevate Restaurant**, 2 Colombo Street at 7.30pm. Bookings for dinner to Margot Bowden. Phone 332 7020 or email [margot.bowden@gmail.com](mailto:margot.bowden@gmail.com) by Sunday 17 November.

## NOTICES

**Membership** We welcome Markus Kaufmann and Ian & Diane Roxburgh

**Deadline for the December/January newsletter** Sunday 1 Dec

**Next committee meeting** 7:30pm Tue 26 Nov

### **COAL ISLAND PREDATOR CONTROL PRESERVATION INLET – SOUTHERN FIORDLAND**

On behalf of the SW NZ Endangered Species Charitable Trust (Te Puka-Hereka) and DoC, John Cook will be leading a predator control trip to Coal Island, Preservation Inlet. At the moment there are some vacancies on this trip departing from Tuatapere **Monday 28 April 2014** and returning on either Friday 2 May or Saturday 3 depending on weather etc.

The typical trip programme operated by the Trust is as follows:

**Day 1:** Helicopter from near Tuatapere to Coal Island. Spend the day on the island checking stoat/rat/mouse trap lines before going by either helicopter or boat at the end of the day to Kisbee Lodge where we stay the night. This is a private lodge located on the site of former 19<sup>th</sup> century gold mining settlement of Cromarty.

**Day 2:** Depart Kisbee Lodge to check the 'high level' trap lines on a ridgeline to stay at the old Oil Store building near the entrance to Otago Retreat (now maintained as a DoC hut) and located not far from Puysegur Point. A chance on the way to explore old Alpha gold mining works dating back to the late 1800's while enjoying panoramic views across Preservation Inlet and beyond.

**Day 3:** A chance to explore the local area that includes Puysegur Point with its lighthouse, a nearby historic coal mine and the dramatic Sealers' Beaches that face out onto Foveaux Strait.

**Day 4:** Returning to Kisbee Lodge via a coastal route checking trap lines on the way. A chance on the way to explore the former gold mining settlement of Te Oneroa.

**Day 5:** Based at Kisbee Lodge for the day, checking out the local area and further trap lines etc. Subject to boat availability, check traps on nearby islands such as Steep-to Island and Weka Island (and catching some blue cod on the way home!). This tends to be the optional day depending on weather forecasts, helicopter availability etc.

**Day 5 or 6:** Helicopter flight back to Tuatapere.

#### **Other General Information:**

**Party size:** 6 persons preferably, and also the maximum. This suits the Squirrel helicopter capacity, and when checking traps it allow for 3 - 2 person parties.

**Costs:** \$650 to cover the helicopter rides (a subsidised/sponsorship rate), transport to and from Tuatapere and food. Note: there is no cost for staying at the spacious and very comfortable Kisbee Lodge (being the owner's contribution to the work of the Trust, and also the provision of a boat as required for checking island traps etc.).

**Food:** I am proposing to run this trip like a PTC trip – everyone provides own breakfasts, lunches and snacks; with communal evening meals.

**Level of Fitness Required:** A good moderate level of fitness is required. This is essentially a tramping trip on somewhat rough average- tracks (including old tramways), with reasonably long days (say 6 – 8 hours) but checking a trap every 10 minutes or so.

#### **For Further Information**

- Go to the Trust's webpage [www.tepukahereka.org.nz](http://www.tepukahereka.org.nz)
- Read of the article '*Coal Island, Restoring the Mysteries of Nature*' in the FMC Bulletin, March 2010.
- Contact, John Cook: ph. 03 326 7458 or 027 253 7458. Email: [plansol@xtra.co.nz](mailto:plansol@xtra.co.nz)

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Youngman Stream Hut – 28 & 29 Sept 2013**

Memories of a rough vehicle track from the Lees Valley road to the track-start made me request cars with high ground clearance and luckily for us Rick and Calum obliged with 4wds. The cars splashed through muddy puddles without too much drama on the well-rutted track. The day was fine but rain was predicted with a

southerly change. Stock yards with a high fence and padlocked gate force trampers to divert towards the river to cross a stile. From the stile we picked our way up through matagouri to get onto the vehicle track that leads to Lillburn Stream.

The Lillburn was fairly full and a bit turbid as we crossed carefully in fours. The track on the Ashley River terraces was sodden and muddy. We had an early lunch near Tent Gully Stream, harassed by sandflies. Wading up the Ashley was not an option so we took the bush track which starts at TG Stream. Track work had been done with a brush cutter but bigger storm damage blocked the track in places slowing our group. The track gets up to 200m above the Ashley River then descends to the hut. A tree near the river shows reinforcing where a three-wire bridge once crossed. Dan, the birthday boy, found a good crossing point to wade four plus four. We walked down-river a little to get onto the track that leads to the hut just 100m away. As we crossed the river a gentle rain started to fall. The “morning” southerly arrived at 4pm and we were pleased to be at the six-bunk Youngman Stream Hut.

Re-hydration and sustenance with tea/coffee, soups and later macaroni and cheese, then coconut custard on gingernuts revived us. Calum assembled wood and Pat lit the fire to make the hut more cosy. Pat provided a copy of the Rime of the Ancient Mariner which we took turns at reading half of, before we skipped to the end—the bird died, the bride cried. High quality drinking water pattered on the roof as we read, “water water everywhere nor any drop to drink” at which point everyone chimed in with this familiar line. Singing from song sheets was our next entertainment though the sheets are sadly lacking in Polish songs. Dorota needs to supply some. The thought of losing an hour with the switch to daylight-saving had people shuffling off to bed at 9:30.

In the morning any thought of climbing up to Tarn Hut and completing a high circuit was dispelled by light rain and low cloud. A dusting of snow was visible on higher forest. Marching on a good breakfast we seemed to cover the bush track with more ease than we had the day before. The rain stopped, coats came off and we crossed the Lillburn—still high. A kilometer up-valley it was drizzling. We reached the cars with our coats on. Our drivers were anxious to cross the vehicle track to the road, fearing that the overnight rain would have swelled the muddy puddles. We splashed through without getting bogged and the Lees Valley road seemed like a speedway by comparison. The customary coffees were had in Oxford and we drove home on dry road—back by 4:30 or was it really 5:30?

The weather forecast deterred two sign-ons from going but **Calum & Pat McIntosh, Dorota Giejsztowt, Evelyn Barben, Rick Harlow, Joy Schroeder, Dan Pryce and Kerry Moore** braved the conditions with no regrets. 🏔️ KM

## Mount Wall - 20 October 2013

On some trips you lose people and some you just accumulate. Heather muttered about trip grading when she saw the others at Church Corner but five headed off to collect John at Sheffield. While we were debating world peace, coffee and pies, Karen and Raymond appeared on their way to Foggy Peak. Some arm twisting encouraged them to join us and hit the Wall.

The drive to the Broken River gate had some drama with a major wash-out on the river section past the camp ground but that was dwarfed by the damage at the “boiler pipe” stream crossing that has closed the ski-field road. We know what the BR work parties will be doing this summer if they want to get vehicles anywhere near the field.

There was no sign of other people as we zig-zagged up the partially snow-covered field on the line of the main tow. Perfect, calm conditions in the basin were matched when we reached the top of the ridge for lunch—views in all directions and not a breath of wind!

The traverse along the top of the Craigieburn Range was fairly straight-forward with mixed snow and rock along an undulating ridge. That changed when we turned towards the outlying Mt Wall. The rock ridge becomes sharper requiring a degree of pinnacle scrambling on crumbling rock before the flatter top of the 1874m Mt Wall is reached. Some time was spent on the top, sun-baking, peak spotting on the main divide and locating where Karen and Raymond could have been had they not been waylaid.

Then the trip went downhill. One line of scree goes virtually from the top of Mt Wall to the tractor shed but there are many that don't. We initially set off to the south to avoid some rocky gullies before dropping on scree and snow towards the main eastern ridge. We then headed for the gully above the tractor shed and, although this has been bony at times, found a good scree run right to the bottom. Liz and Geoff celebrated by claiming the first swim of the season. A great round trip, with some technical sections but definitely in the “moderate” category and perfect weather conditions.

We were: **Kevin Hughes (leader), Heather Murray, Liz Stephenson, Geoff Spearpoint, John Robinson, Raymond Ford, Karen Keith and Gary Huish.** 🏔️ GH