



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
May 2018*

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Committee

President	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Vice-President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Social Events	Maureen Whalen	027 819 9251
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Maureen Thompson	021 2665778
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239			

New Member Enquiries:	Stan Wilder	260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters
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Our Club

The PTC 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

Club Nights are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St. and Oxford Terrace)** at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

<p>Tues 8 May</p>	<p>Fixing an island from scratch: A first-hand account of island restoration in the Falkland Islands - Peter Carey Sub Antarctic Foundation for Ecosystems Research (SAFER).</p> <p>About 20 years ago, Peter bought 4 islands in the Falklands with the plan to restore them to prime wildlife habitat. Since then he has been squeezing in field work there between work and family commitments in Christchurch, and just last winter undertook an eradication operation to rid the islands of mice, rats, and rabbits.</p> <p>Supper Duty: Mary McKeown and Guy Mulligan</p>
<p>Tues 12 June</p>	<p>Penny Webster - Climbing the Big Peaks of NZ.</p> <p>Penny Webster is one of our club members. She will show slides and tell us about a personal challenge she completed last year. She has now climbed all of NZ's 3000m peaks: a huge achievement. Come and hear about her adventures.</p>



FORTHCOMING 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, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you to go on the trip. If the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader or if you use email check the PTC Communicator the day before for trip updates.

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

The Club has a mountain biking section, Fat Tyre Fanatics, who head out on casual day trips throughout the year. For details on biking trips contact Chris Leaver 322 6445, or ptc75@clear.net.nz.


06-May	Tiromoana Bush	N34 BV24
Sun	Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778	
*	Easy coastal trip east of Waipara, through bush and wetlands to a remote beach. Great views to Pegasus Bay and Banks Peninsula. Nice walk and pleasant day out. Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$10	
12-16 May	Milford Track	D40,E40 CB09,10
	Peter Umbers 359 9118	
*****	New Zealand's world famous walking track, timed out-of-season so normal hut fees apply. Spectacular in any weather. Moderate . List closes 29 April	
13-May	Lake Rubicon - Bobs Knob	L35 BW21
Sun	Geoff Korver 355 3905	
*	Popular moderate round-trip up to a ridge below the Torlesse Range, with good views of the latter, taking in Lake Rubicon. An enjoyable tramp not far from town. Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$11	
19-20 May	Bobs Camp Circuit	M34 BW23
	Kerry Moore 359 5069	
**	An easy-moderate circuit from the Okuku River to Pinchgut Hut and along the Cattle Peak Route to Bob's Camp Biv. Day two we'll take the Whare Route back to Pinchgut and out. List closes 12 May	
19-23 May	Wellington Base	BQ32
	Sue Piercey 384 9567	
*****	Some of the many possibilities: Ferry to Matui/Somes Island. Ferry to Eastbourne, walk in reserve nearby or bus back via Dowse Gallery. Sections of Te Araroa, including the spectacular Paekakariki escarpment walk. Trains give great access to start and end points, and are free for seniors between 9am and 3pm. City highlights include the waterfront, the Botanic Gardens, Zealandia, Te Papa. An added attraction for the base camp is the LUX Light festival 18-27 May, 6-10 pm. https://www.lux.org.nz/ List closes 1 May	

19 May <u>Saturday</u> *	Mt Alexander Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Easy-moderate wander in open, rolling North Canterbury farm country, to this 750m lookout near Scargil. Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St	N33 BV24 Approx cost \$14
26-27 May **	Mt Fyffe - Kowhai River Diane Mellish 337 5530 A moderate traverse of Mt Fyffe. Friday evening start to Kaikoura and walk up the 4WD track to Mt Fyffe Hut for the night. Saturday: Mt Fyffe traverse across Gable to Gables End and down to the Kowhai Saddle and Kowhai Hut. Sunday is a more leisurely walk down the Kowhai River and out. List closes 20 May	O31 BT27
27-May Sun *	Black Hill, Rakaia Gary Huish 332 7020 A moderate-hard climb to this 2067m peak. Up the south bank Rakaia road, to start up a farm track behind Redcliffe Station and over Redcliffe Hill. A round trip south to point 1934m and down it's spur back to the farm track, is possible. Take ice axe and crampons. Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd	K35 BW20 Approx cost \$18
2-4 Jun ***	Lake Minchin Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate trip in Arthurs Pass NP. Starting from Andrews Shelter, crossing Casey Saddle and down to the Poulter. Then up past Trust/Poulter Hut and up to Poulter Hut, 10 bunk, for two nights, with time for a day trip up to Lake Minchin and maybe beyond. Back out the same way on Monday List closes 27 May	K33 BV21
02-Jun <u>Saturday</u> *	Ryde Falls Evelien Baas 358 5521 An easy flat walk to the falls on the Coopers Creek West Branch which drains Mt Oxford. Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd	BW22 Approx cost \$11
2-6 Jun *****	Hump Ridge Track Dan Pryce 356 1962 The highlight is a loop track at the top of the Hump Ridge range which winds around soaring limestone tors and offers panoramic views of south-west Fiordland, the Southern Ocean, and Stewart Island. Easy-moderate List closes 20 May	C46 CF07
1-4 Jun ****	Raincliff Base Chris Leaver 322 6445 Help the 1958ers celebrate their 60th birthdays. Explore the area by foot, bike and car. The scout lodge is situated on the Opihi River near the Raincliff Bridge and has good facilities, including a wood-stove. It can sleep up to 44 people in the bunk rooms. You can also camp for \$16/night. Walks include nearby Pioneer Park, Raincliffe forest reserve, historic Kakahu bush and lime kiln, Mt Nimrod reserve/summit (1525m) with superb views north and west into the Hakataramea. Contact Chris Leaver (not first week of May) 322 6445 or newptc75@gmail.com List closes 25 May	BZ18

9-10 Jun	Pinchgut Hut Kerry Moore 359 5069	M34 BW23
**	An easy , almost flat, trip up the Okuku River in the Mt Thomas Forest to a comfortable hut with wood-stove List closes 3 Jun	
10-Jun Sun	Thirteen Mile Bush Norman Burden 358 5115	K35,L35 BW21
*	Easy-moderate trip to a hut on the flanks of Ben More in the Big Ben Range. We park just 12km inland from Springfield. Thirteen Mile Bush contains the headwaters of North Selwyn River. Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd	Approx cost \$11
16-17 Jun	Otehake Hot Spring Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038	K33 BV20,21
**	Moderate walk from Aickens, up the Taramakau River and Pfeifer Creek, past Lake Kaurapataka. There is a short climb to a saddle before dropping to the Otehake River. We'll camp at the hot springs further up the Otehake. List closes 10 Jun	
17-Jun Sun	Mt Bradley from Kaituna Valley Joy Schroeder 351 4655	M36 BX24
*	Easy-moderate. Morning tea at Packhorse Hut then along to the zig-zag track that flanks Mt Bradley. From the Te Ara Pataka track its just a short climb to 855m Mt Bradley Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end, by the river	Approx cost \$4
23-24 Jun	Magdalen Hut Pauline Hill 021 0872 1613	M32 BU23
**	An easy flat track to this modern little hut with wood-stove, by the Boyle River List closes 17 Jun	
24-Jun Sun	Broken Hill Kerry Moore 359 5069	K34,L34 BW21
*	Moderate trip to this peak just off of highway 73, near Flock Hill Resort. Great views of Lake Pearson and Castle Hill Basin Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd	Approx cost \$17
30 Jun -1 July	Boyle Base Kerry Moore 359 5069	M31,N31,N32 BU24,25
**	Staying at or near Boyle Village We aim to climb Mt Norma and Garnet Peak. There are plenty of easy options as well. Friday night start. List closes 24 June	
30 June-4 July	Kepler Track Merv Meredith 322 7239	C43 CD07,08
*****	The moderate Kepler Track is an alpine adventure with stunning panoramas. It takes you from the shore of Lake Te Anau to spend a night high above the clouds at Luxmore Hut (1085m). Traverse the ridgelines of the Kepler Mountains, drop down to beautiful Lake Manapouri, before heading back through peaceful beech forest. List closes 14 June	

30 Jun Saturday *	Kennedys Bush—Governors Bay Margot Bowden 332 7020 An easy climb from Halswell Quarry up through Kennedy's Bush to the Summit Road then exploring the maze of tracks on the Governors Bay side of the crater rim Meet 8am at the Halswell Quarry entrance	BX24
7-8 July **	Hawdon Hut Graeme Paltridge 384 3592 An easy flat walk up the Hawdon River to this spacious hut with views of some impressive mountains List closes 1 Jul	K33 BV21
8-July Sun *	Mt Foweracker Diane Mellish 337 5530 Moderate-hard trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1804m peak between Sudden Valley and Red Beech Stream. This peak lacked a name five years ago. Meet <u>7am</u> Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd	K33 BV21 Approx cost \$20
14-15 July **	Hope-Kiwi Lodge Sue Piercey 384 9567 Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way through beech forest and along river terraces List closes 7 July	BU22

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tue 15 May	<p>City Explorer. Check out the quirky, trendy new corners of the South Frame. Meet at the colourful Welles St bar, 44 Welles St for an optional drink and snack any time after 5.30 pm. Welles St is between Colombo and Manchester St just south of St Asaph St. At 6.15 pm we'll head off to explore the local area. Check out the outdoor video game, climbing rocks, Dux Central alleyways, street art and the Boxed Quarter. Dinner will be at approximately 7.15 pm at Thai Box, 270 St Asaph St (corner Madras and St Asaph). Main dishes \$19 to \$28. You don't need to book for the Welles St drink and the walk, but <u>we do need names for the dinner to Maureen Thompson by 6 pm Sunday 13 May.</u> Mobile 021 266 5778 or email mothompson1212@gmail.com. If the weather is really bad we could linger a little longer at Welles St, skip the walk and head to Thai Box at 7 pm https://www.facebook.com/thaiboxnz/menu/</p>
Thurs 21 June 	<p>Winter Solstice bike ride or walk then pizza. Let's join in this annual event open to the public. Participate as a cyclist or take a walk in Hagley Park and admire the spectacle of hundreds of brightly-lit bikes. Meet at Maureen Thompson's place (30 A Peacock St) by 4.55 pm. Both groups, the cyclists and walkers will walk, pushing our bikes to the start of the ride, at the Armagh Street/Park Terrace Gates aiming to get there at 5.25pm. The ride officially starts at 5.30 pm. It goes anti-clockwise around the park. Walkers can choose a route with the best view of the cyclists, then head back to Peacock St. Bring your bike, helmet and person with as many lights as you can. We should all be back at Peacock St by 6.30 pm or 7 pm.</p> <p>We will pre-order some pizzas, including vegetarian options. Maureen will provide some mulled wine. Please bring a small plate of nibbles or sweet treats to share, and your own drinks. Maureen's place is pretty small so you might be sitting on the floor. For pizza catering, <u>please give your name to Maureen by Tuesday 19 June.</u> Email mothompson1212@gmail.com or 021 266 5778. If the ride is cancelled, meet at Maureen's place any time after 6.00pm. www.facebook.com/events/598082050538833/</p>

President's notes: Thanks everyone for the great turnout at the trip planning meeting. The ideas for trips simply flowed into the calendar thanks to all the preparation you had done in advance. Good team effort! The Committee also appreciates the offers of trip leadership coming in from members. Kerry is beavering away on all the details of the annual trip plan now, and it will be out to all members in June. I think you will get excited about some of the adventures in store for you.

Now an appeal for help of a different kind. Please try to say 'yes' when our supper duty coordinator rings to say you are rostered on. She has been overwhelmed with 'no' responses in recent times. Maybe you could be the one to ring around and organise a swap with another member if the date is unsuitable, and let Margot know. A spot of help with hall vacuuming after meetings would be good too.

Keep on tramping and I look forward to seeing you all at the May meeting. **Diane**

The May night sky.

Brilliant white Jupiter rises in the East just after sunset, and is visible all night. If you have binoculars, look for the four Galilean moons of Jupiter - tiny specks of light. Galileo's first telescope was not as good as your binoculars; but as he observed their changing positions night after night, he concluded that they were orbiting Jupiter, not Earth. Observations like this eventually led to a clash with the Vatican...

Yellowish Saturn rises around 9 pm and follows Jupiter up into the sky. A little later, reddish Mars joins the procession. Venus sets in the west just after sunset. By the end of May it will be a little further away from the Sun and easier to see.

The Southern Cross is high in the night sky, with the two bright pointers just to its East. New Moon is on 15th May.

On moonless nights, keep an eye out for the faint greenish glow of the aurora along the southern horizon. At our latitudes, it's rare - but not unknown - so you might get lucky! You can check out real time solar and auroral activity at www.spaceweather.com. **Graham Townsend**

Trip Photos: The Club maintains a gallery of photographs on its website. Keeping this up to date allows people to see what recent trips the Club has undertaken. Can trip leaders send or nominate someone to send some photographs from each trip to Kevin Hughes, ptc@nivek.co.nz, so we can keep this record current.

Membership: The PTC welcomes new member Ian Beale, and accepts with regret Paul Bingham's resignation.

Deadline for the June Newsletter: Thursday, 31 May – please send newsletter items to Raymond: fordm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 29 May 2018.

Serpentine Range 22 -25 February 2018

'Put on your feathers' Gary said as our group, warming up in the morning sun, were discussing down jackets. What prompted this subject was my mishap the previous evening, where unbeknown to me, I'd torn the back of my down jacket after catching it on a rock. In the morning, I noticed a barrage of down feathers floating around the inside of the tent. I blamed my sleeping bag, however at breakfast, Gary noticed feathers escaping from my jacket and alerted me to the correct culprit! A quick patch job after retrieving the loose down and order was restored!

Who am I? you may ask. I'm an Aussie bushwalker, who was kindly invited to join the Serpentine Range trip, led by Raymond Ford. My friend, Rebecca and I, met Raymond, Geoff and Liz at Unwin Hut, March last year before their Annette Plateau trip, and they invited us to come out with the club. Unfortunately, Rebecca was unable to make the trip.

I thoroughly enjoyed tramping with Raymond, Diane, Angela, Peter and Gary. We shared a lot of laughter, fun and camaraderie over the four days together. Being a member of the Brisbane Bushwalkers Club (BBW) it was very interesting learning how the Peninsula Tramping Club operate their trips, particularly the inclusive approach to meals and gear. BBW has an exclusive approach for club walks. From what I experienced, PTC's approach has numerous benefits, including lighter packs, enhanced teamwork and the development of strong bonds between group members.



Our trip started early on Thursday morning with an unexpected nine hour drive to the Routeburn Shelter, due to land slips and resultant highway closures caused by Cyclone Gita. The coastal mountains and alpine ranges were all covered in fresh snow, and Diane commented, reminiscent of spring rather than summer. After the obligatory stop at Fairlie for brunch at the bakery, we stopped at a cafe in Glenorchy for an early evening fuel up for the climb over Sugarloaf Pass.

We set off on from the Routeburn Shelter around 5:30pm. I watched with interest, as Raymond walked back and forth along a line to produce five equal piles of party

gear. When finally satisfied with the even distribution of weight, he pronounced 'pick a pile'.

Once we were all packed, we commenced our walk on the Routeburn track until we turned right onto the Sugarloaf track. It was all up from here! Once out of the beech forest we enjoyed spectacular views of Mount Earnslaw and the Richardson Range in the setting sun. However, the heat of the climb quickly dissipated. With jackets on we hightailed it down to the Rockburn in the fading daylight. However, despite the steep descent and our efforts to arrive into camp, we ended up using our headlamps. During the descent. I pondered the Kiwi tent sharing etiquette, as I am used to carrying my own tent on walks. Gary, then coincidentally, told me the process of sharing tents is 'anything goes'. I decided, as the newcomer, to stand back and watch. The process worked seamlessly, my inner tent fitted with Angela's fly. Done!



On arrival, a brew was quickly prepared and enjoyed by all. The brews regularly occurred in the mornings, evenings and sometimes at lunch. I looked forward to these times. It was then off to bed to the rhythmic sounds of the flowing river.

Day two dawned cool and clear. We continued up the Rockburn, crossing the bridge onto Theatre Flat, then over a small saddle where we climbed up for a view of Park Pass. After lunch we climbed up to the pass, and then sidled up the tussock slopes towards Lake Nerine. This section was off track and more taxing on the legs and lungs,

although it provided excellent views of Park Pass Glacier, Cow Saddle and beyond. Raymond competently led the group over and down a final rock scramble to our camp for the night on the shore of Lake Nerine. Dinnertime was approaching and the sun had lost its heat of the day, so a swim in a nearby tarn was replaced by a quick bird bath. With the temperature dropping into single digits the group retired early for the night.

The next morning was started clear and sunny until the cloud rolled in from the west and shrouded the landscape in mist. After two hours of sidling the west side Mt Nereus we arrived at North Col. The plan was to traverse the Serpentine Range, however, the forecasted low arrived earlier than expected so the group decided to take the contingency route out via North Branch of the Routeburn.

While enjoying morning tea and watching a wee rock wren in a sheltered spot behind a large boulder on the col, a young American woman from Colorado appeared out of the mist, after hearing our voices. She had traversed the Serpentine Range the previous day, and unbeknown to us, camped near Lake Nerine. As she was also heading out via the North Branch, she accompanied us as far as Routeburn Flats.

There was no ice in North Col, so crampons were not needed. We rock hopped along the river as far as the boulder field then followed the track through the flats to a sheltered flat campsite set amongst large beech trees next to the river.

For our last camp, arriving and setting up camp with several hours of daylight remaining, allowed for a thoroughly relaxing afternoon and evening that included a yoga/stretching session led by Diane, diverse discussion amongst the group, followed by a superb two course dinner. Gary prepared satay vegetable noodles for mains followed by stewed nectarines



(home grown and dehydrated by Raymond) almond biscuit crumble with custard, prepared jointly by Raymond and Diane.

Once again I was lulled to sleep by the sounds of the running river. It started to rain overnight, by morning the wind had begun to pick up. Raymond checked the river, and said it was rising rapidly, and at his suggestion, we packed up and headed down to Routeburn Flats. The campers were slightly bemused to see a group of wet trampers arriving early in the morning, and taking over one of the shelters for a brew and breakfast.

We had made the right decision. By the time we had reached the bridge, below Routeburn Flats Hut, the river had turned a dirty colour and was running high, and a gale was blowing down the valley Routeburn valley. At Glenorchy, there was no respite from the weather, but we fortified ourselves again at the café, with good coffee and a second breakfast.

Serpentine Range and Lake Unknown remain 'unfinished business'. Angela, Raymond and Diane were already starting to think about running two trips there next year!!

Thank you Peninsula Tramping Club for you for inviting me and your hospitality.

Trip members: Raymond Ford (leader), Diane Mellish, Angela Grigg, Sonja Risa, Gary Huish, Peter Umbers
🏠 SR

Elcho Col - Brodrick Pass- 8-12 March 2018

Liz, is an Otago lass, who visited the Brodrick Hut on her honeymoon but had not reached the Landsborough. She had scheduled this trip several times only to be denied by the weather. This, however, was going to be the year. The weather window and the PTC AGM restricted the timing, but Liz was determined to do it faster. People were queued to join; however, Sonja broke her ribs at Crucible Lake, Peter tweaked his knee



on the Serpentine so Gary just sneaked in.

The first day involved a leisurely start from Christchurch, the obligatory stop in Fairlie and then several hours tramping up the Hopkins Valley above Lake Ohau. Liz and then Geoff had managed to get her vehicle all the way to Monument Hut which saved us several hours of road walking. Raymond pointed out their January route to the Glenmarry Glacier while the Dasler Pinnacles looked very dramatic in the evening light. With the prospect of a long day, the next day, we pushed on past cosy Elcho Hut to a delightful campsite at the

Elcho forks.

Adrian, a Hamilton hunter who had come down to reconnoitre the hunting prospects in the Hopkins valleys, paid us an early morning visit then accompanied us up a very overgrown North Elcho track to the bush line. Then a route choice. The obvious gully to Elcho Pass was narrow and filled with avalanche debris. A schrund could block it. The major gully further upstream looked to have more options but thick cloud at about 1500m could make navigation interesting. It proved to be an easy route. We reached glacial ice at about 1800m, donned crampons, and headed up. Raymond's phone, Gary's GPS and Geoff's memory were

pointing in the same direction and after a short rock scramble the flat ground and a drop in the easterly wind indicated we were at the pass.

Finding the NW ridge from Baker Peak was going to be an issue in the cloud, but as we got further from the Main Divide, tantalizing glimpses appeared like a random slide-show. There was the ridge in graphic detail adorned with spires and ramparts. Glad we didn't have to descend that in cloud! Parts were a devil's playground of massive blocks with us creeping like ants around the base looking for a route. Cliff lines



barred our way in others, forcing painful ascents to divert. At 1700m the ridge narrowed and five chamois leapt off the saddle and plummeted downwards. Moir's describes this section as slightly exposed and tricky but a reasonable route. Reasonable for chamois perhaps. The ridgeline was knife-edge and loose, not good. Raymond traversed right. Hmm, three long strides on flaky ledges, nothing below. Don't think, just go. Liz came next but a handhold detached and she started to go with it, Geoff grabbed her, phew!

The ridge started to soften with more vegetation until 1600m when a delightful alpine meadow appeared below us. The chamois thought so too with 30-40 of them scattering in all directions. The bush line was still well below us, but Geoff and Raymond found a small tarn and it was a perfect place to camp following a debate about where would be calmer in the cold easterly wind that had the tents flapping half the night.

Next morning was one to remember. The knoll at 1455m provided the perfect panorama for the length of the Landsborough. Peaks like Hooker, Dechen and Strachan sounded like fabled characters, particularly to the two Landsborough newbies: Gary and Liz. Sefton and Cook in the distance, and that must be the Sierra Range, our trip two years ago. The panorama settings on the cameras were running hot, but we still had 1000m to drop to the valley floor before travelling down the valley to Creswicke Flat, and the bottom of Brodrick Pass. Alpine scrub obscured rocks and the gaps between them. We reached the bush line and the two tarns mentioned in Moir's for morning tea and a swim, and then it was time for descent into the bush. Still large rock features in the bush. Left, right, over and occasionally under. The ridge drops steeply in places and is hard to pick where it continues at a lower level. Tarzan



would have been proud of the descent on the last section and at last it flattened out as we headed along the river terrace to Kea Stream for a brew, lunch and another swim.

The trip down the Landsborough was supposed to be easy along river terraces but there has been significant storm damage. Easy sidles turned into steep climbs around side stream gullies. Just what we didn't need at the end of the day. We stumbled out to Creswicke Hut at dusk. This was occupied by a group of blokes, who had walked in over Brodrick Pass and was going to raft out down the Landsborough so we camped by the Mackenzie Creek in preparation for an early start.



The route over Brodrick Pass is getting a lot of foot traffic. Ground trail starting on a trapping line and the occasional marker leads to an oh so steep ridge between the two branches of Mackenzie Creek. A knoll at the bush line provides an excellent vista of Mt Solution, the Landsborough Valley and Brodrick Pass, but then comes the heart-breaking loss of hard won height with a descent down into Mackenzie Creek. This provided easy travel to the final tussock slopes before the Pass. The view into the Huxley from the pass was spectacular with the Brodrick Hut seemingly beneath your feet. A poled route and well-trodden

trail allows for a quick descent through looming cliff line. Staying at the hut was tempting but we wanted to get down to the Forks. The track started easily but a marked sidle to avoid a washout turned into a 150m climb to gain 50m down river. Sidling seemed pointless with low river levels so we straight-lined down the riverbed with an occasional cross and re-cross. Another late arrival at Forks Hut where a couple had settled in for another night on their own.

The last few hours down to Monument Hut in the morning sun was just a cruise. It was great to look back into the Huxley for that dramatic change in cliff lines and steep slopes where snow doesn't collect. It was interesting to reflect on the number of people we had met, many of them camping and not recorded by DoC and most of them Kiwis. Long may the Hopkins/Huxley remain undiscovered by Lonely Planet

Trampers: Raymond Ford, Geoff Spearpoint, Liz Stephenson (leader) and Gary Huish. 🏠 GH

Flagpole -- 18 March 2018



Seven enjoyed a calm clear day on this hill near Glentunnel. We parked and walked in front of the implement shed to get onto the vehicle track that leads up the spur. At the top we saw no flags but there are a few poles and things holding up a mass of communications equipment. After a pleasant 11.30 lunch in sunshine we set off further along the Lady Barker Range until we came to a track that would take us down to a marked track through the pines, all the way to the Selwyn River.

The vehicle track winds alongside the river giving good views of the river and its flats. We got back to the cars by mid-afternoon, made a stop at the

Glentunnel dairy and tootled off home. To atone for a slip-up Kerry delivered Gavin to his door in West Melton. In the morning at Glentunnel the toilets were reduced to a single station and Gavin was last. Kerry assumed his passengers were on board and drove off. 100m down the road he realised but drove on sure that Gavin had been picked up by Tim, which was the case. We met up by a "ford closed" sign with Kerry pretending to be unaware of the loss.

We were: Helen Harkness, Ian Beale, Doug Woods, Tim Hines, Andrea Goebel, Gavin Chalk and Kerry Moore # KM