



# PTC Monthly Newsletter August 2018

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| <b>PTC</b>            | Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)  |
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| <b>Facebook name</b>  | Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch   |
| <b>Correspondence</b> | All correspondence to the Secretary including change of contact details                            |

## 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 |               |                  |              |



|                              |             |          |   |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------|---|
| <b>New Member Enquiries:</b> | 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.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Tues 14 August</b><br>    | <b>Birds, bats and biodiversity - Dr Colin O'Donnell, Principal Science Advisor, Department of Conservation</b><br>Colin has worked for many years on native birds, lizards and bats, including many threatened species. His 'patch' extends from the Sub Antarctic islands to Cape Reinga (lucky man!). Among his numerous research projects, he is looking at methods to control pests, such as stoats and rats.<br><i>Supper Duty: Sue Piercey, David Ramm, John Robinson</i> |
| <b>Tues 11 September</b><br> | <b>2018 Tour Aotearoa – Lesley Woudberg.</b><br>Tour Aotearoa is 3,000km long! This isn't a race! You can expect to ride through horrible storms, suffer festering boils, crash and hurt yourself, not to mention mechanical problems. At times, you'll be tired and miserable and wish you had never been born...What else? Oh yeah, homesickness, mental fatigue, aggressive drivers, navigational errors etc ... "HONESTLY, I WOULDN'T ENTER IF I WAS YOU!"                   |



## 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](mailto:ptc75@clear.net.nz).

- |                  |  |                                   |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>12-Aug</b>    | <b>Og--Gog--Magog</b>  | <b>Stuart Payne 337 2275</b>      |
| <b>Sun</b>       | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32909/Magog/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32909/Magog/Canterbury</a>                            |                                   |
| <b>*</b>         | These Ogs come in a neat row so we can knock them off in one <b>easy-moderate</b> walk. We'll be looking into the Waimak Rr before it reaches the gorgy section. |                                   |
|                  | <b>Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>   | <b>Approx cost \$19</b>           |
| <b>18-19 Aug</b> | <b>Boyle Flat Hut – Faust</b>  | <b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b>       |
|                  | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35491/Faust/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35491/Faust/Canterbury</a>                            |                                   |
| <b>**</b>        | A <b>moderate-hard</b> climb from the Boyle over the Libretto Range via 1710m Faust. Anyone wanting an easy trip can return as for the inward leg.               |                                   |
|                  | <b>List closes 12 Aug</b>  |                                   |
| <b>18 Aug</b>    | <b>Planting—Quail Island</b>   | <b>Stan Wilder 260 2340</b>       |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Spend a few hours planting on Otamahua/Quail Island. Water taxi, tools and trees provided. Names to Stan by the <b>Thursday 16 Aug</b>                           |                                   |
| <b>19 Aug</b>    | <b>Boundary-Hill</b>   | <b>Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905</b> |
| <b>Sun</b>       | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31219/Boundary-Hill/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31219/Boundary-Hill/Canterbury</a>            |                                   |
| <b>*</b>         | An <b>easy-moderate</b> walk up this modest hill between Lake Lyndon and Lake Coleridge on the Lyndon Road. We hope to visit Red Lakes as well.                  |                                   |
|                  | <b>Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>   | <b>Approx cost \$15</b>           |
| <b>25-26 Aug</b> | <b>Lawrence River</b>  | <b>Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905</b> |
|                  | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35468/Nina-Hut/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35468/Nina-Hut/Canterbury</a>                      |                                   |
| <b>**</b>        | An <b>easy-moderate</b> flat walk from Erewhon Station up the Clyde River and into Lawrence River. Staying at Lawrence Hut.                                      |                                   |
|                  | <b>List Closes 19 Aug</b>  |                                   |
| <b>26 Aug</b>    | <b>Mt Lyndon—Cloudy Peak</b>   | <b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b>       |
| <b>Sun</b>       | <a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32568/Lake-Lyndon/Canterbury">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32568/Lake-Lyndon/Canterbury</a>              |                                   |
| <b>*</b>         | A <b>moderate</b> circuit above Lake Lyndon taking in 1489m Mt Lyndon and 1442m Cloudy Hill. An ice axe could be useful.   |                                   |
|                  | <b>Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>   | <b>Approx cost \$14</b>           |

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|-----------|---|------------------------|
| 1-2 Sept  | <b>Winding Creek--Broken River Hut</b>  | Leader needed          |
| **        | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32665/Broken-River-Hut/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32665/Broken-River-Hut/Canterbury</a><br><b>Easy-moderate</b> fairly flat walk on a good track to this little hut by Broken River in geologically interesting country.<br><b>List closes 26 Aug</b>   |                        |
| 2 Sept    | <b>Mt Barrosa</b>   | Leader needed          |
| Sun       | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz28300/Mount-Barrosa/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz28300/Mount-Barrosa/Canterbury</a><br>A <b>moderate</b> trip from Ashburton Gorge Rd in the Clent Hills area. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to a 1364m peak. Popular with rock hounds seeking agate.<br><b>Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>   |                        |
| *         |   | Approx cost \$21       |
| 8-9 Sept  | <b>Cass Saddle—Lagoon Saddle</b>  | Kevin Hughes 332 6281  |
| **        | <a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31550/Cass-Saddle/Canterbury">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31550/Cass-Saddle/Canterbury</a><br>Popular <b>moderate</b> round-trip, overnighting in the good-sized Hamilton Hut. Mainly good track through beech forest, two tussock saddles, grassy flats, with a few river crossings thrown in.<br><b>List closes 2 Sept</b>   |                        |
| 8 Sept    | <b>Hinewai</b>  | Mary Korver 355 3905   |
| Saturday  | <a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz37090/Stony-Bay-Peak/Canterbury">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz37090/Stony-Bay-Peak/Canterbury</a><br>This <b>easy-moderate</b> trip visits a 980ha botanical reserve occupying most of Otanerito Valley in south-east Banks Peninsula. The area has over 12km of tracks and is privately managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife. This time we have the added advantage of a knowledgeable guide.<br><b>8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, by the river</b> |                        |
| *         |   | Approx cost \$15       |
| 15-16 Sep | <b>Kaneiri Base</b>   | Kerry Moore 359 5069   |
| **        | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32001/Lake-Kaniere/West-Coast">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32001/Lake-Kaniere/West-Coast</a><br>A popular place to do a variety of day trips such as Mt Brown and Mt Tuhua. Also Kaniere Water Race Walkway and Hokitika Rr Gorge. Arriving there Fri night.<br><b>List closes 9 Sept</b>  |                        |
| 16 Sept   | <b>Castle Hill Peak - Gap - Kowai Stream</b>  | Paul Bingham 332 8592  |
| Sun       | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32623/Castle-Hill-Peak/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32623/Castle-Hill-Peak/Canterbury</a><br><b>Moderate-hard</b> climb from Porters Pass to the highest peak on the Torlesse range at nearly 2000m and continuing to The Gap then descending to Kowai Valley and back to the pines near the foot of the Porters Pass road. Take ice-axe and crampons.<br><b>Meet 6:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>   |                        |
| *         |   | Approx cost \$14       |
| 22-23 Sep | <b>Snow Caving</b>  | Gary Huish 332 7020    |
| **        | <a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz19969/Cardrona/Otago">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz19969/Cardrona/Otago</a><br>Snow caves are surprisingly comfortable and a welcome shelter from mountain winds. Gary will show you this useful survival technique.<br><b>List closes 16 Sept</b>  |                        |
| 22-23 Sep | <b>Duffy Creek</b>  | Merv Meredith 322 7239 |
| **        | <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35408/Duffy-Creek/West-Coast">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35408/Duffy-Creek/West-Coast</a><br>A short, <b>moderate</b> trip to the tops through open forest in the Victoria Range.<br><b>List closes 16 Sept.</b>  |                        |

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|--|---|--|
| 23 Sept<br>Sun<br>*  | <b>Bowenvale—Hidden Valley</b><br><a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30130/Victoria-Park/Canterbury">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30130/Victoria-Park/Canterbury</a><br>An <b>easy-moderate</b> trip covering tracks that you probably didn't know about.<br><b>Meet 9am at the Bowenvale car-park</b>   | <b>Stan Wilder 260 2340</b>                                  |
| 29 Sept-3 Oct<br>*****                                     | <b>Wangapeka Track</b><br><a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz39865/Little-Wanganui-Saddle/West-Coast">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz39865/Little-Wanganui-Saddle/West-Coast</a><br>Historic, <b>moderate</b> tramp, crossing the southern half of Kahurangi National Park. Two saddles to cross and plenty of huts to sleep in. If enough people are interested then we can have a party starting from each end and crossing somewhere near the middle.<br><b>List closes 16 Sept</b> | <b>Keith McQuillan 384 6164</b>                              |
| <b>29-30-Sep Daylight saving—clocks back at 2am Sunday</b> |   |  |
| 30-Sep<br>Sun<br>*   | <b>Mt Enys from Porters</b><br><a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31273/Mount-Enys/Canterbury">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31273/Mount-Enys/Canterbury</a><br>We're using the Porters Ski Road to do some of the climbing onto the main Craigieburn ridge heading for 2194m Mt Enys via points 1997, 1961, 2029, 2040. Take ice axe and crampons for this <b>moderate-hard</b> climb.<br><b>Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>   | <b>Diane Mellish 337 5530</b><br><br><b>Approx cost \$16</b> |
| 6-7 Oct<br>**  | <b>Turtons Saddle</b><br><a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31124/Turtons-Saddle/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31124/Turtons-Saddle/Canterbury</a><br>This <b>moderate</b> section of the Te Araroa Trail goes from the Rakaia Rr up Glenrock Stream and down Turtons Stream. Going up Round Hill Stream it crosses Clent Hills Saddle, then we plan to exit on the Swin River Track to Lake Heron.<br><b>List closes 30 Sept</b>   | <b>Angela Grigg 03 318 1988</b>                              |
| 7-Oct<br>Sun<br>*  | <b>Cheeseman—Olympus</b><br><a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31523/Mount-Cheeseman/Canterbury">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31523/Mount-Cheeseman/Canterbury</a><br>A <b>moderate-hard</b> climb from the Hogs Back track up to 2031m Mt Cheeseman then along to 2094m Mt Olympus. Take ice-axe and crampons.<br><b>Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>  | <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b><br><br><b>Approx cost \$19</b> |
| 13-15 Oct<br>***   | <b>Ashburton Glacier</b><br><a href="https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30529/Ashburton-Glacier/Canterbury">https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30529/Ashburton-Glacier/Canterbury</a><br>A <b>moderate</b> walk to this glacier in the impressive Arrowsmith Range. The Ashburton Glacier feeds the South Branch of the Ashburton River. <b>List closes 7 Oct</b>   | <b>Diane Mellish 337 5530</b>                                |
| 13-14 Oct<br>**  | <b>Peel Forest Base</b><br><a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz27647/Peel-Forest/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz27647/Peel-Forest/Canterbury</a><br>Camping at Peel Forest where we can do short walks and climb Little Mt Peel.<br><b>List closes 7 Oct</b>  | <b>Leader Needed</b>   |
| 14-Oct<br>Sun<br>*   | <b>Mt Peel</b><br><a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz27631/Mount-Peel/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz27631/Mount-Peel/Canterbury</a><br><b>Moderate-hard</b> ascent of this 1743m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and subalpine scrub with 7km along the tops beyond Little Mt Peel. Planning to drive down Saturday afternoon, camp at Peel Forest for an early start on Sat for this 10hr day. <b>Call Merv</b> <b>Approx cost \$24</b>      | <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b>                                |

## SOCIAL EVENTS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Tuesday 18 September</b></p>  | <p><b>Board Games evening and pizza dinner</b></p> <p>Meet at 6.30 pm at Maureen Whalen's house in 146 Tennyson St, Sydenham. Please bring a SMALL plate of before-dinner nibbles, or a sweet treat to share, and your own drinks. We will order a selection of pizzas, including vegetarian options (approx. \$15).</p> <p>As a new PTC initiative to make life easy for the hosts, we suggest people bring a <u>plate</u>, <u>cutlery</u> and <u>glass</u> and take them home to wash. Bring your favourite card, scrabble or board games, or just have a chat with friends.</p> <p>Bookings to Maureen Whalen, including any dietary requirements, by Sunday 16 September. Text: 027 8199251 or email: <a href="mailto:mswhalen47@gmail.com">mswhalen47@gmail.com</a></p> |
| <p><b>October</b></p>   | <p><b>Adventure Park walk and dinner</b></p> <p>Details to be confirmed and circulated later</p>   |

## NOTES

### ***President's notes***

Hello fellow trampers. Are you enjoying slightly longer days and blossom everywhere? Feeling inspired by the springing of spring?

I'm wondering if you have any good ideas for club nights. The committee works hard to provide interesting speakers and activities, but there must be a wealth of ideas and contacts among our members at large. Being an instigator and/or organiser of one of our regular social functions is another fun way you can contribute to club life. We would love to hear from you with some fresh and exciting suggestions and offers to help with any of these things.

That's all from me this month: I need to get on with packing my bags. Next week, I leave to enjoy the sun in Germany and experience something of the culture two of my granddaughters are growing up in.

Auf Wiedersehen fur jetzt! **Diane**

### ***The August night sky***

The planet show continues with Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars all conspicuous in the evening sky. Brilliant Venus still dominates the western sky, setting around 9 pm, while bright Jupiter is high in the northwest among the faint stars of Libra. Almost overhead is easily-recognised Scorpius. Just to its east is the vaguely tea-pot shape of Sagittarius, with SATURN close by. A little further east is bright orange Mars.

Behind the brighter and relatively nearer stars of Sagittarius, lies the centre of our galaxy with its lurking supermassive black hole. It's about 26,000 light years away, which, even for the fitter among us, is a fair hike. Pre-dawn, the bright stars of Orion rise in the east, with brilliant Sirius a little south, and Taurus and the star-cluster Matariki further north. **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](mailto:ptc@nivek.co.nz), so we can keep this record current.

***Deadline for the September Newsletter:*** Wednesday, 29 August – please send newsletter items to Bridget O'Regan: [bridgetandnoel@gmail.com](mailto:bridgetandnoel@gmail.com)

***Next Committee Meeting:*** Tuesday, 25 September 2018.



### Raincliff Basecamp - Queens Birthday Weekend 1-4 June 2018

In the end, 29 people spent part or all of the weekend based at the Scout camp. Unfortunately 7 had to pull out at the last minute for various reasons.

When Graham and I arrived about 9pm Friday, people were huddled around the fireplace and heaters were airing out the upstairs dorms. The weather for Saturday morning promised to be good, so those aiming for Mt Nimrod tops left by 8 am on a crisp sunny morning, but with the diversion of a boot threatening to disintegrate (Terry's), some hunters in their vehicle managed to save the day by providing patch-up tape. It was slow progress up-hill so we only managed to reach the col. On the Saturday, (Sue decided this would be a good word to introduce to her young primary students the following week). Most other people enjoyed the Nimrod reserve circuit while Barbara, Russell, Margaret and Jim went cycling.

It was a lovely surprise for me when we returned late from our Mt Nimrod trip and everyone had decorated the lodge beautifully for the birthday celebration and dinner was waiting to be served. Thanks everyone involved in organising all this to happen. Thank you Sue Brittain, who unfortunately didn't make it for the superb birthday cake. We very much missed your company as well as Mike and Jean's.

Sunday we ran out of water as the neighbouring Christian camp folk turned their water supply off when they left not knowing we shared the same supply. Most people went for a walk through the Raincliff forest and Maureen (I think) did Pioneer park. Stan loved the large mature exotic trees in the forest. Graham and Jeanette cycled up the road and through the forest. Yvette, Geoff, Mary, Russell, Barbara and I cycled the loop to Kakahu – a brilliant days ride. Quite a cold day on the bike - cloudy so no sun to warm us. Geoff borrowed my spare gloves and Yvette put an extra layer on her legs. That night Terry and Maureen danced to entertain us....!!!

On Monday, it began raining so many of us stopped at the Brewery Café before heading home.

We were: **Chris Leaver (leader)** and 28 others! 🏠 CL



## Kepler Track winter version - 27 June – 1 July 2018

Going down to Fiordland in winter for a circuit around the Kepler Track was Peter's idea. Last year, he scheduled it for the third week in July and got it organised. A winter trip is obviously going to be more scenic and is also outside of the May – October Great Walk tourist season. The concerning bit is avalanche risk in soft snow on north facing slopes. But the weather was even more of a factor. July 21st got closer and so did the major storm that flooded the East Coast and in particular, Oamaru. So much for that. Then we rescheduled it for 7-12 September, but the weather was again a no go. Try again next year.

This year we almost got it right; scheduling the start of the trip for Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, then bringing it forward to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> to suit what was looking like a reasonable weather window. Our plan was:

- Wednesday: Drive down to Te Anau. It's a long way; 660km+. Going down we took the coastal route via Balclutha and Gore arriving at the Te Anau Top Ten Holiday Park after 5.00pm.
- Thursday: To position our vehicle at the lower end of the Kepler Track, drive to Rainbow Reach carpark, walk two hours up the Waiau River to the control gates, then around the lake to the track to Brod Bay, then up to Luxmore Hut above the bushline.
- Friday: This was our planned day in the snow. From Luxmore Hut up around the back of Mt Luxmore, drop to the first shelter, climb again and along the ridge to the second shelter. Then south on the ridge before dropping west again to the bushline and on down to Iris Burn Hut for the night.
- Saturday: Being below the snowline, an easier day down Iris Burn and around Shallow Bay to Moturau Hut for the night, putting us within an hour's walk out to our vehicle in the morning.
- Sunday: Walk out and drive home.

But it didn't quite turn out like that.



### Thursday

The snow from the previous week was still down in the bush, but above the bushline it had been mostly compacted by a surprising number of day visitors up to Luxmore Hut. Not only day trippers; there were two groups of tourists at the hut that night. We had learnt during the day that there is actually a warden at this hut over the 'closed' season, so we were not surprised to meet Helen, but very pleased to find that she supplied wood for the logburner each day, and we could have mattresses on the floor in the living area. So a comfortable evening, but then our first change of plan. John had struggled up through the upper bush, and decided he might not cope with tomorrow's trip, so he would return to Te Anau, stay at the Top Ten and meet us on Sunday morning.



## Friday

On a fine, calm morning with the lake under valley cloud below, we parted company with John and headed up track at 9.10am. A bit late as it turned out. Once beyond where the tourists had gone, Peter and Raymond were plugging steps in the soft snow, mostly 300-400mm deep, i.e. fairly slow going. Up and around the northern spur from Mt Luxmore and to the saddle beyond, we plugged on and eventually started descending. Rounding a corner at 12.30pm, we could see the Forest Burn Shelter maybe twenty minutes below and the snow covered route ahead sidling somewhere up the face beyond, before it gained the ridge and disappeared out of sight. Being concerned at our progress, we took the prudent option – stopped for lunch, consulted the map, and debated the likely timing. At 1.00pm after lunch, with four hours good daylight left but allowing for the unknown, we decided to return to Luxmore Hut. Sure; that might have been conservative. We won't know, but the changed plan turned out well. We returned to the saddle and went up over Mt Luxmore, descending the eastern spur which was fun in the soft snow and continuing calm conditions.

Back at the hut by 4.30pm, there was just a young English couple there. During the course of a second moonlit evening at the hut, I commented to Helen that I had a logistical problem with our vehicle being down at Rainbow Reach. She immediately asked our English friends, Emily and John how they were placed. John said he had a bike hidden near the road end so he could bike back to the farm stay they were at and return with



their van. No trouble then to take me down to Rainbow Reach. Very nice of them.

## Saturday

Another fine calm day above the valley cloud.

We left Luxmore Hut at 9.00am returning down through the bush to catch up with Emily and John at the Brod Bay shelter at 11.00am. We followed them out to the Kepler carpark, by which stage John had biked off to get their van, return and take me down to Rainbow Reach.

The next stage was to find John, who wouldn't be expecting us. At the Top Ten, we learnt he was in a small cabin, but not around. After we had lunch in town and still no sign of John, we booked back into the family unit we had on the first night. Having been out on the launch to the Te Anau caves, John found us after 5.00pm. So after showers etc we were happy to wander down to the main street for a second evening at one of the Te Anau restaurants.



## Sunday

Today, instead of having an hour to walk out from Moturau Hut before driving home, we were able to leave the Top Ten before daylight and drive home, via Central this time, in ridiculously warm norwest conditions, to arrive late afternoon.

Not quite the full circuit planned, but I don't believe any of us were worried about missing the later section from the bushline down. Possibly a repeat in September still with snow? But in conjunction with another trip to make the distance travelled worthwhile.



On the trip were: **Merv Meredith (leader), Raymond Ford, John Robinson & Peter Umbers . 🏠 MM.**

## **Hope-Kiwi Lodge - 14-15 July 2018**

Wendy, Darcy and I left Darcy's place at 7.30am, picking up Norman on our way out of Christchurch and John at Woodend. We had a stop for morning tea at Culverden and were on the track at Windy Point before 10.30am. I was a bit concerned when I saw a number of cars parked outside the Amuri Area School Outdoor Centre, and envisioned a large group of teenagers and their minders at the Hope Kiwi Lodge; it being the school holidays. However, not far over the swingbridge and along the track there were few boot prints and so I was somewhat relieved having only taken a single person tent for an emergency.

We had lovely weather and stopped for lunch in a sunny spot on the flats not far before the half way hut. Sitting down to eat was brief due to the attacking sandflies. There were plenty of bellbirds in the beech forests. On the flats there were lots of large areas where pigs had been rooting.



We reached the lodge after 6 hours and had it to ourselves. We soon had a roaring fire going in the stove and three of us chose to sleep out near it with the other two in one of the bunkrooms. Dinner was a Thai tuna curry with lots of fresh vegetables and udon noodles followed by apple and raisin cake with custard. As a reward for cooking too much dinner I got to eat curry for breakfast.

It was a beautiful, clear, starry night followed by a heavy frost in the morning which made the grass very pretty. Red clouds at dawn had our cameras out photographing the red sky around the snow-capped peaks.

We tramped the same route back apart from three of us trying to see if we could stay on a track beside the river to get to the half way hut. Unfortunately, this track ended with the river cutting in to steep tall shingle banks. Perhaps when the river is lower in summer it is possible to stay all the way beside the river. We backtracked a bit and found a route up to re-join the track in the bush and met up with the others waiting for us at the half way hut. We were back at the car mid-afternoon and stopped again at Culverden for coffee. Thanks to Darcy for driving.

We were: **Wendy McCaughan, Darcy Mawson, John Robinson, Norman Burden and Sue Piercey (leader).** 🏔️ SP

### **Rabbit Hill – Sunday 22 July 2018**

Rain in the western Canterbury high country saw us retreating from Lake Pearson. Baldy Hill became Rabbit Hill. We parked on route 73 halfway between Lake Lyndon and Porters Pass and headed up the Trig M Track. The wind on top was quite fierce so we had lunch at a small patch of beech trees. As we headed up r Rabbit Hill the wind was trying to blow us over. Jerry and Kerry turned back to the lunch spot while Penny, Peter and Merv struggled on to Rabbit Hill. Retracing our steps, we noted that as we neared the car the wind dropped and it was even warm.

**Peter Umbers** was our leader accompanied by **Merv Meredith, Penny Coffey, Jerry Jacques and Kerry Moore.** 🏔️ KM





## Pisa Range – cross country skiing 3 – 6 August 2018

A little humility is generally considered a desirable trait. Whoever came up with that idea, must have invented skiing as a way of putting the aphorism into practice, I thought ruefully, as my legs and arms, decided to head off independently in different directions, leading to the inevitable splatter into the snow in front of the lodge.



It was an overcast Saturday morning. Calum was patiently explaining the basics of classic Nordic skiing to me - a complete novice! Quite a different technique to downhill skiing. It's a combination kick and glide technique which works the arms and inside thigh muscles. The skis are narrow with no metal edges so you can't turn easily. Fortunately, the trails are well groomed and the Snow Farm team have cut narrow grooves into the snow for the skis to follow. I learnt that cross country skiing comes in different flavours. Many people were skating on skis - different technique,

longer poles, metal edged skis, other groups were heading off on touring skis with the intention of staying overnight in huts or snow caves.

The Snow Farm lies at the top of the Pisa range. The company has constructed a series of trails of varying grades near the main resort, all conveniently coloured-coded according to their level of difficulty. Another bunch of trails follow the ridges and valleys out into the back country in a series of loops. The field is very popular with the locals; dog teams were practising in one area, and in the valley directly below the lodge, a biathlon team were shooting at targets and skiing. Other groups were heading off on snow shoes into the backcountry. The atmosphere was very different to the downhill fields; the trails are generally quiet, and most people said 'hello' or stopped for a chat.

After an hour or so of practice, I acquired enough skill for us to venture further out on the trails. After lunch we skied out to Meadow Hut, about 3 km from the lodge following an easy trail, and then we climbed up another 2 or 3 km up to Bob Lee Hut perched high on a ridge overlooking Cadrona valley.

Unfortunately, we could only book one night at Meadow Hut, as the field is becoming increasingly popular with people doing overnight trips. We spent two nights at Wanaka Youth hostel. The upside was this was Calum's third Nordic ski trip for the club, so we visited a number of his favourite haunts!

On Sunday, the weather improved. We spent the morning exploring some of the longer, more adventurous tracks to the south of the ski lodge. After lunch we dropped our overnight gear off at the lodge for delivery to Meadow Hut, and ventured off piste up a side valley, following snow shoe tracks, up to a low saddle and a high point with a solitary rock tor. Unfortunately, the descent wasn't quite as graceful as the ascent, and I had several undignified tumbles before we reached the valley floor.

Meadow Hut is delightful, and according to Calum, resembles a Norwegian backcountry hut. The lower part of the hut contained bunks, and the upper part consisted of an open mezzanine sleeping area. The inside of the hut is lined with bare wood, double glazed windows, and equipped with gas cookers and electric lighting. A large wood burner provided the heating.

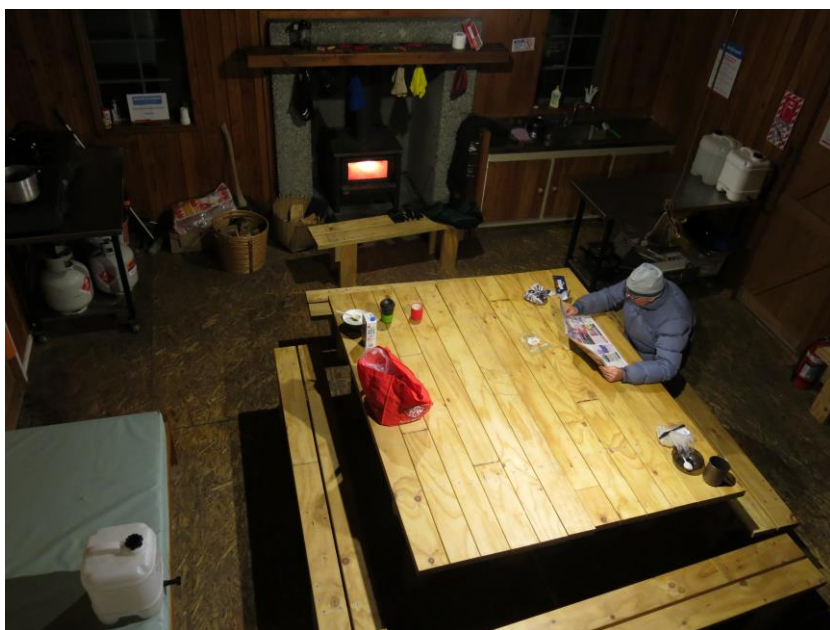


The evening cloud disappeared, the temperature began to drop rapidly and frost began to form on the snow and outside tables. The night sky was magnificent- the Milky Way stretching across the sky.

About 7pm or so a bouncing light up the trail heralded the arrival of the skidoo. The driver called into the hut and told us that dog team races were on tonight. The first teams would come through at intervals starting about 8.15pm. They had already completed 25 km and we were the last loop. We watched for the headlights down the track, and as they got closer we went outside to watch the teams pass. The first team was a woman

on skis pulled by a pair of dogs. Other teams had sleds pulled by teams of four or six dogs. Sometimes, the dogs were confused by the hut and thought they were stopping there. The drivers had to dismount, anchor the sled and lead the dogs back onto the trail. One sled team of four weary dogs was being chased by a larger team. As they rounded the corner by the hut, the pursuing team caught up. A woman yelled out: "Where did you come from?" The leading pack weren't keen on being overtaken and a brief dog fight broke out! It was the highlight of the trip, but it felt slightly surreal to watch the teams racing past under a beautiful night sky. By 9pm the last team had passed us and a skidoo came by to groom and clean the trail.

I was very keen to try out snow shoes. Before we headed back to Christchurch, Calum suggested we try the slopes behind the hut. Monday morning was perfect We packed up our gear, left it at the hut to be collected, donned the snowshoes, and headed off up the ridge behind the hut. It didn't take long to reach a high point on the ridge, and to be rewarded with a magnificent vista across the Pisa Range to snow covered mountains from Mt Aspiring down to the Remarkables. Calum pointed out where previous club trips had been, and we discussed ideas for future snow shoe trips, including the Canterbury mountains.



Reluctantly, we descended back to the hut for a brew and then we climbed up the other side of the valley to pick up the high level trail and ski back to the lodge. Nordic skiing must rank as one of the best cardio workouts a person can do. I don't think too many muscles missed being exercised in the weekend! Many thanks to Calum for organising a great trip.

We were: **Calum McIntosh (leader)**, **Raymond Ford**. 🌲 RF