



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
Feb 2019*

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 Whelan	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.

Tuesday, 12 February 	Tall Tales from Beyond the Snowline – Margaret Clark Since first getting the climbing bug on the snows in Arthurs Pass 68 years ago, Margaret has had many adventures and mis-adventures on the mountains in Europe, Mongolia, the Himalaya, Alaska, Tibet ,Antarctica and the NZ Alps. She will share some of the highlights and near-miss epics plus lessons learned from them. Supper duty: <i>Liz Stephenson and Ainslie Talbot</i>
Tuesday, 12 March 	AGM & Tales from Taiwan - Mike Bourke and Sue Britain Mike & Sue spent 3 weeks traveling and hiking around parts of Taiwan in Nov 2018. Despite being an island of some 23 million people, there are a surprising number of places where you can dodge the crowds and find quiet places to explore. From sea level to 3400m, there are a variety of coastal, forest and alpine vistas.

NOTICE OF 2019 PTC AGM

The PTC 87th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall on:

Tuesday, 12 March 2019 starting promptly at 7.30pm, prior to our normal Club night.

The agenda will include:

1. Election of Officers and Executive members

Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, should be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting, but late nominations may be accepted at the meeting only if insufficient written nominations have been received by the Secretary before the meeting.

2. Notified motions

Note that any member wishing to give notice of a motion for consideration at the AGM should forward their notice to the Secretary at, or prior to, our 12 February Club Night.

The AGM agenda, including any Notices of Motion received, will be circulated on Communicator in late February. Merv Meredith, Secretary. secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, 19 February	Mt Pleasant hike then dinner at The Good Home pub in Ferrymead. Meet on the Summit Road just below the Gondola at 6.00 pm. To get there, drive up Mt Pleasant road and turn right at the top. Watch out for cyclists. The road is blocked by a gate just below the Gondola so park there. Fantastic 360 degree views from the summit. It's a short walk, under an hour, but wear your boots and bring a warm jacket. We'll then head back to the cars and drive to The Good Home gastro pub 2A Waterman Place, Ferrymead. Dinner at 7.30 pm. Meals from \$15 – \$35 http://www.thegoodhomeferrymead.co.nz/Menus/ . You don't need to book for the walk, but to book for dinner, contact Maureen Thompson (021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com) by Sunday 17 February.
Thursday, 28 March	Walk in northeast Christchurch. Possibly including Travis Wetland or Prestons area. Followed by a restaurant meal or takeaways. More details in the March Footnotes.
Wednesday, 17 April	EQ F@#%ING C at The Court Theatre 7.30pm. Ticket price \$50. Set in 2014, post earthquake Christchurch. See the Court website. To book, contact Brian Smith brian21x@xtra.co.nz . More details later.

NOTES

President's notes

Happy New Year everyone, and I hope 2019 is a good one for tramping. It is that time, leading up to our AGM in March, when we are inviting nominations for executive committee members. While many of our current executive are willing to continue serving in their roles, we welcome 'new blood' and the fresh ideas that come with it. Nomination forms will be available at the February club night, or contact Merv Meredith for one. So get busy, and nominate someone you think would be good, or even organise someone to nominate you if you are keen.

This is also 'pay-your-sub month'. Many thanks to the large number of early payers. If you are not one of them please try to pay by the due date Feb 28th. Also a reminder to pop your \$2 coin in the bucket for hall hire costs on club nights. If you arrive before the bucket, hold it in your hot little hand until the bucket arrives so you don't forget! Exec members that means you too!!

Diane

The February night sky

Summer nights, being short, are not hugely conducive to casual astronomy; but at least it's warm enough to pause and look upwards with risking the loss of key body parts. The bright constellation Orion is high in the northern sky, with brilliant Sirius to its south-west. The triple-starred belt of Orion is boxed in by a rough oblong of bright stars, including bluish Rigel and orange Betelgeuse. Both stars are massive, undergoing fusion at a furious rate, and therefore short-lived and likely to end as a supernova. Rigel is bluish because it has a hot surface. Betelgeuse is huge - its radius is about 1000 times that of our Sun. It's a little further on in its lifecycle, so its surface is cooler and therefore redder.

Reddish Mars is the only planet visible in the evening sky, low in the northwest and setting about two hours after the Sun. To see the brighter planets you need to be up before sunrise. Bright Jupiter rises in the southeast in the wee small hours, followed by brilliant silver Venus, and then Saturn about an hour later. The new moon is on 5 Feb, 'first quarter' (1/2 illuminated) on 13 Feb, and full moon on 20 Feb.

Graham Townsend

Membership

The Club welcomes back re-joining member- Bill Hotter, and accepts with regret Julie Davis's resignation.

Deadline for the March newsletter: 3 March 2019 – please send newsletter items to Raymond Ford: fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 26 February 2019.

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?

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, 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

The Club has a mountain biking section – 'Fat Tyre Fanatics', who head out on casual day trips throughout the year. For details about club biking trips, contact Chris Leaver 03 322 6445, or newptc75@gmail.com.

9-10 Feb Centre Creek—Thesis Pk Merv Meredith 322 7239

<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31514/Thesis-Peak/Canterbury>

**** Moderate** tramp from the locked gate in the Harper, up part of the Te Araroa Trail and around the Avoca to Centre Creek, with easy travel up the creek, to camp in a bush area at 1200m. On Day 2 we continue up the creek to the large tarn in the head, the plan is to sidle up the scree slopes to 1972m then follow around the ridge to Thesis Peak. A little south of the peak, a fine scree basin, made in heaven, provides, for a high-speed decent to the Avoca, south of Basins Hut. It is then a flat, pleasant walk out, skirting Mt Fitzwilliam to the west.

List closes 3 Feb

- 10-Feb** **Mt Algidus - Big Goat Hill** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31171/Mount-Algidus/Canterbury>
***** We drive to the end of Algidus Road, park and cross the Wilberforce River to Algidus Station. From there we have a **moderate** climb of 1651m Big Goat Hill via 1405m Mt Algidus.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$20**
- 16-18 Feb** **Goat Pass--Lake Mavis--Edwards River** **Leader needed**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32214/Lake-Mavis/Canterbury>
******* **Moderate.** Staying at Goat Pass Hut or camping at Lake Mavis then crossing to Taruahuna Pass on Day 2 with a great view of what's left of Falling Mountain. Day 3 - Edwards Hut to the Mingha River then Greyneys Shelter.
List closes 10 Feb
- 16 Feb** **Mt Noble** **Evelien Baas 027 557 5521**
Saturday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34014/Mount-Noble/Canterbury>
***** An **easy-moderate** walk from Lake Sumner Road to this 1220m peak.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$16**
- 22-23 Feb** **The Lazyman** **Leader needed**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33028/The-Lazyman/Canterbury>
****** Between the Puketeraki Range and the Esk River is this plateau called the Lazyman. It's accessed from Mount White Station. A **moderate** tramp. Note that the North Esk flows into the Hurunui River but the Esk River flows SW to the Waimakariri River.
List closes 17 Feb
- 22-25 Feb** **Paradise Creek—Boanerges** **Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz25350/Boanerges/Canterbury>
******** Above the Hopkins, Huxley River corner in the Ohau area is Paradise Creek which leads to 2254m Boanerges. **Moderate or moderate hard.**
List closes 15 Feb
- 24 Feb** **Harper River Pinnacles** **Leader needed**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31270/CLAY-RANGE/Canterbury>
***** Using a short section of the Te Araroa Trail, this interesting landform is accessed from Harper Road at the top end of Lake Coleridge. **Easy-moderate.**
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$17**
- 2-4 Mar** **Lake McRae—Clarence Rr** **Diane Mellish 337 5530**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz38029/Lake-McRae/Marlborough>
******* A **moderate** trip to this lake in the Inland Kaikouras, accessed from the Molesworth Road.
List closes 24 Feb
- 3 Mar** **Purau Saddle—Hilltop** **Gary Huish 332 7020**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29946/Waipuna-Saddle/Canterbury>
***** A long day makes this a **moderate** trip. Walking between Purau Saddle and Montgomery Park (near Hilltop Tavern) along the summit walkway. Takes in part of the Te Ara Pataka Track and passes through several bush reserves. Good views of much of Banks Peninsula. We aim to have a group starting at each end with a car-swap. Take plenty of water!
Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end **Approx cost \$14**

- 7-12 Mar** **Serpentine Range, Lake Unknown** **Angela Grigg, Sonja Risa**
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz19491/SERPENTINE-RANGE/Southland>
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz19559/Lake-Unknown/Otago>
********* Two trips in the Routeburn/Dart River area. For the moderate Serpentine Range trip, contact Angela (027 578 9743 i-a.grigg@xtra.co.nz) and for a moderate-hard Lake Unknown trip email Sonja (sonja.risa@gmail.com) for details. **List closes 24 Feb**
- 9-10 Mar** **Sylvia Tops** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35465/Sylvia-Tops/Canterbury>
****** **Moderate** tramp over this 1500-1600m range between Nina and Doubtful valleys in the Lewis Pass area. Camping beside Devils Den Biv. on Devilskin Saddle.
List closes 3 Mar
- 10 Mar** **Mt Evans—Lions Head** **Leader needed**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29979/Mount-Evans/Canterbury>
***** **Easy-moderate** walk to this 700m peak on Banks Peninsula, between Lyttelton Harbour and Port Levy giving great views of the Port Hills and the harbour.
Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end **Approx cost \$7**
- 16-17 Mar** **Rocky Creek – Griffin Stream** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32086/Griffin-Creek-Hut/West-Coast>
****** An interesting **moderate** circuit with forest and tops travel. Staying at the unusual Griffin Creek Hut.
List closes 10 Mar
- 17 Mar** **Brasenose—Flag Pk—Stony Bay Pk** **Gary Huish 332 7020**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz37002/Brasenose/Canterbury>
***** The cars do the hard work so the effort to climb 785m Brasenose is minimal. We skirt a pine forest to reach Flag Peak then get on a nice ridge track to reach 806m Stony Bay Peak. **Easy-moderate**
Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end **Approx cost \$13**
- 23-26 Mar** **Tapuae-o-Uenuku** **Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz38672/Tapuae-o-Uenuku/Canterbury>
******** NZ's highest summit north of Mt Cook NP is in the Inland Kaikoura Range, and happens to be a trapper's peak. Day 1 is used to get to Hodder Huts near the foot of the mountain, so we are allowing four days for this trip, to allow for less than ideal weather.
List closes 16 Mar
- 24 Mar** **The Tors Tour** **Stan Wilder 260 2340**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29911/Coopers-Knob/Canterbury>
***** **Easy-moderate** trip across tussock land to Horotane Spur, on to the Summit Road, along the Tors. Returning down Mt Vernon Track to the car park
Meet 0900 at Mt Vernon carpark
- 30-31 Mar** **Woolley River** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35435/Woolley-River/West-Coast>
****** Two and a half day **moderate-hard** round-trip on the eastern flanks of the Victoria Range. Friday evening start, camping beside the Woolley Up to the first of three picturesque high-country tarns through untracked beech forest for a bush-edge camp on Saturday.
Sunday is a climb and sidle north to the second tarn, then turning south east to camp below the third tarn. Back to the car by midday Monday for a leisurely drive home
List closes 24 Mar

31 Mar Sun *	Charing Cross http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34388/Charing-Cross/Canterbury Easy-moderate tramp on farm tracks to this 999m peak in the Tekoa Range inland from Culverden. Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St	Leader needed Approx cost \$17
6-9 Apr ****	3 Passes http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31968/Whitehorn-Pass/Canterbury Celebrated moderate-hard route to the West Coast from Arthurs Pass NP. Travel is via Harman, Whitehorn and Browning Passes. List closes 31 Mar	Leader needed
7 Apr Sat *	Mandamus River Track https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34326/Mandamus-River/Canterbury An easy-moderate circuit on Island Hills Station. Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St	Kerry Moore 359 5069 Approx cost \$18
13-14 Apr **	Taipo River—Kelly Range circuit http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32246/Dillon-Hut/West-Coast A moderate crossing of the Kelly Range, past Carroll Hut and a series of mountain tarns. Staying at the modern Dillons Hut by the Taipo River. List closes 6 Apr	Dan Pryce 356 1962
13 Apr Sun *	Knowles Top http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32853/Knowles-Top/Canterbury Easy trip up a ridge off the Glen Tui Rd, with good views of Ashley Gorge, plains and coast. On a warm day your driver might be persuaded to drop into the Asley picnic ground for a dip. Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St	Evelien Baas 027 557 5521 Approx cost \$11
16 Apr 7pm, Tues	<u>TRIP PLANNING MEETING FOR 2019-20</u> Bring your trip suggestions to the meeting at <u>Sue and Stan Wilder's place, 54 Warden St., Richmond</u> . If you can't attend, please give your trip ideas to Kerry 359-5069 , or a committee person.	
19-25 Apr Easter *****	Mt Taranaki http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz45547/Mount-Taranaki-or-Mount-Egmont A moderate circumambulation of this outstanding volcanic peak. List closes 31 Mar	Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
19-22 Apr Easter ****	Fox Glacier Base http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz26528/Fox-Glacier/West-Coast Plenty to do in this area—Mt Fox, Lake Matheson, Gillespies Beach and lots of short walks. List closes 6 Apr	Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
19-28 Apr Easter ***** ****	Serpentine, Frisco hut-bagging http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31059/Frisco-Hut/West-Coast Up the Hokitika River to bag huts on the way including Serpentine, Frisco, Bluff on way to Sir Robert, then out via the Toaroha River ticking off Toaroha Saddle biv, top Toaroha hut, Crystal Biv. Maybe a side trip to Mungo Hut if time allows. List closes Sat 6 April	Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038

Dusky Track, Fiordland – 1- 5 December 2018

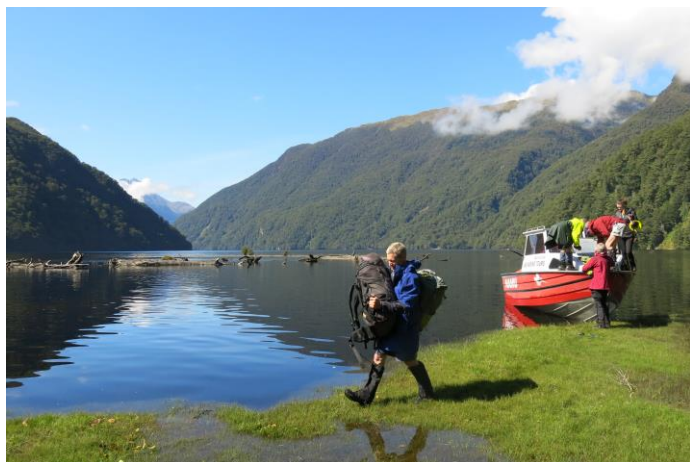


Figure 1 Unloading gear at Hauroko Burn Hut. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

afternoon exploring the stunning tops around Lake Roe. One of our group led the conversation as we walked, it appears she is about to write a guide on a rating system for potential partners. Rain hammered down on the hut roof all night, but it magically stopped as we arose.

Day 3 was spent walking the tops of the aptly named Pleasant Range. This section of the trip was the scenic highlight of the trip, with rolling tops, many lakes and tarns and great views of Dusky Sound. A very steep

descent through bush to Loch Maree Hut, reminded us that we were in Fiordland. Despite all the horror stories of wading across flooded riverflats to reach the Seaforth River bridge, our crossing was very straightforward. Loch Maree Hut might be better renamed Sandfly Hut; Sue resorted to wearing her gloves and woolly hut inside the hut to ward off the insects friendly intentions.



Figure 3 Pleasant Range looking down to Dusky Sound. Photo Courtesy of Raymond Ford

Our trip began with a boat trip on the glassy Lake Hauroko in perfect weather, it was then a day spent with heavy packs ambling to Halfway Hut with a lunch time swim in the Hauroko Burn for Liz and Raymond. Later in the day, kaka were seen flying overhead and we experienced the first of the many three-wire river crossings. The first of many great culinary masterpieces was then consumed for dinner followed by a great dessert.

We awoke to another fine day and began the climb to the open tops of the Merrie Range and Lake Roe Hut.

We left the packs at the hut and spent a great



Figure 2 Lake Roe Hut and the Pleasant Range tops. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

Rain set in again as we crossed the Seaforth River to the hut. The next day we watched the tree stumps in Loch Maree disappearing under water as the water level rose. Boisterous side streams flowing down the sides of the valley. Our leader decided to call a hut day, much to Nicole's relief, and not head down to Supper Cove in Dusky Sound.

Fortunately, the next day, the weather cleared, the tree stumps had reappeared in Loch Maree and the side streams had dropped back to their normal flows. Kintail Hut was our destination. Despite the patches of knee deep mud, windfalls across the track, it was a very pleasant walk alongside the Seaforth River, followed by a short steep climb up to and past Gair Loch and to the hut.



Figure 4 Summit of Mt Memphis looking north to the Matterhorn Mountains. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

Day 6, and we were off to cross our final pass - Centre Pass. With the great weather, we stopped on the top of Centre Pass for lunch. We left our packs at the pass went for a very worthwhile side trip to the summit of Mt Memphis with its many snowclad tarns and spectacular views. With some reluctance, we left the summit, collected our packs and picked our way down the steep descent to the head of the Warren Burn and Upper Spey Hut. The sandflies were very attentive; there some to be just as many inside the hut as outside!

Manapouri. Sue was lucky to make it out as at one point we thought we might have to leave her stuck in one of the many bogs. All too soon it was over. We joined the tourist groups on the boat for the crossing to Manapouri township. The Dusky trip was a great adventure with spectacular mountain scenery - hanging side valleys, horned peaks and spectacular tops scattered with lakes and tarns.

Many thanks to Angela for superb trip, organising the transport and accommodation, and to the rest of the party for their company and entertaining conversations.

Our party was: **Angela Grigg (leader), Nicole Grigg, Sue Piercy, Liz Stephenson, Raymond Ford, Chris Moore.**

CM

Mt Manson Circuit 2 December 2018

The direct approach to Mt Manson (1859m) is by driving up the Craigieburn skifield road to the locked gate at about 950m, and making the final approach straight up the steep face to the west. But our **moderate hard** version was the complete works. Starting at 700m from SH73 around the corner from the Flock Hill gate, it was a full clockwise circumnavigation of Manson Creek. Our intended route was up Coal Pit Spur to point 1249m, then up a long, gentle slope in attractive bush to 1443m on the southern spur of Mt Manson, and then up to the summit. To descend, we were going to follow the ridge above the head of Manson Creek to point 1790m with views straight down into Lake Pearson. Continue to 1660m and 1550m still on mostly



Figure 5 Dan looking down at Lake Pearson. Photo courtesy Merv Meredith

easier slopes, then down to the scrub but you can avoid problems by walking west on the powerline track, to a more open face down to the road.

Despite doubts about the start time and the intended route, five of us left Church Corner at 7.00am on a forecast that threatened a change mid-afternoon. This time, we were able to access Coal Pit Spur via the MTB track, although it still took me a bit of casting about to get on to the face that would take us up to 1249m. Once above the bush at 1443m, we stopped for lunch, after which Dan decided he was happy to keep going. No; leave out the happy! So upward we continued, reaching the top at 2.05pm from where, although it was getting cloudier, the views were still great.

Circling around to the east, we dropped to the saddle at the head of Manson Creek and climbed to the ridge again by 3.30pm, just as the weather closed in and steady rain started. Above Lake Pearson, we could see some of our route, but not as we had hoped for. Despite the conditions, Alicia was delighted to find a rare

Penwiper plant (*Notothlaspi* sp.). She had been doing species identification work on the Coast and the Penwiper was high on her wish list for this area.

The final descent was steep, but straightforward until the bottom. Much of the area had changed since my previous trip. The powerline had been rebuilt and the track on the old one was substantially overgrown. But we battled along it anyway, almost despairing before coming to a creek feeding a new water tank which had had an access track bulldozed in from the roadside paddocks to get it there. Hooray!

Eleven hours, when we had expected about eight. But we were five happy people anyway. Glad to have been around the circuit and even happier to be down.

We were: **Alicia Mason, Bill Hotter, Merv Meredith (leader), Dan Pryce and Peter Umbers.** 🏔️ MM.

Anti Crow-Fools Col-Avoca Col-Jordan Saddle 7-9th December 2018

This trip had to happen. We had set out on at the same time last year, but due to a brain fade or whatever on my part, compounded by a few other factors, we had climbed the wrong way out of the Anti Crow and missed Fools Col. So this year was about 'putting it right'. Of the original five people, who set out last December, only three of us - Peter, Diane and me - were able to repeat the trip. .

We left town 3.30pm on the Friday afternoon in Di's car, parked at the Bealey Hotel, ate our dinners in the car park and were walking about 6.00pm. Trundling up the Waimakariri River and over Turkey Flat, Di was walking unusually slowly. However, there was no rush in lovely weather, and we were at the Anti Crow Hut by 8.30pm. No one there this time.

But Di then confirmed what we might have noticed earlier. The virus that had been affecting her for weeks still hadn't gone, and she was sure that she would not be able to cope with tomorrow's long day. Her best option was to walk out again tomorrow and join her family in Castle Hill village, and on Sunday, return to the pub about 3.30 - 4.00pm to pick us up when we walk out. That's fine. Now the gear. I had opted for the luxury of a Spectrum tent. We didn't want to carry that for two, so we left part of the tent and a few food items with Di.



Figure 6 Approaching Fools Col. Photo courtesy of Merv Meredith



Figure 7 Peter on Fools Col. Photo courtesy Merv Meredith

Saturday morning, Peter and I were up early and away by 6.30am, leaving Di to snooze on. Trundling up the now familiar route up the Anti Crow on a perfect morning, this time we continued on, sidling up the true right of the waterfall and eventually circling the valley head with a stop in a good spot for lunch. A 'benefit' of Di dropping out had been that we no longer had a GPS or map programme. From well down valley, we had 'the Col' in sight. But once in the upper basin my compass told me that what we could see was Gizeh Col. Fools Col was now in full sight around to the true left. To be absolutely certain this time, I checked the bearings a few times.

Peter led all the way up in reasonable snow and we were on the Col about 2.00pm. I then led the sidle around to Avoca Col on the northern side, but took too high a line, and we eventually had to drop to the Col. A speedy descent to the Avoca in good snow didn't happen. More like a slower walk on soft snow or boney conditions, so it was about 5.00pm before we reached the river, having taken lots of photos in the Moraine Flat area, for Grant Hunter. But then the fun

started. The river was clear, but racy, and not wadeable. The bush bash down the true left was more than interesting and we were relieved to eventually reach the wider valley and open terraces.

Our objective had been the 'deer pen' terrace, where there had been a walk-in deer pen in the deer research days. But at 7.00pm, we found a large grass terrace with a perfect sheltered tent site at the far end, which was too good to turn down, even though it didn't have its own stream. So 12.5 hour day. Didn't seem that long on a lovely December day. We set up our very spacious Spectrum fly camp and eventually finished dinner after dark. Another day in Paradise.

Sunday morning was perfect. Away early again at 7.10am we weren't far down river on the hour's walk to Galilee Creek when we noted a hunter watching our approach. He turned out to be Eugene; Ian Rowe's son-in-law. The two deer, we spooked on our terrace last evening didn't rank with him; he had seen thirteen already this morning! We were also aware of the chopper buzzing around the tops, on a special permit from DoC due to the high deer numbers.

Continuing down river, we had turned up Galilee Creek by 8.00am, to reach the spur leading up to Jordan Saddle. The creek is now well gutted at the bottom so we tried the tussock on the true right. Very steep and a pain. On the saddle after 11.00am, we had dropped down the Jordan Stream for an early lunch at the bushline by 11.35am. After lunch, the wander down through the 'S' bends was enjoyable, but of course, the long straights down the Waimakariri, less so. However, we were back to the Bealey Pub with time to spare at 3.20pm, with Di turning up shortly afterward. So plenty of time for drinks and goodies, do the money and cruise back to town.

We were: **Diane Mellish, Peter Umbers and Merv Meredith (leader)** 🏔️ **MM.**

Lucas Peak, Timutimu Head, Scenery Nook – 6 Jan 2019

Twelve days after Xmas, and what finer way to mitigate the excesses of plum pudding and champers than a day striding the hills on Banks Peninsula. I expected hordes filling the car park outside Princess Margaret Hospital, alas only five keen souls turned up, along with a couple of non-club members. The day's forecast was to be around 30°C so maybe that was the reason.

A respectable start from Lands End Road soon had us walking in a light sea fog. This dissipated after a while, but high cloud then materialised, a sea breeze came up and the tramping conditions were perfect, on green and pleasant slopes amidst much



Figure 8 Helen and Wendy between Timutimu Head and Scenery Nook. Photo courtesy of Graeme Paltridge

yellow-flowering cats-ear and clover. A short stop at the heads prompted discussion on base-jumping, and we marvelled at the effortless glide of a gannet. We crossed a number of little gullies above the cliffs wondering which one would lead to Scenery Nook. Aeolian harp-like sounds emanated at times from below these cliffs. Various identified as those made by baby seals, nesting shags or banshees – the latter held the most credibility.

Scenery Nook is a most delightful place - although maybe not in a southerly! Lunchtime entertainment was provided by seals, dozens of them from new-borns to



Figure 9 Keeping a wary eye on the humans. Photo courtesy of Graeme Paltridge.

large bulls, Canada geese, gulls and black oyster catchers raucously warning us that we were close to their nests. The return stretch was then a steady but easy climb up the sides of Rocky Gully Creek (complete with frogs croaking in pools below) until an electric fence was encountered. The ever-practical Kerry, applying School Certificate physics theory, said “I’ve earthed it to make it safe to cross”. It wasn’t!!

A drive back on the scenic Bossu Rd, by now in the cloud that was sweeping up from the southern bays, completed a most enjoyable day, sans sunburn; and shame on you all who stayed in bed!

Helen Harkness, John Robinson, Wendy McCaughan, Kerry Moore, Chris and John Smith and Graeme Paltridge (leader) 🏠 GP.

Waipara Gorges – 13 January 2019

It was approaching 8am, and there were only four of us, but suddenly we had three more people arrived so could take the necessary two cars needed for this trip. We drove to Karetu Downs Bridge, and then we placed a car just east of the Laidmore Road turn-off. The bridge crosses the South Branch of the Waipara River so we didn’t reach the main river till we’d walked more than 1km. Where the river narrows for the first gorge we had to pick our way over slippery algae-covered rocks. Encroaching willows blocked our way in several places. People with walking poles were happy for the help they give to stay upright, though the rogainers in the group seemed to cope well without them. The rogainers were testing their surefootedness in preparation for an event a few weeks hence.



Figure 10 Below the first gorge. Photo courtesy of Kathrin Mueller

Emerging from the first gorge we reached the area with the best concretions. Some were emerging from the soft strata well above us, waiting to crash down into the river. Pines had been planted 20 years ago to stabilise the land. Now they were right on the rim and one or two trees had been undermined and tumbled down the steep slope. Where the Laidmore Road reaches the river we stopped for lunch. The only signs remaining of the old road bridge over the river is a concrete abutment and half a pile.

On our way, to White Gorge we chose to go via the long loop rather than take the shortcut over the bentonite mound. We were rewarded with a view of more excellent 700mm diameter concretions. A beautiful limestone scarp loomed high above us, and quite awe inspiring, for those of us that hadn’t been there before. Limestone on both sides of the river confined the flow into a four metre wide gorge. This is where we were wading through deep water in one place. Anne said she couldn’t touch the bottom but her pack provided buoyancy—a good reason not to collect rock samples!!

Bruce conjured up a clever exit via an old track that led us past a deer farm and to Ram Paddock Road where Grant’s car awaited us. While the other car was being retrieved from Okuku Downs Bridge the non-drivers chatted to local farmers, who’d happened along. The old traditional ice-cream stop at Amberley made for a brief stop on the way home. Many thanks to Bruce for another well-planned, interesting trip.



Figure 11 Concretions upstream from Laidmore Rd. Photo courtesy of Kathrin Mueller

We were: **Bruce Cameron (leader), Grant and Anne Hunter, Kathrin Mueller, Doug Woods, Judith Barnsley and Kerry Moore. 🏠 KM**

Mt Guinevere, Arthurs Pass - 15-16 January 2019

After many postponements on account of poor weather and high river levels, four of us finally set off up the Waimakariri River on a beautiful clear Tuesday morning. A helicopter busy spraying lupins on Turkey Flat, provided an interesting distraction. We enjoyed a relaxed walk into Crow Hut with great views of Mt Rolleston. High above the hut we could see the approximate location of the tarn which was to be our camping spot for the night. Our challenge was to find a good route up the very steep terrain intersected by many deep gulches. We climbed up the steep, loose, blocky scree slope,



Figure 12 Camp by Mt Guinevere tarn. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

above the forest, just north of the hut. Care was needed to avoid rockfall danger. We stayed close to the edge on the left side of the scree until the corner, near the first waterfall. Looking up to the left, the scree ends in a small gully where we could see an exit at the top through the spray of a small waterfall cascading down the bluffs. Scrambling out of the gully by the water fall, we followed an obvious ledge which opened out onto flowering tussock grassland. Once on the tussock, we aimed for another gully to the right of a prominent rock outcrop, straying too far left was made impossible by precipitous drops into the stream catchment! At the head of this gully, a ledge out to the left provided relatively easy access to the top of the rock outcrop.

From there travel was much easier, dropping through the tarn outlet creek and up the final slopes to our campsite on the gravel flats at the head of the tarn. Hut to tarn took approximately 4 hours at a reasonably leisurely pace. It was a perfect summer evening for camping out, and we relaxed in the late afternoon sun as we ate our meal.



Figure 13 Summit of Mt Guinevere, looking west to Mt Rolleston. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

The summit of Mt Guinevere, 2042m, is not visible from the tarn. It is tucked in behind a closer prominent knob on the skyline. Early next morning, the boys headed off at 6.45am to climb Mt Guinevere while Diane opted for a leisurely breakfast by the tarn and the experience of just being there. The boys went off in a southwest direction climbing up to a prominent spur at about 1800m, which gave a good view of the summit. A number of snow banks in the basin below Mt Guinevere, posed a bit of a dilemma, as we decided to leave our crampons in the car. Nonetheless, it was relatively easy to work our way up the rock outcrops and scree, on to the east ridge, followed by a short messy scramble up the usual loose rock on to the summit just before 8.0am. It was a beautiful still morning, a cloudless sky with fabulous views in every direction. Reluctantly, we left the summit, and made a rapid descent back to camp, to pack up the gear, and retrace our steps back down to the Crow Valley.

The trip out was very pleasant. Another hot day; one of those days where you wade into every river braid, wetting boots, clothing, hat, the works and it all dries off in ten minutes, and then you are hanging out for the next dousing or another dip. Ah, the joy of summer trips!

We were: **Raymond Ford (leader), Diane Mellish, Peter Umbers, Merv Meredith, Aarn Tate.** 🏔️ DM & RF