



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
March 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.

<p>Tuesday, 12 March</p> 	<p>2019 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.</p>
<p>Tuesday, 9 April</p> 	<p>Focus on Japan Description of outdoor activities in Japan by a number of PTC members. Their experiences of this fascinating country and the facilities it provides.</p>

NOTICE OF 2019 PTC AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 87th Annual General Meeting of the Peninsula Tramping Club (Incorporated) will be held in the Baptist Church Hall, corner of Madras Street and Oxford Terrace, entrance off Madras, on:

Tuesday, 12th March 2019, starting promptly at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 86th Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Presentation of the Executive Reports.
5. Presentation of the Financial Statements for the 12 months ended 31st Dec 2018.
6. Election of Officers and Executive members. **
7. Election of Auditor.
8. Notified motions.
 - 8.1 The Executive will be putting the following recommendation to the meeting: *“That Kerry Moore be elected a Life Member of the club, in recognition of services rendered over many years”*.
9. General Business.

** Nominations for positions, approved by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary to arrive prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available at the door, so that nominations may be handed to the Secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

At the time of circulation of this notice, we have nominations for most Office holders and Executive member positions, but we would dearly love to have ‘competition’ for positions. So please do put your hand up and make this the year for you to help run our club.

Note that as per Clause 11.7 of our Rules, any member wishing to give notice of a motion for consideration at the AGM shall forward notice of same to the Secretary not less than 28 days before the meeting, i.e. by the February Club night. None have been received.

Merv Meredith, Secretary. secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thursday, 28 March	<p>Prestons walk and meal.</p> <p>Flat suburban walk in new subdivision with plenty of waterways and native plantings. Meal afterwards at Flax Bar and Eatery, 41 Raranga St. For the menu, see flaxeatery.co.nz. For the meal, please book with Sue Britain ph. 388 2329 or email suebritain@gmail.com by Sunday, 24 March. No need to book for the walk.</p> <p>Park on Te Korari St, near Korowai St, just past Marshlands School by 6 pm, please.</p>
7.30 pm, Friday, 29 March	<p>Four Mongolian Expeditions – a talk by Colin Monteath</p> <p>Colin will be presenting a slide show/lecture covering his four Mongolian Expeditions, including a reindeer journey in northern Mongolia during which they went up to the Siberian border. Cost \$5. The talk will be held in a yurt at: OneCircle Farm, 56 Paritai Lane, RD1, Amberley 7481. <u>Reservations are essential</u> as there are only places for 30 people. Please RSVP to aarndesign@gmail.com or call Aarn or Devi 021 264 8791.</p>
7.30 pm Wednesday, 17 April	<p>EQ F@#%ING C at The Court Theatre is a sharp, dangerous comedy about post earthquake Christchurch, finding humour and pathos in the absurdity of our new normal. See the Court Theatre website. https://courttheatre.org.nz/. We have booked the best seats in the Court Theatre, Bernard St, Addington. Book your seat - \$50 discount price by <u>Sunday 31st March</u>, with Brian Smith. Ph 355 9945, or 027 740 3035 or email brian21x@xtra.co.nz.</p>

President's notes

Hi de hi trampers. Preparations for our AGM this month are well under way. You will receive copies of financial statements and reports from me and Kerry with this newsletter. Please read them before the meeting if you are interested and bring them with you. We will not be reading them out at the meeting, just giving a quick overview, and answering any questions.

Nominations for executive committee are still being accepted. Talk to Merv, if you need any help with this. Also, a polite wee reminder about paying your subscription. Mike will be contacting you very soon if you have forgotten. There are implications like not being eligible to nominate others, be nominated or vote at the AGM if you are not paid up.

But most important of all, get out there and make the most of the delicious late summer tramping.

Diane

The March night sky

After dark, the constellation Orion is still conspicuous high in the nor-nor-west, with brilliant Sirius nearby and almost due north. Almost directly south of Sirius is the 2nd brightest star in the sky – Canopus, in the constellation Carina. Carina is rich with star clusters and nebulosity, but you need a decent pair of binoculars to appreciate them. The Southern Cross is rising into the south-eastern evening sky.

Facing south, most of the constellations are inconspicuous; but given a dark back-country sky, you might well spot our Milky Way galaxy's nearest neighbour – the faint haze of the Large Magellanic Cloud, a dwarf galaxy. It's the most distant thing most of us will ever see with the naked eye. The light from its stars set out about 180,000 years ago, making it even older than most PTC members!

Reddish Mars is the only planet visible in the evening sky; low in the west and setting around 10 pm. Currently it orbit has taken it far away from Earth, so it's not very bright. To see the brighter planets, you need to be up before sunrise. Bright Jupiter rises in the southeast just after midnight. Brilliant Venus rises just after 4 am, with fainter Saturn about half-way between these two planets.

New moon is on 7th March, 'first quarter' (1/2 illuminated) on 14th, and full moon on 21st, and 'last quarter' on 28th.

Graham Townsend

Membership

The Club accepts with regret Neroli Keating's resignation.

Deadline for the March newsletter: Friday, 29 March 2019 – please send newsletter items to Raymond Ford: fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 26 March 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.

7-12 Mar **Serpentine Range** **Angela Grigg 027 578 9743**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz19482/Lake-Harris/Otago>

********* A **moderate-plus** tramp up the Routeburn to Lakes Harris and Wilson. Day 2 we camp at point 1550 on the Serpentine Range then on to camp in the North Routeburn River. We may do a side trip to Emily Pass. Tramping 4 days, travelling 2 days.
List closes 1 March

7-12 Mar **Lake Unknown** **Sonja -- sonja.risa@gmail.com**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz19559/Lake-Unknown/Otago>

********* A **moderate-hard** trip in the Routeburn area. We will go over Sugarloaf Pass, camp at Theatre Flat, Lake Unknown, Park Pass, North Col to camp on North Branch of the Routeburn River. 4 days tramping, 2 days travelling.
List closes 1 March

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 at Devils Den Bivvy on Devilskin Saddle.
List closes 3 March

10 Mar **Mt Evans—Lions Head** **Graeme Paltridge 384 3592**
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 harbour.
Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, east roadside **Approx cost \$7**
carpark Hackthorne Rd

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 circuit with forest and tops travel. Staying at the unusual Griffin Creek Hut.
List closes 10 March

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.
Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, east roadside **Approx cost \$13**
carpark Hackthorne Rd

- 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 trumper's peak. Day 1 is used to get to Hodder Huts near the foot of the mountain. We have four days for this trip, to allow for less than ideal weather. In March its **moderate**.
List closes 16 March
- 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 Mt Vernon carpark
- 30-31 Mar **Woolley River Tops** 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 March
- 31 Mar **Charing Cross** Kerry Moore 359 5069
 Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34388/Charing-Cross/Canterbury>
 * Easy-moderate tramp on farm tracks to this Tekoa Range peak, inland from Culverden.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$17**
- 6-9 Apr **Three Passes** Peter Umbers 359 9118
 **** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31968/Whitehorn-Pass/Canterbury>
 Celebrated **moderate-hard** route to the West Coast in the Arthur's Pass region. Travel is via Harman, Whitehorn and Browning Passes.
List closes 31 March
- 7 Apr **Mandamus River Track** Kerry Moore 359 5069
Saturday <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34326/Mandamus-River/Canterbury>
 * An easy-moderate circuit on Island Hills Station.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$18**
- 13-14 Apr **Taipo River—Kelly Range circuit** Dan Pryce 356 1962
 ** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32246/Dillon-Hut/West-Coast>
 A **moderate** crossing of the Kelly Range via Carroll Hut and a series of mountain tarns. Staying at the modern Dillons Hut by the Taipo River. Tell Dan if you'd prefer to make it a 2½ day and stay at Carroll Hut.
List closes 6 April
- 13 Apr **Knowles Top** Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
 Sun <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 and plains. On a warm day your driver might be persuaded to drop into the Ashley picnic ground for a dip.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$11**

7pm, 16 Apr
Tuesday

TRIP PLANNING MEETING - 2019-20 PROGRAMME

Bring your trip suggestions to the meeting at Sue and Stan Wilder's place, 54 Warden St., Richmond. If you can't attend, please give your trip ideas to Kerry 359 5069, or a committee person.

- 19-25 Apr **Gorgy Creek Tarn** Diane Mellish 337 5530
Easter <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32124/Gorgy-Creek/West-Coast>
**** A **moderate-hard** trip to camp at this high 1470m gem in Arthurs Pass. Day 1 will be up the Waimakariri River to spend a night at Carrington Hut. Gorgy Creek is near Campbell Pass.
List closes 31 March
- 19-22 Apr **Fox Glacier Base** Names to Heather H 332 6281
Easter <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 March
- 19-28 Apr **Serpentine Hut--Frisco Hut et al** Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038
Easter <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, Sir Robert, then out via the Toaroha River ticking off Toaroha Saddle biv, top Toaroha Hut, Crystal Bivvy. Maybe a side trip to Mungo Hut if time allows.
***** **List closes Sat 6 April**
- 21 Apr **Stan Helms—Crater Rim--Urumau Tracks** Helen Harkness 384 2890
Sun <https://www.bankspeninsulawalks.co.nz/lyttelton-walks/>
* From Lyttelton we go up to the crater rim using Stan Helms Track, along to (or below) Mt Pleasant, past the gun emplacements then down Urumau Track to our starting point in Lyttelton. For this **easy-moderate** walk you can take the Number 28 bus to Lyttelton.
Meet 9am Cnr Canterbury & London Streets, Lyttelton
- 25 Apr **Mystery Trip** Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905
Anzac Day Bruce is still hatching this easy or easy-moderate trip.
- 27-28 Apr **Camp Creek Hut** Gary Huish 332 7020
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32475/Camp-Creek-Hut/West-Coast>
** An **easy-moderate** visit to this former research hut, which features an outdoor bath!
List closes 21 April
- 28 Apr **Peak Hill** Alison Maccoll 322 8540
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31193/Peak-Hill/Canterbury>
* **Easy-moderate** climb in open country up a 1240m hill with superb views of Lake Coleridge on one side and the Rakaia River on the other. The upper slopes of Peak Hill are now Crown land, with public access from the Algidus Road. .
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd 17
- 4-5 May **Kirwans Hut** Jillian Fulcher 351 4189
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35972/Kirwans-Hut/West-Coast>
** **Easy-moderate** tramp up a well graded old miners' pack track in Victoria Forest Park near Reefton. A 900m slow climb through the forest to this comfortable hut near the bush edge with great views. Optional side-trip to tussock-topped Kirwans Hill.
List closes 28 April

- 4-9 May **Caples—Routeburn** **Raymond Ford 351 9496**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/trck129217/Caples-Track/Otago>
- ***** **Moderate.** The Routeburn is one of NZ's world famous walking tracks. We going out of season so normal hut fees apply. Starting on the Caples track simplifies transport.
List closes 21 April
- 4 May **Lyttelton to Pony Point** **Mary McKeown 358 7717**
Saturday <http://www.mapmywalk.com/nz/christchurch-canterbury/cass-bay-to-lyttelton-route-436457>
- * An **easy** walk from Lyttelton to Magazine Bay, Corsair Bay, Cass Bay and Pony Point. Go early and visit the Lyttelton Farmers Market. You can take the Number 28 bus.
Meet 10am at Lyttelton library
- 11-12 May **Lake Clearwater Base** **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz27978/Lake-Clearwater/Canterbury>
- ** An area with plenty of options--Harper, Guy, Sunday, Potts, or just lazing around.
List closes 28 April
- 12 May **Five Gully Stream—Mt Storm** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32981/Mount-Storm/Canterbury>
- * A **moderate** climb of this 1254m peak from near Mt Pember homestead. A choice of spurs means we can make a circuit of it.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$14**

TRIP REPORTS

Mt Oxford, Mountain House Car Park - 20 January 2019

Our party of 5 set off to climb Mt Oxford from the Mountain House (Coopers Creek) car park at a favourable hour of 9am. Lucky for us the cool, windy conditions kept the sand flies away from the start of the riverside track.

We started off at a good pace, passing the many bee hives dotted amongst the overgrowth and settled into our usual groove. The track was good under-foot and offered an undulating start to warm us all up before we hit the climb to the tree line. Along the way we were greeted by bird song from a few bell birds, wax eyes, tom tits, wood pigeon and fantails. It was great to see and hear the birds and listen to the wind in the trees. We reached the tree line in 1hr45mins and were greeted by some gusty winds. After morning tea, we

agreed as a collective group that we would walk up to the big tree for the view over the Canterbury plains (which is actually a small beech tree) and then head back down. Shane opted to continue at a fast pace to complete the loop and meet us at Ryde Falls.

We arrived at the Scout hut at 1pm just in time for a luxury lunch spot on some rather nice homemade chairs. In the shade of the hut we watched the tall grass twist and turn as if we were in a meadow. With fresh legs we decided to extend our tramp (as it was a moderate tramp) and walk on the Ryde Falls track to meet up with Shane. The track was relatively easy and followed a well-marked track along the true right bank of the river, over a scrubby hillside and into beech forest.



Figure 1. Taking a breather to admire the patch work view of the Canterbury plains. Photo courtesy of Jill Fulcher



Figure 2. Perfect lunch spot by the Scout hut. Photo courtesy of Jill Fulcher

As well as tourists and dogs, there were a variety of podocarps and beech to look at along the way to the top of Rydes Tramway. This was a horse-drawn tramway used in the timber extraction from the area. There is no remnant of the tramway visible, but a partly intact information board gives some information for visitors.

Along the track, we passed through some dampened forest, which had a handsome understorey of crown ferns and horopito. Making good time we were soon at the track junction where a linking track leads westward to the Wharfedale Track (1 hour 30 minutes from the car park). We headed right, down to the Ryde Falls where we met

Shane along the track. All re-united we headed to the falls and watched some locals take a dip in the

cold waters while having a fuel stop. After 10 minutes the sand flies drove us away and we headed back to the car park for an end time of 5:40pm. All in all a good leg day with great company and views.

We were: **Jill Fulcher (leader) Shane Wright, John Robinson, Alison McColl and Wendy McCaughan** 🏔️ JF

Lambert Glacier and the 'Gardens' - 2 - 9 February 2019

The scenic drive into Erewhon is a great start to a trip. Many dusty tourists, including super-smiley tandem cyclists, shared this 'Lord of the Rings' wonder with us. We packed in a paddock amidst curious, slobbering Clydesdales, before eating the last cherries and waving goodbye to Diane, who generously drove us in.

Sure, the Clyde River is a long gravel bed, but the grandeur of bluffs and ranges on either side is enough distraction to keep the eyes entertained. We settled to camp at the bush edge above the confluence with Lawrence River well before dark, setting a new precedent for Geoff's glacier trips! We actually maintained this ALL trip, with rock lounging time, casual, sun-lit tent site exploration, and relaxed meal times. An unfortunate boot mishap, saw Geoff, Jane and Pete F heading back to Jane's car at Erewhon just on dark. They will confirm that you can get down from the Lawrence River to Erewhon staying on the true left (no river crossings), but you don't want to! They were back by 9am next morning, very weary.



Figure 3. Raymond, Doug, Gaylene and Gary crossing the Clyde River. Photo courtesy of Geoff Spearpoint

Continuing up-river on Day 2, we met a couple of American girls who had been inspired by Otago University Tramping Club to go to "The Gardens" via Perth Col. They'd turned back from a deep river crossing in the Frances River. We tucked them under our wings for the day, allowing them to continue onto their goal (big smiles all round). There's a good campsite, tucked out of the wind, in the rocks above the Frances Lake outlet. Complete with a wee dining amphitheatre, our second evening was spent chatting beneath sheer rock walls. A balmy night, sleeping out was definitely an option.



Figure 4. Group photo looking across to the Lambert Glacier and Satans Saddle.
Photo courtesy of Geoff Spearpoint.

Next day, it was on up the Frances moraine, and not too long after lunch, we were onto snow and ice - the Frances Glacier. Yippee!! I love donning crampons and crunching steps. The route onto the neve was straightforward, well to the true left. A colourful lot we eleven were, meandering across the Frances Neve. The standard route up onto to Lambert Col looked very icy, and I reckon most of us were quite happy to have a route up an obvious looking gully checked out. Geoff and Jane scrambled up, and it wasn't too long before we had a thumbs up, with a possible campsite offering as well. Perfect! Another early finish, with a good gravel campsite tucked in

on the east side of Lambert Col, with running water and sheltered from the westerlies which were picking up. Good thing it proved as the site was to become our home for three nights.

Day 4 was completely clagged in; pit bound, and showers. For some, morose, unwell, full of doubt about the future of the trip. For others, well, an opportunity to practise some French language skills, of course. By evening the sky cleared, allowing stunning sunset views beyond the Col, across the Lambert Neve to Mt Lambert, Satan Col, Newton, Tindall, with Stoddart to the north. Magnifique! What a day tomorrow promised to be!

Unfortunately, Day 5 was a repeat of Day 4. C'est la vie. Thank you so much to Callum and Gary for braving the elements to cook dinner on these days, and to Tony for tent delivery service. Trips need people like you :). Route discussions, indistinctly heard from neighbouring tents, indicated that we would no longer be able to complete our planned route around the flanks of Mt Stoddart to the Lord Range and the Wanganui River for a West Coast exit. Nobody complained about the alternative: - a traverse the Garden of Allah, cross the Garden of Eden and exit via Perth Col, coming back out east.

There was great excitement and gratitude that Day 6 dawned beautifully clear. Sun's up, let's GO. A fluey bug meant a couple of the party were low on energy, but with some gentle shunting of gear we were all on Satan Col by lunchtime. Low, swirling cloud provided mystical mountain scenes, but thank heavens it burned off again to give uninterrupted views for the rest of the day. We floated down the Garden of Allah, craning in awe at the high peaks to either side, especially the Tears of Allah rock route, climbed a few years back. Wow. Downed packs for an hour on the western side of Adams Col in order to pop across to Icefall Outlook for expansive views to the Beelzebub, Arethusa and Angel glaciers and the precipitous drop down into the Adams River. This is impressive country, on such a grand scale. There is a massive difference between the ice on the map and the reality, with a large amount of glacial recession. The last scramble of the day led us up to our camp at Adams Col. This time sunset views were down the length of the Garden of Eden.



Figure 5. Garden of Eden looking west to Guardian Pea and Adams Col. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

The morning began with a crunchy start. We sat enjoying the morning sun, sun-proofed, photographed, attached crampons, removed excess clothing. A relaxed group set off across the frozen Garden of Eden towards Baker Peak. From summit, one can appreciate the full length of the Garden of Eden, from Mt Tindall right down to the Great Unknown. Flowing east, below sheer bluffs, lies the Wee McGregor glacier, with Perth Col at its head, and the Colin Campbell Glacier flanking Baker Peak. After this peak experience, it was time to engage the quads to start losing altitude. Perth Col, where we were thrilled to see evidence of the US lasses visit, down, Wee McGregor, down, Colin Campbell moraine, down, Frances Lakes, a swim, Frances River, a couple of medical issues right down to McCoy Hut to camp.

The tricky thing about changing our route was the transport arrangements. A van was due to pick us up at the Wanganui River, midday Sunday. It was now Friday night, and we had no way of communicating our change in plans. After some discussion, it was decided that four of us would leave McCoy Hut, very early the next morning in order to drive Jane's car (thank goodness for that car) back to Christchurch, alert our second generous driver, get the van and drive back to Erehwon to meet the rest of the party. Well done to Raymond and Gary for this big day's effort. The rest of the party had an easy start, despite Doug being up at 6am all fired up for his first cuppa, and an unhurried day of walking.

Another fantastic PTC glacier trip. I have oodles of gratitude to Geoff and Gary for making it happen, and thank all trip members for their welcome and good company (again!)

We were: **Geoff Spearpoint (leader), Gary Huish, Jane Morris, Raymond Ford, Calum McIntosh, Aarn Tate, Doug Forster, Peter Umbers, Peter Fullerton, Gaylene Wilkinson, Tony Lawton 🏔️ GW**

Wangapeka Track - 2 - 9 February 2019

We've had several attempts to run this trip and this one got quite complicated at one point, but in the end it came together with two groups of four walking from each end. We swapped cars before we left Christchurch so the two groups had the flexibility to adjust their tramps as needed (we were expecting some heavy rain mid tramp).

After a cruisey drive to Tapawera and a meal at the local pub, we retired to our little motel to drink a bottle of wine and finish off the container of ice cream we had started earlier. It was a tough day!

We had heard there could be problems with the Dart ford after rain so we had taken a bike and Kevin was planning to drop us and packs, return the car on the other side of the ford and bike back. However the ford in question was a great concrete construction a good metre or more above the river and crossing would only be an issue after a major storm. After some discussion, (after all it wasn't our car) we decided biking would just not be sensible and we left the car at the start of the track with all the others. This meant we should get to Stone hut for the night rather than just Kings Creek.

There were several highlights of the day, the first being the massive patch of ripe blackberries at morning tea. We enjoyed them again for pudding that night as I decided that fresh blackberries would go better with chocolate instant pudding than the planned dried cranberries. It was getting really hot by lunchtime so we hunted out a lunch spot where we could get down to the river for a quick dip to cool off. The afternoon continued hot, but occasionally we would cross shaded gully's that channelled a cool and welcome breeze. Hilaire had commented that leaving the shade was like an oven door opening so we decided that these cool gullies had to be the fridge. We enjoyed a break at Kings Creek Hut (there's a picnic table in the shade) then again shortly after at the historic and wonderfully restored Cecil King Hut. That night we were joined at Stone hut by two other trampers, and as it turned out this was the only time we shared a hut (and we only met 5 other trampers in total).

The next day we headed uphill to the Wangapeka saddle for morning tea. Despite the track being in good condition we hadn't made the stated track times the previous day (even deducting our long stops) so we had decided that the option to continue up over Biggs tops and down to Trevor Carter Hut wouldn't be best for this group, and continued on to Helicopter hut. If we got there in good time we could still drop down lost valley track to meet the others at Trevor Carter hut.

As it turned out we didn't make any better time this day and stayed at Helicopter Hut that night (a dip in the river to cool off being much more attractive than another 1.5- 2 hours of tramping). Until it reached the Karamea River the track had seemed to still be maintained, but from then on it seemed to become more overgrown - though the track itself is still quite intact.

The track from Helicopter hut to the Taipo River was an interesting, cutting into some bluffs at times. Though we found it pleasant, in the rain, it would have been less so, and the chain across one gully would have been a necessity rather than a just a convenience. Walking alongside the Taipo River we came upon a huge



Figure 6. Sketch of Helicopter Hut by Hilaire Campbell

swimming hole – and then realised that we were only seeing half of it. There was a deep gorge (10m deep?) feeding into the swimming hole and together they would have made the best swimming pool I ever seen (you could swim lengths!). Unfortunately, we didn't take a swim as the weather had turned cooler that day, and in fact it started to rain later that afternoon. Luckily, it was a short tramping day and we were well settled into Taipo hut by then.

Day four was the longest day and the one that the rain was forecast for so we were very pleased that it had rained during the night instead. It didn't rain that morning but dripping trees and wet flax and grass found us wearing raincoats anyway. It was a steady uphill to Stag Flat bivvy for first morning tea. A nice bivvy, but unfortunately the clouds hid any view of Stag Flat and the mountains we had glimpsed from the hut the night before. After a short walk, along an unexpected board walk, we continued uphill through wet vegetation until we came out onto the open Wanganui saddle. This was a magical spot and we lingered to take in the view of the two tarns. The clouds added to the atmosphere although they obscured the view to the coast seen by the other group.

A bit of steep downhill then a zig zag down saw us enjoying lunch at the brand new Wangapeka Biv, comfortably seated on plastic chairs in the hot sun. When clouds started to blow back across bring some light drizzle we headed onwards. A large diversion up and over a cliffy section slowed us down but we got most of the way to the hut before the drizzle turned to light rain – though as Kevin pointed out, in West Coast terns it was a mere "bit of moisture in the air". We were pleased to reach Belltown- Manunui Hut that afternoon, and we enjoyed watching the resident weka with her 4 small chicks. Being a wet evening, we also appreciated the boardwalk connecting the hut to the toilet.

Our final day was fine and warm and we got to enjoy some more blackberries on the way. On the drive to Westport we debated the merits of coffee vs ice cream vs beer so were pleasantly surprised to find that the café in Granity could supply all three. I don't think anyone had all three, but Kevin and I enjoyed both a beer and an ice cream.

After overnighing at the Westport YHA we had a leisurely drive back home with time to stop to check out some shops in Reefton and surprisingly good pies in Culverden for lunch (and more ice cream!). Thanks to Chris for making this all possible by leading the other group.

West to East: **Heather (leader) & Kevin Hughes, Hilaire Campbell, Anne Hunter**

East to West: **Chris Leaver (leader), Joy Schroeder, Vesna Mojsilovic, Alison MacColl** 🏠 HH

Mt Algidus – Big Goat Hill – Sunday 10 February 2019

The club hadn't been up Mt Algidus for many years so we'd lost contact details to gain access. On the day three cars drove via Coleridge, Homestead, and Algidus roads to the road-end. Our plans coincided with the station-owner's so we were given a ride over the wide, braided Wilberforce River behind a tractor on a fancy trailer. Everyone was happy to travel cattle-class. Kerry signed our group of twelve onto the station and we were guided up a vehicle track to the spur that leads to the bush-line. We made our way on a warm day up the track, well-marked with reflective markers. Wilding sycamores and rowans gave way to pure beech forest as we climbed. A snack stop or partial lunch at the bushline and we were climbing through low patchy scrub. Turning to look back was one of those "wow"



Figure 7. View of the Wilberforce and Rakaia rivers. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore

moments. We were looking down on a vast expanse of the Rakaia River with the Wilberforce merging from our left. Over the Rakaia was Turton Saddle with the Arrowsmiths in the middle distance. Scrub graded into scree and tussock near 1405m Mt Algidus. We sat on top and looked east to Gargarus and the Harper River.

1651m Big Goat Hill looked a bit out of the way, and we'd committed ourselves to return down the forest spur track so we walked along the 1451, 1617 ridge towards unnamed point 1769. Bill was out front so pressed on to Big Goat Hill. Three more got up 1769 and the rest stopped short at various spots, worried that time was pressing. We got down to the farm at 6pm then enjoyed the refreshing river crossings to the car and away. Woops, not quite, Bill's car went 500m, did a U-turn and retrieved Stuart's treasured hand-crafted stick. We made a point of looking for the 4WD that we'd spotted in the morning, stranded in a major braid of the Rakaia River. We were: **Grant & Anne Hunter, Bill & Wendy Templeton, Chris Moore, Stuart Payne, Penny Coffey, Hank Boer, Dorota Giejsztowt, John Robinson, Kathrin Mueller and Kerry Moore 🏠 KM**

Pinchgut Hut – Saturday 16 February 2019

A rainy forecast ruled out the scheduled Mt Noble

climb so we settled for a simple there-and-back to Pinchgut Hut with its advantage of being a dog-friendly trip. Our leader, Evelien took Neisha and John took Bob. We parked on Taafes Glen Road and were soon across the Okuku ford and on the riverside track. We arrived at the Lockwood design hut at about mid-day and had lunch. We'd had some drama with wasps. John and Bob got stung. John didn't swear or yelp, not-so Bob, he yelped and had no idea what struck him.



Figure 8. The Pinchgut party. Photo courtesy of Norman Burden

They must have come to the attention of the venomous insects too. Back near the cars there were three pairs of river-crossing shoes used to keep boots dry. Wasps aside, this was a pleasant outing for man/woman and beast. Call me vengeful but back home I sent an email enquiring about local wasp eradication. We were: **Evelien Baas, Wendy McCaughan, Jill Fenner, John Robinson, Norman Burden and Kerry Moore 🏠 KM**