



*PTC Monthly  
Newsletter  
July 2019*

<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

**Executive 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 Thompson	021 2665778
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097		Margot Bowden	332 7020
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
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. In addition to the monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are also held every month.

**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><b>Tuesday, 9 July</b></p> 	<p><b>What is pack rafting?</b></p> <p>People have been floating down New Zealand rivers for many years in a variety of craft. Hugh Canard, a long time trumper and kayaker, will talk about pack rafting, a rapidly growing new way to explore our backcountry, and show some of the different design options available.</p> <p><i>Supper duty: Sandra and Bruce White</i></p>
<p><b>Tuesday 13 August</b></p> 	<p><b>Looking for Snow Leopards</b></p> <p>Carolyn Catt will talk about a citizen science expedition that she and Charlie went on in 2015, spending a month looking for the elusive snow leopard and its rather less elusive prey species.</p>

## SOCIAL EVENTS

<p><b>Wednesday, 17 or Thursday, 18 July (date to be confirmed)</b></p>	<p><b>Movie night and dinner.</b> Remember the Beatles? Indulge in a bit of nostalgia and catch up with your tramping friends. <u>Time and location to be advised by email the week before</u>, when the theatres publish their times. I'm aiming for a 6 pm movie followed by coffee/dessert, hopefully at The Tannery.</p> <p><b>"Yesterday"</b> is a 2019 British musical comedy film directed by Danny Boyle and written by Richard Curtis (Love Actually). Himesh Patel stars as a struggling singer-songwriter in a tiny English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best friend, Ellie (Lily James, Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again). Then, after a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed, and he finds himself with a very complicated problem, indeed.</p> <p>I'll probably get people to book their own movie tickets. More information, or to find out when we are going, contact Maureen Thompson Ph: 021 266 5778 email: mothompson1212@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, 20 August</b></p>	<p><b>City by Night walk then dinner at Hikari Sushi</b> Meet at the corner of Durham St North and Gloucester St (opposite the damaged Provincial Chambers) at 6.00 pm to do a 4 km circuit of the inner city. Check out the new City Promenade along the Avon River, the African drum on the North Frame, and the bright lights on The Strip. Dinner will be at 7.15 pm back where we started, at Hikari Sushi, 287 Durham St. Contemporary Japanese Meals \$16 to \$20.</p> <p><a href="https://www.hikarisushi.co.nz/">https://www.hikarisushi.co.nz/</a>. Parking is available under the Art Gallery or next to the old Law Courts on Durham St or the west side of Cranmer Square.</p> <p>There is no need to book for the walk, but for dinner please let Margot Bowden know before Sunday 19 August. Phone 332 7020 or email margot.bowden@gmail.com</p>

## NOTES

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

Hi all, a recent trip on a very cold, wet, snowy weekend reminded me of the need to be very well prepared to stay safe in challenging winter conditions. Here are my tips for avoiding un-necessary hardship and contributing to the strength of the group:

- Check all gear is in good working order **before you leave home**, gaiters, crampons, torch, car battery etc.
- Take extra gloves, mittens, socks. Frost-nip or -bite is painful with permanent effects.
- Carry a large pack-liner or bivvy bag to crawl into in an emergency.
- Take 2 sets of fresh spare torch batteries, and have a fresh set in your torch. Winter days are very short. Think ahead and replace tired batteries during daylight if possible.
- Take extra snacks and have some emergency food that does not need cooking.
- Be as navigationally self-sufficient as you can. Study the route guides before you go, and run your own phone GPS system if possible. This contributes to party strength.
- When packing each morning, **plan ahead carefully for the day**. Have torch, spare clothing, first aid, over-trousers etc easily accessible. Delays are undesirable in cold conditions.

- **Conserve body warmth all day long.** Be proactive and put on warm layers before you get cold. When you dress in the morning, over-dress rather than under-dress, especially if going up high. Eat plenty of snacks.
- **Speed of travel** is an important safety factor. Stay focussed at the start of rest breaks and attend to any necessary tasks before you relax. Do not hold the group up un-necessarily.
- **Communicate** with the leader and group members if you feel anxious, cold, hungry, exhausted etc.
- If you are taking a car, pop in a **pair of long jumper leads** or **battery power pack** just in case.
- **Consider taking a snow shovel** on winter trips. The club has one you can obtain from Brian. Very useful for digging out a snowed-in hut door, making an emergency hole to get out of the wind in case of emergency, avalanche rescue, creating a level platform to sit on for lunch break or pitch a tent on etc.

**Diane Mellish**

### ***The July night sky***

Longing for more sunshine? Alas, sunrise actually gets later after the shortest day! My software tells me that on 22 June, (and given a hypothetical flat horizon) sunrise was 8:05; for the next week it gets later by a minute or so. Only around 8 July does the Sun get out of bed at 8:04. However, sunset times are later too: so by 8 July, overall day length is about 5 minutes longer than on the shortest day.

As Earth orbits the Sun, our night-time view looks out on different parts of the universe. So the small star cluster Matariki (aka the Pleiades, Subaru or the Seven Sisters) disappears from the summer evening sky, but pops up in the pre-dawn sky in May. You can see it around 6.30 am, looking a little north of east, with the bright planet Venus due east.

The planet Jupiter is still prominent, high in the evening sky. New moon is 3rd July, first quarter is on 9th, full moon on 17th, and last quarter on 25th.

**Graham Townsend**

### ***Back Country Trust continues to fund and support volunteers to restore and maintain huts and tracks***

The title says it all, but you may not even be aware the Trust exists. For years Permolat has worked diligently on the West Coast using materials and buying chopper time with what donated funds they could gather. But that's all different now!

The Back Country Trust (BCT) is an independent body set up in 2017 by Federated Mountain Clubs, NZ Deerstalkers Association and Trail Fund NZ. The Trust works in partnership with, and is primarily funded by DoC. Initially, a funding trial of 3 years beginning in 2014 was set up under the same three national volunteer bodies as a consortium. This was very successful, and the Trust was established as a separate entity.

The Trust has funded the restoration of over 100 huts and recovery of many kilometres of overgrown tracks all around NZ. Volunteer groups have been from Permolat, tramping clubs, deerstalkers, MTB clubs, etc.

One of our members was one of the first to go through the process of approaching DoC about a neglected hut on the Coast, and signed a management agreement to look after it for 5 years. With the BCT in existence, there is money and support now to do this. Many other huts have been done up and the organising process has become almost routine. At Queen's Birthday weekend, our PTC trip up the Nina to Boscawen Saddle saw us staying at the renovated Nina Bivvy on the first night. This was a Permolat project led by Rob Brown in December last year.

PTC have not been involved to date on any project, but do have a look at the BCT booklet on their website on [www.backcountrytrust.org.nz](http://www.backcountrytrust.org.nz). It may be the catalyst for a hut we could adopt? Or see Merv about the booklet that is doing the rounds.

**Merv Meredith**

**Deadline for the June newsletter:** Thursday, 25 July 2019 – please send newsletter items to Raymond Ford: [fordrm@snap.net.nz](mailto:fordrm@snap.net.nz)

**Next Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, 30 July 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](mailto: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 accepted). 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](mailto:newptc75@gmail.com).

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|--|---|---|
| <b>7 July</b><br><b>Sunday</b><br>*    | <b>Mt Bradley circumambulation</b><br><a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29938/Mount-Bradley/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29938/Mount-Bradley/Canterbury</a><br>An easy-moderate 6-7 hour circuit starting in Orton Bradley Park, going to Packhorse Hut then onto part of Te Ara Pataka Track, then down the Orton Bradley Valley to the cars.<br><b>Meet 7:30am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark</b><br><b>off Cashmere Rd</b> | <b>Norman Burden 358 5115</b><br><br><br><br><br><b>Approx cost \$5</b> |
| <b>13-16 July</b><br><br>****          | <b>Old Ghost Road</b><br><a href="#">click here</a> <a href="#">topomap</a><br>An adventure in the newly built walkway. Early closing date to allow for bookings.<br><b>List closed</b>   | <b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b>   |
| <b>13 July</b><br><b>Saturday</b><br>* | <b>Port Hills Mystery walk</b><br><a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29934/Otamahua%2fQuail-Island/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29934/Otamahua%2fQuail-Island/Canterbury</a><br>A cunning plan devised by Bruce.<br><b>Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off</b><br><b>Cashmere Rd</b>   | <b>Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905</b>                                       |

- 14 July** **Mt Torlesse** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
**Sunday** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32625/Mount-Torlesse/Canterbury>  
 \* A perennial favourite, moderate-hard climb of this very accessible mountain. Call Merv if you'd like to do an easy walk up the Kowai Valley.  
**Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$12**
- 20-21 July** **Gabriel--Jolliebrook** **Diane Mellish 337 5530**  
**\*\*** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34304/Gabriel-Hut/Canterbury>  
 Easy-moderate round-trip in Lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flats of the Hurunui, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, going over a low bush saddle to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes a bit more open and there are a few stream (brook) crossings.  
**List closes 14 July**
- 21 July** **Mt Foweraker** **Peter Umbers 359 9118**  
**Sunday** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31624/Red-Beech-Stream/Canterbury>  
 \* Moderate-hard trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1804m peak between Sudden Valley and Red Beech Stream. This peak acquired its name just a few years ago.  
**Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$19**
- 27-30 July** **Heaphy Track** **Sonja -- sonja.risa@gmail.com**  
**\*\*\*\*** <https://www.doc.govt.nz/heaphytrack>  
 A great walk done out of season so costs less. Goes from North Westland to Nelson with an enormous variety of scenery.  
**List closed 29 June**
- 27-28 July** **Youngman Stream Hut--Lilburne Hill** **Bill Templeton 354 2277**  
**\*\*** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33039/Lilburne-Hill/Canterbury>  
 Easy-moderate tramp to Youngman Stream Hut in the upper Ashley. We will exit via Lilburne Hill and Tarn Hut.  
**List closes 21 July**
- 28 July** **Knowles Top** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
**Sunday** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32853/Knowles-Top/Canterbury>  
 \* Easy-moderate trip up a spur off the Glentui Rd, with good views of Ashley Gorge, plains and coast.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx cost \$11**
- 2-3 Aug** **Te Ara Pataka Track** **Awaiting leader**  
**\*\*** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29946/Waipuna-Saddle/Canterbury>  
 An easy-moderate trip to the charming Rod Donald Hut on Te Ara Pataka track. Has a wood-burner. Possible Fri night start so you can stay at Packhorse Hut as well.  
**List closes 21 July**
- 4 Aug** **Evans Pass** **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
**Sunday** <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30181/Lyttelton/Canterbury>  
 \* An easy day starting in Sumner and climbing to the top of the Port Hills via Clifton Hill. Then down to Evans Pass and back to the village via the Captain Thomas track. Further ramblings on interesting tracks near Sumner are possible if time and enthusiasm allow.  
**Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital or 8:20am at Sumner Surf Club** **Approx cost \$3**

- 9-12 Aug**                      **Ski Touring**    **Calum McIntosh 376 6133**  
<https://alpineclub.org.nz/skiing-touring/courses/intro-to-backcountry-skiing>  
**\*\*\*\***                      Cross country skiing originated in Scandinavia thousands of years ago. It's the great-great-grandfather of all ski sports. If you are an intermediate down-hill skier with moderate tramping fitness you will enjoy cross-country skiing. Dates flexible according to snow conditions. Phone Calum to discuss.  
**List closes 21 July**
- 10-11 Aug**                      **Track Maintenance**    **Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038**  
<http://remotehuts.co.nz/tracks>  
**\*\***                      Your chance to give something back for all your years of walking our tracks. Join Liz on a re-cut of a Permolat- maintained track. Liz provides home-made iced cake to participants who help. We aim to work on moderate Westland terrain. Bring loppers. Speed will be slow as we chop as we go. Stay in a remote hut. Leave Friday night at 6pm for an early start Saturday with a late trip home Sunday night.  
**List closes 28 Jul**
- 11 Aug**                      **Quail Island, planting**    **Stan Wilder 260 2340**  
**Sunday**  
**\***                      <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30181/Lyttelton/Canterbury>  
Book with Stan for a short day of planting. Tools and transport provided. Take garden gloves if you have them. Meet on the Lyttelton--Diamond Harbour jetty at 0855  
Launch leaves Quail Island at 3.30pm.  
**Names to Stan by 8pm Friday**
- 17-18 Aug**                      **Sudden Valley--Discovery Stream**    **Peter Umbers 359 9118**  
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33642/Discovery-Stream/Canterbury>  
**\*\***                      A moderate-hard tramp that connects the Hawdon River with Sudden Valley Stream. We'll camp in a basin above a waterfall then walk along the Polar Range to find the backdoor into Sudden Valley and back to the Hawdon River.  
**List closes 11 Aug.**
- 18 Aug**                      **Mt Alford**    **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
**Sunday**  
**\***                      <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz28631/Mount-Alford/Canterbury>  
Easy-moderate climb starting in Alford Reserve and then into tussockland to this 1171m foothill inland from Methven.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**    **Approx cost \$16**
- 24-25 Aug**                      **Mt Taylor**    **Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz28570/Mount-Taylor/Canterbury>  
**\*\***                      Moderate-hard climb starting at Lake Heron. We'll go to Double Hut for a 1400m Sunday climb to 2333m Mt Taylor.  
**List closes 18 Aug.**
- 24 Aug**                      **Stan Helms—Major Hornbrook**    **Helen Harkness 384 2890**  
**Saturday**  
**\***                      <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30181/Lyttelton/Canterbury>  
From Lyttelton we go up the Stan Helms Track to the crater rim, then follow along it to the top of Major Hornbrook Track. Before we go down this track to our starting point, we will do a short loop into John Britten Reserve. The no. 28 bus will take you to Lyttelton.  
Saturday is market day. Easy-moderate.  
**Meet 9am Cnr Canterbury & London Streets, Lyttelton.**

- 31-01 Sept**      **Nina Hut**      **Chris Leaver 322 6445**  
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35468/Nina-Hut/Canterbury>  
**\*\***      An easy, flat walk in beautiful Nina valley forest to this modern hut.  
**List closes 25 Aug.**
- 1 Sept**      **Black Hill, Rakaia**      **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
**Sunday**      <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31183/Black-Hill/Canterbury>  
**\***      A moderate-hard climb from Double Hill Run Road to this 2067m peak in the Black Hill Range.  
**Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**      **Approx cost \$18**
- 7-9 Sept**      **Poulter Rr, Lake Minchin, Taramakau Rr**      **Angela Grigg 027 578 9743**  
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33715/Minchin-Pass/West-Coast>  
**\*\*\***      A moderate tramp running from the south of Arthurs Pass National Park to the north. It passes Lake Minchin and crosses the low Minchin Pass.  
**List closes 1 Sept.**
- 7-8 Sept**      **Otehake Hot Spring**      **Dan Pryce 356 1962**  
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32291/Lake-Kaurapataka/West-Coast>  
**\*\***      We go a little way up the Taramakau River, in to Lake Kaurapataka, then a little way up the Otehake River to find the hot spring.  
**List closes 1 Sept.**
- 8 Sept**      **Kowai Hut–The Gap**      **Awaiting leader**  
**Sunday**      <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32624/The-Gap/Canterbury>  
**\***      From the big pines we walk up to Kowai Hut then climb to the very conspicuous gap in the Torlesse Range. Moderate or harder if snow conditions slow us.  
**Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**      **Approx cost \$12**
- 14-16 Sept**      **Thousand Acre Plateau**      **Awaiting leader**  
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz36806/Poor-Pete%27s-Hut/Tasman>  
**\*\*\***      A moderate tramp visiting this fascinating 50 million year old limestone plateau near Murchison. If we can extend it to 4 days, we'll be able to visit the Needle and the Haystack which give spectacular views.  
**List closes 8 Sept.**
- 15 Sept**      **Mandamus River, Island Hills**      **Evelien Baas 027 557 5521**  
**Sunday**      <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**
- 21-22 Sept**      **Mt Valiant**      **Diane Mellish 337 5530**  
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33663/Mount-Valiant/Canterbury>  
**\*\***      1847m Mt Valiant gives splendid views all-around. A moderate-hard climb from the East Hawdon River.  
**List closes 15 Sept.**

22 Sept Sunday *	<b>Mt Wall</b> <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31534/Mount-Wall/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31534/Mount-Wall/Canterbury</a> A moderate climb of this 1874m peak starting well up the Broken River ski road. We descend via a handy scree. <b>Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>	<b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b>  <b>Approx cost \$17</b>
28-29 Sept  **	<b>Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut</b> <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32110/Avalanche-Peak/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32110/Avalanche-Peak/Canterbury</a> A popular crossing from AP village to the Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak. <b>List closes 22 Sept.</b>	<b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b>
29 Sept Sunday *	<b>Mt Bealey—Avalanche Peak</b> <a href="http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32110/Avalanche-Peak/Canterbury">http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32110/Avalanche-Peak/Canterbury</a> A moderate- hard climb to 1836m Mt Bealey, along to Lyell Peak and on to 1833m Avalanche Peak. <b>Call Calum for details</b>	<b>Calum McIntosh 376 6133</b>  <b>Approx cost \$23</b>

## TRIP REPORTS

### Mt Lance via Tommy's cabin – Sunday, 26 May 2019

Double Tops Road is shown on the map, but as we bumped along it, we decided it should be described as a track. We were able to park right by Tommys Cabin then set off on a clockwise circuit. Morning tea was near Point 593, then we climbed a ridge to Mt Lance (778m) for lunch in the sun. Going down, patches of scrub on a spur made us zig-zag to reach a farm track. Some of our group saw a chamois and two large pigs.

Our attempt to follow Tommy's Stream back to the cars was quickly abandoned in the face of dense scrub. The farm track was the way to go. Back at the cabin, Tommy was still nowhere to be seen, though when we visited in the morning, we saw a big rat. This is a good, easy-moderate walk in volcanic Canterbury foothills.

Thanks go to Bruce for suggesting it and leading. We were: **Bruce Cameron (leader) , Diane Dixon, Stuart Payne, Sue Piercey, Shi Ping Wang, Helen Harkness, Ian Healey, Norman Burden, Kerry Moore....** 🏠 KM



Figure 1. Tea break with Mt Lance in the background. Photo courtesy of Norman Burden



Figure 2. Tommys Cabin. Ivy on the chimney is now dead, so are the nearby willows. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore



## Nina River – Boscawen Saddle – Queen’s Birthday Weekend, 1 – 3 June 2019

I hadn’t been over Boscawen Saddle before, and not to Christabel Hut for ages, so I was keen to lead this trip. Kerry had been there twice, and was quick to caution me about the route down to the Robinson and Blue-Grey rivers. Bill Templeton also commented about the time factor at this time of year. But my immediate concern was the storm at the beginning of the weekend. However, the forecast promised better weather further west and clearing Sunday and Monday. Once again, the forecasters were spot on.

With five in my wagon, we headed north after the final pick up at Ian’s place. Somewhere up the Waiau valley a returning vehicle driver advised that the road was closed and we followed other cars in turning around and driving back east thinking about Plan B. But eventually, we decided to see for ourselves and turned around again. Yes, the road was closed at Engineer’s Camp and Downers were saying three hours before they planned to open it. But I walked up the long queue and after promising we were only going as far as Palmer Lodge, the Downers bloke was happy for us to sail up the side of the queue and drive on.



Figure 3. The restored Nina Bivvy. Photo courtesy of Merv Meredith

So a late start walking at 11.20am.

There was a token flurry of snow just before we left and some light drizzle for a little while after, and that was it for the weekend and no wind. Once up to the swing bridge for the crossing to the true right and up to Nina Hut, we continued on the true left track, still well marked but often a pain getting on and off open river terraces. But we were running late and we were going to arrive at the Upper Nina Bivvy in the dark. Using our head torches, travel wasn’t easy. Ian was up front finding the way, and we were all happy to arrive at the bivvy at about 7.30pm.

The Upper Nina Bivvy was recently restored by Permolat, and it now sports a woodshed and a toilet. Luxury! Ian and Peter put up a tent in a snow free spot, and I claimed the floor in the bivvy. It was a late night and a late dinner. Getting the fire going wasn’t hard, but with no wind outside to create a draft the bivvy filled with smoke.

### SUNDAY

At this time of year, departing from the bivvy in the dark is not easy so it was 8.00am, before we left under blue skies and continued up the Nina Valley. The side stream we wanted to go up is No.5 on the true right. Three hours later, travel up the Nina River and side stream was not easy. We had a close encounter with a deer and her teenager about here.



Figure 4. View from Boscawen Saddle looking across the headwaters of the Blue- Grey River to the Robinson River route. Photo courtesy of Merv Meredith

After an hour and a half up No 5 stream, the sides steepened up as we approached the bushline, and the Boscawen ridge was visible up ahead. By 1.00pm, it was time for me to discuss a turnaround. But there was a certain feeling in the group about continuing on. Again Ian led the way, plugging steps in the soft snow. By now we were getting wind from the east behind us coming up over the ridge. Finally, about 3.00pm we came over the ridge with a blue sky to the west and the snow covered route around to the Robinson track down into the Blue Grey River, set out in front of us in glorious white.

One suggested route over to the Robinson track is to go 50m up the ridge to Mt Boscawen before turning off west and sidling a scree slope over to the flattish tops to meet the track coming up from the Robinson River on the ridge crest. We even tried it. Or at least Peter went 5 metres in that direction, plowing a channel in the snow. By now, it was obvious our only option was to retrace our steps down the stream. We weren't going to get anywhere near the bivvy before dark. Maybe a terrace in the bush for a tent site? We didn't get to a terrace but it's amazing what you find when you have to. At 5.30pm, we found two promising looking spots by the stream, plus a bivvy ledge on the bank for me. Peter produced a long plastic sheet to make a roof for me. Dan's turn to cook, and it was after 8.00pm before got into our bags under a starry night.

#### MONDAY

From our campsite, it was going to be another long day. But it would be good if we could get to the Nina swingbridge before dark, so I was niggling occasionally to keep moving. Up at daylight and walking by 8.50am, it took 25 minutes to get down No 5 stream to the junction with the Nina River. Then we were back at the Nina Bivvy by 11.50am for an early lunch in rather cool conditions. We didn't reach the swingbridge until 5.55pm. Definitely dark, but the last section of track on the true left hadn't been hard. By now, we were shuffling the walking order to suit whose head torch was still doing the best. Dan's big searchlight had faded, but Ian's was still doing well. Swapping to the spare batteries would have been good, but would add to walking time so it didn't happen. Walking in the dark, it's amazing what you don't recognise on a familiar track, but it was a great relief to see the swingbridge coming in to sight. Back at the lodge and our vehicle by 8.05pm and all is well.

Not quite. Eventually unpacked, gear sorted and all squeezed back into the car, it wouldn't start. The snow conditions had killed the battery. After talking around the situation we knew if we weren't going to spend a night camped under the lodge verandah, we needed a helpful passing motorist. One with jumper leads because I still hadn't bought new ones for this car. Dan did a great job getting us organised. We pushed the

car out to the highway, put the bonnet up and shined the head torches on it. Dan then walked 30m back up the highway so he could wave. And we waited, the flow of traffic had finished. Then along came a modern 4WD, sailed passed, then, oh joy, braked, turned around and came back. A youngish bloke with a mud covered high tech MTB on a high tech bike rack on the back. And the inside a sight to behold with all sorts of gear and supplies. Dan did the talking. Would he possibly have jumper leads? "I think I have a set of them" Of course he did. A modern heavy duty set suited to both our vehicles. Dan again got us organised and my battery only needed a quick kick to get it back to normal. Our good Samaritan departed with our many, many thanks and the thought that we must make sure we each return the favour next time the situation is reversed, and that the ONLY vehicle that came along STOPPED for us!

So finally at 9.00pm, we left Palmer Lodge. The only food place that was open was the McDonalds sitting out in the empty Ravenswood subdivision, north of Woodend. With me in the driving seat, it was a slightly comical experience relaying messages between the young person at the other end of the intercom and our carload. Particularly when he had a set routine about how many orders we could have against each order. But we got it sorted and the meal was very welcome, sitting out in their carpark. Back around the drop offs and home not too long after midnight.

We had time to mull over the trip. From start to finish we had all sorts of obstacles throw up, but one by one we got over them, including with the help of our Good Samaritan. I don't think any of us regret continuing on up to the Boscawen Ridge and having that view to the west.

But if you do ever get asked to lead a Nina River –Boscawen Saddle – Lake Christabel trip, make sure it's in the summer with 12 hours of daylight and little snow!

We were: **Merv Meredith(leader), Diane Mellish, Dan Pryce, Ian Umbers & Peter Umbers.** 🏔️ MM

## **Stony Bay Stream, Hinewai Circuit – Saturday 22 June 2019**



*Figure 5. Late morning and the 8 trampers. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.*

From Akaroa the cars turned up Stony Bay Road at the well-known BNZ landmark. We parked at the top of this winding and narrow road/track at Stony Bay Saddle. The forest track starts very close to the saddle and leads down alongside Stony Bay Stream. Doug, our able leader and guide called a tea-break when we crossed the stream and got on a farm track at the physical low-point of our walk.

A steep climb along a fence adjacent to Marks Bush on Armstrong, then Narbey farm land got us to the Stony Bay ridge-top where we crossed the fence to The Stones, though on 'Topomap' it's just Point 518. We found a way up to this natural rock wall and walked along it. With gorse and scrub all around it, walking its length is the only way to progress onto the Stones Track. While we were eating lunch, we had surprise visitors—Graham, Chris and John caught up with us. Our 7:30 meeting at the Princess Margaret car-park was in darkness and the three stragglers hadn't seen us assemble.



Figure 6. Lunch time and our numbers had swelled to eleven. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore

was keeping an eye on the time as this was the shortest day. When we got below Stony Bay Peak and caught up with three “hares” he was reassured that we’d make it with daylight to spare and wouldn’t have to go looking for the sprinters.

This is a great circuit with excellent coastal views and a super variety of vegetation. Hugh Wilson has labelled the major tree varieties. You don’t expect to see red and silver beech on the peninsula.

Many thanks for leading the trip, Doug.

We were: **Doug Forster( leader), Sue Piercey, Susan Brechin, Hilaire Campbell, Peter Umbers, Shi Ping Wang, Norman Burden, Graham Townsend, Chris Leaver, John Robinson and Kerry Moore 🏔️ KM**

Stony Bay Ridge looks like it would be the logical way to Stony Bay Peak, but gorse has overgrown any track that may have been there. The Stones Track took us down to Hinewai’s Lisburn Track and on to Broom and Manatu Tracks.

The Brocherie Flat car park and Purple Peak Track was familiar to most of us and led to Stony Bay Peak. Climbing the peak was the shortest way back to the cars so we got a good view of the harbour, bathed in the golden light of a low sun. During the day Doug