



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter*
**November
2019**

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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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			



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. 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.

Tuesday, 12 November 	FMC Travel Club trip to the Dolomites and Switzerland - Margot Bowden Trekking across Northern Italy from the Dolomites, around Lakes Garda and Como, followed by the Aosta Valley then Zermatt, Lauterbrunnen and Lucerne in Switzerland, covers a wide range of scenery and experiences. Margot Bowden and Gary Huish joined the FMC Travel Club guided trip in June/July 2019. Come and hear Margot describe the highs and low-downs of this exciting trip. <i>Supper Duty: Sue Britain</i>
Tuesday, 10 December 	PTC Classic Christmas Evening Come along meet your friends, share some Christmas punch, tell tall tales of the year past and your expectations for the next tramping year. We will have a short quiz to test some of those memories and refresh those recollections. Please bring a plate of Christmas goodies for a shared supper.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, 19 November	<p>Halswell Wetlands and Dinner</p> <p>Follow the newly created walkway/cycleway from Milns Road, Halswell, along Sparks Road and explore the new wetlands reserve on Hendersons/Sparks Roads. Meet at 6pm at the start of the walkway/cycleway on Milns Road at the James Hight Drive intersection. There is plenty of parking on the roadside.</p> <p>Dinner is at 7.15pm at Hoi An House (Vietnamese Restaurant), 265 Halswell Avenue, Halswell. For the menu see: http://hoianhouse.co.nz.</p> <p>There is no need to book for the walk, but for dinner please contact Margot by Saturday 16 November. Email - margot.bowden@gmail.com, or phone 332 7020.</p>
Tuesday, 17 December	<p>Cashmere Walk and BBQ</p> <p>For the last social event of 2019 wander around one of the newer suburbs on Cashmere Hill followed by a BBQ at Margot and Gary's house. Meet at 5 Patchett Place, Cashmere Hill, at 6pm for the walk, followed by a BBQ at 7pm. Please park on Hackthorne Road, opposite the entrance to Patchett Place. For the BBQ, bring your own meat and a salad or dessert to share.</p> <p>Please let Margot know if you are coming to the BBQ by Sunday 15 December. Email: margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020.</p>
Wednesday, 15 January 2020	<p>Governors Bay coastal walk then dinner at the Hotel.</p> <p>Meet at Governors Bay Jetty at 6.00 pm to walk to Allandale and back, along the coast. It's about an hour return, with interesting rock formations and birds. No dogs please. If it's a hot day you might like a swim. Dinner will be at 7.15 pm at the Governors Bay Hotel, 52 Main Rd, Governors Bay.</p> <p>http://www.governorsbayhotel.co.nz/index.php/86-governors-bay-hotel/148-menu</p> <p>Names for the dinner to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com by Sunday 12 January. If the weather is bad we will still have dinner, perhaps arriving earlier for a drink first. There is no need to book if you just want to do the walk.</p> <p>http://www.governorsbayhotel.co.nz/images/GBH_Logos/mainlogo.jpg</p>

PTC Club Picnic

Remember, remember Sunday 15 of December,
 Club picnic, games and fun!
 Hurrah for Motukarara,
 Our venue's the same, still with sun.
 So pack up the tucker,
 Polish up the skills,
 And let the fun of the games begin!
 P.S. spectators are greatly valued
 P.P.S. Can we double our 2018 numbers?
 Keith and Marion McQuillan

President's notes

I often sign off with '....and keep on tramping'. Well we've been trying, but the weather has been quite uncooperative lately and I seem to be keeping on gardening weekend after weekend! A very pleasant alternative and my garden is looking lovely, but it is hard to keep the fitness up and I miss the camaraderie. Hoping for a better hit rate on trips this coming month but it sounds like the Indian Ocean Dipole Effect will still be working against us by driving the westerlies through. Anyway, we always have club meetings and social activities to keep us entertained, though it would be good to see a bigger turnout at many of these events.

This time I'm signing off withand keep on doing what makes you happy if it's too wet or windy to go tramping!

Diane Mellish

The November night sky

Low over the southern horizon after sunset we see the Southern Cross and the two Pointers, with the bright white star Canopus (Autahi) further east. Above them are the Greater and Lesser Magellanic Clouds – faint glowing patches that are actually dwarf galaxies, outside our own Milky Way galaxy, but still relatively close – about 180,000 and 210,000 light years away respectively.

The fairly bright blue-white star Fomalhaut is almost overhead around 10 pm, and in the south-east Achernar shines brightly too.

Planets: Venus is low in the evening sky after sunset, with Jupiter a little above it, and Saturn higher still among the stars of Sagittarius. Towards the end of the month, Venus and Jupiter will be very close and should make an impressive sight especially on 24th; after that, Venus will be higher than Jupiter. Mid way through November, orange Mars rises in the pre-dawn sky, but it's not very bright.

Moon phases: 1st quarter 4th, full moon 13th, 3rd quarter 20th, new moon 27th.

Graham Townsend

2020 Subscriptions

2020 subscription renewal forms will be sent out to PTC members in the December Footnotes post out for hardcopy members and emailed to electronic members. Subscription rates remain the same as 2019, i.e. \$40 for hardcopy members and \$30 for electronic members.

Please note: Kiwibank will no longer accept cheques from 28 February 2020, so any payment of subscriptions after that date will need to be either paid directly into our Kiwibank account or paid in cash.

Mike Bourke (Treasurer PTC)

Deadline for the December – January newsletter: 1 December 2019 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 26 November 2019.

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.

9 Nov. **Arthurs Pass Workday**

Saturday Names to Merv 322 7239

Based in Arthurs Pass Village these workdays will focus on lupin removal. Call Merv to see if we can organise a carload. We can go for one day only or all four days.

9-10 Nov. **Avoca Homestead (hut)—Back Peak—Mt Torlesse**

Honora Renwick 942 8368

- Saturday. Driving to the end of Craigieburn Rd and walking the short distance to the old Avoca Homestead. Sunday. Climbing a vehicle track towards Bold Hill, then onto the main Torlesse ridge, past Otarama Peak, to Back Peak and over to Mt Torlesse. Exiting down Kowai River to the big pines. Moderate-hard. Anyone wanting an easy weekend can explore the mining relics up Broken River and help by picking up the energetic ones
- List closes 3 Nov.**

10 Nov. **Kaituna—Mt Herbert—Packhorse**

Sunday Geoff Korver 355 3905

- A moderate circuit started at the top end of Kaituna Valley climbing to the Te Ara Pataka Track, to Herbert Peak, the shelter, Packhorse Hut and down the track to Kaituna Valley.
- 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd Approx. cost \$7**

15-18 Nov. **McKerrow Range**

Show Weekend

Raymond Ford 351 9496 fordrm@snap.net.nz

- A moderate-hard tramp above Makarora to 2002m Mt Shrimpton. Expect splendid views around Mt Aspring National Park. Camping by tarns in the McKerrow Range
- List closes 10 Nov.**

15-17 Nov. **Lawrence River, Erewhon**

Show Weekend

Kevin & Heather Hughes 332 6281

- Parking at Erewhon Station for a flat walk a little way up the Clyde, turning at the Lawrence to stay at the Lawrence Hut. The middle day gives us a chance to walk to the biv below Hells Gate.
- List closes 10 Nov.**

- 15-18 Nov. [Mt Patriarch, Wangapeka](#) Show Weekend
Chris Leaver 322 6445
 ●●●● From Rolling River road end we start along the Wangapeka track (west of Tapawera) for a preview of spectacular Mt Patriarch (1701m) then leaving the main track follow Kiwi Stream to Kiwi Saddle Hut. Basing ourselves there 2 or 3 nights, we'll climb Mt Patriarch and/or Mt Luna or just explore the Luna tops and tarns. Exiting via Stone Hut, Moderate. If the main river is low there is a Chummies Track, John Reid Hut, Kiwi Hut option as well
List closes 10 Nov.
- 17 Nov. [Okuti Valley—Montgomery Reserve](#) Show Weekend
Sunday Graeme Paltridge 384 3592
 ● An easy-moderate walk through O V Reserve, past French Hill, past Hilltop, to Montgomery Park Reserve's big totara. MPR is often bypassed but is worth a visit. <https://tramper.nz/187>
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd Approx. cost \$9
- 23-24 Nov. [Deception—Mingha](#)
Dan Pryce 356 1962
 ●● The most popular 2-day trip in Arthurs Pass National Park. A moderate walk up the bouldery Deception River past Upper Deception Hut to stay at well-sited Goat Pass Hut. Sunday we have an easier walk down the Mingha River.
List closes 17 Nov.
- 24 Nov. [Godley Peak--Mother Millers Spring](#)
Sunday Merv Meredith 322 7239
 ● Its marked on the map so we must be able to find the illusive Mother Millers Spring. A moderate-hard climb of this 2087m peak.
Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx. cost \$21
- 30 Nov. – 2 Dec. [Wheel Creek Hut—Mt Crosscut](#)
Gary Huish 332 7020
 ●●● A moderate track along Wheel Creek leads to 6 bunk Wheel Ck Hut. It's at 815m to give good access to the tussock tops of the Victoria Range and 1613m Crosscut Peak.
List closes 24 Nov.
- 30 Nov [Te Oka Reserve--Devils Gap Reserve](#)
Saturday Chris Leaver 322 6445
 ● An easy-moderate exploration of two reserves with grand views of the southern bays. Devils Gap Reserve contains impressive bluffs, and is popular with rock climbers.
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd Approx. cost \$10
- 7-8 Dec. [Carroll Hut](#)
Sue Piercey 384 9567
 ●● An easy-moderate trip for the naturalists. Enjoy Westland forest, summer flowers above the bushline and see fault scarps near Carroll Hut.
List closes 1 Dec.
- 8 Dec. [Mt Norma](#)
Sunday Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ● A moderate climb to this 1722m peak above the Nina River in the Lewis Pass area
Call before noon Saturday so we can minimize transport costs Approx. cost \$24

- 14-17 Dec.** [Mt Franklin](#)
Raymond Ford 351 9496 fordrm@snap.net.nz
 ●●●● Starting from Lake Tennyson, we will cross into the Sabine Valley, and climb Mt Franklin from Blue Lake. If time and weather permits, returning via the Matakita Valley and Enid Pass. Moderate-hard. Crampons and ice axe will probably be needed.
List closes 8 Dec.
- 15 Dec.** [End of Year Picnic](#)
Sunday Keith, Marion McQuillan 384 6164
 Waihora Park, Motukarara. A day of fun and games. Games will include: petanque, badminton, french cricket, darts, coits and games you remember as a kid. Bring or suggest other games we can play. Picnic from 10am. Last year's event was a hoot.
- 22-23 Dec.** [Kellys Creek—Mt Barron](#)
Jane Liddle 384 7818
 ●● We walk up the Kellys Creek Track, over Hunt Saddle to stay at Hunts Creek Hut. Exiting Sunday over Mt Barron
List closes 15 Dec.
- 5 Jan 2020** [Omahu Bush](#)
Sunday Diane Dixon 359 9170
 ● The reserve has a variety of tracks plus, nearby is Coopers Knob and Gibraltar Rock. Easy.
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd Approx. cost \$2
- 3-5 Jan. 2** [Casey Tarn, Birdwood Range](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
 ●●● Parking at Ryton Station. A moderate climb onto the Birdwood Range to camp high at Casey Tarn. Exiting via Triangle Creek, Avoca River and Gargarus Saddle.
List closes 15 Dec.
- 11-13 Jan.** [South Ashburton River – Cameron River](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
 ●●● A moderate walk to this glacier in the impressive Arrowsmith Range. The Ashburton Glacier feeds the South Branch of the Ashburton River.
List closes 5 Jan.
- 11-13 Jan.** [Nuns Veil, Liebig Range](#)
Peter Umbers 359 9118
 ●●● We travel down Friday night and camp near Lake Pukaki. Saturday, cross Tasman lake or river and camp up Gorilla Stream. Sunday, climb TtheNuns Veil and walk to cars then home
List closes 5 Jan.
- 11 Jan.** [Timutimu Head - Scenery Nook](#)
Saturday Jillian Fulcher 351 4189
 ● Easy-moderate tramp over peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Then on to a natural tidal seal swimming pool at Scenery Nook. Impressive red volcanic rock
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd Approx. cost \$14
- 18-19 Jan** [Klondyke—North Rahu](#)
Chris Leaver 322 6445
 ●● Moderate tramp from Rahu Saddle in Victoria Forest Park. Camping out in a tarn basin below some 1500m peaks. A round trip, dropping into Klondyke Stream for the return trip. Some great views of the surrounding area from the tops.
List closes 12 Jan.

- 19 Jan **Boby Stream - Onepunga Falls**
Sunday Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ● An easy walk up Onepunga Stream to the falls.
Meet 8:00am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx. cost \$10**
- 25 - 5 Feb. **Alpine Trip**
Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727, 03 329 0008 ggeeoooffss@gmail.com
 ●●●●●●● Franz and the Goatpath route to Almer Hut, or up the Paringa River to Fox Glacier. For more
 ●● details see the August Footnotes.
List closes 12 Jan.
- 25 Jan. **Prebble Hill - Cave Stream**
Saturday Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
 ● Easy-moderate wade along Cave Stream as it flows 360m underground and emerges to join Broken River. Be prepared for wet and cold conditions. Take a torch and a second one for backup if you have one, and a dry set of clothes to change into later. We'll also go up Prebble Hill with its fascinating sculpted limestone
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$16**
- 25-26 Jan. **Sudden Valley**
 ●● **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
 An easy-moderate up and back trip to visit this scenic valley. Camping at the bivvy.
List closes 19 Jan.
- 25-26 Jan. **Discovery Stream—Sudden Valley**
 ●● **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 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 19 Jan.
- 26 Jan. **Cape Three-points—Mt Bossu**
Sunday **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
 ● An easy-moderate walk from Akaroa Harbour to Bossu Road and the striking 712m Mt Bossu.
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd **Approx cost \$13**
- 1-2 Feb. **Crow Hut**
 ●● **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 Crossing braids of the Waimak then walking up the Crow River to a good hut surrounded by some of the park's big peaks
List closes 26 Jan.
- 2 Feb. **Mt Evans**
Sunday **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
 ● 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
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd **Approx cost \$7**
- 6-11 Feb. **Three Tarn Pass-Matakitaki Rr-D'Urville Pass**
 ●●●●● **Diane Mellish 337 5530**
 A moderate but long trip starting at the Lewis end of St James WW and going over Three Tarn Pass to the Upper Matakitaki then to D'Urville Pass, Thompson Pass and Maling Pass
List Closes 28 Jan.

Black Hill, Rakaia –Sunday, 1 September 2019

(Yes, a snow trip that DID go on the planned Sunday in good weather)

The Black Hill trip has historically left town at 7.00am to allow for a long drive into the Rakaia valley and the climb to the top from the former old quarry site, if we could manage to drive there at all. Then depending on the route option taken and the month, often pushed the daylight hours. But the logistics have changed substantially a number of years back. The farmer split the farm, completely rebuilt the road around the quarry including a sidle of Redcliffe Hill eventually making it possible to drive right in to the old musterers' hut. The 'old hut' has had a complete upgrade including toilet and shower, maybe for quarry operation accommodation. The farmer was happy for us to drive in, so what was a long day has now potentially become a relatively short day, depending on conditions and the route/circuit taken to the top.



Figure 1. Angela arriving at the final ridge before the summit of Black Hill. Photo courtesy of Merv Meredith.

This time we still left Church Corner at 7.00am and met Angela and Jan at the Blackford Rd (South Bank) turn off at 8.00am. It was a straightforward drive up to the rebuilt hut.

Felt a little like cheating though as we started walking from there at the 900m level, at 9.10am. Taking the usual 'direct' route up the broad face south of Packers Creek then sidling around to approach Black Hill from the east, despite the softish snow we reached the peak at 12.30pm. Shelter for lunch from a moderate westerly wind was easy, just down a little on the lee side. Our view included the Porters Pass fire burning all day across the Rakaia valley.

Descending to the south over 1971m and down the spur from 1934m was the obvious circuit down, but the temptation to take the easiest route retracing our tracks in the snow, was too much. Halfway down the weather was too good to leave and maybe we shouldn't have wimped out and gone for the circuit. We were back down to our vehicles at the fancy hut by about 3.30pm and most of us home by 6.00pm.

We were: **John Allan, Bridget Barclay, Jan Finlayson, Doug Forster, Angela Grigg, Jane Liddle, Merv Meredith (leader), Kerry Moore, and Peter Umbers.** 🏔️ MM.

Mt Wall, Craigieburn Range – Sunday, 22 September 2019

(Another day trip that went on the planned day AND in almost perfect weather)

This is a classic circuit starting from the tractor shed on the Broken River ski field road, up through the ski field, sidling out to the true right of the basin to gain the top ridge, and travelling south to the gnarly ridge leading back east to Mt Wall. From the peak itself, the piece de resistance is then the fast descent on the scree running ALL the way down to adjacent to the tractor shed.



Figure 2. On the Mt Wall ridge, look back of the steep gut. Photo courtesy of Merv Meredith.

Away from the tractor shed at 9.20am the ski field was still operating and the six of us sidled left as much as possible to stay clear of skiers. We put crampons on early to get up the shaded snow track above the bushline and kept them on even though the snow was soft away from the ski field. On the top ridge by 11.50am, we stopped at 12.20pm at a lovely spot for lunch in the 1884m area.

South of 1884m, the horizontal ridge leading to Mt Wall was as usual, gnarly in partial snow cover but enjoyable. On 1874m Mt Wall at 2.30pm, it was then time to step off the side and start the run down. The scree delivered once again, and we were back at the cars by 4.00pm.

The six of us were: **Bridget Barclay, Laurayne Devery, Mafi Gehrig, Merv Meredith(leader), Kerry Moore and Shi-Ping Wang.** 🏔️ MM.

Charing Cross - Sunday 6 October 2019

The cars crossed the Hurunui River bridge took the first left through Eyrewell Forest, and kept driving straight all the way to Cascade Creek, near where it joins the Pahau River. We were able to park through a gate, off the road, then, booted-up, climb a winding vehicle track topped with coarse limestone gravel. The area seems to have fine and coarse-grained igneous rock and limestone and has been well studied by geologists. (Click here for [Geology](#) notes.)

Near the 1000m top we went off-track to get onto a useful spur. We had lunch on the peak amidst little patches of snow piled on the south side of tussocks. To the north we could see snow-capped Mount Tekoa and Te Kooti beckoning. Half our group went back the way we'd come and the rest went down the spur that

leads to Point 759, getting to the Cascade Valley floor, for a flat walk to the cars. By chance the groups arrived within minutes of each other.

This was an enjoyable 670m easy-moderate climb on a perfect blue-sky day, shared by:

We were: **Jill Fenner (leader) Helen Harkness, Katie Nimmo, Donna Wisby, Dan Pryce, Shi-Ping Wang, Sacha Baldwin, Tim Hines, Andrea Goebel, Joy Schroeder, Diane Dixon, Graeme Nicholas, Peter Umbers, John Robinson, Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Figure 3. Looking to Mt Tekoa and Te Kooti. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

Lyndon Saddle – Craigieburn Valley Circuit - Sunday 13 October 2019

Six of us assembled at Church Corner and headed west in two cars. Shi-Ping Wang and Kerry made a pie-stop at Sheffield for a meaty breakfast, then drove on join the others at Springfield and to pick up John.

We parked at the Craigieburn Campsite shelter on the Broken River ski road and set off to Lyndon Saddle on Mistletoe Track, then up to 1256m Helicopter Hill.

We had a cuppa up in the clouds, with minimal visibility down to Castle Hill Village.



Figure 4. Looking towards Camp Saddle. Photo courtesy of Shi-Ping Wang

Back down at the saddle we headed along a part of the Luge Track, then onto the Craigieburn Edge Track which crosses some impressive scree. Lunch was eaten on a scree, with a fine view to the other side of the valley. We passed the turn-off for Camp Saddle and ski huts, well set into beech forest, as we headed for the base of a snow-depleted Craigieburn Ski-field. Norman pointed us onto a bush track which bypasses a big loop of the ski-road. A locked gate well down the ski road meant we had the road to ourselves. A few spots of rain began as we neared the Sidle 73 Track which took us back to the cars through, dead, herbicide-sprayed pines, then beech forest. The 73 track has a patch with lots of seedling pines. We plucked quite a few.

This is a good, easy-moderate circuit with very little climbing once you've done the 350m to Lyndon Saddle. Our seven were: **Jill Fenner, Wendy McCaughan, Kerry Moore, Shi Ping Wang, Dan Pryce, John Robinson, Norman Burden (leader)** 🏔️ NB

Ben More (1665m) in the Big Ben range - Saturday, 26 October 2019

Labour Weekend was approaching with forecasts causing two club trips to be cancelled, as well as my private trip to the West Coast. So I rang around the frustrated trampers and organised a day trip for Saturday, which looked fine.

After a succession of disappointments with weather-induced cancellations this spring, it was great to get out and climb something. Six of us cheerfully chatted and climbed, with leisurely morning tea and lunch breaks tucked behind rocks out of an insistent breeze. Although sunny and warm, from midday the wind built rapidly, and it was a struggle working our way along the summit ridge. However, the views from up there are amazing, a full 360 degree panorama including plains, lakes, alps and all our well-loved local ranges and peaks. With the bright blue sky above, royal blue lakes, vivid green plains and sparkling white alps, it is a beautiful sight that inspires happiness and a sense of great space and freedom.

We all enjoyed the day out and were glad to be working on our fitness.

We were: **Diane Mellish (leader), Trevor Wratten, Gary Huish, Jane Liddle, Raymond Ford, Peter Umbers.**

🏔️ DM



Figure 5. Approaching Ben More. Rakaia River in the distance. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

Rhyolite Track—Woolshed Creek Hut—Coalmine Track Sunday 3 November 2019

Expecting a 30°C day and after a late-night watching rugby, members stayed away in droves, but a car-load of intrepid trampers headed for Woolshed Creek car park. Off by 10:15am, our leader Norman chose to go up the Rhyolite track in the relative cool of the day. It must have been a mere 29C then!

We passed a lot of people walking down. They told us the Woolshed Creek Hut was fully booked on Saturday night. A climb of 470m got us to the volcanic rock overhang/cave known and sign-posted as the BUS STOP. Darcy and Norman had prior knowledge that it had been vandalised with marker pens, so they were on a mission to clean the sign. Out came meths and turps to erase most of the graffiti. A job well done.

A three-minute detour at Tri-Falls Stream got us to a superb waterfall with its cooling fine spray. Little detours from the track to Woolshed Creek Hut allowed us to see other waterfalls, then we crossed the suspension bridge and walked on to the hut. The breeze outside the hut was preferable to the warmth indoors, but Kerry ventured inside and started a game of chess with an eight-year-old Japanese boy. It was going badly for Kerry after 15 minutes but Norman came to the rescue. “Time to go”. A face-saving exit for the elder player. The glass chess set lives at the hut but lacks a black king and black knight.

We climbed up and along the sunny Coalmine Track, stopping a few times to read the signs or rest in the shade and got back to the car at 5pm. We drove past the Mt Somers shop in favour of the Staveley Store. Alas the store was closed, so next stop was the Chalk house in West Melton. Many thanks to Norman for his guidance on this reminder of what summer tramping can be like.

At the end of the day **Norman Burden (leader), Darcy Mawson, Gavin Chalk and Kerry Moore** thought the effort was well rewarded. Note that the Mt Somers Walkway Huts need to be booked in the warmer months.

🏠 KM



Figure 6. Woolshed Creek Hut. Photo courtesy of Norman Burden.