



*PTC Monthly  
Newsletter  
February 2020*

<b>PTC</b>	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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<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.

<b>Tuesday, 11 February</b> 	<b>Club Members Photo Night</b> Come and share your tramping photos with fellow club members. Book in (early) your 10 minute (or less) presentation with Brian Smith. <a href="mailto:brian21x@xtra.co.nz">brian21x@xtra.co.nz</a> Assemble your presentation and bring it to club night on a flash drive or laptop, and give it to Brian, by 7.30pm <i>Supper Duty: Peter Carson &amp; Kathy Stanley</i>
<b>Tuesday, 10 March</b> 	<b>AGM and Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan travels - Raymond Ford</b> After the AGM, Raymond will talk about his trip to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in September 2019. Both countries are associated with the mystique of Central Asia and the Silk Road, and have a long rich histories and culture, diverse landscapes and hospitable people.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Wednesday,  
19 February  
2020**

### **Westmorland Wander followed by dinner at Protocol**

Enjoy an evening walk exploring the Westmorland area. Meet at Sedgwick Reserve, Sedgwick Way, off Penruddock Rise at 6pm. Explore the local reserves with views of the Canterbury Plains. Dinner will be at Protocol, 2 Colombo St, Cashmere, at 7.15 pm. Bring a snack if you get hungry before then. Protocol has a dinner menu and bar snacks. Check out the menu at <http://www.protocoloncolombo.co.nz/restaurant>.

Names for the dinner to Maureen Thompson by Sunday 16 February [021 266 5778](tel:0212665778) or [mothompson1212@gmail.com](mailto:mothompson1212@gmail.com). There is no need to book if you are just coming for the walk. If wet, we'll do the dinner anyway.

## NOTES

### **Notice of 2020 AGM**

The PTC 88<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, on: **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 starting promptly at 7.30pm, prior to our normal Club night**

The agenda will include:-

#### **1. Election of Officers and Executive members**

Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available at the door.

#### **2. Notified motions**

Note that any member wishing to give notice of a motion for consideration at the AGM should forward their notice to the Secretary *at, or prior to, our 11<sup>th</sup> February club night.*

The complete AGM agenda, including any Notices of Motion received, will be circulated on Communicator in late February

**Merv Meredith, Secretary.** [secretary@ptc.nz](mailto:secretary@ptc.nz)

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

Well what an amazing summer it is now and I know lots of club members are making up lost time in the hills. I finally got my Gorgy Creek trip away after two years of trying! It was fantastic. But I was nervously checking my boots at regular intervals and although relatively new, there are some bits that need a spot of glue before my next trip. I have heard of a number of serious mid-trip boot failures in recent times. At the risk of sounding like an old fogey, I reckon they don't make boots like they used to! Anyway, whatever age your boots are, it seems like we should all give them a good inspection before each trip to avoid unnecessary dramas on the tracks.

Keep on smiling, keep on tramping, and send your nominations for the AGM through to Merv Meredith.

**Diane Mellish**

### ***The February night sky***

The bright constellation Orion is high in the northern evening sky, with brilliant Sirius nearby and bright Canopus almost overhead. The triple-starred belt of Orion is boxed in by a rough oblong of bright stars, including bluish Rigel and orange Betelgeuse. Both stars are massive, therefore undergoing fusion at a furious rate, and therefore short-lived and likely to end as a supernova. Rigel is bluish because it has a very hot surface. Betelgeuse is huge - its radius is about 1000 times that of our Sun. It's much further on in its

lifecyle – a red giant. Sometime - next week or a million years from now, nobody knows – it'll go supernova and for a few months it'll rival the full moon for brightness. The tiniest stars – orange dwarfs much smaller than our Sun – live longest; the meek shall inherit the universe.

The Southern Cross and the two pointers are high in the S.E. sky. The two dwarf galaxies (Greater and Lesser Magellanic Clouds) are visible as faint clouds, like detached bits of the Milky Way, S.W. of Canopus.

The only planet easily visible in the evening sky is silvery Venus, in the west after sunset. Pre-dawn, bright Jupiter is rising in the east with orange Mars a little higher and Saturn a little lower.

Moon phases: 'first quarter' ( $\frac{1}{2}$  illuminated) on Feb 2, full moon on 8<sup>th</sup>, last quarter on 16<sup>th</sup>, new moon on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Graham Townsend**

## **2020 Subscriptions**

A reminder to please pay your subscriptions if you have not already done so. The subscription rates remain the same as 2019, i.e. \$40 for hardcopy members and \$30 for electronic members. You can pay online into account number 38-9015-0030334-00. Please put SUB in the particulars box and YOUR NAME in the Reference box.

**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)**

## **Membership**

The club accepts with regret the following resignations: Carol Crawford, Sabina Crellin, Elizabeth Osauskas, and Wendy Dann, and welcomes back re-joining member - Ian Beale.

**Deadline for the March newsletter:** 29 February 2020 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford [fordrm@snap.net.nz](mailto:fordrm@snap.net.nz)

**Next Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

## **FORTHCOMING TRIPS**

### **Day Trips**

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town nearest to the destination. Our website [www.ptc.nz](http://www.ptc.nz) has maps of these meeting places. 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).

- 6-8 Feb**      [Cedar Flat](#)  
**Murray Hight 027 555 0059**  
 ●●● Take the Friday off and spend two nights at this choice location inland from Hokitika. A medium 4hr walk to the hut with basic hot-pools nearby  
**List closes 2 Feb**
- 9 Feb**      [Birdlings Flat - Magnet Bay](#)  
**Yvette So 348 4458**  
 ● Easy-moderate trip along the coast from Birdlings Flat to Oashore, Tokoroa, Hikuraki and Magnet Bays. Returning the same way.  
**8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd**      **Approx Cost \$7**
- 15-16 Feb**      [Hope-Kiwi Lodge](#)  
**Alison Maccoll 322 8540**  
 ●● Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in the spacious Hope Kiwi Lodge/Hut. Good track all the way through beech forest and along river terraces. If enough people go, a crossover via Lake Sumner is possible.  
**List closes 9 Feb**
- 16 Feb**      [Mount Barrosa](#)  
**Norman Burden 358 5115**  
 ● A moderate trip in the Clent Hills area up from the Ashburton Gorge Rd. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to a 1364m peak. Popular with rock hounds looking for agate.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**      **Approx Cost \$20**
- 22-26 Feb**      [Lake Unknown](#)  
**Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**  
 ●●●●● Moderate-hard trip to the area north of the Routeburn Track. Ice axe and crampons may be required. Departing the day before and staying at Glenorchy. The trip will start and finish on the Routeburn Track. We will visit Lake Unknown, Park Pass Glacier and traverse along the Serpentine Range past Lake Nerine and Lake Wilson, camping along the way. The trip dates may vary a bit depending on the weather forecast.  
**List closes 16 Feb**
- 22-26 Feb**      [Serpentine Range](#)  
**Diane Mellish 337 5530**  
 ●●●●● 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 Branch of the Routeburn River. We may do a side trip to Emily Pass. Tramping 4 days, travelling 2 days.  
**List closes 16 Feb**
- 22-23 Feb**      [Walker Pass - Tarn Col - Edwards](#)  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 ●● One of the best-known Arthurs Pass National Park tramps. This moderate trip takes in the Hawdon and Edwards valleys, a couple of attractive alpine passes and views of what's left of Falling Mountain. We need to get to Hawdon Hut on the Friday night to set us up for a longish day to Edwards Hut.  
**List closes 16 Feb**

- 23 Feb**  
**Sunday**  
● [Bealey Spur](#)  
**Joy Schroeder 351 4655**  
Popular easy-moderate walk to this historic musterers' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer fantastic views of the upper Waimakariri River and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. If time permits it is worth walking beyond the hut, further up the spur.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx Cost \$22**
- 29 Feb -2 Mar**  
●●● [Townsend Hut--Korupuku Hut](#)  
**Peter Umbers 359 9118**  
A moderate-hard trip up the Taramakau River to Townsend Hut and over to secluded Koropuku Hut. With an extra day we could go to Otehake Hot spring.  
**List closes 23 Feb**
- 1 Mar**  
**Sunday**  
● [Mount Noble](#)  
**Awaiting leader**  
An easy-moderate walk from the Lake Sumner Road to this 1220m peak  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx Cost \$17**
- 7-8 Mar**  
●● [Carroll Hut](#)  
**Awaiting leader**  
An easy-moderate trip for the naturalists. Enjoy Westland forest, visit some large tarns on Kelly Range and see fault scarps near Carroll Hut.  
**List closes 1 Mar**
- 8 Mar**  
**Sunday**  
● [Bowenvale—Victoria Park Circuit](#)  
**Wendy Wallace 338 0550**  
An easy-moderate walk on the wonderful Port Hills  
**Meet 8am Bowenvale Ave road-end**
- 13-15 Mar**  
●● [Waimakariri Falls Hut](#)  
**Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
A moderate trip up the Waimakariri River to Waimakariri Falls Hut to help Colin Wilmshurst replace the mountain radio. While Colin is doing that we can do a day trip up to Waimakariri Col, on to point 1845m then explore the upper part of the route to Gorgy Lake—ice-axe, maybe crampons, required. Day 1 camp near Campbell Ck. Day 2 side trip from Falls Hut. Day 3, out.  
**List closes 8 Mar**
- 15 Mar**  
**Sunday**  
● [Doctors Hills](#)  
**Jill Fenner 980 6228**  
So named because a local doctor used to wander there, this easy trip inland from Waikari gives views of Pyramid Valley and Moa Swamp  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx Cost \$15**
- 21-23 Mar**  
●●● [Boanerges](#)  
**Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**  
Above the Hopkins, Huxley River corner in the Ohau area is Paradise Creek which leads to 2254m Boanerges.  
**List closes 15 Mar**

- 28-29 Mar**     [Pinchgut Hut—Bobs Camp circuit](#)  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 ●●     An easy-moderate walk via Pinchgut Hut, up the Whare Track to Bobs Camp Biv then back via the Cattle Peak Route.  
**List closes 22 Mar**
- 28 Mar**     [Pines](#)  
**Saturday**     **Names to Raymond Ford 022 318 0872.**  
 ●     A satisfying day in Castle Hill Basin cutting and pulling wildings to stem the westward march of pines.  
**List closes 6pm Friday 27 Mar**     **Exact cost \$0**
- 29 Mar**     [Pinchgut—Mt Thomas](#)  
**Sunday**     **Awaiting leader**  
 ●     Starts at the Mt Thomas Wooded Gully camping area and goes up the Summit Track, past Pinchgut Hut to the Okuku ford. A car from the Bobs Camp trip can help get drivers back to Wooded Gully camping ground **or** a larger group can split in two and do a crossover. Easy-moderate.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**     **Approx Cost \$11**
- 4-5 Apr**     [Mt Somers Walkway](#)  
**Norman Burden 358 5115, 021 0228 9141**  
 ●●     An easy-moderate walkway hike in fascinating volcanic terrain, from Woolshed Creek to the Staveley end. Sign on now as bunk space in the hut has to be booked.  
**List closes 07 Mar.**
- 4 Apr**     [Godley Head Walkway](#)  
**Saturday**     **Mary McKeown 358 7717**  
 ●     An easy walk from Sumner to Godley Head.  
**Meet 0900 Sumner Clocktower**     **Approx Cost \$0**
- 10-14 Apr**     [Wilkin—Siberia--Crucible--Young](#)  
**Easter**     **Awaiting leader**  
 ●●●●     Popular moderate circuit over Gillespie Pass with a bonus side trip to Crucible Lake.  
**List closes 29 Mar.**
- 10-14 Apr**     [Golden Bay Base Camp](#)  
**Easter**     **Kevin & Heather Hughes 332 6281**  
 ●●●●●     A host of things to do in this beautiful area.  
**List closes 29 Mar**
- 10-13 Apr**     [Punakaiki, Inland Pack track, Mt Bovis](#)  
**Easter**     **Awaiting leader**  
 ●●●●     An easy-moderate fine weather walk to the Ballroom overhang and beyond.  
**List closes 29 Mar**
- 12 Apr**     [Pompeys Pillar—Red Bay](#)  
**Sunday**     **Awaiting leader**  
 ●     An easy-moderate Banks Peninsula walk to seldom visited bays.  
**8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd**     **Approx Cost \$14**



### Kaituna –Herbert Peak Circuit – Sunday, 10 Nov 2019

We placed one of the cars at the Packhorse Track car-park on Parkinsons Road, and set off with a cool breeze at our tails. At the ridge, we were on part of Te Ara Pataka track and the south wind was sending us a cold mist, forcing us to rug-up urgently. At Herbert Peak (junior) the valley cloud seemed to be dispersing and at Herbert Peak (senior) we had good views all around, yet our lunch shelter was in the mist. The vast expanse of gorse was flowering, bright yellow and aromatic.

Half the team took the short side-track to Mt Bradley while the others stayed on the TAP track. At Packhorse Hut we had a 30 minute stay before heading down the Kaituna Valley Track. Soon the predicted 4pm rain arrived and was quite steady as we reached Parkinsons Road.

Many thanks to Geoff, our leader on this pleasant Sunday walk.

We were: **Geoff & Mary Korver, John Robinson, Joy Schroeder, Penny Coffey, Peter Umbers, Sophie Toutain, Mike Dunn, and Kerry Moore ...**  **KM**



*Figure 1. Mt Bradley ablaze with gorse flower. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore*

### Mt Franklin, Nelson Lakes National Park - 12-16 December 2019

Our trip nearly ended soon after it had begun. Fortunately, this was avoided by Gary's hidden talents as a cobbler. This was the first of many challenges our party experienced during the four day tramp around Mt Franklin, Nelson Lakes National Park.

Bearing heavy packs, our party of four started up the Clarence Valley at 11:30am from the car park at Lake Tennyson. The midday sun danced on the lake's surface, highlighting the lake's exquisite turquoise colour. Immediately, our boots were wet, sidling three kilometres around the east side of the lake to the Clarence River. Once around the lake, travel was easy. We traversed tussock grasslands up the valley towards Clarence Pass. At our first rest stop, Gary noticed the sole on Jane's left boot had separated from the boot. On closer inspection, he found the same thing had occurred on the right boot. After a discussion on our options, we agreed to continue up the valley to the bottom of the pass where we stopped to see if we could effect temporary repairs to the boot. Gary, skilfully using a Swiss army knife and a piece of cord, secured the soles to each boot. The repairs were successful and enabled the party to continue the planned trip. To our surprise the

boots held together up and down scree slopes, rock scrambling, across snow and numerous river crossings, finally failing in the last hour of the trip on the traverse across soggy soft plains!



*Figure 2. Sonja and Jane climbing up to Clarence Pass. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford*

Our original plan for the first day was to climb over Clarence Pass and camp by the eastern branch of the Sabine River. Due to the unexpected delays, the lateness of the day and the distance remaining we decided to camp in a basin just below the pass at 1600m. After a bit of a scout round, we found a partially sheltered and comfortable spot amongst boulders next to a stream. During the night wind gusts consistently battered the tents, and the pass and surrounding mountains were shrouded in cloud. Fortunately the weather cleared by morning. We commenced our day with a steep climb on boulder scree up 300m to the narrow and blustery Clarence Pass, which provided spectacular views of the Mt Franklin range. This was followed by a steep and quick descent to the Sabine River.

According to Sven's guide book it was 3-4 hours of relatively easy travel down the Sabine River on the true left of the river to a track to the swing bridge on the Travers Saddle Track. Based on this information we planned to walk to Blue Lake hut and climb Mt Franklin the following day. The forest had a lot of thick undergrowth, which slowed our progress. We found it easier to cross back and forth over the river, and where possible follow old animal trails. Gary joked that this track has no 't' or capital 'T'. Raymond did a fantastic job over the course of the day safely navigating the party through the valley.

It was 6.30pm and drizzling when we finally arrived at the West Sabine Hut. To our surprise, the hut was full with a school group of 16-17 year old girls from Wellington plus a number of adults and

Te Araroa trampers. The hut was warm, but noisy, so we promptly went outside and located a couple of tent sites near the hut. Later that evening Gary taught the girls 'Zilch' and henceforth their yells of delight reverberated around the hut.

We awoke to a chorus of birdsong and a beautiful clear day. Today's route along a track with a capital 'T' promised an easier day, however due to the recent heavy rains we experienced additional challenges on the route to Blue Lake Hut. Ten minutes from the West Sabine Hut the track had been washed away and once again we were navigating through forest. Then we encountered a large slip that was unstable, steep and exposed to a river that was still running high. Raymond and Gary cut steps in the scree to ensure a safe traverse and once through this section we found the track, in good repair from this point onwards.

Our party enjoyed lunch with a spectacular outlook on the rocks at the outfall of Blue Lake and savoured the experience of drinking the crystal clear and cold water from the lake – a novelty to this Australian!! .

After lunch we climbed up the moraine at the end of Lake Constance. The Waiau Pass track climbs high up a scree slope on the western side of the lake, and then sidles round to a knoll where it descends to the lake shore with a short sidle along to the valley.





Figure 3. Party on Clarence Pass. Mt Franklin in the distance. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

Numerous Te Araroa trampers had overtaken us at the beginning of the descent. We were amused to see a young woman, from the Czech Republic, who carried a guitar on the back of her pack. We were told later by other people that she carries the instrument but she can't play it! The Te Araroa walkers set up a small tent village by the lake shore. It was crowded and exposed to the wind so we continued onwards up the valley and camped by the stream near the base of the pass.

Frost followed a cold and clear night. Raymond forgot to put his socks inside the vestibule had the double pleasure that morning putting on frozen socks and wet boots. The brisk temperatures had our party keen to climb the first steep 300m section, of our 500m climb to the pass, up towards the warm morning sunshine. A few frozen snow banks on the southern side of the pass required some step cutting in-between steeper



Figure 4. Lunch at the outlet of Blue Lake. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford



sections of rock scrambling. The Aussie in the party started a snowball fight and tramping was momentarily paused as snow and laughter filled the air.

We followed a good track on the true left of the river down to the upper forks, after which the track crosses to the true right of Waiau River and continues down the valley. There was no flood damage, and the track provided quick travel down the valley to Caroline Creek. We stopped briefly for a look at Caroline Creek Bivouac, before heading on for another hour to the new Waiau Hut. This small hut built in 2017, sleeps six people and was full - with eight Te Araroa trampers. The weather was deteriorating and the wind was picking up. We decided to carry on and find a sheltered camp site on the true left, a precaution in case river levels rose from overnight rain in the headwaters. A couple of kilometres downstream, below a large bend, we crossed the river and found a sheltered spot to camp among matagouri meadows. The neighbourhood was crowded with resident hares, mice and vociferous Canadian geese with goslings. The rain set in disturbing dinner and putting a dampener on any socialising on the final night of the trip.

Our exit from the Waiau Valley was over Maling Pass on a four wheel drive track. Below the pass, we left the road to avoid a long road walk and took a short cut to the lake across the soggy and diverse terraces and flats below Lake Tennyson. What appeared to look difficult proved to be easy going, soft under foot and pleasurable tramping for the last hour of our trip. Our final challenge was crossing the lake outlet to the waiting car. There was a sigh of relief as Raymond crossed with the water only to knee level.

Dropping packs, we laughed at Jane's boot repairs giving out one hour from the end of the trip on the soft plains, talked about the constant challenges throughout the trip and our good fortune with the weather. Thank you Raymond for organising and leading the trip.

We were: **Sonja Risa, Jane Liddle, Gary Huish, Raymond Ford (leader)** ... 🏔️ SR

## **Mt Cloudsley to Mt Enys traverse: 21 December 2019**

On the drive home, after an epic day, Jane asked me if we'd completed the longest day walk on the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. Unfortunately, we were a day too early.



*Figure 5. Descending Mt Cloudsley en route to Mt. Enys. Photo courtesy of Sonja Risa.*

The climb of 1300m, of tussock then scree, is unrelenting. As we ascended we were slowly engulfed in cloud. We wondered if we would emerge from the low cloud to a clear sky, and fortunately this occurred at 1855m. By the time we reached the summit of Mt Cloudsley the cloud started to lift and we enjoyed spectacular views from every aspect.

Jane's original trip was Kellys Creek to Mt Barron, which she cancelled due to weather and instead proposed a day walk from Mt Cloudsley to Mt Enys. Three of us took up the challenge, described in the Wilderness Magazine as 'an honest day walk involving 1900m of total climbing over 20km'.

Driving to Castle Hill Village, low cloud shrouded the mountain summits. We commenced walking, at 8:30am from the carpark, following one of the many mountain bike tracks up to the Long Spur Track, the long

After a quick lunch stop, out of the cold breeze, we continued to Mt Enys. The wide 3km ridge, dotted with patches of fresh snow, descends before a final climb to Mt Enys. Travel was easy along the tops. On the summit of Mt Enys, we briefly sat and admired the views of the Southern Alps before the cold breeze chased us away and we started our descent of Carn Brea. What appeared to be two cruxes were easily negotiated and we quickly reached Dead Mans Spur. It's a long and gradual pleasant descent down the ridge on soft scree and large patches of fresh snow to 1300m where the ridge drops steeply to Whitewater Creek.



Figure 6. Peter and Jane on the summit of Mt Enys. Photo courtesy of Sonja Risa.

Mistakenly, we choose to descend towards the east side of the ridge. We all agreed later, a route towards the west side would have been better.

From here the route crosses the creek and continues up Leith Hill saddle and drops into the head of Thomas River onto a well formed but unmarked track. We decided to climb the saddle and continue up Leith Hill then connect to the Leith Hill Loop Track that would return us to

the car park. All three of us

were a bit weary by this stage for the final ascent to Leith saddle that looked steep and challenging, however it proved to be easier than we had expected.

Once over Leith Hill we headed down to the Loop track, which eluded us till we finally stumbled over it. An easy descent on the track to the lodge and then a short walk along a gravel road returned the three of us to the beginning of our epic adventure. And that it was, a total of eleven hours with a cumulative ascent over 2kms over a distance of 20kms or more. We were tired but happy, it'd been a spectacular day out in the mountains.

We were: **Peter Umbers, Sonja Risa, Jane Liddle (leader)** .. 🏔️ SR

## Omahu Bush Sunday, 5 January 2020

Four trampers braved cold windy conditions and New Year lethargy to do the first day tramp of the year. There was a bitterly cold and gusty wind with drizzle at the Gibraltar Rock carpark. Parkas were donned and we set off into the bush.

Once in the valley we were protected from the worst of the wind and walked down the Rhodes Track and back up the Kirks Track. Back at the Summit Road the wind was still fierce and a side trip to Gibraltar Rock or Coopers Knob did not appeal so we decided to call it a day. 🏔️ **Diane Dixon (leader)**



## Klondyke Spur – Klondyke (Rahu Right Branch) valley 18 – 19 January 2020



Figure 7. Rest stop on Klondyke Spur. Photo courtesy of Norman Burden

At the obscene hour of 7 am we left Christchurch. A Culverden coffee stop meant that we arrived at the carpark near Rahu Saddle around 10.30. A steady 600 m climb through attractive bush up Klondyke Spur led us to a spell above the bushline in bright sun.

A further 200 m or so up the spur - which was easy, but narrow enough to be interesting - led to Pt. 1541m.

At this point it occurred to me that, since gravity is

merely a consequence of curved spacetime, I had no excuse to be so knackered.

We continued north along and down the ridge, then turned off eastward down snowgrass slopes to reach the basin at the valley head; total time about 6 hours. In wet weather this would be a rather boggy spot, but we had no problems finding good tent sites near the big tarn in a very attractive setting.

A froggy serenade and a starry night sky made night-time widdles profoundly rewarding. A leisurely start on Sunday gave Sue a chance to swim in the tarn. Then we headed to the true left of the outlet stream, thus skirting the steep tricky slopes directly below the tarn. Once on the valley floor, the occasional boggy bit marred an otherwise delightful track which led us through beautiful bush back to the road shortly after midday.



Figure 8. Camp by the Rahu Tar. Photo courtesy of Norman Burden

We were: **Norman Burden, Sue & Mark Piercey, Alison MacColl, Graham Townsend, Bett Koch (undercover agent for CTC), and Chris Leaver (leader)** 🏠 GT