



*PTC Monthly  
Newsletter  
September 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	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Social Events	Margot Bowden	332 7020
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Kevin Hughes	332 6281
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069		Alison Maccoll	322 8540
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239			
Editor	Raymond Ford	351 9496			



<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, 8 September</b> 	<b>'Twenty years of managing the birds on the Ashley-Rakahuri river' by Nick Ledgard, Chair, Ashley-Rakahuri River care Group Inc and BRaid (Braided river aid) Inc.</b>  The culmination of efforts by different interest groups, from bird watchers and 4WD enthusiasts to gravel extractors, working to reverse the decline in numbers of the unique birds that breed on the river.  <i>Supper duty: Maureen Thompson and Margot Bowden</i>
<b>Tuesday, 13 October</b> 	<b>Voyaging across the Pacific – Jane Robins</b> One women's journey to explore courage, where the vessel to do was a small yacht, sailing some 3, 800 miles or 6,110 kms across the Pacific Ocean from French Polynesia to Mexico.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Tuesday 15  
September**

**Hagley Park walk then pizza dinner at Maureen's**

Meet on the footpath in front of the 30A Peacock Street, central Christchurch at 6pm. Check out the lights on Park Terrace from around the world, including one from Wuhan. After a brisk walk in Hagley Park we will head back to Maureen's in time for dinner at 7.15pm.

Names for dinner by Sunday 13 September to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or [mothompson1212@gmail.com](mailto:mothompson1212@gmail.com). Link to menu:

<https://www.spagalimis.co.nz/order/?menu=takeaway>

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TO CONSIDER THE REMOVAL OF THE CLUBNIGHT DOOR CHARGE AND CONSEQUENT INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Executive unanimously recommends the following two steps:

1. The removal of the Club night door charge, currently set at \$2.00 p.p.
2. That our annual subscriptions for the 2021 year be amended as follows:-

Electronic membership increases from \$30.00 to \$35.00.

Hardcopy membership increases from \$40.00 to \$50.00.

The rationale for these proposals are:-

- 1.1. Without even considering Covid-19, no door charge removes the need for cash in an increasingly cashless society. In practical terms, it will mean the Treasurer does not have to collect, count and record the coinage, then take it to Kiwibank, eleven times annually.
- 1.2. The door charge would remain for the September, October, and November club nights, prior to the 2021 subs applying.
- 2.1. Part of the proposed subscriptions are to cover the loss of door takings, but the increase will also cover the continuing annual rise in postal costs.
- 2.2. The increase of \$10.00 in the hardcopy sub versus \$5.00 for electronic is the final step in rebalancing the two to fully account for the significantly higher actual printing and postage costs incurred for hardcopy membership.

**The SGM will commence PROMPTLY at 7.30pm prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER club night.**

The following motions from the Executive will be put by Gary Huish and seconded by our Treasurer, Mike Bourke:-

1. That the \$2.00 door charge cease, effective from the 2021 financial year.
2. That our annual subscriptions for the 2021 year be set at: - Electronic membership - \$35.00  
Hardcopy membership: -\$50.00.

Merv Meredith, Secretary

[secretary@ptc.nz](mailto:secretary@ptc.nz)

## PTC Photo competition winners

Here are the five winning entries from the club photo competition held on the August club night.

*Above the bush line with no human element winner – Raymond Ford 'Mole Tops, Nelson Lakes'*

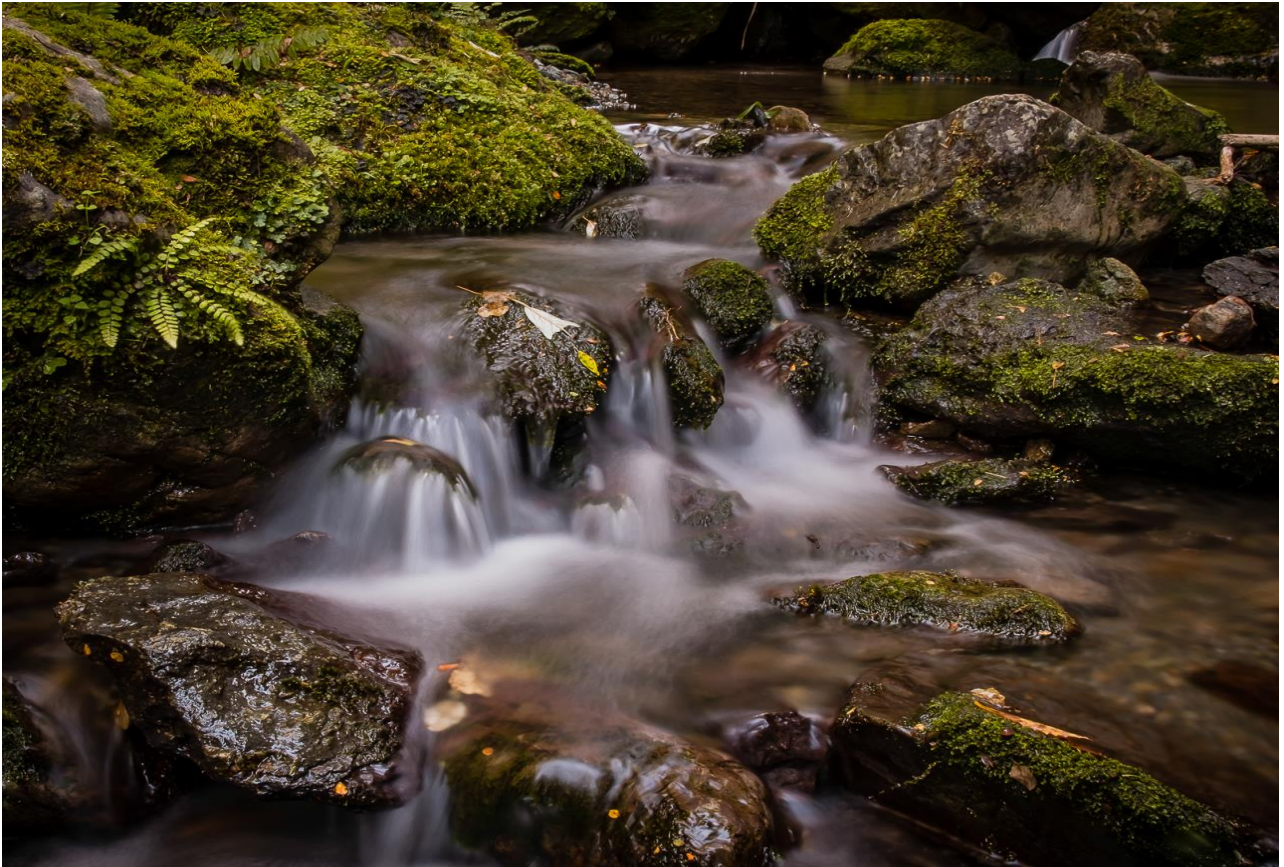


*Above the bushline with a human element winner: - Chris Leaver 'Castle Hill Peak, 20 July'*





*Below the bushline with no human element winner: – Markus Kaufmann ‘Hidden Gem’*



*Below the bushline with a human element winner: - Kerry Moore ‘Into the mist’*





## NOTES

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

The Executive Committee has reviewed the Level 2 rules, and decided we can still run our full club programme during this time. Shared transport and tents are permissible with appropriate precautions.

The behaviours required of ALL TRIP MEMBERS are:

- STAY HOME IF UNWELL.
- wash or sanitise your hands frequently.
- maintain good contact tracing, including scanning the government Covid app in cafes etc.
- check DOC's policy about hut use before you depart on a trip, and the leader signs in using the hut book.
- maintain 2 m distancing with strangers, and 1m within groups of friends, where practicable.
- wear masks if appropriate, e.g. in cars if you are concerned about proximity to others.
- take extra hygiene precautions if close contact is unavoidable e.g. in tents, cars and with shared meals

TRIP LEADERS: please brief your party clearly on the points above when you first meet and if any problems arise contact me.

So get out into the spring sunshine everyone and enjoy your tramping!

**Diane Mellish**



## ***Night sky notes – September***

Scorpius and Sagittarius - the distinctive 'winter constellations' - are still overhead in the evening sky, embedded in the Milky Way, which at this time of year runs roughly north to south. Well to the south in the Milky Way are the two Pointers and the Southern Cross.

Jupiter outshines everything in the sky, just NW of overhead, with Saturn close by a little to the east. As September progresses, Mercury will be increasingly visible low in the west, while bright orange Mars rises in the east.

The eastern evening sky shows no bright or distinctive constellations. Before sunrise, however, we can see the distinctive pattern of Orion rising, with Taurus and the Matariki star cluster a little northwards, and the Dog Star Sirius a bit to the south. The planet Venus is the brightest 'star', by far, in the dawn sky. It rises around 5 a.m.

Moon phases: full moon 2<sup>nd</sup> September, last quarter 10<sup>th</sup>, new moon 17<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Graham Townsend**

## ***Membership***

The club welcomes new member – John Jagusch.

***Deadline for the October newsletter:*** 3 October 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 Executive Committee meeting:*** 29 September 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).

Sun  
6 Sept.      [Brasenose—Flag Pk—Stony Bay Pk](#)  
                 **Graeme Paltridge 384 3592**

- The cars do the hard work so the effort to climb 785m Brasenose is minimal. We take a pine forest track to reach Flag Peak then get on a nice ridge track to reach 806m Stony Bay Peak.

**Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Cashmere Rd, North east  
carpark beside Cashmere Rd.**

**Approx cost \$14**

- Sat,Sun**  
**12-13 Sept.**  
●●  
**[Boyle Flat Hut – Faust](#)**  
**Doug Forster 337 5453**  
A moderate climb from the Boyle over the Libretto Range via 1710m Faust. Anyone wanting an easy trip can return as for the inward leg.  
**Book by 6 Sept.**
- Saturday**  
**12 Sept.**  
●  
**[Stan Helms—Major Hornbrook](#)**  
**Helen Harkness 384 2890**  
From Lyttelton we go up the Stan Helms Track to the crater rim, then walk east 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. Easy-moderate walk. The no. 28 bus will take you there.  
Saturday is market day.  
**Meet 9am Lyttelton, corner of Canterbury and London streets by the sled dog**
- Sat,Sun**  
**19-20 Sept.**  
●●  
**[Nina Hut](#)**  
**Dan Pryce 356 1962**  
An easy, flat walk in beautiful Nina Valley forest to this modern hut.  
**Book by 13 Sept.**
- Sun**  
**20 Sept.**  
●  
**[Mandamus River, Island Hills](#)**  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
An easy-moderate circuit on Island Hills Station  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**  
**Approx cost \$18**
- Sat,Sun**  
**26-28 Sep**  
●●●  
**[Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut](#)**  
**John Cook 326 7458**  
A popular crossing from Arthurs Pass Village to the Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak.  
**Book by 20 Sept.**
- 
- 2:00 am Sunday 27 September - Daylight saving starts!**  
**Clocks forward 1 hour**
- Sun**  
**27 Sept.**  
●  
**[Mt Manson](#)**  
**Doug Woods 021 2429122**  
This moderate trip starts from the Craieburn Ski Road. The motorised leg-up makes for a steep but short climb to ascend to this 1860m peak at the northern end of the Craieburn Range. Snow may be present, so take an ice-axe.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**  
**Approx cost \$18**
- Sat,Sun**  
**3-4 Oct.**  
●●  
**[Mt Valiant](#)**  
**Diane Mellish 337 5530**  
1847m Mt V gives splendid all-round views. A moderate-hard climb from the East Hawdon River.  
**Book by 27 Sept.**
- Sun**  
**4 Oct.**  
●  
**[Mt Oakden](#)**  
**Gary Huish 332 7020**  
Yet another way to view Lake Coleridge on this moderate climb of 1633m Mt Oakden.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**  
**Approx cost \$20**

- Sat-Mon**  
**10-12 Oct.**  
 ●●● **Lawrence River, Erewhon**  
**Murray Hight 027 555 0059**  
 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 and the head of the valley.  
**Book by 4 Oct.**
- Sun**  
**11 Oct.**  
 ● **Mt Bealey—Avalanche Peak**  
**Calum McIntosh 376 6133**  
 A moderate-hard climb to 1836m Mt Bealey, along to Lyell Peak and on to 1833m Avalanche Peak.  
**Meet 0700 Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$23**
- Sat,Sun**  
**17-18 Oct.**  
 ●● **Brabazon Saddle**  
**Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069, moorekj@xtra.co.nz**  
 Near Mesopotamia, this moderate circuit goes up Bush Stream to Crooked Spur Hut , then over the Brabazon Range to Dog Kennel Bivvy and down Black Birch Creek.  
**Book by 11 Oct.**
- Sun**  
**18 Oct.**  
 ● **Foggy Peak, Castle Hill Peak**  
**Diane Mellish 337 5530**  
 A popular pilgrimage to 1741m Foggy Peak and on to 1998m Castle Hill Peak if you feel energetic. Easy-moderate walk, but a moderate, if you go up Castle Hill Peak  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$12**
- Sat-Tue**  
**24-26 Oct.**  
 ●●●● **Thousand Acres Plateau**  
**Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**  
 A moderate tramp visiting this fascinating 50 million year old limestone plateau near Murchison. 4 days so we can visit the Needle and the Haystack which give spectacular views.  
**Book by 18 Oct.**
- Sun**  
**25 Oct.**  
 ● **Bowenvale—Victoria Park Circuit**  
**Wendy Wallace 338 0550**  
 An easy-moderate walk on the wonderful Port Hills.  
**Meet 9am at the Bowenvale Avenue car park.**
- Sat-Mon**  
**31-02 Oct.**  
 ●●● **Pell Stream—Cannibal Gorge**  
**Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008**  
 We use the Lake Daniel track for a short way then go to Pell Stream Hut. On the middle day we'll find a way over a low route to Cannibal Gorge Hut on the St James. With the untracked section the trip needs to be considered moderate overall.  
**Book by 25 Oct.**
- Saturday**  
**31 Oct.**  
 ● **Okuti Valley—Montgomery Reserve**  
**Graeme Nicholas 357 0047**  
 An easy-moderate walk through Okuti Valley Reserve, past French Hill, past Hilltop, to Montgomery Park Reserve's big totara. The reserve is often bypassed, but is worth a visit.  
<https://tramper.nz/187>  
**Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Cashmere Rd, North east** **Approx cost \$9**  
**carpark beside Cashmere Rd.**



Sat,Sun [Princess Bath](#)

7-8 Nov Gary Huish 332 7020

●● A moderate tramp behind Hanmer, camping at this large tarn below Mt Princess.

**Book by 1 Nov.**

Sun [Bus Stop](#)

8 Nov Gavin Chalk 027 750 8943

● A moderate circuit starting at Woolshed Creek, going up the Rhyolite Track to the Bus Stop and on to Woolshed Creek Hut. Returning to the car via the coal-mine.

**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

**Approx cost \$19**

## TRIP REPORTS

### Arthur's Pass Base Camp - 10-12 July 2020

I last ran a traditional winter Arthurs Pass Base Camp in 2014. It used to be mostly every second year, but the response had become patchy and booking of the Catholic Outdoor Club house in the village then had its problems. However, that's now resolved by using a longer close off date and asking for a deposit, before making any firm accommodation enquiry. It was also a pleasant surprise to get the house at No. 10 Sunshine Terrace at a special rate plus occupation is now standardised from 5.00pm Friday to 5.00pm Sunday. Very practical for two full tramping days.

Base camps are usually interesting logistical exercises, but this one was relatively easy, except for the transport. We had eleven, but then Bridget had to pull out for family reasons so we had ten people there both nights which made for a sociable weekend. Our group included Tim Bower, home from Japan, and it was good to catch up with Tim. Since we were there last, it looked like the roofing iron had been replaced and the outside walls painted. Someone had been there before us so the overhead infrared heaters took no time at all to get the house cosy on Friday evening. The weekend forecast was for a good day tending NW on Saturday and bad news on Sunday. But that's the joys of base camps; we can cope with whatever weather comes along.

Saturday morning, we settled on Mt Aitken as offering variation and a little more shelter. Whichever the destination, the snow cover was going to be high, light and mostly soft. Not the easiest. Away from the house at 8.25am, through the village and soon climbing up the track beside the Devils Punchbowl. We had the whole group, except for Maureen T and Maureen W. Maybe some of us with limited experience of those sorts of snow conditions but I think, everyone was happy to achieve what we did on the day. By 11.50am, we had reached the high ridge adjacent to Pt1844m. From there, the route is usually up the ridge to Pt1863m and across to Mt. Aitken at 1858m, then dropping into the basin to return. But with the westerly now fairly blustery and the snow cover light, the group was happy to drop back a little off the ridge and settle for an early lunch before returning back to the village. It made for a shorter day but enjoyable conditions further down including a sidle around to the Falls for a look.

Yes, lots of Kiwis were checking out their own backyard in the village and not all Kiwis. Then a leisurely time back at the house including hot showers followed by the inevitable, over indulgent, organised pot luck dinner. Great contributions from everyone, thank you all.

We knew the Sunday weather was coming so no surprise when the wind got up and it rained from the small hours. No hurry to get up in the morning. Eventually, Sacha organised a group for a walk in the rain to Bealey Chasm area. Once back, we continued with packing up and leaving, with the possible idea of a day walk further east. John and I did the 'winter shutdown' in the house and left before 11.00am. No surprise to find Sacha, Wendy and Maureen W still in the Taste of Kiwi Café in Springfield when we also stopped there for a coffee! And so home early to a lovely 17 deg NW day.

We were: **Sacha Baldwin, Wendy McCaughan, Maureen Whalen. Maureen Thompson, Shi Ping Wang, Mary McKeown, Tim Bower & Kerry Moore Merv Meredith (leader) & John Robinson.** 🏠 MM



Figure 1. Above the bushline. Photo courtesy of Merv Meredith

## Mt Torlesse – Sunday, 19 July 2020

It was overcast again in town, but the five of us knew the high country forecast was good. No one had turned up for Kerry's Bobs Knob trip so Kerry was happy to be our no 5. We emerged from the cloud at Sheffield, with Mt Torlesse glistening in bright sun and blue sky up ahead. We also knew that with the lack of any substantial southerly, there would still be limited snow up there. So it was no surprise to find the snow both high and mostly light, then firm crampon snow on the higher slopes. The wind also got up to 30km/h+ higher up, as forecast.

Peter was surprised when I put my crampons on early while still in boney snow. He was right; I bent both of them on the rocks and got left well behind. When I arrived on top at 1.30pm for lunch they were nearly ready to leave, so it was a short stop. We agreed to go down the eastern spur and that was a good option. A little more sheltered from the westerly and a nice gentle circuit in reasonable snow past 1723m. That didn't last once on to the steeper slope dropping to the saddle before 1152m. Normally a good plug in snow, the boney snow made it a slow descent on bigger rocks.

Once on the saddle we crossed the spur to drop into the southern leg of the stream and continued down the stream itself. I think previously we would have climbed out a little to travel down the true left over that upper section. But on a nice afternoon it was still pleasant going in the stream, although maybe I'm recalling some No 2 fun.

Dropping down to the hut by 4.15pm, we left there at 4.30pm+ timing it nicely arriving back at the car at 5.30pm, just on dark.

We were: **Mafi Gehrig, Merv Meredith (leader), Milomir Mojsilovic, Kerry Moore and Peter Umbers.** 🏔️ MM



## Mt Alford Trip - Sunday 26 July 2020

Eleven of us enjoyed this delightful day out. We were lucky to get a beautiful sunny winter day with almost no wind, and the lack of snow made travel fast and easy. We took long, leisurely breaks for morning tea and lunch, not even needing our sit-upons. It felt very spring-like. Wang and others had made an attempt on the mountain about a year ago, but thigh-deep soft snow had exhausted them before they attained the summit.

The track winds through pretty forest, then open tussock-land with views across the North Ashburton river gorge to Mt Hutt. A short steepish climb is followed by an easy ridge walk to the summit at 1171 metres. Panoramic views held our attention, from the vast expanse of plains below to well-known summits like Mt Somers and Mt Winterslow. Further inland interesting mountain ranges gained our attention and some of us were dreaming up adventures into new territory. I have now hatched a plan to traverse the Black Hill Range when spring comes along. I will keep you informed.

The return journey was relaxed and sociable, with the afternoon sun slanting into the forest. A coffee stop at Hororata concluded a great day out.

We were: **Sue Britain, Mike Bourke, Shi Ping Wang, Kerry Moore, Diane Mellish (leader), Jill Fenner, John Robinson, Peter Umbers, Dan Pryce, John Jagusch, Darcy Mawson.** 🏠 DM



*Figure 2 View of the North Ashburton Catchment. Black Hill Range in the middle distance on the right. Photo courtesy of Diane Mellish*

## Mt Foweraker – Sunday, 9 August 2020

We were away from Church Corner by 7am in two cars, courtesy of Merv and Doug.

We started from the Cora Lynn railway bridge. Our navigation guru Doug took us the easy way across the flats to the cairn on the bank of Red Beech stream, a reminder from last year's trip. In the bush, we picked up and followed a good pest control track goes up the spur to about 3/4 of the way to the bushline. Not far past the



bushline, there was a short rock scramble, and here, Wang called it a day. Kerry decided to stay and keep him company.

The snow was confined to the top basin and south facing slopes of Mt Foweraker. Much of the recent snowfall had melted. We stopped for lunch in a relatively sheltered patch of tussock, below the snow basin.

The final climb was relatively straightforward. The snow was old and hard, which made good cramponing conditions. Raymond led the way, and we reached the top about 1.40pm in a clear sky and light breeze instead of the predicted 40km/hr winds.

We picked a good line down the spur from the bushline back to marked track. The descent from the summit took just under 3 hours, followed by leisurely walk back across the flats. We spotted the Tranz Alpine express coming round the Bealey corner while Gary, Merv and Jane were still crossing the bridge. After a few hullabalooos, the three of them picked up speed and made a hasty crossing before the train rumbled passed our cars.

We were: **Kerry Moore, Shi Ping Wang, Gary Huish, Doug Forster, Merv Meredith, Jane Liddle, Raymond Ford, Peter Umbers (leader).** 🏔️ PU



*Figure 3 Arriving at the summit of Mt Foweraker. Mt Bruce and Lagoon Saddle in the middle distance. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford.*