



Monthly newsletter of PTC. Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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December 2010, January 2011

President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Mary Hines	942 6486
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Evelien Baas	03 317 9077
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Trip Planner	Gary Huish	332 7020		
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069		
Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945		

New Member Enquiries Please contact John Borner, 942 0813, to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters

CORRESPONDENCE, including changes of address etc. can be sent to the club secretary—see above

OUR CLUB consists of people of all ages who tramp for recreation. Regular trips are organised, ranging from 'easy' to 'hard', day trips to long weekends. Various instruction courses run each year to improve members' skills for back-country tramping. In addition to a monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are held.

CLUB NIGHTS are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park (entrance on Riccarton Ave), starting promptly at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30.

Tue 14 Dec THE GREAT STOVE RACE

Which is the fastest tramping stove? Which do you prefer? Some food will be prepared on the stoves. As well, everyone **please bring supper food.**

Supper Duty: Wendy Dann, Jill Fenner, Andy Duck

Tue 8 Feb SAND AND SNOW – TRAVELS IN MOROCCO AND LIBYA

Heather Murray will share her recent travels in North Africa. Highlights include Libya's Roman ruins and the stunning scenery and ancient rock art of the Sahara desert. In Morocco exploration of the Kasbahs, souks and medieval towns is followed by a 10-day trek in the high Atlas Mountains.

Supper Duty: Julie Davis Anne Ditcher, Frank or Jessica Dohmen

COMING TRIPS

Day Trips:

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town near to the destination. Non-members are asked to phone the trip leader in advance. If you doubt your suitability for a day-trip, or if the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you to go on the trip.

Weekend Trips:

May leave on a Friday night (usually for base camps) or Saturday morning. Please book with the trip leader by the closing date. Be certain you want to go on the trip when booking, as it is not fair on the leader to withdraw after the closing date (good excuses excepted). Numbers on some weekend trips are limited, so book promptly.

12 Dec Sun ■	YEAR-END PICNIC Glenda & Merv Meredith 322 7239 Glenda and Merv are still mourning the closing of the camping ground at Purau so we are returning to the camping ground at Okains Bay with a similar formula. Glenda and Merv will be camping from Friday night, so making a weekend of it, or arriving any time on Saturday, provides options. The PTC picnic will follow the usual walk to the headland in the morning.	Maps BX25; N36
18-19 Dec Sat-Sun ■ ■	WOOLSHED HILL Margot Bowden 332 7020 Easy-moderate climb through beech forest to open tops above Hawdon Shelter in Arthurs Pass NP. Camping by a small tarn, and maybe a brief wander along the tops of the Savannah Range. List Closes: Sat 11 Dec	Maps BV21;K33
19 Dec Sun ■	CAPTAIN THOMAS - GODLEY ROAD Helen Harkness 384 2890 An easy , popular walkway, taking in coastal views and old military buildings. Starting up the Captain Thomas Track behind Sumner to Evans Pass, before continuing along the ridge to Godley Head and returning to Sumner through Taylors Mistake. Start: 9am Sumner Clock Tower	Maps BX24;M36
23-10 Jan Thu-Mon ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	OHAU BASE CAMP Dennis Kemp 384 2893 We return to popular Huxley Lodge at the head of Lake Ohau. This comfortable two-storey lodge catches the sun and the views are magnificent, so it is a good base for day walks, biking and some serious loafing. The lodge makes a good base to unwind after longer trips in the area. Give Dennis a call soon if you are interested, especially if you aim to be there for Christmas dinner.	Maps BY14,BZ14;H37,H38
27-1 Jan Mon-Sat ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	PELORUS RIVER - BRYANT RANGE Margot & Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate round-trip up the Pelorus River and returning along the Bryant Range and Dun Mountain. Camping out along the way. List Closed	Maps BQ26,27;O27
15-16 Jan Sat-Sun ■ ■	HOPE RIVER - TOP HOPE HUT Mary Hines 942 6486 Moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Top Hope Hut. Start from Windy Point on the Lewis Pass road. Option of a side-trip to the hot springs. List Closes: Sat 18 Dec	Maps BU22,23;L32,M32

16 Jan Sun ■	MT MISERY Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate tramp over 1765m Mt Misery at the end of the Black Range above Cass. Don't be put off by the name. Great panoramic views from the top, including Mt Horrible. Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BV20;K34 Approx Cost: \$16
22-23 Jan Sat-Sun ■ ■	MT ALEXANDER Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate trip to this interesting peak that looks down on Taramakau River to the west of Arthurs Pass. A track runs up to a hut and the Alexander Range from Inchbonnie List Closes: Sat 15 Jan	Maps BU20;K32
23 Jan Sun ■	MT OAKDEN Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Moderate ascent of a 1630m peak at the head of Lake Coleridge. Quite an uncompromising grunt, but you get superb views for your effort, up the Rakaia and Wilberforce Rivers towards the main divide, and of the lake itself. Contact leader prior to going on the trip. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW20;K34,K35 Approx Cost: \$17
29-30 Jan Sat-Sun ■ ■	OPERA RANGE - JERVOIS HUT Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate-hard trip with Friday night travel to Magdalen Hut. Up Maritana Stream to the southern end of the Opera Range at 1587m, dropping down Jones Stream to Jervois Stream and the 4 bunk hut. Retrace steps on Sunday. List Closes: Wed 18 Jan	Maps BT23,24;M31,32
30 Jan Sun ■	TIMUTIMU HEAD - SCENERY NOOK Geoff Price 337 2614 Easy-moderate tramp over Peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Returning via a natural tidal swimming pool at Scenery Nook. Start: 8am outside Halswell School	Maps BY25;N37 Approx Cost: \$14
5-6 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	WHARFEDALE TRACK Evelien Bass 03 317 9077 Easy walking on a well formed track near Mt Oxford. Beech forest, so wasps may be there. List Closes: Sat 15 Jan	Maps BW22;L34
5-6 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	BOYLE BASE CAMP Heather & Colin Wilmshurst 383 2471 We'll be staying at comfortable Boyle Lodge, and doing day walks (all grades) in the area. List Closes: Sat 15 Jan	Maps BU23;M31,M32
6 Feb Sun ■	MAUKURATAWHAI TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Over Jacks Pass behind Hanmer, this moderate tramp climbs to this 1615m summit. Possible round-trip. Start: 7am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St	Maps BT24,25;N31 Approx Cost: \$16
8-14 Feb Tue-Mon ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	STEWART ISLAND - PORT PEGASUS BASE CAMP Leo Manders 356 1731 Based at the South Pegasus Hut and timed to fit favourable tides and hopefully weather. List Closed	Maps CJ8-10;D48,49,E48,49

12-13 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	PFEIFER TOPS TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Moderate-hard trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1700m peak between the Deception and Otehake Rivers. Probably camping at the small biv above the bush line. List Closes: Sat 5 Feb	Maps BU20,BV20;K33
13 Feb Sun ■	OKUTI VALLEY - FRENCH HILL TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Easy moderate ramble on Banks Peninsula to this 815m viewpoint. Start: 8am outside Halswell School	Maps BX25,BY25;N36 Approx Cost: \$10
19-26 Feb Sat-Sat ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	GODLEY RIVER - NEISH PLATEAU - SEALY PASS - PERTH RIVER Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008 A hard crossing of the Southern Alps via Sealy Pass. Starting up the Godley River with a possible raft crossing of the glacial lake outlets. A side trip to the Neish Plateau is planned before completion of the crossing down the Perth River. List Closes: Sat 29 Jan	Maps BW17.BX17;J34
19-20 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	PRINCESS BATH, LAKE TENNYSON Mary Hines 942 6486 Moderate tramp to this tarn basin at 1700m, behind Lake Tennyson in the upper Clarence Valley. It should be possible to climb nearby Mt Princess, 2126m. Camping out. List Closes: Sat 12 Feb	Maps BT24;M30,M31
20 Feb Sun ■	STEEPFACE HILL TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Moderate-hard snow trip to 1876m peak on Mt Hutt Range, overlooking the Rakaia River. Ice axe and crampons may be required. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW20;K35 Approx Cost: \$16
26-27 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	WOOLSHED CREEK - MT SOMERS HUT TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Two or three hours easy tramping brings you to this hut in a surprising volcanic area in South Canterbury. Areas of rock formations and deep canyons nearby can be easily reached by a network of tracks. List Closes: Sat 19 Feb	Maps BX19;K36
27 Feb Sun ■	BUS STOP TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Popular moderate walk in the Mt Somers area. Walk takes in Blackburn Mine site with associated relics, tussock, Trig R, crossing of Woolshed Creek, a climb to about 1100m and sidling, en route to the "Bus Stop" rock outcrop. The route continues along a tussock plateau before dropping back down. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BX19;K36 Approx Cost: \$17
5-6 Mar Sat-Sun ■ ■	PINNACLE Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Moderate-hard trip in Victoria Forest Park, involving some bush-bashing, rock scrambling and ridge travel. Camping out by one of the numerous alpine tarn basins along the way. List Closes: Sat 19 Feb	Maps BT22;L31

6 Mar Sun ■	MT ALEXANDER TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Easy-moderate wander in open, rolling North Canterbury farm country, to this 750m lookout near Scargil. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St	Maps BV24;N33 Approx Cost: \$14
12-15 Mar Sat-Tue ■■■■■	ROUTE BURN - NORTH COL - LAKE NERINE - PARK PASS Raymond Ford 351 9496 This moderate-hard trip starts on the “five pass” route from the Routeburn Track over Sugarloaf Pass to the Rockburn and the spectacular Theatre Flat. The route to Park Pass then climbs the ridge to drop to Lake Nerine and then sidles to North Col and into the North Routeburn. Be prepared for a wet weather alternative in the Rees/Dart or Cascade Saddle/Rees. List Closes: Sat 29 Jan	Maps CA09,CB09;D40,E40
20-29 Mar Sun-Tue ■■■■■■■ ■■	DUSKY TRACK Darcy Mawson 388 9284 The Dusky Track offers trampers a moderate-hard 84 km tramping track which requires at least eight days to complete. It links Lake Hauroko with Lake Manapōuri, offering a two-day detour to Supper Cove in Dusky Sound. It traverses three major valley systems and crosses two mountain ranges. List Closes: Thu 20 Jan	Maps CD06,CE06;B44,C43,C44

President's Report

We have arrived at the end of 2010 and I wish everyone a happy Christmas. I hope you can enjoy the mountains over the summer break. We have a base-camp in the spectacular Ohau area with plenty of tramping opportunities on offer. Dennis Kemp is again organising this and he will be there from Dec 23 right through to Jan 10 so there is plenty of time for you to join in over this period. Give Dennis a call (384 2893) and let him know the approx dates of your visit. As well as base accommodation at Huxley Lodge, you can also tent or use your mobile accommodation if you prefer. Thanks Dennis for once again organising this, your base camps are a Christmas legend.

For those of you wanting to do a multi-day trip over the summer break Gary Huish and Margot Bowden are doing a round-trip up the Pelorus River, along the Bryant Range and Dun Mountain in the back of Nelson. Having done this trip a number of years ago I can vouch for the spectacular scenery. Contact Gary or Margot (332 7020) if you would like to go. This year we have the year-end picnic again at Okains Bay on Sun 12 Dec. Contact Merv Meredith for this. Our final club night for the year is on Tue Dec 12 and is being organised by Brian Smith and Evelien Baas, don't forget to bring a plate of food to share. Hope to see you there.

Social Events

Our social program is in full swing with plenty on. It was great to have 38 people at the Sign of the Kiwi walk and dinner. Thanks to Mary Hines for organising this. Also, it was great to see 40 people at Nancy Tichbourne's garden tour. Thanks go to Chris Leaver for organising this.

Rural Fire Cover

Our club has invested in **public liability insurance** for the last 3 years with \$1 million general public liability cover and \$250,000 to cover a rural fire eventuality. Generally, all those members that have household contents insurance would have this anyway. The club's cover is designed to kick in when a member who may be liable for damage doesn't have personal contents insurance. This applies to all our club trips.

Trip leaders - your club needs you!

Our club relies on the willingness of its members to suggest and lead trips throughout the year. As a club member you are encouraged to lead at least one trip per year once you have the necessary experience. New leaders can expect lots of support from other more experienced trampers in the club. If you have never led a trip before, consider co-leading a trip with another person to get experience, or volunteer to lead a trip you are familiar with. Perhaps start with a day trip – it's really quite easy and not as daunting as you may think.

As a club member, you can also take advantage of the subsidies available from PTC to attend MSC back-country training courses to develop your tramping skills and knowledge further.

Sometimes, particularly on overnight trips and base camps, trip leaders will ask participants to help with some of the jobs – e.g. navigation, cooking, or driving, so that trips are a communal effort. To learn more about any aspect of trip planning and leading, ask your trip leader – they will be happy to help.

One of the benefits of being trip leader is that you get to do the trip you want, when you want.

If you would like to know more about how to get involved, then please speak to a committee member or trip leader.

Subscription Form

With this issue of Footnotes will be a subscription form. Please check the form and ensure the details are correct. Make any changes by crossing out and supplying the correct information. If we don't have your mobile number, email address etc please put this on the form. Mobile numbers are handy for members to contact you when you are out and about and are useful when going on trips etc. You will note that our new subscription rates apply as approved at last month's Special General Meeting. Have a think about whether you are happy receiving just the electronic version of Footnotes and save yourself \$5. Indicate this on the form. Your contact details (phone numbers and/or email address) supplied will be shared with the membership (confidential to club members) unless you indicate otherwise on the form where indicated. This is also your opportunity to comment on various aspects of the club. Your executive really appreciates your comments and do seriously look at these, particularly for trends. This is useful for our planning. We need all of the forms back, even if you pay online or are a life member with no subscription payable. Geoff Price is the person you need to return the form to or you can simply mail it to our PO Box.

Promotion Brochure

Some of you will have seen the club's new blue-coloured promotion brochure. All committee members have supplies of these. We will also have them available at club nights. The brochures are very useful for handing onto prospective members and as an information tool to be left in huts and at community gathering points, eg libraries, community halls, waiting rooms, even fish and chip shops. We encourage all members to take some and distribute them. Your work-place or other organisation you're involved with are also good places to leave them. Wide distribution of the brochures will ensure that new members come to the club. Please grab some at our Dec club meeting. These brochures clearly state what our club is about in a simple format.

Happy Tramping - Leo Manders

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thur 20 Jan

Croquet evening

6.00pm Saint Martins Croquet Club, Gamblins Rd, followed by a meal or drink at Filadelfio's Pizza Restaurant 150 Colombo Street Beckenham at about 7.45pm.

The club is approx. halfway down Gamblins Road on the right as you leave New World.

Limited parking so best to leave cars on Gamblins Road.

Dress code – informal: flat shoes (trainers or jandals are fine).

No experience necessary! Cost \$5 per person (lawn fee). Please join us for the meal or drink, if you can't make the croquet. Names for croquet and/or meal by **16th January** please to

John Borner 942 0813 eileenandjcb@hotmail.com

Wed 16 Feb

PTC Puzzle Promenade & Picnic - Halswell Quarry

Meet 6pm at the main car-park near the toilets (just past the visitor centre). No problem if you are going to be late - just let me know! Bring a pen or pencil and a picnic and chair for afterwards. Supper and prize-giving at picnic at about 7.30pm. Entry fee \$2 each to cover prizes. Pay on the night.

Names to Mary Hines 942 6486; hinestandm@clear.net.nz by 10th Feb please.

NOTICES

Membership We welcome **Carolyn Catt** and **Robert Weir** to the club. **Julia Forsyth** is resigning

Deadline for Feb newsletter Mon 31 Jan. Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to Kerry Moore, moorekj@xtra.co.nz phone **359 5069**

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 25 Jan at Gary's

TRIP REPORTS

Scott Saddle – Pudding Hill Stream-- Sunday 14 Nov

Despite the weather not looking so good, six people turned out for the walk. Alas the clouds came in as we drove up the road to Awa Awa Rata reserve. We walked up the Scott Saddle track after having admired the myriad rhododendrons in flower. Even without the view it was a pleasant walk up, and while it was humid (actually drizzling) it was not cold. We reached the ski-field road in steadily increasing drizzle that abated a little bit as we walked down the Pudding Hill track. The track was quite overgrown with several trees to be climbed over, so we probably need to have a track clearing exercise later in the year. My plan was to come back on Scott Saddle track, as the stream was going to be high with melt-water and cold but the guys were pretty keen on coming down the stream, so we walked down the track to the stream to see. We could hear the roar of the stream as we walked down. When we got to the stream we decided to go down, as although the water was high, it did not seem dangerously high. We had lunch at the stream edge. We had a bit of trouble keeping the sandflies at bay as apparently it was not cold enough for them to stay away. Robert generously shared his repellent. The stream was high enough to require poles, so everyone without poles found a sturdy stick or two to help them balance. The river crossings did require some care and concentration, and the occasional backtracking if it got too high or strong. And the odd person got a dunking when they slipped on a rock—Hank and me. In the end, the stream part took a good three hours, and although it was tiring it was enjoyed by all. We did really enjoy our warm drinks at Darfield as we got fairly cold and soaking wet during the 7 hours it took us to complete the circuit. It was an adventure, but I do think I'd prefer this as a summer trip! We were: **Hank Boer, Robert Weir, Evelien Baas, Jan Baas (my dad), Steve Hemsley, Wayne Thomas.** 🏠 EB

Sylvia Tops, 20 – 21st Nov 2010

Another classic trip for PTC, but I'm not sure when the club last did it. It was listed in Footnotes without a leader which doesn't generate maximum interest, so when Dan enquired, Gary told him, "you're the leader if we get any other enquiries". The weather canned our Earnslaw expedition the week before, so I defaulted to the Tops trip and Dan and I were happy to go just with us two and on a trip neither of us had done before. We were still happy to try when the forecast deteriorated somewhat, although suggesting little wind.

Leaving town at 7am, we were walking from Deerstarkers at 9.30am in overcast, calm, warm nor'west conditions. Conditions in the bush were very dry as we trundled around the corner into the Nina and the turn-off sign to the Tops. We didn't notice the markers but walked out to the river anyway and a moderately serious crossing to start up through the bush leading to the tops. Being east coast beech, it was reasonably open with a steepish but straightforward climb. As the morning progressed, it started getting damp as a messy weather front moving up the island arrived. Higher up, numerous windfalls covered the spur, making progress more of a bush bash. But we finally emerged at the bush-line and a cairn, at 12.30pm, three hours later.

At point 1662m we knew we had to change direction, Dan had spotted a really big tarn up ahead, but I was still fluffing with compass bearings when out of the mist appeared a figure—Jesse, a North American geologist, who was followed by Sue. Both were clad in lightweight gear, wore sneakers, camelbacks and carried a little food. They had followed us from Palmer Lodge and were out on a day walk of the same circuit we were doing over the weekend. They were happy to wait for us at various points as we curved around to point 1625m; the dropping-off point down to Devilskin Saddle. Walking with them, Sue fed a steady stream of route information to Jesse. But she hadn't been there before, just memorized the map details. They went ahead down the spur to the saddle, so they could have a quick second lunch before continuing. Dan and I arrived at 5.30pm. By now fairly soggy and with our likewise soggy new friends almost ready to move out of the biv. and continue.

The “new” 2008 Devil’s Den Biv. is one of the five built with the “Helen Clark” money, so the details of the biv were familiar to me from the planning consultation stage, but the first time Dan or I had used one. It’s not where the old biv was down in the bush on a grassy but dark terrace. It is right on the saddle, about 100m up the spur on the western side. As in the plan, it has windows on three sides including in the door, two beds and was a pleasure to stay in. As well as the loo further up the hill, it has a large water tank, but this was almost empty thanks to the dry conditions and probably the number of visitors. With a little top up, we managed without having to trek across to the creek. We dried out and settled in, for a leisurely evening and meal.

It was dry in the morning and not cold, but still clouded in with little wind. Up reasonably early, we were walking by 7.40am, down the track on the true right of Blind Stream. The upper stream area would be lovely on a sunny morning. Passing the old biv site and up and down through the bush, we eventually reached the steep drop from 1100m down to 900m. From about 9.30am, we started to see occasional patches of sunshine as the cloud cleared. By the time we passed Nina Hut, sunshine was almost the norm. At 12.20pm we stopped for a “tramping lunch” with less than 30 minutes to go to the road and were back at the car at 1.15pm.

We were both glad we decided to go on a so-so forecast but Sylvia Tops trip is a must for a repeat some time soon—Nov, Dec or Jan and with two to four people. We were **Dan Pryce and Merv Meredith** 🏔️ MM

Point 1912m – Cass Saddle, 7th Nov 2010

This was a new trip for our club, but I make no secret of the fact that I had seen it in the Over Forties club newsletter in November last year and copied it for our trip list. The route is up the Cass River to Long Valley Stream, then up the first major side-stream to the south-west, climbing out on the true right to bypass a 50m waterfall and eventually working around the upper basin to ascend point 1912m. On the southern side of this ridge, it is easy to work around to descend a basin leading down to Cass Saddle Hut. It’s then just a matter of hiking down the Cass track back to the road.

A week before the trip I rang Stephen Sheen the Over Forties trip leader, and confessed to blatant copying. After our initial discussions about copyright, he was very helpful. He had an obvious passion for the area. We discussed a similar trip up McLeod Stream and overnight trips along the Black Range. In the days leading up to Sunday, the forecast was looking really good. Could it last? It did—sunny and not much wind, made better by a quick snow addition 48 hours before.

This was always known to be a long day-trip, so with a 7am start from town, we had eight people walking by 8.50am, with a bit of valley cloud clearing. We missed some of the track on the true right and did a bit more river crossing than we needed to on the way up, but that was no problem on a sunny morning. We were soon turning up Long Valley Stream—very pleasant on a sunny morning. As we progressed, we could see the waterfall ahead, in the side-stream.

There are three side-streams on the true right of this waterfall stream and there is a large cairn before the first of them—a good place to stop and have lunch. It was about 1pm when we restarted and began the steep climb up and across these side-streams, to sidle into the upper basin—a great sight with a fair amount of remaining snow cover.

Stephen’s description had been to head toward the saddle at the western head of the basin and then come back east along the ridge to 1912. But Doug was up front and cut the corner, eventually heading south, directly up to 1912 via steep snow slopes. This probably took half an hour off the climb and we were all pleased to be on top at 2pm.

Descending the basin on the south side did, as Stephen had suggested, have the potential for a fast, long bum-slide. Unfortunately, apart from a short firmer section near the top, most of the basin was a bit too soft to keep sliding, so we had to resort to running, although we did manage quite a distance lying back and paddling. I should have got out my old parka for a stomach slide after all. It wasn’t until 4.20pm that everyone was down and we could drop the rest of the way down onto the Cass track and a straightforward plod down the track to the cars. At the end of a long day, this section went on forever, or about nine km to be correct. We reached the road at 6.50pm, still in sunshine.

We had a ten hour, hard day in near-perfect weather. I think everyone got a buzz from the route, none more so than Dan, who had put his recovering leg, badly damaged in an accident in May, to a test several notches more than previously. Thanks again to Stephen for the inspiration.

Doing the circuit were: **Doug Forster, Sue Hely, Chrys Horn, Chris Leaver, Tony Oliver, Stuart Payne, Dan Pryce and Merv Meredith.** 🏔️ MM