



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

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## February 2011

<b>President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Mary Hines	942 6486
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Evelien Baas	03 317 9077
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Price	337 2614	Raymond Ford	351 9496
<b>Trip Planner</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020		
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069		
<b>Quartermaster</b>	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 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, Linda Gardner, Jean Hallam**

Tue 8 Mar



### AGM PLUS FIRST-AID TRENDS

**Yvette So** attended a **FIRST AID** course last year and learned there have been some important updates to procedures. She will share this new information with club members in the hope that you will attend a course and update your certificates. Preceding this will be our **Annual General Meeting**

**Supper Duty: Mike Flaws or Maureen McCloy, Dorota Giejsztowt, Tony Greaves or Ann Schofield**

## **AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM —7:30pm Tue 8 March**

The 79th Annual General Meeting of Peninsula Tramping Club will be held at Canterbury Horticultural Centre, Hagley Avenue

### **Agenda:**

Presentation of Exec. Reports

Election of officers, executive members and auditor

### **General Business**

Nominations for all positions are called for. They may be sent, signed by nominee, proposer and seconder, to **Merv Meredith, Secretary, 322 7239**

## **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.

<b>8-14 Feb</b> <b>Tue-Mon</b> ■■■■■■■	<b>STEWART ISLAND - PORT PEGASUS BASE CAMP</b> <b>Leo Manders 356 1731</b> Based at the South Pegasus Hut and timed to fit favourable tides and hopefully weather. <b>List Closed</b>	<b>Maps CJ8-10;D48,49,E48,49</b>
<b>13 Feb</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>OKUTI VALLEY - FRENCH HILL</b> <b>Murray Hight 347 4014</b> Easy moderate ramble on Banks Peninsula to this 815m viewpoint. <b>Start: 8am outside Halswell School</b>	<b>Maps BX25,BY25;N36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$10</b>
<b>19-26 Feb</b> <b>Sat-Sat</b> ■■■■■■■ ■	<b>GODLEY RR, NEISH PLATEAU, SEALY PASS, PERTH RR</b> <b>Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008</b> 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. <b>List Closed</b>	<b>BW17.BX17;J34</b>
<b>19-20 Feb</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■■	<b>PRINCESS BATH, LAKE TENNYSON</b> <b>Mary Hines 942 6486</b> 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. <b>List Closes: Sat 12 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BT24;M30,M31</b>
<b>20 Feb</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>STEEPFACE HILL</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.</b> Moderate-hard trip to 1876m peak on Mt Hutt Range, overlooking the Rakaia River. Ice axe may be required. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BW20;K35</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$16</b>

26-27 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>WOOLSHED CREEK - MT SOMERS HUT</b> TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Two or three hours <b>easy</b> 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. <b>List Closes: Sat 19 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BX19;K36</b>
27 Feb Sun ■	<b>BUS STOP</b> Evelien Baas 03 317 9077 evelien.baas@ihug.co.nz Popular <b>moderate</b> 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 to the car park. <b>Phone or email Evelien before the trip.</b> <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BX19;K36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$17</b>
5-6 Mar Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>POTTS RIVER - DOG RANGE - MYSTERY LAKE</b> Gary Huish 332 7020 <b>Moderate</b> tramp up Potts River traversing Dog Range back to Lake Clearwater. <b>List Closes: Fri 18 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BT22;L31</b>
6 Mar Sun ■	<b>MT ALEXANDER</b> Mary Hines 942 6486 <b>Easy-moderate</b> wander in open, rolling North Canterbury farm country, to this 750m lookout near Scargil. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
12-15 Mar Sat-Tue ■ ■ ■ ■	<b>ROUTEburn, NORTH COL, LK NERINE, PARK PASS</b> Raymond Ford 351 9496 This <b>moderate-hard</b> 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. <b>List Closes: Sat 29 Jan</b>	<b>Maps CA09,CB09;D40,E40</b>
12-13 Mar Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>ZAMPA TOPS</b> Kerry Moore 359 5069 A <b>moderate</b> trip in the Spenser Mountains to the east of Cannibal Gorge. We can return via Henry Saddle and Trovatore or continue along the ridge to Ada Hut and out on a section of St James Walkway. The tarn below 1710m Zampa in an excellent place to camp. <b>List Closes: Sat 5 Mar</b>	<b>Maps CD06,CE06;B44,C43,C44</b>
13 Mar Sun ■	<b>GOLA PEAK</b> TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. <b>Moderate</b> trip around rolling farmland to some 1300m peaks, 25km west of Hawardon. Should have views down into the upper Okuku River Valley. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BV24;N33</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
19-20 Mar Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>HURUNUI HUT</b> Kevin Hughes 332 6281 <b>Easy-moderate</b> overnight trip to this comfortable hut to the west of Lake Sumner. Start from the Lake Taylor road. Option of a side-trip to Hurunui hot springs. We will look to use 4WD vehicles or may turn this one into a mountain bike trip. <b>List Closes: Sat 12 Mar</b>	<b>Maps CA09,CB09;D40,E40</b>

20-29 Mar Sun-Tue ■■■■■■■ ■■	<b>DUSKY TRACK</b> Darcy Mawson 388 9284 The Dusky Track offers trampers a <b>moderate-hard</b> 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. <b>List Closed</b>	<b>Maps BT23;M31</b>
20 Mar Sun ■	<b>ONEPUNGA FALLS - WAIPARA GORGE</b> Evelien Baas 03 317 9077 evelien.baas@ihug.co.nz An <b>easy-moderate</b> trip starting from the Waipara Gorge. <b>Phone or email Evelien before the trip.</b> <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BV23;M33</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
26-27 Mar Sat-Sun ■■	<b>HICKORY BAY BASE CAMP</b> Chris Leaver 322 6445 Hopefully camping at the homestead, without tsunami alerts, with many day walks and incredible coastal scenery in the area. <b>List Closes: Sat 19 Mar</b>	<b>Maps BU22;L32,L33</b>
26-27 Mar Sat-Sun ■■	<b>PINNACLE</b> Kevin Hughes 332 6281 <b>Moderate-hard</b> trip in Victoria Forest Park, involving some bush-bashing, rock scrambling and ridge travel. Camping out in one of the numerous alpine tarn basins along the way. <b>List Closes: Sat 19 Mar</b>	<b>Maps CD06,CE06;B44,C43,C44</b>
27 Mar Sun ■	<b>BEALEY SPUR - POWER STREAM</b> Merv Meredith 322 7239 <b>Moderate</b> trip at Arthurs Pass heading up the Power Stream and return down Bealey Spur. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV24;M34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$20</b>
31-4 Apr Thu-Mon ■■■■■	<b>EGMONT NP - ROUND THE MOUNTAIN CIRCUIT</b> Leo Manders 356 1731 Here's the chance to head for the North Island to the Egmont National Park with incredible scenery on the Round the Mountain Circuit. <b>List Closed</b>	<b>Maps BX25,BY25;N36,N37</b>
2-3 Apr Sat-Sun ■■	<b>AMPHITHEATRE CREEK</b> Mary Hines 942 6486 A <b>moderate</b> round-trip in the Black Range near Arthurs Pass NP. This creek with a grand name is a tributary of the Avoca River. Getting there and getting back will involve various permutations of routes in the Lagoon Saddle and Jordan Saddle area <b>List Closes: Sat 26 Mar</b>	<b>Maps BT22;L31</b>
3 Apr Sun ■	<b>CAVE STREAM, FLOCK HILL</b> Keith McQuillan 384 6164 <b>Easy-moderate</b> walk following Cave Stream as it flows 360m underground and emerges into Broken River. Be prepared for wet and cold conditions. Take a torch and a second one for back-up if you have one, and a dry set of clothing to change into later. We plan to spend time exploring Narnia in Flock Hill and possibly Castle Hill Basin as well. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV20;K34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>

9-10 Apr Sat-Sun ■■	<b>HOPE-KIWI LODGE</b> TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way through beech forest and river terraces, besides three lakes and crossing the Hurunui River (there is a swing bridge if wet feet aren't your thing!) List Closes: Sat 2 Apr	Maps BH28-30,BJ28-30;PQ19,20
9-12 Apr Sat-Tue ■■■■	<b>MOTATAPU TRACK</b> Margot Bowden 332 7020 Moderate tramp of Shania Twain fame between Arrowtown and Wanaka. List Closes: Sat 19 Mar	Maps BV20;K34
10 Apr Sun ■	<b>TRIG Q - MT MANSON</b> Kerry Moore 359 5069 Easy-moderate. We'll start from the Craieburn Ski Field Road. This will give us time to ascend to this 1860m peak at the northern end of the Craieburn Range. Snow may be present, so bring your ice-axe. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW21;K34 Approx Cost: \$14
16-17 Apr Sat-Sun ■■	<b>BRASS MONKEY - GRAND DUCHESS</b> Merv Meredith 322 7239 A classic, moderate-hard, Lewis Pass tops trip to this bivvy situated just off the main divide. A round trip from the Nina Valley up Lucretia Stream and down Duchess Stream. Commanding views from Grand Duchess tops. List Closes: Wed 6 Apr	Maps BU22,23;L32, M32
17 Apr Sun ■	<b>SUGARLOAF</b> Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Easy-moderate. Sugarloaf, at 1360m near Cass, is one of the bigger ones of this name. Situated inside a bend of the Waimakariri River, there will be superb views of the river, of nearby Mt Binser, and of the various lakes and hills of the Cass area. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St	Maps CB11,12;F40,41 Approx Cost: \$17
22-25 Apr Fri-Mon ■■■■ Easter	<b>WAI AU PASS</b> Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Moderate-hard. From Lake Tennyson to the headwaters of the Clarence River, crossing to the upper Sabine River in Nelson Lakes NP and returning via Waiau Pass and Maling Pass. Plenty of great scenery on this round-trip. List Closes: Sat 6 Apr	Maps BV21,BW21;L34
22-25 Apr Fri-Mon ■■■■ Easter	<b>SABINE - BLUE LAKE - MOSS PASS - D'URVILLE</b> Mary Hines 942 6486 A classic moderate circuit taking in the best of Nelson Lakes NP. List Closes: Sat 6 Apr	Maps BT23;M31
22-25 Apr Fri-Mon ■■■■ Easter	<b>WILKIN RIVER - GILLESPIE PASS - YOUNG RIVER</b> Leo Manders 356 1731 Classic moderate tramp between Young and Wilkin Rivers over 1500m Gillespie Pass in Mt Aspiring NP. Starting and finishing near Makarora, the valleys are tracked and the route over the pass is poled. Possible side-trip to Crucible Lake . List Closes: Sat 6 Apr	Maps BV21;K34 L34

**22-25 Apr**    **NASEBY BASE CAMP**    **Maps BS24,BT23,24,BU23;M30,M31,N30,N31**  
**Fri-Mon**    **Mary & Geoff Korver 355 3905**  
 ■■■■    Base camp in this popular area with a variety of walks amongst mining relics or some serious  
**Easter**    tramping.  
**List Closes: Sat 6 Apr**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**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 Mary 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.

**Wed 23 Feb**



### **Outwits Theatre Company -- Summer Theatre**

#### **The Complete History of World Rugby (abridged)**

Performed by the hilarious Outwits Theatre Company

Daffodil Lawn, Botanical Gardens, Hagley Park at 6.30pm (play starts at 7pm)

Bring cushion or low seat, blanket, warm jacket and picnic

The event is free but they pass the hat at the end

Moved to Thurs 24th Feb if rained out

No need to book - just turn up and join us there

(Play is on from 9-27th Feb if you can't make this date)

**Wed 16 Mar**



### **Indian Sumner Stroll**

Meet 6.00pm by Sumner esplanade clock tower for a leisurely walk over towards Taylors Mistake and return for a meal at **Indian Sumner at 8pm**

Please join us for the meal if you can't make the walk. If very wet then we will do meal only.

Names to Mary Hines 942 6486 hinestandm@clear.net.nz by **Friday 11th March** please.

## NOTICES

**Membership** We welcome **Rick Harlow** to the club

**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](mailto:moorekj@xtra.co.nz) phone **359 5069**

**Next committee meeting** **7:30pm Tue 22 Feb at Leo's**

## BITS AND PIECES

Outdoor First Aid

Friday (evening) Sat/Sun 8-10 April 2011

Outdoor First Aid (revalidation)

Sun 22 May 2011

Bushcraft—GPS

Sat 21 May 2011

Details at <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/Training/>

## TRIP REPORTS

### SCAMPER TORRENT – SMYTH RANGE 23-25 October 2010

Labour Weekend weather on the West Coast is always a lottery and no wind for three days sounded positive as four of us headed for the Pukekura Backpackers on Friday night. Merv located the owners by phoning the pub, getting a Coaster's response that the key is in the door and leave money on the table.

An early start on Allen Road through the dairy-converted lower flats and a quick chat to one of the owners saw us start on the old farm track at the edge of the river flats before dropping down to big boulder travel up the Waitaha. The amount of water leaving Morgan Gorge made us glad of the maintained sidle track that led us back to Kiwi Flat, four hours after starting. A 1000m height gain over 1.5km on the track to Scamper Torrent Hut tested our stamina and route-finding for five hours as re-marking and some clearing earlier in the year had been obscured by winter tree-falls. Bill's pink shirt and red reindeer patterned shorts made him a useful track marker. We climbed out of thick cloud on the ridge above the hut where the full majesty of the Smyth Range and Hitchin Range to the north were revealed under a heavy layer of late-season snow. Clear weather for navigation proved a blessing as markers in the low alpine scrub were totally hidden in waist-deep snow and snow poles were rare. We managed to find the steep track down to the basin through thick alpine scrub amid the joys of deep, fresh snow on snowgrass. Despite the Scamper Torrent Hut's delightful location on a terrace above the river we were surprised to find we were only the third party to visit in 2010.

Thick snow dampened our enthusiasm for the Smyth Range traverse and we set out on Sunday morning for a climb of Mt Durward into increasingly thick cloud. Two snow poles across from the hut indicate an easy ridge but small intervening ravines proved surprisingly difficult to traverse. We reached point 1397 after crossing some interesting gorges. The cloud turning to drizzle made a late lunch at the hut an attractive proposition.

Our early retreat allowed time for an afternoon descent to Kiwi Flat Hut. Only Bill enjoyed the climb up through the snow-covered grass and scrub belt but at least we were spared the snow pole lottery navigation through being able to retrace our tracks. The track down through rata scrub was even steeper than we remembered and the tree root footing was treacherous in light rain. Yvette slipped at one point and somersaulted down the slope at increasing speed, evading trees and Gary's desperate tackle attempt. She finally managed to hook the back of her knees around the last tree, finishing dangling head-down over the edge of the ridge. Amazingly her only injury was an impressive black eye. The remainder of the descent was anti-climactic and we were glad to find only four others at the six-bunk hut with the fire well stoked, although not up to Yvette's standards.

Heavy rain overnight raised the river and Merv's anxiety levels. The first side-stream, Whirling Water, was appropriately named but a successful crossing gave us confidence that the others would be passable. The hot pools in Morgan Gorge could be smelled but not seen under an impressive torrent and a swim in the terminal pool below the gorge probably would be... The wet boulder hopping in the lower Waitaha caused us to seek more tracks along the terraces than on the way in but the attraction of lunch in Hokitika spurred us on.

We were: **Merv Meredith (leader), Bill Hotter, Gary Huish and Yvette So.** 🏔️ GH

### Pelorus River, Bryant Range -- 27 Dec 2010 – 1 Jan 2011

The trip blurb sent out to the thirteen folk on the trip list included the following little gem of optimism – “this area tends to be dry with less rainfall at this time of year, which is why we are tramping in this area”. In light of what happened, one could be forgiven for wondering what might happen during the wet season...

Monday 27 Dec 2010

The plan was for all to assemble an hour's walk up the Pelorus River track from the Maungatapu Road end car-park. The destination for the evening was the Emerald Pool picnic site overlooking the tranquil waters of the Pelorus River where we planned to camp the night there and head off next morning. Gary and Margot distributed group gear and arranged, prior to leaving Chch, who was bringing group meals. Travel arrangements were left for individuals to finalise as we were coming from a variety of locations. And so we arrived at the car park in dribs and drabs over the course of the day and ambled along the track to rendezvous at Emerald Pools. With a light rain falling by evening, there was a note on the picnic table for the later arrivals to say that the Bonsells and the Wilders had carried on to the Captain Creek Hut for the night. That left the choicest tents sites for the rest of us—overlooking the Pelorus River some 5m below us and seemingly far away. However, as the night progressed the rain continued to fall.

Tuesday 28 Dec 2010

Somewhere around 6am, after hearing some feverish activity in the tents below us, I heard Gary approach our tent and inquire “Are we up yet?” The response of, “No . . . should we be?” was countered with something about the river lapping at the tents next door. This induced a somewhat less than leisurely departure from the sleeping bags and hasty packing of gear in the rain as well as moving the tents out of the river now flowing along the track. Initially we attempted to head back to the car park to await a drop in the river, but a short distance back, we found a side stream too hazardous to cross, so decided to head up the track a short distance away from the river and pitch the tents again. The rest of the morning was spent sheltering from the rain and making sorties down the track to check on the river level. It was a salutary reminder of how quickly rivers can rise and the power of the water as we watched logs and other debris racing past in the dirty perilous Pelorus. Sue P had cut her hand in the exodus from the campsite and with the constant rain was unable to get her hand dry enough for a bandage to stay in place or stop it bleeding. After transferring their group food to the rest of us, Sue and Mark headed back towards the road-end with the intention of getting some medical attention. By late morning, the rain had eased off, so the remaining 11 packed the tents up again and headed up the track towards the 6-bunk Captain Creek Hut, 3 hours away, to rendezvous with the advance party. Amid light showers and sunny intervals, we dried as much gear as we could and settled down to a comfortable night in or around the hut.

Wednesday 29 Dec 2010

The nearby Captain Creek had been too high to cross but with the new day it had dropped to a level we were happy with. We had 2 options available. Sticking to the original schedule and catching up on what we didn't cover on Tuesday saw us looking at a 10-hour day to get to the 8-bunk Browning Hut. There seemed to be a marked reluctance to follow this path when the second option of following the river to the 6-bunk Middy Hut and then cutting up another track direct to Rocks Hut was proposed. As well as being a shorter walk, it gave us the option to do a day-trip from Rocks Hut to Totara Saddle the following day. After a pleasant lunch in the sun beside the Pelorus River at Middy Hut, we climbed up the seemingly endless uphill spur to arrive at the deserted 16-bunk Rocks Hut, which we proceeded to make look lived in. With clear, sunny weather likely to remain for the next day or more, there were murmurings of a rest day ahead and strangely enough, no one seemed to want to move on. And so we didn't. A family of 5 arrived to spend the night as well as some day-walkers passing through on their way back to Nelson.

Thursday 30 Dec 2010

For some, Sue W's mobile phone alarm of “Cock-a doodle-do” repeated 18 times at 6:15am ushered in the new day. For those of us outside the hut in tents (including Sue W), the morning dawned somewhat later. Much discussion ensued on how this technological wonder might be silenced or where it might be placed to hinder its ability to wake all and sundry. It may have been a rest day, but leader Gary was not

to be thwarted in his mission to keep us all moving. A short walk back along the track towards Totara Saddle was undertaken to seek out the rock outcrops shown on the map. We must have missed them as we were well past the short walk stage. After some snacking and chatting, Gary and Kristie carried on a bit more. The rest of us ambled back to the hut, eager to enjoy the rest of the day doing minor excursions—some getting as far as Coppermine Saddle for a peek at tomorrow's territory. New arrivals at the hut for the night gave the opportunity for the card sharps in the group to practice during the evening.

Friday 31 Dec 2010

The shrill call of the phone rooster once again broke the early morning calm for the hut dwellers. Further discussion ensued on the rooster's future. With an open-ended destination for New Year's Eve, we departed Rocks Hut in brilliantly fine weather towards Dun Saddle before heading up the side of Dun Mountain. As we departed Dun Saddle, a helicopter was sighted back towards Rocks Hut landing the first of two loads of people and gear—New Years Eve party goers, perhaps. The 360-degree view from Dun Mountain was stunning with Nelson City and Tasman Bay below, the Sounds and various hills in other directions. It also gave the opportunity for cell phones to get switched on for updates on the outside world. Dropping down off the open tops of Dun Mountain and then ascending the bush-clad Little Twin took till lunchtime, after which, we carried on through scrubby vegetation, where we met two walkers who seemed rather unimpressed with Dew Lakes, our potential destination for the night. After walking past the turn-off to the tarns, we retraced our steps a short distance to find the DoC sign in the first tarn. Obviously somebody didn't think much of Dew Lakes. We placed the sign in its proper place and proceeded to look round the area for a campsite. There was quite a large area beyond the tarns available. Tents were scattered around to take advantage of the best ground and possibly get away from any early morning mobile rooster calls. Firewood was gathered for an evening bonfire, and people found shelter from the sun while dinner was prepared. A colourful evening sky marked the end of 2010, as did the bonfire, which lasted till around 11pm before it was extinguished as people drifted off for the night. Special mention should go to Helen, who showed great pyromaniac tendencies in stoking the bonfire when it showed any sign of lessening.

Saturday 1 Jan 2011

The New Year dawned misty and drizzly. Breakfast was had and gear packed away before heading up and over Maungatapu and along a bush-covered track towards Maungatapu Saddle, where power pylons and a very rough 4WD track provided evidence of civilisation ahead. This could have been a possible option for camping the previous night, but the camping area was inferior, being a small grassy area a short distance down the road, so a good choice Gary, to camp at Dew Lakes instead. A 2-hour walk down the road saw us back at the road-end where the cars were parked. The heavy rain at the beginning of the trip had brought down some slips and blocked the road, but by the time we got out, it had been cleared up. We had no problems getting back out to the Pelorus Bridge café, where we indulged in a spot of eating before all going our separate ways. A great trip, with some memorable, wet and dry weather as well as excellent catering along the way.

**Postscript:** Sue and Mark P had a tough time walking out to their car. Mark was briefly swept off his feet by the third side-stream they encountered but was rescued by Sue, who lost her walking pole in the process. They camped overnight and managed to reach their car the next day, but then had to contend with slips on the road before they reached medical assistance in Nelson. Antibiotics and dressings allowed Sue's hand to heal and Nelson proved to be a gloriously sunny place to recuperate.

Participants were: **Margot and Gary Huish, Helen Harkness, Kristi DuBois, Sue and Stan Wilder, Sue and Mark Piercey, Mary Jane and Brian Bonsell, Carolyn Catt, Sue Britain and Mike Bourke.** 🏠 SB & MB

## Top Hope Hut—22-23 Jan 2011

The group of nine started tramping from Windy Point just off the Lewis Pass highway at 9:15am. A few group members had been doing some sums and studying the topography, most concluding that to get to the Top Hop Hut with 2 hours spare to undertake the side trip to the hot pools was ambitious. Mary had advertised the trip as 8 hours, plus the hot pool trip. The challenge of distance (25km one way) appeared to motivate everyone and we set off at a good pace, especially Mary in her new boots. The Boyle swing-bridge was crossed after about 20 minutes and on we headed, up the Hope Valley. The nor-wester was giving us a warm headwind but no rain so far.

Mary gave everyone a break every hour for the first few hours—morning tea by a stream, first half of lunch on some grassy flats, and then the second part of lunch by Hope Half-Way Shelter. The terrain had been mixed to this point, walking through farmland by a fence line, beautiful open forest, and grassy flats. Early on in the journey the track was on a terrace up above the main river valley, with quite a few small ups and downs. Closer to Half Way Shelter, the track was flatter and ran along the river flats.

A swing bridge was crossed at the point where the Hope River and Kiwi River merge and the track headed due north. It was shown as a four wheel drive track on the map, though it was a fairly rough version of a vehicle track and not much faster than the previous non-4WD stretch. There had been a lot of water through the valley recently as the track was washed out by side-streams at several points, leaving big piles of rocks, gravel, trees and debris. It would be very difficult to get a 4WD vehicle far at the moment.

Saint Jacobs Hut was a welcome sight at 4pm. Lois and John had come prepared to be independent, and this was to be their home for the night. Ann negotiated an arrangement with the trip leader which allowed her to join Lois and John for the night at this hut. The straps on Ann's 17 year old Macpac Torre pack partially gave way early in the trip - the plastic and stitching breaking apart. The 6-bunk Saint Jacobs Hut was a very pleasant and cosy base for a windy night.

The remaining 6 party members continued along the 4WD track which was more overgrown, deteriorating at times due to more side-stream washouts and fallen trees. The route to Lake Man was signposted at the halfway point between the two huts on a wide flat. It had only taken 30 minutes to this point so we thought we were making very good time. Soon after this, the track was marked as going up into the bush. This was probably the flood track but after some discussion, we took this route as we would be sure of not missing the hut, but it was rougher going than the river with the occasional fallen tree and lots of stream washouts. The track crossed several grassy terraces. At one point we thought we saw the hut but on closer inspection we discovered it was a fallen tree! This track is not marked on the topo map but from what we could see across the valley through the trees, we knew we had further to go. We eventually reached Top Hope Hut 1¾ hr later, soon after 6pm. The hut was identical in design to the St Jacobs hut with a 2 bunk anteroom and back room with 4 bunks, but without a fire. John Robinson got there 30 minutes prior to the others, having taken the river route rather than the bush track. After a fairly intense 8 hour tramp no-one was keen enough to venture up to the hot pools, which would be another 2 to 3-hour return trip plus time for a soak! However, there was quite a lot of discussion about possible future trips to the area which could incorporate the hot pools under a more leisurely schedule and perhaps a circular trip. I believe this mad dash in and out has opened the eyes of many group members to an area with a network of tracks and various options for easy-moderate multi-day tramps, all only 2 hours drive from Christchurch. It was nice to see the names of several other PTC members in a little-used hut book.

After a very gusty night, Sunday dawned drizzly with partial sun. The wind was still norwest for most of the day so we had a tail wind out. On the way down-river we were treated to a number of rainbows. The pace was, again, quite brisk in general and it took 8 hours, with breaks, from Top Hope Hut to Windy Point.

It was a great weekend and I am sure the group would share my thanks to Mary for her excellent organization and also for her contributions to this trip report!

**Tim & Mary (leader) Hines, Lois Moore & John Rice, Miriam Preston, Deb Rhode, John Robinson, Helen Harkness and Ann Schofield. 🏔️ AS**

### **Lewis Tops, Brass Monkey Biv, Duchess Stream - 5-6 Dec 2010**

Four of us arrived at the Lewis Pass Tops car park on a warm Saturday morning planning to do an anti-clockwise circuit taking in Brass Monkey Biv and The Grand Duchess. Chrys chose to leave the car back at the Nina where we would emerge. In no time at all she'd placed the car and hitched a ride back to our starting point. We were pleased to get to the bushline and catch some breeze after a hot climb on a bush track. The ridge passes tarns, with Deer Valley and Mt Technical to the left, the Maruia River Valley and Mt Meuller to the right. Little patches of snow in high spots enhanced the scene. Some of the peaks along the ridge can be bypassed but Kerry chose to climb point 1648 for the view. Sidling on the north side of 1602 can save a lot of up and down but we went the hard way, rewarded by seeing a good-sized tarn SW of 1602.

Brass Monkey Biv is in an excellent location with little tarns just a few metres away. Looking towards Duchess the ridge looks horrible. In fact Duchess, 3km south west, is obscured and is less daunting than you'd imagine when looking from the biv. We had plenty of time for cups of tea and soup and then a tasty dinner concoction which Chrys provided. The biv has two bunks so two slept in the kennel and two in a tent.

Morning came with lots of mist so we thought the predicted drizzly weather was on its way and chose to head down Duchess Stream rather than attempt Grand Duchess. We found a good way into the head of the valley and dropped to the stream. By this time the sun had shone through and it was obvious the weather was improving but we weren't about to head upwards now. Duchess Stream isn't difficult to navigate though we had to cross the stream many times to find better terrain. There are traces of track in the bush in places. Near the end of Duchess Stream it gets gorgy so it's necessary to sidle high on the true right, then drop to meet the Nina track very close to the site of the old Nina Hut. We had lunch there and then headed out on the old Nina track on a warm, sunny day. The new track goes along the Nina's true right. Mid-afternoon and we were motoring back home—happy trampers.

We were: **Chrys Horn, Cathy Mountier, Dorota Giejsztowt and Kerry Moore. 🏔️ KM**