



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

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July 2011

President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Dorota Giejsztowt	352 9130
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Vice-President	Mary Hines	942 6486	Dan Pryce	021 927 716
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Brian Smith	Quartermaster 355 9945
Trip Planner	Gary Huish	332 7020		
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069		

New Member Enquiries Please contact Stan Wilder, 980 5291, 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 12 July **COAL ISLAND AND PUYSEGUR POINT, FIORDLAND**

An account from **John Cook** in this isolated corner of southern Fiordland where he volunteered to be part of a stoat and rat eradication programme

Supper Duty: Fay Howden, Grant or Anne Hunter, Tanya Jacobson

Tue 9 Aug **ADRIATIC SOJOURN**

Nick will describe World Wide Webb activities in the **Adriatic** in the late spring—walking history, flowers and scenery.

Supper Duty: Lynda Janks, Janette Kear, Sue Johnston

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.

10 Jul Sun ■	PERAKI BAY - CAREWS PEAK - WAINUI Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate walk on the south side of Akaroa Harbour from sea level to 794m on Carews Peak. Coastal views towards both Akaroa and Birdlings Flat. Start: 8am Halswell School	Maps BX25,BY25;N36,N37 Approx Cost: \$10
16-17 Jul Sat-Sun ■ ■	JOLLIEBROOK - GABRIEL Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Easy-moderate round-trip in lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flat of the Hurunui, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, going over a low bush saddle to Jollie Brook and then to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes a bit more open and there are a few stream crossings. List Closes: Sat 9 July	Maps BU23;M32,M33
17 Jul Sun ■	MT HERBERT FROM ORTON BRADLEY Dorota Giejsztowt 352 9130 Classic easy-moderate walk to the highest point on Banks Peninsula (920m) Good tracks, historical interest at Orton Bradley Park, plus fine harbour views. We may have an alternative trip if the tracks remain closed. Start: 8am Princess Margaret (Hackthorne Rd end)	Maps BX24;M36 Approx Cost: \$7
23-24 Jul Sat-Sun ■ ■	NINA VALLEY Mary Hines 942 6486 Easy walk up-valley through beech forest to Nina Hut and maybe a little exploring up the valley past the hut. List Closes: Fri 16 July	Maps BT23,BU23;M31,M32
24 Jul Sun ■	MT CHEESEMAN - MT IZARD Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate-hard snow trip to two 2000m peaks in the Craigieburns, via 1000m Hogsback. Ice axe and possibly crampons required. Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW20,21;K34 Approx Cost: \$16
30-31 Jul Sat-Sun ■ ■	WAIUTA - BIG RIVER Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Easy-moderate walk to large comfy hut near Reefton. A great area for those interested in the local mining history. Lots of remains to fossick around. Start from Waiuta, which has plenty of its own relics remaining. List Closes: Fri 23 July	Maps BT21;L31

30 Jul Saturday	BEALEY SPUR Jane Swift 337 1117	Maps BV20;K34
■	Popular easy-moderate walk to this historic shepherds' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer fantastic views of the upper Waimak and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. If time permits it is worth walking beyond the hut, further up the spur. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$21	
4-7 Aug Thu-Sun	TRENT RIVER - HAUPIRI RIVER Merv Meredith 322 7239	Maps BU21;K32,L32
■■■■■	Merv's going back to the West Coast again, chasing more of the fantastic weather the Coast can turn on during winter. This is a classic moderate-hard , four day round-trip starting up the Trent from Waikiti Downs, staying the first night at the newish Tutaekuri Hut. The second day is an easy stroll around the corner to the Mid Trent. This is the hut that was "refurbished" from the ground up. The plan, given clear weather then is to climb to the main ridge before Mt Wilson, travelling along the top with great views both sides, dropping down toward Trent Saddle for the night after Mt Dixon. On the final day, we know the track down the Haupiri is marked, because PTC put in the markers and it was cleared by DoC in 2007. If the weather is not good, the route from Mid Trent will be via the marked track-up river to Trent Saddle. A car ferry, or car and bike ferry, is needed to close the two ends of the trip. This is a repeat of a trip first made in September 2006. Start-date flexible to suit weather. List Closes: Tue 26 July	
6-7 Aug Sat-Sun	LAKE STREAM - KLONDYKE Kerry Moore 359 5069	Maps BT22;L31
■■■	Moderate tramp from Rahu Saddle in Victoria Forest Park. Camping out in a tarn basin below some 1500m peaks. A round-trip, dropping into Lake Stream for the return trip. Some great views of the surrounding area from the tops. List Closes: Sat 30 July	
7 Aug Sun	BROKEN HILL Gary Huish 332 7020	Maps BW21;K34,L34
■	Moderate trip to this peak just off of the Arthurs Pass highway, near Flock Hill Resort. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$17	
13-14 Aug Sat-Sun	ARTHURS PASS BASE CAMP Merv Meredith 322 7239	Maps BV20;K33,34
■■■	This is it, folks! The only winter base camp in the heart of snow country on our list this year. We didn't schedule a base camp in July this year and the only other base camp that could be part snow is the Tekapo base, planned for late September. We are back with all the comforts of home, at the Catholic Outdoor Club house in the village. It's cheap accommodation. With twelve people cost would be just \$15 pp total for Friday and Saturday night. A 'Potluck' dinner on Saturday night is always sociable after a hot shower at the end of a satisfying day's tramp. All the usual range of trips will be on our doorstep such as Avalanche Pk, Mt Aitken, or just a stroll up the Otira Valley; perhaps a chance to play in the snow and improve your ice axe skills. All welcome and departure time for the Pass on Friday afternoon/evening is flexible. Ice axe and possibly crampons needed for above-the-bushline walks. List Closes: Fri 5 August	
13 Aug Saturday	HINEWAI Mary Korver 355 3905	Maps BY25;N36,N37
■	This easy moderate trip visits a 980ha botanical reserve occupying most of the Otanerito Valley in south-east Banks Peninsula. The area has about 12km of tracks and is privately managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife. Start: 8am Halswell School Approx Cost: \$11	

20-21 Aug Sat-Sun ■ ■	CAMERON HUT TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip This moderate trip visits a spectacular location in from Lake Heron with splendid views of the Arrowsmith Range. An early start on Sunday morning would allow time for a view down onto the glacier from a prominent lateral moraine before returning. List Closes: Sat 13 August	Maps BW18,19,BX19;J35
21 Aug Sun ■	MT GREY - RED BEECH TRACK Stan Wilder 980 5291 Easy-moderate walk to this popular foothill inland from Amberley. Round-trip up the Grey River through beech and plantation forest to the tussock summit. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers Cranford St	Maps BW23,BV23;M34 Approx Cost: \$10
27-28 Aug Sat-Sun ■ ■	AMPHITHEATRE CREEK Mary Hines 942 6486 A moderate 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 List Closes: Sat 20 August	Maps BV20;K34
28 Aug Sun ■	MT ENYS - MT CLOUDESLEY Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate-hard snow circuit between these 2100m peaks in the Craigieburns. Ice axe and possibly crampons required. Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW20,21;K34 Approx Cost: \$16
3-4 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	BLACK BIRCH CREEK - BRABAZON SADDLE Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate-hard tramp beyond Mesopotamia Station up Black Birch Stream. Possibly climbing up to Brabazon Saddle. List Closes: Wed 24 August	Maps BX17,18;I36;J36
4 Sep 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 the 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. Possibility of snow, particularly on higher sections of the walk. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BX19;K36 Approx Cost: \$17
10-11 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	BUSHCRAFT Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Further details in the president's report	
11 Sep Sun ■	GLENROCK STREAM - TURTONS SADDLE Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate tramp on the south side of the Rakaia River, east of Double Hill Station and Godley Peak. From the saddle we'll climb 600m to point 1805m and head south along the ridge with views across Petticoat Lane to Godley Peak then down Turtons Stream for the walk out. Ice axe and crampons required. Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW19,20;K35 Approx Cost: \$20

President's Report

Booking For Trips

While you don't have to book for our day trips, club members can turn up on the day. Please make sure of the day the trip is running. Due to member requests we occasionally run **Saturday** trips instead of the usual Sunday.. Sometimes trip changes can happen at the last minute, perhaps due to a leader change. We will always notify you by email if this happens. If you are not on our email list or are unsure please ring the trip leader as advertised. Ringing the trip leader is always encouraged as this gives the leader an idea of people wanting to come.

Non-members always need to ring the trip leader first.

For all weekend and multi-day trips, you **must** book in before the closing date. We encourage you to now book in for all trips as early as possible, meaning even many months before the trip is due to depart. Don't wait for the next *Footnotes*, use the **full year trip schedule**. What we would prefer is if you think you may be interested in going, to definitely put your name down now, even if you have to pull out later. You can always pull out before the close-off date. This lets the trip leader get an idea of numbers, which for many trips is lets us book the best possible accommodation, transport, food etc. To help encourage you, we are making it easy for you to identify the trips as listed below which definitely need early responses from you.

Please check and register your name on the following trips:

date	start date	days	trip name	area	grade	leader
4-7 Aug	4 Aug	4	Trent River-Haupiri River	Westland	H	Merv Meredith 322 7239
13-14 Aug	12 Aug Fri night	2	Arthurs Pass Base Camp	Westland	Base	Merv Meredith 322 7239
24-25 Sep	23 Sep Fri night	2	Tekapo Base Camp	Sth Cantab	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731
22-24 Oct Labour w/e	23 Oct	3	Gloriana and Faerie Queene	Lewis Pass	H	Raymond Ford 351 9496
22-24 Oct Labour w/e	23 Oct	3	Henry River Anne-Boucher	Lewis Pass	M	Mary Hines 942 6486
22-24 Oct Labour w/e	23 Oct	3	Sawcut Gorge	Marlb	EM	TBA 332 7020
22-24 Oct Labour w/e	21 Oct Fri	3	Lawrence Base Camp	Otago	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731
11-13 Nov Show w/e	11 Nov	3	Mt. Earnslaw	Fiordland	H	Raymond Ford 351 9496
11-14 Nov Show w/e +	11 Nov	4	Three Passes	Arthurs Pass	MH	Dorota Giejsztowt 352 9130
11-13 Nov Show w/e	10 Nov Thur	3	Ahuriri- Dingle Burn	Omarama	M	Leo Manders 356 1731
11-13 Nov Show w/e	10 Nov Thur	3	Punakaiki Base Camp	Westland	Base	TBA 332 7020
26-28 Nov	26 Nov	3	Mt. Murchison-Barker Hut	Arthurs Pass	H	Gary Huish 332 7020
3-6 Dec	3 Dec	4	Mt. Tapuae-o-Uennuku	Kaikouras	MH	Mary Hines 942 6486
24 Dec-2 Jan (Xmas)	24 Dec	11	Mesopotamia Base Camp	Rangitata	Base	Murray Hight 347 4014
27 Dec-1 Jan 2012 Xmas	27 Dec	6	Lake Chalice-Goulter River-Mt. Rintoul-Top Valley Stream	Marlb	M	Gary Huish and Margot Bowden 332 7020
14-17 Jan	14 Jan	4	Annette Plateau	Mt. Cook	H	Raymond Ford 351 9496
14-16 Jan	14 Jan	3	Koropuku-Big Tops	Arthurs Pass	H	Dan Pryce 021 927 716

29 Jan-6 Waitangi+	29 Jan	9	Olivine Ice Plateau	Olivines	MH	Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008
1-6 Feb Waitangi+	1 Feb	6	Rees-Dart	Mount Aspiring	M	Heather Murray 322 5030
4-7 Feb Waitangi+	3 Feb Fri	4	Queen Charlotte Walkway	Marlb Sounds	EM	Leo Manders 356 1731
3-4 Mar	2 Mar Fri	2	Omarama Base Camp	Sth Cantab	Base	Mary Hines 942 6486
17-20 Mar	17 Mar	4	Motatapu Track	Wanaka	M	Margot Bowden 332 7020
6-9 Apr Easter	6 Apr	4	Hellfire and Misery Streams-Lees Creek	Marlb	MH	Merv Meredith 322 7239
6-9 Apr Easter	6 Apr	4	Thousand Acre Plateau-Matiri River	Kahurangi	M	Kevin Hughes 332 6281
6-9 Apr Easter	5 Apr Thurs	4	Heaphy Track	Kahurangi	EM	Leo Manders 356 1731
6-9 Apr Easter	5 Apr Thurs	4	Nelson Base Camp	Nelson	Base	Mary and Geoff Korver 355 3905
26-29 Apr Anzac+	25 Apr	4	Kepler Track	Fiordland	M	Leo Manders 356 1731
2-6 May	2 May	5	Routeburn-Caples	Fiordland	M	Gary Huish Margot Bowden 332 7020
5-6 May	4 May Fri night	2	Hokitika Base Camp	Westland	Base	TBA 332 7020
12-19 May	12 May	8	Whanganui River trip	North Island	kayak, walks	Mary Hines 942 6486
2-4 Jun Queens B	2 Jun	3	Casey Saddle-Lake Minchin	Arthurs Pass	M	Kevin Hughes 332 6281
2-4 Jun Queens B	2 Jun	3	Buckland Peaks	Westland	M	Merv Meredith 322 7239
2-4 Jun Queens B	1 Jun Fri night	3	Ross Base Camp	Westland	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731

The above list covers all base camps and multi-day trips on offer, so you can plan now for, where necessary, time off work etc. To make it easy we have also identified all the long weekends. Book in for the Mesopotamia Base Camp Christmas-New Year by contacting Murray Hight, so this can be catered for. Tekapo and Lawrence Base Camps need numbers as soon as possible so we can book good accommodation.. Queen Charlotte Walkway needs early booking. Heaphy Track will need early booking. Whanganui River trip needs early bookings so the complex logistics for this trip can be determined. Mary has indicated this trip will have an early close-off.

Facebook

Check us out on Facebook, we have three administrators now keeping you updated on PTC events.

Promotion Brochure

Remember to use our club's promotion brochure. These brochures highlight all the benefits of our club, and is not date-sensitive as *Footnotes* is. They are ideal in helping us to attract new members. We need your help in distributing them. If all of us could grab a small number and place them at your places of work, community, doctors' waiting rooms, your local library etc, then this will get them out and about to your friends, acquaintances etc. Your exec will also distribute to sports shops, the main library etc. Club members that are teachers can also distribute these to help in attracting younger members. We will have these brochures available for you to pick up at club meetings. Also, at our club meetings we will have our club stickers for hut books and excess *Footnotes* so they can be left at huts.

FMC Membership Cards

You should now have FMC membership cards. These can be used to identify you as a club member, where necessary. The cards are also useful to get your DOC annual hut pass for just \$85.80 instead of \$122.60. There are a number of useful discounts that come with the card. I would strongly urge you to make use of these discounts so that they remain in future for us tramping club members. FMC have worked on our behalf to secure these discounts for us. You will need to often book direct rather than online to secure the discount. If you feel that you have no use for the card or if you have surplus cards due to you belonging to multiple FMC-affiliated clubs, then we encourage you to recycle your "surplus to requirements FMC card" with us. Your surplus card will find a good home amongst new members and family requests, and saves our club's funds by not having to buy more cards.

MSC Courses

Last month we published the list of MSC training courses. PTC is subsidising a number of Mountain Safety Council courses including Outdoor First Aid by 50%. If you want to participate on a course, check out the courses listed in *Footnotes* and contact me. You will need to get our approval first, pay the full course fee and register and complete the course. Once you have finished the course, send your invoice to our treasurer for passing for payment of the 50% subsidy at our next exec meeting.

PTC Bushcraft Courses

In addition to the MSC Courses we are also running two Bushcraft courses. We are in the process of compiling the structure of the two courses and will have details next month. If you have any ideas on what you want covered please quickly contact Kevin Hughes, Geoff Spearpoint or myself. If you want to help on these courses please let us know.

Walking Access

We are in the process of arranging for the **Walking Access Commission** to speak at one of our club nights later in the year. I am compiling a list of areas which have access problems. The intention is to give them the list well before the club meeting so they can find solutions for us. Please email me your access concerns, so I can add them to our list.

Donations to Rescue Helicopters

Your executive agreed to donate \$100 to the TSB Rescue Helicopter Trust in New Plymouth and also donate \$100 to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust in Christchurch. Both of these services have been recently used by club members.

Barn Dance

Has now been and gone. Dan Pryce is organising next year's Barn Dance event. This will be held on **Sat 14 July 2012**, a month later than normal as we will be holding a PTC 80th Anniversary Social evening on **Sat 9 June 2012**. This year's Barn Dance was a great success with a capacity turnout. Thank you to all who assisted, with a special thank you to Evelien Baas who organised the event. Thank you also to John Borner for helping with supper and also for his tireless work until recently in making sure your *Footnotes* newsletter was distributed to you. As mentioned last month this is now done by the Wilders. We thank Stan and Sue for taking over this vital work.

Highland Games

Colin Forsyth who called the dances at our Barn Dance has invited club members to a "Highland Games" event to be held on **Sat 5 Nov 2011** at Hororata Domain. This event is a fund-raiser for the Hororata Church quake repairs. For more details contact Colin Forsyth: 027 464 2021 or colin.forsyth@ghd.com.

Happy Tramping – Leo Manders

NOTICES

Membership We welcome **Bruce Cameron** to the club

Deadline for August newsletter **Sunday 31 July**. 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 26 July at Mary Hines'

SOCIAL EVENTS

Fri 22 July

Indoor Mini Golf & Thai Meal



Meet 6.15pm at CaddyShack, 21 King Edward Terrace, Woolston

This will be followed by a Thai meal at Thai Talay, 9 Humphries Road at 8pm.

"CaddyShack is Christchurch's most exciting indoor all-weather mini-golf experience."

For directions & other info go to <http://www.caddyshack.co.nz>

Mini golf cost \$13.50 for adults (\$12 for seniors).

We will need to book for both so please get your names to Mary Hines

by Sunday 17 July - 942 6486 or hinestandm@clear.net.nz

If you can't make the mini-golf, then join us for the meal (or vice versa)

Tue 16Aug

Seventies Fondue Evening

Join us for a 70s fondue evening - just the thing for these cold wintery nights!

Tues 16th Aug at 6.30pm at 73 Parklands Drive, Huntsbury

Gluhwein, cheese fondue and 70s music - 70s dress optional!

Cost \$4 each to cover ingredients and if any of you have a fondue set gathering dust in your cupboard that we can borrow then let me know!

Name to Mary Hines 942 6486 hinestandm@clear.net.nz

Fondue etiquette!!

Take a piece of bread, and spear it firmly on the fork so that the crust is on the outside. Take your speared-bread fork and stir it around in the cheese sauce. Each person should scrape the sides and the bottom of the pot at least once with each go to prevent the cheese sauce from sticking or burning on the sides. None of that namby-pamby dip-and-go! If you do insist on dipping things other than bread into the fondue, you will just want to dip those lightly, but still use the bread for that stir-wipe action. Pull the bread off the fork with your teeth, trying not to touch the fork itself with your mouth. And absolutely no double-dipping!

BITS AND PIECES

Whanganui River Journey 12-19 May 2012

This is a long way off but we will need to book flights well in advance hence the early notice!

The Whanganui River Journey is a DoC **Great Journey** in the heart of the Whanganui National Park

Our trip will be an unguided week-long trip to include approx 5-6 days on the river from

Taumarunui/Cherry Grove to Pipiriki in a mixture of open canadian canoes and double and single kayaks, interspersed with half-day walks and tramps to Bridge to Nowhere, and on the Kaiwhahauka and Mangaparua tracks and the Matemateonga walkway.

Accommodation will be at DoC campsites and huts with an optional stay in Tieke Marae. Transport will depend on the numbers involved—flying to Auckland or Palmerston North and bus maybe the best option—based on cost and time taken.

We will hire boats and gear locally and they will provide transport, and safety briefing. No canoeing/kayaking expertise required but some experience would be useful.

Approx cost likely to be \$700 (for transport, kayak/canoe/gear hire, DoC campsites/DoC user pass, backpackers on first and last nights). Food will cost extra.

Films to get you in the mood - Bridge to Nowhere, Goodbye Pork Pie, River Queen!

We will need to book flights as early as possible so to register your interest please contact Tim and Mary Hines 942 6486, 021 049 1835 hinestandm@clear.net.nz

TRIP REPORTS

Otehake Hot Spring 21-22 May 2011

It has been five years since we visited the Otehake Hot Springs, perhaps due to the infamous trip that Keith would prefer that we stopped talking about. A perfect forecast tempted four intrepid souls to head for Arthurs Pass on Friday night to allow a full day on a track listed as having major storm damage on the DoC website.

A Saturday morning visit to the Arthurs Pass Visitor Centre dispelled those fears as the damage was beyond the springs but they did warn about quicksand in the Otehake. That news horrified Maureen but it was too late as we had already left her van behind. Gary had warmed up by leaving the car at Otira and biking to Aickens only to find that the local farmer allows people to park on his property for a small fee. Crossing the Otira River was refreshing but Gary had the first real swim of the day when a small side stream further up the Taramakau proved to be bottomless. Morning tea in the sun on the banks of the Pfeifer set the tone for the trip with a relaxing lunch 3.5 hours from the start on the last rocky beach on Lake Kaurapataka before the climb to the Otehake Saddle. The track sidles down to the Otehake over greasy tree roots and windfalls but another 2.5 hours got us opposite the island at the hot springs where John took the second swim of the day determining where not to cross. Then came the ultimate disaster – no hot pools and the only water that was above freezing would just fit Yvette's hand!



Is that a club billy you're holding Gary?

We took the English approach and retired with stiff upper lips for a cup of tea. Suitably fortified, we approached the lukewarm puddle with a variety of perforated saucepans stored on the island and started to dig. Miraculously the enlarged puddle started to steam and soon became too hot to stand in and even the pond below started to bubble and with temperature control from the adjacent stream we soon had room for all to soak and contemplate the scenery. Eventually encroaching darkness and hunger drove us back to camp for soup, thai chicken and rice pudding around a roaring fire, while Yvette burnt most of John's firewood collection. The end of the fire made the hot pools very enticing for a star-lit soak prior to a good night's sleep.

The river level had dropped insufficiently overnight to tempt us to follow the river and avoid the sidle track but we did manage to find some quicksand for Maureen. There seemed to be more handholds on the return trip and we made the same time back to Lake Kaurapataka for morning tea and the Pfeifer Stream for lunch. Gary headed off early to retrieve the car while the others were entertained on the way down the Taramakau by a group of young males who were catching salmon by whacking the water with sticks. Like all good fishing stories they had caught some for dinner the previous night but were currently very wet but unsuccessful. Perfect co-ordination was achieved in the car park and we retired to celebrate the trip at the Springfield café. There we met the returning Bob's Knob day trip members including most of the participants from the previous Otehake trip. There were some comparisons made with the previous trip but what is said in the café stays in the café. We were **Gary Huish, John Robinson, Yvette So and Maureen Thompson.** 🏠 GH

Robinson's Rogaine -- 18 June 2011

18th June saw me lining up with 64 other teams for my first rogaine. The event was held in the foot-hills west of Culverden. Ours was a mixed team with me, John Robinson and Penny Wright, who happens to have been a second-placed super-vet in the World Rogaine championships in Cheviot last year. Penny soon had the white board out with the map of the course partly covered in pins deciding which course to take. The thread was marked in km the same scale as the map. After some discussion and Penny's experience we marked off our plan of attack.

11am and we were off, up, over and around the hills—some people running others walking. As with tramping, you need to set a pace you are able to maintain all day. We hoped to do 27 km on an out and back course in a time of 6 hours. Each checkpoint we reach was worth a certain number of points. On our wrist was a small receiver and each away-point marked by a flag which can be flat on the ground. By the flag is an electronic transceiver, which you place in the receiver so that data is stored and the points for that check-in can be downloaded at the finish. At one checkpoint people were milling around trying but unable to find the flag. Penny saw it and we were able to check in and get away quickly.

After 3½ hours and with 740 points we needed to revisit our plans as points are deducted for coming in after 5pm. No time to stop for long, eating—on the move with a quick look at the view. At 4.30 we had two checkpoints to visit. People were following tracks over hills but we sidled around saving time. 4.46 pm and we crossed the finish line. We had covered 22.5 km and amassed 920 points which earned us 8th place over-all and first place in the mixed super-vet class. I found this Heights of Winter Rogaine a full-on event, calling for good team-work and I learnt a lot. I've signed for another in August. 🏠 JR

Potts, South Branch Ashburton, QB weekend, 4th – 6th June 2011

This was my third time on this circuit, although the first time was more of a Potts River Base Camp than a full circuit. The first in deep snow and curtailed to a shorter circuit along Dogs Range, turned out well. The second was in normal snow around the planned circuit. This time we did the same circuit but, good heavens, with no snow at all on the saddle.

Times have changed and the area is now all part of the Hakatere Conservation Park and includes the three former musterer's huts. The planned circuit starts from the Potts River Bridge on the Erewhon Road, up the terraces on the true right to bypass the gorge and drops down a spur into the Potts, downstream of the old hut. The second day includes the climb over the saddle leading to Stumpy Stream and around the corner to Top Hut. This time we stopped at Top Hut for the night, allowing us to spend the rest of the day exploring up the Ashburton, towards the Arrowsmiths. We enjoyed good snow and brilliant weather. In poorer weather we would have reverted to the 'standard' circuit and continue another three hours down the Ashburton to Boundary Stream for the night. Monday then involves a shorter day, traversing Dogs Range, passing Mystery Lake and travelling down the terrace edge on the true left of the Potts, back to the car.

Saturday morning's weather was sunny enough on the way down and in past Lake Clearwater. Thankfully too, the NW wind wasn't strong as we started and even dropped to almost calm by lunchtime but later, as we headed up, the NWE was getting both damp and windy. I dropped a spur too soon and we had to sidle around the bottom to get to the distinctive pink rocks. That took us longer than expected but we still reached the hut in good time.

There was a small 4WD at the bridge and we noted a single set of prints on the way in. So we were expecting company for the night—a hunter maybe. On opening the door we were greeted by Peter Umbers, from the Catholic T.C. Peter was planning to do the same circuit we were on, so it didn't take much to agree to continue on as a single team. This immediately brought up green flashing lights before Gary's eyes, requiring a check with Peter to make sure Gary could now record the PTC trip number as six, not five, in our trip stats. We often joke about the trip leader being able to lose up to ten per cent on a trip; but how many PTC trips can you recall were we have gained twenty per cent?

All three of the old huts still looked the same from outside, but inside they were fitted with DoC bunks and mattresses. Being in open tussock country, there is little firewood—definitely no split logs trucked in from the station anymore—so we didn't use the little bit in the Potts.

It rained on and off all night, so the start on Saturday morning was a bit soggy and mostly cloudy. The best route is straight up the hill from the hut. It's steep to start; but leads onto a terrace heading north at the base of the hill, to drop into the side-stream in open country. Up ahead, the saddle in the Big Hill Range looked strange without snow.

Over the saddle the lack of snow had exposed a good scree run on the true left that was a bonus. Plus, at this stage the cloud was clearing nicely, promising sunshine which Douglas had been confidently predicting for some time. But we were walking away from the blue sky and as it clouded again, Douglas had to work hard to convince us that ten minutes of full sun constituted an accurate prediction. After a fairly chilly lunch part way down Stumpy, we were frustrated to see valley cloud now marching up the Ashburton. We were in it as we rounded the corner, with no view at all of the Arrowsmiths.

After a brief stop at Top Hut, we set out after 2pm on the three hours-plus trudge down the Ashburton to Boundary Stream. Walking into cloudy dampish weather, we got there with little daylight to spare. We had company—two hunters with a farm bike and trail bike. It's probably only 45 minutes for them to drive in up Paddle Hill Creek off the Lake Heron Road. They were out collecting 'firewood' when we arrived—mostly matagouri. Boundary Stream is a nice place for a hut with some bush around, but the vegetation seemed less than last time I was there and I wasn't impressed with what the hunters had collected. But then we all appreciated the fire that evening and they were accommodating—stopping smoking in the hut as soon as we arrived and they rushed to tidy up to make room for us. They were happy to sit working on a carton of beer cans while we went through our usual entrée, main and dessert.

As we went to bed they did eventually get to pan-fry some large steaks. Their breakfast included a large amount of bacon.

Monday morning's weather was looking better and as we climbed away from Boundary Stream we were soon in clear skies and as yet, no sign of the expected norwester. The route up over the Dogs Range is not hard to pick—simply follow the old farm track until it does a sharp right and then carry straight on to a slight saddle on the top. From there we were looking out to valley cloud still covering the Rangitata, but with Mystery Lake in view below us. The usual route down is to the top end of the Lake, along the edge to half way and then up and over the low line of hills that hides the lake. With a clear sky and no wind, the lake was a picture as we came to it. Once over onto the large terrace running down to Clearwater, the best route is to sidle west through tussock, out to the cliff edge above the Potts Gorge. This gives an impressive view back up the gorge.

By now a nor-west arch had formed, so again, we lost the sun and stopped for another slightly chilly lunch, with not far to go back to the vehicles. Over the latter stages, we could see up-valley, beyond the arch, with a snow covered D'Archiac glistening under a blue sky.

This is a great three day circuit, even without snow. Hopefully DoC is giving some thought to the pressure that increased numbers, particularly at Boundary Creek, is putting on the limited bush. We were: **Gary Huish**(who provided both meals), **Dan Pryce**, **Yvette So** (who wasn't allowed to touch the fire at Boundary Creek), **Douglas Woods** (Ten minutes! Will have to improve), **Merv Meredith** AND Number 6, **Peter Umbers**. 🏠 MM



Mystery Lake