



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

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August 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 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

Tue 13 Sept

WALKING ALL OVER THE PLANET



How climate change affects our love of nature

Kaila Colbin is a serial entrepreneur and one of just 17 Kiwis to train with Al Gore to deliver the *Inconvenient Truth* presentation. With a focus on the realities of human behaviour, her talk on the effects of climate change and the practicalities of combating it is sure to enlighten, inform and provoke.

Supper Duty: Gerry or Jill Jaques, Faine Kelly, Dennis Kemp

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.

7 Aug Sun ■	BROKEN HILL Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate trip to this peak just off of the Arthurs Pass highway, near Flock Hill Resort. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW21;K34,L34 Approx Cost: \$17
13-14 Aug Sat-Sun ■ ■	ARTHURS PASS BASE CAMP Merv Meredith 322 7239 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	Maps BV20;K33,34
13 Aug Saturday ■	HINEWAI Mary Korver 355 3905 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	Maps BY25;N36,N37 Approx Cost: \$13
13 Aug Saturday	 TREE PLANTING  Help the Quail Island (Otamahua) Restoration Trust with the greening of the island. Trees, tools and harbour transport provided. Call Kerry Moore to enlist 359 5069	
14 Aug Sun	 KAITORETE SPIT  Meet Rick's place 28 Waiau St, Cracroft 9 am.	
20-21 Aug Sat-Sun ■ ■	CAMERON HUT Chris Leaver 322 6445 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 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 Geoff Price 337 2614 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: \$20
4 Sept Sun	🚲 RANGIORA FOREST 🚲 Details later	
10-11 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	MINGHA - DECEPTION Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate. Classic crossing of the main divide from Aickens following the "Coast to Coast" route, up the Deception River, over 1070m Goat Pass and down the Mingha. List Closes: Sat 3 September	Maps BV20;K33
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
17-18 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	BUSHCRAFT Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Further details in the president's report	

18 Sep Sun ■	GRETA VALLEY WALKWAY Mary Hines 942 6486 Easy, short loop walkway from Greta Valley village, across farmland, taking in a panoramic viewpoint of the surrounding countryside. Should be plenty of time for either another short walk or a lengthy lunch-stop afterwards, if people are agreeable. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers Cranford St	Maps BV26;N33 Approx Cost: \$18
24-25 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	TEKAPO BASE CAMP Leo Manders 356 1731 Spring in Tekapo! See Lake Tekapo with surrounding mountains in snow. Lots to explore including new Te Araroa Trail link, Lake Alexandrina. Star gazing at night, optional hot pools. Opportunities for mountain biking and nearby skiing. Friday night start. List Closes: Sat 3 September	Maps BY16,17;I37
25 Sep Sun ■	MT WALL Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Moderate walk up to 1874m peak outlier of the Craigeburn Range between Cheeseman and Broken River ski fields. Starting from the Craigeburn visitor centre. Possibility of a round trip. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW21;K34 Approx Cost: \$17
1-2 Oct Sat-Sun ■ ■	MINGHA - LAKE MAVIS Raymond Ford 351 9496 Moderate walk up the Mingha River to Goat Pass and then up to the scenic gem, Lake Mavis. We'll camp by the lake at 1600m. The moderate trip will return by the same route while there is a harder return option to the Edwards River depending on the weather and preferences. List Closes: Sat 24 September	Maps BV20;K33
2 Oct Sun ■	CANNONBALL GORGE Stan Wilder 980 5291 Easy-moderate walk in this odd-ball terrain. You'll see a large limestone slip which has created little lakes and revealed 70million-year-old dinosaur bones. Then you get to the giant "cannonballs"—hard limestone concretions. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers Cranford St	Maps BV24;M34 Approx Cost: \$10
8-9 Oct Sat-Sun ■ ■	BUSHCRAFT Leo Manders 356 1731 Further details in the president's report	
9 Oct Sun ■	MT POTTS - EREWHON Merv Meredith 322 7239 Hard trip starting from the Erewhon ski-field road past Lake Clearwater. Good views starting from the <i>Lord of the Rings</i> film site and finishing with a panorama of the Main Divide, from Mt Cook/Tasman, D'Archiac, Garden of Eden, Bracken Snowfield to the Arrowsmith Range Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BX18;J35,J36 Approx Cost: \$23
21-24 Oct Fri-Mon 🚲	🚲 CLARENCE RIVER RESERVE 🚲 Chris has booked a bach for the Friday night. 4 huts in the area. Approx 50km each day (start training!) Check out the DoC website.	

President's Report

Booking For Trips

In last month's Footnotes I listed all the multi-day and base-camp trips up to end June 2012. Thanks to those of you who have started to book for these trips. Take a look at the list and put your name down early to ensure the trip's success and to ensure you don't miss out.

Membership List

With this issue of Footnotes you should receive an up to date copy of our membership list with contact phone numbers and email addresses. This list is for your use as a club member and is confidential to club members. Many of us now have mobile numbers on the list which will be handy for members on trips.

Bushcraft

The Bushcraft series of two weekend courses has been put together. This is your opportunity to take part during spring this year, in time for full summer tramping. The courses are very comprehensive and aim to cover most situations applying in the bush. At the end of both courses you should have the knowledge necessary for the successful planning and running of tramping trips, including leading trips. Course leaders will aim to specifically tailor the course to members' needs. We have different course leaders and instructors for each weekend to enable you to get a range of experiences from different people. Both courses have a limit of ten people with three instructors. When you enrol on the first course in Sept you will automatically be enrolled on the Oct follow-up course as well, unless you specifically request to attend only one, which will leave some spare spaces available for others. This is your opportunity, rarely available, to acquire the skills needed from a range of experienced club members. Any club member will be able to attend at no charge, except for the normal transport, food, gear share costs applicable on club trips. Club members have first priority for these courses (but you need to book promptly), however we will also advertise for non-members who will be able to attend for a non-refundable \$40 fee. At the end of the course this fee can go towards their club membership costs on successful application for membership. I encourage club members to book now.

Contact Kevin Hughes ph 332 6281.

Bushcraft 1—Sept 17 & 18 (note different date from previously advertised). Course contents flexible to course members needs. Some points we hope to cover on this course include: looking at maps, gear to take, choosing trips, discussing navigation, landscape, flora and fauna, being a party member or leader, weather. Navigation on site as you go, learning to see campsites in unlikely places, learning to travel off track, developing skills to enjoy camping rather than suffering it, picking up tips from all members of the group, thinking about what we need to keep in mind for the smooth running of a trip that keeps people safe, rivers and streams—how they flow, places to choose to cross, cooking, stoves, fires, staying warm at night, hot water bottles, stuff that needs to be thought about at the end of a trip, including club responsibilities, search and rescue. Leader will be Kevin Hughes with Geoff Spearpoint and Kerry Moore as instructors. Probably going up Pell Stream and camping.

Bushcraft 2—Oct 8 & 9 Course contents flexible according to course members' needs and to follow up on what was learned on the previous course. Some points we hope to cover on this course include: steps to consider when planning trips, handling back-country challenges, thinking as you go—planning for changes to your trip en route due to weather changes or party member problems, hut etiquette, navigation on tracks, picking up landmarks, map orientation, paper maps, computer maps, compass work, navigation, GPS integrated with maps to find out exactly where you are, GPS for navigation, setting up way points, locator beacons, mountain radios, what to do for search and rescue to be effective, navigation by sun and stars, uses of different gear and what is useful for weight reduction yet designed for rough weather and bush conditions, practising finding good places to cross rivers, food to take with you that is tasty and nutritious yet easy to prepare and weight efficient so you can carry it comfortably on multi-day trips, basics of first aid—what you need to take and use, covering off points from both weekends. Leader, Leo Manders, with additional instructors to be confirmed. Venue, Hawdon Hut, Arthurs Pass and intend to use the hut as a bush classroom. We will still take tents and those who were not on the first trip can practice camping along with any who want a refresher.

Transport on Club Trips

Generally on club trips we car-pool to try to minimise trip costs. Trip leaders have our formula for calculating costs on weekend trips. Day trips have approx costs published in Footnotes. Our club policy is in all situations the car share cost of the car seat originating and terminating in Christchurch regardless of where some party

members may join or leave the car. If you are booked in a car with other members your cost will be the same as that applying to all other passengers. The trip leader aims to minimise transport costs so will try to fill cars where possible but does have discretion to vary this arrangement. Contact the trip leader or myself if you are unsure about this.

Happy Tramping – Leo Manders

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues **Seventies Fondue Evening**

16 Aug 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 Mary know!
Names to **Mary Hines 942 6486** hinestandm@clear.net.nz

Thurs **Clip'n Climb evening at the Roxx Climbing Centre**

22 Sept 6.00 to 7.00 pm at The Roxx, 239 Waltham Road, Waltham
Cost: \$15 unless we get enough for group rate of \$12. Clip'N Climb is an arena of themed climbing challenges that do not require a partner to hold your rope. All you need to do is clip yourself onto the automatic belay devices and get climbing! When you're ready, let go and the machine will lower you to the ground. The extra daring can do the "Leap of Faith" from a 6m-high platform out to a flying trapeze!
We will dine at **7.15pm at Filadelfios Beckenham**. To book for Clip'n Climb and/or meal, please call Mary Hines 942 6486, email hinestandm@clear.net.nz

NOTICES

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 Tue 20 Aug at Geoff Price's

BITS AND PIECES

2012 Alpine and Antarctic Calendars

The club plans to make its usual bulk purchase of the ever-popular Hedgehog House calendars.

The alpine one looks more tramping-related this year.

Caxton Press are very late sending out the order form, so you will have to be in quick.

We intend to forward our order following the **9 August** club night.

The good part is, the bulk order price of \$17.10 is unchanged from last year.

Order now from **Andy Duck ph 355 4875, email andyduck33@paradise.net.nz**

Annvale Attack and Amble 2011 Rogaine—Sun 14 Aug

A navigational adventure in the foothills near Springfield, in support of Darfield High's Rural College. 50% new terrain from 2009 & 2010.

The 4-hour rogaine (Attack) is for the competitive and the 3-hour rogaine (Amble) is intended to be more recreational. You can choose on the day.

Information and entry form at www.darfield.school.nz/curriculum/special-programmes/rural-college/

TRIP REPORTS

Routeburn - Lake Nerine – Rockburn – North Col – Routeburn 12-15 Mar 2011

The day before saw me making lunches and packing ready for a four day trip. The leader, Raymond Ford picked me up at 2pm, then collected Chris in Halswell. We went through Ashburton, and over the Rangitata bypassing Geraldine to Fairlie—a new route to me. We stayed at the Glenorchy Hotel's backpackers and heard of the force 9 earthquake and tsunami in Japan that struck that day. That evening Brad Wilson, and Karen and her daughter Hannah, a year 13 high-school student arrived to join us.

In the morning we drove to the start of the Routeburn Track and headed along it for around 20 minutes before heading up the slowly steepening track through the bush to Sugarloaf Saddle above the bush-line, where we had lunch. Brad heated food on his stove. As we moved on we had great views of peaks through the cloud, including Earnslaw—which Karen has climbed—and Pluto. We could see the Dart River down in the deep Rockburn Gorge. We headed the other way, down steeply into the Rockburn Stream which we followed upstream, and eventually got to Theatre Flat, where we found a good campsite behind some trees. This was my first tramp for a while so I struggled and I think, Karen and Hannah did as well, so it was a relief to rest. We pitched the tents, and enjoyed a hot meal. Brad worked very hard trying to keep a fire alive with wet wood, while we chatted and rehydrated, and eventually turned in.

Sunday, the day of rest, but not for us. We were up at 8am, and away by 9, wearing lots of warm clothing. We followed the stream up a long way before crossing it. Here Raymond saw that his watch is missing, so retraced his steps and amazingly, found it. We had lunch under a bivvy rock in the cold breeze, and then headed up the steepening slope to Park Pass where we saw new vistas, mostly obscured by cloud. Worsening weather threatened.

We turned left and followed the ridge up for a bit, and I gained a new lease of life and energy—in the mountains and enjoying it. Sidling up the Rockburn side, we were below the cloud. Hannah was worn out, so we helped her for a bit. Back on the ridge, in cloud I followed the others. I had no clue where we are, and just followed. We saw a lake below us, but it wasn't Lake Nerine, so up and over a ridge to another lake—not it either, so up again then down another steep, rocky slope to yet another lake—still not it, but this one we recognised as the one near Nerine, so over a small ridge we went and at last found the camping spot at our Lake. It's marked by circles of stones, and rock shelters.

We had hot soup, pitched the tents, and downed a hot main course. By then the cloud had cleared, so I went for a run to make the most of what's left of the daylight. Up on the ridge, where I could see pretty-much all the way to the West Coast, and I scrambled along the ridge to view the outlet of Lake Nerine, then back to the lake itself and ran along the beach as darkness fell. I couldn't see the camp site and got a bit concerned as the night darkened. Then I saw a spot of light, a headlamp and went toward it as someone called my name. I replied, and was soon enjoying the sweet part of the dinner before heading off to bed.

During the night it rains and the gusty wind blows, but we have prepared the tent for this, with no problems. Fortunately by the time we emerge around 8am it is calm, though cloudy, so we are able to get breakfast, and pack up in reasonable conditions. Raymond suggested we wrap up well against the cold, and eventually head off into the rain and wind, over the ridge opposite where we entered, scramble over and down rocks, to sidle along a grassy slope, around the corner, and up a steepish slope to the North Col. I will always remember that because the noise was like a waterfall, but it was just the wind going over the Col. We struggled to stand up, with the wind at our backs, and headed down the other side, where it was much calmer in the lee of the Col. Below us was a steep gorge with almost continual waterfalls along its length. We sidled around the shingle on our left above it, and continued on the true right of the stream, picking our way down, and down. The wind and rain never let up, and eventually we found some shelter behind a big rock, where we had some hot soup and lunch. I was frozen, and was shivering. After lunch, I went for a bit of a run up and down to get the body warmed up again. We saw lots of waterfalls, mainly on the other side of the stream, in the distance, as we were now below the cloud, and the wind had dropped. We had to cross the stream, and the further down we got, the harder it got, so we locked up in threes to cross safely. We also had to bush-bash along the side of the river at times, and other times walked in the stream. We eventually got down to the flats where Raymond wanted us to continue as he was concerned that with so much rain we might have trouble crossing the other branch of the stream, and the longer we waited the higher it would get. We saw the Routeburn Flats Hut, crossed the other stream that was clear and hardly over our boots, and so into the shelter where we had a boil-up and something to eat. We met the Ranger from the Hut who told us we weren't allowed to sleep in the shelter. It was 2hrs to the road-end so we walked on instead of camping in the rain. The track was like a literal walk in the park—a metre wide, graded track. Here was the icing on the cake of this trip. There were thousands of glow worms along the track. It was like sign-writing. It was a wonderful two hour show, most of the way back. Thousands must walk that track, oblivious to what is really there. We arrived at the cars around 10pm, having left the lake at 9am, so had done very well. It was still raining,

so we shed our outer wet gear and boots, got into the cars and then to the Glenorchy Motor Camp, where we got the Manager out of bed to let us into a cabin.

Going home we stopped at Frankton where I had a 12 inch vegetarian patty from Subway and I then had another—the same again. The others had coffee etc. We said our goodbyes to the Dunedin three, headed off but had to wait 20 minutes for road-works as the bluff was being blasted. It is the unusual trips that we remember, and I will remember this one. It wasn't easy, but we will look back and be glad we did it. It was a good trip with great people. What's next?

We were; **Raymond Ford, Chris Leaver, Brad Wilson, Karen and Hannah Keith, and Bill Hotter.** 🏠 BH

Mesopotamia Base Camp Rangitata Gorge. Queens Birthday June 2011

Everybody has a favourite place to tramp, and my favourite for the last seven years, has been Mesopotamia Sheep Station. It's a 2½ hr drive from Christchurch. Just drive past Mount Peel and keep going till you run out of road. The drive in is very spectacular, especially in winter. A week before Queens Birthday weekend, I rang Sue Prouting and asked if there was any spare accommodation. Amazingly she said the cookhouse was free. So I immediately booked and got Kerry to put out a last minute email advertising, this Base Camp. Within three days I had a total of eleven keen trampers. On the Friday, Dennis and I headed up to Mesopotamia, to start what was going to be an adventure-packed weekend.

Aren't base camps good? You can load the vehicles up, enjoy some luxury and still do some tramping. By four on the Friday most of the intrepid trampers had arrived. The fire was lit and we all settled in for a gourmet weekend. I mean, serious tramping. At six that night, Maureen came into the cookhouse and was clutching her eye, in considerable pain. In the dark she had walked into her bike carrier and poked herself in the eye. The next morning, Terry Thomsen drove up and took Maureen, to Christchurch Hospital. I am pleased to report Maureen, made a good recovery. A big thank you to Terry.

The next day Stan and Sue, drove six of us, across the station, to the base of Bullock Bow Saddle. There was slight drizzle, but the weather improved as the day went on. It took us about 90 minutes to walk up a four wheel drive track to the 1692m saddle. Once on top, the view was outstanding, we could look back to the Rangitata River and look down into inviting, unexplored country which leads down to Lake Tekapo. Incidentally, from B B Saddle onwards, is now DoC land, part of the Te Arahoa Trail. From the saddle we decided to carry on for another hour, then had lunch and headed back, to the truck. We got back to the cookhouse by five and immediately started in on the pot-luck provisions. We were only away for three nights, but there was enough food to last about seven days. I am glad it was only fifteen paces to my bunk, as everyone had at least three helpings of everything. Somebody shrink my eyes please—they're too big for my capacity.

Next day's adventure was a trip to Black Mountain. We piled into two vehicles for the short distance from the shearers' quarters to the 2WD road end—we being Dennis, Helen, Stan, Sue, Graham Lynda, Debbie & Murray. The rain hadn't let up since I'd first heard it as I lay in bed earlier that morning, however it wasn't heavy, nor was it cold, and the misty views certainly added drama to the landscape. The day's goal was Black Mountain Hut, several hours easy walk up the Rangitata River Valley, to where it begins at the confluence of the Havelock and Clyde Rivers. Walking was along a vehicle track and those of us in Stan & Sue's vehicle bumped our way a little further up than did the others. Before long we were forced to leave the riverbed to avoid a river crossing—a route which took us up and over a spur. The easy gradient made for pleasant walking on the now fine day, with spectacular views (as below) up the Havelock and Clyde valleys. By the time we'd descended to the valley-floor again we were at the hut, which was occupied by thar hunters. A tidy and pleasant hut, it's sited on what is now the boundary of Mesopotamia Station and DoC land. We decided Black Mountain was aptly named as exposed rock faces were indeed dark, with some parts very black. This curiosity became sufficiently important for one of us to make a short uphill scramble to investigate. An exposed face revealed a thick layer of dark black lichen-covered rock. The day remained calm and clear for our return trip. The two side-valleys we'd passed both have huts, several hours walk in—Crooked Spur and Dog Kennel Huts—easy over-nighters we decided, for our planned return at Christmas. Back at the cookhouse after the trip up the river, we had another potluck dinner, a more scaled-down version of the previous night, but still enjoyable. On the Monday, our last day, we just had a brief walk around the station buildings, cleaned up and left early afternoon.

Thank you to everyone, for an enjoyable Queens Birthday. Attendees were; **Dennis Kemp, Stan and Sue Wilder, Graham and Linda Burnip, Lynda Janks, Deb Rhode, Maureen Thompson, Helen Harkness and Murray Hight.** 🏠 MH & GB