



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

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October 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	356 2617
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 11 Oct **ACCESS TO OUR BACK COUNTRY**

Geoff Holgate our local New Zealand **Walking Access Commission** representative will outline the work of the Commission. He'll cover progress on resolving access issues, farmer permission, legal right-of-ways in areas where we are currently having difficulty. If you know of areas which are presenting access difficulties please contact Leo Manders two weeks before the meeting to give Geoff time to research these for us.

Supper Duty: Youmie Kim or KyungSang Lee, Neroli Keating, Frank King or Honora Renwick

Tue 8 Nov **FMC INFORMATION EVENING**

Rob Brown our local Christchurch FMC executive member will talk to us about the role of FMC. Nearly a third of your PTC subscription payment goes to fund FMC. Find out what is happening in the bigger picture of our tramping environment and what we can do to improve it.

Supper Duty: Dennis Kemp, Geoff or Mary Korver, Rainer Kuprecht

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.

Bike Trips:

For up-to-date details of any biking trips highlighted below please contact

Rick Bolch ph 980 5156 email rlbolch@paradise.net.nz unless otherwise stated.

9 Oct Sun	MT POTTS - EREWHON Merv Meredith 322 7239	Maps BX18;J35,J36
■	A 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 Arrowsmiths. Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (across from church)	Approx Cost: \$23
16 Oct Sun	LAVERICKS RIDGE, OTEPATOTU RESERVE Chris Leaver 322 6445	Maps BY25;N37
■	A 4-5 hour easy walk (but uphill) via Panama Rd in Le Bons Bay. We will pass the Dykes at a safe distance and follow the ridgeline into beautiful Otepatotu Reserve. Panoramic views into Okains/Lavericks Bay, Akaroa Harbour and beyond. Start: 8am Halswell School	Approx Cost: \$15
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.	
22-24 Oct Sat-Mon	GLORIANA AND FAERIE QUEENE Raymond Ford 351 9496	Maps BT23;M31
■■■ Labour	Hard climb starting from the St James Walkway to Ada Pass and camping high by tarns in Camera Gully. Ice axe and crampons required. List Closes: Sat 24 September	
22-24 Oct Sat-Mon	HENRY RIVER – ANNE - BOUCHER Mary Hines 942 6486	Maps BT23;M31
■■■ Labour	This moderate trip starts on The St James Walkway, before climbing to Henry Saddle to cross the Libretto Range to the new Anne Hut. Returning via Boucher Stream to Foleys Track. List Closes: Sat 24 September	
22-24 Oct Sat-Mon	LAWRENCE BASE Leo Manders 356 1731	Maps CE14;G44
■■■ Labour	Labour weekend in Central Otago. We will leave early Fri afternoon to the pleasant village of Lawrence exploring sights in the region. Gabriels Gully, Central Otago Goldfields, Manuka Gorge including the old railway tunnel, Millenium Track, Beaumont, Clutha Gorge and Roxburgh. Book now so we can secure good accommodation. List Closes: Sat 24 September	

23 Oct Sun ■	MT HAMILTON TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip We'll let our cars do the hard stuff, then walk up the Broken River ski field road. This will give us time to ascend to this moderate 1922m peak on the Craigieburn Range via Nervous Knob. Returning the same way. Snow will still be present, so bring your ice-axe. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW21;K34 Approx Cost: \$16
29-30 Oct Sat-Sun ■■	WALKER PASS – TARN COL - EDWARDS Liz Stephenson 358 3281 One of the classic Arthur's Pass NP tramps. This moderate trip takes in the Hawdon and Edwards valleys, a couple of attractive alpine passes, an attractive alpine tarn and intimate views of what's left of Falling Mountain. List Closes: Sat 15 October	Maps BV20,21;K33
30 Oct Sun ■	PORT LEVY - WILD CATTLE HILL Chris Leaver 322 6445oi Moderate walk on the east side of Port Levy from sea level to 600m on Wild Cattle Hill. Coastal views towards both Port Levy and Pigeon Bay. Start: 8am Princess Margaret (Hackthorne Rd end)	Maps BX25;N36 Approx Cost: \$8
4-6 Nov Fri-Sun ■■■	MT MURCHISON - BARKER HUT Gary Huish 332 7020 Hard trip at the head of the Waimakiriri River. Walk into Carrington on Thursday night and continue to Barker Hut on Friday. The intention is to climb Mt Harper on Friday afternoon and Mt Murchison on Saturday before walking out on Sunday. Ice axe and crampons required. List Closes: Sat 29 October	Maps BV20;K33,34
5-6 Nov Sat-Sun ■■	MANUKA HUT FROM WOOLSHED CREEK Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate trip starting on the walkway to Woolshed Creek Hut then over to the Stour River List Closes: Sat 29 October	Maps BX19;K36
6 Nov Sun ■	MT SOMERS FROM WOOLSHED CREEK Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Moderate walk to this 1687m peak on the Winterslow Range. Starting from Woolshed Creek car park up the Rhyolite Track. Take an ice axe. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BX19,20;K36 Approx Cost: \$20
11-13 Nov Fri-Sun ■■■ Show wknd	MT EARNSLAW Raymond Ford 351 9496 This hard trip plans to climb the east peak of 2800m Mt Earnslaw at the centre of the popular Rees-Dart circuit. Ice axe and crampons required. List Closes: Sat 15 October	Maps CA10;E40
11-13 Nov Fri-Sun ■■■ Show wknd	LAKE HAWEA – TIMARU RIVER – BREST HILL Leo Manders 356 1731 We will stay Thurs night at Lake Hawea Hotel backpackers, drive beside Lake Hawea to Timaru River car park and climb up above the lake with views to Mt. Aspiring on a clear day. Fri night we'll stay the night at Pakituhi Hut. Next day we will climb over Breast Hill with more great views, before dropping to Stodys Hut for the night. Sun we will drop down to the Timaru River and follow the track back to Timaru River car park. Average 5 hours walking each day on tracks. Tops and river travel. This track forms a part of the Te Araroa Trail. Drive back to Christchurch Sun afternoon/evening. List Closes: Sat 15 October	Maps BZ13,14;G38,39

11-13 Nov Fri-Sun ■■■ Show Wknd	PUNAKAIKI BASE CAMP TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip Time to return to The Coast and the spectacular coastline at Punakaiki. Walks easy to moderate , including our favourite river valley circuit passing the limestone bluffs of Bullock Creek-Fossil-Dilemma-Fox River. Driving to Punakaiki Thursday evening. List Closes: Sat 15 October	Maps BS19,20;K30
19-20 Nov Sat-Sun ■■	WOOLSHED HILL - EAST HAWDON Mary & Geoff Korver 355 3905 Moderate trip in Arthurs Pass National Park. Following bush track to Woolshed Hill, then along the Savannah Range and dropping into East Hawdon. List Closes: Wed 9 November	Maps BV20,21;K33,L33
19-20 Nov Sat-Sun ■■	GLENROY TOPS Merv Meredith 322 7239 A moderate circuit to the west of Lewis Pass. Starting on the Lake Daniels track before heading onto the interesting Glenroy Tops for a high camp by tarns. Continuing along the tops to return past the lake. List Closes: Wed 9 November	Maps BT23;L31,M31
20 Nov Sun ■	PUDDING HILL STREAM - MT HUTT TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip Easy-moderate walk along the ridge to the west of Mt Hutt forest. Good views of the plains, Mt Hutt and the Alfred and Taylor Ranges to the west. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BX20;K35,K36 Approx Cost: \$8
26-27 Nov Sat-Sun ■■	SUDDEN VALLEY - DISCOVERY STREAM Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate-hard tramp in Arthurs Pass National Park, linking Sudden Valley and Hawdon Valley via Discovery Stream. Travel in Discovery Stream will initially involve boulder hopping up the creek bed from the Hawdon, before ascending the north-west branch onto the Polar Range. A separate group may prefer to just go into Sudden Valley, stay at the biv and explore the valley. List Closes: Sat 19 November	Maps BV21;K33
27 Nov Sun ■	SUDDEN VALLEY TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip Moderate tramp in Arthurs Pass National Park up Sudden Valley. Travel in Sudden Stream involves boulder hopping up the creek bed from the Hawdon, before ascending a spectacular narrow gully to the open upper valley. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BV21;K33 Approx Cost: \$20
3-6 Dec Sat-Tue ■■■■	MT TAPUAE-O-UENNUKU Gary Huish 332 7020 New Zealand's highest summit north of Mt Cook National Park is in the Inland Kaikoura Range, and happens to be a trapper's peak, for those competent with ice axe and crampons. It takes a day just to walk into the Hodder Huts near the foot of the mountain, so we are allowing four days for this trip, to allow for weather eventualities. List Closes: Sat 19 November	Maps BS27;O29,30
3-4 Dec Sat-Sun ■■	BLACK HILL HUT - CHEST PEAK Merv Meredith 322 7239 A long, hard trip from Lees Valley to this 1936m peak, the highest point on the Puketeraki Range. We will need to walk in to the Black Hill Hut on Saturday night. Take a good torch. Views include the plains, Waimak Basin, Arthurs Pass NP and the Craigieburns. List Closes: Wed 23 November	Maps BW22;L34

3-4 Dec Sat-Sun ■ ■	CARROLL HUT Mary Hines 942 6486 From near Otira, a steep but short easy-moderate climb through bush to 8-bunk Carroll Hut, just above the bush-line will give opportunities to explore the alpine flowers on Kelly Range. List Closes: Sat 26 November	Maps BV20;K33
4 Dec Sun ■	BANKS PENINSULA TRAVERSE Kerry Moore 359 5069 A long day makes this a moderate trip. Walking between Orton Bradley Park and Montgomery Park (near Hilltop Tavern) along the summit walkway. Includes Mt Herbert, the highpoint of the peninsula, and several bush reserves. Good views of much of Banks Peninsula. We aim to have a group starting at each end with a car-swap. Take plenty of water! Start: 8am Princess Margaret (Hackthorne Rd end)	Maps BX25,BY25;N36,N37 Approx Cost: \$10
10 Dec Saturday ■	KNOWLES TOP, ASHLEY GORGE Graham Allely 389 3831 Easy trip up a ridge off the Glentui Road, with good views from Ashley Gorge to the coast. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers Cranford St	Maps BW22,23;L34 Approx Cost: \$7
11 Dec Sun ■	YEAR END PICNIC, ASHLEY GORGE Merv Meredith 322 7239 This year the picnic will be held at Ashley Gorge so put the date in your diary and look for further details in November Footnotes.	Maps BW22,23;L34

President's Report

Spring has sprung and the days are getting longer and warmer. Thanks to those of you who participated in our recent bushcraft courses. Many of you now have more skills, even the teachers learned lots. It's good to see the communal sharing of skills. Some of these could be life-saving.

Club Nights

With only weeks till the general election, things are certainly getting more political. Our October and November club nights are your opportunity to get real value out of politics. We will be able to ask some hard questions both of **Geoff Holgate** on walking access issues and **Rob Brown** on FMC involvement. Is it worthwhile to get politically involved? Can you really make a difference? Those of you, who do get involved definitely make a difference. Cast your mind back to May last year where we had the Minister of Conservation, Kate Wilkinson talking. Two issues where I know we on that night helped make a difference, were the subsequent back-down on mining in the conservation estate, and allowing mountain biking on the Heaphy Track. Kate did listen to us and all that helps when final decisions are made. Over these next two club nights we again have that opportunity for us to be heard to add value to the many decisions to be made on our behalf on a wide range of tramping issues. There are a number of great articles by Rob Brown in August's FMC Bulletin which will give you an insight into Rob's thinking. See the front page of *Footnotes* for details of the October and November club nights. I look forward to seeing many of you on these nights.

MSC National Incident Database

Last month I mentioned the role of this database. We talked about the reporting of incidents, not just full-on tramping accidents that require outside assistance. Incidents that should be reported include falls that could have had serious consequences, wasp stings, near misses from falling boulders, river crossings that had to be aborted or where people fell in the river, hyperthermia, hypothermia. If in doubt contact Trip Planner, Gary Huish.

Tenure Review

Here is your chance to get politically involved. Two areas are up for tenure review lately, including **The Poplars** in the Hope River, Lewis Pass area, and **Blue Mountain** at head of Orari River near Ashwick Flat. FMC have recently submitted on The Poplars. As a club we tramp in these areas and it is important that we have a say in future access in these areas. Help us have that say by giving **Leo, Merv, Brian or Raymond** on our executive your thoughts on these areas.

Social Events

We are still waiting on the Court Theatre to open in their new Addington premises. We will let you know when there is a firm opening date.

Hororata Highland Games

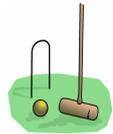
Those of you who attended our barn dance back in June will recall Colin our barn dance caller requesting our attendance at the Hororata Highland Games. We emailed a poster on this to members recently. The event is being held on **Sat 5 Nov** all day and includes a wide variety of fun events. All funds are going towards the restoration of St. John's Hororata Church, severely damaged in the Sept 4 2010 quake. Those of you wanting to go can meet at Church Corner, 8.30am Sat 5 Nov to pool cars. We will buy tickets @ \$15 at the event on the day. See www.hororata.org.nz for more details.

Happy Tramping – Leo Manders

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thur

6 Oct



CROQUET EVENING

6.00pm St Martins Croquet Club, Gamblins Rd, St Martins followed by meal or drink

The club is approx. halfway down Gamblins Road on the right as you leave what used to be New World. Limited parking, so best to leave cars on Gamblins Rd.

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

No experience necessary! Cost \$5 per person (lawn fee).

Please join us for the meal or drink if you can't make the croquet.

Names for croquet and/or meal by 1st Oct to **John Borner 942 0813**, eileenandjcb@hotmail.com

Tues

18 Oct



BEACH WALK AND THAI MEAL

Meet **6 pm** at clock tower outside New Brighton library, Marine Parade.

Dress for an easterly and join us for a dune and beach walk. Great for Nordic walkers. Swimming is safe again for the very brave.

Dine afterwards at **Phad Thai**, cnr Seaview Rd and Beresford St. Mains approx \$19. Numbers are limited and advance booking by Tue 11 Oct essential.

Sue Britain ph **388 2329** or suebritain@gmail.com

NOTICES

For Sale Macpac Esprit Women's Dynamic Harness backpack for sale. As-new condition.

Price negotiable. Contact Jane on 337 1117 or janeswift@slingshot.co.nz

Deadline for November newsletter Tuesday 1 Nov. Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to **Kerry Moore**, moorekj@xtra.co.nz phone **359 5069**

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 25 Oct at Dan's

TRIP REPORTS

Mt Fyffe 24-26 June 2011

The blurb in Footnotes said "A moderate traverse of Mt Fyffe with a Friday evening start to Kaikoura and a walk up the 4WD track by moonlight to Mt Fyffe hut. Saturday involves the Mt Fyffe traverse across Gable to Gables End and down to Kowhai Saddle and Kowhai Hut. Sunday is more leisurely—down the Kowhai River and out."

So five of us headed off from Christchurch in the dark after work on the Friday evening, meeting Trevor Blogg in Cheviot. We didn't get to the road-end until about 8.30pm and there was no sign of the

promised moonlight so we plodded up to the hut in darkness. We used our torches occasionally for some patches but tried to do most of it without—it wasn't too difficult as the track is a good 4WD track most of the way. Once we allowed time for night vision to kick in we could just about see our feet! We got to the hut at about 11.30pm and disturbed a Canadian couple who had just arrived in the country. We told them it was perfectly normal kiwi practice to walk in the dark.

The next morning was beautifully clear and sunny with no wind and some frost. We got an early start to continue up to the summit of Mt Fyffe for morning tea and then along the undulating ridges to Gables and Gables end at just over 1600m—about the same height as Mt Fyffe. A lunch stop on the way gave fabulous views across to the higher inland Kaikouras, then we had a steep drop, down to Kowhai saddle. Here the track is marked, down through the bush, following the stream, and being in shade, it was still icy in places. At one stream crossing I slipped, fell backwards and put out a hand to stop myself but landed badly and managed to bend my fingers backwards on a rock. My hand swelled up like a rubber glove and was very painful but after a short stop and a hot drink (thanks Trevor!) I felt able to go on. Tim had to help me down the steeper sections as I had to do the rest of the trip one-handed. We got to the nice little Kowhai Hut in good time and settled in for the night. We had the place to ourselves and so all got a bunk!

Sunday morning was clear again, but some snow had fallen on the tops during the night. We set off down the valley and in a very short time reached the junction with Spaniard Spur track. The river was higher than the last time we did this trip back in Feb 2008 so we had a lot of river crossings. Fortunately the gorge sections were not that deep. We got back to the car park by lunch-time and some people had lunch there and some decided to wait until we got to Kaikoura for a cafe stop. After lunch in a lovely cafe with blazing fire we headed to Trevor's where he provided a lovely afternoon tea for us—a civilised end to a nice sociable, sunny weekend! Thanks to **Tim Hines, Yvette So, Trevor Blogg, Keith McQuillan, Douglas Woods and Mary Hines.**

PS. I got my hand X-rayed and it wasn't broken, just very badly sprained! 🏔️ MH

'Not Amphitheatre Creek' - 27-28 Aug 2011

I was a bit worried about the amount of snow on the saddles but the weather all week had been warm and sunny and from the webcam pics and info on Softrock it looked as if a lot of the snow had gone. Also, the weather forecast was great and avalanche risk for the area considered low. The planned route was to park the cars at Cora Lynn, go up to Lagoon saddle, off track up the spur and along the ridge to Mid Hill and to Bealey Saddle, from there, down Amphitheatre Creek to the Avoca, camping overnight, then north up the Avoca to Galilee Creek, up to Jordan Saddle and out down Bealey Spur. This sounded relatively ambitious at this time of year with short days and snow but being an optimist I decided to go for it. There seemed to be relatively little snow on the hills on the drive there, and up through the bush toward Mt Bruce was clear but once we got onto the Mt Bruce sidle track to Lagoon Saddle the situation changed rapidly. Every gully was full of very soft snow and unstable snow bridges. The creeks were small and manageable with care, so we carried on. We finally got to the highest point on the track by lunchtime and sat on a board walk where the snow had melted to have lunch in the warm sunshine. Our boots started to dry and our feet thawed out – lovely! By now we realised that the planned circuit was out of the question and we settled on Lagoon Saddle Hut for our destination. We thought at that point that we would probably get there mid-afternoon but we hadn't allowed for the incredibly deep, soft snow once we started descending into the trees. Many windfalls and deep snow over the fallen trees made for slow progress. We took turns to lead and a rule was made that the leader was allowed to swear as often as needed to get the job done. It helped! We eventually got to the A-frame shelter at 4.30pm. We then decided to attempt to get to the little hut on the other side of the creek as it was a bit larger and had 2 bunks but the 100m or so took us another 40 minutes and then we had to dig our way into the hut using the billy lid and ice axes. The shovel was inside the hut of course and the door opened outwards! It was here that Tim narrowly avoided a rather personal surgical procedure involving Chris and her ice

axe! Both Tim and Keith looked a bit pale as they considered the near miss, so they got the billy on for tea while Chris collected more water from the creek and I made some rather fine steps and dug out the long-drop door! The night was quiet with no more snow and in the morning we were able to retrace our steps back down to Cora Lynn. The going was still hard but much easier than on the way in as the snow had frozen overnight and we weren't falling into the snow as much, though later in the morning it started to soften. We got back to the cars at 2pm, had a nice coffee stop at "The Shack" in Springfield and were back in Christchurch by 5pm. The intrepid group was **Keith McQuillan, Chris Leaver, Tim and Mary Hines.** 🏔️ MH

Bushcraft Weekend — 24-25 September 2011

The group of 11 reasonably seasoned trampers met at the Belfast Tavern on the Saturday morning at 8am. After a loo-stop at Culverden and a tyre blow-out near Boyle settlement we made it to the Lake Daniels Track car-park a little later than intended but in good spirits.

Once we had distributed the obligatory 'party-gear' and had a briefing by our leader and educator, Geoff Spearpoint, we headed along the Lake Daniels Track, watching for a suitable place to cross the Alfred River. Chris Leaver had the bit between her teeth and soon we were beside the Alfred, watching Geoff build a good fire to boil the billy. This was lesson number one in slowly building a fire and finding the appropriate branch to hang the billy on. We already knew not to stand down-wind 'cos "smoke gets in ur eyes".

Having consumed a hot drink, Geoff proceeded to show us how to ensure that the fire is out, with embers cooled and the area left as if no fire had been there. We then turned our attention to safe river crossing.

With a maximum of 4 in a group crossing and using the through-the-back-of-the pack method, we managed to get everyone safely across.

Travel was then up the true left of the Alfred until we found a small sign indicating the Pell Stream Track. This track is a little-used old mining track but the original 'blazes' on the trees are still evident. We travelled through beautiful open beech forest until late afternoon when some map checking indicated we were well short of Pell Stream Hut at Gilchrist Creek and were entering an area of the track that is quite difficult. Some scouting by some of 'the lads' meant a short stream crossing, or two found us some flat ground and sheltered sites for six minarets.

Once set up we had the benefit of another warming campfire courtesy largely of the skills of Geoff, then some more lessons on good fire building, drying wet wood and map reading. Wonderful food was produced using the burners by Kevin and Heather, and very welcome it was. The evening was made very pleasant by the warm fire and relatively comfortable log seating. We were ready for bed at 9:30 just as a light rain started falling so all tents got wet. Some of us had chosen to pitch our tents in the trees to avoid dewy tents in the morning but the rain ensured we all had to carry a wet tent or fly in the morning.

Overnight the rain petered out so we arose at 7am optimistic for a fine day. The fire was re-kindled and after breakfast we did some more map-reading then headed straight up a spur behind the camp. Fairly steep in places, the beech forest was quite open and we attained the ridge in time for lunch. Further map reading led us down a long spur to near the confluence of the Pell and Alfred, with most of the group taking turns at leading and navigating. Beside the Pell we came to a nice grassy flat and a private hut, an ideal spot to sit and snack in the sun.

A final slippery crossing of the Alfred and a short climb up to the Lake Daniels Track gave us a fast route back to the car-park and, oh joy, the spare tyre was flat! Just on dusk. What next? The resourceful Chris found a man with a tyre pump camped nearby and with some leg-power we got the tyre up and amazingly it stayed up enough to get to Woodend, then home—if somewhat late!

Thank-you to Geoff for all the sharing of your knowledge and experience and patience.

We were: **Geoff Spearpoint, Yvette So; Kerry Moore; Kevin Hughes; Heather Murray; Chris Leaver; Mary McKeown; Keith & Marion McQuillan; Dorota Giejsztowt; Miriam Preston.** 🏔️ MP