



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

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December January 2011-12

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 13 Dec **TRAMPING FASHIONABLY**



A fashion show with you as the models. You'll dress in **Paleolithic, Retro, Innovative, or Futuristic styles**. A chance to release your inner exhibitionist. Let Kerry Moore know that you are a model trampler on **359 5069** or moorekj@xtra.co.nz

Bring supper food for our final club night of the year

Supper Duty: Darcy Mawson, Arif Matthee, Pauline McFarlane

Tue 14 Feb **NORTH AMERICAN ESCAPE**

Grant & Anne Hunter took a whistle-stop camping trip through north-east USA and south-east Canada, enjoying short autumnal walks in beautiful country. The trip culminated in a marathon run in New York.

Supper Duty: Barry McKessar, Keith or Marion McQuillan, Patricia Meehan

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.

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 Glenda & Merv Meredith 322 7239 As they did at Okains Bay and Purau, Glenda and Merv will be in the camping ground at the sheltered far end of the camping ground from Friday evening. So too will Keith and Marion, so make a weekend of it, pack the tent and join us. The camping ground is Ashley Gorge Holiday Park , 697 Ashley Gorge Road, just before the bridge, ph 03 312 4099. Powered sites are \$16 pp, there is a kitchen with fridge, etc. Showers are \$2 coin. You don't have to book, before Christmas. Alternatively, arriving any time on Saturday, provides options. This might be your first swim of the season. Bring the MTB and try the local roads. Graham Allely is leading the Knowles Top trip on the Saturday. This is just around the corner off the Glentui Bush Road—the one that leads to Mt Richardson. Do the walk and join us afterwards. On Sunday, the PTC picnic will be from late morning in the large, lower area immediately behind the river. Look for our old silver Subaru. Pack the chilly bin with all your goodies, deck chairs, etc and be prepared to blob out. If the weather is fine, you might like to extend the day and stay for an early BBQ tea. Bring your own everything. If you're coming from town on Sunday morning and want to car pool, meet at Robbies, Cranford St, as you would for a tramping trip, but at 10am. There is no 'trip leader' so make your own arrangements on the morning. Any questions, ring Merv or Glenda. Yes, it's that time of year again already!	Maps BW22,23;L34
18 Dec Sun	RED HILL Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate trip to this 1641m peak between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Choice of route depending on mood and conditions. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW20,21;K34,35 Approx Cost: \$15



24-2 Jan Sat-Mon	MESOPOTAMIA BASE CAMP Co-leaders: Dennis Kemp 347 4875, Murray Hight 347 4014	Maps BX18;I36,J36
	<p>Mesopotamia Station is at the end of the Rangitata Gorge Road past Peel Forest. Spectacular views of mountains and rivers abound from the road in and also from the vicinity of the cookhouse and accommodation block. There is room for 30 people mostly in bedrooms and a few bunk-rooms, two sitting rooms, and a big kitchen and plenty of showers etc. There is plenty of choice of activities—easy walks, tramps ranging from easy to hard. Te Araroa, the national walkway, passes close to the cookhouse, and the brochure says 2-3 days to Lake Tekapo.</p> <p>There is scope for mountain biking, and fishing and great facilities for loafing. Go for as long as you like between the dates of Sat 24 Dec to Wed 4 January. Charges are a mere \$10 per night.</p> <p>Let Dennis know if you would like to join in for Christmas dinner. The more the merrier.</p>	
27-1 Jan Tue-Sun ■■■■■	LAKE CHALICE-GOULTER-RINTOUL-TOP VALLEY STM Margot Bowden & Gary Huish 332 7020	Maps BR26;N28,O28
	<p>This is a classic moderate round-trip in the Richmond Range beyond Blenheim. We start from Lake Chalice and camp down the Goulter River on the first night. Next day is all uphill to Tarn Hut with a shorter following day to Rintoul Hut and a great view. The next day leads over Mt Rintoul and along the often interesting ridge, to Old Man Hut. A connecting spur then runs south from Old Man with a track dropping back down directly to the eastern end of Lake Chalice.</p> <p>List Closed</p>	
14-17 Jan Sat-Tue ■■■	ANNETTE PLATEAU Raymond Ford 351 9496	Maps BX15;H36
	<p>A hard trip along the Sealy Range beyond the Mueller Hut in Mt Cook National Park. We should obtain the reward of some impressive views, including Mt Cook, Hooker Glacier, Mt Sefton with its ice-falls and the Mueller Glacier.</p> <p>List Closes: Sat 7 January</p>	
14-16 Jan Sat-Mon ■■■	KOROPUKU - BIG TOPS Dan Pryce 384 7523	Maps BV20,21;K33
	<p>A hard trip in Arthurs Pass up the Taramakau past Lake Kaurapataka and up to Big Tops to this charming hut. Returning via Koropuku Stream or a high route to Townsend Hut.</p> <p>List Closes: Sat 7 January</p>	
15 Jan Sun ■	WAIPARA GORGE Mary Hines 942 6486	Maps BV24;M34
	<p>An easy-moderate splash along Middle Waipara Gorge in fascinating limestone country.</p> <p>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers (Cranford St)</p> <p>Approx Cost: \$9</p>	
21-22 Jan Sat-Sun ■■	GRAND DUCHESS - BRASS MONKEY - NINA Merv Meredith 322 7239	Maps BT23;M31
	<p>A classic, moderate-hard, Lewis Pass tops trip to this bivvy situated just off the main divide. A loop from the Nina Valley up Lucretia Stream and down Duchess Stream. Should give commanding views from Grand Duchess tops.</p> <p>List Closes: Wed 11 January</p>	
22 Jan Sun ■	TIMUTIMU HEAD - SCENERY NOOK Leo Manders 356 1731	Maps BY25;N37
	<p>Easy-moderate tramp over Peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Returning via a natural tidal swimming pool at Scenery Nook.</p> <p>Start: 8am Halswell School</p> <p>Approx Cost: \$15</p>	

28-29 Jan Sat-Sun ■ ■	CROESUS - MOONLIGHT Mary Hines 942 6486 Two of the best-known tracks in the Paparoa Range incorporated into a single moderate-hard round-trip, without the need for a car shuffle, though with a bush bash! Take in lush forest, open tops and plenty of historic gold workings. List Closes: Sat 21 January	Maps BT20,21;K31
29 Jan Sun ■	MT NOBLE Dan Pryce 384 7523 A trip into the foothills off the Lake Sumner Road. An easy-moderate circuit with views of Virginia Peak and the Three Deans. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers (Cranford St)	Maps BV23;M33 Approx Cost: \$16
29Jan-6Feb Sun-Mon ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	OLIVINE ICE PLATEAU Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008 A moderate-hard trip to the fabled Olivine Ice Plateau. List Closed	Maps CA10;E39,40
1-6 Feb Wed-Mon ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	REES - DART Heather Murray 322 5030 This moderate tramp will run concurrently with the Olivines trip, travelling to Glenorchy on Saturday. The Rees/Dart is a 4-day tramp with two possible day trips from the Dart hut (Dart Glacier and Whitbourn Glacier) – the group to decide between a 5 or 6 day trip. Following the tramp we will spend one or two days relaxing and/or doing day walks in the Glenorchy or Queenstown area, returning to Christchurch at the end of the week. Closing Date 18 December (although late confirmations may be possible) List Closes: Sat 21 January	Maps CA10;E39,40
3-6 Feb Fri-Mon ■ ■ ■ ■	THREE PASSES Dorota Giejsztowt 352 9130 & Tim Hines 942 6486 Celebrated moderate-hard route from Arthur's Pass to Kokatahi, Westland. The passes are Harman, Whitehorn and Browning. A crossover trip is planned with parties starting from either end. List Closes: Sat 21 January	Maps BV19,20;J33, K33,34
4-7 Feb Sat-Tue ■ ■ ■ ■	QUEEN CHARLOTTE WALKWAY Leo Manders 356 1731 The Queen Charlotte Track in the Marlborough Sounds offers a spectacular trip from historic Ship Cove through to Anakiwa in the Grove Arm giving unsurpassed views of Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds. List Closes: Sat 17 December	Maps BQ28,29;P27
5 Feb Sun ■	PEAK HILL TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip Easy-moderate climb in open country up a 1240m hill with superb views of Lake Coleridge on one side and the Rakaia River on the other. The upper slopes of Peak Hill have recently become crown land, with public access from the Algidus Road, thanks to Tenure Review of the pastoral lease property. Possibility of a round trip. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW20;K35 Approx Cost: \$16
11-12 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	MT SOMERS CIRCUIT TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip Moderate trip starting at Staveley. Climb up to the high point of Staveley Hill 1077m and traverse along the sub-alpine south-west route to Woolshed Creek Hut. Return via Pinnacles and Bowyer Stream to Staveley. List Closes: Sat 28 January	Maps BX19,20;K36

11 Feb Saturday ■	THREE DEANS Jane Swift 337 1117 Longish easy-moderate round-trip over open limestone country in North Canterbury, by the Waipara River. May include a close look at the Waipara Gorge. Start: 8am Robbins near Placemakers (Cranford St)	Maps BV24;M34 Approx Cost: \$9
18-19 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	MT PEEL Mary Hines 942 6486 Moderate-hard ascent of this 1743m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and subalpine scrub with 7km along the tops beyond Little Mt Peel. Planning to drive down Friday evening, camp at Peel Forest campground. A 7am start on Sat for Big Mt Peel for an up-to 10hr day. Pot-luck evening meal at camp-ground. Short strolls on the Sunday—including the church and the giant fragrant himalayan lilies at the Mt Peel station gardens. Drive back home after lunch List Closes: Sat 11 February	Maps BY19;J37
19 Feb Sun ■	STONY BAY PEAK - MT BRASENOSE Chris Leaver 322 6445 Moderate walk behind Akaroa, crossing the new Misty Peaks Reserve between Stony Bay Peak and Mt Brasenose. Start: 8am Halswell School	Maps BX25,BY25;N36,N37 Approx Cost: \$13
25-26 Feb Sat-Sun ■ ■	THE LAZYMEN TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip Moderate tramp to a tussock plateau about 950m a.s.l., between the Puketeraki Range and the Esk River. Starting from Mt White Station, south-east of Arthurs Pass National Park, the Esk has to be crossed before climbing up the spur before it flattens out. List Closes: Sat 18 February	Maps BV22;L34
26 Feb Sun ■	MT BRUCE TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip Moderate tramp over 1630m Mt Bruce at the northern end of the Craigieburns. The route initially follows good track towards Lagoon Saddle, before turning off-track and climbing steep mixed scree and tussock slopes to the summit. There is a steepish scree slope down to the saddle at the head of Broad Stream, which can then be followed out. Great panoramic views from the top. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BV20;K34 Approx Cost: \$20
3-4 Mar Sat-Sun ■ ■	OMARAMA BASE CAMP Mary Hines 942 6486 A range of easy to moderate walks in this scenic area as well as mountain biking opportunities. List Closes: Sat 18 February	Maps CA14,15;H39
3-4 Mar Sat-Sun ■ ■	TURTONS SADDLE Kerry Moore 359 5069 An easy-moderate trip up Glenrock and Turtons Streams to the 8 bunk Comyns Hut. List Closes: Sat 25 February	Maps BW19,20;J36
4 Mar Sun ■	CASTLE HILL PEAK - GAP - KOWAI STREAM Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate climb from Porters Pass to the highest peak on the Torlesse range at nearly 2000m. Fine views all around. Returning through The Gap and Kowai Stream. Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW21;L34,L35 Approx Cost: \$13

10-11 Mar Sat-Sun ■ ■	MT MISERY - PEAK 1912 - CASS SADDLE Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate-hard trip in the Craigieburns. Starting up Mt Misery to camp in Long Valley Stream, then up peak 1912, descending to the Cass Valley track. List Closes: Wed 29 February	Maps BV20,21;K34
10 Mar Saturday ■	MT MISERY Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate tramp over 1765m Mt Misery at the end of the Black Range above Cass. Don't be put off by the name. Great panoramic views from the top including Mt Horrible. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BV20;K34 Approx Cost: \$19

President's Report

We are arriving at the end of 2011. Our Christmas base camp at **Mesopotamia Station** is at the end of the Rangitata Gorge Road past Peel Forest. It will run from Sat 24 Dec to Wed 4 January. Charges are a mere \$10 per night. Come for as long as you like between these dates. Contact the Co-leaders: Dennis Kemp 347 4875, Murray Hight 347 4014. There are plenty of walks and tramping trips.

We also have our **Annual Christmas Picnic** this year at Ashley Gorge on Sun Dec 11 and our end of year club night on Tue Dec 13. The last three items below are three great reasons to be a PTC club member. Make sure your membership remains up to date!

Te Araroa Trail

This month marks the opening of the Te Araroa Trail. The trail was officially opened in Wellington on Dec 3. The trail is a tramping/walking route from Cape Reinga to Bluff. The original vision for this started at the end of the 1960's with numerous walkways established over the years since. The full trail has gained momentum in recent years and it is great to finally see it open over its full length. Numerous sections of tramping routes have been joined together but also lots of new sections of track have been established together with other new facilities like huts. On Show weekend four of us enjoyed a section of the trail high above Lake Hawea and stayed in the new Pakituhi Hut on the trail. The Te Araroa Trail also passes near the Cookhouse at Mesopotamia where our Christmas Base Camp will be, so you will have a chance to experience a section of the trail there. The useful website with track descriptions and maps over the entire link is www.teararoa.org.nz

Subscription Forms

With this edition of Footnotes you will receive your subscription form, due by end Jan 2012. The fees are all the same as last year. You'll be able to pay your sub at our club night in December. This will save you having to think about it again early next year. Reading on below will give you an idea why it is more important than ever that your membership is current. Technically those that have not paid by end Jan 2012 are not members. In reality we cross off non-paying members as of 31 March 2012. If you have not paid by then you will not be covered under the items below and may be restricted from certain club activities until your membership has been paid. Trip leaders have the right to exclude non-members, except prospective members, for reasons of not being covered due to safety regulations if the leader so desires. Don't forget to check your contact details on the form and change what is not current. Many of you will have shifted due to the Feb 2011 earthquake. Check your phone and email details. If you pay by internet or if you are a life member we still need the form with all your contact details returned to us. The form allows you to make comments you have about the running of the club. This year the sub forms have already incorporated a change in membership definition which we are still working on in the rules. Basically it is the intention to have all our subscriptions charged out at the one rate for all financial members and current family memberships will now pay the additional \$5 as a family surcharge on top of their individual membership instead of a family membership subscription as in the past. All family members to be covered by your membership must be recorded on our membership database. We have no limit on how many of your family can be members under your membership but we need all the names and ages for those under 40 for our young persons database section. This change is needed to bring our membership criteria into line with FMC's new fee structure for clubs and Adventure Activities Regulation changes which have been thrust upon us very recently.

Adventure Tourism Regulations and effect on clubs

The Health and Safety in Employment – Adventure Activities Regulations 2011 came into effect on 1 Nov 2011. The point of these regulations is to require operators of adventure activities to be accredited and audited. Many club activities fall within the definition of adventure activities. However clubs are exempted from these regulations if they run adventure activities for club members, members of other clubs under an agreement between clubs or persons that are being encouraged to become members of our club. The effect of these regulations was discussed by our executive and it was felt that our activities fit the exempted criteria. It is even now more important to realise that what we do is for club members or prospective members. Our bushcraft courses for example will be used for the benefit of members or for acquiring new members, as they were this year. Our life members and their families, where applicable, are all covered, individual members are covered on payment of your subscription when due, all family members of individual financial members are covered on payment of the additional family surcharge together with subscription when due. We are working on the process of making sure our membership rules fit the criteria both for Health and Safety regulations and to also fit in with FMC's changed membership criteria. More details on this should be available by the time of our AGM.

Removal of DoC Intentions System

The system of providing intentions, both in and out, at DoC centres throughout the country is being phased out and is being replaced by an internet-based system through National Mountain Safety Council or through your own emergency contact provisions. Some DoC centres may still operate an intentions system but don't rely on it. The Arthurs Pass office will phase the system out after this summer. Mount Cook will continue with their's in the meantime. Many other offices have already phased out the intentions system. It should also be realised that hut books at the start of tracks and in huts are not checked unless a search has already started. What effect does this have on you as a club member? Well none. Our club has a very good intentions system in place with the use of our PLBs which are freely available to club members even for private trips. All club members are more than welcome to use a PLB for intentions purposes. The PLB contact trio of Brian Smith 355 9945, 027 740 3035, John Borner 942 0813 and Leo Manders 356 1731, 027 442 6080. You can use these contacts whether you are using a PLB or not and if you are stuck for a contact person. You will need to email us with all your details including names and phone numbers of trip participants, who is leading, your vehicle details and where parked, emergency contact numbers of your trip members, your route details and when you will be out. If you don't have your own contact person then you will also need to contact the PLB trio when you are out. Leave us your mobile number, take the phone with you and have it on while you are travelling to and from the tramping area. If you need to contact us at real short notice you can txt or call us from your phone. Its a good idea for all members to put the phone numbers of the PLB contact trio into their cell phones.

Public Liability Insurance

On club trips where club members don't have their own public liability cover, usually covered with your contents insurance, all club members are covered under our club's public liability cover for up to \$250,000 for rural fire events and \$1,000,000 for other public liability events. It could be useful for trip leaders when arranging permission to cross private property to mention that the club carries public liability insurance. Cover is paid up to Nov 2012. We have had this cover for a number of years now.

Wishing everyone a great Christmas and hope you all enjoy the holiday break.

Happy Tramping – Leo Manders

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tue 17 Jan

Port Hills Walk/Dinner



Evening walk, then dinner at Govenors Bay Hotel
 Meet 6:30pm at the Sign of the Kiwi for a 1-hour walk or bike
 on the summit road or crater rim walkway—most sections in this area are currently open.
 At 7.30 we'll car-pool to Govenors Bay Hotel for a meal
 To book or to find out who else is going for car-pooling purposes
 contact **Mary Hines 03 942 6486** or email hinestandm@clear.net.nz
 All welcome for the walk and/or meal.

Wed 25 Jan A Short Cut to Happiness - by Roger Hall

Join in celebrating the return of the **Court Theatre** to Christchurch, **7.30pm**

We have booked the best seats in the new Court Theatre, Bernard St, Addington.

Book your seat, \$45, discounted price, by Tuesday 3rd January, with Brian Smith

Ph 355 9945, 027 740 3035, or brian21x@xtra.co.nz

The comedy is described by The Court's Artistic Director, Ross Gumbley, as the perfect play to return the theatre to Christchurch.

Christchurch based actress and singer, Ali Harper, plays Natasha, a Russian immigrant who, in order to help improve her English and meet new people, teaches the dance class. Among her students are two ladies on the prowl, a widower and a smooth-talking Romeo who is more than he seems.

Everyone learns a great deal more than dance moves in this Kiwi comedy filled with Hall's usual trademarks of acute observation, compassion, and plenty of humour.

Full cast: Bruce Phillips, Ali Harpe, Jude Gibson, Matt Hudson, Helena Ross, Yvonne Martin, Tim Bartlett and Lynda Milligan.

Novelist Vicki Baum once said, "*there are shortcuts to happiness and dancing is one of them.*"

Hall's new play follows the lives, loves and misadventures of a folk-dancing class.

Note: Roger Hall says, with Short Cut he was inspired in part by his own experiences learning folk dancing in Hawkes Bay.

NOTICES

Deadline for February newsletter Mon 30 January. 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 24 Jan at Mary H's

BITS AND PIECES

Doc Seeks Hut Wardens

Volunteers hut wardens are being sought for the most popular huts in **Arthurs Pass National Park, Lake Sumner Forest Park and St James Conservation Area**. Single people or couples / friends are welcome to apply.

We're looking for people who are experienced trampers (river-crossing skills essential) and have a reasonable knowledge of the area. You will need to be self-reliant and most importantly, enjoy relating to other trampers / recreationists. A current First Aid certificate would be an advantage.

Basic duties include welcoming visitors; checking hut passes / tickets, passing on information to trampers, hut cleaning and minor hut maintenance.

TRIP REPORTS

Gloriana, Faerie Queene, part 2. Labour Weekend 22–24 Oct

See Nov 2011 Footnotes for part 1 ... The next morning after a calm and cool evening we awoke to a blue-sky chilly camp, breakfasted, sorted climbing gear and with the excitement of an adventurous day ahead left camp 0745 to strike out for the quite majestic peaks of Gloriana and Faerie Queene, silhouetted against a cloudless sky, the call of a few kea high in the trees wishing us well—or were they thinking what a great time they might have in our camp while we were away?

An hour's travel up the banks of Camera Gully Stream we trekked onto hard snow and continued up onto the edge of the large snow-filled basin where we rested under the vista of Gloriana. Dropping a little into the basin we skirted the large snow-covered tarn and continued the now steeper climb to the saddle that separates the two peaks, arriving around 1400 hrs. The weather was holding, one of those days you could swear it was like this all

the time in the mountains—cobalt blue sky above, glistening white peaks stretching to a blurred horizon in the far distance, the wind a barely discernable zephyr.

It would have been nice to loll around on the saddle for the afternoon and compose romantic poetry but there was work to do! We split into two parties, Gary, Merv and Liz would tackle Faerie Queen, Merv was quietly determined, glad to have the opportunity of resolving the unfinished business of summiting FQ, Liz, nervous, excited, confident and grateful for the chance to climb this peak. Gary led on, purposeful, assured.

Kerry & Dan led off No 2 party, striking a direct line South up the steep rocky ridge towards Gloriana, Raymond would follow with Yvette & Karen, evaluating their progress.

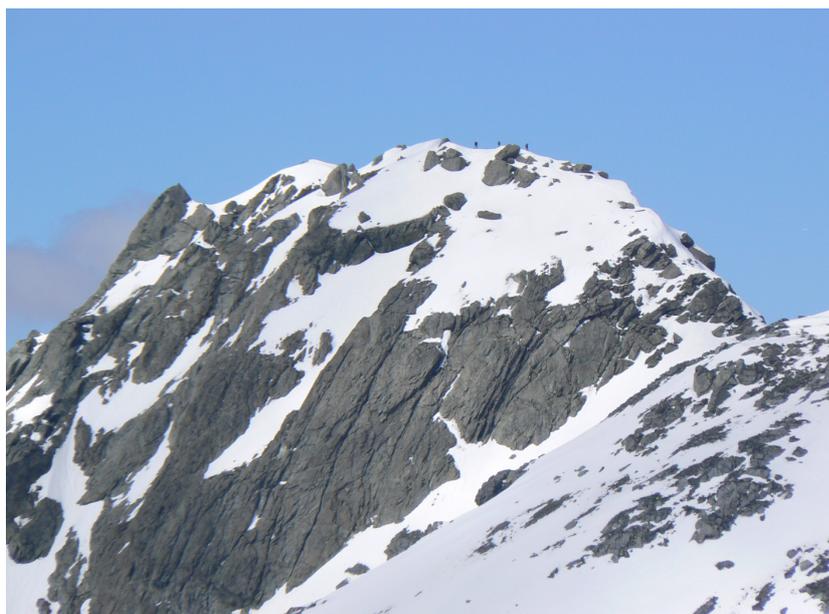
Kerry led up the Gloriana ridge carrying the strange taber-like staff he had found in the bush the night before, having developed a curious attachment to it he resembled the sorcerer from Lord of the Rings.. The route grew more precarious, steeper, razor-backed with iced gully's to be negotiated or carefully skirted. With the fall on each side now many hundreds of meters, Frodo consulted with the Sorcerer should we go on? "YES" he cried, thrusting the magic taber forward. "We are the spirit of the mountain!"

Raymond's strong, clear voice behind, "How-we-doin-then?" The spell is broken, back to reality. Yvette and Karen had returned to the saddle and Raymond had pushed on to meet us. Buoyed by his energy and skill we looked up after surmounting a particularly sharp and icy ridge to see the last 50m to the summit—an easy snow ridge. We climbed, then could ascend no more. Kerry triumphantly struck the taber into the snowy peak of Gloriana and we puffed with relief and awe at the spectacular views from 2,218m

Raymond led the descent, leaving the ridge after a few hundred meters and front-pointed down the steepest decline before the mountain fanned out onto the wide snow and ice terrain back around the tarn basin. There was no sign of the FQ climbers but Yvette and Karen could be seen far below. We struck out for camp, arriving at 1815 hrs after a 10½ hr day, sun and snow-burned, thirsty, hungry, sweat-stained and very happy. 🏔️ DP



On Fairie Queene



Three dots on FQ taken from Gloriana

Gloriana / Faerie Queene—part 3. According to Gary

Following the Saturday advance to the 970m Camera Gully base camp described in November's Footnotes, a cloudless Sunday morning saw eight intrepid climbers emerge from the tents and continue up the gully just before 7:30am for the distant snowy slopes of Gloriana. We dodged the waterfall on the true left and skirted snow coated tussock until we could don crampons further up the gully. Two of Gary's thar sightings were confirmed by others but Kerry's photo of a rock bluff failed to confirm the third. The shady snow was crampon heaven but the sun-softened snow was knee-deep, making for slow step plugging. By the time we reached the tarn basin at 1800m, it was obvious that we could not reach both Gloriana and Faerie Queen and the party split. Liz, Merv and Gary started for the saddle and a Faerie Queen destination while Raymond, Dan, Kerry, Karen and Yvette followed with Gloriana in their sights.

Faerie Queene 2238m

Liz, Merv and Gary headed off at 12:30pm from the 2000m saddle and dropped down the northern plateau to traverse under the three intermediate peaks. The sun was intense and wading was a better description of progress than step plugging. Melt holes were another hazard and we took turns digging each other out. The

climb back to the ridge took forever but at last we could see the snow-fluted summit ridge. The final 100m involved several rock steps and a stunning drop down to the Ada River that did not encourage close contemplation but we finally reached the top just after 3:00pm.

The view was superb but the distance back to camp encouraged our retreat. We thought that following our outward steps would be easier but further sun-softening meant that we just sank deeper. The final climb back to the Gloriana saddle sapped any remaining energy while the descent to the tarn was delightful. We floundered back down the gully and arrived gratefully at Yvette's smoke signal about 12 hours after we left.

Raymond Ford, Merv Meredith, Gary Huish, Dan Pryce, Karen Keith, Kerry Moore, Yvette So, Liz Stephenson

Discovery Stream - Sudden Valley—24-25 Nov 2011

Motoring by 7 and tramping by 9 saw the three of us, Doug Woods, John Robinson and Kerry Moore, pushing into a brisk NW wind as we made our way up the Hawdon. A bank of cloud further west suggested we might be walking into rain but the day stayed cool, windy and dry. In two hours we reached the site of the old Hawdon Hut where charred piles mark the spot, and soon after we were making our way up Discovery Stream. Sunny, windy weather meant that the stream was running high with snow-melt so we had to go bush a few times to bypass rapids and crossings were awkward at times.

At the NW branch we immediately came up to a waterfall and headed into the bush to bypass it and sidle alongside the stream for about 600m before emerging above the tree-line to a very rocky stream. Where we could see the stream veer left into a gorgy section we left the stream and climbed on scree for a slow upward grind towards the tarn basin which was our goal for the day. On reflection we could have stayed with the stream further and avoided a lot of scree. Crossing a patch of snow we traveled just above the gorge and looked down on the waterfall that had thwarted the group I was with a few years back—see March 2008's Footnotes. Soon we were on flat ground in the tarn basin. It was 4pm. Half the basin was covered in patchy snow obscuring the tarn. We found an excellent campsite with a little water spring and a flat base for tents just 200m from the obstructive waterfall. John had his own biv-tent and Doug and I used a club tent. Dinner was tuna-macaroni with silver beet for greenery. Doug's ice axe made a pass-able can-opener for the tuna. In the cold breeze we retreated to the tents by 8pm. During the night the wind dropped and the sky became perfectly clear heralding an ideal sunny day.



We were walking by 8am after downing cereal breakfasts topped with left-over instant pudding. We climbed out of the basin via a saddle and up to point 1937 of the Polar Range where we got magnificent views of a snowy landscape. We identified Mt Murchison in the distance and thought of Gary's group that were climbing it. We looked down to the ridge containing point 1736 and recalled the other failed attempt to cross from Discovery Stream into Sudden Valley. We can see why this group couldn't descend the steep-sided rocky wall and turned back. Our threesome stuck to the highpoints of the Polar Range for a better view into Sudden Valley seeing no possible way into the head of the valley until we'd passed point 1876 and patchy snow on scree led us down. The snow was soft enough to be easily managed giving us a fun descent most of the way to the stream. Down in the valley we had a choice of snow or coarse scree for a while and then we were on scrubby tussock. It seemed a long hike to the biv where Doug and John had a lengthy wait for me to catch up. This was the pattern for the whole weekend. Doug is a keen roganier and John has recently taken up the sport. This and a more athletic build allowed them to get ahead of me with ease. They were very good at stopping at regular intervals to let me catch up.

In the bush section of the Sudden Valley track Doug and I remembered a narrow trench with a fixed rope to get back to the stream below the gorge. Instead we descended a scree gully and didn't see a trench. Sudden Stream, swelled by snow-melt, demanded care as we crossed. At one point we missed a track marker so had to go down the awkward stream for a way but soon got back on track. The stream flattens and gets wider as it nears the Hawdon. We were back at the car by 4pm, well satisfied with our time on this moderate-hard hike. I was particularly pleased after being on two failed attempts of this circuit. 🏔️ KM

Woolshed Hill — 19-20 November 2011

It was a warm and bright Saturday morning in November and eight of us headed out of Christchurch at 7am to drive to the Hawdon Shelter. The first car arrived in Springfield with a bit of time to spare so at Keith's insistence we snuck off to the Yellow Shack for breakfast, however, the other car—that of our trip leader Geoff K—was not as far behind as we thought and Keith's coffee and pie put us well behind schedule! We turned off state highway 73 soon after Lake Grasmere onto the Mount White road and up to the Hawdon Shelter. To my surprise, no-one had forgotten their kit. We booted up quickly and set off, passing Kidson Lodge after 10mins. The Woolshed Hill track is well signposted to the right in the trees just past the Hawdon Shelter.

We made good time and with a couple of stops we got to the bush-line and eventually up to the first tarn, then up a ridge, rocky in places), to the Woolshed Hill summit at 1429m. We got great views of Sudden Valley and Hawdon Valley to the north, the Andrews Valley and Casey Saddle to the north-east, and south to the Waimak and Lake Pearson. From the top our destination couldn't be seen but we headed north along the ridge towards some trees, and dropped down about 200m into a basin with a tarn in a lovely sunny spot, sheltered from the wind. After setting up camp, some of the party went up to the ridge and headed north towards peak 1445m and down a patch of snow-covered scree. It is possible to drop down into the Hawdon to make this a circular day-trip although there is no marked route. We discussed whether it was possible to continue along the Savannah Range and ultimately down to the East Hawdon Biv but this would have made a long trip (possibly 3 days) and one that perhaps needs more investigation from the East Hawdon side.

Geoff K cooked dinner—a tasty tomato and pepperoni sauce with risoni, followed by Mary K's fruit cake. Since we'd been provided with such a lovely stone campfire circle, we found dry wood and kindling and got a good fire going. After his experience on the recent bushcraft training weekend with Geoff Spearpoint, Keith was keen to share what he'd learnt with the group and kept trying to get a bottom on the fire. We all agreed that if that was his plan, it had better be his own bottom. We all sat around the fire and enjoyed the last bit of evening sun before it dropped behind the trees, then we joined in a lively crossword session. It was amazing how quickly we all managed to do the cryptic. As soon as Keith was satisfied with the bottom on the fire, we all cleared off to bed!

We woke early and were please to see that the tents were dry. During breakfast, the Marys were still congratulating themselves on completing the crossword so quickly—a great group effort they thought! The forecast was for heavy rain to set in at lunchtime so we wasted no time in packing away and setting off back the same way—back up a steep hill to the ridge and summit and then down, down, down! It was a lot windier than the day before with some strong gusts and we could see the bad weather coming in from the north so we were glad when we were down the narrow ridge and back in the beech forest. Once in the trees, the track is steep and narrow and Brian B struck out ahead. At one point there is a side-track on the left to a lookout which we mistook

for the track but realised very quickly that the markers carry on down to the right. We stopped a couple of times on the way down and didn't catch up with Brian but thought he'd be waiting for us when we came down to the flat by Kidson Lodge but he wasn't there—no worries, he must have gone onto the cars only minutes away but he wasn't there either! At this point we started to get a bit worried. After checking the shelter, toilet and calling a few times, half the group lightened their loads and were just about to set off back up the track to look for him when he appeared out of the trees looking slightly sheepish and a bit bloodied having got into a scrap with some bush lawyer. Geoff K welcomed him back warmly (I can't print the actual expression he used here).

It turned out that Brian had taken the side track and when he realised, he turned back to rejoin the main track but couldn't find it. As it was quite easy with the view of the valley to see where he was, he decided to carry on down, but the bush got quite thick in places and a few times he got bluffed and had to head further away, so once down onto the flat he had a 20 minute walk to get back to us. Of course we all sympathised sincerely and said it could happen to anyone :-)

We set off to Springfield for coffee where I confessed that I had the answers to the crossword and had been sneaking around whispering the answers to everyone except Mary H, Mary K, and Mary-Jane! They had been so impressed at the combined intellect of the group. They should have known otherwise. We were **Geoff and Mary K, Brian and Mary-Jane B, Keith & Marion McQuillan, and Tim and Mary H**. Thanks all for a great trip. 🏔️ TH

Carroll Hut - 3-4 Dec 2011

This trip was nearly cancelled due to bad weather but as the weekend approached, the worst of the high winds and rain forecast appeared to be during Sat night/Sunday morning and so we decided to go. Seven of us went in two cars and met Maureen at the Otira pub where we arranged to leave the vehicles as Kelly's Creek car park (Kelly's shelter as it was) is renowned for break-ins. Maureen had brought her old bike so Gary and Tim dropped us off, did a quick car shuttle back to the pub and Gary biked back. They both caught us up very quickly as it was a hot day and the rest of us took our time plodding up the steep hill. We had a couple of stops and then stopped for lunch shortly before the bush-line. Once out of the bush the gradient eased and there was very little wind—surprising since there had been high winds on the drive over. At the stop in Arthurs Pass en route, we learned that there was another group of seven heading in but only for a day walk. They overtook us on the way up. No-one else had signed the intentions book at the track end.

As the forecast was bad no-one wanted to camp out, so we just carried one tent for emergency use but took our mats just in case. Above the bush-line, we ascended into alpine tussock and saw nei-nei, clematis, mount cook 'lilies', and many other spring flowers. Although this Carroll Hut trip was 2 weeks later than last year's, the trees and flowers were well behind, probably due to the late snow and cold, wet spring this year. We got to the hut by 2pm, had a brew and then headed up to the saddle and beyond to help Gary search for his elusive gold mine. There were co-ordinates in the hut book for a mine but that was one that Gary already knew about. It was quite obvious, if you knew to look for the piles of tailings, and the vertical shaft was several metres deep with snow at the bottom. Compared to last year, this area was quite wet and the tarns were full. Unlike last year, this time we found sundews everywhere! The wind was getting up and we felt a few spots of rain so we were back to the hut by 5pm. No-one else arrived so we had the place to ourselves. There was time for a crossword and bit of a rest before dinner of pasta and pepperoni in tomato sauce with onion, mushroom, aubergine and grated cheese, followed by fruit cake and custard.

The promised rain came in about 9pm and wind battered the hut during the night but in the morning it was misty and calm, and the remaining mist and cloud soon cleared to reveal a lovely sunny day. It only took us a little over 2 hours to get back down and we saw a baby tom tit and two parakeets on the way. Near the bottom, Gary, Tim and Sam went ahead and by the time the rest of us got to the car park the cars were there waiting. Tim had drawn the short straw and had the uphill cycle ride back to Otira to get the first car. It was too early for lunch so we had a coffee at Otira as a thank you for looking after our cars and then lunch at Arthurs Pass. It was a lovely warm summer's day, so we sat and watched the antics of the many kea. The cafe owner brought us a squirry water bottle to use on the kea if they got too close to our sandwiches!

We were: **Gary Huish & Margot Bowden, Maureen Thompson, Sam Stephenson, Barry McKessar, Sue Piercey, and Tim & Mary Hines.** 🏔️ MH