



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

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## December, January 2012,13

<b>President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford	351 9496
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Dan Pryce	384 7065
<b>Vice-President</b>	Mary Hines	942 6486	Liz Stephenson	358 3281
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Price	337 2614	Brian Smith	Quartermaster 355 9945
<b>Trip Planner</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020		
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
<b>Editor</b>	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 Dec Creative Captions

Merv will provide the photos. You will devise clever captions for them.

**Everyone brings a supper plate**

**Supper Duty: Gareth Wright Alice Yung, Graham Allely**



### Tue 12 Feb New Members' Night

Bring along friends, neighbours, work colleagues, and family who are interested in the outdoors. Let them see what PTC has to offer. See page 7 for details.

**Supper Duty: David Ramm, Lisa Williams, Rachel Payne**



## COMING TRIPS

### Day Trips:

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town nearest 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 on biking trips please contact

**Rick Bolch ph 980 5156 email rlbolch@paradise.net.nz**

9 Dec Sun	<p><b>LITTLE MT PEEL</b> Chris Leaver 322 6445</p> <p>■ <b>Easy-moderate</b> to <b>moderate</b> ascent of this 1300m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and subalpine scrub. Quite a long climb, but it's a good track. Those wanting an easier day may want to go only part of the way up, or explore the bush tracks in the area.</p> <p><b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)</b></p>	<p><b>Maps BY19;J37</b></p> <p><b>Approx Cost: \$24</b></p>
15 Dec Sat	<p><b>ASHLEY GORGE FROM MIDDLE BRIDGE</b> Glenda &amp; Merv Meredith 322 7239</p> <p>■ This is the <b>easy-moderate</b> classic splash down stream along the Ashley from Middle Bridge out to the domain. The length of day depends on the river level. 4 – 6 hr depending on river flow. It's a fun trip on a fine day. Don't forget the full change of clothes for afterwards. Glenda &amp; Merv will meet the party from town on the Lees Valley Rd, so ring Merv if you are able to organise the cars at Cranford St on the morning.</p> <p><b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b></p>	<p><b>Maps BW22,23;L34</b></p> <p><b>Approx Cost: \$15</b></p>
16 Dec Sun	<p><b>YEAR END PICNIC, ASHLEY GORGE</b> Glenda &amp; Merv Meredith 322 7239</p> <p>■ Glenda and Merv will be in the camping ground, on the right, near the sheltered far end, from Friday evening so make a weekend of it, pack the tent and join us. The camping ground is <b>Ashley Gorge Holiday Park</b>, just before the bridge, ph 03 312 4099. Powered sites are \$16 pp, there is a kitchen with fridge, etc. Showers—\$2 coin. You needn't book before Christmas. 4-bunk cabins are \$60 for the first 2 people.</p> <p>Arriving any time on Saturday, provides options, maybe your first swim of the season. Bring a bike and try the local roads. Or join the <b>Ashley Gorge Splash</b>. At about 8.45am Glenda and Merv will meet the PTC party travelling from town at the Lees Valley turn-off on Ashley Gorge Rd. See the trip description above.</p> <p>On <b>Sunday</b>, the PTC picnic will be from later morning in the large lower area immediately behind the river. Look for the silver Subaru Legacy. Pack the chilly bin with all your goodies, the deck chairs, etc and be prepared to blob out. You might like to extend the day and stay for an early BBQ tea. Bring your own everything.</p> <p>Coming from town on Sunday morning you can meet 10am at Robbies, Cranford St. There will be no 'trip leader' but Merv will be co-ordinating via the club 'Communicator' email. So give him a ring by Thursday evening if you are going or want a ride.</p>	<p><b>Maps BW22,23;L34</b></p>
24 Dec-2Ja Mon... ■■■■■■■■■	<p><b>MAVORA LAKES BASE</b></p> <p>This year we intend to return to the Mavora Lakes area for a camping Christmas. Come for the whole period or just drop in. Dennis Kemp 347 4875 will be on location in his caravan.</p>	<p><b>Maps CC09,CD09;D42,43,E42,43</b></p>

12-15 Jan Sat-Tue ■■■■■	<b>ANNETTE PLATEAU</b> <b>Raymond Ford 351 9496</b> A <b>hard</b> trip along the Sealy Range beyond the new 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 icefalls and the Mueller Glacier. We intend to camp on the Annette Plateau and climb 2627m Mt Sealy. Descending from the plateau via Sebastapol Ridge. <b>List closes: Sat 22 Dec</b>	<b>Maps BX15;H36</b>
12-13 Jan Sat-Sun ■■■	<b>AVALANCHE – CROW</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> A classic <b>moderate</b> trip ascending Avalanche Peak and then following the ridge before dropping down a scree ramp to the new Crow Hut. Sunday is a shorter day to Klondike Corner. <b>List closes: Sat 5 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BV20;K33</b>
13 Jan Sun ■	<b>MT KARETU</b> <b>Dan Pryce 384 7065</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> trip to this 970m peak, west of Mt Grey. Starting from the Okuku Pass Road and possibly returning via a forestry track. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BW23,BV23;M34</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$11</b>
19-20 Jan Sat-Sun ■■■	<b>ROLLESTON RANGE</b> <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b> A <b>moderate-hard</b> circuit on the Rolleston Range between the Kakapo and Boulderstone Streams, in the Lake Coleridge area. <b>List closes: Wed 9 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BV19,BW19;J34,K34</b>
19-21 Jan Sat-Mon ■■■■	<b>MT COOK BASE CAMP</b> <b>Calum McIntosh 376-6133</b> Base camp at Unwin Hut. Superb day tramps for fitter people include Mueller Hut, Sefton Biv and Mt Wakefield, whilst easier tramps include Sealy Tarns, Red Lakes and the Hooker and Tasman valleys. <b>List closes: Sat 5 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BX15,BY15;H36</b>
20 Jan Sun ■	<b>BIRDLINGS FLAT - MAGNET BAY</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> trip along the coast from Birdlings Flat to Oashore, Tokoroa, Hikuraki and Magnet Bays. Returning the same way. <b>Start: 8am Halswell School</b>	<b>Maps BY24;M37,N37</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$8</b>
26-27 Jan Sat-Sun ■■■	<b>MARUIA SPRINGS BASE CAMP</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> <b>Moderate</b> climbs of Mts Haast and Mueller are likely trips in the area. Other trips are possible, depending on leader preferences. Camping at Maruia Springs with access to the hot pools. Likely Friday evening start. <b>List closes: Sat 12 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BT22,23;M31</b>
27 Jan Sun ■	<b>DRY ACHERON STREAM TO BIG BEN</b> <b>Gary Huish 332 7020</b> <b>Moderate</b> trip to this 1416m peak in the south of the Korowai / Torlesse Tussockland Park. Travelling up the Dry Acheron Stream catchment. Views should include Lake Coleridge basin and Rakaia River. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BW20,21;K35</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$15</b>
2-9 Feb Sat-Sat ■■■■■■■	<b>GARDEN OF EDEN - GREAT UNKNOWN</b> <b>Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008</b> A <b>moderate-hard</b> traverse of the Garden of Eden from the Clyde River/Perth Col to the Great Unknown. <b>Trip closed</b>	<b>Maps BW17;I38</b>

2-9 Feb Sat-Sat ■■■■■■■	<b>HOLLYFORD TRACK</b> Heather Murray 332 6281 The Hollyford Track is a four-day <b>easy-moderate</b> tramp, with no real climbing, from Gunn's Camp to Martins Bay where we will take a day to rest or visit the seal colony along the beach track towards Long Reef. Instead of retracing our entire route we will take a jet boat up Lake McKerrow then have only 1½ days to walk out. We currently have 5, possibly 7, names down for this classic tramp so get in quick. <b>List closes: Sun 6 Jan</b>	<b>Maps CA09,CB09;D40</b>
2-9 Feb Sat-Sat ■■■■■■■	<b>GREAT BARRIER ISLAND BASE</b> Leo Manders 356 1731 Base camp in the tropical north. <b>List closes: Sat 1 Dec</b>	<b>Maps AY34,AZ34;S8,T8</b>
2-3 Feb Sat-Sun ■■	<b>MONS SEX MILLIA</b> Dan Pryce 384 7065 <b>Moderate-hard</b> tramp off of the Lewis Pass highway to this 1800m high point on the Poplars Range. Possibly camping on the tops. <b>List closes: Sun 26 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BU23;M32</b>
3 Feb Sun ■	<b>BANKS PENINSULA TRAVERSE</b> TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip A long day makes this a <b>moderate</b> 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! <b>Start: 8am Princess Margaret (Hackthorne Rd end)</b>	<b>Maps BX25,BY25;N36,N37</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$10</b>
9-10 Feb Sat-Sun ■■	<b>LAKE STREAM - KLONDYKE</b> Kerry Moore 359 5069 <b>Moderate</b> tramp from Rahu Saddle in Victoria Forest Park. Camping out in a tarn basin below some 1500m peaks. A round trip, dropping into Lake Stream for the return trip. Some great views of the surrounding area from the tops. <b>List closes: Sun 2 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BT22;L31</b>
10 Feb Sun ■	<b>MT HERBERT FROM ORTON BRADLEY</b> Sue Britian 388 2329 Classic <b>easy-moderate</b> walk to the highest point on Banks Peninsula (920m) Good tracks, historical interest at Orton Bradley Park, plus fine harbour views. <b>Start: 8am Princess Margaret (Hackthorne Rd end)</b>	<b>Maps BX24;M36</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$6</b>
16-17 Feb Sat-Sun ■■	<b>NORTH TEMPLE - GUNSIGHT PASS - SOUTH TEMPLE</b> Gary Huish 332 7020 <b>Moderate</b> trip at the head of Lake Ohau. Travelling up the north branch of Temple and crossing Gunsight Pass into the South Temple. <b>List closes: Sun 9 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BZ14;G38,39</b>
17 Feb Sun ■	<b>BEALEY SPUR</b> TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip Popular <b>easy-moderate</b> walk to this historic shepherds' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer fantastic views of the upper Waimak and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. If time permits it is worth walking beyond the hut, further up the spur. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV20;K34</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$21</b>

<b>23-24 Feb</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■■	<b>HAMILTON HUT VIA HARPER RIVER</b> <b>Leo Manders 356 1731</b> Popular <b>easy-moderate</b> trip in the Craigieburns, overnighing in the good-sized Hamilton Hut. Heading in from Lake Coleridge up the Harper River. Great introductory trip for people getting back into tramping. <b>List closes: Sun 16 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BW20;K34</b>
<b>24 Feb</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>ROME RIDGE - AVALANCHE PEAK</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> This <b>moderate-hard</b> trip traversing the range from the ridge to Mt Rolleston to Avalanche Peak in Arthurs Pass makes an excellent round trip. Expect a long day. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV20;K33</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$26</b>
<b>2-6 Mar</b> <b>Sat-Wed</b> ■■■■■	<b>LATHROP SADDLE - ZIT SADDLE</b> <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b> This <b>moderate-hard</b> classic circuit crosses the Browning Range from the Styx and out over Zit Saddle into the Toaroa. Its well worth using your annual leave on this one. DoC say they have re-marked the route in the Crawford and Kokatahi and Andrew Buglass has cruise taped the old direct route from Adventure Ridge Biv up to Zit Saddle. So navigation should be more straightforward this time, but there is still the potential to be delayed by weather in a couple of places. <b>List closes: Wed 20 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BV19;J33</b>
<b>2-3 Mar</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■■	<b>CARLYLE HUT</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> An <b>easy-moderate trip</b> up Carlyle Stream to the hut among the forests and peaks on the north side of the Lewis Pass road. <b>List closes: Sun 23 Feb</b>	<b>Maps BU23;M32</b>
<b>3 Mar</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT SOMERS FROM WOOLSHED CREEK</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> <b>Moderate</b> walk to this 1687m peak on the Winterslow Range. Starting from Woolshed Creek and travelling via the Rhyolite Ridge Track . <b>Start: 7:30am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BX19,20;K36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$20</b>
<b>9-10 Mar</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■■	<b>CAMERON RIVER - STH BRANCH ASHBURTON</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> <b>Moderate</b> trip in close proximity to the Arrowsmith Range. We'll be in the headwaters of two river valleys, with a couple of crossings of the Wild Mans Brother Range. <b>List closes: Sun 2 Mar</b>	<b>Maps BW18,19,BX19;J35</b>

## President's Report

We have come to our final Footnotes for 2012 and goodness where has the year gone! Our club has made great strides this year and we can all look forward to an awesome 2013. In the meantime, I wish all members best wishes for the holiday season and hope you all enjoy the fine weather on offer to go and explore our remote places with some tramping thrown in.

## End-of-Year Activities

Our last club night for 2012 is on **Tue 11 Dec**. Don't forget to bring a plate of food along to share for our super December supper. The photo caption quest should keep you on your toes during the night. Our end of year picnic is being held on Sun 16 Dec at Ashley Gorge. Lots on offer here, starting on Fri night, then an Ashley splash tramp on Sat, picnic Sun and a BBQ on Sun evening. Join in all, some or just one – you choose. Contact **Merv Meredith** for more details.

## PTC New Members' Evening

Our first club night in 2013 on **Tue 12 Feb** will be a special night, being our main promotional night of the year. Join us in celebrating our club and what it has to offer. Our guest speaker **Geoff Spearpoint** will talk about why

tramping clubs are so worthwhile. Bring along your copy of Geoff's latest book, *Shelter From The Storm* for him to sign. Its one of the many he has published. You will also hear from some of our recent new members giving their impressions. We will have an extended opportunity to socialise before and after the meeting giving prospective members a one-on-one opportunity to personally find out more about the club.

New people will learn what we do on trips, trip grading, food, instruction and different types of trips from tramping, climbing and mountain biking. Existing members may be tempted to try something new on offer within the club. We have advertised this night in the media and we encourage all members to come and bring their friends, neighbours, work colleagues and family. The club is also arranging a range of trips for first timers to get more acquainted. For more information see the separate item in this issue of Footnotes.

### **November 2012 SGM and Upcoming Subscriptions**

Thanks to those members who turned up at last month's Special General Meeting. It was great to see such a good turnout. The membership present voted to follow the executive's recommendation of removing the family surcharge. Subscriptions for 2013 – 2014 would remain at the 2012 – 2013 level. With this issue of Footnotes you should receive your subscription renewal form. If you have other family members living with you, you are welcome to include their name on your renewal form and single members can change to family memberships at no additional charge. Why not include them and then bring them along in Feb to our special club night. As usual you can bring your sub renewal form to the Dec club night with your subs and give it to either the treasurer or myself. At the SGM I also read our reply from our auditor regarding our club audit procedure which is considered to comply with new audit requirements and in his opinion already exceeds the proposed reporting standards in terms of level of detail.

### **PTC Recipes**

Thanks to those of you who have supplied recipes to Liz. We could still do with some more so we have given members more time to contribute. If you come up with some good recipe ideas over the holidays please pass them to Liz.

### **Grant Application to Canterbury Community Trust**

After a mammoth effort of getting the 10 page application fully completed, we handed in our grant application well before close-off. A special thanks to Liz Stephenson for doing the hard work of putting this together. Thanks also to the many exec members who contributed. We are applying for \$1593 to pay for 10 climbing helmets and to also pay for advertising space on page 3 of The Press on Wed 30 January 2013 promoting our **new members' special club night**. We should know the outcome around mid to late January 2013.

### **New Zealand Walking Access Commission**

You may remember that we had Geoff Holgate talk at our club in October 2011 about tramping area access issues. We have had an update email from him. We identified five areas: Adderley Head, Purple Peak, Red Hill, Sugarloaf and Flagpole. Geoff's reply said the five locations were still very much 'on our books' but unfortunately he has not been able to make much progress on them yet. This is largely because of pressure to address disputed access issues often associated with unformed legal roads. He plans to give these locations greater priority this summer and hopes to have news for us in the first few months of 2013. In the interim, if you have any additional information and/or recent experiences on these routes which may be helpful, please contact Geoff. Gary Huish reported that because the new manager of Craigieburn Station has a different access attitude, access can now be arranged for Sugarloaf and Purple Hill. If any club member or trip leader wants information on access anywhere we tramp, please contact Gary who holds our club access database.

### **WELRA/DoC Advisory Group**

The second meeting for this group was held on Mon 12 Nov with nine people present including Merv Meredith. This meeting has now established WERC (Waimakariri Environmental and Recreational Committee). It will have a focus on environmental issues like control of wasps and weeds, mountain biking opportunities in the Waimakariri Basin and hopefully tramping infrastructure security if needed. Merv is keeping an eye on proceedings and is available to update us on issues arising.

### **Tenure Review Shag Valley Pastoral Lease**

This lease is located 24km from Palmerston on Pigroot Road to Ranfurly. The area has poor recreational access and will require easements to secure access. Raymond Ford is looking over the proposal. If you can contribute any information please contact Raymond. Submissions close 5 Feb 2013.

## PTC Website

Our brand new website has now gone live! A big thank you to Kevin Hughes who has had to completely build this new site from scratch with many hours of work involved. I would encourage all members to check out our new site. [www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz) or google Peninsula Tramping Club or google tramping Christchurch and click on the Peninsula Tramping Club link. Our new site is considerably more stable, more robust and easier to load material onto. It also now allows us to provide a range of additional features. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see our web site used for please contact Kevin.

**Happy Tramping – Leo Manders**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Tue 11 Dec Christmas Club Night Photo Captions “Competition”**  
Glenda and Merv will again be running their **not-very-serious-at-all Photo Caption Competition** for the fourth time, no less. Be prepared to have a real ball, no matter which team you are in. It will start promptly right after the usual preliminary announcements, with timing short and sharp; so don't be late. Bring your own pen and paper for inspirational doodles. **Also bring a contribution to our Christmas Pot Luck Supper**

**Sun 16 Dec End-of-Year Picnic at Ashley Gorge**  
See TRIPS section of this newsletter.

## NOTICES

**Deadline for the February newsletter Sun 3 Feb.** Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to Kerry Moore, [moorekj@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moorekj@xtra.co.nz) Phone 359 5069

**Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 29 Jan 2013 at Gary's**

## PTC New Members' Evening

Bring along friends, neighbours, work colleagues, and family who are interested in the outdoors.

Come and see what PTC has to offer!

Our club is increasing in membership and offers a wide range of trips! It's a great way to meet people and offers lots of opportunities to enjoy social activities and to visit interesting places

**When:** Club night Tuesday 12 Feb 2013

**Venue:** Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park

**Time:** Arrive at 7.30p.m. Presentations will start at around 8pm.

**Speaker:** Geoff Spearpoint; Writer, Photographer, Trans-alpinist

**Topic:** “Tramping clubs are good places to be”

Bring along your copy of Geoff's latest book “*Shelter from the Storm*” for signing!

This is our main promotional night of the year so join in to celebrate our club and what it has to offer. Trips of various grades aimed at those who'd like to sample tramping, climbing and mountain biking with the PTC are being arranged for the following weeks.

Don't miss our activities - tramping, climbing, mountain biking and much more. See:

<http://www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz>

## Evening Programme

7.30pm	Chat with members about the club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• instruction (bushcraft, trip leadership and trip leadership mentoring)</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tramping</li> <li>• climbing</li> <li>• mountain biking</li> <li>• social activities (club nights, mid-week evening walks with meals out)</li> </ul>
8.00 - 8.10	Welcome from PTC New Member Coordinators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How our club works and the way we run trips (trip grading, food etc</li> <li>• Introducing the Club President and essential club notices</li> </ul>
8.10 - 8.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new members' perspective: recently joined members will speak of their impressions</li> </ul>
8.30 - 9.00	Geoff Spearpoint "Tramping clubs are good places to be"
9.00 - 9:10	PTC basics: how to go on a trip, the fixture list, and how to join the club.
9:15pm	Supper

## TRIP REPORTS

### Mount Adams — 3-5 November 2012

The wet and cold rain was coming at us as we drove over Arthurs Pass. Later in the evening there were multiple explosions coming from the fire, a foul smelling dog roaming around and a toilet door that led nowhere. This was just getting to the bar at the Ross Tavern, so we could enjoy a beer with our distinguished leader on his 40th (ish) birthday.

The rain pelted down all night while we lay in the Ross Backpackers, but amazingly and fortunately it stopped at 4am. Up early, everyone looked bright-eyed and bushy tailed, apart from the person with no boots! "Where is the white bag" exclaimed the mum (Liz). "No white bag in here!" Nigel (doesn't look Devery). After much stress it was established that the bag was in fact blue... and lo and behold, there was a pair of shiny boots inside, which would assist young Sam with his ascent to the summit. After this momentary stressful situation we were off. On the road, despite screams shouting "coffee" the mini-van driver didn't stop. We were at the road-end and ready to go by 8am ish.

The day was slightly overcast but not a problem for a group of keen beans. The river was initially straightforward, until further up where the narrow stream beds became wild torrents with no visible bottom, following the downpour the night before. These proved hard to cross (especially for the little legged people, Chris and Laurayne), so we ended up waiting for an hour or so for the water levels to go down. Thankfully we managed to cross easily enough once the safer spots had been identified with Gary's big stick.

After a two hour setback we were on our way and commenced the long plod, up the ridge on a well-marked but steep track. Going was slower than anticipated and when we reached the bush-line, we set about looking for some camp sites and water. Thanks to the heavy rain the night before we found some large fresh water puddles and some nearby campsites. We set up camp and before we knew it Gary had us fed and watered.

The next morning was clear initially but clouded up later in the day. The route to the summit was straightforward and we were at the snowline at about 1700m. We donned our crampons just above the snow-line. We were in cloud until approximately 1900m to see blue skies and a sparkling view of 2208m Mt Adams in front of us. The majority of us plodded to the summit where the views were limited, but the satisfaction of reaching the top was enough.

The decent was straightforward, although the white-out proved a challenge for one GPS with depleted batteries and another with a rotating north point. Technology has its quirks. Despite this our leader's expertise and internal compass had us safely back at camp by 5pm. Again he had us fed and watered with a delicious dinner and desert in the evening.

It was a quick walk out the next day, with the rivers well down. Things were finished off nicely with a good feed at some tea rooms on the way back. In summary—a successful mission, great people and a great trip.

We were: **Raymond Ford, Gary Huish (leader), Chris Leaver, Liz, Barney & Sam Stephenson, Bill Templeton, Douglas Woods and Nigel & Lorayne Devery.** 🏠 LD