



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

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December, January 2013,14

President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith	Quartermaster	355 9945
Vice-President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford		351 9496
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden		332 7020
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Maureen Thompson		359 5707
Trip Planner	Liz Stephenson	0276332038	Sue Piercey		384 9567
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 10 Dec **PTC MasterChef contest**



Some say a trip is only as good as the food that is consumed. The PTC MasterChef contest aims to increase the variety of dishes and improve the quality of cooking on PTC trips.

Here is your chance to show off your culinary skills. **Details over-page.**

Non-entrants, please bring supper food as we usually do for our last club meeting of the year.
Supper Duty: Carolyn Catt, John Cook, Liz Cunningham

Tue 11 Feb **PTC New Members' Evening**



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

Come along on Tuesday 11 Feb at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park from 7.30pm with presentations starting at around 8pm.

We will have a number of presentations from recent new members about their experiences joining the club. *Continued over page*

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 mid-February. This introductory evening will be followed by an exhibition and judging of PTC member photos. The best of these will be entered in the FMC photo competition.

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

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

Supper Duty: **Adrian Daly or Laura Haslam**
 Margaret or Jim Clark
 Julie Davis

PTC MasterChef Contest

The PTC Masterchef Competition is being held at our Dec club night.

Leo is looking for four more would-be chefs to enter and join the other two already registered.

You can enter as an individual or as a team of no more than 3 people.

You will be given 30 minutes to prepare and cook your dish.

Any authentic tramping-type dish is acceptable and can be either a main or a dessert. It could be a recipe you have already contributed to our planned recipe book, or a new one.

We will supply billies, stoves (choice of gas or liquid fuel), ladles, stirrers billy grip etc. You will need to supply your own knife.

We will also supply paper plates, plastic cutlery for everyone present at the meeting.

Judging will be done by Gary Huish and Leo Manders with possibly a third mystery judge.

Points will be awarded for the following categories: Taste, Nutritional Value, Cost, Preparation Time and Presentation.

The winning entry will go on our website and if not already in our recipe book will be submitted for inclusion.

Please email leomanders@paradise.net.nz to enter. During the evening we will also be showing the winning entries from the FMC Photo Competition 2013 in the background.

Entrants will not need to bring supper for the night. All others **please bring supper food** as we usually do for our last club meeting of the year. Leo Manders - Masterchef Organiser

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

7-8 Dec

PRINCESS BATH, LAKE TENNYSON

BT24,M30,M31

■ ■

Douglas Woods 021 242 9122

Sat-Sun

Moderate tramp to this tarn basin at 1700m, behind Lake Tennyson in the upper Clarence Valley with a climb of nearby 2126m Mt Princess. Camping out.

List closes: Wed 27 Nov.

- 7-9 Dec** **PLUTO PEAK** **CA10,E40**
 ■■■ **Raymond Ford 351 9496**
Sat-Mon This **hard** trip plans to climb Pluto Peak via Spaniard Valley above the Dart. Ice axe and crampons required.
List closes: Sat 30 Nov.
- 8-Dec** **GOLA PEAK** **BV23,M33**
 ■ **John Robinson 027 633 1476**
Sun **Moderate** trip around rolling farmland to some 1300m peaks, 25km west of Hawardon with views down into the upper Okuku River Valley.
Start 8am: Placemakers, Cranford St. **Approx. cost \$17**
- 14 Dec** **MT BARRON** **BV20,K33**
 ■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**
Saturday **Moderate-hard** trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1700m peak west of Otira. Expect a long day. Travelling up the night before and staying at Arthurs Pass to give us an earlier start. Check with leader if ice axe and crampons required.
List closes: Sat 7 Dec.
- Sun 15-Dec** **YEAR END PICNIC, DIAMOND HARBOUR**
 ■ **Glenda and Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 Diamond Harbour and its reserve is too nice and convenient to ignore, with lots of options, so we are returning this summer. The picnic will be in the Stoddart Point Reserve on the lower level at Diamond Harbour. Drive in to the left of the shops on the road down to the jetty and then to the right at the first hairpin, into the reserve. You can catch the ferry from Lyttelton. Come when it suits you.
 As well as walking, there are plenty of options, eg an early swim at D' Harbour or at Purau. Bring your kayak or any vessel. Or, bring your bike. Camp Bay isn't far away, or maybe you would like to try the Port Levy road.
 From the reserve, there is a cliff face track running some distance both ways, as well as a number of other tracks higher up, including the Monument track to Mt Herbert.
 Merv's silver Subaru will be down in the reserve about 10am. If we have gone walkabout, we will still see you at lunchtime.
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- 21-22 Dec** **FREYBERG RANGE - PELL STREAM** **BT22,23,L31,M31**
 ■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip 027 633 2038**
Sat-Sun **List closes: Sat 14 Dec.**
- 22-Dec** **RED HILL** **BW20,21,K34,35**
 ■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**
Sun **Moderate** trip to this 1641m peak between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Choice of route depending on mood and conditions.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$18**
- 27Dec-5Ja** **STEWART ISLAND NW CIRCUIT** **CH08,CH09,D48,D49,E48,E49**
 ■■■■■■■■■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip 027 633 2038**
 This classic **moderate** tramp takes in the north-west circuit of the island starting and finishing at Oban. Bush and mountain scenery, untouched coastal landscape and an abundance of bird and insect life.
List closes: Sat 14 Dec.

- 27Dec-2Ja** **FIVE PASSES** **CA09,CB09,D40,E40**
■■■■■■■ **Penny Webster 021 868 806**
This classic **moderate-hard** trip takes in five passes and major river catchments in an incredible alpine environment. Starting near the Routeburn car park, crossing Sugarloaf Pass into the Rock Burn, Park Pass into Hidden Falls Creek, Cow Saddle and Fiery Col into the Olivine and Fohn Saddle into the Beans Burn.
List closes: Sat 14 Dec.
- 11-14 Jan** **ANNETTE PLATEAU** **BX15,H36**
■■■ **Raymond Ford 351 9496**
Fri-Mon A **hard** 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. Descent from the plateau would be via Sebastapol Ridge.
- 12 Jan** **PREBBLE HILL & CAVE STREAM** **BW21,K34**
■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**
Sun This **easy** trip goes over and under some of the more interesting limestone formations in the Castle Hill basin. We start from the Cave Stream car park and head down Broken River before climbing 902m Prebble Hill. This is the one visible from SH73 apparently covered in pebbles but close up they are huge and erosion-carved into animal shapes that are only limited by the imagination. On our return we have the opportunity go through the underground Cave Stream. Bring a torch, some warm clothing and a full change for the car. You will get wet!
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$16**
- 15-18 Jan** **RAKIURA TRACK** **CH08,CH09,D48,D49,E48,E49**
■■■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you would like to lead this trip**
Wed-Sat The **easy** Rakiura Track follows the open coast, climbs over a low forested ridge, and traverses the sheltered shores of Paterson Inlet. It passes sites of historical interest and contains many of the common sea and forest birds of the island.
List closes: Sat 9 Jan.
- 19-Jan** **TIMUTIMU HEAD - SCENERY NOOK** **BY25,N37**
■ **Bruce Cameron 365 8210**
Sun **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.
Start: 8am outside Halswell School, Halswell Rd **Approx. cost \$16**
- 24-26 Jan** **CASEY SADDLE - LAKE MINCHIN** **BV21,22,K33**
■■■ **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**
Fri-Sun **Moderate** tramp in Arthur's Pass NP. Starting over Casey Saddle, we'll stay at the new Poulter Hut with time for a day trip to remote Lake Minchin.
List closes: Sat 18 Jan.
- 25-26 Jan** **ROCKY CREEK - GRIFFIN CREEK** **BV19,20,K33**
■■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sat-Sun **Moderate** circuit between Rocky Creek and Griffin Creek to the north-west of APNP.
List closes: Wed. 16 Jan.
- 26-Jan** **GOAT HILL** **BV20,K33**
■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip 027 633 2038**
Sun **Moderate** trip in Otira area. The track heads off from the land-fill up the ridge near Barrack Creek. Good views to be had on a fine day
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$28**

- 1-2 Feb** **CROESUS - MOONLIGHT** **BT20,21,K31**
 ■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip 027 633 2038**
Sat-Sun 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 (but with the need for a bush bash!). Takes in lush forest, open tops and plenty of old gold workings.
List closes: Sat 26 Jan.
- 2-Feb** **ASHLEY GORGE** **BV24,M34**
 ■ **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sun An **easy-moderate** though splash down from Middle Bridge to the picnic ground. Take a set of dry clothes to leave in the car.
Start 8am: Placemakers, Cranford St. **Approx. cost \$10**
- 1-9 Feb** **VOLTA** **CA11,F38,39**
 ■■■■■■■■ **Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008**
Hard trip to the Volta Glacier
List closes: Sat 26 Jan.
- 6-9 Feb** **ST JAMES WALKWAY** **BT23,24,BU23,M31,M32**
 ■■■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson if you would like to lead this trip 027 633 2038**
Waitangi **Easy-moderate** walk over this popular track in the Lewis Pass area. Good huts along the way, including the new Anne Hut. A minimum of climbing. Ada Pass is barely perceptible. Good track through beech forest and river flats.
Wknd **List closes: Sat 26 Jan.**
- 6-10 Feb** **PUNAKAIKI BASE CAMP** **BS19,20,K30**
 ■■■■ **Stan Wilder 980 5291 or swilder@clear.net.nz**
Waitangi We'll stay in the recently refurbished Te Hui House, situated next to the pub.
Wknd The house has an excellent open-plan kitchen and lounge. All rooms are serviced [ie all bed linen supplied]. Various sleeping configurations are available—dorms & share \$28 pp, double twin \$75, or you can pamper your partner to a double or twin, both with ensuites \$75 pp.
Trips: Thursday afternoon - local walks.
 Friday - Inland Pack Track from Bullock Creek car park, north to the Ballroom Overhang, and out to the Fox River car park—**easy-moderate**
 Saturday - Inland Pack Track from Bullock Creek car park south to Cave Stream lookout, south to Pororari swing-bridge and out to car park via Punakaiki River—**easy-moderate**
 Sunday - local walks.
 If we get enough interest, concession rates and exclusivity will apply, so **please book early**.
 For bookings or more info contact Stan.
List closes: Sat 25 Jan.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tue 21 Jan



Avon River walk or cycle followed by dinner at Pomeroy's

Meet at 6.15pm opposite Pomeroy's on the corner of Kilmore St and Fitzgerald Ave. You can park on Oxford Terrace. There will be 2 routes, either cycling or walking along the Avon with a possible detour to a hidden rose garden. Dinner is at **Pomeroy's** at 7.30pm. Details on-line at <http://www.pomeroysonkilmore.co.nz/christchurch/restaurant>. You are welcome to come for just the dinner. Bookings for dinner by Sunday 19 January to **Maureen Thompson phone 377 2482** or email mothompson@xtra.co.nz

Tue 18 Feb



Styx Mill Walkway followed by dinner at Arjee Bhajee

Meet at 6.15pm at the Styx Mill Rd parking area (not the Hussey Rd entrance). Walk through the Styx Mill wetland and then back to the cars and drive to **Arjee Bhajee** at 5/478 Cranford Street opposite Gun City, for dinner at 7.30pm. www.arjeebhajee.co.nz. Mains are about \$20. You are welcome to come for just the dinner. Bookings for dinner by Sunday 16 February to **Maureen Thompson** phone 377 2482 or email mothompson@xtra.co.nz

NOTICES

Membership We welcome **Diane Mellish**

Deadline for the Feb newsletter Sunday 1 Dec

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 28 Jan at Raymond's

PTC - FMC Photo Competitions

The February Club night will include our PTC Photo Competition. Winners in each category will be judged on the night by majority vote, then the winning photos will be entered in the **FMC 2014 Photo Competition** which closes 16 April 2014

category	code	suggested naming format
above bushline	abl	abl-photographer name-photo title
below bushline	bbp	bbp-photographer name-photo title
historic	his	his-photographer name-photo title
hut or camp life	hcl	hcl-photographer name-photo title
native flora or fauna (no people)	nff	nff-photographer name-photo title
outdoor landscapes (no people)	ols	ols-photographer name-photo title

Photos in **jpg format** need to be sized between **500kB and 5MB** and taken since **1 Jan 2012** (historic excepted)

Entries limited to **two photos per category**

Full details at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/photo-competition/>

Phone Merv, 322 7239 to signal intention to submit well before the closing date of **Sunday 19 Jan 2014**

TRIP REPORTS

Mount Oates, 5-6 October 2013

We are going out and may be some time. That was the infuriatingly vague but historically accurate description given to Margot, our contact person, before our attempt on Mount Oates, above Lake Mavis, at Arthurs Pass. The vagaries of the spring weather forecast had already taken a toll with Laurayne pulling out with doubts over her fitness, or a superior crystal ball. The Friday night departure became a Saturday trip to the Lake, with a narrowing weather window, before a major Monday front.

Friday rain meant a major diversion to find a five-strand crossing of the Bealey. That immersion and the caffeine refueling by the addicts at Springfield ensured everyone was awake. The three crossings of the Mingha provided no drama but ensured we were still awake by the time we reached Goat Pass with no chance of drying boots. The weather was supposed to be improving but it looked ominous as the comfort of Goat Pass Hut contrasted with the climb into the cloud towards Lake Mavis. Our leader, Raymond would accept no dissent. Up we climbed, arriving at the only patch of bare scree above a snow-covered Lake Mavis just as misty rain started. Over another superb Japanese-inspired dinner, the weather promised clearance as enough of a weak sunset appeared behind thick cloud to prompt thoughts of an early start.

Our early getaway stalled when we could barely see the other tent in the morning gloom. Cholesterol measures, different oats discussions and indecision reigned until a belated 8am decision to head up to the notch on the west ridge that we had observed the night before. As usual, once we were moving, momentum took over. The snow was in good condition and the traverse past the notch on the west ridge looked achievable. Navigation consisted of divining rock ridges glimpsed through thick cloud but when Geoff thought it was time to head up, Gary was

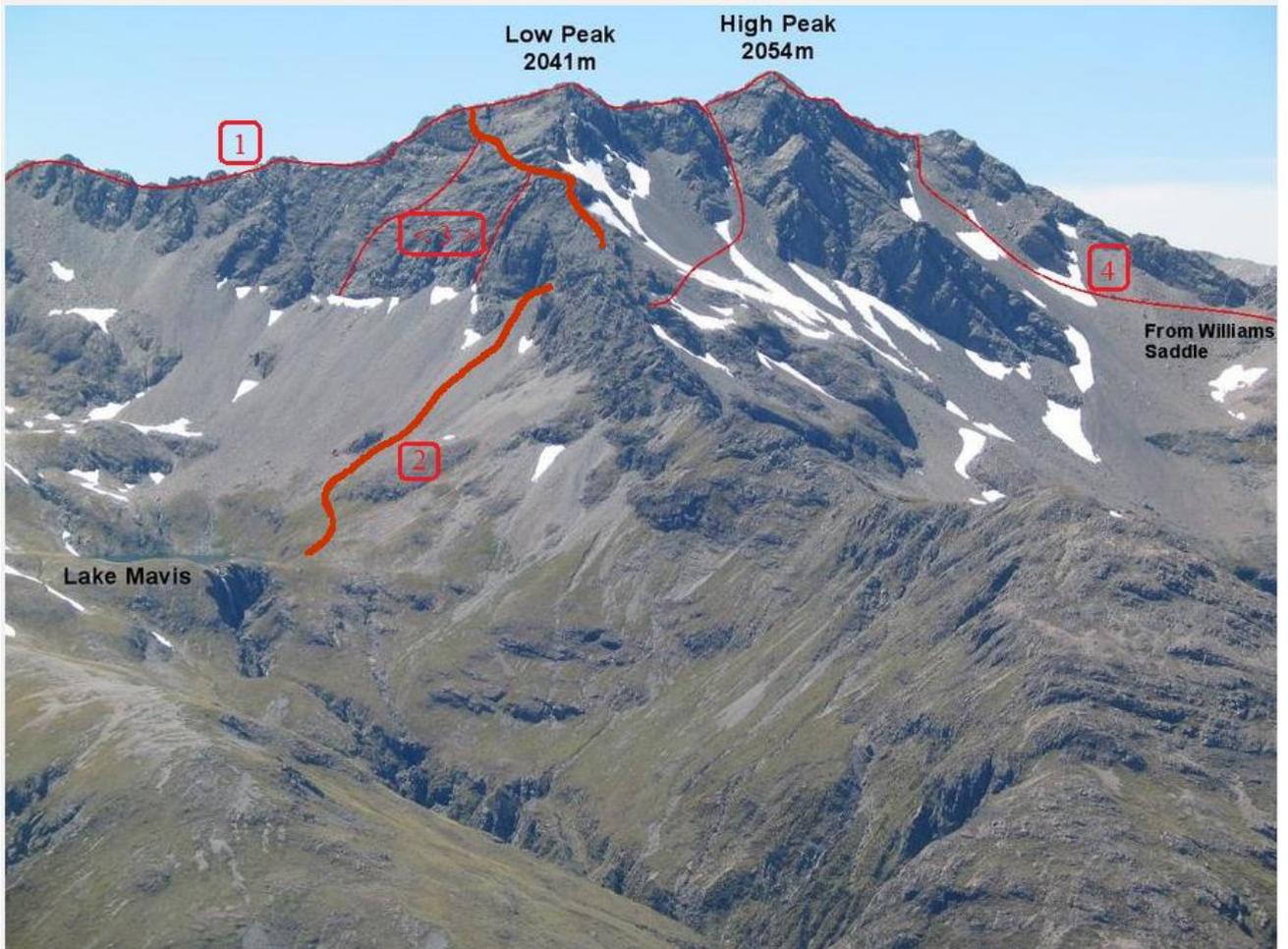


Photo from <http://climbnz.org.nz/nz/si/arthurs-pass/mt-oates> 2054m Mt Oates on a clear day



sure he could see another side ridge and we continued traversing. Geoff was right. We emerged into glorious sunshine on the south ridge and had an interesting climb with one roped pitch back onto the summit that we had passed—anything to claim a traverse!

An 11:30am, belated morning tea, some summit shots and back into cloud for a west ridge descent. The snow had softened and there was some hilarious group bum-sliding back towards the lake. The view of our tents directly across the lake enticed Liz into a short-cut or swim attempt but since Geoff was carrying the only rope and there was no ice under the snow cover, sanity prevailed. Lunch, a prolonged brew, Douglas replacing all the rocks he had moved, a quick pack-up and then we were off down the scree to Goat Pass. The Mingha felt longer on descent, perhaps with less conversation, but we were back at the car by 5:30pm. It was immensely satisfying to look back up the valley to the summit we had left six hours ago and for many of us, who had tried before, think “been there”. We were: **Raymond Ford, Liz Stephenson, Geoff Spearpoint, Douglas Woods and Gary Huish.** 🏔️ GH

Williams Saddle, 19 – 20 October 2013

Another classic trip for PTC, but we hadn't done it for a while. I had been a member of the well-recorded June 1984 party that had spent a long time playing bowls on the frozen tarns, on the Sunday. And I repeated the crossing a couple of times in the late eighties to early nineties. So this trip was well remembered, albeit twenty-plus years later—well overdue for a repeat visit.

The lead-up to the weekend involved the usual hand-wringing about the weather with repeated nor'westers and rain right up to Friday. What a boon the Met Office Arthurs Pass forecast is now though, with detailed projections for morning, afternoon and evening for AP, Hawdon and Carrington. For this trip, we knew exactly what to expect and had plan B ready with only a 50-50 chance of being able to cross the river at the start.

Parking at the Mingha bend, we set off in a stiff westerly to cross two sections of the Bealey. The first one wasn't too wide and I decided Ruth and I could cross first, then the other three. That was misjudged. We staggered out to the far bank through an unseen hole. Laurayne, Nadeine and Derek followed with the ‘stagger’ a total immersion for Laurayne during which her pole bounced off down-river. So after that, the following crossings of the Bealey, Mingha and Edwards were mostly made with a full group of five. Forty minutes later we were ready to start up the Edwards flood track. Although a bit flooded in places, it's a nice walk up the Edwards. Crossing the East Edwards was no trouble. Edwards Hut didn't seem any different, except for a new chimney.

Sunday morning with the river and streams all down, we were about to leave the hut when a figure appeared. It was Adrian Daly, who had spent the night on Williams Saddle. Back in January a PTC trip bumped into Adrian and Laura at Hapuku Hut, on a Mt Fyffe traverse. Where next Adrian?

My memory of the route to the saddle was to go straight up the stream until it tightens up significantly and then sidle left to above the saddle. It doesn't tighten up any more and I forsook a sidle left to continue on up to well above the saddle. It didn't matter as we had a good view of all the tarns as we descended. The next trick is the sidle down through the bush on the Mingha side, travelling left above the bush then picking an entry spot and lining up the stream on the far side of the Mingha below the gorge and following a compass bearing down. That all went well over the first half, except it was repeatedly easier to drop rather than sidle. Consequently, we dropped too far and found ourselves blocked by a deep gully running right to the river. On earlier trips, we would have gone over the top of the gully. It was a concern but we followed down the side of the gully and found our way easily across the stream mouth and down into the gorge. After lunch there, it was then a straightforward walk out, with the river channels now placid in sunny weather, although that last channel of the Bealey was still flowing quite fast. We were: **Ruth Barratt, Laurayne Devery, Nadeine Dommissie, Derek Gane and Merv Meredith.** 🏔️ MM

YOUR COMMITTEE WISHES YOU A GOOD CHRISTMAS



AND HAPPY TRAMPING

