



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter*

February 2017

PTC: Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Current Committee

President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Editor	Ruth Barratt	335 0010
Vice-President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Social Events	Margot Bowden	332 7020
Treasurer	Sue Piercey	384 9567	Social Events	Maureen Thompson	377 2482
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
New Member Enquiries	Stan Wilder	260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters		

Our Club

The PTC 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

Club Nights are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St. and Oxford Terrace)** at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

Tues 14 Feb		Yvette So - A route less travelled by foreigners in China Jiangxi is generally considered an “off-beat” destination. I had the pleasure of trekking up this granite rock formation with its unique forest; it was once a sacred mountain. Later I hiked up an old stone-paved Horse Postal Trail through some ancient villages. Supper Duty: Derek Gane & Gillian Fulcher
Tues 14 Mar		Keith & Marion McQuillan - Exciting cycling adventures in Samoa Beer, fales, swims and hot cycling days. Keith and Marion's experiences last year. Supper Duty: Linda Gardner and Dorota Giejsztowt

Notice of 2017 PTC AGM

The PTC 85th Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, on:
Tuesday 14th March 2017 starting promptly at 7.30pm, prior to our normal club night

The agenda will include:-

1. Election of Officers and Executive members

Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available at the door.

2. Notified motions

Note that any member wishing to give notice of a motion for consideration at the AGM should forward their notice to the Secretary at, or prior to, our 14th February club night.

The complete AGM agenda, including any Notices of Motion received, will be circulated on Communicator in late February.

Merv Meredith, Secretary

secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz

Court Theatre Show – 18th April

Based on the novel by Mark Haddon

Adapted by Simon Stephens

Directed by Lara Macgregor

Featuring Tim Earl

7.30pm Tuesday 18th April 2017

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



Book your seat, \$51 discount price by Sunday 26th March, with Brian Smith Ph 355 9945, 027 740 3035, or brian21x@xtra.co.nz

Fifteen-year old mathematical genius Christopher Boone sees the world differently to everyone else. He knows all the countries of the world and their capital cities, every prime number up to 7,507, he doesn't tell lies and his favourite colours are not yellow and brown. When the neighbour's dog is murdered, Christopher takes the investigation into his own hands and uncovers secrets that lead him far from home and change his life forever.

Boldly reinterpreting the multiple award-winning bestselling novel, this record-breaking stage phenomenon is filled with heart, humour and wonder.

- Winner of a record seven Olivier Awards, including Best New Play 2013
- Winner 2015 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play

“a play that works on every level — crowd-pleasing, eye-opening, life-affirming and unmissable.” – Richard Zoglin, TIME Magazine

I recommend read the novel and Google for more information about the story and play – Brian Smith

Outstanding PTC Subscriptions

Thanks to all those who have paid their subscriptions. Reminder notices have been emailed where payment was not received by 31 January. The final date for payment is 28 February. If you would like acknowledgement that your payment has been received please contact Sue Piercey, Treasurer.

pierceym@slingshot.co.nz 0276390186

Committee Notes

- **Hiring club gear for private trips.** If you require tramping gear for a private trip and it is available on your dates, club members can hire out the PTC gear - contact the Quartermaster (Brian Smith). Please note however that you will be responsible for the costs of any loss or damage at the value at the time of

two Bens--1655m Ben More and 1416m Big Ben. Take plenty of water. **Moderate**
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$22**

4-5 Mar **DECEPTION – MINGHA** **K33 BV20**

Kerry Moore 359 5069

** The well trodden route over the main divide goes through some of the best Arthurs Pass scenery. Why would people run over it when you can walk and take in the view. **Moderate**
List closes 18 Mar

4-8 Mar **WHANGANUI RIVER TRIP** **R19,20 BH32,BJ32**

Geoff Price 337 2614

***** The Whanganui River is a classic river trip and is listed by DOC as one of NZ's 9 Great Walks. We will be travelling the river by kayak or canoe, 145km from Taumaranui to Pipiriki over 5 days enjoying the scenery and history along the river. It is advisable to book early for this trip if you need to hire a kayak or canoe.

List closes 19 Feb

5 Mar **MT SOMERS TRAVERSE** **K36 BX19,20**

Sunday **Gary Huish 332 7020**

* **Moderate** traverse of this 1687m volcanic peak near Alford Forest. Starting from Woolshed Creek and travelling to Staveley

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

Approx cost \$23

11-12 Mar **SYLVIA TOPS** **M31 BU23**

Merv Meredith 322 7239

** **Moderate** tramp over this 1500-1600m range between Nina and Doubtful valleys in the Lewis Pass area. Camping beside Devils Den biv on Devilskin Saddle.

List closes 4 Mar

12 Mar **PACKHORSE HUT FROM GEBBIES PASS** **BX24**

Sunday **Margaret Clark 348 4993**

* **Easy** walk on the peninsula, through farmland, pine plantations and bush remnants, past Remarkable Dykes to the sturdy stone Packhorse Hut. Suitable for children. Excellent views of Lyttelton Harbour.

8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, across the road by the rr

Approx cost \$6

17-20 Mar **SERPENTINE RANGE** **D40,E40 CA09,CB09**

Raymond Ford 351 9496

***** This **moderate-hard** four day trip starts from the Routeburn track over Sugarloaf Pass to the Rockburn and the spectacular Theatre Flat. The route to Park Pass then climbs the ridge to drop down to Lake Nerine and then traverse along the Serpentine Range to Lake Wilson and Harris Saddle, and out via the Routeburn track. Be prepared for a wet weather alternative into the North Routeburn or somewhere with better weather

List closes 8 Mar

18-19 Mar **WALKER PASS - AMBER COL - SUDDEN VALLEY** **K33 BV21**

Merv Meredith 322 7239

** A **moderate-hard** satisfying round-trip in the southern section of APNP. We will camp near Amber Col and travel along the Polar Range. A rapid scree descent gives "back-door" access to Sudden Valley.

List closes 11 Mar

18-19 Mar **SUDDEN VALLEY** **K33 BV21**

Keith McQuillan 384 6164

** **Easy-moderate** tramp in APNP. We cross the broad Hawdon riverbed and enter the narrow valley. To bypass the gorgy section we climb a gully before emerging into this beautiful valley. We'll camp at the biv

List closes 12 Mar

- 19 Mar** **CHARING CROSS** **M32 BU24**
Sunday **Stuart Payne 337 2275**
* **Easy-moderate** tramp to this 999m peak in the Tekoa Range inland from Culverden
 Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$12**
- 25-26 Mar** **MT COOK BASE** **H36 BX15,BY15**
 Kevin Hughes 332 6281
*** 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.
 List closes 15 Mar
- 25 Mar** **KAITUNA CHALLENGE** **M36 BQ27**
Saturday **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
* Our annual not-too-serious classic BIKE, WALK, RUN, BIKE event. We have team, individual
 men's and individual women's categories. Once everyone finishes, the day concludes with
 lunch and presentation of the prestigious trophy. Entry fee to this popular event is a mere \$5 to
 cover costs.
- 26 Mar** **WORSLEYS SPUR - GOVERNORS BAY** **M36 BX24**
Sunday **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
* **Easy** walk up Worsleys Spur through the new adventure park to the summit road, then down to
 Governors Bay for lunch.
 8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, across the road by the rr
- 1-3 Apr** **CASEY--LK MINCHIN--TOWNSEND CK** **K33? BU21**
 Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
*** A worthwhile **medium-hard** trip from end to end of APNP, passing Lake Minchin, Minchin
 Pass and down the rugged Townsend Creek
 List closes 25 Mar
- 2 Apr** **MT KARETU** **M34 BW23,BV23**
Sunday **Norman Burden 358 5115**
* **Easy-moderate** trip to this 970m peak, west of Mt Grey. Starting from Okuku Pass and
 returning via a forestry road.
 Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$10**
- 8-10 Apr** **EDWARDS - STANLEY - FOWLER PASS** **M31,N31 BT24**
 Kerry Moore 359 5069
*** **Moderate** tramp north of Hanmer Springs between the Clarence and Waiau rivers. Up the
 Edwards River, north of the Amuri skifield road, to Charlie's Saddle. Travel up the Waiau via
 The Racecourse, to the Stanley River to the hut at Glenrae Flat, southeast of Lake Guyon, and
 return via Fowler Pass.
 List closes 3 Apr
- 9 Apr** **NIKAU PALM GULLY** **N37 BY25**
Sunday **Margot Bowden 332 7020**
* This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms here are notable for
 being the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an **easy** tramp towards
 the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour.
 8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, across the road by the rr **Approx cost \$15**
- 14-18 Apr** **LK CHALICE-GOULTER R-MT RINTOUL** **N28,O28 BR26**
Easter **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
***** A classic **moderate** round-trip in the Richmond Range. From Lake Chalice we go down the
 Goulter River to Lower Goulter Hut for the first night. Day 2 is uphill to Rintoul Hut and a

great view. Even better on day 3 over Mt Rintoul and along the interesting ridge, to Old Man. A connecting spur then runs south from Old Man with a track dropping back directly to the eastern end of Lake Chalice.

List closes 7 April

14-18 Apr **LONELY LAKE—ANATOKI** **M26 BN23,24,BP23,24**
Easter **Merv Meredith 322 7239**

Moderate-hard tramp to this landmark at the northern end of Kahurangi National Park. Walking in via Cobb Valley. Return via Lake Sylvester or a through-trip via Adelaide Tarn and Boulder Lake to Bainham

List closes 7 April

14-18 Apr **MT ARTHUR TABLELANDS CIRCUIT** **M27 BP24,BQ24**
Easter **Angela Grigg 03 318 1988**

A popular circuit in karst country. Rock shelters, an open tussock plateau and tops with superb views, combine to make this an interesting **moderate** tramp

List closes 7 April

Social Events

Tues 20 Feb Christchurch Adventure Park Investigation followed by dinner

The new mountain bike park at 225 Worsleys Road, Cracroft is open. We will be walking up the one shared walking/mountain bike track to get a view of the city and the impressive mountain bike tracks. It is a steep dirt track so you may want to wear tramping boots. Meet at 6pm at the car park. Dinner at 7.15 pm at the Adventure Park licenced café. To book for café please let Margot know by Sunday 19 February. Contact Margot Bowden ph. 332 7020 or margot.bowden@gmail.com. Menu is available at <https://222.christchurch.adventurepark.com/village-cafe-bar>.

Wed 22 The Groynes followed by dinner **March**

We will be walking some of the pleasant tracks in the Groynes followed by dinner at a local restaurant. More details in the next newsletter. Contact Margot Bowden ph. 332 7020 or margot.bowden@gmail.com

Tues 18th Court Theatre - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. See information on **April** page 2 of this newsletter

Notes

Membership: The PTC welcomes back a previous member- Hilare Campbell

Deadline for the March newsletter: 28th February - send items for the newsletter to Ruth Barratt rannalong@gmail.com

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 28th February 2017

Obituary

Nick Webb 25-10-1942 – 22-12-2016

On a very rare occasion a person will come into your life and have such an influence on your own life as to be within a handful of people to have ever so influenced your life. Nick is one of those people.



Nick at top of Denniston Incline 2006

Nick, brought up in Christchurch and Canterbury, had a love for the outdoors. Mustering in the high country shaped Nick and things like the little tea billy especially just for tea, no doubt come from that time. A love of geology went on to an interest in rocks and minerals. I could relate to geology myself so could appreciate where Nick was coming from and we had very similar outlooks on life, over a range of topics.

Nick's work was sales in insurance and Amicus Brokers had a loyal and extensive client base. In 1965 Nick married the girl from Ayr, Queensland and travel included an extensive area of Australia. Nick and Marg would be joined by daughter Eve.

Tramping would be an important part of their lives, belonging to the Peninsula Tramping Club in Christchurch because this tramping club didn't have club facilities with endless work parties to maintain them. Nick would go on to become a PTC Club president. I first caught up with Nick and Marg at a Moana Base Camp back in 2005 not long after I had joined the club. We became great friends and many club tramping trips together would follow. Some highlights include Mohikonui Base Camp with the visit to Deniston.

Two photography courses in Kokatahi and Kaikoura allowed us to share the merits of digital photography and a love of photography was fostered. By the time we did the Catlins Base Camp Nick had a new camera and Marg had inherited his previous camera on a steep learning curve on how to use it!



Nick and Marg new cameras at Nugget Point Catlins Base Camp 2008

Nick was always interested in technology and not scared to learn how to use it to advantage. His knowledge and passion on things tramping including the management of such, were invaluable to me during my time as the club's president. At my 50th birthday on the day of the club's 75th celebration it was Nick who just stood up and addressed the crowd on my behalf all unplanned.

Other great trip memories include the Portobello Base Camp where Nick just loved his "big" latte.

Reefton Base Camp, Haast Base Camp where I had to rescue his car off soft sand at Neills Beach and of course George Sound. Nick was keen to go but Marg was a bit

apprehensive. A reassurance by me that I would make sure Marg was looked after meant both Nick and Marg went. In the last year we were so glad to have gone to George Sound and grabbed that opportunity while it was there at the time.

Living life to the full, grabbing opportunities, travel to great places around the world are hallmarks of Nick and Marg and leave a lesson for all of us. Fate would align Nick and I in the last two years as we were both on the same



Nicks big latte at Portobello 2006



George Sound Fiordland Approaching Henry Saddle 2008

track health wise. The understanding and mutual support has been invaluable to me and confirmed to me that our new lives would be ok.

I feel blessed to have had a true friend in Nick, a leader and a life well lived. Rest in peace. Nick may have passed on but the Webb the spider weaved will never die. Leo Manders

Trip Reports

Haupiri - Lake Morgan - Cone Creek Circuit

15-17 Oct 2016

Leaving Chch at 0630 got us to Gloriavale community at 10.30. We drove through the site impressed by the number of new buildings and size of the village. Being nosey four of us walked into the large office to sign in and observe some of the inner workings of the place. Bill's vehicle was big enough to take the five of us and rugged enough to take us to a grassy flat very close to O'Shanessy Creek where the steep Bryan O'Lyn track to the tops begins. On a fine day we were down to one layer of clothing as we climbed the crude but well-marked track through dense Rata Kamahi forest. Dracophyllum and mountain cedar trees gave an indication that we were approaching the bushline and a lunch stop. I was surprised to see little tree dracophylums growing amongst tussock. Another surprise was seeing three boys and one man from Gloriavale up for a day walk. They were hoping one day to go all the way to Lake Morgan. Asked if they would take their sisters up the Bryan O'Lyn track, they said, yes they were planning to. Their Bryan O'Lyn route wasn't ours; they had made a different track, presumably better.



A long ridge track and some sidling got us to Brian O'Lyn then on to O'Shanessy with some big slabs of rock and snow to negotiate. A spur leads down to the six-bunk Lake Morgan Hut and we were happy to reach it at 7:30pm. Macaroni and cheese made for a quick dinner then we were off to slumberland.

That was the end of the good weather. We exited the hut before 0800 in drizzle and headed towards Lake Morgan. The stream from the lake was flowing fast with snow melt so we kept on its true right to avoid it, took some misty lake photos, headed east up to the

ridge then down a spur that runs roughly east-west. The basin below point 1368 had some useful snow as we headed to the branch of Cone Creek that runs roughly north, south. Scrub and the stream slowed us down, then at a clear patch where the two stream branches meet we picked up markers directing us down a narrow rocky track through forest. A steep gravel gully leads to the hut and we became spread out in an effort not to send rocks onto anyone ahead of us. We made Cone Creek Hut by 2pm and had a relaxing, dry afternoon.



Day three dawned drizzly for the walk down a rugged Cone Creek track. We had Merv to thank for track work he'd done in 2015. The path was well marked and there was only one bit where we used a rope to haul a pack up a steep slope where the track exits the creek-bed. The drizzle graduated to nearly steady rain so lunch was brief so we didn't cool off too drastically. It took us four hours to reach the Haupiri River then another two to reach the car. A long section of 4WD track was more of a muddy river, more of a tractor track than a vehicle track. The rain conveniently stopped as we reached Bill's vehicle so we could change to street clothes. At Gloriavale we checked out and drove away to a warm dry Canterbury. Our congenial band was: **Bill Templeton, Vesna Mojsilovic, Aarn Tate, Christine Leaver and Kerry Moore.** 🏠 KM

Freehold Creek – Dumb-Bell Lake 21-23 October 2016

The three of us on the trip from Christchurch left Merv's place at 3pm on Friday. It was a pleasant drive down south stopping for dinner in Twizel and arriving at our camping spot beside Lake Ohau, across the road from the DOC campsite at Lake Middleton, well before dark. We set up the Polaris tent and enjoyed a hot drink and the views across the still lake.

Karen, who had driven up from Dunedin, joined us after breakfast and we packed up and drove to Parsons Creek car park where we left the cars. We climbed up through beech forest beside Parsons Creek until we hit the Alps to Ocean cycle track. A number of people cycling the track stopped to chat. We walked along the track for about 45 minutes until we crossed a bridge over Freehold Creek and came to a DOC sign for the track up beside the creek. We were now on Te Araroa for 3km as we climbed gradually for an hour beside the creek up to the bushline. Not far below the bushline there were a number of great places to put up tents near the creek and evidence of a communal campfire spot with a large stack of wood and seats around it.

Above the bushline there was a sign with a mug on it, which indicated a narrow pipe coming out of a stream with an enamel mug attached. We had a break admiring the views of the lake and the snow covered slopes above and consulted our map as to the way ahead. It was a stunning clear day -shirt weather- with only an occasional puff of wind.



A little further on a sign indicated a new shorter route on the left to the East Ahuriri for Te Araroa walkers. We headed to the right and soon crossed Freehold Creek near where it forked. We climbed a short distance and came to a DOC sign indicating that the route to Dumb-Bell Lake was not marked beyond this point or only lightly marked with cairns,. There were, in fact, yellow poles at intervals, which we were able to follow up the slope. The snow was soft but luckily not too deep. At the top of the slope we contoured around until we came to a high basin with a tarn (1479m.) We sat on rocks up beside the tarn and

had our lunch while admiring the reflections in the still water.

We headed on up a gentle spur following cairns at intervals but missed some in the basin ahead, climbing up too high to the left and having to make a nasty sidle across a rocky area before meeting up with the cairns again. A climb up the final snow slope at the head of the basin, with Douglas making steps for us to follow, saw us at the low point on the range between 1922m and 1817m. The views of snow-capped peaks around us were fantastic as were the views back over Lake Ohau and beyond.

From this point there were no markers that we could see. We headed off across the snow to the north contouring around beside the ridge until we came to a point where we could see Lake Dumb-bell. We dropped off the ridge and climbed down. In the valley below we came to a yellow pole and then were able to follow poles at intervals down to the western side of the lake. We were welcomed by the honking of Canada geese on the lake.

There was a bit of wind on the rocky flat area, where a rock wall for a “kitchen” was already in place, so we chose to put our tents up in a more sheltered spot on snow a little further down towards the lake. Karen cooked us a great dinner of vegetable curry and rice, topped with almonds, which was followed by fruit cake and custard provided by Sue.

The snow froze during the night and it was overcast and cool in the morning. By the time we had had breakfast we decided that the snow was too soft to do a day walk up to the ridge near Mt Sutton. Merv was concerned about the weather outlook for Monday and wanted to be back at the bushline for the night. Karen had found that her ice axe was missing when we had arrived at the lake having tied it to her pack before we climbed down from the ridge.



So we set off back the way we had come looking for the ice axe as we went. Douglas did a detour up over Pinnacle(1817m) while the rest of us tried to retrace our footsteps, which was not easy in the tussock lower down but easy on the snow slopes. Not far from the top, where we had stopped before heading down to the lake, Merv found the ice axe on the snow much to Karen’s delight. Luckily it had not snowed overnight!

We lunched again at the tarn and were back at the bushline by 2pm. A lot of the snow had melted making for easier walking on the lower slopes. Merv was keen to camp but the rest of us felt like we had done the trip, that it had been fantastic, but that it would be nice to have Labour Day at home. Thanks to Merv for organising and leading.

Merv Meredith, Karen Taylor, Douglas Woods, Sue Piercey (SP)

Onamalutu Christmas Base Camp - 24 Dec 2016 – 2 Jan 2017

For the first time for a number of years the Club ran a Christmas Base Camp this year. The venue was a DOC Campground, inland from Renwick in Marlborough off the Northbank Road of the Wairau River. This gave us access to a large range of tramping options along the eastern side of the Richmond Range. Access to the campground is on sealed roads from State Highway 6.

Four of Stan and Sue Wilder, Arif Mathee and myself and us decided to have Christmas Day here so we arrived on 24 Dec. This day for me was spent in Blenheim doing last minute food shopping for fresh supplies. Tents and flies were erected to set up our base camp. My campervan came in handy for it’s fridge, my portable oven that fits on a stovetop and TV for getting the weather report. There was no cell phone or mobile broadband coverage at the campsite, but on most days en route to tramping areas we found a coverage spot about 5km down the road, which everyone used for mobile communication.



An organised Christmas dinner was planned, the menu consisting of cooked hot stuffed chicken with gravy, hot glazed ham, hot potatoes with roast vegetables, peas, three different cold salads and garlic bread. Desert consisted of homemade trifle both alcohol and non-alcohol options with two jellies, sponge, peaches, grapes, strawberries, custard, fresh whipped cream and hot steamed plum pudding. All prepared on gas stoves and portable oven without use of mains power.

Christmas day dawned cloudy and cool. Stan was keen to check out the road ends for Lake Chalice and Goulter River so all four of us travelled to each of these road ends to determine road condition and times so that Stan and Arif could do the circuit overnighting at Mid Goulter Hut the following day. Although we left in the morning, it took quite a while on narrow winding gravel roads resulting on us returning back to base after 4pm. Our Christmas dinner was therefore an evening affair and being cool it was the only night we used the campervan to have dinner in.



26 Dec dawned with fine weather and the four of us travelled to the Lake Chalice car park at 1200 metres. Lake Chalice and hut is an hour's descent dropping 400 metres from the car park. From Lake Chalice Stan and Arif continued onto Mid Goulter Hut while Sue and I with the help of a pole climbed back up to the carpark and returned to our base. We still had enough food from yesterdays feast for dinner. The next day Sue and I travelled towards the Goulter road end as far as was possible to travel

by car and picked up Stan and Arif.

The Onamalutu Domain Campground is a large grassed area with flush toilets and cold water taps in a few places. The campground is beside the Onamalutu River. There is a lovely short bush walk through massive kahikateas taking you down to the river with a number of swimming holes. The bird life here is very prolific and it was a pleasure to hear the birds in the morning and night. There are a few sandflies but nothing to be of concern. The Mt. Riley track was climbed and the odd trip to Renwick and Blenheim was undertaken. Brain and Mary-Jane Bonsell and Geoff Price joined us and we had a great New Years eve.



The campground was never very busy and on some days only had a few people there, The weather remained

fine, occasionally cloudy on some days, a few windy days and light rain on only two days. All in all a great time was had by all. It was really great to catch up. Thanks for the company and encouraging me to do the tramp down to Lake Chalice, the first time back there for me in 40 years. Leo Manders

Taipo Valley - Kelly Range – 29-30 October 2016

We were on the road by 8am leaving a slightly cool cloudy Christchurch. However the drive to Jacksons over the Otira Gorge was clear, promising blue sky in the afternoon. We parked the car at the Taipo Valley carpark and took 3 hours on a 4WD track to walk past the old Dillon Homestead to a modern Dillon Hut. Wet boots dried on a slightly breezy and sunny afternoon ready for the next day's adventure. We had a relaxing afternoon, then enjoyed one of Kerry's gourmet meals and the famous hot custard on gingernuts. The night was filled with clear sky and bright stars for those who ventured into the dark.

A 7:15 start on a frosty morning saw us slowly heading up a steep spur track to the Kelly Tops. We lunched on the tops under a blue sky. The tracks were reasonable with one dubious section at the top of a monster slip that reached down into Seven Mile Creek. Diane commented that she wouldn't want to be walking there in an earthquake.

We met Rob, a polytech student and 2 girls going in the opposite direction. They had left their car at Kelly's carpark. Sizing them up, we decided to offer them our car keys so they could drive back to their car, helping both teams greatly. The tops track goes past some beautiful tarns and there were patches of snow at the top. 360° views were spectacular, as was the reflection of the many tarns. Snow-capped Mounts Alexander and Tara Tama were impressive. Before long we reached the highest point, 1385m, Kelly Saddle at 1185m, then Carroll Hut at 2pm. We enjoyed a sunny afternoon break there, also chatting with another PTC member out for an easy break.



Two small sections were washed out on the steep downhill to the carpark. The group did well and reached the car-park before 4:30pm, a little worried not to see our car but Rob and co rolled up 20 minutes later—both teams smiling happily.

It was a great weekend well led by Kerry and enjoyed by **Norman Burden, Diane Melish, Jane Smith and Kerry Moore** 🇳🇿 JS

