



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
July 2018*

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Committee					
President	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Raymond Ford	351 9496
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Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Social Events	Maureen Whalen	027 819 9251
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Maureen Thompson	021 2665778
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239			

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.

<p>Tue s 10 July</p> 	<p>Members' Photos</p> <p>Share your tramping photos with fellow trampers. Book in (early) your 10 minute (or less) presentation with Brian Smith brian21x@xtra.co.nz</p> <p>Assemble your presentation and bring it to club night on a flash drive or laptop, and give it to Brian, by 7.30pm.</p> <p><i>Supper Duty: Graeme Paltridge and Stuart Payne.</i></p>
<p>Tues 14 August</p> 	<p>Birds, bats and biodiversity - Dr Colin O'Donnell, Principal Science Advisor, Department of Conservation</p> <p>Colin has worked for many years on native birds, lizards and bats, including many threatened species. His 'patch' extends from the Sub Antarctic islands to Cape Reinga (lucky man!). Among his numerous research projects, he is looking at methods to control pests, such as stoats and rats.</p>



FORTHCOMING 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, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you to go on the trip. If the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader or if you use email check the PTC Communicator the day before for trip updates.

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

The Club has a mountain biking section, Fat Tyre Fanatics, who head out on casual day trips throughout the year. For details on biking trips contact Chris Leaver 322 6445, or ptc75@clear.net.nz.

- 7-8 Jul Hawdon Hut **Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069****
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33652/Hawdon-Hut/Canterbury>
****** An **easy-moderate** flat walk up the Hawdon River to this spacious hut with views of some impressive mountains
List closes 1 July
- 8-Jul Mt Foweracker **Gary Huish 332 7020****
Sun <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33652/Hawdon-Hut/Canterbury>
***** **Moderate-hard** trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1804m peak between Sudden Valley and Red Beech Stream. This peak lacked a name five years ago.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx Cost \$21**
- 14-15 Jul Hope-Kiwi Lodge **Sue Piercey 384 9567****
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33974/Hope-Kiwi-Lodge/Canterbury>
****** **Easy-moderate** tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way, through beech forest and along river terraces
List closes 7 July
- 15-Jul John Britten--Mt Pleasant **Miriam Preston 329 3139****
Sun <http://tracks.org.nz/track/show/482>
***** An **easy** walk from the start of John Britten Reserve at Longridge Drive up to the Summit Road and along to Mt Pleasant. The 140 bus can get you up Mt Pleasant Road fairly close to Longridge Drive
 Meet 0915 at the reserve entrance on Longridge Drive or meet at Stop Number 15728 by 0837 on Linwood Ave, near McGregors Road, near Eastgate Mall to catch the 140 bus to Madeley Road and walk up Mt Pleasant Road then Longridge Drive to John Britten Reserve

- 21-22 Jul Crow Hut** **Dan Pryce 356 1962**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32109/Crow-Hut/Canterbury>
****** **Easy-moderate** tramp to a comfortable hut (with woodfire) in a clearing between forested slopes and the Waimakariri River in Arthur's Pass National Park.
List closes 15 July
- 22-Jul Baldy Hill** **Peter Umbers 359 9118**
Sun <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32879/Baldy-Hill/Canterbury>
***** A **moderate** climb of this 1834m hill at the north end of the Craigieburn Range. If you want to walk through forest this is not the place to visit. It is bald!
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx Cost \$19**
- 28-29 Jul Jollie Brook** **Pauline Hill 021 0872 1613**
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34085/Jollie-Brook/Canterbury>
****** An **easy-moderate** flat walk alongside the Hurunui River as it exits big Lake Sumner, past elderly Gabriel Hut and on to Jollie Brook Hut. We can return the same way with a side trip to Lake Sumner or go down the Jollie Brook.
List closes 22 July
- 29-Jul Paterson Hill** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32669/Paterson-Hill/Canterbury>
***** A **moderate** circuit to this 1113m hill, overlooking Staircase Gully at the end of the Torlesse Rg.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx Cost \$12**
- 3-6 Aug Cardrona—Cross-country skiing** **Calum McIntosh 376 6133**
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz19969/Cardrona/Otago>
******** Moderate fitness required to ski the Cardona Snow Farm. You can hire skis down there if you don't have them.
List closes 22 July
- 4-5 Aug Rod Donald Hut** **Leader:pending**
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29946/Waipuna-Saddle/Canterbury>
****** An **easy-moderate** trip to this charming hut on Te Ara Pataka track and so close to Chch. Has a wood-burner.
List closes 22 July
- 4-Aug Sugar Loaf** **Darcy Mawson 331 6377**
Saturday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32928/Cass/Canterbury>
***** An **moderate** climb to this 1359m hill above Cass.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx Cost \$20**
- 5-Aug Cheeseman—Izard** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31523/Mount-Cheeseman/Canterbury>
***** A **moderate hard** circuit taking in 2031m Cheeseman and 2019m Izard in the heart of the Craigieburn Range. Take ice-axe and crampons.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx Cost \$18**
- 11-12 Aug Arthurs Pass Base** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32156/Arthur%27s-Pass/Canterbury>
****** Staying in a comfortable house in the village from where we can climb some peaks or walk some of the beautiful nature walks.
List closes 5 Aug

- 12-Aug** **Og--Gog--Magog** **Stuart Payne 337 2275**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32909/Magog/Canterbury>
 * These Ogs come in a neat row so we can "knock" them off in one **easy-moderate** walk. We'll be looking into the Waimakariri River before it reaches the 'gorgy' section.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx Cost \$19**
- 18-19 Aug** **Boyle Flat Hut – Faust** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35491/Faust/Canterbury>
 ** A **moderate-hard** climb from the Boyle over the Libretto Range via 1710m Faust. Anyone wanting an easy trip can return as for the inward leg.
List closes 12 Aug
- 18 Aug** **Planting on Quail Island** **Stan Wilder 260 2340**
Saturday Spend a few hours planting on Otamahua/Quail Island. Water taxi, tools and trees provided
 * Names to Stan by the Thursday 16 August.
Meet 8:55am at the Lyttelton Harbour Ferry wharf.
- 19 Aug** **Manuka Hut** **Wendy Wallace 338 0550**
Sun <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz28560/Manuka-Hut/Canterbury>
 * An **easy** walk or bike-ride from Lake Heron to this hut in the Clent Hills
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$25**
- 25-26 Aug** **Nina Hut** **Leader: pending**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35468/Nina-Hut/Canterbury>
 ** **Easy** walk up through beech forest to this modern hut. Some of the beech forest is quite stunted and may contain elves and goblins
List Closes 19 Aug
- 26 Aug** **Mt Lyndon—Cloudy Peak** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sun <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32568/Lake-Lyndon/Canterbury>
 * A **moderate** circuit above Lake Lyndon taking in 1489m Mt Lyndon and 1442m Cloudy Hill. If snow persists, an ice axe could be useful.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$14**
- 1-2 Sept** **Winding Creek--Broken River Hut** **Leader: pending**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32665/Broken-River-Hut/Canterbury>
 ** **Easy-moderate** fairly flat walk on a good track to this little hut by Broken River in geologically interesting country
List closes 26 Aug
- 2 Sept** **Mt Barrosa** **Norman Burden 358 5115**
Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz28300/Mount-Barrosa/Canterbury>
 * A **moderate** trip from Ashburton Gorge Rd in the Clent Hills area. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to a 1364m peak. Popular with rock hounds seeking agates.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$21**
- 8-9 Sept** **Cass Saddle—Lagoon Saddle** **Kevin Hughes 332 6281**
<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31550/Cass-Saddle/Canterbury>
 ** Popular **moderate** round trip, overnighting in the good-sized Hamilton Hut. Mainly good track through beech forest, two tussock saddles, grassy flats, with a few river crossings thrown in.
List closes 2 Sept

* This **easy-moderate** trip visits a 980ha botanical reserve occupying most of Otanerito Valley in south-east Banks Peninsula. The area has over 12km of tracks and is privately managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife. This time we have the added advantage of a knowledgeable guide

8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end, over the road by the river.

Approx cost \$15

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues 17 July



Crazy Whist Evening and Pot-luck Dinner

Brian and Mary-Jane Bonsell are hosting their famous Crazy Whist evening. Arrive any time after 5.30 pm. Dinner at 6 pm. Crazy Whist starts at 7 pm.

The Bonsells have an entertaining format where you change partners often. A very basic knowledge of tricks and trumps is helpful (It's easier than 500 or Euchre). Check out the YouTube link below which explains how to play in 3 mins 27 seconds.

Please bring a dish to share and your own drinks. If you have a card table, let the Bonsells know as it might be needed.

Email: bonsell@xtra.co.nz or phone 358 5259 to book by Friday 13 July.

Location: Avonhead Road (Address supplied when booking)

You tube video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=9v5UxlUg55Y>

On-line practice here: <https://cardgames.io/whist/>

Wednesday 8 August



Botanic D'Lights followed by warming curry at Mumbaiwala.

Meet at 6 pm at the sheltered entrance to the Museum, Rolleston Ave. Explore the colourful interactive lighting displays in the Botanic Gardens and Arts Centre. The theme is "Escape Your Reality".

Regroup at the Museum entrance at approximately 7 pm, and head to Mumbaiwala, 120 Hereford St for a tasty Indian dinner (mains \$15 to \$26).

Bookings for dinner to Maureen Thompson by Friday 3 August. Email mothompson1212@gmail.com. Text 021 266 5778. The D'Lights are free, and there is no need to book for them.

<https://www.artscentre.org.nz/events/botanic-dlights/>

President's notes:

It's lovely to be getting some sun again after weeks of cloud and drizzle in the city, though I believe those who ventured into the hills in that gloomy period were rewarded with clear skies and extensive views. So if in doubt this winter, put your boots on and go tramping!

A big thank you to many members who are contributing so willingly to club life: as trip leaders, writers of trip reports, car providers and drivers, meal organisers, social event organisers, trip participants, etc. There is a good team effort going on and good numbers heading out on a variety of adventures near and far. The forward planning for trips next summer is pretty impressive too. Several people offered to be supper duty coordinator thanks, and it is Margaret Clark who will attend to that task while lucky Margot is cycling in Europe, again! And we are getting a good turnout at the monthly club nights despite the effort needed to leave home comforts at this time of year. So take a pat on the back everybody and thank you for your part in creating a vibrant energy in our club. **Diane**

The July night sky.

This year, July is great for planet hunting. In the early evening, brilliant VENUS is visible in the northwest, setting an hour or so after the Sun. Bright white JUPITER, always a splendid sight, is almost overhead mid-evening, near the easily recognised curve of the constellation Scorpius.

Orange MARS is also unusually bright because it's currently close to Earth. It rises in the Eastern sky after sunset, and by late evening is an impressive sight as it climbs into the sky. Don't confuse Mars with the less-bright but still impressive orange star Antares, which is in Scorpius not too far away from Jupiter.

SATURN is less bright but easily spotted, roughly halfway between Jupiter and Mars.

The Moon will be close to Jupiter on the 21st, and even closer to Saturn on the 25th.

Graham Townsend

Trip Photos:

The Club maintains a gallery of photographs on its website. Keeping this up to date allows people to see what recent trips the Club has undertaken. Can trip leaders send or nominate someone to send some photographs from each trip to Kevin Hughes, ptc@nivek.co.nz, so we can keep this record current.

Membership: The PTC welcomes new members – Wendy McCaughan and Barbara Purcell, and re-joining member – Laurayne Devery.

Deadline for the August Newsletter: Friday 3 August – please send newsletter items to Raymond:

fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 31 July 2018.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt Cass Reserve – Saturday, 21 April 2018

This is an impressive limestone ridge leading to Mt Cass. The reserve is a joint effort by Transwaste Canterbury Ltd. and



the Waipara Valley Promotion Association, and opened in 2006.

The 'track' is a circuit that uses farm tracks through farmland. Our group of nine walked an anti-clockwise loop and arrived at the top in a brisk wind. So it's no surprise that in 2007 MainPower Limited sought a resource consent to build a windfarm on the ridge. Some of the many sheep we saw appeared to be moulting. In fact they are a self-shearing breed so you'll never see a super-woolly Shrek sheep here!!

Our club used to do this trip as Mt Cass – Mt Totara but we no longer have access to Mt Totara. For us it was a short trip. We were back at the cars by 3pm. Thanks go to Marion for leading this trip.

We were: **Marion McQuillan (Leader), Gary Huish, Margo Bowden, Carol Cheong, Geoff & Mary Korver, John Robinson, Jill Fenner, Kerry Moore 🏔️ KM**

Milford Track - 12-16 May 2018

After a slightly late start from Vesna and Milomir's place, our 3 cars departed for the long drive to Te Anau, with the usual obligatory stop at Fairlie for coffee and pies. Ian had already arrived at the Lake Front Backpackers, and Joy arrived later on the bus. Next morning, we met our transport in front of the DoC offices for the trip to the boat at Te Anau Downs. There were 21 trampers on the boat 'Calypso' for the 2 hour trip to Glade Wharf, at the head of Lake Te Anau.



The skipper gave a brief rundown on the track, and asked everyone to clean their boots in trays of 'Napisan' solution as a precaution against the spread of Didymo, before departing up the track. We started walking at about 11.20am. About 10 minutes past Glade House, we were stopped by a nice young Department of Conservation lady to check our hut tickets.

Unsurprisingly, the track condition was very good, and more suited to light boots or good walking shoes rather than heavy tramping boots. We stopped for lunch at Clinton Hut to the sound of kakas and with fantails flitting about.

The day was cool but fine with high cloud. With short days the pressure was on a bit to get to Mintaro Hut at the head of the Clinton Valley. The party spread out the last part with the front runners arriving at the hut in daylight and the last group arriving at 6pm in the dark. The 40 bunk Mintaro hut was nearly 3/4 full with independent trampers, with some coming over Dore Pass. It soon warmed up a bit with the fire, even the upstairs bunkrooms.

Outside the Great Walks season, only basic facilities are provided at the huts – gas is not provided, running water is turned off inside the huts, and pit toilets replace the flush toilets.



Next morning, we made an early start just on daylight with clear skies and a light frost. After a two hour



climb to Mackinnon Pass (1069m), we were rewarded with spectacular views of the precipitous walls in the Roaring Burn, the surrounding peaks and our route up the Clinton Valley. A chilly easterly breeze discouraged any lingering at the Quintin McKinnon Monument so we carried on to the new MacKinnon Pass shelter for a hot cuppa. A steepish downhill descent slowed some of the party then it was back out into the sun again at the tourist Quintin Lodge for a late lunch. Most of the party decided to make the short side trip up to Sutherland Falls. An earlier arrival at Dumpling Hut was appreciated which gave everyone a chance to relax and more time to organise the evening

meals.

The 2pm departure time for the boat transport prompted an early morning start the next day, by all the hut inhabitants. Our fine weather window had disappeared, the sky became overcast and it began to drizzle. The track down the Arthur Valley was very straightforward, apart from sections of the track where work was underway to repair recent storm damage. We made a couple of brief stops to admire the Mackay Falls and Giant Gate shelter for lunch. The final section track to Sandfly Point through the forest, which resembled a road, had been constructed by prison labour between 1890 -1892.

Sandfly Point lived up to its name! Fortunately, the shelter offered some respite from the local insect life while we waited for the water taxi and watched a very fearless tomtit feasting on sandflies. It took a couple of trips to ferry everyone over to Deepwater Basin at Milford Sound. Our boat captain from the Te Anau Downs cruise doubled as the van driver and took us for a short tour of Milford before heading back to Te Anau. A pleasant debrief at the Moose bar finished the evening. For an out of season walk, we were very lucky with the weather.



We were: **Dan Pryce, Lee Varty, Norman Burden, Angela Grigg, Vesna+Milomir Mojsilovic, Darcy Mawson Kerry Moore, Bob Reid, Miriam Preston, Raymond Ford, Ian Beale, Joy Schroeder Peter Umbers (leader) 🏠 PU**

Mt Bradley –Sunday, 17 June 2018

Twelve of us gathered at Princess Margaret Hospital for our tramp to Mt Bradley. We left in three cars for Kaituna Valley carpark, which is located at the end of Parkinsons Road.



After a briefing from our leader Joy, giving us all the description of the tramp, we departed up the Kaituna Valley Packhorse track. As we climbed higher up the valley towards the Packhorse Hut the fog began to come in, covering the views above. It wasn't to last long, as once we reached the hut it began to clear below us. As for a view of the city, it was covered in cloud. There it stayed for the rest of the day.

After a stop for morning tea at the hut, we then went up the zig zag track, approaching from the south side of Mt Bradley, with good views of the valley below. It was a reasonable walk along the track when we discovered a sign giving us the track to the top of Mt Bradley. To our amazement, a track had been marked out by someone with red degradable ribbons along the track to the top of Mt Bradley.



After sitting under blue skies for lunch, we continued back along the track. With a good eye, Joy recognized somebody on the northern side cutting away at the scrub. Who else but Merv!

We all showed our appreciation of his work that he has been doing over the past three years, a lot of passion as one person put it. Before we left, Merv showed us where the Eye of the Needle stood. For many it was our first footing on top of the Needle, an amazing feeling around us.

We departed soon afterwards on the same track and back to the cars by 4pm.

We were: **Joy Schroeder (leader), Sue Britain, Wendy McCaughan, Barbara Purcell, Margaret Clark, Helen Tapper, Mike Bourke, Shiping Wang, Ainslie Talbot, Justin Loh, Graeme Nicholas, Norman Burden 🌲 NB**

Hump Ridge Track – 1 – 5 June 2018

The Hump Ridge track is a 52km loop track ran by a charitable trust. Upon organising our tramp, our trip leader Dan discovered the fee for staying at Okaka Lodge in winter with no heating, cooking facilities or running water was still \$50. He warned us, it could be very cold! We were suitably warned.

Our departure day started out wet and drizzly as I met my ride at the Rolleston BP. Seven of us went in two cars for a full day of travel to Tuatapere, with Dan our leader and Lee travelling separately via Central Otago. First stop Oamaru for morning tea then Milton for lunch. The further south we travelled the better the weather became. Making good time we arrived in Tuatapere by 4.30pm to check in to our accommodation, Last Light Lodge, which was an old forestry camp upgraded to tourist accommodation. Rooms sorted, we gathered in the dining room for pre-dinner drinks then a lovely meal.



Sunday dawned clear and fine. We were up early ready for pick up at 8am, our group of nine were promptly delivered to the start of the track at the Rarakau carpark. Packs sorted, off we trotted through the gate into regenerating native bush. It was a nice flat meander before the 200 steps down to the sea edge. We enjoyed a pleasant walk to a beautiful dawning day on the beach with views up to the ridge where our destination Okaka Lodge was, for today. After walking

several kilometres we re-entered the bush close to Te Waewae Bay until reaching our turn off up the hill. Much of the first hours of walking were on boardwalks, the bush dense, lush and green.

Lunch was had where we could find sunshine filtering through the trees. Despite that, we chilled off quickly, even though it was fine, the temperature was in single digits. After a short stop, we moved quickly up and onwards, followed, at times, by a beautiful black fantail. We reached the Water Bridge which has a shelter and toilet facilities. It is the last stop for water before the lodge but only half way up the hill! We decided against carrying water for the night as we could obtain it from a tarn near the lodge. Good to top up water bottles though, so Dan set to lowering the billy from the bridge into the stream and successfully managing to haul some up. Heavy packs started to take their toll and progress become slower as the track became steeper. Then a view of the lodge in the distance, told us we were making progress, but knowing we had at least another 45mins to go.

A lead group of four reached the Lodge first and checked it out. Stu came back to let us know it had running water. It was a relief we didn't have to collect any. In all it was a nine hour day. We settled into bunkrooms with solar lights, Dan got the cooker going and we all congregated in the dining room with no heating. Hats, gloves and down jackets were donned to try and keep warm. It was already freezing outside. Dan cooked a beautiful meal of fresh vegs and smoked chicken. We were joined by a group of 5 walkers who had come up from Port Craig, which had taken them 9 hours. Then it was off to bed as soon as possible to try to keep warm. It was a beautiful starry night with far away lights twinkling in the distance.



We woke to a big frost and clear skies. Another long day so Dan planned to be away by 8am. Our destination, the Port Craig Old School House. Admiring the views before we left, Di somehow managed to drop her walking pole over the edge into the abyss and tangle of bushes. Keen to be reunited with it, Di with the kind help of Barry, climbed down to hunt it out. After some major bush crashing, the mission was accomplished. At the track junction, a vote was had as to who wished to go up

and have a look the tarns above the Lodge, 5 votes to 4 so off we trotted. This had to be the best scenery of the whole trip - 360 degree views over to Lake Poteriteri and the Cameron Range, out to sea and Stewart Island. The tarns were all frozen, it was a winter wonderland.

Back to the junction and onward down the Hump Ridge, aptly named. Again lots of boardwalk and steps on our progress downward. It was a beautiful sunny day with no wind, we couldn't have been luckier with the weather for this time of year. A quick stop to look at the Luncheon Rock where there is a shelter reminiscent of an animal barn and toilet. We continued onwards down the long ridge. We found a patch of sunshine through the trees for a lunch stop. The ambient temperature remained low, so yet again only a quick lunch stop. We continued down eventually reaching the beginnings of the old tram tracks and the viaducts, amazing feats of engineering for their time. There was another 7km to go along the old tram tracks to Port Craig. We finally reach our destination at 5pm after another long 9 hour day.

DoC has done a great job of converting the Old School House into a tramping hut. Three tiers of bunks, luckily we didn't need to use the top tier. A warm welcoming pot belly stove and running water. Dan got to cooking and Barry lit the fire while 5 of us women took off to explore the area, thanks guys! I took my torch keen to look at the site of the old port as the chances were it would be raining in the morning. Miriam accompanied me to the steps down to the beach. There were informative display boards and old machinery lying around. Dan again cooked dinner, tuna and pasta with more fresh vegs, yum!

Next morning, we woke to overcast skies with rain starting by 7.30am. We had planned to get away by 8am as our pick up was at 2.30pm and the time to walk out takes about 6 to 7 hours. Jackets on, we warmed up quickly. The showers came and went and it was cold. We initially walked in bush, and then we hit the glorious coastline, walking in and out of bays and across beaches. While crossing a stream, Dan spotted a red deer in the river. Off it shot, a blur for some and missed by others. It was a magnificent beast for those who saw it. We stopped for lunch in the shelter of a porch of someone's bach. A welcome respite from the cold rain showers. Then it was the last stretch back across the beach to the starting point, being graced by beautiful rainbows in the distance. The last of us reached the vans at 2.40pm. Then it was back to our accommodation and hot showers. We then headed off to the local pub for a drink and meal. A warm and pleasant evening spent chatting.

It snowed that night, and we woke to hear that there were road closures on our route home. On departing Tuatapere, it wasn't clear which route was best to take home. We ended up going three different ways, all safely arriving back to Christchurch.

Thanks Dan for all your effort in organizing and leading the trip. It was a great trip and I highly recommend it. Though next time I think I'll come back in the summer to take advantage of the longer days.

We were, Daniel Pryce, Lee Varty, Penny Coffey, Diane Mellish, Stuart Payne, Miriam Preston, Joy Schroeder, Barry McKessar, Angela Grigg. 🏠 AG

Thirteen Mile Bush – Sunday, 10 June 2018

Seven of us left Church Corner at 8am for Benmore Station, not far from Porters Pass. But first we had to stop at Sheffield to pick up John, and then Kim and Carol in Springfield. We arrived at Benmore Station just after 9.0am to be greeted by a very boggy car park. We wasted no time in putting our boots on. First, we had to paddle our way through a flooded area to reach the small swing gate. This was the feel of damp feet! Once on the four wheel drive track, muddy to say the least, it took us onto another track to which followed the Thirteen Mile Bush stream to the Kowai River ford.

A short time later we entered the beech forest,



leaving the tussock and brown tops behind us. Unfortunately, from thereon, the track became very uneven and muddy. At times we had to balance ourselves on fallen tree trunks to avoid the bogs. With several stream crossings, it made us to forget the other challenges! It seemed I

was too anxious to get to the hut away from the mires, when Kerry reminded me we hadn't stopped for morning tea. Sorry about that my fellow trampers!

We arrived at the hut two and half hours later. it had been built by the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, in the mid-nineties. The interior has been well maintained with four bunks, although possibly five could sleep there if one wishes to double up. Benmore Hut is situated in a forested saddle on the

junction with two other main tracks, one on the south side of the hut ,which takes you up to Benmore, while the other takes you down to the north tributary of the Selwyn River.

We left the hut at 12 45 pm, with a quite eventful return on the same track. A couple of us went sliding on our backsides due to the previous week's wet weather while Hilaire decided to tackle it face down into the bog.

A short time later our leader got his boot well stuck into it as well Poor Kim thought I was a gonna .Once on the track out of the forest ,John thought it was ok to tramp ahead and back to the cars, Didn't somebody forget to tell him about afternoon tea stop. Devonshire teas I believe! We arrived back at the cars at 3 15pm, and soon left for Christchurch. A very enjoyable tramp everyone.

We were. **Jill Fenner, Hilaire Campbell, Kim Ashmore, CaroL Cheong, Kerry Moore, John Robinson, Shiping Wang, Justin Loe, Peter Umbers, and Norman Burden (Leader) 🌲NB .**