



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter*
**September
2019**

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Executive Committee

President	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Vice-President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Social Events	Maureen Thompson	021 2665778
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097		Margot Bowden	332 7020
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
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. In addition to the monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are also held every month.

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>Tuesday, 10 September</p> 	<p>Braided River Science.</p> <p>Jo Hoyle, a NIWA scientist, outdoor enthusiast and expert kayaker, will tell us about the behaviour of braided rivers. This presentation will give us fascinating insights into the big Canterbury river valleys we so often spend hours trudging along.</p> <p><i>Supper duty: Alice Yung</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, 8 October</p> 	<p>Trekking in Peru - Linda Lilburne, Christchurch Tramping Club</p> <p>In April, 10 members of the club met in Huaraz, Peru for 4 days of altitude acclimatisation followed by a 10 day trek around the Cordillera Huayhuash, a range of 6000+ metre peaks. The team enjoyed the comforts of a guide, cook and having their gear carried by a team of donkeys, and delighted in the truly spectacular views.</p>

SOCIAL EVENTS

<p><u>Wednesday,</u> 4 September</p>	<p>New Brighton Dunes. Morning beach walk and coffee</p> <p>Enjoy a bracing short (approx. 2 hour) walk along the New Brighton dunes and beach, then catch up with friends over coffee. Meet at 9.30 am at the North New Brighton community centre, where there is plenty of parking opposite the end of Bowhill Road.</p> <p><u>Fine weather option:</u> Walk north along the beach for about an hour, then back along the dunes path and have a coffee at the coffee cart in the parking area for those who want to stay. On a fine day there are tables up on top of the dunes where you can sit and look out to sea as you have your coffee. The cart sells a few pastries and biscuits. Bring your own cup, otherwise you will be given a 'disposable'. The cart doesn't have facilities to do any dishes so they don't use china. You can buy keep cups at the cart from \$18 upwards.</p> <p><u>Not so fine weather option:</u> A walk south along the beach as far as wanted then loop back to Brighton to a cosy cafe. Take a different route back to the same parking area.</p> <p>Sue Piercey is leading the walk. If you intend to come, please contact her (Cell phone 027 639 0186) so she knows if anyone is going to turn up. Also confirm with her on the day if the weather is dodgy.</p>
<p>Thursday 17 October.</p>	<p>Cashmere Hill walk and/or dinner at The Brickworks.</p> <p>Make the most of the start of daylight saving and join Penny Coffey on a Cashmere hill walk then dinner at the cosy, rustic Brickworks. Meet at the corner of Gunns Tce and Hollis Ave (off Centaurus Rd) at 6 pm. The walk takes you up Hollis Ave to Longhurst Tce, then along the ridge to Scarff Place, then back down again via Longhurst Tce.</p> <p>On a nice day you get lovely views and a good workout. It's a short drive to The Brickworks, 69 Centaurus Rd for dinner at 7.15 pm. Meals from \$15 to \$30 approx.</p> <p>https://thebrickworks.co.nz/menu/</p> <p>There is no need to book for the walk, but for dinner contact Penny Coffey on 332 712 or 027 630 2128 or email penny.coffey.nz@gmail.com by Sunday 13 October. If the weather is awful we'll still have dinner, maybe a bit earlier at 7pm.</p>

NOTES

President's notes

Hello club members. No blurb this time, just a picture from the Austrian Alps. See you all again soon, Diane



The September night sky

The bright constellations of Scorpius and Sagittarius are still overhead in the evening sky, with Jupiter outshining everything just to the west of the zenith (the imaginary point directly overhead) and Saturn a little north of the zenith. As September progresses, Venus will be visible in the west just after sunset.

The cloudy band we call the Milky Way runs roughly north to south at the moment. In 1610, Galileo's primitive telescope revealed it to be just a mass of stars, most of them faint and distant; it is of course our own galaxy viewed from the inside. It also contains gas clouds and dark smoke blown off by dying stars – smoke that blocks our view of the galaxy centre in Sagittarius. It seems clear that the galaxy centre - almost overhead at the moment - contains a massive black hole which occasionally gobbles up a star that orbits too close. Well to the south in the Milky Way are the two Pointers and the Southern Cross.

The Eastern evening sky shows no bright or distinctive constellations. Before sunrise however we can see the distinctive pattern of Orion rising, with Taurus and the Matariki star cluster a little northwards, and the Dog Star Sirius a bit to the south.

Moon phases: 1st quarter is on 6th September, full moon 14th, last quarter 22nd, new moon 29th.

Graham Townsend

Deadline for the October newsletter: Friday, 27 September 2019 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Bridget O'Regan - bridgetandnoel@gmail.com

Errata August Footnotes:

Two photos in the Hanmer mid base trip report were incorrectly attributed to Shane Wright. The photos were taken by Jillian Fulcher. My apologies for the mistake. Ed.

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 24 September 2019.

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, 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 accepted). 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 about club biking trips, contact Chris Leaver 03 322 6445, or newptc75@gmail.com.

8 Sep [Kowai Hut–The Gap](#)

Sunday **Merv Meredith 322 7239**

- From the big pines we walk up to Kowai Hut then climb to the very conspicuous gap in the Torlesse Range. Moderate or harder if snow conditions slow us.

Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

Approx cost \$12

- 14-17 Sept [Thousand Acre Plateau](#)
Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ●●●● A moderate tramp visiting this fascinating 50 million year old limestone plateau near Murchison. If we can extend it to 4 days we'll be able to visit the Needle and the Haystack which give spectacular views.
List closes 8 Sept.
- 14 Sept [Pine Removal, Castle Hill Basin](#)
Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ● A satisfying day in Castle Hill Basin cutting or pulling wildings to stem the westward march of pines.
List closes 7pm 13 Sept. **Transport cost \$0**
- 15 Sept [Mandamus River, Island Hills](#)
Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
 ● An easy-moderate circuit on Island Hills Station.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$18**
- 21-22 Sept [Mt Valiant](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
 ●● 1847m Mt Valiant gives splendid views all-around. A moderate-hard climb from the East Hawdon River.
List closes 15 Sept.
- 22 Sept [Mt Wall](#)
Merv Meredith 322 7239
 ● A moderate climb of this 1874m peak starting well up the Broken River ski road. We descend via a handy scree.
Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$17**
- 28-29 Sept [Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ●● A popular crossing from Arthurs Pass to the Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak.
List closes 22 Sept.
- 29 Sept [Mt Bealey—Avalanche Peak](#) [Daylight Saving begins](#)
Calum McIntosh 376 6133
 ● A moderate hard climb to 1836m Mt Bealey, along to Lyell Peak and on to 1833m Avalanche Peak
Call Calum for details **Approx cost \$23**
- 5-7 Oct [South Ashburton River](#)
Peter Umbers 359 9118
 ●●● Moderate trip at the foot of the Arrowsmiths. Possible climb to 2401m Pito Peak or walk up to Ashburton Glacier.
List closes 29 Sept.

- 6 Oct** [Doctors Hills](#)
Sunday **Jillian Fulcher 351 4189/Jill Fenner 980 6228**
● So named because a local doctor used to wander there, this easy trip inland from Waikari gives views of Pyramid Valley and Moa Swamp.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$14**
- 12-13 Oct** [Mounts Tekoa & Te Kooti](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
●● Two for the price of one, Mt Tekoa 1615m and TeKooti 1459m. Saturday to get close enough, Sunday to climb.
List closes 6 Oct
- 13 Oct** [Helicopter Hill Circuit](#)
Sunday **Norman Burden 358 5115**
● An easy-moderate 5-6hr circuit from Craigieburn Campsite shelter and take the Mistletoe Track to Lyndon Saddle with a side trip to Helicopter Hill. We then return to the saddle and go to the Craigieburn Edge Track which leads to the ski-field road where it joins with the Sidle track and back to the cars.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$16**
- 19-20 Oct** [Casey Tarn, Birdwood Range](#)
Awaiting leader
●● Parking at Ryton Station. A moderate climb onto the Birdwood Range to camp high at Casey Tarn. Exiting via Triangle Creek, Avoca River and Gargarus Saddle.
List closes 13 Oct
- 20 Oct** [Foggy Peak—Castle Hill Peak](#)
Sunday **Norman Burden 358 5115/Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**
● A popular pilgrimage to 1741m Foggy Peak and on to 1998m Castle Hill Peak if you feel energetic. Easy Moderate, Moderate if you go up Castle Hill Peak.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$12**
- 26-28 Oct** [Carrington Hut](#)
Labour **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Weekend
●●● Day 1 to go up the Waimak and a middle day to go to Barker Hut or Waimakariri Falls Hut.
Day 3 out. Moderate
List closes 20 Oct
- 26-28 Oct** [Manakau](#)
Labour **Peter Umbers 359 9118**
Weekend
●●● Moderate-hard ascent of this 2608m peak in the Seaward Kaikouras
List closes 20 Oct
- 26-29 Oct** [St James Walkway](#)
Labour **Names to Jill Fenner 980 6228**
Weekend
●●●● Easy-moderate circuit amid splendid scenery, through beech forest and along river flats. Well-spaced huts to stay in. Snow-capped Gloriana and Faerie Queene peaks of the Spenser Range to admire
List closes 20 Oct

27 Oct Sunday ●	<u>Cutty Grass Hut</u> Diane Dixon 359 9170 Near Mt Hutt, this easy-moderate walk starts on the Mt Alford track, climbs a little and then crosses to the track that leads up-valley to Cutty Grass Hut. Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$16
2-3 Nov ●●	<u>Princess Bath</u> Gary Huish 332 7020 A moderate tramp behind Hanmer, camping at this large tarn below Mt Princess. List closes 27 Oct
3 Nov Sunday ●	<u>Bus Stop—Woolshed Creek</u> Norman Burden 358 5115 A moderate circuit starting at Woolshed Creek, going up the Rhyolite Track to the Bus Stop and on to Woolshed Creek Hut. Returning to the car via the coal-mine. Approx cost \$19
9-10 Nov ●●	<u>Broken River Hut—Back Peak—Mt Torlesse</u> Honora Renwick 942 8368 Saturday, staying at Broken River Hut. Sunday, climbing Landsdowne Spur, then along the Torlesse Range past Otarama Peak, to Back Peak and over to Mt Torlesse. Exiting down Kowai River to the big pines. Moderate-hard. Anyone wanting to do just the Broken River section, for an easy-moderate jaunt, could help with transport. List closes 3 Nov
10 Nov Sunday ●	<u>Kaituna—Mt Herbert—Packhorse</u> Geoff Korver 355 3905 A moderate circuit started at the top end of Kaituna Valley climbing to the Te Ara Pataka Track, to Herbert Peak, the shelter, Packhorse Hut and down the track to Kaituna Valley. 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd Approx cost \$7
15-18 Nov Canterbury Show Wknd ●●●●	<u>McKerrow Range</u> Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 A moderate-hard tramp above Makorora to 2002m Mt Shrimpton. Expect splendid views around Mt Aspring NP. Camping by tarns in the McKerrow Range. List closes 10 Nov
15-17 Nov Canterbury Show Wknd ●●●	<u>Lawrence River, Erewhon</u> Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help Parking at Erewhon Station for a flat walk a little way up the Clyde, turning at the Lawrence to stay at the Lawrence Hut. The middle day gives us a chance to walk to the biv below Hells Gate. List closes 10 Nov
15-18 Nov Canterbury Show Wknd ●●●●	<u>Mt Patriarch, Wangapeka</u> Chris Leaver 322 6445 From Rolling River road end we start along the Wangapeka track (west of Tapawera) for a preview of spectacular Mt Patriarch (1701m) then leaving the main track follow Kiwi Stream to Kiwi Saddle Hut. Basing ourselves here 2 or 3 nights, we'll climb Mt Patriarch and/or Mt Luna or just explore the Luna tops and tarns. Exiting via Stone Hut, Moderate. List closes 10 Nov

17 Nov
Sunday

Okuti Valley—Montgomery Reserve

Graeme Paltridge 384 3592

● An easy-moderate walk through O V Reserve, past French Hill, past Hilltop, to Montgomery Park Reserve's big totara. The reserve is often bypassed, but is worth a visit. Click on the link: <https://tramper.nz/187>

8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd

Approx cost \$9

23-24 Nov

Deception—Mingha

Dan Pryce 356 1962

●●

The most popular 2-day trip in Arthurs Pass National Park. A moderate walk up the bouldery Deception past Upper Deception Hut to stay at well-sited Goat Pass Hut. Sunday we have an easier walk down the Mingha River.

List closes 17 Nov.

24 Nov
Sunday

Godley Peak--Mother Millers Spring

Merv Meredith 322 7239

●

Its marked on the map so we must be able to find the illusive MMS. A moderate-hard climb of this 2087m peak

Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

Approx cost \$21

30 Nov -2
Dec

Wheel Creek Hut—Mt Crosscut

Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help

●●●

A moderate track along Wheel Creek leads to the 6 bunk ut. At 815m it gives good access to the tussock tops of the Victoria Range and 1613m Crosscut Peak.

List closes 24 Nov

30 Nov
Saturday

Te Oka Reserve--Devils Gap

Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help

●

An easy-moderate exploration of two reserves with grand views of the southern bays. Devils Gap reserve contains impressive bluffs, popular with rock climbers

8am Princess Margaret Hospital NE carpark off Cashmere Rd

Approx cost \$10

TRIP REPORTS

Lake Clearwater Basecamp 10-12 May 2019

Thirteen people signed up for the weekend and by Friday evening everyone had rolled in and 4 of us had already walked around Lake Clearwater. Our base was the Ashburton Deerstalkers Association, Chamois Lodge, and for some of us it was their third time here and for others their second time.

Saturday morning dawned fine and clear and promised to be the better of the 2 days. Keith, John R and Wendy headed up Mt Guy, whilst John B, Tim, Andrea, Nick, Sarah and Joy ventured on the circuit track to Mystery Lake, Eileen and Marion wandered around a very still Lake Emma, and Mary and Geoff cycled and walked up Mt Harper. After a hearty evening meal with, of course, the usual pre-dinner snacks and drinkies, we all had a good night's sleep, ready for the next day's adventures.

Sunday proved the weatherman wrong, as it started out fine and a bit sunny. Some of us took in Lake Emma via Lake Camp with the rest up Mt Sunday (on Sunday!) After Keith and John R helped a damsel in distress with a flat car battery, the rain set in – so early afternoon departure was in order after a great weekend was had by all.

We were: **Geoff and Mary Korver, Wendy McCaughan, John Robinson, Joy Schroeder, Tim Hines, Andrea Goebel, John Borner, Eileen Arnett, Nick and Sarah Day; Keith and Marion McQuillan (leaders)** 🏆 KMcQ

Mt Torlesse – Wednesday, 17 July 2019 (Yes, Wednesday. And why not)

Mt Torlesse was scheduled on our PTC programme for Sunday 14th July, but yet again this winter, nor'west gales were forecast. So I canned it. Tuesday's forecast was still westerlies. Wednesday's suggested snow to 700m but clearing later. Thursday's said started fine but packing in later. So a small window on Wednesday then? A Communicator elicited a 'yes please' from Danny Lee, but no one else turned up at the Russley Rd corner, so just us two set out at 7.30am.

We drove out of the Christchurch rain after ten minutes and continued under blue skies. Walking from the pine tree at 8.35am it was obvious that the remaining snow was going to be higher up and boney. Mostly soft as well, so not easy climbing. The range was now mostly clouded over. As we ascended in calm conditions into the cloud, we started getting very fine snow and then a light easterly; not westerly. Time continued and by 1.00pm we could see we still had 50m plus to go, so decided to drop down to look for an ideal spot for lunch. The area below now had a light snow cover. Looked lovely, but we decided to drop all the way down to the Research Hut for a late lunch. There by 3.15pm, the weather cleared while we had lunch, leaving the now snow covered spur above us sparkling in the afternoon sun.

Walking out we met someone coming in to the hut so he could get an early start on Thursday morning to climb Mt Torlesse and maybe more, before the weather changed. We were out to the car just nicely by 5.05pm after what had been an interesting day in mostly calm, pleasant condition.

Merv M (leader) and Danny Lee 🏔️ MM

Mt Foweraker, Arthurs Pass – Thursday, 25 July 2019

Yes, ANOTHER Sunday trip that got rained off, but then we went on a fine Thursday. It's becoming a habit! For the mid-week tramp we met at 7.00am at the Russley Rd corner, for the 115km drive, and then climb to 1804m Foweraker. Three of us turned up, so we took Peter's vehicle. Around the Mt Horrible corner we turned off down to park by the rail bridge over the Waimakariri River, talked to a campervan owner, and set off at 8.40am on a brilliant, calm morning.

The club first did this trip in mid Sept. 2015, Peter included, so no problem about the route. Once over the bridge we dropped down onto the end of the fan spreading out from Red Beech Stream. The stream at the bush edge was our immediate objective, 40 minutes away. Once in the bush and ascending the steep spur on the true left, Peter was surprised to find we were on a well formed track for a Department of Conservation trap line. No such luxury in 2015. The luxury didn't quite last. Three quarters of the way to the bushline, the trap line stopped and we were into bushbashing, but we were still there before noon.



Figure 1. On the spur above 1400m en-route to Mt Foweraker. Photo courtesy of Merv. Meredith

The steep climb up from the bushline wasn't easy with light snow cover on boney terrain, but it didn't take long to get up onto the broad, more gradual spur with better snow cover. And it's always easier following with Peter in front. Up to the upper 'basin' by 12.30pm we surveyed the ridgeline ahead and Peter explained the route via the SW spur versus straight ahead up to the main ridge SE of the peak. We discussed the time to dusk and time to the top; i.e. maybe 30 -45mins? In hindsight, my view

was conservative, maybe influenced by a few recent trips. We gave up on going to the top, and settled down in the basin for lunch in calm, lovely conditions.

Dropping back down, the view from the broad spur was more than impressive and a shame to continue down. Once back at the bushline and below, Keith's map programme wasn't fully functioning, but it was enough to reassure us that Peter was bushbashing in the right direction and we soon regained the trap line. Back over the rail bridge to the vehicle at 4.15pm with an hour of daylight in hand it was time to talk to tonight's campervan resident.

We were: **Keith Hoard, Merv Meredith and Peter Umbers (leader).** 🏔️ MM

Knowles Top – Sunday 28 July 2019

Seven at Cranford St became eight at Belfast, then nine at Oxford. Parking near the Diamond Way Buddhist retreat centre, we headed up a long driveway, which became a farm track. Reaching beech forest we skirted it, crossed a fence and found a short forest track, leading to sunny north-facing tussock, which let us climb to



Figure 2. Knowles Top. Photo courtesy of Kim Ashmore

835m Knowles Top. After a catch-up and group photo we moved on. Our first attempts to find a way into the forest to the west of Knowles Top were barred by bush lawyer but a bit down from the ridge-line we connected to a good track. We headed towards point 768 but stopped for lunch at the first clearing we came to. Nearby was a large stone cairn which seemed to be marking nothing in particular. 30m away was

a waratah with an upside-down teapot on it which seemed to be achieving nothing in particular. We decided the view from 768 wouldn't be that much better than our lunch-time view so we headed back to the Glentui Bush Road and were back in town by 5pm. We'd had a nice, mild spring-like day.

We were: **Danny Lee, Diane Dixon, Kim Ashmore, Norman Burdon, Ilaria Carbellotti, Evangeline Basher, Chris Chang, Liam Carroll and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM

Heaphy Track 29 July – 2 August 2019

Living in Queensland and having never been to the South Island in winter before let alone walking, the Heaphy Track as a guest of the Banks Peninsula Club was a wonderful experience.

So I thought I would just write of my impressions as an outsider. Firstly, not to be under appreciated was being able to rely on the experience of Raymond as far as the weather was concerned. Our departure date delayed by several days to take advantage of the most favourable conditions. In the end luck was on our side, and we had what I thought was a more than acceptable weather window, not under estimating how quickly conditions can change. I also enjoyed walking on such a well-made track enabling me to look around so much more for once! And apart from meeting two separate mountain bikers we had the place to ourselves which magnified the solitude and heightened the beauty of the changing terrain each day. My most memorable moments were:



Figure 3. About to depart from Perry Saddle Hut. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

Leaving Browns Hut on a mild day gently climbing up amongst the softness of the green bush, friendly fan tails and inquisitive robins. Then popping out to Flanagan's Corner view point and there in the distance were The Dragons Teeth - a failed attempt by Sonja and I two years prior. Watching the weather changing over the Douglas Range at Perry Saddle Hut as night closed in, listening to the cold front blow through during the night and waking to a scattering of snow.

A sighting of the rare Takahe at breakfast, peoples' sense of humour on the famed Shoe Pole on the way to Goulund Downs Hut. Looking down on the beautiful ferny glade where the

Goulund Caves are, the antics of the territorial wekas at Saxon Hut wanting crumbs and the openness of the tussock plains on the way to James Mackay Hut, to the sunset over the Tasman Sea. Something we don't get living on the east coast of Australia.

Descending down through temperate rain forest, sighting a couple of tuis singing away and the glistening drops on the moss amongst the exposed coal seams on the track, and at Lewis Hut where we lunched with Department of Conservation workers clearing up an old Forest Service 1970's rubbish dump now exposed by the Lewis River. How practices have changed! And then on to Heaphy Hut with the tide right out - wandering along the estuary then out amongst the driftwood on the beach and the granite pebbles of all sizes was just so peaceful and different from what tomorrow would be.



Figure 4. Looking across the Goulund Downs to the Slate Range. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

The weather was definitely turning for the worse as we left on our final day down the West Coast foreshore



Figure 5. Heaphy Hut. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

with showers passing through and the wind certainly felt cold but I think I saw it in all its glory. Just loved the whole experience - the suspended bridges with the water rushing past so clear even though so brown from the tannin and what beautiful forest. I particularly liked seeing the contrast of the nikau palms amongst the rata and other trees, the limestone crags held firmly by roots beside the track and the flaxes on the foreshore with the crashing surf surging up Scotts Beach. It was pretty much high tide when we crossed Crayfish Point but it wasn't a problem as one of the DoC guys said

the track had changed.

Then before heading off to the luxury of hot showers and electric blankets at The Last Resort in Karamea. Raymond had one last surprise for us. A side trip to the big Oparara Arch - that is just awesome!

I thought the design of the new Heaphy huts with their big windows framing very different views, clever solar sensors and lovely s/s creations applicable to the area on the drying racks by the potbellies were impressive although there is nothing quite like that huge handmade stone fireplace at Browns Hut. And the undercover flushing toilets - that was unexpected, but very much appreciated in the middle of the night! The respective camping sites along the way were very attractive but I reckon tramping the Great Walks in winter is the way to go. Not one sandfly to be seen. Then to top off a great trip we were lucky to drive back to Christchurch via Arthur's Pass, which I have never been to before on a lovely day with all the snow-capped mountains glistening in the sun. You live in a beautiful part of the world and I will be back.

Thank you to Sonja for organising the trip.

The party was: **Rebecca Johnston, Raymond Ford, Sonja Risa (leader)** 🏠 RJ

Evans Pass Circuit - Sunday 4 Aug 2019

Three trampers meeting at Princess Margaret Hospital joined eight at Sumner's Surf-Lifesaving Club shortly after 8:20am, set off up the zig-zag foot track that leads up Clifton Hill to Brownlee Reserve, Clifton Terrace and then on to the Frog Pond Track. We were lucky Keith had done his homework because one zig of the track is reached by going up someone's driveway and Keith had sussed this a few days prior. At the pines above Barnett Park we crossed the Summit Road to have morning tea at the old gun emplacements, then past unconcerned sheep to the spur that leads to Urumau Reserve.

At a stile by low, weather-beaten pines (and onga onga) we turned towards Evans Pass to look at the extensive quarry. We must have been a fast bunch because Keith observed that it was too early for lunch or to go down Captain Thomas Track to Sumner. To extend the circuit we walked towards Godley Head and found a track that joined with the Taylors to Godley Track. From Taylors Mistake we took the coastal track to Nicholson Park and down the Flowers Track to Sumner. From Ocean Cafe we witnessed a church group doing a salt-water total immersion baptism on this cool winter day. Brrrrr.

We were: **Keith & Marion McQuillan, Brian & Mary-Jane Bonsell, Geoff & Mary Korver, Tim Hines, Helen Harkness, Jill Fenner, Ilaria Carbellotti and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM



Figure 6. Morning tea with snow on Mt Herbert Peak. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

Stan Helms—Major Hornbrook – Saturday 24 Aug 2019

With Helen as our expert guide we found our way up the narrow streets and alleyways of Lyttelton, past the Bridle Path to the start of Stan Helms Track at a sharp bend in Harmans Road. The track zig-zags through Whakaraupo Reserve, then emerges to give fine views of Lyttelton and the harbour. At the Summit Road, the track-end is surprisingly close to the Bridle Path. This was our morning “tea” spot where we could watch cyclists streak by and little dogs taking owners for a walk. Soon we were heading for John Britten Reserve, where we did a big loop, down to newly built houses then up Kenton Track to a sort of rock pile where we sat for lunch on a perfect, sunny afternoon. Broadleaf Lane let us connect with the Mt Pleasant Track, leading back to the top of Major Hornbrook Track, for an easy descent to Somes and Cornwall Roads.

We even found a useful alleyway to Canterbury Street which Helen was not familiar with. It is shown on the CCC parks and gardens map. [MAP](#) The map can be expanded greatly and has a wealth of detail. This circuit has super scenery as well as interesting sights amid the quaint streets of Lyttelton.

Thanks go to **Helen Harkness**, in the company of **Brian & Mary Jane Bonsell, Shi-Ping Wang, Mary McKeown, Joy Schroeder, Wendy McCaughan, Jill Fenner, Kerry Moore** 🏃 KM



Figure 7. On Stan Helms Track. Photo courtesy of Wendy Caughan