

## 2021 SIRG field trip: an exploration of the glacial history in the Waimakariri area

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 8:30 am to 6 pm

Hosted by the University of Canterbury *Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha*, School of Earth and Environment *Te Kura Aronukurangi*

The Waimakariri is a braided river system that flows from Kā Tiritiri-o-te-moana (The Southern Alps) to Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa (the Pacific Ocean). Today, glaciers are only found at the very top of the catchment perched on the highest mountains. But during the Pleistocene, ice filled this valley system, leaving behind an impressive landscape that tells a story of past climate variability.

Built in 1915, the University of Canterbury's Cass Research Station is nestled in amongst this geomorphological haven, and for over a century, staff and students from the university have been exploring this landscape.

Professor Jamie Shulmeister and Dr Heather Purdie will lead a one-day field excursion of their 'back-yard'. Be prepared for a great mix of geomorphology, cultural history, and ever evolving research narrative.

**Itinerary:** We will have an 8:30 am departure from University of Canterbury, Ilam Road carpark, travelling in mini vans directly to the Cass Field Centre, arriving at around 10:30 am. After a short comfort stop at the field centre, we will head out into the field on foot, finding a good spot for a picnic lunch as we explore the landscape. We aim to be out in the field for approximately 4-5 hours (weather dependent), with a planned departure at approximately 4pm, arriving back in Christchurch by 6pm.

**What to bring:** Please bring your own packed lunch and drink bottle (although drivers may also be persuaded to stop at the world-famous Sheffield Pie Shop!). Wear good sturdy footwear for hiking over untracked ground, and be sure to have 'layers' to accommodate inclement weather, as well as sun protection (hats, glasses, sunscreen). In the event that the weather on the day is not conducive for walking, then the trip will be modified to a more 'driving' tour of the region's geomorphology. But please be prepared for a good day's walking – as Heather and Jamie believe this is by far the best way to explore the landscape.

Numbers are limited, and spaces will be allocated to registered conference participants on a first-in-first-served basis. Any questions please email Heather at [heather.purdie@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:heather.purdie@canterbury.ac.nz).

