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

Postal Address: The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 13 258, Armagh, Christchurch 8141

Web address www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz

E-mail secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz

August 2010

President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Mary Hines	942 6486
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Evelien Baas	03 317 9077
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Trip Planner	Gary Huish	332 7020		
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069		
Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945		

New Member	Please contact John Borner, 942 0813, to request an info-pack. You will also
Enquiries	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 Aug SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS

Lorraine and Malcolm Wilmshurst will share their experiences of New Year 2010 aboard the Spirit of Enderby, visiting the **Auckland and Campbell Islands**.

Supper Duty: Ton or Nicole Buhrs, Graham Burnip, Peter Carson or Kathy Stanley

Tue 14 Sept GARDEN OF EDEN & BRACKEN SNOWFIELD EXPEDITIONS

Your chance to see where the club got to in February 2009 and 2010. Both the Garden of Eden up the Rangitata and the Bracken snowfield up the Rakaia, are magic places to be at any time, but they are even more stunning in brilliant weather.

Supper Duty: Kathleen Casey, Gavin Chalk, Alastair Christie

COMING TRIPS

Day Trips:

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town near 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.

1 Aug	RAKAIA GORGE WALKWAY	Maps BX20; K35				
Sun		Evelien Bass 03 317 9077				
•	This easy trip offers a return walk with a spectacular clifftop traverse of the Rakaia Gorge to					
	the remains of the Snowdon coal mine. Views across to Mt Hutt with its winter coat.					
	Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Approx Cost: \$14				
7-8 Aug	WAIUTA - BIG RIVER	Maps BT21; L31				
Sat-Sun	Leo Manders 356 1731					
••	Easy-moderate walk to a large comfy hut near Reefton. A the local mining history. Lots of remains to fossick around plenty of its own relics remaining. List Closes: Sat 31 Jul	_				
8 Aug	CASTLE HILL PEAK - GAP - KOWAI STREAM	Maps BW21; L34,L35				
Sun	Kevin Hughes 332 6281					
	Moderate climb from Porters Pass to the highest peak on the Torlesse range at nearly					
	2000m. Fine views all around. Returning through The Gap and Kowai Stream.					
	Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Approx Cost: \$12				
14-15 Aug	MT GRIFFIN	Maps BU20,BV20; K33				
Sat-Sun	Merv Meredith 322 7239					
	Moderate tramp onto the Griffin Range, north-west of Art bush, great views and historical interest at the serpentine n List Closes: Wed 4 Aug					
15 Aug	BROKEN HILL	Maps BW21; K34,L34				
Sun	Mary Hines 942 6486					
•	Moderate trip to this peak just off of the Arthurs Pass high Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	hway, near Flock Hill Resort. Approx Cost: \$13				
21-22 Aug	MOANA BASE CAMP	Maps BU19,20; K32				
Sat-Sun	un Leo Manders 356 1731					
	Base camp at Millhouse Lodge, (with bunkroom accommodation) in Moana village, which					
	is on the shores of Lake Brunner on the West Coast. The main tramping attractions in the					
	area are the easy-moderate to moderate ascents of Mt French and Mt Te Kinga, giving					
	great views above the bushline. There are easier walks (eg Nelson Creek) nearby too.					
	There's also a network of back roads in the bush for moun	tain bikers. Friday evening				
	departure from Chch.					

List Closes: Sat 7 Aug

21 Aug MT BINSER - 3 PEAKS

Saturday Gary Huish 332 7020

■ Moderate-hard trip in the south-east corner of Arthurs Pass National Park. The track is

followed to Binser Saddle before turning south. The route is then unmarked through bush and onto the open tops. There are three peaks, ranging from 1753m to 1860m with a deep

Maps BV21; L33,L34

Maps BW19; J35

saddle between the low and middle peaks. Possibility of a round-trip.

Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church)

Approx Cost: \$18

22 Aug QUAIL/OTAMAHUA ISLAND PLANTING DAY

Sun Help this worthwhile reforestation project by planting manuka, kanuka, pitosporum, ngaio, cabbage tree, flax, lemonwood and five finger. Tools provided, free launch ride. Book with

Kerry Moore 359 5069 moorekj@xtra.co.nz.

28-29 Aug RIBBONWOOD HUT - SMITE PEAK

Sat-Sun Merv Meredith 322 7239

This **moderate** trip visits a 2000m peak near Lake Heron with splendid views of the

Arrowsmith Range and Rakaia River. Staying at the hut with a possible trip to Sugarloaf on

Sunday.

List Closes: Wed 18 Aug

29 Aug MT VULCAN Maps BV25; N34

Sun Mary Hines 942 6486

Easy to easy-moderate walk in farm country to 411m hill overlooking North Canterbury

coastline, including Motunau Beach.

Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St Approx Cost: \$10

4-5 Sep CARLYLE HUT Maps BU23; M32

Sat-Sun Kevin Hughes 332 6281

An easy-moderate trip up the Carlyle Stream to the hut among the forests and peaks on the

north side of the Lewis Pass road on Glenhope Station.

List Closes: Sat 28 Aug

5 Sep MT GREY - RED BEECH TRACK Maps BW23,BV23; M34

Sun Stan Wilder 980 5291

Easy-moderate walk to this popular foothill inland from Amberley. Round-trip up the Grey

River through beech and plantation forest to the tussock summit.

Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St Approx Cost: \$10

11-12 Sep THIRTEEN MILE BUSH - BIG BEN RANGE Maps BW21; K35,L35

Sat-Sun Kerry Moore 359 5069

■■ Moderate-hard trip starting from Porters Pass, Traversing along the Big Ben Range before

dropping to a hunters' hut at the head of Thirteen Mile Bush Stream. Heading down the

valley next day.

List Closes: Sat 4 Sep

12 Sep BENMORE (FROM LYNDON ROAD) Maps BW21; K35

Sun TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip

Moderate snow trip to this 1655m peak in Korowai / Torlesse Tussockland Park. Hopefully

a round-trip starting from the road between Lakes Lyndon and Coleridge. Views should

include Lake Coleridge basin and Rakaia River. Ice axe required.

Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)

Approx Cost: \$13

BINSER - CASEY SADDLES 18-19 Sep Maps BV21; L33,L34

Sat-Sun **Mary Hines 942 6486**

A popular **moderate** tramp in eastern Arthurs Pass providing a good round-trip over two

moderate passes with no major stream crossings.

List Closes: Sat 11 Sep

19 Sep PURPLE PEAK - STONY BAY ROAD Maps BX25,BY25; N36,N37

Sun Terry Thomsen 379 8481

Moderate walk behind Akaroa, passing over Stony Bay Peak and the new Misty Peaks

Reserve, and returning via Lighthouse Road.

Start: 8:30am Halswell School **Approx Cost: \$10**

GERALDINE BASE CAMP 25-26 Sep

Maps BZ18,19; J38 **Leo Manders 356 1731**

Sat-Sun

Easy to moderate walks in this scenic area as well as mountain biking opportunities.

List Closes: Sat 11 Sep

26 Sep MT WINTERSLOW **Maps BX20; K36**

Sun Mery Meredith 322 7239

Moderate walk to the highest peak (1700m) on the Winterslow Range. Starting from

Sharplin Falls with potential views of Mts Cook and Tasman. Plenty of snow this year so

bring ice axes and crampons.

Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$14

2-3 Oct SUDDEN VALLEY **Maps BV21; K33**

Sat-Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**

Moderate tramp in Arthurs Pass National Park up Sudden Valley to the new biv. Travel in

Sudden Stream involves boulder hopping up the creek bed from the Hawdon, before

ascending a spectacular narrow gully to the open upper valley.

List Closes: Sat 25 Sep

3 Oct **MT TORLESSE** Maps BW21; L34,35

Sun Kevin Hughes 332 6281

Popular **moderate-hard** snow trip to this near-2000m peak on the Torlesse Range.

Walking up the Kowai River to the hut before the serious climbing begins. Though not tricky, it is still a 1100m ascent from the hut. Ice axe and possibly crampons required.

Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$11

9-10 Oct NORTH TEMPLE - GUNSIGHT PASS - SOUTH TEMPLE Maps BZ14; G38,39

Gary Huish 332 7020 Sat-Sun

Moderate trip at the head of Lake Ohau. Travelling up the north branch of Temple and

crossing Gunsight Pass into the south Temple.

List Closes: Sat 2 Oct

President's Report

Trips

During the last month we have had a good turnout on our annual mid-winter dinner trip this year to Hawdon Hut, thanks to Geoff and Mary Korver for organising this. Trips to the West Coast Croesus Track and Rangitata headwaters Watchdog Hut were also well supported.

Postage Costs

From October 1 this year it will cost the club more to post mail to you. For the past 15 years we have been able to absorb costs. Now our \$25 subscription is only funding your \$10 FMC levy, printing Footnotes 50 cents each per month, mail-out 7 times a year currently 50 cents each month. A further 4 mailouts are \$1.00 each per month as we include the FMC bulletin. Adding all this up comes to \$23. Cost of envelopes and other costs to print additional material like the trip list, AGM material, members' list, sub forms etc. takes care of another \$2. Our mail-out costs will increase another 10 cents for each of 7 months and 20 cents for 4 months per person. Your executive is looking at options. We could propose to increase subs, or another suggestion is to add \$10 just for those people wanting a full paper printing and mail out service, leaving subs the same as now for other members. Some of you may be happy to just have electronic copies of Footnotes and forms etc. Rather than mail out FMC bulletins we could get you to collect them at club-nights. We would like your thoughts as your executive works on proposals to put to members at a Special General Meeting. If you have any thoughts let any of the executive know within the next month. Ideally we would like to come up with a couple of options. It would also be ideal to set this up so that we don't need to address increases again for quite a while—another 15 years would be good. Any proposal will need to be passed by members at a Special General Meeting before it can be implemented. Our plan is to have an SGM probably at the November 2010 club night.

Booking For Trips

Last month I included a list of all our long distance and base-camp trips to encourage you to book early. Thanks to those of you who already have taken advantage of early booking. The Egmont trip now has 4 people and the Stewart Island Port Pegasus Base Camp now has 14, so both these trips are being planned and booked. There was also a good response on a range of other trips. I still need more people for Haast so we can get good accommodation and need to know to book Banks Peninsula Track. Need numbers for Geraldine Base Camp. Book in for the Ohau Base Camp Christmas – New Year by contacting Dennis Kemp so this can be catered for. Don't forget all people to have put their names down at least one month before trip departure for the trips listed in my section last month will go into a draw for a prize drawn at the December 2010 club night sponsored by me. If you haven't done so please check the list and register your name with the appropriate trip leader. Spaces are filling fast for popular trips.

Promotion Brochure

We have recently printed 2000 full colour A4 size folded into DLE size PTC brochures. These brochures highlight the benefits of our club and is not date-sensitive as Footnotes is. They are for use in helping us to attract new members. We need your help in distributing them. We need all members to place them at places of work, community centres, doctors' waiting rooms, your local library etc and give them to your friends, acquaintances etc. Your exec will also distribute to sports shops, main library etc. Club members that are teachers can also distribute these to help in attracting younger members. We will have these brochures available for you to pick up at club meetings. Also at our club meetings we will have our club stickers for hut books and excess Footnotes newsletters so they can be left at huts.

FMC Membership Cards

Further to last month's comments, the annual DoC Hut pass has increased from \$90 to \$120. The discounted FMC cost for members is now \$84.

Facebook

Follow the Peninsula Tramping Club on Facebook

Happy Tramping - Leo Manders

SOCIAL EVENTS

Ceroc Dancing Thursday 19 August

Come along to a fun night of dancing. The evening starts off with a 45 minute beginners class. You will learn 4 steps. Partners are not needed and there is usually an even number of men and women. You change partners every couple of minutes. There is no fancy footwork so it is easy to learn. After the beginners class there is a review of what you have learned at a slower pace until about 9pm. You can go home after that or stay on until

about 10pm to practice or just sit and watch and have a drink at the bar. Cost is \$12. It is a very relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Meet in the foyer of the St Albans Shirley Club, 269 Hills Rd at 7.15pm

Dancing starts at 7.25pm. Dress is smart-casual. Some of the ladies dress up but jeans are fine. You need to wear shoes that won't slip off if you do a bit of a spin. Smoother soled shoes are good but anything is OK.

More info at this web-site http://www.alldance.co.nz/index.html or contact Maureen Thompson 377 2482, mothompson@xtra.co.nz for more information.

Comedy at the Court - The Sunshine Boys

7.30pm on Wednesday 1 September

Old dogs. New shtick By Neil Simon Directed by Ross Gumbley NZ Première We have booked the best seats in the Court Theatre.

Book your \$36 discounted seat by Tue 10 August, with Brian Smith 355 9945 or brian21@attglobal.net "The Sunshine Boys is Neil Simon, the master craftsman, at the top of his game. This is comedy of wide appeal, much akin to our own Roger Hall." — Ross Gumbley

After forty years in vaudeville, the veteran comedy duo of Al Lewis and Willy Clark, "The Sunshine Boys" split up, vowing never to speak to each other again. When a lucrative television offer forces the two ageing entertainers to reunite, the stage is set for a perfectly-formed, very funny comedy.

The author of 'The Odd Couple' creates two cantankerous but loveable characters, arms them with hilarious one-liners and lets them rip.

Every wondered what Burmese food tastes like? Join us at The Bodhi Tree 6pm Tuesday 21 Sept at 808 Colombo Street

Fully licensed and BYO wine. Meet there at.

This is a very popular restaurant so we will need to book well in advance - names to **Tim or Mary Hines** please by Sunday 5th Sept - tel 942 6486 or email **hinestandm@clear.net.nz**

NOTICES

2011 Alpine and Antarctic Calendars Hedgehog House Alpine and Antarctic calendars can be ordered now from Andy Duck Ph. 355 4875 or e-mail andyduck33@paradise.net.nz by August's club night. \$17.10—unchanged from last year.

<u>Deadline for Sept newsletter</u> Sat 4 Sept Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to Kerry Moore, moorekj@xtra.co.nz phone 359 5069

Next committee meeting 31 Aug at Leo Manders' home

BITS AND PIECES

Talk: The Mackenzie Basin and the Proposed National Game Animal Council

Wednesday 11th August, 7:30 pm WEA, 59 Gloucester Street, Christchurch Central Speaker: Bruce Jefferies IUCN/WCPA Deputy Vice Chair (NZ)

Bruce will be speaking about two issues that are very important to New Zealand Nature Conservation in 2010, the United Nations' International Year of Biodiversity.

1. The Mackenzie Basin – An iconic New Zealand place. The Mackenzie Basin, is a hot spot for potential biodiversity loss. Come and learn about some of the latest developments in knowledge to help protect this iconic area. The Mackenzie Basin is one of our country's most threatened environments, which can be particularly attributed to imminent Tenure Review.

2. The proposed formation of a National Game Animal Council

This proposed Council will oversee New Zealand's hunting community and game (pest) animal management. Find out why it could arguably have a greater impact on the biodiversity in New Zealand's Conservation Estate than the recently proposed mining of Schedule 4 land.

TRIP REPORTS

Hawdon Hut Mid-Winter Celebration—10-11 July 2010

Geoff Korver drew the short straw as chief cat herder for our festive trip. Meeting and travel arrangements were too complicated to go into, but suffice to say that Geoff—clutching excel spreadsheet—managed to get all 21 of us, plus gear from various parts of Christchurch to the car-park near Mt White bridge in as few cars as possible. Everyone was in high spirits and why not! We were off on a lovely tramp up the Hawdon Valley with good company, lots of lovely food and drink, and clear blue skies! Insults were flying already, even before we set off walking—especially between the Keith & Tim comedy double-act. Tim with his usual relish of telling embarrassing stories, admitted that he'd forgotten his boots on a previous trip—then Keith realised with horror that he hadn't transferred his and Marion's boots into the traveling car (well he nobly took the blame anyway)! Luckily for Keith, two pairs of spare boots were proffered and gratefully accepted (and amazingly they were the right size – thanks to the Bourke & Britain Car Boot Footwear Emporium).

We headed off up the wide Hawdon Valley and while we stopped for lunch we saw four young lads approaching. It turned out they were the advance party of 12 scouts and leaders! It was going to be a cozy night (32 in our 20 bunk hut!).

Yvette shocked the group by stopping to take her still-dry boots off to cross one stream—this initiated some discussion as to whether it constituted an offence worthy of being excommunicated from the PTC (dis-member-ed?). We eventually got to the old hut-site with its sad sight of burnt piles still visible, then up the narrowing valley to the lovely new hut, arriving at 2pm, so we had lots of time for food and party preparation.

Some of us decided to take advantage of the glorious afternoon and walk further up to a viewpoint where you could see across to Walker Pass and stunning views of pristine white slopes and deep blue sky. We edged along the sides of the track, which was a frozen stream in places, and passed a rock-face covered with icy stalactites. If we'd had a bit more practice we could have got a good tune out of them.

As it was, the sun was going and it was several degrees colder at the top! We returned to a now-warm hut to start on the snacks and pre-dinner drinks. Everyone produced their "Christmas" pressies for the santa sack. Sue B stepped in as Santa (since he is away on his hols at this time of year). There was a huge array of snacks and appetisers, followed by beef and mushroom casserole, mashed potato, cabbage and peas, followed by fruit sponge pudding, custard and cream! Drinks were shared around—hot honey mead, ginger wine, whiskey mac, kahlua (wonderful on the pud) and lots of wine and beer.

After dinner it was pressie time. Sue organised a cunning double-blind, random number system so we all had a turn to pick a present out of the sack or steal someone else's that was already opened. The plastic toboggans donated by Gary and Margot proved especially popular and were appropriated by Hines M and Hines T! The piggy vacuum cleaner and NZ yodelling compilation CD caused much mirth; in fact most of the presents were suitably frivolous. Once some of the mess had been cleared away, Kerry got out several kilos of song-sheets he'd carried in and several of us sang our way through the ones that we could remember! The others chatted or drifted gently off to sleep to the melodic strains of our beautiful voices (or something like that!).

We made a late-ish start in the morning, after lots of clearing up to leave the hut spic and span. There were lots of river crossings, so soon we all had wet boots—even Yvette, who had redeemed her standing in the group by letting Jane trial her Aarn pack! We all regrouped for lunch on a shingle bank in the sun a mere ten minutes from the cars. The lucky few with toboggans tried them on a frosty slope. Tim didn't quite get the hang of it but managed to slide quite a long way even without the toboggan. Some went to check out the high-school lodge nearby for possible future use and then we all met at the Yellow Shack Cafe in Springfield for the usual cuppa before saying our goodbyes. What a great weekend—lovely weather, fine company, glorious scenery, modern cozy hut, and tasty food. Thanks to all for making it a great success, but particular thanks to the cooks, Mary K, Jane S and Sue W and to Geoff K for organizing the rabble—it can't have been easy!

Brian & Mary-Jane B, Sue B, Mike B, Tim & Mary H, Gary H & Margot B, Geoff and Mary K, Kerry M, Keith & Marion M, Jane S, Yvette S, Joy S, Chris L & Graham T, Colin W, Sue & Stan W.

Croesus Track, 17-18 July 2010

This was a trip which required all of Mary Hines' organisational skills. Participants were dropping in and out up to the last minute, with Tim Hines staying home sick. Mary picked up four of us, me, Rori, Katie and then Graeme.

We joined up with the other car-load in Burnside and drove on to Arthur's Pass. In view of the shortage of daylight and the fact that we were all in two cars, a "car-shuffle" was impractical. The other car-load (John, Laura, Adrian and Joy) was very fit, however, and wanted to make the full crossing, so we settled on a key-exchange car-swap. As the "fit-four" had both a longer drive and a longer walk ahead, the "slower-five" stopped for a sneaky coffee at Arthur's Pass village.

The weather was interesting—rain in Christchurch, solid cloud up to Porters Pass, then broken cloud, then full sunshine in Westland.

Our group had a leisurely tramp from the Blackball end. The track is very good, and was mainly very dry. We stopped at most of the historic sites, and made a side-trip to Garden Gully and the nearby stamping battery, which was used to crush gold-bearing ore before the final extraction with mercury. We also saw an old sluicing-jet pipe discarded in the bush, so water sluicing was obviously used by some miners.

For anyone with a historical bent, I recommend a trip in from the Blackball end, even if you don't plan to go to the hut for the night. The DoC placards which describe the history and mining operations are very thorough.

The slower five (myself trailing) got to Ces Clark Hut, built largely by volunteer effort, just as the sun was setting. Some of the "fit-four" party was already there—absurdly fit, some people—and we were also joined by a "coaster" with his family of two giggly girls and quiet young boy. The coal-stove had already been lit before our arrival but needed a bit of tweaking to get it to heat well, while the rest of the "fit-four" arrived, having completed the uphill slog from Barrytown in record time.

Mary was soon at work preparing the dinner, with a little bit of help from others in our group, and we settled down to a meal of lentils, beans, etc, with couscous, followed by Mary's delicious homemade cakes served up with custard. With hot drinks, there was the usual amount of banter that goes with a group of people of mixed interests and occupations, and the evening passed quickly. I missed quite a bit of it as I turned in very early.

The hut itself is well-equipped, with an indoor sink so dish-washing was a breeze, but has a step down from the entrance into the main hut. This is treacherous for anyone moving around in the dark, and next morning also resulted in my doing a base-over-apex flip at the bottom of a top-bunk ladder, which is carelessly sited directly next to the step in the floor.

The westward bound five dashed around and finally got on the track for Barrytown at about 8:30, a bit later than we'd hoped. We moved at a fairly good pace, but after we'd made a side-trip to Croesus Knob, the high point of the trip at 1204m, and taken lots of photos (even the Mount Cook group of peaks was visible well to the south), time was pretty limited.

Air temperatures were never low, though we were walking over frozen ground on the tops and there was a chilling wind for a while just before we entered the beach forest. Despite Mary cracking on the pace, and Rori lending me a walking pole to speed up my descent, it was about 2:30 before we reached Barrytown.

The descent had been through an amazing range of vegetation, starting with rich alpine scrub, into silver-beech forest, then into red-beech, with Toro creeping in, down into almost pure Kamahi for a while, then through Nikau palms and majestic tree-ferns and broad-leaved lowland trees to the very narrow coastal plain at Barrytown.

We found the other group's car with no trouble, and Mary drove us to Jacksons, where she had arranged to meet the "fit-four" at 2pm! After swapping cars and bidding farewell to the others, we five had drinks and some food around a great open fire at Jacksons pub, and finally were on our way back to Christchurch where Mary chauffeured us all safely to our chosen destinations.