



Peninsula Tramping Club (inc)

FOOTNOTES

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

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September 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 Enquiries Please contact John Borner, 942 0813, to request an info-pack. You will also 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 14 Sept GARDEN OF EDEN TO BRACKEN SNOWFIELD

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, John Cook, Alastair Christie

Tue 12 Oct SAND AND SNOW – TRAVELS IN MOROCCO AND LIBYA

Heather Murray will share her recent travels in North Africa. Highlights include Libya's Roman ruins and the stunning scenery and ancient rock art of the Sahara desert. In Morocco exploration of the Kasbahs, souks and medieval towns is followed by a 10-day trek in the high Atlas Mountains.

Supper Duty: Jim or Margaret Clark, Marie Cooke, Gavin Chalk,

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.

12 Sep Sun ■	BENMORE (FROM LYNDON ROAD) Dan Pryce 384 7523 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)	Maps BW21; K35 Approx Cost: \$13
18-19 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	BINSER - CASEY SADDLES 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	Maps BV21; L33,L34
19 Sep Sun ■	PURPLE PEAK - STONY BAY ROAD 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	Maps BX25,BY25; N36,N37 Approx Cost: \$10
25-26 Sep Sat-Sun ■ ■	GERALDINE BASE CAMP Leo Manders 356 1731 Easy to moderate walks in this scenic area as well as mountain biking opportunities. List Closes: Sat 11 Sep	Maps BZ18,19; J38
26 Sep Sun ■	MT WINTERSLOW Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate walk to the highest peak (1700m) on the Winterslow Range. Starting from the Sharplin Falls car park, with potential views of Mts Cook and Tasman. Bring ice axes and crampons. Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BX20; K36 Approx Cost: \$14
2-3 Oct Sat-Sun ■ ■	SUDDEN VALLEY 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	Maps BV21; K33

3 Oct Sun ■	MT TORLESSE Kevin Hughes 332 6281	Maps BW21; L34,35
	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 Sat-Sun ■■	NORTH TEMPLE - GUNSIGHT PASS - SOUTH TEMPLE Gary Huish 332 7020	Maps BZ14; G38,39
	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	
10 Oct Sun ■	ABNERS HEAD TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip	Maps BW21; L35
	Easy trip to this 580m hill to the south of Sheffield. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$8	
16-17 Oct Sat-Sun ■■	CROW HUT TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip	Maps BV20; K34
	Easy tramp to a tidy little hut with a good wood burner in Arthur's Pass National Park. Saturday morning departure from town, and only 4 hours walking up the Waimak Valley from the road bridge. We might do a short day walk further up-valley or you can take a book if you're feeling lazy. List Closes: Sat 10 Oct	
17 Oct Sun ■	MT PHILISTINE Raymond Ford 351 9496	Maps BV20; K33
	Probably the most spectacular of the moderate-hard day climbs in the Arthur's Pass area. From the Otira Valley we climb steeply before using Phil Novis' route to bypass the Philistine Bluffs, and then it's fairly plain sailing to the summit for marvellous views of Mt Rolleston's Otira Face and Waimakariri Col. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$22	
23-25 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■	SCAMPER TORRENT - SMYTH RANGE Merv Meredith 322 7239	Maps BW17,18; I34
	Friday evening start to stay at Ross overnight. There is a description of this moderate-hard three-day trip through classic West Coast scenery, in Sven's guide book. First day in is up the Waitaha from Allen Rd. From Kiwi Flat, the track climbs steeply then drops into Scamper Torrent basin, where a four bunk hut is on a great site. The middle day has two options. (1) A day trip up to Mt Durwood and return for a second night at Scamper Torrent. From the top, both the Garden of Eden and Mts Evans and Whitcombe are part of the superb view. (2) Continue on with packs across Durwood and traverse around to Headlong Spur, camping part way down. Day three—continue down the Headlong Spur track to complete the circuit at Kiwi Flat, out down the Waitaha. List Closes: Wed 13 Oct	
23-25 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■	ROUGH CREEK - BOSCOWAN SADDLE - NINA Kerry Moore 359 5069	Maps BT22,BU22; L31,M31
	Moderate round-trip starting up Rough Creek from Lewis Pass with good views from the saddle on the way to the Lake Christabel Hut. We'll use the Robinson Saddle track to get above scrub and on to Boscowan Saddle, then down to the Nina River. List Closes: Sat 16 Oct	

23-25 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■	MT ARTHUR - TABLELANDS CIRCUIT Mary Hines 942 6486 Easy-moderate circuit taking in the highlights of the Mt Arthur Tablelands, starting from 1000m at the Flora car park. The circuit visits the amazing Gridiron rock shelters, the Salisbury Lodge “palace” and Gordons Pyramid with an ascent of Mt Arthur if the on weather permits. List Closes: Wed 13 Oct	Maps BP24,BQ24; M27
23-25 Oct Sat-Mon ■■■	HAAST BASE CAMP Leo Manders 356 1731 A chance to explore down to Jacksons Bay and walking tracks around Haast Pass. List Closes: Sat 9 Oct	Maps BY12; F37
24 Oct Sun ■	CAMP SADDLE - LYNDON SADDLE TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip Easy-moderate loop that gets you above 1500m in the Craigieburn Range. Features some nice ridge walking, with great views of the range and its beech forests. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW21; K34 Approx Cost: \$13
30-31 Oct Sat-Sun ■■	MT SOMERS CIRCUIT Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate trip, starting at Staveley end and climbing to the high point of Staveley Hill 1077m then traversing along the sub-alpine south-west route to Woolshed Creek Hut. Return via Pinnacles and Bowyer Stream to Staveley car park. List Closes: Wed 20 Oct	Maps BX19,20; K36
31 Oct Sun ■	MT WALL Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Moderate walk up to this 1874m outlier peak of the Craigeburn Range between Cheeseman and Broken River ski fields. Starting from the Craigeburn visitor centre. Possibility of a round trip. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW21; K34 Approx Cost: \$13
6-7 Nov Sat-Sun ■■	LAGOON SADDLE - MT BRUCE Evelien Bass 03 317 9077 Easy-moderate trip at Arthurs Pass heading up to Lagoon Saddle to camp and climb Mt Bruce. List Closes: Sat 30 Oct	Maps BV20; K34
7 Nov Sun ■	AMBERLEY BEACH - MACKINTOSH BAY Stan Wilder 980 5291 An easy-moderate trip along the coast in North Canterbury. Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St	Maps BW24,25; N34 Approx Cost: \$11

President's Report

I hope this edition of Footnotes finds everyone well. I write this on Monday evening between the many aftershocks after our massive earthquake in Canterbury early on Saturday morning. Certainly that was the largest earthquake I have ever experienced. If any of our members have suffered damage affecting their home to the extent that you need other temporary accommodation while repairs or rebuilding is needed please contact me. We have a number of members with spare rooms etc including myself. I would hate to think that any of you are having to rely on a welfare centre. If any member is in that situation where you may not know what to do or where to go next, please contact me. All my normal contact details are working. I will arrange as a contact point with other members, outside services etc to help you. You are welcome to contact me in confidence. If any members know of other members that are having problems due to the earthquake please let me know.

Club nights and club trips

I have checked our club night venue this morning and there is no earthquake damage to report, so our regular Tues night meeting on 14 September will continue as usual.

For all club trips over the next few weeks: please contact the trip leader first for any last minute details. This applies to all weekend and day trips. It is our intention to run our usual trip schedule, however some areas may be earthquake affected. As usual when any news is available, we will email you to update developments for trips etc.

Subscriptions

As reported last month, with postage costs changing upwards we have reached the point where we need to address future subscription costs. Your exec had a lengthy hour-long discussion on this and we still haven't yet discussed family subscriptions, which are on the agenda for our next exec meeting. It is our intention to hold a **Special General Meeting** at the Nov 2010 club-night. We will advertise this in October. The new subscription levels, if successfully passed, will apply from the subscription notice issued in December 2010. If you have any thoughts on future subscription levels please let any of our exec know now as this will help us in drafting a way forward. In our discussion so far, we have looked at whether to have just one level of subscription as we have now, or whether to offer a lower rate for those members who elect to have Footnotes delivered electronically only. We felt that the FMC bulletins mailed out 4 times a year would still be mailed to all members together with FMC cards and other notices such as trip lists, AGM notices etc, regardless of which option members take. We would time the bulletin deliveries with these notices. At this stage a \$35 annual sub with full Footnotes mail-out reducing to \$30 for electronic-only Footnotes for single memberships is where we are at in our discussions. What are your thoughts? Nothing is set in concrete but we need to have a direction to present to you at the Special General Meeting.

Tenure Review Erewhon Station

Our club has now drafted a submission letter to DoC which has been emailed out for comment to our exec as well as members who have previously expressed an interest on this topic. If you would like a copy of this draft letter for comment please contact me.

New Member Information Pack

We have just updated the contents of our information pack for new members. Please contact John Borner who holds these for your new member prospects. Don't forget to collect a number of our new Promotion Brochures at the next club night to hand onto new member prospects.

Happy Tramping - Leo Manders

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tue 21 Sept



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 - 942 6486 or email hinestandm@clear.net.nz

Tue 19 Oct

PTC Treasure Hunt—work your brain and your body

At Halswell Quarry on **Tues 19th October at 6pm**, meeting at the main car-park near the toilets (just past the visitor centre). Bring a pen or pencil and something to eat and drink at a pot-luck supper afterwards. Be prepared to explore for a couple of hours and then to Chris and Graham's for supper and prize-giving. Entry fee \$2 each. Pay on the night.

So we have idea of numbers, please email Maureen Thompson **377 2482**

mothompson@xtra.co.nz or Mary Hines 942 6486 hinestandm@clear.net.nz if you plan to come along.

NOTICES

Columbia Tramping Boots Size 9 US, UK8,cm 27.Mens. \$80 Worn once. Ph John Robinson. 027 633 1476

Ruahines, Kaweka guided walks Sue Piercey can recommend AFOOT's guided tramps.
Go to www.afoot.co.nz

Deadline for Sept newsletter 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 7:30 Tue 28 Sept at Kerry Moore's place

BITS AND PIECES

Book Review **Mountains of the Mind** by Robert Macfarlane, 2003

This book sets off on a novel set of mountain journeys, journeys of how mountains have grown in our minds, as ideas and emotions, as well as realities. Robert Macfarlane draws on the rich literature of mountains, landscape and mind since the late 1600s – as well as on his own mountain encounters.

The Great Stone Book chapter journeys through evolving awareness of mountain form and process. In his *Sacred Theory of the Earth* (1684) Thomas Burnett challenged the belief that landscapes and mountains were created as a stable entity. He imagined the mountains as the ruins from some global cataclysmic flood. Through ensuing centuries, those able to get their mind around a much-slowed time-scale have taught us that not only do mountains have an active past, but they also rise and fall like a wave, and may even move from place to place. Arising as early as the mid 19th Century in the minds of artists such as John Ruskin, rather than geologists, these outlandish thoughts were eventually validated by geologists as processes such as uplift and erosion, and continental drift and collision. Macfarlane shows a knack for conveying unfathomable geological processes and time scales with simple elegance:

Between about 1810 and 1870, the scale of deep time was constructed and labelled. ...as resonant a litany as the shipping forecast: Precambrian, Cambrian, Ordovician... The compressive power of language – more powerful even than the geophysical forces it was describing – was set to work on the geological past, and hundreds of millions of years were effortlessly compacted into a few letters.”

Early in *The Pursuit of Fear*, we learn that John Dennis, about Burnett's time, described how, beyond the rational fear of mountains felt by those whose work necessarily but dangerously took them there, others were finding pleasure in fear. There arose the condition of the 'sublime' - hectic, intimidating and uncontrollable, mixed up with majestic and awe-inspiring, and therein a blend of pleasure and repulsion. Edmund Burke's thesis of the late 1700s was that sublime sights caused terror, and terror was a passion which “always produces delight when it does not press too close.” More and more punters visited the Alps for terror and delight. When responding to calamitous mountaineering accidents in the mid 1860s, the public seemed more fascinated than horrified. The attraction of mountains in our minds was assured.

In seeking *Altitude: the Summit and the View*, Macfarlane aligns the ascent of a mountain with

success - being 'on top of the world'. The summit provides the goal, the slopes the challenge. And, he argues, more lies at the top than just success, "there is also the sensory joy of altitude: a bliss which isn't competitive, but contemplative." But great heights come with a warning. "...the view from the summit empowers you. But in a way, too, it obliterates you. Your sense of self is threatened with insignificance by the grand vistas of time and space..."

In *Walking off the Map* Macfarlane explores the filling-in of gaps, imaginary and real. As Arthur Ransome wrote in *Swallows and Amazons*, all the most exciting charts and maps have places on them that are marked 'unexplored'. Macfarlane picks up the thread, "the blank spaces on a map can be filled with whatever promise or dread one wishes to ascribe to them. They are places of infinite possibility." He explains using the literature as well as personal experience.

Macfarlane eventually threads his way to the Everest of mountains, where he probes, in mind and matter, the 1920s love triangle - George Mallory, his wife Ruth, and the mountain.

With this book Macfarlane won the [Guardian First Book Award](#), and Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year. It was short-listed for the [Boardman Tasker Prize for Mountain Literature](#). As someone pointed out, *Mountains of the Mind* puts Macfarlane in the tradition of the likes of John Muir and Barry Lopez as imaginative writers on nature. Sharing Macfarlane's journeys will widen one's mind for future encounters with mountains, indoors and out. 📖 **Grant Hunter**

TRIP REPORTS

Griffin Range 14-15th August 2010

For Dan and I, this was the first time back to Mt Griffin since a track-clearing trip in November 2001 with Sue Hely—couldn't believe it was 2001. We had been around the Rocky Creek-Griffin circuit since, but that was also some time back. So I went equipped with my loppers and some marking tape as usual, not knowing what to expect.

During the week, the forecast wasn't too good and I was mumbling about plan B and C, both on the Canterbury side of the hill but what a difference 24 hours can make. Friday's forecast was better for Saturday and a rather nice weather window on Sunday. This proved accurate, and then some.

The plan was to get away from Yvette's centrally located place by 7am. Yvette was late to sign on, as she, like me, had planned to do the Mt Peel trip which was called off with nor'westers. Castle Hill, The Gap, was to run on the 8th but that too, was canned by bad weather. So my trip suddenly became twice as appealing and we were happy to squeeze five into my old Subaru. After Aarn had been for a bit of a cruise around the area, we got away a bit after 7, then with the car parked in the cow paddock, we were walking by 10am.

The track for the first half or two thirds of the way up the spur is still mostly good and well marked, with a few new markers added. For the last third up to the junction, things are getting more overgrown and I was doing an increasing amount of token clearing. The water barrel at the junction has rusted down so now holds only one third, but still provided a water top-up. Sad that. We depend on it and I can't see it being replaced. Pushing on, the first bit through the scrub that Dan, Sue and I had spent a lot of time clearing, was much in need of serious maintenance again as did each scrub area.

By 4pm, we still had Wilson Knob above us, so the objective of the big tarn the other side of the knob was abandoned. We had a tarn in sight below the ridge and searched around for a camp-site not too far away. A big shingle pan on an easy spur proved ideal on a dry night and we set up the tents. The sky had kept clearing and before dark we had full blue sky. There had been virtually no wind all day. A starry sky made the evening a pleasure with no hurry to climb into the tent.

Sunday morning, there was a light frost on the pack covers, but on a beautiful calm morning, it wasn't cold. We packed a day-pack and set off for Mt Griffin, intending to be back at the tents by 1pm and down to the car about 4. The bush bash up the Wilson Knob face took a good bit of clearing. It would have been hard work if we had done it yesterday. Crossing the top and down the other side, the big tarn was ice-covered and the tent-site there was nowhere near as inviting as our campsite.

Dan and Yvette stopped at this point and eventually wandered back to the tents. Bill and Aarn sidled out to the old serpentine mine. From their comments, there are fewer remains there than there used to be. On this visit to the top we had easily the best weather I had experienced and it was a pleasure to be there again.

Going back down, we stayed mostly with the edge. The tents were still up and were visible from some distance. We lunched at the tents, packed and headed back. Bill and I left at 1.35pm and we were all back to the car at 4.50pm, still in calm, warm weather. What a great weekend.

After a stop for coffee at the Wobbly Kea, it should have been a straight drive home but the Old West Coast Road was closed by police a little way along. A chap from Oxford, not wearing a seat belt, had failed to take a slight bend and been killed in the crash. We were diverted back down to Darfield and learned the driver's fate in Tuesday's paper.

We were: Merv Meredith (leader), Dan Pryce, Yvette So, Aarn Tate & Bill Templeton 🏠 MM



Mt Griffin 1516m (photo by Matthew Walker)