



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

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## April 2013

<b>President</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith	Quartermaster	355 9945
<b>Vice-President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford		351 9496
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden		332 7020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Price	337 2614	Maureen Thompson		359 5707
<b>Trip Planner</b>	Liz Stephenson	027 633 2038	Sue Piercey		384 9567
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239			
<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069			

**New Member Enquiries** Please contact Stan Wilder, 980 5291, 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 9 April**



### Volcanoes and Bears Of Kamchatka

Kath Varcoe will describe her 2 week exploration of the Kamchatka Peninsula in NE Russia.

**Supper Duty: Sophie Toutain**

**John Wilson,**

**Maureen Anderson**



**Tue 14 May**



### Biking through Italy, France & Spain

Gary and Margot will speak on their civilised cycling cruise through the vineyards of France, Italy and Spain.

**Supper Duty: Ruth Barratt**

**Richard Battersby**

**John or Ann Blair**

## COMING 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 excepted). Numbers on some weekend trips are limited, so book promptly.

### Bike Trips:

For up-to-date details on biking trips please contact

**Rick Bolch ph 980 5156 email [rlbolch@paradise.net.nz](mailto:rlbolch@paradise.net.nz)**

<b>6 Apr</b> <b>Saturday</b>	<b>Wilding Pines Day—see Notices</b>	
<b>7 Apr</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>BEALEY SPUR - POWER STREAM</b> Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate trip near Arthurs Pass up Power Stream and down Bealey Spur. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	<b>Maps BV20;K34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$25</b>
<b>13-14 Apr</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>ROCKY CREEK - GRIFFIN CREEK</b> Calum McIntosh 376 6133 Moderate circuit between Rocky Creek and Griffin Creek to the north-west of Arthurs Pass national park. List closes: Sat 6 Apr	<b>Maps BV19,20;K33</b>
<b>14 Apr</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>KAITUNA VALLEY</b> Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008 Easy-moderate circuit at the head of Kaituna Valley Start: 8am Halswell School	<b>Maps BX24;M36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$7</b>
<b>20-21 Apr</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>TURTONS SADDLE</b> TBA Contact Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you want to lead this trip An easy-moderate trip up Glenrock and Turtons Streams to 8 bunk Comyns Hut. This is part of the Te Araroa trail. List closes: Sat 13 Apr	<b>Maps BW19,20;J36</b>
<b>21 Apr</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT BARRON</b> Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate-hard trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1700m peak west of Otira. Expect a long day. Check with leader if ice axe and crampons required. Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)	<b>Maps BV20;K33</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$30</b>
<b>25-28 Apr</b> <b>Thu-Sun</b> ■ ■ ■ ■ <b>Anzac WE</b>	<b>FREWS - MUNGO - CEDAR FLATS</b> Kerry Moore 359 5069 A moderate-hard trip inland from Hokitika. Walking up the Frews River with a round-trip through the Mungo River to Cedar Flats. List closes: Sat 13 Apr	<b>Maps BV19;J33,34</b>
<b>25-29 Apr</b> <b>Thu-Mon</b> ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ <b>Anzac WE</b>	<b>MILFORD TRACK</b> Dan Pryce 356 2617 Moderate. One of New Zealand's world famous walking tracks in Fiordland National Park. Walking just outside the main season so normal hut fees apply.	<b>Maps CB08;D40,D41</b>

<b>List closes: Sat 13 Apr</b>		
<b>25-29 Apr</b> <b>Thu-Mon</b> ■■■■■ <b>Anzac WE</b>	<b>ST JAMES WALKWAY</b> <b>Leo Manders 356 1731</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> walk with well-spaced huts in a variety of terrain with views of the hopefully snow capped peaks of the Spenser Range. Good track through beech forest and river flats. <b>List closes: Sat 13 Apr</b>	<b>Maps BT23,24,BU23;M31,M32</b>
<b>28 Apr</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>KAIAPOI WALKWAY</b> <b>Margot Bowden 332 7020</b> <b>Easy</b> coastal walk north of Christchurch, taking in the Waimakariri River mouth and coastal trip to Woodend Beach. <b>Start: 8am Robbies Cranford St (near Placemakers)</b>	<b>Maps BW24;M35</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$5</b>
<b>30Apr-3M</b> <b>Tue-Fri</b> ■■■■■	<b>KEPLER TRACK</b> <b>Dan Pryce 356 2617</b> The <b>moderate</b> Kepler Track is an alpine adventure with stunning panoramas. It takes you from the shore of Lake Te Anau to spend a night high above the clouds at Luxmore Hut (1085m). Traverse the ridgelines of the Kepler Mountains, drop down to beautiful Lake Manapouri, before heading back through peaceful beech forest. <b>List closes: Sat 13 Apr</b>	<b>Maps CD07,08;C43</b>
<b>4-5 May</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■■	<b>AKAROA BASE CAMP</b> <b>Leo Manders 356 1731</b> Accommodation is still to be arranged but there are many day walks, including coffee traverses in the area. <b>List closes: Sat 27 Apr</b>	<b>Maps BX25,BY25;N36,N37</b>
<b>5 May</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT BARROSA</b> <b>Murray Hight 347 4014</b> A <b>moderate</b> trip in the Clent Hills area above the Ashburton Gorge Rd. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to 1364m Mt Barrosa. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BX19;J36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$22</b>
<b>Tue 7May</b>	<b>Trip Planning Evening 7pm</b> <b>Have your say on where we go during the next tramping year.</b>	<b>5 Patchett Place, Cashmere</b>
<b>11-12 May</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■■	<b>HURUNUI HUT</b> <b>TBA Contact Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you want to lead this trip</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> overnight trip to this comfortable hut to the west of Lake Sumner. Starting from the Lake Taylor road. Option of a side-trip to Hurunui hot springs. <b>List closes: Sat 4 May</b>	<b>Maps BU22;L32,L33</b>
<b>12 May</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT TORLESSE</b> <b>Gary Huish 332 7020</b> Popular <b>moderate-hard</b> 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. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BW21;L34,35</b>  <b>Approx Cost:</b>
<b>18-19 May</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■■	<b>JOLLIEBROOK – GABRIEL</b> <b>Gary Huish 332 7020</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> round-trip in lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flat of the Hurunui, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, going over a low bush saddle to Jollie Brook and then to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes a bit more open and there are a few stream crossings. <b>List closes: Sat 11 May</b>	<b>Maps BU23;M32,M33</b>

<b>19 May Sun</b> ■	<b>MT STORM</b> <b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b> From Lees Valley (beyond the Ashley Gorge), this straightforward <b>moderate</b> tramp leads up an open ridge to this 1250 m summit. Nice views of the Puketeraki Range. Round-trip options include dropping to the Whistler River. <b>Start: 8am Robbies Cranford St (near Placemakers)</b>	<b>Maps BW22;L34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$12</b>
<b>25-26 May Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>HOPE-KIWI LODGE</b> <b>TBA Contact Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you want to lead this trip</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way through beech forest and river terraces, besides three lakes and crossing the Hurunui River (there is a swing bridge if wet feet aren't your thing!) <b>List closes: Sat 18 May</b>	<b>Maps BU22,23;L32, M32</b>
<b>26 May Sun</b> ■	<b>THREE DEANS</b> <b>TBA Contact Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you want to lead this trip</b> Longish <b>easy-moderate</b> round-trip over open limestone country in North Canterbury, by the Waipara River. May include a close look at the Waipara Gorge. <b>Start: 8am Robbies Cranford St (near Placemakers)</b>	<b>Maps BV24;M34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$9</b>
<b>1-3 Jun Sat-Mon</b> ■ ■ ■	<b>WILBERFORCE - UNKNOWN - MOA STREAM</b> <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b> A <b>moderate-hard</b> circuit on the Rolleston Range inland from Algidus Station. It's between the Kakapo and Boulderstone Streams, in the Lake Coleridge area. <b>List closes: Wed 15 May</b>	<b>Maps BV19,BW19;J34,K34</b>
<b>1-3 Jun Sat-Mon</b> ■ ■ ■	<b>CEDAR FLAT</b> <b>TBA Contact Liz Stephenson 0276 332 038 if you want to lead this trip</b> An <b>easy-moderate</b> trip inland from Hokitika. Walking up the Toaroha River to Cedar Flats Hut with its elusive hot springs. Possible day or round-trips from this point. <b>List closes: Sat 18 May</b>	<b>Maps BV19;J33,J34</b>
<b>1-3 Jun Sat-Mon</b> ■ ■ ■	<b>D'URVILLE ISLAND BASE CAMP</b> <b>Leo Manders 356 1731</b> <b>Easy to moderate</b> walks ranging from 1 hour to 7-8 hours. Many options with great views, birdlife, orchids in the forest. Dinghies and bikes available on island. Staying at Catherine Cove in bunk house accommodation. Stay Okiwi Bay Friday night. <b>List closes: Sat 18 May</b>	<b>Maps BN28,29,BP28,29;P26,26</b>
<b>2 Jun Sun</b> ■	<b>GHOST CREEK</b> <b>Sue Piercey 384 9567</b> <b>Easy Moderate</b> trip starting down the Porter River from the Craighburn Road before heading up Ghost Creek behind Castle Hill Peak. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)</b>	<b>Maps BW21;K35</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$15</b>
<b>8-9 Jun Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>KIRWANS HUT</b> <b>Raymond Ford 351 9496</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> tramp up a well graded miners' pack track in Victoria Forest Park near Reefton. Despite the grade it is still a near-900m climb through the forest to this comfortable hut near the bush edge. An optional side-trip to tussock-topped Kirwans Hill, gives great views of surrounding mountains. <b>List closes: Sat 1 June</b>	<b>Maps BS21,22;L30</b>

## SOCIAL EVENTS

15 April  
Monday



### **Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap***

7.30 pm at St Michael & All Angels Church (cnr Durham and Oxford Tce)

Bring a cushion as you will be sitting on pews.

**Setting:** Monkswell Manor, an hour's drive from London.

This is THE archetypal English country house murder. The longest-running play, ever.

**Book your own tickets.** <http://www.dashtickets.co.nz/tour/376>

\$30 per Adult \$25 with Gold Card 2.5% visa charge

There are no allocated seats so get there early!

Let Maureen Thompson know that you are going and she will attempt to hold you a seat.

Contact [mothompson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mothompson@xtra.co.nz) or phone 359 5707

## Annual Barn Dance

Saturday 22 June, 8pm till Midnight

Roy Stokes Community Hall, 146 Seaview Road, New Brighton

Fancy Dress Theme – Dancing (Country, Scottish)

Prizes for Best Dressed

**Bring a plate of Finger Food for supper**

Drinks Supplied

Entertainment

Called dances with **Colin Forsyth and the Incredible Ceilidh Band**

Spot prizes

Tickets \$25 from any PTC committee member

Contact Dan 021 927 716 or 03 384 7065

## NOTICES

**Membership** Marie Cooke, John & Tracey Cridlin are resigning

**Deadline for the February newsletter** Sun 5 May. Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to Kerry Moore, [moorekj@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moorekj@xtra.co.nz) Phone 359 5069

**Next committee meeting** 7:30pm Tue 30 April at Merv's



**Pinus Mugo**

### **Wilding Tree Removal**

**Saturday 6 Apr**

The last of three trips to Flock Hill Station to help stem the wilding pine spread.

A satisfying day out with PTC and other like-minded outdoors people.

Tools provided. Transport by car-pool at no cost to you.

Meet at 7:50am in the Yaldhurst Hotel car park.

Ring Raymond Ford 351 9496 to book



## GEAR AUCTION of Tramping and Outdoor Gear

Do you have excess gear taking up valuable space?

Take it to the PTC auction being held at a club night later this year. If you have items to sell please email Brian Smith [brian21x@xtra.co.nz](mailto:brian21x@xtra.co.nz) with a brief description including quality, age, etc. If you have a reserve price include that also.

A catalogue will be compiled and distributed. Absentee bids will be accepted.

A date will be set when enough items have been promised.

## TRIP REPORTS

### MT FYFFE TRAVERSES 18-20 January 2013

The trip for the weekend was listed as a circuit in the Rolleston Range on the south side of the Wilberforce. But I didn't like the forecast and was concerned about crossing the Wilberforce, so thoughts turned to options in the Kaikoura area. Why not have another try at the full traverse of Mt Fyffe? The others were happy, or indifferent, or unsuspecting. We planned for a Friday afternoon start.

The concept wasn't original. In Jan 1987, a club trip lead by Iain Chinnery set out on the same circuit. Iain's plan was to walk up the 4WD track from the reserve at the southern end on the Friday evening and stay the night at Mt Fyffe Hut. Then with an early start on Saturday, walk to the top, cross between the Gables and follow north-east all the way down Raven Spur, dropping into the Hapuku near the forks, turning back up the South Branch, passing Hapuku Hut, up to Kowhai Saddle and down to Kowhai Hut for the night. Sunday would then be an easy, short day down the Kowhai and back to the cars.

Although the 1987 trip started out from the hut at 7.30am Saturday, we hadn't appreciated the density of the podocarp forest at the northern end. It was probably 2.30ish when we finally dropped steeply to the Hapuku corner for a late lunch and 4pm as we marched past Hapuku Hut. I think we were on the saddle at 7pm pre-daylight saving and soon ran out of daylight down the Kowhai. Then the fun started because we couldn't see the bits of track and had to climb down the big boulders of the Kowhai River. Eventually, we were lucky enough to shine the torch on a sign up on the terrace pointing back up-river to the hut only a few hundred metres away. At 11pm, we obviously were relieved to be there, fifteen and a half hours after starting!

That trip has been reminisced about many times since and it kept niggling at me, so in Jan 2000 I tried it again. We drifted well right of Raven Spur and dropped to the lower end of the Hapuku Gorge. Rather than heading all the way to Kowhai Hut, we spent a good evening at Hapuku Hut with Kathy Stanley, Peter Carson and their families.

In August 2009 I tried rerun number two in fantastic weather and firm snow but still dropped to the right of Raven Spur. On re-try number three in October 2010 we still dropped to the right of the spur and had an awful time getting out of the basin.

This time, on rerun number four, we must surely get it right, keeping to the left down Raven Spur.

Having left town mid-afternoon, we were walking by 6pm and was at Mt Fyffe Hut shortly after 8pm. Arnie, a Belgian, was in residence, taking a few days off from walking the Te Araroa Trail. It transpired that he works for an outdoor store in Belgium, so he and Aarn had a lot to talk about.

As planned, in fine NW weather, we left the hut at 7.10am Saturday morning, walking up through the ever-increasing wilding pines to the top, along to Gable, down in the dip and back up to Gable End. From there, we followed north-east along the eroding spur to point 1229m, then veered left down Raven Spur. Getting down to a clearing on point 927m for lunch is still OK, though as the years go by the scrub gets taller and denser.

After lunch, we tried to head more easterly to follow the spur but the now tall scrub and bush blocked any view, so we ended up paralleling the spur on the left and never regained it despite efforts to sidle. This proved to be the worst bush bash of any of the reruns. Nearing the river, it was far too late to sidle out to the right and we dropped steeply, or in Kerry's case, vertically, to the Hapuku, well upstream of the corner. The good thing was that we had dropped to the muddy river where we could easily cross to the true left and walk a few metres up to the track, then 30 minutes up-river to the hut.

By 5pm we were at the hut and this time, Laura Haslam and Adrian Daly from the club were there. They had come up the Hapuku and were intending to do a Kowhai Saddle – Gables End – Humpbank circuit back to the Hapuku.

Sunday was uneventful in near-perfect weather. We had the usual scramble down to Kowhai Hut for lunch and

the later plod down the lower Kowhai. We were back to the reserve a little after 4pm. So I STILL didn't manage to stay on the ridge all the way down Raven Spur, but the weather was great all weekend and the round-trip is still an enjoyable, varied circuit.

We were, **Ruth Barratt, Kerry Moore, Aarn Tate and Merv Meredith.** 🏔️ MM



**Raven Spur**

### **Henry, Anne and Boucher Saddles—2-3 March 2013**

The scheduled 3-day trip to Pinnacle in Victoria Range failed to enthuse enough people but five of us—**Chris Leaver, Yvette So, Honora Renwick, Bill Hotter and me, Kerry Moore**—signed on to a 2-day substitute over Henry Saddle. Five in a Mazda Familia hatch was a squeeze but we packed in without using the roof-rack. After a 7am start from home we managed to get walking by 10:30. Stowing the car at Deer Valley camping area took about half an hour. At the first bridge at the Lewis Pass end of the St James Walkway we dropped onto the river-bed of the right branch of the Maruia River. Continuing 1km up-river we branched right, up a side-stream for a steady climb to near the head of the valley and then up through open beech forest toward a tussocky Henry Saddle.

As we descended towards the Henry River, Chris pointed out five deer fleeing upward from the five of us. Soon we were in a cluttered patch of beech gradually descending to river flats. Where the river trends north and goes through forest the going gets difficult but it then emerges to broad, grassy flats with plenty of horse tracks to follow. A herd of horses saw us coming and were looking quite concerned until they took to their heels and raced up-river where they could relax—we weren't going to round them up.

The map shows a big grassy flat up on a terrace so we thought we'd take a look and chose to use this as a short-cut to the Anne River. It was hard work on soggy, tall grass and tussock. We dropped into the Anne Valley expecting to see the new Anne Hut. We visited the old hut site thinking there might be a directing sign. I decided the hut must be further upstream in the direction we wanted to go. Honora thought the hut was accessible to mountain bikers and should therefore be downstream further. Chris thought the track could be well up from the valley floor now that it didn't need to visit the old hut site. She was right and we got onto it as the light was fading. We continued upstream, but no hut materialised. Soon head-lamps came on. Where the track moves to the



true left to cut off a corner and goes into trees we made camp, pitching a Spectrum fly on a nice level site. In complete darkness we cooked a simple meal of macaroni and mushroom then custard for dessert. Some custard survived till morning to make a good cereal topping. A few spots of rain threatened but not enough to stop Bill from sleeping under the trees.

On a fine morning we shook the dew off the fly and de-camped at 0930 happy in the knowledge we were already 3km up from the Henry-Anne River junction. An hour after setting off, a runner caught us up. He must have been amazed that we'd got ahead of him because he'd passed us, planning to run the whole St James, soon after we started walking the day before. He told us the new Anne Hut was well down from the old hut site. The mystery was solved.

Going down from Anne Saddle a troublesome blister acquired on the "Gardens" trip the week before was slowing Chris down. We stopped and Honora put a bandage on it. At the Boucher Stream turnoff Chris was with us but after 10 minutes as the terrain got rougher she decided to retreat and take the long way out—down the long Boyle leg of the St James walkway. Boucher Stream is not very hospitable. It made us walk on its scrubby terraces and at a gorgy spot pushed us up a steep slope into beech forest. We were relieved to get above the bush-line to easier going on a gentler slope. On the saddle at 1320m we had a welcome break by attractive tarns after a climb of 400m from the Boyle.

The beginnings of "our" branch of Foleys Creek is a steep little trench and awkward to get into. We were relieved when it became a proper stream and was reasonably navigable. Fallen trees forced us onto the steep banks at times. We noted on the map that the Foleys ridge track came to within 200m of Foleys Creek at one point but judging when to climb out of the stream is difficult. We left it a little late and hit the track where it had veered away from us. It was an easy final leg to our trip, emerging at 7pm from beech forest, directly opposite Deer Valley camping ground where our car was waiting patiently. At 7:30 we were at the Boyle Shelter where Chris was waiting. She too had reached the road at 7pm.

Yvette, who hadn't done a weekend tramp for a year, thought I'd misrepresented the trip as a moderate one. We decided the length of the circuit and the awkward bits make it a moderate-hard. 🏔️ KM

