

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

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May 2013

President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith	Quartermaster	355 9945
Vice-President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford		351 9496
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden		332 7020
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Maureen Thompson		359 5707
Trip Planner	Liz Stephenson	027 633 2038	Sue Piercey		384 9567
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239			
Editor	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 14 May **Biking through Italy, France & Spain**



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

Supper Duty: Ruth Barratt

John and Ann Blair

Tue 11 June **Do You Know Where You Are – and so what?**

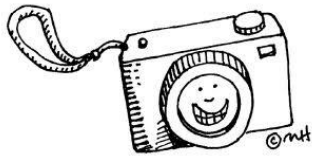


Club member **Trish Faulkner** will present her thoughts on navigation.

Supper Duty: Richard Battersby

John Borner or Eileen Arnett

Mike Bourke



Tue 9 July - Members' Photo Night

Advanced notice of this club night to allow you to assemble a batch of pics.
Contact Leo if you have tramping photos to show
356 1731 leomanders@paradise.net.nz

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

11-12 May Sat-Sun ■ ■	HURUNUI HUT TBA Contact Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you want to lead this trip Easy-moderate 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. List closes: Sat 4 May	Maps BU22;L32,L33
12 May Sun ■	MT TORLESSE Gary Huish 332 7020 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 (across from church)	Maps BW21;L34,35 Approx Cost:
18-19 May Sat-Sun ■ ■	JOLLIEBROOK – GABRIEL Gary Huish 332 7020 Easy-moderate 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. List closes: Sat 11 May	Maps BU23;M32,M33
19 May Sun ■	MT STORM Kerry Moore 359 5069 From Lees Valley (beyond the Ashley Gorge), this straightforward moderate 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. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	Maps BW22;L34 Approx Cost:12
25-26 May Sat-Sun ■ ■	HOPE-KIWI LODGE Margot Bowden 332 7020 Easy-moderate 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!) List closes: Sat 18 May	Maps BU22,23;L32, M32

26 May Sun ■	THREE DEANS Bruce Cameron 365 8210 Longish easy-moderate round-trip over open limestone country in North Canterbury, by the Waipara River. May include a close look at the Waipara Gorge. Start: 8am Robbins by Placemakers, Cranford St	MapsBV24;M34 Approx Cost:\$9
1-3 Jun Sat-Mon ■■■	WILBERFORCE - UNKNOWN - MOA STREAM Merv Meredith 322 7239 A moderate-hard trip up the Wilberforce, with three longish days. Early start on Saturday. From the canal road end, we cross the Wilberforce in low winter flow and travel up the TR to Moa Stream, staying the first night at Moa Stream Hut. From there, it's a steady walk up North Stream to Moa Saddle at 1078m., then a steep descent into Unknown Stream and downstream to the Unknown Hut. Monday is a long plod back down-river, but this time crossing to Fanghill on the TL after reaching Moa Hut on the TR. A great early winter trip. List closes: Wed 15 May	MapsBV19,BW19;J34,K34
1-3 Jun Sat-Mon ■■■	CEDAR FLAT Liz Stephenson 0276332038 An easy-moderate trip inland from Hokitika. Walking up the Toaroha River to Cedar Flats Hut with elusive hot springs. Possible day or round-trips from this point. List closes: Wed 15 May	MapsBV19;J33,J34
1-3 Jun Sat-Mon ■■■	D'URVILLE ISLAND BASE CAMP Leo Manders 356 1731 Easy to moderate 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. List closes: Wed 18 May	MapsBN28,29,BP28,29;P26,26
2 Jun Sun ■	GHOST CREEK Sue Piercey 384 9567 Easy-moderate trip starting down the Porter River from the Craigeburn Road before heading up Ghost Creek behind Castle Hill Peak. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	MapsBW21;K35 Approx Cost:\$15
8-9 Jun Sat-Sun ■■	KIRWANS HUT Raymond Ford 351 9496 Easy-moderate 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. List closes: Wed 29 May	MapsBS21,22;L30
9 Jun Sun ■	MOUNT LYNDON - CLOUDY HILL Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Moderate circuit between these two peaks between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Choice of route depending on mood and conditions. Probable snow on the top so an ice axe may be an advantage. Start: 8am Church Cnr (across from church)	MapsBW21;K35 Approx Cost:\$15
15-16 Jun Sat-Sun ■■	OTEHAKE HOT SPRING Heather Murray & Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Moderate walk from Aickens, up the Taramakau, before turning off for Lake Kaurapataka. There is a short climb to a saddle before dropping to the Otehake Rr. The hot springs are further up the Otehake. Camping out. List closes: Sat 8 June	MapsBV20,21;K33

16 Jun Sun	MT WHITE Merv Meredith 322 7239 ■ Moderate climb up open spurs to this 1741m peak, but a long drive in from Mt White bridge, to Mt White Station shearers quarters. Could be scheduled too early for good snow this year. Who knows, but bring ice axe and crampons anyway. Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)	MapsBV21;L33,L34 Approx Cost:\$27
22 Jun	BARN DANCE	
23 Jun Sun	LITTLE RIVER CIRCUIT Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 ■ Easy-moderate circuit above Little River Start: 9am Halswell School	MapsBX24;M36 Approx Cost:\$10
29-30 Jun Sat-Sun	MAGDALEN HUT Kerry Moore 359 5069 ■■ An easy side-trip off the southern end of the St James Walkway to this small, recently-built hut. Mistletoe can be seen growing near the hut. Mixture of beech forest and the open flats of the Boyle river. List closes: Sat 22 June	MapsBU23;M32
30 Jun Sun	BLACK HILL, RAKAIA Merv Meredith 322 7239 ■ A moderate-hard trip, with snow likely, to this 2067m peak. Up the south bank Rakaia road, to start up a farm track behind Redcliffe Station and over Redcliffe Hill. A round-trip south to point 1934m and down a spur back to the farm track, is possible. Ice axe and crampons required. Start: 7am Church Cnr (across from church)	MapsBX20;K35 Approx Cost:\$21
6-7 Jul Sat-Sun	BOYLE VILLAGE Liz Stephenson 0266332038 ■■ We'll be staying at Boyle Lodge and sampling some new tramping recipes to celebrate midwinter. There are day walks of all grades in the area. List closes: Wed 26 June	MapsBU23;M31,M32

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wed 22 May **Caddyshack City Mini Golf**



Come along at **6pm** and test your golf skills at Caddyshack, 121 King Edward Terrace, Woolston. Cost \$15 adults, \$13.50 seniors followed by dinner at Cassels Sons The Brewery and Brew Bar, 3 Garlands Road, Woolston at 7.30pm. Names to Margot Bowden margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020 by **Sunday, 19 May** for both the mini golf and/or the meal.

**7.30pm
Tuesday
23 July**

Kings of the Gym - By Dave Armstrong

The writer of *The Motor Camp* delivers another laugh-out-loud Kiwi comedy Directed by Conrad Newport and featuring Tom Trevella

We will book the best seats in the **Court Theatre, Bernard Street, Addington.**

Book your seat, \$39 discount price by Monday 1st July, with Brian Smith

Ph 355 9945, 027 740 3035, brian21x@xtra.co.nz

Laurie Connor is an old-school P.E. teacher whose comfortable existence is challenged when a new headmistress decides to modernize the syllabus and do away with such terms as “winners” and “losers”.

Date to be confirmed



NOTICES

Membership We welcome **Limbo Thompson**

Deadline for the June newsletter Sunday 3 June. Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to **Kerry Moore, moorekj@xtra.co.nz** Phone **359 5069**

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 28 May at Kerry's

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 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

Dingleburn Valley and the “Tramper’s Dilemma” — 29 Mar-1 April 2013

“Go down with the load and back up when it’s dumped!” but what if the terrain is bluffed?

This quote cannot be attributed to a specific tramper due to their shy and sensitive nature, but it was said on the PTC Easter 2013 combined moderate to moderate-hard trip. Our trip leader, Raymond also faced a dilemma with trip planning—believe the good MetVUW and do plan A (Copland Crossing to meet Heather’s trip to Welcome Flat hot springs and share transport out) or action plan B—into the Ahuriri Conservation Park, in light of a bad MetService forecast. It’s not easy making these decisions while holding down a busy full-time job, with the outcome impacting on your keen tramping mates, but Raymond coped well. Not only did he get the weather forecast right and chose not to do the Copland (he had to phone MetService to check on why their forecasts and models were so different), but then he combined the two groups (Copland crossing with Heather’s Welcome Flat) and we did a superb plan B trip to the Dingleburn in the Ahuriri Conservation Park. That it worked so well shows the tolerance and adaptability of our club members. However, some party members were a little less enthusiastic about sidling over “ball bearing” covered, steep slopes but they managed these very well, if only at a slower pace and with a reduced capacity to chat while doing so! It’s amazing how a trail of white jellybeans can entice some people through places they are less comfortable with.

It was a relatively early start on Good Friday. We would have been on the road earlier if the scribe knew her own street address! Gary was knocking on the door of a nearby house while the scribe was waiting outside the house 5 doors down (I’d only been living there a month!). We picked up Karen in Omarama and drove up Birchwood Road to the Ahuriri Base Camp Hut. After a car shuffle and lunch we were away. The Dingleburn Valley was our destination and we easily crossed a small pass near point 1448 and descended directly down to the Dingle. A short amble down the valley to a western tributary of the Dingle opposite the Top Dingle Hut found us a nice sheltered camping spot under the mountain beech. Dinner that night was so enticing that Geoff decided to hold off his evening stroll to the hut to check usage till after the main course. Luckily for him we saved him dessert (even the marshmallows that topped it!).

Next day, we climbed up a tributary onto the Huxley Range, admiring the view of the Hunter River, Lake Hawea and the McKerrow and Young Range—possible trips there in the future. Much to the chagrin of a number of the party, we decided not to attempt a climb of Leaning Mountain. We’d need to come back with helmets and more time, and when the scribe doesn’t have red, raw blisters! Sidling around the western side of the peak, we dropped down into the tributary draining the south side of Leaning Mountain to a pleasant camp site near the bush line.

Easter Sunday and a considerable number of chocolate eggs for breakfast saw us ready for another day’s tramping. We followed the true right of the stream down through beech forest to the Dingle Valley again. Ben Avon Hut proved a good lunch spot. The scribe chose to sit in the sun and contemplate a view of the hills, while everyone else sat in the shade by the hut. Raymond and Gary did a quick recce to see if the stream by the hut offered a convenient route up to the ridge between the Dingleburn and the Ahuriri, but the way was foiled by a gorge and a waterfall. Instead, we climbed up the true left of the stream and followed animal tracks along the

1100m contour to reach a very attractive tussock basin.

Out to the west, the weather was looking very ominous, and Raymond was anxious to press on. Sidling around a bit, then up and over another un-named pass, then it was down into the large tributary that drained into Birch Creek, near Ben Avon homestead. On the way down, Nigel showed how he copes with the boredom of downhill by donning a set of headphones to take in another chapter of a book. Interestingly, he doesn't need this distraction for the uphill part, he just motors up in top gear leaving everyone eating his dust.

Despite the onset of evening, we pressed on down the valley to find a camping spot that we hoped was sheltered from the wind which was now becoming colder and increasing in strength. Just as well, we pushed on as the front passed over that night accompanied by a freezing wind, rain and thunder. Easter Monday, our last day, of course dawned fine and clear, and we made good time down to Birch Stream reaching the Birchwood Road at lunchtime with plenty of time to relax while Kevin and Raymond went off to repeat the car shuffle.

Trip highlights included: Laurayne treating us to a new set of earrings even flasher that those she wore on the Garden of Eden trip, further proving its ok for girls to look good in the hills. Mary dealt with the usual Aarn pack comments, retorting that Aarn packs are great on cold mornings as they keep you warm both back front and back, unlike regular packs and the skeptics had no riposte at all. Gary risked life and limb on April Fools Day by surreptitiously hiding Geoff's ice axe in his pack. The trick back-fired, Geoff's memory is still sharp and as punishment Gary had to carry the ice axe out to the road-end.

We were: **Raymond Ford (Leader), Gary Huish, Kevin Hughes, Karen Keith, Laurayne & Nigel Devery, Geoff Spearpoint, Heather Murray, Mary McKeown & Liz Stephenson.** 🏠 LS

WILDING PINES, 2013 WRAP UP

This year, the wilding pines volunteer days were focused on the terraces in the Broken River catchment where there were thick infestations of seedlings. The Cave Stream terraces were the target of the first day (9 March) and we managed to clear the upper terrace and about half of the lower terrace above the stream. Two weeks later we cleared the terraces in the upper catchment of the Broken River and part of the western face of the ridge that runs alongside the Midland Highway. On the final day (6 April), the volunteers were divided into three groups and sent off to clean up the areas that hadn't been finished on the first two days. Unfortunately, we weren't able to clear the slopes above the Cave Stream terraces as there were too few people and far too many trees, so a return visit will be needed next year. There was a good turnout from PTC—29 people in total (8, 11 & 10). It was pleasing to see several prospective members turning up and volunteering their time for the club. Thanks go to all helpers.

Bruce Stream, Power Stream, Bealey Spur—7 April 2013

Seven arrived at the Bealey Spur car park at 10am NZ Standard Time. Those that hadn't reset their clocks would have arrived at the meeting place an hour early and wondered where the people were.

We started up the broad, gravelly Bruce Stream on a cool but sunny morning with Ruth out front setting a brisk pace. Soon the stream narrowed and boulders became bigger. At one point the vertical walls on either side formed a gorge only 4m wide. In a few places stream progress was too awkward and we had to scramble up through vegetation. Where Power Stream joins the Bruce we veered right but after an estimated 1¼ km we came face to face with an appreciable waterfall which for some reason doesn't rate a mention on the map or Sue's GPS internal map. It was either return or climb up a steep, narrow gully of fine, loose argillite. Tree branches at the side of the gully gave us something to grab but when these ran out we seemed to be hanging on by our finger nails. Small flying rocks were a hazard in places. No route parallel with the stream showed itself so we climbed, hoping to reach Bealey Spur. At two locations I was wondering if we should retreat but we progressed past the last hard bit and on to an easy bit of forest. Soon we were on tussock where we stopped for a well-deserved lunch in the sun. There was no overall desire to go up to the spur hut so we headed down to the cars. If we'd got past the waterfall and attempted the planned trip to the upper Power Stream, we would have run out of daylight. It was an impressive waterfall. 🏠 Kerry Moore

Kaituna Valley - Mt Herbert—Sunday 14 April 2013

On the day before the weather had been cloudy and cool despite the forecast saying that it would be sunny, so I didn't have high hopes when I set out from home around 7.30 to go on Geoff Spearpoint's 'easy-moderate' Kaituna valley trip. The day actually looked promising weather-wise and things looked even better when 18 others also turned up to go on the trip. Meeting Geoff at the turnoff to Kaituna valley about half an hour after

leaving Halswell School we then drove to the head of the valley before wandering up past a farmhouse and continuing on a gentle slope up a four-wheel-drive track through a typical Banks Peninsula landscape dotted with large trees, small remnant patches of bush and open pasture. The sun was out and life was good as Geoff stopped us all near a stand of totara trees, remnants of the original forest in the area. We spent a pleasant few minutes whilst Geoff went off to look for signs of Chilean fireweed, an introduced creeper with a bright red, very attractive, flower. Chilean fireweed is a little like convolvulus in that you can pull off the tops but it grows again immediately from its strong root. Many weed experts think this plant may be a significant threat to our bush ecosystems, and certainly where it has not been controlled, it is prolific. Geoff has the job of controlling this stuff down on Banks Peninsula.

Back on-track we continued up to the ridge at the head of the valley. Here we wandered along a well-formed ridge track that afforded great views down the Kaituna to Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and Kaitorete Spit and the other way down into Koukourarata/Port Levy and across to the Port Hills. We had an early lunch to enjoy the views and the weather—fine but with a cool nor'east breeze. We wandered across to Mt Herbert, a short walk away and then considered how best to get down to the cars.

A certain amount of discussion ensued, before we decided to have a go at the ridge off to our left, rather than attempting to go down a bushy gully that looked like it might require us to upgrade the difficulty level of the trip. As it turned out, we had the perfect easy-moderate bush bash through some very pleasant harakeke/flax and some surprisingly open bush. A short wander through here and we popped out into open pasture again. Around here we dropped out of the wind and the sun provided us with a good excuse for a warm stop, a drink and a view down-valley. Just so it wasn't all too easy, most of us chose to spend some time negotiating a rough pile of rocks nicely covered with bracken and bush lawyer on our way down a steepish, grassy hillside to rejoin the four wheel drive track we had started out on.

Overall, a pleasant autumn day was had by all and for most of us we got to see some new places close to home. Thanks to Geoff for organising the trip and Liz for organising the transport and ensuring that we had an easy-moderate trip. 🏹 **Chrys Horn**



Chilean Fireweed



Totara grove





Announcing
The Peninsula Tramping Club's
Annual



Barn Dance

Saturday 22 June, 8pm till Midnight

Roy Stokes Community Hall, 146 Seaview rd, 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 & The Incredible Ceilidh Band

Spot prizes

Tickets \$25 from any PTC committee member

Contact DAN 021927716 or 03 384 7065

