



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

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May 2015

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|-----------------------|---------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| 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 | Sue Piercey | 384 9567 | Maureen Thompson | 377 2482 |
| Trip Planner | | | Ruth Barratt | 335 0010 |
| Secretary | Merv Meredith | 322 7239 | | |
| Editor | Kerry Moore | 359 5069 | | |

New Member Enquiries Please contact Stan Wilder, 021 255 3880 or swilder@clear.net.nz, 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 **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras Street and Oxford Terrace)** starting promptly at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30.

Tue 12 May



Blue Mountain Wanderings

Whilst visiting Sydney in late 2013, **Terry Thomsen** took several days out to visit the Blue Mountains, where he walked some of the best tracks in the Katoomba, Wentworth Falls and Blackheath areas.

Supper Duty: Gayle O'Halloran, Miriam Preston, John Rice or Lois Moore

Tue 9 June



Members' Photo Night

Give us a visual report of where you've been tramping or travelling. Your chance to show your photos. Let Brian Smith brian21x@xtra.co.nz know what you wish to display. Bring your photos on flash drive or CD. Book early to reserve your time slot.

Supper Duty: Joy Schroeder, Jane Severn, Richard or Linda Smith

New Venue for Peninsula Tramping Club Nights

PTC club nights are now held at the **Baptist Church Hall at 286 Oxford Terrace**, on the corner of Madras Street and Oxford Terrace, just south of the Avon River and Kilmore Street.

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.

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| 10 May Sun ■ | MT GUY Chris Leaver 322 6445 An easy-moderate trip overlooking Lake Clearwater. Suitable for families. Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd | Maps BX19,J36 Approx cost \$23 |
| 16-17 May Sat-Sun ■ ■ | HOPE-KIWI LODGE Kerry Moore 359 5069 Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way through beech forest and river terraces with minimal up-and-down. With enough people we can do a cross-over trip from the Lake Sumner road and from Windy Point with each group meeting in the middle at H-K Lodge List closes 9 May | Maps BU22,23,L32, M32 |
| 17 May Sun ■ | PACKHORSE HUT FROM GEBBIES PASS Maureen Thompson 377 2482 Easy walk on the peninsula, up through farmland, pine plantations and bush remnants, to cross the volcanic dykes before reaching the sturdy stone Packhorse Hut, from which you'll enjoy excellent views of Lyttelton Harbour. 9am PM Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end, across the road by the river. | Maps BX24,M36 Approx cost \$3 |
| 23-24 May Sat-Sun ■ ■ | BANFIELD HUT Ruth Barratt 335 0010 Easy-moderate trip up the Rakaia River to a small hut a short way up Jagged Stream. Largely 4WD track with a stream crossing and possibly a little scrub and a washout to negotiate. From the hut there could be time for some exploration up the side-stream or up the mountain-sides, to give views of peaks and glaciers at the northern end of the Arrowsmiths. List closes 16 May | Maps BW19,J35 |
| 24 May Sun ■ | STOUR RIVER TO WOOLSHED CREEK Heather Hughes 332 6281 Easy-moderate walk off the Asburton Gorge Road starting up the Stour River before heading up the ridge to the Woolshed Creek Hut. Heading back along the ridge above the old coal mine back to the road. Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd | Maps BX19,K36 Approx cost \$20 |
| 30 May-1J Sat-Mon ■ ■ ■ Q'Bday | 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 true right to Moa Stream, staying the first night at Moa Stream Hut. From there, it's a steady walk up | Maps BV19,BW19,J34,K34 |

North Stream to Moa Saddle at 1078m, then a steep descent into Unknown Stream and downstream to Unknown Hut. Monday is a long plod back down-river, but this time crossing to Fanghill on the true left, after reaching Moa Hut on the right. A great early winter trip.
List closes 9 May

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| 30 May-1J Sat-Mon ■■■ Q'Bday | CEDAR FLAT Raymond Ford 351 9496 An easy-moderate trip inland from Hokitika. Walking up the Toaroha River to Cedar Flats Hut with its elusive hot springs and doing day or round-trips from this point. List closes 9 May | Maps BV19,J33,J34 |
| 29 May-1J Fri-Mon ■■■ Q'Bday | OKARITO BASE CAMP Maureen Thompson 377 2482 The West Coast should be crisp and clear, with snow on the peaks. Staying in a cosy house with a log burner. Note early close-off List closes 9 May | Maps BW16,H34 |
| 1 Jun Sun ■ | OKUKU RIVER - PINCHGUT HUT Leader to be advised Easy trip in to the Pinchgut Hut up the Okuku River. Options for round-trips on tracks cut above the river. Start: 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St | Maps BW23,M34 Approx cost \$7 |
| 6-7 Jun Sat-Sun ■■ | JOLLIEBROOK – GABRIEL Keith McQuillan 384 6164 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 30 May | Maps BU23,M32,M33 |
| 7 Jun Sun ■ | MT WALL Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate walk up to this 1874m outlier of the Craighburn Range between Cheeseman and Broken River ski fields. Starting from the Craighburn visitor centre. Possibility of a round-trip. Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd | Maps BW21,K34 Approx cost \$17 |
| 13-14 Jun Sat-Sun ■■ | OTEHAKE HOT SPRING Kevin Hughes 3326281 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 River. The hot springs are further up the Otehake. Camping out. List closes 6 June | Maps BV20,21,K33 |
| 14 Jun Sun ■ | STONY BAY PEAK - MT BRASENOSE Sue Piercey 384 9567 Moderate walk behind Akaroa, crossing the Misty Peaks Reserve between Stony Bay Peak and Mt Brasenose. Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd | Maps BX25,BY25,N36,N37 Approx cost \$13 |
| 21 Jun Sun ■ | TAYLORS MISTAKE - GODLEY HEAD Margot Bowden 332 7020 Easy , popular walkway, taking in coastal views and old military buildings. Starting along the Boulder Bay track from Taylors Mistake, before continuing up to the military construction on Godley Head and returning to Taylors Mistake along a higher track. Start: 9am Taylors Mistake - Boulder Bay Track near playground | Maps BX24,N36 |

27-28 Jun LAKE DANIELS**Maps BT22,23,L31,M31**■ **Kerry Moore 359 5069**

Easy trip to this beautiful lake to the west of Lewis Pass, surrounded by beech-forested hills. The high-standard, flat walking track is suitable for children.

List closes 20 June**27 Jun CASTLE HILL PEAK****Maps BW21,K34,K35,L34****Saturday Gary Huish 332 7020**

■ **Moderate** climb from Porters Pass to the highest peak on the Torlesse range at nearly 2000m. Fine views all around. Ice axe required. Possibly option of round trip through The Gap.

Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**Approx cost \$12**

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues 19 May Nordic Walking and Dinner at Coriander Restaurant



Come Nordic walking in Hagley Park with PTC member **Yvette So**. Yvette will provide poles and tuition free of charge. Meet at 6pm at Helmores Lane. Names for the walk to **Margot Bowden by 3 May**, to give Yvette time to get poles organized. Nordic walking can also be done with two tramping poles, if you prefer to wait until later to make the decision on whether to come. Dinner is at 7.15pm at Coriander Restaurant, **222 St Asaph Street**, corner of Saint Asaph and Manchester Streets. Coriander is an ethnic Indian restaurant with mains from \$21. Please let Margot know if you are coming to the dinner by **17 May** margot.bowden@gmail.com phone 332 7020.

Tues 16 Jun Cashmere Capers and Mid-Winter Pot Luck Dinner



Come for a suburban walk around well-lit Cashmere Hill's streets, followed by a mid-winter Christmas pot luck dinner at Margot and Gary's home, 5 Patchett Place, Cashmere Hills (please park on Hackthorne Road. Christmas pudding for dessert will be provided. Presents up to a maximum of \$10 can be exchanged and fought over. Walk will start at 6pm from 5 Patchett Place. Dinner at 7.15pm. Please let Margot know by **14 June** if you are coming to dinner.

Contact Margot Bowden, margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020

NOTES

Membership A resignation from long-term members—**John and Ann Blair** have moved to Rangiora. John became a member in August 1973, a month after our Patron, Geraldine Bowman joined.

Alastair Christie has resigned**Deadline for the June newsletter Sun 31 May****Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 26 May****Crampon Auction**

Two pairs of 12 point crampons will be auctioned at the May Club night. They are in excellent condition and have had little use. They will be available to view at the April and May Club nights. Absentee bids can be made. Questions to Gary or Brian

TRIP REPORTS

Lambert Tops — 5-11 February 2015

It pays to be flexible when tramping but this time flexibility was tested on the annual February alpine trip. The initial plans to visit the Snowdrift Range to the west of the Dart River had to be abandoned when the Dart

changed course and required a major deviation that didn't sound attractive with heavy packs. An alternative involved the Lambert River Bridge above the confluence of the Wanganui River which had been replaced just after our trip to the Garden of Eden two years ago. This allowed access to the Lambert Glacier and the Garden of Allah. Geoff had been instrumental in persuading DoC that people would use the bridge and had worked on clearing a track up the ridge. That seemed to determine where but when was determined by the weather in the week before Waitangi weekend.

Day 1 was delayed until Thursday 5 February with a persistent West Coast drizzle that had the river high and the boulders like skating rinks. Skirting reduced river margins took time, the side streams required care and travel was slow. We arrived at the cableway across the Wanganui near Hunters Hut in the dark. The experience of being hunched into a little metal cage and being propelled into the unknown aimed at some waving points of light on the other bank was quite nerve-wracking. For the handle winders, trying to catch a rapidly rotating black object in the dark to use all available momentum was a nervous knuckle event but at least they were warmer than the people waiting their turns. The vacant six-bunk was a fantastic sight and a hot fire and wet clothes soon produced a sauna-like atmosphere that persuaded all eleven of us that sleeping in the hut was preferable to a night out.

Day 2 dawned fine and clear with fresh snow on the tops. We reached the new Lambert Bridge above the junction with the Adams River and saw why DoC had hesitated to replace the structure—raw slip evidence above the far abutment and young regrowth on the near side showing the active environment. The climb up the Lambert Ridge would be steep even without climbing-packs. David made the call that he was having knee trouble and would go back to the hut to wait for us. The bush section was steep but Geoff had warned us that the alpine scrub section was just as hard and even a marked and cut track was an athletic event. Normally reaching tussock is a relief but even that was tall travel at the end of the day. We gratefully reached a saddle above the promised-land to find the intended camping basin below was blanketed in snow. We found a small clear area on the ridge beside some impressive rock formations where a trickling sound below the snow promised a water supply.



Day 3 was to be a traverse onto the Lambert Glacier but our speed the previous day and the thought of heavy packs along some challenging alpine terrain was not attractive. Consensus (or Geoff) converted it to a day trip along the intended route. The thought in everyone's mind as we picked our way through rough scree fields hidden under fresh snow was, "I'm glad we only have day packs". Geoff was determined to press on after lunch as Kate Wooten and Sam Stephenson were on an ambitious FMC sponsored CUTC trip from the Rakaia over the Gardens and he was determined to mark the route through some tricky terrain. He, Gaylene and Raymond pressed on while the rest of us sensibly retreated. We followed Geoff's suggestion of an alternative route back into the gathering cloud traversing easy tussock slopes but they came to an abrupt halt. Fresh snow and loose snowgrass fronds down a steep gully looked treacherous but we used last years' experience with crampons and ice axes to good effect. Fears of a route-finding blunder were dispelled by Geoff's later laconic remark, "yep, I forgot to tell you about that". The three route finders arrived back just as it became pitch black and Geoff was surprised to find tents higher up the ridge. Some rude language bought people out of the tents but it was Kate and Sam's party, not us. They had reversed their trip due to high Clyde River flows but were pleased to discuss the route with Geoff.



Day 4 was the highlight for many of us, especially Calum who found his camera, dropped the day before. Geoff had previously looked at the 1936m peak traversed on the route to the Lambert. There was no record of it being climbed so we were off. It was a great combination of rock scrambling, glacier travel and spectacular scenery. Previously climbed or not, it was a great vantage point, and gave glimpses of previous PTC trips to the Bracken, Gardens and Adams. Kevin had decided that the Lambert Tops were worth further effort and spent the day, and evening, finding impressive rock formations and lighting effects.

Day 5 had always been forecast as a bad weather day. Plans for other trips were washed away in the wind and rain. The Minarets proved their versatility in the conditions. John and Merv claimed their elevated campsite with its better drainage. Aarn pitched a tent with its door towards the wind so that packs in the foyer stopped water infiltration. When the rain cleared about 3pm, Chris and Gary won the clothesline length competition,

lowering the tone of the whole campsite.

Day 6 involved the descent back to the Wanganui. Rain had cleared the air and views were astounding. Sounds in the valley heralded a helicopter coming up the ridge, landing in front of us. It was Search and Rescue, looking for Bret Herman who had been last heard at Scone Hut but was well overdue heading our way. They took off but buzzed us several hours later carrying an additional person with thumbs up, a nice gesture on a successful outcome. We were relieved to meet David climbing to meet us with his knees in better condition after an enforced rest. That night the traditional campfire on the river flats was bitter-sweet as it marked the end of another trip.

Day 7 would always be an anti-climax on the walk out. Fine sunny weather, non-existent side streams and low river flows marked the difference to the walk in.

A fantastic trip to a special area. Geoff may have been disappointed that he had not got us to the Lambert Glacier but we weren't.

Trampers: John Allan, Raymond Ford, Kevin Hughes, Chris Leaver, Callum McIntosh, Merv Meredith, David Ramm, Geoff Spearpoint (leader), Aarn Tate, Gaylene Wilkinson and Gary Huish. 🏔️ GH

Cromwell Base CC12, F41,42:G41,42 - Easter, 2-6 April 2015

Glenda and I last took a base camp to the Cromwell Top 10 at Easter 2005, so it was definitely time we repeated the trip to the land of old gold-mining sites, water races and the new gold—vineyards. Using the same formula, we booked three standard cabins for twelve, sweated over getting the numbers for a while, then ended up with a total of seventeen! We had eight in two 'group' vehicles, that is Glenda, me (Merv), Helen Harkness and Jill Fenner in ours, plus Penny Coffey, Margaret Lovell-Smith and Shane Wright in Liz Stephenson's. Keith Patterson and Yvonne came from Oamaru, Mary and Tim Hines came via Dunedin. So did Tricia Meehan who flew down from Wellington, visited Dunedin and then bused up to Cromwell to arrive at the Top 10 at the same time as we did! Then Maureen Thompson and Graham, plus Marion and Keith McQuillan arrived in their campervans. With the vans parked near our cabins and the facilities block, our 'village' was conveniently set up. Our numbers were then swelled at times by Lesley Anderson from Wanaka, plus Colin and Heather, who were staying with Lesley.

Our vehicle had the luxury of leaving town early afternoon, on another lovely nor-west day to arrive early evening. Not so Liz and co. Leaving Chch after work they arrived at 11.15pm. The pleasant warm and westerly conditions proved to be pretty much what we would have for the entire weekend and allowed us to sit at the tables on the terrace outside the kitchen for evening meals.

FRIDAY – CAIRNMUIR

Cairnmuir Track starts from Bannockburn and runs along the range above the Cromwell Gorge all the way to Clyde. Our objective was halfway along this track—the old stone hut at Boundary Stream. Conditions were even drier than usual with lots of thyme growing there. After lunch three of us walked on for a view down into the gorge and then caught the others on the way back down. Back in Cromwell, Glenda and I checked out the cafes for our planned Sunday evening's meal out. The usual base-camp very social evening followed, including a well-catered-for organised 'potluck' dinner.

SATURDAY – CARRICKTOWN, YOUNG AUSTRALIAN

Carricktown is a popular track up-valley, south of Bannockburn, popular for intermediate bikers, too. Not everyone continued on to the Young Australian water wheel and yes, I admit I had suggested before we left base that we were going for a gentle wander around the Sluicings. But on this up and back with an all-day view we mostly arrived back at the road-end together, happy I hope. I did get my leg pulled about it for the rest of the weekend. Another fine evening and dinner number two on the terrace.

SUNDAY – LOWBURN AND CARDRONA TRACK

We didn't go up the west side of the lake last time so this was a must for the majority of our group. Access to the old pack track is up Lowburn Valley Rd, then Swann Rd, to start via Lowburn Station yard. It's a farm road all the way, often zigzagging up spurs to gain the gentle slopes higher up. Surprisingly, it was overcast and easterly to start the morning and we eventually climbed up into the cloud. But just when needed, the cloud broke up and cleared to a brilliant day along the tops. We had lunch near the junction of the track leading to the poled route heading north-west to Cardrona and the farm track continuing north. The private MacMillan

Hut along that road was dismantled and having a new floor installed by a large work party; or maybe being completely rebuilt. After lunch, Penny, Shane and I went for a gallop down to Deep Creek Hut on the Cardona route. An old station hut that DoC had brought up to standard internally, it is in a great spot. Meanwhile, the second group with MTBs had walked around the Sluicings then explored by bike. Another fine evening encouraged socialising on the kitchen terrace, followed by dinner at the Brewhouse restaurant in Cromwell.

MONDAY –THINGS ON THE WAY HOME

We weren't finished. Departing our base, we went to:

Old Cromwell Town for a wander

Quartz Reef up the side of the lake for a walk to the fascinating herringbone tailings.

In via Bendigo for the long drive up to Welshtown on the high terrace.

Lunch on a very busy Easter Monday at Wrinkly Ram in Omarama

So with great weather and a group of seventeen, how could it not be a very enjoyable Easter weekend?

 **Merv Meredith**



On the Cairnmuir Track with Cromwell below