



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

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May 2016

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	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
Editor	Ruth Barratt	335 0010		

New Member Enquiries Please contact Stan Wilder, 260 2340 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 10 May **Linking the Chch 360 Trail to Banks Peninsula Te Araroa, the Great Walks, and Mother Nature**



Walking enables us to connect with, contemplate and fully experience our natural and cultural heritage at ground level. Colin Meurk will explore the connections locally, regionally and nationally

Supper Duty: Brian or Mary Jane Bonsell, John Borner or Eileen Arnett, Rick Bolch

Tue 14 June **Lydia Bradey – Tramping and Climbing through the Decades**



Lydia was the first woman to ascend Mt Everest without oxygen, and is one of five female guides in New Zealand. Lydia will share some of her stories which will include her earlier days with Christchurch tramping clubs.

Supper Duty: Mike Bourke, Sven Brabyn, Milan Brisnik, Sue Britain

Tue 14 June Lydia Bradey	An entry charge of \$5 will be made to partly cover the costs for presenting this meeting. Lydia's choice of charity is Forgotten Sherpas of Nepal Trust. This trust is based in Geraldine, Canterbury. See their website http://www.forgottensherpas.org/ for the work they are involved with. An opportunity will be available at the meeting to make a donation to this trust otherwise a donation can be made via the trust website
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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.

7 May **MT RICHARDSON** **Maps BW22,L34**
Saturday **Margot Bowden 332 7020**
 ■ Popular **easy-moderate** tramp along reasonable tracks through beech forest to this 1000m tussock top. Good views of Lees Valley and Puketeraki Range.
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$9**

14-15 May **JOLLIEBROOK - GABRIEL** **Maps BU23,M32,M33**
Sat-Sun **Gavin Chalk 027 750 8943**
 ■■ **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 7 May

14-15 May **CYCLING TO HURUNUI HUT, LAKE SUMNER AREA**
Sat-Sun **Chris Leaver 322 6445, ptc75@clear.net.nz**
 ■■  Driving to Lake Taylor via Hawarden Saturday morning. Cycle around the lake on a 4WD road to Loch Katrine and along the flat grassy valley to the Hurunui swing bridge. The hut is 20 or so minutes further up. Option for a soak in the hot pools about an hours walk away, or laze near the hut. Sunday, for more of an adventure we could return by climbing 200m over a low saddle then down 2km to the pretty Lake Mason. Cycle down the Hurunui River south branch, climb 250m to the saddle between Oronoko Range/Woolshed Ridge for spectacular view north to Lake Taylor and free wheel back down to the cars.
List closes 7 May

15 May **NIKAU PALM GULLY** **Maps BY25,N37**
Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ■ This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot. The plentiful nikau palms there are notable for being the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an **easy** tramp towards the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour.
Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$14**

21-22 May **LAKE LYNDON BASE CAMP** **Maps BW21,K34**
Sat-Sun **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**
 ■■ We'll be staying at the lodge south of Lake Lyndon, and doing day walks of all grades in the area. **List closes 15 May**

- 22 May Sun** ■ **MT BARROSA** **Sue Piercey 384 9567** **Maps BX19,J36**
 A **moderate** 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 a 1364m peak.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$19**
- 28-29 May Sat-Sun** ■■ **TARN HUT** **Keith McQuillan 384 6164** **Maps BV22,L34**
Easy-moderate tramp tfrom Lees Valley to charming little Tarn Hut located above the bushline on the Puketeraki Range.
List closes 21 May
- 29 May Sun** ■ **PORTERS PASS - RABBIT HILL** **Maps BW21,K35**
TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.
Easy-moderate walk to 1200m Rabbit Hill in Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park. Starting near Porters Pass.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$13**
- 4-6 Jun Sat-Mon** ■■■ **MT FYFFE TRAVERSE** **Merv Meredith 322 7239** **Maps BT27,O31**
Moderate-hard complete winter traverse of Mt Fyffe, from the reserve at the southern end, up along the full length, down Raven Spur into the Hapuku and back via the Hapuku and Kowhai Rivers.
Easier this time compared to the usual Friday night start. This time we will be leaving Chch late Saturday morning for a leisurely walk up to Mt Fyffe Hut in the afternoon. **BUT**, then an early start on Sunday with the sun coming up out of the sea, across Gable to Gables End, along Raven Spur and the bush-bash down to the Hapuku. Sunday night at the Hapuku Hut for an easier Monday over Kowhai Saddle and back to the start
List closes 25 May
- 4-6 Jun Sat-Mon** ■■■ **MT FYFFE - KOWHAI RIVER** **Maps BT27,O31**
TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.
 A **moderate** traverse of Mt Fyffe. Friday evening start to Kaikoura and walk up the 4WD track to Mt Fyffe hut for the night. Saturday involves the Mt Fyffe traverse across Gable to Gables End and down to the Kowhai Saddle then to Kowhai Hut. Sunday is more leisurely—down the Kowhai River and out.
List closes 25 May
- 4-6 Jun Sat-Mon** ■■■ **KAIKOURA BASE** **Leo Manders 356 1731** **Maps BT27,O31**
 Kaikoura is a wonderful, popular location for base camps. A great variety of walks from bush to beach and the stunning Kaikoura Peninsula are available. Options for varying degrees of fitness and preference or you can just relax and soak up the sea air and mountain views. We'll have the usual pot luck feast on Saturday night. Leaving Friday afternoon or early evening and returning Monday late afternoon. If you have comments or queries please contact **Leo Manders 356 1731, 027 442 6080 leomanders@paradise.net.nz**
List closes 25 May
- 5 Jun Sun** ■ **RAKAIA GORGE WALKWAY** **Maps BX20,K35**
TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.
 This **easy** trip offers a return walk with a spectacular cliff-top traverse of the Rakaia Gorge to the remains of the Snowdon coal mine. Views across the river to Mt Hutt with its likely winter coat of snow.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$12**
- 11-12 Jun Sat-Sun** ■■ **KIRWANS HUT** **Raymond Ford 351 9496** **Maps BS21,22,L30**
Easy-moderate tramp up a well-graded old miners' pack track in Victoria Forest Park near

Reefton. A 900m slow climb through the forest to this comfortable hut near the bush edge with great views. Optional side-trip to tussock-topped Kirwans Hill.

List closes 4 June

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| 11 Jun
Saturday
■ | HINEWAI
Margot Bowden 332 7020
This easy-moderate trip visits a 980ha botanical reserve occupying most of Otanerito Valley in south-east Banks Peninsula. The area has about 12km of tracks and is privately managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife.
Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd | Maps BY25,N36,N37

Approx cost \$13 |
| 18-19 Jun
Sat-Sun
■■ | WOOLSHED CREEK BASE CAMP
Gary Huish 332 7020
Easy tramp to the comfortable hut, behind Mt Somers. Saturday morning departure from town, and only 3 hours walking without waist deep snow. We will celebrate the close to the longest night with a mid-winter feast.
List closes 12 June | Maps BX19,K36 |
| 19 Jun
Sun
■ | CAMP SADDLE - LYNDON SADDLE
Kerry Moore 359 5069
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 Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd | Maps BW21,K34

Approx cost \$16 |
| 25-26 Jun
Sat-Sun
■■ | PINCHGUT HUT
TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip
An easy, almost flat, trip up the Okuku River in the Mt Thomas Forest to a comfortable hut.
List closes 18 June | Maps BW23,M34 |
| 26 Jun
Sun
■ | MOUNT AICKEN – MOUNT O'MALLEY
Gary Huish 332 7020
This trip, traversing the range between two of the peaks in Arthur's Pass NP, makes an excellent moderate round-trip. Take your ice-axe and crampons.
Start: 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd | Maps BV20,K33

Approx cost \$24 |

SOCIAL EVENTS

Thurs 19 May **Ch-Ch Walk and Ch-themed Pot-luck Dinner**



Enjoy a moonlit walk along the Sumner and Redcliffs foreshore before dinner in Sumner. Meet at **30A Peacock St at 6pm** for a short walk around the chic Victoria neighbourhood. Back to Maureen's place at about 6.45 pm for a cheerful, chatty, pot-luck dinner. Contributions must start with CH eg Chicken, Chinese anything. Easy. However Cheerios will be churlishly refused entry. A couple of games of charades may be played between courses. Small house so limited to first 20 charming people. Bookings to Maureen Thompson 377 2482 or 021 266 5778 or mothompson@xtra.co.nz

June

Details to follow



The social event for June is yet to be confirmed. More details to follow later

NOTES

Deadline for the June newsletter Sun 5 June. Send items for the newsletter to Ruth Barratt

Next committee meeting: 7:30pm Tue 31st May at Sue Piercey's

Membership: Michael & Faine Kelly have resigned

TRIP REPORTS

Broken River Hut – 16-17 June

Flock Hill's manager couldn't be contacted for permission to take the Winding Creek route to Broken River Hut but four of us set out for the area anyway. We dropped in to the Flock Hill HQ and asked directly but that met with a firm NO. Plan B was to drive almost to Cass and take the Craigieburn Road with its many rail crossings and fourteen gates to a car park just short of Avoca Homestead. DoC has lovingly restored this house built in 1906 and it's now a unique hut. See the video describing it and surrounds at:

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/ondemand/meet-the-locals/null/series-s2007-episode-series-1-episode-43>



A real 4WD can cross Broken Rr and drive right up to the hut. In fact 50 4WDs can park on the large front lawn and they did on the Sunday as part of a fund-raiser for a Malvern district church. We parked at a service area near a railway viaduct, walked back along the road a few hundred metres and then along a vehicle track, under the viaduct, over the river to the hut. Two hunters had gear on beds so we four spread ourselves around the three bedrooms. The hut sleeps six.

After a leisurely lunch we walked up a vehicle track to point 667 to sit in the sun and look down on rail tunnels and viaducts. If we'd waited another 40 minutes we could have seen the Trans-Alpine on its way east. Back at our base we had soup then a poor imitation of spaghetti bolognaise made with Leggos Pizza topping and an onion soup. As cook I can write this. The custard with gingernuts and chocolate buttons was a success. The hunters turned up and while they were eating their dinner we sang them ancient TV jingles we thought they should know about—Chesdale, BP and Griffins gingernuts. This may have driven them out to sleep under the big pines or perhaps they decided the hut was too warm for a comfortable sleep as we'd got the wood stove going.



Sunday dawned fine and cool. It would have been nice to wade up-river to the abandoned coal mine but we didn't relish the thought of chilling river crossings so we decided to see if there was a way up-river using the track we'd gone up the day before. The track stayed high and near a patch of beech forest it stopped so we decided to go up 1286m Bold Hill. We chose to follow a strip of tussock alongside a deeply eroded gully. Further up, the terrain became scree and rock, with minimal vegetation. The view from the top down to Waimak Gorge, Staircase Gully and out to the plains is impressive.

Back at the hut there was a 4WD with a man and excited kids. As we packed up the guy offered to give us a ride back to the car to speed us on our way and save us getting wet feet. We accepted gratefully. The road out was just as dusty and corrugated but seemed even longer than it was the day before. The homestead/hut is a great little retreat and quite accessible by car. Be sure to take willing gate openers with you. In summer-time the river walk to the old coal mine or on to Broken Rr Hut would appeal. We were: Margaret Clark, Graeme Hunter, Jane Smith and Kerry Moore. 🏠 KM



Broken River Avoca – Sunday 17th April

Five of us turned up at Church Corner and although the leader was unable to join us on the day, we set off with a map and enthusiasm. We stayed true to the original plans, parking by the old Avoca railway halt and then walking up to and along the incline to the remains of the mining machinery. As we pottered around and had our first early lunch we spotted a cavalcade of 4WD vehicles away in the distance. We were to see them again! I managed to find a dropped muesli bar – obviously that day or the previous – and wondered if it was our group. Stewart was doing a great job of leading and managed to get us down to the river through a bit of a tree fall bush bash. Looking back up the way we had come down it was difficult to see how, but we had followed a good animal trail. A few utes were parked at the start of the gorge so we assumed there were hunters up river towards Broken River Hut. We wondered again where the other PTC group were.



It didn't take long to reach the Avoca Homestead, which was as nice as described in Kerry's report above. We saw packs and read the hut book entry but were not sure if the party was the PTC as the PTC name was not mentioned in the entry (naughty!). After a 2nd leisurely lunch we headed back up the bank again to the farmland on top where we stopped to wonder at 50 odd 4WDs driving across the river to the homestead. We soon picked up the farm track back to the car

and were able to catch a coal train crossing the viaduct. Although we didn't return via No-Mans-Land we all enjoyed a pleasant day.

We were: Stuart Payne, Penny Coffey, Maureen, Ruth Barratt and Norman Burden 🇳🇿 RB



Bridge to nowhere!



Broken River

Thirteen Mile Bush—10 April 2016

Eight keen trampers met at Church Corner to travel to BenMore Station, not far from Springfield. There was no problem finding the well signposted car-park and we were soon walking on a farm vehicle track in pasture-land dotted with gorse. A few km in, the beech forest starts with a few minor crossings of 13 Mile Bush Stream. From the car to the hut you gain about 300m in altitude. It took us 2 hours so we had an early lunch and lazed in the sun. The hut is an unusual semi A-frame design. The farmer warned us there were likely to be hunters in the area so we didn't venture beyond the hut and returned to the cars at mid-afternoon—a good short day out.

We were: **Maree Richard, Ruth Barratt, Norman Burden, Joy Schroeder, Dorota Giejsztowt, Sue Piercey, Chris Leaver and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM

