



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
May 2019*

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Executive Committee

President	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Vice-President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Social Events	Maureen Thompson	021 2665778
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097		Margot Bowden	332 7020
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239			



New Member Enquiries:	Stan Wilder	260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters
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Our Club

The PTC 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.

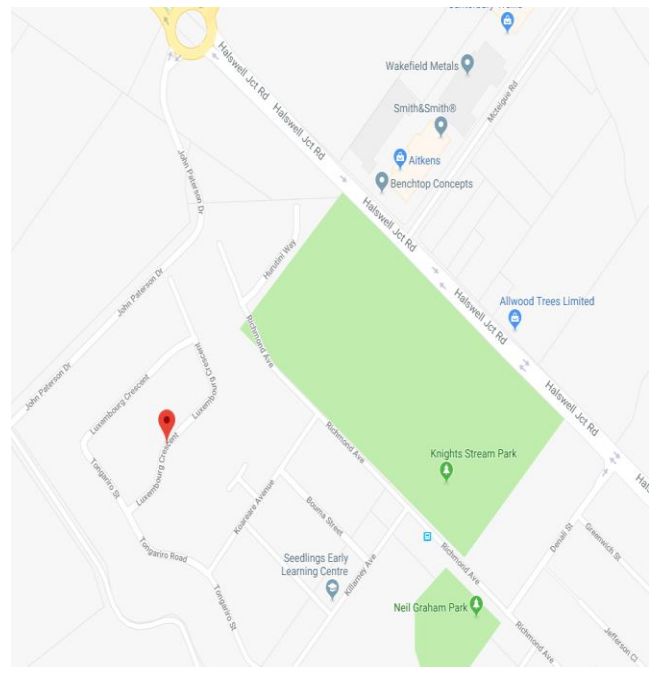
CLUB NIGHTS

Club Nights are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St. and Oxford Terrace)** at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

Tuesday, 14 May 	African Adventures Chris Leaver and Graham Townsend will describe a number of their adventures in Africa. These include Ruwenzori hiking in Uganda, plus wildlife viewing in central Tanzania and Botswana's Okavango delta. <i>Supper duty: Terry Thomsen and Shi Ping Wang</i>
Tuesday, 11 June 	Club Members Photos Come and share your tramping photos with fellow club members. Book in (early) your 10 minute (or less) presentation with Brian Smith. brian21x@xtra.co.nz Assemble your presentation and bring it to club night on a flash drive or laptop, and give it to Brian, by 7.30pm.

SOCIAL EVENTS

<p>Wednesday 22 May</p>	<p>Escape from the Room to earn Dessert at Maureen's place</p> <p>Escape rooms are filled with intriguing puzzles, and decorated with unique themes and props. The Dark Wizard (a new room) or the Indiana Jungle. Work as a team to solve the puzzles in an hour. Each puzzle leads to another one like a treasure hunt. There are several rooms to choose from, so if you have done it before, you can try a new one. You aren't actually locked in the room so it is not claustrophobic. See https://escapeartists.nz/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>6.50 pm</u>: Meet at Escape Artists, 2/25 Churchill St, Christchurch. It's an office block near the Fitzgerald/Bealey intersection. Ten minute briefing. • 7 pm: Enter the escape rooms in teams of 4 – 6. The organisers give you clues if you get stuck, so you won't miss dessert. It will take one hour. • 8.15 pm: Drive a short distance to Maureen's house 30A Peacock St for coffee/tea/hot chocolate and dessert, e.g. Sticky date, lemon delicious <p>Costs: \$25 for the Escape room (Possibly \$22 if we have enough people). Plus \$5 for dessert.</p> <p>Bookings by Wednesday 15 May to Maureen Thompson mothompson1212@gmail.com or 021 266 5778.</p>
<p>Tuesday 18 June</p>	<p>Walk and pot luck dinner at Heather and Kevin's</p> <p>Take a leap into the unknown beyond Google Earth and enjoy a tour of one of Christchurch's newest developing neighbourhoods!</p> <p>Meet at 6.30pm for a short walk, and 7pm for the pot luck dinner at Heather and Kevin Hughes, 56 Luxembourg Crescent, Halswell.</p> <p>Please see the map or use Ctrl + Click on the link https://goo.gl/maps/KaZ4JXw9qFaxnY686</p> <p>Any queries, please phone Heather 332 6281.</p>



NOTES

President's notes

Hi everyone.

The trip planning meeting was very successful again with a lot of great suggestions coming from members. Thank you! Your efforts are appreciated by all in the club who get to enjoy these trips. What the Executive Committee needs now is some quite specific details about your suggested trip that could be put in the newsletter to advertise it. We would be grateful if you could email a description to Kerry. One more request: if an exec member rings you up to lead a trip please be willing to yes where possible. We need all members to share in the task of leading to avoid a small number of people being overloaded with leadership duties. And let's hope the weather will very soon click out of its current pattern of being fine all week and unfriendly at weekends.

Happy tramping!

Diane

The May night sky

The evening summer constellations are diving into the west; Orion sets in the evening and is followed by bright Sirius, the Dog Star, with Canopus high in the sky to its South. May evenings see the Southern Cross and the two pointers at their highest and most splendid in the Southern sky, surrounded by the glow of the Milky Way.

Looking North, the sky does not have much to show except the bright white star Spica, surrounded by the rather faint constellation of Virgo. Further towards the northern horizon is another bright star - orange Arcturus, the 4th brightest star in the sky.

Early evening, bright Jupiter rises in the East; fainter Saturn follows about two hours later. The more conspicuous of winter's constellations are rising too: above Jupiter is Scorpius with its distinctive curved tail, and the red giant star Antares forms part of its back. Alongside Jupiter is Sagittarius, which has been likened by the imaginative (or deluded) to a teapot, with its spout pointing at Antares and its lid pointing northeast. Venus rises in the pre-dawn sky about 6 am.

The centre of our Milky Way galaxy lies about 26,000 light years away in the direction of Sagittarius, but it's well hidden by intervening stars, gas clouds, and dust. If you could fly there at the speed of a modern passenger jet, it would take about 500,000,000,000,000 years. Take something to read.

New moon is 5th May, first quarter is on 12th, full moon on 19th, and last quarter on 27th.

Graham Townsend

Tracking those pesky wilding conifers

Land Information New Zealand have recently developed a new app 'Wilding Watch' for reporting infestations of wilding conifers. The app can be downloaded onto your mobile phone. The information will be collated and used to provide an up to date picture of wilding pine infestations. Press Ctrl + click on the following link to obtain the app.

<https://wildpines.linz.govt.nz/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=107dc24b6a784d2a810ee664fa0a3036>

PTC - FMC Photo Competition 2019

This year, we are planning a PTC competition to choose entries for the FMC Photo Competition, which closes on 15th September. Entries to the PTC competition are open NOW, so please have a look at your recent piccies, load some on a memory stick and pass to Brian Smith or ask Brian how best to submit. Closing date for entries to the PTC competition is **30th JUNE 2019**.

Full details of the PTC and FMC Photo Competition, including categories, formats, etc. have already been circulated on a Communicator email 27.04.19, so hopefully, you have it in mind anyway.

Merv M

Membership

The Club welcomes new member Jan Finlayson.

Deadline for the June newsletter: Friday, 31 May 2019 – please send newsletter items to Raymond Ford: fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 28 May 2019.

Trip Photos:

The Club maintains a gallery of photographs on its website. Keeping this up to date allows people to see what recent trips the Club has undertaken. Can trip leaders send or nominate someone to send some photographs from each trip to Kevin Hughes, ptc@nivek.co.nz, so we can keep this record current?

FORTHCOMING 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 accepted). Numbers on some weekend trips are limited, so book promptly.

Bike Trips

The Club has a mountain biking section –‘Fat Tyre Fanatics’, who head out on casual day trips throughout the year. For details about club biking trips, contact Chris Leaver 03 322 6445, or newptc75@gmail.com.

12 May **Five Gully Stream—Mt Storm** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**

Sun <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32981/Mount-Storm/Canterbury>

***** A moderate climb of this 1254m peak from near Mt Pember homestead. A choice of spurs mean we can make a circuit of it.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

Approx cost \$14

18-19 May **Mount Somers Walkway** **Sue Piercey 384 9567**

<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/trck129509/Mount-Somers-Walkway/Canterbury>

****** A moderate walkway hike in fascinating volcanic terrain, from Woolshed Creek to the Staveley end.

List closes 12 May

18 May **Pine Day** **Grant Hunter 351 6369**

Saturday <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32858/Parapet-Rock>

***** A satisfying day in Castle Hill Basin cutting and pulling wildings to stem the westward march of pines.

Book by 6pm Friday 17 May

Approx cost \$0

19 May **Mount Somers** **Gary Huish 332 7020**

Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/trck129509/Mount-Somers-Walkway/Canterbury>

***** Moderate climb of this 1687m extinct volcano from the Sharplin Falls end.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

Approx cost \$19

25-27 May **Black Hill Hut—Chest Peak** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**

<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32973/Black-Hill-Hut/Canterbury>

******* Moderate trip to this hut in Oxford Forest. Three days to allow a full day to climb Chest Peak. Less energetic people could be content with a walk to the top of 1300m Black Hill for the view or over to Salmon Creek.

List closes 19 May

26 May **Mt Lance via Tommys Cabin** **Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**

Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34018/Mount-Lance/Canterbury>

***** An easy-moderate walk to this 778m hill inland from Hawarden.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

Approx cost \$17

- 1-3 Jun** **Nina—Boscawen—Rough Creek** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Queens <https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35190/Mount-Boscawen/West-Coast>
Birthday Wkd
******* A moderate circuit up the Nina River to Nina Bivvy then over Boscawen Saddle to Lake Christabel Hut. Day Three goes to the highway via Rough Creek.
List closes 26 May
- 2 Jun** **Doctors Hills** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33577/Doctors-Hills/Canterbury>
***** So named because a local doctor used to wander there, this easy trip inland from Waikari gives views of Pyramid Valley and Moa Swamp.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$14**
- 8-9 Jun** **Broken River Hut** **Peter Umbers 359 9118** pumbers@actrix.co.nz
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32665/Broken-River-Hut/Canterbury>
****** An easy walk on Flock Hill Station along Winding Creek to this hut beside Broken River.
List closes 2 June
- 9 Jun** **Purple Hill** **Evelien Baas 027 557 5521**
Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32881/Purple-Hill/Canterbury>
***** A moderate climb of this 1680m peak above Lake Pearson with superb views around Castle Hill Basin.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$17**
- 15-18 Jun** **Welcome Flat Hot Springs** **Diane Mellish 337 5530** mellishdiane@gmail.com
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz26154/Welcome-Flat/West-Coast>
******** An easy-moderate walk to this popular large hut in Westland beside the famous hot pools.
List closes 9 June
- 15 Jun** **Le Bons Peak—Panama Rock Reserve** **Chris Leaver 322 6445**
Saturday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz37115/Le-Bons-Peak/Canterbury>
***** An easy-moderate circuit from near the Le Bons settlement, along Lavericks Road and down through the Panama Reserve. Call Chris if you are interested in staying overnight in the Panama Reserve Hut.
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark **Approx cost \$14**
off Cashmere Rd
- 22-23 Jun** **Wheel Creek Hut—Mount Crosscut** **Dan Pryce 356 1962**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35980/Wheel-Creek-Hut/Tasman>
****** A moderate track along Wheel Creek leads to 6 bunk WC Hut. Its at 815m to give good access to the tussock tops of the Victoria Range and 1613m Crosscut Peak.
List closes 16 June
- 22 Jun** **Shortest Day, Hinewai—Stones** **Doug Forster 337 5453**
Saturday <https://www.hinewai.org.nz/maps>
***** An moderate circuit in the Hinewai area, taking about 6 hours. Starting at the summit of Stony Bay Rd. and dropping down the new Stony Bay Stream track, and then climbing up farmland to The Stones. Returning via Lisburn & Broom tracks over Stony Bay Peak.
Meet 7:30am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE **Approx cost \$13**
carpark off Cashmere Rd

- 29-30 Jun** **Edwards—Williams Saddle** **Leader needed**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32175/Williams-Saddle/Canterbury>
****** A moderate round-trip to Edwards Hut then over 1327m Williams Saddle and returning by the Mingha River. The Edwards River is a good spot to see blue ducks.
List closes 23 June
- 30 Jun** **Kennedys Bush Track--Mt Cavendish** **Leader needed**
Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29916/Kennedys-Reserve/Canterbury>
***** This 9km stretch is half of the 18km Sugarloaf Leg of the Chch 360 circuit We'll go from the quarry to the Sign of the Kiwi.
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark **Approx cost \$2**
off Cashmere Rd
- 6-7 Jul** **Hanmer mid-winter base** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/hanmer-forest-park/things-to-do/hanmer-forest-park-tramping-tracks>
****** Depending on who goes, trips can include, Dog Stream Waterfall, Charon, Dunblane, Isobel, and Seymour. We need a \$25 deposit so we can book accomodation. Note the early closing date. Friday night start and usual Sat night pot luck.
List closes Wed 5 June
- 7 Jul** **Waikari WW + Mt Cass** **Leader needed**
Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33607/Mount-Cass/Canterbury>
***** An easy short walk from Waikari to the Timpendean Rock drawings then a circuit in more limestone country—the Mt Cass walkway.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$14**
- 13-16 Jul** **Old Ghost Road** **Names to Kerry M 359 5069**
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/west-coast/places/mokihinui-river-area/things-to-do/tracks/the-old-ghost-road>
******** An adventure in the newly built walkway. Early closing date to allow for bookings.
List closes 30 June
- 13 July** **Port Hills Mystery walk** **Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**
Saturday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29934/Otamahua%2fQuail-Island/Canterbury>
***** An easy-moderate, cunning plan devised by Bruce
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, NE carpark
off Cashmere Rd
- 20-21 July** **Gabriel--Jolliebrook** **Diane Mellish 337 5530 mellishdiane@gmail.com**
Saturday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz34304/Gabriel-Hut/Canterbury>
****** Easy-moderate round-trip in Lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flats of the Hurunui, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, going over a low bush saddle to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes a bit more open and there are a few stream (brook) crossings.
List closes 14 Jul
- 21 July** **Mt Foweraker** **Peter Umbers 359 9118 pumbers@actrix.co.nz**
Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz31624/Red-Beech-Stream/Canterbury>
***** Moderate-hard trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1804m peak between Sudden Valley and Red Beech Stream. This peak acquired its name just a few years ago.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$19**

27-30 July	Heaphy Track	Sonja Risa sonja.risa@gmail.com
****	https://www.doc.govt.nz/heaphytrack A great walk done out of season so it costs less. Goes from North Westland to Nelson with an enormous variety of scenery List closes 14 July	
27-28 July	Youngman Stream Hut--Lilburne Hill	Leader needed
Saturday	http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33039/Lilburne-Hill/Canterbury ** Easy-moderate tramp to Youngman Stream Hut in the upper Ashley. We will exit via Lilburne Hill and Tarn Hut List closes 21 July	
28 July	Knowles Top	Kerry Moore 359 5069
Sunday	http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz32853/Knowles-Top/Canterbury * Easy-moderate trip up a spur off the Glentui Rd, with good views of Ashley Gorge, plains and coast. Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St	
		Approx cost \$11

TRIP REPORTS

Taipo River Kelly Range 13 – 14 April

Seven keen hikers met at Merv's 7.30 am Saturday morning. Our original plan was to tramp up the Taipo River to Dillons Hut on Saturday, then stroll up the river to the old cable way, and perhaps beyond. However, the weather had changed a bit with cloud and possible shower forecast on Sunday so the leader opted instead for the Carroll Hut route to ensure the best conditions over the Kelly Range.

By the time we got to Kelly car park and shuttled a car to the Taipo River we finally departed after 10.30am, which probably meant fading light at the end of the day? Just as we left, a van load of Cashmere High School students arrived intending to hike to Dillons Hut All 10 of them! Blue skies, calm and cool, we made our way slowly up the steepish Carroll Hut track through the damp bush. A couple of hours later, above the bush line, we had lunch in the sun, an hour from the hut. Carroll Hut sits on a tussock ridge with great views over the Aicken and Kaimata ranges. It's a popular hut in all seasons but not winter as there is no stove!!

We began climbing the well graded track to the tops of the Kelly Range in warm sunshine and blue skies traversing through the many tarns glinting in the sunshine, nestled in the high country golden tussock. Soon enough the Taipo valley and river was in view, and we started to make our way down through the over grown scrub to link up with the track that leads down to the river and hut. After 4pm, time was creeping on and the descent was slow and long. Keith, Vesna and Dorota arrived first at Dillons Hut about 6.30ish Dan and Lee had their torches out for their last hour as did Merv and Norman, who arrived an hour or so later.

The students had stopped for the night at the old Dillons Homestead hut. Two sociable West Coast guys were in residence at the new Dillons Hut they had the fire going, and were enjoying a few Monteiths and a board game. We got dinner on after coffees and soup and enjoyed a convivial evening with most in Disney land...zzz Not long after 10pm, we drifted off to the baleful roars of the deer stags reverberating around the valley.

Sunday dawned cool with clear skies we had a leisurely breakfast and uneventful walk out down the Taipo River to the car we were enjoying coffees at Arthurs Pass by lunchtime, and home by 4ish.

A Big thank you to Merv for looking after the tail of our group and his efficient stove management! And also to Vesna who dispensed large chunks of after dinner chocolate to all!

We were: **Norman Burden, Vesna Mojsilovic, Dorota Giejsztowt, Keith Hoard, Merv Meredith, Lee Varty and Dan Pryce (leader)** 🏠 DP



Figure 1 View down the Kelly Range. Photo courtesy of Dan Pryce

Anzac Day - Port Hills Wander – 25 April 2019

Bruce had planned a clever point to point trip requiring that a car be placed at the far end. Alas, our auto-averse assembly came by bike, motor bike and bus and ONE car, so we did a trip from the Cashmere playground, up along streets and lanes, through Victoria Park to the eastern end of Gilpins Track. Gilpins is the higher track alongside Mitchells, below Sugarloaf and took us to the Sign of the Kiwi where there was no sign of a kiwi, but lots of noisy bellbirds could be heard. We enjoyed a sunny 20 minutes at the Sign of the Kiwi then headed down along Harry El, only retracing our steps as we neared Cashmere Road.

We were: **Bruce Cameron (leader), Karen Garrick, Graham Townsend, Chris Leaver, Hilaire Campbell, Hank Boer, Erin Yeung, Ainslie Talbot and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Figure 2. Stumped! Where are we now? Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore