



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
June 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, 11 June 	Club Members Photos <p>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</p> <p>Assemble your presentation and bring it to club night on a flash drive or laptop, and give it to Brian, by 7.30pm.</p> <p><i>Supper duty: Maureen Whelan, Lorraine and Malcolm Wilmshurst</i></p>
Tuesday, 9 July 	Pack Rafting – 'The high-tech alternative to inner-tubes'. <p>People have been floating down New Zealand rivers for many years in a variety of craft. Pack-rafts have been refined to be both portable enough to be carried on tramping trips, and are sufficiently manoeuvrable to descend major rivers. Come and hear about their history and development.</p> <p><i>Supper duty: Sandra and Bruce White</i></p>

SOCIAL EVENTS

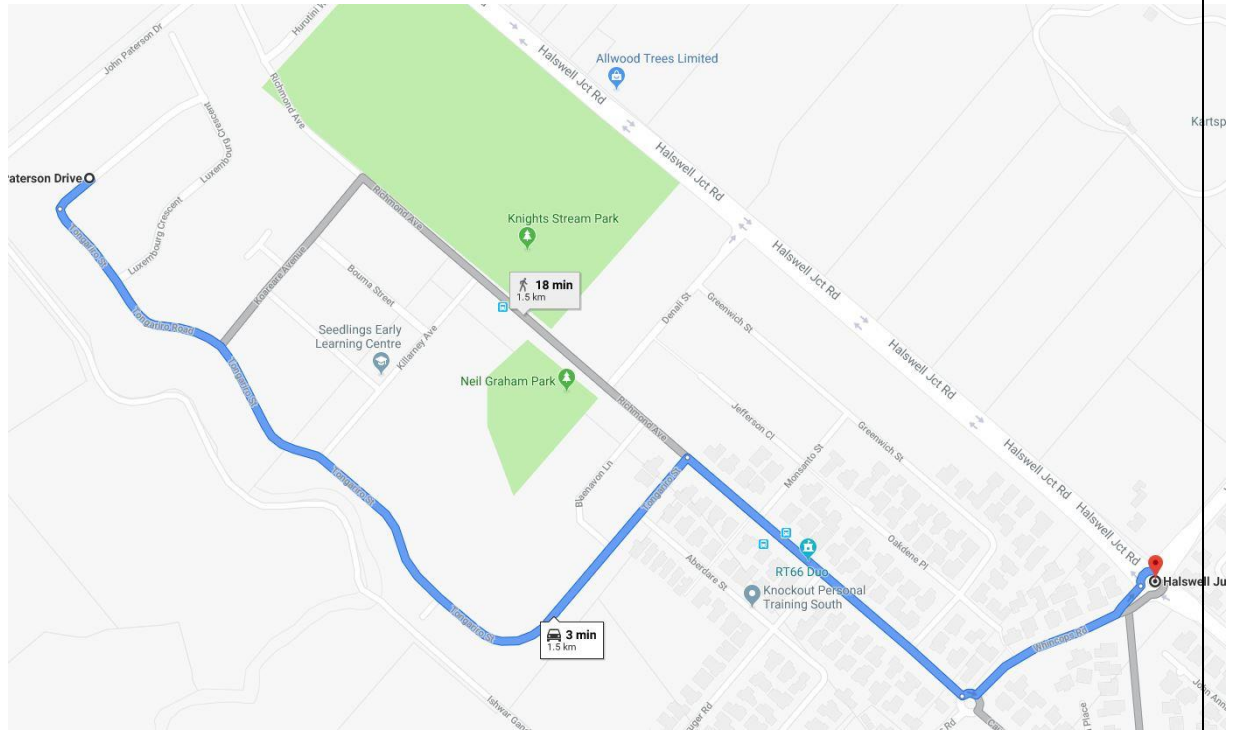
**Tuesday, 18
June**

Walk and pot luck dinner at Heather and Kevin's

Take a leap into the unknown beyond Google Earth and enjoy a tour of one of Christchurch's newest developing neighbourhoods!

Meet at 6.30pm for a short walk, and 7pm for the pot luck dinner at Heather and Kevin Hughes, 56 Luxembourg Crescent, Halswell. Any queries, please phone Heather 332 6281.

To find their house, use the map, or click on the link <https://goo.gl/maps/KaZ4JXw9qFaxnY686>



**Tuesday, 16
July**

Movie night and dinner.

Remember the Beatles? Meet first for a drink or dinner then enjoy a bit of nostalgia. Time and location to be advised, probably the movie at the Academy with dinner at Indian Pearl Restaurant, 352 Colombo St.

“Yesterday” is a 2019 British musical comedy film directed by Danny Boyle and written by Richard Curtis (Love Actually). Himesh Patel (BBC's Eastenders) stars as a struggling singer-songwriter in a tiny English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best friend, Ellie (Lily James, Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again). Then, after a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed... and he finds himself with a very complicated problem, indeed.

Names for the dinner will be required in advance. More details in the July Footnotes.

Any queries, please contact: Maureen Thompson Ph: 021 266 5778 or email: mothompson1212@gmail.com

President's notes

Hello all.

There's not a lot to report on this month. Club business is ticking along and we are getting trips out when the weather allows, though I heard of a member who had his glasses blown off his face in the nor'wester recently! Members' photos night is coming up in a couple of weeks. I hope you will consider contributing so that we get plenty of variety. See you at Club Night.

Diane

The June night sky

Apart from our own Sun, the four apparently brightest stars are Sirius, Canopus, Alpha Centauri and Arcturus. Given a clear sky, you can see them all after sunset. Look west to see Sirius, chasing the constellation Orion down towards the horizon as the Earth turns. Turn a little towards the southwest, and Canopus is there, higher in the sky. Face south and you'll see the Southern Cross high in the sky with the two pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri a little further east. Alpha is actually a double star; each orbits their common centre of mass. A small, very faint third star orbits them both, and this threesome is the nearest star system outside our own family of planets. Looking northeast, you can see orange Arcturus low in the sky.

The massive planet Jupiter is now at its closest to us – almost exactly opposite the Sun, but about four times further away. A good pair of binoculars should show its four biggest moons changing their positions hour by hour as they orbit the planet. Imagine how amazed Galileo must have been when he turned his new telescope to the sky and saw that - putting paid forever to the conceit that everything in the universe rotates around Earth (and earning himself a telling-off and a detention from the Pope). Fainter Saturn rises in the east a couple of hours after Jupiter, while brilliant Venus rises in the pre-dawn eastern sky about 6.30 am. New moon is 3rd June, first quarter is on 10th, full moon on 17th, and last quarter on 25th.

Graham Townsend

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

Deadline for the June newsletter: Friday, 28 June 2019 – please send newsletter items to Raymond Ford: fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 25 June 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.

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| 8-9 June | Broken River Hut
pumbers@actrix.co.nz Peter Umbers 359 9118
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.
Interesting rock formations to be seen.
List closes 2 June |
| 9 June | 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 June | Welcome Flat Hot Springs
Diane Mellish 337 5530
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 June | 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 off Cashmere Rd Approx cost \$15 |
| 22-23 June | Wheel Creek Hut—Mt Crosscut
Dan Pryce 356 1962
http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz35980/Wheel-Creek-Hut/Tasman |
| ** | A moderate track alongside Wheel Creek leads to 6 bunk Wheel Creek Hut. At 815m, it gives good access to the tussock tops of the Victoria Range and 1613m Crosscut Peak.
List closes 16 June |

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- 20-21 July Gabriel—Jolliebrook Diane Mellish 337 5530**
<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 July
- 21 July Mt Foweraker Peter Umbers 359 9118**
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 -- sonja.risa@gmail.com**
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/heaphytrack>
******** A great walk done out of season so costs less. Goes from North Westland to Nelson with an enormous variety of scenery
List closes 29 June
- 27-28 July Youngman Stream Hut--Lilburne Hill Bill Templeton 354 2277**
<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 \$12
- 3-4 Aug Te Ara Pataka Track Awaiting leader**
<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz29946/Waipuna-Saddle/Canterbury>
An easy-moderate trip to the charming Rod Donald Hut on Te Ara Pataka track. Has a wood-burner. Possible Fri night start so you can stay at Packhorse Hut as well
List closes 21 July
- 4 Aug Evans Pass Keith McQuillan 384 6164**
Sunday <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz30181/Lyttelton/Canterbury>
Reacquaint yourself with the Evans Pass area which was closed after the quakes.
Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital , NE carpark or 8:20 am Sumner Clock Tower Approx cost \$3
- 9-12 Aug Ski Touring Calum McIntosh 376 6133**
<https://alpineclub.org.nz/skiing-touring/courses/intro-to-backcountry-skiing/>
Cross country skiing originated in Scandinavia thousands of years ago. It's the great-great-grandfather of all ski sports. If you are an intermediate down-hill skier with moderate tramping fitness you will enjoy cross-country skiing. Dates flexible according to snow conditions. Phone Calum to discuss.
List closes 21 July

10-11 Aug

Track Cutting, Westland

Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038

<http://remotehuts.co.nz/tracks/>

Your chance to give something back for all your years of walking our tracks. Join Liz on a re-cut of a Permolat-maintained track. Liz provides home-made iced cake to participants who help. We aim to work on moderate Westland terrain. Bring loppers. Speed will be slow as we chop as we go. Stay in a remote hut. Leave Friday night at 6pm for an early start Saturday with a late trip home Sunday night.

List closes 28 July

11 Aug

Quail Island, planting

Stan Wilder 260 2340

Sunday

<http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33642/Discovery-Stream/Canterbury>

Book with Stan for a short day of planting. Tools and transport provided. Take garden gloves if you have them. Meet on the Lyttelton--Diamond Harbour jetty at 0855

Launch leaves Q Isl at 3.30pm

Names to Stan by 8pm Friday

TRIP REPORTS

Hogsback Circuit -Sunday 14 April 2019



Figure 1 Break time with Torlesse Range in the background. Photo courtesy of Wendy McCaughan

Roaring stags forced a diversion from Knowles Top to Hogsback. A tidy eight people in two cars parked behind Castle Hill Village, and set off on a clockwise circuit. The predicted southerly arrived at midday, but this basin seems to be blessed so we got no rain while Christchurch and the plains got a bit wet. Snow on the tops all around us was a fore-taste of the months to come.

On our circuit we met lots of small mountain bikes with little people peddling them, and being guided by bigger people on shiny new bikes. Through the day, we must have been passed by twenty peddlers, all very willing to stop and let us through, but it's easier for walkers to step off an incised slippery clay track. We had lunch at the north end of the Hogs Back scarp then continued south, marvelling at the flaky limestone we were on. A nice ramp got us off the

scarp, then a narrow track got us to Hogs Back Creek. Crossing the creek and getting up the steep bank to a terrace was a bit harder than some of the group were used to. A tussock flat and a little climb got us back to the track we came in on, then through beech forest to the cars at 3:30pm.

We were: Diane Dixon, Kyung Sang and Danny Lee, Helen Tapper, Wendy McCaughan, Judith Barnsley, Shi Ping Wang, Kerry Moore 🏠 KM

Peak Hill Plus – 28 April 2019



Figure 2. An early lunch on the flanks of Peak Hill. Photo courtesy of Norman Burden

It was a clear day as we exited the cars, booted-up in a brisk wind and made our way up the track on a tussocky, scrubby hillside. As we reached the ridge and got views of the full extent of Lake Coleridge, the wind was strong enough to make any loose clothing flap noisily.

A quick consultation resulted in a unanimous decision to retreat and find something else to do. That something became Rakaia Gorge Walkway.

The river was quite high and very milky. In the photos, it's almost the same shade as the greywacke stones that line it. We enjoyed views and the mixture of vegetation. I hope the sycamore, cherry and cotoneaster will eventually be suppressed, though I have to admit their falling yellow leaves was a novelty in a NZ bush walk. Cramming two walks into our day got us back to Christchurch at about 7pm.

Thanks go to Alison for leading, and even making a preliminary visit to Peak Hill to check it out.

We were: **Alison MacColl (leader), Graham Townsend, Chris Leaver, Shi Ping Wang, John Robinson, Norman Burden, Judith Barnsley, Susan Brechin, Dan Pryce and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM

Mt Somers - 19 May 2019



Figure 3 Along the Mt Somers ridge. Photo courtesy of Geoff Spearpoint



Figure 4. On the top of Mt Somers. Photo courtesy of Tim Hines.

through revealed itself as a blanket lurking in the lee of Mt Somers with clear skies above and in all other directions. Mt Cook, Elie De Beaumont, D'Archaic and the Arrowsmiths looked close in the clear south-west airflow. Many photos were taken in all directions. Eventually, it was time to descend into the waiting gloom and we picked our way down the granite boulders. Staveley Hill was still just below the cloud ceiling and we were starting to lose the light along the bush sections of the ridge before we reached the car park.

It was an interesting day with far better weather than expected. It shows that it is still worth heading out even with the adverse weather forecasting information available.

Trampers: **Susan Brechin, Norman Burden, Derek Gane, Tim Hines, Dan Pryce, Yvette So, Geoff Spearpoint, Mark Sullivan, Peter Umbers and Gary Huish (leader).** 🏔️ GH

Forecast gales of 75kph at 1000m and 95kph at 2000m for the 1687m Mt Somers ascent didn't sound good but, surprisingly, ten people were waiting at Church Corner. Alternate plans were discussed but suck it and see was the general consensus so off to Staveley we went. Low cloud greeted us at the carpark, but there was little wind as we set off along the ridge towards Staveley Hill with the cloud ceiling just above us. Turning right at the junction, we started up through thick cloud but gaps started to appear though the murk and we could see parts of the ridge ahead. The wintery sun was just peeking over the ridge, creating some spectacular Brocken spectres in the cloud below. Yvette was proud of her silhouette showing long legs and a halo.

We stopped for a hurried lunch in a weak patch of sunshine before the last ridge as the wind-chill factor did not encourage a long break. A couple descending towards us turned out to be Dorota and Witold, who had travelled separately. They had planned to wait for us at the top but said it was too cold and windy. We put on some more layers and prepared for a quick dash for the top and back.

We gained the summit ridge but were surprised to find little wind. Then to the top and still little wind! The patch of cloud we had been climbing