



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
October 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

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. In addition to the monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are also held every month.

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.

<p>Tuesday, 8 October</p> 	<p>Trekking in Peru - Linda Lilburne, Christchurch Tramping Club</p> <p>In April, 10 members of the club met in Huaraz, Peru for 4 days of altitude acclimatisation followed by a 10 day trek around the Cordillera Huayhuash, a range of 6000+ metre peaks. The team enjoyed the comforts of a guide, cook and having their gear carried by a team of donkeys, and delighted in the truly spectacular views. Supper Duty John Borner and Eileen Arnett</p>
<p>Tuesday, 12 November</p> 	<p>FMC Travel Club trip to the Dolomites and Switzerland - Margot Bowden</p> <p>Trekking across Northern Italy from the Dolomites, around Lakes Garda and Como, followed by the Aosta Valley then Zermatt, Lauterbrunnen and Lucerne in Switzerland covers a wide range of scenery and experiences. Margot Bowden and Gary Huish joined the FMC Travel Club guided trip in June/July 2019. Come and hear Margot describe the highs and low-downs of this exciting trip.</p>

SOCIAL EVENTS

<p>Thursday 17 October.</p>	<p>Cashmere Hill walk and/or dinner at The Brickworks.</p> <p>Make the most of the start of daylight saving and join Penny Coffey on a Cashmere hill walk then dinner at the cosy, rustic Brickworks. Meet at the corner of Gunns Tce and Hollis Ave (off Centaurus Rd) at 6 pm. The walk takes you up Hollis Ave to Longhurst Tce, then along the ridge to Scarff Place, then back down again via Longhurst Tce.</p> <p>On a nice day you get lovely views and a good workout. It's a short drive to The Brickworks, 69 Centaurus Rd for dinner at 7.15 pm. Meals from \$15 to \$30 approx. https://thebrickworks.co.nz/menu/</p> <p>There is no need to book for the walk, but for dinner contact Penny Coffey on 332 712 or 027 630 2128 or email penny.coffey.nz@gmail.com by Sunday 13 October. If the weather is awful we'll still have dinner, maybe a bit earlier at 7pm.</p>
<p>Tuesday 19 November</p>	<p>Halswell Wetlands and Dinner</p> <p>Follow the newly created walkway/cycleway from Milns Road, Halswell, along Sparks Road and explore the new wetlands reserve on Hendersons/Sparks Roads. Meet at 6pm at the start of the walkway/cycleway on Milns Road at the James Hight Drive intersection. There is plenty of parking on the roadside.</p> <p>Dinner is at 7.15pm at Hoi An House (Vietnamese Restaurant), 265 Halswell Avenue, Halswell. for the menu see http://hoianhouse.co.nz.</p> <p>There is no need to book for the walk but for dinner contact Margot by Saturday 16 November. Email margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020.</p>
<p>Tuesday 17 December</p>	<p>Cashmere Walk and BBQ</p> <p>Hosted by Margot and Gary. Walk at 6pm followed by a bbq. Details to follow.</p> <p>Email margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020.</p>

PTC Club Picnic

Remember remember the 15 of December,
 Club picnic, games and fun!
 Hurrah for Motukarara,
 Our venue's the same, still with sun.
 So pack up the tucker,
 Polish up the skills
 And let the fun of the games begin!

P.S. spectators are greatly valued
 P.P.S. Can we double our 2018 numbers?

Keith and Marion McQuillan

NOTES

President's notes

The committee is very appreciative of members' responses to emails asking for trip leaders. It is wonderful to be getting all the leadership slots filled with no arm twisting! Well done all. Recently we have updated all the first aid kits to keep them in line with current medical practice. Angela Grigg has used her professional expertise to mastermind this. Many thanks Angela for all the time and thought you put into this. And a big congratulations to Geoff Spearpoint who has just published his latest book and is launching it next week. I am looking forward to some good reading and great photos.

Enjoy the verdant beauty of spring in our Garden City and keep on tramping!

Diane

The October night sky

As Earth follows its yearly orbit round the Sun, our night-time view of the sky looks out on different parts of the universe. In winter, we look towards the centre of our own galaxy, which we see overhead as the Milky Way - a background to the stars of Sagittarius and Scorpius. But now in spring that part of the universe is starting to drop to the west, as our evening sky increasingly points out of the galactic disk into intergalactic emptiness. Hence no well-known constellations and few bright stars. The only exceptions are the stars Fomalhaut in the east, Achernar in the southeast, and Canopus low in the south. Looking SSW, the Southern Cross is on its side with the two bright Pointers above it.

Planets? Currently Jupiter is still bright and in Scorpius, with fainter Saturn nearby in Sagittarius.

As Earth spins, the eastern pre-dawn sky reveals the *opposite* view of the Milky Way - this time looking towards the outer part of the galactic disk, and so bringing Orion and his two hunting dogs into view, with the star-cluster Matariki further north.

First quarter moon is on 6th, full moon on 14th, last quarter on 22th and new moon on 28th.

Graham Townsend

Deadline for the November newsletter: Friday, 2 November 2019 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 29 October 2019.

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.

- 6 Oct** [Charing Cross](#)
Sunday **Jillian Fulcher 351 4189/Jill Fenner 980 6228**
● Easy-moderate tramp on farm tracks to this 1000m peak in the Tekoa Range behind Culverden
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$15**
- 12-13 Oct** [Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
●● A popular crossing from Arthurs Pass village to the Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak
List closes 6 Oct
- 13 Oct** [Helicopter Hill Circuit](#)
Sunday **Norman Burden 358 5115**
● An easy-moderate 5-6hr circuit from Craigieburn Campsite shelter and take the Mistletoe Track to Lyndon Saddle with a side trip to Helicopter Hill. We then return to the saddle and go to the Craigieburn Edge Track which leads to the ski-field road where it joins with the Sidle track and back to the cars
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$17**
- 16 Wed** **Pine Day**
Wednesday **Grant Hunter 351 6369**
● A satisfying day in Castle Hill Basin cutting and pulling wildings to stem the westward march of pines
Call Grant to enlist **Exact cost \$0**
- 19-20 Oct** [Casey Tarn, Birdwood Range](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
●● Parking at Ryton Station. A moderate climb onto the Birdwood Range to camp high at Casey Tarn. Exiting via Triangle Creek, Avoca River and Gargarus Saddle.
List closes 13 Oct
- 20 Oct** [Foggy Peak—Castle Hill Peak](#)
Sunday **Norman Burden 358 5115/Raymond Ford 351 9496**
● A popular pilgrimage to 1741m Foggy Peak and on to 1998m Castle Hill Peak if you feel energetic. EM, M if you go up CHP.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$13**
- 26-28 Oct** [Carrington Hut](#) **Labour Weekend**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
●●● Day 1 to go up the Waimak and a middle day to go to Barker Hut or Waimak Falls Hut. Day 3 out. Moderate
List closes 20 Oct
- 26-28 Oct** [Manakau](#) **Labour weekend**
Peter Umbers 359 9118
●●● Moderate-hard ascent of this 2608m peak in the Seaward Kaikouras
List closes 20 Oct

- 26-29 Oct [St James Walkway](#) **Labour Weekend**
Names to Jill Fenner 980 6228
 ●●●● Easy-moderate circuit amid splendid scenery, through beech forest and along river flats. Well-spaced huts to stay in. Snow-capped Gloriana and Faerie Queene peaks of the Spenser Range to admire
List closes 20 Oct
- 27 Oct [Cutty Grass Hut](#) **Labour Weekend**
 Sunday **Diane Dixon 359 9170**
 ● Near Mt Hutt, this easy-moderate walk starts on the Mt Alford track, climbs a little and then crosses to the track that leads up-valley to Cutty Grass Hut.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$16**
- 2-3 Nov [Princess Bath](#)
Gary Huish 332 7020
 ●● A moderate tramp behind Hanmer, camping at this large tarn below Mt Princess
List closes 27 Oct
- 3 Nov [Bus Stop—Woolshed Creek](#)
 Sunday **Norman Burden 358 5115**
 ● A moderate circuit starting at Woolshed Creek, going up the Rhyolite Track to the Bus Stop and on to Woolshed Creek Hut. Returning to the car via the coal-mine
Approx cost \$20
- 9 Nov **Arthurs Pass Workday**
 Saturday **Names to Merv 322 7239**
 Based in AP village these workdays will focus on lupin removal. Call Merv to see if we can organise a carload. We can go for one day only or all four days.
- 9-10 Nov [Broken River Hut—Back Peak—Mt Torlesse](#)
Honora Renwick 942 8368
 ●● Saturday, staying at Broken River Hut. Sunday, climbing Landsdowne Spur, then along the Torlesse Range past Otarama Peak, to Back Peak and over to Mt Torlesse. Exiting down Kowai River to the big pines. Moderate-hard. Anyone wanting to do just the Broken River section, for an easy-moderate jaunt, could help with transport
List closes 3 Nov
- 10 Nov [Kaituna—Mt Herbert—Packhorse](#)
 Sunday **Geoff Korver 355 3905**
 ● A moderate circuit started at the top end of Kaituna Valley climbing to the Te Ara Pataka Track, to Herbert Peak, the shelter, Packhorse Hut and down the track to Kaituna Valley.
8am PMH, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd **Approx cost \$7**
- 15-18 Nov [McKerrow Range](#) **Show Weekend**
Raymond Ford 022 318 0872
 ●●●● A moderate-hard tramp above Makorora to 2002m Mt Shrimton. Expect splendid views around Mt Aspring NP. Camping by tarns in the McKerrow Range
List closes 10 Nov

- 15-17 Nov [Lawrence River, Erewhon](#) **Show Weekend**
Kevin, Heather Hughes 332 6281
 ●●● Parking at Erewhon Station for a flat walk a little way up the Clyde, turning at the Lawrence to stay at the Lawrence Hut. The middle day gives us a chance to walk to the biv below Hells Gate
List closes 10 Nov
- 15-18 Nov [Mt Patriarch, Wangapeka](#) **Show Weekend**
Chris Leaver 322 6445
 ●●●● From Rolling River road end we start along the Wangapeka track (west of Tapawera) for a preview of spectacular Mt Patriarch (1701m) then leaving the main track follow Kiwi Stream to Kiwi Saddle Hut. Basing ourselves there 2 or 3 nights, we'll climb Mt Patriarch and/or Mt Luna or just explore the Luna tops and tarns. Exiting via Stone Hut, Moderate. If the main river is low there is a Chummies Track, John Reid Hut, Kiwi Hut option as well
List closes 10 Nov
- 17 Nov [Okuti Valley—Montgomery Reserve](#) **Show Weekend**
Sunday Graeme Paltridge 384 3592
 ● An easy-moderate walk through O V Reserve, past French Hill, past Hilltop, to Montgomery Park Reserve's big totara. MPR is often bypassed but is worth a visit. <https://tramper.nz/187>
8am PMH, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd **Approx cost \$9**
- 23-24 Nov [Deception—Mingha](#)
Dan Pryce 356 1962
 ●● The most popular 2-dayer in APNP. A moderate walk up the bouldery Deception past Upper D Hut to stay at well-sited Goat Pass Hut. Sunday we have an easier walk down the Mingha
List closes 17 Nov
- 24 Nov [Godley Peak--Mother Millers Spring](#)
Sunday Merv Meredith 322 7239
 ● Its marked on the map so we must be able to find the illusive MMS. A moderate-hard climb of this 2087m peak
Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$21**
- 30N-2D [Wheel Creek Hut—Mt Crosscut](#)
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 ●●● 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 24 Nov
- 30 Nov [Te Oka Reserve--Devils Gap](#)
Saturday Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 ● An easy-moderate exploration of two reserves with grand views of the southern bays. Devils Gap reserve contains impressive bluffs, popular with rock climbers
8am PMH, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd **Approx cost \$10**
- 3-8 Dec [Wilkin--Gillespie Pass—Young River](#)
Angela Grigg 027 578 9743
 ●●●●● The ever-popular Wilkin--Gillespie Pass--Young trip down Makarora way, with spare day to go to Crucible Lake and another extra day in case of adverse weather
List closes 24 Nov

- 7-8 Dec [Carroll Hut](#)
Sue Piercey 384 9567
 ●● An easy-moderate trip for the naturalists. Enjoy Westland forest, summer flowers above the bushline and see fault scarps near Carroll Hut
List closes 1 Dec
- 8 Dec [Mt Tinline](#)
 Sunday **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● A moderate climb near Mt Lyford ski-field to 1747m Mt Tinline via Foggy Lookout.
Call Kerry M for details **Approx cost \$24**
- 14-17 Dec [Mt Franklin](#)
Raymond Ford 022 318 0872
 ●●●● Starting from Lake Tennyson, we will cross into the Sabine Valley, and climb Mt Franklin from Blue Lake. If time and weather permits, returning via the Matakītaki Valley and Enid Pass. Moderate-hard. Crampons and ice axe will probably be needed.
List closes 8 Dec
- 15 Dec **Annual Picnic**
Keith, Marion McQuillan 384 6164
Motukarara
- 22-23 Dec [Kellys Creek—Mt Barron](#)
Awaiting leader
 ●● We walk up the Kellys Creek Track, over Hunt Saddle to stay at Hunts Creek Hut where you many hear kiwi calls at night. Exiting Sunday over Mt Barron.
List closes 15 Dec
- 5 Jan [Omahu Bush](#)
 Sunday **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
 ● The reserve has a variety of tracks plus, nearby is Coopers Knob and Gibraltar Rock. Easy
8am PMH, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd **Approx cost \$2**
- 11-13 Jan [Nuns Veil, Liebig Range](#)
Peter Umbers 359 9118
 ●●● We travel down Friday night and camp near Lake Pukaki. Saturday, cross Tasman Lake or river and camp up Gorilla Stream. Sunday, climb TNV and walk to cars then home
List closes 5 Jan
- 11 Jan [Timutimu Head - Scenery Nook](#)
 Saturday **Jillian Fulcher 351 4189**
 ● Easy-moderate tramp over peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Then on to a natural tidal seal swimming pool at Scenery Nook. Impressive red volcanic rock
8am PMH, NE carpark off Cashmere Rd **Approx cost \$14**
- 18-19 Jan [Klondyke—North Rahu](#)
Gary Huish 332 7020
 ●● Moderate tramp from Rahu Saddle in Victoria Forest Park. Camping out in a tarn basin below some 1500m peaks. A round trip, dropping into Lake Stream for the return trip. Some great views of the surrounding area from the tops. **List closes 12 Jan**

- 19 Jan [Boby Stream - Onepunga Falls](#)
 Sunday Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ● An easy walk up Onepunga Stream to the falls
 Meet 8:00am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$10
- 25 - 5 Feb [Alpine Trip](#)
 Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727, 03 329 0008 ggeeooffss@gmail.com
 ●●●●● Franz and the Goatpath route to Almer Hut, or up the Paringa River to Fox Glacier. More
 ●●●●● detail in the August *Footnotes*
 List closes 20 Dec
- 25-28 Jan [Pelorus Pack-rafting](#)
 ●●●● Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 Walking up the Pelorus River then going with the flow to make an easy exit
 List closes 19 Jan
- 25 Jan [Prebble Hill - Cave Stream](#)
 Saturday Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
 ● Easy-moderate wade along Cave Stream as it flows 360m underground and emerges to join
 Broken River. Be prepared for wet and cold conditions. Take a torch and a second one for
 backup if you have one, and a dry set of clothes to change into later. We'll also go up Prebble
 Hill with its fascinating sculpted limestone
 Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$16
- 25-26 Jan [Sudden Valley](#)
 ●● Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 An easy-moderate up and back trip to visit this scenic valley. Camping at the biv
 List closes 19 Jan
- 25-26 Jan [Discovery Stream—Sudden Valley](#)
 ●● Merv Meredith 322 7239
 A moderate-hard tramp that connects the Hawdon Rr with Sudden Valley Stream. We'll camp
 in a basin above a waterfall then walk along the Polar Range to find the backdoor into
 Sudden Valley and back to the Hawdon
 List closes 19 Jan
- 26 Jan [Cape Three-points—Mt Bossu](#)
 Sunday Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 ● An easy-moderate walk from Akaroa Harbour to Bossu Road and the striking 712m Mt Bossu

Casey, Andrews, Poulter, Minchin Pass, Townsend, Taramakau- 7-10 Sept 2019

Five set off from Andrews Shelter at 0930 for a 6 hour forest walk to the site of the old Casey Hut then up the Poulter River to Trust Poulter Hut. Early evening light on snowy mountains seen from a broad Poulter River valley was a sight to behold. A cold, clear night encouraged us to light the open fire. Bad move. The fire-place has a very high front which lets a good proportion of the smoke go into the hut. Angela cooked a delicious noodle meal from a PTC recipe.



We put on smoky clothes at 0630 and were away before 8am. Forty minutes up from the hut we stopped for a look at the modern Poulter Hut then on through a forest track to Lake Minchin. At the head of the lake a cold breeze made us put coats on, then we entered a soggy track to bypass a gorge. Back to the stream, no track revealed itself so we had to paddle along the edge in places to progress. We were happy to reach the biv at 3:30. Dan and John chose to stay in the biv so we pitched two tents in a cold southerly wind as the occasional flurry of sleet settled. The forecast had predicted this but it was all gone by morning and the tall tussock around the biv stayed dry. Kerry tried hard not to impress by cooking a lazy-man's macaroni with de-hy peas and cheese. Kiwi calls overnight were a bonus in this remote spot.

Dan was first up in the morning and managed to light the MSR stove and not the biv. Peter's boots froze under the tent fly. Kerry managed to finish drying a shirt that got wet on day one by wearing it inside the sleeping bag. It got wet when he jumped in a deepish part of the Casey and capsized. Away at 8, it took us less than an hour to reach 1082m Minchin Pass, amid small snow patches. The track descending through

scrub into Townsend Stream is well marked with white plastic standards. Soon we were boulder-hopping while looking for the occasional short, scrubby diversion. A route-guide spoke of a 300m track avoiding a gorgy bit one hour down from Minchin Pass. We began to think we'd missed it but after three hours, there it was, thank heavens. We must have been a slow party. We took nine, from the biv to the Taramakau. To get past the cascades we had to make lots of crossings of this fairly brisk stream. Walking-poles were very helpful. Peter was carrying a saw so was able to make his own stick.





Looking back from the Taramakau where Townsend Creek exits

5pm and a chilly wind blowing down the Taramakau convinced us to keep going to Kiwi Hut. We reached this 6-bunker in the dark and settled in. The hut is fairly old and seems to be used by trampers, the farmer and rats. A big pail once contained a salt-lick for the Belted Galloway cows that graze the valley. A *Miss Muffet's Revenge* spider killer 4 litre bottle lives in the entrance room. So does a large gas hob. The fireplace follows the Trust Poulter design and a stained ceiling suggests it too is a smoker.

Tuesday, another fine day for a walk down-river with some big snowy peaks around us. Crossing the Otira River was no problem and soon we were at the clever Griggmobile that had found its way to the Owens farm at Aickens. We treated ourselves to a coffee stop at Arthurs and were back in ChCh by 5:30. On average this is a moderate trip with a hard section down Townsend Creek. The creek is avoidable by going high to Townsend Hut.

Many thanks to able leader Angela for a great adventure, also to Ian and Emma Grigg for moving the vehicle so we could just drive away from Aickens. We were: **Angela Grigg, Dan Pryce, Peter Umbers, John Robinson and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM