



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter*
**December
2019- January
2020**

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Correspondence	All correspondence to the Secretary, including change of contact details

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. 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.

Tuesday, 10 December 	PTC Classic Christmas Evening <p>Come along meet your friends, share some Christmas punch, tell tall tales of the year past and your expectations for the next tramping year. We will have a short quiz to test some of those memories and refresh those recollections.</p> <p>Please bring a plate of Christmas goodies for a shared supper.</p> <p><i>Supper duty: Everyone attending the meeting!</i></p>
Tuesday, 11 February 2020 	Focus on Antarctica <p>Talk about travel to the frozen continent. Travel to this fascinating place in New Zealand's "back yard". Details to follow.</p>

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, 17 December	<p>Cashmere Walk and BBQ</p> <p>For the last social event of 2019 wander around one of the newer suburbs on Cashmere Hill followed by a BBQ at Margot and Gary's house. Meet at 5 Patchett Place, Cashmere Hill, at 6pm for the walk, followed by a BBQ at 7pm. Please park on Hackthorne Road, opposite the entrance to Patchett Place. For the BBQ, bring your own meat and a salad or dessert to share.</p> <p>Please let Margot know if you are coming to the BBQ by Sunday 15 December. Email: margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020.</p>
Wednesday, 15 January 2020	<p>Governors Bay coastal walk then dinner at the Hotel.</p> <p>Meet at 6.00 pm by Governors Bay Jetty to walk to Allandale and back, along the coast. It's about an hour return, with interesting rock formations and birds. No dogs please. If it's a hot day you might like a swim. Dinner will be at 7.15 pm at the Governors Bay Hotel, 52 Main Rd, Governors Bay.</p> <p>http://www.governorsbayhotel.co.nz/index.php/86-governors-bay-hotel/148-menu</p> <p>Names for the dinner to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com by Sunday 12 January.</p> <p>If the weather is bad we will still have dinner, perhaps arriving earlier for a drink first. There is no need to book if you just want to do the walk.</p> <p>http://www.governorsbayhotel.co.nz/images/GBH_Logos/mainlogo.jpg</p>
Wednesday, 19 February 2020	<p>Westmorland Wander followed by dinner at Protocol</p> <p>Enjoy an evening walk exploring the Westmorland area. Meet at Sedgwick Reserve, Sedgwick Way, off Penruddock Rise at 6pm. Explore the local reserves with views of the Canterbury Plains. Dinner will be at Protocol, 2 Colombo St, Cashmere, at 7.15 pm. Bring a snack if you get hungry before then. Protocol has a dinner menu and bar snacks. Check out the menu at http://www.protocoloncolombo.co.nz/restaurant.</p> <p>Names for the dinner to Maureen Thompson by Sunday 16 February 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com. There is no need to book if you are just coming for the walk. If wet, we'll do the dinner anyway.</p>

PTC Club Picnic Sunday, 15 December.

Camping is available Saturday, 14 December at the Motukarara Domain.

Bring your bike for the slow and fast races etc. Lots of other games to enjoy, participate or watch. Last year was very successful. All welcome.

Enquiries to Keith 0212641773.

President's notes

Hello trampers. Summer solstice is nearly upon us, hopefully with months of fine weather ahead and balmy long days to enjoy our truly great outdoors. The Executive has been busy organising an update of our website technology and incorporating new national rules around auditing of financial accounts into our club systems. As well as all the usual tasks, making sure you have exciting tramping options, a good newsletter and social events to keep you entertained. I hope to see many of you at our Christmas club night and/or the Club Picnic for some fun and games.

Have a great Christmas and enjoy your summer tramping.

Diane Mellish

The December 2019-January 2020 night sky

Overhead, the summer evening sky lacks conspicuous constellations. But the Southern Cross is upside down and low in the south, with the two bright 'pointers', Alpha and Beta Centauri, a bit to its west. Alpha, the brighter, is our closest neighbour outside the solar system, and is actually a double star – they orbit each other every 80 years, and are only about as far apart as our Sun and the planet Neptune. A very faint 3rd star is also part of the same grouping. This faint star has a planet orbiting in its habitable zone; so keep saving up those frequent flier points, it's only 40 000 000 000 000 km away!

The bright star Canopus is in the southeast, and Sirius is roughly due east. That means we can see the three brightest stars all at once: Sirius, Canopus, and a Centauri. Orion and the tight star-cluster Matariki are rising in the northeast. Rigel, Orion's brightest star, is the 7th brightest in the sky.

In the west after sunset, Jupiter sets shortly after the Sun so soon it will be impossible to see. Saturn and bright Venus are close together but while Venus remains visible throughout December and January, Saturn's orbit soon takes it into the Sun's glare; by Christmas it's invisible.

Moon phases: 1st quarter 4/12 and 3/1; full moon 12/12 and 11/1; 3rd quarter 19/12 and 18/1; new moon 6/1.

Graham Townsend

2020 Subscriptions

The 2020 subscription renewal forms are enclosed with this month's newsletter. The subscription rates remain the same as 2019, i.e. \$40 for hardcopy members and \$30 for electronic members.

Please note: Kiwibank will no longer accept cheques from 28 February 2020, so any payment of subscriptions after that date will need to be either paid directly into our Kiwibank account or paid in cash.

Mike Bourke (Treasurer PTC)

Membership

The Club accepts with regret Milan Brisnik's resignation.

Deadline for the December – January newsletter: 23 January 2020 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 28 January 2020.

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Day Trips


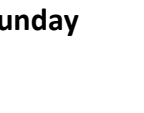
Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town nearest to the destination. Non-members are asked to phone the trip leader in advance. If you doubt your suitability for a day-trip, or if the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you 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 Dec
Sunday | <u>Mt Norma</u>
Kerry Moore 359 5069 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A moderate climb to this 1722m peak above the Nina River in the Lewis Pass area. Ring leader so we can optimise transport and maybe go Sat night | Approx cost \$24 |
| Call leader | | | |
| 14-18 Dec | <u>Mt Franklin</u>
Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●●●●● 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 Waiau Valley and Maling Pass. Moderate-hard. Crampons and ice axe will probably be needed. | |
| List closes 8 Dec | | | |
| 15 Dec
Sunday | <div style="background-color: #ff00ff; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> End of Year Picnic </div> | | |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> Keith, Marion McQuillan 384 6164
 Waihora Park, Motukarara. A day of fun and games. Games will include: petanque, badminton, french cricket, darts, coits and games you remember as a kid. Bring or suggest other games we can play. Picnic from 10am. Last year's event was a hoot. </div> </div> | | | |
| 22-23 Dec | <u>Kellys Creek—Mt Barron</u>
Jane Liddle 384 7818 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●● We walk up the Kellys Creek Track, over Hunt Saddle to stay at Hunts Creek Hut and fall asleep to the sound of kiwi calls. Exiting Sunday over Mt Barron. | |
| List closes 15 Dec | | | |
| 5 Jan
Sunday | <div style="background-color: #0000ff; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Omahu Bush </div> | | |
| <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> Diane Dixon 359 9170
 The reserve has a variety of tracks plus, nearby is Coopers Knob and Gibraltar Rock. Easy.
 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, north east carpark off
 Cashmere Rd </div> </div> | | | |
| | | | Approx cost \$2 |

- 3-5 Jan [South Ashburton Rr—Cameron River](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
 ●●● Moderate trip at the foot of the Arrowsmiths. We plan to visit Ashburton Glacier.
List closes 24 Dec.
- 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 the Nun's Veil, walk to cars and then home. Moderate – hard.
List closes 5 Jan.
- 11-13 Jan [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 20 Dec.
- 11 Jan [Timutimu Head - Scenery Nook](#)
Jillian Fulcher 351 4189
 ● Easy-moderate tramp over the 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. Eat lunch while watching the seals. Impressive red volcanic rock
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, north east carpark off off Cashmere Rd. Approx cost \$14
- 18-19 Jan [Klondyke—North Rahu](#)
Chris Leaver 322 6445
 ●● Moderate tramp from Rahu Saddle in Victoria Forest Park. Camping out in a tarn basin below some 1500m peaks. A round trip, dropping into Klondyke 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](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ● An easy walk up Onepunga Stream to the falls.
Meet 8:00am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$10
- 25 Jan-5 Feb [Alpine Trip](#)
Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727, 03 329 0008 ggeeoffss@gmail.com
 ●●●●● Franz Josef and the Goatpath route to Almer Hut, or alternatively up the Paringa River via Mt McCullaugh to Marks Flat. More detail in the August Footnotes.
- 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 River 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 River.
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**
- 1-2 Feb** [Crow Hut](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ●● Easy-moderate trip crossing braids of the Waimakariri River then walking up the Crow River to a good hut surrounded by some of Arthurs Pass big peaks.
List closes 26 Jan.
- 2 Feb** [Mt Evans—Lions Head](#)
Sunday **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
 ● Easy-moderate walk to this 700m peak on Banks Peninsula, between Lyttelton Harbour and Port Levy giving great views of the Port Hills and Harbour.
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, north east carpark off **Approx cost \$8**
Cashmere Rd
- 6-11 Feb** [Three Tarn Pass-Matakitaki Rr-D'Urville Pass](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
 ●●●●● A moderate, but long trip starting at the Lewis Pass end of St James walkway and going over Three Tarn Pass to the Upper Matakitaki then to D'Urville Pass, Thompson Pass and Maling Pass.
List closes 26 Jan.
- 9 Feb** [Birdlings Flat - Magnet Bay](#)
Sunday **Graeme Nicholas 357 0047 gra.nicholas@gmail.com**
 ● Easy-moderate trip along the coast from Birdlings Flat to Oashore, Tokoroa, Hikuraki and Magnet Bays. Returning the same way.
8am Princess Margaret Hospital, north east carpark off **Approx cost \$7**
Cashmere Rd
- 15-16 Feb** [Hope-Kiwi Lodge](#)
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 ●● Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighting in the spacious Hope Kiwi Lodge/Hut. Good track all the way through beech forest and along river terraces. If enough people go, a crossover via Lake Sumner is possible.
List closes 9 Feb

- 16 Feb**
Sunday
● [Mount Barrosa](#)
Norman Burden 358 5115
A moderate trip in the Clent Hills area up from the Ashburton Gorge Rd. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to a 1364m peak. Popular with rock hounds looking for agates.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$20**
- 22-26 Feb**
●●●●● [Lake Unknown](#)
Raymond Ford 022 318 0872
Moderate-hard trip to the area north of the Routeburn Track. Ice axe and crampons may be required. Departing the day before and staying at Glenorchy. The trip will start and finish on the Routeburn Track. We will visit Lake Unknown, Park Pass Glacier and traverse along the Serpentine Range past Lake Nerine and Lake Wilson, camping along the way. The trip dates may vary a bit depending on the weather forecast!
List closes 16 Feb
- 22-26 Feb**
●●●●● [Serpentine Range](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
A moderate-plus tramp up the Routeburn to Lakes Harris and Wilson. Day 2 we camp at point 1550 on the Serpentine Range then on to camp in the North Routeburn River. We may do a side trip to Emily Pass. Tramping 4 days, travelling 2 days.
List closes 16 Feb
- 22-23 Feb**
●● [Walker Pass - Tarn Col – Edwards](#)
Peter Umbers 359 9118
One of the best-known Arthurs Pass National Park tramps. This moderate trip takes in the Hawdon and Edwards valleys, a couple of attractive alpine passes and views of what's left of Falling Mountain. We need to get to Hawdon Hut on the Fri night to set us up for a longish day to Edwards Hut
List closes 16 Feb
- 23 Feb**
Sunday
● [Bealey Spur](#)
Joy Schroeder 351 4655
Popular easy-moderate walk to this historic musterers' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer fantastic views of the upper Waimak and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. If time permits it is worth walking beyond the hut, further up the spur.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$22**
- 29 Feb -2 Mar**
●●● [Townsend Hut--Korupuku Hut](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
A moderate-hard trip up the Taramakau to Townsend Hut and over to secluded Koropuku Hut. With minimal effort Mt Koeti can be included.
List closes 23 Feb

St James Walkway - Labour Weekend 26-29 October 2019

Six intrepid trampers set off from the Boyle River village at Labour Weekend into a somewhat unknown weather forecast, the St James Walkway being on the Divide can experience either or both east and west coast weather patterns. We had it all – rain, sun, overcast, and a mix of snow flurries and a tee-shirt sunny lunch stop within the space of an hour on the last day. But at least it was never cold.



Figure 1 Beside the Boyle River, approaching Boyle Hut. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

On the whole we were lucky – arriving at the Anne Hut on the second day an hour before a torrential storm with high winds – yes, we agreed with the written comment on the outside wall “the windiest hut in NZ” – they could have added ‘and the most nerve-wracking toilet visit’. I had visions of being a latter-day ‘Dorothy’, and wondered on which Kansas mountain-top I might land.

With the benefit of not being a ‘great walk’, hence less crowds and huts that are made for trampers and not tourists, the St James is a beautiful alpine trek where it is delightful to “just be”. The track is well maintained and varied from beech forest to alpine meadow to rivers that take some concentration, but are not threatening. It can be made challenging or comfortable depending on the length of time and stops made.

We did it in four days which meant one 23km day, and went from south to north which included more uphill – so was somewhat more challenging for some of us who are not used to a heavy pack and also have inadequate boots.

The highlights were getting up close and personal to some of the wild horses, who are curious, but obviously still wild – to the snow covered tops that were just beautiful in the evening sun, to NO sandflies, to empty huts bar one, to good conversations and shared experiences, to making new friends – and the sheer physical beauty and peace of the backcountry.



Figure 2. Patchy weather, Lower Henry River. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore

It was a great few days – a very enjoyable, fun and compatible group who worked well together, provided some great shared meals (including one of the heaviest on record I am sure). It was my first tramp in quite a while – and has left me enthusiastic for more! Thanks Team!

Participants were: **Kerry Moore, John Robinson, Sacha Baldwin, Wendy McCaughan, Ilaria Carbellotti and Deb Rhode (leader)** 🏔️ DR.



Figure 3. Our group outside Ada Hut. Photo courtesy of Wendy McCaughan.

Godley Peak, Rakaia - Monday 25 November 2019

Yes, MONDAY. We know it is becoming a habit, but if there is only a 24 hour window between norwesters, then why not go on that day, with slight apologies to anyone who has to work. We did and, as forecast, the weather was near perfect.

Godley Peak has been climbed or attempted a number of times over the years. Originally, accessed through Double Hill's yard, up along the Homestead Hill spur, then around the corner at 1901m to drop and head east along the Palmer Range ridge a couple of kilometres to the saddle south of 1871m and the final climb south to 2087m Godley Peak. The long dog leg didn't help, particularly in snow conditions and we were likely to just appreciate finding Mother Miller's Spring and returning immediately before running out of daylight. The negotiation of an access easement didn't help. A carpark was established but with access still up along Homestead Hill to the dog leg. So later attempts such as early December 2009, were scheduled later for less snow, longer daylight hours and permission gained to ascend the spur dropping directly from 1871m. We got there that time. Even found TWO Mother Miller's Springs in the usual place.

Consequently, the trip was scheduled this year for late November. Postponed from Sunday to Monday, we had seven meet at Russley Rd corner at 7.30am, picked up Bridget and Murray in Hororata, and Helen at the Blackford Rd turnoff. So ten total in two vehicles. Walking up the easement at 9.40am, it was obvious even though the peak is not visible from below, that it was going to be a snow free day. Our lunch stop was still short of 1901m in weather that would be easy to take for granted. Once on the ridge, the trundle up and down east was faster, except for the last rocky section from 1871m to the saddle. Easier in snow but a slower rock scramble when bare. Bill and Helen chose to sidle below to get to the saddle, but the time was about the same.

We set out up another rock scramble from the saddle, having left Vesna behind on the 1871m rocks. John also turned back to the saddle and nearing Godley Bridget sidled out looking for Mother Miller's Springs. She was disappointed not to find any sign of it. So 3.15pm on top with the expected magnificent views all around, including Moorhouse a short distance to our south.



Figure 4. Heading east along Palmer Range, with Godley Peak at top right. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore

Dropping from the top down to the saddle was easy, sidled the gnarly rocks and up to 1871m to regroup with Vesna and John. From there the temptation to take the direct route down the northern spur was too great, except that Bill opted to return via the dog leg to Homestead Hill. Our route down from 1871m to 500m was unrelenting but straightforward, so fast. But no surprise that we reached the vehicles at 6.30pm on a lovely evening just as Bill also arrived.

Quite a day. Sorry no Mother Miller's Springs, Bridget.

We were: **Peter Umbers, Bill Templeton, John Robinson, Kerry Moore, Milomir & Vesna Mojsilovic, Merv Meredith (leader), Helen Binnie, Bridget Barclay and Murray Adams.** 🏔️ MM



Figure 5. Godley Kerry & Peter taking in the view west from Homestead Hill ridge. Photo courtesy of Merv Meredith

Okuti Valley to Hilltop and Montgomery Park Reserve - 17 November 2019

The Okuti Valley to Hilltop track, to my shame, is an area relatively close to Christchurch that I was quite unaware of. Linking up at Hilltop, it forms an extra segment to the 35 kilometre Te Ara Pataka - Port Levy Saddle Track which connects to the Packhorse Track and Gebbies Pass via Mts Herbert and Bradley, adding another 7.5 km to the marked route.

We started at the Okuti Valley Reserve, a small remnant of lowland forest that once graced the whole area. The track breaks out of the bush onto a short secondary road section and then, with a steady but easy climb following a poled farm track, it wends its way to a saddle near the base of French Hill, followed by a gentle descent to Hilltop, taking around two and a half hours. About half-way up, the hillside is littered with the skeletons of totara and kotukutuku that once covered much of the Peninsula; still a poignant reminder of the mid to late 19th Century colonial zeitgeist when cocksfoot and clover took priority over the forest, which, in the main, was clear-felled and burned.

Close to the Hilltop Tavern, it was suggested within my earshot, that it is a leader's tradition to buy a round of beer when a hostelry is passed on foot. Feigning deafness (which is partially true) and since I'd also left my wallet in the car, I managed to sidestep this quaint custom as we headed off to the Montgomery Park Reserve just along the road to see the Big Totara and then lunch at the Reserve lookout with its box-seat view of Akaroa Harbour.

For those that have never seen the Big Totara before, it is very impressive and worthy of a visit. With a circumference of 8.5 metres, it may, according to the Department of Conservation be around 2000 years old, making it probably the oldest in the country, although the supporting evidence is sketchy. Incidentally, with a breast height diameter of 2.5 metres it only comes in at third place in the South Island Totara stakes (pardon the pun), being pipped by another in the Hapuku River Valley near Kaikoura at 2.8 metres and the largest tree at 3 metres which is in Peel Forest.

An easy amble back the way we came completed a very pleasant day where the weather was perfect - not too hot or windy, and the scenery was at its Banks Peninsula best.

We were: **Kerry Moore, Iain Chinnery, Norman Burden, Penny Coffey, Joy Schroeder, Wendy McCaughlan, Jill Fenner, Darcy Mawson, Dan Pryce, John Robinson, and Graeme Paltridge (leader)** 🏠 GP.



Figure 6. Our group at the Big Totara. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore