



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
June 2020*

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

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|----------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------------|----------|
| President | Diane Mellish | 337 5530 | Quartermaster | Brian Smith | 355 9945 |
| Vice-President | Gary Huish | 332 7020 | Social Events | Margot Bowden | 332 7020 |
| Treasurer | Mike Bourke | 332 7097 | Committee | Kevin Hughes | 332 6281 |
| Trip Planner | Kerry Moore | 359 5069 | | Alison Maccoll | 322 8540 |
| Secretary | Merv Meredith | 322 7239 | | | |
| Editor | Raymond Ford | 351 9496 | | | |

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| 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.

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| Tuesday, 9 June  | Federated Mountain Clubs NZ - Liz Wightwick Liz Wightwick- PTC's successful nomination for FMC's Executive - will speak about FMC's role and its achievements. FMC celebrates and advocates for outdoor recreation in NZ. The organisation cherishes our backcountry and acts to protect our favourite places in the outdoors for now and for future generations. FMC is nearly 90 years in operation and has 21,000 members over 94 clubs (including PTC). Liz will also include some special photos from over 45 years tramping. <i>Supper duty: Maureen Thompson and Margot Bowden</i> |
| Tuesday, 14 July  | PTC Alpine Tramping Trips – Geoff Spearpoint and Others Join PTC members talking about the alpine tramping trips to the Gardens of Eden and Allah in February 2019 and the Mathias Catchment in January 2020. Some tall tales, but mostly true about the club's alpine travel in some of the South Island's beautiful mountain scenery. |

SOCIAL EVENTS

**Tuesday 16
June**

Sumner Esplanade and Waterfront Walk

Sumner Esplanade and Waterfront Walk. A lot of work has been undertaken in this area and it is fully lit. Meet at Cave Rock parking area at 6pm.

Dinner at 7pm at Indian Sumner Restaurant, 11A Wakefield Avenue, Sumner. Please let Margot know if you are interested in coming to dinner email: margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020 by Sunday 14 June.

NOTES

President's Notes

Hi everyone

Life is feeling much more normal now, and I am excited about the high probability of being back in Level 1 by the middle of next week. Club Night is definitely happening next Tuesday, including supper, so I am looking forward to seeing many of you then. We are publishing a list of trips in this newsletter, and will sort out leaders and get things up and running as soon as we are in Level 1. It will be great to be getting out of town on a regular basis again.

Diane Mellish

June Night Sky Notes

Winter is the best time to see the night sky. The Milky Way is high overhead, stretching west to east, and many bright stars are visible. These include Sirius, almost due west after sunset; while Canopus is high in the southwest sky. From our viewpoint, Sirius looks brighter; but Canopus is 14 times further away and in reality is 60 times brighter than Sirius, and 1400 times brighter than our Sun!

High in the southern sky, almost overhead, is the Southern Cross with the two pointers, Alpha and Beta Centauri a little further east. Can you also recognise the fainter lookalikes, a little further west: the so-called 'false cross' and the 'diamond cross'? Looking northeast, you can see orange Arcturus low in the sky. Being so low, it often 'twinkles' red and green.

The Planets: bright Jupiter rises in the southeast around 8 pm; it's currently around 640 million km distant. That's about 1,600 times further than the Moon, or about 11 million times further than the Sheffield Pie Shop from Cathedral Square. A little later, fainter Saturn follows Jupiter into the sky, while orange Mars pops up around midnight. Later in the month, Venus will be visible in the East before sunrise.

Winter solstice (shortest day) is June 22.

Full moon is on 6th June, last quarter 13th, new moon 21st, and 1st quarter on 28th.

Graham Townsend

Membership Changes

New members

The club welcomes new member – Kate Taylor.

Resignations

Carol Crawford rejoined PTC in 1976, and was an Executive Committee member for a number of years, including Treasurer. Although not active with the club for many years, Carol has always kept in touch via the Pegasus group.

Rick Bolch was an Executive Committee member for a number of years, including Secretary from 1991-1997. He put a lot of work in coordinating the printing and distribution of Footnotes, plus being the contact person for new members. Rick was one of the instigators of Fat Tyre Fanatics, a name that sounds very much like Rick's terminology!

Obituary - Dick Leggoe 1920 - 2020

It is sad to note that Dick has passed away in Auckland on 17th May. At the grand old age of 100, he has climbed his last hill and will be missed by all who climbed, tramped or walked with him.

Katie and Dick Leggoe joined PTC in Dec 1975, while still being active CMC members and later on, also Pegasus members. Katie had always been the climber in their partnership, having climbed Mts Cook and Tasman in her twenties, but they shared a common love of the outdoors including some major cycle trips, volunteer track work and just being there, anywhere on the Port Hills.

My own first clear memory of Dick was on a magic Williams Saddle trip in June 1984 as part of a thirteen strong PTC party. There is a photo in the club albums of that group. On the saddle on Sunday in brilliant weather, we played bowls on the frozen tarn. Afterwards, Dick took me for a walk sidling above the tarns and explained that the 'farm track' we were walking along had been made by herds of perhaps thirty deer moving back and forth. Thankfully, the deer had gone by the mid 1980's. And this was typical Dick; a regular source of information about times past. I am personally grateful that I was able to enjoy his company on many PTC trips in my first decade or so in PTC.

Dick was on our Executive for a few years from 1989 to about 1993 that I know of. Again, sharing his extensive knowledge of the high country

Katie, who was five years older than Dick, passed away in Jan 2015 at the age of 99. But Dick continued to live on their large Hoon Hay property right up to early 2019 when he moved into a retirement home in Auckland to be close to his surviving daughter, Carol.

It was a privilege to have known you, Dick.

Merv Meredith

FMC 2020-2021 Membership Cards

The current FMC card expires on 31st May and the mail out of the new cards has started. For 'hard copy' members, they have been included with this June Footnotes mail out. For 'electronic' members the FMC Backcountry magazine is due to be mailed out in early July, so the FMC card will be included in that mail out.

Some members may be working toward life after Covid-19 and keen to receive the new discount card. If you are an electronic member and would like your card before July, just give Stan Wilder a ring to arrange pick up. If you are one of the handful of Electronic members who don't have a Backcountry mail out but would still like a FMC card, again, just phone Stan Wilder.

Deadline for the July newsletter: 4 July 2020 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 30 June 2020.

FORTHCOMING TRIPS

Day Trips

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town nearest to the destination. Our website www.ptc.nz has maps of these meeting places. 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.

- 7 Jun**
Sunday
● **[Charteris Bay—Diamond Harbour Cliff-top walk](#)**
Awaiting Leader
An easy circuit from Charteris Bay on a low route to Diamond Harbour, then a walk back on a minor road—Bayview Rd
Meet 0900 Charteris Bay slipway
- 13-14 Jun**
Sat, Sun
● ● **[Pinchgut Hut](#)**
Names to Kerry M 359 5069
An easy-moderate there-and-back walk though a mixture of forest, with only a little climbing. Pinchgut Hut has a wood stove
List closes 07 Jun
- 13 Jun**
Saturday
● **[Brooklands Lagoon](#)**
Awaiting Leader
From Brooklands we walk south alongside the lagoon to Spenser Park and then north to the mouth of the Waimakariri River.
Meet 0900 Brooklands
- 20-22 Jun**
Sat-Mon
● ● ● **[Lochinvar Hut](#)**
Names to Kerry M 359 5069
From Mount White we walk on farm tracks or over Gray Hill to this hut near the Mounds of Misery. Moderate
List closes 14 Jun
- 21 Jun**
Sunday
● **[Halswell Quarry—Sign of the Bellbird](#)**
Awaiting Leader
From Halswell Quarry we connect with Kennedys Bush track, climb to the Summit Road then on tracks to the Sign of the Bellbird and Mt Cass
Meet 0830 at the Quarrymans quarters car park
- 27-28 Jun**
Sat, Sun
● ● **[Kirwans Hut](#)**
Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872
An easy-moderate walk on a well-benched miners’ track to this classy old hut. Kirwans Hill beckons, nearby.
List closes 21 Jun
- 27 Jun**
Saturday
● **[Barnett Park--Windsor Castle--Jollies Bush](#)**
Awaiting Leader
An easy-moderate walk via the Eastenders Track then alongside Clifton Tce, over to Richmond Hill, Windsor Castle, Jollies Bush and back to Barnett Park. A great circuit.
Meet 0830 at Barnett Park

DIVERSIONS

On the alpine trip this year, Sonja Risa cooked a mushroom risotto for the party. It was a delicious change from a succession of pasta dishes!

Sonja's Mushroom risotto (dehydrated) - Serves 6 people

Ingredients

- Approx. 1.1litres of stock (chicken, fish or vegetable)
- 60g of butter
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 large onion finely chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic finely chopped
- 1/2 head of celery, finely chopped
- 500g mushrooms
- 400g arborio rice
- 2 glasses of dry white vermouth or dry white wine
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 70g butter
- 115g Parmesan cheese

Method

Before the tramp

1. Heat the stock.
2. In a separate pan, heat the olive oil and 60g butter, add the onions, garlic and celery, and fry very slowly for about 15 minutes without colouring till the vegetables have softened.
3. Turn up the heat. Add the rice, keep stirring the rice to lightly fry it until it looks slightly translucent (about a minute).
4. Add the vermouth or wine and keep stirring — it will smell fantastic.
5. Once the vermouth / wine has cooked into the rice, add your first ladle of hot stock and a good pinch of salt and pepper.
6. Turn down the heat to a simmer so the rice doesn't cook too quickly. Keep adding ladlefuls of stock, and stir and allowing each ladleful to be absorbed before adding the next one. This will take around 15 minutes.
7. Carry on adding stock until the rice is soft but with a slight bite. Check the seasoning. If you run out of stock before the rice is cooked, add some more boiling water.
8. Remove from the heat Stir well. Place a lid on the pan and allow to sit for 2 minutes.
9. Allow the risotto to cool and spread it on the dehydrator trays. Put the dehydrator on the relevant temperature setting, it will take about 6-8 hours.
10. Put the meals into tough plastic bags. Use a vacuum sealer or squeeze out as much air as possible

On the tramp

11. To rehydrate the meal, put the risotto and mushrooms in a billy, cover with boiling water. Give the risotto a good stir, and leave it to stand with the lid on for about 10 minutes
12. Add the butter and parmesan cheese and stir into the risotto, and reheat on a low before serving.

Variations

- Substitute other vegetables for the mushrooms i.e. spinach, asparagus etc .

Chef's Notes

- You can dehydrate mushrooms separately and package with the risotto.
- For the trip allow about 130 - 150 g of dehydrated risotto per person

Heaphy Track – 5-8 March 2020

The Heaphy Track was my first trip in New Zealand some (gulp) 45 years ago. The next time was the first multi-day trip that we took our children on (aged 8 and 6) some 28 years ago. Despite some forays into either end for caving or day trips, it was high time that we did the whole thing again. The huts might have changed, our energy levels certainly had but the remembered scenery can't have changed that much. Diane Dixon had booked the trip from South to North so that she could spend some time with her son, David, from the States, and asked whether anyone wanted to go the other way to car swap. That was just the incentive we needed. Kerry advertised through Communicator and Penny joined the group.

We swapped cars the previous day and enjoyed a leisurely drive to Collingwood with the obligatory lunch stop in Murchison. Dubious weather, but the forecast for the next week looked amazing. Travel over the Takaka Hill was as spectacular as we remembered, especially with road works fixing five major slips caused by previous wild weather. Collingwood had not changed much apart from new river protection by the Aorere River providing camper van parking at the Motor Camp.



Figure 1. Margot and Penny at Aorere Shelter. Photo courtesy of Gary Huish.

First day started with breakfast at the Collingwood Courthouse Café. We didn't do that with our children. The dubious ford before Browns Hut had vanished with the new car park but Browns Hut looked the same. The gradual climb to Aorere Shelter worked out some of the stiffness from the previous day's drive. Up and up again to Flanagans Corner with a side trip to the Heaphy Track 915m high point and view to Perry Saddle Hut. Finally, the hut! We had been looking forward to the possibility of seeing some of the 30 released Takahe but didn't have our hopes up. Then, there they were, right at the hut complete with radio transmitters. Apparently, they like the introduced grasses that are carried up on trampers' boots as they are more palatable than tough native grasses that have evolved to survive Takahe predation.

Next day was our long one to James McKay Hut. What changes in scenery. First Rata forest near the saddle, then the Goulard Downs with the open heathland country and beech forest "enchanted forest" near Goulard Downs Hut. Picnic Table corner, where Penny took that opportunity to take a panoramic photo, then the Boot Post, including high heels. Whio in the stream, more takahe and weka attacking Margot's scroggin. The track is compacted granite and hard under foot. Margot got blisters with well worn boots that the James McKay warden described as common. Most people travel North to South with the people we met at Perry Saddle

using the same huts and we were starting to know them well. Diane and David appeared at James McKay, good to know our car was at Karamea.

At last generally downhill to Heaphy Hut. The James McKay warden had told us about the delights of the next section. The tallest moss, cave spiders and nesting shags with chicks. We managed to tick them off although the cave spiders had to wait until after our arrival at Heaphy and a restorative cup of tea.

Last day along the coast. Nikau palms with discarded fronds looking like basking seals. We tested their weight and decided not to pause underneath, not easy. The coastal section felt like another world. White beaches, wekas and *Powelliphanta* shells. Then at last a view of our car through the trees, at least it's there. The drive to Last Resort was a welcome opportunity to be seated and still moving as the first rain that we encountered started to fall. That first beer was fantastic, as was the second.

Little did we know that this was going to be the last major trip for some time. Looking from the other side of Covid-19 lockdown, it seemed almost a lost lifetime. The huts certainly had changed, our energy levels were nowhere near where they once were, but the scenery was just as spectacular as we remembered.

Trampers: **Margot Bowden, Penny Coffey and Gary Huish.** 🏔️ GH

Governors Bay Shoreline walk – Sunday 17 May 2020

Level 2 of the Covid 19 lockdown allowed our nine to do this local walk from the Governors Bay Hotel down to the pier and along the shore track. We combined this walk with the Bay Heritage circuit which includes William Gray's Cottage, Cholmondeley Children's Centre, a Margaret Mahy Plaque and Ohinetahi Volcanic Rocks. The trachyte rocks are fascinating with their iron-stained patterns. Near to the Allenvale picnic area there is an old quarry where Charteris Bay sandstone was extracted—sedimentary rock below the volcanics. The large picnic table at Allenvale picnic area was in the shade so we sat on grass, looking over the mudflats all the way out to the heads. On the mudflats we saw kingfishers and the usual foraging birds.

Returning, we went up Church Lane to the main road and St Cuthberts Church, completed in 1862. We ended the heritage circuit, with its nine historic points of interest back at the Governors Bay Hotel.

We were: **Kate Taylor, Jill Fenner, Derek Gane, Irene Kilgour, Maureen Thompson, Diane Dixon, Joy Schroeder, Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Figure 2. Six of eight of our "spaced-out" team. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore

Mt Herbert from Kaituna Valley - 23 May 2020



Figure 3 '...or people wandering with their head in the clouds'. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

It was Day 59 of lockdown and new Level 2 Covid-19 rules about social distancing, car-pooling issues and group size restrictions to be considered but time to get tramping again. The track from the head of the Kaituna Valley provided a good opportunity, close enough to Christchurch so that people could take their own cars but far enough from the tracks on the Port Hills that many had traversed upwards, downwards and sideways during Levels 3 and 4.

Margot conducted the briefing to our suitably spaced group and then we set out up the track keeping to our maximum group size. The track climbs gradually but we felt we had a workout by the time we reached Te Ara Pataka near the crest of the ridge for morning tea. The north-east breeze was freshening by this time and low cloud was starting to cover the summit of Mt Herbert. More layers were added as we were exposed to the wind along the ridge towards little Mt Herbert. There we regrouped. The cloud had lowered, and visibility was restricted to occasional glimpses of Lyttelton Harbour. Margot headed back with two, who had decided that they had seen all that they were going to while the rest proceeded in the approximate direction of Mt Herbert. That summit was achieved for a brief photo opportunity of figures in the mist. We left when three four-wheel

drive vehicles loomed out of the cloud, presumably to service the communication facilities on the peak although there did seem to be a high passenger to worker ratio.

Travel back down the ridge was almost pleasant with the wind behind us and relatively tropical once we had dropped off the ridge. We had stopped for lunch at the morning-tea spot before noticing the first group lunching further down the zigzags below. The numbers of people coming up the track were increasing including one group with two very vocal little girls, who we had been hearing for some time.

Back to the cars for an early afternoon. It was great to be out, seeing people again and while it might not be tramping as we used to do, it was starting to feel like a dose of normality.

Trampers: Ian Beale, Mary Jane Bonsell, Mike Bourke, Margot Bowden (leader), Sue Britain, Derek Gane, Jean Hallam, Mary Korver, Geoff Korver, Kerry Moore, Valerie Saxton, Shi Ping Wang and Gary Huish. 🏔️ GH



Figure 4. Another Executive Committee meeting? Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.