



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
July 2020*

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

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			



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, 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. <i>Supper Duty: Maureen Thompson</i>
Tuesday, 11 August 	PTC 2020 Photo competition Come and share your best tramping photos with fellow club members. We encourage everyone to show some of your more recent trip photos, i.e. from 2018 onward, and they could include during, maybe, or post Covid-19. For more details, see the 'PTC 2020 Photo Competition' in the 'Notes' section.

SOCIAL EVENTS

**Wednesday,
15 July**

"Christchurch is lit" event followed by dinner

One hour walk around central Christchurch to see the colourful lighting installations and interactive displays. Meet at 6pm outside Sakimo Japanese Bistro, 119 Worcester Street, Shop 16A Cathedral Junction.

Dinner at 7.15pm at Sakimo Japanese Bistro, 119 Worcester Street, Shop 16A Cathedral Junction. Please let Maureen know if you are coming to dinner. Contact: Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com

NOTES

President's notes

Hi everyone,

It's great to be connecting regularly with many of you again while out tramping. We have been fortunate with some good weather recently, but the colder spell has arrived so I will repeat some reminders about keeping safe in the hills.

- Make sure you have sufficient fresh batteries for your torch in case you need to use it for many hours on these long winter nights.
- Check your car battery is in good order - consider carrying jumper leads or a battery power pack if concerned.
- Try fitting your car chains at home on a fine day so you can do it quickly and efficiently when needed.
- Same deal with your crampons!
- Have spare clothing where you can access it quickly.
- Check the avalanche risk on <http://www.avalanche.net.nz>. The club has a snow shovel for hire.

I heard of a very scary recent accident involving someone from Christchurch slipping on a swing bridge, getting into a very difficult situation and having to drop a long way down off the bridge into a big, bouldery, swift, cold West Coast river. Luckily he survived with minimal injuries, but he had great difficulty getting out after being washed some considerable distance downstream. I will now be making sure I stow my walking poles on my pack before I climb onto a bridge and I will be holding tight to the hand wires just in case!

I'm not trying to frighten you off winter tramping!! But it is so much more enjoyable and safe if we go well-prepared. Have fun in the snow and cold, stay safe and keep on tramping.

Diane Mellish

July night sky notes

On the off-chance that we ever see the night sky again, here are a few things to look out for in July: Jupiter is in the eastern evening sky, with fainter Saturn just below it. Orange Mars rises about midnight; Venus rises around 5 am. Just above Jupiter is the constellation Sagittarius; in that direction lies our galaxy's centre.

It's interesting to compare the colours of brighter stars. At the moment we can see the white of Canopus in the SW, and the orange-red tint of Antares in Scorpius, or of Arcturus low to the north. The stars of the Southern Cross are mostly white - but can you spot the exception?

The Sun is currently at solar minimum, which reduces the chance of auroral activity. You can learn more about the Aurora at <https://spaceweather.com> and there are some interesting animations at e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdRXIqWdNks>

Full moon is 5th July, 3rd quarter is on 13th, new moon on 21st, and first quarter on 28th.

Graham Townsend

PTC 2020 Photo Competition

Two major factors have influenced our thinking this year:

1. In recent years, our efforts to attract entries to a PTC competition run in the FMC format have resulted in disappointingly few entries and consequently few or zero entries in the FMC competition.
2. Covid-19. Need we say more! Time has gone by. If we had been planning on an FMC entry we would have held our PTC competition display at the June Club night.

So our thoughts are to ONLY run a PTC competition, albeit in a format based on FMC, but simplified. This is how it will happen:

14 July club night

Coincidentally, the July talk is about Geoff's alpine trips, so lots of good tramping photos, some of which are bound to end up in the competition.

11 Aug Club night

Our PTC Competition, voted on by the assembled masses on the night! We will use the FMC style categories, i.e.:

- ABN Above the bushline with no human element
- ABW Above the bushline with a human element
- BBN Below the bushline with no human element
- BBW Below the bushline with a human element
- NFF Native flora and fauna
- HIS Historic

Brian Smith will be coordinating competition entries again. Please email your entries to Brian brian21x@extra.co.nz before **28 July**. Your email will be your personal identifier. File names should include category abbreviation (see above) and may include a title for the image. But please do **not** include your name in the file name.

Merv Meredith

Deadline for the August newsletter: 1 August 2020 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Executive Committee meeting: Tuesday, 28 July 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.

- Sat,Sun**
11-12 July
●●
Arthurs Pass Base
Merv Meredith 322 7239
Doing a range of day trips while staying at a former railway house.
Closed
- Saturday**
11 July
●
Mt Lyndon—Cloudy Hill
Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 **fordrm@snap.net.nz**
An interesting circuit above Lake Lyndon with splendid snowy vistas all around. Bring an ice axe and crampons.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$13**
- Sat,Sun**
18-19 Jul
●●
Magdalen Hut
Alison Maccoll 322 8540
A neat little hut just 15 minutes off the St James Walkway and only a few hours-walk from Boyle Village. Be sure to look for mistletoe on the beech trees near the hut.
Book by Sunday, 12 July
- Sunday**
19 Jul
●
Bobs Knob from Kowai Hut
Kerry Moore 359 5069
An easy-moderate climb from Kowai Hut to the 1261m point we call Bobs Knob and back the same way or down the spur to the big pines at the road.
Meet 0730 Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$12**
- Sun**
19 Jul
●
Mt Torlesse
Merv Meredith 322 7239
A moderate hard climb up the spur from Kowai Hut to 1961m Mt T. Ice axe and crampons must be taken.
Meet 0730 Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$12**
- Sat,Sun**
25-26 Jul
●●
Quail Island/Otamahua Hut
Dan Pryce 356 1962
Staying in the newly converted hut on Otamahua/Quail Island for two lazy days with easy walks and loads of history to witness.
Book by Sunday, 12 July
- Sunday**
26 Jul
●
Mt Alford
Diane Mellish 337 5530
Easy-moderate climb starting in Alford Reserve and then into tussockland to this 1171m foothill, inland from Methven.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$16**
- Thur-Sun**
30 Jul-2 Aug
●●●●
Whataroa—Butler--Ice Lake
Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 **fordrm@snap.net.nz**
A fairly rugged, moderate walk up the Whataroa Valley to Butler Hut then to Top Butler Hut and Ice Lake. Please note the dates may shift slightly depending on the weather forecast.
Book by Sunday, 26 July
- Sat-Tue**
1-4 Aug
●●●●
Mount Arthur Circuit
Angela Grigg 027 578 9743
An easy-moderate circuit on the Mount Arthur Tablelands, an ancient marble plateau.
Book by Sunday, 26 July

- Sunday**
2 Aug
 ● [Pompeys Pillar—Red Bay](#)
Chris Leaver 322 6445
 An easy loop taking in seldom-visited coastal bays and headlands on eastern Banks Peninsula.
8am Halswell School on Halswell Road **Approx cost \$14**
- Sunday**
2 Aug
 ● [Cheeseman – Izard circuit](#)
Merv Meredith 322 7239
 A moderate hard circuit taking in 2031m Cheeseman and 2019m Izard in the heart of the Craigieburn Range. Take an ice-axe and crampons.
Meet 0700 Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$17**
- Sat-Sun**
8-9 Aug
 ●● [Te Ara Pataka Track](#)
Norman Burden 358 5115
 An easy-moderate trip to the charming Rod Donald hut on Te Ara Pataka track and so close to Christchurch . The hut has a wood-burner.
Book now so internet bookings can be made
- Saturday**
8 Aug
 ● [Planting--Quail Island/Otamahua](#)
Stan Wilder 260 2340
 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 Quail Island at 3.30pm.
Book by Thursday, 6 August
- Sunday**
9 Aug
 ● [Mt Foweraker](#)
Peter Umbers 359 9118
 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 0700 Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$19**
- Sat,Sun**
15-16 Aug
 ●● [Mounts Tekoa & Te Kooti](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
 A moderate climb of these 1469m and 1615m peaks in the Island Hills area. We plan to get use of a farm hut so book soon, so that can be arranged.
Book by Sunday, 2 August
- Sunday**
16 Aug
 ● [Kowai Hut--The Gap](#)
Awaiting leader
 A moderate climb to this prominent feature. We park at the big pines and walk up the Kowai River to the hut then on a steepening climb to the snow. Take ice-axe and crampons.
Meet 0730 Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$12**
- Sat,Sun**
22-23 Aug
 ●● [Lake Daniell](#)
Sue Piercey 384 9567
 Check-out the brand-new Kohanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls Hut on this easy trip to beautiful Lake Daniell, near Lewis Pass. The hut, completed in March 2020, was designed and built especially for families and school groups using innovative, sustainable building techniques. The high-standard walking track is suitable for children.
Book by Sunday, 16 August

- Sunday** [Mt Whatno—Black Rock](#)
23 Aug **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● A moderate climb to 1396m Whatno and 1714m Black Rock to overlook the Esk River catchment. May require iceaxe. Returning the same way.
Meet 7:30am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$17**
- Sat,Sun** [Rough Creek—Lake Christabel](#)
29-30 Aug **Kevin Hughes 332 6281**
 ●● Moderate trip up Rough Creek near Lewis Pass to Lake Christabel Hut. Can be made into a circuit by descending through forest on day-one. Expect some snow on the higher section.
Book by Thursday 23 August
- Sunday** [Maukuratawhai](#)
30 Aug **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ● A moderate climb near Hanmer of this 1615m peak. Take ice axe and crampons and you might consider crossing the Clarence in shoes then changing into boots.
Meet 7:00am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$23**

DIVERSIONS

Diane's Easy Christmas Pudding (serves about 8 people)

In a bowl, mix:

- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ cup each of raisins, currants, sultanas
- Mixed peel and cherries to taste
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice

Dissolve 50g butter in ½ cup boiling water.

Dissolve 1 teaspoon of baking soda in ½ cup cold milk.

Stir all together and let stand for an hour or more while the dried fruit absorbs liquid and the mixture thickens. Then steam in a greased pudding basin for about 3 hours.

Hot Custard (serves 4 people)

Put 6 tablespoons of custard powder, 2 tablespoons sugar and ¾ cup milk powder together in a plastic bag. To prepare, mix with ½ cup cold water. Add to a billy with 2 ½ cups boiling water, stir and heat gently until it boils again and thickens.

TRIP REPORTS

Godley Head, Saturday - 31 May 2020

Thirteen set off from the Sumner/Scarborough clocktower for Taylors Mistake on a cool, sunny morning. Inspired by the calm, deep-blue sea we set our cameras clickin' as we walked along Godley Head walkway in the company of lots of other walkers and their dogs. We could see the Seaward and Inland Kaikoura. We lost our keenest shutterbug, Terry, who fell behind for a good half-hour but caught us as we stopped for lunch at the gun emplacements. At the main picnic area, we met the Clarks who were still eating their lunch. To make a circuit we exited on a track parallel to the road then went down alongside Anaconda Track to re-join the walkway. From Taylors Mistake we retraced our steps over the hill to Sumner.

We were: **Mary McKeown (leader) Rhonda, Diane Dixon, Jill Fenner, Helen Harkness, Gary Huish, Margot Bowden, Geoff & Mary Korver, Stuart Payne, Terry Thomsen, Wendy Wallace, and Kerry Moore..** 🏡 KM



Figure 1. View to Scarborough Head. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore

Pinchgut Hut, Mt Thomas Conservation Area –13 – 14 June 2020



Figure 2. Ian, Haroon and Dan. Photo courtesy of Liz Wightwick

On cold clear morning, we squeezed packs into the back of the car and Liz drove us the short distance to Loburn for our first club trip since COVID lockdown. This was the first PTC club trip for Ian and Haroon, and between them they made a good contribution to lowering the average age for the trip. Kerry Moore and Peter Umbers had been up the valley on several occasions previously over the autumn to lay wasp bait, and had given us the heads up on the need to ford the Okuku River. Despite the slippery rocks and cold feet in crocks we managed to make the crossing with dignity relatively intact bar the loss one jandal.

The track passed through stands of kanuka, beech forest and young kowhai. After about 3 hours of easy travel we reached the 7 bunk Pinchgut Hut. As we enjoyed lunch in the last of the sun, day trippers and hunters headed out with heavy packs and smiles of success. We were happy as we scored the bunks.

There was a good supply of dead manuka nearby so we set about sawing up a good supply of firewood to get us through a predicted frosty night. We had also carried in dry kindling, so in no time the hut was warm, and we were enjoying a shared meal of Liz's smoked chicken and pasta, followed by Diane's plum pudding and custard (see the recipe above). The evening was spent playing Zilch, then a card game and sharing stories of trips that did not quite go to plan.

With a full tummy's, the people on the top bunk struggled up the ladder and reflected on how nice it was to share good company in the hills.

Diane was first up on Sunday morning and boiled the billy for those of us who were having a sleep in. We walked out into the warmth of the sun. We are keen to return for a trip to Bob's Camp Bivvy. It is great having access to a hut within easy reach of Christchurch.

The trampers were: **Liz Wightwick (leader), Diane Mellish, Dan Pryce, Haroon Sheikh and Ian Wightwick** 🏠IW



Figure 3. Pinchgut Hut. Photo courtesy of Liz Wightwick

Pines Clearance - Wednesday 17 June 2020



Figure 4. Peter Umbers destroying a Douglas Fir seedling Photo courtesy of Grant Hunter

Worried that the newly instituted scheme to employ mountain guides and kayak instructors would mop up the last wilding pine, five of our best conifer slayers went to clear a patch near the Craigieburn ski road. We needn't have worried. There were enough pines to go round, and we managed to clear only a fraction of our assigned area.

Christchurch was having an unseasonably warm day so we assumed we'd get likewise as we were well east of the divide. Alas at 1:30 the norwest rain came our way so we headed for the car. When the rain eased off we pulled some seedlings near the road but more rain came so we headed for home.

We were: **Grant Hunter, Raymond Ford, Peter Umbers, Gary Huish and Kerry Moore.** 🏠KM

Camp Creek Hut (longest night) - 20 - 21 June

It had been looking like another cancelled trip by me through lack of interest and inclement conditions. But a late call from an insistent woman changed all that. We finally chose Camp Creek since the West Coast appear to have a better weather forecast for a short postcovid walk.

We arrived at the hut for lunch after a sometimes slippery and steep climb. Four of the six beds already taken. After lunch, Bill, Liz and I climbed up the steep track to the main Alexander ridgeline. A strong cold wind and the short daylight hours mean that we didn't linger too long for the great views.



Figure 5. Arriving at Camp Creek Hut. Photo courtesy of Liz Wightwick



Figure 6. Peter, Kerry and Bill. Photo courtesy of Liz Wightwick

Back at the hut there was now 13 people for the night! A generous enjoyable meal with the prerequisite shiitake mushrooms cooked by Liz followed by Kerry's legendary custard had us chokka. Nobody seemed keen to use the outside bath. Six people slept on floor, including one hunter with no mat. Two people had lit the fire, but it was hardly needed as the hut was not cold with 13 bodies.

We left at 9.15 am for the approx. 2hr slippery walk down to Liz's Rav4. A debrief at Arthurs and early home time ended another successful weekend.

We were: **Bill Templeton, Liz Wightwick, Kerry Moore, and Peter Umbers (leader)**

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Figure 7. Bill Templeton on the Mt Alexander tops. Photo courtesy of Liz Wightwick.

Kennedys Bush Track - Cass Peak – 21 June 2020

A group of seven set off from Halswell Quarry on a cool, overcast morning, the forecast being for cloud and occasional drizzle. We made our way up the quarry-rim in big strides, stopping occasionally to admire the views around us. Once we were on Kennedys Bush Road, we made our way to the start of the track, close-by, and then walked up the steady incline to the top.

After taking a short breather, we continued for thirty minutes on the Holdsworth Track to the Sign of the Bellbird for a welcome morning tea-break. Gary commented that the snow-clad Torlesse Range was looking good in the distance. At the same time, we could see a change in the weather intruding, with a sea-mist deciding to pay us a visit. That is how it stayed for most of the day.

From the Sign of the Bellbird, we connected to the Crater Rim Walkway for a while and then on to the Summit Road, linking to another road which took us up to a foggy Cass Peak. The most notable feature was the fenced-off radar dome, built in the late 80s, which is used for aircraft positioning services.

We soon decided to retreat, back onto the Crater Rim Walkway. At the junction, we took the Cass Ridge Track to the Ellas Track, and returned to the Bellbird for lunch. We followed Ellas Track again, and then the Summit Road before our journey back down Kennedys Bush Track to our waiting cars.

We were: **Alison Maccoll, Joy Schroeder, Helen Harkness, Jill Fenner, Margot Bowden, Gary Huish and Norman Burden (leader)** 🏠 NB

Kirwans Hut 27 – 28 June 2020

With a plan to tackle Kirwans Hut just outside of Reefton, a total of ten of us set out from Christchurch. Gary, Margot, Mary and Diane did so on Friday afternoon staying in Reefton overnight, six others in two cars headed over on Saturday morning. The weather forecast was for damp conditions on Saturday night and all-day Sunday, with swirling fronts along the West Coast.



Figure 8. Kirwans Hut in the evening light. Photo courtesy of Vesna Mojsilovic

The former mining town of Caplestone, down Boatmans Road, was the trailhead, with a number of former gold and coal mines in the valley. We started in two groups, the Reefton overnighers left in the morning and the rest of us set off just after 11am. The DOC sign said a six-hour trip to the hut.



Figure 9. Evening meal Kirwans Hut. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford

The first part of the trail had us going through a short tunnel and thereafter crossing a few swing bridges. An hour up the track we stopped for a lunch break by the last bridge at the confluence of two creeks, just before we started gaining elevation.

As the trail was built for the goldminers, it was well laid-out and easy walking, aside from the odd tree falls and minor slips. Rusty remnants from the miners were dotted along the trail, and slow steady climb of some 800-900 metres had us reaching the hut just before sunset.

The early morning group arrived at the hut first and had extra hour or so of daylight to explore a bit around

Kirwans Hill a kilometre away for 360-degree views. We were all treated to a few spectacular rays of light between cloud layers, excellent for photos.

The serviced 12-bunk hut had ample coal, double-glazed windows, and is well placed on the hill at 1294m. We had the space to ourselves. We were treated to an excellent Japanese-themed hotpot and plum pudding/custard desert, and we were able to see the lights shining in Reefton before bed. The anticipated rain finally set in, but I only heard a few passing showers on the roof during the night.

The morning had us starting off in rain gear, but only light rain got to us on the trail though the tree canopy. Back down the way we came and the weather got better, treating us to full sun back at the car park. Another successful trip in shaking off the tramping rust post lock-down!

We were: **Diane Mellish, Darcy Mawson, Norman Burden, Raymond Ford (leader), Gary Huish, Margot Bowden, Keith Hoard, Vesna Mojsilovic, Mary McKeown, and John Robinson.** 🏠 KH



Figure 10. Late afternoon view looking south from Kirwans Hut. Photo courtesy of Vesna Mojsilovic