



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
August 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, 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. <i>Supper Duty: Maureen Thompson and Margot Bowden</i>
Tuesday, 8 September 	Focus on Ashley – Rakahuri River Management The culmination of efforts by different interest groups, from bird watchers and 4WD enthusiasts to gravel extractors, working to reverse the decline in numbers of the unique birds that breed on the river.

SOCIAL EVENTS

**Tuesday,
18 August**

Hagley Park walk then dinner at Spagalimis Pizzeria.

Meet on the footpath in front of the George Hotel on Park Terrace at 6pm. Check out the lights on Park Terrace from around the world, including one from Wuhan. After a brisk walk in Hagley Park, we will head to Spagalimis (corner Salisbury/Montreal St) in time for dinner at 7.15pm. Names for dinner by Sunday 16 August to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com.

Spagalimis has special deals if you have their Uno card. <https://www.spagalimis.co.nz/uno-card/> Menu link: <https://www.spagalimis.co.nz/order/?menu=dinein>

NOTES

President's notes

Bookable Huts: You will be aware that in recent years pressure on DOC huts has meant that quite a number of them are now accessible only if pre-booked. This is creating a challenge for trip leaders whose trips involve a bookable hut. Many of these huts need to be booked a considerable time in advance of the trip to secure beds, so the usual trip closing time 5 days before departure does not work. If you wish to go on one of these trips you will need to CONTACT THE LEADER AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AND COMMIT TO GOING at that time. Our trip planner will alert you to which huts are in this category in the trip descriptions published in Footnotes. The leader may require you to go online and make and pay for your own booking to keep it simple and ensure personal responsibility for the hut fees. Tenting can be an alternative sometimes, but not always. Camping is not permitted around some of these huts.

I hope you are all enjoying the longer daylight hours and the beautiful sunrises and sunsets.

Diane Mellish

August night sky notes

Comet Neowise was almost impossible to see from our latitude alas, and is now very faint. Not to worry - it'll be back in 6,800 years.

Almost overhead in the evening sky is the bright orange star Antares (the 'rival of Mars') in the constellation of Scorpius, with the teapot shape of Sagittarius nearby. In this direction lies the centre of our own galaxy, so the Milky Way hereabouts is spectacular.

Other bright stars in the evening sky include orange Arcturus in the northwest, white Altair further north, and Vega just visible above the northern horizon. The Southern Cross with the two Pointers are high in the southwest, with bright Canopus in the far south.

The solar system is putting on a great show at the moment. Looking east after sunset, Jupiter is a bright spot of light with Saturn a bit below it - less bright but still obvious. Orange Mars rises just before midnight.

A haggard, bleary eye raised to the pre-dawn sky will show Orion and Sirius in the east with brilliant Venus further north, and the star cluster Matariki roughly halfway between Venus and Mars. Brrr.. that sleeping bag beckons!!

Graham Townsend

Membership

The club welcomes new members - Rhonda Trounson and Mafalda Gehrig.

Deadline for the September newsletter: 29 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, 25 August 2020.

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.

Saturday [Planting--Quail Island/Otamahua](#)

8 Aug **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 Aug.

Sun [Mt Foweraker](#)

9 Aug **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 [Mounts Tekoa & Te Kooti](#)

15-16 Aug **Names to Diane Mellish 337 5530**

- A moderate climb of these 1469m and 1615m peaks in the Island Hills area. We plan to stay Saturday night at a farm hut and climb from there.
Book by Sunday, 9 Aug

Sun [Kowai Hut--The Gap](#)

16 Aug **Gary Huish 332 7020**

- A moderate-hard 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 [Lake Daniell](#)

22-23 Aug **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 Aug

- Sun**
23 Aug
● **[Mt Whatno—Black Rock](#)**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
A moderate climb to 1396m Whatno and 1714m Black Rock to overlook the Esk River catchment. May require ice-axe. Returning the same way.
Meet 7:30am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$17**
- Sat,Sun**
29-30 Aug
●● **[Rough Creek—Lake Christabel](#)**
Kevin Hughes 332 6281
Moderate trip up Rough Creek near Lewis Pass to Lake Christabel Hut. Can be made into a circuit by descending forest on day one. Expect some snow on the higher section
Book by 23 Aug.
- Sun**
30 Aug
● **[Maukuratawhai](#)**
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 River in shoes then changing into boots.
Meet 7am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St. **Approx cost \$23**
- Sat,Sun**
5-6 Sep
●● **[Discovery Stream—Sudden Valley](#)**
Peter Umbers 359 9118
A moderate-hard circuit up the Hawdon River and Discovery Stream to camp above a waterfall. On day 2 we go along the Polar Range to descend into Sudden Valley and back to the Hawdon
Book by Sunday, 30 Aug.
- Thur-Sun**
3-6 Sep
●●●● **[Ross Base](#)**
Chris Leaver newptc75@gmail.com
Staying at the Ross Beach Top10 holiday park. It has 2, 3 or 5 person pods to suit your price preference. Camp or stay in your van. Lots to see: easy walks around Ross, or along the sea coast; longer day-trips, such as Mt Greenland; or bag a hut on an overnigher. Kayak/canoe the inland lagoon or Lake Mahinapua to see tui feeding in the kowhai trees (hire cost with guide \$70/day). Cycle the Wilderness Trail or explore the Totara Valley on an inland back road. Evening star-gazing on the beach by firelight. Visit the historic gold-fields and museum, tree-top walk and coffee or just get away and read a book.
Book by Friday, 28 Aug.
- Sun**
6 Sep
● **[Brasenose—Flag Pk—Stony Bay Pk](#)**
Graeme Paltridge 384 3592
The cars do the hard work so the effort to climb 785m Brasenose is minimal. We take a short pine forest track to reach Flag Peak then get on a nice ridge track to reach 806m Stony Bay Peak.
Meet 8am Princess Margaret Hospital, Cashmere Rd, North **Approx cost \$13**
east carpark beside Cashmere Rd..
- Sat,Sun**
12-13 Sep
●● **[Boyle Flat Hut – Faust](#)**
Doug Forster 337 5453
A moderate climb from the Boyle over the Libretto Range via 1710m Faust. Anyone wanting an easy trip can return as for the inward leg.
Book by Sunday, 6 Sept.

- Saturday** **[Stan Helms—Major Hornbrook](#)**
12 Sep **Helen Harkness 384 2890**
 ● From Lyttelton, we go up the Stan Helms Track to the crater rim, then follow along it to the top of Major Hornbrook Track. Before we go down this track to our starting point, we will do a short loop into John Britten Reserve. Easy-moderate. The Number 28 bus will take you there. Saturday is market day
Meet 9am Lyttelton, corner of Canterbury and London streets by the sled dog.
- Sat,Sun** **[Nina Hut](#)**
19-20 Sep **Dan Pryce 356 1962**
 ●● An easy, flat walk in beautiful Nina Valley forest to this modern hut
Book by Sunday, 13 Sept.
- Sun** **[Mandamus River, Island Hills](#)**
20 Sep **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● An easy-moderate circuit on Island Hills Station.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St. **Approx cost \$18**
- Sat,Sun** **[Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut](#)**
26-28 Sep **John Cook 326 7458**
 ●●● A popular crossing from Arthurs Pass to the Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak.
Book by Sunday, 20 Sept.
- Sun** **[Mt Manson](#)**
27 Sep **Douglas Woods 021 242 9122**
 ● This moderate trip starts from the Craigieburn Ski Road. The high gain makes for a steep but short climb to ascend to this 1860m peak, at the northern end of the Craigieburn Range. Snow may be present, so take an ice-axe.
Meet 8am, Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$18**
- Sat,Sun** **[Mt Valiant](#)**
3-4 Oct **Diane Mellish 337 5530**
 ●● 1847m Mt Valiant gives splendid views all-around. A moderate-hard climb from the East Hawdon River.
Book by Sunday, 27 Sept.
- Sun** **[Mt Oakden](#)**
4 Oct **Gary Huish 332 7020**
 ● Yet another way to view Lake Coleridge on this moderate climb of 1633m Mt Oakden.
Meet 8am, Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd. **Approx cost \$20**
- Sat-Mon** **[Lawrence River, Erewhon](#)**
10-12 Oct **Murray Hight 027 555 0059**
 ●●● 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 bivvy below Hells Gate.
Book by Sunday, 4 Oct.
- Sun** **[Mt Bealey—Avalanche Peak](#)**
11 Oct **Calum McIntosh 376 6133**
 ● A moderate-hard climb to 1836m Mt Bealey, along to Lyell Peak and on to 1833m Avalanche Peak.
Meet 0700, Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd. **Approx cost \$23**

Brooklands Lagoon – Waimakariri River Mouth, Saturday 13 June 2020

The 9 of us met, 9:30am at the Spencer Park Shop, piled into two cars and drove to the Brooklands end of the track so we could walk back to Spencer for an early cuppa, then on to the sandy track through pines and lupins on the seaward side of the lagoon.

At the river-mouth we sat on driftwood as we ate our lunch and looked over to people fishing on the far bank—the Pines Beach side. The walk back to Spencerville on the wet sand of the beach seemed a long way. By this time there were people and dogs also enjoying the bright sunny day. Back at the same hexagonal picnic table some had another cuppa while the Brooklands cars were retrieved, then we left for home with plenty of day left to enjoy.

We were: **Ann Schofield & Tony Greaves (our leaders)** Jill Fenner, Mary McKeown, Rhonda Trounson, Helen Harkness, Irene Kilgour, Diane Dixon and Kerry Moore 🏠 KM



Figure 1 Brooklands Lagoon. Phot courtesy of Kerry Moore.

Gebbie Pass to Packhorse Hut, Sunday 5 July 2020

After a rainy week and lots of forest clearance, the track was quite muddy in places, but our indomitable band of 10 walkers made it to the hut at noon, plus or minus twenty minutes. Some had demanded a tea-break on the way and the rest were reluctant to stop on this breezy day. The “use-by 2017” peanut butter was still in the hut, but the place was generally quite tidy. The early arrivers were keen to get under-way after lunch so the “team” drifted back to Gebbies Pass in little groups.

With no stops, it’s easy to reach the hut in 2 hours so we could have started later than 0930 from Gebbies Pass. If it was drier underfoot, we would have been tempted to go alongside Mt Bradley to Charteris Bay to make a through-trip.

We were: **John Jagusch, Aarn Tate, Jill Fenner, Diane Dixon, Hilaire Campbell, Ainslie Talbot, Norman Burdon, Barbara Purcell, Dan Pryce and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM



Figure 2 Entering the wasteland. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore



Figure 3 Young pines and old pines. Looking towards Packhorse Hut in the saddle and flat topped Mt Bradley. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore

Mt Lyndon – Cloudy Hill, Saturday 11 July 2020

Driving in style from Christchurch over Porters Pass we chatted about the Book of Revelation, and arrived at a nippy windy Lake Lyndon without stopping at the Sheffield pie shop. The dressing room aka shelter provided a reprieve then it was off for a welcome warmup hill 600m up into the sunshine. Backs to the wind morning tea had a stunning view to Banks Peninsula and south. Some photography from the summit, but minimal lingering on Mt Lyndon with its patches of snow and 360 views including a chilly looking Porters ski field.

Steeply down to a saddle then a sharp icy scree incline and somehow it was lunch time already followed by a clement wander along to Cloudy Hill and light warm winds. Looking over at Mt Torlesse it would have been a different story. We chose the ridge down without the gendarmes and chockstones. Bill's handsaw and others' ice axes came to good use as we eliminated a number of wilding pines; however, plenty remain.

We felt very lucky to have such a wonderful day out so close to home, strenuous enough, scenic, pleasant company, and future planning opportunities. Back at the car, we were greeted by a packet of chocolate thins under the windscreen wiper! Thanks to Raymond for organising a Saturday outing.

We were: **Raymond Ford** (leader), **Bill Templeton**, **Geoff Spearpoint**, **Jane Liddle** 🏔️ JL



Figure 4. Ascending Mt. Lyndon. Lake Lyndon and Benmore Range in the background. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford.