

PTC Monthly Newsletter

October 2020

PTC			Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)		
Postal Address		Th	e Secretary, PTC, PO Box 13 258, City East, Christchurch 8141		
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Executive Comm	nittee				
President Vice-President Treasurer Trip Planner Secretary Editor	Diane Mellish Gary Huish Mike Bourke Kerry Moore Merv Meredith Raymond Ford	337 5530 332 7020 332 7097 359 5069 322 7239 351 9496	Quartermaster Brian Smith 355 9945 Social Events Margot Bowden 332 7020 Committee Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Alison Maccoll 322 8540		
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.

Tuesday, 13 October	Voyaging across the Pacific – Jane Robins One women's journey to explore courage, where the vessel was a small yacht, sailing some 3, 800 miles or 6,110 kms across the Pacific Ocean from French Polynesia to Mexico. Supper duty: Maureen Thompson and Margot Bowden
Tuesday, 10 November	South Island Tramping Trips Despite travel restrictions and weather events, PTC members have undertaken a number of trips recently. Come along and hear their tales of adventures in our own Covid-free back yard.

SOCIAL EVENTS			
Wednesday, 21 October	Ferrymead Parks Walk Come and enjoy an evening walk around the Ferrymead area through the local parks and reserves, followed by a meal at the 'Good Home' Ferrymead Restaurant. Meet outside the Good Home Ferrymead Restaurant, 2a Waterman Place, Ferrymead at 6pm. Dinner will be at 7.15pm.		
	If you want to come to dinner, please let Margot know before Sunday, 18 October. Contact Margot Bowden phone 332 7020 or margot.bowden@gmail.com		

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TO CONSIDER THE REMOVAL OF THE CLUBNIGHT DOOR CHARGE AND CONSEQUENT INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Executive unanimously recommends the following two steps:

- 1. The removal of the Club night door charge, currently set at \$2.00 p.p.
- 2. That our annual subscriptions for the 2021 year be amended as follows:-

Electronic membership increases from \$30.00 to \$35.00.

Hardcopy membership increases from \$40.00 to \$50.00.

The rationale for these proposals are:-

- 1.1. Without even considering Covid-19, no door charge removes the need for cash in an increasingly cashless society. In practical terms, it will mean the Treasurer does not have to collect, count and record the coinage, then take it to Kiwibank, eleven times annually.
- 1.2. The door charge would remain for the September, October, and November club nights, prior to the 2021 subs applying.
- 2.1. Part of the proposed subscriptions are to cover the loss of door takings, but the increase will also cover the continuing annual rise in postal costs.
- 2.2. The increase of \$10.00 in the hardcopy sub versus \$5.00 for electronic is the final step in rebalancing the two to fully account for the significantly higher actual printing and postage costs incurred for hardcopy membership.

The SGM will commence PROMPTLY at 7.30pm prior to the 13th OCTOBER club night.

The following motions from the Executive will be put by Gary Huish and seconded by our Treasurer, Mike Bourke:-

- 1. That the \$2.00 door charge cease, effective from the 2021 financial year.
- 2. That our annual subscriptions for the 2021 year be set at: Electronic membership \$35.00 Hardcopy membership: -\$50.00.

Merv Meredith, Secretary: - secretary@ptc.nz

NOTES

President's notes

Hello trampers. The main thing to report on is Executive's recommendation to raise the annual subscriptions. We have held off on this for the last couple of years even though we were not quite covering our costs. However, it is time to make the move so that we do not deplete our financial reserves too much. You have been emailed notices about the upcoming Special General Meeting on this issue. While the weather has been beautiful in the city of late we are having our usual spring challenges trying to get trips into the main divide while the equinoxial gales are blowing. Oh well, my garden is well tended! Hope to get together with some of you on a mountain trip soon. **Diane Mellish**

Night sky notes – October

The prominent winter constellations of Sagittarius and Scorpius are starting to dip westwards in the evening sky. The bright orange star Antares is the scorpion's heart. The golden dot below it, low on the western horizon, is the planet Mercury. High overhead is brilliant Jupiter, with fainter Saturn a bit to the east. Their long slow orbits mean their relative positions in the night sky change slowly. Lazy sods - Jupiter takes about 11 of our years to orbit the Sun and Saturn nearly 30!

Well north of Jupiter is the white star Altair, with its two companions, in the constellation Aquila; and if you have a clear view of the northern horizon, you may see Vega in the small constellation of Lyra.

Looking east we can see the bright star Fomalhaut, with Achernar to its south, and Canopus - the sky's 2nd brightest star - now very low in the south. Mars rises around 8 pm. That means its orbit brings it fairly close to earthlings, so it's quite prominent and definitely orange!

Look south: the Southern Cross is on its side with the two obvious Pointers above it.

The eastern pre-dawn sky reveals Orion with his two hunting dog companions, including the brightest star Sirius, and the star-cluster Matariki further north. However, brilliant Venus, rising around 5 am, far outshines Sirius.

Full moon on 2nd October, last quarter 10th, new moon 17th, and first quarter is on 24th.

Graham Townsend

Deadline for the October newsletter: <u>31 October 2020</u> – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Executive Committee meeting: 27 October 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 <u>Brabazon Saddle</u> 17-18 Oct. Kerry Moore 359 5069

• • Near Mesopatamia Station, this moderate circuit goes up Bush Stream to Crooked Spur

Hut, then over the Brabazon Range to Dog Kennel Bivvy and down Black Birch Creek.

Book by 11 Oct.

Sun Foggy Peak, Castle Hill Peak

18 Oct. Diane Mellish 337 5530

A popular pilgrimage to 1741m Foggy Peak and on to 1998m Castle Hill Peak if you feel

energetic. Easy moderate. Moderate if you go up Castle Hill Peak.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$12

Sat-Tues Thousand Acres Plateau

24-27 Oct. Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 fordrm@snap.net.nz

•••• A moderate tramp visiting this fascinating 50 millon year old limestone plateau near

Murchison. 4 days so we can visit the Needle and the Haystack which give spectacular

views.

Book by 18 Oct.

Sun Bowenvale—Victoria Park Circuit

25 Oct. Wendy Wallace 338 0550

An easy-moderate walk on the wonderful Port Hills

Meet 9am at the Bowenvale car park.

Sat-Mon Pell Stream—Cannibal Gorge

31 Oct. 02 Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727, 03 329 0008 ggeeooffss@gmail.com

Nov

••• We use the Lake Daniel track for a short way then switch to the Pell Stream track to the

hut. On the middle day we'll find a way over a low route to Cannibal Gorge Hut on the St James walkway. With the untracked section the trip needs to be considered moderate

overall.

Book by 25 Oct.

Saturday Okuti Valley—Montgomery Reserve

31 Oct. Graeme Nicholas 357 0047

An easy-moderate walk through Okuti Valley 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 Princess Margaret Hospital, north east carpark off Cashmere Rd. Approx cost \$9

Sat, Sun Princess Bath

7-8 Nov. Liz Wightwick 027 633 2038 trampingtrip@gmail.com

•• A moderate tramp behind Hanmer, camping at this large tarn below Mt Princess.

Book by 1 Nov.

Sun Bus Stop

8 Nov. Gavin Chalk 027 750 8943

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.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$19

Fri-Mon Casey Hut—Lake Minchin

13-15 Nov Awaiting leader

●●● An easy-moderate walk to stay at the new Casey Hut with a day trip to Lake Minchin.

Book by 8 Nov.

Fri-Sun Townsend Hut—Koropuku Hut

13-15 Nov Kerry Moore 359 5069

••• A moderate-hard trip up the Taramakau to Townsend Hut and over to secluded

Koropuku Hut. **Book by 1 Nov.**

Sun Kaituna—Mt Herbert—Packhorse

15 Nov Sue Piercey 384 9567

A moderate circuit starting 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 Princess Margaret Hospital, north east carpark off Cashmere Rd Approx cost \$7

Sat,Sun <u>Deception—Mingha</u>
21-22 Nov Alison Maccoll 322 8540

•• 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.

Book by 15 Nov.

Sun Cutty Grass Hut

22 Nov Evelien Baas 027 557 5521

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

Sat-Mon Gloriana and/or Faerie Queene

28-29 Nov Gary Huish 332 7020

••• Taking the Camera Gully route to the big tarn below Gloriana and on to Faerie Queene.

Some may want to settle for the easier Gloriana. Moderate hard trip.

Book by 22 Nov.

Sun Oxford Hill--Ashley Saddle

29 Nov Kevin Hughes 332 6281

A moderate circuit from the Mountain House car-park to Oxford Saddle and 1340m

Oxford Hill. The hill is only a little lower than 1364m Mount Oxford.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$10

Sat-Tue Boanerges

5-8 Dec Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 fordrm@snap.net.nz

•••• Situated near the confluence of the Huxley and Hopkins rivers is the 2254m peak

Boanerges. A moderate-hard trip probably via the south-east ridge from Huxley Forks.

Alpine skills required.

Book by 29 Nov.

Sat-Tue Paradise Creek – Elcho Hut

5-8 Dec Diane Mellish 337 5530

●●●● A moderate trip with a climb up from Huxley Bridge to Paradise Creek, below Boanerges,

with a side trip up the Hopkins River to Elcho Hut.

Book by 29 Nov.

Sun Purau Saddle—Hilltop

6 Dec. Awaiting leader

• A long day makes this a moderate trip. Walking between Purau Saddle and Montgomery

Park (near Hilltop Tavern) along the summit walkway. Takes in part of the Te Ara Pataka Track and passes through several bush reserves. Good views of much of Banks Peninsula. We aim to have a group starting at each end with a car-swap. Take plenty of water.

8am Princess Margaret Hospital, north east carpark off Cashmere Approx cost \$14

Rd.

Sat-Sun Manuka Hut
12-13 Dec. Diane Dixon

An easy flat walk to this hut on the Te Araroa Track.

Book by 6 Dec.

TRIP REPORTS

Mount Te Kooti 15-16 Aug 2020

Aarn said his car didn't have good ground clearance, and so it proved as we scraped on a few rocks driving up the Grampians Station farm road. With five of us on board, the car was especially low, so after some scrapes we removed a few rocks along the way. Generally, the road is surprisingly good as it winds its way up the Pahau Valley to the hut we were to stay at and well beyond.

We didn't know what facilities to expect at the hut so were pleasantly surprised to see inner-sprung mattresses on the six bunks, a fire-place, kettles and pots—luxury! We had the whole afternoon to kill, so we walked up the road, then up a spur to get an idea of the route to Te Kooti. Our evening meal was lentil spaghetti topped with silver beet and parsley, followed by coconut custard with gingernuts.

Wang set the phone alarm for 6am and we were walking by 7am. John had done this trip before so we followed an accepted route using farm tracks for the mid-section. Above, mist threatened to envelope us, but as we climbed we saw blue sky ahead and quickly broke through to a beautiful, clear day. There were bluffy bits we had to skirt and on the shady faces a few icy rocks were a worry. Soon we were on a ridge where we found a useful ramp that got us near to the top of 1469m Te Kooti. We passed a nice array of vegetable sheep as we went the last steps to the top.

It wasn't yet lunchtime so we walked along the ridge towards 1615m Mt Tekoa and got to the point where we overlooked a big descent we'd need to make before climbing an icy spur to Tekoa. At this sight, our enthusiasm flagged and a majority decision was made to retreat, so we had a lazy lunch back on Te Kooti in a light breeze. Our return was back a short



Figure 1. A perfect vegetable sheep! Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

way on familiar ground, then further north to take a spur past Point 1077 back to the road and an easy 4km walk to the hut. Back at 2:30 we had plenty of time for a cuppa, hut-clean, check-out at Grampians Angus homestead and a daylight drive to Christchurch.

With more snow or no snow we could have tackled Tekoa but the shaded icy spur to the mountain would have been risky. Tekoa may sound like a Maori name but it in fact derives from Scotland.

We were: John Robinson, Peter Umbers, Shiping Wang, Aarn Tate and Kerry Moore. 🖂 KM



Figure 2. Mt Tekoa from Te Kooti. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.



Figure 3. Impressive coarse conglomerate outcrops on the Tekoa Range.

Mount Whatno, Black Rock - Sunday, 23 Aug 2020

I arrived at the Cranford St meeting place on a drizzly morning, fully expecting to be the only one there, but Bill, Steve and Karen were there, keen to go. Their appraisal of the weather forecast turned out to be correct, because we got the best of the plains and the high-country forecasts. We didn't get coastal drizzle and we didn't get high country strong nor-westers. At the end of the Virgina Road, we parked at the Whitnow shearers' quarters, signed an indemnity sheet and walked about 5km on good farm tracks to a likely spur up 1396m Mt Whatno.

We ate lunch at 1pm in sunshine on this tussocky hill. Kerry lazed while the three went on to 1714m Black Rock. They had a 100m drop between the two peaks so had a 400m climb and timed it well to get there just ahead of cloud rolling in to obscure the peaks.

We had gone up a north-south spur from the head of Whistling Creek so headed north-east down a nice spur to get on a farm track at the head of the Hut Branch of the Seaward River, then down to familiar ground beside the Waitohi River. We reached Bill's car at 5:30pm so drove home in darkness after a full day.

We were: Steve & Karen Ferris, Bill Templeton and Kerry Moore (leader). 🖂 KM



Figure 4. Waitohi Valley. Gola Peaks top right. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.



Figure 5. Lunch on Mt Whatno, looking towards Black Rock. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

Lake Daniell - 23-24 August 2020

With Covid Level 2 and advice not to go if feeling unwell, two prospective trip members responsibly pulled out in the last few days before the trip, including one who was to provide transport. As well I had trouble contacting one person who had put their name down late for the trip. Hence Friday night became a bit of a scramble to confirm who was on the trip and to rearrange transport and food.

Saturday morning six of us left Christchurch on a foggy day. Graeme picked up Wang, Mary and Diane from the west side of town and I picked up Haroon from the east. We met up in Woodend at 9.30am and were soon out of the murk into fine weather. After coffee at Culverden, we drove through to the Lake Daniell parking area where there were already a lot of parked vehicles. The general consensus was not to carry tents and that some people would be coming out and others doing a day walk.



Figure 6. The new Kohanga Atawhai Manson Nicholls Hut. Photo courtesy of Shiping Wang.

We had lunch and then set off. I had forgotten how pleasant the walk into the hut is as I last did it many years ago. The bush is lovely and there is not too much up and down. The track is in very good condition and there were only a few muddy bits not far from the hut. After an hour or so, we stopped briefly down by the Alfred River. Not much further on the rain began, and it gradually got heavier so nobody was keen to stop again. We passed a number of people coming out from the walk into the hut and when we arrived we found that there were still plenty of beds.

We went in one bunkroom with a couple of CTC trampers who were on a private trip. There were also a family of five and a man with his young son staying that night. The new hut has a spacious area for removing gear, a large living area with solar lighting and two bunkrooms. The toilets, foot pump style, are just out the back door and across wooden decking with wash basins so are nice and close to the hut.

We got out of our wet gear and Haroon got a great fire going. The rain had stopped and after a hot drink all the group, apart from me, decided to see if they could get to the head of the lake. I was about to set off to join them, but they were already back saying that there wasn't any track and that they hadn't got very far.

Dinner was pasta and vegetables in a cheese sauce with a variety of accompaniments to sprinkle on top. Dessert was homemade fruit cake and custard. It was a pleasant evening and everyone in the hut got very excited with the light over the lake as it got darker. We all went outside onto the verandah and cameras and phones came out and some people took great photos.

We had a leisurely start in the morning. We walked back to the cars and then stopped at the top of Lewis Pass and went for a walk up the Sylvia tops track until we were out of the bush and able to enjoy great views while having lunch.

A very enjoyable weekend. We were **Graeme Nicholas**, **Diane Goodman**, **Shiping Wang**, **Haroon Shaikh**, **Mary McKeown and Sue Piercey (leader)..**



Figure 7. On the Lake Daniell track. Photo courtesy of Diane Goodman.

Faust - Boyle Flat Hut - 12-13 September 2020

We wanted to do an anti-clockwise circuit, but the forecast dictated that we do the high stage on Day one. Our five climbed the forest track in cool conditions, getting to the bush-line before noon. The wind was brisk so we had an early lunch while still sheltered, then with coats on, ventured forth. Underfoot was fresh, powdery snow, mostly in the lea of tussocks and rocks. Even higher up, we could walk on snow or solid ground. On Faust, the wind discouraged stops and any idea of walking up Mephistopheles was discarded. On the spur leading to the Boyle River, Doug had been advised to divert a little to the left which got us out of the wind, but seemed unnecessary. At the bush edge, we relished a 15 minute sunny sit-down with no wind. The forest track to the hut is clearly marked and well maintained.

At the hut by 5pm, our five shared the hut with three other small groups, including a couple who'd come via Faust with us. Helen and Bridget cooked fancy food for themselves while Doug assembled a tasty rice meal with bacon bits, cheese sauce and veges for three. Bridget provided the evening entertainment with a game of quiddler, a scrabble-like game played with a special deck of playing cards. Warning: Bridget is proficient and won, though she was good enough to help us newbies to build high-scoring words.

After a clear, starry night, Sunday morning dawned overcast. Because Doug is an early riser we were away from Boyle Flat Hut at 7:30 and got to Boyle Village before noon. After an early lunch we motored to the shop and cafe at Culverden, then home by mid-afternoon.

We were: Doug Forster (leader) Helen Binnie, Bridget Barclay, Shiping Wang and Kerry Moore 📥. KM



Figure 8. Approaching Faust. Mephistopheles to the left. Photo courtesy of Shiping Wang.

Mandamus River - Bush Hut - Sunday 20 Sept 2020

Way back last century, the club used to visit Bush Hut near the Mandamus River on Island Hills Station. For years, the commercially run Hurunui High Country Track meant we were excluded, then the venture stopped, and we were given permission to visit the hut. Alas, soon an Island Hills Tramping venture is about to restart so we may be excluded again.

On the day, eleven trampers parked at Island Hills Station and set off up a vehicle track towards the Glencoe River. The map shows a bridge, but it is currently being replaced. John and Aarn edged carefully over the beginnings of a new bridge—just a big treated-pine log, flattened on its upper side. The rest of us waded the discoloured river which was high with snow-melt. We followed the vehicle track, then crossed a field intending to ford the Mandamus River to connect with a track we could see. At the river, an amiable farmer in a ute told us we were about to stray onto Glens of Tekoa cattle country. He steered us back towards the official walking track, which we still managed to overshoot, then crossing a field to find a well-marked walking track with a good bridge which would support a quad bike. We left the farmland, and after a short walk on a nice forest track the ancient log hut appeared.

The area around the hut is well set up for the commercial walk Island Hills is running. It has a cookhouse and dining table under an awning. 1704 metre Mt Skedaddle and the Organ Range beckons above the Island Hills Walking Track and is now public land after tenure review. Lunch was after 1pm so we thought it would be a stretch to go further on the track towards Valley Camp. We retreated, this time staying on the Island Hills Track all the way back to the cars.

We were: Richard & Lisa Ainley, Diane Dixon, Aarn Tate, Peter Umbers, Ainslie Talbot, Shiping Wang, Darcy Mawson, Wendy McCaughan, John Robinson, Kerry Moore..

For info on the commercial walk that Island Hills offers, go to:

https://islandhillsstation.com/huts-and-accommodation/ or https://www.facebook.com/islandhillsstation/ For information on the recent tenure review and the QEII covenanted area, go to:

https://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2019-07/agreement-reached-for-island-hills-tenure-review



Figure 9. Bush Hut built by a Norwegian immigrant in 1932. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

Lyttelton Crater Rim Circuit – Saturday, 26 September 2020

After getting permission to walk to Purau Stream waterfall, a second farmer vetoed it due to lambing, so we switched to a Lyttelton to Godley Head walk. The forecast for strong norwesters, which must have put people off. It put our four off course because when we climbed up Urumau Track, the wind got too brisk for comfort, and we decided to do the Bluffs Track below Mount Cavendish then follow another bluff track to the top of the Bridle Path.

Stan Helms Track connects easily to the Bridle Path so we opted for this less used track. It finishes at Harmans Road. Helen knows this area well and steered us on to Ticehurst Terrace, Ticehurst Road, Flimwell Lane and Hawkhurst Road. We reached our cars at 2pm just as the Lyttelton market was packing up.

We were: Helen Harkness, Jill Fenner, Moore. Shiping Wang and Kerry Moore..

KM



Figure 10. View across Lyttelton to Gebbies Pass. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.