



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter*
November 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, 10 November 	South Island Tramping Trips <p>Despite travel restrictions and weather events, PTC members have undertaken a number of trips recently. Featured trips are the Heaphy Track, Kirwans Hut, Thousand Acre Plateau and various day trips. Come along and hear their tales of adventures in our own Covid-free back yard.</p> <p><i>Supper duty: Maureen Thompson and Margot Bowden</i></p>
Tuesday, 8 December 	PTC Christmas Bingo <p>Come along for a fun-filled night of bingo based on what your fellow club members know or have done. Bring along some festive food to share. Bring drinks if you want and punch will be supplied. Organisers Maureen Thompson and Margot Bowden.</p>

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, 18 November	Casebrook walk then Curry Dinner Depart 6pm from in front of Curry Time Indian restaurant, 284 Main North Rd. From here, we will follow meandering paths through four pretty reserves and waterways as far as Styx Mill Road. We return along supremely elegant Regents Park Drive, back to our restaurant at 7.15pm. There is parking behind the restaurant, off Daniels Rd. Mains at Curry Time are approx. \$17 to \$20. Booking for dinner by Sunday 15 November to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com . Please pay for your drinks and meal when you order, rather than at the end of the meal. No need to book if you are just coming for the walk. If very wet, we'll just do dinner.
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NOTES

President's notes

Firstly, it is with sadness I wish to acknowledge former President Leo Manders' recent passing after a long period of illness. Merv has written an obituary, which is published in this newsletter. May you journey on in peace Leo, and thank you for all your contributions to our club while you were with us.

It recently came to my attention that we have, over the last several years, been neglecting to add photographs of our trips and activities to our club's collection in Google Drive. In the future, this collection will be an important historical record of trips, people, outdoor technology we use and our very dynamic landscape. The Executive Committee has agreed that we need to have systems in place to ensure regular addition of photographs and material. We will start to fill the current gap, using material published in editions of Footnotes. I will let you know how you can help, once I have clear in my own mind the best way of going about this. And keep on tramping, keep on creating new memories!

Diane Mellish

Night sky notes – November

It's a good time for evening planets! Jupiter is still high and bright in the evening sky; fainter and a little further east is Saturn. Mars' orbit brings it close to Earth right now so it's almost overhead at midnight and nearly as bright as Jupiter, but an angry orange colour, as befits a desert planet with little atmosphere. If you're up before dawn, brilliant Venus rises a bit south of east just before sunrise.

Not too far south of Mars is the fairly conspicuous star Fomalhaut, (the 'mouth of the fish', i.e. the faint constellation Piscis Australis) Further south again is bright Achernar (the 'river's end' - it's the last and brightest star in the constellation Eridanus). Around 11 pm, the familiar constellation of Orion rises in the East, with the Dog Star Sirius further south and orange Aldebaran well north.

Low over the southern horizon are the Southern Cross and the two Pointers, with the bright star Canopus (Māori name Autahi) further East.

Full moon 1st, Last quarter 9th, New moon 15th, First quarter 22nd.

Graham Townsend

Membership

The club welcomes new members – Joanna Frampton, Rich & Lisa Ainley.

Obituary – Leo Manders

Thanks to Leo's friend Gail Thomson posting on the club's Facebook site, many club members already know that, after five or six years of coping with cancer, Leo passed away peacefully at the rest home in Geraldine on Saturday 17th October. Before he passed away, three club members visited Leo a few weeks ago, which he greatly appreciated.

Leo joined the PTC in May 2005 and was soon elected to the Executive in 2006. In 2009, he became Club President for the four year period 2009-10 to 2012-13. From the start, Leo pushed for changes and initiatives to improve our systems and encourage membership.

A keen photographer, Leo organised the digitising of our club photo albums and making copies of these accessible to our members. And he was also a regular contributor of trip photos to the club records.

But probably what Leo will be most remembered for are the multiday base camps to remote places, such as the Chatham Islands, Great Barrier Island, D'Urville Island and the Pegasus Inlet on Stewart Island. These were substantial logistical exercises which Leo organised with great precision, making the travelling part of the trip painless for the group.

Leo will be remembered gratefully and missed by many current and former members for his contribution to PTC.

Merv Meredith

Note: Liz Wightwick's interview with Leo can be found in FMC's June 2019 Backcountry magazine:-
<https://cdn.flipsnack.com/widget/v2/widget.html?hash=fvtpsphv0&bgcolor=EEEEEE&fullscreen=1>

Christmas Base Camp - Okarito

Escape the Christmas rush in peaceful Okarito. Maureen Thompson has booked Fernbird Retreat, a comfortable house, for the nights 23 to 29 December, leaving on 30 December. Stay as many nights as you like. Visit the web-site for photos and details. <https://www.holidayhouses.co.nz/listing/56238>.

Cost: Depends on numbers, but it would be up to \$50 for your own room and \$30 each to share a room. It could cost less if we fill the place up. Linen is provided, but BYO if just staying a night or two. Another option is to camp at the nearby community camp ground for \$15 pp. <http://okaritocampground.co.nz/>.

Food: A communal Xmas dinner, which usually supplies Boxing Day as well. Other meals are self-cater or share, as you like. The kitchen is well-equipped. There are no shops in Okarito but there is a 4-Square store at Franz Josef which is 27 km away.

Transport: If you can offer/ need transport, let me know. I could maybe link you up with someone, or otherwise organise your own transport. We can car-pool for day-trips to Franz or Gillespies Beach.

Booking: Book with Maureen Thompson email mothompson1212@gmail.com. Wifi is available at Fernbird Retreat. My phone is 021 266 5778, but once I'm at Okarito phone reception might be variable. I'll only book the sleepout if we fill up the main house. When booking please include your arrival and departure dates, phone, email, car registration, and emergency contact details. The base camp will depend on appropriate Covid levels. I have not had to pay a deposit and we pay on departure.

Deadline for the December- January newsletter: 28 November 2020 – please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to: Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz

Next Executive Committee meeting: 24 November 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.

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|-------------------|--|
| Sun | <u>Bus Stop, Mt Somers</u> |
| 8 Nov. | Norman Burden 358 5115 |
| ● | A moderate circuit starting at Woolshed Creek, going up the Rhyolite Track to the Bus Stop and on to Woolshed Creek Hut. Returning via the coal-mine.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd |
| | |
| Fri-Sun | <u>Casey Hut—Lake Minchin, Arthurs Pass National Park</u> |
| 13-15 Nov. | Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069 |
| ●●● | An easy-moderate walk to stay at the new Casey Hut with a day trip to Lake Minchin. |
| Show | Book by 8 Nov. |
| | |
| Weekend | |
| Fri-Sun | <u>Townsend Hut—Koropuku Hut, Arthurs Pass National Park</u> |
| 13-15 Nov | Kerry Moore 359 5069 |
| ●●● | A moderate-hard trip up the Taramakau to Townsend Hut and over to secluded Koropuku Hut. |
| Show | Book by 1 Nov. |
| | |
| Weekend | |
| Sun | <u>Kaituna—Mt Herbert—Packhorse, Banks Peninsula</u> |
| 15 Nov. | Sue Piercey 384 9567 |
| ● | A moderate circuit starting at the top end of Kaituna Valley, climbing to the Te Ara Pataka Track, onto Herbert Peak, the shelter, Packhorse Hut and down the track to Kaituna Valley.
8am on Cashmere Rd at eastern end of Princess Margaret Hospital |
| | |
| Sat,Sun | <u>Deception—Mingha, Arthurs Pass National Park</u> |
| 21-22 Nov. | Alison Maccoll 322 8540 |
| ●● | The most popular two-day trip in the national park. A moderate walk up the bouldery Deception River, past Upper Deception Hut to stay at the well-sited Goat Pass Hut. On Sunday we have an easier walk down the Mingha River.
Book by 15 Nov |

- Sun**
22 Nov.
● [Cutty Grass Hut, Mt Hutt](#)
Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
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
- Sat-Mon**
28-30 Nov.
●●● [Gloriana and/or Faerie Queene, Spenser Range](#)
Gary Huish 332 7020
A moderate-hard trip 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.
Book by 22 Nov
- Sun**
29 Nov.
● [Oxford Hill--Ashley Saddle, Canterbury Foothills](#)
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
- Sat-Mon**
5-7 Dec.
●●● [Boanerges, Lake Ohau area](#)
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 via the south-east ridge from Huxley Forks. Alpine skills required.
Book by 29 Nov
- Sat-Mon**
5-7 Dec.
●●● [Paradise Creek—Elcho Hut, Lake Ohau area](#)
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**
6 Dec.
● [Purau Saddle—Hilltop, Banks Peninsula](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
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 on Cashmere Rd at eastern end of of Princess Margaret Hospital
- Sat, Sun**
12-13 Dec.
●● [Griffin Range Serpentine Mine, west of Otira](#)
Peter Umbers 359 9118
A moderate tramp on Griffin Range to the serpentine mine near 1517m Mt Griffin.
Book by 6 Dec
- Sun**
13 Dec
● [Manuka Hut, Ashburton lakes](#)
Diane Dixon 359 9170
An easy flat walk to this hut on the Te Araroa Track.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- Sat,Sun**
19-20 Dec.
●●
[Carroll Hut, Arthurs Pass National Park](#)
Kevin Hughes 332 6281
An easy-moderate trip for the naturalists. Enjoy Westland forest, summer flowers above the bushline and see fault scarps near Carroll Hut.
Book by 13 Dec.
- Sun**
20 Dec.
●
[Picnic at Diamond Harbour, Banks Peninsula](#)
Merv Meredith 322 7239
Diamond Harbour and its reserve have lots of options. The picnic will be in the Stoddart Point Reserve on the lower level at Diamond Harbour. Drive in to the left of the shops on the road down to the jetty and then to the right at the first hairpin, into the reserve. You can also catch the ferry from Lyttelton Plenty of options in the area—walking, biking, swimming. Bring your kayak, boat. You can bike to Camp Bay or up the Port Levy road.
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| <p>Wed-Tue
23-29 Dec.
●●●●●●●●
<u>Okarito Christmas Base Camp, West Coast</u>
Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778
Escape the Christmas rush in peaceful Okarito. Maureen Thompson has booked Fernbird Retreat, a comfortable house, for the nights 23 to 29 December. Stay as many nights as you like. For more information, see the Notes section.</p> |
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- Sat-Tue**
26-29 Dec
●●●●●●●●
[McKerrow Range, Makarora](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
The date is likely to move for this moderate-hard tramp above Makorora to 2002m Mt Shrimpton. Expect splendid views around Mt Aspring National Park. Camping by tarns in the McKerrow Range.
Book by 20 Dec
- Sun**
3 Jan.
●
[Childrens Bay Farm walk, Banks Peninsula](#)
Jill Fenner 980 6228
An easy 3-hour circuit from Akaroa to Takamatua then back via some quiet roads. Also known as the Rhino Walk. Coffee stop in Akaroa or on the way home.
9am on Cashmere Rd at eastern end Princess Margaret Hospital
- Sat-Tue**
9-12 Jan.
●●●●●
[Mt Titiroa, Lake Manapouri](#)
Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 fordrm@snap.net.nz
A prominent light coloured granite 1715m peak near Lake Manapouri, with great views of Fiordland mountains and lakes. A moderate – hard trip from Lake Manapouri, climbing up the north ridge of Mt Titiroa, camping on the mountain. Either returning the same way to Lake Manapouri or crossing over to the Borland Valley.
Book by 2 Jan
- Sun**
10 Jan.
●
[Timutimu Head - Scenery Nook, Banks Peninsula](#)
Danny Lee 357 1457
Easy-moderate tramp over 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. Impressive red volcanic sea cliffs are an added attraction.
8am on Cashmere Rd at eastern end of Princess Margaret Hospital

The Gap – 4 October 2020

Forecast 140kph winds made the proposed Mt Oakden trip impractical. We had done most of the North-West alternatives recently, but going up to the Gap from the Kowai River might protect us from most of the gales. The desire to get out and do something must have been strong although the view from Springfield of snow well down below the Gap was a worry to those who had thought a succession of warm days heralded summer conditions.

Strong winds in the car park made changing difficult, but that calmed as we turned the first corner and started the theme of the day. Warm, calm conditions, pleasant walking and much catching-up with people we hadn't seen for a while. Lisa, Rich and Ian diverted to "bag" the Kowai Hut while the rest sat in the sun with superb views to the Gap.

Travel across the terrace was quick and the crossing and re-crossing of the upper Kowai River caused no problems. The start of the ridge was a different story. The initial ridge is very eroded, and an attempted diversion up a gully caused everyone to stop with some alarm when a large boulder started to move with Graeme on top. The rest of the ridge blew away many cobwebs with Douglas finding cairns in odd places through the tussock. Lunch on the rocky knob at 1400m at the snowline provided an ideal vantage point to consider the remaining 300m climb as well as discuss routes towards Castle Hill and the Red Peak of Torlesse. Ice-axes and poles were redistributed so everyone had something, but fantastic snow conditions gave little problem as we zig-zagged upwards.



Figure 1. Party enroute to the Gap. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore



Figure 2. Climbing up the snow slopes to the Gap. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

The Gap is a dramatic place. It is visible from many directions, but it is hard to get an idea of scale unless you are standing within it. Sheer walls and a narrow lip of snow frame views in either direction. The luxury of windless conditions is even more surprising on a North-West day, eventually thoughts of descent and the long valley walk made us leave.

Some were nervous about the descent, but softened snow is very forgiving and sliding down on tussock is easy compared to ascending it. We dropped left into the main stream early to avoid the eroded ridge and found an easy route that would be better for future ascents. Then only the long trudge back to the cars remained.

A fantastic spring day, with plenty of opportunity for stops and conversation. It's nice to remember what tramping is all about.

Trampers: Lisa and Rich Ainley, Kerry Moore, Sue Piercey, Graeme Read, Aarn Tate, Liz and Ian Wightwick, Douglas Woods, Peter Umbers and Gary Huish (leader)..... 🏔️ GH



Figure 3. In the Gap. Photo courtesy of Kerry Moore.

Foggy Peak - Castle Hill Peak - Sunday 18 October

On a beautiful spring day, but with a windy NW forecast for the high country, we headed for the bottom of Porter's Pass. After a conference as to whether to stay in the valleys or stick to Plan A, we decided to try the climb as far as Foggy Peak and see what happened. Despite the persistent wind, it was sunny, and we enjoyed the ascent and the expansive views. We had other congenial company as well and the interesting conversations kept me distracted from the physical effort of the climb

Early lunch on Foggy Peak was a windy affair with all hunkering down, attempting unsuccessfully to find much shelter. Proceeding along the high ridge to Castle Hill Peak would have been unpleasant so we retreated. However, with the day only half gone, Plan B was now calling so four of us ate a second lunch at a sheltered warm spot on the road verge on the way down to the start of the Trig M track. Lisa and Rich kindly helped with a car shuffle before they departed and the rest of us had a most enjoyable stroll to the bottom of the pass via the Coach Stream track. It was my first time on this route and I found the varied terrain, vegetation and scenery most enjoyable.

We were: **Kathrin Muller, Lisa and Rich Ainley, Peter Umbers, Shi Ping Wang, Diane Mellish (leader)** 🏔️ DM



Figure 4. Northwest sky over Craigieburn Range from Korowai Tussocklands. Photo courtesy of Diane Mellish.

1,000 Acre Plateau - 23-25 October 2020 (Labour weekend)

After a late afternoon departure from Christchurch on Thursday and a night at the Riverside Holiday Camp in Murchison, the crew set off from there on a fine and sunny Friday morning. Raymond timed our arrival at the DOC carpark at Matiri road end impeccably to coincide with the arrival of a friendly builder named Bob, who invited us to load our packs into his trailer, cram ourselves into his vehicle and then gave us a lift 2km or so up the 4WD road to the intake of the small hydro project, where he was going to be pouring concrete. No one minded having the shortened trip, and the engineering-oriented members of the party in particular enjoyed a brief tour at the site of the intake.

This headstart left us with just a short and easy walk to the Lake Matiri Hut, a spacious and pleasant hut with lovely view over the lake. Not too long after that the ascent to the plateau began, which, at least from the perspective of this prospective club member in the party, was neither short nor easy. After the initial steepish section leveled off, giving a great view back over the Matiri valley, I was assured by Gary that it would just be 'undulating' from that point on. Not too long after that, when the gradient steepened again, Gary's credibility rating with Joanna suffered a corresponding downturn!!

After nearly three hours, we came out onto the huge and tussocky plateau. We followed a poled route across to Poor Pete's hut, where we enjoyed a lunch break under the supervision of the resident caretaker wekas. The walk from there across to Larrikin's Hut was (genuinely!) undulating and pleasant, although made a bit more challenging by the boggy ground underfoot. The last section immediately before the hut took us through some more beech forest, before coming out into the clearing under the shadow of the Haystack.

At the hut, we found some (off duty) Search and Rescue crew from Nelson, who'd arrived by helicopter and set up camp nearby. Angela pitched her tent, Gary and Raymond set up theirs, and Vesna and Joanna took over the hut. The billy went on and a refreshing cuppa in the late afternoon sun in this remarkable landscape reminded Joanna what this tramping lark is all about. Angela provided an excellent meal of mince, veges and noodles, and one of the S & R crew entertained us with some 'behind the scenes' stories of some of their recent deployments (and told us how Poor Pete's hut got its name.)

Saturday morning dawned fine and sunny again. We set out to climb the Needle during the morning, before heading back to Poor Pete's hut in the afternoon. This somewhat apprehensive prospective club member had a few qualms about making it up the Needle, offering to wait for the others at the base of the climb, but these reservations were overruled by the rest of the party, who with much encouragement helped her scramble up to the summit, for which she remains very grateful. Stunning views in 360 degrees all around. A slightly different route down made the descent a little easier. We arrived back at the hut at noon to find a new group of Wellingtonians settled in there.

After lunch, we headed back to Poor Pete's hut, with a couple of stream-side breaks along the way. The ground seemed a bit less boggy than the day before, and it was a pleasant walk. Vesna and Joanna once again commandeered the two bunk-hut, Gary and Raymond took over the roofed porch, and Angela pitched her tent nearby. Not long after our arrival, three young women from the Nelson Tramping Club turned up. One of them had had her boots come apart at the sole and Gary did a masterful job of fixing it by cutting a couple of holes and stringing it all together. Apparently, it is not the first time he has provided this service, and the owner of the boot was very grateful for his handiwork.

Dinner was quite the feast – curry from Gary, nectarine crumble and cream from Raymond along with a little Japanese umeshu to celebrate the day, and some Rum'n'Raisin chocolate from Vesna to top things off. The sound of rain on the roof began during the night, confirmed the wisdom of Raymond's decision to bring this trip forward from the originally scheduled date. We made our way off the plateau fairly promptly after breakfast as the wind and rain began to pick up.

The descent back through the forest was not as traumatic as I had anticipated from my memories of the climb up, but still involved a bit of slipping and sliding on wet tree roots and rocks, before we came out again into the clearing not far from Lake Matiri hut. The rain had eased off here and there was even some sunshine.



Figure 5. Crossing the headwaters of Larrikin Creek. The Needle in the background. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford.

It was Sunday, Bob the builder did not materialise with his truck to take us back down the road, but it was an easy enough walk and Gary was able to show us where the original track had been less than 12 months earlier, before the road was put in.

Lunch at the Rivers Cafe in Murchison and an uneventful trip home. In spite of being regaled throughout the trip with tales of misadventures from previous expeditions (were they trying to put me off?) this prospective club member hopes to no longer be prospective by the time this goes to press. A very enjoyable trip to a unique and remarkable part of the country.

Who went: **Raymond Ford (leader), Gary Huish, Angela Grigg, Vesna Mojsilovic, Joanna Frampton..** 🏔️ JF



Figure 6. View from the Needle to the Haystack, 1,000 Acre Plateau, and Nelson Lakes in the distance. Photo courtesy of Raymond Ford.