



April 2021

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Correspondence	All correspondence to the Secretary, including change of contact details

Committee

President	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Kevin Hughes	332 6281
Trip Planner			"	Alison Maccoll	322 8540
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	"	Bridget O'Regan	338 4785
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069			



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 caters for people of all ages who tramp for recreation. We run trips regularly, 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

 <p>Tuesday 13 April</p>	<p>Rod Donald Trust and the Te Ahu Patiki project – Suky Thompson Suky will speak about the Trust's work and the Te Ahu Patiki project to purchase Mt Herbert and Bradley for a conservation park. More information about the Trust and the project can be found at https://roddonaldtrust.co.nz/ Supper Duty: Tanya Jacobson and Margot Bowden</p>
<p>Tuesday 11 May</p>	<p>Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific Club member Maureen Whalen will tell us of her travels to lesser-known Sub-Antarctic islands.</p> 

Social Events

**Tuesday
20 April**



Wigram Airfield, Evening Walk and Dinner

Explore the birthplace of Canterbury aviation. Take-off along the original runway. Explore great examples of mixed housing areas, from apartment dwellings, town houses, small and large sections. Pass historic airfield landmarks and innovative subdivision landscaping features. Finally land on the original runway ready for a meal at the **Chinese Wok Restaurant** on The Runway in the Landing, Wigram Skies Town Centre.

Meet at 6pm on the corner of **The Runway and Corsair Drive**. Parking available at New World and The Landing off Skyhawk Road. **Dinner is at 7:15pm**. Bookings for dinner to Margot by **Sunday 18 April**. margot.bowden@gmail.com phone 332 7020

NOTES

Membership

Bob Graham

Long-time club member **Bob Graham** died on 25 March this year, in his mid-90s. Those of us active in the club from the late 1960s into the '80s will recall Bob as a gentle and engaging man with a wry sense of humour and as someone who greatly enjoyed the outdoors. He shared stories from his rural background as a packie and cook with mustering gangs. These tales seemed old-worldly and quaint to most of us in our towny-based tramping club. Such stories sat nicely alongside his habit of boiling a billy for his lunchtime cuppa in the essential china tea-cup.

Though not a hard-core tramper, many members appreciated Bob's guidance and companionship. Bob was Club President, 1973-77 and made a life member in 1977. By the time of his passing, he was just about the longest-term member, and by a good margin, the oldest one. ▶ Grant Hunter

President's Notes

A warm welcome to **Bridget O'Regan** who has returned to our Executive Committee. Thank you, Bridget for your willingness to assist with the running of our club.

Trip leaders please note that because Leo Manders is no longer here, John Borner has replaced him as one of the PLB contact people. If you need his email address for your trip plan, please contact secretary Merv and he will supply it.

It's **annual trip planning** time again. What is on your wish list for the coming year? Exec would love to receive lots of input from members into this process. You can either attend the meeting in person, all welcome, or email your suggestions. If emailing, please send them to Merv, secretary@ptc.nz and put "trip suggestion" in the subject line. A brief description of your trip, the number of days duration, and the preferred season, if appropriate, is really helpful. We are also hoping that many of you who suggest trips will be willing to lead them!

I encourage anyone who has not visited our **club Facebook page** to make the leap and have a look. It is in the Groups section and called Peninsula Tramping Club. There are regular posts and lots of good pictures going in there. It's great to see where others are going and helps us feel more connected with each other.

Diane Mellish

What's up DoC?

Monthly email newsletter featuring the latest DoC news in recreation, nature, work and how you can get involved. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/newsletters/whats-up-doc/>

Night Sky, April

This month let your mouse do the astronomical study so you know what to look for when you're scanning the heavens.

From the Royal Astronomical Society try: <https://www.rasnz.org.nz/in-the-sky/the-evening-sky>

DoC is looking up too: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/explore-the-night-sky/>

More heavenly bodies at: <https://theskylive.com/guide?geoid=2179537>

Deadline for the May newsletter: Please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to Kerry Moore moorekj@xtra.co.nz by Saturday 1 May

Next Executive Committee meeting: Tuesday, 27 April 2021

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 excepted). Numbers on some weekend trips are limited, so book promptly.

Bike Trips

The Club has a mountain biking section, 'Fat Tyre Fanatics', that heads 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 [Hunts Creek Hut—Mt Barron](#)

10-11 Apr **Doug Forster 337 5453**

●● We walk up the Kellys Creek Track, over Hunt Saddle to stay at Hunts Creek Hut with a moderate-hard exit on Sunday over Mt Barron
Booked

Sun [Three Deans](#)

11 Apr **Graeme Paltridge 384 3592**

● An easy-moderate circuit on these distinctive hills inland from Amberley
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

Approx cost \$12

Sat,Sun [Mons Sex Millia](#)

17-18 Apr **Liz Wightwick 027 633 2038 trampingtrip@gmail.com**

●● Moderate-hard tramp off of the Lewis Pass highway to this 1800m high point on the Poplars Range. Camping on the tops
Book by 11 Apr

Saturday [Mt Herbert from Orton Bradley](#)

17 Apr **Dan Pryce 356 1962**

● A moderate circuit climbing up the valley to the Te Ara Pataka Track and 913m Herbert Peak with a gentler descent down the spur track to Diamond Harbour
8am Cashmere Rd opp PMH near Hackthorne

Approx cost \$8

Tuesday 20 Apr	Trip planning Have your say on where we venture. Take your suggestions to the planning meeting, 7pm at Kevin and Heather's, 56 Luxembourg Crescent , Halswell. If you can't attend be sure to give trip suggestions to Merv
Sat-Mon 26-28 Apr ●●● Anzac	Mt Brown Hut—Newton Range Biv--Styx Rr Peter Umbers 359 9118 A moderate-hard circuit from Lake Kaniere to Mt Brown Hut, along to Newton Range Biv then down the Styx River Book by 18 Apr
Saturday 24 Apr ●	High Peak, Rockwood Range John Cook 326 7458 An easy-moderate walk up 968m High Peak in the impressively craggy Rockwood Range Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$18
Sat,Sun 1-2 May ●●	Pinchgut Hut—Bobs Camp circuit Kerry Moore 359 5069 A moderate walk via Pinchgut Hut, up the Cattle Peak Track to Bobs Camp Biv then back via Whare Track Book by 25 Apr
Sat 1 May ●	Mt Thomas—Pinchgut—Okuku Rr Evelien Baas 027 557 5521 Starts at the Mt Thomas Wooded Gully camping area and goes up the Summit Track to Mt T, then past Pinchgut Hut to the Okuku ford. A larger group can split in two and do a crossover. Easy-moderate grade but moderate length-wise Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$10
Sat,Sun 8-9 May ●●	Cold Stream Hut Alison Maccoll 322 8540 An easy, flat trip suitable for children, up Jollie Brook then Cold Stream. Energetic people could exit along the Hooligan Range Book by 1 May
Sun 9 May ●	Kennedys Bush—Governors Bay Diane Dixon 359 9170 An easy climb from Halswell Quarry up through Kennedy's Bush to the Summit Road then exploring the maze of tracks on the Governors Bay side of the crater rim Meet 8:30am quarrymans' quarters car park, Halswell Quarry
Sat-Thur 15-19 May ●●●●●	Kepler Track Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 Rated moderate-hard at this time of year, the Kepler Track is an alpine adventure with stunning panoramas. We go from Lake Te Anau up to Luxmore Hut at 1085m, then traverse the ridge-lines of the Kepler Mountains, drop down to beautiful Lake Manapouri, before heading back through peaceful beech forest Book by 1 May

- Sun**
16 May
● [Lake Rubicon - Bobs Knob](#)
Awaiting leader
Popular easy-moderate round-trip via Lake Rubicon up to a ridge below the Torlesse Range. Great views of the plains and the big peaks of Korowai/Torlesse Park. An enjoyable tramp not far from town.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$12**
- Sat,Sun**
22-23 May
●● [Kaituna--Packhorse--Rod Donald Hut](#)
Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
Easy-moderate tramp to charming Rod Donald Hut on Te Ara Pātaka/Summit Walkway. Can be done as a 3-day, 2 night by staying at both huts. The hut needs to be booked so call Kerry right away
8am Cashmere Rd opp PMH near Hackthorne
- Sun**
23 May
● [Captain Thomas--Godley Head](#)
Jill Fenner 980 6228
An easy-moderate walk with coastal views. Starting up the Captain Thomas Track to Evans Pass, before continuing along the ridge to Godley Head and returning to Sumner through Taylors Mistake
Meet 9am Sumner Clock Tower
- Sat-Mon**
29-31 May
●●● [Black Hill Hut—Chest Peak](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530
Moderate trip to this hut in Oxford Forest. Three days, so we have a full day for a side trip to Chest Peak. Less energetic people could be content with a walk to the top of 1300m Black Hill.
Book by 23 May
- Sun**
30 May
● [Helicopter Hill—Craigieburn Edge Track](#)
Norman Burden 021 0228 9141 normanrichardburden@hotmail.co.nz
An easy-moderate circuit from Craigieburn Campsite shelter taking the Mistletoe Track to Lyndon Saddle with a side-trip to Helicopter Hill. We then return to the saddle and go to the Craigieburn Edge Track which leads to the ski-field road where it joins with the Sidle Track leading back to the cars
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$18**
- Sat-Mon**
5-7 Jun
●●● [Robinson River—Lake Christabel](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
A moderate circuit in the Springs Junction area, up the Robinson River, over Robinson Saddle to Lake Christabel Hut. Day three goes along Lake Christabel to Palmers Road
Book by 30 May
Queens Birthday
- Sat-Mon**
5-7 Jun
●●● [Punakaiki Base](#)
Awaiting leader
A chance to explore this area with its many attractions
Book by 30 May
Queens Birthday
- Sun**
6 Jun
● [Bowenvale—Victoria Park Circuit](#)
Joy Schroeder 351 4655
An easy-moderate walk on the wonderful Port Hills
Meet 9am at the Bowenvale car park

Sat,Sun

[Pinchgut Hut](#)

12-13 Jun

Danny Lee 357 1457

●●

An easy-moderate, trip up the Okuku River through kanuka and beech forest to a comfortable hut with wood-burner, useful for winter trampers. Its helpful to do the initial river crossing with old shoes and then change into boots.

Book by 6 June

Sun

[Red Hill from Porters ski-road](#)

13 Jun

Awaiting leader

●

Moderate trip to this 1641m peak near Lake Lyndon. We'll go from the Porter Heights ski road towards Coleridge Pass and up the spur. Snow likely higher up

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

Approx cost \$15

TRIP REPORTS

Mt Bradley Circuit – Sunday 14 February 2021

Seven of us gathered outside Princess Margaret Hospital and set off on a mild but cloudy morning for Orton Bradley Park. 9am and we were heading up the Tablelands Track, through forest, then to open pastures. After following a fence-line for an hour, we took an early break amongst pine trees, protected from the cold wind.

We continued beside a lengthy fence-line, then took the Faulkner Track to Packhorse Hut. Fog patches became more persistent, then drizzle and we arrived at the Packhorse just over 3 hours from the start, so were ready for lunch. A young couple offered to take a group photo after Stuart mentioned we were members of a tramping club.



The whole troop at Packhorse Hut

On our way again on part of the Te Ara Pataka Track on the Kaituna side of Mount Bradley, visibility was rather poor until we reached the Herbert Saddle.

A brief stop at the junction recharged our batteries for the down-valley track to the cars, with bright sunshine all the way. The Valley Track is part of the Mount Herbert Walkway. Our circuit was a great, 8-hour adventure in a real mixture of weather. We were: **Helen Harkness, Sandra White, Gemma White, Wendy McCaughan, Stuart Payne, Darcy Mawson and Norman Burden (leader)** 🏔️ NB

Navigating through pea-soup.
Photo by Norman ➡



Sudden Valley 13-14 Feb 2021

Our four turned off the main road near Mt White Bridge as a hoard of Coast to Coasters were lined up on the road, waiting to carry kayaks to the water's edge. We had only a 3 hour walk into Sudden Biv so a delay of 10 minutes wasn't going to matter. John had the clever idea of crossing the Hawdon in sandals then changing into boots but he soon had to wade Sudden Valley Stream so the gesture was wasted. Useful short tracks helped us make good progress, though some need a trim. Winter will take care of the frost-sensitive tutu. We stopped for lunch just before the scree that gets you onto a long forest track above the gorgy section, which includes Barrier Falls. The scree is wide enough that you can zig-zag up it to minimise the steepness. There are lots of mustelid traps along the forest track and even some *Good Nature* traps. Above the falls, the valley widens and 2.5km on, we came to the modern little biv which John and Kerry occupied. Rich and Lisa pitched their tent in a super spot just 10m from the biv. Kerry lazed while the others walked a little way upstream to get a view of the upper valley.

We left our spot at 8:30am on another sunny day, for a relaxed downstream exit, so we were back in civilization by early afternoon. Lisa was pleased to have made it to the biv this time after a failed attempt with a slower companion in years past. We were: **Rich and Lisa Ainley, John Robinson and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Relaxing at Sudden Biv. Photo by Lisa

Six is an awkward number transport-wise but gave us the option of having a car at or near the track-end. In the event we didn't need to place a car but did put both cars in Arthurs Village. Lots of people stop at the railway station toilets so its easy to cadge a ride. By the time John had put his boots on Kerry had scored a ride with a tramping couple who were on their way to Griffin Creek, so we weren't too far behind the others. Soon, we were a tramping party of six, sloshing up the Deception River on this fine, sunny day. The track is well marked and only a week after the Coast to Coast leg had been through ample evidence of foot traffic was visible. Keeping a careful watch for red triangles in shady trees helped us know when to cross to the opposite bank. There are many crossings and some good bush tracks to avoid the roughest river sections. By lunch time we'd warmed up enough for some to take a dip in the sparkling water. On the go again we came to an even better spot for a dip. The pool was effervescent and our "youngsters" would have loved it but we had to keep going as DoC rates this as an 8 or 9 hour stretch for the Morrison foot-bridge to Goat Pass Hut leg.



An effervescent Deception River



Wang and Wendy on Dudley Knob

We stopped for a look at the Deception Hut which is still quite serviceable, then pressed on past some beautiful little cascades, then away from the river, up a little stream channel that goes almost all the way to the hut. We arrived just after 6pm to join the ten people there already. Two gas burners quickly made hot water for a reviving cuppa, then Wendy and Sacha cooked up a very nice orzo (like risone) meal with green beans and peas, flavoured with bier sticks.

The hut book was full to the brim so no trampers could record their stay. Two of the hut people, CTC club members, were doing Deception—Mingha to fill a gap in their South Island Te Araroa marathon. The leg got rained-off when they first planned to do it. Our team was last away from the hut at 8:30am, Dressed warmly to counter the cool wind at our backs, we made quick progress along the Goat Pass board-walks as sun illuminated many of the slopes. Half-way down the Mingha, John and Kerry set out in an attempt to retrieve the cars from the village ahead of the team. At Greyneys Shelter they spoke to a camper driver and immediately got a ride, with packs to Arthurs. Kerry admitted that if he'd hidden his pack for the ride, he could well have left his car key behind. While taking off our boots a lone trumper arrived. He'd walked the Hawdon—Tarn Col—Edwards Route and needed a ride back to Hawdon Shelter, so we obliged. Our group thought his face was familiar and it turned out he does tea ads on TV.

This tramp has an enormous variety of scenery and vegetation and the allure of being part of the Coast to Coast. Walking it in fifteen hours gave us ample chances to appreciate the glorious scenery.

We were: **Diane Mellish, Sacha Baldwin, Shiping Wang, Wendy McCaughan, John Robinson and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM

Hurunui Peak 20 March 2021

Our crew crossed the Hurunui Bridge and turned onto Balmoral Station Road, then at Tekoa Road we parked on Korari Downs. Farm tracks took us up to the ridge leading to 937m Hurunui Peak. As we climbed on this warm, pleasant day we met pig hunters on four-wheelers and their dogs who'd been unsuccessfully hunting a gully. The final grunt to the top for lunch was over tussock, along a fence-line. Some of our group found the solar panel array a good sun-shade while others gazed towards Mt Skedaddle, and the Glencoe and Mandamus Rivers. The down journey was along the same path as for the ascent. This time we were appreciating the broad Canterbury Plain. We were: **Kim Ashmore, Sacha Baldwin, Wendy McCaughan, Dan Pryce, John Robinson and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Golden tussock contrasted with green, irrigated land



Our group, minus Kerry

Birdlings Flat—Oashore Bay—Tokoroa Bay

March 2021

Six of us fitted into Gavin's spacious SUV and set off in a cool, strong easterly wind from the gravelly beach which the map calls Poranui. We crossed the concrete bridge and headed up the Bossu Road a short way before climbing slopes of sparse tussock and bare loess to the cliff-line. Soon we were seeing a tiny inlet and walking sheep tracks around to a very driftwood-strewn Oashore. The beach combers amongst us found plastic flotsam to take back for a proper burial at Kate Valley. The rusted remains of a whale pot are still there.

Another climb and descent got us to Tokoroa Bay, then the prospect of a higher, more rugged climb towards Hikoraki Bay made Tokoroa look more and more appealing. We sat on nice driftwood logs above the sandy beach to eat lunch, then the keen ones went for a dip while others combed the beach for plastic waste.



On a headland between bays



Walking down to Tokoroa, "our" beach for the day

There were plenty of fine plastic chips in the sand and fishing net tangled in the driftwood. After a lengthy stay we headed back on what was now a warm afternoon. More wind would have been welcome as we climbed to overlook Birdlings Flat settlement. We were home in time to watch the Americas Cup races. We were: **Gavin Chalk (leader), Angela McLennan, Tom ..., Paulette French, Henk Boer and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM

Hawdon - Tarn Col – Otehake – Edwards

12-14 March 2021

This was planned as an in-and-out trip; in to Hawdon Hut Friday evening, Walker Pass, Tarn Col, down to Otehake Hut Saturday night, then out on Sunday. Things got a little complicated before the start. A non-member who couldn't leave town until 5pm was coming but pulled out at the last minute with an injury. Maybe we could leave earlier? Not much. Eventually the four of us were walking from Hawdon Shelter at 6.30pm, so it was going to be dark getting up to the hut. We were intrigued to see loads of vehicles parked around the shelter. Once in the dark we were rewarded with the loud calls of two kiwi, close by. Over the last little bit we lost the track but eventually spotted a gap in the trees above us and scrambled up to arrive at 9.50pm, waking Nigel, the sole occupant. So, where had the owners of all the cars gone to?

Saturday was a lovely day with no wind. We were up at 7am and away at 8.10, Nigel was intending to follow us a little later. 9am on Walker Pass, then a 12.30pm lunch-stop on Tarn Col where we talked to part of a large Tararua TC contingent, who apparently were spread around the area. So now we had an explanation for the cars at the shelter. After lunch we did the steep descent from the col, talked to Nigel again for his comments about the Otehake route and started down-river. At about 4pm, as Nigel had described, we picked up the route on the true left, just after the Lake Sally Stream confluence. By 5pm we were down to the flats and arrived at Otehake Hut at 6.10pm to stay at this good hut for a pleasant evening.

Sunday was another fine day with no wind. Our planned return meant walking up the Otehake East Branch, which would bypass the steep climb up to Tarn Col and take us directly to Walker Pass. On the map it looks gorgy for a good chunk of the way but Peter understood it was possible, so why not try? Up early, we were away at first light, 7.15am. We very soon came to the first small gorge. No problem; water only up to the shorts, then quickly opening to an easy stream-bed again. Around the next corner and oh dear, look at that! Getting up through those waterfalls and rapids isn't going to happen. We climbed a slope to bypass the awkward bit, hoping to drop down around the corner. It became obvious we would not be able to get back in the river – and time was going by. We retreated, staying high and dropped to the river, opposite the hut.

9am at the hut, we decided to take the easier option of exiting down the Edwards River, instead of going back via Tarn Col to the Hawdon, we just had to cross tiny Taruahuna Pass, then to Edwards Hut and out to Greyneys Shelter. Stopping at 12.30pm for lunch in the upper Otehake we had a lovely view down-valley. By 2.10pm we could see the Edwards from Taruahuna. At 4.20pm I left the others at Edwards Hut to walk out asap, deciding on the way that the Edwards wasn't a high-speed track.

Out to Greyneys Shelter at 8.05pm only left me a few minutes of reasonable daylight to hitch and then I had to resort to waving my headtorch. Soon, John walked out, then a young couple who had been up-valley, then Diane and Peter at 9.20pm. Could I get a lift? Yip; I squeezed into Conner's car and was dropped off at the Mt White turn-off. Now, with boots on, I walked about 40 minutes to the car, and drove back to Greyneys. Two older trampers who had been up Dome via the big scree had also arrived, needing a ride back to their vehicle in Arthurs Pass. I couldn't turn them down when I had got a lift, could I?

Our four made a stop at Diane's daughter, Sonia's place in Castle Village where Diane was planning to stay the night. There we were treated to tea and toast as the clock ticked towards midnight, so we were home in the small hours.

Exiting down the Edwards turned out to be the slower option but no complaints. It was a weekend to remember. We were: **Peter Umbers, Diane Mellish, John Robinson and Merv Meredith** 🏠 MM



Diane on the 'easy' stuff in the Otehake East Branch—photo by Merv

Tiromoana Bush Sunday 28 March 2021

Stags were roaring in the high country so we were diverted away from Gola Peak, our scheduled trip. Our leader, John suggested Tirimoana Bush as he knows it well. He was an ideal guide, leading us on an anticlockwise circuit around the perimeter of the reserve with a bonus climb of 346m Ella. Yes, it's another that doesn't know if it's a peak, hill or mountain. Totara and Vulcan in the area have the same identity problem. We timed it right for a long, leisurely lunch at the beach where Kate Valley's stream makes its tiny contribution to the ocean. We admired the various well-rounded stones on the beach and four of the group had a dip to cool off on this 25°C day. We didn't admire the three apple cores another group had left on the beach. Any breeze that blew was welcomed as we walked the last section back to the cars, up through pine forest and on to the road.

We were: **John Robinson, Helen Harkness, Dan Pryce, Lee Varty, Sacha Baldwin, Wendy McCaughan and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM



Near the top of 346m Ella



Lunch on the beach in the shade of a low cliff