



June 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: Contact **Stan Wilder, 260 2340**, to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters.

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 the month at **Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St. and Oxford Terrace)** at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm

Tuesday
8 June

Photo Night

Rummage through your tramping photos and share them at club night. Tell Brian brian21x@xtra.co.nz you'd like to exhibit, before the night, and put a ten minute (or less) selection on a memory stick, with files labelled so they show in the right order.



Tuesday
13 July



The Lonely Islands' Evolution

Long-standing PTC member and former president **Terry Thomsen** is about to launch his new book "**The Lonely Islands**". Terry will talk to us on the book's subject, which delves into the origin and evolution of NZ's native plants and animals and the factors that make natural NZ unique. Terry will cover the big picture stuff, but also focus on features specific to Canterbury–Westland, such as development of our alpine flora and fauna.

Social Events

Wednesday
30 June



Tirama Mai lighting trail. Dinner at Sakimoto

Tirama Mai, meaning to illuminate or bring light, celebrates **Matariki**, our people and our landscape. Christchurch's central city will be transformed with a series of innovative lighting installations, projections and illuminated artworks created by some of Canterbury's best lighting artists and creative minds.

Meet at 6pm outside Sakimoto in Cathedral Junction, Worcester Street. Explore the lighting trails, then back to Sakimoto for dinner at 7.15pm. The meals are very reasonably priced. Dinner bookings to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com by Sunday 27 June. No need to book for the walk.

NOTES

For Sale

Grivel Mont Blanc Nepal steel 70cm **ice axe** with wrist leash.

Charlet Moser adjustable 12 point **crampons** with waterproof bag.

La Sportiva Cornon GTX brown/grey **tramping boots size EU 42** worn 3 times

Can be viewed at club nights or by arrangement. Offers considered. **Helen Harkness** phone 027 4040 114

President's Notes

Greetings trampers

You will find the annual trip plan with this newsletter. I hope that you see some exciting possibilities to start putting into your diaries. I'm hoping that now we are in a la nina weather phase for some time, we will have fewer nor'westers in the spring and get more trips out.

As usual, it is a very full program so we will need lots of members to share in the task of leading trips. If you have not been a leader but would like to step up into this role, talk to someone on exec and they will support you as you learn the ropes. We are a bit short of personnel in the exec team this year, so we need members to contribute to the running of our club in this way. Please make our job easier by saying yes!

Diane

Digital Innovation from MSC

Take a look this excellent trip planning site from Mountain Safety Council

<https://planmywalk.nz/home>

Deadline for the July newsletter: Please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to Kerry Moore moorekj@xtra.co.nz by Saturday 3 July

Next Committee meeting: Tuesday, 29 June

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.

- Sun** [Bowenvale—Victoria Park Circuit](#)
6 Jun **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. 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 **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
● 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
- Sat,Sun** [Lake Daniell](#)
19-20 Jun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●● Check out the 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
Book by 13 June
- Sun** [Chch 360° Dunes and Wetlands](#)
20 Jun **Helen Harkness 384 2890**
● This 16km sector of the CHRISTCHURCH 360 TRAIL will commence at Pages Road and finish at Lower Styx Road. We will need to place sufficient cars at the Spencer Park end
Meet 9am, corner of Pages and Wairoa Road, by the Pages Road bridge to New Brighton
- Sat,Sun** [Hawdon Hut](#)
26-27 Jun **Names to Diane Mellish 337 5530**
●● An easy, flat walk up the beautiful, wide Hawdon River Valley to this spacious hut
Book by 20 June
- Sun** [Governors Bay Shoreline walk](#)
27 Jun **Diane Mellish 337 5530**
● An easy, flat walk from Governors Bay to Allandale with lots of attractions. Part of the return is along the main road with more attractions to see
8am Cashmere Rd opp PMH near Hackthorne
- Sat-Tues** [Welcome Flat Hotpools](#)
3-6 July **Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**
●●●● A moderate, 7hr, 18km walk to this popular, large hut in Westland beside the famous hot pools
Book by 20 June

- Saturday**
3 July
● **Flock Hill**
Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 tecbruce@gmail.com
Get among limestone tors as we explore the low hill that gives its name to a giant farm. The area has been cleared of pines but we may encounter some baby ones. Easy-moderate.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- Sat,Sun**
10-11 July
●● **Nina Hut**
Kevin Hughes 332 6281
An easy, flat walk in beautiful Nina Valley forest to this modern hut
Book by 4 July
- Sun**
11 July
● **Cockayne Alley - Cuckoo Creek**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
An easy-moderate circuit from Texas Flat that wanders either side of the Cheeseman Ski Road
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- Sat,Sun**
17-18 July
●● **Hamilton Hut**
Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
A pleasant, flat, easy-moderate walk up the Harper River from the Coleridge area to this comfortable hut
Book by 11 July
- Sun**
18 July
● **Mt Cheeseman--Mt Izard**
Merv Meredith 322 7239
Moderate-hard snow trip to two 2000m peaks in the Craigieburns, starting at Texas Flat and the Hogsback Track. Ice axe and possibly crampons required.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- Sat,Sun**
24-25 July
●● **Hope-Kiwi Lodge**
Alison Maccoll 322 8540
Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighting in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way through beech forest and along river terraces
Book by 18 July
- Sun**
25 July
● **Stony Bay Peak--Mt Brasenose**
Sue Piercey 384 9567
Moderate walk behind Akaroa, crossing the Misty Peaks Reserve between Stony Bay Peak and Mt Brasenose.
8am Cashmere Rd opp PMH near Hackthorne
- Sat,Sun**
31 Jul- 1 Aug
●● **Kumara Junction base camp**
Diane Mellish 337 5530
Lots of easy and moderate walks in this area which has an interesting gold-mining history.
Book by 11 July
- Sun**
1 Aug
● **Maukuratawhai circuit**
Merv Meredith 322 7239
On the Clarence River side of Jacks Pass behind Hanmer, this moderate tramp climbs to the 1615m summit that's easier to climb than pronounce.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

Sat-Mon **Avalanche Peak - Crow Hut**

7-9 Aug **John Cook 384 1710**

●●●

A moderate climb from Arthurs Pass village to 1833m Avalanche Peak and over to the Crow Valley. A middle day lets us explore the area. Exiting down Crow River Track to the Waimakariri and Klondyke Corner

Book by 1 Aug

Saturday

Quail Isl planting

7 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 9:55am.** Launch leaves Q Isl at 3.30pm

Names to Stan by Thursday 5th Aug

Sun

Stour River to Manuka Hut

8 Aug

Diane Dixon 359 9170

●

An easy, fairly flat tramp, not far from Mt Somers walkway. Going from the Stour River Bridge to Manuka Hut.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

TRIP REPORTS

Klondyke Spur and Valley Circuit 30-31 January 2021

We left town at 7.30 on a cloudy morning and passed through a bit of drizzle on Lewis Pass. Before we arrived at Springs Junction the sky was clear and sunny, as forecast and we met up with Arif who had driven down from Nelson to join us. We proceeded to the Rahu Saddle and began our tramp up the spur track, about 10.40. The route is quite well marked to the bushline but a little overgrown. Once out of the bush we found a good spot for lunch and enjoyed the sun and wonderful views below us. A tramping couple came at this time doing the whole circuit as a day trip.

After lunch we continued up the spur, which was mostly easy going but included some steep bits. When we got around beyond and above the tarn, Merv dropped down on the route the club had taken previously, while we continued around the ridge taking a longer route down from the head of the valley. By the time we arrived at the tarn at 3.30, Merv had found his nesting spot and had his tent up! We finished setting up camp then Wendy coerced us into a compulsory swim. This edict was largely obeyed although "quick dip" was a closer description. The water was cold but we soon warmed up again in the glorious sunshine. A cold breeze came up as the sun sunk behind the top ridge, which coincided with our simple dinner of pasta, peas, onion and kransky sausages, followed by an even simpler dessert of choc biscuits, apricots and a cuppa. Some of us retired early to escape the cold, which was the only minor blemish on the trip.

Sunday morning, we packed up after breakfast and hit the trail about 8.30, following the route down the left side of the waterfall with more great views on the way. The track is a bit vague until you reach the marked track at the bush edge. There was a noticeable lack of bird-life on the whole track. We got out to the car-park before midday, had a tramping lunch then headed home making a coffee stop in Culverden to top off a near perfect weekend. We were back in Christchurch around 4pm. The happy trampers were: **Wendy McCaughan, John Robinson, Arif Matthee, Merv Meredith our technical advisor and leader, Derek Gane.** 🏠 DG.



All five. Photo by anonymous tramper with Wendy's i-phone

Kennedys Bush--Governors Bay Sunday 9 May 2021

On an unusually warm morning, three of us set off from Halswell Quarry Park, using quarry tracks as far as possible to shorten the time spent on the road. When we hit the Kennedy's Bush Track proper, we met Chris Leaver who joined us for part of the climb to the Summit Road. Once at the Summit Road, we turned right and headed for the bush to reach the Sign of the Bellbird for a welcome morning tea stop. At the Bellbird we had extensive views towards the mountains and were all very pleased to be on the Port Hills, rather than inland in stormy weather.

Heading across the road, we set off on the Crater Rim track and then headed down Cass Ridge through Ohinetahi Reserve, stopping to admire the view over Lyttelton Harbour as we went – although the tide was low, the water was turquoise-blue against the very dry hillside across the harbour. From there, we turned along O'Farrells track, making our way along before starting to head back up towards the Summit Rd. During our lunch stop we were able to watch climbers tackling the rocks in the distance near Mt Ada. Binoculars would have given us a better view. After lunch, we headed back along the Crater Rim track and down the Kennedy's Bush track to the Halswell Quarry starting point, greeting mountain bikers, runners and walkers as we went and sharing stories of other tramping and kayaking adventures, as well as the books we had been reading lately.

An enjoyable day out. We were **Joy Schroeder, John Jagusch, Alison Maccoll (leader)** 🏔️ AM



Spot the Kereru, Sign of the Bellbird. Photo by anonymous late-starter who didn't manage to catch the trio

Nikau Palm Gully **May 16 2021**

Although probably rather ho-hum to West Coasters, the Nikau Palm Gully Reserve near Akaroa is a rare commodity on the eastern South Island, it being the farthest south that nikaus, New Zealand's only endemic palm species grows naturally. Speculation that early Maori distributed nikau seeds there does not apparently stand up to scrutiny. These nikaus are also the world's southern-most naturally growing palm, at least on mainland New Zealand. Pedants will be quick to point out that Pitt Island in the Chatham group, where they are also endemic, can lay claim to that fact by being almost one degree further south.

After two attempts to find the (well sign-posted) road that leads from Akaroa town, eight of us finally set off on a farm track leading from the Onuku Farm Hostel. Winding in and out of several headlands we had expansive views of a very calm and quiet Akaroa harbour; the Black Cat's engine and a few other boats being virtually the only intrusive noise. After about an hour's walking to reach the gully, which is encased by sheer rock walls, not unlike a hanging valley of glacial origin, a steep descent led to the creek that flows through it. Hitherto scrubby vegetation had now transformed into thick bush, including kawakawa and pigeonwood, also species at their southern-most east coast limits. The bush floor hosted hundreds, if not thousands, of seedling nikaus up to 10cm high, indicating good recent germination conditions.

After a few hundred metres, the track breaks out of the bush and terminates on a slope that provided a fine view overlooking sea cliffs and the outer harbour. We had a lazy lunch there, admiring the full vista of over 200 mature nikaus growing in the gully, their large shaving-brush fronds breaching the bush canopy. The return walk had us back at the cars by mid-afternoon, where half the group went gathering nuts in May below a nearby, large walnut tree.

The size and number of nīkau palms in this reserve makes it one of the best coastal forest remnants in Canterbury and it is certainly a most worthwhile day-walk. An article in the *Akaroa Mail* almost to the day 112

years ago, illustrated how such a remnant could have been lost. The local boating club had their annual knees-up at the Oddfellows Hall and decided to decorate the room – with nikau palms. Not just their fronds as several of the trees from the gully were cut down and transported back. The Mail lambasted such practice, warning that if trees were plundered on a regular basis, within a few years the palms would be gone. They suggested “that the Beautifying Association take the matter up and protect these areas from the hands of the Goths”. Thankfully conservationists prevailed. We were: **Kerry Moore, Wendy McCaughan, John Robinson, Barbara Purcell, Mike Wong, Peter Umbers, Kyung Sang Lee, Graeme Paltridge (leader)** 🏠 GP



A plethora of palms