



February 2022

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee

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Trip Planner			"	Alison Maccoll	322 8540
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	"	Bridget O'Regan	338 4785
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069	"	Dan Pryce	027 384 7065

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

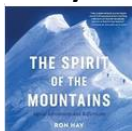
Our Club

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 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 Feb



The Spirit of the Mountains

Ron Hay, who published a book last year titled "The Spirit of the Mountains", will treat us to some wonderful photographs and stories recalling the many adventures he and his family had in the mountains over many decades. Copies of his book will be available for purchase.

Tuesday 8 Mar



AGM then Members' Photos

AGM starts at 7:30. Details over-page

Members' Photos

For our photo show, all you have to do is email two good photos to **Kevin**, ptc@nivek.co.nz by **Mon 7 Mar** and he'll do the rest.



Notice of 2022 AGM Tuesday 8 March 2022

The PTC 90th Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, on **Tue 8 March** starting promptly at **7.30pm**, prior to our normal club night.

The agenda will include:

- **Election of officers and executive members.** Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available on the night.
- **Notified motions.** Any member wishing to give a notice of motion for consideration at the AGM should forward their notice to the Secretary prior to, or at, our **8 February club night**, so that the full AGM agenda can be circulated by email in late February

Merv Meredith secretary@ptc.nz

Social Events

McCormacks Bay Walk and Indian Takeaways

Tuesday 15 February

Meet a bit before **6pm** at [Chilli Flakes Indian Restaurant](#) near the corner of Soleares Ave and McCormacks Bay Road. We will pre-order takeaways (or BYO) then do a loop, back to the restaurant via Drayton Reserve. We can have our dinner in McCormacks Bay Reserve. Bring warm clothes, drinks, picnic gear and **vaccine passes**. Enquiries to **Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778**, mothompson1212@gmail.com

NOTES

President's Message

Hello trampers. Just as we were starting to relax into long spells of settled, fine weather in the mountains and the prospect of months of glorious tramping adventures, omicron has thrown us a curve-ball. This newsletter contains the program we planned well in advance, but with quite a few leader vacancies. I will see what the next week brings before trying harder to fill those gaps. I know the uncertainty about how events will play out in the coming weeks/months will be making people reluctant to commit themselves at present. You will be kept informed of any changes and updates to club trips and events, as usual, through the PTC Communicator system. Here's hoping there is not too much disruption to our activities and that everyone stays well.

Diane

Membership: We welcome **Steve Cameron** and **Sha S.G.** to the club.

[!\[\]\(f60b7a900783ac3fd531bfd9c111be6d_img.jpg\) How to put your emergency information on your phone's lock screen !\[\]\(fe5cf1978663f480c504f8fc2019fe62_img.jpg\)](#)

TRIPS

6-Feb

[Little Mt Peel](#)

Sun

Names to Diane Mellish 337 5530

- Easy-moderate to moderate ascent of this 1300m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and sub-alpine scrub. Quite a long climb, but it's a good track. Those wanting an easier day may want to go only part of the way up, or explore the bush tracks in the area.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 12-13 Feb** [Zampa Tops](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
●● Moderate hike near Cannibal Gorge in the Lewis Pass area. We'll stay at Ada Pass Hut Saturday night for an early start Sunday along Zampa tops via the big tarn and 1710m Zampa.
Book by 20 Feb
- 12-Feb** [Ashley River Splash](#)
Saturday **Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**
● This is the classic splash down-stream along the Ashley from Middle Bridge out to the domain. It's an easy-moderate, fun trip on a fine day. Be sure to take a full change of clothes for afterwards.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 13-Feb** [Nikau Palm Gully](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
● This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms here are notable for being the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an easy tramp towards the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 19-20 Feb** [Kokatahi River—Boo Boo Hut](#)
Sat-Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●● Head inland from Hokitika for a moderate 2 day valley trip or a moderate-hard 3 days to include a climb of Mt Reeves.
Book by 13 Feb
- 26-27 Feb** [Lower Deception](#)
Sat-Sun **Diane Mellish 027 413 6468 mellishdiane@gmail.com**
●● A trip suitable for families or those starting out tramping/camping in the Lower Deception valley in Arthurs Pass National Park.
Book by 20 Feb
- 26-29 Feb** [Mt Titiroa](#)
Sat-Tues **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 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 13 Feb
- 27-Feb** [Double Hut](#)
Sun **Diane Dixon 358 4459 or 027 229 6688**
● Starting at Lake Heron and near the Te Araroa trail, we'll go to Double Hut for lunch and return the same way.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 5-6 Mar** [Carroll Hut](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
●● An easy-moderate trip for the naturalists. Enjoy Westland forest, summer flowers above the bushline and see fault scarps near Carroll Hut.
Book by 27 Feb

- 6-Mar** [Mt Alexander](#)
Sun **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
● Easy-moderate wander in open, rolling North Canterbury farm country, to this 750m lookout near Scargil.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 12-13 Mar** [Hunts Creek Hut--Mt Barron](#)
Sat-Sun **Doug Forster 337 5453**
●● We walk up the Kellys Creek Track, over Hunt Saddle to stay at Hunts Creek Hut. A moderate-hard exit on Sunday over Mt Barron.
Book by 6 March
- 13-Mar** [Mt Somers Walkway](#)
Sun **Norman Burden 021 0228 9141**
● From Woolshed Creek carpark, we'll take the Rhyolite track to the Bus Stop, descend to Woolshed Creek Hut and return by the Coal Miners track.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 19-20 Mar** [Casey Tarn](#)
Sat-Sun **Chris Leaver 322 6445**
●● Parking at Ryton Station. A moderate climb onto the Birdwood Range to camp high at Casey Tarn. Exiting via Triangle Creek, Avoca River and Gargarus Saddle.
Book by 13 March
- 20-Mar** [Takamatua--Le Bons Bay track](#)
Sun **Diane Dixon 358 4459 or 027 229 6688**
● An easy-moderate tramp from near highway 75 to Ellangowan Reserve on the Old Le Bons Track.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 26-30 Mar** [Lake Jeanette--Wangapeka Saddle](#)
Sat-Tue **Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 fordrm@snap.net.nz**
●●●●● A moderate multi-day trip in the Matiri Valley, Thousand Acrea Plateau, Wangapeka area.
Book by 20 March
- 26-27 Mar** [Walker Pass - Tarn Col - Edwards](#)
Sat-Sun **Kevin Hughes 332 6281**
●● One of the classic Arthur's Pass NP tramps. This moderate trip takes in the Hawdon and Edwards valleys, a couple of attractive alpine passes, an attractive alpine tarn and views of what's left of Falling Mountain. Needs a Fri afternoon start from Chch.
Book by 20 March
- 2-3 Apr** [Green Hill--Castle Hill](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
●● From the Andrews shelter we go via Casey Saddle to camp at the tarns near 1391m, below Castle Hill. A day-trip from there along the tops to Castle Hill and Green Hill then back to the tarns to pack up and return to Andrews Shelter. Moderate.
Book by 27 March

3-Apr [Kaituna Valley—Herbert crossover](#)

Sun **Awaiting leader**

- A moderate walk from Gebbies Pass to Packhorse Hut on the Te Ara Pataka Track, then to 919m Mount Herbert and on past the Monument to Purau Saddle. Another group will do the walk in the reverse direction. Both groups start from high-points.

Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH

9-10 Apr [Dillons Hut--Kelly Range](#)

Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**

- A moderate circuit from the lower Taipo valley then up a steep track over the Kelly Range to the Otira area. People wanting an easy trip could return from Dillons to the cars and drive to Kellys picnic ground to meet the others.

Book by 3 April

TRIP REPORTS

Ryde Falls **Sunday 9 January 2022**

Seven of us set off expecting a very hot day at Oxford (28 degrees was expected in Christchurch). After a pit stop in Oxford we arrived at the Coopers Creek car park to find about 10 cars already there. There was a brisk NW which was suggesting a cooler walk than predicted. The track ran almost parallel to the route the tram used to extract logs from the forest in the late 1890s and meandered up and down. It was far muddier than any of us could remember. We arrived at the river leading from the falls at 11:45 and settled in for an early lunch before proceeding to the falls, thus keeping our feet dry. A continuous procession of groups passed us including a young family with a baby. This was the busiest track I have been on. After lunch, those that wanted to carried on to the falls by crossing the stream. The falls were crowded with a group of photographers sporting very classy gear, set up on tripods. Some were precariously working their way along the rim of the second pool to set up their gear. The walk back to Coopers Creek car park was uneventful, followed by a quick stop at the cafe for milkshakes and coffees.



We were: Graeme Nicholas (leader), Helen Harkness, Deborah Wood, Lesley Campbell, Barbara Purcell, Hilaire Campbell, Carol Cheong.

 GN

Boyle Base

16-17 Jan 2022

A Friday night start ensured that we were able to attack our Saturday objective early, in the cool of the day. In a first for our club, we stayed at the Forest and Bird bach near Boyle Village. With only three of us going, each had a room of their own. The bach/hut is well equipped but we needed to take a gas burner. It has solar storage to power the lights, though at this time of year we didn't need room lights. The 12V phone-charging sockets were useful. Dinner was macaroni cheese reinforced with a large supply of runner beans and a marrow that "got away".

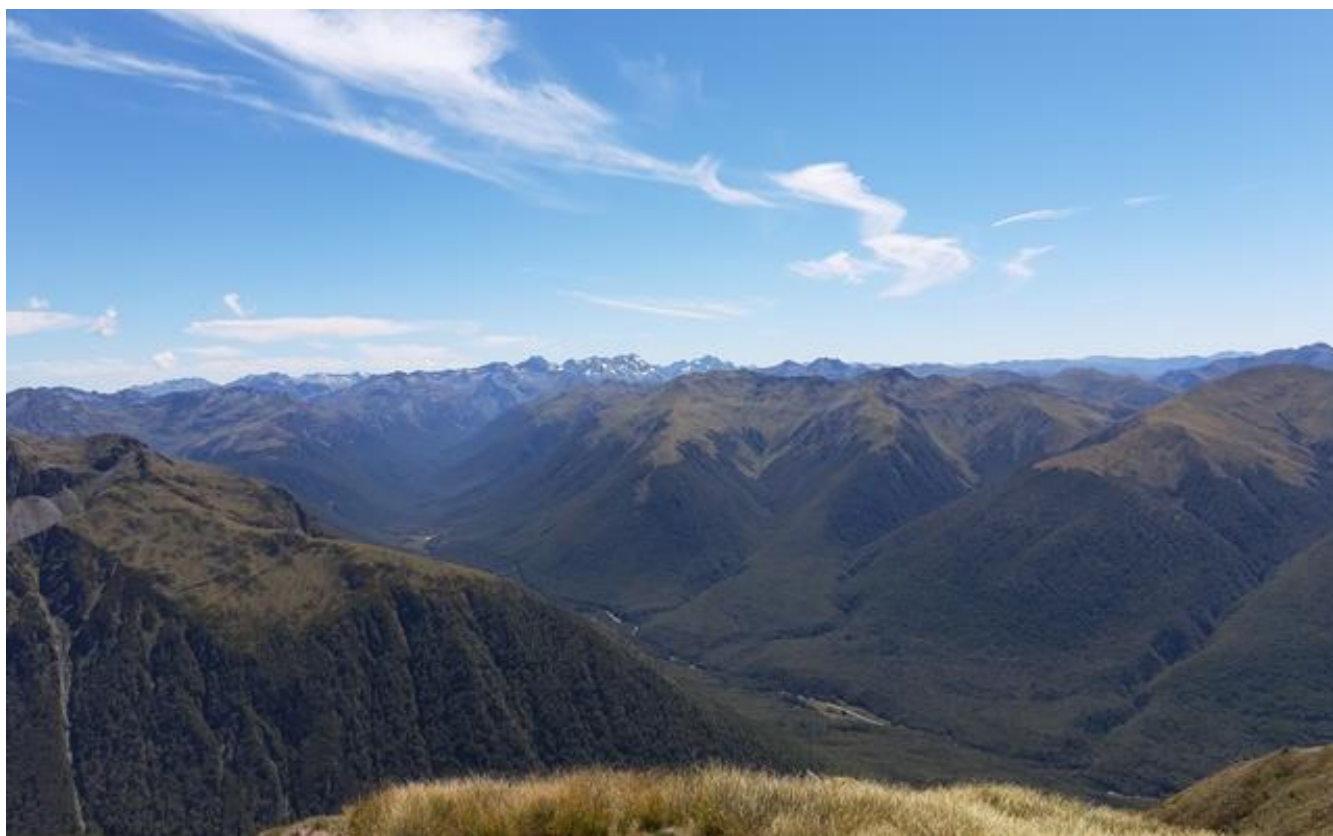
We drove past the entrance to Foleys Track that leads to Travers Peak. I think it's been moved slightly to start opposite Deer Valley car park, so we parked in this convenient off-road area. The initial track, parallel to the road was a bit boggy and leads you very close to Goings Creek not Foleys. The track is good and took us about 90 minutes to reach the tree-line. Initially, poles get you pointed to the spur leading to 1724m Travers Peak, then a few cairns do the job. We three had lunch with a pleasant couple from Leithfield. On the way down we passed a mixture of people and one dog, who were going up. Some had weekend packs and were headed to tarns near Trovatore. One group was going towards Boucher Saddle.

The day was quite warm for the descent, so we were happy to get back to base for a cuppa at mid-afternoon. The bach was still cool inside but warmed a lot in the late afternoon sun. Saturday night dinner was lentil spaghetti and canned pasta sauce, along with the green beans and marrow. Dessert both nights was coconut custard on crumbled gingernuts.

Sunday morning and we were walking towards Nina Valley by 7:30. Norman chose to do a flatter walk to Nina Hut. Peter and me headed up the forest track towards Mt Norma, passing a number of rat/mustelid trap-boxes along the way. From the bach, Forest and Bird people tend a number of trap-lines in the area. They cover a large territory. Passing points 1532 and 1642 we reached 1722m Norma for an early 11:30 lunch. This climb was also a thousand metre climb but further in distance than Travers so it may have been better to do the easier one on the Sunday.

As for the previous day we were back by mid-afternoon for an easy tidy-up and departure. We'd had two fine and successful days. It was good to know our "hut fees" are supporting Forest and Bird's work in the area.

We were: **Norman Burden, Peter Umbers, Kerry Moore.** 🏠 KM



From the Norma Ridge. Travers Peak and Trovatore in the Libretto Range backed by the Spenser Mountains



Looking to the junction of the Nina and Lewis Rivers with Boyle Village further on

Fowlers Pass – Lake Guyon – Maling Pass

22-23 January 2022

Motoring by 7am got us walking towards Fowlers Pass at 10:30 on a totally blue-sky day. We passed lots of mountain daisies that had finished flowering and a fine array of astelias beside this gently sloping track. Lower down every little gully seemed to have a stream and Wendy had her mug on the outside of her pack so she could sample them all. Around the pass vegetation is sparse with lots of bare gravel. A zig-zag track gets you alongside Smyth Stream and then the track follows the stream through patches of beech. The stream meets the Stanley River and the valley widens. As we neared Stanley Vale we met two dirt bikers who were wondering where they were as they churned through patches of swampy track and were heading towards Fowlers Pass. We put them right so they re-churned their way back to the solid four-wheel drive track.

The day became warm so we had a break under a big rowan tree near Stanley Vale Hut before following the track to Lake Guyon. Rowans seem to be taking over this area, smothering the matagouri. Lake Guyon Hut is halfway down the lake in a beautiful location. Near the hut ten 4WDs were encamped. Dan, Lee and Kerry used the oh-so-hot hut, Alison, John and Wendy tented. Candles in the hut were keeling over as they softened in the heat. The little stream beside the hut has created a tiny gravel delta which was an ideal “beach” for the swimmers who braved the sandflies for a welcome dip.

Dan and Lee cooked a first-rate pasta and tuna meal and Wendy and Alison came up with a very fancy fruit-cake and cookie dessert. The “dining room” was under trees in a nice breeze. We were up at six and away by 7:30 on a chilly morning with the sun taking its time to get above the hills. Later in full sun and climbing to Maling Pass we were overheating and welcomed the shade of beech trees 1km short of the pass. John and Kerry set out ahead of the bunch so John could retrieve a car. We figured there would be traffic along the Wairau-Hanmer Hydro Road to hitch a ride with. We missed the first vehicle we saw by 300m. Then a minute after we reached the road, three motor-cyclists turned up and one offered to give John a ride the 10km to the cars. John had to hold onto his hat as the driver overtook the other two bikes so had a thrilling but dust-free ride. He soon returned to pick up the crew, minus Kerry who’d hitched with a Culverden farmer, the 10km to

the other car. Back at the Fowlers car park we changed, then headed for the Hanmer ice-cream shop and home. We were: **Dan Pryce, Lee Varty, Alison Maccoll, Wendy McCaughan, John Robinson and Kerry Moore**

 **KM**



John on the Moki Track alongside the Waiau River