



August 2022


PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee					
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Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Bridget O'Regan	338 4785
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	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 7.45pm. Doors open 7.30pm.	
Tuesday 9 Aug 	The Ngāi Tahu digital atlas Takerei Norton will talk about this ambitious database, compiled by Ngāi Tahu over the past 10 years. It shows 1200 traditional Māori place names in Te Wai Pounamu, with traditional travel routes, and original Māori reserves. The project makes this traditional knowledge accessible at www.kahurumanu.co.nz
Tuesday 13 Sept 	<u>Obesity of Politicians and Corruption in Post-Soviet Countries</u> Pavlo Blavatsky will describe his study in which face images of 2000 cabinet ministers from 15 post-Soviet states: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. For each image, the minister's body-mass index was estimated using a computer vision algorithm and used to predict their degree of corruption.

Social Events

Heathcote River loop then Magic Masala

Wednesday 17 August

This circular walk along the Heathcote River takes us through Risingholme and Hansen Parks. Depart from **Magic Masala Indian** restaurant at **6 pm**, getting back to the restaurant at 7pm. Good footpaths but torches might be handy. The restaurant is at **132A Opawa Rd**, on the corner of Hawford Rd, with parking on Hawford Rd. Reasonable prices. Book for the meal by **7pm Sunday 14 August** with **Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778**, mothompson1212@gmail.com

Mid-week morning walk through Redwood parks.

Wednesday 21 September

Meet at **Redwood Park on Sturrocks Rd at 9.15 am**. Plenty of angled parking. Walk through several pretty Redwood parks then traverse Styx Mill, coming back via Northwood lanes and Regents Park Drive. Takes about 2 hours. We can have a quick stop half-way for a drink or snack and head to a local cafe afterwards. Cosy Cafe is nearby. No need to book.

Enquiries to **Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778**, mothompson1212@gmail.com

NOTES

Hello trampers. A few things to report from our recent committee meeting. We need help from you with ideas for club night activities or speakers. Our very small exec has run out of inspiration! Please email any suggestions to secretary, Merv.

Overnight trampers will be pleased to know that we have purchased two new gas burners. They have piezo igniters, but it's always wise to take a lighter or matches in case they malfunction.

Passing on a useful tip I read recently: a few cable ties in your pack are useful for emergency repairs. They are very light to carry, versatile and probably stronger than a bootlace or cord.

Wishing us all some better tramping weather soon. Di

TRIPS

7 Aug [Christchurch 360 sector, Avonhead Gardens to Riccarton Bush](#)

Sun **Diane Dixon 358 4459**

- A 7.5 km section with the option of having a lunch at one of the food courts or takeaways. Bus or walk back to the start.

Meet 9am near Avonhead Tavern in Withells Rd

7, 13 or **Basic Snowcraft Skills**

14 Aug **Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872**

- An introductory day to travelling on snow, in the Craigieburn Basin. We will cover route-finding on snow slopes, how to walk on snow, when to use crampons, and how to self-arrest using an ice axe. We will confirm the date for the course closer to the time.

Limited numbers so please book for this day course by 1 Aug

14 Aug [Ogg Gog and Magog](#)

Sun **Chris Leaver 322 6445**

- These Ogs come in a row and they all line up so we can knock them off in one easy-moderate walk. We'll be looking into the Waimakariri Rr before it reaches the gorgy section.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 20-21 Aug** [Kaikoura Base](#)
Sat-Sun **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
 ●● Keen people will do a moderate climb of Mt Fyffe while others can do more relaxed local walks such as the Kaikoura Peninsula.
Book by Tues 9 Aug
- 20 Aug** [Mt Storm](#)
Saturday **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● A moderate climb of this 1254m peak from near Mt Pember homestead. A choice of spurs mean we can make a circuit of it.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 27-28 Aug** [Pinchgut Hut](#)
Sat-Sun **Evelien Baas 027 557 5521**
 ●● An easy-moderate there-and-back walk with only a little climbing. Pinchgut Hut has a wood stove.
Book by 21 Aug
- 28 Aug** [Mt Oakden](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ● Yet another way to view Lake Coleridge on this moderate climb of 1633m Mt Oakden.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 2-4 Sep** [Hanmer Base](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ●● Drive up there Friday afternoon or evening for a full day on Saturday and our potluck meal Saturday evening. Expect some of the Hanmer classics such as Isobel from Jollies Pass, or Dumblane on the western side of Jacks Pass. Or maybe Mt Seymour up the Clarence.
Book by Wed 10 Aug. Accommodation deposit of \$25
- 4 Sep** [Akaroa Skyline Circuit](#)
Sun **Mike Bourke 332 7097**
 ● A stroll from the top of Stony Bay Road along part of the Skyline Circuit, overlooking Akaroa and some of the SE bays of Banks Peninsula, as far as Flea Bay Road. Return via Brasenose and Flag Peaks, covering 9km over about 4 hours.
Meet 8:30am on Halswell Rd, outside Halswell School
- 10-12 Sep** [Te Ao Whekere](#)
Sat-Mon **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ●●● We camp by Happy Valley Stream north of Kaikoura for this moderate-hard climb to 2590m Te Ao Whekere.
Book by 4 Sep
- 10 Sep** [Ghost Creek - Mt Plenty](#)
Sat **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
 ● A moderate climb starting at the Porter River bridge between Porters Pass and Castle Hill Village.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 17-18 Sep** [Benmore - 13 Mile Bush](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● A moderate climb from Lake Lyndon to 1655m Ben More and over to stay at Benmore Hut.
Book by 11 Sep
- 18 Sep** [Sugarloaf](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● An easy-moderate climb up 1410m Sugarloaf from Cass.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 24-25 Sep** [Boyle Flat Hut – Faust](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ●● A moderate climb from the Boyle over the Libretto Range via 1710m Faust. Anyone wanting an easy trip can return as for the inward leg.
Book by 18 Sep
- 25 Sep** [Mt Harper/Mahaanui](#)
Sun **Bill Templeton 354 2277**
 ● A 1200m climb in the Lake Clearwater area. We take a vehicle track to Balmaccan Saddle and climb the spur to 1829m Mt Harper/Mahanui. Take ice-axe and crampons.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 1-2 Oct** [Double Hut and Mt Taylor](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● Starting at Lake Heron we'll head to Double Hut and stop there for the easy option whilst those wanting a moderate hard trip will climb 2333m Mt Taylor.
Book by 25 Sep
- 2 Oct** [Trig M--Rabbit Hill](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● Halfway between Porters Pass and Lake Lyndon we begin the easy-moderate walk to Trig M and along the ridge to Rabbit Hill. Returning the same way.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 8 Oct** [Wild Cattle Hill](#)
Saturday **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● Easy-moderate walk on the east side of Port Levy from sea level to 600m on Wild Cattle Hill. Coastal views towards both Port Levy and Pigeon Bay.
Meet 8 am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH

TRIP REPORTS

Orton Bradley Park—Eye of the Needle--Mt Bradley

Sunday 3 July 2022

Too much snow and predicted strong winds prevented a Mt Enys climb so Di Mellish offered an alternative through PTC communicator. Alas the email offering a trip in the Akaroa area went into my spam folder so, oblivious, I sent an email suggesting the climb to Mt Bradley, resulting in a team of five needle threaders. Orton Bradley Park was very shaded and cold but soon we were up in sunshine in a light, warm breeze. By the time we stopped for a drink, lots of clothing layers had been shed.



Through the eye, looking towards the harbour ▲

Above the eye ►



Climbing the steep section along a fence and through wiry scrub to the rocks, we were wearing summer attire. The eye is hidden until you get right up to it, so we were delighted to arrive and pass through. Clambering onto a big rock to go higher has never been easy but Eileen did it expertly, so we could then use a rope to assist the rest of us. There was still another awkward bit, then we were happily standing near point 799 on the flat-topped 855m Mt Bradley. For no good reason I fell backwards into a patch of gorse and needed Kyung Sang to haul me out. No, the photo won't be shown in this newsletter.

From the top, on paths cut through gorse by Merv Meredith, we could have got onto Te Ara Pataka track and back to the Orton Bradley Valley but we chose to go the longer way along the ridge to Packhorse Hut. Two bluffs forced us into gullies on the Kaituna Valley side where we saw severe pig rooting damage. We must have reached the hut at 2:20 and set off again at 2:40, knowing that we should be out of OBP by 5:30 when the gates closed. Three hundred metres from the hut two of us lost the track and went too low, two went too high. It took us ten minutes to regroup. The rest of Falkner Track is well marked, and the forest gully is no longer muddy. We got back to the car in a very chilly OBP with forty minutes to spare. Driving home we crested the Sign of the Kiwi to see a broad golden sunset over the mountains on a perfectly clear evening, capping off a great day out. We were: **Wendy McCaughan, Mary McKeown, Eileen Mackie. Kyung Sang Lee and Kerry Moore.** 🏔️ KM

Okuti Track—Hilltop—Montgomery Reserve Sunday 10 July 2022

Six of us headed out from the Okuti car park in dull, cloudy weather. The forecast was for morning showers with clouds, clearing in the afternoon. They weren't being totally truthful!



The initial, short climb was through native bush on a very wet and slippery track, which after ten minutes got onto a metal road, heading up past various farmlets and cottages. Mental note: take the road rather than the track on the way back. The track then meandered through a small forestry block until breaking out into farmland. We passed a small sign, warning of dangerous livestock (fine print) and steadily climbed through, at times very muddy and sodden cow paddocks, to the ridge-line. We then progressed into sheep country and saw the local farmers working in yards with their flocks, although there was some speculation as to what they were doing. We soon heard and saw the traffic on the Akaroa highway as we approached Hilltop. Just before noon we stopped for lunch at a large bus shelter and caught some brief rays of sunshine.

After lunch we headed five minutes along the road to the Montgomery Reserve. We reached the “big Totara” after 15 minutes. This is impressive and according to Mr Google is 2000 years old. Since the clouds were starting to appear ever-more ominous we beat a retreat back the way we had come. This was uneventful, although we had to don our wet weather gear at one stage. The rain was minimal, so the coats were soon removed. Arriving back at the car, dry but a little muddy, we then finished off the trip at the Little River Cafe. We were: **Graeme Nicholas (leader), Dan Pryce, Ian Beale, Eileen Mackie, John Robinson and Sha SG** 🏡 GN

Harper River Saturday 16 July 2022

The scheduled trip in Lees Valley to Youngman Stream Hut was scotched by a “road closed” sign at the turn-off from the main road. You hear stories of people, ignoring signs and trying to get through. That was us; we went to see if it was impassable to our 4-wheel-drive. We didn’t have to go far. At the first stream a big digger was placing hefty boulders to shore up a washout. A worker there told us there were eight such blockages. Driving out, our three would-be trampers wondered where else we could go. We decided on Hamilton Hut, via the Harper River.

A snowy scene greeted us as we arrived at the locked gate near the Harper diversion. We crunched our way along the track for two hours, trying hard not to get our boots wet. Nearing the corner where the Avoca River joins the Harper we came to a crossing that would definitely get our socks wet. It was another five hours to the hut and soon we’d not have the benefit of vehicle tracks. Off-track the snow was deep and soft and slow going, and we’d made a late start, so we headed back to the car. The idea of camping in the area was discarded in favour of going home to watch the All Blacks get soundly beaten by the Irish. We’d had a nice day trip in beautiful surroundings. We were: **Wendy McCaughan, Peter Umbers and Kerry Moore.**





A bright and sunny day but not right here



Mt Ida from the Harper car park