



September 2022

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee					
Trip Planner 1	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069
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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 13 Sept



Tarn Col 2008 & 2022, Tramping Gear Freebies & Auction, Map Folding

Two very different Tarn Col trips, then an auction of some major donated items that can include items you bring on the night. Less valuable items can just be put on the free-stuff table with our excess of first-aid items. But wait, there's more. We have been given all 50-series maps of the South Island in sheet form, so will ask you to help fold them.

Tuesday 11 Oct



**Hato Hone
St John**

3 Steps for Life

Delivered by Volunteer Community Educators, this programme is a free one-hour session and consists of public awareness sessions of basic CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) training. It gives participants the skills and confidence to respond to someone in cardiac arrest by ① Calling 111, ② Starting CPR, and ③ Using an AED.

Social Events

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

Notice Of Special General Meeting

To Consider Proposed Increases to Subscriptions for the 2023 Year

At the **Special General Meeting** the Executive will unanimously recommend the following:

That our annual subscriptions for the 2023 year each be increased by \$5:

Electronic membership Increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00

Hardcopy membership Increase from \$50.00 to \$55.00

The rationale for this proposal is:

The ongoing operating loss in the club accounts year by year has been noted with contributing factors including:

1. A slow, steady reduction in membership numbers
2. Increasing cost of postage year by year

**The SGM will commence PROMPTLY at 7.30pm
prior to the normal 11th October club night.**

A motion to the above effect will be put by our Treasurer, Mike Bourke
and seconded by Kerry Moore

Merv Meredith, secretary@ptc.nz

TRIPS

10 Sep

Saturday

•

[Ghost Stream - Mt Plenty](#)

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

Sat-Sun

••

[Benmore - 13 Mile Bush](#)

Kerry Moore 359 5069

A moderate climb from Lake Lyndon to 1655m Ben More and over to stay at Benmore Hut.
Book by 11 Sep

18 Sep

Sun

•

[Sugarloaf](#)

Awaiting leader

An easy-moderate climb up 1410m Sugarloaf from Cass.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 24-25 Sep**
Sat-Sun
●●
[Boyle Flat Hut - Faust](#)
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**
Sun
●
[Mt Harper/Mahaanui](#)
Bill Templeton 354 2277
A moderate-hard 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**
Sat-Sun
●●
[Double Hut and Mt Taylor](#)
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**
Sun
●
[Trig M--Rabbit Hill](#)
Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
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**
Saturday
●
[Wild Cattle Hill](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
Easy-moderate circuit on the east side of Port Levy from sea level to 600m Wild Cattle Hill. Coastal views towards both Port Levy and Pigeon Bay.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 15-16 Oct**
Sat-Sun
●●
[Princess Bath--Mt Princess](#)
Merv Meredith 322 7239
A moderate-hard trip to this big tarn and 2126m peak above it. We'll stay in Hanmer or beyond on the Friday afternoon or evening. Using the Maling Pass track we climb to 1572m then east of 1902m to base ourselves at Princess Bath. With a day-pack we can climb Mt Princess the same day. Sunday is then a shorter day's walk out. Take an ice-axe, crampons and helmet. The club has helmets to lend.
Book by 8 Oct
- 16 Oct**
Sun
●
[Tiromoana Bush](#)
Awaiting leader
Easy coastal trip east of Waipara, through bush and wetlands to a remote beach. Great views to Pegasus Bay and Banks Peninsula. Nice walk and pleasant day out.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 22-26 Oct**
Sat-Wed
●●●●●
Lab. wknd
[Mt Arthur Tablelands](#)
Angela Grigg 027 578 9743
A moderate tour of the Mt Arthur Tablelands including Salisbury Lodge and Lake Peel.
Book by 16 Oct

- 22 Oct**
Saturday
● [Diamond Harbour - Charteris Bay](#)
Hilaire Campbell 022 085 9501
We can take the launch to Diamond Harbour for this easy harbour-side track to Church Bay and Charteris Bay.
Meet at the Diamond Harbour ferry wharf, Lyttelton at 8:40am
The 28 bus will get you to Lyttelton at 8:38
- 29-30 Oct**
Sat-Sun
●● [Avalanche Peak--Crow Hut](#)
John Cook 384 1710
A popular crossing from Arthurs Pass village to the Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak. We'll probably need ice-axe and crampons
Book by 23 Oct
- 29 Oct**
Saturday
● [Bealey Spur](#)
Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726
An easy-moderate walk above the Bealey settlement to a historic hut, with beautiful views of the wide Waimakariri and many peaks in the national park.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 5-6 Nov**
Sat-Sun
●● [Cass Saddle--Lagoon Saddle](#)
Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
A classic trip starting at Cass and heading over Cass Saddle. Staying overnight at Hamilton Hut then heading up the Harper River, over Lagoon Saddle and out to SH73.
Book by 30 Oct
- 6 Nov**
Sun
● [Scotts Saddle from Awa Awa Rata Reserve](#)
Sue Piercey 384 9567
An easy-moderate day from Awa Awa Rata Reserve on Scotts Saddle Track in the Mt Hutt Range.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 11-14 Nov**
Fri-Mon
●●●● [Danseys Pass to Kurow Ridge Traverse](#)
Diane Mellish 337 5530, 027 413 6468
From the top of Danseys Pass we traverse over Mts Kyeburn, Cone, Grayson, Domett and te Kohurau, dropping down to Kurow through the Awakino skifield.
Show wknd Book by 6 Nov

TRIP REPORTS

Arthur's Pass Base 29-31st July 2022

It was all about timing! I last ran a traditional winter AP Base in July 2020, having run numbers of these over the decades. In 2020 it was a pleasant surprise to get the Catholic Outdoor Club house at 10 Sunshine Terrace for a standardized occupation period of 5pm Friday to 5pm Sunday—very practical for two full tramping days. This time it was 4pm to 4pm.

Base excursions are usually interesting logistical exercises but this one was relatively easy. Well, for most of us anyway. Pre-trip we had eleven, but Mary withdrew, so that she was home to support Lynda Janks who was likely to be discharged from hospital before the weekend. Then Maureen had doubts about taking her van to the pass, so pulled out too. So, down to nine but that was still fine for a sociable weekend. Last time at the house, the roofing iron had been replaced and the outside walls painted. This time, the windows had been fitted with double-glazed aluminium, except for one. As usual the overhead infrared heaters took time

to get the house cosy on the Friday evening, but after that, no problem. The weekend forecast wasn't the best. The NWER might be restrictive on Saturday and not sure about Sunday. But that's the joys of base camps; we can cope with whatever weather comes along. Saturday morning, we settled on Mt Bealey as offering easy access from the house and we could always retreat if need be. Whichever the destination, the snow cover was going to be fairly significant and mostly soft, even below the bush-line. Five of us were away from the house at 8.50am, with Bonnie, Mary-Jane and Glenda following.

At the bush-line the snow was mostly firm and there was only an occasional puff of westerly wind. Higher up, we stopped to put on crampons before eventually stopping at 1600m. The steeper climb to point 1760m was ahead and beyond that, the saddle, before climbing again to 1836m Bealey. However, off-put somewhat by the forecast (that is, the leader chickened out) we headed back to the bush-line for lunch in lovely conditions, before returning to the house at 2.15pm.



In the B team, Glenda had stopped at a nice spot in the bush and Mary-Jane also stopped before the bush-line. Bonnie continued up to the bush-line where he was joined by Joanna for the walk back to have lunch with Mary-Jane and Glenda. They then returned to Sunshine Terrace and walked to the village, on to Punchbowl Falls, followed by a compulsory stop at the store café. Merv walked to the village to find Glenda, who hailed him from the café window. Looking out from the café they could watch as snow started falling at 4pm.

Walking back from the village on this windless afternoon, the scene became increasingly picturesque. Rich however was thinking ahead and picturing the possibility of a delayed highway opening keeping him from his job on the Monday. Most of us would be happy to be stuck in AP for an extra day but he could not take that risk, so packed quickly and headed home.

Saturday evening followed the usual base camp formula—drinks and nibbles, then a vast array of mains and desserts. Joanna probably brought the biggest lasagna ever, or at least the biggest since our last base. Somehow, we managed dessert. Outside, the snow continued to fall, setting quite a scene, including the build-up on power lines and on Bonnie and Mary Jane's vehicle. It probably stopped sometime after midnight.

Sunday morning dawned a picture with 30cm of snow and high cloud, gradually clearing from the south. The local plough had been around the village streets before 9am, so we could walk most places. Highway 73 was closed east of Rough Creek due to closures further east. The conditions made for a pleasant walk to the village and on to the Bridal Veil Track. Back at the house for lunch and a clean-up, we learned that the highway had opened at 1.30pm so our jigsaw puzzle would not get finished. We left shortly after that, although it seemed a shame to leave so early, on such a beautiful day. The highway people had cautioned not to leave too late. Because Bonnie and Mary-Jane had travelled up separately, the three that arrived with Rich could fit into the remaining cars.

Travelling east, we soon found that a good number of the population of Christchurch had hurriedly packed their toboggans and plastic sheets and headed with the kids for the snow. Any place you could park a car near Porters Pass and Lake Lyndon was teeming with people. The Castle Hill Tors car park was also crowded.

This was a very memorable weekend. We were: **Rich Ainley, Bonnie & Mary Jane Bonsell, Joanna Frampton, Rosemary Goodyear, Kyung Sang Lee, Glenda & Merv Meredith (Leader) and Kerry Moore.** 🏠 MM.



"Our" house for two nights

Basic Snowcraft

Sunday, 14 August 2022

Having had one cancellation, an enthusiastic group of nine, headed off from Christchurch at 8am to the Castle Hill Basin on a day that proved to be a stunner, with little wind and clear, blue skies. We were ably led by Raymond and Geoff who have many years and trip experiences tramping safely in alpine and snow conditions and who generously gave up their time to share their skills and knowledge. Our leaders had done their due diligence and reced Cloudy Hill as being ideal for our group of novices and those wanting to consolidate their snow skills.



Parking was secured at the bottom of Porters ski road on a day that was so busy, the road itself had been closed when the field's car park reached capacity. As we donned our packs, resplendent with ice axes attached and headed up the hill, we saw several car-loads of eager skiers turned away.

The lesson began as soon as we were underway, as we discussed different snow conditions and the implications for travelling in snow, practicing how to kick steps across slopes (diagonally, vertically, up and down) and how to make the journey easier for those travelling behind. We took turns plugging the first steps and learnt what post-holing is.

Our morning tea spot allowed glorious views and we refreshed on hot drinks and world-famous ginger crunch. Yes, Eileen is writing this. Soon it was time to don our crampons and with great excitement our keen learners eagerly listened to the pros and cons of crampons, and how to fit and adjust them. With helmets on and our ice-axes in our uphill hands, adzes pointing forwards, we started to head to the summit with advice on how to choose a good route in the snow. We were advised to treat the snow "as if we owned it" and so we made our way up-hill, travelling as a team, sharing the lead and developing a rhythm and pace to minimise energy expenditure.

At the top we quickly ate lunch then annihilated the pristine snow, practising pigeon-holing (uphill and downhill), cutting steps and platforms, turning and changing direction in the snow. The danger of avalanches was discussed. Check your destination on-line before leaving town for weather and avalanche advice from the professionals. If the risk is low and your trip proceeds, we learned it is best to stay on the spurs and ridges, and pick travelling



Photo by Kevin, with a real camera

routes where there are some rocks showing. Although we didn't get to practice self-arrest, our leaders emphasised "the best self-arrest is no self-arrest" and by being mindful of every step and good route choices, the need to self-arrest can hopefully be avoided.

The day was disappearing and soon it was time to head back downhill. We travelled down a lot quicker than our ascent and were soon in the cars and on our way, getting back to Christchurch at around 7pm. Thanks to Raymond and Geoff for all the preparatory work and their guidance on the day. It was an excellent experience with lots of learning and laughter which laid the foundation for us beginners to grow in confidence and enjoy more winter snow trips.

We were: **Raymond Ford, Geoff Spearpoint, Ian Beale, Graeme Nicholas, Shi-Ping Wang, Kevin & Heather Hughes, Kathy Ramsay and Eileen Mackay.** 🏔️ EM



Hogs Back Sunday 14 August 2022

Nine in two cars parked in a sunny spot just short of the Castle Hill Village car park. We took the zig-zag track through beech forest, brushing past heavily snow-laden saplings and the occasional fallen tree. Emerging onto tussocky scrub-land we stopped to put on sunglasses and admire the dazzling, very snowy landscape. Morning tea was at a picnic table by the big horizontal, very photogenic tree. This tree lies on its side supported by strong branches and has survived like this for years. Hogs Back Track took us on a loop to the west of the scarp. Most of us got damp feet crossing Long Creek, or was it Waterfall Creek?

Soon after passing a very barren point 1056 we found a nice sunny spot by a small grove of trees for lunch and watched Cheeseman skiers carving some very symmetrical patterns in the perfect snow. As we approached the limestone scarp Peter and Kerry peeled off along the back of the hog, heading for the cars so that the others could walk up the ski road to the lodge and ice rink. Sacha's photo of Dan on ice looked impressively balletic but we need to see the movie.

Peter and Kerry found the snow on the scarp easy to manage but the shaded slope down to Hogs Back Creek took care. Neither of them got across the creek with dry socks. The direct route to the village's forest took them into swampy tussock but back on track, they made good time on the track that runs higher than the morning's slow zig-zag track. Driving up the Cheeseman ski-field road coincided with an exodus of skiers down the road, so was slow going but we all met up in the middle of Texas Flat. Leader, Chris, had a basket

with hot water and root ginger biscuits, so we all had a mini picnic before heading for home. Nga mihi, Chris. We were: **Chris Leaver, Graham Townsend, Dan Pryce, Joanna Frampton, Sacha Baldwin, Wendy McCaughan, Barbara Eisele, Peter Umbers and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Mt Richardson—Blowhard Saturday 20 Aug 2022



Defying a forecast for rain in the morning, five of us drove up a potholed Glentui Road and set off on the Richardson Track. After a wet winter the track was quite muddy and a serious slip forced us to divert on a short, makeshift track. Further up, the land is firmer and rocky but there were still some deeply incised clay patches to contend with. Near the top, the grey day became quite sunny. The Blowhard Track is quite open and gives some impressive views, so was an ideal place to stop in the warmth of the sun for lunch. With another kilometre to cover before the Bypass Track turnoff we thought the weather was taking a turn for the worse as mist rolled in. It turned out to be localised to a gully. Going down, there were lots of slippery patches which didn't trouble Eileen who was wearing chains on her boots. Wang managed without chains or walking poles. I was pleased to have two poles. By the time we got back to the start and completed the circuit, there were lots of cars in the picnic area. We congratulated ourselves on not seeing a drop of rain the whole day through as we took our muddy boots and gaiters off and headed home via Rangiora, for a change of scenery. We were: **Eileen Mackay, Ian Beale, Shi Ping Wang, Wendy McCaughan and Kerry Moore.** 🏔️ KM

Red Hill Circuit Sunday 28 August 2022

After a short deliberation at Church Corner with our leader Merv, the destination was changed for several reasons from the scheduled Mt Oakden to a Red Hill - Mt Lyndon circuit instead. It was amazing to see how very high Lake Lyndon was, as we navigated the vehicles along the water-logged track to the Lyndon Lodge.

Although not a blue-sky day, there was little wind, and not much snow. Crampons were not needed, although Ruth tried her new micro-spikes up a snow gully. There wasn't really a view when we got to the top of Red Hill, but it cleared a bit as we continued along the ridge towards Mt Lyndon. After the second bump on the ridge, a unanimous decision was made to call it a day and head down a steep spur, back to the valley. Disappointingly the coffee shop was closed when we hit Springfield just before 4.30pm.

We were: **Merv Meredith, Penny Coffey, Shi Ping Wang, Kerry Moore, Peter Umbers and Ruth Barratt.**

🏔️ RB





Kerry's phone shut down after taking this. The battery didn't like the chilly day.



The lake exits. We exit