



March 2023

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
			Committee	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726

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 14 Mar



AGM and Photographic Trip Reports

Starting promptly at 7.30pm the AGM will precede a photographic presentation of some trips that members have done.

Tuesday 11 Apr



Treasures and Artifacts

Bring along items of interest that have a little story attached. You will give a one or two-minute talk telling of its provenance and may show a photo to explain. Most items will relate to tramping or travels and be like *Antiques Roadshow*, but for the natural world. If you have a part of an alien spacecraft, we'll give you three minutes.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 21 March

Ilam Gardens and the University then pot luck at Margaret's place

Meet at 34A Peer St, Ilam (up a drive to the right) at 6pm. We'll explore Ilam Gardens and maybe the University area, getting back to Margaret Clark's home at about 7.15pm. Bring a dish to share, drinks, your own plates and implements, a bag to take home your dirty dishes and a chair. Some chairs provided. A torch might be handy. Margaret will provide tea and coffee. You could park in Brodie Street as there is a walkway at the end of Villa Grove that conveniently leads to Peer Street. For dinner, book with **Maureen Thompson by Sunday 20 March. Ph 021 266 5778, mothompson1212@gmail.com.**

NOTES

AGM IS COMING - GET THOSE NOMINATIONS ROLLING IN

At last year's AGM we did not have enough nominations to fill the positions on our executive and we have been without a president all year. This resulted in a small exec doing a lot of work to run your club. WE NEED MORE OF YOU TO HELP. Diane needs an assistant **Trip Planner**. Email or call her for a chat if you want to know what the job entails. Please take some action on this, don't passively wait for exec to do it. Let Secretary, Merv know if you would like to be nominated, or want to nominate a willing candidate.

Di Mellish, for Executive

Notice of 2023 AGM Tues 14 March

The PTC 91st Annual General Meeting will be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall
Tuesday 14 March 2023 starting promptly at 7.30pm, prior to our normal Club night

The agenda will include:

1. 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.

2. Notified Motions

Members wishing to give a **notice of a motion** for consideration at the AGM needed to submit it by 14 Feb. None have been received.

The complete AGM agenda, will be circulated by email in late Feb.

Merv Meredith secretary@ptc.nz

TRIPS

5 Mar [Mt Oxford - Ashley Saddle](#)

Sun Merv Meredith 322 7239

- A moderate circuit to Mt Oxford then east over Oxford Hill, Ashley Saddle and down a handy spur to the cars.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

- March** [Serpentine Range](#)
Contact Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or **022 318 0872**
 ●●●● A moderate-hard four-day trip starting from the Routeburn track over Sugar Loaf Pass to the Rockburn Valley. Up to Park Pass along the ridge to Lake Nerine, then traverse the range to Lake Wilson and Harris Saddle and return via the Routeburn Track.
Book NOW
- 11-12 Mar** [Hunts Creek - Mt Barron](#)
Sat-Sun **Sonja Risa 028 8517 3969** or sonja.risa@gmail.com
 ●● A moderate-hard circuit up Kellys Creek Track and over Hunt Saddle to stay at Hunts Creek Hut. Exiting Sunday over Mt Barron to Otira.
Book by 5 Mar
- 12 Mar** [Vulcan](#)
Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● An easy-moderate walk starting on Motunau Beach to this low 412m hill.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 19 Mar** [Mt Tripp](#)
Sun **Bill Templeton 354 2277**
 ● New territory for us, inland from Mayfield, on the north bank of the Rangitata River. Start, end of Chapmans Rd taking the South Hinds Track, up the fence-line to top of Moorhouse Range to Brown Saddle then up to 1368m Mt Tripp. A moderate-hard 8 hour tramp.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- [Mt Owen](#)
 ●●●●● **Awaiting leader. Names to Di Mellish, mellishdiane@gmail.com**
 A moderate trip from the Wangapeka, Granity Pass end to this prominent marble mountain.
Book early, by 12 Mar
- 26 Mar** [Nikau Palm Gully](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms there 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, near Hackthorne Rd
- 1-2 Apr** [Jolliebrook – Gabriel](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● Easy-moderate round-trip in lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flat of the Hurunui, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, going over a very low bush saddle to Jollie Brook and to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes a bit more open and there are a few stream (brook) crossings.
Book by 25 March
- 1 Apr** [Sumner Tracks](#)
Saturday **Wendy Wallace 338 0550 or 027 841 2051**
 ● An easy-moderate walk up the Captain Thomas Track to Evans Pass, then to Mt Pleasant, returning via the Bluffs track.
Meet at Sumner clocktower 9am

- 2 Apr** [Mt Winterslow](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ● A moderate autumn ascent of Mt Winterslow starting on the Sharplin Falls track near Mt Somers then using Dons Track up the spur. From Mt Winterslow at 1700m there is a grand view of the Old Man Range to the north.
Meet 7:30 am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 8-10 Apr** [Mt Brown - Newton Range](#)
Sat-Mon **Peter Umbers 359 9118**
 ●●● A moderate circuit from Lake Kaniere to Mt Brown Hut, along to Newton Range Biv then down to the Styx River
Book by 2 Apr
- 8 Apr** [Halswell Quarry - Governors Bay](#)
Sat **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ● An easy-moderate walk through Halswell Quarry and up to the summit along Kennedys Bush Track then visiting Ohinetahi Reserve on the harbour-side.
Meet 8am Halswell quarry carpark (near the Coffee cart)
- 15-16 Apr** [Bealey Spur - Blind Spur - Bruce Stream](#)
Sat-Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ●● A moderate circuit camping at or near Bealey Spur Hut then continuing up the spur and dropping into Bruce Stream to return to the cars
Book by 9 April
- 16 Apr** [Mt Cass](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● Easy-moderate circuit, seaward from Waipara, beside this impressive limestone scarp to 525m Mt Cass. The farmland we walk on is notable for its self-shearing Wiltshire sheep.
Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 22-28 Apr** [Rees River--Dart River](#)
Sat-Tues **Dan Pryce 027 384 7065**
 ●●●●●●● A classic valleys and passes moderate circuit from Glenorchy. Date likely to slide in response to weather and river conditions. Dan needs people to commit by the end of March. Five days plus two on the road.
Commit by 31 March
- 22 Apr** [Manuka Hut](#)
Saturday **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
 ● An easy, flat walk to this hut on the Te Araroa Track
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 29-30 Apr** [Harper River--Hamilton Hut](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● A pleasant, flat, easy-moderate 18km walk up the Harper River from the Coleridge area to this comfortable hut. On the way back a slight detour will let us visit the Harper Pinnacles
Book by 23 April

- 30 Apr** [Whitewater Stream - Thomas Stream](#)
Sun **Honora Renwick 942 8368**
● An easy-moderate circuit from Castle Hill village via attractive streams and a steep climb to a low saddle just west of Leith Hill. Great variety of terrain.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- [Old Ghost Road](#)
Sonja Risa 028 8517 3969 or sonja.risa@gmail.com
●●●● The old gold miners' trail that has been revived as a popular mountain bike and tramping track connecting Lyell to the Mokihinui River in the north. We plan leave the cars at Seddonville and get a shuttle to Lyell and walk the route. Because we need to book the huts, please contact Sonja by the end of March. We will require payment in advance.
Early booking needed
- 6-7 May** [Hope Kiwi Lodge](#)
Sat-Sun **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
●● Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way through beech forest and river terraces
Book by 30 April
- 7 May** [Doctors Hills](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
● So-named because a local doctor used to wander there, this easy-moderate trip inland from Waikari gives views of Pyramid Valley and Moa Swamp
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- May** [Milford Track](#)
Di Mellish mellishdiane@gmail.com or 027 413 6468
●●●●● Three nights, four days on this spectacular "great walk". This will be in May, early in the off-season, hopefully before the bridges are removed. Please contact Di as soon as you can, no later than the end of March.

TRIP REPORTS

Onepunga Falls Saturday 21 January 2023

The plums at the Claremont car park were almost all gone, and on our walk up Bobby Stream the cherries had been eaten by the birds. White deposits under cherry trees showed where birds had been feasting. The nasties, barberry and gorse were there, requiring a bit of lopping in places. Other invasives were: sycamore, willow, clematis, parsnip, broom, thistle, blackberry and dog rose. We didn't see pigs but there were lots of prints where they'd exited the stream.

Bobby Stream meanders through limestone country with impressive limestone cliffs walling it in. Where we tried to cut off a big loop we got lost in the jungle at one time. Ruth was our intrepid pathfinder and steered us up the correct tributary. Animal tracks alongside the stream were useful at times to keep us out of the deep pools. The only awkward bit was where the gorge narrowed and slabs of limestone had fallen into the stream, probably in the earthquakes. The team was ready for lunch as we arrived at the falls right on 12:30. Ruth and Kim ventured behind the falls for a clever photo-opportunity. A large eel came into the shallows to get a close look at us and then drifted slowly away. In this remote location it certainly wasn't expecting to be fed as would happen in a tourist spot. To come so close, it must have known we were from a peace-loving tramping club.

While eating lunch Jax noticed that the soles of her light-weight Salewa boots were both detaching. Wendy was carrying insulation tape, so we used that and shoelaces to try to stop them flapping. Mary's zip-tie was too short to be helpful. On the walk down-stream the soles came off completely, so Jax was walking on the EVA cushion-sole which survived the walk. With the benefit of the morning's route-finding and trampled grass we got back to the car in two hours but didn't find a way to avoid a waist-deep dunking about 15 minutes from the road.

The picturesque falls and limestone gorge make the walk worthwhile but the pest plants are winning, and mean none of us will hurry back. Kim and Ruth got a real buzz from seeing eels. We were: **Jax Morren, Ruth Barratt, Kim Ashmore, Mary McKeown, Wendy McCaughan and Kerry Moore.** 🏔️ KM



Ruth stays dry behind the waterfall



Kim was fascinated by the eel in the waterfall pool



At the rock-fall. The orange growth is probably due to bacteria oxidising leached iron

Woolshed Hill

Sunday 19 February 2023

Seven of us set out for Arthur's Pass, with cloud and a light wind forecast. We started up the hill from the Hawdon Shelter, about 10am. The initial climb was very steep, but about half-way up, the gradient eased off to a rocky ridge. As we went higher the wind became stronger, and ominous rain clouds were moving down the Hawdon Valley. After a break in a sheltered hollow, we made the final push to the top, which we reached, about 1pm. As we descended the wind eased and the cloud thinned out, revealing a sunny afternoon. We were: **Graeme Nicholas (leader), Norman Burden, Clare & Cary van Vorskelen, Kevin Hughes, Wendy McCaughan and Joy Schroeder.** 🏔️ GN



Boundary Creek Hut—Dogs Range—Mystery Lake

18-19 Feb 2023



Three headed to the Hakatere Conservation Area to tramp into Boundary Creek Hut for the night. The DoC sign said 14km, 5 hours.

The track was along an old stock track used by musterers over the years. The hut was a welcome sight, nestled in behind a hill and alongside Boundary Creek.

First priority was a cup of tea, and Diane soon had the water boiling. A quick dip in the creek later was extremely refreshing. The hut is quite roomy with good bunks but typically for farm huts, it has a single skin of corrugated iron, so is sure to be cold in winter. The South Branch of the Ashburton River flows through a narrow gorge below the hut and is well worth a look.

Sunday, we were up reasonably early and started climbing another musterers' track to the ridge behind the hut, before dropping down to Mystery Lake. This leg was 19km and took 7¼ hours. That put us in sight of Lake Clearwater, then it was a matter of walking back to pick up the Te Araroa Trail near Mt Guy and back to the intersection that we had seen the day before.

We were in no hurry and had many stops to admire the amazing views. I think we were all happy to see the car after a rather long, hot at times, second day.



After a stop at Hakatere Station for one last cuppa, we headed for home.

Thank you, Diane for leading us on such an interesting tramp and pointing out the mountains you have climbed. We were: **Diane Mellish, Jax Morren and John Robinson.** 🏔️ JR