



May 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:	Stan Wilder	260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters
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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 each month at the **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St. and Oxford Terrace)** at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm

**Tuesday
11 May**

Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific

Club member **Maureen Whalen** will tell us of her Heritage Expedition to the "forgotten islands" of the South Pacific: Snares Islands, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island.

Supper duty: Tanya Jacobson, Wendy Wallace, Margot Bowden



**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, labelled so they show in the right order.



Social Events

Tuesday 18 May



Mona Vale and North Hagley Evening Walk and Dinner

See some of Christchurch's stately homes by moonlight. Walk past Mona Vale, the redeveloped Girls High and through to Helmores Lane then back via Holmwood Road and the Christchurch railway cycleway, past some of the most expensive houses next to a railway line for a meal at the **Thai Orchid Restaurant**, thairestaurant.co.nz 21 Riccarton Road at the corner of Bartlett Street. **Meet at 6pm** on the corner of **Darvel Street and Riccarton Road**. Parking available in Darvel Street or Bartlett Street near the restaurant.

Dinner is at 7:15pm. Bookings for dinner to **Margot Bowden by Sunday 16 May**

margot.bowden@gmail.com or phone 332 7020.

NOTES

For Sale

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

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

Snow mittens, blue with fleece lining.

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

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

President's Notes

Hi everyone. A brief message this month because I am very busy with Alison planning an exciting schedule of trips for you for the next 12 months. Thank you to those members who gave useful feedback with their annual subscription forms. We have taken your suggestions into account in our planning and hope to cater fairly for everyone's wishes. I'm off to pack my gear now, for another foray in the hills.

Diane

What's up DoC?

Monthly email newsletter featuring the latest DoC news in recreation, nature, work and how you can get involved [April Newsletter](#)

Deadline for the June newsletter: Please send items for the newsletter, e.g. trip reports, notices, etc. to Kerry Moore moorekj@xtra.co.nz by Saturday 29 May

Next Committee meeting: Tuesday, 25 May

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.

- Sat,Sun** [Cold Stream Hut](#)
8-9 May **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●● An easy, flat trip suitable for children, up Jollie Brook then Cold Stream. Energetic people could exit along the Hooligan Range
Book by 1 May
- Sun** [Kennedys Bush—Governors Bay](#)
9 May **Alison Maccoll 322 8540**
● An easy-moderate climb from Halswell Quarry up through Kennedy’s Bush to the Summit Road then exploring the maze of tracks on the Governors Bay side of the crater rim
Meet 8:30am quarrymans’ quarters car park, Halswell Quarry
- Sat-Thur** [Kepler Track](#)
15-19 May **Raymond Ford 022 318 0872**
●●●●● Rated moderate-hard at this time of year, the Kepler Track is an alpine adventure with stunning panoramas. We go from Lake Te Anau up to Luxmore Hut at 1085m, then traverse the ridge-lines of the Kepler Mountains, drop down to beautiful Lake Manapouri, before heading back through peaceful beech forest
Book by 1 May
- Sun** [Nikau Palm Gully](#)
16 May **Graeme Paltridge 384 3592**
● This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms here are notable for being at the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an easy tramp towards the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$15**
- Sat,Sun** [Kaituna--Packhorse--Rod Donald Hut](#)
22-23 May **Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●● Easy-moderate tramp to charming Rod Donald Hut on Te Ara Pātaka/Summit Walkway. Can be done as a 3-day, 2 night by staying at both huts. The hut needs to be booked so call the leader right away
8am Cashmere Rd opp PMH near Hackthorne
- Sun** [Captain Thomas--Godley Head](#)
23 May **Jill Fenner 980 6228**
● An easy-moderate walk with coastal views. Starting up the Captain Thomas Track to Evans Pass, before continuing along the ridge to Godley Head and returning to Sumner through Taylors Mistake
Meet 9am Sumner Clock Tower
- Sat-Mon** [Black Hill Hut—Chest Peak](#)
29-31 May **Diane Mellish 337 5530**
●●● Moderate trip to this hut in Oxford Forest. Three days so we have a full day for a side trip to Chest Peak. Less energetic people could be content with a walk to the top of 1300m Black Hill.
Book by 23 May
- Saturday** [Helicopter Hill—Craigieburn Edge Track](#)
29 May **Norman Burden 021 0228 9141, normanrichardburden@hotmail.co.nz**
● An easy-moderate circuit from Craigieburn Campsite shelter via Mistletoe Track, Lyndon Saddle with a side-trip to Helicopter Hill. From the saddle we go to the Craigieburn Edge Track which leads to the ski-field road where it joins with the Sidle Track leading back to the cars
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$18**

- Sat-Mon [Robinson River—Lake Christabel](#)
 5-7 Jun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ●●● A moderate circuit in the Springs Junction area up the Robinson River, over Robinson Saddle to Lake Christabel Hut. Day three goes past Lake Christabel to Palmers Road
 QueensBday **Book by 30 May**
- 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 **Approx cost \$15**
- Sat,Sun [Lake Daniell](#)
 19-20 Jun **Deb Rhode 021 166 5307**
 ●● 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. Join a number of keen. Meet at 8.30am at the corner of Pages and Wairoa Road, by the Pages Road bridge to New Brighton.
Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$5**
- Sat,Sun [Hawdon Hut](#)
 26-27 Jun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● 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 **Awaiting leader**
 ● 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 **Approx cost \$3**

Rock Burn – Lake Unknown 19 – 24 March 2021

Three left Christchurch at 7am to pick up Helen at Ashburton and with only short breaks along the way the foursome was able to set off from the Routeburn Shelter at 4.15pm for Sugarloaf Pass. We carried on to the Rock Burn, pitching the tents by the river, in the dark, having walked 8.2km in just under 4.5 hr.

This was a good starting point for the climb up from Theatre Flat. The day dawned murky with low cloud so we were a little concerned about traveling across the tops. We made good time to Theatre Flat, where we followed the route in *Moir's Guide, North* and "bush bashed" our way up the true right of a small stream, finally clearing the bush. The cloud suddenly lifted as we reached a set of bluffs at the head of the stream. Picking our way up the steep rock slabs to the saddle between Minos Peak and point 1760, we were rewarded with panoramic views of the surrounding peaks and Lake Unknown. From the saddle, we descended tussock slopes to camp by a small lake below Minos Peak, having travelled 10.3km over difficult terrain in 8 hours.



Climbing to the saddle below Pt1760. Nereus Peak in the distance. Photo by Raymond Ford

Day 3 dawned chilly but calm and clear. We sidled under the bluffs of Minos Peak, across a large rock-fall and then climbed up a steep tussock and scree slope to the rock slabs and scree fields below Mt Chaos. At this time of year, the snow had receded enough that our crampons and ice axes were not required on the steep sections –better to have and not need, than not have and need! Dropping into a beautiful hidden valley with pristine stream, between Amphion Peak and Minos Peaks, we stopped for lunch and to dry our tents on the shingle flats. We crossed a saddle and then traversed rock slabs and benches between 1500 -1600m on the



Lake outlet, Park Pass Glacier, looking up to Poseidon Peak. Photo by Raymond Ford

southern side of Amphion Peak to cross over the outlet of Park Pass Glacier. This area was truly awe-inspiring and the cameras were busy recording the amazing scenery. From our vantage point, we could see a large group camped on Park Pass, and wisps of mist and cloud beginning to wrap themselves around the peaks. Dropping down to Park Pass was straightforward, having travelled almost 11km over testing terrain in 9 hours. We arrived just in time to set up camp by an unoccupied tarn before the mist came rolling in.



Lake Unknown and Mt Nox. Photo by Raymond Ford

Day 4 dawned very cold and windy with thick mist, so forgoing a morning brew up, we descended to Theatre Flat for a mid-morning brew and late lunch by the river. The weather cleared late morning to a warm sunny day and we had an enjoyable wander down the river, across the flats and through stands of beech forest. The last punch up to Sugarloaf Pass was draining but camping on the pass rewarded us with great views of Mt Earnslaw and the surrounding peaks. The extra effort would give us more time for next day's long drive back to Christchurch. This section was 15.3km over 8.5hrs.

Day 5 dawned fine and we enjoyed the beautiful bush and cries of kea and kaka. We were sad to be leaving, having forgotten the hard terrain, we basked in memories of a fantastic trip.

Thanks to Raymond for his superb leadership and navigation skills, ensuring that we all felt confident to enjoy a very special, seldom-visited area. We were: **Raymond Ford, Peter Umbers, Merv Meredith and Helen Binnie** 🏔️ HB

Mt Cass 11 March 2021

Despite Kerry's dogged endeavours, the planned Three Deans walk was not going to be. After many fruitless attempts to telephone the land owners, when contact was finally made, permission was denied. Neither was permission forthcoming for an alternative coastal walk starting at Glenafric. At the eleventh hour, we defaulted to relatively nearby Mt Cass which, although not exactly a challenge, does have the advantage of a walkway to the top - sans permission required.

All Canterbury trampers will be aware of the name Cass that features throughout the Province. A doughty Yorkshireman, Thomas Cass became chief surveyor for the Canterbury Association in the 1850s - 60s and no doubt because of his position, or maybe self-aggrandisement), was eponymised with at least eight geographical features: three hills, two rivers, a settlement, a saddle (and hut) and a bay. Our Mt Cass was one of them. And for those into trivial pursuit; "what was the former pakeha name for Cave Rock in Sumner?" Yes, you all knew, it was Cass Rock - until the mid 1860s!

Starting not far from the Kate Valley landfill, it was a warm nor-west day as we steadily climbed through bone-dry countryside, the track of which the Waipara Valley Promotion Association and Transwaste had co-operatively developed. With many "kiss gates" to avoid straddling fences, it wended through limestone cliffs and boulder country to the 525m summit, taking only about an hour and a half. By then the wind had picked up considerably, so an early, lazy (and sheltered) lunch was had in the lee of large rocks below the top, and it was still only about midday!



Holding our hats as we climb windswept Mount Cass

The panoramic view from Mt Cass is impressive with the crescentic curve of Pegasus Bay's white surf sweeping away to Banks Peninsula, Mts Alarm, Tapuae-O-Uenuku and Manukau identifiable to the north east, to the west threatening clouds rolled in from the Divide, stopping just short of parched brown foothills, including the Three Deans, and in the foreground, Waipara's picturesque vineyards were turning an autumnal yellow.

We were back at our cars an hour or so later, then a coffee at Pukeko Crossing and back to Christchurch by 1500, when unfortunately, I still had ample time to mow the lawn.

A pleasant, non-strenuous day out with excellent views, in the good company of: **Kerry Moore, Joy Schroeder, John Robinson, Wendy McCaughan, Dan Pryce, Ainslie Talbot, Helen Harkness, Sandra White, Gemma White and Graeme Paltridge (leader).** 🏔️ GP



On the way back alongside Cass Ridge. Looking towards Kate Valley, Pegasus Bay and Banks Peninsula

Mulgans Track – Brownlee Reserve—Jollies Bush – Mt Pleasant Bunkers – Urumau Track – Chalmers Track – East Enders Track Sunday 4 April 2021

Parking at Barnett Park you'd assume we were going up the East Enders Track but Helen, our leader has lots of tricks up her sleeve. We walked along the main road and up Mulgans Track for a short stop at Brownlee Reserve and on to Clifton Terrace to connect with a track leading to the Summit Road, then on to Jollies Bush where we decided it was too early for lunch. We bypassed the old gun emplacements and walked towards Lyttelton to find a sheltered lunch stop. Walking down the Urumau Track, the day became hot and some of our eleven people were under-stocked with water. Weather forecasters had predicted a 25°C day. With

Helen's local knowledge we navigated some of the higher Lyttelton Streets to find Chalmers Track, new territory for most of us. Passing the gun emplacements again we crossed the Summit Road and headed down the East Enders Track to the cars. Once again, Helen had to haul back the leaders who'd failed to see a track sign. Many thanks to our expert guide. We were: **Helen Harkness, John Jagusch, Merv & Glenda Meredith, Henk Boer, Tanya Jacobsen, Tom Kennedy, Jill Fenner, Joy Schroeder, Wendy Wallace and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Our lunch-stop



Our troop heading for the greener pastures of Barnett Park

Kowai Valley and Bobs Knob – Saturday 24 April 2021

The day trip was originally set down for High Peak in the Rockwood Range at the western end of the Malvern Hills, just north of Windwhistle. Due to the stag roaring season the landowner preferred that we did not do the trip at this time, so it was back to the drawing-board. Mt Oakden on the western side of Lake Coleridge was the next option considered, but was once again thwarted by the roar.

So, the reliable Kowai Valley once again came up trumps. Seven of us set off from the big pines on a glorious, fine and sunny morning to head up the valley. The trip option was for a moderate-hard climb to Red Peak or a more moderate trip to Bobs Knob, located up behind the John Hayward Memorial Hut. At the hut the unanimous team decision was for the Bobs Knob option. It was certainly more inviting than the more distant and much higher Red Peak, and besides it was already after 11am. With that decision made we relaxed a while, soaking up the sunshine as we sat facing down-valley, outside in the hut chairs.

Back on task, it was a steady climb through tussock and scree areas to the first high point at 1211 metres. From a lunch spot on the ridge, we had great views in all directions but what most think of as Bob's Knob was in fact the higher point of 1261m about 500 metres further along the ridge and unmarked on the map. The knob was on our way back to the cars anyway, so we set off as the wind was beginning to strengthen and getting cold.



A relaxing smoko outside the hut before starting up the hill. Photo by John Cook



The view to the west with SH73 climbing up to Porters Pass, and the Craigieburn Range, top-right. Our cars are under the big pines to the left. Photo by John Cook

Pinchgut – Wooded Gully Wooded Gully – Pinchgut Saturday 1 May 2021

Seven in two cars went to the Okuku Ford end where Wendy's car stayed and John drove Kerry's car to Mt Thomas' Wooded Gully car park where he, Wendy and Kim were to walk from. Mary, Dan, Wang and Kerry set off at 9:20 for a chilly fording of the Okuku River and along Pinchgut Track to reach Pinchgut Hut at 11:50. The foursome headed up the Whare Track, enjoying a mixture of forest and tussock clearings on a clear sunny day. They chose a sunny lunch stop before the track disappeared into cool, low forest. Soon after lunch the seven met for a brief reunion and vital handover of car keys. At a high vantage-point the four stopped for a snack break and could see Mt Thomas about 1km away. As they planned to go down the Wooded Gully Track, Mt T was not on their path. Wooded Gully Track gave the four a long descent to a forest road at a chilly time of day. They reached their car at 5:20, twenty minutes after John and company arrived at the Okuku River end. Wang's technology told us we'd walked over 17km. Back in Chch he sent each of us a very clever flyover view of the walk, produced by an app called *Relive*. We were: **Kim Ashmore, Wendy McCaughan, John Robinson, Mary McKeown, Shiping Wang, Dan Pryce and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM



The reunion on Whare Track



The four leaf beech forest and head towards the pines



Looking back