



Monthly newsletter of PTC. Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

Postal Address: The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 13 258, Armagh, Christchurch 8141

Web address [www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz)

E-mail [secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz](mailto:secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz)

## July 2010

<b>President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Mary Hines	942 6486
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Evelien Baas	03 317 9077
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff Price	337 2614	Raymond Ford	351 9496
<b>Trip Planner</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020		
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069		
<b>Quartermaster</b>	Brian Smith	355 9945		

**New Member Enquiries** Please contact John Borner, 942 0813, to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters

**CORRESPONDENCE**, including changes of address etc. can be sent to the club secretary—see above

**OUR CLUB** consists of people of all ages who tramp for recreation. Regular trips are organised, ranging from 'easy' to 'hard', day trips to long weekends. Various instruction courses run each year to improve members' skills for back-country tramping. In addition to a monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are held.

**CLUB NIGHTS** are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park (entrance on Riccarton Ave), starting promptly at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30.

### Tue 13 July MEMBERS' PHOTOS



This is your chance to see images of tramps we've done and more exotic overseas locations. So far we are visiting Patagonia, the Amazon, Angel Falls (highest in the world) but could use more. Contact Leo if you want to participate.

**Supper Duty: Sven Brabyn or Kerry Stewart, Jan Brown, Gillian Bryant**

### Tue 10 Aug SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS

Lorraine and Malcolm Wilmshurst will share their experiences of New Year 2010 aboard the Spirit of Enderby, visiting the **Auckland and Campbell Islands**.

**Supper Duty: Ton or Nicole Buhrs, Graham Burnip, Peter Carson or Kathy Stanley**

## COMING TRIPS

### Day Trips:

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town near to the destination. 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.

<b>11 Jul</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT WHITE</b> <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b> <b>Moderate</b> trip to this 1741m peak east of Arthurs Pass National Park across the Poulter River from Mt Binsler. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV21; L33,L34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$19</b>
<b>17-18 Jul</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>CROESUS TRACK</b> <b>Mary Hines 942 6486</b> One of the best-known tracks in the Paparoa Range. This <b>moderate</b> trip goes from Blackball to Barrytown taking in lush forest, open tops and plenty of old gold workings. Great views from Ces Clark Hut. <b>List Closes: Sat 10 Jul</b>	<b>Maps BT19,20; K30,31</b>
<b>17-18 Jul</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>YOUNGMAN STREAM HUT – LILBURN HILL</b> <b>Gary Huish 332 7020</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> tramp to the Youngman Stream Hut in the upper Ashley. Option of a partial round-trip above the bushline on the Puketeraki Range taking in Tarn Hut. <b>List Closes: Sat 10 Jul</b>	<b>Maps BV22; M34</b>
<b>18 Jul</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>OKUKU HILL</b> <b>Kevin Hughes 332 6281</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> tramp to this 1143m foothill, approached from the Lees Valley Road. Mixture of farm tracks and possibly tussock and scrub. Will probably walk around Pigeon Bush and part of Retreat Stream catchment. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BV23; M34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$12</b>
<b>25 Jul</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT ALFORD</b> <b>Chris Leaver 322 6445</b> <b>Moderate</b> tramp in the foothills south of Mt Hutt, ascending an 1170 m summit at the southern end of the Alford Range. Possible round-trip taking in the Ashburton River valley and Alford Scenic Reserve. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BX20; K36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
<b>31 Jul-1 Aug</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>MT PEEL</b> <b>Kevin Hughes 332 6281</b> <b>Moderate-hard</b> ascent of this 1743m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and subalpine scrub with 7km along the tops beyond Little Mt Peel. Planning to drive down Friday evening, camping at Peel Forest campground. Early start on Sat for Big Mt Peel—a possible 10hr day. <b>List Closes: Sat 24 Jul</b>	<b>Maps BY19; J37</b>

2 Aug Sun	<b>RAKAIA GORGE WALKWAY</b> Evelien Bass 03 317 9077	<b>Maps BX20; K35</b>
■	This <b>easy</b> trip offers a return walk with a spectacular clifftop traverse of the Rakaia Gorge to the remains of the Snowdon coal mine. Views across to Mt Hutt with its winter coat. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b> <span style="float:right"><b>Approx Cost: \$14</b></span>	
7-8 Aug Sat-Sun	<b>WAIUTA - BIG RIVER</b> Leo Manders 356 1731	<b>Maps BT21; L31</b>
■ ■	This <b>easy-moderate</b> walk to a large comfy hut near Reefton. A great area for those interested in the local mining history. Lots of remains to fossick around. Start from Waiuta, which has plenty of its own relics remaining. <b>List Closes: Sat 31 Jul</b>	
8 Aug Sun	<b>CASTLE HILL PEAK - GAP - KOWAI STREAM</b> Kevin Hughes 332 6281	<b>Maps BW21; L34,L35</b>
■	<b>Moderate</b> climb from Porters Pass to the highest peak on the Torlesse range at nearly 2000m. Fine views all around. Returning through The Gap and Kowai Stream. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b> <span style="float:right"><b>Approx Cost: \$12</b></span>	
14-15 Aug Sat-Sun	<b>MT GRIFFIN</b> Merv Meredith 322 7239	<b>Maps BU20,BV20; K33</b>
■ ■	<b>Moderate</b> tramp onto the Griffin Range, north-west of Arthurs Pass National Park. Good bush, great views and historical interest at the serpentine mine. <b>List Closes: Wed 4 Aug</b>	
15 Aug Sun	<b>BROKEN HILL</b> Mary Hines 942 6486	<b>Maps BW21; K34,L34</b>
■	<b>Moderate</b> trip to this peak just off of the Arthurs Pass highway, near Flock Hill Resort. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b> <span style="float:right"><b>Approx Cost: \$13</b></span>	
21-22 Aug Sat-Sun	<b>MOANA BASE CAMP</b> Leo Manders 356 1731	<b>Maps BU19,20; K32</b>
■ ■	Base camp at Millhouse Lodge, (with bunkroom accommodation) in Moana village, which is on the shores of Lake Brunner on the West Coast. The main tramping attractions in the area are the easy-moderate to moderate ascents of Mt French and Mt Te Kinga, giving great views above the bushline. There are easier walks (eg Nelson Creek) nearby too. There's also a network of back roads in the bush for mountain bikers. Friday evening departure from Chch. <b>List Closes: Sat 7 Aug</b>	
21 Aug <u>Saturday</u>	<b>MT BINSER - 3 PEAKS</b> Gary Huish 332 7020	<b>Maps BV21; L33,L34</b>
■	<b>Moderate-hard</b> trip in the south-east corner of Arthurs Pass National Park. The track is followed to Binser Saddle before turning south. The route is then unmarked through bush and onto the open tops. There are three peaks, ranging from 1753m to 1860m with a deep saddle between the low and middle peaks. Possibility of a round-trip. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church)</b> <span style="float:right"><b>Approx Cost: \$18</b></span>	
28-29 Aug Sat-Sun	<b>RIBBONWOOD HUT - SMITE PEAK</b> Merv Meredith 322 7239	<b>Maps BW19; J35</b>
■ ■	This <b>moderate</b> trip visits a 2000m peak near Lake Heron with splendid views of the Arrowsmith Range and Rakaia River. Staying at the hut with a possible trip to Sugarloaf on Sunday. <b>List Closes: Wed 18 Aug</b>	

<b>29 Aug Sun</b> ■	<b>MT VULCAN</b> <b>Mary Hines 942 6486</b> <b>Easy to easy-moderate</b> walk in farm country to 411m hill overlooking North Canterbury coastline, including Motunau Beach. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BV25; N34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$10</b>
<b>4-5 Sep Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>CARLYLE HUT</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you want to lead this trip</b> An <b>easy-moderate</b> trip up the Carlyle Stream to the hut among the forests and peaks on the north side of the Lewis Pass road on Glenhope Station. <b>List Closes: Sat 28 Aug</b>	<b>Maps BU23; M32</b>
<b>5 Sep Sun</b> ■	<b>MT GREY - RED BEECH TRACK</b> <b>Stan Wilder 980 5291</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> walk to this popular foothill inland from Amberley. Round-trip up the Grey River through beech and plantation forest to the tussock summit. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BW23,BV23; M34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$10</b>

## President's Report

The Barn Dance has come and gone and the days are getting longer again. Thanks to all those who attended making sure it once again was a successful event. Thanks to Mary Hines for the professional way this event was organised. The Scottish band this year did a great job entertaining us and the dancing fun made the evening fly by. There were lots of spot prizes on offer and our caterers did a great job providing supper. We are already looking at next year's barn dance once again to be held around the shortest day of the year. Will confirm later. Our tramping program has carried on with trips to the West Coast over Queens Birthday weekend. Great to see a number of younger people out on our club trips.

### Trips for the Coming Year 1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011

With this issue of Footnotes you should also be receiving the PTC Trips Program for the next 12 months. Please take the time to have a look at this and start thinking about the trips you would like to go on. A number of the trips already have leaders but we are always looking for trip leaders and the majority of the trips require leaders. If you think you may want to lead a trip please talk to Gary Huish. Even if you haven't done it before and would like to give it a go, we will help you by ensuring other experienced people go on your trip to assist. We are also subsidising a number of courses valuable for trip leaders. Just ask us if you are unsure.

### Booking For Trips

While you don't have to book in for day trips as club members can turn up on the day, please make sure of the day the trip is running. We are running more Saturday trips these days instead of always on Sunday, due to member requests, so please check the day as highlighted. Sometimes changes can happen at the last minute perhaps due to a leader change. We will always notify you by email if this happens. If you are not on our email list or are unsure please ring the trip leader. Ringing the trip leader is always encouraged as this gives the leader an idea of people wanting to come. Non-members always need to ring the trip leader first.

For all weekend and multi-day trips, you must book in before the closing date. We encourage you to book in for all trips as early as possible—even many months before the trip is due to depart. Don't wait for the next newsletter, use the **full year trip schedule**. What we would prefer is if you think you may be interested in going, to put your name down now, even if you have to pull out later. You can always pull out before the close-off date. The reason for doing this, is that it helps the trip leader get an idea of numbers, which for a number of trips is essential to plan the best possible accommodation, transport, food etc. We are making it easy for you to identify the trips as listed below which definitely need early responses from you. In addition, all people who put their names down at least one month before trip departure, for the trips below will go into a draw for a prize drawn at the December 2010 club night sponsored by me. Please check and register your name on the following trips:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Trip</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Leader</b>
7-8 Aug	7 Aug	2	Waiuta – Big River	West Coast	EM	Leo Manders 356 1731
21 – 22 Aug	20 Aug Fri night	2	Moana Base Camp	West Coast	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731
25 – 26 Sep	24 Sep Fri night	2	Geraldine Base Camp	South Canterbury	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731
23 – 25 Oct Lab wknd	23 Oct	3	Scamper Torrent – Smyth Range	West Coast	MH	Merv Meredith 322 7239
23 – 25 Oct Lab wknd	23 Oct	3	Nina-Boscawen	Lewis Pass	M	Kerry Moore 359 5069
23 – 25 Oct Lab wknd	23 Oct	3	Mt. Arthur – Tablelands Circuit	Kahurangi	EM	Mary Hines 942 6486
23 – 25 Oct Lab wknd	22 Oct Fri	3	Haast Base Camp	West Coast	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731
12 – 14 Nov Show wknd	12 Nov	3	Earnslaw	Fiordland	MH	Raymond Ford 351 9496
12 – 14 Nov Show wknd	11 Nov Thur pm	3	Mt. Owen	Kahurangi	M	Leo Manders 356 1731
12 – 15 Nov Show w/e	12 Nov	4	Inland Pack Track	West Coast	EM	Evelien Baas 03 317 9077
12 – 14 Nov Show wknd	12 Nov	3	Raincliff Base Camp	South Canterbury	Base	TBA 332 7020
27 – 29 Nov	27 Nov	3	Mt. Adams	West Coast	H	TBA 332 7020
3 – 6 Dec	3 Dec	4	Banks Peninsula Track	Banks Peninsula	E	Leo Manders 356 1731
25 Dec-2 Jan Xmas NYear	25 Dec	10	Ohau Base Camp	Lake Ohau	Base	Dennis Kemp 384 2893
27 Dec-1 Jan Xmas NYear	27 Dec	5	Pelorus, Bryant Range, Pelorus Rr	Marlborough	M	Margot Bowden 332 7020
5 – 6 Feb	5 Feb	2	Boyle Base Camp	Lewis Pass	Base	TBA 332 7020
8 – 14 Feb	8 Feb	7	Stewart Isl, Port Pegasus Base	Stewart Island	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731
12 – 15 Mar	12 Mar	4	Routeburn, North Col – Lake Nerine	Fiordland	MH	Chris Leaver 322 6445
26 – 27 Mar	26 Mar	2	Hickory Bay Base Camp	Banks Peninsula	Base	Chris Leaver 322 6445
26 – 27 Mar	26 Mar	2	Potts River, Dog Ra. Mystery Lake	Rangitata	M	Margaret Clark 348 4993
31 Mar – 5 Apr	31 Mar	6	Egmont National Park Circuit	Egmont North Isl	M	Leo Manders 356 1731
9 – 12 Apr	9 Apr	4	Motatapu Track	Wanaka	M	TBA 332 7020
22 – 25 Apr EasterAnzac	22 Apr	4	Waiiau Pass	Nelson Lakes	MH	Kevin Hughes 332 6281
22 – 25 Apr EasterAnzac	22 Apr	4	Sabine, Blue Lk, Moss Pass, Durville	Nelson Lakes	M	Mary Hines 942 6486
22 – 25 Apr EasterAnzac	21 Apr Thu	5	Wilkin River – Gillespie Pass – Young River	Makarora	M	Leo Manders 356 1731

22 – 25 Apr EasterAnzac	22 Apr	4	Naseby Base Camp	Naseby	Base	TBA 332 7020
7 – 8 May	7 May	2	Banfield Hut	Rakaia	EM	Leo Manders 356 1731
14 – 15 May	14 May	2	Lake Lyndon Base Camp	Craigieburn	Base	TBA 332 7020
4 – 6 Jun QB weekend	4 Jun	3	Potts River – Ashburton River	Rangitata	M	Merv Meredith 322 7239
4 – 6 Jun QB weekend	4 Jun	3	Cedar Flat	West Coast	EM	TBA 332 7020
4 – 6 Jun QB weekend	3 Jun Fri night	3	Reefton Base Camp	West Coast	Base	Leo Manders 356 1731

The above list covers all base-camps and multi-day trips on offer, so you can plan now and arrange time off work etc. To make it easy we have also identified all the long weekends. Other trips listed here are ones already with leaders. I already have 5 names for Stewart Island in Feb 2011 and bookings for Egmont “Round the Mountain” in March. Both these trips are already guaranteed to depart. 8 to 12 people will probably be maximum for Stewart Island so get in quick. The hut down there holds 8 people. 4 is maximum for Egmont. I need to know who wants to go to Haast, so we can get good accommodation and need to know to book Banks Peninsula Track. We need numbers for Moana and Geraldine Base Camps. Book in for the Ohau Base Camp Christmas - New Year by contacting Dennis Kemp so this can be planned.

### **Facebook**

PTC is on Facebook and has been for the last month. Thanks to Evelien Baas for setting this up. We promoted our Barn Dance. Check us out. A number of club members are also on Facebook. Join our Facebook Discussion on encouraging younger members. Trip leaders can, if they wish put trip list names on who has booked on their trips on Facebook. I intend to do this shortly. This will allow members to see who is going on trips. Contact Evelien for any help here.

### **Web Site**

If you haven't already, check out our fabulous new web site at [www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz) We will be putting our full year trip list on the web site. Our web site is also useful to pass on to anyone who wants more information about our club. Kevin is looking at getting our members' section going. This will have information which we currently email out on request. Such as trip leader forms, member application forms etc. Thanks to those of you who have contributed articles. We are always looking for more. Contact Kevin Hughes.

### **Club Night Laptop available for Club Member Use**

We have a laptop at the back of the hall freely available for use by club members. Its external hard drive lets you download the club's Digital History archive, past Footnotes, club forms etc onto your own usb memory stick. You can also use this to swap digital photos with other members from shared trips etc. You can now use the digital mapping software for trip planning etc.

### **Promotion Brochure**

We have just printed 2000 full colour A4 size folded into DLE size PTC brochures. These brochures highlight all the benefits of what our club is about and is not date-sensitive as Footnotes is. They are for use in helping us to attract new members. We need your help in distributing them. If all of us could grab a small number and place them at your work-place, community centre, doctors' waiting rooms, local library etc then this will help promote the club. Also you can give them to your friends, acquaintances etc. Your executive will also distribute to sports shops, central library etc. Club members that are teachers can also distribute these to help in attracting younger members. We will have these brochures available for you to pick up at club meetings. Also at our club meetings we will have our club stickers for hut books and excess “Footnotes” so they can be left at huts for reading material.

### **Younger Members**

As mentioned before it is great to see some younger faces on our club trips. We have started an email database of younger people (under 40) interested in tramping with the club. Geoff, our treasurer will hold this and Kerry will use for group emails particularly when we are arranging trips/events more suitable to a younger audience.

Obviously we will also encourage them to join our club. We have a number of younger people in families with our club already who can use their family memberships at no extra cost to them. Please help us by including them on our young person's database by contacting me. In the meantime, it is important for us to have a group of young people to communicate with, to encourage other people of similar age. Your executive has also agreed to work with the 180 Degrees Trust which is a Youth Development Program helping teenagers turn their life around using outdoor activities. Once these youths have completed their programs, they can come out with us to see if club tramping is for them. Our usual membership criteria applies. More information is available at [www.180degrees.org.nz](http://www.180degrees.org.nz) or talk to either Evelien, Kevin or myself for further information.

### **FMC Membership Cards**

Shortly we will post out the FMC membership cards. These can be used to identify you as a PTC member, where this is necessary. The cards are also useful to get your DoC annual hut pass at a substantial discount. The regular price of the annual pass for back country huts has just increased from \$90 to \$120. There are a number of useful discounts that come with the card. I would strongly urge you to make use of these discounts so that they remain in future for us tramping club members. FMC have made an effort on our behalf to secure these discounts for us. You will need to often book direct rather than online to secure the discount. If you feel that you have no use for the card or if you have surplus cards due to you belonging to multiple FMC affiliated clubs, then we encourage you to recycle your surplus-to-requirements FMC card with us. Your surplus card will find a good home amongst new members and families and saves our club's funds in not having to buy more cards.

### **MSC Courses**

As mentioned over the last two months (see previous Footnotes) PTC is subsidising a number of Mountain Safety Council courses by 50%. We have already had a number of requests from members. If you want to participate on a course, check out the courses listed in "Footnotes" and contact me. You will need to get our approval first, then pay the full course fee and register and complete the course. Once you have finished the course, send your invoice to our treasurer for payment of the 50% subsidy at our next exec meeting. Your exec is going to seek funding for mountain course fees, so that we can sustainably manage these subsidies in future. Our work in also helping younger members and 180 Degrees Trust Development Program should help us in securing ongoing funding. We will let you know how we get on.

**Happy Tramping - Leo Manders**

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **Warm up with a Tasty Authentic Thai Meal. Tuesday 20 July**

**Galangal** is a lovely Thai restaurant at 200 Cashel Street - Fully licensed, BYO wine

To look at menu and prices go to [www.digitalreality.co.nz/dev/thai/menu.html](http://www.digitalreality.co.nz/dev/thai/menu.html)

Meet at Galangal at 7pm. We will need to book, so names to Mary Hines please by **Friday 16 July**

942 6486, [hinestandm@clear.net.nz](mailto:hinestandm@clear.net.nz)

### **Ceroc Dancing Thursday 19 August**

Come along to a fun night of dancing. The evening starts off with a 45 minute beginners class. You will learn 4 steps. Partners are not needed and there is usually an even number of men and women. You change partners every couple of minutes. There is no fancy footwork so it is easy to learn. After the beginners class there is a review of what you have learned at a slower pace until about 9pm. You can go home after that or stay on until about 10pm to practice or just sit and watch and have a drink at the bar. Cost is \$12. It is a very relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Meet in the foyer of the St Albans Shirley Club, 269 Hills Rd at 7.15pm

Dancing starts at 7.25pm. Dress is smart-casual. Some of the ladies dress up but jeans are fine. You need to wear shoes that won't slip off if you do a bit of a spin. Smoother soled shoes are good but anything is OK.

More info at this web-site <http://www.alldance.co.nz/index.html> or contact Maureen Thompson 377 2482, [mothompson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mothompson@xtra.co.nz) for more information.

### **Comedy at the Court - The Sunshine Boys**

**7.30pm on Wednesday 1 September**

Old dogs. New shtick      By Neil Simon      Directed by Ross Gumbley      NZ Première

We have booked the best seats in the Court Theatre.

Book your \$36 discounted seat by Tue 10 August, with Brian Smith 355 9945 or [brian21@attglobal.net](mailto:brian21@attglobal.net)

"The Sunshine Boys is Neil Simon, the master craftsman, at the top of his game. This is comedy of wide appeal, much akin to our own Roger Hall." — Ross Gumbley

After forty years in vaudeville, the veteran comedy duo of Al Lewis and Willy Clark, "The Sunshine Boys" split up, vowing never to speak to each other again. When a lucrative television offer forces the two ageing entertainers to reunite, the stage is set for a perfectly-formed, very funny comedy.

The author of 'The Odd Couple' creates two cantankerous but loveable characters, arms them with hilarious one-liners and lets them rip.

## NOTICES

**Anne Hut to ashes** Mike Bourke reports—**Anne Hut on St James Walkway has been destroyed by fire**

**2011 Alpine and Antarctic Calendars** Hedgehog House Alpine and Antarctic calendars can be ordered now from Andy Duck Ph. 355 4875 or e-mail [andyduck33@paradise.net.nz](mailto:andyduck33@paradise.net.nz) by August's club night. \$17.10—unchanged from last year.

**For sale**      1 pair Scarpa ladies full leather, full shank boots, size S39, nearly new.  
Skis, Atomic Beta V7.24, 180 carvers, with Salomon 800 bindings, never used.  
Phone Barbara 384 1233.

**Deadline for Aug newsletter** **Sun 1 Aug** Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to Kerry Moore, [moorekj@xtra.co.nz](mailto:moorekj@xtra.co.nz) phone **359 5069**

**Next committee meeting** **27 July at Raymond Ford's home**

## BITS AND PIECES

### Support Kea Conservation

Kea Conservation Trust [www.keaconservation.co.nz](http://www.keaconservation.co.nz) is conducting kea surveys during July and need your help This is the 3rd year of the annual winter survey and they are keen to make this event even more successful this year with more people counting kea.

Their new winter survey and information sheets can be downloaded from the website. Please take these out with you when you record kea numbers. They can be posted, faxed or emailed back to us or the information can be transferred onto our online form and instantly submitted.

<http://www.keaconservation.co.nz/kearesearchprojects/populationresearch.html>

### Annvale Attack and Amble Rogaine

**Sunday 22 August**    Duration: 4 & 3hrs    Location: Springfield, Canterbury

Annvale Attack and Amble 2010

A navigational adventure in the Canterbury foothills in support of Darfield HS Rural College.

All new terrain from 2009.

The 4-hour rogaine (Attack) is for the competitive and the 3-hour rogaine (Amble) is intended to be more recreational. Choose on the day. Information at <http://www.darfield.school.nz/rural-college/>

Organisers: Stuart Payne & Carol Fowler

### The Ortovox Winter Forum

Come along for this Avalanche and Alpine Education Evening.

Bought to you by Mountain Safety Canterbury

The Twisted Hop, 6 Poplar Street, Lichfield Lanes, Christchurch

7.30 pm Wednesday 14 July      Entry: \$5

Tickets available from Mountain Designs or Bivouac.

Food and drink available for purchase at the venue.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Walker Pass – Amber Col – Sudden Valley, 22–23 May 2010

This classic trip has been done by PTC many times in the past, but I hadn't been there; or even seen Sudden Valley. I wasn't sure I was going to get any takers in late autumn either, so I was quite happy when a CMC member, Warren Soufflot, phoned up wanting to come. But then Sue P phoned up and we definitely had a trip. Late in the piece, Gary phoned apologetically, saying he had canned his planned trip so could he come, too. And he had done the trip twenty seven years ago, so how could we turn down his first-hand knowledge.

Timing worked out about right, with Sue leaving her place at 6am Saturday morning. We picked up Warren at Yaldhurst Rd. We hadn't been at the Hawdon Shelter long, when Chris and Phil turned up, out on a day walk.

The weather forecast always was a bit iffy, but Saturday morning was fine and sunny, making a pleasant plod up the Hawdon. My first time at the new Hawdon Hut. Good spot and view., shame about the trees though. I have been pretty scathing about design boobos in some of the earlier Helen Clark era huts, but couldn't fault this one. Why didn't I check the camera batteries?

Continuing on and starting to climb, we could see behind us, down toward the Waimak and brilliant blue sky, but we were heading nor-west and up, under increasing cloud. We stopped by the upper tarn for lunch, which is nice, but a bit spartan. From there, we crossed Walker Pass and dropped a short distance before turning left and travelling south-west up the east branch of the Otehake.

Here, Gary's long term memory let us down a little. It seemed a good idea to climb up onto the terraces on the true left. This went quite well, with not much scrub bashing but the top end of the terrace dropped in bluffs back to the stream. We found a good line down and continued up the stream-bed and into the cloud, noting that we were getting into bluffy faces that would be great scenery on a fine day.

As planned, we arrived in a terraced area below the col with daylight hours to spare. A light breeze didn't encourage much standing around though. Just dinner and bed, or bed and dinner, depending on who you were.

Sunday, we had the odd fleeting break in the cloud, but mostly we spent the day traveling interesting-to-spectacular country, in the cloud with murky views. From the col, we climbed toward point 1828m, sidling right and traveling south along a rock face that wasn't easy with just a light snow cover. Once we passed the end of this ridge and crossed to the Polar Range proper, travel became more straightforward. Eventually, we gained the ridge and looked straight down near vertical faces into the top of Sudden Valley. Very sudden! Continuing south-west, the bulk of Mt Scott was starting to appear ahead of us in the cloud, but we were still bluffed on our left. Right at the last, a steep, narrow scree appeared coming all the way to the ridge.

This seemed good timing to stop and have lunch. That first ridge from 1828m had taken some time to traverse. After lunch, the scree went all the way down to the stream. It is steep, sometimes a bit boney, but mostly good travel.

The weather progressively became wetter travelling down Sudden Valley Stream and by the time we reached the newly built biv. dampness ensued. Continuing on, the track sidles up on the true left to bypass Barrier Falls, with a steep drop down a side-stream back to the river. As light faded, we were relieved to emerge from the gorge and plod down-valley to reach the Hawdon and cross back to the shelter in near darkness, about 6pm. How's that for timing?

Despite the less than ideal weather, this is a great circuit which I'd like to do again in dry summer conditions or good winter snow, or preferably both. Thanks for your company, Warren. We three appreciated having you on the trip. We were: **Gary Huish, Sue Piercey, Warren Soufflot and Merv Meredith.** 🏔️ MM

### Buckland Peaks – Queen's Birthday weekend, June 2010

**Objective:** to explore the rocky granite tops of the northern Paparoas in clear, cold weather, typical of Westland

winters we had been assured. Our leader, Merv Meredith. Seven of us set off from Christchurch on Friday evening and headed over to the coast via Culverden for a quick tea stop. The drive over Lewis Pass was uneventful and we made good time arriving at the Berlins Café and Backpackers on SH6 at about 10pm. There we met up with Leo's base-camp party who were using the backpackers as their base for the weekend. We also found out when we arrived that it was Liz Stephenson's birthday—I won't divulge which, but it was a major one—and she had a lovely desert wine and fruit cake to share with us.

The morning dawned with the Buller valley misty and atmospheric and we bid the base-campers, “happy tramping” and headed off to our start point which was sign-posted off to the left of the main road about 1.5km west of Omanu Creek, just before the junction with the main road heading south to Punakaiki, although that didn't stop us missing it completely and heading south some kms before we realised and turned back. Our chief navigator was busy chatting!. At the car park, the DoC track sign indicated 5 hrs to Buckland Peaks Hut and 6 hrs to the tops.

The weather forecast had not given us much optimism—rain Sat eve and Sunday but clearing Monday—but we set off in bright, dry weather heading first along a wide curving 4-wheel drive track through farmland on to the Caroline terrace for about 8km and then turning off onto the track proper, up a very distinct spur through steep bush with a lovely mixture of trees including the mountain neinei, and lots of bellbirds. We got to a small clearing sign-posted as “Halfway House” for lunch with great views down to the Buller River and Westport. Although we were never far from the ridge-line, the track was very muddy in places—perhaps we'd be lucky and see this area in fine weather after all the rain! After lunch the gradient was more gradual and eventually we emerged from the bush and followed the ridge up and along to where we had a clear view of the hut down below to our left in a basin. No views of the tops unfortunately—still cloaked in cloud. Once we got almost above the hut, numerous warratahs led us down from the ridge—which at that point had almost disappeared into a much broader spur—to the new 6-bunk hut.

There was no marked route continuing up to the tops. The sun was out so once we got to the hut we had a brew out on the deck and tried to find somewhere for a couple of tents. The hut sleeps 6, there were 7 of us and we had seen another five so we knew we'd have to camp. We managed to pitch the two minarets for four of us on not exactly flat ground just by the hut. Soon after, several children arrived—the advance party of the other group of seven! With tent space being used up, the other party erected a tent on the hut deck for two of them and with the four children sharing two bunks we were all in, hoping no-one else turned up! The hut has no stove but with all the bodies, we were quite cosy. The other group comprised two families from Greymouth and Stoke and they had a slightly more up-to-date weather forecast, even less optimistic than ours—rain setting in this night and not clearing until later in the week! Rain started during the evening while we were having dinner courtesy of Liz. After dinner, we all sat around chatting and reading. One of the dad's in the other party started reading a bedtime story to the children and one by one the hut fell silent apart from him as we all listened to the clever and funny *10pm Question* by Kate De Goldi. After this we were all ready for our beds. Those using the tents had a rain-lashed night. The wind was gusting quite strongly but luckily the tents were in a sheltered spot. The hut dwellers said that the wind shook the hut throughout the night.

The rain and wind were still going strong in the morning so no-one rushed to get up early, we weren't going to go anywhere in a hurry. Sunday passed with regular checks on the weather, forays out to the long-drop, which involved getting completely geared up. Between us all, we got on with putting the world to rights, interspersed with hots drinks and FMC quizzes. At one point, Stuart got cabin fever and decided to improve the steep muddy path up to the toilet by putting rocks in the muddiest bits. Tim and I set off to the ridge in one lull but turned back quite soon when it started pouring again. The families left us after a late lunch, so we had the hut to ourselves. We decided to take down the tents so we could try to dry them out a bit in the hut and we all moved in with Merv nobly volunteering to take the floor. Dinner was provided by Mary the second night and there was rather a lot of it considering we hadn't had any exercise! The revised plan was now to hope for good weather in the morning and get up early to go up to the tops before heading down. With that in mind we had an early night, with no bedtime story. The wind gusted again and rattled the hut several times during the night.

In the morning we woke up to the sound of more wind and rain and Barney getting up to put the cooker on at 6 o'clock, to give himself enough time to be ready by 9am! The rest of us moaned about the early awakening as we obviously weren't going to make it onto the tops, but by now we were all wide awake so we gradually got up and packed. In the process we found several items left by the children—torches, undergarments etc! From our conversations with them, we pieced together some surnames, where they lived and their professions, and once

we got home Merv managed to re-unite the items with their owners (a long story involving tracking one of them down at Greymouth hospital).

We left the hut spic and span and headed back up to the ridge and down the muddy spur in the rain. When we got to the junction with the farm track, the rain had stopped and we even had a bit of sun. Looking back, the tops were still completely shrouded in thick mist and cloud. We got back to the cars at lunchtime, changed and headed back to Berlin's café for lunch. The base campers had gone by then. We then said our goodbyes and headed off, arriving back in Christchurch early evening. Thanks to all it was an entertaining and relaxing trip, but the tops remain to be explored another time!

Thanks to **Merv Meredith, Liz, Barney and Sam Stephenson, Stuart Payne, Tim and Mary Hines.** 🏔️ MH

## **Red Hill, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

On what was a rather miserable grey day with a forecast of snow, seven hardy souls met at Church Corner. We set off at 8am in cars with chains just in case we needed them for Porter's Pass, but although there was snow at the sides of the road, the roads were clear and only very slightly icy in places. Once we got to Lake Lyndon the skies were much brighter but the Lake Lyndon road was closed! We decided to head along and see what it was like as we only had to go a few kms to our start point. The road was clear and we parked by a farm gate on the right, reversing the cars onto the snowy verge in case we had to push them off again at the end of the day!

We set off with ice axes and followed a 4WD track and then a creek heading generally NW, crossing a broken-down fence into Brooksdale Station after about 15mins and then back through a new fence out onto the Korowai Torlesse Tussocklands Park after about an hour. We continued NW aiming for patches of beech forest to point 936m. The valley was very boggy and we had to cross the creek several times. Most of us didn't manage to keep our boots dry. We eventually got up onto the terraces through patches of matagouri.

Once we got closer to the beech trees we stopped for morning tea and admired the clearing view back down to the road and up towards the saddle. Patches of blue sky were appearing. We headed through and around the beech trees, across a small creek and NW up towards the saddle to west of 1488m—not so easy in the deep snow for the vertically challenged. Gary did sterling work at the front making steps, with Tim volunteering to take over on the descent. We stopped for lunch and it was surprisingly warm in the sun with almost no breeze.

There was a track visible through the snow up the left of the scree basin to the saddle but as the snow was quite deep near the top of the scree with a small overhang, we took the spur on the right, heading for a large rocky outcrop which is not marked on the topo map, and behind it, left to the saddle. From the saddle, we sidled along the ridge, SW and headed up the last snow-covered scree slope to the summit of Red Hill at 1641m (a climb of about 830m). From here there are great views of Lake Coleridge, Porters ski field and surrounding foothills on a clear day. This day was not clear enough to see Coleridge, but we had nice views nonetheless.

We decided to return the same way as the deep snow had slowed us going up. We got back to the car at about 4pm and had the usual thawing-out stop in Springfield on the way home. We were **Gary Huish, Mary & Tim Hines, Jane Swift, Miriam Preston, Sue Piercey and Stan Wilder.** 🏔️ MH

## **Avalanche Peak – Crow Valley 3-4 July 2010**

Winter tramping always involves a lottery with the weather and so it proved as we enjoyed cloudless winter views of the Torlesse and Craigieburn Ranges on the way to Arthurs Pass after a forecast of doom and gloom earlier in the week. The avalanche risk was rated as moderate, meaning human-triggered avalanches were a distinct possibility. Kerry wondered out loud whether yodeling counted as a risk, which prompted Raymond and Gary to reply that if he planned to bring the hills alive with the sound of music he should desist.

We left a bike at the Klondyke road-end and warily eyed the cloud lurking in the west as we set off up Scott's Track in clear but breezy conditions. Wet footprints ahead promised that someone might kick steps in the snow but unfortunately we caught up to the couple who were quite happy for us to take over the lead. We hit soft knee-deep snow at the bush-line and floundered our way upward on tussock and rock ribs where we could find them. Three hours from the road, the cloud had closed in by the time we lunched on top of Avalanche Peak, obscuring earlier views to the east. A strong westerly was blowing spindrift and ice particles across the ridge.

Gary took the direct route north from the top causing a few problems for Kerry in soft snow on the rocky start to the ridge but Kerry found the traverse under the second pinnacle more to his liking. The ridge alternated between deep snow drifts and bare rock sections where the keen wind had scoured the surface. We were glad to reach the large cairn indicating the descent scree after another hour. We thought the sight of snow to the base of the scree promised easy travel but we were disabused of that notion when we found the lower half consisted of soft powder concealing but not supporting the loose underlying rocks. It was like walking on unseen ball-bearings. The upper valley was still covered in snow from the previous week. Despite the conditions, we reached the hut by mid-afternoon. The wood burner was a welcome sight. Raymond soon cranked up the fire, Gary trampled down the snow to the toilet and woodshed while Kerry demonstrated different methods of lighting an MSR. For the remainder of the afternoon we settled down to several brews and a three course meal. Once fired up the wood stove warmed up the hut and certainly proved better at simmering the meal than the intemperate MSR.

In an effort to improve our vocabulary, Kerry had introduced the weekend word ‘verisimilitude’ and stretched our credulity, by demonstrating various different meanings and challenging our efforts to pronounce it. Raymond decided it was a neologism and the word should be expunged from the language.

Sunday dawned calm, with a bracing frost. The early morning tranquility and Sunday lie-in was abruptly shattered by the remarkably early arrival of a feathered alarm clock outside the hut. Despite the raucous screeching, we resisted the temptation to leave the warmth of sleeping bags, until Kerry finally succumbed and went outside to remonstrate with the parrot, throwing a snowball in its direction. Breakfast was a solid affair. Kerry produced a large home-made sultana bread loaf and a bread knife and proceeded to slice off thick slices, lightening his pack considerably in the process.

There was not a cloud in the sky as we reluctantly left the Crow Hut for what is usually a 4hr walk to the road. Half-way down the Crow we stopped to remove a layer of clothing and were treated to a birds-eye view as two blue ducks splashed down near us, apparently telling us this was their river. In these frigid conditions we weren’t about to dispute their rights.

Snow-covered boulders, hoar-frost crystals, and frozen gravel in the Waimakariri in the middle of the day was an indication of how little winter sunlight reached parts of the valley. The slippery footing made travel down the river an interesting test for the leg muscles. Nonetheless, we made good time and Gary went on ahead and biked back to Arthurs to get the car, leaving the others in the frost at Klondyke Corner with the verisimilitudinous statement that it would only take twenty minutes.

The trip participants were **Raymond Ford** (leader), **Kerry Moore** and **Gary Huish**. Thanks to all for a brilliant winter trip and the erudite discussion! 🏔️ GH