



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

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## November 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.

## Special General Meeting to discuss subscriptions. Promptly at 7:30 Tue 9 Nov on our usual club night.

**Tue 9 Nov** **SGM followed by REDUCING AVALANCHE RISK**  
An introduction to ATES (Avalanche Terrain Exposure Scale) a new system being introduced to New Zealand by DoC and MSC.  
**Supper Duty: Debbie Corbett, Carol Crawford, Pam Crosswell**

**Tue 14 Dec** **THE GREAT STOVE RACE**  
Which is the fastest tramping stove? Which do you prefer? Some food will be prepared on the stoves. As well, everyone please bring supper food  
**Supper Duty: Liz Cunningham, Wendy Dann, Julie Davis**

## 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.

7 Nov Sun ■	<b>AMBERLEY BEACH - MACKINTOSH BAY</b> Stan Wilder 980 5291 An <b>easy-moderate</b> trip along the coast in North Canterbury. <b>Start: 8am Robbies near Placemakers, Cranford St</b>	<b>Maps BW24,25; N34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$13</b>
7 Nov Sun ■	<b>PEAK 1912 - CASS SADDLE</b> Merv Meredith 322 7239 <b>Moderate-hard</b> trip in the Craigieburns. Starting up the Cass River to Long Valley Stream, then up Peak 1912, descending to the Cass Valley track. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV20,21; K34</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$11</b>
12-14 Nov Fri-Sun ■■■	<b>MT EARNSLAW</b> Raymond Ford 351 9496 This <b>hard</b> trip plans to climb the east peak of 2800m Mt Earnslaw. This peak is the centre of the popular Rees-Dart circuit. Ice axe and crampons required. <b>List Closes: Sat 30 Oct</b>	<b>Maps CA10; E40</b>
12-14 Nov Fri-Sun ■■■	<b>MT OWEN</b> Leo Manders 356 1731 <b>Moderate</b> trip to this 1870m peak, the highest in Kahurangi National Park. This is fascinating karst country which you may have already seen in the Lord of the Rings movies. This could become a moderate-hard if the more exciting Bulmer Creek route is chosen. <b>List Closes: Sat 30 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BQ23, BR23; M28, M29</b>
12-14 Nov Fri-Sun ■■■	<b>INLAND PACK TRACK</b> Miriam Preston 329 3139 <b>Easy-moderate</b> . Between the Fox and Punakaiki Rivers in the Paparoa Range on the West Coast. Features include lush forest, spectacular limestone gorges, Fox River caves, "The Ballroom" overhang and plenty of river crossings. Camping out. <b>List Closes: Sat 30 Oct</b>	<b>Maps BS19,20; K30</b>
14 Nov Sun ■	<b>PUDDING HILL STREAM</b> Evelien Bass 03 317 9077 <b>Easy-moderate</b> walk along the ridge to the west of Mt Hutt forest. Good views of the plains, Mt Hutt and the Alfred and Taylor Ranges to the west. <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BX20; K35, K36</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
20-21 Nov Sat-Sun ■■	<b>SYLVIA TOPS</b> TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. <b>Moderate</b> tramp over this 1500-1600m range between Nina and Doubtful valleys in the Lewis Pass area. Probably camping out at the bush-edge at Devils Den Biv. <b>List Closes: Wed 10 Nov</b>	<b>Maps BU23; M31</b>

<b>Sat 20 Nov</b>	<b>BIKE RIDE LEES VALLEY--TOWNSHEND HUT</b>	
	Friendly Fat Tyre Fanatics. A mixture of gravel road and farm track with one river-crossing. Approx 50km. Lunch req'd. <b>Medium</b> grade trip. Meet at 8am outside Robbies near Placemakers in Cranford Street for bike organising. Rick Bolch 980 5156	
<b>21 Nov</b>	<b>SELWYN GORGE</b>	<b>Maps BW21; L35</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b>	
■	<b>Easy-moderate</b> walk from the forest at the end of Dalethorpe Road, between Sheffield and Springfield. This will be a bit of a river-splash along the Selwyn to the gorgy section.	
	<b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$12</b>
<b>27-29 Nov</b>	<b>MT ADAMS</b>	<b>Maps BW17; I34,35</b>
<b>Sat-Mon</b>	<b>Gary Huish 332 7020</b>	
■■■	This <b>hard</b> trip to the isolated sentinel of 2208m Mt Adams commences at 100m. The top commands a view from Cape Foulwind to Mt Cook. Ice axe and crampons required.	
	<b>List Closes: Wed 17 Nov</b>	
<b>27-28 Nov</b>	<b>CARROLL HUT</b>	<b>Maps BV20; K33</b>
<b>Sat-Sun</b>	<b>Mary Hines 942 6486</b>	
■■	From near Otira, a short, sharp <b>easy-moderate</b> climb through bush to 8-bunk Carroll Hut, just above the bush line. Opportunity to explore the nice tops on the Kelly Range.	
	<b>List Closes: Sat 20 Nov</b>	
<b>28 Nov</b>	<b>MT OXFORD - WHARFDALE</b>	<b>Maps BW23; L34</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Stan Wilder 980 5291</b>	
■	<b>Moderate</b> round-trip from View Hill car park. Up to the bush-line on Mt Oxford, down to the Wharfedale Shelter and back on the Wharfedale Track.	
	<b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$11</b>
<b>3-6 Dec</b>	<b>BANKS PENINSULA TRACK (4-DAY)</b>	<b>Maps BY25; N36,N37</b>
<b>Fri-Mon</b>	<b>Leo Manders 356 1731</b>	
■■■■	The 35km Banks Peninsula Track is the original private walking track of New Zealand. It has a unique blend of whimsical and historical accommodation and a stunningly diverse track route. This is an <b>easy</b> tramp over four days.	
	<b>List Closes: Wed 10 Nov</b>	
<b>4-5 Dec</b>	<b>GRAND DUCHESS - BRASS MONKEY - NINA</b>	<b>Maps BT23; M31</b>
<b>Sat-Sun</b>	<b>Kevin Hughes 332 6281</b>	
■■	A classic <b>moderate-hard</b> , Lewis Pass tops trip to Brass Monkey biv situated just off the main divide. A round-trip from the Nina Valley up Lucretia Stream and down Duchess Stream. Should give commanding views from Grand Duchess tops.	
	<b>List Closes: Sat 27 Nov</b>	
<b>5 Dec</b>	<b>BANKS PENINSULA TRAVERSE</b>	<b>Maps BX25,BY25; N36,N37</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b>	
■	A long day makes this a <b>moderate</b> trip. Walking between Orton Bradley Park and Montgomery Park (near Hilltop Tavern) along the summit walkway. Includes the highpoint of the peninsula, Mt Herbert, and several bush reserves. Good views, weather permitting. We aim to have a group starting at each end with a car-swap. Take plenty of water!	
	<b>Start: 7:30am outside Halswell School</b>	<b>Approx Cost: \$13</b>

11-12 Dec Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>WAIMAKARIRI COL - MT PHILISTINE</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.</b> This <b>hard</b> trip across the Main Divide is one of those "must-do" tramps. It requires a slog up the Waimakiriri but the location of the Falls Hut makes it worthwhile. A long second day over the Col and up Mt Philistine and back past the bluffs. <b>List Closes: Sat 4 Dec</b>	<b>Maps BV20; K33</b>
11 Dec <u>Saturday</u> ■	<b>NIKAU PALM GULLY</b> <b>Geoff Price 337 2614</b> This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms here are notable for being the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an <b>easy</b> tramp towards the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour. <b>Start: 8:00am outside Halswell School</b>	<b>Maps BY25; N37</b>  <b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
Sat 11 Dec 	<b>POULTER RIVER FROM MT WHITE BRIDGE</b> To Casey Hut, a ride we have wanted to do for a while. We'll turn around at lunchtime regardless. Probably about 40km with a few small hills and requiring some anti-falling skills. Definitely wet feet territory. With a bit of luck, we will be back in time for the Club picnic on Sunday! Meet at Church Corner 7.30am for bike organising. Rick Bolch 980 5156	
12 Dec Sun ■	<b>YEAR-END PICNIC</b> <b>Glenda &amp; Merv Meredith 322 7239</b> Glenda and Merv are still mourning the closing of the camping ground at Purau so we are returning to the camping ground at Okains Bay with a similar formula. Glenda and Merv will be camping from Friday night, so making a weekend of it, or arriving any time on Saturday, provides options. The PTC picnic will follow the usual walk to the headland in the morning.	<b>Maps BX25; N36</b>
18-19 Dec Sat-Sun ■ ■	<b>WOOLSHED HILL</b> <b>Margot Bowden 332 7020</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> climb through beech forest to open tops above Hawdon Shelter in Arthur's Pass NP. Camping by a small tarn, and maybe a brief wander along the tops of the Savannah Range. <b>List Closes: Sat 11 Dec</b>	<b>Maps BV21;K33</b>
19 Dec Sun ■	<b>CAPTAIN THOMAS - GODLEY ROAD</b> <b>TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.</b> An <b>easy</b> , popular walkway, taking in coastal views and old military buildings. Starting up the Captain Thomas Track behind Sumner to Evans Pass, before continuing along the ridge to Godley Head and returning to Sumner through Taylors Mistake. <b>Start: Sumner Clock Tower</b>	<b>Maps BX24;M36</b>
25-2 Jan Sat-Mon ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	<b>OHAU BASE CAMP</b> <b>Dennis Kemp 384 2893</b> We return to popular Huxley Lodge at the head of Lake Ohau. This comfortable two-storey lodge catches the sun and the views are magnificent, so it is a good base for day walks, biking and some serious loafing. The lodge makes a good base to unwind after longer trips in the area. Give Dennis a call soon if you are interested, especially if you aim to be there for Christmas dinner.	<b>Maps BY14,BZ14;H37,H38</b>
27-1 Jan Mon-Sat ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	<b>PELORUS RIVER - BRYANT RANGE</b> <b>Margot &amp; Gary Huish 332 7020</b> <b>Moderate</b> round-trip up the Pelorus River and returning along the Bryant Range and Dun Mountain. Camping out along the way. <b>List Closes: Sat 4 Dec</b>	<b>Maps BQ26,27;O27</b>

<b>15-16 Jan</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>HOPE RIVER - TOP HOPE HUT</b> <b>Mary Hines 942 6486</b> <b>Moderate</b> tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Top Hope Hut. Start from Windy Point on the Lewis Pass road. Option of a side-trip to the hot springs. <b>List Closes: Sat 18 Dec</b>	<b>Maps BU22,23;L32,M32</b>
<b>16 Jan</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT MISERY</b> <b>Gary Huish 332 7020</b> <b>Moderate</b> tramp over 1765m Mt Misery at the end of the Black Range above Cass. Don't be put off by the name. Great panoramic views from the top, including Mt Horrible. <b>Start: 7am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BV20;K34</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$13</b>
<b>22-23 Jan</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>MT ALEXANDER</b> <b>Kerry Moore 359 5069</b> <b>Moderate</b> trip to this interesting peak that looks down on Taramakau River to the west of Arthurs Pass. A track runs up to a hut and the Alexander Range from Inchbonnie <b>List Closes: Sat 15 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BU20;K32</b>
<b>23 Jan</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>MT OAKDEN</b> <b>Keith McQuillan 384 6164</b> <b>Moderate</b> ascent of a 1630m peak at the head of Lake Coleridge. Quite an uncompromising grunt, but you get superb views for your effort up the Rakaia and Wilberforce Rivers towards the main divide, and of the lake itself. Contact leader prior to going on the trip/ <b>Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)</b>	<b>Maps BW20;K34,K35</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$16</b>
<b>29-30 Jan</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>OPERA RANGE - JERVOIS HUT</b> <b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b> <b>Moderate-hard</b> trip with Friday night travel to Magdalen Hut. Up Maritana Stream to the southern end of the Opera Range at 1587m, dropping down Jones Stream to Jervois Stream and the 4 bunk hut. Retrace steps on Sunday. <b>List Closes: Wed 18 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BT23,24;M31,32</b>
<b>30 Jan</b> <b>Sun</b> ■	<b>TIMUTIMU HEAD - SCENERY NOOK</b> <b>Geoff Price 337 2614</b> <b>Easy-moderate</b> tramp over Peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Returning via a natural tidal swimming pool at Scenery Nook. <b>Start: 8:00am outside Halswell School</b>	<b>Maps BY25;N37</b> <b>Approx Cost: \$14</b>
<b>5-6 Feb</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>WHARFEDALE TRACK</b> <b>Evelien Bass 03 317 9077</b> <b>Easy</b> walking on a well formed track near Mt Oxford. Beech forest so wasps may be there. <b>List Closes: Sat 18 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BW22;L34</b>
<b>5-6 Feb</b> <b>Sat-Sun</b> ■ ■	<b>BOYLE BASE CAMP</b> <b>Heather &amp; Colin Wilmshurst 383 2471</b> We'll be staying at comfortable Boyle Lodge, and doing day walks (all grades) in the area. <b>List Closes: Sat 15 Jan</b>	<b>Maps BU23;M31,M32</b>

## President's Report

The talk on Libya and Morocco by Heather Murray has had to be postponed. This should now go ahead on our first club night for 2011 on Tue Feb 8. We were treated to a great talk and photo show of the mountains of Japan by Geoff and Mary Korver. They had just returned from there. This area is rarely seen so a lot was learnt about tramping in Japan. Thanks Geoff and Mary.

## Multi Day Trips

As we head into summer, our tramping program is in full swing. Labour weekend saw multi-day trips to the West Coast, Lewis Pass and Mount Arthur Tableland with trips being well supported. We worked the weather to our advantage down in Haast and covered a number of the short walks down there including Smoothwater Bay down in Jacksons Bay.

**Show weekend** is just a couple of weeks away. Trips are scheduled for the Inland Pack Track and Mount Owen. I still have one or two spaces for **Mount Owen**, we will be going up the easy way to and from the new Granity Pass Hut. This will be a great long weekend away, without the usual crowds, since it's a Canterbury-only holiday.

Time is running out for **Banks Peninsula Track**, an **easy** four day trip, 3–6 December 2010. You need to contact me now if you want to go.

The **Stewart Island Port Pegasus Base Camp** trip, Feb 8–14 2011 still has a couple of vacancies. 19 are on the list at present and all those on the list will receive trip notes including all costings. The maximum number is 20 and this trip needs to be fully confirmed by Dec 5 2010. If you think you want to go and are not on the list, please contact me for the trip notes. We are also looking for someone who will forgo most of the tramping and act as our cook. This person can come on this trip at a substantial discount. Contact me for details.

The **Egmont Round the Mountain** trip running from Wed 30 Mar - Wed Apr 6 2011 inclusive, to allow time for those wanting to go up to the top of the mountain has just one vacancy left.

## Barn Dance 2011

Evelien Baas is coordinating this event. We have booked the hall (South Brighton Community Hall) and are in the process of organising the band. We discussed the concept of having a pot luck supper, rather than a catered supper. The feeling is that we would get a better quality of food this way. If you have any thoughts and/or would like to help with our barn dance please contact Evelien.

## Special General Meeting

Don't forget the SGM on subscriptions being held this club night Tue 9 Nov starting promptly at 7.30pm. Our regular club night will commence after the SGM. See you there.

## Happy Tramping - Leo Manders

# SOCIAL EVENTS

## Tue 23 Nov Sign of the Kiwi Walk and Meal



Meet at Sign of the Kiwi car park at **6.30** for a 1 hour stroll, followed by a meal and views at the newly refurbished Sign of the Kiwi café at **7.30**.

Thanks for all those who booked in - we have a nice big group going so should be a good evening. Room for a couple more if you didn't get your name in. Contact Mary Hines on [hinestandm@clear.net.nz](mailto:hinestandm@clear.net.nz) or 942 6486. If weather is bad then just meet there at 7.30pm

# NOTICES

**Deadline for Dec newsletter Sun 31 Oct.** 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 7:30 Tue 30 Nov at Geoff's**

# TRIP REPORTS

## ROUGH CREEK - BOSCAWEN SADDLE - NINA — 23-25 Oct 2010

A good weather forecast encouraged us as we drove over Lewis Pass, through Maruia Springs and on to the Rough Creek bridge. We left the car there and were walking by 10am. Halfway up we were walking on snow

and tree branches brought down by heavy snowfalls. The track steepens near the top of the bush section but surprisingly there was minimal snow. We emerged above the bush-line to full sunshine and deep snow. Poles lead up the ridge and over to the headwaters of the upper Blue Grey. Rather than follow the poles down to the valley we climbed to point 1482 for a view of Lake Christabel. We got a better view as we continued along the ridge and then descended in deep snow to join the track that loops around to Christabel Hut. This track passes within 2km of Grand Duchess. The “par” time for this day’s walk is 6 hours. With snow and tree wreckage we made it to the hut in 8, surprised to find no-one else in residence on this long weekend. Dinner was mac-cheese with silverbeet, parsley and fennel for greenery.

A fine Sunday dawned and we were away by 8am rejoicing on the smooth, flat track for the first 1 km that leads towards Robinson Saddle. Snow was minimal in the bush but when we got to the margin we found the track obliterated by serious avalanches. We wasted half an hour looking for the track. Back on-line we climbed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way to Robinson Saddle to avoid scrub that the club had waded through and over on past trips. Sidling down on snow grass and tussock we arrived in the upper valley with a fair coating of snow, which made the initial climb to a spur difficult. On the spur we could avoid snow completely and made good time to the saddle below Mt Boscawen. On the saddle which crosses the main divide, we were looking over to a very snowy basin which narrowed into a busy little stream thanks to snow and sun. We made a quick descent to where the stream was visible, but we were apprehensive about falling through snow bridges. We came to a point where we had to get off snow into the stream-bed. Kerry chose a spot to slide down, finding he’d been on a bridge with a 2 metre drop above rushing ice-water. With guidance from below, the others were able to slide down a safer lump of snow. Not far below here we were faced with more, scary looking avalanche snow bridges. Luckily there was a little gully that let us exit this stream. We climbed for 20 minutes and could see we’d have to climb much longer to get above the scrub to left and right of us. Carolyn looked for a way out but reported horrible dracophyllum scrub so we climbed higher. Eventually we bit the bullet and chose a route through the dreaded scrub. A 25 minute struggle, walking on the scrub rather than through it saw us on a spur in view of a useful avalanche chute. We sidled to it and descended a mixture of snow and scree. Paul found it harder without his faithful stick which got left behind in the scrub. The chute had two branches and we crossed to the second. Soon after this move we heard a loud crack from where we’d been as a football-sized boulder hit something very solid and launched itself high in the air. Soon we were at the base of the chute with a pile of snow and splintered trees. We were only 150m below where we had exited up the gully. Now we had beech to left and right to hold back avalanches so there was no more snow to contend with, only fallen trees. With the amount of snow-melt in the stream, we had to choose crossing points with care. With relief we reached the Nina and made reasonably brisk progress down-river, often on partial tracks in the trees. We needed to cross the Nina ten or so times and finally with the clock past 8pm we saw an orange biv through the trees. Hurrah! A late dinner of lentil curry was sufficient and the customary custard stayed in its bag. Carolyn and Dorota used the tent and Paul and Kerry chose the stretched canvas bunks for a well-earned rest.

Monday dawned cloudy so we thought the weather was worsening but the day became warm and sunny. Walking down the a good track we arrived at the site of the old Nina hut and decided to cross to the right bank of the Nina and go to the new hut for lunch. It is well sited to catch the sun and must have been 25° inside so we were a little relieved to leave and be out in cooler air. At the bridge over deep, green water we crossed back to the true left and cruised along comfortably. From the Nina Hut book we knew Nelson TC people were in the area and we caught up to a group of 12 of them. Kerry quizzed them on which way they were headed when they reached the road. Yes, they were headed west and, yes they had a spare seat in a king-cab ute, so getting back to the car was made easy.

At Palmer Lodge (the deerstalkers’ lodge) nearly 20 people organized themselves. We quickly retrieved our car from 20km away, gathered up our people and headed home. We hadn’t gone far when a sign attracted our attention—“driver reviver”. The sign hinted at **food** also being on offer, so curiosity lured us in. It was quite a lavish facility with tents, tables, music, expresso coffee, sausages, bread and sauce. We made another quick food stop at Culverden, then home. The trip was rated as moderate, but with snow on day-one, could be called moderate-hard and day two with our forced detour and long slog, hard. We were lucky to have a well-matched team of: **Dorota Giejsztowt, Carolyn Catt, Paul Smith and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM