



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

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April 2011

President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Dorota Giejsztowt	352 9130
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Vice-President	Mary Hines	942 6486	Dan Pryce	384 7523
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Brian Smith	Quartermaster 355 9945
Trip Planner	Gary Huish	332 7020		
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069		

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 12 Apr **ADVENTURES IN BOLIVIA AND SOUTHERN PERU**

Margaret Clark and Yvette So will share their independent adventures during a 9-week winter escape in 2009. Highlights include two excellent high-altitude treks in Bolivia where Yvette got to climb a 6000m peak. From Cuzco they took a back door trek route to Macchu Pichu then down to Arequipa for culture, condors and the surprise of frozen Inca children retrieved from volcanic summits.

Supper Duty: David or Siobhan Grimshaw, Paul or Sarah Gunningham, Bill Hambidge

Tue 10 May **PORT PEGASUS EXPEDITION**

Fourteen club members braved stormy seas on a chartered fishing boat to get to remote Port Pegasus in the south of Stewart Island. Based at a hunters' hut they explored the inlet in powered dingies and on foot.

Supper Duty: Debbie Harding, Helen Harkness, Rick Harlow

Tue 14 June MEMBERS' PHOTOS

Dig out your pics and give us a visual trip report or just show a selection that you'd like to show. Leo 356 1731 will coordinate so call him if you have photos to offer

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.

10 Apr Sun	TRIG Q - MT MANSON Kerry Moore 359 5069	Maps BW21;K34
■	Easy-moderate. We'll start from the Craigeburn Ski Field Road. This will give us time to ascend to this 1860m peak at the northern end of the Craigeburn Range. Snow may be present, so bring your ice-axe. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Approx Cost: \$14
16-17 Apr Sat-Sun	BRASS MONKEY - GRAND DUCHESS Merv Meredith 322 7239	Maps BU22,23;L32, M32
■ ■	A classic, moderate-hard , Lewis Pass tops trip to this bivvy situated just off the main divide. A round-trip from the Nina Valley up Lucretia Stream and down Duchess Stream. Commanding views from Grand Duchess tops. List Closes: Wed 6 Apr	
16-17 Apr Sat-Sun	HOPE-KIWI LODGE TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.	Maps BU22,23;L32, M32
■ ■	Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way through beech forest and river terraces. List Closes: Sat 9 Apr	
17 Apr Sun	SUGARLOAF Keith McQuillan 384 6164	Maps CB11,12;F40,41
■	Easy-moderate. Sugarloaf, at 1360m near Cass, is one of the bigger sugar mountains. Situated inside a bend of the Waimakariri River, there will be superb views of the river, of nearby Mt Binser and of the various lakes and hills of the Cass area. Start: 8am Church Corner (away from church)	Approx Cost: \$20
Tue 19 Apr	TRIP PLANNING MEETING - 5 PATCHETT PLACE	
22-25 Apr Fri-Mon	WAI AU PASS Kevin Hughes 332 6281	Maps BV21,BW21;L34
■ ■ ■ ■ Easter	Moderate-hard. From Lake Tennyson to the headwaters of the Clarence River, crossing to the upper Sabine River in Nelson Lakes NP and returning via Waiau Pass and Maling Pass. Plenty of great scenery on this round-trip. List Closes: Sat 9 Apr	

21-25 Apr Thur-Mon ■■■■■ Easter	SABINE - BLUE LAKE - MOSS PASS - D'URVILLE Mary Hines 942 6486	Maps BT23;M31
	A classic moderate circuit taking in the best of Nelson Lakes NP. Thursday 21 Drive up to St Arnaud to stay at backpackers. Friday 22 shuttle and boat up Lake Rotoroa to Sabine Hut, walk to West Sabine. Sat 23 Walk to Blue lake hut with a side trip to Lake Constance. Sun 24, Walk over Moss pass to Ella Hut. Mon 25, Walk to D'Urville Hut and take water taxi out. List Closes: Tue 8 Mar	
22-25 Apr Fri-Mon ■■■■■ Easter	WILKIN RIVER - GILLESPIE PASS - YOUNG RIVER Leo Manders 356 1731	Maps BV21;K34 L34
	Classic moderate tramp between Young and Wilkin Rivers over 1500m Gillespie Pass in Mt Aspiring NP. Starting and finishing near Makarora, the valleys are tracked and the route over the pass is poled. Possible side-trip to Crucible Lake . List Closes: Sat 9 Apr	
22-25 Apr Fri-Mon ■■■■■ Easter	NASEBY BASE CAMP Mary & Geoff Korver 355 3905	Maps BS24,BT23,24,BU23;M30,M31,N30,N31
	Base camp in this popular area with a variety of walks amongst mining relics or some serious tramping. List Closes: Sat 9 Apr	
25 Apr Sun ■	GHOST CREEK TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.	Maps BW21;K35
	Easy-moderate trip starting down the Porter River from the Craigeburn Road before heading up Ghost Creek behind Castle Hill Peak. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$14	
30-1 May Sat-Sun ■■	BROKEN RIVER HUT Kerry Moore 359 5069	Maps BW21;K34,L34
	A moderate trip near Castle Hill, starting from the Avoca incline. This descends to and then follows Broken River to the hut. Possible round-trip returning through No Man's Land. List Closes: Wed 20 Apr	
1 May Sun ■	MT TORLESSE Mary & Tim Hines 942 6486	Maps BV20;K34
	Popular moderate-hard trip to this 1961m peak on the Torlesse Range. Walking up the Kowai River to the hut before the serious climbing begins. Though not tricky it is still a 1100m ascent from the hut. Ice axe may be required with early snow. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$12	
7-8 May Sat-Sun ■■	BANFIELD HUT Leo Manders 356 1731	Maps BW19;J35
	Easy-moderate trip up the Rakaia River to a small hut a short way up Jagged Stream. Largely 4WD track with a stream crossing and possibly a little scrub and a washout to negotiate. From the hut there could be time for some exploration either up Jagged Stream or up the mountain-sides, to give views of peaks and glaciers of the northern end of the Arrowsmiths. List Closes: Sat 30 Apr	
8 May Sun ■	LEITH HILL TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.	Maps BW21;K34,35
	Easy-moderate trip to this 1384m peak behind Castle Hill Villiage. Possibility of round-trip behind the Castle Hill scenic reserve. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church) Approx Cost: \$16	

14-15 May Sat-Sun ■ ■	LAKE LYNDON BASE CAMP Mary & Tim Hines 942 6486 We'll be staying at the lodge south of Lake Lyndon, and doing some of the day walks (all grades) in the area. List Closes: Sat 30 Apr	Maps BW21;K34
15 May Sun ■	RYDE FALLS TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Easy walk to these pretty falls which come down in three tiers amid a mixture of bush. Starting from Coopers Creek. The possibility of wasps should be low at this time of year! Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW22;L34 Approx Cost: \$14
21-22 May Sat-Sun ■ ■	OTEHAKE HOT SPRING Gary Huish 332 7020 Moderate walk from Aickens, up the Taramakau, before turning off for lake Kaurapataka. There is a short climb to a saddle before dropping to the Otehake Rr. The hot springs are further up the Otehake. Camping out and hopefully not adding to the club legends. List Closes: Sat 14 May	Maps BV20,21;K33
22 May Sun ■	LAKE RUBICON - BOBS KNOB TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Moderate circuit up to a ridge below the Torlesse Range, with good views of the latter, taking in Lake Rubicon. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW21;L35 Approx Cost: \$12
28-29 May Sat-Sun ■ ■	MAGDALEN HUT TBA Contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip. Easy side trip off the southern end of the St James Walkway to this small, unusual hut. Mistletoe can be seen growing near the hut. Mixture of beech forest and the open flats of the Boyle river. List Closes: Sat 21 May	Maps BU23;M32
29 May Sun ■	COACH STREAM - RABBIT HILL Dorota Giejsztowt 352 9130 Easy moderate round-trip to point 1179m in Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park and returning on the old coach track. Starting from near the Big Pine at the bottom of Porters Pass. Start: 8am Church Cnr (away from church)	Maps BW21;K35 Approx Cost: \$14
4-6 Jun Sat-Mon ■ ■ ■ Queens B	POTTS RIVER - ASHBURTON RIVER Merv Meredith 322 7239 Moderate tramp up Potts River traversing Big Hill Range to south branch of Ashburton River. Ice axe may be required. List Closes: Sat 14 May	Maps BX18;J35,J36
4-6 Jun Sat-Mon ■ ■ ■ Queens B	CEDAR FLAT Heather Murray 322 5030 An easy-moderate trip inland from Hokitika. Walking up the Toaroha River to the Cedar Flats hut with elusive hot springs. Possible day or round trips from this point. List Closes: Sat 14 May	Maps BV19;J33,J34

4-6 Jun	REEFTON BASE CAMP	Maps BS21,BT21;L30
Sat-Mon	Leo Manders 356 1731	
■■■	Base camp in this popular area with a variety of walks amongst mining relics or some serious tramping.	
Queens B	List Closes: Sat 14 May	

President's Report

The 79th PTC AGM was held last month, and thanks to all those members who attended. Changes to our executive include Mary Hines who is now Vice President in conjunction with Kevin Hughes, also Vice President. We welcome Dorota Giejsztowt and Dan Pryce as our two new executive members. Evelien Baas decided not to seek re-election and we thank her for her contributions, particularly help for our younger members and organising our current barn dance. Evelien will continue to organise this year's barn dance, to be held in June. This is no mean feat as our previously booked venue is now red-stickered—the back wall has collapsed, with a number of cracks as well. We have been scrambling to find a suitable replacement venue, while making sure our band can also still attend on the new date. See next month's newsletter where we aim to confirm both the new date and new venue for this event.

FMC AGM

This is being held at Te Papa in Wellington on Saturday 11 June 2011 and Sunday 20 June 2011.

Trip Planning Meeting

Gary Huish is holding our annual trip-planning meeting on **Tue 19 April** at his place, 5 Patchett Place (off Hackthorne Road) Cashmere at **7.00pm**. Please come along and help us shape the trips for July 2011 to end June 2012. Have a think about where you would like to go and what day-trips you want to go on. What would you like specifically for younger members? Waitangi Day falls on a Monday, forming a long weekend. Anzac Day falls on a Wednesday which can make a good 5 day-plus long trip. We also have the regular Labour, Show, Easter and Queens Birthday weekend holidays. What long weekend trips would you like featured. In addition there will be a selection of week-long trips to think about. If you can't make the meeting please email Gary at gary.huish@xtra.co.nz before the 19 April 2011 with your trip ideas. Please be as specific as possible, Fiordland for example is a big place, so give us a specific location, track name, river etc.

Happy Tramping – Leo Manders

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wed 20 Apr **Nordic Walking and Meal at Spagalimis, Victoria Street**

Come and try out this low-impact, fun exercise. It builds cardiovascular fitness, strengthens legs and the upper body. Please contact Yvette well ahead of the day, so she can organise the \$2 walking pole hire. The poles are specially designed for this sport and are different from the usual walking poles.

Meet **6pm** at Helmores Lane by the bridge, North Hagley Park. We'll eat at 7pm
Names to **Yvette So, 351 6407** by **Sunday 17 Apr** soy@xtra.co.nz

Thurs 19 May **Ceroc Dancing**

Come along for a fun night of dancing. The evening starts 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. club 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 <http://www.alldance.co.nz/index.html> or ring Maureen Thompson 359 5707 or email mothompson@xtra.co.nz

NOTICES

Deadline for May newsletter Sunday 1 May. Trip reports, news and items of interest may be e-mailed to Kerry Moore, moorekj@xtra.co.nz phone 359 5069

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 26 April at Mary Hines' house

BITS AND PIECES

FMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's 80th FMC AGM will be held at Te Papa in Wellington, 4.30pm Saturday 11 June 2011.

The late start time is because the AGM is being held in conjunction with the two day conference FMC is organizing and hosting over the 11-12th June weekend, to debate "Our Conservation Lands in the 21st Century" Basic details of the conference were included in the FMC February newsletter.

Nominations of officers to the FMC Exec and notices of motion are due by **14th April**

Details relating to voting and notices of motion are expected in early May

Merv Meredith

FMC PHOTO COMPETITION 2011

This year's competition is now open. Entries are accepted from member **clubs, not from individuals.**

Each club may submit up to TWO entries per category. The categories are:-

Above bushline

Below bushline

Historic hut or camp life

Native flora or fauna

Outdoor landscapes

PTC will collate and submit the first two entries received from PTC members in each category.

Please submit one entry per category to Leo Manders and we will select two entries from the bunch to send to FMC.

The full rules can be seen at: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/photo-competition/>

Our collated CD has to be in Wellington by **17th May**. So if you think you have some mind-blowing photos taken since 1st Jan 2008, hunt them out.

TRIP REPORTS

Opera Range, Jervois Hut, 29 – 30 January 2011

Bill Templeton suggested this trip. It's in Sven's guide, described as "a fairly obscure sort of round-trip to a seldom-visited hut". Sounds encouraging? The round-trip was in from the Boyle and along the Opera Range, dropping into the hut and back out via the Waiau and the Steyning. Later updates suggest allowing more time for the inward leg and possible troubles with overgrowth in the Waiau. We resolved at all costs to avoid battling the broom in the Waiau. We bit the bullet and did a there and back, the same way, up and down along the range, twice.

We chose a Friday evening start to get into Magdalen Hut for the night which meant leaving work very early to depart from Bill's place at 4.45pm. We made a minimal stop at Culverden and drove on to Boyle Village, driving toward a fantastic NW sky. Dinner was snatched at the car while gearing up and we were walking by 7.10 in warm, calm NW conditions. We headed up the Boyle end of the St James

walkway with daylight all but gone and arrived at the swing-bridge near Magdallen Hut at 9.40pm. With torches on now for the twenty minutes it took to walk back down to the hut—another new one that I hadn't been to before. Candles burning brightly suggested another party at the hut. But we woke a sleeping Paul Smith, who had stopped in on his way back to Christchurch.

SATURDAY: Expecting a long day, we were up by 5.30am and away at 6.40am on a fine morning. Being an in and back the same way trip, our route back was fine-tuned in a number of places, so this description in, is of the preferred route. Critically, start out to the east of the fence-line near Magdalen Hut. Don't go up Maritana Stream. This fence-line will take you directly to the stream beyond a small gorged area. From there an animal/hunter track continues up the true left most of the first half, then crossing to the right for the rest of the way to the "Y" junction with the eastern fork in the stream. 1hr 50min on we passed through a hunter's campsite where some track-clearing had been done below it. Go twenty metres beyond the "Y" junction to climb up into the east branch. It is then an easy walk on the true right in open forest to the bush-line.

After a drink stop in the shelter and sun here, we started up the open valley, but awful tall tussock had us floundering. We changed plan—right-hand-down-a-bit and climbed up the side to a low saddle of sorts between points 1521m and 1656m. Travel along the ridge was now straightforward with a moderate NW wind. Somewhere beyond 1644m, we stopped for an early lunch in a moderately sheltered spot, with a view along the range to St Mary, Jones Stream to the left and the Waiiau to the right.

By 1.55pm we were at the top of the bush-clad spur that we needed to descend into Jones Stream. We got off the spur a little at the top and had to sidle left, but then it was good going much of the way down. Dropping into the stream at 3.30pm, we found we had drifted left somewhat and were further upstream than intended. It's best to aim for the big clearing beyond the true left of Jones Stream when descending. That was the easy bit. Walking down to the confluence of Jones and Jervois, we knew the hut was thirty metres up on a terrace. We climbed to the terrace area almost from the corner, but then battled through bush with no obvious route in sight. By chance, we fluked the eastern edge of the hut clearing, but could easily have passed it. So we arrived about 4.15pm at a battered old 3-bunk hut, with hunters' gear in it. Ten hours in, but mostly not-too-hard going.

We set up the tent at the bush edge 50m from the hut. With plenty of daylight, Bill explored down to the Waiiau. The unsociable hunters returned with their dog and departed without acknowledging we were there. It was another lovely calm, dry, starry night, ideal for sleeping out, although a few sand-flies were fairly late to bed.

SUNDAY: Up at 5.30am again and away at 6.45am. My worry was how severe was the forecast NWE going to be for our return along the range. We went to the western end of the clearing, dropped off the edge and out to Jervois Stream about 400m up from the confluence—still not easy. This time, approaching our spur to climb out, we went about 100 to 200m up a side-stream before the spur and then climbed out. Lots of good animal track on this spur quickly turned into the spur proper, which we then followed all the way to the top. The NW wind was fairly strong at the bush-line. We stopped at 12.20pm for lunch not far along the ridge. The struggle along the ridge into the NW wasn't easy, but once we turned south at point 1656m, we cruised down the ridge with the wind behind us to the bush-line and the familiar track down the true right. We were back at Magdalen Hut at 3.10pm and from there, this time in daylight, we took the direct route across the Boyle and climbed to the St James track lower down. We were at the cars by 5.50pm. Most places were closed on the way home, but as on other similar occasions, the Nor' West Café in Amberley was very welcoming to three scruffy trampers. It had been a great weekend on a new route for all of us. We were, **Dan Pryce, Bill Templeton and Merv Meredith**

Gola Peak, Sunday 13 April 2011

Two cars bearing seven people took us via Waikari, Hawarden, and along the Virginia Road to a generous car-parking space just past a dog-leg in the road at Pig Gully. The ridge route starts with tussock and a bit of matagouri then goes alongside a fenceline and then onto a vehicle track. Above that you're going up a ridge of fairly rugged volcanic rock. On the way back we discovered more crude tracks that let you bypass some of the knobs and awkward bits of the ridge. Three quarters of the way to Gola we stopped and had lunch and decided we were well short of our quest. Pushing on we could see a white hut just below the peak. The hut is a little boxy affair with one window, one bunk, a locked door and plates and cups for 4 people. We sat on top of Gola enjoying the sunshine and considerable view all around. It was a novelty to look south and view mounts Grey and Thomas—seeing them from inland. The 720m descent to the cars was a simple matter of retracing our steps down the ridge. Impressive volcanic terrain and great views make this a worthwhile day trip.

We were: **Margaret Clark, Joy Schroeder, Evelyn Barben, Yvette So, Debbie Rhode, John Robinson & Kerry Moore** 🌲 KM

