



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

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August 2013

President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith	Quartermaster	355 9945
Vice-President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford		351 9496
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden		332 7020
Treasurer	Geoff Price	337 2614	Maureen Thompson		359 5707
Trip Planner	Liz Stephenson	027 633 2038	Sue Piercey		384 9567
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239			
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069			

New Member Enquiries Please contact Stan Wilder, 980 5291, 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 Aug **IS YOUR PARKA WATERPROOF?**



Steve Haase of TwinNeedle Outdoor Equipment Repairs will discuss types of waterproof fabrics and tell us how a waterproof, breathable fabric works. He'll describe how to clean and care for rain-ware, and give some tips on field repairs and permanent repairs. Bring your raincoat along so he can test it for waterproofness.

Supper Duty: Sven Brabyn

**Graham Burnip or Linda Creed
Bruce Cameron**

Tue 10 Sept **GREAT BARRIER ISLAND**



Learn about the island that is the fourth-largest of NZ's main chain of islands. It is situated 100 km to the north-east of central Auckland in the outer Hauraki Gulf.

Leo Manders will report on the trip PTC made there in Feb.

Supper Duty: Evelyn Barben

**Andrew Brooks
Kenneth Brown**

COMING TRIPS

Day Trips:

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

Bike Trips:

For up-to-date details on biking trips please contact

Rick Bolch ph 980 5156 email rlbolch@paradise.net.nz

11 Aug	Bealey Spur	Maps K34, BV 20
■	Sue Piercey 384 9567	
Sun	Popular easy-moderate walk to this historic shepherds' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer fantastic views of the upper Waimak and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. If time permits it is worth walking beyond the hut, further up the spur. Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)	
18 Aug	Castle Hill Peak - Gap - Kowai Stream	Maps L34,L35,BW21
■	Merv Meredith 322 7239	
Sun	Moderate 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. Take your ice axe. Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)	Approx. cost \$13
24-25 Aug	Glenthorne Base Camp 2013	Maps K34,BW20,21
■ ■	Glenda and Merv Meredith 322 7239	
Sat-Sun	Both Ryton and Glenthorne are one big station now so the 'cookhouse' at Glenthorne on the northern side of the Harper River, is called the Upper Lodge. There is a wide range of trip choices, including a circuit on The Spurs, Gargarus, further up the Wilberforce, etc. With ten people, cost would be \$50 pp total for Friday and Saturday nights. A hot shower and potluck dinner on Saturday night will round off a satisfying day's tramp. List closes: Wed. 14 Aug.	
25 Aug	Mt Lyndon and Red Hill	Maps K34,K35,BV24
■	Keith McQuillan 384 6164	
Sun	Easy-moderate round trip just past Porters Pass. Ascending 1450m summits, with a bit of up-and-down. Nice views of the Craigieburn and Torlesse Ranges, and of Lake Lyndon. Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)	Approx. cost \$16
31Aug -1	Waiuta - Big River	Maps L31,BT21
■ ■	Murray Hight 347 4014	
Sat-Sun	Easy-moderate walk to 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. List closes: Sat. 25 Aug.	
1 Sep	Mt Cloudesley	Maps K34,BW20
■	Kerry Moore 359 5069	
Sun	Moderate-hard walk up this 2100m peak on the Craigieburn Range. Ascending Long Spur from behind Castle Hill Village. Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)	Approx. cost \$17

- 8 Sep** **Peak Hill** **Maps K35,BW20**
 ■ **Margot Bowden 332 7020**
Sun **Easy-moderate** climb in open country up a 1240m hill with superb views of Lk Coleridge on one side and the Rakaia River on the other. The upper slopes of Peak Hill have recently become crown land, with public access from the Algidus Road, thanks to tenure review of the pastoral lease property. Check out this excellent new public facility.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$18**
- 7-8 Sep** **Snow Caving** **Maps M31,BT23**
 ■■ **Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008**
Sat-Sun **Moderate** trip to snow-cave in the vicinity of Trovatore and Travers Peak area, Lewis Pass area
List closes: Sat 31 Aug.
- 14-18 Sep** **Toaroa - Frews - Whitcombe** **Maps J33,34,BV18,19**
 ■■■■■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sat-Wed The classic five day, **moderate-hard** trip on the West Coast. The trip starts up the Toaroa on Saturday afternoon for the first night at Cedar Flats Hut. Then up over Toaroa Saddle, down to Poet Hut, up to the relocated Bluff Hut, over Frew Saddle and down to the Whitcombe. The final night will be at Rapid Creek Hut with a morning walk out to the road-end on Wednesday.
List closes: Wed 4th September
- 14-15 Sep** **Frews** **Maps J33,34,BV18,19**
 ■■ **Leo Manders 356 1731**
Sat-Sun **Moderate** trip there and back on the West Coast between the Toaroa and Whitcombe Rivers.
List closes: Sat 7 Sept.
- 15 Sep** **Mt Richardson – Blowhard** **Maps L34,BW22**
 ■ **Bruce Cameron 365 8210**
Sun Popular **easy-moderate** tramp along reasonable tracks through beech forest, to this 1000m tussock top. Good views of Lees Valley and Puketeraki Range.
Start: 8am Placemakers Cranford St. **Approx. cost \$10**
- 21-22 Sep** **Kaikoura Base** **Maps O31,BT27**
 ■■ **Leo Manders 356 1731**
Sat-Sun **Easy to moderate** walks from this popular spot on the Kaikoura Peninsula. Coastal walks and harder walks in the foothills with the backdrop of the spectacular coastal scenery.
List closes: Sat. 14 Sept.
- 21-22 Sep** **Savannah Range - Mt Valiant** **Maps K33,L33,BV21**
 ■■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sat-Sun This **moderate-hard** trip approaches via East Hawdon Stream. Stay at East Hawdon biv then climb Mt Valiant and exit along the Savannah Range. Ice axe and and crampons required.
List closes: Wed 11 Sept.
- 22 Sep** **Camp Saddle - Lyndon Saddle** **Maps K34,BW21**
 ■ **Bruce Cameron 365 8210**
Sun **Easy-moderate** loop that gets you above 1500m in the Craigieburn Range. Features some nice ridge walking, with great views of the range and its beech forests.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$18**
- 28-29 Sep** **Youngman Stream Hut - Lillburn Hill** **Maps M34,BV22**
 ■■ **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sat-Sun **Easy-moderate** tramp to Youngman Stream Hut in the upper Ashley with the option of a circuit above the bushline taking in the charming Tarn Hut.
List closes: Sat. 21st Sept.
- 29 Sep** **Kaituna – Packhorse** **Maps M36,BX24**
 ■ **Bruce Cameron 365 8210**
Sun **Easy** walk on the peninsula, up through farmland and bush remnants, to the sturdy stone Packhorse Hut from which you'll enjoy excellent views of Lyttelton Harbour.
Start: 8am Halswell School **Approx. cost \$7**

5-6 Oct ■ ■ Sat-Sun	Mingha - Lake Mavis - Mt Oates Raymond Ford 351 9496 A moderate-hard walk up the Mingha River to Goat Pass, up to this scenic gem, climb Mt Oates then camp by the beautiful alpine lake at 1600m. The trip can return by the same route or if conditions allow take the harder return option to Taruahuna Pass and down the Edwards River. List closes: Sat. 28 Sept.	Maps K33,BV20
5-6 Oct ■ ■ Sat-Sun	Edwards - Williams Saddle - Mingha Merv Meredith 322 7239 A moderate round trip from the Edwards River crossing 1327m Williams Saddle and down to the the Mingha River. List Closes: Wed. 18 Sept.	Maps K33,BV20
12 Oct ■ <u>Saturday</u>	Tumbledown Bay Ring Liz Stephenson on 027 633 2038 if you'd like lead this trip An easy stroll along the beach. Picnic anyone? Start: 8am Halswell School	Maps N37,BY24 Approx. cost \$10
13 Oct ■ Sun	Mt Oakden Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Moderate ascent of this 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. Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)	Maps K34,K35,BW20 22
19 Oct ■ Sat	Map Reading Course Geoff Spearpoint 3290008 New leaders and anyone wishing to brush up their skills or just wanting to learn new skills, join us for a fun experience. Compass, map and GPS training. Will entail a Friday indoor session beforehand. List closes: Sat 12 Oct.	Maps K34,BW21 0
20 Oct ■ Sun	Mt Wall Kevin Hughes 332 6281 Moderate walk up to 1874m peak outlier of the Craigeburn Range between Cheeseman and Broken River ski fields. Starting from the Craigeburn visitor centre. Possibility of a round trip. Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)	Maps K34,BW21 Approx. cost \$18
26-28 Oct ■ ■ ■ Sat-Mon	Brewster Hut, Mt Armstrong Raymond Ford 351 9496 Easy-medium trip to Brewster Hut above Haast Pass, with the option of a moderate climb of 2174m Mt Armstrong or a moderate-hard climb of 2515m Mt Brewster. List closes: Sat. 19 Oct.	Maps G38,BZ13
26-28 Oct ■ ■ ■ Sat-Mon	Portobello Base Camp, Otago Peninsula Glenda And Merv Meredith 322 7239 After a couple of base camps in Dunedin itself, Glenda and Merv are returning to the peninsula for the first time since 2006. Departing Christchurch Thursday afternoon to reach Portobello mid-evening, we will be staying in the backpackers lodge at Portobello Village Tourist Park. Portobello is central to the twenty or so easy to moderate marked walks down into the lovely bays on the peninsula. Expect to have the odd natter to a yellow eyed penguin or two. Approx cost: \$70 pp accommodation for the three nights, plus \$70 pp for transport. List closes: Friday 11 October	Maps I44,J44,CE17,18

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tue 20 Aug



Clip 'N Climb followed by dinner at Filadelfios.

Clip 'N Climb at the Roxx. Climb up a psychedelic wall then jump off and just float down. Sessions last for 1 hour 15 minutes including the safety briefing and harnessing. Closed toe shoes are essential and loose comfortable clothing is recommended. Cost \$15 per adult (or \$10 if there are 10 or more of us) \$12 per school student. The Leap Of Faith and Vertical Drop Slide are available as optional extra activities and each cost \$5
 Clip 'n Climb: **6.00 to 7.15pm** on corner of Waltham Road & Byron Street, Sydenham
 Dinner at Filadelfios at **7.30pm** at 150 Colombo Street
 Bookings for climb and/or dinner to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson@xtra.co.nz by **Thursday 15 August**.

Mon 16 Sept



Inner City Ramble and/or dinner at Sampan House

Meet at 6.00pm outside Sampan House, 168 Gloucester St (at the end of New Regent St). We will do a circuit of the inner city, seeking out interesting art-works, quirky corners and unexpected pot-holes. Is the orange painted tree still there? Maybe walk the labyrinth on Manchester St. Who knows what we will find in our new city. Dress in your cosiest hat and scarf. Bring a head-torch and your camera. We will aim to be back at Sampan House at about 7.30pm where 108 items on the menu should satisfy most tastes with an average price of \$15. There is a 9 course set menu for \$20 and \$2 for BYO corkage. No need to book for the walk but names for dinner to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or mothompson@xtra.co.nz by **Thursday 12 September**. If the weather is really unpleasant we will cancel the walk but the dinner will be as planned. I will put a notice on Facebook or else text me if in doubt.

NOTICES

Membership We welcome **Peter Umbers, Judith Roper-Lindsay and Sandra & Bruce White**

Deadline for the September newsletter Sunday 1 Sept

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 27 August at Geoff's

GEAR AUCTION of Tramping and Outdoor Gear

Do you have excess gear taking up valuable space?

Take it to the PTC auction being held at a club night later this year. If you have items to sell please email Brian Smith brian21x@xtra.co.nz with a brief description including quality, age, etc. If you have a reserve price include that also.

A catalogue will be compiled and distributed. Absentee bids will be accepted.

A date will be set when enough items have been promised.

TRIP REPORTS

Sheep Rescue — Winter 2013

Part I Annandale

Following the big snowfall in late June in inland Canterbury a midday farm session on national radio alerted me to the stranding of sheep in the hill country of north and south Canterbury. When I rang the number they gave, I was told that neighbouring farmers were helping each other in their local area so help from a tramping club was probably not needed. Just in case, they took my number. Days later I got a call at 7pm asking for help in North

Canterbury and could I round up a few trampers and be there by 0900. Merv, Gary, Stuart and I answered the call. An early start avoided the weekday traffic and got us to Annandale, near Waiau with 20 minutes to spare. Eleven farmers were there with their dogs and long poles. Some had drenching packs to give weak sheep a dose of energy drink. At nine a Hughes 500 chopper disturbed the still, sunny morning and landed on the farm drive. The pilot gave us an overly stern lecture about putting poles through his rotor and closing the chopper door as we alighted. Four at a time with dogs were whisked away to the high land and dropped near clusters of huddled sheep. Stuart and I worked with three other shepherds to extract sheep from deep snow and force them down-hill along tracks that we had to compress. With their small hooves the sheep tended to sink in anything but firm snow.

We were a long way from the low land on dissected limestone country. The topo-map shows funny little round features which Stuart told us were sink-holes in the limestone. He'd been regaining in the area. We were told not to go down the plug-holes but the previous day a dog didn't listen and went into one and had to be rescued by helicopter! We managed to get a mob of fifty sheep together but they were quite weak and the best we could do was put them near a grove of manuka and hope they'd feel energised enough to follow the path we beat up a spur, across a gully and over to a vehicle track which had been cleared with a dozer. Merv and Gary's team had managed to get a mob onto the vehicle track and down to the flat where hay could be fed out. As the sun was going down all the musterers walked out along the vehicle track to the road where all fifteen of us piled onto a farm ute for a quick ride back to base. In the dim remaining light the team downed a few beers and set off home. We got a real buzz from our adventure and knowing we'd helped save sheep from a chilly death, though some were already frozen mutton. On our drive home we compared notes on each team's experience. In tramping terms it was a hard trip though the chopper saved us a 2hr up-hill hike and gave us a quick thrill.

PTC helpers were: **Gary Huish, Merv Meredith, Stuart Payne and Kerry Moore**



A slow task with deep snow and weakened sheep

Part II Craigieburn Station

A week after the big snow we weren't expecting any more requests for help but got another call saying there were more than a thousand merino hoggets on Craigieburn Station needing to be mustered to lower land. This would be a Saturday operation so it was easier to get working-people to help and six PTCers assembled at the Sheffield pie shop. The late 10am start was to allow the fog to lift and as we drove past Lake Pearson we saw spectacular valley mists. By noon we were at the base having a lavish late morning tea to get us started.

Gary, Bruce and Kerry went south in a ute, with two shepherds and a dog. We were to muster the low hills in the south-west corner of the station. A fly-over a few days before placed a big flock of merinos in this area. I stayed low and pushed fifty up to a little plateau expecting to see the others but no-one was visible. They had gone a lot higher in search of the big mob. I pushed my merinos to flats but without dogs wasn't able to push them over a tiny stream. They seemed happy to be grazing some tussock that was now visible so I left them and walked towards the road. I learned later that left to themselves they would climb back to high ground to sleep. Their instinct is to avoid wolves. Meanwhile back at the ranch, fifty merinos were descending a steep slope in single file with Bruce at the rear. I returned to my mob thinking they might be willing to cross the streamlet and join Bruce's mob but no such luck. As I headed towards the road again the farm manager walked my way with his dogs. Together we pushed the merinos to join Bruce's mob and on towards one of the house paddocks, aided considerably by a bulldozer which was sent to "rake" the snow. I had to do almost no snow raking that day thanks to healthy sheep and only 30cm snow. The temperature plunged at sundown so we were happy to be back at base by 6:30pm.

Stuart, Sue and Chrys were sitting by a roaring fire. They'd had a good day. With the help of two shepherds they got two mobs off the lower slopes of nearby Magog. Now we were waiting for word of Gary and the shepherds. The farm manager drove along the road looking for sign of the three. At 8:30 they appeared cold and weary, to the relief of all. Gary had found a mob in a patch of trees but couldn't shift them without help. After hot soup and Sheffield pies the three thawed out and our convoy of three vehicles headed along the frozen road with its many gates, onto the main road and eastward. PTC musterers were **Gary Huish, Sue Piercey, Chrys Horn, Bruce Cameron, Stuart Payne and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM

Both PTC teams got messages of thanks from the Annandale and Craigieburn owners.





Boyle Base Camp — 6-7 July 2013

Brrr!! It was midwinter, but 9 of us hardy ones stepped up to the mark for a wet, cold but fun weekend. Four of us went Friday night and rattled around a bit in the large Boyle Lodge, but given we'd had takeaways on the way and there was an auto-zip in the lodge, we were well catered for. The Ashburton crew of 3 arrived later on Friday night, with the remaining two on Saturday.

The weather wasn't the flashiest, but as it says in the lodge, "You can get wet or walk in the rain." We opted for the latter - just a matter of attitude. We set off for Magdalen Hut, not realising that the wet weather would prevent us from actually reaching it, not that it mattered, as a 5hr tramp in the rain is much better than getting cabin fever in Christchurch! Liz found us a nice open spot for lunch with sun and no rain – a short-lived respite. On return to the lodge some set off for a freebie dip in Silvia hot pools, to find that a slip had taken them out. Maureen and Graham had the better idea and enjoyed Maruia Springs' hot pools. PTC's pot luck dinners never disappoint, so we were, as usual, a well fed crew.

Sunday's weather was not any better, so Hanmer was the venue, with some walking up Mt Isobel as far as the snow would allow (nearly to the top) while the rest of us had a wet wander in the forest area. Some felt they'd missed out on the hot pools the previous day so were found steaming in Hanmer Pools at the end of the day!

A great weekend. Thanks Liz.

We were: **Liz Stephenson, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Keith & Marion McQuillan, Shane Wright, Keith Patterson, Madeline Newell, Maureen Thompson and Graham Phipps-Black** 🌲 MMcQ