



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

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October 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 8 Oct **AUCTION of Tramping and Outdoor Gear**



Get yourself a bargain. Make it a fun night.

After the auction a selection of images from the 2013 FMC Photo Competition will be shown

Supper Duty: Peter Carson or Kathy Stanley

Gavin Chalk

Alastair Christie

Tue 12 Nov **Adventures with "First Crossings"**

Geoff Spearpoint will present his experience behind the making of the TV programs that ranged from Tapuae-o-Uenuku to Milford

Supper Duty: Iain Chinnery or Jude Hockley

Jim or Margaret Clark

Penny Coffey

Tue 9 Dec

PTC Master-Chef contest

Some say a trip is only as good as the food that is consumed. The aims of the PTC MasterChef contest are to increase the variety of dishes and improve the quality of cooking on PTC trips. We want to encourage club members to be as adventurous in their cooking as they are on their trips!

We are in the process of developing our club's recipe book. Here is your chance to show off your culinary skills either with a recipe you have supplied or one you haven't. More details will follow shortly.

In the meantime feel free to contact **Leo Manders, 356 1731**

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

5-6 Oct

MINGHA - LAKE MAVIS - MT OATES**Maps K33,BV20**

■ ■

Raymond Ford 351 9496

Sat-Sun

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.

12 Oct

TUMBLEDOWN BAY**Maps N37,BY24**

■

Kerry Moore 359 5069.Saturday

A easy mystery side trip on the way then an easy stroll to the beach. Picnic anyone?

Start: 8am Halswell School

Approx. cost \$10

13 Oct

MT OAKDEN**Maps K34,K35,BW20**

■

Keith McQuillan 384 6164

Sun

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)

Approx. cost \$22

19-20 Oct

EDWARDS - WILLIAMS SADDLE – MINGHA**Maps K33,BV20**

■ ■

Merv Meredith 322 7239

Sat-Sun

A moderate round trip starting from Greyneys corner, up the Edwards River to the Edwards Hut for the night. Then back over 1327m Williams Saddle, sidling down through bush to the Mingha River, for the return.

List Closes: Wed. 9 Oct.

19 Oct

MAP READING COURSE**Maps K34,BW21**

■

Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008

Sat

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.

- 20 Oct** **MT WALL** **Maps K34,BW21**
 ■ **Kevin Hughes 332 6281**
Sun **Moderate** walk up to 1874m peak outlier of the Craieburn Range between Cheeseman and Broken River ski fields. Starting from the Craieburn visitor centre. Possibility of a round trip.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$18**
- 26-28 Oct** **BREWSTER HUT, MT ARMSTRONG** **Maps G38,BZ13**
 ■■■ **Raymond Ford 351 9496**
Sat-Mon **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.
- 26-28 Oct** **OTAGO PENINSULA BASE CAMP** **Maps I44,J44,CE17,18**
 ■■■ **Glenda And Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sat-Mon 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
- 27-Oct** **BRIDLE TRACK NEAR GONDOLA** **Maps BX24,M36,N36**
 ■ **Ring Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you would like to lead this trip.**
Sun An **easy** trip up the Bridle track with coffee to follow at the Gondola.
Start: 8am Cashmere Rd, by Princess Margaret Hospital
- 2-3 Nov** **LIBRETTO RANGE – FAUST** **Maps BU23,M31,32**
 ■■ **Calum McIntosh 376 6133**
Sat-Sun **Moderate-hard** tramp up onto Libretto Range tops with climb of Faust. Camping out overnight. The route will depend on the weather and may involve some "non-track" travel to get above the bush. A possible round-trip may involve a car shuffle or scenic walk
List closes: Sat. 27 October
- 3-Nov** **MAUKURATAWHAI** **Maps BT24,25,N31**
 ■ **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**
Sun Over Jacks Pass behind Hanmer, this **moderate** tramp climbs to the 1615m summit which is easier to climb than pronounce. Possible round-trip.
Start 8am: Placemakers, Cranford St. **Approx. cost \$23**
- 9-10 Nov** **BARKER HUT - MT HARPER, MT SPEIGHT** **Maps BV20,K33**
 ■■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**
Sat-Sun **Hard** trip at the head of the Waimakiriri River. Walk into Carrington on Friday night and on to Barker Hut on Saturday. The intention is to climb Mt Harper or Mt Speight early Saturday and walk out late on Sunday. Ice axe and crampons needed.
List closes: Sat. 2 Nov.
- 9-10 Nov** **POWER STREAM - BEALEY SPUR** **Maps BX24,K34**
 ■■ **Ring Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 if you would like to lead this trip**
Sat-Sun **Moderate** trip near Arthur's Pass heading up Power Stream and returning down Bealey Spur.
List closes: Sat. 2 Nov.
- 10-Nov** **VICTORIA PARK – SUGARLOAF** **Maps BX24,M36**
 ■ **Bruce Cameron 365 8210**
Sun An **easy** stroll up Victoria park
Start: 8am Cashmere Rd, by PM Hospital

- 15-17 Nov **GLORIANA AND FAERIE QUEENE** **Maps BT23,M31**
 ■■■ Gary Huish 332 7020
 Fri-Sun **Hard** climb starting from the St James walkway to Ada Pass and camping high by tarns above Camera Gully. Planning to climb Gloriana but may try Faerie Queene as well.
List closes: Sat. 9 Nov.
- 15-17 Nov **WILKIN RIVER - GILLESPIE PASS - YOUNG RIVER** **Maps BZ12,F38**
 ■■■ Heather Murray & Kevin Hughes 332 6281
 Fri-Sun 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 Nov.
- 15-17 Nov **GREYMOUTH BASE CAMP** **BU19,BV19,J31,32,K31,32**
 ■■ Mary and Geoff Korver 355 3905
 Fri-Sun **Easy to moderate** walks from this popular West Coast spot on the edge of Paparoa National Park. Walks include the short Pancake Rocks track and the Truman Tracks to limestone river gorges and luxuriant forest.
List closes: Sat. 9 Nov.
- 17-Nov **MT CHARON** **Maps BU24,M32,N32**
 ■ Bruce Cameron 365 8210
 Sun From the Rogerson Road behind Hanmer, this **moderate** tramp climbs over Benvoirlich and on up the attractive ridge to this 1540m summit in the Hanmer Range. Bring togs in case there's time and inclination for the hot pools at the end of the day.
Start 8am: Placemakers, Cranford St. **Approx. cost \$21**
- 24-Nov **DRACOPHYLLUM FLAT** **Maps BW21,K34**
 ■ Ring Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038 **if you would like to lead this trip**
 Sun An easy trip in the Craigeburn area.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$18**
- 24-Nov **TRIG M** **Maps BW21,K35**
 ■ Merv Meredith 322 7239
 Sun An **easy** stroll to this point near Porters Pass overlooking Lake Lyndon.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church)
- 23-24 Nov **ROUGH CREEK - LAKE CHRISTABEL** **Maps BT22,L31 M31**
 ■■ Kerry Moore 359 5069
 Sat-Sun **Moderate** round-trip starting up Rough Creek near Maruia with a splendid view of the lake from the saddle. From Lake Christabel Hut a track winds around and back up towards Rough Creek.
List closes: Sat. 16 Nov.
- 1 Dec **PHILISTINE - ROLLESTON TRAVERSE** **Maps BV20,K33**
 ■ Gary Huish 332 7020
 Sun Probably the most spectacular of the **moderate-hard** day climbs in the Arthur's Pass area. From the Otira Valley, there's a tricky ascent through the Philistine Bluffs, and then it's fairly plain sailing to the summit for marvellous views of Mt Rolleston
Start: 7am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$28**
- 1 Dec **MT MANSON** **Maps BV21,BW21,L34**
 ■ Merv Meredith 322 7239
 Sun This **moderate-hard** variation is the complete works. Starting from SH73 near the Flock Hill gate at 700m, it is a full clockwise circumnavigation of Manson Creek. A height gain of 1159m is quite a climb but compared to our usual route, this route has a lot of easier slopes, both up and down. Ask Merv for a pdf of the full route description. Take ice axe and crampons
Start: 7am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx. cost \$18**

- 1 Dec** **PORT HILLS RAMBLE** **Maps BV21,BW21,L34**
 ■ **Stan Wilder 980 5291 Sue Piercey 384 9567**
Sun Easy walk on the Port Hills for members and anyone who is interested in finding out about tramping and the club.
 Start: 9.30am Sign of the Takahe, 200 Hackthorne Road. No cost.

- 6 – 9 Feb** **PUNAKAIKI BASE CAMP—Waitangi Weekend** **Maps BV21,BW21,L34**
 ■■■ **Stan Wilder 980 5291**
 We'll stay in the recently refurbished Te Hui House, situated next to the pub. The house has an excellent open-plan kitchen and lounge. All rooms are serviced [ie all bed linen supplied]. Various sleeping configurations are available—dorms & share \$28 pp, double twin \$75, or you can pamper your partner to a double or twin, both with ensuites \$75 pp.
- Meals:** Thur night - own arrangements.
 Friday - "Pot Luck"
 Saturday - Team Leader's special.
- Trips:** Thursday afternoon - local walks.
 Friday - Inland Pack Track from Bullock Creek carpark, north to the Ballroom Overhang, and out to the Fox River carpark. **Grade e-m**
 Saturday - Inland Pack Track from Bullock Creek carpark south to Cave Stream lookout, south to Pororari swing-bridge and out to carpark via Punakaiki River. **Grade e-m**
 Sunday - local walks.
- If we get enough interest concession rates and exclusivity will apply, so please book early.
 For bookings or more info contact **Stan Wilder - 980 5291 swilder@clear.net.nz**

SOCIAL EVENTS

- Tues 15 Oct** **Bridle Track walk plus dinner in Lyttelton**
 We will walk both sides of the recently re-opened path. Meet 6pm at Gondola (Christchurch) end of path. Parking on Bridle Path Road is suggested.
 Meal at Freemans - corner London and Canterbury Streets - to follow.
 Book with Sue for meal by Sat 12th as numbers may be limited. Meal options include pasta and pizza choices for \$17. See freemansdiningroom.co.nz for more info.
 Return to cars by bus, so bring coins or metrocard.
 No need to book for walk only. More details from Sue Britain ph. 388 2329
suebritain@gmail.com

- Tues 19 Nov** **Beckenham River Circuit and dinner**
 Walk the Beckenham - Heathcote River Circuit for an hour, followed by dinner at Elevate.
 Meet at 6.15pm on Remuera Street near Colombo Street. Dinner is at **Elevate Restaurant**, 2 Colombo Street at 7.30pm. Bookings for dinner to Margot Bowden.
 Phone 332 7020 or email margot.bowden@gmail.com by Sunday 17 November.

NOTICES

Deadline for the November newsletter Sunday 3 Nov

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 29 Oct at Gary's

TRIP REPORTS

Snow Caving 7 - 8 Sept 2013

It was a fine day in Christchurch when eight of us headed off to Temple Basin for a snow caving adventure. The forecast was for bad weather from Saturday evening till Sunday lunch time but we figured we would spend this time ensconced in our “cosy” cave. Unfortunately the weather was a bit ahead of the forecast and it was already a bit claggy at Arthur’s Pass when the two cars met up for coffee and morning tea. We headed up the good, but steep, track to the ski-field and almost made it to the day shelter before the weather turned. We had this large day hut to ourselves for lunch and made good use of the facilities, which was just as well since, as we headed out, the ski patroller caught up with us to ask us where we were headed and to enquire as to whether we were carrying poo pots. As it would be a short walk (<1.5 hrs) back to the shelter in the morning, our intention was just to hold on. Later that night this topic did generate some lively discussions about alternative strategies. Some of the suggestions would not, to put it mildly, have gone down well with Brian our quartermaster. But fear not, we all held on, so no one need have any concerns over the state of the billy tea.

Heading upwards from the ski-field huts we were hit by a very cold wind as well as some light snow. As the weakest link in this party, I would like to thank the guys up the front for blazing the trail as once we left the field we hit deep snow in places. At the basin just below Blimit we stopped and Geoff and others inspected two possibilities before deciding on our home for the night.

Geoff drew four circles on the side of the snow bank and we set to digging in. We only had 6 shovels for 8 people but it wasn’t long before everyone was involved as the job of removing the snow out of the growing hole was as strenuous as the digging. Two holes went straight in at the level of the sleeping platform and quickly joined into one cave. As we got further in, removing the snow was the limiting factor so we placed a tarpaulin in the entrance hole, piled snow onto it, then pulled out the whole lot. Later these two holes were backfilled and closed off.

At the other end they started digging their entrances downwards and then upwards to create an area you could stand up in. They then began digging the platform at about hip height which joined up with the other cave. Meanwhile the weather was getting worse. It was snowing and the wind was icy. After a couple of hours we stopped for a brew to warm up those who had been working outside pulling the snow out of the cave—definitely the worst job.

Another hour and the job was done. At 6pm packs were pulled inside and after that we only left the cave for the necessities. A feature of a snow cave is that water is handy—just scrape the walls. When we laid out our bedding we realised we had slightly overbuilt as there was easily room for another three. Due to the light reflecting off the snow only three candles, placed in purpose-built alcoves, were required to light the cave.

We all got changed into dry clothes, snuggled into our sleeping bags and enjoyed a second round of soups whilst admiring our handiwork—all except Geoff who proceeded to cook dinner for us all. We were so grateful to him for providing this service that no-one complained that we didn’t eat dinner until 9.30pm.

We spent a comfortable night in the cave, completely isolated from the bad weather outside. It snowed quite heavily overnight so that in the morning those with the weakest bladders had the job of clearing the snow that built up in the entrance. We had a very leisurely start to the day, taking photos and enjoying breakfast in bed. I think we were all a bit reluctant to leave our excellent cave. Eventually we started packing up and the advantage over a tent was noticeable. We could pack up while still inside even if, for space reasons, we had to do so in shifts.

Outside the sky was clear, although the wind was cold, so the trip down to the day lodge was considerably more pleasant than the trip up. After a food (and toilet) break we headed down to the cars and on to Arthurs for a hot lunch and early arrival back in Christchurch.

Thanks Geoff for a fabulous experience—one ticked off the bucket list.

Geoff Spearpoint, Kevin Hughes, Heather Murray, Liz Stephenson, Gary Huish, Andy Brooks, Andrew Hawkey, Doug Woods. 🏠 HM

Toaroa – Frews – Whitcombe — Sat 14 – Wed 18 Sept 2013

For me, this was a repeat of the trip but with a difference. Dan Pryce and I had been around this circuit in late summer 2001. Some years prior the Bluff swing-bridge in the Hokitika had been swept away. With no hope of the bridge being reinstated, DoC had marked a route up Homeward Spur from the Mungo swing-bridge. The route sidled around very near the 1651m top and dropped down Steadman Spur into the upper Hokitika, completely bypassing Bluff Hut way below at about 900m. It was a great diversion on a fine day. Ten years later,

it was hard to believe that DoC had not only found the money to replace the Bluff swing-bridge, but they had moved the Bluff Hut a bit and totally refurbished it.

So with Bluff Hut back in the circuit and a party of five, the route and timetable we followed was:

- Day 1: Drive in two cars to Hokitika and on to the Toaroha road end at the barn. Leave one car at the Whitcombe end. Walk 4 hours to Cedar Flats Hut.
- Day 2: Up the Toaroha to Top Toaroha Hut—about 6 hours
- Day 3: Over Toaroha Saddle, down to the Mungo to Poet Hut, then on down the Mungo to the junction with the Hokitika and the new Bluff swing-bridge. Then up the steep face, through bluffs to pop out on top and cruise along to Bluff Hut. Say 8.5 hours
- Day 4: Sidle up-valley dropping into the Hokitika and on up to the foot of Frew Saddle. Then straight up to the saddle. On to the biv and the long walk down-valley to the Whitcombe, with a short walk back up-river to the 10 bunk Frew Hut. Say 9 hours
- Day 5: Down the Whitcombe, over the Collier Gorge swing-bridge and on to Rapid Creek Hut. Then back over the Whitcombe using the cableway and on down-valley on a farm road, to the car. Say 7 hours. Cram all five in the vehicle and return the 32km to the Toaroha road-end. Then drive home.



Top Toaroha Hut

The Hokitika forecast had progressively improved all week, so we left home hopeful of five fine days and little wind—almost what we got.

Day 1: The walk in to Cedar Flats in light rain was routine. In a wider, braided section, we saw two young women who left the road end ahead of us, making a commendable job of crossing the river. But why? We lost sight of them but then they suddenly appeared back on track. They had managed to cross the Toaroha twice. When questioned, one confessed, the crossings were challenging and they hadn't done much research about the route before leaving home. We knew Cedar Flats Hut had been extended to double its capacity to 12. Alas. Talk about the Black Hole of Calcutta! With new huts now having lined ceilings it had no skylights and along a critical wall, no windows. The young women turned out to be vets and amazingly the other woman there with her French boy-friend was also a vet.

Day 2: We left the hut at 8am, over the gorge and on up-river on the true right. We saw blue ducks in the usual place above the gorge. Frequent slips and consequent route realignments made progress slower but we reached

Top Toaroa by 2.20pm. Patches of snow surrounded the 6 bunk hut. We slept through a brilliant moonlit night.

Day 3: Away by 7.30am, we climbed up Bannatyne Creek on a mostly well-marked route with the remaining snow-cover looking good. The route climbs out a steep gully and on up to the Toaroa Saddle where the biv now looks pretty with buff-coloured walls and powder-blue roof. The steep plunge, first in snowy tussock or scrub and then in Westland alpine forest on a wide track led down the spur to the Mungo. A short walk down-river to the mustard yellow 4-bunk Poet Hut gave us a stopping point for an early lunch. The walk down to the Bluff swing-bridge still isn't easy and took us two hours. The new bridge is good but then the climb up the steep track had each going at their chosen pace. Bill was up front, then Markus, then Merv, with Sue and Kerry taking a leisurely approach. The climb to the fancy 6-bunk Bluff Hut sitting on a big hunk of rock is worth the effort with great views all around.

Day 4: A sou'wester had started during the small hours and blew moderately all day. So it was fairly cool sidling away from the hut at 7.30am with a moderate snow cover in the sunless spots. We all had our cameras clicking as we progressed up a snowy upper Hokitika River. It is still a grunt straight up to Frew Saddle but worth the climb. We sat awhile in the lee of the ridge then moved down to the biv for lunch. The long walk down the Frews Valley begins with a poled route before entering a bush track. Welded steel bridges have replaced the two, 2-wire bridges on the side creeks. A modern Frew Hut now sits on a terrace with a pleasant view up the Whitcombe but it's definitely down at sand-fly level!



Bill, Merv, Markus at Frew Saddle

Day 5: Away at 7.15am so we wouldn't be too late getting home. The Collier Gorge swing-bridge is still impressive—15m above the river yet washed away in Jan 2004! Downstream on the true left there is now a flood bypass bridge on Rapid Creek but it is almost a kilometre upstream. For the record and to tell Leo they had seen it, Merv and Markus went up to it. Not far below Rapid Creek Hut we had the fun of crossing back over to the Whitcombe on the cableway—well, fun if you aren't the one doing most of the winding. From there was the final leg down the farm track to Markus' car parked by the dry stream—2pm. Back in two cars we had an enforced stop waiting for a big herd of cows to amble off the road. We made it home by mid-evening after a stop in Hokitika. But for day 1, we had excellent weather and couldn't have wished for a better trip. We were: **Markus Kaufmann, Merv Meredith (leader), Kerry Moore, Sue Piercey & Bill Templeton.** 🏠 MM