



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

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May 2014

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	Sue Piercey	384 9567	Maureen Thompson		377 2482
Trip Planner	Dan Pryce	379 1976	Ruth Barratt		335 0010
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 May **Tramping in Patagonia**

Ruth Barratt will tell us of her tramping trip to Patagonia in South America. Ruth describes day and multi-day tramps which she undertook in February 2012 in Torres del Paine the National Park of Chile and Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina).

Supper Duty: Jean Hallam

Bill Hambidge

Helen Harkness

Tue 10 June **Garden of Eden and Volta Trips**

Gary and fellow trampers will report on their 2013 Gardens and 2014 Volta expeditions

Supper Duty: Linda Gardner

John Haylock

Roger or Pauline Hill

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

A Message from our Trip Planner

Greetings fellow PTC trampers. It is with great pleasure and quite a bit of trepidation, that I can advise my recent appointment as Club Trip Planner! Gary is a persuasive man and hard to say no to once he's got you in his sights!

I am indeed honoured to hold this very, very important position, which goes to the heart of our Club.

If the trips don't work, if they don't interest you, you won't come along and you won't lead them, so everything fails. My role is to ensure a balance of trips that will motivate members to get you out in the hills, regularly.

I need you to look forward to the monthly Footnotes with anticipation, grab a pen and to circle the trips that interest you, be excited and look forward to weekends with your friends.

However, we must remind ourselves we are a voluntary organisation, It is crucial we all contribute.

I look forward to your input, advice, offers to assist, ideas!

I'll try hard to do a good job, my success though is dependent on you guys.

See you on the trail.

Dan Pryce

"Ask not what your Club can do for you but what you can do for your Club!"

Adapted from JFK and Decimus Junius Juvenal

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|--|--|--|
| 10 May
■
<u>Saturday</u> | WOODED GULLY - PINCHGUT HUT
Stan Wilder 980 5291
An easy-moderate cross-over trip inland from Mt Thomas. With two cars we can place a car at each end and do a cross-over walk. Come along and enjoy an interesting day in a varied area. Please ring Stan the day before, or earlier, if possible.
Start: 8am Placemakers, Cranford St | Maps BW23,K35

Approx cost \$8 |
| 11 May
■
Sun | DOME
Gary Huish 332 7020
Moderate-hard trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1938m peak. The unmarked route follows the long ridge east of the Bealey River, initially through beech forest then open tops. With luck there may be a little snow higher up. Probable round-trip.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) | Maps BV20,K33

Approx cost \$22 |
| 17-18 May
■ ■
Sat-Sun | PEEL FOREST BASE
Dan Pryce 379 1976
Easy-moderate walks including Little Mt Peel on Sat and Coal Hill on Sunday with lots of other walk options. Staying at Peel Forest Eco Lodge Sat night www.peelforestoutdoors.org.nz Pot luck dinner Sat night. The lodge will be a great experience in an attractive area. Option to come down Sat or Sun only, but try hard to stay Sat night and enjoy the party! Still room for a few more.
List Closes: Mon 5 May. | Maps BY19,J37

Cost, travel & Eco Lodge \$52 |

- 18 May** **MT WINTERSLOW** **Maps: BX20; K36**
 ■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sun An early season **moderate** ascent of Mt Winterslow. Starting from the Sharplin Falls car park we climb quite steeply on the Mt Somers Track to Duke Knob then turn up Dons Track. The track is along a mostly gradual bush spur, emerging at the bushline for a short steeper section to gain the end of an open spur at 1320m that continues around gradually again, all the way to 1700m Mt Winterslow for the grand view of the Old Man Range to the north. Returning the same way.
Start 7.30am from Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$20**
- 17-20 May** **ROUTE BURN TRACK** **Maps: CB09,10; D40,E40**
 ■■■■ **Kevin & Heather Hughes 332 6281**
Sat-Tue The Routeburn Track traverses the Southern Alps and passes through ice-carved valleys and beech forest. Walk alongside pristine rivers and glistening alpine lakes offering breathtaking views and mountain scenery. Two spaces still available. See 6 April PTC Communicator.
List Closes: Sun 9 May.
- 25 May** **HINEWAI** **BY25,N36,N37**
 ■ **Mary Korver 355 3905**
Sun This **easy-moderate** trip visits a 980ha botanical reserve occupying most of Otanerito Valley in south-east Banks Peninsula. The area has about 12km of tracks and is privately managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife. Looking for a good supportive turnout to visit this special area in our own back yard.
Start: 8am Princess Margaret Hospital (Hackthorne Rd end) **Approx cost \$14**
- 31May-2Ju** **MOLE TOPS, ELLA RANGE** **Maps BS23,M29,30**
 ■■■■ **Liz Stephenson 0276 332 038 or Dan Pryce 379 1976**
Sat – Mon A **moderate** trip to this impressive area of tarns in the Matakītaki, D'Urville area on the edge of
QB wknd Nelson Lake NP.
List Closed, cancelation list only now.
- 31May-2Ju** **NELSON BASE CAMP** **Maps BQ25,26,O27**
 ■■■■ **Organiser Dan Pryce 379 7065 Leader TBA**
Sat – Mon The plan is to stay at a motor camp in Nelson and run day trips, with the option of some overnight
QB wknd tramps. Possibilities are Dun Mountain, Maungatapu Track, Mt Arthur tablelands, and a range of shorter walks—something for all levels of fitness in sunny Nelson! Ring Dan to book a place.
List Closes: Sat 17th May.
- 2 Jun** **LAKE RUBICON - BOBS KNOB** **Maps BW21,L35**
 ■ **Leader Chris Horn 338 0313**
Mon Popular **moderate** round-trip up to a ridge below the Torlesse Range, with good views of the
QB wknd latter, taking in Lake Rubicon. An enjoyable tramp not far from town.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$12**
- 7-8 Jun** **BROKEN RIVER HUT** **Maps BW21,K34,L34**
 ■■ **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
Sat Sun A **moderate** trip near Castle Hill starting from the Avoca incline, descending to Broken River and on to the hut. Possible round-trip returning through No Mans Land (not as bad as it sounds..)
List Closes: Sat 31 May.
- 8 Jun** **BROKEN RIVER – AVOCA** **Maps BW21,K34**
 ■ **John Robinson 027 633 1476 (texts are fine)**
Sun A **moderate** day near Castle Hill starting from the Avoca incline. This descends to Broken River and follows the river to Avoca Homestead. Possible round-trip returning through No Mans Land and meeting up with the weekenders.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$17**

- 14-15 June** **RIBBONWOOD HUT – SMITE PEAK** **Maps J35 BW19**
 ■■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
- Sat Sun** We leave town mid morning Sat, lunch beside Lake Heron then an hour or so walk into the six bunk station hut. We can check out Charlie’s Hut, further on, in the afternoon. All the action happens on Sunday with an early start on this **moderate-hard** round trip, up the spur to 2003m Smite Peak, fantastic views, returning over Lagoon Peak to drop down the other side of Ribbonwood Stream and take the scree route back to the valley floor
List closes Wed 4th June
- 15 June** **THIRTEEN MILE BUSH** **Maps K35 L35**
 ■ **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
- Sun** **Moderate** trip on the flanks of Ben More which lies in the Big Ben Range. We’ll park at the end of the straight just 12km inland from Springfield. Thirteen Mile Bush contains the headwaters of North Selwyn River.
Start: 8am Church Corner (opp St Pauls church) **Approx cost \$12**
- 21 June** **Barn Dance - See Social Events**
- 22 June** **MAURICE RESERVE, LITTLE RIVER**
 ■ **Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008**
- Sun** **Easy-moderate** round trip above Little River. This will be a nice day out in Geoff’s “back-yard”. The reserve is a little bit of a climb but nothing serious.
Start: 9am Halswell Primary School, Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$8**
- 29 June** **MT BINSER – 3 PEAKS** **Maps L33, L34 BV21**
 ■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
- Sun** **Moderate-hard** trip in the south-east corner of Arthurs Pass National Park. We go up the Binsler track to the saddle before turning south up a spur. 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. Possible round-trip depending on conditions. Take ice axe and crampons.
Start: 7am Church Corner (opp St Pauls church) **Approx cost \$22**
- 28-29 June** **CARLYLE HUT, GLENHOPE STATION** **Maps M32 BU23**
 ■■ **Dan Pryce 379 1976**
- Sat Sun** An **easy-moderate** trip up the Carlyle Stream to the hut among the forests and peaks on the north side of the Lewis Pass road. Should be a bit of snow around which will add to the ambience. Character hut with open fire.
List closes Wed 18 June.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues 20 May **CRAZY WHIST CARD EVENING**



Enjoy a pot luck dinner followed by an evening playing Crazy Whist. Pot luck dinner at 6pm. Crazy Whist starts runs 7 to 10pm. Card players need to know about trumps and tricks. Numbers are limited to 24 players. Any player who has a card table please contact Mary Jane. Hosts for the night are Mary Jane and Brian Bonsell, 289 Avonhead Road, Avonhead Phone 358 5259. Email: bonsell@xtra.co.nz. Please contact Mary Jane or Brian by Sunday 18 May to put your name down to play crazy whist.



Annual Barn Dance

Saturday 21 June 8pm until midnight

St Peter's Anglican Church Hall

Church Corner, Riccarton

Called dances

With The Incredible Ceilidh Band

Mark it on your calendar today

Tues 15 July Short walk and evening meal at Little Saigon Restaurant

Meet outside the Little Saigon Restaurant at 6.15pm for a short walk to Cathedral Square followed by a meal at 7pm. Little Saigon, 547 Colombo Street in the South City Centre. BYO and licensed, mains \$11 to \$23. Please contact Margot Bowden, Phone 332 7020 or margot.bowden@gmail.com by Sunday 13 July if you are coming for the meal.

NOTICES

Deadline for the June newsletter Sunday 1 June

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 27 May at Sue's

TRIP REPORTS

Wilding Pines Day Two - 5 April 2014 - A Cure for Perfectionists.

Good volunteer numbers meant that two different areas were covered, Corner Creek and east of Flock Hill, behind Cave Stream. It was great to see a number of younger folk from various parts of Europe getting stuck in. What a great way to see another place.

We had another excellent briefing about the wilding problem and the instructions about what to do – make sure there are no needles left. Some got the message and some didn't. But one thing I've found amazing on both trips is how impossible it is to do a perfect job. First, you come across a pine that someone has just walked past and missed and you wonder how that happened. Then you miss one that is obvious to the next person. Sometimes you roam through the grass in a random sort of pattern and there it is, ready to be dealt to – and perhaps your roaming wasn't so random after all. Maybe you were drawn to pluck that unseen tree. But then reality strikes and you realise that there are probably other small seedlings that you missed, because you didn't walk a metre or two one way or t'other.

The most disturbing thing was, about 10 days later when we headed down to Twizel I swear we saw a million wilding pines with our well-tuned eyes. Then of all the places to stay – next door was a huge paddock with hundreds of them. So they got dispatched as well.

Our people at Flock Hill were: **Sue Piercey, Raymond Ford, Grant & Anne Hunter, Peter Umbers, Mary McKeown, Geoff Price, Kerry Moore, Bruce White, Sandra White.** Lynne Lochhead went to Corner Creek.

 BW

Big Tops, Koropuku, Townsend Hut –5, 6, 7 April 2014

Koropuku Hut is one of the least visited huts in APNP. Its gets an enthusiastic mention in the Remote Huts website as a gem. Townsend Hut above the Taramakau River is almost as remote so the club devised a hard trip that takes in both huts. Five hardy trampers signed on to do this trip leaving Bishopdale at the ungodly hour of 0600. A prior phone call to the farmer at Aickens gave us direct access to the Otira River and a safe place to park. Rain the whole way from Chch dampened our spirits but we unpacked the vehicle in light rain and got ready. By the time we started walking (0930) the rain had stopped and soon we'd crossed the Otira River in low flow. We chose to take the vehicle track rather than the foot track on the Taramakau's true left. We made good time to Pfeifer Stream and decided to take the "scenic route" via Lake Kaurapataka. In mild, still conditions the lake was beautiful but we pressed on after a short stop. The track down to the Otehake River is quite steep. It connects well with the track up to Big Tops on the opposite bank. Hours of steaming up the forest track eventually got us to the scrub line where cairns directed us south and up along a ridge to reach a gully that points down to Koropuku Stream. Thanks to Frank and Honora, where progress in the gully gets difficult a ribbon on a tree signals a bush track, though the track leads back into the gully—now a small stream. Fallen logs barred our way in places and the light grew dim. With Bill path-finding and head-lights on, we finally reached an exit point where we were back in trees. The land levelled out and when we reached "the orchard" we knew we were near the hut. The new club GPS confirmed this. It was good for telling the altitude and with it's built in maps, showing the lay of the land. It did beep a few times to say it couldn't see satellites when we were in tight spots in the gully.

We reached the hut at 7.30 with great relief all-round and set the simmerlite to boiling water for six packs of 2-min noodles with de-hy mushrooms thrown in. The noodles take 2 min to cook but 5 min to open the packets and flavour sachets. Custard, gingernuts, fruit and chocolate chips made for a traditional dessert. Four bunks for five meant one of us sleeping on the floor. The noble Bill, with his new inflatable mat volunteered.

Keith was disappointed to see that the guitar was lacking some strings and out of tune so he was unable to stage an impromptu concert. Lack of strings wasn't the only barrier. In fact Keith has never played the guitar. The facilities at this hut listed in <http://remotehuts.co.nz> needs to be amended to reflect the missing strings but the other items mentioned seem to be there, right down to the egg beater.



Lake Kaurapataka from Big Tops. Taken 2004 in clear weather. The 2014 view was misty



The late Paul Smith (left) with Graham Allely in Koropuku Hut, back in 2004

An electronic rooster crowed at 0600 and everyone got up smartly and had breakfast by candle-light. At 0730 we headed through a dense jumble of ferny forest to find K Stream. From there it was a boulder-hop with only two excursions into scrub to bypass stream bottle-necks. We were tempted to enter a gorge looking for a direct route up the true-left branch of the stream but took the surer option up a rib, then sidling to where we were able to look down on waterfalls and be thankful we'd avoided the gorge option. On an easy, level section we stopped to observe chamois. A young one didn't keep up with its elders, calling and even approaching Bill to before deciding that Bill didn't look like its mother. A steep climb got us to a low point on the ridge between points 1681m and 1750m where we had lunch. Following the Remote Huts route guide we descended to about the 1400 point, then sidled a long way before dropping to near the bushline and heading NE for a 3pm arrival at Townsend Hut, safe from a brisk southerly wind.

The track down to the Taramakau is steep but well maintained. It uses the gravelly stream-bed in its lower portion. Where the stream reaches the big river it has ripped through the forest and made a wide stretch of devastation. We were soon on a vehicle track and walking briskly. Bill diverted to check a headless deer carcass--this was the "roar" season and there were hunters around. A monster rimu tree lay horizontal on the river flats. By 2pm we were back at Keith's vehicle. As we drove to the road, rain started falling, so as on the first day, we'd dodged the rain by minutes. This trip should be done during daylight-saving months, to maximise daylight. We were: **Julie Wagner, Keith & brother Bob McQuillan, Bill Templeton and Kerry Moore**
 🏠 KM



Announcing
The Peninsula Tramping Club's
Annual



Barn Dance

Saturday 21 June, 8pm till Midnight

ST Peter's Anglican Church Hall

Fancy Dress Theme - Dancing

(Country, Scottish)

Prizes for Best Dressed

Supper

Bring a plate of Finger Food for supper

Drinks Supplied

Entertainment

Called dances & The Incredible Ceilidh Band

Spot prizes

Tickets \$25 from any PTC committee member

Or from Margot Bowden 332 7020

