



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

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## October 2014

<b>President</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith, Quartermaster	355 9945
<b>Vice-President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford	351 9496
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden	332 7020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Piercey	384 9567	Maureen Thompson	377 2482
<b>Trip Planner</b>	Dan Pryce	379 1976	Ruth Barratt	335 0010
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Geoff Price	343 5001
<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069		

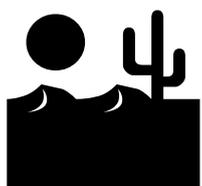
**New Member Enquiries** Please contact Stan Wilder, 980 5291, to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters

**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 14 Oct



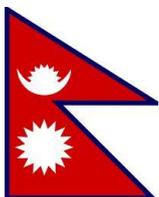
### Photo Night—Members' pics and FMC photo competition

This is your chance to show off your tramping photos. Put them on a CD or flash drive in a computer-logical order and let Leo know you are will be exhibiting. Also we will show the best nation-wide photos from the recently judged FMC competition.

[leomanders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:leomanders@paradise.net.nz) 356 1731 or text 027 442 6080.

**Supper Duty:** Frank King or Honora Renwick, Marcus Kaufmann, Geoff or Mary K

Tue 11 Nov



### Kiwi pioneers in the Khumbu – a recent trekker perspective

When **Grant and Anne Hunter** trekked in the Everest region last November they were watchful for Kiwi pioneers. They found abundant evidence etched into the landscape, from the visitor entry-point at the Tensing-Hillary Airport at Lukla, up-valley to the top of Mt Everest. First tracks were laid down, and first photographs taken in 1935, fifteen years before Nepal opened its borders.

**Supper Duty:** Lynne Lochhead, Margaret Lovell-Smith, Darcy Mawson

## 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**

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|--|--|---|
| 12 Oct<br>Sun<br>■                           | <b>CAMP SADDLE - LYNDON SADDLE</b><br><b>Chris Leaver 322 6445</b><br>■ <b>Easy-moderate</b> 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.<br><b>Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd</b>   | <b>Maps BW21,K34</b><br><br><b>Approx cost \$18</b> |
| 18-19 Oct<br>■■<br>Sat-Sun                   | <b>ROUGH CREEK - LAKE CHRISTABEL</b><br><b>Dan Pryce 379 1976</b><br><b>Moderate</b> round-trip starting up Rough Creek from Lewis Pass with good views from the saddle on the way to the Lake Christabel Hut. Alongside the pretty lake on Sunday and down the Blue Grey River to Palmer Road.<br><b>List closes 11 Oct</b>   | <b>Maps BT22,L31 M31</b>                            |
| 19 Oct<br>■<br>Sun                           | <b>TIROMOANA BUSH - KATE VALLEY</b><br><b>Margot Bowden 332 7020</b><br><b>Easy</b> coastal trip east of Waipara, through bush and wetlands to a remote beach. Great views to Pegasus Bay and Banks Peninsula. Nice walk and pleasant day out.<br><b>Start: 8.30am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St</b>  | <b>Maps BV24,N34</b><br><br><b>Approx cost \$9</b>  |
| 25-27 Oct<br>■■■<br>Sat-Mon<br>Labour<br>w/e | <b>WOOLLEY RIVER</b><br><b>Merv Meredith 322 7239</b><br>Three day <b>moderate-hard</b> round trip on the east side of the Victoria Range, north of Springs Junction. Untracked travel through beech forest with camping at the bush line. Some tops travel before returning via another valley.<br><b>List closes 15 Oct</b>  | <b>Maps BT19,20,L30,31</b>                          |
| 25-27 Oct<br>■■■<br>Sat-Mon<br>Labour<br>w/e | <b>BARKER HUT MTS HARPER &amp; SPEIGHT</b><br><b>Gary Huish 332 7020 Raymond Ford 351 9496</b><br><b>Hard</b> trip at the head of the Waimakiriri River. Walk into Carrington on Friday night and Saturday morning to Barker Hut. The intention is to climb Mt Harper and Mt Speight and walk out on Monday. Ice axe and crampons required.<br><b>List closes 15 Oct</b>   | <b>Maps BV20,K33</b>                                |
| 25-27 Oct<br>■■■<br>Sat-Mon<br>Labour<br>w/e | <b>NELSON LAKES BASE CAMP</b><br><b>Maureen Thompson 377 2482</b><br>A very pretty area with <b>all grades</b> of day-tramps catered for and organised by Kevin Hughes. There are nice walks on the shores of Lake Rotoiti, and on the 'mainland island' with its diverse wildlife. We have booked a modern spacious house with lake views so come along and enjoy the long weekend with your friends in a beautiful place.<br><b>List closes 11 Oct</b> | <b>Maps BS24,M29,N29</b>                            |

- 27 Oct** **MT OXFORD** **Maps BW23,L34,L35**  
 ■ **Doug Forster 337 5453**  
**Labour** **Moderate**, popular walk to this 1356m peak in the North Canterbury foothills. Good track,  
**Monday** initially through beech forest, then tussock. Views of Canterbury Plains and beyond. Round-trip  
 intended from Coopers Creek.  
**Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx cost \$12**
- 1-2 Nov** **MT BREWSTER, MT ARMSTRONG** **Maps BZ13,G38**  
 ■■ **Raymond Ford 351 9496**  
**Sat-Sun** Based at Brewster Hut above Haast Pass, we plan a **moderate** climb of 2174m Mt Armstrong  
 with a team pushing on to the **moderate-hard**, nearby 2515m Mt Brewster.  
**List closes 22 Oct**
- 1-2 Nov** **WALKER PASS - AMBER COL - SUDDEN VALLEY** **Maps BV21,K33**  
 ■■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
**Sat-Sun** A satisfying **moderate-hard** round-trip in the southern section of APNP. We will camp near  
 Amber Col and travel along the Polar Range. A rapid scree descent gives "back-door" access to  
 Sudden Valley.  
**List closes 22 Oct**
- 2 Nov** **PORT ROBINSON - GORE BAY** **Maps BV26,O33**  
 ■ **Dan Pryce 379 1976**  
**Sun** **Easy** coastal walk in North Canterbury. Beaches, bush, headlands and great ocean views. Tea  
 and scones at the Dorrie Café (old railway station) on the way home.  
**Start: 8.30am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx cost \$18**
- 8-9 Nov** **PRINCESS BATH, LAKE TENNYSON** **Maps BT24,M30,M31**  
 ■■ **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
**Sat-Sun** **Moderate** tramp to this tarn basin at 1700m, behind Lake Tennyson in the upper Clarence  
 Valley. We plan to climb nearby 2126m Mt Princess. Camping out.  
**List closes 1 Nov**
- 9 Nov** **MT TORLESSE TRAVERSE** **Maps BW21,K35 L34,35**  
 ■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**  
**Sun** **Moderate-hard** traverse of the Torlesse range, taking in Castle Hill Peak, The Gap, Red Peak  
 and Mt Torlesse. A big day and a great opportunity to complete this classic trek. May need ice  
 axes and crampons.  
**Start: 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$13**
- 13-18 Nov** **OLD GHOST ROAD** **Maps BR22,L28**  
 ■■■■■■ **Dan Pryce 379 1976**  
**Thu-Tue** **Moderate** trip. An old gold miners' trail is being revived as a mountain bike and tramping track  
 connecting the old dray road in the Lyell (Upper Buller Gorge) to the Mokihinui Rr in the north.  
 The 80km-long track traverses native forest, open tussock tops, river flats and remote valleys.  
**List closes 16th Oct.**
- 14-16 Nov** **GLORIANA, FAERIE QUEENE** **Maps BT23,M31**  
 ■■■■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**  
**Fri-Sun** **Hard** climbing trip starting from the St James walkway to Ada Pass and camping high at tarns  
**Show w/e** above Camera Gully. Planning to climb Gloriana and possibly Faerie Queene as well.  
**List closes 3 Nov**
- 14-16 Nov** **PUNAKAIKI BASE CAMP** **Maps BS19,20,K30**  
 ■■■■ **Chris Leaver 322 6445**  
**Fri-Sun** We return to Westland and the spectacular coastline at Punakaiki. **Easy** and **moderate** walks to  
**Show w/e** suit all members or just relax and enjoy this special place. Driving over Friday evening.  
**List closes 3 Nov**

- 16 Nov** **MT ALEXANDER** **Maps BV24,N33**  
 ■ **Margaret Clark 348 4993**  
**Sun** **Easy-moderate** wander in open, rolling North Canterbury farm country, to this 750m lookout north-east of Waikari. Enjoy a day out with Margaret and have lunch with a view.  
**Start: 8.30am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx cost \$14**
- 22-23 Nov** **LAKE TAYLOR BASE CAMP** **Maps BU22/3,BT23,L32/3,M32/3**  
 ■■ **Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976**  
**Sat-Sun** We'll take the bikes, boots and fishing rods, camp beside the lake and enjoy the local walks and rides in the Lake Sumner area. Beautiful country! A great camping spot. Driving up Fri evening return Sunday.  
**List closes 13 Nov**
- 23 Nov** **PUDDING HILL STREAM - MT HUTT** **Maps BX20,K35,K36**  
 ■ **Evelien Baas 03 317 9077**  
**Sun** **Easy-moderate** 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.  
**Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$17**
- 28-30 Nov** **COPLAND PASS - WELCOME FLAT** **Maps BX15,BY15,H36**  
 ■■■ **Raymond Ford 351 9496**  
**Fri-Sun** A classic **hard** alpine traverse, linking the grandeur of Mount Cook, with the West Coast bush and the hot springs at Welcome Flats. More details from Raymond.  
**List closes 18 Nov**
- 29-30 Nov** **SAWCUT GORGE** **Maps BS28,29,P29**  
 ■■ **Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976**  
**Sat-Sun** An **easy-moderate** trip through these fascinating limestone gorges north of Kaikoura. The second gorge consists of a narrow cutting that leads to a sculptured wonderland of water-worn limestone. Staying at Isolation Creek Hut. A side trip leads to the tops.  
**List closes 21 Nov**
- 30 Nov** **MT PHILISTINE** **Maps BV20,K33**  
 ■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
**Sun** One of the most spectacular **moderate-hard** day climbs in the Arthur's Pass area. From the Otira Valley the "Phil Novis route" will be taken to the summit for marvellous views of Mt Rolleston, Westland and surrounding ranges.  
**Start: 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$27**
- 6-7 Dec** **MINGHA - LAKE MAVIS** **Maps BV20,K33**  
 ■■ **Dan Pryce 379 1976**  
**Sat-Sun** **Moderate** tramp up the Mingha River to Goat Pass and then up to the scenic Lake Mavis. We'll camp by the lake at 1600m and return by the same route Sunday.  
**List closes 28 Nov**
- 7 Dec** **MT HAMILTON** **Maps BW21,K34**  
 ■ **John Robinson 027 633 1476**  
**Sun** Starting from the Broken River ski field road John will lead the ascent of this moderate 1922m peak on the Craigieburn Range via Nervous Knob. Terrific views and not far from town.  
**Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$18**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

Thur 16 Oct



### Work Party and Pot Luck Dinner

Anyone interested in helping to weed native plants at **5pm** in a Kennedy's Bush Reserve (behind **11 Watlings Place**) after work?

The grass is cut so it's a good time to try to save plants that are choked with weeds and replace some that have died.

Chris and Graham will provide meat for a barbecue. If you wish to bring food or drink that would be welcome but not essential. Bring warm clothes for the wind, gardening gloves and a kneeling pad if needed. Please contact Chris [ptc75@clear.net.nz](mailto:ptc75@clear.net.nz) or 322 6445 if you are planning to come. Postponed if wet

Tue 21 Oct



### Hagley Park - Mona Vale Walk, dinner at Mexicano's

Meet at 6.15 pm on the corner of Victoria St and Dorset St. Walk to Mona Vale and back via Hagley Park.

Dine at Mexicano's, 131 Victoria St at 7.30 pm. Entrees \$8, Mains \$25-\$29

Sangria \$8, Moustache \$2, Mexican Hat \$10 (optional)

Bookings for the meal by Friday 17 October to

Maureen Thompson **377 2482, 021 266 5778** or [mothompson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mothompson@xtra.co.nz)

No need to book if you are doing the walk and not the meal.

If the weather is bad we will still have the dinner.

Mid Nov



### New Brighton walk then dinner at The Bower

Sue Britain will lead an evening stroll along the Avon River followed by dinner at Bower and Urban Corner Cafe, 487 New Brighton Road on the corner of Bower Ave. More details in the next newsletter.

## NOTES

Membership We welcome **Sheryl Breayley**

Calendars We do not plan to order alpine or Antarctic calendars this year. Take a look at the F&B calendar <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/north-canterbury-fundraiser-conservation-calendars>

Deadline for the Nov newsletter Tue 4 Nov

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 28 Oct

## TRIP REPORTS

### Cameron River – South Branch Ashburton — 9–10 Aug 2014

A window of beautiful weather between cold fronts enabled **Bill and me (Wendy Templeton), Dan Pryce, Helen Harkness** and an enthusiastic newcomer **Sheryl Breayley** to enjoy this weekend traversing the Wild Man Brothers Range.

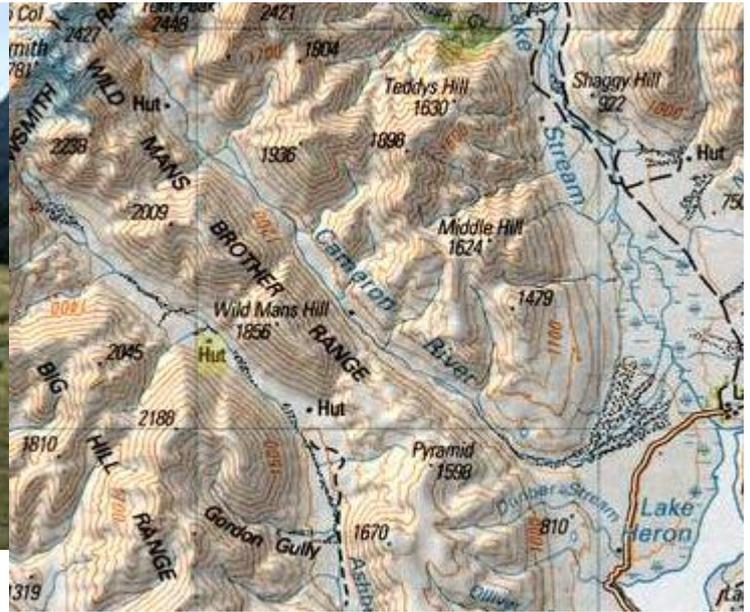
Initially we followed the track along the Cameron River in the Lake Heron area for several km, before we veered off to climb over the 1310m lower saddle. The question of whether to carry an ice axe had presented itself at the car but I was happy with my decision to leave it behind as the snow was sparse.

We descended directly down to a private hut, where we rested at a picnic table in the sun. We set off up the

valley, crossing the South Branch of the Ashburton River and walking about 3 km before reaching Top Hut aka Stumpies Hut. One of the features of this hut is its construction date – March 1958, making it special to me. I'd recommend this to the other '58ers in the club.



**Top Hut**



The woodshed was virtually bare but we scraped up enough wood for a fire to sit in front of over tea. We were all well prepared with plenty of clothing layers for a cold winter's night in this tin hut.

Sunday we headed for the 1342m higher saddle, climbing up the icy stream. This saddle lines-up with Stumpy Stream, the route from the Potts River.

We had outstanding views as we lunched on the saddle in idyllic sunny, still conditions. We were back to the Cameron car park in 6½ hours. 🏔️ WT

### **Croesus Track, 6-7 Sept 2014**

Late Friday afternoon five club members left for Blackball in Dan's Mazda. Accommodation and dinner at 8pm were booked by Dan at *Formerly the Blackball Hilton*, where vegetarian options on the menu included lentil patties.

Next day a short walk was followed by breakfast at the hotel before driving to the start of the Croesus Track in the Paparoa Range. After passing the first and second hotel sites on the track, we wondered how many hotels had been in the area. Mary McK went on while the others did a side trip to a depression era gold miners' hut and the Garden Gully battery of 1905. We reached the Ces Clark Hut early afternoon, but with such good weather we soon left for the coast and mountain scenery visible from Croesus Knob. We met Mary on her way down.

That night Dan cooked a tasty pasta meal with plenty of vegetables and tuna added. Graham and Linda provided the dessert of cake, dried fruit and yoghurt. The hut windows allow extensive views to the Grey River and Alps.

An 8am start on Sunday allowed six hours to reach Barrytown. Mary had been on the track in 2013 and kindly volunteered to go back to the Blackball car park and drive Dan's car to Barrytown. There was a cool wind on the tops before we entered the bush to start a rather steep descent on a very dry track that DoC had cleared of windfall. Mary came up the track to meet us. After a brief stop in Greymouth we were home soon after 6pm. Thank you Dan for an enjoyable weekend.

We were: **Dan Pryce, Mary McKeown, Graham Burnip, Linda Creed, Joy Schroeder**

## DRY ACHERON STREAM TO BLACK HOLE—Sunday 14 Sept 2014

Without thinking Kerry directed Jane to take the old West Coast road so we didn't go via the obvious route towards Rakaia Gorge. We remedied the situation by turning left onto highway 73, soon taking the turn onto 72 then 77 to Windwhistle so we were back on "track". DoC have made a proper car park at the track start, 7km past Snowdon Road. We walked along a row of pines to a terrace above the Dry Acheron where Stan recognised and chatted to the farm manager for Dry Acheron Station. We had permission from Big Ben Station to walk to Black Hole Lake. The stream is far from dry but is small enough that we could avoid getting wet feet by carefully stepping on the slippery boulders. The flat route is pleasant and quite interesting with a variety of rock and vegetation, The Clay Gully covenant didn't look alluring enough for us to make a side trip. At the weather station we explored and tried to figure out what the big digger had been doing there. The Met Station doesn't seem very elaborate. The track up Big Ben begins near this point. We found a vehicle track leading up to a vast, long well-grassed field allowing us to walk directly to Black Hole Lake. A new track had been bulldozed part-way along the lake shore and stopped at a scree—an obvious spot for lunch. A bit of drizzle showed as we headed out but soon cleared. Stan crossed a fence to rescue a cast sheep. The shock of an approaching Stan gave the ewe extra strength and he didn't have to wrestle with it. A ewe with twins and suffering from a severe udder infection was another cause for concern. The twins were shunned when they went to drink. Soon we were back in the city far from the worries of animal husbandry.



## MOUNT CHEESEMAN—Sunday 21 Sept 2014

This actually turned out to be the Cheeseman Ski-field trip, but that wasn't the intention. The idea was to drive up the ski-field road all the way to the top car-park if possible, otherwise to the middle hut car-park. We planned to ascend up the true right of the field and climb the upper spur to where the top tow tower sits on the Craieburn ridge at 1850m, south of Mt Cockayne. From there it is a ridge-top route, dropping then climbing again to point 1950m, continuing on to Cheeseman at 2031m and then turning west. After dropping initially, the ridge flattens for some fast travel at about 1800m before curving around to the south and climbing again to Mt Olympus at 2094m.

Well that was the plan. Should work late season with light snow cover and longer days. Given the lack of snow during August we were on track. The Cheeseman field had opened for a couple of weeks, before giving up and closing for the season. But we hadn't counted on the snow from the severe nor-wester on the Thursday and again Saturday.

Conveniently, a car with chains had preceded us up to the middle car-park. Two skiers who went up to play were later joined by two more, complete with dogs. It was a picture perfect ski-field with 40cm of dry powder snow, sunshine, little wind and four skiers.

Anyway, we worked our way up the true right of the field, trying to find boney edges. We went too high as it turned out and had to drop somewhat to continue on the upper spur which took time in the soft snow, so was almost mid-day up on the ridge and the view south with a westerly that wasn't pleasant. Now the worry. The forecast was for 80k gales later in the day and all of the route from there on was exposed. Should we carry on to Cheeseman or return? It didn't take much discussion to agree to give up and drop back down the spur a little

to a nice sheltered spot for lunch. We were back to the car at 1.55pm! But that was after a rather magic morning with fantastic views.

We were: **Markus Kaufmann, Merv Meredith, Dan Pryce and Peter Umbers.** 🏔️ MM

