



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

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December, January 2014,15

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	Geoff Price	343 5001
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.

The Feb club night is exceptional and will be at St Peters Church Hall corner Yaldhurst and Main South Roads

Tue 9 Dec

Fun and Games



Challenging little games, exercises and quiz questions to round off a year of club nights. Bring a pen and something to share at supper-time.

Organised by Maureen and Kerry

Supper Duty: Pat or Callum McIntosh, Lynne Lochhead, Barry McKessar

Tue 10 Feb

A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush



Chris Todd will describe a lightweight expedition to attempt a first ascent of the south face of Langutai Barfi, a 7000m peak on the Pakistan - Afghanistan border.

For this month only, we meet usual time, at St Peters Church Hall corner Yaldhurst and Main South Roads

Supper Duty: Diane Mellish, Paul Moreham, Guy Mulligan

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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|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 7 Dec
Sun | MT HAMILTON
John Robinson 027 633 1476 | Maps BW21,K34 |
| ■ | 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 |
| 13-14 Dec
Sat-Sun | CARROLL HUT
Dan Pryce 379 1976 | Maps BV20,K33 |
| ■ ■ | From Otira, a steady easy-moderate climb through bush to 8-bunk Carroll Hut, just above the bush line. Opportunity to explore the rolling tussock tops of the Kelly Range and admire the mountain flowers.
List closes 4 Dec | |
| 13 Dec
<u>Saturday</u> | MT HERBERT FROM ORTON BRADLEY
Murray Hight 347 4014 | Maps BX24,M36 |
| ■ | Classic easy-moderate walk to the highest point on Banks Peninsula (920m) Good tracks, historical interest at Orton Bradley Park, plus fine harbour views
8am PM Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end, across the road by the river. | Approx cost \$13 |
| 14 Dec
Sun | YEAR-END PICNIC, DIAMOND HARBOUR
Merv Meredith 322 7239 | Maps BX24,M36 |
| ■ | Diamond Harbour and its reserve is too nice and convenient to ignore, with lots of options, so we are returning this summer. The picnic will be in the Stoddart Point Reserve on the lower level at Diamond Harbour. Drive in to the left of the shops on the road down to the jetty and then to the right at the first hairpin, into the reserve. You can catch the ferry from Lyttelton. Come when it suits you. As well as walking, there are plenty of options—swimming, kayaking, boating. For biking Camp Bay isn't far away, or try the Port Levy road. | |
| 20-21 Dec
Sat-Sun | FREYBERG RANGE - PELL STREAM
Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976 | Maps BT22,23,L31,M31 |
| ■ ■ | A moderate trip in the Lewis Pass area travelling over the Freyberg Range, east of Mueller Tarn and down Pell Stream to the hut or camp out. A high tramp, no bugs no people! Big views!
List closes 11 Dec | |
| 21 Dec
Sun | AVALANCHE PEAK - MT BEALEY
Penny Webster 349 3693 | Maps BV20,K33 |
| ■ | Traversing the range, via Lyell Peak, between two of the most popular tramping peaks in Arthur's Pass, makes an excellent moderate-hard round-trip, expect an 8 – 10 hr day. Ice axe and crampons may be required, ring Penny on the Sat to discuss.
Start: 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd | Approx cost \$26 |



- 28 Dec-2Ja** **TE ARAROA – RED HILLS, RICHMOND RANGE** **Maps Q26,BR26,N28,N29**
 ■■■■■■
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 Walking the Red Hills section of the trail that goes to within 10km of St Arnaud. Dates can be tailored to suit.
List closes 14 Dec
- 10-11 Jan** **KELLYS CREEK - HUNTS CREEK – KELLY RANGE** **Maps BV20,K33**
 Sat-Sun
 ■■
Leader to be confirmed. Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976
 A **moderate**, trip in Arthurs Pass NP. Varied terrain, mostly off-track, a chance to travel through some less-visited APNP country.
List closes 2 Jan
- 11 Jan** **MT ALFORD** **Maps BX20**
 Sun
 ■
Margot Bowden 332 7020
 Near Mt Hutt, this **easy-moderate** walk passes through the **Alford Scenic Reserve** before climbing beside a stream gully of beech trees then onto tussock grassland and through subalpine terrain to the summit of Mt Alford (1171m) to enjoy the wide views across the Canterbury Plains and inland mountains.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$17**
- 17-19 Jan** **TE ARAROA - MESOPOTAMIA TO TEKAPO** **Maps BX&Y17,18,I&J36**
 ■■■■
 Sat-Mon
Murray Hight 347 4014
 A **moderate** trip in big open country through Mesopotamia Station to Lake Tekapo via Crooked Spur, Royal, Camp Stream huts and Stag Saddle. Views of Tekapo, the Main Divide and across the plains.
List closes 7 Jan
- 18 Jan** **PURAU SADDLE - HILLTOP** **Maps BX24,M36**
 Sun
 ■
Dan Pryce 379 1976
 A longish, **moderate** trip. Walking between Purau Saddle and Montgomery Park, near Hilltop Tavern, along the summit walkway through several bush reserves. Good views of Banks Peninsula. We aim to have a group starting at each end to do a cross-over trip.
8am PM Hospital, Hackthorne end, across the road by the river. **Approx cost \$5**
- 24-26 Jan** **ZAMPA TOPS** **Maps BT23,M31**
 ■■■■
 Sat-Sun-
 Mon
Kerry Moore 359 5069
Moderate hike near Cannibal Gorge in the Lewis Pass. At the top end of the St James Walkway is 1710m Zampa. Below is a good-sized tarn where we will camp. On Sun we'll walk the tops to Ada Hut. Monday out and home.
List closes 17 Jan
- 25 Jan** **MT HARPER** **Maps BX18,19,J36**
 Sun
 ■
Gary Huish 332 7020
 A **moderate-hard** trip to this 1829m summit with extensive views of the upper Rangitata headwaters. There are **moderate** options for those who don't want to do the full trip.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$25**
- 31 Jan-1Fe** **BLACK HILL HUT** **Maps BW22,L34**
 Sat-Sun
 ■■
Leader to be advised. Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976
Moderate trip to this comfortable, 6 bunk hut in Oxford Forest. On Sunday morning we will walk the short distance up to 1300m Black Hill and enjoy the expansive views.
List closes 24 Jan

- 1 Feb Sun**
■
- BENMORE FROM LYNDON ROAD** **Maps BW21,K35**
Mike Bourke 332 7097
Moderate trip to this 1655m peak in Korowai/Torlesse Tussockland Park. A round-trip starting from the road between Lakes Lyndon and Coleridge. Views include Lake Coleridge basin and Rakaia River.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$16**
- 1-8 Feb Sun-Sat**
■■■■■■■
- SNOWDRIFT RANGE** **Maps CA10,E39,40**
Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008
Starting from the Dart River Geoff's party will travel to Cattle Flat, cross Blue Duck Creek then up onto the Marion Plateau, cross the Whitburn Glacier and river. A **hard** adventure trip into the Fiordland wilderness
List closed
- 31 Jan-7 Feb**
■■■■■■■
- WAI AU PASS** **Maps BT23, BS24, BS25**
Heather Hughes 332 6281
A classic **moderate** 6½ day tramp from Lewis Pass to Nelson Lakes incorporating part of the Te Araroa trail. Starting near Lewis pass we'll tramp through to Christopher Hut on the St James, up the Waiau valley and over Waiau Pass to Blue Lake. After a morning to relax or explore this area we'll continue on down the Sabine to Lake Rotoroa to catch the water taxi out. Probably overnighing at Rotoroa or Murchison then return to our cars by track transport or bus. Tramping days of 6 hours or less with 3 nights in huts and 2 camping.
Register your interest with Heather before Christmas. List closes 11 January.
- 6-8 Feb Fri-Sun**
■■■
Waitangi wknd
- POTTS RIVER - ASHBURTON RIVER** **Maps BX18,J35,J36**
Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976
Moderate tramp up the Potts River traversing Big Hill Range to the South Branch of the Ashburton River returning via Mystery Lake. Spectacular rolling country near Lake Clearwater. Part of LOTR was filmed here, you will appreciate why when to get there.
List closes 26 Jan
- 6-8 Feb Fri-Sun**
■■■
Waitangi wknd
- MOANA BASE CAMP** **Maps BU19,20,K32**
Chris Horn 338 0313
Base camp at the historic Millhouse Lodge in Moana village, which is on the shores of beautiful Lake Brunner. **Easy-moderate** walking and tramping options are many and varied, including the popular Te Kinga trail.
List closes 22 Jan
- Feb 7-10 Fri-Mon**
■■■
Waitangi wknd
- MT TAPUAE-O-UENUKU 2885m** **Maps: <http://www.topomap.co.nz/>**
Milan Brisnik 03 313 2955
This is a **hard** trip from the Clarence River side. Fri travel to Kekerengu then inland on Kekerengu Valley Rd for 44km to camp at Whisky Stream. Next day climbing to camp at 1700m. On Sunday climbing to top of Mt T then back to camp. Monday back home. Mt T is the highest point in NZ north of the Mt Cook area. No river crossings. Bluff Station will let us use their 4WD track charging \$100. Transport distance: 270km, one way. We will require a 4WD vehicle. If weather is not right then we'll go Thursday 12 March.
List closes: Sunday Jan 18
- 8 Feb Sun**
■
- MT NOBLE** **Maps BV23,M33**
Stuart Payne 337 2275
A trip into the foothills off the Lake Sumner Road. A **moderate** circuit in North Canterbury with views of Virginia Peak and the Three Deans.
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$14**

- 14-15 Feb** **WALKER PASS - TARN COL – EDWARDS** **Maps BV20,21,K33**
Sat-Sun **Leader to be advised. Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976**
 ■■ One of the classic Arthur's Pass NP tramps. This **moderate** trip takes in the Hawdon and Edwards valleys, a couple of attractive alpine passes, an attractive alpine campsite and views of what's left of Falling Mountain.
List closes 4 Feb
- 15 Feb** **ASHLEY GORGE** **Maps BW22,23,L34**
Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ■ An **easy-moderate** walk/splash down from Lees Valley's middle bridge to Ashley Gorge picnic ground. This is Canterbury's mini "Grand Canyon". If you haven't walked it before, you will be impressed. If you don't want to walk it, bring an inflated inner tube.
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$11**
- 21-24 Feb** **ROUTE BURN - NTH COL - LK NERINE - PARK PASS** **Maps CA09,CB09,D40,E40**
Sat-Tue **Leader to be advised. Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976**
 ■■■■ This **moderate-hard** trip covers some of the Five Pass trip from the Routeburn Track over Sugarloaf Pass to the Rockburn and the spectacular Theatre Flat. The route to Park Pass then climbs the ridge to drop to Lake Nerine and then sidles to North Col and into
List closes 7 Feb
- 21-22 Feb** **SYLVIA TOPS** **Maps BU23,M31**
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ■■ **Moderate** tramp over this 1500-1600m range between Nina and Doubtful valleys in the Lewis Pass area. Probably camping out at the bush-edge near Devils Den Biv.
List closes 24 Jan
- 22 Feb** **HUT SPUR - JORDAN SADDLE** **Maps BV20,K34**
Sun **Penny Webster 349 3693**
 ■ Quite a long **hard** day, tramping up and beyond Bealey Spur to Hut Spur (behind historic Bealey Spur Hut), eventually dropping down to Jordan Saddle. Jordan Stream is then followed to the Waimak River and then to the road.
Start: 7am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$24**
- 28Feb-1M** **HAWDON - EAST HAWDON** **Maps BV21,K33**
Sat-Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ■■ Not a long trip, but **moderate-hard** in difficulty. Crossing over the tops between the heads of the Hawdon and East Hawdon valleys, probably via the summit of 1700m Smooth Peak (a misnomer).
List closes 21 Feb
- 1 Mar** **OASHORE BAY** **Maps BY24,N37**
Sun **Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008**
 ■ Join Geoff for **easy** beach strolls at Birdlings Flat and surrounding coastal areas. We will then gather at Geoff's place nearby for a BBQ and an evening of relaxation. BYO.
Start: 10am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$8**
- 7-10 Mar** **GREEN LAKE** **Maps CE07,CE06**
Sat-Tue **Dan Pryce 379 1976**
 ■■■■ This pretty lake south of Manapouri near Lake Monowai will be our base for 3 nights as we explore the area and enjoy a beautiful part of Fiordland. **Easy-moderate**.
List closes 25 Feb

Lyell Range north-east of Lyell Saddle, they built Ghost Lake Hut on a bluff with a spectacular view. The route north from Ghost Lake continues with scenic ridge travel before dropping to Stern Valley Hut. Beyond Stern Valley, the route continues over Solemn Saddle and drops eventually via Goat Creek to the South Branch Mokihinui, crossing to the true left for easy travel down to the fifth of the Trust-managed huts, Mokihinui Forks, which we bypassed. Hut accommodation needs to be booked and paid for before starting the trip.

The historic Lyell dray road already existed, but the rest of the cycle-way is being constructed to a MTB standard, 750mm wide and average 7° slope. The Trust were aware when they started planning, that from Lyell Saddle they could have run the track down-valley through the bush at far less cost but it wasn't a typical bush track they had in mind. So from the saddle, the track zigzags up onto the open ridge to pass Mt Montgomery and Rocky Tor at about the 1350m level giving great views in fine weather. Along this section Paul Jennens, based at Ghost Lake is working hard, slowly blasting the track from solid granite. Further north, Bill and Barry down at Stern Valley are ploughing through the mud, pushing the track up-valley. Further north again, Steve Stack from a work camp in Goat Creek is working on the next stage of track surfacing. Everything that needs to be bridged is bridged now, including the 120m suspension bridge over the Mokihinui.

The whole track is now open to trampers, with a warning that the incomplete sections are marked as temporary routes only. In Steve's opinion, once the track opened there was a surge of trampers which soon dried up once the word got around that the marked routes through bush weren't particularly easy. Having trampers lose the route didn't help, thus the triple orange markers in places now!

Transport problems were overcome by driving to Westport on the Wednesday evening and staying at Brazils Hostel, leaving our vehicles in their car park. On Thursday morning Brazils took us to Lyell and picked us up from the Mokihinui on the Monday afternoon. So here is what happened.

WED

Seven gathered at Joy's at 4.30pm and left in two vehicles. The weather was changing and somewhere up the Waiau it started snowing! *Alfresco* is the first café when arriving in Reefton. In no time the host had a table organized for unexpected customers. The one hour stop in Reefton for dinner made us a bit late arriving in Westport, but that was no trouble to Ray and Steve at Brazils. The place seemed a bit of a rabbit warren in the dark but they soon had us set up in our self-contained unit—probably a converted hall, but very comfy—West Coast style and very cheap.

THURS – UP TO LYELL SADDLE

8.30am outside Brazils on a sunny calm day. We were loaded in their old van for the hour's drive back up the Buller and then Upper Buller, to the reserve at Lyell. We were walking by 9.45am up through the bush at a MTB gradient to the saddle. Most of the trail had been the original dray road in gold mining days. Arriving at Lyell Saddle Hut at 3.45pm, we had our first introduction to the 'hut standard' for OGR. Definitely solid, each hut site could include the hut, a composting toilet and two separate sleep-outs. The bush on the saddle had been cleared for the buildings, so there is still a large supply of firewood.

FRI – LYELL SADDLE UP TO GHOST LAKE

This was our high-level day. After a starry night, the day dawned clouded-in and stayed that way all day. Away at 8.30am we passed Paul from Ghost Lake, on his motorbike coming down to the Saddle to bag firewood for the Karamea chopper to transport up to Ghost Lake. Up the zigzag in the bush we were soon in snow remnants. Once above the bush-line, we could see the cycle-way would provide great views on a clear day. A side-trip to Rocky Tor will have to keep for another time. Along the ridge there is the 800m section where Paul is battling the granite. We passed all his gear in the gloom, including the brand new, neat little rock crusher for surfacing material. Arriving at the hut at 12.30pm, lunch was first priority. Later in the afternoon the cloud lifted enough to show the great view out the hut window and later on, the lights of Murchison way below.

In a surge of activity five bikers arrived, having carried bikes through the top section. The bikers took their bikes down the spur to 'The Anvil'. Three of them returned to spend the night and tramp down next day. A Robinson R44 suddenly appeared out of the cloud and plonked down in front of the terrace. The chopper then took the bikes on a strop from The Anvil and the other two bikers, down to a point beyond track construction. The weather clouded in again with light rain and wind all night.

SAT - GHOST LAKE DOWN TO STERN VALLEY

It was still clouded in at daybreak but half an hour before leaving at 8.10am it suddenly cleared to a fine day. The track zigzags down from the bluff and sidles to a long spur running down into the Stern catchment. Along the spur, we left the MTB track sidling below us on the true left, as we continued on the marked route along the ridge—a great place to be. Further down, the track will cross the ridge to the true right and sidle down to the hut. Our route eventually took a right turn and descended steeply to the Stern. We met Bill and Barry near the hut, working away in the yellow clay. At the hut by 2.05pm, we found they had a good set-up with a big gas fridge and stove, plus a generator for lights and a TV. Bill and Barry are choppered in for 8-day Friday to Friday shifts. We had a good evening with them on another wet and windy night.

SUN - STERN DOWN TO SPECIMEN IN THE MOKIHINUI GORGE

This was our longer day. Bill and Barry were up at 6am, making lunches and away up-valley on the dot of 7am. We left at 7.50am on a completed section of MTB track, past the two lakes, Grim and Cheerful, heading for Solemn Saddle. Leaving the MTB track, we turned left onto the marked route and climbed to the saddle, then climbed again to sidle around to a spur to take us down on the Goat Creek side. Once off the spur in the valley at 11am and back on to formed MBT track, cries of jubilation could be heard echoing around the valley; not naming anyone in particular, Dan.

At the bottom of Goat Creek, on the true left, the old DoC hut has been restored, including new floor and bunks. In a sunny, sheltered clearing, it would be a nice place to overnight. Goat Creek runs into the Mokihinui's South Branch and a kilometre downstream, the MTB track crosses to the true left on the new 120m-long suspension bridge. This was interesting. It has a possum proof barrier and door because powelliphanta snails have been predated by possums on one side of the Mokihinui, but not on the other. DoC want to keep it that way. They think possums from one side have learned how to eat the snails and don't want them to teach their less competent cousins on the other side. The easy trundle north down the true left of the Mokihinui was nice in the afternoon sun. By 3.25pm we were at Mokihinui Forks Hut, which is DoC standard construction but with some nice touches.

The confluence of the South and North Branches is spectacular, as is the Mokihinui Gorge for its length. To think, there nearly was an 85m high hydro dam built to flood the gorge! We arrived at Specimen Hut at 4.30pm. It is sitting on the spur above Specimen Creek with a terrace that gives grandstand views of the gorge. The hut itself, has a number of major stuff-ups in its design, but I can imagine some of these being changed in the not too distant future.

MON – SPECIMEN TO ROAD END BEYOND SEDDONVILLE

Last day and another fine one. The walk out from Specimen included some impressive cliff-face sections, with the track all cut to MTB standard, except where particularly tight bits mean walking the bike. With not too far to go, we passed Steve Stack riding in to work on some of the boggy yellow clay sections. By noon we were at the first car-park at Welcome Bay so stopped for lunch, then walked on toward the second car-park, arriving there at 1pm just as the Brazils van arrived to pick us up.

Back at Brazils in Westport the shower we had requested was unexpectedly at no charge! Brazils had been brilliant with nothing a trouble. So all cleaned up and the vehicles loaded we could then walk out the back to a café across the main street for coffee, etc and the divvy up, before starting the drive home.

Each day on the Old Ghost Road was very different, both in terrain and scenery. The weather made it most enjoyable. Being there during its construction added interest. Paul, Bill, Barry and Steve were all unique individuals and great to talk to. It was strange walking a nearly finished track yet not meeting other trampers. So timing was everything and we felt we hit it just right. Later in 2015 when the bike track is finished we can picture it being flooded with bikers with considerable pressure on some of the huts. Whether walking or biking, we won't see it the same way again. Many thanks to Dan for coping with the organization and the day to day leadership. We were: **Rick Bolch, Helen Harkness, Merv Meredith, Miriam Preston, Dan Pryce, Joy Schroeder and Douglas Woods.** 🌲 MM



HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND AN ADVENTUROUS NEW YEAR

