



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

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April 2016

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	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239		
Editor	Ruth Barratt	335 0010		

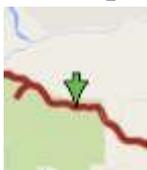
New Member Enquiries Please contact Stan Wilder, 260 2340 to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters

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 **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace** (corner of Madras Street and Oxford Terrace) starting promptly at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30.

Tue 12 Apr



BIBBULMUN TRACK

Darcy Mawson will talk about his walk of this 1000km track that goes from Kalamunda, just outside of Perth, to Albany on the southern coast. He will show video of the wide variety of scenery, animal life and vegetation.

Supper Duty: John Allan, Graham Allely, Evelien Baas, Evelyn Barben

Tue 10 May



Linking the Chch 360 Trail to Banks Peninsula Te Araroa, the Great Walks, and Mother Nature

Walking enables us to connect with, contemplate and fully experience our natural and cultural heritage at ground level. **Colin Meurk** will explore the connections locally, regionally and nationally.

Supper Duty: Brian or Mary Jane Bonsell, John Borner or Eileen Arnett, Rick Bolch

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.

- 10 Apr Sun** **THIRTEEN MILE BUSH** **Maps BW21,K35,L35**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ■ **Moderate** trip on the flanks of Ben More which lies in the Big Ben Range. Starting from Ben More Station just 12km inland from Springfield. Thirteen Mile Bush contains the headwaters of North Selwyn River.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$11**
- 16-17 Apr Sat-Sun** **BROKEN RIVER HUT** **Maps BW21,K34,L34**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ■■ **A moderate** trip in Castle Hill Basin 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 9 April
- 17 Apr Sun** **BROKEN RIVER - AVOCA** **Maps BW21,K34**
John Robinson 027 633 1476
 ■ **An easy-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, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$15**
- 23-25 Apr Sat-Mon** **THREE PASSES** **Maps BV19,20,J33, K33, K34**
Kevin Hughes 3326281
 ■■■ **Celebrated moderate-hard** route in the Arthur's Pass region. Travel is via Harman, Whitehorn and Browning Passes but with a variant that returns to the start via Popes Pass.
List closes 9 April
- 23-25 Apr Sat-Mon** **HOKITIKA BASE CAMP** **Maps BU19,BV19,H35**
Keith McQuillan 384 6164
 ■■■ **Grades from easy to moderate-hard.** Cabins in Holiday Park \$25-30 per night. Limited places available. Tramps will include Mt Brown, Lake Kaniere, Goldsborough, Lake Mahinapua
List closes 9 April
- 24 Apr Sun** **LYTTELTON - CAVENDISH BLUFFS** **Maps BX24,M36**
TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.
 ■ **Easy** walk starting from Lyttelton, ascending the Mt Cavendish Reserve, visiting coastal battery locations and the gondola before returning.
Start: 9am Corner of London St and Oxford St
- 30 Apr Saturday** **STONY BAY PEAK - MT BRASENOSE** **Maps BX25,BY25,N36,N37**
Geoff Korver 355 3905
 ■ **Moderate** walk behind Akaroa, crossing the Misty Peaks Reserve between Stony Bay Peak and Mt Brasenose.
Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$13**

Tue 3 May

TRIP PLANNING

Helping to plan our annual trip schedule gives you the chance to have your say on where we venture. Our meeting will start at 7pm at Gary and Margot's. If you can't attend give your suggestions to Gary or another committee member

7-8 May

POTTS HUT - DOGS RANGE - MYSTERY LAKE

Maps BX18,J35,J36

Sat-Sun

Gary Huish 332 7020

■ ■

Moderate tramp up the Potts River to the historic Potts Hut. Return over the Dogs Range via Mystery Lake.

List closes 30 April

7 May

MT RICHARDSON

Maps BW22,L34

Saturday

Margot Bowden 332 7020

■

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, 319 Cranford St

Approx cost \$9

14-15 May

JOLLIEBROOK - GABRIEL

Maps BU23,M32,M33

Sat-Sun

TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.

■ ■

Easy-moderate round-trip in lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flat of the Hurunui, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, going over a low bush saddle to Jollie Brook and then to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes a bit more open and there are a few stream crossings.

List closes 7 May

15 May

NIKAU PALM GULLY

Maps BY25,N37

Sun

Kerry Moore 359 5069

■

This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot. The plentiful nikau palms there are notable for being the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an easy tramp towards the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour.

Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd

Approx cost \$14

21-22 May

LAKE LYNDON BASE CAMP

Maps BW21,K34

Sat-Sun

Keith McQuillan 384 6164

■ ■

We'll be staying at the lodge south of Lake Lyndon, and doing day walks of all grades in the area.

List closes 15 May

22 May

MT BARROSA

Maps BX19,J36

Sun

Sue Piercey 384 9567

■

A moderate trip in the Clent Hills area above the Ashburton Gorge Rd. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to a 1364m peak.

Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

Approx cost \$19

28-29 May

TARN HUT

Maps BV22,L34

Sat-Sun

Keith McQuillan 384 6164

■ ■

Easy-moderate tramp from Lees Valley to charming little Tarn Hut located above the bushline on the Puketeraki Range.

List closes 21 May

29 May

PORTERS PASS - RABBIT HILL

Maps BW21,K35

Sun

TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.

■

Easy-moderate walk to 1200m Rabbit Hill in Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park. Starting near Porters Pass.

Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

Approx cost \$13

- 4-6 Jun** **MT FYFFE TRAVERSE** **Maps BT27,O31**
Sat-Mon **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ■■■ **Moderate-hard** complete winter traverse of Mt Fyffe, from the southern end, up along the full length, down Raven Spur into the Hapuku and back via the Hapuku and Kowhai Rivers. Friday evening start to Kaikoura and walk up the 4WD track to Mt Fyffe hut for the night. Early start on Saturday with the sun coming up out of the sea, across Gable to Gables End, along Raven Spur and the bush-bash down to the Hapuku. Saturday night at the Hapuku Hut for an easier Sunday over Kowhai Saddle and back to the start
Q Bday
List closes 25 May
- 4-6 Jun** **MT FYFFE - KOWHAI RIVER** **Maps BT27,O31**
Sat-Mon **TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.**
 ■■■ **A moderate** traverse of Mt Fyffe. Friday evening start to Kaikoura and walk up the 4WD track to Mt Fyffe hut for the night. Saturday involves the Mt Fyffe traverse across Gable to Gables End and down to the Kowhai Saddle then to Kowhai Hut. Sunday is more leisurely—down the Kowhai River and out.
Q Bday
List closes 25 May
- 4-6 Jun** **KAIKOURA BASE** **Maps BT27,O31**
Sat-Mon **Leo Manders 356 1731**
 ■■■ **Kaikoura** is a wonderful, popular location for base camps. A great variety of walks from bush to beach and the stunning Kaikoura Peninsula are available. Options for varying degrees of fitness and preference or you can just relax and soak up the sea air and mountain views. We'll have the usual pot luck feast on Saturday night. Leaving Friday afternoon or early evening and returning Monday late afternoon. If you have comments or queries please contact **Leo Manders 356 1731, 027 442 6080 leomanders@paradise.net.nz**
Q Bday
List closes 25 May
- 5 Jun** **RAKAIA GORGE WALKWAY** **Maps BX20,K35**
Sun **TBA Please contact Kerry Moore 359 5069 if you would like to lead this trip.**
 ■ **This easy** trip offers a return walk with a spectacular cliff-top traverse of the Rakaia Gorge to the remains of the Snowdon coal mine. Views across the river to Mt Hutt with its likely winter coat of snow.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$12**
- 11-12 Jun** **KIRWANS HUT** **Maps BS21,22,L30**
Sat-Sun **Raymond Ford 351 9496**
 ■■ **Easy-moderate** tramp up a well-graded old miners' pack track in Victoria Forest Park near Reefton. A 900m slow climb through the forest to this comfortable hut near the bush edge with great views. Optional side-trip to tussock-topped Kirwans Hill.
List closes 4 June
- 11 Jun** **HINEWAI** **Maps BY25,N36,N37**
Saturday **Margot Bowden 332 7020**
 ■ **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.
Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$13**

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues 19 Apr **Walk and Dinner**



Come along for a walk along the Sumner promenade and beach-front by moonlight and street light. **Meet at 6pm** at the Sumner clock tower.

Dinner at Le Xom Vietnamese Restaurant, 6 Wakefield Street, Sumner at **7.15pm**. Mains \$17.50 to \$24.00. Let Margot Bowden know if you are coming to dinner by Sunday 17 March. Phone 332 7020 or margot.bowden@gmail.com

Thur 19May **Ch-Ch Walk and Ch-themed Pot-luck Dinner**



Meet at **30A Peacock St at 6pm** for a short walk around the chic Victoria neighbourhood. Back to Maureen's place at about 6.45 pm for a cheerful, chatty, pot-luck dinner.

Contributions must start with CH eg Chicken, Chinese anything. Easy. However Cheerios will be churlishly refused entry. A couple of games of charades may be played between courses. Small house so limited to first 20 charming people. Bookings to Maureen Thompson 377 2482 or 021 266 5778 or mothompson@xtra.co.nz

NOTES

Membership: Sophie Toutain has resigned

Richard Battersby has resigned to return to Nelson

DoC Office has moved again and now shares the Christchurch i-Site, Botanic Gardens, 9 Rolleston Ave

Deadline for the May newsletter Sun 1 May. Send items for the newsletter to **Ruth Barratt**

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 26 April at Kerry's

TRIP REPORTS

Mount Grey / Maukatere Forest - Sun 28 Feb 2016

With a good and slightly cooler forecast, seven of us started off on a Mount Grey circuit from the Grey River car park and picnic area along the Red Beech track. Most of the trip was in the trees, which gave some relief from the heat and at the first morning-tea stop (the stream crossing), Margot turned back with Gary, having given her recent knee surgery a good workout.

Although we didn't meet anyone coming down our direction until just out of the trees, there were plenty of people on the top, most having come up the Lake Janet track. It was great to see families and even the odd mountain biker enjoying the tracks. The descent seemed endless with all the switchbacks down to the Grey River but it made for a good circuit and a great day.

Trampers were: **Ruth Barratt (leader), Wendy (visiting from Te Awamutu), Helen Harkness, Pat McIntosh, Jill Fenner, Margot Bowden and Gary Huish.** 🏠 RB

Cass Saddle – Lagoon Saddle 5–6 March 2016

The designated trip was Deception – Goat Pass – Mingha but marginal weather forced a switch further east to the useful Cass – Lagoon circuit. Four of the seven booked for the original trip decided it was Goat Pass or nothing, leaving us with three. We drove to the road-side car-park to get ready then moved the car to the safer Cass settlement car park with its “under CCTV surveillance” sign. It was 10:10am when we set off alongside the row of pines. At Cass River the rampant vegetation makes you hug the river until a way through the gorse

reveals itself. On a warm day we were pleased to get into the cooler forest for the climb to Cass Saddle Hut with its curious horse stable door. We had a break at the hut and a lightly laden German/Spanish couple caught up with us. They commented on the amount of stuff we seemed to be carrying. There was a welcome breeze blowing as we crossed the saddle and headed down into forest again. The track goes down some steep spurs towards Hamilton Stream. From the saddle you drop over 500m to Hamilton Hut after the 750m climb from the road to Cass Saddle. The spacious hut began to fill as Te Araroa trampers diverted there on their way down the Harper River to Lake Coleridge. The fly screens did a good job of keeping little blood suckers out but frequent door openings let enough in to be a pain. Our dinner was lentil and macaroni then custard and gingernuts. We needed the Bonsells there to give us a refresher in the entertaining card games they know. Graeme and Kerry read Alison's Saturday Press while a "league of nations" of card players enjoyed their game.

The primitive wire bridge at the Hamilton – Harper River junction is now a much more modern design. The track to the ancient, little-used West Harper Hut is fairly flat and fast then you climb nearly 300m to get to the Lagoon Saddle A-frame shelter. After a generous lunch-stop at the shelter we headed to the open track that skirts Mt Bruce and gives superb views up the Bealey and Waimak valleys. Heavy cloud to the west reassured us we had done well to avoid Goat Pass. Shade in the pines encouraged a ten minute rest-stop then the long forest descent to the Cora-Lyn Road. By this road is Bealey Hut which could be useful for Te Araroa hikers. As we passed, the door was open so we looked in to see a young woman playing a ukulele. We didn't know her song, *Emmylou* and she didn't know ours, *Hello Marylou*, though we gave her a sample.

The car-park was empty so we weren't going to score a ride there. Out at the road Kerry had limited success at hitching to Cass due to the Greyneys road-works. Cars went by in pulses and wouldn't stop. A lone car with four young people stopped. They were trampers and runners so sympathised. One had walked the road stretch from Cora Lyn to Cass and didn't enjoy it. The three of us passed Springfield resisting the magnetic pull of the shop. This hike was a good second choice, replacing the more rugged Goat Pass.

We were: **Alison Maccoll, Graeme Hunter, Kerry Moore.** 🏠 KM



Looking back towards Cass from Cass Saddle

Mt Evans - Sun 13 March

Twelve eager trampers were gathered at the meeting place as a thirteenth, the leader, rolled up on the dot of eight. Three cars parked at a spur just short of Camp Bay and the lucky thirteen walked from the gate up a minimal vehicle track. The track gives mighty views of Lyttelton Harbour and the plains and goes past some interesting crags. It flattens at the 400m mark then steepens to climb to the 713m Mt Evans, an ideal spot for

an early lunch. From Evans you get great views down to Port Levy and all around. After Canterbury's quakes the interesting basalt slabs on the spur running SW had crashed into a big rubble heap which needed to be descended carefully. At point 594 we were tempted to follow a vehicle track but then realised its best to stay on the ridge. From there an obvious sheep track sidles below awkward scrub and crags. We descended the gully near Lions Head and walked down the road. Our three noble drivers walked quickly to Purau and then up the road to retrieve the cars so ten of us could dawdle to Purau picking blackberries from the roadside on the way. Our drivers were: **Kevin Hughes, Mike Bourke and Gavin Chalk**. Berry pickers were: **Sue Britain, Heather Hughes, Hank Boer, Youmie Kim, Kyung Sang Lee, Jill Fenner, Wendy Templeton, Joy Schroeder, Dorota Giejsztowt, Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



Ahuriri Canyon Creek, Easter, 24-28 March 2016

I first did this trip at Easter 2010 with Joy Schroeder and Dan Pryce. This time we set out on the Thursday evening, with a wettish takeaway stop in Geraldine, then joined the cavalcade of traffic heading south through the Mackenzie basin to arrive late at Omarama and put up the spare tent at the Top 10.

FRIDAY: We sorted the party gear outside the camp kitchen, packed and left Omarama for the short drive south to the Ahuriri turnoff. The Birchwood road is a normal gravel road to the Birchwood homestead, but after that is 4WD to the carpark a short distance before Canyon Creek. Thankfully we had agreed to use Kevin's 4WD, as apart from the short shingle fan I was expecting, a couple of small streams were washed out. Walking by 10.30am, in overcast, calm weather, the approach to Canyon Creek looks impressive, with a tight canyon at the exit. This sidles up a steep terrace on the true right. Once in the lower basin, a high step traverses the complete valley. This is climbed on a well-poled route through the bluffs. By mid-afternoon we were at the bivvy rock in the top cirque at about BZ14-282025. The rock had additions made either side since my first visit and the smaller one was claimed by a young couple, who had followed us up the valley. About now, the first of our four hiccups unfolded. I became aware my map pockets weren't in their usual place and concluded I had left them at a spot down-valley. Sue and I returned down to the area near the turn-off to the big tarn. We searched and searched and then gave up. Later I had to admit sheepishly that they were in another pack pocket! Well, it was a nice walk anyway. This was followed by the discovery that one of us wasn't carrying a group evening meal.

SATURDAY: The cloud cleared in the small hours to a brilliant, calm nor-west day. An early morning wander explored up-valley a little toward the black and vertical end-wall. It is topped off by the lower edge of the Thurneysen Glacier, which descends the southern face of 2455m Mt Barth. However, within 50m of our campsite, an old ankle injury of mine went from niggly to twang! A discussion of options and a bit of panic on my part saw us parting ways for the day. All of us went down-valley to where we thought the turn-off to the tarn was, then then I continued, passing a now-steady stream of people coming up, including a large family group who had set up a village in the lower basin and now had their 10 year olds happily climbing up through the bluffs. And dogs. And hopeful hunters. At 2.10pm I claimed the first tussock flat I came to in the lower basin, before someone else did. After setting up a camp fireplace in the river bed, chilling my ankle for half an hour in the water made a dramatic improvement.

Markus fared well, ascending the easy zigzag onto the ridge looking down into the Ahuriri. It was then a short walk south up to 1862m from where he could also see into the big tarn. Returning to the rock bivvy by 1pm he followed down-valley, decided the route up to the big tarn was too unknown then found me at our bush-edge campsite some time after 4 pm.

Sue and Kevin had a GPS but finding a route up to the big tarn was still uncertain, but they eventually got there. Kevin thought their descent was probably close to the description in Moirs Guide North. Their tent site was a lovely spot on a calm nor-west evening and they had a campfire to stare into after dark then a dry night to sleep out.

SUNDAY: Another fine nor-west day but with some indecision. We should have gone straight back down the road and done the short walk over the top into Top Dingle Burn, but now Kevin wasn't feeling the best. Eventually we walked back out to Kevin's vehicle and drove down to Base Hut planning to stay there for the night. Kevin could drive from there down to explore the wetlands while we three walked up to the Dingle Burn ridge and back. Amazingly there was no one at the hut. Then we found there was no water in the tank or close-by stream! The nearest was a drive through paddocks down to the river. We claimed the hut anyway and late morning, Sue, Markus and I set out for the Dingle Burn ridge, soon getting up to where the stream was flowing. We stopped not far from the top for lunch. It was windy across the ridge, but still well-worth a walk some distance north before returning to Base Hut. Visitors hoping to stay at the hut changed their minds when they found four trampers there and no water. Sue provided hiccup number four by putting her orthotics on the verandah hand-rail. One of them was now missing. After much searching of the area it seemed that a gust of wind or a magpie or hunters had taken it.

MONDAY: Apart from base camps, have you ever had breakfast at a tramping hut, packed up, changed into street clothes and driven away? Very strange. A little way down the Ahuriri Road we met the three young hunters and after chatting Sue decided they were nice young men and wouldn't have taken an orthotic. So the mystery remains.

We were: Kevin Hughes, Markus Kaufmann, Merv Meredith (Leader) and Sue Piercey. 🏠 MM.