



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
April 2017*

PTC: Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Current Committee

President	Vacant	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Gary Huish 332 7020	Social Events	Maureen Whalen	027 819 9251
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes 332 6281	Committee	Diane Mellish	337 5530
Treasurer	Sue Piercey 384 9567	Committee	Leo Manders	356 1731
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore 359 5069	Committee	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Secretary	Merv Meredith 322 7239	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
Editor	Ruth Barratt 335 0010			
New Member Enquiries	Stan Wilder 260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters		

Our Club

The PTC 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

Club Nights are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St. and Oxford Terrace)** at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

Tues 11 Apr



Tales from the Sea with Expedition Leader Aaron Russ

Join Aaron on a voyage of discovery to New Zealand's remote sub-antarctic islands then venture further afield with a voyage through the NW Passage, which Aaron led recently. An expedition leader and photographer for the last 20 years Aaron's presentation will be liberally illustrated.

Supper Duty: Ann Schofield and Tony Greaves

Tues 9 May



Conservation of the Kea

Laura Young and Mark Brabyn will talk about a Kea Conservation Project and online sighting forms that tramping clubs are encouraged to use.

Supper Duty: Helen Harkness

- 29-30 Apr** **Pinchgut--Bobs Camp Circuit** **BW23**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
****** An **easy-moderate** circuit from the Okuku River to Pinchgut Hut and along the Cattle Peak Route to Bob's Camp Biv. Day two will take the Whare Route back to Pinchgut and out.
List closes 22 Apr
- 30 Apr** **Virginia Peak** **M33 BV23**
Sun. **Margaret Clark 348 4993**
***** An **easy-moderate** tramp into foothills west of Hawarden to 986m Virginia Peak, then along the ridge returning via the Waitohi Valley
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$12**
- 7 May** **Mt Barrosa** **J36 BX19**
Sun. **Diane Mellish 337 5530**
***** 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 this 1364m peak.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$14**
- 13-14 May** **Kaituna--Packhorse--Rod Donald Hut** **BX24**
Keith McQuillan 384 6164
****** **Easy-moderate** tramp on Te Ara Pātaka/Summit Walkway. Can be done as a 3-day, 2 night by staying at both huts.
List Closes 6 May
- 14 May** **High Peak** **L35 BX21**
Sun. **Chris Leaver 322 6445**
***** A **moderate** walk up 968m High Peak in the Rockwood Range.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$15**
- 20-21 May** **Arthurs Pass Base** **K33 BV20**
Diane Mellish 337 5530
****** A range of trips available from our base at the Catholic Outdoor Club house at the edge of the village. \$15 per night or \$100 max, so the more the cheaper as well as merrier! Leaving town Friday evening. Ice axe and possibly crampons needed for harder walks
List closes 13 Apr
- 21 May** **Kakapo Stream--Mt Skiddaw** **M32 BU23**
Sun. **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
***** **Moderate-hard** tramp south of the Lewis Pass highway to this 1673m high point on the Glynn Wye Range.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$18**
- 27-28 May** **Coldwater Hut** **M33 BV23**
Bruce Cameron 365 8210
****** Saturday morning drive to the Hurunui swingbridge then an **easy** walk up the Jollie Brook and the pretty Cold Stream to the hut. Time to explore upstream after arrival. A keen group could return via 1426m Hooligan
List closes 20 Apr
- 28 May** **French Hill** **BX25**
Sun. **Geoff & Mary Korver 355 3905**
***** **Easy-moderate** ramble from Hilltop to 815m French Hill. Great all-round views.
8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, across the road by the rr **Approx cost \$10**

- 3-5 Jun Wilberforce-Moa-Unknown J34,K34 BV19,BW19**
Merv Meredith 322 7239
******* A **moderate-hard** trip up the Wilberforce, with three longish days. Early start on Saturday. From the canal road end, we cross the Wilberforce in low winter flow and travel up the true right to Moa Stream, staying the first night at Moa Stream Hut. From there, it's a steady walk up North Stream to Moa Saddle at 1078m, then a steep descent into Unknown Stream and downstream to Unknown Hut. Monday is a long plod back down-river, but this time crossing to Fanghill on the true left, after reaching Moa Hut on the right. A great early winter trip.
List closes 27 May
- 3-8 Jun Waikaremoana Track BG40**
Names to Evelien Baas 358 5521
********* Trace the shoreline of Lake Waikaremoana. An **easy-moderate** hike past giant podocarps and remote beaches, Enjoy breathtaking views from Panekire Bluff. The spectacular Korokoro Falls drop off a sheer cliff. <http://www.doc.govt.nz/waikaremoana>
List closes 21 May
- 3-5 Jun Banks Peninsula Base BY25**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
******* A variety of day walks from Akaroa
List closes 27 May
- 4 Jun Mt White L33,L34 BV21**
Sun. Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
***** We drive in from Mt White bridge to Mt White Station for a **moderate** climb up open spurs to this 1741m peak. Take ice axe and crampons in case of snow
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$20
- 10-11 Jun Black Hill Hut L34 BW22**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
****** **Moderate** trip to this hut in Oxford Forest. On Sunday morning we will walk the short distance up to 1300m Black Hill.
List closes 3 May
- 11 Jun Hogs Back K34 BW21**
Sun. Sue Piercey 384 9567
***** **Easy-moderate** loop to the peak behind Cheeseman's Forest Lodge in the Craigieburn Range. Great views of the range and its beech forests.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$15
- 17-19 Jun Waitaha--Kiwi Flat BW17**
Bill Templeton 354 2277
******* Friday evening start. There is a description of this **moderate-hard** three-day trip through classic Westland scenery, in Sven's guide book. First day is up the Waitaha from Allen Rd. From Kiwi Flat, the track climbs steeply up and drops into Scamper Torrent basin, where the four bunk hut is on a great site.
List closes 10 Jun
- 18 Jun Pines Beach Walkway M35 BW24**
Sun. Sue Piercey 384 9567
***** **Easy** walkway along the coast of Pegasus Bay with views from Banks Peninsula to the Kaikouras.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$4

- 24-25 Jun Lake Daniels** **L31,M31 BT22,23**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
**** Easy trip to this beautiful lake surrounded by beech-forested hills, west of Lewis Pass,. The high standard walking track is suitable for children.**
List closes 17 Jun
- 25 Jun Og, Gog, Magog** **L34 BV21**
Sun. Bruce Cameron 365 8210
*** These Ogs come in small, medium and large sizes and they all line up so we can "knock" them off in one easy-moderate walk. We'll be looking into the Waimak Rr above the gorgy section.**
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$15**

Social Events

Tues 16 May



Escape Room preceded by Thai take-aways at Maureen's place.

What is an Escape Room? It's a room you must escape from! Each room has its own carefully constructed ambience, with real props gathered "from the far corners of Canterbury" ... to ensure a realistic, immersive experience. And the clock is ticking! The challenge is to work as a team to solve the puzzles, codes and riddles and escape the room in the nick of time. Can you release the souls trapped in the Mysterious Log Cabin? Can you launch a missile in time to save the world from an asteroid?

We have booked 3 rooms, each with a different theme. Each room takes 6 people, so a maximum of 18 people.

Meet at Maureen Thompson's place 30A Peacock St, Central City, at about 6.30 pm for nibbles. Dinner at 7 pm will be a selection of take-aways, including vegetarian options, from the Thai Container. Please BYO drinks. Drive to the Escape Room 2/25 Churchill St off Bealey Ave, at 8.10 pm for a briefing. The challenge begins at 8.30 pm and most teams take about an hour to escape.

Cost \$22 per person for the Escape Room plus \$15 for dinner. Please book and pay in advance by depositing \$37 in the PTC bank account 38 9015 0030334 00 with your name and "escape" in the boxes. Booking dead-line Sunday 14 May to Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 or 377 2482 or mothompson@xtra.co.nz
<https://escapeartists.nz/Christchurch/About>

Tues 20 June Mid-Winter Walk and Potluck Dinner

Mid-winter walk on the port hills followed by pot luck dinner at Gary and Margot's house. Details to follow.

Contact: Margot Bowden Phone: 332 7020 or margot.bowden@gmail.com

Notes

Membership: The PTC welcomes **Hilaire Campbell** back into the club and farewells **Nathan Doherty & Shelley Washington**, and **Chrys Horn**.

Deadline for the April newsletter: 30th April - send items for the newsletter to Ruth Barratt rannalong@gmail.com

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday 26th April 2017

Patron: At the AGM, Leo Manders proposed that **Dennis Kemp** be appointed as Club Patron. Leo spoke in support of retaining the Patron position and the eminent suitability of Dennis for the position. Dennis joined the club in 1991 and spent some years on the executive. Many members will recall the PTC Christmas base camps which Dennis ran—Totarunui, Ohau and Mavora Lakes.

Photo Competition

The FMC photo competition will be held again later in 2017. The PTC plan to hold their own competition to select which photos will be submitted. Watch PTC Communicator for details.

Trip Reports

Five Passes 26 Feb – 4 March 2017

We had scheduled this trip for a week earlier, so we were all watching the weather forecast, hoping for the window we needed before other commitments prevailed. Finally the “start packing” order came from our leader. The four of us met in Glenorchy on the Sunday night at Bruce’s house (Penny’s friend) where, not only did we have 5 star accommodation in a new house with views of the lake and the mountains but Bruce cooked us a fantastic meal which included fish he had caught in the lake himself and smoked. Thanks for your hospitality Bruce.

Day 1: Sylvan carpark--Rockburn River mouth--Beans Burn mouth--lower flats up Beans Burn 6.5hr

We left one car at the Routeburn road-end and drove to the Sylvan carpark. Over the bridge and within ten minutes were on the way to Lake Sylvan, we were so absorbed in our conversation that we took the wrong track. Luckily our leader was alert and soon had us back to the sign where the track forked, which I hadn’t even noticed. We stopped to admire the reflections on Lake Sylvan before walking on through the forest, with a short diversion to view the Rockburn canyon. We reached the Rockburn River mouth in 2¼ hr. We stopped for a snack at the picnic tables while we watched people in jetboats and funyaks (inflatable rafts) enjoying the Dart River and coming up past us on the Rockburn to see the canyon. Penny’s admirable leadership qualities showed by negotiating for us to be pulled across the river mouth in a funyak in exchange for some beers to be delivered to the guide’s office after the trip. This kept our boots dry. Unfortunately the dry boots were short-lived as not much further up the true right of the Dart River, the taller of us were thigh deep and the shorter waist deep as we chose the edge of the river rather than a bush-bash for a short section. In the midst of this section Diane dropped a pole which sank but after some fancy footwork it was retrieved.



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An hour and a half from the mouth of the Rockburn we had an easy crossing of the mouth of the Beans Burn. We didn’t linger long due to the attacking sandflies. As in many places on the track robins would be hopping near our feet when we stopped. From the mouth we followed a track through the bush on the true left of the Beans Burn before crossing to the true right over a footbridge. We emerged out of the bush to a flat, grassy area where we camped near the Beans Burn. Penny showed us some rock bivvies that were used by pest trappers which were very well set up. John provided a tasty dinner of anchovy passata sauce with pasta followed by liqueur chocolates for dessert.

A party of 3 young people travelling in the same direction camped near us that night with two in a tent and the other sleeping out without bivy bag or groundsheet. They were a German woman, a man from Whangarei and an American man who had met up for the first time to do the trip in response to a notice the woman had posted. They were travelling very light. The man sleeping out seemed surprised when he woke next morning to a wet sleeping bag.

Day 2: Beans Burn Lower Flats - Split Rock – Upper Beans Burn (8.5 hours)

A pair of blue ducks were feeding around the rocks in the river as we breakfasted. We packed up and headed off for a short distance up the flats before Penny spotted the orange triangle obscured by a fallen tree where we headed into bush. At one point a couple of kaka above me were protesting loudly at my presence and then a small dead branch dropped on me from above. Around mid-morning the party of three passed us. We made steady progress up the true right of the Beans Burn stopping at Split Rock to admire the rock bivys and the camping area by the rock. Lunch was always a generous time on the trip as our leader believed in making a decent meal of it. Out came the new attachment for her cooker, her loaf of bread, her butter and her cheese and there would soon be the delicious smell of toasted cheese sandwich. We carried far too much gas so we were not stingy on hot drinks. By late afternoon we had reached the upper Beans Burn, not far from where we needed to climb up to go to Fohn Saddle and we found some mossy patches on the flat to put up our tents. I provided dinner that night—backcountry mince, vegetables, tomato, and parmesan cheese on rice with gingernuts, custard and chocolate chips for dessert.

There were two dome tents pitched near our camp and we soon met the occupants, two young Australian couples. They had found the walking up the Beans Burn a bit rougher than expected and one of the women had fallen head over heels off the track but luckily had not injured herself. They were feeling discouraged to the point of considering turning around but Penny shared lots of her knowledge and enthusiasm, having done the track eight times before, and encouraged them to continue. We enjoyed getting to know them over the next few days as we were sometimes walking near them and often camped in the same area.

Day 3: Upper Beans Burn – Fohn Saddle – Olivine Ledge – Fiery Creek (7.5 hours)

Another fine day dawned but there was clag obscuring the tops. We were soon climbing steeply up 500m through low scrub and then tussock to Fohn Saddle. On the way up, Penny had to reposition her personal metal marker on the top of a rock cairn as it had fallen over. We reached the saddle which was in clag and heard some voices. It was our Aussie mates. We stuck together as Penny used modern technology to lead us to Fohn Lakes through the murk. It felt to me like we were going in a circle and in fact you are heading in a different direction from that taken to head up to the saddle to reach the lakes, but it is certainly not a circle. We stopped for lunch and met the second group of 4 Aussies, 2 men and 2 women, that we were repeatedly to meet on the rest of the trip. We admired the style of this group. They emerged from their tents at around our lunchtime and then tramped until late evening before pitching their tents. They had brightly coloured gear, travelled slowly with a casual approach to navigation and an almost cultivated nonchalance. They told us that the party of three had camped nearby the night before and the German woman had complained of the cold.

From Fohn Lakes we dropped down to the right of an impressive steep stream with waterfalls, to the Olivine Ledge where we briefly met up with both Australian groups. It was very pleasant walking along the ledge and then climbing down to Fiery Creek where we saw the group of three heading towards Fiery Col. We walked up the Creek where Penny had camped in the past, although that camping site had been taken out by the creek. We found ourselves a great place to camp by a large rock and used our ice axes to remove rocks and construct two end-to-end sandy tent sites. We had a wonderful smooth schist-lined bathing pool below us in the creek and not far up the creek a waterfall for a shower. Three kea landed on rocks near the waterfall so we stashed our gear away but they didn't come closer to our campsite. Penny cooked dinner. It was roast chicken and 10 helpings of mashed potato with lashings of butter, as well as chocolate biscuits for dessert.

Day 4: Fiery Creek – Fiery Col- Cow Saddle – Hidden Falls Campsite (7 hours)

Another fine day, clear on the tops. Once again we had a relatively steep climb of 500m first thing when we were fresh. By the time we were up on Fiery Col the sun had almost arrived. There was no snow either side of the col. There were fantastic views in all directions and we took lots of photographs. On the south side there is a distinct line between grey-black and red rock. After climbing down from the Col we contoured around until we climbed down a gut and across one of the streams feeding the head of the Olivine River towards Cow Saddle. We found a great lunch spot towards the end of Cow Saddle by the stream where we enjoyed a sunbath and leisurely lunch. Further on, there was a wonderful deep pool which both Penny and John took a dip in. Diane and I continued on, admiring the large green rocks in the scree. Dropping down near Hidden Falls Creek we came to a large grassy green clearing which was our campsite for the night. We collected wood and Penny soon had a roaring fire going. I made the mistake of going off in socks and sandals to find a toilet spot as it got dark and returned to find my socks and clothing a mass of burrs to the

amusement of the others. It took a very long time to remove all the bits embedded in my socks. Diane provided a very tasty dinner of chilli black beans with her own vegetables that she had dehydrated, with alfredo pasta followed by instant pudding and toasted marshmallows for dessert.

Day 5: Hidden Falls Campsite – Park Pass – Rockburn (8 hours)

This was our rainy day. We headed off from our campsite in drizzle along the true left of the Hidden Falls Creek. The track could be easily lost in a few places so it needed a bit of care along this short section. It wasn't far before we were on the steep, narrow track through ferns and beech forest up to Park Pass. We stopped with our 4 Aussie mates for a snack near the treeline. Then it was out in the open where it was blowing, rainy and cloudy, so we had very limited views from the pass. Then we headed down through the tussock beside a small tarn and on down to near the head of the Rockburn. We came to a large bivy rock where we met up with the 4 Aussie lunchtime risers who were about to begin their day's walk. We were grateful for the shelter while we had our lunch and a hot drink. Crossing the Rockburn River can be a problem below the bivy rock if there has been a lot of rain but we were lucky and it was easy to get across.

It was a flat walk down the true left of the Rockburn, through Theatre Flat and beyond to a large bivy rock where we had a quick afternoon tea and were joined by the late risers for their 'morning tea'. They opened their packs and out came lots of fresh food: cucumbers, capsicums... The guys' packs must have been heavy. A strange, arcane conversation then ensued between them and Penny, incomprehensible to us lesser mortals. It was quickly established that the two men were rock climbers of an ilk that could climb smooth vertical walls using only their fingernails. (Australian grade 32). Never judge a book.... We knew they had class though, all along.

Not far from here we crossed over the Rockburn on a wire bridge and continued down the true right until we came to a camp spot Penny knew in the middle of a few beech trees near the river. We gave her A++ for fire lighting as she soon had a roaring blaze going in the pouring rain, around which we could hold up our wet clothing to dry. I provided another mince dinner, this time with mashed potato and a vanilla and almond chia seed pudding with freeze-dried fruit salad rehydrated in the mixture.

Day 6: Rockburn – Sugarloaf Pass – Routeburn road end (6 hours)

The walking was easier from our last campsite as we were on marked tracks. The day cleared as we headed down the true right of the Rockburn before climbing up to Sugarloaf Pass. We had good views from the Pass and met a few people coming towards us on the track who were either doing a round-trip through to Sylvan Road-end or going up to the Pass. We had our last lunch together on the pass, enjoying the views down to Glenorchy. When we got down to the sign for the Rockburn track where it joins the Routeburn we found a person to take photos of our group by the sign. A short walk down the wide gravelled pathway of the



Routeburn and we were back at the car. On the way back to Glenorchy we saw our Aussie mates for the last time as they waited for a bus to pick them up. Back to Bruce's house and the luxury of hot showers, clean clothes and dinner out at a local restaurant where a group of Pegasus base-campers were also dining.

It was a wonderful trip—not too difficult, spread over 6 days and in good weather. Thanks to Penny for her outstanding leadership and to the great company of all those on the trip including the Aussies.

We were: **John Allan, Diane Mellish, Penny Webster and Sue Piercey** 🏠 SP.