



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter
November 2017*

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
Postal Address	The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 13 258, Armagh, Christchurch 8141
Web address	www.peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz
E-mail	secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz
Facebook name	Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch
Correspondence	All correspondence to the Secretary including change of contact details

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	Bridget O'Regan	338 4785			



New Member Enquiries:	Stan Wilder	260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters
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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 14 Nov 	Antarctic Adventures – Kimberley (Billy) Wallace Billy has had a diverse outdoor career. Renowned for telling a good yarn, she will be entertaining as she talks about her various roles including in the Antarctic, World Challenge Organisation, teaching, search and rescue and her extensive tramping and climbing experiences. Supper Duty: Dennis Kemp and Lorelei Kennedy
Tues 12 Dec 	Guess the Book/Movie/TV Title A fun evening with entertainment provided by you. To cater for people who don't like doing dress-ups there are lots of options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dress up to illustrate the book/movie/TV <i>Continued over page</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Print out a one-sentence summary of the book/movie/TV and stick it on your back or forehead. eg a man and a woman kill their way to gain royal titles, go insane and lose everything



- Print out a famous sentence from the book/movie/TV and stick it on forehead or back. You could jumble the words up to make it harder eg “I, Frankly, don’t give my dear a damn”
- Do a short charade of the title
- Draw a picture or make a model to illustrate the title. eg a toy whale for Moby Dick.

Bring a plate of goodies with a Christmas theme for a shared supper



FORTHCOMING 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, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you to go on the trip. If the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader or if you use email check the Communicator the day before for trip updates.

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

The Club has a mountain biking section, Fat Tyre Fanatics, who head out on casual day trips throughout the year. For details in biking trips contact Chris Leaver 322 6445, or ptc75@clear.net.nz.

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|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 12 Nov | Childrens Bay Farm walk | N36 BX25,BY25 |
| Sun | Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 | |
| * | An easy 3-hour circuit from Akaroa to Takamatua then back via some quiet roads. Also known as the Rhino Walk. Coffee stop in Akaroa or on the way home. | |
| | Meet 9am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd | Approx cost \$11 |
| 17-19 Nov | Dun Fiunary | BY15 |
| Show wknd | Raymond Ford 351 9496 | |
| *** | A 2500m peak in the Ben Ohau Range above Lake Pukaki | |
| | List closes 10 Nov | |
| 17-20 Nov | Karamea Base | L27,M28 BQ22 |
| Show wknd | Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778 | |
| **** | Easy to moderate walks from this popular north Westland spot. Options include Scott Beach, Oparara Arches, Mirror Tarn, Fenian Basin and Cavern Creek Caves or Mt Stormy for the adventurous. | |
| | List closes 10 Nov | |
| 17-20 Nov | Wangapeka Track | L27,M27,M28 BQ22,23 |
| Show wknd | Kevin & Heather Hughes 332 6281 | |
| **** | Classic, historic, moderate tramp, crossing the southern half of Kahurangi National Park. Two saddles to cross with plenty of good huts along the way. If enough people are interested then we can have 2 groups doing a cross-over. | |
| | List closes 10 Nov | |

- 19 Nov** **Port Levy - Wild Cattle Hill** **N36 BX25**
Sun **John Cook 326 7458**
***** **Moderate** walk on the east side of Port Levy from sea level to 600m on Wild Cattle Hill.
Coastal views towards both Port Levy and Pigeon Bay.
8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, over the rd by the rr **Approx cost \$9**
- 25-26 Nov** **Three Mile Stream - McMillan Stream** **L32,M32 BU22,23**
Peter Umbers 359 9118
****** **Easy-moderate** tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park starting from Loch Katrine with a circuit
around McMillan and Three Mile streams.
List closes 18 Nov
- 26 Nov** **The Grange--Knowles Gully--Hill 884** **L34 BW22**
Sun **Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**
***** An easy trip near Oxford to a 884m hill with good views to Ashley Gorge and the plains
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$10**
- 26 Nov** **Ngaio Pt—Onawe Peninsula** **N36 BX25,BY25**
Sun **Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778**
***** An easy one-hour circular walk in Akaroa Harbour. We will do the circular Ngaio Point walk
then walk to the summit of Onawe Peninsula looking at the pa remains. Coffee stop at Hilltop
tavern or Little River on the way home
Meet 9am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$11**
- 2-3 Dec** **Fools Col--Jordan Saddle** **K34 BV20**
Merv Meredith 322 7239
****** **Moderate-hard** exploratory Arthur's Pass tramp up Jordan Stream and then on to the tops on
the western side of Jordan Saddle, and camping by a tarn. May return via a bush spur down to
the Waimakariri River.
List closes 25 Nov
- 2 Dec** **Brooklands Lagoon** **M35 BX24**
Saturday **Joy Schroeder 351 4655**
***** An easy, flat stroll where the Styx, Kaiapoi and Waimakariri Rivers meet the sea. Take your
bird-watching scope.
Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$3**
- 3 Dec** **Purau Saddle - Mt Herbert - Gebbies Pass** **M36,N36 BX24**
Sun **Sue Britain 388 2329, Mike Bourke 332 7097**
***** An easy-moderate trip along the eastern rim of Lyttelton Harbour to the highest point on the
peninsula. Call Sue or Mike if you are keen to walk through to Gebbies Pass
8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, over the rd by the rr **Approx cost \$7**
- 8-10 Dec** **Carrington Base** **BV20**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
******* Staying at spacious Carrington Hut so we can do day trips to Waimak Falls Hut and/or Barker
Hut up the White River. Moderate
List closes 1 Dec
- 8-10 Dec** **Campbell Pass--Gorgy Creek** **BV20**
Diane Mellish 337 5530
******* A moderate-hard climb via Campbell Pass to a beautiful tarn at the head of Gorgy Creek
List closes 1 Dec

10 Dec Sun *	Ben More--Big Ben--Dry Acheron Gary Huish 332 7020 A moderate through-trip along the Big Ben Range, from near Lake Lyndon, over 1605m Ben More and along to 1416m Big Ben, then down Dry Acheron Stream to the Coleridge road. This trip requires two cars so one can be placed at the far end. It would be helpful if you could tell Gary you are interested Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd	BW21 Approx cost \$15
16 Dec Saturday *	Ashley Gorge Keith McQuillan 384 6164 This is the classic splash down-stream along the Ashley from Middle Bridge out to the domain. It's an easy-moderate , fun trip on a fine day. Be sure to take a full change of clothes for afterwards. Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St	L34 BW22,23 Approx cost \$10
17 Dec Sun *	Year End Picnic, Ashley Gorge Keith McQuillan 384 6164 Keith and Marion will be in the camping ground, on the right, near the sheltered far end, from Friday evening. So make a weekend of it, pack the tent and join us. The camping ground is Ashley Gorge Holiday Park, 697 Ashley Gorge Rd, just before the bridge , ph 03 312 4099. Powered campsites are \$19 pp, there is a kitchen with fridge, etc. You don't have to book before Christmas. Cabins are available. More detail at www.agkhp.co.nz/ Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you want to car-pool	L34 BW22,23
24-2 Dec	Cobb Valley Base Leo Manders leomanders60@gmail.com We have booked the DoC Cobb Hostel in the Cobb Valley for our annual Christmas Base Camp. Enjoy superb scenery, our usual gourmet meals, good company and a range of walks. You can do day-walks or head out for a night or two to some of the many huts. Contact Leo now to indicate your interest	M25,M26 BP23,24
7 Jan Sun *	Orton Bradley Waterfall Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905 An easy exploration of the valley to Big Rock and the Hunter Valley waterfall. Expect to pay a minimal entry fee 9am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, over the rd by the rr	BX24 Approx cost \$4
13-14 Jan **	Oamaru Base Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069 Lots of places to explore—Hunters Hills, Herbert Forest, Moeraki, Trotters Gorge, Danseys Pass and Oamaru itself. A range of easy trips for everyone List closes 3 Jan	J41
13-14 Jan **	Mt Norma Kerry Moore 359 5069 Moderate climb near the Nina and Boyle Rivers to this 1722m peak in the Lewis Pass area. List closes 6 Jan	M31 BT23
14 Jan Sun *	Lyttelton--Cavendish Bluffs Graeme Paltridge 384 3592 Easy walk starting from Lyttelton and climbing to Mt Cavendish Reserve, visiting coastal battery locations and the gondola before returning. Meet 9am cnr Oxford & London Streets in Lyt	M36 BX24

- 20-21 Jan Huxley Forks BY15**
Names to Kerry Moore 359 5069
 *** **Easy-moderate** walk staying at Huxley Forks Hut with a day-trip to Broderick Hut.
List closes 13 Jan
- 20-21 Jan Glen Mary Glacier--Jamieson Stream BY15**
Diane Mellish 337 5530
 *** **Moderate-hard** alpine trip. Ice axe and crampons essential, substantial river crossings, no tracks or signed routes. The Glen Mary Glacier is the one clearly visible directly above the head of Lake Ohau as you drive along the lakeside road. We approach from the Hopkins Valley, staying at Red Hut the first night. Next day starts with steep travel in bush, then up moraine to about 2300m, and on down the glacier, camping at its foot. Day 3 we scramble down Jamieson Stream to the Dobson Valley, along the valley floors and back across the Hopkins River to complete the circuit.
List closes 13 Jan
- 21 Jan Timutimu Head - Scenery Nook N37 BY25**
Sun Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
 * **Easy-moderate** tramp over peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Then on to a natural tidal seal swimming pool at Scenery Nook.
8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, over the rd by the rr Approx cost \$13
- 27-28 Jan Lake Stream - Klondyke L31 BT22**
Gary Huish 332 7020
 ** **Moderate** tramp from Rahu Saddle in Victoria Forest Park. Camping out in a tarn basin below some 1500m peaks. A round trip, dropping into Lake Stream for the return trip. Some great views of the surrounding area from the tops.
List closes 20 Jan
- 28 Jan Cave Stream and Crossing Five Rivers K34 BW21**
Sun Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905
 * **Easy-moderate** walk following Cave Stream as it flows 360m underground and emerges into Broken River. Be prepared for wet and cold conditions. Take a torch and a second one for back-up if you have one, and a dry set of clothing to change into later.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$15

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tues 21 Nov Avon Loop Walk and Dinner



Meet at 6pm where Avonside Drive meets Retreat Road at Gloucester Street end.

for a walk along the inside of the Avon Loop. [Click for map](#) View the new plantings and depending on time we will have a bonus look at Woodham Park.

Dinner at Cocopelli, Palms Arena, Marshland/New Brighton Road. Plenty of choice at reasonable prices. Menu at <http://www.cocopelli.co.nz>. RSVP for meal to Sue Britain 388 2329 or email suebritain@gmail.com by **Sunday 19 November**

Tue 19 Dec Christmas Walk and Barbeque



People who are still around in the week before Christmas are welcome to come for a walk and barbeque with Margot and Gary at 5 Patchett Place, Cashmere. Meet at 6pm for a walk around the Cashmere Hills and return for a barbeque at approximately 7:15pm. Bring your own meat (or tofu) a salad to share and your favorite tippie.

Christmas Base Camp 2017

The end of year base camp will be run from 24 Dec 2017 through to 2 Jan 2018. We have booked the DoC cottage at the Cobb Reservoir for our exclusive use. It's a comfortable cottage with power, hot showers, toilets, full kitchen and bunks inside, also good camping sites outside. \$15 pp inside \$10 pp outside. Lower child rates also available. We were last there Christmas 2008. There is a big selection of walks— Cobb Valley, Lake Sylvester, Lake Peel, Asbestos Cottage to name a few. There are many longer trips in Kahurangi National Park. Stay a day or a week; suit yourself. If you want to come for Christmas Day dinner or want more details please contact Leo Manders 027 442 6080 leomanders60@gmail.com

NOTES

Membership: We welcome new members **Ross Boardman** and **Kim Ashmore**.

PTC Subscriptions for 2018: It's that time of the year when we have to set the PTC subscriptions for the start of the financial year in January. There have been increases in the costs of FMC membership and postal costs. Despite these increases, the Executive Committee considers that the state of the club finances is sufficiently healthy that these can be absorbed for another year *without increasing the current subscription rates*.

Club Documents: Your committee has been updating documents for new members, trip leaders and has created a new sheet to go with the locator beacons to help with helicopter rescue.

Deadline for the November Newsletter: 29 Nov 2017 - send to Bridget O'Regan bridgetandnoel@gmail.com

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 28 November 2017

Trip Photos: The Club maintains a gallery of photographs on its website. Keeping this up to date allows people to see what recent trips the Club has undertaken. Can trip leaders send or nominate someone to send some photographs from each trip to Kevin Hughes, ptc@nivek.co.nz, so we can keep this record current.

TRIP REPORTS

North Opuha - 30th Sept – 1st Oct 2017

Six in two cars left for Spurs Hut on the North Opuha track, not far from Fox Peak ski-field—about 3 hrs car travel. We got away at the civilised time of 8.30 Sat morn. Kerry, Dan and Lee enjoyed a Geraldine coffee stop and caught up with Raymond, Peter and Di at the Hill Top Farm café. The pleasant winding inland Canterbury roads through green pastoral farming country ended at the Fox Peak ski-field gate.

A 2½ hr valley walk on an old 4WD farm track with a few gentle ups and downs got us to Spurs Hut which is a rustic 6 bunk shelter, probably an old musterers' hut. A hunter was there relaxing in the peace and quiet. Then we arrived. He set off late afternoon to hunt tahr that evening but saw nothing. He told us there is plenty of game on the wrong side of the fence, out of DoC territory.

We pitched our tents leaving the hut to the hunter. After a brew we took a stroll up the valley to scope out a route to the tops for the next day. The country of wide valley floors is surrounded by red tussock-covered hills with many small streams. The tops above 1500m were snow covered; the views quite panoramic. Later Di served a delicious dinner followed by an exquisite plum pudding and custard. Sat was warm and sunny. Sunday's forecast looked ok however the temperature dropped very quickly after sundown. We retired early.

In what seemed the middle of the very frosty night, the writer deep in Disneyland, heard urgent shouting. "Everybody up, quickly now, come on!" OMG! What's happening? Fire? flood? No, it's Di, reverting to her climbing days habit of starting off in the dead of night by headlamp! 6 o'clock! We staggered up, had a bit of a wash, a tepid coffee and, bleary eyed, headed off to the spur we had scoped the day before.

It was rough climbing at first, through tussock, speargrass and matagouri. Lee accompanied us for the first hour or so then retreated back to camp to finish The Press crossword, guard the camp and relax. Another hour and we broke through the scrub to rocky slopes then further on, snow. The weather was holding. Crampons on, we started up firm snow slopes towards a 2001m peak. Raymond spotted two tahr high up on a snow ridge. They were quickly gone, leaping into space over the other side of the ridge. At about 1800m we stopped for lunch in cool but clear conditions and wondered if we had time to push on to the 2001m point.



Cloud descended and made up our minds for us. We started back down, staying close together in 50m visibility. The weather cleared and we enjoyed glissading and bum-sliding down the snow slopes. Kerry skilfully “boot skied”. A couple of hours later with sore knees we were back in camp gasping for a brew after our 7 hr excursion. Three and a bit hours later we were back at the cars, changed and off to find coffee and cake. Our relaxed drive home took us through tiny country enclaves such as Cave and Albury as we enjoyed the scenery of South Canterbury before stopping at Pleasant Point, the home of the famous Denheath custard squares. Dinner at the local pub was very nice, but alas the Denheath Bakery was closed.

Thanks Di for a very enjoyable trip in a part of Canty I haven't seen much of.

We were: **Diane Mellish, Raymond Ford, Peter Umbers, Kerry Moore, Lee Varty, Dan Pryce** 🏠 DP

Te Oka Reserve - Devils Gap - Sunday 22 Oct 2017

With a car at each end of our walk, six trampers made the short climb to Te Oka Peak and were thrilled with the view of Little River, Lake Forsyth, Lake Ellesmere and the whole length of Kaitorete Spit on this clear, sunny day. Thanks to a wet spring the hills were very green. With his local knowledge Bruce guided us to the top of Te Oka Bay Road then along an overgrown stock-track in Te Oka Reserve. In one place the going was slow as Bruce did some pruning of wiry vegetation. We used Bossu Road for a short distance to get us to a high point for lunch with views over to French Hill, Western Valley, southern Bays and the very impressive Devils Gap. Descending a spur onto pasture land then going up a farm track took us to the gap itself. The bluffs are popular with rock climbers but we got to the trig the easy way. From there it was down to stock yards where we'd placed a car. An excellent trip, well guided by Bruce. We were: **Bruce Cameron, Sue Britain, Mike Bourke, Vesna & Milomir Mojsilovic, Bill & Wendy Templeton, Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM



Self-timed from Vesna's mini-tripod