



Peninsula Tramping Club (Inc)

FOOTNOTES

June 2022


PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
Postal Address	The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 10167, Phillipstown, Christchurch 8145
Web address	www.ptc.nz
E-mail	secretary@ptc.nz
Facebook name	Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch
Correspondence	All correspondence to the Secretary, including change of contact details

Committee				
Trip Planner 1	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Kerry Moore 359 5069
Trip Planner 2	Alison Maccoll	322 8540	Gear Custodian	Evelien Baas 027 557 5521
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Bridget O'Regan 338 4785
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	Dan Pryce 027 384 7065

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

Our Club

The PTC caters for people of all ages who tramp for recreation. We run trips regularly, ranging from 'easy' to 'hard', day trips to long weekends. In addition to the monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are held every month.

Club Nights	
Club Nights are held on the second Tuesday of the month at Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St and Oxford Terrace) at 7.45pm. Doors open 7.30pm.	
Tuesday 14 June 	PTC Alpine Trips and 90th Anniversary Commemoration Geoff Spearpoint has been leading alpine tramping trips for PTC for many years. The last three have been to the Mathias River in 2020, the Rakaia River in 2021 and the Paringa/Otoko Rivers in 2022. Different areas with different challenges. Gary Huish will treat us to some great stories and spectacular photographs from these three adventures. Supper will include a cake-cutting to mark the club's 90th anniversary .
Tuesday 12 July	The intelligence of water Jacques Benveniste , will describe his "discovery" that water is an intelligent liquid. He will explain why water is able to remember events long after all traces of those events have vanished—his proposed explanation for homeopathy

Social Events

Tirama Mai Light Show then dinner at Mumbaiiwala Wednesday 29 June

Celebrate Matariki by exploring the Tirama Mai light displays in the city centre. Meet at **6pm** at the main entrance archway of Te Pai Convention Centre on Oxford Terrace. We will walk to Mumbaiiwala (120 Hereford St) via the various light installations, arriving at the restaurant by 7.15pm.

Dinner bookings to **Margot Bowden by Sunday 26 June**. 332 7020 margot.bowden@gmail.com

NOTES

Membership

RIP Dennis Kemp, 29 January 1930 – 8 May 2022. We mourn the loss of long-time member and club patron, Dennis Kemp. Members who tramped with Dennis will remember him as a tall athletic guy who usually carried a monster pack and would be the first to take extra to help a struggling trumper. He was on the committee for a time and was a willing leader of weekend trips, and lengthy base camps in locations such as Totaranui and Mavora Lakes. As an engineer Dennis spent time in England at the start of the jet age, and became an expert in aeronautics. Back in NZ he became chief engineer of Air NZ and its precursor. Dennis was a true gentleman who had a wealth of stories to tell from his travels and work. We will miss him greatly.

TRIPS

11 Jun

Saturday

[Pigeon Bay Walkway](#)

Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726

- This DoC walking track follows the eastern side of Pigeon Bay on Banks Peninsula and rewards trampers with spectacular views of the coast. About 7km one way. The giant trees in the reserve are an added attraction if we have time to divert there.

Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH

19 Jun

Sun

[Purple Hill](#)

Kerry Moore 359 5069

- A moderate climb of this 1680m peak above Lake Pearson with superb views around Castle Hill Basin.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

24-26 Jun

Fri-Sun

[Mt Cook, Matariki base](#)

Diane Mellish 027 413 6468

- Comfortable accommodation at Unwin Lodge, shared meal in the big kitchen/lounge on Saturday night followed by social time, games etc. A variety of day walks to choose from, very easy to moderate.

Book by 10 June

26 Jun

Sun

[Waimakariri Braids, Chch 360 Trail](#)

Diane Dixon 358 4459

- Waimakariri Braids section from Whites Crossing to McLeans Island Park.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

2-3 Jul

Sat-Sun

[Magdalen Hut](#)

Awaiting leader

- An easy, flat track to this modern little hut on the Boyle River. Mistletoe nearby.

Book by 26 June

- 3 Jul** [Mt Cloudsley](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
● A moderate climb up Long Spur from Castle Hill Village to reach 2107m Mt Cloudsley and enjoy views over Castle Hill Basin. Take ice-axe and crampons.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 9-10 Jul** [Casey Saddle--Binser Saddle](#)
Sat-Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●● An easy moderate circuit up Andrews Stream and down Casey Stream to the new Casey Hut. Day 2 goes down the Poulter River and over Binser Saddle.
Book by 3 July
- 10 Jul** [Okuti Valley—Mt Sinclair Reserve](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
● An easy-moderate walk up the Okuti Valley and into the Mt Sinclair Reserve with views across Banks Peninsula.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 16-17 Jul** [Youngman Stream--Lilburne Hill](#)
Sat-Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●● Easy-moderate tramp to Youngman Stream Hut in the upper Ashley. We will exit via Lilburne Hill and Tarn Hut.
Book by 10 July
- 17 Jul** [Red Hill](#)
Sun **Diane Mellish 337 5530, 027 413 6468**
● Moderate trip to this 1641m peak between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Choice of route depending on conditions. Probable snow on the top so an ice axe may be helpful.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 23-27 Jul** [Welcome Flat Hot Pools](#)
Sat-Wed **Awaiting leader**
●●●●● A moderate 7hr, 18km walk to this popular, large hut beside the famous hot pools in Westland.
Book by 17 July
- 24 Jul** [Waipara Wine Trail](#)
Sun **Diane Dixon 358 4459**
● An easy, pleasant walk around the vineyards of Waipara with opportunities to visit tasting rooms and enjoy the local hospitality.
Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 30-31 Jul** [Arthur's Pass Base](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
●● On this winter base we will enjoy home comforts, staying in the village. With good numbers we will have cheap accommodation for Friday and Saturday night. A 'potluck' dinner on Saturday night is always sociable after a hot shower at the end of a satisfying day's tramp. The area has a great range of trips. For the energetic: Avalanche Peak, Mt Aitken or a number of others. More relaxed walks are Otira Valley and Bealey Chasm. The weekend could be a chance to brush up your snow skills. All welcome. Departure time from Chch on Friday afternoon or evening is flexible. Take ice-axe and crampons for above the bush-line walks.
List closes Sun 12 June and a \$25 deposit will be required to secure our accommodation.

- 31 Jul** [Mt Bealey](#)
Sun **Dan Pryce 027 384 7065**
 ● A moderate climb with over 1000m height gain, up 1836m Mt Bealey from Arthur's Pass Village. Ice axe and crampons likely to be needed near the top.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- August** [Ice Lake](#)
Names to Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 fordrm@snap.net.nz
 ●●●●● A fairly rugged, 5-day, moderate walk to Butler Hut then to Top Butler Hut and Ice Lake. Loosely scheduled to ensure we beat the weather this time.
Contact leader
- 8-9 Aug** [Nina Valley](#)
Mon-Tues **Dan Pryce 027 384 7065**
 ●● An easy, flat walk in beautiful Nina Valley forest to this modern hut. Mid-week because the hut is too popular on weekends.
Book by 31 July
- 7 Aug** [Christchurch 360 Trail](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● The leader will have a choice of any of the eight segments: Godley Cliffs, Estuary Marshes, Dunes Wetlands, Brooklands Mouth, Waimakariri Braids, Avonhead Gardens, Opawaho Divide and Sugarloaf Hills.
Meeting place dependant on which leg we do
- 13 -14 Aug** [Hanmer Base](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ●● Enjoy a good variety of hill climbs or easy valley walks.
Book by 7 Aug

TRIP REPORTS

Andrews Stream – Castle Hill 2 - 3 April 2022

An up and back trip from the Andrews Shelter, our route was up the Andrews, along Hallelujah Flat, over Casey Saddle, then down Surprise Stream to the familiar junction with the Casey Stream. From there it was a steep climb and bush-bash north up the end of the Castle Hill – Green Hill Range, to a camp beside the tarns at 1391m, below 1545m Castle Hill. Our ultimate objective before returning on Sunday was Castle Hill, or maybe even the big tarn below 1585m Green Hill.

For me, the first time I did this trip was April 2002, leaving Chch at 6.45am and reaching Castle tarns at 3pm. We were back to the car by 4.20pm on the Sunday. The next time was May 2006 with Andy Duck and Margaret Clark, leaving Chch 7am and to Castle tarns 5pm. We got back to the car at 7pm! On neither trip do I recall a bush-bash up from the Casey. Maybe it was straightforward or maybe I don't want to remember.

We left Honora and Frank's at 7.30am, with a fine two-day forecast. This time we were four, three from Chch plus Helen who met us at Springfield. At Andrews Shelter there were a number of vehicles. One group of three from Rangiora TC, including Tini, was headed for Casey Hut. We started up the Andrews Track at 9.30am and soon caught them. Our lunch-stop was part-way along Hallelujah Flat, well sheltered from a moderate nor-wester. The walk on and down Surprise Stream seemed to involve more rock scrambling than I recall, but it was still pleasant.

Arriving at the confluence of the stream with Casey Stream and faced by bluffs directly ahead we didn't look upstream for a likely route up. A short distance downstream revealed a possible route up via a bit of a gully. It was steep but eventually got us up on to the small bush-covered plateau we were aiming for. It didn't get any easier from there, though. Maybe the under-storey wasn't as high twenty years ago. We were relieved to emerge from the bush and had only to cope with a still steep climb up through open tussock. Only one of the tarns at 1391m still had significant water in it, so at 5.40pm our campsite for the night was obvious, though not ideal, with limited shelter from the occasional nor-west puff, but we took it gratefully and were able to cook easily below the top lip of the tarn.



Any nor-west breeze died overnight and Sunday dawned brilliantly clear, making this a great place to be. Our intention always was to go on as far as we could, governed by the time we needed to leave the campsite in order to be back at Andrews Shelter at a respectable hour. Having taken eight hours-plus, getting in, a 10am departure should get us down before 6pm. So, after breakfast, without too much rush, Helen and Honora set out for Castle Hill. Twenty minutes later they were little specks on the top ridge and returned with photos to prove what stunning views it provided. Meanwhile Frank and I had dismantled the tents, leaving little further packing to do.

Away from the campsite at 10.10am, we followed Frank's GPS trace from the previous day. Frank micro-managed that very accurately, so while still a bush-bash, we descended exactly to the plateau and our entry gully, dropping out to the confluence at 12.50pm and a welcome lunch stop. The return up Surprise Stream, along Hallelujah Flat in the heat, then the roller-coaster up and down the Andrews track, was a long walk out after lunch. The eight-hour tramp got us back to our vehicle at 6.15pm—a satisfying trip.

We were: **Helen Binnie, Frank King, Honora Renwick and Merv Meredith (leader)** 🏔️ MM.



The view to the Poulter River

Wharfedale Hut Sunday 9 April 2022

We four set off on a glorious sunny Saturday morning, stopping briefly in Oxford before heading along the Lees Valley road, the long, winding and scenic route to the beginning of the Townshend Track. There we found our first challenge – the stile into the paddock where the track began was guarded by a large, black bull, and the whole paddock looked to be full of bulls. Two of us chose to use said stile, under the bull's watchful (or was it baleful?) gaze, and the other two chose to climb the fence into the adjoining paddock and thereby risk electrocution instead. Happily, we all got over the fence and through the paddock unscathed.

After an hour or so of walking on a flat and fairly straight four wheel drive track in open county, we stopped beside the river for morning tea. The local sandfly population, along with residents of some nearby beehives helped ensure that it wasn't too long a stop. Before crossing the river to continue the track, we noticed a sign marked 'Emergency Route', and gathered that the route so indicated was intended for when the river was impassable.

Across the river, the track became more undulating and winding and eventually, after another river crossing, headed from the open country into beech forest. On reaching a bridge about 1.5km from the Wharfedale Hut, we elected to lunch there by the river, rather than carrying on to the hut itself. It was a pleasant spot, but once again we were encouraged by the sandflies not to consider an extended siesta-time there.

On the return journey, when we reached the 'Emergency Route' sign, we decided to head up there for a change of scene. Admittedly, we were not facing an emergency but we had after-all, warded off a few potential emergencies (such as being gored by bulls, fried on electric fences, attacked by killer wasps etc) The sign enjoined us to 'stick to the marked route' but after we had negotiated the swing bridge across the river, we had some difficulty locating a marked route, and so regrettably, but in the interests of avoiding a genuine emergency, we headed back across the bridge and onto the original track.

It was a pleasant walk back to the start of the track, still under a cloudless sky. The paddock that lay between us and the car remained well-populated by "bulls" when we reached it, but we feigned nonchalance as we made our way among them (the writer at least feigned nonchalance – my companions may have been genuinely nonchalant) before wending our way back along the winding Lees Valley road and then home. It was a very enjoyable day and we are grateful to Graeme for his leadership of the expedition, his excellent driving and for organising such beautiful weather.

We were: **Graeme Nicholas (leader), Mary McKeown, Rhonda Trounson and Joanna Frampton** 🏠 JF



Nina Hut - Devilskin Saddle

28 - 30 April 2022.

Due to a poor weather forecast the scheduled trip, **Potts River- South Ashburton** 23-25th April 2022 was cancelled but replaced with new dates and location.

Thursday: At about 7.45 am we all travelled north with trip leader Merv Meredith in his car. A 2½ hour drive got us opposite the Nina Valley at the deerstalker's, Palmer Lodge. On our way to Nina Hut, we came across four groups with a total of 16 trampers and they were tramping back from Devil's Den or Nina Hut, or day-tramping. Among them, a group from 'Home Bus', had 6 children (one was under 4!) and 4 adults, which was impressive. During lunch-break, we had a good chat to them. We passed 184 numbered pest traps along the way but only saw a couple with checked-in guests.

Along the way two swing-bridges kept our feet dry and we arrived at Nina Hut, about 4.20pm. Another family with two young children, Elsie and Daisy, joined us at 5pm. Another trumper arrived after dark! We had a very pleasant night in this warm hut, with hot tea, hot soup and a nutritious hot dinner, courtesy of Merv.

Friday: After packing for a day trip, we headed for Devilskin Saddle. At 1.15 pm. At a height of about 1100m, we decided to have lunch and turn back, so we could reach Nina Hut before dark. We didn't meet a single human during, or after, our tramping, but we had lovely company from robins, including a black one, tomtits and fantails. One fantail was very keen to have a long conversation with us. We saw three rain gauges and only three pest traps on our trip. Back at the hut we felt like royalty, getting another nutritious hot dinner.

Saturday: We met three groups with a total of seven people on our way out to the road. Four of them planned to go to Devils Den. One of them was carrying a rifle instead of hiking poles.

On each day we took more than the sign-posted time as we absorbed new sights and sounds on this educational adventure. Thanks go to Merv for giving us valuable information about NZ forests, trees, pests and birds. We really enjoyed our three days. Trampers were: **Merv, Arju and Sha.** 🌲 SSG

Pudding Hill Sunday 22 May 2022

Ten in two cars arrived at a deer fence gate on Alford Station to be let in by a genial farmer who gave us maps of the farm and a run-down on the farm's features. This PR effort may be a trend, as our trampers on the Mt Alexander walk also were treated to a little talk about the farm.

Starting on a flat vehicle track we passed some hefty Angus bulls, then headed upward past a small douglas fir plantation and were soon getting views of a green Canterbury patchwork. Below Pudding Hill, Bill and Kathy elected to stride out and see how far towards Mt Bruce they could get while we ambled in tussock country, along to the ridge of the Pudding Hill Range to approach the 868m Pudding from the far side. One of our team was so enthralled by the view to a snowy Mt Hutt and the vast plains that he left his walking stick at the top and had to go back 200m to get it. No, it wasn't Stuart this time.

We had lunch further up the ridge and then walked down a fence-line to get onto a good vehicle track that led through a gully of native forest. We were told we'd see a giant, elderly matai and, yes there it was, impressively leaning out over the track. Stuart identified a prolific pest plant along the track as Himalayan honeysuckle. Back at our morning tea stop, post-pile we had a break from our mild exertions and waited for Bill and Kathy to appear. They got quite high and were in patches of snow, but well short of 1829m Mt Bruce which is over 8km from Pudding.

We timed getting back to the cars just as the farmer came from Methven to make sure we were out and he could re-lock the gate. This was new terrain for most of us and catered well for us all—the energetic and Sunday amblers. Many thanks to our leader, Chris for the planning and execution.

We were: Chris Leaver, Graham Townsend, Stuart Payne, Wendy McCaughan, Kathy Ramsay, Bill Templeton, Kyung Sang Lee, Dan Pryce, Dorota Giejsztowt and Kerry Moore 🏔️ KM



The lower echelon