



December, January 2022,23

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee					
Trip Planner 1	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069
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Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Bridget O'Regan	338 4785
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	Dan Pryce	027 384 7065
			Committee	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726

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 13 Dec



CHRISTMAS FRIVOLITY

Enjoy a Christmas quiz and super supper on our last club night of the year. Dan and Bridget have devised a quiz to test your team's knowledge of Christmas trivia.
Bring a plate of Christmas themed supper food.

Tuesday 14 Feb



SOUTH-WEST COAST PATH: Westward Ho to Padstow

Margot Bowden will tell us about her and Gary's recent adventure on the Northern Devon and Cornwall coast. The South-West Coast Path was established by the original nineteenth century coastguard to follow the cliff tops and keep an eye on smuggling activity in the coves below. Margot and Gary followed the section around Hartland Point, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Bristol Channel, described as the toughest, most isolated and most spectacular walking on the entire SWCP.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 18 January Social Walk and Dinner

Geoff Price and Gwyntha Taylor have invited us to start 2023 with a walk from their home, then a BBQ dinner. Meet at **6pm at 1 Le Cascina Lane Riccarton**, off the southern end of Brockworth Place, near Deans Avenue. There are 4 parking spaces in the lane and 2 spaces in front of the garage, or in Brockworth Place. The walk will take us through the Deans Avenue Precinct, returning through Hagley Park. Dinner at 7pm will be a BYO and cook your own (CYO) BBQ. Bring a salad or dessert to share. BYO drinks and meat or non-meat. BBQs will be provided. If the weather is bad, we will start the BBQ at 6pm.

Geoff and Gwyntha have a large house, so there is no restriction on numbers but please let Margot know if you are coming by **Sunday 15 Jan** so our hosts have an idea of numbers.

<mailto:margot.bowden@gmail.com> 03 332 7020

NOTES

Notice of 2023 AGM

Tues 14 March

The PTC 91st Annual General Meeting will be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall

Tuesday 14 March 2023 starting promptly at 7.30pm, prior to our normal Club night

The agenda will include:

1. Election of Officers and Executive members

Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available on the night.

2. Notified motions

Note that any member wishing to give **notice of a motion** for consideration at the AGM should forward their notice to the Secretary **at, or prior to, our 14th FEBRUARY Club night**.

The complete AGM agenda, including any Notices of Motion received, will be circulated by email in late Feb.

Merv Meredith secretary@ptc.nz

Happy Holidays

Your Peninsula TC committee hopes you all enjoy a safe summer holiday break, whether you venture far afield or stay close to home. A quick read of the [club emergency procedures](#) can help if something goes awry on a tramping trip.

The 2023 annual subscription reminder notices should be accompanying this newsletter.

As decided at the October SGM, rates are now **\$40 for an electronic membership** and **\$55 for a hardcopy membership**.

With the AGM looming in March, the outgoing committee would love to see some fresh faces filling vacancies on the incoming 2023 committee.

TRIPS

11 Dec

[The Pyramid](#)

Sun

Peter Umbers 359 9118

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A moderate climb of The Pyramid in Arthurs Pass NP, with a scree descent to the Hawdon River.

Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 18 Dec**
Sun
● **[End of Year Picnic](#)**
Glenda or Merv M 322 7239
We are returning to our favourite picnic spot in the Stoddart Point Reserve on the lower level at Diamond Harbour. Drive in to the left of the shops on the road to the jetty and then to the right at the first hairpin, into the reserve. Come when it suits you.
You can catch the ferry from Lyttelton, with or without your bike.
As well as walking, there are plenty of options such as, a **swim** at Diamond Harbour or Purau. Take your **kayak** or any vessel or **bike**. Camp Bay and Port Levy are in biking range. From the reserve, there is a cliff-face track running some distance both ways, as well as a number of other tracks higher up, including the Monument Track to Mt Herbert. Merv's silver Outback HST15 will be in the reserve, about 10am. If they have gone walkabout there is a good chance they'll be biking to Camp Bay. We'll all gather at lunchtime.
- 22-26 Dec**
Sat-Thurs
●●●●● **[Christmas Base](#)**
mothompson1212@gmail.com 021 266 4778
Maureen T will be at the Totaranui DoC camp 22-26 December. If anyone fancies a beach Xmas you'll be welcome. \$15 a night. Book online BUT it's fully booked after 26 December. BYO everything. We'll organise a potluck Xmas dinner. In the past we've camped near Zone L so we'll try to get a spot there.
- 31Dec-4Jan**
Sat-Thu
[New Year Tramp](#)
Awaiting leader. Names to Diane Mellish 027 413 6468
Anyone interested in a New Year tramp? Contact Diane and she will put you in contact with other interested members. Diane cannot lead this trip as she may not be sufficiently fit after recent injuries.
- 7-9 Jan**
Sat-Mon
●●● **[Ashburton Headwaters](#)**
Diane Mellish 027 413 6468
Beautiful area with lovely alpine views. We can visit the Ashburton Glacier, explore the gorge or cross to the Cameron River for a round trip.
Book by 1 Jan
- 8 Jan**
Sun
● **[Lucas Peak - Scenery Nook](#)**
Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905
Easy-moderate tramp over Peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Eat lunch while watching the seals and birdlife at Scenery Nook.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 14-16 Jan**
Sat-Mon
●●● **[Sinclair Range](#)**
Awaiting leader. If interested contact Diane Mellish 027 413 6468
Mount Sinclair and a good tarn to camp by beckon on this adventure near Mesopotamia Station.
Book by 8 Jan

- 14 Jan** [Ashley River Splash](#)
Sat **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
 ● 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
- 14-16 Jan** [Boanerges](#)
Sat-Mon **Raymond Ford** fordrm@snap.net.nz **022 318 0872**
 ●●● Situated near the confluence of the Huxley and Hopkins rivers is the 2254m peak Boanerges. A moderate-hard trip via the south-east ridge from Huxley Forks. Alpine skills required. Dates may vary slightly depending on the weather.
Book by 8 Jan
- 21-22 Jan** [Rocky Creek--Griffin Creek](#)
Sat-Sun **Honora Renwick** **942 8368**
 ●● An interesting circuit with forest and tops travel. Staying at the unusual Griffin Creek Hut.
Book by 15 Jan
- 21 Jan** [Onepunga Falls](#)
Sat **Kerry Moore** **359 5069**
 ● An easy walk/wade up Bobby Stream to the falls. Take secateurs as it may need a trim since we were there a year ago. Take a bag as there may still be plums at the car park.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 28-29 Jan** [Avoca – Torlesse Range](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● Parking at the end of Craigieburn Rd and walking the short distance to the old Avoca Homestead. Day 2, climbing a vehicle track towards Bold Hill, then onto the main Torlesse ridge, past Otarama Peak, to Back Peak and out via Mt Torlesse or Castle Hill and Foggy Peaks. Moderate-hard. Anyone wanting an easy weekend can explore the mining relics up Broken Rr.
Book by 22 Jan
- 28 Jan** [Lyndon Saddle - Helicopter Hill](#)
Sat **Awaiting leader**
 ● An easy-moderate 5-6hr circuit from Craigieburn Campsite shelter on the Mistletoe Track to Lyndon Saddle with a side trip to Helicopter Hill. We then return to the saddle and go to the Craigieburn Edge Track which leads to the ski-field road where it joins with the Sidle Track and back to the cars.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- Alpine Trip**
Sat-Mon **Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727**
 ●●●●●●●● Contact Geoff for details.
- North Otago & South Canterbury Beauty Spots**
Sat-----Mon **Diane Mellish 027 413 6468**
 ●●●●●●●● Visiting the Ahuriri and Ohau areas, possibly Mt Cook area. Load-carrying for only 2 nights at a time. Camping in valleys and exploring up higher with a lighter day pack. Lots of options depending on weather and river flows.

- 5 Feb** [Ben More--Big Ben--Dry Acheron](#)
Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● A moderate through-trip from Lake Lyndon to the Lake Coleridge road taking in two Bens--1655m Ben More and 1416m Big Ben. Take plenty of water.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- [Springfield Jet Boating Adventure](#)
Names to Diane Mellish on 027 413 6468
 Anyone interested can check out alpinejetthrills.com and contact Diane. We will organise something to suit.
- 12 Feb** [Gorge Hill - Cave Stream](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● An easy-moderate wade along Cave Stream as it flows 360m underground and emerges to join Broken River. Be prepared for wet and cold conditions. Take a torch and a second one for backup and a dry set of clothes to change into later. We'll do a warm-up climb of Gorge Hill with its fascinating sculpted limestone before the cave walk.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

TRIP REPORTS

Princess Bath – Mount Princess

14 – 15 October 2022

We tried to run this two-day trip last year but weather, preferred routes and who was coming from where were eventually too difficult so we canned it. Also, we had tried scheduling before without success. This time was a different story. There was no doubt about the weather and the route all fell into place nicely. We moved it to Friday-Saturday but as it turned out, Sunday would have been ok, too.

Geoff arrived at my place at 6.30am, we picked up Raymond and then Peter on our way north. The long drive up the hydro road took us to the Maling Pass car park. I tried driving up the road but gave up after a few hundred metres and parked; walking after 10.30am, almost to the pass and turned off on a well-used trail on the spur to point 1572m.

A few weeks back my battered hip had decided to throw a wobbly, so climbing was a struggle, as was keeping up with the other three, but I wouldn't have missed being there in weather like that. As planned, our route sidled in moderately soft snow, circling around below point 1906m and eventually dropping to the snow-covered lake at the western end. At 3.30 we scouted around toward the eastern end and found two good tent sites, free of snow and near the lake outlet—couldn't have been better. We set up, had a brew and then at 5pm Raymond, Geoff and Peter set out up the western ridge, headed for Mt Princess.

Often, staying put at a base can be a very cold experience, but not this time, even when the sun dropped below the top ridge. I had plenty of time to explore while watching the other three progressing up the steep slope. They were on the first saddle at 6.05pm when I last saw them and as Peter said, were in no hurry to return once on top of 2126m Mt Princess with a view all around that would be hard to beat. They returned at 7.30pm for a late dinner, still in pleasant, calm conditions.

Saturday was just as nice. The tussock around the tent-site had stayed dry overnight. How often does that happen? Away at 9am, we exited as for our inward route, this time with crampons on, around to a snow slope descending north of 1906m. We had noted it on the way up and it proved cruisy. Part way down, we sat in a good spot for ages, taking in the view and chatting, eventually moving again by 10am. Below the snow slope there was still a long way down to the valley floor,



Our site near the rim of Princess Bath



Geoff and Peter nearing the summit

Down-valley we stopped at 11.25am for our first lunch, with another at 12.20, beside a small stream. It was such a nice spot that we put the billy on. Continuing across the flats and Maling Stream, we climbed up to the road by 1.40 and trudged back to our vehicle at 2.40. We had plenty of time to drive out, with the usual coffee stop in Hanmer in lovely weather, and still be back in Christchurch by early evening. We were **Raymond Ford, Merv Meredith (leader), Geoff Spearpoint and Peter Umbers.** 🏔️ MM

Mount Arthur Tablelands – Kahurangi National Park

22-26 October 2022

After a night in cabins at Quinneys Bush campsite, Motupiko, we set off early for Flora car-park. Geared up for a long day, we headed off to Arthur Hut and on to Mt Arthur. The weather at the summit was cloudy and misty and we had to negotiate a couple of snow patches on the way which added to the challenge. We didn't get to see as much as we had hoped but still got a sense of achievement having reached the top.



Gary, Angela and Wendy deep in conversation on the summit of Mt Arthur

It was off over Gordons Pyramid and on to Salisbury Lodge for the night. There were quite a number of people there when we arrived, so we all decided that tents or under the nearby rock shelter were the best places to sleep. We spent the next morning exploring nearby caves with our very own cave guide, enjoying the tussock grasslands and being careful not to fall down any potholes. The limestone caves were beautiful when lit with torches, with stalagmites and stalactites everywhere. Those who ventured far enough even found cave spiders sitting on egg sacs.

After lunch, back at the lodge, we donned our packs and headed an hour and a half up the track to Balloon Hut. After a brief rest and before they got too settled, four of our more intrepid trampers donned wind-proof jackets and headed out to climb Mt Peel. Sometime later they returned, wind-blown and ready for dinner. We spent a quiet evening in the hut by ourselves.

When the wind blows, it sure can blow. On day three we were blown along Peel Ridge to Peel Lake and on eventually to the bush which gave some respite. Along the tops we got great views all around, back towards

the Mt Arthur Range as well as to the Cobb Reservoir. We stayed the night at Upper Gridiron Hut. Tucked up off the track and built into a very large rock, this unusual hut provided great shelter, had an outdoor swing seat and two cheeky weka keen to get any crumbs that we might drop.

The last day dawned grey, and rain started as we headed out towards Flora Hut and back to the car. The shelter provided a dry place to change out of wet gear and get ready for the long drive home. Thanks to my tramping companions for your company and the introduction to a new area. It has piqued my interest as an area to explore further in the future. We were: **Angela Grigg (leader), Gary Huish, Bill & Wendy Templeton and Alison Maccoll** 🏔️ AM



Lunch-stop near Flora stream. Note the **Friends of Flora** trap box.

Orton Bradley—Packhorse Hut—Te Ara Pataka Circuit

Sunday 20 Nov 2022

Our five paid the requested \$10 to Orton Bradley Park for Bill's SUV and we must have been walking before 9am. A sign steered us onto the OB valley track because the Tablelands Track had danger from rolling logs. Images of [this](#) came to mind. Blue posts showed us the way to the well-maintained Falkner Track leading to Packhorse Hut. Mt B was shrouded in mist in the morning. After an early lunch at the hut, we got onto the Te Ara Pataka Track and looked down on a very green Kaituna Valley. Nearing the ridge between Mounts Bradley and Herbert we were passing through brightly flowering gorse and the whole land-block, now owned by the NZ people is well-endowed with this nitrogen fixing import. At a junction we chose to go down the left (west) side of the valley which is more open and lacks the forest tracks of the right side. From our side of the valley, we got a good view of the waterfall, illuminated by afternoon sun. We chose the Tablelands Track that stays high, then drops steeply to the car park. Our team of **Dan Pryce (leading), Bill & Wendy Templeton, John Robinson and Kerry Moore** took a leisurely 7½ hours in super weather. 🏔️ KM



Kerry grudgingly admits that the foxgloves enhanced the view



Pack Horse Hut from the zig-zag



Hopeless Hut – Sunset Saddle – Lake Angelus

27-29 Nov 2022

It was noon on the Sunday as our four braved a rainy day to go 20km along Lake Rotoiti's Lakeside Track, past Coldwater Hut and up to Hopeless Hut, a 400m steady climb from the lake. Arriving at 7:45, we didn't have to go in the hut to get the impression that it was already occupied because an array of shoes and boots was strewn outside the door. An adventure-racing group of eight teens from Motueka High, a parent and an outdoor instructor were there. It wasn't hopeless because the hut now has an annex which can sleep people on its bare floor. The ten quickly made space for us oldies and we were able to cook on the table and dined as darkness fell. We each got to sleep on one of the six bunks, though the mattresses seemed to suffer from creaky noises every time we moved. Bill, as usual, was first up in the morning to witness a fine day and we set off at 7:30am as the teens were slowly emerging from their slumber and the outdoor instructor was shaking the water off his tent. The "Mot" team departed at 8:30.



We arrive at Hopeless Creek in light rain

Up-valley, forest gave way to scrub and then scree. Our four didn't go far enough to catch the zig-zag up the scree, so had to do a long diagonal to get above the cascades that drain from the first tarn. Where finding the right route is vital, we found useful cairns. Bill and Wendy had ice-axes to handle the soft snow we encountered. Raymond and Kerry used walking poles. As we left the first tarn the racy teen team arrived. Climbing on snow and boulders with no vegetation in sight we made our way past some nice tarns and reached the 1890m Sunset Saddle at noon. Nearby 2075m Angelus Peak is easily climbed in good conditions, not today. By this time mist had descended but we could see Hinapouri Tarn. Our four were now following well-trodden snow prints left by the Mot people, down rock and slushy snow on snow-grass.

We arrived at Angelus Hut by 2pm to greet the teen team and relax. For the teens it was just a snack stop. They headed off for the road-end along Robert Ridge in mist and a cold wind! The hut filled to $\frac{3}{4}$ capacity over the afternoon. Two of the visitors were a young Japanese honeymoon couple, so Raymond was able to converse with them. The hut was still in winter mode, with no sinks available and water came from the lake, so "boil water" signs were prominent. Bill used the snow shovel to clear the deck of 4cm of snow. During the afternoon the lake view kept changing as mists swirled. We were pleased we'd booked a \$30 hut bed and not a \$15 tent site. Our crew was one of the first up in the morning and got away at 7:30. The Japanese couple wanted to go with us because they were unsure what snow or track conditions they might encounter. They

were slower to get ready, so said they'd manage without us. The descent to Speargrass Hut took us over 2½ hours, then 3 hours got us to the Mt Robert Road car park. Bill and Raymond had gone ahead to walk a few kilometres to the lakeside car park to get the car, so Wendy and Kerry didn't have to wait long. The Japanese couple arrived in good time and were pleased they'd taken the Speargrass route, rather than the ridge track.

A stop at Murchison allowed us to eat decadent food and drink tea or coffee. Emerging from the cafe, we were surprised at how warm the day was, and our drive home was in nor-west conditions. This was a memorable trip in the company of **Bill and Wendy Templeton, Raymond Ford and Kerry Moore**, with the bonus of meeting interesting people and seeing great snow-covered landscapes. 🏔️ KM



Packing to leave Hopeless Hut on a fine Monday morning



Looking to Angelus Peak from the first tarn, still 1.3km short of the saddle, off at the top left.