



Peninsula Tramping Club (Inc)

FOOTNOTES

February 2023


| | |
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| 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 |
| | | | 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 | |
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| 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 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. |
| Tuesday 14 Mar | AGM and Photographic Trip Reports Starting promptly at 7.30pm the AGM will precede a photographic presentation of some trips members have done. |

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 21 February

Scarborough Hill Views then dine at Le Xom

Depart 6pm from the Clock Tower at the end of Sumner Esplanade. We'll have a steady climb via Whitewash Head road and various tracks up to Nicholson Park. We could go on another 5 minutes for views of Boulder Bay. We return down Flowers Track. You might like to bring your boots and poles. Drive back into Sumner for dinner at **Le Xom Vietnamese Restaurant, 6 Wakefield Ave at 7.15pm**. For dinner, book with **Maureen Thompson by Friday 17 February**. Ph 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com.

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

2023

Welcome to another year with lots of club tramping to look forward to. Already we are into the second month and the cooler months beckon, with trips to take advantage of the changing seasons ahead. These trips have been collated into an annual calendar, but they sometimes don't go ahead because of bad weather or a lack of people willing to lead them. So please, if you see a trip you want to go on, consider offering to lead it.

The AGM is next month and all the current committee positions are up for grabs. Again, if you want to have a say in the running of your club, then please consider putting your name forward to be part of the 2023 committee.

Memorial to Brian

You will all recall with sadness the unexpected passing of Brian Smith in August 2021.

The Smith family subsequently donated to the club from Brian's estate, suggesting we apply the funds to something that would provide a lasting legacy to Brian. After an extended period of suggestions from members, the club has resolved that it would be very appropriate to donate the funds to the Summit Road Society (SRS). This donation will assist the purchase of plants for the planting programme that SRS is undertaking in their new **Linda Woods Reserve**. The reserve extends up the Avoca Valley from above Port Hills Road. In memory of Brian, the club will help with an SRS planting day in the reserve,

9.30am – 12.30pm, Saturday 10 June 23.

Canterbury Mountain Radio Service Closing 30 June 2023

Due to the diminishing usage, low revenue/funding and lack of volunteers the Canterbury Mountain Radio Service will close 30 June. This is after 55 years of continuous operation.

Hunters have traditionally been the main customers during the roar in Fiordland. This patronage has dropped off markedly in recent years. The service will still be available for the 2023 roar and our Te Anau base will still have radios for hire as will our normal depots. The service currently supports mountain radios in eight mountain club huts including the Reischek Hut owned by the South Canterbury NZDA.

In the meantime, CMRS plans to continue the service with a daily 8:30am morning call and the usual 7:30pm call, both with updated weather and the opportunity to check in. Telephone calls can still be made from radios and the hut sets. If any member is willing to assist as volunteer operators in the meantime, please contact iangardiner2017@gmail.com

TRIPS

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

Feb [Springfield Jet Boating Adventure](#)

Anyone interested, check out the website.

Tell Diane Mellish on 027 413 6468 and we will organise something to suit.

12 Feb [Gorge Hill - Cave Stream](#)

Sun Awaiting leader

- 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

18-19 Feb [Boundary Ck Hut - Dogs Range - Mystery Lake](#)

Sat-Sun Diane Mellish 027 413 6468

- Easy-moderate tramp up Paddle Hill Creek to historic Boundary Creek Hut. Return traversing Dogs Range and Mystery Lake to Lake Clearwater. Nice one for children.
Book by 12 Feb

19 Feb [Woolshed Hill](#)

Sun Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726

- From near Hawdon Shelter, a moderate up-and-back to 1429m Woolshed Hill with great views, including the Three Peaks of Binsler.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 25-26 Feb** [Casey Tarn](#)
Sat-Sun **Chris Leaver 03 322 6445**
 ●● Parking at Ryton Station. A moderate climb on the Birdwood Range to camp high at Casey Tarn. Final route will depend on access permission. Possibly leaving Friday night.
Book by 19 Feb
- 26 Feb** [Bealey Spur](#)
Sun **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
 ● An easy-moderate walk up this spur above the Waimakariri River with beautiful views of many peaks in the national park.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 4-6 Mar** [Mt Valiant](#)
Sat-Mon **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ●●● 1847m Mt V gives splendid views all-around. A moderate-hard climb from the East Hawdon Biv.
Book by 26 Feb
- 5 Mar** [Mt Oxford - Ashley Saddle](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ● A moderate circuit to Mt Oxford then east over Oxford Hill, Ashley Saddle and down a handy spur to the cars.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- March** [Serpentine Range](#)
 ●●●● **Contact Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872**
 A moderate-hard four-day trip starting from the Routeburn Track over Sugarloaf Pass to the Rockburn Valley. Up to Park Pass along the ridge to Lake Nerine, then traverse the range to Lake Wilson and Harris Saddle and return via the Routeburn Track.
Book by 19 Feb
- 11-12 Mar** [Hunts Creek - Mt Barron](#)
Sat-Sun **Sonja Risa 028 8517 3969 or sonja.risa@gmail.com**
 ●● We walk up the Kellys Creek Track, over Hunt Saddle to stay at Hunts Creek Hut. Exiting Sunday over Mt Barron to Otira.
Book by 5 Mar
- 12 Mar** [Vulcan](#)
Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● An easy-moderate walk starting on Motunau Beach to this low 412m hill.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 19 Mar** [Mt Tripp](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● Inland from Mayfield, on the north bank of the Rangitata River. Starting at the end of Chapmans Rd we take the South Hinds Track, then up a fence-line onto the Morehouse Range to Brown Saddle to climb 1368m Mt Tripp. Back the same way. Approx 8 hrs. Moderate. New territory for us.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- March [Mt Owen](#)
 ●●●●● Awaiting leader. Names to Di Mellish, mellishdiane@gmail.com
 A moderate trip from the Wangapeka, Granity Pass end to this prominent marble mountain.
Book by 12 Mar
- 26 Mar [Nikau Palm Gully](#)
 Sun Awaiting leader
 ● This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms here 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.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 1-2 Apr [Jolliebrook - Gabriel](#)
 Sat-Sun Awaiting leader
 ●● Easy-moderate round-trip in Lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flat of the Hurunui River, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, then going over a very low bush saddle to Jollie Brook and to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes a bit more open and there are a few stream (brook) crossings.
Book by 25 March
- 2 Apr [Sumner - Lyttelton Tracks](#)
 Sun Awaiting leader
 ● The leader can choose from an array of tracks at the east end of the Port Hills.
- 8-10 Apr [Mt Brown - Newton Range](#)
 Sat-Mon Awaiting leader
 ●●● A moderate circuit from Lake Kaniere to Mt Brown Hut, along to Newton Range Biv then down to the Styx River.
Book by 2 Apr
- 8 Apr [Halswell Quarry - Governors Bay](#)
 Sat Merv Meredith 322 7239
 ● An easy-moderate walk through Halswell Quarry and up to the summit along Kennedys Bush Track then visiting Ohinetahi Reserve on the harbour-side.
Meet 8am Halswell Quarry carpark, near the coffee cart
- 22-25 Apr [Rees River--Dart River](#)
 Sat-Tues Dan Pryce 027 384 7065
 ●●●● A moderate 5-day circuit with spectacular mountain scenery, forest and alpine vegetation, glacier-fed rivers and the Dart Glacier. The huts are excluded from the Backcountry Hut Pass from 1 October to 30 April and will cost \$20 per night. Dan wants the option of changing dates to catch the best weather.
Book by 31 March
- April [Old Ghost Road](#)
 ●●●● Sonja Risa 028 8517 3969 sonja.risa@gmail.com
 An easy-moderate walk on this historic gold miners' trail that has been revived as a popular mountain bike and tramping track, connecting Lyell to the Mokihinui River in the north. We plan to leave the cars at Seddonville and get a shuttle to Lyell to walk the route. Because we need to book the huts, please contact Sonja and pre-pay soon.
Contact Sonja by 16 April

May

[Milford Track](#)

Contact Di Mellish mellishdiane@gmail.com

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Three nights, four days on this spectacular great walk. This will be early in the off-season when backcountry passes apply, hopefully before the bridges are removed.

Book by 31 March

TRIP REPORTS

John Browns Tomb

Sunday 3 December 2022

Five of us started off from farmer Peter's driveway on a cloudy, rather cool day, ascending a farm track that wound up the hill towards John Browns Tomb. The 'tomb' became pretty obvious as we approached—a large limestone outcrop right on top of the hill. It seems that it is so-named after the large rock at the site of the real ['John Brown'](#) tomb at Lake Placid in New York. After a break at the landmark we tried to follow the route the farmer had marked on the map to descend towards Napenape Reserve.

The route marked by the farmer crossed some escarpments to meet with the reserve track but we struggled to identify where the marked track was meant to be, amid steep ravines and dense bush. We followed a track up-hill again after avoiding some cattle but that track led away from the reserve, rather than into it. Retracing our steps, we followed down the ridge to take an alternative, better route. Nearer the coast we came upon a large three-bay barn/garage and a road leading from it which took us through pleasant bush, down to the beach at Napenape.

By then the sun was out and the deep blue sea and white limestone cliffs were inviting. Lunch was eaten in the shade of a tree on the beach as we watched a seal playing in the surf. John nobly volunteered to start walking the 10km back to the car, along the road. We followed along after lunch and had walked for almost an hour when John appeared in the car. He had hitched a lift part-way to the car, so saved us from a longer walk. The time saved allowed us to stop for milk-shakes at Greta Valley Café on the way home. So now you know, John Brown's body isn't mouldering in the grave anywhere near North Canterbury.

'Tomb' visitors were: **Graeme Nicholas (Leader), Eileen Mackie, Sonya Donaldson, Stuart Payne and John Robinson.** 🏔️ GN



Four fine upstanding live bodies pay homage at the last resting place of countless marine creatures



Mataketake Range

30 Dec – 2 Jan 2023

My passion for the mountains was thwarted by the pandemic that kept me away from the South Island for three years, so it was an absolute delight to see in the 2023 year, walking on the Mataketake Range with fellow trampers, Raymond and Kerry. It's a six-hour drive from Christchurch to the start of the Haast-Paringa Cattle Track. The car-park was jam-packed with cars, so we knew we'd be needing our tents. It was only a

one-hour tramp to Blue River Hut, affectionately known as Blowfly Hut. From the car-park a short, single track led to the junction of the historic cattle track, built in 1875, that led to the hut.

The hut was full with two groups of young trampers. It's a cute wee hut, built in 1905 to service the cattle drovers, travellers and track workers who maintained the track. We camped in the nearby grassy meadow beside the Moeraki River. From the size of the area and recent vegetation growth, we decided that the area was originally used to yard the cattle before or after fording the river. Raymond's celebratory laksa meal with truffle stock, salmon and prawns was a real treat. Yes, you missed a superb and delicious meal! Any thought of seeing in the New Year was discarded as sandflies quickly chased us into our tents. Surveying the tops, covered in cloud, we were a bit dubious as to whether we would have good weather for our jaunt along the tops the following day, however, the next morning was clear, with lifting cloud on the tops.



Blue River/Blowfly Hut. Photo by Raymond

We followed the cattle track from the hut to the junction of the Mica Mines track that leads to the tops. Just over an hour's easy walk on a wide track with a steady ascending gradient. We marvelled at the engineering skills of the men who cut the track through this rugged country in the early 19th century. We crossed many beautifully engineered culverts.

DoC has installed good signs along the track circuit, however, the track times posted are much longer than that taken by a trampler of medium and above fitness. The Mica Mines Track zig-zagged up the ridge towards the tops until the last 100 metres where it goes up a spur. Constant reminders of the track's mica mining history sparkled in the rock exposed along the track. We visualised teams of men, horses and heavy machinery making slow progress to and from the mine, the location of which remained unknown to us. The mica was used in WWII in radio capacitors and spark-plug washers for aircraft. The forest is dense with ferns, mature beech, rimu and exquisite fungi. We frequently heard kākā, tui and many other birds calling in the forest.

Ten minutes below the tree-line we had a break. Suddenly I felt something beside me. To my surprise it was a medium-sized, very friendly dog, wearing a harness! The owner, who appeared sometime afterwards, informed us this is an area where DoC allows dogs, and she had a permit! We finally emerged from the tree-line to sunny, clear tops with expansive views of the Tasman Sea, the Haast River delta and Southern Alps

from Mt Hooker and the Hooker Glacier and south to Mt Pollux. What followed was a magical and thoroughly enjoyable two-hour traverse along the tops to Mataketake Hut, through tussock, flowering celmisia species and small aciphyllas, and past numerous tarns of varying size. In the tarns we noticed numerous tadpoles of an Australian frog species. That night, camped by one of the tarns, near the hut we were lulled to sleep by the mesmerising large chorus of frog calls.



Mataketake tops. The hut is visible at top, right of centre. Photo by Raymond

The Mataketake Hut, opened in February 2021 and funded by the Andy Dennis Trust, is a lovely 8-10 bed hut with expansive views. Interestingly, the majority of visitors recorded in the hut logbook were locals. By contrast, the temporary worker's toilet remains as the only toilet and a trip to the loo was a very unpleasant experience that involved beating off swarms of blowflies, inside and outside the toilet. Be prepared, take fly spray! From the tops, a track descends to Maori Saddle Hut, reconnecting to the Haast-Paringa Cattle Track. Along the range to the south is Lake Dime, a pleasant spot for a swim with good views of the alps to the south of Haast.

We awoke to a clear, dewy, sunny morning, and decided to retrace our route across the tops to enjoy the views, instead of completing the circuit through the forest. Our morning serenity was interrupted twice by a helicopter delivering people plus supplies to the hut for a 70th birthday celebration over the next two nights. At the Mica Track junction, we met the remaining eight people, including the birthday "boy", with their two dogs. Even on the easy cattle track the 12-year-old dog didn't look very energetic. He looked like their weak link. The new hut needs to be booked, so is ideal for group celebrations.

Unfortunately, during our traverse along the tops cloud rolled in, late morning, replacing sunshine with white murk. During our descent to Blowfly Hut we met a diverse range of trampers, dogs, hunters and pack rafters. The trampers included a young family and elderly folk.

From Blue River/Blowfly Hut we walked out the following morning in light rain. Raymond did an excellent job planning the trip and arranged the best weather for traversing the tops. The circuit is understandably popular. It's historically significant, interesting and achievable by young and old with medium fitness. It

includes three good huts and traverses through a spectacular landscape with awesome views from the tops. I highly recommend this circuit. We were **Raymond Ford (leader)**, **Kerry Moore** and **Sonja Risa**. 🏔️ SR



Mataketake Hut and tarns. Photo by Raymond

Kaituna—Gebbies, Gebbies—Kaituna Sunday 8 Jan 2023

This was a substitute trip as permission to access Timutimu Head and Scenery Nook was withheld. Ten of us left the PMH meeting place, with half heading to the Kaituna Valley end and the other half to the Gebbies Pass end. The forecast was for a cool, cloudy day but we were soon feeling the warm sun. The Kaituna group reached Pack Horse Hut after 50 minutes from the Parkinsons Road car park. An exodus of trampers from the hut passed us on the way.



After a morning tea-break we carried on and met the Gebbies Pass group 15 minutes later. We exchanged greetings and car keys and carried on. Graeme recalled a previous trip where he encountered a family carrying their gear in a wheelbarrow. With the recent forestry work, the track appears to have been rerouted, so some parts now looked pretty impossible for anyone to push a wheelbarrow. By 11:30 we reached the Gebbies Pass car park and enjoyed a quick end-of-hike lunch in the sun.

Going west were: **Joanna Frampton, Hank Boer, Eileen Mackie, Ian Beale and Graeme Nicholas.** 🏔️ GN

With forestry continually changing the landscape on the Gebbies side of the hill, the West to East crew found the track got ambiguous at one point but they pressed on, ignoring the “go back” sign and soon were back on track. This group had a more leisurely trip. It is always good to have at least one photographer. It enables others to admire the view and take a breather. A relaxed early lunch at Packhorse Hut was punctuated with meeting and greeting walkers who kept appearing from all directions. Sunny, windless weather at the Packhorse is hard to beat. Thank you team leaders, Graeme and Kerry.



Going east were: **Sha, Helen Harkness, S-P Wang, Kerry Moore, and Kyung Sang Lee.** 🏔️ HH

Ashley River Splash Sunday 15 January 2023

It was good that the trip was moved from Saturday to Sunday as it gave the river another day to go down to 5 cumecs from a high of 17 on the Thursday. [ECAN](#) told us the morning water temperature was 17°C and the flow was ideal for us trampers/kids at heart! We got to Ashley Gorge camp ground, prepped ourselves in our tramping gear and made sure all had dry clothes left in Kerry's car for the end of the trip. Tim's and Graeme's cars transported our eight to the middle bridge in Lees Valley where the splash-down commenced.



Straight into the water, it was pleasantly fresh at first but seemed to warm up as the day progressed. Half of us had poles which proved very useful on slippery boulders and to steady us against the current. Those without, soon acquired Gandalf sticks from the flood debris to counter mother nature's forces. We thought it might be interesting to try to count how many times we crossed the river, but by the morning tea stop it was well over 20 and then we forgot to keep a tally, plus you can't really count wading down the river or floating down-river as a crossing. At one stage we broke into two groups. Being in the back group I looked ahead and noticed the four up-front, climbing over a rocky bank beside the river, resembling a scene from The Hobbit. (I have a theme going here).



We look on wondering how deep it will be. It got deeper and the camera got packed away

At a lovely lunch spot on a gravel bank by rapids, we energized ourselves for the afternoon section. We came across a number of very deep pools where all but our heads got wet and our packs kept us afloat. These bits went unrecorded because all cameras were carefully stowed. Towards the end we were thinking, next bend, next bend. Smartphone GPS navigation, if we had it, was sealed away from the water, so we were guessing how far we had to go. Finally, we saw other people enjoying the river, we were back to civilization with boom boxes and all. We got to a crowded Ashley Gorge camp at 4.15pm. Drivers quickly changed and were shuttled by Kerry to get the two other cars. Boots got a good stretch and clean, for some, maybe the last use. Those with shoes and no gaiters emptied the sand and gravel out. The 5 cumec flow made us look for the best crossing points, so the day gave us a useful lesson in fording a river. On top of that, this was a good, fun day for: **Graeme Nicholas (leader), Kerry Moore, Jane Liddle, S-P Wang, Kyung Sang Lee, Tim Hines, Andrea Goebel and Sonya Donaldson.** 🏠 SD



The mob shout useless advice to the struggling cameraman