



## May 2023

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

### Committee

<b>Trip Planner 1</b>	Diane Mellish	337 5530	<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069
<b>Trip Planner 2</b>	Sonja Risa	028 8517 3969	<b>Gear Custodian</b>	Evelien Baas	027 557 5521
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Bourke	332 7097	<b>Committee</b>	Dan Pryce	027 384 7065
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239	<b>Committee</b>	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726

**New Member Enquiries:** Contact a **committee member** 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 9 May



#### Himalayan Adventures

Step back into ancient history as **Terry Thomsen** recounts his experiences on the Annapurna Circuit in 1984 and the Karakoram Highway in 1993.

Tuesday 13 June



#### Climbing Olympus Mons

**Not really.** Its 21900m high and 600km across and being on Mars you'd need a lot of oxygen. Photo at left is **Acatenango** in Guatemala, which is a mere 3976m high and erupted last in 1972.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Wednesday 17 May** Meal at La Ruby Thai, Ferrymead

Join us for a yummy, warming meal and a natter.

Varied menu: <https://www.larubythai.co.nz/>

To book and find out the start time

contact **Sue Britain 388 2329** or [suebritain@gmail.com](mailto:suebritain@gmail.com)



## NOTES

**Hut Fees: DoC has announced that:** *from 1 July standard hut fees will increase from \$5 to \$10 and serviced hut fees will move from \$15 to \$25. This is the first adjustment to hut category fees since 2008. There will also be price changes for the Paparoa Track this year due to its popularity. Paparoa's Hut prices will increase to a level similar to other popular Great Walks.* More detail [HERE](#)

**First Aid:** If you missed the resuscitation training course St John ran at a recent club night you may be able to book one on the St John website. Find this and other courses [HERE](#)

## TRIPS

**13-14 May** [Hawdon Hut](#)

**Sat-Sun** Chris Leaver 322 6445

●● An easy-moderate, flat walk up the beautiful, wide Hawdon River Valley to this spacious hut.  
**Book by 7 May**

**14 May** [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**

**11-14 May** [Milford Track](#)

**Thurs-Sun** Diane Mellish 027 413 6468

●●●●● The classic Great Walk in the off-season.  
**Trip is full**

**20-21 May** [Lake Man](#)

**Sat-Sun** Kerry Moore 359 5069

●● A moderate trip up Doubtful and Kedron Rivers to Lake Man Biv. Day 2 we'll visit Lake Man then retrace our steps or exit along the Doubtful Range.  
**Book by 14 May**

**20 May** [Knowles Top](#)

**Sat** Awaiting leader

● An easy-moderate walk from Glentui to this 835m hill, then along a forest track and down a spur that takes us to a waterfall. We finish at the gorge picnic ground.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**

- 27-28 May**     [Otehake Hot Pools](#)  
**Sat-Sun**       **Sonja Risa 028 8517 3969 or sonja.risa@gmail.com**  
●●                An easy-moderate walk from Aickens, up the Taramakau Rr and past Lake Kaurapataka, dropping to the Otehake Rr. We'll camp at the hot springs further up the Otehake.  
**Book by 21 May**
- 28 May**         [Hinewai Reserve](#)  
**Sun**             **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
●                 The reserve occupies most of Otanerito Valley in south-east Banks Peninsula, accessed at the top of Long Bay Road. The circuit through regenerating bush has a number of interest points and options.  
**Meet 8am at the Halswell School fence on the bend in SH 75.**
- 3-5 Jun**         [Ghost-Town Weekend](#)  
**Sat-Mon**        **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**  
●●●              We will explore the ghost-town of Waiuta before walking to the Big River mine site and hut. On the middle day we explore the mining relics and tracks at Big River. Day three, we return to Waiuta and home. Big River hut needs to be booked well in advance.  
**Book by 14 May**
- 4 Jun**            [Kowai River](#)  
**Sun**             **Awaiting leader**  
●                 An easy-moderate wander up a flat section of the Kowai Valley from below Porters Pass to the hut, then on to explore the upper valley.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 10-11 Jun**      [Spurs Hut, North Opuha Valley](#)  
**Sat-Sun**        **Awaiting leader**  
●●                An easy valley walk takes us to the little Spurs Hut with good tent-sites nearby. On Sunday we can explore the valley environs or climb high onto the mountain range behind the hut.  
**Book by 4 June**
- 14-18 Jun**      [Mataketake Hut](#)  
**Wed-Sun**       **Sonja Risa 028 8517 3969 or sonja.risa@gmail.com**  
●●●●●          A moderate trip to a comfortable new hut which must be booked, on the range above the Haast-Paringa cattle track. Tussocky tops with great views. For those interested, we'll combine the Mataketake trip with the Welcome Flat Hut trip, refer below.  
**Trip list now closed**
- 18-20 Jun**      [Welcome Flat Hot Pools](#)  
**Sun-Mon**       **Sonja Risa 028 8517 3969 or sonja.risa@gmail.com**  
●●●              An easy-moderate walk to this popular large hut in Westland beside the famous hot pools.  
**Trip list now closed**
- 18 Jun**          [Mt Somers Crossover](#)  
**Sun**             **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
●                 A moderate crossover between Sharplin Falls and Woolshed Creek via the South Face and Rhyolite tracks. Takes in Hookey Knob and 1085m Staveley Hill.  
**Early start, meet 6:50 am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

- 25 Jun**      [Estuary Marshes, Chch 360 Walkway](#)  
**Sun**            **Awaiting leader**  
 ●                An easy 20km wander in eastern Chch, running from the Sumner Esplanade to Pages Road.  
**Meet 8am at the Sumner clock-tower**
- 2 Jul**            [Childrens Bay, Akaroa](#)  
**Sun**            **Awaiting leader**  
 ●                A short track starting at the car park on Childrens Bay Road, heading up through farmland to spectacular views of Akaroa Harbour. It's steep in parts and possibly muddy.  
**Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opposite Princess Margaret Hospital, Hackthorne Road end**
- 9 Jul**            [Mt Wall](#)  
**Sun**            **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 ●                A moderate climb of this 1874m peak, starting well up the Broken River ski road. There are a few tricky bits requiring snow skills near Mt Wall. We descend via a handy scree.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Hakatere—Manuka Hut                  Saturday 22 April 2023**

Three met at Church Corner in light drizzle but with a promise of a fine day at Lake Heron we decided, "let's do it anyway". Finding the entrance to the track proved a little confusing, with a bridge and a Te Araroa sign at Maori Lakes seeming to be the track start. However, after not spotting the said track, we consulted the topo map and discovered, unlike the movie "A Bridge Too Far" it was a matter of "a bridge not far enough".



Having found another bridge and track-sign pointing to Lake Emily, we slipped and slid along a very muddy, rutted 4WD track for about 800m before gaining a little bit of height and a much drier surface. The cloud hanging around the hills quickly lifted and we basked in warm sun. Two utes passed us, one with a large, dead wild pig on the back, the second with some hunters lamenting the lack of any “kills” but like us, enjoying a warm sunny day out in the hills.

After passing Lake Emily we left the vehicle track and started up the poled route over a low spur to the next valley. Generally, the track was well marked, although sometimes the height of the scrub made the poles difficult to see. The track then dropped steeply down to the next valley. After lunch, the turn-off to the hut still seemed some distance away. After a quick calculation of our walking times, we decided to return the way we’d come, or face a late return to Christchurch. Retracing our steps, we meet two more parties of seven heading to the hut for the night. We made it back to the car at about 3:30 and headed home after an enjoyable day out. We were: **Kim Ashmore, Sha SG and Graeme Nicholas (leader, writer)** 🏠

### **Dart River—Rees River                      23-27 April 2023**

The Saturday got us to Glenorchy where our three stayed in a tiny cabin at Glenorchy Hotel. **Sunday**, we were up at first light and away early in mild weather to the Chinamans Bluff, DoC carpark for breakfast. Almost all the day was walked in beech forest, on the true left of the Dart River. With its massive schist rock, the terrain is nothing like we see in Canterbury. Afternoon drizzle turned to rain as we crossed Dredge Flat, so we were pleased to reach Daleys Flat Hut after twenty minutes in forest. This was Anzac Weekend so it was surprising to see only a group of three in residence at the hut. They had the Pioneer stove going but it didn’t seem to be warming the hut much. Rain prevented us from opening the ranch slider onto the deck which looks out on the broad Daleys Flat, up-river from the hut.



*Daleys Flat Hut*



*Approaching the long Cattle Flat in the Dart Valley*



*Dart Hut and the bridge over Snowy Creek*

**Monday** morning was almost frosty, and on the high mountain slopes a dusting of snow was visible. We had a break as we reached the vast Cattle Flat, then a lunch-stop at the far end of the flat. A few Rees—Dart people passed us heading for Daleys Flat Hut. From there we were back in forest and must have reached the big Dart Hut by 4pm. The circuit is not classed as a “great walk” so Kerry assumed his annual hut pass would take care of hut fees. Not so, and the hut warden from USA extracted \$80 for his four hut-nights. Our three met a delightfully outgoing young Israeli woman who had walked from Aspiring Hut over the Cascade Saddle. At 5pm day-walkers, also Israelis, returned from Cascade Saddle.

**Tuesday** was to be a day-trip for our three to Cascade Saddle but only Dan made the effort to get up in time. Rain was forecast for the afternoon so Di and Kerry managed a little morning photographic excursion to a high point and then lazed. Dan made the eight-hour return trip in 7¼ hours and returned in light rain, triumphant.

**Wednesday** dawned fine and cold and with Dan’s in-built alarm clock we were up at first light again for the nearly 500m climb up Snowy Creek to Rees Saddle. We didn’t linger on the saddle as we were in cloud and a cool breeze blew. The descent to the Rees River was short and steep. Dan led down the river in scrubby terrain, looking for a patch of illusive sunshine for a lunch stop. By 2pm we’d reached Shelter Rock Hut where the same hut warden was filling the coal bucket. He’d moved from Dart Hut on the Tuesday.



*Looking up the Dart River from a point above the Dart Hut*

Daylight on **Thursday** revealed a chilly frost for our 7:45am departure. After crossing the Rees, on a bridge, we were soon in forest, and later, easy river flats. The whole 16km distance to Muddy Stream car park is on easy terrain, except for a few swampy areas and we reached our car at 2pm. Thanks to Dan’s plan and a

relocation service, our car was now at this track end. Back at our cabin we relaxed and prepared for Friday's trip home.

Our **Friday** drive home in good weather got us to Chch around 5pm. Thanks to Dan's planning this was a great adventure in Mt Aspiring National Park. Most people go Rees—Dart but our Dart—Rees strategy got us over the more difficult section alongside the big slip-generated lake on day-one, then on the last day we had an easy walk to our waiting car. We were: **Dan Pryce, Diane Mellish and Kerry Moore.** 🏠 KM



*Shelter Rock Huts in Rees Valley. The nearer one is a bunk-room only.*



*Rees Valley with a towering Mt Earnslaw at top-left*