



## July 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 Derek Gane, ph 03 337 8264, or Irene, 021 166 3586, to request an info pack. You will also get three free newsletters.

### Our Club

Peninsula Tramping Club (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 11 July



#### PTC 2023 Alpine Trip - Olivine Ice Plateau

The PTC Alpine Trip traversed the **Olivine Ice Plateau**, entering from the north at **Pic d'Argent Col** and exiting south at **Blockade Stream**. The trip continued along the **Barrier Range** over **Desperation Pass** to descend to the Dart River. Weather on the Plateau was brilliant, providing impressive photographic opportunities.

Tue 8 August



#### Tour Aotearoa - NZ Cycle Trail

One of the world's greatest bikepacking trips can be found right here in New Zealand – a **3000-kilometre** odyssey stretching the length of the country. **Clare O'Hagan** did the ride in Feb 2021, covering the 3000km in 15 days. She will talk about what motivated her, how she prepared, equipment she took and experiences along the way. Come and hear Clares's story of this big outdoor challenge!

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Thursday 13 July Matariki Tirama Mai lights then Curry Dinner.

Meet 6pm at Maureen's place 30A Peacock St. Hopefully there is some parking. We'll stroll down to Victoria Square via Hagley Park to arrive there 6.30pm and see the lights. At 7pm we regroup at Queen Victoria's statue and walk to **Himalayas Indian Restaurant 830A Colombo St.** After dinner you are welcome to have a coffee and chocolate biscuit back at Maureen's place.

Dinner bookings to Maureen Thompson by **Monday 10 July**. [mothompson1212@gmail.com](mailto:mothompson1212@gmail.com)

Email any time but phone or text 021 266 5778 after 7 July as I'm away until then.

## NOTES

### Memorial Planting Day for Brian Smith

10 June 2023

After the unexpected passing of Brian in August 2021, the Smith family gave a donation to the club from Brian's estate, suggesting we apply the funds to something that would provide a lasting legacy to Brian. Subsequently the club donated the funds to the Summit Road Society (SRS) to purchase plants for the ongoing planting programme in the new Linda Woods Reserve. Overlooking the Estuary, the reserve extends up Avoca Valley, from above Port Hills Rd. In memory of Brian, the club assisted SRS at their Saturday morning planting in the reserve.

The day was more than satisfying. Twenty-four people, including Robin Smith for the Smith family, members, and ex-members whose experience with the club and therefore with Brian, extended back decades. I felt for the people who had to cancel before the day. The morning was definitely a good club catch-up event. With twenty-four planters on site, the 500 kanuka seedlings were all tucked up in the ground by the knock-off time of 12:30. Ideal timing! Our efforts provided an appreciated surge to the Society's planting programme. Thank you, all participants. 🌲 Merv Meredith.



*Some of the many planters arriving at the site*

# TRIPS

- 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 near Mt Wall. We descend via a handy scree. Ice axe needed.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 16 Jul**            [Tiromoana Bush](#)  
**Sun**            **Evelien Baas 027 557 5521**  
●                Easy-moderate trip seaward of Waipara, through bush and wetlands to a remote beach. Great views of Pegasus Bay and Banks Peninsula. Nice walk and pleasant day out.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**
- 22 Jul**            [Torpedo Boat Museum - Pony Point](#)  
**Saturday**      **Mary McKeown 358 7717**  
●                An easy, scenic walk along coastal tracks from Lyttelton Marina, past popular swimming beaches and Cass Bay to a promontory overlooking Rapaki. Lovely harbour views all the way.  
**Meet 9am** in the carpark near the Woolstore shopping precinct, accessed from Godley Quay in Lyttelton, close to the new marina.
- 22-23 Jul**        [Casey Hut – Binser Saddle](#)  
**Sat-Sun**        **Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
●●              An easy-moderate circuit up Andrews Stream, along Hallelujah Flat and down to the new Casey Hut. Day two takes us down the Poulter River and over Binser Saddle.  
**Book by 16 July**
- 29 Jul**            [Taylor's Mistake-Godley Head](#)  
**Saturday**      **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**  
●                An easy-moderate walk with coastal views. Starting up the Captain Thomas Track to Evans Pass, before continuing along the ridge to Godley Head and returning to Sumner through Taylor's Mistake.  
**Meet 9am at Sumner clocktower**
- 30 Jul**            [Red Hill](#)  
**Sun**            **Diane Mellish 027 413 6468**  
●                Moderate trip to this 1641m peak near Lake Lyndon. We'll go from the Porter Heights ski road towards Coleridge Pass and up the spur. Snow likely higher up. The club has 4 ice-axes available for hire for \$2 per day.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 6 Aug**            [Foggy Peak - Castle Hill](#)  
**Sun**            **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
●                A popular, moderate pilgrimage to 1741m Foggy Peak and on to 1998m Castle Hill Peak. Beautiful views and a great trip for those learning to use crampons and ice-axes. The club has 4 ice-axes available for hire for \$2 per day.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

- 5-7 Aug**      [Abel Tasman Track](#)  
**Sat-Mon**      **Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872**  
 ●●●            An easy-moderate tramp from Marahau to Totaranui along the beautiful coastline of this national park. It will not be too crowded at this time of year.  
**Book by 15 July**
- 12-13 Aug**    [Pinchgut Hut](#)  
**Sat-Sun**      **Awaiting leader**  
 ●●             An easy-moderate trip up the Okuku River through kanuka and beech forest to this comfortable hut, with woodburner.  
**Book by 6 Aug**
- 13 Aug**        [Mt Cloudesley](#)  
**Sun**            **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 ●                A moderate climb in the Craigieburns from Castle Hill Village to 2107m Mt Cloudesley with views around Castle Hill Basin, returning the same way. Take ice axe and crampons if you have them.  
**Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 20 Aug**        [Diamond Harbour--Coastal Cliffs Walkway](#)  
**Sun**            **Awaiting leader**  
 ●                Take the launch to Diamond Harbour for this easy harbourside track past Church Bay to Charteris Bay.  
**Meet at Lyttelton ferry wharf to catch the 8:50am ferry**
- 19-20 Aug**    [Boyle Flat Hut - Faust](#)  
**Sat-Sun**      **Malcolm Gollan 022 197 8826**  
 ●●             Day 1 follows the river along the St James Walkway to the hut. A moderate climb on day 2 takes us over the Libretto Range via 1710m Faust. Anyone wanting an easy trip can return the way they came in.  
**Book by 13 Aug**
- 27 Aug**        [Mt Alford](#)  
**Sun**            **Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 ●                Easy-moderate climb, starting in Alford Reserve and then into tussockland to this 1171m foothill, inland from Methven. Great views in all directions.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 26-28 Aug**    [Mt Fyffe--Kowhai River](#)  
**Sun-Mon**      **Awaiting leader**  
 ●●●            A moderate traverse of Mt Fyffe with a Friday afternoon or evening start to Kaikoura and walk up the 4WD track to Mt Fyffe Hut for the night. Saturday involves the Mt Fyffe traverse across Gable to Gables End and down to Kowhai Saddle, then Kowhai Hut. Sunday is a more leisurely walk down the Kowhai River and out.  
**Book by 20 Aug**
- 2-3 Sep**        [Double Hut with Mt Taylor Option](#)  
**Sat-Sun**      **Awaiting leader**  
 ●●             Starting at Lake Heron we'll head to Double Hut and stop there for the easy option whilst those wanting a moderate-hard trip will climb 2333m Mt Taylor.  
**Book by 27 Aug**

**3 Sep Bowenvale- Hidden Valley**

**Sun Awaiting leader**

- Easy-moderate walk along good tracks in the hills behind Bowenvale Ave. Cedrics, Thomsons, and Latters Spur tracks let us make a circuit of it.  
**Meet 9am in the carpark at the top-end of Bowenvale Ave**

**9-11 Sep [Buckland Peaks](#)**

**Sat-Mon Awaiting leader**

- From near Westport we climb the track to a hut at 1000m, situated just above the bush. Above this are tarn basins and the crest of the Paparoa Range to explore on day two. Expansive views of the coast and further inland.  
**Book by 3 Sep**

**10 Sep [Mt Somers South Face Track](#)**

**Sun Merv Meredith 322 7239**

- A moderate crossover joining Sharplin Falls car park and Woolshed Creek car park, via the South Face and Rhyolite tracks. Takes in Hookey Knob and Staveley Hill.  
**Meet 6:50 am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Hinewai Reserve Sunday 28 May 2023**

Returning to Hugh Wilson's life mission in Otanerito Valley on the Peninsula is always interesting, with something different to see on each visit. We were surprised to only have five for this trip, although it did make our transport from Halswell School easy. It is a long drive up Long Bay Rd to Cab Stand corner and down to the reserve. We were walking on the West Track at 9.30am, with the intention of doing the 'full' perimeter anticlockwise circuit.

It's always nice along Beech Tree Terrace, then Tawai and Manatu for a mid-morning scroggin stop on the Broom Track. Continuing up the Lisburn Track, we were at the Stones turn off at 12.15pm, then another 30 minutes to The Stones for lunch. Dropping back down, we were descending Sleepy Bay Spur, about 2.05pm and reached the Kereru Track turn-off on Valley Track at 2.45pm. Glenda assured us that it's not too bad as she had taken the Pegasus Walkers up there. We found it a steepish climb, mostly along the stream-edge, less maintained and also with significant storm damage. The effort had us peeling off layers as we climbed. A short detour got us to Jules Knob at 3.50pm, then back to the car at 4.35pm in windy but increasingly warmer conditions - seven hours total.

The Duvauchelle Store has a bar nowadays, which meant it was open on the way home for a welcome coffee stop. We were: **Glenda & Merv Meredith (leaders), John Robinson, Joy Schroeder and Sha.**

🏠 MM.



## **Mataketake Hut and Welcome Flat Hut 12 - 18 June 2023**

This trip was ably organised and led by Sonja Risa. The dates were flexible to take advantage of any weather window, which meant bookings for the huts and accommodation were made closer to the time. Sonja did a group booking for Mataketake Hut and we did individual bookings for the one available night at Welcome Flat Hut. A second night at the hut was not possible. We settled on a night at the Ivory Towers Backpackers between the two trips and then a second night there to allow the drivers to rest before the 6½ hour drive back to Christchurch.

Three cars were taken. Helen came from Ashburton and John from Rangiora. We continued to the Stone Oven Bakery at Hokitika for lunch and thence to the road-end via Fox Glacier, where Sonja booked us into the backpackers for the three nights. Di was able to identify the various majestic snowy peaks we saw on the way. As any snow was well above the highest point of the range we could leave the crampons and ice axes in the cars. We had only a 1½ hour walk to Blowfly Hut, showcasing our individual preferred speeds for travel within this largish group. Raymond pointed out the micaceous schist en-route.

On arrival at the old, renovated hut, we discovered the kindling was on the damp side, which was to be a theme for the trip. The MSR was a bit sluggish but responded when the jet was shaken, and with a bit of reaming of the fuel tube. A fire was coaxed into life, warming the hut eventually, thanks to many hands on the pump. Peter used his pruning saw as there was no functioning tool at the hut to cut the plentiful lengths of wood. With eight mattresses and several snorers, some opted to sleep in tents. Unfortunately, not us snorers. Sorry! Raymond created a large laksa with silken tofu, salmon, prawns and plenty of veggies that any restaurant would be proud of.

We set off on the historic Haast-Paringa Cattle Track towards Maori Saddle but turned off onto the Mica Mine Track after 1½hr. The track to the tops zig-zagged a merciful twenty-three times to gain the bush line. Above the bush line we stopped for lunch on a group of rocks in the tussock, beyond where one of the racing sardines, Helen, had halted.

In places along the track, through tussock and occasional schist boulders, the only remaining traces of snow had been compacted and hardened on the south-facing slopes, which necessitated care. We passed a microwave station and shortly after, arrived at the magnificent, well-sited hut. The hut library is impressively well-stocked with a diverse range of genres but the woodshed, not so much, but fortunately coal was also provided. Once again, the wood was damp, so the lads set to, slicing blocks into smaller slivers. Sonja, inspired by Fahrenheit 451, ingeniously snapped off bone-dry tussock seed-heads for effective kindling. Di provided a delicious meal and introduced us to 'zilch', a gambling game with six dice.

The next day we made various efforts to explore the tops and tarns further south along the range. Helen, Peter and Honora went towards Mt Smith to investigate a possible long-gone hut site at the head of Anybody Creek. They found only sloping terrain with no apparent hut sites. Others went to Lake Dime or a bit beyond. Most of the tarns were frozen. There was no animal sign, only faint trails, but the going was easier further south of the hut, with curly snow tussock instead of the longer version.

That night we had dry wood to get the fire going. A variety of choice appetisers appeared and Sonja made us an appreciated chickpea curry on brown rice, with some leftover to enjoy the following day. We evaluated the morning's wind and decided on a traverse in the lee to the track, which took us down to Maori Saddle Hut for morning tea. We had made the right choice of going up the Mica Mine Track, because the track to Maori Saddle had big step-downs and was steeper. Maori Saddle Hut has a very similar design to Pinchgut Hut, near Mt Thomas, but with three tiers of sleeping platforms, instead of two.

The walk back to the Mica Mine Track turn-off was very pleasant on the broad track with good views as we travelled north. We had lunch on a sort of causeway of raised ground in the sun, then picked up our stashed gear at Blowfly Hut, got to the road end and drove to the backpackers for showers and a tasty couscous, vegetables and tuna dinner provided by Sonya D.

We continued our early starts, arriving at the Copeland Track car park and heading off soon after 8.30am for the seven-hour tramp in. We regrouped at a spectacular spot near a rock that resembled a seal or a dog's

head, jutting out of the turquoise-coloured Copland River. I passed on the stove, fuel and necessities for a brew at Architect Creek Hut but all good plans... They thought this was for the arrival at Welcome Flat Hut. Keith was feeling under-par on the walk in, but rallied after a rest during our lunch stop at Architect Creek Hut. We carried on to Welcome Flat with people arriving in the now-established order, Sonja R and Raymond functioning as tail-end Charlies. The hut was cold and the floor recently washed, so windows were opened and dampish firewood obtained as there was only meagre but dry offerings provided. The warden appeared and promptly threw it all out, saying it was too damp to be useful. We discreetly retrieved it and used it to establish a limping coal fire, that is, until we discovered that opening the ash-pan door provided a transformative draw.

It was Helen's turn to wow us with her smoked salmon/dehy rice and vegie concoction, flavoured with piquant lemon and ginger-flavoured tuna. Then to top it off, she served chocolate mousse, reconstituted freeze-dried fruit and chocolate. This all will have us searching the supermarket aisles for more of the same. Oh, I nearly forgot the hot pools! We entered the hot one in various degrees of déshabillée, John wearing the masculine version of the burkini. In the hut we had reduced the coal bucket to grit and gravel, then realised there was more coal available.

A local trio had arrived and were wallowing in the coolest pool with Di. They soon found they had friends in common. Personally, given the choice, I'd prefer a functioning woodstove with copious fuel over a hot pool. The warden gave us the standard spiel, while acknowledging the experience of our group. The solar lights only ran for so long on this winter evening. This was another night of snorers serenading the unwise or unlucky, and another early rising with my lighting the fire with the leftover 'unburnable', now dry, kindling and wood that Peter had sawn up the evening before.

We walked out in our order, with the hares taking the opportunity for another session in the hot pool as we left. The warden had told us of a capacious rock bivvy near Shiel Creek, so that was visited and admired. Morning tea was on the frosted flats of Architect Creek Hut. Thirty-two young folk in assorted groups passed by, intent on fun times, including a birthday group led by a young woman in a purple tutu. I hadn't noticed her attire, instead thinking her face looked familiar. Sonya D counted bridges.

We held out for lunch in sunny spots, with the middle group hitting the jackpot well after 1pm. We were out and back at Fox Glacier in good time to admire the quilting conference's displays and scope out Betsy Jane's for dinner. The meals were tasty and the pleasant service not obtrusive. After another amazing shower and a true-to-form night, we rose early and left before 8am for Christchurch, with leisurely stops at Hokitika's Stone Oven, then a Taste of Kiwi at Springfield.

Many thanks to Sonja R for her consultative style of leadership and for organising the well-appreciated trip. We were: **Sonja Risa, Diane Mellish, Helen Binnie, Sonya Donaldson, Raymond Ford, John Robinson, Keith Hoard, Peter Umbers and Honora Renwick** 🌲 HR



*We relax in Mataketake Hut*



*Mataketake Range*



*A wintery view across the hot pool*