



August 2023



PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee					
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Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	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.	
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.
Tue 12 September 	Federated Mountain Club FMC works on behalf of its members for outdoor recreation in NZ. Raymond Ford , PTC's successful nominee for the FMC Executive, and Paul McGahan will give an update on the role of FMC and the recent work of the executive.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 22 August Hot Pools Followed by a Thai Dinner

Enjoy a hot soak at sunset in the New Brighton hot saline pools. Book your own ticket for 5.30 or 5.45pm. Tickets are \$13 to \$17 if you are a resident of Christchurch. <https://www.hepunataimoana.co.nz/>
The changing rooms are heated and you can also use the sauna. We'll leave the pools shortly after 7pm to have dinner at 7.15pm at **Phad Thai** on the corner of Beresford St and Brighton Mall. Dinner bookings to Maureen Thompson by **Sunday 20 August, 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com**

NOTES

Safety in the Mountains: The club has purchased ten copies of the latest edition of Safety in the Mountains and can offer some copies to members at the discounted price of \$6.50. Mike Bourke will have copies at club night.

TRIPS

12-13 Aug

[Pinchgut Hut](#)

Sat-Sun

AWAITING LEADER

●●

An easy-moderate trip up the Okuku River, through kanuka and beech forest to a comfortable hut. The hut has a wood stove.

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. You may need an ice axe to reach the top. Returning the same way. Take ice axe and crampons if you have them.

Meet 7:30am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

19 Aug

[Diamond Harbour](#)

Saturday

Mary McKeown 358 7717

●

We will take the launch to Diamond Harbour for this easy harbourside track to Church Bay and 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 one follows the Boyle River along the St James Walkway to the hut. A moderate climb on day two 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 scrub-land to this 1171m foothill inland from Methven. Great views in all directions.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 26-28 Aug**
Sun-Mon
 ●●●
[Mt Fyffe--Kowhai River](#)
AWAITING LEADER
 A moderate traverse of Mt Fyffe. Friday afternoon or evening drive to Kaikoura and walk up the 4WD track to Mt Fyffe hut for the night. Saturday we do a Mt Fyffe traverse across Gable to Gables End and down to Kowhai Saddle then Kowhai Hut. Sunday is more leisurely, down the Kowhai River and out.
Book by 20 Aug
- 2-3 Sep**
Sat-Sun
 ●●
[Double Hut](#)
AWAITING LEADER
 Starting at Lake Heron we'll head across the flats on 4WD tracks to Double Hut.
Book by 27 Aug
- 2 Sep**
Sat
 ●
[Mt Harper/Mahaanui](#)
Helen Binnie 027 2866 999
 A moderate-hard 1200m climb in the Lake Clearwater area. We walk a vehicle track to Balmaccan Saddle and climb the spur to 1829m Mt Harper/Mahaanui. Take ice axe and crampons.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 3 Sep**
Sun
 ●
[Bowenvale Circuit](#)
Terry Thomsen 027 342 0738
 Easy-moderate circuit around Bowenvale that includes a section of the Crater Rim walkway at the head of the valley.
Meet 9am at the top end of Bowenvale Ave
- 9-11 Sep**
Sat - Mon
 ●●●
[Buckland Peaks](#)
AWAITING LEADER
 From near Westport, climb the track to Buckland Peaks 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 inland.
Book by 3 Sep
- 10 Sep**
Sun
 ●
[Mt Somers, South Face Track](#)
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 Staveley Hill.
Meet 6:50am 20 Yaldhurst Rd, Church Corner
- 17 Sep**
Sun
 ●
[Coldwater Stream](#)
AWAITING LEADER
 An easy, almost flat tramp with easy river crossings up the bush-lined Jolly Brook, then up Cold Stream to an old forestry hut. Suitable for accompanied kids but please contact leader. A good introduction to the Jolly Brook-Gabriel two-day circuit.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 16-17 Sep**
Sat-Sun
 ●●
[Three Mile Stream--McMillan Stream](#)
AWAITING LEADER
 Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park starting from Lake Mason with a fairly flat circuit around McMillan and Three Mile streams.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

- 24 Sep**
Sun
● [Cass River--Point 1912](#)
Merv Meredith 322 7239
A moderate-hard trip in the Black Range. Starting up the Cass River Track to Long Valley Stream, sidle the waterfall on the true right and circle around the head of the basin up to peak 1912m for views all around. We exit via a great scree run down to the track and out.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 23-24 Sep**
Sat-Sun
●● [Lake Clearwater Base](#)
Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726
Lots of options for easy to moderate day walks from this base in the open tussocklands of the Hakatere area.
Book by 10 Sept
- 30Sep-1Oct**
Sat-Sun
●● [Brabazon Saddle](#)
Merv Meredith 322 7239
Accessed via Mesopotamia Station, starting a little past the 'iron bridge' on Bush Stream and walking up to Black Birch Creek, then a lovely walk up to the stream flowing from the Brabazon basin. Camping by water or snow below the saddle. Day two, to Brabazon Saddle, down to Crooked Spur Hut, Bush Stream and out.
Book by 24 Sept
- 8 Oct**
Sun
● [The Grange--Knowles Gully--Hill 884](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
An easy-moderate trip near Oxford to a 884m hill with good views to Ashley Gorge and the plains.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

TRIP REPORTS

Childrens Bay Park Sunday 2 July 2023

Four hardy souls turned up to drive to Akaroa for a walk from the town, around Childrens Bay Park. As we drove into the parking spot, we hit a nasty hail shower but luckily after that we managed to avoid any precipitation, until we got into the cars 5 hours later.



Trampers and friend

The tracks were surprisingly not too muddy, and to make the most of a day, we covered most of the tracks over the hill, to and back around from Takamatua. It was fun trying to spot all the animal sculptures listed on the website. On the day we only passed one local person out braving the weather. This was a very enjoyable walk, despite the cold wind in exposed areas. Thanks to Graeme, for putting your hand up to make this trip possible.

We were: **Graham Nicholas, Ruth Barratt, Penny Coffey, and Sha.** 🏔️ RB



Akaroa Harbour looking north

Estuary Marshes, Christchurch 360 Walkway Sunday 25 June 2023

Our small band was greatly outnumbered in Sumner by people awaiting the finishers of a running race. The day was cool with a weak, watery sun as we set off on this 19km leg. Our first stop was at a picnic table just before the causeway. From the Ferrymead Bridge the direct path would take you onto Humphries Drive alongside the Estuary but our skilled guide, Helen, knew to lead us beside the Heathcote River on a tree-lined track that runs to the tunnel road. We passed Trees for Canterbury nursery on Charlesworth Street, then did a circuit within Charlesworth Reserve. Lunch was had beside a skate ramp in Cypress Garden Reserve, then we went into Bromley, Ruru and Memorial Park Cemeteries which are all connected. A 30 metre excursion in Ruru Lawn Cemetery, took us to the Ballantynes Fire Memorial. Combined, the cemeteries occupy a lot of space and are impressive.

A section of the track goes parallel to Pages Road, then through suburban streets and heads into Bexley Park. Across Anzac Drive we were on Red Zone land and soon we had reached the car that Mike and Sue had kindly placed by the Bexley Bridge on Wairoa Street. The walk has lots of variety and many twists and turns. To stay on the route, you need detailed instructions or a skilled guide. We had Helen who knows that side of town intimately. Helen commented that it would be good if the track went through the Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Reserve, but so far, no access is permitted. For an interactive map showing details and history click [here](#).

We were: **Helen Harkness, Mike Bourke, Sue Britain, Sha SG, Wendy Wallace, Diane Dixon and Kerry Moore.** 🏔️ KM

Mt Wall Sunday 9 July 2023

Our leader, Merv, arrived at the meeting place on this drizzly day, not expecting to see anyone. To his surprise Wang, Peter and Kerry were there, convinced the weather would be better inland. It was. From the Sheffield, Springfield straight we had views of sunlit snow-capped mountains. We parked at Broken River ski

road's locked gate and walk up the road, then the zip-zag track to the ski buildings. The field was severely lacking in snow as we walked beside the stationary, upper rope tow, then sidled to a spur that led to the ridge. Views were limited by mist as we sheltered in the lee of the ridge for lunch. Fresh drifts of powder snow on the ridge were avoided as we climbed to point 1884, higher than 1874m Mt Wall. Minimal snow on the very craggy ridge made our task harder as we turned SE to Mt Wall. In some places it was easier to get off the ridge and sidle. From Mt Wall we had good views, but mist further down made it harder to navigate the massive scree areas and know which gully to descend. Only one gully goes all the way to Broken River, the others peter out and run into beech forest. We reached Merv's car at 4:30 and arrived home to a dark, drizzly evening. We: **Merv Meredith, Wang, Peter Umbers and Kerry Moore** had a good, dry day out, inland, while Christchurch had a drizzly day. 🏔️ KM



An almost snowless Broken River ski-field



Lunchtime on the Craigieburn main ridge



On the ridge leading to Mt Wall

Tiromoana Bush Walkway Sunday 16 July 2023

Eight of us arrived at the Tiromoana car park on a breezy NW day and set off with coats on, for an anticlockwise circuit of the reserve. The student women from France were wearing running shoes, so soon had wet socks on the flat, grassy sections of track. We made a stop at Kate Pond, where Alexandra with endless patience held a stick out to encourage a flitting fantail to settle. Finally, it obliged for a full one second and Hilaire managed to get the photo to prove it.

Coats came off for the climb up to 346m Ella. On the way up we were surprised to see a ewe with lambs hurry into a grove of kanuka—not spring lambs but winter lambs. The view was good, though Banks Peninsula was hidden in low cloud. More fantails flitted about as we descended. We walked past a flock of sheep being break-fed on oats, then on to the Matairangi lookout for lunch. John found a direct way to the beach while we back-tracked to the conventional track alongside Kate Stream. At the beach a couple who regularly hunt for fossils showed us a nice crab fossil they had found. That got us enthused and we wandered around with our heads down, finding the usual shell fossils, and Sha found an unusual specimen of some kind which needs to be identified.



Alex holds a perch for a busy fantail

We might have stayed longer but the threat of rain moved us on, up the farm road, into the park, into a pine forest, then back on the road again, reaching the cars at about 3pm. The basic circuit is 10km but we did extra on the Te Ara Tawhai loop and the climb up Ella. A good day out for all, though the walk could be reserved for days when the weather is bad inland. This day's weather forecast fell short and we had a dry day, with rain finally arriving in the evening. We were: **Evelien Baas (leader), Alexandra, Rianna, Hilaire Campbell, Sha, John Robinson, Kim Ashmore and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM



Feverishly fossil fossicking



Farmland north of our circuit