



September 2023


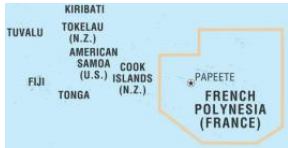
PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee					
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Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Dan Pryce	027 384 7065
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 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 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.
Tue 10 October 	Adventures in French Polynesia Five groups of islands make up French Polynesia: The Society Islands Archipelago, the Tuamotu Archipelago, the Gambier Islands, the Marquesas Islands and the Austral Islands. Janette Kear will tell us about her recent trip to parts of this scattered group of islands.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Monday 18 September

Morning walk exploring Clifton Terrace

Depart 9am from near the corner of Marriner and Nayland Streets. [Map](#). You can usually get a park in Nayland St. We will head up the Zig Zag which is a steady, gradual ascent to Brownlee Reserve with superb views of the coast and mountains. After a go on the flying fox we'll take various lanes down to Moncks Bay and return via Sumner Beach. If you'd like to download a free app called [Adventure Lab](#) (a bit like a treasure hunt), we could do the one along the beach. The walk should take under 2 hours. We can head to a local cafe afterwards. No need to book. **Maureen Thompson** 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com

NOTES

Safety in the Mountains: The club has four copies of the latest edition of **Safety in the Mountains** left for sale at the discounted price of \$6.50. Mike Bourke will have copies at club night. It's an impressive summary of the things we need to know for our safety and is beautifully illustrated. The comprehensive gear list is helpful, even for experienced trampers wondering if they've packed everything they need.

Screen: The club's projector screen is no longer used and has been gathering dust in Merv's garage for years. We'd like to give it to a member, so if you want it, call Merv on 322 7239.

TRIPS

10-Sep

[Mt Somers, South Face Track](#)

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 Staveley Hill.

Meet 6:50am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

16-17 Sep

[Three Mile Stream--McMillan Stream](#)

Sat-Sun

Kerry Moore 359 5069

- Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park starting from Lake Mason with a fairly flat circuit around McMillan and Three Mile streams.

Book by 10 Sept

17-Sep

[Mt Alford](#)

Sun

Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726

- 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

23-24 Sep

[Lake Clearwater Base](#)

Sat-Sun

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. Staying Friday and Saturday nights at the NZ Deerstalkers' Hut (\$25 per night per person) with a variety of trip options over Saturday and Sunday, including tramping, biking and kayaking. Numbers limited to ten.

Book by 10 Sept

- 24-Sep** [Cass River--Point 1912](#)
Sun **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. Then a great scree run down to the track and out.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 30 Sep-1 Oct** [Brabazon Saddle](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
●● A moderate-hard trip from Mesopotamia Station, over the 'iron bridge' on Bush Stream and walking up Black Birch Creek. Camping at about 1400m below the ascent to the saddle. Next day it's over the saddle to Crooked Spur Hut and down Bush Stream.
Book by 24 Sept
- 8-Oct** [The Grange--Knowles Gully--Hill 884](#)
Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
● An easy-moderate trip near Oxford to an 884m hill with good views to Ashley Gorge and the plains.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 14-15 Oct** [Benmore--13 Mile Bush](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
●● A moderate climb from Lake Lyndon to 1655m Ben More and over to stay at Benmore Hut.
Book by 8 Oct
- 15-Oct** [Mt Oakden](#)
Sun **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
● Yet another way to view Lake Coleridge on this moderate climb of 1633m Mt Oakden. Take an ice-axe.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 21-23 Oct** [Wheel Creek Hut--Mt Crosscut](#)
Sat-Mon **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●●● A moderate track along Wheel Creek leads to the 6 bunk hut. It's at 815m to give good access to the tussock tops of the Victoria Range and 1613m Crosscut Peak.
Lab wknd **Book by 14 Oct**
- 22-Oct** [Sugarloaf](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
● An easy-moderate climb up 1410m Sugarloaf from Cass.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- October** [Motutapu Track, Te Araroa](#)
●●●●● **Awaiting leader**
A moderate tramp on the Te Araroa Trail from Glendhu Bay on Lake Wanaka to Arrowtown. A delightful track, winding up to passes and down through valleys in this open tussocky country. Interesting history in the old gold-mining areas around Macetown.

- 28-Oct** [Mitchells Track--Gilpins Track](#)
Saturday **Awaiting leader**
 ● An easy circuit in the hills above Cashmere.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp Princess Margaret Hospital
- 28-29 Oct** [Mt Peel](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● A lengthy moderate ascent of this 1743m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and subalpine scrub, then 7km along the tops beyond Little Mt Peel.
Book by 22 Oct
- 4-6 Nov** [Carroll Hut--Dillon Hut](#)
Sat-Mon **Awaiting leader**
 ●●● From near Otira, a short steep, moderate forest climb to stay at Carroll Hut just above the bush-line. On day two we cross Kelly Range and descend to stay at Dillon Hut on the Taipo River. The two-day option returns from the tops back to Kelly Stream.
Book by 29 Oct
- 5-Nov** [Mts Cheeseman--Olympus](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● This moderate-hard trip climbs from the ski-field road up to 2094m Mt Olympus. Returning via Mt Cheesman. Take ice axe and crampons.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- November** [Mt Taylor](#)
Helen Binnie 027 2866 999
 ●● A moderate-hard climb of 2333m Mt Taylor in the Taylor Range near Lake Heron. An easy walk in on Saturday to stay in Double Hut. Then an early start Sunday for the climb. The height gain from the hut is 1433m.
Call leader before 24 Oct
- 11-12 Nov** [Pell Stream--Freyberg Range](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● We use the Lake Daniel track for a short way then head up Pell Stream to the hut. Day 2 takes us up 900m to the Freyberg Range then down to Maruia Springs. Moderate-hard.
Book by 5 Nov

TRIP REPORTS

Captain Thomas Track—Godley Head—Taylors Mistake Saturday 29 July 2023

We met at the Scarborough clock tower on this frosty morning. The route took us across Sumner to the Pony Club and up the Captain Thomas Track towards Evans Pass. The track was muddy in parts, as warned by the 'mountain bike track closed' sign. We decided to take a direct path up at one stage to cut out the more meandering mtb path. Near the top we could see lots of hi-vis vests against the hillside—Forest & Bird were tree-planting on a quite steep slope. Two of our number decided to turn back at that stage and went down the Scarborough Bluffs Track to Sumner. The three stayers had a cuppa, then headed east along the Crater Rim walkway. The partly-cloudy day soon gave way to full sun. The route was well marked, although I was a bit confused when, mid-way, the track headed off down-hill on the harbour side. We stopped for lunch at the Godley Head car park and noted there was quite a crowd of people, obviously getting out, now the weather had improved. The [military installation](#) has been closed for two years after asbestos was found in the soil there, so we took the diversion down past Scott's Hut towards Boulder Bay. We then followed the renovated track, back to Taylors Mistake, where we stopped for afternoon tea. The final push took us around Whitewash Head and down Flowers Track to Scarborough Beach.

We were: **Graeme Nicholas (leader), Kerry Moore, Sha, Haroon and Carol.** 🏔️ GN



Forest and Bird tree planters viewed from Evans Pass



Was Cashin Quay built from rock quarried at right?



From the harbourside track that leads to Godley Head



The Heads



Godley Head



The sheep are so accustomed to people now that they graze on as we pass close-by

Abel Tasman National Park Circuit

11-17 August 2023

Our party of four left Christchurch at 10am for a leisurely drive to Marahau, where we stayed at the [Barn Backpackers](#), and enjoyed a pleasant pre-tramp meal at Kaiteriteri.

We were up bright and early to a very frosty morning. The 41.1km Inland Track begins on the Abel Tasman Coast Track at Tinline Bay, climbing steadily away from the coast, then more steeply through regenerating forest. Patches of snow still littered the ground from a big southerly storm two days earlier. At our brief lunch stop at the Holyoake Shelter, as for every other hut and view-point on the track, a portly weka or two popped out to scrounge a feed. We continued on to Castle Rock Hut which is perched near granite outcrops, and came across a herd of feral goats, but fortunately, no other trampers. We were pleased with our decision not to carry tents as the two huts on this inland track are not bookable, so we were trusting to luck.

Next was a 6-hour day from Castle Rock Hut, with a climb up to Moa Park Shelter, and then a long, steady descent down the Evans Ridge through *Dracophyllum* and beech forest to Awapoto Hut. Peter was keen to 'bag' Wainui Hut, which is off the main track and required approximately a 300m descent into the Wainui Valley, with a very steep uphill climb, to join the Inland Track further up the valley. Helen joined Peter on this diversion, while Diane and Raymond continued on the main track. We enjoyed having the hut to ourselves and the views of Awaroa Inlet before the rain and wind arrived. Rain continued through the night. The inland huts were in good condition, and it didn't take long for the wood burners to drive out the winter chill.



An early departure from Awapoto Hut

Day three shone bright and clear, although a cold westerly breeze was blowing. On the other side of Takaka Valley, snow showers were falling on the peaks of Kahurangi National Park. The track was at times steep but gave stunning views of Wainui Inlet, and had outstanding patches of old-growth forest on the descent to Pigeon Saddle on the Totaranui Road. From

the road, the track continued for about 30 minutes in bush before emerging onto farmland. The final section followed farm tracks, past Gibbs Hill, before zig zagging down through regenerating scrub to finally reach Whariwharangi Bay. The historic farm homestead, built around 1896, has been restored and now serves as a DOC hut. Raymond was keen to visit Separation Point as a side trip in the late afternoon, being mindful that the next day we needed to reach Awaroa Inlet by mid-afternoon to coincide with low tide. So, while Diane cranked up the wood burner and ‘enjoyed’ a cold shower, Raymond, Peter, and Helen set off on the 6km return trip to the lighthouse, getting great views of Golden Bay, Farewell Spit and the Wakamarama Range. That evening, we finished off a very pleasant day with another game of Yahtzee.



Wainui Inlet from near Gibbs Hill



Wharewharangi Hut

Tuesday started out fine, but by the time we reached Totaranui, rain arrived and raincoats were required, but it was not unpleasant. The Coastal Track fluctuated from coastal views, patches of podocarp forest and golden beaches—all beautiful. At the Awaroa Inlet, it was a very low tide, and Awaroa Hut was visible on the far side of the inlet. At the start of the crossing, we met four other trampers, who seemed a bit dubious about crossing the inlet. However, the crossing was very straightforward, and we enjoyed a relaxing afternoon and evening at the Awaroa Hut. This was the first time we had the company of other trampers, so it was good to share stories and converse with some international visitors.

Day 5 was our longest day—a cooler day with showers. Fortunately, being down on the coast and leeward side of the park, we missed the worst of the weather. This was an easy walk along the coastal track and beaches reaching Bark Bay for lunch. To our delight, near the Bark Bay campsite, we found a lemon tree covered in ripe fruit! We continued on to Torrent Bay where we were able to bypass the high-tide track and cross the estuary at low tide. From there it was a short climb over a low saddle, then an easy saunter along the beach to Anchorage Hut—a stunning location!

Thursday was the last day of the trip. From the track there were beautiful views of the coastline, Adele and Fishermans islands and the snow-covered Richmond Range, before we turned inland, through patches of lush forest, then retraced our steps of 5 days ago from Tinline Bay to arrive back at Marahau, late morning. Then we were home-bound with a compulsory stop at a Motueka Bakery for coffee and cake. The added attraction of going tramping is to enjoy the café fare afterwards!



Early morning, Torrent Bay from Anchorage access track

This was a wonderful trip with great company. Thanks go to Raymond for the logistics and planning required to ensure the trip was so successful. Completing this six-day 105km trip in late winter is definitely recommended, in the absence of large summer hordes and no wasps!
Participants: Raymond Ford, (leader and photographer) Diane Mellish, Peter Umbers, Helen Binnie 🏔️ HB



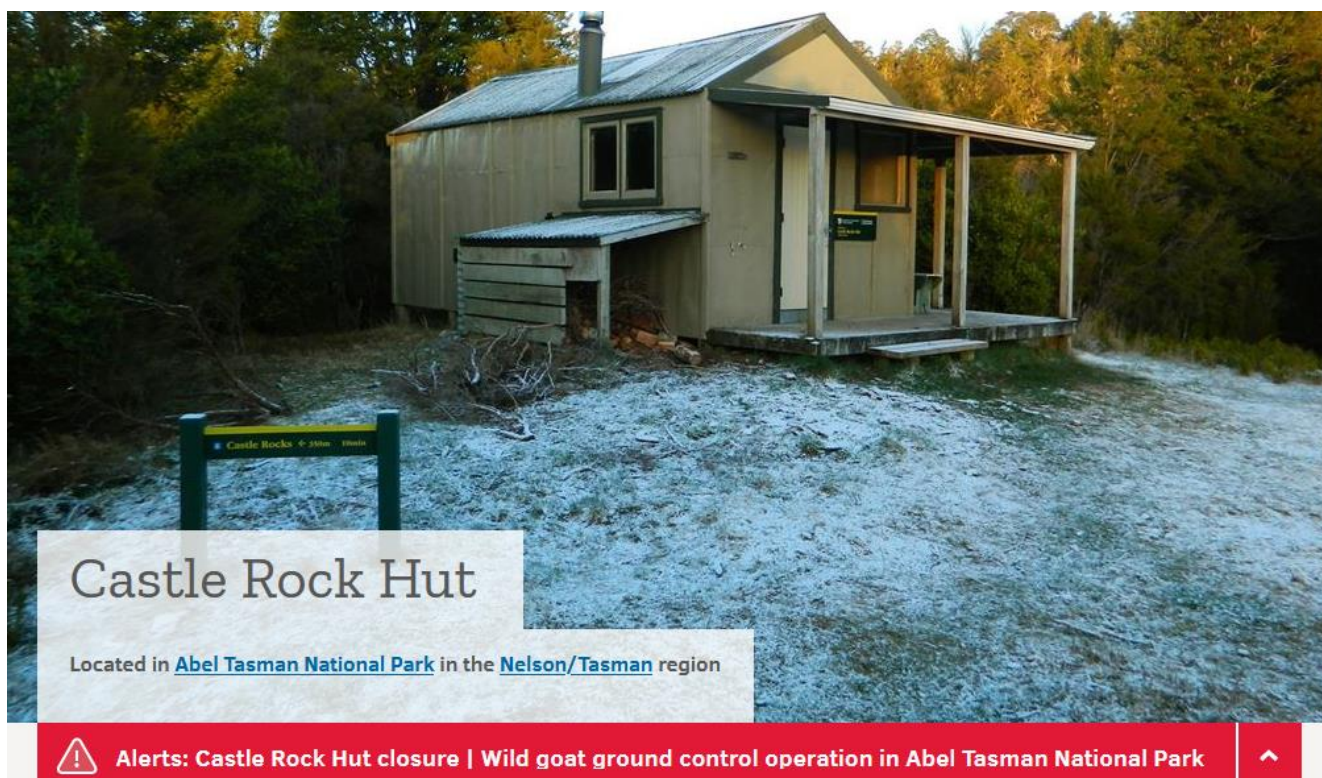
Walking Mutton Cove Beach



Peter, Helen and Di crossing Awaroa Inlet

Footnote:

DoC is on the job, taking care of the goats.



Castle Rock Hut Closure

Castle Rock Hut will be closed from **Monday 4 September to Friday 8 September 2023**. Contract hunters will be based at the hut for a wild goat control operation.

More Info at:

<https://www.abeltasmanbirdsong.co.nz/>

<https://www.janszoon.org/webcams-awaroa/>

<https://www.abeltasman.co.nz/media/>

<https://www.newzealand.com/au/feature/abel-tasman-coast-track/>

<https://triptins.com/abel-tasman-track/>

<https://www.alltrails.com/parks/new-zealand/nelson-tasman/abel-tasman-national-park>

<https://trailexplorers.nz/trips-blog/abel-tasman-national-park>