



# Peninsula Tramping Club (Inc)

## FOOTNOTES

### November 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.

**Tue 14 November**



#### Further Faster Gear Talk

We will be treated to a review of some of the adventure gear that this sporting goods retailer stocks, enabling users to go higher, lower, safer, drier, further and faster.

**Tue 12 December**



#### Christmas Club Night

A fun evening where teams will compete in a range of challenges and games.

**Bring food for supper.**



## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Avon/Otakaro River New Brighton Ramble then dinner at Phad Thai Restaurant Tuesday 21 November

Meet at the corner of Beresford Street and Oram Ave, New Brighton for a **6pm start**. We will walk along the banks of the Avon River before returning to the **Phad Thai Restaurant, 59 Brighton Mall, New Brighton** for dinner at **7pm**. Dinner bookings to **Margot Bowden by 6pm Sunday 19 Nov**.

Phone 03 332 7020, [margot.bowden@gmail.com](mailto:margot.bowden@gmail.com)

## NOTES

Ten copies of the excellent new edition of *Safety in the Mountains* have been snapped up. If members want a copy at the bulk (ten) price of \$6.50 each let Mike Bourke know, [michaelbourke1000@gmail.com](mailto:michaelbourke1000@gmail.com)

We will need ten orders to get the discounted price.

The book would make an ideal Christmas present for a trumper.

## TRIPS

### 4-5 Nov [Pell Stream--Freyberg Range](#)

Sat-Sun **Peter Umbers 359 9118**

- Moderate-hard. Up Pell Stream to the hut, then a traverse of the Freyberg Range, returning to starting point. Tell Peter if you'd like the trip extended to three days.  
**Book by 29 Oct**

### 12 Nov [Mts Cheeseman--Olympus](#)

Sun **Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727, 03 329 0008**

- This moderate-hard trip climbs from the Cheeseman ski-field road up to 2094m Mt Olympus. Returning via Mt Cheeseman. Take ice axe and crampons.  
**Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

### 17-20 Nov [Saxton--Leatham--Severn](#)

Fri - Mon **Diane Mellish 027 413 6468 mellishdiane@gmail.com**

- A valleys and passes circuit in Molesworth Station.  
**Book by 12 Nov**

### 25-26 Nov [Carlyle Hut, Glenhope Station](#)

Sat-Sun **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**

- Easy-moderate tramp up Carlyle Stream to this unusual hut on Glenhope Station, below the Poplars Range.  
**Book by 19 Nov**

### 26 Nov [Opawaho Divide, Christchurch 360 Trail](#)

Sun **Helen Harkness 384 2890**

- An easy flat 16km walk from Riccarton to Halswell Quarry. The "divide" is the separation of the Avon/Otakaro and Heathcote/Opawaho watersheds.  
**Meet 9am cnr Titoki St and Rimu St**

- 25-28 Nov**      [Mt Adams](#)  
**Sat-Tue**      **Peter Umbers 359 9118**  
 ●●●●      A moderate-hard steady 2100m climb to beautiful 2208m Mt Adams in this Wilderness Area. Expect permanent snow near the top.  
**Book by 19 Nov**
- 2 - 4 Dec**      [Nina--Boscawen--Rough Creek](#)  
**Sat-Mon**      **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 ●●●      A moderate circuit up the Nina Rr to Nina Biv then over Boscawen Saddle to Lake Christabel Hut. Day three goes to the highway via Rough Creek  
**Book by 26 Nov**
- 3 Dec**      [Birdlings Flat--Magnet Bay](#)  
**Sun**      **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**  
 ●      Easy-moderate trip along the coast from Birdlings Flat to Oashore, Tokoroa, Hikuraki and Magnet Bays. Returning the same way.  
**Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp Princess Margaret Hospital**
- 9-10 Dec**      [Crow Hut](#)  
**Sat-Sun**      **John Cook 384 1710 jkscook@xtra.co.nz**  
 ●●      For some an easy-moderate walk via the Waimakariri Valley and into the Crow Valley which drains the Crow Glacier. Others may choose a moderate route starting in Arthurs Pass, going over Avalance Peak into the Crow Valley.  
**Book by 3 Dec**
- 10 Dec**      [Onepunga Falls](#)  
**Sun**      **Awaiting leader**  
 ●      An easy walk up Boby Stream to the falls. Take secateurs as it may need a trim since we were there a year ago. Take a bag as there may be plums at the car park.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**
- 9-12 Dec**      [Kakapo Hut](#)  
**Sat-Tues**      **Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872**  
 ●●●●●      A moderate-hard 4 or 5 day trip on the west side of Kahurangi National Park to visit Kakapo Hut. We depart Little Wanganui, head along the newish track (not shown on the map) from the old Belltown-Manunui Hut site, Wangapeka Track, over Lawrence Saddle to Kakapo Valley, and return, either via Kakapo Saddle or possibly along the Scarlett Range to Little Wanganui Saddle.  
**Book by 19 Nov**
- 30 Dec**      [Little Mt Peel](#)  
**Saturday**      **Awaiting leader**  
 ●●      Easy-moderate ascent of this 1311m landmark in South Canterbury with a height gain of 950m. Passing through podocarp forest and sub-alpine scrub. Those wanting an easier day may want to go only part of the way up, or explore the bush tracks in the area.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

28 Dec-4 Jan

[Di's North Otago favourites](#)

**Diane Mellish 027 413 6468, mellishdiane@gmail.com**

●●●●●●

A range of moderate 3-day trips that could include: (1) the Dansey Pass to Kurow Ridge traverse over 6 peaks with easy tussock tops and some easy rock scrambling to reach the summits offering fabulous views all around. (2) The beautiful Canyon Creek alpine cirque in the Ahuriri catchment, with good alpine climbs possible. (3) The Dingleburn Valley from Ahuriri Valley. (4) The North Temple-Huxley-South Temple circuit and Mt Maitland at the head of Lake Ohau. (5) Mackenzies Peak near Twizel. You could join in for just one, or all of these adventures. There are lots of options for day walks in these areas if we need to wait out unsuitable weather.

**Book by mid Dec**

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Glentui—Knowles Top—Ashley Gorge Picnic Ground      Sunday 8 Oct 2023**

Dan scoffed at the prospect of scattered drizzle inland as the radio weather forecast was telling us and he was right. We had a clear cool day for this 500m climb from Glentui to Knowles Top. We parked near the Diamond Way Buddhist Retreat Centre, moved one car to Ashley Picnic Ground and set off up a vehicle track, past numerous bee hives amidst the flowering gorse and to the edge of the beech forest where we stopped beside a hut/bach for a break. Vesna found a reasonable path through the beech before we emerged onto tussock 500m short of the top—Knowles Top. There was a cool breeze up high. so we walked a little way west to the forest margin for an 11.30 early lunch, out of the wind.



835m Knowles Top



A fallen tree blocked the usual entrance to the ridge track, but sawn trees marked a new, adjacent way in. The whole ridge track has been cleared recently with chainsaw and brush cutter, making this section an easy walk. The down-hill to the waterfall track is still clear but for a few gorse patches. Broom is threatening the lower part of the down-hill spur. Walking on the waterfall track we passed lots of people and dogs on this last day of school holidays.

This was an enjoyable through-trip though Heather made the point that we could have met in town at 8:30am so we arrived on Knowles Top around noon.

We were: **Karen Fincham, Dorota Giejsztowt, Heather Hughes, Kyung Sang Lee, Vesna Mojsilovic. Dan Pryce, Joy Schroeder, Sha S G, Jessie Pajwani and Kerry Moore** 🏔️ KM



**The descent**

## **Wheel Creek      21-23 Oct 2023**

By the time we'd spoken to the farmer's son and found our way to the parking spot beside the Maruia River it was close to 11am. Our walk started on grassy flats, then followed an old boggy 4WD track towards Wheel Creek. We were looking for a big red marker but at Marsden Creek we concluded we'd missed the marker and turned back to find the track shown on the map. We didn't find it and lost close to an hour following a non-existent track. It turns out that we just had to stay on the vehicle track, cross Wheel Creek and proceed on a marked track. We eventually reached Wheel Creek and got on the correct path. The forest track has a lot of fallen, rotting logs as you'd expect in Westland/Tasman and is dense enough that track markers can be hard to see. Keith and Steve were surprisingly good spotters. The track climbs well above the creek and crosses damp, ferny gullies where we were hard-pressed to find markers, which were often plastic film tied to the shrubbery.





**Wheel Creek Hut**

We had a few encounters with bush lawyer. The last stretch to the hut on the true right is fairly easy going. Wheel Creek Hut suddenly materialised at 6.40pm—a welcome sight. It's a tidy 6-bunk hut and now has the required 6 mattresses. It's in a good open location to get plenty of sun, and trees have been chopped to enlarge the clearing. The convenience of butane gas and a meal of macaroni gave us a quick, filling dinner. Gingernuts and custard topped off the meal.



**A sunlit Mt Crosscut behind the granite fortress**



In the morning, Helen was up at first-light, so at 8am we were away towards Waitaha Saddle, taking a spur on the true left of the unnamed stream that drains from the saddle. We connected with the saddle and headed east to take a spur up to the bush-line. A short section of scrub slowed us but soon we were on the ridge leading to Mt Crosscut. Helen set off ahead, while the three stragglers stopped for a 12.30 lunch. Helen stopped at 1550m, impeded by giant blocks of granite. The same had happened to our 2019 PTC trip, 600m short of Mt Crosscut. We had the advantage of fine weather but after looking either side of the ridge we realised we would need to go back, lower and sidle around the bluffs. With the time at 1pm and our energy flagging. we chose not to go the added distance and 100m climb to Mt C.



**The tarn drains towards Wheel Creek**

On the ridge back towards Wheel Creek a solitary kea stopped to observe us and Helen was able to get quite close for a photo. We avoided the scrub problem getting into the forest, but had to sidle in the trees to find the good spur to Waitaha Saddle, then we went a little too high to get back on our spur to the hut. Once on it, it was plain-sailing, but steep, back to the hut. We were pleased to be able to bask in the sun and dry damp socks from 4pm. Our evening's lentil spaghetti contained bay leaves which were discarded outside afterwards. In the morning, Steve noticed they had disappeared, so the local possums will now be hunting for the source tree to find more of this delicacy.

Notes on the Permolat website say the open fire-place smokes unless a window is opened. We lit a small fire and it didn't create a big enough up-draft, so we got smoked, even when the door or window was open. Other notes warn of mice in the hut but rodenticide in the cupboard seems to have answered that problem. A comment in the hut book said that "some track markers are missing", so it seems that some miscreant has been stealing them.

Labour Day, Monday and we were away from the hut at 7.30am for the downstream return to the car. Halfway down the track Kerry tore a quad muscle for no apparent reason and we had visions of calling in a chopper in dense forest. It didn't come to that. Helen provided an elastic stocking and pain-killers and we pressed on at  $\frac{3}{4}$ -speed. This time we crossed Wheel Creek at the big triangle and got to the car at 2pm. We'd taken  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours, versus  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , partially off track, for the inward leg. Again, Helen had the long drive to Chch and then further south.

On overgrown parts of the track, our four mumbled oaths like "never again", but later as the whole experience gelled, such notions softened. We'd had an adventure in great country and the unusual occurrence of three fine days. Reading the hut book, Helen observed that our four boosted the stats for hut occupancy to seven so far this year, a big jump up from 2022's five. The farmer did comment that he doesn't see repeat visitors. Nonetheless, **Helen Binnie, Keith Hoard, Steve Cameron and Kerry Moore** can say they've been there. 🏔️ KM



Looking down the Montgomerie River. The ridge scar in the distance is likely to be Garvies Coal Mine