



December–January 2023,24

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 12 December 	Christmas Club Night A fun evening where teams will compete in a range of challenges and games. Bring Christmassy food for supper. 
Tue 13 February 	Members' Photos Rummage through your best tramping photos and take them along to share on our first club night of the year. They can tell the story of a trip you've done or be just a miscellany of tramping trips.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 9 January 2024 Social Walk and BBQ

We will start 2024 with a mystery walk around Halswell, then a BBQ dinner. **Meet at 6pm** at Gary and Margot's house, 17 Edward Stafford Avenue, Halswell. Dinner at 7pm will be a BYO and CYO (cook your own) BBQ. Bring a salad or dessert to share. BYO drinks and meat or non-meat. BBQ will be provided. Please let Margot know if you are coming by Sunday 7 January, so we have an idea of numbers.

Phone 03 332 7020, margot.bowden@gmail.com

TRIPS

10-Dec [Onepunga Falls](#)

Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**

● An easy walk and wade up Bobby 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 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.

Trip list now closed

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](#)

Thurs-Thurs **Diane Mellish 027 413 6468 or mellishdiane@gmail.com**

●●●●●●● A combination of moderate 3-day trips that could include: Danseys Pass to Kurow Ridge, a traverse over 6 peaks, easy tussocky tops with a little easy rock scrambling to reach the summits. Fabulous views through 360 degrees. The beautiful Canyon Creek alpine cirque in the Ahuriri catchment with good alpine climbs from there. The Dingleburn Valley from Ahuriri Valley. The North Temple-Huxley-South Temple circuit and Mt Maitland at the head of Lake Ohau. Mackenzies Peak near Twizel. You could join in for just one of these adventures or as many as your other commitments allow. Lots of options for day walks in these areas if we need to wait out unsuitable weather. Dates are negotiable.

Book by mid Dec

- 7-Jan**
Sun
● [New Year Picnic at Diamond Harbour](#)
Merv and Glenda Meredith 322 7239
The picnic will be in the Stoddart Point Reserve on the lower level. Come when it suits you, by car or catch the ferry from Lyttelton. Lots of walking track options, also swimming, cycling or kayaking etc. Merv's silver Outback HST15 will be down in the reserve about 10.00am. If not visible, he and Glenda will probably be biking to Camp Bay, due back for lunch.
Turn up any time from 10am at the Stoddart Point Reserve at Diamond Harbour.
- 13-18 Jan**
Sat-Thur
●●●●● [Serpentine Range](#)
Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872
Moderate-hard trip to the area north of the Routeburn Track. Ice axe and crampons may be required. Departing the day before and staying at Glenorchy. The trip will start and finish on the Routeburn Track. We will visit Lake Unknown, Park Pass Glacier and traverse along the Serpentine Range past Lake Nerine and Lake Wilson, camping along the way. The trip dates may vary a bit depending on the weather forecast.
Book by 4 Jan
- 14-Jan**
Sun
● [Sugarloaf](#)
Awaiting leader
An easy-moderate climb up 1410m Sugarloaf from Cass with commanding views in all directions. Height gain is 770m.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 20-Jan**
Sat
● [Middle Waipara Gorge](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
An easy walk from Ram Paddock Road through millions of years of rock strata up-river to see the large concretions. Down-river we will wade through the narrow section of gorge.
Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 20-21 Jan**
Sat-Sun
●● [Andrews Stream--Casey Saddle](#)
Di Mellish 027 413 6468 or mellishdiane@gmail.com
An easy tramp very suitable for children or beginner trampers. A pretty valley with lots of nice camping places, easy walking on a track.
Book by 14 Jan
- 27-28 Jan**
Sat-Sun
●● [Casey Tarn](#)
Chris Leaver 322 6445
A moderate 3-day trip to camp by a tarn high in the Birdwood Range. We cannot get permission to walk over station land so will use the Te Araroa Track and Avoca Valley for access to public land and camp in the Avoca Valley on the first night before heading up Triangle Stream. **Departuring Friday evening.**
Book by 20 Jan
- 27-Jan**
Saturday
● [Mt Alford](#)
Awaiting leader
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

- 3-5 Feb**
Sat-Mon
●●● [**Zampa Tops, Opera Range**](#)
Awaiting leader
Moderate tramp in the Lewis Pass area. Climb up via Henry Saddle to a beautiful tarn under Mt Zampa 1710m to camp and swim. Day 2 back to Henry Saddle and on to the Opera Range, camping in a tarn basin under Mt Trovatore. Day 3 is over Travers Peak and down Foleys Track to the highway.
Book by 28 Jan
- 3-10 Feb**
Sat-Sat
●●●●●●●● [**Alpine Trip**](#)
Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727
This year we will head to the Clarke Neve above the Lyell and Ramsay glaciers at the head of the Rakaia, then cross over to the Lord and Wanganui Valley, Westland. The trip will take the usual 7 or 8 days, using the best weather between the 3rd to the 11th Feb.
The trip is almost full. Contact Geoff asap if interested.
- 10-12 Feb**
Sat-Mon
●●● [**Redcliffe Track--Black Hill**](#)
Awaiting leader
A moderate tramp. Day 1 follow a good track up Redcliffe Stream and over the saddle to camp near Cookies Hut. Next day climb the Turton Tops ridge to camp by some tarns behind Shingle Hill. Day 3 climb Black Hill 2067m and return via farm tracks and the quarry road.
Book by 4 Feb
- 11-Feb**
Sun
● [**Ashley Gorge**](#)
Kerry Moore 359 5069
This is the classic splash down-stream along the Ashley River from Middle Bridge, down to the domain. It's an easy-moderate, fun trip on a fine day, but can be challenging if the river flow is not low. If there has been recent rain ring Kerry beforehand to check the flow. You can check for yourself on the ECAN website at <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/data/riverflow/sitedetails/66210>
Be sure to take a full change of clothes for afterwards.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- Feb or Mar**
●●●●●● [**Hollyford Track**](#)
Names to Diane at mellishdiane@gmail.com
The classic moderate 4 day tramp
Early indications are needed to make this happen.

TRIP REPORTS

Freyberg Tops—Pell Stream 10-12 November 2023

I was dead keen to do this trip when I saw it on the PTC program. What made it even better was the team that signed up for it. Frank had warned me off attempting to travel in Pell Stream during the winter, so the timing was ideal, and no wasps either. I'd spent so much time researching the weather and previous write-ups on the trip, I forgot to ensure I knew where the track to Mt Mueller actually starts! We had a fair idea and parked at a layby not far from the sign indicating a picnic area.

We unloaded Helen's 'truck' and she and I carried on to Marble Hill car park to leave it there. Then we managed to get a lift from the first car leaving the car park, driven by a young woman who'd enjoyed Lake Daniell with her pals. We'd only been gone for 15 minutes. Some of us softies crossed the Maruia in light footwear. Others crossed in their boots. We all searched for the start of the track and when I saw an exploration further downstream would mean wet boots, I backed off and instead climbed up onto a low

terrace and headed down-valley for a few metres before I encountered the well-marked track. The track must have started across from the genuine picnic area, not our layby.



Looking down to the Maruia River



Camping on the Freyberg Range

For some reason I was elected to go in front and despite offers, it remained so for nearly all the trip. We followed the maintained track to the edge of a small stream and then had to cast about as we couldn't see markers. Eventually they were spotted and I augmented them with more cruise tape. We began the climb up to the bush-line via a steep but clear and well-marked track up a sharp spur. Where it slackened off, we stopped for lunch in a mossy patch in sunlight.

When we got to the bush-line we took another break to admire the view of the Maruia River and the Lewis Tops, then carried on in easily navigable scrub and tussock to the summit of Mt Mueller, noting a few small tarns en-route. Helen was very pleased to arrive there as it had been in her sights for a while. However, after this the ridgeline got very broken, so we had to take time and care. In hindsight, we may have been able to bypass the ridge. Frank had done it in the mist, years before with the CTC and because they'd been going up, rather than down, their route had given him no impression of awkwardness.

We'd decided to camp at a large tarn but there were two more rocky summits which we bypassed with a protracted sidle on the western side. Keith regained the ridge to check out the route to the tarn on the shaded side, but we decided to continue the very pleasant sidle in sunshine to a notch 300m north of point 1613. Frank looked over the ridge just up from this notch, and gave us the thumbs-up when he saw easy terrain and a small tarn adjacent to a small flat of short tussocks—ideal for a campsite. We pitched our four little tents—just as the CTC tends to do—and three of the team set-to, cooking themselves a communal meal whilst I cooked Frank's and mine in the shelter of a large boulder, as our burner doesn't use a windshield.

We were hoping for our eastern aspect to catch the morning sun but alas, we woke to a gentle patter. We finally, formally rose at 8.30am and luckily the fine drizzle had stopped. Eventually the skies cleared and having packed our very wet tents with varying degrees of internal condensation, off we went along a deeply etched historic deer trail. The terrain made for easy travel. Keith suggested descending to the Pell via points 1163 and 985 and when Frank saw the bluff-free profile of this route he was very enthusiastic, even more so when we saw the strong deer trail heading down the defined spur, which we approached after a spot of sidling. We stopped just short of the bush-line in a sunny, sheltered spot for lunch. It was good we'd stopped there as the forest was bordered by a short section of very thick scrub that we had to shove our way through. After that, the deer trails persisted and there was very little undergrowth to contend with on our descent. I kept my phone in hand while descending, to ensure we stayed on the correct spurs, though it chewed through a bit of battery. Frank's always-on Garmin is better suited to continuous navigation.

At the dip between points 1163 and 985, we scouted for water to augment our supplies, climbed over point 985, then traveled NE to a final, slight rise. Our route from there was decided by the thickness of the vegetation. Fortunately the subcanopy remained open, so we crossed the side-stream at the 800m contour and followed a bearing directly to meet the track which, from memory skirted an old slip just before its final descent to the Pell. Frank spotted a pink ribbon not far from our proposed intersection, so we headed there and Keith led us down to Pell Stream via a well-marked and cleared track.

We cut through swampy grasses and a couple of patches of beech forest, then saw the sunny terrace on the true right where the 4-bunk hut sits. We crossed and spent the rest of the afternoon drying our tents etc. The hut was in good order with plenty of firewood but there was no need for a fire on this mild evening. Keith pitched his now-dry tent closer to the river at the edge of the forest and we sat in the sun until it disappeared behind trees.

In the morning, Helen spotted a rifleman just outside the hut. She was keen for an early start, as she had a long drive ahead to Ashburton. We read all the comments in the hut book on various routes down spurs from the Freyberg Range and the condition of the Pell Stream Track. Lots of slips have broken the continuity of the original track, necessitating unmarked or subtly marked work-arounds. Basically, the track runs completely on the true left but there are two crossings, one mandatory, onto the true-right bank for a little way. One of these could be done as a wade after traveling on a short rocky moss-covered section. I back-tracked and put up markers across one slip that had had us splitting into two groups to scout the route. At one point, I didn't have a clue and climbed a deer trail, then had to lead the group down through forest, back to the track. Someone needs to mark the correct route which stays down by the river!

We traveled through the very picturesque gorge and arrived via a well-established track at Gilchrist Stream for lunch in the sun. After crossing the stream, Peter lost one of his nine lives with a tumble off the track, miraculously suffering only a few abrasions and no apparent ill-effect, though we nervously monitored him for signs of a declining level of consciousness but he was his same old self throughout. Ironically the track got very easy and almost benched after Gilchrist and we were rewarded with two kaka flying around in the canopy, making an atypical bell-like call on one occasion.

We arrived at the 4WD track and chose not to bag Blackadders' Rest, a goldminers' hut, which sits down by Pell Stream. There was a bit of shilly-shallying about whether we should stick to the track and ford the Maruia or cross Alfred Stream and hoof it down to the car-park via the Lake Daniell Track. We compromised by leaving the 4WD track and taking a side-track to the river's edge, passing a big permanent goldminer's tent en-route. Eventually we were forced to undergo a less than optimal crossing, despite better fords upstream, but it gave us the opportunity to link up to demonstrate safe practice.

The mushy 4WD track had exacerbated my tender toe and Frank's ankle, so the Lake Daniell Track was much more pleasant travel. We got to the Sluice Box for a final photo finish, changed, then drove to the Culverden pub, where I introduced some to the delights of mine host!

We were: **Peter Umbers, Keith Hoard, Helen Binnie, Frank King and Honora Renwick.** 🏠 HR



Pell Stream Hut

Saxton - Boundary Stream - Severn Valley - Severn Saddle 17-20 November 2023

I advertised this trip as the Saxton-Leatham-Severn circuit but research online made me realise it was too long for four days and that the upper Leatham is a nightmare of large wilding pines and windfalls which have obscured the tracks and made travel very difficult. DOC is waging war on the pines in that area at present. So, I put together an interesting and not-so-demanding Saxton, Boundary Stream, Mt Severn, Severn Valley, Severn Saddle adventure. It proved to be varied, immensely enjoyable and not too hard on an aging mountain woman! Perfect sunny, windless conditions prevailed for the whole trip.

Day 1: A 7am start from Christchurch got us on to the start of the Saxton Valley track before 11am. We strolled up easy farm tracks beside the Saxton River and just over an hour later we lunched near the Saxton Hut. At this time of year there are no farm animals in these areas. We had the whole beautiful place to ourselves, seeing neither men nor beasts for the duration of the trip. After a leisurely lunch we walked up

Boundary Stream on cattle tracks to find a lovely camping spot at 4pm on the last flat. With no wind to trouble us, we lazed on the terraces and enjoyed a relaxing evening in the sun.



Day 2: The saddle just south of 1764m was calling us up and we eagerly climbed towards it along the picturesque winding creek-bed, then open upland grasslands. Big screens leading up to high ridges and peaks flanked us on both sides. All, except me, parked their packs on the saddle and proceeded up the ridge to the summit of Mt Severn 2027m. I luxuriated in an ambling approach to the saddle, enjoying just being at one with the beauty all around me, feeling it, breathing it in, committing it to memory, photographing it. Far to the east were the peaks of Tapuae-O-Uenuku and Mt Alarm, to the west the Severn Valley lay at our feet with the Raglan Range beyond. Closer to hand was Mt Saxton which we climbed on a club trip about 4 years ago. The climbers returned for lunch on the saddle, then we dropped down to the Severn Hut via 1764m and the ridge off it, which is the usual route. We made ourselves at home in this delightful hut for the next 2 nights. Helen especially enjoyed the lovely sun-bathing deck on the north side. It was a relaxing vibe, with easy conversations, bathing in the creek, some games of yahtzee and good food, and the feeling of satisfaction at what we had achieved that day.



Day 3: We set off early with light day packs, destination Severn Saddle, 1600m. It took about 3 hours of easy travel up the terraces on the true-left of the river to reach the head of the valley. This is a beautiful cirque, with towering bluffs, threaded with silvery waterfalls. To negotiate the 18m waterfall marked on the map, we sidled high on the true-left, which in hindsight was a mistake. It took us up into unpleasantly steep, loose and bouldery scree, which I did not enjoy! However, arriving at the saddle for another leisurely lunch in sunny, windless conditions made it all worthwhile. A glance down into the tree-choked Leatham Valley had me congratulating myself on some good planning decisions. The track, sidling down the scree directly off the saddle made for a blissfully easy descent. We dropped to the flat area just above the 18m waterfall, then found a good track close on its true right, with a few poles to show the way and excellent viewpoints too. This took us to the valley floor, easily and efficiently. We found it faster and easier to stay beside the river most of the way home to our hut, rather than go up on the terraces we had used in the morning. I was reluctant to go down-valley and leave the beauty of the Upper Severn behind, so I dawdled, often stopping to look behind and watch the light changing on the peaks as some clouds and afternoon showers gathered over them.



Day 4: Vroom! All go! Up at 4:30am, out the hut door just before 6am, a delightful unbroken, rhythmic climb up the steep ridge in the early morning cool to burst on to 1764 and break into the sunshine in less than 2 hours. Down, down, down the scree, then retracing our tracks, down sinuous Boundary Stream to a lovely grass terrace opposite Saxton Hut, for lunch beside the river. The final hot trundle along the 4WD track to the vehicle was soon over and by 1:30 pm we were on our way back to Hanmer for coffee and pies or cake. A big thank you to my tramping buddies for good food, good company and fantastic tramping. This classic high-country farming landscape with its easy access through open, golden tussock valleys, babbling crystal-clear creeks and rivers, saddles and screes leading up to 2000m tops, makes my soul sing. It is a tramp I can highly recommend.

We were: **Di Mellish (leader), Helen Binnie (driver) Chris Leaver, Vesna Mojsilovic, Raymond Ford.** 🏠 DM

Carlyle Hut, Glenhope Station 25-26 November 2023

We were anxiously watching the weather maps as they predicted a storm leading up to the weekend. Every weekend trip I planned this year has been cancelled due to weather. The final Friday weather update was for showers in the morning, clearing in the afternoon with a fine, much warmer Sunday. So, the trip would happen.

The farmer's directions were to drive to Glenhope Station and park by the locked gate near the house. We arrived to find one car already there but had to look some 100m away to see any house. I guess that is close, by farmer reckoning.

The farm track headed back towards Carlyle Stream. The farm track, as marked on the map winds uphill to a high river terrace. At the edge of the forest a walking track turns steeply uphill following the fence line. At the end of the fence we spotted some orange track markers as the track dived into the scrub and then forest. Getting to this point took us 1½ hours of "farm track" walking.

For the next hour we followed the stream on the true right, although the track was steep and quite a scramble in places with even a fixed rope to pull ourselves up at one point. After lunch the track flattened out and we made good time crossing the stream occasionally, before reaching the hut on the true left. The bush was thick, with abundant new growth. We had met three trappers from the NZ Conservation Trust working their line on the way, so we were to have a full hut that night. Later that afternoon Helen and Tania took a trip up to the tops, above the hut while the guys stayed at the hut and yarned.



I had some interesting conversations with the trappers. They said they'd cut a track upstream from the hut. Dinner was "every man/woman for themselves" although Graeme cooked up some apples and custard for dessert. Both groups had an early night.

In the morning there was a ground frost and our wet boots were frozen solid. We had left them outside as the hut was crowded. We all had to stand in the morning sun to let our boots soften enough to tie the laces. The weather man delivered on-forecast—fine and warm. 3½ hours later we were back at the car, ready for coffee and cake at Culverden. We were: **Graeme Nicholas, Scott Austin, Helen Binnie, Tania Dalziel.**



Opawaho Divide, Christchurch 360 Trail

Sunday 26 Nov. 2023

The segment of the 360 Trail named Opawaho Divide refers to the Avon and Heathcote watersheds. Starting in Titoki Street outside Riccarton Bush, this flat walk ends at Halswell Quarry and combines street walking and cycle-ways, relieved by small reserves and green spaces. Online instructions are detailed and you soon get your eye in to spot the 360 circular symbols. Sometimes additional directional arrows are helpful too.

Probably, being Sunday, the streets were surprisingly quiet for our walk. Passing through Curletts Stormwater Basin, our attention swung from looking for water birds to Santa Parade floats as they assembled in the Show Grounds area. Following morning tea at Seagar Park, we were soon on popular Nga Puna Wai walkway, meeting dogs and their owners. We then diverted to Mt Magdala Cemetery of the Good Shepherd Sisters before lunching on a grassy swale slope sheltered by native trees.

A circuit of one of the lakes at Westlake Reserve was followed by mainly street walking. Another lake we passed was in Halswell Quarry Park, not far from the end of our walk, right by the Quarry Cafe—perfect. As it was before 3pm, there was time for food, drink and rest before retracking to a bus-stop outside Halswell

School, where we caught the number 100 bus back to our cars. Karen commented that Metro Bus got lean pickings from our crew as all but one of us were gold-card holders.

Our group of 10 included a visitor, Francoise, who had arrived from France just four days before. We hope she was not too tired after our nearly 18km walk.

We were: **Wendy Wallace, Glenda Meredith, Joy Schroeder, Karen Fincham, Mike Bourke, Sue Britain, Sha SG, Francoise Cornet, Kerry Moore and Helen Harkness (Leader)** 🏠 HH



The gravestones list many lives of orphans and Sisters of Mt Magdala, passed



**YOUR
COMMITTEE
WISHES YOU A
MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY
TRAMPING**