



March 2024

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
Postal Address	The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 10167, Phillipstown, Christchurch 8145
Web address	www.ptc.nz
E-mail	secretary@ptc.nz
Facebook name	Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch
Correspondence	All correspondence to the Secretary, including change of contact details

Committee

Trip Planner 1	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069
Trip Planner 2	Sonja Risa	028 8517 3969	Gear Custodian	Evelien Baas	027 557 5521
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 March



PTC AGM followed by Tramping Food Ideas

After the AGM you can SPILL THE BEANS on the tramping food you take on trips—not main course recipes such as we have on our website. Take a few minutes to tell us about your favourites. It could be what you have for lunch on a day trip, or how you wrap it so it doesn't get crushed, or what you make for lunch on the third day. Or the special treat you add to breakfast, or supper. We would love to know any little morsels of inspiration. Email Merv before the club night to offer your culinary tip.

glendamervm@orcon.net.nz

Tue 9 April



Shared Adventures

We need volunteers to review an adventure book or film you have read/watched which has inspired you.

Let Kerry Moore know if you are able to give a 5 or 10 minute synopsis.

moorekj@xtra.co.nz

Notice of 2024 AGM

The PTC 92nd **Annual General Meeting** is to be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, Tuesday 12th March 2024, starting promptly at 7.30pm, prior to our normal club night.

The agenda will include

1. Election of Officers and Executive members

Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available at the door for nominations on the evening.

2. Notified motions

Note that any member wishing to give notice of a motion for consideration at the AGM should have forwarded their notice to the Secretary at, or prior to, our 13th February Club-night. None have been received.

The complete AGM agenda will be circulated to all members by email in early March.

Merv Meredith

<mailto:secretary@ptc.nz>

Subs Due

Treasurer, Mike is very capable and can handle a flood of renewals. He prefers floods to dribbles.

Account is PTC kiwibank 38 9015 0030334 00

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 19th March Avon Loop walk and meal

Join us for an autumn walk around the paths and riverbanks of the Avon Loop, then a Mediterranean meal at **Boteco Restaurant, 237 Kilmore St**, near Barbadoes St. For the menu see <https://boteco.nz/food-menu/>
Note that portions are quite large and many dishes are great for sharing. This is a small venue so numbers are limited. Book early!

For the walk meet at 6pm on the northern side of Kilmore St near Fitzgerald Ave—no need to book.

Restaurant meal at 7pm. Booking essential by **17th March to Sue Britain**

suebritain@gmail.com ph. 388 2329 or text 021 150 9092

TRIPS

9-10 Mar

[Jolliebrook—Gabriel](#)

Sat-Sun

Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726

●●

Easy-moderate round-trip in lake Sumner Forest Park. Taking in the open river flats of the Hurunui, the beech forest of Gabriel Stream, going over a very low bush saddle to Jollie Brook and to Jollie Brook Hut. Downstream from the hut the valley becomes more open and there are a few stream (brook) crossings.

Book by 3 Mar

10 Mar

[Port Levy - Wild Cattle Hill](#)

Sun

Awaiting leader

●

A moderate walk on the east side of Port Levy from sea level to 600m Wild Cattle Hill. Coastal views towards both Port Levy and Pigeon Bay.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

- 16-17 Mar** [Mt Tekoa](#)
Sat-Mon **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
●● A moderate trip to climb this 1615m peak in Big Island Hills, inland from Culverden. We can go via Te Kooti or take an untried route via Island Hills and the Glencoe River.
Book by 10 Mar
- 16-17 Mar** [Rocky Creek--Griffin Creek](#)
Sat-Mon **Honora Renwick 942 8368**
●● A moderate-hard circuit with a variety of terrain—along streams, through forests and a short section above the bushline. Staying at the newly improved Griffin Creek Hut, surrounded by mountain cedar. Whio are often seen on this trip.
Book by 10 Mar
- 17 Mar** [Akaroa](#)
Sun **Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778**
● An easy walk of 3-4 hours up Woodills North track via Tree Crop Farm then up Woodills South Track to Purple Peak Road. We can return down Alpaca's Bedroom track. If there's time on the way back we can visit historic School Rd Reserve in Robinsons Bay. A coffee stop at Little River is more than possible on the way home.
Meet 9am opposite Princess Margaret Hospital on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St
- 23 Mar** [Pigeon Bay Walkway](#)
Saturday **Awaiting leader**
● An easy, flat walk along the Pigeon Bay coastline with beautiful views.
Meet 8am opposite Princess Margaret Hospital on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St
- 23-25 Mar** [Edwards Rr--Stanley Rr--Fowler Pass](#)
Sat-Mon **Chris Leaver 322 6445**
●●● Moderate tramp north of Hanmer Springs between the Clarence and Waiau rivers. We go up the Edwards River, north of the Amuri Ski-field road, to Charlies Saddle. Travel up the Waiau via The Racecourse, to Stanley River, then to the hut at Glenrae Flat. Returning via Fowler Pass.
Book by 17 Mar
- 29 Mar-1 Apr** [Gillespie Pass Circuit](#)
Fri-Mon **Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872**
●●●● Popular moderate circuit over Gillespie Pass with a bonus side trip to Crucible Lake.
Easter **Book by 3 Mar**
- 29 Mar-1 Apr** [Nardoo Biv Circuit](#)
Fri-Mon **Honora Renwick honorarenwick@gmail.com**
●●●● A high-level circuit for the fit and experienced that incorporates Nardoo Biv, Burn Creek Hut, Burn Creek and the Matakītaki River.
Easter **Book by 23 Mar**
- 31 Mar** [Mount Lyndon--Cloudy Hill](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
● This moderate circuit above Lake Lyndon to 1449m Mt Lyndon, drops down a nice scree to a saddle at about 1270m then along and up to 1442m Cloudy Hill. Spurs take us to either the Porter Heights Road or Highway 73.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 6-7 Apr [Sylvia Tops](#)
 Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ●● Moderate tramp over this 1500-1600m range between Nina and Doubtful valleys in the Lewis Pass area. Camping beside Devils Den Biv. on Devilskin Saddle.
Book by 31 Mar
- 7 Apr [Virginia Peak](#)
 Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● An easy-moderate circuit in foothills west of Hawarden from Mt Virginia Station to 986m Virginia Peak, then down a track to the end of the Virginia Road.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 13 Apr [Five Gully Stream--Mt Storm](#)
 Saturday **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ● A moderate climb of this 1254m peak from near Mt Pember homestead. A choice of spurs mean we can make a circuit of it.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 21 Apr [Mt Barrosa](#)
 Sun **Geoff Spearpoint 027 318 4727, 03 329 0008**
 ● A moderate trip in the Clent Hills area up from the Ashburton Gorge Rd. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to this 1364m peak.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 25-27 Apr [Zampa Tops, Opera Range](#)
 Thur-Sat **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ●●● Moderate tramp in the Lewis Pass area. Climb up near Henry Saddle to a beautiful tarn under 1710m Mt Zampa in the Spenser Range 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
- 28 Apr [Kowai River](#)
 Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● An easy-moderate wander up a flat section of the Kowai Valley from the below Porters Pass to the hut, then on to explore the upper valley.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 4-5 May [Crow Hut](#)
 Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ●● 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 Avalanche Peak into the Crow valley.
Book by Sun 28 Apr
- 5 May [Porters Pass--Rabbit Hill](#)
 Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● Easy-moderate walk to 1200m Rabbit Hill in Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park. Starting near Porters Pass.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 12 May** [Stony Bay Peak--Mt Brasenose](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
● A moderate walk behind Akaroa, crossing the Misty Peaks Reserve between Stony Bay Peak and Mt Brasenose.
Meet 8am opposite Princess Margaret Hospital on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St
- 13-17 May** [Kepler Track](#)
Mon-Fri **Awaiting leader**
●●●●● A moderate-hard tramp at this time of year, the Kepler Track circuit traverses the ridgelines of the Kepler Mountains from Te Anau.
Book by 28 Apr
- 18-19 May** [Tarn Hut](#)
Sat-Sun **Awaiting leader**
●● Easy-moderate tramp from Lees Valley to Tarn Hut located above the bushline on the Puketeraki Range.
Book by 12 May
- 18 May** [Mt Oxford](#)
Saturday **Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008, 027 318 4727**
● A moderate climb to Mt Oxford with great views all around.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

TRIP REPORTS

Middle Waipara River Saturday 20 January 2024

The promise of a water trip on this hot day, and interesting geological features lured sixteen keen trampers to the Waipara River inland from Amberley. After placing a car at Boby Stream on Ram Paddock Road we walked upstream from Laidmore Road. Soon we were at strata thought to be laid down 66 million years ago when a cataclysm deposited a thin layer of iridium-rich fallout world-wide. The deposit wasn't obvious to us. Deposits 10 million years later were visible, corresponding to a time when CO₂ and global temperatures went skyward. The period is known as the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM).



Sue admires the most perfect concretion

Soon we waded towards large concretions that are being eroded from slopes and tumbling down. They are truly impressive. We didn't walk further in the hope of seeing the marine reptile bones that can be found upstream, and instead walked back to our starting point for an early lunch in the shade of a willow tree.

On the march again we went with the river flow, seeing more nice concretions and passing an area where shark teeth have been found. The deep wade where the gorge narrows was at waist level for taller people—lower than usual. Some of the group had a swim or deeper dip. The plan from there was to exit to farmland near Bobby Stream but clematis and gorse obscured the exit we used six years ago, so we carried on to The Deans. The drivers then had a hot road walk to the car we'd positioned.

The team enjoying a hot, wet, interesting day in limestone country was: **Darcy Mawson, Tanya Jacobson, Sha SG, Diane Mellish, Bill & Wendy Templeton, Chris Leaver, Graham Townsend, Peter Umbers, Terry Thomsen, Evelien Baas, Sue & Mark Piercey, Kim Ashmore, John Robinson and Kerry Moore** 🏠 KM



The limestone cliffs are very impressive



Will it be deep? Not today

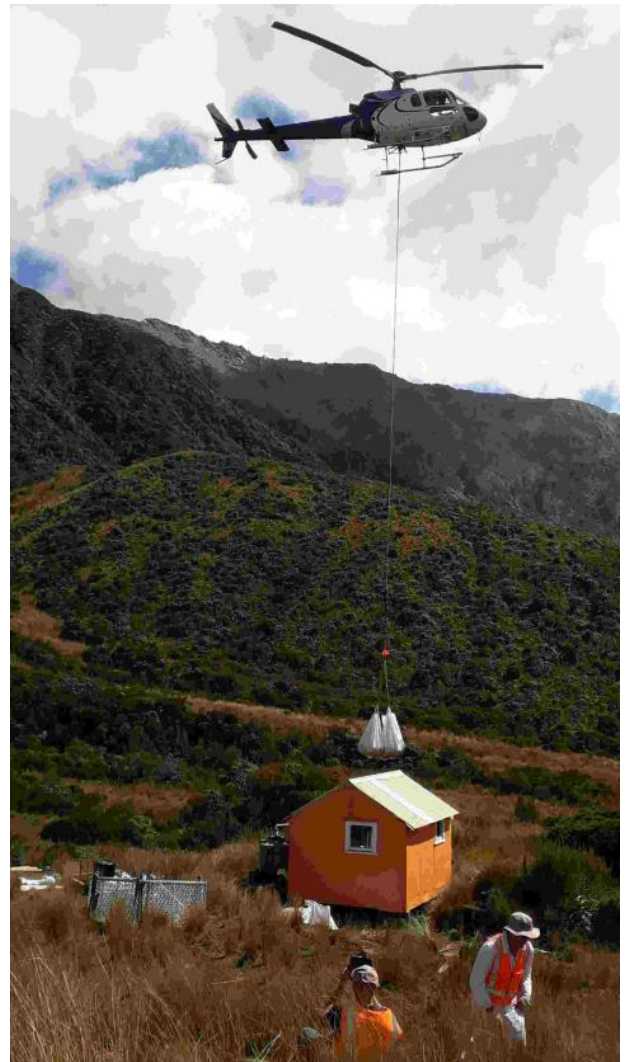


Peter's blue shirt shows how deep the river was through the gorge

Yeats Ridge Hut – Mon 19th to Fri 23rd February 2024

Background: Former PTC member Leo Manders died in 2020, leaving \$10,000 in his will to PTC. The executive sought suggestions from members on how this bequest should be used and after much consideration, the executive agreed that the best use was to donate the sum to the Back Country Trust (BCT) to assist in hut renovation. Yeats Ridge Hut was selected because of its proximity to the West Coast area that Leo had previously worked in. BCT matched the PTC donation, and it was agreed that a PTC party would assist in the work at the hut. We have Merv Meredith to thank for his work behind the scenes to organise this with BCT.

The planned BCT maintenance work on Yeats Ridge Hut had already been postponed once in January, but a promising weather forecast of four consecutive fine days looked good enough to get the job done in late February. The PTC party of four travelled to Hokitika late on Monday 19th so that we were ready to meet the BCT party of three at the Kokatahi road-end early on the Tuesday morning, where the helicopter was to lift us, plus gear up to Yeats Ridge Hut. It was a short but scenic flight past Cedar Flats Hut and up above the bush-line to Yeats Ridge. There were two flights to get personnel to the site and four flights to transport the building materials (roofing iron, windows, timber, aggregate and cement) plus tools and food sufficient for at least four days at the site.



Tuesday 12:15pm. Setting up

In four days of brilliantly fine weather, we only saw two trampers, headed for Crystal Bivouac. We also heard a kea and a weka. Despite the rich pickings strewn around the building site, neither bird ventured close enough to alert site security.

The sloping, spongy nature of the ground surrounding the hut proved challenging when moving around or even standing still, as we were liable to start sinking into the boggy ground. Tents were spread across any suitable sites away from the hut – some sites were more suitable than others. A near-frost greeted us on the first morning, but the rest of the time was warm and sunny.

Renovation of the hut started as soon as the last helicopter load arrived, and each day's work continued into the evenings, as we were keen to get the job done before the forecast change of weather on the Saturday. The bulk of the work was completed by Thursday evening, and Friday saw the finishing touches on the hut, packing up of tents and building gear, ready to be flown out later on Friday morning in four flights, two less than for the flight in.

Thanks to Ollie Clifton of BCT and builders Ben Norris and Hamish Cochrane for providing the technical expertise and logistical organisation that saw the work completed within the weather window available. Helicopter pilot Fletch Anderson made our job easier by strategically positioning loads around the hut, saving us much time and effort. Thanks also to the PTC party of four: **Mike Bourke, Mike Flaws, John Robinson and Peter Umbers** who cleared vegetation, dug holes, assisted with replacing all the old piles, and then filled up the same holes with wheelbarrow loads of concrete, hand-mixed on site, to secure the new piles underneath the hut. While this was going on, the hut exterior was repainted, and the roof and two windows were replaced. The door was also changed from inward opening to outward opening to make the doorway more rain resistant.

It was a busy, but enjoyable time, spent in a lovely setting. I am sure Leo would approve. 🏠 MB.



Peter and John get artistic, 10.45am Wednesday



Wednesday 11:15am. The concrete mixers



The new roof. Thursday 3pm



Friday 10:15am. A refurbished Yeats Ridge Hut

Third Time Lucky Lord 8-15 February 2024

The Lord Valley and Range had been on Geoff's radar for some time. He sold it well—easy travel, spectacular scenery, and a bit remote. We had viewed it from the Lambert Range in 2015, tried to get into it from the Rangitata in 2019, and been turned back from the Rakaia in 2021. Weather had been the issue each time and this year was going to be no exception. Multiple weather web sites were compared and assessed, and the decision made to delay the trip by four days to get a week with only two adverse weather days.

Day 1 started with Di Mellish kindly agreeing to drive us down, then return home with the van. An exciting helicopter ride took us up the Rakaia River to Reischek Hut. We had all boulder-bashed the Rakaia before and were happy not to repeat the experience. The same helicopter pilot remembered the bumpy ride taking us there in 2021 and was glad conditions were much calmer. A route choice was soon required with two options that were explored in 2021. The St James Glacier provided more direct access from the Ramsay terminal lake, while the Cockayne Glacier would require climbing over Meins Knob to Lyell Hut. The first choice and bad weather forecast on day three influenced the issue, with speed to the Main Divide being critical. We crossed the Rakaia on the swing bridge and camped near the Ramsay terminal lake.

Day 2 dawned misty as we headed up the St James terminal moraine. The middle section of glacier that we had descended in snow in 2021 was bare, and dissected by crevasses above 1600m. We exited the glacier to the south, into an upper basin that promised a more gradual ascent and magnificent views of the Ramsay neve. We climbed out of a wide basin with potential campsites, past a waterfall, before regaining glacial ice at 1900m, followed by a short but steep ascent to the pass between points 2133 and 2170. We had climbed 100m above the pass between the Cockayne and St James Glaciers, requiring a rocky and spectacular descent to this pass. The pass was a potential stopping point but the forecast weather for the coming day convinced us that continuing to the Main Divide was a good idea and we had a steep zig-zag traverse above the St James Glacier to gain the upper Cockayne neve. We threaded our way through the crevasses and finally arrived at the lowest point between the Cockayne and Radiant Glaciers to the east of point 2274 on the Main Divide. The wind was swirling around the neve on the eastern side of the divide and howling up the western side but, miraculously, on the Divide itself, it was calm. We pitched tents while Geoff and Raymond inspected a narrow crack that bisected the 20m bluff leading down to the upper Radiant neve.

Day 3 started with misty rain blowing up the bluff. Geoff set up a belay and, while some down-climbed with packs, most packs were lowered and the owners belayed. The rock was firm and grippy but the wind-chill meant a cold wait for those waiting above and below. By the time we were all down, the rocks were rimed white with ice. Dropping directly down from the neve was blocked by bluffs, so we traversed the width of the neve until directly below the slopes of Mt Westland. The hard ice proved difficult to descend, so we moved onto a rock rib to drop to the upper glacier. The mist had turned to rain and then snow, coating the rocks on

the glacier with a slippery layer, making it difficult to distinguish rock from ice, so we stopped mid-afternoon, constructed platforms of gravel on the ice and retired to the tents. Periodically brushing the underside of the tents during the night kept the tents clear of snow.

Day 4 was magnificent. Sun in a clear blue sky sparkled off every crystal in the 10cm of snow that had fallen overnight. There was no pressure to move as we watched the band of melting snow gradually creep up the valley, making travel practical. After lunch we wandered down the valley for another couple of kilometers before camping on the first of the tussock flats, where the Radiant outflow joins the Swiftwater. We had plenty of time that afternoon for a climb to the prominent ridge between the Swiftwater and the upper Lord River for impressive views of the Lord Range ramparts and the multiple hanging glaciers that seemed to defy gravity and glacial recession.

Day 5 continued the leisurely pace that our earlier push on day 2 allowed. We dropped to the Lord River, following the true right of the Swiftwater and removed our boots to cross, continuing the luxury of dry feet for the trip. Then came a climbing sidle following the Lord River, and a climb to point 1392, to camp by some small tarns. The views across the valley were spectacular, with the evening sun highlighting the deeply incised gorge of the appropriately named Madwater. Geoff described the route that he had planned for the 2019 trip, traversing the slopes of Mt Stoddart and crossing the Madwater. I think we all looked at the route and thought one word would describe the crossing.

Day 6 continued the traverse above the Lord, on steep tussock slopes heading for False Blue Lookout. Four chamois leaped ahead for a while, making short work of the terrain, while a cheeky kea greeted us as we arrived at the lookout, not at all concerned at our close proximity. Lunch at the lookout provided opportunities to look across to the Lambert cliffs that we had peered over in 2019 and the peak that we had climbed on the Lambert trip in 2015. A stiff climb was then required to 1485m over the end of the Lord Range to avoid steep bluffs dropping to Lambert Gorge. The traverse across the end of the Lord Range threaded through a futuristic landscape of towering boulders and rock pinnacles. Picking navigation points was difficult. "Head for the fingers" said the guidebook, but which ones? It would be a nightmare in cloud, but at least we had good visibility. We finally descended to the real Blue Lookout, a picturesque terrace with a miniature tarn and towering sentinels of rock behind. There was finally enough firewood for a traditional alpine trip campfire. Gaylene persevered with our borrowed InReach communication unit to send confirmation that we were on time for the planned road-end rendezvous.

Day 7 turned into another epic. The original plan was to camp several hours from the road-end but the removal of the bridge at Amethyst Ravine and the expected rain convinced Geoff to continue and cross the ravine, rather than risk getting stranded. We descended the marked track through tough Westland bush before finally reaching freshly-cut sections that had been cleared that day by a DoC crew that we met at Hunters Hut. They appreciated comments from grateful trampers before they helicoptered out. We set out on the track along the Wanganui River and made good time until we reached Hendes Creek where we had originally intended to camp. The effects of a major flood then became apparent. Whole sections of the river flats had been ripped away and finding markers where the track left the river became a memory test. The final straw came when we reached the quarry road to find it finished in mid-air, hundreds of metres above the river. We finally stumbled into camp, surprising a Hungarian couple at the hot pools, who had trouble understanding where we had come from.

Day 8's morning was spent at the hot pools, before heading out to find that Bridget and Noel had arrived early and had been sitting at the road end. We were so grateful they had taken the time to drive over to pick us up.

This was a fantastic trip to an area that we had seen from so many directions. It gave a great sense of completion, going to many of the places that we had gazed towards on previous trips. It felt like finding that last piece of the jigsaw that you didn't realise you had lost.

Trampers: **Raymond Ford, Sonja Risa, Geoff Spearpoint (leader), Peter Umlers, Gaylene Wilkinson and Gary Huish.** 🏔️ GH



Crossing Cockayne Glacier to the Main Divide. Photo by Sonja



Radiant Camp. Photo by Gary