



## May 2024

<b>PTC</b>	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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### Committee

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<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 May**



#### Lord Valley and Range

The Lord Range and Valley has been the objective of a number of PTC Alpine trips. We have turned back due to weather and have tramped all around it. This year was the third attempt. Come and hear the adventures involved in this year's successful attempt.

**Tue 11 June**



#### Travels in Greenland

Linda Lillburne will describe her visit to this large island which isn't very green at all.

# NOTES

**PLBs:** People with PLBs should remember to do a battery check on their device before they take it into the wild. The maker of the KTi SA2G suggests once a month. KTi also says you can do a more elaborate test of its ability to contact satellites. Their instructions for the KTi SA2G model can be found [here](#)

**XTRA email** users will need to pay \$6 per month to use their XTRA mail address after 16 May 2025. If you switch to a free alternative, it's a good idea to do it soon so you can pick up any stray emails that arrive on XTRA before mid-May. To continue receiving emails from the club you need to advise Mike Bourke of your new email address. We have 21 members with Xtra addresses.

# TRIPS

## 4-5 May Casey Saddle--Binser Saddle

Sat-Sun Kerry Moore 359 5069

●●

An easy-moderate walk from Andrews Shelter to the new Casey Hut. Exiting down the Poulter River, then a 550m climb over Binser Saddle. A straight-forward trip with no river crossings.

**Book by Thur 2 May**

## 11-12 May Cass Saddle--Lagoon Saddle

Sat-Sun Awaiting leader

●●

A moderate circuit that includes a small section of the Te Araroa Track. Staying at the spacious Hamilton Hut.

**Book by 5 May**

## 12 May Stony Bay Peak--Mt Brasenose

Sun Merv Meredith 322 7239

●

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**

## 16-20 May Kepler Track

Thur-Mon Raymond Ford [fordrm@snap.net.nz](mailto:fordrm@snap.net.nz) or 022 318 0872

●●●●●

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. Dates may change due to weather. Flexibility required**

## 18-19 May Hurunui Hot Springs

Sat-Sun Awaiting leader

●●

A trip to Hurunui hot springs involves a bit of walking there and back along a vehicle track and grassland, however it's a comfortable stay in Hurunui Hut that has a wood stove.

**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**

- 26 May**  
**Sun**  
● **Tommys Cabin--Mt Lance**  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
We drive to the cabin then have an easy-moderate walk to this 778m hill inland from Hawarden.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**
- 2 Jun**  
**Sun**  
● **Rakaia Gorge Walkway**  
**Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**  
An easy walk with beautiful views of the Rakaia River and the Hutt Range.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 7-9 Jun**  
**Fri-Sun**  
●●● **Kaikoura Base**  
**Glenda & Merv Meredith 322 7240 glendamermv@orcon.net.nz**  
Kaikoura accommodation on Kings Birthday weekend would be hard to come by so we've made our own three-day weekend for an early winter stay with easy day trips. The plan is to drive up Friday and return after lunch on Sunday. One of the evenings will be the usual sociable potluck dinner and for the other, a dinner out. Trips can include the peninsula circuit, a wander up the Hapuku, a walk up the Mt Fyffe road to the hut and back for great views, the little walk through the Hinau Reserve or just a wander in town. Accommodation and cost is very dependent on numbers, so it could be a self-contained unit at a holiday park or a holiday house in town.  
**Book by Fri 17 May. A \$40 deposit will be required to secure our accommodation**
- 8-9 Jun**  
**Sat-Sun**  
●● **Pinchgut Hut**  
**Awaiting leader**  
An easy-moderate trip up the Okuku River through kanuka and beech forest to a comfortable hut  
**Book by 2 June**
- 8-13 June**  
**Sat-Thurs**  
●●●●●● **Heaphy Track**  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
A great walk, out of season. Travel through expansive tussock downs, lush forests with nīkau palms to the roaring seas of north Westland. Stay at Perry Saddle, Saxon, James Mackay and Heaphy Huts.  
**Book by 26 May**
- 9 Jun**  
**Sun**  
● **Mt Aitken--Mt O'Malley**  
**Laurayne Robb 021 619 718**  
This trip, traversing the range between two of the peaks in Arthur's Pass, makes an excellent moderate round-trip. Take ice axe and crampons.  
**Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 15 Jun**  
**Saturday**  
● **Dumblane--Mt Charon**  
**Awaiting leader**  
A moderate trip to the summit of 1540m Mt Charon from Jacks Pass. On the way we take in 1303m Dumblane.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**
- 16 Jun**  
**Sun**  
● **Packhorse Hut from Kaituna Valley**  
**Wendy Wallace 027 841 2051**  
An easy-moderate walk from Kaituna Valley to Packhorse Hut.  
**Meet 8:30am at Halswell Library Carpark, near the Old Vicarage.**

- 15-16 Jun**      **Edwards Hut--Williams Saddle**  
**Sat-Sun**        **Awaiting leader**  
●●                A moderate round-trip, to Edwards Hut then over 1327m Williams Saddle and returning by the Mingha River. The Edwards River is a good spot to see blue ducks.  
**Book by 9 June**
- 22 Jun**            **Red Hill from Porters Road**  
**Saturday**       **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**  
●                 Moderate trip to this 1641m peak between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Probable snow on top so an ice axe may be needed.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 28-30 Jun**       **Moana or Kumara Base**  
**Fri-Sun**         **Chris Leaver 021 143 8537**  
●●●              To be advised by leader.  
**Book by 16 June**
- 7 July**            **Mt White**  
**Sun**               **Awaiting leader**  
●                 We drive in from Mt White bridge to Mt White Station for a moderate climb up open spurs to this 1741m peak. Take ice axe and crampons.  
**Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 6-7 July**         **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 30 June**
- 14 July**          **John Britten Reserve--Mt Pleasant**  
**Sun**               **Awaiting leader**  
●                 An easy walk from the start of JBR at Longridge Drive up to the Summit Road and along to Mt Pleasant. The 140 bus can get you up Mt Pleasant Road fairly close to Longridge Drive  
**Meet 9am**

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Mt Owen, Easter                      29 March - 1 April 2024**

#### **A combined Golden Bay Tramping Club and Peninsula Tramping Club adventure**

There wasn't supposed to be an Easter trip to Mt Owen. Raymond's Gillespie Pass trip had folded due to lack of numbers, while Gaylene had planned a GBTC trip to Mt Owen later in May. The weather forecast for Mt Owen looked too good to miss at Easter, so Gaylene decided to run her trip earlier as a combined trip. Three travelled north from Christchurch, while five drove south from Golden Bay and met at the Owen River Tavern prior to the drive up the Owen Valley Road.

The cavers' route up Bulmer Creek must be the most spectacular way to approach Mt Owen. One hour of marked track crossing and recrossing Owen River led to the easily overlooked junction with Bulmer Creek. Another hour of stream travel, ominously marked by luminous cavers' tape, revealed an awe-inspiring vista of vertical limestone cliffs, directly ahead, with no obvious route. A series of steep gullies, interspersed with traverses across limestone ledges, led to the final bluff, ascended by a twisting, wire, caving ladder, a first experience for many in the group. Arrival at our Bulmer Lake campsite, in the late-afternoon sunshine gave

us the first of many “wow” moments that weekend, as vertical cliffs that almost surround the lake, appeared to glow. A pleasant evening was spent around a characteristic, Geoff campfire.



*Replica Hill Saddle. Photo by Debbie*



*Sentinel Basin and Mt Bell. Photo by Geoff*

A frosty start preceded a stiff climb through limestone rock bands, interspersed with tough alpine scrub. We were glad of a foot-trail and the occasional cairn left by cavers. We dropped our packs to look for the entrance to Bulmer Cave, at 75km, the longest in New Zealand. Some cave entrances hide the extent of the complexes within but not Bulmer, it is a massive, appropriate entrance to the underworld. We reclaimed our packs to continue through Castle Basin, a major valley system with underground drainage, across the ridge

separating it from Poverty Basin. We traversed the length of this basin to cross between Replica Hill and Mt Owen. Route-finding through the saddle to the central Sentinel Basin was difficult as many routes ended in cliffs, requiring some narrow gully descents. Arriving at the main route to Mt Owen required a decision. We were going to ascend Mt Owen for our exit via Sunrise Ridge, but we could not be certain fine weather would continue, so the decision was made to leave packs and climb Mt Owen that afternoon. The views were certainly worth it and the ascent enabled us to pick a potential campsite part-way down Sunrise Ridge and also identify an unoccupied tarn in the densely tent-sited Sentinel Basin. A high cloud layer and constantly changing light conditions made the sunset from our campsite incredible.

Our additional day took in Mt Bell, the second highest peak, which was conveniently close to our campsite. Ascent, adjacent to a large scree fan, led to a ridge that continued in a series of peaks, until we reached the top. Raymond, unfortunately, checked his map and found we still weren't there, so we continued on to yet another peak. The final summit gave splendid views across to Mt Owen and the hordes who were occupying that destination. The descent was swift, amazing Liz, who had not been exposed to the advantages of scree-running in Golden Bay. We headed back to the campsite and picked up Suze and Arrun. Arrun had been resting his knee. As we headed back up Mt Owen, this time with full packs, day-trippers were heading down. We went over the top to the start of Sunrise Ridge to a flat campsite with a tarn water supply below. Another sunset entertained us as we played ziltch. Debbie won, claiming it was mere beginner's luck, despite the efforts of Suze, the ultimate gambler.

We awoke to find ourselves above thick valley cloud, with only the highest peaks of the ranges to the west peeking through. A short side-trip further up Sunrise Ridge let us view an impossible-looking route ahead, so down we went, through the rock maze, along the tussock valley and down to Sunrise Peak, which was rapidly disappearing as the cloud level rose. A day-tramper appeared from below and we descended steep tussock slopes where he had appeared. Unfortunately, he had ascended several hundred metres away and turned towards us when he heard our voices in the mist. The difference was significant as we encountered a series of small bluffs with scant vegetation in places. Even spaniard plants were welcomed as handholds as we inched our way down. Finally, we reached easier terrain with snow-poles leading to the marked track at the bushline—time for another fire for a lunch-time brew. The track was steep but aching knees were treated to a refreshing swim on reaching the Owen River at the Bulmer Creek confluence, before the final walk back to the cars.



*Sentinel Basin Camp. Photo by Geoff*

This was a fantastic trip to an area worthy of a “Lord of the Rings” film set, with a great group of people and unbelievable sunrises and sunsets. Bulmer Creek and Sunrise Ridge allow a round-trip with all the drama and scenery you could wish for, without encountering the hordes that access the mountain from the northern Granity Pass route.

Trampers: **Raymond Ford, Suze Lord, Arrun Pancha, Debbie Pearson, Geoff Spearpoint, Liz Watson, Gaylene Wilkinson (leader) and Gary Huish.** 🏔️ GH

## **Virginia Peak                      Sunday 7 April 2024**

Seven of us motored to Waikari, then Hawarden and on to Virginia Road. Cars were parked 300m along Mt Virginia’s farm road, and we headed up a spur, making a bee-line for the peak. Total sunshine and the steepness had us stripping off layers of clothing. Virginia Peak is a rocky tor, requiring a scramble to get to the 986m top. Ian and Eileen found a way off the north side to connect to the east-west ridge. Kathryn and Kerry went down the way they’d gone up, then chose a sidle on the shady south side of the peak. Kevin and Heather sidled on the better, north side. Our group then headed west along the ridge. The feature on the map called The Monument didn’t look very impressive from a distance, so we didn’t bother investigating and chose to descend a convenient spur to Mt Whitnow Station. Crossing Waitohi River at low-flow kept our socks dry. A chorus of barking sheep dogs greeted us as we walked past the farm buildings but no humans showed. A short road walk got us back to the Mt Virginia gate, then to the cars.

This was a nice circuit in dry, barren farmland in the company of **Dan Pryce, Eileen Mackie, Ian Beale, Kevin & Heather Hughes, Kathryn Marshall and Kerry Moore.** 🏔️ KM



*Kathryn found this pixie cup lichen near the peak. Is it *Cladonia chlorophaea* or *Cladonia asahinae*?*



*On the spur leading to Mt Whitnow Station*



*Our crew, with a craggy Virginia Peak behind*





*Pines, poplars and Dan stand out in this bleached landscape*

## **Vulcan      Sunday 14 April 2024**

Seven of us drove just short of Motanau Beach to a handy spur that leads to 412m Vulcan in beautiful rolling limestone country. Morning tea was at a giant curiously sculpted rock at point 324. The botanically inclined amongst us stopped to photograph green mistletoe on scrub plants. Doug enthused about a new NZ app called *Aotearoa Species Classifier* that can identify NZ plants without needing an internet connection.

We had an early lunch on Vulcan while appreciating rolling green farmland and a long stretch of coastline. Banks Peninsula was clouded in for a time and invisible but when it revealed itself, we were astonished to see it way out to sea. Such is the sweep of the Canterbury bight.

We chose to retrace our steps back to Motunau Beach Road, rather than continue an anticlockwise circuit. The tides were against us for a beach walk and after recent rain the gully that gives access to the beach could have turned to a sticky mud.

We filled in some of the missing circuit with a beach walk. It started as a boulder hop, then got onto a nice beach and by then the tide had gone out a fair way. The locals have built a very nice tree-lined track from the beach up to the houses. Most dwellings are more than baches and the residents seem to take pride in the locality. Back at the car park the lovingly polished Triumph cars on a club excursion had departed, and we too headed for home.

We were: **Keith Hoard, Doug Woods, Kathryn Marshall, Peter Umbers, Kyung Sang Lee, Toyomi Furuta and Kerry Moore.** 🏔️ KM



*We gaze seaward*



*From Vulcan*



*Tiny Motunau Island in view*

**Mt Barrosa      Sunday 21 April 2024**

Ten turned up for a wonderful autumn day out on Mt Barrosa. After coffee at the Mt Somers store, we drove to the car-park near Blowing Point and headed up the well-trodden track, through dry grass to the spur leading to the summit. We straggled out, then regrouped at stops now and then and were on top by lunchtime. Barrosa Summit Cafe gave views of Mt D'Archiac to Mt Somers, with a floor decor of transparent and lightly coloured agates to tickle the palate.



*The view into the Hakatere Basin from Mt Barrosa*

Chris and Graham chose a leisurely wander back down the track we'd come up. The rest of us, including Kate and Kathryn, travelling incognito from other local clubs, went for an adventure around the ridge encircling Waterfall Creek. What could possibly go wrong ... nothing actually. With Emily in front, we had an interesting amble around the ridge, peering over the side here and there, before dropping down to the river flats on tussock leads. A really enjoyable day out with excellent company. We were, **Kevin Hughes, Kathryn Marshall, Bette Koch, Kyung Sang Lee, Emily Makinson, Peter Umbers, Chris Leaver, Graham Townsend, Kate Taylor and Geoff Spearpoint—leader, photographer and scribe 🏔️ GS**



*Seven of ten. Six of seven looking like they need sunglasses*