



## September 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
<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069	<b>Committee</b>	Diane Mellish	337 5530

**New Member Enquiries:** Contact Derek Gane, ph 03 337 8264, or Irene, 021 166 3586, to request an info pack. You will also receive three free newsletters. If you can't reach them, call any committee member.

### 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 10 Sept



#### Finding Your Way

Modern devices are useful but you still need to be able to read a map. Merv, Evelien and Kerry will present different aspects of navigation—conventional and modern.

Tue 8 Oct

## Notice Of Special General Meeting, 8 October 2024

### To Consider Proposed Increases to Subscriptions for the 2025 Year

The executive will unanimously recommend the following increase to the Special General Meeting:  
That our annual subscriptions for the 2025 year be increased as follows:

Electronic membership Increase from \$40 by \$10 to \$50

Hardcopy membership Increase from \$55 by \$15 to \$70

The rationale for this proposal is the same as the last subs increase in 2022, ie.,

The ongoing operating loss in the club accounts year by year, with contributing factors including:

**1. Continued reduction this year in membership numbers having to sustain fixed costs such as hall hire.**

**2. Increased postage cost year by year.**

The SGM will commence PROMPTLY at 7.30pm prior to the normal **8 October 2024** club-night.

A motion to the above effect will be put by our Treasurer, Mike Bourke, seconded by Kerry Moore.

**Merv Meredith, Secretary.**

secretary@ptc.nz

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Friday 6 Sept Yarnachy Festival City Walk and Coffee

Yarnarchy is a yarn bombing festival in the central city - part street art, part craft, part graffiti. We'll meet at Riverside market at the outside seating area at 9.45am and stroll through the city searching out the yarn bombs and any other new additions to the city landscape. I haven't yet found out where the locations are but suggest having a coffee stop at about 11am in the library cafe or wherever we end up, then amble back again on a different route. Bring a camera if you like. If the weather is bad, I'll postpone to Monday 9 September.

Contact Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778

[mothompson1212@gmail.com](mailto:mothompson1212@gmail.com)

## NOTES

### Lambing and Maintenance Track Closures

Barnett Park, Bottle Lake Forest, Coastal Cliffs Walkway, Ferrymead Park, Godley Head Track, Isaac Conservation Tracks ([external link](#)), Ngaio Point Track, Okuti Track, Pony Point Track and Port Hills walking tracks.

Details at: <https://ccc.govt.nz/parks-and-gardens/explore-parks/tracks-and-safety>

### Love our Huts

FMC is proposing a project to help maintain NZ's excellent hut network.

During November we are encouraged to do simple health checks on huts.

FMC will provide a phone-based form to record the health check, including recent hut book entries.

The form can then be synced with the FMC hut database when you get back in wifi range.

During Nov PTC is doing trips to Black Hill Hut, Carroll Hut-Dillon Hut, Lake Man Biv and Rough Ck-Lake Christabel which would be suitable if not already adopted.

Members can choose other trips to huts and invite other members to join them using the Facebook members' group or PTC Communicator.

Full details at: <https://fmc.org.nz/what-we-do/campaigns/love-our-huts-and-tracks/>

# TRIPS

- 7 Sept**  
**Saturday**  
● [Mt Charon - Dumblane](#)  
**Peter Umbers 359 9118**  
A moderate trip to the summit of 1540m Mt Charon from Jacks Pass. Along the way we take in 1303m Dumblane.  
**Meet 7am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**
- 7-8 Sept**  
**Sat-Sun**  
●● [Avalanche Peak--Crow Hut](#)  
**John Cook 027 253 7458**  
A popular, moderate crossing from Arthurs Pass village to Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak. People wanting an easy-moderate trip could take the Klondyke Corner, Crow River route.  
**Book by 1 Sept**
- 10-Sept**  
**Tuesday**  
● [Lyttelton - Urumau Reserve - Crater Rim](#)  
**Helen Harkness 384 2890**  
From Lyttelton, an easy-moderate walk through Urumau Reserve, past gun emplacements and along the Crater Rim Walkway, returning to Lyttelton down Major Hornbrook Track.  
**Meet 10am cnr London and Canterbury Streets, Lyttelton**
- 15-Sept**  
**Sun**  
● [Mt Harper/Mahaanui](#)  
**Awaiting leader**  
A moderate-hard 1200m climb in the Lake Clearwater area. We take a vehicle track to Balmacaan Saddle and climb the spur to 1829m Mt Harper/Mahaanui. Take ice-axe and crampons.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 17-Sept**  
**Tuesday**  
● [Bridle Path--Lyttelton--Stan Helms Track--Bridle Path](#)  
**Awaiting leader**  
From the Bridle Path car park we will walk up the pipeline "track" to the Summit Road, drop down the Bridle Path to Lyttelton, take the Stan Helms Track to the Summit Road then back to the gondola base on the official Bridle Path. Two hill-climbs make this a moderate tramp.  
**Meet 10am at the start of the Bridle Path track, near the gondola base**
- 21-22 Sept**  
**Sat-Sun**  
●● [Three Mile Stream - McMillan Stream](#)  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
Longish days make this a moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, starting from Windy Point, up the Hope River and Three Mile Stream to Three Mile Hut. Day two goes down McMillan Stream, past Lake Sumner to Hope Kiwi Lodge and out to Windy Point.  
**Book by 15 Sept**
- 22-Sept**  
**Sun**  
● [Big Ben Saddle](#)  
**Awaiting leader**  
An up-and-back trail near Oxford. An easy-moderate 6hr route with a gentle climb of 750m.  
**Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**

- 24-Sep**      [Kaiapoi—Pegasus Bay Walkway](#)  
**Tuesday**      **Hilaire Campbell 022 085 9501**  
●      This is a flat, easy walk along the Kaiapoi River to meet the Waimakariri River, then to Kairaki and along to Pines Beach.  
**Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**
- 28-Sep**      [Castle Hill Peak](#)  
**Sat**      **Awaiting leader**  
●      A moderate climb, with a height gain of 1056m, from Porters Pass to the highest peak on the Torlesse Range at nearly 2000m. Fine views all around. An ice axe may be useful if snow remains. Some may choose to go only to Foggy Peak.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 1-Oct**      [Charlesworth Reserve--Heathcote--Ferrymead](#)  
**Tuesday**      **Helen Harkness 384 2890**  
●      An easy, flat circuit walk from near the Ferrymead Bridge, through Charlesworth and Ti Rakau Reserves along both banks of the Heathcote River, then to Ferrymead Park and back to the cars.  
**Meet 9.30am Scotts Reserve car park near the Ferrymead bridge**
- 6-Oct**      [Mt Oxford - Oxford Hill - Ashley Saddle](#)  
**Sun**      **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
●      A moderate circuit from Mountain House carpark up Mt Oxford, then turning east to Oxford Hill, down to Ashley Saddle and descend the fenceline spur back to the cars.  
**Meet 7.30am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**
- 8-Oct**      [Kennedys Bush--Gibraltar Rock--Omawete/Coopers Knob](#)  
**Tuesday**      **Awaiting Leader**  
●      An easy walk along part of the Crater Rim Walkway, to 500m Gibraltar Rock then to 573m Coopers Knob and back to Kennedys Bush. A more ambitious group could venture into Omahu Reserve to see Annes Falls.  
**Meet 9am opposite PMH on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St**
- 12-13 Oct**      [Double Hut and Mt Taylor](#)  
**Sat-Sun**      **Awaiting Leader**  
●●      Starting at Lake Heron, an easy walk to Double Hut. Those wanting a moderate-hard trip will climb 2333m Mt Taylor.  
**Book by Sun 6 Oct**
- 12 Oct**      [Kepler Track](#)  
**Approx Date**      **Raymond Ford      [fordrm@snap.net.nz](mailto:fordrm@snap.net.nz)      022 318 0872**  
●●●●●      An alpine adventure with stunning panoramas. This Great Walk takes you from Lake Te Anau to Luxmore Hut (1085m) high above the clouds. We traverse the ridgelines of the Kepler Mountains, drop down to beautiful Lake Manapouri, before heading back through peaceful beech forest. Moderate or harder depending on snow depth.  
**Book by Sun 6 Oct**
- 13 Oct**      [Mt Somers Crossover](#)  
**Sun**      **Awaiting Leader**  
●      A moderate crossover between Sharplin Falls and Woolshed Creek via the South Face and Rhyolite tracks. Takes in Hookey Knob and Staveley Hill.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**

- 15 Oct**      [Godley Head Walkway](#)  
**Tuesday**    **Awaiting Leader**  
 ●            An easy-moderate walk from Sumner to Godley Head with superb coastal views.  
**Meet 9am at the Scarborough Clock Tower**
- 19-20 Oct**    [Mt Peel](#)  
**Sat-Sun**      **Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 ●●           Moderate-hard ascent of this 1743m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and subalpine scrub then 7km along the tops beyond Little Mt Peel. We will drive down Saturday afternoon to camp at Peel Forest to make an early start on Sun for a long day.  
**Book by Sun 13 Oct**
- 22 Oct**      [Dunes and Wetlands, Chch 360](#)  
**Tuesday**    **Awaiting Leader**  
 ●            This 16km sector of the Christchurch 360 Trail will commence at Pages Road and finish at Lower Styx Road.  
**Meet 9am at the corner of Pages and Wairoa Road, by the Pages Road bridge into New Brighton**
- 26-28 Oct**    [Black Hill Hut](#)  
**Sat-Mon**      **Merv Meredith 322 7239 or glendamerm@orcon.net.nz**  
 ●●●          Moderate trip to this hut in Oxford Forest. Three days so we have a full day for a side trip to Chest Peak. Less energetic people could be content with a walk to the top of 1300m Black Hill.  
**Book by Sun 20 Oct**
- 27 Oct**      [Cass River--Point 1912](#)  
**Sun**           **Awaiting Leader**  
 ●            A moderate-hard trip in the Black Range. Starting up the Cass River Track to Long Valley Stream, we sidle the waterfall on the true right and circle around the head of the basin up to peak 1912m for views all around. We exit using a great scree run down to the track and out.  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**
- 29 Oct**      [Birdlings Flat - Magnet Bay](#)  
**Tuesday**    **Awaiting Leader**  
 ●            Easy-moderate trip along the coast from Birdlings Flat to Oashore, Tokoroa, Hikuraki and Magnet Bays. Returning the same way.  
**Meet 8am opposite PMH on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St**
- 2-4 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 bushline. Those wanting an easier trip could do a 2-day option back to Kellys Creek car park. For the three day option we cross Kelly Range and descend to the Taipo River to stay at Dillon Hut, then on day three, a short walk to SH73 .  
**Book by Sun 27 Oct**

- 3 Nov**      [Diamond Harbour--Charteris Bay](#)  
**Sun**      **Awaiting Leader**  
 ●      An easy circuit from Diamond Harbour, up to Bayview Road and along to Charteris Bay then return to Diamond Harbour on the low Cliff-top Track.  
**Meet 9.15am opposite PMH on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St or at Lyttelton to catch the 9:50am ferry**
- 5 Nov**      [Governors Bay Foreshore Track and Heritage Trail](#)  
**Tuesday**      **Awaiting Leader**  
 ●      Two trails for an easy three hour loop with great views and a bit of history along the way.  
**Meet 9am opposite PMH on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St**
- 9-10 Nov**      [Lake Man](#)  
**Sat-Sun**      **Awaiting Leader**  
 ●●      A moderate trip to this attractive alpine lake in the Lewis Pass area. Starting near the Engineers' Camp, crossing the Boyle and up the Doubtful and Kedron Rivers to camp at the biv or by the lake. A track up to the Doubtful Range and along the ridge is a good return route back to the highway.  
**Book by Sun 3 Nov**

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Ice Lake, Whataroa Valley      1-5 August 2024**

Ice Lake is well named. Sheets of ice floating across the surface of the lake, set amongst stunning scenery, tucked up against the Main Divide. Visitors see a barren, rocky landscape, the snow-covered peaks of the Butler Range and a glimpse of the Whataroa and Shackleton glaciers.

A winter trip to the lake at the head of the Butler River has been on the club trip list for the last 2 or 3 years, but for various reasons the trip has been cancelled. This year a large anticyclone settled over the South Island at the beginning of August, promising several days of calm, fine weather. On the Thursday, however, our departure was uncertain after another polar blast dumped snow along the foothills, and closed the road over Porters Pass. By midday, the road had reopened to traffic, and we had a pleasant drive through snow-covered hills to the backpackers at Franz Josef.

After the storm, a heavy white frost blanketed the farmland around Franz Josef and Whataroa townships, as we drove up to meet Liz at the Whataroa Valley carpark. Under clear skies, on a chilly morning, we followed the track across old farmland and through cut-over bush, before crossing the swing-bridge, above the confluence with Perth River. Our 'hut-baggers', Peter, Helen and Liz dropped their packs to visit the old Whataroa Junction Hut, which is being used as a base for the ZIP (Zero Invasive Predators) programme. Above the bridge, the track follows the true right of the Whataroa River, scrambling up and down terraces, interspersed with sections along bouldery river bed. Travel was slow along wet, mossy banks and stretches of frosty boulders. Later in the afternoon, James Thornton and Nina Dickerhof turned up unexpectedly as we crossed Burrow Creek. They had made a quick trip over from Christchurch, and like us they were taking advantage of the fine weather, for a trip up Gunn Ridge onto the Price Range.

For the last half-hour or so below Butler Junction Hut, the track is quite rough, with plenty of short, steep climbs and bouldery sections. Some of the party had gone ahead to Butler Junction Hut; Dan, Helen and Raymond scrambled around in the dark before Peter turned up to assist us up to the hut.

ZIP have moved into the Whataroa catchment as part of the *Predator Free South Westland* programme. The bridges in the valley have predator gates, and occasionally along the track we saw automated camera stations. At Barrowman Flat, one of the ZIP workers who was waiting for a helicopter pick up, told us about

stoat eradication that the team was undertaking. We mentioned that we had sighted three who further down the valley. Later that evening, more who were calling in the river below Butler Junction Hut.



*Whataroa River Bridge, photo by Raymond Ford*

Butler Junction Hut is a warm, roomy eight bunk. The ZIP team have installed a satellite communication dish on the roof but everything was well locked up so we couldn't tune into Netflix! After a bit of discussion, we changed plans and decided to base ourselves for two nights at the hut and visit Ice Lake as a day-trip from BJ Hut, not Upper Butler Hut.

Saturday morning started with some drama. Liz had lit the stove, and fuel was leaking from the bottle! Fortunately, James had quick reactions, grabbed the stove and took it outside. Once things settled down, James and Nina headed off to the bridge, and shortly afterwards five of us headed off, up to Top Butler Hut and Ice Lake. Dan decided to spend the day at the hut. Once over the Butler River swing-bridge, it's a steady climb up the track to Top Butler Hut, with a few windfalls and plenty of scrambling up and down steep sections and across creeks. Just over two hours later we arrived at Top Butler Hut, tucked on a terrace on the shady side of the valley. Another cloudless day, and a great location with views up the north and south branches of the Butler River. Crossing the South Branch was straightforward, though we'd had warnings it could be over waist-high. This day the river was very low. The old swing-bridge over the South Branch has been washed away, gravel is building up in the river bed and the river bank near the Top Butler Hut is beginning to erode away. ZIP teams frequently visit this hut, but it was interesting to see in the log book that a number of foreigners were visiting there primarily for hunting.

From the hut, it took a couple hours to reach Ice Lake. The track climbs up through subalpine forest and scrub before opening out on to shingle fans—well frosted this day. Most of the valley lay in the shade, untouched by the winter sun for days! We huddled down by the lake for a brief lunch, taking in the scenery. Definitely not a place to linger. The location was cold but well worth the effort. We retraced our steps and arrived back at BJH just on dusk. Jason was impressed and wondered aloud if 10-hour days was an initiation ceremony for Americans!

The weather held for our return trip down the Whataroa Valley. We stopped at The Twister, a side-stream near Scotties Flat, for a brew and a pleasant lunch in the sun. Late afternoon, we found a spot on the flats at Alf Creek, for a camp and lit a fire to drive off the winter chill. Our timing for the trip was perfect. The weather changed, a cold drizzle set in that evening, and by morning there was a dusting of fresh snow down to the bush-line. Many thanks to everyone for an enjoyable trip. We were: **Helen Binnie, Jason Everhart, Peter Umbers, Liz Wightwick, Dan Pryce and Raymond Ford (leader)** 🏔️ RF



*Butler Junction Hut comes into view, photo by Raymond Ford*



*Looking up South Butler River. Top Butler Hut, photo by Raymond Ford*



*Ice Lake, photo by Helen Binnie*