



November 2024

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee

Trip Planner	Sonja Risa	028 8517 3969	Gear Custodian	Evelien Baas	027 557 5521
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Karen Fincham	027 554 0110
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Diane Mellish	337 5530



New Member Enquiries: Contact **Derek Gane**, ph **03 337 8264**, or **Irene**, **021 166 3586**, to request an info pack. If you can't reach them, call any committee member. You will also receive three complimentary 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 Nov 	Mountain Gorillas of Uganda We go ape as Karen Fincham describes her visit to see the endangered primates of Uganda.
Tue 10 Dec 	Quiz Night and End-of-Year Supper Teams will answer quiz questions devised by the whole committee, ensuring a mix of general knowledge questions. Bring Christmassy food for supper.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 19 Nov Sumner Zig Zag and Indian dinner

Meet at 6pm on Nayland Street near Marriner St. We'll go up the Zig Zag and explore the area, taking a different route down. The views should be superb. Dinner is booked for 7.15pm at Coriander's Sumner on Wakefield Ave. Vege mains \$25. Meat mains \$29 to \$33. Names to **Maureen Thompson** 021 266 5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com by 5pm Sunday 17 November.

NOTES

Our Eleventh Great Walk

Hump Ridge Track is a 3-day loop over sub-alpine tops and around rugged coastline in southern Fiordland. It opened as our eleventh Great Walk on 25 October. [More here.](#)

TRIPS

5-Nov

Tuesday

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[Governors Bay Foreshore Track and Heritage Trail](#)

Irene Kilgour 021 166 3586

An easy-moderate walk along the Lyttelton harbour foreshore to Allendale, then exploring some of the hill trails in Living Springs. Returning via Church Lane and the main road to complete the Heritage Trail.

Meet 9.30am opposite PMH on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St or at the Governors Bay Community Centre for a 10am start

9-10 Nov

Sat-Sun

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[Lake Man](#)

Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726

A moderate trip to this attractive alpine lake in the Lewis Pass area. Starting near the Engineers' Camp, crossing the Boyle Rr, 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 to the highway.

Book by 3 Nov

10-Nov

Sun

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[Mts Cheeseman—Olympus](#)

Kerry Moore 359 5069

This moderate-hard trip climbs from Cheeseman ski-field road up to 2094m Mt Olympus. Returning via Mt Cheeseman. Take ice axe and crampons.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

13-17 Nov

Wed-Sun

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[Mataketake Hut](#)

Chris Leaver 322 6445 or newptc75@gmail.com

A moderate trip to a comfortable new hut on the range above the Haast-Paringa Cattle Track. Tussock tops give great views. Option to spend an extra night at the hut to explore the tops. Early hut bookings required.

Book by 3 Oct

14-17 Nov

Thurs-Sun

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Show Wknd

[Dunedin Base](#)

Merv Meredith 322 7239 or glendamermv@orcon.net.nz

With the closing of our favourite Leith Valley Holiday Park at the north end of town, we are now going to stay at the Dunedin Holiday Park at St Kilda at the south end of town. To stay at St Kilda you need to book your own unit, so it's not too late for you to check availability with the park and join us. Just let Merv and Glenda know you are going. As before we travel down Thursday afternoon and have two days exploring a few of the easy-moderate local walks such as Pineapple-Flagstaff and Mt Cargill. Pot luck dinner on Friday evening. On Sat evening, dinner in George St at one of the many ethnic eateries. On Sunday morning we'll take a short walk before driving home.

No book-by date. Just let Merv know you are going

16-Nov

Saturday

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[Ryde Falls](#)

Mary McKeown 358 7717 or 021 269 1165

From Coopers Creek car park, an easy walk through beech forest to Ryde Falls, returning the same way.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

24-Nov

Sun

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[Okuti Valley Scenic Reserve—Montgomery Park](#)

Merv Meredith 322 7239

An easy-moderate walk through Okuti Valley Reserve, past French Hill, past Hilltop, to Montgomery Park Scenic Reserve's big totara.

Meet 8am opposite Princess Margaret Hospital on Cashmere Rd, near Fairview St

30 Nov-2 Dec

Sat-Mon

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[Mt Cook Base](#)

Sonja Risa sonja.risa@gmail.com 028 8517 3969

We plan to stay at Unwin Lodge, Mt Cook Village. Lots of options for walks, from easy meandering around the village and cafes, to climbs of nearby peaks such as Mt Kitchener, Mt Wakefield or Mt Sebastopol. An exploration of the big glacial valleys and melt lakes is a worthwhile attraction. Some may wish to travel there on Thursday evening, others on Friday. Option to stay on until Monday.

Book by Sunday 6 Oct

30-Nov

Sat

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[Mt. Richardson](#)

Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726

An easy-moderate circuit through pleasant beech forest from Glentui Picnic area, via Richardson Track. Returning via Blowhard and Bypass Tracks. 5.5 - 6 hours.

Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St

7-8 Dec

Sat-Sun

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[Avalanche Peak--Crow Hut](#)

John Cook 027 253 7458 jkscook@xtra.co.nz

A popular crossing from Arthur's Pass Village to the Crow River via 1833m Avalanche Peak. Those wanting an easy-moderate trip could take the low river route to the hut.

Book by 1 Dec

14-15 Dec

Sat-Sun

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[Lake Mavis--Mt Oates](#)

Raymond Ford fordrm@snap.net.nz or 022 318 0872

A moderate tramp up the Mingha Track to Goat Pass, then up to camp at Lake Mavis. Those interested can climb Mt Oates. Others can climb to get a view of Taruahuna Pass, Falling Mountain and the Edwards Valley.

Book by 8 Dec

28 Dec-3 Jan

[Exploring the Eyre Mountains](#)

Sat-Fri

Diane Mellish 027 413 6468 mellishdiane@gmail.com

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The Eyre Mountains/Taka Ra Haka Conservation Park in Southland lies just south of Lake Wakatipu. Numerous 4WD tracks give access to classic NZ tussocky high country that was formerly farmed. Valleys lead to mountain tarn basins, topped by peaks typically of altitude around 1800m. This will be a hut-baggers delight, with many old mustering huts to collect. Di will call a meeting of interested trampers in early December to choose a route.

Book by 30 November

TRIP REPORTS

Kepler Track 15-18 October 2024

The club had attempted this trip in June 2018, but deep snow resulted in slow travel and the possibility of avalanches, so that party only got as far as sighting the Forest Burn Shelter before turning back. This time we were all watching the avalanche advisory for Fiordland and fortunately, the risk of wind-slab avalanches had dropped to low, and the moderate risk of wet-slab avalanches was minimised by an early start on the day we traversed along the tops. Di wasn't taking any chances though, and had a plan B with a gas stove and canisters in case some of us wanted to visit the Great Walk Huts from either end of the track if the avalanche risk had stayed moderate.

We drove down to Te Anau and stayed in the Lake View Holiday Park, which was reasonably priced and previously used by the PTC. Most of the group went out for a Thai meal, which they had sitting outside in the sun, but Frank and I cooked our main meal in the communal kitchen and then went out for dessert. The next day Raymond and Gary very kindly dropped most of us off at the Control Gates, and relocated the two cars around to the Rainbow Reach car park, which meant they'd be walking the entire loop of the track. The first section of the walk was level, alongside the lake to Brod Bay but then we spread out, climbing up gradually through beech forest, which included a very attractive traverse under limestone cliffs. Eventually we all arrived at Luxmore Hut. On the way we encountered others heading for the hut, including an Australian father and son who hailed from Brisbane, Sonja's neck of the woods.



We were alerted to the news that 24 or so teenagers were on their way to join us at the hut, so we selected the smaller bunkroom that accommodated our six plus a few other companionable adults. The teenagers were Duke of Ed students from Sydney and were well-mannered. I persuaded Pete to accompany me to the

Luxmore Caves as Frank's recently injured leg wasn't keen to do any further exercise that day. Raymond's knee was also a bit sore from his longer, 23km walk in. A couple with a placid seven-month-old bubba, turned up and bunked down by the wood stove which remained unlit on this mild night. We enjoyed Sonja's delicious chickpea and brown rice curry and Di's chocolate-coated ginger lumps. Pete was happy to share the big bunkroom with the students and had a good night.

We woke to a stunning day with not a cloud in the sky and looked down on a fog-covered Te Anau Basin. Three very inquisitive kea arrived to entertain us and inspect our gear! We left the hut at around 7.40am, slightly delayed due to 40 or so people having to share one toilet! The weather was surprisingly mild and the hard snow soon softened, so we didn't have to use crampons. Some keen folks summited Mt Luxmore en-route. Some sections of the track had steep run-outs, so we kept our ice-axes at the ready, but there were no slips off-track. Di suggested that it would be a good idea to keep going until we'd crossed the last avalanche path, before we had lunch at the Hanging Valley Shelter. Both shelters have a water tank but the second tank needed to have the snow pushed off to unscrew the lid to access water.

The two Australians hadn't walked in snow before, so we shared our spare poles to improve their stability on an unfamiliar medium. They were very grateful for our assistance as they had only intended to go as far as Luxmore Hut, and they loved being up high in the mountains, with the awesome views of the South Fiord, the snow-clad Murchison Mountains and Mt Irene. We couldn't quite see as far west as the terrain that Janet Macnab and I had traversed on our 54-day journey through Fiordland many years before.

We descended to the Iris Burn Hut via gentle zig-zags and numerous bridges crossing perilous gullies. The hut was still in the sun and was a real heat trap—great for airing our socks etc. Raymond treated us to a chilli con carne with quinoa. His addition of corn, kidney beans and a bit of mince gave it a great texture—must get the recipe! Ginger chocolates featured again with Raymond also providing some for us. Amazingly the couple with the baby turned up at 9.30pm, after we'd all gone to bed. The lights on the track which we thought were reflections of the full moon on the snow had been their head-torches!

The third day took us down the attractive Iris Burn Valley, past the big slip of 1986, which altered the nature of the valley, forming a big lake at its base. We were traveling through mossy beech forest, and later through an understory of crown ferns. Further on, we were fortunate to meet up with some local hunters, one of whom's father had hunted extensively in the area in the 1940's. We stopped for lunch and a brew in the shade of the Rocky Point Shelter but Di and Gary opted to sit by the pretty Iris Burn. The Rocky Point bridge was swept away in a recent flood but on this day the side creek was very low.

We arrived at Shallow Bay in strong sunshine. Di lay on the sand embraced by its warmth and I emulated her. Then Gary and I went in the lake to freshen up. Surprisingly it was not that cold and I only got one sandfly bite. Very worthwhile. Others went for their swims at Moturau Hut, while Frank, Pete and I were off hut-bagging Shallow Bay Hut. We shared the hut with around 20 boys from a Dunedin school. The boys were very happy to be there and were provided with scroggin and a multi-course meal of soup and bangers and mash. Later, they cooked damper on a bonfire with jam and butter. They play-fought with their sticks and were permitted to go for a swim under supervision. It all made for a good vibe.

It was my turn to provide the final meal. The brief had been to provide a vegetarian meal, so I came up with a Paul Garland sweet fruit curry. Unfortunately, to my mind it tasted weird but folks ate it, though the curry was too hot for Di, so as usual, I ate what was left. Raymond shared out the last of his ginger chocolates. The MSR stove behaved itself and the back-up MSR stove never made an appearance.

We got up early for the long drive back to Christchurch. On the walk out we diverted to an attractive wetland with interpretation panels, outlining fauna and the transition of vegetation from the lake-edge back into the forest, though no one heard or saw a fernbird. We crossed the Forest Burn and came to the mighty Waiau River, where there are view-points with some perilous overhanging banks. And then there was the bridge to the Rainbow Reach carpark where our two vehicles awaited us.

Thank you to Raymond for all the organising and distributing of gear, scoping accommodation and organising the transport and meals. Thank you to Sonja for another lovely curry and for driving, and a big thank you to Di

for her driving and great company. Di showed me how to use cruise-control in her car. Thank you to Pete for his companionship in our side-trips and to Gary for his caring companionship and support for the relocation of Di's car. We were: **Sonja Risa, Frank King, Raymond Ford, Peter Umbers, Gary Huish, Di Mellish and Honora Renwick** 🏔️ HR



Sonja and Di

All Kepler photos by Raymond

Mt Peel 20-21 October 2024

Chris was very keen to climb Mt Peel, so was disappointed when it looked like a non-starter, as only three of us had booked. Graham came to the rescue to give us a car load, though he didn't plan to do the overnight trip. Our four left on the Sunday morning and were walking from Blandswood at 11am, with Chris, Wang and Kerry carrying overnight gear and litres of water, while Graham had a day-pack to walk part-way to Little Mount Peel. We saw lots of day trippers along the way through leafy forest then dracophyllum scrub. The Deer Spur Track is well-built and maintained, with lots of wooden steps and board-walks. Stops and a lunch break stretched our walking time to the LMP shelter to four hours. It's a great place to stay and gives super views of the plains. The shelter has wide bench seats, allowing four to sleep if they take mats to cushion the hard wood. The two tanks that catch rainwater were quite full, so the litres of water we carried was overkill. As usual, DoC advises that the tank water needs to be boiled.

Dinner was dehy lamb and mushroom with a fistful of fresh asparagus, all extended with 100g of instant mashed spud. Kerry had customary custard but was the only taker, so had plenty left to go with the morning muesli.

Monday dawned fine and clear and we could see Banks Peninsula and a mass of ponds and reservoirs, including the seven ponds of the Rangitata irrigation scheme at Arundel, which according to the Timaru Times can hold 16.5 million cubic metres of water. The 2014 article says seven, but the map shows ten ponds which are topped up when the Rangitata hits 110 cumecs. Wang's phone-cam captured the sunrise.



Our trio set off at 7.45am for the long slog to 1583m Middle Mount Peel and 1743m Mount Peel. Along the way an absent-minded Kerry put his phone and wallet down as he took off a layer of clothing and neglected to pick them up. We were confident we knew where we'd stopped so carried on, planning to collect them on the way back.

We picked our way past crags and piled-up snow on the final ridge to Mt P and arrived there for lunch at 11.30 and to marvel at the snowy peaks we could see all around. The overall descent to Little Mt P is 432m but there are ups and downs to vary the task. The overall climb from our car to Mt P is 1691m, so it's an epic climb to do in one day and we were pleased we'd spread the climb over two days. We were most impressed to meet a guy who had biked to the base of Coal Hill and climbed that hill then Mt Peel and was headed down

to the road where he'd still need to get back to his bike. He seemed to be doing all this powered by water and collagen extracted from seaweed.

Yes, we did pick up the valuables on the way back to LMP and arrived back at Blandwood at 6pm where Graham was waiting to drive us home. Many thanks Graham for making the trip happen.

The team was: **Graham Townsend, Chris Leaver, Wang and Kerry Moore** 🌲 KM



The final push to 1743m Mt Peel.

Photo by Chris