



April 2025

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
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Committee					
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Secretary	Vacant		Committee		
Editor	Karen Fincham	027 554 0110	Committee		



New Member Enquiries: Contact Derek Gane PH 03 337 8264 or Irene PH 021 166 3586 to request an information pack. If you can't reach them, contact 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 8 April 	Muscle and Body Health & Healing Dominic Brosnahan from Video Physio will provide a presentation demonstrating his holistic, long-term approach to muscular and body health and healing. Dom suggests we take a sleeping pad or yoga mat, and towels for padding, to participate fully. His website www.vigeophysio.co.nz encourages us to "Live your best life with a well-functioning body".
Tue 13 May 	"ALPINE PANORAMA. A VIEW TO A CLIMB" Inspired by the view on a clear Christchurch morning, Andy Buchanan set himself a task in retirement of "climbing everything in sight and writing the book about it". Andy will talk to us about his epic challenge and will bring some books with him for purchase.

SOCIAL EVENTS



Tuesday 15th April: Avon Red Zone Bike Path walk. 9.30am meet outside Food Factory Shop at 239 Stanmore Road (possibly parking at Swanns Road). We'll catch the Orbiter bus to The Palms then walk back via Banks Avenue and the fancy new bike path along River Road. Enjoy autumn colours, check out a hidden playground and hopefully forage for figs. Depending on weather we can have coffee at the Riverlution Café in the community garden behind Avebury House or at The Daily Latte and Tea Room near the bus stop on Stanmore Road. Probably two hours at a leisurely ramble. Bring bus card or cash. Names to Maureen Thompson 021-266-5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com or just turn up on the day.

Saturday 4th May and/or Sunday 5th May: OPEN CHRISTCHURCH. An informal look around some of the inner city's notable architectural sites. Over 50 buildings are open to the public at various times over the weekend, everything from pubs, churches, schools and much more. For full details see openchch.nz/openchch. We can just "turn up" and of course get some exercise walking between venues, and there are plenty of choices for refreshment stops. If interested, let Sue know if there are any venues in particular you would be keen to visit. Please contact Sue Britain suebritain@gmail.com or phone (03)388-2329 or text 021-150-9092.



For the most up-to-date information about Social Events, check the [PTC website](#), the [PTC Facebook page](#) and look out for messages from PTC Communicator. Maureen Thompson has been organising daytime and evening events lately, but she welcomes help from others for social events to continue.

NOTES

AGM The Peninsula Tramping Club's 93rd Annual General Meeting was held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall on Tuesday 11th March 2025. Four long-standing and hardworking executive committee members sadly resigned from the committee at the AGM, and at the conclusion of the meeting Karen thanked them and presented them with certificates and gift vouchers. We expressed thanks to Merv Meredith, for extraordinary long service to PTC, having been on the committee for 40 years, including 3 years as President and 20 years as Secretary. He leaves very large shoes (or is that boots?) to fill and as yet no-one feels brave enough to volunteer to step into them! Glenda Meredith also deserves huge thanks for all the work she has no doubt done quietly behind the scenes to support Merv during his years of dedication to the club. Kerry Moore has also given extraordinary service with nearly 30 years on the committee, including around 20 years as Footnotes Editor and 10 years as Deputy Club Captain and/or Trip Planner. Mike Bourke has served on the committee for eleven years, taking on the job of Treasurer twice with 10 years of service. Di Mellish came on to the committee in 2018, initially taking on the role of President for four years, and then Trip Planner.



Your new executive committee members now have much more work to do, with fewer people on the committee and key roles unfulfilled, so please be patient and forgiving if things don't operate as usual or we need to make some important changes to keep our club operating in a sustainable way.

Turn Your Backcountry Adventures into Kea Conservation

Make kea surveying part of your routine. By downloading the Kea Survey android or IOS app, you can easily contribute to long-term monitoring of the kea population.



- Download the Kea Surveys app from the appropriate app store.
- Log your location via your phone's GPS each hour, whether you see kea or not.
- If you do spot kea, record the largest number seen at once.

The Kea Survey Database is designed to track kea numbers over time and across different locations. By collecting this data, we can gain a clearer picture of kea population trends.

We need 1,000+ keen adventurers to take part - every recorded hour matters! Whether you're tramping, climbing or hunting, help us tell if kea numbers are going up or down in the South Island.

TRIPS

Please Note: Details of trips are given as accurately as possible at the time of newsletter distribution, but things can change, so please contact the trip leader and check with the PTC website or Facebook page or messages from PTC communicator for the most up-to-date information.

**12-Apr
Sat**

[Middle Waipara Gorge](#)

Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726

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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 the gorge.

Meet 8am at Placemakers 319 Cranford Street. Please phone leader to book on trip.

**13-14 Apr
Sun-Mon**

[Nina Hut](#)

Kerry Moore 359 5069

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An easy, flat walk in beautiful Nina Valley forest to this modern hut. This one is a Sun-Mon trip to avoid overcrowding in this very popular hut.

Contact Kerry to book by Sun 6 April.

**18-21 Apr
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[Nardoo Biv](#)

Peter Umbers pumbers04@gmail.com

Four days over Easter. Drive up Friday and walk up Matakitaki River to Burn Creek. Up to Burn Creek Hut. Across tops to Nardoo Hut. Last day, down Nardoo Creek to car and home.

Contact Peter by email if interested.

**20-Apr
Sun**

[Lyndon Saddle - Helicopter Hill](#)

Merv Meredith 322 7239

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An easy-moderate 5hr circuit from Craigieburn campsite shelter on the Mistletoe Track to Lyndon Saddle, with a side-trip to Helicopter Hill. Returning to the saddle we take the Craigieburn Edge Track to the ski-field road where it joins the Sidle Track leading to the cars.

Meet 8am at Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd.

- 3-4 May** **[Andrews Stream--Casey Hut--Binser Saddle Circuit](#)**
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239, glendamervm@orcon.net.nz**
 ●● A classic easy-moderate circuit, starting from Andrews Shelter, over Casey Saddle, down to the newish Casey Hut. Day two goes down the Poulter River to cross Binser Saddle, out to the Mt White Rd and back to the Andrews.
Book by Sun 27 Apr
- 16-18 May** **[Lake Clearwater Base](#)**
Fri-Sun **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
 ●●● Lots of options for easy to moderate day walks from this base in the open tussock lands of the Hakatere area.
Book by 2 Apr
- 17-18 May** **[Potts River--Dogs Range--Mystery Lake Circuit](#)**
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239, glendamervm@orcon.net.nz**
 ●● A moderate circuit up the TR of the Potts River to Potts Hut. On day two we sidle up to the track along the Dogs Range and down past Mystery Lake to descend the TL of the Potts River back to the vehicles.
Book by 11 May

TRIP REPORTS

Please email **trip reports** to Karen at karenfincham97@gmail.com by the end of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter, in docx format with minimal formatting, or email text. Photos need to be around 640x480 pixels (about 100 to 200 kilobytes). Photos with date and time in the file-name allow them to be placed in the correct order. ⚡

East Wangapeka--Karamea-Leslie--Flora Saddle 12 - 19 February 2025

Chris Leaver offered this as a 4-day loop around the Tablelands, climbing Mt Arthur, but also with the longer option of going from Salisbury Lodge, to exit at Rolling Junction on the Wangapeka. I was keen to do this and fortunately the trip evolved into two trips, one doing the loop and the other doing the Leslie-Karamea, retrieving cars left there by the four-day trampers. So, in preparation Pete and Frank dropped spare keys off to Mike for the other group of Pete, Derek, Calum and John to relocate our two vehicles from Flora Saddle to Rolling Junction.

Chris had six people sign up for the Leslie-Karamea and four for the 4-day loop. We watched the weather closely, as we didn't want to have to cross the Wangapeka River to the cars after significant rain. Rain was forecast for the end of our trip, so Pete suggested we reverse the direction of the trip as there are no river crossings exiting from Karamea Bend, apart from small catchment side creeks as anything bigger is bridged.

Chris suggested we drive up to Murchison on the Monday evening to stay at the Riverlands Holiday Park. She booked us 3 cabins, which were quite new with comfortable beds and good amenities for \$40 each, which we paid for in the morning. On the way the two cars met at Amberley, but being a Monday night, the usual fish and chip shop was closed, so we settled for alternatives from the pizza joint next door. I spied another chipper after this though.

On Tuesday morning we continued to Rolling Junction and parked up. Frank pulled out of the trip due to leg issues, but arranged to meet us at Flora Saddle on Tuesday around 1pm. The track up to John Reid Hut has been rerouted, so we crossed the slippery, bouldered the Wangapeka River and started up the track after three of us were led astray down a false track to the river. Andy and Bett had crossed earlier, so they had time to put their tramping boots on for here-on.

We had a 1000m climb with 8-day packs, so took it steadily to John Reid Hut. We intercepted the original Chummies Track and carried on to the bush-line. It was an overcast day with poor visibility unfortunately, but good tramping weather. Visibility improved the next day, so four of us climbed 350m up Mount Patriarch on our way to Kiwi Saddle Hut. Chris loves summits and I figured it's because she enjoys sussing out what she's looking at. On the way, we passed two younger guys going in the opposite direction. We bypassed the crux via the north side of point 1463, a well-publicised but uncaired deviation from the east. The rest of the ridge was unimposing for our party.



2025_0213_1239_Looking towards Mt Luna

Kiwi Saddle Hut is in an attractive clearing. It had been meant to be sited by Taylor Stream but Max Polglaze's team chose to put it up on the ridgeline instead. The clearings in Taylors Stream looked enticing, but the track down there ends abruptly. Andy had himself an outdoor fire and slept in the woodshed to get away from the snorer(s) but was disturbed by sandflies in the early morning. We could see Mt Luna to the west and climbed towards it via a defined ridge, initially through beech forest, then up over point 1578 where we stopped for lunch. I couldn't find my big pack of cheese in my lunch bag but Andy suggested I look in my pack, as he knew me better than I did and voila, there it was. The bag had developed a split so the cheese had escaped. After all that, I never needed to eat it on this trip anyway! Chris loved speculating on what peak was what as we lingered on the summit of Luna after a straightforward scramble. However, the descent through high tussock to the head of Stone Creek was not to some of the party's liking with our dodgy, aging knees. The track down to Stone Creek was well-marked and pleasant going. I'm sure I heard a fern bird ticking away. We each elected to have a freshen up in the creek, where later a male blue duck sat and whistled in the dusk. Andy wanted to know what was edible, so as well as snowberries, he got to enjoy the abundant konini around the hut. The hut had been threatened by the river, so was shifted back against the forest with a picnic table on the old hut site.

We had a pleasant, gradual zig-zag up to Wangapeka Saddle, where two of us elected to stay travelling up the Wangapeka to Helicopter Flat Hut, while three climbed over Biggs Tops, taking the poled route on the tops to the steep but now dry, track to Trevor Carter Hut. Chris and I ambled along, having a late lunch at Helicopter Flat. Our anticipated 1-hour journey via Lost Valley Creek took longer than anticipated due to nasty tutu growing over boulders from the base of an extensive old slip. The track was initially overgrown and vague but the middle section was sublime, with a classic "nuked" 2m NZFS green vegetated tunnel from the saddle.

We arrived later in the day to meet up with our concerned Biggs Tops buddies who'd had an enjoyable traverse, with Andy being buzzed by a helicopter as he was swimming in a tarn up there. Every hut had a resident weka. This one swiped one of my little gaiters smartly. Sandflies attacked Andy down by the river, so I had a wipe-down at the hut instead. Trevor Carter is a newish hut built to replace the old Luna Hut that I'd visited in New Year, 1989 after an intrepid crossing of Biggs Tops.

In the morning, we ambled up-river to cross the placid, shallow Karamea to the true left, stopping for lunch in the shade at Thor Hut. Andy found what he thought were wild strawberries growing prettily over a boulder down by the swing-bridge, but they were actually prostrate bush lawyer fruit. The side creeks had signs by them - a legacy of the amazing team of Max Polglaze and other worthies.

The attractive Venus Hut was high on a terrace at the confluence. Andy found a way down to the river and others followed but I was too lazy to descend to what I could already see. We set off the next morning, crossed the Karamea on a long bridge, and ascended around the back of Point 390 then along to Crow Hut for lunch. Route descriptions here suggested alternative travel alongside the river in low flows but the glaring white boulders looked uninviting unless you were a fisher. We saw a party in the distance, crossing the river, probably heading south. We looked forward to reaching the Slippery Creek bridge which would let us know it wasn't long to Karamea Bend Hut. After the bridge we passed the staff hut, all battened up to save it from vandalism. It was tempting to think about a deviation to Roaring Lion Hut but the sign warned the journey would take eight hours to go 7km one-way, so best not, although the river was so low. Entries in the hut book showed even speedy trampers were taking 3½ hours to get there in low flows. Another time...

The Leslie River down by Karamea Bend Hut was very low. We figured a lot of the water percolated underground here, as it seemed wider and deeper further upstream. Andy in particular was good at spotting blue ducks—one time seeing a group of five. We travelled through the Leslie Clearing where the old hut used to be. At Wilkinson Creek a sign denoted the track climbing up to Baton Saddle. After crossing Leslie Creek, Chris and I elected to stop for lunch by a shady side-creek—the final source of water before Spludgeons Rock Shelter, where the others had headed.

The track up here was beautifully benched through red beech forest. We enjoyed a hot drink at the shelter, though the day was still warm but increasingly overcast. The shelter is three-sided but the front wall consists of clear, thick plastic sheeting, so is well lit. The waterfall supplying water there was a mere trickle. It began to spit as we followed the graceful track to the bush-line, so folks, strung out, stopped to put on their rain-jackets for the first time on this trip.

Pete and I caught up to Bett as she headed back to look for her walking pole, which we'd found and were carrying for her. We hoofed it down to Salisbury Lodge and couldn't believe our luck, as no-one else was there. Chris arrived soon after and asked, "Where's Andy?". He'd taken the wrong fork at a junction, thinking Flora was our destination, but on seeing a sign saying there was a further 10km to go, doubled back as he thought Salisbury Lodge was the more logical destination for the day. We decided to have a modest fire in the wood-stove to help our dampish gear dry out. Big rounds of wood were supplied but there were enough smaller logs that we didn't need to use the axe. As dusk approached, so did two trampers in the light rain—a very pleasant father and daughter from Motueka. This was the first time we were sharing a hut on the trip.

Andy, Pete and Bett were travelling separately back to Christchurch in Pete's car, left at Flora Saddle, so they got up and left earlier than Chris and I. The other two went out over Gordons Pyramid. After quite a bit of rain overnight, it was initially sunny, as we travelled past the three rock bivs, but light drizzle came back just before arriving at Flora Hut for lunch.

We got to Flora Saddle a bit after 1pm when Frank was scheduled to arrive, but I anticipated travel would have taken him longer than he expected. It turned out to be so, as he'd had road works enroute, slowing him down on his journey from Christchurch. Meantime we had the company of a chatty bohemian lady who'd just dropped off her husband for his 12-day pack-rafting and exploration of the Karamea area. Chris and I brewed a cup of tea, while we were waiting and made inroads on the left-over food. Frank and son, Al arrived and we drove to Tapawera to meet Graham, Chris's other half. They were off to Totaranui for a mountain biking adventure.

I'm very grateful to Chris for her extensive organisation for this logistically challenging trip and her excellent communications. The companionship of Chris, Pete, Bett and Andy made for pleasant days. Thanks go to Mike and the others for making the relocation of Pete's car possible.

Participants: Andy Morris, Bett Koch, Chris Leaver, Honora Renwick and Peter Umbers. 🏔️ HR



2025_0213_1240 The Karamea River near Venus Hut

Mt Arthur Tablelands 14-18 February 2025

This Kahurangi National Park trip morphed into two separate expeditions, with Chris Leaver leading the longer Leslie - Karamea River route, while four of us opted to do the shorter, yet scenic saunter around the Mt Arthur Tablelands area, taking in the sights from Mt Arthur and Mt Peel in stunning weather, and then heading out before the forecast rain arrived - which it did.

On our way to the Flora car park, we deviated to the start of the Wangapeka Track to collect a car left by Chris's party at the start of their trip, to re-position it to the Flora car park, where we were all to finish about the same date. From the Flora car park, it was a 1½hr, 4km walk up a well-graded track to Mt Arthur Hut, which was empty of other occupants. Several people walked or ran past in their keenness to be somewhere else, but we were happy to enjoy the call of unseen keas and keep our eye on the marauding weka that hovered around our gear. A brilliant moonrise and no sandflies were a good omen for the coming days.

A stunning, near-cloudless morning saw us on the track towards Mt Arthur. Ditching our packs near the junction with the Pyramid Ridge, we trod more lightly up the poled route to the 1795m summit of Mt Arthur where we had an uninterrupted 360-degree view of Kahurangi National Park, even catching glimpses of Mt Taranaki in the far distance to the north. As we descended, there was a steady stream of walkers heading towards the summit. After retrieving our packs and having a leisurely lunch, it was time to do the hard yards and traverse the ups and downs of the Pyramid Ridge, before dropping down through the bush towards Salisbury Lodge. There is not a lot of water along the way, so we all arrived at Salisbury Lodge keen to rehydrate from the available water supply. There were a few people at Salisbury but, still, plenty of room for us. John and Calum elected to pitch their tents outside. We'd had a memorable day, covering 14km while gaining 1000m and losing 1200m to finish up about 180m in elevation lower than when we started.



2025_0215_1021_Mt Arthur

Sunday saw us doing a short trek through bush and then onto the Tablelands to Balloon Hut, which was agreeably deserted, so we made ourselves at home for an early lunch before contemplating the next step. With clouds coming and going, we set off towards Mt Peel in the hope of at least seeing Lake Peel. There was a keen breeze, but as we progressed up the track towards Lake Peel, we decided to take an obvious route up towards 1654m Mt Peel - well worth the trek, as we had amazing views, down towards Lake Peel and beyond to the Cobb Reservoir, while admiring potential future walking options. An easy stroll took us back to Balloon Hut where we were joined in the early evening by a group of three hunters who had come in from the Cobb area. Our day covered some 14km with a net gain of about 100m for the day, having gained 700m and lost 600m in the process.

With the weather forecast predicting heavy rain on Tuesday, we opted to come out a day early, so we departed Balloon Hut on the Monday, taking the bypass track along Starvation Ridge and checking out some rock shelters along the way. The Growler Rock Shelter proved a suitable morning tea stop and the Grid Iron Rock Shelter became the designated lunch stop. A short distance beyond and up a steep 50m track revealed a small 3-bed hut, Upper Gridiron Hut, cunningly positioned below a rock overhang and complete with a swing couch outside. Once we had left the Tablelands, the rest of the day was spent descending through bush along a well-graded track towards Flora Hut and then a rather unwelcome short climb back up to Flora Saddle and down to the Flora car park. We'd walked some 17km with a net loss of 330m for the day. There were far fewer cars there than when we arrived, but at least Derek's car was still there, as was the vehicle we had repositioned for Chris's party, due out the next day. Because we had come out a day early, we had to reorganise our overnight accommodation in the area, which we achieved at Tapawera, where we were able to indulge in one of Calum's 'lager sandwiches'™ and pizza under the campground veranda, while listening to the rain steadily falling outside.

Next morning, Tuesday, we drove back through passing showers to Christchurch, stopping off for breakfast at Murchison and lunch at Culverden. A great little trip. Thanks, Derek, for all the driving and all three for the great conversations along the way.

We were: Calum McIntosh, Derek Gane, John Cook and Mike Bourke. 🏔️ MB

Woolshed Creek Hut - Sunday 23 February 2025

Although it was raining most of the way from Christchurch it had, fortunately, stopped raining by the time we reached the carpark at the start of the track and the weather continued to improve throughout the day. We began walking on the Mt Somers track just after 9.30 am, stopping at the mine for morning tea before reaching the hut for lunch. After lunch we explored the surrounding area, including the emerald pools where two of the women stripped down to underwear for an enjoyable swim. We then decided to take the much longer and more difficult Rhyolite Ridge track back, instead of returning the way we came, so we crossed the river and visited the water fall, and the “Bus Stop” (1139m) on our way back to the car.

We were Kathryn Marshall (Leader), Karen Fincham, Kerry Moore, Kyung Sang Lee and Janice Butcher (new member). 🏔️ KF



2025_0223 Kerry crossing the river



Kathryn & Janice go down for a swim 2025_0223_1229

Mt Alford - Sunday 2 March 2025

This was the second attempt at Mt Alford this year – the first was postponed due to wet weather in January and resulted in a Plan B trip closer to home around Duncan Park and the Port Hills. This time, the trip was brought forward a week to take advantage of favourable weather and fill a gap in the PTC calendar. The weather forecast predicted NW winds and temperatures in the high 20s. With John travelling directly to the Alford Forest car park, the rest of us assembled at Church Corner and travelled in 1 car to Mt Alford. We saw John’s car at the car park, but no John. Correctly figuring he was ahead of us, we started the tramp up through a pleasantly shaded bush track before stopping for a morning tea break at a white bench seat with great views down onto the surrounding Canterbury plains, where several farm burn-offs were sending columns of smoke up into the air. A little further up, we emerged from the treeline and proceeded in open countryside up a poled route towards the summit of Mt Alford (1171m). The NW breeze was most welcome as it kept the

temperature down, which was very noticeable when we passed through sheltered areas where there was no breeze. The route is well marked by poles through low vegetation. We reached the summit at midday, some 2.5 hours after starting out. We met up with John who had reached the summit about half an hour before us and was about to go back down. What an excellent spot for lunch, warm sunny conditions and a light NW breeze to keep the temperature to a tolerable level. Add to that, a stunning 360-degree view of the surrounding hills; Mt Hutt, Mt Somers, Mt Winterslow, all nearby, and Mt Peel in the distance.

The return back to the car park along the same route took about the same time – it seemed quite warm on the way down, especially when we ran out of breeze, so water supplies were minimal by the end of the trip. It was nice to have a reserve supply back at the car. A refreshment stop at Methven was welcomed by all, as the temperature was around 29 degrees. We were: Mike Bourke (Leader), Merv Meredith, Glenda Meredith and Derek Gane in the main party and John Robinson in the advance solo party. 🏔️ MB



Mt Alford



Summit View



Mt Winterslow and Mt Somers