



May 2025



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 (a committee member will respond)
Facebook name	Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch
Correspondence	All correspondence to the Secretary, including change of contact details

Committee					
Trip Planner	Sonja Risa	028 8517 3969	Gear Custodian	Evelien Baas	027 557 5521
Treasurer	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726	Committee		
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 13 April 	"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.
Tue 10 June 	A MID-WINTER CHRISTMAS. A time to have fun, play games and catch up with fellow club members. Bring a small plate of festive food to share. We are hoping to have the FMC cards available tonight, so come along and collect your FMC Card.

NOTES

New Member Welcome: Not a new member but, welcome back to Aarn Tate, an old member who has recently returned to us.

FMC Backcountry Magazines: Financial members of PTC are now only receiving electronic copies of this magazine. The club will still receive 10 hard copies so, if you must have a hard copy, email the committee on secretary@ptc.nz and we will endeavour to get one to you.

It was great to have a good turn out to April's club night on Muscle and Body Health & Healing with Dominic Brosnahan from Vigeo Physio working his magic with members.



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.



SOCIAL EVENTS



Saturday 3rd May : OPEN CHRISTCHURCH. An informal look around some of the inner city's notable architectural sites, not normally open to the public. Over 50 buildings are open at various times over the weekend, everything from pubs, churches, schools and much more. For full details see openchch.nz@openchch.

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.

Meet 9.00am at Citizens War Memorial, 99 Cathedral Square (near Cathedral)

Tue 6th May : Otukaikino Track and Waimairi Walkway. A short walk, on the loop track to Clearwater Resort, and return to Darroch St. at 12.30pm. Meet at Darroch St entrance to The Groynes at 9.30am. Please, phone or text Anne Hunter [021-023-13125](tel:021-023-13125) on Monday evening if you intend to come. If you need help with transport, we could discuss that as well.



Mon 16th June : Liffey Stream - Lincoln. A 90-minute loop walk along Liffey stream and Liffey Springs with coffee afterwards at Coffee Culture or Cottage Café. Meet at 10.00am on Leinster Terrace in Lincoln. There should be parking available there. Toilets nearby on Kildare Terrace. Names to Maureen phone or text 021-266-5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com or just turn up on the day.

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 has been organising social events lately, but she welcomes help from others for daytime or evening social events. Contact Maureen Thompson by phone or text **021-266-5778** or mothompson1212@gmail.com

TRIPS

Please contact the trip planner, Sonja Risa sonja.risa@gmail.com if you wish to lead a trip so the trip can be put onto the PTC calendar and advertised on the website and in the newsletter.

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.

3 May

Port Hills-Godley Head

Sat

Graeme Nicholas 027-504-7726

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Port Hills traverse from Captain Thomas track along summit walkway to Godley Head and then back through Taylors Mistake to Sumner. Starting at Scarborough clock tower 8.00am. Easy-Moderate. Contact Graeme for information.

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

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Lots of options for easy to moderate day walks from this base in the open tussock lands of the Hakatere area.

Book by 10 May

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

7 June [Childrens Bay Circuit-Akaroa](#)

Sat Graeme Nicholas 027-504-7726

- An easy walk across farmland and bush near Akaroa, with some interesting animal sculptures. Contact Graeme for details.

21-22 June

Sat-Sun [Mt Sommers Hut](#)

•• Graeme Nicholas 027-504-7726

A mid-winter Christmas theme tramp into Mt Sommers Hut. See coal mine relics, interesting volcanic rock formations. Back via Bust Stop route. Easy-Moderate.

Contact Graeme by Sat 14 June as hut needs to be booked.

TRIP REPORTS

Please email **trip reports** to the editor 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. 📎

COACH STREAM – TRIG M 16th MARCH 2025

This was planned as Coach Stream along to Rabbit Hill but being at Trig M just before noon in a moderate NW we decided that lunch there in the shelter of a large Turpentine bush on the lee side was ideal and far enough.



At Trig M and our sheltered lunch spot a little down to the east. 20250316.05

Walking from the car park at the U bend on the Porters Pass Road at 9.20am the NW was already getting up. But it wasn't stopping the numbers of other people we encountered, both in Coach Stream and on the Trig M track from the Porters route. Further up we stopped for scroggin in the shelter of the bush edge on the side NW before the junction with the Trig M track.



Trig M up to the junction with the Trig M track. 20250316.03

During lunch the NW was easing and as we descended Coach Stream it was getting hotter. Back at the car at 3.00pm± it was 27degC and stayed that way. Being out earlyish we just managed to make it to A Taste of Kiwi in Springfield at 3.30pm before they shut the door.

Another good day out enjoyed by Hilaire C, Jaimee L, Lewis L, Merv M (leader) & Joy S. 🏔️ MM

HOKITIKA BASE CAMP – GLENDA & MERV VERSION 20th – 23rd MARCH 2025

This was planned as a PTC base camp with Graeme Nicholas leader. Club response was not good with the trip eventually being cancelled but Glenda and I were already organised to go and the forecast was still good; so, we did, and here is our “club” trip report.

Hokitika in the past has been an ‘entry point’ for trips in the foothills or ranges inland of there, sometimes staying on the Friday night in the old camping ground down toward the dairy company. There were a number of long weekend base camps driving over on the Friday night and staying in the big school lodge at the south end of Lake Kaniere. They may have included day trips to Mt Tuhua or the Mt Brown track before the new Mt Brown hut was there. So, for staying in Hokitika itself for a base camp now, those trips were still local options. But so were easy-ish trips such as in the historic Goldsborough area north of Hokitika. In addition, the building of the Wilderness Trail greatly expanded biking options.

So, for this trip Glenda and I booked a unit in the six-year-old upmarket Hokitika Kiwi H.P. Close in to town with easy biking to the centre of town. We left home late morning and stopped in the Sheffield Domain for lunch where the marquees for the Malvern A & P show over the weekend were already up. Drove on in brilliant blue-sky weather and little wind to Hoki and our spacious camping ground.

We made Friday our primary biking day, to Lake Kaniere. We could access the Wilderness Trail up on the river stop bank down at the other end of our street. The Trail is sometimes on road but then often along the historic water race system from the lake down to the power station in Kaniere. The latter part uphill picked up the Water Race Walkway which being narrow needed care to bike. The trail came out at The Landing car park by the lake which is also the inlet for the water race. There we talked to a couple with an impressive looking off road pop top trailer behind their Land Rover. He admitted to not yet having really tested it off road but the intention was there. It looked like a military vehicle.

Returning downhill we biked in to town and went out on the sea front promenade behind the shops for a look. Interested to see the Hoki fire engine and full crew there beside the public loo. And then there was a big cheer as one of the crew managed to open the loo door and a grateful young woman emerged. Cell phones are

sometimes very handy.

On Saturday we drove a little north of town to the Stafford Loop Road and drove in to the Goldsborough camping ground. Lovely place to be in this weather. We walked partway up the Goldsborough track before returning downstream and starting up Goff’s Track which climbs a spur up on the Scandinavian Hill Rd, a forestry road, maybe. This area in particular had lots of Rimu from small seedlings up, plus there was plenty of end-of-season rata still in flower. Down the road we had lunch at the start of the German Gully Track before descending that back to the car.



Hokitika. Merv returning down a more open section of the water race track.

Being back home at 2.00pm we swapped to biking gear and went back to the Wilderness Trail, heading south this time toward Lake Mahinapua. Got a fair way along the old bush tramway line before turning around.

On Sunday we packed and left the camp in cloudy weather returning home over the hill to fine warm weather again.

Thanks for picking this weekend for your base camp, Graeme. It was a 'late Summer' three days away for us. Glenda & Merv Meredith 🏔️ MM

Glenda along the bush tramline. 20250322.15



PEAK HILL 30th MARCH 2025

This is another of the moderate shorter trips the club has often listed that I have never been on over the years. It has a justifiable reputation for its view and from only 1240m, so I was happy to lead. The forecast had NW conditions and cloudy in the mix but otherwise ok so Colin and I were surprised when no one else turned up at Church Corner. Peak Hill is a long drive for a short walk but the draw of somewhere I hadn't been before was too much, so we took my vehicle and went anyway even though Colin had been there two or three times before, including down the old northern route.

Walking after 9.30am from the DOC access point at the south east end of this impressive bump, there were already two other vehicles there and more people followed us up in a moderate NW. I found the track surface not particularly easy due to the rutted condition caused by extensive use since the south east route was opened up. The massive cairn on top is also no doubt the result of the numbers of people arriving there. On top at 11.30am we exchanged photos with the two women who followed us up and then continued north-west following the old track down for a while. But then decided with an unanticipated GPS problem it would be better to return the same way we had come up. So, we returned and stopped for lunch in a shallow basin just before the top. After lunch as we descended the NW died and people continued to come up. Arriving at the car at 2.00pm± the forecast SW had arrived and looked particularly gloomy without actually raining. Driving home we did another "never been there before" and went in to Terrace Downs for a coffee. We were just Merv Meredith and Colin Wilmschurst. 🏔️ MM



Colin & Merv on top at 11.30am 20250330.02



Peak Hill looking across to the Ryton River coming in on the left. 20250330-04

Middle Waipara Gorge Saturday 12 April 2025

The day dawned with a brilliant blue sky. A quick check on the ECAN site for river flows, less than 0.5m3 per second, so the trip was on!

Following the description from the AllTrails app, we arrived at the river side car park. The idea was to walk up stream as shown on the app and then downstream to the gorge. There was a large display at the car park explaining the various features that we should look for as well as information about some of the sea dwelling dinosaur fossils discovered in the area. This included a layer of soil containing Iridium which is found in meteors, which is thought to be from the meteor that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. We criss-crossed the river multiple times as we proceeded up river between high steep hills on either side. About 30 minutes from the car park, we met the first concretions being spherical rocks much like Moeraki type boulders. These had formed and had tumbled down the steep eroded cliffs into the river over time. Graeme



Information sign 20250412-01



Graeme at river 20250412-02

was keen to see what was around the next corner, and the next etc., until we came to a grassy bank in the sun which made for a morning tea stop. With the valley becoming increasingly rocky and closed in we decided to walk back to the car. After lunch at the car, we proceeded down-stream with the river being more open but still with some very high eroded cliffs on some of the rivers turns. Two further groups on, spherical boulders were observed but the gorge we were looking for could not be seen. Wanting to get a coffee at a cafe on the way home we decided to turn around after an hour walking with the river seeming to flatten out rather forming a gorge.

A pleasant easy walk with a refreshing river to keep the feet cool!

Graeme (leader), Kathryn, Mary and Jaimee. 🏠 GN



Graeme, Jaimee & Kathryn 20250412-03



Middle Waipara Gorge trip; Mary, Jaimee and Kathryn. 20250412-04

MESSAGES

With the absence of a club secretary, the current committee members are now sharing the secretarial tasks in addition to their specific executive roles, and someone will respond accordingly to any messages sent to the club via secretary@ptc.nz. For efficiency of communication, where possible, please contact the appropriate person directly, as below:

For enquiries concerning memberships, fees or other financial matters, contact the **Treasurer** gra.nicholas@gmail.com

For enquiries concerning proposed or scheduled trips, contact the **Trip Planner** sonja.risa@gmail.com

For enquiries concerning proposed or scheduled social events, contact **Maureen Thomson**
021-266-5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com

For enquiries about, or information for, the Footnotes newsletter, contact the **Editor**
karenfincham97@gmail.com

PTC COMMUNICATOR

Messages sent by PTC Communicator have a message attached stating, *"Replies to PTC1932 may go unanswered as the address is not checked by one individual. You are best to reply to the person who sent this message"*.

We cannot reply to the sender of the message if we don't know who has sent the message so, **PLEASE** identify yourself as the sender if you use PTC Communicator to send a message.