



June 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 10 June 	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 on the night, so come along and collect your FMC card.
Tue 8 July 	NZ ORCHIDS Not flashy like tropical orchids but NZ has many interesting native specimens. We will be treated to a presentation on our orchids by a specialist on the subject.

NOTES

FMC Backcountry Magazines: Please contact Mary McKeown at marylmckeown@yahoo.co.nz 021 269 1165, if you would like a printed copy of the current and last edition of FMC's Backcountry magazine.

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

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.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 7 June | Childrens Bay Circuit |
| Saturday | Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726 |
| * | An easy African plains experience near Akaroa, across farmland. Interesting animal sculptures. See great harbour views from 209m Takamatua Hill and visit the sleepy harbour-side town of Takamatua. |
| | Meet 9am outside PMH, near Cashmere Rd-Fairview St cnr |
|
 | |
| 14-15 Jun | Boyle Base |
| Sat-Sun | Names to Kerry Moore 03 359 5069, mooorty@gmail.com |
| ** | Staying near Boyle Village. Options for day trips ranging from easy to moderate-hard. |
| | List closes 8 Jun |

- 14-Jun**
Saturday
*
Peraki Bay Circuit
Kerry Moore 359 5069
Visit the site of the first European whaling station in Canterbury. An easy-moderate circuit to the headland then up a spur to Carews Peak, along Bossu Road and down Peraki Road to the cars.
Meet 8am outside PMH, near Cashmere Rd-Fairview St cnr
- 20-22 Jun**
Fri-Sun

Arthurs Pass Matariki Base
Names to Kerry Moore 03 359 5069, mooorty@gmail.com
Enjoy home comforts staying in AP village. The area has a great range of trips. For the energetic: Avalanche Peak, Mt Aitken or a number of others. More relaxed walks are Otira Valley, Punchbowl Falls and Bealey Chasm. Take ice-axe and crampons for above the bush-line walks.
Book by 10 Jun
- 22-Jun**
Sunday
*
Hidden Valley, Purau
Hilaire Campbell 022 085 9501
An easy-moderate circuit from Purau through a planted restoration area to an unspoiled bush area, and on to 703m Mt Evans. We cross to an adjacent valley, descend and connect with the original track. See also: Hidden Valley Conservation Trust.
Meet 9am outside PMH, near Cashmere Rd-Fairview St cnr
- 28-29 Jun**
Sat-Sun
**
Mt Fyffe--Kowhai River
Awaiting leader
An easy-moderate circuit with a Friday evening start up the 4WD track to Mt Fyffe Hut for the night. Saturday, a quick visit up to 1165m Mt Fyffe, then back to the hut and down Speargrass Spur Track. An easy stretch of track takes us to Kowhai Hut. Sunday, a leisurely walk down the Kowhai River to the cars.
Book by 22 Jun
- 29-Jun**
Sunday
*
Mt Bradley Circuit
Awaiting leader
An easy-moderate 6-7 hour circuit starting in Orton Bradley Park, going to Packhorse Hut and on to part of Te Ara Pataka Track, then down the Orton Bradley Valley to the cars.
Meet 8am outside PMH, near Cashmere Rd-Fairview St cnr
- 5-6 Jul**
Sat-Sun
**
Ada Hut--Zampa Tops
Names to Kerry Moore 03 359 5069, mooorty@gmail.com
Moderate hike near Cannibal Gorge in the Lewis Pass area. We'll stay at Ada Pass Hut Saturday night and get an early start Sunday to go along Zampa tops via the big tarn and 1710m Zampa
Book by 29 Jun
- 5-Jul**
Saturday
*
Bealey Spur
Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726
Popular easy-moderate walk to this historic musterers' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer fantastic views of the upper Waimak and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. It is worthwhile to walk beyond the hut, further up the spur.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 13-14 Jul**
Sun-Mon

Nina Hut
Kerry Moore 359 5069
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. The hut needs to be booked.
Book by 6 Jul
- 12-Jul**
Saturday

Te Oka--Devils Gap
Awaiting leader
An easy-moderate exploration of two reserves with grand views of the southern bays. Devils Gap reserve contains impressive bluffs, popular with rock climbers.
Meet 9am outside PMH, near Cashmere Rd-Fairview St cnr
- 19-20 Jul**
Sat-Sun

Lagoon Saddle--Mt Bruce
Names to Kerry Moore 03 359 5069, mooorty@gmail.com
An easy-moderate circuit on a piece of the Te Araroa Track from Cora Lynn, staying at Lagoon Saddle Shelter or the nearby hut. We return with a climb from the SW side of Mt Bruce, possibly meeting the day-trippers who will approach 1630m Mt B from the NE.
Book by 13 July
- 20-Jul**
Sunday

Mt Bruce
Awaiting leader
An easy-moderate up-and-back to this prominent 1630m peak. The route uses part of the Lagoon Track. Optional exit down Broad Stream. Take an ice axe if you think you may want to go down Broad Stream
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 26-27 Jul**
Sat-Sun

Edwards Hut--Williams Saddle
Awaiting leader
A moderate round-trip to Edwards Hut, then crossing the 1327m Williams Saddle to the Mingha River. We often see blue ducks in the Edwards River.
Book by 20 Jul
- 26-Jul**
Saturday

Allandale Circuit
Colin Wilmshurst 383 2471
An easy-moderate circuit from Allandale to Living Springs, up to the Summit Road, along the Crater Rim, down to Governors Bay and back to Allandale on the shoreline track.
Meet 9am outside PMH, near Cashmere Rd-Fairview St cnr
- 2-3Aug**
Sat-Sun

Lake Sumner--Hope Kiwi
Awaiting leader
Easy-moderate tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park, overnighing in Hope Kiwi Lodge. Good track all the way, through beech forest and along river terraces. A cross-over walk may be possible alongside Lake Sumner.
Book by 27 Jul
- 2-Aug**
Saturday

Planting on Quail Island/Otamahua
Kerry Moore 359 5069
Help restore the island with this year's native tree planting. Tools and transport provided. Take the usual tramping gear and gardening gloves.
Book by Thur 31 July

- 9-10 Aug**
Sat-Sun
**
Lake Man
Awaiting leader
A moderate tramp from the Doubtful River, up the Kedron to this scenic gem perched well above the forest. The Doubtful Range provides a high route back to the car.
Book by 3 Aug
- 10-Aug**
Sunday
*
Onepunga Scarp--Mt Grey
Awaiting leader
An easy-moderate northern approach along a limestone scarp to 933m Maukatere from its north side. We'll be starting at 300m altitude.
Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 16-17 Aug**
Sat-Sun
**
Cass Saddle--Lagoon Saddle
Awaiting leader
A popular moderate circuit starting at Cass and heading over Cass Saddle. Staying overnight at Hamilton Hut, then heading up the Harper River, over Lagoon Saddle and out to SH73.
Book by 10 Aug
- 16-Aug**
Saturday
*
Mt Lyndon--Cloudy Hill
Awaiting leader
A useful circuit above Lake Lyndon with splendid snowy vistas all around at this time of year.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 23-24 Aug**
Sat-Sun
**
Erewhon--Lawrence Hut
Awaiting leader
A flat walk from Erewhon Station up the Clyde River and into Lawrence River. Staying at Lawrence Hut.
Book by 17 Aug
- 24-Aug**
Sunday
*
Purple Hill
Awaiting leader
A moderate climb of this 1680m peak above Lake Pearson with superb views around Castle Hill Basin.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

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.

Sumner—Godley Head Saturday 3 May 2025

The day dawned clear and frosty in town, after a miserable, wet week. I had difficulty parking near our meeting place, Scarborough clock-tower, as I had not realised that Park Run was happening. Helen was the only other person who turned up for the trip, so we decided to change the route and head towards Taylors Mistake, then up the Taylors Escape bike track, rather than do the longer route via Godley Head. The track was quite wet underfoot, with a few really muddy patches. At Taylors Mistake we saw a surprising number of people—probably surfers out to catch some of the big swells that the storm had been generating. We sat on

the beach for “morning tea,” and watched the lifeguards doing some boat-launching exercises in the surf. The gentle zig-zag climb got us to the Summit Road and Crater Rim walkway. At the top, a guy in an old camper-bus offered to take our photo. He was spending the year travelling around the country, and told us he had just recently ridden the Old Ghost Rd with his little dog sitting inside the top of his back-pack!



We continued along the Crater Rim Walkway to the high point and, after lunch, dropped down towards Evans Pass car park. Helen remarked that we had almost seen as many dogs on the track as we did people. From the pass we took the Rapanui Track down to the flat of Sumner, reaching the clock-tower at 2:30. We were **Graeme and Helen.** 🏔️ GN



Lake Clearwater Base 16-18 May 2025

After anxiously monitoring the weather forecast, we decided to move the camp forward to the Friday morning to avoid incoming bad weather. Our initial start was not so flash as we discovered when picking up the third person out of the four, that there was no room left in Graeme's car, as it already had a large gas bottle and a box plus sack of firewood on-board. A hasty swap to a slightly larger car helped. Five minutes down the road one of our people wondered where their boots were. After a roadside search, we were back to my car, where the boots were found on the back seat. "Take three", and we were off again. We arrived at Merv's place, where he was waiting anxiously on his berm. The gear wouldn't fit in this car either, so we swapped the gas bottle for a smaller one and tied some stuff onto the roof rack. "Take four" and we were away.

Arriving at the deer stalkers cottage, Lake Clearwater, we were pleasantly surprised by how classy the accommodation was: four bunk-rooms, battery-powered lighting, log burner. Fully equipped! After a quick unpack we joined Kevin and Heather who had already arrived at the previously agreed time. We headed up Mt Guy, overlooking the lake. The route was well-marked and followed the spur up the face. About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up, the route became fairly rocky, then more tussocky. Although the NW wind was building up, the top was not as windy as we expected. We took $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to the top and travelled along the tops in tussock before dropping to the Te Araroa pathway near a small tarn. From there we followed the fence-line to the river terrace to pick up the Eastern Track, which followed a stream to the lake outlet and foot-bridge.



Rakaia Rr from Balmacaan Saddle

Dinner was pot-luck with various dishes fit for a king (or queen) accompanied by plenty of tramping yarns. Saturday's forecast was for rain later in the afternoon. After discussion, we thought we would keep to the east, so chose Balmacaan Saddle. We started from Lake Emma Track and diverted up the river, following a well-defined track on a gentle gradient. The track ended just before the saddle, where we needed to dodge numerous spaniards on the rather steep ascent. The view from the saddle into the Rangitata River was magnificent. After our lunch with a view, we high-tailed it back down the track as storm-clouds moved in from the west, making it back to the Lake Camp car-park without getting rained on.

Sunday, our last day, dawned with a blue sky and some cloud around the peaks—not the grim weather predicted by metservice. Appropriately we decided to visit Mt Sunday, a site of *Lord of the Rings* filming, 5km further up the road. When we arrived, we could see how the small rocky hill with a snowy mountain back-drop would have been ideal for the film. While we were there a further four motor homes turned up to visit. It was a gentle 40-minute walk in the morning sun. After some wandering around on the site, we left to have lunch at Lake Emma. Alas the clouds rolled in from the south and rain arrived. We'd avoided rain all weekend, so chose to keep it that way and find a cafe on the way home.

Trampers were: **Graeme (leader), Merv, Jaimee, Paul, Kevin and Heather.**





Greenstone - Caples Circuit 22-25 May 2025

Led by Raymond, this trip was well-planned. It was not quite a *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* trip as there were only six guys. Most of us managed to book our bunks for the 3 huts on the not-so-user-friendly DoC website, but it was worth persevering if it meant getting the bunks for free with our Backcountry Hut Passes. Raymond was concerned about the rain forecast, swelling the many fords on the drive down Greenstone Station Road to the road-end, but fortunately the outlook improved, showing only 11 - 13 mm of rain over 6-hours on the day we were to be walking out.

Raymond suggested shortening the four days to three and no one dissented. For me it was a choice of a long first day, versus walking out on the 4th day in the rain, with both options having their pros and cons. Raymond, Keith and Pete each took a meal along but Pete didn't get to prepare his. The standard of their cuisine looked impressive to those of us who were eating Back Country Cuisine. Aarn gets a good discount on Real Meals, so he took some lovely examples of their premium choices such as beetroot and carrot salad!

As we'd booked the huts, we didn't need to take tents, though I carried a 300g DCF tarp and inflatable mattress in case of an injury in the party between huts. Raymond and Frank both had PLBs in case the party needed to split for any reason. We were generously catered for with four stoves and many billies—a bit like a CTC trip.

We drove down on the Thursday for Glenorchy, stopping at Fairlie on the way for pies and coffee. Raymond had booked us into Glenorchy Hotel, where we all opted to dine in—just as well, as we stayed in the very cozy main hotel building at cabin prices, but there were no cooking facilities. I ate my breakfast of baked beans cold but that was OK. The shower was very good and milk was generously supplied.

I could see Raymond's concern about the fords as we drove in, as his car didn't have a high clearance. We would have taken our Isuzu Bighorn but the warrant had expired, so we were lying low. Pete supplied his little Daihatsu, so John could relax and enjoy the ride. As arranged, we met Aarn at the road-end car park, where he'd slept the night in his vehicle.

Raymond was sticking to the 3-day plan, so we hustled off and crossed the Caples River on the first of many swanky 5-person bridges. Pete, Frank and I diverted to visit Slip Flat Hut. Back in the day, the track went directly to this hut, and local hunters there told us there was still a big shelter for private groups, where the direct track had turned off. They also reassured us that the projected rain wouldn't bring the fords up to where it would be a concern for ordinary vehicles.

We left the shaded track and took a side-trip, crossing over an attractive narrow gorge to the Greenstone Hut for lunch and a cuppa. The hut was in a very big, sunny clearing, so most of us sat on the porch for lunch—too hot for me, but then a cloud slid over the sun when it was time to go. The hunters turned up as a previous party had frightened all the deer down-valley. The area has mainly fallow deer, though there are reds and chamois too.

It was nice to turn the corner and get into the wide-open valley flats. We diverted a few metres to check out the private hut at Steele Ck. I noticed it did not have fireproof mattresses. The NZDA Mid Greenstone Hut was also visible. Back in the day the track went directly there too. Pete diverted to check out two huts across the river—one quite modern but the other probably lived up to its name, Rats Nest. The rest of us opted to keep our boots dry.

We carried on to McKellar Hut, knowing we wouldn't get there until dark, and hopefully someone would be ensconced with a fire going on this evening, which was cooling down. The track deteriorated a bit in some

places, necessitating either a boulder-hop through shallow muddy patches or a very short section of scrubby travel. Eventually we turned on our headlights and entered the forest, where the party spread out as some were affected by night travel more than others, and it had been a long day. At 6.37pm we arrived to a cold, dark hut with one occupant who'd stoically cooked his tea, and then went to bed on our arrival.

Not for us though! Keith prepared a sumptuous 3-person meal with loads of vegetables in it. I got the woodstove cranking. Coal is supplied, though Frank made talk of putting it back where it belonged—in the ground. Raymond checked in with us for what time we'd like to get up in the morning and with our late arrival we opted for 7.30am, to leave at 9am. Our silent hut-mate had breakfasted, packed up outside and left earlier.

The highlights of the next day were walking past a misty Lake McKellar, then enjoying a sunny, scenic stop at McKellar Saddle with a view of the snow-clad Darrans. We crossed the saddle and entered the forest until we found a sunny spot for lunch and another cuppa. Aarn tried on Keith's external frame Kelty pack and said it sat quite well, though I don't think he's become a convert. We saw the Upper Caples Hut on a flat by the river and as I'd stayed there, when it was a DoC Hut, in around 1987, after crossing from Steele Ck. It wasn't worth another visit. From there on, it was a red line for me.

From up-valley John could spot the roof of the Mid Caples Hut and then we noticed smoke from a freshly lit fire. A Quebecois couple was there and they were unfamiliar with the woodstove operation, so I took over. Fuelled by coal, the hut eventually was lovely and warm. It was Raymond's turn as chef. His offering was a rehydrated pilaf of fine spinach and mushrooms. A couple of young guys came back from fishing brown trout. During their visit they'd caught four, but must have released them as there was no fishy evidence in the hut. The Quebecois were also keen fishers, so there was plenty for them all to talk about.

The final day was a short one and only took 2½ hours. We were back in cattle country. This land was given to Ngai Tahu as part of their settlement with the Crown, and they have generously gifted back the mountain tops (Ka Whenua Roimata—The Lands of Tears). They leased some to DoC in perpetuity for us to enjoy for tramping, fishing and hunting.

Immediately after leaving the hut, we crossed a similar narrow gorge via a similar bridge to the true left of the Caples River. A very derelict hut was spotted below the Old Birchdale Homestead, marked by poplars. The lofty towering ranges of the area are generally impressive. The trail itself, less so.

We got to the car park just as there was a wispy sun-shower but it soon stopped. Aarn joined us for cuppas at a cafe in Glenorchy in a setting reminiscent of Raffles with the bamboo furniture. As there was no gluten-free option, I ate a homemade sandwich discreetly. Frank's coffee was plonked in front of Aarn who sampled it. Though Frank was still happy to drink it, the management replaced his coffee. Raymond, once again, drove all the way home as I “chewed his ear” to make sure he stayed alert. Keith, the back-up driver, snoozed briefly. We stopped at Cromwell for eats with Frank and I having a nutritious, restorative brownie (not). Luckily, we had our lunch to nibble on, instead of a pie on the way home.

The route to SH1 via Tiplady Road and Orari on good roads is way-shorter than going via Geraldine. Raymond dropped Frank and me at home but Keith's car was still with the mechanic, so Pete had to drop Keith off at Cass Bay. Thanks go to Raymond for this well-organized trip and to the guys for your good company.

We were: **Raymond Ford, Peter Umbers, Aarn Tate, John Robinson, Keith Hoard, Frank King and Honora Renwick.** 🏔️ HR



Mid-Greenstone Valley_2025_0523_1435



The Darrans from the stone cairn, McKellar Pass_2025_0524_1208



Crossing into Upper Caples Valley_2025_0524_1230



Rose Red and five of the six tall-dwarves at McKellar Hut. All pics by Raymond.