Peninsula Tramping Club (Inc)

FOOTNOTES

October 2026

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
Web address	www.ptc.nz (scan Barcode)
E-mail	secretary@ptc.nz (General correspondence and change of contact details)
Facebook name	Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch

PTC Website

PTC Facebook Page

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.

NEW MEMBER ENQUIRIES

Please contact a committee member (see the last page of this newsletter for contact numbers) or the leader of a trip you want to go on.

CLUB NIGHTS

Club Nights are held on the **second Tuesday** of the month at **Lancaster Park Community Centre, 40 Stevens St, Waltham** at 7.45pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

Tues 13 October

Chatham Islands

Mike Bourke (and potentially others) will talk about a recent trip to the Chatham Islands to experience some of the scenic delights on offer. Some 800km east of Christchurch, it can be both remote and only a 2 hour flight away.

Tues 10 November

BANKS PENINSULA CONSERVATION TRUST

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust

Kate Whyte will talk about the Trusts pest management work and their habitat protection and restoration projects. These include the reintroduction of Tui to the peninsula, supporting farm biodiversity, community education and hosting volunteer planting, weed control and biodiversity monitoring projects.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 20th October
Rhododendron Walk at Ilam Gardens and Dinner

We will enjoy a pre -dinner walk around Ilam Gardens to admire the Rhododendrons (which should be at full bloom) then walk down the road to Zyka Indian Cuisine for dinner.

Please contact Heather Hughes (021 0797 101 or heather@nivek.co.nz) if you would like to come.
Exact Meeting place and time to be confirmed. Likely between 6-6.30pm

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

MESSAGES

Surplus Gear Disposal

At the December meeting surplus tents will be offered to members for a donation. So you can see what you are getting we will hold a Tent pitching competition first.

Many of the tents are larger / heavier than most Trampers would like to carry now but would be excellent for car or backyard camping.

4 Minarets (2 person)
5 Olympus's (2 person)
1 Polaris (3 Person)
2 Spectrums (4 person)

New Meeting Place

As Church corner is now quite busy and has little parking we are trialling some new meeting places for trips heading west and welcome any feedback.

Mobil Yaldhurst (west of the pub) where there is easy parking in large grass area by the road.

Rannock Drive, Broomfield (beside the grassy areas, away from the houses).
From Yaldhurst road, turn left at lights by NPD Yaldhurst, then 2nd left into Rannock Drive.

TRIPS

All proposals for trips, offers to lead, changes to trips or trip schedules must be directed to the trip planner Chris Leaver newptc75@gmail.com so the trip can be reviewed, put onto the PTC calendar and advertised. 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. We want to offer trips with ranges of difficulty so even if you haven't ventured out in a wee while, please consider leading an "easy" level trip for those members who need a less arduous or slower pace trip.

Please contact the trip leader if you intend (or are just thinking about) going on a trip. This helps the trip leader with planning and you can be contacted directly if for some reason plans change or the trip is cancelled.

4 Oct
Sun
●
Easy - Mod

Woolshed Creek Hut — *Hakatere*

Keith Hoard

This easy/moderate trip follows an historic tramway that runs beside Woolshed Creek, passing through attractive beech forest. The track steepens on the way to the old Blackburn Mine entrance, which is reached after about an hour. From there, the track climbs to a high point (trig R, 934 m) with superb views of the upper Ashburton Gorge, before descending to Woolshed Creek Hut. Return via Bus Stop Track with option to detour to pt. 1373. Return to carpark via South Face Track. Price/car $97.

Meet 7:45am inside Gate 2 The Old Princess Margaret Hospital site (Fairview street end).
Contact Keith by **3rd October** **021 268 8868**

9-11 Oct
Fri-Sat
/Sat-Sun
●●
Easy-Mod

Ashley/Rakahuri/Youngman Stream — *Puketeraki Range*

Graeme Nicholas

Easy-moderate tramp from Lees Valley to Youngman Stream Hut. Possible circuit via Tarn Hut over the tops.
Dates are flexible Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun
Contact Graeme by **4th October** **027 504 7726**

10 Sept
Sat
●
Easy- Mod

Bealey Spur — *Arthurs Pass*

Jaimee Latham

A gentle up-hill, 12 km return walk to an interesting historic hut on the edge of the bush. Beech forest, tussocks and tarns make this an interesting trip with spectacular views of the Waimakariri River and many peaks in the national park. Cost $98/car

Meet 8.30 am at Mobil Yaldhurst where there is easy parking in large grass area by the road.
Contact Jaimee by **8th October** **020 4134 3625**

11 Oct
Sun
●
Moderate

Mt Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki from Orton Bradley *Banks Peninsula*

Murray Hight

A moderate return (16.6 km) trip following a well marked trail and 4WD track, through very picturesque bush and farmland to 913m Herbert Peak (899m elevation gain and approx 3.5 hour climb). Lunch at the top with superb views of harbour, mountains and Southern Ocean.
Bring lots of liquids to rehydrate, cash for transport ($20/car) plus $5.00 charge per passenger, paid to Orton Bradley on the way in. (25 minute drive to Orton Bradley Park).

Meet inside car park Gate2 Princess Margaret Hospital by 8.20am for a 8.30 departure
Contact Murray by **9th October** **027 555 0059**

17 Oct
Sat
●
Easy - Mod

Balmoral Forest Fire Lookout and beyond *Hurunui Hills*

Anne Hunter

This easy/moderate about 5 hour walk climbs for 30mins to the historic Balmoral Forest Fire Lookout. From there we sidle in a north-easterly direction across the grain of several minor valleys and tops overlooking the Hurunui River and Culverden basin. There will be short steep climbs and descents on a mosaic of farm tracks, fencelines, and natural features, in interesting open grassland and grey scrub with an altitude range 200-350m. We finish at Grant and Anne Hunter's mini forest on Hurunui Bluff Road. Check out their range of mostly exotic trees (not radiata) and pockets of native plants that have transformed the dry landscape of 20 years ago, have a cuppa, and get returned to the cars. Cost $63/car. If weather is bad we may change the date to Sunday 18 October.

Meet 8.30am Placemakers, Cranford St.
Text Anne by **16th October** **021 0231 3125**

23-25 Oct
Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun
●●
Easy-Mod

Pōhatu /Flea Bay *Banks Peninsula*

Chris Leaver

This overnight farm stay within mainland New Zealand's largest white-flippered penguin (kororā) colony has over 1500 penguins breeding in the marine reserve there. The farm stay includes a free evening penguin tour, plus an optional extra 8:30am guided sea kayak. There is a safe beach for swimming, bush and plenty of easy/moderate walks but no cell phone reception. By spending time at Flea Bay you are helping the preservation of these beautiful birds for future generations. Farm stay, shared kitchen and toilet facilities, self-drive option: $165/person for a minimum of 6 people or $185 for 4 or 5 people. Sea-kayaking: $125 per person, for 1 to 3 persons; $105 per person, for 4 persons or more. For the self-drive least expensive option we need sufficient 4WD vehicles to arrive between 2:30 – 4pm (leave Christchurch by 11:45 to make the most of the day). Check out next day 11am. Shared transport cost $68/car. Bookings (stating preferred days) required as soon as possible to secure accommodation (first booked get to have their preferred days). For more information see https://www.pohatu.co.nz/

Book with Chris **ASAP** **021 0251 2011**

24 Oct | **Waterfall Track (Orton Bradley Park)** | *Banks Peninsula*

Sat | **Jaimee Latham**

● **Easy / Mod**

This easy/moderate loop trip through farmland and native bush takes in two stunning waterfalls and beautiful views of the harbour. The terrain is varied with some steep sections, mud, river crossings and slippery surfaces so suggest wearing boots. Bring cash for transport ($20/car) plus $5.00 charge per passenger, paid to Orton Bradley on the way in.

Meet Gate2 inside car park of the old Princess Margaret Hospital site by 8.30 am.

Contact Jaimee by **23rd October** **Phone number or email**

31 Oct | **Kereru loop track** | *Mt Thomas*

Sat | **Graeme Nicholas**

● **Moderate**

Moderate walk through both beech and exotic forest to the top of Mt Thomas with views over Canterbury. Cost $55 per car.

Depart at 8am from outside Placemakers, Cranford Street.

Contact Graeme by **30th October.** **027 504 7726**

7 Nov | **Tiromoana Bush** | *Waipara*

Sat | **Jaimee Latham**

● **Easy - Mod**

An easy-moderate trip along the coast in North Canterbury. Walk through remnant forest and around wetlands. Spectacular coastal cliffs, with views of Pegasus Bay and Banks Peninsula in the distance. Cost $44 per car.

Meet 8:30am Placemakers Cranford Street.

Text Jaimee by **6th November** **020 4134 3625**

14 or 15 Nov | **Mt Barrosa** | *Clent Hills*

Sat or Sun | **Graeme Nicholas**

● **Moderate**

A moderate trip up from the Ashburton Gorge Rd. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to a 1364m peak. If weather is bad then may be run on Sunday 15 Nov. Cost $105/car.

Meet 8.30am on Rannock Drive, Broomfield (away from the houses).
Left at lights by NPD Yaldhurst, then 2nd left into Rannock Drive.

Text Graeme by **13th November** **027 504 7726**

13-15 Nov | **Casey Binser** | *Arthurs Pass*

Fri-Sun | **Chris Leaver**

●● or ●●● **Easy/Mod**

This is a pleasant easy/moderate 2 or 3 day tramp, crossing easy saddles on well-defined tracks through open mountain beech forest to stay at the 12 bunk serviced Casey hut ($25 or hut pass). Possible day trip to Lake Minchin. Dates to suit those interested/availability of hut and/or the weather. Cost for transport $104/car.

Contact Chris by **8th November** **021 0251 2011**

22 Nov
Sun
●
Moderate

Erewhon Ski Hut — *Mt Potts range*

Murray Height

Drive to Mount Somers and take the Hakatere Potts road to just before Erewhon Station. It is approx.140 km (1 hour forty mins) each way. The trip is well marked with a DOC sign on the side of the road. Starting at 650 metres elevation we follow the old 4WD track up to the Ski field and Erewhon Hut. The hut itself is private and kept locked, but there is a long drop available for trampers passing through. Even without hut access, the surrounding landscape makes the effort worthwhile – open ridgelines, vast skies, views of The Rangitata River/ Mt Sunday and the sense of being on the edge of something much bigger. The return trip takes around three hours, making it a manageable but rewarding day hike. Depending on who is interested we could split into a faster and slower group - with the faster group possibly climbing Mt Potts. Cost $112/car.

Meet 8.20 am at the West Melton Pub Car park for an 8:30 departure
Text Murray by **21st November** **roslynfarm@gmail.com or 027 555 0059**

28 Nov
Sat
●
Easy & Easy/Mod

Awa Awa Rata Reserve — *Mt Hutt*

Evelien Baas

From the rhododendron garden car park, take either an easy (shorter loop track) or easy-moderate (up to Scott's Saddle for a view up to Mt Hutt skifield and across to the plains) walk up through native forest. Bring food to share at a picnic/barbecue and enjoy the blooms. Cost $81/car

Meet 8.30am on Rannock Drive, Broomfield (away from the houses).
Left at lights by NPD Yaldhurst, then 2nd left into Rannock Drive.
Text Evelien by **27th November** **027 557 5521**

19 March 2027
Fri-Wed
●●●●●●
Mod

Ruapehu Round The Mountain — *North Is*

Chris Leaver

This 6 day moderate trip traverses a myriad of volcanic landscapes, ranging from mountain beech forest, tussock country and alpine herb fields to desert lands and glacial river valleys. Although a greater part of the track is in an alpine environment, there are no major alpine passes but it is a back country remote experience. We need to book one great walk hut (Waihohonu Hut) $44 and 5 back country huts $14 or hut pass. Leaving Christchurch about 16 March to begin tramp hopefully 19 March. Staying A-Frame hut before and after. For description of walk see: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/tongariro-taupo/tongariro-national-park-walks.pdf

Contact Chris Leaver **ASAP** as we need to finalise this trip. **021 0251 2011**

TRIP REPORTS

*Please email **trip reports** and photo's to the editor at heather@nivek.co.nz by the 25th of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Photos need to be around 640x480 pixels (about 100 to 200 KB). Photos with date and time in the file-name allow them to be placed in the correct order.*

Benmore Hut

26 August 2026

Six keen trampers met at the West Melton Pub car park enthusiastic about today's 17km round trip. On the way we picked up Aarn to make seven. As we parked the cars at Benmore station, we were met by some strong winds, which were a prelude of things to come.

Initially we followed the Benmore stream up to the Annavale turn off, then it was following a four wheel drive track, which was steep in places, with strong winds prevailing. After 2.5 hours we arrived at the Benmore Hut for lunch.

After lunch we followed the Benmore stream down a very muddy track, arriving back at the cars two hours after leaving the hut.

Thank you to the following participants Aarn, Chris, Darcy, Bill, Wendy and Lee. Murray Height

Photo's by MH

Godley Head

13 August 2026

Four keen trampers met at the Scarborough clock tower for today's tramp. It had been a while since I had last walked the Flowers track. It certainly tests fitness, with great views over the sea, then along the beach to the Taylors Mistake/Godley Heads track.
At Godley Heads we had an early lunch followed by the Loop track back to Taylors Mistake. The walk back over Flowers was uneventful, but made interesting with texts from a PTC member updating me on the fourth rugby test against the Boks.

Thanks to Darcy, Lee and Karen for good company Murray Height
Photo's by MH (views) and KF (Hut)

Bowenvale Circuit

5 Sept 2026

Three of us met at the Sign of the Takahe for a short tramp on the Port Hills. By the time we got to The Sign of the Kiwi, it was blowing a cold wind. We looked towards Porters Pass and agreed the weather was changing.
Then it is a short walk along the Summit road, before dropping down into the Bowenvale Valley. We followed the signage through to Victoria Park and back to the cars.
There are plenty of good walks in the Port Hills, I encourage others in PTC to put their hand up and a lead a tramp
Thanks to Darcy and Graeme for the company
Murray Height
Photo by MH

Helicopter Hill

5 September 2026

We met up at 9 am at the Mobile Yaldhurst. The weather forecast was for a bit of precipitation with it clearing so we decided to go anyway. It was a nice up and down walk to begin with through the forest floor crossing some streams. A bit of careful boulder hopping on the first stream was required to keep our feet dry. We stopped half way up for morning tea and continued up out onto the exposed part of the walk where it became noticeably steeper. By this stage the drizzle had stopped. We were well rewarded at the top with amazing views.

We returned the same route down back to our cars and in time to get a takeaway coffee at Springfield for afternoon tea.

Jaimee(leader), Carolyn, Catherine JL

Photo's -JL

Bealey Spur

20 September 2026

Six trampers (including our leader) trustingly followed me to the far end of the carpark where I assured them there was a direct track which avoided the walk up the road. The track was there (alongside a brand new toilet and more carparks) however it was marked as closed (and there seemed to be some windfalls) so we turned around and headed back up the road. It was a pleasant walk up through the trees – shady but out of the wind. The views were fabulous with the snow-capped mountains looking especially crisp in the clear air. Unfortunately the wind was a bit chilled out in the open so we didn't linger.

After lunch at the hut the group decided to split with Kevin, Andy and Carolyn continuing further up the ridge for even better views. After a fairly brisk walk back downhill the rest of us able to head home leaving Kevin's car for the others. The intrepid three investigated the closed track on the way down and reported that it was being upgraded and appeared nearly finished. In fact the whole track is being upgraded with (for better or worse?) steps being put in and some of the muddy areas being fixed.

Chris (Leader), Graham T, Heather, Kevin, Andy, Carolyn, Sue HH

Photo's by Heather (above)

Photo's by Kevin (below)

NOTES

Committee			
Co-Presidents	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726	gra.nicholas@gmail.com
	Evelien Baas	027 557 5521	baasevelien@gmail.com
Treasurer / Secretary	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726	gra.nicholas@gmail.com
Trip Planner	Chris Leaver	021 0251 2011	newptc75@gmail.com
Editor	Heather Hughes	021 0797 101	heather@nivek.co.nz
Gear Custodian	Evelien Baas	027 557 5521	baasevelien@gmail.com
Committee	Kevin Hughes	03 332 6281	home@nivek.co.nz
	Jaimee Latham	020 4134 3625	Jldarkhorse124@gmail.com

FMC Backcountry Magazines: These are now sent out as digital copies. Please, contact Mary McKeown at marylmckeown@yahoo.co.nz or 021 269 1165, if you would like to read a printed copy of the latest edition of FMC's Backcountry magazine.

FMC Cards: FMC Cards are no longer being posted out to members. They are available for members to pick up at the monthly meeting. Alternatively contact Graeme Nicholas (027 504 7726) to make alternative arrangements to pick one up.

Post Box: Due to changes at NZ Post, and changes in mailing habits, we have now terminated our PTC NZ Post Box so we no longer have a postal address. All correspondence should now be sent electronically to secretary@ptc.nz

Contacts: Messages to secretary@ptc.nz are being monitored however if you want to contact a PTC committee member or Trip Leader it is best to please email them directly.
If you want a message sent to all members by PTC Communicator, please e-mail the relevant committee member (e.g. trip planner, secretary etc) and include your name and email or phone number so recipients can contact you.
Please do not reply to PTC communicator as these replies do not go to anyone.

PLB's and First Aid Kits: Are held at the following locations around Christchurch.

Held By	Location	Contact
Evelien Baas	Burnside	027 557 5521
Graeme Nicholas	Marshlands	027 504 7726
Merv Meredith	Halswell	027 372 7318 / 322 7239