



March 2025

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| PTC | Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.) |
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| Correspondence | All correspondence to the Secretary, including change of contact details |

Committee

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| 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 | 027 413 6468 |

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.

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| Tue 11 March | AGM Our 93rd Annual General Meeting will include Election of Officers and Executive members any notified motions. The new club constitution to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 will be discussed. Full details in NOTES, page 2. |
| 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". |

SOCIAL EVENTS

Milestone

At the February club night, we celebrated Margaret's 90th birthday. Photographs and stories were shared. Members brought decorations and supper and Karen decorated the cake splendidly, with an alpine theme.



Friday 7th Eritrean, 14th March Nepali

Share Kai and a stroll around St Albans. **Meet at 5.30pm** outside St Albans Community Centre near the corner of Caledonian Rd and Ranfurly St for a short walk to Abberley Park or surrounding streets with their cute colonial cottages then back to the Community Centre about 6.15pm. Connect with others over tasty food and share in the culture and cuisine of the migrant Ōtautahi community in a beautiful garden setting at Kohinga, St Albans Community Centre. Indoor seating is usually available. Take a sun hat. Food from \$5, meals \$18, main and sweet from \$20, drinks \$4. Door sales. Pay wave and cash accepted. For takeaways please take your own container. All proceeds are kept by the refugee and migrant-background cooks involved in the [Share Kai Cooks Collective](#).

For the most up-to-date Social Events, check the [PTC Facebook page](#). Maureen Thompson has been organising daytime and evening events lately, but needs help from others for this to continue.

NOTES

Notice of 2025 AGM

Peninsula TC's 93rd Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, on **Tuesday 11th March 2025 starting promptly at 7.30pm**.

The agenda will include the Election of Officers and Executive members

Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available on the night.

The complete AGM agenda, including any Notices of Motion received, was circulated in late February.

Note that motions circulated will include one from the Executive proposing the adoption of the new club Constitution we have been working on, to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. When you receive the email, please have a browse through this important document prior to the AGM.

Merv Meredith
Secretary
secretary@ptc.nz

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

8-Mar [Kowhai Hut](#)

Saturday Graeme Nicholas, 027 504 7726

- An easy-moderate walk to the hut and beyond, at the foot of Mt Torlesse.
Meet 8am, Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd. Please phone leader to book on trip

21-23 Mar [Hokitika Base](#)

Fri-Sun Graeme Nicholas, 027 504 7726

- Staying in Hokitika and doing a range of walks near Lake Kaniere, such as, around the lake walkway, Mt Tuhua, Mahinapua Walkway. Take your kayak or bike.
Book by 2 March

23-Mar [Coach Stream--Rabbit Hill](#)

Sun Merv Meredith, 322 7239

- An easy-moderate round-trip up the Coach Stream route, starting from the bend at the bottom of Porters Pass, to join the Trig M track. We then cruise along the top ridge to 1198m Rabbit Hill at the southern end. Returning the same way.
Meet 8am at Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd.

30-Mar [Peak Hill](#)

Sun Merv Meredith 322 7239

- Easy-moderate climb from Algidis Road in open country to this 1240m hill with absolutely superb views of Lake Coleridge to the north-east and the Rakaia River to the south-west.
Meet 8am at Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd.

- 12-Apr** [Middle Waipara Gorge](#)
Saturday **Graeme Nicholas 027 504 7726**
 ● 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** [Nina Hut](#)
Sun-Mon **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.
Book by Sun 6 Apr
- 20-Apr** [Lyndon Saddle - Helicopter Hill](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ● 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 Circuit](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239, glendamermv@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 tussocklands of the Hakatere area.
Book by 2 Apr
- 17-18 May** [Potts River--Dogs Range--Mystery Lake Circuit](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239, glendamermv@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 in docx format with minimal formatting. Email text is also fine. Photos need to be around 640x480 pixels. That's about 100 to 200 kilobytes. Photos with date and time in the file-name allow them to be placed in the correct order. 📷

Dale Tops and Mt Adams

16-19 December 2024

Raymond's Lake Mavis trip had to be cancelled due to the weather, so Geoff suggested a mid-week alternative to the West Coast in a forecast fine period. Birthdays and FMC meetings prevented a leisurely trip west the day before, so it was an early morning start, followed by a scenic drive through the fire-damaged

Craigieburns, over Arthurs Pass, collecting Joke and Andrew, before arriving at the Parker Creek access. The ridge disappeared steeply into the clouds and a 1500m ascent, starting at 1.30pm didn't look like an enjoyable afternoon's activity. It wasn't.

The start of Andrew's recently cut track was not easy to find and the recent rain had brought down additional obstacles on the ridge. We were glad of his navigational guidance. Light rain became torrential with lightning and thunder as we approached the bush-line. The rain then eased but the wind made progress unpleasant. Multiple tops on the ridge required slippery snowgrass sidles or ascents. We finally reached the top at about 8pm and started looking for campsites but numerous tarns were more suited to surfing than camping until we descended into the comparative shelter of a large basin. Most of us retreated to the tents, leaving Geoff to cook Sonja's risotto, before we finally went to bed, about 11.30pm.

We emerged the next morning to what felt like a different planet, without a breath of wind or a cloud in the sky. The Dale Tops were revealed in all their splendour. Small streams linked a series of tarns that reflected the high peaks of the Main Divide, from Tasman and Cook to the south and the peaks around the Garden of Eden in the east. No one had much energy after the day before and the prospect of a comparatively short day enabled a leisurely breakfast and photograph session before a 10am start. The route led across the basin and some steep snowgrass sidles before a crafty Andrew route through a ravine led to a low saddle into the head of the main Dale River.

The vista opened with a view of a series of impressive spurs leading up to the Mt Adams Range. The route on the true left to the upper basin, through a system of rocky ridges, allowed reasonable travel. Some discussion about campsites resulted in a final climb to a sheltered terrace at about 1600m. Geoff headed up onto the range to recce the route for the next day and then he, Andrew and Joke departed for a post-dinner trip to the saddle, discussing routes up Escape Col and down into the Little Man River. Curious kea arrived with the evening light, looking for entertainment, possibly considering the claw resistance of the Dyneema fabric on the tents.

The next day was the big one, the traverse along Mt Adams Range. We climbed the spur between Dale and Little Man Rivers, reached the range at 1824m and gazed in awe at a significant spire just ahead. Raymond and Geoff kicked and cut steps up a gap between the rock face and snow bank, while cloud started to stream westward, threatening to settle for the day. Joke decided that she didn't want to get to Escape Col, find that she couldn't do it and have to retreat and down-climb the spire. She and Andrew decided to turn back and, while the rest of us wavered, Geoff persuaded us that we could continue. Soon after climbing the spire, the cloud disappeared completely. We sidled left on many



2024:12:17 07:54_Dale Tops Camp. Photo by GS

of the rocky peaks before arriving at Escape Col. The central snow gullies looked potentially blocked but the rock to the west looked reasonable, and so it proved, solid and climbable. That led to easier snow slopes above, and by 4pm we had arrived at 2100m, the top of next day's descent route. The 2208m summit of Mt Adams beckoned and we set off in good crampon conditions and reached the top by 5pm. It was glorious, with little wind, some low cloud on the coast and visibility stretching from the Olivines to the Paparoas. The opportunity to be on top in those conditions is rare, so we didn't leave the top until just before 6pm.



2024:12:17 12:33_ Upper Dale Basin and Mt Adams Range. Photo by GS

We returned to the packs, decided to drop to lower terraces while the snow was soft, and reached a series of terraces at 1740m by 8pm.

Our last day meant some serious height loss with consequences for the knees. The first section with a definite foot trail to the turning point at 1545m was easy in comparison to the Dale Top track. The next section to the bush-line was subject to some serious erosion into the gully to the north. Large cracks were apparent and, while we tried to keep south of them, we kept encountering further cracks hidden in the tussock. Heavy rain or an earthquake would send large sections of ridge down the precipice. The track descends steeply from the bush-line at 1200m and it was a relief to reach Little Man River for a refreshing swim.

The river has changed significantly, with large quantities of gravel after recent floods, and under normal flows does not require crossing. It was a great trip to a rarely-visited area. Andrew's re-cutting of the track has allowed access and the opportunity for a round-trip incorporating an ascent of Mt Adams.

Trampers: **Andrew Buglass, Raymond Ford, Joke de Rijke, Sonja Risa, Geoff Spearpoint (leader) and Gary Huish.** 🏔️ GH



On Mt Adams. Photo by SR

Barron Saddle 1–8 February 2025

On 1 February 2025, we were standing in the afternoon heat on the shoulder of the Mount Cook Road. Party gear and meals for eight days were laid out and evenly distributed amongst the party and squeezed into packs, together with ice axes, crampons and helmets.

This was my first PTC alpine trip with the others, having completed many adventures with Geoff over the years. The long-range forecast was exceptionally good as we set off up Bush Stream. It was not long before we stopped for the first swim. As we climbed around boulders in the narrowing stream, deeper pools enticed another dip in the chilly waters.

Geoff had checked out the route a month earlier and knew of a campsite on a small terrace at about 1100m opposite a bivvy rock. The routines of lighting stoves and scratching out tent sites were established. We were soon enjoying hot drinks and a meal as the sun dropped behind the Ben Ohau Range. Kea circled high above but did not come down to investigate.

Morning sun warmed the campsite as we had coffee and breakfast around a small fire. Travel up to a saddle between point 2218m and 2172m was straight-forward and we had lunch looking down into the Dobson Valley and over to the Naumann Range. We made a careful descent down scree to a tarn and a swim and then a leisurely walk to find a campsite at 1500m. A mob of tahr scattered as we made our decent. High cloud parted and we had glimpses of Mt Hopkins, the Black Tower and Barron Saddle.

Geoff went off to investigate possible bluff-free routes to the valley floor. This proved useful and the following morning we made safe progress down a gully, then easy travel through beech forest to a grassy river terrace and a perfect campsite beside a small waterfall at 800m. A very hot afternoon was spent by some of the team, visiting Kennedy Memorial Hut, located about 4km down-valley.



2025 0204 1911_Barron Saddle. Photo by GS

Next morning, we made good time to Reardon Hut, then travelled up terraces, eating snow berries as we went. A steep side on old moraine took us to the foot of the route to Barron Saddle. This was the crux of the trip, and the steep bluffs looked a bit unpleasant. Geoff, Raymond and Tony explored access up a narrow gully, while the rest of us sheltered from the heat and watched rocks bounce down an alternative gully a little higher up the valley. The longer we watched the more we realised that this alternative gully was not an option. We were comforted to hear that if we stuck together as a tight group, the narrow gully provided access to a rib and more gentle slopes below the saddle.

We safely negotiated the gully, but we had to move onto rotten rock on the adjacent slope as we climbed out of the gully, requiring every foothold to be carefully checked. We were pleased to reach firmer ground for the final push to the saddle. We all had smiles as we looked back down the Dobson, knowing that it was now just an easy traverse to Barron Saddle Hut.

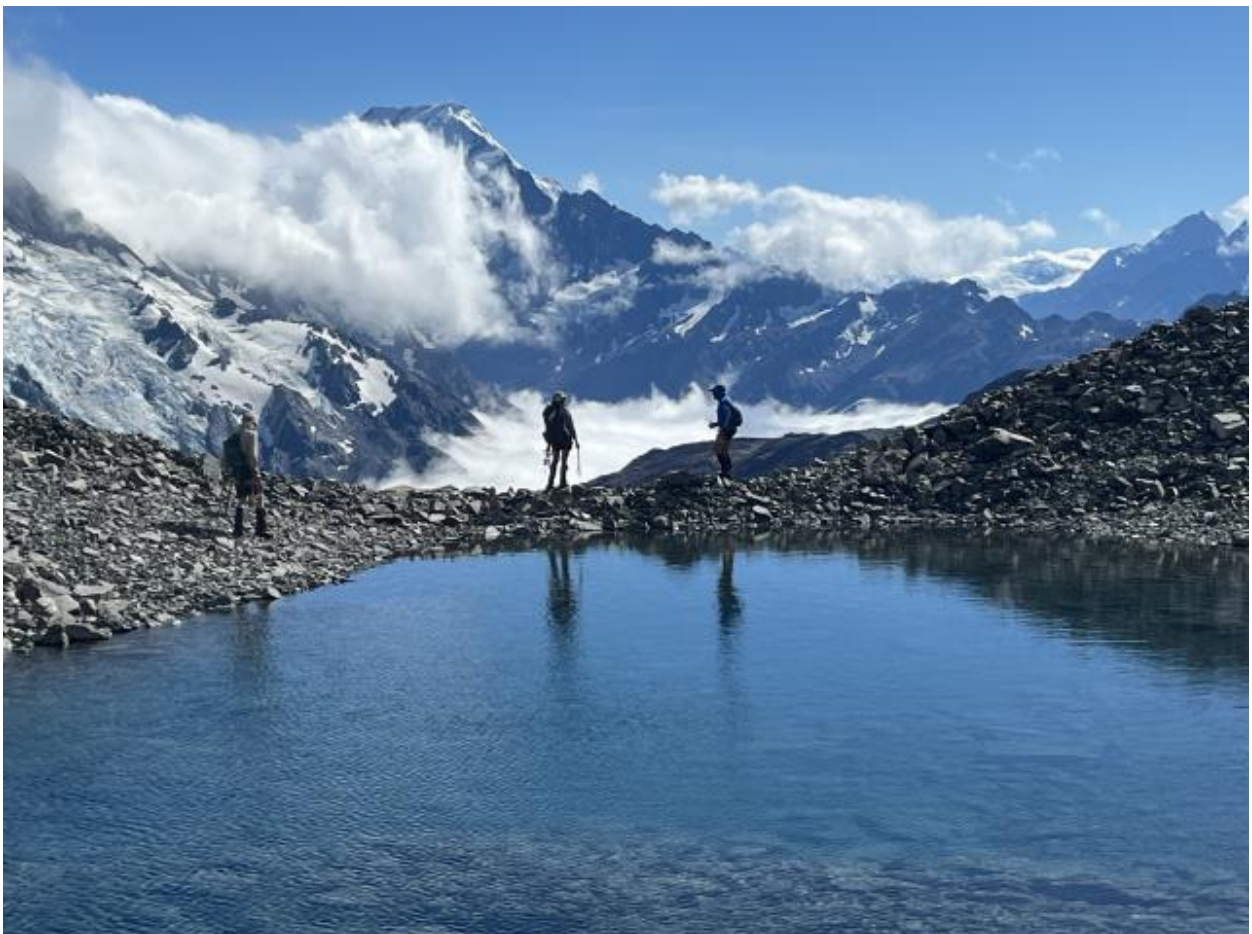
The hut had recently been repainted and was in excellent condition. It was a worthy destination and provided views down the Mueller Glacier. The last hut-book entry was in November, with most people skiing in and the occasionally party climbing the Scissors and dropping into the Landsborough Valley. The next day was spent relaxing and exploring the area.

The mountain forecast signalled rain was on the way as we made our way down the glacier. Access was straight-forward but the rapid shrinking of the glacier soon made us pick a route through mounds of rubble. A rock wren bobbed on nearby rocks as we turned off, up the Metelille Glacier. As we lunched near the stream, either the same bird or another bobbed over to investigate. Raymond took it as a good omen for finding a good route up. We picked a nice, straightforward route through the bluffs and set up camp amongst the rocks at 1800m. We had fine views of Aoraki Mt Cook and spied Sefton Biv as it caught the late afternoon light.

The following morning, we explored the “middle route” to an uncharted tarn, and potential campsite toward the Sladden Glacier. After lunch we climbed to the Annette Plateau and found a lovely, flat camp-site beside meltwater at the end of the ice. Cloud was spilling over from the west, but the forecast rain did not arrive. Strong gusty wind however buffeted the tents overnight. We packed early and made the sidle around to Mueller Hut. We had hot drinks and sheltered on the veranda before making the final decent to White Horse Hill. Dozens of people were climbing up from Sealy Tarns and in the afternoon heat we made our way down the final 1000 steps to the car park.



2025 0205 0910_Barron Saddle and Mueller Icefall. Photo by GH.



2025 0207 1041_Aoraki from Metelille Tarn – IW.

After a week of mountain solitude, it was a bit of a shock to be back in the congested Mt Cook village where no car parks could be found. We regrouped for burgers at Tekapo and ice-creams at Geraldine.

We thanked Geoff with a gift basket for organising a series of wonderful alpine trips over seventeen years. I certainly appreciated this opportunity to explore areas I had always wanted to visit.

Trampers: **Raymond Ford, Gary Huish, Tony Lawton, Sonja Risa, Geoff Spearpoint (leader), Liz Wightwick, Gaylene Wilkinson, Peter Umbers and Ian Wightwick.** 🌲 IW