Peninsula Tramping Club (Inc)

FOOTNOTES

September 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

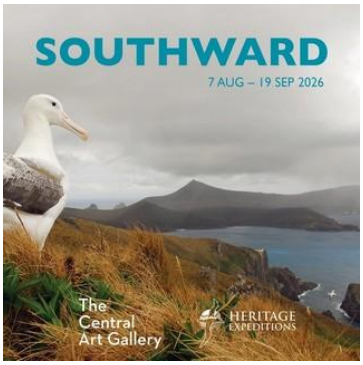
Please contact a committee member (see the last page of this newsletter for contact numbers) or the leader of a trip you want to go on.

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 8 September	**Members Photo Night /FMC / Surplus Gear** Bring (on a USB) a selection of your best tramping photos from recent trips to share with club members. Pictures can be from Club or private trips. Raymond Ford will also give a brief **update from FMC**. **Surplus Club gear** will also be available for club members for a donation. More information in messages below.
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.

SOCIAL EVENTS



Wednesday 16 September

Southward Art Exhibition and Dinner or drink at Riverside

Southward is an art exhibition inspired after journeying to the Sub Antarctic Islands. You will see sculptures, photos, drawings and paintings brimming with stylised representations of harsh landscapes; dynamic seas; atmospheric weather; and resilient plant, bird, and wildlife.
https://www.artscentre.org.nz/whats-on/southward/

Afterwards if interested: The Christchurch Art Gallery to view Birdland Te Kahui Manu
https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/exhibitions/bird-land

From there we could have an early drink or dinner at Riverside.

Please phone Chris Leaver (021 0251 2011) if you would like to come.
M**eet** at 3.15pm at the entrance. The Central Art Gallery in Te Matatiki Toi Ora/The Art Centre.
Both Exhibitions are free.

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 September meeting the following surplus gear will be offered to members for a donation.

- Billies : 4 pint, 6 pint, 8 pint
- Coleman Featherlite 400 fuel stoves
- Coleman Featherlite 442 fuel Stoves
- Fuel Bottles
- Ice Axes (older heavier ones)

NOTE: Pictures are representative, not actual items.

B

Ruapehu Base Camp

Monday 8 March 27 (suggest up to 1 week)

Staying in the Alpine Sports Club's A-frame hut: 32 bunks (4 bunks to a bunkroom) $42.50/night/person (accommodation only).
In good weather it is a 15 minute walk from car park 2 at the top of Bruce Road (at the bottom of the Whakapapa ski field lift) up to the hut. Use a backpack to carry gear including all our own food.
People could leave for a multi-day tramp (see below) and then return to the hut so long as their actual days stayed in the hut were clear. Either car pool or take public transport to Tongariro National Park.
Check out: https://www.alpinesports.org.nz/huts/mt-ruapehu/

Many longer and shorter walks see: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/tongariro-taupo/tongariro-national-park-walks.pdf

Round the mountain track

Suggest 5 days 9-13 March 2026 Tues-Sat from Whakapapa Village
Leader Chris Leaver 021 0251 2011 or newptc75@gmail.com

This multi day 66km loop trip takes in the varied volcanic landscape of Mt Ruapehu. From wind sculptured sands, stark volcanic mountain views on the eastern rain shadow side; to spectacular waterfalls tumbling over lava blocks and picturesque mountain beech forest and kaikawaka (mountain cedar). The Old Waihohonu Hut built in 1904, is the oldest existing mountain hut in Aotearoa and the first in Tongariro National Park.
Day1 to Waihohonu Hut (5.5 hr) which is also on the Northern Circuit Great walk $44.
3 back country serviced huts ($14 or use your hut pass) Rangipo (5 hr), Mangaehuehu Hut (5.5 hr), Mangaturuturu(4 hr) and all the way out to Bruce Road (6hr).
We could skip a night at Waihohonu Hut if dropped off at the Waihohonu track end on the Dessert Road 35 km south of Turangi.
This would make the trip 4 days with 3 huts. These are all bookable huts so if interested contact Chris as soon as possible.
https://www.visitruapehu.com/see-do/walking-hiking/round-the-mountain-track

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.

5 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 **1st September** **020 4134 3625**

13 Sept
Sun
●
Easy- Mod

Sumner to Awaroa/Godley Head — *Port Hills*

Joy Schroeder

We take the steep Flowers track over Scarborough Hill and down to Taylors Mistake. From there we join the historic Godley Head Walkway out to Boulder Bay and on to Scotts Cabin. Return on a loop track back to Taylors, then usual route back to Sumner.
Contact Joy (text only) you are planning to come.

Meet 9am at Sumner clock tower on the Esplanade.
Text Joy by **11th September** **027 751 4655**

20 Sept
Sun
●
Easy- Mod

Panama Rock/Otepatotu Reserve — *Banks Peninsula*

Chris Leaver

Starting in Le Bons Bay we'll explore tracks in Panama Rock Reserve including the grunt up to Laverick Ridge road. Then follow a legal road to Otepatotu Reserve and 755m Lavericks Peak. Spectacular views of the dyke, bays and remnant totara forest. Cost $69/car

Meet at 8.30 outside Halswell school on Halswell rd (at the bend)
Contact Chris by **18th September** **021 0251 2011**

27 Sept
Sun
●
Moderate

Mt Oxford — *Canterbury Foothills*

Murray Hight

Drive through the Waimakariri Gorge to Mountain Road, Coopers Creek car park. After crossing a small stream, we walk through Beech Forest on a well-marked track. As we climb, the forest eventually gives way to Snow Tussock and open hill country, with great views of the plains and Lees Valley on a clear day. After lunch at the top, retrace our steps back to the cars making an approx. 10 km 7 hour walk. Bring warm clothing and cash to pay the drivers. Map, BW22. Cost $38/car

Meet at West Melton pub carpark 8.30am.
Text Murray by **24th September** **027 555 0059**

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**

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**

31 Oct
Sat
●
Moderate

Kereru loop track — *Mt Thomas*

Graeme Nicholas

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
Sat
●
Easy - Mod

Tiromoana Bush — *Waipara*

Jaimee Latham

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**

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.*

Cockayne Alley – Cuckoo Creek

1 August 2026

It was one of those rare days where you drive away from the murky weather in Christchurch and head west into sunshine, blue skies and fresh snow on the mountain tops. We had nine trampers (8 human and 1 canine) happy to brave the low temperature, which actually wasn't uncomfortable due to the sunshine and a complete lack of wind.

The Dracophyllum Flats track was in good condition and we headed through the trees at an easy pace with Evelien's dog leading the group. We enjoyed a morning tea stop in the sunshine (and with a view) when the track come out into open flats. At the Cheeseman road we headed back into the trees onto the unmarked Cockayne Alley bike track. We stopped for lunch half way up the 400m climb at another sunny viewpoint. This worked out well as once we reached the treeline we found we had about 20 – 30cm of snow on the ground. The highlight of the trip was the walk through the snow for the final 100m uphill and along a flat track to the ski field road. The view was fabulous so a couple of photo stops were essential.

We had taken longer than expected to reach this point so we headed down the ski field road at a decent pace. After a short time we reached the Cuckoo creek track which took us down through the trees to a junction part way along the Dracophyllum Flats track. It was getting late now so we continued on reaching the cars just before 5pm.

A longer trip than usual for an easy-moderate trip but the pace was comfortable, the tracks good and everybody seemed to enjoy the trip especially a club member on her first snow tramp, a prospective member on her first trip with PTC and of course our four-footed tramper.

Heather & Kevin, Chris & Graham, Evelien & Fenna 🐾, Kim, Carolyn, Mel 🎿 HH *Photo's by HH and KH*

Anti-Crow hut

7-8th August 2026

Despite the rainy and threatening forecast, six of us ventured up to have a mid-winter Christmas at the Anti-Crow hut. Kevin and Keith had planned a more dramatic side trip going back going up Jordan stream and over to Bealey Spur but had decided to can it owing to the forecast heavy rain.
We left town just after 8am in a bitter cold frost and arrived at the carpark just after 10am. The weather looked misty and grey but wasn't raining, which was a great bonus, so we all set off. It's a nice combination of bush walking and the wide expanse of river flats with some beautiful mosses, and of course matagouri. But I would recommend avoiding the last flood track right before the hut as it was fairly steep and unnecessary, except if there was a massive flood. I think I was last up the Anti-Crow in the early 1990s, and the Waimakariri River (from memory) has changed its course a bit and is now further away from the hut.
The threatened rain arrived when we were about 30 or 40 minutes from the hut, so we arrived slightly damp but in good spirits. The hut has been refurbished or rebuilt and now has fresh lining, double glazing and a relatively full woodshed. It was very comfortable. We all went out to forage to add to the wood supply for the fire as it was definitely chilly. I really enjoyed the peace of the valley, as apart from the birds and the odd hare, we were the only people, so we were able to enjoy having the hut to ourselves. I wandered off to walk to the Waimakariri River which is now almost a kilometre from the hut, thereby missing the exciting search and rescue of Kevin's phone which had disappeared and was found about 20 minutes from the hut.
We had mulled wine which I brought but which Kevin nobly carried in, two plum puddings, brownies and cookies. Really, we could have dispensed with our mains! We had a very pleasant evening talking, looking at the various games that Graeme had brought but which we decided not to play. We decided that talking for one minute on 'whether women were better than men' or whether 'men were better than women' could be dangerous!
We woke the next morning expecting heavy rain, but it didn't arrive. Kevin and Keith were kicking themselves as the sun came out, the tops cleared a bit, and it was even a little warm. However, they did a brief reconnaissance and decided that it was definitely worth doing another time. We got out before noon and headed back to town with a brief stop to have coffee and pies at Sheffield, and to distribute PTC pamphlets.
Rosemary Goodyear, Graeme Nicholas, Heather and Kevin Hughes, Chris Leaver, and Keith Hoard. RG
Photo's by HH and KH

Drawing by Rosemary

Quail Island Planting

8th August 2026

We had a small group this year but other volunteers boosted our team to eleven. To avoid the worst muddy tracks, Quail Island Trust Chairman Ian took us on a scenic route to our planting site, looking across to Cass Bay. The sloping north-facing site is very dry in summer, so the aim is to develop a grey shrub area with hardy, drought tolerant species. Trust employee Mick had set up the area for us, so after a detailed planting demonstration we got to work. The area was well prepared and colour coded sticks told us where to plant the species of the day, Coprosma crassifolia and C. propinqua. This year we were spared from planting matagouri.
The sun warmed our backs and the soil was easy to dig, so by early afternoon we had put in 250 plants. Great effort everyone. This is a great effort towards the intended 1700 plants for the year.
Planters: Kerry, Mike, Sue, Carolyn, Callum, Pat, Merv, Fiona, Danny, Lucie, Chile SB, *Photo by SB*

Hoon Hay Reserve

7 PTC members also helped plant 1000 seedlings on the 26 July Summit Road Society planting day at Hoon Hay Reserve.

Duncan Park and Ferrymead walk

9th August 2026

The weather dawned rather drab and cool with cloud hanging around the tops, so we were glad for the late start time and easy route.
The walk into Duncan Park via the pony club was enjoyable with plenty of horses and farm animals to coo over en route. Once on Jack's Track we sidled around enjoying views of Horotane Valley and Castle Rock as it popped out from the cloud.
From the gondola car park we headed down to Heathcote Domain. I was pleased to be able to offer dry picnic table and seats for our lunch stop.
One of the group suffered severe boot failure soon after this and needed to hobble back to the start. The rest of us followed a muddy route to Ferrymead Lakes then headed west beside the Heathcote Estuary and river back to the cars.
Thanks to fellow participants. It was great that I was not the only old timer out for a stroll.
We were Sue, Mike, Jane, Tim, Andrea, Derek, Chris SB, *Photo by SB*

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