



December 2025 – January 2026



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	sonja.risa@gmail.com	028-8517-3969
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Secretary	Committee		
Editor	Karen Fincham	karenfincham97@gmail.com	027-554-0110
Gear Custodian	Evelien Baas	baasevelien@gmail.com	027-557-5521

New Member Enquiries: Please contact **Derek Gane PH (03) 337-8264** or **Irene PH 021-166-3586** for information. If you can't reach them, contact any committee member or check our website for new member application form and information.

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', and 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 9 December 	SHOW AND TELL AND CHRISTMAS FUN Email a photo of a (hopefully) recognizable tramping landmark or scene (with you in it, if possible) to Evelien baasevelien@gmail.com by 5th December and we will show these photos and see if others can guess the spot. Please bring a small plate of festive finger food to share for supper.
Tue 10 February 	THREE STEPS FOR LIFE <i>"Learn CPR for your loved one"</i> . A first aid awareness session and demonstration by a Hato Hone St John volunteer covering basic CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and use of AED (Automated External Defibrillator). P.S. This presentation has been tentatively booked but will be confirmed closer to the time, as it depends on availability of presenter, but we do have a Plan B just in case . . .

NOTES

FMC Backcountry Magazines: These are now sent out as digital copies. 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.

FMC Cards: Graeme still has a number of unclaimed FMC cards. If you haven't already picked up your FMC card, come along to the club night and collect it, or contact Graeme 027 504 7726 gra.nicholas@gmail.com to get one sent out you.

With the absence of a Secretary, messages to PTC communicator (secretary@ptc.nz or ptc1932@gmail.com) are not being monitored regularly. We don't get a notification about messages, so we don't know messages are there, and your message may be ignored and/or response delayed. If you want to contact a PTC member, please email them directly – please do not reply to PTC communicator. If you are sending a message to members by PTC Communicator, please include your name and email or phone number so recipients can contact you.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 14th January (or another date if weather is dodgy) : The Lord of the Rings in 90 minutes.

Archery Lawn, Botanic gardens.

Calling all elves, orcs and halflings! Buckle up for a glorious, laugh a minute journey into Middle Earth (and back again). Anthony Harper theatre is back with their playful spin on Tolkien's trilogy. Show starts 7.00pm. Arrive early with chairs, rugs and BYO picnic. They usually make people in chairs sit behind people on low chairs and rugs, so we might need to sit in two groups. We'll postpone to another day if the weather doesn't oblige. Do dress up warm as it's sometimes quite chilly.

Names to **Maureen Thompson** mothompson1212@gmail.com or 021 266 5778 in case we change the day. I'll go at about 6.15pm and try to keep some space.



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. Please contact Maureen Thompson by phone or text **021-266-5778** or mothompson1212@gmail.com

TRIPS

PLEASE NOTE: All proposals for trips, offers to lead, changes to trips or trip schedules **MUST** be directed to the trip planner, Sonja Risa, sonja.risa@gmail.com who will review, make necessary changes to the trip schedule and inform members. 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.

Although it hasn't been usual club practice, in future 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.

**6-7 Dec

Rough Creek--Brass Monkey--Lewis Pass (Note: rescheduled date)

Awaiting leader

A moderate trip up the Rough Creek Forest track with an easy crossing of the main divide to the new Brass Monkey biv. We can exit along the Lewis Tops route or go down Lucretia Stream and the Nina River.

**6 Dec
Saturday**
*

Peraki Bay Circuit **Murray Hight**

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. **Names to Murray Hight** roslynfarm@gmail.com or 027-555-0059 by 29th November. Meet 8.00am outside PMH, near Cashmere Road-Fairview Street corner.

**13 Dec
Saturday**
*

Bridle Path “Ferryhead Alive - Canterbury 175th” **Graeme Nicholas**

On Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December the Ferryhead Heritage Park is hosting Ferryhead Alive - Canterbury 175th, a festival to commemorate the anniversary of the arrival of the first four colonial ships of the English settlement of Canterbury in 1850. Join this event on Saturday 13th December and walk the Bridle Path from Lyttelton to Ferryhead. A 175th souvenir certificate will be available for those that complete the walk. Meet 9.00am at Bridle path carpark (by gondola car park) to catch the bus to Lyttelton. Stroll the Farmers Market and then walk over the hill to join in the gala celebrations (food, drinks and entertainment) at the Ferryhead Historical Society Park. Period dress optional! Note: Cars can be parked in Heathcote and you can travel by the number 8 bus to Lyttelton if you don't want to walk both ways.

Names to Graeme Nicholas 027-504-7726 by 12th December.

**21 Dec
Sunday**
*

Diamond Harbour Christmas Picnic **Evelien Baas**

Take a little more lunch than you would usually take as we will have a picnic with shared lunch at a special spot. Bring your togs and towel - and your gold card for public transport.

Meet 10.30am at Lyttelton Ferry terminal.

Names to Evelien Baas 027-557-5521. Book by 14th December.



**4 Jan
Sunday**
*

Halswell Quarry--Sign of the Bellbird **Chris Leaver**

An easy trip, from Halswell Quarry we connect with Kennedys Bush track climb to the Summit Road then on tracks to the Sign of the Bellbird and Mt Cass. Afterwards stop in for a New Year cuppa.

Names to Chris Leaver 021-0251-2011. Book by 28th December.

**10 Jan
Saturday**
*

Lyttelton--Urumanu Reserve - Crater Rim **Mary McKeown**

From Lyttelton, an easy-moderate walk through Urumanu Reserve, past gun emplacements and along the Crater Rim Walkway, returning to Lyttelton down Major Hornbrook Track.

Names to Mary McKeown marylmckeown@yahoo.co.nz. Book by 3rd January.

- 17 Jan
Saturday

- Prebble Hill--Cave Stream**
Evelien Baas
This easy trip goes over and under some of the more interesting limestone formations in the Castle Hill basin. We start from the Cave Stream car park and head down Broken River before climbing 902m Prebble Hill. This is the one visible from SH73 apparently covered in pebbles but close up they are huge and erosion carved into animal shapes that are only limited by the imagination. On our return we have the opportunity to traverse the underground Cave Stream. Bring a torch, some warm clothing and a full change for the car. You will get wet!
Names to Evelien Baas 027-557-5521. Book by 10th January.
- 24 Jan
Saturday

- Quail Island by Waka**
Murray Hight
Meet 10.45 at Naval Point in Lyttelton (turn right when you exit the tunnel) for 11.00am paddle around Quail Island. Paddling instructions and life vest included. Bring lunch as we will stop at Quail Island for lunch and some exploring, a change of clothes in case you get wet and \$10.00 pp for waka hire.
Names to Murray Hight roslynfarm@gmail.com or 027-555-0059 by 17th January.
- 31 Jan
Saturday

- Nikau Palm Gully**
Awaiting Leader
This bush-clad gully is quite a dramatic spot, and the plentiful nikau palms here are notable for being the southern-most limit of this species in New Zealand. This is an easy tramp towards the eastern heads of Akaroa Harbour.
- 6-8 Feb
Fri-Sun

- Floating along the Waima**
Honora Renwick
Drive up and stay at Isolation Hut on the first day. Next day to Brian Boru Biv, past the formerly impassable windfall and do some hut lovin' in the spare time available. Third day journey down B.B Stream and the Waima. There is usually some pack floating so bring thermals and of course your wet weather gear to wear over that to reduce heat loss. An effective pack-liner is also required. A moderate level trip.
Names to Honora Renwick honorarenwick@gmail.com. Book by 30th January.
- 7 Feb
Saturday

- Sudden Valley Biv**
Murray Hight
An easy rated trip. Murray to provide details
Names to Murray Hight roslynfarm@gmail.com or 027-555-0059. Book by 1st February.
- 14 Feb
Saturday

- Bealey Spur**
Evelien Baas
A moderate walk up a spur above the Waimakariri River with beautiful views of many peaks in the national park. Probably quite snowy around the hut and above.
Names to Evelien Baas 027-557-5521. Book by 7th February.

21 Feb
Saturday
*

Opawaho Divide, Christchurch 360 Trail

Hilaire Campbell

An easy flat 16km walk from Riccarton to Halswell Quarry. The “divide” is the separation of the Avon/Otakaro and Heathcote/Opawaho watersheds.

Names to Hilaire Campbell hilaire.campbell@gmail.com. Book by 14th February.

28 Feb
Saturday
*

Lyndon Saddle - Helicopter Hill

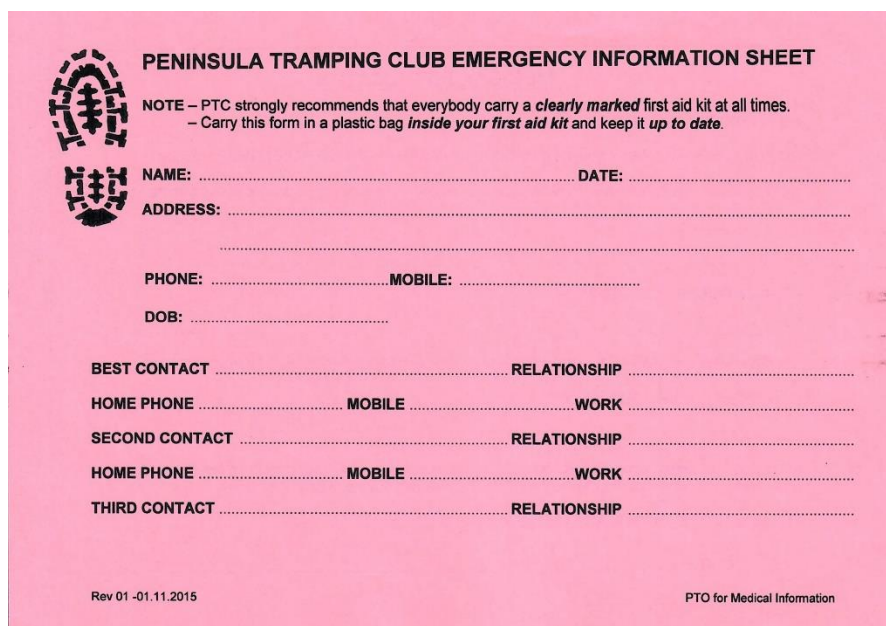
Awaiting Leader

An easy-moderate 5-6hr circuit from Craigieburn Campsite shelter and take the Mistletoe Track to Lyndon Saddle with a side trip to Helicopter Hill. We then return to the saddle and go to the Craigieburn Edge Track which leads to the ski-field road where it joins with the Sidle Track and back to the cars.

**PLEASE NOTE TRIP DETAILS ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION BUT ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON WEATHER AND AVAILABILITY OF TRIP LEADER
WATCH FOR UPDATED MESSAGES FROM TRIP PLANNER OR TRIP LEADER**

What trips can you lead?

We need offers from leaders for trips for March and April. There will not be a newsletter in January so please let Sonja know of any offers or suggestions for trips for March before the publication of the February Footnotes at the end of January.



PENINSULA TRAMPING CLUB EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHEET

NOTE – PTC strongly recommends that everybody carry a *clearly marked* first aid kit at all times.
– Carry this form in a plastic bag *inside your first aid kit* and keep it *up to date*.

NAME: DATE:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: MOBILE:

DOB:

BEST CONTACT RELATIONSHIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE WORK

SECOND CONTACT RELATIONSHIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE WORK

THIRD CONTACT RELATIONSHIP

Rev 01 -01.11.2015 PTO for Medical Information

Do you have one of these Emergency Information Sheets in your first aid kit in your pack?

Is the information on it up-to-date?

If you have answered NO to either of these questions, please pick up a new form from us at club night or download a form from the website.

TRIP REPORTS

Please email trip reports to the editor at karenfincham97@gmail.com by the 28th 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.

TE OKA LOOP : SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

Seven of us met at Princess Margaret Hospital 8.30am and travelled to Little River, to pick two others up, with the intention of exploring the new Oashore Reginal Park. At the top of the Bossu Road, the leader realized there was an access challenge to the walk (*not yet developed so not yet opened to the public - ed.*) so Plan B came into action and we drove down to Te Oka Bay to tramp the Te Oka Loop instead.

The drive to the bay was down a very narrow road, with not much room for passing traffic going the other direction. Lots of surfers were parked at the bay with a dozen or more already in the water by the time we arrived. Initially the weather was a bit cold and windy, but the sun had warmed things up by the time we started walking at around 10.00am. We had morning tea in a wee glade just off the track shortly afterwards, then lunch around 12.30pm in a sheltered spot, with a great view of the bay, at the top of the saddle. From there we walked along the rim, before dropping down a track, back to the cars.

From our start point to the Saddle was a gain of 700+ metres, with good views all round. Total kms for the day was around 11 km. Due to the narrow road down to the bay and a lot of surfers traffic, I do recommend parking at the top (Bossu Road) and starting walking from there.

Thank you to the participants, for the good company, and looking forward to seeing more club members out tramping. We were Murray Hight (Leader), John Robinson, Ian Beale, Mary McKeown, Eileen Mackie, Joy Schroeder, Tanya Jacobson, Darcy Mawson and Karen Fincham. 🏔️MH



At the top of the saddle 2025_1101_1229 KF



The view of the bay from our lunch spot 2025_1101_1234 KF



Ian pointing out features on the other side of the bay 2025_1101_1328 KF

MT OAKDEN : SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER

Twelve people registered to go on this trip and with the weather man (or woman) in a good mood all was set for a great day of sun, sweat and stings (yes, there were plenty of Spaniards up there). It was a two-hour drive to the head of Lake Coleridge the last part being a long very dusty shingle road.

The farmer agreed for us to take the northern ridge route. We crossed the canal and parked the cars and immediately ran into a deer fence with a high locked gate and electric wire along the top. Fortunately, we were able to scale a wooden panel next to the fence to then work our way through a paddock and follow a fence line to the base of the ridge. This was rather steep with a scramble amongst the rocks, scree and matagouri. The **Wilderness** magazine write up of the trip noted that the lower reaches are “problematic” but that the going gets easier as you get higher. This was certainly the case, although the scree and rock higher up was still a slog. About lunch time the north-wester started kicking in and made climbing a little less pleasant than in the still morning air. Having lunch on the leeward side of the hill in the sun, however, was delightfully warm. Most of the group made it to the summit and returned to the cars about 4:45pm.

On the trip were: Graeme Nicholas (Leader), Dorota G, Andy M, Kevin H, Derek G, Chris L, Vesna M, Millomir M, Bill T, John R, Wang, and Kerry M. 🏔️GN (Photos by GN)



MT OAKDEN : SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER (another version)

Our three cars, each with four aboard, crossed the Oakden Canal and parked near a high, locked gate. Walking on green pastures and then along fences we got to a spur with a minimal track up through brittle, scratchy scrub. The vegetation became sparse with gravelly tussock and bare rock as we climbed. A welcome breeze cooled our efforts. At 1500m the terrain levels off and becomes a sandy “moonscape”, requiring a slight descent to connect with the spur that leads to the Big O. Nine of our group reached the 1633m top at various times, so some had an extended stay, admiring the view all around on this sunny Sunday afternoon.

All nine were ready to descend at 2:30pm. Small stretches of scree on the downward spur helped a little, but needed care, and wind-gusts were of the hat-removing kind. Our group were all down the spur by 4:10pm and back at the cars at about 4:40pm to reunite with the three that retreated earlier. The climb has been described as an unrelenting grunt, and deserves its reputation and its moderate-hard rating. I don't think I'd do it in winter. Many thanks to Graeme for organising this rewarding day out. 🏔️KM



The View 2025_1109_ KM



The steep climb begins 2025_1109_KM



Our first rest-stop looking up the Wilberforce 2025_1109_KM

The Harper River is diverted into
Lake Coleridge before it reaches the
Wilberforce/Oakden Canal
2025_1109_KM





Mt Cotton at left and Peak Hill well down Lake Coleridge, from Mt Oakden 2025_1109_KM



Mt Algidus Station, Rakaia and Mathias River 2025_1109_KM

HINEWAI RESERVE—LONG BEACH : SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

An enthusiastic group of four left the meeting place (Princess Margaret Hospital) at 8.00am, bound for Hinewai native reserve. Although the distance was only 81km, the winding road spins the travel time out to 80 mins.

At Hinewai we met up with Hugh Wilson, the Hinewai Manager, who managed to persuade us to go to plan B, i.e., walk down the middle track to the bridge, then take the new track out to the beach. About two years ago the Hinewai Trust purchased about 120 ha, giving easy access to the beach. We are privileged to have Hinewai close to Christchurch (*and privileged to have Hugh looking after the tracks and keeping the new track in such lovely condition – ed.*)

At Long Beach, we had a leisurely lunch, then returned by walking up the Kereru Track back to the cars. Overall height gain was 626 metres with 14kms walked. Summer is here, looking forward to more people tramping with PTC. We were Murray Hight (Leader) with Darcy Mawson, Karen Fincham and Joy Schroeder. 🏔️MH



Hinewai Waterfall 2025_1122_1042 KF



"Trees are big softies and won't tell you to keep off their roots, so I will" 2025_1122_1100 KF



Darcy and Joy crossing the wee stream to get to the beach. 2025_1122_155 KF



Long Beach 2025_1122_1205 MH

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

Just a reminder . . . the executive committee has decided that will review matters concerning the future of the club, and any potential significant changes to the format and administration of the club (including subscriptions) at the Annual General Meeting in March 2026. We will NOT be sending out subscription notices this month, as usual, as we will defer collecting subs until after the AGM in March next year when we know if the club is going to continue or not.



**The Executive Committee wish you
a very Merry Christmas
safe travels wherever you may venture over the summer
and
a Happy New Year**