



August 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	Committee		Committee		
Editor	Karen Fincham	027 554 0110	Committee		

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.

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 12 August



THE NAKASENDO TRAIL, JAPAN

A little on the wild side: Karen has just completed a 5-day walk on a section of this famous trail between Kyoto and Tokyo and will talk about this walk, and how different it was to a typical multi-day New Zealand great walk.

Tue 9 September



FORAGING IN NEW ZEALAND

Finding lunch outdoors if you have left your lunch box behind? Peter Langlands, intrepid outdoor naturalist, forager and conservation scientist, is our guest speaker tonight. He will have copies of his 2024 book "**Foraging New Zealand**" for sale.

NOTES

Welcomes and Goodbyes:

A warm welcome to new member, Jamiee Latham. We hope to meet you out on trips and at club nights or social events.

We are sorry to say goodbye to some old and new members, including Andrew Aldridge and Debbie Corbett and Jan Finlayson who have shifted away from Christchurch, and resignations received from Toyomi Furuta, Gwyntha Taylor, Alison Maccoll, Laurayne Devery and Sha. We wish them well in their next pursuits.

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: 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.

We have made some additions to the PTC website, including a new member application form, a new easier mileage calculator form if you want to work out costs yourself, and a guide for leading day trips.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Monday 18th August: Te Waoku Kahikatea, Belfast

Coffee at Gloria Jeans in Northwood then Te Waoku Kahikatea Walk in Belfast. This is an interesting walk with stream and lakes, native bush, Maori medicine garden, heritage buildings and even a long drop. Meet at Gloria Jeans at Northwood Supa Centa at 9.45am for coffee. At about 10.15am we'll drive to the carpark on Radcliffe Rd about 1km from the junction with Hawkins Road. Google maps know it as The Red Barn. The walk should take about 90 minutes. No dogs allowed. Please contact Maureen by text or email 021-266-5778 or mothompson1212@gmail.com if coming.

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 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.

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.

2-3 Aug

Lake Man

Sat-Sun

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 27 Jul (cost per car \$120)

- 2 Aug**
Saturday
*
Planting on Quail Island (Otamahua)
Kerry Moore (03) 359-5069
Help restore the island with this year's native tree planting. Tools provided and ferry transport is free. Take the usual tramping gear and gardening gloves. Early booking will help ensure a full muster on the day. Meet on ferry wharf at 10.00am. Ferry leaves island at 3.30 pm.
Names to Kerry (03) 359-5069 or mooorty@gmail.com Book by Thurs 31 July
- 9-10 Aug**
Sat-Sun
**
Lake Sumner--Hope Kiwi
Graeme Nicholas 027-504-7726
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.
Names to Graeme.
- 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.
(Cost per car \$35) Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St
- 16-17 Aug**
Cass Saddle--Lagoon Saddle (this trip has now been cancelled)
- 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.
(Cost per car \$60) 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 (Cost per car \$120)
- 30 Aug**
Saturday
*
Purple Hill (please note change of date)
Graeme Nicholas 027-504-7726
A moderate climb of this 1680m peak above Lake Pearson with superb views around Castle Hill Basin.
Names to Graeme. (Cost per car \$80) Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

We are aware that calculating the mileage for trips is difficult, and even a barrier, for some leaders so we are attempting to make this easier for those of you who aren't well-versed in this task. We have included costs per car for some of the trips awaiting leaders and will endeavour to have mileage costs included in the future on trip lists.



We have several trips scheduled for August waiting for a leader so please contact Sonja if you can lead one of these trips. As yet we do not have any trips scheduled for September so please give thought to leading a trip in September. We are keen 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.

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.

TE OKA – DEVILS GAP : SUNDAY 14 JUNE 2025

Liaising with farmers proved easier for this trip, rather than the original scheduled Peraki Bay circuit. Five of us set off and parked on the Bossu Road near 685m Te Oka. Kerry chose to rest his calf strain and take the car to the Devils Gap end of the one-way walk. Four set off up and within twenty minutes reached the high-point for the grand view of ocean, the big lake Ellesmere (Waihora) and Lake Forsyth (Wairewa). Picking their way down the eastern side of Te Oka they reached the road near the Bossu Road-Te Oka Road junction. Tracks alongside Bossu Road allowed the four to minimise road walking, though they did walk down Gap Road to the farm track that leads to the spectacular gap. Soon, they reached the 735m high point for lunch, then back to the waiting car.

Driving down to Little River we passed two escapee cows on the road. By the time Kerry remembered to call the Te Oka farmer he'd already been told of his wandering stock and had apprehended them. This is an excellent walk with super views of Lake Forsyth/Wairewa and the southern bays.

We were: Joy, Kathryn, Graham, Chris and Kerry (Leader). 🏔️ KM



Devils Gap viewed from the road 2025_0614 KM



Some of the Gap Fillers 2025_0614 KM

HIDDEN VALLEY, PURAU : SUNDAY 22 JUNE 2025

Near zero temperatures got us off to a stiff start from PMH but our two cars made good time to Purau. We were met there at 10.30am by volunteers Alice Shanks and Jonathan Carr from the Hidden Valley Conservation Trust. They had kindly agreed, at very short notice, to guide us through some of the 105 hectares of reserve land, mostly on the western slopes of Mt Evans, that Trust supporters have bought to protect rare plants and wildlife. Our group felt privileged because although the Trust holds open days it's not yet geared up for the general public.

The sun was well and truly up as we drove along the Port Levy Purau Road to the access track. Here, we got our first unobstructed views of the reserve; dark bushy gullies and bare rock rising dramatically from a wide valley that looks unnaturally green. It's also quite boggy, three wet springs haven't helped. Jonathan says that water is normally scarce; the only available bore is for farmers. The 'ribbon' track we follow up the western side of the valley is shaded and ideal for poles and leads us round slippery rocks and dense bush to a natural vantage point. Here Alice shows us the Trust's latest purchase, a stunning 33 hectares which includes the headwaters

of the Waituturi Stream. Apart from natural wonders we see faint remains of early buildings, even a hotel, and before the Hilltop Road this was the only way to Akaroa. Most of the stone walls and historic fences have been ripped out but the stories live on. In a patch of slowly regenerating trees, Alice finds a rare native *teucrium* and she urges us to return in spring when it flowers, along with thousands of kowhai trees. Thanks to volunteers, roughly a tenth of the reserve has been planted but Alice says the attrition rate is high, and kanuka will inevitably take over “It's better left to nature”. A small utility hut in the next clearing is also one of several bird count sites on the track. We call hopefully for kereru. Jonathan boils the billy for a quick cuppa but with so much to talk about it becomes early lunch.

The Trust's long-term goal is not just to save the reserve from development; it wants the track to be officially recognized. Says Alice, “Banks Peninsula will be the walking capital of New Zealand!” but no goal can be realized without financial support, and some of us are at an age when the word legacy means something. With these sobering thoughts, mingled with awe at what just a few people have achieved so far, we finish eating and follow the orange markers, up through tussock to an exposed ridge; the hut is just a dot below. An action camera has been set up to monitor pests. Cattle have trashed the bush but there are no pigs; today it's only us being recorded! Before we exit Hidden Valley Alice goes off to do one of her checks, we head east under a wide sky, briefly picking up the old packhorse track to Port Levy. Walking downhill, we fan out, enjoying the distant views. The cloud has cleared, finally, showing dozens of tiny boats bobbing in Purau Bay.



Hidden Valley, Purau 2025_0622 HC

It's late afternoon and our noses are sniffing imaginary coffees as we reach the valley floor and wade through long grass to our cars. It's going to be another cold night but we've had such a grand day. All thanks to Alice and Jonathan for educating and inspiring us. See Hidden Valley Conservation Trust website for full information.

We were Hilaire Campbell (Leader), Helen Harkness, Eileen Mackie, Joy Schroeder, Ian Beale, and John Cook.

HC



Hidden Valley, Purau 2025_0622 HC



Hidden Valley, Purau 2025_0622 HC

NINA HUT : SUNDAY-MONDAY 13-14 JULY 2025

You'd have to book months ahead to stay in Nina Hut on a Saturday night, so we chose our days as Sunday and Monday. An adverse weather forecast may have deterred others from booking for the Sunday night, so our five were the only bookings. The five of us fitted easily in a Rav 4. We parked at the deer hunter's hut at around 11.00am and set off in fine weather. DoC says this is a family tramp but warns of mud. We met both - a family as they waked out, and lots of mud.



Nina Hut trip 2025_0713 KM

We took five hours to reach the tidy, modern, 10-bunk Nina Hut. Wang and Kyung Sang tried to get the fire going but with a lack of dry wood they soon gave up. (*Rumour has it, that it was a bit damp sleeping at night too! - Ed.*) Dinner was lentil spaghetti which needed cheese or something more flavoursome to perk it up. Kerry's never-fail coconut custard was more successful. The walk out was brisker than the walk in, taking only four hours, so we were home mid-afternoon.

This was a good, enjoyable getaway for Ness, Hilaire, Kyung Sang, Wang and Kerry (Leader). 🏠 KM



Nina Hut 2025_0714 KM

MT BRUCE : SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025

The trip was initially planned for the Sunday but we moved it to the Saturday some weeks previously to enable Graeme to lead it. Unfortunately, the weather for Saturday proved bleak, and with few people indicating interest in going and a sunny Sunday promised, Graeme changed his plans and we were on again with four takers. The plan was to follow the Lagoon Saddle track to the second stream marked on the map and then ascend Mt Bruce and then traverse down the ridge line back to the track near the first stream crossing the track. We arrived in fog and frost but with the promise of blue sky. The first casualty of the day was Graeme who slipped crossing over the frosty style just past the car park and falling onto the barbed wire fence! Ouch!



CoraLynn carpark 2025_0720_0954 KF



Wang at morning tea stop 2025_0720_1137 KF

The fog soon cleared to a perfectly calm blue sky as we climbed up the track through beech forest then pines and then another area of beech and pines again before emerging into the tussock. The track became rather muddy once above the bush line even with much of it being frozen. (*When you placed your foot, you did not know if you would encounter Solid, Slippery, Squelchy or Sucked-in-up-to-your-calf - Ed.*) Once reaching the second stream we started up through steep tussock aiming for a rock out crop for lunch. From there we could see the summit which had barely enough snow to have a snow ball fight - ice axes carried in vain! The summit was still some distance off so it was decided that we would not have enough day light to make the top and back so we straddled along a marshy plateau running parallel to the ridge line. Spotting the track below from the

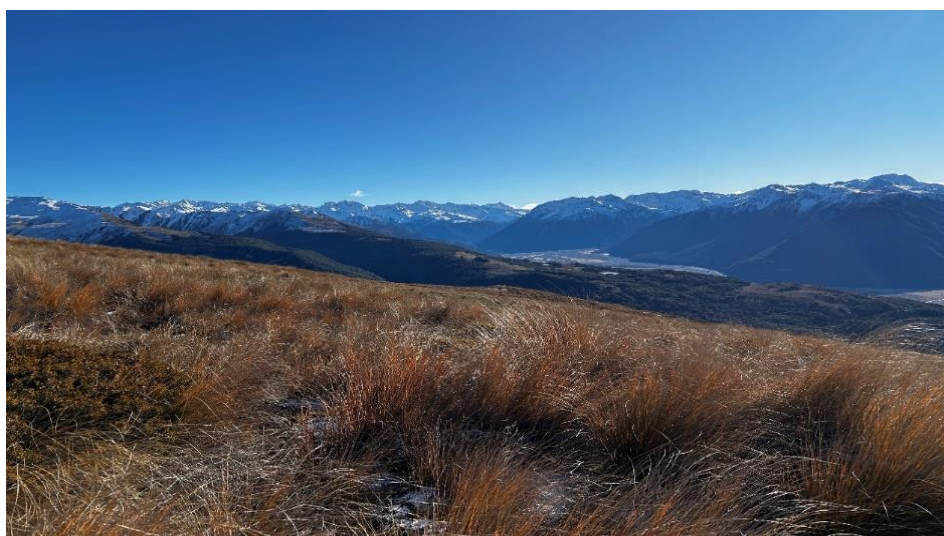
height we were at was difficult however we spotted some other trampers, including small children, walking below us. Having dropped down to the track the going was much easier, although Karen also had an “ouch” moment when she banged a shin climbing between one of the many fallen trees on the track. We arrived back at the car just on dark. Timing was perfect! We were Graeme N (Leader), Wang, Chris L and Karen F. 🏔️GN



Onwards and upwards 2025_0720_1149 SW



Graeme & Chris contemplate the ascent 2025_0720_1216 KF



The fabulous view 2025_0720_1407 GN

ALLANDALE CIRCUIT : SATURDAY 26 JULY 2025

A small group braved the cold frosty morning to embark on the Allendale circuit. From Allendale we went up to Living Springs then on to the Crater Rim then down Cass Ridge to O'Farrell's Track to the ridge and down to the car. This was a much shorter trip than originally planned but the weather and views were great. 🏔️CW
Able leader Colin got permission and did a preliminary survey of the initial stage of the walk. On this frosty morning, our five crossed the road from Allendale Domain, straight into an attractive native planting area that runs alongside the stream that comes down the Living Springs Valley. In pleasant sunshine we visited Living Springs HQ for our first break. A farm track wound all the way up to a low point on Crater Rim Track, south of Cass Peak. A convenient bench seat with a harbour view was an ideal spot for lunch. Crater Rim Track got us to Cass Ridge Track which took us down to O'Farrell's Track. Through the gate, we were out of Ohinetahi Reserve and back on a farmland track. A closely grazed spur took us down to the Living Springs Stream and to our car - a pleasant circuit in the company of Colin (Leader), Graham, Chris, Darcy and Kerry. 🏔️KM



Graham, Chris, Colin & Darcy

The black object near Kerry's pack is a tracking tunnel that identifies rats, mice and mustelids by the footprints they leave. Living Springs has a vast network of traps on its land. 2025_0726 KM

MESSAGES

A message from Olivia Dean (Ph: +64 27 347 3001) olivia@summitadventures.co.nz Founder and Kiwi Guide of Summit Adventures, **Everest Base Camp Premium Tour 1st-16th April 2026;**

More than just a hike and holiday, Summit Adventures are designed by our team of local and kiwi guides, with a focus on meaningful and challenging experiences of personal growth and human connection. Find out more at <http://www.summitadventures.co.nz/why-choose-us>. Summit Adventures offer a very personal experience of Nepal and its mountains – you not only hike in the trekking capital of the world, you will meet locals, visit schools and children's homes, and serve the homeless. You have a Kiwi guide with you at all times and, being all-inclusive from the moment you touch down in Kathmandu, all your hassles are taken care of.

Expert Kiwi Guide – From the moment you land in Kathmandu, you're guided by a Kiwi expert, giving you deeper insight and support throughout your journey.

Pokhara Trip – We include return flights to Pokhara to stay at the idyllic and upbeat lakeside city – we believe this is a must-see in Nepal (also here you'll enjoy the included recovery massage).

Community Impact – As part of your trip you'll directly take part in giving back: serve meals to the homeless through Curry Without Worry and deliver supplies to programmes and schools with NGO's Sunsar Maya and IGWR/Nepal.

All-Inclusive & Premium – This EBC tour involves a helicopter back down from Lobuche to Kathmandu! As well as top-tier accommodation with swimming pools in the main cities. From arrival to departure, everything's covered.

Full tour information here: www.summitadventures.co.nz/ebc-premium.



To all you amateur photographers . . .

A message from Rebecca Gray, Executive Office Administration, Federated Mountain Clubs;

"I'm writing to invite your club to consider having a go at this year's FMC photo competition. Not only will you be in to win some great prizes, but each entry helps FMC build a library of images which we can use to help defend the places and activities our member clubs cherish. The way it works is that each club organises its own internal competition, either online or in person, then the top shots are entered to FMC's competition, which has a great pool of prizes each year. Even if you

only have a small handful of interested photographers, the club can still enter, provided a club officer is happy to authorise the entry and there is only one entry per club. We have had a club enter photos from a single club member before. Entries close for clubs on 15 September, and all the info on how to enter is on our website;

www.fmc.org.nz/photo-competition/ "

Your executive committee is keen to submit an entry. There are great prizes, but there is not much time so check the information on the FMC website on the link indicated above, and sort through those photos on the next rainy day when you are stuck indoors and send them in to us. You need to submit your best photographs please to ptc1932@gmail.com by **Sunday 24th August** so the executive committee can review these at their upcoming August meeting, scheduled for the following day, and send in a PTC entry on time.

Your current 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.

