

April 2026

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

Committee

Co-Presidents	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726	gra.nicholas@gmail.com
	Evelien Bass	027 557 5521	basevelien@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 Bass	027 557 5521	basevelien@gmail.com
Committee	Kevin Hughes	03 332 6281	home@nivek.co.nz
	Jaimee Latham	020 4134 3625	Jldarkhorse124@gmail.com

New Member Enquiries:

Please contact **Derek Gane (Ph 03 337-8264)** or **Irene Kilgour (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.



Featured Photograph



A Frame Hut Trip
7.3.26

View from the track on the way up to the saddle

Photo: KF
2026_0307_1157

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.

<p>Tue 14 April</p> 	<p>WHAT DID YOU DO WHEN THINGS WENT WRONG?</p> <p>Lessons learnt on the trail. . . Share your stories about unexpected events on trips when things did not go according to plan, how they were resolved, and what you learned.</p>
<p>Tue 12 May</p> 	<p>Ice and fire - Walking in Iceland</p> <p>Fjords, Waterfalls, Glaciers and Geysers.</p> <p>Heather and Kevin will show photo's of their walks, short tramps and the stunning scenery they encountered on their recent trip driving around the circumference of Iceland.</p>

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 8th April : Flare's "Sea Signals" street art walk, Central City

Meet 6pm Corner Allen and Manchester Street near "Acid Seas" painted by Insa. We'll do a circuit along Madras St, High, Gloucester and back via The Strip to Lichfield.

Dinner at 7pm Little High, 255 Tuam St – select from a variety of vendors offering gourmet burgers, pizza, burritos, Thai curries \$25-\$35. It'll be getting dark so you may want to bring a torch.

Phone Chris Leaver 021 025 12011 if planning to come by Tue 7April.



*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*

NOTES / MESSAGES

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.

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 now being monitored periodically 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.

Annual Subs

As per the resolution at the recent AGM we enclose the membership subscription notice for 2026. The sub has been reduced for the current year due to efficiencies gained by moving to all electronic communications (hence no mailed out notice this year).

The subscription for the 2026 year is:

One member - \$40

Household with 2 for more members - \$45.

Life member - Nil

Membership subs are due by 20th April 2026. Please make your direct payment to:

Name: Peninsula Tramping Club (PTC)

Account: 38-9015-0030334-000

Particulars: Insert your initials and surname

If you no longer wish to remain a member please email secretary@ptc.nz so we can give FMC a timely indication of membership for the coming year.

Cholmondeley Children's Centre - Garden Maintenance May 9th- Saturday

Cholmondeley was established back in 1925, by Hugh Cholmondeley and is located in Governors Bay.

I am looking for 5- 6 people who can give up 3 hours to do some garden maintenance i.e. weeding and pruning.

Cholmondeley is located on approximately four hectares of land and has a good area dedicated to gardens. It offers respite care for children aged 5- 12 and is always grateful for groups or individuals to volunteer time in helping the centre function. The centre has its own set of garden tools, but feel free to bring some tools along.

At conclusion, we can put our day packs on and have a walk on the nearby hills. Bring lunch and liquids.

Meet at Princess Margaret Hospital, inside gate 3 by 8.30 am

Please respond by May 6th to Murray on 0275-550059.

Banks Peninsula Walking Festival

New Dates: 2-17 May. Watch-out for updated programme to be released on internet 13April.

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.

11 April **Quail Island by Waka**

Sat **Murray Hight**

- A rescheduled trip as the last Waka paddle was cancelled due to bad weather so hopefully the weather will be more settled by then. Paddling from Naval Point round Quail Island, with a lunch stop on the South side. Bring old clothes and change of clothes plus \$10 each plus your lunch. We will get instruction from a experienced Club paddler before we go. One of the Club members will ride with us. Allow for 2 hours. Already have 6x confirmed. Need another 4- 5 people for 2nd Waka. First in first served.

Be at Naval Point Club house by 10.50 am.

Names to Murray Hight to reserve your place.

027 555 0059

18 April **Ohinetahi Circuit**

Saturday **Kerry Moore**

- An easy-moderate circuit on a collection of forest and open tracks in this large reserve above Governors Bay. We should be there for the last of the black berry season.

Easy-Mod

Depart at 9am from outside the old Princess Margaret Hospital near the corner of Fairview St and Cashmere Road.

Contact Kerry by **17th April**

022 153 9019

25 April **Oxford Circuit**

Saturday **Kerry Moore**

- An easy-moderate walk on some new tracks in the Ashley Gorge area with superb views.

Easy-Mod There may be some slippery sections so bring walking poles. \$42 per car.

Depart at 9am from outside Placemakers, Cranford Street.

Contact Kerry by **24th April**

022 153 9019

1-2 May **Edwards Hut (return)**

Fri - Sat **Chris Leaver**

- Dates flexible. A 2 day moderate 20km return tramp in Arthurs Pass requiring multiple river crossing up the Edwards Valley. 6-7 hours with at times steep steady climbing through forest to upper valley should get us to the Edwards Hut. Cost \$110 per car

Moderate

Contact Chris by **25th April**

021 025 12011 or newptc75@gmail.com

- 1-2 May** **Edwards Hut / William Saddle / Mingha**
Fri - Sat **Kerry Moore**
●● Dates to co-incide with Edwards hut return. A 2 day steep, alpine climb from Edwards Hut to Willams Saddle. Bush-bashing down to the Mingha Valley and back to cars. Cost \$110 per car.
Hard
- Contact Kerry by **25th April** **022 156 9019 or moorty@gmail.com**
-
- 6 May** **Port Hills**
Wed **Deborah Rhode**
● Easy walk up Eastenders track from Barnett park and down to Sumner for lunch/coffee.
Easy Return to cars from Sumner via bus (every 20 mins).
- Depart from Barnett Park car park 10am
Contact Deborah by **5th May** **021 166 5307**
-
- 16-17 May** **Cookies Hut**
O/N **Kevin and Heather Hughes**
●● An easy –moderate overnight tramp into Cookies Hut, a basic 6 bunk hut in the Hakatere conservation park. The tramp initially passes through Redcliffe stream scenic reserve and over Redcliff Saddle to Tribulation Hut, then another hour downstream to Cookies hut (4 ½ hours). Dates can float if needed (contact leaders).
Easy-Mod
- Contact Heather or Kevin by **8th May** **332 6281 / 021 0797 101**
-
- 24 May** **Kowai River Leithfield Beach**
Sun **Colin Wilmshurst**
● A 5 hour loop walk from the old Pukeko junction cafe, Leithfield, along the Kowai river to the sea. Lunch along the beach. Return via a track through sand dunes.
Easy Cost \$28 per car.
- Meet 9.00am outside Placemakers, Cranford Street
Contact Colin by **23rd May** **027 637 6497**
-
- 29 May** **Castle Rock**
Fri **Chris Leaver**
● Meet 10am for an easy walk starting at Horotane Valley up the ridge to below Castle hill or for an easier option on Jacks track to the bridle path and up to Summit Road. Down via ridgeline track towards Duncan Park and meandering around Jacks track back to cars.
Easy
- Meet 10am at the road end, top of of Horotane Valley rd
Contact Chris by **28th May** **021 025 12011**

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.

KAITUNA CIRCUIT

Sunday 15 Feb 2026

Our six headed up the new track in Tupari Reserve with a cool SW wind at our backs. The well-marked track took us quite steeply up a zig-zagging track that follows a spur alongside the usual Packhorse Track and gives good views of Kaituna Valley. The track joins Packhorse Track just below Parkinson's Bush for the final stretch to the hut. While eating an 11am lunch we noted an expensive camera left on a shelf. A couple had gone for a walk on the hill above Remarkable Dykes, then realised they'd left it, so returned to the hut to reclaim it—a lucky save for them.



KM 2026_150215

Starting with wind-proof coats on, we scooted down the old track to the cars, where some of us collected walnuts from the row of trees at the car-park. The scheduled trip inland would have encountered rain, so Murray's suggestion of the Tupari walk was welcomed by: Evelien, Joy, Darcy, Kyung-sang, Murray and Kerry.

 KM



***Six giant two-legged monsters
frightened the cicadas out of their skin.***

KM 2026_150215



CRAIGIEBURN CAMP SADDLE CIRCUIT

Saturday 28th February 2026

The four of us headed off to Craigieburn on what was promised to be a “blue bird” day weather wise and we were not disappointed with an absolutely stunning day. When we arrived at the campground shelter at the start of the Mistletoe track there were a large number of young people camping - a Start of Year University of Canterbury trip it seemed. The broad track climbed gently for an hour or so until the turnoff to Helicopter Hill. This was a short and worthwhile detour although the view from the top was not as great as we thought it might be. There were signs of where the recent bushfire had come through. After the slight detour we carried on up a steady uphill meandering track running parallel to the Craigieburn ski field road towards the ski lodge in the distance. We met a few mountain bikers as well as a couple and their dog (equipped with a Further Faster doggy pack).

2026_0228_1108 KF

There was a bit of consulting the I-Hike map trying to see where we were to start the ascent of Camp saddle over to the next valley. Having identified what might be the route we stopped for a quick bite to eat before starting the climb. While pondering the route, and asking for advice from passers-by, we failed to notice that we had stopped right by a sign saying “CAMP SADDLE UP SCREE” until some eagle eyed person pointed it out (it was a bit obscured by the bush I might add).

Then it was a slow plod up the scree and tussock for half an hour or so. We finished our lunch on the top, watching some paragliders in the distance, and then followed the poled route down the gentler slope to the Broken River. At the bush line the track broadened out to a gentle sloping car width track until it met the Broken River ski road. This was followed by an hour and a half wander down the pleasant ski road to the campground - about 5 1/2 hours walking all up.



Camp Saddle sign

2026_0228_1243 KF



Graeme (leader), Karen, Joy & Frank 🌲 GN

Graeme, Frank and Joy having lunch at the saddle

2026_0228_1349 KF

A FRAME HUT

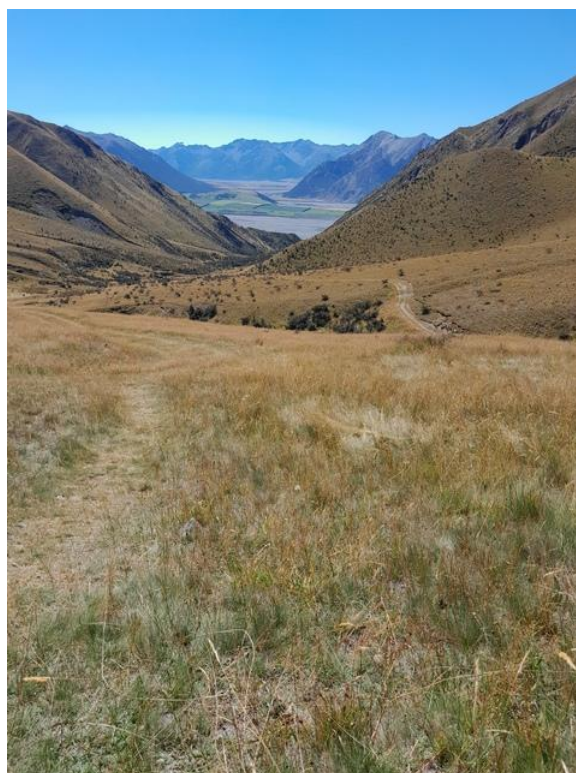
Saturday 7th March

Four of us headed off from the meeting point at West Melton, picking Kim up at Hororata on the way. After 90 minutes, and a dusty road, with four fords to cross, we arrived at the start of our tramp. The blue sky, windless day and absence of trees or shade made for a very humid and hot tramp.

We followed a four wheel drive track, up and over Turtons saddle. On the top of Turtons, we had some great views up the Rakaia River. Another hour of walking, we arrived at the A Frame hut and had lunch.

On the way back we encountered three groups of people, heading up to either the A Frame or Comyns Hut, including a solo Te Araroa walker. Total distance walking for the day was 19km.

Murray (Leader) with thanks to Karen, Joy, Mary and Kim for the company. 🏠 MH



View of the track

2026_0307_1424 MH



A Frame Hut

2026_0307_1243 MH



Te Araroa Sign at star of track

2026_0307_0932 KF

PREBBLE HILL / CAVE STREAM

15 March

The four of us that went out on this glorious day had a good time. We crossed the river and climbed Gorge Hill but we could not find a sensible way down to the river to cross to Prebble Hill (in hind sight we should have aimed to follow the cliff to the left). We were running out of time anyway, so we turned back the same way. Gorge Hill has great views and interesting rocks just like Prebble Hill.

We went through Cave Stream, with some of us not having been there in over 40 years. The entrance seems to be getting deeper slowly over time as the water wasn't high, yet chest high in the first bit (which is usual now as the cave has been scoured out from flooding in 2022). The two waterfalls and the last steps to the ladder are getting trickier too - still fun though 😊.

Evelien (Leader). Thanks for your company Pat, Karen and Gijs. 🏠 EB



View from morning tea stop Gorge Hill

2026_0315_1150 KF



Pat, Evelien & Gijs trying to find a route to river

026_0315_1208 KF

MT HERBERT

Sunday 22th March

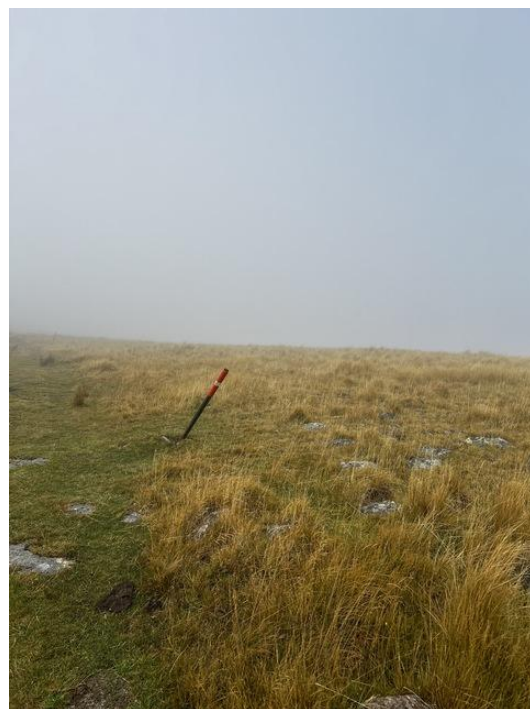
The Overnight trip for the weekend was cancelled due to lack support so a day walk up Mt Herbert was scheduled. Advice received the day before that the Orton Bradley track was closed meant that we had to change route at the last minute. So two of us met at the Diamond harbour ferry terminal at Lyttelton to catch the ferry and take the Walkway route.

The route was well marked although the low cloud did mean a bit of stopping and looking for orange poles in the gloom at times. The route cut across the beach and then followed a creek through bush for the first half an hour. Most of the route was on a gentle gradient across farm paddocks crossing numerous stiles. The gradient steepened as we neared the summit as well as visibility dropping. After 3 hours we reached the 10 minutes to summit sign.

Just as we reached the cairn at the top the cloud parted and we could see out over Kaituna valley. By the time we had lunch and ambled onto the shelter the cloud had completely lifted. We encountered a number of other groups at the top and on the way up included a guy on a bike.

The walk down was at a much faster pace as we wanted to catch the 3:00 ferry back to Lyttelton which we succeeded in doing (helped by a late ferry).

Graeme (leader), Joy 🏔️ GM



View out to Lyttelton, or Lake Ellesmere or South America maybe?

2026_0322 GM



2026_0322 GM