Peninsula Tramping Club (Inc)

FOOTNOTES

November 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 10 November	**Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust** Kate Whyte will talk about the Trusts pest management work and their habitat protection and restoration projects. These include the reintroduction of Tui to the peninsula, supporting farm biodiversity, community education and hosting volunteer planting, weed control and biodiversity monitoring projects.
Tues 8 December 	**Tent Pitching Competition, Surplus Tent giveaway and Christmas Supper** We will be running a Tent pitching Competition using our older and surplus tents (Minaret, Olympus and Spectrum). Pairs or singles depending on numbers of competitors. The tents will be available for members to "purchase" for a donation to the club. Following this will be our usual Christmas supper. Please bring a plate of food to share.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Sunday 8th November
Broadfield Garden of International Significance



This is a free (koha welcomed) open day (10-3pm) and will be popular. The 3.5 hectare garden was established 20 years ago and is now for sale. New Zealand natives blend with locally bred azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, maples, peonies, daffodils, lilies, and roses. Highlights include a kauri forest of over 100 trees, a beech forest, viewing mound, 120 metre New Zealand border, 140m canal, sedge pond, formal rose garden, all framed by 1.5km of Totara hedging.

If wanting to car-pool text Chris (021 0251 2011) your interest by Sat 7 Nov 5pm.
Meet 10:45 am on the bend of Halswell road outside the Halswell School.

Thursday 17th December
Pot Luck Christmas Diner



On Thursday evening we will hold a Pot Luck Christmas celebration at Heather and Kevin's home in Halswell. Join us for Christmas pudding and other goodies. Details to follow.

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 December meeting surplus tents will be offered to members for a donation. So you can see what you are getting we will hold a Tent pitching competition first.

Many of the tents are larger / heavier than most Trampers would like to carry now but would be excellent for car or backyard camping.



4 Minarets (2 person)
5 Olympus's (2 person)
1 Polaris (3 Person)
2 Spectrums (4 person)

New Meeting Place

As Church corner is now quite busy and has little parking we are trialling some new meeting places for trips heading west and welcome any feedback.

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.

14 or 15 Nov
Sat or Sun
● **Moderate**

Mt Barrosa — *Clent Hills*

Graeme Nicholas

A moderate trip up from the Ashburton Gorge Rd. Open tussock country with good views all the way up this 800m climb to a 1364m peak. If weather is bad then may be run on Sunday 15 Nov. Cost $105/car.

Meet 8.30am on Rannock Drive, Broomfield (away from the houses).
Left at lights by NPD Yaldhurst, then 2nd left into Rannock Drive.
Text Graeme by **13th November** **027 504 7726**

22 Nov
Sun
● **Moderate**

Erewhon Ski Hut — *Mt Potts range*

Murray Height

Drive to Mount Somers and take the Hakatere Potts road to just before Erewhon Station. It is 153 km (2 hours five mins) each way. The trip is well marked with a DOC sign on the side of the road. Starting at 650 metres elevation we follow the old 4WD track up to the Ski field and Erewhon Hut. The hut itself is private and kept locked, but there is a long drop available for trampers passing through. Even without hut access, the surrounding landscape makes the effort worthwhile – open ridgelines, vast skies, views of The Rangitata River/ Mt Sunday and the sense of being on the edge of something much bigger. The return trip takes around three hours, making it a manageable but rewarding day hike. Depending on who is interested we could split into a faster and slower group - with the faster group possibly climbing Mt Potts. Cost $123/car.

Meet 7.30 am Contact Murray for meeting place.
Text Murray by **21st November** **roslynfarm@gmail.com or 027 555 0059**

28 Nov
Sat
● **Easy & Easy/Mod**

Awa Awa Rata Reserve & Picnic / BBQ — *Mt Hutt*

Graeme Nicholas

From the rhododendron garden car park at Pudding Hill Reserve, take either an easy (shorter loop track) or easy-moderate walk through native forest up to Scott's Saddle for views of Mt Hutt skifield and across the plains. There will be a barbecue so bring food to share and enjoy the blooms. Cost $81/car, alternatively just join us at whatever time suits for shared lunch.

Meet 8.30am on Rannock Drive, Broomfield (away from the houses).
Left at lights by NPD Yaldhurst, then 2nd left into Rannock Drive.
Text Graeme by **27th November** **027 504 7726**

6 Dec
Sun
●
Easy - Mod

Panama Rock / Otepatotu Reserve — *Banks Peninsula*

Chris Leaver

An easy/moderate trip 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. Contact Chris if you plan to come. Cost $69/car

Meet 8am on the bend of Halswell Road outside Halswell School.

Contact Chris by **4th December** **021 0251 2011**

12 Dec
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 **11th December** **020 4134 3625**

19 March 2027
Fri-Wed
●●●●●●
Mod

Ruapehu Round The Mountain — *North Is*

Chris Leaver

Leaving Christchurch on or before 27 Feb, this 6 day moderate clockwise circuit starts from Whakapapa village on 1 March27. The walk traverses a myriad of volcanic landscapes, ranging from mountain beech forest, tussock country and alpine herb fields to desert lands and glacial river valleys. Although a greater part of the track is in an alpine environment, there are no major alpine passes but it is a back country remote experience. You will need to book your own bunk in a great walk hut (1 March 27 at Waihohonu Hut) $44 and 5 back country huts $14 or hut pass. Contact Chris Leaver as soon as possible as we are in the final stages of planning this trip. For description of walk see: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/tongariro-taupo/tongariro-national-park-walks.pdf

Contact Chris Leaver **ASAP** as we need to finalise this trip. **021 0251 2011**

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.*

Peak Hill

26 September 2026



Wendy, Lewis, myself and Carolyn met at 8.30 at the mobile Yaldhurst. We started our walk at 10.30. The weather was blue skies with a light wind. We stopped off lakeside to admire the lake. The start of the walk started off easily enough walking through a paddock up a fence line. This walk is exposed so only low growing vegetation. Then it got steep the whole way up. There were a lot of other hikers using the track that day. A few places were a bit muddy causing slippage. Luckily we all had our poles. We got to a ridge where we hit strong winds and had to crouch down a bit for stability. We got to the top with an amazing 360 degree view. On one side looking up and down the Rakaia River and the other side out over Lake Coleridge and to the mountain ranges beyond.
We decided to have lunch down a bit from the top in a more sheltered hollow. We got back to West Melton for a coffee at 3.30 pm and the hike much enjoyed by all

Jaimee (leader), Carolyn, Wendy, Lewis JL
Photo's by Jaimee





Woolshed Creek Hut day trip

4 October 2026



We started out a bit perplexed on Sunday morning at Princess Margaret parking lot . . . perfect sunny day and a great forecast, yet only 3 of us were enthused by this prospect of a day trip to head past Mount Somers, making the clockwise round trip to Woolshed Creek Hut from the southern carpark.

Myself, Carolyn and Andy decided to go at leisurely pace for the day, not checking the clock too often and soaking up the atmosphere. The trail started uphill and first passed the coal mines, which had operated much in the 1930's – we wondered what the impetus was to start the works during those tough times during the Great Depression, maybe an effort to start employment (as well as extract the resource)? Andy noted some of the old rail car wheels "Sheffield Steel", dated 1870's by recollection, and purported to be have been the best steel in the world made at that time.



We started to peel off a layer, soaking up the sun, almost no wind, and taking in the bigger peaks off into the northwest distance of the Arrowsmith Range. We were also careful to not get too close looking down deep into the drop to Woolshed Creek. Such unique rock formations carved from the creeks, and Rhyolite from the former volcano, Mt. Somers.We walked past several young trampers, happily bouncing along with their parents behind, coming back from the hut. One lady had said they had been there some 20 times, and I'd say the kids were around 5-6! I wonder what the record is?

A brief stop at the hut and we continued on, searching for a higher spot to again take in the snowy peaks while lunching. A brief stop and the waterfall and eventually we were at the "bus stop", the rocky overhang along the trail.

Andy and I each decided to go for a quick scramble a few meters higher up for a short time while Carolyn contently waited on the trail taking in more views. Still almost no wind, and the rocks made things nicely warm. We noted a healthy sound of birds most of the day as well.

We each were back down from our scrambles and the three of us continued on. After all our good chats with other walkers and amongst ourselves it was now getting on to evening.

A bit of a steep drop down the trail, and we were soon rolling on wheels back towards Rakaia in the fading light, just in time to give the car a drink.

Ok, maybe a few sandflies in the carpark, but maybe it was too perfect a day?

Attendees: Carolyn, Andy, Keith K *Photo's by Keith*







Mt Karetu

25 October 2026

Four PTC'ers meet at Placemakers, Cranford Street, for the drive up to Okuku Pass. We all wore sun hats, knowing it was going to be a hot day. At the top of the Pass, we parked up and threw our day packs on. We started off, following a fence line, up to the top, a bit steepish.
We took a leisurely 1 hour 45 mins to reach the summit, where we enjoyed a long lunch and some spectacular views in all directions. After lunch we retraced our steps back to the cars in an ever increasing heat wave. The car stopped off at Rangiora and we had a well-deserved ice cream.
Thank you to driver Bill, Wendy, and Chris for a great day MH *Photo's by Murray*





Balmoral Forest Fire Lookout and beyond

17 October 2026



Fire Lookout (Top of hill on left). Photo HH

On a pleasant sunny day, ten trampers took the 30 minute climb up to the historic Balmoral Forest Fire Lookout and enjoyed perusing the display boards in the windows and lining up the natural features. Nowadays the views are of well irrigated dairy flats with some remaining sections of radiata forest.
From there we sidled in a north-easterly direction across the grain of several minor valleys and tops overlooking the Hurunui River and Culverden basin. The vegetation was almost lush in places, hidden behind the hot dry north facing hills along Hurunui Bluff Rd.
In the drier areas, the leafless clematis ('rush stemmed clematis') put on a stunning display of creamy yellow fragrant flowers. They are plants that you don't really notice until they flower in October and November.



Native Clematis in bloom. Photo AH

Three short climbs and descents on a mosaic of farm tracks, fencelines, and natural features took us to altitudes of 200 – 350 m with great views. About five hours later we squeezed through the last of the fences to arrive at Anne and Grant Hunter's mini forest. Plantings of durable eucalypt, cypress, poplar, pinus coulteri (big cone pine), pinus pinea (pine nut), oak, and areas of native shrubs and trees have transformed the dry landscape of 20 years ago. That pesky Nasella tussock is still a problem which must be checked annually, either grubbed out or sprayed. It is unpalatable to livestock and very invasive.
Grant boiled the kettle for a well earned cuppa while we relaxed beside the hut. Having shuffled the cars at the start of the day, it was a 5 minute drive along the road back to the Lookout carpark.
We were Anne, Grant, Graham, Chris, Heather, Helen, Peter, Kerry, Eileen, Ian. AH





Photo's HH

NOTES

Committee			
Co-Presidents	Graeme Nicholas	027 504 7726	gra.nicholas@gmail.com
	Evelien Baas	027 557 5521	baasevelien@gmail.com
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	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