



Peninsula Tramping Club (Inc)

FOOTNOTES

October 2021

PTC	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc.)
Postal Address	The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 13 258, City East, Christchurch 8141
Web address	www.ptc.nz
E-mail	secretary@PTC.nz
Facebook name	Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch
Correspondence	All correspondence to the Secretary, including change of contact details

Committee

President	Diane Mellish	337 5530	Gear Custodian		
Treasurer	Mike Bourke	332 7097	Committee	Kevin Hughes	332 6281
Trip Planner			"	Alison Maccoll	322 8540
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	"	Bridget O'Regan	338 4785
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069			

New Member Enquiries: Contact **Stan Wilder, 260 2340**, to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters.

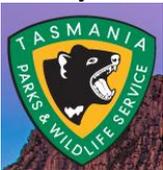
Our Club

The 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 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

Tuesday 12 Oct



Tassie Travels

PTC member **Dan Pryce** will tell us about walking **Tasmania's Overland Track** from Cradle Mountain through to Lake St Claire over a week in mid-June this year. Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park is one of Australia's most famous national parks, with its grand glaciated landscape and wonderful flora and fauna.

Tuesday 9 Nov

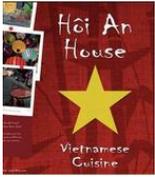


Banks Peninsula Volcanology

Geologist **Sam Hampton** will tell us about the ancient history of our local peninsula. Imagine Christchurch without our excellent nearby harbours and bays.

Social Events

Tuesday 19 Oct



Heathcote River loop, Dinner at Hoi An House

Depart at **6pm** from the corner of Lincoln and Curletts Roads for a walk along the Heathcote River loop in Canterbury Agricultural Park. Drive to [Hoi An House](#), 265 Halswell Rd in time for **dinner at 7.15pm**. Dinner bookings to Margot Bowden by **Sunday 17 October**. Ph **03 332 7020** or margot.bowden@gmail.com

NOTES

Peninsula TC Losses

In one of those unexpected coincidences that happen during our lives, PTC has seen the passing of three of our former or current members within one sad week in August.

MIKE BLOWERS – Friday 13 August 2021

Many of us will have fond memories of Mike and his effervescent wife, Hazel, on PTC trips during the 1990's. It was a large loss to club-life in general when they moved to Nelson. Mike was born in Kenya and with a number of years in Papua New Guinea, during any chat on PTC trips he was a steady fund of fascinating tales of overseas projects and events. Mike and Hazel were on a number of the Christmas Totaranui base camps organised by our Club Patron, Dennis Kemp, during the 1990's, as evidenced by the Dec 1996 photo of Mike and Brian. Our thoughts are with Hazel.

BRIAN SMITH – Sat 14 August 2021

You will all be aware of Brian's sudden passing in Public Hospital last month. Brian's long history with the Club can be summarised as:

1985 Joined PTC

1986 Elected to the Executive

1988–1994 Trip Planner

1996–Aug 2021 Quartermaster

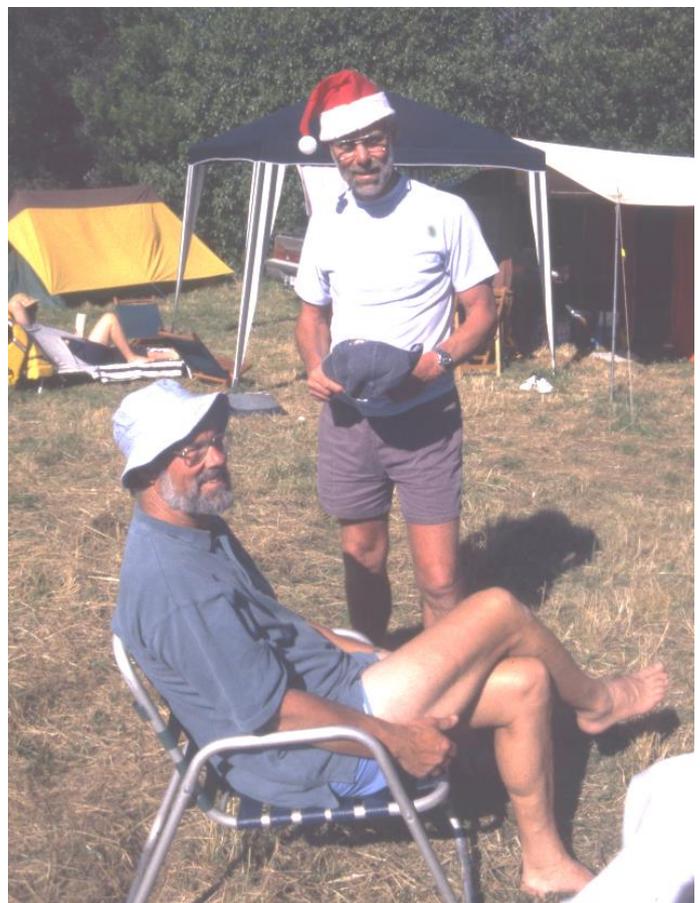
2005–2008 President

2009 Elected Life Member

Statistical facts only partly describe Brian's huge contribution to Club operation and events. Twenty-five years of organising and maintaining the club gear speaks for itself, but Brian all the while was involved in other work for the benefit of members.

He opened up and set up for monthly Club nights.

He became the organiser for Court Theatre evenings.



Brian in Christmas mood. Mike seated

He coordinated Club submissions to the annual FMC photo competitions.

For all of these he volunteered gladly and enthusiastically. At the same time, he had also embraced yachting with the same enthusiasm.

Brian, you will be sorely missed and long-remembered.

A celebration of Brian's life will be held at 2.00pm on a Friday, **to be advised**, at the Mt Pleasant Yacht Club

PAULINE THORPE – Wednesday 18 August 2021

Pauline Hockley joined PTC circa 1975. About then, both Pauline, her sister Jude and cousin Sue started appearing in PTC newsletters. Pauline was first elected to the Executive in April 1977. One Richard Thorpe was already an Exec member and about the same time, they became engaged. Family events often happened in the 1970's. In 1981-82 Pauline was Deputy Club Captain (Trip Planner). Then for the five years 1983 -1987 Club Captain. In 1988-89 Pauline became Club Secretary, being replaced as Trip Planner by Brian Smith. That is just the bare bones of what Pauline did for the club. In 2004 Pauline became very ill. To her and her family's great relief, stem cell treatment resulted in many years of remission, right up till recently, before her passing. There are numbers of still-current PTC members who will have very pleasant memories of PTC trips with Pauline in the 1970-80's.

Pauline and Jude were both elected Life Members in 1994.

Covid-19 Level 2 has, of course, prevented families from holding celebrations of the life of their departed.

As soon as we know more, we will circulate a communicator email to all members.

Merv Meredith

Deadline for the Nov newsletter: Please send trip reports, notices, etc. to Kerry Moore

moorekj@xtra.co.nz by **Saturday 30 October**

Next Committee meeting: **Tuesday, 26 October**

TRIPS

10-Oct

[Mt Manson](#)

Sun

Merv Meredith 322 7239

- This moderate trip starts from the Craigieburn Ski Road. The height gain makes for a steep but short climb to this 1860m peak at the northern end of the Craigieburn Range. Snow may be present, so take an ice-axe.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

16-17 Oct

[Youngman Stream Hut](#)

Sat-Sun

Kerry Moore 359 5069

- Easy-moderate tramp to Youngman Stream Hut in the upper Ashley. We will exit via Tarn Hut.

Book by 10 Oct

17-Oct

[Mt Bruce](#)

Sun

Chris Leaver 322 6445

- An easy-moderate up-and-back to this prominent 1630m peak. The route uses part of the Lagoon Track. Optional exit down Broad Stream.

Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

- 23-26 Oct** [Molesworth Base](#)
Sat-Tue **Kevin & Heather Hughes 332 6281**
●●●● Leaving Saturday we will set up camp at the historic Archeron Accommodation house. We will not be roughing it – expect a glamping trip with campervans and large comfortable tents.
Labour Tramps of a variety of grades. Heather will lead easier trips while Kevin will be looking to do something more challenging. Please let us know by Sunday 10th if you are thinking of joining, weekend
weekend so we know we have the numbers to run this trip. Look for an e-mail with more details.
Book by 10 Oct
- 24-Oct** [Christchurch 360 Dunes and Wetlands](#)
Sun **Helen Harkness 384 2890**
● This 16km sector of the CHRISTCHURCH 360 TRAIL will commence at Pages Road and finish at Lower Styx Road.
Meet at 8.30am at the corner of Pages and Wairoa Road, by the Pages Road bridge into New Brighton.
- 30-31 Oct** [Princess Bath](#)
Sat-Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
●● A moderate tramp behind Hanmer, camping at this large tarn below Mt Princess.
Book by 24 Oct
- 31-Oct** [Gebbies Pass—Kaituna Valley](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
● An easy-moderate through-trip via Packhorse Hut. Will need to place a car for drivers to go back and then drive around to Kaituna Valley.
8am Cashmere Rd opp PMH near Hackthorne Road
- 6-7 Nov** [Pell Stream--Freyberg Range](#)
Sat-Sun **Peter Umbers 359 9118**
●● We use the Lake Daniel track for a short way then head up Pell Stream to the hut. On day two we'll climb to the Freyburg Range and descend the track to Maruia Springs. Moderate-hard.
Book by 31 Oct
- 7-Nov** [Peraki Bay](#)
Sun **Murray Hight 347 4014**
● Visit to this site of the first European whaling station in Canterbury on Banks Peninsula.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 13-16 Nov** [Lockett Range, Seven Lakes circuit](#)
Sat-Tue **Raymond Ford 022 318 0872 fordrm@snap.net.nz**
●●●● A moderate trip to the Diamond Lakes of the Lockett Range in NW Nelson. The lakes are Little Show
weekend Sylvester, Sylvester, Lillie, Diamond, Lockett, Ruby and Iron. Some nice viewpoints along the way--Iron Hill, Mt Benson and Mt Lockett.
Book by 7 Nov
- 14-Nov** [Hinewai - The Stones](#)
Sun **Norman Burden 021 0228 9141**
● This easy-moderate trip visits a 980ha botanical reserve occupying most of Otanerito Valley in south-east Banks Peninsula. The area has over 12km of tracks and is privately managed for the protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife AND for us to walk through.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH

- 20-21 Nov** [Ben More--13 Mile Bush](#)
Sat-Sun **Kerry Moore 359 5069**
 ●● A moderate climb from Lake Lyndon to 1655m Ben More and over to stay at 13 Mile Bush Hut.
Book by 14 Nov
- 21-Nov** [Old Coach Road](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● From the hairpin bend below Porters Pass we do an easy-moderate circuit to the Trig M track and down to the section of highway 73 that leads to Lake Lyndon. 1251m Trig M is a little diversion.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 27-29 Nov** [Nina—Boscawen--Rough Creek](#)
Sat-Mon **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ●●● A moderate circuit up the Nina Rr to Nina Biv then over Boscawen Saddle to Lake Christabel Hut. Day three goes to the highway via Rough Creek.
Book by 21 Nov
- 28-Nov** [Rapaki Track](#)
Sun **Awaiting leader**
 ● An easy walk to explore the Rapaki track on the Port Hills.
Meet 8am Cashmere Rd, opp PMH
- 4-5 Dec** [Avoca Homestead--Torlesse Range](#)
Sat-Sun **Honora Renwick 942 8368**
 ●● Parking on day 1 at the end of Craigieburn Rd and walking the short distance to the old Avoca Homestead. Day 2, climbing a vehicle track towards Bold Hill, then onto the main Torlesse ridge, past Otarama Peak, to Back Peak and out via Mt Torlesse or Castle Hill and Foggy Peaks. Moderate-hard. Anyone wanting an easy weekend can explore the mining relics up Broken Rr.
Book by 28 Nov
- 4-Dec** [Woolshed Hill](#)
Saturday **Mary McKeown 358 7717**
 ● From near Hawdon Shelter, a moderate up-and-back to 1429m Woolshed Hill. The hill gives great views, including the Three Peaks of Binsler.
Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd
- 5-Dec** [Turtons Saddle--Pt 1805 circuit](#)
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 ● This moderate section of the Te Araroa Trail goes from the Rakaia Rr up Glenrock Stream to the saddle then up a nice spur to Point 1805. Descending another spur will make a nice circuit. Curiously there are three 1805m points within 2km on the map.
Meet 7am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd

TRIP REPORTS

Castle Hill Peak (aka Mt Philistine) – 15 September 2021

Flexibility is becoming an essential part of tramping. Yet again, the forecast for Raymond's Sunday trip to Mt Philistine involved 140kph north-west winds. The following Wednesday forecast looked good and a delay of several days might allow the snowpack to settle down but the avalanche advisory for Arthurs Pass remained

stubbornly high for the top basin. It was too good a day to waste so four headed towards the Craigieburns, possibly Mt Cloudsley. The view of the snow cover from Foggy Peak to Castle Hill Peak looked fantastic as we approached Springfield and that seemed a better option than the high snowline on Mt Cloudsley that Raymond had noted on the webcam. So, another change of plan.

There was another car at Porters Pass and a line of footsteps preceded us through the hoar frost crystals up Foggy Peak. The conversation level diminished slightly as many cobwebs were blown away with the climb. The scree was still frozen solid, helping progress, and we made the top of Foggy Peak in good time with no wind at all and views in all directions.

We still couldn't see the footstep makers ahead of us, so they must have started early. The traverse along the ridge was delightful with firm, packed snow and the occasional drift. We had almost reached the last climb to the summit when the footsteps stopped, there was a large excavation in the snow, then ski tracks but still no people. We had almost reached the top of Castle Hill Peak when we saw two people coming up behind us. Hmm, another group. We had a perfect lunch stop, views to Mt Cook, the Arrowsmiths and Mt Evans, and still not a breath of wind. We were above the 2000m mark, with snow well above the top trig pole. The two behind caught up and turned out to be two guys from the Canterbury University Tramping Club who had been ahead of us. They skied off down towards Ghost Creek and climbed up for another go—the energy of youth! They skied off the top for another run towards Ghost Creek while we headed back along the ridge. Views continued, little wind and then the final descent back to the car. A fantastic spring day, with plenty of opportunity for views and conversation. After a succession of nor-wester cancellations, it's nice to remember what tramping can do for mental health. Mt Philistine will have to wait.

Trampers: **Raymond Ford (leader), Geoff Spearpoint, Peter Umbers and Gary Huish.** 🌲 GH



Approaching Castle Hill peak, the highest point of the Torlesse Range. Photo by Geoff

Kahutara Biv, Clarence Reserve

25-26 September 2021

This was yet again another weather-induced change of plan. The trip was down for Discovery Stream - Sudden Valley. The club has been trying to get back there for a while, without success and this time the forecast said nor-wester on Saturday and southerly rain on Sunday. So, a Plan B was needed. Liz suggested Kahutara Biv and if Peter chose that, she would come too. So, we did, in the hope that the NWER wouldn't be too bad in the Seaward Kaikouras and Sunday's southerly not as wet.

Kahutara Biv is reached from the historic road that starts on the north side of the Kahutara River on the Inland Kaikoura Road. The road goes all the way over the range and down to the Clarence River. The route to the biv starts at the 'real' saddle at 1200m± on the high point about a kilometre north of Blind Saddle. Warden Hut is about 6 km further on. Getting down to the biv requires a sidle up from the road to cross the 1354m high-point that leads down and around a number of spurs and faces to the biv in fairly high regenerating bush. Liz had checked with Bill Templeton who suggested that giving the matagouri a bit of a tickle would be appreciated, so we took our loppers.

With an early start from Christchurch, we had driven the short distance up the riverbed track to the locked gate at the start of the hill climb, got packed and were walking before 10am on the steady plod up the road, with the nor-wester increasingly becoming a pain. Fortunately, we picked a sheltered bend in the road for a good lunch spot, before continuing on up to Blind Saddle. The nor-wester became a severe head wind. Approaching the turn-off to point 1354 at 1.15pm, Kerry decided it would be wise for him to bail out and return to the vehicle for the night. We discussed the logistics and agreed that, apart from missing out on dinner, Kerry would be happiest retreating.



Above Blind Saddle. Photo by Merv

Rounding the face and into the full force of the nor-wester, the upward slide on scree and tussock really wasn't fun. I could have bailed too, had we been in voice contact so we scrambled on. Higher up, I was having grumpy thoughts again and managed to signal Peter and Liz with my loppers. Peter dropped his pack and came back to me. Give up? What? Was this really Peter firmly suggesting he and Liz really did want to get to the biv? Either way, I continued up the scree to point 1354m. Getting down from there would normally just have taken a bit of navigation, plus a bit of snipping of the matagouri, but the wind made it a constant effort to brace against the blast and keep moving. It was quite a fillip when we spotted the biv below. As we got closer, the bush was higher and the wind kinder. Arriving at the biv at 4.20pm was time to relax and enjoy a brew.

The biv is a rounded top, high-ceiling Marlborough type. Fine for two in the bunk and one on the floor. Liz volunteered Pete for the floor. The biv is well above the river and has a small water barrel but with a very short

catchment gutter, so there were a few 20 litre translucent water containers there as well. There is a chopper pad down the spur a bit. And as far as provisions go, a clearskin bottle caught our eye—cheap South African junk wine but no-doubt it could add a small degree of refinement to dinner. Why not?

The forecast was for the nor-wester to turn southerly with rain, early morning. The nor-wester died, leaving a gentle southerly with the odd white cloud. Prior to day-break at about 5.30am the hut was getting an increasingly noisy clatter. Was it the goat we saw? It sounded like a kea on the deck but the bashing seemed too much for a kea. In fact, it really was a solitary kea!

Our arrangement with Kerry was that we'd get up early and be back to the car by midday. Up before 6am, we were away at seven. This was Kahutara time, not your Daylight Saving time. Returning up the hill on the known route and without the wind was simple, although Liz did go straight up to point 1354 just to check it. From 1354 we saw three young cyclists coming up to the saddle from Warden Hut. As we descended, they stayed on the saddle until we arrived. For at least one of them, this was his first overnighter on the bike. And yes, yesterday was more than exciting, getting to their hut. They then shot down the road and we started our, now easy, plod with sweeping views ahead.

As it happened, we arrived down to the car at 11.55am, still in pleasant weather and with Kerry not showing any signs of suffering from lack of food. He even had a bit left. Driving out, we struck rain before reaching the main highway, so how was that for timing? With a food and drink stop in Cheviot, we were home by late afternoon (our time) with plenty of time to clean up. The crew on this dry-sock trip was: **Peter Umbers (Leader), Liz Wightwick, Kerry Moore & Merv Meredith.** 🏠 MM



At the biv. Photo by Liz