



Peninsula Tramping Club (inc)

FOOTNOTES

Monthly newsletter of PTC. Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc.

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Facebook name [peninsula tramping club](https://www.facebook.com/peninsula.tramping.club)

June 2014

President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith	Quartermaster	355 9945
Vice-President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford		351 9496
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden		332 7020
Treasurer	Sue Piercey	384 9567	Maureen Thompson		377 2482
Trip Planner	Dan Pryce	379 1976	Ruth Barratt		335 0010
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Geoff Price		343 5001
Editor	Kerry Moore	359 5069			

New Member Enquiries Please contact Stan Wilder, 980 5291, to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters

CORRESPONDENCE, including changes of address etc. can be sent to the club secretary—see above

OUR CLUB consists of people of all ages who tramp for recreation. Regular trips are organised, ranging from 'easy' to 'hard', day trips to long weekends. Various instruction courses run each year to improve members' skills for back-country tramping. In addition to a monthly club meeting, a variety of social events are held.

CLUB NIGHTS are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the Canterbury Horticultural Centre, South Hagley Park (entrance on Riccarton Ave), starting promptly at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30.

Tue 10 June Garden of Eden and Volta Trips
 Gary and fellow trampers will report on their 2013 Gardens and 2014 Volta expeditions
 An SGM will precede the talk to accept the 2013-14 financial statements
Supper Duty: Linda Gardner
John Haylock
Chrys Horn

Tue 8 July Mt Kenya - the Mountain, the Animals, the Plants.
 Christine Leaver, Susan Shannon, and Yvette So will present the highlights of their trip in August 2013, to the second highest mountain on the African continent
Supper Duty: David or Siobhan Grimshaw
Grant or Anne Hunter
Ilia Iline or Marina Ilina

COMING TRIPS

Day Trips

Depart from and return to a convenient point on the side of town nearest to the destination. Non-members are asked to phone the trip leader in advance. If you doubt your suitability for a day-trip, or if the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you to go on the trip.

Weekend Trips

May leave on a Friday night (usually for base camps) or Saturday morning. Please book with the trip leader by the closing date. Be certain you want to go on the trip when booking, as it is not fair on the leader to withdraw after the closing date (good excuses excepted). Numbers on some weekend trips are limited, so book promptly.

Bike Trips

For up-to-date details on biking trips please contact

Rick Bolch ph 980 5156 email rlbolch@paradise.net.nz

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|-------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 2 Jun | LAKE RUBICON - BOBS KNOB | Maps BW21,L35 |
| ■ | Leader Chrys Horn 338 0313 | |
| Mon | Popular moderate round-trip via Lake Rubicon up to a ridge below the Torlesse Range, with | |
| QB wknd | good views of the range and plains. An enjoyable tramp not far from town.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) | Approx cost \$12 |
| 7-8 Jun | BROKEN RIVER HUT | Maps BW21,K34,L34 |
| ■ ■ | Kerry Moore 359 5069 | |
| Sat Sun | A moderate trip in Castle Hill Basin starting from the Avoca incline, descending to Broken River and on to the hut. Possible round-trip returning through No-Mans-Land (not as bad as it sounds..)
List Closes: Sat 31 May. | |
| 8 Jun | BROKEN RIVER – AVOCA | Maps BW21,K34 |
| ■ | John Robinson 027 633 1476 (texts are fine) | |
| Sun | A moderate day near Castle Hill starting from the Avoca incline. This descends to Broken River and follows the river to Avoca Homestead. Possible round-trip returning through No Mans Land and meeting up with the weekenders.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) | Approx cost \$17 |
| 14-15 June | RIBBONWOOD HUT – SMITE PEAK | Maps J35 BW19 |
| ■ ■ | Merv Meredith 322 7239 | |
| Sat Sun | We'll leave town mid-morning Sat, lunch beside Lake Heron then walk an hour or so into the six bunk station hut. On Sunday, with an early start on this moderate-hard round trip, up the spur to 2003m Smite Peak with fantastic views. Returning via Lagoon Peak to drop down the other side of Ribbonwood Stream and take the scree route back to the valley floor.
List closes Wed 4 June | |
| 15 June | THIRTEEN MILE BUSH | Maps K35 L35 |
| ■ | Kerry Moore 359 5069 | |
| Sun | Moderate trip on the flanks of Ben More which lies in the Big Ben Range. We'll park at the end of the straight just 12km inland from Springfield. Thirteen Mile Bush contains the headwaters of North Selwyn River.
Start: 8am Church Corner (opp St Pauls church) | Approx cost \$12 |
| 21 June | Barn Dance - See Social Events | |
| 22 June | MAURICE RESERVE, LITTLE RIVER | |
| ■ | Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008 | |
| Sun | Easy-moderate round-trip above Little River. This will be a nice day out in Geoff's "back-yard". The reserve is a little bit of a climb but nothing serious.
Start: 9am Halswell Primary School, Halswell Rd | Approx cost \$8 |

- 29 June** **MT BINSER 3 PEAKS** **Maps L33, L34 BV21**
 ■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sun **Moderate-hard** trip in the south-east corner of Arthurs Pass National Park. We go up the Binsler track to the saddle before turning south up a spur. The route is then unmarked through bush and onto the open tops. There are three peaks, ranging from 1753m to 1860m with a deep saddle between the low and middle peak. Possible round-trip depending on conditions. Take ice axe and crampons.
Start: 7am Church Corner (opp St Pauls church) **Approx cost \$22**
- 28-29 June** **CARLYLE HUT, GLENHOPE STATION** **Maps M32 BU23**
 ■■ **Dan Pryce 379 1976**
Sat Sun An **easy-moderate** trip up Carlyle Stream to the hut among the forests and peaks on the north side of the Lewis Pass road. Should be a bit of snow around which will add to the ambience. Staying in a character hut with an open fire.
List closes Wed 18 June.
- 5-6 Jul** **HAWDON HUT** **Maps BV21,K33**
 ■■ **Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976**
Sat-Sun **Easy-moderate** tramp to the new hut, with woodburner, in Arthurs Pass National Park. Come and celebrate a “Mid-Winter Christmas” with a lavish Saturday night meal.
Trip closes 25 June.
- 6 Jul** **HALSWELL QUARRY - BELLBIRD** **Maps BV20,M36**
 ■ **Stan Wilder 980 5291**
Sun An **easy** walk from the old quarry, up a good track to the summit road and along to Kennedys Bush and the sign of the Bellbird.
Start: 9am by the toilets at the quarry car park
- 12-13 Jul** **KIRWANS HUT** **Maps BV21,L30**
 ■■ **Sue Piercey 384 9567**
Sat-Sun **Easy-moderate** tramp up a well graded old miners’ pack track in Victoria Forest Park near Reefton. A 900m slow climb through the forest to this comfortable hut near the bush edge with great views. Optional side-trip to tussock-topped Kirwans Hill
Trip closes 5 July.
- 13 Jul** **MT CHEESEMAN - MT IZARD** **Maps BW20,21,K34**
 ■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sun **Moderate-hard** snow trip to two 2000m peaks in the Craigieburns, via 1000m Hogsback. Ice axe and crampons required.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$18**
- 19-20 Jul** **CROW HUT** **Maps BV20,K34**
 ■■ **Joy Schroeder 351 4655**
Sat-Sun **Easy-moderate** tramp to a comfortable hut (with a fire) in a clearing between forested slopes and the Waimakariri River in Arthur’s Pass National Park. We will meet up with the Avalanche Peak - Crow team Sat night.
Trip closes 12 July.
- 19-20 Jul** **AVALANCHE PEAK- CROW HUT** **Maps BV20,K33**
 ■■ **Dan Pryce 379 1976**
Sat-Sun A classic **moderate** trip ascending Avalanche Peak from Arthurs Pass then following the ridge before dropping down a scree slope to Crow Hut. Sunday, walk out to Klondyke Corner with our Crow Hut friends.
Trip closes 12 July

- 26-27 Jul** **HANMER BASE CAMP** **Maps BU24,25,M31,N31,N32**
 ■■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sat-Sun The first of our classic Winter base camps this year, doing it in style as we do in the Winter, staying at the Forest Trust Camp. We have three bunkrooms booked in the modern Ensor Lodge, plus our usual kitchen/lounge, the Reid kitchen. Drive up Friday night, a full range of trips on offer from an **easy** few hours to **moderate-hard** all-day, with the opportunity of a soak in the hot pools afterwards. Be in early to book your place.
Trip closes 16 July
- 27 Jul** **HIGH PEAK** **Maps BX21,L35**
Sun **Evelien Baas 03 317 9077 and Gary Huish 332 7020**
Easy-moderate walk to this 968m snowgrass covered hill in the Rockwood Range. Fine views of Mt Hutt range, upper Rakaia valley and upper Selwyn River.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$18**
- 3 Aug** **RED HILL** **BW20,21,K34,35**
 ■ **Douglas Woods 021 242 9122 (texts are ok)**
Sun **Moderate** winter trip to this 1641m peak between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Choice of route depending on conditions. Ice axe, crampons and thermos(!) required.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$16**
- 3 Aug** **REDCLIFFE SADDLE** **Maps BW20,BX20,K35**
 ■ **Organiser Dan Pryce 379 1976**
Sat-Sun An **easy** trip on the south side of the Rakaia River to the scenic reserve by Redcliffe Stream. A track is marked from the road up the true right of Redcliffe Stream to the public conservation land at the base of Rat Hill. Tribulation Hut is further on.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from the church) **Approx cost \$18**
- 9-10 Aug** **CAMERON RIVER - SOUTH BRANCH ASHBURTON** **Maps BW18,19,BX19,J35**
 ■■ **Bill Templeton 354 2277**
Sat-Sun **Moderate** trip in close proximity to the Arrowsmith Range. We'll be in the headwaters of two river valleys, with a couple of crossings of the Wild Mans Brother Range.
Trip closes 2 Aug
- 10 Aug** **MT ENYS - MT CLOUDESLEY** **Maps BW20,21,K34**
 ■ **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
Sun **Moderate-hard** snow climb between these 2100m peaks in the Craigieburns. Ice axe and crampons required.
Start: 8am Church Corner (across from church) **Approx cost \$17**

SOCIAL EVENTS



Barn Dance

Saturday 21 June 8pm until midnight

St Peters Anglican Church Hall

Church Corner, Riccarton

Called dances

with The Incredible Ceilidh Band

Get tickets from a committee member

Tues 15 Jul



Short walk and evening meal at Little Saigon Restaurant

Meet outside the Little Saigon Restaurant at 6.15pm for a short walk to Cathedral Square followed by a meal at 7pm. Little Saigon, 547 Colombo Street in the South City Centre. BYO and licensed, mains \$11 to \$23. Please contact Margot Bowden, Phone 332 7020 or margot.bowden@gmail.com by Sunday 13 July if you are coming for the meal.

NOTES

Membership We welcome **Aaron Hunter**

Deadline for the July newsletter **Monday 30 June**

Next committee meeting **7:30pm Tue 24 June**

News from the latest DoC Users' Group meeting

It has been a year since our last regular meeting between DoC staff and users of the DoC estate such as our club. Then the latest restructuring hit DoC. They aim to hold meetings on the first Wednesday of April, July and October. Here are a few points from the April meeting, which Brian attended.

Mt Cook

For tourism purposes, the Tasman Valley Rd is being realigned, ie bought down off the bluff face onto the valley floor and sealed. Part of the cost is coming from DoC's budget.

DoC Geraldine

Now here is a bit of good news about South Canterbury. Mt Nimrod Station, in wallaby country, has gone through tenure review. There has always been ready access into the little bush reserve below Mt Nimrod, but access up the farm track to Mt Nimrod itself was tricky. DoC and the station didn't often see eye to eye. Now the review 'outcomes' are being implemented and DoC hope to have a tramping track to the summit completed by the spring. We lobbied for that during tenure review, years ago.

DoC Rangiora

Most news from our area seems to be about volunteer groups carrying out or taking over, maintenance of DoC huts. DoC organised painting of 'mainstream' huts such as Goat Pass, Hurunui and Boyle Flat. It seems only more volunteer input can follow. How things will balance out with the new Community Conservation Partnership Fund, only time will tell.

If you have been to Minchin Biv, on the way to Minchin Pass or Penny Pass, you may well agree the old biv is nearly past it. But fear not, DoC aim to replace it with the Poulter Biv.

Of course, storm damage over recent months was a subject of conversation during the evening. 🌲 **Merv M**

TRIP REPORTS

Volta Glacier 1-9 February 2014

The Volta Glacier is a fascinating alpine playground located 10km to the north-east of Mt Aspiring. The upper glacier is relatively flat at 1900m only 500m lower than the enticing peaks of Fastness, Glacier Dome, Tantalus and Pickelhaube, with the north face of Mt Aspiring as an imposing background. It would be more frequently visited if not for the difficulty of access, as anyone looking from the East Matukituki on the popular Rabbit Pass route can attest. Geoff had found a back-door many years ago around the end of Beauty Ridge but the normal approach up the crumbling Ruth Ridge was enough to deter many mountaineering parties. There was another route through the Tartarus Icefall. Direct access up the Ruth Stream was impossible but parties had gained access from Aspiring Flats and Wilmot Saddle down an exposed ridge into the head of Ruth Stream. Even this route had issues. Phil Novis accompanied Geoff on a recce a fortnight before the trip and is understood to have observed "you won't get a tramping party down here, so where are you going to take them?" Geoff may have taken that as a challenge.

With that background, the ten of us set off up the East Matukituki under clear skies with much anticipation and just a touch of apprehension. We finished **Day 1** at a small campsite before Junction Flat with most people sleeping out with a reduced sand-fly population compared to the usual campsites. The little beasts still encouraged an early start next day to Aspiring Flats with a side-trip to the Rock of Ages bivouac so Doug

could fix its position compared to the incorrect map location. Then it was up the appropriately named Rainbow Stream with wind blowing the multitude of waterfalls into a curtain of spray below the ramparts of Fastness Peak. Higher up the valley, the summit of Mt Aspiring made an imperious appearance, requiring many photo stops. Many of these had Calum as model, since his camera had failed due to a dud battery batch. Finally we gained the **Day 2** campsite at the 1682m Wilmot Saddle and the first of many tactical discussions about the weather forecast. Prospects of worsening weather could mean only a day trip to the Volta and a retreat to the East Matukituki over 1859m Sisyphus Peak but we decided to climb it anyway for the evening light, leaving Merv to cook the evening meal. The evening mountain radio forecast improved so our ascent was justified and we were off to the Volta in the morning!

The snow-grass-covered ridge into Ruth Stream was spectacular in that any slip would mean a rapid completion of the 500m descent. Geoff safeguarded us by treating it as an alpine climb using crampons, ice axes and snow stake belays at the critical points. The middle belay involved 40m of near-vertical vegetation but it was amazing how normally slippery dry snow grass fronds and flexible alpine plants behave when impaled with a set of front crampon points. After a welcome relief in Ruth Stream for a belated lunch, it was time to regain all the height we had lost. The Tartarus Icefall has retreated and the climb was a relative anticlimax with only one belay over a crevasse in the gully. Then we were on the Volta! The vista was stunning but so was the wind as we searched for a sheltered **Day 3** campsite. A series of tarns in glacier-ground rock gullies provided water but nowhere was calm. The evening weather report had worsened and north-west gales were forecast for the following night. Another tactical discussion – retreat to Ruth Stream or snow cave further along the Volta? Geoff got the answer he wanted and next morning we set off into the gathering cloud. Snow caving with only ice axes, billies and bowls is interesting and while Douglas gained the ice axe enthusiasm award, Chris showed her style at snow clearing. Three hours work made a cozy retreat on the south-east side of Glacier Dome and the remainder of **Day 4** was spent heading back to fill water containers at the previous campsite and discovering just how protected our position was from the wind. **Day 5** started slowly but improvement in the weather encouraged an expedition to 2367m Glacier Dome. Drifting cloud provided tantalizing glimpses of future routes, both across the slopes of Pickelhaube and Geoff's back-door to the Beauty Ridge. There was a contemplative silence as he described the route while we all considered the impressive cliff lines below it. Previous footprints led through the crevasses to the top and some very happy people added to their collection of summit shots in the cloud.

For many of us, **Day 6** was the most spectacular we have spent in the mountains. The promised fine weather arrived and cameras were going crazy. We crossed from the Volta to the Purity Glacier and then some prospecting of routes was required before we traversed high across the slopes of Pickelhaube. We wended our way through the crevasses under Beauty Ridge while watching a chamois demonstrate the advantages of four-hoof drive. Then it was down to the scree traverse we had seen from Glacier Dome. The map shows a slight gap in brown contours at 1600m and a series of gullies provides a very reasonable tramping route out onto the terraces high above the Waitatoto River. An old deer trail provides a route in places at the 1600m level above the Pearson River and around to above Jimmy Creek. At this point our objective of Pearson Saddle looked so close and a similar height but it's a long drop into Jimmy Creek down a trail that looks more suitable for mountain goats than deer and a longer climb back up the other side.

Camping in tussock that night with tarns for a wash was a novelty. Aarn demonstrated his softer side once he had donned his five-toed shoes that were very adept at trapping alpine flowers between the toes. **Day 7**, back on the tourist trail above Rabbit Pass, saw us starting to encounter other people again. We dropped our packs to go back and stare at the route up the waterfall, pleased not to have to attempt it. Then it was Rabbit Pass itself, splitting into two groups to minimize the rock-fall risk. Ruth's digging efforts on the snow cave were unfairly rewarded when she put her back out coming down the rock scramble but she managed to continue. It's a long way down to swimming spots on the river but we spent time looking up at the edge of the Volta thinking, "been there". Crossing Ruth Flat was certainly interesting as we gazed up at the descent ridge into the upper basin and the ascent route up the Tartarus Icefall. The end of **Day 7** involved the haul up onto the sidle track above the Bledisloe Gorge and it was "bledi-sloe" going, particularly crossing the washed-out side streams. We finally reached a campsite near and on the track at the edge of a large burned area. Another night out for most of us and a spectacular view of sunrise on Mt Aspiring before the walk down the East Matukituki.

A fantastic trip with many highlights. Geoff again demonstrated that careful management can get tramping parties into areas that might otherwise be considered as mountaineering preserves.

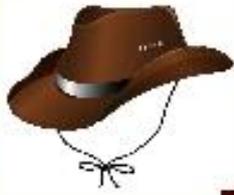
Trampers: **Ruth Barratt, Raymond Ford, Doug Forster, Chris Leaver, Calum McIntosh, Merv Meredith, Geoff Spearpoint (leader), Aarn Tate, Douglas Woods and Gary Huish.** 🏔️ GH



Wooded Gully – Pinchgut Hut —10 May 2014

Team leader Stan was keen to make a prompt start. As soon as we met at Cranford Street the order was given to get boots on and place dry gear into the car that we were travelling in and the day packs in the other car. Right on the button of 8am we headed to Rangiora to meet Judith. There we changed cars. One headed to the picnic area at Mt Thomas and the other to the Okuku River end. Both groups started the trip within 10 minutes of each other. Team A: **Trish, Jill, John, Stuart and Lois** started their climb heading towards the cloud cover, however as they progressed the clouds unfolded. Team B: **Stan, Sue, Judith, Kerry and Gavin** were faced with a river crossing that lapped around the nether regions, thereby awakening them from their sleepy Saturday morning slumber.

Sue and Judith headed away from the river first and at a T intersection turned left. Stan, Kerry and Gavin turned right. Thinking that the girls were in front, the guys set a cracking pace to catch them, only to discover when stopped at the climbing section that the girls were well behind. It may be OK to lose a member or in this case two, however it was pointed out by Sue to Stan that it is not ok to lose your wife. After re-grouping, Team B headed to the Pinchgut Hut for a short visit and then climbed the ridge for a lunch break. As team A was descending the ridge they noted Team B basking in the sun for lunch. Approximately 20 minutes later both teams met, exchanged keys and headed off to conclude the through-trip. Both teams exited at nearly the same time—5 to 5:15pm, and then arranged to have a coffee in Rangiora. Over coffee we debated, who got the short straw, the climb first thing and the long descent or the wet nether region, and the long gradual climb and rapid descent. Thanks to both Stan and Trish for leading each team and making it an enjoyable day. 🏔️ GC



Announcing
The Peninsula Tramping Club's
Annual



Barn Dance

Saturday 21 June, 8pm till Midnight

ST Peter's Anglican Church Hall

Fancy Dress Theme - Dancing

(Country, Scottish)

Prizes for Best Dressed

Supper

Bring a plate of Finger Food for supper

Drinks Supplied

Entertainment

Called dances & The Incredible Ceilidh Band

Spot prizes

Tickets \$25 from any PTC committee member

Or from Margot Bowden 332 7020

