



# Peninsula Tramping Club (inc)

## FOOTNOTES

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

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### March 2016

<b>President</b>	Gary Huish	332 7020	Brian Smith, Quartermaster	355 9945
<b>Vice-President</b>	Leo Manders	356 1731	Raymond Ford	351 9496
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Margot Bowden	332 7020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Piercey	384 9567	Maureen Thompson	377 2482
<b>Trip Planner</b>			Ruth Barratt	335 0010
<b>Secretary</b>	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
<b>Editor</b>	Kerry Moore	359 5069		

**New Member Enquiries** Please contact Stan Wilder, 260 2340 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 **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace** (corner of Madras Street and Oxford Terrace) starting promptly at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30.

Tue 8 Mar

AGM

### AGM followed by Competition Photos

The 84th Annual General Meeting of Peninsula Tramping Club will be held at the Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace

Agenda: Presentation of Exec. Reports. Election of officers, executive members, auditor. General Business: Nominations for all positions are called for. They may be sent, signed by nominee, proposer and seconder, to Merv Meredith, Secretary, 322 7239.

**Supper Duty: John Allan, Graham Allely, Evelien Baas, Evelyn Barben**

Tue 12 Apr



### BIBBULMUN TRACK

**Darcy Mawson** will talk about his walk of this 1000km track that goes from Kalamunda, just outside of Perth, to Albany on the southern coast. He will show video of the wide variety of scenery, animal life and vegetation.

**Supper Duty:**

## 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.

- 6 Mar Sun**      **PREBBLE HILL - CAVE STREAM**      **Maps BW21,K34**  
**Stuart Payne 337 2275**  
 ■ This **easy** trip goes over and under some of the more interesting limestone formations in the Castle Hill Basin. We start from Cave Stream car park and head down Broken River to climb 902m Prebble Hill. This is the one visible from SH73, apparently covered in pebbles but close up they are huge and erosion-carved into animal shapes, allowing your imagination to run wild. On our return we aim to traverse the underground Cave Stream. Take a torch, some warm clothing and a full change for the car. You will get wet!  
**Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**      **Approx cost \$15**
- 12 Mar Saturday**      **KAITUNA CHALLENGE**      **Maps BQ27,M36**  
**Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 ■ Our annual not-too-serious classic bike-walk-run. We have team, individual men's and individual women's categories. Once everyone is there, the day concludes with lunch and presentation of the prestigious trophy.  
 Entry fee to this popular event is a mere \$4 to cover costs.  
**Start: 8:30am Govenors Bay Hotel**
- 13 Mar Sun**      **MT EVANS**      **Maps BX24,N36**  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 ■ **Easy-moderate** walk to this 700m peak on Banks Peninsula, between Lyttelton Harbour and Port Levy.  
**Start: 8am PM Hospital, Hackthorne Rd end, on the river side.**      **Approx cost \$5**
- 19-20 Mar Sat-Sun**      **MT PFEIFER TOPS**      **Maps BV20,K33**  
**Kevin Hughes 3326281**  
 ■■ **Moderate-hard** trip in Arthurs Pass National Park to this 1700m peak between the Deception and Otehake Rivers. Probably camping at the biv above the bush line.  
**List closes 12 March**
- 19 Mar Saturday**      **PINE HUNTING**  
 **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 Enjoy a day controlling the spread of pines in the Purple Hill area  
**Free bus transport. ECAN donates \$ to the club for each pine hunter.**  
**Meet at Yaldhurst Hotel by 7.30am. The buses return about 5pm**  
**Book with Merv by Thursday 10 Mar**
- 20 Mar Sun**      **KENNEDYS BUSH - GOVERNORS BAY**      **Maps BX24,M36**  
**Geoff Korver 355 3905**  
 ■ **Easy** walk up Kennedys Bush track to the summit road, then down to Governors Bay for lunch then a possible slower return journey by the same route. This trip will coincide with a number of gold cards that have been obtained in the last few months. For those who wish to continue it will be followed by a bring-your-own barbeque at the Korver household.  
**Start: 8am Top end of Kennedys Bush Rd.**

- 25-28 Mar** **AHURIRI - CANYON CREEK** **Maps BZ14,G38,39**  
**Fri-Mon** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 ■■■■ **Moderate** trip up Ahuriri Valley crossing into spectacular Canyon Creek, through beech forest, an impressive gorge to the upper valley's waterfalls and grassy flats. A rock bivvy has stunning views of Mt Barth.  
**Easter** **List closes 16 March**
- 25-28 Mar** **NELSON BASE CAMP** **Maps BQ25,26,O27**  
**Fri-Mon** **Margot Bowden 332 7020**  
 ■■■■ The plan is to stay at a motor camp in Nelson and run day trips, with the option of some overnight tramps. Possibilities are Dun Mountain, Maungatapu Track, Mt Arthur tablelands, and a range of shorter walks—something for all levels of fitness in sunny Nelson!  
**Easter** **List closes 9 March**
- 27 Mar** **BEALEY SPUR** **Maps BV20,K34**  
**Sun** **Penny Coffey 332 7182**  
 ■ Popular **easy-moderate** walk to this historic shepherds' hut, through beech forest and tussock clearings which offer great views of the upper Waimak and the mountains of Arthurs Pass National Park. If time permits it is worth walking beyond the hut, further up the spur.  
**Easter** **Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$21**
- 2 Apr** **PINE HUNTING**  
**Saturday** **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 **Enjoy a day controlling the spread of pines in Castle Hill Basin**  
**Free bus transport. ECAN donates \$ to the club for each pine hunter.**  
**Meet at Yaldhurst Hotel by 7.30am. The buses return to Chch about 5pm**  
**Book with Merv by Thursday 24 Mar**
- 3 Apr** **LAKE RUBICON - BOBS KNOB** **Maps BW21,L35**  
**Sun** **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
 ■ Popular **moderate** round-trip up to a ridge below the Torlesse Range, with good views of the latter, taking in Lake Rubicon. An enjoyable tramp not far from town.  
**Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$11**
- 9-10 Apr** **CARLYLE HUT - GLENHOPE STATION** **Maps BU23,M32**  
**Sat-Sun** **Kevin Hughes 3326281**  
 ■■ An **easy-moderate** trip up Carlyle Stream to the hut among the forests and peaks on the north side of the Lewis Pass road. Could be a bit of snow around to add to the ambience. Staying in a character hut with an open fire.  
**List closes 2 April**
- 10 Apr** **THIRTEEN MILE BUSH** **Maps BW21,K35,L35**  
**Sun** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 ■ **Moderate** trip on the flanks of Ben More which lies in the Big Ben Range. Starting from Ben More Station just 12km inland from Springfield. Thirteen Mile Bush contains the headwaters of North Selwyn River.  
**Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$11**
- 16-17 Apr** **BROKEN RIVER HUT** **Maps BW21,K34,L34**  
**Sat-Sun** **Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 ■■ 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 9 April**

- 17 Apr Sun** **BROKEN RIVER - AVOCA** **Maps BW21,K34**  
**John Robinson 027 633 1476**  
 ■ An **easy-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, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost \$15**
- 23-25 Apr Sat-Mon** **THREE PASSES** **Maps BV19,20,J33, K33, K34**  
**Kevin Hughes 3326281**  
 ■■■ Celebrated **moderate-hard** route to the West Coast in the Arthur's Pass region. Travel is via Harman, Whitehorn and Browning Passes but with a variation to include a return to the start via Popes Pass and the Taipo River.  
**Anzac**  
**List closes 9 April**
- 23-25 Apr Sat-Mon** **HOKITIKA BASE CAMP** **Maps BU19,BV19,H35**  
**Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
 ■■■ Grades from **easy to moderate-hard**. Cabins in Holiday Park \$25-30 per night. Limited places available. Tramps will include Mt Brown, Lake Kaniere, Goldsborough, Lake Mahinapua  
**Anzac**  
**List closes 9 April**
- 24 Apr Sun** **LYTTELTON - CAVENDISH BLUFFS** **Maps BX24,M36**  
**TBA Please contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.**  
 ■ **Easy** walk starting from Lyttelton, ascending the Mt Cavendish Reserve, visiting coastal battery locations and the gondola before returning.  
**Start: 9am Corner of London St and Oxford St**
- 30Apr-1M Sat-Sun** **HARPER - AVOCA** **Maps BW20,K34**  
 ■■ **TBA Please contact Gary Huish 332 7020 if you would like to lead this trip.**  
**Easy-moderate** trip up the Harper River from Lake Colridge to a Glenthorne Station hut. Day walks from here to a range of destinations to suit all tastes.  
**List closes 23 April**
- 30 Apr Saturday** **STONY BAY PEAK - MT BRASENOSE** **Maps BX25,BY25,N36,N37**  
 ■ **Geoff Korver 355 3905**  
**Moderate** walk behind Akaroa, crossing the Misty Peaks Reserve between Stony Bay Peak and Mt Brasenose.  
**Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd** **Approx cost \$13**
- Tue 3 May** **TRIP PLANNING**  

 Helping to plan our annual trip schedule gives you the chance to have your say on where we venture. Our meeting will start at 7pm at Gary and Margot's. If you can't attend give your suggestions to Gary or another committee member
- 7-8 May Sat-Sun** **POTTS HUT - DOGS RANGE - MYSTERY LAKE** **Maps BX18,J35,J36**  
 ■■ **Gary Huish 332 7020**  
**Moderate** tramp up the Potts River to the historic Potts Hut. Return over the Dogs Range and Mystery Lake.  
**List closes 30 April**
- 7 May Saturday** **MT RICHARDSON** **Maps BW22,L34**  
 ■ **Margot Bowden 332 7020**  
 Popular **easy-moderate** tramp along reasonable tracks through beech forest, to this 1000m tussock top. Good views of Lees Valley and Puketeraki Range.  
**Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx cost \$9**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Tues 22 Mar **Quarry Walk and Dinner**



Make the most of the last summer walk before daylight saving ends. Come along for a walk around Halswell Quarry. Meet in the car park off Kennedy's Bush Road at 6pm. **Dinner at 7.15pm at Craythorne's Public House** (Halswell Pub), 344 Halswell Road, Halswell. Mains \$20-\$22. If you are coming for dinner please let Margot Bowden know [margot.bowden@gmail.com](mailto:margot.bowden@gmail.com) or phone **332 7020** by **Sunday 20 March**.

### Tues 19 Apr **Walk and Dinner**



Enjoy a moonlit walk along the Sumner and Redcliffs foreshore before dinner in Sumner. Details to follow.

## NOTES

Membership We welcome **Norman Burdon** and **Graeme Hunter**  
**Andrew Brooks** has resigned and moved from Chch

Deadline for the April newsletter Sun 3 Apr

Next committee meeting 7:30pm Tue 29 March at Leo's

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Douglas Neve and the Sierra Range – 6-14 February 2016**

**Copland Rr-Sierra Range-Douglas Neve-Douglas Valley-Conical Hill Saddle-Regina Ck-Karangarua Rr**

For nine relentlessly calm, sunny days our party of eleven walked, climbed, sweated, joked and chatted our way around this wonderful alpine circuit. Thanks to thoughtful planning by leader, Geoff Spearpoint, our days covered manageable distances, allowing time for welcome breaks and swims whenever possible. From day-one the scenery was grand and it just kept getting better. This is BIG country. Our campsites all had quite different characters, and all had views that made you not really want to go to bed. Geoff, of course, has this sorted and simply slept out under the stars every night. With a cohesive group of trans-alpine trampers for company, this trip was a very memorable delight, and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

**Going In.** Our first two days were easy, ambling up the Copland Track, meeting hordes of happy young tourists on their way back from Welcome Flat Hut and hot pools. We camped on the Copland riverbed the first night and set the tone of the trip with swims and a mesmerising fire. The Sierra Range from here is unbroken high bluffs topped with a spiky, jagged skyline. Impressive! In order to gain a little altitude advantage for the next day, our second camp was part-way up Scott Creek, close to the spur which we followed up on day three. Following pink ribbons from a riverbed cairn, the newly cut route to the tops is an honest day's work. This climb to Tekano Glacier saddle was possibly the hardest part of the trip because of the extreme heat of the day. We discovered later that the temperature was 37 degrees at Fox Glacier that day. With not enough water, it was a relief to finally slurp some snow-melt on the tops. The drama of the alps is very evident here, looking down into the glacial cirque with its milky lake at the top of the Tekano, and up towering bluffs to Scott Peak and the Sierra Range. The past fifty years of glacial recession is very noticeable compared to my 1964 map. After gaining the ridge heading south we dropped into a scree basin in the head of the Scott for our third night. Sunset views across to the Navigator Range and all the highest peaks along the Main Divide accompanied Gary's yummy custard and fruit desert, prompting sighs of satisfaction.

**The Tops.** After a bit of poking around for a suitable route back onto the ridge, it was lovely to put on crampons, get out the ice axes and move onto snow. Traversing slopes below Scott Peak, around many open crevasses, we climbed to Welcome Pass. An advantage of February travel is that all slots are revealed... and revealed they were. Any thoughts of climbing Mt Sefton were quickly dispelled over our lunch stop, due to how incredibly broken up the route was. To continue across the Douglas Neve we roped up. The afternoon was a treat of grandeur, sun, snow, good company and anticipation. So many wonderful peaks to climb! With the sun searing any exposed skin, Chris and Aarn jockeyed for the most interesting facial protection. Camp four was on a rocky outcrop at the southern head of the Horace Walker Glacier. Blizzard and Pioneer Peaks beckoned for the morrow. Gary selected the Presidential Suite for his tent, perched in the gentle breeze on the highest point of the outcrop with 360 degree views that included Mts Cook, Dampier and Hicks. A post-dinner stroll across the glacier for sunset views to the Mt Cook Range had all cameras shuttering.



### Approaching Welcome Pass

**Day Five** was set aside for the ascent of a peak. Blizzard certainly looked impressive from camp, and the map promised an easy snow slope on the eastern side, right up to its final rocky scramble. Wandering down the glacier in crisp morning light, ice axes swinging freely and crampons crunching, is a great way to start the day. Deep crevasses gaping below deterred us from the steeper, more direct slope, and we happily opted to head closer to Wicks Col before turning back to Blizzard. Rocks on the ridge allowed a solid base from which to lean over and view the massive drops down, first to the long, smooth, sloping rock platform which continues to be carved by the Douglas Neve, and then right down to the remains of the Douglas Glacier with its terminal lake. Snow travel ends about fifteen metres below the summit of Blizzard Peak, where climbing continues on ‘Southern Alps choss’. A crumbly chute was selected as the easiest way to ascend, and those confident enough scrambled up. I was one who was happy to have the security of an 8mm rope for the climb to the summit. And what a place to be! Over a brew back at camp there was discussion of weather forecasts, the increasingly chilly wind, and the hogs-backs overhead. The decision was made to move to a lower campsite for the night. In late afternoon light, on softened snow, we returned down to Wicks Col, traversed beneath the



Rockfall where we'd been the previous day

alluring balanced rock of Pioneer Peak, and continued down a snow tongue, high above the Horace Walker Glacier. Once back to rock, the drama continued with carved schist slabs, waterfalls, sheer walls and huge rejected boulders which had parted company with the bluffs above. My favourite camp was made in a serene meadow amongst all of this! With a stream meandering through, this lofty shelf provided plenty of flat tent sites and afforded great views across the Karangarua to the Bare Rocky Range. Visiting rock wren topped it off.

The map gives no real indication of the terrain that descends into the Horace Walker valley. It is a jumble of large rocks which have broken away from above, over time. The easiest travel is to take your chances immediately below the bluff. Once down onto grasses again, there was no obvious route through the scrub. We settled on working our way down a dry creek bed. This was a fun scramble, with a riot of scented flowering shrubs at nose level for much of the way. The kettle lake in the valley proved to be a glorious swimming hole. Horace Walker Hut is well-maintained and used regularly by hunters. It is obvious from the impact on vegetation that chamois and tahr numbers in this area are quite high. After an afternoon walk to the Douglas terminal lake, and more swims, we camped on the grassy flats downstream of the hut. Communal dinners and sociable evenings are very much part of the ethos of these trips.

A poled route climbs onto the terminal moraine of the Horace Walker Glacier, then ascends to just under 1500m to cross slopes well above the Douglas Gorge. The poles are a bit far apart for easy following, but do continue all the way. While stopped for lunch and an Aarn Pack photo shoot we heard a boom and looked across valley for yet another avalanche. This time, though, it was a big section of bluff breaking off and smashing down in a dense grey cloud of dust. Just to the right of yesterday's descent. The route continues above ravines and eventually joins the ridge. There is a section on the ridge where travel is tricky and we employed a rope for pack hauling and as a safety line. Our camp at the small tarn—I still call it a wallow—near Conical Hill Saddle provided excellent views into the Douglas River and back up to the seemingly ever-present pinnacle rock of Pioneer Peak. The nearby larger tarn provided a good water supply. The sub-alpine

forest here is spectacular, with gnarly old olearia, bog pines, cedar, and dracophyllum. Sitting on the grassy edges of this tranquil tarn felt very Zen.

**Coming Out.** On many tramps the regress is a bit of an anti-climax. Not this one. The interest and variety continued to impress and appeal. Descent into Regina Creek is steep but the route is well marked and the 3-wire bridge over the river is taut enough to make a comfortable crossing. At the bridge is an excellent swimming hole, sun-lounging rocks included. This became a blissful two hour lunch spot. Then on down, down to the whoopee of the cage crossing of the Karangarua and a gasp of cold fluid at Cassel Flat Hut. That rain and wind never did come. From here we had a well-marked track through gorgeous West Coast rainforest—mixed podocarp and rata, with ponga and ferns beneath—all green and lush and shady and welcoming. Splashing through side-creeks, ducking into pools, wombling on down-valley to our final campsite. This one riverside again, beside the Karangarua. Camp on grass or sand, rata firewood, good, appreciative company. Aaaah, fantastic.

Last day. Outa coffee, long-finished the soup, no more biscuits. You got any chocolate? Last toilet paper! In good spirits we set off down the flats, looking wistfully now and again back up-valley to admire the sparkling dew on the sunlit grasses, and the towering spires of the Sierra Range in the distance. Just a wee way now. Just two hours walk, one last swim, and a short drive to the Eggs Benedict and Coffee at Fox Glacier.

**Party: Geoff Spearpoint (leader), Gary Huish, Raymond Ford, Merv Meredith, Aarn Tate, Calum McIntosh, John Allan, Kevin Hughes, Chris Leaver, Tony Lawton, Gaylene Wilkinson. 🏔️ GW**

### **Kaituna Valley – Packhorse – Rod Donald Hut – Hilltop — 20-21 Feb 2016**

Joy, Tim and Wendy set off from the Kaituna-Packhorse track carpark at 0930 while Gary and Kerry drove to the Pettigrews Road DoC carpark to leave a car there. Returning with one car they set off at 10.30 on a warm, soon-to-be hot, sunny day to join the others. Packhorse Hut has been refurbished, strengthened and now sports a bright red roof. The track on the east side of Mt Bradley goes through some nice forest patches then zig-zags up close to the flat-topped Bradley. Gorse is a problem but recent track clearing smoothed our path to the ridge that connects with Herbert Peak. We enjoyed 10 minutes of shade in the DoC shelter, watching a family of swallows as they wheeled and swooped around the shelter.

Soon we were heading down from the 919m Herbert, past some very relaxed cattle to the 913m “Little Mt Herbert”. We crossed Western Valley Road, walked on 1½km to Waipuna Saddle and looked for the turn-off to Rod Donald Hut. Descending through a reserve at the head of the Little River Valley we arrived at this beautiful hut for some welcome relief from the hot sun. Two women were there already. They had left Packhorse Hut at 0500 in the dark to avoid the heat of the day. Soon, an Israeli couple arrived so the hut’s bunks were almost fully reserved. We were impressed with features of R D Hut—small faucets so water wouldn’t be wasted, split level design, composting toilet, LED lighting and pot-belly stove. Gary cooked up a delicious chicken and risone meal followed by custard on fruit loaf. To tease the others Kerry threatened to light a fire to supplement his bag liner—no sleeping bag. Gary chose to sleep on the verandah to keep cool. Inside, anyone in a sleeping bag would have roasted.

Sunday dawned cooler than the previous day so we had a nice 4 hour walk which included lunch to Gary’s car. Little River was crowded so a coffee stop would have taken ages. We consumed ice cream and drinks and drove back to Kaituna to Kerry’s car then home. We were: **Gary Huish (leader), Joy Schroeder, Wendy Wallace, Tim Hines and Kerry Moore 🏔️ KM**

