



*PTC Monthly
Newsletter*

**Dec 2016 &
January 2017**

PTC: Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Current Committee

President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Editor	Ruth Barratt	335 0010
Vice-President	Leo Manders	356 1731	Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Social Events	Margot Bowden	332 7020
Treasurer	Sue Piercey	384 9567	Social Events	Maureen Thompson	377 2482
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
New Member Enquiries	Stan Wilder	260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters		

Our Club

The PTC 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

Club Nights are held on the **second Tuesday** of each month at the **Baptist Church Hall, 286 Oxford Terrace (corner of Madras St. and Oxford Terrace)** at 7.45 pm. Doors open 7.30pm.

Tues 13 Dec	Christmas celebration with activities Come and join in the festive fun with other PTC members for our Christmas club evening Supper Duty: Liz Cunningham, Nathan Dougherty or Shelley Washington
Tues 14 Feb 	Yvette So - A route less traveled by foreigners in China Jiangxi is generally considered an "off-beat" destination. I had the pleasure of trekking up this granite rock formation with its unique forest; it was once a sacred mountain. Later I hiked up an old stone-paved Horse Postal Trail through some ancient villages. Supper Duty: Derek Gane & Gillian Fulcher

Notice of 2017 PTC AGM

The PTC 85th Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church Hall, on:
Tuesday 14th March 2017 starting promptly at 7.30pm, prior to our normal Clubnight

The agenda will include:-

1. Election of Officers and Executive members

Nominations for positions, signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder, may be sent to the Secretary prior to the meeting. In addition, nomination forms will be available at the door.

2. Notified motions

Note that any member wishing to give notice of a motion for consideration at the AGM should forward their notice to the Secretary at, or prior to, our 14th February Clubnight.

The complete AGM agenda, including any Notices of Motion received, will be circulated on Communicator in late February.

Merv Meredith, Secretary

secretary@peninsulatrampingclub.org.nz

PTC Subscriptions due 1st January



PTC Subscriptions are due by 1st January 2017

This year's increase is to cover the increase in printing and postage for the hard copies. The PTC committee encourage you to consider changing your subscription to the electronic version if you currently receive a hard copy. Please pay by Internet Banking or at a PostShop — check the account you are paying into is correct as stated on your form. Where possible avoid sending a cheque. There is also likely to be a further increase in 2018

Forthcoming 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.

11-Dec

END OF YEAR PICNIC

Sun

Merv Meredith 322 7239

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Diamond Harbour and its reserve is too nice and convenient to ignore, with lots of options, so we are returning this summer. The picnic will be in the Stoddart Point Reserve on the lower level at Diamond Harbour. Drive in to the left of the shops on the road down to the jetty and then to the right at the first hairpin, into the reserve. You can catch the ferry from Lyttelton. Come when it suits you. As well as walking, there are plenty of options, e.g. an early swim at D' Harbour or at Purau. Bring your kayak, boat or bike to Camp Bay or up the Port Levy road.



17-18 Dec

WAIMAKARIRI COL—MT PHILISTINE

BV20

Raymond Ford 351 9496

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This **hard** trip across the Main Divide is one of those “must-do” tramps. It still requires a slog up the Waimakiriri but the location of the Falls Hut makes it worthwhile. A long second day over the Col and up Mt Philistine and back past the bluffs.

List Closes 10 Dec

Approx cost \$24

- 18-Dec** **MANUKA BAY** **O33 BV26**
Sun **Margaret Clark 348 4993**
 * The Manuka Bay track links Port Robinson with the mouth of the Hurunui River. Passing through a variety of coastal scenery, this **easy** tramping grade track is ideal for family groups.
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$16**
- 26Dec-2Jan** **ONAMULUTU BASE** **BQ28**
Leo Manders 356 1731
 **** A traditional Christmas base camp such as Dennis Kemp used to run. This year Leo Manders will be running it at Onamulutu at the base of Richmond Forest Park. He will be present for the whole duration in his campervan. If you want to spend Christmas day there let him know and he will organise a Christmas dinner.

 Access into here is easy on sealed roads from Renwick near Blenheim turning onto Northbank Road Wairau River just after crossing SH6 bridge across the Wairau River. Continue travelling 6 km onto Onamulutu Road and then for a further 7 km to the DOC campsite. A sheltered spot with flush toilets tap water with sink. 50 campsites cost \$8 per adult per night. Also suitable for campervans and caravans.
 Please contact Leo Manders 356 1731, 027 442 6080, leomanders@paradise.net.nz if you have any questions. No need to book just turn up. (see September Footnotes for more details)
- 8-Jan** **ASHLEY GORGE** **L34 BW22,23**
Sun **Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**
 * This is the classic splash down-stream along the Ashley from middle bridge out to the domain. The length of day then depends on the river level—typically six hours-plus in moderate flow. Either way, it's an **easy-moderate**, fun trip on a fine day. Don't forget a full change of clothes for afterwards.
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$14**
- 14-15 Jan** **ASHBURTON GLACIER** **BW18**
Gary Huish 332 7020
 ** A **moderate** trip up the South Branch of the Ashburton (Hakatere) River to this glacier in the Arrowsmith Range. The glacier is one valley over from Cameron Glacier.
List closes 07 Jan
- 15-Jan** **LITTLE MT PEEL** **J37 BY19**
Sun **Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you are able to lead**
 * **Easy-moderate** ascent of this 1300m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and sub-alpine scrub. Quite a long climb, but it's a good track. Those wanting an easier day may want to go only part of the way up, or explore the bush tracks in the area.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd **Approx cost \$22**
- 15-Jan** **MT PEEL** **J37 BY19**
Sun **Merv Meredith 322 7239**
 * **Moderate-hard** ascent of this 1743m landmark in South Canterbury, passing through podocarp forest and subalpine scrub with 7km along the tops beyond Little Mt Peel. Plan to drive down Saturday evening, camp at Peel Forest campground for an early start on Sunday. Usually takes about 10hr.
Call Merv
- 21-22 Jan** **BOYLE FLATS HUT—FAUST** **BU23**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ** A **moderate-hard** climb from the Boyle over the Libretto Range via 1710m Faust. Anyone wanting an easy trip can return as for the inward leg.
List closes 14 Jan

- 22-Jan** **PENINSULA TRAVERSE** **M36,N36 BX24,25**
Sun **Joy Schroeder 351 4655**
* A long day makes this a **moderate** trip. Walking between Orton Bradley Park and Montgomery Park (near Hilltop Tavern) along the summit walkway. Includes Mt Herbert, the highpoint of the peninsula, and several bush reserves. Good views of much of Banks Peninsula. We aim to have a group starting at each end with a car-swap. Take plenty of water!
Start: 7:30am Cashmere Rd opp PMH, Hackthorne Rd end **Approx cost \$9**
- 28-29 Jan** **FOWLER PASS — LAKE GUYON** **BT24**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
** **Moderate** tramp north of Hanmer Springs between the Clarence and Waiau rivers. Staying at or near Lk G Hut. Round-trip crossing the St James Range via Fowler Pass and the 4WD track over Maling Pass.
List closes 21 Jan
- 29-Jan** **TIMUTIMU HEAD — SCENERY NOOK** **N37 BY25**
Sun **Miriam Preston 329 3139**
* **Easy-moderate** tramp over peninsula farmland, via 380m Lucas Peak to Timutimu Head, the western head of Akaroa Harbour. Enjoy lunch watching the seal pup antics in the natural tidal seal, learners' pool at Scenery Nook.
Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$13**
- 4-11 Feb** **ALPINE TRIP**
Geoff Spearpoint 329 0008
***** **Moderate-hard** trip in Mount Cook National Park. Traversing the Tasman and Murchison Glaciers surrounded by BIG mountains and fabulous alpine scenery.
List closes 15 Jan
- 4-8 Feb** **MOTATAPU TRACK** **CB12**
Heather Hughes 332 6281
***** The Motatapu Track follows much of an historic route that linked the Wanaka and Arrowtown areas. **Easy-moderate**.
List closes 22 Jan
- 5-Feb** **KAITUNA—MT HERBERT—PACKHORSE CIRCUIT** **M36,N36 BX24**
Sun **Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**
* **Easy-moderate** circuit from the head of the Kaituna Valley, up to Herbert Peak and along to Packhorse Hut
Start: 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd **Approx cost \$8**
- 3-5 Feb** **THREE PASS** **K33 BV19,20**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
*** The ever-popular **moderate-hard** crossing of Harman, Whitehorn and Browning Passes going from Klondyke Corner to Kokatahi.
List closes 29 Jan
- 11-12 Feb** **YOUNGMAN STR HUT-LILBURNE HILL-LILBURNE RR** **M34 BV22**
Keith McQuillan 384 6164
** **Easy-moderate** tramp to Youngman Stream Hut in the upper Ashley. We will exit via Tarn Hut then a nice splash down Lillburne Stream
List closes 5 Feb
- 12-Feb** **TIROMOANA BUSH—AMBERLEY BEACH** **N34 BW24,25**
Sun **Stan Wilder 260 2340**
* An **easy-moderate** trip along the coast in North Canterbury. Bring leather or gardening gloves to protect against possible assault by shelly limestone.
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St **Approx cost \$13**

- 18-26 Feb FIVE PASSES D40,E40 CA09,CB09**
Penny Webster 349 3693
 ***** This classic **moderate-hard** trip takes in five passes and major river catchments in a superb alpine environment. Starting near the Routeburn car park crossing Sugarloaf Pass into the Rock Burn, Park Pass into Hidden Falls Creek, Cow Saddle and Fiery Col into the Olivine and Fohn Saddle into the Beans Burn. Six days long plus two travel days. The direction and length of trip will depend on weather. Lots of up and down so people need to be hill-fit.

List closes 29 Jan
- 18-19 Feb NINA HUT M31,M32 BU23**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 ** An easy, flat walk through beech forest to this modern hut in the Lewis Pass area
List closes 12 Feb
- 19-Feb HURUNUI PEAK BU24**
Sun Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 * An easy 937m climb above Balmoral Forest and overlooking Island Hills Station. Korari Downs, Flaxdown
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$13
- 25-Feb RYDE FALLS BW22**
Saturday Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 * Easy walk to these pretty falls which come down in three tiers amid a mixture of bush. Starting from Coopers Creek.
Start: 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St Approx cost \$12
- 26-Feb PINE REMOVAL, FLOCK HILL BW21**
Sun Grant Hunter 351 6369
 * A satisfying day on the flanks of Flock Hill, cutting and pulling wildings
Call Grant No cost
- 25-26 Feb WALKER PASS — TARN COL – EDWARDS K33 BV20,21**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 ** One of the classic Arthur's Pass NP tramps. This **moderate** trip takes in the Hawdon and Edwards valleys, a couple of attractive alpine passes, an attractive alpine tarn and views of what's left of Falling Mountain.
List closes 19 Feb
- 26-Feb BEN MORE—BIG BEN—DRY ACHERON BW21**
Sun Gary Huish 332 7020
 * A rare chance to do this **moderate** through-trip from Lake Lyndon to the Lake Coleridge road taking in two Bens—1655m Ben More and 1416m Big Ben. Take plenty of water.
Start: 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost \$22
- 4-5 Mar DECEPTION – MINGHA K33 BV20**
Kerry Moore 359 5069
 ** The well trodden route over the main divide goes through some of the best Arthurs Pass scenery. Why would people run over it when you can walk and take in the view?
List closes 26 Feb
- 4-8 Mar WHANGANUI RIVER TRIP R19,20 BH32,BJ32**
Geoff Price 027 343 5000
 ***** The Whanganui River is a classic river trip and is listed by DOC as one of NZ's 9 Great Walks. We will be travelling the river by kayak or canoe, 145km from Taumaranui to Pipiriki over 5 days enjoying the scenery and history along the river. It is advisable to book early for this trip if you need to hire a kayak or canoe.
List Closes: Sunday 31 January



- 5-Mar Sun** **MT SOMERS TRAVERSE** **K36 BX19,20**
Gary Huish 332 7020
 * Moderate traverse of this 1687m peak on the Winterslow Range. Starting from Woolshed Creek and travelling to Staveley
List closes 5 Mar **Approx cost \$23**
- 11-13 Mar** **MT COOK BASE** **H36 BX15,BY15**
Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help
 *** Base camp at Unwin Hut. Superb day tramps for fitter people include Mueller Hut, Sefton Biv and Mt Wakefield, whilst easier tramps include Sealy Tarns, Red Lakes and the Hooker and Tasman valleys.
List closes 5 Mar
- 11-Mar Saturday** **KAITUNA CHALLENGE** **M36 BQ27**
Merv Meredith 322 7239
 * Our annual not-too-serious classic BIKE, WALK, RUN, BIKE event. We have team, individual men's and individual women's categories. Once everyone finishes, the day concludes with lunch and presentation of the prestigious trophy. Entry fee to this popular event is a mere \$5 to cover costs.

Social Events

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|--------------------|---|
| Tues 13 Dec | Christmas celebration with activities
Come and join in the festive fun with other PTC members for our annual Christmas club evening
Sue Brittain will tax your brain with a festive quiz. Bring a plate of food to share |
| Tues 17 Jan | Walk followed by Indian meal, New Brighton
Mystery walk to suit conditions. Could be beach and dunes, estuary or forest. Optional swimming if we get a warm night. MTB possible too. Meet corner Marine Parade and Beresford St at 6 pm.
Dinner later at 'South of India' at above corner. Plenty of food choices see southofindia.co.nz Please book for restaurant by 14th January.
Contact Sue Britain ph .388 2329 or suebritain@gmail.com |
| Tues 20 Feb | Christchurch Adventure Park Investigation followed by dinner
The new mountain bike adventure park at 225 Worsleys Road, Cracroft opens mid-December, we will be walking some of the tracks, followed by dinner. More details in the next newsletter. Contact: Margot Bowden. Email: margot.bowden@gmail.com. |

Notes

Membership: The PTC welcomes Andrea Goebel as a new member

Deadline for the February newsletter: 31st January - send items for the newsletter to Ruth Barratt rannalong@gmail.com

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 31st January 2017

Obituaries

- Bryan Macbeth, a very active PTC member in the 1980's up to about 1994 and subsequently, a long standing Pegasus member, has passed away.
- Charlie Catt died tragically in a climbing accident on Mount Harper in Arthurs Pass NP

Trip Reports

Barker Hut – Labour Weekend with the “PACK-WEIGHT POLICE”

The trip started very normally for me and seemed so promising: a Friday night walk in to Carrington hut with the last of the southerly showers greying out the tops intermittently. While I don't like to see Canada geese fouling our backcountry areas, I could not help but admire a beautiful nest Liz almost tripped over in a shallow scrape in the river gravels. Five large speckled brownish eggs were encircled by an exquisite fluffy ring of white down feathers, then an outer border of twigs. How does that all stay in place when the nor'wester blows? Our torches were needed for the last section of travel as darkness overtook us. Morning dawned clear and calm and we were soon around the corner and heading up the White. About an hour in, to my dismay, my energy was running very low and despite the flat, easy riverbed travel and perfect weather, I was struggling. It was not long before I needed to confess to the others and ask for support, a very humbling and unfamiliar experience for me. I have always been on the other end of that dynamic. It turns out that a gastro upset from the previous week was making a comeback and totally zeroing my energy. Anyway, as with many challenges in my life, I now bless the episode for the learning and connectedness to others it brought. My companions were so supportive and understanding, carrying some of my load, waiting lots, not looking too uncomfortable when I needed to cry with frustration at the top of a steep incline, and most importantly speaking up. It was maybe soon after the tears when one of them gently mentioned my pack was about twice as heavy as Liz's. The “pack-weight police” had been secretly patrolling at Carrington Hut that morning!! Though rather embarrassed about this new information, given the longevity of my tramping and climbing experience, I decided to get curious and ask the police lots of questions about what was in their packs.

Liz draining the whisky from her boots after crossing Whisky Falls Creek

Understandings gleaned from my inquisition now mean 1. I have found a cunning way of getting enough river water out of my climbing boot linings overnight to leave the extra river-crossing footwear behind. 2. I weigh all food, especially snacks, using Geoff's weight guides from the Moir's Guide book. 3. I will be retiring my heavy old ice-axe and carrying a modern lightweight one. 4. I know that at any age and level of experience there is always more to learn, and PTC is a great environment for that to happen. 5. I figure that the older I get, the lighter my load will need to be! I am pleased to report that a couple of weeks later my load was down to 9.8 kg (pre party gear) for a weekend trip. Way to go!

Barker Hut with White Col and shoulder of Mt Harper to the left

Luckily the slowness of the trip up to Barker hut did not spoil the trip for others. The snow was too soft for afternoon climbing anyway so we had a delicious Saturday afternoon lolling around the hut environs sunbathing, eating, chatting, sleeping and enjoying the gorgeous views. Gary and Aarn climbed most of the way up Mt Harper early Sunday morning in perfect conditions. Liz and I had a very leisurely trip down valley (I was still quite unwell) with a swim on the way, the others catching up in time for a second dip in a beautiful river pool. And we enjoyed the company (and banana cake!) of a very interesting Sri Lankan woman aerospace engineer back at Carrington. We were able to pass on some enthusiastically received river crossing skills to her next day returning to the cars and explain the advantages of joining our club. Thanks team for a great trip. We were Diane (of the heavy pack), Aarn, Liz and Gary (the light pack brigade). 🏔️ Diane Mellish

Mount Bradley / Eye of the Needle November 13

The Return of the Seven once again gathered together, this time by PMH for our tramp to Mount Bradley, led by our adventurous leader Evelien. Our goal for the day was to locate and climb through The Eye Of The Needle, which we believed to be on the north side of the mountain.

Once arrived at Orton Bradley and after paying the entrance fee it was just the question of boots and packs on, and raring to go.

We followed the blue marked poles along the Tableland Track, which would lead us to Mount Bradley. It was much an overcast morning at first, but as time quickly passed us we noticed patches of blue sky breaking through and our body temperatures beginning to rise, so we stopped and reduced our layers and took the opportunity to admire the surroundings and Mt Herbert near by, but still half covered by cloud.

Two hours had passed since the start so Evelien suggested it was time for a break and a catch up. After a brief morning stop we re-grouped minus the cattle and continued up the valley and along the fence line to the top. It was a steady climb through the tussocks and unfavorable Corokia and gorse that slowed the tempo down while Vesna and Dorota marched ahead like soldiers, but still kept close in sight, stopping and looking behind for us. As we got closer to the top it began to get a bit more challenging, juggling oneself over rocks and boulders. We finally reached the face after 3 hours from Orton Bradley.

The groups next step was to find the location of Eye Of The Needle - it was like finding a needle in a haystack at first. Forward and back we went through gorse and over rocks until we found what we thought was The Eye Of The Needle. Hank made his way through the Eye and onto the plateau above and gave a couple of us directions. Norman was the last to go through just behind Diane. The final hurdle, with just a couple of meters to the plateau, was going over a precarious boulder. Diane went over without any help, but Norman who was next, wasn't so adventurous and returned back through the Eye where he joined Evelien and Helen, also not as adventurous as the others. We Three Doves then returned back by the same route, while the others, Diane, Vesna, Dorota, and Hank continued along the top and eventually found a track down the south side to the valley which joined up with the Mt Herbert Walkway. We all met up at the cars within a few minutes of each other to regroup.

We all felt it was a team effort that turned out a great day out, despite the obstacles that we encountered along the way.

We were the Seven, Evelien Baas Leader, Diane Mellish, Dorota Giejsztowt, Vesna Mojsilovic, Hank Boer, Norman Burden. 🏠 NB

Gloriana – Faerie Queene - 11-13 November 2016

The Gloriana – Faerie Queene jinx struck again! The adverse long weekend weather forecast showed a possible easing on our Saturday climbing day so we set off with only one person withdrawing. By the time we left the shuttle from Boyle Lodge, that easing had vanished but we were committed, so it was parkas on and off we went.

The rivers weren't particularly high but wet conditions underfoot meant we were never going to break track records. The Cannibal Gorge Hut provided a welcome retreat for lunch and then onto Ada Hut. There was little enthusiasm for pushing on for a Camera Gully campsite. We settled down for some comfort with the lack of dry firewood doing little to slow Geoff getting the fire going while some determined gathering replenished the woodshed. Raymond proved his master class chef status with a Japanese laksa udon noodle dish that Angela declared was the best meal she had ever tasted while tramping. Another Christchurch based group of five appeared and proved delightful company and the DoC policy, sleepwalking and adventure racing conversation continued for some time.

Plans for an early start were thwarted when Gary opened one eye, looked out the window and shut it again. Even Liz was less than enthusiastic. The continuing rain and snowfall at higher levels precluded climbing. Raymond revealed his Plan B that we would continue around the St James. It seemed to make sense since Angela's van was at the Boyle Lodge end and the rest of us hadn't done the calculation that completion in two days wouldn't allow another hut night.

The valley travel was great with huts and brews at strategic locations. Geoff pointed out that the warning sign about water supply safety at the Christopher Cullers Hut was up to DoC Standards even though there was no water supply. Liz was ecstatic to see the horses at Christopher Hut despite that feeling not being shared by the horses.

After eight hours we reached the new exposed Anne Hut with tired legs and pummeled feet. We took time for a brew and soup as we need to continue. We finally stopped near the Anne Saddle in a fantastic campsite in the beech forest. Geoff did his magic with the fire and we felt human again.

Anne Saddle Campsite

The final day was over Anne Saddle and down to Boyle Hut. A new horse trekking route has been marked with oversized yellow markings leading to multiple river crossings. It has the potential to confuse people and cause problems for trampers in high water situations. After two days of constant parkas we were now in a parka on/parka off conditions but by the time we turned the corner towards Boyle Lodge it was getting positively hot. Deer were sighted on the river flats and then Geoff spotted a green jeweled gecko just before the Lodge, the first many of us had seen in the wild. It did raise the question; “why did the gecko cross the road?” since his/her camouflage was not great on the road metal but I hope we got some brownie points by helping it onto green moss.

The van was a welcome sight, especially since our Ada Hut friends had left Gary’s top, lost in the Ada Hut departure, on the windscreen

This trip was not the original plan but a great Plan B given the conditions. We certainly enjoyed the circuit and the chance for increasing pack fitness.

.Trampers were: **Raymond Ford, Angela Grigg, Geoff Spearpoint, Liz Stephenson and Gary Huish.** 🏔️
GH



Boyle Hut View

**The PTC Executive Committee wishes all PTC members a safe and happy Christmas
and New Year**