



*PTC Monthly  
Newsletter*  
**October 2017**

<b>PTC</b>	Affiliate of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
<b>Postal Address</b>	The Secretary, PTC, PO Box 13 258, Armagh, Christchurch 8141
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<b>Facebook name</b>	Peninsula Tramping Club Christchurch
<b>Correspondence</b>	All correspondence to the Secretary including change of contact details

#### Committee

President	Vacant		Quartermaster	Brian Smith	355 9945
Vice-President	Gary Huish	332 7020	Social Events	Maureen Whalen	027 819 9251
Vice-President	Kevin Hughes	332 6281	Committee	Diane Mellish	337 5530
Treasurer	Sue Piercey	384 9567	Committee	Leo Manders	356 1731
Trip Planner	Kerry Moore	359 5069	Committee	Raymond Ford	351 9496
Secretary	Merv Meredith	322 7239	Committee	Keith McQuillan	384 6164
Editor	Bridget O'Regan	338 4785			

<b>New Member Enquiries:</b>	Stan Wilder	260 2340	Contact Stan to request an info-pack. You will also receive three complimentary newsletters
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#### 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.

<b>Tues 10 Oct</b>  	<b>Fixing an island from scratch: A first-hand account of island restoration in the Falkland Islands - Peter Carey Sub Antarctic Foundation for Ecosystems Research (SAFER).</b> About 20 years ago, Peter bought 4 islands in the Falklands with the plan to restore them to prime wildlife habitat. Since then he has been squeezing in field work there between work and family commitments in Christchurch, and just last winter undertook an eradication operation to rid the islands of mice, rats, and rabbits
	<b>Supper Duty: TBA</b>
<b>Tues 14 Nov</b>  	<b>Cycling Slovenia and Croatia</b>  Margot and Gary will describe their recent cycling adventures amongst caves and castles in Slovenia and the coastal cities on the Istrian Peninsula in Croatia.
	<b>Super Duty: TBA</b>

**Tues 12 Dec**



**Christmas Celebration with Activities**

Come and join in the festive fun with other PTC members for our Christmas club evening



**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, contact the trip leader beforehand. A phone inquiry does not oblige you to go on the trip. If the weather is turning bad, contact the trip leader or if you use email check the Communicator the day before for trip updates.

**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**

The Club has a mountain biking section, Fat Tyre Fanatics, who head out on casual day trips throughout the year. For details in biking trips contact Chris Leaver 322 6445, or [ptc75@clear.net.nz](mailto:ptc75@clear.net.nz).

- 1 Oct Sun**      **Panama Rock--Otepatotu Reserve**      **N37 BY25**  
**Chris Leaver 322 6445**  
\* Starting in Le Bons Bay we'll explore tracks in Panama Rock Reserve including the grunt up to Laverick Ridge road. Then follow a vehicle track to Otepatotu Reserve and 755m Lavericks Peak. Spectacular views of the dyke, bays and remnant totara forest. **Easy-moderate**  
**Meet 8am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd**      **Approx cost. \$14**
- 7-8 Oct**      **Lake Man**      **L32,M32 BU22,23**  
**Liz Stephenson 027 633 2038**  
\*\* A **moderate** trip to this attractive alpine lake in the Lewis Pass area. Starting from above the Engineers' Camp, crossing the Boyle and up the Doubtful and Kedron to camp at the biv or near the lake. A track up to the Doubtful Range and along the ridge is a good return route back to the highway. **List closes 30 Sept**
- 7 Oct Saturday**      **Chch 360° Dunes and Wetlands**  
**Barry McKessar 332 9591, 021 803 934**  
\* This 16km sector of the CHRISTCHURCH 360 TRAIL will commence at Pages Road and finish at Lower Styx Road. Join a number of keen, non-PTC, day walkers for this joint PTC/community group walk. Meet at 8.30am at the corner of Pages and Wairoa Road, by the Pages Road bridge into New Brighton.  
**Meet 8.30am**
- 8 Oct Sun**      **Rakaia Gorge Walkway**      **K35 BX20**  
**Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**  
\* This **easy** trip offers a return walk with a spectacular cliff-top traverse of the Rakaia Gorge to the remains of the Snowdon coal mine. Views across the river to Mt Hutt. Bruce has been known to stray a little and visit the nearby Terrace Downs for afternoon tea/coffee  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd**      **Approx cost. \$13**

- 14-15 Oct Walker Pass - Tarn Col - Edwards** **K33 BV20,21**  
**Kerry Moore 359 5069**  
 \*\* One of the classic APNP tramps. This **moderate** trip takes in the Hawdon and Edwards valleys, a couple of attractive alpine passes and views of what's left of Falling Mountain.  
**List closes 7 Oct**
- 15 Oct 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. Planning to drive down Saturday afternoon and camp at Peel Forest campground. Early start on Sunday for Big Mt Peel for a longish day. Call Merv if you want to just go up Little Mt Peel  
**Ring Merv** **Approx cost. \$22+**
- 21-23 Oct Freehold Creek - Dumb-Bell** **BZ14 BW17**  
**Labour Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 \*\*\* **Moderate** three-day tramp on to very nice tops near the Ohau skifield. Plenty of alpine tarns to camp beside, and take in views of the main divide.  
**List closes 14 Oct**
- 21-23 Oct Murchison Base** **L29,M29 BR23**  
**Labour Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**  
 \*\*\* **Easy to moderate** range of tramps from our base in Murchison. There are some easy walkways very close to the town, while a short drive away are easy-moderate Lake Matiri and moderate Mt Murchison (via 4WD track). Lyell walkway is also not too far away.  
**List closes 15 Oct**
- 21-23 Oct Hurunui Hut, Lake Sumner**  
**Labour Graeme Nicholas 357 0047 or [gra.nicholas@gmail.com](mailto:gra.nicholas@gmail.com)**  
 \*\*\* Saturday, drive to Lake Mason and cycle from Lake Taylor to the Hurunui hut on a flat 4WD track which will have some mud and the occasional small side-creek to cross. Sunday, walk to the hot pool beyond the hut or climb Mac's Knob across the valley for a great view of the Lake Sumner area. Back to Lake Taylor via Lake Mason on the third day.  
 <http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz33939/Lake-Sumner/Canterbury>  
**List closes 14 Oct**
- 22 Oct Te Oka Reserve-Devils Gap** **N37 BY24**  
**Sun Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**  
 \* An **easy-moderate** exploration of these two reserves with grand views of the southern bays. Devils Gap reserve contains impressive bluffs, popular with rock climbers.  
**Meet 8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end over road by the river** **Approx cost. \$10**
- 27-30 Oct St James Walkway** **M31,M32 BT23,24,BU23**  
**Deb Rhode [deborahrhode@yahoo.com](mailto:deborahrhode@yahoo.com)**  
 \*\*\*\* **Easy-moderate** ever-popular circuit amid splendid scenery, through beech forest and along river flats. Well-spaced huts to stay in. Snow-capped Gloriana and Faerie Queene peaks of the Spenser Range to admire.  
**List closes 20 Oct**
- 29 Oct Paterson Hill** **L34 BW21**  
**Sun Gary Huish 332 7020**  
 \* An **easy-moderate** circuit up to this 1113m hill overlooking Staircase Gully at the SE end of the Torlesse Range  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost. \$10**

- 4-5 Nov Cameron Rr – South Branch Ashburton J35 BW18,19,BX19**  
**Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**  
**\*\* Moderate trip near the Arrowsmith Range. We'll be in the headwaters of two river valleys, making two low crossings of the Wild Mans Brother Range.**  
**List closes 29 Oct**
- 4 Nov Chch 360 Walk: Halswell Quarry to Sign of the Kiwi**  
**Saturday Barry McKessar 332 9591, 021 803 934**  
**\* A 9km sector of the CHRISTCHURCH 360 Trail**  
**Meet 9am at the quarry manager's old house**
- 5 Nov Red Hill K34,35 BW20,21**  
**Sun Andrew Duck 421 2321**  
**\* Moderate trip to this 1641m peak between Lake Lyndon Road and Porter Heights. Choice of route depending on mood and conditions. Probable snow on the top so an ice axe may be an advantage!**  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd Approx cost. \$13**
- 11-13 Nov Lake McRae--Clarence River BT26**  
**Diane Mellish 337 5530**  
**\*\*\* This is part of the 6-day Molesworth east-west route. From the Molesworth Cob Cottage the 22km track to Lake McRae Hut is in easy tussocky terrain, with 4wd tracks and bulldozer tracks in places and follows a mustering trail. Day two could be spent day-tripping across to the Clarence River and back, or climbing to a nearer viewpoint behind the lake, or simply relaxing in the lake environs. And back to the Cob Cottage on day three.**  
**Talk to Diane if you are interested in an easy option, Molesworth Cob Cottage base camping. There are lots of day trip options in this beautiful area.**  
**List closes 4 Nov**
- 12 Nov Childrens Bay Farm walk N36 BX25,BY25**  
**Sun Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778**  
**\* An easy 3-hour circuit from Akaroa to Takamatua then back via some quiet roads. Also known as the Rhino Walk. Coffee stop in Akaroa or the Hilltop on the way home.**  
**Meet 9am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd Approx cost. \$11**
- 17-19 Nov Dun Fiunary BY15**  
**Show Raymond Ford 351 9496**  
**\*\*\* A 2500m peak in the Ben Ohau Range above Lake Pukaki**  
**List closes 10 Nov**
- 17-20 Nov Karamea Base L27,M28 BQ22**  
**Show Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**  
**\*\*\*\* Easy to moderate walks from this popular West Coast spot at the southern end of the Heaphy Track. Options include Scott Beach, Oparara Arches, Mirror Tarn, Fenian Basin and Cavern Creek Caves or Mt Stormy for the adventurous.**  
**List closes 10 Nov**
- 17-20 Nov Wangapeka Track L27,M27,M28 BQ22,23**  
**Show Kevin & Heather Hughes 332 6281**  
**\*\*\*\* Classic, historic, moderate tramp, crossing the southern half of Kahurangi National Park. Two saddles to cross and plenty of huts to sleep in. If enough people are interested then we can have a party starting from each end and crossing somewhere near the middle.**  
**List closes 10 Nov**

- 19 Nov Sun** **Port Levy - Wild Cattle Hill** **N36 BX25**  
**John Cook 326 7458**  
 \* **Moderate** walk on the east side of Port Levy from sea level to 600m on Wild Cattle Hill. Coastal views towards both Port Levy and Pigeon Bay.  
**Meet 8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, over the rd by the river** **Approx cost. \$7**
- 25-26 Nov** **Three Mile Stream - McMillan Stream** **L32,M32 BU22,23**  
**Peter Umbers 359 9118**  
 \*\* **Easy-moderate** tramp in Lake Sumner Forest Park starting from Lake Mason with a fairly flat circuit around McMillan and Three Mile streams.  
**List closes 18 Nov**
- 26 Nov Sun** **The Grange--Knowles Gully--Hill 884** **L34 BW22**  
**Bruce Cameron 022 188 5905**  
 \* An **easy** trip near Oxford to a 884m hill with good views to Ashley Gorge and the plains  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx cost. \$9**
- 26 Nov Sun** **Ngaio Pt—Onawe Peninsula** **N36 BX25,BY25**  
**Maureen Thompson 021 266 5778**  
 \* Two **easy** one-hour circular walks in Akaroa Harbour. We will do the circular Ngaio Point walk where we will have a picnic lunch, then walk to the summit of Onawe Peninsula looking at the pa remains. Coffee stop at Hilltop tavern or Little River on the way home  
**Meet 9am Halswell School 437 Halswell Rd** **Approx cost. \$10**
- 2-3 Dec** **Fools Col--Jordan Saddle** **K34 BV20**  
**Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
 \*\* **Moderate-hard** Arthur's Pass tramp up Jordan Stream and then on to the tops on the western side of Jordan Saddle, and camping by a tarn.  
**List closes 25 Nov**
- 2 Dec Saturday** **Brooklands Lagoon** **M35 BX24**  
**Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**  
 \* An **easy**, flat stroll where the Styx, Kaiapoi and Waimakariri Rivers meet the sea. Take your bird-watching scope.  
**Meet 9am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St** **Approx cost. \$3**
- 3 Dec Sun** **Ben More--Big Ben--Dry Acheron** **BW21**  
**Gary Huish 332 7020**  
 \* A moderate through-trip along the Big Ben Range, from near Lake Lyndon, over 1605m Ben More and along to 1416m Big Ben, then down Dry Acheron Stream to the Coleridge road. This trip requires two cars so one can be placed at the far end. It would be helpful if you could tell Gary you are interested  
**Meet 8am Church Corner, 20 Yaldhurst Rd** **Approx cost. \$15**
- 8-10 Dec** **Carrington Base**  
**Awaiting leader. Call Kerry M 359 5069 if you can help**  
 \*\*\* Staying at spacious Carrington Hut so we can do day trips to Waimak Falls Hut and/or Barker Hut up the White River. **Moderate**  
**List closes 1 Dec**
- 8-10 Dec** **Campbell Pass--Gorgy Creek** **BV20**  
**Diane Mellish 337 5530**  
 \*\*\* A **moderate-hard** climb via Campbell Pass to a beautiful remote tarn at the head of Gorgy Creek  
**List closes 1 Dec**

- 10 Dec**      **Purau Saddle - Mt Herbert - Gebbies Pass**      **M36,N36 BX24**  
**Sun**      **Sue Britain 388 2329, Mike Bourke 332 7097**  
\*      An **easy-moderate** trip along the eastern rim of Lyttelton Harbour to the highest point on the peninsula. Call Sue or Mike if you are keen to walk through to Gebbies Pass  
**Meet 8am PMH, Hackthorne Rd end, over the rd by the river**      **Approx cost. \$6**
- 16 Dec**      **Ashley Gorge**      **L34 BW22,23**  
**Saturday**      **Keith McQuillan 384 6164**  
\*      This is the classic splash down-stream along the Ashley from Middle Bridge out to the domain. It's an **easy-moderate**, fun trip on a fine day. Be sure to take a full change of clothes for afterwards.  
**Meet 8am Placemakers, 319 Cranford St**      **Approx cost. \$11**
- 17 Dec**      **Year End Picnic, Ashley Gorge**      **L34 BW22,23**  
**Sun**      **Merv Meredith 322 7239**  
\*      Glenda and Merv will be in the camping ground, on the right, near the sheltered far end, from Friday evening. So make a weekend of it, pack the tent and join us. The camping ground is in Ashley Gorge Holiday Park, 697 Ashley Gorge Rd, just before the bridge, ph 03 312 4099. Powered sites are \$16 pp, there is a kitchen with fridge, etc. Showers are \$2. You don't have to book before Christmas. Four-bunk cabins are \$60 for the first two people.  
**Call Kerry M if you want to car-pool 359 5069**
- 24-2 Dec**      **Cobb Valley Base**      **M25,M26 BP23,24**  
**Leo Manders 356 1731**  
We have booked the DoC Cobb Hostel in the Cobb valley for our annual Christmas Base Camp. Enjoy superb scenery, our usual gourmet meals, good company and a range of walks. You could either do day-walks or head out for a night or two to some of the many huts.  
**Contact Leo now to indicate your interest**

## SOCIAL EVENTS

<b>Wed 19 Oct</b>	<p><b>Nga Puna Wai Loop Walk and Dinner</b></p> <p>Tour the upper reaches of the Halswell River followed by dinner at Little India Restaurant, Shop 4, 7 Halswell Road, Hoon Hay.  Menu <a href="http://www.littleindia.co.nz/christchurch-hoonhay">http://www.littleindia.co.nz/christchurch-hoonhay</a></p> <p>Meet at Hillmorton Shopping Centre car park, corner of Halswell Road and Hoon Hay Road at 6 pm for the walk. Dinner at 7.15pm. Contact: Margot Bowden  <a href="mailto:margot.bowden@gmail.com">margot.bowden@gmail.com</a> or 3327020 before Sunday 15 October to book for dinner.</p>
<b>November</b>	<b>TBA</b>

### Christmas Base Camp 2017

This year's base camp will be run from 24 December 2017 through to 2 January 2018. Feel free to spend as much or as little time that suits you.

We have booked the DOC cottage at the Cobb Reservoir for our exclusive use. A comfortable cottage with power, hot showers, toilets, full kitchen and bunks inside, also good camping sites outside. \$15 pp inside \$10 pp outside. Lower child rates also available. We were last here Christmas 2008. Big selection of walks short to long. Lake Sylvester, Cobb Valley, Lake Peel, Asbestos Cottage to name a few through to longer trips in Kahurangi National Park. If you want to come for Christmas Day dinner and further information please contact Leo Manders 356 1731 or 027 442 6080 [leomanders@paradise.net.nz](mailto:leomanders@paradise.net.nz).

## NOTES

**PTC Subscriptions for 2018:** It's that time of the year when we have to set the PTC subscriptions for the start of the financial year in January. There have been increases in the costs of FMC membership and postal costs. Despite these increases, the Executive Committee considers that the state of the club finances is sufficiently healthy that these can be absorbed for another year *without increasing the current subscription rates*.

**Footnotes Editor:** As you will see from the names on the Footnotes header, we have a new editor! Ruth Barratt has done a marvelous job but has decided to further her education in Australia, a PHD in fact. Thanks to Ruth for her efforts. Bridget O'Regan has volunteered to step in and we welcome her to the position.

**Membership:** No new members this month.

**Erratum:** We are delighted to advise that the recently approved Rātā Foundation grant recently approved was for the purchase of *two* PLB's, not one as indicated in our September newsletter.

**Deadline for the November Newsletter:** 30 October 2017 - send to Bridget O'Regan  
bridgetandnoel@gmail.com

**Next Committee Meeting:** Tuesday 31 October 2017

**Trip Photos:** The Club maintains a gallery of photographs on its website. Keeping this up to date allows people to see what recent trips the Club has undertaken. Can trip leaders send or nominate someone to send some photographs from each trip to Kevin Hughes, [ptc@nivek.co.nz](mailto:ptc@nivek.co.nz), so we can keep this record current.

### For sale

**Asolo Women's Full Grain Leather Tramping Boots** Size UK 5 1/2 or EUR 38 2/3.  
Hardly worn so still in excellent condition with original (unused) insoles. \$200 ono  
Please contact Alison Maccoll [alisonmaccoll@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmaccoll@gmail.com) or 021 0232 3693



## TRIP REPORTS

### **Maukuratawhai - Sunday 27 August 2017**



A nor-wester was predicted so Merv was wondering if people would arrive at the meeting point. On the day we had a neat car-load of four and our 0700 start got us over Jacks Pass by 0915. Because this was one of Merv's regular trips he knew where to park and where the best crossing point is, over the Clarence. This crossing is about 1km down-river from Clarence Valley Road on Top House Road. The water was below knee height but it was a wide crossing in icy water. I was glad to cross the river flats and start climbing briskly to warm up and didn't peel off any layers for a good 20 minutes. Climbing up the spur we didn't need our ice axes till half-way up and we were pleased to find we could kick through the crust and didn't need crampons. The nor-wester was strong and wanted to remove my hat but it wasn't a gale. We didn't linger on the top (1615m) but retreated to a leeward spot to have lunch overlooking a winding Clarence River and barren hills, including Mt Isobel. Merv pointed out nearby Mt Percival which is a good climb from Hanmer. On the lower slopes of Maukuratawhai we took time to attack any pullable pines but left

some for next year's climbers. This is an understatement, there are enough for the whole membership to tackle but you'd need a chain saw for the big cone-bearing specimens. Maukuratawhai is on Molesworth Station and its coniferous slopes are just a tiny fraction of the station's problem. With a handsaw we could have dispatched more. We had time to do more because at 3 pm we were sitting outside a shop in Hanmer and got home with daylight to spare.

We were: **Merv Meredith--leader and driver, S-P Wang, Dan Pryce and Kerry Moore** □ KM

## Takamatua - Ellangowan - 9 Sept 2017



Starting from Bells Road in Takamatua 2km before Akaroa we set off up the road a little way before taking a cross country spur up to the Summit Road via point 640, nicely cooled by a NW breeze. Bruce's barbed wire protectors got plenty of use on the many fences we crossed. We had morning tea at the remains of a stone wall at about the 300m mark. Trees and scrub near point 640 had us bush-bashing for the best way through and soon we were in open country, walking parallel to the Summit Road. Taking the road itself we walked about 600m above Le Bons Valley then up a spur on conservation land for lunch. The WAMS map shows a

big area of conservation land between the spur that runs towards point 545 and Ellangowan Stream. We walked parallel to the road to Trig B1H4 (739m) with its array of aerials but lacked time to go to the heart of the reserve. With time pressing, we returned along the tops enjoying great views from the bluffs, then back along the Summit Road before turning west to return via The Old Le Bons Track, a rugged 4WD track till it becomes a road.

A pleasant trip with great views, thanks Bruce. We were: **Bruce Cameron, Karen Garrick, Sue Britain, Mike Bourke, Jill Fenner, Stuart Payne and Kerry Moore** ▲ KM