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# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter September 2014

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*PNTMC Photo Comp 2014 – Best in Show*

*Sunrise Tasman Saddle [Ange Minto]*

### Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

**11 September**

**Te Araroa – A Very Long Walk**

**Julie Miller**

Got some spare time? Enjoy the outdoors? Why not walk the full length of New Zealand on the world famous Te Araroa Trail? Come along and hear how Julie got on doing just that.

**Monday 8 September Interclub Photo Competition**

**MUAC**

7 pm at the MUSA Lounge on the concourse at Massey.

**25 September**

**Interclub Quiz**

**PNTMC**

Come along and join the battle of the brains for the Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy Trophy.

## Upcoming Trips

**6-7 September**

**Climbing Ruapehu** F/T  
**Grant Christian** 354-5843

I would like to climb Girdlestone but the details of this trip will be decided close to the time and will depend on weather, snow conditions and who is coming. I plan to travel to the mountain on Friday evening. Expect up to 8 hours each day.

**7 September**

**Kaiparoro Clearing** E  
**Peter Wiles** 358-6894

Leave at 8.00 am for Eketahuna. At the road end, the first hurdle is crossing the stream. So bring a pair of gumboots for the crossing, or get your feet wet at the start. Other options might suffice – piggy back, perhaps? Anyway, once the stream is out of the way, going should be all good for the climb up to the clearing overlooking the Eketahuna district.

**13-14 September**

**Sayers Hut** E/M  
**Richard Lockett** 323-0948

A must do trip to visit this historic hunters hut opposite Totara Flats in the Tararuas..

**14 September**

**Atiwhakatu Hut** E  
**Karen Tutt** 0210 645918

An easy walk along the Atiwhakatu Stream, on a very well maintained sidle track with several interesting bridges. According to the DOC website, one of the bridges is being replaced, so we may get wet feet at this point. An opportunity to bag two huts for this year's competition. Departing Milverton park at 8:00 am for the 1-1½ hour drive to the Mt. Holdsworth roadend.

**19-22 September**

**Tappy, Alarm, Inland Kaikouras** F,T  
**Malcolm Leary** 06 327-7825

We depart Palmerston at 11am for 2pm sailing. Camp at Hodder River car park, walk in to Hodder Huts Saturday, climb Sunday (Tappy and Alarm), walk out and return home Monday. Tappy will only require ice-axe, crampons and helmet. Alarm for those that want to climb it as well will require harness and rope also.

**20-21 September**

**Rangi Hut** E/M  
**Woody Lee** 357-2390

Late departure from Milverton Park at 9ish as it is Election Day. It will be a day or overnight trip

depending on majority vote. There are panoramic views from the hut and there may be snow in the tussock fields.

**21 September**

**Field Hut** M  
**Malcolm Parker** 357-5203

The steady uphill climb to this historic hut should be alive with birdsong at this time of year. Lunch at the hut or Tabletop summit for views from above the bushline.

**27-28 September**

**Kime Hut** M  
**Jo O'Halloran** 352-0300

Enjoy an overnight stay in this brand new hut that replaces the old freezer. Still has no fire but the insulation makes a huge difference. A side trip to Mt Hector Memorial Cross is a possibility.

**28 September**

**Kapakapanui** M/F  
**Craig Allerby** 323-7913

Leave PN at 7.30 am heading down to Waikanae. A quick stop for a fresh, cream filled doughnut at Otaki is a possibility. The track starts inland from Waikanae and goes in a loop. We will be doing the loop anti-clockwise, with a steep 900m grunt to the top of Kapakapanui (1102m), passing through some stunning goblin forest. There are excellent views of Kapiti Island and the Tararuas from the top making it a good place for a lunch break. After a km of tops travel the track descends with the opportunity of bagging Kapakapanui Hut along the way.

**4-5 October**

**Mangahao-Te Matawai** F  
**Grant Christian** 354-5843

I want to do a one way trip, starting at the upper Mangahao dam and finishing at Gladstone Road. Stay in Mangahao Hut on Saturday night and go out via Te Matawai and South Ohau Hut on Sunday. We will need two cars and will drop one off at Gladstone Road before we start. Leave Palmerston North at 7 a.m. Saturday.

**5 October**

**Zekes Hut** M  
**Chris Tuffley** 359-2530

Every time I drive to Waiouru I see the sign for Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary and wonder what's there - so now I'm going to go and find out! By all accounts we'll enjoy some beautiful bush on the 12k return trip to the hut, with great views of Ruapehu from the summit of Hihitahi if we're lucky with the weather. Leaving town 7:30am.

### Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should expect to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E):	3-4 hrs
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs
Fit (F):	about 8 hrs
Fitness Essential (FE):	over 8 hrs
Other grades:	
Technical skills (T)	
Instructional (I)	

### Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Milverton Park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

### Gear for trips

Minimum gear for day trips is appropriate footwear, pack, lunch and snacks, waterproof jacket, overtrousers, gloves, warm hat, torch, toilet paper, matches or a lighter, sunblock, first aid kit, and a survival bag or space blanket. Each person needs to be equipped to survive overnight.

### Personal Locator Beacons – Free for trips

The club has purchased two PLBs for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence on 357-1695. Note that this applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

### Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St or email to [pntmctrips@gmail.com](mailto:pntmctrips@gmail.com) with the date and trip name in the subject line. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

### Overdue Trips

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts:

Janet Wilson	329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

### Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to Warren Wheeler, the newsletter editor, direct or via our web site <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

## Notices

### PNTMC Photo Comp Results 14 August 2014

Here are the results of our annual photo competition. The top three in each category were selected by our panel of three judges, who made informative and lively comments on their chosen images, before they were put to the popular vote for the placings. The high standard of entries meant that our three judges found it hard to agree and mentioned these as highly commended.

Thanks to everyone for submitting such wonderful images and to our judges Nick Allen and Anu from Massey and their friend and guest judge passing through from Tasmania, Paul Hoelen, en route after a successful Professional Photographers Competition.

#### NZ Landscape

1	Clouds on Haast	Bruce van Brunt
2	Whanganui Mist	Chris Tuffley
3	Separation Stream	Terry Crippen

#### Above the Bushline

1	Maungahuka Morn	Chris Tuffley
2	Sunrise Tasman Saddle	Ange Minto
3	Climbing on the Fox	Bruce van Brunt

#### Below the Bushline

1	Lake Wanaka	Ange Minto
2	Windy Cattle Ridge	Warren Wheeler
3	A Closer Look	Chris Tuffley

#### Natural History

	Spoonbills - Blackhead	
1	Beach	Martin Lawrence
2	Fungi	Ange Minto
3	The Welcomer	Chris Tuffley

#### Topical

1	Yes, Winter	Terry Crippen
2	A Touch Deep	Chris Tuffley
3	Leap of Faith	Chris Tuffley

#### Overseas

1	Maramures, Romania	Ange Minto
2	Tea picker Vietnam	Kathy Corner
3	Riding the buffalo	Kathy Corner

#### Best of the Show (Judges Choice)

Sunrise Tasman Saddle	Ange Minto
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### **PNTMC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015**

Plans are under way to celebrate the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Camp Rangī Woods at Totara Reserve has already been booked for the last weekend of November 2015. We are looking at ways to celebrate this, and also the possibility of publishing a short history of the club based on the archives and people's stories. If you are interested in assisting with this then please contact the club President Dave Grant who is heading the organising sub-committee of Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh and Doug Strachan.

### **Social Thursdays**

Due to popular demand, Social Thursdays on the 1st Thursday of the month have commenced again over the winter period.

The first night was at the new restaurant called "Desert Rose", on the Corner of Cuba and Rangetikei Streets. The second was right next door at the new Korean/Japanese Tasty House (very well named). The third was pizza and pasta at Il Carpo (Summerhill Drive) and dessert at Rendezvous.

Contact Janet to find out where the next one will be (4 September) and to ensure your place at table. Rumour has it that we will first be going to the Film Festival movie at 6pm, an Indian film called The Lunch Box.

### **New Member**

Welcome to Nick Allen, phone 359-4212.

Nick was an enthusiastic participant on Snowcraft and is a keen photographer who helped judge the Club Photo Competition this year.

### **Mountain Running Events**

For those of you who are into running in the Hills and Mountains here are a couple of events; one just a half day local event at Mt Bruce/Pukaha; the other spread over 50 days north to south in New Zealand. Anyone interested; Janet W, Kelly H, Grant C, Lance G, etc ?

### **Wild Challenge, Mt Bruce Sunday 28th September**

A 10km run up and over Mt Bruce, followed by a 23km road bike ride through Mauriceville

back to the Info centre; individual or a pair (runner/cyclist). To raise money for the bird reserve.

See: [www.pukaha.org.nz](http://www.pukaha.org.nz)

### **High Five-0 Challenge 50 peaks in 50 days**

You don't have to do all the peaks! It's to raise money for the Mental Health Foundation of NZ. Just do one or two perhaps. There is one in the Ruahines; Mangaweka 9th Feb; and one in the Tararuas; Mt Holdworth Tues 10th of Feb.

Check out: <http://www.high50.org.nz/>

And if you are down south over summer and want a change from lots of tramping or climbing, there are plenty of peaks to do. Angela Minto is going to do Dragonfly (2165m) up the East Branch of the Matukituki, on Monday 23 February. Starting from Cameron Flats in the Matukituki Valley, near Wanaka. Anyone else keen to do any, or join Ange, or donate to a good cause? Cheers - Terry.

### **Book Review**

*Tramping with Children*, written by Karen Jordan, reviewed by Doug Strachan.

This book, self-published in 2013, is well-structured. Part One has info about tramping with kids; trip planning, what food and clothes to take, hut etiquette, safety. Part Two has suggestions for tramps suitable for children, sub-divided into 5 First Track Suggestions, 15 Longer Beginning Tramps, and 14 Medium Tracks. What is not immediately obvious from the front cover, but is mentioned on the back cover, is that all these trips are South Island tramps. I have taken kids on wonderful tramps in the top of the South Island, where Nelson Lakes, Kahurangi, and Abel Tasman national parks are all reasonably handy to those of us living in the lower North Island, and this book would be useful for providing a list of tramps that are suitable for taking kids on. Perhaps a map showing the location of each walk would have been a useful addition.

The writing style is simple and easy to understand. There is not a lot of written detail on each trip, but the information is well-supported with about 160 family snap shots that give an idea of what kind of terrain, huts and scenery to expect. If you condensed the photos, then about 60 of the book's 140 pages consists of colour snap shots.

Do I recommend this book, that I see can be bought online from Fishpond for \$33.90 including postage? Well, having already done a lot of tramping, including with children, I didn't really learn anything new in Part One, but for beginners, it has useful information like the importance of filling in hut books, and telling someone where you are going and expected day of return; what clothing to take, and so on. Experienced club members would find little new here, although I did take note of the meal suggestions. I also thought the suggestions of taking marshmallows to toast, and using Crocs as hut shoes, were good ideas, both items being lightweight. For novice trampers with kids, the whole book is useful. For experienced trampers, Part 2 provides useful suggestions for family-suitable South Island trips, with basic but essential information like how long the trip takes to do with kids. The author obviously has a lot of experience with children on tramps and is passionate about the benefits of prising kids away from the telly or ipad and teaching them about the great outdoors.

## Trip Reports

**20 July 2014**

### **Longview... the Long Way Report by Anne Lawrence**

The plan was for a relatively gentle day out – morning tea at Awatere Hut, a gentle climb up the hill and along to Longview for lunch, then a saunter down the Longview track to the carpark.

We had to admit that was never going to be the best of days for getting into the hills – in fact, neither of us took our cameras given the rather miserable weather forecast. We were pleased that Dave had 4 wheel drive as the road into Longview carpark had clearly seen a fair bit of recent rain. We headed off from the carpark in steady drizzle along with a young fellow who was earning a living by trapping kept us company for the first half hour of our walk. He told us that Awatere had been totally rat infested when he arrived earlier in the week, so that he had to have a serious clean-out before he could sleep there. Apparently there had been a few hunters staying, but, disappointingly, none had written in the hut log book.

After a pleasant stop at Awatere, we headed up the hill. The steady drizzle persisted and the temperature started dropping. Our recent

companion's claim that there was no shortage of possums was confirmed as we came across half a dozen possums squirming in traps on the hill behind Awatere. After some time, we came to a bit of a creek. Dave had us heading up, and north. On we went, north and up, but we seemed to be making little progress.

I think we were both quite pleased to see our first bit of leatherwood – it was a sign that we were making progress – unfortunately that first bit of leatherwood soon became a thick near-impenetrable stand of leatherwood. By this time we were both on our hands and knees, crawling under, squirming and worming our way – we knew if we kept heading up we must eventually get to Rocky Knob.

The temperature had really dropped now, there was snow on the ground and we were both cold as our pace was just too slow to generate much body heat.

We finally saw a bit of a knob ahead through the mist and rain... I think we were both very pleased that it did prove to be Rocky Knob – Once we were in the open we could see the open slopes to the south that we should have come up... ah, next time we'll know – that leatherwood squirm was not a mistake to make twice!

By the time we got to Longview (4 hours after we left the car) we were sodden, hungry and cold. Nothing like a hot soup in the dry to warm you up!

Our trip down from Longview was relatively quick – with no views and continuing drizzle, there was not a lot of reason to hang around! It seemed like no time at all before we were getting into dry clothing and driving back home. All in all it was a really enjoyable day although more of an adventure than expected and perhaps not one to repeat in a hurry!

We were: Dave Grant (trip leader) and Anne Lawrence.

**26-27 July 2014**

### **Cow Creek Hut Report by Woody Lee**

Five of us jumped into my van on a warm winter morning and drove south on SH2. We turned right into Kiriwhakapapa road, 10 mins from Pukaha Mt Bruce National Wildlife Centre. There were two vehicles already at the carpark and a party of three trampers were

about to leave so we started conversation to find out their destination because Cow Creek Hut has only 6 bunks. They were from the Hawke's Bay and were heading towards Blue Range Hut to stay the night.

We set off walking and were soon entertained by the magnificent stand of Redwoods and Rata trees. We reached the junction shortly after midday and headed towards BRH for a lunch stop. The sky was blue over the Blue Range Hut and we enjoyed our lunch in the sun where we met a young couple from Wellington who were staying overnight at the hut.

We looked at the snowy Tararua peaks which we bagged last year but failed to spot Cattle Ridge Hut without binoculars.

Shortly after we left the hut we met the Hawke's Bay trampers again and I wondered who would sleep on the floor as the BRH has only four mattresses. Then we came across another couple coming down to the hut but they were not overnights. This track is popular!

Good progress was made to the Cow Saddle junction and we had an early afternoon tea before going down to the Waingawa River. Warren collected a split piece of dry log for firewood and tied it to his pack on the way down. At the bottom we went off the track and walked on the river bed to detour a slip. Before the swing bridge, Craig and I also collected dry branches for a fire. The hut was in good condition and there was plenty of firewood but the evening was amazingly warm so we didn't need to keep the fire going for long.



*Cow Saddle turnoff*

The next morning we agreed to take the Cow Saddle route rather than climbing up the steep hill and we had a long break at the Cow Saddle to take photos with the iconic marker on the tree. This route was easy going but it took much longer than the steep track. We had a lunch break at the same place on the hill where we had stopped on the previous day for afternoon tea.

We took time to admire a big Rimu as we were heading back to the carpark and the details of the Rimu were revealed. It is approx. a four arm length circumference tree with a huge hidden hole inside the trunk. Craig crawled into the hole through a narrow gap to find out more and Warren followed later. It looked like a rotten hollow but it was standing well.



*Craig peeping out of hollow rimu*

Good thing we were not late for coffee/hot chocolate at Mt Bruce café as it closes at 4.30pm on Sunday.

We were: Craig and Michael Allerby, Warren Wheeler, Nicola Wallace and Woody Lee (leader).

### **9 August 2014 Winter Beach Walk Report by Bruce the Dog**

I love tramping. The week before the beach walk I heard Janet and Graham discussing going on Warren's moonlight tramp. Janet said it wouldn't be suitable for me as it could be icy and they'd need ice axes and crampons. I reckon with my claws I'd be sweet. However, although Janet says I'm a spoilt brat I'm number 3 in the pack so I have to do as I'm told (mostly). I had a lucky reprieve though. Graham had to do something on the Sunday afternoon so couldn't go. He could however go on Tina's beach walk. Yipee! Running madly around in the sand or

snow are two of my favourite things. And I get to catch up with gorgeous little bitch Holly.

We were to meet in town at 9.00am. It seemed to suit Graham to have a leisurely start. It also seemed like we were going to be the only blokes going with seven females. Fortunately, when we were congregating at Milverton Park, Martin turned up. When Yvonne turned up with her slugmobile it worked out well. We blokes went in the Avenger so we could talk bloke type stuff and the women could talk women type stuff. I didn't add much to the conversation as Graham's just bought me a new collar for in the car that reminds me a dog should be seen but not heard. Richard also turned up at Tina's.

The view of the snowy Tararuas from Tina's house on the hill was fantastic which led to a discussion of how Warren's trip would go. Holly was just as gorgeous as ever although she seemed a bit aloof. I wonder if she's been hanging out with some of those rough Foxton dogs. Tina says her nickname's "something lut" so maybe? Still, I wasn't going to let it ruin my day.

We went a bit of a different way into the forest this time. It was disgusting. There were piles of rubbish all over the place. The next time someone talks about a dirty dog I've a good mind to bite them. Eventually as we got deeper into the forest we left the rubbish behind. The air was cold but we were sheltered from the wind that we suspected was blowing strongly. Eventually we left the pine trees and were heading along the tracks in the dunes until around 11.00 they stopped for morning tea. I didn't have any and Graham gets very cross if I try to scrounge some.

At this stage Martin, with his dodgy knee, and Yvonne decided to head back while the rest of us carried on eventually leaving the shelter of the dunes and braving the bracing southerly coming up the beach. Along with running around the dunes, chasing the seagulls is one of the best bits. I can run and run till the

others are little specks in the distance and then run all the way back again. I don't know why the others don't join in. Tina says Holly's scared of the waves – a bad experience as a pup. It was too bleak to stop for lunch and when we arrived at the surf club we met up with Yvonne again and decided that Tina's sunny, warm, house on the hill was a good option for a late lunch. We expected to pick up Martin in a cafe but no, Anne had her radar on and found him in the trees by the estuary.

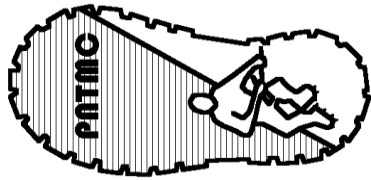
While I waited outside for them to come out for more of a walk after lunch, I suspect in the warmth after some late lunch, coffee and some of Tina's home baking there was an onset of lethargy leading to us all heading home around 3.00pm. On what is turning into Tina's winter traditional trip were Sally, Yvonne, Cathy, Anne, Karen, Martin, Richard, Graham, Holly and myself.

#### **16 August 2014 Blue Range Hut Report by Duncan Hedderley**

Blue Range Hut is in the Tararuas, south of Mt Bruce. Built by the Masterton Tramping Club in the 1950s, you reach it from the Kiriwhakapapa road-end with its stand of redwoods. It is a steady (but not steep) two hours up to the hut, through a succession of forest types, finishing with moss-laden mountain beech 'goblin forest'.

We had a good day for it - though there was snow on the ground further up, it was sunny, with little wind. At one point Warren got the map out and we tried identifying some of the peaks we could see further into the ranges. Coming down, I slipped several times on greasy tree roots - I'm obviously out of practice.

We stopped in Eketahuna for a coffee afterwards. Thanks for Peter for arranging a good day out. We were Peter Wiles, Warren Wheeler, Karen Tutt and Duncan Hedderley.



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## PNTMC Newsletter September 2014

### *What's inside this month?*

- Photo Competition Results
- Book Review – Tramping with Children
- Longview – the Long Way
- Taranua Trip Reports - Cow Creek Hut  
Blue Range Hut
- Winter Beach Walk with Bruce the Dog
- Coming trips and more

### **Articles for the newsletter**

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to Warren Wheeler  
the newsletter editor, via the club website  
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

**Get out and about with us!**

**Sender: PNTMC  
PO Box 1217  
Palmerston North**

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