

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter September 2017



Trying out our raingear while heading to Blue Range Hut, Tararua Forest Park.. [Woody Lee]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15 pm for meeting start at 7.30pm.

14 September 2017

Interclub Quiz

Graeme Richards

Our annual Quiz Night between PNTMC, MTSC and MUAC is hosted by PNTMC this year. Come along and join a team for a fun social night out.

28 September 2017

Leaping Tiger Gorge Adventures

Kathy Corner

Last Christmas Kathy went to China for 3 weeks and one of her goals was to trek the Tiger Leaping Gorge in South West China, one of the deepest canyons on earth. Come hear all about her adventures, which include cycling, caving and gastronomic eating.

Upcoming Trips

2-3 September

Taupo Explorer MTB
Richard Lockett 323 0948

Club members entered in the Spirited Women's adventure race back in April got to discover the vast amount of off-road bike trails in and around Taupo - let's go and ride these fantastic trails. Saturday exploring the trails from Whakaipo Bay across to Kawakawa Bay/Chinamans track and return. Sunday exploring the Waikato River Trails up to the dam to view the opening of the spillway at 10am. Travelling up Friday night would be a good option. Staying at a cheap motel.

3 September

Intro Tramping 1 E
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

New to tramping? Wanting to get back into tramping? Our Beginner Tramp Series is just for you. We're running a series of graduated tramps. Where we go and how far will depend on the group. Suitable for all ages from youth to those getting into tramping later in life. Interested? Contact Anne 027 4504212 or 357 1695.

9 or 10 September

Snowcraft 3 I
Bruce van Brunt 328 4761

Building on the climbing skills of SC2, this is the third of our Snowcraft courses. We will be on Ruapehu either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather forecast. Registrations were due by 27 July, but late entries may be accepted. See the Notices below or the PNTMC website for details.

10 September

Back Track/Arapuke Loop E
Woody Lee 357 2390

A new swing bridge across Kahuterawa Stream lets us complete a nearly 7km loop track in the Arapuke (= pathway in the hills) Forest Park. We will start from the Back Track for this loop walk and get down to the swing bridge. From there it is an easy walk to the car park. You can have lunch in town or at your place. Depart Milverton Park at 8:30 am.

16 September

Te Atuaoparapara F
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 7.00am. Enjoy the last of the snow on the Ruahine tops with this classic circuit of the Waipawa catchment via Sunrise Hut, around the tops to Waipawa Saddle and back down the Waipawa River.

17 September

Platinum Mines Loop M
Terry Crippen 356 3588

Depart 8.00am. This popular local walk carries on uphill from the end of the Sledge Track beside the Kahuterawa Stream. Fine views on a good day. Bring a torch to see cave weta that are resident inside the historic shafts.

23-24 September

Kiritaki Hut E/M
Graham Peters 329 4722

Travelling in from the western side of the Ruahines this should be a leisurely trip with plenty of time at the Kiritaki Hut, aka Seamac Motel. We will most likely go in and out by slightly different routes, some not on well-formed tracks. Leaving Palmerston around 8.30.

24 September

North Range Road MTB
Kathy Corner 356 8186

This is a wonderful scenic ride with magnificent views of the Manawatu Gorge, Ashhurst, Woodville and Palmerston North City. We start from Beyond the Bridge Cafe, and it's a steep climb up Hall Block Road to the start of the first wind turbines. We continue along the gravel road through the windfarms and come out on top of the Pahiatua Track. Then it's down the road and along Ballance Gorge Road, back to the cafe for coffee and cake! With lots of stops and lunch the ride should take about 4 hours. Leave at 9am weather dependent.

30 Sept-1 October

McGregor Biv F
Chris Tuffley 359 2530

A favourite trip for those who have been there before, this classic ex-Forest Service 'dog-box' bivvie is perched on the bush line with a great outlook west over the central Tararua Ranges and coast. The steep climb out of the Atiwhakatu Valley is rewarded with some nice tops travel north over Jumbo. Return via the Broken Axe Pinnacles and Baldy Spur.

1 October

Intro Tramping 2 E
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

This is the second in our series of Beginner Tramps being held each month until December. Where we go and how far will depend on the group. Suitable for all ages from youth to those getting into tramping later in life. Interested? Contact Anne 027 4504212 or 357 1695.

7-8 October

Triangle Hut M
Graham Peters 329 4722

We have choices for the route to this Ruahine

hut. We may go all the way up the Oroua or over the tops via Rangiwahia Hut. There could well be slight variations between the routes in and out and we may go to Rangi on the Friday night.

8 October
Ngauruhoe **M/T**
Warren Wheeler **356 1988**

Depart 6.30am. Practise your snowcraft skills with a steady climb up the west side of "Mt Doom" and enjoy the Grandstand View from the crater rim. Crampons and ice axe essential. Optional stay overnight at Mangatepopo Hut or a Backpackers in National Park.

14-15 October
Tarn Ridge Hut **F**
Grant Christian **354 5843**

On Saturday we will walk into Mitre Flats Hut and then climb up the ridge to Mitre Peak, the highest peak in the Tararuas, from there we go over Girdlestone and then on to Tarn Ridge where the hut is located. Back out the same way on Sunday. Leaving Palmy at 7 a.m.

15 October
Tunupo **M**
Craig Allerby **323 7913**

Depart 7.30am. From the Oroua valley carpark we head along the track to the Tunupo Track turnoff. It's a good steady climb up the Tunupo Track to this prominent peak on the Ngamoko Range. We can also check the stoat trap line along the way. If the weather is kind we'll stop for lunch on the top and enjoy the views.

Labour Weekend
21-23 October
Kahurangi National Park **M**
Martin Lawrence **357 1695**

A slightly extended Labour weekend trip as we need 4 days.

The plan is to leave Friday morning and return Monday evening. We'll fly from Paraparaumu to Nelson and get transport to the Baton Valley carpark. We then follow the track to Flanagan's Hut, where we'll probably stay the night. We then cross Baton Saddle and head up the Leslie River past Salisbury Lodge to Balloon Hut. This is a lovely hut in a good location for exploring the area so we'll probably stay two nights here. On our last day, our route takes us past three rock shelters (Dry Rock, Growler and Gridiron) to Flora carpark where we'll get picked up and driven back to Nelson airport for our return flight to Paraparaumu.

Interested in coming on this trip? Don't miss out - Contact Martin soon so bookings can be made.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trapper 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 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
Graeme Richards	353-6227

Articles for the newsletter

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

From the President

As I write, Spring is certainly in the air - blossom, gambolling lambs and finally, some sunny dry days. Long may it last.

DOC have recently circulated the results of their survey on last summer's booking trial at Rangi and Sunrise Huts. If you had any experience using these huts over that period and would like to pass your comments on, talk directly to DOC or let the committee know. They intend to implement the booking system again this year from Labour weekend through to Anzac weekend 2018.

My thoughts have turned to summer tramping - or in my case, summer trapping. As usual I, along with other volunteers, will be busy servicing the many traps in the Oroua and Pohangina Valley. Last year I coined a phrase "Applied Tramping" or Tramping with a Purpose - if you would like to combine conservation with tramping please don't hesitate to contact me to volunteer. The rivers are lovely when low and you can combine a trap check with a visit to our club huts, Ngamoko and Mid Pohangina.

A extended Kaweka trip in early January is also on my plans - contact me if you would be interested in coming along.

Janet

Snowcraft 2017



It's about time winter arrived - we want plenty of snow!

PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme has two aims

- to equip people with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow;

- to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering.

It will be running as day trips to Mt Ruapehu with an evening session mid-week prior to each day trip.

9 Aug (Wed evening) SC1 Intro and briefing
12 or 13 August SC1 Mt Ruapehu

23 Aug (Wed evening) SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work
26 or 27 August SC2 Mt Ruapehu

6 Sept (Wed evening) SC3 Briefing & rope work
9 or 10 Sept SC3 Mt Ruapehu

Snowcraft Fees

The fees are for each of SC1, SC2, SC3 are \$60 if PNTMC member, or \$70 if non-member. These cover weeknight venues, day transport, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non PNTMC members.

Pass the word around to friends you may think are interested.

Applications Close Thursday 27 July

Application forms are available on the Snowcraft link at www.pntmc.org.nz or on the noticeboard at Club Nights.

Late applications may be accepted. For more info contact Bruce van Brunt 328-4761.

Notices

Interclub Photo Competition

From each club the first, second and third places in each category will face off at the annual interclub photo competition being hosted by MUAC this year.

Monday 9 October 2017

7.00pm

MUSA Lounge (in the Concourse at Massey University).

Come along and enjoy the crème de la crème from the PNTMC, MTSC and MUAC photo competitions.

PNTMC Hut Bagging Posters

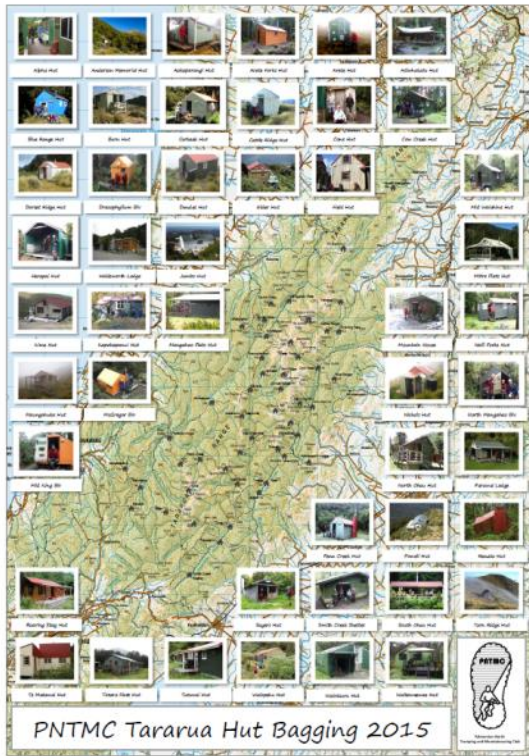
Posters are still available for both the Ruahine Hut Bagging 2012 and Tararua Hut Bagging 2015.

Size	Members	Non Members
A2	\$8	\$12
A1	\$16	\$24

Post and tube is about \$15 extra depending on where it is being sent.

Sale proceeds go towards our maintenance of the Mid-Pohangina Hut and Ngamoko Hut in Ruahine Forest Park.

Contact Warren 356-1998.



PNTMC Jubilee Book

Old Boots & Packs - The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club (PNTMC) will interest and amuse mountain users, historians, photographers, hut baggers and tree huggers. Read about current and past members' exploits, which include climbing our highest peaks (sometimes with boots on the wrong feet) and powering a car on white spirits cooking fuel.



Order your copies directly from the editor Doug Strachan 353-6526 and get ready to put your feet up with this great read, all for only \$35.

New Member

Welcome to Nicole Klein (Nicki) who joins us from USA where she was a member of the Louisiana Hiking Club, Sierra Club Baton Rouge (BR) Chapter and Backpacker BR Ambassador - we wish you happy tramping with us.

Trip Reports

30 July 2017
Scenic Reserves Explorer Trip
Anne Lawrence

There are a surprising number of scenic reserves in the Rangitikei. This trip had us explore three of them: Bruce Park, a DOC managed reserve on SH1 about 5km south of Hunterville, Laird's Reserve, a reserve managed by Forest and Bird, 10km west of Hunterville on the Mangahoe Road and Sutherland Puriri Reserve, also managed by Forest and Bird, situated at the junction of Mangahoe and Turakina Valley Roads, 20kms west of Hunterville.

A frosty start to the day had some of us questioning the wisdom of a 7.30am start. However, this gave us time to enjoy the figure-of-eight walk through the tall trees of Bruce Park and get to Hunterville by mid-morning for coffee at a pleasant café. It didn't take long to get from there to Laird's Reserve where we braved the oh-so-curious and rather pushy horses to do the one-hour loop track.

After this, we continued on our drive, passing Sutherland Mangahoe Reserve without

stopping (note to self: explore this another time) to Sutherland Puriri Reserve. We had lunch on the roadside by the reserve (minor criticism here is that there isn't much space to park let alone have a picnic).

After lunch came the most difficult decision of the day: which of the three tracks should we take? We opted for the longest one which circuits the 60 hectare reserve.

The day was cooling down as we got back to the cars. Time for home with four of us stopping at Turakina for afternoon tea and the rest of us heading straight back to Palmie.

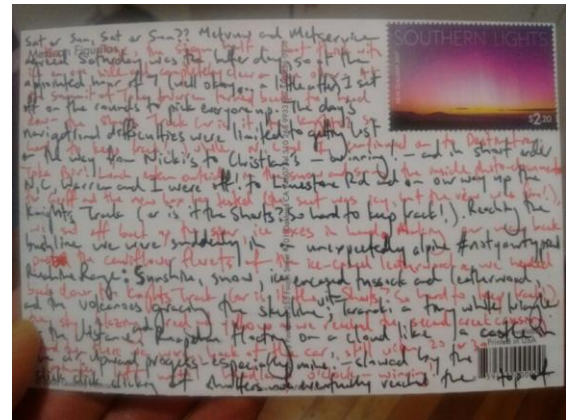
Thanks to Martin for leading and others for good company – all in all, a very pleasant day. We were: Kathy Corner, Yvonne van der Does, Sally Hewson, Warren Wheeler, Anne Cant, Anne Lawrence and Martin Lawrence.

5 August 2017
Toka Biv
August Awesome Alpine Adventure (tm)
Postcard trip report by Chris Tuffley

Sat or Sun, Sat or Sun?? Metvuw and Metservice agreed Saturday was the better day, so at the appointed hour of 7 (well okay...a little after) I set off on the rounds to pick everyone up. The day's navigational difficulties were limited to getting lost on the way from Nicki's to Christian's - winning! - and in short order N, C, Warren and I were off to Limestone Road and on our way up the Knights Track (or is it the Shorts? So hard to keep track!). Reaching the bushline we were suddenly in an unexpectedly alpine #notyourtypicalRuahineRange: sunshine, snow, ice encased tussock and leatherwood, and the volcanoes gracing the skyline, with Taranaki a tiny white triangle in the distance, and Ruapehu floating on a cloud like a castle in the air. Upward progress - especially mine - slowed by the click click clicking of shutters we eventually reached the top of the range, the sign half a foot thick with ice on one side and completely clear on the other. At the summit of Toka Warren turned back to head down the Shorts Track (or is it the Knights? So hard to keep track!) while N, C and I continued on to Destination: Toka Biv! Lunch eaten outside in the snow and sun, the inside photo-documented for Geoff and the new box loo tested (the seat was icy, but the view was fine!), we set off back up the spur, ice axes in hand. Making our way back past the cauliflower florets of the ice-cased leatherwood we headed back down the Knights Track (or is it the Shorts? So hard to keep track!), the sky blazing red and yellow as we reached the second creek crossing. And then there we were, back with Warren at the

car, still with 20 or 30 minutes left until headlamp o'clock - winning again!

We were Nicki Klein, Christian Offen, Warren Wheeler and Chris Tuffley (scribe).



5-6 August 2017
Sunrise Hut
Minami Strachan

We were walking when suddenly “AHHHH” my dad screamed. He was getting stomped on by a giant trampler When we got past all of them we realized we were already being covered in little speckles of snow. It must have become too cold for the giants because we didn't see any more.



Dad getting stomped on by a giant trampler.

My Dad and I were taking turns kicking little pebbles along the path and he kicked one off the edge. When we got another one, and he started, he kicked it off the path straight away. In the end, he probably kicked 20/20 of the rocks off the edge.

current wasn't very strong. But there was no hope of keeping dry feet today!

The 3 of us ambled up the hill at a similar speed, this is a steep hill, and it never gets any easier. Halfway up at the flat spot, we admired the windblown trees, no wind today though. At the top we took photos, before descending on the wettest part of the walk. Some of the mud was so gluggy it threatened to pull my boots off. Emerging from the bush, a breeze had arisen, so we postponed morning tea till we got down to the fenceline, and there sat eating, drinking and gazing at the sheep & lambs in the paddocks below. Miraculously it had by now stopped raining.



Carefully crossing Coppermine Creek. [WW]

The steep walk down along the fenceline wasn't too bad, though a couple of times I had to grab a fencepost when I started sliding. The rest of the walk back was quite pleasant, the last stream crossing high and a real bootsoaker, but we all had a very enjoyable walk that had taken us 3 hours. Warren and I bade farewell to Robyn at the carpark, and we were back in Palmy by 1pm.

Thanks to the others for turning up, especially Warren, who by turning up at Milverton Park prevented my phoning Robyn and cancelling the tramp.

We were: Nicola Wallace (trip leader), Warren Wheeler, Robyn Cornish.

History of Thursday Trampers

Thanks to Merv Matthews for the following history of the Thursday Trampers. (There is more about Thursday trampers on p.39 of *Old Boots & Packs*.)

The first trip of what became known as the "Thursday Trampers" began on Tuesday 19th May 1992 when two members of the

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club, Russell Johnson and Nancy Cade, decided to do a week-day tramp to Wharite. It was a very windy day as Russell remembers, and they did not go as far as they had originally planned. They had invited others to go with them, including Phil Pearce (who was active in the Manawatu Walkways Promotion Society) but he was unable to go on that occasion. There was such enthusiasm by the participants that another tramp was held on the following Tuesday, 26th May, when Phil Pearce and Monica Cantwell joined them. It was then decided to settle on weekly trips each Thursday. Helen Pearce's diary noted that on Thursday 11th June 1992 --

"Phil went off with Russell, Nancy and Monica to tramp up the Pohangina". There was no entry for the previous Thursday, 4th June.

During June, further members of PNTMC joined them - Sue and Lawson Pither, and Rosemary and Ken Hall. There were now eight in the group. Someone had typed up a short "Leader's Roster" starting at 7th July 1992 through August, ending at 1st September 1992. It shows four new leaders – Bud Cade, Margaret Gillingham, Peter Johnstone and Judy Stockdale. "Other members" shown on the list, but not yet allocated a date, were John Rockell, Tony Cameron and Pam Wilson. Membership was now fifteen.

As time went on, further members of both PNTMC and MTSC joined, and by 1996 the following additional names had appeared on a 1996 "Trip list": Bev Akers, Carolyn Brodie, Judy Calleson, Peter Carver, Mike Corns, Vina Cottam, Liz Flint, Neville Gray, Neil Gutry, Donna Hayes, Ewart Hunt, Cath Lyttle, Merv Matthews, Susan Paulson, June Sowerby, Jill Spencer, Judy Stockdale, Doug Wakeling, David Warnock.

By 1998, further additions to the list were: Harry & Christine Allardice, Keith Domett, Ann Green, Ellie Kidd, Brad Owen, Graham Pritchard, Wendy Sedcole-Harper, John Stantial, Sandra Wilson.

Only four of all the above-named remain as regular Thursday trampers.

From the very beginning, Nancy Cade had kept a meticulous record of the Thursday trips in a diary, but sadly it cannot now be found.

In 1997, the MTSC purchased a Ford Transit 12-seater Mini-bus for the use of its members

on tramping trips. John Rockell, a regular Thursday Trumper and also a member of MTSC, approached the MTSC Committee to see whether the Club would be willing to allow the vehicle to be used by Thursday Trampers. An arrangement was agreed upon and it has worked well to the benefit of both parties. The only condition insisted upon was that the driver must be a member of MTSC. The first use of the bus by Thursday Trampers took place on 31st July 1997, to Colenso trig.

Some notable South Island trips by Thursday Trampers have included the Kepler & Hollyford tracks (1997 & 1999) Milford and Routeburn (2001) Cobb Valley, Kahurangi N.P. (2001) St. James, Nina & Mt Fyffe (2005) and Mt Somers, Mt Peel, Huxley (2007).

The Wednesday group is an off-shoot of Thursday Trampers. This is how it happened.....

After many years of meeting at 8:00am for our regular tramp it was agreed to change to 7:30am during daylight saving. This practice

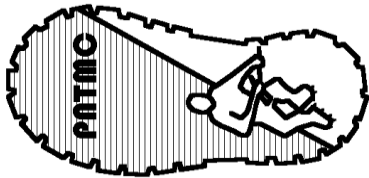
continued for about two or three years, when it was decided to stay with 7:30am permanently. A few of the lady members weren't too keen on the early starts in winter, so Judy Callesen, Monica Cantwell, Rosemary Hall, Sue Pither, and a few other ladies decided to start a Wednesday group to do less demanding tramps and use the original start time of 8:00am. It was all very amicable and the "ladies group" was soon established. Later some men, including Ivan Alve and Ken Rush, joined the group, and so it has gradually enlarged to what it is today.

Since July 1997, when Thursday Trampers first began using the minibus, the group has made 850 trips totalling 155,000 km (nearly 4 times around the world) and paid more than \$100,000 in travel costs to MTSC.

Thanks are due to Russell Johnson, Phil Pearce and Sue Pither for their recollections about the formation of Thursday Trampers.



Some of the Thursday Trumper "Originals" – Russell Johnson, Pam Wilson, Ken Hall, Monica Cantwell, Rosemary Hall, Nan and Bud Cade. Photo by Bev Akers.



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PNTMC Newsletter September 2017

What's inside this month?

- From the President Janet Wilson
- Interclub Quiz coming 14 September
- Rangitikei Scenic Reserves day trip
- Sunrise Hut – overnight family trip
- Coppermine Loop – getting out in the mud and rain
- Toka Biv - Awesome August Alpine Adventure - Postcard Report
- History of Thursday Trampers
- Coming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th 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!

PNTMC Contacts

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	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
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Gear Custodian	Grant Christian	354 5843
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Trip Co-ordinator	Janet Wilson	329 4722
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