



Palmerston North
Tramping and Mountaineering Club
www.pntmc.org.nz
P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter August 2021



Club Nights

Club nights are held on the second and last Thursday of the month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15 pm for a cuppa before start at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Thu 29th July

Gear Auction

Warren Wheeler

Our semi-annual bring-and-buy opportunity for members to get rid of pre-loved or unwanted gear and invest in some new or pre-loved gear for themselves. No commission fees. Reserves optional. Sales table for non-auction items. Donations of sale proceeds to the club are welcome.

Thu 12 August

Tasmania

Catherine Jackson

Now that the travel bubble has opened, what could you do in Tasmania? Come along for a tour of this jewel of an Isle, to see photos from multiple small and moderate tramps and tourist tips from someone who lived there for 7 years.

Thu 26 August

Photo Competition

Martin Lawrence

Taken any good photos lately? Enter them in our annual photo competition and let our expert judge decide the best three images in each category - an audience vote (show of hands) will then determine first, second and third places. Placegetters in each category will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition and the FMC Photo Competition. See inside for details including new categories. Winners from the club photo competition go through to the **Interclub Photo Competition**.

BWD 31st July or 1st August 2021

Paekakariki Escarpment **Easy**

Woody Lee **357 2390**

This 10km section of the Te Araroa Trail runs between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay.

We are starting from Paekakariki and heading south and returning by Kapiti Line train (metlink). Depart Milverton Park at 7.30 am.

Sat 7th August - Sun 8th August Snowcraft1

Training

Dieter Stalman **355 2583**

Snowcraft 1 (SC1) is for beginners and those wanting confidence for tramping and basic safety in snow conditions. The weeknight session is an integral part of the programme and attendance is compulsory. Trainees in groups of 2-4 will team up with club instructors for tuition. Places are limited, so register as soon as possible. Confirmation of your place on the complete or part programme requires your registration form, accompanied by the fee, to be accepted by the organiser. Once received, detailed information will be sent to you.

Sat 7th August

Iron Gate Hut **Medium/Fit**

Janet Wilson **329 4722**

A few months ago, the trap line to Iron Gate Hut was vandalised, with many traps moved and several thrown over cliffs. This trip will hopefully be a “many hands make light work” team effort to replace the 9 missing boxes. The more people who help, the less there will be to carry – which should make it fun. You could be the lunch or drink carrier..... If we have time and enough people we will go all the way to Iron Gate Hut and back, but it can be a shorter day if you don't want to go all that way. Most missing traps are before Tunupo Stream, which is 2-3 hours from the car park. Your chance to help the Oroua Whio thrive. Your reward will be a BBQ at the end of the day back at Peterson Road. Hopefully the best weather day will be Saturday, but we will go on Sunday if necessary. It would help with the planning if you contact Janet early if you are interested. Depart 7am from PN or stay Friday night at Janet and Graham's shed on Peterson Road.

Sat 14th August

Kai Iwi/Bushy Park **Easy**

Kathy Corner **027 618 5722**

BWD of 14/15 August... Ever been to Bushy Park just north of Whanganui? If not, you are in for a treat of birdsong and giant rata. Bushy Park is a 100-hectare sanctuary fenced off from predators You can do short walks on trails through the bush plus there is a beautiful old homestead where we might get a cup of tea. In addition there is a museum to learn about the history Afterwards I hope we have time for a visit to Kai Iwi beach nearby for a stroll Easy walking leave Palmerston North at 8am from Milverton Park

Sat 14th August - Sun 15th August

Howletts Hut **Medium**

Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

This Tony Gates Memorial Trip takes us up to a lovely hut in the snowy tops of the eastern Ruahines, behind Ongaonga. We will take the Daphne track from Kashmir Road up along Daphne Ridge and down to Daphne Hut (trying to avoid wet feet in the Tukituki River) then up to Howletts. We may go further up to Tiraha peak to enjoy the views along Sawtooth Ridge or bag some points on the nearer Taumatataua peak. Depart Milverton Park at 7.00am.

BWD Sat 21st or Sun 22 August

A-frame circuit Medium

Michelle Benton 027 355 2532

A-frame hut has a new look and a new name: Te Ao Tūpare. A lot of love has been lavished on it by hapu from Dannevirke, led by Cherry Peeti-Tapurau and the photos look amazing, so I am keen to go see it in person. It's a steep hill climb but we will take it at an easy pace. If the weather is amazing and the party all feel frisky when we get up there, we will carry on over the Takapari 4WD road and make a loop down to Stanfield hut and out. Otherwise, we will return the way we came. Give me a call as early as you can if you want to join us. We will be leaving from Milverton Park at 7:30am.

Sat 21st August - Sun 22nd August

Snowcraft 2 Training

Dieter Stalman 355 2583

Snowcraft 2 (SC2) includes rope work and anchors for alpine tramping and climbing. Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent) is a prerequisite. Places are limited, so register as soon as possible. Confirmation of your place on the complete or part programme requires your registration form, accompanied by the fee, to be accepted by the organiser. Once received, detailed information will be sent to you.

Sat 28th August - Sun 29th August

Rangipo climbing Fit & Technical

Grant Christian 021 117 6921

We will walk into Rangipo Hut from the Tukino Road on Friday night. Saturday morning, we will walk up the eastern ridge to Ringatoto (Mitre Peak) 2591m and then return to Rangipo to stay Saturday night. Return to Tukino Road on Sunday morning. You will need crampons and an ice axe and be competent in their use.

Sun 29th August

Makahika Medium

Dave Grant 021 684 050

Join Dave on this tramp in the western Tararua behind Shannon. Drive in on the Mangahao Road to the start of the track which follows south through native forest mostly along high ground, then dropping down and following the Makahika Stream out to Gladstone Road behind Levin. However, we won't go right through, stopping for lunch at the Lookout with great views out to the Horowhenua, and then turning round and retracing our steps back to the Mangahao Road. We'll leave from Milverton Park at 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	Other grades:
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs	Family (Fam)
Fit (F):	about 8 hrs	Technical skills (T)
Fitness Essential (FE):	over 8 hrs	Instructional (I)

BWD = Best weather day of a weekend

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips usually 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, over-trousers, 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.

Overdue Trips

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

Martin Lawrence 357 1695 Graeme Richards 353 6227

New Members

Welcome to **Scot van Asten, Sunil Penumarthy, Meghan Moore, Sarah Bramwell.** Notices

Notices

PNTMC Photo competition

Categories are:

- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)
- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)
- NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA
- LONG EXPOSURE
- OVERSEAS
- TOPICAL

Photo competition rules are consistent with those of FMC – winners of our competition are automatically entered into the FMC competition. Entries for all categories must be taken after 1 Jan 2019.

The definition of a “human element” is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains as anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by PNTMC Newsletter August 2019 Page 4 humans into the environment then we would define that as having “a Human element”. But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential, and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as “No Human Element”.

Definition of “Long Exposure”: The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots would require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to ‘blur’ the image (such as flowing water, or movement of the subject). This category is intended to encourage more entries, by separating such highly technical photos into their own category. We hope to get more participation from entrants who are not put off by the thought of having to compete with such highly technical photos.

Definition of “Topical”: People in tramping related activities.

PNTMC photo competition entries need to be given to Martin Lawrence via email or on a USB stick. Entries need to be with Martin **on or before Friday 13th August.**

16 & 17 & 18 October 2021 Big River Hut, Victoria Forest Park, Reefton, South Island.

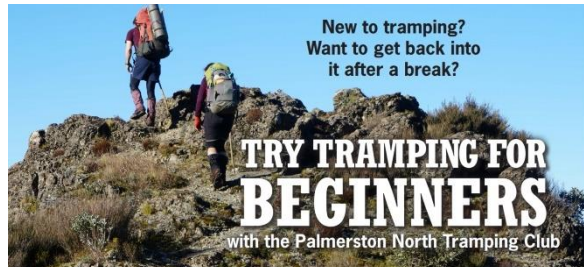
To travel into Big River via Waiuta, Grey Valley.

Anyone interested in this trip please contact Richard Lockett 3230948 asap so that arrangements can be made and other possible activities for the following week can be made as some trip participants are in the South Island for the following week!

Beginner tramps

First Sunday of September, October, November, December.

Contact Anne 06 357 1695.



Trip Reports

Wharite peak via Coppermine Track 31 May

Report and Photos: Monika Coles



Grant's Tongariro trip scheduled for the weekend 30 and 31 May was cancelled due to bad weather. At the club night, Dieter announced an impromptu day tramp to Wharite Tower from Coppermine Track instead. I was keen to go. Early on Sunday morning, it ended up only me and Dieter who turned up for the tramp. It was overcast, but not too bad.

Keen, we were at the start of the track by 8:30am and got walking. It was nice and easy formed track. Once we reached the turn to Wharite Peak, the climb started. Weather was still good and once high enough we got some great views. The climb was steady, but no rush, we reached the tower at 11am. A bit of time walking around and time for an early lunch. As we sat down, we watched two big black clouds coming towards us faster and faster. We had about three bites of our sandwiches and the first rain drops started to fall. We quickly packed up our things and went in search of shelter. As there was no shelter,

we managed to find spot close to the trig and hid under the shrubs, expecting heavy rain to hit any second. Nothing happened. We ventured out to investigate. The two rain clouds had a gap in between them and as they passed over the tops we happened to be in the gap! We could see rain to the left and rain to the right and were treated to spectacular views of rain, sun and half rainbow. Incredible.

With the rain gone, we headed down the hill, back to the carpark, meeting a young guy going up to the tower and a family once back at the Coppermine track itself. It was good to see few people out on a Sunday. We got back to the carpark just after 2pm.

Great walk, making good time and we even managed to dodge the rain!

We were: Leader: Dieter Stalman, Monika Coles

Gulf Island Explorer

2-7 June

Report: Janet Wilson (leader)

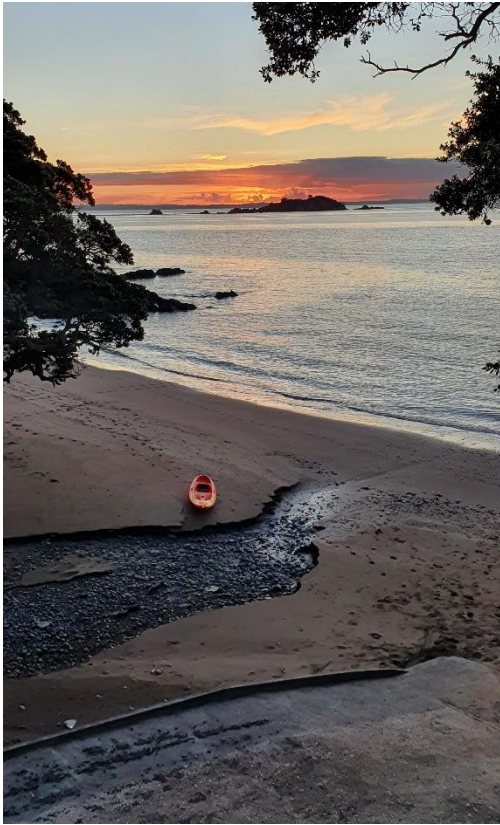
Delayed by Covid for a year, this trip generated more emails than any other - but from the trip leader's point of view at least, it turned out to be a wonderful and memorable Queen's Birthday adventure. Thanks to everyone who held on for a year with deposits paid, and for enthusiastically extending the trip out to 7 days. Thanks to the weather gods for being so kind and for providing some excitement right at the end. Thanks also to DOC and local iwi for allowing our visit to Motutapu Camp while a rahui was in place on the island. I am now considering a career change to Travel Agent!

We gathered at the backpackers at Waiheke Island's beautiful Onetangi Beach on the Tuesday. We had Michelle's 8-seater people mover and a good island bus service to help us get around plus considerable local knowledge from Michelle and Janet. As per a local visitor guide we divided our time between 3 areas - headlands, bush, and beyond (the far end of the island). Over the next 2 days we did a large amount of walking - beaches, pathways with extraordinary views, bush tracks and roads. The brave swim at lovely Palm Beach. We had a private tour of the recently reopened and renovated Stony Batter Tunnels. There was time for some cafes, galleries, retail therapy, and dinner out - but not a single winery was visited! Michelle's car provided a challenge by refusing to start when leaving our most remote location - locals saved the day and took most of us home while Michelle and Robyn waited for the AA - the rest is another story.



On the Friday morning we bid farewell to Woody, welcomed Maret to the group and left the civilisation of Waiheke behind. A very convenient water taxi took us to the nearby and - nearly - predator free Motutapu Island. We had an extraordinary amount of gear and food packed into rat proof boxes and bags to satisfy biosecurity requirements. Our home for the next 3 nights was to be the lodge at the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp. We were met at the wharf by camp staff who drove 3 people and all our gear to the lodge - everyone else walked approx 1 1/2 hours to the camp.

This lodge is beautifully placed by a north facing sandy beach with perfectly positioned pohutukawa trees - idyllic! The kayaks were soon in use as the day and sea conditions were perfect. The most persistent bird watchers heard kiwi calling that evening - over 100 have been released. On Saturday we took advantage of a still good forecast to explore adjoining Rangitoto Island - its rugged lava fields and regenerating bush such a contrast to the green farmland of Motutapu.



The weather was due to change on the Sunday and rain started in the afternoon - not to be deterred, most people kept exploring - beaches and tracks, old gun emplacements and tunnels, and replanted bush areas with plentiful saddlebacks. The lodge has a large kitchen set up for group cooking so as is usual on these trips we split into 3 teams, each cooking for the whole group for 1 night - a system that works well with some great meals. Not much had been planned for evening entertainment but little did we know - the lodge came with its own in the form of Little Blue Penguins. Their strange noises started not long after dark - little party animals living right under our bedrooms!

By Monday morning the predicted storm was getting up and the scheduled passenger ferries to Rangitoto were cancelled for the day. Fortunately, our water taxi operator was still happy to come -we departed for the city a little earlier than planned to miss the worst of the swell. Fond farewells and we then all dispersed in different directions.

We were Graham, Woody (Waiheke only), Sally, Yvonne, Warren, Robyn, Maret (Motutapu only), Jo, Lawrence, Kathy, Jon, Anne, Martin, Richard, Michelle, and Janet.



Tongariro Northern Circuit 5-6 June Report: Grant Christian Photos: Dieter Stalman

Although I had done all the parts of this circuit in different trips, I had never done the complete circuit in one trip. The trip was down on the calendar for 29 & 30 May and there was a lot of interest among club members to join me. Unfortunately, I had to postpone until the following weekend due to a poor weather forecast. I had been ambitious doing this as a two-day trip as it is recommended to do it over 3 to 4 days. Dieter Stalman & Meghan Moore met me at Whakapapa on a frosty morning and we set off from there towards Mangatepopo Hut and the Tongariro Crossing with the hoar frost crunching under our feet. Meghan, with many years of study behind her, and new to the club, was keen to get outdoors. She was hoping to use her crampons and ice axe over the high point of the Tongariro Crossing.

I enjoy the open expanse of Tongariro National Park, the flowing tussock and interesting shrubs. It is one of my favourite places, on Te Ika ā Māui anyway. We stopped at Mangatepopo Hut where there was a group of several trampers heading the same way. I asked about their crampons and ice axes. They had crampons but no ice axes so I suggested they should be carrying ice axes as well. I had encountered this same situation on a trip a few weeks before, to the Ruapehu Plateau, and wondered about the responsibility of people leading or hiring crampons without advising the users to take ice axes as well.

We took the old direct route up the Devil's Staircase to the South Crater, avoiding the winding track and stairs used by the hordes when it is busy. This may not have been the best choice for Meghan as it is steeper, but she never complained, and Dieter did a great job of staying with her. I tended to get ahead while trying to find the best route.

The Red Crater, disappointingly, was bare of snow but it was much colder here with more of a breeze. We wouldn't need crampons or ice axe. We sheltered behind a rocky outcrop and had lunch. Past the Emerald Lakes we turned east towards Oturere Hut. The landscape through here is arid and there are many interesting volcanic rock formations. It reminds me of the American west, and I imagine a group of cowboys riding over the nearby hills.

Being Queen's Birthday weekend Oturere Hut was very busy. We managed to find three empty bunks and room to cook dinner. People continued to arrive until after we were in bed and the hut filled up.



We left about 8 a.m. Sunday morning in the expected rain. There was low visibility so less awareness of our surrounds and more focus on making progress. We stopped at Waihohonu Hut for a break and food. By this stage the rain had stopped. We visited the Historic Waihohonu Hut on the way past. From there it was easy terrain back to Whakapapa. The soles of Meghan's feet started to get progressively more painful. Maybe it was the new boots, or a lack of tramping, or a combination of both. Two days of 6 to 7 hours walking at a steady pace

is a lot for somebody that hasn't built up to it. Poor Meghan was hobbling along slowly, but determinedly, for the last bit. We arrived at Whakapapa at quarter to three where we said our farewells and headed home.



Te Ekaou and Forks Hut 19 June

Report: Michelle Benton Photos: Monika Coles



This was going to be a weekend trip, but the weather forecast was for very wet and cold stuff coming in Saturday afternoon and getting worse on Sunday. We might have stayed home entirely but for the fact that these were the last two items on the current Lower Ruahine Club Challenge that I had to tick off to complete the whole thing. Janet, Graham,

and Monika didn't falter in club spirit and accompanied me over the line.

Graham had sought and received permission for us to drive over the farm and park close to the Ruahine Park entrance. This struck me as a much better deal than toiling up either of the stream approaches to Forks Hut or slogging up and over the farm track! He chauffeured us up to the water tank and we had



a 10-minute walk round the farm track and across the fence to bag Te Ekaou Hut, which was looking clean and tidy. We paused long enough to check the hut book and make our own entry before heading off down the track to Forks Hut about an hour away. It's a pretty wander through the bush on an easy track that's mostly flat until just before the hut when there's a very steep descent down the side of a cliff face to the junction of two forks in the Makawakawa stream, which you cross to find the hut nestled on the narrow terrace above.

We arrived at 10:30am and felt ready for a round of morning tea and a leisurely chat sitting round inside the hut. About 11 we decided it was time to head off home ahead of the incoming weather. It was beginning to drizzle as we set off up the hill again, but we made it back to Janet and Graham's to warm up by the fire while we ate our lunches and sampled Graham's baking (highly recommended). All in all, a very pleasant finale to my attempt to complete this year's challenge, and my thanks to the fellow club members who helped make it so much fun.

We were Graham Peters (leader), Janet Wilson, Monika Coles, Bruce Dog, and Michelle Benton.

Mid-winter at Taupo

26-27 June

Cycling reporter: Richard Lockett

Ernie Cook and I had the offer of a lift up to Taupo in Graham and Janet's vehicle which we gladly accepted. As the weather forecast for the weekend was not looking to flash and with the Friday being the best re the weather, I suggested an early start so as to ensure that we got in some activity while the weather was at its best. Janet assumed that I would prefer some bike riding which was correct, but it was also on Janet's plan to revisit some of the course from a Spirited Women's Adventure race that Janet had competed in a few years ago and this was best done on a bike.

We arrived at the Spa Park car park just after midday and quickly got into biking mode whilst Ernie prepared himself for an afternoon of book reading as he was recovering from a knee injury. The plan was to ride up to the Aratiatia dam on the Waikato River and cross over to ride back on the other side on the trails which comprise of a mixture of single track and old vehicle tracks through various vegetations ranging from native and exotic forest cover to gorse and blackberry scrub, about 25km's of travel.

From Spa Park we rode north, true right of the Waikato River on the Rotary Ride which descends into large gullies soon after leaving the car park, the climb up and out of which soon had one up to temperature and heart rate up to speed. Upon reaching the Huka Falls lookout high above where the water gets dumped out of the narrow slot at speed before calming down in the wider body of water. A Tourist boat arrived and powered towards the falls before the force of the water overcame the power from its engine to reach a stalemate and the time for the passengers to get that all important selfie from the platform hanging out from the front of the boat.

The track continues north through regen bush passing under the Taupo bypass road bridge before a steep climb up onto the escarpment overlooking the prawn farm and time for a regroup and a snack. The prawn farm looked empty but that maybe how it is on any Friday afternoon in the middle of winter! A few good descents down through open scrub covered ground brought us to the Aratiatia Dam car park with the sound of the siren giving indication that we had timed it right to view the 2pm opening of the control gates. Upon crossing the Dam Bridge the trail continues along the true left side of the river mostly well away from its banks running passing the Wairakei Geothermal power Station, before running alongside the main road to cross over the steam pipes on the road bridge. A short ride through an exotic plantation brought us to the back of the Wairakei Resort Hotel and the hot water stream that the trail runs alongside of for a few hundred metres before popping out onto the old old main road up towards the Hub as they call it.

This being the main entrance point to the Mountain Bike Park there were a few options as to trails that lead back to Taupo, wishing to keep away from roads we headed into a single-track trail called Junk and Disorderly through forest cover and on to a trail called Redwoods which popped us out onto the road opposite the Reid Park camping site. A short uphill road section brought us to the lookout on the main road heading north out of Taupo where Ernie was sent a text to meet us at the Countdown. I couldn't resist one more piece of single-track, turning off the concrete path into Acid Drop to finish the descent to the Lake Taupo Control Gates.

Kathy and John had arrived at Spa Park after we had left and also took the Rotary Ride on bikes to do a loop north crossing the Waikato at the Huka Falls bridge before returning along the true left bank crossing again at the Taupo Control Gates and back to Spa Park on the river trail which runs along the true right of the Waikato up passed the Bungy Jump.

With last minute groceries purchased, we set off for Edith and Malcolm's house content with having got some exercise in while the weather was at its best!

Mid-winter at Taupo

Watching the Bird Watchers: Robyn Boocock, Warren Wheeler

The opportunity presented itself; Kirsten and Stephen offered 2 places in their car travelling from P North to Taupo for the annual mid-winter Xmas festivities for the PNTC. Robyn and Warren grabbed the opportunity to sit in, back seat drive and generally ride on the wings of the bird people who can identify all the birds you have heard of and those you haven't.

We left town at 0830 and after a "last coffee" at Hunterville we went into the wild. Following the Turakina Valley Road we made our way square by square with Kirsten navigating and Stephen carefully driving. His driving style is Tutenkarmen (Or toot n car man) sounding his horn before blind corners. We had a safe round trip; we didn't meet many cars either. Kirsten had plotted the day to include as many unvisited areas on the e-bird atlas of NZ as could be managed in the winter daytime.

We made our way to each carefully plotted spot stopping to count birds for at least 5 minutes. The terrain was rugged farmland, detours up no exit roads and on to some private land after permission was obtained from friendly farmers. Kirsten was able to provide a convincing story despite our obvious deviant appearance as we were peering through binoculars across private land.

Birds aplenty; we spotted turkeys, peacocks, ducks of all sorts, rooks, fantails, yellowhammers, kereru, one falcon, lots of harriers, starlings wax eyes, spur wing plovers and swifts. Herons scaups, teals dab chicks, kingfishers. Some were frequent flyers- lots of harriers, flocks of starlings, flights of ducks. Each habitat had its own mix of birds. Some places had low counts and others surprisingly large. The final check was made near Tangiwai and then we sped towards Taupo to join the others at Malcolm and Edith's holiday home.

Sunday morning saw us fly away towards the Western Arm of Taupo. So many new "squares" to investigate, including coffee the L'Arte Café at Acacia Bay and the area around Kinloch (Topsy Trout for lunch!) The weather deteriorating did not deter us (or at least Kirsten and Stephen) who valiantly jumped out at each location to brave the wind and the rain. By now Warren had developed a "need" to read the newspaper and I had developed mild sleeping sickness. Onwards toward Tokaanu and the promise of a hot mineral pool.

Monday morning bright and early- we were off again to squares unknown. Back down the road to nowhere via the Wangaehu Valley Road and the Old Fields Track. Patiently Stephen sought terra firma to park while Kirsten started the count. This day saw us go to the ends of roads, most notable of which was the Titoki Gardens of the late Gordon Collier, renowned Rhododendron breeder.

Lunch was served 'a la carte' -commonly known as 'in the car' due to the inclement weather. The end of the day saw completion of 8 squares or 800 square kms on the trip to and from the bottom of Lake Taupo. Not to mention the area around the western arm of the lake. It was a privilege to see some of the more remote area behind Taihape towards Turangi and to walk the road less travelled.

Kirsten and Stephen are modern-day heroes contributing data to capture the bird population in New Zealand. Patience, dedication, and fortitude are required attributes that these bird people have in abundance. Thank you for having us along for the ride.

Otaki to Waikanae Beach 3 July Report: Brendan Corner Photo: Warren Wheeler

This tramp was a continuation of Janet's exploratory trip down the coast. This time we started at the Otaki River and ended in Waikanae. With Janet's organisational skills we managed to meet up at Te Horo beach. While the car shuffle was in process a group of us walked north to the Otaki River mouth. The start of the day was very cold so we had all our layers on, but soon the sun came out. As the walk progressed I slowly peeled off my layers. I was half expecting Robyn and Warren to go for a swim, but they didn't. Partway down the beach Janet proposed a competition, one that we had done on a previous Queen's birthday coastal classic. The competition was to find the best natural and manmade object on the beach. There was also a competition to capture the best photo of camera-shy Bruce.

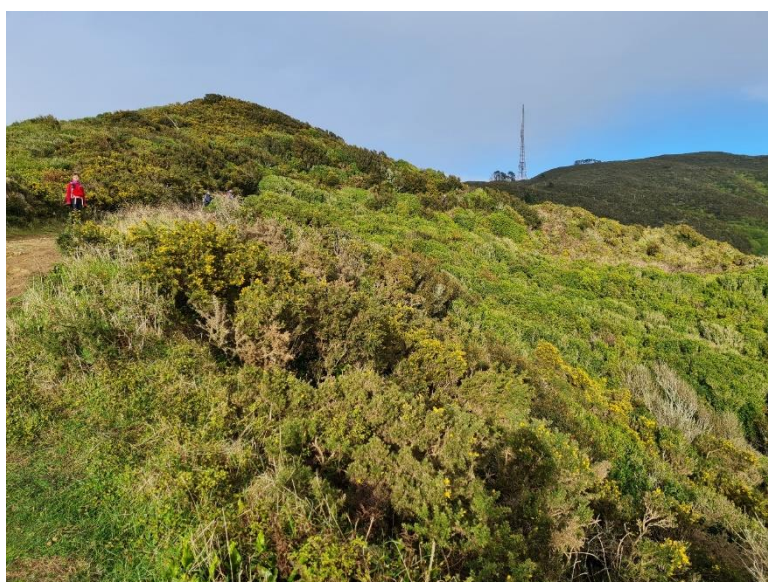
Our lunch stop was halfway at Peka Peka beach. As we proceeded along, some of the group scoured the beach for the best specimens. The weather continued to be magnificent and warm with little wind. As we walked we had clear views of snow on the Tararua, Kapiti, and the South Island. Once we arrived at the Waikanae River mouth we gathered all the entries for the competitions and voted on them. Sally won the best natural object, Monika the best man-made and Rachel took the best photo of Bruce. We then turned inland strolling around the Waikanae estuary. I reflected on what a nice place it would be to live, except if there was a flood. A bit of navigation on three different phones was needed to get back to the cars. We stopped at a dairy for some ice creams and pies, and then departed back home. In all, it was a lovely walk with nice company. We were Brendon, Kathy, Michelle, Sally, Sonia, Sally, Warren, Robyn, Adelle, Monica, Rachel, Graham, Janet, and Bruce.



Marty and I were already in Wellington as were Kathy and her family, so the plan was for us to meet those coming from Palmy at the Raroa railway station at 9am. The plan worked amazingly well! The Palmy lot arrived bang on time, although they were not overly impressed with the showers that hit as they arrived. They said that the weather had got worse as they got further south. The forecast was for scattered showers, but we decided rain jackets were needed... so many layers even before we left the station!

Wellington city council has put together a guide <https://wellington.govt.nz/-/media/maps/files/skyline.pdf> but you can do the walk without this as the route is well sign-posted. The full route goes from Johnsonville park south to Makara Road but our plan was to turn off before Johnson hill taking a side-route to Otari-Wilson Bush Reserve.

A bit of road walking gets you to Truscott Avenue reserve and Johnsonville park. Then it's up through the bush to get to the ridge which leads steadily up to Mt Kau Kau. We got there in time for a morning tea stop – had to be brief as there really is nowhere to shelter and it was COLD. The wind was strong but not as strong as I had feared – Mt Kau Kau does a good wind!





After Mt Kau Kau, you are on the ridge looking over Wellington city and harbour to the east and the sea and South Island to the west. No shelter but great views! It's a popular trail – we passed (or were passed by) quite a few walkers, runners and mountain bikers. Apart from one spot where we had to battle the icy wind blasting rain in our faces, it was pleasant going.

Around midday we got to the turn off to Otari-Wilton's bush reserve. Miraculously the sun came out, the wind dropped and we enjoyed lunch with the sun warming us. But we had to be quick – heavy clouds came over and we had to pack up and get

moving before the shower hit. It was nice to be in the shelter of the bush – it felt a bit warmer as we dropped down. There is a bit of a maze of tracks in the Bush Reserve, but it doesn't matter much which you take as they all lead to the car park eventually!

There is a bit of road walking from there to get to the Botanic Gardens.



We skirted the Gardens, coming out at the Bolton Road cemetery, taking the footbridge across the motorway and in no time at all we were at the Railway station. There was even time for people to grab a coffee before the 3.02pm Johnsonville train. We left David and Nicola Corner to catch the train home to the Hutt, Ours were still the only cars at Raroa station. As we piled back into the cars to drive back to Palmy, I think we all felt pleased with the day.

The only slight problem was the lack of toilets. Nothing provided at Raroa station or at Johnsonville Park. Our first sighting of a toilet was at Otari-Wilton. Well done to those who held on till then!

Thanks everyone for coming along despite the forecast strong cold wind. Special thanks to the Jenny, Nicola W and Roy for providing transport to and from Palmy. Thanks also to Warren for coordinating the Palmy contingent.

We were Jenny, Amiraya, Nicola Wallace, Rachel, Roy, Monika, Sally, Weiping, Amy, Janet, Richard, Warren, Kathy, Jon, Brendon, David, Nicola Corner, Martin and Anne.

July - December 2021 PNTMC Trips

July 2021

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
3-4				
4	Beach walk	All	Janet Wilson	329 4722
10-11				
11	Wellington skyline walk	M	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
BWD 17/18	The Pinnacles, TNP	FE/T	Grant Christian	021 117 6921
18	Atihakatu Hut	E	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
24 (Sat)	Rangi Hut	E/family	Doug Strachan	353 6526
BWD 24 /25	Kiritaki Hut	M/F	Richard Lockett	323 0948

August 2021

31 - 1				
BWD 31/1	Paekakariki Escarpment	E	Woody Lee	357 2390
7-8	Snowcraft 1		Dieter Stalman	355 2583
7 (Sat)	Iron Gate Hut	M/F	Janet Wilson	329 4722
14-15	Howletts Hut	M	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
BWD 14/15	Kaiwi/Bushy Park	E	Kathy Corner	027 618 5722
21-22	Snowcraft 2		Dieter Stalman	355 2583
BWD 21/22	A-frame circuit	M	Michelle Benton	027 355 2532
28-29	Rangipo Climbing	FE/T	Grant Christian	021 117 6921
29	Makahika	M	Dave Grant	328 7788

September 2021

BWD 4 or 5	Girdlestone	FE/T	Grant Christian	021 117 6921
5 (Sunday)	Beginner tramp #1	All	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
11-12	TBA		Elly Arnst	022 682 3136
12	Conservation Week trip	M	Janet Wilson	329 4722
18-19	Mt Holdsworth (Terry Crippen memorial climb)	M	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
19	Burtons Track	M	Dave Grant	328 7788
25-26	Haurangi Range	M/F	Graham Peters	329 4722
26	Stanfield Hut	E	Woody Lee	357 2390

October 2021

Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
2-3	Ngauruhoe	M	Warren Wheeler	356 1988
3 (Sunday)	Beginner tramp #2	All	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
9-10	Tonganiro	FE/T	Grant Christian	021 117 6921
BWD 9/10	Rangi-Deadmans Loop	M	Craig Allerby	323 7913
16-17	South Island Reefion	M	Richard Lockett	323 0948
BWD 16/17	Bushy Birding	E	Stephen Legg	027 647 0095
23-25	Labour weekend: Te Araroa Levin to Otaki Forks	M/F	Roy Rolston	027 476 7188
30-31	Trip Needed			
BWD 30/31	Tahurangi/Plateau TNP	FE/T	Grant Christian	021 117 6921

November 2021

6-7	TBA		Janet Wilson	329 4722
7 (Sunday)	Beginner tramp #3	All	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
13-14	Pohangina River	M/F	Janet Wilson	329 4722
14	Wharite	E	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
20-21	Weasel Creek	M	Roy Rolston	
day				
27-28	Ellis Hut	E	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
day				

December 2021

4-5	Last points trip???		???	
5	TBA	E	Graeme Richards	020 406 92258
11-12				
day				
18-19	Short-Knights	E/M	Warren Wheeler	356 1998



PNTMC Newsletter

August 2021

- Trip reports
- Upcoming events

Send articles to **Michelle Benton,**

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