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**Palmerston North  
Tramping and Mountaineering Club**

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

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

**Newsletter September 2021**

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*The group en route to Kiritaki hut on 24<sup>th</sup> July (photo; Woody Lee). See inside for the trip report.*

**COVID 19: All trips and events are suspended until further notice due to increased alert levels.**

#### **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.

**9 September 2021**

**100 Peaks Challenge**

**Don French**

Don French is the first person to complete the NZAC "100 Peaks Challenge", an achievement that has taken him the last 30 years.

The list was designed to address the aspirations of climbers at all levels and genres. Hence there are relatively easy peaks, very hard and steep peaks, and a number of very remote peaks. Don will tell us what motivated him, with stories about selected peaks and a 23-minute video.

**30 September 2021**

**Saving Oiled Wildlife**

**Louise Chilvers**

Louise Chilvers is a Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Massey University and Director of the Wildbase New Zealand Oiled Wildlife Response team. Her role is to lead all aspects of preparedness, planning, research and response for oiled wildlife in New Zealand and assist in increasing global preparedness. Her talk will give a brief outline of what oiled wildlife response is about, why it's important, and how it is run in New Zealand.

## Upcoming Trips

### **BWD Sat 4th/Sun 5th September**

**Girdlestone**

**Fit & Technical**

**Grant Christian**

**021 117 6921**

Climb Girdlestone via the South side and descend via the west side. Ropes will be used on the steeper sections of this climb. You will need to be reasonably confident on steepish slopes and have belaying and snow anchor skills. We would meet in Ohakune at 7 a.m. or stay in Ohakune the night before. Could take up to 10 hours, depending on the speed of belaying and walking of participants.

### **Sun 5th September**

**Beginner Tramp #1**

**Easy**

**Anne Lawrence**

**357 1695**

This is the first of our Beginner series. From Holdsworth Roadend we follow the track to Atiwhakatu Hut for lunch. The track is relatively easy but has plenty of variety with some interesting bridges to cross. We'll leave from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

### **Sat 11th September - Sun 12th September**

**TBA**

**Medium**

**Elly Arnst**

**022 682 3136**

Destination depends on the weather - Elly will decide on where to go closer to the time.

### **Sun 12th September**

**Conservation Week Trip**

**Medium**

**Janet Wilson**

**329 4722**

To celebrate "Conservation Week" this trip will be to the Oroua Valley where there are heaps of traps and if we are lucky, some Whio to be seen. There is some work that needs doing with the traps so this trip will be suitable for everyone. If you are new to this sort of thing, come along and experience the life of a trap line volunteer for a day. Experienced helpers would be most welcome. Depart PN 7am Sun.

### **Sat 18th September - Sun 19th September**

**Terry Crippen Memorial Trip**

**Mt Holdsworth**

**Medium**

**Warren Wheeler**

**356 1998**

This is a Terry Crippen memorial trip in the eastern Tararua Ranges behind Masterton. Plan A is to stay at Powell Hut (3-4 hours) and climb up to Mt Holdsworth by moonlight (45 minutes). Sunday return via the East Ridge route (4 hours). Option for a longer return trip across the snowy tops to Jumbo (5-6 hrs). This may also be done as a day trip, depending on interest.

### **Sun 19th September**

**Burttons Track**

**Medium**

**Dave Grant**

**328 7788**

Contact Dave if you are interested in joining him on this trip.

### **Sat 25th September - Sun 26th September**

**Haurangi Range**

**Medium/Fit**

**Graham Peters**

**329 4722**

Plan A is a trip to the Haurangis camping at the Putangirua Pinnacles on the Friday night with a car left at Cape Palliser for Sunday afternoon. Heading south stay at Pararaki hut Saturday night exiting via the Mangatoetoe stream. I may however be in Nelson that weekend, in which case Plan B Janet will take a trip to Leon Kinvig on the Pohangina.

**Sun 26th September**

**Stanfield Hut**

**Easy**

**Woody Lee**

**357 2390**

An easy tramp to the eastern side of the Ruahines. We will start from Tamaki West Rd and follow the Holmes Ridge track and an unmarked riverbed route to the hut. After lunch we return the same way. We will leave from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

### **Trip Grading**

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramper 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:**

Family (Fam)  
Technical skills (T)

**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 or Graeme Richards 353 6227

**Error and apology:**

Bruce the Dog only accompanied us in spirit, and my imagination, to Te Ekaou and Forks hut last month. My apologies for this misinformation. In fact, Bruce stayed home and was overjoyed to see us arrive back out of the rain to Graham and Janet's warm homefires, where he introduced himself to Monika so charmingly that she immediately fell in love with him too. Michelle Benton

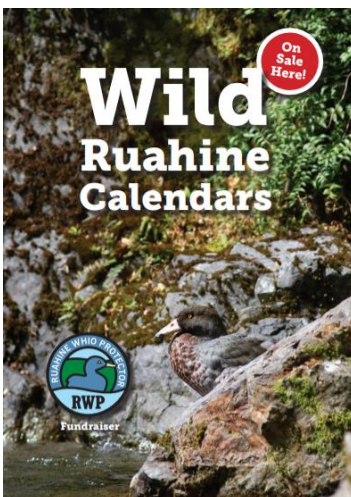
**Annual Interclub Quiz Night**

The annual interclub quiz night will be hosted by the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club on TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER starting at 7.30pm.

The venue is the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms (Next to the Lido) 50 Park Road, Palmerston North.

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

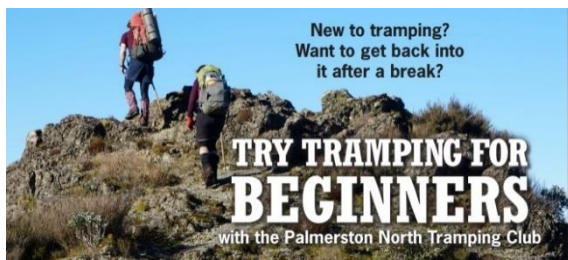
To travel into Big River via Waiuta, Grey Valley. Anyone interested in this trip please contact Richard Lockett 3230948 asap so that arrangements can be made, and other possible activities for the following week can be planned as some trip participants are in the South Island for the following week!



**WILD RUAHINE 2022 CALENDAR**

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust with the generous support from local volunteers have again produced a "Wild Ruahine" calendar as a fundraiser. Design is by club member Anthony Behrens ([www.swampthing.co.nz](http://www.swampthing.co.nz)), and the beautiful photos have all been donated by local photographers. The cost is \$20.00.

You can order now for early Christmas shopping and help support our local Ruahine conservation project. Calendars will be available in August. Contact Janet Wilson [jwilson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jwilson@inspire.net.nz) or see her at a club night.



**Beginner Tramps**

First Sunday of September, October, November and December.

Contact Anne Lawrence 063571695



## NZ Mountain Film Festival Tour

Massey University Alpine Club is hosting the Palmerston North screening for the NZ Mountain Film Festival again for 2021.

The festival theme, 'A Celebration of Adventurous Sports and Lifestyles', aims to showcase films from high-octane sports such as skiing, climbing, kayaking, and mountain-biking. It also features increasingly topical environmental and mountain culture films to inform and entertain.

We are showcasing the Kiwi Made selection with 6 films: Canterbury Alps Ski Traverse (10 mins) - Epic Adventure Award; Airport Wall (15 mins) - Pushing The Boundaries Award; Newton Peak (25 mins) - Grass Roots Award; In the Theatre of the Gogs (19 mins) - Best NZ Made Film Award; Pilgrimage to Pilgrim (17 mins); Made in Aotearoa (37 mins) - Best Film on Adventurous Sports and Lifestyle Award. There will be a 20min interval in the programme.

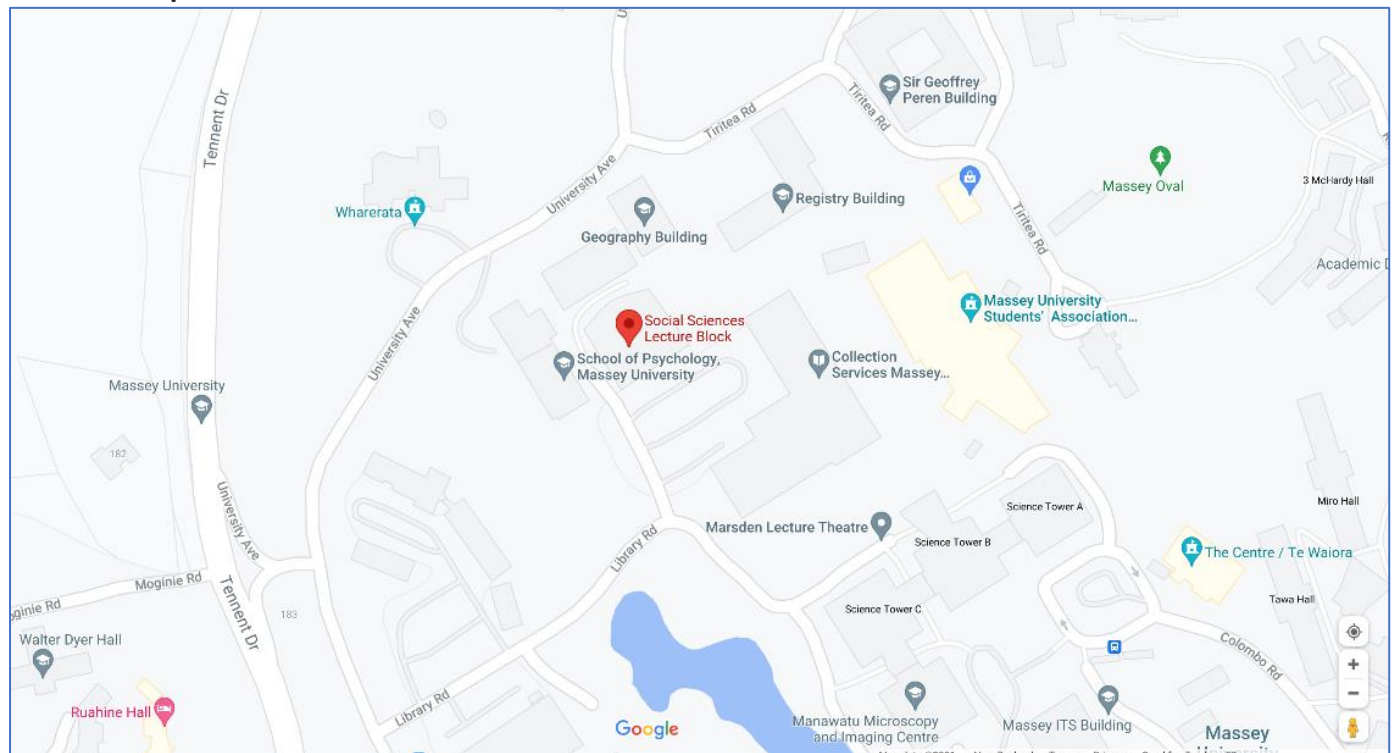
**Date:** Thursday 16th September 2020

**Time:** Show starts 6.30pm, BBQ and drinks available from 5.30pm

**Location:** SSLB1, Massey University

**Tickets:** Pre-sale tickets are **\$15**, purchase from Bivouac Palmerston North or email [socialrep@muac.org.nz](mailto:socialrep@muac.org.nz). Alternatively, tickets will be sold at the door for \$20 - eftpos available

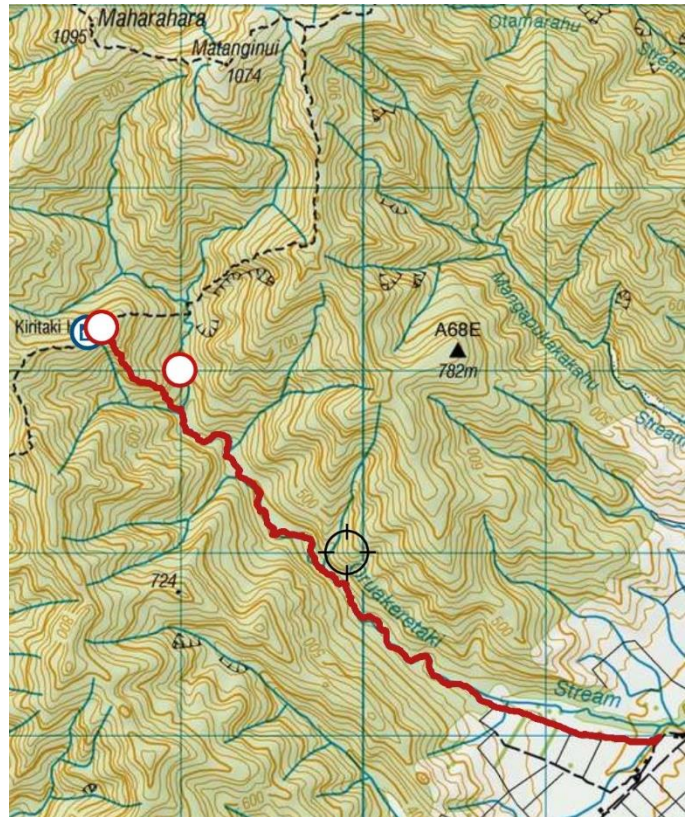
### Location map





When 12 of us met at Milverton Park at 8am the sun shone and there was no wind. A perfect day for a tramp. Richard, our trip leader, had decided to approach Kiritaki hut from the east, following a poled route up Oruakeretaki Stream to a short steep ascent to the hut. The route is shown on the map.

We drove to the end of Fairbrother Rd., from where there is access to Ruahine Forest Park. We set off from the road end at 9am. The first 1.5 km was over farmland along a fence line. When we entered the park we also “entered” the stream. It was a beautiful stream, with fast flowing water, boulders, cliffs and even a small waterfall. Most of us crossed the river cautiously at the beginning, to try and avoid getting totally soaked feet. We soon realised that we were crossing the river so many times and even walking in it, so there was no need to try and keep your feet dry. In one place we had to negotiate a very slippery rock face where a rope, very conveniently, was placed to help us up and over.



Although it was a nice sunny day, the sun did not reach us in the river valley and some of our group became very cold. We reached a sunny spot after two hours, where we were going to commence the ascent to the hut. We stopped to drink and had our morning snack.



The ascent to the hut was very steep in places and it was somewhat muddy. We had to keep our eyes open to follow the markers. I was not looking forward to going back down. I thought that I would slip and slide, but the descent did not turn out to be that difficult. Just before we reached Kiritaki hut, we came to an opening where we had a wonderful view over the farmland below.

We arrived at the hut just before 12pm, just in time for lunch. It was still and sunny. A joy to eat lunch in these conditions. Here are the happy group outside the hut.



Halfway through our lunches, a group of trampers from around the Wellington area joined us. They had come in from the Loveday Road end.

We went back the way we came. We were about 30 minutes faster on our way out.

We were: Warren Wheeler, Robyn Boocock, Kirsten Olsen, Stephen Legg, Roy Rolston, Woody Lee, Monika Coles, Blair Peterson, Anne and Martin Lawrence, Michelle Benton and Leader Richard Lockett.

### **Paekakariki Escarpment Track 1 August**

**Report and photo: Roy Ralston**

While I have walked the escarpment track once before, actually not long after it opened, I was keen to revisit the track for three differing reasons. Firstly, I wanted to see first-hand what improvements had been made and what damage has occurred from recent storms. Secondly, I wanted to borrow some crampons as a back-up for the upcoming snow-craft course from one of my Old Dogs Tramping mates who lives in Wellington. And thirdly, it was a chance of a good day out with fellow club members in a fantastic landscape, soaking up the views and sunshine and trying out the local coffee.

I rang Woody, the trip leader, a few days prior and was surprised to hear I was a lone taker for the trip although there was a possibility of a couple of others. Meanwhile I had Pete, my Old Dog Tramping mate, keen and another Old Dog, Gordon. Come Sunday morning it was only Woody and I that met at 7.30am at Milverton and we drove our way down country to meet Pete and Gordon at Paikok for a 9am start. The morning drive all went to plan as there was light traffic and no hold-ups. The day was looking good, a little cool but sunny and almost no wind, which is a big factor for this track as most of it is very exposed to the elements straight off the Tasman Sea.

Pete and Gordon are long-time trampers. but they're getting long in the tooth, so to speak, with Gordon especially still out there doing it at 83.



We met near bang on time and set off, taking a back street first to connect with the Escarpment track just on the northern side of a railway over-bridge. A short distance into the track we came to the official information sign and from there the track climbs slowly up and down, but at about the halfway point it reaches the highest point. There is a small area with picnic tables, a source of drinking water from a clever iron roof structure on the ground running into a small tank, and a loo nearby I think. It was a great place for a bite to eat and to take in the magnificent views over the Kapiti coast and beyond. A steady stream of traffic below contrasted against the empty stillness of the sea of Pukerua Bay. It was of note that over the whole bay I could only see two boats fishing and a couple of sea kayaks near the south end of the bay with my binos. For a very calm, fine sunny day I thought that was extraordinary. Perhaps it's all fished out was my only conclusion. We also noted a lack of trains running, in fact none of us had noticed any. That was a bit of a worry for we were counting on catching one back.



We carried on slowly, Gordon traveling very slow but steady with his two walking poles. Dropping down we found a spot to call it lunch on a grassy terrace beside the track still with a good view over the bay. It was extraordinary that for a very exposed piece of coastline we were able to soak up the very pleasant winter sun without a breath of wind.

Moving on we approach and drop down a very steep set of steps which is now not so precarious as I remember because of native planting that had grown to cover the previous bare slope. Crossing over the large suspension bridge takes us on to the southern end of the bay. It was in this section that some recent damage was apparent with fresh land slips. Track repairs had been undertaken but some parts of it was still just temporary with some basic barriers and handrails in place to assist passage. At one point we could see quite a number of probes in the slope with solar panels attached. We figured they were there to remotely record any ground movement, especially as this unstable slope dropped directly down to the railway line.

With a few ups and downs the track drops down again and follows beside the railway tracks. The mystery of no trains became apparent when we saw a couple of rail line workers leaning on one of the tires of a big front-end loader, having a great old chin wag in front of a pile of gravel right next to a digger sitting on the railway tracks. It appeared that work was done for the day with fresh gravel seen laid as track bedding. Finding ourselves at Pukerua Bay Station a sign directed us to the dairy on the main road for a bus connection. I took a while to work out what the story was and in the meantime we tucked into a big fat ice cream. The bus stop was just down the road so we wandered down.

When we got there, there was a sign but no timetable. It was now well after three o'clock and we had no idea when the next bus was due or even if it was running.



Pete got on his phone and after some searching he found that one was due in 20 minutes. We waited 20 minutes, then 40 - blooming hell, we didn't fancy the long walk back. A steady stream of traffic passed by. We considered putting out the thumb, when finally a bus turned up.

We clambered on and fumbled around wondering what to pay. The driver waved his arms in fury to say nah just find a seat. He clearly seemed to be over it and we sailed off up the road and back to Paekakariki at bus neck speed.

The whole walk is about 10km and takes about 3 to 4 hours, but it took us a bit longer than that. Well, who's counting? The Old Dogs get there in the end. It's truly a fantastic walk and a credit to those who spent a lot of time and energy building it. We enjoyed great scenery and company throughout, the worst part waiting for the bus but don't let that put you off. With the trains running it works well for getting you back to the start at either end. Alas we missed out on a coffee stop, it was getting late and it was time to head home, crampons in hand. We were Old Dogs: Peter Crosland, Gordon Somerville; PNTMC: Roy Rolston, Woody Lee (leader)

**Iron Gate Hut (Doing it for The Ducks)**

**7 August 2021**

**Report & Photo: Janet Wilson**



I offered this trip to Iron Gate Hut because there was a job to be done and I needed some help. Earlier in the year some "less useful members of society" (to put it kindly) interfered with most of the traps on the track to IGH - yes probably 90% of them so a determined effort. Nine traps were not found - presumably thrown over the cliffs along the way. The plan was to carry in replacement traps and rebait the line and I was hoping for a good turnout on the basis that "many hands make light work"

There was a great response from club members and other members of the trapping community - a team of 15 gathered at our Petersons Rd shed on a blustery morning. With a few unknowns, the planning the night before proved challenging, but it came together in the morning once everyone had arrived and teams were sorted out.

We divided into 3 groups - a rebaiting (+ birding?) team and a trap-carrying team to go as far as Tunupo Stream (TS), and a team to go beyond TS to rebait and to replace 2 traps and some mechanisms. We had radio contact between the front and the back of the group. I went with the "beyond the stream" team towards IGH, which included 2 new volunteers Sarah and Joe, and PNTMC members Roy and Brendon.

There was quite a bit of enthusiasm from this group to get all the way to the hut - so we pushed on, getting to the hut for a quick lunch, leaving the "work" for the walk back. Radio chatter let us know the other teams were doing well on task and had turned for home after lunch. We also heard that 2 who had been sighted from the track. They were still there as we passed, a sharp whistle alerting us - the 2 males that are sometimes seen in the area. Great that everyone got to see the elusive Oroua Whio.

Everyone was back at the shed by 4.30pm for a well-deserved BBQ'd sausage and beer - the IGH team most appreciative, as we arrived just as they were cooked.

Thanks everyone for helping out - a diverse, cheerful and cooperative group. We were Graham, Janet, Kirsten, Steven, Kathy, Jon, Brendon, Sarah and Roy (PNTMC), Dave, Mark, Malcolm (RWP volunteers) and new volunteers Gary, Joe and Karen.

**Snowcraft One 14 & 15 August 2021**

**Report: Grant Christian**



We had 10 students and four instructors for the practical session on the mountain. Although the weather on Saturday wasn't pleasant, we went into the valley near to the car park and went through the full program. The snow was mostly too soft to get the full understanding of what crampons can do or cutting & kicking steps, but we practised the techniques and went through self-arresting. We climbed above the valley to walk out and endured windy wet conditions with low visibility. A good taste of what bad conditions can be like.

Sunday proved to be calm and sunny soon after getting on the mountain. The snow was firm and icy so the students really got to find out what it is like without crampons, how crampons can keep you secure and what cutting steps is like on hard icy snow. It was too hard to kick steps. The snow here was too icy to practice self-arresting although a couple of people tried it before being warned against it. I found out the hard way that glissading down a slope on my boots and then falling over and hitting a lump of ice is painful and had a large bruise to show for it.

We headed up to a waterfall west of the ski field and got some excellent crampon practice on some steeper slopes. There was a reasonably steep down climb which extended some of the students. I warned them to be cautious, but one student got into a slide. He executed a textbook self-arrest with crampons up and came to a stop after about 10 metres. Some students got outside their comfort zone climbing a nice little couloir, with a clear run out, near the waterfall.



We had a good talk about avalanche hazards and how to evaluate the potential for an avalanche. We also dug out a block of snow and did a shear test. The block sheared off about one foot down while hitting from the elbow. Another one facing the sun was much more solid and wouldn't budge until someone jumped on it. We got back to the car park at about 3 p.m.

The whole group had dinner out on Saturday night. We had a debrief and a drink at the Powderkeg on Sunday.

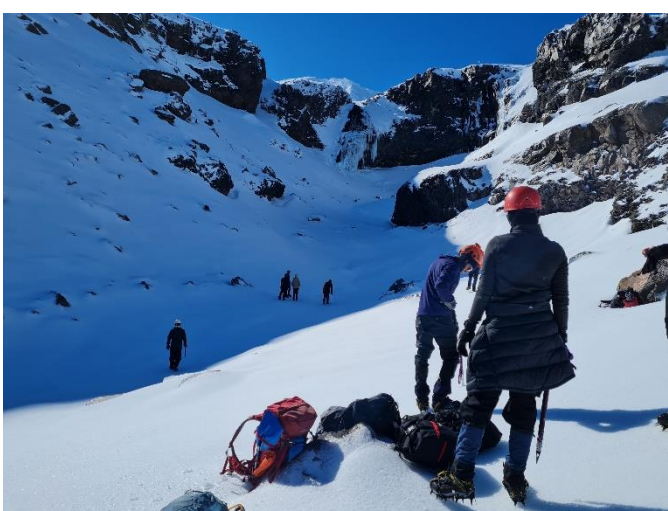
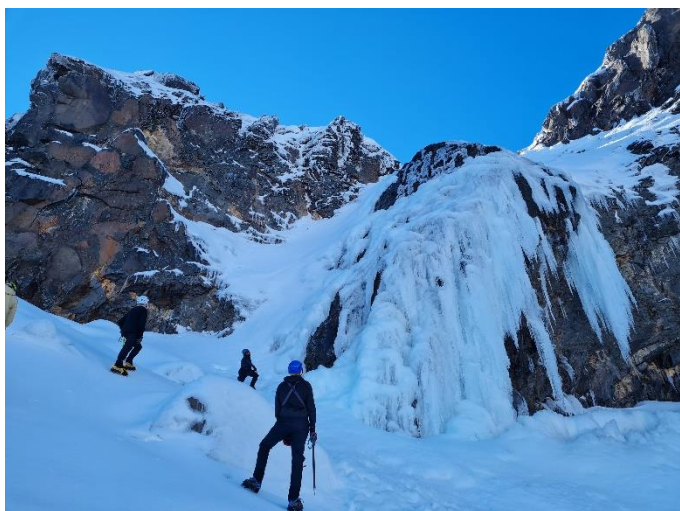
The instructors did a great job of leading different sections and giving individuals help with their techniques.

It was an excellent weekend and all the students said they had got a lot from it, enjoyed themselves and thought it was well organised. We had two students from Wellington, two from Taupo and the rest from Palmerston North.

Once again we were fortunate to have the use of Sue Pither's house at Rangataua and the use of a house a little further from Ohakune.

Club members that attended the weekend practical sessions were Roy Rolston and Monika Coles.

Instructors were Grant Christian, Dieter Stalmann, Dwight Swainson and Chris Rayner.



## **Bushy Park**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**Report: Robyn Boocock**

We (Kathy and Robyn) left Palmy at 0800 having chosen the better weather day for a visit to Bushy Park Tarapuruhi, Kai Iwi Beach, the Bason Botanic Gardens, and a walk around the Rotokawa/Virginia Lake Reserve in Wanganui if time allowed. The day was lovely, some sunny spells proving we had been clever in delaying the trip from Saturday to Sunday.

Entering through the predator free fence at 0945, we approached the lovely Bushy Park homestead and gardens. The homestead is open for meals and refreshments with various accommodation options. Kathy and I walked all the tracks, taking in the tranquil paths and water features. Amazing to see and hear many Saddlebacks, Hihi, Tui, Toutouwai, Bellbirds, Grey Warbler, Piwakawaka and very fat Kereru. There are feeding stations along the way which enables very close viewing-spellbinding! Once all the trails were finished, including a walk of the perimeter, we explored the homestead. What a marvellous place complete with a small, but very well stocked, bar. Kathy and I lounged on the comfortable couches taking in the views out over the ranges. We left for Kai Iwi at 1500 for a ramble around the bay and over the hills. Filled with fresh sea air we moved on to the Bason Gardens on the road back to Wanganui. A wander down to the lake and up through the trees and conservatory took a further pleasant hour admiring the collections of plants.

We sped back to Wanganui meeting up with Pam, a friend of Kathy, who took us on an alternative route around the Rotokawau/Virginia Lake Reserve, a small amount of hill work involved. It was a different type of tramping day with plenty of variety and a new appreciation of the Wanganui environs. I would recommend Bushy Park to all who enjoy seeing and hearing our native birds at a much closer range.

We arrived home at 1830 having filled the day with unexpected pleasures.

Five of us left town fully intending to make it to Howletts Hut on Saturday.

The Daphne car park welcomed us with what was to become the standard for the day - wet & windy.

After a slog up the hill (or it was for me at least) & back down to the river - several hours for almost no net gain in altitude - lunch was had at where the track meets the river. Wet feet & more up the river to the hut.



*Wet feet criss-crossing up the Tukituki River*

After a quick look at Daphne Hut, we left once again with the intention of making it to Howletts Hut for the night. A quick review of the weather & a riverside conference later, we were back at Daphne for the night.

A flurry of firewood gathering soaked up the afternoon. No problem lighting the fire, but whenever there was a strong gust of wind, the smoke came back down into the hut. Holes in the firebox door didn't help either. All afternoon & evening it took a mixture of opening windows, the door & fire exit to clear the air. It's the little things that make a trip memorable!

Late afternoon we were joined by Alex from Napier. He'd come solo from Longview, via Otumore & the spur direct to the river. Like us, he'd decided the weather at Howletts was going to be just too wild.

A mean-as card game of *up the river, down the river*, led by Anne was fun, Not even any cheating.....

It was about 8pm when two hunters turned up, both looking thoroughly knackered after getting

lost. It was only their GPS that guided them to the hut in the dark.



*Getting ready to leave Daphne Hut*

Sunday morning greeted us with fine weather, & not too windy. Even the river had dropped overnight.

Back down the river & up the track towards the car park. At the signpost we turned off towards Longview hut. My favourite part of the trip - out into the open, across the tussock-covered ridge to Longview. Awesome views & plenty of fresh air.



*Through the tussock to Longview*

While we had lunch at the hut, the wind took the chance to increase in strength, making for a fun walk until we had got down the spur a bit.

A walk down the road back to the Daphne car park & an ice cream in Dannevirke finished off a great trip. Apparently, Howletts Hut will still be there for next time.

We were: Warren (trip leader), Brendon, Anne, Marty & me (Blair). Thanks for a great trip everybody!







## PNTMC Newsletter

### September 2021

- Trip reports
- Upcoming events

**Note: all events cancelled due to Covid-19  
alert levels until further notice**

Send articles to Michelle Benton,

the newsletter editor at  
mchll291@gmail.com

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<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>



Get out and about with us!

Send to PNTMC  
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| Treasurer            | Warren Wheeler  | 356 1998     |
| Webmaster            | Martin Lawrence | 357 1695     |
| Membership Enquiries | Warren Wheeler  | 356 1998     |
| Gear Custodian       | Warren Wheeler  | 356 1998     |
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| Trip Co-ordinator    | Janet Wilson    | 329 4722     |
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