



**Palmerston North
Tramping and Mountaineering Club**

www.pntmc.org.nz

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter April 2022



Wading the first deep pool in the Ohau Gorge.

(See trip report in next newsletter)

COVID-19

All club activities require participants to present a current covid vaccination pass until further notice.

For club nights held indoors:

- Sign our attendance book as usual pre-COVID.
- Show your current vaccination pass at the door
- Use the hand sanitiser provided. Masks are optional but please feel comfortable to wear one if you prefer. Maintain social distance.
- If feeling unwell, stay home.

For club trips:

- Participants on a club trip form a 'trip bubble'.
- The trip leader is responsible for keeping contact details of everyone in the trip bubble and sighting each participant's vaccination pass

Club Nights

Tue 5 April 2022

Interclub Quiz

MTSC

Postponed last year due to COVID, Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club are holding the Interclub Quiz night at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North (Next to the Lido) at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 April. (Covid allowing!!)

Everyone will require a vaccine passport and to wear their masks to attend.

Come along and join our team(s) for a nail biting, fun filled social night out. Prizes may even include chocolate !!

Thu 14 April 2022

Working in Conservation

Corey Mosen

Corey will tell us about his exploits with working in conservation around the world and working with Ajax over the years. He will bring copies of his new book "Ajax's Sidekick" for sale. Ajax was a retired kea detection dog and once spent his days helping conservation in New Zealand. *This talk has been rescheduled from 28 April as Corey is leaving to work in Australia.*

Thu 28 April 2022

Ruahine Kiwi Comeback

Ian Rasmussen

Kiwi are making a comeback in the northern Ruahine but need more help to become re-established further south. Ian will tell us about the plan to extend the existing predator control carried out by the Ruahine Whio Protection Trust and others, with a view to making it safe to reintroduce kiwi into the southern Ruahine.

Trip Grades

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	

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 Martin Lawrence 357 1695 or Graeme Richards 021 149 8267

Upcoming Trips

2-3 April 2022

Gold Creek Hut **Easy**
Richard Lockett **323 0948**

Gold Creek is a tributary of the Makaroro River and makes for a relaxing overnight trip into the eastern Ruahine Ranges. The track climbs gently up a forested ridge before dropping down to the classic orange 4-bunk Forest Service hut beside the creek. You may even see whoo ducks there.
Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

3 April 2022

Beginner Tramp #3 **Easy**
Anne Lawrence **06 357 1695**

A few options to choose between, depending on the weather. We may head into the Western Ruahines and go to Rangiwahia Hut where we could explore the tussock country higher up. Or we may go to Heritage Hut or Blue Range Hut in the Eastern Tararuas. Leave Milverton Park at 7.30am.

9 April - 10 April 2022

Smiths Stream Hut **Medium**
Ernie Cook **027 303 1363**

Eastern Ruahine tramp from the end of North Block Road in to Smiths Stream Hut. Return the same way. Depart Milverton Park at 7:30 a.m. Please contact Ernie no later than Wednesday evening.

10 April 2022

Huntermville Farm Walk **Easy/Medium**
Malcolm Leary **06 327 7825**

Behind Huntermville is some rugged farmland that is well worth a visit. Hidden lakes, expansive views, secret bush reserves, fascinating local history. And great rural hospitality. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

15 April - 18 April 2022 Easter Weekend

Te Araroa – Levin to Otaki Forks or Waikanae **Medium**
Roy Rolston **0274 767 188**

For the third time we attempt to complete this famous North Island section of Te Araroa in the Tararua Forest Park. Weather permitting it will be a 3 night four day trek with night stops at Te Matawai Hut, Nichols Hut and Waitewaewae Hut, either northbound or southbound. As with previous attempts a Plan B will be in mind and negotiable if the weather is unsuitable or other factors come into play. If you are keen please let me know well ahead of time if possible so I can better co ordinate transport as the start and end points are at different locations.

Contact Roy to find out more.

17 April 2022

Deerford Loop **Easy**
Graeme Richards **021 149 8267**

Fancy an easy wander in the Western Ruahine bush with Manawatu/Rangitikei views? The Deerford Loop day trip is 5.1km with 350m ascent/descent, we will leave Milverton Park at 8.00am.

Anzac Weekend 23 April - 25 April 2022

Mid-Poh & Ngamoko Huts **Medium**
Janet Wilson **06 329 4722**

Our annual hut maintenance trip for the two huts PNTMC manages for DOC on the Pohangina River. The more the merrier. Contact Janet for details.

24 April 2022

Wharite Peak **Easy/Medium**
Robert van Bentum **0274 911 205**

Visit the southern-most peak in the Ruahines (920m) with its 400 feet high TV transmission tower. We go along the Coppermine Creek track and then up a good track to the leatherwood belt and other wind-blown sub-alpine scrub. Great views in all directions on a clear day. Depart Milverton Park at 8.00am.

30 April – 1 May 2022

Lower Makaroro Explorer **Easy**
Bruce van Brunt **06 328 4761**

Options for this eastern Ruahine trip include staying at Ellis Hut (aka Murderer's Hut) if forestry access is available or exploring up the easy Makaroro River to Barlow Hut. Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

1 May 2022

Pinnacle Ridge **Easy/Medium**
Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

This easy ridge runs along the eastern boundary of the Atiwhakatu Stream, with an informal track that is often used as a shortcut for trips further inland. We drop off the ridge down to Atiwhakatu Hut and out via the main track back to Holdsworth Carpark. Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

Notices



Keep an eye out for this giant moth next time you are in the Ruahines.

Long thought to be extinct, Buller's moth is known only from a single specimen caught in the Ruahine Ranges by Sir Walter Buller (the famous Victorian ornithologist) and his brother-in-law Captain Gilbert Mair, while they were searching for huia during the summer of 1867. The moth was reported to have a wingspan of almost 6 inches (150 millimetres), being as large as the huge bright green puriri or ghost moth.

Excerpt from "Forgotten Fauna", by Mike Meads.
Image from W.L.Buller, 1873 courtesy of Royal Society of New Zealand.

New Members

Welcome to Chris Brown, Verity Elder, Robert van Bentum and Marion Dean, Ella Parkinson.
PNTMC Newsletter April 2022

Trip Reports

20 February 2022

Beginners Tramp #1

Atiwhakatu Hut

Report by Lee Byford

Having recently decided that we are going to do the thru walk of Te Araroa when our youngest finishes High School, Chris and I have given ourselves four years to get TA ready. What better way to start our very necessary preparation than with the PNTMC Beginner Tramp #1.

Organised by Anne, whom once you meet you feel both energised and safe, and accompanied by a blended group of stalwarts and novices, we set off from the wet cement skies of Palmerston North and headed to Holdsworth Lodge car park (just south of Masterton).

At the foot of the Tararuas, the 14.6km return trip to Atiwhakatu Hut is the perfect place to start for a beginner. This track follows the winding path of the Atiwhakatu Stream, which after the recent rain was more of a raging river than a stream (thank goodness for the many bridges). There was enough elevation and descent, mud, steps, and a navigable slip to make this challenging but do-able.

The highlights were the company, the vertical streams, the snippets of views to the valley below, the majestic height of ancient trees, the plethora of plant life found in tiny pockets, the red Horopito berries peeking out of the greenery, the watermelon Warren pulled out of his backpack, the array of bridges (and their dire pictorial warning signs), the blue/purple Turutu berries, the calls of the Kaka, and the sweet air that seems only to come from walking through places such as this. My personal highlight was the Raurenga - Kidney Fern which blanketed the base of the beech trees. This remarkable plant was a discovery for me, and its lush, vibrant, green kidney shaped leaves were beautiful enough, but those few that had the golden trimming of seeds took my breath away... and just as quickly, the lovely trees gave it back again.



We thank everyone for their wonderful company, and we look forward to Beginner Tramp #2.

25-27 February 2022

Thunderbolt

Report: Anne Lawrence

Photos: Martin Lawrence

This trip was on the trip card in 2021 but the weather was awful and Grant sensibly called Thunderbolt off. Instead he took us on a day trip to Waihaha Hut – definitely enjoyable and worth a visit but not comparable with the Thunderbolt loop we had been looking forward to. So we were very pleased to have fantastic weather for it this year.

Grant was open to making it a 2 day trip, but Martin and I were happier with the 3 day option. The two of us had not been on an overnight tramp for a few months and were not used to carrying more than a day pack. As well, I had strained a muscle in my back and was feeling rather stiff and sore. My session with the physio on the Thursday morning had left me feeling a bit more comfortable but nonetheless it was with some trepidation that we headed off on this tramp.

Early on we had questions about the meaning of Thunderbolt. This required serious use of electronic devices resulting in us agreeing on 4 meanings:

1. a flash of lightning with a simultaneous crash of thunder.
2. a supposed bolt or shaft believed to be the destructive agent in a lightning flash, especially as an attribute of a god such as Jupiter or Thor.
3. used to refer to a very sudden or unexpected event or item of news, especially of an unpleasant nature. "the full force of what she had been told hit her like a thunderbolt".
4. a mountain in the Kaimanawas.

We met Grant at the Umukarikari carpark (20 minutes south of Turangi) at 10 am on the Friday morning. We left our car there and Grant drove us all to Mt Urchin carpark. Having 2 cars meant we could avoid a long trudge along the metal road between the two carparks. The track up Mt Urchin is well marked. There is a very sudden change – one moment you are in the beech forest and the next you are above the bush with impressive views of Lake Taupo as well as Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. The route along the tops here is poled but there is also a clear foot trail. The junction where we turned to descend to the Waipakihi River is well marked. [Continuing along the tops to Umukarikari Ridge and back to the Umukarikari carpark would be a nice daywalk.]

The track down to the river was pretty easy to follow but going along the river was a bit more messy and it took us a while to get to the crossing point. Thankfully the start of the route up the other side was clearly marked with a large orange triangle. Time for a belated lunch!

Grant and I opted to take off our boots to cross the river. This was the only river crossing of the trip so we thought it worth keeping our sox and boots dry. The river was easy to cross and sandals did the job nicely. Boots back on, we headed up the other side. This was a steep, hot climb. I well and truly hit the wall – I was really struggling until the realisation that I needed food hit me like a thunderbolt. A muesli bar did the trick and I managed to finish the hill feeling reasonably OK! Now we were on the tops – there is no track, no poles but the foot trail is evidence of a well-travelled route. Unfortunately, as we climbed up to 1646, Martin got a bad case of cramp in both legs. Grant looked back to see Martin hit the dust – it looked like he had been struck by a thunderbolt (clearly an act of Jupiter or Thor). After this, Martin's legs kept cramping up every time he took a step uphill. So it was pretty slow going as we gently zig-zagged up to the high point. I think by this stage Grant must have been wondering just what he had taken on with the two of us. Certainly he and I were both wondering if we needed to turn back and find a camp site down by the river. However, once we were over the high point, Martin recovered and all was well.

These Kaimanawa tops are very different to those in the Ruahines and Tararuas – much more wide and open, broad ridges with little vegetation. The mountains seem to carry on forever in many directions. We carried on along towards Thunderbolt (the mountain). Grant had read about a hanging valley with a good water supply. This was where we planned to camp. This valley was not easy to find. We spent some time exploring various options on either side of the ridge but water was hard to find. Eventually we agreed on a spot – it had flowing water but flat

ground was in short supply. Regardless we found enough room to put up our two tents and what a place it proved to be! We had a stunning view over Lake Rotoaira. The evening was calm and warm and we barely needed extra layers as we sat admiring the stunning sunset. The night stayed warm but there was a really heavy dew making for soggy tents to pack.



Watching the sun go down on our first night

The next day we continued along the ridge towards Thunderbolt (the mountain). And then I saw a glint of water in the distance. This proved to be a small pool that was fed by a stream running through a large flat valley. Next to the pool was a tent, but there was enough space for an army of tents. This was the hanging valley that we had been looking for! Next time we'll camp there! Although it doesn't have a view of Lake Rotoaira. Instead it looks over towards the start of the Rangitikei River and the seemingly never-ending hills towards the south-east.



Heading along the ridge towards Thunderbolt.

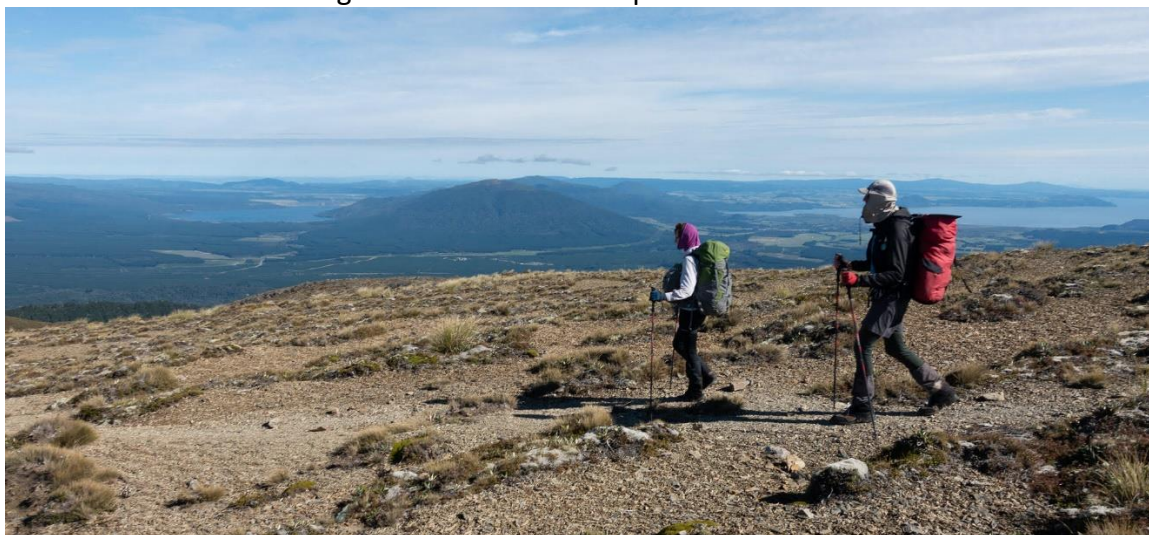
Walking along the tops here is surprisingly easy going. In poor conditions it might be a bit tricky to find your way but with the stunning weather we had it was no problem. We lunched at Te

Raketuangi. Still, no wind, blue sky, perfect conditions! We could see for miles...but no thunderbolts in view.

After lunch we headed down to the Waipakihi River. Again, we noticed the abrupt change between above and below the bushline. Suddenly we were back in amongst beech trees, and there was a formed track to follow (albeit a track that hadn't been cleared recently). It was very marshy down by the river but we managed to keep our feet dry with a bit of hop-skip-and-jumping! We continued upriver a little way past Waipakihi Hut, keen to camp on what looked from a distance to be lovely flats. Well, they were lovely, but it was hard to find dry or flat space. We made camp at a not too bad spot and settled in for a relaxing afternoon. The river was pretty small up this end of the valley. I managed a dip in the shallows, only to discover a nice deep pool after I had got dressed again!

The weather was changing with the temperature dropping and wind coming up so we tied our tents down before retiring for the night. Light rain started in the night and continued the next morning as we packed up. This cleared before we set off and the rest of the day was fine – no thunderbolts. We met a group leaving the hut – they were not particularly cheery, saying that the 12 bunk hut was too crowded with 13 people, including snorers and 2 dogs. They clearly thought we had the better night in our tents. They didn't know that the rather contorted position I had tried to sleep in had irritated my back muscle and I was having trouble moving!

From the river, the track climbs up fairly steeply until you are out of the forest. I was in the lead and, determined not to slow things down despite my sore back, headed up the hill at pace. Not the slow start to the morning that people might have wanted. However, once on the tops, it was back to the easy walking and we re-grouped. There is a poled route along the Umukarikari Ridge and the ridge is amazing. It slopes gently up to a high point before sloping gently down again. The whole way along it provides fantastic views: Lake Taupo and settlements around the Lake as well as the mountains on the Central Plateau. And then we were suddenly in the forest on a well-marked track heading back down to the carpark in time for lunch.



Anne and Grant on the Umukarikari Ridge

This was a really great trip – we'd all be keen to do it again. Despite Martin and my misadventures (exaggerated in order to make for a more interesting story), we all had a good time. Let's hope Grant puts it on the trip card another time. Yes, you could do it in 2 days, but take longer if you can so you can really enjoy this special place.

We were Grant Christian and Martin and Anne Lawrence.

27 Feb 2022
Platinum Mines Loop
Report and pics: Woody Lee

On the last Sunday of summer, Duncan and I met some new trampers Ali, Grace, Lizanne, Terry and Indra. I realised that Ali had already been on a few club trips.

There were many vehicles in the Kahuterawa car park for mountain biking trips. Our first break was at the swing bridge where we met Nicola and her friend heading to Platinum Mines.

We reached Toe Toe junction after a steep walk up and had a second break.



It was easy going to the Platinum Mines but bush lawyers made us slow down a few times.

The short track to the Mine entrance is always wet and muddy but Ali and Grace didn't mind getting wet feet and they walked into the horizontal mine to search for cave weta. It was a successful exploration for Ali and Grace!

We soon arrived at our lunch spot in an opening area with a picnic table and Nicola and her friend joined us. They did the Toe Toe loop from the Junction.

We decided to take the loop rather than returning the same way. The track provided a change of scenery with tiny creeks and we got lost in the dark bush once, so everyone tried to find the orange markers.

Thanks everyone for your company and making this trip enjoyable.



6 March 2022
Beginner Tramp #2
Sunrise Hut Trip
Report by Robert van Bentum

The second of the monthly beginner trips set out to conquer one of the iconic destinations in the northern Ruahines – Sunrise Hut and Armstrong saddle. An enthusiastic group of 13, ably marshalled by Anne Lawrence, comprising both newbies and those returning to tramping after some time away, set-off from Milverton Park just after 7.30am, in 4 vehicles. The two hour drive through to the Hawkes Bay, saw us leave behind the collection of grey clouds on the tops of the southern Ruahines and embrace the clear blue skies of the Takapau plains. After negotiating a

final 6km of unsealed road, 3 farm gates and a short 1 km of rough gravel track which proved a challenge for the low clearance vehicles we assembled at the car park. With three further participants collected in Woodville and at the car park, a total of 16 of us set-off at around 10am, across the farm paddock to the park boundary.

With Anne in the lead and Ernie acting as tail end Charlie, we passed through the short section of exotic plantation bush and started the climb to Sunrise Hut. The route comprised a graded zig zag track with the occasional shorter and flatter section. The climb was unrelenting and made more challenging by the steadily increasing temperature despite the bush cover. The party separated into a number of smaller groups with some of the younger members keeping up a steady conversation and pace just behind Anne at the front. The initial section was through mature forest with towering beech and rimu trees, with the bush thinning and reducing in height as we climbed. We regrouped for a brief snack and water break at the Waipawa Forks Hut track junction, before pushing on to the hut.



The leading group reached Sunrise Hut at around 12 midday with the balance arriving over the next half hour. With the sun beating down and virtually no wind, there was a palpable feeling of being above it all with the Hawkes Bay hinterland laid out below and disappearing into the distance. On a clear day the coast is typically visible but distant haze and some low coastal cloud obscured the view this time. There was a clear sense of achievement felt by all.

Time for lunch and some friendly conversations as strangers became companions, on the veranda of the recently upgraded hut. Stories of previous tramps were shared, including trips to Sunrise after snow or in the rain and gale. With clear skies and no wind, a group of 9 were keen to walk onto Armstrong Saddle.

Behind the hut the track followed the ridge line through low scrub and across small areas of scree. Many of the nearby faces have been seriously eroded with deep ravines and scree slopes extending right to the ridge tops. Care was needed negotiating the route particularly where it passed to the top of one of these heavily eroded slopes. Around 15 minutes and a short climb later the party was rewarded with a view of Mt Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe from the saddle. Several energetic members elected to climb the ridge to the north of the saddle to get a higher view and were rewarded with views of the sharp ridges extending south.





Around 1.30 pm, it was time to turn for home. With the remainder of the party having set off from the hut, the Armstrong Saddle group stopped briefly for a drink and to collect packs left behind. Several of the party took the opportunity to refill water bottles from the hut water tank, and were keen to take advantage of the UV disinfection pen Chris produced from his pack to despatch any nasties in the water.

Clearly a 'must have' to be added to the next birthday or Christmas gift list.

It was then back down the way we came. The return trip was incident free and made memorable by the sighting of a 'very large' earthworm – genus and species to be confirmed. There was time and energy to share with one another and develop connections with the potential to develop further on subsequent trips.

Despite the heat, sore knees and aching muscles all agreed it was a memorable, successful and enjoyable day with the majority keen to join the next event in April. Beyond the sense of physical achievement new friendships were forged and tentative commitments to do more tramping strengthened. Thanks to Anne for organising and watching out for everyone on the day.



12-13 March 2022

Kawhatau Base

Report by Sarah Bramwell. Photos by Martin, Kirsten and Sarah.

This trip was led by Janet Wilson to the Base Camp which due to the well documented access issues hasn't been visited much in recent years. When I messaged Janet to say I was coming she mentioned wasps, onga onga and lots of river crossings - was this a warning! The drive in from Mangaweka is scenic with the last part on gravel roads; those papa cliffs and the dust which infiltrates the car reminded me of family drives as a child. Eight of us met at the Rangitane Reserve sign just after the twin bridges (not the right one my fault) and then we drove further up the road to the track entrance which is not well defined.

We got sorted and then headed into the bush where some of the group heard the murmur of wasps. A few steep bits on the way down till we got to the river flats and again a few wasps around so moved on quickly to what was to become many river crossings and finding our way through the vegetation on the river flats. Graham, Sarah and Bruce the dog were interested in the large amount of deer sign. The weather was perfect as was the river level and we had a couple of breaks for water and snacks. After about 2 ½ hours the cableway came into view and we headed up through the bush where we encountered the onga onga, which Janet and



Stephen got stuck into it with their poles. After a shortish climb we arrived at the Kawhatau Base Camp and I thought you couldn't get a more perfect setting. Roughly 3 hours from the car to the Base Camp and 6kms.



The Camp has everything you need and is well appointed – the large bunk room sleeps six and the smaller one two; there is even a flush toilet and a large kitchen area. Although the forecast was for rain overnight Anne and Martin set up their tent and so did I. Everyone was quite keen to do a little exploring – Janet, Graham and Bruce headed down to the river, Kirsten and Stephen were continuing their bird counts and Woody, Anne, Martin and I went for a walk up the track to Colenso high point (wasps near the start).

We walked for an hour, sighting an amazing big old fuchsia tree and more miro seeds, which we had seen on our way up from the river, such a beautiful colour. On the way back down Woody took off at a great pace and we had trouble keeping up with him! Anne and Martin were having a competition as to who had the best fern decorations in their boots (you had to be there lol). A calm warm evening meant we ate outside on the picnic table and then everyone headed off to bed – the ruru were calling constantly around the camp all night.



The next morning it was clear and mild, only a little rain overnight. I understand that what you take in you always take out and so it was true for Janet who finally collected her plates left behind many years ago!

We headed to the cableway where Janet and Stephen showed us how it works, with Stephen going for a ride across the river.



Towards the end of the walk back down the river we saw a kahu being chased by a karearea – it's always special to see our little falcon in the skies. Some of the birds sighted/heard by Kirsten and Stephen were kereru, korimako, piwakawaka, grey warbler and whitehead. As we climbed back up to the road not many of us had escaped a touch of the onga onga or a wasp sting – I understand from a reliable source the gel from a mature flax leaf does work to calm bites/stings.

Thank you, Janet, for arranging and leading the trip; it's a special place in there and I think we are all keen to go back more often, but we just need to find a better way to access this area.



Party comprised of Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Woody Lee, Kirsten Olsen, Stephen Legg, Anne Lawrence, Martin Lawrence, Sarah Bramwell and Bruce the dog.

19-20 March 2022

Tutuwai Hut

Trip Leader: Ernie Cook

Report by: Nicola Wallace

Seven of us met at the Waiohine Gorge roadend at 9.30am on a very sunny and brisk morning. There were already about ten other cars there, and we hoped their peoples were going to Totara Flats Hut. We successfully negotiated the very steep descent and subsequent ascent into and out of Coal Stream, and once heading SW up the hill, I heated up very quickly, due to the lack of wind. Another of the party was “doing it tough” up this hill, due to the heat and lack of wind. We were accompanied by the songs of tomtit, distant bellbird, and a group of gregarious whitehead.

Two hours later, nearing the top, the track became somewhat vague, and track markers were a big help. It was about 11.45am, time for a late morning tea I thought, so we stopped for what was officially “first lunch”. Soon we arrived at the Mt Reeves track, marked by the big DOC sign informing of the Coal Stream 3-wire bridge removal. (Why was it removed, I wonder).

It was a beautiful walk to Mt Reeves, moss covered trees, sunny spots, and a wide, easy track. We stopped and happily photographed each other at the “Centre of New Zealand”, actually the centre of the extended continental shelf of New Zealand. The short climb to Mt Reeves summit was very hot. Time for second lunch. Fantastic views all round: Wairarapa or Tararua Peaks, take your pick. Still not a breath of wind.

From here on it was pretty much all downhill to Tutuwai Hut. Because of differing downhill abilities, and Steve and Kirsten’s birding, we spread out, which was nice and gave a partial sense of solitude. Occasionally I heard the swish of a flying kereru. I arrived at Tutuwai Hut at 3.30pm. Janet & Graham, and Steve & Kirsten had sensibly brought tents, which they set up down the bottom on the beautiful flats, handily close to a picnic table.

Ernie, Johan and me just about had the hut to ourselves, but five noisy women with a dog arrived.

Before seeing them, we thought there must be about ten of them! Actually they turned out to be pretty good hut mates. Johan and I checked out the Tauherenikau River, very cool and shallow. I found a sunny spot and only went in as far as my bum.

After tea we all sat at the picnic table by the tents, as night drew in. This is a big, beautiful camping spot, and there were about 6 tents in total. I was so, so wishing I’d brought my fly. Next time definitely! We saw several trail runners come through on their way to Kaitoke. One had a very bright headlight. He’d need it. When it was nearly dark the moreporks started. There were at least four of them, and all fairly close. Us three hut dwellers made a reluctant departure up the steps to bed.

With the women at one end, and us at the other, it was actually a pretty good night, and I slept well. Ernie had already told us we were leaving at 9.30am, so I had a big “lie in” till 7am, followed by a leisurely breakfast. It was another fine day, a few more clouds than yesterday. We all heard a falcon at about 7.30am, making not the usual kek-kek-kek, but an odd screech. A youngster?

The section to Cone Hut was a real treat, flat, and very pretty, with a few small stream crossings. A messy bit up the Cone end had us scratching our heads for a minute or two, but someone found the track, and we morning tea'd in bright sunshine by the river at the Bull Mound turnoff. I admired the clifftop trees over the river, right on the very edge of the cliff, roots hanging in the air.

Cone Hut was looking really good. It really looks as though people appreciate it and are taking care of it. The wooden floor gives it a very cosy feel.

We all stayed together on the subsequent climb, and had lunch in the bush well before we got to the end. From here to the end we spread out, and the steep descent to the Waiohine River seemed to go on and on. It was really nice to get down to the bridge and stroll across it in the sun. What a great tramp, with excellent weather on both days. On the way home Stephen, Kirsten and Johan stopped for coffee, while I opted for orange juice.

Many thanks to Ernie for leading this trip, Stephen for the ride, and everyone for their company.

We were: Ernie, Stephen, Kirsten, Janet, Graham, Johan, Nicola, Bruce the dog

From the Archives

50 years ago - April-1972 Newsletter - check our on-line newsletter archive for other gems.

PAST EVENTS

12th-13th February 1972. LOWER TAUHERENIKAU RIVER.

Three would-be fit members went on an easy tramp. With a huff and a puff up the puffer we descended down the Smith's Creek track, to Tauherenikau Hut.

We reached Allaway-Dickson Hut at 12.30 (just in time for lunch) after Ian had explored further a field trying to find it. While eating lunch four hut wreckers appeared so we decided to clear out (we were also scared of rats) back to the Tauherenikau Hut.

Sunday morning dawned an overcast morning, and while going down the Tauherenikau River the sun often shone. At first, we were piking, trying to avoid getting wet. Once wet we went on the rampage. We ran down through the water. We found pack floating exciting. Some of the pools were 30' – 40' long. After four hours in the water the wind made it cold and it was a welcome sight to see Kevin appear down the track.

Trip members: Peter Darroch, Ian Hoare, Owen Robinson. A special thanks to Kevin for providing the wheels

THIS MONTH'S TALKING POINT.

It has been noticed by the more sensitive sex in the club that after each Christmas trip there is a tendency in the male members to a growth affliction on their usually smooth chins. It has been suggested that members should be of mature years before trying to grow beards. However, research is being done on this virulent complaint before the drastic measures are taken with scissors and shears. *(Check out the associated sketch on-line - Ed)*



PNTMC Newsletter April 2022

- Upcoming Interclub Quiz Tuesday 5 April
- Trip reports: Beginner Tramps #1 & #2, Thunderbolt, Kawhatau Base, Platinum Mines, Tutuwai Hut
- From the Archives – 50 years ago down Lower Tauherenikau River and more

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