



**Palmerston North
Tramping and Mountaineering Club**

www.pntmc.org.nz

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter November 2022



Climbing Ringatoto, Tongariro National Park – report inside.

Pic by Grant Christian

Club Nights

Club nights are generally held on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Quakers Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15pm for meeting start at 7.30pm. All welcome.

10 November 2022

BYO Pics

Martin Lawrence

Members are invited to load your best pics onto a memory stick for this Show and Tell about your trips over the last six months or so.

24 November 2022

Tararua Adventures

Monika Coles

Monika will be inspiring us with tales about some of her trips into the Tararua Forest Park, including her first trip of discovery to Jumbo-Angle Knob. *Chris Tuffley is no longer available for this joint talk but will be programmed for next year.*

8 December 2022

End of Year BBQ

All

Our annual end of year pre-Christmas BBQ and presentation of Annual Awards at the Ashhurst Domain. BYO food and drink, plus a \$5 gift to get into the festive spirit. A chance to discuss ideas and plans for summer holidays and extended trips over the New Year. 6.00pm to dusk.

Upcoming Trips

5-6 November 2022 Hidden Lake E Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998

This unique spot in the western Tararuas near Roaring Stag Hut is barely discernable on topo maps. There is a nice fly camping spot there to relax and enjoy or we could stay at Roaring Stag Hut. Depart Milverton Park at 7.30am. NB – an option if it suits people better, is to do this as a Medium-Fit day trip.

6 November 2022 Roaring Stag M Anne Lawrence 06 357 1695

Roaring Stag is a really nice hut but we're only there for lunch on this trip. It's a good walk in from Putara Road end to the hut for lunch, then return the same way.
Leave from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

12-13 November 2022 Haurangi Range M Graham Peters 06 329 4722

This is a classic trip in the Haurangis from the Putangirua Pinnacles to Mangatoetoe near Cape Palliser. The route crosses the grain of the country via Washpool Stream to Pararaki Hut for the night then crossing the Otekaha Stream to finally exit via Mangatoetoe Stream. Camping at the Pinnacles on the Friday night.

13 November 2022 Kaiparoro Peak E Graeme Richards 021 149 8267

An easy walk in the northern Tararuas with lots of variety, up to the bushline and a cluster of small tarns in alpine scrub.

19-20 November 2022 Dorset Ridge Hut F Chris Tuffley 06 359 2530

Cancelled due to other commitments. *If anyone else wants to lead a trip this weekend please call Warren 356 1998 so members can be informed.*

20 November 2022 Mt Holdsworth M Ernie Cook 027 303 1363

We will be taking the East Ridge track up to Mt Holdsworth and return via Powell Hut. Depart Milverton Park 7.00am.

26-27 November 2022 Sayers Hut M Richard Lockett 06 323 0948

A rustic Hut nestled beside the Waiohine River, eastern Tararua's, opposite side of river to the Totara Flats. There are various ways to reach this hut and the route will be determined by the weather forecast and the amount of water in the river on the weekend. Depart Milverton Park 7.30 am.

27 November 2022 TBA Any offers?

If anyone can lead a trip this weekend please call Warren 356 1998 so members can be informed.

3-4 December 2022 Burn Hut E/M Stephen Legg 027 647 0095

Tramping and birding in native forest near Shannon. Bring binoculars. We will ascend from Mangahao Lower No 2 Reservoir dam to overnight at Burn Hut, the northernmost hut in the Tararua Range. Next morning will be a descent (including rock hopping in Cattle Creek to Barber Forks) to Mangahao Upper No 1 Reservoir dam. We will then complete the loop back to No 2 Reservoir. Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

4 December 2022 TBA Any offers?

If anyone can lead a trip this weekend please call Warren 356 1998 so members can be informed.

10-11 December 2022 Mangapurua Valley MTB Richard Lockett 06 323 0948

The plan, weather permitting is to cycle along the old gravel road up to the Mangapurua trig and down into the valley to Johnson's homestead site where there is a shelter where we will stash our overnight equipment before proceeding down the valley to the Bridge to Nowhere and the Whanganui River and then returning back to Johnson's for the night. Sunday we will climb back out of the valley to finish with a good downhill ride back to the road end. As there is a shelter at Johnson's you may not need to bring a tent so a small backpack may be enough to carry your gear for one night or you may mount a carrier on your bike if you require more home comforts etc. Depart Milverton 7.30am.

11 December 2022 Longview Hut E Graeme Richards 021 149 8267

A steady uphill walk from Kashmir Roadend, an area notable for severe slip scars, lack of forest and windswept tussock tops. Not to mention the long views from the hut.

17-18 December 2022 Short Knights E/M Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998

A slightly mad idea to celebrate the upcoming longest day / shortest night. Late afternoon we will walk up the Shorts Track to the Ruahine Tops, then along to the tarns near Toka peak where we will camp and enjoy the sunset through rose tinted glasses etc. Up early for the sunrise next morning, before heading back down Knights track. Optional to do this as a Medium day trip. Depart Saturday 2.00pm from Milverton Park.

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	Inst (Instruction)

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

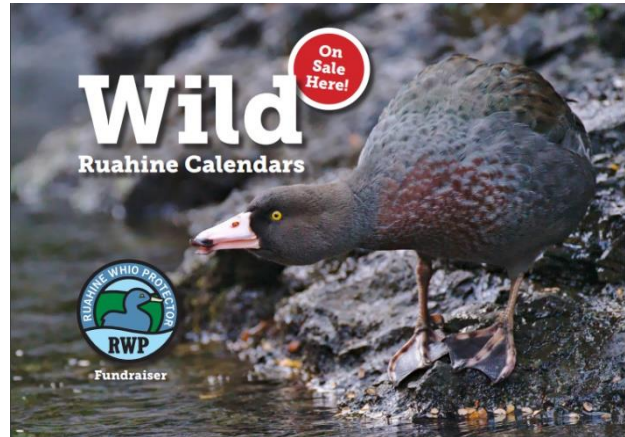
If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone Martin Lawrence 357 1695 or Graeme Richards 021 149 8267.

Notices

Wild Ruahine Calendar 2023

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust is again selling a beautiful 'Wild Ruahine' calendar for 2023. This has been made possible by club member, whio protector and designer Anthony Behrens (Swampthing) who has donated his time and expertise and some of his images. All photos are local in or near the Ruahines and many are taken by club members. Proceeds from the sale of these calendars goes towards the work of helping protect the Ruahine Whio from predators so they may survive and thrive.

Cost is \$20. Janet will have them at club nights or email jwilson@inspire.net.nz to order yours – numbers are limited.



Interclub Photo Competition Results

Thanks to MTSC for hosting the Interclub Photo Comp at their Lido Rose City club rooms on Tuesday 4 October 2022. As usual there were nine entries in each category, comprising the winning placegetters from the MTSC, PNTMC and MUAC annual club photo competitions. The judges chose the best three images in each category, with first, second and third decided by audience vote, which was done using a new-fangled phone app instead of the traditional show of hands. After some initial discombobulation those who didn't have a phone were able to vote using their friendly neighbour's phone so it worked out nicely after all.

There were over 20 photographers represented from the three clubs, which certainly shows the depth of talent out there in the hills.

Unfortunately our not-so-secret weapon, Chris Tuffley, had no photos in the competition this year as he was the judge for our PNTMC Photo Comp, so unable to have any entries. However PNTMC still did well thanks to David Soong (2 firsts), Monika Coles (2 seconds) and Elly Arnst (2 thirds). MTSC had 8 winning photographers (2 firsts, 4 seconds and 4 thirds) and MUAC had just one (3 first, 1 second and one third). It was nice to see that even those who didn't win a place were given consolation prizes from the pile of chocolate treats and other items from sponsors like Bivouac.

Congratulations to all the winning competitors and thanks to Richard Lander of MTSC for running the show.

ABOVE BUSHLINE WITH NO HUMAN ELEMENT

1. Kepler Track Kea in Flight David Soong PNTMC
2. Howletts Hut Sunset Monika Coles PNTMC (see pic)
3. Ngamoko David Harrington MTSC

ABOVE BUSHLINE WITH A HUMAN ELEMENT

1. Walking the Shark's Tooth – Taranaki Crater Kristina Gee MUAC
2. Powell Hut above the clouds Hazel Phillips MTSC
3. Dundas Elly Arnst PNTMC (see pic)



BELOW BUSHLINE WITH NO HUMAN ELEMENT

1. Mountains & Plains Louise Lahmert MTSC
2. Trees in Standing Water – Foxton Monika Coles PNTMC
2. Reflection Perfection at Peter’s Pool Hazel Phillips MTSC

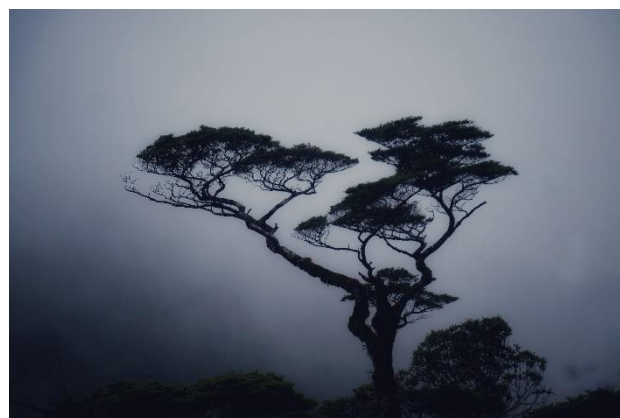


BELOW BUSHLINE WITH A HUMAN ELEMENT

1. No Doubt That Doubtful Sound is Beautiful Kristina Gee MUAC
2. Trumper’s Life Maria Lombard MTSC
3. Tokomaru Farm Walk Royce Mills MTSC

HISTORIC

1. Climbing Syme Hut in 1999 MUAC Archives MUAC
2. Harris Ck Hut Demolitioners 2003 Howard Nicholson MTSC
3. Roaring Stag Lodge 2003 Howard Nicholson MTSC



NZ NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

1. Tree David Soong PNTMC (see pic)
2. Dewdrops on Koru Richard Lander MTSC
3. Under Ice Elly Arnst PNTMC

LONG EXPOSURE

1. Night Drive to Whakapapa Davide Conti MTSC
2. Aoraki Milky Way Richard Lander MTSC
3. Sunrise Hut With the Stars, Awaiting the Dawn Kristina Gee MUAC

Trip Reports

10-11 September 2022

TA Trail - Otaki Forks to Waikanae

Report by Roy Rolston

Planned to be either a long 2-day weekend with side trips or an easier day and a bit, Blair and I choose the latter which meant a cruisy late afternoon drive down to the new road end on Otaki Forks Road. Making it easy I managed to talk Deborah to pick us up on Sunday negating the need to have a car placed at our Waikanae road end. The forecasted weather however was not that good with showers likely all weekend so that was a bit of a worry.

Setting off around 4.30 pm from the road end it was an easy walk on the closed road to our night stop at Parawai Hut. Light rain descended upon us about half way there forcing us to get out our raincoats, but when we arrived after an hour or so later it had cleared off a bit. At the hut there was a guy there with three younger boys, two of which were his own. They had the fire going and the hut was toasty warm. It was good to see Dad had brought his kids in for a bit of an outdoor adventure and when we got talking to him, his own Dad, a keen bushman and hunter, had done the same with him. Consequently, we got talking and found out he had just about been everywhere in the Tararua. Settling in for the night the light rain returned and I could hear it on the roof all night in the unlined tin hut. Thinking of that it had to be cold if there was a frost in the morning, as it turned out, no frost but it was still wet and somewhat cool.

Packing up fairly early the weather was looking like it was clearing and when we were finally ready to go about 8, the rain had eased off. In high spirits, we set off knowing our destination was 6 to 7 hours away at the road end of Mangaone South Road. Backtracking first, it was back over the river foot bridge, then picking up the old Otaki Road and walked along it to the very end. It was spooky to witness all the former Otaki Forks Road and the DOC campground infrastructure, to be so degraded by nature as it was free to demonstrate the process of evolution, clawing itself back from human intervention. However the TA signs were still visible as was the DOC info sign at the far end of a carpark that marked the start of the Pukeatua Track.

Behind the sign the track climbs fairly steeply up a grassy ridge before entering regrown manuka and other natives. Clearly much of this area was cleared in the early days and it wasn't until we climbed up to the first way point on the leading ridge that we entered thicker bush. The track up to here was notably overgrown and in places it was a bit hard to follow, but higher up on the ridge it was much better. In improving weather, we made a lunch stop very near Pukeatua Peak, the highest part of the track at 812m. From there it was a long descent down a leading ridge before descending steeply down a forestry track through a pine forest that had not long ago been logged. Finding the bottom at a stream the forestry track continued sidling above the stream for half an hour or so before we could see several houses come into view. A short trek on further, we made it to our road end carpark completing the Pukeatua Track in 6.5 hours. Blair and I thought that not too bad but we were pretty tired nonetheless. I concluded that this section was more of a challenge than I thought, one that in either direction has a relatively long climb and equally long descent. We did end up arriving about 30 minutes early to our planned pickup time but rather than walking the road to Waikanae, some 10 more kms away as the TA walkers would do, we were happy to stay put and rest up at the road end.



In glorious warm afternoon sun we waited at the road end shelter/info sign hoping our taxi will turn up soon. Finally Deb arrived after getting lost, missing a vital turnoff just down the road a bit. Returning back to Otaki Forks Road to pick up my car again was no drama and we made it back to Palmy in good time.

On reflection, with great company (many thanks to Blair who has been with me on most sections), I can finally say that I have walked the Te Araroa Trail from Palmerston North to Waikanae, well almost, minus 10km road walking.

The highlight was conquering the famous Tararua tops over the Easter break with Blair and Ernie. Will I do it again? Well, maybe? Watch this space.

16-18 September

Ringatoto Climb

Report by Grant Christian

There were five of us that headed into Rangipo Hut on Friday afternoon. I was joined by four people that had done Snowcraft with us this year. The beginning of the adventure was getting Sean's car up to the two-wheel drive car park on Tukino Road. A small stream has changed course and is now running down part of the road. He became stuck at one soft patch but we easily pushed him through. It was an easy walk to the hut and a quiet night with our group being the only people there.

Saturday morning we headed for the east ridge that climbs slowly then more steeply to Ringatoto Peak at 2,591metres. The avalanche risk was considerable so I was aware that we needed to make cautious decisions. Below Tahurangi, at the top of the Wahianoa Glacier, we could see the head wall of what was probably a very big avalanche. The head wall extended from near Girdlestone around to the north as far as we could see. I estimated it to be at least 750 metres wide. As we gained height we encountered some

light amounts of new snow. Higher up we dug a test pit and found that the snow was stable apart from the new snow on top. We were mostly travelling on the ridge so were in a safe area. Once we reached about 2,100 metres the new snow was much deeper and an avalanche would take a person a long way down into the valley below. We had to sidle under the ridge here so decided to use the rope to belay everyone over the snow that was considered risky. With five people and one rope, each pitch was quite slow as the three extras used prusiks to get up the rope. After two pitches we stopped on the ridge for lunch in pleasant conditions. We were making slow progress.



After lunch we belayed up the north side of the ridge. Here the snow was softened by the sun and there was also some rock to negotiate. Four of us reached the next, flatter part of the ridge but it was now about 2 p.m. and we decided it was time to turn around. The cloud was starting to roll in.

We descended the three pitches with a mix of down climbing or abseiling so everyone got some good practice at their Snowcraft skills.

The walk back to the hut was straight forward apart from taking a ridge that was too far south when near the bottom and walking a bit further than necessary. We arrived back at the hut about 7 p.m., just as it was getting dark. The hut was now crowded and the fire was blazing so that it was unpleasantly hot. A couple of people slept on the deck because it was too hot inside. I lay on top of my bedding in my shorts until it cooled.

Sunday morning we returned to the road. Although we hadn't reached the peak everyone agreed it had been a great experience.

We were Grant Christian, Cam Raupi, Sean Pannifer, Rosie Sargent, Cheryl Hindle.

25-26 September 2022

Trains Hut

Report by Chris Tuffley

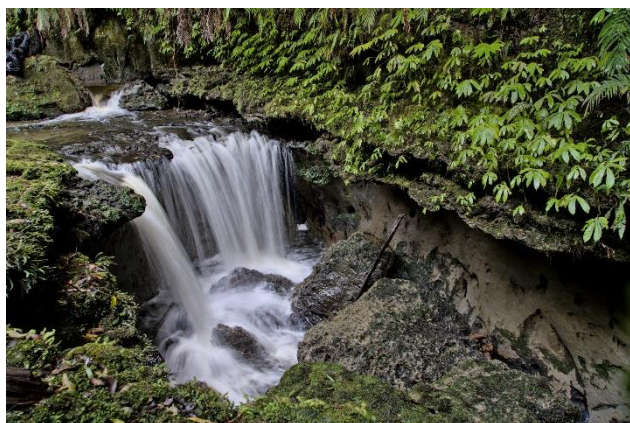
In Which After Several Changes of Plan Our Heroes Go to Trains Hut Instead of Arete Fork

Where to go this weekend, where to go?? An unexpected three-day weekend (rest in peace Your Majesty, and thank you for your service!) gave scope for turning my club trip to Arete Forks into an extended remix: mmmm, yes, Table Ridge to Tarn Ridge, over the Waiohine Pinnacles and down Pinnacle Spur, back along the sidle track...that would be just the ticket! But the forecast was generally looking a bit sh...ah, rubbish, boo! Unless...what if you waited until Sunday, and went to the west?

And so after several changes of plan, an eleventh-hour postponement, and a further round of planning, Monika, Roy and I settled on plan E (or was it F, or G??): Trains Hut in the Waitōtara Valley over Sunday-Monday. I was there in March, but no place is ever the same twice, it was new to Roy and Monika, it had a good forecast, and the Atlas Effort Map showed it was very much in need of spring data - sold!



Recent rain meant the track managed to be even muddier than it was in March...but meant the waterfalls were in fine form too, full and flowing, score! The birds were in good voice as well: the usual suspects of riroriro / grey warbler, miromiro / tomtit, pīwakawaka / fantails during the day and ruru at night; but also lots of toutouwai / robins and kōtare / kingfishers, and wait - what's that? A pair of whio?? Here? Who knew!



With a relatively flat short walk in I'd packed two extra lenses. The wide angle had had a turn on the camera at Terereohaupa Falls...so to keep the macro from feeling like it had missed out I popped it on the camera in the morning to photograph the bracken fern koru - and then took the opportunity to use it for some portraits of my companions too. Just keep chatting, don't mind me! Then it was time to put the everyday lens back on the camera, pay a quick visit to the falls in the grotto below the hut, shoulder our packs and splash our way back

out through the mud - stopping once more at Terereohaupa Falls to pay our respects on the way by, of course!

We were Monika Coles, Roy Rolston and Chris Tuffley (leader).

8 October 2022

Waikanae-Paekakariki Beach Walk

Report by Robyn Boocock

Pics by Warren Wheeler

Nine of us left Milverton Park at 0730 in two cars and travelled to the Waikanae Train Station for the start of our trip. We were met by Sarah (a PNTMC club member) who is a very committed worker in the local wetland conservation group. Sarah led us down the southern side of the Waikanae River towards the estuary which is in process of weeding and planting with native plants. We were most fortunate to have Sarah's experience and knowledge of the work undertaken and into the future. What a difference the community of volunteers have made for the benefit of all.



At the coast Sarah left us and the nine of us proceeded to walk along the beach with the warm sun and gentle breeze at our back. In the far far distance lay our destination - Paekakariki! To keep us motivated we began the search for a winning shell - the winner to be shouted an ice-cream by Janet. With that prize in mind people were dashing here and there, treasures were collected, streams were bravely forded (or not!)



We detoured from the sand up to Paraparaumu for lunch on the grass for an urban element. Back to the beach and some were finding their feet complaining, well OK maybe everyone by now was experiencing the difference between soft leafy bush walk and a longer distance sand event. Relief was at hand with the sea and newly exposed winter toes in the briny. We enjoyed clear views of Kapiti and identified the northern and southern entries to the QE2 Park.

There were a large variety of shells to be seen along the stretch of beach. The competition for the best shell was therefore surprisingly complex and there were several fabulous contenders, but only one could take the prize - lucky Warren with his most unusual and beautifully coloured trophy. The rest of us disguised our disappointment the best we could and congratulated him the way good club members do. "Hooray" we shouted, now let's get to the ice-cream shop.



We arrived at Paekakariki 22kms from the start making a feeble and unsuccessful dash for the train which was fast approaching the station. With plenty of time for the long-awaited treat/ice cream, satisfied and a bit foot sore we piled onto the next northbound train back to Waikanae, such fun!

We were Janet (leader), Sarah (for the first leg), Richard, Monika, Sally, Michelle, Ernie & Annemaree, Warren & Robyn.

15 – 16 October 2022

Waiopehu Hut and Gable End Ridge

Report by Nicola Wallace

Pics by Warren Wheeler

When we arrived at the Poads Road carpark it was nearly full, no worries though as the intentions book revealed that a group of 11 was coming out on Saturday. We were on our walking way at 8.45 am, on a still and cloudy day.

The Ohau River track was closed, but we knew why (a slip) and we would come back that way tomorrow. For today we had a lovely walk up the Waiopehu track. So many birds! Whitehead heard but not seen, grey warblers and tomtits, along with 2 shrieks from a long tailed cuckoo. Ernie ensured that we had



breaks at about 1hr intervals, and we lunched on the way up. 5 hours after leaving we arrived at the hut. Even before I saw the whole thing I noticed the very weathered paint on its northern face.

It was nice to be the first arrivals, and we quickly selected our sleeping spots. The joy lasted all of two minutes before more arrived, and it didn't stop till the hut was just over full. Later in the afternoon I set off on a slow solo walk, with bumbag only, over to Twin Peak to spend some quality time in the quiet with Ralph Wood.

Ambling slowly along without the weight of my pack was blissful. Sitting on Twin Peak, all I could hear was a blackbird singing in the distance.

I provided some entertainment at tea time, with my attempts to control the very long noodles in my freeze-dried meal – Mushroom Bolognaise, the meal was a gift from my brother. After a while I worked



out that the best way was to throw the noodles in a separate bowl, and cut them up into short sections. Things weren't so much fun later on, when the meal proved to be indigestible, and even though I was outside on the deck and it was very quiet, I didn't sleep well.

There were lots of young people at the hut, kids and teenagers. All were going back on the Waiopehu Track the next day. A highlight that night was the view of the lights from the towns below. We even saw the lights of Whanganui.



The next day was wonderfully sunny and we departed the hut at 7.50am. It was quite muddy going over to Richard's Knob. I really enjoyed the up and down along Gable End Ridge and the views were fantastic, but as we descended and became bush bound, the length began to drag. There were far fewer birds on this ridge than the Waiopahu Ridge. Eventually we got to the bottom and lunched in the open by the Ohau River.



As it turned out there were two slips. The first, very close to the 6-Discs Track had good steps cut most of the way across, but they suddenly petered out. We watched Roy go across, he had to kick steps after the steps finished and I didn't fancy that. It was a very sheer drop to the river. In the end Roy and Blair braved it across the slip, while the rest of us climbed the steep 6-Discs Track for about 5 minutes and found the detour track, which was quite a good track. It was even marked with orange triangles! Shortly after we came across the next slip, this one had a very good track across it. Two groups were in here checking out the slips. Just before we came out of the bush, we noticed the "closed" that had been written on one of the big orange triangles had been dispensed with.

We arrived back at the cars about 7 hours after leaving the hut. On the way home we stopped in Shannon for afternoon tea from the 4 Square. It's been a few years since I've been around the Waiopahu Loop, and it was a really good trip.

We were: Ernie (leader), Blair, Robyn & Warren, Roy, Nicola.

Once home from this tramp I did some research on Ralph Wood. According to an article published in the Manawatu Standard in 2016 (to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Ralph Wood's death) 6 members of the Manawatu Tramping Club tramped into Te Matawai Hut on Saturday 1st February 1936. A very fierce storm occurred that night and the next day, and for some inexplicable reason, on the Saturday night the party left Te Matawai Hut, apparently deciding to "get out".

They couldn't return by the flooded Ohau River, so they headed for Waiopahu Hut. By the time they reached Twin Peak, after struggling through the storm for about 8 hours, Ralph Wood was exhausted and suffering from exposure, and was being carried on another trumper's back. Tragically, just below Twin Peak's summit, Ralph died. His companions rolled him in a blanket, and left him there 15 metres below the summit, on the Western face. His companions eventually made their way out.

3 days later, trampers went in to retrieve Ralph Wood's body. But due to the terrain, they couldn't carry him out, so according to the article they buried him at or very close to the summit of Twin Peak, in a moss lined grave. Later a memorial trig with a brass plaque was installed on the spot. Ralph Wood was 29 years old when he died, and was an optician from Palmerston North.



PNTMC Newsletter November 2022

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Interclub Photo Comp Results
- Trip reports: Otaki Forks to Waikanae, Ringatoto Climb, TNP; Waikanae-Paekakariki Beach Walk, Trains Hut, Waiophu-Gable End Loop

Send articles to

the newsletter editor at pntmci@gmail.com

Find us on facebook



<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

Get out and about with us!

Send to
PNTMC
PO Box 1217
Palmerston North

PNTMC Contacts

President	Janet Wilson	329-4722
Vice President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Secretary	Anne Lawrence	357-1695
Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Webmaster	Martin Lawrence	357-1695
Membership Enquiries	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Gear Custodian	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Trip Coordinator	Janet Wilson	329-4722
Beginner Tramps	Anne Lawrence	357-1695
Snowcraft Coordinator	Dieter Stalman	027 450 9460