



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

www.pntmc.org.nz

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter December 2022 - January 2023



Top of the East Ridge Track, Mt Holdsworth, Tararua Forest Park – report inside. Pic by Blair Petersen

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.

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.

26 January 2023

Beginning of Year BBQ

All

We start our year with a BBQ by the paddling pool in the Victoria Esplanade. A chance for a catch-up about your summer tramping and plans for future trips. BYO food and drink. From 6pm.

Upcoming Trips

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 **Burttons Whare** **E/M** **Roy Rolston** **0274 767 188**

Become a Te Araroa trekker for a day. The plan is to start from the end of Scotts Road and walk part of Burtton's track to arrive at Bill Burton's old Whare site for a lunch stop. On the way, we will pass over the new re-routed diversion track cut and officially marked by the Te Araroa Manawatu Trust only a few weeks ago. The purpose was to eliminate two potentially hazardous crossings of the Tokomaru River and to keep the trail on Doc land. It will be a good chance to check out how the new track is holding up with the bulk of the trekking traffic from thru hikers that started in the far north about to be passing through. We will return back the same way. Leave from Milverton Park 7.30am. Please call or text Roy 0274767188 by Friday evening.

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.

17-19 December 2022 **Dorset Ridge Hut** **M/F** **Roy Roston** **0274 767 188**

The plan, weather permitting is to leave Holdsworth Road end early tramping past Atiwhakatu Hut and picking up the Baldy track to South King Saddle before descending to pick up a new track and route to Dorset Ridge Hut. Alternatively could leave late Fri and stay at Atiwhakatu Hut the first night. Day 2 we will make our way back to Mitre Flats Hut via Tarn Ridge Hut over Mitre itself the highest peak in the Tararua's. Day 3 we will return to Holdsworth carpark via the Barton track. *Note: this 3-day trip could be shifted to a later date over the holiday period to suit those interested. Roy is flexible and open to your alternative trip ideas as well.*

29 Dec – 1 Jan 2023 Pourangaki Hut Circuit M/F Janet Wilson 06 329 4722

A late December/ New Year circuit around some less frequented Ruahine Huts. We will head in to Pourangaki Hut from the Mania Road end. Next day climb up to the "Hawkes Bay" range, head west to Iron Peg and then down to Purity Hut. Either stay at Purity or carry on down to Kelly Knight Hut. Back to Mania Rd on the 31st in time for New Year. Dates/route could be adjusted a little to suit those interested – contact Janet before Xmas if you are interested.

14-15 January 2023 Roaring Stag E/M David Soong 021 722 358

A popular easy summer trip into the Ruamahanga River valley in the eastern Tararuas, behind Eketahuna. The hut may be full so we will be taking tents/flyes with the intention of camping at the bend downstream, where there is a great pool for swimming. Option to explore upriver to find Hidden Lake.

15 January 2023 Sunrise Hut and Beyond E/M Anne Lawrence 06 357 1695

Enjoy the variety of this classic Ruahine day trip, up a well graded track through magnificent forest to the hut on the bush line. Beyond the hut is a short traverse along a ridge to Armstrong Saddle and high points nearby. There should be lots of alpine flowers and great views in fine weather.

21-25 January 2023 Te Potae Trapping M/F Janet Wilson 06 329 4722

An extended trip over Wellington Anniversary weekend to rebait stoat traps in the northern Ruahine. Put your tramping skills to work and enjoy this beautiful area. Please contact Janet early.

22 January 2023 Beehive Creek Family Doug Strachan 06 353 6526

Our traditional family day trip for this time of year. Enjoy the Pohangina countryside and splashing down the small cool stream.

28-29 January 2023 TBA Leader Required

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

29 January 2023 Kaiparoro E/M Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998

This high point in the northern Tararuas is just above the bushline in an area of sub-alpine scrub and several small tarns famous for their red tussock (and koura?). For geocachers (and others keen) we may return via a 1952 plane crash site on the ridge to the southeast and then follow the stream back to the roadend. Depart Milverton Park at 7.30am.

4-6 February 2023 Tauherenikau Valley Ernie Cook 027 303 1363

Waitangi Weekend trip. Travel to Kaitoke Road End. Tramp along Marchant Ridge and down Block XV1 Track to camp near Tutuwai Hut. Next day a day trip up Omega Track to bag Omega (1118). Good opportunity to score the vowel 'O'. If really keen people could continue along Marchant Ridge, descend Bull Mound, visit Cone Hut and return to campsite. Next day travel down Tauherenikau valley, over Puffer Saddle and return to Road End.

5 February 2023 Beginner Tramp #1 Easy Anne Lawrence 06 357 1695

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

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampler 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.

New Members

Welcome to Glynn Collings and family.

Notices

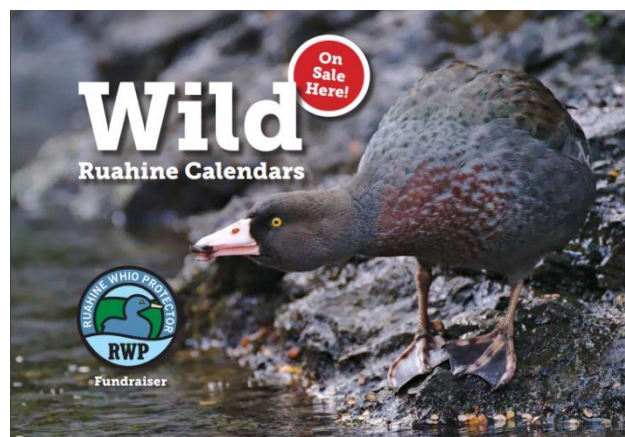
Results of FMC Photo Competition 2022

Congratulations to Chris Tuffley for winning the Long Exposure category with "Starstruck at Tarn Biv" See winning pics in the latest FMC Backcountry bulletin.

Wild Ruahine Calendar 2023

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust is again selling a beautiful 'Wild Ruahine' calendar for 2023. 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.



Nepal Trek – Everest Base Camp

Places available for confirmed private 24 day trek from Kathmandu starting May 1st 2023.

The trek itself is lead by experienced Sherpa guide starts from Jiri and follows mostly the original route Sir Ed and their expedition took on their way to Everest Base Camp prior to the first historic ascent of Mt Everest itself. Our Trek to EBC will include Namche Bazaar on market day before taking a less used, more spectacular route via Thame and Renjo La Pass. For further info, contact Roy 0274 767 188.

PNTMC Annual Awards

PNTMC annual awards were announced by Warren Wheeler at the End of Yea BBQ on Thursday 8 December 2022 to give light hearted recognition of some of our most memorable tramping incidents this year.

I Don't Feel Alive Award – Ernie Cook - for becoming dehydrated after missing his morning cuppa when the milk had gone off.

Whistle a Happy Tune Award – Stephen Legg - for getting lost at an intersection and calmly blowing his whistle, without realising it couldn't be heard even 100m away.

Cramping his Style Award – Martin Lawrence – for suffering severe leg cramps on a hot climb up Thunderbolt.

Lightning Flash Award – Anne Lawrence – for realising she needed a muesli bar after “hitting the wall” climbing up to Thunderbolt.

Just Gremlin Award – Anne Lawrence – who just went for a dip in the shallows of the Waipataki River only to find a nice deep pool after getting dressed again.

Humble Pie Award – Roy Rolston – for inadvertently leading up over a high point after missing a dog-leg in the track along Dracophylum Ridge.

Plan B Award - Roy Rolston – For leading an epic overnight trip to Mitre Flats via Cow Creek instead of his programmed Easy trip to Stanfield Hut.

Catch Me if You Can Award – Blair Petersen – for passing on COVID to half the group on the trip to Waiopahu Hut.

Count on Us Award – Stephen Legg and Kirsten Olsen – for going on so many trips to go eBirding.

Mother Hubbard Award – Ernie Cook – for cooking lots of delicious rice pudding at Mitre Flats Hut with plenty for the aforementioned late arriving epic trampers.

Top Gear Award – Grant Christian – for selecting high gear on the Ngaruroro cableway which was fine down into the middle but took all his strength to overcome the angle up to the other side.

No Idea Award – Stephen Legg – for graciously accepting that he was not a real Kiwi bloke and that his English education left him with “no idea” why it would be called “No Man's Hut” or “Dead Dog Hut”.

Whistle Them Up Award – Janet Wilson – for having two who fly by after she said “at this time of the day the who usually fly by upriver” at Iron Gates Hut on the Oroua River.

Dave Hodges Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Forgetfulness (our most prestigious award) – Chris Tuffley – for forgetting he had left one of his jandals at a hut and finding it on the way back.

Tararua Trophy Award for Best Newsletter Article – Nicola Wallace – for her many consistently good trip reports throughout the year.

Trip Reports

16 October 2022

Bushy Park

Report by Sally Hewson

Eight of us set off in two cars from Milverton Park at 9am. We drove straight past Viv's Kitchen in Sanson without stopping for a cream horn. Bushy Park is north of Whanganui just past the turn off to Kai Iwi. It is a historic homestead set in 89 hectares of unmodified (not burned or logged) bush, surrounded by a predator free fence. The house is owned by a trust, and the manager of the house, accommodation rooms and café leases it and lives on the premises.

We started off doing a small loop through the very attractive bush. Stopping by the stitchbird feeder we were soon rewarded by a bellbird having a drink, and a bit later the stitchbirds came.



Bush Robin Pic by Leanne Bird

We slowly walked a couple of the loop tracks. There were kereru, tuis, fantails, saddlebacks and robins. A couple of times there was a loud chattering and swooping up in the canopy, possibly kakariki.

Other notable features were some giant rata and a huge rimu, and a lot of nikau palms. We ambled along, with frequent stops for bird spotting and fungi photos.

After the exhausting bird spotting it was time for lunch, so we made our way back to the homestead. We were a bit early, so the manager said we were free to look around the house, and go into any rooms that had open doors. All the bedrooms contained antique furniture and looked amazing.

Back in the dining room our table was set with a lacy white cloth (not so white after we left!), bone china crockery and silver tea and coffee pots. We enjoyed a lazy lunch, then some of us did a bit more bird spotting. Down on the track to the wetland area Leanne and Sally were treated to some very close views of saddlebacks and robins.



On the trip were: Monika, Jo, Jo's friend Clarice, Trish, Yvonne, Sally and their friends Leanne and Sally (No.2).

21-24 October 2022 Herepai – Dundas – Roaring Stag Hut Loop Report by Monika Coles

For this Labour Day Long Weekend there were only three cars in the Putara Road end carpark when we arrived at 4:30pm Friday afternoon. One of the cars belonged to a group of four hikers from Wellington that were just setting off. They were planning to do the same loop as us, but clockwise, staying the first night at Roaring Stag Hut. This meant, that we will all meet at Dundas for the second night. Dundas is a six bunk hut. Luckily, we had backup sleeping options with us. Roy had a two-person tent, Woody had a fly and I had a Thermarest to sleep on the floor if need be.

Our packs were heavy with all the gear and three days food. It took us pleasant three hours walking to make it to the newly re-vamped Herepai Hut. There were still four bunks left. How lucky! There was a couple more arrivals after us and the hut ended up being full with two people and a dog sleeping on the floor.

The next day, Saturday, we left Herepai Hut at 7:30am with a promise of a nice day on the tops. The track starts with a 320m climb up to Mt Herepai. From there, there is a saddle that takes you to Ruapae. It is a reasonable saddle and we decided to have a rest at the top of Ruapae once we got there. And it was worth it.

We had a lovely view to East and West Peak and the massive saddle between them. The saddle is only 200m down and 200m up. In bush 200m seems like nothing, but seeing it here, right in front of our eyes, 200m looked like quite a drop and quite a climb. Not long and we were rested and ready to go.



East and West Peak, blue skies and the 200m saddle.

After West Peak we thought it would be easy walking, but the way up to Walker was down and up through another saddle, followed by couple of smaller saddles and a climb up to Pukemoremore. All this time the weather was amazing and the views were stunning. We were taking our time and enjoying all the views and no wind, taking it all in. So lucky! Really pleased with the weather forecast that it held up. From Pukemoremore, surprise surprise, there was another big long saddle. Descending down into the saddle, we got rewarded with a view of Dundas Hut.

We could also see on the far ridge the four trampers that we met at the car park making their way up to the hut. Looking how much ground we still had to cover, we knew that we will be the ones on the floor and in the tent. After what seemed like a long time, we reached the sign pointing down a ridge to Dundas Hut -10min. Not sure who made it down in 10 minutes, maybe the runners we met that “popped” down to the hut to refill their water bottles before they carried on to Arete Hut for the night, but it took us 30minutes, and some of us taking photos on the way even 40minutes, to get down.



Dundas Hut Turn Off Sign. “10mins” – yeah, right.

Once at the hut, Woody and myself grabbed the two remaining bunks, Roy pitched a tent and Brendon was ready to sleep on the floor. Group of three girls came in later after us. Two set up a tent outside and one joined Brendon on the floor for the night. All were good sorts and with the Wellington group cooking, making conversation, drinking wine and indulging in a three-course dinner with starter and a dessert, the evening in the hut was fun with lots of stories and laughter. One of the stories was describing the group of four battling with the overgrown and hard to follow track down from Cattle Ridge Hut to the Ruamahanga River and their crossing of the river being waist high on a very tall person, so a lot higher for me and Woody and a tip not to try to cross over the log as one of them did and fell right in carrying on the rest of the journey soaking wet.

We had an extra day of fine weather between the time they were crossing and us, so we were hoping the river will subside by the time we get there to cross it, but still, we were getting mentally ready for an adventure!

The river crossing went well for all of us. Some even made it across with dry boots a bit further down the river. Brendon managed to cross the river about three times carrying various gear across and having his own personal photographers on hand for each crossing.



Ruamahanga River Crossing

Once across, the climb started. Through the first part, in the bush, it was fine and reasonably well marked too. Once we made it out of the bush however, we could understand what the group of four was describing. It was harder going, but going up didn't seem as big of a challenge finding the route as it was for the party coming down. The big plus was taking breaks, turning around and enjoying the view back to the ridge that we came down from Dundas Hut earlier. Stunning views, perfect weather, blue skies. There was a bit of wind around by then which made it perfect for tramping conditions for us, not so much for the group up on the tops heading for Herepai Hut.

Once we reached the top of Cattle Ridge, it was nice walking on flat terrain for a while and then a gentle drop to Cattle Ridge Hut for 3pm afternoon tea. Party of three ladies was there already enjoying their

snacks. They came from Mt Bruce end. It's always nice meeting other people on the tracks, having a chat and finding out what route they've taken. There was a suggestion for us to stay at Cattle Ridge for the night, but with the weather due to be packing in the next day, we decided to stick to the plan and carry on for another 2 hours down to Roaring Stag Hut for the night.

We got to Roaring Stag Hut just in time for dinner while the sun was still up high, making for a very enjoyable evening. The hut was full with two bunks spare. One lady however decided, that she is going to join her friends and tent with them by the river instead, freeing up yet another bunk for us. This left Brendon back on the floor again, but he didn't seem to mind. Another two latecomers joined him too. They arrived after dinner from the road end and had no tent or mats. Roy and Woody lent them their mats since they scored bunks for themselves for the night. Another packed hut.

It is great to see so many people out enjoying the outdoors and making use of the backcountry huts, but also a big realisation to carry your own shelter or a floor mattress at least just in case you are not lucky enough getting a bunk in time for the night.



Roaring Stag Hut. The full crew ready to leave for Putara Road end. Photo: Roy Rolston

The next morning we left Roaring Stag Hut a little after 8am, taking the nice gentle track up to the junction with Herepai Hut and road end sign. We got there just past 10am stopping for morning tea. From there it was nice downhill to the first swing bridge and then gentle up and down out to the second swing bridge and out to Putara Road end just in time for lunch and an ice cream stop on the way home! We were: Roy Rolston (leader), Woody Lee, Brendon Corner and Monika Coles

12-13 November 2022

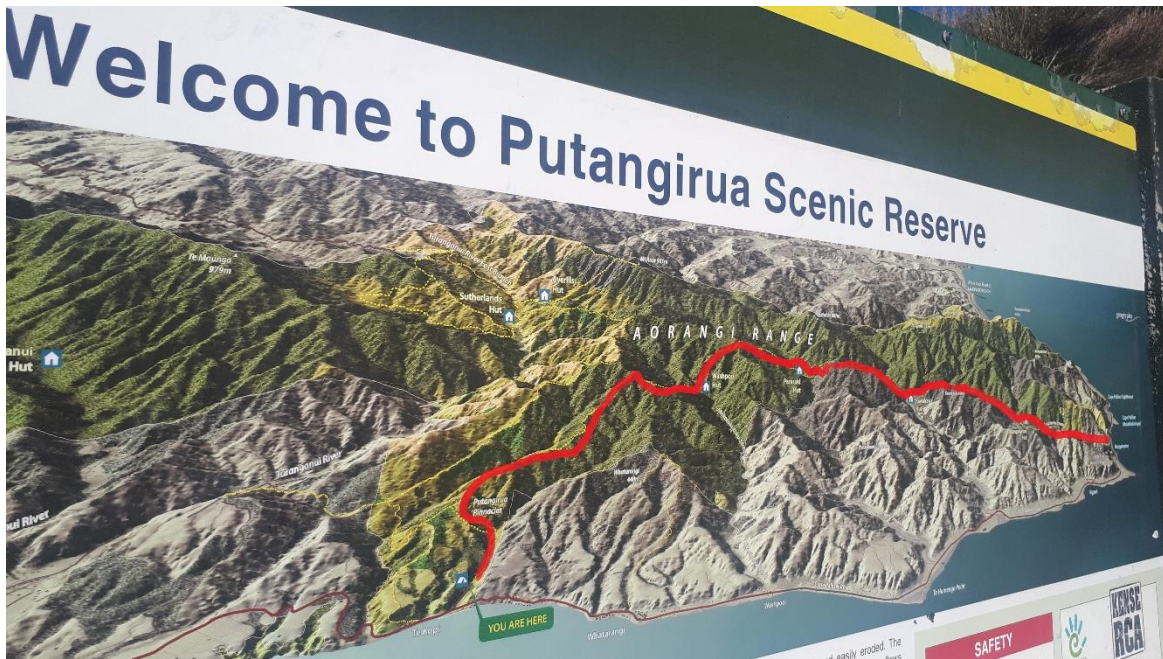
Aorangi Range – Kawakawa Hut

Report by Stephen Legg

The Aorangi Range is in the Aorangi Forest Park at the southern tip of the North Island near Cape Palliser and the well-known Putangirua Pinnacles. The red line in the map below shows the 'classic' Aorangi tramp. If you have eagle eyes you can discern that the west-east route is up the Pinnacles Track past Washpool Hut to overnight at Pararaki Hut, then onward and down the Kawakawa Stream via Kawakawa and

Mangatoetoe huts to the stream outlet on Cape Palliser coastal road near the quaint little fishing village of Ngawi.

We chose a simpler and shorter route at the eastern end so that we had some time at the end to explore the local sights. It was a 3-hour car ride from Palmerston North to our starting point at the Mangatoetoe



Stream outlet car park. The red line in the adjacent map shows our route. If your eagle eyes have not degraded due to your intense scrutiny of the first map above, you may discern that we rock hopped, waded and bush-bashed up the Mangatoetoe Stream to Mangatoetoe Hut (our lunch stop). We then huffed and puffed a bit on a better marked track, over an almost indiscernible saddle, to Kawakawa Hut for our overnight rest and recovery.

On the upward route, after a brief downpour, the predicted rain faded to naught and some sunshine. Route finding compared old and new technologies as you see in the *photo below (left)*.



The evening setting sun was luxuriant. Kawakawa Hut is at the confluence of two streams, so a morning dip was obligatory but only obliged by one. The *photo above (right)* shows our group ready to depart - *left to right: Stephen Legg, Janet Wilson, Graham Peters (Leader), Kirsten Olsen, Monika Coles.*



As planned, and with the aid of finding a somewhat broken 4WD track on the lower reaches of the Mangatoetoe Stream, we arrived at the car soon after lunch. This gave us time to scuttle up the 250-odd steps to Cape Palliser lighthouse, sneak close to seal pups frolicking in a nearby rocky sea lagoon, admire the quaintly multicoloured fishing boat launching bulldozers at Ngawi and scoff icecreams amongst blooming widespread and abundant yellow daisies.



20 November 2022

Mt Holdsworth via East Ridge

Report by Ernie Cook

Pics by Blair Peterson

With an alternative planned excursion into the Pohangina River torpedoed by the weather my attention shifted back to a trip up East Holdsworth Track, Mt. Holdsworth and return via Powell Hut. The weather outlook was not much better but predicted showers for Sunday seemed to be shifting to later in the day. Saturdays Wairarapa Times-Age showed a Mountain Weather Hazard: Thunderstorms had been issued. With two other interested parties I decided to hold off making any decision with the hope that the decision would be made for me. This duly happened and by 7:30 Sunday morning we were leaving Pahiatua.

We departed the car park at Holdsworth Road End, which was surprisingly full, at about 8:45 and began the easy amble along the track towards Atiwhakatu Hut. Upon reaching the turn-off to the East Holdsworth Track we changed gears and began the almost 1,000 metre ascent to the junction with the Holdsworth-Jumbo track. I had long considered this to be a good way to reach Mt. Holdsworth without having to do the there-and-back from Powell Hut.



The climb was steady, steeper in places, but leading inexorably upwards. The track was well enough marked and straight forward to follow with little tree fall encountered. Prior to emerging from the bush at the 1200 metre mark we adjusted our clothing layers in anticipation of the cold wind. We were not to be disappointed as we slowly ascended the final 200 metres to the track junction. Again clothing was adjusted and we imagined the wind to be at our backs.

The cloud was coming and going and we got good views out over Masterton and beyond. Mt. Holdsworth summit is a short distance from the track so we embraced the trig. The views at this time were disappointing but improved further along the ridge track.

Powell Hut was always looking to be a suitable lunch stop, albeit a rather late one at 1:30 p.m. I duly turned



on the lights in the bunk rooms and the dining area and they all lit up. The bunk rooms on timer soon turned off but I had to turn off the dining area lights at the switch. Talking to the caretaker later, he informed us that he had been up and turned on the gas about two weeks previously. The hut-book showed quite a few visitors, particularly during week-ends.

We departed Powell Hut at about 2.30 p.m. and after the obligatory stops at Mountain House and Rocky Lookout reached the car at about 5:15 just needing our coats for the final 100 metres. Being a designated Club trip, such a trip would have scored 22 points for the upcoming Scrabble Challenge. Mt. Holdsworth=4points, Powell Hut=3 points, Mountain House=3 points, and Rocky Lookout=1 point with all values doubled. We were Roy, Blair and Ernie (trip leader).

3-4 December 2022

Burn Hut Loop – Birding

Report by Nicola Wallace

Stephen got the four of us to the Mangahao Dam by about 9am. Just after we arrived, 2 guys on moto x bikes arrived for a nosey, and a few minutes later we entered a small hole in the bush, and were on our way. What followed was a pleasant sidle, following the Mangahao River, till we got to a beaut arched

wooden bridge. From there it was up, up, up, but not hard, till we emerged from the bush to greet our first leatherwood.



Soon after, we got our first view of Burn Hut, along with a view to the west of Foxton and Foxton Beach. The track had been good all the way, but up here it was wide and recently cut, which made for fast and easy walking. Some of the leatherwoods were festooned with purple flowers, and Stephen showed me how to look into the front of my new spotting scope, and use it as a microscope!

I wasn't just enjoying a new spotting scope, it was the first tramp with my new 50L pack, downsizing from a 65L, which always felt too big, and moved on my body because of the size, and because the shoulder straps were too wide. The new 50L was very stable and comfortable, I could feel it was a winner right from the start.



We arrived at the hut 3.25 after leaving the dam. We were delighted with the cosy little 6-bunker, which also has a very good vestibule. The dunny was in a bit of a sad state, with its door off its hinges. We lunched inside, as it had started to drizzle, and a little later 2 others arrived. They were Daniel and Lisa. Lisa was from Germany. We now had a full hut! They were very good company, and as it would turn out, very adept trampers.

The afternoon was spent relaxing, and the drizzle continued on and off. At about tea time Roy arrived, bringing with him a very tangy, zingy, zangy lemon cake which we all enjoyed for dessert. We now had a total of 7 in a 6 bunk hut, and Roy squeezed in somewhere on the bottom deck. I was on the top deck, with Lisa and Daniel.

The only thing I had to be careful of was the low-flying roof beam. I banged my head several times.

It was a very quiet night in the hut, and we emerged to find a fine, windy morning. Lisa and Daniel came along with us. Beyond the hut, the track was still good, but hadn't been cut for a while. It was a little overgrown with flaxes, which often concealed leatherwood stumps. Heading west now we entered the bush, and 2 hours after leaving the hut, we arrived at College Creek.



I found the creek section the hardest of all. There wasn't much walking room at the sides, and there were many deepish pools, plus the rocks were slippery. Beautiful scenery though, but concentrating too hard to appreciate it. After what seemed a very long kilometre, we arrived at Baber Forks, where lunch was called. I was happy to think that we'd be on a track from now on.

The track was a little vague in places, it probably isn't used all that much, and in places it wasn't well marked. As we reached the No.1 Dam Lake, we came to a point where there was a major change in direction, and for a few minutes we couldn't see the track, or any markers. The track was soon found, and soon we could see the dam itself through the trees. The track became straighter, and so many markers now!

Once at the No.1 dam, we had a break, and Daniel & Lisa farewelled us and carried on down the road. It was a 3km road walk back to the cars, and I enjoyed the scenery, plus there were more birds. We arrived back about 6 hours after leaving the hut. It had been a very good tramp, with lots of variety, quite a few birds, easy walking and tricky bits.

We enjoyed a late afternoon tea in Shannon on the way back. Thanks to Stephen for leading this trip, and everyone else for their pleasant company. We were Stephen, Kirsten, Roy, Ernie and Nicola.

Kirsten spotted 20 different birds including Long Tailed Cuckoo, Shining Cuckoo, Eastern Rosella, Rifleman, Whitehead, Morepork, Tui, Bellbird, Tomtit, Dunnock, Silvereye, European Greenfinch, Welcome Swallow.



PNTMC Newsletter Dec 2022 – Jan 2023

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Nepal Trek next year – Book Now
- Trip reports: Bushy Park, Dundas Loop, Aorangi Range – Kawakawa Hut, Mt Holdsworth via East Ridge, Burn Hut Birding

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