

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter November 2013



"On the Ruahine Main Range" by Chris Tuffley.

Best in Show at the Interclub Photo Competition.

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

14 November BYO images Martin Lawrence

A chance to show off where you have been lately. Look forward to some excellent climbing and tramping images from trips over the last six months or so.

28 November Thousand Acre Plateau and more, Kahurangi NP Chris Tuffley

Chris is one of our best photographers and tonight he will show us around the seldom visited Thousand Acre Plateau and other areas of Kahurangi National Park.

12 December End of Year BBQ Warren Wheeler

Our year ends as usual with a BBQ at Ashhurst Domain. Details in next newsletter.

Upcoming trips

2-3 November

Pureroa Timber Trail MTE Richard Lockett 323 0948

Leaving late Friday afternoon for Pio Pio Flats camp ground in the Pureora Forest Park (west of Lake Taupo). On Saturday we will ride south on the new Timber Trail that runs between Pureora village and Ongarue, crossing over some of the new and longest suspension bridges in the country. On Sunday we will do a return trip to Mt Pureora. Even if you don't have a bike there are lots of tramping and easy hiking opportunities — you should even hear kokako.

3 November

Puketurua (Mangahao) M Dave Grant 328 7788

Depart 7.00 am. Join Dave to venture into one of the less frequented local bits of the Tararuas. Popular in days gone by, Puketurua track runs east from the Mangahao Upper Reservoir. We cross the dam headwall and follow the lake round to Baber Creek junction, then climb the ridge through the bush and turn south along the ridge through the leatherwood, bagging the peaks of Ngapuketurua, Massey Knob, Kareti, Hines, and possibly Ruapae and East Peak along the way, depending on fitness and track conditions.

9-10 November

Hauhungatahi and Tongariro peaks M/ F Grant Christian 354 5843

Climb this lovely but lesser known peak in the west of Tongariro National Park (below Whakapapa ski field) on Saturday. Sunday we will climb other TNP peaks such as Pukeonake and Pukekaikiore. If time allows we could climb Rotopaunga and Te Mari.

10 November

Lower Whanahuia Explorer M/ F Graham Peters 329 4722

Explore the old route up from Tunupo Camp to the tops. The camp is on the north west side of the Oroua River (i.e. the True Left bank), where the track comes close to the river.

16-17 November

Holly Hut M/F Chris Tuffley 359 2530

A great northern Taranaki peak bagging area with excellent huts, tracks, and scenery.

17 November

Zekes Hut M Peter Wiles 358 6894

Depart 7.00am. Located in Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary, up near Waiouru, the new Zekes Hut makes a lovely day tramp along easy tracks. Fascinating botany, and close up views of Ruapehu.

23-24 November

Dundas Circuit M/ F Janet Wilson 329 4722

A chance to bag lots of good Tararua peaks. Depart late Friday afternoon for Herepai Hut, continue to Dundas Ridge Hut or Cattle Ridge Hut on Saturday, then stroll out via Roaring Stag Lodge on Sunday.

24 November

Awatere-Longview Loop M Dave Grant 328 7788

Depart 7.00am. This is a combination of track tramping and bush bashing in the eastern Ruahines. From Kashmir Road end we cross the Moorcock Saddle into the north branch of the Makaretu to Awatere Hut. From here we cut up through the bush to Rocky Knob, then back to the road via Longview hut. A great variety of scenery on a fine day.

30 Nov-1 Dec

Waikamaka-Te Atuaoparapara M Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 7.30am. This overnight trip takes us into a favourite area of the eastern Ruahines. Includes easy travel up the zigzag bush track to Sunrise Lodge; a nice tops route over the highest peak on the main range, then down scree into the Waikamaka Stream to the hut. Next day we will circuit around the tops over Te Atuamahuru and Three Johns back to Waipawa Saddle; then a rock hop down the Waipawa Stream back to the roadend.

30 November (Sat)

Atiwhakatu Valley E/ M Malcolm Parker 357 5203

A pleasant trip along the easy track running beside the Atiwhakatu Stream and up to the new hut for lunch. Aluminium footbridges add some novelty to this trip.

7-8 December

Waitewaewae Hut E/ M Kathy Corner 356 8186

Leave at 7.30am. Waitewaewae hut is a 5-6 hour walk from Otaki Forks following an old tram line for some of the way. On the Sunday we will meet any other club members for a BBQ at Otaki Forks.

8 December

Otaki Forks BBQ all Tony Gates 357 7439

This is a picnic BBQ planned to meet with the above group. Spacious grassy riverside camping areas here allow for lazing about swimming, and eating.

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: Technical skills (T) Instructional (I)

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips 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, overtrousers, 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.

Personal Locator Beacons - Free for trips

The club has purchased two PLBs for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence. Note that this applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St or email to pntmctrips@gmail.com with the date and trip name in the subject line. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

Overdue Trips

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

Tony Gates 357-7439
Janet Wilson 329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence 357-1695

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz, or via http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/

Notices

Interclub Photo Competition 2013

Our interclub photo competition was held on 1 October 2013 at the MTSC rooms. Ian Galloway judged an excellent offering of images, and gave the many attendees an interesting evening. Ian was very thorough with his comments, suggesting that technical, design, and emotional impact were all important issues. He modified a few images to show how such issues as cropping and altering the light balance can improve the images.

Congratulations to all winners, in particular Chris Tuffley.

Results were:

Above bushline

3. Ski touring on Ruapehu	Ken	Mercer
MTSC		
2 Arriving at Howletts Hut	Chris	Tuffley
PNTMC		•
1 On the Ruahine Range	Chris	Tuffley
PNTMC		•

Below bushline

3 Waterfall	xxxx
MUAC 3 (equal) Rocks, ripples PNTMC	Chris Tuffley
2 Whariki beach	Jean Garman
MTSC 1 Te Whaiti nui a toi PNTMC	Chris Tuffley

Natural History

3 Sundew/ Dr	osera	Jean	Garman
	MTSC		
2 Koru		XXXX	
	MUAC		
1 Whirinaki fu	ingus	Chris	Tuffley
	PNTMC		

NZ Landscapes

3 Boulder Lake	Jean	Garman
MTSC		
2 Evening light on Pukematawi	Jean	Garman
MTSC		
1 Evening light Sentinal Hill	Chris	Tuffley
PNTMC		

Overseas

3 Ilbons dAnayet		Royce	Mills
MTS	SC		
2 Wattamolla Beach		Chris	Tuffley
PNT	MC		
1 Mansalu		Dave	Grant
PNT	MC		

Topical

3 Reach the summit	Woody	Lee
PNTMC		
2 Tasman Saddle Hut	Terry C	rippen
PNTMC		
1 Janet on the Dragons Teeth	Jean G	arman
MTSC		

Overall best images were

3 Janet on the Dragons Teeth	Jean	Garman
MTSC		
2 Arriving at Howletts Hut	Chris	Tuffley
PNTMC		•
1 On the Ruahine Range	Chris	Tuffley
PNTMC		•



"On the Ruahine Main Range" by Chris Tuffley. A deserving winner, with dark, moody sky, pleasant tussock scenery, and a model wearing bright red.

The Manawatu Walking Festival 2014.

Following on the idea of some walking highly successful walking festivals around Auckland, there is to be a Walking Festival here on the weekend of Friday 28 February- 1/ 2 March 2014. There is a selection of guided walks, ranging from evening city walks to a variety of popular forest and beach areas. The Manawatu Gorge naturally features. Walks take between 2 and 8 hours.

Volunteer guides are needed. If you are interested, and have a knowledge of; botany. local history, birds, tracks, or even interesting

stories of the area, then please contact the web site below. There is a fee for each walk, and bus transport is provided. Sponsors of this event include DOC, Manawatu Forest and Bird, Sport Manawatu, Walking New Zealand, and Te Manawa. Refer www.mwf.org.nz.



PNTMC on Waitarere Beach, one of the many lovely walking opportunities in the Manawatu.

Mountain Designs Club Discounts

Mountain Designs in the Square are happy to offer PNTMC members 20% off Mountain Designs branded products and 15% off all other product (discount is off RRP). If you join their 'Alliance Club' they will extend the offer by a further 10% off (i.e. 30% and 25% off respectively). Discount is off RRP.

Note that all Electronics are excluded from this offer unless you are an Alliance member and then you will receive 10% off Electronics.

PNTMC Peak Bagging Challenge 2013-2014

Remember the rules are that on club trips you can get 3 points for each Ruahine peak and 6 points if it is your first ascent of 10 Top Peaks. Elsewhere it is only 2 points or if a non club trip deduct 1 point in each case. For details, refer to the rules in previous newsletters.

Currently the top six are:

Warren Wheeler	51 points
Grant Christian	47 points
Terry Crippen	35 points
Geoff Phillips	33 points
Janet Wilson	24 points
Tina Bishop	22 points

Trip Reports

15 September Toka Janet Wilson

Unsettled spring weather and a late snowfall meant that Craig's club trip to Ngamoko Hut didn't go, and so 3 of us (and Bruce the dog) made the best of a reasonably fine Sunday to head up Knights track to Toka. Although there was fresh snow underfoot from just above the bushline, it wasn't that cold and it wasn't windy. We crunched our way to the top of Toka for a photo opportunity where it was not nice enough to stop for lunch, so we had this further along the ridge towards Shorts track.



Enjoying the snowy summit of Toka

At some stage we saw a falcon. Then we headed for home - its a great circuit to do when you just want to get out for a walk!

We were Craig and Mike Allerby and Janet Wilson.

29 September Tunupo Michael Allerby

I rang everyone up on Saturday to sort out the final travel arrangements and with the wild weather during the day, checked to see if they were all still keen on going. The bad weather was easing off on Sunday?

On arrival at the car park Sunday, things looked bleak, with rain falling and a cold wind blowing. Ah! But it is always more sheltered down in the bush - so what the hell lets go and stretch the old legs! Richard, Craig and I started putting our boots on. I took it for granted that the rest of the party were doing the same in Tina's car, until she tapped on the

window to find out what the plan was – woops sorry my fault. My thoughts were, after Warren had queried me, was that we should head for the subalpine forest and then decide on our next move from there.

With wet weather gear on we headed down into the bush where upon Richard discovered a rat in one of the traps, he disposed of it, reset the trap and we carried on. Heading up along the Tunupo track required a stop to be remove a layer as the uphill climb soon warmed the body. Good progress was made until we came across some fallen branches from the winter snow storms higher up. Craig. Richard and I had our pruning saws to deal with these but with having let Tina and Holly go ahead I was torn between checking on her progress or cutting up more branches. When Warren passed by I finished cutting up some branches then headed after him and we shortly caught up with Tina.

Having left the others behind to finish off clearing branches meant the group was split up, so my decision to keep going was based on how Tina felt about carrying on to summit Tunupo -- her first ascent -- knowing that the rest of the party would eventually catch up. So Warren, Tina, Holly and I continued on up in to the subalpine forest and beyond.

Once we hit the tussock Woody appeared out of the mist then Thomas not too far behind him. The wind intensified as we neared the narrow rocky ridges and had a chill to it that numbed the face. On approaching the top it was good to see Craig and Richard appear to join us for a group photo on Tunupo. With evidence captured we dropped down onto the eastern side for a quick bite for lunch - much to Woody's delight -- then started heading back down out of the cold and wind. Within half an hour the weather had started to clear allowing a view out yonder, instead of the bottomless grey mist on the way up. The weather was much better heading down but of course it would have to start raining on approaching the car park area. Never mind it had been satisfying to have reached the top despite the unpleasant weather and Holly was probably just glad to get back to the warmth of Tina's car.

Trip members: Warren Wheeler, Tina Bishop, Holly (Tina's dog), Richard Lockett, Woody Lee, Craig Allerby, Thomas Robertson and Michael Allerby.

5-6 October Howletts Graham Peters

The weather forecast prior to this trip wasn't that inspiring but 5 others (and Bruce the dog) had enough trust in my meteorological judgement to come along. As we drove north the tops of the Ruahines were pretty much clear and when we got to the carpark the abundance of sun and potential for competition winning photos had Martin rueing that he hadn't brought his flash camera. We'd passed the Hutt Valley TC van on the way in and although it would have been social if they'd been going to Howletts as well, it would also have been crowded. As it turned out they were off to Makaretu for the night.

In what seemed like no time at all we were at the Longview track junction for morning tea where Martin and I took the opportunity of the short walk to the hut to top up water bottles. Again it didn't seem long and we were through the Pohangina saddle and on Otumore for lunch and the first peak of the trip. It was very pleasant ambling along the Ngamoko Range before the 120m drop down to and up out of the saddle between the Tukituki and Oroua.



Peak bagging Otumore 1519m [Jean Garman]

Once we got onto the Daphne Ridge we decided it was afternoon tea time before the final push over our second peak Taumatataua and on to Howletts.

We'd seen a couple of people ahead of us at various times during the day and finally met them at the hut. One of them was John Montgomery who Janet and Anne knew from the Ruahine User Group so there was plenty for them to talk about. The usual cups of tea, soup and dinner routine ensued then just on dark a couple of women turned up for the night. With 10 in the hut it was going to be cosy so Jean put her fly up on the helipad and

I slept on the verandah.

During the night the wind got up and blew away any thought of a quick jaunt up Tiraha for a third peak. For a bit of variety Jean and Janet decided to go out via Daphne Spur, the Tukituki, then back up along the ridge to the Longview track junction while the rest of us battled the wind on the tops. With almost perfect timing they popped out above us just as we were seeking a sheltered spot for lunch. After lunch it was all downhill and we were back at the carpark at 2.00pm were it was decided a beer at the Makaretu Tavern was well in order. After that it seemed an ice-cream was a good idea - and it was.

We were:- Jean Garman, Martin and Anne Lawrence, Warren Wheeler, Janet Wilson, myself and Bruce.

13 October A-Frame Stanfield Loop Nicola Wallace

The day looked promising as we turned off SH2 and onto Laws Rd, with the cloud just sitting on top of the Ruahines. A few minutes later, at the Tamaki West Road End, it was windy with light drizzle. We left the car at about 9.15am, and just through the wooden gate, met flooding that sent us on a short detour through the bush. I introduced Kathryn and Charlotte to some fine examples of ongaonga before we started on the long climb up to A-Frame.

We had our first morning tea break just over halfway up the hill. Noisy birds chattered nearby, we couldn't see them, but they sounded like Whiteheads. Once above the bush, in the "leatherwood alleyways" it was much cooler due to the strong wind and light rain. We headed straight to A-Frame to rug up for the walk along Takapari Road.

This poor old hut sure is going to rack & ruin. A broken window in the roof let the weather in, and one wall looked as if someone had fired a shotgun at it. Someone had left some old car seats in the hut.

Once we got going along Takapari Road, it wasn't half as cold as I'd expected. By walking on the left side of the road, the leatherwood gave good shelter from the strong NWester. A 4WD came past us, then shortly after, came back the other way. Maybe the occupants didn't like the look of the hut. We were in light,

drizzly cloud, but there were good views down to Dannevirke and around. We chatted away, and were soon at the turnoff on to the track.

The track was well cut until the old Rimu track turnoff. After that, it was quite overgrown in places, and some pushing through flax was required. But this is one of the good things about this walk, the variety of experiences and different conditions. Along the way, we decided to have a late lunch at Stanfield Hut. Charlotte and Kathryn seemed to be enjoying what was probably the closest they'd ever been to bush bashing. We arrived at the "Stanfield Hut 3/4 hr" sign at about 12.30pm, had a bite to eat to keep us going, and headed down the hill.

The muddy track down the hill has been cut in recent months, and is now very wide. This was a good thing, as it made it easy to pick good footing, and hopefully avoid an "ass over". As Kathryn remarked, it was like tacking in a yacht race. Even so, there were a few slippages, but no major injuries. Highlights of the downhill were the odd-shaped big dead trees, and the good view of Stanfield Hut from on high. We all warmed up as we descended, coats were shed, and we arrived at the hut eager to eat.

We ate outside in the sun, which soon turned into light drizzle from the clouds constantly racing overhead. No chance of sunbathing, so soon we set off again. The Tamaki West River had obviously been having a raging time, as everything looked very different to what it had been a month ago when I was last here. We hardly had to set foot in the river though, before we arrived at the start of the Holmes Ridge track.

Not far up the track, we met a club member, Mary Lund, coming the other way. She was going up to the tops. An uneventful walk along the Holmes Ridge Track ensued, until the farm track downhill. Here at the side of the track we found a very fat, very dead hedgehog. It had something poking out of its mouth, and we couldn't decide if it was a big, fat worm, or a piece of its own guts. The mystery could not be solved, so we moved on. By now it was sunny, but soon we descended into the bush, and descended the steep track down to the The river was brisk indeed, and we linked up to cross. There was no avoiding wet feet today. When we came to the flooded bit by the carpark, all except Kathryn walked through the big puddle as boots were wet anyway. The water was just about up to my knees!

It was blowing a gale at the carpark, which made changing boots tricky. I decided to drive back along Top Grass Road, and now the weather was wet and wild, much worse than this morning. It was still raining in Woodville, where we stopped to reward ourselves with refreshments. Everyone had had a good day, and there were no complaints about the weather. Thanks to the others for their cheery company.

We were:

Richard Lockett, Charlotte Chartier, Kathryn Palmer, Nicola Wallace (leader)

18 October Ruapehu – Part 1 - Getting to the Hut Janet Wilson

I was keen to go on Angela's Ruapehu trip - a chance to get out in to the snow and an opportunity to check out my aging but seldom used plastic boots, before taking them to Nepal next year.

Mike, Craig and myself were all able to leave just after lunch so that we had plenty of time to get to the NZAC hut in daylight. We stopped in Taihape to get last minute provisions and to couple of things from а tramping/camping shop. We had planned to buy fried rice for dinner to carry up the mountain but this plan failed due to the Chinese takeaway being closed. carried on to Whakapapa and had a large feed of nachos at the tavern before starting our walk up - time seemed to have slipped away a bit and it was around 4.45 when we set off.

We mostly followed the road up to Hut Flat, with only a little snow around. Above there, we decided to follow the ski field up rather that the more direct but windy ridge route to the hut. We hadn't gone that much further when I noticed one of my feet was slightly wet, and

of my plastic boots had developed a crack in the toe and that the sole was starting to come off. I had no option but to turn around and head back to the car and my tramping boots, which fortunately I

had brought along for back up. Craig and Mike were keen for me to drop my pack and hurry back down and back while they waited. I was concerned we would run out of daylight but off I went at a quick pace. It wasn't long before both boots were breaking up and I was leaving a trail of plastic behind me and by the time I was back at the carpark, they were barely on my feet.



Good thing Janet had spare leather boots

It was good to get my leather boots on and I made quick time back up the hill. The rest of the climb to the cafe and Delta Corner was mostly on snow. We were following Terry's instructions to the hut and that was going well until the mist started to come and in and it quickly got guite dark. The GPS was consulted and had us approx 100m from the hut. Luckily there was a well timed clearance in the cloud and Mike spotted the hut up the slope above us - the GPS had us 70m away in another direction. It was nice to get inside and to enjoy the luxury of electric lights and heating! The others appeared earlier that expected around 8.30. We were Craig and Mike Allerby and Janet Wilson.

18-20 October Whakapapa Peak Bagging Terry Crippen

The other three of us (Gary, Ange, Terry) left PN at about 4.30, with a quick feed at McDonalds in Taihape, so by the time we got to the Top of the Bruce we still had a bit of daylight left to start off before we had to get headlamps out. We took the ridge route from Hut Flat to the very comfortable and well situated NZAC hut at 2040m. The ridge route

is the easiest way, provided the wind isn't too strong and you know the way. We had light rain and a bit of mist but arrived at the hut while the others were still up and the lights were on to guide us. We soon heard the story of Janet's plastic boots cataclysmic failure!

Next morning we waited for the mist to clear before getting out of the pit. Then it was up and away off towards Pare (Paretetaitonga), more or less in a straight line across the remains of the Whakapapa Glacier onto the North Ridge. Craig and Michel were usually out in front. We eventually put on crampons and soon arrived on the summit (2751m). No one else had been there for quite a while - no footsteps - good. For a few of us this was the first time on the summit and for Gary the first glance of the Crater Lake. Descending down the SE ridge with a short spell of two tool activity, we had lunch in a sheltered spot. The wind would come and go during the day but otherwise it was excellent weather. Various other people were about; some ski touring, some setting up camp on the plateau. We decided to head around to Pyramid, and then retraced our steps to Dome and Glacier Knob. Sastrugi combined with wind was a bit annoying at times, especially for those not use to the combination. That's four peaks for Saturday, can't complain about that! Heading back to the hut some of us did a bit of bumsliding to save our legs. A good seven and a half hour day!

Back at the hut the highly inflated potato chips bag was attacked along with other nibbles before tea was enjoyed. Then Speed (a card game, Ange's choice) was partaken by everyone apart from Terry who was hoping for six handed Five Hundred instead.

Next morning a bang on the door at 6.30am announced that Dale had arrived. He had left P N even earlier than on Snowcraft days! So we all had to get out of the pit and have breakfast and get organized. Sunday was about to be a perfect day; fine and clear and no wind.

Heading up, we took a direct route towards Tukino peak. A 400m climb up continuous moderately steep sastrugi slopes was a bit of a gut buster for some of us, tired after Saturday. Behind us our fellow climber from Wellington, who had followed our route on Saturday could be seen catch up to us. Eventually heading onto the ridge it was a short distance onto the exposed twin peaks of Tukino (2720m). There were plenty of photo shots with people on

each of the two summits – room for only a couple at a time though, with big vertical drop offs onto the plateau! More sastrugi, as we dropped down to the saddle and up onto Te Heuheu (2732m). (As an aside, Te Heuheu Tukino was the chief that gifted the top of Ruapehu to NZ way back.) So a total of six peaks over the two days!

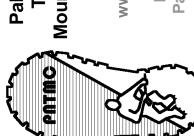


One of twin summits of Tukino

Descent back to the hut was by dropping into the "Te Heuheu" valley, with more bum-sliding, to get away from the sastrugi, then sidling across to Knoll Ridge. Back at the hut a bit of a feed, pack up and hut tidy then it was down the poled route back to the vehicles. We decided to meet up in Taihape for a rest and nibble – not MacDonald's this time thank you. An excellent trip in "can't complain about the weather" weather. Thanks to everyone for partaking. We were; Angela Minto (leader), Craig Allerby, Dale Hokin, Gary Sparrow, Janet Wilson, Mike Allerby, Terry Crippen.



Summit of Te Heuheu [A Minto].



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PNTMC Newsletter

November 2013

What's inside this month?

- Interclub Photo Competition Results
 - Peak bagging Update
- Ruahine Trip Reports Toka, Tunupo, Howletts, A-Frame-Stanfieldto
 - Ruapehu Peak Bagging

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Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, via the club website http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/.

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