



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O BOX 1217 Palmerston North

Newsletter March 2014



Tina sits out a swim through Irongates Gorge, Oroua River, Ruahine Forest Park [Warren Wheeler]

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.

13 March

Canyoning

Dan Clearwater

Dan Clearwater will give us a glimpse into descending the beautiful and technical gorges and canyons of New Zealand with rope and wetsuits.

27 March

Annual General Meeting - refer to notice inside

Upcoming Trips

1-2 March

Hinerua/Smiths Stream Circuit M/F
Mary Lund 06 374 7811

A beautiful Eastern Ruahine tramp visiting Hinerua Hut and Smiths Stream Hut.

2 March

Rangiwahia Hut (Manawatu Walking Festival) E
Dave Grant 328 7788

As part of the Manawatu Walking Festival, PNTMC members will be guiding groups to Rangiwahia Hut in the Western Ruahines. A good trip to recommend to friends who haven't tramped in the Ruahines

7-9 March

Sawtooth Ridge M/F
Janet Wilson 329 4722

A classic Southern Ruahine tramp across Sawtooth ridge, a good trip for picking up a few extra peak bagging points.

9 March

Toka M
Woody Lee 357 2390

The track to Toka is part of Knights-Shorts loop track but we will return the same way to the carpark. We can expect great views from the top of the Ngamoko Range if the weather is fine.

15-16 March

Kime Hut (Joint Trip with MTSC) M
Linda Campbell 323 3836

Members of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club and Massey University Alpine Club are invited to join Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club for a relaxing, social weekend at the new Kime Hut which is accessed from Otaki Forks. We will follow the track to Field Hut and then carry on up to Table Top and Bridge Peak before arriving at Kime. Being a new hut it could be very popular so it is recommended that tents are carried in case we have to sleep out.

16 March

Mangaweka M/F
Craig Allerby 323 7913

A great day trip up the Ruahine's highest peak. From the carpark the track takes you up to Wooden Peg on the Hikurangi range via Purity Hut. Then great travel along the tops of the range to Mangaweka.

22-23 March

Ruapehu Explorer M
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

An exploratory trip around the North Island's most prominent Mountain, great for those who would like to know more about the area.

23 March

Ruapehu Northern Lava Field M
Peter Wiles 358 6894

Departs 6.30 AM for journey to the Chateau. Then take the track onto the shoulder of Ruapehu above the Chateau and once it runs out, proceed across country to work our way round and down onto the lava field. After lunch we will drop down onto the round-the-mountain track by Lower Tama Lake and return on the track to the Chateau. Ice creams from the shop.

29-30 March

Roaring Stag Hut E
Jo O'Hallaran 353 0300

A weekend tramp in the North Eastern Tararuas, staying at the Roaring Stag Lodge, nestled in the Ruamahanga River Valley.

30 March

Number 1 Line Loop M
Richard Lockett 323 0948

A great day walk in the South Western Ruahines.

5-6 April

Keretaki Hut E
Chris Tuffley 359 2530

A pleasant overnight trip to Keretaki Hut in the Southern Ruahines.

6 April

Hardings Park "Nipple" M
Dave Grant 328 7788

A good day trip close to Palmy heading in to Hardings Park from the Kahuterawa road end.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramp 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 on 357-1695. 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:

Janet Wilson	329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tom Robertson, the acting newsletter editor, direct or via our web site www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/

Notices

PNTMC AGM 2014

The AGM is to be held on Thursday 27 March at 7.45pm at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

Nominations Sought

Nominations are sought for the PNTMC committee. If you are interested please get in touch with a current committee member to find out more about what is involved.

Also featuring the Billy TT plus Back Country Food Gourmet Meal Tasting

After the AGM we will have the second running of the Billy TT – bring your billy and cooker to compete in the race to boil a litre of water – and will also be preparing Back Country Food gourmet meals for tasting. These were provided free with the order the club placed for Back Country Food's meals last year. Thanks to Back Country Foods and Janet Wilson who organised the order.

Annual Awards - Part 2

The Annual Awards listed in the February Newsletter inadvertently excluded the recipient of the Tararua Trophy, which is presented for Best Newsletter Item. Competition was very close with lots of worthy contenders but for 2013 the winner was Bruce the Dog, for his trip report to Herepai with his friend Holly and two legged friends.

Peak Bagging Update

The AGM will be the final date for the peak bagging challenge. Peaks bagged on the day of the AGM will only be accepted if the peak bagger is present at the AGM. Finalised results will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held later in the year.

For those interested in gaining a few more points before the end of the competition there are a number of good peak bagging trips in this month's trip card.

Your results should be sent as soon as possible after each trip to Malcolm Parker at mparker@slingshot.co.nz or phone 357-5203. Please ensure that final points are sent in soon after the AGM.

Some results have yet to be received or input so the points table below is indicative only. While every effort is made to ensure the results are accurate please let Malcolm know if you believe your points need to be amended.

Peak Bagging - February Update

Club Member	Total
Grant Christian	132
Warren Wheeler	110
Thomas Robertson	98
Janet Wilson	86
Bruce van-Brunt	77
Woody Lee	52
D Sharp	49
Terry Crippen	48
Martin Lawrence	45
Angela Minto	41
Anne Lawrence	40
Craig Allerby	40
Geoff Phillips	40
Mike Allerby	36
Tina Bishop	32
Graham Peters	30
Hannah Lund	28
Richard Lockett	28
Karen Tutt	19
Annett Patzold	14
Nicola Wallace	12
Mary Lund	8
Kelly Holland	6
P Abercrombie	6
Dave Grant	4
Andrew Kelly	2
Chris Kelly	2
Jo O'Halloran	2
Kathy Corner	2
Lawrence O'Halloran	2
Peter Wiles	2

Trip Reports

22-24 November

Dundas Circuit

Woody Lee

At 4.30pm on Friday afternoon Annett, Warren and I packed into Janet's car and left for Eketahuna to meet Angela coming from Masterton. We sat on a picnic table outside the shop to have takeaway meals then arrived at the Putara road end and set off from the car park shortly after 7pm.

We crossed the second swing bridge in the daylight. It was quite a warm evening and we made good progress to the junction without torches on around 8.45pm. We dropped our packs off for a break and enjoyed listening to the morepork quietly in the darkness. Suddenly Annett screamed out when a morepork flew down close to her as it was an unexpected welcome.

With torches on we continued our night walk to Herepai hut for half an hour and then had a nice supper before getting a good night sleep.

The next morning we were busy getting ready for an early start and I was amazed when I saw Craig and Michael coming out from the bush at 7am.

The seven of us were shortly ready for peak bagging and headed off towards the peaks ahead. Janet asked me about my navigation skills when we were half way to the Herepai. I replied 'I'm not confident and definitely need to refresh my navigation practice'. She suggested having a go once we arrived at the next peak.

We were surrounded by clouds when we were at the Herepai (1125m) but we had some navigation practice there. Approx 1 hour later we arrived at the Ruapae (1279m) and this time we enjoyed the panoramic views with blue skies while doing navigation practice aiming to the East and West peaks. I became confident after some practice. Craig, Michael and I started walking towards east and we soon heard other members' yelling "come back to see a trig!" Warren found the Ruapae trig covered by tussocks and later he took a team photo with the lovely views (refer to the cover page of February newsletter).

After a challenging walk through the patches of leatherwood between the East (1355m) and

West peaks (1335m) it was time for lunch at the Walker (1392m). Around lunch time we saw another party behind us coming from the West peak and I instantly imagined a crowded hut for the night.

We had a discussion at the Pukemoremore (1474m) whether we were going to touch the Dome (1410m) for an extra peak bagging. Most of us were not keen to go ahead except Angela and Warren. At this time the other party arrived and walked passed us. I hoped they were going to stay at Cattle Ridge hut as Dundas hut is not big enough for 9 people. The rest of us continued to walk down the track, then arrived at the junction to the Logan.

That afternoon the four of us walked up towards the Logan (1500m) for the 7th peak bagging then we looked out towards Mt Dundas, Bannister and other peaks from the Logan. We returned to the junction to catch up with others. Warren and Angela were already at the junction so we had an afternoon break together to taste Warren's pineapple! He brought a pineapple for this trip and kindly offered us juicy slices. Warren and Angela set off to conquer the Logan for their 8th peak bagging later.

I started walking down the hill towards the Dundas hut to have a longer relaxing evening and we enjoyed the rest of the day with nibbles and red wine before our meal. Janet and Warren found a nice flat spot for fly-camping and I volunteered to stay with them. But one thing I forgot was my sleeping mat which I left in the car! Michael kindly lent me his new mat. It was a calm and starry night.

A sunny Sunday morning saw the seven trampers leave the hut and go into the forest. We made good progress to the second stream and some of us got wet feet while crossing it. After having morning tea we climbed up the steep hill to the Cattle Ridge via a loose rock section near the top. We had a discussion on the ridge about the next peak bagging and I really wasn't keen to go ahead to the Pukeroa. Then I changed my mind because I'd never been to that part of the ridge and did not want to miss the opportunity. The Pukeroa peak (1318m) provided more great views and we appreciated the perfect Tararua conditions again.



Peak baggers on Pukeroa 1318m [W Wheeler]

The Cattle Ridge hut was too hot to have lunch at so we all sat outside. By mid-afternoon we arrived at the Roaring Stag hut where Warren and I had a quick dip in the river for refreshment. There was a bit of slow progress to the Herepai junction then we returned to the carpark after 6pm.

Thanks to Janet (leader) and club members for making this trip memorable and achieving eight (nine for Angela and Warren) peak bagging!

The peak baggers were Angela, Annett, Janet, Craig, Michael, Warren and Woody.

1-2 February 12 Peaks Ruapehu Grant Christian

We travelled up to Ohakune on Friday night for this trip, camping in the DOC camping area a short way up the Ohakune mountain road. We were up early on Saturday morning and travelled around to Whakapapa. We walked up the barren ski field and made our way across to Pinnacle Ridge, beyond the First Pinnacle. From here it is a straightforward but strenuous walk up the ridge to Te Heuheu. At 2755m it is the second highest peak. The north side of the mountain was mainly clear, but the edge of the cloud sat against the east of the mountain and was stretched out into the distance. The cloud spilled over the tops and quite often we were surrounded in cloud. It was also a strong wind. From Te Heuheu it was a short walk to Tukino, the peak of which sticks out over a steep drop and which was a little disconcerting in the wind and the cloud. Probably it was just

as well we couldn't see the drop. An easy walk along the Te Heuheu Ridge, through a small dip and then a short climb again took us to Glacier Knob where we encountered two other climbers. We carried on and it was not too far to The Dome and Dome Shelter which was a good place to stop for lunch.

After lunch we headed across Summit Plateau to Matihao and Cathedral Rocks. The rocks appeared to be quite a challenge and we checked out a nearby rock that was not so difficult, but we could see from there that the other rocks were higher. We checked out the first rocks again, and decided that there was a route that didn't look too difficult. It went back in a few giant steps, and we could make our way up each step without feeling too exposed. We went up and down, one person at a time, and afterwards we felt quite pleased with our accomplishment.



Hannah on Cathedral Rocks [Grant Christian]

From Matihao we headed south towards Pyramid Peak. We were mostly in cloud now. We made our way along the edge of the crater, with a steep drop into the crater on our right. We arrived at a peak that we thought could be Pyramid Peak, but the cloud soon lifted enough to show that there was a steep drop in the ridge and then it climbed even higher. Pyramid Peak was still ahead of us. To get further along we would have to go back and try and climb around the peak we were on. As time was getting on, we decided instead to head for Paretaitonga (Pare), which was in the direction we needed to head to get back down the mountain.

We headed off in the direction of Pare in thick cloud and kept the crater lake to the left.

Unfortunately I headed around the lake for too long, and did a half circle. Upon reaching a ridge to the south of Pare I thought I was still heading north and I was going to continue in the wrong direction but Steve had it sussed and pointed out my error. (I thought it pretty hard to get lost on top of the mountain because if I started heading down at this stage, I must be going the wrong way). It was a steep walk up to Pare and the last bit was an interesting little rock climb. The sky had cleared a little, and we had good views from the top.

From here we headed back down the mountain to Whakapapa. We arrived back at the car about 11 hours after departing. It was not too long before we were enjoying a nice cold beer at the Tussock Tavern. We returned to the camping area at Turoa for the night and then headed up the mountain road for another climb on Sunday morning. Steve headed home so there were only three of us for this trip.

The sky was clear today but the wind persisted. We climbed up through the abandoned chairlifts, and made our way towards the ridge that leads to Tahurangi and overlooks Girdlestone. We had to cross about 50 metres of ice that was reasonably hard. We decided that we would cut steps instead of putting on our crampons. This is a lot harder than I thought, and by the time I got to the other side we all agreed it would have been a lot easier to put our crampons on.

At the ridge we looked out at Girdlestone. The northwest side that I have climbed previously in winter, and which I thought we may be able to get up today, looked quite difficult because of the loose rock and scree most of the way to the top. It is quite a steep slope and with that type of surface I thought it might take us all day to get up there, if we could do it. We decided to head for Tahurangi and check out Ringatoto from there. It is a tough climb to Tahurangi. I may have been feeling the effects of the long day on Saturday, because I needed to stop to catch my breath quite often. On reflection it is quite a lot steeper than the route to Te Heuheu, and I think we did pretty well. There was another small patch of ice to cross before we reached the ridge to the summit.

This time we put on our crampons although it was only a few metres across because it was steeper than the previous ice. We were soon at the top and enjoying the views. We sheltered from the wind and had some food.

We checked out the ridge that lead to Ringatoto but only a short way along we found it to be very steep and beyond our capabilities. We also checked out the route across the Wahianoa Glacier but the ice was quite steep and with only one ice axe each we thought it could be a bit risky, so ruled out going there. We decided to attempt to sidle around to the saddle by Pare. We got part way around but the ice fields were quite steep, and Thomas was having trouble with his crampons staying on his boots. After Thomas caught us up we decided to head back down the mountain. Only one peak for Sunday but we had climbed six on Saturday so overall we were quite satisfied with our weekend adventure.

We were Grant Christian, Hannah Lund, Steve Hereiban and Thomas Robertson.

2 February

Tama

Peter Wiles

With a blue dome day and a cool easterly breeze at our backs we set off from the Desert Road to Waihohonu. There were surprisingly few people at the new palace when we arrived, but as we had our morning tea a few parties arrived from further afield. Time for a retouch with more sun-cream.

Back into the strong sun and some harder work. Once on the ridge above the hut we left the regular track and picked our way amongst the rocks towards Tama. The last 100 m or so of the climb are the most tiring as it is the steepest section and at the point where the tummy is indicating it is getting overdue for lunch and the legs are wanting a rest. Once on top though, the huge view draws ones attention away from lunch momentarily. Upper Tama Lake lay at our feet and beyond was the tiny blue structure of the Chateau and far to the west stood a cloudless Taranaki. Then time to eat.



Heading to Tama

[Peter Wiles]

Once eaten and a few photos we headed southwards and at last downwards. We spent a few minutes finding a route through some bluffs (head out either to the right or left to avoid them), before taking a scree and a dry streambed to the bottom.

We crossed the stream at the bottom with varying success at keeping our feet dry. A few 10s of meters beyond the stream and we were back onto the track. Warren and Elaine made a brief visit to the historic hut before arriving back at the Palace.

We made fast time back to the car reaching it shortly after 5 pm and ready for the journey home.

Warren, Elaine and Peter.

9 February

Beehive Creek

Doug Strachan

Forget Splash Planet in Hastings, just go to Beehive Creek. The kids had the time of their lives looking for the deepest pools and running in the stream. The water temperature was uite pleasant.

Snack time. With some trepidation, I took the Buzz Bars out of my pack. Warren had put the fear of sugar up us with tales of the “hangover” he got from scoffing a box of Cadbury’s Roses, and the scientific study he read about how too much sugar can shrink your hypothalamus or hippocampus or hippopotamus or something, harming your memory. Concerned about the threat to my cognitive function, he and the others helped me eat the Buzz Bars to dilute the sugar poison. It still gave us a bit of a buzz.

Still in teacher mode, Warren showed the kids how debris lodged in bushes allows one to infer the height of past floods. Using similar scientific logic, he lectured us on how the presence of cow poo up on a fern frond told us something about the minimum height of the beast. We actually stumbled upon the culpable herd of cattle. On previous trips, sheep were seen.

We also found more ripe blackberries than I've ever seen there before, so we enjoyed nature's bounty. I was careful to only pick fruit above the level of Warren's cattle height indicator. The kids could have the low ones.

Kathryn was, unfortunately, good at finding the deepest mud. Fortunately, it soon washed off, and she had dry footwear in her car. Unfortunately, her car was back at Milverton Park. She was literally up a creek without a paddle or dry shoes.



The team at the start of the track [Doug Strachan]

Back at the cars, we discovered a new wild beehive on the underside of the bridge, so the creek is living up to its name. The kids changed into dry clothes, then we sat and had lunch at the picnic table across the road, where Warren, with no prompting from the rest of us, realised he was launching into another poo story at an inappropriate time, and stopped.

After lunch, we took some group photos using the self-timer on my camera, a process which resulted in suggestions that I could get nominated for an end-of-year award.

Home by 2pm were Kathryn Maidment, Warren Wheeler, Tomoko Macdonald with kids

Leena and Kazuki; Maho & Doug Strachan with kids Minami and Conan.

16 February Iron Gates Gorge Warren Wheeler

We had perfect weather for this classic summer trip down the Oroua River to the Iron Gates Gorge.

At the Pedersen Road carpark we met others heading out and about on this great day and convinced a solo trapper to join us instead of going by himself down the Stoat Trappers Track direct to the gorge. Our more scenic trip took us about an hour past Heritage Lodge along the up and downs of the sidle track before joining the river and heading downstream. As promised, the route down the river involved lots of easy crossings and at least one pool, which we opted to wade waist deep instead of taking the swift crossing and rock scramble on the other side.

We didn't see any blue ducks but along the way we checked some of the stoat traps and found a couple with old rat remains.

After about three hours of river travel we came around the last bend to the huge boulders at the head of the gorge itself. It was about 3.00pm and the sun shone directly overhead to encourage us on, but we were more than happy to opt instead for a quick swim in the easy rapids upstream before returning via the old track up through Pedersens Bush (some big windfalls) and across the short stretch of farm land back up to the carpark (apologies to the landowner for not gaining permission beforehand). We all agreed it had been another great day out with PNTMC.

We were Warren, Margaret and Tina plus our invited guest Kieran.

27-31 January A Tale of Two Bridges by MTB Terry Crippen

Bridge to Somewhere From the capital of the Republic of Whangamomona (blame Horizons

mw) it's about 20km down the old muddy closed Whangamomona Rd to Aotuhia and the famous Bridge to Somewhere (built 1936). It's a good day MTB ride there and back; Ange and I did it in the heat of this summer. Don't be put off by the sign at the start; "DANGER; death and injury from the dangerous track and bridges"! Accommodation in the capital can be at the local hotel or the low key camping ground (ex School), complete with goats and chooks. Initially the road is gravel then it soon deteriorates to easy riding on grass and bare papa 4WD track.

Like the Mangapurua, this area had over-realistic farming attempts back in the 1920s and 30s. Slopes are regenerating with tree fern, Manuka and Rewarewa. A few relics of those bygone days can be seen, even an old oil well. A couple of tunnels and a few bridges help you on the way. Some keen bods take 4WDs through the road/track – often getting stuck in the deep bog holes; \$50 or a crate of beer to the local who pulls you out. Approaching Aotuhia farming is in full swing. At the Bridge there is an information sign about the history and the possible tramps. Across the bridge we cycled up to Aotuhia Station, and had a very extended yarn with one of the workers. The station is upgrading the Tuhunaroa road/track so soon you will be able MTB down to the Wanganui river: or from Taranaki though to National Park if you are keen! Aotuhia Stn is a good place to stay for a long weekend – lots of tracks and MTB routes.

Heading back in the heat more rest stops were required. We had a very long chat with a local ex Vietnam veteran possum carrying possum trapper and plucker, then once back in the capital off to the pub for a beer and chat with more colorful Taranaki characters.

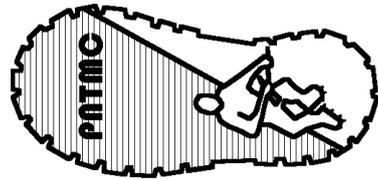
Bridge to Nowhere Getting dropped off up the Ruatiti valley at the start of the Mangapurua track, flashy MTBers appeared all keen to go though to the Bridge to Nowhere and out in a day. We were going to camp overnight somewhere in the valley so Ange had a heavy pack and I had a set of panniers. Initially the track is a good farm one heading up hill for quite a while, then into regenerating bush and past the Kaiwhakauka turnoff (takes

you down to Whakahoro, another good MTB ride). Once at the highest point we scrambled over to and bagged Mangapurua (to justify a MTB report in a PNTMC newsletter).



Angela on Mangapurua Trig [Terry Crippen]

Then it is all down hill into the Mangapurua valley on an excellent papa track. Along the way very old pines and signs with ex-farmer's names indicate the 1920s farming attempts. Like the track to Bridge to Somewhere all the county is slowly reverting to native forest. Some impressive bluffs needed to be negotiated, including the Very Impressive Battleship Bluff! The foot bridges take a bit of negotiating with panniers, but it's essentially a very cruisey 37km MTB ride to the Bridge and out to the Wanganui river. We camped about 20 minutes up valley from the bridge; once we found easily accessible water (the Mangapurua is deeply incised). We set up camp and wandered down to the Bridge to Nowhere, built in 1935. It was great to have it to ourselves. The following day at lunchtime it was as busy as the PN Plaza – bikers and day walkers all over the show. We had jacked up a lift back to Pipiriki with Wanganui River Adventures (the same outfit that PNTMC used on the Matemateaonga Trip). Then it was off to The Old Coach Rd and Glendhu Stn for more MTBing.



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P.O. Box 1217,
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PNTMC Newsletter

March 2014

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- Irongates Gorge
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- Coming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tom Robertson the acting newsletter editor, via the club website
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Get out and about with us!

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