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# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter August 2014

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*Hut baggers at Mangahao Flats Hut, Tararua Forest Park*

*[Woody Lee]*

### 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 August**

**Photo Competition**

Our annual club photo competition. See Notices for details. Winning place-getters will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition later in the year and FMC Annual Photo Competition next year.

**28 August**

**Istanbul to Samarkand**

**Sandy Bartle**

The adventures of an individual traveller without wheels, 1980-1997. Sandy developed a passion for this diverse area and made numerous visits to explore the landscape, geology, botany and history of this fascinating region.

## Upcoming Trips

**2 or 3 August**

**Snowcraft 2** Training/Technical  
**Bruce van Brunt** 328-4761

Day trip for participants and others who would like a day climb, depending on the weather and space in the cars.

**3 August**

**A-Frame/Stanfield** M  
**Nicola Wallace** 356-4516

Leave from Milverton Park at 8.30am. Plenty of variety on this Ruahine tramp up to A-Frame Hut, along Takapari Road 4WD ridge track (might be snowy), and down to Stanfield Hut. The trip back will be along Holmes Ridge.

**9 August (Sat)**

**Late Winter Beach Walk** E  
**Tina Bishop** 027 480 3342

An easy walk exploring the pine forest, sand dunes, estuary and the beach, finishing at Bishops Hut. Leave Palmy at 9am to arrive at Foxton Beach about 9.45am. Bring your dog, lunch (and togs??). I will be at work most of the week prior so please email or ph/txt 027 4803342.

**9 -10 August**

**Full Moon Powell – Jumbo** M  
**Warren Wheeler** 356-1998

Depart noon for lunch at Masterton. From Holdsworth Roadend we will follow the track 3 hours up to Powell Hut – expect snow on the upper sections in the bush. After dinner we will head off under the full moon to Mt Holdsworth and along to Jumbo Hut for the night. Out via the Atiwhakatu Hut and nice river track.

**13 (Wed) SC3 evening for participants**

**16 or 17 August**

**Snowcraft 3** Training/Technical  
**Bruce van Brunt** 328-4761

Day trip for participants and others who would like a day climb, depending on the weather and space in the cars.

**16 August (Sat)**

**Blue Range Hut** E  
**Peter Wiles** 358-6894

Leave PN at 9.00 am (why hurry?). We might be at the right spot at the time for coffee before we start our walk up the hill to Blue Range Hut for lunch overlooking the northern Wairarapa. Why not? [Note change in date for this trip]

**23-24 August**

**Penn Creek Hut** M/F  
**Janet Wilson** 329-4722

Leaving PN 7.30am Sat. A hut I have never visited so looking forward to this one. Tramp up to Field Hut, then on to Table Top before heading down to Penn Creek. If there is lots of snow, ice axes may be needed. Please contact me before Wednesday 20/8 if you want to come on this trip.

**24 August**

**Paekakariki to Pukerua Bay** E  
**Richard Lockett** 323-0948

Leaving PN 7.30am. This trip will follow the new section of the Te Araroa Trail above the coast, return by train or walk.

**30-31 August**

**Waiopahu Hut** E/M  
**Mike Allerby** 323-8563

Depart PN at 8.00am, head down to Levin, in to the Ohau catchment, travelling to Waiopahu Hut via the Waiopahu track (along a ridge).

**31 August**

**Sledge Track** E/M  
**Kathryn Palmer** 560-0936

A local walk up the Kahuterawa Valley with interesting sights along the way. Aiming to do the whole loop up to the Platinum Mines and back depending on fitness of the group. Plenty of choice for a picnic stop. Leaving from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

**6-7 September**

**Climbing Ruapehu** F/T  
**Grant Christian** 354-5843

I would like to climb Girdlestone but the details of this trip will be decided close to the time and will depend on weather, snow conditions and who is coming. I plan to travel to the mountain on Friday evening. Expect two days of up to 8 hours.

**7 September**

**Kaiparoro Clearing** E  
**Peter Wiles** 358-6894

Leave at 8.00 am for Eketahuna. At the road end, the first hurdle is crossing the stream. So bring a pair of gumboots for the crossing, or get your feet wet at the start. Other options might suffice – piggy back, perhaps? Anyway, once the stream is out of the way, going should be all good for the climb up to the clearing overlooking the Eketahuna district.

### 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
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](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month to Warren Wheeler, the newsletter editor, direct or via our web site <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

## Notices

### PNTMC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015

As the clubs 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be at the end of next year, we are looking at ways to celebrate this, and also the possibility of publishing a short history of the club based on the archives and people's stories. If you are interested in assisting with this then please contact the club President Dave Grant who is heading the organising sub-committee.

### PNTMC Photo Competition 14 August 2014

You need to be in to win!

And this year we have introduced a new **Novice category** aimed at people who have not won a prize in the club photo competition before. So if you haven't had a placing in our photo competition, you can enter your photos in the Novice category. A photo entered in the Novice category can also be entered in any one of the other 6 categories.

### Rules

- Only digital entries accepted
- No previous entries
- Images must be related to tramping, climbing or trekking
- Limit 3 images per category (per person)
- Images must be clearly labelled

### Categories

NZ Landscapes – scenery, no people  
Above the Bushline – includes people  
Below the Bushline – includes people  
Natural History – NZ flora, fauna, geology, etc  
Topical NZ – people or detail  
Overseas - people and/or places  
Novice – any of the above subjects

### Deadline Sunday 9 August

Please get your entries to Martin by email, [martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com](mailto:martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com) or deliver them to him at 44 Dahlia Street, PN on CD or pen drive. Contact phone Martin 357-1695.

### Notes

It is anticipated that the winning images will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition, to be hosted this year by MUAC on Monday 8 September, and the FMC Photo Competition 2014. In addition, some of these images may be used to promote PNTMC. Please indicate if you do not want your images used in these activities. Images remain the property of the photographers.

## Social Thursdays

Due to popular demand, Social Thursdays on the 1st Thursday of the month have commenced again over the winter period.

The first night was at the new restaurant called "Desert Rose", on the Corner of Cuba and Rangetikei Streets. The second was right next door at the new Korean/Japanese Tasty House (very well named).

Contact Janet to find out where the next one will be (7 August) and to ensure your place at table. Start time 6pm.

## Tararua Hut Bagging Competition

Following the success of our previous Ruahine hut bagging and peak bagging competitions, PNTMC is running a new hut bagging competition focused on the Tararuas.

The challenge will run over the 12 months from 1 July 2014 until 30 June 2015.

3 points per visit to Tararua hut, bivvy, shelter, Holdsworth Lodge etc – as long as they are on DoC website. **New Rule – only 1 point for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> visits, not 3 points.**

1 extra point if the visit is on a club trip.

1 extra point if you stay the night. (One hut only per night) Camping outside crowded huts counts.

1 extra point for a first visit.

All other DOC huts in the country - 1 point per visit (no extra points)

All huts maximum of 3 visits to count for points.

Please take photos to record the visit, as well as for producing a new poster. As our Ruahine hut bagging poster was a huge success, the club would like to produce a similar one for the Tararuas.

Hut bags, email to [jwilson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jwilson@inspire.net.nz).

Hut images, [martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com](mailto:martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com)

## Missing Gear and Gear Custodian

### By Terry Crippen

Thanks to those who responded to my email for missing gear and returned items. All we have now missing is one helmet. Also Mick Leyland and family are moving to a smaller house, so he is not able to be gear custodian anymore. Currently the Club gear is with me.

All the climbing gear is tied up until after Snowcraft. So if you are after any gear contact me or Warren.

## Mountain Film Festival Events

### By Terry Crippen

Each year there are a couple of worthwhile action packed mountain film festivals that are definitely worth going to. They are the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival (NZMFF) and the Banff Mountain Film Festival.

Sponsorship comes from some of the top companies in outdoor recreation; North Face, Petzel, Bivouac, National Geographic, etc. Films, and speakers, come from all round the world, with some films common to both festivals.

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is run by the New Zealand Alpine Club and does the rounds of the various main cities, typically in June. Closest for us is Wellington (occasionally here in Palmerston North). It is usually two or three nights of excellent films (different films on each night) on climbing, skiing, the environment, snowboarding, mountain biking, paragliding, the Arctic and Antarctica, etc. The material originates from the Banff Centre "inspiring creativity" in Alberta, Canada and has been running for many years.

For information on this go to:

<http://www.nzalpine.wellington.net.nz/category/banff/>

The NZMFF (run by a charitable trust) is held in July at Wanaka (also Queenstown and Cromwell and brief sessions round the rest of the country) over a period of 5 days, so it's a good excuse to head down south for some winter snow tramping, climbing and skiing for a couple of weeks. There are films of all sorts of activities; climbing, skiing, snowboarding, caving, paragliding, mountain-biking, the environment, the Arctic and Antarctica, etc – a lot of it very extreme! There are also guest speakers (this year Kieran McKay taking on linking up Stormy Pot and Nettlebed cave systems, Tim Cope on his three and a half year solo horse ride from Mongolia to the Danube in the hoofsteps of Genghis Khan, and top USA climber Kitty Calhoun talking on Last Ascents, when ice and snow routes vanish due to global warming), together with various workshops (this year; avalanche awareness, pollution of our waterways, etc), competitions and goods on sale at reduced prices. To check it out for next year go to:

<http://mountainfilm.net.nz/>

## Club Gear for Hire

Mick Leyland has now given up the role of gear custodian. Thanks Mick, for looking after the gear for many years.

**Warren Wheeler** (356-1998); is now the gear custodian for the general club gear.

**Terry Crippen** (356-3588 or 027 643 3637) is the gear custodian for specific climbing gear that can only be used by Club members on Club trips; as well as the avo transceivers, probes, shovels.

**Anne and Martin** (357-1695) retain the PLB's.

The following gear is available for hire from the Club:

(Cost is per day per item for Club members)

(Non-members pay double the rate)

Ice Axe . . . . .	\$2
Crampon . . . . .	\$6
Helmet . . . . .	\$2
Harness . . . . .	\$5
Snow stake . . . . .	\$2
Snow picket/pig . . . . .	\$5
Ice hammer . . . . .	\$5
<i>Snow shovel</i> . . . . .	\$5
<i>Avalanche probe</i> . . . . .	\$5
Fly (4person) . . . . .	\$4
Compass . . . . .	\$2
Bivvy bag . . . . .	\$2
<i>Avalanche transceiver</i> . . . . .	\$5
<i>Snowshovel/probe/avo transceiver set*</i> . . . . .	\$10
<i>Rope 50m**</i> . . . . .	\$10
<i>Carabineers (2 screw, 2 snap)/ATC Set**</i> . . . . .	\$5

Terms & Conditions:

1. The above prices are for Club members. Non-club member rates are double.
2. To hire gear; **BOOK YOUR REQUIREMENTS WITH THE GEAR CUSTODIAN IN ADVANCE OF WHEN YOU WANT TO PICK THE GEAR UP.** Otherwise the gear custodian may be away or the gear already borrowed.
3. The gear is available on "a first come basis", however priority is given to Club trips, bookings by other related organizations, and club members.
4. For non-club members identification and a bond may be required if the Hirer is unknown to the Gear Custodian.
5. **The Hirer is responsible in ensuring the hired equipment is returned in a satisfactory condition, and on time. If the equipment is lost, or returned in damaged condition, the Hirer is liable to full replacement cost. A continuing fee may be charged if not returned on time. The Hirer is also liable for any further charges that**

**may arise from the club having to pursue return of the gear or moneys owing.**

6. Avalanche transceivers; a form is required to be filled in for these. Hirer is responsible for supplying NEW alkaline batteries. A bond may be required of non-Club members.

7. \*\*The carabineers & ATC set and rope can only be hired by **Club members on scheduled Club trips.**

8. Reduced rates for longer trips, or to related organizations, is at the discretion of the Gear Custodian.

## Trip Reports

**30 May - 2 June 2014**

**Queens Birthday "Coastal Classic"**

**Janet Wilson**

In keeping with a tradition of over 10 years we headed for the coast for Queens Birthday weekend – this year it was to Hawkes Bay, on the coast halfway between Porangahau and Blackhead. I found a bach on a website and it turned out to be a farm cottage and an excellent venue for our group of 9 and, as dogs were allowed, Bruce came too. It was another new area to visit for most of us.

In keeping with another tradition, most of us took Friday off work. Graham and I had an unplanned meeting with Terry, Warren and Richard in the supermarket carpark in Dannevirke and so we went in convoy to Porangahau. We came to the sign for the longest place name in NZ not long before Porangahau.



*Longest Place name [Warren Wheeler]*

Photos were taken and we hoped to get permission to walk to the high point with the long name. At the Porangahau pub we had a beer and the publican gave me a contact for the longest name place farm. We then

continued on to our bach which was nice and roomy and clean with plenty of firewood. I put on a roast and then we walked over the farmland to the sea – about a 10 min walk to an absolutely enormous beautiful stretch of coast. The waves were quite big with a S/E swell so it didn't look all that promising for fishing. Yvonne and Sally turned up later and we settled in for the evening and enjoyed a big meal and several drinks.

Next morning dawned fine but any thoughts of an early start were thwarted by a lack of water to the dunny. We went off to find the farmer and the problem was sorted when a leak was discovered. Graham found the farm pig to feed all our scraps and vege peelings to. We had permission to climb the hill across the road to get great views up and down the coast. *Terry took his new knees for their first off track walk and he did remarkably well – no stopping him.*



*Terry tries out new knees [Warren Wheeler]*

I took my new kite - only light winds but it flew OK higher up.



*Views from the farm hills [Warren Wheeler]*

Martin and Anne arrived mid morning. We split up and went in different directions for the rest of the day – Richard went for a bike ride. Martin, Anne, Graham, Bruce and I headed down the coast to "Bird Island" which is the area to the north of the Porangahau River. Lovely walk with little wind and we saw quite a number of beautiful white spoonbills.



*Wide open spaces [Warren Wheeler]*

I am struggling to remember where Terry, Yvonne and Sally headed off to!! That night we enjoyed dinner cooked by Yvonne, Sally and Terry – shared dinners meant you only cook one night out of the 3.

On Sunday an expedition to the marine reserve at Blackhead was planned followed by a walk back down the coast. A group headed off on bicycles but mine broke down luckily not too far from home and I pushed back and got a ride with Y & S. We all met up at and had a look at the reef although at this stage the tide was still heading out. The walkers then headed south under cliffs and past small groups of seals. A kind person in a wetsuit gave us a couple of pauas which we enjoyed later that night.



*Blackhead point lighthouse [Warren Wheeler]*

We met up with Terry well down the beach and Graham, who was over beach walking by then, accepted a ride back. Thanks to the car drivers who moved the bikes back to the house. Another fine meal was prepared by Anne, Martin and Richard.

On the Monday, M & A headed off early. The rest of us had a leisurely start, cleaned up and went for a beach walk to the south at Porangahau. There was finally enough wind to fly the kite. We then had lunch at the Wimbledon pub on the way home. We never did get to visit the place with the Longest Name – something for another day.

Thanks to everyone who came along for an enjoyable winter weekend.

## **22 June 2014**

### **Wellington Skyline Walk**

#### **Report by Nicola Wallace**

We loaded ourselves into three vehicles in the dark at Milverton Park. After a pleasant trip south, we arrived at Johnsonville, but none of us in Woody's van could find the elusive Raroa railway station. After lots of driving round, and failing to even locate the railway line, a call was made to Anne, and after a short drive we arrived at the station. We'd come pretty close, but not close enough!

We set off walking just after 9.30am, through a sports-filled school ground, then suburbia, then into the hills at Johnsonville Park. Climbing past lots of kawakawa, we soon arrived at a tunnel into the hillside, it reminded me of the Coppermine Creek mine, but sadly it lacked cave wetas, or any wetas at all. Actually, it's a pipe tunnel (now disused), for the Johnsonville reservoir. A few of us ventured inside, but came to a brick wall after about 50 feet.

Further along, we were much more exposed to the easterly wind, as we gained height under the clouds, soon arriving at Mt Kaukau (420m ASL). The transmitter tower looks a bit like Wharite's, but you can't go right up to it. We had morning tea up here, sheltering from the wind behind a sign a more appealing option than eating on the lookout platform.

Carrying on, we started to get fantastic views of Wellington City to our left, and wind turbines on our right. The plants up here were stubby and wind ravaged. Warren found that a very twiggy small leaved shrub made a comfortable bed to lie on, so of course we all had to try it.



*Warren mattresses en route*

Though a little cool and windy, it was a very good Wellington day, and before lunch, the sun emerged. We lunched at a confusingly labelled turnoff to Otari Wilton's Bush, and after lunch, by vote, continued along the tops.

Soon the landscape changed, and though still green, became more rocky. After a scramble over a large protruding rock, we took the next option down to Otari Wilton's Bush, descending firstly through pine trees, then getting into the native bush in the reserve. Otari Wilton's contains some of the oldest native trees in Wellington, including an 800 year old rimu which we all stopped to admire.

Further down were trees with large baubles hanging from the trunk on stalks. They looked a bit like figs, but according to Warren, who will try eating anything, they didn't taste like figs. Before we left the bush, we came across a large group of tui and kereru, who were having a feeding frenzy.

A walk through Otari's display gardens brought us out onto Wilton Rd, and what followed was an interesting and hilly walk through the suburb of Northland. We must have looked a bit of a strange lot to the people doing their Sunday gardening and car washing jobs. I'd never been through this part of Wellington before, and found it really interesting.

A steep street descent brought us to the Botanic Gardens. Someone wanted to visit The Treehouse, so we found our indirect way there, only to find this Visitor Centre was closed, and didn't look very interesting anyway.

Our last climb of the day was up to the cable car station, and time for rest and refreshment before we piled into the red car and rode down to Lambton Quay to join the Sunday shoppers.



Urban tramping [Warren Wheeler]

Luckily for our finances, none of us got lured in to any shops, and we reached Wellington railway station before 4pm. I fed some of my leftover biscuits to the perpetually hungry station seagulls and sparrows, had to wet the biscuits though, as they were too fresh and hard. We caught a new Matangi train back to Raroa station, and our vehicles. So ended one of the most varied and interesting trips on the club calendar. I absolutely recommend it to everyone. Many thanks to Anne, for leading this trip, and to all our drivers.

We were: (first names only as there were 13 of us)

Anne (leader), Woody, Richard, Tina, Sally, Nicola, Cory, Li, Warren, Maggie, Dora, Zheng, Wei-Ping.

**28-29 June 2014  
Mid Winter Celebrations - Rangataua  
Tina Bishop**

It was decided that we would go for a tramp to Blythe Hut. The weather was not very nice for up the mountain, so we got organized for a late start.....that got later because Warren's trusty Renault wouldn't start [later found to be the boot light shorting out – Ed]. No worries, we transferred our gear into Richard's vehicle and dropped Warren's now flat battery into the Ohakune garage where we ran into Lew and Jenny.

It was rather chilly getting out of the car but once we headed off up the track we soon warmed up. The Waitonga Falls were looking awesome as usual, Woody seemed to think at 39m it's the highest in the North Island, it is in fact the highest in the Tongariro area [Or not - Ed].

Across the river we went without getting wet feet, in fact we all managed to keep our feet

dry for the numerous crossings we did. Around the corner there was another waterfall which Richard and Warren explored while the rest of us carried on. About half an hour past the waterfalls the bush opened out into rocky mountain terrain. It had started to rain and was very cold but the hut was not far away. Just before Blythe hut is Lupton Hut, a private hut owned by Wanganui High School complete with Axminster carpet!

Lew stoked up the fire in the hut as the embers were still hot from the last visitors. Some of us had a snack and some of us had an early lunch and a good old chat then we were off back down to the car park. We came across some interesting characters on their way to the waterfall in onesies, white sneakers, and full make up. It was of course the Mardi Gras this weekend so the young ones were getting a quick walk in before their big night.

All told our tramp was only about 3 hours so we went for a drive up to the ski field and had a quick wander where there were lots more people dressed up and it was extremely cold.



Jarneys and Jingles Party [Warren Wheeler]

Back at the hut (the nice cosy Pither holiday house) we stoked up the fire and started our feasting which went on until we decided to go for a wander around the streets in our Jarneys [aka P.J.s or pyjamas – Ed]. Here there were people on each corner waiting to be taken to town for the Mardi Gras while us mature people headed back and wandered off to bed.

Sunday dawned a beautiful day (typical!) and we finally got a good view of the Mountain. Lew and Jenny left early, Richard was off to a mountain bike race in Wanganui, while the rest of us headed back to Palmy via Ohakune Lake, Raetihi, and Wanganui. We lunched at a very grotty rugged beach on the south side of the Wanganui River mouth. Warren had a slight issue with his brakes sticking but he freed them up and we were off back to the

Manawatu [new rear brake cylinders now fitted – Ed].



*Gate Gnome at Rangataua [Warren Wheeler]*

A great weekend with lots of variety, thanks Warren [and thanks to our patron Sue Pither for the use of the house – Ed]

We were Warren, Richard, Woody, Tina, Llew and Jenny.

**5 July 2014**  
**Roaring Stag**  
**Karen Tutt**

After a relatively early rendezvous at Milverton Park, five of us in two cars headed to Eketahuna and then into the Tararuas via Putara Road. Kathy, Richard and I planned to walk to Roaring Stag Hut and back that day, while Warren and Graeme were going to stay overnight, and bag Cattle Ridge Hut.

The weather was damp and cold, but it only actually drizzled very briefly once or twice. The grey weather made the tall forest a dark green place. Though the track is easy to follow, the prevailing weather at this time of year had spawned a considerable amount of mud, giving the merry band of trampers ample opportunity to sing choruses of “mud, glorious mud”, and other songs of mud created on the spot from known ditties having nothing to do with mud. Despite all the mud, I managed to keep my feet dry, or at least no more than a bit

damp, for the entire day. At one crossing where the river was quite deep, just before we reached the hut, I thought, “it’s wet feet time now”, but my increasing fitness and agility, probably combined with a hefty dose of luck, allowed me to skip gracefully from rock to rock, all the way to the other side.

We walked 3½ hours in, rested for ¾ hour looking out at the Ruamahanga River, then walked 3½ hours out. The mud slowed our progress somewhat - that’s my excuse anyway. We were Richard, Karen, and trip leader Kathy.

**12-13 July 2014**  
**Mangahao Flats**  
**Janet Wilson**

I was really looking forward to this trip to one of only a few Tararua huts I have never visited and it would be my first to “bag” in our new club challenge.

Graham and I (and Bruce the dog) picked up Woody only a few minutes later than planned (8.30) due to a misunderstanding over where he lives. The drive to the upper dam isn’t all that far but the gravel road is slow and it seems a long way. There was a cold wind blowing where we parked and we were quickly into our boots and on our way.

With Bruce bounding on ahead, we headed up the 4WD track and onto the river bed where it was a bit muddy but quite quick travel. Graham noted that the grassy flats looked trampled by deer. When the river hit the TL bank we were forced in to the forest to avoid wet feet and soon picked up the track.

We reached the flash newish swing bridge across the main river in about an hour. Bruce looked at it with some trepidation but crossed with encouragement. The track goes up and down after this for some time to avoid gorges in the river. We stopped for lunch just before Harris Creek. It was quite cold and it was a quick break.

Closer to the hut we had the choice of a higher route or a lower one involving 2 river crossings. We went for the river which was cold and clear. The track is easier after that and near to the hut is a very easy walk. We got there in just under 5 hours, in time for afternoon tea and just as the proper rain started. Mangahao Flats Hut is large and we had it to ourselves.

Warren, Mike and Craig and Dobby the dog turned up some time after 4pm in the rain. They had had a later start as Craig worked earlier in the morning. We settled in for extended pre dinner shared nibbles. We tried out the new solar powered lantern (thanks to the LSAR quiz night) which was a great success suspended over the table. Mike kept me amused at bed time by attempting to sleep outside with Dobby who thought this was a great game and wouldn't leave him alone.

Next morning it was raining lightly and most of us walked out in parkas. I returned to the river bed to avoid the last of the track and lost the others who also lost me so there was some confusion I believe. I was back at the dam well before the others. We then drove to Shannon where we enjoyed an afternoon tea of freshly baked pies and hot drinks in the cafe.



*Janet helping Bruce the dog cross the new Mangahao bridge [Warren Wheeler]*

Thanks for another friendly sociable trip. We were Graham Peters (leader), Craig and Mike Allerby, Warren Wheeler, Woody Lee, Janet Wilson (scribe), Bruce and Dobby.

**19 July 2014  
Snowcraft 1  
Geoff Phillips**

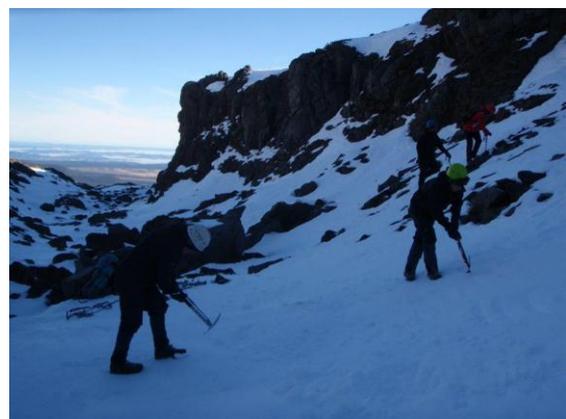
7.30am, we turned left at National Park to see the sun just hitting the upper slopes of Mt Ruapehu. After leaving Palmerston North at 4.00am it was our lucky day; the weather was on our side.

It was by no means perfect snow conditions for our learning experience but brilliant in plenty of other ways.

We were walking by 8:30am; stopped near Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club Lodge to

fit our crampons for the first time and tested our newly found faith in them. It was good to walk on snow and ice that would otherwise see you in a compromised heap at the bottom of any slope.

Us nine novices were carefully directed by our three specialists who taught us about each foot placement. They took us up through the "cookies and cream" as Bruce described it (snow and lots of rocks). By now we were under the old National Downhill chairlift where we found some steep slopes to climb with our newly learnt skills. We cut steps with our ice axes and kept all ten points of our crampons in the snow.



*Practising step cutting [Terry Crippen]*

Soon it was lunch time. We sat in the sun looking north east across to Mt Ngauruhoe with Mt Tongariro sitting next to it. To our west in the far distance was Mt Taranaki and behind us, not so far above, was the top of Mt Ruapehu. The four peaks looked spectacular.



*Learning how to self-arrest [Terry Crippen]*

Next came the skill of self-arresting. We had to be able to stop on a slope after slipping or falling; an essential skill for survival. The slope was short but good enough to practise on. After much throwing ourselves down onto the

snow and with only one cut chin we were all feeling a little jaded. Our tutors seemed happy enough so we moved off and enjoyed the walk back down to the cars.

After a short debrief at Taihape we arrived back in Palmerston North at around 7.00pm.

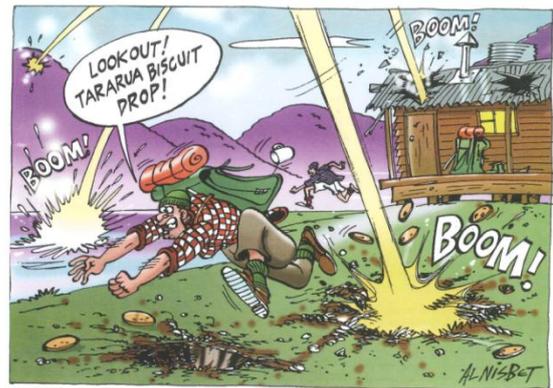
This day was very successful due to first class organisation. It started with introductions on the previous Wednesday evening when we all met to size our crampons and collect an ice axe which the club supplies. Correct personal gear for the Saturday was essential. A big thank you to Terry Crippen, Bruce Van Brunt and Dwight Swanson for all their efforts. They are a real credit to the club with a huge knowledge and expertise in these skills. The participants were Graeme Richards, Geoff Phillips, Kathryn Palmer (club members) and Paul Singh, Stefan Thompson, Ype de Jong, Nicholas Allen, Ivan Cortes and Stella Rojas.

#### Now, see it on Youtube

Check out the Snowcraft action on the video done by one of the students:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vG8s6UUVLE>

It is also on Facebook on the Palmerston North Tramping And Mountaineering group site.



Al Nisbet, The Press (Christchurch)

March 2005 • FMC Bulletin

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## Tararua Biscuits Recipe

From Terry Crippen, by popular demand, here it is (all quantities approximate):

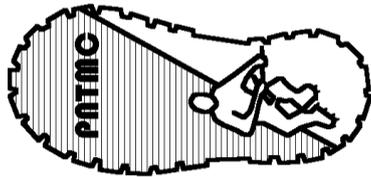
570 grams rolled oats  
(I use about half'n'half fine oats and coarse oats to give them a better texture rather than all fine or all coarse.)  
340 grams flour  
230 grams sugar  
230 grams butter  
½ heaped teaspoon of salt  
1 to 2 heaped Tablespoon of Golden Syrup or similar.

Melt butter and rub into rolled oats, flour, sugar and salt. Add warmed Golden Syrup and mix. Add enough water to make softish dough. Roll out until about 6mm thick. Cut into rounds using an upside down glass. Bake in an oven (180 to 200 degree C) 30 to 40 mins or until lightly brown and firmish.

This will make about 45 biscuits. Double up the quantities since you will find yourself testing them day by day before your trip(s) starts. They are excellent to take on extended or even shorter trips, as they are very robust and keep well. Eat them on their own or with butter, jam, honey as spreads. Three or four biscuits are a good quantity for lunch (together with salami, cheese).

P.S. Don't over cook them since they will become too hard on cooling and you may end up with a sprained jaw.

P.P.S. While they are known as Tararua Biscuits down this way, in some clubs further north (i.e. AUTC, which I belonged to when at university) they were know as *Ivans*, named after Ivan Pickens (I assume) who presumably dreamed up/introduced the recipe to AUTC bods back in the 1940s.



Palmerston North  
Tramping and  
Mountaineering  
Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217,  
Palmerston North

## PNTMC Newsletter August 2014

### *What's inside this month?*

- Upcoming Photo Competition
- Taranua Hut Bagging Competition – new Rule
- Club Gear for Hire
- Queens Birthday “Coastal Classic”
- Wellington Skyline Walk
- Mid-Winter Celebrations
- Taranua trips to Mangahao Flats and Roaring Stag
- Snowcraft 1 Report
- Coming trips and more

### **Articles for the newsletter**

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

**Get out and about with us!**

**Sender: PNTMC  
PO Box 1217  
Palmerston North**

### PNTMC Contacts

President	Dave Grant	323 7788
Vice President	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Secretary	Terry Crippen	356 3588
Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	358 6894
	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Gear Custodian	Terry Crippen	356 3588
	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Trip Co-ordinator	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588