



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz
P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2019



This photo [taken by Anthony Behrens] is on our Tramping for Beginners Poster. Details of the Tramping for Beginners series along with many other trips are detailed in the upcoming PNTMC Trip Card for July to December 2019.

Club Nights

Club nights are held on the second and last Thursday of the month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15 pm for a cuppa before start at 7.30pm. All welcome.

11 July 2019

Our Back Door

Catherine Jackson

Join us for some “armchair tramping” in our local tramping area. Catherine has made some SmartPhone movies for us to enjoy. Come along in boots and tramping gear – Catherine will bring along suitable tramping fare to be consumed while we pretend to be expending calories instead.

25 July 2019

Via Ferrata – The Iron Road

Peter Chamberlain

Recently, while in Europe, I managed to get in a few days climbing in Austria, via ferrata style. This is where you harness yourself to a cable that is bolted to a rock face that would normally only be accessible to very skilled rock climbers. It was a bit of a bucket list trip where I managed four climbs with plenty of talking to myself through the knee knocking parts. This is a very popular type of climbing in Italy and Austria that anyone with an interest in climbing couldn't help but get excited about. I'll present how the trip went for me which may be useful for others considering having a go.

Upcoming Trips

6 July (Saturday)

Otangane Loop **M**
Anne Lawrence **357 1695**

This route provides opportunity to get to the tops without going far from Palmerston North. After taking the Sledge Track up the Kahuterawa to the Platinum Mines junction and the Toi Toi Loop, this track follows a loop around the southern branch of the Otangane Stream with a short diversion to the top of The Nipple aka Otangane. Depart from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

6-7 July

Powell-Jumbo **M**
Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

Let's be some of the first to stay in the new Powell Hut, with twinkling night-time views out over Masterton and other towns in the Wairarapa. Hopefully there will be some snow on the tops between Powell and Jumbo Hut. Ice axe and crampons advisable. Depart Milverton Park at 8am.

10 July (Wednesday)

Snowcraft 2 Briefing Night
Dieter Stalman **027 450 9460**

Booking essential. See details in Snowcraft Notice below.

13-14 July

Snowcraft 2 **T**
Dieter Stalman **027 450 9460**

Booking essential. See details in Snowcraft Notice below.

14 July

Pohangina Walkways **E**
Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

Explore the easy walks in the Pohangina Valley. Options include Fern Walk, Old Coach Road, Totara Reserve, Kahikatea Walk. Depart 8.00am from Milverton Park.

20-21 July

Mid-winter celebration **All**
Janet Wilson **329 4722**

Come along and celebrate mid-winter hopefully with some snow at Janet and Graham's Apiti abode. Social Climbers Tunupo on best weather day. BYO food and drink for a winter BBQ on Saturday night.

27-28 July

Snowcraft 3 **T**
Dieter Stalman **027 450 9460**

Booking essential. See details in Snowcraft Notice below.

27 July (Saturday)

Blue Range Hut **E/M**
Woody Lee **021 044 4552**

A trip to the eastern Tararuas between Pukaha Mt Bruce and Masterton. We could have lunch at the picnic table overlooking the northern tops and then return the same way. An afternoon break at the Mt Bruce café is an option. Depart from Milverton Park at 8.30 am.

3-4 Aug

Blyth Hut **Family**
Elly Arnst **022 682 3136**

An easy winter jaunt to Blyth Hut on Mt Ruapehu - a great spot with mountain views and a good fireplace. Plenty of icicles and stream crossings along the way (we should be able to keep our feet dry) and possibly even some snow if we're lucky. Contact me if you're interested - departure time flexible.

3 or 4 Aug (Best Weather Day)

Atene Skyline Walkway **M**
Anne Lawrence **357 1695**

The start of the walk is on the Whanganui River Road, 36 km from Whanganui. The track starts with a steep climb from the River Road to a height of 260 m. It then follows an old, gently graded roadline for approximately 3 km to the Taumata Trig, the highest point of the track at 572 m. The track then winds around the edge of sandstone bluffs to reach Taupiri Trig before descending steeply back to the River Road. Weather permitting, expect spectacular views of the Whanganui River, Mt Ruapehu, Mt Taranaki/Egmont, the Tasman Sea, and the Whanganui River's tributary valleys. Depart from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

Trip Grading

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

**BWD = Best weather day of a weekend
 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.

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:

Anne & Martin Lawrence 357 1695
 Graeme Richards 353 6227

Notices

New Editor

Anne Lawrence takes over as Newsletter Editor from 1 July 2019. Many thanks to Warren Wheeler for the sterling job he has done as editor for a number of years. Thankfully for Anne, Warren will carry on in a back-up capacity as Sub-Editor.

Iron Gates Hut Replacement Delayed

NZ Defence Force now plan to commence work in September 2019; a start date is yet to be confirmed. In the meantime, the hut remains open for use.

Library display

Don't miss our display in the Central Library. Winning photos from recent club photo competitions will be on display during the first three weeks of July.

PLBs

The club has two personal locator beacons (PLBs) for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence on 357 1695. There is

no cost to use these. This applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.



Find us on

facebook

<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

Snowcraft Programme



Learn safe mountaineering skills with us this winter. Why put aside your tramping boots just because it's winter and there is snow on the top of the local ranges? Have you been wanting to do some South Island tramping that involves crossing snow covered passes? Do you want to learn the skills of basic snow and ice climbing using the correct equipment?

Learn new skills or upgrade your current ones by enrolling in PNTMC's Snowcraft Instruction programme.

29-30 June

Snowcraft 1 (SC1):

The Basics

Enjoy the alpine snow slopes? Are you confident that you understand the special requirements of travelling safely on snow? Learn to confidently walk on snow, use an ice axe, cut steps and use crampons. What if I fall? Master self-arresting and more...

13-14 July

Snowcraft 2 (SC2):

Building on the Basics

Learn the important skills of rope work, anchors, belays and the basics of snow and ice climbing. Begin the rudiments of alpine climbing and avalanche awareness.

27-28 August
Snowcraft 3 (SC3):
Alpine Climbing - extend your skills

Get a more complete set of skills for alpine climbing. Practice makes perfect. Tackle the snow slopes, glaciers and peaks. Prepare yourself for the magic of the Southern Alps.

Interested?

Each level is a prerequisite for the next. However, some participants may find completing SC1, or the first two levels, adequate for their intended outdoor activities. Others may want to advance through SC3 and beyond. Some may wish to do SC1 this winter and SC2 next winter, or refresh their skills. Some people with previous snow or alpine experience may enter at SC2.

Wednesday Briefing Sessions

Note that on the Wednesday preceding each weekend there will be an Intro and Briefing-Ropework Evening held at the Quakers Hall, 227 College St, PN.

Costs for each weekend

Members	\$90
Non-members	\$100

(Deduct \$25 if using your own transport).

The fee covers weeknight venue, transport (if required), gear hire, accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights and instruction. Meals will be your own responsibility.

For more information please visit our website [Snowcraft](#) page or contact the course organisers Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460, or Grant Christian 021 117 6921.

PNTMC Challenge 2019

Huts and High Places Challenge
AGM 2019 to AGM 2020

The PNTMC Challenge 2019 aims to inspire you to visit new places, support our club and have fun in the hills.

Similar to last year, there are points to be earned for visits, bonus points for new

places and bonus points if you are on a PNTMC trip.

To add more challenges to the fun, past and present committee members have added their own challenges. Points for these can only be earned once.

Points for huts and high places

Visit to DOC or NZAC hut	1 point
Visit a named high point	1 point

Bonus points for each hut or high point

If a club trip	1/2 point
If your first visit	1/2 point

Bonus points for Committee Challenges

For a bonus of 5 points (once for each challenge):

- Warren's Challenge: Pack float or swim a pool on a river.
- Anne's Challenge: Go on a club organised beginners trip.
- Janet's Challenge: Participate as a volunteer on a stoat trapping line in the Ruahines.
- Grant's Challenge: Summit Tahurangi - Mt Ruapehu.
- Martin's Challenge: Visit Ngamoko or Mid Pohangina Hut.
- Graeme's Challenge: Visit 4 huts on a trip.
- Bruce's Challenge: Camp above 2000m - not near a hut.
- Committee Challenge: Hut warden at Rangitikei Hut.
- Woody's Challenge: Bring a new tramping gear item on a club trip.

Points are to be gained fairly while visiting the DOC estate and in the spirit of the Challenge - talk to a committee member if in doubt.

There is no restriction on how you can get to these places i.e. helicopters, boats, bikes etc acceptable.

You can update your points by entering trip details, places visited etc in the online spreadsheet. Contact Martin if you have any problems with this.

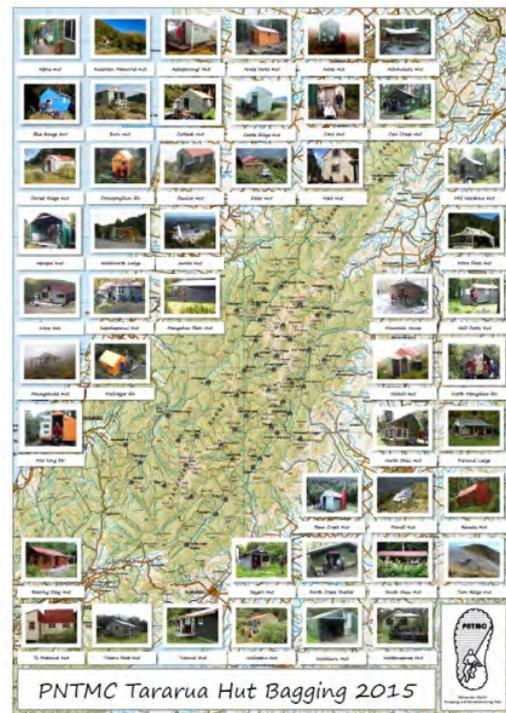
Current Points Tally

Chris Tuffley has caught up to Janet and they are currently tied for top score but Michelle is racing to catch up and Ernie and Elly are not too far behind. Join in the fun and see your points add up over the next 10 months. Scores as at mid-June are:

Club Member	Huts	High points	Bonus	TOTAL
Chris T	17	8	10	35
Janet	14.5	5.5	15	35
Michelle	5	3	18	26
Ernie	9.5	6	10	25.5
Elly	12.5	6	5	23.5
Graham	9	3	10	22
Mary	7.5	4	5	16.5
Warren	9.5	2	5	16.5
Grant	9	0	5	14
Woody	5	1	5	11
Richard	5	3.5	0	8.5
Annett	3	2.5	0	5.5
Anne	3	1	0	4
Martin	3	1	0	4

Order your copies directly from the editor Doug Strachan (ph 353 6526) and get ready to put your feet up with this great read, all for only \$35.

PNTMC Hut Bagging Posters



PNTMC Jubilee Book



Old Boots & Packs - The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club (PNTMC) will interest and amuse mountain users, historians, photographers, hut baggers and tree huggers. Read about current and past members' exploits, which include climbing our highest peaks (sometimes with boots on the wrong feet) and powering a car on white spirits cooking fuel.

Posters are still available for both the Ruahine Huts and Tararua Huts that were produced following our Hut Bagging Challenge in 2012 and 2015 respectively.

Size	Cost for Members	Cost for Non Members
A2	\$8	\$12
A1	\$16	\$24

Postage with tube is about \$15 extra depending on where it is being sent.

Proceeds from poster sales go towards the club's maintenance of Mid-Pohangina Hut and Ngamoko Hut in Ruahine Forest Park. Contact Warren (06) 356 1998.

New Members

Want to Join the Club?

Just fill in the Membership Application (available at club nights and on our website) and pay the subs. Enquiries to Warren (06) 356 1998.

Trip Reports.

1-3 June 2019

Queen's Birthday Weekend 2019:

'Taking on the Southerly'

Report: Janet Wilson

Photos: Martin Lawrence

This year, instead of heading off to somewhere sheltered from the South, it was decided to really "Take on the Southerly" by heading to the south coast of the North Island. Leading up to the weekend I was very optimistic about the forecast - just what I was after - some calm followed by a storm.



Graham, Richard, Warren, Bruce dog and I headed off early from Richard's Feilding home on the Friday, via an interesting "tour de drains" route out towards Foxton - commentary on past flood events courtesy of Warren. There was heavy rain and surface flooding on the way south but once we were over the Paekakariki Hill the sky cleared and a fine Wellington day was revealed. We stopped at a garden centre cafe for lunch (not memorable), and at a Wainuiomata supermarket for more supplies including ice cream. Three phone calls to various DOC offices en route were needed to determine if the fridge at the house was a fridge freezer, and indeed it was. A short while later we arrived at our destination - DOC's bookable Coast Rd Cabin. This is located very close to the Catchpool entrance of the Remutuka Forest Park and turned out to be, as advertised, very suitable for a big group. It is a standard 3-bedroom house that probably once was staff accommodation.

To make the most of the remaining day, we soon were off to the coast where it was a calm and warmish. We enjoyed a walk

eastwards to the Turakirae Scientific Reserve (*Bruce - "they left me behind in the ute behind barking sadly"*), hoping to see seals and the earthquake terrace beaches. It is a well-signposted trail which also is part of the "Wild Coast Track". Warren went far enough to see some seals - the other 3 of us nearly did but with the days being so short it was soon time to head for home. It would be good to go back for a longer visit to this interesting area. Warren and Richard cooked dinner. Anne and Martin arrived later in the evening. (*Bruce - "I had to sleep out in the back of the ute and the duck shooters really scared me early next morning"*).

Next morning dawned fine and warmish again (a brisk Northerly blowing) - the six of us decided to make the most of the day and headed up and over the hills to Baring Head lighthouse (*Bruce - "they left me behind again!"*) This is again a well signposted farmland walk that starts a short drive from our accommodation.



Looking east from Baring Head

The views towards Wellington harbour were great and we spent some time watching ships come and go. We passed by the remains of gun emplacements before heading down across the paddocks to the lighthouse. Most of the area was closed for renovations but you could get close enough. It was a nice feeling to be on one of those special bits of NZ land that was a new place to most of us - the one to the east as you approach the Wellington harbour heads on the ferry. As we completed the loop back to the car we met up with Jenny and Llew Pritchard who were just starting out in the opposite direction.



The lighthouse at Baring Head

Jo and Lawrence had arrived when we got back to the house for lunch, Yvonne and Sally arrived a little later in the afternoon. As predicted the weather turned rather suddenly to the South over lunch time - so those of headed off walking in afternoon had a much colder experience. Yvonne, Sally and I stayed in and started the 1000-piece jigsaw.

The roast dinner went in early which turned out to be fortuitous - the southerly storm strengthened as night fell - and the power went off. There were no candles so a candlelit dinner was off and as only some of the vegetables were cooked, we feasted on baked potatoes and roast meat sandwiches. The power did come back on in time for dessert but then went again so everyone had an early night.



Well wrapped up to face the southerly

We were pleased the power was there on Sunday morning - it was still blowing hard from the south but not raining. After a long breakfast we all (Bruce - "except me") headed out into the wind - a coastal walk to Baring Head. The sea was quite spectacular with large waves and lots of white foam - it was a very exhilarating walk.

We went back to the house for lunch. The weather deteriorated in the afternoon and some braved the bush tracks while others put serious time into the jigsaw. A nice social evening.

We packed up on Monday morning - some of us headed around to the Days Bay side of the harbour for a short walk down the coast - there were crowds of mountain bikers (Bruce again "so I had to stay on my lead") enjoying the clear post storm weather. Richard found fellow model railway enthusiasts giving rides at their park nearby so we stopped for a quick look before heading home.



A nice sociable weekend with plenty of walks and weather thrown in - we really did "Take On The Southerly". Thanks to everyone for bringing food for the shared meals and for the good company.

8-9 June 2019 Murderers Hut

Bruce's trip to Murderer's Hut was a bit of a mix and match affair. Altogether nine people went. Five people stayed overnight, and four made it into a day trip with two of these biking rather than walking in. All had a good time. Read the reports below to find out more!

Ellis Hut by MTB Report and photos: Chris Tuffley

So there I am, happily thinking I ticked off my last Ruahine hut five years ago...until one day Bruce walks into my office and says "So Chris, have you been to Ellis Hut?"

"Ellis Hut? Where's that?"

Ellis Hut, it transpires, sits outside the Ruahine ranges but just inside the park, the park boundary running just metres away from it down the middle of a logging road with plantation pine growing on the opposite side. Built in 1884 with hand dressed timber - a disappearing art even then - it's the oldest hut in the park, and to Bruce's evident delight bears the nickname "Murderer's Hut", having served as murder suspect Jack Ellis's refuge and scene of his eventual capture in 1904. It can be reached from the Makaroro River via the Yeoman's Track, an old log-hauling route dating to the 1920s which is open to mountain bikes. And no, I haven't been there. Damn.

Fast forward several months, and Bruce is taking a club trip to Ellis Hut for the night. I hatch a plan to join him for the day by mountain bike, making a loop of the Yeoman's Track using some forestry roads and doing a side trip on foot to Poutaki Hut - another less-visited hut I've only heard of recently, but one that sits squarely outside the park, in the Wakarara range to the east. Christian's keen to join me for the ride, and Wendy and Sishu want to walk the Yeoman's Track as a day trip, so we have a full car. Saturday rolls around and we're off!, leaving earlier than Bruce's trip so we have plenty of time to make it to the hut and back before dark.

On reaching the road end Christian discovers he somehow has a flat tyre from the drive...but makes short work of fixing it, and soon we're crossing a chilly Makaroro River to the start of the track, a rainbow hanging low in the sky to the south. A confusing conversation ensues with a hunter who asks if we have a permit for Poutaki - why would we need a permit to visit a DoC hut?? - then we part ways with Wendy and Sishu, leaving them to walk the Yeoman's Track while we ride off in the opposite direction along the forestry roads to the Poutaki Track.

Leaving the bikes at the end of Leatherwood Road we climb the steep track to the top of the Wakarara Range, calves burning as we ascend. The summit of Poutaki is marked by a radio tower and a decaying trig; the trig has been all but

swallowed by the scrub, which has its sights clearly set on the radio mast for its next meal. The weather has somehow managed to be windy, drizzly, cloudy and sunny all at the same time on our way up, but turns properly sunny for us as we drop the short distance down the eastern side to Poutaki Hut.



The hut is tidy and well looked after. We have a quick peruse of the hut book and lunch in the sun looking out over the Hawkes Bay plains, then retrace our steps back to the top of the range, where the weather is still running the gamut from drizzle to sun. We must have just happened to be on the sheltered side at the hut. The rainbow is still arching across the sky to the south as we make our way back down the western side of the range to the bikes. As we descend the penny finally drops: the hunter must have been asking if we had *hunting* permits!



We reach the bikes two and a half hours after leaving them: an hour up, an hour down, and half an hour at the top for lunch. A twenty minute ride along smooth wide forestry roads takes us to Ellis Hut, where we're greeted by Bruce and his crew who are now in residence. Wendy and Sishu are already on their way back along the Yeoman's track. The hut's dark inside - no Vistalite roofing in the nineteenth century! -

but it's well conserved and the workmanship is impressive. Bruce offers us a hot drink, and we linger a while, chatting and enjoying the feeling of having stepped back in time.



When we step outside to ride on again the rainbow has disappeared, and the weather's made up its mind to have a proper go at raining. Jackets on we ride a few hundred metres further up the road then exit on to the Yeoman's Track. It's a nice change from the forestry roads, narrow, winding and surrounded by native bush, instead of wide, straight and lined with pines. It's a pleasant ride, well graded and with only the odd short steep rutted section (whoops wrong gear!) or tree down across the track where we have to hop off and push or heft our bikes. But it's dark under the trees - three pm on a winter's afternoon with thick cloud overhead will do that - and with the occasional obstacle across the track I'm reluctant to get up much speed.

Fifty minutes' ride takes us the seven or so k back to the junction where we'd arranged to meet Wendy and Sishu. The rain's stopped. They're already there waiting for us in the shelter of the trees, having made good time along the Yeoman's track. Christian and I roll on ahead of them down the track to the river and wade back across to the car. The water isn't any warmer than this morning. This time I push my bike across instead of carrying it, but soon wish I hadn't, as the swift current pushes and tugs at it, trying to wrest it from my grip. A group selfie at the car, then we hop in and are on our way home again...and so there I am, once more happily thinking I've ticked off my last Ruahine Hut - at least until Bruce

manages to dredge up some other obscure hut I haven't heard of, that is!

Murderers Hut overnight

Report: Nicola Wallace

Photos: Chris Tuffley

The five of us in Bruce's Rav4 arrived at the road end, right by the Makaroro River, at about 10.30am on a cloudy Saturday. The day-trippers had arrived before us; we were the hardy overnights. We put on our river-crossing footwear and were straight away into the knee-deep water and strong current. Just as well it wasn't all that cold, as I took my time getting across. Soon after, we changed into our dry boots, and I stashed my wet sandals behind a tree.

A short way up the track there was a great view of the braided Makaroro from above. Soon we were onto Yeomans track, and the going was easy and pleasant, but I was held up by a collection of Waratah-like posts by a river crossing – they were very close together and I had to remove my pack and pass through it sideways, as I had a sleeping mat strapped on. Along the way there were signs, and while I didn't want to lose the others by stopping and reading, I managed to glimpse that logging had ceased in the area in 1961.

The bush was mostly beech, with some natives (don't ask me what kind) and a good number of tall Cabbage trees. Tomtits (the vibrant black and white males) were occasionally spotted. We passed an old sawmill site with chimney remains, and in less than 2 hours we came across 2 other club members who'd just walked to the hut and were now on their way back. "How far's the hut?" I asked. "Just around the corner". And so it was: Murderers hut sitting right by the road, with pines across the road.

You might imagine that being right by the road, the hut would get lots of visitors, but not so, because these are forestry roads, and permission is needed from the forestry company before you can enter with your vehicle. It wasn't long before we had visitors though: Chris and Christian on their MTBs who had already visited Poutaki Hut.

Murderers Hut is beautiful in an historical way – dark and woody, with many names carved into the living room wood. The bedroom had 4 bunks, and the door had lots of ventilation gaps here and there. There was an enormous fireplace, which we didn't make use of as someone pointed out that the fire probably wouldn't draw well and we'd all end up smoked into oblivion.



After lunch at the hut, Fiona and I wandered the nearby forestry roads, as light rain set in. It was lovely to wander slowly along on a soft carpet of brownly-orange pine needles on the road.



Bruce, Penny and Fiona elected to sleep outside, despite the drizzly weather, while Ernie and I spent the night in. And it was a very quiet night, with not even a rodent

visitor thank goodness. I went outside just after 11pm, the cloud had all gone and it was wonderfully starry. Same for my 5.30am outing, but this time moreporks were calling. I could hear 3 birds, all at different distances, the closest just across the road.

It wasn't till it got light that I realised how cold it was, as I have a very warm sleeping bag. There was a good frost and frozen puddles at the roadside. The 3 intrepid outdoor sleepers all reported sound slumber, despite the cold. We didn't hurry over breakfast, and left the hut at about 8.45am, taking a different route today, walking back along the forestry roads.

At intervals, there were large broken pine branches across the road, still with green needles, so they must have been recent fall. On looking up at the nearby trees though, we couldn't tell where the branches had fallen from. The day was very sunny with not a cloud in the sky, and at one point we had a view of the snowy Ruahine peaks. We also walked along some very long straights, with tall pines on each side, our voices taking on an echoing quality.

When we got down to a bridge across Dutch Creek, Bruce, Fiona and Penny elected to take a shortcut back to the car, as a loop in the creek brings you very close to the Makaroro near the parking area. Ernie and I went back by the road. I found my sandals still behind the tree, and we arrived back at Bruce's 4WD about 20 minutes after the others. They reported that the river shortcut was very good, though there was one tricky bit. We left before 11am and bought lunch at the BP in Dannevirke. It was cold and no-one wanted to eat outside, so we ate our lunches on the go. We arrived back at our homes in various locations in the early to mid-afternoon, after a really enjoyable and pleasantly easy tramp.

Thanks to Bruce for all the driving!

We were: Bruce van Brunt (trip leader and driver), Penny Abercrombie, Ernie Cook, Fiona Burleigh and Nicola Wallace.

9 June

Maharaha Crossing

Report and photo: Janet Wilson

On a pleasant fine winter Sunday Michelle and I did a quick day trip up Maharaha and on to Matanginui. Maharaha shed its normal cloudy cap for the whole day but despite this the wind up high was chill and we didn't hang around for long once at Matanginui.

A quick lunch and hot drink was had in the shelter of the leatherwood. I hadn't been up there for several years and I was pleased to find that the track is in good, largely clear condition. Beyond Maharaha there are a couple of awkward drops but nothing like the overgrown mess it was some years ago. There were tantalising views of Kiritaki Hut - another day.



Michelle at the Maharaha viewpoint

We were rather surprised to find a couple of young French women climbing up as we came down - I suppose it's not the place I expect to find tourists!

Thanks to Michelle for coming along and for putting up with a rather circuitous route to Opawe Rd.

We were Michelle Benton and Janet Wilson (leader and scribe).

15-16 June 2019

Iron Gate Applied Tramping

Report and photos: Warren Wheeler

The mission of this trip was to complete the monthly rebait of the traps into Iron Gates Hut from Heritage Lodge as well as those up the ridge above the hut (Saturday) and rebait those down from Heritage Lodge to the Oroua Campsite as well as back out to the roadend (Sunday). I have done this a few times before but for Michelle it was all new, starting with instruction by Janet on how to clear and rebait a trap thanks to an obliging dead rat in the trap beside Heritage Hut. It should be noted that an advantage of the cooler months is that decomposition is slower, making clearing them more pleasant. Either that or the recent cooler wet days meant that resident rodents are now looking for nice warm dry shelter.



Michelle rebaits her first trap

Unfortunately, rebaiting the trap line into Iron Gates Hut is weather dependent, which can be problematic for the volunteers doing the job each month. Fortunately, the

rain over the last few days had eased off on Friday, but the two side streams were still up a bit. In particular, at Tunupo Stream the three of us decided to link up, which made the crossing quite easy, with the water just over knee deep. Even Bruce the dog quickly swam across without too much coaxing.

Light drizzly mizzle seemed to be hanging around more than forecast and made for a good test of raingear languishing after our long dry summer - mine sorely in need of waterproofing it seems. It was nice to warm up in the hut thanks to the wood-burner stove and a ready supply of dry wood thanks to DOC recently clearing trees from behind the hut. They had done this in preparation for the new hut build but this has now been postponed until after winter. The same team of tree fellas have also done a great job of clearing the track all the way out.



Leaving Iron Gates hut

Heading out on Sunday we had similar damp weather conditions but the rivers had definitely dropped overnight. We set off at a leisurely 9.30am with a view to checking the traps for any overnight kill. Surprise, surprise, within 10 minutes we came across a fresh dead rat and then noticed a real live rat running around in the trees just below us. It got a hurry up from a few stones and let go or fell off to disappear out of sight. Apparently, it is common knowledge that some 50% of rats live virtually all their lives off the ground, but that was the first one I had ever seen. Another couple of traps also had fresh rats making a total tally for the weekend of 35 rats and one weasel, caught, ironically, in the trap next to the start of the Stoat

Trappers Track down to Iron Gates Gorge itself. Not a bad result from just over 100 traps. Sign of a beech mast year? It will be interesting to see how many are caught next month.

Participants were Janet Wilson, Michelle Benton, Warren Wheeler and Bruce the Dog.

Who Has Done What 2017-19

Compiled by Warren Wheeler.

Here is the (belated for 2017-18) "Who Has Done What" list for March 2017 to February 2019.

It is an attempt to keep a record of what club members get up to (the cumulative list now goes back to April 2000); and to enthuse people to do different trips.

It is also a list of who to contact for info about different places. It follows the same format as previous years: i.e. it excludes the usual shorter Tararua, Ruahine, TNP, ENP etc trips; and concentrates on trips further afield, overseas, and multi-day trips.

The listings are both private trips done by club members and longer club trips. Note that only members and past members names are listed (plus some others), so a single name doesn't necessarily imply a solo trip. As usual it is biased towards what club members have told me they have done. So no doubt there are many brilliant trips omitted.

NP = National Park

FP = Forest Park

CP/CA = Conservation Park/Area

WHEN	AREA	TRIP	ASCENTS	CLUB Members
March 2017	Mt Adams Wilderness	Perth, Gardens of Eden and Allah, down the Wanganui		Derek Sharp, Thomas Robertson
Autumn	North Island Main Range	Spine of the Fish		Anthony Behrens & Fiona Burleigh
June-August	Ukraine	Lviv, Poltava, Carpathians (tried to go up Hovraia)		Terry Crippen, Nina Nazaranko
June	Nelson Lakes NP	Hopeless and Cupola	Cupola 2260m, Hopeless 2278m (almost)	Malcolm Leary, Hannah and Mary Lund
July	Pumululu NP, Kimberley Western Australia	Bungle Bungles		Anne & Martin Lawrence
July-August	Northeast Passage - Cape Deznair (the most eastern most point in Eurasia) to Murmansk	Arctic Cruise		Peter Wiles
August	Dubai, France, Monaco, Holland	Paris, Nice, Dejon, Lyon, Delft, boat cruise (7 days Rhone and Seine rivers)		Peter and Janet Darragh
Sept-Oct	Nepal	Annapurna Sanctuary (13 day trek), Kanchenjunga Base Camp (26 day trek)		Jo and Lawrence O'Halloran
Oct-Nov	South Korea	Odaesan, Seoraksan, Naejangsan, Jirisan and Bukhansan NP		Woody & Jo Lee
Nov-Dec	South Island Mega Tramp	Milford, Routeburn, Greenstone, Kepler, Hooker Valley, West Coast, Arthurs Pass NP, St James Walkway, Doubtful, Nelson Lakes NP, Whangapeka	Mt Fyffe 1602m	Warren Wheeler, Esther Pothuis
December	Mt Cook NP	Sefton Biwy, Seally	Seally 2627m (almost)	Malcolm Leary
December	Arthurs Pass NP	Avalanche Peak	Avalanche Peak 1833m	Malcolm Leary
January 2018	Fiordland NP	Darren Mtns, Turners rock biwy	Madeline 2536m	Malcolm Leary (and guide)
January	Remarkables	Traverse over Single Cone and Double Cone, Rockclimbing at Wye Creek.		Malcolm Leary
January	Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair NP, Tasmania	Overland Track		Kathy Corner
January	Hokitika Ranges	Hut Hopping		Chris Tuffley
March	Nelson Lakes NP	Matakitaki & D'Urville Valleys		Chris Tuffley, Elly Armst
June	Stewart Island	Coastal Classic (Oban-based)		Janet Wilson and 9 other members
June	Iceland	Hornstradir		Stephen Legg & Kirsten Olsen
Northern Summer	France	Brittany and more by cycle tour		Lis & Arthur Todd
December	Kaikoura Ranges	Tapuaenuku	Tapuaenuku 2885m	Grant Christian
December	Lewis Pass	Lake Man		Grant Christian
December	Lewis Pass/Ada Valley	Gloriana	Gloriana Peak 2218m	Grant Christian
December	Lewis Pass	Nina Valley, Christabel, Doubtful		Chris Tuffley
December	Fiordland NP	Five Passes		Geoff Phillips
December	Mount Cook NP/Westland NP	Chancellor/Pioneer/Centennial Huts	Von Bulow 2600m, Moonlight 2700m, Lendenfield 3194m	Malcolm Leary, Mary & Hannah Lund, Ash Mellow
February 2019	Arthurs Pass NP	Three Passes		Chris Tuffley
February	Kahurangi NP	Mt Owen Traverse	Mt Owen 1875m	Hannah Lund
April	Two Thumb Range	Macaulay Valley	Ajax 2319m	Grant Christian, Annett Paetzold
April	Blue Mountains, NSW	Kanangra-Boyd		Chris Tuffley
April	Stewart Island	Rakiura Track, Mason Bay		Sue Pither
May	Fiordland NP	Kepler Track		Michelle Benton



PNTMC Newsletter

July 2019

What's inside this month?

- Snowcraft Programme – Enrol Now
- Club Challenge: Huts and High Places
- Trip reports , upcoming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

Send to Anne Lawrence,
the newsletter editor, via the club website
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.



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<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

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