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## Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

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

**Newsletter September 2019**

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*This photo was taken by Warren Wheeler during a mid-winter picnic. Read more about this inside in Warren's report on the club Mid-winter celebrations.*

### 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.

**12 Sept 2019**

**Whio Update**

**Janet Wilson**

More than a decade has passed since predator trapping for Whio Protection started in the Ruahines. The last few years have seen quite an expansion in trapping and volunteer involvement. Janet's talk will be from a volunteer's perspective focussing on recent years and celebrating the many hours put in by those volunteers who happen to our club members.

**26 Sept 2019**

**Beyond Snowcraft**

**Dieter Stahlman**

My wife didn't want to give me permission to do the mountains in winter without having done some kind of course. Good call on her behalf. I did the course, did some climbs, and joined the Snowcraft instructor team. Come along and watch a photo journal of the last few years' of Snowcraft courses.

## Upcoming Trips

### Sat 7 or Sun 8 Sept (BWD)

**Tahurangi** T&F  
**Grant Christian** 021 117 6921

We will travel to Ohakune the night before with the aim of climbing Tahurangi, Ruapehu's highest peak, from the Turoa side. You need to be confident in cramponing on icy terrain. Ice axe and crampons required.

### Sun 8 Sept

**Waiopahu Loop** F  
**Janet Wilson** 329 4722

A longish day walk with a good climb and quite a few high points to collect along the way. Expect a muddy track. If anyone was keen to lead a Plan B then another team could just head up to Waiopahu Hut and back as an easier option. Leaving Palmerston North 7am.

### Sat 14- Sun 15 Sept

**Mitre** M/F  
**Warren Wheeler** 356 1998

Mitre is the highest peak in the Tararua Forest Park, but not a difficult climb so well worth the visit. It is a leisurely 3-4 hours into Mitre Flats Hut on Saturday and then a 3 hour side trip up to the summit on Sunday before the long walk back out. Depart Milverton Park at 8.00am.

### Sun 15 Sept

**Rangi-Deadmans Loop** M  
**Trip leader needed**

Craig is unable to take this trip so a trip leader is needed – either for this trip or another destination if preferred. Please contact Anne if you are able to help.

### Sat 21 - Sun 22 Sept

**Waitewaewae Hut** M  
**Richard Lockett** 323 0948

Gateway to the upper Otaki River. Follow the old bush tramway up high up above the Waitatapia Stream before reaching Plateau and the decent back to the Otaki River and YTTY Hut for the night. Huts and high point points to be gained. Leaving Milverton Park 7.30am.

### Sat 21 or Sun 22 Sept (BWD)

**Taranaki** T&FE  
**Grant Christian** 021 117 6921

We will travel to the mountain the night before and stay in Konini Lodge if possible. I aim to climb to the summit the next day by the southern route, passing Syme Hut. The approach after Syme is reasonably steep and can be icy. It can be a serious undertaking for people new to climbing on snow. You need to be confident in crampons on steeper slopes. Ice axe and crampons required.

### Sat 28 - Sun 29 Sept

**Pine Pulling Posse Gordon Kear** E  
**Anthony Behrens** 027 470 9829

Visit the two new shelters (huts) on the Burttons Track section of Te Araroa. Whiona and Anthony will be walking in to the Motorimu Shelter on the Gordon Kear Forest for morning tea after parking their car at Scotts Road. Then they plan to go back to the car then drive around to the new shelter near Mangahao Dam where they will base themselves for the night. They will be going on to inspect and do gorse cutting on the track between Burttons Track and the shelter.

You are welcome to join them - either by walking through to the second hut from Motorimu, or coming with them in the car. Give Anthony a ring if you're interested and talk logistics.

### Sat 28 Sept or Sun 29 Sept

**Kaiparoro** E/M  
**Michelle Benton** 027 355 2532

I would prefer this trip to be a Saturday one...if you want Sunday let Michelle know and maybe she can adjust.

We will climb up to Kaiparoro trig (only 808m) and then head down a side-track to a 1952 air crash site and the grave of pilot RNZAF David Leary. Return on the same track. The track starts at the end of Kaiparoro Rd, near Mt Bruce with a crossing of the Makakahi River which I got across dry by virtue of 4WD last time... however it will be wet feet this time. Be prepared with river shoes maybe if you want to keep your boots and socks dry. Depart at 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

### 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.



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<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

## FMC News



### Top up supporters

FMC is inviting members to pay extra over and above their normal subs. Information about this is on the FMC site.

[https://www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Club\\_Guide\\_to\\_Top\\_Up\\_Supporters\\_20190813.pdf](https://www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Club_Guide_to_Top_Up_Supporters_20190813.pdf)

**Discounts** to FMC members are available from a number of providers. A list of these is available at

<https://www.fmc.org.nz/discount-card/>

### Scholarships

The Simon Bell Memorial Scholarship is also offered annually (applications closing 20 September 2019). The maximum scholarship available is \$1000. The scheme is open to members of affiliated or associated clubs of FMC, and also to individual supporters of FMC. The scholarship uses the same criteria as the FMC Youth Scholarship but is open to adventurers of any age, recognising that there is adventure within us all. To apply fill out an Expedition Scholarship application form and email it along with the supporting information to [eo@fmc.org.nz](mailto:eo@fmc.org.nz). Closing date for applications is **20 September 2019**.

## PNTMC Challenge 2019

### Huts and High Places Challenge AGM 2019 to AGM 2020

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.

19 club members are now on the points table. Janet is just ahead of Elly. Graham and Chris are close behind. Scores as at mid-August are as follows:

Club Member	Huts	High points	Bonus	TOTAL
Janet	26	10	15	51
Elly	23.5	14	10	47.5

Graham	17.5	8	10	35.5
Chris T	17	8	10	35
Ernie	12.5	7.5	10	30
Mary	14.5	9	5	28.5
Warren	18.5	5	5	28.5
Michelle	5	3	18	26
Hannah	10	14	0	24
Ash	5	12	0	17
Woody	10.5	1	5	16.5
Grant	8.5	0	5	13.5
Richard	5	3.5	0	8.5
Anne	4	4	0	8
Martin	4	4	0	8
Penny	1.5	2	0	3.5

## 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.

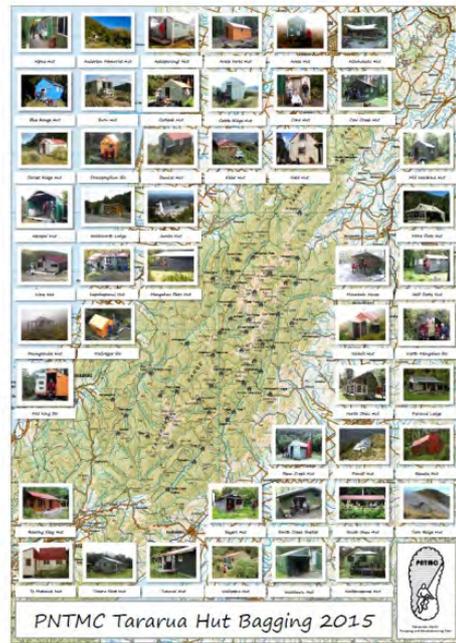
Order your copies directly from the editor Doug Strachan (ph 353 6526) and get ready to put your feet up with this great read, all for only \$35.

## PNTMC Hut Bagging Posters

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

Please welcome Chris Sanson who joins us from this year's Snowcraft Course.

### 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.

### Mid-Winter Celebrations 20-21 July 2019 Report by Warren Wheeler

A dodgy weather forecast did not deter a dozen members turning up at Janet and Graham's northern estate (aka Shed 99) for a (sort of) Samx-themed party starting mostly mid-Saturday afternoon. Before cabin fever and darkness set in the showers eased and we were able to head outdoors to try our hand at (mostly) one-armed gumboot throwing, although the head wind seriously affected aerodynamic performance. Calls for a Mid-winter Dip were answered half-heartedly, with only one taker opting to immerse his top half in the bath. Not as cold as Antarctica, but eh wot?



After that energy sapping exercise (not) it was time for dinner and the table was soon relieved of its wide range of BYO foods and BBQ'd meat. Dessert also appeared and likewise did not disappoint except for those who had not paced themselves on the first course. A large saucepan of Danish-style mulled wine or "GLØGG" brought a delicious taste of northern winter festive fare that was enjoyed by all. A number game broke up the din of conversation and this was followed by a melodious solo rendition of a Swedish Lullaby and a Hunter's version of Doe a Deer to help carry us off to dreamland.



Sunday was the forecast Best Weather Day and turned out beautifully. After bacon and eggs and what-have-you for breakfast we set about finding Umutoi high point, which is shown on the old NZ Topo maps but not on the new Topo 50. After much muttering and head scratching the GPS was reset to the old Coordinate System and the old coordinates duly loaded. Janet could not resist the opportunity to rebait the stoat traps up the Tunupo Line and Graham was tasked with introducing a new volunteer (Keith) to rebaiting the Oroua Campsite Line. But first we all made our way up the Tunupo track to find Umutoi 948m or, in deference to Sir Edmund Hillary's birthday the previous day, to "knock it off". While there was no sign of any trig or old iron tube we deemed the highest point, almost exactly where the GPS indicated, some 6m or so off the track, to be the found high point. To celebrate we spread out the picnic rugs and enjoyed elevenses of iced Xmas Cake (of unknown Use By Date), fresh Xmas muffins and some bubbly...amongst other goodies.

The party then split in two, with Janet leading up and Graham leading down. The uphill party cleared 3 rats and spotted kereru, waxeye and whiteheads to name but a few of the species that seem to be doing well thanks to the traps. At the bushline we stopped for a late lunch and despite the clear calm conditions we decided a rush on up to the Tunupo summit would leave us in the dark on the way home. Any disappointment evaporated when Stephen found a Tuatara in his pack, which we enjoyed a mouthful at a time.



Looking towards the north, Ruapehu appeared to be at the southern edge of clear weather but looking west and south it looked rather dark and foreboding. However, the fine weather continued until we got back to the shed and we didn't strike rain until approaching Palmy.

Thanks to Janet for organizing such a fun social event.

*Participating were Sally, Yvonne and Jo (Saturday) and Roy, Richard, Stephen and Kirsten, Bruce and Penny, Warren, Graham and Janet...and Bruce the dog.*

**Atene Skyline Walk  
Saturday 3rd August 2019  
Report by Nicola Wallace  
Photos by Martin Lawrence**

It was a fine day as we left Palmy at 7.28am, but gradually became cloudier as we approached Whanganui. Turning up the River Road, we entered a different world: heavy cloud and a couple of unusual sights including a bloke sitting in his car on the road, spinning his wheels on the wet surface and presumably enjoying the resulting smoke.

Just before the Atene carpark it began to rain heavily, which quickly turned to hail. Anne and Martin donned their coats on getting out, but took them off before we started the walk, as it immediately fined up.

The first part of the walk, in the wet, lush bush, was resplendent with Nikau palms, along with much supplejack. Temporarily emerging from the bush, we climbed the first hill in sunshine, and had first morning tea overlooking the Ahuahu Valley to the North, with a DOC sign and all. Now we walked on a wide, gently graded old road (built by the Ministry of Works in 1959), which presumably had something to do with the interest of developing a hydro scheme in the area. Thank goodness they didn't.



A lookout about an hour into the walk gives a really good view of Puketapu, and the wide former route of the Whanganui River can be clearly seen winding round the bottom of it. The easygoing road eventually became a tramping grade track, and we meandered uphill and downhill in the bush, looking at the sun beyond the trees, and nearly always accompanied by a fantail.



The bellbirds were keeping an eye on us too, but weren't so happy with our presence, as told by their metallic alarm calls high in the trees.

A while later I was starving hungry again and needed chocolate urgently. We looked at the map to work out where we were in relation to the clearing/campsite, I thought we still had about 1 km to go judging by the bends in the track. A lovely second morning tea was taken in dappled sunlight, just us and a fantail. Martin headed off just ahead, and a minute later his call was heard - we were at the clearing already!

This was a great spot for lunch in the sun, but first I checked out all the features of the campsite: a shelter with two bench seats, and a water tank. As for camping, you'd have to pick your spot carefully, as the ground was a little bumpy, and on a slope.

After lunch we headed East, then South towards Taumata Trig. Lots more hills, at the top of one there was a piece of pipe sticking up out of a rock. There must have been a trig here once, but not now. At Taumata Trig (the highest point on the walk at 572m ASL), there was just a sign. Because the trees have grown up in recent years, there wasn't much of a view.

The next official high point was Taupiri Trig, at 480m ASL. With so many hills before it, after a while I thought we must have been over it, and somebody had pinched (souvenired) the sign. But no, we did eventually get there. On this part of the track there were lots of Ratas, magnificent big trees, and one was even out in flower.



After Taupiri, it was all downhill, and lots of it was quite steep ("efficient" in Anne's words), but soon the bush opened up and there were good views of the sluggish, brown Whanganui River. The sun was still shining – what a fantastic day. Clearly it rains up here a lot, but the slipperiness wasn't a problem until we got down to the farm section, and then it was impossible for me to stay on my feet. Just when I was thinking that I would get back to the car unmuddied, I took a great slip and muddied my whole ass. Even Martin sipped into a gorse bush. It was a relief to get down to the road and walk the easy 2km back to the car.

The loop had taken us 6 hours and 35 minutes. We left the carpark at 4pm, and stopped at the 4Square on ANZAC Parade in Whanganui for late afternoon tea which we enjoyed despite the very cold wind blowing into the shop.

Many thanks to Anne and Martin for running this trip, and for all the driving.

*We were Anne and Martin Lawrence, and Nicola Wallace.*

### **Waitarere Beach Walk Saturday 10 August 2019 Report by Janet Wilson**

The weather forecast leading up to our planned beach walk on the 11th was not at all encouraging. To catch the best weather window we made a last minute change to the Saturday which as it turned out, suited more people.

We met at 8am and were away walking south from Waitarere towards Hokio Beach before 9am. The weather was unexpectedly nice - calm, cloudy and dry. Our first mission was to try to locate the remains of the Hyderabad. With some directions from a friendly local this was easy enough and as she had said, someone has been digging and part of the remains were visible in the sand dune.

Many people know about the Hyderabad, but it was a first visit for me. The Hyderabad

was a large impressive-looking 68m steel hulled, 3-masted sailing ship that was purposely run ashore after being damaged in a storm in 1878. Amazingly, all 34 people on board survived. A friend who grew up in Levin remembers climbing on and jumping from the wreck - that would be around 50 years ago. Today the remains are covered by the dunes which must be well forward of where they were back then.



We had a morning tea break a little further on. Catherine shared some very nice slice with the group which was much appreciated. Once at Hokio Beach, we had to find the start of our return route through the forest. Graham once again enlisted the help of another friendly local who led us to a rather damaged old bridge. Once carefully over, that we followed a rough track over open country until the forest edge. No signposts or markings here. From there we had the choice of a forest road or a more energetic walking trail/mountain bike or horse track to follow from here back to Waitarere.



A favourite cafe at Waitarere provided lunch and/or coffee for lunch and a couple of bargains were found at the nearby Op shop.

A lovely morning walk, with threatening skies but no rain until we left Waitarere. Thanks to Graham, Warren, John, Catherine and Bruce Dog for coming along.

### **Rangi Hut Sunday 18 Aug 2019 Report and pics by Doug Strachan**

Warren was the only person we had to meet on Sunday morning, so it made sense for him to drive to our place and then we would carry on to Rangi. However, Minami insisted we meet him at Milverton Park because "it's tradition". That is true, from her young person's perspective, but not for the club's veterans who, back in the day, met in what has become the Plaza Countdown supermarket's carpark. Anyway, we decided to hit Milverton early, so the kids could explore the newly opened playground. Then Warren arrived.

I told Warren I hoped our old 1996 Toyota would make it to Rangi and back. "Old?!" he replied. Once again, it's all relative, with our car being quite new compared with his. Conan travelled in Warren's Renault 12 to keep him company.



Both cars made it to the Rangi car park with ease. Alighting from our trusty vehicles, we were greeted by mild weather, no wind, and just a little icing sugar drifting down from above. We started walking bang on 10am and got to the bridge right on 11am. Temporally, a couple of swing bridges have preceded the current wooden arch-shaped bridge. When we posted some of this trip's photos of the bridge on Facebook, my

brother left the following comment: “35 years ago Betsy dog and I turned up at that bridge on our way to shoot deer above Triangle hut. Well it was a wire bridge then. The forest service guys had taken the sides off I guess to replace them. It was gusty. The bridge was swaying. There was Betsy half way across looking back to check I was coming. I waved her on and she made it across. On the way back we took the old zig zag track down into the gorge and up the other side. Hard with 2 boned out stags in your pack.” How many club members remember The Zig-Zag Track, and The Bulldozed Track?

50 minutes after we crossed the bridge, we were at the hut. The kids converted some big icicles into swords for fighting and simulated sword swallowing.



Not quite enough snow about for a life-size snowman, so they made a snow blob dude while Warren and I went about 30mins towards Mangahua before turning back in order not to keep the others waiting. Puddles we encountered on the track above the hut had ice about a cm thick on them. Crunch! Splish!



A quick trip out. Warren drove back via Rangiwahia and I via Apiti. Although we didn't collide at the junction where the two roads reunite, the travel times were nearly identical.

Ice creams at Cheltenham, another tradition.

*We were Natsume MacDonald (10), Warren Wheeler, the Strachan family (Doug, Maho, Minami [13], Conan [12]).*

## What's on our website?

### Tony's Tararuas

Almost 20 years ago, Tony Gates embarked on a labour of love - to write a series of articles for the PNTMC newsletter on his joy of the Tararuas. It began in April 1994 with a story called "Gorgeous Gorges". Over the following months a series of articles emerged featuring the various catchments of the Tararuas and the tramping to be offered within each area.

- Gorgeous Gorges
- The Mangahao catchment
- The Ruamahanga and Mangatainoka catchments
- The Ohau catchment
- The Otaki catchment
- The Waiohine and Park catchments
- The Southern Crossing

Of course, time has passed and some of the tracks and huts have become defunct or been downgraded. Nonetheless these pages are well worth a visit - read, learn and enjoy.



## PNTMC Newsletter September 2019

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

- Club Challenge update
- 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/>.

**Get out and about with us!**

Send to PNTMC  
PO Box 1217  
Palmerston North

### **PNTMC Contacts**

President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Vice President	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Secretary	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Webmasters	Peter Wiles	358 6894
	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Membership Enquiries	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Gear Custodian	Grant Christian	021 117 6921
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Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722
	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
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