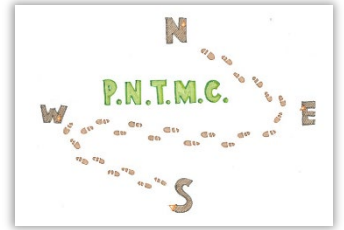


# PNTMC NEWS

www.pntmc.org.nz

3 April 2020

Covid-19 alert level 4 means that all club meetings and trips are suspended until after April 20<sup>th</sup> at the earliest. In order to keep in more regular contact with club members during this time, we will replace the newsletter with shorter, more frequent news updates.



Thanks to Doug Strachan and his daughter Minami for the name and design for this weekly news posting. It was Doug's idea to use the compass points to spell out NEWS and Minami put it together nicely - I particularly like her addition of track markers.

We aim to keep these news posts useful and entertaining. We hope to include:

- trip reports – trips you have done and those you would like to do
- gear reports – what you like and what you don't
- Trips that went wrong – in keeping with the theme of Bruce's confessions in the April newsletter
- What you are doing during the Lockdown – films watched, routes walked and/or biked, ...
- Quizzes
- Bird sightings
- What else you come up with...

Please send contributions to Anne Lawrence ([anne.lawrence.nz@gmail.com](mailto:anne.lawrence.nz@gmail.com))



Anne's novel method to avoid contact with the novel virus

## What CAN you do under the lockdown?

Let's focus on what you can do – there are silver linings to the lockdown!

- Walk around Palmy and see if you can find all the murals. Parts of the CBD received a special lick of paint this January, with local and international artists invited to use the city walls as their canvas during the international street art festival. You've probably already come across some of the pieces, but for many you'll have to get off the beaten track to discover. From hidden laneways and colourful nooks, to sky-high buildings, take the time to explore the city's latest artworks.  
<https://www.manawatunz.co.nz/a-taste-of-the-citys-street-art/>
- Explore Wilderness's publications and website. They have offered a free 1-month online subscription to help get us through the lockdown.  
[https://preview.mailerlite.com/g8h7k3/1380601020291225376/k4n1/?ml\\_subscriber=1380601020291225376&ml\\_subscriber\\_hash=k4n1](https://preview.mailerlite.com/g8h7k3/1380601020291225376/k4n1/?ml_subscriber=1380601020291225376&ml_subscriber_hash=k4n1)
- Read or watch some of the stories from NZ Geographic. Every day of the lockdown they are posting a story or video. Designed to share among your family. <https://www.nzgeo.com/together-at-home/>
- Order dehydrated food from Radix Nutrition. Radix are still making and delivering meals under level 4 lockdown. Products have a 2 year best before date and they now sell 3-day, 7-day and 14-day meal packs. Order online and have them delivered directly to your door. Use the discount code **PNTMC15** for a 15% discount (valid until 14.04.2020). Stock up for your next tramp or use the meals instead of going to the supermarket. [radixnutrition.com](http://radixnutrition.com)
- Watch some of the Banff Mountain film festival films at home. It looks like the Banff Mountain Film Festival will be online this year. In the meantime, you can watch the films they've made available online. <https://www.banff-uk.com/watch>



## What have you been doing under the lockdown?

We put this question to four committee members. Can you work out who said what?

- Pruning, shopping for the old lady in No.4, reading "Don't Retire, Rewire!", annotating photos in my Mega Tramp Album (at last), stripping down my bike and regreasing the bearings, washing the windows, vacuuming and clearing the cobwebs in corners, writing my life story, darning sox, patching bush shirt, repairing ripped sleeping bag liner, cutting rust out of the Renault, finding out how to cook vine leaves, listening to RNZ, camping in the tent on the lawn, learning the violin.... actually I was just kidding with the last two, but...
- I've been over the new walking bridge to Linton and back home – twice so far during lockdown, once on bike, once on foot. I am hoping this counts as local! I have made it to day 8 of my 30-day yoga challenge and I've discovered 'WhatsApp' is an easy way of keeping in touch with our children and grandchildren – but that means I have also discovered FOMO. What I haven't done is been to the supermarket – with our usual stash of dehy meals (Radix, of course) in our tramping cupboard, we are well set for a while!
- I made a beer bread which came out really well – I would add a pic of it, but I ate it already! I'll put the recipe in the next PNTMC NEWS.
- I am having a great time right now reorganising the garage – after many years of disorganisation. And, I have endless things to do putting the kitchen back together – today I put the food in the new pantry which is actually fun organising it all. We don't have doors on it as they are going to go on after the floor is done which of course just missed out on being finished. The Pohangina community is being fairly social from a safe distance of course – many dogs to walk around here. So far so good.

## Trip reports

### Dundas--Bannister

13/03-15/03 2020

Report: Christian Offen

Pics: Christian Offen and Rachel Price

On Friday morning the three of us, Grant Christian, Rachel Price, Christian Offen, went off for a three-day hike in the Tararua ranges. After some traffic jam in Palmy on the way to Grant's place we drove together to Putara Road End and started our tramp in beautiful weather. During our lunch break at Herepai hut we had a good chat about healthy food, so I wondered whether it was appropriate to take out my chocolate bar for dessert. I did and then everyone took out their desserts.

The weather was marvellous and so calm on Mt Herepai that my sunhat did not blow off. The hat remained on my head even when the calmness was interrupted by an air force helicopter that came around to do some flight training while we were following the ridges over East Peak, West Peak, Walker, Pukemoremore to Dundas hut. Quite interesting to come so close to an operating chopper.

After a night at Dundas hut, we left for a long hike over Mt Dundas, the Twins, Mt Bannister and Cattle Ridge to Cattle Ridge hut. When spotting two people from Dundas Ridge in the distance on Mt Bannister and we exchanged some remarks like "yea, weekend is starting, quite busy", I knew I was back in New Zealand after half a year of overseas travel for uni.

Two or three sections involved a bit of rock climbing. Thanks to Grant for carrying a rope all the way such that we could abseil our bags which helped with climbing. With yet another and yet another peak coming up, the day became quite challenging. In the evening we were really happy to reach Cattle Ridge Hut. The hut was quite full but with Grant sleeping on a mat and two girls sharing a bunk we



managed to accommodate everyone. At the hut we needed the rope again: because the water tank was nearly empty, we borrowed a bucket and tied it to our rope and manages to get the last bits of water out of the tank which was enough for everyone. A rope can be a handy in so many ways!

On Sunday we walked out over Roaring Stag hut, where we had lunch. By the time we reached the car park our conversation about healthy food at the beginning of the tramp was completely forgotten and we stopped for some pies and chips in Eketahuna on the way back.



What a great tramp! Thanks to our trip leader Grant for the organisation and for carrying a rope!

## FIELDS HUT REVISITED

### By Doug Strachan in lockdown

During the push to edit the club's 50th jubilee book in 2015, so that it could be handed out to people attending the commemorative gathering, I tried to track down the group photo taken on the club's first trip, which was to Fields Hut. Unfortunately, the club's photo album was MIA, but it was rediscovered in a garage immediately after the book went to print (of course!). I've been sitting on a scan of that rediscovered photo since then, saving it for a future edition of Old Boots & Packs. However, with the passing of Terry Crippen, it seems sensible to put the photo in a newsletter now, before the rest of us fall off the perch.



Original PNTMC logo

Another impetus for doing this now is that it is likely to be a thin next edition of the newsletter given that the entire country is in an unprecedented lockdown for at least a month in an attempt to eradicate coronavirus. No tramping trips permitted. A silver lining of this pandemic is that it has spurred me to submit this.

So, I got the photo, but who the hell were those people in it? Fortuitously, I established contact with Roger Clarke, when he ordered his copy of the book. He was keen to have a hard copy of the photo, having been on that Fields Hut tramp, which took place on Feb 6, 1966. Roger thought it was a great trip, "none of the younger ones among us really knew what life had in store for us, back then it was all a great adventure".

It was the first of many escapades. Roger reminisces, "the old saying was – 'Why do we want to get to the top of the ridge?'- 'To See the Other Side!!!' Always a blast, covered in sweat & foliage, sometimes like drowned rats, on we toiled - always looking out for each other. Was a great Club Spirit back in those days".

Roger invited me round for a cuppa and chat in January, 2016, and I handed over copies of the book and photo. He was able to identify people in the shot, like his younger self, scout master Graham Newson, Susan Johnstone (Vern Jensen's wife), and Ron Haxton (who confirms the photo identities, and whose account of the club's beginning features in Old Boots & Packs). It turns out that back in the day, Ron and Roger were next door neighbours in James St (now Ihle St) and belonged to the same scout pack.

Roger concurred with Ron's account that the PNTMC's beginnings were the result of dissatisfaction with the existing club's emphasis on skiing rather than putting tramping and mountaineering first, and recalls Russ Lacey being frustrated with this.



Field Hut Feb 1966



Roger couldn't make the PNTMC's first meeting at Berry's engineering (Dec, 14th, 1964), but made the next one, which he believes was held out at Tony Morrison's place up the Tiritea Valley, last house on the left then. Tony was the head gardener at the Esplanade, and a keen rock and snow climber, who met his demise along with the lofty Bill Olsen on Mt Ruapehu, never to be found again.

Roger remembers that "Russ, Tony, Vern, Peter & Ian were the go getters, great to be around, especially on my first major trip down to the Nelson lakes, up the Travers, down the Sabine, to lake Rotoroa and then we slogged it back via Howard Rd to Rotoiti."

While he was an apprentice engineer, Roger took part in Outward Bound, where all his tramping skills rose to the fore, and the Outward Bound motto "To Serve - To Strive and Not to Yield" has stayed with him ever since as a guiding principle of life. After working as an engineer, he became a deer culler in the New Zealand Forest Service, before returning to engineering. His fourth occupation was as an apiarist, which he continues to do to this day.

Roger went on numerous trips in the club's early days, and retains some artefacts from that era, still being in possession of his old pack that sports a PNTMC logo from the first batch ever produced. It's weathered well, hasn't it?



Roger Clarke with.... Roger's pack



## DAY TRIP TO FIELDS HUT - A trip report from the very first club trip

TRIP LEADER : Bryan Abraham

DATE : Sunday, February 6 1966.

IN ATTENDANCE :

Bryan Abraham, Trevor Arnold, Roger Clarke, Ron Haxton, Vern Jensen, Suzanne Johnstone, Russ Lacey, Jillian Moyers, Graham Newson, Keith Potter, Julie Stout, Vern Stout, Bruce Watson and Graham Whitcombe

At 6.15 a.m. three cars left for the Otaki Forks carrying the trampers, and after a 1¼ hour trip, arrived at a Picnic Parking area, where we spent a few minutes introducing ourselves and preparing for the tramp to Fields Hut, and possibly Vossler Hut.

We tramped along the road, crossing a deep wide ford and then passed through a gate which took us along a track to a swing bridge which we crossed, passed an old woolshed, and onto a track indicated by markers and rocks painted red. We followed this track and after crossing two stiles, the party then became strung out during the ascending of a steep slope. On reaching the top at 8.45 a.m. we rested and a few took photographs of the party and of the surrounding ranges.

We all moved on ten minutes later, and after a 20 minute tramp reached a shaded spot on the bush line. Again we stopped, but this time only to divide into two parties - a fast, and a slow. The tramp through the bush was cool, unlike the hot open fields, but the track was in very poor condition in some low-lying parts, being covered with several inches of thick mud. Although the gradual climb didn't slow the parties, the thick mud did, and at 10.45 a.m. the advance party arrived at Fields Hut, and stopped for a rest awaiting the arrival of the second party which arrived at Fields Hut fifteen minutes later.

After a small snack, Bryan Abraham, Vern Jensen, Suzanne Johnstone, Russ Lacey, Keith Potter and Graham Whitcombe left for Vossler Hut, but at various points along the way Suzanne, Keith and Graham turned back leaving a party of only three to complete the tramp which they did in 1½ hours with only a short rest halfway.

On arrival at Vossler Hut, two other trampers were found having lunch, and after saying a few words to the trampers the small party left again for Fields Hut, meeting and sighting on the way several other small parties from the P.N.T.M.C. who after lunch had decided to tramp round the neighbouring hills. The tramp from Vossler Hut to Fields Hut was completed in 1 hour 5 minutes.

After saying goodbye to other parties who were stopping at Fields Hut and having photographs taken, the Club left for the Otaki Forks.

During the tramp out to the bush-line two parties were unintentionally formed, the first party taking an hour to get out of the bush, and second party taking a few minutes longer. At 4.20 p.m. we moved on as one body, following the track out, arriving at the cars at 5.20 p.m. in good spirits and very pleased with the achievements of the Clubs first official trip.

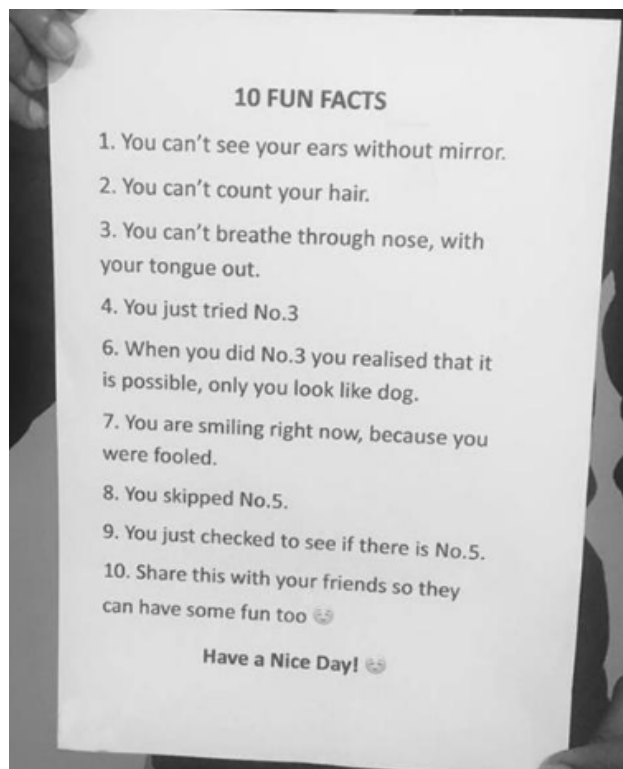


### Quick 10 Quiz

Thanks to Warren for producing this quiz. It's based on recent club nights and local knowledge.

Answers at the end.

1. Is magnetic north to the left or right of true north?
2. Is the moon waxing or waning?
3. Which direction does a westerly wind blow towards?
4. In an easterly wind, do the wind turbines as seen from Palmerston North spin clockwise or anti-clockwise?
5. Longview Hut is most readily accessed from the end of what road?
6. Tutuwai Hut is in what Forest Park?
7. And what river is it beside?
8. What river flows through Budapest?
9. What valley in France is famous for chateau and wine?
10. The Cape to Cape coast walk south of Perth crosses what river that also gives its name to the town in the local wine growing area?



## Food in Lockdown

Difficult times seem to lead to creative recipes – feel free to contribute your creations/discoveries. Apparently Italian water cake has been around for decades leading to many versions. Here is one:

### Water Cake: No Eggs, No Milk, No Butter, No Problem!

#### Ingredients

- 350ml water (or orange juice for more flavor)
- 3 ½ cups flour
- 1 ¼ cup sugar
- 1/3 cup sunflower seed oil
- Grated zest of 1 lemon (or the beans from a vanilla pod)
- 2 tsp. baking powder

#### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
  2. Sift the flour and baking powder together into a large bowl.
  3. Add the sugar and lemon zest.
  4. In a separate bowl, combine the oil and water and mix well.
  5. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the water and oil. Mix well.
  6. Pour the mixture into a greased cake pan and bake for about 45 minutes.
- Optional: ice or dust with icing sugar to serve.

## Toot for Terry

Terry may have gone but is not forgotten 😊



## Answers to the Quick 10 Quiz

1. Right.
2. Waxing
3. East
4. Anti-clockwise
5. Kashmir Road
6. Taranaki
7. Tauherenika River
8. Danube River
9. Loire Valley
10. Margaret River