

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2011



Don French on the slopes of Mt Adam, Westland in 1996. The Whataroa Valley in mist lies behind him, with Ellie de Beaumont, Minarettes, Aoraki- Mt Cook, and Tasman behind.

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 July

The Numbers Game, with Don French. Take a slightly bored accountant, a mad professor, then add the Centennial year of the Alpine Club, and you have the makings of the Numbers Game. This is personal odyssey where Don French attempts to climb all the peaks on the “100 Peaks Challenge” list. Almost two decades later the challenge is still uncompleted. The journey takes us from East Cape to darkest Fiordland, all because of a throw-away comment in a hut one night.

28 July

Antarctica, with Anja Scholz. Anja has just completed a busy summer at Scott Base. Her presentation will cover the full range of her experiences, from the daily drudgery of mopping floors and cleaning toilets to the joys of “dancing with penguins” and “Pole dancing”.

Upcoming Trips

2 July

Kapakapanui **M**
Anja Scholz **356 6454**

Four creek crossings and a steep grunt up to the bushline will give us great views into the Tararua Hinterland, and maybe some snow to play with. It's a good medium exercise tramp, with possibly a cafe on the way back. Take a thermos for the picnic and leave Milverton Park at 7:30am.

3 July

Hardings Park Circuit **M**
Terry Crippen **027 643 3637**

this tramp has changed from Holsdworth Stream
 Head into Hardings Park via the Sledge track, past the mines, then a circuit to the east following a poorly marked route along a ridge and across the stream, before connecting with the standard loop. Depart 8:00am

9 July (Sat)

Sunrise Hut **E**
Woody Lee **357 2390**

This is an easy and enjoyable walk to the hut located in the eastern Ruahine forest park. So come along to have a lovely winter day trip. Leaving Palmerston North at 7.45am Saturday.

9-10 July

Dundas Hut **F**
Lance Gray **356 6454**

Accessed from Putara Rd end, we will most likely walk via the Dundas Ridge on the Saturday. The following day we will exit via Cattle Ridge. Excellent views, hopefully some snow. No fire at Dundas Hut so an opportunity to test your warmest gear. A sturdy but rewarding Tararua trip. Depart very early.

16-17 July

Powell Hut **Family**
Doug Strachan **353 6526**

8:30am start. It's a 1.5hr drive to the end of Mt Holdsworth Rd, in from Masterton. It normally takes about 3.5hrs up to Powell Hut, and is steep in places. We will probably take a couple of hours longer to get there as our 4yr old son and 5yr old daughter are coming too. The idea is to take our time and make it an overnight trip, so the kids get to play in the snow and experience sleeping in a hut. Options include building a snow kiwi or going to see the white Kiwi at Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre. A family trip, but kids need to be good walkers and have footwear etc suitable for snow.

17 July

Longview Hut **E/M**
Mick Leyland **358 3183**

Wide open southern Hawkes Bay Ruahine foothills lead to this popular view point. There might be snow. Depart PN 8:00am.

23 July

The City Circular **M**
Janet Wilson **329 4722**

Something different here. Come along and circumnavigate the city, mostly on walkways. Could become a bit of a café crawl. Start 8.30 from the bottom of Fitzherbert Ave.

24 July

Purity Hut **M**
Llew Prichard **358 2217**

A classic Ruahine alpine tramp, firstly through farmland in from Mangaweka, then forest and tussock up to the Hikurangi Range. Tramping beyond the hut may require the use of ice axe and crampons- or just stay and enjoy your lunch break at the hut. Depart PN 8:00am.

30- 31 July

Roaring Stag Lodge **E/ M**
Grant Christian **354 5843**

Depart 9:00am. Saturday. Travel to the end of Mangatainoka Valley Rd. A short flat stretch followed by a steep climb up to the top of the spur that leads to Herepai, then it's all down hill to Roaring Stag Lodge. Should be there early enough to do some exploring around the area. Back out Sunday morning.

31 July

Atene Skyline Walkway **M**
Kelly Buckle **357 9043**

I'll be exploring this 6-8 hour walk near Whanganui. This track is described as having spectacular views of the Whanganui River, Mt. Ruapehu, Mt. Taranaki, the Tasma Sea, and Whanganui River's tributary valleys. The highest elevation is 572m, so it should be a good option in inclement weather. Depart 8:00am.

30 or 31 July

Snowcraft 1 **I**
Bruce van Brunt **328 4761**

Refer to notices below.

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.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St. 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:

Mick Leyland	358-3183
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz, or via <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

PNTMC Snowcraft Programme, Winter 2011

Our snowcraft programme gets underway at the end of July. It has two aims: Firstly, to equip you with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow, be it on winter trips, or summer trips above the snowline. Secondly, to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering. The programme consists of three separate days up Ruapehu a fortnight apart, and a midweek evening session prior to the Ruapehu days. A progressive approach is used, with Snowcraft 1 assuming little or no previous snow experience and SC 2 and 3 building on the previous levels. Most participants enrol in the complete programme, while others just in part depending on their previous experience or ambitions. NOTE: this year we are running Snowcraft as day trips, to give us more flexibility by making use of the best weather and keeping costs down.

SC1 evening Wednesday 27th July.	SC1 day either 30th or 31st July.
SC2 evening Wednesday 10th August.	SC2 day either 13th or 14th August
SC3 evening Wednesday 24th August.	SC3 day either 27th or 28th August

Fees cover weeknight venues, transport, group gear hire, and instruction: \$40 for PNTMC members, \$50 for non-members for each of SC1, SC2, SC3. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non Club members. Pass the word round to friends you may think are interested. Open to Club members and members of the public. Refer to the Snowcraft link at www.pntmc.org.nz

or contact Bruce van Brunt 328 4761. Applications close Thursday 14th July.

New PNTMC Trip Card, June-December 2011

The new PNTMC Trip Card is enclosed with this Newsletter. You will note many excellent trips on offer, so I hope that you enjoy them, and appreciate the work that goes into organising them.

FMC Photo Competition 2011 Results

FMC's popular and interesting Bulletin for June 2011 features the results of their Photo Competition. As expected, many stunning photographs have been presented from the 185 entries from 24 clubs.



Trampers, 1970's, by Kevin Pearce

The runner up photo in the historic section features some well known PNTMC characters near the Garden of Eden. The judges comment on "classic 1970's garb, beards and haircuts. Although a basic group portrait, the photograph captures both humour and seriousness, and records a tramping era".

FMC Tramping Calendar 2011

FMC have once again printed their 2012 Tramping Calendar, published by Craig Potton. It looks as good as the previous ones, and despite a South Island bias, there may be a few great Tararua/ Ruahine/ Tongariro/ Taranaki photos. Calendars are available for \$18.00 from FMC, PO Box 1604, Wellington 6140.

FMC Youtube Video Competition

The inaugural FMC Youtube Video Competition begins this year. Members and Individual Supporters can use their talent to showcase tramping and mountaineering in New Zealand. Details on the various categories and how to enter can be found via the FMC website:

<http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/Videocomp/>

The closing date is 31 September 2011. For inspiration, go to <http://www.youtube.com> and search for "Tramping."

Tukino TASC Lodge

Tukino Side of Mt Ruapehu - a new place to stay. For those of you who enjoy the more remote side of Mt Ruapehu for either summer or winter activities, there is another lodge available for accommodation. The recently formed Tukino Alpine Sports Club (TASC) has taken over what was OPC's lodge. It is situated at the top of the Tukino mountain road next to the DAC and Aorangi Lodges. Lots of working bees have taken place to bring the accommodation up to scratch. Some of us have helped with the work and/or stayed there already for climbing, tramping, cross-country skiing or snow showing. So if you want to do skiing on a club field away from the crowds, ice or rock climbing, heading up to the summit, or just enjoying the solitude over summer on the best side of the mountain; check out the TASC web site:

www.tukinoalpinesportsclub.org.nz

Become a member of TASC if you want. NZAC members get the same rates as TASC members. In winter while the ski field is operating there is also now a café there for day trippers.

Ruahine Forest Park – Huts and Tracks

Perhaps the most remote hut in all of the Ruahines, Waiokotore Biv (otherwise known as "The Fridge") has been removed. Those helping with predator control in the Ruahine Corner area may be familiar with this biv, and will be pleased to hear that it hopefully will be replaced in the future. Repair work has also been completed on the nearby Waiokotore ladder.

Closer to home, the last section of the popular Coppermine Creek Track is now closed due to erosion. Please note that the Wharite and Loop Tracks are not affected by this. Also, the Mid Pohangina Track has been cut, and the swing bridge leading to Mid Pohangina Hut had its anchors inspected. Rangiwahia Hut was serviced, with the gas bottles refilled and sewage removed, and six other huts were checked without repairs required.

PNTMC members periodically assist DoC with consultation as well as field work such as predator control trap lines. We recently offered comment on new hut information panels that aim to present more than just a simple map. Hut history, modern use, track and bridge information, flora and fauna, and the like will add interest to some of our popular huts.

Living Legends

Living Legends is a community conservation initiative planting native vegetation in chosen locations throughout New Zealand during September and October 2011. On Saturday 1 October, Living Legends will aim to plant 5000 native trees in the Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve. If you are interested in volunteering to assist, then please register online, and refer

www.livinglegends.co.nz

Membership

Membership contact list

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the most current PNTMC paid up members list, with phone numbers and addresses. Please note the few minor changes from last year.

Farewell from Logan Westwood

Hi PNTMC,
I'm actually residing in Invercargill studying film making at SIT and really enjoying it. Regrettably

I probably won't renew my membership with the Palmy club. Although I haven't joined the club here yet I plan to in the near future, some great tramping to be had down this way. Anyway, happy tramping to you.

Best Regards, Logan Westwood.

Other members who have moved on or resigned include John Feeney, Ian Harding, Liz & Arthur Flint.

Editorial

“Forever Wild” FMC Conference and 80th FMC AGM, 11- 12 June 2011 By Tony Gates

PNTMC is a member of Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc) for the purposes of mutual support for various shared interests. You should be familiar with some of their work and publicity, most notably the FMC Bulletin. 82 mountain clubs from throughout New Zealand, with some 16 000 members, form FMC. I attended their recently held conference in Wellington entitled “Forever Wild? our conservation lands in the 21st century”, and their AGM. I am pleased to report two very successful events. Proceedings will be published in due course.

Firstly (and naturally) it was a chance to catch up with some of the approximately 130 mountain club members from around New Zealand. Continual slide shows were on display, featuring many places and people that members may be familiar with. Guest speakers and politicians presented at times lively debate about the three key issues identified; Pest control, Recreation, and commercial interest. Naturally too, finance of these issues were commented on.

Richard Davies, FMC President spoke, ably supported by members of his executive and some previous FMC luminaries. Hon. Kate Wilkinson, Minister of Conservation, some of her senior staff, and Hugh Logan, former DoC Director General, some other politicians, and Dr Jan Wright, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, had their say (and took questions). Indeed, some of Dr Wright's comments made it onto National Radio later that evening, and there were some radio news comments during the conference.

There were legal, scientific, and industry experts, as well as other NGO's- White water New Zealand, Outdoor Recreation, Green Peace, Bushwalking Australia, Forest and Bird, and the Sierra Club, then invited guests for panel discussions. Issues such as access, youth,

volunteers and wilderness were discussed. Results may not always be optimistic, with Biodiversity collapse and (relative) value of Conservation lands recurring themes.

FMC members (including ourselves) have been involved with various campaigns and consultation, with results of the anti mining campaign of last year seen as a good example of successful protest. Wild Rivers is another campaign issue FMC is actively involved with- think of hydro electric power and irrigation proposals for some of our favourite rivers, and what the (possible) outcome may be. This campaign is on going. Some criticism was offered to the Government's limited response to recommendations from the Land and Water Forum. Also criticised was the recently formed Game Animal Council, another NGO authority tasked with advising and recommending the Minister. This GAC seeks to manage feral deer in a hunter friendly manner.

FMC is actively involved with various conservation issues, and made a donation to the Kea Conservation Trust at the conference. As FMC quoted “part of the pathway has been mapped for the future of New Zealand's public conservation lands”.

Roger Smith, from Geographix, presented his lovely 3 D Tararua map available for sale, and various books were for sale- another useful service provided by FMC. Three new books featured, so you can one day expect reviews here of:

“Summits and Shadows, Jack Clarke and New Zealand mountaineering”, by Graham Langton (2011)

“Pushing His Luck: Report of the expedition and death of Henry Whitcombe” (the re written Whitcombe Lauper journey of 1863) by Hilary Low (2010)

“Wild Heart, the possibility of Wilderness in Aotearoa New Zealand”, edited by Mick Abbott and Richard Reeve (2011)

And on the subject of literature, I have just received a copy of the latest book about the Tararuas - **“Beyond the Black Bridge”** - Gateway to Arapuke Forest Park, by Ian Argyle (2011). At 1223 pages, it looks really nice. Some PNTMC members' names feature! Another book to review here - any offers?

Trip Reports

1 May 2011

Map/ Compass Training, Palmerston North Report by Tina Bishop

Due to dodgy weather and only two of us interested, a weekend of navigation training was shortened to an afternoon at Terry's house. Our teachers were Terry and Janet. I was at first surprised at how much time we spent perusing a map, answering questions and solving maths equations while only briefly looking at our compasses. Of course by the end of the afternoon everything tied in. We learnt about different map scales, how many metres to a square, how to use the map coordinates to notify someone of your whereabouts or to find a spot on a map. I had briefly heard about a difference of 23° when using a compass and map but never really understood what it was all about – so we learnt about True north, Magnetic north and Grid north.

Terry and Janet showed us how to set our compass on a map and we went outside to practice following the arrow. My suspicions of having a dud compass were confirmed when Terry saw how slow the needle moved - he said I should buff it. We thought the liquid inside was too viscous.

We ended up at the Albert/Pahiatua Streets roundabout, pretending the streets were ridges. Woody was a bit more accurate than me – I blamed my eyesight. I am sure we looked like an odd lot! We just made it back to the house before a huge downpour. After a cuppa and muffins Woody and I were given a handout and some homework to do. Janet and Terry were very good teachers who knew how to scaffold our learning – thanks heaps!

PS – I went to buy a new compass and they told me at Bivouac I might be able to fix it with a magnet so I went home and googled it. This is how to re-magnetise a compass: Use a strong magnet and put the N on top of the compass where the red north part of the needle is. Run the magnet along the needle and down the edge – it worked for me, saved myself fifty bucks.

20- 21- 22 May 2011

Rangi - Mangamahue - Te Hekenga - Tiraha Report and photos by Tony Gates

A week of terrible weather eased as I set off on the classic Rangi Howlett's crossing of the Ruahine Range, planning to meet my friends on the PNTMC weekend tramp at Howlett's hut. I

knew the route well - and the obstacles - so had my crampons etcetera ready. Dawn mist on the familiar ridges of the Whanahuia Range above Rangi Hut soon lifted to reveal a glorious but chilly day, just as the weather forecast had promised. A hunter shot a deer at the Triangle Hut turnoff, and I noted evidence of several others out and about. Later, I saw a mob of seven deer. I nicked along the Oroua – Porongaki Ridge, grunted up to Te Hekenga, then was surprised by a speedy looking day trumper. He arrived on the summit a couple of minutes after me, then soon departed at a fairly rapid trot back to Rangi Hut. I piked on the steep and icy "Cheval Pitch" of Te Hekenga despite wearing my nano crampons. It was very steep below, slippery, crumbling, and dangerous. The sidle track through the Oroua scree was obvious, just think like a deer and you will find it easily. Taumetaomekura and Tiraha peaks then came easily, and Sawtooth Ridge looked great. I arrived at Howletts Hut in time to get the new fire box going and the billy on ready for the others.

21- 22 May 2011

Longview- Howlett's Tukituki Report by Nicola Wallace



PNTMC at Howletts Hut, 22 May 2011.

We left PN just after 7.30am, in two vehicles. Michael was driving Tony's 4WD, as Tony was tramping over from the western side of the Ruahines, and was to meet us later at Howletts Hut. Two hours later, we disembarked at Kashmir Road end, and started our tramp at 9.45am, bound for Pohangina Saddle, Otumore, and Howletts Hut. The day was sunny and warm, with not a breath of wind.

On the steep walk up towards Longview Hut, warm changed to hot, but it wasn't long before we had our first view of Longview Hut. Soon after, I had already drunk half of my one litre bottle, and decided that a water top up at Longview Hut was necessary. No one else

wanted to make the detour, so once we reached the top, the others had a morning tea stop near Pohangina Saddle, while I walked briskly to Longview Hut. Unfortunately, Richard had forgotten to tell me not to talk to anyone. At the hut I found a friendly hunter, who told me the route up to Otumore was very boggy. It was a quick bottle and hut book fill, and I was back with the others in a few minutes.

Now it was up to Otumore. I immediately felt the lack of a morning tea break, and stuffed chunks of One Square Meal into my mouth. It was a bit boggy, but not too bad. Gradually it got windier, and the temperature dropped. The last uphill before the top of the range was a bit harder, then a turn right, and we were at Otumore, 1519m above sea level (ASL). It was beautiful up here, tussock and tarns, and views forever. We stopped for lunch, and at last I got a much needed rest.

After lunch, the going was easier for a while, with gentle ups and downs, as we headed NNE. Initially I felt cold, but soon got much too hot and had to remove layers. About 2km from Otumore, we came to a signpost pointing right to Daphne Hut. We were to go left, down into a deep gully. The climb up the other side looked rather daunting. "How are we going to get up there?" asked Woody. "On your two legs, Woody" I replied, more to convince myself than him. And so ensued a steep, gravelly descent followed by a bit of a struggle up the other side, and I had to keep stopping to get my breath back. Once up the top it wasn't far to Taumatataua, 1415m ASL. It's a nice little tussocky peak. Here Richard got out his GPS. "2.1km to Howletts Hut as the crow flies" he crowed. I wished I was a crow. The last stretch, along Daphne Ridge, was not too far.

The tops travel was slower than I expected, as there was a surprising amount of growth obscuring the track, and more than a few ups and downs. But I enjoyed the views of the jagged Ruahine peaks. And then we came to a sign, 10 mins to Howletts Hut. It was 3.45 pm now. It was only a couple of minutes, round the corner, and oh! What a gorgeous little hut. Tony appeared with cups of coffee. I was so excited by the sight of the hut that I dropped my pack and scampered around taking photos. I felt no tiredness at all now.

The hut has a new woodstove, and Tony had the fire going. It was lovely and warm. Howletts Hut is 1365m ASL, and is a hut like no other. It's full of tramping and hut culture. As night came on, it didn't get much colder so I cooked my tea on the veranda. It left more room for the others to cook inside. Luckily we had the hut to ourselves.

After tea, Tony told us about the RNZAF Oxford plane crash in 1948, in this area. We laid some rat/ possum bait that DoC had provided to us.

Then, after discovering I'd lost my toothbrush (had it in my pack's side pocket, so bet I lost it along the tops not far before the hut), I decided to sleep outside, as it was warm. I had a bivvy bag, and Richard also lent me his tarpaulin. It was raining lightly when I "went to bed", but soon the sky was clear, and during the night I saw the Southern Cross directly overhead. Unfortunately, every time I moved the tarp rustled, and kept Richard (who was sleeping inside by an open window) awake.

Next morning, me being a bit slow, I set off down Daphne Spur a few minutes before the others. It was another lovely, fine day. I soon came upon two unusual track markers, large metal cylinders stuffed onto dead tree stumps. I think these are the remains of the RNZAF supply canisters dropped to the searchers looking for the crashed Oxford crew. One cylinder was rusty brown, the next yellow. Soon the others caught me up. This is a steep descent, but the middle section has some brief flat bits in it. The bottom third is steep indeed.



Cold, wet feet in the Tukituki River.

In 1 ¼ hours we made it to Daphne Hut, after a successful river crossing, though we all got wet feet. Daphne is a very nice, modern A frame hut

on the bank of the Tukituki River. It was too early for lunch, so we had "brunch". I noticed a sink in the hut. "Where's the water tank?" I asked one of the others. He pointed to the river. So I still don't know why there's a sink in the hut.

We left the hut at about 11am in the sunshine, and headed into the river for 20 minutes, to link up with the track again. Thankfully the river was quite low, and came no higher than mid thigh. At one time we missed out a bit of river by taking a track shortcut. We soon came to the well signposted start of the track, and it was up, up, up the hill, heading SW now. The others went ahead, and Richard, Tony and I climbed together. I managed to maintain conversation, just. It was quite pleasant, with dappled sun shining down on us. This was quite a long section, or so it seemed to me, then we got to the track intersection.

Tony, Michael and Brigid went on ahead, to fetch the vehicles from the roadend, and drive them down to the Daphne carpark, so we didn't have to walk so far. Weren't they kind! Mention was also made of hot tea waiting for us. Then it was down, down, down. Woody got hungry and stopped for a bite to eat. It was good to stop, and just notice things. There were more birds down here, a mixture of natives and Brits. Then out into the sun, more downhill and we were back at the carpark. I was the last one back and there was still enough hot water left for a small cup of herb tea, which has never tasted so good.

On the way home we had a stop in Dannevirke. This is where we received the first drops of rain, at about 3pm, and it rained all the way home.

This was a really good trip, one of the best I have ever been on. And they tell me that the possums in the Howletts Hut area have very clean teeth. Many thanks to Richard, our leader, and for everyone else for being happy and patient. We were: Richard Lockett (leader), Woody Lee, Michael Allerby, Brigid Glasgow, Tony Gates, and Nicola Wallace.

Ruahine River Travel

Many tramping routes in the Ruahines rely on the river beds to provide the easiest places to travel. While there are no really big rivers, and no major gorges like those in the Tararuas, short, steep rivers can flood quickly and present dangerous and difficult travel. Howletts Hut log book records that people get "stuck" at Daphne Hut occasionally while waiting for the flood to go away. During the 1950's, a deer culler drowned in this gorge, and nearby Leon Kinvig Hut is named after another deer culler who also drowned.

22 May 2011

Drysdale Station, Turakina Valley - a Douglas Lilburn pilgrimage Report and photo by Chris Saunders



Drysdale Station.

When Anne said at the first May club night that Malcolm's farm walk would be on Drysdale Station, in the Turakina Valley, I could not believe my ears. I went up to her after Peter's talk and asked, "Did you really say 'Drysdale'?" She had, of course. Drysdale Station was the home of Douglas Lilburn for his early life. He is arguably New Zealand's finest classical composer and I admire his music very much. One of his best-known pieces is the Drysdale Overture, which he dedicated to his father.

His nephew, Hugh, now runs the station. Malcolm arranged for me to photograph the homestead, an opportunity I appreciated. Douglas in fact walked from Hunterville Station to Drysdale when he came home from secondary school in Timaru, a distance of 18 kms, on at least one occasion.

Considering the patchy weather we had been having in the weeks before the trip, Malcolm did an excellent job organising acceptable conditions for the day. As we left Hunterville the mist and drizzle gradually cleared, so that we parked the cars with blue sky above us.

The actual walk was some 12 kms, and involved a climb to a higher ridge east of the river with expansive views in all directions across rows of steep papa ridges typical of the Wanganui-Rangitikei back country. There was fortunately little evidence of the erosion which often afflicts this mudstone landscape. We were on a farm track for most of the journey, slopping around in muddy papa in places, but we all navigated the tricky spots without any problem. We enjoyed the views, the lakes, the kahikatea groves at various places in the valleys, and as a bonus, three magnificent waterfalls on the Turakina River. We got back to the cars a minute before the heavy rain arrived.

An excellent outing concluded with afternoon tea at Malcolm and Edith's. Thanks to both of them for organising the day.

We were Malcolm and Edith, Anne and Martin, Lance, Fiona, Duncan and Chris S.

**29 May 2011
Scrub Knob - Punga Hut - Tokomaru
Report and photo by Tony Gates**

The weather map promised sunshine for the weekend. Good weather was delivered on cue, fine and clear, chilly and frosty, with a gentle southerly breeze in exposed places. We were ready and keen for the easy-ish day stroll to the Punga Hut, located in the Patupairehe Stream headwaters. It's a good bush area close to Palmerston north also known as Miro Valley, with lots of delightful streams, some easy bush, some scrub, and the historic and very rustic Punga Hut.

We departed our vehicle in the Kahuterawa valley, and soon were sweating up the old farm track to the Tokomaru catchment boundary. The so named "track" plunged into damp neck high pampas grass for a bit, then blended into a well worn, if overgrown, foot trail up to the aptly named "scrub" knob. Actually, the overgrown track wasn't too bad to follow as we dodged the mud puddles and damp ferns, so soon, we were admiring the view of the Tokomaru and Patupairehu valleys.

This area of the Tararua's may be forgotten to the tramping guide books and main DoC tracks, but it is an interesting area nevertheless. The Araroa Walkway traverses part of the Tokomaru valley to the west, and the wild Mangahao gorge lies to the south. There are a few old hunters trails here and there, and we could see Eketahuna farmland not far down valley.

We arrived at Punga Hut in time for an early lunch. Those who didn't know the place had the opportunity to sit in the sun sipping tea and perusing the substantial hut literature collection. Punga Hut has featured in Wilderness Magazine, three books, and its own log book goes back to the early 1970's (and periodically includes PNTMC trips). Other hut literature includes well thumbed ten year old hunting magazines.

Last year, on the same trip, we had traversed some untracked country to complete a circuit. This time however, we decided to avoid the damp, chilly bush and scrub, and return the way we had come. That was the easiest way, and once back on scrub knob, we could enjoy and

appreciate the views out and about. I could see Richard and Peter scheming for future extended off track tramps in the area. We enjoyed more great views of the Manawatu as we descended to the car, feeling happy for our short but interesting day tramp.



PNTMC lunching at the rustic Punga Hut.

Our party included Peter Van Essen, Lisa Byrnes, Fiona Donald, Tony Gates, Richard Lockett.

Poetry Corner

Punga Hut By James Jordon "At home in the Hills"

They say it's there, beyond the last farm edge
Beyond the fences and the farthest ridge
Beyond the hills and valleys tossed
They say a hut hides lost,
And I went to seek this lonely ledge.

Two trips to mountains beyond the farthest farm
I ranged alone, in youthful fear of harm
Through tangled bush and scratchy fern,
Waterfalls all left astern
In vain to learn
Of the hut that haunted the ranges calm.

Then on that trip, hours of wandering done
Bruised and hungry, tired leg and lung
Slumped in a clearing by some creek
Chewing sandwiches of meat
Thinking I'd need another week
I found it, and I and the mountains sung.

A faint trail led out of the creek by me
And I plodded along a chain to see
The punga hut burst into sight
In brilliant golden light
To the left and right
A magic home in the mountains free.

More Trip Reports

4- 5- 6 June (Queens Birthday Weekend) Wairarapa Coastal Classic Report by Anne Lawrence, photo by Martin Lawrence

Janet has quite a reputation to live up to with the weather on her Coastal Classic trips. Amazingly, this year, she was in luck again! We had great weather through most of the long weekend while much of the rest of the country suffered pretty damp conditions. The spot chosen by Janet for us to spend Queen's Birthday weekend was Greentops farm on the Wairarapa coast. This is an excellent spot – it is part of the Tora walk which is closed over the winter period, so accommodation is available. Janet had contacted local farmers so we had permission to access farms despite locked gates.

Most of us arrived on the Friday, after a stop in Martinborough for a leisurely lunch and loading up of last minute necessities including trays of big flats from Parkvale mushroom farm. Chris and Jenny who farm at Greentops gave us a warm welcome and we settled in with an explore of the beach. Saturday dawned bright and clear so we took advantage of the good weather to get out walking. Chris had described a circuit of the farm which he thought would take an enjoyable 5 hours – he was right! Armed with a map and directions we started out along the Tora walkway - an excellent walk through farmland and bush. We left the Tora walk where it crossed into a neighbouring farm and took a 'tops' route back so that we could ascend Buglers hill and the high point above our accommodation. The rest of the day seemed to pass in a bit of a blur talking, eating, drinking, talking, eating, drinking... I think most of us realised we had eaten more than was good for us as we waddled off to bed.

Sunday was another good day – dry, and very warm despite the weather forecast. The party split up with Richard, Terry, Martin, Lance, Anja and myself heading off on cycles, and Mick, Marion, Llew, Jenny, Warren, Janet and Graham opting for a drive to the road end and back to base camp for fishing and paua gathering. The cyclists headed south along the coast following a road that gradually deteriorated until at the end everyone (even Richard at one stage!) had to resort to walking. We did get back onto our bikes but going was fairly slow – which was just as well as otherwise we may have biked straight into the seals sleeping on the track! About midday we rounded a corner and got a wonderful view of White Rock station and the track from Ngawi that had been cycled by those on last year's Queens Birthday trip. The wind had been building all

morning and it was now strong enough to blow us over so decided this would be our turning point. After lunch in a spot sheltered from the wind, where we had a good view of the seals, we headed north. Strong wind gusts coming at us from unpredictable directions made cycling a challenge. The group became fairly spread out as the wind sorted the real cyclists from those of us who were just pretenders! Regardless, we all ended up back at Greentops with no injuries either to people or bikes.



PNTMC at Greentops, coastal Wairarapa.

Those back at base camp had proven themselves effective hunter-gatherers – although fish had proved elusive, they brought back huge paua which they proceeded to shell and cook, with much debate about the best way to prepare paua. The two favourite methods involved slicing and frying in butter with some liking them unadulterated and others preferring to hammer them first and then dust in spiced flour before frying. The evening was taken up with feasting and conversing and an evening beach stroll. I am not sure if you would normally say a person on crutches could stroll but Graham certainly does a passable imitation of a stroll on crutches!

The forecast wet weather arrived in the night so Monday dawned rather wet and bleak. However, the mist soon lifted and as the day improved most of us headed out for some exercise either biking, running, or hill climbing before bidding farewell to our hosts and heading home.

Thanks to Janet for organising this trip. It worked well splitting us into two cooking groups and I am sure everyone had a great time. To anyone who hasn't been on a Coastal Classic, I suggest you book in early next year!

We were: Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Jenny and Llew Prichard, Mick and Marion Leyland, Richard Lockett, Warren Wheeler, Terry Crippen, Lance Gray, Anja Scholz, Martin and Anne Lawrence.

12 June 2011

**Moorcock-Longview Loop
Report and Photo by Shoukai Yu**

I am an international student, and I love outdoor activities. I enjoyed this trip and have learned a lot of information about local vegetation and some necessary tramping knowledge.

Although it had rained for almost the whole week, on that day we had a very clear day.

The New Zealand landscape is beautiful. The feeling of getting close to nature is amazing. Under the help of Warren Wheeler (leader) and Richard Lockett, I now know how to check a rain gauge, identify different track markers (including old blazes on trees), and the names of several plants (with possible explanations for the derivation of "onga onga" and "horopito").

I realised tramping is not only an outdoor activity involving the nice view and physical exercise, but also a knowledge learning process. There are a lot of skills necessary to be a qualified trampler.

Although I have a busy schedule for study, I still hope I can take part in more trips like this one. Great thanks to Warren Wheeler and Richard Lockett for this wonderful experience.



Warren tramping up the Longview Hut Ridge.

**Historical Section
PNTMC Trip to Rangi Hut 1966**

25 September 1966

Rangi Hut - Mangahua Peak

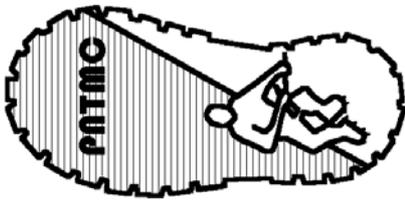
Report by Wayne Boucher, trip leader

Wayne Boucher, Josie Chapelle, Trevor Gill, Russ Lacey, Dennis Moore, Graham Newson, Sue Portner, Keith Potter, Lynne Potter, Julie Stout, Vern Stout, Judy Tapp, John Tucker, Graham Whitcombe all set out from Palmerston North at approximately 6.15 a.m. on Sunday September 25, bound for first the Rangiwahia Ski Club Hut, and then for Mangahui Peak. The weather was overcast and fairly cool.

We had to cross part of a farm before we reached the bush and several members of the party gave the rest of us some interesting points on the habits of sheep. The river we had to cross was cold and fast flowing with a very slippery bottom. Three of the party fell in while crossing it, mainly due to the very unhelpful remarks made by those standing on the opposite bank.

The track was fairly clearly defined though steep in parts. We were rewarded with some magnificent views (and which some members of the party had to stop and admire frequently), and with it beginning to snow. At about 11 a.m. we reached the Ski Club Hut. This hut is so rickety and dilapidated that it is a miracle that it is still standing. After lunch Keith Potter, Russ Lacey, Julie Stout, Vern Stout, and John Tucker, set out for Mangahue Peak, the rest stayed at the hut and had some fun in the snow. The five who set out for the peak arrived back after about 2½ hours and after a short rest we set off down. The weather had cleared up and now the track was now a bog of mud because of the melting snows. (It took us about 2½ hrs to reach the Ski Club Hut but only ¾ of an hour to get down).

A tired and very dirty party of trampers arrived back in P.N. at about 6 p.m. after a very enjoyable tramp.



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PNTMC Newsletter July 2011

What's inside this month?

- *Upcoming trips and club events*
- *Snowcraft Programme*
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- *FMC "Forever Wild?"*
- *Trip Reports on Howletts Hut, Longview Hut, Punga Hut, Drysdale Station, Wairarapa Coast*
- *More Bush Poetry*
- *Historical Trip to Rangī Hut in 1966*

Articles for the newsletter

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

Get out and about with us!

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