

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter May 2012



Derek Sharp and Alistair Millward at Waterfall Hut, April 2012- in the middle of the first of Derek's two seven huts extravaganzas.

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.

10 May

Cycle in the Himalayas

Kathy Corner

Last September, Kathy Corner cycled across the Tibetan Plateau from Lhasa to Kathmandu. She cycled over 5,000m passes and camped at Everest Base Camp. Come and hear all about her adventures.

31 May

BYO slides

All

You can see a variety of snap shots of recent tramping and mountaineering activities by PNTMC members, and show a few of your own. There might even be some Ruahine huts featuring.

Upcoming Trips

5-6 May

Maropea Forks Hut M/ F
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

Maropea Forks Hut is sited on flats near the forks of the North and South Maropea Rivers. We plan to climb to Sparrowhawk Biv Saturday morning, then descend off track to the hut by an easy river bed. This hut is another cosy Ruahine residence. Our return could be via the track over Maropea, then Colenso Spur (which is classic William Colenso country), or up the south branch to Top Maropea hut. Whichever way, it's a really lovely tramping area. Depart PN 7.00 AM.

6 May

A-Frame - Stanfield Loop M
Peter Wiles 358 6894

We will leave at 7.30 am for this A-Frame – Stanfield loop trip. Depending on the conditions, we will go up to A-Frame and then along and down to Stanfield. If the conditions are poor we will settle for either A-Frame or Stanfield Hut, whichever seems the better option at the time.

12-13 May

Leon Kinvig Hut M
Richard Lockett 323 0948

Will go in via Knights track from the west Table Flat Rd, over Toka and the Ngamoko Range, drop down to the Pohangina River and our accommodation for the night. Leon Kinvig Hut is a great place to visit. 7.30 start Milverton Park.

13 May

Punga Hut E
Tony Gates 357 7439

This is an easy classic local bush stroll to the northern Tararuas, to the rustic Punga hut. Tony will arrange a suitable leader as he is unable to go on this trip. Depart PN 9.00 AM.

16-20 May

Cattle Creek-Mid Pohangina M
Dave Grant 357 8269

Following the easy Tamaki River, then Cattle Creek (in from Dannevirke), we will visit Stanfield, Cattle Creek, then Mid Pohangina huts. These are all in great condition, so will provide a cosy night, whichever one we choose to stay in. Mostly off track tramping along open creek beds. Depart about 7.00 AM.

20 May

Umutoi Stream Explorer M
Graham Peters 329 4722

This is the tributary of the Oroua that flows under the fancy bridge on the way to Heritage Lodge. It's mostly fairly easy travel, with lots of deer trails, so Graham will show you some interesting

country, and most likely link up with some tracks and roads in the area. Depart 8.00 AM.

26-27 May

The Beaumont Trip E/ M
Geoff Beaumont 354 4929

This easy medium overnight tramp will go to Roaring Stag Lodge, in the big Tararua bush. A lovely hut, with lots of short walks to do along the Ruamahanga River, including to the mythical "Ruapae Lake". Depart 8.00 AM.

27 May

Tunupo M
Martin Lawrence 357 1695

A popular local day tramp to the prominent Tunupo peak, on the Ngamoko Range behind Apiti. The ascent is relatively gentle, through forest and tussock, and the summit will offer great views of the Ruahines. Depart 8.00 AM.

2-4 June Queens Birthday Weekend

Coastal Classic - Taranaki E
Janet Wilson 329 4722

This year we will be staying at Harley Bett's bach at Tongaporutu, where you can go fishing, mtn biking, tramping, kayaking etc. Limited space available at this stage. Departing Friday AM

4 June (Monday)

Manawatu Gorge Track E/Family
Doug Strachan 353 6526

Very close to P.N., this track has had a lot of work done on it, so it's a few hours of easy walking. We will leave a car at each end and go right through to the Beyond the Bridge Cafe, unless the road is still closed due to the slip, in which case we will go as far as the lookout and then come back the same way. It is a botanically interesting walk, and some of the trees have been honoured with informative plaques. If it's hot and sunny, the forest will offer shade. If it's windy, the windfarm will be a great sight. If it's raining, the waterfall on the Ruahine side will be more impressive. If it's cold, the cafe will seem even better. You can't lose.

Depart 9.00 AM from Milverton Park. Note that DOC no longer issues permits for dogs on this track, because of an intensive bait laying operation.

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/>

Mid Winter Celebrations

30 June-1 July Mid Winter Celebrations

Rangi Hut

Janet Wilson

329-4722

Rangi Hut will be this years destination - a good opportunity to revisit the hut now that the club is entering in to a management arrangement with DOC. There are several options aimed at getting as many club members as possible up there that weekend. A nice photo of Rangi with lots of members would be a great centre piece for this years Ruahine Hut Bagging Challenge poster.

Options

1. Saturday Rangi - come up for lunch or afternoon tea!
2. As above and stay the night
3. Sunday Rangi - come up for morning tea or lunch.
4. Extend your trip to include the Deadmans Track loop.
5. Bring nice food, memories and old photos!

Come and check out the hut and support the club. There may even be some snow!

Notices

PNTMC subscriptions are NOW DUE

Treasurer Martin Lawrence reminds you that subs are now due. With no change in price from last year, this is value for money. This edition encloses a note on how to pay.

PNTMC Scrapbook

The PNTMC scrapbook of archives and relevant newspaper clippings resides with our Secretary. You may be interested in seeing this, and collecting any newspaper and magazine clippings that PNTMC members may be interested in. Issues such as SAR and DoC business are a good example.

June-December PNTMC 2012 Trip card

Our next club trip card will be drafted soon, with trips and events July to December 2012 listed. Please think about what trips you wish to lead and which club nights you may be able to assist with. Janet, Warren, or a committee member will call you soon.

SNOWCRAFT 2012 Preliminary Notice

While enjoying this bout of stable fine weather, with temperatures dropping, its time to think about winter and snow. PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme gets underway mid-July. It has two aims; to equip people with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow; and to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering. It will follow the format from last year; consisting of three separate days of instruction up Ruapehu a fortnight apart, and a midweek evening session prior to the Ruapehu days.

The first evening session will be on Wednesday 18th July, and the first instruction day will be either the Sat 21st or Sun 22nd July, whichever has the best weather. There will be a fee to cover transport and party gear hire. 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. Further details in later newsletters or shortly on the Snowcraft link at: www.pntmc.org.nz or contact Terry Crippen 356-3588 or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761

“Old Boots” of PNTMC on Facebook

PNTMC life member Kevin Pearce has reminded us that there is a facebook page for “old boots” of PNTMC. It is of some historic interest, and may benefit if others post their photos there.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Old-Boots-of-Palmerston-North-Tramping-Mountaineering-Club/113566475379246>

Membership

A warm welcome to Kaaren Tutt. We hope that you continue to enjoy the Ruahines, Tararuas, and elsewhere. Happy tramping.

Trip Reports

17th - 18th March
McKinnon Hut-Kawhatau River-Crow Hut
Report Michael Allerby, photo Craig Allerby

This was the first time I had been into these two huts (Craig had been into Crow Hut a few years back but not to McKinnon), so with fine weather forecast I was looking forward to checking out the area. We headed off from Kawhatau Base car park following the track to the cableway - the other track option of wet feet crossing the river lost out. After reading the instructions I climbed into the cage and Craig let the wheel go and I sped off eventually coming to a halt above the river. As the cage hung there motionless while I took in the view, I wondered why he wasn't winding me across? Okay he's got his camera out to take a photograph, then he wound me across and I returned the favour.



Crossing the impressive Kawhatau cage.

Once on the other side it is a steep climb to the tops. The track had been cut recently and Craig found a part from a brushcutter which he put in

his pack to hand into DOC. He didn't have to carry it for long as we bumped into Kelly Stratford (DOC) and her partner heading down to the car park. After chatting to them we continued on, spotting some Tomtits, Riflemen, Whiteheads and Wood pigeon amongst the forest.

Once up into the tussock we came out on to the broad tops of the Hikurangi Range where further along the track, three young guys dressed in sneakers and day packs caught up to us. They were heading to McKinnon and back out for the day and had been the source of the yelling we had heard down below earlier whilst they came across the cableway. It was time to stop for lunch so we found a good spot and sat down and took in the views. Refuelled we headed back off along the track and stopped to admire a decent size tarn which appeared on the right. From here there is a bit of a climb to 1625m which was a good vantage point to view Atuaoparapara. Going down from here to McKinnon Hut we passed the three young guys heading back out.



Michael at McKinnon Hut, and the Mokai-Patea Range beyond.

As it was only around 3.30pm when we arrived at McKinnon Hut and we had read in the station intentions book, that a couple was coming over from Purity Hut way and staying the night, we decided to let them have the hut to themselves and headed for Crow. A downhill descent to the river then some zigzagging along it and we were at the hut. Not long after getting there we heard a helicopter and I wondered if hunters were coming in but it disappeared leaving us the only occupants for the night.

After one of my better night's sleep in a hut and some breakfast, we packed our gear up and took the steep track which leads back on to the tops, then connected up with the track back down to Kawhatau Base using the cableway again. Walking downhill on part of the track where the snow grass had been trimmed back, reminded

us of a Paul Simon song, but luckily we were able to stay on our feet. The forecast had been right with great weather all weekend.

A couple of days later I bumped into one of the young guys and joked "so you made out alright" to which he joked back, two of them did. The helicopter we had heard was the rescue service taking their other mate out with a sprained ankle after tripping over a stump.

April 2012

**The Ruahine Hut-bagging Adventures of Derek Sharp (and friends)
Photos by Alistair Millward**



Derek at Sunrise Hut - hutbagging at night!

During two separate hut-bagging blitzes high in the central Ruahines during April, Derek Sharp has bagged fifteen huts. He struck great weather, explored many valleys, both on and off track, and used his experience and endurance to cover what must surely be some of the best tramping country in New Zealand. Well done Derek. We may get a full and complete report from Derek for the next edition of the Newsletter.



The interesting Waikamaka Hut outhouse.

The Dunny

*My eyes went all funny,
When I first glimpsed the dunny
At Waikamaka Hut*

*Who needs a placebo,
When there's a gazebo,
At Waikamaka Hut*

*The octagonal spire I so much admire,
The pot-bellied fire, All one could desire,
At Waikamaka Hut*

*A view to inspire,
Of which one could not tire,
At Waikamaka Hut*

From the Waikamaka Hut Log Book, by some Wellington trampers, date unknown

Huts on the list included (in order); Waipawa-Sunrise- Top Maropea- Waikamaka- Waterfall-Smiths Stream hut- Triplex.

Then a few days later; Longview-Iron Gate-Triangle-Howletts-Smiths Stream-Hinerua-Tarn Biv-Daphne.

15 April

**Waipawa Forks Hut
Report and photo by Peter Wiles**

The four of us set off up the Waipawa River in cloudless conditions. Before entering the gorge proper we stopped at a sunny patch on the riverbed and had morning tea. Then into the gorge and a few river crossings. The river was quite low and easy to cross and the water not too cold before the onset of winter.

We emerged from the gorge, rounded a bend and almost immediately were confronted by a couple of sizable cairns that indicated the track up to the hut. Surprisingly, the hut was deserted and the most recent entry, from a couple of days previously, was from the duo Derek Sharp and Alister Millward.

We had an early but leisurely lunch sitting on the front porch of the hut. Then we crossed the river one more time and took the side track up to the Sunrise track. In contrast, the Sunrise track was busy with much traffic going up and down. The

folks heading down seemed to prefer a pace that was far in excess of ours, and I do not think that ours was particularly leisurely.



Tramping the very sunny Waipawa River

At the carpark, the ladies rested while Peter walked around to the starting point to pick up his car. We were off about 3 pm and headed down to Onga Onga to visit the café / store for some refreshments. A neat walk on a superb day. Team: Jennifer, Lisa, Karen and Peter.

April 2012 Ruahine Hut-Bagging with Bruce Van Brunt

So far in April, with a couple of revisits, I have been to these Ruahine huts:

1. Sentry Box
2. Park's Peak
3. Heritage
4. Iron Gates
5. Triplex
6. Sunrise
7. Top Maropea
8. Toka Biv
9. Gold Creek
- 10 Stanfield
- 11.Cattle Creek

Only the high Oroua kept me from Triangle and the high Makaroro kept me from Barlow. I have

a couple of shots of Gold Creek Hut. Not many people seem to go there (13 parties in 2011) yet the track is lovely and the hut is nice and clean. I got contract information for the farmer on the Glenny Road so that one can essentially avoid the Makaroro, save about 2km of walking and get directly to either Gold Creek ridge or Sparrowhawk without using the river. In general, it is probably a good time saver for going to Barlow and beyond as well, regardless of the river height. (This is handy information). The farmer is a great guy, he even gave me a lift on the farm quad to near the park boundary!! The only PNTMC people I noted in the hut book were Peter Wiles and Woody Lee on a trip in 2010.

Triangle was a forlorn hope from the start, but I managed to get into Iron Gates Hut around 9-9:30 am in position to make Triangle and out in a day. Tunupo Creek was a nasty crossing so I knew then the game was up. The attractive challenge here is to get in and out in a day either back through Iron Gates or up over to Rangī.

It sounds to me like Derek is chasing closely behind Bruce- or is it the other way around? [ed]



Penny at the rustic Toka biv, Pohangina valley. This rarely visited hut is located in a remote and beautiful alpine basin, and represents quite a prize in the Ruahine hut-bagging competition.

“Who has done what” 2011 report. By Terry Crippen

Here is the “Who Has Done What” list for the last financial year (April 2011 to end of March 2012). 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 bigger, longer or different trips. It is also a list of who to contact for info about different places. It follows the same format as previous years: ie it excludes the usual shorter Tararua, Ruahine, TNP, ENP etc trips; and concentrates on further afield trips, 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, so a single name doesn't necessary imply a solo trip. As usual it is biased towards what club members have told me they have done. So no doubt they are many brilliant trips omitted.

* denotes an ascent. NP = National Park, FP = Forest Park

April 2011

Kahurangi NP Granity Pass Mt Owen* Janet Wilson, Woody Lee, Anne & Martin Lawrence, Terry Crippen.
Nelson Lakes NP Hopeless & Hukere Valleys Terry Crippen.
North West Nelson Paturau Janet Wilson, Graham Peters.
Chile horse trekking, Lago Gormaz Tony Gates.

June

Canada Myra Canyon, British Columbia Malcolm & Edith Leary.
Canada Vancouver Is Grouse Mt* Malcolm & Edith Leary.

July

France, Italy, Switzerland Mt Blanc circuit, FMC trip Chris Saunders.
Italy Dolomite area, FMC trip Chris Saunders.
Australia Larrapinta Trail Anne & Martin Lawrence.
England Devon, Cornwell areas Craig & Michael Allerby.
Mongolia Khangai Mts, Great White Lake Terry Crippen.
Austria, Germany Mieminger & Wetterstein Mts Tajakopf*, Zugspitze* Terry Crippen.

August

Austria, Germany, Switzerland cycle touring; Rhine, Neckar, Danube Valleys Lance Gray.
Austria, Italy Zillertal Alps Hoher Riffler*, Hochfeiler* Terry Crippen.

September to February

Antarctica Scott Base, Black Island, Cape Crozier Anja Scholz.

September

France Cycle touring; Jura, Alsace, Savoie, Chamonix areas Lance Gray.

October

Slovenia Julian Alps Spice*, Triglav* Terry Crippen.

November

Romania Fagaras Mts, Carpathians Tarata* Terry Crippen.
Argentina Paine & Los Glaciarcs NPs, FMC trip Chris Saunders.

December

Bulgaria Vitosha Mts Cherni Vrah* Terry Crippen.
Westland NP Fox Glacier Haidinger*, Lendenfeld*, Douglas* Mike Archer.
Ruahine FP Hikurangi Ra, Pourangaki, Mokai Patea Derek Sharp, Nigel Scott.

January 2012

Aoraki/Mt Cook NP Tasman Valley Malte Brun* Mike Archer.
Arthurs Pass NP Waimakariri & Otira Valleys Phillistine* Chris Tuffley, Kelly Buckle.
Seaward Kaikouras Hapuku Valley, Sawcut Gorge Chris Tuffley.
Aoraki/Mt Cook NP hut wardens, Mueller Hut Malcolm & Edith Leary.

February

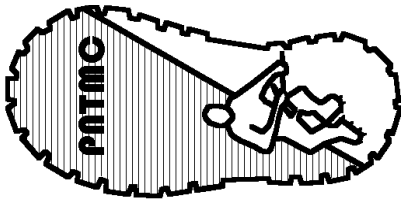
Kahurangi NP Granity Pass Craig & Mike Allerby, Bruce van Brunt.
Aoraki/Mt Cook NP Ball Pass Craig & Mike Allerby, Bruce van Brunt, Malcolm & Edith Leary.
Aoraki/Mt Cook NP Annette Plateau, Sefton Biv, Ollivier*, Annette*, Sebastopol* Craig & Mike Allerby, Bruce van Brunt, Malcolm & Edith Leary.

March

Nelson Lakes NP hut warden, Travers & Sabine Valleys Anja Scholz.
Ruahine FP hut painting, Colenso Hut Janet Wilson, Anne Lawrence,
Peter Darragh, Tina Bishop.

On-going

Ruahine FP Oroua Blue Duck Project; stoat trapping Janet Wilson, Graham Peters,
Peter Darragh, Warren Wheeler, Anne & Martin Lawrence, Craig & Michael Allerby, Richard Lockett.



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PNTMC Newsletter May 2012

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- *Trip Reports Waipawa Forks, McKinnon-Crow Huts*
- *Ruahine Hut-bagging Adventures*
- *Terry's "Who-has-done-what List"*

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!

PNTMC Contacts

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Secretary	Dave Grant	357 8269
Treasurer	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
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Membership Enquires	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
	Eric Liu	355 1861
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Trip Co-ordinator	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588

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