

---

# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter June 2013

---



*PNTMC on Ngatokorua, bagging the Last of the Seven Summits of the Matemateaonga Track. Clockwise from BL; Anne, Tina, Terry, Richard, Martin [Martin Lawrence]*

### 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.

**13 June**

**Gear Tech**

**Bivouac**

Ben Whannell, from Bivouac Outdoor, will show and tell us about what's new and wonderful in the increasingly high-tech world of outdoor clothing and equipment.

**27 June**

**Tongariro Eruptions Shane Cronin**

Te Maari Craters erupted last year, damaging Ketetahi Hut and forcing the closure of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing until only recently. Shane Cronin from Massey University was involved from the outset and tonight he will give us a presentation on what happened....and when it might happen again.

## Upcoming Trips

**1-2 June**

**QB Weekend**

**All**

**Janet Wilson**

**329 4722**

This years Queen's Birthday weekend "Coastal Classic" is to Waipatiki Beach which is north of Napier. It's somewhere that I haven't visited before, which is a good enough reason to chose it as this years destination. We will be staying at the Waipatiki Farm Park motor camp which has cabins and a communal kitchen that should suit us. There is a local coastal walk and some other walks within an easy drive. Possibly some cycling. Also fishing and rock fossicking, not to mention eating!! We will depart Friday, so take the day off work. Returning Monday, so that's 3 nights at the camp. Cost will be approx \$30-40pp/night plus transport costs.

**Day tramp**

**TBA**

**Contact a committee member.**

A mystery tramp to one of our favourite local winter tramping areas.

**8-9 June**

**Holly Hut (Egmont NP)**

**F**

**Chris Tuffley**

**359 2530**

A great north facing hut (with a coal burner) just right for a chilly winter trip. If conditions permit, you may be able to climb to the summit of the beautiful mountain.

**9 June**

**Purity Hut**

**M**

**Peter Wiles**

**358 6894**

A good, if steepish, bush track leads to this tidy hut in the tussock. Outstanding views from here, and the chance to climb higher on the Hikurangi Range.

**15 June**

**Herepai Hut**

**M**

**Graham Peters**

**329 4722**

A popular northern Tararua tramp and hut in from Eketahuna. Good access onto the tussock tops and to the pleasant Ruapae Stream. Depart PN 8.00am, and meet Graham at Ashhurst.

**16 June**

**Urban Explorer**

**E/ M**

**Anne Lawrence**

**357 1695**

Come and explore PN's walkways. We will go through Bledisloe park and along the tracks behind Massey and Pacific College. Expect to be back before lunch.

**22 June**

**Tunupo peak**

**M/ F**

**Craig Allerby**

**323 7913**

This is the highest point of the Ngamoko Range, between the Oroua and Pohangina Valleys. Bring your sun glasses and ice axe - there may be snow and ice about. Depart PN 8.00am.

**23 June**

**Hardings Park Circuit**

**M**

**Terry Crippen**

**3563-588**

Interesting country close to town in Scenic Reserve next to the northern end of Tararua F P: Up the Kahuterawa Valley. Along the Sledge Track past the "Platinum Mines" then either the short loop or the long loop back. Depart 8am.

**29-30 June 2013**

**Mid Winter Celebration**

**Warren Wheeler 356 1998.**

Our mid pot luck winter dinner is to be held at the DoC Pohangina Base, in a very scenic area. There will be four wheel driving options for Takapari Road on Sunday. 17 beds available, at \$10.00 each, and plenty of excellent camping. Bring a \$5.00 "mystery" present.

**3 July (Wed)**

Evening for Snowcraft 1 participants.

**6 or 7 July**

**Snowcraft 1**

**I/ M**

**Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt**

Refer to notices for details.

**6-7 July**

**Waiopahu - Gable End Ridge**

**F**

**Grant Christian**

**354-5843**

Great southern Tararua views from an excellent day circuit near Levin.

### Trip Grading

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

### **Personal Locator Beacons – Free for trips**

The club has purchased two PLBs for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence. Note that this applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

### **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:

Tony Gates	357-7439
Janet Wilson	329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

### **Articles for the newsletter**

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

## **Notices**

### **PNTMC Peak Bagging Challenge 2013-14**

The aim here is to encourage participation, to get trampers out and on to the hills! To follow on from last years hut bagging challenge, with a bias towards the Ruahines.

#### **Rules:**

- To run entirely on an honesty system, although photos on high points are encouraged.
- To run between the clubs 2013 AGM and the 2014 AGM. (You must be at the

AGM 2014 to claim points bagged that day).

- All peaks to be within the Conservation Estate ie administered by DOC in New Zealand. They must be marked on NZ Topo 50 maps. Those on boundaries will count. If in doubt, look at the Walking Access NZ website.
- Peaks must be named - a Trig code or spot height doesn't count.
- A peak located on the DoC boundary will count.
- Points - Ruahine peaks 2 points, all others, 1 point.
- Special Ruahine peaks 5 points - for first visits (or if its more than 20 years since you last visited). There are 10 - Maharahara, Toka, Tunupo, Mangahua, Otumore, Ohuinga, Mangaweka, Tiraha, Te Atua O Parapara and Te Atua Mahuru.
- A bonus point for each peak bagged on a PNTMC club trip
- Points can be claimed for each high point a maximum of 3 times. This is to discourage repetitive.
- Your results should be sent to Malcolm Parker, frequently during the year and are to be kept up to date. As of April 2013, a few names already appear on the list.
- Any dispute to be settled by the committee.

### **June- December 2013 Events Card**

The June- December 2013 events card is nearly completed, and the paper copy will be enclosed with the July 2013 Newsletter (or earlier on the website). There are several easy picnic trips, and the Peak Bagging Challenge has provided lots of good ideas for harder trips with PNTMC - enjoy them.

### **Mt Everest news**

Mt Everest has made the news more than once recently. Now it's the oldest person to climb to the summit (and back). Some

moths ago, a few of us were lucky enough to meet Yuichiro Miura, the veteran Japanese alpinist who wanted to climb Mt Everest at age 80. He succeeded, describing it as "The world's best feeling". However, 81 year old Nepalese climber Min Bahabur Sherchan is closely following behind Yuichiro, and has a fair chance of getting there too. He had gained the summit at age 76 just one day after Yuichiro had done so at age 75. We wish them both good luck.

## SNOWCRAFT 2013



*Snowcraft scenes 2006 and 2013 at Whakapapa, Ruapehu [Terry Crippen]*

Winter has arrived! PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme **starts earlier this year; to give you more time to use your skills over winter!** 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 be running as day trips to Mt Ruapehu with an evening session mid-week prior to each day trip. Dates are:

3 July Wed evening	SC1	Intro and briefing
6 or 7 July	SC1	Mt Ruapehu
17 July Wed evening	SC2	Briefing & intro to rope work
20 or 21 July	SC2	Mt Ruapehu
31 July Wed evening	SC3	Briefing & rope work
3 or 4 August	SC3	Mt Ruapehu

The fees are for each of SC1, SC2, SC3: \$45 if PNTMC member or \$55 if non-member. These cover weeknight venues, day transport, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non PNTMC members. Pass the word around to friends you may think are interested.

Applications (returned application form and fee) close **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**. Application forms are available on the Snowcraft link at: [www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz) or from Terry Crippen 356-3588 or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761

### Win a PNTMC membership for one year

Club Patron Sue Pither has donated the cost of one year's PNTMC membership. This year, all Snowcraft participants who are not current members will go into the draw. Be in to win!

## Trip Reports

### 29 March-1 April 2013 Anatoki-Adelaide Tarn-Boulder Lake Martin Lawrence

Anne and I arrived in Takaka on the Thursday prior to Easter in a small Golden Bay Air plane from Wellington. The route very scenic indeed, with great views of the Sounds, French Pass and Totaranui. We very shortly spotted Graham & Janet with Jean, Ivan and Brian, who had just arrived back in Takaka having done a pre-Easter tramp. Their trip had some overlap with our intended route so it was great catching up and hearing their stories, and certainly made us keen to get going on Friday morning.



*View of the Anatoki tops and valley from Yuletide [Martin Lawrence]*

First thing in Friday our shuttle dropped us South of Takaka at the beginning of the Anatoki Valley track. After a bit of farm walking we found ourselves on a decent benched track heading up river to Anatoki Forks Hut. We noted plenty of bird life, and abundant rata flowering. It was a warm evening so we resisted lighting the fire and having a hot shower. This hut is fitted with a steady water supply from a stream, and has a wetback in the stove and a shower cubicle.

The river trip was pleasant, but we were looking forward to climbing up to the tops the next morning. We started reasonably early as it looked to be another warm day, and were rewarded with excellent views from Yuletide Peak of the Dragons Teeth, Anatoki Peak and The Drunken Sailors. After Yuletide we sidled to the Needles Eye

and descended into the very attractive basin that contains Adelaide Tarn. This hut sleeps only 4 and is a bit of a squeeze so we were pleased that there was just the two of us that night. The weather was closing in but we managed to wander around the small lake and pop up to the saddle to get another view of the Dragon's Teeth.

We had planned to spend 2 days at either Adelaide Tarn or Boulder Lake. With beautiful blue sky the next morning we decided to move on. This was an illusion though as we were shortly walking in steady rain. Anne slipped and hit her face while negotiating the rocky sidle after the Needle. We patched her up and it didn't look too bad, but she developed a colourful black eye later. Boulder Lake Hut was a welcome sight after the long descent through tussock.



*Sunrise over Boulder Lake, Aorere Valley. The hut is shaded, centre left. Note "The DragonsTeeth", the rock spires on the distant skyline [Martin Lawrence]*

We were a very full house that evening, with many bodies and soggy clothing hung out to dry. This was to be our 2 day hut so after everybody left for the Bainham roadend we had an excellent explore around the Lake. The old dam at the outlet was especially worth viewing.

Our final day was a very warm walk to the road via Brown Cow Ridge and The Castles. After the final slog down a farm

track we had a very welcome cold beer donated by the couple that we met at Boulder Lake Hut and cool water from the farmer while we waited for our shuttle.

We'd finished another great Kahurangi trip, visiting a part of the park that neither of us had seen before.

### **29 March Round Ruapehu**

## Thomas Robertson

Grant had put the idea of going around Ruapehu in a day to me a while ago, and so when he gave me a call asking if I wanted to try that weekend I was keen, and curious to see if I could do it. We headed up to Tukino road end on Thursday night (29 March) after dinner, and camped there for a few hours.

We set off at 5 in the morning. Grant had estimated 17-19 hours for the day, meaning a planned midnight return. We set off clockwise heading from there to Rangipo hut, making good speed- we were bang on his target time. Once we had warmed up, and got off the rocks and onto the good quality forest track we started to pick up speed, and were cutting the DOC times in half. The area was great, some really nice country, the one let down being having to do a section of road between tracks. We continued making good time, until the section before Whakapapa village, where we slowed down a bit. We took a decent refresher in the village, with Grant getting hot chips- I went for a cold pint.

We set off again towards Waihohonu along a good boardwalk, and the sun setting. This is when it really started getting hard, and my feet were somewhat tender by then. I envied Grant his two tramping poles. We were still on track for a midnight finish though. From Waihohonu the walking wasn't too bad, as long as we kept going - starting again was the hard bit. The last section was a drag however, taking an hour longer than we had planned, and me thinking I could see the road every five minutes.

We had slowed right down at this point, and were walking across uneven rocks. **We eventually made it back to the car at 1.00am, 20 hours after we had left.** We camped there before heading back. The lessons learned were to invest in tramping poles, have an accessible pouch and bottle to eat and drink from while walking, and to be more careful about not getting blisters- maybe should have used that trampers wool. We were Grant Christian and Thomas Robertson.

**7 April**  
**Beehive Creek**

## Doug Strachan



L-R; Minami, Conan, Chris, and Sara  
[Doug Strachan]

*Roguish horse  
Conspiracy theories  
In due course  
Wild ripe blackberries  
And toi toi  
That we neatly plucked  
Brought kids joy  
When completely tired  
Cute dress boots  
Met a similar fate  
Water, sand, roots  
So please wear...whoops, too late.*

We were Sara Kuppe (14) from Germany; Andrew and Chris (8) Kelly; Chrissy Clark, Warren Wheeler; Maho, Doug, Minami (7) and Conan (5) Strachan.

**14 April 2013**  
**Ruapae Falls**  
**Lisa Imai**

When we arrived at the carpark near the track we saw that some cars were already there, this combined with hearing deer on the track made us believe there may have been hunters nearby. We took a short cut in the beginning which was pretty steep and then started to cross the river in zig zag way.

From heavy rain the night before, the water was pretty fast and deep. I'd never been on a proper river crossing trip before, so some parts were quite difficult. Being one of the shortest persons on the trip, **at one**

## ***point the water nearly reached my belly button.***

We had to stop and turn back just before reaching the waterfall as the last part was too difficult. Despite not reaching the intended destination we still saw the 'small waterfall' which was a nice point to head back. On the way back to Palmy, we stopped for ice-cream at a sunny bench. A couple days later it was quite surprising to see many bruises on my legs.

We were Warren Wheeler, Richard Lockett, Glen Pendergrast and Lisa Imai.

### **21 April Huntermville Hills Farm Walks Tony Gates**

Palmerston North had miserable rainy weather, while the Huntermville-Mangaweka hills held the promise of mostly clear weather. And so it was, a pleasant autumn day out on two farms. We altered the planned Mangaweka stroll so as to allow easier access to shelter, in the unlikely (likely?) event of a down pour.

Edith and Malcolm have done a sterling job over the years of leading farm walks. They both have great knowledge and enthusiasm of the area. They also have many friendly Hereford cattle there.

Initially, we set off to look at some farm tracks on the Rataiti-Mahoe farm. Malcolm drove me on the quad, and the others walked. We saw lots of interesting places, many friendly cattle, and the beautiful lakes Maungaratanui and Maungarataiti.



*PNTMC out on the farm, with an attentive audience [Edith Leary]*

We ambled back to the cars, and drove a few kilometres to the house on the Mangahoe Valley Farm. It was a pleasant place to picnic and rest. We then walked up an easy hill to the back of farm, which overlooks Lake Namunamu, and a fairly decent patch of bush (this is on the neighbours property). Being on the quad bike, this time with Edith as chauffeur, our route was restricted to the farm tracks, while the farm walkers could take short cuts here and there. Soon enough, we were back at the house, then back down to Edith and Malcolm's house for afternoon tea.

It was a very pleasant day for farm walkers;; Karen Tutt, Sally Hewson, Woody Lee, Edith and Malcolm Leary, Tony Gates (quad bike passenger).

### **25-28 April ANZAC weekend joint tramp with MTSC Matemateaonga Seven Summits Tina Bishop**

Eight of us travelled to Stratford where we left our cars in the safe hands of Dave and Carol from Stratford Heritage Lodge, who were taking us to the track start and were to deliver our cars to Pipiriki by the end of our tramp.



*PNTMC peak baggers at the start of the Matemateaonga track (west end), Kohi Saddle [Terry Crippen]*

We were given local history/gossip on the way and went past Martin's old primary school and road, eventually winding down Mangaehu Rd for miles to Kohi Saddle arriving at the start of the track. It was mid afternoon and drizzly, I found out very quickly that the boards without netting (named "Tina Tumblers" by Warren) were very slippery! The walking was very pleasant but no views due to misty rain. We arrived at Omaru Hut around 3pm where the fire was lit and three guys were playing Five Hundred – these

were the Aucklanders who we thought had cancelled their trip. I got roped into cards while Martin, Anne, Royce, and, Owen set up their tents on the vast lawn. The Aucklanders went to bed very early and were educated with informative Longdrop talk.

Next day an 8am start saw us cruisin along an easy track again, Richard reckons it would be good to mountain bike, which is allowed because the track is actually an old legal road. We came across a guy who had run from the car park to the next hut where we were heading – very keen. Late morning we dropped our packs at the bottom of Mount Humphries (Whakaihuwaka) and scrambled up for about half an hour. Richard and Warren had found an old track marker earlier on the other side so they were meeting us at the top. Its deceiving as you think you are at the summit but its further up and the track is over grown, you eventually come out onto a large grassed platform with a trig, shear drops, and amazing views. Unfortunately it was misty/cloudy, so our views were stunted but if you looked very hard you could see the foot hills of Mt Taranki. The rolling hills and some cleared farmland were still visible. Photos done and we were off back down to our packs.

I think it was today that we stopped and went off track down a steep bank to find an old aeroplane wreck from the seventies, Richard eventually found it after much persistence. Its pretty easy to see why it wasn't found until twelve years after the crash, the wreck is spread in two parts and some is hanging high up in the trees deep in the gully. Next on to Pouri Hut with lunch on the way, limited views, and arriving at the hut mid afternoon. This hut had a large lawn and a gap in the bush that framed lovely views out across to what we think may have been Mt Ruapehu.

The Aucklanders were resting/ lunching before they moved on to the next hut, they tried to kidnap me for their cards that night with no success. The Lawrences and the Mills set up their tents to dry but decided to sleep in the hut.... until a group of six turned up, four Duke of Ed girls and their two shadows. A threat of thunderstorms and heavy rain on the girls mountain radio saw tents taken down and us all squashing into the hut, which wasn't too bad as it was a 12 bunker.

Day three, Terry and I took off a bit earlier at 7.45am, we tried to work out our kph walking speed as there were posts each km and we both had stop watches. The posts petered out and the track became more varied and a bit more technical although we never had any big hills to climb. We worked out our speed to be 3kph, quite slow really. The rest caught up with us and we headed to the first of our six summits for the day. Owen and Royce carried on alone as they are from MTSC and were not too keen to do extra walking (not sure if we were either). Terry used his GPS while Richard did a compass reading for all of the summits, or knobs as we called them. I was glad I had all faith in these experienced bush bashers as we snapped fern fronds so we could find our path back to the track. Whatever happened to bread crumbs?. Speaking of bread crumbs there has obviously been successful pest control done in this area as there were lots of different birds around. Cheeky little robins seemed to follow us all day and hung around at food stops. Warren entertained us with his analogies and translations for each summit name. Anne became the official photographer.

*Otarake – South Auckland and Waiheke Island without the Wai.* A good 20 minutes found us at the top taking the standard photo of proof.

*Ngapurua – not two poo's* (Not sure if Warren had another name for this one) I was given the task of finding this peak, with my navigation skills it was obvious why – very easy. A human trig was photographed.

*Pipipi – three pies or three wee's* This was quite a way off the track if I remember right but was not too hard to find – an interesting photo was taken.

*Arawiri – are ya weary* Judging by Warrens name for it this must have been the knob we thought we were never going to find – but we did.

*Te Ahu – aah choo! as in sneeze* A reasonably easy one right on a bend in the track, might have been some pollen around?

*Ngatokorua* - I can't remember this one – warren might know.

We were over knobs (excuse the pun) by this time but knew we were silly not to do it. This

one actually had a pipe in the ground which gave an artistic photo opportunity.

We had a quick stop at the flash new Ngapurua Hut, the old shelter is now the wood shed which the Aucklanders thought was their place of rest on arrival in the dark last night.

We managed to have a few stunning views out of the bush across the valleys today although everything still seemed to be shrouded in damp and mist most of the time. The farmland by the Whanganui River became visible as we got closer to Puketotara hut, a nice 8 bunker awaiting its 17 guests for the night. Still, very welcome after our very long day of about 8 ¾ hours. The Duke of Ed group had the top bunk while the Auckland guys had the bottom where they had saved a mattress for their card team member not realizing she came with three extras.... Warren, Richard and Terry scared one of them outside to pitch his tent amongst the Lawrences and the Mills, it was rather a cosy night in the hut and very noisy until the cards (the Duke of Ed shadows made me redundant from cards) had finished at some ungodly hour of 9.20pm – oh dear what sad tired trampers we were.

Day four was a very late start as we waited until all the others left as their jet boat pick up was 9am and ours was 10.30-11.00am. We packed up and left about 9ish for the hours walk down to the river. The track was mainly all down hill but Doc had taken all the wooden steps out (because they were not up to spec) which made for slippery cautious travel and pain for old knees. We chatted to some canoeists who had pulled up for a day walk then whiled away the time doing crosswords and lazing on the riverbank.

Thomas, our jet boat driver/ guide whipped us up the Whanganui River to the Bridge to Nowhere track. There were lots of others who were nicely dressed and probably freshly showered that morning doing the same walk. A comment was made that we looked absolutely “had it” – Martins comment put them in their place plus we passed them at a brisk walk to prove our point. The walk to the bridge is about ½ an hour and fairly easy – it really is a bridge in the middle of nowhere. We had lunch, Thomas supplied coffee, bikkies and an

interesting talk then it was back to the boat and about 35km down river to Pipiriki.

On the way down river Thomas stopped at points of interest such as the Manganui o te Ao River which is fed from the mountains, the water is like an ink stain feeding into the Whanganui River. He also did a few 360 degree spins during which Martin supplied great sound effects. It is such a lovely peaceful river and in places the water is mirror like giving the illusion that we were floating between the banks. There are lots of campsites along the banks, both private and DoC owned. Apparently the river was up about 2m higher than normal and this weekend was the last for canoe trips until next summer. My desire to canoe this river has been fuelled and stoked!

We arrived at Pipiriki late afternoon and taken to the Whanganui River Adventures depot where there was hot coffee, flush toilets and our cars....What a great weekend!!!

We were: Owen and Royce Mills (MTSC), Martin and Anne Lawrence, Warren Wheeler, Richard Locket, Terry Crippen and Tina Bishop.

## **28 April**

### **Toka – Tunupo Circuit**

#### **Grant Christian**

I decided to do this trip at the last moment. The weather had not being too good but the forecast for the 28th was okay. It was a good opportunity to bag a couple more peaks. I started the trip at the end of Limestone Road. There was a large scout party getting organised to go for a walk up Short's Track. After crossing the farmland I was soon in the bush and on to Knight's Track that leads up to Toka. The total climb was 900 metres with some steep sections but mostly a good gradient. The top was windy and cloudy with poor visibility.

From Toka I headed north to Tunupo. Although the ridge line is up and down the drops and climbs are not overly high. Because of the cloud, I had to check the map and take a bearing a couple of times to ensure I kept going in the correct direction. From Tunupo it was mostly downhill. I ran some of the easy downhill sections. I presumably crossed Umutoi on the way down but was unable to identify it as there were a

few high points about the same height. I was wondering if Umutoi, shown on my park map, was marked on the official map so that it would count for the competition. The track widened and then met up with the Iron Gate Track. From here it was a 20 minute walk to the car park at the end of Peterson's Road. Unfortunately my trip did not end here because I still had to get back to my car which was another five kilometres away by road. I arrived back at my car five hours 40 minutes after setting out.

**5 May**  
**Back Track**  
**Woody Lee**



*Back Track walkers [Woody Lee]*

We were packed into two vehicles and arrived at the end of Kahuterawa road at around 9.30 am. We could have arrived earlier if I had not missed turn-off onto Old West Road at the end of Tennent Drive. At the car park before starting the loop hike we had a short interval to welcome seven non-club members including my mother-in-law from Korea.

When we approached the Black Bridge we found a temporary safety gate which hadn't been there before. The bridge's deck was removed for repairs so we had to wade on the steel beams across the stream. Duncan recalled that he had read about the repairs to the bridge in a newspaper.

After crossing safely we chose to start on the right-hand branch of the loop track. From time to time we stopped to listen to Warren's botanical knowledge about the native flora and fauna along the Butlers' Creek whose track was covered a diverse range of autumn leaves such as supple jack, rewarewa, and lancewood etc. It was a great opportunity for my mother-in-law

and two young Korean girls. We met several mountain bikers on the way.

When arriving at the top of Back Track I was surprised at seeing a clearing. I planned to have a break at the pine plantation but most of the trees were gone except the lower part of Arapuke Forest Park. We found a nice spot in the shade at the gate on the brow of the hill for a relaxing break with views. Getting down the zig zag road was an easy walk and everyone seemed to have enjoyed this short day trip.

We were Jiyoung Moon, Hwa Kim, Katie Lee, Jaehee Lee, Justin, Dawon Lim, Suzy, Duncan, Kaaren, Andrew, Warren and Woody

**10- 12 May**  
**Mitre Peak, Tararuas**  
**Warren Wheeler**

Day 1 – Travel Day. Friday afternoon to Masterton to pick up our leader. 3 hour walk in occasional drizzle to Mitre Flats Hut, arrived about 5.00pm. 14 mattresses, five of us. No worries. Spread out on lower level. Lit the woodburner to warm us up and dry clothes. Rubber helped. Smoke stings eyes a little. Cut more wood before dark. Dinner by candlelight with wine (thanks Woody). In bed by 8.30pm.

8.45 pm, mice start nibbling and rustling plastic bags. 9.19pm (or thereabouts) Grant captures mouse floundering around inside large plastic bag and releases outside. Sleep well.



*Woody, Warren, Grant, Lawrence, Jo, Boudie, Anje, Terry at Mitre Flats Hut [Woody Lee].*

Day 2 – Peak Day. Overcast. Light drizzle. Wx forecast snow flurries to 1200m. Promise of no views but could be interesting. Set off about 9.00am. Arrive at bushline with

southerly drizzle bluster. Precipitation seemed to lessen the higher we went. A tail wind helped us up the cairned route to ridge line. Cool. Visibility 273m (approx). Time to put on leggings and warm gear (gloves, hats, jacket). Individual wrappers for sweets found to have mice nibbles. Sweets untouched, but. Soon pass first build up of snow flurries along track. Then ice coated snow grass bent north by the stout breeze. Ice flowers built up on dry heads of daisies. Brushed by and broke through overhanging icy snow grass along entrenched track. Estimated 30 knots on Peggy's Peak. Dropped along track to leeward for a quick nibble to refuel before final summit push. Tail wind helped crux move across short narrow ridge. Little ice, rocky underfoot, easy few minutes stroll to the big cairn on Mitre Peak. Team photos, cap blew off but didn't get far.



*Chilly day on Mitre Peak [Woody Lee]*

A bit too cold and windy so decided against dropping down to Girdlestone and Brockett. Backtracked to bush shelter for lunch. Woody in the lead veered off cairned route near the bush edge, but quickly brought back in line before full search mode initiated. Lunch at 3.5 degrees Celsius. Nice to have winter here at last. Soon met two guys heading up to Tarn Ridge Hut. Good on ya, mates. Enjoyed downhill track in good condition through the big beech, rata, and rimu back to the hut.

Must be Saturday. Hut full. Nine young ladies from the Masterton Buggy Group escaping for Mothers Day. Five from TTC arrived from Holdsworth via Atiwhakatu. Plus the two O'Halloran's from PNTMC with their well behaved dog. Girls help cut and chop wood, good despite blunt axe. TTC saw really helpful (note to self). Good company. Full house. One on the porch overnight. One on a mattress on the floor. No mouse.

Day 3 – Blue Sky Home Day. Barely a breath of wind. Not a cloud in the sky. Regrets we had none. Returning along the Barra Track back to our vehicles at the Pines we looked back to trace our ridge route in the weathered icescape now melted and gone. Woody wandered off track again but self-rescued before found to be missing. Picnic lunch before noon beside the river just after leaving the Park. Happiness filled. Another half hour or so stroll back to the vehicle and then coffee, cake, pie and salad in the main street of the seething sleepy sunny metropolis of Masterton. We contemplated a brochure of tantalising World Expedition tours to Nepal or Mongolia and the TransSiberia. With our taste for adventure whetted by Mitre, we could but dream.

The peak baggers were Anje Minto (leader), Terry Crippen, Grant Christian, Woody Lee, Warren Wheeler.

## Historic/ Kahurangi section by Tony Gates

The northern end of the South Island has great tramping areas. PNTMC periodically goes there, to places like the Thousand Acres Plateau, located along side the Matiri Valley in from Murchison, and adjoining the Wangapeka Track. During perfect weather during October 2000, a few of us explored the Thousand Acres Plateau, and the adjoining plateau known as the Devils Dining Table. We climbed the peaks named Haystack and Needle (NB a different peak to "The Needles Eye" mentioned in the trip report earlier). It was a scrub bash down to the beautiful Lake Jeanette, where the historic hut named Hurricane Hut is located. It's a wonderful, if earthquake scarred, landscape.



*The gorgeous Lake Jeanette, upper Matiri Valley [Tony Gates]*

## **Bivvy Rocks** **Terry Crippen and Tony Gates** **(with assistance from Peter Wiles)**

In the South Island there are many very useful bivvy rocks used for shelter, and also some less than desirable ones if you are really desperate! Some have been used for over 100 years, since the days of Charlie Douglas and other early explorers. Some are named or more or less located on maps, others are not. Some are easy to find while others are well hidden.

Schist tends to produce the best bivvys due to its slab-like nature. Greywacke is much less useful; it's too blocky. Limestone overhangs offer good possibilities also; in Kahurangi National Park some have even been made into huts by the NZ Forest Service and DoC.

A few bivvys exist in the North Island where there is limestone; for example on The Potae. One Ruahine Corner overhang is spacious and sheltered, with a creek and firewood right there. On "The Army Track" to Lake Colenso, there is a section of rim rock on the ridge top that could be used in an emergency, and there is a similar overhang in the Donald River, near McIntosh Hut, Kawekas. They may not be large, but they would offer good shelter if needed. There are probably similar shelters in the Ureweras and elsewhere. Ruapehu and Egmont have some undercut bluffs of lava, which can be used for shelter also, especially in winter when a front wall of snow often builds up providing extra protection.

Here is a selection of some Rock Bivvi's that we have used. Most are discussed in greater detail in "Moirs Guide North", edited by Geoff Spearpoint for NZAC (2000 and 2008).

### **Airport Bivvy, Marks Flat. (Topo50 BY14)**

This bivvy is an excellent base for attempting Mt Hooker and is on the western slopes slightly above the flats. Plenty of headroom, sleeps about 4; but in heavy rain, water moves down the overhang and drips a bit. Good views of the flats and Solution Range. There is a less desirable bivvy rock on the Solution Range side of the flats, with very little headroom! So make sure you find Airport Bivvy.

### **Beans Burn Bivvy. (Topo50 CA09)**

A collection of rocks, so more than one cosy sleeping area, on the True Right of the Beans Burn. A good first nights stop on the way to Fohn Saddle and the Olivine Ice Plateau or the Five Pass trip.

### **Forgotten River Bivvy. (Topo50 CA10)**

On the true left of the head of the Forgotten River, below Forgotten River Col and the Olivine Ice Plateau. Good to retreat to when the weather deteriorates on the Plateau!

### **Harpers Rock Bivvy. (Topo BX15)**

Classic and spacious accommodation right next to a stream, on the TL above the lake at the head of the Douglas Valley. Great when heading into the Landsborough or Karangarua. Adjacent to large gravel flats.

### **Welcome Flats Bivvy. (Topo50 BX15)**

A very spacious rock overhang at Welcome Flats, Copeland Valley next to luxurious hot pools and plenty of firewood. A track, bridge, and tourism hut were made here during the 1920's as part of a West Coast- The Hermitage guided walk. The hut is only 5 minutes walk from the Bivvy Rock, and has now been replaced by a large and spacious 25 bunker.

### **Architect Creek**

Under the Whale Saddle bluffs on the Architect Creek side, in another lovely position, is another sizeable rock bivvy next to a stream and scrub. Out of necessity, we had become very good at finding these rock bivvys. The Architect Creek Bivvy is just at the bottom of an easy tussock slope, and adjoins a few easy open gravel creek beds leading to spacious river flats below. We

discovered this bivvy just before a thunderstorm, and found excellent shelter for four of us, a nice dry place to boil up and rest and wait.

#### **Cave Camp, upper Whitcombe Valley**

Exploring mountaineers John Pascoe and friends used this rudimentary overhanging rock bivvy several times during the 1930's, and made a brass memorial plaque here to Norman Dowling, one of their number who perished on Mt Evans. Government deer cullers made this bivvy their home for a number of summers, until the nearby Wilkinson and Neve Huts were constructed. Cave Camp would only be used in an emergency these days.

#### **Kea Basin Bivvy. (Topo50 CA10)**

Above the Rees Valley; a good base for climbing Earnslaw etc. Plenty of room in two adjacent areas. Good water and firewood close by.

#### **Wilkin River South Branch**

Eons ago, a giant rock fell into a pleasant grassy flat, close to the river and track, in the upper Wilkin (South Branch). It's on the TR of the river, at approximately the 1120 m contour. The bivvy there has been improved by generations of mountaineers and hunters.

#### **Grave Bivvy. (Topo50 CA08)**

A gigantic overhanging coarse grained "granitic" rock. From Milford Sound, about half an hour before the Pembroke confluence on the true right of the Harrison River. Plenty of room, but get a fire going to repel the sandflies. There is a smaller one further upstream also.

#### **De La Beche Bivvy. (Topo50 BX16)**

A greywacke one. Now that the hut has been removed and useful if you are without tent or bivvy-bag heading down the Tasman Glacier in mean weather. You still have to scramble up the moraine wall. Note the ground up rock fines where the rock is supported, due to the slow but steady movement and settlement of the moraine wall!

#### **Jagged Stream Bivvy**

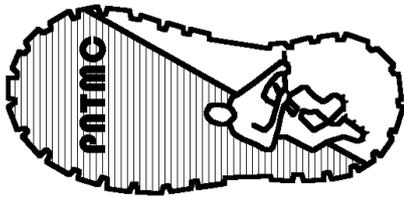
Peter Wiles marked this rudimentary bivvy on my map some years ago when he and Urs Schupbach completed a rugged climb of Red Peak, Arrowsmith Range. I recall him speaking of a giant rock that had fallen of the mountain from the Gridiron Glaciers, and lodged itself firmly in the scree. With some excavation, it was possible for Peter and friends to construct a small shelter in a dramatic place

#### **Paringa Bivvy**

Peter Wiles spoke of another fine bivvy on the West Coast, up in the Paringa Valley, and it made an excellent home for two of them for several nights. It is located right on the bushline, about four hours climb above the Tunnel Creek Hut (over the river).

#### **Richardson Glacier Bivvy, upper Hopkins Valley**

Several scattered rocks make about 5 cosy little bivvys on pleasant grassy flats a bit below the toe of the Richardson Glacier, in the scenic Hopkins Valley. The lovely site is 3 or 4 hours upriver from the nearest hut (Erceg Hut).



Palmerston North  
Tramping and  
Mountaineering Club  
Inc.

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

P.O. Box 1217,  
Palmerston North

## PNTMC Newsletter June 2013

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

- Endurance tramping around Ruapehu,
- Anatoki area
- Matemateaonga
- Ruahine Peak Bagging
- Mitre Peak
- Hunterville Farm Walk
- Beehive Creek, Back Track, and more
- Rock Bivvy descriptions

### **Articles for the newsletter**

Send by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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!**

**Sender: PNTMC  
PO Box 1217  
Palmerston North**

### PNTMC Contacts

President	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Vice President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Secretary	Dave Grant	357 8269
Treasurer	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	358 6894
Membership Enquires	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
	Eric Liu	355 1861
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183
Newsletter Editor	Tony Gates	357 7439
Trip Co-ordinator	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588