

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter October 2013



PNTMC and Heretaunga TC members enjoy the late afternoon sun on the combined trip to Rangī Hut.

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 October

Silk Road

Peter Newsome

Last year Peter did a solo trip by Land Rover from Beijing to Dubai across the deserts of Central Asia, following the old Silk Routes wherever he could. His 3½ month adventure included ancient cities, a flaming gas crater in the Karakorum, the receding shores of the Aral Sea, Mongolia mud and a greening Gobi Desert. Come along for an inspirational evening beyond tramping and mountaineering.

31 October

Star Mountains, PNG

Mike Shepherd

In 1965 Mike joined a 6-man Australian expedition for three months of exploring one of the world's last unknown places - central Papua New Guinea. With local carriers they made the first crossing of the almost 13,000ft high Star Mountains, looking for cave systems and carrying out academic study in the fields of anthropology, geomorphology, botany and more.

Upcoming trips

5-6 October

Howletts Hut **M**
Graham Peters **329 4722**

An historic hut in Southern Hawkes Bay, sheltered, cosy, and welcoming.

6 October

TBA **F**
Thomas Robertson **354 5036**

Plan A is a snowy trip to Girdlestone on Mt Ruapehu. Plan B will depend on who wants to come and what the weather is doing..

11-13 October

Kaweka Weekend **E/ M**
Geoffrey Beaumont **354 4929**

Good tramping up onto the tops. A great introduction to see how the Kaweka Ranges are different to those closer to home.

13 October

A-Frame – Stanfield Hut **M**
Nicola Wallace **356 4516**

A nice varied circuit in the Ruahines behind Dannevirke. A bit of a steep muddy start up onto the leatherwood tops to A-Frame Hut, then along Takapari Road 4WD track to pick up the ridge track that takes us down to Stanfield Hut. We then follow the North Branch of the Tamaki Stream and veer onto Holmes Ridge for an hour or so back to the cars.

18-19-20 October

Pare - Te Heu Heu climbs **M/ T**
Angela Minto **06 377 1505**

Depart Friday night and walk up to NZAC Ruapehu Hut (crampons likely to be required). Climb Paretaitonga for views over the Crater Lake and central plateau; circuit back to hut via Te Heu Heu. Sunday options weather dependent. Contact Angela ASAP (ie NOW) as bookings are required for this (NZAC) hut.

20 October

No. 1 Line Loop **M**
Richard Lockett **323 0948**

Depart 7.30am. Close to home, this trip offers a touch of adventure. After following a track up to the leatherwood belt we drop into the Matanganui Stream and follow it down to a waterfall, which we have to detour around before carrying on downstream to the cars. Finish at the Waterford with beer and chips.

26-28 October

Tongariro Circuit **M**
Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

Depart 7.30am. Enjoy the volcanic features of

the Tongariro National Park AND avoid the crowds. From the Chateau we will circuit anti-clockwise around Ngauruhoe via Tama Lakes and Waihohonu Springs where we will camp Saturday night. Next day is more cross country travel to overlook Oturere Crater and sidle up and around to South Crater then down and across the Mangatepopo lava flow to our next camp site. We will try to find the old telephone line track or just take the Northern Circuit track back to the Chateau.

28 October (Monday)

Wharite **E/ M**
Duncan Hedderley **354 6905**

8am start on Labour Day (Monday). Wharite is the hill with the TV tower on it, and offers a neat view of the district. We go in from the Coppermine Creek track. It's steep in places and can be a bit windy on the top, but a nice trip.

2-3 November

Pureora Timber Trail **MTB**
Richard Lockett **323 0948**

Leaving late Friday afternoon for Pio Pio Flats camp ground in the Pureora Forest Park (west of Lake Taupo). On Saturday we will ride south on the new Timber Trail that runs between Pureora village and Ongarue, crossing over some of the new and longest suspension bridges in the country. On Sunday we will do a return trip to Mt Pureora. Even if you don't have a bike there are lots of tramping and easy hiking opportunities – you should even hear kokako.

3 November

Puketurua **M**
Dave Grant **328 7788**

Enjoy a little adventure into this less frequently travelled part of the southern Tararuas. From the Mangahao top dam we head up College Creek track up onto the main ridge and south to Ngapuketurua peak and other knobs.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampler should expect to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E):	3-4 hrs
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs
(F):	about 8 hrs
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 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz, or via <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

Interclub Quiz Results

The interclub quiz for the Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy, between MUAC, PNTMC, and MTSC was a closely held contest this year. Organised by MUAC, there were plenty of difficult, if not impossible questions to answer. Three teams from MUAC, two from PNTMC, and one from MTSC all had plenty of laughs. Questions included such diverse topics as music with lyrics of an outdoor theme, first aid, and huts.

Points were: MUAC's three teams; Kim Noodles (14, then DNF), Team Last Place

(27.5), and Nerd Herd (35.5). PNTMC Old Boots team initially gained second place, but were soon pushed down to third place with 43 points by team Empty Eskey (MTSC). MTSC gained 52.5 points, then team Muddy Gaiters (PNTMC) gained 59 points to win the trophy.

Thanks to all competitors and supporters, and to the generous sponsors from Bivouac Outdoors.

PNTMC Photograph Competition Results

Above Bushline

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Arriving at Howletts Hut | Chris Tuffley |
| 2 Storm over Tukino | Terry Crippen |
| 3 On the Ruahine Main Range | Chris Tuffley |

Below Bushline

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 Te Whaiti-nui-a-toi | Chris Tuffley |
| 2 Murchison Mountains | Angela Minto |
| 3 Wilkies Pools | Chris Tuffley |

Natural History

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 Whirinaki Fungus | Chris Tuffley |
| 2 Waitahinga | Dave Grant |
| 3 Peekaboo | Chris Tuffley |

NZ Landscapes

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Morning mist over the Wairarapa | Chris Tuffley |
| 2 Evening Light from Sentinel Hill | Chris Tuffley |
| 3 Boulder Lake | Martin Lawrence |

Overseas

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Manaslu | Dave Grant |
| 2 Bogd Khan Uul, Mongolia | Angela Minto |
| 3 Wattamolla Beach | Chris Tuffley |

Topical

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 Tasman Saddle Hut | Terry Crippen |
| 2 Reaching the Summit | Woody Lee |
| 3 Walking Skier | Woody Lee |

Best of Show: Chris Tuffley
Evening Light from Sentinel Hill

Thanks to our judge Udo Von Mulert, whose comments on how to turn a nice picture into a great image were much appreciated. Thanks

also to Bivouac for their prizes and to Martin Lawrence for compiling the entries.

Interclub Photo Comp

You are now encouraged to come along and see how our winning entries stack up at the Interclub Photo Competition being hosted this year by MTSC.

Tuesday 1 October; 7.30pm.
Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road
(to the right of the Lido entrance).

Interclub Debate Result

MUAC and PNTMC debated to a draw in front of a rather (thankfully?) small audience in the Marsden Lecture Theatre, Massey campus, on Monday 23 September. The "serious" topic that Conservation land should be managed for profit" was won by MUAC who argued more convincingly for the Negative, however the "humorous" topic "All you need is a jam sandwich" was narrowly won by PNTMC for the Affirmative. Thanks to inspiration from Reinhold Messner for climbing Danali with just a thermos of coffee and two jam sandwiches. Best speaker went to our very own Thomas Robertson – his past debating experience at school was a big plus to support his fellow PNTMC team members Graham Peters and Warren Wheeler. Good fun and chocolate all round for the participants. A few Hut Bagging Posters were sold as well. Thanks MUAC for arranging the venue. Now we just need to get the Old Boot Trophy jointly engraved.

PNTMC Peak Bagging Challenge 2013-2014

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.
- Your results should be sent as soon as possible after each trip to Malcolm Parker at mparker@slingshot.co.nz or phone 357-5203.
- Any dispute to be settled by the committee.

Results to date are apparently little changed from last month but leading point scorer Grant Christian has injured his ankle and so it should now be easier to knock him off his perch. Plenty of trips coming up so GO FOR IT.

Ruahine Hut Bagging Poster For sale

PNTMC has made a poster of their hut bagging efforts in 2012, a stunning array of hut photos surrounding a map of the Ruahines. These have proved extremely popular and we are planning further print runs to suit demand.

Price for club members is \$16.00 for A1 size, or \$8.00 for A2. Non members price is \$24.00 and \$12.00 respectively. P&P extra. Order your copy from the Secretary d.a.grant@xtra.co.nz

Facebook for PNTMC

Terry Crippen has set up a Facebook group for Club members; it's called as you might expect:

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club.

For those of you on Facebook feel free to join up with the group, there are four of us on it already. Try loading some images of trips onto it, or if you have something tramping or

climbing wise you want to sell or publicize, etc stick it on. Its all experimental; but only group members can load material on it (it has to be approved by Terry at this stage being administrator), but anybody else on Facebook can look at it. Give it a go.

Book Review by Terry Crippen

First Crossings
by Kevin Biggar & Jamie Fitzgerald. 2013,
Random House, 320pp, \$45 ,soft cover

I expect most of our Club members have been watching the TV series "First Crossings". Kevin and Jamie of the series have put out a well illustrated book of the same name, and it covers most of the episodes of the latest series and some of the earlier series. I found it a good follow up to the TV watching, and excellent for any of the series missed on the box. The ten chapters range from the David Lawrieston's Open Bay epic of the earlier 1800s, through the exploits of Grave & Talbot, Fyfe & Graham, the Harwood's Hole investigations etc, to Hillary's climb of Tappy in 1944.

The text is a mixture of the authors "adventures" recreating the epic trips, with material based on the original journeys and the explorers, together with some quotes. Most of the images are those of the author's adventures, a few of the original trips.

The book is designed for the "average" reader as against those who have a greater knowledge of the original trips, adventurers, and the areas involved. Thus there are no references to particular quotes and the maps are not detailed as I would have liked. However none of this detracts from the reading of the book. There is however a short list of recommended reading.

It is good to see a popular publication giving the "average reader" an insight into some of New Zealand's epic journeys and the amazing landscapes that these epics took place in. Many of the characters of these trips are unknown to most New Zealanders so this book and the TV series have done justice in making their names more widely recognized.

Hopefully the book will get into the PN Library. I recommended the book.

Trip Reports

6-7 July
Powell Hut
Doug Strachan

No snow.
Blind dog.
In mud.
Wood fire.
Walk about.
Soaked,
In d' rain.
Bath tub.



Maho, Doug, Minami (7), and Conan (6) Strachan; Sara Kuppe (14) from Germany; and Heidi dog (12)

1 September
Herepai Hut
Duncan Hedderley

I thought this wasn't going to go, but then David, an exchange student from Sweden, called about it. He was non committal on the phone about how much tramping he had done, but he'd got decent boots and handled the

uneven track surface well, so I guess he's done enough. We got to the hut about 11, had a drink then went up the hill, getting as far as Herepai itself (A first for me). There was snow (about 20 square centimetres). The return trip was uneventful, but I certainly slept well afterwards.

24-25 August Rangi Hut Trip Tina Bishop

Karen, Warren, and I arrived at the new flash Rangi car park to meet the Heretaunga tramping club who were running a bit late. There was also a yellow Avenger with Graham, Janet, and Bruce who had canned there original plans due to high rivers.

Six Heretaunga members turned up in an interesting truck-cum-passenger vehicle. Five of the HTC plus Karen went the standard way and the rest of us decided to go Deadmans Track. There were discussions of how the track was named – because someone died up here? Or because it kills you? I did wonder why I chose to carry my pack all this extra way as we trudged up hill for quite a while. The higher it got the colder it got as we spotted snow in the direction we were going. Eventually we found a sheltered hollow to have some lunch in the tussock. I was keen to move on as I was getting very cold, we had one last trudge uphill to Mangahuia 1583m, another peak to bag.

We had wonderful views across the Manawatu and could even see the sea so the extra hard work was worth it. Across the other side on the tops where we were heading we could see figures which turned out to be some of the others coming to meet us. The going was quite tricky for a while as the snow was soft and in places there were hidden snow bridges across the track – a thin layer of snow and ice which was hollow underneath, a few of us were tricked by this. Karen passed us on her way up to bag the peak and we caught up with some of the others before we got to the hut.

The hut was very full, six workmen had bagged one bunk room and there were also two other couples staying, all in all twenty-one of us in total. Graham and Janet decided to walk out and stay at their Shed, and Jason from HTC went with them and stayed in the truck.

The stars were out and we had a good view from the heli-pad but it was freezing! The

young workmen did a good job of tidying up and keeping the fire going so the hut was very warm. There was lots of banter, joking and not a lot of decision making about the sleeping arrangements until finally after lots of laughter we top and tailed on mattresses on the floor while others doubled up – very cosy.

It was interesting for me to be up at Rangi with no snow as I had visited the hut a few weeks before after a very heavy snowfall when the new tracks and all the workmen's machinery and gear had been covered. The toilet murals are stunning, which apparently were painted on site.

The trip back to the car was very quick as the new track bypasses the old slip and is quite a highway with lots of steps and gravel. Close to the arched bridge the workmen had their camp setup – I can see why they preferred to stay in the hut – it looked very damp and miserable.

Back at the carpark we finished off our trip with a tour of the HTC truck setup which includes mattresses, magazines, hot water heating facilities and much more.

We were home very early – we were Warren, Karen, Tina, Graham, Janet, and Bruce plus the six awesome people from HTC.

25 August Deadman's Loop Nicola Wallace

As Peter drove us to the Rangi roadend, we marvelled at the new two level carpark. The dunny has been moved to the bottom carpark. The day's weather looked promising, high cloud and little wind. In spite of Tina's overnight trip being up at Rangi, there were only about five cars in the park.

We set off from the car at about 9.30 am, and climbed steadily up the Deadman's Track. We had to strip off layers, as the day was getting very warm. Soon we came across trackside vegetation that was flattened from recent snowfalls, but today the snow was much higher. I said "Hello" to the first leatherwood we came upon, then the first patches of snow appeared. Morning tea was had above the bush, in warm sunshine.

Continuing ever upwards, the snow drifts got bigger, and near the top the track became a little vaguer. With about 50% of the ground snow covered, it proved best to just head

towards Mangahuaia rather than strictly follow the track. After the final heave up to Mangahuaia, at the Triangle turnoff we met our first people of the day, a student and her boyfriend, photographing mountain scenes for a geography assignment. Up here we saw footprints in the snow, human and dog. We figured Tina's tramp had been up here, and that the footprints belonged to Bruce, Janet's dog.

Since it was only 11.45am, and warm & sunny, we had second morning tea up here, enjoying the fantastically clear day, and the uninterrupted view of the main Ruahine Range. Then it was off to Rangi Hut for lunch.

The snow drifts down this track were steeper, sometimes knee deep. Closer to the hut we met a solo wanderer, who told us that one of the track workers had lost the tip of a finger in an accident that morning. At the hut, no one was there, and we lunched outside in the sun, with Peter boiling a brew. I had never been to Rangi Hut in such fine, warm weather. It was wonderful to be sitting outside in two layers in August. Peter went and checked out the new woodshed, and the artful dunnies, as he hadn't seen them before.



Peter talking to two day trippers near Mangahuaia

As soon as we left the hut behind, the tramp took on a different feel on the new track, very much the feel of being on a "manufactured" track. Thank goodness you still get to walk through the little stream at the waterfall. There are lots of steps now. We could hear the track working machinery in operation further down the hill. Before the arched bridge we came across a track workers' camp, which included a tarpaulin strung up across the track. We talked to a guy about the poor chap who'd lost the tip of his finger. Apparently a step assembly had slid down, slamming the unfortunate's finger against a sharp edged

rock. Attempts to find the finger end had failed, and the chap walked out, and was taken to hospital.

For the first time, we walked over the new slip track. From it you get a new view of the bridge from the side, before ascending to the top in a most gentle fashion. It achieves its gentleness on the descent (the carpark side for us) with lots of twisting and turning. We really appreciated the huge amount of work that has obviously gone in to making this track. Now I know why it took so long.

From where the track comes out onto the main track it isn't far to the carpark, and we were back at the car before 3pm. Peter thought another brew was in order as there was no hurry, and I agreed, so a tea brew it was, before we headed back to Palmy.

Thanks are due to Peter for all the driving, and his cheerful, relaxed company.

We were:

Peter Darragh (leader)

Nicola Wallace.

7-8 September Kime Hut Warren Wheeler

The forecast didn't look too bad (or good) with high winds and frontal showers promising a classic Tararua trip. Of course the forecast is not always right and happily was much better than expected. However the mostly calm conditions meant that the cloud didn't blow away, so no views from the snowy tops.

From Otaki Forks it seemed steeper than usual but after an hour or so our efforts were rewarded with our first peak – Tiroitiro Knob, right on the track in the bush. However by the time we got to Field Hut for an early lunch Terry was feeling like he had spent too much time gardening over the last month and was threatening to light the fire and stay put. Fortunately he perked up after the break and we carried on to Table Top, Dennan (a short scramble off the track along the ridge), Bridge Peak (a bracing side trip across patchy snow), Hut Mound and down to the new Kime Hut hidden in the clag.

Although the hut has been pretty well finished for several months it was still officially closed according to the Notice at the carpark. This directive was being completely ignored and there were already a couple there when we

arrived; another three guys from Wellington arrived later.

The new hut is certainly much warmer than the old one even though there is no heating. Sliding windows seem a good idea and it was much lighter and more pleasant than before. There is a manually operated roof venting system similar to the old one with floor vents under the sleeping platforms to provide airflow. We figured out which position was open easily enough although there wasn't much draught at the ceiling vent. Apart from a lack of candle holders and a bit of downpipe missing over the entrance there didn't seem to much keeping it "closed".

However the changing room seems smaller than before and would be quite inadequate for large groups – the hut sleeps 24. A lack of coat hooks in there also meant that wet coats hung on the pegs provided inside left puddles on the floor.

You also have to be careful opening the doors as the aluminium joinery means that the handles open very close to the jam – I nearly ripped my thumb nail off.

A good tip to remember is to find the twin toilets before nightfall and leave footprints in the snow otherwise you won't know how to find them in the mist by torchlight. After some staggering around in the general direction I found them, but felt a bit foolish for not being better prepared.

After a good night sleep we woke to the same cloudy conditions and visibly less snow outside as the melt continued overnight. With a forecast of high winds later in the morning we didn't want to waste much time getting away. Nevertheless both Geoff and I shot off to bag Field Peak, about 15 minutes south towards Mt Hector. No views of course, but only patchy snow so easy going there and back.

The three guys had already left and we never saw them again on our way back down. Progress was a bit slow as Terry had to cope with acute pain in his calf muscle that he diagnosed as similar to that when he was in Europe. A couple of Aspros were administered at Field Hut and gear offloaded out of his backpack into ours – at least the sun was trying to shine and the wind remained notably absent. Conditions improved the lower we went and it was quite delightful to rest in the warm sunshine in a grassy clearing on the edge of the bush, before dropping down the

last spur. There seemed to be a lot of white flowering clematis festooned in the trees here and even a bright patch of rata shrubs beside the track. It wasn't until we were driving home north of Otaki that the wind picked up – perfect timing.

We were Geoff Phillips, Terry Crippen and Warren Wheeler.

Historical Section

PNTMC Patron Sue Pither offered this Newsletter some photographs of some trips from forty years ago. There may be more, plus even a few historical trip reports. Enjoy these.



Lawson Pither and crew, Elle De Beaumont, Tasman Glacier



Sue Pither (L) and the late Bill Olsen sheltering on Mt Ruapehu, about 1969. Bill was an original PNTMC member who disappeared on the slopes of Tukino with Tony Morrisson during 1974.



The late Lawson Pither at the NZFS Rangī Bridge about 1969. Note the broken old bridge dating from the 1930's



PNTMC, 1970



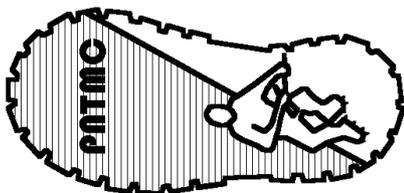
PNTMC on Tasman Glacier 1970



Sue Pither and Tony Morrisson on the Grand Plateau, Aoraki/ Mt Cook, 1970



SAREX in the Manawatu Gorge, looking for a "lost" aircraft craft. Judith Domney and Sue Pither. The scenario was for 42 passengers and crew to be in the aircraft crash, and there were more than 80 searchers.



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PNTMC Newsletter October 2013

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- Ruahine Hut Poster For Sale

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates,
the newsletter editor, via the club website
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Get out and about with us!

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