

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter November 2014



Well preserved relics on the recent Waiotauru River trip.

[Woody Lee]

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 November

BYO Pics

A chance to show off your e-pics of trips you have been on over the last 6 months or so.

27 November

Whanganui River

Chris Tuffley

The Whanganui River is the only Great Walk in New Zealand that you have to paddle. Chris is a prize winning photographer and will share the highlights of his trip earlier this year.

Upcoming Trips

1-2 November

Roaring Stag, Dundas **F**
Geoff Phillips **356-4223**

A classic Tararua trip taking in some of the nicest forest and river and tops travel in the park. Day one is from Putara Road to Roaring Stag Hut, then up to Cattle Ridge Hut and down and up to Dundas Hut. Day two loops back along the open tops of the Dundas Range, down to Herepai Hut and back to the roadend.

2 November

Burn Hut Loop **M**
Dave Grant **328-7788**

Join me on a new Burn Hut loop tramp, this time coming in from the south. From the top Mangahao dam we will head in to Baber Creek and then up the old Puketuru track to the ridge. Here, we will head north along a newly cut track to reach Burn Hut for lunch, then back down to top Mangahao via College Creek as usual. Enjoy fantastic lake, bush and tops views in the northern Tararuas without the usual Burn Hut loop road walk at the end. Leave Milverton 7.30am.

8-9 November

Mid King Biv **M/F**
Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

Note change of leader.

Depart 7.30am. Mid King Biv is south of Mitre Peak in the Tararua Ranges and is reached via Baldy, either via Mitre Flats Hut or Atiwhakatu but if the latter we will have the chance to bag more huts, including McGregor Biv and Jumbo.

9 November

Titahi Bay Rock Intro **T**
Peter Darragh **353-0922**

If you want to have a nice day at the seaside then this is the trip for you. We will also be rock climbing, top roping. So bring sun screen a pair of grippy shoes and a bit of courage. departing 8 30am. Some gear will be available on the day.

15-16 November

Nth Mangahao Biv **M**
Peter van Essen **355-9076**

As the kereru flies, North Mangahao Biv is the closest Tararua DOC hut/biv to Palmerston North but is the least often visited as it is hidden in a scrubby part of the park with no official track access. I have never been there, which is why it is time we did. We will make the overnight tramp in from Scott's Road end

via Punga Hut and return via the main range. Expect some scrub bashing navigation between hunters trails and a scrub fly camp, not much room in a dog-box biv! Depart 7am.

16 November

Stanfield and Beyond **M**
Mick Leyland **355-1845**

Note new phone number. This trip is a perennial favourite in the eastern Ruahines; up the West Branch of the Tamaki Stream to the hut, up to Takapari Road and loop back down past A-Frame Hut.

22-23 November

Waitewaewae Hut **M**
Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

Note change of leader.

This is a fairly standard, but nonetheless interesting, tramp which will bag is another us another Tararua hut. We follow the track from Otaki Forks to Waitewaiwai Hut, stay Saturday night in the hut and then head back out the same way.

23 November

Otaki Forks Picnic **All**
Yvonne van der Does **357-7439**
Sally Hewson **357-0990**

Enjoy a relaxing picnic down by the river and explore the easy tracks at the Otaki Forks road end. Give Yvonne or Sally a call.

29-30 November

Pureora, Bog Inn Hut MTB+ **All**
Richard Lockett **323-0948**

Head up Friday evening and camp at Piropiro flats and explore the timber trail north from there on Saturday, Bog Inn Hut, Mount Pureora etc. Sunday, many options for walk or bike.

30 November

Keretaki Hut **M**
Graeme Richards **353-6227**

This hut is nicely located on a sheltered ridge in the Ruahines behind Dannevirke. Contact Graeme for details.

|

6-7 December (Full Moon)

High Ridge, Totara Flats **M/F**
Angela Minto **06 377-1505**
(or 027 472 0660)

Leaving early Saturday morning via Powell Hut, up to Holdsworth Summit as a little side trip, then head off down the "apparently" newly marked route along High Ridge to Totara Flats Hut for the night (meeting up with new knees TC). Sunday morning up Cone Ridge Track to check out the cool goblin forest then return to

Totara Flats Hut and out via the Gently Annie Track.

6-7 November
Totara Flats Hut
Terry Crippen

E
356-3588
(or 027 643 3637)

Leaving PN about 7.30am. An easy tramp from Holdsworth road end via the newly routed track to the Hut. In the afternoon or Sun morning, plenty of time to explore the flats, have a swim, visit Sayer Hut or head up Cone Ridge. Come out the same way..

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.

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 on 357-1695. 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 or email to pntmctrips@gmail.com with the date and trip name in the subject line. 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:

Janet Wilson 329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence 357-1695

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler, the newsletter editor, direct or via our web site <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

PNTMC 50th Anniversary 2015

Plans are under way to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary and Camp Rangi Woods at Totara Reserve has already been booked for the last weekend of November 2015.

A Jubilee book is also being prepared as a record of events and activities over the years.

If you have any ideas or are interested in assisting then please contact the club President Dave Grant who is heading the organising sub-committee of Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Doug Strachan and Martin Lawrence (Treasurer).

We would like to invite past members to join in the celebrations so if you know of anyone please let them know or give Terry their contact details.

Interclub Quiz Results

PNTMC hosted the Quiz on 25 September, with Janet Wilson as QuizMaster. Only half a point separated the winning MTSC team from the PNTMC top team – from all accounts an enjoyable night that really stretched the brain cells.



Interclub Quiz Night

[Woody Lee]

New Member

Welcome to Craig Bedford who comes to the club via the Snowcraft Course this year. His phone number is 021 407 037.

FMC News

Applications for Huts and Tracks Fund

Applications opened 15 September for the Outdoor Recreation Consortium's three funds made possible by the Department of Conservation's \$700,000 grant under the Community Conservation Partnership Fund.

The Outdoor Recreation Consortium is a partnership of FMC, NZDA and Trailfund NZ formed with the purpose of encouraging greater involvement of backcountry users with the management of their public lands and facilities.

The three funds are:

- the Huts and Tracks fund, administered by FMC/NZDA
- the Mountain Bike Fund, administered by Trailfund NZ
- the Backcountry Recreation Fund, administered by FMC

FMC would like to encourage all outdoors people reading this newsletter to think of how they might be able to contribute to this project, whether by applying for funding as a club or individual, or by signing up to contribute to projects led by others. To keep up to date join the Outdoor Recreation Consortium facebook page.

Further information including application forms and guidelines can be found on the Outdoor Recreation Consortium's new website: hutsandtracks.org.nz

NOTE – the PNTMC committee is looking to this fund for a new swing bridge to replace the old one removed by DoC that provided access across the Pohangina River to Mid-Poh Hut.

Trip Reports

9-10 August 2014

Powell-Jumbo Circuit

Janet Wilson

On the full moon back in August, when the snow lay thickish on the ground, we headed off with the intention of doing a Powell-Jumbo traverse by moonlight.

We had a very nice lunch at the Mt Bruce cafe and walked up to Powell late afternoon. The track has been upgraded once again since I was last there and many wooden steps have been built up near the hut - no more rock scramble. There was snow on the ground from about half way up and around the hut there was a good dump. Just as well as the water system was frozen up and so we had to melt snow.

On the way up we had met someone coming down carrying snow shoes - he had just done the circuit around the East Holdsworth track and reported waist deep snow. While we cooked dinner and melted snow to fill drink bottles, we pondered the conditions. There was a cold breeze and it had got a little later than planned (due to slow snow-melting). I didn't find it an easy decision but all things considered, I think we made the right one. We postponed the tramp to Jumbo until the morning and instead did an evening walk to Mt Holdsworth.

I think we were up on the top at 9pm - very cold at the trig with spindrift blowing around but good visibility - we didn't linger too long before heading back to the comfort of the hut. We carried but didn't need crampons. No waist deep snow on that section.



Mt Holdsworth by moonlight [Woody Lee]

Next morning was cold but clear and we still had the breeze. As we headed off the top of Holdsworth we did find some deepish snow for a short while but mostly it was easy travel and great snow conditions. It was cold and most of us had our overtrousers on. We had first lunch at Jumbo, another break at Atiwhakatu (still some snow around there) and then most of us had a very quick tramp out - hard to keep up with Grant's long legs.

An enjoyable weekend - the moonlight traverse still on the list to do. The team was Warren Wheeler (leader), Grant Christian, Woody Lee, Craig and Mike Allerby and Janet Wilson (scribe).

24 August 2014 Trespass at Paekakariki Richard Lockett

On a trip down the state highway between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay as a passenger in a truck a while back I happened to glance up into one of the gullies which cut into the escarpment and saw a wire bridge slung across it, "Haven't seen that before" I thought. "Does that mean there's a track up there?"

From the Paekakariki end you can clearly see a track from the road winding along beside the rail track. It transpired that this track forms part of the Te Araroa Walkway so I thought that I should make the effort to get down there and walk it at some stage and a good way of ensuring that is to put it on the clubs trip card.

So the day arrived with 9 keen walkers assembled at Milverton Park but I had to inform them that from the Te Araroa web site, the track is not yet finished and I didn't how far along it we could get but it does at least climb up to a look out a few kms along it. So all still being keen we set off for Paekakariki. On reaching our destination a feeling of unease descended upon me as I could not find my car keys, which should have been in my pocket, the car being at Milverton Park with the keys still in the ignition? Well, hopefully still at Milverton. A quick polite phone call to Anne Lawrence to see whether the situation could be rectified, Thanks, Anne.

From the centre of Paekakariki we headed south along Ames Street and upon reaching the main highway turned north to cross the railway overbridge where some steps lead down to pass underneath and the start of the track proper. A local project to replant the

hillside is doing good work in a challenging environment, gravel and rock on steep slopes hoping to entice birds back from Kapiti Island.

For a couple of kms the track runs beside the rail tracks following the contours up and down while the rail remains level looking down or up while waving to the passing electric units. The track then turns to zigzag up the face of the Paekakariki escarpment, as it is called, steeply at first before easing and final sidle along below the crest to reach a small grassed lookout area and an early lunch.



High above Paekakariki [Karen Tuttl]

The face of the escarpment is railway reserve land as back in the day (late 1800's) the civil engineers of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company knew the value of keeping a slip prone area covered in vegetation and the best way of achieving this was to own it, although steam railway locomotives had a regular habit of setting fire to said vegetation.

So as the assembled nine gained height up the face of the escarpment a proliferation of signage foretelling of the consequences of reaching the end of the world, sorry reaching private land, prosecution without a doubt, the classic being, as I stood on the track and the signage at arm's length telling the assembled nine that we were on private land and that we were liable to be prosecuted. As we hadn't reached the top yet I was pretty sure that we

were still on railway reserve and still on track, so we pressed on regardless although *I did look back on occasion to see if anyone was running along behind us with papers in hand to serve upon us.*

Anyway, lunch at the lookout, sandwiches in hand and an extraordinary tale from Fiona of being rescued by a busload of male photographers from the jaws of a carnivorous plant deep in the swamps of Cape York in Northern Queensland, Australia on a recent visit there. Something like that, although I didn't get the full story being captivated by the views out to sea, Kapiti Island and down into the rock pools on the shore line, the water being very amazingly clear.

With no onwards sign of track construction for us to explore it was turnaround time and a downhill trek back passing the proliferation of signage which got me thinking about the track builders - do the signs sprout arms and legs from their H4 treated posts and come to life at night to carve a track from the face of the escarpment and if so where do they hide their wheelbarrows? Or are they in fact the track builders who upon reaching the end of the world got turned into petrified dumb arse signs as a warning to passing travellers. Perhaps prosecution is the better option, I wait in hope! After much pondering over the grave matters a hand we reassembled a Paekakariki for ice creams and for Fiona home baked gingerbread men before heading back home. Those guilty of trespass, Richard, Anne, Mai, Sally, Yvonne, Fiona, Pete, Karen, Kathy.

11-12 October 2014

Sunrise Lodge

By Minami Strachan

The day before we went tramping it was my 9th birthday. In the evening I found out my boots were too small. As soon as possible me and my Dad rushed to the shops. There weren't any boots because they only had summer stock, so we got some normal shoes. They were bright purple and had laces. We went to bed early and woke up very excited. I wanted to jump off the top bunk in the hut.

We met Karen at Milverton Park. She came while we were playing at the playground. We got all buckled up in the car. Dad started the motor and we were off. It took 2 hours to get

there. What a long time. On the way we saw tons of sheep. Some were snoozing and some were drinking their mother's milk. Broom broom, the car engine scared all the sheep away. We parked our car.

Everyone got their heavy backpacks on and started to walk. In the first couple of steps I found a good walking stick. Some of the path was bumpy. Me and my brother pretended to be the King and Queen of Nature and made up this cool song:

*1-2-3 the king and the queen!
1-2-3 the king and the queen!*

I got out my toy and we started playing a game with it.

We started to scare Karen along the way. The second time we tried it, she said she nearly had a heart attack. Me and Conan laughed. After that, she wasn't scared at all. She knew it was coming.

"Daddy, how long until we get there?" I said. I started singing quietly to myself:

*A b c d e f g
gummy bears are chasing me
one is red, one is blue
one is pooping on my shoe
now I'm running for my life
coz the white one has a knife*

Daddy and Karen and Mummy were catching up with me and Conan. Me and Conan both said at the same time, "Are we nearly there yet?" "Soon, I guess," Daddy replied. Karen said, "We're in the clouds."

"Ohh, yay!" I shouted. "Snow!" I started throwing snowballs at my Dad. Daddy said, "I'm gonna pay you back," with a smiling, evil look on his face. I sang, "Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, you can't get me!" Daddy missed like a 1000 times. I couldn't believe it.

I said, "Look, there's a sign." Conan said, "It says 'Sunrise Hut,' with an arrow pointing upwards.

There were a lot of cars down at the car park, which explains why there were so many people at the hut. "We're finally here!" I cried. I was exhausted. Conan said, "Look, a pond."

Daddy said with a laughing kind of look on his face, "Go to the toilet and see what's happened." I couldn't believe my eyes. The whole door and nearly the whole thing was

blown off. Conan was laughing his head off. When we came back, Daddy said, "see?"



It was already like that when I sat down, Dad.

Mummy said, "Come inside kids, and see which bed you want to sleep in. Daddy suggested the quiet room. He thought if we were in the other room people would snore. We didn't know if he was right yet.

I suggested to Conan we go outside to play near the pond. Mummy called us to put our jackets on. Karen was still taking her shoes off. We were throwing little stones into the big pond. I told Conan to be careful not to fall in.

Mummy said, "I've got the mattresses down ready to sleep on." I said, "Yippee!, now can we jump from the bunks?" "Can we please, can we please," I cried. Daddy said softly, "I suppose." We got the mattresses out.

Daddy said, "Let's go up to Armstrong Saddle. You can go through the tunnel if you want," getting his backpack in position. We went down the tunnel. I was itching myself because the branches and leaves were tickling me and scraping on my leg. It was a dead end. Conan said, "Damn it, now we have to go all the way back." I suggested a shortcut up onto the path. Me and Conan didn't want to go higher, so we went back with Mummy. Mummy said, "We'll have dinner when Daddy and Karen get back."

Mummy said, "Dinner time." Conan was yawning because he was so tired. Conan said, "I want to go to bed now." I said, "But we haven't had dinner yet." Conan said, "Oh yeah." I said, "Conan, you weren't listening." Daddy said, "As always."

Me and Conan wanted to move beds to the highest place. Daddy said we'd all move, so we did. Daddy told us a Scooby Dooby Doo story at bedtime, after we had lit all the candles and I blew them out. The Scooby Doo story was very funny and interesting.

The next morning me and Conan didn't want to get up because it was too cold. After a while we both got dressed and had breakfast. After breakfast me and Conan went to the pond to play a bit. We climbed up a steep hill with Karen. It was a very good view. It was fun coming down, sliding on our bottoms. Karen was surprised.

Mummy took a photo of Daddy about to cut Conan's head off. It was only a joke. It was to teach him a lesson not to blow off the toilet door. That's a joke as well.

We climbed down the hill playing a word game. We went down the river after we put on our sunblock. The water was way too cold for me and I was dying to wear some drier socks. We finally got to the car park after a long time, and after we scared Mummy and Conan from behind a grassy hill. I asked Daddy again if we could stop at an ice cream shop. So we got an ice cream, and dropped off Karen at Milverton Park again, and went home.

That's right everybody who has read this story, I forgot to mention Daddy was wrong - nobody snored.

Karen Tutt, Strachan family (Doug, Maho, Minami [9], Conan [7]).



Back of Mealmates Sunrise Hut by Minami

18-19 October 2014
Arete Forks
Janet Wilson

Jean and I were away from the car just after 8am on our way up towards Blue Range. Although it was quite warm down low we made good time to Blue Range Hut where we had a quick stop for a photo and a muesli bar. We were down at Cow Creek Hut just after 12pm for lunch.

After lunch we started off on the sidle track to Arete Forks. This is steep initially before it turns to sidle up the valley. At this point we carried on up the ridge to Table Ridge. The route is cairned and was not too hard to follow. It was a great day with good views from the tops towards Mitre, Brockett and Tarn Ridge around to the Bannister Ridge. The cool wind and threatening clouds out to the N/E kept us moving along and, after checking the map and compass, we soon headed down towards Arete Forks.



Dropping down off Bannister Ridge

There is a long tongue of tussock and small scrub leading down this spur and the bush line is well down. Jean had heard that this (old track on some maps) route had been re-marked recently by the ex-Forest Service team that looks after the hut. We looked around carefully at the bush edge and soon picked up the route, which is very well marked with bits of venetian blind. We had a little rain at this

point and it was parkas on until the hut which we reached at 4.30. The hut is in great order - recently renovated and painted with heaps of firewood. After dinner we went for a little walk upstream after dinner after spotting a couple of deer who quickly vanished.



Arete Forks Hut

Next morning the cloud was down and it was damp. We were away at 7.30 and travelled downstream on the TR for a short while before crossing over and climbing up the bank - we were headed for the Bannister Ridge. After a short while we found the reassuring line of fresh markers - which probably started at the forks just below the hut - we should have looked at the obvious hut point. It was a steady climb which included a decent sized leatherwood band (track on the RH side heading up) and a steep scrubby section higher up.

We had our coats on before we gained the ridge top and it rained for the rest of the day. The ground trail made going a bit faster along to Cattle Ridge where we had to check our direction and turn for Cow Saddle - care needed in the clag. We were getting a bit cold and descended as quickly as possible - at one point a big windfall at a change of direction made life difficult. We had a quick lunch at the saddle and then followed the old track - narrow but quite well marked with bits of tape - to the main Blue Range/Cow Creek track. The climb towards Te Mara seemed bigger on tired legs. After that it was all down hill back to the car - got back about 4pm.

A great trip, thanks Jean. It was very enjoyable to use some different routes and special thanks must go to those who have done such a great job of marking and maintaining them.

On the combined MTSC and PTNMC trip were Jean Garman and Janet Wilson.

The Great
2014-15
Ruahine
Whio
Census



WANTED

Whio (Blue Duck) sightings

If you are lucky enough to see any Whio, we would love to hear from you. We need to know where and how many you saw.

Other valuable info you could give us:

- Whether you saw a male (he whistles) or a female (she growls/croaks).
- If you saw ducklings we would love to know their approximate size and how many you saw.

Record the information in the DoC Hut Book and/or Phone information to:
The Palmerston North DoC office - 06 350 9700 or text Janet 027 341 8945.



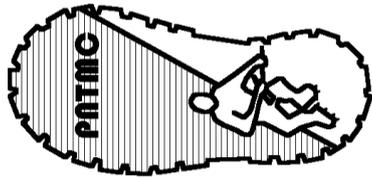
RWP
RUAHINE WHIO PROTECTORS

In association with the Department of Conservation

If you see a Whio (Blue Duck) on any river trips in the Ruahines be sure to let DOC or Janet know.

Sightings will help gauge the success of the on-going stoat and rat trap-line project in the Oroua catchment and the need for predator control elsewhere.

If you would like to volunteer to help check the Oroua traps contact Janet 329-4722 for more details.



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What's inside this month?

- Interclub Quiz Results
- Sunrise Hut family trip Report
- Paekakariki Walkway
- Powell-Jumbo, Arete Forks Hut bagging
- Whio Census 2014-15
- Coming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

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

Get out and about with us!

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