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# Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

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

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

## Newsletter May 2015

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*Easter Sunrise and Moonset, Mt Arthur, Kahurangi National Park*

*[Geoff Phillips]*

### Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

**14 May**

**Bibbulmun Track**

**Debby and Rob McColl**

The Bibbulmun Track in Western Australia runs a thousand kilometres from near Perth to the south coast through a diversity of forests, wetlands and coastal landscapes. Colourful birds, unique wildlife and magnificent wild flowers ensure there is something to entertain you every step of the way, and there are enough challenges to keep you on your toes for the six-week duration of this very satisfying long-distance walk.

**28 May**

**BYO Slides**

Our six monthly show and tell for members to present highlights of recent trips.

## Upcoming Trips

**2-3 May**

**Carkeek Hut**

**Graham Peters**

**329-4722**

A chance to bag some huts still not visited in the Tararua Forest Park. This trip will attempt to go to Carkeek Hut from the eastern side. The plan is to make it a 3 day weekend taking Friday off work.

**3 May**

**Blue Range Hut**

**Woody Lee**

**E**

**357-2390**

A gateway to the eastern Tararuas, we drive to the Kiriwhakapapa Road between Mt Bruce and Masterton. The track is a fairly steep hill at the beginning but it will be a nice trip. Depart 8am.

**9-10 May**

**Te Heu Heu Climb**

**Grant Christian**

**F/T**

**354-5843**

Leaving Friday at 4pm we will travel to Tukino and walk through to Waihohonu Hut for Friday night. An early start on Saturday for a long walk up the Northeast ridge to Te Heu Heu peak. This is the original route for climbing Ruapehu. Climbers started out from the old Waihohonu Hut. First recorded ascent was 12 Dec 1877. We will return to Waihohonu Hut for Saturday night. Crampons and ices axes will be required if we have snow. Anyone wanting to do an easier walk on Saturday is welcome to join us.

**10 May**

**Scanlyn Loop**

**Dave Grant**

**M**

**328-7788**

Contact Dave for details.

**16-17 May**

**Broken Axe Pinnacles**

**Ange Minto 06 377-1505 or 027 472 0660**

**F**

An after dark Friday night walk in to Atiwhakatu Hut for an early start. Saturday to Jumbo for the night via Baldy, Broken Axe Pinnacles and McGregor Biv. Sunday a relaxing walk out back to the start of Holdsworth car park. Weather might make for interesting extended times along the tops!

**17 May**

**Hardings Park**

**Peter Wiles**

**E/M**

**358-6894**

Leave at 7.30am from Milverton Park. Route options will depend on the conditions. We can visit the "platinum mines" or go further or less depending on what we want to do.

**23-24 May**

**McGregor Biv**

**Geoff Phillips**

**M/F**

**356-4223**

Depart 7.00am from PN for an early start from the Holdsworth roadend. From there we head up to Jumbo Hut via the Atiwhakatu track and then along the tops to McGregor Biv. Return either via Baldy or possibly Powell Hut.

**24 May**

**Kapakapanui**

**Craig Allerby**

**M/F**

**323-7913**

Leave PN at 7.30 am heading down to Waikanae. A quick stop for a fresh, cream filled doughnut at Otaki is a possibility. The track starts inland from Waikanae and goes in a loop. We will be doing the loop anti-clockwise, with a steep 900m grunt to the top of Kapakapanui (1102m), passing through some stunning goblin forest. There are excellent views of Kapiti Island and the Tararuas from the top making it a good place for a lunch break. After a km of tops travel the track descends with the opportunity of bagging Kapakapanui Hut along the way.

**29-1 June Queens Birthday**

**Tarawera Explorer**

**Janet Wilson**

**E/M**

**329-4722**

This annual excursion will break from our coastal tradition and head to Lake Tarawera. Plan A is to travel up early on the Friday and catch a water taxi to Hot Water Beach. Camp at the DOC camp site and relax in the hot water. Next day, tramp out (4-6 hours?) and spend the next 2 nights at the Blue Lake Holiday Park in cabins, exploring the Rotorua tracks and or cycle paths depending on preferences. I am very keen to visit the Wingspan Birds of Prey Centre (entry \$25.00). Early expressions of interest please i.e. by May 7th if you are thinking of coming.

**30 June**

**Rangi Hut**

**Graeme Richards**

**E**

**353-6227**

Only an hour away from PN this is arguably the best and easiest trip up onto the Ruahine tops especially now that the whole track has been upgraded. Enjoy the new zig zag past the big slip, arch bridge and viewpoints as you pass through different forest types on the way up to views out to Ruapehu once at the hut. A fun adventure ideal for the whole family.

**5-6 June**

**Roaring Stag**

**Warren Wheeler**

**E**

**356-1998**

*Leader changed from Anne to Warren.*

Depart PN at 8.00am and drive to the end of Putara Road, behind Eketahuna. This is a classic Tararua easy grade trip to quite a new hut beside the Ruamahanga River. We can explore nearby the hut and try to find the little Hidden Lake. Ideal for first timers but if keen you could race up to bag Cattle Ridge Hut. We could at least detour to Herepai Hut on the way out.

### 6 June

#### Purity Hut

Peter Wiles

M

358-6894

Leave Milverton Park at 7.30am for the journey to the Kawhatau Valley via the back road route. The plan will depend on the weather on the day. If the weather is poor, we can go to Rangī Hut instead. There could be a chance of some snow at the bushline?

#### Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trapper 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](mailto: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
Malcolm Parker	357-5203

#### Articles for the newsletter

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

## Notices

### PNTMC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015

Plans are under way to celebrate the club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Camp Rangī 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.



It's about time winter arrived! We want plenty of snow! PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme starts in July. It has two aims; to equip people

with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow; and to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering. It will be running as day trips to Mt Ruapehu with an evening session mid-week prior to each day trip.

15 July Wed evening  
SC1 Intro and briefing

18 or 19 July SC1 Mt Ruapehu

29 July Wed evening  
SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work

1 or 2 August SC2 Mt Ruapehu

12 August Wed evening  
SC3 Briefing & rope work

15 or 16 August SC3 Mt Ruapehu

The fees for each of SC1, SC2, SC3 are: \$50 if PNTMC member, or \$60 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 round to friends you may think are interested.

Applications (returned application form and fee) close **Thursday 9 July**. Application forms are now available on the Snowcraft link at: [www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz) or on the noticeboard at Club night. For more info contact: Terry Crippen 356-3588 or 027 643 3637; or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761.

## Tararua Hut Bagging

Following the success of our previous Ruahine hut bagging and peak bagging competitions, PNTMC is running a new hut bagging competition focused on the Tararuas.

The challenge started on 1 July 2014 and will run over the 12 months until 30 June 2015.

3 points per visit to Tararua hut, bivvy, shelter, Holdsworth Lodge etc – as long as they are on DOC website. **Only 1 point for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> visits, not 3 points.**

1 extra point if the visit is on a club trip.

1 extra point if you stay the night. (One hut only per night) Camping outside crowded huts counts.

1 extra point for a first visit.

All other DOC huts in the country - 1 point per visit (no extra points)

All huts maximum of 3 visits to count for points.

Please take photos to record the visit, as well as for producing a new poster. As our Ruahine hut bagging poster was a huge success, the club would like to produce a similar one for the Tararuas.

Hut bags, email to [jwilson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jwilson@inspire.net.nz).  
Hut images, [martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com](mailto:martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com)

## Progress Update from Janet

The scores as I have them for the hutbagging are WW still with a massive lead on 206 (somehow 2 less than last month !!), me 2nd on 134, and Woody Lee surging into third on 95 ahead of Graham Peters on 78. Michael has fallen back to 6th place on 62, with Grant passing him on 76. So far there have been 456 hut visits by individuals (133 different huts), with an overall total of 1231 points, mostly gained on club trips and at Tararua Huts.

There are plenty of opportunities coming up in the next few months – remember, the challenge runs until the end of June.

The current Top 10 Hut Baggers are:

Warren W	206
Janet W	134
Woody L	95
Graham P	78
Grant C	76
Mike A	62
Craig A	58
Graeme R	58
Richard L	58
Chris T	50

## Club Gear for Hire

Warren Wheeler (356-1998) is the gear custodian for general club gear.

Terry Crippen (356-3588 or 027 643 3637) is the gear custodian for specific climbing gear that can only be used by Club members on Club trips; as well as the avo transceivers, probes, shovels.

Anne and Martin Lawrence (357-1695) have the Person Locator Beacons. These can be

hired free of charge by Club members on Club or private trips.

The following gear is available for hire from the Club:

(Cost is per day per item for Club members, double for non-club members)

Ice Axe. . . . .	\$2
Crampon . . . . .	\$6
Helmet . . . . .	\$2
Harness . . . . .	\$5
Snow stake . . . . .	\$2
Snow picket/pig . . . . .	\$5
Ice hammer . . . . .	\$5
Snow shovel . . . . .	\$5
Avalanche probe . . . . .	\$5
Fly (4person) . . . . .	\$4
Compass . . . . .	\$2
Bivvy bag . . . . .	\$2
Avalanche transceiver* . . . . .	\$5
Snowshovel, probe & avo transceiver set*..	\$10
Rope 50m** . . . . .	\$10
Carabineers (2 screw, 2snap) & ATC Set**..	\$5

\*See Note 6. \*\* See Note 7.

### Terms & Conditions

1. The above prices are for Club members. Non-club member rates are double.
2. To hire gear; book your requirements with THE GEAR CUSTODIAN IN ADVANCE OF WHEN YOU WANT TO PICK THE GEAR UP. Otherwise the gear custodian may be away or the gear already borrowed.
3. The gear is available on “a first come basis”, however priority is given to Club trips, bookings by other related organizations, and club members.
4. For non-club members identification and a bond may be required if the Hirer is unknown to the Gear Custodian.
5. The Hirer is responsible in ensuring the hired equipment is returned in a satisfactory condition, and on time. If the equipment is lost, or returned in damaged condition, the Hirer is liable to full replacement cost. A continuing fee may be charged if not returned on time. The Hirer is also liable for any further charges that may arise from the club having to pursue return of the gear or moneys owing.
6. \*Avalanche transceivers; a form is required to be filled in for these. Hirer is responsible for supplying NEW alkaline batteries. A bond may be required of non-Club members.
7. \*\*The carabineers & ATC sets and rope can be hired only by Club members on scheduled Club trips.
8. Reduced rates for longer trips, or to related organizations, is at the discretion of the Gear Custodian.

## New Member

Welcome to Raj Palanisamy, phone 354-4263.

## Whio Protection Project

It has been another great year for the Whio Protection Project. The project originally started in the Oroua River and has since extended into the Pohangina River and just this year into the Rangī-Deadmans Loop area. There are now over 500 DOC 200 traps in the project area.

Janet Wilson is the project coordinator – here is an excerpt from her latest report to volunteers.

“Thanks to everyone who has helped out so willingly over the summer. I plan to keep up the monthly rebaits right through the winter as the weather allows. If you want to help out please get in touch. If anyone is keen to give the Oroua River a go in May and the flows are low, I'd love to hear from you. It would be nice to get one more rebait done before winter sets in. PNTMC are doing the check in June - a good opportunity for new volunteers to come along and have a go. I am now looking for helpers for July/August/ September.”

If you would like to volunteer your help then contact Janet on (06) 329-4722.

## Presidents Report

*The following report was presented by Dave Grant at the AGM on 26 March 2015.*

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2014/15, being the club's 49<sup>th</sup> year.

It has been another great year for the club. We may only be a small club but we do have a great spirit and we do “get out there”.

Membership currently stands at 74, up from 72 this time last year which is an encouraging trend in this day and age.

Naturally enough the focal point of the club's activities continues to be tramping, although a couple of mountain bike trips have been run. Given the large increase in mountain bike routes throughout the country, maybe we should be offering more such trips. We have continued to offer the choice of a day tramp

and an overnight tramp each weekend, and major thanks must go to Janet Wilson and Terry Crippen who put the trip programme together every six months, a task they have performed for many years now. Many thanks also to all those club members who put their names forward to lead trips, and for their selection of interesting and often challenging venues. The club depends on your support.

We offered 96 trips over the course of the year, of which 28% did not go largely due to bad weather. The Tararuas and the Ruahines dominated trip routes, as would be expected, with 39% going into the Tararuas and 26% to the Ruahines. Tararua trips were up on the norm, thanks to the Tararua Hut Bagging Competition. Despite the domination of the Tararuas and Ruahines 35% of trips still went elsewhere.

On average our day trips had between 5 and 6 people, with overnights having between 3 and 4 people. In terms of actual numbers, the most popular day trip was a family tramp up Beehive Creek in the Pohangina, with 13 adults and children enjoying a fun family adventure. The most popular overnight trip was the coastal classic with 9 members enjoying the East Coast at Porongahau/Blackhead Point.

To encourage members to get out in the hills and to introduce a competitive element, for the third year in succession Janet Wilson has organised a club competition, this time a Tararua Hut Bagging competition. Lots of huts have been bagged but there is still plenty of time before the competition ends in July to bag some more, so get out there people.

Our other main focus is the twice monthly Thursday club night held here in the Quakers Hall, providing members the opportunity to enjoy each others company in a relaxed environment. The programme offered at these meetings is always interesting and varied thanks to Warren Wheeler's efforts in searching out interesting speakers, often from within the club, augmented by other activities such as our own PNTMC and interclub photo competition, interclub quiz night (which we narrowly missed winning this year), and not forgetting the beginning and end of year BBQs and club gear auction. The annual debate with Massey University Alpine Club did not quite get off the starting blocks this year for various reasons. The students are often hard to pin down but in this case we couldn't raise enough interest within our own club. If we want the

debate to continue we do need to be willing to get involved. And during the winter months Janet again organised a monthly Thursday night dine out, often with a dozen or so members attending. Thanks for that Janet.

Communication within the club is also very much a function of our monthly newsletter which under the editorship of Warren Wheeler continues to excel with coverage of topical issues and interesting trip reports.

Our excellent website under the guidance of webmasters Peter Wiles and Martin Lawrence assisted by Malcolm Parker is also vital in maintaining communication within the club, with the added advantage of serving as the public face of our club.

Again, last winter, Terry Crippen with the support of Bruce van Brunt and other club members, ran the Snow Craft courses over three days, totalling 21 students, many of whom are non-club members. And some of whom end up joining our club. Great PR for the club. Thank you Terry and Bruce for your enthusiasm in carrying on with this.

In late September we dedicated the memorial garden to our late member Tony Gates. A very moving occasion attended by some 30 people including members of the Gates family. The garden is located in the Rangiwahia carpark. Thanks to those club members who helped construct the garden and to Mick Leyland for organising the plaque. The Gates family very generously donated \$2000 to our newly established hut maintenance fund.

We have been successful in securing a grant of \$850 from Eastern & Central Community Trust to help fund first aid, river safety, and avalanche safety training programmes. A \$1000 bequest from the Joyce Simpson estate can also be put towards the cost of training programmes.

50 years ago this coming November our club was founded. We are going to mark the occasion with a fun weekend at Camp Rangi Woods in the Pohangina Valley. A sub committee is busy organising the event, with a number of activities planned including local day trips and mountain bike rides, culminating in the Jubilee Dinner on the Saturday night. We need you to join in to make it a great occasion, and also if you know any past members please encourage them to come also.

On a broader front the club and individual members are actively involved in community issues to do with the outdoors, and we should be proud of this. Congratulations to Anne Lawrence for her continued involvement in the Wellington Conservation Board, currently as Chairperson, and to Janet Wilson who chairs the newly formed Ruahine Whio Protection Trust, and who for a number of years has coordinated the setting up and operation of stoat trap lines in the upper Pohangina and Oroua catchments. A number of our club members are regular helpers in this work. Our thanks are also due to Anne and Janet who are also our reps on the Ruahine Users Group which meets monthly with DOC to discuss and keep abreast of issues specific to Ruahine Forest Park, and to Peter Darragh, our rep on the PN Land SAR board. And let us not forget our involvement with the maintenance of Mid Poh and Ngamoko huts, helping to ensure that these backcountry facilities are retained for our, and future generations, use. Particular thanks here to Craig and Michael Allerby for doing much of the work in maintenance jobs and keeping the firewood supply stocked. In line with maintaining and improving such backcountry facilities in the Ruahines, the club also applied to the Outdoor Recreation Consortium fund (a consortium of FMC, NZ Deerstalkers Assn, and Trail Fund) for funds to re-establish the Mid Pohangina swingbridge. The application was not successful due largely to policies of ownership and maintenance for such structures still to be established, but we have been encouraged to reapply and are currently in the process of doing so.

And now I would like to thank all my committee – Martin, Anne, Bruce, Warren, Geoff, Malcolm, Janet, Craig, Terry, and Thomas for your support, ideas and enthusiasm. Thank you specifically to Warren Wheeler - Newsletter editor, club night programme organiser, co gear custodian, and Treasurer, Terry Crippen – Secretary, co gear custodian, and co trip card organiser, Janet Wilson - co trip card organiser and competition organiser, Craig Allerby – supper man, Martin Lawrence for organising the photo competition entries and assisting with the website, Bruce van Brunt for organising funding applications.

And outside the committee, thanks to Peter Wiles for his continued involvement in the website, and to Don French for reviewing the accounts each year, and to Sue Pither our Patron for her continued interest and support in our club.

Lastly, thank you for giving me the honour of being your club president for the past year.

Dave Grant

26/3/2015



*Six delicious cakes but there could only be one winner.*  
[Woody Lee]

### AGM Chocolate Cake Competition Results

The AGM was followed by a Chocolate Cake Competition. Cakes were provided by Committee members and members voted for first, second and third by placing their written choice in one of the three vote billies. Multiple tastings were required to pick the best three and then the best one and two. We could say that Chocolate Won on the Night as there was so little separating all the entries, but in the end there could only be one winner.

First – Janet Wilson (Edmonds One Egg Chocolate Cake)

Second equal – Gaewyn Grant (Betty Croker Chocolate Cake Mix)

Second equal – Warren Wheeler (modified Lolly Cake with Roses Chocolates)

Third – Martin Lawrence

## Recipes

### Nick's Mince

1. Get lean beef mince
2. Turn the oven on to 60-70°C, on fan bake
3. Fry the mince for a fair while – until most of the fat has burnt off
4. Put the mince in a sieve and pour boiling water over it, to remove any remaining oil. The oil goes rancid quite quickly if you do not do this.
5. Drain the mince and then place on some newspaper and pat dry with paper towels.
6. Spread thinly on oven paper, in a large oven tray.

7. Place the mince in the oven, and use a wooden spoon to hold the oven door slightly ajar – this helps airflow.
8. Turn the mince as it dries, to make sure there are no 'wet' spots.
9. Run the oven overnight and the mince will be ready in the morning.

Notes: I have tried dehydrating mince in a sauce (Spaghetti Bolognese) but found that the mince does not dehydrate properly, probably because the sauce inhibits air circulation around the mince. However, if you make the sauce and dehydrate it separately to the mince, this works really well. Often, I use a regular dehydrator to dehydrate some onions and carrots to go with the mince and the sauce. It is a bit tricky to do veges in the oven, and a large batch of mince does not work very well in a dehydrator, so using the two together works well.

### Warren's Chocolate Lolly Cake

110g butter  
 50g chocolate pieces (more or less)  
 ½ small tin of sweetened condensed milk  
 Packet of malt biscuits  
 150-200g Roses chocolates (firm flavours)  
 Chocolate hail

Melt the butter and chocolate pieces. Stir in the condensed milk.  
 Mix in the crushed malt biscuits and Roses chocolates cut into quarters.  
 Roll out on grease proof paper and shape into a log. Sprinkle with hail. Roll up in the paper and twist at each end to hold shape.  
 Place in fridge (or outside in the snow) for about 4 hours to set.  
 Cut into slices with a sharp knife.

## Trip Reports

### 21 March 2015 Ohau Huts Raj Palanisamy

Our trip to South Ohau Hut was planned to have a detour to see North Ohau Hut as well. The trip leader was Michael Allerby. As you all may know I am a newbie trying to fit into the well experienced trumper's club. When I called Michael to inform that I would like to join his trip his first question was whether I am fit enough for this trip. I read the description of the trip in the newsletter among other descriptions of the planned route it said "Head

to South Ohau Hut for the night, then follow the river out". Naively I thought we would be walking along the river means walking on the bank of the river enjoying the scenery. I was looking forward for the trip as I love running water and the surrounding plants, owning the waterways as if part of an eternal relationship the bond reinforced by their roots on the fringe of the flowing water.

I packed my not so professional tramping gear and was dropped off by my daughter at Milverton park at 7.55 am. The morning was so glorious for March and the forecast for the day and the next was wonderful according to the news. Mike and Craig arrived at 8pm and we set off to Levin. I am only familiar with main roads connecting to the nearby cities and am always surprised to find the new roads whenever I go tramping. This time I was expecting us to be driving towards Masterton but I was surprised to see Mike was going towards Wellington. Without asking I assumed that we are climbing the range from the west side as opposed to the trip we made through Holdsworth Road to Totara Flats in November with Terry Crippen. I enjoyed seeing the fertile area around Levin where they grow horticultural produce. Janet and Graham with Bruce (their dog) joined us on the trip for a day trip to North Ohau Hut.

When we entered the forest area and it was so beautiful and lush filled with nikau palm, which is the only palm species endemic to mainland New Zealand, the gracefully-arching fronds, made me feel like I was somewhere in the tropical rain forest. We walked briskly chatting away about many different topics. Bruce was running back and forth like a kid in the playground, he was playing a hide and seek game as directed by Janet asking him to find Graham who was walking behind us. I was so thrilled to talk to Mike and Craig who are both excellent with their plant identification skills.

While walking I could hear the running water and I was enthusiastic about walking "along" the riverbank overseeing the pristine clear running water. Craig informed me that we would be soon near the river, just as we saw beautiful grey stones which looked as if they were rubber balls spread among the running water. Janet suspiciously asked if I have experience in the river walk and I said no. She encouraged me by saying that I would be all right and asked me to take it easy. At that point I realised that the walk meant to be difficult for a person who did not have prior experience. Having grown up in the country

side as a kid I didn't doubt my boulder hopping efficiency the only concern was my waterproof trekking shoes as I had never tried out submerging them in the water. There we went in and out of water more than hundred times. My waterproof shoes proved to be right as the water along the pebbles collected in my shoes and stayed there until I tipped them out! I got used to it and I started enjoying walking in the water but was careful not to rush and to prove myself that I am fit enough.



*Easy travel up the Ohau [Warren Wheeler]*

Warren took his height and experience as an advantage to tread without dipping his toes in the water too much so he took his own route and at times the whole team followed his path. Bruce assessed the water level and the flow and he adapted different routes to all of us, that was amazing to watch! We arrived at North Ohau Hut by following the direction of the diversion sign on the river bank.



*North Ohau Hut [Warren Wheeler]*

The hut was small with four bunk beds and a cosy fireplace, there was even a mini bookshelf. The hut is located overlooking the river and the opposite slope is filled with beautiful native bush predominantly covered with tree ferns and sporadic rimu trees majestically standing well above the canopy among the tree ferns and rewarewa (knightia

excels). I wondered; for rimu evolutionarily to reach such heights in the canopy means there should have been many more tall trees (perhaps pure stand) it could have been rimu or some other species densely growing and competing each other. We sat on the bench outside on a sunny spot to have our lunch. It was a relaxing warm few minutes, which were appreciated by our soaking feet!



*Back down the North Ohau [Warren Wheeler]*

After the well-deserved but short break we were heading towards the North and South Ohau river junction and we parted with Janet and Graham who were heading home with Bruce, after achieving their first visit to North Ohau Hut. We continued our trek towards the South Ohau Hut along the river again! By the time we reached the hut it was around 4 pm. Till then the sun was shining merrily upon us.

We settled down inside the hut. There was a couple staying there and they had already started the fire to keep the hut warm. After we reached the hut the sky had completely covered over with clouds. We had a relaxing stay at the hut and although the night was warm, it rained lightly and continued to do so until morning. We packed our bags and started up the route track towards Gable End tops in the drizzling weather. The climb was very steep (but it was easier than the river walk for me) and it took almost 2 hours to reach the top.

The route was marked with yellow and pink ribbons and we followed the same. After the top as Mike pointed it was a highway so we came down comfortably to reach the road end. No dramas, no discomfort, all good!! I was fortunate to be in such a good company. I have already packed my bags to go with them in the next trip!!!

We were Mike and Craig Allerby, Warren Wheeler, Raj Palanisamy plus day trippers Janet Wilson, Graham Peters and Bruce (the dog).

**29 March 2015**  
**Ruapae Falls**  
**Dave Grant**

Sunday morning reasonably early, and Palmerston North had just had a cloud burst, well maybe a heavy shower. Gutters were awash. However the forecast for the eastern side of the Tararuas was not too bad, so three of us duly headed off. To reach Ruapae Falls involves travel up a branch of the Mangatainoka headwaters so the question of how much rain had fallen in the eastern Tararuas and how high was the river loomed large in the back of our minds.

We had an uneventful trip to Putara Road end, managing to avoid several vehicles travelling towards us on the gravel section of the road. What were they doing there at that hour of a Sunday morning anyway? The last several times I've been on that road I haven't seen a vehicle all the way from Eketahuna!!

Packs and boots on we duly started tramping about 9.15am, heading up the track towards Roaring Stag and Herepai. The track was wet, the river was up a bit, but the weather was looking OK, sort of cloudy sunny, so we were in good spirits. The route we were going to take leaves the Herepai track a couple of hundred metres after the first swing bridge. Its just a faint trail heading steeply up the hill to the south west. Missed it on the first pass, much to the confusion of a father and son who we had just chatted to. They were coming down. We were heading up towards Herepai. I realised we had overshot, so did an about turn and so we passed Dad and son again, but with both groups going down hill. Then we dived off track into the bush,

Anyway we made our way steeply up through the bush for a start, easing off as we approached the ridge top about point 655 where we stopped for a snack. This part of the bush is quite heavily stocked with rimu trees and the understorey fairly open which makes for easy travel. From here we headed northwest down to the stream.

Time for wet feet now with the water running 200- 300 mm deep as we criss crossed from one toi toi flat to another making our way upstream. The riverside flats got smaller and soon enough we were clambering around and over rocks and through water to make progress, eventually reaching the small falls some 50 metres down stream from the main

drop. These have a height of about 2 metres which we climbed via a convenient log jam.



*A convenient log jam avoids a swim*

About this time it started to rain quite heavily so it was a matter of quickly heading up to admire the main falls which were in full flow, plunging into the pool below, and then making our escape back down stream before water levels rose. However, by the time we reached the large river flat where we had first entered the river, the rain had stopped and the sun was trying to shine. It was now just before midday so time for lunch and to drain the boots maybe.

The rest of the return journey back to the road end was uneventful and we were delighted to find on returning to Eketahuna at about 2.30pm that there was a coffee shop open. So we celebrated our little adventure to Ruapae Falls with great coffee and choice of scones and cakes before heading back to Palmerston North well satisfied.

We were Warren Wheeler, Richard Lockett and Dave Grant (leader).

**12 April**  
**Kiritaki Hut (instead of Burn Hut)**  
**Peter Wiles**

On Saturday I rang Derek on another matter and mentioned my Burn Hut trip, for which I had no interest. He informed me that he and

Alistair were planning a trip to Kiritaki Hut on Sunday. So a team of three headed to Kiritaki instead. This likely proved to be a good option as cloud with horizontal rain was the likely scenario on the tops in the vicinity of Burn Hut in the Tararuas on Sunday.

With the Gorge closed, we headed over the Saddle Road in strong wind with rain. Not a pretty sight. Fortunately at the road end we had left the rain behind about a km to the south, but not the wind. We crossed the farmland and headed into the valley. Travel is reasonably straight forward using short sections of informal track in the bush/scrub and many stream crossings. In winter this could be a cold place to travel.

We had a latish morning tea stop and then with a steepening valley, completed the rest of the stream travel before reaching the start of the track at about 11.30.



*Kiritaki Hut*

We arrived at the hut at midday and ready for lunch and were glad to get out of the gale over the exposed ground. (Travel time was close to the suggested 2½ hrs.)



*Unusual barrel lodge at bush edge*

After a leisurely lunch, including a brew of tea, we headed back down the stream to the car. We had a quick look at the barrel lodge set close to the bush edge. Luckily the rain kept away for the entire journey.

Peter Wiles, Derek Sharp, Alistair Millward.

## **February 2015 Fox and Chancellor Hut Angela Minto**

Given we only had two days free before needing to travel north we planned a quick trip into Chancellor Hut up the true right of Fox Glacier to attempt a summit of something up valley. We opted for a chopper flight into the hut. Only about a 3 minute flight as opposed to a 1000m climb with areas of considerable scrambling of who knows how long!

We waited at the very low key heli operator depot, all unlocked and stuff lying here and there (this is the West Coast)! Terry graciously gave Ange the front seat and she enjoyed great views of Cook/Tasman and their towering mates. The cloud had just recently parted.

The charming 1930s Chancellor Hut adorned with wallpaper and all, is spectacularly placed looking down valley over the icefall and glacier. It was now 1pm, so a quick unload of our extra gear and we headed for Chancellor Dome, an expected pretty straight forward climb with just ice axe and crampons.



*Mt Cook from Chancellor Ridge [Terry Crippen]*  
We didn't have any route guide info – this was a spur of the moment trip. Initially we followed a well-trod poled route up to where it disappeared down the scree and to the glacier. So we dropped back to find a grassy gully to ascend into the cloud. We found a steep scrambly one; we weren't keen to have to come back down. Popping out onto the ridge

we discovered the odd cairn guiding the way. Soon enough after our delayed cliff scramble the snow slopes appeared and what we assumed was Chancellor summit somewhere in the mist and cloud.

After a short but moderately steep snow slope we arrived on a rocky ridge. The scramble just seemed to keep going until we could see no higher thinking we had made it to the top; everything was covered in cloud. Though a hole in the cloud there was another rock knob in front of us separated from us by a nasty slabby gully. As it was 4.30ish with the cloud rolling in we decided we'd better head back to avoid our steep gully ascent. The cairns eventually ran out, so we opted (well Ange more than Terry) to head down a narrow gully appearing from above not too steep. We tentatively scrambled on down hoping the drop offs we could see ahead wouldn't be too high.

With one last one to go it looked dicey to Ange, Terry summed it up as a possibility and started his packless down climb of 3 or 4 metres only to realise once utterly committed that the thin ledges were of no use for human vertical descent. Ange from above witnessed the tension mount in the clinging finger tips when suddenly they became fully weight laden and Terry suddenly disappeared to reappear several metres to the left flat on his back professing considerable pain in a leg and who know where else! Ange's heart sunk as the situation had become potentially very serious. Delighted to see Terry rise to his feet clutching a bloodied elbow and look for a decent spot to sit down and collect himself. After a minute or two of pained mumbles; wounds were examined. With nothing appearing snapped or missing, Ange lowered T's pack down to him on a long sling, and then searched for an easier option down. After scouting around she discovered a way across and then down a grassed gully down to the patient. It was a slow and steady continuation to the hut thankfully not far away.

After washing and dressing the injuries, an extra big healing feed was devoured right on dark, perfect timing. Terry was very quiet that night neglecting to bother with teeth etc and lay sleeping like a tender baby. The morning revealed a swollen painful elbow not wanting to potentially tree swing its way down to the glacier so after being entertained by the nine rowdy Kea's coming in for a hopeful breakfast we radioed for a hopeful back flight ride out. Yes OK, NOW! Can u give us 10mns? No it's NOW – grabbing and stashing our gear it was

the quickest one min pack up ever with the thud of the rotors upon us. It was a quick flight back to Fox.

**4-7 April 2015**

### **Heavy Packs in Kahurangi Lindsay Middleton**

Geoff Phillips suggested an Easter tramp in Kahurangi National Park – four full days for tramping, with travel days tacked on each end. After two weeks for planning and preparation, the two of us left Palmerston North before 5am on Easter Saturday for the 8am Bluebridge Ferry. We were on our way, with plans to reach Mt Arthur Hut, a two hour walk from the Flora carpark at the end of the Graham Valley Road southwest of Motueka. We achieved this only to find that there were more than 20 others at the 8-bunk hut. We were quick to select a tent site outside the hut where a small tent village eventuated.

Our next plan was to view the sunrise from the top of Mt Arthur – Easter Sunday. Cloud and drizzle that marked our Saturday arrival in Kahurangi vanished overnight, so when we set off about 4am, we were able to tramp up to the top with the full moon as mostly adequate lighting, with minimal need for torches. We were at the top when the sun peaked over the distant horizon. The spectacular view stretched to the Seaward Kaikouras, Nelson Lakes, and Mt Owen. Westward, there was a sea of cloud with ridges and peaks protruding like islands. North Island hid behind distant clouds.

We needed to decide between Plan A – Arthur Range southwestward to Baton Saddle - and Plan B – Gordon's Pyramid and the Tableland to the Northwest. Heavy packs, extra water, arduous tramping along the Arthur Range and a difficult sidle around the Twins, and we easily persuaded ourselves. Over a hearty breakfast – and what a view – we came to a decision. Having carried full packs to the summit, we felt little remorse at backtracking to the Gordon's Pyramid turnoff and following the track over Gordon's Pyramid to Salisbury Lodge. The hut is situated at the lower end of the tussock-covered Tableland, near an interesting area of limestone potholes, with great views back towards the Arthur Range. The Easter weekend crowds began to thin down – the substantial 22-bunk hut had enough bunk and floor space without need for tents.

The objective for our second full day was Balloon Hut and Lake Peel, intending to stay at Mytton's Hut in the Cobb Valley. The track passes Bishop's Cave – an interesting limestone formation – and climbs the gently sloping Tableland. This was expected to be the bad weather day – and clouds kept pushing in from the northwest – but, instead of a downpour, we got a few moderate showers. Once at Mytton's – a rustic four-bunk hut above Lake Cobb - we were pleased to down packs, and took the opportunity for a relaxed stroll in clearing weather to the Cobb Valley roadend and Trilobite Hut.

Day three presented more choice – upper Cobb Valley looks very attractive - but we would have to retrace our steps to return to the Flora carpark. We chose to cross the Cobb River, tramp along the True Left side of the Cobb Reservoir and then climb the marked track to Sylvester Hut. The reservoir was at its lowest level of storage, with the coffer dam showing halfway along the lake. 12-bunk Sylvester Hut is attractively sited on tussock, sheltering against the bush edge. Once again, we were pleased to down packs, and stroll across the open tussock to view lakes Sylvester, Little Sylvester, and Iron. Air temperature remained warm; cloud and occasional showers from the northwest reminded us that we could have had weather much worse.

Day four – heading back towards the car. We descended Sylvester Track, crossed the Cobb Dam, and tramped the ridgeline on the opposite side of the Cobb to reach the Bullock Track, which we followed to the Lower Junction on the Takaka River. A pleasant river valley sidle track brought us to the upper Junction of the Takaka, and to the day's objective, the upper Gridiron Rock shelter. This amazing little 3-bunk hut is built into a limestone overhang – a great place for our last night in Kahurangi National Park.

Homeward bound - it was good to feel more sprightly for our quick jaunt out past Flora Hut to the Flora carpark, as we had to connect with the return ferry. In spite of heavy packs, we were delighted to have achieved so much in the time available and to have seen so much of the area. There are excellent huts, and well-maintained and well-marked tracks. The area has varied, intriguing landscapes with

spectacular views. For us, Plan B was definitely the better choice.

### **19 April 2015** **The Old Timers Gentle Annie Track** **Ange Minto**

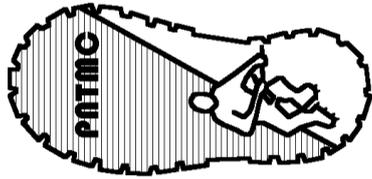
A relaxed 9am Holdsworth car park start (not so relaxed for the PN bods) as we headed off spotting a big windscreen sign requesting any roar time hunting fever sufferers to please clearly identify your target! Something to consider this time of year. We headed up the Holdsworth Lookout Track (often overlooked as right at the beginning of other missions) but well worth the side trip as lovely views from the top, especially today with completely clear, still warm wx. The old plane-table perched on a massive concrete pillar (blow carrying that cement up!) was widely debated of its exact accuracy by the experts, looked pretty good to me.

Then a gently amble along the easy to follow track with frequent old blazes to reach the high point of 801m. Good navigation checking practice was had to avoid a drop into Carrington Creek before sharply turning right down to Gentle Annie Saddle also sign posted with a permolat marker and felt tip pen. A relatively steep drop to the sunny quite open saddle where the first geocache search was successfully had.

A 400m steady climb up to the crest of Carrington Ridge and then up and along lead to ancient old sign posts of the original Holdsworth Track. Second geocache secured while the rest of us lunched in the odd sun puddle we could find. Then it was down the old Gentle Annie track, trees cleared 6 feet apart some of the time! (thanks to the good old NZFS according to Terrence), the rest of the time a rocky slippery overgrown affair, coming across a large open sunny rocky area (perhaps the original Rocky Llookout) to eventually be spat out with only several hundred metres of the current track to go.

PS: Gentle Annie means steep!

An enjoyable 5 odd easy hours exploring was enjoyed by all. We were Terry Crippen, Anne Lawrence, Warren Wheeler, Don French, Denise Staggs and Ange Minto.



Palmerston North  
Tramping and  
Mountaineering  
Club Inc.

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## PNTMC Newsletter May 2015

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

- Snowcraft Programme
- Club Gear for Hire
- Hut Bagging Update
- Presidents Report
- AGM Chocolate Cake Competition
- Tararua trip reports – Ohau Huts, Ruapae Falls, Old Gentle Annie
- South Island Trip Reports – Fox and Chancellor, Kahurangi
- Recipes
- Coming trips and more

### **Articles for the newsletter**

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

**Sender: PNTMC  
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