

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter October 2015



Chancellor Dome – Best in Show – PNTMC Club Photo Competition 2015

[Angela Minto]

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.

8 October

Carnivorous Plants

Fiona Donald

Last year Fiona went to Queensland and discovered some wild inhabitants when she joined a van load of 23 botanists on a camping trip to Cape York.

29 October

Walks in the Far North

Chris Saunders

In February this year, Chris and Glenice spent two weeks travelling from Cape Reinga to the Bay of Islands. They completed several day-walks and were thrilled with what this part of the North Island has to offer those who like a more active holiday.

Upcoming Trips

3-4 October

Atiwhakatu Hut **E**
Woody Lee **357-2390**

Depart at 8.00 am. It will be a day or overnight trip depending on majority vote. The Atiwhakatu track is a 5.5 Km track along Atiwhakatu Stream and walking time is just over 2 hours (one way). This trip will be an opportunity to enjoy both the bush walk and various types of bridges in the track.

4 October

West Ngauruhoe **M/F**
Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

Depart 6.00am. A classic spring climb to the summit of Mt Ngauruhoe via an old route up the western side. Crampons and ice axe essential.

10 October (Sat)

Field Hut **E/M**
Duncan Hedderley **354 6905**

Depart 7.45 for a trip into the hills behind Otaki Forks. Views from above the hut good on a good day (!)

17-18 October

Old Coach Rd, Ohakune **MTB/tramp**
Tina Bishop **06 363-5660**

The old coach road can be walked or you can bike it, lots to see along the way - it is approx 25-30k return. The plan is to do this one day and tramp to Mangaturuturu Hut the next or Blyth Hut or both. We will stay at a backpackers. Please contact me at least a week before so I can confirm bookings/transport. There is an option to go Friday also. Contact Tina 06 363-5660 or 027-480-3342 or via email.

18 October

Maharahara **E/M**
Peter Wiles **358-6894**

We will depart Millverton Park at 8.00 am. We will probably go via the eastern (Kumeti) side, but we can choose on the day depending on the weather. If it is a nice day, we should get good views of both sides of the lower North Island.

Labour Weekend

Ruapehu camp & climbing **F/T**
Terry Crippen **356-3588 or 027 643 3637**

We may go up on Friday morning, via Tukino ski field road, and return Monday night. We will camp on the summit plateau. So peoples will need: tent, cooker, your own food; as well as climbing gear, also rope if so inclined to use it.

The idea is for people to "do their own thing", i.e. climb what you want. If the weather is poor we will use some other accommodation. You need to have done Snowcraft 3 or equivalent. Contract me WELL in advance please.

24-26 October

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

Depart 7.00am. This is a camping trip with some delightful cross country travel that avoids the crowds on the Great Walk. Plan A is to go from Whakapapa around Tama Lakes to Waihohonu Springs. Next day to Oturere Crater and Mangatepopo Valley. Last day back to the Chateau for high tea. Call Warren to discuss this and other possible options.

Labour Day Weekend Day Trip

There is no programmed day trip. Contact Janet Wilson 329-4722 if you would to lead or go on a trip.

28 October

Please register for the PNTMC 50years Jubilee Celebrations before 28 October.

31 -1st November

Pouakai Circuit **M**
Warren Wheeler **356-1998**

Depart 7.00am for North Egmont. We will do the circuit anti-clockwise staying at Pouakai Hut and dropping down to Holly Hut on Sunday. *Note leader changed from Anne Lawrence.*

1 November

Ellis Hut **E/M**
Peter Wiles **358-6894**

We will depart Millverton Park at 7.00 am for Whakarara Road behind Ongaonga. Expect to get our feet wet at the start by fording the river. If the river is high, then we will consider other nearby options. Ellis (also known as Murderer's Hut) is perhaps the oldest hut in the North Island.

7-8 November

Mid Pohangina Hut **M**
Janet Wilson **329-4722**

Visit one of the huts that PNTMC maintains in the Ruahines and maybe check some stoat traps.

8 November

A-Frame/Stanfield **M**
Nicola Wallace **021-209-0720**

We will leave from Millverton Park at 8am, and head to Tamaki West Roadend, behind Dannevirke. We'll then head uphill to the

dilapidated A-Frame Hut, before strolling along Takapari Road, next heading off onto the leatherwood lined track, then down to Stanfeld Hut. Return along Holmes Ridge to the roadend. A little river travel, so expect some wetting of feet.

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
Malcolm Parker	357-5203

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

Join us to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary at Camp Rangī Woods in the Pohangina valley's Totara Reserve on 28-29 November 2015.

Please register no later than 28 October so that we can confirm bookings and ensure enough copies for the Jubilee book are printed. Registration forms are available on our website or contact Terry Crippen 356-3588 or 027 643 3637..

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.

Mastering Mountains Scholarship Fund

Nick Allen, member of PNTMC, is travelling to the Himalaya, to climb 6100m peaks in India and Nepal. Nick was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis several years ago and is climbing to raise awareness of Multiple Sclerosis and to raise funds for a scholarship fund he has set up.

Awarded annually, the Mastering Mountains Scholarship Fund aims to help people with MS overcome the obstacles preventing them from getting into the outdoors.

The Committee has agreed to donate \$300 of PNTMC funds on behalf of members.

You can make your own donation to the Mastering Mountains Charitable Trust here: www.masteringmountains.org/donate/

You can also track Nick's progress here – it is well worth the visit:

wp.me/P6b1Gq-59

PNTMC Photo Competition Results 27 August 2015

As usual we had a high standard of entries, which made it enjoyable for the club members in the audience and tricky for the two judges, Nick Allen and Anu from Massey. Unfortunately the entries from Chris Tuffley were inadvertently omitted so Nick has given them post-comp placings, which are included in the results below.

NZ Landscapes – scenery, no people

1. Winter Wonderland - Woody Lee
2. Rock in Milk Sea – Dwight Swainson
3. Lake Taupo – Martin Lawrence

Above the Bushline – includes people

1. Mt Aspiring – Terry Crippen
2. Chancellor Dome – Ange Minto
3. Gum Boot Throwing Sunset – Kathy Corner

Below the Bushline – includes people

1. Beans Burn Valley – Martin Lawrence
2. Tararua Lookout - Warren Wheeler
3. Tarawera Outlet – Graham Peters

Natural History - flora, fauna, geology, etc

1. Tui landing – Chris Tuffley
2. Hoare Frost – Terry Crippen
3. Celmisias in snow – Ange Minto

Topical NZ – people or detail

1. Rush Hour – Warren Wheeler
2. Face Plant – Ange Minto
3. Easter Eggmont – Warren Wheeler

Overseas - people and/or places

1. Squamish BC – Malcolm Leary
2. Trail Home BC – Malcolm Leary
3. Iguazu Falls – Woody Lee

Novice – any of the above subjects

No entries.

Judges Best of Show

Chancellor Dome – Ange Minto

Honourable Mention

Winter Wonderland – Woody Lee

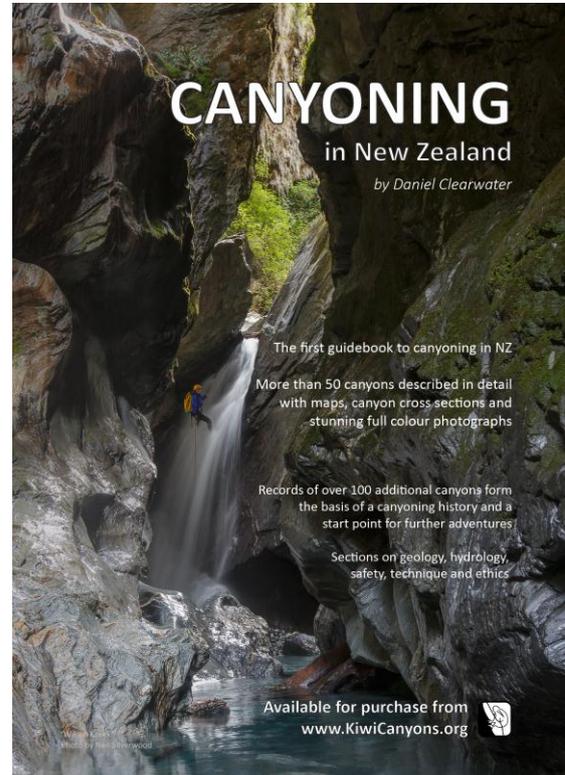
These images are now on the Photos page of our website and will be entered in the Interclub Photo Comp on 24 September. See you there.

New Canyoning Book

Last newsletter included an article by Dan Clearwater on Canyoning in New Zealand.

You can now order your copy of the new Guide Book of Canyoning in New Zealand by Dan Clearwater. Cost \$60.

Here is a direct link to the book order page:
<http://www.kiwicanyons.org/product/guide-book/>



Tararua Booklet Update

A Chronology of the Tararua & Rimutaka Ranges by Ross Kerr

A completely updated and enlarged 6th edition (2015, buff-covered) of this popular booklet is now available from the author. Last revised in 2006, it comprises 72 pages, including four sketches and four photos. Please send \$15 (incl p&p) to the address below or direct credit to bank a/c 060-669-0026763-00 and email details of your payment name and address.

Ross Kerr

1 Nelson Street, Levin 5510

(06) 368-4796

rossallykerr@xtra.co.nz

New Member

Welcome to Dieter Stalman, 355-2583. He joins us from Snowcraft 1, 2 and 3 this year.

Trip Reports

22-23 August Snowcraft 3 - Mt Ruapehu Dieter Stalmann

Early start on Saturday morning. We travelled to Ruapehu to meet up with the others who had slept over in Barney's bach. The day was perfect (it wasn't raining). We found a heap of snow close to the carpark, away from the skiers at Turoa, where we practised rope skills and ended up doing a bit of climbing and abseiling. Grant injured his leg, and had to leave us early.



Ropework can be fiddly

Sunday found us on the Whakapapa side of the mountain. It was cold and windy, but once we got to the valley, it was fine. All enjoyed the multi-pitch techniques, and one of the group even fell down the slope on purpose to see whether the anchoring techniques actually work (sorry if I freaked you out Raj).



Abseiling in the murk

All in all, it was a very informational weekend, something I would recommend to anyone who is even thinking about doing mountaineering in the snow.

A huge thanks to the instructors (Terry Crippen, Bruce van Brunt, and Grant Christian), to Barney for letting us use his place and for feeding us, and the great team of students:

Emily McGimpsey, Grace Miller, Jordan Goldfinch, Raj Palanisamy, Barney Hyde, Zsófia Hári, Dieter Stalmann.

You can view more Snowcraft 3 images on Facebook, under the "Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering" group site. Lots of them put on by Dieter.

6 September 2015 Archie's Lookout Nicola Wallace

We arrived at Levin, and once on Gladstone Road we drove to the very end, where the name changed to the rather flash "Poulton Drive". A large DOC sign in the paddock said we'd be walking on the Mangahao – Makahika Track, the other end of which comes out on the Mangahao Dam road, near the second dam.

And so on a fine morning we set off over the farmland, soon crossing our first stream, which wet the feet. Soon we walked through pleasant grassy flats, where there was a campsite, but sadly plenty of gorse also. After encountering another sign, (a very informative one with a map), we were into the bush, which at these low levels consisted mainly of punga ferns.

For the next hour and a half, it was a mainly flat and very pretty walk, with lots and lots of stream crossings – about 20. None of these were much over ankle height, but they all served to keep the feet in a continual state of wetness. Muddy patches were riddled with footprints, so obviously quite a few people come in here.

A long and relaxed morning tea was taken just after one such crossing. Sometimes we'd walk in the stream itself, before the track reappeared on one bank or the other.

Inevitably, we left the last stream behind, and headed uphill. The hill was a steady medium gradient, and the track was of very good quality. The surface was covered with fallen tawa and other leaves. We settled into a steady rhythm, and much sooner than I expected, we arrived at the handcrafted wooden Archie's Lookout sign.



Archie's Lookout dead ahead

The lookout was the bright spot a little further up, and offered good views of Foxton, Foxton Beach, some of Shannon, and the Northern tip of Kapiti Island. Though we stood in the sun, the SW wind was very cold, and we went back to the sign, and carried on up the hill to the next lookout, which according to Peter was 150m higher, and about 20 minutes away.

The climb continued on a similar grade to before. We soon reached the top of the ridge, and beautiful almost-goblin forest, before heading briefly downhill, then flattening out. I spotted a bright patch with a wooden platform up to our left. This was our destination – Horowhenua Lookout, 671m ASL according to one of the signs on the way in.



Peter at Horowhenua Lookout

The view was not hugely different than before, but it seemed a little more sheltered (but still pretty cold), so we ate lunch and headed down. There was about 50% cloud now, so it felt pretty cold on the way down.

This was an out-and-back trip, and we were soon back down to the stream, after a brief stop at Archie's again. It was much warmer down here, and we shed layers before a

steady walk out. The streams felt a little warmer on the feet in the afternoon. We saw three people heading in on our way out. We were back at the car by 2.30pm, so it had taken us 2 hours to walk out. We stopped at a café in Shannon, before getting back to town well in time for me to stuff my boots with newspaper before tea.

This was a very enjoyable day trip, easier than most tramps I have been on, due to there being more flat than hill. I will definitely come back here, though not when the weather is wet.

Thanks to Peter for leading this trip, and for Jenny for coming along.

We were: Peter Wiles (trip leader), Jenny McCarthy, Nicola Wallace.

Big Day Out with DOC By Raj Palanisamy

I volunteer for the Department of Conservation (DOC) from October 2014, started half a day a week ended up working 4-5 days in a week. Mostly I do the data entry, transferring the hut log book hard copy to electronic format and entering biodiversity monitoring field data sheet into electronic spread sheet and I enjoy doing that.

For a change, and to understand the hard work behind the field data sheet I wanted to go out with the service team, but never had chance till recently on 3rd September. Team of 3 includes Nathan Lightbourne, Tim Paki (Timbo) both from Palmerston North office and Richard Taiaroa from Mangaweka was heading to Rangiwahia early morning to check the Rangi hut and track cutting and clearing.

Timbo suggested I should join them on a field trip for a change and he also got permission from Clinton Purches and Rod Smiley to take me to the field trip, and I happily agreed. I informed Nathan (team leader) that I would like to go with them and he kindly agreed as well.

The weather on that day was not at all nice as it was raining cats and dogs. Nathan came to pick me up and assessed my unprofessional wet gear so he provided with spare gear to put it on which made my misery out. While Nathan and Richard with Tahi (Nathan's handsome, shiny, black coated, friendly and very obedient dog) did the track cutting and clearing, Timbo

and I headed towards Rangī Hut for a monthly check up.

Monthly check involves general tidying up, checking all the things are up to their conditions, availability of enough firewood, clean toilet etc., so that people who stay in the hut feel at home. We were happy to see the hut in good conditions after used by 45 people in a month period, thanks to all the users on behalf of DOC to keep the hut tidy.

Being a newbie to the tramping I used to think about the hardship of track maintaining team. I am sure whenever you happened to be bush bashing on your tramp once you reach the well maintained track (as Michael Allerby once excitedly pointed out after two hours of bush bashing to reach the good maintained track on our trip to South Ohau Hut "Now we are on HIGH WAY Raj"!) you tend to appreciate the well maintained track.

Now I learnt that a well maintained track comes from the good work of the hard working service team at DOC and I witnessed it on that day. When we went up the track towards the hut Nathan and Richard just started the work on the track so I noticed the state of the track with fallen wood debris and branches, slipped stones on the walkway etc. But when we returned the track was all clear and I did not need to think where I am landing my foot on, it was such a good work.

I have seen people working on the tea plantations in continuously pouring monsoon rain to pluck the tea leaves in my earlier job, this track clearing work on that pouring rain reminded me that. For which one needs dedication and commitment to finish the task whatever the weather may be. I don't think money motivates people to be dedicated and committed at work but individual's persona.

Doing a good service to the public comes with the good heart that I learnt on that day and I am proud of being with them on that occasion. My admiration to the Service Team at Palmerston North DOC office!

Did You Know?

Labour Day 25th of October

We all know 25th of October is Labour Day and what it stands for.

But did you know that the 25th of October is also St Crispin's Feast Day.

St Crispin is the patron saint of bootmakers.

Boots are VERY important to trampers and climbers.

And after the French invaded England "Crispin" gradually changed into "Crippen". That might explain why a certain Club member has far more boots than undergarments!

From the Old PNTMC Song Book

At the Jubilee weekend we may have a sing along (thanks to Sue Pither for the suggestion).

The Committee has chosen #7 Tramping the Ranges; #10 Tararua Ranges; #20 Double Bunking as their top three hit songs from "Trudge", the old PNTMC/MUAC song book (second edition).

One song is featured in each of the August, September and October newsletters in readiness for the Jubilee at the end of November. Here is the third.

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DOUBLE BUNKING (Tune: The More We Are Together)

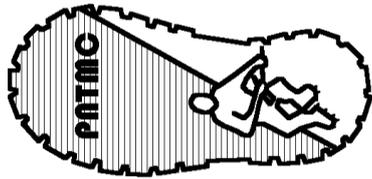
I heard this sad song-o
On the Orongorongo,
"No more double-bunking, double-bunking for me."
I said to the vocalist,
"Oh, why do you so insist,
'No more double-bunking, double-bunking for me?'"

*No more double-bunking, double-bunking, double-bunking
No more double-bunking, double-bunking for me.*

He said, "I've had a gutsful
Of tramps where the hut's full;
No more double-bunking, double-bunking for me.
I've weakened and lost weight,
I'm nervously prostrate
No more double-bunking, double-bunking for me.

My tongue's covered with fur, too,
And I can't eat my burgoo;
No more double-bunking, double-bunking for me.
I'm washed out like a dishrag,
I've ruptured my sleeping bag;
No more double-bunking; double-bunking for me.

Henceforth and hereafter,
I'll sleep on a rafter,
On a peak or a pinnacle,
Or under a waterfall,
On sand or on shingle,
But I'm going to sleep single."
No more double-bunking, double-bunking for me.



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What's inside this month?

- Photo Competition Results
- New Books – Canyoning, Tararuas
- Snowcraft 3 Report
- Archies Lookout trip report
- Snowcraft 3 Report
- Big Day Out with DOC
- Old Song #3 – Double Bunking
- 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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	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
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Gear Custodian	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
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Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588