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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 November 2015

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Poaukai Circuit – morning cloud cloaks Ahukawakawa Swamp below Mt Egmont [Warren Wheeler]

### 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.

**12 November**

**Fern the Whio Finder**

**Malcolm Swanney**

Malcolm Swanney will tell us how he uses his Conservation Dog named Fern to help DOC monitor protected species such as whio and kiwi from his base in Raetehi.

**26 November**

**BYO Pics**

**All**

Come and see highlights of what club members have been up to over the last six months or so. Any queries contact Warren Wheeler 356-1998.

## Upcoming Trips

**31-1 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 middle of the Ruahines and maybe check some stoat traps.

**8 November**

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

We will leave from Milverton 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 Stanfield Hut. Return along Holmes Ridge to the roadend. A little river travel, so expect some wetting of feet.

**14-15 November**

**Lake Dive, ENP** **E**  
**Warren Wheeler** **356-1998**

Depart 8.00am. A lovely trip with lots of variety on the south side of Mt Egmont/Taranaki. From Dawson Falls Visitor Centre we sidle up and down through the goblin forest on the Around the Mountain Track until we reach the well named Beehives by the big hut at Lake Dive. Return via the shorter but steeper track which takes us above the bushline to join the Syme Hut track.

**21-22 November**

**Pio Pio Flats** **MTB + all**  
**Richard Lockett** **323-0948**

Leaving after work Friday (if it suits everyone) and camping at Piopio Flats. Have unfinished business with the Waione tram track MTB loop south of Pio Pio on Saturday. Sunday head north to bike and walk to an interesting high point/knob.

**22 November**

**Notorious Ngawhakarara** **F**  
**Peter van Essen** **355-9076**

November's notorious Ngawhakarara is a scratchy bush bash into the northern Tararua's nasty never-ending but notably natural scrub to attempt an ascent of our nemesis Ngawhakarara (only 855m but covered in needle nicking nasties).

Notably this will be a knee numbing, neck niggling, nose running, nostril flaring, navel groveling, nerve wracking, nail biting, and nauseating number, but won't be nocturnal unless we are negligent.

Only suitable for nutters with a knack for navigating and with nerves that can take some knocks and nicks - not a trip for newbies, naysayers, naggers, nit-pickers, namby-pambies, nascent scrub neurotics, naked naturalists, or those who need nicotine nebulisers.

Need to know nine days before from any no-nonsense nutcases, so I can organise a key for access.

Depart at nine past six, back at nightfall.

**28-29 November**

**PNTMC 50 YEARS JUBILEE WEEKEND**  
**Camp Rangī Woods** **All**

**Dave Grant** **328-7788**

Saturday Hikes, Bikes and Rides

Depart 9.30am, back by mid-afternoon.

All trips leave from our Jubilee venue at Camp Rangī Woods, Totara Reserve, Pohangina Valley.

There are options to suit everyone.

(1) Tramp - Diggers Hut (E/M). Trip Leader Craig Allerby. Drive up nearby Aubons Road. Walk across farmland to bush, then climb up through Ruahine bush to Diggers Hut for lunch. Return the same way (Easy) or down the stream to make a longer trip (Medium).

(2) Walk - Manawatu Gorge Tawa Loop E. Trip Leader Doug Strachan. Drive to the Ashhurst end of the Manawatu Gorge. Walk the new Gorge track Tawa loop. From the top view the slip that closed the Gorge for a year. Carry on to the windmill picnic table for lunch then return. An easy 4 hours including travel time.

(3) Mountainbike - Takapari Road M. Trip Leader Richard Lockett. Ride from Rangi Woods up the Takapari Road to A-Frame Hut for lunch. Return the same way. 4 hours

(4) Ride – Takapari Road by 4x4. Trip Leader Terry Crippen. Joints not so good? Hop in a 4x4 and be driven up Takapari Road to A-Frame to join the mountain bikers for lunch. Back the same way with as many stops as you want to admire the views.

If you want to take part in any of these options, please indicate which in the appropriate place on your Jubilee registration form, or on the list circulating at the Friday night Wine and Cheese evening.  
See you there!

**5 December (Sat)  
Two Wairarapa Hills  
Terry Crippen**

**E/M or MTB  
027 643 3637**

Depart 7am from PN; for the first hill named Clyde (502m) in the Rewanui Forest Park (yes that's right it is called a forest park – Montford Trimble Foundation), either by MTB or walk, a good block of native forest and good views. Then lunch at the Tinui pub. After lunch walk up onto Maunsell (359m) next to a world first dating back to 1916 (have a guess)! And if so inclined a swim at Castlepoint beach afterwards. Contact me on my cell phone.

**6 December  
Holdsworth Waterfall  
Ange Minto**

**M  
06 377 1505 / 027 472 0660**

Leave Holdsworth car park 8.30am, head in via the Atiwhakatu Track, then head off track following Holdsworth Stream to hopefully come across the 100m high vertical Holdsworth waterfall. Either bush bash our way up over the tops and out via Powell Hut or return the way we've come in. Plenty of floor space available for anyone wanting to stay Saturday night perhaps after doing Terry's trip in the Wairarapa on Saturday.

**Trip Grading**

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampers 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 Years Jubilee 2015**

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

A full programme has been put together by the Jubilee Committee of Dave Grant (Chair), Terry Crippen (Secretary), Martin Lawrence (Treasurer), Peter Darragh and Doug Strachan.

We already have about 70 people registered by the target deadline of 28 October, which was set so we can confirm bookings and ensure enough copies for the Jubilee book are printed. Late registrations will now be accepted subject to availability so get in quick.

Full details of the Jubilee programme are set out in the registration forms that are available on our website or contact Terry Crippen 356-3588 or 027 643 3637.

Celebrations start on Friday night with a Wine and Cheese Evening.

Details of tramping and other activities on Saturday are included in the trips section of this newsletter.

Saturday night features a buffet dinner.

Sunday morning is free for socialising and exploring the bush walks and riverside setting at Rangī Woods. The more energetic may wish to do an easy loop on the Totara Reserve Fern Walk.

Bunk room accommodation and plenty of camping sites are available.

If you are unable to stay overnight or come along to any of the activities but would like a copy of the Jubilee Book then also contact Terry (see book preview below).

### **Interclub Photo Competition Results 24 September 2015**

PNTMC hosted the interclub photo competition this year. As usual the entries were limited to the prize winning images from the PNTMC, MTSC and MUAC Club Photo Competitions.

The winners in each category were chosen by a show of hands based on the best three selected by our judge Udo von Mulert.

There was much voting anguish given the high quality of the images, which highlighted the depth of talent across the clubs. In the final tally, MTSC won 8 prizes, PNTMC 6 and MUAC 4.

#### **NZ landscapes**

1. Winter Wonderland - Woody Lee PNTMC
2. Tongariro NP Aerial - Goldie Walker MUAC
3. Homeward and Conway Ridges from Frisco Helipad, Westland - Jean Garman MTSC

#### **Above the Bushline**

1. Chancellor Dome - Ange Minto PNTMC
2. Overlooking Lake Hawea - Chris Tuffley PNTMC
3. Looking across to Homeward and Conway Ridges, Westland - Ivan Rienks MTSC

#### **Below the Bushline**

1. Castle Point - Goldie Walker MUAC
2. Approaching Mungo Hut, Westland - Jean Garman, MTSC
3. Three Wire Bridge, George Sound, Fiordland - Yvette Cottam MTSC

#### **Natural History**

1. Alighting Tui - Chris Tuffley PNTMC
2. Celmisias in snow - Ange Minto PNTMC
3. Alpine flowers - Yvette Cottam MTSC

#### **Topical NZ**

1. Mid King Sign - Ken Mercer MTSC
2. Nature Rainbow - Claudi Mannerling MUAC
3. Fantail - Goldie Walker MUAC

#### **Overseas**

1. Highway 211 Utah - Owen Mills MTSC
2. Horseshoe Bend - Royce Mills MTSC
3. Trail Home, Squamish BC Canada - Malcolm Leary PNTMC.

Thanks again to Udo von Mulert for judging..

#### **Canyoning Scholarship**

FMC is offering 10 x \$300 scholarships to members of affiliated clubs as a subsidy for approved canyoning courses. The objective is to build competence amongst leaders of recreational canyoning trips. Scholarships will be paid directly to the provider and must be used prior to 30 March 2016. For application forms and details go to [www.fmc.org.nz/celebratingoutdoorrecreation](http://www.fmc.org.nz/celebratingoutdoorrecreation)

## PNTMC Jubilee Book

Here is a preview of the forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Book, from the editor Doug Strachan. Order your copies with your Jubilee Registration or contact Terry Crippen directly – get ready to put your feet up over Christmas with this great read.



***Old Boots & Packs - The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club (PNTMC)*** will interest and amuse mountain users, historians, photographers, hut baggers and tree huggers. Read about current and past members' exploits, which include climbing our highest peaks (sometimes with boots on the wrong feet) and powering a car on white spirits cooking fuel. The saga of how the first fireplace got to Rangi Hut (formerly owned by the club) is a delight. While the club's focus is tramping and mountaineering, some trips involve tramping underground (caving), tramping on wheels (cycling) or in wheels (tubing down rapids). The club also runs instructional courses in, for example, rock climbing, snowcraft, search and rescue.

The first half of the book highlights current and past club members' involvement in these activities, and gives an overview of the club's first 50 years, including competitive events, social functions, a transport crisis, gear, and environmental concerns.

The second half of the book comprises an eclectic mix of well-written trip reports (or excerpts thereof), separated by decade, focusing on exciting and out of the ordinary trips or reporting styles.

Appendices include a tribute to members who lost their lives in the mountains. The cover photo features Carol Nash (active in the club in 1977), who died in an avalanche in the French Alps in 2015. Dozens of other superb photos

interlace the book, ending with a back cover shot showing current PNTMC members hanging out (literally!) at Ngamoko Hut, which the club now maintains along with Mid-Pohangina Hut.

A fitting memoir of our first fifty years – enjoy!

## Thoughts on Hats

Here are some thoughts from off the top of his head by our President Bruce van Brunt.

Invariably, an outdoors type newsletter feels compelled to talk about “gear”. We are no exception to this, though I believe we have shown a respectable amount of restraint. A lot of the gear talk in newsletters focuses on the new stuff and new materials along with amazing new features that make you wonder why evolution of the hat/parka/glove took so long. I am going to ignore the current trend in reporting on all this stuff as I am sure we are already inundated with outside sources. Here, I shall look at hats that I have owned used tramping and/or climbing, or at least hats that I have seen in action in such activities.

In order to understand the role of a hat in our “sport” we must first identify why an individual would wear a hat. I submit the following list.

1. To keep the head warm.
2. To keep the rain off the head.
3. To keep the head cool and/or sun protection.
4. To hide a truly bad haircut/unruly hair.
5. To make a fashion statement.

I am sure there are other reasons (e.g. keep the brains together...helmets), but I think the above list covers most of them. The first three on the above list are obvious, the fourth reason is understandable, and the fifth reason is perhaps the most commanding of all. Given the current (somewhat deplorable) fashion of not wearing a hat, whenever one puts on a hat (like it or not) you are making a fashion statement. No other item of clothing has this power. As an experiment I suggest you show up to your workplace in say a Mexican sombrero and see if somehow this brings comments from your fellow workers.

Here is a list of hats that I have used to keep a warm head.

1. A large military Russian fur hat made of some rodent (?) skin complimented by a nice hammer and sickle badge.

2. A similar style E. German hat made of synthetic "stuff" but with a nice East German badge.
3. An Army Air Corp fleece flight helmet (ca. 1942) from a B-17 crew.
4. A wool Luftwaffe ski cap (ca. 1943) with a magnificent eagle clutching a swastika...it was cheap in the early 1980's.
5. A number of simple wool caps, none of which would occasion a remark.
6. A few synthetic caps all of which look and looked horrid from the day of manufacture.

Without qualification I can say the best designed and useful hat for this job was no. 4, which was tested in the 0 to -35F temperatures of a Northern Minnesota winter. It was a great design, but for reasons known only to my employer at the time (the US Public Health Service under the dept. of the US Navy) they did not welcome their representatives wearing such apparel. Hat no. 1, though useful when the temperatures dipped below -20F suffered similar criticism. I was issued hat no. 3, and spent at least 2 yrs looking like I should be on the set of Hogan's Heroes. In NZ, I first got hat 2, which was too hot for the mild climate (I still have it) and later a succession of hats 5 and 6. I settled on hats of the last two types mostly because they are cheap and practical; moreover, you can put a climbing helmet over them. In really cold weather, they are useless compared to the first 3, but with a windproof hood and a helmet they are almost useful. They will always look low class and bad, and they will never stop the wind without a hood.

I could never bring myself to wear a balaclava. Such apparel always looks bad and is too confining for those who wish to breathe. I do, however, see their merits, though I also appreciate that the police take extra interest in such items. There are of course silly looking hats (mock Peruvian) that have ethnic features and tie onto the head. These are actually pretty good value, but hey, would you be caught wearing them in a photo? I guess I would, as I have seen them prove their worth on more than one occasion when it mattered.

I have always lived in a climate where one's head got predictably wet from rain. I have used the following hats to keep rain off my head:

1. Waxed cotton Southwester.
2. Vietnam issue nylon rain hat.
3. Australian Army issue jungle hat.

All of these hats worked well. Nonetheless, I seldom used any of them and relied on having a good parka hood.

Keeping the head cool and protected from the sun is always a problem when tramping in the mountains. Here is a list of the hats I have used over the years:

1. A baseball cap.
2. "Cowboy hats".
3. Sun/Pith helmets.
4. Military Visor caps with neck capes.
5. French Foreign Legion cap.
6. Hillary type hat with cape.

I expect there are strong feelings in NZ on hats to wear for the sun. It is always a problem tramping above the bushline. Firstly, I should like to say that hats of the type 1 are universally useless for any purpose aside from advertising (stock feed, beer, etc.). The very few times I have used baseball caps, I have found them singularly wanting in all respects concerning sun protection. Who came up with this profoundly useless (and tasteless) design? They are good for nothing except perhaps entertainment... ever watched a person wearing such a cap backwards and using their hand to shield the sun forward...what about those who wear them sideways?

Aside from fashion, I think no 2. has its place. These sorts of hats really work for sun because they have a large all around brim. The problem is normally that they are useless when any hint of wind is around and they are not particularly easy to "put away" when not needed. If you buy into these hats, I guess you must always wear them and practice your "John Wayne" act.

Although sun helmets always make a bit of a statement, they are devastatingly effective for what they are designed for. I have used two types in the "jungles" of Minnesota (a ca. 1930's Phillipines US Army issue helmet, and a British Army ca. 1900 Boer War helmet). Both helmets worked well, but I would scarcely recommend them for general use. The sun is never that intense in NZ, and where do you put them when (as often) the weather changes? They are useless in wet weather. Nevertheless, there is something to be said of the elegant design.

I have used at least two hats of type 4, ignoring various pugarees tied around other hats. These are the caps that you saw on the opening shots from the "Bridge over the River Kwai". The idea is good, but visor caps are

otherwise not that useful. The same sun protection can be gleaned from other caps (though the fashion statement suffers). I used to sometimes wear a "50 mission" crushed Air Corps hat (8th Airforce) with a suitable pugaree for the sun...again, one looks like a refugee from (say) the "Great Escape", but it did work.

French Foreign legion caps work very well for the sun (they were designed for this), but they are hard to come by and the rigid coffee can look does not add to service or fashion. I passed my hat of this style on to someone that really appreciated it, wearing it in some city as a fashion statement. Here my vote is decidedly for hats of type 6. They can be a bit hot, but they are very serviceable for keeping the sun off the head. They are not as good as a sun helmet, but you can quickly pack them away in a top pocket of a pack.

A hat is never a purely practical piece of gear!

## Trip Reports

### 15 August 2015 Waitahinga Tales Richard Lockett

There was some doubt as to whether this trip would even take place after the heavy rain and flooding of the Whanganui region the previous month. Slips had closed the Atene Walkway up the Whanganui River road which was to be the Sunday trip so the Waitahinga Trails was it for this weekend. These trails have been developed by the Whanganui Tramping Club on land that was the water reserve for the Waitahinga Dam which supplied Whanganui's water but is no longer used. With some interest shown for this trip I thought it prudent to check out the web sites for information regarding conditions in the area after the heavy rain the month before which did so much damage around Whanganui. The roads to the trails were all open but the trails themselves were closed to trampers, something to do with goats! We'll go hiking instead - a few goats shouldn't worry us.

With seven trampers booked in for this trip, some of whom also informed me that the trails were closed for the month of July and August, I thought as trip leader a bit more research about the goat issue wouldn't hurt. It transpires that it's the goat breeding season and that a randy Billy goat disturbed in the act

(acting the goat) can become very nasty and become a significant hazard to an unsuspecting tramper. It sounded like we just needed a safety plan to mitigate the hazard and more internet searching revealed that Billy goats prefer early morning and late evenings so we just leave a bit later in the day, 8am from Fielding and leave the trails by say 3pm, that should work fine. It was noted that the trails aren't closed for the birthing season (Kidding) as we sometimes have to put up with for sheep, so goats must be a very male dominated society and very well connected high up in the Whanganui District Council to be afforded the level of privacy they desire during the months of July and August. Deer don't get this special treatment during the roar and both previous Whanganui mayors' Chas and Mick sported goatee beards, which makes me wonder what they were in their previous lives.

On arrival at the Junction Road carpark, and in discussing the safety plan, it became apparent that I had missed an important element to the plan, namely the individual Billy goat with body clock issues who has a mid morning urge. Do we all carry a large stick or do we frighten off the goat by the person in front discussing what fine cuisine lean feral goat meat is, particularly at celebratory dinners - far superior to (say) corned beef with mustard. Martin volunteered to perform this role and did so with enthusiasm. We set off along the Okehu Ridge and after 15 minutes came to a clearing with young pine trees growing and our first encounter with a Billy goat, 20 metres off the track resting peacefully, totally oblivious to our presence. Continuing along the Okehu Ridge back in the regen native bush and the first of many impressive large rimu trees encountered along with another goat, but one mention of curry with fried banana and it was off into the bush not presenting any threat at all.



Lunch overlooking the dam

[WW]

Pressing on along Tom's Ridge then the trail descends steeply into a dark narrow gully and

the track to the Waitahinga Dam which was explored before lunch was taken at a picnic table overlooking the small lake.

The return journey was via Harry's Ridge, the Rimu Walk and the Chicken Run which has two lookouts, the Taranaki and the Ruapehu looking west and north respectfully. From the Ruapehu we spotted eight goats in two herds gathering for the evenings activities down on the road below - time to leave we thought.

We were Martin and Anne Lawrence, Woody Lee, Kathy Corner, Pam, Warren Wheeler and Richard Lockett.



Waitahinga Dam.

[WW]

### **27 September 2015 Blue Range Hut Woody Lee**

Our 8am departure time was changed to 8.30am so our bodies could smoothly adapt to Daylight Saving. Seon and I met the other trampers at Milverton Park and the six of us left town on time.

There were a couple of cars at the Kiriwhakapapa road-end car park. At the beginning of the track there is a big new Geographix sign that shows in virtual 3-D the tracks and hut locations in the area. After heading off our first stop for a photo was by a big rimu on the steep hillside. It was hollow underneath and Kathy crawled into it through a narrow gap to check inside.

We had another photo stop on the rocky lookout after passing the track junction to the hut but unfortunately we couldn't see the Tararua tops due to thick clouds.

We made good use of a picnic table in front of the hut and enjoyed a long and relaxed lunch. A couple arrived soon after and we had a chat with them who were out for a day walk like us.



Picnic lunch at Blue Range Hut.

Warren spotted a piece of gutter mesh sticking out so he got a ladder out from underneath the floor and fitted it back in place.

We returned via the same track to the car park. On the way home we stopped at Mt Bruce café for a late afternoon tea. The café had just closed but they kindly offered their service to our group. We enjoyed hot drinks and snacks and were lucky enough to see takahe walking on the grassy area when we were about to leave the café.

Thanks to Richard, Margaret, Kathy, Warren, Seon for their lovely company.

### **17-18 October 2015 Old Coach Road MTB Tina Bishop**

Three of us headed off to Ohakune about 8am on Saturday, bikes on the bike rack and a gloomy weather forecast. But "we are trampers!" so a bit of bad weather didn't scare us off. We arrived about 10.30 and couldn't get into our room at the backpackers so we got changed into our bike gear, put some snacks into our packs, donned our jackets and headed through town towards the Old Coach Road. We followed a nice track along the river and got to the right road but Warren was sure we were going the wrong way because he said you don't ride up the big Old Coach Road hill - you ride down it. Oh no no no Warren we are riding up it [because access along the railway is not allowed – Ed.]

The weather was actually quite fine as we started the climb up the track which is like a wide grassy farm track with old cobbles under the grass.

It takes a lot of puff to get up the hill but luckily there are a few interesting signs along the way

so you can catch your breath. After about forty minutes we come to a tunnel which is quite dark and you feel like you are going to crash into something, then you can see light and it stops abruptly with a wire cage. The cage is there because on the other side is the working railway lines. We keep going uphill through some nice bush and then under the newer viaduct where we can now see the old restored viaduct. This is a curved bridge and the sleepers have big gaps making it scary to ride over, it is also a long long way down when you look over the side to the bottom.



*Old Hapuawhenua viaduct. [WW]*

We waited for a group of guys to come down the track as we were sort of doing the track backwards (most people get transported to Horopito and ride one way to Ohakune) then it was another hard slog uphill on a narrow track through trees with a rewarding downhill, but we had to be cautious about riders coming the other way. After quite a lot more up hill we came to another old viaduct which we rode under and then the track took us up to a lovely picnic lunch spot the same height as the viaduct. Although you were cautioned not to walk on it Warren posed for a great picture.



*Under old Taonui viaduct to lunch stop. [WW]*

We were nearly at the end (or the start) now, just a bit further and then you come to farmland near Horopito. Kathy and I chose to stop and lie in the grass while Warren rode the

rest of the way (Kathy and I had done this ride before so didn't bother). There were stunning views of Mt Ruapehu and then it was time to turn back.

The ride back is easier as it is mainly down hill but wow is it bumpy when you are flying at high speed and also not knowing whether to brake at the next corner or risk it!



*Down across bridge before up again. [WW]*

When we got back to town we enquired about a hot tub in one of the resorts but none of us had bought our togs ha ha and didn't think they would appreciate grubby bikers in their underwear!

Following along the river track we discovered there was gym equipment dotted along the way so we stopped at each one to test our strength - or as we discovered our weakness - blame it on being tired after our ride.

Warren and Kathy went to the chocolate éclair shop where Warren inhaled quite a few apparently.

Kathy was quite concerned about the size of our room and whether Warren was too tall for the bunk. She should have been more concerned about the fact that she forgot a towel and a clean tee shirt and had to wear her night shirt uptown for dinner (Warren lent her a towel).

We got very yummy Indian takeaways and had it in the backpacker kitchen then retired to our tiny and sadly rather grotty abode.

Next morning the skies were very black and gloomy so we went for a drive up to the Turoa ski field and Kathy told us how she has biked up there before and we fantasied about biking down it. There was no one at the top and any tramping was definitely not a pleasant idea so we stopped at the bottom of the mountain and did a one hour bush walk amongst some

wonderful native tree specimens. We loaded up our bikes and headed back towards Palmy watching the mountain clearing and the sun coming out (typical), stopping at the Army Museum for a coffee and cake.

We also stopped at Bruce Park Scenic Reserve for a wander, it's actually somewhere I always wondered about. It was a bit muddy for Kathy's crocs (she still had her nightshirt on too) and for Warren's street shoes but it was worth the look. The kahikatea trees are absolutely massive and it's all very pretty and well looked after with lots of bird song – even saw a couple of kaka. A bus load of Chinese tourists arrived as we were leaving. They were all dressed up, not for the mud - oh dear.

We were Tina, Kathy and Warren.

## UNESCO Mountain Day

UNESCO International Mountain Day  
11 December 2015

Terry suggests that if you are bored or sick of sitting on your backside at work, take December Friday 11th (unfortunately a new moon) off, and go climb a mountain or a hill, or get out the DVD "The Englishman Who Climbed Up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain".



*Early evening and Aspiring [Terry Crippen]*

## Book Review

A Winter's Paddle; A kayak journey around the South Island of New Zealand by Tara Mulvany, 2014. Craig Potton Publishing 143 pages. Reviewed by Terry Crippen.

Well this isn't a tramping or mountaineering book, but it still is a very epic journey! Tara comes from a tramping, mountaineering, rubber rafting/kayaking family. Her dad, Stan Mulvany, along with others did the first rubber rafting trip from one end of Fiordland to the other; utilizing fiords, rivers and lakes, and the rest of the time carrying the gear!

Tara works as a kayak guide at Milford Sound during the summer, so winter was the obvious time to do this circumnavigation. She started out at Milford Sound with her partner Sim. The Fiordland coast is known for huge swells and very mean weather, so the going was very tough heading north. Trying to land at the few and far between beaches was always a problem. And plenty of times she got sea sick, chundering over the side, or the kayak capsized. Some days starting before dawn the distance covered was minimal, but some days she covered 80kms with a good tail wind. Being well known in the South Island they were often met by friends who would supply them with a hut or house to overnight, otherwise it was tenting on the beaches. Getting around Farewell Spit they got into calmer waters, but the Canterbury coast was mostly steep gravel beaches and big swells. At one stage everything hit the wall and the relationship between Tara and Sim came to an end, so Tara had to continue the circumnavigation on her own. On quite a few occasions she had to shelter from immense storms and swells for days. But once she reached The Shadowlands (ie Fiordland) Tara was back in familiar territory. Paddling into Milford Sound in October, it was like coming home for Tara.

One quote for when she met up with some lads on the southern coast:

"Where are ya heading"

"Um, to Milford"

"Bloody Hell, Milford's a long way from here. Where'd you start?"

"Milford."

An excellent book to read. Certainly a bit different to paddling down the Wanganui River or the Rangitikei! Tara has done much more in her kayaks. See all her other trips at [www.tarasjouneys.com](http://www.tarasjouneys.com)

Here is a selection of prize winning entries from our Club Photo Competition in August.



*Overlooking Lake Hawea* [Chris Tuffley]



*Tararua Lookout* [Warren Wheeler]



*Celmisia in snow* [Angela Minto]



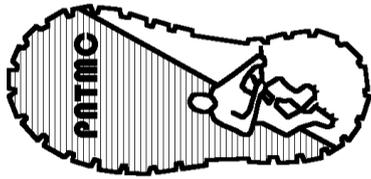
*Face plant* [Angela Minto]



*Winter Wonderland* [Woody Lee]



*Trail Home, Squamish NP* [Malcolm Leary]



Palmerston North  
Tramping and  
Mountaineering  
Club Inc.

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

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## PNTMC Newsletter November 2015

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

- Jubilee Weekend 28-29 November
- Interclub Photo Competition Results
- Thoughts on Hats
- Trip Reports – Waitahinga Tales, Blue Range Hut, Old Coach Road MTB
- Book Review – A Winter's Paddle
- 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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