

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter June 2016



Carefully crossing the big slip on the Colenso-Iron Bark track, Northern Ruahines [Warren Wheeler]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:30pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

9 June

Mastering Mountains - India and Nepal

Nick Allen

Last year Nick set off an expedition to the Himalayas to promote Mastering Mountains, a charity which exists to enrich the lives of people affected by Multiple Sclerosis by helping them get outdoors. Nick has MS himself, so he knows the incredible therapeutic quality of getting outdoors. Note that Nick is unable to give a separate talk on Nepal on 30 June as programmed.

30 June

Safety in the Mountains

Warren Wheeler

Tonight will showcase a number of classic safety videos from the past – river crossings and exposure.

Upcoming Trips

3-6 June

Queens Birthday Weekend

White Island M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

The idea is to leave on Friday to make it a nice long weekend. We then take the boat to White Island on Saturday and spend the rest of the weekend in the BOP or Rotorua doing other thermal activity things. If you are keen to go then contact Janet pronto so bookings can be confirmed.

5 June

Otangane Loop M
Peter van Essen 355 9076

Come and explore this area behind Harding's Park where secret gnomes have constructed a loop track south around the upper true left branch of the Otangane Stream. This makes a good day trip from the Kahuterawa road-end via the Sledge Track. This newish loop track means a lot less scrub bashing than in the past to get to a couple of high points that give views out to the east. Depart 7am, back mid to late afternoon.

Oops, nearly forgot, the overtly opulent outlook of the Otangane will ostensibly override our old-age osteoporosis so lets organize ourselves, overcome our oscillations over opposing options, and seize the opportunity on offer on this occasion.

11/12 June

Ruapehu Climbing F/T
Grant Christian 354 5843

My preference is to climb on the Pinnacles but if the weather looks better somewhere else on the mountain the plans will change. You will need to have completed the Snowcraft courses. A chance to practice your belaying skills.

12 June

Forks Hut M
Craig Allerby 323 7913

Depart 8am. A rarely visited backcountry hut in the south western Ruahines. The first part of the trip follows a farm road to the bush edge. We then follow a track through native forest to Forks Hut for lunch. Return the same way as in.

18/19 June

Roaring Stag Hut E
Woody Lee 357 2390
(Note new leader)

A trip into the eastern Tararuas behind Eketahuna and Roaring Stag hut is located beside the Ruamahanga River. We will start from the Putara roadend and climb steadily up the hill after the second swing bridge. It is about a 3 (4) hour tramp to the hut. Leaving from Milverton Park at 9am.

19 June

Foxton Beach Walk M
Tina Bishop 06 363 5660

Meet at Tina's for a stroll around the estuary led by Warren, Tina's for an early lunch and then she will take you on another walk through the forest and dunes. Meet at Milverton 9am Ph/txt 027 480 3342.

25-26 June

Mid-Winter Celebrations All
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

A fun weekend featuring an evening Bonfire and Bush Shirt BYO BBQ at Janet and Graham's getaway up past Apiti. Look forward to a gumboot throwing competition and other activities. Dress informal based on your best bush shirt. Come for the afternoon/evening only or enjoy one of several options either day including a Medium day trip up Tunupo, an Easy trip down to Irongates Gorge or a Medium day trip to Irongates Hut. Contact Warren for more details.

2-3 July

Sunrise Hut E
Terry Crippen 356 3588

Probably depart about 7.30am. Head over to Hawkes Bay and amble up to the hut. If people want, can go up to Armstrong Saddle. Back Sunday afternoon.

3 July

Sea to City E
Martin Lawrence 357 1695

Starts near the Wellington railway station, catching the Number 1 bus to Island Bay. Walk past the Marine Reserve, and hopefully find a cafe open before heading North on the Green Belt, visiting various parks, sidling down to the Aro Valley and finishing with a traverse of the Botanic Gardens.

9-10 July

TBA next Newsletter

10 July

Paekakariki Escarpment Walkway M
Richard Lockett 323-0948

This newly opened walkway gives a good workout and offers very scenic coastal views.

Notices

Club Night Changes

Thanks to all the club members who responded to the club night survey.

The feedback was considered at the 19 May 2016 Committee Meeting and it was agreed that there was no strong call for a change to a Tuesday club night so we would continue with the second and last Thursday of the month.

It was also agreed to start the meetings half an hour earlier to help avoid late nights. Doors will now open at 7.15pm and the meeting start at 7.30pm. We welcome your feedback on this change.

REMINDER Subs are Now Due

Thanks to all those members who have already paid their subs. If you are yet to pay please do so by the end of June.

There are two options.

Normal Sub: Newsletter received as hard copy via the post.

E-Sub: Newsletter received electronically via our website.

PNTMC Subscription	Individual	Family
Normal Sub	\$35	\$40
E-Sub	\$25	\$30

- Normal subs gets you a newsletter E-subs include \$10 for FMC affiliation.
- You will receive an FMC membership card that entitles you to various discounts, including 30% off the DOC Annual Hut Pass.
- Each card is valid for only one person so if you are paying a Family Sub please add \$10 if you require an extra FMC card.

Please pay directly at a club night to Warren Wheeler, Treasurer

Or

Post your cheque (made out to "PNTMC") to PNTMC, PO Box 1217, Palmerston North 4440

Or

Deposit on-line to our Westpac bank account: 030 726 0485 393 00.

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 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
Terry Crippen 356-3588

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/>

Snowcraft Programme



It's about time winter arrived - we want plenty of snow!

PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme starts in August this year. 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.

10 Aug Wed evening 13 or 14 August	SC1 Intro and briefing SC1 Mt Ruapehu
24 Aug Wed evening 27 or 28 August	SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work SC2 Mt Ruapehu
7 Sept Wed evening 10 or 11 Sept	SC3 Briefing & rope work SC3 Mt Ruapehu

Snowcraft Fees

The fees for each of SC1, SC2, SC3 are: \$60 if PNTMC member, or \$70 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 Close 4 August

Applications (returned application form and fee) close Thursday 4 August. Application forms will soon be available on the Snowcraft link at 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.

PNTMC Jubilee Book

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.



Order your copies directly from the editor Doug Strachan 353-6526 and get ready to put your feet up with this great read, all for only \$35.

(Also makes a nice gift to friends and family who might otherwise wonder why you enjoy tramping so much!)

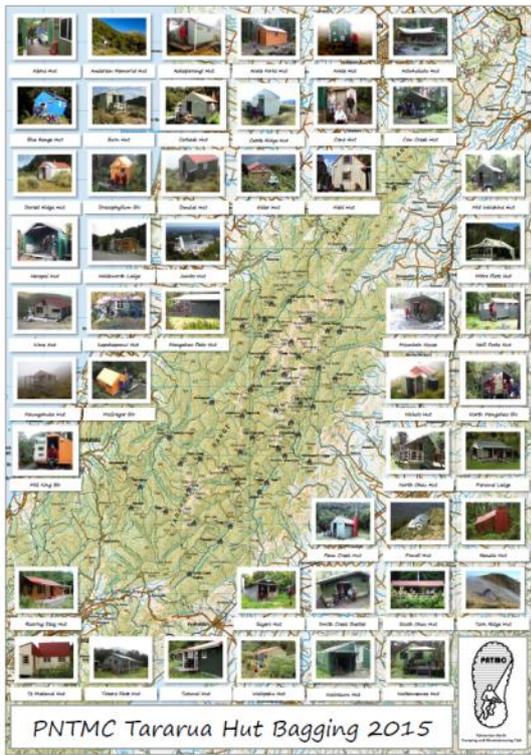
Otaki Forks Road Still Closed

You may already be aware that the Otaki Forks Road has been closed due to a slip on Blue Bluff, 13km from SH1. The slip area is unstable with large cracks high above the road. Work has begun on removing some 45,000 cubic metres of material and the road is likely to be open in two or three months before winter sets in.

An alternative access track has been opened by DOC and goes well above the slip site, starting at Shields Flat Historic Reserve carpark. It climbs 300m up and down to the road again, with a DOC time of 2 hours for the 5.1 km to get to Otaki Forks.

Road Closure updates are on the web; Google "Otaki Forks Road Closed" or similar. There is a link there to the DOC website, which has a map and other track information.

Tararua Hut Bagging Poster



Size	Members	Non Members
A2	\$8	\$12
A1	\$16	\$24

Post and tube is about \$15 extra depending on where it is being sent.

Also available is a similar Ruahine Poster.

Sale proceeds go towards our maintenance of Mid-Pohangina and Ngamoko Huts.

Contact Warren 356-1998.

Trip Reports

9-11 February 2016 Mt Owen Annett Paetzold

The original plan was to traverse the Mt Owen massif from south (Sunrise Ridge and Sunrise Peak) to north (walking out at Granity Pass Hut and Courthouse Flats). Having just emerged from the bushline on Sunrise Ridge on a very hot Day One it was decided that there was not enough water for us to make it up to a potential (still unknown) campsite on the tops with water from a tarn. In fact we had doubts as to whether there is any water left at all after weeks of very hot and dry weather.



Mt Owen from Sunrise Ridge turnabout [WW]

So it was decided to return to Owen River (nice campsite and pub) and drive around to Courthouse Flats and attempt Mt Owen via the route on the north side past Granity Pass Hut (with water half way up the mountain). Courthouse Flats is a historic place with remnants of buildings and mining activities and many beautiful spots for swims and dips in one of the three streams that meet at the flats. There is also a campsite.

We opted for the Blue Creek track to start off the trip on the next day because we hoped for shade amongst the trees. There is a clearly visible track up to Granity Pass Hut and also the route to Mt Owen summit is more then obvious and it is hard miss (in fine weather). It took us about 4 hours to Granity Pass Hut and approximately another 2 hours to a campsite in the saddle behind Sentinel Hill (Mt Bell to the east). This was not the classic uphill approach of only going up once but twice (staircase) and there was a lot of variety in (beautiful) scenery and views which made these four hours very enjoyable and diverting. There is also a geocaching site along the way...



Gold stamper battery at Blue Creek [WW]



Heading up to Sentinel Tarns [WW]



First view of Mt Owen massif [WW]



King size Spaniards before Granity Pass Hut



Morning cloud lifting, we finally get away [WW]



Looking back to Granity Pass Hut [WW]



Some deep cracks in the karst [WW]



Easy fun scramble in places [WW]



South ridge we would have come up [WW]



Plenty of flowers about still [WW]



Heading back down [WW]



Kea in the clag on top for lunch [WW]



A bit of exploring along the way down [WW]



Then the cloud lifted.. [WW]



Amazing rock erosion to be found [WW]



Sentinel Hill and tarn camp below [WW]

We spent the night near the tarns and on the following day we made our way up to the summit of Mt Owen and spent the rest of the day exploring the massif. The second night we stayed at the hut and walked out on the third day the same way we had come in, with only one difference: we continued the ridge down (not towards Blue Creek) to the flats which was quite steep and exposed in places, no shady trees.

In hindsight the south approach would have been a very long day from Sunrise Ridge to that campsite we had chosen on the tops. We probably saw a small puddle in Castle Basin but all the other closest to Owen and clearly identifiable tarns were in the saddle at Sentinel Hill. The most interesting part of this trip would have started at Sunrise Peak and not only for safety reasons one would want to make sure to do this part of the trip at daylight, it would be the highlight of the day. So a good summer trip if one takes perhaps twice the usual quantity of water and sufficient (day light) time to enjoy. (Warren Wheeler, Annett Paetzold).

2 April 2016 Adventures of Team 4 Tararua Trampers Janet Wilson

Not long before Xmas 2015, Anne Lawrence came up with the bright idea of entering a

team in the inaugural all women Spirited Womens Adventure Race. This was to be a one day event at Rotorua in early April involving standup paddle boarding (SUP), mountain biking (MTB), and running/walking all combined with navigation. Angela Minto, Tina Bishop and myself were quick to agree despite huge misgivings on my part on where the time to train was going to come from!

Having got our enthusiasm up, straight after Xmas Anne had to withdraw due to changing work commitments. We decided to carry on regardless and enlisted Yvette Cottam as our 4th team member. With Tina the only one experienced at SUP (she has her own board) learning to do this became a priority. We all managed some short lessons at Foxton Estuary (Yvette only had one go) and we were very pleased to have a lesson at Rotorua the day before the event. I fitted in a couple of mountain biking lessons (thanks Richard) and we had one group ride at Foxton in "Tina's Forest". Tina and I did some lunchtime runs together but other than that we fitted in what training we could on our own - relying largely on our own tramping fitness and navigation experience.



Paddle board training at Foxton estuary.

Richard Lockett and Terry Crippen were very willing support crew and drove us up to Rotorua on the Thursday where we stayed at the Blue Lake Motor Camp in a big cabin. We revisited my favourite foot soaking pools in the park in the evening. Friday was SUP practise and sign on. Richard went off on a bike ride towards Lake Okataina. In the evening we got our maps and planning began for the next day. Much excitement.....all too soon it was time for bed.

Up for an early start - from memory 7.15am - mass start, quick run along the foreshore of Lake Okareka to our paddle boards (supplied). Paddled around on a nice safe sheltered lake to some control points for 20 minutes or so, ran to Blue Lake collecting more control points to the transition to the MTBs.

Next stage was quite long with an appalling small scale map and lots of tricky navigation and we were pleased to emerge (some of us with somewhat improved mountain biking skills) at the redwoods nearly 3 1/2 hours later. It was then up on to the new redwoods tree walk where we completed a silly task to get our orienteering map for the next rogaining (on foot) stage in the redwoods.



4 Tararua Trampers with some improved skills

We completed this stage cautiously to avoid missing any controls and took a bit too long over it - never mind, we were soon on our bikes riding towards the city. We stopped and fired air rifles at an indoor range on our way. There was then an interesting ride over thermal areas before our last transition back to our feet for a last run around a park before ending at the Brew Bar in central Rotorua nearly 9 hours after we began. It was great and we finished 5th of the 18 veteran teams and 15 out of the total 37 teams that did the medium course.

Thanks to everyone involved - I think there's a good chance we will be back for another go next year. A great chance to have a go at adventure racing with short, medium and long courses offered.

We regrouped last weekend (15 May) for the City Safari - a six (or 3 Hr) rogaine around Wellington City with a transport pass provided. This time the team was Anne, Ange, Yvette and myself. We joined a huge entry of 800 starters over the 2 events.

The event starts with a "prologue" - this year a 25 minute sprint around the Wellington Zoo to find as many close in clues as possible. Then you are off for 6 hrs to find controls all over the city - we visited Miramar, the central city cable car/botanical gardens/railway station, Mt Victoria, and the coast between Houghtons and Island Bays using public transport 7 times.

With wild animals being the theme, you had to identify an animal from a picture at each location. Despite getting our orangatans and gorillas muddled we did really well and finished 3rd veterans and 15th out of 80 teams overall.



4 Tararua Trampers go wild on City Safari.

The Support Team for Spirited Women's Challenge Terry Crippen

We were Richard Lockett and Terry Crippen, armed with ute and Pajero. The women had a practice on the stand up paddle boards on Friday, no one fell off! Then on Saturday it was dropping them off in the dark for a run and the paddle boards. Then Richard and I headed off to the transition point for the cycle part of it at Blue Lake. Then they were off on a MTB orienteering challenge. Light rain. Then Richard and I headed off to the Redwood Forest. A very long wait, but plenty of fit woman to talk to!

Eventually our team arrived and dropped their bikes off for a high wire challenge and rogaining challenge. Then back to the bikes and off to some shooting! Richard and I cruised off to the Government Gardens to collect the bikes. Then we headed off to a restaurant for a beer and the end of the event. It was a long day, but enjoyable!

A very very big brunch (free) was held on Sunday morning followed by the prize giving - I over ate!

6-8 May 2016 Leon Kinvig Bruce the Dog

Things were all go at home. I heard Janet saying she was giving a talk to Forest & Bird in a place called Waipukarau so we all headed off there, not getting home till midnight, well after my bedtime.

Being a clever sort of dog, I know when something's up with the pack and it looked like there might be a trip into the hills, but the next day? Will I be going or will I be off to stay with Uncle Brian, Auntie Diane and James. By the time Graham and Janet have sorted their stuff out, half the day's gone. Yipee, my crate's going in the back of the ute along with those stupid things they carry on their backs. Mind you, my food appears out of that. That may be why Graham calls me a 'total bludger' on these trips. It wasn't long before I was let out and could run around sniffing and marking the area. Oh oh, he's also put on his pack one of those things that make a loud noise. I'm not happy about that but I usually get some very tasty morsels to eat so that's not so bad. Graham put my lead on me till we got to the bush so I couldn't help the farmer by rounding up his stock.

Once we're in the bush I'm let off to run around and sniff. It's not long before we're heading up hill and I'm having to wait for the rest of the pack. Janet can almost keep up but that Graham's a liability. I suppose he does keep going at least. We're not even at the top before they stop for food. The going got easier along the top, it was windy but undulating so it wasn't too hard for the others. This was great for a while but then we hit an area of low what they called leatherwood. I heard Janet say she knew a good way through it, well bollocks to that. It may have been annoying for them but they want to try going through it at my level! Eventually we started heading down arriving at what they called Ngamoko just before dark.

Next morning, looks like we're heading up the river. I'm not happy, Graham's putting this thing over my nose and strapping it on. I don't need this, they know I don't scavenge but I hear Janet muttering about whio. Oh well, off we head with Janet and Graham scuttling into the undergrowth every so often to do something. Despite the muzzle it's fun in the river, I get to hop up on logs and big rocks and look down on the rest of the pack. Much later in the day I get a real surprise, coming down the river is another Bruce. This one a two legged one who lives just up the road from us. We all carry on up to a hut they called Leon Kinvig. Just on dark two other people turn up – Fiona, who I've met before, and someone called Thomas. I like him and I think he likes me. It seems those three came in together and while Bruce came down to meet us, Fiona and Thomas went upstream doing the same thing we'd been doing all day. Janet seemed

very pleased. I was tied up at night but I found a nice bush to sleep under.



Stoat trap checkers at Leon Kinvig

Most atypically, Graham is ready to head off before everyone else next day muttering something about venison. The rest of us wandered off downstream for a bit with Janet muttering about whio. I'd had a bit of a moment back at the hut – Graham had gone and then Janet disappeared. *I was worried she'd get into trouble so I called her back. Luckily she obeyed.* Finally we headed off after Graham up the hill. At least she didn't put the muzzle on. Everyone spread out but finally we all reunited at the top of the hill for lunch.



Here I am waiting for Janet and Graham again

It seemed Graham had seen a deer, quite a large stag but had decided that it wouldn't be such good eating and despite the fact that they really are a pest had decided not to shoot it. That was very inconsiderate, I would have loved some manky old venison and I'm sure we (well not me personally) would have carried

some meat. Again we spread out going down the hill all reuniting at a stream crossing before heading on out.

At this stage the other Bruce and Graham were a wee way behind so I thought I'd better wait at a track junction so they didn't get lost and would follow me back to the ute, which they did.

8 May 2016
Dave's Farm Walk
Anne Lawrence

Six of us met at Dave and Gaewyn's house on Creamery Road and carpoled from there for the 5 minute drive to their farm. The farm is high enough for us to notice a chill as we got out of the vehicles.

The farm walk was interesting and full of variety – we managed to do a couple of farm jobs (fire up the engine to get the water pump going, and open a gate to let the cows through to the next paddock) as well as check out the improvements Dave and Gaewyn have made on their farm since buying it just over a year ago. I think we were all impressed by the solar panel that runs the electric fences... and of course the header tanks and the new troughs.



Grassy tops give great views

We crossed the farm and headed through various neighbours' places – we had morning tea from a great high point above the Oroua – a steep drop down but a lovely view over the Oroua valley which was still showing some autumn colours. The wasps seemed to like this spot too – we pondered reasons but I suspect none of us know a lot about wasps so the suggestion that the wasps were playing in the updrafts is open to question!



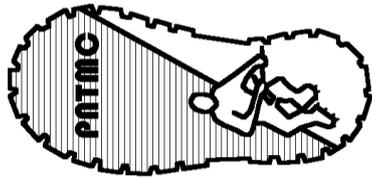
Autumnal view of Oroua River valley

We clambered down to the river and then took a slight detour to investigate the patch of regenerating bush – I was amazed by the amount of bird song in this patch.

We then headed upstream. We stopped for lunch when we found a suitable log to sit on ... very pleasant sitting in the sun. The river level was pretty low and it was a very easy paddle up river. After half an hour or so we left the river and headed up a side valley. This valley is quite steep although older folk talk about it being much gentler– it was interesting to see how much difference erosion can make in a relatively short time. We enthusiastically followed the gorge up, getting increasingly into clambering over and under obstacles until Dave realised we had overshot our turn. We retraced our steps to find the nice route out of the gorge, crossed a neighbour's farm before getting back onto Dave's farm. We got back to the vehicles early afternoon, and headed back to Dave and Gaewyn's house where we enjoyed Gaewyn's freshly baked cheese scones...what a treat at the end of a lovely walk!

Thanks to Dave for leading, and for Gaewyn for afternoon tea.

We were: Anne and Martin Lawrence, Woody Lee, Warren Wheeler, Peter van Essen and Dave Grant.



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- Mt Owen trip report/photo essay
- Leon Kinvig trip report by Bruce the Dog
- Farm Walk Oroua Valley
- 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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