

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter October 2016



Climbers heading up Pinnacle Ridge, Mt Ruapehu

[Dieter Stalmann]

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.

13 October

Vert X Climbing Wall

Grant Christian

(“Nelson Lakes to Lewis Pass” is now swapped to 24 November)

Come along and hone your climbing skills at the VertX Climbing Gym, the YMCA facility at Ongley Park, 148 Park Road, Palmerston North. We are booked for 7.30pm but you are welcome to get started as early as 7.00pm. Cost is \$10 per person. A good chance to practice before the rock climbing trip at Titahi Bay on 20 November.

27 October

In from Hokitika

Grant Christian

Grant's aborted trip to the Gardens of Allah & Eden via the Wanganui River turned into a West Coast foray along the Toaroha Range to Zit Saddle and over the Lathrop Saddle inland from Hokitika.

Upcoming Trips

1-2 October

Climbing Ruapehu F/T
Grant Christian 354 5843

Lots of options on Ruapehu. Where we go will depend on what people want to do. Be in first and let me know what you would like. Good chance to practice those snowcraft skills.

2 October

Ngauruhoe M/T
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Our commemorative trip of the "Grandstand View" when Ruapehu erupted in 1996. An easy zig zag up the west face to the summit crater. Crampons and ice axe are required. Depart 6.00am. We will have a breakfast stop along the way.

8-9 October

Mid Poh Hut M
Craig Allerby 323 7913

This hut is nestled beside the Pohangina river and maintained by PNTMC. A opportunity to inspect the condition of the hut and give a good spring clean! Some rubber gloves could be useful! Depart 7.30am.

9 October

Rangi Hut E/M
Woody Lee 357 2390

A popular, easy tramp to the tussock tops of the Whanahuia Range in the Ruahine FP. Rangiwhia Hut sits above the bush line and you will get a stunning view of Mt Ruapehu. An arched wooden bridge, a pretty waterfall and a couple of viewpoints are extra features before you reach the hut. Depart 8.00am from Milverton Park

15-16 October

Iron Gate Hut M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Iron Gate Hut – a classic easy Ruahine overnigher. Depending on who wants to come along, there are options for making it a longer trip by returning via the tops on the Sunday weather permitting or venturing in to the river if conditions were exceptionally pleasant.. Yes – we will be looking out for who and checking the DOC 200 traps along the way (but you can keep your hands clean if you prefer). Contact Janet by Wednesday night.

16 October

Otangane Loop E/M
Peter van Essen 355 9076

Come and try the newish Otangane loop track starting in Hardings Park and looping into the Tararua Forest Park. We want to see the few

views out so if the Saturday forecast is significantly better than Sunday we may change days. Depart 7am for the Kahuterawa road end.

22-24 October LABOUR WEEKEND

Tongariro Northern Classic M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 6.30am. Not your normal tourist route, this trip around Mt Ngauruhoe veers off the normal track at Tama Lakes and across country to the Waihohonu Springs where we camp the first night. The crystal clear springs emerge from an old lava field near the base of Mt Ngauruhoe. Day 2 involves fairly easy cross country travel across the volcanic landscape to the rim of Oturere Crater, joining the main track at South Crater and down to camp in the Mangatepopo valley. Options include a visit to Red Crater or a climb of Ngauruhoe with a possibility of camping there. Day 3 completes our loop back along the track to the Chateau at Whakapapa.

Day (Labour weekend) ...none programmed

29-30 October

Gold Creek E
Geoff Phillips 356 4223

A hut we seldom visit in the north east of the Ruahine Forest Park, up the wide gravel Makaroro River then a nice easy bush walk up a spur to the hut.

30 October

Tunupo M
Craig Allerby 323 7913

In the western Ruahines in from Apiti, Tunupo at 1568m is the highest point on the Ngamoko range. A good climb through red beech forest, leatherwood scrub and then on to tussock tops! We can also check the stoat trap line along the way. Depart 8am.

4-6 November

Pohangina River M/F
Janet Wilson 329 4722

This is to be a three day trip, which gives time for some river travel and who watching. An opportunity to become a conservation volunteer and probably visit Ngamoko and/or Mid Pohangina Huts - the huts our club looks after. Plans will depend on the weather and river level. Please indicate interest in this trip at least a week in advance.

6 November

Arawaru/Quartz Creek M/F
Dave Grant 328 7788

(swapped with Ange now on 13 November)

Minimum travel time to reach the start of this trip into Hardings Park at the end of the Kahuterawa Road just east of Palmerston North. From the road end we will head up the

Sledge track and east into the Otangane catchment. Several tracks have been developed in this area recently and we will follow the track towards the Nipple, then branch off and head south to Arawaru, coming back around the head of Quartz Creek to complete the loop. Leave Milverton Park 7.30am, back 4.30pm.

12-13 November

Kahui ENP

Warren Wheeler

M

356 1998

Depart 7.00am and head for Kahui Road on the western side of Mt Egmont/Taranaki National Park. A gentle climb for about 2 hours then takes us up from lowland forest through to sub-alpine forest at the old style Kahui Hut near the bushline. After lunch we will head further up the mountain to reconnoitre the route to the summit, which we will do on Sunday if conditions allow. Ice axe and crampons may be needed for the climb but non-climbers will enjoy this spot as well.

13 November

Pines Circuit

Angela Minto

F

027 472 0660

Meet in Masterton get a vehicle to Holdsworth car park then start at The Pines road end at approximately 8 - 8.30ish in via Mitre Flats Hut out to Holdsworth car park via Atiwhakatu Hut or along Pinnacle Ridge or "part there of" cutting down to the river checking out the two newish cut tracks.

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 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/>

Notices

Reminder – Club Nights start 7.30pm

Doors now open at 7.15pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm. You can now also have a warming cuppa when you arrive and still have a cuppa and cookie after the meeting.

Interclub Quiz Results

On Monday 19 September the Interclub Quiz this year was hosted by MUAC in the MUSA Lounge at Massey University. Despite a technical hitch with the big screen the wide screen TVs in each corner worked out perfectly for the team clusters.

A good range of quiz questions left our team suitably chastened at times when we learnt the answers e.g. in France the McDonalds Royale is a Quarter Pounder not a Big Mac, there are five different kiwis not eight there is 5000-7000mm of rainfall at Milford Sound not >24,000mm, Rocket Lab not Star Lab is the name of the NZ company about to launch satellites into space.

It was all good fun but the turnout was a little disappointing with only four members from MTSC and five from PNTMC. Even so, the four or five teams from MUAC could not prevail and it was PNTMC who reclaimed the Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy trophy that MTSC had won last year (you can see the trophy on the counter at Bivouac in the Square). Well done to our winning team of Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Richard Lockett, Esther Pothuis and Warren Wheeler. Thanks to MUAC for organising such an enjoyable event (and such delicious prizes).

Wakarara Road Closed

DOC advises that the last section of Wakarara Road down to the Makaroro River will be shut to the public, effectively immediately.

Please respect the landowner's decision as the road is on private land, therefore not legal access even though it is a formed road.

DOC will be looking at poling a nearby paper road down to the river, which will enter downstream of where the current private road enters the Makaroro River. For further information please contact the Department of Conservation Palmerston North Office 06 3509700.

PNTMC Jubilee Book

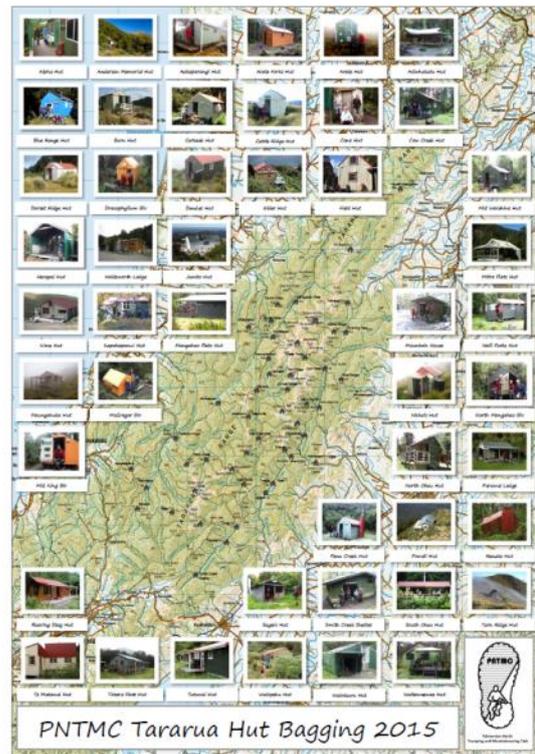
Old Boots & Packs - The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club (PNTMC) will interest and amuse mountain users, historians, photographers, hut baggers and tree huggers. Read about current and past members' exploits, which include climbing our highest peaks (sometimes with 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!)

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.

Club Photo Comp Results

Thanks to Martin Lawrence for collating all the entries and to our judges Nick Allen and Leith Haarhoff, who had a tough job this year.

Let's hear what Nick has to say about it.

"This year's club photo competition was the most difficult I have ever judged. The previous two year's competitions were excellent, but this year featured not only a higher number of entrants but also a astoundingly high number of quality entrants. Selecting the top three images was difficult because there were often so many more than three images that I enjoyed.

Leith Haarhoff and I also enjoyed the breadth of subjects photographed and the creativity employed. More than standard landscapes, there were images from such a variety to places and of so many interesting subjects. It was also great to see lots of creatively composed photographs that took a different prospective on things.

This year's competition was particularly strong and a pleasure to judge."

Congratulations to all the winning entries listed below along with the 1st place pic in each category.

Interclub Photo Competition 4 October

First, second and third places in each category will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition, which is hosted this year by MTSC and will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 October 2016 in the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road (next to the Lido Pool Complex).

Free Photoshop Lessons at the Library

Leith Haarhoff works at the City Library and invited individual members to take advantage of free one-on-one lessons he offers to anyone wanting to learn how to use PhotoShop and other Apps to make good digital images even better.



Above Bushline

1. Dieter Stalmann – Two climbers
2. Dieter Stalmann – Syme Hut in Winter
3. Chris Tuffley – Angelus by Moonlight



Below Bushline

1. Anne Lawrence – Auckland Island Canopy
 2. Chris Tuffley – The West Matakaitaki
 3. Sally Hewson – White Island
- Honourable mention – Sally Hewson – Ohingaiti Boulder



NZ Landscape

1. Chris Tuffley – The Main Range
 2. Martin Lawrence – Makara
 3. Woody Lee – Sun Rays
- Honourable mention – Thomas Robertson – Sawtooth Ridge



Natural History

1. Chris Tuffley – Coming In
2. Martin Lawrence – Snares Island Penguins
3. Sally Hewson – Turakina Fungi



Topical

1. Chris Tuffley – Through the Tussock
 - 2= Warren Wheeler – Al Fresco Breakfast Ruahine Corner
 - 2= Kathy Corner – Taranaki Yoga
- Honourable Mention - Dieter Stalman – Boys running down Ngauruhoe



Overseas

1. Chris Tuffley – Elephant's Eye
2. Chris Tuffley – Barn Bluff, Tasmania
3. Woody Lee – Patagonia



Novice

1. Geoff Phillips – Taranaki Stream
 - 2= Dieter Stalman – Climber
 - 2= Craig Allerby – Key Summit, Routeburn
- Honourable mention – Malcolm Leary – Cornwall Beach Steps



Best in Show – Makara - Martin Lawrence

Trip Reports

11 September 2016 Te Maari Craters Esther Pothuis

It was the perfect Sunday walk up to the Te Maari craters. You should have been there. Wendy, Kathy, Warren and I were the lucky ones on this trip. In our shorts we made our way on the Tongariro track, through a lahar zone, forest, and after that above the bush line where we could see the beautiful volcanic landscape. At the Ketetahi Hut we had a look at the blue skies that we could see through the hole in the roof which was a result of the eruption in 2012. We left Wendy at the hut after a lunch in the sun. We walked a little bit more up on the Tongariro track and at the first zig (or zag) we took route across to the Te Maari craters. We walked on surprisingly soft soil with red and green vegetation, loose rocks, occasional snow beds, more loose rocks, and more snow to get up and close with

the craters. Warren and I clambered on while we left Kathy to relax and enjoy the sun.



Cracker view of Te Maari vents

When we were right above the craters we skied our way down on our shoes in the snow and on loose rocks so that we were right next the big eruption fissure and the fumaroles of the upper crater, where we sniffed the wonderful sulphurous egg smell.

We did a round trip on the rim of the lower crater, which was shaped more like an oval because of the multiple eruptions that had taken place in years gone by. After communicating to Kathy that we would not be going back the same way (echo echo echo) we climbed back up to the track and to the hut. When we zoomed back down we passed many tourists armed with ice axes and crampons who had enjoyed a long day on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing together with their tour guides. Back at the car park we reunited with the others and agreed that we had a wonderful day.

17 September 2016 Rimutaka Incline MTB Tina Bishop

The weather forecast was not very good - it was actually awful - the rain got worse as we neared Featherston. We donned our bike gear and rain coats in the Featherston public toilets. The rain had eased a bit at the carpark. Of course in "Richard Tradition" we were doing the track in the opposite way to how most do it and the hardest way. It starts off as a two way single track for a couple of km so you have to watch for oncoming bikes as there is not much room to pass. Due to puddles and speed my pants were soaked within five minutes.

The climb was steady but not too strenuous with lots of signs to read along the way about

the old railways, a good excuse to stop for a breather.

It was very misty so the views were a bit obscured and the rain kept up, tricking us that it might clear up. One part of the track is called Siberia due to the winds it gets but we weren't blown away.

There were two short tunnels to go through and one that was about 500m long, definitely a need for a decent light. There were a few spectacular waterfalls by the entrance of one of the tunnels, a bonus due to the rain.

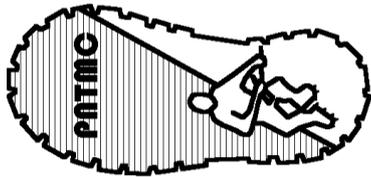
There was a steep descent down to a very swift gurgling stream which Richard kindly helped us to cross as it was trying to sweep our bikes away. Next minute we were at the summit which was where there used to be a township. We had a quick lunch and decided to go on a bit further. This was all down hill and it was very cold and windy, in fact I was so cold and saturated that I soon told Richard that my sister and I were turning back. I could not feel my feet or hands and was miserable. The climb back to the summit was very easy so I still didn't warm up and the stream crossing



Stream crossing at Siberia Corner [WW]

was a bit scary without Richard to help. Then we were off down hill for a fun and fast ride, which I think only took about 20 minutes. I nearly took out a goat which stupidly panicked and ran in front of me, thank goodness for good brakes. Not long after we got back to the car the others zoomed down to the carpark where of course the rain had stopped and it was much warmer. So it was a complete change of clothes and coffee and pastries at a French cafe in Carterton.

We were Tina Bishop, Adele, Esther Pothuis, Sally Hewson, Warren Wheeler and Richard Lockett.



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- 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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