

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter December 2016



Ready to set off into the clouds - Lake Dive Hut, Egmont National Park.

[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.

26 January 2017

BYO BBQ

Warren Wheeler

Share your summer holiday adventures at the BBQ area beside the Paddling Pool in the Victoria Esplanade. BYO food and drink as usual. Starts from 6.00pm. BYO tent that you got for Xmas to show us how quick you can put it up after lots of practice over the holidays.

9 February 2017

Navigation

Warren Wheeler

An informative and fun night to develop your map reading and navigation skills. BYO GPS to share some tips and find out more about their many features.

Upcoming Trips

4 December

Wharite E/M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Ever wondered what the view is like from the big TV tower north of the Manawatu Gorge? Interested in seeing the famous Ruahine leatherwood belt in flower? Fancy a nice shady walk in the bush? A rock hop down a stream? Join us for this side trip off the Coppermine Creek Track just north of Woodville. Depart 8.00am.

10-11 December

Lake Moawhango MTB
Richard Lockett 323 0948

This trip is changed from Bridge to Nowhere as there is an interesting organised event going into the army land at Waiouru to Lake Moawhango via tank trails and gravel roads. Cost is \$35 and needs to be booked in advance so see Richard asap.

11 December

Mt Matthews or Zekes FE or E/M
Chris Tuffley 359 2530

Two options depending on the weather and level of interest. Mt Matthews is the highest point in the Rimutaka Forest Park. Zekes is a seldom visited hut in the splendid Hihitahi Reserve (views to Mt Ruapehu) off the main road north of Taihape.

17-18 December

Short Knights E/M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Escape the Xmas Rush and celebrate the shortest night (almost) up on the Ruahine tops. We will go up Shorts Track, fly camp on the tops and return via Knights Track.

Depart 4.00pm.

15 January

Ohau Gorge E
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

An ideal first trip for the new year if you want to try a bit of easy river travel. We start from Poads Roadend behind Levin and follow the track through lowland forest with the odd lookout into the Ohau Gorge below. Once we reach the river itself we head off downstream. Just one waist deep pool. There is an interesting old water intake structure just before we clamber out of the gorge. Depart 8.00am.

21-23 January

Pohangina River Club Huts M
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

Spend the long weekend up the Pohangina River and get more familiar with Mid-Poh and Ngamoko huts. The club is responsible for maintenance of these two special huts. You might get to check some stoat traps as well.

27-29 January

Triangle Hut M/F
Graham Peters 329 4722

Visit this nice hut beside the upper Oroua River. A chance to try some Applied Tramping and help check some stoat traps too.

28 January (Saturday)

Deadmans/Rangi M
Woody Lee 357 2390

A classic loop up onto the tussock tops with great views into the central Ruahine Ranges. We walk up the Deadmans Track and then a steady climb with a short ascent onto the top of Mangahuia for lunch. We stop at the Rangi Hut to see how the booking system works and head out via the Rangi Track.

Depart from Milverton Park at 7.30am

4-6 February

Waitangi Pouakai Circuit M
Kathy Corner 356 8186

Egmont National Park's premier 2-3 day tramp offers spectacular views of Mt Taranaki and the surrounding countryside. The 25 km track passes through forest, alpine tussock fields and the unique Ahukawakawa Swamp. Leave from Milverton Park at 7.30am. Tramp to Holly Hut the first night. Take a walk to Bells Falls. The second day is a short day to Pouakai Hut and climb Mount Pouakai en route. The third day up for the sunrise - the classic shot of Mount Taranaki reflected in the tarn. A popular medium trip.

Day

Toka Biv F
Thomas Robertson 022 075 0864

A seldom visited old 2-man "dog-box" bivvie on the side of the Ngamoko Range in the Ruahine Forest Park. A beautiful trip up onto the tops with expansive views in all directions. Date will depend on weather and what day you prefer to go.

11-12 February

Mid-Waiohine M
Craig Allerby 323 7913

From the carpark we will head up the Holdsworth Track, passing through excellent beech forest and alpine scrub to the top of Mt Holdsworth for lunch. Good rest breaks stops can be taken at Mountain House and Powell

Hut along the way. We then descend off Mt Holdsworth down a steepish track to a great backcountry hut beside the Waiohine River. There is also good camping. Depart 7.30am.

12 February

Iron Gates Gorge

M

Warren Wheeler

356 1998

Join us for a classic summer trip down the Oroua River to see the Iron Gates Gorge (and swim through, if you are keen). We first head upstream along the side track above the river and after an hour and a half stop for early lunch by a swimming hole. We then rock hop and crisscross down the river to the impressive narrow gorge. Expect to get wet feet and more. There is a shorter Easy option if you prefer.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramp 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/>

Annual Awards

Each year we acknowledge the memorable endeavours of club members by presentation of Annual Awards at our End of Year BBQ. The following awards for 2016 were prepared and presented by Warren Wheeler at the BBQ at Ashhurst Domain on Thursday 8 December.

Hello Hello Award - Nicola Wallace for being rescued after breaking her ankle at the bottom of Ohutu Ridge.

Early Bird Award - Woody Lee for arriving at the D'Archiac club night a week early.

50 Years in 50 Minutes Award - Bruce van Brunt for his marathon Presidents Report at the AGM.

Kinky Pinky Award - Graham Peters for successfully straightening his dislocated finger after falling over in the Ikawatea Stream.

Time Out Award - Richard Lockett for mistakenly telling Anne and Martin that the departure time from PN would be 9.30am instead of 7.30am (they were just around the corner and soon got up to speed, but).

Absolutely Hopeless Award - Grant Christian for repeatedly failing to get to Mt Hopeless.

Starry Eyed Award - Raj Palanisamy for his wonderful stargazing trips on Mt Ruapehu.

Up All Night Award - Anne and Martin Lawrence for the mysterious noises found to be coming from a swinging toilet brush during their Sub-Antarctic voyage.

Stay Calm and Carry On Flossing - Kathy Corner for ignoring the Hawaiian surf bum showering beside her on the beach in Western Samoa.

Best Arrest Award - Dieter Stalmann for narrowly missing plummeting down a waterfall below Pinnacle Ridge, Ruapehu.

Just Gremlin Award - Janet Wilson for setting the gas cylinder on fire while "just" checking for leaking gas.

Spectacular Porridge Award – Warren Wheeler for OTT addition of his glasses into the mix of dates, ginger, sunflower seeds and lamington chocolate.

Dream On Award - Geoff Phillips for fulfilling his dream of going to Ruahine Corner Hut (even though it rained much of the time).

Applied Tramping Award - Janet Wilson for rebranding stoat trapping for volunteers.

Eskimo Pie Award – Craig Allerby for snow falling out of the trees and into his sandwich on a Tunupo trip.

Dave Hodges Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Forgetfulness Award - Janet Wilson for forgetting that her compass had been repolarised by Airport Security so she pointed out South as North to everyone (who believed her!) on the claggy Mangaohane Fundraiser Walk.

9-out-of-10 Award – Esther Pothuis (from the Netherlands) for making the most of her six month internship with Fonterra by going on a PNTMC trip almost every weekend.

Witty Ditty Award – Chris Tuffley for his poetic gems during his club night talk on Nelson Lakes to Lewis Pass.

Indiana Jones and the Lost Treasure Award – Esther Pothuis for returning to find her lost

bracelet in a bush bash down Coppermine Creek with the legendary Warren Wheeler.

This year the **Tararua Trophy** for Best Trip Report went to Esther Pothuis for all her many trip reports during her six month stay here.

Congratulations everyone.
Keep on tramping.



Warren presents Esther with the Tararua Trophy
[photo - Woody Lee]



A lovely warm evening at the EOY BBQ in Ashhurst Domain

[Woody Lee]

DOC Hut Booking Trial

Rangiwhahia and Sunrise Huts Booking Trial

DOC is running a trial bunk booking system for two serviced huts in the Ruahine Forest Park this summer.

Overnight visitors to [Rangiwhahia](#) and [Sunrise](#) huts will be able to secure beds (from 1 December 2016 – 18 April 2017). Bookings will be available via DOC's online booking system from 24 November 2016.

These are two of the most popular huts in the Ruahine Forest Park; overcrowding can be an issue during busy times. It is hoped that the use of a booking system will ensure the correct hut capacity is maintained so that the people using the huts are comfortable and safe.

Users will be able to book bunks to ensure they have a guaranteed bed. However, they cannot book 'sole-occupancy' of the hut. Huts will not be locked. Hut tickets and annual hut passes will continue to be accepted. Shelter in a storm is guaranteed. No penalty fees will be charged for those without a booking or hut pass/ tickets.

Volunteer Hut Wardens will be on site periodically, particularly during high use times such as public holiday weekends and school holidays.

Bookings can be made at <https://booking.doc.govt.nz/>. Annual hut pass holders may use their hut pass number to create a booking by contacting any DOC booking office.

Bookings will be available for one season on a trial basis. At the conclusion of this booking trial, a decision will be made for each hut to either make beds bookable every summer or to return to the non-booking system.

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

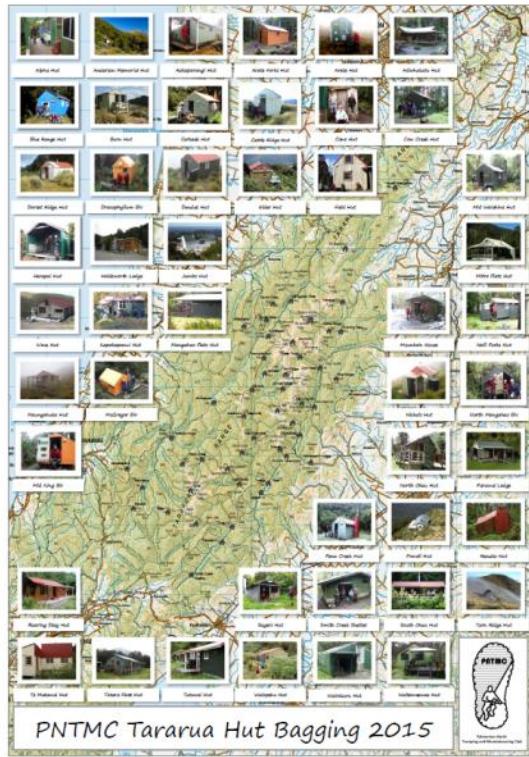
feet) and powering a car on white spirits cooking fuel.



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.

Editorial - The First Rule

Many of you will know that the first rule of mountaineering is "Don't let go of your ice axe". And the second rule is "Don't let go of your ice axe". And the third rule is "Don't let go of your ice axe."

Lots of other tramping situations have their own First Rule. How about these for starters?

Never Refuse Food – if someone cares enough to offer it to you it would be cherish not to accept; any doubts that they may just be lightening their pack can be offset by being quicker to offer them food next time; let new tastes be part of the adventure; be honest, you needed the energy anyway.

If You're Sweating, You're Not Doing It Right – slow down or take off a layer.

Seek Shelter – step off the windy ridge, get out of the driving rain.

Seek Shade – stop and rest in a cool place on a sunny day; it would be a shame to waste it.

Stop at the Top – or at least a flattish bit; it always seems easier to get started again if you can warm up a bit before the next steep bit.

If You've Stopped, Take Off Your Pack – why waste energy standing, sit on it.

If You've Taken Off Your Pack, Don't Just Sit There, Eat Something – otherwise why stop in the first place, you need the energy don't you?.

Keep Comfy – not too hot, not too cold - just right.

Know Where You Are – you can't expect to find that café you remember in Taihape if you are in Dannevirke.

Remember the Two and Three Second Rules – avoid flick back from vegetation when following through bush; increase to three second when going downhill to avoid splashing

mud on someone below, or standing on their hand, or sliding down into them.

Look After Each Other – you may be cold, you may be wet, but you can be happy.

Leave Only Footprints – put a rubber tip on your walking pole; clean up the hut before you leave; lug it in, lug it out - take your rubbish home.

Smell the Flowers – especially on those steep uphill sections; take a "Botanical Break".

Up the Ridges and Down the Creek – the easy way is what you seek; mind the windfall and waterfalls you may meet.

Take a Break Every Hour – stop and enjoy all around you; check your progress on the map; is everyone all right?

Don't Panic – it will all be the same in a hundred years.

Be Discrete – step well off the track to take a leak; at swimming spots, don't stop and stare or take a peek.

Happy Tramping these Summer Holidays,
Warren Wheeler

Trip Reports

30 October 2016

Tunupo Track

Kamila Turdakhunova

It was the incredible first walk in my life. Perfect weather, friendly team, beautiful views generously contributed to the first tramping experience in my life.

It was the perfect Sunday walk up to Tunupo Peak. We started at approximately 9.15am from the Oroua Valley carpark and went right up through the Tunupo Track. It was a nice fast walk, full of positive emotions.

As a beginner, I was taught all necessary things that are required to know. Craig and the team shared with me not only knowledge about tramping, but also showed me different plants and trees of New Zealand. On our way to the peak, we saw several mistleto trees. I also tried a leaf with pepper taste (do not remember the name of this plant).

The walk up to the top took approximately 3 hours. All the way up, the weather was incredibly good with shinning sun and warm air. However, on the top of the hill, it started to snow. Thus, the decision was made to walk back, as we were afraid that weather can get worse. Surprisingly, the way down was harder than the way uphill.

On the way back, we made a short stop for lunch. With the pick of the weather favouring our way back, we found a beautiful open spot, so the sun could warm us while we were eating. Through our small talks, I found many interesting facts about tramping in New Zealand. I was also advised on what places are the best to start with if you are a beginner. After a lunch, we continued our walk back. Eventually, our team separated as Kathy, Anne and Richard walked faster than the rest of the team.



Looking back to snow clad Tunupo.

The last and definitely the best moment of the whole trip was visiting Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge. We saw the hut and had a small rest over there. Suffice to say at this point that the hut was of a high quality, looking as a luxury accommodation ☺ Again, Craig and his brother shared knowledge and advice regarding using huts in New Zealand.

Overall, it was an absolutely great experience of tramping. Beautiful weather, skilled team and breath-taking views made that day perfect. I will definitely recommend this track for someone who wants to start tramping.

Team: Craig Allerby (leader), Michael Allerby, Martin Lawrence, Anne Lawrene, Kathy Corner, Richard Lockett, Elyse Hyde, Kamila Turdakhunova.

4-6 November 2016 **Pohangina River - Applied Tramping** **Esther Pothuis**

Tramping, known elsewhere as backpacking, rambling, hill walking or bushwalking, is a popular activity in New Zealand. Tramping is defined as a recreational activity involving walking over rough country. Trampers often carry a backpack and wet-weather gear, and may also carry equipment for cooking and sleeping (Wikipedia).

Wikipedia is quite right about tramping being popular and recreational. The rest is a bit wrong, we do not just carry equipment or food for the fun of it, we actually use it. On the trip of 4 - 6 November me, Janet, and Warren spent our time walking over rough country not only in pursuit of recreation but also with the intention of doing some applied tramping (which is the activity of tramping in combination with making yourself useful - can somebody edit Wikipedia?) in order to protect blue ducks.

We took the Apiti Track from Ngamoko Road to Leon Kinzig Hut, but stopped on the way to make ourselves useful. Wearing our wet-weather gear to protect us from rain and wind we relocated the last traps on the stoat trap

line from Longview Hut to the Apiti intersection. That line is now almost ready to kill many stoats and rats. We spared no effort to celebrate this memorable moment and at the hut enjoyed dry clothing, Peking Duck chips, chocolate, and dinner. A male whio joined in the celebrations and whistled a thank you to us.



Warren unloads a trap from the pack frame.



Janet with a new (bigger, heavier) double trap.

The next day was at first demotivating with more wind and rain. Our mood changed after a female whio showed her appreciation by making a weird sound and having a grateful swim right next to the hut at the Pohangina River. So after lunch, encouraged by her

presence, we braved river and rain to re-bait self-resetting traps downstream the river. We took advantage of the food stash that was left at the hut before we went up stream to re-bait more traps.

Almost back at the hut we were delighted seeing the happy whio couple together. They gracefully swam downstream, catching insects along the way, sitting on rock, or just gently floating. It was cool to see them do what river ducks do. They show awesome river skills, blend in very nicely with the environment, and clearly belong at the river. After a while the male duck lost his beloved female and whistled dramatically in wait for a reply. She totally ignored him. He frantically looked and called out for her and swam a long way down river until he gave up and flew away. That is the last we saw of the (not so) happy couple.



Whio pair feeding in Pohangina River.

On Sunday we gently made our way back to the car. I hoped to impress Janet and Warren by saving my orange-chocolate muffin for the last leg of our long journey, but Janet outdid me by pulling out a perfect avocado from her pack during tea break, Warren lost (he only had boring sandwiches).

12-13 November 2016 Lake Dive Hut Sophie Hornsby

Having only been in New Zealand for a month I was excited to head out on my first weekend tramp (a term we don't use in the UK!). After a change of plan from the advertised route to adapt to the rather soggy weather forecast, 5 of us (Warren, Woody, Esther, and Sophie & Jassi) set off from Palmerston North towards

Mt Egmont National Park. The drive was leisurely with stops to admire the Winter Gardens in Whanganui and an interesting trip up the water tower in Hawera. Next up was a brief hunt for a cheese shop where Warren & Woody remembered a previous cheese tasting. After a few wrong turns we found the Fonterra 'Cheese Bar' in Eltham which wasn't quite as exciting as Warren had hoped but still allowed us to buy some bargain priced cheese and chocolate milk!

We arrived at the road to Dawson Falls at around lunchtime to find a 'Road Closed' barrier blocking our way. We were informed that a tree had come down and was being cleared, luckily we only had to wait 15 minutes so we had our lunch and changed into our tramping gear. Once the road was reopened we drove on up to Dawson Falls Visitor Centre, with another brief stop to check the waterfall itself.

From the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre we set off on the Lower Lake Dive Track which led us into the bush and within 10 minutes the rain began. The route to Lake Dive Hut is about 7km and crosses a number of streams, many of the streams have bridges but there are four that need to be crossed on foot. The track itself is generally in good condition except for a few damaged ladders for which diversions have been provided. The rain persisted for most of the tramp and became particularly strong for the last kilometre so we were all relieved when we reached Lake Dive Hut at around 5pm.

Lake Dive Hut was already busy with a group from Wellington and a solo tramer so luckily for us the stove was already going and it was nice and toasty inside. The hut sleeps 16 across 2 rooms so there was plenty of space for all. After peeling off our wet clothes and changing into something dry we sat down to enjoy our snacks; lots of crisps, dips and cheese were quickly consumed. Next came a healthy portion of dinner and then chocolate all the way from the Ukraine! Comfortably full and still enjoying the warmth of the hut we watched the light disappear (unfortunately it was too cloudy for a dramatic sunset over the lake) before heading to our bunks.

On Sunday we rose to drier weather and after breakfast and a goodbye to our hut neighbours from Wellington we headed off on the Upper Lake Dive Track. The first section of the track was a bit overgrown but as we rose above the bushline the track and the views improved.

The track crosses the slopes of Fanthams Peak and passes some interesting volcanic geology before descending on the staircases on the Fanthams Peak Track. We had a few glorious moments of sunshine amongst the cloud and generally it stayed dry. The track led us back into the still very wet bush and with wet feet we arrived back to the visitor centre at around lunchtime. We did a quick loop of the Wilkies Pools Track which offers wonderful views of the cascade and some opportunities for tasting fresh springwater.



Waterlogged steps on Fanthams Peak track [Esther Pothuis]

On the way home we had a couple more interesting stops (and a boat ride) at the Tawhiti Museum and a black sand beach that I cannot name (*Patea – Ed.*). We passed back through Whanganui at teatime and were tempted into a tasty kebab house to finish our trip with falafel and ginger beer. After a fun weekend that was as much about eating and sight-seeing as it was tramping we returned to Palmy at about 7pm. I headed home tired and ready for a good sleep but little did I know the action wasn't over yet as I was treated to my first (and hopefully last) earthquake experience a few hours later!

Thanks for making my first trip with PNTMC a good one.

19 November 2016 Mangaohane Fundraiser Walk Kathy Corner

On this trip we were treated to the most amazing rural hospitality. The occasion was the annual fundraiser for Pukeokahu School. It was a chance to walk across Mangaohane Station to Ruahine Corner Hut in a day. The cost for the walk was \$70 plus \$15 for 5 star accommodation (the woolshed without an

ensuite bathroom or shearers quarters!) plus an evening meal and cooked breakfast. Pretty good value I'd say. Four of us arrived on the Friday night (Janet, Richard, Warren and myself) and Martin and Ann and Geoff drove up on the next morning which meant a 4.30am start! It was a lovely drive with superb views of the northern Ruahines sprinkled with snow and Mount Aorangi.

There were quite a few trampers there from the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club which I knew there would be as they too had advertised the walk in their newsletter. There were also 15 people from the Parawai Tramping Club from Kapiti. So we had a very pleasant social night chatting, drinking wine and eating wonderful marinated venison.

Those of us in the woolshed, we slept well, with no evidence of noisy snorers and you soon got used to the sheep smell. Breakfast was from 6am - a hearty cooked breakfast (wow, what wonderful sausages!). We had our briefing, and all got microchipped (a number written on our hand) so we could be checked in and out. There were 57 of us in total.

We were driven by 4WD vehicles across part of Mangaohane Station then started walking across the magnificent Mangaohane Plateau to Ruahine Corner Hut. Unfortunately the weather was clagged in with minimal visibility and light drizzle. The walk was very well organised in that there were lots of guides in their high viz vests. It took 3 hours to walk to the hut, and by the time we got there the weather had cleared a little and we had some views across the tussock. I enjoyed talking to all sorts of people as I walked.



The mob regroups at Ruahine Corner Hut.

The 3 hunters at the hut got a bit of a shock when 57 people turned up! We sat out on the veranda eating our lunch with a hung leg of venison for company. I tried to imagine what it

must be like to be in this spot in the sunshine with the early morning/evening light on the tussock. A small group headed back and the rest of us took a 20 minute walk through the bush to a slip and dropoff.

The trees were amazing in this part of the bush like something out of Lord of the Rings. Unfortunately we were unable to complete the rest of the planned walk due to the bad weather, so we headed back the way we had come. We did get some views on the way back across to some tarns and the Mangaohane Station. The last 1½ hours of the walk the weather deteriorated and we were tramping in light rain. Once we got in the 4WD vehicles the clouds cleared and we were able to enjoy expansive views over farmland.

We were only expecting a cup of tea when we returned but the generous farming hospitality provided us with more venison sausages and salads and superb home baking. In spite of the poor weather it was a good opportunity to visit this area of the country, an area I would love to return to.

27 November 2016 Kapiti Coastal Walk Sally Hewson

The Paekakariki to Pukerua Bay Escarpment walk looked to be a washout – a slip had closed the track Kathy said, but an alternative option was a coastal walk from Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton. With the low tide not until 3pm, and rain forecast for the morning, easing to showers later, this seemed like a good option. Even better, we didn't have to leave PN until 10am, giving more breakfast in bed and cat bonding time. Sunday morning Kathy announced that the slip had been cleared, but we chose to stick with Plan B. The thought of clinging to the steep and exposed steps of the Escarpment walk in a gale wasn't appealing.

After a very windy and rainy drive we parked up in Pukerua Bay Beach Rd, and found the winding concrete path that led to the beach. The sea was amazing – a churning mass of brown waves and foam. Breakers stretched right up to the horizon. I couldn't remember ever seeing it so rough. We followed a gravel path along the seafront. Eventually this disappeared and it became a beach walk. The terrain ranged from well-worn stones to chunkier lumps of rock that weren't so nice to walk on. In a couple of places we had to clamber around some rocks, while keeping

one eye on the waves. Definitely not a walk to attempt at high tide.

After an hour or so we came across an "igloo" made of driftwood. It looked quite solidly constructed with its ceiling of woven branches and "Y" shaped supporting poles. A perfect place for lunch. The waves crashed and roared – it was quite mesmerizing watching them. They churned up vast quantities of foam, which the wind sometimes whipped up into the air.



Nice day for a rocky beach walk.

The sea had thrown up a few treasures – a few fishing bouys, a large long dead puffer fish, and a huge glob of a mysterious fatty substance. Warren was brave enough to poke it. A couple of hours later we were nearly at Plimmerton, and as we rounded the headland we got the full force of the gale at our backs and were blown along in a sort of wind assisted jog. Up to then we had been reasonably sheltered. Not a drop of rain, and even had some sun. The route back to the car was a tarmac tramp up a winding road which joined the highway near the Whenua Tapu cemetery. Then it was a couple of km walk along the cycle track, an ice cream from the dairy next to Archway books, and back to the car.

The Sunday Storm Adventurers were: Warren Wheeler, Kathy Corner and Sally Hewson.

**27-28 November 2016
Cow Creek Hut (Postcard trip report)
Chris Tuffley**

All week the METVUW forecast charts for Sat+Sun showed big blobs of precipitation and tightly packed isobars. Not a weekend for a tops trip! But at Thursday's tramping club meeting those signed up for my Sawtooth Ridge trip weren't about to let me be a fairweather trumper...ah, I mean were keen to

head to the hills regardless, so with a change of destination Eleanor, Esther, Geoff, Sophie and I hopped into cars on Sat & headed over the range and S to the Cow Creek Track. With no other cars in the carpark we were sure we'd have the 6 bunk hut to ourselves...little did we know we were headed to the hip-happening place to be this wknd!

The Wx gradually worsened as we made our way up on to Blue Range, and one by one we pulled brightly coloured rain gear out of our packs and onto our bodies. A party of 2 joined us for lunch at Blue Range Hut, with news of a party of 6 headed for Cow Creek via the Ruamahanga. Oh dear!

Pressing on we stopped briefly at a break in the trees to admire a view of the ranges across the valley. That hadn't been there before! At the sign pointing down to the Waingawa R. we chose to carry on along the unmaintained track to Cow Saddle, following a faint footpad and the occasional scrap of pink tape with only a misturn or two down to the saddle and the track in from the Ruamahanga.



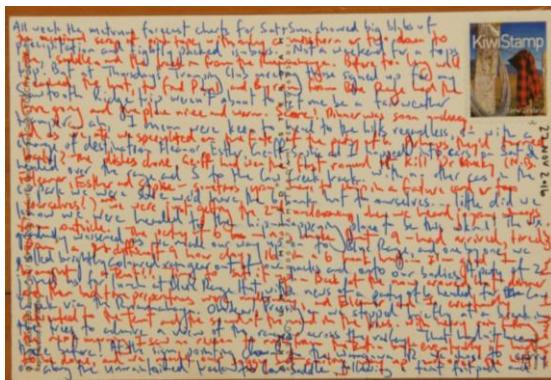
Brightly coloured rain gear in goblin forest.

Before too long we'd reached the hut, to find Paul and Byron from Blue Range had the fire going and the place nice and warm. Score! Dinner was soon underway, and as we ate we speculated on the fate of the party of 6. Perhaps they'd turned back? The dishes done, Geoff had won the first round of Kill Dr Lucky (N.B. Eleanor, Esther and Sophie - sometimes you have to chip in a failure card or two yourselves!), and we were just getting the 2nd round underway when we heard joyous whoops from outside.

The party of 6 - no, make that 9 - had arrived, tired from a difficult 9 hour day. 16 in a 6 bunk hut...I'm glad I brought a tent!! Time to set it up...Back at the now crowded hut dinner and then bed time preparations were underway,

and Eleanor and I eventually retreated to the tent and the sound of the wind in the trees.

With heavy rain falling the next morning I saw no reason to rush from the tent...but eventually it had to be done, and we all made our soggy but smiling way up and over the hill and back to the car.



Postcard Trip Report. Just add removable sticky label for the address. It can be done!

3 December 2016

Wharite

Duncan Hedderley

The climb up to Wharite is a steady upward tramp, through not-particularly-lovely leatherwood, but on a good day it gives great views over the Manawatu and Tararua districts.

We did have a good day, and I've got the sunburn to prove it.

Esther and Tuan hadn't been there before; I had but years ago.

When we got to the ridge, Warren suggested instead of going south towards the TV tower, we went north.

He found a couple of good viewpoints, then suggested going back down Coppermine Creek.

Esther went with him, while Tuan and I headed back the way we had come, along the ridges.

It had taken us about three hours to get up to the ridge; we got down in two.

The others only took half an hour longer, even though they had had to bush bash a lot of the way.

We were Warren Wheeler, Duncan Hedderley, Esther Pothuis and Tuan Dinh



Leatherwood lookout to Wharite [Tuan Dinh]

4 December 2016

Kapiti Island and More

Esther Pothuis

Yaaaaaaaaay! I finally saw a lot of birds in New Zealand.

Warren and I decided to explore Kapiti Island last Sunday and it was wonderful.

Birds were literally everywhere.

We saw saddlebacks, stitchbirds, cute little robins and fantails, weka, kaka, bellbirds, kakariki, paradise ducks, kereru, and many many tui.

The tui were flying in swarms above the island, a beautiful sight. Most importantly the sound on the island was just out of this world. Songs of different birds could be heard everywhere, which was great.

Actually, it was just like what you would expect of bird nation New Zealand. Amazing.

Later that day we saw a kingfisher and a morepork, so in one day I pretty much saw more birds than I did during my whole time in NZ.

For the rest of the day (back on the mainland) we took a swim in the sea and drove to the Pohangina valley where we walked around Totara Reserve (saw an 800 year old tree!) and when it got dark we went to see the secret glow-worms. It is impossible to describe what that was like...Glow-worms are magical.

From the Archives

Newsletter 5/72

11th-13th August. SNOWCRAFT II, RUAPEHU.

A TALE OF FAILURE AND LACK OF RESOLVE

A plastic sheet was required for the removal of snow from the snowcave tunnel. Two of the party were sent to fetch such a sheet from the instructor's pack, a distance of about 300 meters (we are really with it!) They did not return. The third member was sent to discover the reason. He did not return either. Meanwhile, the instructor continued to dig as best he could, reshovelling the snow several times before getting it to the tip head. Finally our gallant instructor decided it was time to sort the shirkers out who doubtless were enjoying a hearty lunch in the shelter of the nearby Alpine Club Hut. The first thing he noticed was a myriad of tracks in the snow. Next he found one of his pupils wandering aimlessly in circles or figures of much lower symmetry. The remaining pupils were also recovered in various states of disorientation and were mustered in the Alpine Club Hut.

After lunch resolve sufficient to brave the elements and complete the snowcave was lacking. The evening was spent matching feat of strength with feat of strength, ditto for feats of skill, daring and ludicrousness.

Sunday dawned as Sundays do, and we set out on a compass bearing to locate a bluff suitable for practice of such advanced snowcraft skills as the use of barn doors as deadmen (anchors), how to travel in waist deep snow etc. As we neared the bluff our omniscient instructor, benefactor and leader gave warning. The leading pupil decided to ignore this generous advice in a spectacular manner by walking fearlessly over the edge.

Those taking part were Brent Johnston, David Hay, Kevin Pearce and Tim Short.

Newsletter 8/73

PAST TRIPS

9-10th December. SOUTHERN CROSSING.

One Friday night five stupids left the comfort of home and slogged their way up to Field's Hut. The night was spent under a fly in teaming rain.

At first light on Saturday we were off again climbing up onto the tops, stopping for lunch at Kime Hut. The weather now clearing (congratulations, leader) the fearless five made up onto Mt. Hector, then over the Beehives and up to Mt. Aston and down to Cedric's, Alpha Hut, later up to Hell's Gate and down the backside first Omega Track.

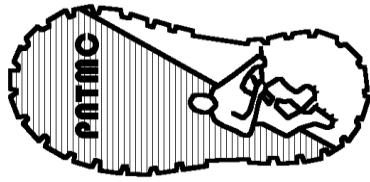
A pleasant night was spent alongside the Tauherenikau River. Sunday saw our thoughtful leader saying that a train to Palmerston North went through Woodside station at 1 p.m., so after a mad record time over Mt. Reeves and out to the country settlement we found that the train didn't leave until 7 p.m. Anyhow, eight hours later five stupids arrived back at Palmerston North.

Trip members: Kevin Pearce, Ian Hoare, John McFarlane, Chris Dench, Tim Short.

**Palmerston North
Tramping and
Mountaineering
Club Inc.**

www.pntmc.org.nz

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Palmerston North



PNTMC Newsletter
December 2016

What's inside this month?

- Annual Awards from EOY BBQ
- DOC Booking Trial for Sunrise and Rangiwahia Huts
- Editorial – the First Rule
- Trip Reports – Tunupo, Pohangina Applied Tramping, Lake Dive, Mangaohane Fundraiser Walk, Kapiti Coast Walk, Cow Creek Hut, Wharite and Kapiti Island
- From the Archives – 1970s Reports on Snowcraft and Southern Crossing
- 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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