

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter August 2017



Te Mara Peak found at 1104m, Blue Range, Tararua Forest Park.

[Warren Wheeler]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15 pm for meeting start at 7.30pm.

10 August 2017

Climbing Mt Pollux

Grant Christian

In February this year Grant attended the NZAC climbing camp at Top Forks Hut in the Wilkin Valley, Mt Aspiring National Park. The surrounding peaks looked impressive and rather challenging for his experience, but having a lot of experienced climbers at the camp meant some good advice and achieving a climb of Mt Pollux.

31 August 2017

Photo Comp

Martin Lawrence

Our annual PNTMC photo competition gives you the opportunity to come and see the best shots taken by members over the last year or so. Our expert judge will select three images in each category and audience vote (show of hands) will then determine first, second and third places. To encourage members to include more people in their shots, we have tweaked the categories in line with those for the coming FMC Photo Competition 2017. Place-getters in each category will be entered in the FMC Competition and the Interclub Photo Competition. See Notices inside for the categories and other details.

Upcoming Trips

5-6 August

Sunrise Hut **E/family**
Doug Strachan **353 6526**

We drive for 2hrs, passing Ongaonga, to the start of the 2-3hr climb to Sunrise Hut (eastern Ruahines) on an almost-wheelchair-friendly track. We're bringing our son (10yrs) and daughter (11yrs). Hear tales of pilot Hamish Armstrong, who crash-landed his Gypsy Moth on the saddle above the hut in 1935. Options for Sunday include coming out partly down the track and partly along the river, or a sub-group could escape the kids and do something more adventurous. Depart 9am from Milverton Park.

5 or 6 August

Toka Biv **M/F**
Chris Tuffley **359 2530**

We'll do a loop, heading up the Knights Track, across to Tunupo and out past Heritage Lodge, stopping by Toka Biv on the way. Leaving reasonably early to make the most of the available daylight.

12 or 13 August

Snowcraft 1 **I**
Grant Christian **354 5843**

Do you want to safely enjoy walking on snow and ice, use an ice axe, cut steps, use crampons and self-arrest if you fall? Join us on the first of our Snowcraft courses. We will be on Ruapehu either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather forecast. You should register by 27 July. See the Notices below or the PNTMC website for details.

12 August (Saturday)

Blue Range Hut **M**
Woody Lee **357 2390**

A day tramp to the eastern Tararuas between Mt Bruce and Masterton. We have lunch at the hut overlooking the northern tops and return the same way. A relaxing afternoon break at the Mt Bruce café will be an option. Depart 8.30 am.

19 August (Saturday)

Mitre Flats-Holdsworth Lodge Circuit **F**
Ange Minto **06 377 1505 or 027 472 0660**

Leave PN 7.30; meet in Masterton at my place, deliver one vehicle to Holdsworth car park. Start at the other end (The Pines), through to Mitre Flats Hut, carry on around to Atiwhakatu Hut and back out at Holdsworth car park. A good long day.

19-20 August

Howletts Hut (TG Memorial Tramp) M/F
Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

Depart PN 7.30am. This hut is owned by Heretaunga TC and was a favourite for keen club member Tony Gates (RIP). It is high in the eastern Ruahine Range and should be surrounded by snow for this trip. From the Daphne Car Park off Kashmir Road we go up and along the ridge track to the Tukituki River and Daphne Hut (2-3 hrs) then up the hill to Howletts (3-4 hrs). Option to return along the tops to Longview Hut. BYO coal if poss(!).

20 August (Sunday)

Coppermine Loop **E**
Nicola Wallace **021 209 0720**

We travel up the Coppermine Track for about 30 minutes, before crossing Coppermine Stream, and climbing to the ridge top, before descending through bush and farmland back to the car park. Steep in places, and will be slippery, so wear good grippy boots. If the stream is low we may venture up to the magazine tunnel and mine site also. Leave from Milverton Park at 8.30 am.

26 or 27 August

Snowcraft 2 **I**
Grant Christian **354 5843**

Do you want to learn how to climb in snow? This is the second of our Snowcraft courses. We will be on Ruapehu either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather forecast. You should register by 27 July. See the Notices below or the PNTMC website for details.

27 August

Makatote Tramway Explorer **E**
Richard Lockett **323 0948**

This trip has been postponed till a later date to be advised.

2-3 September

Taupo Explorer **MTB**
Richard Lockett **323 0948**

Club members entered in the Spirited Women's adventure race back in April got to discover the vast amount of off-road bike trails in and around Taupo - let's go and ride these fantastic trails. Saturday exploring the trails from Whakaipo Bay across to Kawakawa Bay/Chinamans track and return. Sunday exploring the Waikato River Trails up to the dam to view the opening of the spillway at 10am. Travelling up Friday night would be a good option. Staying at a cheap motel.

3 September

Intro Tramping 1 E Anne Lawrence 357 1695

New to tramping? Wanting to get back into tramping? Our Beginner Tramp Series is just for you. We're running a series of graduated tramps. Where we go and how far will depend on the group. Suitable for all ages from youth to those getting into tramping later in life. Interested? Contact Anne 027 4504212 or 357 1695.

9 or 10 September

Snowcraft 3 I Grant Christian 354 5843

Building on the climbing skills of SC2, this is the third of our Snowcraft courses. We will be on Ruapehu either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather forecast. You must be registered by 27 July. See the Notices below or the PNTMC website for details.

10 September

Back Track/Arapuke Loop E Woody Lee 357 2390

A new swing bridge across Kahuterawa Stream lets us complete a nearly 7km loop track in the Arapuke (= pathway in the hills) Forest Park. We will start from Back Track for this loop walk and get down to the swing bridge. From there it is an easy walk to the car park. You can have lunch in town or at your place. Depart Milverton Park at 8:30 am.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampler 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
Graeme Richards	353-6227

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/>

From the President

You may have noticed that "Intro Tramping" trips have appeared on our current event list. Once a month on the first weekend from September until December, we will offer special trips suitable for new or returning trampers. Destinations will depend on the makeup of any group. Anne Lawrence is providing information on what to expect on the day, gear needed etc and coordinating these tramps. Of course, club members are welcome and encouraged to come too.

If you know anyone who might be thinking of giving tramping a go - give them a nudge in the direction of our club - coming on a tramp could turn out to be a life changing move. We all get a lot out of tramping - enjoyment of the environment, companionship, challenges and the satisfaction from a trip achieved. Encourage your friends, family and work colleagues to take this opportunity and share the tramping experience with us.

Janet

Snowcraft 2017



Winter has arrived - we want plenty of snow!

PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme has two aims

- to equip people with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow;
- 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.

9 Aug (Wed evening) SC1 Intro and briefing
12 or 13 August SC1 Mt Ruapehu

23 Aug (Wed evening) SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work
26 or 27 August SC2 Mt Ruapehu

6 Sept (Wed evening) SC3 Briefing & rope work
9 or 10 Sept SC3 Mt Ruapehu

Snowcraft Fees

The fees are 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 around to friends you may think are interested.

Applications Close Thursday 27 July

Application forms are available on the Snowcraft link at www.pntmc.org.nz or on the noticeboard at Club Nights.

Late applications may be accepted. For more info contact Grant Christian 354-5843.

Notices

PNTMC Photo Competition 31 August 2017

You need to be in to win!

And for those who haven't had a placing in our photo competitions, you can enter your photos in the Novice category. A photo entered in the Novice category can also be entered in any one of the other 7 categories.

Rules

- Only digital entries accepted
- No previous entries
- Images must be related to tramping, climbing or trekking
- Limit 3 images per category (per person)
- Images must be clearly labelled

Categories

Above Bushline (with no human element)
Above Bushline (with a human element)
Below the Bushline (with no human element)
Below the Bushline (with a human element)
Natural History – NZ flora, fauna, geology, etc
Topical NZ – people or detail
Overseas - people and/or places
Novice – any of the above subjects

This year we have replaced NZ Scenic/Alpine categories with those for the FMC Photo Competition 2017. The FMC definition of a "human element" is understood to mean people or anything else that is man-mind such as a track, hut, bridge, ice axe etc. However, if the "human element" is very small and not a major feature in the photo e.g. a track marker or distant hut, then it should count as "no human element".

Deadline Sunday 27 August

Please get your entries to Martin Lawrence by email (martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com) or call him on 357-1695 to drop off your images on CD or pen drive.

Notes

Winning images will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition, to be hosted this year by MUAC on Monday 9 October, and the FMC Photo Competition 2017. In addition, some of these images may be used to promote PNTMC. Please indicate if you do not want your images used in these activities. Images remain the property of the photographers.

New Member

Welcome to Ash Mellow, who joins us from Dannevirke - we wish you lots of happy tramping.

Trip Reports

8-9 July 2017
Cow Creek Hut
Christian Offen

The weather was much better than forecasted when five of us and the dog Bruce started our trip to Cow Creek Hut. Leaving the cars at Kiriwhakapapa Road end, we headed off seeing some redwood trees at the entrance of the forest park. After climbing up Blue Range we decided to make a quick side trip to Blue Range Hut for morning tea and enjoyed our break in the sun at a table in front of the hut.



Morning tea break at Blue Range Hut

The snowy tops of Cattle Ridge looked amazing. The view was so wonderful that even a rat living in the hut looked out of the rain gutter. However, the ex-hospital signs at the hut suggest highest hygienic standards reading "Antenatal Clinic", "Do not enter while surgery is in progress", "If reception is unattended, please press the bell" at the front door and "Patients Only" at the bunks.

Following the dog Bruce, we went back to the Cow Creek track and had our lunch break in the fairy-tale like forest. Before dropping down steeply to Waingawa River, we were yet again offered an impressive view of ridges with snowy tops just before clouds would come in to cover them. Crossing a swing bridge over the river, we reached cosy Cow Creek Hut.

After making the fire and having a tea break, Janet, Fiona and I still had enough energy to look for blue ducks which had been sighted in

that area. However, we could not hear their sounds or spot them between the grey stones of the river bank in the gloomy light. Back at Cow Creek Hut, the others had heated the little hut to a fairly good temperature which advanced to sauna conditions by our cooking.

After a warm, good night rest (okay, one of us complained that even the dog snored), we climbed up Blue Range again, calling out to contact the other hiking group around Warren which was heading to Te Mara Peak as a day trip. Indeed, the other four hikers met us at our lunch rock (on the track before Blue Range Hut) which is a nice point for a break as it offers a great view. After a nice meet up, we quickly descended to the car park seeing clouds coming in. Thanks to Janet and Graham for organising this lovely trip.

The five of us were Janet and Graham, Catherine, Fiona, Christian.

9 July 2017
Te Mara Peak (WAWA to TE MARA)
Anja Scholz

9 July, 8:45am pick up at Pukaha/Mount Bruce – Woody, Ann, Warren and now me (Anja) were en route to Te Mara Peak, located only a short distance from iconic Blue Range Hut in the Eastern Taranaki.

The sunny skies defied the weather forecast which had announced showers turning to rain - njanjanjanjaaaaaanja, we wouldn't get wet from the outside. Just as well, as after the first introductory ten minutes on a flat track we started the unrelenting 90 minute climb which for some of us meant a bit of moisture build up from the inside – phew. The track is in really good nick, and after a few slippery steps at the very start the only mushy bit is when you least mind it – by the sign announcing Blue Range Hut, more or less the finish of the hard uphill yakka¹.

We turned sharp left, though, and a wee bit further uphill to a pink-ribbon-marked track off

¹ Work, strenuous labour. The word is used especially in the phrase **hard yakka**. **Yakka** first occurs in the 1840s as a verb meaning 'to work', and it derives from *yaga* meaning 'work' in the Yagara language of the Brisbane region.

Yakka found its way into nineteenth-century Australian pidgin, and then passed into Australian English.

the main track (for the visually challenged there is also a metal arrow nailed to a tree saying 'Te Mara'). After following this well marked and good off-track trail for 20 minutes we got to the peak marker - or what's left of it – for the obligatory peak photo.

As it had cooled down quite a bit, and the clouds were lowering, we didn't linger but headed back to the sign junction and further on towards BRH. Warren had already established contact with Janet and Graham's overnight trip party by some obscure bird mating call imitation which had promptly been answered. So, on the viewing rock before the hut we were greeted by pathfinder dog Bruce and the five-strong tramping party who were on their way down and left us to carry on to the hut.

Always a good laugh to see the hut with its various signs advertising it as Antenatal Unit with reception bell, a Vacant/Occupied toilet sign and various other signage the origin of which lies hidden in the Tararua mists. It was a welcome sight for lunch and views of the surrounding hills which had started to disappear behind the descending cloud and said mist.

The brief ascent to the main track warmed us up for the relentless descent – we managed to stay abreast of the cloud until a couple of minutes before we got back to the car – njanjanjanjaaaaaanja, we didn't get wet from the outside !

Finishing off the day at the Pukaha/Mt Bruce we celebrated the fickleness of weather forecasts with carrot cake, ice cream and coffees, and I stayed behind while WAW (AWW?) departed into the mist.

We were: Warren Wheeler (trip leader), Ann Kent, Woody Lee and Anja Scholz.

16 July 2017 Paekakariki Escarpment Walk Nicola Wallace

I enjoyed this walk so much when I did it on ANZAC Day with MTSC that I had to do it again. My day started early, with a dark walk down the road in Feilding, to the crowing of roosters, for Richard to pick me up. By the time we left PN there were eight of us in two vehicles. The day was fine, if not sunny, and after parking near the Paekakariki shops, we set off walking at about 9.20am. Some guys

by the roadside in Ames St told me the track was officially closed because of a slip (surprise surprise with all the recent rain), but the slip was easily negotiated, and they had just run the track.

After climbing over the 'closed' barrier at the underpass, we all assembled, and were on our way. The first 3-4 km is pretty flat, and by the time we were well into the climb up the steps, there was a pleasant NW breeze, and occasional sun. I was very glad of the breeze, as I was wearing polypro longs and was getting warm on the climb. Up the top it was a cool breeze. The views were fantastic, which included a very clear view of the snowy Kaikouras. Warren was following the progress of a tree in the sea, its roots and top visible. Actually there were 5 floating trees! Some of them were no doubt from up our way.

We stopped for a cool morning tea, at an area of newly constructed seats, good for a large group. With the track closed, there were few people about. The slip, when we came to it on the exposed hillside, wasn't that bad, it was only a small one, but in a bit of a precarious spot. The standard of this track is very high, and there are interesting sign boards here and there, about the geology, natural history and railway history of the area.

Soon we were descending the steps, and entering the kohekohe forest, well kohekohe and kawakawa. The large kohekohe berries were fascinating, with some seeming to grow out from the trunk. The berries were more numerous in the tops of the trees. The weather was slowly deteriorating, the clouds getting darker and heavier, but no rain yet.

Once we left the steps behind, the path wound down the hillside. There was a bird poo every metre or so on this path, but no birds to be seen. Once on the flat again, I noticed a group of beautiful basket fungi sitting in the bush down to the left, so Warren and Sally went down to photograph them. Soon we came to the now closed Muri station, then through Muri Park and through Pukerua Bay suburbia. There were a few tui in the trees here, but they were very quiet. Just before Pukerua Bay railway station we came across a playground, so Sally and I took the opportunity to have a see-saw – something we both hadn't done in years.

At the lovely new Pukerua Bay station (wooden walls with bird cutouts) we only had 5 minutes to wait for the next train. Some got

out their lunch and stuffed it down in that time. Warren handed round lovely fat strawberries – just the thing to keep the bod going till lunchtime. The train ride cost \$3.50 for the journey one station up the line, and it was very enjoyable to look up at where we had been.

Once back at Paekakariki, Sally and Doug went to a café for lunch, Richard and I sat outside for lunch, and Warren and others walked down to the beach. After Warren's crew had departed for home in the trusty Renault, Richard drove us to the railway station, and Doug and I checked out the little museum, which has some good local WWII and railway history.

At about 2.30pm we headed for home. At sunny Otaki it started raining, not heavily, but very thick rain. Then just before Shannon it stopped, and we enjoyed a rain free drive home through the sunny Manawatu. We had all enjoyed the day, and were very lucky with the weather. I was surprised how warm it was on the walk – warmer than the Manawatu I reckon.

Thanks to everybody for their company, and Richard and Warren for the driving. Members were Richard (leader), Warren, Christian, Sally, and Nicola, while non-members were Hammed, Sam and Doug (who came all the way from Dannevirke).

22 July 2017

Sledge Track Swingbridge Loop

Warren Wheeler

Gina was unable to lead this local trip due to a crook back so she asked me ever so nicely to fill in for her – no worries.

Heavy rain on Friday night had eased by morning as five of set off at 8.00am for the 16 km to the Arapuke Carpark, at the end of Kahuterawa Road. We were the first ones there after a short park up while the Higgins truck and a small digger finished clearing roadside slips – no worries.

Dan used her panda phone to take a photo of the route map in the carpark in case we got lost – no worries.

The stream was a raging dirty colour at Argyle Rocks, about 300mm higher than normal. The new swing bridge is nice and high above the stream – no worries.

Up the zigzags into Arapuke Park got us sweating a bit but it was soon over – no worries.

The regenerating bush is quickly covering all signs of the harvested pine forest and the route is well sign-posted with forestry roads wide enough for both walkers and bikers – no worries.

Low cloud lifted slightly to give partial views down the valley and the remaining drizzle disappeared – no worries.

We dropped down a narrower track that is one-way uphill for bikes. This passed through a nice bit of bush to come out on the old road known as the Back Track. We didn't meet any bikes anyway, so - no worries.

We were soon back at the car after an easy (mostly) 2 hours 15 minutes – no worries.

On this trip were club members Anja and Warren, along with newbies Anne, Dan and Sally – no worries.

Letter from Ukraine

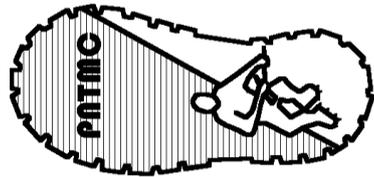
The following cryptic email was received from Terry Crippen on 7 July 2017.

Mt Hoverla (Carpathians) and getting stuck in Lviv Railway Station.

Went on an excursion to Mt Hoverla (the highest peak in Ukraine on the Ukraine Romania border, 2061 m high). Good trip.

Stayed in a hotel. Visited a waterfall. And a harrier on my arm. Then off to the road end. A short walk above the bush line. Huge numbers of people about. AND Ukrainians wear shorts just like NZers. Above the bush line TOO windy. Hats and caps getting blown into Romania. People getting blown away. Rocky and many paths. Took a rest by the Big Ukrainian flag. Too windy to go higher with the knees. Back down to the bus.

Off to Lviv again at about 11 pm. NO MONEY!! So had to wait in the railway station for about five days. Nina came and rescued me. A couple of restaurants gave me a free meal. Good to see Nina again. Bloody Gypsies, kept throwing things at me. No Gypsies in Poltava! Got the highspeed train back to Kyiv. Then onto a mini bus back to Poltava. A hot shower and plenty of food. And lots of rest!!!



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What's inside this month?

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- Te Mara Peak day trip
- Paekakariki Escarpment Walkway
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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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