

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2018



Secret pumice bridge off track to Mangatainoka Hot Springs, Kaweka 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 a cuppa before start at 7.30pm.

12 July 2018

Lure of the Southern Alps

Malcolm Leary

You won't need any more encouragement to go climbing in the Southern Alps after you have seen what Malcolm has to show us - an overview of summits to climb, glaciers to traverse, passes to cross and mountain huts to visit. Anyone thinking of coming on Snowcraft should come along – be inspired.

26 July 2018

Know Your Alpine Plants

Catherine Jackson

Catherine is an amateur botanist with a special interest in our alpine plants. Do you know your dracophyllum from your mountain carrot? Can you tell the difference between snowgrass and tussock? All this and more for nature lovers tonight.

Upcoming Trips

30-1 July

Penn Creek M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 7.30am from PN. The old Penn Creek track from Otaki Forks is tempting on the way back out but we will take the scenic route in via Field Hut and Table Top then down to the Penn Creek Hut – a classic old Forest Service hut that is looked after by VUTC. Chop wood, light fire and chill. And the frosts here are legendary.

1 or 2 July (Best Weather Day)

Otangane Loop M
Anne Lawrence 357 1695

Since the Otangane Loop was officially opened in 2016, it has become a popular route, particularly good for bad weather days when the tops are unappealing but you still want to get a decent walk with plenty of variety. We follow the Sledge Track through Harding's Park but diverge at the turn to Toetoe Loop. It's a short climb to Pukenaenae (aka the Nipple) - a good spot for views on a clear day - then back down to complete the loop. We'll leave from Milverton Park at 8am.

7-8 July

Top Maropea M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

This cosy little Ruahines hut should be interesting to get to, with some snow likely above Sunrise Hut, although I do not expect we will need ice axes and crampons. Depart PN 7.30am...or possibly later.

8 July

Branch Road Walkway E
Janet Wilson 329 4722

A nice walk up an old benched track just north of Pohangina township to enjoy a bit of exercise and wintry views of the Ruahine Ranges. Leave from Milverton Park to meet up at my place and finish back there with hot homemade soup.

11 July (Wednesday)

Snowcraft 1 Intro and Briefing
Dieter Stalmann 027 450 9460
For participants and instructors. See Notices.

14-15 July

Snowcraft 1
Dieter Stalmann 027 450 9460
See Notices below for details. Please book early.

15 July

Rangiwahia E/Family
Doug Strachan 353 6526

"You can hardly call yourself a proper Club member until you have been to Rangiwahia, and who wants to be improper?" (May 1975 PNTMC newsletter). This is a terrific, easy tramp suitable for families. Any kids coming should get some snow boots from The Warehouse (They've probably out-grown any they had last winter). The carpark, bridge and even the toilet all have interesting stories to tell. I can 100% guarantee that if you come on this trip you will get a stunning view of Mt Ruapehu and/or a snowball in the back of the head.

21-22 July

Powell-Mt Holdsworth M
Woody Lee 021 0444 552

(Note change from Mitre Flats)

A popular winter destination in Tararua Forest Park. From Holdsworth Road end we will follow the track up to Powell Hut and we might continue on to the Mt Holdsworth if the weather is friendly after a hot drink in the hut. Depart 9am from Milverton Park.

21 or 22 July (Best Weather Day)

Wharite E/M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

The track up to Wharite branches off steeply from the Coppermine Creek Track (north of Woodville) but soon eases off before another clamber up to the ridge line in the leatherwood. Expect mud (and snow, hopefully) along the ridge track to the tall TV Mast, which you can see from Palmy. Lunch enjoying the views and return the same way. Depart Milverton Park at 8.00am.

25 July (Wednesday)

Snowcraft 2 Briefing and Ropework
Dieter Stalmann 027 450 9460
For participants and instructors. See Notices.

28-29 July

Snowcraft 2 I
Dieter Stalmann 027 450 9460

See Notices below for details. Please book early.

29 July

Mangatote Tramway E/M
Richard Lockett 323 0948

A visit to the Mangatote Scenic Reserve situated on the western side of the Tongariro National Park alongside State Highway 4. Our aim is to explore the route of the old Mangatote tramway through regenerating bush

on the terrace above the Mangatote River. May end up being a bit of a bush bash but no big hills to climb. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

4-5 August

Tony Gates Memorial Howletts Trip M/F **Warren Wheeler 356 1998**

Howletts Hut is looked after by Heretaunga Tramping Club and is arguably the best spot to visit in the Ruahines, especially with winter snow on the tops. From Kashmir Road it is about 2-3 hrs to Daphne Hut and then another 3 hrs up the ridge to Howletts. Possibility of a foray further up to Tiraha and views along Sawtooth Ridge and beyond. Return option via the tops to Longview Hut. BYO coal optional. Depart 7.00am. (see reprinted Trip Report from October 2003).

5 August

Waitare Beach and Forest Walk M **Janet Wilson 329 4722**

Leaving PN 8.30am. Come and explore the Waitare Forest and coast north to the Manawatu Estuary – even if the weather is rough we should find shelter in the forest. We will have a look for the remains of the Hydrabad. Should be out for 4-6 hours – dogs welcome on this walk.

8 August (Wednesday)

Snowcraft 3 Briefing and Ropework **Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460**

For participants and instructors. See Notices.

11-12 August

Snowcraft 3 I **Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460**

See Notices below for details. Please book early.

12 August

Summerhill and Beyond E/M **Anne Lawrence 357 1695**

We'll set off from the carpark off Fitzherbert Avenue by the bridge at 8am, heading to the top of the Anzac Cliffs to do the new steps down to the river and back up to Vaucluse Heights. We can check if the claimed number of steps (225) is correct. After that we will explore as much of the network of walkways around Summerhill as we want. Morning tea at Rendezvous is a distinct possibility before we head back across the bridge.

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 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
Anne and Martin 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

I recently attended the 21st meeting of the Ruahine User Group (RUG) as it is today – a group of community and DOC representatives that meets 3 times a year. There is also an online forum and group that interested people can join.

It has been interesting over the last 6 or so years to see the changes in attitude, from DOC and from the community. This mostly reflects the level of funding that DOC is receiving at the time. We have been through a lot of changes and cut backs and indeed, the threat of the loss of local huts and tracks was the main driver in the formation and continuation of this group. The community has stepped up to ensure that many of these valuable assets are not lost - our club involvement with Ngamoko and Mid Pohangina Huts is an example.

Could we be moving into a different time now? At this last meeting we received the wonderful news that our local Iron Gate Hut is to be replaced this coming summer with a brand new 10 bunk hut. The old hut is very damp and mouldy and visitors were passing on their concerns. This led to investigations by DOC and IGH being considered beyond repair. It is wonderful to see some capital spending coming to the Ruahines again - it is quite some time since Purity Hut (2006) and Maropea Forks Hut (2014) were replaced. DOC will be asking for input in to the final design configuration.

A less constructive subject is the old A-frame hut on Takapari Road. At the moment it is agreed that it will remain as a shelter only - which is the wish of the RUG. However continued abuse of this building may mean that it is removed in the future. This summer we are hoping the community will come together to give it a spruce up in the hope it will be abused less if it appears more cared for.

If you have concerns about the Ruahines that you would like passed on to DOC please make them known to your club reps - Warren or myself.

Happy Tramping
Janet

Notices



Snowcraft 2018 Programme

Learn safe mountaineering skills with us this winter.

Why put aside your tramping boots just because it's winter and there is snow on the top of the local ranges?

Have you been wanting to do some South Island tramping that involves crossing snow covered passes?

Do you want to learn the skills of basic snow and ice climbing using the correct equipment?

Learn new skills or upgrade your current ones by enrolling in PNTMC's Snowcraft Instruction programme.

14-15 July The Basics - Snowcraft 1 (SC1)

Enjoy the alpine snow slopes? Are you confident that you understand the special requirements of travelling safely on snow?

Learn to confidently walk on snow, use an ice axe, cut steps and use crampons. What if I fall? Master self arresting and more ...

28-29 July Building on the Basics - Snowcraft 2 (SC2)

Learn the important skills of rope work, anchors, belays and the basics of snow and ice climbing. Begin the rudiments of alpine climbing and avalanche awareness.

11-12 August Alpine Climbing - extend your skills - Snowcraft 3 (SC3)

Get a more complete set of skills for alpine climbing. Practice makes perfect. Tackle the

snow slopes, glaciers and peaks. Prepare yourself for the magic of the Southern Alps.

Interested?

Each level is a prerequisite for the next. However, some participants may find completing SC1, or the first two levels, adequate for their intended outdoor activities. Others may want to advance through SC3 and beyond. Some may wish to do SC1 this winter and SC2 next winter, or refresh their skills. Some people with previous snow or alpine experience may enter at SC2.

Note that on the Wednesday preceding each weekend there will be an Intro and Briefing / Ropework Evening held at the Quakers Hall, 227 College St, PN.

Costs for each weekend

The fee covers weeknight venue, transport (if required), gear hire, accommodation for Friday and Saturday nights and instruction. Meals will be your own responsibility.

Members \$90
 Non-members \$100
 (Deduct \$25 if using your own transport).

For more information on costs etc please visit our website [Snowcraft](#) page or contact the course organisers Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460, or Grant Christian (06) 354-5843.

Huts and High Places PNTMC Challenge 2018

Huts and High Places Challenge 15 Dec 2017 to 9 Dec 2018

Our PNTMC Challenge 2018 aims to inspire you to visit new places, support our club and have fun in the hills.

There are points to be earned for visits, bonus points for new places and bonus points if you are on a PNTMC trip.

To add more challenges to the fun, committee members have added their own challenges. Points for these can only be earned once.

Huts and High Places

Visit to DOC or NZAC hut 1 point
 Visit a named high point 1 point

Bonus points for each hut or high point

If a club trip 1/2 point
 If your first visit 1/2 point

Committee Challenges

For a bonus of 5 points (once for each challenge):

- Pack float or swim a pool on a river (Warren's Challenge)
- Go on a club organised beginners trip (Anne's Challenge)
- Photograph a whio (Janet's challenge)
- Summit Tahurangi - Mt Ruapehu (Grant's Challenge)
- Visit Ngamoko or Mid Pohangina Hut (Martin's Challenge)
- Visit 3 or more huts on a trip (Graeme's Challenge)
- Camp above 2000m - not near a hut (Bruce's Challenge)
- Hut warden at Rangitoto Hut (Committee Challenge)
- Bring a new trapper on a club trip (Woody's Challenge)

Points to be gained fairly while visiting the DOC estate and in the spirit of the Challenge - talk to Janet or committee members if in doubt.

There is no restriction on how you can get to these places i.e. helicopters, boats, bikes etc acceptable.

Send your trip details, places visited etc to Janet or add them to the online spreadsheet which is now up and running for this challenge. Please enter your details by the end of the month they are collected so scores are kept up to date.

Points to Date

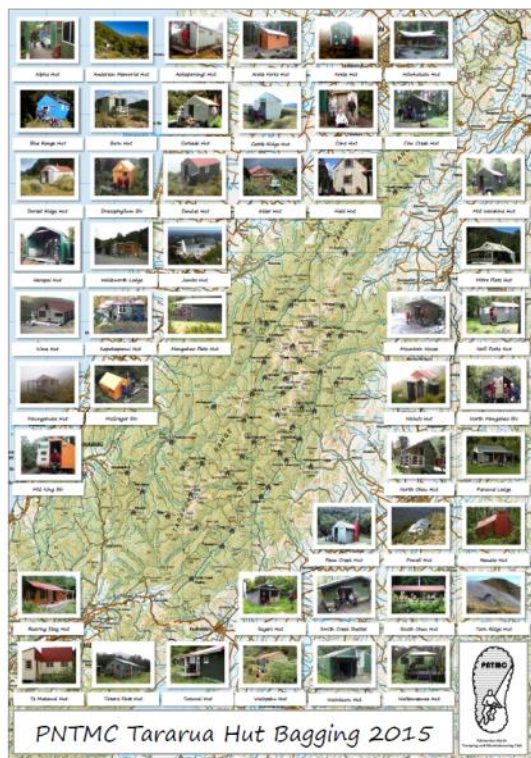
Not a lot of change in the points this month... must be the winter weather, but Elly creeps further ahead in the lead – check out her cartoon trip report “Kaweka Craziiness @ Queens” on page 9 of this newsletter.

Name	Huts	Highs	Bonus	TOTAL
Elly	95	101	20	214.5
Chris T	78.5	79	20	176
Grant	25.5	42.5	15	83
Hannah	27	35.5	5	67.5
Ash	17.5	41	5	63.5
Janet	33.5	13	15	61.5
Warren	21.5	8	30	59.5
Graham	25.5	15	15	55.5
Martin	16	11	15	42
Mary	20.5	11	5	36.5
Annett	1.5	30	0	31.5
Kathy	12.5	2.5	15	30

Anne	10	11	5	26
Bruce	6	5	10	21
Woody	9.5	2	5	16.5
Dieter	4	2	10	16
Sally	2	4	0	6
Yvonne	0	4	0	4
Dave	1.5	0	0	1.5

Hut Bagging Posters

Would you like a copy of our Ruahine or Taranua Hut Bagging posters?



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

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

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

Contact Warren 356-1998.

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!)



Letter to the Editor

From PNTMC Newsletter Sept/1973.

Dear Sir,
It has been brought to our attention, that during a recent search, our man on the Right Hand of the Sun God was subjected to unnecessary hardship. Since he is not accustomed to such an ascetic life, we heard with astonishment, that he was not even given a cup of tea in bed. We must stress that a man with such a constitution and of regular habits, should have his socks warmed by the fire, served a much needed wholesome breakfast in bed, kept warm and provided with all possible home comforts, to keep him in peak condition.

We trust that in the future such offences against propriety and time honoured tradition shall not be repeated, and urge all party members to treat Our Man on the Right Hand of the Sun God in a manner he is accustomed to.

Mother of Twelve.

(Our hearts bleed for Our Man on the R.H. of the S.G. particularly as we know he is so used to being able to call a marching team out of his wardrobe to administer to his comforts. - Ed.)

Trip Reports

23-24 June 2018

Mid-Winter at Mangatainoka Hot Springs

Kaweka Forest Park

Report by Janet Wilson

Photos by Woody Lee

What a great weekend - it was a real pleasure to lead this trip. OK, it was a little challenging to organise and generated far more emails than usual but once "Plan A" was underway, everything was fabulous.

A check on road conditions early in the week prior revealed that Makahu Road was closed at the ford. Not surprising given the recent stormy conditions. The road remained closed and by Thursday "Plan B" - was developing. Graham rang the council and it seemed likely they would reopen the road for the weekend. Plans for some of us to travel up on Friday were changed to the whole group travelling on Saturday morning once the road was confirmed open. It was a relief when the closed notice was removed from the web site late on Friday afternoon.

Our group of 8 club members left Ashhurst at 7am and were soon in Dannevirke for a coffee and pie stop. We detoured slightly to Bridge Pa where we met up with Richards cuzzy Shaun who just happened to have a very capable 4WD he was happy to take. This was great as we were all now in 4WD's. I had also had contact with 2 non-club members - Kate and Tim - who were keen to join us and were travelling independently. Bruce van Brunt was already in the Kawekas and was hoping to join us for the Saturday evening.

The long and winding road eventually led to "The Ford" where the water level was still surprisingly high and swift flowing. Our big vehicles handled it well but it looked extremely dodgy for a smaller car. We drove on to the road end and the Mangatutu Pools where most of us had lunch and a quick soak while Graham drove back to the ford, hoping to meet with Kate and Tim. Fortunately they arrived at the same time and they were able to leave their car on the safe side.

The walk to Te Puia Lodge took around 2¼hrs and was very pleasant - not much mud and great views of the mighty Mohaka River and the surrounding bluffs. We even found some traps to check so I felt at home. We had a quick break at the lodge where Kate and Tim stayed, hoping to join us at the pools later in

the afternoon. It is approx 45 min further on to the pools. I arrived to find Woody and Warren busy cleaning out the 2 hot tubs which were full of dirty green water - obviously no one had been there for some time. There was a bucket and scrubbing brushes provided - the pools were soon clean and refilling with lovely hot water. Thanks team.



First chore – drain and clean the tubs.

We had the place to ourselves and soon spread out - putting up a variety of fly's and tents and then tucking in to the wide variety of food that appears from our packs at mid winter events - there was no shortage. The water was just the right temperature and most of us had a long soak or 2 that afternoon and evening - just wonderful soaking while the moon rose and the stars came out. Bliss. No one seemed keen on a river swim although Warren claims to have been for the customary mid winter dip late in the evening.



Nibbles before a long dip in the hot pools.

After a long night's sleep I was back in the pools on dawn - surprised to not find early riser Kathy already there. The wind had picked up and those camping by the river had a less pleasant morning than those camped back in the bush where we gathered to cook breakfast. Shaun left early and tramped out from TPL

with Kate and Tim who had heard kiwi call at night. They were lucky enough to spot 2 pair of whio on the river. I was very pleased to spot some fresh kiwi probing near a large recently fallen rimu tree. Most of us had another soak at the road end pools before heading home - the ford was still high - too high for Bruce's vehicle so sadly, he hadn't been able to join us. The road was closed again later that day so we were indeed lucky to get to the hot pools.

Thanks for coming everyone - a great turnout for our Mid-Winter trip.

We were Kathy Corner, Richard Lockett, Warren Wheeler, Jo and Lawrence O'Halloran, Woody Lee, Graham Peters, Shaun, Kate Goodson, Tim Taylor and leader/scribe Janet Wilson.

Blast from the Past

6-7 September 2003
Terry & Tony tramp the Tukituki
By Tony Gates

A miserable weather forecast didn't deter us. We had plenty of time and energy for our weekend tramp, and Howletts Hut is one of our favourites - a worthy destination for a medium-ish tramp. Also, it was nice to plan to meet our friends at Longview Hut, and complete a good circuit of the Ruahines.

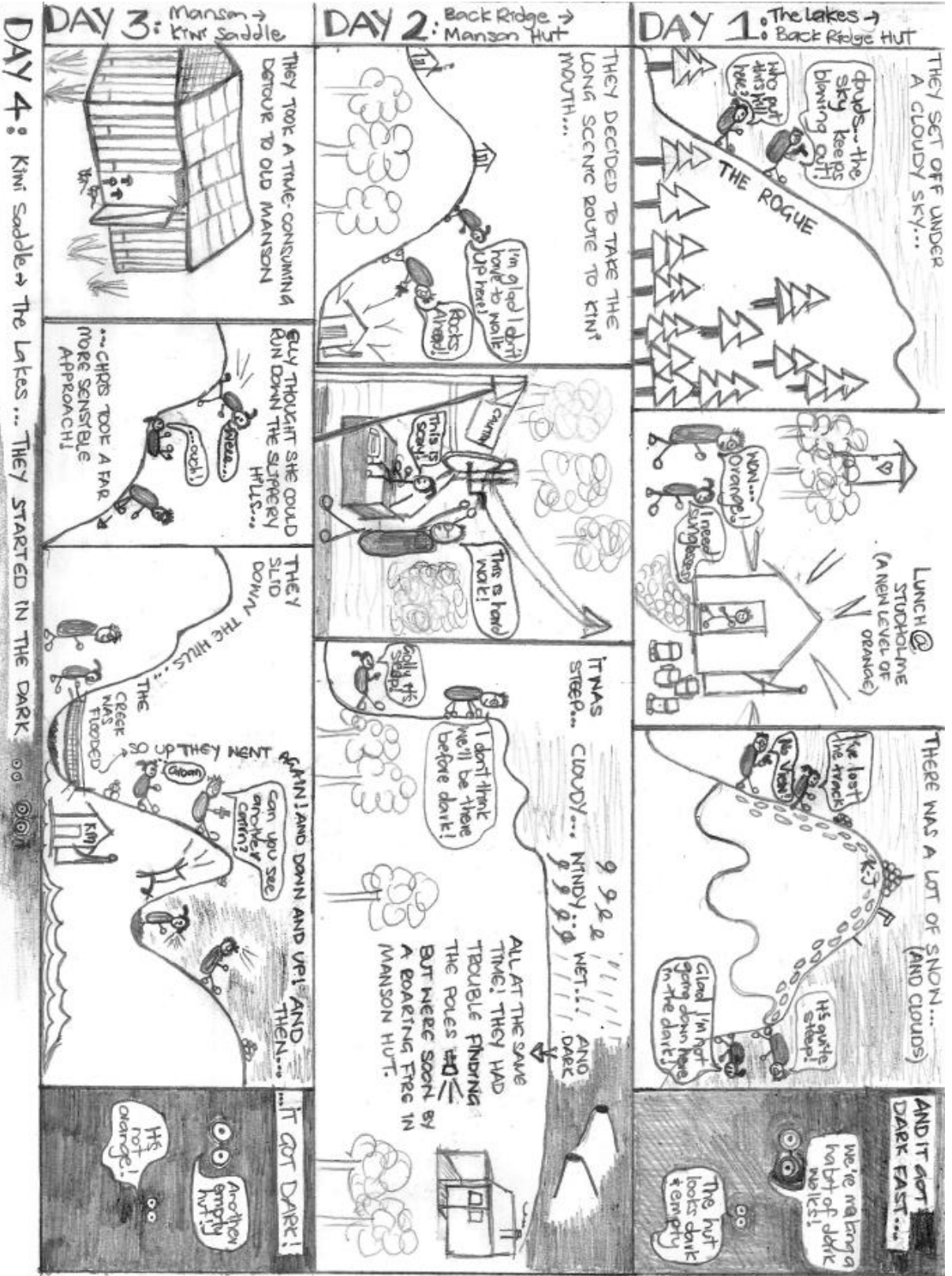
From the old Moorcocks Base, we followed the old Midge Side Track towards Daphne Hut. We could hear the Tukituki River from far above, and as expected, it was still quite flooded when we got there. The first tributary was OK to cross, but the main river was a different story. One team member wanted to give the river route a go, but the other talked him out of it (thanks Terry). The other method, to have sat and waited for the river level to drop, would have been a good option, just a little boring. We chose the third option, which was what we had originally planned, and that was to climb the very aptly named "Mick Leyland/ Llew Pritchard Ridge" to the Daphne-Longview track, descend to the next side creek

at Daphne Hut, then climb Daphne spur via the usual route. Lots of up and down, some off track travel, but a good, reliable wet weather route. (one could also retreat from Daphne Hut in a flood on the other side of the river, but would need to sidle high, like our intended route). So, once back at the base of Daphne Spur, we set off on our fourth big hill climb of the day, this one our highest. The track was good, we still had plenty of energy, and there was plenty of daylight. Some drizzle, mist, and clag higher up. And so to Howletts Hut.

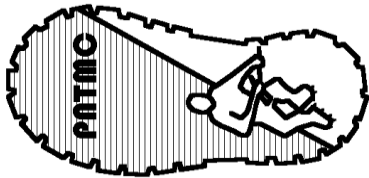
This hut, for those who haven't yet made it there, is quite historic. It is well maintained by the Heretaunga Tramping Club and DOC, and the PNTMC donate coal. Currently, with half a tonne of coal up at Howletts, a warm fire is assured for many months to come. My goodness, we appreciated it then. Overnight use might be 3 or 4 kilograms - half a dollar or less worth of the black stuff for a toasty warm hut for 18 hours.

Sunday dawned a bit misty and chilly. Surprisingly, there was no fresh snow. Some more coal in the fire box soon started to burn, so our hot water supplies were soon back to several litres of near boiling water. After breakkie, we departed south on Daphne Ridge for Longview Hut, planning to make it in time for lunch and to meet the others. It is an open tussock ridge, quite flat, so providing rapid travel when you are fresh. One previous trip last year, I recall staggering along there to Howletts on a stiflingly hot day with a heavy pack, and made really tough work of it. On this morning, we skittered along easily and enjoyed the views. Two hours to Otumore, nick down the ridge to Pohangina Saddle (a magic spot), and we could see the other PNTMC trip right on cue. We all met up at Longview Hut, then trooped off down the ridge to the cars. Home early.

(Reprinted from October 2003 Newsletter archived on our PNTMC web site. Tony was accompanied by Terry Crippen on this trip. Tony passed away 10 years later on 18 December 2013, aged 54 years. – Ed.)



KaweKa CraZiness @ Queen's Walked & drawn by EARNST



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PNTMC Newsletter

July 2018

What's inside this month?

- From the President – RUG News
- Snowcraft Course – enrol now !
- Letter to the Editor - 1973
- Mid-Winter at Mangatainoka Hot Springs
- Blast from the Past – trip to Howletts
- Kaweka Craziiness @ Queens
- 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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