

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter April 2019



High in the summer breeze on Herepai, Tararua Forest Park.

[Woody Lee]

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.

11 April 2019

AGM

Come along to our Annual General Meeting and vote for your Executive Officers and Committee for 2019. As usual there will be a round-up of the year presented in the Presidents Report and the Treasurers Report. We also welcome any General Business for discussion in this open forum with other members. Supper to follow.

25 April 2019

Cycling in France

Arthur Todd

Arthur and Lis have been cycle touring in Brittany, a peninsular on the north-west coast of France. Come along this Anzac Day and hear about the historic towns, picturesque coastline and opportunities for travelling by bike or on foot.

Upcoming Trips

6-7 April

Maroepa Forks M/F
Graham Peters 329 4722

Leaving Friday afternoon for Sunrise or Top Maroepa. Saturday, a lovely river walk to Maroepa Forks. Return Sunday via alternative route/ Sparrowhawk Biv.

7 April

Pohangina Gorge E/M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

This is a fairly easy river trip suitable for adventurous beginners. We first follow a poled route across farmland to the Ruahine Forest Park boundary, then follow the sidle track upvalley before branching off back down to the river. Heading downstream we soon come to a narrow gorge that has a pool which involves a bit of a swim or pack float. The fun continues with more boulder hopping and wading at another couple of spots before we return back to the cars. Leave Milverton Park at 7.30am.

13-14 April

Pureora Explorer M
Richard Lockett 323 0948

Not a case of third time lucky but fourth maybe. To catch a kokako we'll fly camp under its roost and hopefully catch a glimpse or catch a verse or two of its song! So let's make it happen this time.

13 or 14 April (Best Weather Day)

Farm Walk M
Malcolm Leary 06 327 7825

Hunterville hinterland is rich in farming history with large high-country sheep and cattle stations offering spectacular views and plenty of exercise. You may well be rewarded with some of Edith's rural hospitality back at their homestead.

19-22 April (Easter)

TBA
No club trip programmed at this stage. Happy Easter. Contact a Trip Coordinator if you would like to lead a trip or for any update on this situation.

Easter Day Trip

TBA
Ditto.

27-28 April

TBA
Ditto again.

28 April

Roaring Stag M
Anne Lawrence 027 450 4212

Roaring Stag is a lovely hut in Eastern Tararuas. From the carpark at Putara Road end, the track meanders along beside the Mangatainoka River before climbing steadily to the ridge. Our track follows along the ridge before heading down to the Ruamahunga River and the hut for lunch. We head back the same way. 7.30am departure from Milverton Park.

4-5 May

Upper Makaroro M/F
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Applied Tramping once again - your chance to help with a conservation project. Heading in via Parks Peak, not only will we be rebaiting some traps, we will also be using acoustic recorders to try to find kiwi in the area. If you want to find out more please get in touch early for this trip. Due to the long drive we may leave on Friday.

EXTRA EXTENDED TRIPS If anyone is interested in staying away the following week for an extended trip to the Ruahine Corner area, please let me know. There is also a large trap carry/layout planned for the 11/12 May in that area - I am interested in hearing from anyone keen to help out. Chance to fly in.

5 or 6 May (Best Weather Day)

Arapuke Loop E
Woody Lee 021 044 552

We will complete a 7 km loop track in the Arapuke (= pathway in the hills) Forest Park. Going up from the Back Track and down to the Kahuterawa swing bridge. From there it is an easy walk along the stream to the car park. We expect to be back in PN before lunch. Depart Milverton Park at 8.30 am.

11-12 May

Pouakai Circuit M/F
Grant Christian 021 117 6921

Travel to North Egmont on Friday night. I hope to stay at the Mt Taranaki Camphouse on Friday. \$25 pp. Saturday we will walk to Holly Hut via the Kokowai Track due to a slip on the usual route, and then to Pouakai Hut for the night. Walk back to North Egmont on Sunday via the Kaiuau Track. Let me know well in advance if you want to come so I can book accommodation.

12 May

Mick and Ventura Wreck E
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

This Tararua trip is in the foothills east of Otaki township. We walk up the Waitohu River flats to

the Mick spur track and up past the remains of a WWII era Ventura plane wreck. From Mick high point we follow the ridge track to loop back down. Leave Milverton Park 8.00am.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper 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

From the President

What a great summer - as I write this we are just over a week off the end of daylight saving, it's still lovely warm and dry and this year it seems "summer time" is ending too soon.

As I wrote in March - the club's AGM is this month (11th April) - just a reminder that our Club Challenge starts again on that day. Just in time for Easter - I hope the Challenge inspires many of you to get out tramping and climbing and to visit some new places. There are a few changes to the special challenges put forward by committee members - check these out. The challenge online spreadsheet also serves as a good record of what club members have been up to so go on, join in and record your trips.

Thanks to everyone who has helped out with leading trips, committee etc this year - unfortunately I have to apologise for this year's AGM due to prior commitments. Bruce van Brunt will deliver my President's report in my absence.

I wish you all Happy Easter Tramping - Graham and I are off to claim Penny's bonus points of a night in a South Island Hut - go well wherever you are over the holiday break.

Happy Tramping
Janet



Janet on the right of her Spirited Women Adventure Race team "Four Tararua Trampers" [Pic by Graham Peters]

PS. The team was 4th Masters Women and 35th overall out of 170 teams. Not bad for a team of non-runners.

PNTMC Challenge 2019

Huts and High Places Challenge From AGM 2019 to AGM 2020

Similar to last year, our PNTMC Challenge 2019 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.

Points for 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

Bonus points for 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)
- participate as a volunteer on a stoat trapping line in the Ruahines (Janet's challenge)
- Summit Tahurangi - Mt Ruapehu (Grant's Challenge)
- Visit Ngamoko or Mid Pohangina Hut (Martin's Challenge)
- Visit 4 huts on a trip (Graeme's Challenge)
- Camp above 2000m - not near a hut (Bruce's Challenge)
- Hut warden at Rangi Hut (Committee Challenge)
- To stay in a South Island DOC or NZAC hut (Penny's Challenge)
- Bring a new trumper on a club trip (Woody's Challenge)

Points are 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.

Update your trip details, places visited etc on the new online spreadsheet which will be up and running before the AGM.

Trip Reports

17 February 2019

Herepai Hut Woody Lee

On a Sunday morning five of us left Milverton Park and arrived at the Putara Road end carpark at around 8.40am. The carpark was almost full with nine cars.

While on our walk to the track junction we met few groups who were on their way back to the carpark after staying the night at the Herepai Hut. They all said the 10-bunk hut was full and some trampers had to leave for Roaring Stag Hut for a comfortable stay.



Lunch at Herepai Hut

We had an early lunch in the hut and decided to walk up Herepai peak. At the beginning I was a bit disoriented to find the way to the peak but soon found it and led our group to the top without problem. After having enjoying the views from the peak, we walked back to the hut for a quick break and then continued back to the road end.

On the drive home we rewarded ourselves with ice cream at Four Square in Eketahuna.

We were Jessica, John, Ivan, Tony and Woody.

10 March 2019

Attempted Shorts Toka Knights Loop Tina Bishop

Having stayed at Graham and Janet's hut the night before it was a short trip to the road end to wait in the Ute for the others to arrive from Palmy.

It was raining and after yesterday's weather and how nice the weather has been for weeks there was not much enthusiasm especially from me who hasn't tramped much lately.

The others arrived and we crossed the farmland to the bush arriving at a stream which was crossable without getting very wet feet. From there we walked up and branched right to follow the Deerford up to Shorts Track. The rain was not stopping and I definitely wasn't feeling the love as it was quite cold. We had a snack stop and carried on up through the pretty goblin forest to where the leatherwood and then the tussock started. It was very misty looking up to the tops and was quite a long way still to get to Toka so a decision was made amongst us to head back down the same way.

I definitely didn't have my downhill tramping mojo in the wet! We had a quick lunch stop under the trees in the rain and headed on down with Bruce the dog running back and forth between Graham and Janet. We branched off right onto the other part of the Deerford Track which was pretty and easy going. By the time we got to the stream crossing it was gushing and a lot higher to cross although not dangerous. The cars were a welcome sight for me and since it was still early we headed to Graham and Janet's shed to change into dry clothes and have afternoon tea.

We were Graham, Janet, Bruce the dog, Yvette, Tina, John, Kathy, Michelle and Julia.

16-17 March 2019
Waipakihi Hut
Grant Christian

Trip Participants: Grant Christian & Ernie Cook.

I had visited the Kaimanawas a couple of times and not gone in very far. I have been intending to do this trip to Waipakihi Hut for several years and was thankful that Ernie had decided to join me. We took the opportunity to join up with Bruce van Brunt and Penny Abercrombie for the drive there on Saturday morning. Bruce and Penny were camping in the Waipakihi River valley and exploring the Thunderbolt Track area.

We left the road end before Bruce and Penny and climbed steadily up to the bush line. Soon after we reached Urchin Trig and had views of the ranges beyond. The weather was warm and calm as we continued along the easy tops. After a couple of hours we reached the turn off to the Waipakihi River and descended a spur which gave good travel until we reached the bottom.



Easy tops from Urchin trig

There were a couple of tents by the river where the track ended but nobody to be seen. After crossing the river we stopped for lunch. From here we had to head up the river for about eleven kilometres. We passed another tent and spoke with the resident. His advice was to walk up the riverbed but I find that the flats beside the river are much easier going than slippery boulders in a riverbed. It was good travel beside the river with wide river flats and we could often find tracks. If there was no track we could usually navigate through the scrub and trees so only needed to use the river to cross from side to side. It was hot in the valley and the water felt warm but, although we passed some beautiful pools with crystal clear water, we never stopped for a swim.

After a couple of hours we could see the Umukarikari Range which extends to the river, opposite where the hut is situated. It was still a good distance off as we took a welcome break in the shade by the river. Three people approached from upriver. They were hunters that were camping down river and had gone out for a midday walk without their rifles. After another hour or so we caught sight of the hut sitting on a small terrace well above the river, not too far ahead.



Enjoying the sun at Waipakihi Hut.

As I arrived at the hut we were greeted by a couple of women who, we later found out, had come from Hamilton and Morrinsville. There were only the four of us staying for the night. The hut has a central common area with a six bunk room at each end, accessed via the porch. A good design if you want an early night when the hut is busy. It was a peaceful night but the wire wove beds were very stretched and sagged in the middle. As Bruce later suggested, better to put the mattress on the floor.

Although we had lots of time to meet our rendezvous with Bruce at 3 p.m. we were ready to go by 8:30 Sunday so headed on our way. The weather was still pleasant as we made our way up a good track on to the Umukarikari Range. Once again the travel along the tops was quite flat and easy going. We stopped at the high point and enjoyed hazy views of Lake Taupo, and clearer views of Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. Ruapehu was shrouded in a cloak of cloud with only the lower slopes giving a hint of what lay within.

We continued along the tops and as we approached the bush line we caught sight of a cyclist and his dog. He had brought his mountain bike up so he could ride back down. After a short chat he headed downhill and we saw him vanish from sight well ahead of us. We stopped for an early lunch just above the bush line. As we walked downhill towards the road end there were many high steps that I wouldn't ride a bike over but it appeared from the tyre tracks that is what he was doing.

We arrived at the road end at 1:30 and talked with a guy who was getting ready to head into the ranges for a few days. From there we walked down the road a little way to a DOC camping area where I brewed a cuppa and we waited for Bruce to arrive.

Having done this trip I am now keen to head back and explore the ranges further in.

17 March 2019 **Tunupo** **Graham Peters**

After a wet, misty cold walk up Short's Track on the 10th of March, there was eager anticipation of a sunny, but not too hot walk up to Tunupo on the 17th. A brilliant starry night on the Saturday bode well for the Sunday. However, Sunday dawned warm but the cloud was well down on the hills as Michael and Dylan Poulsen, John Salisbury and Michelle Benton

joined Janet, myself and our dog Bruce at our northern estate on Petersons Rd.

Janet, wanting to treat this as a training trip for her adventure race the following weekend, she and Michelle headed off at a great rate of knots, trying to keep up with Bruce. The rest of us set off at a more gentlemanly pace, keen to enjoy the walk. This we did, stopping for morning tea and then just below the gendarmes at around 1500m at the base of the clouds for a lunch with patchy views.

After lunch we carried on up for the short stretch to the top where the others were still lazing around.



Non views from Tunupo. [Michael Poulsen]

After enjoying the non views for a while we all headed down. Michael and Dylan hadn't done enough for the day so they headed off to Heritage Lodge while the rest of us headed back to our place for a late afternoon tea.

24 March 2019 **Kapakapanui** **June Wirihana**

The morning was clouded over, as I hopped in the wagon with Anne. Marty still on crutches waved us on, as we left the house. Just the two of us, and for Anne, taking 'still a newbie' onto Kapakapanui.

I felt much like a trumper today. I had been in to Hunting and Fishing, and purchased my first pair of gaiters. Look at me I thought – all grown up! That all changed at the first sign of the river when I thought it better to take my boots and gaiters off. I'm sure Anne smiled quietly, as I was to learn later, we were crossing this little river more than once – Yes, the boots did eventually get wet!

I thought I had done a little bit of work, I studied for the exam. I had done the Abel Tasman

three weeks ago, and in lieu of doing this trip, headed out to the Gorge a couple of times. As you would all know, *boy, was I in for a surprise!* Mud up to my knees, amazing root systems that we had to traverse, climbing using all fours, and boy, did I have to be limber in places! Anne was great! I learned a little about the contour of the land while she walked me through the map. Contours closer = steep climb, further apart, then, a little flatter. Note for self: Love it when lines are further apart! I also learned triangle = trig. On the track, I learned to look for the orange triangle markers. And sometimes while Anne would wander ahead (she kept me within ear shot though); I'd feel like a real expert when I could walk along on my own – 'look mum no hands' – heheheh. I enjoyed that, and at one part where I felt I lost the marker, just sung out, and there she was. I think she was really just hiding.



*Kapakanui trig – no more contours heading up.
[Anne Lawrence]*

We walked along nattering about life – solving all the problems in the world. We had time – it took us over 4.5 hours to get to the hut, and this through all my heavy breathing.

All in all, I loved this opportunity, so thanks Anne and PNTMC, and thanks for sharing what 'goat smell' smells like – yuck!

Blast from the Past

PNTMC Newsletter December 1977

3-4 December 1977 – Chamberlain Creek

Ten waterfalls rappelled, two compulsory swims and numerous sidlings and scalings around rocky gorges. This was the order of the day. It was no trip for the weak at heart.

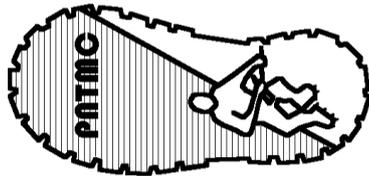
We arrived at the Mangatainoka road end at 7.30am., acquired permission from the farmer and headed for East Peak (at least we thought we were). Many sound trees were felled over the track and this hindered our progress for a while. (Obviously not the work of the Forest Service.) Much to the amazement of the leader we arrived on Herepai - we were in the cactus!! - between Herepai and East Peak there was one massive lot of leatherwood. We started bashing our way up, but some of us couldn't hack the pace and had to revert to long johns. Luckily for us we came upon the remains of an overgrown hunters' track.

We travelled over East Peak and dropped into the head of the Chamberlain Creek for lunch. The day was fantastic for a river trip; blue sky and a searing hot sun. We started off down the creek but were quickly lulled into a false sense of security. This didn't last long -we came upon our first obstacle - we rappelled down the waterfall with not too much trouble but this was only a taste of the next four hours. We rappelled down ten waterfalls and had two compulsory swims. The tallest waterfall was estimated at 60 feet and the others were not under 30 feet. The anchorage for the rope was not always safe looking - in some places a single leatherwood plant held us from the rocky bottom.

Kevin wondered what all the grunts and groans were about - our first compulsory swim but he soon found out as the water was very cold. In many places to avoid a ducking we were forced to do some rock climbing around the pools. In most places if we did fall it would have been a hard landing. Luckily none of us experienced either landing. We found a suitable camp site and set up for the night. The next morning we arrived at the Ruamahanga River, only having to rappel down two other waterfalls. The day was again a beaut (weather wise). We headed up Ruapai Stream over a saddle and down the Mangatainoka Stream to the road end. Sunday was rather an anticlimax compared to the action packed Saturday

Participants were: Keith Margrain, Kevin Pearce, Steven Moore, Peter Darragh.

Editors Note – Keith Margrain (along with John Williams) was killed in an avalanche on Mt Cook in January 1979, Kevin Pearce is a Life Member now retired in Hokitika, Steve Moore came up from Christchurch for our 50th Jubilee and Peter Darragh is still a local club member. The article was written by Kevin. Check out the Newsletter Archive on our website for more old trip reports.



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PNTMC Newsletter

April 2019

What's inside this month?

- Huts and High Points Challenge starts
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- Rained off attempt on Toka Loop
- Waipakahi via Urchin - Kaimanawas
- Tunupo lunch in the cloud
- Kapakapanui for a real tramp
- Blast from the Past- Chamberlain Creek
- 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!

PNTMC Contacts

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