

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter May 2019



Heading out on the old Okahukura Bridge Road, North Block, Pureora Forest. [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.

9 May 2019

Hiking in Korea

Woody Lee

In October-November 2017 Woody and Jo travelled to Korea and made a few trips in five National Parks (Odaesan, Seoraksan, Naejangsan, Jirisan and Bukhansan) to enjoy beautiful autumn colours. They visited several temples while out tramping and also enjoyed visiting a local noodle factory to make their own noodles using local produce and tastes.

30 May 2019

BYO Pics

Martin Lawrence

Show and tell time before winter sets in – come along and hear about some of the best trips that members have done over the last six months or so.

Upcoming Trips

4-5 May

**Upper Makaroro
Janet Wilson**

**M/F
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.

4 May (Saturday)

**Arapuke Loop
Woody Lee**

**E
021 0444 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
Grant Christian**

**M/F
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 Kaiuauai Track. Let me know well in advance if you want to come so I can book accommodation.

12 May

**Mick and Ventura Wreck
Warren Wheeler**

**E
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.

18-19 May

**YTTY Basin
Warren Wheeler**

**M
356 1998**

This is an exploratory trip into the headwaters of the Waitewaewae River, a tributary of the

Otaki River. We will head in from Waitohu Valley (just north of Otaki) up onto Mick (877m) and along old ridge tracks. We will fly camp but there is a possibility of finding a small hut at Island Forks. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

19 May

**Outer City Ramble
Penny Abercrombie**

**E/M
358 7007**

We will walk from Centennial Drive-Hardie Street carpark over the Fitzherbert Bridge around to Bledisloe Park. Possibly a loop of the Massey Arboretum then uphill to Old West Road where we touch upon a little of the Te Araroa Walkway. We will then cross the Old West Road and climb towards Pacific Drive using the Turitea Walkway. We may stop for a cafe visit then onwards and down back to the city carpark via some establishing native bush of the Poutoa Walkway and Cliff Road.

25-26 May

**Triangle Hut
Richard Lockett**

**M
323 0948**

From the Renfrew Road end we will shoot up to Rangiwahia Hut, then proceed along the tussock tops to the Mangahua high point and then drop down a south facing ridge to intersect with the Oroua up and over track and hence down to the river. One and a half km's of upriver travel brings us to Triangle Hut. Out on Sunday via the track directly opposite from the hut back up onto the Whanahua Range and hence to Rangi. Possibility of some trap work. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

26 May

**Arapuke
Tina Bishop**

**MTB
027 480 3342**

A chance to explore the tracks in our wonderful MTB Park. Suitable for anyone with a reasonable mountain bike and fitness. I will choose tracks to suit your ability so nothing too scary. Txt or ring preferably by Thurs morning.

1-3 June

**Queens Birthday Coastal Classic
Janet Wilson**

**All
329 4722**

"Taking on the Southerly" – this year's trip is to be based at DOC's Coast Road Cabin, south of Wainuiomata. We will travel down on Friday 31 May, either during the day or in the evening. Plenty of coast to explore, great mountain biking and if the southerly really hits we can retreat to the relative calm of the Orongoronga Valley tracks. Usual format with shared meals. Limited places available – room for 3 more on this social early winter long weekend.

Queens Birthday Day Trip

TBA

Anyone keen to run a trip please let Janet know.

8 June

Murderers Hut

M

Bruce van Brunt

328 4761

Murders hut is also known as Ellis Hut among other names. This hut is located at the edge of the Ruahine Forest and is easily the oldest hut in the forest (built in 1884...this makes Shutes Hut some 40yrs younger!). The hut is built of pit sawn timber along with hand dressed timber: this accounts for its remarkable survival for well over a 100 years. Recently, DoC has restored this hut keeping in character with the original structure. I first assumed that any hut like this would be at best a desperate place to sleep, but having visited it recently I found it a charming hut with good camping nearby if needed.

The plan for this trip is to leave from the Makaroro River carpark and tramp to the hut via the Yeoman's track (ex logging road, but now an interesting if comfortable bush walk). One can return either the same way or use the nearby logging roads. The plan is that people can either stay the night in the hut or simply return to the cars. I plan to spend a night in the hut, but it is a quite doable day trip (6-7hrs) for those in a hurry. Depart 8:30 am from Milverton Park.

9 June

Maharashtra Crossing

M

Warren Wheler

356 1998

A classic crossing of the Ruahine Ranges, with a couple of high points to bag. One party starts from No.1 Line in the west and the other from Tamaki Roadend in the east, swapping car keys in the middle. Lovely bush and interesting tops travel through the leatherwood. Great views too. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

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

DOC Hut News

Iron Gates Hut Replacement

NZ Defence Force could be commencing Iron Gate Hut replacement as early as June 1st 2019. This hut will be closed from June until August; if there are weather delays the work may not be completed until September 2019.

Powell Hut Replacement

The new hut is now expected to be opened late May. Tony Gazley from WTMC has been regularly visiting the site and his collection of photos can be found by clicking on the links in his forum comments <https://wtmc.org.nz/forums/topic/powell-hut-no-longer-accessible/>

PNTMC Challenge 2019

Huts and High Places Challenge AGM 11 April 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 (recognised) huts on a trip (Graeme's Challenge)
- Camp above 2000m - not near a hut (Bruce's Challenge)
- Hut warden at Rangī Hut (Committee Challenge)
- Bring a new trampler 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.

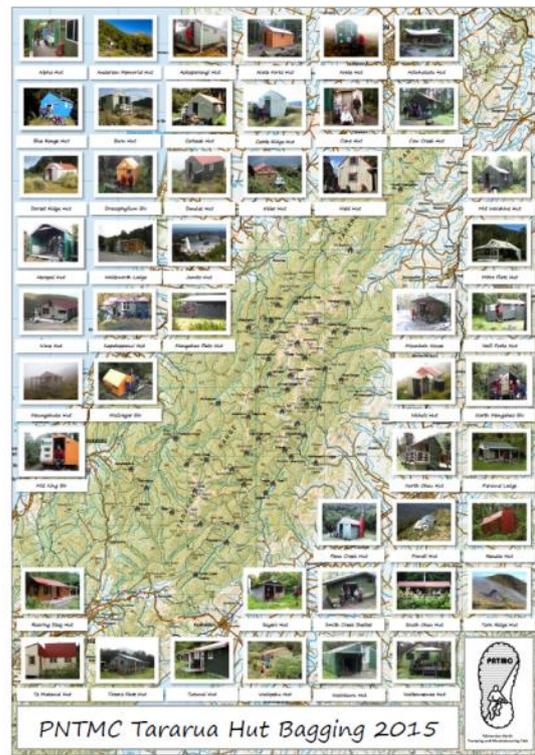
Update your trip details, places visited etc on the new online spreadsheet.

PNTMC Hut Bagging Posters

Posters are still available for both the Ruahine Hut Bagging 2012 and Tararua Hut Bagging 2015.

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 the Mid-Pohangina Hut and Ngamoko Hut in Ruahine Forest Park.

Contact Warren (06) 356-1998.

New Members

Welcome to these new members:

- Michelle Benton
- Vern & Julie Aldridge.

We wish you happy tramping with us.

President's Annual Report

The following report was written by President Janet Wilson and presented in her absence by Bruce van Brunt at the AGM on 11 April 2019.

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT 11 APRIL 2019

It is with pleasure that I present this, the 53rd Presidents Annual Report, my 2nd as Club President.

Writing this report brings with it the opportunity to reread newsletters and to reflect on the club's past year. It is obvious from all the trip reports that the 2018/19 year has been a busy and positive one for the club. I am pleased to report that we have had an overall increase in club membership. A highlight for me this year has been to receive positive feedback on how friendly and welcoming our club is and, as I said last year, I am proud to be President of this small but high achieving club.

Thanks to Warren for providing the following statistics which give a good overview of this year's membership and trips.

- We gained 9 new members last year (but lost 3)
- 53 individual members (6 new)
- 18 family members (3 new)
- 4 life members
- 75 Total 2018-19 (69 last year)
- If we counted all family members then we would have more than 100 people in the club.

- 96 trips programmed over our financial year ending 28 Feb 2019
- 32% of these (24% of day trips and 45% of overnight trips) did not go due mainly to poor weather.
- Of those that did go, 35% went to the Ruahines, 28% to the Tararuas and 32% went to other places locally or further afield including Taranaki and Tongariro National Park and even as far away as Stewart Island.
- on average we had 4.2 people on overnight trips and 6.8 people on day trips.
- The beginner day trips were particularly well attended, especially the trip to Atiwhakatu Hut, which had 19 people - the most on any trip this year.
- A River Safety Course organised by Outdoor Training NZ was attended by 10

members for free thanks to a training grant from Eastern and Central Trust.

Huts and High Places Challenge

The Huts and High Places challenge ended in December and the prizegiving was held at the End Of Year BBQ. The idea of the Challenge was to inspire and provide an incentive (if you needed one) to just get out there. The Challenge certainly inspired some members to get out and explore some new places and I must mention Elly Arnst and Chris Tuffley for the extraordinary effort put in by both of them. Chris narrowly achieved the most points. Although quite a few members recorded their visits on the online spreadsheet, I would like to encourage more to take part as we restart the challenge from today, following this meeting. It certainly makes for an interesting record on who has done what throughout the year.

Snowcraft

Once again three well supported Snowcraft courses took place during winter with 14 students on SC1, 6 on SC2 and 4 on S3. Thanks in particular go to Grant Christian, Bruce van Brunt, Dieter Stalman and Malcolm Leary for organising the courses and helping with the instruction. A special thanks to Sue Pither for the use of her bach! This year the club instructors benefitted from attending a training course, which was partly funded by the training grant from Eastern and Central Trust and profit from our Snowcraft Course last year. Snowcraft has started to attract participants from further afield which makes the logistics of running the courses more difficult. This is something we may need to take in to consideration when accepting participants this year.

Club Huts

Members have visited Ngamoko and Mid Pohangina Huts on several occasions throughout the year. Some routine maintenance has been carried out. Both huts are in good condition and the Ngamoko hut book reflects the appreciation user have of this lovely hut. I am currently investigating the possibility of replacing the open fire in Mid Pohangina with a small efficient wood fire with assistance for the Backcountry Trust. The hut management agreements come up for renewal later this year and I would encourage the club to continue maintaining these two huts. At the moment DOC appears to be taking full responsibility for Rangiwahia Hut and I feel we

need to consider whether we continue with our co-management agreement with Rangī Hut.

Newsletter and Website

Thanks to Warren Wheeler for the commitment he shows in producing our newsletter, a task he has undertaken for some years now. The newsletter is a good read every month and provides an excellent historical record of our club activities and other news. We still distribute a paper copy to those who pay the extra sub. I encourage everyone, not only the e-sub members to read the newsletter on line where you get all the benefits of the photos in colour. Thanks also to Peter Wiles for the many hours spent maintaining our excellent website.

Conservation Volunteering (Applied Tramping)

While this is not officially part of our club's activities, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the who, to thank those club members who help with the protection work that I lead in the Oroua and Pohangina Valleys. There are many hours put in and club members make up a large proportion of the volunteers.

Progressive Steps

Over the last two years your committee has taken some steps to ensure the club remains progressive in to the future and I outlined these in my report last year. The following is a quick review -

- ✓ Beginner Tramp Series - thanks in particular to Anne Lawrence for organising these. These tramps have continued to attract good numbers and led to some new members joining.
- ✓ Facebook - thanks to Martin Lawrence for setting this up. We have just over 100 followers. While it is not heavily used at present, this should only increase in the future - it would be good to see more posts from members.
- ✓ Logo - last year we agreed to phase this in gradually. I have received no negative feedback this year. It is the logo used on our Facebook page and I would like to see it used on the club newsletter in the near future.
- ✓ Club Challenge - has certainly motivated some members, looking forward to how it goes this year.
- ✓ Membership - the rule change brought in last year has had no negative effects

I wish to thank everyone who is a member of PNTMC for supporting and contributing to our club and to acknowledge the effort put in by members of the committee, trip leaders and instructors. It is because of you that we have once again been able to offer a full and varied programme of events including mountaineering and tramping trips, mountain biking, training, talks, a quiz night, photo competitions and social gatherings.

We have had a growing membership over the past 2 years which is very positive. However, I am taking this opportunity to remind you all that we would not have a club without the efforts of those who volunteer as committee members, instructors and trip leaders. Without wanting to scare anyone away, I encourage anyone who feels they can find some time to help contribute to the running of the club to consider becoming a committee member.

To conclude, I wish to thank Don French for continuing to review our accounts and to Sue Pither for continuing to be an interested and supportive Patron.

Subs Now Due

At the AGM it was agreed to keep the Subs the same as last year.

1. Full Sub (newsletter delivered)
Single \$45 Family \$50
2. E-sub (newsletter from website)
Single \$35 Family \$40

Subs include \$15 for FMC membership for one person. Family members may wish to pay for an extra FMC membership so they each have an FMC card to get the various discounts on offer, particularly 30% off the DOC Annual Hut Pass.

Please pay on-line to 03 0726 0485 393 00 with your name in the Details.

Alternatively pay by cheque or cash to the Treasurer (Warren Wheeler) at a club night or mail to PNTMC, PO Box 1217, Palmerston North 4440.

To become a club member all you need to do is pay the subs and fill in the Membership Application that is available at club nights and on our website. Before joining the club you are welcome to join us on club trips or to come along to our club nights. Enquiries to Warren 06-356-1998.

Trip Reports

7 April 2019
Pohangina Gorge
Woody Lee

On a fine autumn morning three of us met at Milverton Park for the 7.30am departure. It could be an early departure for this local trip particularly on the day which the daylight savings finished.

We walked down the muddy section slowly after crossing a grassy paddock and I felt my boots getting heavier over time. Then we encountered a pleasant track along the river with some big boulders before we got into the Ruahine FP. We had a break at a small open area just before the track junction to Mid Pohangina Hut.

The track down to the river was not maintained well and hard to follow. None were keen to keep going down to the Gorge so we agreed to return and had an early lunch back at the junction with the Piripiri Stream at 11.20am.



Lunch stop beside the Pohangina River.

We stopped by the Kahikatea Walk on the way home. This easy walk took us through native bush with mature kahikatea, tawa and rata trees. We also enjoyed hearing beautiful bird singing.

Thanks to Warren for leading the trip and to an adventurous fellow trumper, Weiping.

13-14 April 2019
Pureora Explorer Trip
Photo Essay by Warren Wheeler

Some new country was explored but the search for the elusive kokako continues.



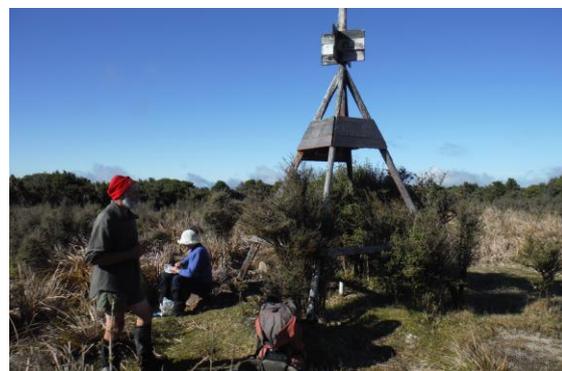
The odd wet spot along the old logging road.



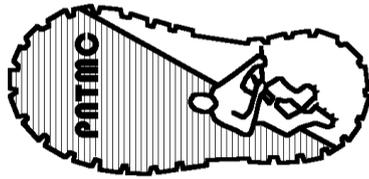
Hunters bagged Wildlife Hut. Tent and fly for us.



Nice fine weather for views north over Waikato



Ranginui trig, 978m. Transmitter tower to right.



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PNTMC Newsletter May 2019

What's inside this month?

- Presidents Annual Report from AGM
- Pohangina Gorge (almost)
- Pureora Explorer – photo essay
- 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!

Send PNTMC
PO Box 1217
Palmerston North

PNTMC Contacts

President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Vice President	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Secretary	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Webmasters	Peter Wiles	358 6894
	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Membership Enquiries	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Gear Custodian	Grant Christian	354 5843
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722
	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Snowcraft Programme	Grant Christian	021 117 6921