



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz
P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter August 2020



*Geographic Centre Of Continental New Zealand, near Mount Reeves, Tararua Forest Park
Pic: Warren Wheeler*

Club Nights

Club nights are held on the second and last Thursday of the 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. All welcome.

13th August **Interclub Quiz**

Banish the winter blues at the annual quiz between the local tramping clubs, this year hosted by PNTMC at our usual meeting venue. Come along and join in the fun. Don't worry what you do or don't know – everyone can contribute something. All welcome, the more the merrier!

27th August **PNTMC Photo competition** **Martin Lawrence**

Taken any good photos lately? Enter them in our annual photo competition and let our expert judge decide the best three images in each category - an audience vote (show of hands) will then determine first, second and third places. Place-getters in each category will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition and the FMC Photo Competition. See inside for details including new categorie.

Winners from the club photo competition go through to the **Interclub Photo Competition on Monday 5th October**. This event will be hosted by MUAC and held at Massey.

PNTMC Photo competition

Last year, we introduced a new category, 'long exposure'. This year we are continuing with the long exposure category as well as introducing the 'Historic' category. This makes us more consistent with FMC's photo competition.

Categories are:

- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)
- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)
- NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA
- LONG EXPOSURE
- OVERSEAS
- TOPICAL
- HISTORIC

Photo competition rules are consistent with those of FMC – winners of our competition are automatically entered into the FMC competition. Entries for all categories must be taken after 1 Jan 2016.

The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains as anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by PNTMC Newsletter August 2019 Page 4 humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".

Definition of "Long Exposure": The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots would require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to 'blur' the image (such as flowing water, or

movement of the subject). This category is intended to encourage more entries, by separating such highly technical photos into their own category. We hope to get more participation from entrants who are not put off by the thought of having to compete with such highly technical photos.

Definition of "Topical": People in tramping related activities.

Definition of "Historic": The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2018. The prize for any winning photo from a club archive by a deceased member will go to the club. The prize for any winning photo from an individual archive by a deceased person will go to the person who entered the photo, whether through a club or as an individual supporter.

PNTMC photo competition entries need to be given to Martin Lawrence via email or on a USB stick. Entries need to be with Martin **on or before Friday 13th August**.

DOC Annual Hut Passes

A reminder that anybody with a current hut pass over the lockdown period you can get two extra months added to that pass. Roy Rolston called into the local DOC office and got this done with no problem. They said he was the very first to do so he thought it would be worth reminding club members that this is available.

PNTMC Trip card for July - December 2020

Usually the trip card for the second half of the year is printed and delivered to club members well before the end of July. This year, trip card planning has been impacted by Covid-19. Rather than the normal full complement of trips, we have developed a basic programme with the idea that trips will be added over time. We will not print this basic trip card but will email it to club members. Club members will also be emailed about any new trips. New trips and any trip updates will be added to the events on the club website and facebook page.

Upcoming Trips

Please check PNTMC's website or facebook for the latest information about trips.

1/2 August (Best Weather Day)

Beach Walk M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

A continuation of the journey South from the Manawatu River - This beach walk will take us along the coast from Hokio Beach (where my last beach walk ended) to Waikawa Beach or possibly Otaki Beach if people are keen. The direction of travel will be determined by the direction of the wind on the day. We will need to do a car shuffle or do a shorter walk and double back. If we can't cross the Ohau river we will definitely need to double back! Depart PN 7.30am.

8-9th August

Mid-Winter Social at Pohangina Base
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Based at DOC's newly renovated ex-field centre, Pohangina Base, this is a social weekend with a shared pot-luck dinner on Saturday evening. Beds available – first in for these. The cost is \$20 per person for the weekend to cover the hire of the base.

On Saturday morning, there will be a trip down to the river on an old track that needs re-marking. Janet plans to do this with some help so would be good to have a few early starters – meet up at 9.30am at the base.

There will be outside games in the afternoon and a BYO pics evening of PNTMC trips from the past. On Sunday, 9th August, the plan is to go up Takapari Road by 4WD and check out the improvements to the A-frame Shelter. Option of bringing a mountain bike and biking back down Takapari Road.

Please let Janet know if you are interested in coming along. She will organise carpooling from Palmie, and try to organise the Pot-Luck a little so we don't just get desserts!

15-16th August

Iron Gate Hut E/M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

This is an easyish overnight tramp to the lovely new Iron Gate Hut, situated in the Oroua Valley. We could be lucky and see some who

in the river near the hut as there is a pair living nearby. Depart PN 7.30am.

15 or 16th August (BWD)

Tunupo M
Graeme Richards 353 6227

Want something productive to do, or just a cruisy day in the hills? How about some 'Applied Tramping' up the Tunupo track servicing the stoat trapline? This return trip will be from Petersons Road up Tunupo as far as conditions allow on the best weather day.

23rd August

Ross Peak M
Bruce van Brunt 328 4761

Ross Peak has an elevation of 957 metres. Access is from the end of No 2 Line in the Pohangina valley. Contact Bruce for more details.

29-30 August

Lake Surprise M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

From the Turoa ski field road we head off to the left on the Round the Mountain Track, heading for Mangaturuturu Hut, about 2.5hrs away. Along the way we cross the silica cascades and, if not too much snow, may explore upstream to the silica waterfall. From the hut we will go up to Lake Surprise for some ice skating and curling (or not). We may return the same way or take a more adventurous high-level route above the cliffs. If time allows, we may take the scenic walk to Waitonga Falls, the Ohakune Forest Loop and the best coffee shops in town. Depart PN 7.30am.

Trip Reports

4 July 2020

Wharite
Report by Michelle Benton
Pics by Warren Wheeler

Six of us (Roy Rolston, Kathy Corner, Rachel Price, Neil and Michelle Benton, Warren Wheeler) enjoyed a steep stroll to the top of Wharite, ably led by Warren. Since the track is officially closed it may even count as an off-track tramp! Nevertheless, the track is in very tidy condition and there is no need to fight your way through the leatherwood at the top, which was the most memorable feature of my last outing there 10 years ago.

The weather was kind, cold but clear giving us some very nice views and not too much mud underfoot. We set off from the Coppermine carpark at 9am and lunched about noon in an elevated spot close to the tower with great views and no wind. Picking this spot was either due to Warren's genius as a leader or just good luck, but was greatly appreciated as the winds around the tower itself were strong and freezing cold.



Farewell from scenic lunch spot

We returned the same way, reaching the car again about 3pm. A pleasant day of a modicum of mud, somewhat bracing cool air and indubitably warm company. Great fun.



Group selfie at Wharite Trig 920m

11 July 2020

Blue Range Hut

Report: Michelle Benton

I had planned to head up to A-frame hut for a there-and-back again look-see from the Tamaki Rd end but the snow and rain falling over the country midweek made the prospect rather uninviting, so on Saturday morning Warren, Neil and I discussed our options and settled on a walk into Blue Range hut in the Tararuas from the Kiriwhakapapa roadend.

We took an easy pace and enjoyed the sheltered climb up under the canopy with a

couple of snack stops in sunny patches en route.



Snow at Blue Range Hut.
Pic: Warren Wheeler

We got some great views of Mitre and the surrounding snow-covered peaks before dropping down to the hut about noon for lunch. There was a nice covering of snow and it was sunny and cold. Suitably replete, we headed back to the carpark again and made it out in time to get a coffee and cake at Pukaha on the way back home.

We were Michelle and Neil Benton, and Warren Wheeler.

Branch Road Walkway

12 July 2020

Report & Pics: Warren Wheeler

This trip was initially advertised as a post-COVID Lockdown trip to be led by Janet, but was then changed to a day trip to A-Frame Hut led by Michelle. Actually, the planned A-Frame trip went on Saturday to Blue Range Hut (nicer weather, not so cold and muddy, new territory for Neil) and so the Sunday trip to Branch Road was able to be resurrected for those keen to go.

On the day, five of us travelled out together and met Llew and Jenny waiting out at Pohangina under a large golden poplar with lots of autumn leaves still to fall. Was it going to rain or would the showers miss us? So far, so good. Time would tell. Off we went, over the stile and up through the pine trees.

We soon met three others taking a break and took several scenic stops ourselves to photograph a keruru in a poplar tree, admire the changing views on each bend and watch a shower pass close by to the south as the sunshine came and went. We even saw a nanny goat and two kids, and a hawk being

chased by a couple of magpies. Generally speaking, the track was in good condition with just a few small slippery muddy spots towards the top, otherwise it was nice easy walking.

It only took us about 1.5hrs to wander up to our “first lunch” stop before carrying on for a few minutes more to the farm gate at Ridge Road, the end of the walkway. We decided it would be easier and more pleasant to go back down the track rather than walk the road but didn’t quite catch up with Llew and Jenny, who had decided not to carry on up to the gate.

Unfortunately the clouds clustered over the Ruahine Ranges didn’t lift to reveal the snowy tops but it was still all rather pleasant and we agreed it was nice to get out and enjoy such an interesting walk through pine trees, poplars and bush remnants before lambing season closed the track. The trip was topped off with a convivial coffee stop in Ashhurst and we were back home well before 2pm. Thanks to Woody for driving us.



Enjoying views from the top

We were: Woody Lee, Toru (from Japan), Duncan Hedderley, Sally Hewson, Warren Wheeler and Llew and Jenny Prichard.

Food for thought

Our Impact on the Environment

By Peter Wiles

PNTMC is about journeys – lots of journeys. Some say life is a journey... However, our journeys come at a hidden cost – greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and specifically CO₂. It was not always this way, as in the early days of PNTMC there was a shortage of motorised transport and public transport was often used. Nowadays the car is ubiquitous in its use to get us from home to the road end where the recreational aspect of the trip begins.

The type of recreation that we partake in is extraordinarily beneficial both mentally and

physically. How many times have we headed out at some ungodly hour to venture into the blue yonder (well often not so blue but variation is a good thing too)? The mental benefits of recreation are many and aren’t limited to humans. Just observe the immediate reaction from a dog when a “Walk” is announced.

In the most recent FMC Bulletin, most of us will have seen that FMC has begun to focus on the elephant in the room and it’s a big one and not pretty – the greenhouse gas (GHG) problem.

So far, the government has talked quite a bit about tackling the other end of the GHG problem, namely climate change. But this has yet to have any significant impact on our activities to curb the emissions. Indeed, it is hard to see any major sector making a significant reduction. However, FMC are to be applauded in having begun to focus on the problem, and many of the activities from the affiliated clubs have a much bigger problem – skiing, heli-skiing, jet boating, rafting and flying people into and around the South Alps and many other places. These are all activities built on easy consumption of fossil fuels. Think – unsustainable.

Our situation is not so bad and with care we can manage, but we need to make changes to the way we operate. It would be nice if we could quantify our fossil fuel consumptions as measurement is the first step in being able to manage a problem. However, even that is quite a step.

Perhaps in the first instance, each trip should be given a GHG rating based on the round-trip vehicle distance? For instance:

- Round trip of 50 km – Low;
- Distance of 100 km – Medium;
- Distance of 200 km – High;
- Distance > 500 km – Extreme.

For each trip, it should be possible to post these on our events card and website to inform participants – there is an impact to consider and decisions to be made. When planning trips – be vocal, think local!

We can rethink all of this when electric cars become the norm. Until then, think about journeys and emissions.



PNTMC Newsletter

August 2020

What's inside this month?

- Trip reports
- Upcoming trips
- Photo competition details
- And more....

Articles for the newsletter
Send to Anne Lawrence,
the newsletter editor, via the club website
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.



Find us on facebook
<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

Get out and about with us!

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