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## Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

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

**Newsletter November 2020**

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*Beware of Wind*

*Photo by Warren Wheeler*

*2nd place in Topical Category, PNTMC photo competition*

### 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.

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**BYO Pics**

**Martin Lawrence**

Bring along a USB with your pics of what you have been up to in the outdoors recently.

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**A New Dawn?**

**Peter Wilson (FMC)**

Come along to hear the latest from FMC... bring questions too

### 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 editor Doug Strachan (ph 353 6526) and get ready to put your feet up with this great read, all for only \$35.



## Upcoming Trips

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct - 1<sup>st</sup> Nov**

### **Maropea Forks Hut**

**Chris Tuffley 359 2530**

Maropea Forks is a lovely spot nestled in the heart of the Ruahine, with a good chance of seeing whio either at the hut or on the way there. The river route from Top Maropea is generally easy, and a good introduction to river travel for those new to it. Depending on interest, to make a loop of it we may return to Sunrise and North Block Road via Maroparea and the tops route past Sparrowhawk.

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup> November**

**Tramping for Beginners #3 All  
Anne Lawrence 357 1695**

### **Rangiwahia hut and beyond**

We have changed the plan and instead of Feild Hut (access currently closed) or Herepai Hut (a rather steep climb) we are going to Rangihut and if the weather obliges we will explore the tussock country higher up. Leave Milverton Park at 7.30am.

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**Outdoor First Aid Course All  
Graeme Richards 353 6227**

Going on a trip in the outdoors? Have you practiced your first aid recently? Unlike a standard workplace first aid courses, we don't have an ambulance 5 minutes down the road; patient care and improvising with the limited supplies we have with us in the bush is an important skill to develop.

PNTMC is hosting an outdoor first aid course at DOC Pohangina Base provided by Triple 1 Care, we have obtained partial funding from an Eastern and Central Trust which enables us to provide the course at \$30 for club members and \$60 for non-members.

Bunk room accommodation, tea, coffee etc. and is provided, BYO sleeping bag, food, and your normal tramping pack (for scenarios). Places are limited to 16 participants and are filling fast. Contact Graeme if you want to be included.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> November**

**Pohangina River Medium/Fit  
Janet Wilson 329 4722**

A chance to visit one or two of our club managed huts, see some whio and help them

out by servicing some of the self-resetting traps along the river. This trip is dependent on the river condition being usable and just where we go will be decided closer to the time. This will be a 3-day trip departing Friday morning. Options include visiting any of the 4 huts on the river at this early stage so get in touch early if you think might want to come on this trip and we can discuss options.

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> November**

**Paekakariki Escarpment Easy  
Woody Lee 021 0444 552**

The original plan was to go to Field Hut, but change of plan since access to Otaki Forks is closed. Instead we'll do the Escarpment walkway. This 10km section of the Te Araroa Trail runs between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay. We are starting from Paekakariki and heading south and returning by Kapiti Line train (Metlink). Depart Milverton Park at 7.30 am.

**21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Ellis Hut Easy/Medium  
Bruce van Brunt 328 4761**

Ellis Hut is the oldest hut in the Ruahines and probably the oldest on the North Island. Built in about 1885 from pit sawn timber, this hut predates Shutes by nearly 40 yrs. In recent times, DOC has refurbished the hut but maintained its historic features. One can still see hand dressed timber in the interior, 100 year old signatures carved in the walls, and bits of vintage newspapers used as wall paper.

In this trip we will visit this historic hut and spend the night. The walk to the hut is fairly easy without too much climbing and takes only a few hours to reach. The tramp does require, however, a crossing of the Makaroro. The hut itself is quite basic and not that large so some of us might need to bring tents.

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Ellis Hut MTB  
Chris Tuffley 359 2530**

Pedal back in time on a trip to the historic Ellis Hut by mountain bike, riding there on modern forest roads and returning via the Yeoman's Track, a 1920s log-hauling route. If there's interest I'm keen to make an easy overnight bike-packing trip of it, tying in with Bruce's trip. There's scope too for an optional side trip to Poutaki Hut (on foot not wheels!) to check out

the views of Hawkes Bay from the Wakarara Range.

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> November**

**Waipawa Loop** **Medium**  
**Warren Wheeler** **356 1998**

A lot of variety and a bit of adventure. Up past Sunrise Hut and Armstrong Saddle, then down a scree slip into the north branch of the Waipawa River for a rock hop for an hour down to the Waipawa forks and another hour or so back downriver to the carpark. Depart Milverton Park at 7.30am.

### Interclub Photo competition

PNTMC, MTSC and MUAC all had winning shots in the interclub photo competition which was hosted by MUAC on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Well done, everyone! Results follow.

#### ABOVE BUSHLINE WITH A HUMAN ELEMENT

**First:** James Vincent - MUAC  
Title: Kaimanawa Lookout  
**Second:** Ken Mercer - MTSC  
Title: Goggles  
**Third:** Chris Tuffley - PNTMC  
Title: Sunrise at Kylie

#### ABOVE BUSHLINE WITH NO HUMAN ELEMENT

**First:** Diego Ameerali - MUAC  
Title: Chasing Reflections  
**Second:** Chris Tuffley - PNTMC  
Title: Tararua Sea of clouds  
**Third:** James Vincent - MUAC  
Title: Sharktooth oooo a ha!

#### BELOW BUSHLINE WITH A HUMAN ELEMENT

**First:** Sashikumar Ramamirtham - MUAC  
Title: Trudging up the Mangamate Stream on a late evening  
**Second:** Tan Wei Jun - MUAC  
Title: "Flood Lights"  
**Third:** Chris Tuffley - PNTMC  
Title: Asbestos cottage

#### BELOW BUSHLINE WITH NO HUMAN ELEMENT

**First:** James Vincent - MUAC  
Title: To "Seal" a sunset.  
**Second:** Louise Lahmert - MTSC  
Title: Central Otago Beauty  
**Third:** Sam Whitburn - MUAC  
Title: "Steam rising off the river at dawn"

#### HISTORIC:

**First:** Chris Tuffley - PNTMC  
Title: Camped on Walker Pass  
**Second:** Louise Lahmert - MTSC  
Title: High Five  
**Third:** Chris Tuffley - PNTMC  
Title: Tent on a rock

#### LONG EXPOSURE

**First:** James Vincent - MUAC  
Title: Light Show  
**Second:** Maria Lombard - MTSC  
Title: Searching  
**Third:** Dieter Stalman - PNTMC  
Title: Night Sky

#### FLORA AND FAUNA

**First:** Murali Van Der Zeist - MUAC  
Title: Silver eye capture during one of my nature walks  
**Second:** Diego Ameerali - MUAC  
Title: Good Morning Kea!  
**Third:** Chris Tuffley - PNTMC  
Title: Leon Kinvig Resident

### Notices

#### Otaki Gorge access

The Otaki Gorge Road is closed to vehicles and pedestrians indefinitely. This is because there is damage to the slip-prone bank at Blue Bluff on Ōtaki Gorge Road (13 km inland from SH1). Doc say they are working to find alternative public access to the huts and walks in the Tararua Forest Park but it is most unlikely that vehicle access will be restored this year.

#### PNTMC Hut Posters

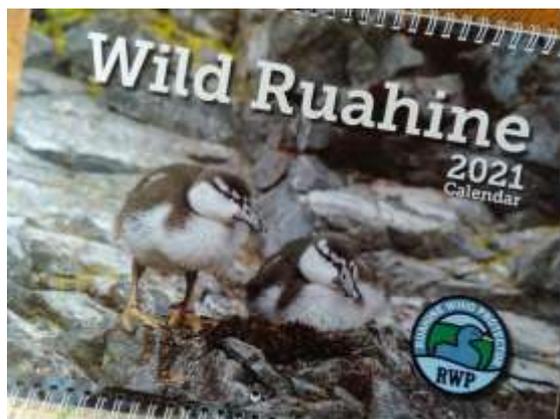
Posters are still available for both the Ruahine Huts and Tararua Huts that were produced following our Hut Bagging Challenge in 2012 and 2015 respectively.

Size	Cost for Members	Cost for Non-Members
A2	\$12	\$18
A1	\$24	\$30

Postage is about \$15 extra depending on where it is being sent.

Proceeds from poster sales go towards the club's maintenance of Mid-Pohangina Hut and Ngamoko Hut in Ruahine Forest Park. Contact Warren (06) 356 1998.

## Wild Ruahine Calendar 2021



The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust (RWPT) has produced a "Wild Ruahine" calendar for 2021. They are selling this as a fundraiser for \$20 each. All profits go to the RWPT to support the work they do helping to protect the Ruahine whio. Get started early with your xmas shopping! Orders taken by Janet Wilson at club nights or by emailing [jwilson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jwilson@inspire.net.nz)

### New members

Welcome to Maret Sinclair, Christina Beckmann and Waldron Martis.

### Trip Reports

#### Not Mid-Pohangina

19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Report: Graham Peters

The plan, a cunning one I thought, was a 3 day weekend to our club's hut Mid-Pohangina via Cattle Creek. However with Friday's forecast Janet weather watcher said she wouldn't go till the Saturday. Craig had contacted me but as he had a 1<sup>st</sup> aid course on the Friday he could only do the Saturday Sunday. A person freshly off a 1<sup>st</sup> aid course would be a useful person to have. One never knows when such a persons ability to deal with a fractured skull, dislocated shoulder, anaphylactic shock, heart attack etc would be extremely useful. That settled it and the trip was changed to an overnight to Cattle Creek hut.

As it turned out, I'll grudgingly admit the weather on the Friday was rubbish so on a much more pleasant Saturday the 3 of us with Bruce the dog headed off to the Tamaki road-

end. After my last trip down the willow infested Tamaki, the Homes Ridge was the only option I was interested in. Morning tea at Stanfield and lunch not far from the drop into Cattle Creek had us at the hut at 2.00pm. A light drizzle settled in later in the afternoon before Janet headed out for a dusk walk a way up the creek.



Janet and Bruce at Cattle Creek. Photo: Craig Allerby

Sunday dawned clear, calm and frosty – a fantastic day to be in the hills. On the way out we had a very minor deviation to check a permolat marker on the eastern side of the track. At the sign in the saddle before you drop down to the Tamaki we had a slightly larger deviation to check out the out route to Takapari and the route from that down to the head of Cattle Creek. A short break at Stanfield and then with a hunter and his dog, a social lunch in the sun as you emerge from the bush onto the 4wd track along the Homes ridge.

The easy stroll from there had the 3 of us, Janet, Craig Allerby, myself (Graham) and Bruce back in Pohangina for afternoon tea.

#### Ngaurahoe long weekend

Day one: Fun in the snow

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Report and pics: Warren Wheeler

Four of us went up on Friday to stay at Sue Pither's place in Rangataua and get in some snowcraft practise on Saturday, exploring the lower snowy slopes on the eastern side of Turoa ski field.



**Ngauruhoe long weekend  
Day two: Reaching for the top.  
4<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Report and pics: Lynette Price**

Finally, climbing Ngauruhoe in winter was going to happen! About four years ago Dennis and I had done the Snow Craft course. Being eager to put the new skills into practise, I had tried to summit the mountain in its winter coat soon after. Cloud had been hugging the summit. It didn't lift, as hoped. I'd turned back on reaching the steam vents, never dreaming four years would role by before I'd be back to climb in winter.

On the toilet door was the question "Have you got all the right gear and how do you feel?" With a row six emoji faces on the poster, you could rate yourself. The two at the right end of the row were "Tired but smiling" and

"Pumped." Yes! That was me, I decided, Pumped!

The night before the climb, Warren had sent through an update plan for the next day. It was good news. The forecast had been wrong. The group had "pootled around east of the Turoa ski field. Breezy but fine. See you tomorrow," Warren said. So it was a very early start from Palmy, Sunday morning, to meet up with the others who had travelled up over a day earlier. Warren, the trip leader, and Rachel our daughter, greeted us and we meet Robyn, Deter and Ernie for the first time. From Rangituru we drove around to the southern end of New Zealand's top day walk, the Tongariro Crossing. A familiar face appeared from a waiting vehicle. It was Grant, who had recently moved to Taupo. It was good to see him again.

As we walked towards Ngauruhoe, Warren pointed out Pukekaikiore. A decent little mountain at 512 meters. Comments from Deter and Grant were shared about the ridgeline behind the Mangatepopo hut being a great way to climb Tongariro. We enjoyed the short side trip to the Soda Springs waterfall where we were treated to a majestic view of Mt Taranaki "floating" in the distance. There was a bit of friendly banter about what it should be called, and as I'm a "Naki" girl, I like Mt Egmont.

We then climbed the old Devils Staircase which is just natural solid lava rock, not at all like the highly manicured section of track the Tongariro walkers take near by. We gathered for a group photo with Ngauruhoe behind us then began the ascent.

Warren lead us at a steady, patient pace up the fixed volcanic rock, not needing crampons till the top quarter of the mountain. At one of our short rests on the way up, out came the cameras. The views just got better the higher we climbed. Like a magnificent White Tiger, Mt Tongariro and all the wild spectacular features that make this southern part of the Central Plateau world famous, lay below us, the black volcanic ground covered in stripes of white snow. Blue Lake actually looked blue! It had always appeared black when we had hiked past it. In the distance to the north, was Lake Taupo, to the east, the flat expanse of the Oturere

stream area with its massive 300 meter towering cliffs which make you feel really insignificant when passing that way. But from where we sat now, that huge area looked about the size of a dollar coin.



Reaching the basin that curves around below the crater rim of Ngauruhoe, it was time for the final push to the top. The experienced and those with full fuel tanks of energy did a complete circuit of the rim, which was about two meters wide with steep drops over into the crater on the northern side of Ngauruhoe. Can you spot Warren walking round the rim in the photo?



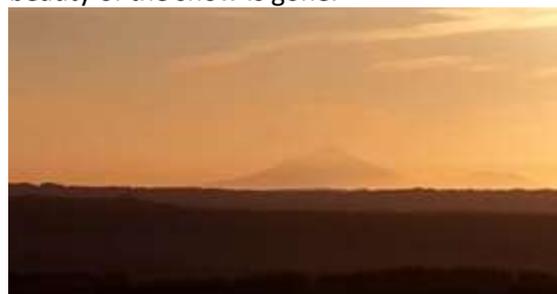
The eastern side on a summer ascent for us, had seemed a lot less daunting. A photo of that day has been the home screen background on our laptop for a few years now.



We descended via the snow. I was not confident at descending quickly, partly due to fear, I suppose, of re-injury to my right knee, but with Deters kind, patient reasoning and coaxing I started to relax. By the time the snow had run out I had learnt a new skill, bum sliding!

It was a great day. And to top it off, as we drove away, there was the “Naki” girl’s mountain,

golden in the evening sunset. Thank you, Warren, for the opportunity. It has made me want to go back soon and do it again before the beauty of the snow is gone.



**Ngauruhoe long weekend  
Day three: Blythe Hut and Waitonga Falls  
Monday 12th October  
Report and pic: Warren Wheeler**

Four of us stayed on Monday to make the most of the nice weather and had an easy trip to Waitonga Falls and Blythe Hut. Nice place for lunch on the bush line some 10 minutes above the hut.



**Beginner tramp #2  
Sunrise Hut, Eastern Ruahines  
5th October 2020  
Report and Pics: Amariya, Betty & Martin**

As soon as Anne had sent the email addressing the second tramp location, I remembered, “every upcoming tramp will get slightly harder”. So with this in mind I knew Sunrise Hut was definitely not to



be underestimated. As previously scheduled, the team was to meet at Milverton Park by

7:30am, to which a roll call was followed by. After the roll call a total of 26 people were at sight and were ready to leave for the next destination, Sunrise Hut track point. This was approx 2hr drive from Palmerston North and the journey was thrilling as we saw beautiful mountain tops, wind turbines, and farm animals on the way.

We got to the base point at around 9:30am and began the tramp after a short description of the track and what to expect as we proceeded to the Hut.



After that we began by walking over the grassy fields which led to the rocky terrain. Started off with a steady incline, to which most of us had taken our extra layers off as the temperatures rose. The first 30 mins was the toughest, as we were still getting used to the inclined hiking. We then saw many interesting signs along the way like cage mistletoe (to prevent possums from eating them), epiphytes (what is also called the nest fern) and some native trees. Around 1000m level we started to see unmelted snow from last night. It was glittery under sunlight. From some angle the reflection even brought about a spectrum of light. The air was warm but the view was cold.



We were excited about the scene, which added to the fuel for us to go on. As we got closer to the hut, the vegetation changed too. Trees became scrubbier and paler. And the wind blew like a maniac. The fading of colours did not dim the astonishment. Instead, the exposed greenness of the ground made a perfect harmony with the misty cold shade of

the mountain. We were both carried away to be able to enjoy this scene. The hard work made our lunch even tastier and more cherishable. We chatted, took photos, and shared food. The lunchtime did not take more than half an hour. It was reminiscent of field trips in my childhood, where everything was just so pure and harmless. Like the wind, the uphill hiking was insane, but I knew I would be alright.



Walking back down was definitely easier as we all took our own time to get back to the starting point. From there we had a little rest and said our farewells till the next tramp.

Club members on the trip: Martin, Anne, Bruce, Penny, Vern, Adele, Toru, Michelle, Woody and Jo.

Newcomers were: Gabriel, Rosie, Nic, Amariya, Petrona, Betty, Kyle, Brendan, Francis, Lauren, Michael, Alita, Jenny, Amy, Jade and Milak.



**Bird Spotting at Moutoa Reserve  
Sunday 11th October  
Report and Pics: Sally Hewson**

Two cars left Milverton Park at 8am on a pleasant still morning and drove to the Vickerman Road end a bit past Shannon. Waiting for us there was Nicola. The Moutoa reserve is Iwi land and runs along the banks of the Manawatu River and includes an oxbow and a snippet of trees.



We started by observing what was right in front of us – goldfinches and greenfinches perching on the power lines, then we climbed over a stile and headed along the stop bank. There perched frozen on a fence post was what looked like some kind of soft bird toy, which turned out to be a juvenile magpie.



Our route followed the stop bank for a couple of kilometres around a big bend in the river toward the clump of trees. Here there was the lagoon – an old oxbow of the river.

There were frequent bino stops to observe the birds, and the numbers and species data was downloaded to a bird app. Had a stop for morning tea, then continued down to the bushed area. Saw two pairs of Canadian geese on nests, and some people heard a Spotless Crake calling. Had lunch down by the river near an attractive stand of poplar trees. Looped back around the lagoon and managed to re-join the stop bank track without getting our feet wet. We ambled back to the cars, and there was the magpie, still sitting on a post. This time though he proved he could fly.



We rounded the day off with a refreshment stop at the Horseman's café in Shannon.

Birds spotted were: Australasian Harrier, Australian Magpie, Australasian Shoveler, Black Shag, Black Swan, Canada Goose, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Eurasian Coot, European Goldfinch, Greenfinch, and Starling, Grey Teal, Grey Warbler, House Sparrow, Little Black Shag, Little Pied Shag, Mallard, Fantail, Paradise Shelduck, Pied Stilt, Pukeko, Ring Necked Pheasant, Rock Pigeon, Sacred Kingfisher, Silvereye, Skylark, South Black Backed Gull, Spotless Crake (heard), Spur-winged Plover, Welcome Swallow, White-faced Heron and Yellowhammer.

The Spotters were: Stephen, Kirsten, Adele, Donavin, Janet, Nicola, Yvonne and Sally.



**Cape to Cape SW Australia. Pic: Martin Lawrence Second place in PNTMC photo comp overseas**



**Tararua sea of clouds. Pic: Chris Tuffley First place in PNTMC photo comp: Above Bushline with no human element**



## PNTMC Newsletter November 2020

- Trip reports and Upcoming trips
- First Aid Course 7-8 November
- Beginners tramps: 1 Nov, 6 Dec



Articles for the newsletter

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



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<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

Get out and about with us!

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