

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

[P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North](mailto:info@pntmc.org.nz)

Newsletter December 2020 – January 2021



Going up Ngauruhoe on club trip, 4th October 2020
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.

10th December 2020

End of year BBQ

Our end of year social get together at the Ashhurst Domain will feature the usual presentation of Annual Awards and Santa's helpers handing out all the prezzies from under the tree. Bring a plate of your favourite BBQ fare to share, BYO drink and bring a \$5 prezzie for under the tree. From 6.00pm until dusk. Contact Warren on 356 1998 if you would like a lift out from town.

28th January 2020

Beginning of year BBQ

Join us for a social get together at the Victoria Esplanade BBQ area, located beside the kids paddling pool next to the aviaries, from 6.00pm until dusk. BYO food and drink.

Upcoming Trips

Sat 5th – Sun 6th December

Maropea Forks Hut **Med/Fit**
Chris Tuffley **359 2530**

Strong winds in the forecast scuttled this trip in October, so let's try again! 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 6th December

Gold Creek Hut **All**
Anne Lawrence **357 1695**

This is the 4th tramp in our Tramping for Beginners. Gold Creek hut is the destination for this trip. We start with a pleasant walk through farmland, then follow the ridge track which gently climbs to a high point. The track then drops down to Gold Creek which we cross to get to the hut for lunch. We return the same way.

Sat 12th – Sun 13th December

Upper Makororo Hut **Medium**
Ernie Cook **027 303 1363**

Upper Makororo Hut is a standard four bunk ex Forest Service Hut in the Eastern Ruahines. We will tramp in from Mangleton Road passing Sentry Box Hut and Parkes Peak Hut on the way. Returning the same way on the Sunday. Depart Milverton Park at 7:30am.

Sun 13th December

Blue Range or bust **Easy/Med**
Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

This trip in the eastern Tararua Ranges will start from the Kiriwhakapapa Roadend as usual but go up Reef Creek onto an old ridge track to Blue Range Hut. A good easy off-track route in lovely beech forest and crown fern. Return via the main track. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

Sun 17th January

Rangi-Deadmans loop **Easy/Med**
Warren Wheeler **356 1998**

Classic Ruahine "easy" loop trip up onto the tops to enjoy summer alpine flowers, peek into the Oroua valley and bag a peak (and hut). Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

23rd- 25th January

Wellington Anniversary weekend:
Pohangina River club huts **Medium**
Janet Wilson **329 4722**

Spend the weekend up the Pohangina River and get more familiar with Mid-Poh and Ngamoko huts. The club is responsible for maintenance of these two special huts. You might get to check some stoat traps as well.

New members

Welcome to two new members: Emma Gregg and Robyn Boocock. Emma is a keen mountain climber and trumper. Robyn usually lives in Ohope and is keen to explore our area when visiting here.

Notices

FMC Photo Competition Results

Congrats to Chris Tuffley whose photo of Dominie Biv (see below) was runner-up in the Above Bushline with human element category. It is a lovely photo but does look better in colour than in black and white. The judges liked the 'shelter from the elements' scenario it depicts. They also commented that the image is exposed and processed nicely – not so easy when dealing with bright snow. Well done, Chris!



Keeping it Local - Our new club challenge

The PNTMC 2021 Lower Ruahine Huts and High Points Challenge. Running from 11 Dec 2020 through to 6 Dec 2021

Hut Name	Points
Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge	1
Rangiwahia Hut	2
Awatere Hut	2
Stanfield Hut	2
A-Frame Shelter	2
Te Ekaou	3
Forks Hut	3
Iron Gate Hut	3
Kiritaki Hut	3
Longview Hut	3
Cattle Creek Hut	4
Happy Daze Hut	4
Daphne Hut	5
Mid Pohangina Hut	5
Leon Kinvig Hut	5
Triangle Hut	5
Makaretu Hut	5
Top Gorge Hut	6
Tarn Biv	7
Toka Biv	7
Howletts	7
Ngamoko Hut	9
Piripiri Hut	10

High Points	Points
Wharite Peak	2
Umutoi	2
Maharahara	3
Rocky Knob	3
Mataginui	3
Te Pohatu	4
Ross Peak	4
Toka	5
Mangahuia	5
Otomore	5
Whaingapuna	5
Tunupo	6
Maungamahue	6
Taumatataua	6
Takapari	7
Tiraha	8

Ohuinga	8
Te Hekenga	10
Taumataomekura	10

Extra points

Collect all 4 Pohangina River huts = bonus 4 pts

Collect all 3 Oroua Huts = bonus 3 pts

Stay overnight in hut = bonus 1 pt

Visit on a club trip =

bonus 1 pt per hut or highpoint

Notes

All visits after 1st visit = 1 pt + any bonus

Any Hut/highpoint can only be claimed once per trip

Enter your own points on the club spreadsheet (or get someone to enter them for you)

Trip card January – June 2021

PNTMC committee are putting together our trip card for the first half of 2021. This is a later start than usual so we need your help to get this done asap. We are aiming to have a day and overnight trip each weekend.

You can see the trip card on the web at

<https://tinyurl.com/PNTMCtripcard>

We will keep updating this as new trips come in so check it to see where the gaps are.

If you would like to lead trips or have ideas on where you would like trips to go, please email or phone Anne or Janet.

Otaki Gorge access issues

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 are working to find alternative public access to the huts and walks in the Tararua Forest Park but it is unlikely that vehicle access will be restored this year.

Putara Road end bridge out of action

The first swing bridge in from Putara Road end is closed due to damage. This means you need to cross the stream to get to Herepai Hut or Roaring Stag Hut.

For Sale

Keen to go Retro Tramping?
Need a retro pack?

Macpac Wilderness Equipment - blue canvas pack with reinforced base and outside zip pocket, full size pack, built to last, as new condition. Terry Crippen autographed edition. One of the first packs with internal frame and padded waist band (probably). Make an Offer.

Mountain Mule - over 50 years old (probably) iconic territory here, bullet-proof green canvas with hollow metal external frame for fuel storage. Mint condition, but broken fuel tap has been replaced with a bolt. One of the most uncomfortable packs you can ever own. Are you man enough??? Make an offer!

Contact Warren 06 356 1998 or 022 397 5768.

Aspiring Guides Treks at discount

Aspiring Guides' Treks are offering PNTMC club members 10% off one of their upcoming treks, through April 2021.

Their more challenging trips include the Rabbit Pass Alpine Traverse, Gillespie Rabbit Pass, and Lake Nerine. They are also making a heap of Custom Itineraries this season - taking in areas such as the Ahuriri and Hawea Conservation Park. They organise all of the logistics, with a qualified guide to help along the way.

Email: climb@aspiringguides.com
Website: www.aspiringguides.com

Trip Reports

Rangiwahia hut and beyond

Beginner tramp #3

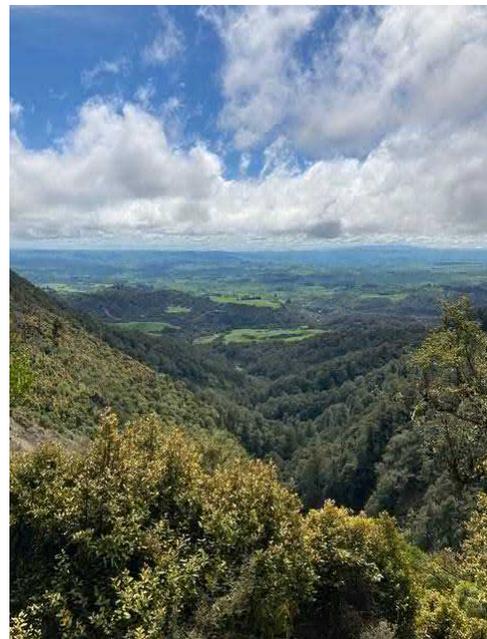
4th October 2020

Report and pics: Michael Philipp

This year's third beginners tramp saw ten of us departing a blustery Milverton Park at 7:30am, heading north for the Ruahine Forest. The winds mellowed as we approached Rangiwahia, and by the time we got to the car park just after 9, we were met with a pleasant, overcast day.



The path up to Rangiwahia hut began with a gradual incline that felt familiar similar to last month's beginner tramp up to Sunrise Hut. However, after the first 30 minutes it became clear that this would be a different terrain. The first break in the tree cover had us looking across a large slip and down toward the wooden arch bridge that we would be crossing. The detour around the slip had us scrambling down stairs carved from the rock. Once across the bridge, we resumed our steady incline with regular views across the landscape as we gradually moved up into the clouds.



About two hours after we had pulled-in to the car park, we had arrived at Rangiwahia Hut. Here we stopped to take in the vista before we were again shrouded in clouds. Since we had made good time up to the hut, everyone was keen to explore the tussock country a bit.

This was my first experience trekking across tussock. At first, I was convinced that tramping through the grass would be easier-going than the earlier incline path. (Those familiar with the tussock may be having a chuckle at that.) It was here I learned that the famous Ruahine mud is a much more frustrating obstacle than any well-maintained incline!



Nonetheless, our group moved steadily across the rolling hills of the tussock until we found a suitably high (and windy) summit to declare as our turning-around point. The clouds continued to lift as we arrived back to the hut just before 1pm.



After enjoying our lunches (and appreciating the beautiful paintings on the side of the loos), we hiked back down the way we'd come. Before packing up the cars, we had a brief rest, taking-in the beautiful spring weather. With some luck, we'll have a similar day waiting for us on the next beginners tramp.



We were: Vern, Anu, Duncan, Lorraine, Charlene, Nic, Marty, Anne, Michelle, & Michael.

Te Araroa Trail

10th October 2020

**Day section south from Palmerston North
He Ara Kotahi Bridge to Motorimu Whare
and Campsite - 28km**

Report by Roy Rolston

It was a later start time than planned after a member was slow to get out of bed. However, we finally got going at 9.30am by first crossing the newly built He Ara Kotahi walking and cycle bridge over the mighty Manawatu River. This part section of the day took us to Old West Road, 1hr according to the official Te Araroa

trail notes via the relatively newly formed paved walkway and road route to Massey University. Bledisloe Park is then entered and the trail follows the lower Turitea walkway with views over the very picturesque University campus and Massey sports institute. The trail then passes through open parkland and play areas before winding its way through Massey research farmland which includes encounters with curious dairy heifers and wee ducklings on a pond. Old West Road was reached bang on 1 hour - overall a very pleasant walk with plenty of variety.

The next sub section took us to the end of Greens Road which started with a bit of road walking up Turitea Road before peeling off onto a trail through some riparian planting along the Turitea stream. Noted were the numerous lifestyle blocks that were passed and a glimpse at what people were up to or not as the case may be. Then back on the road and very soon turning off onto Ngahere Park Road and after crossing a bridge peeling off again joining the Turitea Green Corridor Track. This is a pleasant easy walk but it was signified by a barrage of loud gunfire heard nearby hopefully from the local rifle range and not the start of WW3. The shots, a blasting type sound, sounded like pistol rounds but in amongst those were the sounds of pit—chew, the distinctive echo of a .22 long rifle.

Back on Turitea road and past a short line of roadside trees covered in very striking and beautiful violet bell shaped flowers. The species I am not sure, maybe Paulownia, but a magnificent sight to see. Turning off again to the right onto another gravel road/ track with a steady climb up to Greens Road-end. It was now 12 midday and the start of the dreaded road walking section. It was at this point I had organized a standby taxi service to bypass a few kilometers but a unanimous decision to stay true to the trail meant the taxi wasn't called.

An hour of road later, walking firstly on gravel then tar-seal had us at the Kakuterawa Road junction. At this point one of the team was coming up lame so after ferreting out the first aid kit and applying a couple of sticky pads we

were ready to trek on. Our next destination was the Kakuterawa Recreation Reserve at the end of the road. The signpost said it was 7 km away and while taking that in several cars passed by and it took us all our efforts to hold back the urge to put the thumb out.

In just over an hour we covered the 7 km to our planned lunch stop. A convenient picnic table was seized upon in amongst a capacity packed car park. Mountain bikes and bikers everywhere - good to see many Dads and kids out there on the purpose-built bike trails that the reserve offers.

Refueled and watered, the Back Track was the next sub section up to Arapuke Scott's Road. This track is an old road shared with the bikers and is a steady 1 hr climb up through mainly native bush but bordering also some farmland approx at the halfway point which also coincides with cell phone reception. A quick text was sent to confirm a time for the support crew pickup rondo-view further on at start of Gordon Kear Forest. Climbing over a style at the top of the Back Track the trail now is BACK ON THE ROAD again as the Willie Nelson song goes - descending down Scott's Road this time for 2 kilometers or so.

We reached our rondo-view point at 3.50 pm, 10 mins early so it was a waiting game till eventually a blue car was spotted descending the road we had just walked down to our position by the locked gate and the DOC sign. The support crew was asked to bring some crud of some sort - so, when she arrived, I ferreted though the shopping bags and a tasty selection was stuffed in the daypack for our cup of tea/coffee at the Whare.

BACK ON THE ROAD again, a gravel road again, my wifey not realizing there was still a 40 mins walk left, tagged along in her less than adequate footwear. Arriving at our planned day's end, the Motorimu Whare was a welcome site, which was established and fully funded by the Manawatu District Council who are very supportive of the Te Araroa Trail. The Whare is built as a shelter and not a hut as such but you can sleep in it on two elevated

platforms covered in sponge rubber. A basic bench a couple of chairs and an Intentions book completes the package which is complemented by a well-appointed council-installed toilet nearby. At the 28 km point this facility acts as a potential overnight stop with some free space around to pitch a tent if you want.

While we were enjoying a cup of coffee and eating crud, a vehicle turned up and upon chatting it was a couple that looks after the trail checking on the Whare. It recently had a flood of water through it after tree prunings blocked a culvert nearby. An offer of a ride back to the car was eagerly accepted and very soon we were cruising back over and down Scott's Road and back home to Palmy.

We were Me, Myself and I with support crew Deborah.

PS: I plan to continue the trail with another club trip coming up soon. This section will be a two-day weekend trip mostly bush walking and will start at end of Scott's road trekking on through Burtons track to the Mangahau road and then taking the Makahika Track to end of Gladstone Road behind Levin.

24th - 26th October 2020
Labour Weekend Tongariro Explorer
Report and pics: Ernie Cook

A late scratching saw the field reduced to only four runners. A mare, a colt and two geldings. With the weather forecast looking less than favourable the decision was made to postpone for a day and to perhaps transfer to another track with an all-weather surface. On the Monday we would be joined by a well-bred, lightly raced filly from the East Coast of the North Island.

Sunday morning was overcast and windy. We drove to the top of Ohakune Mountain Road with the intention of sidling across the side of the mountain taking in some points of interest before descending to Lake Surprise. On exiting the vehicle we found the wind to be quite strong and bitterly cold. We got back into the car and drove down the road to the starting

point of the track to Lake Surprise. Again conditions were unpleasant so we retreated to the car-park at the beginning of the track to Blyth Hut. Here we would be sheltered by the bush for a good part of the way.

The early section of this track is part of the Around the Mountain Track and is well maintained. We viewed Waitonga Falls from the main track without venturing along the side-track for a close-up view. From here on the catch cry for the day was to be "let's just wander up here and have a look at the waterfall".



Nice waterfall up sidestream

We had a look into the carpeted Lupton Hut which is managed by Wanganui High School. We continued beyond Blyth Hut to a pleasant viewing point but were driven back down to the hut by a passing shower.

Lunch was taken in the comfort of the hut and then Warren created his magnificent Mount Doom pudding which we all enjoyed, especially the strawberries. Thanks Warren.



Mt Doom for lunch at Blyth Hut

After lunch we wandered back down the track a bit and investigated following a stream down as an alternative to the track. It quickly became

gorgey-looking so we returned to the track and wandered back to the carpark after another excursion to view another water fall on the Around the Mountain Track towards Mangaehuehu Hut. Lots of day walkers were making their way in to Waitonga Falls. We stopped off in Ohakune for the obligatory chocolate eclairs which we enjoyed with a cup of tea back at Sue's place. We had a lovely evening meal out at the Powder Horn establishment.

Monday morning was much brighter as we headed off back up the mountain, out the door at a very respectable 7:30 a.m. We dropped off beyond the ski field maintenance buildings and began our quest for the first of our points of interest. The first gully we explored revealed nothing of interest but as we dropped into the second stream bed no more than 20 metres away was what we were looking for. A fountain jet of water gushing out from a split between rocks. We had a close-up look and then continued the search for our second feature.



The Secret Fountain

The odd cairn lured us across the mountain as we clambered in and out of several rocky gullies. Suddenly some-one spotted what we were looking for. Silica rapids - and very impressive they were.



At the Silica Cascade source

A much better example than what we would see in the afternoon on our way back from Lake Surprise. All that remained to do was for us to find our way down to the rapids. After a bit of trial and error and scouting around we found a path down the mountainside to the rapids where we enjoyed morning tea. We continued downwards hoping to intersect the track to Lake Surprise via Mangaturuturu Hut which is managed by the Wanganui Tramping Club.



Crossing Silica Cascades

Neil and Ernie followed a stream bed which looked as though it would meet up with the track markers while Warren, Michelle and Robyn took a higher path. Eventually Ernie clambered out of the stream into the bush and stumbled across a track marked with pink ribbons and pink and yellow triangles. Warren and the others soon came wandering down the track which lead us down to the valley floor where a mixture of cairns and marker poles had us striding purposefully towards the hut. We continued beyond the hut and up to Lake Surprise.



Lake Surprise

Around the far side of the Lake and looking up at Mount Ruapehu we found a pleasant lunch spot out of the wind. Some rain showers had us donning our coats as we followed the track back to the Mountain Road where a short uphill walk had us back at our vehicle after a very successful and satisfying exploration of a small area of the flank of Mount Ruapehu. Thanks to Warren for organising and leading a very enjoyable excursion.

We were Warren, Ernie, Neil, Michelle and Robyn.



17th Oct 2020

Stanfield Hut

Report and pics: Woody Lee

Five keen trampers arrived at Tamaki West Road end around 8.30 am and Anu from Ashhurst joined us shortly after. We met a local man at the car park who was going to check the campground out. He told us there had been heavy rain during the week and we soon discovered that the Tamaki River West Branch was a bit deep and couldn't be crossed.

The local man kindly led us to the farm gate, and we set off towards Holms Ridge track via

the zigzag farm track. It took us about 50 mins to reach an opening area with beautiful river views and there was a sign indicating only 45 mins left to the hut. We descended for 20 mins and then crossed the Tamaki River West Branch carefully.



We arrived at the hut before 11 am and had a very early lunch. I had been to this hut many times before, but I didn't know there was a meat safe behind the hut.



We returned the same way to the car park in the early afternoon and the Palmy group had a social coffee stop at the Wind Farm Café in Woodville.

We were Amy O, Amy Y, Jade, Toru, Anu and Woody.

Outdoor first aid course



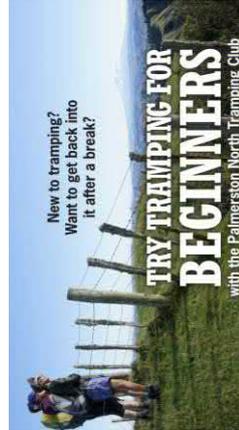
*Pic taken on the Outdoor First Aid Course
by Warren Wheeler*



PNTMC Newsletter

December 2020 – January 2021

- Keeping it Local: The Lower Ruahine Huts and High Points Challenge
- Trip reports and upcoming events



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



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Get out and about with us!

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