



Palmerston North
Tramping and Mountaineering Club

www.pntmc.org.nz

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter December 2021 – January 2022



The snow was a bit deep in places on the Deadmans track in October Photo: Warren Wheeler

COVID 19: Club Activities at Orange Alert Level

Until further notice all club activities require participants to present a current covid vaccination pass.

1. All club activities will require participants to have a vaccine pass.
2. Trip leaders/club night organizers will be responsible for compliance.
3. The pass must be carried on the participant and produced upon request by the trip leader/club night organizer.

For club nights held indoors:

- Scan in at the Hall and/or sign in with contact details in our attendance book.
- Show your current vaccination pass at the door
- Use the hand sanitiser provided. Masks are optional but please feel comfortable to wear one.
- If feeling unwell, stay home.

For club trips:

- Participants on a club trip form a 'trip bubble'.
- The trip leader is responsible for keeping contact details of everyone in the trip bubble and sighting each participant's vaccination pass

We greatly appreciate your support with this to make it easier to implement so that we can get on with what we really want to do...tramp.

Club Nights

Thur 9 December End of Year BBQ, Ashhurst Domain Warren Wheeler
Our end of year social get together at the Ashhurst Domain will feature the presentation of Annual Awards as well as 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

Thur 27 Jan Beginning of Year BBQ, Esplanade by the Paddling Pool Warren Wheeler
Come along to the Victoria Esplanade to the BBQ spot beside the kids paddling pool.
BYO food and drink. 6.00pm until dusk. Contact Warren on 356 1998

Upcoming Trips

Sat 18 Dec and/or Sun 19 Dec

Short- Knights Medium
Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998

Best weather day trip or camp out overnight on the tops for the sunset and sunrise. Day trip will depart Milverton Park at 7:30am. Overnight trip would start after lunch on Saturday. A must-do pre-Xmas workout to celebrate the longest day(almost). This western Ruahines loop takes us up Shorts Track and along the tussock tops to Toka high point and then down Knights Track. Great views and a lot of alpine plants should be flowering.

Sat Jan 22 – Mon 24 Jan (Wellington Anniversary Weekend)

Te Potae Traps Medium/Fit
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Contact Janet if you are interested in helping out with the traps over the long weekend.

Sun Jan 23

Beehive Creek Easy/Family
Doug Strachan 353-6526

This Pohangina walkway, opened in 1983, is just 30km from P.N. Our 14-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter have walked this track every year of their lives, so it has become something of a tradition. The creek is generally ankle-deep and sandy-bottomed (young, one million-year old unconsolidated marine sands from the former coastline), making this ideal for all, including families and first-time trampers. Any little kids can be given a head start by not having to walk the road section (3km, 40mins) of the loop. No dogs allowed on this walkway. The walk will be followed by lunch at a picnic spot across the road from the cars, so you don't even have to carry your massive lunch on your back. Good social tramp, and you'll still have the afternoon free to mow the lawns. 9am start from Milverton Park.

Sat 29 Jan – Sun 30 Jan

Cascade Hut (Kaimanawas) Medium/Fit
Grant Christian 021 117 6921

Travel to the end of Clements Mill Rd. Medium walk to Cascade Hut via the Hinemaiaia Track. Longer walk out via Kaipo Saddle & Te Iringa Track. See the ignimbrite gorge at Cascade Hut. Good place for a swim just below the gorge.

Trip Grades

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	Other Grades:
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs	Family (Fam)
Fit (F):	about 8 hrs	Technical skills (T)
Fitness Essential (FE):	over 8 hrs	

BWD = Best weather day of a weekend

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips usually 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, over-trousers, 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.

Overdue Trips

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone Martin Lawrence 357 1695 or Graeme Richards 353 6227.

New Members

Welcome to Simone Watts & Family and to Beki Wurster.

Department of Conservation News

COVID-19 Policy for DOC Visitor Facilities

DoC has made the vaccine pass a requirement for the use of most of their facilities: DOC huts, camping by huts or in DOC campsites either as day visitors, overnight or even a short break at a hut for lunch. People using the facilities are expected to have a pass on them and produce it upon request by a DoC representative.

More details at: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/vaccine-policy-for-doc-visitor-facilities/>



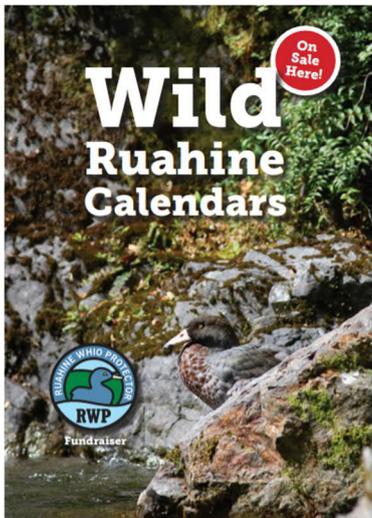
Colenso Hut Repaired and Reopened

DOC has received the Code of Compliance Certificate for the new woodburner, so Colenso hut is now reopened. As well as a new woodburner the work included a reroof, new woodshed, interior and exterior paint. A big thank you to Back Country Trust and volunteers for completing this work!

Weather Forecasts

DOC expanded their mountain forecasts in March this year and there are now forecasts for both Rangiwahia and Sunrise hut which could be very useful for Ruahine trampers. Check out the link below: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/weather/>

Christmas Shopping Ideas



WILD RUAHINE 2022 CALENDAR

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust with the generous support from local volunteers have again produced a "Wild Ruahine" calendar as a fundraiser.

Design is by club member Anthony Behrens (www.swampthing.co.nz), and the beautiful photos have all been donated by local photographers. The cost is \$20.00.

You can order now for early Christmas shopping and help support our local Ruahine conservation project. Calendars will be available in August.

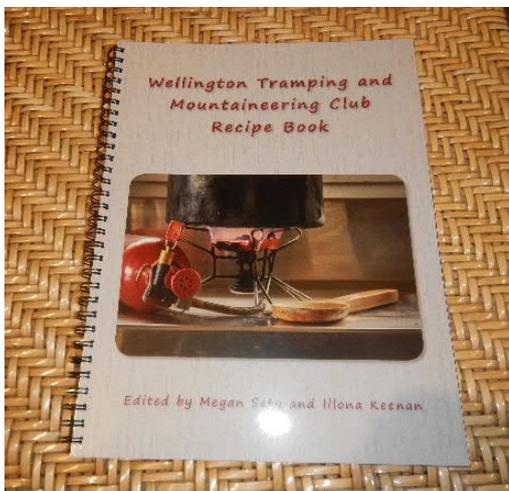
Contact Janet Wilson jwilson@inspire.net.nz

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.



WTMC COOKBOOKS



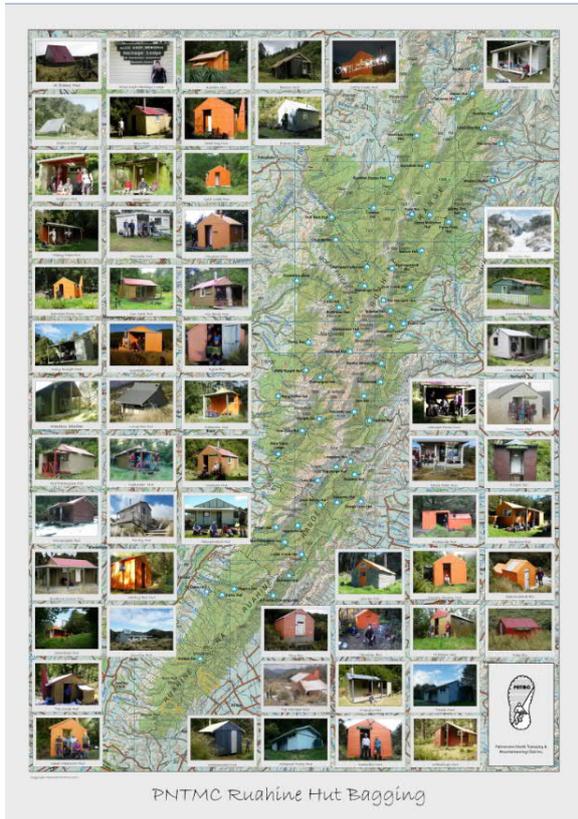
Dear Palmerston North Tramping & Mountaineering Club,

I'm Tony the Vice-President of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club.

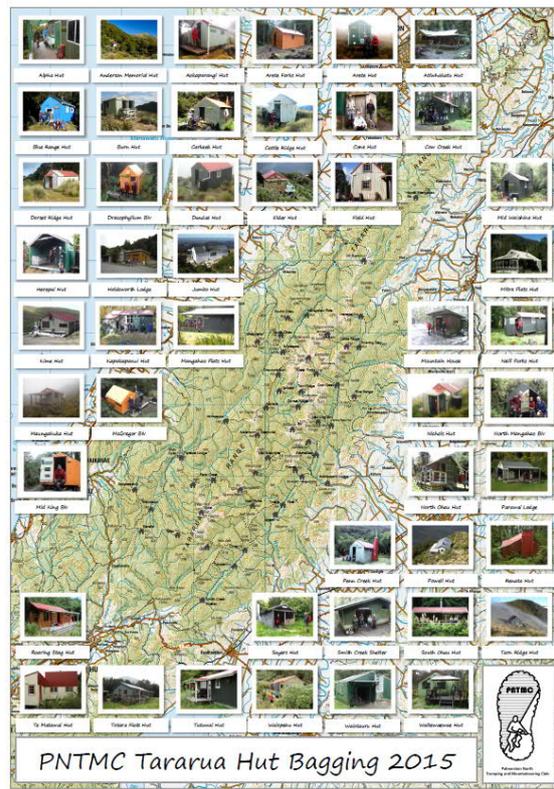
We have tramping cookbooks for sale for \$30 plus \$5 p & p. The books are printed on glossy paper with colour photos. There are 96 recipes - mains, desserts, meals for dehydrating, breakfasts, snacks and Tararua biscuits. Many of the recipes list the ingredients required for group meals from 2-12 people. There are vegetarian and vegan suggestions as well.

If people are interested, they can get in touch with me at vicepresident@wtmc.org.nz

PNTMC HUT POSTERS



Ruahine Hut Bagging Poster



Tararua Hut Bagging Poster

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.

Locator Beacon Registration Database Upgrade

The New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) has updated its locator beacon registration database this year, and is inviting all owners of a PLB registered before 25 February 2021 to check and update their details.

Your previous registration information is still held on file in the event of an activation, but owners moving to the new system will be able to amend the registration information themselves (in the past, you had to email changes through, which had to be manually entered by RCC) at

<https://www.beacons.org.nz/already-registered-a-beacon/>

PNTMC hosted the Interclub Photo Competition this year, with our guest judge Paul Gummer, Senior Lecturer Photography at UCOL. Unfortunately, MUAC was unable to hold their own Club Photo Competition due to COVID restrictions, but we went ahead with entries from both PNTMC and MTSC. There were also no entries from MTSC for TOPICAL or OVERSEAS categories, so these categories were omitted. Paul selected the winning entries in each category, as well as Best Overall from the first-placed images in each category. Paul was unable to attend in person but provided written comments for each category, which were read out by Anne Lawrence, who presented the show on the night.

The high overall standard of entries was reflected in the spread of winners in each Club, with the medal tally slightly favouring MTSC (1st, 2nd, 3rd = 3, 3, 4) versus PNTMC (1st, 2nd, 3rd = 3, 3, 2) but the Best Overall was PNTMC (1st and 2nd) with MTSC 3rd. As Richard Lander from MTSC mentioned later, the clubs won on the night. Thanks to Martin Lawrence for collating the entries and congratulations to all the winners.

ABOVE BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)

- 1st - MTSC - Richard Lander - Ngauruhoe Reflections
- 2nd - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - An Evening in the Dress Circle
- 3rd - MTSC - Royce Mills - Floating Volcanoes

ABOVE BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)

- 1st - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Winter Walk
- 2nd - MTSC - Ken Mercer - Home Time
- 3rd - PNTMC - Malcolm Leary - Descending Nun's Veil

BELOW BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)

- 1st - MTSC - Maria Lombard - Moody Grey
- 2nd - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - The Waiohine River
- 3rd - MTSC - Maria Lombard - Endless Horizon

BELOW BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)

- 1st - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Kaipō Valley Track
- 2nd - MTSC - Louise Lahmert - Where the Dream Takes Us
- 3rd - MTSC - Louise Lahmert - West Coast Sunrise

NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

- 1st - MTSC - Maria Lombard - Camouflage
- 2nd - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Grey Teal
- 3rd - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Tightrope Walker

LONG EXPOSURE

- 1st - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Winter Night at Maungahuka
- 2nd - MTSC - Richard Lander - Milky Way Over Ruapehu
- 3rd - MTSC - Maria Lombard - Moonrise

BEST OVERALL

- 1st - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Winter Walk
- 2nd - PNTMC - Chris Tuffley - Winter Night at Maungahuka
- 3rd - MTSC - Maria Lombard - Camouflage

Each year we acknowledge the "memorable" endeavours of members with our annual awards. This year's awards were prepared by Warren Wheeler and presented by him at our End of Year BBQ on 9 December 2021 at Ashhurst Domain.

Breaking the Ice Award – Stephen Legg, for being the first to brave a Mid-Winter dip in Lake Taupo.

Back to Front Award – Kathy Corner, for having her pants on backwards on the Pouakai Circuit.

Feet First Award – Penny Abercrombie, for having her big toe operated on so she could do more tramping.

Guilt Trip Award – Dave Grant, for not phoning Ian Argyle to carry in waratah stakes up the Naenae track.

Hello Helo Award – Ernie Cook, for duly being rescued from the Oruakeretaki Stream with his injured leg, despite packing up his bright gear after the helicopter crew first spotted him so they had trouble finding him again on the pick-up run.

Last But Not Least Award – Sally Hewson, for being last onto the boat from Motutapu Island after wandering off to find takahe.

Quintessential Stoat Mangler Award (QSM) – Janet Wilson, for services to conservation.

Sitting Down on the Job Award – Roy Rolston, for slipping over in Oruakeretaki Stream after just taking off his fancy crampons for someone else to try.

Tramp or Bust Award – Monika Coles, for buying an old villa to do up when she wasn't tramping.

Weasel Out Award – Roy Rolston, for weaseling out of running his Weasel Creek trip.

White Rabbit Award – Michelle Benton, for being habitually late with her van for departing Milverton Park.

Just Gremlin Award #1 – Malcolm Leary, for just wanting to hire some gear on the day that the Gear Custodian left town.

Just Gremlin Award #2 – Michelle Benton, for just starting to back out of the Stoney Batter carpark at the far end of Waiheke Island and having the van full of fellow trampers suddenly stop dead (much later found to be a fuel filter fault).

Dave Hodges Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Forgetfulness (our most prestigious award) – Warren Wheeler, for not only forgetting to hand over the projector and laptop for the Oooh Aaah Oroua club night, but also forgetting to hand over Gear Custodian duties while he was away.

Greatest Pluck Award – Warren Wheeler for the prompt plucking of eight-year-old Logan-on-his-first-tramp when he slipped completely out of view after falling down a small waterfall in the upper Oroua and then completely aced making the whole incident just another exciting part of the the outdoors adventure.

Tararua Trophy for Best Newsletter Article was presented to Stephen Legg for his humorous and informative recording of the club trips to Purang, and Remutaka Mountain Bike Rail Trail.

Trip Trampers: Janet Wilson (leader), Stephen Legg, Kirsten Olsen, Graham Peters, Rachel Price, Michelle Benton, Bruce Dog

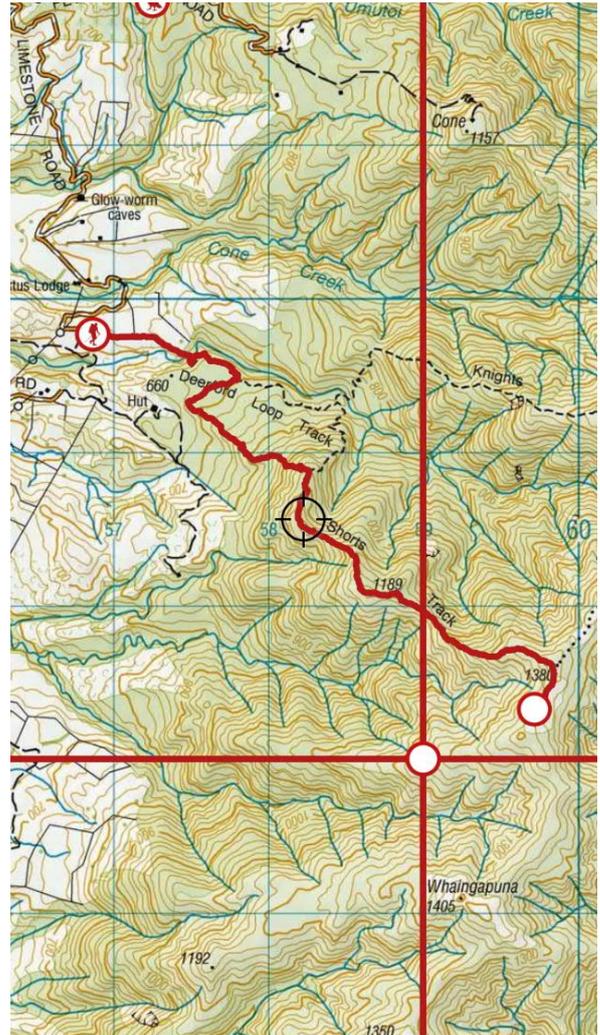
Almost Whaingapuna, but not quite! You may wonder why?

Gathering at Janet and Graham's northern estate (the shed) in the Ruahines on Friday evening, we set off early on a bright and windless but cool Saturday morning, driving past the nearby Glow worm caves to Limestone Road end, where we started the tramp from about 560m. At first the track - part of the Deerford Loop - was easy going. We passed some fascinating tangled tree roots in a cutting before crossing a stream, where most - but not all - of us managed to keep our feet dry. The track then divided. We took the rather steeper Shorts Track, heading uphill in beautiful native bush, passing small remnants of wet snow, aiming to reach the summit of Whaingapuna high point (1405m).

All went well until we came out of the bush line onto the tops, where we found a strong biting wind with driving drizzle in heavy mist. After about 20 minutes of dismal cold tramping towards our goal - the Whaingapuna high point - we easily, quickly and mutually decided that to persist in such conditions could be dangerous, so from the relative lee of a small tarn, we turned about and headed back to the relative shelter of the trees (though Bruce Dog seemed keen to carry on).

Thereafter the return trip was in light airs, warmer and generally easy tramping. We returned to 'the shed' by early afternoon for a collegial beer, cuppa tea and some biscuits, before all heading home.

All in all, it was a very good outing, with a good reminder of the potential hazards that can unexpectedly arise when tramping in our locality. We were happy with the decision to turn-about, having reached *almost Whaingapuna*.



Michelle, Bruce Dog, Graham, Kirsten, Janet and Rachel at tarn, waving goodbye to Almost Whaingapuna high point. Photo by Stephen Legg



Heading up above the bushline

On Saturday, the 2nd of October four of us departed Milverton Park to do the Deadman's Loop. Upon arriving at the roadend we made the decision to go up via the Deadman's Track and return via Rangi Hut. This was agreeable to me because I had only ever done the loop in the opposite direction. The conditions were good, with little cloud visible on the tops. As we climbed up through the beech forest we were afforded views of both Taranaki and Ruapehu. We soon got above the bush-line and onto the tops where there was still some snow remaining which was cool for me.

As we walked Warren taught me some new plant names such as dracophyllum and celmisia, the mountain daisy. After some time climbing, we reached the top of Mangahuaia (1583m) and stopped for lunch. We had splendid views along the tops and over the greater Manawatu.

We then started descending the ridge towards Rangiwahia Hut in good spirits borne of pleasant company and favourable conditions. We stopped in at Rangi for a break and then continued onwards to the carpark. Once back at the car we headed homeward, content from a lovely day of walking. Thanks to Warren for organising the trip and to Robin and Lynette for being good companions.

We were Brendon, Warren, Robin, and Lynette.



Palmy under cloud thattaway.



Descending from Mangahuaia



After calling off the planned Tararua section, I decided on a two-day lower level one instead, namely the Makahika/Burtton's Track. Having led this section before, I thought it would be good to do it from Levin northwards this time. After putting it out there, three other members were keen, so I set about making a plan. I needed two cars, one for the finish point and one to get us to the start. Monika was on board to pick up Shana while I picked up Blair and we arranged to meet

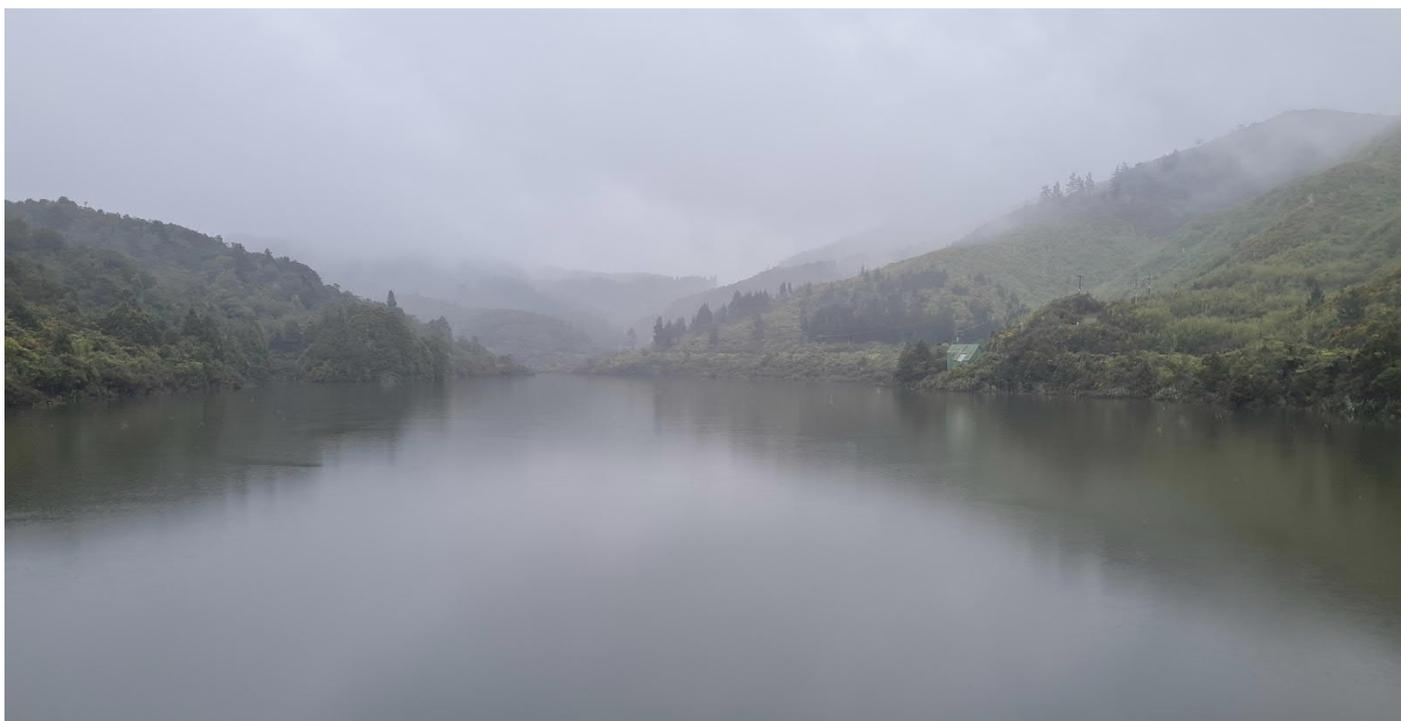
at the start, Scott's Road just south of PN around 8.15am. After meeting each other, Monika followed me to end of the road and parked up her car. We then all piled into my Corolla and drove back to the main road taking in some amazing local history and grand views over the Manawatu then headed for Levin and parked at the end of Gladstone Road, the start of the Makahika Track. The weather was fine with light winds, but the forecast was for incoming afternoon showers.

We set off just after 10, making slow progress at first before getting into gear. Monika saw what looked like a cave about 5 mins in and she couldn't resist checking it out. Reporting back her only find was a decomposing cattle beast that had died there, perhaps getting itself stuck or something. Further on we passed two older women who were trekking in to meet some people they knew doing the trail. Soon after that we passed a designated campsite with a plaque commemorating the track's opening by former prime minister, Helen Clark, in Feb 2008. The track then continues up beside the Makahika stream following an old tram line route. Leaving the stream, we had a steady climb up to Archey's Lookout but before getting there we met an older TA trekking couple. They turned out to be the people the two women were walking in to meet. We stopped for a quick chat and confirmed they had a welcoming party ahead. From this point we climbed up to the highest point of the track, planning to take in lunch at the lookout. However, as we climbed the weather turned murky and a fine mist turned into a light drizzly rain, although it wasn't so cold. Some of us put on raincoats but I decided not to, as I thought it wasn't that bad and I would only get wet from inside out. The Horowhenua Lookout is reputed to offer good views on a good day but when we arrived, we were very disappointed as the only view we could see was fog! Descending to the Mangahao road seemed to take ages and now the track was a bit wet and slippery in places. Once reaching the road the rain had eased but was still very foggy. We passed the Mangahao No 3 Dam and Reservoir before connecting on to the old Tokomaru road which led us on to the Tokomaru shelter and our night-stop by around 4.30pm.

The shelter is essentially a basic, covered-in, corrugated iron shed with a concrete floor, a sleeping platform, a table and a few chairs and not much else. There is a good natural water supply nearby and a good long drop toilet. We were surprised to see another TA trekker already there who was going the same

way ahead of us. We were all pretty wet and now a bit cold also, so with modesty out the window we all stripped off, fished out and put on some warm dry clothes. Once that was done we cooked up a hot brew, pumped up our air mattresses and claimed a spot on the sleeping platform. The TA trekker has already spread his gear about not expecting to have any visitors sharing his space for the night as this had been his experience to date elsewhere. He was a fit-looking, middle-aged guy from Wellington taking time out and had been walking parts of the trail as he could for some time in amongst the covid restrictions that have been causing problems with other trekkers trying to start the trail this season in the far north. We had some interesting discussions with him about his experience of learning how to travel light. I recall he had managed to get his pack weight down to about 7 to 8 kg including a light tent. He had seen others with even lighter loads, but he said skimping too much compromises safety and comfort and is too stressful.

Then just before dark another TA trekker, a woman on her own from Christchurch, in her fifties I would say, turned up. She arrived fairly wet also, after not realizing there was a shelter here at all. She said she was planning to tent it somewhere. Unpacking she added to the gear now scattered all around as she slotted into the now-limited space and claimed her spot on the sleeping platform. It was just after 8 pm (very early for me) when everybody had had some dinner and climbed into their sleeping bags. With the sleeping platform full, there wasn't much room between us, which ensured a cuddly night. With a full house it wasn't cold, but if it was frosty outside I think it would be a different story. I lay awake for some time listening to the noisy air mattresses as others wrestled around. For me it was a long night, but I did manage to get some sleep in the end and as for snoring there was some, but not too bad. Mind you I am not immune to rattling the old tonsils myself sometimes, but of course I seldom know that. I don't recall receiving any pokes or shakes so I must have been ok. Arh!! I keep forgetting to pack some ear plugs.



Day 2

The next morning the weather was very misty but at least it wasn't raining. The trekker guy packed up early and headed off while the rest of us got on the trail around 8. I invited the woman on her own to walk with us, but she preferred to continue alone and went on ahead of us. We later talked about her, with some concerns about her welfare in terms of her intentions and experience. Some things about her, her gear, and the way she acted was a bit odd. The trail from here continues along the route of an old horse and cart track built by Jim Burtton 100 years ago and now known as Burtton's Track.

Following the Tokomaru River, Burton's track was easy going winding its way along the river terraces before finally arriving at Burtons original homestead site. The track then continues to follow the stream crossing it several times before finally leaving it for good. The stream itself was running surprisingly low and clear considering we had some rain, but I figured it was largely only drizzle so had little effect on stream levels. The climb up from the stream was steady for a good hour or so and tested our fitness. Blair struggled a bit with annoying back pain which was a concern as he was hoping this trip would put him in good shape for his upcoming around Mt Taranaki trip. After reaching the fence that separated DOC land and council owned Gordon Kerr Pine Forest it was an easy downhill trek on a gravel forest road to Motorimu Whare and we found the TA woman we were concerned about already there which was reassuring to see she made it through ok. The Whare is a very good shelter and includes a campsite with toilet, all provided especially for TA trekkers by the PN City Council situated about a day's walk from Palmerston North city. At this point my feet were killing me and it was good to take a break and relieve the pain. I later figured my long time fungal infected feet had flared up again and it reminded me to do something about it. From the Whare it's just a 40-minute walk to Scott's Road end and Monika's car. We arrived there midafternoon. With plenty of time available it was back to our starting point to pick up my car. All done and dusted, we were back in Palmy not long after 5.

Leading this trip was easy and it was made so with great company. It was a pleasure to have Blair, Shana and Monika join me to take on this northbound TA section. I will try again to schedule the famous Tararua southbound section sometime soon in the new year so be sure to look out for it to be in for another TA adventure.

Waitahinga Trails – Birding Sunday 31st October 2021 Report: Nicola Wallace Photo: Stephen Legg



PNTMC makes history, as we observe the Rifleman at Waitahinga Trails for the first time ever. No-one has ever observed the Rifleman here before. Read on for more details!

Nine of us travelled to the trails carpark in a convoy of three cars. I travelled with Stephen and Kirsten, and our excitement started just past Kai Iwi, on East Rangitautau Rd when we spotted a sulphur crested cockatoo sitting in a tree. Very wary, he flew off as soon as he saw the car, but we all stopped and had a

look for him anyway. The drive is long, and it was a pleasure to get out and stretch on this cool, damp morning.

We set off from the cars at 10am, heading up a forestry road briefly before coming to the trails start point – where there's a really good map and directions. It was very quiet; we were the only people around. A solitary falcon was spotted in the distance, and a Long Tailed Cuckoo shrieked from nearby. Stephen gave us a briefing, telling us that as birds can be very hard to spot in the bush, we would be largely identifying them by their calls. Bird watching should be called bird observing, or just birding.

Indeed, the birds were hard to spot, so it was very much a birding-by-listening experience.

Early on the calls of whitehead and chaffinch predominated. We stopped and started many times, and as it was a cold morning, I kept plenty of layers on. The walk was really interesting, with plenty of variety. Pines and open areas gradually changed to rimu, rata and other typical forest trees. The tracks were very good, but wet and slippery. Several times we spotted goats in the bush.

At one point we descended to a bush area thick with vines. I heard the very high pitched call of a rifleman, and we all stopped. Some of our group spotted the rifleman, try as I did, I couldn't spot it.

It was a confirmed observation, which was very exciting, especially for Stephen and Kirsten, as far as they knew there were none in here.

Serenaded by kingfishers, both calling and screeching, we reached the dam close to 1pm. Lunchtime! By now it was hot and sunny, and a real pleasure to lunch by the lake, watching the swallows zipping round and round over the water. Once we were walking again, Stephen tested our bird sound identification skills. The group was really getting to grips with recognising calls. It was a long walk back along Harry's Ridge, and listening gradually gave way to more sociability, and there was more chatter amongst us. Sometimes the bush was sparse, and the track took an abrupt direction change, so we'd backtrack to the previous marker and find the right way. Just as well the tracks were well marked. Later we came across large rimu and rata trees – one called the "Hug Tree", so I hugged it.

Once on the Rimu Track, the path was often criss-crossed by old fence wire, and soon after that a kamikaze bug flew straight into my left eye. Stephen kindly poured water into my eye, and was able to get the bug out. Soon after that, we stopped and did a 5 minute bird count in a large clearing. Very few birds here, many more in the bush. A walk through a pine area got us back to the cars at 4.30pm. Everyone had enjoyed their day.

Thanks to Stephen for all the driving, and for the others for their good company. We were: Stephen Legg (trip leader), Kirsten Olsen, Shana Dooley, Ernie Cooke, Betty Huang, Sally Hewson, Duncan Hedderley, Nicola Wallace, and Xin (Michael) Zhang.

Bird sightings on this trip:

26 bird species were heard or seen on the Waitahinga Trails: Paradise Shelduck, NZ Falcon, Tui, Bellbird, NZ Pigeon (Kereru), Shining Cuckoo, Long Tailed Cuckoo, Rifleman, North Island Robin, Tomtit, Grey Warbler, NZ Fantail, Silvereye, Whitehead, Sacred Kingfisher, Welcome Swallow, Eastern Rosella, Australian Magpie, Sulphur-crested cockatoo, Blackbird, Thrush, Dunnock, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch.



PNTMC Newsletter
December 2021 -
January 2022

- Trip reports
- Interclub Photo competition results
- Upcoming events

Send articles to Michelle Benton,
the newsletter editor at mchl1291@gmail.com

Find us on facebook

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Get out and about with us!

Send to
PNTMC
PO Box 1217
Palmerston North

PNTMC Contacts

President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Vice President	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Secretary	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Webmaster	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Membership Enquiries	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Gear Custodian	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Newsletter Editor	Michelle Benton	027 355 2532
Trip Co-ordinator	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Beginner Tramps	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Snowcraft Programme	Dieter Stalman	027 450 9460