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## Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

[www.pntmc.org.nz](http://www.pntmc.org.nz)

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

### Newsletter August 2022

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*Stoat trappers stop off at Awatere Hut, Ruahine Forest Park.*

#### Club Nights

*Club nights are generally held on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Quakers Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15pm for meeting start at 7.30pm. All welcome.*

#### **11 August 2022**

#### **Te Araroa Update**

#### **Dave Grant**

Te Araroa Manawatu Trust looks after the Te Araroa Trail as it passes through the Manawatu from Levin to Bulls via Palmerston North and Feilding. The trail includes bush tracks, urban footpaths, shared pathways and roadside verges, so presenting a variety of challenges in terms of maintenance, monitoring, development and promotion. Come along and find out from Dave about the Trust's current priorities – you may have some suggestions.

#### **Tuesday 16 August 2022**

#### **Interclub Quiz**

#### **MUAC**

7.00pm at MUSA lounge, Massey concourse. For a fun night out, join our club team(s) at the annual quiz between MTSC, PNTMC and MUAC. MUAC is hosting this year, with themes of Tramping, International, NZ, General Trivia, Food & Drink, and Flora & Fauna. Prizes for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd teams..

#### **25 August 2022**

#### **Club Photo Competition**

#### **Martin Lawrence**

See Notices for details. Winners from the club photo competition go through to the Interclub Photo Competition.

## Upcoming Trips

**6 or 7 August 2022 Stanfield Hut E Woody Lee 0210 444 552**

This trip will run on the best weather day of the weekend.

An easy tramp to the eastern side of the Ruahines. We will start from Tamaki West Rd and follow the Holmes Ridge track and an unmarked riverbed route to the hut. After lunch we return the same way. We will leave from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

**6-7 August 2022 Leon Kinvig Hut M Janet Wilson 06 329 4722**

LKH had a new wood fire installed in May to replace the terrible smokey open fire. For those of us that have spent time in the cold smoky hut this should be a great improvement and one that I am keen to try out. We will walk in to the hut via the Apiti track which starts behind Norsewood. It is 5-6 hours to the hut. We will return the same way on Sunday. This route is only above the bush line for a short time so should be ok in most weather. No rivers to cross either and a relatively short climb on Sunday morning. Depart PN 7.30am.

**6-7 August 2022 Snowcraft 3 Instruction Dieter Stalman 027 450 9460**

Note: Snowcraft 2 is a pre-requisite (unless matched by previous equivalent experience). Also you need to attend the pre-course briefing on 3 August. Cost: \$140 for PNTMC members, \$150 for non-members.

**13-14 August 2022 Jumbo Circuit M Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998**

A chance to enjoy a nice hut in the snowy Tararua ranges, with any luck. This circuit involves an easy walk along the Atiwhakatu Track then up into the snow to stay at Jumbo Hut. From there it is about 30 minutes up to Jumbo peak, then across to Mt Holdsworth and down to Powell Hut to see the lightning damage, and return to the Holdsworth carpark. Plan B would be a shorter circuit back down to the Atiwhakatu. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

**14 August 2022 RNZAF Plane Crash Site E/M Roy Rolston 027 476 7188**

We will travel south past Waikanae and make our way into the Tararuas to find the remains of the RNZAF Airspeed Oxford that occurred on 20 Nov 1941. The plane at the time was overdue on a training mission and a massive search was mounted to try find it along with the two pilots but without success. It was finally found a year and half later and two bodies were recovered. The route to the crash site is tracked most of way but not marked so some navigation will be called for. The expected return trip will be around 5 to 6 hours.

Meet Milverton 7am and carpool from there.

**20-21 August 2022 Ringatoto Mt Ruapehu F/T Grant Christian 021 117 6921**

Walk in to Rangipo Hut from the Tukino Road on Friday night and climb the east ridge to Ringatoto on Saturday. Stay at Rangipo Hut again on Saturday night and return to our vehicles on Sunday. If the conditions were unsuitable Saturday but suitable on Sunday we could walk in Saturday afternoon and back out Sunday afternoon. That will mean a longer day on Sunday. Please contact Grant at least one week before if you're interested.

**21 August 2022 Rangi Hut E Doug Strachan 06 353 6526**

Come view this Ruahine hut with flush toilets (flush with art work), million-dollar views, situated in a quiet neighbourhood, handy to ski areas, and room to park your helicopter. Yet, it is surprisingly inexpensive. You can live there all year for the cost of an annual hut pass. Departing Milverton at 8am for the open home.

**27-28 August 2022 Totara Flats Hut E Ernie Cook 027 303 1363**

An easy overnight trip to this serviced hut in the Tararuas. Travelling in from Holdsworth Road end up the Gentle Annie Track via Rocky Lookout. Possibly returning via Mountain House and River Ridge Track. Depart from Milverton Park at 7:30 a.m. Please contact Ernie no later than the Wednesday evening before.

**28 August 2022 Sunrise Hut E/M E Ella Parkinson 027 914 7529**

An easy walk from the North Block road end to the lovely Sunrise Hut in the Ruahines. Hopefully there will be a decent amount of snow around and some great views. Depart Milverton Park at 7:30am.

**3-4 September 2022 Mt Taranaki F/T Grant Christian 021 117 6921**

Stay at Konini Lodge on Friday night and climb to the peak on Saturday via Syme Hut and the south side. Stay at the lodge again Saturday night and travel home on Sunday. The lodge costs \$27 per night. Please contact Grant at least one week before if you're interested.

**4 September 2022 Blue Range Hut E/M Graeme Richards 021 149 8267**

This is a popular "Easy" trip in the eastern Tararuas, well worth the steady uphill walk. Depart 7.30am from Milverton Park.

### **Trip Grading**

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trampler 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	Inst (Instruction)

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 021 149 8267.

## **Notices**

### **PNTMC Photo Competiton 25 August 2022**

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. Placegetters in each category will be entered in the Interclub Photo Competition and the FMC 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

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 2020.

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 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.

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 12 August 2022.

## Trip Reports

**7-8 May 2022**

**Top Gorge**

**Report by Chris Tuffley**

Exploring new huts, routes and ranges is always exciting. But there's also something wonderful about repeatedly returning to the same place, until you come to know it in all its moods and outlooks, like an old friend.

At the start of May I went back in to Top Gorge in the Ruahine to service the upper portion of the whoio protection trapline down the Pohangina River. It was my eleventh visit to the hut, and my tenth entry in the current hutbook, which goes back to 2017. Most of those trips have had a trapping connection; some were with company, others solo. And as I began the short drop into the river at the upper entrance my face broke into a broad smile - the smile of coming home.

Down the narrow winding secret passage of the headwaters I went, past the waterfalls one, two, three, and the pinch that's often the spot where you first get your feet wet - but on this day the river level was low, and I easily slipped through with dry boots. The valley gradually widened, and I reached the major confluence below Rocky Knob where the traps begin.

Sometimes I knew exactly where the next trap would be even before I rounded the bend before it...others I had to fall back on using the GPS and looking for the coloured tape marking their locations. There the pink nylon ribbon I started putting in, in place of the usual plastic flagging tape was a great guide: well over a year later it's still looking almost as good as new - instead of having long since degraded into brittle white scraps. And sixteen traps and a couple of hours later I was bouncing up the steps to the hut and patting it on the side in greeting - "Hi little hut, good to be back!"



I'd seen and heard the usual birds on my way down the valley - tauhou / silvereyes, riroriro / grey warblers, miromiro / tomtits, titipounamu / riflemen, some chaffinches - but today I'd also seen a couple of kārearea too. No whio yet...but after dark I heard rūrū calling, and the whistle of a male whio from the river. Yes! To give myself the best chance of seeing them on Sunday morning I rose early and set off to do the seven downstream traps before breakfast - and was rewarded by encountering the local pair on a pool some bends down. I sat with them a while before

continuing downstream to finish my work.



Indications were it was windy higher up...so instead of going out via the track onto the Ngamoko Range I just did a quick up and back to the bushline on the track to service the traps along it, then went out the biodiversity line to the track along the Longview tops on the other side of the valley. And yep, sure enough it was windy up there...but even as it tried again and again to push me over as I made my way back to Longview, the wind had a touch of the familiar to it, like an old

foe you come to know and respect through repeated engagements - for you can't spend long in these ranges without becoming well acquainted with the wind. Then all that was left was the steep down down the track, the wind gradually lessening as I descended until finally I reached the car in stillness.

Thanks for another great weekend, Top Gorge. See you again –

**24-26 June 2022**

**Matariki at Mataikona**

**Report by Bruce Dog**

Graham and Janet are going away again – I can tell. Janet's packing her wet-suit. Maybe they're going to the beach. Maybe they'll take me. Last time they went they took me to my Aunty Diane's and Uncle Brian's. I'm happy going there but I'd rather go to the beach. Yep, they're taking me.

Not long on the move and we stop and pick up Ernie. I've met him before quite often. They say he's a bus driver with a bit of a grumpy reputation. I don't know, I reckon, as we dogs say "His bark is worse than his bite". Not long and we stop again – probably so Graham can go to the toilet. What about me stuck in the back. Phew, a bit further on they stop where I can go for a bit of a run and the toilet. Quite a bit more driving and they should be stopping for their lunch at some sort of farm park. Yes and there's a car there already. There's some familiar smells here. Could be that tall chap Warren and Robyn. There's a third person too – familiar but not recently. They're putting me on the lead and we're going for a walk. They probably want to meet up. Not far and they seem confused. I can tell them which way to go but they don't listen to me and yes they're going the wrong way. Can't help some people. We don't meet Warren of course so carry on driving. Finally we stop and when I'm let out we're at an old house on a farm, and yes I can smell the sea. They do a quick unpack and then, yippee we're off to the beach. Running around on the sand is almost as much fun as running on snow.

When we come back other people start arriving. Warren and Robyn with the mystery third person Cathy. She used to come out with us but haven't seen her for quite a while. I thought she and John had moved to a hippy commune in Takaka. Stephen and Kirsten turn up – I know them quite well. Stephen's like me, always keen for a bit of meat. Jo and Lawrence turn up a bit later having failed the gate latch IQ test. Mind you, someone always does the gate for me or I have to jump it.

Friday morning, cripes we're up early. Well before dawn and we're off before breakfast down to the beach. I have to say it's a clear morning but with a bit of chill breeze. What are they up to now?

They've stopped and are looking out to sea. Graham's got his binoculars and Stephen and Kirsten have their telescope. There's lots of pointing and excitement with lots of chatter about stars and planets. They all seem pretty pleased. Back for breakfast and about time. I hear that walk word mentioned. Obviously, Ernie and Graham get bored waiting while the others fluff around so head off with me down the beach. They don't seem at all concerned the others don't join us on our blokes only walk. Not long after we get back Roy turns up.



Saturday we're up early again, but luckily we have breakfast before we head off in the vehicles to another beach. This looks exciting, we're climbing up to a lighthouse. It's not a clear morning and again there's a cold breeze. No sunrise to see but then we're off for an exploration. It was fun standing on the edge looking over at the waves crashing onto the reef and there were some great narrow ledges to walk on. Some don't seem keen to have a look over the edge. I don't know why as it's quite exciting with the waves crashing and the spray flying. Back to the vehicles and a short drive to a house here. What's happening now? Janet's getting her wetsuit on. She seems to need Graham to help her fit into it. Some others also put wetsuits on and most of us are off to another part of the beach. They're mad, it's mid-winter and they're going swimming and playing in the waves. They seem to enjoy it. Back to this other house

and while I'm tied up on the deck they're inside feeding their faces. Not long and we're off again. What about an afternoon nap. No, this is more exciting, we're off climbing up a really big hill and what a view from the top - a real precipice.



Not everyone seems keen looking over the edge. Mind you, with only 2 legs they're not as stable as me on 4 and with a low centre of gravity. Part way back down we stop where there's a rock outcrop with a hole through the middle where some of them take turns squeezing through. Janet tries to get me to go through. She's got to be joking, what an exercise in futility when you can just step to the other side. Back down and we head back to the farmhouse for what looks like a feast. Luckily, as an eye dog I've got Graham well trained so later in the evening I just give him the look and he takes me for a walk before I get my dinner.

Sunday morning and it looks like we're heading home. Jo and Lawrence have headed off before we've had breakfast even. Stephen and Kirsten are telling them about an adventure route back by carrying on up the coast which they seem pretty keen on. All very well for them, what about me stuck in my cage in the back with no views. If Graham had his sidecar I could get to enjoy the trip too. Still, mustn't grumble. I'm a lucky dog really as I get to go on a lot of these trips Janet organises. After a stop at Ernie's where I had a run around and Graham and Janet had a cup of tea with Annmaree's home baking, we headed home.

A surprisingly sunny day in the Mākāretu Valley (no raincoats required).

On Sunday, Robert, Blair and I (Heather), newbies to the project and two of us to trapping, led by the very experienced Fiona, headed out to check and rebait the 26 traps on the way to Awatere Hut. Plus as many more traps down the river as we could until the supplies, our enthusiasm or day light ran out.

The information sent out by Anthony in advance used the words “cold” and “slippery” a LOT and suggested bringing three warm tops and a thermos. So we were well prepared, but I for one was a bit nervous about what I’d signed up to.



As it turned out, most of the warm stuff stayed in our packs all day and no one slipped on any river rocks. The one thing that I regretted not bringing was my sunnies! It was blue skies all round when we arrived at the car park and, even though we saw two picture perfect rainbows whilst up on the tops going to and from the hut, the great weather hung around all day. The rain never reached us and the wind only showed up when we were back in the car park changing out of our wet boots.



Fiona shared her vast knowledge of predator control with us as we excitedly checked each trap for dead things, chucked the old bait out and replaced it with fresh eggs, peanut butter and pig fat. We got in our groove and had a slick system down pat after a while. The time passed happily as the sun shone, we found a good selection of stuff in the traps and we wondered where that other spanner was that we were all sure we’d just seen. The new pig fat holders fitted a treat once the nails in the middle of the traps were removed by Fiona’s trusty hammer.

We reached the river and Awatere Hut just in time for a first lunch and a hot drink in the sunshine. Blair bagged the hut and then we set off downstream to find more traps to check, clear and rebait.

The river was low and not as cold as expected. Nice to traipse around in. The recent rain had apparently changed the river’s path quite a bit and, after some bush bashing, we moved a couple of traps further away from the water. We ran out of eggs after 36 traps, and realised that we no longer had a hammer, so it was time for a second lunch by the river.

On the way back up stream we went hunting for an old hut, barely visible from the water, so that we could bag that one too. We also checked out the auto traps in the area and found a hedgehog next to one of them, apparently unusual, proving that the traps do in fact work.

After a quick stop for a group photo shoot at Awatere Hut (you never know when you might want to start hut bagging yourself), it was a hop, skip and a jump back across the river and over the tops back to the car park. The second spanner was found next to one of the traps on the tops (yay), but unfortunately the

yellow hammer is still lost in the bush somewhere despite bashing around looking for it (boo). Something to keep our eyes peeled for next time.

All in all, a great introduction to trapping and to a stunning area of the Ruahines.

Participants were Fiona (leader), Robert, Blair and Heather.

**3 July 2022**

**Warren's Wet Windy Windmill Wander**

**Report by Sally Hewson**

Instead of slobbing in bed at 6am on a wet Sunday like normal people, an intrepid group met at Milverton Park for a mid-winter sunrise wander among the wind turbines.

We drove up the Pahiatua Track and turned left into North Range Road at the top. We drove a couple more km through the dark and fog to a car park. What I had remembered as a pleasant windy track was now more of a gravel motorway due to the windfarm development. It was cold and there was driving rain when we got out of the cars, and I was glad I had remembered to throw in gloves at the last moment. We trudged along in pitch darkness by the light of our headlights, with the fog and weather giving extra mood.

Soon we entered the original track that links the top of the Pahiatua Track with Hall Block Road several km away. We could hear the whump and whoosh of the turbines – quite an atmospheric experience in the dark and fog as you couldn't see them. Warren explained a bit about the history of the windfarm. After awhile it became less black and you could make out the shapes of the turbines. Then slowly dark grey gave away to pale grey. 50 shades of grey later it dawned. The sun was up, but it was on the other side of the clouds.



The track had some lovely big pools of muddy water to skirt around, and some massive ruts caused by 4WD enthusiasts. The rain continued, and Robyn decided to model her latest poncho made of a yellow gossamer type fabric developed by NASA. It was a sensation. Coming out into another gravel area with a turbine we met a maintenance worker in a ute. He was surprised to see walkers..."You guys must be crazy!" he exclaimed. We continued along until another gate. Here was a turbine we could get right up next to, and marvel at its massive size.



It was time for a break so we retreated down off the track and into the shelter of the trees. Everyone pulled out their thermoses and nibbles, and Warren surprised us by producing a cooker and frying up some bacon and eggs. The bacon and egg buns he passed around to everyone went down perfectly. Then it was time to turn around and walk back to the cars. The fog had cleared and although it was still gloomy we had a few views.

An hour or so later we had returned to the cars, and were back in Palmy by lunchtime.

On the trip were: Warren & Robyn, Monika, Ernie & Annmaree, Fiona and Sally.

I was down to lead an overnight trip to Powell Hut. I knew the hut had to be booked for summer trips, but thought I had better check whether it has to be booked in the winter school holidays too. Turns out booking is required all year round, but the hut was actually closed due to storm damage. Plan B, nip up to Rangi. Decided to make it a Sunday day trip rather than an overnighter because Maho just got back from Japan on Friday, and the family abandoning her the next day might not be the best welcome home.

Preparing for the trip, the most essential item was a packet of face masks, so we wouldn't risk being banned from the ice cream shop on the way home.

Next, have the kids out-grown their boots again? Conan's were too tight, so I lent him what I call my "Universal Boots". This is a pair of boots that I have lent several people and they fit everyone, regardless of foot size. I should actually have these boots reverse engineered and mass produced, but I'll probably never get around to it. One day they will fall apart and thereafter only exist as part of PNTMC lore.

The 5 of us fitted into my car, helping to lower global oil demand. After a bit of a chinwag, Brendon started reading "Dark Matter & Dark energy" by Brian Clegg. Turns out that his job takes him on a daily commute, including around Rangiwahia on occasion, and he has developed a habit of reading on the way out and nodding off on the return trip at the end of the day. We saw this play out on the driving parts of the trip.

There was no snow in the Rangi car park. I decided to leave my ice axe in the car, but Conan wanted to take it because it was "cool". We got to the hut in an hour and 37 mins. There was zero snow, but the air was quite cool, having dropped to minus six overnight. I offered Brendon a hot drink and asked him if he'd like the sachet of hot chocolate, the caramel latte, or the vanilla latte. He chose the caramel latte. A few minutes later, I came back outside and asked if he wanted to change to hot chocolate that is best before 2023, or run with the caramel latte that was best before 2019. He stuck with the caramel latte. Good thing he didn't choose the vanilla one, which was best before 2017. I blame it on that mysterious invisible dark matter that makes up 95% of the universe.

When packing my pack, I wasn't sure if the gas canister for my cooker was full enough to boil water for 5 cups of hot drinks. I decided taking a spare gas cannister up to the hut and back would be a good idea, especially as Minami is a teenager now and can carry it up and down for me. I also weighed the part-empty gas cannister before and after the trip and can report that exactly 25g of gas was enough to boil 6 paper cups worth of water (starting as a liquid at a few degrees Celsius). This will help me to gauge, in future, whether or not a cannister retains sufficient gas for a brew. I just need to know the gross weight of the new canister.



We met a couple at the hut who were also from P.N. Chris told me they are thinking of joining the PNTMC, which I urged them to do. Then he told me he works for DoC and I said it was lucky I didn't bring the dog then. He was a good sort, and we talked about some interesting characters we've met on tramps. He actually met an American guy at Roaring Stag Hut who had carted in equipment to brew beer. The fresh water made a great brew, and the guy invited a bunch of friends to party at the hut, and after that they all helped carry out his equipment.

Chris was also able to shed light on exactly why Powell Hut is closed. The hut, which has solar panels, was struck by lightning, and it was a good thing nobody was in the hut when it happened, as that would have been a hair-raising experience. As part of Chris' job, he will install a lightning rod at that hut.

Eventually, we made a lightning descent back to the car park. The girls pointed an iPhone at me and asked how I found the tramp (pretty good), and how I'd rate it out of ten. I took a mark off for no snow, and another because my boots hurt my toes going downhill, so 8 out of 10. However, the girls used an app with a crying filter when they recorded my response, so it looked like I was sobbing. What will they come up with next?

I've just bought some new boots, one size bigger than my usual shoe size, from Manawatu Hunting and Fishing's winter sale. According to them, you always buy one size bigger. Also, in the shop (wearing thick tramping socks), you lace up the boots in the usual way, then tap the toe of the boot on the floor to ram your toes towards the front of the boot. Then put your foot flat on the floor. You should now be able to just fit two fingers between your heel and the boot (so one finger thickness). Supposedly, your toes will not get rammed into the front of the boot when tramping down steep hills.

I asked Conan if the Universal Boots hurt his feet and he said they were just fine.

Then there was an incident in Cheltenham where 5 suspicious looking people wearing masks invaded a dairy.

We were Brendon Corner, Natsume Macdonald, and 3 Strachans (Minami, Conan, Doug).

**23 July 2022**

**Te Araroa Trail from Old West Road to Greens Road**

**By Dave Grant**

I was wearing two hats here, figuratively speaking, but this trip gave me the opportunity to lead a tramp about as close to Palmerston North as you can get, and also check out this section of the Te Araroa trail as part of my Te Araroa Manawatu trustee role. Too good an opportunity to miss I thought, and six people were happy to accompany me on what turned out to be a most enjoyable day.

For a start the weather was fine, although chilly, but a welcome change from the sodden days earlier in the week.

We left Milverton Park at 8.15am for the Old West Road Turitea Bridge carpark and were boots on the ground by 8.30am. Hard to beat that for travelling time! Had a chat to the team for a start. Look I said, it's about 20 km there and back so maybe 4 hours. We will have lunch where we turn around on the Greens Road bypass.

So off we set. At first the trail follows a pathway running past a number of small holdings, each with their collection of dogs yapping at our presence, before dropping down to a lower terrace via a new series of steps to avoid the dangerous hill section of road. Shortly after this we had hoped to continue off road for most of the lower valley by following the Green Corridors, a series of reserve strips following the Turitea much of the way up the valley. These reserve strips are cared for by the Green Corridor Volunteers who are trapping pests and planting native shrubs and trees to eventually provide a link between the forest of the Tararua, and Bledisloe Park, Keeble Bush and the Manawatu riverside plantings through Palmerston North. Keep up the good work people!! We had the pleasure of seeing piwakawaka, tauhou and several kereru in the bush sections of the Green Corridors, and a number of pairs of putangitangi in adjacent paddocks. However as a result of recent flooding we decided to miss the first section where the start was still covered in standing water (bit soft for trampers eh), and follow the road to the start of the Ngahere Green Corridor. You need to keep alert on this piece of road, so busy with cars passing by.

The Ngahere Green Corridor is notable for its series of steps taking the track down terrace banks, and for a substantial wooden bridge across the Turitea. Much of the route is through regenerating bush. I was

impressed with the general condition of the track with few wet or muddy stretches despite the recent weather.

After the Ngahere section it is back on the road but much less busy now and soon to become a gravel track sidling around through bush with banks covered in fern and purple shaded parataniwha, and the occasional small waterfall dropping down, as it climbs to join Greens Road. At this point the country opens up into pasture covered hills and the road winds steadily up to the ridgetop past occasional homesteads tucked away in the valley below. We weren't the only people using this section however, with a number of mountain bikers passing by - mostly grey haired like me!



So now we had reached the final outward leg of our tramp, with the new Greens Road Bypass track to take us off road most of the way to Kahuterawa Road. This 1.5km section has been developed by PNCC to avoid mixing trampers with heavy windfarm construction traffic. It passes through manuka reversion and provides some great views out over the southern Manawatu.

By this stage it was about 11.30, so having missed a tea break the consensus was for a slightly early start for lunch, decision reinforced by a picnic table being nearby. At this point I was also getting a hard time about

my time estimate for the trip. Three hours to do the outward leg wasn't going to leave much of a window to get back to the vehicles at Old West Road within four hours. In my defence I argued that my planning had been seriously undermined by a determined effort by the majority to talk constantly the whole way, covering a diverse range of subjects from the weather (of course), the sport of powerlifting, volunteering on Raoul Island, the price of real estate, to life in Czechoslovakia etc, etc, etc.

Anyway, we duly enjoyed a lunch in the sun, and then retraced our steps back to civilization, with the same level of conversation, consequently taking about the same time out despite most of this last leg of the journey being downhill! So roughly a six hour round trip. At this point June gave us a reality check, saying she used to run the Turitea/Kahuterawa/Old West Road loop in one and a half hours in her younger days !! Can you believe it!!

Anyway, a most enjoyable day was then finished off with a cup of coffee at The Globe, Summerhill Shopping Centre.

We were: Roy Rolston, Monica Coles, Shaan Mocke, June Wirihana, Clare Hopkins, Mike Thorogood, Dave Grant.



## PNTMC Newsletter August 2022

- Interclub Quiz – MUAC Tuesday 16 Aug
- , PNTMC Photo Comp 25 Aug
- Trip reports: Solo Stoat Trapping to Top Gorge, Matariki with Bruce Dog, Ruahine Rainbows, Ranges and Rats, Wet Windy Windmill Wander, Rangī Hut without snow, TA Old West Road to Greens Rod

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