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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 October 2023

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*Couch potato pic by Harley Betts– 1<sup>st</sup> equal in Topical section of PNTMC Photo Competition 2023*

### 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.*

**12 October 2023**

**Mount Sili Sili - Samoa**

**Janet Wilson**

Janet organised a club trip to Western Samoa in June this year, not only cycling, kayaking and snorkling, but also an overnight trip up to camp at around 1500m on Mount Sili Sili, the highest peak on Savai'i (1858m).

**26 October 2023**

**Everest Base Camp – Part 2**

**Roy Rolston/Kathy Corner**

Roy and Kathy will give a joint presentation on the second 10 days of their 20-day trek to Everest Base Camp. Roy will have more videos and Kathy will share her point of view along with some of her photos as well.

## Upcoming Trips

**30 September 2023                      Burttons Track                      E/M                      Richard Lockett 06 323 0948**

A Saturday trip to walk this forest section of the local Te Araroa Trail that links Scotts Road to Mangahao Road for those SOBO heading south to the Tararua section behind Levin. We will walk in for lunch at Burtton's Whare/Shelter and return to Scotts Road. Depart Milverton Park 7.45am.

**7-8 October 2023                      Ngauruhoe Plus                      M/T                      Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998**

Our traditional ascent of the west face of Ngauruhoe to celebrate the 1995 Grandstand View of an eruption of Mt Ruapehu. Optional to do this as a day trip if that suits better (leaving PN at 6.00am.). Plan A for an overnight would have us staying at Sue's place with a day trip to Lake Surprise or just half way to explore the silica rapids and split rock fountain. Depart Friday night or Saturday to suit.

**8 October 2023                      Maharahara                      M                      Verity Elder                      021 260 1885**

Second try for this cancelled July trip. From Opawe Road (just before the Highland Youth Camp) the track climbs first through farm land followed by forest before reaching leatherwood and the Maharahara Peak. Fun fact: the southern Ruahine Ranges has the largest, unbroken mass of leatherwood in New Zealand. Depart Milverton Park 7:30am

**14-15 October 2023                      North Ohau Hut                      E/M                      Roy Rolston                      027 476 7188**

Get ready for summer tramping with this trip up the North Branch of the Ohau River. Starting from Poads Road carpark we cross farmland and then sidle through lowland forest above the Ohau Gorge. After an hour or so we reach the river itself and criss cross our way upstream to the confluence with the north branch. The hut is another hour or so upriver. Expect more than wet feet! Options for a harder trip involve a loop up to South Ohau Hut if keen.

**15 October 2023                      Field Hut                      M                      Robyn Boocock                      06 356 1998**

This trip from Otaki Forks takes us up to the oldest club hut in the Tararuas, on the bushline below Tabletop, which is another half hour further on for those keen to bag another peak. As the road is still closed by a slip we still have a one hour walk each way to get to Otaki Forks and the start of the trip proper. Depart Milverton Park at 7.30am.

**21-23 October 2023                      Summer Kime                      M/F                      Ernie Cook                      027 303 1363**

Labour Weekend Tararuas trip. We left a few points behind on our winter Kime expedition. This loop from Otaki Forks could be done clockwise or anti-clockwise. We will be leaving after work on the FRIDAY!

**22 October 2023                      Manawatu Gorge by Moonlight                      E                      Verity Elder 021 260 1885**

*Rescheduled from 24 September.* Woodville end of the Manawatu Gorge Walk to the Windmill Lookout or Centennial Lookout, with the option of returning via Balance Bridge. The aim with this trip is to walk in during twilight and return in the dark, gaining some experience with tramping with headlamps. Bring supper rather than lunch and don't forget your head lamp! Depart Milverton Park 4pm. Could go on either Saturday or Sunday depending on interest.

**28-29 October 2023                      TBA**

If anyone wants to lead an overnight trip this weekend or a day trip on Sunday please phone Warren 06 356 1998. Keep an eye out for any trip details on our website.

**28 October 2023                      Arapuke Circuit                      E/M                      Richard Lockett                      06 323 0948**

This Saturday trip will allow us to explore a new section of MTB track that has been constructed

above the Kahuterawa Stream to complete a circumference of the Arapuke MTB Park.

**4 November 2023 Stanfield Hut E Woody Lee 0210 444 552**

An easy Saturday 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.

**4-5 November 2023 TBA**

If anyone wants to lead an overnight trip this weekend or a day trip on Sunday please phone Warren 06 356 1998. Keep an eye out for any trip details on our website.

### **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**

### **Snowy Peek**

A snow-covered Tararua peak appears in winter on the southern horizon, when looking south from high ground in Palmy, especially Kelvin Grove heights. Queries have been made about its name. Is it Hector? Mitre? Dundas? Do you know?

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### **HUTS AND HIGH POINTS SCRABBLE CHALLENGE**

#### **Top 10 with 3 months to go**

<b>Club Member</b>	<b>Scrabble</b>	<b>Bonus</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Ernie	176	222	398
Chris T	220	154	374
Elly	262	49	311
Blair	142	160	302
Monika	141	153	294
Janet	143	146	289
Heather	129	99	228
Warren	77	106	183
Adam	98	29	127
Kirsten	67	60	127

## **PNTMC Photo Competition Results**

A fantastic effort from club members with well over 100 entries! Results are below. Winners go through to the interclub competition to be hosted by MUAC on Monday 2 October. The top two in each of the categories we share with FMC will be entered in FMC's photo competition.

Many thanks to Chris Tuffley for judging. Judging would have been challenging with so many great shots. Well done to everyone, with special congratulations to winners.

### Above Bush no human element

- 1 Heather Knox: Rainbow above Herepai Hut
- 2 Roy Rolston: Classic Mt Ngauruhoe
- 3 Harley Betts: Ngauruhoe from Mangatepopo valley



### Above Bush with human element

- 1 Martin Lawrence: Mataketake Hut
- 2 Warren Wheeler: Breezy on Mt Holdsworth
- 3 Dieter Stalman: Into the blue



### Below Bush no human element

- 1 Harley Betts: Tongaporutu Sunset
- 2 Harley Betts: MacKay Falls Milford Track
- 3 Harley Betts: Three Sisters Tongaporutu



### Below Bush with human element

- 1 Harley Betts: Starry dawn Aeroplane Island Kapiti
- 2 Elly Arnst: Cone Hut
- 3 Roy Rolston: Dive Rock Waitotara River



Long Exposure



- 1 Harley Betts: Igloos under stars on Tongariro
- 2 Harley Betts: Igloos at sunset Mt Tongariro
- 3 Harley Betts: Moonrise Upolu Samoa

Topical



- 1= Elly Arnst: Dog Nap While Kettle Boils
- 1= Harley Betts: Couch Potato (see front cover)
- 3 Harley Betts: Master Igloo Builders

Natural History



- 1= Heather Knox: Fungi found on Sledge Track
- 1= Martin Lawrence: Roof Kea
- 3 Verity Elder: Fungi on mossy forest floor, Kepler Track



Overseas



- 1 Roy Ralston: Beautiful Namche Bazaar Nepal
- 2 Roy Ralston: Views to Renjo Pass - Nepal
- 3 Elly Arnst: Stone Bridge

Judge's choice for Best of Show

Martin Lawrence: Mataketake Hut

**Trip Reports**

**3 September 2023**

**A Frame & Stanfield Huts**

**Report by Blair Petersen**

Brendon, Heather, Roy, Janet and myself (Blair) started from the Tamaki West Road end at approx 8.30am in fine warm weather, and enjoyed the zig-zag track up to A Frame. It was nice to not go straight up a ridge line for a change.

After approx 2 hours of enjoying the up-hill, we arrived at the hut. The cloud had lifted by this time and the views to the east were awesome, as usual.



This hut was extensively renovated in 2020 - 2021, and now has two bunks with mattresses, as well as a sleeping platform and wood burner. It's a little cold inside (only 2 small windows), but is now in great condition again after years of neglect and abuse.



The maori name of Te Ao Tūpare translates as 'realm of the leatherwood' (very fitting for the ridges of the southern Ruahine Range).

From there its along Takapari Rd and down the track to Stanfield Hut. At the point where you leave the road and rejoin the track, we were treated to views to the East and West / North-west, including Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe.

Thanks to the recent dry weather, the usual mud wasn't nearly as bad as it can be, but once you get off the wide road, the track is getting very over-grown (but still quite useable and easy to follow).



Stanfield Hut has also been renovated recently, and is a great place to enjoy lunch on a warm sunny day.

From Stanfield, the way out is to follow the river for approx 1/2 km, keeping a lookout for the big orange triangle on the true left that marks the start of the ascent to the Holmes Ridge track. After Cyclone Gabrielle and a wet winter, the river has changed a fair bit since I was last there, with a lot of gravel in the river and side streams. We arrived back at the car approx 6 hours after leaving (I didn't have my watch on, so its quite likely that I'm telling porkies on that).

Another great trip, in great weather, with a great group of people.

**1-3 September 2023**

**Ringatoto Revisited**

**Report by Grant Christian**

My only trip to Ringatoto was with Terry Crippen in 2009. It was one of my early trips after having completed Snowcraft and remember it as a great day out with some testing terrain for a novice. I have wanted to complete the climb again and attempted it last year but we didn't get all the way.

This year four of us headed into Rangipo Hut on Friday afternoon while Caitlin and Karl walked in later in the evening. The DoC website had said that there was no firewood at the hut so we all had extra gear to keep warm in the hut. On arrival at the hut we were pleased to see some large bags of firewood had been delivered and inside there was already a fire going.

To give us more chance of reaching the peak this time we were up around 5 a.m. on Saturday morning. Shortly after 6 a.m. we were all kitted up and headed up the east ridge that leads to the peak. The ridge rises slowly for a while and we made good progress. Then the climb steepened and we had to negotiate a few rocky sections followed by an easy flat section before the climb became more serious. We continued along the ridge with a range of snow conditions from hard snow to soft wind-blown snow and sun softened snow. The fall into the valleys both sides meant this wasn't a place you would want to slide. A little further on we came to a short rocky section to climb. Some of the more confident climbed up and then set up a rope for some of the others to be belayed up.

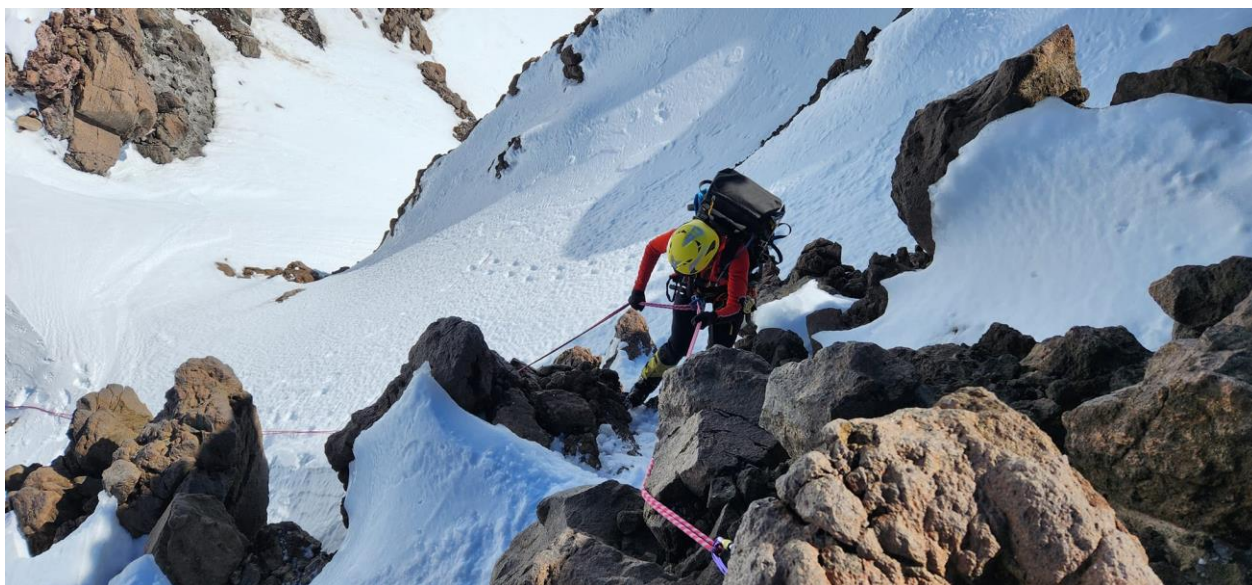


Further up the climb continued to be steep and, in some places, very icy. We continued without using the rope until a steep rocky downclimb meant that some were belayed down.



The weather was great with sun and no wind. We had magnificent views but Lake Taupo and beyond was shrouded in a blanket of cloud which didn't lift until later in the day.

Further on the climb continued to be challenging but the rope was not needed. Eventually a high point came into sight. I thought it was the peak just ahead but as we climbed further, I could see the actual peak higher up. Most of us were feeling quite tired by this stage and it looked like the peak was another half an hour or more above us. Jacqui decided this was far enough for her, the rest of us continued upward and were on the top within 15 minutes. It was around midday and we had lunch on top while admiring the views.



The climb down was also challenging. What seems okay when climbing up can be a bit more tenuous when going down. The rope came out a couple more times with some abseiling on one section and belaying down another steep traverse that was quite icy. A lot of sections were down climbed facing in to the slope to give added security. The return to the hut took nearly five hours, only an hour less than the climb up. We were all pleased to be back at the hut after a great day out.

Caitlin and Karl decided that they would head out after dinner and return to Palmy on Saturday night so at about 7 p.m. they packed up and set out into the dark for the two hour walk back to the car and drive back home. The rest of us enjoyed a relaxed evening and after a slow start in the morning we made our way back to the car. On the way out we took time to test a new knot to use for setting up the rope for an abseil. It proved to be successful and a useful addition to our skills.

We were Grant Christian, Cam Raupi, Jacqui Bond, Rosie Sargent, Caitlin Lipsham and Karl Myers.

### **9 September 2023      Kapakapanui Loop plus a Hidden Hut      Report by Monika Coles**

This trip ran on a Saturday instead of a usual Sunday. Nice and early, at 7am, seven of us met up at Milverton Park and made our way to Ngatiawa Road end, just behind Waikanae.

The plan was to go anticlockwise this time. Going up the steeper way. Stream crossings meant wet boots for a few of us, some people opted for doing the stream crossings in light shoes and changed to hiking boots just before the start of a two (in our case three) hours climb up to the Kapakapanui Trig.

We also had a bit of excitement coming up if we were lucky. On a Hut-bagger website, there is a hut listed called Possumers Hut, also known as Thornhill Hut. The exact location, or the track to it, is not known. We had a few pointers and as we were coming up to the contour close to the hut location, we started to slow down and kept a lookout for anything that could resemble a little used track. At one point, consulting the map and notes, it looked like we must be there, but the 'track' seemed to go the wrong direction, which made us think, that we might need to go a bit higher still. Blair however thought it looked too good not to keep going for a bit longer and voila, soon after that he spotted it! The hidden away hut, a mere 50 metres



from the track, unbeknown to trampers making their way up totally unaware of the beauty they were unknowingly passing.

I think the hut wants to stay hidden away, revealing itself only to the ones who search and make it their mission to find it. For the ones who haven't found it yet, here is a photo of it!



*Happy all around! Possumers, also known as Thornhill Hut.*

Back on the track, we were making good time and soon we were on the ridge, sitting down by the Kapakapanui high point trig, basking in the sun, having lunch and admiring the views. I really like the views from here. You can see Kapiti Island, the South Island with a couple of tops still having snow. All the snow that we had on our trip to Kime Hut looks like it has melted. On the other side, you can make out Renata Ridge, the track to Elder Hut, Aston, Mt Hector and more depending how good you are on identification.

After a nice rest, we made our way down towards Kapakapanui Hut. I remembered a few muddy patches just by the hut from last time, but was surprised how much more mud there actually was. And long stretches of it. The other thing I remembered were the flies. So many big flies around the hut and I was not looking forward to that, however, when we got there, there weren't any!

Well, upon my disbelief, Blair found a few for me, about three big ones sleeping on a window.

We had a nice break at the hut, did some quick maintenance, discussed plans for





future trips and off we went down the track, back towards our stream junction and back to our cars with one more surprise on the way!

There was a Give Way Road sign, so high up on a tree, that it posed a question of the effort it must have taken to install it. It is in such a place, that when we were going clockwise, we did not see it.

Definitely worth sometimes going to do the same track again, you never know what you might find.

We were: Ernie (trip leader), Blair, Roy, Woody, Monika, Abi and Heather.

## Better Late Than Never

13-14 March 2021

Adventure Piripiri Biv: Getting There is Half the fun

By Chris Tuffley

*The club's 2021 "Keeping it local challenge" awarded points for each hut and highpoint in the southern Ruahine, with the value of each determined by how far away it is and how hard it is to get to: for instance, Alice Nash was worth 1 point, Iron Gate 3, Leon Kinvig 5, Tarn Biv 7, and Piripiri the one and only hut worth the maximum 10 points. Michelle Benton won the challenge, and was the only club member to visit all 23 huts and 19 highpoints included in the challenge. I accompanied her to Piripiri as a guide; read on and decide for yourself if it deserved its place as the highest scoring hut.*



"Well, this is positively civilised" I think to myself, eyeing the line of warratahs marching off along the tussock covered ridge. Michelle and I have come up the Shorts Track and are headed south along the ridge to destination: Piripiri Biv. Once upon a time there was a track all the way along these tops to the biv - or so says MapsPast - but any track faded away off the land and then the map some years ago, leaving only a faint intermittent footpad. Any warratahs are gone now too on the most commonly travelled section, from the top of the Shorts Track to the Ngamoko turn off. But here beyond the turn off the warratahs still stand, guiding the way into the unknown. Most civilised! But if the summer's taught me anything, it's that you don't write the route review until after you've finished the trip.

"Well, this isn't as bad as I feared" I think to myself, pushing my way between the leatherwood. It's just like pushing your way through a thick crowd, only the arms pressing back against you are grown of wood and leaf instead of flesh and bone. I came this way once before in 2012, and back then the unmaintained corridor through the leatherwood was knee deep in regeneration; with nine more years of growth the regeneration has reached chest height now. Sure, there's been the odd spot where we've misplaced the track, dropped to our knees and crawled until we've found it again; and it should not go unsaid that I'm dressed in a heavy raincoat and thick Cactus canvas trousers as armour against the scrub. Michelle is dressed similarly. But for the most part, if you aim for the lower younger leatherwood, and push between the bushes instead of trying to go through them, it's really not that bad. And there have even been short sections of clear open track where you can simply walk. Much better than I'd feared! But if the summer's taught me anything, it's that you don't write the route review until after you've finished the trip.

"Well, this is rather hellish" I think to myself, lying on my back and sliding down the hill through a low tunnel beneath the leatherwood, dragging my pack behind me. We've reached the saddle above the biv, a mere 800m away from it, and are now making our way down the hill towards it - but if there's an easy way to do this we haven't found it. The GPS says we've only travelled 200m in the past half hour. Positively hellish...there's no way I'm doing this again. The summer has once again taught me not to write the route review until after you've finished the trip.



We emerge from the tunnel and come to our feet again, but the travel remains difficult. We follow a creek down a narrow gully, ducking in and out of it and dodging ongaonga. I put my hand in some nettle, and know I'll still be feeling it in a week. I apologise profusely to Michelle for the turn to the worse the trip's taken. "I'm so sorry. I really hadn't thought it would be this bad." She assures me she's having a great time, and somehow - impossibly - I think she really means it.

We press on, and slowly, slowly, the travel eases. The GPS indicates the hut's getting nearer - but so too is nightfall. Lunch was a long time ago, and we stop for a snack on a steep grassy slope before continuing on.

At last the GPS tells me we're nearly there. Just up through those trees? Yes! That's a building alright. We've made it, and with even a little light to spare! But wait, what's that - boots outside, the bolt undone, you mean to say we have company??

Indeed we do...a party of three in the two bunk hut. They're in their sleeping bags already, two on the bunks and one on the floor - and bizarrely, in the inner of a tent pitched inside the hut. They're just as surprised at our turning up as we are at their being here ahead of us. We trade stories. They're from a Meet-up group from Wellington, and came in up the stream. I get the impression they all met for the first time this morning, and that the trip was more than two of them had bargained on.

Michelle and I have come equipped to sleep outside if necessary, but there's not much room to pitch a tent. We all agree that there's room for three of us to sleep on the floor - just! - as long as the inner of the tent is taken down. They settle back down to sleep, and we quietly settle down to the business of cooking and eating dinner, and then, in time, crawl into our sleeping bags too, in a row of sardines on the floor. It's been a long day, but we made it - and you know what they say, getting there is half the fun, right? The other half must be getting home again - but that's an adventure for the day to come...

## Samoa – King’s Birthday Trip 2023

**2-16 June 2023**

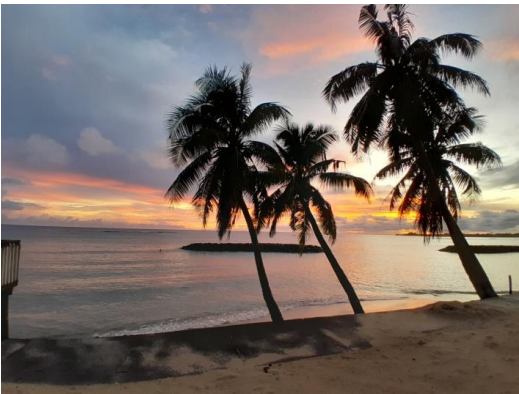
**Samoa - Not Just Lazing on the Beach**

**Report by Janet Wilson**

This "bucket list" trip was inspired by the need to get away somewhere warm and by the existence of "Outdoor Samoa" - a business based in Samoa facilitating biking and kayaking adventures. Run by New Zealand couple Ross and Francis Bidmead, this looked like the ideal way to plan a couple of adventurous weeks on holiday and to enjoy some lovely warm weather.

Thirteen people signed up very quickly to this trip which turned out to be everything I had hoped for and more. We had a wonderful couple of weeks with little down time and certainly no lazing on the beach! We were - club members Jo and Lawrence, Robyn and Warren, Harley, Trish, Kirsten and Stephen, Sally, Graham and Janet (trip planner and scribe). Friends Jenny and Yvette made up the 13.

Too much to write for a trip report - here are some photos. Come to the club night 12 October to hear more.



## Matariki Weekend 2023

14-16 July 2023

Matariki Weekend

Report by Janet Wilson

Pic by Tricia Eder

Matariki holiday weekend is a good excuse to visit a nice location on the east coast, to do some star gazing and beach walking on a wintery weekend away with a social group of trampers.

This year we went to Riversdale - down the coast from Castlepoint - and stayed at "Little Wetherby". This turned out to be a perfect location with lots of space and direct access to the rather wild and storm battered coastline. We had a staggered start with Graham, Ernie, Trish and myself arriving on Thursday afternoon and most others on Friday morning. Warren and Robyn didn't arrive until Saturday.

Thursday night was fish and chips night - we only just squeaked in with our order at the local store and other early holiday makers missed out as they stopped taking orders around 5.30! The shop there is well stocked with booze and limited very expensive groceries so if you are going to Riversdale it pays to go prepared.

On Friday morning Ernie and I were down on the beach in the dark waiting for the Matariki star cluster to rise - some cloud on the horizon obscured the view - I am not sure we were 100% certain where to look that morning!

It turned out to be a lovely day which we all spent exploring the coast and the settlement of Riversdale, flying a couple of kites, collecting driftwood for the outside fire, reading and relaxing. The large outdoor chess set had some of us wracking our brains remembering the rules. Friday night was pizza night - homemade using two electric pizza ovens followed by apple crumble.

The keen ones were back down on the beach in the dark on Saturday morning - this time there was a better view and we definitely saw Matariki.

Most then did a decent walk on the walkways and coast south of the town - we were lured further on by reports of two orca being spotted swimming nearby but we missed out on a sighting. There were quite a few people enjoying a perfect day at the beach with some flying kites.

Robyn and Warren missed the walk but I am sure Robyn mentioned going for a swim on arrival - only to be bowled by a big wave!

The Samoa Sunset cocktails conjured up by W & R were a pre dinner hit - enjoyed by some lazing on the viewing platform.

Saturday evening was a huge shared roast dinner with everyone contributing to a part of the meal. Later, Ernie cranked up the outside fire and the music.

On Sunday some headed home quite early while the rest lingered on, exploring further north with a more favourable low tide. The reef looked quite battered with quite discoloured water so no shellfish were gathered - always wishful thinking on my part.

Thanks to everyone who came and contributed to the weekend - for your company and contributions to the meals, home baking and those special drinks. We were Ernie, Lawrence and Jo, Warren and Robyn, Jenny and Steve, Monika, Roy, Sally, Trish, Graham and Janet (trip leader and scribe).





## PNTMC Newsletter October 2023

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Club Photo Comp Results, Snowy Peek, Scrabble Challenge progress -
- Trip reports: A-Frame Stanfield Hut, Ringatoto Summit Revisited, Kapakapanui and a hidden hut, Piripiri Adventure 2021, Samoa Kings Birthday Trip, Matariki Gathering.

Send articles to

the newsletter editor at [pntmci@gmail.com](mailto:pntmci@gmail.com)

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*Get out and about with us!*

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