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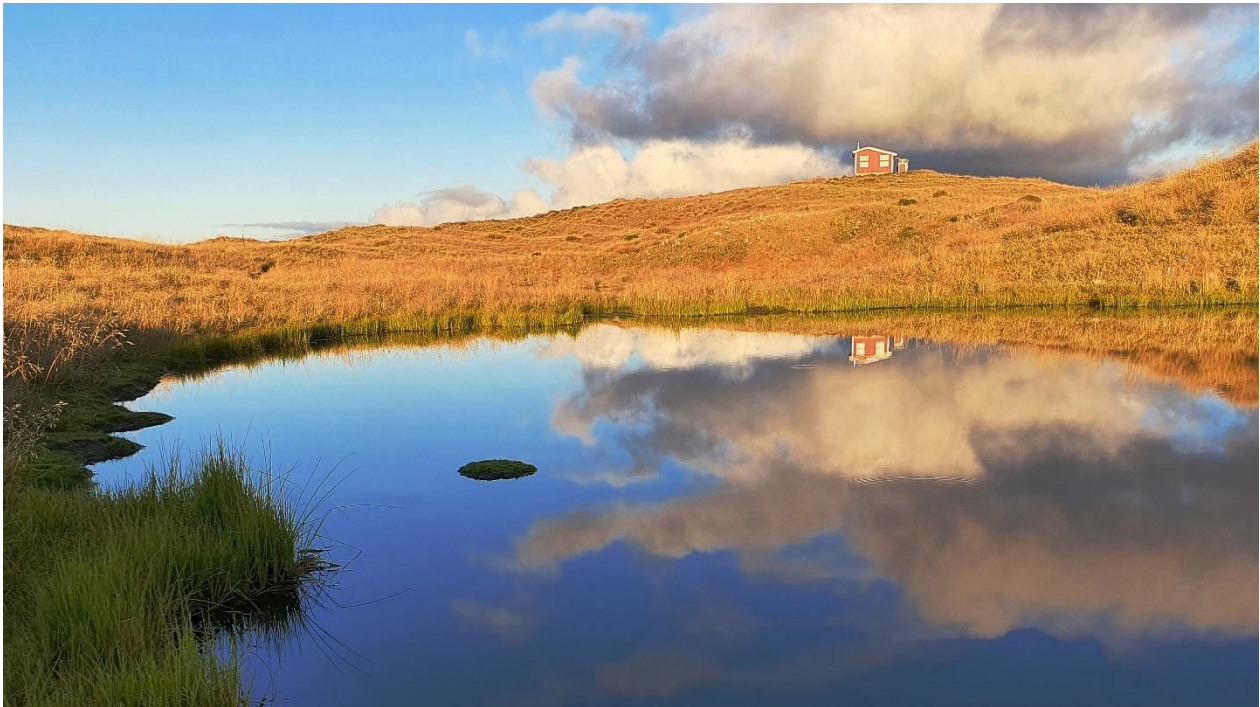
**Palmerston North  
Tramping and Mountaineering Club**

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

PO Box 1217, Palmerston North

**Newsletter February 2024**

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*Where have you been over Summer? Here is Mataketake Hut, Mataketake Tops track, off the Paringa Cattle Track north of Haast.  
Pic by Martin Lawrence*

### **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.*

**8 February 2024**

**Navigation Know How**

**Warren Wheeler**

Come along for a practical and fun session on how to use a map and compass to navigate in the outdoors. We will also be discussing the use of map apps that are now available for cell phones and other devices.

**29 February 2024**

**Clarence River Rafting**

**Warren & Robyn Wheeler**

In January 2022 joined some friends on a 5-day rafting adventure down the Clarence River, starting north of Hanmer Springs and downstream through the Kaikoura Ranges to the sea. This is their story.

## Upcoming Trips

**3-6 February 2024      Waitangi Long Weekend      TBA**

Trip leader wanted. Please phone Warren 06 356 1998. Updated details will be on our website.

**4 February 2024      Beginner Tramp #1      E      Robyn Wheeler      06 356 1998**

This is the first of our Beginner series, in the Tararuas, behind Masterton. From Holdsworth Road-end we follow the track to Atiwhakatu Hut for lunch. The track is fairly straightforward but has plenty of variety with some interesting bridges to cross. Depart from Milverton Park at 7.30am.

**10 February 2024      Twilight Walk      E      Verity Elder      021 260 1885**

We so often tramp during the day, but the bush can be just as enjoyable at twilight. The twin version to the moonlight walk last October, this easy trip begins at the Ashurst end of Te Apiti and follows the Gorge Track to Centennial Lookout (option to return via the same track or do a two car key swap with a second group walking from the other end). Bring supper instead of lunch, and a torch just in case. Depart Milverton carpark 4.30pm.

**11 February 2024      Iron Gates Gorge      M      Warren Wheeler      06 356 1998**

A classic river trip to enjoy in the Oroua River. We first take the sidle track past Alice Nash Memorial Lodge and after a refreshing dip at the river we head off to zig zag back and forth downstream to Iron Gates Gorge. If keen we will take the short swim through the gorge before returning to the cars.

**17 February 2024      Bike to Barlow      MTB/M      Richard Lockett      06 323 0948**

This Saturday we aim to go 7 km up the gravelly bed of the Makaroro River to Barlow Hut for lunch and return. Either by MTB or as an easy Medium tramp.

**22-25 February 2024      Beyond Otaki Forks      M      Blair Petersen      027 600 4263**

My plan is (weather depending) leaving from Otaki Forks on 22 Feb to Kime Hut that night. Next day (23rd) to Maungahuka Hut, then Penn Creek Hut on the 24th. Back to Otaki Forks and home on the 25th. Other options include going from Maungahuka to Field Hut (via Penn Creek) on day 3. It's the centenary of Field Hut this year, so to stay a night there sounds like a good idea. There's limited spaces available, please contact me ASAP if you're interested.

**3 March 2024      Beginner Tramp #2      E      Robyn Wheeler      06 356 1998**

Our second trip of the four Beginner tramps. This time we will go north into the Ruahine Ranges and up to the popular Rangiwahia Hut. It is a well formed forest track up to the tussock tops. Great views to Tongariro and Taranaki. If keen we may also go up another hour to the Mangahua high point.

**3 March 2024 – Manawatu Walking Festival      (E/M)      Janet Wilson      06 329 4722**

A few helpers needed here to assist with hosting a public walk up the Tunupo track.. Janet will be taking an alternative easy option down to the Oroua River to talk about the Whio Protection work and could use one or 2 others to assist on that option too. Contact Janet if you would like to help the club promote tramping in the Ruahines. Club members all welcome to join.

**7-10 March 2024      Ngamoko Hut Work Party      M      Janet Wilson      06 329 4722**

Dates to be finalised. Ngamoko Hut is one of the 2 Pohangina River huts that the club has an agreement with DOC to help maintain. We need to get in there and give the exterior a good clean and touch up a small amount of the paintwork. Will need a few days to get this done so will suit

the retired folk with more time to spare. Contact Janet if you keen to help out – can be flexible around the timing.

**9 March 2024 Archies Lookout E Nicola Wallace 021 209 0720**  
*Rescheduled from January.* Part of the Te Araroa Trail. A nice walk past Makahika Outdoor Centre up the valley behind Levin. Across paddocks then into the bush with several small stream crossings then up to the lookout for views over Horowhenua.

**10 March 2024 Ohau Gorge E/M Warren Wheeler 06 356 1998**  
This delightful section of the Ohau Gorge in the western Tararuas behind Levin offers those feeling a little adventurous an opportunity for a couple of hours of nice rock-hopping, wading and even some pool swimming. We start with an easy hour walk along the track from Poads Roadend carpark to Blackwater Creek stream, with views down into the gorge as we go, then down the river itself to exit just past the old town water intake. We then rejoin the track back to the roadend. Yes, you will get wet feet! Depart Milverton at 7.30am.

**PRE-EASTER TRIP ADVANCE NOTICE**

**23-28 March 2024 Kahurangi Lighthouse Keepers House M Janet Wilson 06 329 4722**  
An extended pre easter trip to one of our more remote huts, situated near Kahurangi Point on the remote northern west coast of the South Island. This trip involves quite a bit of driving to get there and then a beach walk, south from where we leave the cars. I plan to spend at least 2 nights and possibly 3 at the hut. Trip dependant on tides and river levels.  
If you are interested and would like to know more, contact Janet well in advance so ferries can be booked and logistics sorted. Hopefully this will be followed by an Easter club trip, possibly visiting the Cobb Valley - more to come.

**Trip Grading**

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramper 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.

## Trip Reports

21 January 2024

Beehive Creek

Report by Doug Strachan

[This report is a candidate for the award for The Most Concise Trip Report for 2024 – Ed]

Good.



Windfall – not so good



Overgrown weeds - not so good

We were: Duncan Hedderley & Doug Strachan

## Blast from the Past – February 2004 Newsletter

### Tramping through a Minefield, 18 Jan. 2004

By Doug Strachan

The 10 mine victims were: Elaine Herve, Fiona Donald, Andrew Schurr, Duncan Hedderley, Pauline Knuckey, Christine Cheyne, Barbara Mare, Wara Teranitamkul, Adrienne Cavanagh, Doug Strachan.

The first section of the Sledge Track has an arguably over-zealous array of signs immortalising those who toiled to build the track. Then it turns into a track proper.

After an hour and a half, we reached the junction where you turn off to the platinum mines. We rested here, and pretty soon we were trading insults about each other's hats. In the end, bathing in UV as we were, we all agreed that "any hat is better than no hat."

We walked on to a wonderful, breezy lunch spot, with a view of Palmerston. Three of us looked at the map and came up with 3 suggestions as to

our location. At this point, the chance of even finding mines seemed slim, but find them we did.

The first mine (a horizontal mine) we came to was full of mud and would perhaps be better named a "yours" than a "mine" as nobody was terribly keen to explore it. Pressing on, we came to some vertical mines, with ladders protruding from them. It's a bit dangerous walking in a minefield, so the mines had tape around them so people wouldn't accidentally fall into a hole.

Some canary among 10 us volunteered to go down into the mine first. Then, one by one, we took turns seeing inside the mine. The mines are fairly short, presumably just exploratory prospector's scratchings. I was a little disappointed not to see big chunks of glistening, pure platinum protruding from the walls; however, the walls did glisten with moist glowworm threads. I saw a glowworm larva hanging on a thread, but it wasn't shining as there was too much daylight. I gave it a lesson in how glowworms are supposed to behave, by zapping it with my camera flash. Then I had a

sterling, nay, a platinum idea. “Wow, hey you guys, look at this,” I yelled. Barbara fell for it and peered down into the mine shaft only to be blinded by my flash. Then we decided it would be cool to have a photo, taken from the bottom of the mine, of everyone looking down into it. Everyone gathered round and looked down at me, grinning like I was the quarry that fell into a pit trap. I flashed ‘em!



**Looking up from within the Mine**

We continued on and found another horizontal mine. Christine, torch in hand, went in on a reconnaissance mission. “Christine, can you see where it ends?” “Um, well, maybe, yes, I think it ends a little further...no, wait...yes, it ends...unless another tunnel goes off from this one...but, no, I see the end.” As she came out of the tunnel, ***a supernova of camera flashes went off, leading her to make some comment about Paparazzi.***

We walked out. After Argyle’s Rock, we passed a few people with toddlers. There was even a

pushchair. If the track can take a sledge, it must be wide enough for a pushchair... They certainly won’t be going any further than the Rock.

Considering we’d been through a minefield, casualties were light. Duncan dinged his head on a ponga, but not hard enough to see glowworms. Andy’s newly repaired boot had a rivet that rubbed. Fiona came to the rescue with special, Danish blister prevention plasters, and we’re pleased to report that foot amputation won’t be necessary. My own boot, on the other hand, ...looks like I stepped on a mine.



**Lunch Spot with View of Palmy**



**Doug’s Boot**



## PNTMC Newsletter February 2024

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Trip reports: Beehive Creek
- Blast from the Past – Tramping through a Minefield

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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