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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 November 2024**

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*Cattle Creek Hut, Ruahine Forest Park, looking well loved.*

*Pic by Blair Petersen*

### **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.*

**14 November 2024**

**BYO Pics**

**All**

Come along and tell us about the trips you have done over the last six months or so. Or just sit back and enjoy the show.

**28 November 2024**

**Hiking in Tajikstan**

**Fiona Burleigh**

Knowing nothing about the Silk Road, Fiona set off from Shanghai by train and plane to reach the central Asian states of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Her aim was to hike in the mountains of these former Soviet states and get a taste of local life. What she found was more beautiful than she expected. And more challenging..

## Upcoming Trips

**2-3 November 2024**      **Potluck at Syme Hut**    **M**    **Harley Betts**      **06 825 6250**

Tentatively postponed to 23-24 November due to COVID. See our website for updates.

**2 November 2024**      **Toe Toe Loop**      **M**      **David Soong**      **021 722 358**

This regular Saturday Toe Toe Loop walk usually departs from the Summerhill New World car park at 8am. Please text David before Friday to check if the walk is on and for further details.

**7-10 November 2024**      **Love Our Huts Trip**      **M**    **Janet Wilson**      **027 341 8945**

A 3 or 4 day trip to "Love" a hut – either one of our club huts (Ngamoko or Mid Pohangina) or one of the others not yet taken – e.g. Pourangaki. Please let me know if you could be interested in this longer trip and we can then plan around the weather etc. The longer format will mean we can have 2 nights at our chosen hut. Dates can be a bit flexible. If we go to the Pohangina we will also service some of the traps if river conditions are suitable. Contact Janet early if even slightly interested.

**9-10 November 2024**      **McKinnon-Crow Huts**    **M/F**      **Chris Tuffley**      **06 359 2530**

A trip to Crow and McKinnon in the northwestern Ruahine, to show them some love for the FMC Love our Huts campaign. We'll go in via the Kawhatau River from Rangitane Reserve, spend the night at one of Crow and McKinnon, and swing by the other. If there's sufficient interest we could go in Friday afternoon and spend the night at Kawhatau Base before climbing the hill on Saturday.

**16-17 November 2024**      **Iron Gates Hut**      **E**      **Peter Darragh**      **022 613 4180**

Love our Huts campaign continues with this overnight trip up the Oroua River track. A good chance of seeing the resident blue duck/whio too. Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

**19-21 November 2024**      **Smiths Stream-Hinerua Hut**    **E-M**    **Ernie Cook**      **027 303 1363**

Mid-week trip Tuesday November 19th-Thursday November 21st. Medium. As part of FMC's Love our Huts campaign I plan to stay two nights at Smith's Stream Hut with a day visit to Hinerua Hut on the Wednesday. Two previously unvisited (by me anyway) Ruahine huts to cross off the list. Please call by the Friday evening prior.

**23-24 November 2024**      **Love Our Club Huts**    **M-F**      **Richard Lockett**    **06 323 0948**

A Ruahine trip to check and clean Mid Pohangina and Ngamoko Huts as part of the FMC Love Our Huts campaign for November. We will go via Cattle Creek Hut, downstream to Mid-Poh, then a side trip up the Pohangina River to Ngamoko Hut unless done on Janet's trip 7-10 Nov. To make it easier we may start on Friday and/or extend into Monday if that suits participants.

**23-24 November 2024**      **Potluck at Syme Hut**    **M**    **Harley Betts**      **06 825 6250**

*Postponed from 2-3 November.* Depart Palmy at 6.30 am Saturday for Dawson Falls carpark, about 40 mins past Hawera. The track to Syme Hut starts off in beautiful mossy forest at about 900 m and steadily climbs through a range of vegetation zones through to tussock and then open scoria slopes at about 1400 m. From the start of the scoria it is about another 600 m climb to Syme Hut which is perched on the summit of Fantham's Peak at just under 2000 m. Syme Hut has probably the best views of any hut in the North Island which means it is perfect as a potluck dinner venue. So bring your favourite dinner dish along with whatever you need to prepare it with and enjoy (hopefully) a stunning sunset view while you wine and dine the evening away. Next day, take in (again, hopefully) a glorious sunrise over the central volcanoes over breakfast before heading

back down the same way. As part of FMC's "Love our huts" campaign, I've also nominated this trip's participants (thanks to you all in advance!) for giving Syme Hut a good spring clean before we leave, so we'll bring along a few cleaning rags, brushes, sugar soap, window cleaner, etc and a bit of elbow grease.

**29 Nov-1 Dec 2024**                      **Parkes Peak Hut**                      **E-M**                      **Ernie Cook**                      **027 303 1363**  
Depart Palmerston North 7:00 a.m. Friday morning. Day trip on the Saturday to Upper Makaroro Hut. Travelling back to Palmerston North on the Sunday. Please contact Ernie by the Monday evening prior.

**7-8 December 2024**                      **Kelly Knights Hut**                      **M-F**                      **Elly Arnst**                      **022 682 3136**  
A belated "love our huts" trip because huts deserve love all year round! We have a new ash bucket to drop off and a bit of track maintenance to do. Walking in via either Mania or Rangiwahia. Contact Elly if you're keen and we'll confirm details closer to the time.

**8 December 2024**                      **Pinnacle Ridge Loop**                      **E-M**                      **Verity Elder**                      **021 260 1885**  
From Holdsworth Carpark we keep to the right side of the river and head up to Pinnacle peak for views of the Tararuas and surrounding district. Following the ridge we then loop back and cross the river to Donnelly's Flat and return.

**15 December 2024**                      **Short Knights Long Day**                      **M-F**                      **Warren Wheeler**                      **06 356 1998**  
Celebrate the (almost) shortest night with a long day loopy trip in the Ruahines. We will go up Shorts Track, along the main range to Toka high point and down Knights Track. Depart PN 7.30am. Optional overnight trip camping at Toka, leaving PN mid-afternoon for sunset and sunrise next day.

*Look out for updates of more Love Our Huts November trips on our website.*

### **Trip Grading**

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	Inst (Instruction)

BWD = Best weather day of a weekend

### **Trip participants**

Contact the leader, preferably 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 027 446 6287 or Bruce van Brunt 06 328 4761.

## Notices

### PNTMC Jubilee Book



**Christmas is coming.**

*Copies still available. First published 2015.*

**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 the editor Doug Strachan 06 353-6526 and get ready to put your feet up with this great read, all for only \$35.

### Love Our Huts

We are supporting the FMC Love Our Huts campaign with trips to some of our favourite huts in the Ruahines and beyond. Some flexibility is likely to be required to get suitable conditions, including rescheduling to another weekend or mid-week trips so contact the trip leader early to express interest. Changes will be posted on our website and/or by email directly to members. . .

## Trip Reports

**19 September 2024**

**Social Trappers**

**Report by Janet Wilson, Pic by Verity Elder**



This spring has been wet  
wet wet in the Manawatu .

The social trapper weekends  
seem to attract the rain.

So this time  
I pulled the pin

on the overnight plan  
and we did

a local alternative trip  
with no traps.

Do you know where we went?

We were Blair, Callum, Verity, Ernie and Janet (Scribe).

**12 - 13 October 2024**

**The Quest for Cattle Creek Hut**

**Report by Blair Petersen**

As it's only approx 4 hours to the hut, I decided that there wasn't any point in leaving early morning and getting there early afternoon, so it was a relaxed 11.00am departure from the Tamaki West road end.

In via Holmes Ridge track to Stanfield Hut. We met 2 hunters there and enjoyed a late lunch in the afternoon sun. This was my first time going north from Stanfield and I have to admit that the hill up from  
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the river to the ridge was a bit steeper than I anticipated. As usual, it was VERY windy at the point where the track drops down to Cattle Creek and I think we were all glad to get there.

I had forgotten that I'd picked Cattle Creek Hut for the Love Our Huts campaign - it was a bit of a rush on the day before to get organised to take a few rags, cleaner and tools for the spring clean. Luckily the hut was in pretty good condition (the fireplace had been replaced recently and some maintenance work done by DOC and Backcountry Trust), all that was needed was a good sweep and cleaning the windows.



The wind that was VERY strong up on the ridge got stronger later in the day and evening, and by dark it was officially VERY VERY strong. No-one had much sleep due to the noise, draughts and occasional hut shaking.

The weather forecast was for rain on Sunday morning, so after collecting the rubbish we had an early-ish start and were back at Stanfield for morning tea. We returned to the car via the river, rather than repeat Holmes Ridge again. Drinks and pies were enjoyed at Woodville on the way home.

Thanks to Jenny McCarthy, Ernie Cook, Woody Lee and Callum Taylor for joining me on my quest to bag my final livestock-hut (Cow Creek, Cattle Creek, Cattle Ridge and Roaring Stag)



## PNTMC Newsletter November 2024

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Notices: Jubilee Book for Christmas
- Trip Reports: Social Trappers Mystery Trip, Quest for Cattle Creek Hut

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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