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## Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

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

c/- Society of Friends, 227 College St, PN

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### Newsletter April 2025

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*Down the Pig Track to Sutherlands Hut, Aorangi Forest Park.*

*Pic by Warren Wheeler*

### 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.*

**10 April 2025**

**Heysen Trail**

**Fiona Burleigh**

What does it take to walk 50 days across the driest state in the driest country? In 2023 I walked 1100km from the outback to the southern coast of South Australia. Few people have heard of the Heysen Trail and unlike our own Te Araroa few people attempt to walk it in one go.

**24 April 2025**

**4 Years in Fiordland 40 Years Ago**

**Graeme Curwen**

Graeme's retro talk - complete with slide projector - will cover the highlights of his 4 years working in Fiordland back in the 1980s. From turning the first sods on the Kepler Track to trimming the Dusky track end to end four times to being the Mayor of Deep Cove in Doubtful Sound..

## Upcoming Trips

**6 April 2025**                      **Stanfield Hut**                      **E**                      **Woody Lee**                      **021 0444 552**  
 An easy walk 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. Depart Milverton Park 8.00am (remember to wind your clocks back for the end of Daylight Saving).

**13 April 2025**                      **Branch Road Walkway**                      **E**                      **Sally Hewson**                      **06 357 0990**  
 A nicely graded easy walk up an abandoned road from Pohangina Vilage up to Ridge Road. From pine trees to bush-clad gullies and views across farmland to the Ruahines, this is a pleasant walk up and back. A visit to Country Fayre for Devonshire tea, artwork and museum pics is an option to follow. Depart Milverton Park at 8.30am.

**18-21 April 2025**                      ***Happy Easter to All Whatever You Do and Wherever You Go***

**20 April 2025**                      **Easter Eastbourne**                      **E/M**                      **Adam Matich**                      **022 358 8062**  
 Exploring the tracks and a couple of huts in the hills behind Eastbourne, Wellington Harbour.

**24-27 April 2025**                      **High Hopes**                      **M**                      **Ernie Cook**                      **027 303 1363**  
 Departing Palmerston North 11:00 a.m. on Thursday and parking up at the Pines Road-end. Thursday evening at Mitre Flats Hut. Friday morning heading to Dorset Ridge Hut and may visit Tarn Ridge Hut. Direction of travel to be determined. Saturday night may be at Mid-King Biv.

**27 April 2025**                      **Archeys Lookout**                      **E**                      **Nicola Wallace**                      **021 209 0720**  
 Rescheduled from 16 March. 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. Depart Milverton Park at 8.00am.

**3 May 2025**                      **Maharahara**                      **M**                      **Woody Lee**                      **0210 444 552**  
 Saturday trip. From Opawe Road end we start walking through the paddock and climb up the forest park track toward the Maharahara Peak (1095m). We will have lunch somewhere on the way down. Depart Milverton Park 7.30am.

**XXX May 2025**                      **Pohangina Stoat Trappers**                      **M**                      **Janet Wilson**                      **06 329 4722**  
 Flexi-dates early May. If you are keen to help the "Ruahine Whio Protectors" on the annual pre winter trap check down the Pohangina River, then this trip could be for you. A flexi plan around the weather and river levels. This will be a multi day trip and the plan is to fly in if possible so that needs good weather too. Trip is suitable for experienced river trappers with some trapping experience. We will be visiting our "club" huts – Ngamoko and Mid Pohangina as part of this trip and helping out with our local whio conservation work. If you are interested please get in touch with Janet well beforehand to discuss options.

**10-11 May 2025**                      **TBA**                      **M**                      **Chris Tuffley**                      **06 359 2530**  
 Chris is yet to decide where he will go this weekend. Details to come. See website for updates.

**11 May 2025**                      **Wharite Peak**                      **E/M**                      **Neil Benton**                      **027 243 4664**  
 From Coppermine Creek Roadend up to the southern-most high point in the Ruahine Ranges. Up through regenerating bush to the leatherwood ridge along to the mighty transmission tower visible from PN. Great views to the east and west. Depart 8.00am.

## Advance Notice -Expressions of interest Wanted

### Kings Birthday Kawhia (aka The Raglan Road Trip) 30 May to 2nd or 3rd June.

The 2025 "Coastal Classic" trip will be heading to Kawhia. The harbour looks beautiful and there are hot pools to be dug out on the coast, fishing and kayaking. Mount Pirongia is not that far away for tramping and there are bound to be other interesting local walks.

Depending on interest, we will stay at one of the camping grounds/cabin or possibly a bach. We will drive up the back roads via Marokopa and return via Raglan. If you think you might be interested in this extended holiday weekend trip then let Janet know asap so a plan can be made and suitable accommodation can be booked nice and early.

### 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

### 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

### AGM Report

Thanks to everyone who attended our AGM on 27 March 2025, especially to ratify our new Constitution. It was the culmination of a lot of work, especially by Anne Lawrence and Bruce van Brunt. Anne noted the valued input on the draft constitution from various club members over the last few months.

Anne also presented the 59th Presidents Report covering club activities and achievements over the year - see the copy included in this newsletter.

#### Note

1. Subs will remain the same as last year.
2. FMC Backcountry will be available on-line or at club nights or mailed D2U for an extra \$25.
3. PO Box cancelled due to lack of use, our new mail address is c/- Society of Friends, 227 College Street, PN.

Anne was re-elected President, Martin as Treasurer and Robyn as Secretary. Other committee members re-elected were Janet, Verity, Warren, Jo and Lawrence.

We farewelled Bruce van Brunt after 30 years on the Committee, including time as President. His experience with organising Snowcraft, alpine gear and making funding applications will be missed. We also farewelled Penny Abercrombie, who has been responsible for club suppers (the Keeper of the Red Bag) for many years. Our new committee member is Graeme Curwen who has already showed willing by taking the Red Bag from Penny.

Members enjoyed a delicious supper thanks to the cakes, sausage rolls and other treats brought by Committee members and others.

Happy tramping.  
Warren Wheeler

## What's in my Pack?

In 2025 we welcome a new edition to our club newsletter: *What's in my pack?*

Whether it is for comfort, safety or function, we all have it; gear we swear by and can't live without when out in the backcountry. 'What's in my pack' is an opportunity for us to share our stories, tips and advice on the gear we carry in our packs when tramping.

Choose from the 5 categories below and write a short paragraph about the item or gear. Include a bit of history or an example of it in use, and a photo (in action is best) if available.

To add an extra layer of fun, for every entry to the newsletter, go into the draw to win a voucher from local outdoor store of your choosing.

Enter all 5 categories and go into the draw an extra 5 times. The draw will be made Winter

Solstice, 2025 June 21<sup>st</sup>). Entries will be published in the newsletter throughout 2025.

Email entries to: [elderverity@gmail.com](mailto:elderverity@gmail.com)

### Categories:

**Two for one** – Every milligram on our back counts, which is why some gear earns its place for its dual, or even multipurpose function.

**Secondhand** – From merino gems, to vintage Swannndri and spare tent pegs, you never know what might be found in a secondhand store.

**Repair job** – in a 'throw away' society, taking a moment to repair your favorite gear can help save the planet and your wallet.

**DIY** – whether it is hand-made, self-made, custom-made or kit-set, gear that we make ourselves can have added value and satisfaction.

**Can't live without** – that one item you always pack.

## New Members

Welcome to Bronwyn McManus and Kirstie Priddle who were both keen Beginner Trampers. Also welcome back to Tricia Eder, who has finally rejoined us after a long absence.

We wish you many happy trips with us.

## Presidents Annual Report 2024-25

It is with pleasure that I present this the 59th Presidents Annual Report.

### Your Committee

Thanks to all committee members. Our committee has been great to work with. Our meetings are congenial – we deal with any business and then we enjoy a chat over supper. Thanks to those returning to the committee:

- Robyn Wheeler: secretary
- Martin Lawrence: treasurer and web-master
- Warren Wheeler: newsletter editor, club night coordinator and trip card organiser
- Janet Wilson: vice-president and DOC liaison.
- Bruce van Brunt: in charge of application for grants and club equipment
- Penny Abercrombie: our supper provider

And particular thanks our three new members:

- Jo and Lawrence O'Halloran and Verity Elder

It has been a busy year for the committee. We put a lot of time and energy into developing our new constitution. Although this was brought on by legal requirements, we found that our old constitution was showing its age and was well-ready to be updated. Thanks to all the club members who read various PNTMC Newsletter April 2025

drafts and gave us such useful feedback. Thanks to committee members for working through the various drafts and in particular to Bruce for his thoughtful input. I think we can all be pleased with the final document – it retains our Club’s character while meeting the requirements of the Act. We consulted Tony Walton at FMC to check we were in line with legal requirements and he described it as ‘A nice, concise and direct constitution’.

### **Communication - Newsletter, Website and Facebook**

We continue to produce our monthly newsletter, thanks to Warren. This is a time-consuming job, but one that Warren continues to do with a smile. It is pleasing to see the vast majority of members now opt to receive their newsletter via email, saving on printing, paper and postage costs as well as being lighter on the environment. The committee has agreed to keep producing a printed newsletter for this year, but we do encourage you to read it online – in addition to the above reasons, the photos are much nicer in colour! Only 15 members receive a print copy of the newsletter. Thanks to Nicola Wallace for helping us to save on postage by delivering most of these.

Our website continues to be the place to go for up-to-date information about club events. Thanks to Martin for managing this.

Our facebook page is also popular - thanks mostly to Grant and Elly for keeping it up to date.

### **Membership**

We have gained 5 new members (4 individual members and 1 family) but we have lost 11 members (10 individual and 1 family). Our total membership of 77 members includes 54 Individual Members, 20 Family Members and 3 Life Members.

### **Club Trips**

Thanks to Warren for organising our trip calendar. The trip card has been replaced by the online calendar. We are trialling running an overnight trip every second weekend rather than every weekend. This is partly due to increasing difficulty finding and increasing numbers of trips being a no go. Thanks to Woody for keeping records of numbers on trips.

Of the 85 trips programmed, 48 (56%) were day trips and 37 (41%) were overnight trips. In the event, 33% of trips Did Not Go due to weather or other reasons but we still had 60% (29) of day trips that did go, as well as 76% (28) of overnight trips. So there was an almost equal number of day trips and overnight trips. These stats are similar to the previous year except the number of day trips that went was down on last years 38 trips.

Of the 57 trips that went, 38% (22) went to the Ruahines, 25% (14) to the Tararuas and 37% (21) went elsewhere.

On average there were 5.4 people on Day Trips and 5.1 on overnight trips.

Our most popular trip was the Mangaweka Rail Tunnels in April 2024, with 16 participants.

### **Beginner tramps**

This year’s Beginner tramp programme looks a little different to previous years. Under Verity’s leadership we have seen a number of changes. Beginner tramps have run every two weeks rather than monthly which has meant the programme has more impetus. Verity also introduced a more structured approach which has seen people introduced to basic map reading in the field and then build on that knowledge at a follow up club night.

- Beginner Tramp 1 (the Fern Walk in Pohangina Valley) had 15 participants.
- Beginner Tramp 2 (Atiwhakatu) had 10 participants.
- Beginner Tramp 3 (Rangiwahia Hut) had 23 participants.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> and last beginner tramp this year is to Blue Range Hut this Sunday. I look forward to hearing how that goes.

This programme is very successful in getting new people into the outdoors. Not all of them become committed trampers, but some do, with some becoming keen club members. I look forward to next year's programme - I know Verity is already thinking of new ideas.

### **Applied Tramping aka Social Trapping Trips**

This is something Janet talked about in her president's annual report last year and it has been interesting to see her grow the idea. She is running club trips combined with checking predator traps for her Ruahine Whio Protection programme. The idea is to have a social time while working on the trap lines rather than just rushing to get the traps done. Trips are planned around what needs doing and the weather and river levels. Although the weather has been a frustration, there have been a number of successful social trapping trips and trapping expertise is spreading.

### **Alpine Skills**

Thanks to Grant Christian who took the lead on the Alpine skills course this year. This was a change in format from Snowcraft courses of previous years with no weekday session.

- Alpine Skills 1: six students, three instructors and one observer attended
- Alpine Skills 2: Ropes & Anchors with eight students and four instructors
- Alpine Skills 3: 10 people went to the Pinnacles

### **Club Nights and Social Activities**

Our club night programme continues to offer a wide range of talks and social activities – credit and thanks to Warren for masterminding the programme.

Photo Competitions: Thanks to Martin for organising the club photo competition and to Chris Tuffley for judging it. Chris was also the judge for the interclub photo competition that we hosted.

Last year we had the Scrabble challenge. This year we have What's in My Pack. Winners will be announced at the end of year BBQ. Thanks to Verity for dreaming this one up.

This year's Interclub Quiz was hosted by MTSC who had a narrow win over PNTMC team.

### **Grants, Equipment and Outdoor First Aid Course**

This year we received two grants: \$500 from FMC and \$3330 from the Sargood Bequest.

In June, we ran an outdoor first aid course. This was funded in part by the training grant from FMC as well as the bulk of a \$2200 grant received last year from the Eastern and Central Community Trust (ECCT). The course was held in the Pohangina Village Hall and taught by an instructor from Peak Safety & Emergency Management. The 10 club members who participated paid \$30 each towards the cost of the course. Thanks to Robyn for organising this.

We reviewed the club equipment this year, and found we needed to purchase items to replace some equipment items that were well past their use by date and to ensure we had sufficient to use on our alpine skills programme. These purchases were funded by the Sargood grant together with the remainder of the grant from ECCT. New equipment includes 8 climbing helmets, 3 avalanche transceivers, 1 snow picket and 2 harnesses. Thanks to Bruce for applying for the funding and for organising the purchases from FurtherFaster, GearShop and Bivouac. This new equipment is available for hire along with our existing mountaineering gear.

I want to thank Peter Chamberlain, our new Gear Custodian. Having made good use of our club equipment over the years, Peter felt he should do his bit for the club and generously offered to look after the club gear. His contact details are on the website and in the newsletter.

## Club Huts

In her President's report last year, Janet mentioned how the club had worked with DOC to do some renovations on Mid-Pohangina and Ngamoko huts. We had pledged money from our hut fund account to go towards this work but DOC paid the full amount so we paid nothing. However, we have committed the funds to help DOC cover the cost of finishing the work on these two huts. Two weekends ago, a combined PNTMC/DOC team were all set to fly in and finish the job. Unluckily the weather did not oblige and after a morning waiting for weather to clear, the trip was postponed until May.

## Federated Mountains Club (FMC)

We have had good support from FMC this year. Their online Club Korero sessions have been a great way for the committee to find out what other clubs are share what we do as well as hear firsthand what FMC are doing. The club is well represented by Emma Gregg who has now been on FMC for two years. Emma was one of the key drivers of FMC's love our huts campaign, something that our club responded to enthusiastically. Huts we loved included Rangiwahia, Syme, Iron Gate, MacKinnon's, Crow, Smiths Stream, Hinerua, Ikawatea Forks, Top Gorge, Mid-Pohangina, Ngamoko, Cattle Creek and Waterfall Huts as well as North Mangahao and Toka Bivs.

We helped FMC by collecting information from members about the time and cost of their volunteer efforts in the DOC estate. We estimated 340 hours of volunteer time this year with associated expenses of \$8,140. FMC are using this information to support their argument that FMC members should pay less for DOC hut fees. Our members contribute in formal ways such as trapping for the Ruahine User Group, trap cutting and hut renovation with the Back County Trust, as less formal ways such as clearing traps when out trapping.

FMC have recently surveyed members to collect views on their Backcountry magazine. Posting the magazine has become increasingly expensive and postage costs show no signs of settling down. In response, FMC are sending clubs an email copy of the Backcountry. We have signed up for this and from now on club members will receive a digital copy of the Backcountry. FMC are also offering D2U, a direct mail service for members who would like to receive a print copy of their magazine. Members can sign up for D2U on the FMC website. This costs \$25 per year.

## Summary

Members of our club are an amazing lot who get involved and contribute in so many different ways. However, for our club to continue in good heart we need committee members, instructors and trip leaders. I would like to encourage anyone who feels they can find some time to help contribute to the running of the club to consider helping out in some way, be it as a trip leader or committee member. Some of our current committee members have done many years of service and may well feel it's time to take a break or step back to allow others to come forward into leadership roles.

To conclude, I'd like to thank Don French for continuing to review our accounts and to Sue Pither for continuing to be such an interested and supportive Patron.

## Trip Reports

### **23 February 2025      Ten Out of Ten - Atiwhakatu Hut Beginners Tramp #2      Report by Kim Vardon**

Ten keen trampers (five newbies and five members) tackled the track to Atiwhakatu Hut for the second in the series of Beginners' Tramps. We were blessed with perfect conditions – slight breeze and mild temperature.

On arrival at the Holdsworth Road end the carpark was teeming with vehicles, so it was no surprise to meet a steady stream of day walkers, trail runners, and overnighers. This prompted an interesting

discussion about trail etiquette – should trampers move aside for runners just because they are moving at a faster pace??



As we approached the first swingbridge, a trumper came rushing towards us asking if we had seen a member of their party of three who they hadn't seen for a while. None of us could recall seeing the person described. Was it possible that this person was ahead of us – or had they taken a wrong turn and headed up to Mountain House? We let the trumper head across the bridge first so they could

continue their search. What a great scenario to witness and ponder on a Beginners Tramp!

Over the next 2 hours we navigated 9 bridges (3 of them swing bridges), multiple boardwalks and a small slip. We lapped up the variety and were grateful for the beauty and shade offered by the beech forest. Warren pointed out the native wild orchid. Kim spotted a fluorescent yellow lichen and even Groot (think Guardians of the Galaxy!). Those with good eyesight identified Powell Hut above the bushline.



Lunch was enjoyed at Atiwhakatu Hut. Whilst there the party of three turned up! Yes, they had found their lost person back towards the Gentle Annie junction. It seems the missing person had made a wrong turn at the first junction and headed up the Gentle Annie track instead of walking straight ahead to Donnelly Flat.



After some map reading, we returned via the same track with a brief stop at Donnelly Flat to visit the seat that had been placed overlooking the Atiwhakatu river in memory of Kim's stepfather.

On the return car journey, I asked two of our newbies – Olyvia and Renee – for their reflections on the day. They both said it was a mix of challenge (slip navigation) and fun. They enjoyed the many stories shared by fellow trampers and the beautiful environment. Overall, it was a ten out of ten day!

We were Verity (leader), Warren, Robyn, Grant, Steven, Richard, Kirsty, Olyvia, Renee and Kim (author).



After a long, winding drive on a beautiful sunny day I arrived at the Waikuku Lodge gate at about 2.15pm, to find Sarah already there, and the gate locked. Soon Neil and Michelle arrived, and Neil and I took alternating turns at trying to “pick” the combination lock, but being a high quality lock, we failed, and waited for Janet. Soon she arrived, and we entered the lodge to find it cold and chilly. The first thing we did was open doors and windows, letting in the warm, dry air.

Waikuku Lodge is a converted farmhouse, looked after by DOC, 32km SSE of Martinborough. It sleeps 24, and was built in 1921 from locally milled timber. Its electricity comes from a stand-alone solar power system, with a backup generator for when the storage battery runs low.



While the bunk rooms were DOC hut standard, the kitchen and lounges were something else. All mod cons, including fridge, toaster, microwave, oven, fireplace, and a second lounge with a woodstove. Eventually all 17 of us arrived, with some of us strolling 1km up to the roadend to preview where we’d be going tomorrow. The roadend revealed a shot-up information sign, a dead fawn rotting away, and a beaut view of the Aorangi Range.

I brought my own little cooking system, and veges for good old boil-up, but everyone else produced great looking grub in cooking groups. Plus Friday was Janet’s birthday, so a cake complete with candles was produced, and of course we all sang “Happy Birthday.”



The next day (Saturday) we walked to the roadend as a group, then divided into 2 groups for our walk to Sutherlands Hut: one group walking a shorter loop via the Pig Ridge Track (the one I chose), and the other group walking a longer loop via the Old Mill Track.



The Pig Ridge Track headed downhill through beech forest, where I heard some whiteheads, before we came into the open, consisting of grassland and small bush. One very steep, tricky downhill kept us all on our toes. The track here was simply trodden grass, with the very occasional track marker. Closer to the Turanganui River we reentered bush, the track widened, and I brushed some foliage and got stung by a wasp.

The early part of the walk involved some pushing through regenerating bush, as well as gorse and broom, and a few gorse scratches. We heard tui and bellbirds. About 1hr after the start, our two groups met at the track intersection before going our separate ways.



We crossed the river several times, and looking at my map I knew Sutherlands Hut should be close by, but we hadn't got to it yet. Robyn insisted I accept some Anthisan (antihistamine ointment) for my arm, which Kirsten produced from her pack. Thanks to you two, my arm soon felt much better. While Kirsten, Robyn, Steve and Warren stopped for a dip in the river, Woody went ahead to look for the hut, and I slowly followed. In a couple of minutes there it was, on top of a mound. It had taken us about 3hrs to get here.



About 6 affable hunter lads were in residence, having come in on two 4-wheelers, complete with dogs in boxes in the back. One had shot a large pig, which had been gutted and was hanging up in the hut's shed. We had lunch outside, on the grass. The clouds were darkening, it was definitely going to rain soon. We thought we might have met the other group here, but they had much further to walk, and we set off in spitting rain straight after lunch on our walk back along the 4WD track.

Initially this was an interesting walk, crossing the stream several times, and a nice little bit in the bush, before we climbed gradually out of the bush, and it became a winding, somewhat

monotonous climb back to the roadend. I stopped to look at the map, Ernie and Michelle went ahead and I got back to the Lodge just after them, and 5 minutes before the rain really started. The walk had taken 5 hours.

Woody, Alex and Lena left to return home to PN, and gradually everyone else arrived back at the Lodge. I had a shower. The showers were fantastic. The rest of the afternoon was very wet, and Janet and the other jigsaw fans carried on with the 1000 piece jigsaw that they'd started soon after our arrival on Friday. I thought this jigsaw was a very ambitious undertaking for our short stay at the Lodge. The kitchen was slightly less crowded this night, only 14 instead of 17.

I think we all slept very well on Saturday night. We arose on Sunday morning to find that we had no electricity. Janet had heard the backup generator trying to get going, during the night, but it didn't manage it. No lights! No toast! It felt like a normal situation in a hut to me. Janet & Co finished the jigsaw, we tidied the place up, and we were all gone well before the 11am checkout time.

It was very refreshing to go somewhere new, and it was cool to stay in a place you can drive to, as you can bring some luxuries with you. Thanks Janet, for organising this trip.

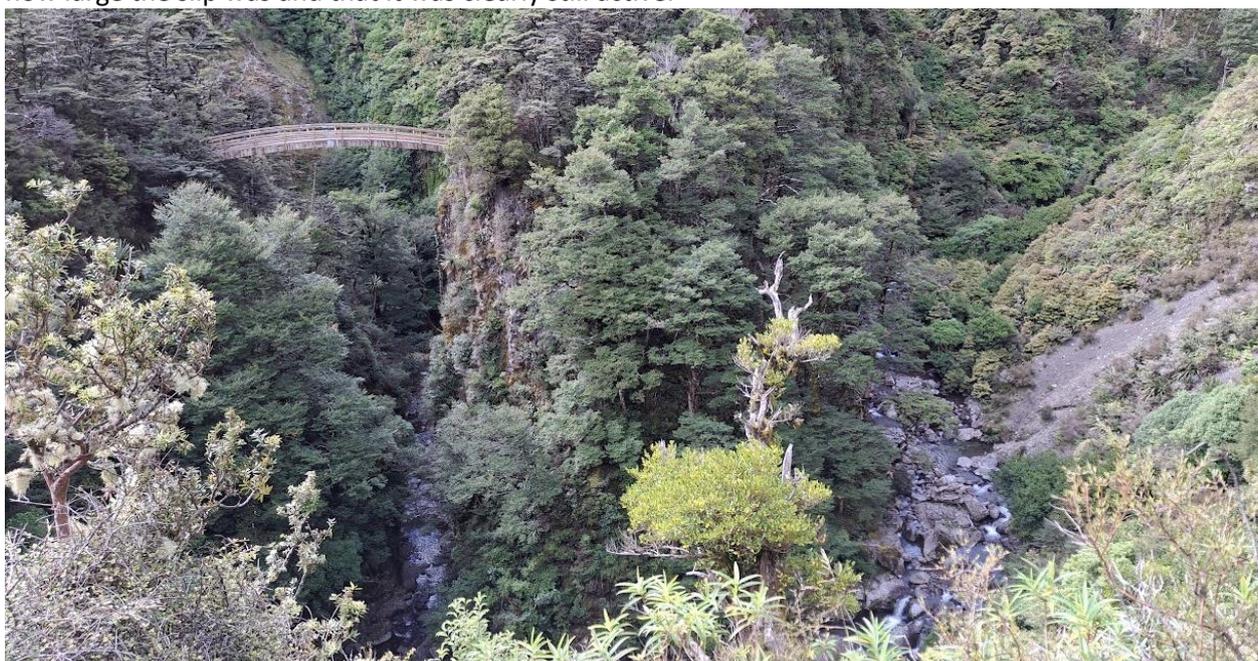
We were: Janet, Graham, Sarah, Stephen, Kirsten, Anne, Martin, Ernie. Woody, Alex, Lena, Nicola, Warren, Robyn, Michelle, Neil, Lyneke.

**23 March 2025      Beginners Trip #3 to Rangiwahia Hut and Beyond      Report by Kirstie Priddle**

A large group of 23 keen trampers including a lot of new beginners, left Milverton Park in a car pool via Colyton, Kimbolton through Rangiwahia onwards to Renfrew Road end car park. After a drink, snack and toilet stop we started our hike.

The weather was cloudy, around 13 degrees with a very fine mist of a passing shower that didn't last long. The lichen and moss-covered forest was a feast for the eyes and the track underfoot was easy. I could hear running water to the left of me in the gully most of the way.

It got steadily steeper and there were more steps than I was expecting. Grant showed us where the track used to go before a huge slip wiped it out, explaining in the past that it used to be a lot quicker to get to the hut but now there is a large detour. Indeed we could see from further on in the track looking back just how large the slip was and that it was clearly still active.

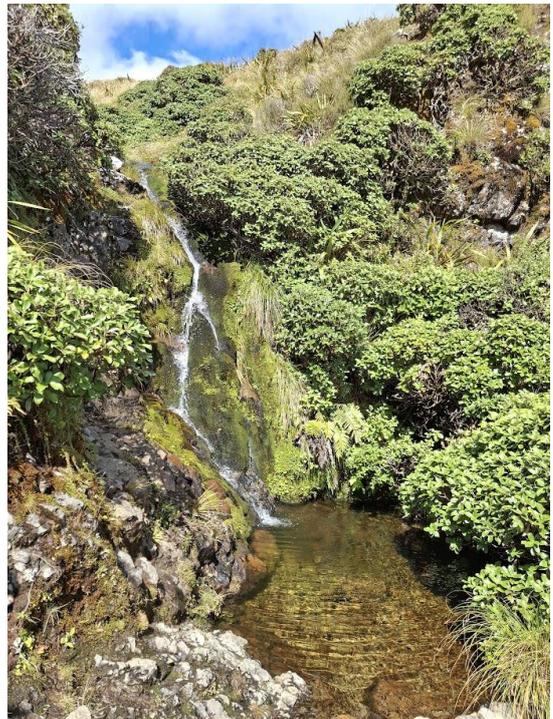


The arched bridge and ravine was a perfect photo opportunity before cracking on eager to keep going.

We had morning tea at a lookout about an hour and a half in, and set off again, then we all caught up to each other at



a stunning fresh clear waterfall with an inviting looking pool not far from the hut, I bet this water was very cold!



We all arrived at the hut around 2.5 hours in, adding extra layers of warm clothes before having lunch all seated outside. It was noticeably cooler, but the weather couldn't be faulted for autumn - fine, cloudy with some sun shining through at times and hardly any wind.

Warren shared a very refreshing tasty watermelon with everyone. Those keen for a little extra then set off up the track to explore the tussock tops near Mangahuia Range, intending to turn around in half an hour.



What an absolute treat this was, as this was my first time in the tops, I was in awe at the scenery, many photos taken.



After 30 mins as promised we turned around and met up with the rest of the group at the hut before starting our descent back down to the carpark, all arriving back with a smile still on our faces.

Overall the weather was perfect, not too hot, cloud cover, no rain, slight breeze at times, and hardly any mud, so not slippery. Thanks to PNTMC for providing safe outings with more experienced trampers, I'm loving it so far, also special thanks to Verity for her organisation of the Beginners Tramps.

We were the Beginners (14) Olyvia, Grant, Carlos, Kirstie, Sylvia, Brenda, Mario, Nat, Christian, Elaine, June, Kat, Shelley, Jacob and PNTMC Members (9) Nicola, Woody & Jo, Jo O-H, Tricia, Warren & Robyn, Richard, Verity (leader).

#### More Pics from Verity Elder (leader)





## PNTMC Newsletter April 2025

- Upcoming Trips and Club Nights
- Notices: AGM Report, Whats in My Pack, Presidents Report to AGM
- Trip Reports: Beginners #2 Atiwhakatu Hut, Waikuku Lodge, Beginners #3 Rangī Hut

Send articles to

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



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