



Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club

Newsletter July 2026

www.pntmc.org.nz

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



Photo by Nicola Wallace: 6 metre-high carved Pou Tangaroa on the Pukerua Bay foreshore.

Club Nights

Club nights are 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.

Thu 9th July

No Club Night Matariki Eve

Club Night cancelled in favour of our 60th Jubilee Celebrations, Friday-Sunday 10-12 July, Matariki long weekend.

Thu 30th July

AGM

Anne Lawrence

PNTMC AGM is being held on 30th July this year. 7.15 pm at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. All welcome.

Upcoming Trips

Fri 3rd – Sun 5th July Social Trappers Iron Gates *Medium*

**Janet Wilson
027 341 8945**

Join us as we carry out one of the monthly trap checks along the Oroua River and track to Iron Gates Hut and beyond. Help out or just come along and see what's involved.

Fri 10th – 12th July 60th Jubilee *All*

**Anne Lawrence
027 450 4212**

NTMC is celebrating its 60th Jubilee over Matariki weekend this year (9-11 July 2026). Go to <https://www.pntmc.org.nz/jubilee60.html> for details. Enquiries to pntmci@gmail.com.

Sat 18th – Sun 19th July Pinnacles Climbing *Technical*

**Grant Christian
021 117 6921**

Day trip climbing - Best weather day. Some winter climbing on the Pinnacles at Whakapapa, Mt Ruapehu.

Sun 19th July White Cliffs Boulders *Easy*

**Kirstie Priddle
027 779 0738**

Rescheduled from April. These are our very own version of the famous Moeraki Boulders, beside the Rangitikei River. There is a signpost on the main road near Ohingaiti that leads us there, via a windy gravel road to the carpark in the farmers terrace paddock. There is a \$5 charge for access. An easy but steep walk down the terrace track takes less than 30 minutes to get to the boulders.

Sat 25th – Sun 26th July Introduction to Snow Skills *All*

**Grant Christian
021 117 6921**

Want to know how to stay safe on snow and ice? Join this trip to Ruapehu to learn how to travel safely in alpine terrain. Learn how to walk on snow, cut steps, use crampons and ice axe, and self-arrest. We also introduce an understanding of avalanche safety. This trip to Mt Ruapehu will only proceed if snow, avalanche and weather conditions are suitable. There is a chance of postponement to a later weekend. This trip is for members or intending members of PNTMC. Numbers are limited. You will have to pay for transport, accommodation and gear hire. Contact Grant phone 021 117 6921 or gpc374@gmail.com for further information.

Sun 26th July Mikimiki Tramway-Te Mara Loop *Medium*

**Adam Matich
022 358 8062**

Best weather day (Saturday or Sunday). From the Kiriwhakapapa Road end, starts off nice and easy along the old logging tramway then we veer off to explore up the old ridge route to Te Mara peak. We come back down the Blue Range track.

Trips beyond July can be viewed on the club website [‘trip card.’](#)

Trip Grading - Trip grades depend on many factors, including weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trapper 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, there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone Bruce van Brunt 06 328 4761 or Verity Elder 0212601885

Notices

Upcoming PNTMC AGM: 30th July at the Quaker Hall – save the date!

When: 7.15 pm

Where: the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

Please consider whether you can commit a bit of time to the club by joining the committee. The committee meets approx. once every 6 weeks. Meetings are not long and new committee members are not expected to take on any roles or responsibilities. If you want to know more, contact club president Anne Lawrence on 027 450 4212 or another committee member.

PNTMC 60th Jubilee – Matariki weekend -

The programme for this much anticipate weekend away is as followings:

Friday 10th July:

- 12pm onward: Lunch
- Afternoon activities: the Fern walk, Gumboot throwing competition, Tararua biscuits judging.
- Dinner followed by glow-worm wander and Supper.

Saturday 11 July:

- Breakfast before we head off for Rangiwahia tramp. Options include to the bridge, to the Hut, to Mangahua high point...
- Back at Camp mid-afternoon for Group photo and Celebration cake
- Dinner followed by quiz and supper.

Sunday 12 July:

- Breakfast and relax before clean-up and depart.

Looking forward to an enjoyable and entertaining weekend with much opportunity for connection and celebration.

PNTMC is associated with **Federated Mountain Clubs** <http://fmc.org.nz/>

Trip Reports

Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton – (21st June).

Report and photos by Nicola Wallace

Five keen trampers fitted easily into Anne’s car, and it was pleasing to see the weather improving as we headed South. After a steep and narrow drive down Pukerua Beach Road, we parked in Ocean Parade and left the car at about 9.15am.

After a group photo at a beautiful pou, we headed off around the coast. Initially following a track, we came to “the hole in the rock”, and walking through the rock saw a swallow nest high up under the arch. It was now sunny, and rapidly getting hot, strange for June but really nice! The track gave way to rocks, some large and angular,



requiring good balance, and in other places small, well-worn flat stones that made for easy walking. I loved the constant sight and sound of the waves coming in. On a large rock just offshore, what looked like two trigs turned out to be two Black Backed Gulls. Hundreds of tree trunks littered the shore. To our left was

the very steep side of the hill, and further on an old fence post driven into the seabed lined up with an old fence heading straight up the hill. So maybe sheep lived on the hill in times past. We enjoyed seeing groups of Shags here and there.



Anne and Graeme identified Karaka trees growing at the bottom of the hill, and along the way we came across lots of interesting bits and pieces: paua shells, pinecones, beautiful small stones worn smooth by the sea, a Bluebottle, and even a drone (damaged). Further down the coast I could hear the deep rumble of rocks rolling under the waves as they crashed in, and I enjoyed the great view of Mana Island.

After a couple of hours, we came to a road, and alongside the road a very dark brown possum caught in a head trap. After passing cool little seaside dwellings we arrived at Karehana Bay, with its “different” orange street signs, and here we had lunch. Looking out over the sea towards Titahi Bay, I noticed Terns suddenly diving into the sea to catch their meal. Some of us saw seals well offshore. By now the sky was clouded over, and it had cooled a little.



A short walk-through suburbia took us into bush, and the strange sight of a huge mesh barrier suspended across a small stream. Perhaps it's to stop trees getting washed down into the street during heavy rain and flooding. Steps led us up through the bush onto a sealed road, and the first of our two trigs. Soon we picked up the Taua Tapu track, an undulating grass track through farmland. To our left was a kennels setup, and the many canine inmates barked loudly and constantly. Wouldn't want them to be my neighbours! Onto seal again at Airlie Road, past the Whenua Tapu Crematorium and Cemetery, before hitting the 2.2km Ara Harakeke sealed shared pathway to the Pukerua Bay store. Though nicely planted at the sides, this was not the most exciting bit of the walk, so Kim and I chatted away as we trailed at the back. It was so good to stop at the Pukerua Bay store for goodies. Soon we were descending the “Goat Track” back down to Ocean Parade. I paused to check out the wonderful character letterboxes here. We arrived back at the car 5.75 hours after leaving it. We had been so lucky with the weather, as it had been raining in Palmerston North and Wellington. Thanks Anne, for leading this trip.



We were Anne (leader), Martin, Kim, Graeme, Nicola.

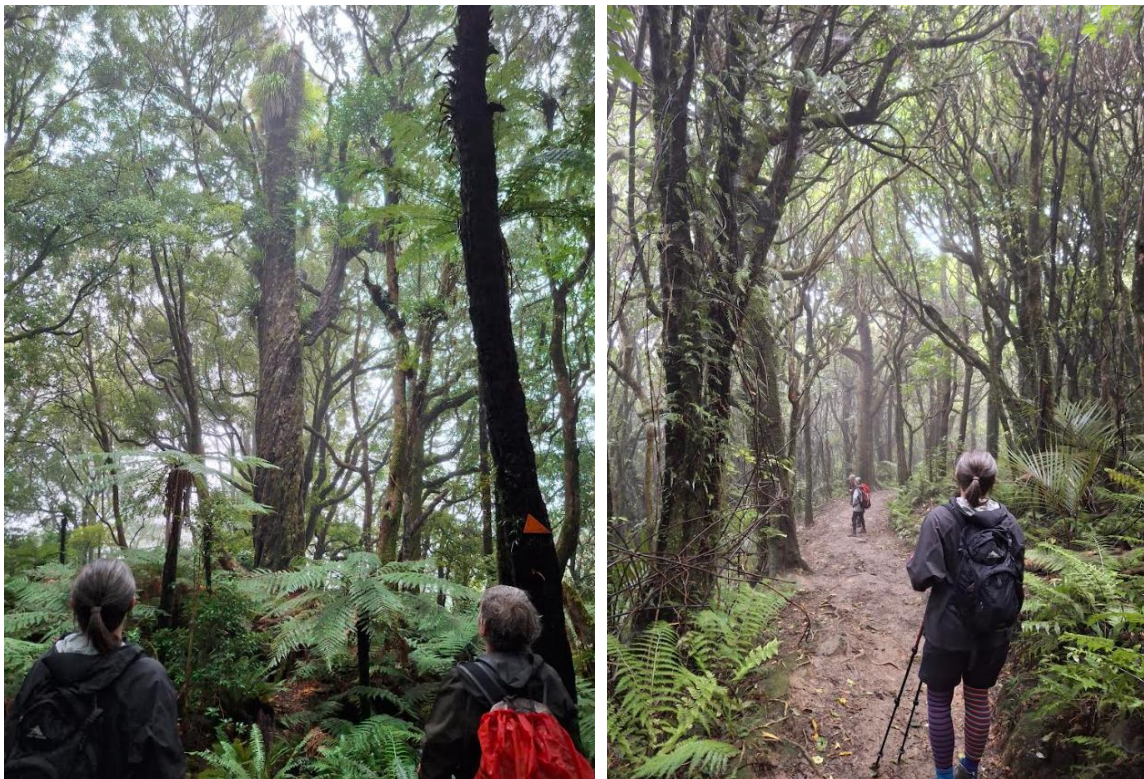
Hemi Matenga- Te Au track, Kohekohe walk – (14th June).

Report and Photos by Kirstie Priddle

We arrived at the start of Te Au track on Huia st, Waikanae 9.15. The weather was very grey with rain threatening, but warm with no wind. After having snacks and looking at a map of today's intended tramp, at 9.30 we set off on a slippery track in a straight line up to the bush where it got very rigorous from here onwards, straight uphill with tree roots as steps and scrambling hand holds, it seemed like a relentless steep uphill!

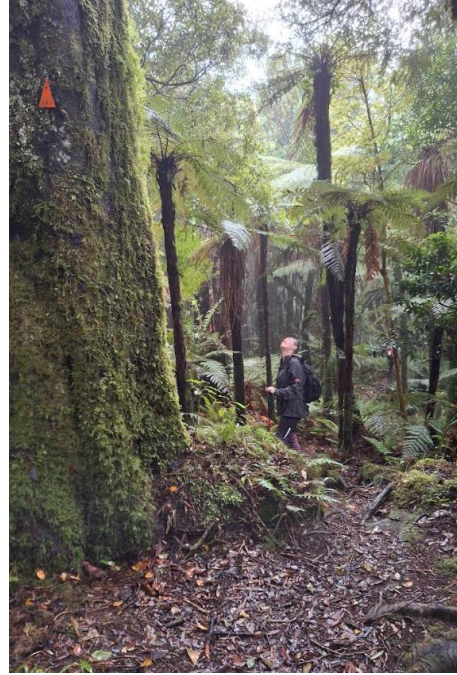


We were in the clag after not too long, and it was lightly raining by morning teatime which we had at the base of a grand old tree. Even though it was raining the bush protected us from the worst of it. Kat found a nice growth of jelly ear fungi for a future stir fry. Then we continued uphill until it gladly flattened out a bit along the ridge, where the bush was beautiful with a few big trees. We got to the lookout, with no view to be seen today. Time to descend.



I found the trip down easy, nice soft ground and some tree roots. At 12.45 we reached the junction with the Kohekohe walk where we had our lunch. Plenty of other walkers came past us, it seemed to be a popular track. The Kohekohe track was just beautiful, with many tall tropical looking Kohekohe trees and lush shades of green with ferns and nikau palms of all sizes gracing the forest floor and the odd fungi

sighting. A sight for the senses! I have since learned that this is one of the largest remaining stands of Kohekohe Forest in New Zealand. They are certainly impressive and unique.



On our way back down closer to town we heard and saw plenty of Tui birds in the trees. We didn't see any flowering Kohekohe until nearly the end of the tramp when we came out of the bush by the water reservoir. Then we were walking back through the streets to get back to the cars. I was delighted to see a street sign named "Tui Crescent"; the name fitting of the many tui in the trees. We got back to the cars around 2pm, all rather tired. Thanks to Nicole for organizing this trip and being trip leader.

We were: Nicola (trip leader), Sarah, Kat, June, Camille, Kirstie.

Once in a Blue Moon Kings Birthday weekend 2026 – (30th May – 1st June)

Report Janet Wilson

Photos by Woody, Sarah, Sally and Harley

Great weather, great food and great company - what more could you ask for on an early winter trip to the beach? Well - I think we would all agree we got more than that - a win at pool in the local pub, interesting and unexpected walks, some mini adventures, new places visited, a bach that exceeded expectations and some crayfish to top it off.



Friday night - dinner at the Porangahau pub. Sarah's local friend Lou invites us to join in the pool challenge, 4 of us play and Harley wins the \$100 prize. The locals were good sports!

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Saturday am - low tide walk north to the Porangahau River mouth - an immense stretch of sand. We were missing our usual birders plenty of birds were seen but perhaps not so well identified. Well ready for lunch on our return. Jigsaw started.

Saturday pm - the cloud lifted, we paid our entry money at the pub and off to the place with the longest name in THE WORLD!! A decent walk over farmland to around 300m high. Fantastic calm weather, views for miles.....later after a shared dinner more walks on the beach for some.



Sunday - off to Whangaehu Beach - 15km Sth to a remote small settlement new to us all. Signs lead us to a cliff top walk. Some small adventures had returning to the beach for some..... lunch back at the car.

Some cooked crayfish which miraculously appeared (sometimes it's a small world). Crayfish shared and enjoyed, those still with energy play swing ball, cricket and soccer. Jigsaw finished.



Sunday evening - the Blue Moon rises.....shared dinner, moonlight walks.

Monday - pancake breakfast, more beach walking and off home.

Thanks everyone for a very enjoyable weekend away.

We were: Janet (trip leader), Harley, Katherine, Sally, Yvonne, Woody, Ernie, Richard, Sarah, and Graham.



Archey's Lookout Plus – (24th May)

Report and Photos by Nicola Wallace

Sunstrike blinded me in places as I drove along Gladstone Road, but it heralded a day of sunny, bright weather. Anne and Martin were already at the road end, telling us it was 3 degrees Celsius according to their car's thermometer. Six keen trampers headed off, meeting a father and young boy with a bow and arrow heading to the carpark, just before we crossed the Makahika Stream.

After leaving the farm behind we were walking through alternating patches of bush and clearings. A heavy dew resulted in hundreds of beautiful droplet-covered spider webs along the track, a spectacular sight. We stopped at the campsite, where Martin looked at where a planned wooden shelter might be placed; it would be a very good addition to this campsite. This track is well looked after, as it is part of Te Araroa, and as we progressed along the old tramway track, every area of windfall across the track had been cleared. The Makahika Stream was low as there'd been little rain for weeks, and soon we reached the end of the tramway. I encouraged everyone to walk up the hill at their own pace. I always really enjoy this hill, a pleasant, benched track. Archey's Lookout greeted us at the top. From here we could see the Northern tip of Kapiti Island. Thankfully everyone was feeling good and was happy to walk the "plus" part of this tramp, the 25 minutes or so to the Horowhenua Lookout. Just as we were leaving Archey's, a leader and Duke of Ed kids came past. They'd camped the night before somewhere up the Mangaore Stream.



3 hours after the start, we lunched in the sun at Horowhenua Lookout, with a partial view of Shannon, and good view north. From there we checked out a spot in the bush, 100m on from the lookout, where Martin had camped recently as part of a volunteer group laying wooden rafts on the muddy bits of the track. As Martin pointed out, after these rafts have been laid, these sections become un-muddy, leading to people wondering why rafts were put down in the first place.

The walk back was very relaxed, with lots of conversations going on in the group. Almost back to the cars, we saw the father and son (from the morning) heading into the hills, this time Dad carrying a rifle. We arrived back in Palmerston North just after 4pm. It was an enjoyable walk, on an excellent track, with plenty of variety.

We were: Nicola (trip leader), Kim, Misa, Angela, Anne, and Martin.



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- Trip Reports: Pukerura Bay to Plimmerton, Hemi Matenga- Te Au track, Kohekohe walk, Once in a Blue Moon Kings Birthday weekend, Archey' s Lookout Plus.

Send articles to the newsletter editor at elderverity@gmail.com

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<https://tinyurl.com/pntmcfacbook>

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