

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter May 2013



Billy and dinner keeping warm.

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

9 May

Dead Dog or Die

Bruce van Brunt & Chris Tuffley

Hut bagging last year caused some interesting trips to happen. Here is the story of hut bagging through the northern Ruahines to the fabled Dead Dog Hut.

30 May

BYO slides

This is your chance to show your latest pics from your trips, and to see other peoples pics. All welcome.

Upcoming Trips

4-5 May

Makaretu-Top Gorge Pohangina M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

A delightful easy river trip from the Kashmir road end. Depart 7.30.

5 May

Back Track E
Woody Lee 357 2390

Our walk will start from the Black Bridge at Kahuterawa carpark, a 17 km drive from the city centre and next to the Sledge Track. We will go up to Pine forest and descend one of mountain bike trails. Back track is suitable for families with small children. This is also known as Kahuterawa Loop track and is used for mountain biking. Depart about 9.00am.

11-17 May

Hillary Trail, Auckland
Janet Wilson

Unfortunately, this tramp has been cancelled.

10-11-12 May

Mitre Peak M
Angela Minto 027 472 0660

(Friday-Sunday) Depart Milverton Park Friday afternoon (time to be confirmed), into Mitre Flats hut for the night. Saturday ascend Mitre (highest point in the Tararuas) and beyond depending on conditions. Back to the hut for Sat night, meeting with the other club trip. Wander out Sunday. Contact Ange for details.

11-12 May

Mitre Flats E
Jo O'Halloran 353 0300

A great riverside hut located in from Masterton, with good Tararua forest, and plenty of options for an interesting stroll in the area on Sunday.

18-19 May

North Ohau Hut E/ M
Dave Grant 328 7788

A good, if wet feet, stroll in the Tararuas behind Levin (there are a few tracks here where you will keep your feet dry).

19 May

Stanfield Hut E
Mick Leyland 358 3183

A popular Dannevirke valley and hut.

25-26 May

Kaweka Range E/ M
Geoff Beaumont 354 4929

An interesting Hawkes Bay tramp, with good huts and tracks.

1-2 June

Queen's Birthday Weekend All
Janet Wilson 329 4722

This years Queen's Birthday weekend "Coastal Classic" is to Waipatiki Beach, which is north of Napier. We will be staying at the Waipatiki Farm Park motor camp which has cabins and a communal kitchen that should suit us. There is a local coastal walk and some other walks within an easy drive. Possibly some cycling. Also fishing and rock fossicking, not to mention eating!! We will depart Friday, so take the day off work. Returning Monday, so that's 3 nights at the camp. Cost will be approx \$30-40pp/night plus transport costs.

If you would like to join in this very social weekend, please RSVP asap even if you are just thinking about it please.

Day tramp

TBA

Contact Janet 329 4722 for details

A mystery tramp to one of our favourite local winter tramping areas.

8-9 June

Holly Hut (Egmont NP) F
Chris Tuffley 359 2530

A great north facing hut (with a coal burner) just right for a chilly winter trip. If conditions permit, you may be able to climb to the summit of the beautiful mountain.

29-30 June 2013

Mid Winter Celebrations All
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Coming up, during the last weekend in June, PNTMC has the mid winter dinner planned to be held at Pohangina Base. This is in a very scenic area of the valley. There will be four wheel driving options for Takapari Road on Sunday.

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
Medium (M):	5-6 hrs Fit
(F):	about 8 hrs Fitness
Essential (FE):	over 8 hrs

Other grades:
 Technical skills (T)
 Instructional (I)

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips 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, overtrousers, 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.

Personal Locator Beacons – Free for trips

The club has purchased two PLBs for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence. Note that this applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

Overdue Trips

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts:

Tony Gates	357-7439
Janet Wilson	329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates, the newsletter editor, at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz, or via <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

President's Annual Report 11 April 2013

It is an honour to present this, the 47th President's Annual Report. It is my third year as president, however I feel I am just beginning to come to grips with the role.

This year saw PNTMC develop even stronger relationships with our local DOC office. The committee, along with other local tramping and hunting groups, were involved in establishing the Ruahine Users Group. DOC has agreed to hold meetings four times a year with this group to discuss issues around the management of DOC's assets in the Ruahines. This group has

also established a presence on the web through "Remote Huts Westland" website run by the online group, Permolat, with the aim of providing up to date information for the wider community about huts and tracks in the Ruahines. The group is now keen to set up their own website for this; this would entail an annual cost which the group want clubs to cover (at an estimated cost of around \$30 per annum per contributing club). Our committee has given provisional agreement to this proposal. However, access and maintenance of assets in the Ruahines remain a concern. We were unable to prevent the removal of Mid Pohangina swingbridge or the closure of Kawhatau Base. However, DOC report that they hope to negotiate access to Kawhatau Base with the new owners once the Rennie farm is sold.

We signed agreements with DOC early in the year so PNTMC are now formally responsible for management of Mid-Pohangina and Ngamoko huts and have a shared role with DOC regarding Rangiwahia hut. DOC has worked with us to get the huts into good condition prior to handing them over. After a major effort involving many people and many hours, Mid-Pohangina is looking clean and tidy and has a good supply of firewood. And Ngamoko is even more spruced up after Craig and Michael Allerby, Tina Bishop and Janet Wilson spent most of a week painting and doing some maintenance on the hut.

This year the club's major focus was the Ruahine Hutbagging challenge. This started as Janet Wilson's bright idea - the aim was to encourage club members to get out into the Ruahines, as well as getting members to places they hadn't been before. This was a resounding success. Over half of the club's members were actively involved in the challenge and a total of 745 hut visits were made, with 100 of these visits to huts that the person had not visited before. The average number of visits per hut was 12 with Heritage Lodge the most visited, Rangi second most visited and Mid Pohangina third. Ellis, Hinerua and Pourangaki each only had 1 visit from a club member in the year. At our end of year BBQ awards were presented for a range of achievements during the challenge with Derek Sharp receiving the top award for the most points and for visiting every one of the 62

huts in the Ruahines. The challenge has been written up in the Wilderness Magazine as well as FMC's bulletin. The poster produced from photos taken during the hutbagging has proved very popular with club members, DOC staff and others. Thanks to Eric Liu for designing this.

We are grateful for a donation of \$500 from Sue Pither. This donation is a bequest from Sue as Club Patron. It provides a worthy recognition of Lawson Pither's long-standing contribution to the club, both as club member and his varied roles on past committees and more recently as club patron. We will use Sue's donation to cover the cost of a Personal Locator Beacon. However, due to timing of banking the cheque, this donation will be shown in next year's accounts.

The club now has two PLBs available for club members to take on both club trips and their own trips. So far these have only been used occasionally, but we intend to make an effort to publicise their availability and are hopeful that club members will make more use of them.

Club membership has increased this year: We welcomed 11 new members bringing our total membership to 69. This figure includes 3 life members, 44 individual members and 11 family memberships.

Warren Wheeler organised an interesting programme for our club nights with speakers covering a diverse range of topics. Areas covered this year included Everest and the Himalayas, Eastern and Western Europe, Mt Blanc, the Grand Canyon, Brazil, Patagonia, Fujiyama, and, closer to home, Mt Cook. Topics have included navigation, safe tramping, and who protection. We have heard about Matt Briggs' remarkable story of survival, and climbing legend, Bill Denz. Andrew Mercer talked about DOC's perspective on the Ruahines at one club night and presented Janet Wilson with a conservation award in recognition of her contribution as coordinator of the Oroua Blue duck project.

The club participated in the MUAC interclub debate where we were ably represented by Malcolm Parker, Graham Peters and Chris Tuffley. Despite the strong arguments put

forward by our team, the MUAC team were the winners on the night. We were also well represented at the Interclub Quiz which was hosted by MTSC. This was a closely fought competition, which was won by one of our teams.

Club photographers continue to impress. Chris Tuffley was the star of our club photo competition which was judged by Harley Betts. Chris had a photo in one of the top three places in five of the six categories in our competition and Chris's photo of Taranaki from Fantham's Peak was judged best of the show. Newcomer to our competition was Angela Minto who achieved three placings. The club's photographers also achieved a number of placings in the interclub photo competition. Udo van Mulert was the judge this year and he placed Chris first in the landscape section and judged Martin Lawrence's Shine Falls as best overall photo.

Janet Wilson instigated social evenings which were held as an informal get together on the 'free' Thursday each month during winter. Club members responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to socialise and a range of local eateries were explored.

Terry Crippen organised a supply of fleece tops, beanies and caps embroidered with the PNTMC logo. A small number of members bought some apparel.

Tony Gates represented the club at FMC AGM in Christchurch in June.

Once again the club put together two excellent trip cards for the year. The following statistics provide a summary of club trips: From 1 March 2012 until 28 February 2013 we had 104 overnight and day trips programmed, of which 32 trips or 31% did not go for weather or other reasons. Of the trips that went, 70% went to the Ruahine Forest Park, 11% to the Tararua Forest Park and 19% elsewhere in the North Island. There was an average of 3.7 people on the 42 day trips and 6.8 on the 30 overnight trips. The most popular day trip was the Otaki Forks Picnic, with 21 participants. The most popular overnight trip was to Matiu Somes Island, with 19 participants. The club snowcraft programme

was again held over a series of single days. This went well with five people attending Snowcraft I (plus two skiers), 14 attending Snowcraft II and 11 going on Snowcraft III. Thanks to Terry Crippen and Bruce van Brunt for organising and running this programme, and Peter Darragh for helping out with instruction.

Club members continue to be an active lot outside of organised club activities. This year, club members explored Forest Parks including the Kawekas, Ruahines, Tararuas and Mt Peel, National Parks including Kahurangi, Mt Cook, Nelson Lakes, Tongariro, Whanganui, and Westland, the Ruataniwha Conservation Park and Conservation Areas of St James and Woodbine/Greenstone as well as other areas of New Zealand including Stewart Island, Southland, Glenthorne Station, Lewis Pass and North West Nelson. Members also visited places outside New Zealand including Australia, Austria, Bolivia, France, Italy, Nepal, Peru and Switzerland. Terry Crippen has compiled the comprehensive Who's Done What that records places club members have been to since the start of 2000.

I am proud of what our club has achieved this year. We have been actively involved in issues of conservation and access to the conservation estate. Our negotiations with DOC about their hut management agreement have contributed to them developing a briefer, more user-friendly document. We continue to produce an interesting, informative newsletter each month, we hold club meetings once a fortnight, we educate and upskill club members and we put together a good variety of trips with day and overnight tramps running most weekends of the year. Many people give generously of their time to ensure these activities are successful. A big thanks to all club members involved for their energy and commitment. For me it is a real privilege to represent such a wonderful group of people.

My role is made much easier by the efficient work of Dave Grant as Secretary, Martin Lawrence as Treasurer and Warren Wheeler as Vice President. My thanks to all committee members: Warren Wheeler, Dave Grant, Martin Lawrence, Bruce van Brunt, Tony Gates, Terry

Crippen, Craig Allerby, Janet Wilson, Eric Liu and Malcolm Parker. Thanks also to Mick Leyland (gear custodian) and Peter Wiles (club archivist and web master).

Membership subscriptions are due

With the AGM behind us, subs are now due. We have kept them the same as last year:

Full sub (newsletter posted to you)
\$40 Family or \$35 Single

e-sub (newsletter from website, not posted)
\$30 Family or \$25 Single

You can pay by giving cash or cheque to Martin at a club meeting, or fill in the enclosed pink slip and put in the mail with your cheque, or you can pay online to PNTMC's bank account: 030726 0485393 00 (please include your name so we know who the payment is from).

A reminder for prospective members: New members need to have been on at least two club trips before they can be accepted as members of the club. This requirement has been a part of the club ethos since its inception - the idea being that people will have checked out that they do fit in with other members and our trips before they become members. Of course people are welcome to come along on club trips and to club nights even if they are not intending to become members.

Ruahine Hut Bagging Challenge 2012 PNTMC Poster For sale

PNTMC has made a poster of their hut bagging efforts in 2012, a stunning array of hut photos surrounding a map of the Ruahines. These have proved extremely popular and we are planning yet another print run.

Price for club members is \$16.00 for A1 size, or \$8.00 for A2. Non member price is \$24.00 and \$12.00 respectively. P&P extra. Order your copy from the Secretary d.a.grant@xtra.co.nz

You can also see the poster proudly displayed at the i-site in the Square.

Ruahine Hutbagging Photo Exhibition

An exhibition of hut bagging photographs is being put together by Eric Liu. This is a great way to promote the club activities thanks to the Palmerston North Library. You can find them on display in the non-fiction zone from 6-20 May.

PNTMC Peak/ Bagging Challenge 2013-2014

Aim: To encourage participation; to get trampers out into the hills; to follow on from last year's challenge with a bias towards the Ruahines.

Rules

- To run entirely on an honesty system, although photos on high points are encouraged.
- To run between the 2013 AGM and the 2014 AGM (You must be at the AGM 2014 to claim points bagged on that day).
- All peaks must be marked on NZ Topo 50 maps and be within the Conservation Estate i.e. administered by DOC in New Zealand.
- Peaks must be named - a Trig code or spot height doesn't count.
- A peak located on the DOC boundary will count. If in doubt consult the committee before proceeding.
- Points are awarded for each peak: Ruahine peaks 2 points (5 points for special Ruahine peaks as below), all others 1 point PLUS all peaks get a bonus point on club trips.
- Special Ruahine peaks 5 points – if it is your first visit or more than 20 years since your last visit to any of these 10 peaks - Maharahara, Toka, Tunupo, Mangahuia, Otumore, Ohuinga, Mangaweka, Tiraha, Te Atua O Parapara and Te Atua Mahuru.
- Bonus point for peaks bagged on club trips - a 5 point peak is worth 6 points, a 1 point peak is worth 2 etc.
- Points can be claimed for each high point a maximum of 3 times. This is to discourage repetitive visits to the same place.
- Your results should be sent as soon as possible after each trip to Malcolm Parker at mparker@slingshot.co.nz or phone 357-5203. There will also be a book to record entries at Club Nights.

11 April Inaugural Billy TT Race Report by Graham Peters

As a lead up to this the club had the AGM and once this was out of the way we had the evening's main event - the inaugural Billy TT. Another event resulting from Warren's fertile imagination, it involved a race between people's various cookers to bring a litre of water to a rolling boil. The rules were fairly open so participants could maximise their cooker's efficiency by various cunning schemes. Seven participants lined up with their cookers - those ranging from the ancient Butterfly kerosene fuelled to the latest MSR white spirits models.

Although I was a participant, *I have to say that my Butterfly was unduly handicapped by requiring preheating and the rules stated an unlit start.* Janet, one of the favourites with her flash MSR International had to withdraw when she realised she'd left the fuel bottle at home. That left Chris with the only other MSR, a Whisperlite. I thought Derek with his Coleman Peak 1 had a good chance also. With my natural prejudice against cookers that use the screw on gas cannisters I'd dismissed them as having no chance at all. Their only advantage is they're easy and instantaneous to light. Dave, with the cunning of his years, although having one of that type of cooker had brought along a heat shield. Considering there was a reasonable breeze this was a clever idea.

Warren started the countdown and matches and lighters were readied. At the off all the gas cookers were running, that is except for Anne's that didn't have enough gas to even light. Chris's MSR and Derek's were soon running while poor old Butterfly was still preheating. Not long into it Sue's was obviously having problems and ran out of fuel. Note to self, don't rely on Anne, Janet, or Sue for cookers on a tramp. Also, this may only be a coincidence, but *none of the women managed to boil their water.* Eventually Butterfly was up and running, very well too if I do say so myself. On the other hand Derek's Coleman wasn't at the peak of its efficiency, with a very yellow flame. As the clock ticked on, we were expecting a photo finish between Butterfly and the MSR, however with the prodigious amounts of heat Butterfly was producing it overhauled the MSR and went on to win by 23 seconds.



The winning Kerosene Butterfly cooker, topped with the Billy TT winners cup.

As with all such prestigious events, there was a trophy presentation for the top three cookers with the presentation by the Vice-President of PNTMC, Warren Wheeler.

Inaugural Billy TT Official Results

Competitor	Cooker (fuel)	Time min.sec
Graham Peters	Primus Butterfly (kerosene)	6.37
Chris Tuffley	MSR Whisperlite (white spirits)	7.00
Derek Sharp	Coleman Peak 1 (white spirits)	8.00
Dave Grant	Kovea ? (butane)	8.25
Sue Pither	Kovea? (butane)	DNF
Anne Lawrence	Outer Limits (butane)	DNS
Janet Wilson	MSR International (white spirits)	W/D

DoC News: Stanfield & Cattle Creek huts

Great to see both these huts have had work done and are looking very tidy. Stanfield has had a clean up outside and a new floor, and wall cladding. The woodburner is in very good condition and there is ample wood available in the creek below the hut. No sign of rats which has been a problem in the past. I think huts like

this are important to encourage newcomers to the outdoors and tramping. The access up the Tamaki has become fairly overgrown in places, but still fairly easy. Also good to note that the Holmes Ridge track has been cleared all the way up to the helipad. Great work guys.

Cattle Creek also looking much tidier. New external cladding on the NW wall, internal wall cladding and a new aluminium framed window. Woodburner in very good condition - a big improvement on the old wood range. The track from Stanfield to Cattle creek has also been cleared and new markers in place. Thanks to DoC and others involved.

Trip Reports

23 January Tunupo Explorer, Oroua Graham Peters

I'd been up Tunupo Creek a couple of times - once many years ago and recently winched in and out by RNZAF Iroquois when we were shifting stoat traps. I'd also been turned back to Iron Gates hut when Tunupo Creek was in flood and impassable. My recollections of both previous times up there were of a rather pleasant little stream so I was quite keen to refresh my memories. As well there are some self resetting stoat traps that Janet wanted to check up on. Warren, Peter van Essen, Janet, and Bruce the dog signed up for the trip.

By repute early on in the creek there's a pool that necessitates a swim. I'd also heard that you could climb around on the true left, and so it proved. River levels were low so maybe it's not often possible. It was a nice sunny day as we wandered up at a leisurely pace with frequent breaks to check traps. There's the odd little gorgy piece but nothing too dramatic. Part way up we came across a freshly dead deer. It was interesting as it was very fresh but no obvious signs of having been shot. Before any hunters react with a knee-jerk reaction blaming 1080 there's been none in this area.

Seemed a waste to leave it there and although I would have quite happily eaten it myself I decided that it would also do quite well as dog food. Out came the backsteaks and meat off the back legs and into the pack. After this little diversion we carried on our way. After we passed beyond the stoat traps, we carried on

and found a nice sunny terrace for lunch. We carried on upstream for a while after lunch before we turned around and headed back out after a very enjoyable day with good company.

16-24 February 2013
Expedition to Fox Glacier- continued
Thomas Robertson

There had been two people in the hut up until then, but that night we were joined by a group of 8 from the Perth bushwalkers group, and a group of 5 elderly Swiss people. The three Swiss men had all been guides in the area in the 1960's and 70's, and this was a reunion for them. They were all well into their 70's, and still had their original gear-ancient looking crampons and wooden handled ice axes. One of them, Max Dorflinger had said he was first to solo the Caroline face, and was part of the team to do the first winter ascent of the Eiger-not to mention sailing around the world twice in a home-made boat. Another, Tony, was telling us of his ten day traverse of the main range from Mt. Cook to Glacier Peak. Unfortunately two of them had to leave after one of the women dislocated her shoulder. When we met her at porter lodge we found she had recently spent 30 days hiking in the Himalayas with her son-without porters. It was an honour to meet them and hear their stories.



Sunset from Pioneer Hut

The next day we made an attempt at Marcel Col. We started investigating the left below Haast corner but this would have involved ice climbing we weren't confident on. We then tried straight up the middle, and this worked for a while until we were blocked by a crevasse. We had some trouble when one of Grant's crampons came loose on a steep section. We then looked at the right and thought it was possible, but we were too tired and the snow soft so we headed back. The next day, with more advice from the Swiss

guides, we tried to the right, and were able to get past the crevasses that had troubled us yesterday. We had one final crevasse to contend with that blocked the way to the Col. We crossed roped up on a not too stable snow bridge. After a quick break on the col, and seeing the Dixon rock slide, we decided to make an attempt on Lendenfeld. We ascended steeply on a somewhat icy section for about 150m. From there we had to follow a ridge line to the peak. While the ridgeline itself was not too steep it was corniced, with a crevasse running parallel to it, and we were forced to traverse alongside it on a steeper section. We travelled unroped as while there was some exposure the snow was good and our ice axes gave firm handholds. We reached the summit at roughly 1 o'clock. It was amazing, climbing our first 3000m peak, and with beautiful views all round. We found out later that the Swiss group had been watching us from the hut. On the way down we retraced our steps to the steeper section and then pitched down. The snow was mixed, going from soft to ice. Our anchors on the way down were a mix of T-bars and ice-screws! We made it down successfully to the col, but had some problems on the way out. We took a different route down to the glacier, as we thought this was more direct and skipped some of the rockfall we had crossed earlier in the morning. We found however that the way was blocked by crevasses and the route across involved walking along worse rockfall. We took turns crossing with the other watching. I crossed with no problems but when Grant was on it some rocks started falling, I shouted to him and he was able to shelter behind a large boulder, which was fortunate-one rock which fell must have been the size of a pack. I think we will both take rockfall more seriously after that. It was a long slog back reaching the hut well after 6.

We left the next day, managing to make it back to the road end in 9 and a half hours. The travel went fairly smoothly, apart from a bit of trouble getting on to the glacier after Chancellor. We spotted a chamois on the way down. The guiding group's bus driver not only gave us a lift back to town, but dropped us off to our front door! From there it was down to the pub for a well-earned cold beer (or two) and steak.

Thanks to Bruce, Terry, and Peter for running the snowcraft courses, Bruce for much useful advice on routes and the loan of some gear, and the Fox Glacier guides for advice and transport. If anyone is interested in Max and the Swiss guides a current guide who visited the hut has arranged to interview Max to publish an article about him for the NZAC.

23 February
Burn Hut
Photo by Woody Lee



In addition to the Trip report featured in the April 2013 Newsletter by Nicola Wallace on tramping to Burn Hut, we have a good photo to add here.

The Burn Hut track is a pleasant day tramp in the Mangahao catchment. The hut is tidy, and the views excellent.

9-10 March
Triangle Hut
Craig Allerby

We arrived at the Renfrew Roadend carpark at about 8.10am. On with the boots and packs and up the Deadmans Track we headed. A cool south-easterly breeze made the first steep section of the track more pleasant going than the rather hot days we had been experiencing of late! The track levels out for a while through the pepper tree and cedar forest before another short steep climb into the leatherwood. With a dropping temperature another layer of clothing was required. After steadily climbing through the leatherwood for a couple of km's we reached the tussock grass. Raincoats were now thrown on as the wind temperature was quite chilling. We battled on up into a blustery headwind crossing over the tussock tops. The tarn along the way was void of water. A final 120m grunt up soon had us on the top of Mangahuaia. In a hurried eagerness to get out of the cold wind we bowled down the wrong ridge. The ridge splits into two and soon realising this we sidled across the ridge on speargrass alert to the correct one that initially heads grid south. Descending down through the tussock 'Hawkeye Lockett' spotted a deer off the side of an adjacent ridge. Michael spotted a second just below the first one.

Carrying on down the ridge we reached the

leatherwood band. With no marked track Michael navigated the way down with Richard and I following. After 1 ½ hours travel we reached the cross over track to Irongate Hut. A well earned break for lunch was taken.

Leaving our packs behind, but armed with break spanners and rabbit bait, we preceded down the track towards Irongate Hut checking stoat traps. With them all checked the return back up the track was not so enjoyable as the day had warmed up considerably! A quick snack and drink at the top then back on with the packs. We now headed down the other side of the cross-over track towards Triangle Hut checking the stoat traps as we went. Along the way to my surprise I noticed an un-opened bottle of beer lying on a mossy covered log. With a Dutch or German sounding brand name Michael gladly took it for later consumption.

Three young men lugging 3 litre bottles of water each passed us in the opposite direction, they were heading to Irongate Hut for the night. It wasn't long before we reached the Oroua River which was considerably lower than usual. This made for quick travel while checking the traps. On reaching Triangle Hut I had managed to keep my socks dry, a rare occurrence! Richard got the billy on and nibbles of cashew nuts, camembert cheese, creamy blue cheese and crackers were devoured. Michael enjoyed it with his beer! Dinner was a simple affair of a backcountry meal each. Richard produced a packet of chocolate macaroons for dessert. We retired to bed with contented stomachs.



Triangle Hut, Oroua Valley

Next day dawned with a beautiful blue sky. A quick breakfast of porridge and the team were packed and leaving the hut just after 8.30am. We crossed the river and headed up the steep track towards the Whanahuaia Range. Met three other trampers at the Rangi Hut track junction who spent the night at Rangi Hut and were

completing the Rangī-Deadmans Loop. Apart from the warming day it was an easy walk to Rangī Hut arriving at 12.30pm for lunch. Two new deluxe toilets had been installed, a large wood shed and a bench seat.

After a good lunch we departed down the Rangī Track, steps and gravel have been placed along the first section of the track. Further along the track more steps had been dropped off at various locations ready to be installed. Pink ribbons with corresponding instructions marked the spots for location of the different size steps. The day had really heated up so it was a relief to get over the detour track above the slips and back down to the main track. The start of the new zig-zag track has been gravelled out to the car park which we reached at 4.15pm.

A great weekends tramping had by Craig Allerby, Michael Allerby and Richard Lockett.

23 March 2013 East Ridge of Egmont Bruce van Brunt

We left the Manawatu suitably early to arrive at the Stratford Plateau by 7:30am. There were three of us spread across the Manawatu: Richard (Palmerston North), Malcolm (Marton) and Bruce (Pohangina), so that early morning logistics were not trivial. The striking feature here was that the Stratford car park had several vehicles in it (at least a dozen), which is probably the biggest "crowd" I have ever seen in the place this early in the morning.

We were walking to the ski field by 7:40am. The weather was clear and cool with little if any wind (perfect conditions). As we passed through the amazing tunnel near the flying fox and into the gully, we noticed another party heading up the gully well ahead of us. They had left the track and were working their way up. I could not imagine why they chose such an unpleasant path, but I figured perhaps they were studying plants, rock formations or something like that. We continued on up to the shelter and then up the top of the first ski field. The other party emerged from the gully at about the same elevation. It occurred to me now that perhaps they too were destined for the East Ridge (why else be high on these ski fields in summer).

We took my favourite vaguely marked track off the top of the first ski field and climbed up to some wonderful "Sound of Music" alpine meadows. The track is a bit eroded, but still quite pleasant and interesting. We climbed

steadily to 1780m until we had a rest at the bottom of the Policeman, which we were turning it on the North side. From here there is a delightful rock scramble of about 100m to get to the top of the Policeman/base of the East Ridge. (This is perhaps my favourite section of the climb.) The rock is nice through this section, but it tops out at the base of the ridge, where there is some loose stuff. We had but a few metres of the loose stuff before we gained the rock of the East Ridge. It was now a steady pleasant climb of 500m to the top of the Shark's Tooth. I looked down and to my horror I saw the other party slowly and painfully going up the scree slope to the south of the Policeman some 600m below us...this was truly a long and unpleasant way to gain the ridge. About 100m before we topped out I saw them finally gain the ridge. Malcolm said something about them coming down by torchlight.

We had lunch on the Shark's Tooth and watched the crowds from the North Ridge go up to the summit. We pretty much had the East Ridge to ourselves, but there were a lot of people around the summit. We descended the Shark's Tooth and entered the crater via the "chimney". We then made a short slog up to the summit to join the masses. The weather was pleasant, but an annoying cloud kept coming in and out with the net effect that views from the summit were limited. We descended via the North Ridge (along with 30 or so tramping companions) and made our way down to the around the mountain track. Once again we had the park to ourselves. The cloud still persisted up high, so views were limited. We had a pleasant circuit around to the plateau and were back at the car around 5:30pm. We were Malcolm Leary, Bruce van Brunt and Richard Whiddett.

26-31 March, Easter Glacier Gully, Waiau Valley Terry Crippen & Ange Minto

Glacier Gully is a short valley with an impressive very steep cirque at its head directly below Una and Duessa in the Spenser Mountains. It's accessed from the Waiau Valley in the St James Conservation Area. This area, formally St James Station, abuts onto Molesworth Station and Nelson Lakes NP. (St James Station didn't agree to the Tenure Review Process so in the end the government bought the whole station.)

Our plan for this trip was to attempt Duessa, Una and Moki. On Easter Thursday a long bumping drive via Molesworth Station and the Tophouse (Rainbow) Rd eventually had us at Maling Pass

after the odd screw had fallen out of Big Red with all the vibrations of the late summer rutted roads! If you are nice to DoC they will give you the code for the locked gate so you can take 4WD vehicles down to the TL bank of the Waiau. We arrived much later than expected so opted to camp next to the vehicle and endure numerous sandflies. Various MTBers raced past as this route down valley is on the St James Cycle Trail.

Next morning, nice and clear, an easy ford of the Waiau and up Glacier Gully; boulder hopping up the gravels and battling the flood damage and toppled trees. About two hours later we emerged into the large open tussock sloping flats beneath the headwall. Then it was a hot slog with heavy packs (tent, rope and climbing gear) up very steep open slopes towards a bench half way up the head wall. The sparse vegetation was so dry it was crumbling and brittle, but fortunately there was still some water about.

Looking over at the bench (at about 1600m) there didn't look like any useful flat areas close to water supply. Also the wind had picked up excessively and crud was billowing over the top of Una and Duessa. So rather than enduring conditions up high we decided to take our heavy packs down again to the tussock basin to set up camp. This involved plenty of bush-bashing trying to find a better route than the up-one we had used. It is surprising how steep the basin was when you are looking for a horizontal flat area to pitch a tent! But we found something. The wind was extremely strong that night.

The next morning the tops were covered in cloud and the wind continued, so not much action till about 10am when the cloud lifted. We thought we may as well give Mt Moki a go being on a side ridge and lower than the other two peaks. This meant we could also check out a steep gully for access onto the bench. This gully while very steep was an excellent route up onto the tussock and rock fields. The singular waterfall is bypassed on the TL via a fault zone gut. Once on the easier slopes we scrambled up onto Peak 1879m for a late lunch.



On the summit of Moki; Mts Duessa, Una and Glacier Gully directly behind.

We were quite keen to descend via "Moki Stream" but it looked a bit difficult with some bluffs across the upper part. We decided to try it anyhow. So a rapid descent to a saddle to the south then another scramble up onto Moki (1883m) for summit photo shots. Descent was down a huge scree keeping well to the right to avoid the bluffs, aiming for a descending ledge and adjacent tussock side gully. Easy travel eventually got us well down valley. Numerous waterfalls meant we had a lot of bush-bashing sidles to avoid them. Sometimes on good deer trails but often grovelling through avalanche destroyed beech forest. The waterfalls kept arriving again and again but we eventually got into the stream bed by a large scree and a good place to cut through the forest to our campsite.

That night the rain arrived and continued all the next day (Sunday). So no chance of getting up Duessa and Una! A pit day. Come Monday morning the rain slowly eased off. The sun came out about 1pm and the Glacier Gully stream had begun to subside enough to exit down to the Waiau. We were expecting the Waiau to be in flood but it was hardly up at all. Using our expert hydrological knowledge we decided that having been so dry for weeks all the extra flow had just replenished ground water in the gravels. There was an excellent gravel bar for crossing the river that brought us back to the vehicle. Off to Hanmer Springs for the night before a fast drive on Tuesday to catch the ferry.

The Whose Done What List 2012- 2013

Compiled by Terry Crippen

Here is the "Who Has Done What" list for April 2012 to end of March 2013. It is an attempt to keep a record of what club members get up to (the cumulative list now goes back to April 2000); and to enthuse people to do different trips. It is also a list of who to contact for info about different places. It follows the same format as previous years: i.e. it excludes the usual shorter Tararua, Ruahine, TNP, ENP etc trips; and concentrates on further afield trips, overseas, and multi-day trips. The listings are both private trips done by club members and longer club trips. Note that only members and past members names are listed, so a single name doesn't necessary imply a solo trip. As usual it is biased towards what club members have told me they have done. So no doubt they are many brilliant trips omitted.

* denotes an ascent.

NP = National Park, FP = Forest Park, CP/ CA = Conservation Park/ Area

April 2012

Greenstone CA	Greenstone, Caples Valleys	Dave Grant
Nelson Lakes NP	Lake Rotoiti run	Anne & Martin Lawrence
Wanganui NP	Wanganui River, canoeing	Woody Lee

June

Peru	Loka Canyon, Inca & Asungate Trails	Chris Saunders
Bolivia	Choro Trek & La Paz	Chris Saunders

July

France	Mont Blanc area day walks	Anne & Martin Lawrence
Switzerland	Swiss Alps walks	Anne & Martin Lawrence
Italy	Dolomites; Sassopio* [*]	Malcolm & Edith Leary
Austria	Stubai Alps; Grober Trogler* [*]	Malcolm & Edith Leary
Switzerland	Zermatt, Matterhorn areas; Brethorn* [*] , Eggishorn* [*] , Bettmerhorn* [*]	Malcolm & Edith Leary

August

Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Tasman glacier, ski touring	Sue Pither
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September

Australia, NSW	Skidders Head, cycling	Craig Allerby
Nelson Lakes NP	Hopeless, Hukere, Lake Angelus	Grant Christian, Kelly Holland
Nepal	Everest Base Camp	Dave Grant
Nepal	Manaslu Circuit	Dave Grant

October

Kahurangi NP	Cobb Valley, Douglas Range; Kakapo* [*]	Angela Minto, Terry Crippen
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November

Kahurangi NP	Boulder Lake, Douglas Range, Cobb Valley	Hannah & Mary Lund
Fiordland NP	Milford sound, boatie	Anja Scholz
Stewart Is	Oban area, day walks	Mick Leyland

November 2012–Feb 2013

Kaweka FP	Kaweka Mt Beech Project	Hannah Lund
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December 2012–March 2013

Nelson Lakes NP	Angelus Hut, hut warden	Anja Scholz
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January 2013

Westland NP	Fox Glacier; Glacier*, Douglas*, Lendenfeld*, Grey*, Triad*, Chancellor*	Bruce van Brunt, Malcolm Leary, Jonathan Astin
Kaweka FP	Ngaawapurua Valley	Tony Gates
Wanganui River	Canoeing	Malcolm Parker
Stewart Is	Tin Range; Allen*, Granity Knob*	Anne & Martin Lawrence
Fiordland NP	Harrison Valley	Barry Scott

February

Westland NP	Fox Glacier, Pioneer, Lendenfeld*, von Bulow*, Grey*	Grant Christian, Thomas Robertson
Kahurangi NP	1000 & 100 Acrea Plateaus	Chris Tuffley
Lewis Pass	Nina & Lucretia Valleys	Chris Tuffley
Lewis Pass	Lewis Pass Tops	Chris Saunders
Aoraki/Mt Cook NP	Tasman GI Alymer*, Hochstetter*	Angela Minto, Terry Crippen
Fiordland NP	Harrison, Pembroke Valleys	Angela Minto, Terry Crippen
Fiordland NP	Gertrude Valley & Saddle	Angela Minto, Terry Crippen
Fiordland NP	Woodrow, Esk & McKenzie Valleys, Murchison Mts	Angela Minto, Terry Crippen

March

Glenthorne Station	Avoca, Wilberforce Valleys	Dave Grant
Peel FP	Tara Haora; Little Mt Peel*	Dave Grant
Ruataniwha CP	Temple & Huxley Valleys	Dave Grant
Southland	Catlins	Derek Sharp
Ruahine FP	Ngamoko Hut painting	Janet Wilson, Tina Bishop, Craig & Mike Allerby
Kahurangi NP	Boulder Lake, Adelaide Tarn, Dragons Teeth	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters
North West Nelson	Paturau	Janet Wilson, Graham Peters
Kahurangi NP	Anatoki Valley, Adelaide Tarn, Boulder Lake	Anne & Martin Lawrence
St James CA	Glacier Gully, Waiau Valley, Moki*	Angela Minto, Terry Crippen

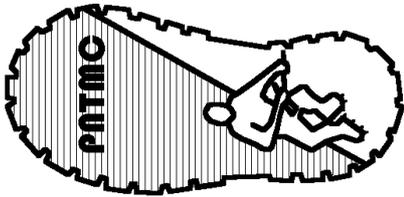
Historic Heretaunga Tramping Club



HTC at Howletts Hut site, 1936



*HTC at Pohangina Saddle
"The Tin Hut, 1961"*



Palmerston North
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Inc.

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PNTMC Newsletter May 2013

What's inside this month?

- PRESIDENTS REPORT 2013
- AGM Billy Boiling results
- The "Whose Done What" list
- Tunupo Stream Exploring
- More Who predator trap checking
- East Ridge of Egmont
- Fox Glacier Expedition – Part 2
- Attempt on Mts Una and Duessa
- Historic Ruahine pics

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Tony Gates,
the newsletter editor, via the club website
<http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Get out and about with us!

**Sender: PNTMC
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