

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter December 2014



Leatherwood lunch break on Puketurua Track to Burn Hut.

[Dave Grant]

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.

11 December End of Year BBQ

This social occasion includes the presentation of Annual Awards and the Tararua Trophy (for best Newsletter article - currently held by Bruce the dog). Venue as usual is the BBQ pavilion at Ashhurst Domain, any time after 6.00pm. BYO food and drink and a small \$5 Xmas gift. For car pooling and any queries phone Warren 356-1998.

29 January Esplanade BBQ

Come along and share your holiday tramping tales and New Year resolutions. BYO food and drink. Venue is the BBQ beside the paddling pool, any time after 6.00pm. Queries phone Warren 356-1998.

Upcoming Trips

6-7 December (Full Moon)

High Ridge, Totara Flats M/F
Angela Minto 06 377-1505
(or 027 472 0660)

Leaving early Saturday morning via Powell Hut, up to Holdsworth Summit as a little side trip, then head off down the "apparently" newly marked route along High Ridge to Totara Flats Hut for the night (meeting up with new knees TC). Sunday morning up Cone Ridge Track to check out the cool goblin forest then return to Totara Flats Hut and out via the Gently Annie Track.

6-7 December

Totara Flats Hut E
Terry Crippen 356-3588
(or 027 643 3637)

Leaving PN about 7.30am. An easy tramp from Holdsworth road end via the newly routed track to the Hut. In the afternoon or Sun morning, plenty of time to explore the flats, have a swim, visit Sayer Hut or head up Cone Ridge. Come out the same way.

13-14 December

Tutuwai Hut M
Martin Lawrence 357-1695

A great opportunity to visit this nice big hut beside the Tauherenikau River in the south eastern Tararuas.

20-21 December

Short-Knights E/M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Celebrate the shortest night camping on the Ruahine tops near Toka peak. Departing mid-afternoon on Saturday.

Extended Summer Trip

1-5 January (or later)

Tararua Circuit M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Plan A is to do a loop from Otaki Forks - Waiotauru Hut - Alpha - Maungahuka - YTTY or a variation thereof depending on the weather and our inclination (e.g. down to Cone and Neill Forks, Maungahuka, Penn Creek, Field). Let Warren know before Xmas if you are interested. Leaving PN around midday on New Years Day, weather permitting.

17-19 January 2015

Tour de Tararua Biv M/F
Janet Wilson 329-4722

Join Janet on an ambitious hut bagging expedition along the tops of the Tararua Ranges.

19 January

Stanfield Hut E
Duncan Hedderly 354-6905

8.30 start for a trip into the Ruahines behind Dannevirke. Stanfield is a pleasant hut, accessible either along a low ridge or the Tamaki River. The plan is to go in along the former and come back out along the latter. Expect wet feet.

24 January (Saturday)

Coppermine Creek E
Peter Darragh 353-0922

A real gem and close to home, just north of Woodville and below Wharite peak, with a mining history for added interest. A well graded old pack track takes us along the creek to the magazine where you can see a family of cave wetas. Kids love it, you will too.

25 January

Sunrise Hut E/M
Malcolm Parker 357-5203

A chance to enjoy this well known track which is the jewel in the crown on the Hawkes Bay side of the north Ruahines. It climbs at a steady easy zig zag grade through rimu forest, beech and finally opens out onto the tussock tops, which should still have alpine flowers in bloom. Return via a side detour down the Waipawa River, visiting Waipawa Forks hut along the way.

31-1 February

Neill Forks M
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart 7.30am. This modified old Forest Service hut is located at the junction of Neill Creek and the Hector River. In from Holdsworth carpark, up the Gentle Annie track and down to Totara Flats then via the scenic river route up the Waiohine River to Hector Forks and upriver to the hut. The alternative is a steep climb and ridge walk through some impressive forest then steep down to the hut. Maybe back out this way.

1 February

Atiwhakatu Hut E/M
Karen Tutt 383-1470

For those who remember the old Forest Service style hut the new hut is a revelation - how DOC is now catering for "front country" visitors with bookable huts on the challenging Jumbo - Powell Circuit. The improved track up the valley to the hut makes for a pleasant and relatively easy trip, with a notable variety of bridges. Back out the same way after lunch.

6-8 February Waitangi Weekend Kayaking Whanganui River

Kathy Corner 356-8186

Early bookings were essential so if you want to go on this trip you will now probably have to rely on a cancellation. Give Kathy a call.

8 February

Beehive Creek E/Family
Doug Strachan 353-6526

Just north of Pohangina, this easy walk paddling down the stream makes for a fun day out for the kids and the young at heart.

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 on 357-1695. 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 or email to pntmctrips@gmail.com with the date and trip name in the subject line. 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:

Janet Wilson	329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler, the newsletter editor, direct or via our web site <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

PNTMC 50th Anniversary 2015

Plans are under way to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary and Camp Rangi Woods at Totara Reserve has already been booked for the last weekend of November 2015.

A Jubilee book is also being prepared as a record of events and activities over the years.

If you have any ideas or are interested in assisting then please contact the club President Dave Grant who is heading the organising sub-committee of Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Doug Strachan and Martin Lawrence (Treasurer).

We would like to invite past members to join in the celebrations so if you know of anyone please let them know or give Terry their contact details.

Simpson Donation

The Club recently received a letter from Gail Moody and Jan Nicholson whose mother, Joyce Simpson nee Dixon, died recently. They found a 1933 diary that had many references to her tramping trips, specifically in the Manawatu and, throughout their lives they learnt of her love of tramping and the companionship she enjoyed over many years. They do not know whether the club their mother belonged to is still in existence but decided that our Club is the most relevant to the area that meant so much to her.

Therefore on behalf of their mother they have donated \$1,000 to be spent in whatever way we consider most appropriate / needed.

Our president Dave Grant has expressed our grateful thanks for such a generous gift and assured them it will be used wisely and in a manner that acknowledges their mother and her love of tramping.

Suitable projects might include maintenance of Mid Pohangina and Ngamoko huts, a new swing bridge across to Mid Poh hut, or training programs in first aid and mountaineering.

Dave told them he believes he used to know their mother years ago, and recalls mention of Gail and Jan, when he went with his friend and flatmate for Sunday lunch – small world !!

Book Review

TRAMPING - a New Zealand History

Reviewed by Terry Crippen

Well, I expect most of you have seen the book in the shop, been along to the talks by Shaun and Chris, or bought or borrowed the book and started to read it? For those of you unaware of the book by Shaun Barnett and Chris Maclean (published by Craig Potton Publishing) it is an excellent book to have (or borrow) and read, all 360 odd pages of it!

It begins with personal views of tramping, where the term tramping comes from; then deals with tramping for a purpose, i.e. early surveyors and explorers such as Colenso. The next few chapters are on the more traditional type of tramping that we do as club members and individuals. Then it looks at the issue of Wilderness Areas (for NZers) and Great Walks (for all those foreign trampers who like comfort)! It even has a short section on **nude tramping** – for those of you into that!

PNTMC is mentioned a couple of times, and the book is dedicated to the memory of our one and only Tony Gates. If you haven't bought it yourself, con some into buying it for you a Christmas present.

Shaun's next book will be on the good old New Zealand Forest Service's contribution to Our Recreation, in particular to the formation of, and wide range of, Forest Parks. The NZ Forest Service gets bad press from a lot of people but for outdoor types like us it was a very useful Government department.

Tararua Hut Bagging

Following the success of our previous Ruahine hut bagging and peak bagging competitions, PNTMC is running a new hut bagging competition focused on the Tararuas.

The challenge started on 1 July 2014 and will run over the 12 months until 30 June 2015.

3 points per visit to Tararua hut, bivvy, shelter, Holdsworth Lodge etc – as long as they are on DoC website. **Only 1 point for 2nd and 3rd visits, not 3 points.**

1 extra point if the visit is on a club trip.

1 extra point if you stay the night. (One hut only per night) Camping outside crowded huts counts.

1 extra point for a first visit.

All other DOC huts in the country - 1 point per visit (no extra points)

All huts maximum of 3 visits to count for points.

Please take photos to record the visit, as well as for producing a new poster. As our Ruahine hut bagging poster was a huge success, the club would like to produce a similar one for the Tararuas.

Hut bags, email to jwilson@inspire.net.nz.

Hut images, martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com

Progress Update from Janet

The scores as I have them for the hutbagging are WW with a massive lead on 115, me 2nd on 69, and Woody 3rd on 59. Craig A has 41 and Michael A 44. So far there have been approx 160 hut visits by individuals, with points mostly gained on club trips and at Tararua Huts.

Plenty of opportunities coming up in the next 7 months - summer must get here eventually and the weather improve - the challenge runs until the end of June.

We need your hut photos for a new Tararua Huts poster so feel inspired, get out there, support a club trip, visit somewhere new.

Tell Janet so she can tally up the points and send your photos to Martin Lawrence.

Trip Reports

Labour Weekend Holdsworth/Maungahuka Loop Warren Wheeler

I had wanted to do this trip for some time so despite Woody pulling out at the last minute due to injury I was keen to go anyway – there was bound to be lots of other people in the hills and a PLB from the club would provide some comfort in case of emergency. With a good forecast for Saturday but gale winds and wind chill of -12 degrees on the Sunday and Monday a PLB would not help much so I took the Club fly and made sure I had plenty of warm clothes.

After three weeks on a road trip in the USA I was sure I would notice the lack of fitness but felt pretty good heading up the Gentle Annie. I had a rather late start just before midday after having to replace the flat battery in my car, but was on Holdsworth around 4.00pm along with others soaking up the views and enjoying a whiskey. There were only a few patches of old snow left, but in the morning there apparently had been a fresh dusting which was soon gone once the sun came out and the cloud disappeared.

From Mt Holdsworth it is a little down and up onto Isabel, where I stopped to enjoy the solitude and lack of any more up. From here the track follows gently down the ridge to the bush line and becomes quite steep down to Mid Waiohine Hut – as I mentioned to a couple of guys having dinner when I arrived, it really burns out the brakes. They turned out to be some of the Ex-Forest Service group who have just taken over the maintenance of this and Carkeek, Arete Forks, McGregor, Mid King and potentially Dorset.

There was also a party of five from the Parawai TC so the six bunk hut was full to overflowing, but with two spare mattresses two of us could doss down under our flies. I checked out the helipad clearing beside the river but the best spots were under the trees just up from the hut. However we agreed that I might as well just sleep on the floor while the snorer enjoyed a restful night out by himself.

Next morning looked “bleak” as per the forecast, with low cloud in the valley. The Ex-Forest Service guys soon had the fire going and after a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs and all the trimmings they were the first out the

door heading back to Holdsworth.



Mid Waiohine Hut

The rest of us duly set off – the Parawais were heading across the river and straight up the spur onto the tops along to Anderson Memorial Hut and down to YTTY. I took the track downriver to cross the bridge and follow the track up to Aokaparangi. It was indeed quite breezy on top but no real rain to speak of, despite being inside the cloud and the odd horizontal blasts.

The sign on the ridge said 20 minutes down to the Aokaparangi Hut, but it would make a good place for lunch and the tail wind speeded that up somewhat. The new 2 bunk hut is easy to find on the edge of the bush and had a couple of guys staying overnight. Their Log Book entry said the weather was too bad to carry on through to Maungahuka and over the Tatarua Peaks to Kime Hut so they were retreating to Andersons and YTTY the way they had come in. Good call but by the time I got back up to the ridge again the wind seemed to have dropped a bit and only threatened to blow me every now and then instead of every so often.



New Aokaparangi Hut in the cloud at bushline

It is only 4 kilometres to Maungahuka and much of the route was quite sheltered as the

track often runs on the sheltered east side of the ridge, but it still took me four hours. The last long windblown ridge seems to take forever and I was down on my hands and knees a couple of times just to get some shelter for a quick rest.



Maungahuka Hut nestled in the cloud

Needless to say I was very relieved to reach the hut and a bit surprised to find a German (?) guy there trying to dry out his wet gear. There is no heating in the hut so all he could do was hang it up on the single line from one side of the hut to the other. I was overjoyed that it was only 4.00pm and had plenty of time to drop down to Neill Forks Hut for the night. The German (?) offered a nice cup of hot water for cuppa soup while he told me how he had missed finding Andersons Memorial Hut in the dark and after bivvying out decided to backtrack and eventually ended up again at Maungahuka, which at least was a known point. I pointed out that it easy to miss the zigzag through the trees just before Andersons and that he had probably bivvied out only a few hundred metres from the hut. Seemed very strange that he had not been able to pick up the orange triangles on his way south through the trees and had opted instead to get blown inside out in the gale along the tops. He said he knew the Tararua Peaks quite well so was confident he could get out tomorrow so he turned down my suggestion to come with me down to Neill Forks before the forecast rain and southerly hit tomorrow.

So off I went looking forward to an easy downhill all the way to Neill Forks. Contours can be deceiving and Concertina Knob is very well named with multiple little ups and downs in the goblin forest. At least it was sheltered.

I finally got to Neill Forks at about 7.00pm and found a couple of guys there who were good company. It is a comfortable hut and they had the woodburner simmering nicely.

It started pouring with rain towards morning, and the river became a raging torrent. We waited for the rain to ease (as forecast) and sure enough it was only light drizzle when I left about 10.15am.



Neill Forks Hut

If the rivers are in full flood it would be tricky getting onto the uphill track as a short section at the bottom was just under water encroaching from Neill Creek. No problem for me but the steep clamber up to the Cone Ridge track was further than anticipated, and I had to sit down and read the map properly to confirm I had further up to go and that I was indeed still not there yet. From the signpost at the top it is a delightful wander along the ridge through some of the nicest goblin/beech forest around.

As the track starts to descend steeply to Totara Flats there is a surprising lake section that slows progress briefly. Finally reaching Totara Flats Hut at about 1.30pm I found there was nobody there so I had a quiet lunch reading over the hut book and wondering if Totara Stream would be passable on my way out to Holdsworth carpark. It certainly looked to be up a bit where it joined the main river across from the hut.



Totara Flats Hut

As I headed off to cross the Waiohine swing bridge I was met by my German (?) friend who had decided the Tararua Peaks route wasn't a good idea after all. I assured him that it was only about 2 maybe 2 and half hours and left him to his lunch break while I carried on. Fortunately there is now a new bridge across Totara Stream so getting out was no problem.



New bridge across Totara Stream

Once again however it seemed to be an awfully long way to the top, with the new track over much of this section not helping my recollections from the last time here quite some time ago now. Eventually it took me almost 3 and half hours to get out – pretty much the posted time. Good effort Warren. Good thing nobody else wanted to come on this so-called Medium trip – it exceeded expectations in that regard !!

2 November 2014 Puketurua Track to Burn Hut Report by Holly

Mum had been fluffing around yesterday putting things in that thing she carries on her back. Sunday morning she got up really early, I stayed on the bed with dad as it was rather dreary outside. Suddenly I heard a whistle and I was off to Milverton Park where mum parked up and put me in Dave's ute with Peter and Andrea. Oh, the smells in that ute were delicious and I was able to enjoy them for over an hour while we wound up a windy gravel road. Saw a couple of hunting dogs on the way up and yelled at them through the closed window.

We got to the end of the road by a big concrete wall and parked up. Of course I had to wait while everyone peed in a building – gross, what's wrong with the grass? Then they mucked around putting things on their feet.... Oh, except for Dave who kept his sports

shoes on, I think he left his boots by the back door to remind his wife he was going tramping :)

We walked on a track following the river for a while until we came to a fork in the river, this was where I had to get my legs wet! I think mum's feet stayed dry but probably not Dave's, they all put things on as it was starting to drizzle. We were now walking up hill towards the misty looking sky, it's times like this I wish I had thumbs to grip onto the tree roots like the others. They soon stopped and I found out why mum carries that thing on her back - its to store cooked sausages. Dave wouldn't let me see what was in his. We headed on up into the mist and cold, Dave started to snap off fern leaves and leave them on the ground silver side up, what's up with that?

Ruining perfectly good bushes for sniffing and peeing

On. This was about the time when Peter or Dave said they heard that I wrote a pretty good trip report. Mum tried to tell them that was Bruce but they wouldn't listen.

As we got up into the long wet grass and scratchy bushes I felt like I was in a tunnel and mum was wet up to her bottom, it was getting very cold and windy, I was wet everywhere. Silly mum had just taken me to the hairdressers last week too for a number one. Up on the top the wind got stronger and the track sort of disappeared, I don't know why they have to SEE tracks, what's wrong with their noses? After half an hour Dave and Peter made an executive decision to turn back as they thought it was still a slow couple of km to the Burn Hut track and then another half hour to the hut. Man, was I glad as I was not coping very well with the cold and non existent track even though mum got out a coat for me from her sausage carrier which matched her hat. It took those men a while to find the way back to the track, I don't know why they didn't pee along the way so I could have found the scent for them. It was Andrea's first real tramp as she is from some place called Spain or was that rain. I bet she was wishing she was in Spain at the moment not the rain, but at least any future tramp she does will seem quite pleasant. Mum was like a drunk stumbling all the time, she said *she has been in high heels too much lately and didn't have her tramping mojo.*

We stopped for another sausage before we headed back down the way we came. After a while we hunted for the fern fronds that Dave

had snapped off - I think maybe he knew we would come back this way and had recently read Hansel and Gretel. I would have preferred to find biscuit crumbs. I got a bit impatient waiting while those girls climbed down the steep parts! Those hills are made for bounding down don't they know that?

We seemed to get back to the river crossing pretty quickly and I was feeling a lot warmer and happier looking forward to Dave's warm ute. The rest had a good look over the edge of the big concrete wall as we walked back over it - I wasn't that fussed and just wanted to get back to the ute. I think the wall has something to do with making the things work that cook my sausages and keep my dog roll fresh, oh and the big flat thing mum and dad are always staring at.

So it was off down the windy road snuggled between mum and Andrea wafting smells of wet sheep/dog... Heaven zzzzzzzz.

I am Holly, mum is Tina, Dave was the leader, the others were Peter, and Andrea, I'm not sure if I want to thank Dave for taking me as I was very stiff and tired the next day, but mum says thanks.

9 November 2014 Titahi Bay Rock Climbing (not) Terry Crippen

Where are all the keen and/or budding rock climbers?? There was almost no-one ringing up for an excellent day in the sun at Titahi Bay to indulge in some lovely rock climbing on coastal greywacke!

I had forgotten about the trip, but Peter Darragh had sent me a text and after I read the newsletter; Ah; that was what the text was for.

So the two of us had a pleasant sunny afternoon not at Titahi Bay, but at this end of the Manawatu Gorge and at the Balance end also. Peter expertly led Groovy Gecko (14/15) on greywacke in the Gorge, and One Little Tri-cam (13) at Balance on limestone. Then it was back home for tea, biscuits and oranges. These and many other routes have been bolted by Matt Natti and others a few years ago, and offer worthwhile rock climbing close to town. There was another group doing some climbing also. I've got the topos if you are interested.

P.S. DON'T ask me what I DIDN'T get up!

9 November 2014 Jumbo-Holdsworth (not Mid-King Biv) Warren Wheeler

Crikey, look at all the snow on the Tararuas !! Isn't that the long ridge leading up over Baldie to Mid-King? Would've been good to check the mountain forecast over the last few days. I should've brought my leather boots instead of my gummies. Oh well. Let's see when we get closer. We can always go to Jumbo instead. At least the weather is looking good.

The usual way to get to Mid-King Biv was outlined to us at the Holdsworth carpark by MTSC member Adam Matich, who was heading off on a solo day trip along Pinnacle Ridge to Atiwhakatu Hut. This was what Chris Tuffley had mentioned to me when I offered to take over the trip for him i.e. from the Pines go in to Mitre Flats and up to Mid King Biv via the stream and bush bash directly up the ridge to the biv, returning over Mitre if weather good. My Big Plan to bag more huts was to go via Atiwhakatu Hut and Baldy up onto the tops and down to the biv, then back out along the tops and over the Broken Axe Pinnacles to pick up McGregor Biv, Jumbo and Powell. Yeah, right.

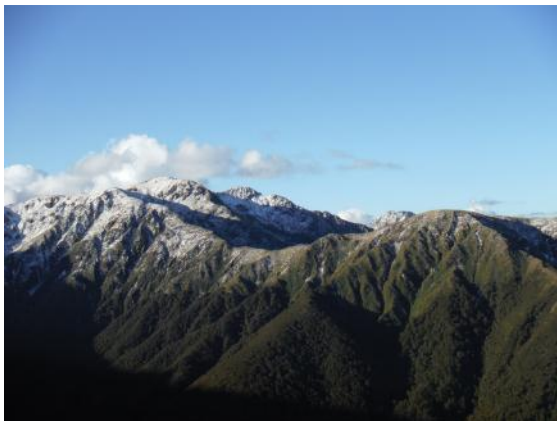
At least we tried and got as far as the turnoff on the Atiwhakatu saddle below Baldy. 1.30pm....hmmm, if the snow is bad and my gummie-clad feet start freezing and we need to backtrack then we may end up with a bad result. Right, back we go then to the last junction and up to Jumbo Hut instead. This ridge track turned out to be a nice steady grade compared with Raingauge Spur, which drops rather directly down from Jumbo Hut to Atiwhakatu Hut.

The bottom turnoff is well signposted from the river track where there is a good campsite too. It is about an hour back to Atiwhakatu from this junction - the track is more up and down than the map suggests - so would make a good day trip option either to or from Jumbo. While nicely signposted from the bottom it is effectively closed off at the top by a Jumbo-Holdsworth signpost plonked right at the track junction. The track is in the tussock at this point and is not very obvious due to lack of use, but once you are on it is easy to follow the short distance down the ridge to the bush line. From this spot we enjoyed views across to Baldy Spur and the main range tops engulfed in cloud, which made us feel better knowing it would not have been very pleasant if we had carried on.

As far as the snow was concerned, much of it had melted and only patches remained around Jumbo Hut, which is only about 50 metres from the signpost junction. It was about dinner time when we arrived, feeling suitably weary but happy after a very pleasant walk and looking forward to a nice sunset and moonrise.

The hut was already occupied by a couple of fit Army guys from Palmy who were on the last phase of a Tararua crossing. They had come in from Totara Flats over Holdsworth, so they were able to report that the snow along the tops was no problem. Good – that would be our plan for the next day. A couple of young women from Wellington turned up just before sunset, just after the cloud had disappeared and revealed the snowy tops in all their glory – well worth the effort.

With only six of us in the 20 bed hut there was plenty of room to spread out. The sun had been streaming in so it wasn't really cold enough to light the stove, but we made use of the gas cookers for convenience. After a quiet night free of snoring, rats or howling gales we were greeted by another fine day – breakfast on the deck in the sunshine was enjoyed by all, before packing up and heading off on the Jumbo-Holdsworth track along with the two women.



Snow capped Baldy Spur and the Kings

Mostly the rocky track was clear of snow, except occasional patches, and with little wind it was near perfect conditions and we took our time, with lots of photo stops and morning tea break spent lounging in the sunshine in the sheltered low point of the ridge.

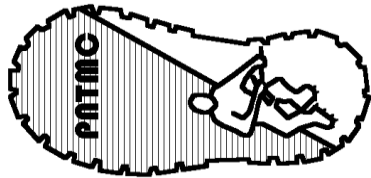


Dropping off Jumbo towards Mt Holdsworth.

Nearing Holdsworth summit we started meeting the odd person or couple out on a day trip – on such a perfect day it was surprising there weren't more. One young foreign couple turned back before the summit when the going got a bit slushy in the snow, but really it was a quite a localised section and they would have been fine pushing on for another ten minutes or so to the top, but discretion is better than disaster. We were somewhat surprised that it took us three and a half hours to get to Powell Hut, but at least it was consistent with the posted track time.

After lunch at the hut we headed back down on the upgraded track with its new steps and gravelled surface to the Mountain House Shelter and a bit further along turned off an obvious side track to the left and visited the old Mountain House site, now just a flat cleared area with one or two solitary concrete piles left to mark its passing. The exit track carries on to meet up with the loop track back down to the Atiwhakatu, with just a wee detour around the top of a small slip. I hadn't been down this way for a while and it makes a nice change to the highway down the Gentle Annie Track. We weren't in any hurry and made it back to the carpark by 4.00pm. Time for ice creams in Masterton at the usual corner dairy and a pleasant drive home, with much less snow now on the ranges. Mid-King will have to wait until next time.

We were Geoff Phillips and Warren Wheeler.



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Mountaineering
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P.O. Box 1217,
Palmerston North

PNTMC Newsletter December 2014

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- Coming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

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

Get out and about with us!

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