

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2017



Ready to head off on the Short-Knights Loop, western Ruahine Forest Park. [Christian Offen]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Doors open 7.15 pm for meeting start at 7.30pm.

13 July 2017

Garden of Eden

Thomas Robertson

Come along to hear about a foray into the spectacular Gardens of Eden and Allah in the Adams Wilderness region of the West Coast. One of New Zealand's more remote and beautiful alpine areas, officially classified as a 'wilderness', these ice plateaus are a truly unique place. This is a tale of a thoroughly enjoyable trans alpine crossing, with adversity in the form of punctured sleeping mats and lost drink bottle lids.

27 July 2017

Search and Rescue

Andy Brooke

Andy is the local Police Coordinator for Land SAR and has himself (with his dog) inadvertently been the subject of a search in the Tararuas some years ago. Tonight he will tell us about how SAR works these days, how we might get involved and what we can do to assist SAR if we need help on a trip.

Upcoming Trips

1 July (Saturday)

Foxton Beach Walk E
Tina Bishop 0274 803 342

Depart 8.15am from PN. Meet me at Foxton Beach at 9.00am to do the walk and enjoy a nice cuppa at my house after.

2 July (Sunday)

Wharite Peak M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 8.00am. From PN you can see the Wharite transmission tower above the windmills on the north side of the Manawatu Gorge. We get there from the east via the Coppermine Creek track, north of Woodville. There should be snow to enjoy on the upper sections of the track and superb 360 degree views.

8-9 July

Cow Creek Hut M
Janet Wilson 329 4722

Depart 7.30am. Not to be confused with Cattle Creek, this Tararua hut is in the upper Waingawa River valley. We go in from Kiriwhakapapa Roadend and up to Blue Range Hut, then through the goblin forest on Blue Range ridge before dropping down to Cow Creek. Return via Cow Saddle an option. Expect nice views of the snowy main range.

9 July

Te Mara Peak E/M
Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 8.00am. This survey high point in the goblin forest of the Blue Range is a short distance along an old ridge track that heads south from the Cow Creek track, about half an hour from Blue Range Hut.

15-16 July

Climbing Ruapehu F/T
Grant Christian 354 5843

Leaving Friday night and staying in a lodge. I plan to climb either the Pinnacles, Girdlestone or Cathedral Rocks, depending on conditions. You will need belaying experience. Minimum three people. Please contact me at least one week prior.

16 July

Paekakariki Escarpment E
Richard Lockett 323 0948

Part of the Te Araroa walk between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay. Starting from Paekakariki and heading south to Pukerua Bay returning by Trans Metro Matangi express. Depart PN 7.30 am.

22 July (Saturday)

SledgeTrack-Swingbridge Loop E
Gina Fermor 359 0096

A popular spot close to Palmerston North, the new Kahuterawa Stream swingbridge now links the Sledge Track with the Arapuke MTB area to give us a nice loop back to the carpark.

23 July

Branch Road Walkway E
Sally Hewson 357 0990

This scenic walkway follows an abandoned country road that links Pohangina village up to Ridge Road. It is 6km one way, but if we do a car drop we can avoid walking back along the road to Pohangina Village.

29-30 July

Iron Gate Hut M
Michael Allerby 323 8563

A pleasant tramp on the wet weather track up the Oroua valley to Iron Gate Hut for the night. Will be stopping to check the stoat traps along the way. Leaving 8.00am.

30 July

Scenic Reserves Explorer E/M
Martin Lawrence 357 1695

This will be a day of a few short and short-ish walks in the Rangikei region, from the short Bruce Park walk by Highway 1 to the longer Sutherland Puriri Reserve in the Turakina Valley - great fungi here last year. There are a bunch of other reserves to consider on the day, such as Lairds, McPhersons and Pryces.

5-6 August

Sunrise Hut E/family
Doug Strachan 353 6526

We drive for 2hrs, passing Ongaonga, to the start of the 2-3hr climb to Sunrise Hut (eastern Ruahines) on an almost-wheelchair-friendly track. We're bringing our son (10yrs) and daughter (11yrs). Hear tales of pilot Hamish Armstrong, who crash-landed his Gypsy Moth on the saddle above the hut in 1935. Options for Sunday include coming out partly down the track and partly along the river, or a sub-group could escape the kids and do something more adventurous. Depart 9am from Milverton Park.

5 or 6 August

Toka Biv M/F
Chris Tuffley 359 2530

We'll do a loop, heading up the Knights Track, across to Tunupo and out past Heritage Lodge, stopping by Toka Biv on the way. Leaving reasonably early to make the most of the available daylight.

12 or 13 August Snowcraft 1

Grant Christian 354 5843

Do you want to safely enjoy walking on snow and ice, use an ice axe, cut steps, use crampons and self arrest if you fall? Join us on the first of our Snowcraft courses. We will be on Ruapehu either Saturday or Sunday, depending on the weather forecast. You must be registered by 27 July. See the Notices below or the PNTMC website for details.

12 August (Saturday)

**Blue Range Hut M
Woody Lee 357 2390**

A day tramp to the eastern Tararuas between Mt Bruce and Masterton. We have lunch at the hut overlooking the northern tops and return the same way. A relaxing afternoon break at the Mt Bruce café will be an option. Depart 8.30 am.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trapper 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
Graeme Richards	353-6227

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/>

From the President

The shortest day has passed for another year and, as I always say around now, "Summer is Coming! "

That may not please the skiers and mountaineers who will be hoping for a whole lot of cold weather in the near future - where is all the snow?

Along with other volunteers I having been taking advantage of good weather windows to place acoustic recorders on ridges/tracks in the Northern Ruahines. This project is to try to determine the extent of the Northern Ruahine brown kiwi population and has been funded by the DOC Community Fund through the Ruahine Whio Protection Trust. We are hopeful kiwi will be found beyond the general Ruahine Corner area. This knowledge all adds to the value of the Ruahines and may help attract more funding.

Speaking of which, I attended a Ruahine User Group (RUG) meeting in Dannevirke last week. This group is made up of representatives from various tramping and hunting clubs and others with an interest in the Ruahine Ranges. We meet 3 times per year. It was excellent to see local FMC members Anthony Behrens (PNTMC) and John Beech (FMC) and Peter Wilson (FMC President) in attendance and showing a real interest.

DOC took the opportunity to announce that the Northern Ruahine has attracted some "Battle for the Birds" funding to treat over 30,000 ha with aerial 1080. This is in response to a beech mast (heavy seeding) occurring last summer and the treatment will happen in Spring this year when conditions allow. No 1080 has been used in this area since 2010 and in my opinion is well overdue.

Thanks to everyone who has offered to lead trips over the next 6 months. We wouldn't have such a successful club without you all helping out. Happy winter tramping and climbing everyone.

Janet

Snowcraft 2017



It's about time winter arrived - we want plenty of snow!

PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme has two aims

- to equip people with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow;
- to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering.

It will be running as day trips to Mt Ruapehu with an evening session mid-week prior to each day trip.

9 Aug (Wed evening) SC1 Intro and briefing
12 or 13 August SC1 Mt Ruapehu

23 Aug (Wed evening) SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work
26 or 27 August SC2 Mt Ruapehu

6 Sept (Wed evening) SC3 Briefing & rope work
9 or 10 Sept SC3 Mt Ruapehu

Snowcraft Fees

The fees are for each of SC1, SC2, SC3 are \$60 if PNTMC member, or \$70 if non-member. These cover weeknight venues, day transport, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non PNTMC members.

Pass the word around to friends you may think are interested.

Applications Close Thursday 27 July

Application forms are available on the Snowcraft link at www.pntmc.org.nz or on the noticeboard at Club Nights. For more info contact Grant Christian 354-5843.

Notices

Congratulations

Nick Allen got hitched earlier in the month. Although his bride, Bex, is not a mad-keen trumper, she is an adventurous sort — which is a good thing, as Nick's mates keep telling her. They are both excited about their future together and all the adventures it will hold.

We wish them all the best for the future.

Events Card July-December 2017

Our July-December 2017 programme of club nights and trips is now available on our website and the Events Card is being distributed to members along with the latest FMC Bulletin (Backcountry) and FMC Card.

Members can use their FMC Card for various discounted goods and services, including a 30% reduction for the DOC Annual Hut Pass.

Thanks to all those club members who have offered to lead day or overnight trips.

*May the sky be blue
And the trail be true.*

PNTMC Hut Bagging Posters

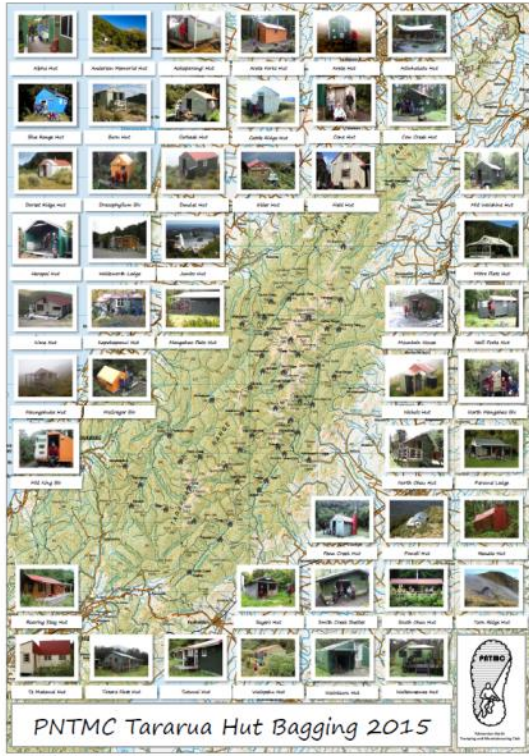
Posters are still available for both the Ruahine Hut Bagging 2012 and Tararua Hut Bagging 2015.

Size	Members	Non Members
A2	\$8	\$12
A1	\$16	\$24

Post and tube is about \$15 extra depending on where it is being sent.

Sale proceeds go towards our maintenance of the Mid-Pohangina Hut and Ngamoko Hut in Ruahine Forest Park.

Contact Warren 356-1998.



Bookings of Kaweka Huts

Thanks to Randall Goldfinch for the following tip.

Today at work (yes, I do some work sometimes) a member of the Hastings Deerstalkers showed me how to look at the Helicopter Hut Bookings in the Kaweka's.

This Web site enables you to look up the Kaweka Huts and see if Hunters are Booked into a hut or huts on the dates you are planning to use certain huts.

Please just work your way through the following steps;

Google: Sika Deer Kaweka Forest Park

Click on the first entry which is:
Sika Deer Kaweka Forest Park - Department of Conservation
www.doc.govt.nz/Kaweka - sika

Once at this Web site move on down to:
Sub-heading: Hut Use
Click on See notifications of hut use in Blue colour.

Fill in (Username: pub, Password: public)

Displayed will be a listing down the Left-Hand edge of Hut names and the Months dates across the top.

You can now see all the days marked where hunters are booked to fly to these huts.

At the top you can adjust the month and it will change to show the new month you have changed to.

I find this Web site very useful for trip planning but remember hunters could book at the last moment and arrive at your hut. I wish the Ruahine's had a similar Web site that you could check out.

Randall Goldfinch

PNTMC Jubilee Book

Old Boots & Packs - The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club (PNTMC) will interest and amuse mountain users, historians, photographers, hut baggers and tree huggers. Read about current and past members' exploits, which include climbing our highest peaks (sometimes with boots on the wrong feet) and powering a car on white spirits cooking fuel.



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

New Member

Welcome to Christian Offen, a PhD maths student from Germany - we wish you happy tramping with us over the next few years.

Trip Reports

2-5 June 2017

Queens Birthday Weekend

Coastal Classic - Mangakuri Beach

Sally Hewson

10 of us enjoyed a weekend of convivial camaraderie, fantastic food, sea air, sand castles and feijoa feasting. Most of us took the Friday off to make the most of the long weekend, with Llew and Jenny arriving a day later in their campervan.

Janet had found a great sea-edge bach at Mangakuri on the east coast out from Waipawa. Mangakuri turned out to be just a cluster of baches and not much else, so was refreshingly undeveloped. Situated on Williams Rd, the bach was still owned by the Williams family. Even the old silver cutlery had "W" engraved on the handles. It had originally been a wool store, but then converted into a cottage with four bedrooms, big lounge with open fire, sunny porch/breakfast room and utility room complete with table tennis table. The lounge walls were adorned with framed watercolours, no doubt done by a William's family amateur artist, and photos of the ancestors with descriptions that showed them as being pretty prominent in colonial life. The beach had a reef, and at low tide a lot of rocks were exposed. Not really a beach for swimming, (although two insane people did take a nanosecond dip), but great for walking, and watching the tide go in and out.



Judging the sand forts before high tide.

Friday was spent exploring the beach. On Saturday Kathy and John were keen for kayaking. They found a spot to throw their boats down a muddy slope on the Mangakuri River, and cruised on down to Kairakau Beach where we picked them up. The river passes through a small attractive gorge just before it

meets the coast. We returned to the bach with Bruce the Dribbley Dog in the car. (Luckily Yvonne had a bucket in the back). Later in the day we explored the beach towards the south. We found a log that had been washed up. It was covered all over in shellfish, but these were really unusual. Instead of being attached directly to the log, the shells were on the ends on long worm-like stalks, and they were in a continual writhing motion. It was like something out of Star Trek. Maybe Klingons would like to eat them? A Google search back home identified them as Goose Barnacles. Later on, Warren spotted a very large seal a wee way up the grassy bank – the others walked by quite close to it, completely unaware that it was there!



Cliff top lookout above Kairakau

On Sunday, we returned to Kairakau Beach for a walk along the cliffs that dominate the small settlement. It was a very steep climb up, but at least there was some handy vegetation to haul ourselves up on. Up the top was a trig station, and spectacular views up and down the coast. The rest of the weekend was filled up with more beach walks, bike rides, fossicking in the rock pools, sandcastle construction, and eating and drinking. The awful weather that had been forecast never came. You could see the rain out to sea and in the hills, but it always seemed to skirt around us. Thanks Janet for organising great weather and accommodation.

On the trip were: Janet, Graham, Kathy, Jon, Llew, Jenny, Richard, Warren, Yvonne, Sally and Bruce the Dog.

11 June 2017

Knights/Shorts Circuit

Nicola Wallace

We all met at Cheltenham – our car of 4 from Feilding and Kathy's car of 2 from Palmy. It

was a cloudy day, with the cloud sitting well down over the tops of the Ruahines. No one else was in the carpark when we arrived just before 9am, and we had a pair of paradise ducks for company as we walked over the grass at the start.

We mostly kept dry feet at the first stream crossing, and climbed the steep hill up the Knights Track at a pleasant speed, stopping for morning tea in the bush. Soon we reached the leatherwood and started to get some good views of the surrounding hills - shrouded in mist. As soon as we left the leatherwood and entered the tussock, we were enshrouded in light mist, and the temperature really dropped, mostly wind-chill, from the very cold westerly. Despite donning more layers, the last 20 minutes of climbing was a surprisingly cold experience. There was no snow, but puddles were covered with thin ice. It is a few years since I've walked this loop, and this last part of the climb seemed to go on and on, not helped by our absence of view. Judging by Kathy's comments, she was feeling exactly the same.



A bit chilly on top of Toka [Craig Allerby]

Eventually we reached the top, and gosh it was a cold wind. The outline of Toka could barely be seen. Craig, Rachel and Christian headed up to bag Toka. Michael, Kathy and I had had enough of the cold wind, and carried on along the tops towards Shorts. Interestingly, Craig later said there was a sheltered spot up by Toka. It might have been a good lunch stop.

The Toka crew soon caught us up, and soon after we stopped for lunch in a fairly sheltered spot in the tussock. I think everyone had a flask of hot drink, and Craig handed round Toffee Pops, a welcome addition to sandwiches and fruit on such a cold day. After we got going again, it seemed even colder than before, and the only thing to do was keep going till we descended to better climes. I

didn't notice when we turned off down the Shorts Track, I was just keeping going. Once we re-entered the leatherwood, frozen fingers and legs came back to life. Soon it started to clear, and further down we had a view of Toka, though with a little bit of cloud hanging round it. At one stage, there were dead mountain cedars, and we stopped for afternoon tea, accompanied by a flock of wax-eyes going from tree to tree.

The grassy part of this track is very steep, but soon we were back on flatter ground, and the last part of the walk through the bush was very pleasant, with the sun filtering through the trees. At the stream crossing we met 2 hunters who had been round the Deerford Track.

We were back at the car by 4pm, and it was nice to get home in the daylight in midwinter. Thanks to the others for their company.

We were: Craig Allerby (trip leader), Michael Allerby, Christian Offen, Kathy Corner, Rachel Perkinson, Nicola Wallace.



Looking back up to Toka tops [Christian Offen]

10-11 June 2017 Kime Hut Elly Arnst

Five set out under a watery sun, up the hill in search of fun.

Up to the tussock, where the peaks peaked through; 'til the clouds rolled in and obscured the view.

The cold started biting, the rain began to fall, "there's the hut – just in kime" came the tramper's call.

Then there was snow and icicles too; while we sat inside playing cards with a brew.

The hut got colder and the wind blew stronger, tired eyes wouldn't stay open any longer.

Tucked in our bags, snuggled up tight, we weathered out the chilly night.

The morning sun shone though the southerly still blew, we climbed up the hill in search of a view.

Ice was abundant and snow on the ground, the sun shone brightly and the view was found.

A sight to behold under the cross, we stood on the top and reflected the loss.

Five went back down the hill, five to get warm after the chill

K is for Kime – the coldest hut on the hill

I is for icicles – brought on by the chill

M is for Mt Hector – we climbed way up high

E is for eskimos – snuggled up warm and dry.



Enjoying the sun on Mt Hector.

**17 June 2017
Coppermine Creek
Christian Offen**

Although the trip on Sunday 17/06 had initially been planned to go to the south west flank of the Ruapehu (Lake Surprise), Warren and I decided to shorten the car drive and enjoy a climb up to Wharite Peak (Coppermine Creek) in the Ruahine Forest Park instead, because it was just the two of us. Since Napier Road between Ashurst and Woodville was still closed, we drove over Saddle Road passing the Te Apiti Wind Farm. While we were in the sun, fog covered most parts of the valley below, such that we stopped for some amazingly mystery photos.



Morning fog seen from Saddle Road

Having enjoyed the car ride, we let the car rest at the carpark at the end of Coppermine Road. Now we had to climb up by ourselves a very steep part of the Wharite Peak Track to be once again rewarded by a wonderful view over the valley. We could watch fog moving through the villages and clouds approaching and dissolving over mountain ranges. Simultaneously we had to watch out for our feet to avoid the deepest mudholes. Following the ridge through leatherwood forest, we arrived at the radio station at Wharite Peak where we had our lunch at a wind protected spot.

Luckily, the fog did not catch us but let us hike back in the sun. On the drive back to Palmy, we stopped at the Te Apiti Wind Farm to take even more photos of clouds, wind and windmills. Thanks to Warren for organizing this very nice trip.

**17-18 June 2017
Aorangi Forest Park
Graham Peters**

This trip from the Putangirua Pinnacles out via the Mangatoetoe Stream near Cape Palliser is a classic trip the club has done a few times. It's at the upper end of the medium grading so we camp at the Pinnacles to get a reasonable start in the morning. Usually, we have 2 cars, with one being left at the Mangatoetoe end to save hitching or worst case walking back with just 4 of us, Dieter Stalman, Fiona Burleigh, Janet Wilson, Bruce the dog, and myself, Janet offered to come in from Mangatoetoe to meet us at Pararaki Hut, going out the same way hence requiring only the 1 vehicle. Because we were taking Bruce I'd looked at the DOC website and noted that they intended to drop 1080, but with nothing on the Wairarapa Alerts site on the Friday night we assumed it hadn't happened.



Early morning at the Pinnacles [Dieter Stalmann]

We left the Pinnacles campsite as Janet headed south and the morning cloud started breaking up. The route follows the track up to the Pinnacles lookout then carries on to join a 4wd track for a couple of kms before reverting to a tramping track. This follows the ridge paralleling the Putangirua Stream up through a series of minor saddles to just below the high point Surf at 741m.

We'd noticed baits on the ground and assumed they must be pre-feeding before the 1080 drop. At Surf, the track heads south gently for a km or so before a sharp 300m drop to Washpool Hut, our lunch stop. Inside the hut was a leaflet saying the 1080 drop had happened. **Amazingly, Bruce was still alive.** We didn't have his muzzle but from then on, he was on his lead.

After lunch an initially steep spur heads up to another 700m high point before dropping 500m, steeply in places, to Pararaki Hut where Janet was waiting with a boiling billy. We lit the fire which took the chill of the air and cheered the place up for the evening.



Arriving at Pararaki Hut [Dieter Stalmann]

With a good frost on the ground next morning our departure was somewhat tardy but with a short steep start we were soon warm enough and enjoying the route as it gently ascended to

a low saddle at about 400m. From this, a gentle downwards meander leads to a final steep drop down a narrow spur to the Otakaha Stream. From there it's a pleasant wander following the stream to Kawakawa Hut. It was a bit early for lunch so after a short break we headed off following a 4wd track to join the south branch of the Otakaha Stream.

A short way up, Dieter, who'd been feeling a bit crook, alerted us to the fact that **his crookness was getting worse.** We found a sunny spot by the river to have lunch and consider our options. In light of the fact that from our lunch spot out to the Mangatoetoe Road the track is not as well formed and arguably more arduous, we decided that discretion was the better part of valour and Dieter and I would walk out via the 4wd track. Janet and Fiona would carry on and meet pick us up from the road.

The farmer runs various tourist operations and as you leave the forest park there are various signs dissuading you from continuing and we were therefore interested to see what sort of reception we would receive. We finally met up with him at the woolshed and it would be fair to say that he wasn't entirely thrilled to see us. However, we had a bit of a chat and he mellowed a little. When we arrived at the road we found a nice sunny spot and had a brew while we waited for Fiona and Janet. They arrived just as it was clouding over and the wind was chilling us off. I think we all enjoyed the trip and the dog's still alive.

Best Feijoa Dessert Recipe

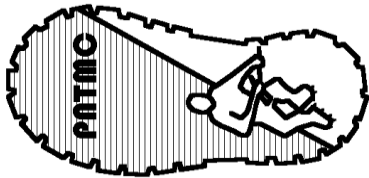
Here is the winning feijoa dessert recipe from the Queens Birthday Coastal Classic 2017 – thanks to Jenny Prichard.

Feijoa Ice Cream

Ingredients:

- 1 cup feijoa pulp
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs separated
- 1.25 cups cream

In food processor, blend feijoa and sugar. Chill for 1 hour. Mix egg yolks with 1 tablespoon cream, whip remaining cream. Add chilled feijoa to yolk mixture, fold in whipped cream. Beat egg whites until stiff, fold into other ingredients then freeze....Enjoy.



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PNTMC Newsletter

July 2017

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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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